



# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



## May 2014 general meeting - Alphabet Soup

We were honored to have Dave Galletly KM2O speak with us about some of the new emcomm technologies. If you like acronyms, you would have loved this meeting.

Dave started out talking about COTS, no not the kind you would see in a Red Cross Shelter. This COTS stands for Consumer Off The Shelf equipment. His topic consisted of technologies that normally are not considered by the average Joe Ham.

NBEMS, narrow band emergency messaging system, basically uses Linksys consumer routers to transmit messages over the air. After all, the 2.4 Ghz band is a ham band, and some of the channels on you home internet router fall on our frequencies. More information can be found at [W1HKJ.COM](http://W1HKJ.COM).

HSMMH-MESH is a self configuring broadband hamnet. When set up, messages can be sent, even if one or more links in the network go down. More information can be found at [BROADBAND-HAMNET.ORG](http://BROADBAND-HAMNET.ORG).

XIPAR is open source software radio over IP networks. Basically it is a way of controlling multiple radios over an IP network. More information can be found at [XELATEC.COM](http://XELATEC.COM).

TICKETS CAD is a computer assisted ticket dispatch system. It can send emergency messages in multiple message formats. You can get more information at <http://openises.sourceforge.net/tickets01.html>

Since these topics can be so overwhelming, Dave gave us just a brief description of these systems do. If anything catches your fancy, you can go to the indicated websites to start your self-education.

## BoD Meeting - 5/12/14 W2BEW

Meeting convened at 6:30 by Pres.  
N2MBX-Tim

Minutes OK as read by Peter, W2BEW  
Treasurer's Report accepted as emailed  
Dues List to be reviewed by KG2H; Peter  
asked about total number of current  
paid members

Repeater Report from K2LM

147.00 has new 4-dipole antenna;  
coverage vastly improved  
147.24 drop-out problem resolved  
147.36 statewide link operational  
Echolink functioning properly

Tim reported that club's Thinkpad com-  
puter has stopped working; will try  
again

Hamfest preparation underway; VE test-  
ing arranged

Flyers printed; overprint with con-  
tact info

Add "KJI Electronics attending"  
for future printing

Check with Darlene about Saturday  
setup

Email flyer to Rochester ARA to  
promote in western NY

PM to reserve Coop Extension bldg for  
next March swapfest (Ellie - 885-  
8995; or

[eah29@cornell.edu](mailto:eah29@cornell.edu)

Need food grocery help for Dave, NR2J  
at Field Day. Volunteers????

Upcoming public service events

Lions Duathlon - May 25 (covered)

ADA Tour de Cure - June 1 (need  
one more: WB2NSC)

Rosie's Walk - 9/13 (N2FEP)

CF Bike Event - 9/14 from SS Train  
Station (Randy - KL7TJZ??)

Mohawk Towpath Duathlon - Oct  
(Fred - W2EMS)

Need willing nominees for officer and di-  
rector positions for June election

Dave, NR2J to submit newsletter article  
on QCWA

Need ideas for new club activities for  
greater member involvement

Adjourned at 7:25

## KJI Electronics coming to the Hamfest

Peter Miller, W2BEW, notified us that  
he was able convince KJI Electronics to  
come to the hamfest.

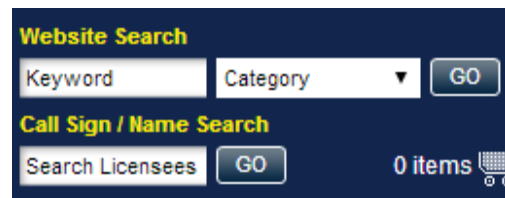
Since our hamfest is on a Sunday this  
year, Gene was hesitant to come up. He  
asks for some help early Sunday morning  
to unload and set up his booth, then  
tearing it down again in the afternoon.  
Also we volunteered, and he accepted,  
someone at the booth to watch the in-  
ventory when they are busy and their  
backs are turned.

Some of the board members anticipate  
having dinner with Gene and his crew,  
perhaps we can further cement our rela-  
tionship with him.

Included in this newsletter is a flyer for  
the hamfest. Please feel free to print  
and distribute it.

If you would like a dedicated PDF of the  
flyer, then feel free to contact Jim  
KG2H (KG2H@arrl.net)

**Have you checked the expiration  
date on your license? It's very  
easy to do. One way to do it is  
to go to [WWW.ARRL.ORG](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG), and  
just fill in you call sign in the  
search box. You do not need to  
be a member.**



Website Search

Keyword  Category  GO

Call Sign / Name Search

Search Licensees  GO 0 items

## Upcoming Event

### ARRL Field Day

**June 28-29, 2014**

Gear up for the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. Shirts, hats, pins, patches, and mugs available while supplies last.

 [Get Details](#)



### June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. KG2H - an editorial

Come along to the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, 7:30, at the Wilton EMS Squad Building. We will be discussing the upcoming Field Day activities, dissecting the recent Tour de Cure event, and primary on the agenda, is the election of new officers.

We need new blood. Our board members and most of the officers have served several years. Maybe with new members we will have new ideas. What is the club doing that can be done better? What is the club not doing that you think we should be doing? The optimist in me would like to think that if we don't hear any suggestions, that everything is just the way you would want it to be. The realist in me knows better.

We have 4 at large board members, and 4 officer positions. They are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. For the last year the offices of VP and Secretary have been vacant. We need to get those filled. We also desperately need to have someone take over the duties of newsletter editor. In addition to the vacancies, I'm sure that any of the existing leadership would welcome anyone who would like to get more involved even if it meant them stepping down for new blood and directions.

### Contests, June and July

Here are a couple of the many contests that will be available for fun in June and July

June 14 1500Z - QRPARCI QRP Shootout  
June 14 1800Z - ARRL June VHF Contest  
June 21 1800Z - SMIRK QSO Party  
June 28 1800Z - ARRL Field Day  
July 6 2000Z - QRPARCI Summer Homebrew Contest  
July 19 1800Z - CQ WW VHF Contest

## UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

Sat-Sun June 28th & 29th - Field Day at Wilton EMS

Saturday September 13th - Rosie's Walk 8:00 at the Galway High School

Sunday September 14th - Cystic Fibrosis Bike Event at the Saratoga Train Station

Sunday October 19th - Tow Path Duathlon - Town of Halfmoon - Fred W2EMS for details



## Officers

### **President**

Tim Kemp—N2MBX  
39 Hemlock Drive  
Greenfield Center, NY  
12833  
TIMKEMP301@gmail.com

### **Directors:**

Dave Bargovic—NR2J  
676 East Line Road  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
DAVE.BARGOVIC@gmail.com

### **Vice President:**

Vacant

Dennis Kagel—WA2JWO  
147 Hayes Road  
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### **Secretary:**

Vacant

### **Treasurer:**

Jim Polewczak—KG2H  
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Hal Post—AK2E  
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### **Radio Officer:**

Dave Atwell

Peter Miller—W2BEW  
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PETERMILLI@verizon.net

Got News or information you would like to get published? How about your own projects or other things you think would be of interest to Club Members? How about (GASP), a letter to the editor? Contact us at our email address :

**SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com**

### Upcoming program note

June 9 meeting, Club Elections, Tour de Cure critique, and Field Day.

(programs subject to change)

**Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association**  
presents our 29<sup>th</sup> annual

# HAMFEST 2014

**When:** Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> Gates open at 7:00am

**Where:** Saratoga County Fair Grounds, 162 Prospect St, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

**Cost:** \$10 per person that includes hourly door prize drawing, an 8'x8' "tailgate" space to sell your equipment



- ✓ **KJI Electronics** will be in attendance selling new Ham Radio gear
- ✓ Door prizes drawn hourly (must be present to win)
- ✓ Drawing held at noon for "major" prize (need not to be present to win)
- ✓ VE exam to be held at 9:00am (off site)
  - Cornell Co-Op Extension (The SOLAR Building), 50 W High St, Ballston Spa, NY 12020
- ✓ Lots of new and used equipment
- ✓ Inside tables available for \$10 each on a first come, first serve basis
- ✓ Reservations and prepay welcome and encouraged
- ✓ Food booth open all day serving:

○ Breakfast



- Coffee
- Pastries
- Breakfast sandwiches

○ Lunch



- Hamburgers
- Hotdogs
- Sausages (with peppers and onions)



**Directions:**

- I-87 to exit 12
- West on route 67 to Ballston Spa
- At the intersection of route 67 and route 50 look for the signs to the HAMFEST

**Talk-in:**

K2DLL repeater system  
147.000 PL91.5  
147.240 PL 91.5

For additional information please contact Tim Kemp at [N2MBX@arrl.net](mailto:N2MBX@arrl.net)