



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 your home internet router fall on our frequencies. More information can be found at 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.

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.

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

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.

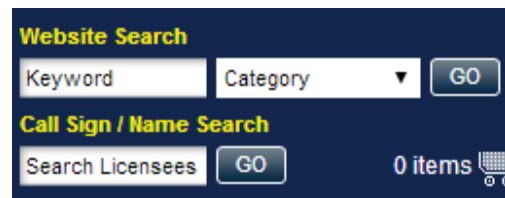
Since our hamfest is on a Sunday this
year, Gene was hesitant to come up. He
asks for some help early Sunday morning
to unload and set up his booth, then
tearing it down again in the afternoon.
Also we volunteered, and he accepted,
someone at the booth to watch the in-
ventory when they are busy and 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, 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 9th meeting. KG2H - an editorial

Come along to the June 9th 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

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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 29th annual

HAMFEST 2014

When: Sunday, September 7th 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