



# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## It's This SUNDAY the 13th! Come One -- Come All!

The **Saratoga County Hamfest** will be held **SUNDAY, September 13**, from 7 am until whenever. It all happens at Saratoga County Fairgrounds, 162 Prospect Street in Ballston Spa. Talk-in on 147.00 or 147.24 MHz (PL = 91.5 hz).

Bring your gently used ham gear as well as your treasured boat anchors to sell. Or bring your wallet and shop for that gear you've been lusting for. There will be lot's of buying and selling opportunities, AND KJI Electronics will be there with new equipment and accessories.

There's a VE test session at 9 am at the Cooperative Extension (Solar) Building, 50 West High Street (Rt 67 west) in Ballston Spa, 12020.

**THIS EVENT RUNS ON VOLUNTEER HELP -- and we need you.** Please let us know where you can help out for an hour or two. Here are some possibilities:

- \* **Set-Up** the night before the Fest (starts at 6pm Saturday)
- \* Selling tickets at the **Gate**
- \* Staffing the **Club's Table** -- taking dues/renewals, selling extra doorprize tickets
- \* Keeping an **Eye on the KJI booth** to discourage gear from walking away
- \* Helping in the **Food Booth** -- making and serving our delicious breakfast sandwiches, pastries, hot dogs, hamburgers, coffee, etc. This is the biggest source of revenue from the hamfest, and it's where we need the most help. "Many hands make light work!" If everyone pitches in nobody will have to work long shifts. Please consider this assignment, where you'll meet more hams than anywhere else.

If you can volunteer for any of these fun tasks, please let Darlene (N2XQG) know at [dar@saratogaspringsny.us](mailto:dar@saratogaspringsny.us). Or just let us know when you arrive. (HAMFEST POSTER ATTACHED)

See you at the Hamfest! 73,  
Peter - W2BEW

## New Club Officers

The main objective of the June meeting is the annual election of officers. Our newly elected officers are:

President - Tim Kemp N2MBX  
Vice President - Peter Miller W2BEW  
Secretary - OPEN  
Treasurer - KG2H  
Board Members:  
Dave Bargovic - NR2J  
Steve Rosenberg - WA2TTP  
Fred Halley - W2EMS  
Phil Weissman - KC2YLM

Thanks go to outgoing officers Mitch WA2MCS, Hal AK2E and Dennis WA2JWO for their past service.

## Help Needed

Glen Churchill, NA2Z is asking for some assistance. His old Kenwood TS 430 has stopped receiving. If there is anyone who can help Glen out, please drop him a line at [gchurchill37@gmail.com](mailto:gchurchill37@gmail.com)

## Test Session with the Hamfest

As usual, we will have a test session associated with the hamfest. The session will be held at the Cooperative Extension building starting at 9 AM.

Bring a copy of your present license, another proof of ID, a pen, and a pencil with a good eraser. Oh, and the fee has not changed in several years, its still \$15.00.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Polewczak at [KG2H@ARRL.NET](mailto:KG2H@ARRL.NET)

## FIELD DAY

Below are the unofficial Field Day Results from our 4A effort on June 27 and 28.

DISCLAIMER—The summary by operator is only as accurate as our team members were conscientious to change the operator information when they got behind a logging screen as they operated.

This was our first 4A effort, so hopefully the results will only get better in the future!!

K2DLL FD Log 2015

Summary by band / mode

	CW	PH	Grand Total
6		14	14
10	26	8	34
15	64	5	69
20	21	326	347
40	312	50	362
80	14	69	83
Grand Total	437	472	909

summary by operator

	CW	PH	Grand Total
K2LAD		31	31
KC2YLM		16	16
KD2FWG		31	31
KF2I		210	210
KG2H	30	46	76
N2MBX		16	16
N2WDY		9	9
NJ1F	376		376
NR2J		1	1
W2BEW	23	10	33
W2EMS	13	13	
W2IU	7		7
WA2MCS	1		1
WA2TTP		89	89
Grand Total	437	472	909

## FCC Regulatory Fee for Vanity Call Signs to Disappear September 3

The FCC regulatory fee associated with Amateur Radio Vanity call signs is no longer required.

Beginning Thursday, September 3, 2015, applicants will be able to file all vanity applications (new and renewal) without having to pay a regulatory fee. FCC decided earlier this year to eliminate the regulatory fee component for Amateur Radio vanity call signs because their costs exceed the amount collected in fees.

However, while the requirement to pay a regulatory fee for vanity call sign applications will end on September 3, prospective vanity applicants now will have to wait until after 8am on September 8 to file an application for an available call sign because of the FCC shut down.

Please see ARRL's news stories for more detailed information:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-eliminates-amateur-radio-vanity-call-sign-regulatory-fee>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-vanity-call-sign-fee-to-disappear-in-september>

**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 of ARRL to enjoy this capability.**



## Officers

### **President**

Tim Kemp—N2MBX  
TIMKEMP301@gmail.com

### **Vice President:**

Peter Miller—W2BEW  
PETERMIL@verizon.net

### **Secretary:**

open

### **Treasurer:**

Jim Polewczak—KG2H  
KG2H@arrl.net

### **Directors:**

Dave Bargovic—NR2J  
DAVE.BARGOVIC@gmail.com

Steve Rosenberg WA2TTP  
SROSENB2@nycap.rr.com

Fred Halley—W2EMS  
W2EMS@arrl.net

Phil Weissman KC2YLM  
PWEISSMAN@nycap.rr.com

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

We are looking for input from the membership as to what YOU would like to hear. Program suggestions are always welcome. Please let any of the Board Members know of you ideas. Thanks

We have no programs scheduled at this time for after September. The September meeting will be a dissection of the Hamfest results. We hope to see you there.

Some possible topics might be: things like a discussion and demonstration of JT65. LOTW setup and use, hamming it up on the trail (hamsinthewoods.com), Thermal Dynamics. Please let us know what you want.



**Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association**  
presents our 30<sup>th</sup> annual

# HAMFEST 2015

**When:** Sunday, September 13<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 signs to the HAMFEST

**Talk-in:**

K2DLL repeater system  
147.000 PL91.5  
147.240 PL 91.5

For information or reservations contact: Darlene Lake, 314 Loudon Road #84,  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Email: [dar@saratogaspringsny.us](mailto:dar@saratogaspringsny.us)  
Phone: 518-587-2385