



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

September 14, 2015 General Meeting

Discussions were had concerning 2 major topics , Field Day and the Hamfest.

Field Day - We totaled 2692 points. A band mode summary was published in the newsletter last month. We received food donations from Stewarts, Hannaford, and Price Chopper. Dunkin Donuts was unable to make a donation. Please keep the sponsors in mind when you go shopping.

Hamfest - We had 295 people thru the gate, as compared to 334 last year, so we are down a bit. Darlene Lake, chairperson, estimates that the club netted about \$1,700 from the event, which was down considerably from last year..

The winner of the doorprize, a \$400 gift certificate to KJI electronics was won by K1YMI, Andrew Pepper from Little Falls, NY. Congratulations to Andrew

September Board of Directors meeting.

Discussions were held on the status of our Federal ID. It appears that we need to re-apply for a renewal of our corporate status.

Discussions held on Hamfest results. We have not yet signed a contract for the fairgrounds for next year. Is another site available and more desirable?

Discussions on meeting adgenda. Tentative - October - Hams in the Woods. November - KG2H experience on interfacing a computer to his Kenwood 590. December annual social gathering and gifts for needy children. Other possibilities - Thermal Management, QRP, a League speaker, Go Bags.

October meeting—October 12, 2015

Our October 12 meeting program will be a show-n-tell by **Hams in the Woods**. Frank - KA5VVI, Bernie - W1BFC, and Marc - WA2FON (so far, maybe more) have agreed to come and talk about their experiences operating in local parks and on mountaintops, using equipment they carry in. They've

CF Bike toure

We participated in the CF Bike tout. There were various routes up to 62.5 miles. Our intrepid group of hams covered the varing terrain very well, providing the CF organizers with timely information. Net control was KL7TJZ, and the troops in the field were : K2ZIP, KG2H, W2JWO, AK2E, WB2NSC, KC2AFB, N2MBX, KC2TOG, and K2LM

New Club Officers

In last month's newsletter, I (KG2H) listed the new officers who were elected at the June meeting. I have some egg on my face, as I got the Fred's mixed up. I inadvertently listed Fred Halley as a new board member, when it should have been Fred Brown W5BN.

I apologize to you Fred (both of you). The corrected officer roster is:

President - Tim Kemp N2MBX
Vice President - Peter Miller W2BEW
Secretary - OPEN
Treasurer - KG2H
Board Members:
Dave Bargovic - NR2J
Steve Rosenberg - WA2TTP
Fred Brown - W5BN
Phil Weissman - KC2YLM

ARES Report— Fred Halley W2EMS

MEMBERSHIP

Saratoga County currently has **23 registered ARES members**. If your name does not appear on the attached list you should register online at: https://secure1.ema.arrrl.org/qilan/ares/ENY/ARES_about Choose **new application** and follow the prompts

2015 TRAINING

Q3 -Are you ready?

Are you mentally ready to respond?

Have you taken the FEMA ICS 100, 200, 700, 800, or other online classes?

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

What's in your "go bag"?

Q4—Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

Scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd

Eastern New York Section Simulated Emergency Test is set to coincide with the ARRL national SET date of Saturday, October 3. There are a couple of rule changes this year so please read the rules posted at <http://www.hudson.arrrl.org/eny/ares.htm> **Send your ideas for SET to Fred, Tim, of Phil.** I already received a few great ideas, one from Peter to use the antenna we have at Wilton EMS to test the "reach" in simplex mode.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Towpath Duathlon

Sunday, October 18, 2015 0830 hours

Riverview Orchards

Sign up at the October club meeting or email Fred

NORTHERN section meeting

The next Northern section meeting will be in the Clifton Park area in mid-November.

The exact date and location will be forth coming.

(continued on page 5)

SET Report

The ARES SET exercise was held on Oct 3. In addition to the usual use of the repeaters, we thought that it would be valuable for us to know how well our antenna at the Wilton EMS building worked on simplex. It worked very well indeed. The following is a letter we are sending the Emergency Squad thanking them for the use of the room that morning. Peter Miller is the author of the following letter.

Dear Squad Officers, Members & Staff,

We wish to thank you for the use of your training room today. We used it to participate in the 2015 Eastern New York Simulated Emergency Test (SET). The test is intended to assess each county's ability to activate a network of radio operators in a hurry to provide communications throughout the county and with emergency coordinators in other counties.

Throughout the SET, ham operators were checking into the network from fire stations, police stations, EMS buildings, schools, churches, town halls, etc - any facility that might serve as a shelter in time of trouble. As in years past, we used the club's repeater stations on Spruce Mountain and in Providence to coordinate these activities. More than 150 individual contacts were logged this way between 9 and 11 am on Saturday!

But this year, we added a new element. As you know, we maintain some antennas on the Wilton EMS tower. While we have used them from time to time, we have never really tested their coverage across the entire county and beyond. Today, we did that - and the results are impressive.

Our setup at Wilton today was a *simplex* operation - no repeaters - for direct contacts with mobile and portable stations in and out of the county. We learned that the coverage from our VHF/UHF antenna on your tower is as good as we hoped for. Using this direct simplex operation, we logged 107 contacts from Wilton EMS - including Saratoga Hospital, Wilton and Malta Urgent Care, other SET installations at Glens Falls Hospital and in Albany County, as well as nearly every fire and police station, school, EMS HQ, church and town hall in Saratoga County. Members also called in from locations throughout Washington County, and in Bennington and Manchester Vermont.

Needless to say, any time normal communications are threatened by severe weather or other hazard, our ability to communicate over a wide area from Wilton EMS could be valuable. We now know it can be done.

More and more of our members are being trained in the Homeland Security Incident Command and Emergency Communications Courses. Our November meeting program (Nov. 9) will be devoted to a new Winter Skywarn Training by National Weather. Our October meeting (10/12) is called Hams in the Woods and features portable operation. Your members are welcome to attend either, of course.

Again, thank you for the continuing use of your facility. We learned a valuable lesson today, and we stand ready to be of service - to you and to the community.

A word from Fred Halley, W2 EMS

Can one of you fine gentleman send out this training announcement from John Quinlan:

This is out November club meeting night.

Fred

Dear SKYWARN ECs,

We have finally put together the Fall 2015 SKYWARN Winter Weather Training Sessions. We encourage you to get the word out regarding the sessions so that we have a good turnout. The SKYWARN Registration Page has been set up <http://cstar.cestm.albany.edu/skywarn/Talks.htm>

In addition we are announcing the sessions once an hour on all of our NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters.

The presentation this year will be different from in past years as we will be encouraging all SKYWARN Spotters to join CoCoRaHS (The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network). By joining CoCoRaHS all spotter reports will be ingested into our Public Information Statements and Local Storm Reports which we issue. To find out more about CoCoRaHS, please go to the web site <http://www.cocorahs.org/>

We look forward to seeing everyone.

John

A word from Phil Weissman, KC2YLM

Simulated Emergency Test is a TREMENDOUS Success

October 3rd marked the annual Simulated Emergency Test(SET). Once again, SCARA and ARES participated in this national event. The results were outstanding, almost unbelievable. 29 operators across the county and as far north as Wells, NY and as far east as Vermont, accumulated points which were reported to both ENY division and the national ARRL headquarters. From 9am-11 am, more than 1300 points were generated, almost twice as many as last year.

The club also operated both in duplex and simplex modes, giving us the unique opportunity to "map out" our foot print, for radio communications. Data generated will help us better plan for response to true emergency situations throughout the county.

I would personally like to thank all those who participated for making this a tremendous success. Please mark the first Saturday in October on your calendars for next year's event. Membership in ARES is not a requirement and participation is open to all.

73's
Phil(KC2YLM)



ARES Report—(continued from page 2)

AC2IE—Thomas
KB1SFJ—Bonnie
KB2RDF—Richard
KB2TGE—Mark
KC2SDS—Jeffery
KC2SMB—Steve
KC2YLM—Philip
KD2DXQ—James (Dick)
KD2FGS—Kristopher
KD2FSL—Gerard
KD2FWG—Joseph
KD2HDD—William
KF2I—Bradley
K2AYQ—Wayne
K2LM—James
K2ZIP—Michael
N2FEP—David
N2MBX—Tomothy
WB2NSC—Leland
W2CMM—Christopher
W2DHT—William
W2EMS—Fred
W2PET—Ryan

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 of ARRL to enjoy this capability.



Officers

President

Tim Kemp—N2MBX
TIMKEMP301@gmail.com

Vice President:

Peter Miller—W2BEW
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Secretary:

open

Treasurer:

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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

The October schedule is Hams in the Woods. In November we have a Winter Sky Warn training from National Weather Service. December is the annual holiday Gathering.

If you have other topics you would like to hear about please let anyone on the board know. We will see if we can make it happen