



# *Sparks from the Spa*



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



N2YBB, N2MBX, AK2E, W2XAD at the Grand Ol Ham Award ceremony, honoring AK2E

To: Saratoga County ARA and Schenectady ARA,  
Thanks to both clubs for supporting the Grand Ol Ham Award plaque and the buffet lunch at Palisades Park, NJ on Nov 8th.  
Thanks to Tim N2MBX and Craig W2XAD for their kind words at the presentation.  
Thanks those that nominated me for the award.  
Thanks to Antje N2OMA for her support.

73

Hal AK2E

## Field Day 2015 - Summary - Tim Kemp N2MBX

The results were posted in the December QST. Here is how we fared. We are K2DLL.

2720 Total entries  
31452 Top score W3AO 18A 9700 QSOs  
3842 K2DLL's score 397/2720 4A 909 QSOs  
155 entries in 4A  
49/155 K2DLL in 4A

91 entries in the Hudson Division  
4<sup>th</sup> position K2CT (Albany) 8450 score, 2432 QSOs, cat 3A, 47 ops (operators)  
7<sup>th</sup> position K2AE (SARA) 6380 score, 1611 QSOs, cat 6A, 50 ops  
16<sup>th</sup> position K2DLL (SCARA) 3842 score, 909 QSOs, cat 4A, 28 ops  
25<sup>th</sup> position W2WCR (Warren Co) 2650 score, 618 QSOs, cat 4F, 33 ops

33 entries in ENY (Eastern NY)  
1<sup>st</sup> K2CT (Albany)  
3<sup>rd</sup> K2AE (SARA)  
5<sup>th</sup> K2DLL (SCARA)  
10<sup>th</sup> W2WCR (Warren Co)

10 entries in NNY (Northern NY)  
41 entries in WNY (Western NY)  
12 entries in EMA (Eastern Mass)

In 2014 we 956 QSOs to 2015's 909 QSOs  
Overall the event went well. We stayed dry until the end where we took everything down in the driving rain. Thank you for your participation.

## Field Day 2016 - Tim Kemp N2MBX

Time to start planning Field Day 2016. The dates are June 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>.

The December QST article says that there will be a yearlong promotion of 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the National Parks. There may be an incentive to operate FD from a National Park. Of course we have one in Saratoga County at the Battlefield in the Town of Saratoga. Should we give up our air conditioned operating space and go back to tents???

I think we could have 2 operating positions in the NEMSAR RV, that's air conditioned. Let me know your ideas, send me an email: [N2MBX@arrl.net](mailto:N2MBX@arrl.net)

## President's Message December 2015 - Tim Kemp N2MBX

It has been a while since my last message, so here goes.

We had a great meeting last month; The National Weather Service provided the program with their newly revised Winter SkyWarn presentation. We had a group of about 25, not as full as back in May, but it was a good showing of SCARA and other interested Community members.

This month we will hold the annual Holiday Gathering. The meeting or Gathering will be begin at 7:00 pm on Monday 12-14-2015 and last until we have had enough appetizers, desserts and Ham Radio talk. There will be no Board Of Directors meeting this month. Please bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to a local charity. Also bring an appetizer or dessert to share. I will try to remember to bring some music this year.

January's meeting will feature our own KG2H, Jim, where he will discuss Digital Interfacing. I know I need to know more about this as I have a new radio and a new Rig Blaster and have not got them to work together yet.

I attended the ARRL Hudson Division Awards Luncheon on November 8th where Hal Post, AK2E, received an award for "Grand Ole Ham". Hal was in good company with all the other award winners, a lot of dedicated Amateur Radio Operators at the luncheon. Truly inspiring, congratulations again to Hal for his service to our beloved hobby.

73s Tim

## Musings over the ham radio news. KG2H

I get both QST and CQ. Sometimes I even find time to read them.

I got a kick out of the articles about ARRL urging the FCC to finalize rules over a couple of new bands the hams will have access to. 630 meters (472 to 479 kHz) and 2200 meters (135.7 to 137.8 MHz). What good are these slivers of bands, 7 kHz just below the AM broadcast band, and 2.1 MHz a whole lot lower than that.

First thing that popped into my head was that with the sliver of spectrum we are looking at, it is obvious that it is going to be restricted to narrow band digital modes.

Second. The antennae that will be used is obviously most likely going to be some really short loaded vertical antenna. Let's see, what is 468/.475? A half wave dipole is 985 feet. Let's see you put that on your half acre lot!! Oh, let's also be sure to get it up a  $\frac{1}{4}$  wavelength high so it's not NVIS!!

Third. Isn't this close to the frequencies where ham radio originally started out? Are we going backwards instead of forwards?

You're going to see a lot of publicity after it gets going about some Joe Ham using digital modes contacting some exotic Asian station using gray line propagation, with 5 watts into a wet noodle, using some exotic mode like JT65 or any of the other number of modes being created, just because a ham can. That's going to get old fast.

## Do anything new lately? KG2H

A couple of years ago I moved to a new QTH with a much larger lot than my old QTH. When I purchased the lot, I thought it would be great to get a 160 M antenna, as it was quite a deep lot. At the old house, I previously experiment with loading a random length of wire on 160, but it was pretty much unsuccessful, so I never pursued it.

I have really tall trees in my new backyard, and I managed to put up a 160 M inverted L antenna, which is basically a 135 foot piece of wire with a ground plane or radial system. I managed to make the vertical portion 65 feet tall.

Last weekend was the ARRL 160 meter CW contest, and I got on with my 100 watts to see what I could do. I did not get a clean sweep, not even close!! But I did have fun. Friday night I operated until about midnight, and then got up at 3 AM to try some more. Although this contest is focused on the US and Canada, DX stations could also participate. To my surprise and pleasure I heard and worked one station from Wales, and one from Czechoslovakia.

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 your call sign in the search box. You do not need to be a member of ARRL to enjoy this capability.



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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

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

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