



# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## Hamfest !!! - Hamfest !!! 9/10/2017

It was a beautiful day for our 32 annual hamfest. Temperatures in the 70's and sunshine prevailed all day long. You could not ask for a nicer day.

Attendance was up about 10% at the gate, 355, thru the gate this year as compared to 310 last year. We had 2 new equipment vendors this year, KJI Electronics, and a new vendor for us, RW Antennas from Lockport NY. We had lots of tailgaters, and other vendors. I enjoyed watching a demonstration of several drones in the midway.

The food booth was so busy, it actually sold out of hamburgers around noon time!! Fortunately, hotdogs and breakfast sandwiches filled the void.

Thanks to generous donations of gear and gift certificates, we were able to offer six raffle prizes every hour, plus three grand prizes. Grand prize winners were KD2IHM - Mike, AK2E - Hal, and KA5VVI - Frank. Lucky winners who took home the Bucket Prizes were: KD2DNS-Yaesu dual-band handheld; KC2NMT- Yaesu dual-band mobile; KD2FVN-Heil headset; KC2AJF-RigExpert analyzer.

The bottom line? Well, the club didn't make as much money this year, but that's the price of a good time, right?

If you weren't there, you missed a great time. Plan on attending next year's 33<sup>rd</sup> hamfest on Sunday, September 9, 2018. And don't forget our club SwapFest on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at the Solar Building in Ballston Spa.

## Duathlon notes - Fred W2EMS

The annual **Mohawk Towpath Byway Duathlon** is scheduled for **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**. We need a few radio operators and other support folks to ensure a successful event. I've attached the information about the event but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. NEMSAR will be providing their communications support vehicle as the primary communication point and command post. We will be working with a couple of the area Amateur Radio clubs and Clifton Park CERT to help staff the event.

- Please call or email me to sign up and help at this event.

Learn more about the **Mohawk Towpath Byway Duathlon** by visiting their website at: <http://www.mohawktowpath.org/duathlon/>  
Area map: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Riverview+Orchards/@42.826484,-73.8621176,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89de6d23f2400f6b:0xc0a3963c06a8545b!8m2!3d42.826484!4d-73.8599289?hl=en>

Saratoga County A.R.A.  
**Public Service Event**

**Special Event:** Mohawk Towpath Byway Duathlon.

**Date:** Sunday, October 15, 2017.

• **Time:** Race start 0830 hours, **Radio Volunteers to stage at 0730 hours.**

**Event length:** About 4 hours.

• **Location:** Riverview Orchards, 660 Riverview Rd, Rexford, NY 12148

**Served Agency:** Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway

**Contacts:** Eric J. Hamilton

**Primary Duties:** Provide communications support between remote locations on the bike and running routes.

• **Documentation:** **To be handed out at the event.**

○ Map

○ Post assignments

○ **Equipment:** HT with 2-meter capability (Due to the location an HT with 5 watt capability is recommended)

○ **Frequencies:**

○ Net Control frequency will be **146.940**

○ Backup Net Control frequency will be 147.375

○ Non-Ham – SAR 155.160

○ **Net Control:**

○ To be determined

○ **Mohawk Towpath Byway Duathlon website is:**

**<http://www.mohawktowpath.org/duathlon/>**

• **Direction to the event:**

○ **From Route 146 at the Rexford bridge:**

✦ Cross the Rexford bridge from Schenectady County heading North on Route 146 (about ¼ of a mile)

✦ At the first traffic light turn Right onto Riverview Road

✦ Stay on Riverview Road for 2.7 miles until you arrive at Riverview Orchards

✦ **From I-87 (the Northway) at exit 8A:**

✦ Turn West on Grooms road, (Left if you're traveling North, Right if you're traveling South)

✦ Travel 4.1 miles West on Grooms Road (you should cross Lapp Rd, Moe Rd., Vischer Ferry Rd., Sugar Hill Rd.)

✦ Turn Left (more like bear Left) onto Droms Rd., Stay on Droms Rd. for .8 miles

✦ At the "T" intersection turn Left onto Riverview Rd.

✦ Riverview Orchard will be .5 miles down on your Right.

✦ **Lat/Lon**

✦ 42°49'36.00"N 73°51'36.00"W

## Public Service Events—October

We usually have a few public service events in October. In addition to the Duathlon notes above, we usually have opportunities to participate in the SET exercise, The Ballston Lake Apple walk, and the Halloween over watch of the Thruway bridges.

The Apple Walk is this weekend, and we previously sent out an announcement to the mailing list. It's this Saturday, October 7 at 9 AM. Tom N2SQO can use a few good hams. Contact Tome at N2SQO@NYCAP.RR.COM or you can call him at 518-527-4499.

Information on the other 2 events is unavailable at publication, but when more information comes in, we will send out an email to the list.

The SET is usually this Saturday also. As I said, we have no advance information on it, but be sure to monitor the 147.00 repeater on Saturday morning, this may be true surprise exercise.

## **Looking to Buy, Sell, Swap? EGARA's Mini-Hamfest is for You!**

EGARA (East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association) will continue its annual tradition of holding a Mini-Hamfest during its monthly meeting in October. Once again, the event will be open to all hams in the area, with free admission and free tables for those who want to sell gear. The Mini-Hamfest will begin at 7 pm at EGARA's home base, the East Greenbush Masonic Temple. The site also provides ample parking.

In addition to being a free event, the club will also offer free refreshments for those who attend.

"Our Mini-Hamfest is a great opportunity to turn unused gear into cash -- as well as a chance to pick up some good bargains," said EGARA President Tom Scorsone. Club members are encouraged to take advantage of the event, and spread the word to other hams, as well.

This Mini-Hamfest will be held on Wednesday Oct 11, at 7 PM

## New York QSO Party.

The NYQP Team in association with Rochester DX Association and the NYQP plaque sponsors are pleased to announce preparations are in place for the 2017 NYQP !

Mark your calendars for October 21, 2017.  
1400 UTC (10:00 AM Eastern) 12 Hours duration

Full rules are at [NYQP.ORG/WORDPRESS](http://NYQP.ORG/WORDPRESS)

Last year the club opened up the radio room at the Wilton Emergency Squad for a while in order to operate this event. We are checking to see if it is available this year and we will send out an email to let you know if the club station is a go for the event!!

## FCC Opens 630- and 2200-Meter Bands -- But Stations Must Notify UTC Before Operating

The FCC has announced approval of Amateur Radio service rules for the two new bands — 630 meters and 2200 meters. The approval is for three years, at which time it will be reviewed. Notice of the action appeared in the Federal Register. However, before using either band, stations must notify the Utilities Technology Council (UTC), that they plan to do so. If UTC does not respond within 30 days, they may commence operation.

Last March 27, the FCC amended its Amateur Radio rules to — in the FCC's words — “provide for frequency-sharing requirements in the 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200-meter) and 472-479 kHz (630-meter) bands.”

Section 97.313(g)(2) of those rules requires that, prior to starting operation in either band, radio amateurs must notify UTC that they intend operate by submitting their call signs, intended band(s) of operation, and the coordinates of their antenna's fixed location. The new rules DO NOT permit any mobile operation.

“Amateur stations will be permitted to commence operations after a 30-day period, unless UTC notifies the station that its fixed location is located within 1 kilometer of Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems operating on the same or overlapping frequencies,” the FCC said. PLC systems are unlicensed. “This notification process will ensure that amateur stations seeking to operate [on 630 or 2200 meters] are located beyond a minimum separation distance from PLC transmission lines, which will help ensure the compatibility and coexistence of amateur and PLC operations, and promote shared use of the bands.”

Amateurs seeking to use the new bands may inform that UTC by visiting the following web address: <https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/>

Tnx (ARRL)

## NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

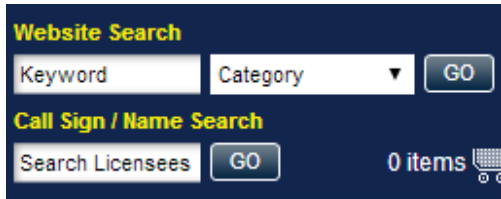
Even though you're probably all caught up on the latest in digital modes, you still should read Marshall, K5QE's document "[VHF Contesting and the Digital Modes](#)." There's plenty of information for operators on all bands.

As the weather is changing, it's time or past time to get those outdoor weatherization projects finished before spending more time in the shack. September 22 is an equinox, a time when propagation on the HF bands typical ticks up for a few days before and after. Just because you don't hear anyone doesn't mean the band isn't open. Try sending a few CW CQs while watching for your signal reports on the [Reverse Beacon Network](#), or try a digital mode CQ while watching on the [PSK Reporter](#) website. Don't be put off by the website name, PSK Reporter includes digital modes of all types.

Tnx (ARRL)



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 on their home page. You do not need to be a member of ARRL to use this service.



K2DLL repeater system:  
Corinth NY  
147.000 MHz +600KHz 91.5 Hz CTCSS encode/decode  
448.225 MHz -5.00 MHz 91.5 CTCSS encode/decode

Providence NY  
147.240 MHz 91.5 Hz CTCSS encode/decode.  
147.360 MHz +600 Hz (add 91.5 Hz to connect to the NYS Network

Middleburgh NY  
448.925 PL 107.2 WA2TTP-R Steve's Repeater is linked to ours via UHF



## Officers

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Please be sure to visit our webpage for any late breaking news or newsletter archives.

[WWW.K2DLL.ORG](http://WWW.K2DLL.ORG)

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](mailto: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