

# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## March Swapfest

We held our annual March Swapfest on Saturday March 10. A good time was had by all. It was a great turnout, and everyone had a good time meeting friends for eyeball QSO's and seeing what stuff others were selling and that they personally "needed" for their shack.

Our door prize of a Yaesu FT65R was won by Dick, KD2DXQ, and the 50/50 winner was Bill, N2KMF. Congratulations to both. Our swapfest next year will be the second Saturday in March, March 9, 2019. Don't forget, we will be having our 32<sup>nd</sup> hamfest this Sept 9, 2018 at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds.

After the swapfest was done, and the crowd left, we held a test session for upgrading and new ham licenses. It was not as heavily attended as was some of our previous sessions, but we still had some good results. There were 3 upgrades to Extra class for WB2WUS, KD2ODB, and KD2MPZ. We also had one brand spanking new General class who was issued the call KD2PID.

First rate service was provide by all the examiners, (in no particular order) KA2QYE, W5BN, KD2IHO, KC2FDQ, N2YQT, NT2B, K2LM, K2ZIP, N2MOM, and KG2H. Thank you, we could not hold these exams without you.



A part of the crowd at the swapfest.



Sorry Peter, even with that, you still didn't win the doorprize



## April Meeting

The April Meeting will be held at the regular location, the Wilton EMS building , just off of Jones Rd. on Monday April 9. The general membership meeting will be at 7:00 PM , and the Board of directors meeting will be held immediately prior to that at 6:30 PM.

Our presenter will be Mike Levy K2ZIP, and the topic will be: Lessons Learned: Ham Radio and other considerations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands after Hurricanes Irma and Maria

The response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma still serve as learning experiences for state and local leaders, disaster experts, federal government agencies, and the United States as a whole. This presentation provides advice to anyone with a stake in disaster response, relief, and recovery, including hams living in the impacted area as well as those responding from elsewhere to help.

## Close Calls Jim - KG2H

I was on the air doing some FT8 mode, and at one point, I got a wee bit confused as to what I was seeing. Look at the time stamp for 22:47:15. What are the odds of being called by PU2OKB, and PU2KOB, at the same time???

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
224630	Tx		1700	CQ KG2H FN33
224700	Tx		1700	CQ KG2H FN33
224715	6	-0.3	1702	KG2H PU2OKB GG66
224730	Tx		1700	PU2OKB KG2H +06
224715	-9	0.7	1700	KG2H PU2KOB GG56
224745	6	-0.3	1702	KG2H PU2OKB R-20
224800	Tx		1700	PU2OKB KG2H RRR
224815	9	-0.3	1701	KG2H PU2OKB R-20
224830	Tx		1700	PU2OKB KG2H RRR
224845	4	-0.3	1701	KG2H PU2OKB 73
224900	Tx		1700	PU2OKB KG2H 73

## Commentary by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

### ARRL: How can we help?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, I received this email from a reader:

"Hi Dan,

"Hope you're doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I've been reading your blog and other sources, and it's clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and I think there's really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?"

I replied that it is true that there's only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they've never really taken off. It's an incredible amount of work to set up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternates have been able to get to critical mass.

(continued next page)

The second question—How can we help?—is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

- Join the ARRL. If you're not currently a member, join. You'll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.
- If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn't really seem to care about this. In the past, I've encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs ([link 1](#), [link 2](#)). I honestly don't think this is asking too much, and I've never heard a good argument for them not to do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.
- Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on "Edit your profile," then "Edit email subscriptions."
- Invite your ARRL elected officials—your division director, vice director, and section manager—to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.
- Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I'd like to see the "loyal opposition" get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

- Get on the air. It's easier to lose bands if we're not using them. Encourage others to be active.
- Be an Elmer to those that need it.
- Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.
- Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the "maker" groups that have sprung up around the country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer.

I'd love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path.

## Acknowledgement and thanks Jim KG2H

The following renewed their dues in March, Many thanks go out to: KD2DRO, KC2CKL, KC2APP, KD2IHO, W2ALL, KC2YLM, N2QFT, N2SBC, NC2P, KC2TVJ, KB2ZSN, KB2YNS, K2HAT.

We also received a generous donation from KC2TVJ

## Field Day Results Jim KG2H

I was browsing around the ARRL's web site the other day, and came upon the Field Day results from last year.. I am presenting them here for your edification. K2DLL came in 8th in the ENY section.



# ARRL

The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO®**

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### Results Database

**Results Database**

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Plaques and Awards

Contest Results Articles

2017 ARRL Field Day

**2017 ARRL Field Day**

Displaying entries for **Section=ENY**

Entries 1 to 25 of 36 listed

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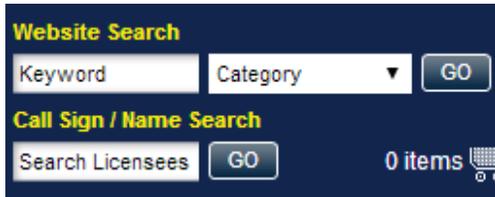
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#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	N2SF	12,034	4A	3,453	2	N2TFC	ENY	25	Westchester EmComm Assn
2	K2CT	9,026	3A	2,548	2		ENY	47	Albany ARA
3	K2QS	7,940	3AC	2,233	2	WK2T	ENY	22	QSY Society
4	K2AE	7,688	6A	2,195	2	W2IR	ENY	100	Broughton Memorial Field Day Group
5	N2LL	7,042	6A	1,691	2	K2KMM	ENY	40	Overlook Mountain ARC
6	W2C	6,842	7F	1,815	2	W2WCR	ENY	38	Warren Co RC
7	W2HO	3,832	5A	807	2	NE2Z	ENY	51	Orange Co (NY) ARC
8	K2DLL	3,590	3A	880	2	K2ZIP	ENY	21	Saratoga Co ARA
9	K2PUT	3,150	3A	620	2		ENY	25	Putnam Emerg Amateur Repeater League
10	W2NYW	2,734	2A	813	2		ENY	22	Peekskill / Cortlandt ARA
11	W2YRC	2,538	3A	610	2	KF2FK	ENY	49	Yonkers ARC
12	WD2K	2,520	3A	509	2		ENY	16	Rip Van Winkle ARS
13	W2EGB	2,488	2A	719	2		ENY	27	East Greenbush ARA
14	KC2OUR	2,480	4F	781	2		ENY	21	Orange Co ARES RACES
15	NY2U	1,948	4A	310	2		ENY	27	Troy ARA
16	KW2Y	1,403	1B2	831	1		ENY	2	
17	N2MTG	1,110	1E	480	2		ENY	1	



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



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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