Sparks from the Spa

A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

It 's the No-Newsletter NEWSLETTER —

Because there was no meeting to report on, here are a few items of interest, plus a photo collection of hams having fun at

SCARA's Annual SWAPFEST!!
(Check out pix on page 3)

Meeting—Monday April 12

Board Mtg—6:30
General Meeting—7:30
Topic: Skywarn School

As Dave mentioned last month:

There is a CHANGE to the program for April 12. I know Sid is ready to do his talk on mobile installations, but I received a call from John Quinlan of National Weather in Albany, and they want to schedule a **Skywarn School** for Saratoga County. So our program for April will be **Skywarn training** from National Weather Service Albany.

Even if you are up to date on training, they do change it annually, so it is a great time to brush up your abilities in that service. I hope that Sid can do his talk at the May meeting. This change came up suddenly, and as hams we adapt to change readily.

FCC Issues *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* on Government Disaster Drills and Amateur Radio

On March 24, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* (*NPRM*) proposing to amend the Commission's rules "with respect to Amateur Radio operations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster readiness drills and tests." While current rules provide for Amateur Radio use *during emergencies*, the rules prohibit communications by a station licensee or control operator on behalf of an employer.

The FCC notes that while there are some exceptions to this prohibition, it effectively prevents amateur station control operators who are employees of public safety agencies such as hospitals from participating in drills and tests in preparation for emergency situations.

The FCC acknowledged that since Amateur Radio is often an essential element of emergency preparedness and response, many state and local governments and public safety agencies incorporate Amateur Radio communication capabilities into their emergency planning. Some hospitals, emergency operations centers and police, fire, and emergency medical service stations have encouraged the participation of their employees who are Amateur Radio operators in emergency and disaster drills and tests.

Based on that, the Commission proposes to amend the rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness

ARRL Letter, cont.

drills, regardless of whether they are employees of entities participating in the drill.

(This is great news! FCC is seeking comments on this NPRM. Let's send 'em comments! — Ed.)

To get instructions for filing comments, send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and include the following words in the body of the message "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in response. Refer to Docket # 10-72 in your comments..

More information at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-45A1.pdf

Public Service Events

➔➔VOLUNTEERS NEEDED⬅⬅

¤ 4H Walkathon-April 24

4H Training Ctr; 7:30 Registration
Middleline Rd—Ballston Spa
Contact Tim— tkemp@nycap.rr.com

¤ Boy Scout Radio Demo Saturday, May 1

Camp Boyhaven, Rock City Falls
Contact Tim—tkemp@nycap.rr.com

¤ MS Walk—May 2

Saratoga Race Course
(details to come)
Contact Tom—N2SQO@nycap.rr.com

¤ ADA Tour de Cure June 6, 2010

Saratoga High School (+ 100 miles)
Contact: WB2NSC lpalmer@capital.net

¤ Bike MS *Follow the Foothills*

July 10—West Mountain
Contact: K2SWF@yahoo.com

New/Upgraded Licensees from VE Test Session on March 13:

Call	Name	Class
K2CRG	Jeff Gulock	Extra
KC2SMB	Steve Barton	Genl
W2MRG	Mike Gegzno	Genl
N2NEW	Tom Giorgio	Genl
New	Shad Gray	Tech
N2USI	Brian King	Genl
New	Steve Lacker	Tech
N2QGG	Henry Molenaar	Genl
N2ZTC	Jami Olden	Extra
KC2RTK	Bill Shumek	Extra
KB2BUX	Wayne Smith	Tech

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

>> NOTE: The SCARA Club << needs someone to keep track of upcoming Public Service Events.

If we don't have anyone keeping a list of events and volunteers, some will slip through the cracks. We'll have to start saying "No" to non-profit event organizers. Could someone step forward, please?

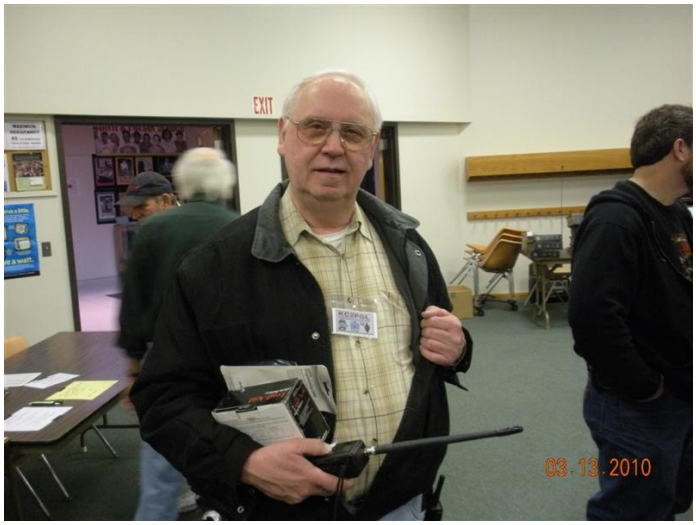
Weekly Radio Net

Please join us on the air each Sunday evening at 7 PM for our weekly net. This regular gathering offers on-air practice in net operation in preparation for emergency situations. It also provides timely information to area amateurs, and serves as a forum for selling/swapping gear and discussing topics in a formally directed net environment.

The 147.00 and 147.24 repeaters are linked by the 448.225 MHz machine during this net, so feel free to check in on any of these repeaters. PL tone is 91.5 Hz. We are looking for volunteer Net Control Stations for this net.

You may also check into the Warren County RACES Net for practice in message handling on Tuesday evenings, 7 PM, on 146.73 (PL 100) or 147.135 (PL 123.0).

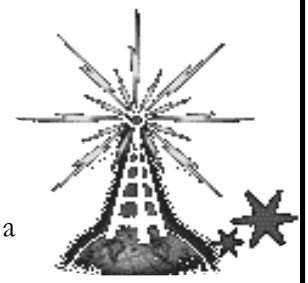
SwapFest 2010



H/T WINNER: VX-8R—AB2XA
50/50 WINNER: $175— N2PEP

K2DLL ON THE INTERNET

The club has a website at:
http://www.k2dll.net.
Here you will find the latest club news and events.



The club operates two 2-meter repeaters. The 147.24 repeater is located 15 miles west of Saratoga Springs at Lake Nancy. This repeater has a members-only phone patch. The 147.00 repeater is located 10 miles north of Saratoga Springs on Spruce Mountain, near Corinth, NY. This repeater offers an "emergency" phone patch. These two machines, in combination, offer excellent North to South and East to West communications far beyond Saratoga County. These repeaters are now linked together full-time by the club's third repeater on 448.225 MHz.

PL Tone for all club repeaters is now 91.5 Hz.

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