



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

HAMFEST - SUNDAY SEPT 11, 2016

Hi welcome to the new 2016 SCARA Hamfest. We have some exciting changes in store for you on Sept 11. As some of you may know, we suffered a major blow by the announcement that the Boxboro ARRL convention changed their dates to the weekend of our Hamfest. Because of this many of our vendors just had to make a business decision to go to a more profitable Boxboro hamfest rather than ours.

Our own ingenious W2BEW has organized a series of changes that will please all of you. In addition to the new lower admission fee of \$6, we plan on having a series of seminars on various topics, scattered throughout the morning. Additionally we will have a series of drawing throughout the morning for various prizes donated by various vendors. Some of the donated items are:

Gigaparts. In addition to providing Bucket Prizes, they've sent us discount vouchers to pass out with every ticket purchase. Additional Vendors who have provided raffle prizes are: **ARRL, DX Engineering Tigertronics, N3FJP/Scott Davis, KJI Electronics, Radio Oasis, RF Adapter Guy, Ham Call/Buckmaster, Hy-Gain, Diamond Antennas, and True Ladderline**

Finally, we have ... not one, not two, not three, not four, but FIVE "bucket prizes" which will be raffled off just like we do in our Spring swapfest. **Gigaparts** has provided us with a discount for four of these bucket prizes. We will be selling tickets at \$5 each or 3 for \$10, that you can place in the bucket for appropriate prize. Here is a list of the available items:

LDG-Pro III tuner ZLD-AT-200Pro II

Icom IC-2730A dual band mobile

Yaseu FT-2DR mobile rig

Rig Expert Antenna analyzer ZRE-AA-170

An additional bucket prize supplied by **FLEX RADIO** is a gift certificate for a significant discount on the purchase of a new Flex Radio. The discount varies depending on the model you purchase from them

In addition we will have some historically great features, the **FOOD BOOTH**, the **Fox Hunt**, the **VE examination session** (at 9AM in the Cooperative Extension Building off site). Last but not least is the comradery of meeting your friends and fellow hams for eyeball QSO's and tall tale swapping. This will be an experience not to be missed.

Updated Website & New Facebook Page Dan KK4WVM

We now have our website (<http://www.k2dll.org>) updated to a new hosting environment using WordPress software to make it easy for anyone to add stories and updates. We moved most of the content from the old site, including all the past newsletters we have in PDF form. Now we need to start adding new content! If you are interested in having your shack or amateur radio adventures profiled, we'd love to get some photos and stories of what everyone does with their amateur radio hobby. We all have great stories to tell that can help attract new members!

At the last minute, we also put up a Facebook page for the social media credit for Field Day. I'm not sure we got credit for it, as it was not really active, but we are ready for next year! Now, we need to add interesting articles and posts related to what our club is doing & what is new and hot in amateur radio. We are also using it to market our 2016 Hamfest. What is great about this is that we can target our ads to those interested in amateur radio, and in the surrounding region. As of this writing, we have reached over 1280 people! Please visit our page, <http://facebook.com/K2DLL> and 'Like' us, and then 'Share' the page to your timeline, to help spread the word.

SCARA Logo contest

It's been many years since we refreshed our club's logo. We are sponsoring a contest to create a new logo. You all see the logo on the heading of the first page of every newsletter.

There are a couple of things that strike you right off the bat.

1 - The name Saratoga County RACES Association. Yes, that is our club's corporate name, but we have been DBA (doing business as) SCARA, short for Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association.

2 - The Microphone and Straight Key, as definitely not the only ways that hams communicate now.

The objective of the club as stated in our by-laws are as follows:

- A. To support the objectives of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) in Saratoga County, New York.
- B. To provide communications services to Municipal, Civic, and other organizations in the public interest.
- C. To sponsor educational and other services and activities for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio in the community.

What we would like would be a new logo, simple and clean. The logo should be easily scalable so its size can be easily adjusted electronically.

We request an original, editable file in addition to an SVG, PNG or JPG at 1024px resolution. Ideally, the original would be in an editable PDF or AI file with an editable, 100% vector format with transparent background in CMYK color. PNG sample would be in RGB color. [Standards as recommended by 99 Designs](#).

All entries become property of the club with full copyright ownership by the club. Entries should be submitted by October 31, 2016 to KG2H@ARRL.NET. Entries must be submitted in either .BMP .JPG or .PNG format. Entries cannot infringe on other existing copyrights.

The Board of Directors will make the final decision on the winning design. The winning design will be rewarded with either a 2 year membership extension to the club for existing members, or a new 2 year membership for non-club members.



Repeater Update Jim McKnight K2LM

If you worked the Tour de Cure, you know that there were real problems with our club repeaters just before and during the event.

I tried to get the 147.00 repeater to behave and it just kept breaking.

Some years ago when Saratoga County changed over to a P25 system on 800 MHz, Paul Lent was kind enough to give us all of their Mastr III stations. I just never got around to changing out any of the repeaters from circa 1980 Mastr II stations to the Mastr III stations, which are still in production.

After the Tour de Cure, WA2TTP and I made a trip to the site and once again tried to get the 147.00 repeater working correctly. It failed again.

Soon after that trip, the club board gave me instructions to change out 147.000 and 448.225 repeaters ASAP. With excellent help from Steve WA2TTP and a few trips up Spruce, we have made the change from the old circa 1980 repeaters to the new Mastr III 110 watt repeaters.

The 147.240 repeater now has a Mastr III station waiting for the move at Providence.

For the moment the 147.360 repeater will remain a Mastr II.



Above is the cabinet with the new 147.00 and 448.225 repeaters.

From top to bottom:

147.00 repeater
Scom 7K controller
448.225 MHz duplexer
UHF circulator
448.225 repeater

The 100 watt power amplifiers are mounted on the back rail and not shown.

Shown on the left is Steve WA2TTP working on the WA2TTP-R repeater located in Middleburgh. It is on 448.925 with a 107.2 PL. It is linked to the K2DLL repeater system.



VE test session requirements Jim KG2H

If you are going to take a test session for either a new or upgraded ham license, here are a few things you **MUST** bring along.

A copy of your current FCC license. We need to attach the license copy to the paperwork when you upgrade. If you a new licensee, you have a few options. The FCC form 605 requires a FRN or a SSN. You can obtain a FRN before the exam session by visiting www.wireless.FCC.gov/ULS You simply apply for the FRN on line, and you will have it with you when you come to the test session.

Another form of ID, a driver's license is great, or any other form of ID. If you don't have a driver's license, (perhaps you are too young for the DMV) the ARRL suggests something as simple as a library card, or even a piece of mail addressed to you at your residence.

A pen and pencil (with a good eraser). The pen is for filling out the FCC form 605, and the pencil is to fill out the bubble answer sheet.

The proper testing fee. Currently it is \$15.

Your WITS. It is not a hard exam, so don't get too anxious about it.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the exam start time in order to fill out the paperwork, and for the VE's (Volunteer Examiners) to review it.

Another thing to bear in mind, is that for many of the testing sessions, the VE will have alternate versions of the various exam elements available for you to try a retake of the exam. If you do desire to take an alternate version, we must you charge you an additional testing fee.

If you **DO NOT NEED** to take any alternate versions, you may take the next higher level of exam for **NO** additional costs. For example, if you take and pass the Technician exam, you may take the *General* exam if you so desire, and there will be no additional fees. I have witnessed a few people who have come into the session unlicensed, and walk away with the Extra Class license.

GOOD LUCK.

*Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association
presents our 31st annual*

HAMFEST 2016

Sunday, September 11th; Gates open at 7:00 am

Saratoga County Fair Grounds, 162 Prospect St, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Only \$6 per person includes hourly door prize drawing, plus 8'x8' "tailgate" space

MAKE IT A HAM'S DREAM WEEKEND – 2 HAMFESTS!

**BRING YOUR TICKET STUB FROM BOXBORO ON SATURDAY AND
GET INTO OUR FEST FOR HALF PRICE !! – ONLY \$3 !!**



- Delicious Food served all day
- More major prizes; more hourly prizes
- Hourly demonstrations: *What's hot in ham radio now?*
- VE exam to be held at 9:00am (off site)
Cornell Co-Op Ext. (Solar Bldg); 50 W. High St / Rt 67 west
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
- Lots of gear and accessories to haggle over
- Fox-hunt on the fairground property
- Under-cover tables available for \$10 each
- Reservations and prepay welcome and encouraged

Directions:

- I-87 to Exit 12
- West on Rt 67 to Ballston Spa
- At intersection of Rts 50 & 67, follow
50 North; look for HAMFEST signs
- In village, turn left at Citgo station on
Prospect Street; up hill on left

Talk-In

K2DLL Repeater System
147.000 or 147.240
PL = 91.5 Hz.
GPS Coordinates
43.007438 ° -73.855821 °

For Information or reservations contact: Jim Polewczak - KG2H
231 Northline Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Email: kg2h@arrl.net
Phone: 518-703-9558

SEE US AT www.K2DLL.ORG

HOT NEW "BUCKET PRIZES" FROM GIGAPARTS!

LDG-AT-200PROII	Automatic Antenna Tuner, 200Watts, 1.8 to 54 MHz, 2000 memories - <i>Gigaparts reg. price - \$239</i>
Icom IC-2730A Deluxe	Dual-band Mobile VHF/UHF Radio, 50-watts, Simultaneous Receive, Includes Remote Head Bracket - <i>Gigaparts reg. price - \$ 354</i>
Yaesu FT-2DR	C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band, 5-watt, Digital HT; System Fusion compatible; AMS (Automatic Mode Select) Instantly recognizes either analog or digital FM signals - <i>Gigaparts reg. price - \$ 399</i>
RigExpert AA-170	Graphical HF/VHF Antenna Analyzer, 0.1 to 170MHz, Connects to PC - <i>Gigaparts reg. price - \$ 394</i>

Your \$5 Bucket Prize ticket(s) could win you one of these fine pieces of ham gear. Increase your odds with additional tickets at 3 for \$10.
Prize drawings at 1 pm. You NEED NOT be present to win.

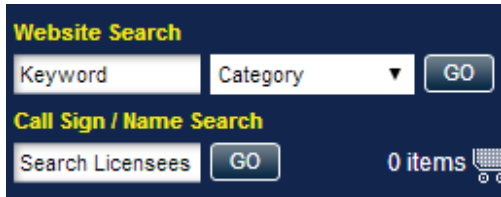
PLUS – Hourly presentations/demonstrations of new, fun aspects of ham radio including

- Arduino, Raspberry Pi Projects – and beyond
- Remote operation of your home station
- Olympics of Antenna Launcher Devices
- Foxhunt on the Fairgrounds
- Intro to ARES, RACES, and EMCOMM
- More to come.

DON'T MISS IT! SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11. BE THERE!



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 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.

Web page [HTTP://WWW.K2DLL.ORG](http://WWW.K2DLL.ORG)

Facebook Page [HTTP://FACEBOOK.COM/K2DLL](http://FACEBOOK.COM/K2DLL)

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