Sparks from the Spa

A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

February General Meeting

Our speaker at the February meeting was Daniel Novik, KD2LTV. He led a discussion on using inexpensive dongles and open source software in order to use your PC to become a very wide band receiver.

As of press time our reporter and photographer was unavailable to deliver the full story of Daniel's presentation, but needless to say, he impressed us so much that it was decided that the door prize at the March Swapfest was to be a SDR radio.

Thank you for the presentation and your time Daniel.

Winter Field Day – Jan 28, 2017

On a very short notice we organized a Winter Field Day operation at the Wilton EMS building at Jones Road. This is a complement to the ARRL's June Field Day. The objective was to run a field day type event using and testing the club's equipment. It was a low key event for us, the participants being W2BEW, K2LM, and KG2H.

The radios worked admirably, but we did find a bit of a difficulty with the rotator on the tower. The rotator spun the antenna properly, but the dial indicator in the rotator control box in the radio room failed to indicate the proper azimuth. We attempted to repair it on the spot, but we need to dig a little deeper into the control box.

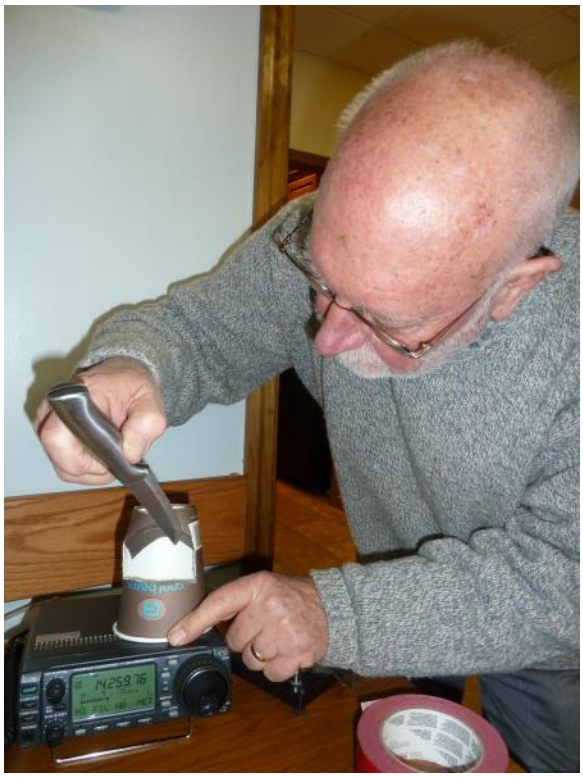
Our very first contact was a gentleman from Italy. I guess the antenna on top of the 180 foot tower was working well that day!!

See pictures on page 2 of the newsletter

W2BEW—Old pro at the key

Who needs fancy DSP to enhance the audio ??

KG2H—Where's that cold solder joint?



K2LM—Good old ingenuity

March Swapfest

On March 11, 2017 we held our annual swapfest at the Solar Building, 50 West High St in Ballston Spa, This is held in lieu of our normal monthly meeting. We had a good sized crowd who mingled, and looked over other people's ham treasures for sale.

Thanks to Peter, W2BEW who organized the get together, and Dave NR2J who took care of the food and coffee.

We had a door prize of an SDR Play RSP2 (a Software Defined Radio) worth $170, and a supplemental drawing for $30. The winner of the radio was N2EKQ, Susan and the winner of the supplemental drawing was KC2APP, George.

Contest Corral — April 2017

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contests.

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Finish				Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
Date	Time	Date	Time					
8	0700	9	1300	1.8-28	JIDX CW Contest	CW	RST, prefecture or CQ zone	jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html
8	1000	9	0400	14	PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Contest	Dig	SPC, mbr or name	www.podxs070.com
8	1200	9	1200	1.8-28	OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, district code or serial	okomdx.crk.cz
8	1200	9	2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	www.skccgroup.com
8	1200	9	2359	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	CW	RS, SPC, mbr or power	qrparci.org
8	1400	9	0200	1.8-50	New Mexico QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Name, county or SPC	www.newmexicoqsoparty.org
8	1800	9	2359	1.8-50	Georgia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RST, county or SPC	www.georgiaqsoparty.org
8	2100	9	2100	1.8-28	Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	CW	RST, ITU zone	gc.qst.ru/en/section/32
9	1300	9	1900	3.5-7	International Vintage Contest HF	CW Ph	RS(T), 4-char grid	contestvintage.beepworld.it
9	1500	9	1700	3.5	Hungarian Straight Key Contest	CW	RST, serial, power code	hskc.ha8kux.com
12	0030	12	0230	1.8	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	naqcc.info
12	1900	12	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf
14	2100	15	2100	1.8-28	Holyland DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 4X area or serial	iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest
15	0500	15	0859	3.5-7	ES Open HF Championship	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	www.erau.ee
15	0600	16	0559	3.5-28	Worked All Provinces of China	CW Ph	RS(T), Province or serial	www.mulandxc.org/438
15	1200	16	1159	1.8-28	YU DX Contest	CW	RST, serial	yudx.yu1srs.org.rs/2017
15	1200	16	2359	3.5-28	CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest	CW	RST, continent, category code	www.cqmmdx.com/rules
15	1600	16	0400	3.5-28	Michigan QSO Party	CW Ph	Serial, county or SPC	www.miqp.org/Rules.htm
15	1700	16	1300	3.5-28	EA-QRP CW Contest	CW	RST, category code, "M" if member	www.eaqrp.com
15	1800	15	2159	1.8-28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, QTH, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
15	1800	16	1800	1.8-144	Ontario QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	www.va3cco.com/oqp
15	1800	16	1800	1.8-144	North Dakota QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	w0nd.com
16	1200	16	2200	3.5-14	WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes	Dig	RS, serial, WAB square or country	wab.intermip.net
16	**1800**	**16**	**2359**	**3.5-50**	**ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB**	**Ph**	**Name, 2-digit year first licensed, SPC**	**www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup**
17	0200	17	0400	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	qrpcontest.com/pigrun
17	1400	17	2000	1.8-28	Low Power Spring Sprint	CW	RST, 4-char grid, power category	www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/lowpow springsprint2016.pdf
17	1900	17	2300	144	144 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	4-char grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprin
22	0800	22	1800	3.5-28	QRP to the Field	CW Ph	RST, SPC, name	www.zianet.com/qrp
22	1200	23	1200	3.5-28	SP DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, province or serial	pkrvg.org/strona,spdxrttyen.html
22	1200	23	1200	3.5-28	UK/EI DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, district code (if any)	www.ukeicc.com
22	1400	23	2300	1.8-UHF	Nebraska QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	qcwa.org/chapter025.htm
23	1700	23	2059	3.5-28	BARTG Sprint 75	Dig	Serial	www.bartg.org.uk
25	1900	25	2300	222	222 MHz Spring Sprint	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid square	sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprin
26	0000	26	0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	www.skccgroup.com
26	2000	26	2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	www.ukeicc.com
27	1900	27	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	www.rsgbcc.org/hf/
29	0000	29	2359	1.8-50	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, QTH, grid	sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub
29	0001	30	2359	28	10-10 International Spring Contest, Digital	Dig	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	www.ten-ten.org
29	1300	30	1259	1.8-28	Helvetia Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial, 2-letter canton (if any)	www.uska.ch
29	1600	30	2159	7-28	Florida QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	www.floridaqsoparty.org

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Times given as AM or PM are local times and dates.

Contest Corral — May 2017

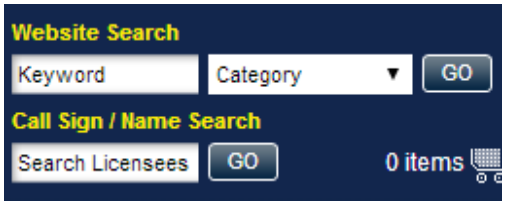
Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contests.

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Finish				Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
Date	Time	Date	Time					
1	1300	1	1900	3.5-7	AGCW QRP/QRP Party	CW	RST, serial, class (A/B)	**www.agcw.org/index.php/en**
1	1900	1	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	**www.rsgbcc.org/hf**
2	0100	2	0300	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	**arsqrp.blogspot.com**
3	1900	3	2300	432	432 MHz Spring Sprint	Any	6-char grid square	**sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints**
3	2300	4	0300	All	MIE 33 Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), age	**www.ztv.ne.jp/isoda/33**
4	1700	4	2100	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	**www.nrau.net/activity-contests**
6	0001	7	2359	28	10-10 International Spring Contest, CW	CW	Name, mbr or "0," SPC	**www.ten-ten.org**
6	0600	7	2359	2.3 GHz and up	SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest	CW Ph Dig	6-char grid square	**www.n6nb.com/sbmsrules.htm**
6	0800	6	1400	All above 902	Microwave Spring Sprint	Any	6-char grid square	**sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints**
6	1200	7	1159	1.8-28	ARI International DX Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 2-letter province or serial	**www.ari.it**
6	1200	7	1200	3.5-28, 144	F9AA Cup, PSK	Dig	RST, serial	**www.site.urc.asso.fr**
6	1300	7	0700	1.8-144	7th Call Area QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), state/county code or SPC	**ws7n.net/7QP**
6	1500	7	0300	1.8-28	Indiana QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	**www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html**
6	1700	6	2100	3.5-28	FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	**fistsna.org**
6	1700	7	2359	1.8-VHF	Delaware QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), county or SPC	**www.fsarc.org/qsoparty**
6	2000	7	2359	3.5-28	New England QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	W1: RS(T), county, state. Others: RS(T), SPC	**www.neqp.org/rules.html**
10	1900	10	2030	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	**www.rsgbcc.org/hf**
11	0030	11	0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	**naqcc.info**
13	1000	13	2200	7	Jakarta DX Contest, 40 Meters	Ph	RS, serial	**jakartadxcontest.com**
13	1200	14	1159	1.8-28	CQ-M International DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), serial	**www.cq-m.ru/en**
13	1200	14	1159	3.5-28	HPC World Wide DX Contest	Dig	RST, mbr or serial	**pskclub.gr/contest**
13	1200	14	1200	3.5-28	VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, CQ Zone	**www.contestvolta.com**
13	1400	14	0200	3.5-28, 144	Arkansas QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	**www.arkqp.com**
13	1200	14	2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	**www.skccgroup.com**
13	1400	14	2359	3.5-28	MARAC County Hunters Contest	CW	RS, state/county or "DX"	**www.marac.org**
13	1500	14	1500	3.5-28	Portuguese Navy Day Contest	CW Ph	Mbr or serial, CQ zone	**www.nra.pt**
13	1700	13	2100	3.5-28	FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	**fistsna.org**
13	2300	14	0300	50	50 MHz Spring Sprint	Any	6-char grid square	**sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints**
14	1000	14	1400	7	WAB 7 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	**wab.intermip.net**
14	1300	14	1659	3.5-14	UA2 QSO Party	CW Ph	RS(T), RDA ID or serial	**www.qrz.ru**
15	0000	15	0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	**www.4sqrp.com**

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Times given as AM or PM are local times and dates.
No contest activity occurs on the 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. *Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal and is extracted for public ation in* QST *2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.* Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or *NCJ*. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column.

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 newletter archives.

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

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

Membership Dues

Yes, its that time of the year again. Our membership year runs from January to December. We are real bargain at only $10 per year. If you are unsure of when your dues expire (many people pay several years in advance) please drop me an email at KG2H@ ARRL.NET

Please fill out the form below and mail it to me. I would like your email address on the form, in case I don't have the one you want me to use, and also I have some members who have emails that bounce for one reason or another. The ARRL membership question is important since we are an ARRL affiliated club. We need to report the percentage of our members who are also ARRL members.

Finally make out your check to Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. as that is the legal name on our corporate papers, and also on our bank account.

Thanks

Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association Membership Information
Please Print CLEARLY

Name _____

Callsign _____

Email Address _____

License Class N T G A E

ARRL Member YES NO

Dues are $10 per year, Payable to **Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S.**

You can mail your dues with this form to Jim Polewczak KG2H, 231 Northline Road, Ballston Spa 12020