Sparks from the Spa

A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association
presents our **32nd** annual

HAMFEST 2017

Sunday, September 10th Gates open at 7:00 am

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

We will have 2 new equipment vendors this year

- KJI ELECTRONICS Will be here with new ham equipment
- RW ANTENNA STORE is bringing full line of ham equipment

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

DON'T MISS THESE HOT NEW "BUCKET PRIZES" from GIGAPARTS!

HEIL PRO-SET-7 HEADSET/BOOM MIC - Black

Comfortable foam gel pads reduce outside noise, acoustically tuned, balance control, interchangeable dynamic or electret microphone element
- Gigaparts reg. price - $264

Yaesu FT-70DR

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
- Gigaparts reg. price - $ 199

Yaesu FTM-100DR

Dual-band Mobile VHF/UHF Radio, C4FM, 50-watts, AMS, Voice and data transmission in same timeframe, Remotable head
- Gigaparts reg. price - $ 309

RigExpert AA-170

Graphical HF/VHF Antenna Analyzer, 0.1 to 170MHz, Connects to PC
- Gigaparts reg. price - $ 334

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 available at the SCARA Club Table.

Prize drawings at 12:30 pm. You NEED NOT be present to win.

Field Day 2017 – Jim KG2H

We held Field Day activities again at our usual location of the Wilton EMS building. Once again we ran as class 3A in ENY (Eastern New York). We had 21 participants, and a claimed score of 2644. We will have to wait until December to see how we fared in our class and section, cross your fingers.

Here is a summary of our QSOs, and there are pictures scattered in the newletter and on our website K2DLL.ORG.

K2DLL Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	PHONE	TOTAL	%
80	134	16	150	17.1%
40	0	144	144	16.4%
20	114	87	201	22.9%
15	181	37	218	24.9%
10	4	1	5	0.6%
6	12	144	156	17.8%
GOTA			3	0.3%
Total	445	429	877	

First Shift and setup crew—Saturday 1:30 PM

Upcoming ARES Training Sept 16, 2107 Fred—W2EMS

There will be ARES training on September 16th at the Fire Training center classroom from 8 – Noon. The topic will be "What's in your GO KIT". Please plan on being there. The discussion will be lead by the NEW District Emergency Coordinator.

Congratulations to new District Emergency Coordinator via KM2O

With the recent appointment of John Fritze K2QY as Eastern New York ARRL Section Manager, a vacancy occurred in his previous role as ENY Northern District Emergency Coordinator.

On recommending a replacement, outgoing DEC Fritze said "It was a difficult decision because there are many good leaders in the Northern District." Fritze decided to recommend the appointment of Fred Halley W2EMS, presently Saratoga County Emergency Coordinator as his successor. Halley, of Clifton Park, has led Saratoga ARES to some highly placed results in the annual ARRL Simulated Emergency Test as well as participating in public service events for his own and other counties such as the NY Air Show at Stewart Airport.

ENY Section Emergency Coordinator David Galletly concurred with the choice and in turn recommended the appointment of EC Halley to new Section Manager Fritze.
The appointment by the Section Manager was today made official by ARRL Headquarters. W2EMS begins this new role immediately and will remain Saratoga EC until a successor is named and appointed.

Please join John and me in welcoming Fred to his new job.

David Galletly KM2O

Congratulations to new Section Manager via ARRL

New ARRL Section Manager Appointed in Eastern New York:

07/03/2017

John Fritze, K2QY, of Delmar, New York, has been appointed ARRL Eastern New York Section Manager, effective on June 29. He takes the reins of the Eastern New York field organization team following the retirement of Pete Cecere, N2YJZ, of Woodstock, who had served as the ENY SM since March 2001.

Fritze will complete the remaining term of office, which ends on March 31, 2018.

Fritze is the long time ARES District Emergency Coordinator for the Albany area and a Hudson Division Assistant Director. An ARRL Life Member, Fritze is a past president of the Albany Amateur Radio Association.

ARRL Field Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, consulted with ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, in making the appointment of Fritze. — *Thanks to Field Organization Team Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X*

Duathlon notes - Fred W2EMS

The annual **Mohawk Towpath Byway Duathlon** is scheduled for **Sunday, October 15th.**
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 communications 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

Somebody's got to supervise. Thanks Fred and Peter for keeping everyone in line.

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

Mike, that's going to hurt on the way up !!

Didn't YOU bring the written instructions?

Maccabi Games - Dave Galletly – KM2O

To All Who Participated,

A very big thank you to all of you. You stepped up to support the largest public service event in this area in memory. Everyone performed at a level that was a credit to amateur radio. Complements have been coming in from all corners including the leadership of the Games. Going in, I believe they had very little idea of what our contributions would mean to the running of the event. Coming out, they were impressed. A national level staff member of the Games will be recommending that amateur radio be included in all games going forward.

When a request for our help was made by the Games Safety Coordinator and by the Albany County Sheriff"s Office several months ago, this task appeared daunting. As time went on, and the mission kept growing, it looked almost impossible. Since the requirements of this event quickly began to dwarf the resources of Albany County ARES members, the addition of then Northern DEC (now SM) John Fritze K2QY to the communications planning team which included Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, NY DHSES, Albany Medical Center and others proved indispensable.

Thanks for patiently watching the recruiting road shows brought to ham groups across the region as the need for operators was slowly filled as you volunteered.

Thanks to the amateur radio planning group including Albany EC Ridge Macdonald KB2HWL, Saratoga EC (and now Northern DEC) Fred Halley W2EMS, Assistant DEC Jerry Murray W2IWW, Net Control Lead John Farina W2QCY and K2QY that worked out how this all might work. From frequency planning, paperwork, net operations and venue staffing, this group brought the response into focus.

The final totals are still being worked out, but having 18 stations working simultaneously at venues, Games office, Command Post and NCS worked. It worked because you all made it work by your professionalism and skill.

Kinks, yes we had some, but they were handled with efficiency and flexibility. Last minute schedule changes, illness, bad HT locations, weather delays and venue changes came and went but the level of service stayed high. Of particular note was the fire alarm and evacuation of Guilderland High School on the first day. All on duty kept calm and kept everyone informed of their condition. Net Control had full situational awareness and kept the net operating throughout making sure all were safe. W2QCY and the NCS Team; Kathy Farina N2SHC, Kathy Casey N2SQY and Skip Chaffee WB2T did a fabulous job keeping order and an excellent job of updating the log. "Team Smith" Karen KS2O and Mac W2VLT moved the chuck wagon out to the venues bringing lunch while covering a couple of early morning baseball games.

Thanks to the Albany Amateur Radio Association for the use of the K2CT repeater as our primary channel during the week as well as for the use of their tower trailer which allowed the operation of the on site UHF repeater. Specific thanks to AARA President Ernie Popp K2EP for his help in moving the trailer on to the site.

Thanks again and 73!

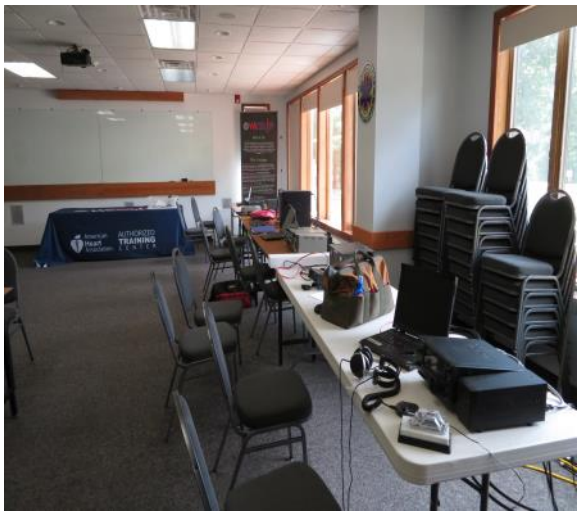
September Meeting—Sept 11, 2017

As if all of the other information in the newsletter is not enough, just a final note. After all of the fun of the Hamfest on Sunday, don't forget that on the very next day, Monday night we will have our regular club meeting.

As usual, the meeting will be at the Wilton EMS building off of Jones Road in Wilton. The general membership meeting will be at 7 PM, and the Board meeting for business will be immediately preceding this at 6:30 PM

The meeting topic will be the hamfest. Final results will most likely not be available yet we will discuss what went right and what can be improved. We hope to see you there.

We NEED a BIGGER hammer.

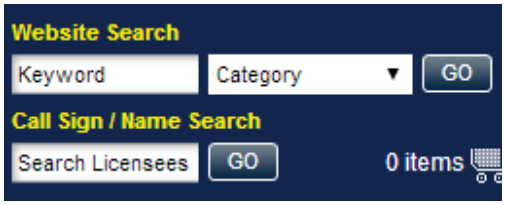


Ready to roll, just waiting for the bell.

Food, and the cooks. One of the really great parts of Field Day

Dave and Susan at the Grill taking your orders!

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 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

President
Fred Brown W5BN
W5BN@nycap.rr.com

Vice President:
Peter Miller—W2BEW
PETERMIL@verizon.net

Secretary:
OPEN

Treasurer:
Jim Polewczak—KG2H
KG2H@arrl.net

Directors:

Dave Bargovic—NR2J
Dave.Bargovic@gmail.com

Mike Levy K2ZIP
levymike@AOL.COM

Steve Rosenberg WA2TTP
SROSENB2@nycap.rr.com

Dennis Kagel—WA2JWO
KADELL@myblueLight.com

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