Sparks from the Spa

Saratoga County SCARA Amateur Radio Association

Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S Association

A **PUBLICATION** OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, March 8th at 6:30 pm.

Our presentation in March will be a review of the Villages' Antenna Guide.

The Villages is a 55+ planned community located about an hour north of Orlando in Central Florida with numerous homeowner restrictions including those that directly impact the installation of amateur radio antennas. However, the Villages has a fairly active ham radio club (K4VRC) and their members have worked out many stealthy ways to place antennas while at the same time addressing the HOA restrictions for the property that they own or rent.

Together as a group on Zoom, we will review the latest version of the K4VRC Antenna Guide (February 2021 version). Their guide contains discusses the advantages and limitations of the different antenna types in use there.

So while you may not currently live in a restricted community, this presentation will give you some ideas

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

This expo features many new speakers, kit building workshops, panel discussions, booth prizes, and more.

There will be 60+ speakers including Key Note Speaker David Minster NA2AA (CEO of the ARRL) and Ria Jairam N2RJ (ARRL Hudson Division Director)

You can find more information and register at www.qsotodayhamexpo.com

Interested in Contesting?

Here are a few of the contests coming soon.

March 13-14 North American RTTY Sprint
March 13-14 Oklahoma QSO Party
March 13-14 Idaho QSO Party
March 14-15 Wisconsin QSO Party
March 20-21 Virginia QSO Party

April 17 Michigan QSO Party
April 17-18 Ontario QSO Party

May 1 Delaware QSO Party
May 1 New England QSO Party

Collins Equipment for sale

Chris Gibbons has some vintage Collins for sale. He showed some slides at our vitual hamfest but didn't have any offers. If you're interested, please contact Chris Gibbons at cgibbons1000@gmail.com

Websites you may find interesting.

www.rac.ca Canada's Amateur Radio Society

www.homingin.com Direction Finding Tips and more

www.hamcall.net Ham Radio Gear

www.dxzone.com Ham Radio Resources

January 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Report

The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service.

In January 2021, Volunteer Monitors reported 2,277 hours monitoring the HF frequencies and 2,162 hours monitoring VHF frequencies and above.

The Volunteer Monitor Coordinator issued 11 *Advisory Notices.* An *Advisory Notice* is an attempt to resolve rule violation issues informally before FCC intervention:

· Operators in Milwaukee, WI, Centralia, WA, Edmond, OK, Fontana, CA and Orleans, MA received advisories concerning operation outside their license class.

· An operator in Thorn Hill, TN received an advisory concerning interference.

· An operator in Ridgely, TN received an advisory regarding excessive bandwidth.

· Operators in Miami, FL, Friendly, W V, Collinsville, IL, and Keansburg, NJ received advisories concerning station ID issues.

· An operator in Philadelphia , PA received an advisory regarding improper use of a linear amplifier.

North Carolina Radio Amateurs Adapt Tailgating Hamfest to the COVID-19 Pandemic

With many in-person hamfests canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some radio amateurs in Raleigh, North Carolina, have come up with a way to adapt with a tailgate hamfest in an unused shopping center parking area. The event grew out of the so-called Ham Radio Taco Thursdays, begun many years ago by ARRL Life Member Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ.

Pitegoff had to put his event on hold when the pandemic erupted. It was suggested that hams could gather and socialize at a safe distance by having a Taco Thursday with the taco truck outside in an adjacent empty parking lot. That event was a success, with participants remaining at their vehicles and bringing their own chairs. That success inspired holding a tailgate hamfest in the same spot, and it's now turned into a monthly event, called the AB4OZ Hamfest.

Membership status Jim KG2H

Hi all. Here is an update on the membership status or our club members.
It has been a banner year for our renewals. As you know our dues year is the calendar year,
As if the end of February, we have 83 members who have renewed already. There are 21 members whose dues expired in Dec 2020 and have yet to renew. We also have 33 previous members (prior to 2020) who also have failed to renew in previous years. I will be purging the membership list at the end of March, removing the oldest off of the mailing list.
If you have a question on your status, please email me KG2H@ARRL.NET
If you need a membership renewal form, please go to K2DLL.ORG, Click on the About tab, and scroll on down to the membership section. You can download the form there.

Thanks

KK4WVM, W2BEW, W2EMS, WB2TBG

Welcome to our newest member Rich Klein, WB2TBG. If you hear him on the air please give him a hearty welcome.

Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association Membership Information
Please Print CLEARLY

Name _____
Callsign _____ License Class N T G A E

Email Address _____

Address _____
City State Zip _____

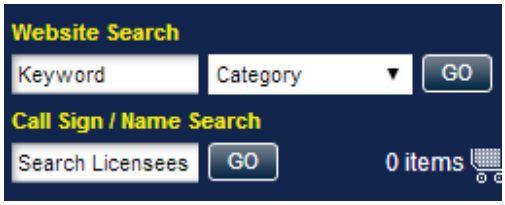
ARRL Member YES NO

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

Admin use – Amt _____ Cash Check # _____ # of years_____ Was Now

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 +600 Hz 91.5 Hz CTCSS encode/decode.
147.360 MHz +600 Hz (add 91.5 Hz CTCSS to connect to the NYS Network

Sacandaga Reservoir aka Fraker Mountain
147.03 MHz +600 KHz 91.5 Hz CTCSS encode/decode

Middleburgh NY
448.925 PL 107.2 WA2TTP-R Steve's Repeater is linked to ours via UHF

Officers and Board Members

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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 :

K2DLL@OUTLOOK.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 your ideas. Thanks