Sparks from the Spa

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

Saratoga County SCARA Amateur Radio Association

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, April 12th at 6:30 pm.

Our presentation in April will be Ham Radio Apps for Everyday Use.

With the right apps your smart phone becomes a handy tool for the ham radio operator. Some of the best ham radio apps will: help you locate repeater information as you travel, transforms your smartphone into a HT, provides tools for decoding messages, allows you to predict satellite passes in real time, search call signs on the go, plus a whole lot more. Ham radio apps can and will enhance your enjoyment of the ham radio hobby.

This presentation will include demonstrations of several apps that are available for iOS and Android devices. Live demonstrations will be shown via Zoom. Applications that may be featured include: RepeaterBook, QRZ.com, APRSDroid, EchoLink, SATSAT, AmSatDroid, and SSTV.

The ARRL ENY section has been invited to participate in a ARC exercise on May 8th. There will be a location in Clifton Park that will need to be setup and send digital traffic (WINLINK) to other ARC locations. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Regards,
Fred - W2EMS

Saratoga County Amateur Radio Assn.
Board of Director's Meeting
March 8, 2021

President: Mike Levy, K2ZIP
Vice President: Peter Miller, W2BEW
Secretary: Jim McKnight, K2LM
Treasurer: Jim Polewczak, KG2H
Directors:
Fred Brown, W5BN
Fred Halley, W2EMS
Steve Rosenberg, WA2TTP
Randy Woessner, KC1NN
Radio Officer: Frank Frisone KA2QYE **absent**

Brian, NJ1F

For a total of 24 participating in the regular meeting.

- The minutes of the February meeting minutes were approved.

- Treasurer's report with an ending balance of $19,291 was accepted.

Old Business

Hamfest—
Peter, W2BEW, reported that the fairgrounds had no guidance on how to hold our hamfest and that we were not on their 2021 schedule.
He also said that it was not too early to contact vendors.

It was mentioned that the fairgrounds has our $600 deposit for the 2020 hamfest that did not occur.

Fred, W2EMS, made a motion that we select a date for our hamfest with the understanding with the fairgrounds that we could cancel without penalty. The motion was amended to add that the date would be September 18 or 19.
The motion as amended was passed.

Peter, W2BEW, said he would talk to the fairgrounds about a date and the ability to cancel without penalty.

New Business

Field Day:

Jim, KG2H, asked if the county would allow use to the fire training center for Field Day. Jim, K2LM, said that he would check with Frank, KA2QYE, if we could reserve the facility.
Fred, W5BN, suggested that we consider Grant's Cottage and Peter, W2BEW, suggested the 4H Training Center as another place for FD.

Steve, WA2TTP, gave an update on remoting an HF station at Wilton EMS.

The board meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM with a motion from Randy, KC1NN, and second from Jim, KG2H.

Presentation

The presentation was a PowerPoint created by the amateur radio operators at The Villages about the antennas they used to meet the Homeowners Association (HOA) rules. Mike, K2ZIP, was the moderator.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Jim
K2LM, secretary

Interested in Contesting?

Here are a few of the contests coming soon.

April 17-18	Michigan QSO Party
April 17-18	Ontario QSO Party
April 24-25	Florida QSO Party
May 1-2	Indiana QSO Party
May 1-2	Delaware QSO Party
May 1-2	New England QSO Party
June 19-20	West Virginia QSO Party

Please consult the ARRL contest pages for more information.

Equipment for sale

From the estate of W2BLW, a TS-520SE is for sale for about $250. Contact Bob, W2XM, at 518 459 8435 or at w2xm@arrl.net

Websites you may find interesting.

www.hamworldinc.com	assisting amateur ham operators
www.hamstop.com	powerwerx products
www.fema.gov	U. S. Homeland Security
www.usraces.org	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

The Capital District Commuter Assistance Network – why YOU should check in (even if you don't commute)

By Jock Elliott, KB2GOM

In 1996, I was suddenly thrust into being net control for the Capital District Commuter Assistance Network. The net was started by Ed Barnat, N2RKA, but he changed jobs and couldn't continue. The net struggled for a while, and then one day the repeater controller (Hugh . . . I've forgotten his call sign) said, in essence: "If you want the net to continue, you're the guy."

Boom! . . . instantly, I was net control. Talk about learning by doing! For a while, I tried to operate the way N2RKA had: monitoring CB 9 as well as two meters and listening to scanners for traffic related info. Over the years, though, I have continued to simplify and pare the net down to the absolute bare essentials. Now I operate on 2 meters, listen to some scanners, and count on net participants to share relevant information.

So here are the basics. The net operates from 6 am to 8:15 am every work day morning. In case of an imminent emergency – ice storm, big snow storm, etc – the net runs longer. The main frequency is 146.94 (no tone) with a backup frequency 147.27, pl 94.8. If both repeaters are down find the net on simplex at 146.520.

The first purpose of the net is to detect problems on the roadways and report them to the proper authorities, which usually means the Department of Transportation Traffic Management Center in Latham, NY (TMC also shares information with the net). The second purpose is to share that information with net participants.

The net has two rules: (1) Don't cause anything. (2) When in doubt, report anyway. The net also has a motto: Boring is our friend.

The net has operated for over two decades without dues or bylaws and only three casual meetings for pie-and-coffee and shake-and-howdy.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the (estimated) 100-200 hams who have participated over the decades, to K2RHI who maintains the 146.94 machine and keeps it on the air with its awesome footprint, and to W2EMS who has graciously supported me in making presentations about the net to the various ham clubs in the area.

<u>Here's why you should check in, even if you don't commute</u>. At the request of ARRL leadership in the area, I keep track of raw numbers of checkins and incident that occur weekly during the net. This information get passed along (eventually) to Washington, where it helps to justify hams' use of the frequencies. So, check in!

Finally, if you have an incident to report, here's what you need: where (what route, what direction . . . nearest cross street, landmark or highway mile sticker), what (disabled vehicle, accident, debris, animal carcass, etc.), in traffic or not, how many vehicles, and any injuries.

PS – I can be reached at jock.elliott@gmail.com

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.

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 _____

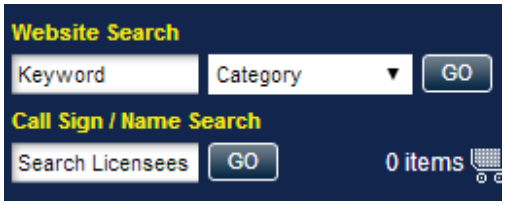
ARRL Member YES NO

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

President:
Mike Levy K2ZIP
levymike@AOL.COM

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

Secretary:
Jim McKnight K2LM
K2LM@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer:
Jim Polewczak—KG2H
KG2H@arrl.net

Directors:
Fred Brown W5BN
W5BN@nycap.rr.com

Fred Halley W2EMS
W2EMS@arrl.net

Steve Rosenberg WA2TTP
SROSENB2@nycap.rr.com

Randy Woessner KC1NN
KC1NN@arrl.net

Radio Officer:
Frank Frisone
KA2QYE@arrl.net

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