

# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## October 2021 Meeting

Our speaker for the evening was Steve WA2TTP. He has spent several months setting up a remotely operated HF station for the club at the Wilton EMS building. He gave us a description of his efforts and challenges. Steve has a long history of operating his home station remotely while he is on vacation, so he is a good choice to set this up for us.

Steve fired up the rig at Wilton and demonstrated how to operate it. He also demonstrated how the remote control worked for rotating the antenna.

Our station lineup is as follows:

Radio - Kenwood TS 590SG (club purchased this used)

A Mosley TA-33 triband yagi on top of the 190 foot tower behind WEMS

A Buckmaster dipole for the lower bands

A Yaesu G80 SDX rotator with computer interface

The software consists of Anydesk for computer to computer communications, and Kenwood ARVP 10R for remote control of the rig and VOIP (voice over internet protocol)

Current club members can contact Steve to get an instruction sheet on how to connect to and operate the station. You can contact him at [SROSENB2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:SROSENB2@nycap.rr.com)

## ARRL Foundation Scholarships Available—Brian NJ1F

If you have a child, Grandchild, relative or friend who is in college and has an amateur license there are over 100 scholarships that they can apply for.

Applications for the 2022 ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program will open on November 1, 2021. Applications will be accepted until 11:59PM EST on December 31, 2021. More than 100 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 will be awarded in 2022.

Full details at <http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program>

## October 2021 SET Results—Fred W2EMS

Looks like we came in 4th place in the ENY section and the Northern District ran away with 1st place in the District race!

Great job to all and especially shout out to Phil, KC2YLM for another great SET event.

General Message (ICS 213) ENY ARES		
1. Incident Name: SET 2021		
2. To (Name/Position): Participants in the 2021 ENY SET		
3. From (Name/Position): David Galletly/ ENY SEC		
4. Subject: 2021 ENY Simulated Emergency Test Results	5. Date: 2021-10-26	6. Time: 18:59
7. Message:  2021 ENY Simulated Emergency Test Results 9 Counties participating (2490 pts. overall) 1. Warren/Washington (555 pts.) 2. Columbia (350) 3. Albany (310) 4. Saratoga (280) 5. Dutchess (260) 6. Rockland (255) 7. Tie - Rensselaer & Sullivan (240 each) Districts 1. Northern (1385 Pts.) 2. Central (610) 3. Southern (495)		
8. Approved by: David Galletly KM2O		Position / Title: ENY SEC
9. Reply: Message Rcvd. Thanks and 73,  Phil		
10. Replied By: phil weissman	Position / Title: asst ec saratoga cty ares	Date / Time: 2021-10-28 08:06
Ver 41.11		

## ICYMI

I received a hot tip from Joanna Cummings—N2QFT.

Jim McKnight K2LM was honored by the Warren County club W2WCR on Oct 25.  
The plaque reads :

Outstanding Job  
Repeater Interference / Maintenance  
Jack of All Trades

Congratulations Jim



## ARES NVIS setup and test - Jim KG2H

On Oct 21 Fred W2EMS and a small group of operators did an ARES exercise to set up and test a NVIS (Near Vertical Incident Skywave) antenna for operation on 40 and 80 meters. This antenna is designed to radiate the majority of your signal up at a fairly high angle in order to improve operations in a local area. This is the opposite of what most hams desire, (a low angle signal), but it is extremely desirable in a local emergency situation. The antenna is a simple wire antenna in an X shaped configuration. It only is raised to about 15 feet, and it has some interesting element lengths on it. Including the time for the layout measurements it took about an hour to set up, but only 12 minutes to take it down. Participating were Fred W2EMS, Brian NJ1F, Steve WA2TTP, Jim KG2H, Micky N2MC and Daniel KD2TUD.



## Estate sale Dan Castor W2AKS

Peter Miller W2BEW is helping Don's widow dispose of some items in his estate

The following ham gear is available from the estate of a former club member (SK).

INSIGNIA Desktop Microphone NS -PAUM50	<b>Asking \$15</b>
ALINCO Switching Power Supply DM-330MV	<b>Asking \$100</b>
Dynamic Microphone MH-31 B8	<b>Asking \$15</b>
Large desktop microphone	<b>Asking \$10</b>
MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II - Model MFJ-948	<b>Asking \$85</b>
MFJ VersaTuner III - Model MFJ962D	<b>Asking \$150</b>
AMERITRON AL-811 HF Power Linear Amp	<b>Asking \$600</b>

To contact Peter email [petermil@verizon.net](mailto:petermil@verizon.net)

## New Hamfest Chair needed for future fests

SCARA 2021 Hamfest is in the books.

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual SCARA Hamfest was a success. After a period of Covid uncertainty, we held the event on Sept 12, and more that 325 people attended - and had a great time!

Now I (Peter Miller - W2BEW) have decided to call it quits as hamfest chairman. If there is to be a hamfest in 2022 and beyond, some new blood is needed. There are many details to watch over, and of course, I'll guide the new leader(s) along the way.

Planning and initial contacts should begin soon, because many vendors have told us they plan their hamfest participation early in the new year. We'll need to encourage them to attend or donate prizes while they're still making those plans. Club preparations can be quite leisurely for a few months, but ramp up in the final weeks.

Please consider joining the SCARA Hamfest team in 2022 and beyond. Then let SCARA president Mike-K2ZIP ([levymike@aol.com](mailto:levymike@aol.com)) or Peter-W2BEW ([petermil@verizon.net](mailto:petermil@verizon.net)) know if you're willing to help lead us to the next SCARA Hamfest. We have a long tradition of great hamfests, and it's very satisfying to know you've had a part in it.

We're hoping to hear from you. 73 - W2BEW

## ALT - TAB -Jim KG2H

You don't spend ALL your time in ham radio right? I know its blasphemy, but we all have a second or third hobby, don't we? I would like to start a feature in the newsletter highlighting some of your other interests, so to kick it off, here is my entry.

My father was in construction and always had a great workshop at home. I remember spending hours making sawdust on the lathe when I was a kid. Now that I'm retired I managed to put together a small shop in the basement, and I still enjoy making sawdust. My most recent adventure was to make some cute table ornaments for our Seniors Christmas meeting. There are cut out of 8 inch pieces of common 2 X 4s. Here are some pictures.

Please write up a little article for me to publish in future I will be happy to do so.



AWW ... how cute !!



All the waste on the floor after making the herd !



A herd of 42 reindeer hoping Santa will pick THEM for his sled

## Thanks

KC2NXC

## REMINDER

We had a ton of members who gave us their membership dues for next year while they were at the hamfest.

For those of you who missed the opportunity at the hamfest please use the form below to send me your renewals. Remember that I will gladly accept multiple years of dues, at only \$10 per year.

If you are unsure of when your dues expire, please drop me an email to KG2H@ARRL.NET. I plan on sending out individual emails in December giving everyone their current status, so keep an eye out for it.

## **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 \_\_\_\_\_

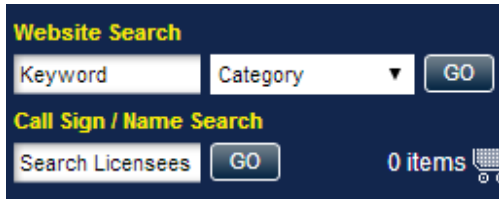
ARRL Member YES NO

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](http://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  
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### Directors:

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### Vice President:

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Please be sure to visit our webpage for any late breaking news or newsletter archives.

[WWW.K2DLL.ORG](http://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](mailto: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