

# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## November 2022 Meeting

Our November meeting was held via Zoom due to a scheduling conflict with our regular meeting location. We still had a good meeting with the following highlights.

We are on the calendar reserving the Fire Training Center for our regular monthly meetings, starting in January 2022.

We discussed having another Holiday gathering in December, similar to our gathering last December. We will hold it on December 12. Details will be in another article in this month's newsletter.

We will be having our annual Swapfest on Saturday March 11, to be held at the Solar building, 50 West High Street in Ballston Spa. This is in lieu of our normal March meeting on the second Monday. We anticipate having a VE test session following the swapfest.

We viewed a video on Pico Ballooning. These are similar to small weather balloons, but because of their small size they are not regulated by the FAA. Amateur radio transmitters using solar powered APRS transmitters are used to track the balloon position. The group that created the video has released 6 balloons so far with varying results. One of their balloons has gone around the world 6 times before they lost contact with it !!

It was very interesting to think about the possibilities of what the average ham can do.

## December Holiday Gathering

SCARA's monthly in December is on Monday December 12. Because of scheduling conflicts with our normal meeting area, we are changing our meeting area. We will be meeting at the Trinity United Methodist Church located at 155 Ballard Road, Gansevoort zip 12831. Please plan on arriving about 6:30 PM.

You can get there by exiting the Northway at exit 16 (Ballard Road) and heading east (towards route 50). The building is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east from the exit, on the right side of the road.

We will not be having a formal program. Instead, the club will be providing food to help ring in the holidays. We will be providing subs, chips, soda and water. Since we will be providing the food, we will ask you to RSVP to me with the count in your party. Please email me at [KG2H@ARRL.NET](mailto:KG2H@ARRL.NET) to let me know how many to plan for. Spouses and significant others are welcome to come. (maybe we can convince them to get their ham license). We hope you will enjoy eyeball QSO's and that everyone will have a good time.

I hope to hear from many of you.

## Elmer Classes available — Frank KA5VVI

We, the Warren County Radio Club, talked about this a month or so ago at the club meeting. Ann Marie at the EOC Warren County is letting us use the classroom, so we are going to do a monthly Elmer Class starting in January at the Warren County Municipal Center Classroom. It will usually be the first Saturday at noon for about three hours.

These will be hands on classes. Our club is growing and this is a way to give back to the community. You don't need to be a ham to come. It will be open to all. Many SWL folks would like the antenna information.

Go to [www.w2wcr.org](http://www.w2wcr.org) Look for the Elmer Classes for more info.

## PBS documentary on Ham Radio

Brian NJ1F is sharing this link to a recent documentary from a Montana PBS station.

<https://www.montanapbs.org/programs/ham/>

I have looked at it, and it is interesting to watch. It is a great publicity for Amateur Radio. It features a few hams speaking about ham radio, and how they use it to communicate. It is aimed at the general public as an informational introduction.

I recommend that you spend 20 minutes watching it.

## Mark your calendars for next year's hamfest

It's SATURDAY -- NOT SUNDAY -- September 9, 2023  
at the Fairgrounds in Ballston Spa.

Don't forget!

## Thanks—Jim KG2H

Thanks - NA2W, KD2YNJ, KF2ZR

I recently sent out an individual note to each club member, informing them of their dues status, and biographical data that I showed in my roster sheet (Call, ARRL status, address). The response I received surprised even me. Within a few days, my snail mail was flooded with membership renewals. Thank you to each and every one. If you missed the email, let me know, and I will send yours back out.

## Ellen White, W1YL, Silent Key - Via ARRL 11/7/2022

Ellen White, W1YL, of Brandon, Florida, passed away on Saturday, November 5, 2022. She was 95. White became a radio amateur in 1946 and devoted over 75 years of her life to ham radio, including more than 25 years on the headquarters staff for ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®. She retired in 1978 as Deputy Communications Manager and became the editor of the column "How's DX?" for ARRL's membership journal, QST. White was an ARRL Life Member and donor.

At its meeting in January 1978, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted a resolution recognizing White and her husband Robert (Bob) L. White, W1CW (SK), after having "completed a quarter-century of faithful service to the American Radio Relay League." The resolution cites that Ellen White had "built a reputation for thoroughness and objectivity on a mountain of contest logs," and celebrated her "intelligent and creative work as Deputy Communications Manager."

White was admired by the worldwide amateur radio community. In 2019, she was the sole US radio amateur to be awarded the Russian E.T. Krenkel Medal, a prestigious award granted to individuals and organizations for outstanding global contributions to amateur radio.

Director of ARRL's Publications and Editorial Department Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, reflected on the news of White's passing. "Ellen was a trailblazing woman in amateur radio. She and I corresponded over the years [before] finally meeting up at Orlando HamCation® in 2020. Ellen often marveled at how much farther women had come in the ham radio hobby, service, and community since she got her start. Every time I talked to her, I thanked her for paving the way," said Schoenfeld.

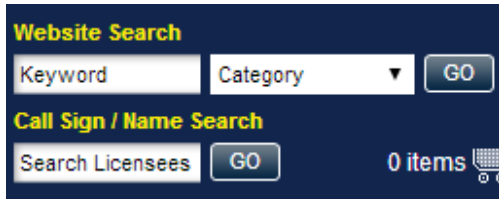
Remembrances for White began arriving at ARRL Headquarters early Monday morning.

First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) Membership Secretary Tyler Barnett, N4TY, sent a message to all club members. "Ellen joined FOC in May 1966, and was active in retirement from her Florida contest station, and most recently remote via the W7RN Comstock Memorial station. ... This is a very sad day. She will be missed on the air, and at the Florida dinners." Barnett said White was FOC member #875.

White was also referred to as the "founding grandmother" of the Florida Contest Group (FCG). President Chris Plumblee, W4WF, added, "It is fitting, in a few ways, that Ellen passed away during SS [ARRL Sweepstakes] CW, a contest that she administered for years while she worked at the ARRL."

White had already learned Morse code in high school, and only rarely operated any other mode. "Ellen loved CW, contesting, and DXing," said Rosalie White, K1STO (no relation), former ARRL Field & Educational Services Manager, who was hired by Ellen White to work for ARRL in 1973. "Ellen and I got a lot of hams asking, 'Are you Ellen's daughter?' or 'Are you Rosalie's mother?'" said Rosalie White. "We always replied, 'No, but that would've been cool.'"

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  
levymike@AOL.COM

### Directors:

Fred Brown W5BN  
W5BN@nycap.rr.com

### Vice President:

Peter Miller—W2BEW  
petermil12833@gmail.com

Fred Halley W2EMS  
W2EMS@arrl.net

### Secretary:

Jim McKnight K2LM  
K2LM@nycap.rr.com

Steve Rosenberg WA2TTP  
SROSEN2@nycap.rr.com

Randy Woessner KC1NN  
jdhs1968@yahoo.com

### Treasurer:

Jim Polewczak—K62H  
K62H@arrl.net

### Radio Officer:

Frank Frisone  
KA2QYE@arrl.net

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