

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



2022 Holiday Gathering Jim KG2H

Our usual December meeting was usurped by a holiday gathering of our members and their loved ones. There was about 25 people in attendance. We had a lovely light dinner. After dinner, we handed out a few door prizes, and everyone went home primed to start the holiday in style.

We hope that more people will join us next year.

Upcoming meetings Jim KG2H

Our January meeting will be held at the Fire Training Center Monday Jan 9 (Board meeting at 6:30 PM, General Meeting 7:00 PM. Topic TBD

Our February meeting will be held at the Fire Training Center Monday Feb 13.

Our March meeting will be our annual Swapfest, on Saturday March 18, at the Cooperative extension building 50 West High Street in Ballston Spa, 8 to 11 AM. There will be VE Test session held afterward starting at noon. Further information will be forthcoming in later February.

ARRL Volunteers On the Air Event is Underway Via ARRL

ARRL's yearlong operating event, Volunteers On the Air, or VOTA, began January 1, 2023. The event is organized as part of ARRL's 2023 theme, "Year of the Volunteers," which recognizes the contributions of ARRL member volunteers, and offers opportunities to become more active and involved in amateur radio and ARRL.

VOTA encourages participants to make contacts with ARRL members and volunteers, earning points for each contact. Point values have been assigned (see the Points Table at vota.arrl.org). All scoring is automatically calculated through ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW, www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world). If you are already an LoTW user, continue to upload your QSOs there to participate. If you're a new LoTW user, visit [Getting Started with LoTW](#).

As part of the event, there will be week-long activations by W1AW portable stations operating in all US states and territories. W1AW/# portable operations are worth 5 points for each contact, and they can be contacted on all bands and modes. There's also an opportunity to earn the W1AW Worked All States Award. There will be two week-long W1AW operations from each of the 50 states.

Later in the event, an on-line scoreboard, the VOTA Leaderboard, will be activated, allowing each participant to see how their score measures up with other participants throughout the year. Only two-way contacts qualify for points (cross-band, cross-mode, and repeater contacts are not valid), using any mode (CW, phone, or digital) - including EME and satellite operations - on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, and 1.25 meters, as well as 70 centimeters, VHF/UHF/SHF, and microwave bands available to US amateurs above 2 meters (2190-, 630-, 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter band contacts are not counted for credit in this event).

Join the fun! Visit the official VOTA website for further details: vota.arrl.org.

Mark your calendars for next year's hamfest

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

More Amateur Radio Astronauts Head for the International Space Station via ARRL

Three of the four new astronauts on February's planned launch of the SpaceX Crew-6 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) are amateur radio operators.

Pilot Warren "Woody" Hoburg, KB3HTZ; Commander Stephen Bowen, KI5BKB, and Mission Specialist Sultan Al Neyadi, KI5VTV, will join Mission Specialist Andrey Fedyaev on board the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, Endeavour.

The spacecraft will be atop a Falcon 9 rocket and, while a launch date has not been selected, the earliest date would be mid-February 2023.

All crew members have learned about [Amateur Radio on the International Space Station](#) (ARISS), received guidance on studying and testing, and learned how to operate the ARISS radios and the basics of on-the-air protocol from ARISS team members at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

The crew will be able to participate in ARISS, using the ham radio station on the ISS to contact schools and other educational institutions.

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA, the ISS National Lab, [ARRL](#) The National Association for Amateur Radio®, and AMSAT.

ARRL Podcasts via ARRL

On the Air

Sponsored by [Icom](#)

In the latest episode of the ARRL [On the Air](#) podcast, Ginger Wilder, KI5TJE, discusses her first time running an amateur radio net. Get ready to be the next Net Control operator for your local net.

ARRL Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.

The On the Air podcast is available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android). The On the Air podcast and ARRL Audio News are also on blubrry -- [On the Air](#) | [ARRL Audio News](#).



Renewal Time Jim KG2H

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a great holiday season, and stayed healthy.

With the new calendar year, it begins a new membership year. In December, I emailed the membership with their individual membership status and the quick responses were very gratifying.

In the haze of the holiday season, you may have forgotten, or lost my email. If you fall into that category, please use the form below to send me your dues. If you have any questions use KG2H@arrl.net.

Just to keep everyone informed, here is how our membership stands:

78 members with dues paid for 2023 for other years in advance
27 members who's dues expired in December 2022. Still plenty of time for them to renew.
19 members who's dues expired in 2021 or previously

Thanks

K2IRK, K2JQ, KA2CCH, KC2CLK, KD2DQQ, KD2DXO, KD2ODA, KD2JQ, KD2RQA, N2NHX, N2OKA, N2OWA, N7SO, W1NXB, W2EMS, W2RWA, WA2JAE, WB2TBG

Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association - Membership Information
Please Print CLEARLY

Name _____

Callsign _____

Email Address _____

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

ARRL Member YES NO License Class N T G A E

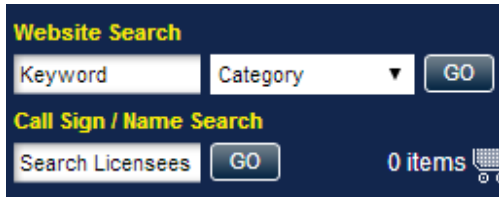
Amt _____ Cash or Check # # of years _____ Was Now

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



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



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