

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

June 2023 Club Meeting

The June meeting was our annual business meeting.

The Treasurer gave an annual report, summarizing our annual receipts and membership. We presently have 84 current members. There were 21 members whose dues lapsed in December 2022 and have not yet remitted for the current year.

Discussion was held on both the upcoming Field Day effort, and our September 9 Hamfest. See the hamfest poster in this newsletter. Contact Fred W2EMS (W2EMS@arrl.net) to let him know how you are willing to help in the hamfest.

Elections were held. The results are:

President: Mike Levy - K2ZIP
Vice Pres.: Peter Miller—W2BEW
Secretary: Jim McKnight—K2LM
Treasurer: Jim Polewczak—KG2H

Directors : Randy Woessner—KC1NN
Brian Szewczyk—NJ1F
Fred Halley—W2EMS
Fred Brown—W5BN

Join our Groups.IO

For flash announcements and items of interest please join our Groups.IO group.

If you're not already in the group simply subscribe by sending an email to K2DLL+subscribe@groups.IO You will get a reply back after you have been approved.

You can make appropriate Amateur related announcements of your own and see what others may be thinking about.

Field Day 2023

Our Field Day effort this year was a significant success in terms of QSO's and points, showing a QSO increase of 47% over last year. What we still need is YOU. We could have done much better if more of the club's members participated. Operators get tired and need relief. We close down during the 12 AM to 7 AM period on Sunday morning because there are no fresh operators. Make a commitment for next year that YOU will come out to Field Day and operate, if only for an hour or 2.

I calculate a total of 4,507 points, we will have to wait to see the Dec issue of QST for official counts.

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

FD 2022					FD 2023				
	<u>CW</u>	<u>Digital</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Totals</u>		<u>CW</u>	<u>Digital</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Totals</u>
80m	63	41	0	104	1	59	0	60	
40m	20	58	43	121	165	16	160	341	
20m	19	1	88	108	165	47	46	258	
15m	125	3	12	140	16	67	16	99	
10m	0	0	12	12	0	0	0	0	
6m	0	57	0	57	0	42	0	42	
TOTALS	227	160	155	542	347	231	222	800	

2023 Bonus Points

100% emergency power	300
Media Publicity	100
Public location	100
Public information table	100
Formal message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day message	100
Formal messages handled	100
Site visit by invited served agency	100
Safety officer	100
Social media	100
Satellite QSO	100
GOTA Station	185
GOTA Coach	100
Entry submitted via web	50
Total bonus points	1,635

GOTA Participants	<u>call</u>	<u>qso's</u>
Susan Polewczak	N2EKQ	20
Francis Grey	KE2BCZ	10
Ethan Grey	KE2BDE	7

Hamfest 2023

Hamfest 2023 is in the history books.

The weather was threatening all week long, and the weatherman predicted doom and gloom for Saturday Sept 9. I'm sure that made some potential attendees have second thoughts about coming. That being said, it turned out great for us. No doubt it was cloudy but there was not a drop of rain. I guess the clouds kept the sunburn away!!

Attendance and gross revenues were up!! We had 275 paid attendance, versus last year's 250

Net revenues were down a bit because we had much more expensive and much nicer prizes for attendees.

For the first time this year we held the VE exams on site, and I think that turned out well. We had 7 candidates, and 4 came away with new or upgraded licenses.

The fairgrounds has penciled us in for Saturday Sept 7 next year, so pencil that in on your calendars.



Hamvention 2023 Brian NJ1F

Our annual trip to Hamvention 2023 started on the morning of Thursday May 18th as we started our 10-hour drive to our hotel in Dayton. Susan and I took turns driving, always find a new place or two to take a rest break on the trip. I was able to get some work done while Susan was driving thanks to radio technology built into the truck's hotspot. Most people do not understand that if it wasn't for "Radio" their smartphone would be an "Unconnected Device". There is interesting phenomenon the closer one gets to Hamvention. The number of vehicles sporting callsign plates and antennas increases exponentially! It's almost like becoming the part of a mass migration.

Upon arriving at the Hope Hotel and Conference Center, the hotel at which the location of the Contest University and many of the DX and Contest dinners activities. Our check in process ours took a little bit longer this year because of a travel companion we chatted with several ham radio friends and the front desk crew. We settled into our home away from home and soon it was time to head to the "Contest Super Suite" for some Pizza and catch up with fellow testers. Thursday evening the crowd in the Super Suite thins quickly in anticipation of the opening day of Hamvention.

After a breakfast buffet at the Hotel, we headed to the Greene County Fair Grounds the home of Hamvention. Tip purchase tickets online when they go on sale to save money and time getting into Hamvention. Another tip, get your admission ticket laminated, plus a nice lanyard by the Scout Troop at the gate. Why? Every year I know of at least one fellow ham loses their ticket and has to buy another to attend on Saturday.

First order of business is to locate the DARA booth to enter our ticket for the hourly prize drawings. This year I skipped the printed program as I had long ago downloaded the "Smartphone App" has been really improved. I find far more useful; it allows you to plan your Hamvention experience weeks in advance and links to your Calander.



No matter what your interests are in our hobby you will find a forum, group or vendor booth about it at Hamvention. We did attend several very interesting forums, visited with many manufactures and groups.



K9OY was one of several speakers at the Amateur Radio High Altitude Ballon forum.



Carsten Dauer DM9EE recipient of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association Amateur of the Year 2023 award forum presentation.

Carsten has made a big difference with his helping of Ukrainian Amateurs families and others since the invasion of their country. His presentation slides available

http://dm9ee.de/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023_AmateurOfTheYear_cd_v02-num.pdf

He has really raised the bar of amateurs helping out in the time of need.



Some of the indoor vendors at Hamvention

The weather both days was very good, the rain showers held off until after the gates closed on Friday and had moved east by time the gates opened on Saturday. Ah the weather for Hamvention, it may be hot and sunny, it might be cold with snow flurries, or even a tornado warning. Given this fact if planning on attending having a "Plan B" just in case the weather doesn't cooperate. Fortunately, there are a lot of nearby attractions. The Air Force Museum <https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/> free admission and one can spend an entire day exploring it. Another nearby attraction is the National Museum of the VOA <https://voamuseum.org/> worth the price of admission plus they have a ham station for guest operation. There is also the American Packard Museum <https://www.americaspackardmuseum.org/> Just a few of the nearby things to do in case of rain.

After two 15,000 plus steps ham radio packed days we are back at the hotel for the 29th Annual Dayton Contest Dinner and CQ Contest Hall of Fame induction ceremony. John K1AR Emcee welcomed all and then read the calls of all the contesters who became silents keys in the past year. He asked for a moment of silence to honor them. After the dinner John K1AR introduced Bryant Rascoll KG5HVG who gave an outstanding speech on his Ham radio career and adventures. In a room filled with 500 plus "seasoned and aged" contesters. Bryant's speech brought most back to their late teens! Bryant is age 19. At one point during his talk picked up a 3.5 inch floppy disk and asked "what exactly is this?" Tim K3LR shared how Bryant sent a hand drawn QSL card to him for a CW contact that Bryant made using the microphone on his rig as a CW key. Tim arranged to have a set of CW paddles as well as a keyer sent to Bryant in addition to a qsl card.

Hamvention is truly a ham radio operators heaven. Plenty of technology and ham radio technology to overwhelm the most seasoned GEEK. I did not come close to seeing everything I planned on. The reason was because of meeting up with a former coworker's, customers, hams from around the world and lifelong Ham friends. Our Ham radio hobby is as much about human connections as it is technology. I met Carsten in Wittenberg Germany during the WRTC 2018, shortly after arriving in Wittenberg while having lunch and beers in a local restaurant with a few American ham friends. He took our pictures as he was the WRTC photographer and then offered to show us around town and a few sites.

Every Ham should experience Hamvention. It is drivable from Saratoga Springs and the drive can be all part of the adventure if you join other Hams to share expenses. Start planning your Hamvention adventure now as many of the Hotels are already taking reservations for Hamvention 2024. Even if you are unsure that you will attend it is better to book a room now and then cancel or transfer it to another ham next year.

Thanks

Thanks to K2BD, KC2KL, KD2OVI, KC2TVJ, N2ZHS, N7SO, N8ODM, N2CP, W2ZNA, WB2NLE

Did you Forget?

In preparing my annual treasurer's report for the board, I noted that 21 members whose dues lapsed in December 2022 have failed to remit this year's dues. If you are one of those, please us the form below in order to update your membership.

If you are unsure, please feel free to contact me, KG2H@ARRL.NET

You can also save money by paying now for future years at this year's bargain rate of just \$10 per year.

Thanks.

Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association - Membership Information **Please Print CLEARLY**

Name _____

Callsign _____

Email Address _____

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

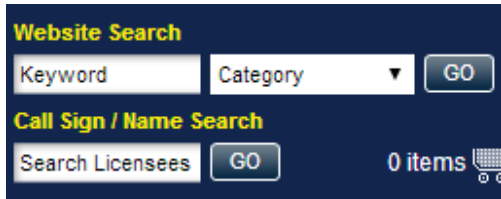
ARRL Member YES NO License Class N T G A E

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



Officers and Board Members

President:

Mike Levy K2ZIP
 levymike@AOL.COM

Vice President:

Peter Miller—W2BEW
 petermil12833@gmail.com

Secretary:

Jim McKnight K2LM
 K2LM@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer:

Jim Polewczak—KG2H
 KG2H@outlook.com

Directors:

Randy Woessner KC1NN
 jdhs1968@yahoo.com

Brian Szewczyk NJ1F
 NJ1F@nycap.rr.com

Fred Halley W2EMS
 W2EMS@arrl.net

Fred Brown W5BN
 W5BN@nycap.rr.com

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

For flash announcements and items of interest please join our *Groups.IO* group.

Simply subscribe by sending an email to K2DLL+subscribe@groups.io You will get a reply back after you have been approved.

You can make appropriate amateur related announcements of your own and see what others may be thinking about.

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