



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY MEETING — MAY 14, 2012

For our monthly meeting we heard a very interesting talk from Jim McKnight, who outlined all of the equipment that the club has on the air. It was enlightening, and I'm sure that not more than a few members fully realize the extent of our operations. We're not just involved in 2 Meter FM!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 5-14

The board of Directors meeting was held at 6:30 PM preceding the above general meeting. Jim, KG2H, transmitted a treasurer's report via e-mail to the directors, since he could not be there in person.

MONTHLY MEETING 6-11-2012

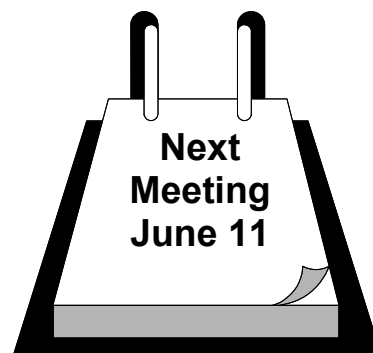
Our next general monthly meeting is June 11. The highlight of the meeting is the annual election for the officers and board of directors. Please come and make your choices known. Right now, we are short at least one at-large board member, so if you're interested, we need your help.

The rest of the meeting will be taken up with discussion of Field Day, and any other concerns you may wish to bring up.

The general meeting is at 7:30, with the board meeting preceding at 6:30

FIELD DAY 6-23/24-2012 TIM KEMP N2MBX

SCARA will once again participate in Field Day. This year we will be a "3A" again, meaning that we will operate a club station with 3 transmitters on emergency power. We will also have a free (doesn't count in transmitter number) "Get On The Air" (GOTA) station for non hams or hams that have never participated before in Field Day. Two other "free" transmitters will be on 6 meters and 2 meters SSB. The emergency power will be provided by NorthEast Mobile Search and Rescue (NEMSAR) using their RV with onboard generator and 2 2000 Watt Honda generators. N2MBX will bring his 2000 Watt Honda generator and will bring Middle Grove Fire's 3000 Watt Honda generator. So we will have plenty of power.



The station/antenna plan is as follows:

Station 1

Antenna: SCARA's Portable tower with 3 element/3 band (10/15/20) antenna with rotator
Radio: One of SCARA's HF radios

Station 2

Antenna: All band G5RV wire antenna, a tuner is needed for this antenna. The club's manual tuner will be available.
Radio: Perfect spot for your radio with auto tuner

Station 3

Antenna: Buckmaster Off Center Dipole (wire antenna) good on all bands except 15 meters
Radio: One of the club's radios (ICOM-706)

Station 4

Antenna: Multi Band Vertical or just 15 meter vertical
Radio: One of the clubs radios (ICOM-706)

Station 5 (free)

Antenna: 6 meter Quad Turnstile (built by N2FEP)
Radio: One of the clubs radios (ICOM-706) if available

Station 6 (free)

Antenna: 3 or 4 element Yagi horizontally polarized on 2 meters
Radio: One of the clubs radios (ICOM-706) if available

We will have 4 HF stations but we will only be operating 3 at one time, unless there is a GOTA operator, in which case the GOTA station will occupy the 4th station. There will be a separate

Laptop for logging the GOTA station. The club only has 3 HF radios, so if you bring your own radio, we can get some of the other stations on the air.

Set Up

Setup will begin at 2:00 pm Friday June 22nd. We will put up the antennas and depending on the weather, we will put up the shelters. This usually takes 3 hours. Then we complete setup of the generators, radios, tables, chairs and shelters on Saturday morning starting at 8:00 am June 23rd.

Operating

Operating will begin at 2:00 pm on Saturday June 23rd and end 24 hours later. With essentially 5 stations available all the time we should be able to accommodate quite a few club members. The 20 meter phone position (usually station 1) is very busy, so it would be good to work out a schedule. Let me know when, what band and what mode you would like to operate and I will put a schedule together. Email me at N2MBX@ARRL.NET and I will put you on the schedule.

Food

Dave Bargovic will prepare hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch on Saturday followed by barbequed chicken in the afternoon. There was some talk about steaks for dinner, if that comes through, there will be some cost involved. Otherwise, the club will fund the hamburgs, hotdog, chicken and soda.

The only thing missing is YOU. Let me know if you can help setup, operate, eat or take down.

RECAP FIELD DAY 2011—KG2H

To recap Field Day 2011— It was on the rainy side (but we've seen worse in the past), and we had 19 club members sign the log. Let's do better this year!!

Here's our QSO count from last year; let's beat that also!!

Band	CW QSO	Phone QSO
80	126	109
40	38	160
20	42	857
15	4	89
10	0	10
6	10	65
GOTA	0	12

From the CQ Newsroom:

FCC Back at Full Strength - Jessica Rosenworcel and Ajit Pai are the two newest FCC Commissioners.

Vanity Callsigns May Cost 80 Cents

More - FCC budget plan for the next fiscal year calls for amateur radio vanity callsign fee to rise from \$14.20 to \$15 for a 10-year term.

Heathkit Closes Again - Heathkit's highly-promoted return to kit-making, including a possible return to the amateur radio market, appears to have failed.

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, SK - Newly-inducted CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame member Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, became a Silent Key on May 23 after a long fight against pancreatic cancer. He was 67.

Radio Canada Going QRT on Shortwave and Satellite - Radio Canada International planning to rely exclusively on World Wide Web.

Six Hams Aboard Space Station - One American and two Russian amateurs have arrived at the International Space Station, joining a crew of three ham-astronauts/cosmonauts already aboard the orbiting outpost.

For details on these and other news stories, visit the CQ Newsroom by going to the CQ magazine website at <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> and clicking on the "CQ Newsroom" button.



I was away last month. Here is the bow of our ship docked in downtown Hamilton, Bermuda



For those who have not seen it yet, here is the Freedom Tower, going up where the World Trade Center used to be.



I couldn't get a word out of this Hamiltonian.

TAKE A BREAK

Here are some upcoming contests which caught my eye. For more details see the sponsor link. For a more comprehensive list see the Contest Corral on the ARRL website.

June 9 - June VHF QSO Party - arrl.org

June 16 — QRP ARCI QRP Shootout— qrparci.org

June 16— West Virginia QSO Party— qsl.net/wvsarc

June 16—SMIRK QSO Party—smirk.org

June 23 - 24 - ARRL Field Day - join us at the Wilton EMS building

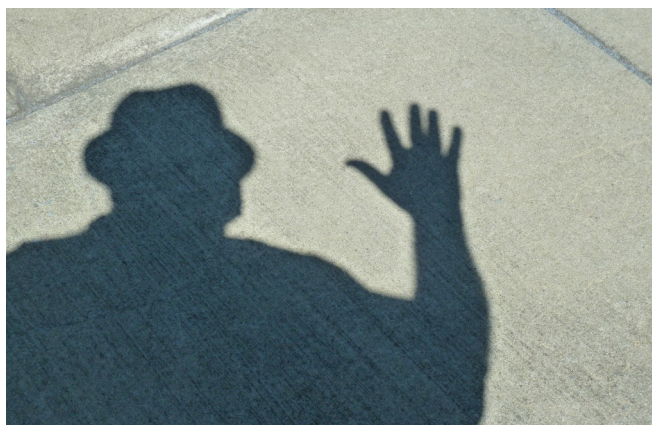
UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Anticipated Upcoming Programs

The following programs will be at our normal location, the Wilton EMS building, at 7:30PM. Board Meeting at 6:30 before the general meeting

June 11—Elections, Field Day discussions, any other miscellaneous items that may come up.

Sept 8—SCARA Hamfest and exam session.



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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 new email address :

SparksFromTheSpa@gmail.com

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

June 23-24 - Field Day at the Wilton Emergency Squad Building

Sept 15 - Rosie's Walk - 9 AM - Galway - Dave Atwell N2FEP

October 14 - Mohawk Towpath Duathlon - 8 AM - Fred Halley W2EMS