

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

From the President:

I want to thank Andrew Pepper-K1YMI for his excellent presentation on the "Summits on the Air." I think everyone learned about a new facet of our hobby. Andrew is an avid hiker who enjoys taking our hobby with him. You can catch him on the air on the 147.36 repeater most weekday mornings about 7:45 . Feel free to join into our QSOs there.

At this month's meeting, Sid-K2LJH is going to speak about Hints & Kinks of Mobile Installations. I've also asked Rusty Seastrum-KE2PW to update us on our continued club support of digital communications. As our equipment is aging we may be in the market to replace/upgrade some of our digital equipment. I think these two programs will be very enlightening to us all.

Don't forget that the **Swapfest is on March 13th**. We always have a nice turnout for this event from 8 am til 11 am, then our VE test will follow at 12 noon. Please come and enjoy good company and bring some stuff to sell, trade or give away. We'll be raffling off a very nice H/T this time, and the proceeds above the cost of the radio will go into a 50 / 50. I have heard rumors that the radio may be a Yaesu VX-8R, but we'll see on the day.

We will NOT have a meeting in March.

73
Dave—N2FEP

From the Radio Officer:

I want to thank those who have been running and participating in the Sunday evening nets. Unfortunately, the net has grown so small that I plan to ask the board to take up the issue at the next meeting.

I cannot be on the net as often as I'd like, and that seems to be true for others, as well. With only two check-ins on a recent Sunday night, and no net at all the next week, perhaps it's time to re-evaluate it. Your thoughts would be appreciated.

Dave—N2FEP



Don't Miss it!

Ham Radio SwapFest
Saturday March 13, 8-11 AM
VE License Exam at Noon

Cooperative Extension (Solar) Bldg.
50 West High Street (Rt 67 West)
Ballston Spa, NY
12020

Talk-in: 147.240
PL 100 Hz (optional)



Board of Directors Meeting January 11, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6:40 by President, Dave Atwell—N2FEP

- Previous Minutes accepted
- Al, KA1IEG, presented Treasurer's report:
Opening Balance = \$11,347.14; Expenditures = \$ 400+/-; Dues = \$150; Closing Balance = \$11,098.58. Report accepted.
- Board voted to authorize purchase of HT (<\$400) for SwapFest door prize. N2FEP to secure HT.
- Al has signed and returned contract for Fairground rental for next year's HamFest (Sept 11)

Meeting adjourned at approx. 6:55.

General Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:33

- Dave-N2FEP read a letter of appreciation from Catholic Charities for the club members' donations of toys for needy children
- Discussed upcoming public service events, listed at right in this newsletter.
- The Program for the meeting was a presentation by Andrew-N1YMI, who spoke on a new facet of our hobby called Summits On The Air (SOTA). Hams are encouraged to pick a hilltop or mountaintop with at least a 500-ft "prominence," alert the SOTA community of your expected time and frequency, then carry your portable station to the top and start making contacts.

SOTA was launched in 2002 in Europe and the UK, and it is beginning to catch on in the US.

Maps and complete details on SOTA participation are available online at www.sotawatch.org. See you at the top!

Thanks, Andrew!

Public Service Events VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SIGN UP AT MEETING

4H Walkathon-April 4

4H Training Ctr; 7:30 Registration
Middleline Rd—Ballston Spa

MS Walk—May 2

Saratoga Race Course
(details to come)

ADA Tour de Cure

June 6, 2010

Saratoga High School +++

Contact: WB2NSC lpalmer@capital.net

Bike MS *Follow the Foothills*

July 10—West Mountain

Contact: K2SWF@yahoo.com

Trading Post - Buy-Sell-Trade

FOR SALE

Ameritron Model 80B Amplifer 1 KW

Used very little. Great condition, no scratches or wear marks. With manual and shipg carton. \$900.00. **Trent-N2IPS: N2IPS@yahoo.com**

FOR SALE

(Still available—Now Down)

Tower—40-ft Rohn HDX, self-supporting
Rotor—Yaesu HD Model 800
Tribander Beam—Hy-Gain, 10-15-20 mtrs
6-Meter beam, 5-element
2-Meter beam, 11-element
300-ft coax, RG-8 equiv.

CONTACT AL - KA1IEG at 677-3316

From the ARRL Letter:

CONGRATULATIONS KAY. First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, was elected 15th ARRL President at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Craigie has been a Section Manager, Vice Director, Division Director, ARRL Vice President and First Vice President. She has also served on all the standing committees of the ARRL Board of Directors and worked on the League's Enforcement Task Force, the committee whose pressure finally resulted in the FCC's assigning Riley Hollingsworth to clean up the ham bands.

* * *

The ARRL Board of Directors Annual Meeting concentrated much of its deliberations on Emergency Communications. After voting not to establish an Emergency Communications Advisory Committee last July, such a committee was approved at this meeting.

The Board instructed the ARRL staff to seek a change in Section 97.113(a)(3) of the FCC rules to permit amateurs, on behalf of an employer, to participate in emergency preparedness and disaster drills that include Amateur operations.

The Board approved the signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the American Red Cross (ARC) to permit ARES volunteers to obtain a criminal background check, at their own expense, through a law enforcement entity rather than through the ARC process.

* * *

The offices of CONATEL -- Haiti's national telecommunications regulator -- were destroyed in the January 12 earthquake. CONATEL has set up temporary offices in a Port-au-Prince suburb and has indicated that those volunteers who wish to operate in Haiti to assist with disaster relief need to contact the agency to get formal operating clearance.

· By telephone at 3454-0541, 2516-0000 or 3702-1414. In the US, the call must be preceded with the international code 011 and the Haitian country code 509.
· By e-mail at techommunication@yahoo.fr or info@conatel.gouv.ht.



ARRL Sends Ham Aid Equipment to Haiti -

Following the earthquake, there is need for Amateur Radio communications. To assist in this effort, the ARRL's Ham Aid program is providing equipment for local amateurs to use. On Friday, January 22, the League sent a programmed Yaesu VHF repeater with a microphone, as well as ICOM handheld transceivers, Yaesu mobile 2 meter rigs with power supplies and

Kenwood mobile 2 meter rigs. Comet antennas, Larsen mobile antennas with magnet mounts, coax and batteries were also included in the package. Most items were donated by their manufacturers; the repeater and power supplies were purchased by the ARRL several years ago using post-Hurricane Katrina grant funds

Weekly Radio Net

Please join us on the air each Sunday evening at 7 PM for our weekly net. This regular gathering offers on-air practice in net operation in preparation for emergency situations. It also provides timely information to area amateurs, and serves as a forum for selling/swapping gear and discussing topics in a formally directed net environment.

The 147.00 and 147.24 repeaters are linked by the 448.225 MHz machine during this net, so feel free to check in on any of these repeaters. PL tone is 91.5 Hz.

We are looking for volunteer Net Control Stations for this net. It's easy. Just keep track of the check-ins and give everyone a chance to speak.

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association 80th Anniversary Celebration

SARA members invite all area radio club members to help us celebrate our 80th anniversary

April 5, 2010; 7 PM.
Price Chopper Community Room
1639 Eastern Parkway
Schenectady NY 12309

Guest speaker will be **Dave Sumner** K1ZZ from ARRL

Need a ball-park estimate of members that may be attending, so we can order a sufficient quantity of cake.

Hal Post AK2E
SARA Secretary
ak2e@arrl.net

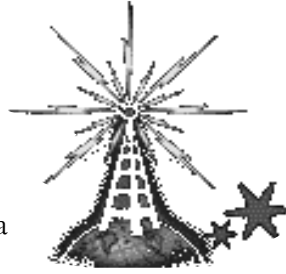
<http://events.cbs6albany.com/schenectady-ny/venues/show/651184-price-chopper-community-room>



K2DLL ON THE INTERNET

The club has a website at:
<http://www.k2dll.net>.
Here you will find the latest club news and events.

The club operates two 2-meter repeaters. The 147.24 repeater is located 15 miles west of Saratoga Springs at Lake Nancy. This repeater has a members-only phone patch. The 147.00 repeater is located 10 miles north of Saratoga Springs on Spruce Mountain, near Corinth, NY. This repeater offers an "emergency" phone patch. These two machines, in combination, offer excellent North to South and East to West communications far beyond Saratoga County. These repeaters are now linked together full-time by the club's third repeater on 448.225 MHz.



PL Tone for all club repeaters is now 91.5 Hz.

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