



# Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN — W2EMS

As the summer comes to a close I wanted to take a moment to thank some key individuals for their contributions to Club activities and promoting Amateur Radio through the Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association. In no particular order:

**Darlene Lake, N2XQG** for chairing the 2007 Hamfest team to another VERY successful event — with record profits for the Club and attendance that has remained stable when many other similar events continue to experience declines. Darlene coordinates the entire Hamfest event and “requests” help where she deems necessary. Many thanks to all Club members that worked at the Hamfest to make it a very successful event.

**Byron Wilhoite, K2BD** for chairing the 2007 Field Day committee. Byron did a great job gathering the needed resources for a very successful event. He was also able to identify the Club's strengths and weaknesses in Emergency Communications preparedness. We have almost a year to work on building our stockpile of gear so we are better prepared for the next big event, whether it's next year's Field Day or an ice storm later this year. Byron has already volunteered to chair the Field Day committee for next year so let's show our support and offer to help out.

**Dave Bargovic, NR2J** has taken on the task of Program Coordinator for the coming year. He'll be responsible for scheduling quality speakers for our monthly meetings. Please help Dave out and send him ideas or, better yet, volunteer to give a presentation on one of your specialties.

**Ed Kear III, AB2XA, Sid Wolin, K2LJH, and Bob Barter, KB2TBB** for volunteering to work as a team coordinating our Public Service Events. Our club has several events that we provide radio communications for during the year and finding a Net Control Operator and several radio operators for these events can be a challenge. Many thanks to these folks for stepping up to the plate and helping out.

**Peter Miller, W2BEW** for taking the newsletter to a new level. Our newsletter is read around the world by many radio operators interested in the on-goings of our club. Peter edits the articles sent to him and compiles that in a logical readable form each month for all of our members to read and enjoy.

Lastly I would like to thank the entire **Board of Directors** for putting forth the extra effort to attend Board meetings, help out at special events, and work to keep our radio club one of the best in the area.

Many thanks! See ya on the air — Fred

## HAMFEST 2007 WRAP-UP REPORT

By Darlene Lake—N2XQG

Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Association Inc. held its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual hamfest on Saturday, September 8, 2007. The weather again held out for us. We had 461 paid admissions, which was 11 less than last year and 7 less than 2005. But the numbers are still holding strong. The food booth did a super job with a net profit of \$553.14. The club booth worked very hard bringing in new members (or renewing memberships \$195.00. They also sold 69 additional tickets for the grand prize drawing. Net proceeds were \$2333.31, which is \$617.28 more than last year.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that took time out of their weekend to ensure another successful hamfest. We had many volunteers both Friday and Saturday. I appreciate all the time and effort put in by all of you and your spouses. You all made OUR hamfest a great event.

The VE test session went well, there were 13 people that went for upgrades and new licenses. Eleven passed.

Paul, KC2CKO, won the HF radio. Ed, AB2XA won the Holiday Inn gift certificate. Congratulations to both of you.

All the vendors I spoke to were very happy with the day — they had great sales and are planning on coming back next year — our fest is worth their time and effort. There were many people that had never been to our hamfest before and they all left happy. We had new tailgaters that will be returning next year.

Thank you to all of you, those that worked, and those that attended, and those that sold. Every person there contributed one-way or another.

See you all next year!!!



## Report from Radio Officer/ Skywarn/Emergency Coordinator

[NOTE: At the last meeting, we discussed plans for a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Sunday, Oct. 6. Unfortunately, there is no Sunday, Oct. 6, and Dave Atwell, N2FEP, will be out-of-state on the real date— Sunday Oct 7. Dave is now planning to hold the test the following Sunday — October 14, at 1 PM.

Here's Dave's revised report:]



### Saratoga County RACES / ARES SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (S.E.T.) OCTOBER 14, 2007

**13:00 HRS** - NET BEGINS ON ALL REPEATERS  
AFTER LINKING SYSTEM

- LISTEN FOR **NET PREAMBLE**: "THIS IS *callsign*, NET CONTROL FOR SARATOGA COUNTY ARES / RACES FOR THE SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST."
- THIS IS A DRILL. ALL STATIONS NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THIS DRILL ARE ASKED TO FIND ANOTHER REPEATER DURING THIS TEST EXERCISE. THIS IS *callsign*; ALL STATIONS PLEASE STANDBY.
- THIS IS *callsign* NET CONTROL. TODAY'S DRILL HAS CHANGED, AS THE WILTON EMERGENCY CORPS BUILDING IS NOT AVAILABLE. TODAY'S DRILL WILL CONSIST OF INFORMATION ABOUT TODAY'S WEATHER.
- STATIONS TO JOIN THE NET, PLEASE GIVE YOUR CALLSIGN PHONETICALLY, YOUR NAME, AND YOUR LOCATION (EXAMPLE, BARKERSVILLE RD. TOWN OF PROVIDENCE). GO SLOWLY, ONE AT A TIME.
- (ACKNOWLEDGE CHECKINS BY CALL AND LOCATION.)
- THIS IS *callsign*, NET CONTROL. TODAY WE ARE PROVIDING WEATHER INFORMATION FOR THE SET. I WILL ASK EACH STATION FOR THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION — EIGHT ITEMS IN TOTAL:

- TEMPERATURE IN DEGREES FAHRENHEIT
- RAINFALL AT THE CURRENT TIME.
- TOTAL RAIN FOR THIS EVENT
- WIND CONDITIONS AT YOUR LOCATION AT THIS TIME.
- DO YOU HAVE **EMERGENCY POWER** AVAILABLE TO YOU
- DO YOU HAVE A **WEATHER STATION** SUCH AS RAIN GAUGE, WIND INDICATOR, BAROMETER, ETC.
- ARE YOU REGISTERED AS A **SKYWARN SPOTTER**.
- ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE **ARES YAHOO GROUP**.



● I WILL NOW CALL EACH STATION FOR THE INFORMATION. THIS IS *callsign*, NET CONTROL.

● (CALL EACH STATION AND ASK THE ABOVE AND LOG INFORMATION.)

● THIS COMPLETES TODAY'S SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST. I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS DRILL. THANKS TO SARATOGA COUNTY RACES ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF THE REPEATERS. THE LINK WILL BE TERMINATED AND THE REPEATERS WILL BE OPEN FOR REGULAR USE.

THIS IS *callsign* — OUT.

(UNLINK REPEATERS.)

### Upcoming Public Service Events (Contact Ed, AB2XA for details)

**Sept. 29 – Galway Lions Club:  
Walk for Diabetes**  
Galway HS, starts 10 AM

**October 14 - Mohawk Towpath  
Byway Duoathlon**  
Krause's Restaurant, Halfmoon  
Starts 9 AM

## Board of Directors Meeting September 10, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm. Board members present: Fred – W2EMS; Darlene – N2XQG; Al – KA1IEG; Peter – W2BEW; Dennis – WA2JWO; Byron – K2BD; Ed – AB2XA; Dave – NR2J; Dave – N2FEP. Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

### Discussion/Action Items:

- Fred reported that the club is now listed on the ARRL website as an affiliated club
- Fred reported that the club is negotiating with Wilton EMS to reserve our meeting room through next year, so we will not be relegated to the garage again.
- There was a discussion of the Hamfest, which was very successful (see Darlene's complete Wrap-Up Report in this issue). Some suggestions for next time:
  - Gate keepers should give quick instructions to attendees on where to park and where to drop door prize tickets
  - Members should be encouraged to stick around after the event to help clean up and restore the area. Volunteers should keep this last step in mind.
  - Next year's date cannot be confirmed for a few more weeks; either 9/7 or 9/14/08.
- Al., KA1IEG, gave the treasurer's report (including expenses and receipts from Hamfest):
  - Beginning bal. - \$ 7823.67
  - Closing bal. - \$10,312.20 (plus \$10 in quarters)
- Dave, N2FEP, gave the Radio officer's report:
  - Jim, K2LM, is working with the county Emergency Services Coordinator to arrange to move the 146.00 repeater to the National Grid site on Spruce Mountain in Corinth. The new antenna will not be on a tower – it will be on the building. Consequently, coverage of the .00 repeater may suffer somewhat.
  - All current towers and buildings on Spruce Mtn will be removed, as equipment is moved to the new site.
  - The 147.24 repeater may also move to a new site in Providence next year
  - A Simulated Emergency test (SET) will be held in October (see announcement)
- Byron, K2BD, gave a Field Day wrap-up report, including:
  - It was a great learning experience, but we learned that the club is not fully prepared for emergency communications. We need to supplement our equipment and misc. items.
  - We need overnight commitments from operators
  - We need to locate manuals for equipment and review them before the need arises
- The Board voted to reimburse Byron for minor over-budget expenses, and to provide \$50 for wear and tear on his personal generator, which was needed.
- Dave, NR2J, asked for members to submit their ideas for meeting programs to him asap.
- Peter reported that the club picked up a number of new members and renewals at the Hamfest.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

## General Meeting September 10, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:42 pm. Roll call taken and minutes approved.

### Discussion/Action Items:

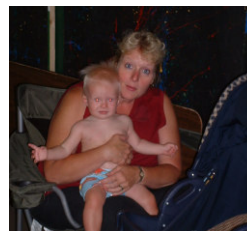
- Public Service Events outlined (see listing in this issue)
- Simulated Emergency Test outlined by N2FEP
- New ideas solicited for club meeting programs. (Submit to dave, NR2J, at sardelta@aol.com
- Successful Field Day reviewed. Discussed possibility of partnering with another group (eg: Northeast Search & Rescue) for emergency equipment
- Sid, K2LJH, requested a copy of the club's budget for the coming year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Submitted by Peter, W2BEW



**Hamfest  
2007**

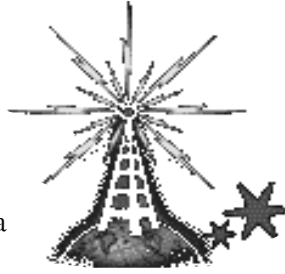




## WA2UMX ON THE INTERNET

The club has a website at:  
**<http://www.wa2umx.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 linked together at various times by the clubs third repeater on 448.225 MHz.  
**PL Tone for all club repeaters is now 91.5 Hz.**



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