

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting and General Meeting April 14, 2008

Present at the board meeting:

Darlene, N2XQG; Jim, K2LM; Dennis, WA2JWO, Bill, KC2NXC, Larry, KC2BLC, Ed, AB2XA; Sandy, KC2MID; Dave, N2FEP, Byron, K2BD; Dave, NR2J and Al, KA1IEG.

Present at the general meeting:

Darlene, N2XQG; Al, KA1IEG, Byron, K2BD; Sandy, KC2MID; Ed, AB2XA; Don, WA2OIQ; Dave, NR2J; Dave, KC2NXD; Joanna, N2QFT; Roger, WA2FOY; Henry, KB2STR; Bob, KB2TBB; Mike, KC2SSZ; Mike, KC2SWF; Tim, N2MBX; Bill, KCNXC; Larry, KC2BLC; Dave, N2FEP; Dennis, WA2JWO, Sid, K2LJH, Jim, K2LM; Fred, W2EMS and Jeff, KC2SOS.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Secretary's report: Beginning balance \$8809.34; Ending balance \$9456.42. Deposits of \$620 from the swapfest, interest of \$4.94 and \$3.14. Expenses of \$75 to Rich, WZ2D for electricity for computer "and what not".

Byron, K2BD, reported on field day preparations. We will need a new tub, nylon rope and 1 surge protector. He will compile a list and prices to present to the board at the next meeting for approval.

Ed, AB2XA, reported on upcoming public service events, shown elsewhere in this newsletter.

Dave, N2FEP, talked about Skywarn. Their website has upcoming dates in our area. Dave is looking to do training in our county in the fall, but will need at least 25 people – feels that should not be a problem.

Program for the evening was Jim, K2LM with information on our move and equipment we currently have and what it does. Jim's report is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Submitted by Darlene—N2XQG

Upcoming Meetings & Events

MAY 10—East Greenbush Hamfest: 8-1
EG Fire Company—66 Phillips Rd
Visit: www.W2EGB.org

**MAY 12 – Meeting: Election of Officers
& The Whittaker Files (de NR2J)**

First, we vote early and often. Then Dave takes us down Memory Lane with early club archives from Ed Whittaker's Bottomless File Cabinet.

MAY 24-25 - CQ WW WPX Contest (CW)

JUNE 9 – Meeting: Field Day Preparations

Bring your ideas about how to help FD Chair-Byron, K2BD, prepare for our club participation.

JUNE 28-29 – Field Day Event

SEPTEMBER 13 – Hamfest & VE Exams

Got any ideas for upcoming programs? Talk with Dave, NR2J, and let him know what you'd like to see and hear at future meetings.



May 2008 Report on Club Assets From Jim—K2LM

Over the years, WA2UMX has put on the air many transmitters that are not only for use of our members but for use by many, many other amateurs. So let's look at what our club has presently on the air—

At Spruce Mountain (Near South Corinth)

- ◇ 147.000 MHz repeater minus offset with a CTCSS tone of 91.5 Hz.
- ◇ 448.225 MHz repeater minus offset with a CTCSS tone of 91.5 Hz.

These two repeaters are always tied together and provide Echolink to the Capital District. Please see our website, WA2UMX.NET, for Echolink codes that are used on the 147.00 and 147.360 repeaters.

The 147.00 has two courtesy beeps. A “normal” one when a user is coming in on the VHF receiver and a lower one when a user is coming in on the UHF receiver. The UHF repeater has a short tail and no beep.

When the 147.00 and 448.225 are linked to the 147.240 MHz repeater, the beeps are very different.

An APRS digipeater, WA2UMX-2, on 144.390 MHz helps those using APRS get their signals out of the area. We heavily use this digipeater along with the club's eight portable APRS units during the Tour de Cure, which this year is on June 8.

At Lake Nancy (Near Galway)

At the county radio site which is called “Providence”, the club operates the following:

The 147.240 MHz repeater, which at present does not use a CTCSS of 91.5 Hz, but I would suggest that when programming .24 into a radio, you turn on a 91.5 Hz tone. The repeater does encode the CTCSS, so you can put your radio into encode/decode mode and then you will be ready if the CTCSS tone is turned on.

A packet userport on 145.010 MHz with a call sign of WA2UMX. This is a Flexnet port which is maintained by Rusty, KE2PW. This userport will allow you to connect to Buffalo, Syracuse, and northern New York packet stations.

We also maintain beacons on 144.290 MHz, 222.050 MHz, and 1296.3 MHz. The beacons are all keyed at the same time by a keyer at 5 WPM sending WA2UMX/B FN23XC. The 144.290 MHz beacon can easily be heard using an FM handheld. These beacons

are used throughout the Northeast by VHF weak signal stations that want to check their antenna systems. The 1296 MHz beacon can be heard as far away as Wilkes Barre, PA.

Our club also helps support N2FEP's 147.360 MHz repeater, which is located at the QTH of Dick and Joanne, N2QFT, in the Town of Providence.

At the Wilton Emergency Corps Building

We have a small room for storing our HF transceivers and emergency station. Did you ever notice the three element beam on the top of the 180-ft tower? It is ours, and along the side is a dualband VHF/UHF antenna, too. Because of the efforts of Peter, W2BEW, we will now be able to put on the Wilton EMS tower an HF antenna that will cover 80 meters and above. Adding 75/80 meters to our station will allow us to be very useful in a statewide emergency.

Jim, K2LM

Editor's Note

We finally received a letter from T-Mobile granting us permission to mount a dipole antenna on the tower at the Wilton EMS building. Now we can procure the antenna and take steps to make our HF/VHF/UHF Club Emergency Station operational from 80 meters to 440 MHz. Whew!

Upcoming Public Service Events

(Ed, AB2XA—PSE Chair)

MS Walk—May 4

Bob—KB2TBB

Boy Scout Camporee—May 17

Tim—N2MXB

ADA Tour de Cure—June 8

Lee — WB2NSC

MS Bike Ride—July 12

Kathy—KC2DOG

Field Day Alert From Byron—K2BD

Hi all.

Field day is coming again! After taking on this event last year, I am doing it again this year!
Wish me luck!

If you are not familiar with field day, it is an emergency test for ham radio operators to show that we can set up quickly and operate under emergency conditions. Everybody is welcome -- even if you have no experience. It is good fun and a great way to support the amateur community.

We had a huge number of hams turn out from the club last year to help out, as well as many people stopping by to see what amateur radio is all about. This year we already have confirmed a search and rescue vehicle that is coming to the event. There will be a station set up inside for operation We will be using 3 antennas: a beam antenna; a dipole; and a G5RV (tentative).

So this year again I am asking for help in setting up and or tearing down. I would also like to have as many hams as possible come use the equipment and make some contacts. As usual we will have food and drinks on hand, and a bbq lunch on Saturday is on the agenda.

If you are able to help out in anyway please let me know at k2bd@hotmail.com . I would like to make this event even bigger than last year -- and more fun.

We will be holding Field Day at the Wilton EMS building on Jones road

Date and Time Period: Field Day is **always the fourth full weekend of June -- that's June 28-29, 2008** -- beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday.

Please plan to take part, support the club, and have a great time! Thanks.

Byron - K2BD

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 the Sunday evening net. It's easy. Just keep track of the check-ins and forward them to Dave, N2FEP, after the net.

News from ARRL:

Compiled from ARRL Letter and www.arrl.org

COURT FINDS FCC VIOLATED PROCEDURE IN BPL DECISION

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has released its decision on the ARRL's Petition for Review of the FCC's Orders adopting rules governing broadband over power line (BPL) systems.

The Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had not fully disclosed for public comment the staff studies on which it relied. The Court also agreed with the ARRL that the Commission erred in not providing a reasoned justification for its choice of an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for Access BPL systems and in offering "no reasoned explanation for its dismissal of empirical data that was submitted at its invitation."

After reading the decision, ARRL General Counsel Christopher Imlay observed, "The decision of the Court of Appeals, though long in coming, was well worth the wait. It is obvious that the FCC was overzealous in its advocacy of BPL, and that resulted in a rather blatant cover-up of the technical facts surrounding its interference potential."

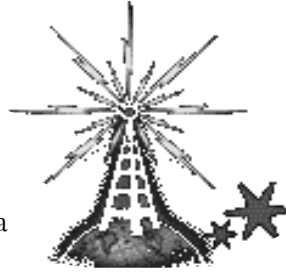
TRADING POST

(Your extra radios or boat anchors here)



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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