

# Sparks from the Spa



**A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

## President's Column by Acting Pres. Darlene Lake

I would like to thank Fred, W2EMS for his work as President of the Club since June 2006. At our January board meeting, Fred had to resign as President due to a promotion at work.

There have been many changes during his term as President and he will be missed.

Elections will be held in May and the nominating committee is Al, KA1IEG and Dave, N2FEP. Anyone interested in holding ANY office, please contact Al or Dave, or any member of the current board.

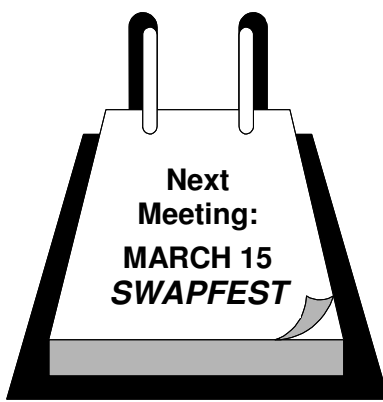
It was great to see such a good turn out for our February meeting. Many new faces and some we have not seen for a while. I hope that is a sign of things to come. There will not be a March meeting due to the swapfest but will resume with our regular meeting in April.

Dates to keep in mind:

- March 15 – SwapFest
- April 14 – Club Meeting
- April 26 – 4H Walkathon
- May 12 – Election of Officers
- June 8 – ADA Tour de Cure
- June 28, 29 – Field Day
- September 13 – Hamfest

Thank you all for your "support" during the transition into elections.

**Darlene— N2XQG**



## Radio Officer/ EC Coordinator Report

As everyone knows we are moving forward on the county radio system. If you want to keep track of the latest information go to <http://www.saratogacofire.com>. At that site is a page for radio system updates. Mr. Paul Lent is giving updates as they occur. We will soon be moved at Spruce Mt. for .00 and our other systems.

In spring, a new tower will be installed at the .24 site (Providence) and we will also be moving to that new tower. Coverage from both sites should remain basically the same.

Walkathons are coming soon. The 4-h is on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendar to assist. This is good training for all of us for net operations, logistics, planning, and all the things we need to do in the incident-command system. (see you didn't think you were training ) Fooled ya!!

The ADA Tour de Cure is coming June 8, so be ready for that. Lee-WB2NSC will be contacting folks soon .

The Sunday night net is running one hour earlier at 7pm. Everyone seems to be getting used to the time change. I intend to start doing some net training on Sunday evening soon. Make sure you have pen and paper ready for the training. It will not be long but will help you improve your skills.

I want to thank Darlene N2XQG for stepping up to take the president's office after Fred had to resign from the post due to job requirements. She has always been there, and does an excellent job on everything she does. We all need to help with the operations of our club.

I want to thank Fred W2EMS for his help with everything he has done in the past few years to help out. He is a great sparkplug and gets things done. I hope he can find time to be at events and still help when he can. I know how jobs can change your free time.

73s til next time **Dave—N2FEP**

## Board of Directors Meeting February 11, 2008

- ❑ Meeting called to order @ 18:31 hrs by Darlene, N2XQG, acting president.
- ❑ Attendance taken: Darlene – N2XQG; Dennis – WA2JWO; Al – KA1IEG; Byron – K2BD; Ed – AB2XA; Dave – N2FEP; Dave – NR2J; Peter – W2BEW; Sandy – KC2MID
- ❑ Al – KA1IEG presented the treasurer's report, which was accepted by the board:
  - Beginning Bal. – \$8956.21;
  - Ending Bal. – \$8904.34
- ❑ Dates/times confirmed for SwapFest – March 15, 2008, 8 am until 11; and for HamFest - September 13, 2008 Hamfest fees have been paid and event has been sanctioned by ARRL.
  - There will be a VE licensing exam available at each event (11:30 AM at SwapFest).
- ❑ Jim – K2LM reported (via Dave-N2FEP) that the move of the .00 repeater on Spruce Mtn to the National Grid Tower will be happening soon. N-G will be using a professional rigging crew for this one-time event. The club must have ALL our equipment ready to go up the tower when the move occurs, and we will not have much notice. The board discussed and approved the expenditure of up to \$2500 for a new antenna, hardline and other hardware to prepare for the move when we are notified.
- ❑ Lee – WB2NSC sent in a report saying he will again coordinate the ADA's Tour de Cure event on June 8. He asked for a coordinator to handle the MS Ride (unsure of date).
- ❑ Peter – W2BEW reported that the club's request to mount a dipole antenna on the Wilton EMS Corps' 180-ft tower behind the building has now gone to T-Mobile for their approval. [NOTE: T-Mobile has now verbally agreed to our request. I will order the dipole, coaxial feedline, and assorted hardware when we receive approval in writing – PM]
- ❑ Dave – NR2J reported that the program for the **April meeting** is *Club Equipment Show 'n Tell*. Jim – K2LM will lead the discussion of what the club owns, how it works and where it is. **May meeting** – *Election of Officers*. **June Meeting** – *Field Day Preparations*.
- ❑ A Nominating Committee was formed for May elections: Dave – N2FEP and Al – KA1IEG volunteered. Any additional volunteers, please contact Dave or Al.
- ❑ The board discussed the possible purchase of a Pentium laptop computer from John – W2QCY and decided not to make the purchase.
- ❑ Meeting adjourned at 6:57.

## GENERAL MEETING

It was reported at the General Meeting that the XYL (wife) of Seymour Saslow, WB2MEW, passed away yesterday, February 10. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Sy and the Saslow family.

The program for the evening was *Vintage Radios*. While there were not too many boat anchors in attendance, those that were hauled in were enthusiastically received by young and old hams alike.

- Peter – W2BEW brought in his 1940s Hallicrafters SX-25 Receiver that he has owned since the 1950s. Many contacts were made using this receiver, and it also received signals from the first Russian satellite, Sputnik, in 1957. The receiver had not been turned on in approximately 30 years.
- Dave – NR2J brought a 1950s National NC-98 Receiver that looked brand new. Dave says the unit is in working condition.
- Peter – W2BEW also brought a 1970s TenTec Argonaut QRP transceiver. This is a 5-watt, 80-10 meter, SSB and CW transceiver that has been used for years from camp at Great Sacandaga Lake and in QRP contests. TenTec still supports this rig with replacement parts.

Editors Note: When I brought the SX-25 home, I decided not to put it back in the cellar where it might sit for another 20 years. I put it in the dining room, where I might trip over it instead. Over the next two weeks, I purchased a complete set of capacitors to replace the aging components, and last Saturday, I started installing them. I even "re-formed" the electrolytics. Saturday night, I anxiously plugged it in and turned it on. **THE OLD SX-25 LIVES!** I'm quite sure it needs an alignment, so I just purchased a signal generator on Ebay. When it arrives, I'll complete the restoration process. Vintage Radio Night rekindled an old flame. (Does anyone have an old audio output transformer – either 500:8 ohms or 5000:8 ohms? I no longer have a suitable speaker for this radio.) -- PM



### Upcoming Public Service Events

( Ed, AB2XA—PSE Chair)

**4-H Walk—April 26**

Dave — N2FEP

**ADA Tour de Cure—June 8**

Lee — WB2NSC

## Upcoming Meeting Programs

(2nd Monday of each month; Wilton EMS)

**MARCH 15 – Swap Meet**, Saturday; 8-11 am; Co-op Extension (Solar) Building, 50 West High St. Ballston Spa. (no regular meeting)

**APRIL 14 – Club Equipment Show ‘n Tell.** What we own, how it works, and where to find it when you need it.

**MAY 12 – Election of Officers**

**JUNE 9 – Field Day Preparations**

### 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.

### TRADING POST

**FOR SALE:**

**Alinco DX70-TH**; 160-6 Meter Radio; AM-CW-SSB

**Alinco EDX-2**; Automatic Wire Antenna Tuner

\$300 — Francis C Lambert

**W1LJF@juno.com 581-9676**

(OR SEE HIM AT THE SWAPFEST)

### Nominations Committee Report

Well it is time to think about who may be running our club for the next year. All seats are always available to members. There are board of director seats as well as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer. Each has its rewards and responsibilities. We have been very fortunate to have people provide service in these areas. Without them our group would flounder. We have been very successful in our nearly 50 years of operation.

If you would like to participate in the management of the group, please let **KA1IEG** or **N2FEP** know so we can create the ballots for the June meeting.

## SwapFest - Saturday, March 15, 2008 8 am – 11 am

**Solar Building** – 50 West High Street (Route 67 West) Ballston Spa, NY – 2nd block West of Route 50. Talk in on 147.00.repeater

Admission is free and coffee will be available.

There will be a raffle for an HT and 50/50 drawing (any money collected over the cost of the radio will go to the second prize). Tickets \$1.00/each and that will enter you into both drawings.

Drawing for door prize at 11 am

Following the swapfest, at 11:30 am, there will be a **VE test session** led by Jim, KG2H. All elements will be given. For more information on the exams, please contact Jim, KG2H - kg2h@nycap.rr.com.

This is a great social event. A perfect time to sell your treasures or to purchase those items you just can't live without.

We will also be collecting dues at the club table. We will have a list to let you know if you currently owe or are current in your membership. Single memberships are \$10.00 and family memberships are \$15.00 per year.

Hope to see you all there!

### News from ARRL:

*Compiled from ARRL Letter and www.arrl.org*

**KOSOVO AND DXCC:** Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia on February 17, setting off new speculations on what this means to Amateur Radio and specifically, to the DXCC program. ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, said he understands that there are many questions about the DXCC status of Kosovo, especially concerning whether or not the new state will be added to the DXCC list. *STAY TUNED.*

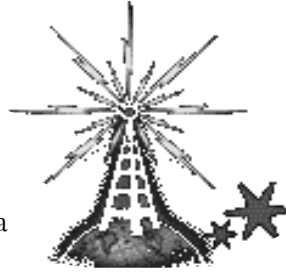
**THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO:** This weekend is the ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) on March 1-2. Details at the ARRL Contest Branch page: [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests).

**ARRL CONTINUING ED COURSE REG.:** Registration remains open through Sunday, March, 9, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, March, 21, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Visit the CCE Course Listing page: [www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html](http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html).



### 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.**

## OFFICERS

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(Now Vacant)

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