



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

No Meeting in March, but instead, SCARA held its annual

SWAPFEST SATURDAY, MARCH 14

VEC License Exams were held, and 13 people became hams or upgraded. See names inside.

And a Good Time Was Had By All!



Program for the April meeting (4/13) will be a discussion of *SWR Myths*, led by Sid - K2LJH.



SwapFest Test Session 3-14-2009

From Jim—KG2H

It was a great session, we started right at noon on the dot. We had 18 candidates, of which 13 obtained a new or upgraded license. Congratulations to all the candidates!

We had 8 examiners available, KG2H, W2ZD, K2LJH, KA2QYE, AA2PS, KC2BLC, NC2P, AND K2BD. Cliff (N2CP) was a brand new extra class examiner, and we put him right to work. We had him in the big lineup, scoring the tests.

NEW TECH LICENSES:

Mike Dahlquist—KC2UUN

Jeff Gulock—KC2UUQ

David Lombardo—KC2UUM

John Mason—KC2UUO

John Sheehan—KC2UUP

Dennis Van Amburgh—KC2UUL

UPGRADES

General:

Ed Barranco —KC2VEZ

John Seymour —N1XLG

Kevin Varmette —KC2CLK

Extra:

Archie Anderson—N8OBM (Tech to Extra!!)

Tony Lomenzo —KD2LP

Bill Proctor —KC2NXC

Mike Powloka —KA1DLK

Also two new hams from Schaghticike on 4/9:

KC2UTN—Don Buck

KC2UTO—Gavin Jarosz

Next Test Sessions Registered With ARRL

Our club has registered 2 new test sessions with the ARRL. We will be holding exams on **June 27 and September 19, 2009**. Both sessions are walk in's — no advanced registration required. Just remember that for any exam sessions you should bring 2 forms of ID, (one of them should be a copy of your present ham license), a couple of pencils, and a pen. There is a \$15.00 fee for the test.

The June 27 session is the Saturday of Field Day. It's at 9:00 AM at the Wilton Emergency Squad building, where we will coincidentally be holding our Field Day activities. Come for the test, get a new license, or upgrade your existing one. Stay

for setup and put some of that theory into practical use. Don't forget the barbecue at noon, and then stay to operate during field day. Get to meet some of our club members and have a good time.

September 19 is our annual hamfest exam. It will be held at the usual location of the Cooperative Extension Building at 50 West High Street in Ballston Spa. The 9:00 AM test session will allow the candidates enough time afterwards to go up the hamfest.

Contact for the test sessions will be me — Jim Polewczak KG2H. My e-mail is KG2H@nycap.rr.com or home phone is 518-245-8054. My fellow VE's should contact me to confirm their availability. Thanks. Jim.

Public Service

4-H Walkathon—April 25 (Ed-AB2XA)

4H Training Center—Middleline Rd B.S.

HR White Water Derby-May 2-3

North River NY; Jake N2FIN (518) 251-2005

Lion's Duathlon—May 24 (Jim-K2LM)

Skidmore Campus—S.S.

ADA Tour de Cure-June 7 (Lee-WB2NSC)

S.S. High School, West Ave.

Upcoming Events

East Greenbush Hamfest—May 9

www.W2EGB.org

Rochester Hamfest—May 30

www.rochesterham.org

Field Day—June 27-28 (Byron-K2BD)

Wilton EMS; Jones Road

Trading Post

FREE FREE FREE

Two KLM 16-Element Beams (144 & 432 MHz)

Designed for horizontal polarization. Need a little TLC but both are in working condition. Contact Steve-WA2TTP at 899-6261 or email srosenb2@nycap.rr.com

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 give everyone a chance to talk.

TOUR DE CURE NEWS

Jim - K2LM is going to drive test the new routes to be sure that 147.000 and APRS has sufficient coverage. Jim also checked out a couple of locations for net control at the Saratoga Springs High School.

As of Friday afternoon when I talked with Amy there were 996 registered riders - this is running about 60% ahead of last year for the same date! At this rate there could be 1,500 or more riders - last year there were just short of 1,100.

Get your radio equipment out and checked. The event will be on us soon.

Thanks to the 23 amateur's that have already signed up to help. Stay tuned and thanks

Lee—WB2NSC

SKYWARN TRAINING

Skywarn Training being provided by NWS at the Byron Baker Fire Training Center in Ballston Spa on April 28th from 7pm to 9pm. The training center is adjacent to the sheriffs office.

Everyone must go to the NWS website to pre-register for the course at <http://cstar.cestm.albany.edu:7775/skywarn/Talks.htm>

73, Dave- N2FEP



News from ARRL

Compiled from ARRL Letter and www.arrl.org

NEW VIDEOS AVAILABLE FROM ARRL

Two new video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) -- one promoting ARRL Field Day and another showing the technical side of Amateur Radio -- are now available from the ARRL Web site. These videos are great for promoting the fun side of Amateur Radio.

Amateurs can download the FD video From <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> and then send it to friends, e-mail lists, Web sites -- just about anywhere!

A preview version of the technology video (not meant for distribution) is also available <http://www.arrl.org/pio/videos/LowRes2009.wmv>.

— *Check these great videos out* — Editor.

SOLAR UPDATE

Our Sun is in the news again, unfortunately not due to any hoped-for activity, but for the eerie quiet instead. The Sun is surprisingly calm by several measurements, including the large number of spotless days. Right now there are no sunspots.

Sunspot numbers for March 26-April 1 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. *Aarrggghhh*—Editor



Byron-K2BD says “Get ready for Field Day 2009!”

Byron will again chair the club's Field Day operations on June 27-28. We'll need your help with set-up, operating for 24 hours (SSB and CW), and tear-down. Tell Byron you're coming at k2bd@hotmail.com



Reminder: Dues Were Due

If you don't remember paying your dues at the SwapFest, you probably didn't. This is your last reminder.



CLUB ELECTIONS ARE COMING.

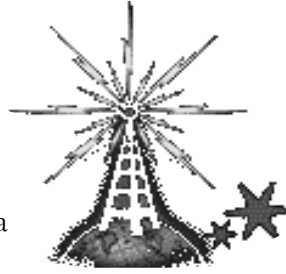
*Please serve your club.
Run for office or a Board position.*



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 club's third repeater on 448.225 MHz.
PL Tone for all club repeaters is now 91.5 Hz.



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