

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

No Meeting in March, but . . .

**SCARA's Annual SWAPFEST!!
Saturday, March 13
8 -11 AM
VE License Exam at Noon**

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

Talk-In on 147.240 (no PL)

←————→
From the President:

I was excited to see the attendance at the February meeting and I want to thank Rusty Seastrum KE2PW for his expert talk on digital communications and our continued club support. We will be purchasing a new TNC soon to replace the ones Rusty personally put on the hill to keep our service in order.

There is a CHANGE to the program for April. I know Sid is ready to do his talk on mobile installations. But I received a call from John Quinlan of National Weather in Albany, and they want to schedule a **Skywarn** school for Saratoga County. So our program for April will be **Skywarn training** from National Weather Service Albany. Even if you are up to date on training, they do change it annually, so it is a great time to brush up your abilities in that service. I am in hopes that Sid can do his talk at the May meeting. This change

came suddenly and as hams we adapt to change readily.

The Swapfest is nearly here on March 13th at the solar building in Ballston Spa as usual. It will OPEN at 8 am, and at 11 am we will reset the room for the 12 noon testing session headed by Jim KG2H.

We are raffling off a very nice h/t — a Yeasu VX-8R multi band unit with lots of bells and all the whistles.

Please attend. There is no charge for space. Bring your treasures and swap, sell, or give away what you have. There are always great bargains. Again it STARTS at 8 am — not earlier. That is when the doors open to setup and go.

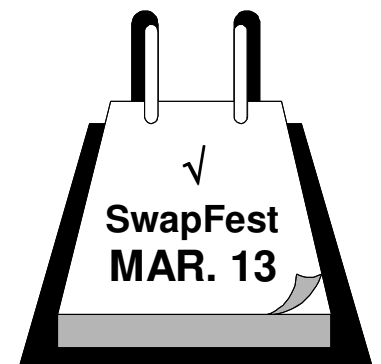
73

Dave N2FEP

Board of Directors Meeting Feb. 8, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by President, Dave – N2FEP.

- Previous Minutes accepted
- Al, KA1IEG, presented Treasurer's report: Opening balance = \$11,098; Closing balance = \$11,248. Accepted.
- Dave announced that a Public Service Coordinator is needed for the 4H Walk on April 24, and the MS Walk on May 2. Volunteers?



- The board discussed the dwindling participation in the Sunday evening net. It was decided that the net can be continued as a social net, but all members are encouraged to participate in the Warren County RACES Net on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. It is actually a multi-county training net and all are welcome. It is held on the Prospect Mtn. repeater (146.730 MHz, PL = 100 Hz.) and also the Gore Mtn. Repeater repeater (147.135 MHz, PL = 123.0 Hz). These repeaters are linked.
- The board authorized Peter to engage Bob Isby, N2LUD, to perform tower work at Wilton EMS. Bob will hang the Buckmaster dipole and inspect the club antennas at the top. N2LUD submitted an quote of \$458.
- Peter reported that there are currently 71 members who have paid 2010 dues and still 53 more whose membership expired at the end of 2009. Dues may be paid at the SwapFest on March 13.
- The club has been asked to demonstrate ham radio for the Boy Scouts at Camp Boyhaven on May 1. Tim, N2MBX, is coordinating. Contact him at tkemp@nycap.rr.com

Meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

General Meeting

Meeting convened at 7:30.

- Rusty Seastrum, KE2PW, presented a program on packet radio and the statewide packet system set up in conjunction with State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) in Albany beginning with agrant in 1993. The system now functions much like the Intenet and is very robust.

Packet radio lends itself well to emergency communication. Simple (even old) computers and Flexnet software make it easier to access bulletin boards or carry on keyboard-to-keyboard conversations. Either a TNC or a soundcard interface can be used. RF links quickly connect with Western NY and very seldom drop a connection. Saratoga County RACES maintains a packet link at our Providence site, but new equipment is needed to assure continued reliability

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

From Jim, KG2H

Re: VE Test Session on March 13:

VE Testing Fee \$15.00

Bring with you the following:

- * Copy of your existing ham license and one other ID OR if no license, you need 2 forms of ID
- * Copy of any existing CSCE's you have that have not yet resulted in a new license.
- * A pen to fill out the form 605
- * 2 pencils with good erasers to be used to take the exam.

From the ARRL Letter:

ARRL DX Phone Contest Brings DX in Full Force to the HF Bands!

With the 2010 ARRL International DX CW Contest now history, the first weekend in March (*March 6-7*) brings the next round of competition: the 2010 ARRL International DX Phone Contest.

Like its CW predecessor, this event focuses on DX stations working all US states and Canadian provinces, while US and Canadian amateurs try to work as many DX countries as possible over the 48 hour contest period.

"Conditions during last weekend's CW contest were, by all accounts, very good indeed," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "Fifteen Meters was open for extended periods of time, allowing excellent QSOs to be made from the US and Canada to all corners of the globe. Even 10 meters decided to show up for the party, with openings both Saturday and Sunday to South America and Africa, with a sprinkling of Europe thrown in for good measure."

For the veterans, it was a delight to have good propagation on the higher bands again. For the more recently licensed, it was a chance to finally experience an opening on bands that have more or less remained dormant due to the extended low in the 11 year solar cycle.

Sunspots are coming back! Jump into this DX contest and enjoy the wonders of real radio! — Ed
(More ARRL Letter on Page 3)

Public Service Events

→→VOLUNTEERS NEEDED←←
SIGN UP AT SWAPFEST

4H Walkathon-April 24

4H Training Ctr; 7:30 Registration

Middleline Rd—Ballston Spa
(NEED COORDINATOR)

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Boy Scout Radio Demo

Saturday, May 1

Camp Boyhaven, Rock City Falls

Contact Tim—tkemp@nycap.rr.com

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MS Walk—May 2

Saratoga Race Course

(details to come)

(NEED COORDINATOR)

* * *

ADA Tour de Cure

June 6, 2010

Saratoga High School (+ 100 miles)

Contact: WB2NSC lpalmer@capital.net

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Bike MS *Follow the Foothills*

July 10—West Mountain

Contact: K2SWF@yahoo.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 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>

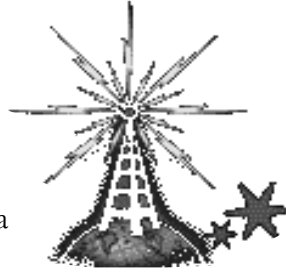
ARRL Letter, cont.

The unbroken string of sunspots continues. Two new groups -- 1050 and 1051 -- appeared in the past two days, and we've now had *36 continuous days with sunspots*. Prior to that, there is just a single day once in a while with no spots. The last time we had more than one day of no sunspots was a few months ago, — *YIPPEE!!*



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 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.

OFFICERS

President

Dave Atwell—N2FEP
P.O. Box 41
Rock City Falls, NY 12863
datwell@nycap.rr.com

Vice President:

Darlene Lake N2XQG
314 Louden Rd. Lot 84
Saratoga Springs NY 12866
dar@saratogaspringsny.us

Secretary:

Peter Miller—W2BEW
PO Box 353; 3131 Route 9N
Greenfield Center, NY 12833
petermil@aol.com

Treasurer:

Al Margadonna—KA1IEG
2 Cambridge Woods Lane, #7
Cambridge, NY 12816
Ka1ieg@hotmail.com

Radio Officer:

Dave Atwell

Sysop WA2UMX DX Cluster:

Rich Casullo—WZ2D
7 Crooked Street
Charlton, NY 12019

Directors:

Dave Bargovic—NR2J
676 East Line Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
sardelta@aol.com

Dennis Kagel—WA2JWO
147 Hayes Road
Schuylerville, NY 12871-1836
kadell@mybluelight.com

Walt Goddard—W2ZD
70 Tamarack Trail
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
God4142@nycap.rr.com

Byron Wilhoite—K2BD
1 King Arthur Court
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
k2bd@hotmail.com



Saratoga County Amateur Radio Association
c/o Peter Miller—W2BEW
PO Box 353; 3131 Route 9N
Greenfield Center, NY 12833

