



Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY R.A.C.E.S. ASSOCIATION, INC.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I was catching up on my reading and grabbed the March *QST* from the pile. In the issue on page 42 there was something that caught my interest. The page was called "ARRL Emergency Communications Course Honor Roll". I started looking at the list of those hams that had completed all three ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses.

What I found made me very, very proud of the members of WA2UMX. Among those listed, and in alphabetical order, are Fred W2EMS, Dave N2FEP, Bill N2OWA, Jo N2QFT and Darlene N2XQG. I knew a few more hams on the list but I really doubt if any club has such a percentage as ours

I know that N2FEP has encouraged all hams to take the courses. His encouragement certainly was taken to heart by club members.

So to my amateur radio grocery list I plan to add taking the ARRL Emergency Communications courses and becoming qualified as an ARRL volunteer examiner.

What's on your amateur radio grocery list? Why not add the Emergency Communications courses?

Jim
K2LM



**Tentative Topic:
Antenna Building**

Saratoga RACES Board Meeting

Date: April 10, 2006

Wilton EMS Building

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Darlene N2XQG at 6:30 pm. due to the late arrival of the president, K2LM. There was a quorum present.
2. Board members present were: Al KA1IEG; Bill N2OWA; Fred W2EMS; Mark KA2FBZ, Glenn KA2DTH, Darlene N2XQG; Jim K2LM [late]
3. Moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the board meeting for February 13, 2006.
4. The secretary reported that based on the dues submissions through the swapfest, an updated member directory will be sent out with the April newsletter. There are 27 non-renewals of membership, cutting the rolls to 90 local members.
5. Al KA1IEG gave the treasurer's report. Checking account balance: \$8,411.41 after expenses and dues collections. Moved, seconded and carried to receive the treasurer's report.
6. The march Swapfest was discussed. It was overall seen as quite a success with more people selling items than ever before. The club sold \$360 in raffle tickets. The only item that needs to be improved for next year is the exam session.
7. Al KA1IEG, Glenn KA2DTH and Fred W2EMS discussed Field Day plans. There will be six stations. Setup begins on Friday June 23 at 1:00 pm.
8. A lengthy discussion was held regarding public service events. The board decided that effective with the next election of officers, one of the at large positions will be

responsible to coordinate all public service events [not run them all, but to set up the people who will run those events]. Over the years the club officers have lost contact with the event contacts due to RACES leadership changes. This will be centralized during 2006. Members are encouraged to check the club web page where there is a calendar of events which lists the dates, times and people needed for the events.

9. There was a discussion of the difference between RACES and the Club name of RACES, Inc. It is Saratoga County RACES, Inc that responds to events, not RACES.
10. Fred W2EMS will oversee the Sunday night net until summer. A decision on the net as well as the ongoing need for member training will be discussed later in the year.
11. There was a proposal for additional APRS equipment for the club to purchase for Tour du Cure. Moved, seconded and carried to authorize the expenditure of up to \$700 for the purchase of equipment needed to build 6 additional APRS stations which will be added to the two the club already has.
12. Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:34 pm.

Saratoga RACES Club Meeting
Date: April 10, 2006
Wilton EMS Building

1. At 8:00 Jim K2LM opened the meeting.
2. Present: Al KA1IEG; Bill N2OWA; Fred W2EMS; Glen KA2DTH; Bob, KA2TBB; Henry, KB2STR; Darlene N2XQG; Dave KC2ODL; Ed KC2MIH; Sandy KC2MID; Lee WB2NSC; Roger WA2FOY; Mark KA2FBZ; Frank KA2QYE; Dave NR2J; Tim N2MBX
3. The actions of the board were discussed.
4. The speaker for the evening was Lee WB2NSC and the topic was Tour du Cure. The focus on was on discussing changes from 2005, assignments, needs for communicators and a demonstration of one of the APRS units. Fred W2EMS will be installing the units and Glen KA2DTH will be testing them. The race will start earlier this year. People who want to be involved but who have not yet spoken to Lee were urged

to do so. It is anticipated that 1300 bike riders will be involved in this year's event.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Bill N2OWA
Secretary

Field Day 2006

June 24 & 25

By Fred W2EMS

The Field Day committee continues laying out the Field Day site (Wilton EMS), brainstorming setup strategies, and working out other logistical issues that come from running a successful Field Day operation.

Planning for Field Day 2006 is well underway and the Committee has developed a plan for members (past and present), and other Hams to sign up for blocks of time to operate. Using the self sign up method will hopefully encourage Hams to attend Field Day without feeling obligated to spending long periods of time waiting for a "station" to operate. You pick the time, you pick the number of hours to operate, you pick the mode, and when you're done, have some of the finest gourmet foods available in Saratoga County. Also, what a great time to mingle with fellow Hams and catch up on what's new at the club.

The operating period for Field day will start on Saturday the 24 at 1300 hours EDT and continue for 24 hours. If your not one that would like to participate in the actual operating period there is still plenty of work to do with setup and teardown of the Field Day operation.

The most important part of Field Day is **YOU!!** All club members are encouraged to participate in **Field Day 2006**. Come early, come late, but please do stop by some time to be part of the most successful Field Day ever.

The goal of the 2006 Field Day committee is to give all club members an opportunity to participate in field day. We are looking forward to an event that will provide all hams the opportunity to try out aspects of amateur radio that they might not normally have access to; This

is a time to be with friends, meet new people, try something new, and most importantly – HAVE FUN!

Updates will be posted on the club website (www.wa2umx.net) and bulletins each Sunday night on the net.

Thanks
2006 Field Day Planning Committee
Al, KA1IEG
Fred, W2EMS
Glenn, KA2DTH

East Greenbush ARA Hamfest

May 13, 2006

Mark your calendars now!

Phillips Road Fire House in East Greenbush

VE Exams 9:00 am

Hamfest 8:00 am—1:00 pm

Directions: I 90 East & West ; Take Exit 9 [Route 4 South]. Go 1.4 miles to Routes 9 & 20. Take Route 9 West for .5 miles. Turn left on Phillips Road. Go .6 miles to East Greenbush Fire Department #3 on the right. Talk-in directions; 147.270

FOR SALE:

Diamond X300A Dual Band 2 m. - 70 cm.

Specifications: Frequency: 144 – 148 Mhz. & 435 – 450 Mhz. Max Power Rating: 200 Watts
Max Wind Resistance: 112.5 MPH

VSWR: Less than 1.5 to 1 Length: 114.2”

Type: 5/8 wave two element (2m) five element (70cm)

Accessories: 15’ mast, heavy duty mounting brackets (2), 75 ‘ of low loss coax cable with PL 259 connectors (2), instruction manual.

Price: \$75 Call Larry N2YMJ at 518-747-7383 or email at orion22@adelphia.net for more information.

Yaesu FT-757GXII

FS: YAESU FT – 757GX II (w/manual, cables and power supply) Reduced \$250.00 Call joe@k2uf.com 237-4999 (leave message) or cell 852-2345

Tower Sections

Used Rohn 25 @ \$40.00 and used Rohn 45 @ \$75.00 365-1384 John, N2OJY
john@leonardcommunications.com

ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Course Registration:

Registration remains open through Sunday, April 23, for these ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (CCE) Program online courses: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Classes begin Friday, May 5. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page or contact the CCE Department <cce@arrl.org>.

Saratoga RACES, Inc. Service Opportunities

In June three positions on the board will be open. You may be the person who could best serve in one of these positions. The positions are president, secretary and a member at large position. The president chairs the board meetings and helps to coordinate speakers along with other board members. The secretary takes minutes of the meetings, keeps the membership list and does the monthly newsletter. While that may sound like a lot of work, since almost everything is computerized, it can be done easily. The member at large will have an assigned responsibility such as coordination of public service events as part of the job responsibility.

Sunday Night Net

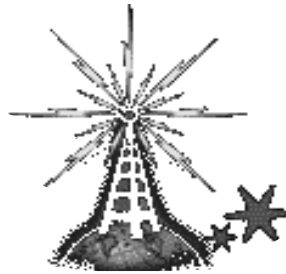
Every Sunday night at 8:00 pm there will be a club net led by various club members. Fred W2EMS will be overseeing the net. You are encouraged to check into the net regularly on either 147.00 or 146.24 [don’t forget the PL tone of 100 Hz]



WA2UMX ON THE INTERNET
 Kim Lake, KF2LV has set up a web page for the club. It is located at:
<http://www.wa2umx.net>.

CLUB REPEATERS

The club operates two 2-meter repeaters. The 147.24 repeater is located 15 miles West of Saratoga Springs at Lake Nancy, in Barkersville. This repeater has a phone patch, which is restricted to members only. 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.



Saratoga County ARES repeater at lake Nancy 147.360 is also supported by the club. Located in the Town of Providence.

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