



Sparks from the Spa



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

SEPTEMBER 10th HAMFEST—IT HAS BEEN TWENTY YEARS IN THE MAKING!

Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Association, Inc. will be holding its 20th annual Hamfest on **Saturday, September 10, 2005**. Our hamfest is our only way of supplying the money needed to maintain our vast repeater system. With declining attendance at most hamfests, we are hoping we can still hold our own this year. We will again be having Helicopter rides supplied by Yankee Helicopter. There are many returning vendors as well as a couple new ones. Volunteers will be needed at the gate and the food booth. John, W2QCY is unable to handle the talk in station this year so we will need someone for the talk in station. Jim, KG2H will be giving VE test sessions at the Solar building and we will need VE's to help him out. If you are able to volunteer your time, please email me (dar@saratogaspringsny.us) or give me a call. We will again be giving away an HF radio as our grand prize to be drawn at 2 PM (you need not be present for this prize only). Additional tickets for the radio will be available at the club booth for \$5.00. We will also be selling special 20th anniversary hamfest pins at the club booth for \$3.00. There is a limited supply of these so if you want one, make sure you get to the booth early.

Hope to see you all there !!!
Darlene, N2XQG

WE NEED YOUR HELP—WHY?

This is **your** hamfest. Each member of the Saratoga RACES Club has an important role to play to make this a success. Here is how you can help on Saturday:

1. Talk-in station control, 6:30 am until 1:30 pm. This could be divided between 2 people.
2. Food booth requires 6 people in 2 shifts: 6:00 am until 11:00 am and 11:00 am until 3:00 pm.
3. The gate requires 5 people in 2 shifts: 6:00 am until 11:00 am requires 3 people; 11:00 am until 3:00 pm requires 2 people.
4. Foxhunt requires at least 2 people to help.

You should be willing to volunteer, so please call Darlene at 587-2385 to volunteer today!

FIELD DAY 2005 REPORT

By: Mark Hansen KA2FBZ

This year's Field Day was one of the best I have ever been involved with. Attendance was Great! We even had people who operated over night. (Darlene, Frank, Joanna, etc.) Setup went very well! All minor problems got solved. This by the way, is an important part of field day because in real emergency setups you will have to solve problems. That is one of the things we as amateur radio operators are very good at. We even had a chance to try out a new antenna this year. As far as contacts go we did well. Yes, we might have done better but, at 97 very humid degrees, just having people hang in there was a triumph. I

think we did exceptionally well. I also believe we fulfilled another very important part of Field Day..... We had Fun! To most of us, in some part, this is one of the reasons we do this year after year.

I can not express how happy I am with every one who attended and pitched in, and I can't express how important everyone's role was in this. Thank you all for making this years Field Day a Great success!!!

JULY 9 FOXHUNT REPORT

The foxhunt was held on July 9th as scheduled. Even though the weather was less than nice ONE brave soul came to start the hunt. As the fox was already in position and ready we decided to run it for the fun of it and FUN is what we all had. W2EMS Fred was the hunter and KA2QYE Frank and K2DLL Ed were the fox. KA2DHZ Peter and N2FEP Dave were at the start. The fox was a serious challenger with many tricks! Finally we all ended up at the fox and then went for lunch and discussion on our hunts.

We all tossed around the ideas of HOW DO WE GET PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE? The next foxhunt will be in October. We plan to advertise it at the hamfest in September and also possibly send out invitations to surrounding clubs. We even tossed around the idea that as you do NOT transmit almost anyone can participate with a receiver and an antenna. This may be a great opportunity to increase our ranks in amateur radio by showing people what we do.

I hope you all can take some time to participate in the hunt in October.

Dave N2FEP
Peter KA2DHZ

ARES/RACES DRILL SET

To all ARES/ RACES members

The (S)imulated (E)mergency (T)est or **SET** will be held on October 1 and 2nd this year. I intend



to call up a net and we will have an active SET. We will by then have a NEW Emergency Services Director in Saratoga County. I plan to have that person there so we can show him the type of services we can provide. This is critical for our

ability to provide assistance in time of disaster in our community. **Please mark your calendars NOW for October 1 and 2** for the SET. Plan to be available when called upon to participate. We need to prove we are there and trained to assist.

E/C R/O N2FEP Dave Atwell

5 WPM Morse Code Requirement to be Dropped

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the provision in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Dropping the Morse code requirement or any other changes to Part 97 would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months. The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum. To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003.



Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Presents

20th Annual

Hamfest 2005



Saratoga County Fairgrounds
Ballston Spa, NY
Saturday, September 10, 2005
7 am—3 pm

For information or reservations contact

Darlene Lake

314 Loudon Road #84

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

dar@saratogaspringsny.us

518/587-2385

Web page: wa2umx.net

Tailgaters—8x8 foot space included with admission price, each additional “space” \$5.00

Early bird set up Friday 6 pm—8:30 pm

Food booth open all day serving breakfast (coffee, pastries, breakfast sandwiches) and lunch (hamburgers, hotdogs, sausage with peppers & onions) and more!!!

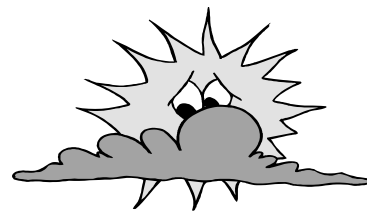


Door prizes drawn hourly

Drawing to be held at 2 pm for major door prize (need not be present to win this prize only)

- VE Exam
- Fox hunt
- Door prizes galore.
- Tons of new and used equipment.

Inside tables still just \$5.00 each, first come, first serve. Reservations and prepay welcome and encouraged



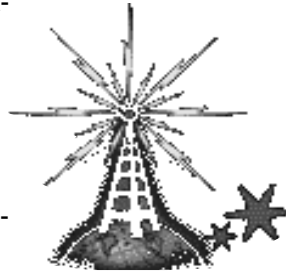
Rain or shine,
all under cover

Directions: Interstate 87 to exit 12, west on Route 67 to Ballston Spa. Follow Orange and White hamfest signs. Talk in will be on the WA2UMX repeaters 146.40/147.00 and 147.84/147.24



WA2UMX ON THE INTERNET

Kim Lake, KF2LV has set up a web page for the club. It is located at: <http://www.wa2umx.net>. The club operates two 2-meter repeaters. The 147.24 re-



peater 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 club's 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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