

Sparks from the Spa



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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

What you learn in the Lake Placid Cold

You meet the most interesting people while standing on Mt. Van Hovenberg at the Lake Placid luge track waiting for the next heat to start.

I started talking to a U.S. Luge official named Elmer Rhinehart, or so his name his name tag said. He said that where he grew up in Michigan there were no Elmers but when he moved to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, there were a few more people named Elmer because of the increased number of Scandinavians.

Elmer said that *Elmer* was a very unusual name. Well, I told him that in amateur radio, we use the term "Elmer" all the time to mean the person that is our mentor.

Then Elmer told me that he was a no-code technician and had never heard the term "Elmer" used in amateur radio. He told me that he is a deputy sheriff in Marquette County and got his license so that he could use amateur radio during certain race events.

OK, you can figure out what is wrong with this story? Does this same problem exist in the Capital District? I hope that you have many enjoyable days of hamming in the New Year, and don't forget to be an "Elmer" to someone. I think N8RRY would like to have someone that he could call his Elmer.

Jim
K2LM

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Reported by Dave N2FEP

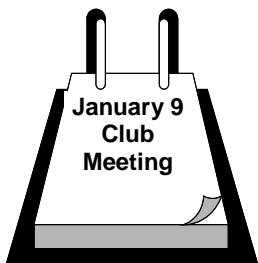
The Saratoga County RACES club held our annual holiday gathering at the Wilton Ambulance Corp building on December 12th. At 7:30 pm. About 15 members were there and we had a good time sharing with each other. We talked about next years Tour de Cure with Lee WB2NSC who had some input from the tour folks. We gave him our concerns with some of the changes proposed. We also talked about APRS With Dick Jenkins and Jim McKnight and if we can utilize that more for our club. It was discussed that we should give a bit more training on net operations and that maybe we will try that on the Sunday evening nets when the tour becomes closer. The surprise of the evening was when Jack WY2T and Maryanne N2RPW came and Jack was carrying a large pot. Seems he was at a previous party the week before and was talking about the lobsters that they had there. Jack was commenting during his morning drive to work on the 24 repeater and it was suggested that he bring lobster to our holiday gathering. Well he did bring them to our party but they were quite different than anyone would have expected. Jack is quite the jokester and he had placed some water in the pot along with some plastic toy lobsters. He did give Dave N2FEP first choice of them as they do talk every day on the drive to work. Everyone had a good laugh. We gathered many new toys which were donated to Catholic Charities of Saratoga County as in the past. Also the Providence Fire Dept. donated toys to the cause from their recent kids' Christmas party that were left over. Joanna N2QFT, who is also an assistant chief of that fire

department, brought those gifts to our the gathering. Many thanks to the fire dept for that donation and to everyone in the group that came and participated in the event.

Thanks to Dennis Kagel WA2JWO who sent me the following link. It is a great site to use to find out who lives near you since hams are indexed by zip code!

www.perconcorp.com/google_ham.html

JANUARY CLUB MEETING



Our speaker for January will be our president Jim K2LM who will be discussing the club's repeaters as well as other radio equipment our club sponsors or operates. Jim will update the group on the status of the 147.00 repeater

[see note elsewhere in this newsletter] as well as possible ideas on how we might be able to more fully utilize APRS for the club and its events.

Member Update

Len, N2HDS, reports that Ruth, KA2ITI, is now living at The Danforth Home, 19 Danfort St., Hoosick Falls, N.Y., 12090. Len says that because of the medication that she is taking, she may be staying there for a long time. Len also reports that The Danforth Home is next door to where husband, George Butterfield, WB6IMU, is now living. Hopefully if the weather permits, Ruth can make the trip next door to visit George. Those of us that attended the club Christmas Party signed a card for Ruth but I certain that Ruth would appreciate hearing from you.

RADIO OFFICER REPORT

It is the Christmas season and the weather is cold as we all know. Keep your batteries charged and your go kit ready. I hope everyone has a happy holiday season. Next year is filled with ideas and I hope we can do some training. I have yet to

hear from anyone about that. Please let me know if a Saturday am is good to do some training. I might take a minuet to speak on the quote " big one coming " to our area. If we get the luck of a big one in our county our emergency communications job will absolutely NOT be for us to provide the emergency communications for the event, rather, as the E/C I would initiate the mutual aid plan the we have with surrounding counties and those who are as far away as needed and NOT directly effected by our BIG ONE. That is how it is supposed to and does work. I would expect that everyone here would be busy with there own personal emergencies and if they become available during the event then they would contact me or the hams in operation and offer their assistance when the could when things were safe at home. Remember in emergencies WE COME FIRST then all the rest of the people we intend to assist. That is why Red Cross, Salvation Army , FEMA, and others bring in members from around the country and the world if necessary to provide the help needed as the locals are overwhelmed with there own personal emergencies. So we train and plan for the BIG ONE so we can perform the duties for others away from our homes such as we did in Essex

County for the ice storm and Northwestern Conn. for there ice storm two years ago. We were far enough away to not be effected by there BIG ONE and did help. Thanks to everyone for being ready to help when



you can. No one is expected to be at everything and when you can participate I really appreciate your help and input. If you can and want to come please do and if you cannot that is fine also. We are all in this together and we will all help when we can.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Dave N2FEP
Radio Officer Saratoga Co. R.A.C.E.S.

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 Local Adirondack radio guide, Jim, K2LM, leads the
 APRS repair team of Glenn, KA2DTH, and Ryan,
 K2RRT, the last few feet to the building where KA2DTH
 and K2RRT repaired the club's APRS digipeater,
 WA2UMX-2 on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Photo by KA2DTH



**THE 147.000 REPEATER NOW REQUIRES
 100.0 Hz PL TO ACCESS THE REPEATER**

For about five years both 147.00 MHz and 147.24 MHz repeaters have been setup to put them into a PL access mode. To put either repeater into PL access mode only requires a few keystrokes of a control operator. For several weeks the 147.00 repeater has been bothered by an interference that would bring the repeater up and then let it drop and then bring it up again or sometimes a burst of noise would be heard, then the repeater would drop. This would go on for hours and then not bother the repeater for several hours. Since access to the repeater site in winter is almost impossible and that it will take hours to find the interfering signal and then days to get the interference removed, I decided to put 147.00 into PL access mode at least for the winter. Since some of the users have commented that the repeater is now very quiet now that they like it that way, 147.00 may remain in PL forever. How does this effect 147.24 ?? Both repeater transmitters encode a PL of 100.0 Hz all the time. I would suggest that the next time that you need to program your radio, that you program not only the channel for 147.00 but also 147.24 on your radio to not only encode 100 Hz but also decode 100 Hz. If the repeater is switched into PL access mode, you will not need to reprogram your radio. I

am sorry for any problems that putting 147.00 into PL access mode may have caused, but I don't know of any other solution.. Jim K2LM

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2006 dues are DUE by December 31st. If your dues are due, you will receive an email from the secretary. The December Newsletter will be your last newsletter unless you renew by the end of the year. ALL NEWSLETTERS ARE SENT BY EMAIL, so it is essential that you include your email address. If you do NOT have an email address, you must notify the treasurer or secretary in writing so a copy of the newsletter is mailed to you. Please use the form below for your dues renewal. And, yes, you can renew for more than one year at a time! Thank you!

[Please cut on the lines below and mail to AI]

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2006 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Annual Dues Rate:

Single \$10.00
 Family \$15.00

**SARATOGA COUNTY RACES ASSOC. INC
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
 2006**

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email [Required]: _____

Class of License Held: _____

ARRL Member? **Y N**

Please mail your application and check to:
 Al Margadonna, KA1IEG
 P.O. Box 124
 Cambridge, NY 12816

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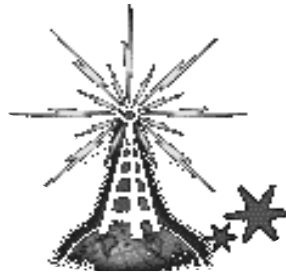


WA2UMX ON THE INTERNET

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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