



Sparks from the Spa



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

Saratoga RACES Board Meeting

Date: February 13, 2006

Wilton EMS Building

1. Meeting was called to order by Vice President Darlene N2XQG at 6:40 pm. In the absence of the president. There was a quorum present.
2. Board members present were: Al KA1IEG; Bill N2OWA; Fred W2EMS; Joann N2QFT, Mark KA2FBZ, Glenn KA2DTH, Darlene N2XQG
3. Moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the board meeting for January 9, 2006.
4. Al KA1IEG gave the treasurer's report. Checking account balance: \$8,150.07 after expenses and dues collections. Moved, seconded and carried to receive the treasurer's report. The antenna for the 36 repeater was purchased and we are just awaiting installation.
5. Glenn KA2DTH reported on his GPS mapping of all the club's repeater sites and equipment at each location based on the information from the January meeting topic. In preparation for Tour de Cure he also has done APRS mapping of all the sites for the race to enhance our coverage of this event.
6. MSC to spend up to \$160 to purchase a Yaesu VX170 2M rig as a door prize for the swapfest in March.
7. At our next board meeting there will be a presentation and proposal on what additional APRS equipment the club may need to purchase.
8. Al KA1IEG and Fred W2EMS discussed Field Day plans [see details under club meeting minutes]. It was decided that we would begin set up in advance of the official start time and thus reduce our total operating time.
9. There was continuing discussion about the possibility of offering a study class for those interested in Extra class license
10. Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:31 pm.

Saratoga RACES Club Meeting

Date: February 13, 2006

Wilton EMS Building

1. At 7:45 Darlene N2XQG opened the meeting.
2. Present: Al KA1IEG; Bill N2OWA; Fred W2EMS; Glen KA2DTH; Bob, KA2TBB; Henry, KB2STR; Darlene N2XQG; Dave KC2ODL; Steve K2WE; Sy WB2MEW; Francis W1LJF;
3. Darlene reported on the actions taken at the board meeting.
4. The guest speaker(s) for the evening were the American Red Cross. Unfortunately, they did not show up for the meeting.
5. Fred W2EMS and Al KA1IEG and Glenn KA2DTH lead a group discussion on Field Day plans for 2006. Fred discussed the ARRL guidelines, making copies of those regulations available to all members. He also presented his first draft of thoughts and ideas for Field Day operations. Drafts for paper logging as well as sample screen shots of computer logging software were also handed out. One of the main goals of this year's event is to give as many people the opportunity to operate as possible. This will require the establishment of a schedule for operation as well as planning where the transmission stations will be located. Planning is well under way and more discussion will occur over the next meetings. Items discussed also included: how to involve/educate the community about the event; how to involve more members in the event; etc.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill N2OWA

Secretary

Web Site of the Month

Check out Glenn's KA2DTH website which has a great map of Saratoga county with the GPS markers of all club equipment. Go to:

<http://www.glbcc.com/ka2dth/wa2umx/>

RADIO OFFICER REPORT

The training scheduled for February 25th unfortunately had to be cancelled due to inclement weather and will be rescheduled later. The goal was to train members on club equipment and familiarize them with the radio room.



I might mention that the Sunday evening net is well attended by members and nonmembers alike. We have a good time and we have had some on the air training there also. Many thanks to Chris KD5QBY who

winters in the warmer climates and makes an effort to check in via Echolink even though he uses his cell phone and has a hard time staying on the telephone system due to over crowding where he is. He is one of our dedicated members and he wants to stay in touch with our club.

The swapfest in coming on March 11th and a test will follow at noon. If you want to upgrade this is the perfect opportunity to do it. There will a radio raffled off that day so come and participate in this event the club sponsors.

We have many events coming up when the weather breaks in spring. Make sure you have your equipment ready to go for Tour de Cure, and the other walkathons we do.

With spring comes the threat of severe weather and activations for Skywarn. Please make sure you can support our emergency communications efforts.

I am in the process of signing another MOU (memo of understanding) with another town in Saratoga county. The town of Clifton Park has a draft copy and I will be offering our services to them. Please remember that we need to provide emergency communications when called upon so stay ready to assist.

What TRAINING do YOU want provided for ARES/RACES? We are able to provide all types of training that you might benefit from. Please contact me so we can schedule training that will

meet your needs. One of the best ways to train is to practice being net control on our Sunday night nets. Why not contact me and let me know your interest. I'd be glad to help prepare you to do this fun and useful training

Thanks to everyone for your continued support for ARES/RACES

Dave N2FEP

Radio Officer Saratoga Co. R.A.C.E.S.

Field Day 2006

June 24 & 25

Mark your calendars now!

**The most important part of Field Day is YOU!!
All club members are encouraged to participate in
Field Day 2006.**

AARA ANNUAL DINNER

The Albany Amateur Radio Association is having its annual dinner on April 7, 2006 at the Shaker Ridge Country Club. All are welcome.

Speaker: Investigator Julie Murphy, NYS Police Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit.

Topic: Operation Safeguard & Counter Terrorism Awareness

Open bar at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM. (\$30.00 per person):

For more details or to send your check made out to AARA contact:

Harry Hovey, 15 Sylvan Lane, Troy, NY 12180
wf2b@verizon.net; 283-2337

NYSERDA funding of BPL project in Westchester County, NY

[From Frank Fallon, Hudson Division Director]

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has agreed to provide up to \$200,000 in funding in support of a Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) project in Westchester County, New York. The project has been the source of documented harmful interference to radio communication frequencies in Briarcliff Manor, New York since July 2003. The ARRL has complained repeatedly about the interference. NYSERDA has been aware of the problematic nature of the Briarcliff Manor

installation since June 2004 but elected to go ahead with its funding anyway. The Briarcliff Manor BPL system is violating the FCC rules in three ways: 1) it is exceeding the absolute emission limits set out in Part 15 of the FCC rules; 2) it is causing harmful interference to amateur radio communication; and 3) it is not listed in the BPL database, A 25-page technical report documenting BPL emissions and interference as of December 5, 2005 is at:

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/Briarcliff-Complaint-Engineering-0106.pdf>.

If you share our dismay that NYSERDA's funds are being used to support a known source of radio spectrum pollution, write to Governor Pataki and NYSERDA President Peter Smith to demand that the State of New York use its influence to ensure that the Briarcliff Manor BPL project is either brought into compliance with the FCC rules immediately, or shut down.

Write to:

Governor George E. Pataki
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Mr. Peter R. Smith, President
NYSERDA
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

**[Please send a copy of your letter to
n2ff@arrl.org]**

TOWER AND ANTENNA FOR FREE

I have a 50 foot American tower in my back yard, with a 6 meter beam and a 2 meter beam on top. I am not physically able to climb it any longer, and would like it down. Anyone who can safely take it down is welcome to the tower, beams, and rotator. This is a wonderful opportunity to start planning the spring antenna season. You can contact me at 245-8054 or via e-mail at KG2H@NYCAP.RR.COM.

N2FEP Hats & Shirts

Hats with your call sign or 1st name and call, \$8.00; T-shirt with your call sign and name on the front pocket area \$ 10.00. Contact: N2FEP at datwell@nycap.rr.com We'll be at the Swapfest!

SWAPFEST

Saturday March 11th 2006

9 am - 11 am

Solar Building

West High Street [NYS Rt. 67]

Ballston Spa

[2 blocks west of NYS Rt. 50]

Free Admission

**Raffle for a Yaesu VX 170 2M
Drawing at 11 am with a 50/50
drawing, too!**

**Equipment; Computers;
Antennas; Parts**

**A great chance to sell your
treasures or to find that one
item you have been searching
for.**

**VEC test session at Noon for
those looking to get a license
or upgrade their current
license class.**

**[For information on the test session
contact Jim, K2LM, 695-6462]**

[Talk in on 147.00]

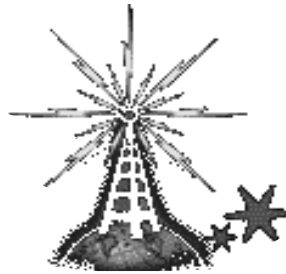
NOTE: NO MARCH CLUB MEETING!



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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