

Sparks from the Spa



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

SECRETARY'S CORNER

It is funny how you can get 'stuck' in a type of position. I just became the secretary for a state wide organization with 500 dues paying members. [If you are interested go to www.nymgma.com] My job in 2005 is to put out a newsletter three times this year. This will be the second year that we DON'T print a newsletter. It is available on-line to all members at the organization's webpage. As a volunteer organization we did this to save expense, trees and time. It has been well received by 99.5% of the members.

Last month I visited an area amateur radio club with a friend. At the meeting the club secretary talked about the new issue of the newsletter—it was on-line, for members to read. Another amateur club I belong to, SARA, also emails me their club newsletter—it has been doing that for two years. This is the trend of organizations with newsletters. I think it is time for our club to make a similar change. So let me suggest a process for the change.

First, to calm some fears. We have members who don't have email or Internet access—they will still need to have the newsletter mailed to them. But all members with Internet access should be willing to, ideally, go to the club website and get the most recent newsletter. Or, to at least be willing to have the newsletter emailed to them. The newsletter will come out in Adobe Acrobat format, which can viewed free by any person who downloads Adobe Reader. We can even put a link to the Adobe website on the club's webpage.

This will save substantial time after a few months. There is a time investment on the part of the secretary to make the conversion to electronic transmission. But I'm willing to do the work for the club. Are you willing to join this process? If so, please email me [my email address is on the back page] and I'll add

you to my growing list of members who want to have their newsletter emailed to them. And thanks for contributing to this newsletter—and thanks for reading it!

Bill N2OWA

NO FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING ALSO CANCELLED

UPCOMING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

By Lee WB2NSC

There are two new events that the club has been asked to provide support for in 2005. The Saratoga Lion's Club is organizing a Du-athon on May 26th. The event would be running and biking in and around Saratoga Springs. We are still working with the Lion's Club to work out the details. They would want us to provide communications for rest and water stops along the route. We'll be meeting with the organizers within the next couple of weeks.

The other event is the Lake Placid Iron Man Run. This is really a big event and has been going on for several years and is held in July. Until I attended a meeting last fall I didn't realize how big the event was and some of the critical support issues. The Iron Man Run is a national/international event. It is also operated by a commercial company. As such the North County Ham's have been quite specific as to what their involvement can and should be. Over the years the amateur radio community has provided communications support. There appears not to have been enough coordination or planning done in the past. Last Fall there was a planning meeting at the Lake Placid Hamfest. A North Country ham has stepped forward to provide coordination with the

event organizers. At this point we are waiting to hear if they need us, and if they do, what sort of effort they would want from the Saratoga R.A.C.E.S. Association. If they do want us we'll get the word out as early as we can.

Tour du Cure 2005 Update

The 2005 American Diabetes Association Tour du Cure is scheduled for June 12th. This yearly event will host nearly 1,000 bike riders who will raise money by riding 10, 25, 50, and 100 mile treks. The Saratoga County RACES Association has supported the Tour since its inception.

Club members operate a base operations station and provide communications at water/rest stops, bike repair vehicles, and SAG wagons. Again this year the club has been asked to provide communications for the event. The routes will remain primarily the same, however, with nearly 1,000 riders the Tour organizers have asked us to provide communications support for additional SAG wagons and bicycle repair vehicles. This means that we will need additional operators. The event is a great public service activity for the club while giving us a chance to exercise our emergency communications skills.

If anyone is interested in helping all that is needed is the interest. We will find the two-meter equipment for you to us. If you have two-meter equipment that is all the better. For more information contact Lee Palmer, WB2NSC at 518.383.2677 or e-mail at lpalmer@capital.net

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

March 12, 2005 is going to be a wonderful Saturday! This is the date of the annual WA2UMX "swapfest". I don't know why we call it a swapfest. I think I would use the buzzword "networking" for that Saturday. Either way it is a great time to have a chance to eyeball the other hams that you may not talk to any other time of the year.

So here is my list of those hams that I want to take time to visit: WA2FOY, N2FZS, KF2QT, W2PO, WB2RYU, N2VLS, KC2IFR, N2KMF, N2IPS and more.

Who do you plan to eyeball, or better yet who do you plan to bring with you or to make certain that they too get to the solar building in Ballston Spa?

See you there,
Jim K2LM

Radio Officer's Column

As Wilton EMS are doing major construction at the club site, we will have to move our drill



training location to the fire training center in Ballston Spa adjacent to the Sheriff's Dept. Training will be on Feb. 26th 2005 and will start at Noon.

This training will be on our go kits as well as your personal go kits. The drill will be taught by W2EMS Fred and me. Please make every effort to attend this training. Why? We will be having a LIVE DRILL in April in the Town of Malta. I want everyone to be ready for this drill. This will be our chance to show what we can do in time of an emergency for local government. I do NOT have the exact date but will keep you informed on the Sunday night nets. Those nets which give you an excellent chance to learn net operations for emergency communications. There will be other drills coming up with local governments and the county in 2005 and we need to be ready. You may also join the Saratoga Co ARES group on Yahoo. This site is for information and allows for group talks and contact via email. The address for it is as follows http://www.yahoo.com/group/Saratoga_Co_ARES_RACES/. Please sign up on the site to join. Construction at Wilton EMS should be completed by April and we can again hold training at that facility. We are also fortunate enough to be getting a new radio room out of this construction. We have already moved into it and we will need to set it up and make it usable. It is larger with more area for our operations. I will keep you informed as to the date so you can help set up the new radio room - it will not be too far off.

Be safe , Be prepared ,
73's

Dave N2FEP
Radio Officer E/C

**NEXT RACES CLUB
MEETING APRIL 11th**



Steve Pertgen, W2FXJ, Army MARS New York State Director, will be talking about Army MARS, and what it is and does. Weather problems caused Steve to cancel in February. Steve is also with the

National Weather Service and you may have heard him discussing that topic before.

******NET on Sunday's Every Week ******

The Saratoga County RACES Association will meet **EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT at 8:00 pm.** on 147.00 and 147.24. Please note that the link between the two repeaters is working a timer basis and successfully allows people to use either repeater to participate. The goal of the net is to involve many, if not most, of the ARES members in Saratoga County in a weekly net to help prepare people for work in an emergency situation.!

Please note:

Scheduled Net Control March 6: Fred W2EMS
March 13: Dave N2FEP
March 20: Open
March 27: Bill N2OWA

We continue to request that ARES and RACES members volunteer to serve as net control operator for a Sunday evening net so we can have more members with net control experience. If you are willing to learn about this, please contact Dave N2FEP about this opportunity.

**SARATOGA COUNTY RACES
TRANSMITTER LOCATOR EVENT
COMING IN APRIL—MORE DETAILS TO
FOLLOW**

S W A P F E S T

Saturday March 12th 2005

**At
Solar Building**

**West High Street
[Also know as State Rt. 67]
Ballston Spa**

2 blocks west of state Rt. 50

Free Admission

**Raffle for a Yaesu VX 150
dual band H/T**

9 am to 11 am

**Raffle at 11
Equipment; Computers;
Antennas; Parts**

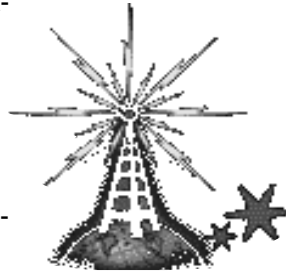
[Talk in on 147.00]

**For Sale
Hy-Gain "Tail Twister" T2X rotor and controller
INCLUDES 50 FT. CONTROLLER CABLE AND
CONTROLLER HAS NEVER BEEN INSTALLED.
Asking \$500.00. CONTACT LEWIS MORRIS
KA2MEC at 399-3193**



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 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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