

Sparks from the Spa



A PUBLICATION OF SARATOGA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Field Day! - 2007 — Success!

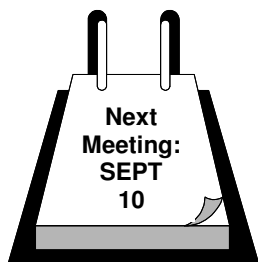
The biggest ham radio event of the year is now history!

Byron Wilhoite, K2BD, 2007 Field Day Coordinator, marshalled the forces, and the event was a resounding success. According to Byron, there were 681 contacts made — 87 on CW and 594 on SSB. Four bands were operating simultaneously — 80, 40, 20 and 10 meters. Twenty-two club members participated, and 19 visitors signed in.

“We learned a lot about setting up and running emergency power,” said Byron. Unfortunately, Byron had to press his personal Troy-Bilt generator into service, when it was discovered that the generator that powers the Wilton EMS building did not deliver power to any outside outlets. We must remember that next year.

“Thank you to everyone who helped out — and be on the look out for your field day 2007 pin,” says Byron. “Special thanks to these guys who worked and went the extra mile: Fred W2EMS, Al KA1IEG, Jim K2LM, Tim N2MBX, Ernie KC7BYD, Mark KA2FBZ, Henry KB2STR, Darlene N2XQG, Jim KG2H, Pete W2BEW, Dennis WA2JWO — and a special thanks to our top chef Dave NR2J who spent most of his time preparing and cooking over the grill, and kept our stomachs full.” See you next year at Field Day 2008!.

Don't forget the SCARA Hamfest!



**Saturday, Sept. 8, at
Ballston Spa Fairgrounds.**
Contact Darlene, N2XQG, at
dar@saratogaspringsny.us to
let her know you can help out
before or during the event.

See you there!

ADA Tour de Cure — Success!

From Lee—WB2NSC

The 2007 American Diabetes Association's (ADA) Tour de Cure was held on 10 June. Over 1,000 riders participated in the fund-raiser, which is one of the largest ADA events in the U.S. The Saratoga County RACES Association (aka SCARA), as it has for many years, supported the event by providing wide area radio communications. Over the last few years in addition to voice communications the club has been able to utilize APRS to provide real time location information for equipped vehicles.

This year 24 amateur operators made the event happen. They are: N2XQG, AB2XA, K2RRT, W2EMS, KC2IFR, AK2E, KB2UKT, KA2FBZ, N2KMF, KC2ODL, KB2STR, N2SQO, K2BD, KB2TBB, N2SBC, N2LPW, K2LM, K2LJH, WA2TTP, N4ZHQ, N2MBX, KC2DNT, and W2BEW. The crew provided communications at net control, rest stops, went mobile with SAG wagons, bike repair vehicles, and logistics vans.

Perhaps the most significant event this year was that Darlene, N2XQG, who has been net control for years, lost some of her voice. Fortunately she was still able to communicate with frequent breaks and provide supervision to the net control operation.

The Tour de Cure is just one of numerous community service events that allows us as amateur radio operators to contribute to the community while reminding the public of the unique skills and service amateur radio can provide.

Next Public Service Event — MS Bike Tour

On 14 July the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (MS) will be sponsoring a one-day bike event. The event will be based out of the Moreau State Park and will cover routes in Warren and Washington Counties. The MS Society has asked the Saratoga County RACES Association for communications support. Last year the club supported a two-day event, however the MS folks have decided that a one-day event is better suited to their riders.

For this event we need 12-14 amateur volunteers. We currently have 6 signed up so will be seeking additional help. Fixed location and mobile slots are available. If you can volunteer all or part of the day please contact Lee – WB2NSC at lpalmer@capital.net or call 518.383.2677.

Board of Directors Meeting June 11, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Board members present: Fred – W2EMS; Mark – KA2FBZ; Byron – K2BD; Ed – AB2XA (ex KC2MIH); Al – KA1IEG; Peter – W2BEW. Visitors: Dave – NR2J; Hal – AK2E; Sid – K2LJH. Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Discussion/Action Items:

- Fred reported that the club requested and received 100 copies of the ARRL promotional brochure for distribution at Field Day, etc.
- Fred reported that club communications for the ADA Tour de Cure event was quite successful (see wrap-up from Lee, WB2NSC, in this issue). Because of the noise in the cafeteria, it was often impossible for net control station to hear stations calling in. Next year, consider a quieter location. Also bring banner next year to announce our presence.
- Ed reported that 4 out of 6 APRS stations ran all day at the Tour de Cure, and provided useful visual indication of the location of bike repair and SAG vehicles throughout the event.
- MS Bike Tour on July 14 needs volunteers. (See WB2NSC report.)
- Peter reported that SCARA membership has dropped off after the last renewal period. One reason may be the lack of consistent programs at club meetings. Need Program Coordinator.
- Club badly needs a Public Service Event Coordinator, too. It was suggested that two members share the duties.

This idea will be proposed at the general meeting.

- Byron reported that Field Day preparations are complete and volunteers scheduled.
- The Board agreed to make a \$100 donation to Wilton EMS for use of their generator – if the generator remains on and available for the duration of the event (It did not).
- Peter again encouraged members to consider registering for the ARRL online courses in Emergency Communications
- Mark, KA2FBZ, announced his intention to resign as a Director, and proposed that Dave, NR2J, be elected to fill his vacant seat
- Al gave Treasurer's report: Beginning Balance - \$8304.76; Ending Balance - \$7823.67, with disbursements of \$287.50 to Frank Frizone for new temporary 147.00 repeater antenna (now in service) and \$200 to Byron for Field Day supplies and food.
- Sid reported that the Village of Schuylerville has asked him to serve as 'Radio Officer' and the Red Cross has asked him to speak. He will determine the needs of each group and report back.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10

General Meeting June 11, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm. Roll call taken and minutes approved.

Discussion/Action Items:

- Fred announced that the MS Bike Tour needs volunteers and that Radio Officer, Dave – N2FEP, has requested assistance with some of his many duties. Any offers?
- Fred reported that Mark, KA2FBZ has resigned from the Board, and Dave, NR2J, has offered to take his place. NR2J was then duly nominated and elected by voice vote.
- Byron reported that Field Day activities will be held June 23 and 24, and initial set-up will begin at 1 pm on Friday 6/22. He reported on Field Day preparations and encouraged all club members to take part. He also offered his Troy-Bilt 5.5 KW generator if it was needed (it was).
- Peter reported that SCARA membership has dropped after the recent renewal period.
- In response to a general request, Ed Kear, AB2XA, agreed to serve as Public Service Coordinator. Sid – K2LJH and Bob – KB2TBB will assist him.
- Dave – NR2J agreed to lead the Program Coordinator function for future meetings. Hal – AK2E suggested we look into speakers from ARRL and recommended we mix up topics to include a variety of programs.

General Meeting, cont.

- Don't Forget the SCARA Hamfest to be held on September 8 at the County Fairgrounds in Ballston Spa. Help will be needed. If you're not contacted beforehand, call Darlene, N2XQG, (dar@saratogaspringsny.us) to volunteer. Thanks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Peter, W2BEW

Public Service Events

Next Public Service Events (PSE) on the schedule:

July 14 —MS Bike Tour from Moreau State Park.

Lee — lpalmer@capital.net

Sept. 8 —SCARA Hamfest, County Fairgrounds

Darlene— dar@saratogaspringsny.us

Other Upcoming Events:

Mohawk Towpath Duathlon

BH-BL Rotary—Apple Run / Walk

**These events need volunteers. Please help.
Contact Ed Kear, AB2XA, PSE Coordinator.**

New events will also be listed on www.wa2umx.net calendar.

Weekly Radio Net

Please join us on the air each Sunday evening at 8 PM for our weekly net. This regular gathering offers on-air practice in net operation in preparation for emergency situations. It also provides timely information to area amateurs, and serves as a forum for selling/swapping gear and discussing topics in a formally directed net environment.

The 147.00 and 147.24 repeaters are linked by the 448.225 MHz machine during this net, so feel free to check in on any of these repeaters. PL tone is 91.5 Hz.

We are looking for volunteer Net Control stations for the Sunday evening net. It's easy. Just keep track of the check-ins and forward them to Fred, W2EMS after the net.

More Ham Radio Fun!

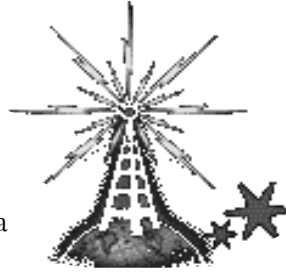
Here's a few photos from the club's recent Field Day activities. Our site was once again at the Wilton EMS facility, where we erected antennas for 80—10 meters and operated on emergency power for 24 hours





WA2UMX ON THE INTERNET

The club has a website at:
<http://www.wa2umx.net>.
Here you will find the latest club news and events.



The club operates two 2-meter repeaters. The 147.24 repeater is located 15 miles west of Saratoga Springs at Lake Nancy. This repeater has a members-only phone patch. 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.
PL Tone for all club repeaters is now 91.5 Hz.

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