

# Sparks from the Spa



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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I really don't want to admit that twenty years ago I remember Dave, N2FEP, saying "we should hold a hamfest". He then created a 50/50 drawing that made enough money so that we could hold a hamfest. You see at that point the club didn't have enough money to pay for the rent of the fairgrounds and a prize.

Our club and many other clubs over the years have gone through changes to keep up with faster moving lifestyles and technology. Some have survived, and some have not.

So why does Saratoga County RACES, of which K2DLL is a founder, still exist and is planning for its 20th hamfest?

It is because we may have different opinions but we work with each other and believe in a common goal which is to promote our hobby, amateur radio.

For example, at the last club meeting I ask N2QFT if she had a slate of officers ready for the next year? Joanne didn't raise her voice to tell me that she didn't even know that she was the chairman of the elections committee. She just said OK I will take care of getting the slate together. I goofed but N2QFT never said in public that I had been very lax in doing my job.

This club exists because N2FEP, K2DLL, N2QFT and YOU believe that amateur radio is important.

See you at field day,

Jim  
K2LM

## Saratoga RACES Board Meeting

Date: May 9, 2005

Wilton EMS Building

1. Meeting was called to order by President Jim K2LM at 6:33 pm
2. Board members present were: Darlene N2XQG, Bill N2OWA, Al KA1IEG, Jim KG2H, Mark KA2FBZ, Dave N2FEP, Joanna N2QPT and Jim K2LM. Visitors included: Fred W2EMS and Glenn KA2DTH.
3. Bill N2OWA gave the secretary's report. MSC to approve the board minutes of April 11, 2005
4. Al KA1IEG gave the treasurer's report. MSC to receive the treasurer's report.
5. Dave N2FEP, Radio Officer, gave a report. The net will be discontinued for the summer after the June meeting of the club. The repeater link is currently down but Jim K2LM hopes to have it fixed by this coming Sunday by getting a replacement backup battery. Saratoga County is moving ahead with the emergency communications van and the club will be putting a radio in it.
6. Darlene N2XQG gave an update on the Hamfest.
7. Mark KA2FBZ gave a report on Field Day June 25-26. Board members agreed to be available Friday night to set up. Mark will send an article to the Secretary for inclusion in the newsletter. Jim KG2H reported he was hoping to have a test session on that Saturday but was having difficulty recruiting enough VEs.
8. Jim K2LM gave an update on the service events noting we had enough for Tour de Cure but needed 5 for May 29<sup>th</sup> Duathlon sponsored by the Lion's Club.
9. There was further discussion on electronically sending out the newsletter. This process will be completed over the

summer.

10. MSC to purchase a Yaesu FT857D as the door prize for this year's hamfest.
11. Joanna N2QPT is chairing the nominating committee and will be contacting people for positions for next year. She will have a slate of candidates for the next board meeting.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill N2OWA  
Secretary

### CLUB MEETING

**May 9, 2005**

The topic for the evening's presentation was APRS. Dick W2GWY discussed the requirements for APRS beginning with radios with a built in TNC to radios that you add a TNC [those with external ports] and those that have only a microphone. He demonstrated several models of TNCs including several smaller units that can be used to send weather station data or GPS data as well. His handout provided lots of resources including TAPR [www.tapr.org] and Bob Bruninga's web pages. He also discussed the various software products that are available. It was noted during the discussion time that the author of the UI-View program had died so there would be no further updates. There is APRS-Point software that uses Microsoft's high-end map software. It can be purchased for the very reduced price of \$100. All software for APRS requires a learning curve. A number of members who attended the meeting noted their need for additional education on how to actually implement APRS. Unlike some aspects of the ham radio hobby, APRS may best be handled on a one-to-one basis for testing. The best way to get a clearer understanding of APRS, as used locally by Dick, would be to come to the Tour de Cure headquarters at Stillwater High School where Dick will be using APRS to monitor the support vehicles in the race.

### UPCOMING HAMFEST

The Second Annual East Greenbush Hamfest will be held on **May 21** at the Phillips Road Firehouse in East Greenbush. Gates open at 8 a.m. and vendors can setup starting at 6 am. VE exams will be held 9 am. Talk in frequency is 146.52 MHz. Info: KB2HWL@nycap.rr.com

### FIELD DAY

PLEASE save the dates of **June 25 and 26** this year for ARRL's Annual Field Day. We need help setting up, operating radio stations and take down. Please contact Mark Hansen and let him know how you can help. He can be reached via email at Mhansen4@nycap.rr.com.

### DUATHALON

On **May 29th** the Saratoga Lion's Club will be sponsoring a Duathlon. The event begins at 0830 at the Skidmore Campus and consist of running and biking events. There are 300 - 400 participants expected. The Lion's organizing committee has requested the club to provide communications from around the course to the operations center. For this event we are going to need 4 or 5 amateur radio operators. We will most likely use 147.00 for communications. The event should be over well before noon. Interested in helping? Contact Lee - WB2NSC at 383.2677 or e-mail at lpalmer@capital.net.

### Radio Officer's Column

Summer is just around the corner and with that several events are taking place soon: The Tour De Cure Bicycle race, the Duathlon, Field Day on June 25 and 26, and the VHF contest June 14 and 15. All of these events sharpen our



emergency communications skills and we need to be ready.

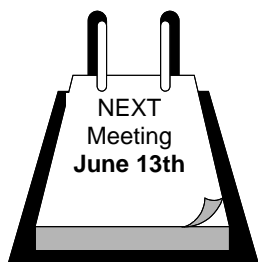
Things are moving forward with placing a amateur radio into the new scene support vehicle with Saratoga County.

We will be training operators to use this soon.

Please make an attempt to participate in field day at Wilton EMS. We will be there all day Saturday and Sunday. We need your help to operate, set up and tear down. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone to enjoy, from the newest ham to the experienced 'Elmer'. Field Day is not only for emergency preparedness but it also is a fun learning experience as to what works and what doesn't work. Lets make a great showing this year at our 2005 field day. The net on Sunday evenings will stop on June 12th for the summer and begin again on September 4th. We will take a well deserved break from the net control work for the summer. I want to thank W2EMS Fred, N2OWA Bill, KB2TBB Bob,

KA2DHZ Peter for being net control stations for the last year so I didn't have to do it every week. Being net control is not a hard thing to do but it does require practice and the net is a super place for that. Please consider being a net control next season even if it is just for one or two times to get your feet wet. We need MORE TRAINED net control personal. If you have any training ideas for the coming Fall season please let me know as I am in the planning stages at this point and I would like to have more training drills in the Fall. Be safe everyone. It only takes a minuet to be safe and it takes months to recover from an accident

Be safe , Be prepared ,  
 Dave N2FEP  
 Radio Officer E/C



**NEXT RACES CLUB MEETING June 13th**

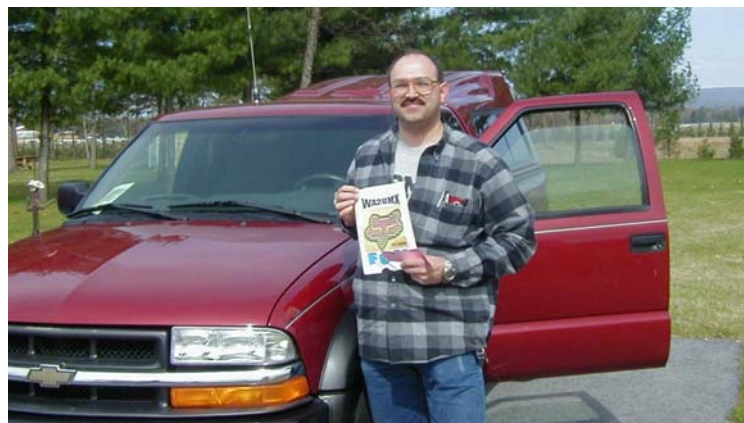
The June speaker will be W2QCY, John Farina, who is blind and will talk about handi-hams. John is also a past president of WA2UMX.

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

The Saratoga County RACES Association will **END FOR THE SUMMER ON JUNE 12th**. The net will begin again on September 4th. But until June 12th please join us on 147.00 **and** 147.24. The goal of the net is to involve many of the ARES members in Saratoga County in a weekly net to help prepare people for work in an emergency situation.!

**FOX HUNT RESULTS—MAY 7th**

We held the second foxhunt on May 7th at the same starting point as the last one. We had 3 players and they had a great time locating the fox. This time the fox was a bit more wily than before and with that it took about an hour to locate him by the winner. Again Frank KA2QYE was the winner and Dick W2GWY and his wife were 2nd. We will be running another foxhunt on July 9th, starting at the Wilton Mall as usual. We all hope that more people will participate so please pass the word. Many thanks to Peter KA2DHZ for running the event, Joanna N2QFT for helping at the starting point with the registrations, and Dave N2FEP for their assistance.



*Could this be a fox hunt dynasty? Frank KA2QYE wins the second contest!*

**NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

June will be the last month for the newsletter for the summer. By the time the September issue comes out many of you will receive your issue electronically. The advantages? You'll get it sooner, there will be color [especially nice with pictures] and you'll never lose an issue again. You help the club and to save about \$.75 per issue, plus you will help save me the hours to label, stamp, fold and staple them. That money can be used for other projects that will aid the club and you. If I have your email address, and you requested to receive the newsletter via email, you will get it that way. If you have an email address, and I have it, you will get one dual issue—on paper and electronically in September. Then, unless you contact me, you'll get all future issues electronically. If I don't have your email address, please send it to me. I can be reached at [n2owa@arrl.net](mailto:n2owa@arrl.net). My personal goal is to have 90% of our member receive the newsletter electronically.

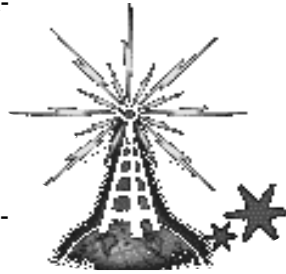
**LATEST OSCAR SATELLITE**

The latest Amateur Radio satellite now has an OSCAR designation. VO-52 is India's first Amateur Radio satellite. Its transponders were turned on shortly after its May 5 launch. Ground controllers have activated one of the two linear transponders aboard VO-52, which operates in Mode U/V, with passband center frequencies of 435.25 MHz for the uplink and 145.90 MHz for the downlink. Passbands are 50 kHz wide. For SSB, uplink in LSB and downlink in USB. AMSAT-India says VO-52 has been monitored by radio amateurs around the world, and it has already received a few reports from users and listeners <<http://www.amsat.in/hamsatreports.htm>>.. QSOs are made in sideband or CW. Even though the satellite is capable of FM operation, it is much more useful in sideband mode as multiple QSOs can be completed at the same time, as everyone slides up or down in the passband.



### 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.

## OFFICERS

President:  
Jim McKnight K2LM  
223 Homestead Road  
Schuylerville NY 12871  
695-6462  
K2lm@arrl.net

Radio Officer:  
Dave Atwell - N2FEP  
P.O. Box 41  
Rock City Falls, NY 12863  
882-6196  
datwell@nycap.rr.com

Vice President:  
Darlene Lake N2XQG  
314 Loudon Rd. Lot 84  
Saratoga Springs N.Y. 12866  
587-2385  
Dar@saratogaspringsny.us

Secretary & Newsletter Editor:  
Bill Henderson—N2OWA  
5 Springfield Drive  
Mechanicville NY 12118  
533-1511  
N2OWA@ARRL.net

Treasurer:  
Al Margadonna, KA1IEG  
P.O. Box 124  
Cambridge, NY 12816

677-3316  
KA1IEG63@aol.com

Sysop WA2UMX DX Cluster:  
Rich Casullo - WZ2D  
7 Crooked Street  
Charlton, NY 12019  
384-0836

Directors:  
Joanna Cummings  
114 Lake Nancy Road  
Middle Grove NY 12850  
n2qft@arrl.net

Mark Hansen - KA2FBZ  
430 Gansevoort Road  
Gansevoort, NY 12831  
587-8053  
Mhansen4@nycap.rr.com

Jim Polewczak KG2H  
40 Cook Circle  
Gansevoort, NY 12831  
695-6878  
KG2H@nycap.rr.com

Peter Dobo KA2DHZ  
2132 East St.  
Galway NY 12074  
Waterwheel@peoplepc.com

Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Association, Inc.  
C/O Bill Henderson, Secretary  
5 Springfield Drive  
Mechanicville NY 12118

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 89  
Saratoga Springs, NY  
12866

