



# Sparks from the Spa



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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN Thanks—and 'The Big One'

First, I want to thank Peter, KA2DHz, for serving on the WA2UMX board and I can understand his desire to head someplace warm in the winter and spend time in the Adirondacks in the summer. I will miss his input and with my retirement approaching, I am envious of his being able to travel anytime that pleases him. Fred, W2EMS, has agreed to fill Peter's spot until the next elections. Thank you Fred, I look forward to your input.

How many times have you heard, "when the Big One Hits, are you -----" ?

Having been a newspaper photographer for 35 years who has covered the Attica Prison Riot, blizzards, Sept. 11, power outages and the sinking of the Ethan Allen, I know where I will be when the "Big One Hits". I will be trying to survive and protect my loved ones. Amateur radio, although my passion, will take second place.

BUT

There is a place for amateur radio during the Big One.

On the local front, it may be the only way that you can get a message to your loved ones that are not in the effected area, that you are OK, or need help. To tell the outside world about your status will require High Frequency [HF]. Are you ready?

IF

The Big One strikes an area where you do not live, do you have the training and the HF equipment to be able to help those who need to communicate?

Jim  
K2LM

### Saratoga RACES Board Meeting

Date: November 14, 2005  
Wilton EMS Building

1. Meeting was called to order by President Jim K2LM at 6:37 pm
2. Board members present were: Darlene, N2XQG, Jim, K2LM; Mark, KA2FBZ; Al, KA1IEG; Peter, KA2DHz; Dave N2FEP; Bill N2OWA; Guest: Fred W2EMS
3. Al KA1IEG gave the treasurer's report. Checking account balance: \$8,115.06. Moved, seconded and carried to receive the treasurer's report.
4. Moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the board for October 10, 2005. Thanks were given to Darlene N2XQG who took the minutes. The secretary reported that the club had received a thank you note from the Hudson Mohawk Towpath Association for the help given during their duathlon in October.
5. The Radio Officer, Dave, N2FEP, gave an updated report noting that an average of nine people check into the Sunday night RACES net. After discussion, it was decided to work out a simple compromise so that one of the club's radios can be installed in the Saratoga County Communications vehicle.
6. Darlene reported on the swapfest which will be held on March 11, 2006 at the Saratoga County Solar Building. Contacts will be made by the secretary to see if a testing session can be set up by Jim

7. There was discussion about the possibility of offering a study class for those interested in Extra. This will be put in the newsletter.
8. Peter, KA2DHZ indicated he was having problems making meetings due to other commitments. Because of this, Jim K2LM indicated a replacement director will be sought.
9. It was discussed about doing a survey of the membership in the next newsletter to determine what equipment if any club members are using that the club owns and operates.
10. Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Bill N2OWA  
 Secretary

**Saratoga RACES Club Meeting**  
 November 14, 2005  
 Wilton EMS Building

1. At 7:37 Jim K2LM called the meeting to order
2. Present: Darlene, N2XQG, Jim, K2LM; Mark, KA2FBZ; Al, KA1IEG; Bill N2OWA; Dave N2FEP; Peter, KA2DHZ; Fred, W2EMS; Glen, KA2DTH; Bob, KA2TBB; Henry, KB2STR; Joanna N2QFT; Chuck N2POR; Edgar K2DLL; Roger WA2FOX.
3. The board officers reported on the actions taken and items reviewed at the board meeting.
4. The speaker for the evening was Frank, KA2QYE, who spoke about ALE [Automatic Link Establishment]— see <http://www.its.blrdoc.gov/pub/oa-rpt/hf-ale/handbook/> for a sample application handbook. One excellent webpage is <http://www.chbrain.dircon.co.uk/> . Frank also discussed NVI antennas [see especially the December 2005 *QST* for a key article].

Respectfully submitted,  
 Bill N2OWA  
 Secretary

**NEXT CLUB MEETING—HOLIDAY SOCIAL**



Come on Monday December 12th for our Annual Holiday Party. We will be doing this at 7:30 at the Wilton EMS Building. We will

also be collecting toys for distribution to needy children in Saratoga County. You are **not** required to bring a toy. But could you please bring a plate or box of goodies to share during our party? See you then.

**RADIO OFFICER REPORT**

The holiday season is upon us and with it a time to give to others. Be generous this holiday season and make sure your equipment and TRAINING is up to par for the upcoming winter bad weather season. I am planning some drills this winter. I am looking at some Saturdays. I need to know from everyone if morning



or afternoon is better for the group. We have many easy and fun things to do like emergency antenna building, setup of the club radio shack and oh yes the MOST important is what YOU the membership would like to do and learn. Call me email me tell me on the net it is up to YOU. 73's

Dave N2FEP  
 Radio Officer  
 Saratoga County RACES

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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 Al]

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**2005 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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To: Members of Saratoga County  
RACES, WA2UMX:  
From: Jim K2LM, President  
Subject: Questionnaire

Your club provides diverse resources to the amateur radio community, from Sunday night nets to a 1.2 GHz beacon. We are trying to determine what resources our members use. Please email your answers to me at [k2lm@nycap.rr.com](mailto:k2lm@nycap.rr.com) or drop me a note at my address which is listed on the

last page of the newsletter:

Would you please tell us of the resources that WA2UMX provides-- [Please list them]

Which do you use the most?

Which is used second?

Is there something that the club should provide that would help the amateur radio community of the area?

Is there something that YOU would like to provide to the amateur radio community? For example, members of the club has asked if someone would lead an Extra study class. Could you do that? Others have asked for help in setting up antennas, advice on purchasing equipment and training on how to use the club's equipment.

**SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY**

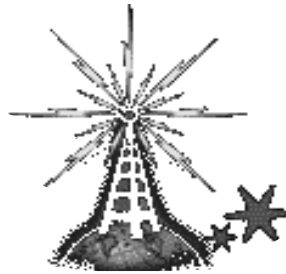
The seventh annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/> special event will take place Saturday, December 3, from 0000 until 2400 UTC (ie, starting Friday, December 2 in US time zones). Cosponsored by the National Weather Service (NWS) and ARRL, SKYWARN Recognition Day is the Weather Service's way of expressing its appreciation to Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to helping keep communities safe. During this 24-hour special event, teams of radio amateurs set up stations at local NWS offices to contact other hams across the US and around the world. Last year, 114 NWS offices participated in SRD, logging more than 15,000 QSOs during the 24-hour event, says David Floyd, N5DBZ, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at Goodland. The object is for amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many NWS stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, and 70 cm. Contacts via repeaters and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes, such as EchoLink and IRLP also welcome.



**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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