

Sparks from the Spa



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

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We will be holding our 20th annual hamfest next year. Wanting to make it a bit special, the board voted to purchase commemorative pins to sell. I would like to thank Dave, N2FEP for his work in designing and ordering the pins for us. We are already sanctioned with the ARRL and have confirmed that Yankee Helicopter will again be selling helicopter rides at the hamfest (so start saving your pennies). I have updated the hamfest section of the web page to include confirmed vendors and make it a bit more attractive. If any one has ideas how to make our hamfest more "special" for our 20th anniversary, please let me know.

At the board meeting Dave was discussing the lack of participation during the Sunday night nets. Lack of participation is killing enthusiasm for the net. If you are on the air Sunday night, just throw your call in - don't just sit and listen!

Have a great Thanksgiving and I hope to see you all next month at our Holiday gathering.

Darlene N2XQG



Saratoga RACES Board Meeting

Date: November 8, 2004

Wilton EMS Building

1. Meeting was called to order by Vice President Darlene N2XQG at 6:50 pm
2. Board members present were: Darlene N2XQG, Bill N2OWA, Al KA1IEG, Peter KA2DHZ. The following were visitors: Dave N2FEP, Art K2JHT, Francis W1LJF, Dave AA2PS, Edgar K2DLL and Frank KA2QYE
3. Dave N2FEP discussed the Sunday night net and the overall lack of participation. Average check-ins are between 5 and 9, which includes several out of area people.
4. Al KA1IEG gave the treasurer's report. MSC to receive the treasurer's report.
5. The board minutes of the October 11, 2004 were previously distributed in the newsletter and were approved.
6. Peter KA2DHZ is continuing to contact area clubs about establishing a speakers' bureau. Discussion also occurred about a joint club Fox Hunt early in 2005. This would be preceded by a meeting to build simple-to-construct antennas for such an event.
7. The December meeting will be our Holiday Meeting. Members will be asked to bring an unwrapped child's Christmas gift which will be distributed by Saratoga County Catholic Charities.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Henderson N2OWA

November Club Meeting

November 8, 2004

Attendance: N2XQG, Darlene; N2FEP, Dave; K2DLL, Edgar; W1LJF, Francis; KB2TBB, Bob; KB2STR, Henry; W2EMS, Fred; N2OWA,

Bill; K2JHT, Art; KA1IEG, Al; AA2PS, Dave; KA2DTH, Glenn; KA2DHZ, Peter; WB2NSC, Lee; KA2QYE, Frank.

The guest speaker was Frank KA2QYE who gave a very informative and interesting program on the Amateur Satellite Program. Frank discussed all the current satellites available to the ham community to work, as well as the basic equipment needed. He demonstrated how with a dual band HT and a directional handheld Arrow Yagi antenna, it is possible to work many of the satellites. We heard sample contacts between the International Space Station and earth stations as well as receiving many handouts that Frank had brought. The resources Frank provided enable anyone to get involved with very little expense in working satellites. For further information people were encouraged to go to the AMSAT web site at www.amsat.org.

[Editor's note: as an encouragement for readers to delve more deeply into the satellites, here is an excerpt from an article by Tony Langdon, VK3JED, taken from the AMSAT website]

“To successfully work an amateur satellite, you need to have transceivers suitable for the satellites you wish to work. For linear transponders, SSB and CW transceivers on the bands of interest are required. For the FM repeaters, either a dual band FM transceiver with crossband transmit/receive capabilities or separate 2m and 70cm FM transceivers are suitable. A related issue is which bands to use. FM users don't have much choice. All of the FM satellites (operational or proposed) use 2m and 70cm, with one of these bands being used for the uplink, the other for the downlink. There are a wider variety of frequencies in use by linear transponder satellites. The suggested bands to try for a first attempt are 2 metres uplink and 10 metres downlink. If you have 2 HF transceivers, it might be worth trying the 10m/15m satellites as well.

For antennas, an existing HF dipole and VHF/UHF omnidirectional antennas will work in a

pinch. The typical VHF/UHF collinears typically have a low angle of radiation, and better results may be obtained with a simple ¼ wave groundplane, or for the more serious, a turnstile antenna. If you have crossed Yagis and AZ/EL rotators, all the better (but then this article isn't aimed at you in this case! :-). Finally, though not essential, it is very strongly recommended to have a computer, satellite tracking software and an Internet connection available. The Internet connection is for downloading the latest Keplerian elements for the tracking software (and the software itself if you don't have any), as well as checking satellite home pages for transponder schedules and other information. Besides, the Internet is fun when the birds aren't overhead!”

Radio Officer's Column

Dave N2FEP

Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S.

I recently received a letter from Helen Endres, Director of Saratoga County Public Health. This was a 'thank you' to Saratoga

County RACES members who participated in the Strategic National Stockpile drill on June 19th. The letter reads in part: 'The staff would like to express our thanks for your assistance and participation in the drill...Through the help of many volunteers, mock patients, observers, local agencies and staff we were able to practice another important part of our emergency preparedness plan—the receiving, breaking down and distributing of medications to the public at a point of distribution site. With each practice exercise, we become better able to handle an emergency in our community.’”



My thanks to all of you who participated on June 19th and represented RACES.

******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 take time this coming Sunday to tune up your rig or HT, land based or mobile, and sign in.

DECEMBER CLUB MEETING

Our annual Holiday Party will be on Monday December 13th. There will be no board meeting before the party. Here is your chance to come and have a time for social interaction with your



fellow hams. We ask that each person bring to the meeting an unwrapped toy [value \$10] for a child. These gifts will be given to Catholic Charities of Saratoga County for distribution to needy children this Christmas season.

You are also asked to bring a goodie to pass—cookies, brownies or snack that we can all share in. Beverages will be provided by the club.

News from ARRL

The FCC has imposed large fines on a Washington CB operator who now holds a Technician class amateur license and on an Ohio CB shop that's run by an apparent amateur licensee. In an October 18 Forfeiture Order (NOF), the Commission levied a \$10,000 fine on Robert A. Spiry, now KD7TRB, of Tacoma, for unauthorized operation on 11 meters that also involved the use of uncertificated equipment and the use of an illegal external RF power amplifier. The alleged violations occurred in 2002.

In an unrelated case, the Commission issued an NOF October 21, fining Paladen Communications Inc, of North Jackson, Ohio, \$7000 for "willfully and

repeatedly" selling illegal CB external RF power amplifiers.

During a July 2003 visit to Paladen, agents from the FCC's Detroit office reported observing a Palomar CB linear on sale for \$250. The agents informed Arthur L. Dundorf, now apparently KC8ZQI, and Preston L. Dundorf, now apparently KC8ZKE, of Paladen, that CB linears could not be legally sold and, in October 2003, issued a Citation informing Paladen of the violations and penalties that could result. Both men obtained Technician tickets in April 2004.

++++
2005 dues are DUE by December 31st. Check your mailing label. If it has 2004 on it, the December Newsletter is your last newsletter unless you renew by the end of the year. Please use the form below for your dues renewal. Thank you!

[Please cut on the lines below and mail to Al]

++++
2005 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Annual Dues Rate:

Single \$10.00
Family \$15.00

**SARATOGA COUNTY RACES ASSOC. INC
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
2005**

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Class of License Held: _____

ARRL Member? **Y N**

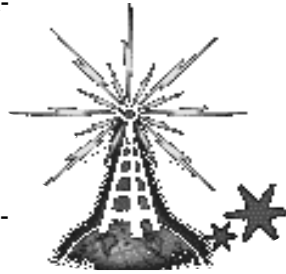
Please mail your application and check to:
Al Margadonna, KA1IEG
P.O. Box 124
Cambridge, NY 12816

++++



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

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

Nm31442@capital.net

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

