



Sparks from the Spa



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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Fellow Hams, this is from a story by *Wall Street Journal* Reporter Christopher Rhoads about amateur radio being used along the Gulf coast: With Hurricane Katrina having knocked out nearly all the high-end emergency communications gear, 911 centers, cell phone towers and normal fixed phone lines in its path, ham-radio operators have begun to fill the information vacuum. "Right now, 99.9 percent of normal communications in the affected region is nonexistent," says David Gore, the man operating the ham radio in the Monroe shelter. "That's where we come in."

In an age of high-tech, real-time gadgetry, it's the decidedly unsexy ham radio _ whose technology has changed little since World War II _ that is in high demand in ravaged New Orleans and environs. The Red Cross issued a request for about 500 amateur radio operators _ known as "hams" _ for the 260 shelters it is erecting in the area. The American Radio Relay League, a national association of ham-radio operators, has been deluged with requests to find people in the region. The U.S. Coast Guard is looking for hams to help with its relief efforts. The hams also get little respect from telecommunications-equipment companies, such as Motorola Inc. "Something is better than nothing, that's right," says Jim Screeden, who runs all of Motorola's repair teams in the field for its emergency-response business. "But ham radios are pretty close to nothing." Mr. Screeden says ham radios can take a long time to relay messages and work essentially as "party lines," with multiple parties talking at once. Says Mr. Leggett at the Monroe

operations center: "We are the unwanted stepchild. But when the s- hits the fan, who are you going to call?"

When you go to bed tonight think of our fellow hams who have lost their homes and those working in Red Cross shelters across the Gulf coast.

Jim
K2LM

HAMFEST SUMMARY REPORT Darlene Lake, N2XQG Hamfest Chair

Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Association Inc, held its 20th Annual Hamfest on Saturday, September 10, 2005.

Friday evening Dave, N2FEP and Mark, KA2FBZ helped with the setup while Jim, K2LM set up the talk in station. Dave, NR2J worked on getting all the food in for Saturday. Jim, KF2K manned the gate for overnight set up and worked as our overnight security. He also manned the gate (with the first vender coming in at 5 am) until around 7:30 am.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that make the hamfest yet another success. Talk in this year was handled by Jim, K2LM and Fred, W2EM. Working the club table: Bill, N2OWA; Joanna, N2QFT; Stormy, N2VLS. Working the gate: Mark, KA2FBZ; Glen, KA2DTH; Al, KA1IEG. Working in the food booth: Dave, NR2J, Carmella, N2RAC; Dave, AA2PS, Tim, N2BMX and Nancy Margadonna. I would like to thank Dave, N2FEP for handling all the announcing, and questions being thrown at him

as well as running the foxhunt. Thanks also to Lenny, W2WA for hanging and taking down our directional signs. I would like to thank the VE's that worked our test session.

The weather could not have been better and while the attendance was down 61 people from last year with a total of 468 admissions, every one that attended seemed to have a great time. The fox hunt had 4 participants – Eric KC2IRO (1st place); Steve, KC2ABA (2nd place); Garry, N2ANL (3rd place) and Matt, N2MOB (4th place). The 20th anniversary pins were not as big of a hit as we thought they would be so we still have some available if anyone is interested in purchasing them (\$3.00 each).

The club is making a donation of \$500 plus 20% of net proceeds from the hamfest to the American Red Cross. There were donation cans at the club booth and at the food booth where \$38.75 was donated. The total contribution to the American Red Cross will be \$865.00

The vendors all left happy and all signed up for next year. The Holiday Inn gift certificate was won by Phil, W2PO, the HF radio was won by Bill, N2OWA. Next year we will be looking for volunteers to work in 2/3-hour blocks so we will need more people for shorter hours. Thank you to everyone that worked, and those that attended. Lets work on making next year bigger and better.

[Our hamfest Chair at work, below]



HAMFEST TESTING RESULTS

Jim KG2H

In conjunction with the hamfest each year, we also do a test session. This year, we started at 9:30 and all candidates were done by 10:30. The session went very well, with 9 candidates attending. Six of the 9 candidates earned a license upgrade or a CSCE, which can be used within a year. There are now 3 new general class, and 2 new extra class licensees in the area. Congratulations to all of them.

Thanks to our examination team. Lenny, W2WA, Glen, NA2Z, and Tom, KT2M did the exam correction duties, Rick, KB2LFZ, did yeoman's duty with keeping track of all the paperwork for each candidate. Finally Dave AA2PS, and Jim KG2H attended to the actual candidates and other miscellaneous chores.

The actual paperwork was organized, and into the post office by 12:15 Saturday afternoon. I actually made it before the lobby was locked up, so the candidates may see their listings on the FCC web site as early as Tuesday or Wednesday.

FIELD DAY CONTACTS UPDATE

Jim KG2H

Our total score should be 1124 points in the 3A class. Look for the results in either November or December *QST*. Our best band was 20 meters, with 80 hot on its heels!

Band	CW	SSB	Grand Total
10		3	3
20		182	182
40	38	33	71
80	<u>23</u>	144	<u>167</u>
Total	61	362	423

Contacts for the last 3 years are as follows:

June 05 - 423 contacts

June 04 - 306 contacts

June 03 - 571 contacts.

If anyone is interested in receiving a call / band listing, I'd be happy to e-mail them a copy of the detail.

HELP NEEDED OCT 2 8:00 AM—11:00 AM

Fred W2EMS needs 6 volunteers for a duathlon. If you can help call him: Work - 431-7689 or Cell - 505-FRED

For info on the event see: <http://www.mohawktowpath.homestead.com/Duathlon.html>

CLUB MEETING

The following attended the club meeting:

Francis W1LJF, Jo N2QFT, Dave N2FEP, Fred W2EMS, Ed K2DLL, Darlene N2XQG, Glenn KA2DTH, Jim K2LM, Al KA1IEG, Mark KA2FBZ, Bob KB2TBB, Barry KB2UXQ, Frank KA2QYE and Bill N2OWA.

All of the matters discussed at the board meeting and reported below [as well as elsewhere in the newsletter] were the topics for the evening's meeting.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saratoga RACES Board Meeting

Date: September 12, 2005

Wilton EMS Building

1. Meeting was called to order by President Jim K2LM at 6:40 pm
2. Board members present were: Jim K2LM, Bill N2OWA, Al KA1IEG, Mark KA2FBZ, Dave N2FEP, Jo N2QFT, and Glenn KA2DTH. Visitor: Francis W1LJF
3. Bill N2OWA gave the secretary's report. MSC to approve the board minutes of June 13, 2005. Bill reported that we gained 8 new members and renewed 15 memberships at the hamfest. He also noted that the first newsletter went out electronically in August and will continue to do so. Those who change their email addresses will get postcard notices to send the secretary their new address. A few people need the newsletter mailed to them.
4. Al KA1IEG gave the treasurer's report. Cash on hand: \$9,882.16 before expenses for the hamfest. MSC to receive the treasurer's report. MSC to approve a gift of \$865 to the American Red Cross for Katrina relief [\$326 is 20% of profit, plus \$500]. The secretary was assigned the task of sending off a letter to the Warren Saratoga Chapter.
5. Darlene N2XQG reported on the hamfest finances: 468 people through the gate [gate was down 61 from 2004], 42 tables rented, 38 pins sold as well as 85 extra raffle tickets and food sales [total \$3,955.50] yielded a profit of \$1,295.06.
6. In discussing how hamfest could be improved next year: more volunteers assigned specific times at the food booth,

members table and gate. The talk in is really needed only from 7:00 am until 9:30 am. Additional signs are needed: \$5 per person for admission, a club banner at the club table, a display at the club table with pictures and articles showing what the club does. All tickets need to be the same size and drawings for prizes need to begin earlier.

7. Committee assignments for the year were discussed. Hamfest will be Darlene and Dave; Field Day will be Al and Jo; Elections will be Jim; Program will be Dave and Glenn.
8. Dave N2FEP said that the SET will likely be done October 9th during the duathlon, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Also, due to an apparent lack of interest, there will no be further foxhunts [3 were done earlier this year]. At the hamfest only 4 people participated.
9. Program suggestions for the year were: October, NMSAR; November, ALE; December, Party; January, Club Equipment; February, New Emergency Coordinator for Saratoga County; March, Swapfest; April, Tour de Cure; May, antenna building workshop; June, Field Day/Elections.
10. VEC session was run at the solar building during the hamfest where of the nine examinees, 6 passed elements including 3 new generals and 2 new extras.
11. Dave N2FEP requested \$50 for cable and connectors to run additional connectors for the club's shack at the EMS building so that we could run equipment from the meeting room when necessary. MSC to approve this request.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Bill N2OWA
Secretary

RADIO OFFICER'S COLUMN

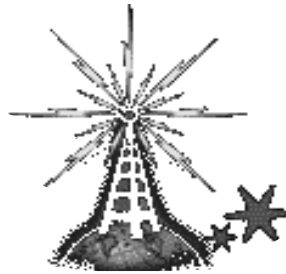
We will not at this time be participating in the SET unless I hear from members who would like to do so. The net will continue and I am always looking for members to be the net control station. The Nutmeg Hamfest Sunday Oct 9th runs 9a to 3p New equipment vendors ARRL forums easy to locate about a 3 hr drive from our area off I-91 exit 15 the follow the HAMFEST signs talkin on 147.360 + 600 no pl. **Dave N2FEP**



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.

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

Glenn Burt
 4 Glenwood Drive
 Saratoga Springs NY 12866
 587-7745
 KA2DTH@arrl.net

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

Another hamfest picture [thanks to N2FEP for pictures in this issue]

