

# Sparks from the Spa



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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I love to quote Virgil, W2HQW, about amateur radio. Virg says that "amateur radio is the only hobby that he knows of that can use the hobby to bad mouth the hobby".

Never thought about amateur radio in that context? I have.

I am the trustee of the club license. If the club is ever cited by the FCC, I am the one that must answer their questions. Do I stay awake at night worrying? Heck no.

I like to talk on both vhf club repeaters but I also like to listen. There are interesting and most of the time upbeat QSOs on the WA2UMX repeaters. You, the users, have fascinating conversations. I bet you don't believe me. Well a few weeks ago I got a QSL card from a ham who lives south of Albany. He said he heard a "very interesting QSO about the territory I covered years ago".

So the next time you pick up the microphone, remember that not only are folks out there listening to your conversations but they find them "very interesting". The users of the WA2UMX repeaters are a great group. May each of you have many good QSOs in the upcoming year.

Jim  
K2LM

### Silent Key

KA2MTI Fred "DOC" Fagley passed away on January 8, 2005. . Doc was a great radio person and did much for the amateur radio community. He worked for many years for the General Electric Company as their head radio Technician. He made many repairs to many ham radio repeaters as well as personal gear. He will be missed on the air.

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

Date: January 10, 2005

Wilton EMS Building

1. Meeting was called to order by President Jim K2LM at 6:41 pm
2. Board members present were: Darlene N2XQG , Bill N2OWA , Al KA1IEG, Peter KA2DHZ, Jim KG2H and Jim K2LM. Visitors included: Art K2JHT, Francis W1LJF and Glenn KA2DTH.
3. Bill N2OWA gave the secretary's report.
  - MSC to approve the board minutes of November 8, 2004 as previously distributed.
  - MSC to allow the club to purchase a new database program
  - Discussed the cost of the newsletter. With a list of 115 people, it costs \$820 per year to mail the newsletter out; dues account for \$1,000. The board encourages members to request email receipt of the newsletter to reduce club costs.
  - There was a brief discussion of the dues/membership structure. This was tabled for discussion at a future meeting
4. Al KA1IEG gave the treasurer's report.
5. Jim K2LM brought a proposal for the purchase of new club equipment, including a new switching power supply for the packet system as well as two Tiny2 Paccomm boards for the repeater site. In addition there was a proposal for funds to build two 80m dipoles for the club's emergency HF kits. MSC to approve these purchases at a cost of about \$700. It was noted that NY SEMO has found packet to be a useful communications mode for emergency situations.
6. Peter KA2DHZ read a letter that will be sent out to area clubs regarding a speaker's bureau. He also discussed a planned mobile

fox hunt tentatively planned for early February with a \$5 entrance fee. [See details on p. 3 of the newsletter] He is working with Dave N2FEP on this.

7. Darlene N2XQG reported on the hamfest noting that pins for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary had been ordered. She also discussed the need to get a new lock and keys for the club equipment room.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Bill N2OWA  
Secretary

### JANUARY CLUB MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Jim K2LM at 7:35 pm

The guest speaker was Tom Valosin WB2KLD, secretary of the Northern New York Section of the Atlantic District.

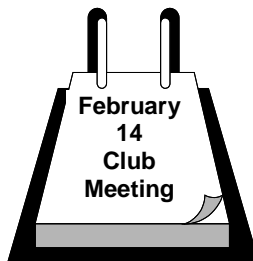
#### Members present:

K2JHT Art	K2LM Jim
N2XQG Darlene	KG2H Jim
KB2UKT Ed	KA1IEG Al
N2LAQ Roger	W2XM Bob
WB2KLD Tom	KA2DHZ Peter
KB2KVN Bill	W1LJF Francis
KC2MID Sandy	KC2MIH Ed
KA2DTH Glenn	NRZJ Dave

The topic for the evening's presentation was the history of the development of the NNY section. Tom gave an interesting history of how the process developed for the 10 counties who formed this new section. Previously these counties [including Schoharie, Fulton, Montgomery] were part of the 40 county Western New York section. The members had felt that they were not adequately represented at AARL and because they were in the eastern most part of the section, they got few section leaders to visit. NYARA, a group which was open to all amateurs, were able to generate interest among hams to do the work necessary to form a new section. Initial discussions began in 1992. In July 1995 a proposal to create NNY was presented to the ARRL board [which was approved] and the changes took effect in January 1996. There are about 400 members in this section. NNY sponsors a hamfest in early October in Lake Placid which draws 300-350 people each year. Their next hamfest will be October 8 2005. The section has 3-4 meetings each year. The group's

webpage is [www.nyara.org](http://www.nyara.org).

### Upcoming Club Meeting Topics



Steve Pertgen, W2FXJ, Army MARS New York State Director, talking about Army MARS, and what it is and does. Oh yes, Steve is with the National Weather Service and you may have heard him wearing that hat.

### Radio Officer's Column

Dave N2FEP  
Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S.

On January 8th ARES held a management meeting for the E/C and the AEC's. We sat down and established a training guide for the next few months. There will be more coming. My assistant E/C's or AEC's are N2XQG Darlene, N2OWA Bill, W2EMS Fred, K2LM Jim, N2QFT Joanna, N2VLS Ken. Each one is assigned a task to make things in ARES for Saratoga County flow smoothly. There will be some changes to the Sunday evening Net also. They should peek your interest. Please come and join in on Sunday evenings at 8 pm on the repeaters. Please keep your equipment in good shape and ready to go as winter can play tricks on us all.

#### \*\*\*\*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 note:** On Sunday March 6th, the net members will be asked to operate on EMERGENCY power only [if possible]. Please listen to the net as every few weeks there will be some different training aspects on the net. Please take time this coming Sunday to tune up your rig or HT, land based or mobile, and sign in.

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**SARATOGA COUNTY RACES  
TRANSMITTER LOCATOR EVENT**

This is our first attempt of this event. This is for fun and for everyone. There is a small entry fee of \$5.00. This will provide for prize money for winners of the event.

**[Please listen to the weekly net to get the date of this event].**

**Rules**

1. **EVERYONE WILL START FROM THE PREARRANGED STARTING LOCATION.**
2. **EVERYONE WILL BE ADVISED AS TO THE BOUNDRIES OF THE EVENT**
3. **THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE EVENT WILL BE PROVIDED**
4. **NO ONE WILL TRESPASS ON ANYONE'S PROPERTY OR VIOLATE ANY MOTORVEHICLE LAWS WHILE ON THE EVENT**

Winner listings:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize will be 50% of the money collected
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize will be 25% of the money collected
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize will be 10% of the money collected
- 4<sup>th</sup> prize will be 10% of the money collected
- 5<sup>th</sup> prize will be 5% of the money collected

The limits of the event will be the following towns: Wilton ; City of Saratoga Springs ; Greenfield ; Malta and Milton.

The event will start at the Wilton Mall Parking Lot in front of Ruby Tuesdays in the parking area. The event will start promptly at 9 am and continue until 12 noon. Or until the transmitter is located by all prize winners if before the end time.

If the transmitter is not located prize money will be held until the next event and added to the prize money.

You will be given information on the transmitter and what it looks like. It will be marked as the Fox / transmitter location. The fox / transmitter will transmit every 2 minutes on the designated frequency which will be determined at the beginning of the event.

You may use any system you wish to provide you with the information desired to best locate the transmitter. When you locate the transmitter you will be given a prize ticket that you must return to the start location. Turn in the ticket to claim your prize.

After the event we will all return to the starting location and go to a local eatery for lunch on our own and to talk over the event and discuss improvements we can make for future events.

Lets promote this event with other groups on our area.

[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  
2005**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of License Held: \_\_\_\_\_

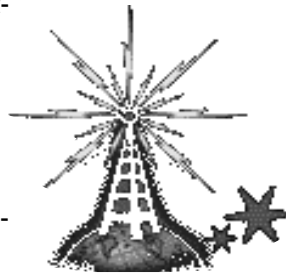
ARRL Member? **Y N**

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 club's 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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**IF YOUR LABEL SAYS 2004, this is your LAST issue of Sparks from the Spa unless you renew. See inside!**

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