

# Sparks from the Spa



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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### Evolution

Jim K2LM

I grew up in Tennessee where the famous court case about the teaching of evolution was held, so the word has a special meaning to me.

As the outgoing president, I took on the duty as the chairman of the elections committee. The board the past two years was excellent and I know that Bill, N2OWA, will be missed as secretary but I believe that the new board will have the club evolve in ways that I may never have imagined possible.

The hobby is evolving, but there are some parts of it that have not changed in the past years---

**Field Day** is June 24 and 25, please let Fred, W2EMS, W2EMS@arrl.net know if you would like to operate or help in any other way.

**The Hamfest.** Our 21<sup>st</sup> annual Hamfest will be on Sept. 9 at the Ballston Spa Fairgrounds. I hope you will join me in working to keep this tradition alive.

## Public Service Events (PSE)

by Glenn - KA2DTH

### Tour de Cure

On June 11th, the American Diabetes Association held their annual Tour de Cure bicycle fundraiser. Area amateur radio operators once again volunteered to provide communications for safety and welfare. Setup began at the Stillwater High School at

5:30AM with Jim K2LM, Glenn KA2DTH who were shortly joined by Fred W2EMS and Darlene N2XQG. The weather began overcast and cool, and did not become very hot over the course of the event, making it enjoyable for all. As net control came on the air, followed by the



digital APRS Station, trackers were being installed in the support vehicles, followed by ham operators and their drivers. This year the Automatic Position Reporting System or APRS was put to better use, and using a computer and projector at net control, staff and volunteers were able to gain a big view of the location of their assets, and it earned high marks for the technology we as hams can put into play. Tactical call signs and APRS trackers in most of the support vehicles allowed the cool headed net control operators to dispatch available resources in the most efficient fashion, under the direction of the ADA personnel.

The first event began around 7 AM, and departed at intervals with riders taking 100, 75, 50, 25 or

10 mile routes. Communications were brisk as the rest stops opened, support vehicles departed and supplies were distributed. With the addition of a 75 mile route this year, this event continues to grow and gain popularity. More than two dozen ham operators volunteered this year, manning 14 rest stops and 9 support vehicles until the last rider returned and the event was declared closed.

After breakdown of net control, volunteers had been hard at work for over 12 hours, and received the thanks and gratitude (not to mention T-shirts) of the ADA Staff once again. When all was done and said, 81 riders covered the 100 mile route, 42 did the 75, 349 completed the 50, 257 the 25 and 137 took the 10 mile routes! The hams who helped this year were: Darlene-N2xqg, Glenn – Ka2dth, Jim – K2lm, Fred – W2ems, Bill – Kc2ifr, Hal – Ak2e, Byron – Kc2koh, Mark – Ka2fbz, Bill – N2kmf, Dave – Kc2odl, Kim – Kf2lv, Laura – Kb2lom, Bob – N2wdy, Henry – Kb2str, Tom – N2sqo, Ed – Kb2ukt, Bob – Kb2tbb, Tom – N2sbc, Rebecca – N2lpw, Ernie – Kc2byd, Candace – Kc2mrz, Fred – W2ems, Rich – Kc2mil, Ed – Kc2mih, Tim – N2mbx, Mike – Kc2dnt, Sandy – Kc2mid

### **North Country Bike Tour**

Please join us in providing safety communications for the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour, to be held July 8th and 9th. This is another big event, and we will be looking for another great turnout from the ham community! The event begins in Stillwater at the High School as the distance riders head to the Lake George Elementary School, completing day 1. The next day, those riders will return from Lake George to Stillwater, following the same route.

Also on Sunday, there will be 62 and 28 mile out and back events, starting from the Stillwater High School. This event has 4 rest stops along the route as well as 7 support vehicles and the beginning and ending schools that we are hoping to staff with radio operators, so there are plenty of opportunities to contribute! For more details,

visit the club website which contains maps, description and contact information.

### **Dualathon**

The second Saratoga Springs Lions Club Duathlon was held on the Sunday of the Memorial Day weekend. Bob, KB2TBB, Glen KA2DTH and Jim K2LM handled communications. The Lions were very appreciative and are looking forward to our help next year. A Duathlon is a run, bike, run event and our club handled the bike portion because the road course is four loops starting and ending at Skidmore.

### **CLUB EQUIPMENT VANDALIZED**

Jim K2LM

Because of vandalism at the Saratoga County Radio site on Spruce Mountain, the packet userport on 144.950 MHz, WA2UMX-5 is off the air. The 147.000, 448.225 MHz voice repeaters and the APRS digipeater on 144.390 MHz that are on Spruce Mountain are on the air. Repairs are being made to the packet system but it may take several months before it will be working again.

### **Saratoga RACES Board Meeting**

**Date: June 12, 2006**

**Wilton EMS Building**

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jim K2LM at 6:37 pm. There was a quorum present.
2. Board members present were: Al KA1IEG; Bill N2OWA; Fred W2EMS; Mark KA2FBZ, Glenn KA2DTH, Darlene N2XQG; Jim K2LM; Guest: Dennis WA2JWO.
3. Al KA1IEG gave the treasurer's report. Checking account balance: \$7,824.31 after expenses and dues collections. Expenses incurred included \$598 for GPS equipment and Field Day pins. Moved, seconded and carried to receive the treasurer's report.
4. Moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the board meeting for May 8, 2006 as previously distributed.
5. There was no radio officer's report.
6. No Hamfest Committee report.

7. Field Day – Setup will be Friday June 23 from 1:00 pm on. Still opportunity for additional operators.
8. Glenn KA2DTH gave a Public Service Event Report. The Tour de Cure was discussed. It was noted that 26 hams volunteered to assist the 866 entrants. Help is still needed for the MS bike Tour July 8-9 from Stillwater to Lake George and back.
9. Jim K2LM gave the report of the nominating committee for officers. The following were nominated:

President	Fred W2EMS
Vice President	Darlene N2XQG
Secretary	Pete Miller W2BEW
Treasurer	Al KA1IEG
Board Members:	Mark KA2FBZ, Dennis WA2JWO, Ed KC2MIH

10. The president voiced thanks to outgoing secretary Bill N2OWA who served since June 2003.
11. Jim K2LM reported both on the theft of equipment on Spruce Mountain and the condemning of the County's main communications tower on Spruce which resulted in the need to remove all club antennas from that tower. The county is considering its options for another tower.
12. Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 7:20 pm.

**Saratoga RACES Club Meeting  
Date: June 12, 2006  
Wilton EMS Building**

1. At 7:35 Jim K2LM opened the meeting. Our scheduled speaker Steve K2WE did not arrive.
2. Present: Al KA1IEG; Bill N2OWA; Fred W2EMS; Glen KA2DTH; Bob KA2TBB; Henry, KB2STR; Ed KC2MIH; Sandy KC2MID; Mark KA2FBZ; Tim N2MBX; Ernie KC7BYD; Roger WA2FOY; Byron KC2KOH; Dennis WA2JWO; Dave NRZJ; Dave KC2ODL; Jim K2LM
3. The actions of the board were discussed in detail [as above].
4. Jim K2LM presented the ballot of officers for 2006-2007. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Moved, seconded and carried to instruct the secretary to cast a white ballot for all nominees [as in

item 9 above]. All candidates were elected by acclimation.

5. An expression of thanks was offered to the outgoing president, secretary and board members.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Bill N2OWA  
Secretary

**Radio Officer Report  
Dave N2FEP**

Field day will soon be here. Please think about participating in this event. It is a great way to learn operating skills that you just can not get elsewhere. It is also great fun to participate and run equipment that you may not be familiar with. Everyone learns something at field day and it is also great to just see everyone. Even if you can only stop by for a short time please do so.

Warm weather means the possibility of hazardous weather with thunderstorms , lighting , hail , and high winds. Please keep an eye to the sky and listen to the repeaters for Skywarn activations. We do not have many of them but it is always good to be ready and know where your equipment is and have it in working order. Keep familiar with the Skywarn procedures and take a minuet to look over your booklet that you received at the training you attended last. It has valuable information to review and keep you ready to assist should the need arise. See you in the fall at the hamfest

**Note of Thanks**

It has been my pleasure to serve as secretary these past 3 years for the club. I want to thank all of you for your support. Many changes have been made in the secretary's role including the electronic version of this newsletter which goes to over 90% of our club members. I wish the best to the incoming officers. I especially want to thank Jim K2LM and Dave N2FEP for their encouragement over these 3 years.

73,  
Bill N2OWA

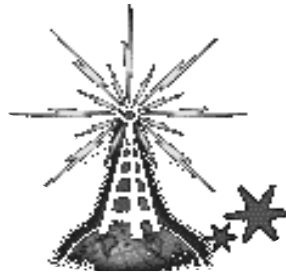


### WA2UMX ON THE INTERNET

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 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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