

An ARRL



Affiliated Club



# Repeeper

**Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club**  
Post Office Box 841  
Wappingers Falls, New York 12590  
[wr2abb.org](http://wr2abb.org)



SEPTEMBER 2006

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

By Jim, K2JIM

President, MBARC

Well here we are at the end of another summer. We look forward to the summer season and it disappears a lot more quickly that we would like to see. We will still have some nice weather coming though and it is also the prettiest time of the year. Still enough time to finish up that last minute antenna work.

There are still a few more Hamfests that we can travel to that are not too far away. We want to make sure that all our equipment at home is working great for the times we will be spending indoors this coming winter. Let's not forget about the best event of the summer that is coming up. The Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club picnic. Sunday September 10, 2006 is the date and we have some fun things planned. One will be a hidden transmitter hunt. We did that at last year's picnic and it proved to be lots of fun. It will not be easy this year though. So bring you HT's and special antenna for the HT if you have one and look for the hidden transmitter.

This may be the end of the 2006 Summer but it is the beginning of another year

for the club. Elections are being held and the results will be announced at the September meeting. We have a great slate of members running for the different offices. We do have one problem though. When you look at the ballot you will notice nobody is running for Recording Secretary. This is not a difficult job but certainly an important one. We need to fill this position. If you have ever thought about running for office to see what is going on behind the scenes, this is your chance to volunteer for this very important position.

Lastly, let us not forget that our next quarterly membership meeting will be held on Friday evening, September 29th at 7 PM at the LaGrange fire house. In December (Date to be announced) we are hosting our holiday party. This year like last year we will be just having the party and not a business meeting at the same time. The next membership meeting after the one in September will be held sometime in January.

Enjoy what is left of the Summer and begin looking forward to the upcoming Fall season.

*Jim K2JIM*

## ELECTION 2006

By Tom, N2FZC

(Editor's note: Answering the Question of 'What is that Validation Number' on my ballot?!)

The purpose of this number is to verify that the ballot is an "official" ballot. The list of valid numbers, with NO names attached, will be used during the ballot count. There are only a list of numbers, no names. Do I believe that anyone would make a fake ballot? NO I am experimenting with a system so that a few years down the road the club may Be able to implement on-line voting.

There is NO contest this year. We have barely ONE person for every position. Since this was a non-critical election, I am experimenting.

Additionally, I will be the one counting the ballots, even if there WAS a choice, I DON'T CARE HOW YOU VOTE. Even if I hated everyone on the ballot I would ensure that the count was valid, because that is the right thing to do.

Lastly, YES all the ballots will be destroyed immediately after the vote count. Finally, I am hoping we get some write-ins for recording secretary so we can elect SOMEONE to this position.

Respectfully, your election committee of ONE - ME!!!

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## HELP WANTED MBARC

By Rich, N2ZKX, Vice President

Looking for an MBARC member that is interested in Public Service activities and events. Experience is preferred but not required, training will be provided. This job requires working with event organizers, as well as enlisting, training, coordinating, and supervising Ham Radio operator volunteers providing Safety and Emergency Communications. The only compensation you will receive is a good feeling that comes from helping others.

This position will be open October 1, 2007, but interested applicants should apply immediately and begin training.

Some travel is required throughout the Hudson Valley. Interested applicants should apply to Rich, N2ZKX by phone 845-344-2720 or email [n2zkx@arrl.net](mailto:n2zkx@arrl.net)

## ANOTHER GREAT MBARC PICNIC

By Rich, N2ZKX, Vice President

On Sunday September 10, Hams from all over the Hudson Valley converged on the sleepy little town of Fishkill, NY for the spectacular 2006 MBARC picnic.

The weather was great and of course if anyone went away hungry it was their own fault. The food was absolutely awesome thanks to all the interesting personal specialties everyone brought to share. The special event station K5O was a great success with many operators logging contacts on multiple bands. Congratulations to the winner of the Fox Hunt, it sure wasn't as easy as last year. Of course special thanks to everyone that helped with setup, cooking, and cleanup I hope everyone is looking forward to picnic 2007. See you there!

## MBARC MEMBERS?

By Rich, N2ZKX, Vice President

What would you like your Club to do in the year to come? I've asked this question in the past and the response has been very light. Would you like more in-person meetings, more social activities, more technical nets or presentations? How about day trips or weekend activities? Do you want to get involved in contesting or field day? Please give the question some thought and try to let one of the Club Officers or Directors know what you want.

## THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT FOR THE AUGUST JOINT DUTCHESS COUNTY GOVERNMENT / ARC ACTIVATION!

Adam P. Nowik Jr., KC2DAA  
EC/RO Dutchess County

Many thanks to the following operators for their support of the joint Dutchess County government / ARC activation of August 1st, 2nd and 3rd , 2006.

Ed Hahn, **WC2J**  
Frank Simonis, **W2JVP**  
Ed Rubin, **N2JBA**  
Donald Hitt, **KB2ZE**  
Scott Holmes, **KC2OBW**  
Ken Gross, **N2OBY**  
Tom Quackenbush, **N2FZC**  
Dan Quackenbush, **KB2HAP**  
Janet Stein, **KC2LUR**  
Elmer Sharp, **WA2YSM**  
Gerald Davis, **KC2POZ**  
William Baker, **KC2LIX**

Once again you have shown your dedication to our service, and the citizens of Dutchess County.

### Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club Information

#### Club Frequencies:

ID	Input	Output	PL
K2ROB/R	52.310	53.310	114.8
N2EYH/R	146.295	146.895	100
KC2DAA/R	146.370	146.970	100
N2OXV/R	147.645	147.045	100
W2GIO/R	222.320	223.920	NONE
WA2GZW/R	444.575	449.575	100
N2HPA/R	909.200	921.200	100
WA2YSM-15	144.390 (APRS)		

#### On the Air Meetings:

Mondays, 8 PM Local Time except on holidays,  
(146.970 - OFFSET, 100 HZ Tone recommended)

Every one is invited to check in or just listen

WB2UWU plans on bringing Newsline following the meeting

#### Repeater Committee

N2FTR, Andrew, Editor  
N2OXV, John, Publisher

#### Officers

President: ..... K2JIM, JIM  
Vice President: ..... N2ZKX, Rich  
Treasurer: ..... KE2FI, NOEL  
Recording Secretary: ..... K2CSS, Jim  
Corresponding Secretary: ..... KC2LUR, Janet  
Director Of Engineering: ..... N2OXV, JOHN

#### Directors at Large

KC2AFK ..... Dave  
N2FZC ..... Tom  
KC2LUR ..... Janet  
N2CSS ..... Tara

#### Mailing Address:

Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club  
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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MARC PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

BY Rich, N2ZKX, Vice President

Thursday thru Saturday September 21-23,2006:

Hams needed to provide Safety and Emergency Communications for International Rally New York - Operations will take place in the beautiful Sullivan County towns of Narrowsburg and Monticello - There will be two shifts each day (AM and PM) Volunteer to work as many shifts as you like - Overnight accommodations will be provided (at no cost) for operators working multiple days - Volunteers will receive an event T shirt, some meals, an invitation to be the guest of the Rally at the Awards Banquet (Saturday night, no charge of course), and you will be entered in a drawing to win a new 2m mobile radio (no charge) - This is a European Style Auto Rally Race which is best described as "Real People..Driving Real Cars...On Real Roads....REAL FAST" - Be a part of the most exciting Amateur Radio Public Service Event in the Northeast!

For more info visit [www.N2ZKX.com](http://www.N2ZKX.com) or contact Rich, N2ZKX [n2zkx@arrl.net](mailto:n2zkx@arrl.net) or phone 845-344-2720 cell 845-649-8112

Sunday October 1,2006: Hams needed to provide Safety and Emergency Communications for the Dutchess Interfaith Councils' Crop Walk for World Hunger - 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM - This is a very nice low pressure event that does a lot of good for a lot of people

**For more info visit:**  
[www.WR2ABB.org](http://www.WR2ABB.org)  
or contact  
Rich, N2ZKX [n2zkx@arrl.net](mailto:n2zkx@arrl.net)  
or phone 845-344-2720  
cell 845-649-8112

All of the events listed above are family events! Operators are welcome and encouraged to bring along family members and/or friends to join in the fun! This is a great way to spend the day "playing radio" and spending time with your family while helping out the community.

Please Volunteer It's the best PR Ham Radio can get!

## MT. BEACON PICNIC HISTORY

By Fred, WA2GZW

I joined Mt Beacon Radio club back around 1970. Back than the club picnics were on Fathers Day and were combined with a shortened business meeting. The early picnics were held at Cromoner Hill Park located just off of RT. 32 in the Town of Newburgh. Cromoner Hill is a Park that is owned by Orange County and is not very well developed. There is an observation tower at the top of the hill that overlooks the Hudson Valley. The Picnics were fun but being on Fathers day the attendance was limited.

Later the Picnic was moved to Texaco Research Center in Glenham. The Picnics were held there for about 2 years before relocating to Freedom Park in the town of Lagrange. The Picnic was held at this site for probably close to 10 years. The picnics at this point of the clubs history were fairly popular and were well attended. In the early years we had the whole park to ourselves. There was often some exciting and funny moments at these picnics with someone annually getting thrown in to the creek fully clothed with wallet in pocket. Bob Disbrow would often bring his Radio Controlled Helicopter and demo it for us (of course control was on 6 meters). As Freedom Park

became more popular with the local residents the popularity of the site from within the club diminished.

At some point the club had a picnic at Bowden Park in New Hamburg. Sorry, but I did not attend this one and do not remember to much of the details.

The club slowly moved away from picnics as the members interest dwindled and the club became more diversified.

Through constant hounding, Stu WA2BSS, was able to renew interest in having a picnic and thanks to several volunteers The Mt. Beacon Club was able to host picnics again, this time at Tymor Park, the site of the Hamfest.

This years Picnic will be at Fishkill at Gerring Park, right off of RT 84 at the RT 52 exit with easy access for most of our members.

Although these events are fun they require volunteers. I can remember a few years flipping hamburgers and moving park benches around at Freedom Park. If you want these events Please Volunteer. This is one event that is Family oriented and between you and your family can eat actually eat the equivalent of your entire annual membership fee.-lol

WA2GZW

### STU'S NOTES

By Stu, WA2BSS

**The following 4 HF nets are at 3925  
KHz at local times:**

Clearing House net..... 11 AM  
NY Phone ..... 1 PM  
NY Public op's net ..... 5 PM  
NYS Phone Traffic  
and Emergency Net ..... 6 PM

## PUMPKIN PATROL 2006

Andrew, N2FTR

2006 marks the 15th year that the Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club will be participating in the NY State Police's Pumpkin Patrol program. Over both Halloween eve (Monday, October 30th) and Halloween night (Tuesday, the 31st), many of our club members as well as volunteers from other clubs (PARC, QSY Society, etc.) will participate. We are assigned the task of patrolling the seven bridges that are in Dutchess County that span Interstate I-84. We act as the watch-eyes for the NY State Police in ensuring that nothing damaging is tossed out over the bridges onto the trucks and cars on the Interstate below. Our goal this year will be to fill every one of our assigned slots of both nights of participation which we have never done (close before, but not quite!).

The Pumpkin Patrol was originated by Katie St. Jacques in Fort Johnson, New York in October 1976 after a truck driver she had been talking to on her Citizens Band radio was injured by an object thrown onto the windshield of the truck he was driving and was injured by flying glass. Other amateur radio clubs have been involved in Pumpkin Patrol beginning in 1984 in the Albany area, followed by the Mid-Hudson Valley a year later.

Since 1992, MBARC has been participating under the auspices of State Police Troop "T" with coordination of the local Newburgh NY barracks and team. For the third year, Trooper Brian Kieckhafer will be our liaison.

If you have a couple of hours on either of the nights we patrol and wish to volunteer, please get in touch with Andrew through the radio or e-mail ([N2FTR@arrl.net](mailto:N2FTR@arrl.net)). We pair people in teams; no actual involvement with any 'perps' occurs. We simply use MBARC Repeaters to call the State Police via the assigned Net Control Stations should something occur.

Please volunteer to help! - We hope to see your name on them this year!

## BARA TO HOST HUDSON DIVISION AWARDS DINNER NOVEMBER 11TH

From the ARRL Hudson Division August 2006 "Beacon"

See <http://www.hudson.arrl.org>

(Editor's note - We are reprinting this entire article because of the honor that is being bestowed upon our very own WA2YSM as "Technical Achievement Awardee! See below....)

Order you tickets for the Amateur Radio Social event of the year at <http://www.bara.org>

The Bergen Amateur Radio Association will host the 2006 Hudson Division Awards Dinner at the Holiday Inn in Saddle Brook, New Jersey on a Saturday night, November 11th, at 7 PM. We will have a very good view from the 12 floor. Some attendees may want to work a little HT DX. The location is at the junction of Route 80 and the Garden State Parkway. Ticket price will be the same as last year, \$48 per person.

Please join us to honor all those receiving a division award. Ticket and ad applications will soon be available on the division web site. BARA President Tony Izzo, K2AMI promises that tickets will be sold at the BARA Hamfest. No tickets will be sold the night of the event.

Ticket sales will close October 27th.

Please don't leave it to the last minute! This year's awardees are:

Amateur of the Year - Barry Cohen, K2JV (from NNJ) nominated by: K2AL, WW2OLF, KC2KMK, N2VI, W2FMI and KC2ONP (New Providence ARC/Salt Brook School ARC)

Grand Ole Ham - Bob Raffaele, W2XM (from ENY) nominated by: K2XA Saul Abrams

**Technical Achievement:** Elmer Sharp, WA2YSM (from ENY) nominated by: KB2ZE - Donald Hitt

Special Recognition for Public Service Excellence: Jeff Schneller, N2HPO (NLI) nominated by: Mike Lisenco, N2YBB and Charles Gallo, KG2V

The awards will be presented at the 2006 Hudson Division Awards Dinner hosted by the Bergen Amateur Radio Association at the Holiday Inn in Saddle Brook New Jersey just off Route 80 on Saturday night, November 11th at 7 PM. Please attend to help us honor these outstanding Amateur Radio operators who truly make us all proud to be part of the Amateur Radio Service. Tickets are \$48 and an application form is available at <http://www.bara.org/>

We hope to see you there.

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## FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Noel, KE2FI

Treasurer

Well, another Fiscal year has ended and the club is still solvent. Thanks to our hamfest, membership dues and raffles we continue to provide our engineering department with the necessary dollars to keep our equipment running and improve communication with new technology and additional repeaters and links. Our money also goes to Rich N2ZKX for all the great public service events he and his group of volunteers takes part in.

I hope everyone has purchased a raffle ticket. The more we sell, the better it is for the club. and you just might win one of the two fine Yaesu radios or a subscription to CQ magazine. We'll be selling them at the picnic on the 10th of September and again at the general meeting on the 29th just before we draw the winner. Hope to see everyone at the picnic.

73,

Noel KE2FI

## Hams across the Country Respond to the Call

### AMATEUR RADIO SUPPORTS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

*Adam P. Nowik Jr, KC2DAA (RACES Radio Officer and ARRL EC) and Brian J. Penney, W2BJP (RACES Deputy Radio Officer and Assistant EC)*

One Saturday morning in mid-March, about 20 Eastern New York Section radio amateurs and their families gathered at the Dutchess County Emergency Response Center in Poughkeepsie.

Our day began at 9 when we gathered as a group in the Dutchess County RACES radio room where Adam Nowik, KC2DAA, gave an overview of the various radios installed; the station now includes a new ICOM IC-F7000 (TX: 1.6-30 MHz, RX: 0.5-30 MHz continuous) HF transceiver. Dutchess County purchased this radio to be installed in the new Mobile Command Vehicle. When called out, RACES members will have operating assignments in this vehicle.

Russ Whittaker, Chief Communications Officer for Dutchess County Emergency Response, was our host for the day; he joined us as we gathered in the call/dispatch area of the emergency operations center. Russ provided a synopsis of the support systems for the center, including dual diesel generators, a segregated HVAC system and two sources of potable water (town and well).

He explained how incoming calls are answered using the CAD system (computer aided dispatch), and then routed to the appropriate agencies. We were encouraged to

dial 911 on our cell phones to observe how an incoming call looks to the dispatcher sitting at the console and how GIS can be used to obtain an approximate position of the caller. Russ then ran through a demonstration of the computer-based touch screen system used to manage and manipulate the myriad of radio communications resources contained within the center.

We made our way to the equipment room where Russ explained how the voice recorders operated, as well as the LAN/networking hardware. This is the room where the UPS (uninterruptible power system) is located. The main purpose of the UPS is to keep all electronics equipment “live” for those few seconds between a power failure and when the generators take over.

We then went outside where we basked in sunny skies and warm temperatures, making our way to the garage housing the Mobile Command Center. Russ pulled the behemoth out of the garage and demonstrated the hydraulic leveling system. He then fired up both on-board generators; he even had to turn on the internal air conditioning system due to the warm ambient air temperature!

Russ raised the 30 foot pneumatic mast, containing a CCTV observation camera, and explained how the on-board antennas are used. We went to the rear of the vehicle through a “respite/meeting area,” and then on through to the operations section of the vehicle. Russ explained the infrastructure and environmental workings, along with the radio operations and LAN/computer capabilities of the vehicle.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Russ Whittaker, Chief Communications Officer for Dutchess County Emergency Response, our host, for a most enjoyable tour!

### NORTH EAST TEXAS SKYWARN AND ARES

*Robert Gillespie, WB5KJE*

During fires, missing persons, Amber alerts or other potential disaster, the Lamar County (Texas) Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteers are ready to respond at a moment’s notice. Lamar County ARES (LCARES) is normally called out by Bob Hundley, the City of Paris Emergency Management Coordinator and Assistant Chief of Police during times of severe weather. Lisa McAllister, of the Lamar County Chapter of the American Red Cross, has called on LCARES many times during shelter and fire operations.

LCARES is called to take on back-up positions around the city for storm watch and other duties, including homeland security operations. Using the Emergency Management Weather Information Network (EMWIN), APRS, HSMM and VHF/UHF radios, we are able to obtain severe weather information in our vehicles before, during and after the storms. With new data coming from the Thunderbolt Lightning Detection Systems, we can now be alerted to the potential for lightning. This will be used to verify cell formation and locations out in the field.

BRIAN PENNEY, W2BJP



ARES and RACES members were given a tour of the Dutchess County EOC.

BRIAN PENNEY, W2BJP



Amateur Radios will be aboard the new Mobile Command Vehicle.

# **SATCOM FLYER HERE**

# RAIL RIDE FLYER HERE

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