

TARA



NEWS



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New York State Police Sgt. A. O'Mara Speaks At Meeting

At our last monthly meeting Sgt. Andy O'Mara from the New York State Police spoke to the membership about this year's Pumpkin Patrol.

Since its inception in 1976, the New York State Police, Troop T, recognized the Pumpkin Patrol as an important element of the State Police crime prevention effort.

The Pumpkin Patrol was originated by Katherine St. Jacques in Fort Johnson, New York, in October 1976. Soon after a truck driver she was talking to on her citizens band radio was injured by flying glass caused by an object thrown from an overpass striking the windshield of his truck, St. Jacques and two companions decided to stand watch on three overpasses that crossed the New York State Thruway in the Johnstown area. Lighting pumpkins and hanging them over the bridge railings to signify their



presence, they stood guard the rest of the evening and so began the Pumpkin Patrol.

In 1984 Jack Donnelly, WA2YBM, from Albany ARA assisted St. Jacques with organizing local hams to provide coverage along the overpasses in the Capital Region. By 1985 St. Jacques and the efforts of various radio groups and amateur radio operators were able to provide coverage from the Syracuse area to Newburg, N.Y.

TARA's participation in the Pumpkin Patrol is again being coordinated by Karen Smith, KB2UUC, and she needs your help. She is in need of volunteers who would like to share their time on October 30 and 31, to watch the overpasses along the Thruway. If you would like to assist this worthy cause, please contact TARA's Public Service Coordinator Karen Smith, KB2UUC, at 273-6594.

TARA RPT: 145.17/444.225 MHz

E-mail: KB2UUC@JUNO.COM

Phone: 518-273-6594

You're Needed On:

OCTOBER 30 & 31

Attention!

TARA's web site now offers you the TARA NEWS for your viewing or downloading. Come check it out at our new address!

<http://www.n2ty.org/>

Inside this Issue:

- **ATVET Exam 11/7/98** - last chance for 1998.
- **Southern Etiquette** - NOT written by Bubba!
- **Hamfest Book Sales & Raffle** - thanks to all who helped!
- **New TARA HF Station** - more radios
- **VHF/UHF Equipment sought** - we're looking for deals

Steve Kopecky, KF2WA Finally Gets BREAK!!

We know it's only October, but we actually have someone that's volunteering to be next year's Field Day Chairman. No we're not kidding! We've actually got a bonafide offer!!

Now after something like 5 or 6 years of serving this club as Field Day Chairman, Steve Kopecky, KF2WA, will finally get a well deserved break come this Spring.

So, it's with great ado that we announce that Bubba, N2TR, will be our Field Day '99 Chairman.

In the coming months we're sure that he'll have a lot of announcements telling us more of his plans for the big weekend in June.

Already Bubba has expressed that he'd like to review all facets of TARA's Field Day activities. Some of the areas that Bubba is already looking into are: expanding VHF/UHF operations, possibly finding new Field Day location, addition of towers and beam antenna's for both VHF/UHF and HF operations. Maybe you have a few suggestions of your own If so, please contact Bubba at:

**N2TR@N2TY.ORG
FDBOSS@N2TY.ORG**

Field Day '99 - June 26 & 27

Robert Jones, WB2SWA Resigns from Board of Directors

At our last Board of Directors meeting, Robert Jones, WB2SWA, informed our club president that he reluctantly must resign from TARA's Board of Directors. Robert attributed his resignation to nagging health problems, which prohibit him from attending BoD meetings on a regular bases, especially during winter months. Robert also told Bill, NY2U, that he would stay on the Board of Directors until a replacement could be found.

We thank Robert for his year's of dedicated service, and his wisdom that he shared with us. Also we'll miss his humorous remarks at the meetings. Congratulations on a job well done Robert!

TARA Acquires HF Station

TARA has been able to acquire several pieces of equipment which certainly will come handy this year during Field Day.

The first piece of equipment is a Kenwood, TS-440SAT HF mobile rig. This radio is identical to the one that our club now owns, with the exception that this radio has filters and the built in antenna tuner. This radio needs some repairs but nothing too serious. This radio belonged to John Tutein, WM2Y.

Secondly, we've obtained an Astron, RS-20M (13.8V) power supply from Joe Pasquini, N2NOU. After hearing that TARA was in need of such a supply, Joe graciously donated this unit which will be used in combination with the radio above.

We thank both John and Joe for their kindness and generosity.

Tom, N2TR Back on BoD

Tom Remmert has accepted an offer to rejoin TARA's Board of Directors, by picking up the remaining time on WB2SWA's term.

Tom was in town for our last monthly meeting and unanimously received the vote from the BoD and membership, clearing the way for his BoD seat.

Also Tom announced that he will be returning to the Capital District just as soon as possible. Presently he has his home in McKinney , TX on the market for sale.

Congratulations Tom, and the BoD looks forward to having you back again.

NEWINGTON NEWS WIRE

Things may be changing for the better on the Amateur Radio enforcement front. The FCC announced this week that all Amateur Radio-related enforcement investigation, evaluation, and processing has been transferred to the Compliance and Information Bureau. The change, effective September 1 but not announced until more than three weeks later, was made "by internal arrangement" between the CIB and the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The Wireless Bureau handles amateur licensing and, for the past several years, has coordinated enforcement with the CIB.

The FCC said the main objective of the change was to "facilitate the Commission's pursuit of compliance," especially in the area of resolving interference complaints, a hot-button issue within the amateur community. "Amateur enforcement should have gotten more direct attention over the last few years," conceded Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, the CIB's legal advisor for enforcement. "A lot of people think the FCC doesn't care."

Hollingsworth will be the FCC's point man in handling the complaints. He says FCC Chairman William Kennard "wants greater respect with respect to enforcement" at the FCC. Putting enforcement in the CIB's hands should mean "a much faster, more effective response," he said.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, says he's "cautiously optimistic" that the change will improve the dismal amateur enforcement situation.

"Now, CIB doesn't have to just gather evidence and forward it to another bureau," Imlay said. "It can act on it when it is ready. That's a good situation compared to where we were."

The FCC's public notice said the CIB staff now handles Amateur Radio enforcement matters "from initiation to resolution." That includes complaints, amateur testing issues, warnings, monetary penalties, revocation hearings, and "in extreme cases" equipment seizure and prosecution through the Department of Justice.

The Wireless Bureau continues to handle Amateur Radio licensing, including new applications and renewals, as well as all Amateur Radio policy and rulemaking matters. The change is expected to have no impact on the Amateur Auxiliary. Hollingsworth said the change could, in fact, mean that the FCC will work more closely and more effectively with amateur volunteers in dealing with enforcement issues.

Under the new arrangement, all amateur enforcement questions and complaints should be directed to the Compliance and Information Bureau, Compliance Division, Attention: Amateur Complaints, 1919 M St., Mail Stop 1500E1, Washington, DC 20554.

The FCC also has instituted an "Amateur Enforcement Line" at 202-418-1184. The automated system prompts callers to leave a name, a number, and a brief message. The CIB will return the call within the next business day. *Tnx: "The ARRL Letter"*

It appears certain that action in Congress on HR 3572--better known as the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998--will be postponed at least until next year, when a new Congress will be in place. Even so, the ARRL and League members have continued to press for consideration of the measure during the current session. The bill--sponsored by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida--has garnered 74 cosponsors.

The projected early October adjournment date for the 105th Congress has become a moving target as the House attempted to juggle its efforts to complete the major appropriations bills, wade through the charges and countercharges in the ongoing investigation of the President, and find time for some politicking before the November elections.

New additions to the list of cosponsors for HR 3572 include Representatives Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, Carolyn Kilpatrick of Michigan, Carolyn McCarthy of New York, Sam Farr of California, Owen Pickett of Virginia, Charles Stenhold and Gene Green of Texas, and Rod Blagojevich of Illinois.

For a full review of the bill along with a sample letter to Congress, see "DC Currents," QST, June 1998. -- Steve Mansfield, N1MZA *Tnx: The ARRL Letter*

*Your kind expression
of sympathy and friendship
will always remain*

in our memories

*Thank you
for your thoughtfulness*

*The Family of
Jonas P. Bruno*

Official TARA Apparel

At our next meeting we'll be taking orders for our "NEW" Winter apparel line up.

Thanks to some hard work by Ken Davis, KB2KFV, we'll have jackets, hats, and shirts. All of these are brand NEW, never offered before. All of these items will come with the TARA logo embroidered. Plus all of these items are very attractively priced, without compromising on the quality!

So please come join us, see for yourself what everyone will be wearing this Winter. Plus keep in mind that each of these would make a great Christmas gift.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We have a few that have recently upgraded their amateur licenses and they deserve a big round of applause.

**Earl Bull, KB2SLE --TECH-PLUS
Kevin Cleary, KB2WIG -- GENERAL**

17th Annual Arsenal City Run

On Sunday, September 27, members from TARA provided radio communication for the 17th Annual Arsenal City Run in Watervliet. This was the first year we had the privilege of working with race officials and organizers of this event. We've already been asked back for next year.

Event organizers did everything they could to make our members feel totally welcomed. Our members were given T-shirts as a token of appreciation, and they invited everyone for food and beverages afterwards.

Officers from the Watervliet Police Department were extremely appreciative too. In fact Karen Smith, KB2UUC, was given a portable police radio to use in case of emergency, and she was known throughout the race as "PORTABLE UNIT 30."

Our Public Service Team would like to thank the following for volunteering their services:

**KB2ZZC, KE2XF, KF2WA, KB2UKV, KB2UUC, KB2SPM,
N2PEK, N2OWC, KB2VQT, KC2BJC, AND WB2SWA.**

Ballston Spa Hamfest, Another First Class Effort!

No official results have been posted for this year's book sales at the Ballston Spa Hamfest yet, but initial tallies do show a profit. That's pretty good news seeing how the attendance was down.

Now as for the raffle, things went pretty well. Again no figures have been released but unofficially it looks like ticket sales topped last year.

Leading the way in ticket sales was again Hollins, N2YQW. This marks the second year that Hollins has taken top honors in ticket sales. Congratulations Hollins!

Our club also owes a great deal to the efforts of TARA's Bookstore Manager - Mac Smith, KB2SPM, and his able Assistant Manager - Karen, KB2UUC.

Both Mac and Karen were quick to acknowledge that all this couldn't have been possible without those of you that manned the bookstore during the hamfest.

The following volunteered their services:

**KB2SPM, KB2UUC, KE2XF, KA2VEK, N2NOU,
KF2WA, KB2WIG, KB2KFV, WA2TQK, N2OWC, N2PEK,
W2VS, KC2AEB, KB2SLE, KF2VJ, Mike O'Brien**

Thank-You from the Family of Denise Remmert, N2DBR

Your thoughts and prayers during these very difficult times are sincerely appreciated. I received cards and notes from many of you. Just knowing my friends and family at TARA are there for me has made things more bearable.

I've decided to move back to the Albany area to be near my family and friends, especially the gang at TARA. At present, I'm not sure when this will happen. I have my house in Texas on the market, but things are a little slow right now. I was hoping to be settled in the Albany area by Christmas, but I'm not sure that will happen.

Hopefully I'll be settled mid-winter and we can have an antenna raising party! As you know, the best antennas go up when the temperature is well below freezing.

My next scheduled trip to Troy is the week of Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, that's the week after the normal club meeting, but I hope to see many of you when I'm in town.

Here's hoping you get lots of treats and not too many tricks this Halloween.

73 de Tom, N2TR

15th Annual Run for Hunger

The 15th Annual--Run for Hunger, will take place on Saturday, November 7th, in Green Island, starting at 9:00 AM.

This year's Co-Chairman is Ken Davis, KB2KFV. Ken has been very busy trying to get local merchants to offer their assistance to this worthy cause. Also Ken would appreciate it if some of our members could sponsor a runner in either the 5K, 3K, or 1K Kids Run. Of course donations are always accepted!

Last year this event raised approximately \$5,000 and Kenny has set his goal at \$7,000 this year. All proceeds go towards food pantries in Green Island, Watervliet, and Maplewood. Plus support for Joseph House & Bethany Center for the homeless in Troy.

TARA is in need of volunteers to provide communications for this event. If you'd like to volunteer your services, please contact Karen Smith, KB2UUC, at 273-6594 or KB2UUC@N2TY.ORG.

Volunteers meet at G.I.P.D. at 8:45 AM for coffee & donuts.

Solar Flux Increases- Band Openings More Frequent

With the increase in the average solar flux, we can expect more band openings to occur. The 10 meter band has had more frequent openings recently. We have a report of a mobile station operating 10 meter FM from Texas and making contacts with hams in Nova Scotia and British Columbia (for the geographically challenged, those are in Canada). There have also been openings to the Caribbean area.

The average solar flux for May through September was 106.7, 108.5, 114.1, 136.0 and 137.7. As you can see, it's on the rise. The weekly solar flux observations are available in the ARRL Letter which is published on the ARRL web site. Daily figures are broadcast by WWV and are also available on the internet. Check for several links available on the TARA web page at www.tara.org/links/links.htm.

With winter approaching, there should be more DX activity at night on 75 meters. The DX window is located at 3790-3800 KHz. This requires an advanced class license to transmit, but just listening here can be fun. It's a lot better than some of the other 75 meter frequencies, but perhaps not quite as entertaining!

Remember, 10 meters is opening up. You only need a novice or technician plus license to operate SSB from 28.300 MHz to 28.500 MHz. If you can learn CW, then you can do the 5 words per minute. Listen for 10 meter DX on 28.495 MHz.

Catch all the DX excitement, and hourly WWV reports, on the K2TR DX Packet Cluster! Just sign onto the TROY NODE on 144.91MHz and then type "DX".

Bill Tankersley - KC2BJC

"SOUTHERN RULES OF ETIQUETTE"

This month we'd like to share a few excerpts from Bill's new book "Southern Rules of Etiquette." We believe that you'll quickly notice that the South has surely had its impact on Bill!

PERSONAL HYGIENE:

1. While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this is a job that should be done in private using one's OWN truck keys.
2. Proper use of toiletries can forestall bathing for several days. However, if you live alone, deodorant is a waste of good money.
3. Dirt and grease under the fingernails is a social no-no, as they tend to detract from a woman's jewelry and alter the tastes of finger foods.

DINING OUT:

1. When decanting wine, make sure that you tilt the paper cup, and pour slowly so as not to "bruise" the fruit of the vine.
2. If drinking directly from the bottle, always hold it with your fingers covering the label.

ENTERTAINING IN YOUR HOME:

1. A centerpiece for the table should never be anything prepared by a taxidermist.
2. Do not allow the dog to eat at the table...no matter how good his manners are.

DATING (Outside the Family):

1. Always offer to bait your date's hook, especially on the first date.
2. Be aggressive. Let her know you're interested, "I've been wanting to go out with you since I read that stuff on the bathroom wall two years ago."
3. Establish with her parents what time she is expected back. Some will say 10:00 PM. Others might say, "Monday." If the latter is the answer, it is the man's responsibility to get her to school on time.

THEATER ETIQUETTE:

1. Crying babies should be taken to the lobby and picked up immediately after the movie has ended.

2. Refrain from talking to characters on the screen. Tests have proven they can't hear you.

WEDDINGS:

1. Livestock, usually, is a poor choice for a wedding gift.
2. Kissing the bride for more than 5 seconds may get you shot.
3. For the groom, at least, rent a tux. A leisure suit with a cummerbund and a clean bowling shirt can create a tacky appearance.
4. Though uncomfortable, say "yes" to socks and shoes for this special occasion.

DRIVING ETIQUETTE:

1. Dim your headlights for approaching vehicles - even if the gun is loaded, and the deer is in sight.
2. When approaching a four-way stop, the vehicle with the largest tires always has the right of way.
3. Never tow another car using pantyhose and duct tape.
4. When sending your wife down the road with a gas can, it is impolite to ask her to bring back beer.
5. Never relieve yourself from a moving vehicle, especially when driving.
6. Do not lay rubber while traveling in a funeral procession.

TIPS FOR ALL OCCASIONS:

1. Never take a beer to a job interview.
2. Always identify people in your yard before shooting at them.
3. It's considered tacky to take a cooler to church (unless you're the parson).
4. If you have to vacuum the bed, it is time to change the sheets.
5. Even if you're certain that you are included in the will, it is still considered tacky to drive a U-Haul to the funeral home.

NEWINGTON NEWS WIRE

When Hurricane Georges was downgraded to a tropical storm, the Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz was finally able to end its marathon operation. "Our business is done," said Net Manager Jerry Herman, N3BDW, as he got word of the storm's new status September 28. "It went well."

The Hurricane Watch Net remained active for about 10 days straight, passing weather-related information via W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center in Miami as Georges moved from the Caribbean to the Gulf of Mexico.

The lengthy operation took a toll on net control operators, who became scarcer as the storm refused to quit. Herman said the net operated nearly around the clock, although 20-meter propagation was lost during nighttime hours. "It was a long haul for our operators," he said. "Every time I thought we were about ready to run out of operators, some more folks would just jump back in there and do it again."

Herman called Georges "a really unique storm that just kept going." Georges expended his final burst of energy during the last few days of September, dumping heavy rain along the Gulf Coast.

The Hurricane Watch Net formed in 1965 after Hurricane Betsy. The net's relationship with the National Hurricane Center dates back to 1970, during Hurricane Alan. Herman says the Net welcomes help from newcomers, but net "regulars" go through a regular training program.

To find out more, contact Jerry Herman, N3BDW, e-mail jherman@smart.net. In the meantime, Herman says he's grateful there is not another storm on the horizon. *Tnx: "The ARRL Letter"*

MIR DIGIPEATER TURNED OFF DUE TO ABUSE

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, reports on the internet that the MIR digipeater has been temporarily turned off because some users are still trying to connect to each other instead of using the more efficient UI frames. He says that station-to-station connections via MIR must be avoided.

Bob again reminds amateurs NOT to connect to anyone through Mir except to use the MIR BBS. While experimentation with the Mir digi is encouraged, he says that using one or two line UI frames is much more efficient and make the digi available to many more simultaneous users. When turned back on, the MIR packet station can be found on 145.985 MHz. *Tnx: This Week in Amateur Radio*

HOLLIMAN REPLACEMENT ANNOUNCED BY CNN

CNN announced that Miles O'Brien would replace the late John Holliman as co-anchor of the network's coverage of John Glenn's historic return to space. O'Brien will join CBS broadcast legend Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, to report on Glenn's October 29 shuttle flight. Sources at CNN said the coverage will be dedicated to Holliman, who was killed in a car crash September 12.

Tnx: New York Post/ShopTalk

FLORIDA APRS DIGIPEATER OWNERS BUCK TREND

Jeff Brenton, KA9VNV, reports that a group of APRS digipeater operators in the south has decided to buck the trend, and move back to 145.79 MHz, just a few weeks before the areas around them switch to 144.39. Several digis west of Tallahassee in the Florida panhandle, an area that switched to 144.39 earlier than most, have disappeared from 144.39 and popped up on 145.79.

"Technical problems" and adjoining areas refusing to leave "79" are cited as reasons for the change. But Brenton says that, unless some people change their minds in the next few weeks, there will be a small island of APRS users on 145.79 in a sea of 144.39 users along the Gulf coast, cut off from the rest of the APRS world.

Tnx: This Week in Amateur Radio

Handy Shack Tips

Written By: Stuart, K5KVH

As a courtesy to any future buyers, and an aid to our own memories, get a stick on white Avery label to put on the back panel every time you mod a piece of equipment. That way, you know exactly what you did before you sell, or the buyer will, if you print or type legibly on the label.

Also, it is a good idea to put a label on each rig with your value of it, what you paid or what it is worth presently, and whether it is a collectors model, to aid the executor of your estate, your local radio club committee who aids SK families in pricing radio equipment, etc.

Also, with your will, leave a list of your gear and the pricing, and when you bought it for the same purpose. You probably have more than a little money in your station if you have more than one rig. Don't forget beams, rotors, antennas, etc. Especially with HF equipment, this is important, as the HF ham community is becoming a minority in some local clubs. I know it is not something we want to think about, but just think what a saving it will be on your family at a bad time for them. Also, make sure they know who to contact, like the names of local club trustees, directors, etc. to help them find an outlet for all that gear.

I have worked on several estates in last four years, and this is a BIGGER job for us who are left behind if you do not do it in time.

Just a word to the wise,

Stuart K5KVH

KB2VLE - Participates In Driving Training Program

Mark Drescher, KB2VLE, of Schaghticoke was one of three participants from the Hoosic Valley Rescue Squad to complete PVS' (Professional Vehicle Sales) Ambulance Training Program at the Skip Barber Racing School. Mark and his team from the Hoosic Valley Rescue Squad joined numerous squads from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut at the Lime Rock Race Park facilities in Litchfield County, Connecticut.

This comprehensive program educates them in physical and visual techniques of accident avoidance maneuvers. Instructions include intense classroom sessions, and then hands-on experience on the driver training courses using brand new Horton ambulances. The program has been recently expanded to include the slalom course exercise and serpentine reverse driving maneuvers. Congratulations Mark! *Tnx: NY 1st Responder News*

VHF/UHF Equipment Chairman

We're proud to announce that Hollins Meaux, N2YQW, will be chairing a new committee that will guide TARA in the purchase of VHF/UHF equipment.

In a formal announcement before the membership at the September meeting, it was announced that Hollins had accepted a request to chair this committee. Mr. Bill, NY2U, explained that we need to procure some VHF/UHF equipment that could be used during our Annual Field Day exercise, or any other emergencies should the need arise.

Hollins and his committee will immediately start looking for deals on this type of equipment. They'll pass their recommendations on to the Board of Directors for approval.

If all goes well maybe we'll have some of this new/used equipment in time for Field Day '99.

Welcome Aboard New Members

On behalf of TARA we'd like to extend a hardy welcome to of our newest members, Nick Skinner, KC2DZB, and Nick Demos, AB2FO.

Thank you both for choosing TARA as your radio club. All of us hope the club lives up to your expectations. Also we encourage you to get involved with many of our ongoing projects and public service events.



ATVET '98

Albany & Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

ATVET will be holding their next exam session on Saturday - November 7, 1998, in the C.I.I. Building (Center for Industrial Innovations), Room 3051, on the Campus of R.P.I.. Examination room doors will open at 9:20 AM, with exams starting at 10:00 AM sharp! NOBODY will be admitted into the exam room after the 10:00 AM starting time. ATVET never requires any pre-registration for any of their exam schedules. A test fee of \$6.35 either cash, or check, is required for those taking any elements above Element -2 or Element -1A. Make sure you bring two proofs of identification, with one being a picture ID. Also bring any of your original documentation (current license, CSCEs...etc.), along with photocopies, calculators, pens and pencils to the exam session. Anyone needing special handicap arrangements is asked to call in advance. The CII Building is handicapped accessible.

This will be our last exam for 1998. The 1999 schedule will be announced soon. Cancellations if needed will be announced on both the Capital District Repeater Net (Nightly on 146.94MHz at 6:30 PM) and WGY - 810 AM. Talk-in on 145.17/R.

ATVET LIAISON: Bill Eddy, NY2U @ (518) 273-9248 or ATVET@N2TY.ORG

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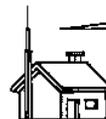
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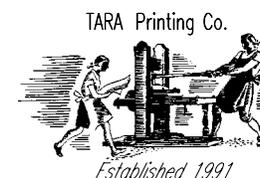
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N2TY - BBS/NODE DEPT: Ray Szlasa, N2VLY.233-9308
 Jon LaBarr, KB2UKV.....427-6234
N2TY - BBS SYSOP: Tim Roske, AA2WQ.....489-4346

ATVET (Albany/Troy VE TEAM) :W. J. Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248
FIELD DAY '99 CHAIRMAN: Tom Remmert, N2TR.....972-540-6014
VHF/UHF EQUIPMENT CHAIRMAN: Hollins, N2YQW.....UNLISTED



TARA NEWS

Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc
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"The Home of Uncle Sam"

Next Meeting: October 20, 1998
 Starting Time: 7:30 PM

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