



Troy Amateur Radio Association - N2TY

PO BOX 1292 - Troy, New York - 12181-1292

145.170/R * Troy's Full Service Repeaters * **447.075/R**

(Use a PL Tone of 127.3 Hz on BOTH INPUT/OUTPUT)

Repeaters are now Yaesu Fusion running in automatic mode

Summer 2019

2019 TARA Elections:

It's that time of year again...Elections!!!! Positions and Candidates this year include:

- President: Randy Stein KL7TJZ
- Vice President: Ray Ginter N2ZQF
- Secretary: Dick Neimeyer W2ABY
- Treasurer: Jordan Velikov KB2LZ
- 2 Yr. Board Member: Jack Culliton N2LBZ
- 2 Yr. Board Member: <OPEN>
- 1 Yr. Board Member: Karen Smith KS2O

Note: All positions are also open to "Write-in" candidates.

If you have any questions or would like to run please contact Randy Stein: KL7TJZ or one of the Board members today. Thank You.



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2019 Dues:

Yes, once again dues are due. They help keep the club operating at full capacity and are greatly appreciated. This year dues are \$25 per person or \$35 per family.

Please bring them to the June meeting or mail to:

TARA

PO Box 1292

Troy, NY 12181-1292

Thank You.

Field Day 2019:



ARRL Field Day 2019!!!! One of the best ways to spend a weekend in June (to radio geeks like us...) This year Field Day will be on June 22nd and 23rd.

The public is invited to TARA Field Day site which this year will be at **Grafton Lakes State Park in Cropseyville**. Directions: Route 2, 12 miles east of Troy. Go past the right turn for the main entrance to the park. Turn left onto Shaver Pond Rd. just beyond the aforementioned right turn. Travel approximately one mile on Shaver Pond Rd. The Shaver Pond Nature Center is located on a hill on the right.

After last year's Field Day all the QSO's were counted and filed with the ARRL. TARA made some 407 QSO's under the call of NY2U, for a total of 2106 in the ENY section (Eastern New York).

Petition for Rule Making Calls for “Amateur Digital Mode Transparency”:

04/02/2019

The FCC is accepting comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11831](#)) seeking to amend FCC Part 97 rules that require all ham radio digital transmissions to use techniques “whose technical characteristics have been documented publicly.” The *Petition*, filed by Ron Kolarik, K0IDT, of Lincoln, Nebraska, expresses concerns that some currently used digital modes are not readily and freely able to be decoded, and it asks the FCC to require all digital codes to use protocols that “can be monitored in [their] entirety by third parties with freely available, open-source software,” per §97.113(a)(4).

Kolarik said his petition also aims to reduce levels of amateur-to-amateur interference from Automated Controlled Digital Stations (ACDS) on HF operating under §97.221(c)(2). Kolarik wants the FCC to delete §97.221(c), which permits automatic control of digital emissions provided the station “is responding to interrogation by a station under local or remote control, and [n]o transmission from the automatically controlled station occupies a bandwidth of more than 500 Hz.” The petition does not call for eliminating ACDS, however. Under current rules, ACDS are allowed in specific sub-bands.

In his *Petition*, Kolarik maintains that interference from ACDS continues to be “a major problem on the amateur bands.” He suggested that an absence of formal complaints may be due to the fact that such stations are “difficult to identify.”

The *Petition* also proposes to amend §97.309(a)(4) to ease monitoring of certain digital transmissions. “Without open, over-the-air interception capability for all transmissions in the Amateur Radio spectrum, there is no way to determine if there is commercial or other prohibited, inappropriate content in ongoing communications...” Kolarik’s *Petition* asserts. He said problems arise when “protocols and devices used in commercial, government, and marine services are used in the Amateur Service with no adequate means to fully decode transmissions,” thwarting any efforts at self-policing of such transmissions. He said simplifying the language “would remove ambiguity about what constitutes ‘publicly documented technical characteristics’ by requiring any protocol to be freely decodable,” and lead to “amateur digital mode transparency, present and future.”

Kolarik contended in his petition that FCC action stemming from ARRL’s 2013 “symbol rate” *Petition for Rule Making* could increase congestion (i.e., interference) problems. In July 2016, the FCC in WT Docket 16-239 **proposed** to revise the Part 97 rules to eliminate current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL’s *Petition*, but declined to propose a bandwidth limitation for MF and HF digital to replace current baud rate limitations. ARRL had asked the FCC to delete the symbol rate limits in §97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

-Thank You to Marc Verdi: W6MGV for bringing this to our attention.

TARA Committees:

In case you didn't know, one of the things that makes TARA so successful in the area with membership from the entire Capital District, is the committees that are set up and managed by members to keep the club running smoothly and allowing its members to have a more rewarding experience.

Below is a list of the 12 Committees of TARA and the current members of each one. We always encourage members to become part of a committee to benefit themselves as well as the group to improve TARA as a whole:

<u>Packet Radio:</u> Mike Styne K2MTS	<u>Contesting:</u> Ray Ginter N2ZQF	<u>Field Day Team:</u> Steve Kopecky KF2WA Ray Ginter N2ZQF Karen Smith KS2O	<u>Repeater Manager:</u> Randy Stein KL7TJZ	<u>Technical Advisors:</u> Robert Isby N2LUD James McKnight K2LM	<u>Equipment Manager:</u> Roy Warner N2OWC
<u>Food/Refreshments:</u> Pat Decker KB2SRC Margaret Warner N2PEK David Jaeger, Jr. K2DEJ	<u>Public Service Events:</u> Mac Smith W2VLT Karen Smith KS2O	<u>Radio Direction Finding:</u> Dick Neimeyer W2ABY	<u>Newsletter Team:</u> David Jaeger, Jr. K2DEJ	<u>VE Liaison:</u> Chris D'Allaird AK2CD	<u>Webmaster:</u> Randy Stein KL7TJZ

2019 Public Service Events:

Veteran's Ruckmarch
<Date Tentative> at 12:00 PM
Poestenkill, NY

Arsenal City Run
Sunday September 22 at 10:00 AM
Watervliet, NY

Hudson Mohawk Marathon
Saturday October 19 at 8:00 AM:
Schenectady & 1/2 at 8:00 AM:
Colonie Town Park

Pumpkin Patrol
Wednesday & Thursday
October 30 & 31 - 6-10 PM

Stockade-A-Thon
November 12 at 8:00 AM
Schenectady, NY



Photos from this year's
Freihofer's Run
for Women.
Photos provided by
Dick Neimeyer: W2ABY.



If you have any questions about TARA's Public Service Team:
Please contact Karen Smith, KS2O, at 518-273-6594 or ksmithkb2uuc@aol.com.



The Capital District Commuter Assistance Network:

The Capital District Commuter Assistance Network – why YOU should check in (even if you don't commute)

By Jock Elliott, KB2GOM

In 1996, I was suddenly thrust into being net control for the Capital District Commuter Assistance Network. The net was started by Ed Barnat, N2RKA, but he changed jobs and couldn't continue. The net struggled for a while, and then one day the repeater controller (Hugh . . . I've forgotten his call sign) said, in essence: "If you want the net to continue, you're the guy."

Boom! . . . instantly, I was net control. Talk about learning by doing! For a while, I tried to operate the way N2RKA had: monitoring CB 9 as well as two meters and listening to scanners for traffic related info. Over the years, though, I have continued to simplify and pare the net down to the absolute bare essentials. Now I simply operate on 2 meters and count on net participants to share relevant information.



Jock Elliott, KB2GOM

So here are the basics. The net operates from 6 am to 8:15 am every work day morning. In case of an imminent emergency – ice storm, big snow storm, etc – the net runs longer. The main frequency is 146.94 (no tone) with a backup frequency 147.27, pl 94.8. The first purpose of the net is to detect problems on the roadways and report them to the proper authorities, which usually means the Department of Transportation Traffic Management Center in Latham, NY (TMC also shares information with the net). The second purpose is to share that information with net participants.

The net has two rules: (1) Don't cause anything. (2) When in doubt, report anyway. The net also has a motto: Boring is our friend. The net has operated for over two decades without dues or bylaws and only three casual meetings for pie-and-coffee and shake-and-howdy.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the (estimated) 100-200 hams who have participated over the decades, to N2LUD and K2LM who maintain the 146.94 machine and keep it on the air with its awesome footprint, and to W2EMS who has graciously supported me in making presentations about the net to the various ham clubs in the area.

Here's why you should check in, even if you don't commute. At the request of ARRL leadership in the area, I keep track of raw numbers of checkins and incident that occur weekly during the net. This information get passed along (eventually) to Washington, where it helps to justify hams' use of the frequencies. So, check in!

Finally, if you have an incident to report, here's what you need: where (what route, what direction . . . nearest cross street, landmark or highway mile sticker), what (disabled vehicle, accident, debris, animal carcass, etc.), in traffic or not, how many vehicles, and any injuries.

PS – I have an interest in setting up an "emergency response station" – one that would be useful in a lights-out emergency – at the home QTH. If you have any expertise, info, or references you could share, please reach out to me at jock.elliott@gmail.com

Amateur Radio in Space Pioneer Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL (SK):

ZCZC AX04

QST de W1AW

Special Bulletin 4 ARLX004

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT April 17, 2019

To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX004

ARLX004 Amateur Radio in Space Pioneer Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL (SK)

The US astronaut who pioneered the use of Amateur Radio to make contacts from space - Owen K. Garriott, W5LFL - died April 15 at his home in Huntsville, Alabama. He was 88. Garriott's ham radio

activity ushered in the formal establishment of Amateur Radio in space, first as SAREX - the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment, and later as ARISS - Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.

"Owen Garriott was a good friend and an incredible astronaut," fellow astronaut Buzz Aldrin tweeted. "I have a great sadness as I learn of his passing today. Godspeed Owen."

An Oklahoma native, Garriott - an electrical engineer - spent 2 months aboard the Skylab space station in 1973 and 10 days aboard Spacelab-1 during a 1983 Space Shuttle Columbia mission. It was

during the latter mission that Garriott thrilled radio amateurs around the world by making the first contacts from space. Thousands of hams listened on 2-meter FM, hoping to hear him or to make a

contact. Garriott ended up working stations around the globe, among them such notables as the late King Hussein, JY1, of Jordan, and the late US Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA. He also made the first CW contact from space. Garriott called hamming from space "a pleasant pastime."

"I managed to do it in my off-duty hours, and it was a pleasure to get involved in it and to talk with people who are as interested in space as the 100,000 hams on the ground seemed to be," he said in an interview published in the February 1984 edition of QST. "So, it was just a pleasant experience, the hamming in particular, all the way around."

(Continued on Page 7)

Amateur Radio in Space Pioneer Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL (SK):

Although Garriott had planned to operate on ham radio during his 10 days in space, no special provisions were made on board the spacecraft in terms of equipment - unlike the situation today on the

International Space Station. Garriott simply used a hand-held transceiver with its antenna in the window of Spacelab-1. His first pass was down the US West Coast.

"[A]s I approached the US, I began to hear stations that were trying to reach me," he told QST. "On my very first CQ, there were plenty of stations responding." His first contact was with Lance Collister, WA1JXN, in Montana.

ARISS ARRL Representative Rosalie White, K1STO, met Garriott when he attended Hamvention, "both times, sitting next to him at Hamvention dinner banquets," she recounted. "Once when he was a Special Achievement Award winner, and once with him and [his son] Richard when Richard won the 2009 Special Achievement Award. Owen was unassuming, very smart, kind, and up to date on the latest technology." Garriott shared a Hamvention Special Achievement Award in 2002 with fellow Amateur Radio astronaut Tony England, W0ORE.

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, was a private space traveler to the ISS, flown there by the Russian Federal Space Agency, and he also carried ham radio into space.

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Ham Radio Satellites to Deploy from ISS:

ZCZC AS03
QST de W1AW
Space Bulletin 003 ARLS003
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT June 14, 2019
To all radio amateurs

SB SPACE ARL ARLS003

ARLS003 Ham Radio Satellites to Deploy from ISS

Three BIRDS-3 satellites with Amateur Radio payloads are scheduled to be deployed from the International Space Station on Monday, June 17. The BIRDS-3 constellation includes CubeSats from three countries: They are Nepal's first satellite, NepaliSat-1; Uguisu from Japan, and Sri Lanka's first satellite, Raavana-1. The primary mission of the BIRDS constellation is to provide ciphered short messages via its 435.375 MHz beacon, giving the opportunity for the Amateur Radio community to decipher the messages using a publicly available key on the BIRDS-3 website at, <http://birds3.birds-project.com/document/amateur/> .

Operators able to successfully decipher the message will be recognized on the BIRDS-3 website and receive a BIRDS-3 QSL card. Live streaming of the deployment starts at 0835 UTC at, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrw3cMw10nQ> .

An April 11 Cygnus resupply mission to the ISS delivered the three BIRDS-3 CubeSats and three other CubeSats.

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Krimskrams:

Build Your Own HF Rig!!!!

From Bob Bownes KI2L:
Folks,

Someone I know just bought a really nice little kit HF transceiver, the μ BitX, a SSB/CW, 10W out that pretty much anyone who can solder a wire into a hole on a PCB can build for the princely sum of \$139 w shipping.

Of course I said 'Cool! I want one!' and then thought it might make a good group buy/community project for TARA and the Center of Gravity (since they have a class room and all the tools needed).

So, this is a no commitment required call to see how many folks would be interested in getting together and building some together. If there is enough interest, I'll make a formal call to those expressing interest and ask for commitment.

So, if you're interested, drop me an email at: bownes@gmail.com

Thanks!
Bob

HF Rigs for Sale:

Radios:

Elecraft KPA500, Elecraft K3, Elecraft KX3

Icom IC-7800, Icom 7600

Yaesu FTDX-5000MP, Yaesu FTDX-3000

Kenwood ts 990s, kenwood ts 2000.

Flex 5000A, Flex 6500, Flex 6700.

Amps:

Icom PW-1

Acom 2000

Ameritron AL82.

Alpha 87A

Email Ruby Garcia KE5MKG for pictures and prices. ruby73garcia@gmail.com Phone: 818 538 5017.

Radios:

Icom IC 7700, Icom IC-7800, Icom IC-756 PRO III .

Yaesu FT-1000MP, Yaesu FTDX-5000MP.

Kenwood ts 990s, kenwood ts 2000.

Flex 5000A, Flex 6500, Flex 6300.

TenTec OMNI VII

Amps:

ICOM PW-1 HF AMPLIFIER

Alpha 9500 and

Acom 2000

Alpha 87A

Email Shirley Bethel KB5SIN for more information. sbesthel@gmail.com

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter —David.

