



THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Volume 17 © Issue 02 February 2006

TARA Wins Hudson Division "Newsletter of the Month" for Second time in Five Months



The Hudson Division "Newsletter of the month" January award, was again given to the "TARA News," of the Troy Amateur Radio Association for their fine newsletter and their editorial team of Editor: Ken "Chief" Davis, KB2KFV, Co-Editor: Marilyn Davis KB2JZI, Co-Editor: Karen Smith KS2O, and Design/Layout: Ken Davis, KB2KFV. Again, a nice job, gang.

This is the second time the newsletter has been selected. Their 12 page issued is crammed with information, pictures, cartoons and news all in a very interesting colorful format. Take a look at <http://www.hudson.arrl.org/newsawd.htm> to see this newsletter.

Only division newsletters that are in PDF files will be eligible. (PDFing files can save a club a lot of postage.) Make sure your club is sending a newsletter each month to n2ff@arrl.org. Yes, it is possible that a club can be selected for "Newsletter of the Month" more than once in any year. In September 2006 we will announce the winner for the "Newsletter of the Year" from among the twelve monthly awards.

Division Assistant Directors will be asked to vote on the issue they liked best. The club editor of the issue with the most votes will be awarded a plaque for his or her efforts at keeping the club and the division informed and entertained.

Editors Note: To keep us in the competition for this award, it will take the participation and assistance of all of the membership. If you see something newsworthy, write about it and send it in and always send pictures. This is a Family club if you or a family member have a Birthday or Anniversary coming up or you just had a promotion at work, let the Editor know the information. Don't be shy !!!

**THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER - THAT'S WHY WE ARE
" THE BEST DAMN CLUB IN UPSTATE NEW YORK "**

**A SALUTE TO HAM RADIO OPERATORS
HON. MIKE ROSS OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 8, 2006**

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of American citizens who are members of the American Radio Relay League, known as HAM radio operators. Citizens throughout America dedicated to this hobby--a hobby that some people consider old fashioned or obsolete--were true heroes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as they were often the only line of communication available into the storm ravaged areas.

Amateur radio operators are often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication. As communities across the gulf coast and America learned this year, technology can be highly vulnerable. HAM radios, entirely self-contained transmitters, require no cell towers or satellites, simply a battery and a strip of wire as an antenna.

Just as after major earthquakes, tornadoes, and the terrorist attacks of 9/11, HAM operators around the country received an alert to stand by their radios to listen for calls for assistance. Following Hurricane Katrina, when cell phones and e-mail were useless, a HAM operator located in Connecticut alerted authorities about a woman trapped for 4 days without food or water and a Coast Guard Auxiliary in Cleveland arranged for a medevac for a woman in labor in New Orleans. These are just a few examples of the many lives that were saved with the critical intervention of HAM operators throughout the country.

Now more than ever, I am proud to be a licensed amateur radio operator. It is important to realize that every HAM radio operator in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a volunteer. This year, when disaster struck, hundreds of HAM's moved to the gulf coast to help in every way they could. Every one of which did so on a volunteer basis and their only goal was to assist in what became one of the worst natural disasters in America.

The dedication displayed by HAM radio operators in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina sets a tremendous example for us all. The people whose lives were rescued as a result of the tireless dedication of HAM radio operators will forever be grateful to these selfless public servants.

Antenna Fund - Thank you - \$1000.00 pledged as of February 15, 2006



More than a Club



We're a Family



Upcoming Public Service Events

Runnin' of the Green - March 11th



Spring is in the air and our Public Service Events will be starting very soon.

We are getting ready for the Annual "Runnin of the Green" in Green Island. This run will be held on Saturday March 11th. and kick off time is 10:00 A.M. Snow date will be March 18th if needed. We are looking for 9 volunteers to help with this event. HT's or mobile rigs can be used with this event.

There should be the Annual East Greenbush Rotary Run in May, and we will be doing the GHI Challenge on Thursday May 18th at 6:25 P.M.

We will also be doing the Annual Watervliet Memorial Day Parade which will be held on Monday, May 29th. at 10 A.M.

If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please call me anytime at 273-6594 if you have any questions about Public Service or email me at KS2O@N2TY.org.

Thank you and 73,
Karen Smith -KS20

RVWARS Annual Auction

Save this Date!

March 20, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.
RVWARS Annual Auction!
Questar III, BOCES
Greenport/Hudson, NY



Here's a little blurb about the RVWARS A Rip Van Winkle Club Auction Set for March 20, 2006 The Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society (RVWARS) annual auction will take place on Monday, March 20 at 7 p.m. at the Questar III (BOCES) school on Rt. 66, Hudson, NY. The school is located on the left after Healy Blvd., the Greenport School, and just before the railroad crossing. Talk in will be on the RVWARS repeater, 147.21 (no PL).

You are welcome to bring serviceable equipment to place in the auction. Be sure it is tagged with your name and call and the lowest amount you will accept. RVWARS collects 10% of the selling price. Of course, everyone is invited to bid and buy, so bring lots of cash and good checks!

Thanks!
73,
Dave, WA2FTI
RVWARS President

NORTHERN VERMONT WINTER HAMFEST

ARRL VERMONT STATE CONVENTION

MILTON, VERMONT
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FLEA MARKET

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Bring stuff to sell – tables FREE while they last!

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FOR MORE INFO:
Mitch: (802) 879-6589
w1sj@arrl.net
<http://www.ramv.org>

800MHz Handheld Antenna Solution From Antenex

Half-wave Helical Flexible Antenna Targets Trunked Systems Listeners

By Joseph Pasquini – N2NOU

From the January 2006 Edition of "Scanning USA" magazine

<http://www.scanningusa.com>

Reprinted with permission



Antenex DEXE821BNX/ DEXE821SM

Handheld antenna, featuring a covered BNC or SMA connection, designed exclusively for 800MHz reception.

List price of \$30.96

(630) 351-9007

www.antenex.com

Unless you live in an urban area, getting consistently strong reception in the 800MHz public safety band with a portable scanner has always proved to be a little challenging at times. Even within city limits, monitoring the often active public service systems found at these higher frequencies can occasionally be problematic.

As is typical for handheld scanning, portable users tend to gravitate towards the use of a general purpose antenna in an effort to catch the most action. In fact, most scanner enthusiasts will at one time or another replace their radio's rubber duck with a high-quality, general coverage antenna. It's easy, it's convenient, and it makes sense. But, it's not without its drawbacks. While it's basically true that such antennas do adequately function to one extent or another on most bands, they however do not perform well at all when it comes to monitoring specific bands such as 800MHz and beyond. Why? They are simply not designed for it. As the saying goes, you should use the right tool for the right job.

Keeping with that old adage, several vendors have developed antennas which are designed specifically for monitoring Trunked communications as well as other non-Trunked 800MHz traffic. One such offering is the **Antenex DEXE821BNX/ DEXE821SM 800MHz High-Gain Antenna**. The 'BNX' designator refers to a BNC connection; 'SM' refers to a SMA connection.

Manufactured in the United States by Antenex of Glendale Heights, Illinois, the helical flexible 1/2-wave DEXE821BNX/ DEXE821SM scanner antenna features injected molded construction along with a sheathed BNC or SMA female connection. According to Antenex, this 8-inch rubber duck style antenna provides peak performance from 821 - 902 MHz and offers a gain of 2.5 dB. The antenna features a one year warranty period.

What You Get

When you initially take the antenna out of its packaging, you'll notice that it seems a little bit larger than what one would typically expect to see for use on 800MHz. The unit is comprised of three sections. Starting from the BNC or SMA base, each section decreases in size with the upper most segment offering a fair amount of

flexibility. The antenna is topped off with a small protective tip with two yellow circular markings painted around it.

An interesting feature of the BNC version of the Antenex antenna is that a thin rubber jacket extends beyond the base section of the antenna and covers the sides of the BNC connector much like a sheath. This extra covering forms a nice seamless transition from the antenna to the radio. However, this extra covering also means that you cannot see the antenna's portion of the connector when attaching it to your scanner. To make sure you have a good connection with your radio, you will need to firmly hold the covering directly over the antenna's BNC connector when attaching or removing the DEXE821BNX. The SMA version is also sheathed as is typically of other SMA antennas.

Performance

Once the Antenex rubber duck arrived, I was eager to see (well, actually hear) how well it performed monitoring several of the Trunked systems in my immediate area. I routinely monitor two systems here in upstate New York - Colonie Public Safety and Albany Public Safety - which I receive fairly well most of the time when operating portable. For handheld listening, my standard antennas of choice are the Radio Shack 800 MHz antenna and the Diamond RH-77 with the Radio Shack version noticeably being the better of the two options on 800 MHz. In fact, I have always been impressed with the Radio Shack antenna's ability to decently perform on 800 MHz while still pulling in signals on VHF and UHF and even some air band communications at times. As a result, my expectations for the Antenex offering were initially somewhat tempered by default.

From a stationary location, I began my very informal testing. Using the Radio Shack antenna as a baseline, I first listened to the two Trunked systems for ten minutes and noted the reception quality which was normally good to very good. Working from the same location, I then attached the Antenex antenna. Reception of both Trunked systems ranged from very good to excellent with almost no signal degradation. About the only noticeable deviation in signal while using the DEXE821BNX/ DEXE821SM was the audio "fidelity" of the signal which seems so typical at times on certain 800 MHz systems. All in all, the Antenex antenna performed quite satisfactorily. I was impressed!



Realizing that the Antenex offering is not designed for operation outside of the 821 – 902 MHz range, I still wanted to see what it could do on the other bands. Reception on VHF-Lo was almost non-existent with a few strong signals being heard on VHF-Air. Performance improved on VHF-Hi and unsurprisingly progressed satisfactorily in the UHF range.

As mentioned previously, the Antenex antenna is a bit larger than most other similar antennas.

While the company states in its specifications that the antenna measure 8-inches in length, in reality it measures just short of 9-inches from end to end. Nonetheless, the extra length of the DEXE821BNX/DEXE821SM, as opposed to other alternatives, should generally not hamper its use under normal field conditions. One should be aware, however, that it does not offer the greatest structural flexibility. Rather, only the top 2-inch section is truly flexible. The junction between the base and middle segments does offer some flexibility but to a lesser degree. Combined, these factors could potentially be an issue for portable scanner users who tend to carry their radios on their belts, so be forewarned if you tend to be a bit harsh with your radio equipment.

If you're looking for a smaller profile 800 MHz antenna, Antenex may have just what the doctor ordered. In addition to the DEXE821BNX and the DEXE821SM, Antenex also produces a wide assortment of portable antenna selections ranging across most of the conventional RF spectrum. Varying whip and connector styles are also available. For 800 MHz Trunking applications, Antenex offers 2.25-inch, 4-inch, 6.5-inch and 7.5-inch versions. While these cousins of the DEXE821BNX/DEXE821SM do offer smaller sizes and more physical flexibility, they also offer less gain than the ones we're discussing right now.

Conclusion

If you are in the market for a professional Trunking portable antenna, consider the DEXE821BNX for BNC usage and the DEXE821SM for SMA usage (especially when using one of the new Uniden models!). You likely won't want to use it for general scanning, but you will find that both versions deliver quite well for what they are designed to accomplish. They should be included in the toolbox of anyone interested in maximizing their monitoring of 800 MHz Trunked systems.

DEXE821BNX/DEXE821SM Specifications

Frequency Range: 821 – 902 MHz 1/2-wave

Center Frequency: 861.5 MHz

Gain: 2.5 dB

Length: 8" (just shy of 9" from end to end)

Connector: Covered BNC (DEXE821BNX); Covered SMA (DEXE821SM)

List Price: \$30.96

Vendor Contact Information

Antenex, Inc.

2000-205 Bloomingdale Road

Glendale Heights, Illinois 60139

E-Mail: customercare@antenex.com

Phone: 630-351-9007

Fax: 630-351-9009

E-Mail: customercare@antenex.com

Web: <http://www.antenex.com>



Representative Tauzin to Retire from Congress

Congressman Billy Tauzin reportedly says he's going to retire from Congress at the end of his current term. Tauzin, a Louisiana Republican, is Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which considers radio-related matters and oversees the FCC.

He was one of the prime movers behind the Electronic Communications Privacy Act which made it illegal to listen to cell phone conversations, the first federal limitation on what radio signals may be monitored. "Newsline" says Tauzin is reportedly going to become a lobbyist after his term expires at the end of this year.

Editors Note: Don't be surprised that he's going to be working for one of the big cell phone lobbyists.

Rensselaer County ARES/RACES Nets Meet Each Wednesday Night at 7:30 PM on 145.17 Repeater



Meetings are held
On the Third
Thursday of the
Month at 7:30 PM
at the Rensselaer
County Public
Safety Building
4000 Main Street
So. Troy, N.Y.

"SuitSat-1" Keeps On Ticking

Low Power Output

Newington, CT

February 14, 2006

"SuitSat-1"--a discarded Russian Orlan spacesuit equipped with ham radio gear--remains operational more than a week after being deployed from the International Space Station, but its 145.990 MHz FM signal continues to be extremely weak copy on Earth. Speculation now is focusing on extremely low transmitter output power as one explanation for the faint signal. SuitSat-1's sponsor--the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program--continues to seek voice telemetry reports as part of an effort to pin down what might have gone awry.

"The battery life is a big question mark," explains ARISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO. "We still do not know if the radio is pulling the normal power and losing it before the antenna or not pulling as much due to lower output. If the latter is true, the batteries will last much longer. That is one reason the battery telemetry is so important. It will help us plot the power consumption."



Ransom notes that the voice telemetry transmission order is: DTMF tone, CW ID, SSTV image, 30 seconds of silence, voice identification, mission time, temperature and battery voltage. The voice messages, telemetry and SSTV image are being sent on a nine-minute repeating cycle. Post telemetry reports or recordings to SuitSat@comcast.net. Late reports showed the battery voltage holding at 26.7 out of a nominal 28 V. The transmitter, albeit likely at much-reduced output, and the controller appear to be functioning.

AMSAT-NA reports its calculations indicate SuitSat-1's transmitter power likely is in the range of 1-10 mW. The onboard transmitter was supposed to put out 500 mW and produce a signal that could be copied on Earth using modest receiving gear and antennas.

The novel SuitSat-1 Amateur Radio transmit-only spacesuit turned satellite has been heard around the globe since its February 3 launch. Those hoping to get clean copy of SuitSat-1's signal should possess excellent VHF receiving equipment and high-gain antennas. AMSAT-NA has designated SuitSat-1 as AMSAT OSCAR 54 (AO-54).

ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, said the weekend brought a few reports from teachers who've integrated SuitSat-1 monitoring into their classroom lessons. White notes that the SuitSat Web site has logged some 5 million hits since the beginning of February, and media interest in the project remains high.

Packet mode aboard the ISS has been turned off for the duration of the SuitSat-1 project. Earth stations are advised not to transmit any packet or voice data on the 145.990 MHz SuitSat downlink frequency. More information on the SuitSat-1 project, including QSL information, is available on the AMSAT Web site <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php>.

White House To Tap Virginian as Fifth FCC Member

President George W. Bush has announced his intention to nominate Republican Robert M. McDowell of Virginia to serve on the FCC for the remainder of a five-year term expiring June 30, 2009.

If confirmed by the US Senate, McDowell--a telecommunications attorney--would bring the Commission back to its statutory five-member complement. FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin applauded the president's announcement.

"If confirmed, Rob McDowell will be a great asset to the Commission," Martin said. "He has a wealth of knowledge in the communications arena, and we will rely on his insight when evaluating the issues before us."

When Martin took over as FCC chairman last year, the political balance on the Commission was split evenly between two Republicans and two Democrats. Republican Kathleen Abernathy departed in December, while Republican Deborah T. Tate officially came aboard January 3, 2006. Democrat Michael J. Copps was sworn in for another term the same day. The other Democrat is Jonathan Adelstein.

McDowell currently serves as senior vice president and assistant general counsel for the Competitive Telecommunications Association (Comp Tel). Prior to that he served as executive vice president and general counsel for the America's Carriers Telecommunications Association. A cum laude graduate of Duke University, McDowell received his law degree from the College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

New IRS Tax Form

The image shows the top portion of a 2005 IRS Form 1040-EZ. It features the IRS logo, the year '2005', and the form number '1040'. Below that, it reads '1040 EZ 2 DO TAX FORM' and 'New Simplified Tax Form'. There are two numbered instructions: '1. How much money did you make? \$ _____' and '2. Send it to us.'. At the bottom right is the Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service logo and name.

Happy Valentines Day

Spend quality time with your loved one



Brownie Sundae Pizza

A Valentine's Day Treat
A Weight Watcher's Nightmare

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Ready In: 2 hours

Ingredients:

- 1 (15.1--oz.) pkg. Pillsbury® Fudge Supreme Hot Fudge Swirl Brownie Mix
- 1/4 cup oil
- 3 tablespoons water
- 1 egg
- 1 pint (2 cups) vanilla ice cream
- 1/4 cup chopped peanuts
- 1 1/2 cups whipped cream (from aerosol can)
- 12 maraschino cherries with stems

Preparation Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Grease 12-inch pizza pan. Reserve fudge packet from brownie mix package. In medium bowl, combine brownie mix, oil, water and egg; mix well. Spread batter in greased pan.
2. Bake at 350°F. for 17 minutes. DO NOT OVERBAKE. Cool 30 minutes or until completely cooled.
3. Meanwhile, place ice cream in refrigerator for 30 minutes to soften. Place reserved fudge packet in cup of hot water to soften fudge.
4. Spread softened ice cream over cooled brownie crust. Cut small hole in one corner of fudge packet. Drizzle fudge over ice cream. Sprinkle with peanuts. Freeze at least 1 hour before serving.
5. To serve, make 12 mounds of whipped cream evenly around edge of pizza. Top each with cherry.

Yield:

- 12 servings
- High Altitude: (Above 3500 Ft.)
Add 2 tablespoons flour to dry brownie mix. Bake as directed above.



CQ Files Comments on ARRL "Regulation by Bandwidth" Proposal to FCC

Hicksville, NY - January 31, 2006

CQ Communications Inc.

Publishers of CQ Amateur Radio, Popular Communications and CQ VHF magazines have told the FCC it generally supports the ARRL's proposal to shift from rules organizing amateur radio subbands by operating mode to rules that would organize signals on the basis of bandwidth. However, in comments filed on the petition in late January, it offered alternatives for several areas "of concern" in the League's proposal. "The emergence of new digital modes is blurring the traditional distinctions between various modes," said CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, "and we agree with the League that bandwidth regulation will help promote technical innovation, now and in the future."

However, CQ disagreed with some of the specifics in the ARRL proposal and made alternative suggestions. "We were concerned that the League's proposal to set a maximum bandwidth limit of 3.5 kHz below 29 MHz - and then exempt AM phone from that limit - went against the whole premise of moving to bandwidth regulation," Moseson explained. "Instead, we proposed increasing the maximum bandwidth on the top 50 kHz of each traditional HF amateur band from 3.5 to 9.0 kHz, enough to accommodate AM and other modes that are wider than a current SSB signal, such as expanded SSB, which is currently legal and would be prohibited under the ARRL proposal. Primarily, though, it would retain the integrity of bandwidth-based regulation."

CQ also disagreed with the League's proposal to allow 3.5-kHz wide signals on 30 meters, contending that the band is too small, and suggested a maximum bandwidth of 500 Hz on the entire band. CQ was also concerned that the ARRL's proposal to permit semi-automatic digital stations throughout the HF bands would lead to unintentional interference due to the nature of HF propagation and the inability of such stations to easily change frequencies. It recommended requiring the implementation of a listen-before-transmit protocol as a condition of permitting widespread semi-automatic operation. The CQ comments also called for giving band plans some "teeth" as part of any shift to bandwidth regulation. CQ proposed putting voluntary band plans on the same plane with voluntary repeater coordination -- neither is mandatory but if there are interference problems, then the station that is not complying with the band plan, like an uncoordinated repeater, has the primary responsibility to resolve the problem. "We fully agree with ARRL about the need to shift to bandwidth-based regulation," concluded Moseson, "but we feel it is vital to make the shift completely, without mode-based exemptions, and to make sure the new rules accommodate all existing analog modes."

The full text of CQ's comments may be viewed at

http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6518314310

The ARRL's petition is online at

http://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6518181567

Comments will be accepted through February 6, 2006. Comments may be filed electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at

http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/ecfs_alt.html.

Click on "Submit a Filing," then when the form appears, enter RM-11306 in the Proceeding box, fill in the rest of the information and either attach a file with your comments or type in

145.170

Tune in Every Thursday Night at 9:00 PM

For the

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***** ECHOLINK *****

Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between Columbia & Rensselaer ARES

for "Mutual Aid"

Don Chittenden, N2USM, Columbia County EC and Jim Noble, K2ZP, EC Rensselaer County, have signed a Statement of Understanding affirming the terms of an ongoing working relationship between the ARES groups of the two counties in preparing for and responding to disaster relief situations at all levels.

The agreement provided a broad framework for cooperation between the two groups in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial. The agreement calls for an annual evaluation of the implementation of the Statement

STAN ENGEL, WA2UET Named EC For Columbia County

Stan, WA2UET has been selected by Frank Stone, NY State Section E.C. to be the new Emergency Coordinator for Columbia County ARES.

Don, N2USM, outgoing E.C. recommended Stan for the position as did several members and officers of RVWARS. Stan has accepted the position and said "Thanks for your support, I will do my best to do the job."

We at T.A.R.A. extend our congratulations to our friend Stan and hope that he has great success in his new position.



Amateur Radio Explorers Adopt Iowa Street School

by Phil Leonelli, WF6L

The students of the Iowa Street School Amateur Radio Club in Fallbrook have been following a 21st Century group of Amateur Radio Explorers for the past two weeks.

Amateur Radio Operator Robert Grimmick, N6OX, from Rainbow contacted teacher/Amateur Radio Operator Phil Leonelli, WF6L, and asked if his class of radio enthusiasts would like to be adopted by the Peter One DXpedition, as it is referred to by Ham Radio enthusiasts all over the world.

The DXpedition has been in the planning stages for over three years. Basically, a group of about 20 Amateur Radio operators will be setting up camp on a remote island off the coast of Antarctica. For two weeks they will be trying to contact Amateur Radio operators all over the world, some of whom need the contact to achieve the prestigious DXCC (contacting all countries) award.

Robert Grimmick, one of the members of the DXpedition, thought it would be a great benefit to "adopt" the local radio club so the students could be indirectly involved in the expedition from thousands of miles away.

On Friday, January 20, Grimmick attended the Iowa Street School Amateur Radio Club meeting and told of his many hours of planning for this exciting Ham Radio adventure.

The island, owned by Norway, is uninhabited. The operators will set up tents, antennas and state-of-the-art radio equipment. Only one of the tents (the food tent) will be heated due to the extreme danger of fire with the high oxygen level. The explorers will meet in Ushuaia, Argentina, fly to King George Island, off the coast of Antarctica, then board a ship with all their equipment, including a helicopter for the four-day voyage to Peter One Island. For more information visit

www.peterone.com.



Joel Harrison, W5ZN, Elected ARRL'S 14th President

ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, of Judsonia, Arkansas, will be the League's president for the next two years. He'll succeed Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who chose not to run for a fourth term in the uncompensated, volunteer post. Gathering in Windsor, Connecticut, for its annual meeting, the Board voted 10 to 5 to choose Harrison over ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, the only other nominee. Harrison, 47, said he believes Amateur Radio is looking at a different society--and pool of potential licensees--in the 21st century than in the past.

"One of the things we need to do over the next few years is realize that Main Street USA is not the Main Street USA it was years ago," Harrison commented after the vote. "We all remember those days when we became interested in radio and the magic that it provided to us. The magic is still there, but Main Street has changed."

Harrison says this means that the League needs to focus on doing a better job of attracting the average person on the new Main Street of today "into the magic of Amateur Radio."

First licensed in 1972 as WN5IGF, Harrison says he's interested in virtually all aspects of Amateur Radio, from HF DXing and contesting to VHF/UHF/microwave and moonbounce. He's an ARRL Life Member. His wife, daughter and son all are Amateur Radio licensees. He'll become the League's 14th president since its founding in 1914.

Harrison said the ARRL's initiative to create an improved entry-level license also will be among his top priorities as he assumes office.

"It is imperative for the Amateur Radio Service that we have an entry-level license that provides a wide variety of privileges for an individual to get into radio and learn a little bit about all of it," Harrison said, adding that the League believes this approach will keep new licensees interested in ham radio.

Harrison also says he will promote the League's Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) to have the FCC regulate Amateur Radio allocations by bandwidth. "Right now

we do that by mode, and we're one of the few countries in the world that does that," he pointed out. "We need to change that and move forward with this initiative of regulation by bandwidth instead of mode."

Harrison said he will continue and build upon the League's emphasis on Amateur Radio's emergency communication role--especially in improving its response to catastrophic disasters like Hurricane Katrina--and on Haynie's "The Big Project" initiative to get ham radio into schools, known formally as the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP).

"Whether or not it generates a large number of radio amateurs, it provides an introduction to Amateur Radio to kids," Harrison said of the ETP. "Having that awareness of Amateur Radio and what it provides is vital," because it imparts a broad-based knowledge of the service to tomorrow's citizens and policymakers.

The ARRL Board also elected Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, as First Vice President, succeeding Harrison, and Delta Division Director Rick Roderick, K5UR, to Vice President, succeeding Craigie. Both were unopposed.

ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, will become Division Director. A new Delta Division Vice Director will be appointed.

In addition, the Board re-elected ARRL CEO and Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, Treasurer Jim McCobb, K1LU, Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, and International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD.

All those elected will officially begin their new terms when the Board of Directors adjourns its current session.

The Board of Directors annual meeting is expected to conclude January 21. The Board will meet again in July.

TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS

President: Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248
Vice President: Karen Smith, KS2O.....273-6594
Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI.....272-0112
Treasurer: Randy Stein, KA2TJZ..... 365-3483

TARA DIRECTORS - 2 YEAR TERMS

Ken Davis, KB2KFV.....(04-06)..272-0112
Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....(04-06)..273-6594
Roy Warner N2OWC.....(05-07)..283-8485
William "Doc" Kelley, KC2JDW (05-07)..235-5063
David Fritts KC2IBF.....(05-06)..765-2069

REPEATER MANAGER:

Roy Warner, N2OWC.....283-8485

Asst Manager

William "Doc" Kelley, KC2JDW.....235-5063

REPEATER TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

John Pritt, N1JP.....753-6231

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

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THE TARA NEWS

Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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Troy, New York, 12181-1292



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Regular monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2006

7:30 p.m.

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Center**

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George St. & Hudson Ave.

Green Island, New York

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Parking Lot on Hudson Ave.

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145.170/R

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