



Volume 15

(Mar 5, 2004) -- Rep Greg Walden (R-OR), one of the two hams in Congress, has a new call sign. With the assistance of ARRL, Walden was able to obtain his father's former call sign, W7EQI, via the vanity call sign program. A General class licensee and an ARRL member, Walden formerly held WB7OCE. The congressman's father, Paul E. Walden, died in March 2003. He had been licensed since 1934. Walden, a broadcaster, is a member of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. He and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR, (D-AR), are among the 32 cosponsors of The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003, HR 1478--the so-called CC&R bill that would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption.

Bill Continelli - W2XOY

March 2004

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Issue 03

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Our own Bill Continelli, W2XOY, author of the "Wayback Machine" articles, and a frequent contributor to "This Week in Amateur Radio", will give a presentation on Tuesday, March 16, 2004 on "Eight Events that changed the History of Amateur Radio". Handouts will be available showing the outline of Amateur Radio History. Bill will also answer any questions you may have about the history of Ham Radio.

Walden and Ross also are cosponsors of <u>HR</u> <u>713</u>, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003. That measure would provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs. Both bills are ARRL initiatives.





More than a Club



We're a Famíly

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Below is a list of an estate that we have to sell on Mar 15th at our auction (among other great things of course). These things look particularly good and are very well kept. Maybe if you have some small corner in your NL you could maybe mention some or all of this stuff. The auction is in Hudson at 4th and State Street JL Edwards School at 7:00 PM. It should be a good auction.

Icom IC-765 HF 160-10 Icom SM-8 Mic Bencher paddle 2 Delta 4 position coax switches Heathkit HM 2102 SWR Meter

Station #2:

Kenwood TS-180S 160-10 Kenwood PS-30 power supply Kenwood MC-80 mic MFJ 814 SWR Meter Home Brew 1000 watt antenna tuner

Station #3:

Kenwood TS-790A 144/430/1200 All Mode Kenwood PS-31 power supply Home Brew antenna tuner VHF/HF Ten Tec 2 meter to 6 meter transverter 2 CS-20 2 position coax switches w/N-type connectors Daiwa LA-2180K 144 linear amp TE Systems Model 4452G 450 linear amp

On the shelves and in the closet:

Hallicrafters S-40B HF receiver Heathkit SB-303 HF receiver ST-6 Communications Corp. RTTY rack full of equipment, exact use unknown Astron RM-60M power supply TE Systems Model 1452G 144 linear amp Military style, grey cabinet, very heavy RTTY printer/sender?? Various computers, monitors, peripherals, printers, including a Panasonic laptop Assorted HAM magazines Parts cabinets with the usual

In the back yard:

Crank up tower, possibly 40 feet, top mount rotor, 4 element beam 20-15-10?? Base loaded tower, insulated from ground with vertical section on top of tower, about 30 feet, 160 meters???







On the cold March 6th morning, our Public Service Team worked its' first event of the 2004 Season. All of our team met at 9:00 am at the Green Island American Legion to prepare for the race at 10:00am.

As usual "Mr. Murphy" bit our team in the proverbial butt because the audio output of our repeater became intermittent, making communication on the repeater un-useable. P.S. Chair Karen Smith decided to have all workers go to 145.17 simplex on the repeater output which worked out very well.

Having resolved that situation, the race began promptly at 10:00 a.m. and just as promptly the skies opened up and soaked all of the runners and our volunteers who were outside of their vehicles. Needless to say it was a very interesting morning for the TARA Public Service Team, but the rest of the Race continued without incident after the rain stopped. The only casualties were a few soggy volunteers and equally soggy radios.

The lesson for the day which was learned is have rain gear in your car and make sure that you have rain gear and a protective cover for your portable radio equipment.

We would like to thank the following amateur Radio operators that participated in the event

Russ WB2LXC A.P.R.S. MOBILE

Karen KB2UUC Ramsey KC2GMW June KA2VEK Kenny KB2KFV Gary KC2HWE Mac KB2SPM Beth KC2BSC

Frank W2FPG Ed KC2HNC Dwight N2SDL Tony W2BEJ. Bill KC2JDW Marilyn KB2JZI Donna WA2ILD



Don't forget that the next running of "The Skirmish" -TARA's Digital Prefix Contest, will be held on April 17, 2004. This will be a yearly event sponsored by TARA (Troy Amateur Radio Association) of Troy, New York and our "NEW" Four Season's Digital Contest Program. You can find additional information at http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_seasons.html

TARA and its members would like to thank you for your continued help in promoting our effort.

Sincerely, Karen A. Smith, KB2UUC press-manager@n2ty.org

TARA's Contest Promotion Manager

******** CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT ******* <u>"The Skirmish" - Digital Prefix Contest</u> - digital modes, sponsored byTARA (Troy Amateur Radio Association -N2TY), 00:00Z - 24:00Z - 17-April-04. Frequencies: 160 - 6 Meters. NO WARC BANDS! Categories: PSK31, PSK63, MFSK, RTTY, Hell, Throb, Packet, ASCII, SSTV and MT63. Exchange: Name & Prefix. Score: QSOs x WPX prefixes x Power Multiplier (<u>High</u> <Legal Limit x 0.5, <u>Low</u> <100 watts x 1, <u>Great</u> <20 watts x 2, <u>ORP</u> <5 watts x 3, <u>SWL</u> RX ONLY x 0).

For more information -

http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html or contact TARA's Skirmish Manager, Chris Durbin, N8PSK at <u>skirmish-manager@n2ty.org</u> Valid scores must be received by 15-May-04 via the online score form at: <u>http://n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_score.html</u>. We no longer require you to send your logs but they must be on hand if the contest committee requests them.





It's not often one sees a state governor at a loss for words. Upon learning that the call sign of his late father, Robert Wise Sr, WA8AYP, was going to be used by the ham radio station in the new Kanawha County Metro Emergency Operations Center in Charleston, West Virginia, Gov Bob Wise quietly said, "I don't know quite what to say."

In a February 17 ceremony, Gov Wise prepared to present a \$50,000 check to Kanawha County officials to purchase Amateur Radio gear for the new EOC--set for completion next spring. However, he was interrupted by a voice calling him on the ham radio set up in his office for the event. Control perator Bill Hunter, K8BS, identified the station as WA8AYP. When he handed over the mike, the surprised governor responded, "This is the son of WA8AYP."

It was then that Gov Wise learned that the call sign of his father, who died in 1986, had been secured for the ham station at the new EOC. It was an emotional moment. "Thank you very much for remembering Dad," he said. "I can't think of anything that would make him happier." Then he quipped, "Do I get a QSL card for this?"

To the governor's surprise, officials then unveiled a specially designed WA8AYP QSL card and passed out copies, later signed by the governor for the eager hams in attendance.

Kanawha County Commission President Kent Carper, W8CHS, said Amateur Radio operators provide the county with \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year in free services during disasters. Some of the state funds also will provide ham gear for a new Mobile Command Center.

On hand was the West Virginia Legislature's only ham radio operator, Kanawha County Delegate Sharon Spencer, KC8KVF, who also serves as the section's ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator.—

Submitted to ARRL by Jim Damron, N8TMW

FCC PROPOSES RULES FOR BPL SYSTEMS

The FCC this week released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. The 38page NPRM--in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37--proposes amendments to FCC Part 15 rules to define so-called "access BPL," make rules specific to BPL systems and provide measurement guidelines for BPL devices and systems. It would make no changes to Part 15 emission limits for unintentional radiators, however. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while Part 15's current limits on unintentional radiators on HF may be appropriate for short-duration, narrowband emissions, they are inappropriate for the sort of long-duration, broadband emissions BPL would employ. He compared short-duration, narrow band emissions at the Part 15 radiated emission limit to a helicopter flying overhead.

"The noise is deafening, but is tolerable because it doesn't happen very often nor last very long," he observed. "To a radio user, having BPL in the neighborhood would be like having the helicopter hovering constantly overhead."

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, offered an example most hams could relate to. "The limit for an unintentional emitter on HF is 30 uV/m at 30 meters from the source," he said. "If you take a dipole cut for 3.5 MHz and put it in a 30 uV/m field, you'll have a noise reading of S9 plus 16 dB at your transceiver."

The FCC proposal takes a broader view of interference. "There is significant disagreement among the commenting parties regarding the interference potential of Access BPL," the NPRM declares. "Amateur operators and amateur organizations in general are opposed to Access BPL and advocate emission limits that are lower than the existing Part 15 limits."

Still, the NPRM concedes, Amateur Radio operations "are likely to present a difficult challenge in the deployment of Access BPL in cases where amateurs use high-gain outdoor antennas that are located near power lines." Noting that power line noise already presents a significant problem for hams, the FCC said, "we there fore would expect that, in practice, many amateurs already orient their antennas to minimize the reception of emissions from nearby electric power lines."

The NPRM goes on to point out that because BPL has the capability to stay clear of specific frequencies, BPL providers can simply "avoid the use of amateur frequencies when in close proximity to amateur outdoor antennas." The NPRM also briefly mentions the possibility of interference to BPL systems from Amateur Radio, an issue ARRL and others raised in their comments on last April's Notice of Inquiry on BPL.

The NPRM emphasizes that under the proposed rules, operators of Access BPL systems would be responsible for eliminating any harmful interference that may occur. The FCC says it believes current Part 15 emission limits for carrier current systems--in conjunction with certain additional requirements specific to Access BPL--"will be adequate to ensure that existing radio operations are protected against harmful interference."

Sumner suggested that, with licensed services and government users taking up large portions of the HF spectrum, protecting all licensed HF users could prove to be a nightmare for BPL providers. He noted, too, that while the FCC maintains that licensed services must be protected, the proposed rules place the burden of initiating corrective action on the shoulders of the licensed services. "And as a practical matter, the FCC's proposed rules offer no protection at all to mobile and portable stations," he added.

Sumner also said the ARRL would continue to combat the "misconception" that BPL systems are viable as a "last mile" broadband technology for rural dwellers. "In low-density areas, the economics just don't work," he said.

The NPRM is available on the FCC Web site in Microsoft Word format http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf

Interested parties may file detailed comments on the NPRM via the main FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <u>http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/</u>. The comment deadline is 45 days after the NPRM has been published in The Federal Register, and that is not expected to happen for another week or two. The FCC also is accepting brief comments on the NPRM via its ECFS Express page <u>http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/</u>.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <u>http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/</u>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site

https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/

2004 ATVET EXAM SCHEDULE

Exam Date	Day	Doors Open
April 10, 2004	Saturday	9:20 AM
June 30, 2004	Wednesday	6:20 PM
October 9, 2004	Saturday	9:20 AM
November 13, 2004	Saturday	9:20 AM

TALK-IN ON THE 145.170 TARA Repeater Radio

Exam Time (Doors will Close) 10:00 AM 7:00 PM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM

Cancellations on WGY - 810 AM

GENSED 10-METER

The FCC is continuing efforts to stem alleged unlicensed operation primarily by long-haul truckers--on the 10-meter amateur band. Enforcement Bureau Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, this month wrote FedEx Corporation CEO Frederick W. Smith enclosing a complaint asserting that some FedEx drivers have used "Amateur Radio transmitters to communicate on the 10-meter Amateur Radio band without a license," Hollingsworth said. The complaint focused on alleged operations in Tennessee.

"Many truckers use CB radio, which does not require a license," Hollingsworth told Smith. "However, any person using a radio transmitter on Amateur Radio frequencies must possess both a station and operator license, for which an examination is required." He pointed out that some truckers have been known to use uncertificated dualpurpose CB radios that also can transmit on 10 meters. CB gear must be FCC certificated, formerly known as type acceptance, but ham radio gear does not need to be. So-called dual-use ham/CB transceivers may not be sold or marketed under FCC rules.

Two additional trucking firms this month were the target of FCC warning notices involving complaints of unlicensed operation on 10 meters. Hollingsworth wrote Carl Leonard Ross of CLR Transport in Saluda, North Carolina, citing allegations that a CLR Transport vehicle traveling on I-85 in North Carolina "was the source of unlicensed radio transmissions on the 10-meter Amateur Radio band on July 14, 2003." Cassidy's Express of Bristol, Pennsylvania, heard from the FCC regarding reports that one of its vehicles was the source of unlicensed radio transmissions while under way in Pennsylvania last October 9.

Hollingsworth asked Smith to advise FedEx drivers that such operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of federal law and could subject violators to stiff fines and even jail time as well as seizure of equipment. Pointing out the same penalties for violators, Hollingsworth asked the other two trucking firms to contact him to discuss the allegations.

Earlier this year, the FCC sent warning notices to two shipping companies in the wake of reports to the Commission that some of the companies' vehicles may have been illegally transmitting on 10 meters. At least one of the companies, UPS, offered its full cooperation and promised to investigate.

St. Mary's Hospital Blood Drive

Our own Charlie Frederici – KC2KVZ comes to us with us with a request to let you know about this worthy event to be held on Monday, April 19th from 10 am to 4 pm Seton Health/St. Mary's Hospital, Conference Room A & B (first floor near cafeteria) 1300 Massachusetts Ave., Troy, N.Y. **Contact: Anne Marsolais** Volunteer office 268-5505 She says they will take anyone's blood, including Hams and firefighters too....

Thanks 73 de Charlie KC2KVZ

Ham Radio Personalities operate during ARRL International DX Contest

Ham radio "personalities" to be W1AW contest ops: ARRL Life Members Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, of the band The Eagles, and ham radio audio expert and manufacturer Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound were on hand at Maxim Memorial station W1AW during the March 6-7 weekend to operate the ARRL International DX Contest (SSB).

http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/intldx.html . ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says Walsh--a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member and Eagles guitarist and vocalist--and Heil will be available to work zero-point contacts with US stations during the DX contest. Walsh is a major benefactor of the ARRL Education and Technology Program http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ . He and Heil were part of a multioperator team that included include Henderson as well as ARRL HQ staffers Dave Patton, NN1N, Mark Spencer, WA8SME, and Mary Hobart,K1MMH, among others. A special W1AW QSL card featuring a photo of Walsh and Heil will be available for those working W1AW during the event. Enclose an SASE when requesting a card. W1AW will not begin DX contest operations until regularly scheduled bulletin and code practice transmissions have ended sometime early Saturday. March 6 (UTC). It's anticipated that W1AW will be on the air for the rest of the contest period, which ends at 2400 March 7, although Walsh and Heil will only operate March 6. Walsh and Heil toured ARRL Headquarters March 5. It marked Walsh's first visit to HQ.







From ARRL Headquarters

Newington, CT February 4, 2004



Ground controllers for the now-dark AO-40 satellite are waiting for something to break aboard the spacecraft. Specifically, they want one of the cells of the main battery bank to open up and "unshort" the power bus. That open circuit then could mean the command team would be able use the auxiliary batteries--now tied in parallel with the main battery bank--to restart the satellite. The command team hypothesizes that a failure within the main battery is clamping the bus voltage low. The command team meanwhile continues to signal the satellite to turn off the main batteries and turn on the auxiliary batteries and the 2.4 GHz "S2" downlink transmitter.

"If we have approximately 10 V on the main bus, then these commands should be making it through," said ground controller Stacey Mills, W4SM, "but the S2 transmitter was not designed to run below 20 V and is not coming on."

AO-40 has been silent since January 27 (UTC), in the wake of a precipitous voltage drop. The satellite's controllers believe that one or more shorted battery cells are at the root of the problem.

Mills said the AO-40 command team assumes the bus voltage aboard AO-40 is lower than 12 V, and that the onboard IHU-1 ("internal housekeeping unit") computer, the command receivers or the battery changeover relay have insufficient power to operate.

There's some conjecture that the current problem may be related to the near-catastrophic incident that occurred onboard AO-40 in December 2000 less than a month after its launch during testing of the 400-newton propulsion system. That mishap destroyed some of the spacecraft's functionality and may have caused other damage that's only now coming to light. Following the 2000 incident, the AO-40 command team was able to restore some of the satellite's functionality.

Updates on the AO-40 situation are being posted on the AMSAT-DL Web site at <u>http://www.amsat-dl.org/journal/adlj-p3d.htm#NEWS</u>. There's additional information on AO-40 on the AMSAT-NA Web site, <u>http://www.amsat.org</u>.

Due to failure all transmitters are shut off until further notice





UO-11--also known as UOSAT-2--turns 20 years old on March 1.



To mark the event, AMSAT-UK will issue a commemorativeQSL card in exchange for listener reports from stations monitoring the satellite's signal during the entire month of March. The reports must be posted via the reporting page on the AMSAT-UK Web site, <u>http://www.uk.amsat.org/uo-11/default.php</u>, and QSL cards will be in the form of a downloadable E-QSL.

UO-11 was the second satellite to be launched by the University of Surrey group headed by Martin Sweeting, G3YJO. Its telemetry beaconcan be heard on 145.825 MHz FM using just a handheld radio. UO-11 also has a 2401.5 MHz beacon, although hearing the 2.4 GHz signal could present a challenge. The University of Surrey Ground station staff reportedly will attempt to maximize the number of days the transmitters are active during March.

More information is available on the AMSAT-UK Web site, <u>http://www.uk.amsat.org/</u>.





ALBANY COUNTY A.C.E.S. Gets K2ALB

This is to let everyone know that the FCC has awarded the club call K2ALB to the Albany County ACES Radio Club effective 2/7/04. The originally issued former call (which has never been used on the air) is hereby retired and no longer legally valid.

Thanks to all. David, KM2O



During the recent Buddy Holly W5B commemorative special event operation, Peggy Sue Gerron-Rackham was perhaps the most prominent of the W5B guest operators. The namesake of Holly's 1957 "rockabilly" hit "Peggy Sue"—who went to high school with Holly and later married the drummer in his band, The Crickets--says participating in the W5B event sharpened her desire to get her ham license. That happened this week when the FCC granted her the call sign KE5AKW. She now plans to apply for a vanity call sign.

"Out of all the Buddy Holly events that I have attended in my life," she said after the W5B special event. "This event will always stand out in my memory."



Peggy Sue Gerron at the W5B mike.

Newly Licensed this week as KE 5AKW

Doug Hutton, W5JUV Photo

As rock n' roll history has it, Holly originally titled the song "Cindy Lou," but Crickets drummer Jerry Allison convinced the singer to change the tune's name to "Peggy Sue" just before the recording session. Gerron, who still goes by that name, says that story is "close" to the truth but not entirely accurate. After Holly's death, Gerron toured with The Crickets when the band got back together. Holly's follow-up song "Peggy Sue Got Married" inspired a 1986 movie starring Kathleen Turner.

Over the years, Gerron has made public appearances all over the country--including on "Oprah," VH1, the Oxygen Network, as well as network TV, and has worked as a speaker, columnist, back-up singer and talk radio co-host (her show was called "Rave On"). Getting on the air during the W5B special event, however, turned out to be very "special" for her.

"You can do TV specials, and you can be interviewed by the very best DJs," she said, but there is nothing like the feeling of putting your finger down and transmitting your call sign and having somebody answer back."



Peggy Sue Gerron and Doug Hutton, W5JUV, at the W5B special event. A former schoolmate of Holly's, Hutton was a major player in making the special event a reality. He's also Peggy Sue Gerron's Elmer. [Cranston Reid, WA5TBB Photo]

The Buddy Holly special event--January 29 through February 2 in Holly's home town of Lubbock, Texas--marked the 45th anniversary of the entertainer's untimely death in a February 3, 1959, plane crash in Iowa. The mishap also claimed the lives of early rock n' rollers Ritchie Valens and JP "The Big Bopper" Richardson.

The Lubbock Amateur Contest Club's W5LCC provided the site for the special event station. Some area hams still remember Holly as a classmate at Lubbock High School. Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, who obtained the W5B call sign, reports W5B logged more than 1000 contacts. The special event generated a lot of interest in talking to Peggy Sue, and she obliged as many as possible. A few shared personal recollections of Holly and his music.

"This is not planned conversation," Gerron said of Amateur Radio. "It'sone person communicating with another. Is anybody out there? You bet they are! Keep rockin'!"

Other operators during the W5B special event included Doug Hutton, W5JUV, Terry Bajuk, KE5BL, Dennis Brush, WA5CBG, Joey Johnston, KC5MVZ, Eddie Petmecky, KC5OBX, Davis Plunkett, K5DLP, Rick Roy, KB5KYJ, and Tom Tucker, KB5UOP.--thanks to Mike Gruber, W1MG, who provided information for this article. http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/02/20/100/?nc=1

Franks Funnies

A man was driving home one evening and realized that it was his daughter's birthday and he hadn't bought her a present. He drove to the mall and ran to the toy store and he asked the store manager "How much is that new Barbie in the window?" The Manager replied, "Which one? We have 'Barbie goes to the gym' for \$19.95'Barbie goes to the Ball' for \$19.95'Barbie goes shopping' for \$19.95'Barbie goes to the beach' for \$19.95'Barbie goes to the Nightclub' for \$19.95and 'Divorced Barbie' for \$375.00". "Why is the Divorced Barbie \$375.00, when all the others are \$19.95"? Dad asked surprised. "Divorced Barbie comes with Ken's car, Ken's House, Ken's boat, Ken's dog, Ken's cat and Ken's furniture."

TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS

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Mac Smith, KB2SPM	(02-04)	
David Fritts KC2IBF	.(03-05)	765-5147
Roy Warner N2OWC	(03-05)	
Randy Stein, KA2TJZ		

REPEATER MANAGER:

Roy Warner	, N2OWC	
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Bill "Hollywood" St Jean,	W2STJ	383-1461

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TARA HF CONTESTING:

Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248

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PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:

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Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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Visit us on the Internet <u>At http://www.n2ty.org/</u>

Next Meeting Tuesday, March 16,2004 7:30 p.m. Green Island Municipal Center Intersection of George St. & Hudson Ave. Green Island, New York *Ample Parking* Parking Lot on Hudson Ave.



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 John LaBarr, KB2UKV
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Tim Roske, AA2WQ489-4346

ATVET(ALB/TROY)VE TEAM:

Gerry Murray, WA2IWW 482-8700

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