



THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Volume 15 © Issue 4 April 2004

Troy Amateur Radio Association

13th Anniversary Celebration

WRITTEN BY: W. EDDY - NY2U

On April 20, 2004 - starting at 7:00 PM - TARA will celebrate its Thirteenth Anniversary as a club. What this really means, it's time for another party! A very special party, at that.

We'd like to invite each of you and your families to come join us for a night of reflections and celebration. As I've mentioned to all of you before we have much to be proud of and having this party is just TARA's way of saying, "Thank You!" I know with some of the other club's/organizations that it costs \$35.00 per person just to celebrate the club's anniversary. With TARA...it's FREE!

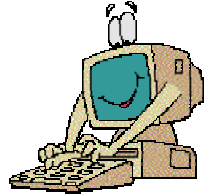
Please make arrangements now so you and your family can attend this meeting. If you could please drop a message to Karen, KB2UUC at ksmithkb2uuc@aol.com it would really be appreciated. Not to mention it helps us plan on the amount of goodies we'll need. After all we can't have any of you go hungry now, can we!

Speaking of the goodies reminds me that we need some help with the party. First, we need a few volunteer's that would like to bring some "Hot" or "Cold" side dishes or desserts to the party. If you have an idea or you need any information on what's needed please contact Karen.

We're also going to need several volunteer's that can assist with setting up the hall roughly an hour before the party. Then after the party we need a few more that would be kind enough to assist with the clean up and putting things away. It would really be nice if we saw some new folks volunteer for this assignment. Usually the same folks that help setup get stuck with the cleaning up afterwards which isn't fair. This club has roughly 100 members and sometimes you'd think by the number that stays afterwards that we only had 10 members. Take an interest in "YOUR CLUB" please!

If you need any additional information please feel free to contact myself at ny2u@n2ty.org or call me at 273-9248. I'll be looking for you at the party.

TARA Skirmish on April 17th



Greetings All:

Just a friendly reminder that the "TARA Skirmish" - Digital Prefix Contest is coming up on April 17. I hope as many of you as possible will join us for TARA's first running of this contest and I really think you'll enjoy this contest a lot.

Don't forget, this is the final contest for this year's "Four Season's Tour'ney." It's going to be interesting to see who is going to take top honor's in this year's Tour'ney. The results so far can be seen at:

http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_tourney_results.html

If you want to learn more about the Tour'ney please go to:

http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_tourney.html

Below I have sent you the official announcement for the TARA Skirmish, please review if carefully!

73 de NY2U Bill Eddy

President of Troy ARA

ny2u@n2ty.org

TARA Skirmish--Digital Prefix Contest--sponsored by Troy ARA,0000Z-2400Z Apr 17. Frequencies: 160-6 meters, work stations once per band. Categories: High, Low (<100 W), Great (<20 W), QRP (<5 W), SWL. Exchange: Name and Prefix. Score: QSOs × WPX prefixes × power multiplier. (High ×0.5, Low ×1, Great ×2, QRP ×3) Multipliers count once per band. For more information: http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html or skirmish-manager@n2ty.org. Logs due May 15 via the contest score entry form at http://n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_score.html.



More than a Club



We're a Family



"From Humble Beginnings"

The Success Story of T.A.R.A.



It hardly seems that another year has passed us by since we last celebrated TARA's Anniversary but sure enough, it's true. And, come April 20, 2004 we'll be celebrating TARA's Thirteenth Anniversary. It just doesn't seem possible!

I hope many of you will take some time to look around the TARA website (<http://www.n2ty.org>) to find out when and how TARA first started. It really is quite the story and you'll find just about all the documented material, I could remember somewhere on our website.

Anyway, TARA started back in April of 1991. That was the first date when we sat down together and decided to rebuild our club under the name of TARA. Did you notice I said rebuild? Well, you see there actually was two Troy Club's of sorts that we've been involved with. And, I've been told that many of moon's ago there was even another club that was known here in Troy area too.

Before there was TARA as we know it today we had another club that a number of us belonged to. This was a pretty small and informal group but to us the size never mattered, we just wanted to have FUN! Around the same time all of us got interested in rebuilding the W2SZ - RPI Radio Club, over on the Campus of RPI. This seemed like a very good thing seeing how they had a club station, a bunch of towers for antennas and a rich history too boot! Oh yeah...they even had a 2 Meter repeater that we called home.

Around late 1988 we met with the student body that made up the radio club at that time and they too agreed to allow our community members to join their club. They realized that the added membership could make it possible to do the much needed work that this club station needed. So, we stopped calling ourselves the Troy Club and just took on the new identity of W2SZ - RPI Radio Club.

Right from the get go we knew there was a "LOT" of work that was needed to get "Ess-Zed" back on the air. The building we were using was an old military quansa-hut and it needed repairs. Major repairs! The antenna's that once were the talk of the Capital District were completely in shambles. And, there was much more that needed our immediate attention.

Over the better part of 2 years the community members that made up the old Troy Club and the students worked hand and hand towards one goal of putting W2SZ back on-the-air! As we mentioned this was no easy job and at times the tensions were high between the student body and the community members.

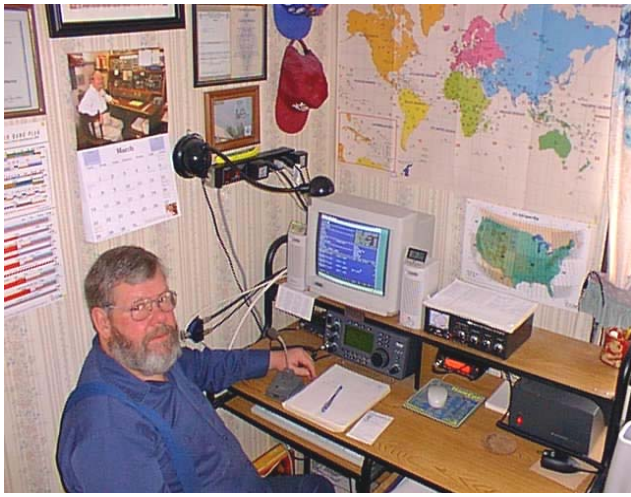
Well, to make a long story short we did get W2SZ back on the air. However, there was a deep division between the two groups and the once friendly atmosphere had changed. In the fall of 1990 the community members had pretty much decided to split from the W2SZ Club and go our own way. This was a hard decision to make but the right decision for both groups.

By the spring of 1991 there once again was a number of folks that wanted to see a club formed and that club became TARA. We only had a hand full of us at that first meeting but the hopes were sky high. We had no money, no repeaters, no place to meet, heck we had nothing! However, that never stopped any of us! We had a number of dedicated members that had to dig down deep in their pockets and put their own money up to get things established but they never said a thing. When we decided to get our very own repeater On-The-Air we had a number of us that had to scrounge around, beg and borrow parts to build it. Fortunately for TARA we made some very good friends and they helped us out tremendously in those early years. In fact a good number of them are still helping us out today. We owe these fine folks/organizations everything and I hope they feel just as rewarded as all of us do for their many contributions. I wish I could list you all of their names but the list is just too large. And to tell you the truth most of them did not want any recognition, they just truly wanted to assist us.

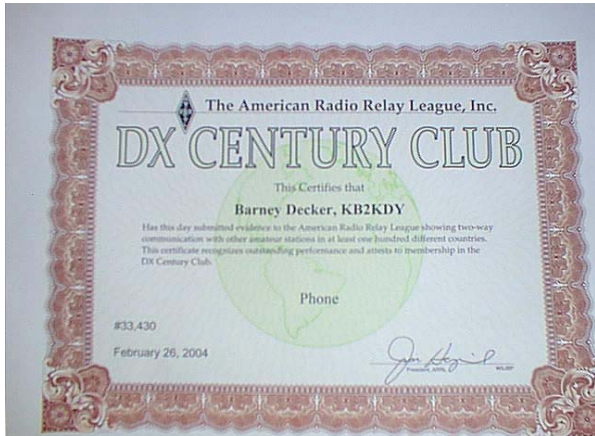
Okay, it's now 2004 and TARA now has over 100 members in this organization, a far cry from the early year's. As a club we have a lot of things to be extremely proud of in such a short period of time. We support/sponsor a number of World-Wide HF contests that are second to none! I mean this, they are world class contests. In fact it was TARA that sponsored the very first PSK31 contest in the whole wide world! And now we have loads of contests that have followed our lead. We now offer a full blown HF awards program that folks are really talking about. Here on the home front we have a "First Class" Newsletter, Repeater System, Public Service Team, and website that I believe all of you can be extremely proud of. I could go on and on here but I better not. However, the main thing that keeps this club ticking is folks just like yourselves! I believe TARA has the very best member's that ANY club or organization could ever want for.

So, my friends I hope these few lines have shed some light on the history of this club. There is a lot more to be found at: <http://www.n2ty.org> Please take a few minutes and look around the website, look at it all. I think you'll quickly see that "We're more than just another radio club...we're TARA!"
de NY2U "Mr.Bill"

And They Said that We would Never Last !!!



On February 24, 2004 - Barney Decker, KB2KDY, was issued his ARRL "DXCC Century Club Award" #33,430 from the ARRL of Newington CT. Barney loves chasing DX and he's also been known to enter a few of the SSB contests too! All of us from TARA wish to CONGRATULATE Barney on this very prestigious award.



Barney's DXCC Certificate



OLD-TIMERS MAY REMEMBER THIS BUILDING AS THE ORIGINAL HQ BUILDING FOR THE ARRL. TODAY, THIS BUILDING SERVES TO HOUSE THE OPERATING STATIONS FOR W1AW

Photo by KB1GZ <http://www.w6ze.org/images/>

T.A.R.A.'s Own Barney Decker, KB2KDY Receives ARRL "DXCC Award"

Barney Decker - KB2KDY and Art Ceas - KB2JZJ went to "Mecca" aka ARRL Headquarters on February 26, 2004. The Dynamic Duo had been talking about this for a long time and finally did it. They had a tour of the buildings. In fact, they were the only ones there.

Barney finally found out what "kick the switch " means! For those who don't know, years ago the transmitter for W1AW was powered by a foot switch and you literally had to "kick the switch". Both Art and Barney took a turn working W1AW.

Barney brought all his QSL cards with him-sorted appropriately of course-with the intention of applying for membership in the DX Century Club, the premier award in Amateur Radio.

His cards were checked and he had 168 confirmed contacts on phone in mixed mode. Barney had been chasing DX for as long as he has been licensed.

For the mere price of \$26.00 he received a pin, a certificate suitable for framing, and 2 stickers. He is number 33,430 which means this is a pretty exclusive club. (Additional information about DXCC can be found on the ARRL web site). The trip did not take as long as they had thought, but they did make a day of it. A good time was had by all.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

On Sunday April 4th. the Colonie Elks will be hosting "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" from 8:30 AM until 12 PM. Tony W2BEJ our host will make sure there is plenty of scrambled eggs, home fries, corned beef hash, pancakes, sausage, ham, toast, coffee, milk, juice and so much more!

Tony says, don't forget, in addition to all the great food, the Easter Bunny will provide toys, candy, and prizes.

This is an "All you can eat" for \$4.50 adults and \$2.50 for the kiddies. So bring the kiddies or grand kids or just come and enjoy a really nice breakfast with lots of friends.

If you are planning on coming, please let me know so that I can have Tony reserve enough seats for us!

Thanks...and see you there.

Karen KB2UMC

Order Your Field Day 2004 T-Shirts Now!

Please take a few minutes and read this message carefully

This year we're going to try something different with the way we take orders for our Field Day T-shirts and the ARRL FD 2004 Pins. As you all know in the past we kind of waited until the last minute and then rushed in the order making it difficult for everyone involved.

However, that wasn't the biggest problem. The main problem is getting those that ordered them to come pick their shirts up on Field Day weekend and give us the balance owed. A classic example of this was this past year. A few of you might not know this but we're still trying to track down a few of our members to come pick up their FD 2003 shirts. Plus, our treasury isn't overly blessed with extra funds so all of this type of waste drains our resources. Okay, enough for the past I know all of you understand where we're coming from on this subject.

Okay, here's what we're going to try this year. Effective immediately we are now accepting Field Day T-shirt order's, pins too. If anyone would like a shirt we need to hear from you. The main difference over other year's is we need the money up front before the actual order is placed. You can order your shirt(s) & FD Pins right now but the funds must be paid before the cut off date.

We have set the cut off date for Tuesday - June 1, 2004

This should give everyone plenty of time to get their money in. After that date we CANNOT guarantee anyone a T-shirt or pin that hasn't already placed his/her order. I hope you'll find this new process a lot easier.

Here's what you need to do right now. To place your order(s) you simply need to contact Randy Stein, KA2TJZ, via E-mail at FDSHIRT@n2ty.org or see him at one of our upcoming monthly meetings. You'll need to give him the exact number of shirts you want and the size too. The cost of the shirts are as follows:

SM, MED & LG = \$11.00; XL & XXL = \$12.00 and XXXL = \$13.00

If you're ordering the 2004 Field Day Pins just let him know how many pins you request. Remember there are 2 different pins to choose from. To see the new ARRL FD 2004 Pin go to: <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/images/9232.jpg>. The ARRL also has the GOTA Pin (Get On The Air) which you can order too. Take a peek at this link: <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/images/8911.jpg>

Both of these pins sell for \$5.00 each.

Tell Randy which pin you prefer and how many!

Your TARA Field Day order will be ready for delivery on the weekend of Field Day (June 25, 26 & 27). We will have two of our volunteers on hand to deliver your shirts to you. These volunteers are June Wilson, KA2VEK & Beth Whiting, KC2BSC. If by chance the order comes in earlier you will be notified ahead of time.

Next Month

TARA FIELD DAY SODA DRIVE

Kicks in to High Gear



**PLACE
YOUR
ORDER
NOW**



2004 ARRL FD PIN



2004 GOTA PIN

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE / LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 2004

This highly popular annual August event attracts hundreds of amateur radio stations at lighthouses and lightships (369 in 2003) in 48 countries. It is organised by Mike, GM4SUC, and Kevin, VK2CE is the web-master. This year the period of the event is from 0001 UTC on Saturday 21 August until 2359 UTC on Sunday 22 August 2004.

The event is NOT a contest. It is a special event weekend when amateur radio stations are established at lighthouses or lightships, they do not have to be adjacent to salt water, and each group decides how it will operate the station with regard to modes and bands. Participants are not committed to being on the air during the entire period - operate as much as you can. There are no restrictions on aeriels or power. We wish operators to enjoy themselves and have fun while making contact with as many stations as possible whilst giving priority to other lighthouse/lightship stations. Please take some time to work the slow operator, the newly licensed and QRP stations.

As available space in many lighthouses is filled to capacity, participation in this activity does not have to take place inside the tower itself. Field day type set-up at the light or other buildings next to the light or adjacent field is OK. Permission MUST be obtained from any interested parties.

The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend is used to obtain maximum exposure for our hobby. We invite the press and, QTH permitting, also the public and try to underline the parallel between the international aspects in lighthouses, lightships, and amateur radio. As from last year, the World Lighthouse Day is held on the Sunday of the event and lighthouse keepers/managers/caretakers all around the world open their lighthouses to the public.

<http://www.lighthouse.fsnet.co.uk/events/intlighthouseaday.html>

We use the event segment of the 5 Classic bands, consider the following as a range of suggested frequencies.

CW

80m: 3.510 - 3.540 kHz
40m: 7.005 - 7.035 kHz
20m: 14.010 - 14.040 kHz
15m: 21.010 - 21.040 kHz
10m: 28.010 - 28.040 kHz

PHONE

*80m: 3.650 - 3.750 kHz
*40m: 7.040 - 7.100 kHz
20m: 14.150 - 14.290 kHz
15m: 21.150 - 21.250 kHz
10m: 28.300 - 28.400 kHz



* Some of the frequency ranges listed above are NOT legal in the United States of America. As a substitute, USA operators should consider these alternatives.

USA PHONE

80m: 3.950 - 3.990 kHz 40m: 7.250 - 7.290 kHz

However because the ILLW is NOT a contest, you can operate on any authorised QRGs as per your licence, including the WARC bands. Please be sure to observe band limits for your class of licence and your country.

To assist other stations in the identification of lighthouse/lightship stations, we request that participating stations using CW add LS after their callsign at a lightship and LT at a lighthouse. SSB and other modes should use LIGHT, LGT, LIGHTHOUSE or LIGHTSHIP after their call. UK stations normally obtain a GB callsign with the letter L in the suffix and USA stations can request a Special Event callsign from the ARRL.

A list of the lighthouses/lightships of the world, currently 10,550 in 203 DXCC countries, with their Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) Number can be found at <http://arlhs.com/awards/arlhs-numbers.html> The list is constantly being updating and added to as more data become available. You can help: If you see a correction or an addition needs to be made, please send an e-mail with the information to K2JXW@arrl.net

If you decide to join us, please register on-line at <http://illw.net/index.html> with details of your name, callsign to be used, lighthouse/lightship, Country, qsl route etc. Although registration is not compulsory, doing so enables us to maintain a detailed list of participants at <http://illw.net/2004.htm> showing QSL address, web site and any special event calls they may be using. E-mail addresses will be modified with unicode to minimize harvesting by spammers.

So come and join us in the fun of the weekend, already 58 stations in 18 countries have confirmed their participation, establish a station at a lighthouse, lightship or maritime beacon. If you are unable to find a lighthouse/ship you can still join in the fun by contacting the special stations. The more the merrier.

73 Mike GM4SUC
gm4suc@compuserve.com
gm4suc@btinternet.com

TNT TRADER NET

JUST A REMINDER THAT THURSDAY NIGHT'S IS OUR TNT TRADER NET NIGHT ON THE 145.17/444.225 REPEATERS. PLEASE COME JOIN US AND HELP SUPPORT YOUR CLUB. STARTING TIME IS 9:00 PM. SO, GATHER A FEW ITEMS YOU'D LIKE TO BUY, SWAP OR SELL AND BRING THEM TO THE TRADER NET, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST FOR YOU.

73 DE NY2U "MR. BILL"

Join Us Every Thursday Evening at 9:00 PM

FCC invites comments on Amateur Radio Restructuring Plans

From: ARRL Headquarters

The FCC is seeking comment on three plans, one from the ARRL, that would reshape the Amateur Service licensing structure. Each Petition for Rule Making responds to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 actions last summer that made changes to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. While differing substantially in some other aspects, the three petitions call for modifications at Amateur Radio's entry level and for a three-tiered license system. One petition goes beyond licensing structure to recommend additional changes to amateur testing and HF digital privileges. A fourth petition focuses solely on the Morse requirement. Comments are due by April 24 on all four petitions.

Designated RM-10867, ARRL's petition asks the FCC to create a new entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus certain VHF and UHF privileges. The League plan also would consolidate Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General licensees into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technicians automatically would gain General privileges without additional testing. Applicants for Amateur Extra would still have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the General and Extra written exams would stay the same.

A news report "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access," www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/, has further details. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are addressed on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html.

An "unincorporated grassroots organization," the Radio Amateur Foundation (RAF), has filed a petition designated as RM-10868. Its wide-ranging filing asks the FCC to modify the Technician ticket to allow restricted HF phone, data, image and CW privileges. The group also proposes retaining the 5 WPM Morse requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants, upgrading Advanced class holders to Extra and all Novices to Technician. The Radio Amateur Foundation said it sees no need to change licensing requirements for General or Amateur Extra applicants.

The RAF also wants to scrap existing Amateur Radio question pools and start over from scratch, keeping the question pools out of the public domain and requiring a 10-day waiting period before retesting.

Newington, CT. March 24, 2004

In addition, it would permit only Generals and Amateur Extras or Technicians licensed more than two years to request vanity call signs. The RAF has further asked the FCC to permit digital experimentation from 29.0 to 29.3 MHz at bandwidths of up to 15 kHz.

In his two-page petition designated RM-10869, Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, calls on the FCC to retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for General class applicants and to raise the Morse requirement to 13 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants. He called Morse code "the most reliable mode of communication" in an emergency. Lowrance would make no change in Technician licensing requirements.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) wants the FCC to establish a new entry-level license called the Communicator class. Its petition, designated RM-10870, reiterates its call--first made last fall in RM-10787--to altogether eliminate the Morse code testing requirement.

The NCVEC's petition would upgrade all current Novices to Communicator class. The NCVEC would further upgrade all existing Technician and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to General and all Advanced class licensees to Amateur Extra without further testing. Once the Morse requirement goes away, NCVEC said in its filing, "there will be no effective difference between the Technician and General class licenses."

The new Communicator ticket would permit a power limit of 100 W on bands below 24 MHz and 50 W on all frequencies above 24 MHz. Communicator licensees would have to use commercially manufactured equipment (or gear built from a commercial kit). They could operate both voice and digital modes on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus VHF and UHF up to 70 cm.

All three license restructuring plans call for changes to the present HF subbands. Interested parties may view and comment on these petitions via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System, www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html. When entering the RM number in the ECFS "Proceeding" field, RM must be in capital letters and the hyphen must be included.

2004 ATVET EXAM SCHEDULE

Exam Date	Day	Doors Open	Exam Time (Doors will Close)
April 10, 2004	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
June 30, 2004	Wednesday	6:20 PM	7:00 PM
October 9, 2004	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
November 13, 2004	Saturday	9:20 AM	10:00 AM
TALK-IN ON THE 145.170 TARA Repeater Radio Cancellations on WGY - 810 AM			
E.G.A.R.A. Exam Session at Rens. Co. Search & Rescue, 10 Neptune St., E. Greenbush			
April 17, 2004	Saturday	8:00 AM	10:00 AM

In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham Radio Fans New Use for Lines Sparks Tension With Operators; Firestorm in Penn Yan

By KEN BROWN
Staff Reporter

March 23, 2004; Page A1
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Rick Lindquist drove down a street in a New York City suburb, ignoring the snow swirling around his car and twirling the dial on the ham radio mounted to the side of his dashboard. The radio picked up an operator in Minnesota discussing antennas, the Salvation Army's daily emergency network check and then the time, as broadcast from Colorado by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

As the car turned onto North State Road in the village of Briarcliff Manor in Westchester County, the voices faded, replaced with whirs and wahs -- what could have been sound effects from a 1950s science-fiction movie. Thesource, according to Mr. Lindquist, was right outside the window: the power lines running alongside the road.

Owned by Consolidated Edison, the lines transmit not just electricity but data, much like phone and cable-TV wires. The utility is testing a system for reading meters, probing for outages and potentially offering high-speed Internet access to its customers via their electrical outlets. The interference from the power lines "ranges from very annoying to that's-all-I-can-hear," contends Mr. Lindquist, 58 years old, who often taps out Morse-code messages as he drives.

In a clash between the dots and dashes of the telegraph and the bits and bytes of the Web, the nation's vocal but shrinking population of ham-radio operators, or "hams" as they call themselves, are stirring up a war with the utility industry over new power-line communications. Hams have flooded the Federal Communications Commission with about 2,500 letters and e-mails opposing power-line trials. In a letter to the FCC, the American RadioRelay League, a ham-radio group with 160,000 members, called power-line communications "a Pandora's box of unprecedented proportions." [hedcut of Rick Lindquist]

The league has raised more than \$300,000 from nearly 5,600 donors since last summer, to pay for testing, lobbying and publicity to spread the word about the perceived threat. A half-dozen hams even confronted FCC Chairman Michael Powell, a big advocate of the power-line technology, when he visited a test site near Raleigh, N.C., earlier this month.

The problem, most ham operators contend, is that power lines weren't built to carry anything other than electricity. Telephone and cable-TV lines are either shielded with a second set of wires or twisted together to prevent their signals from interfering with other transmissions. But signals sent over electrical wires tend to spill out, the hams contend.

The FCC and the utilities say new technologies have eliminated the interference and accuse the hams of exploiting the issue for their own gains. "We haven't seen the sun darken and everything electrical turn to white noise and haze during a deployment," says Matt Oja, an executive at Progress Energy, whose test Mr. Powell visited. "This is a fairly vocal group that has been whipped into a frenzy by their organization."

The controversy comes at a sensitive time for the hams. Not too many decades ago, ham-radio operators were on the cutting edge of communications technology. They chatted with people in far-flung places at a time when long-distance calling was still a luxury. They spread word of disasters that otherwise might have taken days to reach the public. In the age of e-mail, wireless Internet access and cell phones that double as walkie-talkies, many operators worry that their hobby will fade away.

To become a fully licensed ham operator, people still need to learn Morse code, though that requirement likely will be dropped soon after more than a decade of debate.

Aging hams, who built crystal radio sets as kids or were radio operators during World War II, are dying. Fewer youngsters are replacing them. Armed with powerful computers, today's young tinkerers grow up to be tech geeks, playing videogames and writing software.

The American Radio Relay League has seen its membership shrink to today's 160,000 from a peak of 175,000 in 1995, and the average member is in his mid-50s. The group estimates that there are about 250,000 active ham-radio enthusiasts.

Hams always have been a quirky bunch. They haunt a series of short-wave radio frequencies set aside for them by the federal government in the 1930s. Other slices of the spectrum are reserved for AM and FM radio, broadcast television, cellphones, and police and fire departments, among other uses.

Hams take great pride in radioing around the world. One favorite game: trying to contact someone in each of the 3,000-plus counties in the U.S. Mr. Lindquist is so enthusiastic about ham radio that he vacations in spots such as Whitehorse, the capital of Canada's Yukon Territory, so other hams can claim they made contact with that city.

Ed Thomas, the FCC's chief engineer, says the commission has spent a year listening to the hams' concerns about power lines and is getting frustrated. "Why is this thing a major calamity?" he says. "And honestly, I'd love the answer to that."

Companies such as Con Ed and Progress note that current FCC regulations call for systems to be shut down if they interfere with hams. The radio operators agree the rules are clear, but they fear they will be rescinded or not enforced.

Con Ed says its system in Briarcliff Manor doesn't interfere with the hams and maintains that, in two years of testing, it hasn't received one complaint. But the American Radio Relay League says it did mention this system in its letters to the FCC, and it has been complaining about it on its Web site.

The hams have been quick to act wherever systems are being rolled out. Just days after Penn Yan, a town of 5,200 that sits amid New York's Finger Lakes, approved a plan to test power-line Internet access, "the firestorm started with the ham-radio operators -- letters, e-mails, telephone calls saying, 'You can't do this,'" recalls Mayor Doug Marchionda Jr.

Hoping to keep everyone happy, he approached David Simmons, a local ham and owner of an electronics store that sells radio gear. They surveyed the town before the trial began to get base readings of interference. They even pinpointed a spot that had bothered police and firefighters for years, tracing it to refrigerators at a local supermarket.

With the refrigerators fixed and the power-line system in place over nine blocks of Penn Yan, Mr. Simmons is satisfied that there is no interference and now favors the new technology. "This thing has caught quite a buzz," he says. "It's just so much negativity out there."

Tom Gius, a ham-radio operator in Alpine, Texas, sees the power lines as a threat to the public services that hams provide. When hailstorms sweep through each spring, Mr. Gius heads to the local radio station, while other hams fan out to the north, south, east and west. They communicate by radio, and Mr. Gius passes information to the radio station. "We won't be able to understand each other, it'll be so noisy," frets Mr. Gius, a 60-year-old retired broadcaster.

Time To Quench That Thirst!

By: W. Eddy - NY2U

If you haven't noticed Field Day '04 is just a few months away and it's time for us to get things going. One of the very first tasks we try to take care of is our annual Soda Drive. Each year we have this fund raiser of sorts to keep the expenses down for the Field Day weekend. As you all know the price of beverages is not a cheap thing anymore and it's just too much of a load on our treasury, especially when we need other things. So, how do we get around this problem? For several year's now we've been asking everyone that plans on attending our Field Day weekend on June 25, 26 & 28 to bring in a few six packs of your favorite soda. (Please remember that we cannot have any alcoholic beverages in Frear Park and everything must be either cans or plastic. Please. NO GLASS!) If you could help us by bringing in some soda or even bottled water has become very popular, it would be greatly appreciated. This can save the club some mighty big bucks, especially if we have a very hot weekend. Call Karen at 273-6594 or Email her at kb2uuc@n2ty.org

FRANK'S FUNNIES

**By: Francis X. Ryan
KC2JRE**

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
 2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.
 3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.
 4. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
 5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
 6. We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.
- ADVICE FOR THE DAY: Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home one day.

AND FINALLY: IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF TENSION AND YOU GET A HEADACHE

DO WHAT IT SAYS ON THE ASPIRIN BOTTLE:

"TAKE TWO ASPIRIN" AND "KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN"

East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

HAMFEST <http://com-tech.org/EGARA.html>

Event Date/Time: 5/22/04..0800 hrs to 1300 hrs

Event Facility: East Greenbush FD Park Station

Event Facility Address: Phillips Road, East Greenbush, NY

Event Contact: N2NEH@ARRL.NET

Directions to Event: Just off NYS Thruway Exit 23. Take I-787 North

to Rensselaer/East Greenbush Exit. Follow US Routes 9 & 20 East/South to East

Greenbush, Right on Phillips Road, once in East Greebush, contact talk-in. From I-90..take

Exit 9 go South on Rt 4 to Left Rt. 9&20 contact talk-in, 147.33 MHz. Repeater & 146.52 MHz. Simplex

FREE ADMISSION

Bob Sutherland - W6PO - SK

Moonbounce Pioneer

Robert I. "Bob" Sutherland, W6PO (ex-W6UOV), of San Mateo, California, died January 11. He was 78. An active VHF-UHF operator in the 1960s through the 1980s, Sutherland was on the West Coast end of the first Amateur Radio moonbounce (EME) contact in 1960 when the Eimac Radio Club's W6HB and W1BU worked each other on 1296 MHz EME. An employee of tube manufacturer Eimac for nearly 50 years, Sutherland developed some of the more famous Eimac tube-based amps.

"His contributions to the Amateur Radio field are legendary," said well-known VHF-UHF and EME operator Dave Olean, K1WHS. Olean says that while most amateurs know Suther-land for his EME work and his Eimac accomplishments, "most of his great deeds went unnoticed by many except for the legion of moon bounce operators whom he helped along the way." Olean says he was one of them, recalling how Sutherland helped him set up an EME station for 432 MHz.

An ARRL member, Sutherland authored several articles for Ham Radio magazine, including "Design Data for a Two-Kilowatt VHF Linear" in 1969 and "High-Performance 144-MHz Power Amplifier" in 1971. He also wrote "A High-Power Cavity Amplifier For The New 900-MHz Band" for QST in 1982. Sutherland was the recipient of the Central States VHF Society's John T. Chambers Award in 1977 for "his dedicated efforts in bringing EME technical information to amateurs worldwide through distribution of the famous Eimac EME Notes," which remain in circulation within the EME community along with his amplifier designs.

Former QST "The World Above 50 MHz" Editor Bill Smith, W5USM, recalled Sutherland as "a modest, kind man of considerable intelligence with passion for his professional and Amateur Radio work." He credited Sutherland with much of the success moonbounce enjoys today. "He was accessible and willing to help," Smith said, adding, "I suggest looking toward the moon and saying, 'Thank you, Bob. Well done.'"

East Greenbush

W2EGB

Amateur Radio Association

FOOD SERVED ON GROUNDS

\$10.00 per table \$5.00 per tailgate

DO TUBE-TYPE TRANSCEIVERS STILL

By: Robert Bacharach
WA2EMF 9/27/01

HAVE A PLACE IN HAM RADIO

PROBLEM:

Many newly-minted amateurs whether young or old want to operate on HF with effective equipment, but in today's difficult economic times are unable to afford the newer equipment that is available.

SOLUTION:

Available on the USED-GEAR MARKET are many transceivers that have established VERY FINE PERFORMANCE RECORDS. These include, but are not limited to: Kenwood TS-520S/SE, TS-530S, TS-820S, TS-830S; YAESU FT101/E/X, FT-901, FT902.

FEATURES OF THESE RIGS INCLUDE:

- Built-in AC Supplies / Some also come with DC Standard
- All Solid-State Except for Driver and Final Amplifier Stages
- Excellent Receiver Sensitivity: .25 microvolt S+N/N 10 db or better
- Good to Excellent Selectivity:
- Excellent SSB Filters
- IF Shift
- Variable Bandpass Tuning
- Notch Filters
- 100 Watt Plus Transmitters on 160 thru 10 Meters
- (some have all WARC bands)
- CW/USB/LSB Modes (KNWD=EXCELLENT AUDIO)
- Capable of RTTY and other HF Digital modes
- TUBE FINALS MORE TOLERANT TO IMPEDANCE MIGRATIONS OF ANTENNA SYSTEM
- Reliable, rugged, long life rigs:
- Some running 25 years or more without tube changes or repairs of any kind: BATTLESHIP CONSTRUCTION
- LOW PRICE FOR FEATURES: \$250 TO \$500 USUALLY
- NOTE: TS820/TS830 WERE KENWOODS TOP-OF-THE-LINE

HOW TO GET ONE:

BUY ONE LOCALLY FROM HAM YOU KNOW (TRY IT OUT)

- TAKE ELMER TO FLEA MARKET TO HELP EXAMINE RIG
- INTERNET AUCTIONS: RISKY BUT CAN GET GOOD GEAR

NOW.... How do you tune up your new tube-type rig? See Below!
TUNE-UP PROCEDURE FOR TUBE-FINAL RIG: TS-520S

1. ATTACH 50 OHM DUMMY LOAD OR 50 OHM ANTENNA (LESS THAN 2:1 SWR) BEFORE MAKING ADJUSTMENTS

2. SET TRANSCEIVER FREQUENCY BAND AND BAND SEGMENT

- IF ANTENNA USED: TUNE TO CLEAR FREQUENCY



**They
Sure
Do**

3. CHECK PLATE IDLING CURRENT: BIAS ADJUST

- MODE SWITCH TO USB
- METER SWITCH TO IP (CURRENT)
- STANDBY SWITCH TO SEND
- CHECK IDLING CURRENT OF 60 ma
- IF NOT 60 ma ADJUST BIAS CONTROL (SIDE PANEL)
- IF CURRENT >60 ma DO NOT REMAIN IN "SEND" POSITION FOR MORE

THAN A FEW SECONDS. EXCESSIVE PLATE CURRENT SHORTENS LIFE OF FINAL AMPLIFIER TUBES

- RETURN STANDBY SWITCH TO REC

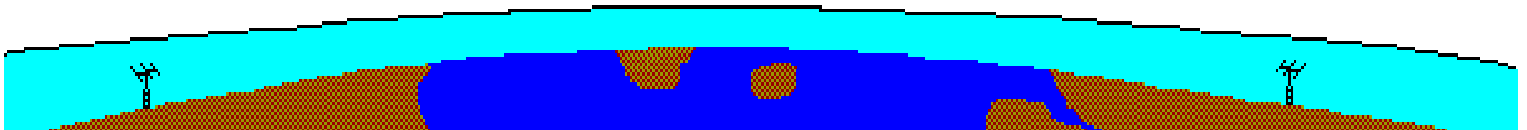
4. DRIVE TUNING

- CAR CONTROL COUNTER CLOCKWISE
- METER SWITCH TO ALC
- MODE SWITCH TO TUNE
- STANDBY SWITCH TO SEND
- PEAK ALC READING (MAX DEFLECTION) USING DRIVE CONTROL
- IF NO ALC READING: INCREASE CAR CONTROL UNTIL PRESENT
- RETURN STANDBY SWITCH TO REC

5. PLATE TUNING

- METER SWITCH TO IP
- MODE SWITCH TO TUNE
- TUNE POSITION PERMITS TUNING OF FINAL TANK CIRCUIT AT REDUCED POWER WITHOUT DANGER TO TUBES
- STANDBY SWITCH TO SEND
- QUICKLY ADJUST PLATE CONTROL FOR DIP (MINIMUM CURRENT)
- RETURN STANDBY SWITCH TO REC
- F I N A L T U N E – U P PROCEDURE FOR HIGH POWER:
- MODE SWITCH TO CW
- METER SWITCH TO RF
- STANDBY SWITCH TO SEND
- ALTERNATE FOLLOWING ADJUSTMENTS:
- LOAD CONTROL: PEAK (MAXIMUM DEFLECTION)
- PLATE CONTROL: PEAK (MAXIMUM DEFLECTION)
- RETURN STANDBY SWITCH TO REC
- CHECK PLATE CURRENT (IP) BETWEEN 200 AND 250 ma

6. RIG IS NOW PROPERLY TUNED: SET MODE AS DESIRED AND GO!



TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS

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Vice President: Karen Smith, KB2UUC...273-6594
Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI.....272-0112
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This Position Is Open for a Volunteer who would like to actively fulfil this need

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Randy Stein, KA2TJZ...498-7838
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Hollins Meaux, N2YQW. 465-7678

NEWSLETTER DEPT:

Editor-in-Chief: Perry White
Editor: Ken "Chief" Davis, KB2KFV
Co-Editor: Marilyn Davis KB2JZI
Co-Editor: Karen Smith KB2UUC
Design/Layout: Ken Davis, KB2KFV

PLEASE SEND ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE TO E-MAIL

KB2KFV@aol.com or

KB2JZI@aol.com or

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THE TARA NEWS

Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1292

Troy, New York, 12181-1292



Visit us on the Internet

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

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

7:00 p.m.

Green Island Municipal Center

Intersection of

George St. & Hudson Ave.

Green Island, New York

Ample Parking

Parking Lot on Hudson Ave.

TROY'S FULL SERVICE REPEATERS

145.170/R

444.225/R