



# THE TARA NEWS

*Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League*

*Volume 17 © Issue 04 April 2006*

**Charles E. Glover**



## WA2VUO Silent Key

LATHAM Charles E. Glover, 74, of Latham, beloved husband of Naomi Novak Glover for over 48 years, died Thursday, March 9, 2006 at Albany Memorial Hospital. Born in Buffalo, N.Y. on July 22, 1931, Charles was the son of the late Ethan E. and Marion Jean Fee Glover. Charles was a U.S. Navy veteran, where he proudly served his country during the Korean War. He was employed as a X-ray technician in this area for over 48 years and for Community Health Plan in Latham, a position from which he retired in 1997. Charles was a communicant of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Latham. He was a member of the Colonie Elks Lodge #2192, the American Legion Post #1450 in Halfmoon for 22 years and a member of the Troy Amateur Radio Association. He enjoyed being an amateur radio operator under the call sign WA2VUO. Survivors in addition to his wife include several cousins.

Funeral services were on Monday, March 13, 2006 at 9:15 a.m. from the Dufresne & Cavanaugh Funeral Home, 149 Old Loudon Rd., Latham and at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 498 Watervliet-Shaker Rd., Latham where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. Geoffrey Burke, pastor. Interment was at the Riverhurst Cemetery in Endicott, N.Y.

Charles has been a long time supporter of TARA and he used to help out on the ATVET Team years ago. He enjoyed listening in on the TARA repeaters but seldom jumped in. However, he used to listen real carefully.

We will all miss you, Charlie !!



## TARA News Welcomes WB2HPR to News Staff

As I looked around the room at the last club meeting, I realized there was something missing. Sure, there were both men and women. Most of us were gray-haired, (some of us hair-less!) – but there was no one there under the age of 30-something --nor even in their 20's! That's right, no youth involvement. What a shame!

I remember when I was a kid just starting out in the radio field, I was most fortunate to have an understanding and nurturing family, with several friends and teachers who would be my mentors. With this in mind, I decided to jot down my story, as a catalyst for others to become a mentor, or help others promote Amateur Radio with today's youth.

I began my story with a shocking encounter, followed by stories of a very special teacher and a neighbor who cared. And yes, it's all true.

John "Steve" VanSickle  
WB2HPR



*More than a Club*



*We're a Family*



# Upcoming Public Service Events



## A "Thank You" from HMRRC

Hi Gang:

I want to thank you all for the great job you did in making the 2006 Runnin' of the Green (Island) race our most successful yet. I must give credit to Mother Nature also for providing us with our best weather yet (we had 374 finishers this year compared to 245 last year in the snow). Our previous high number of finishers was 316. Brian, the music was a great addition along with your announcements and made the festive atmosphere. I hope you can do it again next year. Deb did more than her share running registration and helping Ed with results and assisting with the awards. I owe you a large package of M&M's still. Ed, the results were timely as usual and I don't think there were any mistakes as we gave out the awards. Sarah, thanks for doing all the pre-registrations again this year; again, a record number of 262. Jim Tierney, a great job keeping up with the registrations and checks and keeping me abreast of which sponsor checks were received. Larry and Darryl, the course coverage was excellent as was coordination with the Village People and the radio operators.

Karen, thanks for your radio club members volunteering. I'll see them at Freihofer's. Bob and Kim, thanks for doing the refreshments and organizing the kids races. The number of children (38) was also a record. Chris and George, thanks for setting up the start/finish equipment and assisting in giving out the USATF awards. Kathy, please thank husband Bob for running the water stop and allowing you to run the race.

As you can see from the attached preliminary report, we made a profit of \$1500 this year compared with about \$300 last year. Not bad!

I've heard from some of you already with your observations of how the race organization went but I haven't heard from all. Please let me know what you observed as positives and negatives about the race and give me any suggestions for improvements next year. Unless you tell me differently, you all did such a fine job, you're on board for next year's race.

*Ken Skinner*

## Another

## Great Event !!

On Saturday, March 11, 2006 we had our first Public Service Event of the season.....the "Runnin of the Green" in Green Island.

We had beautiful weather for a change and the runners came out for the nice weather...374 runners in all.

Thanks to all that came out to help with this Public Service Event:

<b>WA2TQK</b>	<b>Ken Smith</b>
<b>N2PEK</b>	<b>Margaret Warner</b>
<b>KC2JDW</b>	<b>Bill Kelly &amp; Mom</b>
<b>KC2IBI</b>	<b>Sue Fritts</b>
<b>W2AU</b>	<b>Dan Bradke</b>
<b>N2VLY</b>	<b>Ray Szlasa</b>
<b>KC2OEA</b>	<b>Lisa Polansky</b>
<b>W2XLY</b>	<b>Bill Continelli</b>
<b>W2FPG</b>	<b>Frank Gagliardi</b>
<b>KB2SPM</b>	<b>Mac Smith</b>
<b>KS2O</b>	<b>Karen Smith</b>

Please Check our Public Service Page at [N2TY.ORG](http://N2TY.ORG) for our other upcoming Events.

73,  
*Karen* **KS2O**



**Get Involved!!**  
**Volunteer**  
**For a**  
**Public Service**  
**Event**

# TARA's "Special" Zeeko's Field Day Barbecue



**Saturday  
Afternoon  
June 24, 2006**

We're beginning to run out of time for our "Special" Zeeko's Field Day Barbecue. We need to give Zeeko's a head count pretty soon and they're still some of you that haven't given us an answer yet. I'm NOT trying to pressure anyone here, for this barbecue speaks for itself. It's going to be a fantastic day and we want as many of you to be there for the fun.

Please, remember that you DO NOT have to sign up for the Zeeko's Barbecue in order to attend our Field. Nope, that's just not true! Also, if you're not a member that's not a problem. You can attend our Field Day and you can join us for the barbecue too if you'd like. Even if you want to bring your own meal and join the gang that's just fine with us!

Right now I need to hear from you with the number of people you plan on bringing to this year's TARA Field Day. We need at least 50 to take advantage of the price that Zeeko's has given to us. Here is the rest of the barbecue info:

TARA & Zeeko's Presents...

"An All-Day Affair"  
Field Day LUNCH & DINNER  
\$23.95 MINIMUM 50 PEOPLE  
(5 Hour Maximum)

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Lunch:

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Hamburgers & Cheeseburgers  
Hot Dogs            BBQ Chicken  
Sausage and Pepper Torpedo's  
Homemade Salads      Watermelon

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Dinner:

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Your choice of (1)  
BBQ Rib & Chicken Dinner or  
BBQ 1/2 Chicken   or   Charbroiled Sirloin Steak  
Baked Potato                      Tossed Salad  
Corn on the Cob                    Lemonade & Iced Tea

Dessert:

KS2O's Homemade Strawberry Shortcake

Please, DO NOT give us an order unless you're pretty positive you're going to make it to Field Day. Once we've collected the funds there will be NO REFUNDS. Also, if you're reserving a meal for somebody under the age of "15" we need to know that too ahead of time so we can plan things out.

So far I have the following:

1. KS2O - 1
2. KB2SPM -1
3. NY2U - 1
4. N2TR - 1
5. WA2IWW - 1
6. W2BEJ - 1
7. WA2TQK - 1
8. KC2KVZ - 1
9. N2HQD - 2
10. WB2HPR - 1
11. KF2WA - 1
12. KC2OEA - 1
13. N2VLY - 1
14. N2YQW
15. KC2PGL - 2
16. KC2HLC - 1
17. KC2OVX - 1
18. KC2FOL - 1
19. DAVE PAUL - 2
20. KC2BSC - 1
21. KB2WIG - 1
22. KC2HNC - 3 \*
23. N2PEP - 1
24. KB2KFV - 1
25. KB2JZI - 1
26. N2OWC - 1
27. N2PEK - 1
28. N2UID - 1
29. N2WDL - 1
30. N2MOA - 1
31. M. O'BRIEN - 1
32. W2VS - 1
33. KC2AEB - 1
34. N2TZQ - 1
35. KC2JCJ - 2
36. NW2D - 1
37. N2JVE - 2
38. W2RMW-2

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TOTAL AS OF 4/10 = 46

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We ONLY need another 4 !!





# Dad's Old Radio *A Series of Articles*

## By John "Steve" VanSickle WB2HPR

It all started with Dad's old radio. I remember, as a young boy chasing our pet hamster as he scurried under the furniture. He would usually "escape" during the time when his cage was being cleaned. With his new-found freedom, he would explore our rambling old farm house, that was built on a bluff overlooking the flood plain of Whitewater Creek, in eastern Indiana.

It was a magical age, and with 4 of us kids there were lots of times when my parents were busy with my sibling's needs – not chasing around looking for me, *or* the hamster. But this was a time when I was to be the explorer. It was raining outside, not the kind of weather to go playing along the creek, and so this day would find me exploring the inner workings of Dad's radio.

It seems that on a previous hamster hunt, my pursuit had taken me into the dark recess of our family den. Back then, we had dens, not family rooms. In the den, children's toys shared space with the radio. Very often, we tuned the radio to programs like Amos and Andy, the Lone Ranger, or Fibber McGee and Molly. That was a long time before black and white television arrived in our house.

So there I was, in the den, suddenly remembering that I had previously caught the furry little critter as he scurried under the radio. The radio, an old FADA, stood on the floor, and it's contoured wooden case was covered with polished veneer. Even the knobs were made of shiny varnished wood. To put the controls within easy reach of an adult, wooden legs elevated the radio just high enough so that a 7-going-on- 8 year old kid could easily fit head and shoulders beneath the magical machine.

So there I lay. On my back, gazing up at all of those beautifully colored wires and parts, of which I had no understanding. But there they were, and what a visual feast. Back then, there weren't any covers on some of those radios, and you could reach up inside and TOUCH the inner workings! And I did. Several times, in fact. I'm sure you can guess what was to follow. Yes, I received a shock! I must have thought that there were *safe* parts to touch, so touch again, I did. Pretty soon, I got zapped again! That put my curiosity at bay. At least about those beautiful parts inside the radio. But somehow, instead of being discouraged, I began to turn my curiosity toward trying to figure out just what made the old FADA "tick".



Image courtesy of Ben Martin

After hearing my confession of this electrifying experience, my grand parents gave me a crystal radio kit for Christmas. Having moved from rural Indiana, this was our first Christmas in Schenectady, New York. The radio came in a box that said Knight Kit. It was like a dream come true. I was about to build my very own radio. Inside the box were screws, nuts, brackets, wire, and a cylindrical paper coil form, which looked to the world like it was recycled from the bathroom! There was a big coil of enameled wire, which became a tangled mess, and curious other parts like a diode and a pair of bake-lite headphones.

I managed to get the radio built, and installed a long wire antenna. I ran the antenna wire inside through my bedroom window. The ground connection was a piece of left-over enameled wire wrapped around the valve of the steam radiator. I hooked up the headset wires, and it was time for the radio's maiden voyage. I was about to embark on a trip to many far-flung places on earth -- through the magic of radio! Not just any radio, but my radio! The radio that, I built all by myself. Not counting the help Mom gave me in untangling the rat's nest coil of wire!



# Dad's Old Radio (Continued)

And so there I was, headphones on, finally adjusted - ouch! That steel band pulls your hair – you gotta be careful! As I slowly turned the pointer knob of the tuning capacitor, I watched the shiny plates mesh, and tuned in my first station. It was WGY. Later, that night, I was able to pick up WGEO – the Voice of America station that was run by General Electric. And boy, was I hooked! More tuning, tap changing, and tweaking, brought in still more stations. Then, there was WPTR - 1540. I could now listen to MY music - rock 'n roll - and Dad could listen to the news on his old FADA. That first night I fell asleep in bed with those headphones on. By morning, when I woke, my ears really hurt from being squashed by those hard bakelite ear pieces. But I was so fascinated with my radio, I would do it again and again, night after night.

It would be a few years before I started building circuits using vacuum tubes. I would go on to build my own short wave and ham radio equipment from scratch. And I would use many of those colorful resistors and capacitors, and a rainbow of colored wires — just like those under Dad's old radio.

## Vanity Call Sign Fee Poised To Drop Slightly Later This Year

The FCC wants to reduce the Fiscal Year 2006 regulatory fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign to \$20.10 for the 10-year license term. The current vanity fee is \$21.90. The Commission proposed the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2006," in MD Docket 06-68, released March 27. If ordered as proposed, the new vanity fee would become effective in August or September. The FCC is obligated to collect nearly \$289 million in regulatory fees during FY 2006 to fund its operations.

Comments on the proposed fee schedule are due Friday, April 14. Reply comments are due Friday, April 21. The FCC has projected collecting \$171,188 in vanity call sign fee receipts from 8500 applications in FY 2006.

The vanity call sign fee has assumed somewhat greater significance this year as the renewal window is about to open for the first Amateur Radio licenses assigned vanity call signs in 1996. Applicants who wish to keep their post-1995 vanity call signs must pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee in effect at the time the renewal application reaches the FCC. Any Amateur Radio renewal application may only be filed within 90 days of the license expiration date.

Amateur Radio licensees holding vanity call signs granted prior to 1996 do not have to pay a regulatory fee when renewing. This is because Congress did not begin requiring the FCC to annually recover its regulatory costs until 1993. Additionally, such licensees are not specifically tagged as vanity call sign holders in the ULS.

## THANK YOU TO ALL MY FRIENDS & TARA FAMILY

With deep appreciation for your notes and cards during my recent hospital stay. It is nice to know that your friends are there for you when you need them the most. I came home on the 30th of March, but have a long road ahead of me yet. Each day gets a little bit better. So, please keep me in your thoughts and prayers. Hope to see you all soon.

73 & 88's  
June KA2VEK

## Earth Day Celebration 2006 W2LSC On-The-Air

On Saturday, April 22, 2006, The Liberty Science Center, along with Liberty State Park and others, will be participating in an Earth Day Celebration at the Liberty State Park. This also marks the Parks 30th Anniversary. As part of this Celebration, there will be a "5KM Fun Run". We are planning to be on the air with the callsign W2LSC and would like to know if there is a School Club or an Amateur Radio Club that would like to assist W2LSC in supporting the Fun Run.

Although not as big as the NY Marathon, this would be a great chance to 'practice' those skills necessary to support larger Marathons that we have in the area. If your club is interested, please contact Ben Chamberlain, KG8SX, at Liberty Science Center by email: [bchamberlain@lsc.org](mailto:bchamberlain@lsc.org) or by phone: 201-451-0006 Ext 266

# Shack Wiring - My Winter Project

By: John "Steve" VanSickle  
WB2HPR

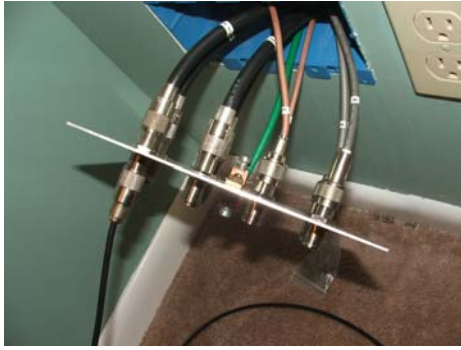


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Hi Gang – My winter project was working on the new shack -- here is the way I brought in the new coax and rotator control and antenna switching lines. Pictures 1,2 and 3 show the wiring in progress. Notice the stick-on wire markers (hey, I can't remember yesterday, let alone which piece of coax goes where!) The control lines and rotor cables follow the RETMA color code used for eons to mark the values of resistors. They are connected to the real world with an AMP multi-pin plug and socket arrangement. Note the use of the low-loss jumpers from the plate to the hard-line (out of view) – hard-line used for 20 meters and up, and RG-213 or LDF 400 used for every -thing below 20 meters. Pictures 4, 5, and 6 show the final results, all buttoned up and ready for on-air testing. The large lug mounted on the coax terminating plate is used to attach auxiliary bonding and grounding cables from the ground bus which is yet to be installed. Should be "moved in" in another week!

I believe that there are other and probably better ways to do the same thing. That's just my way. Yes, the 5BTB is a Hustler Vertical - probably had it for 25 years - works great. It is set up for 75,40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. (Purchased pre-WARC) The C3SS is a tri-band beam from Force 12. The Type N connectors are for the 20 meter and up feedlines. I hope to hear you all on HF one of these days.

73,  
Steve -WB2HPR



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



**145.170**

**Tune in Every Thursday Night at 9:00 PM**

**For the**

**449.225**



**\*\*\*\* ECHOLINK \*\*\*\***

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2006**

The Mount Beacon ARC Annual Hamfest  
At Tymor Park in Unionvale, NY  
For more info go to:  
[www.qsl.net/MBARC](http://www.qsl.net/MBARC)

**SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2006**

The Southern Berkshire A.R.C. 15th Annual Hamfest  
At Goshen, CT, Fairgrounds  
8:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Talk-in W1BAA 147.285 + 600 tone 77.0  
Food Booth!  
FAIRGROUND LOCATION:  
Northwest CT on Rt 63, one half mile south of  
intersection with Rt 4. (6 miles North of  
Litchfield, 6 miles West of Torrington) 150 Old  
Middle St., Goshen, CT 06756

**SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006**

**E.G.A.R.A.**

The East Greenbush  
Amateur Radio Association  
Third Annual Hamfest  
Phillips Road  
Firehouse East  
Greenbush, N.Y.  
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Talk-in 147.27  
Rain or Shine!  
\*\*\* Food Booth \*\*\*

Lots of Good Deals  
Lots of Good Friends



**Nets on 145.17**

**Wednesdays 7:30 pm**

**Rensselaer County ARES/RACES Meeting  
on the 3rd Thursday Night at 7:30 PM**

Bill Continelli will be our guest speaker and will present his "GO-KIT" RADIO BAG  
This should be a another intriguing presentation.  
Remember the meeting starts at 7:30 PM at the Public Safety Building, (the Rensselaer  
County Jail) 4000 Main St. Troy NY.

Mark you Calendar for the April, May, & June Meetings  
April 20 - Bill Continelli – Bill's 911Go-Kit Radio Bag  
May 18 - Joe Squillace – "Army MARS and You"  
June 15 – Open Meeting – Discussion of Field Day

**Jim Noble K2ZP**  
**EC/RO**  
**Rensselaer County**  
**518 286-3586**  
[k2zp@nycap.rr.com](mailto:k2zp@nycap.rr.com)

Thanks and hope to see a lot of people there. Bring a friend.

**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..... 605-6372

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 Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....(04-06)..273-6594  
 Roy Warner N2OWC.....(05-07)..283-8485  
 William "Doc" Kelley, KC2JDW (05-07)..235-5063  
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Membership Manager - Dwight Ogle, N2SDL

**REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE:**

Karen Smith, KS2O.....273-6594

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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/>

**Regular monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2006**

**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.**

**RDF COMMITTEE:**RDF Manager -

Richard Neimeyer - N2MOA.....489-0799

**EQUIPMENT MANAGER:**

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

**TARA WEBMASTERS:**

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

**TARA HF CONTESTING:**

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

HF DX & Contest Manager - NY2U

**(Just Temp for now!) He's Got Hopes !!!**

**TARA VHF/UHF CONTESTING:**

Contest Manager - Ray Ginter, N2ZQF

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Karen Smith, KS2O..... 273-6594

Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....273-6594

**EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:**

Ken Davis. KB2KFV..... 272-0112

**TARA HISTORIAN:**

Karen Smith, KS2O..... 273-6594

**N2TY-"TROY" NODE****DEPARTMENT:**

Russ Greenman - WB2LXC

**N2TY-BBS SYSOP:**

Tim Roske, AA2WQ ...489-4346

**ATVET(ALB/TROY)VE TEAM:**

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Randy Stein, KA2TJZ..... 605-6372

Steve Kopecky, KF2WA 674-4150

Nick Demos, NW2D ... 383-3983

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[KB2JZI@aol.com](mailto:KB2JZI@aol.com) or

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

**Troy's Full Service Repeaters**  
**145.170/R** **449.225/R**