



THE TARA NEWS

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SKYWARN CLINIC SLATED FOR MAY 18

Come Get Your SKYWARN Certification

By: W.J. Eddy - NY2U

Are all of you thinking of hanging that lousy, stinking snow shovel up right about now? I know of a few folks that are! Unfortunately, we're going to need to prepare ourselves for those storms we'll receive throughout the spring and summer. And, around here they can get quite intense.

Alright, here's what we have going. We have scheduled a SKYWARN Certification Clinic for our May 18, monthly meeting. This clinic will be conducted by John Quinlan from the NWS (National Weather Service Office of Albany). This is the basic certification that every SKYWARN member needs in order to become an official spotter. Also, if you haven't gotten recertified in over 2 year's this could be your ticket too. This meeting will start at 7:00 PM and it lasts for roughly 2 hours. You must stay for the entire presentation in order to receive your credit.

This clinic will be open to ALL amateurs from around the Capital District, general public is welcome too. Please pass the word around to your friends and see if you can't encourage them to come join us too. The more we can get involved in this extremely important program the better off we'll be.

If you'd like to participate in this clinic I'd like advance notice that you'll be coming, if you would please. That will better help us to give John an idea of how many handouts and other materials he'll need. Take a minute now and drop an E-mail at: ny2u@n2ty.org or TARA-N2TY@yahoogroups.com

Seating Is Limited Register A.S.A.P.

TARA Repeater Update

I have GREAT news for all of you. The TARA repeater system is back running and it sounds pretty damn good!

We had some very good folks working on the repeater's and I personally think it would be extremely nice if each of you took a few minutes to drop a line to each of the folks below and let them know you appreciate their efforts to get the repeater back up running.

Without these dedicated folks we'd be in a lot of trouble! Right now, I would like to thank: John Pritt, N1JP, Roy Warner, N2OWC; Margaret Warner, N2PEK and Mac Smith, KB2SPM.

After getting the repeater back on the Air. the FINAL tube let go again and had to be replaced. But, Roy Warner went back up and took care of it. The TNT Trader Net went back onto the air Thursday night, May 6th at 9:00 PM on the 145.17/444.225 MHz repeaters.

I hope all of you have enjoyed the last two weeks off but now it's time to get back to some good old "Buying, Swapping or Selling!"

Gary Laviolette, KC2HWE, has recently offered his services to pick up the position of RDF (Radio Direction Finding) Chairman for TARA. He'll be picking up this position from Craig Wood, N2UID and we certainly want to thank him for helping us in the past with this position. Gary has promised to put on a couple presentations at our monthly meetings over the next year and he's promised to bring back the TARA FOX HUNTS! Look for more information on this in the TARA News. If you have any questions on RDF'ing please contact Gary at kc2hwe@n2ty.org (<mailto:kc2hwe@n2ty.org>)

Hope You Enjoy...

NY2U - "Mr. Bill"



More than a Club



We're a Family



Time To Quench That Thirst!

Soda Drive 2004

Submitted By: W. Eddy - NY2U

If you haven't noticed Field Day '04 is just a month 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 fundraiser 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. There is another way we can handle this for you and for a lot of you it works out better.

We're well aware that for some of you it's a hassle to stop and get the soda, then remember to bring it to the next couple of meetings. So, if you would like to donate a few bucks, we then can purchase the soda that we need. This really works out best for there have been a few year's that we get overloaded with let's say 10 cases of Root Beer but no 7UP, Coke, or of course the best one...Diet Pepsi! (I just had to add that!!). You can give your donation to Karen Smith, KB2UUC, and after we collect all of the soda donations we can then go out and purchase the flavors we need most.

Can you help us out? I sure hope so. I know it can get very hot over in the park and without a lot of cold beverages it just makes it unbearable!

"Please do your best to help us out"



WANTED....

Good Old Fashion Horse Traders

Submitted By; W.J. Eddy, NY2U

TARA is in need of its members to come join us each and every Thursday night at 9:00 PM for our weekly TNT Trader Net. This net is the Capital District's oldest trader net of amateur related equipment and its been running continuous since 1990.

Come help support the club and at the same time you could put a few bucks back in your pockets. Or, if you're like some of the "Old Horse Traders" you can do some good wheeling & dealing and it wouldn't cost you nothing but your spare time!

We start the net each Thursday night on the TARA repeaters 145.17/444.225 at 9:00 PM. Usually the net last about 45 minutes, some nights less. I'll open the net up for checkins and then we'll go down through the list one at a time. Keep in mind that these items MUST be amateur related. As much as I'd like to I cannot let you list your wife's old Singer sewing machine on this net. However, if you got an old packet TNC laying around, I have folks looking for them right now. Have any of you folks got some 2 Meter radios around, handheld or base models, they usually go quick. How about antennas? We're always getting folks on the net that need to upgrade their antenna farm. You could be holding on to the exact antenna they need. Heck, if you're not using these items, turn them into some cash. Or, better yet let somebody else get some use out of these items you've got laying around the shack.

All to often I'm hearing that the repeaters are getting quiet. People are wondering why there isn't more activity on the repeater during the night time hours. Well, here's your chance to come in and get the ball rolling, to do your share of helping us promote amateur activity. Keep in mind we accept checkins even if you're only listening too! But, I much rather have you list a few items forsale. Or, give me a list of items you're looking for. There's no need to wait until the next hamfest. This net is your WEEKLY hamfest and you don't even have to leave the comforts of your shack! And it's FREE!! Think about that the next time you're gassing up the auto at the gas pumps at \$2.00 per gallon!!

Have I got you interested? I sure hope so. I'll be looking for you this coming Thursday and every Thursday on the TNT Trader Net. Also, if there is anyone that would like to try their hand at being net control for one of these nets we'll be more than happy to give you the controls. If you have any question's that I might be able to address drop me an E-mail at: ny2u@n2ty.org.

Field Day 2004



We Need You

Would You Volunteer??

Written By: W. Eddy - NY2U

If I were to tell you that TARA was going to participate in the Nation's largest emergency training exercise would you participate? Would you be interested enough to come and see what it's like to setup a complete self-sufficient emergency communications command post? Would you be willing to learn what it takes to put up a 50-foot tower, complete with beam antennas? Would you be willing to see how we use such modes of operation as SSB, Packet, RTTY, PSK31, SSTV and CW? Do you think it would be exciting to work over 1,000 QSO's in just 24 hours of operation? Well, if you answered "YES" to any or all of the above WE NEED YOU! Please read on.

On June 25, 26 & 27 of this year TARA we'll be participating in the ARRL 2004 Field Day exercise. This is an annual event that brings out operators from all over the United States & Canada and some DX countries too! The whole concept of this weekend is to see what it takes for our members to setup under less than ideal conditions, for a 24 hours of continuous operation. Then once we setup our stations we must man them with personal to make as many contacts as possible. Please DO NOT get this confused with your typical HF contest that you hear so many hams participating in. Although, I can quite easily understand where one might get that impression. Maybe, if nothing else we can give you that hands on experience to show you otherwise. And, you know what? That's what our purpose and goal is. We want to help train our member/guest with every detail of building up this emergency command post.

As I've told our members in the past year's I'll say it again, "We have a job for everyone, regardless of your abilities or disabilities!" On Field Day weekend they're just too many jobs that need to be done and I know we can find a job for you! One of the first things to remember is that we operate as a "TEAM." Individual efforts are great but on this weekend we need as many folks as possible, from all different back grounds to come together and work as a team. After all.. you got to remember if this were a real emergency you can't very well say, "Well, I'd like to participate but I just don't like this or that person. Or I don't think they're doing it my way. On FD weekend the job just has to get done! We have to learn to put our differences aside for the weekend and look at the big picture.

If you've never been to one of our Field Day's I can only say, "You'll be quite pleasantly surprised!" This club has an inventory of radio's, tower's and miscellaneous equipment that you'll find shocking. And, that's not all we have. We have all the makings for a completely functional kitchen that we use to feed the many volunteers and family that come to support us. Like we said it's a fully functional command post, complete with the kitchen too.

Once again I can't over emphasize that we need everyone and we'll put you to work. We fully realize that not all of our member's can do the heavy tower work. We know that a good share cannot stay all weekend because they have other commitments. But, I do know if you're willing to volunteer, I'll guarantee that we'll find a job just for you. That way you can proudly say you're part of the TARA Field Day Team.

Please put June 25, 26 & 27 on your calendar right now. Also, mark down that we have our annual awards presentation and dinner at 6:00 PM on Saturday (June 26). This dinner is open to everyone/anyone that would like to come join us. Last year we had roughly 70 for the dinner/presentation and we have room for a lot more! It's very important to keep in mind that TARA DOES NOT just operate the radio's for the entire weekend and ignore the rest of our family, no way. In fact once the dinner starts on Saturday night we shut the rigs down for awhile and spend some quality time with our families and friends. To us that's just as important as making a bunch of QSO's. I know there are other club's that stress QSO's, QSO's and more QSO's but not TARA!

Have I got you the least bit interested?

If so, please drop me a note today and let me know you want to volunteer your services

FIELD DAY TEAM

Bill Eddy, NY2U
Steve Kopecky, KF2WA

Nick Demos, NW2D
Randy Stein, KA2TJZ

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE

LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 2004



This highly popular annual August event attracts hundreds of amateur radio stations at lighthouses and lightships (369 in 48 countries for the 2003 weekend) world wide. It is organized by, Mike, GM4SUC, and Kevin, VK2CE who is the web-master. This year, the period of the event is 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 aerials 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 Lightship 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/intlighthouseday.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 before 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
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However because the ILLW is NOT a contest, you can operate on any authorised QRGs as per your license, 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 10,739 in 209 DXCC countries with the State of Ohio having 39 lighthouses/lightships, plus 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 74 stations 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 lighthouse/ship stations.

The more the merrier.

73 Mike GM4SUC

gm4suc@compuserve.com

gm4suc@btinternet.com



Free Ham Radio Gear....

Free Ham Radio Gear.... I hadn't been on the ham bands for many years when I saw the ad in the newspaper For Sale Column. I had struggled really hard to get my ham license as a teenager. But in my adult life I got involved in other things, and the radio gear on the bench had a fine coating of dust on it from inactivity.

The ad said -- "Giving away Ham Radio Gear. You pick up. No charge. Free to a good home!" Wow I thought - This sounds too good to be true! I had just the other day thought how much fun it would be to turn the radio on and make a few contacts both local and worldwide.

So I called the number and a pleasant older voice answered. I made arrangements and went over to see this gear. The radios ranged from older tube sets to a new HF/VHF radio. I asked the ham why he didn't want any money for the gear. He just smiled and said that he could not use it anymore. I thought that he might be selling his house and moving into a retirement community where they did not allow radios. I thanked him, packed the gear in the car and rushed home to try it out.

My antenna farm was a tangled mess due to a number of frozen winter storms without repair. So I fashioned a crude antenna from a hunk of wire and stuck it to the back of one of the newer radios. I pushed the "on" button, with the intent of just listening to some HF Ham Stations, and was surprised what I heard.

There were signals there all right but not the ones I had hoped to hear. Instead the band was full of Short Wave and Data Signals. I turned to another band and heard the same thing. This is really weird I thought! Since this was one of those fancy newer HF/VHF radios, I tuned down to the 2 meter and 440 bands looking for the local repeaters. What I heard there were truck drivers and taxi cab companies talking to their dispatchers, and even a local hotel chain talking to their work crew about getting rooms ready. I thought to myself -- no wonder the guy wanted to get rid of this equipment -- the radio only gets the scanner channels. I'm guessing that he wanted to get rid of this radio, because he didn't want to go to the expense of sending them back to the manufacturer's service center.

Puzzled by what I was hearing I decided to call the old ham and ask some information on what had caused this radio to receive the local scanner frequencies in the ham band segment. Over the phone he laughed out loud and said, "No those are the ham bands all right -- or what used to be the ham bands!" "What - do you mean used to be?", I asked back.

He went on to tell me that several years ago the FCC had closed those bands to hams due to inactivity by the ham community. Those bands are now being used by land services and other business uses," he said. "You mean all the ham bands were given away?", I asked. "Don't be silly," he replied, " the FCC sold off those parcels of unused bands to the highest bidder! They simply put out a letter to all the hams saying that these bands were restricted to business only. And we were to never use these bands again under penalty of thousand of dollars in fines."

What he told me left me dumbstruck! "So let me get this straight," I said, "you mean that the reason you gave me this equipment is because there are no longer bands to use it on!" "Yep! he said with a laugh, "It was simply that the FCC saw all those empty ham bands as a gold mine of potential fundraising for the government.

With no one using the bands, and a un-supportive and ineffective ham radio lobby, hams just literally gave those bands away to be sold off!"

As I hung up the phone I thought of all the money I already had tied up in ham radio equipment down in the basement. I had purchased both old and new sets through the years and was quite proud of my ham radio station. All that money wasted with nothing to do now, but monitor the local Burger King asking if someone wanted fries with their Whopper.

A far fetched story? Not at all! Not a day goes by that you don't read in the newspapers about the government selling off frequencies to the highest bidder! A national radio communications magazine recently had an article by a columnist saying his good byes as he was closing his column after many years. Why? Well, he explained that with all the different agencies going to trunking, the average scanner listener could no longer listen to anything interesting on the radio. That facts are time had passed and so had technology. Suddenly he found himself with no one sending him emails about interesting local frequencies that he could pass on to his readers. With all the new systems out most of the old scanner units were as useless as our old early day computers.

There is a moral to this story of course. Anyone who has been around the activity for a while can see the handwriting on the wall! =Have you listened to the repeaters lately, during daytime, during drive time, or anytime at all? Remember the days when all your friends were on the radio just waiting to chat with you during the drive home or after dinner? Well, those friends are no longer on the radio anymore.

Some have said it was because their old friends had moved to other towns. Some said that their old friends got busy doing something else, and no longer had the time to talk on the radio. Some blamed it on the internet. While others decided that they just did not want to talk to the new people they heard on radio. Everyone had an excuse for no longer turning the radio on. Suddenly there was silence!

So when was the last time YOU threw out your call on the radio? When was the last time you turned on the HF radio and enjoyed the thrill talking to another land? I didn't say TYPING on the Internet to another land, I said TALKING on the radio to another land! When was the last time you came to a radio club meeting, and what excuse did you have for that? Was it because you were too busy?

Was it because you were afraid you would have to talk to "those new people" face to face? It seems that today we all have so many excuses no longer being active on the bands. I am sure that you have heard plenty or perhaps made up a number of them yourself.

Well, lets look at this another way! I remember a local AM talk radio broadcaster suggesting that we follow the money trail. Let's start with our side! We shelled out money for books and tapes to learn the needed information to pass the license test.

Continued on next Page

Free Radio Gear Continued

We shelled out good money for the license, for the QSL cards, for the tower, the antennas, the base radio, the mobile radio, the HT's, the new keyer, club memberships etc. Look at all the money that you have spent on this great hobby. Count it up and you will soon discover that you have a lot of time and money invested in this activity.

Now lets return to the FCC looking for a way to make a buck by selling frequencies. You know they really don't care how much you personally have spent on radio hardware! They don't care how much time you took to get that license. In fact your personal interests are the last thing they are thinking about. They are only looking at all those "empty" frequencies that they could sell to big business. Remember the 220 ham segment that was sold off to United Parcel Service a number of years ago? It will happen again -- for the right price!

But wait you say! How about the need for ham radio during National Emergencies? How about 911, and the twin towers, and the terrorists who are lurking everywhere. How about the hurricanes, the tidal waves, the tornados and the floods? Let's be honest folks -- when was the last time that YOU participated in any of those events? If you haven't turned on the radio in years then isn't that just another excuse. Ham Radio is going to run out of excuses one day and suddenly YOU will be the one giving all your equipment away. You may think this is all far fetched, but you would be run. Remember that there are no guarantees that the ham bands will go on forever. Especially if they are mostly empty and there is a buck to be made.

Perhaps you would like to turn on the radio and check this out for yourself? Simon and Garfunkel put out a record talking about "The Sounds of Silence." This sound is not a good sound for YOU the ham radio operator! This is the sound of the wolves at the door just waiting to pounce on your ham bands! Oops - I meant to say on the FCC frequencies that were your ham bands.

This is a wake up call! Use them or lose them! Let me repeat that again so it sinks in: **USE THOSE BANDS NOW...OR LOSE THEM TOMORROW!**

Now is the time to dust off those radios, to throw out your call, to join a radio club, to support the ARRL efforts in your behalf, to do Field Day this summer and to return to the days when you made life long friends through a great hobby.

Or you can just leave it the way it is now. Get that newspaper ad ready for some poor ham who hasn't been on the radio for a long time. It will save you leaving those boat anchors out on the curb for the trash man!

Origin Unknown

Submitted by: Joe KC2HLC



New FCC Form 605

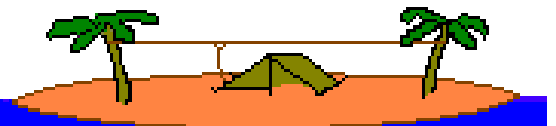
Effective with Monday, May 3, receipts, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will dismiss any applications filed on an FCC Form 605 issued earlier than December 2003. Form 605, Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Service, is the hard-copy version of the Amateur Service application. The change does not affect applicants filing on-line with the Universal Licensing System (ULS) at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>, said the FCC, which is encouraging on-line filing

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the Form 605 announcement will affect the way ARRL has been making FCC Form 605 available. He says the League's widely distributed March 2001 Form 605 in a three-sheet ivory/buff-colored package with perforated pages will become obsolete for applications the FCC receives on or after May 3. In the wake of the FCC's unexpected announcement, the ARRL is developing a replacement package that could require several more pages. It hopes to have it ready in time for Hamvention May 14-16. The FCC has been accepting both older and current Form 605 applications that included a line (Item 9a) for a Taxpayer Identification Number, a Social Security number for an individual. The FCC would then issue the applicant an FCC Registration Number (FRN) without additional paperwork. All amateur applicants must have and use an FRN when filing an application such as Form 605 with the FCC. Applicants attending VEC test sessions can still supply a Social Security number, which will result in automatic Commission Registration System (CORES) registration.

All amateur applicants must have and use an FRN when filing an application such as Form 605 with the FCC. Under the system going into effect in May, applicants not yet registered in CORES and filing on paper will need to file FCC Form 160, CORES Registration to obtain a FCC Registration Number (FRN). After the FCC has issued an FRN, applicants also might want to file FCC Form 606 to associate the FRN with an individual's license record(s) and call sign(s). CORES registration data and FCC license data are maintained in separate FCC databases.

The completed Form 160 goes to a unique Washington, DC, FCC address to obtain the applicant's FRN. Once the FCC issues an FRN to the applicant, this number must be used when filing FCC Form 605, which goes to the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office. The two forms may not be mailed to Gettysburg together. Applicants need to have obtained an FRN via Form 160 before they can file a Form 605.

ARRL recommends that all amateurs file an on-line or paper Form 606 to associate their FRN with their license record(s) and call sign(s) in the FCC license database. Jahnke says the easiest way is to do this electronically via the ULS, and the process now is fairly straightforward.



T.A.R.A. Celebrates 13 Years



Photo's By Steve - KF2WA

DROWNING VICTIM'S CLASSMATE TRIES EVERYTHING TO SAVE HIM

Cell phones wouldn't work when teachers tried to call for help during that field trip to the Smoky Mountains on Friday. The only communication was a ham radio that a 13 year old student brought along.

"We'd been there for probably 30 minutes to an hour, and a whole bunch of people got in the water. I looked over and I saw Chris go under," explains Jordan Webb on Saturday morning, remembering the fear he felt Friday, when the cool waters of Abrams Falls turned cruel and the peaceful surroundings became a problem.

Before he left for his field trip Friday morning, he says he looked at his radio in his bedroom and thought, "well, I might need it for something."

A licensed ham radio operator for almost a year now, he kept the radio with him in his backpack on the two and a half mile hike to the falls. He even had it wrapped in a plastic bag inside his backpack, in case it rained. When he saw his classmate in trouble, Jordan says he jumped in the water to help. Then he remembered the radio.

"So I went and grabbed it and told one of the teachers that if I could get to a high spot I might be able to get in communication with somebody," he says. "So I just started running up the mountain."

He got to a high enough spot and made contact.

"I started calling out 'Break! Break!', which means life threatening emergency," he explains. "When I heard someone I said, 'We're in Cades Cove at Abrams Falls and one of the students is drowning!'"

The ham radio operator he talked with called for help, so Jordan's resourcefulness got rescue crews to the trail. But they didn't arrive in time to save Chris.

"It was a long walk back," Jordan says. "All the kids were just saying stuff, you know, about how nice Chris used to be. He had a very different smile from everybody else."

Because of Jordan and his ham radio, his classmate's body was recovered within hours, not days. He won't forget what happened, but he's at peace knowing he helped.

"Praise God I took it," he says.

5/1/2004 7:20:01 PM

Reporter: Teresa Woodard

[Story Feedback](#) [Printer Friendly Version](#)

I thought this article might be of interest to the group. The young ham mentioned in the following article is a member of the Anderson Co., TN ARES group.

Minor FCC Amateur Rule Changes

Take Effect on June 1, 2004

ARRL Headquarters, Newington CT

May 7, 2004

The FCC says minor amendments to various Amateur Radio rules become effective June 1. The regulatory changes, which the FCC made on its own motion rather than in reaction to any petitions, appeared May 5 in the Federal Register.

"This document makes minor amendments to various rule sections to clarify or eliminate duplicative language or conform them with other rule sections," the FCC said.

Among other changes, the most significant involved revising the wording of Section 97.307(d), which defines spurious emissions. The updated language imposes a slightly higher standard on newer transmitters or amplifiers of any power level. Starting June 1, the rule will provide that:

- * the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed after January 1, 2003, must be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission.

- * the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed on or before January 1, 2003, must not exceed 50 mW and must be at least 40 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission. If the mean power output of such as transmitter is less than 5 W, the attenuation must be at least 30 dB.

Still exempt from the provisions of Section 97.307(d) are transmitters built before April 15, 1977, or those first marketed before January 1, 1978.

The FCC also has redefined what constitutes an Amateur Radio operator to reflect the advent of the Universal Licensing System (ULS) electronic licensee database. Under the revised Section 97.3(a)(1) an amateur operator is "a person named in an amateur operator/primary license station grant on the ULS consolidated licensee database to be the control operator of an amateur station." The current rule defines an amateur operator as "a person holding a written authorization to be the control operator of an amateur station."

Another change eliminates Technician or Technician with Element 1 credit licensees from the classes of operators permitted to prepare Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) and Element 2 (Technician written) examinations.

The Commission ordered the rule changes within the context of a larger, wide-ranging Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140. That NPRM addresses several Amateur Radio-related petitions and proposes revisions to operating privileges. The FCC continues to seek comments on these proposals. Comments are due by Tuesday, June 15, and reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan.



Illinois Amateurs Support Tornado Relief & Recovery Efforts

ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT April 23, 2004

Illinois ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Pat Ryan, KC6VVT, reports Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) team members and local radio amateurs in LaSalle County this week supported American Red Cross relief and recovery efforts in the wake of tornadoes April 20 that left at least eight people dead. LaSalle, Putnam, Kankakee and Will counties were designated as disaster areas. Especially hard hit was the LaSalle County town of Utica.

"There was an outstanding turnout by local and nearby hams," Ryan told ARRL. "Many local hams are assisting in recovery efforts and damage assessment." SKYWARN teams and severe weather spotters also helped spread the word of approaching tornadoes. Grundy County amateurs also turned out to assist in LaSalle County.

LaSalle County ARES Emergency Coordinator Frank Carraro, KF9NZ, said electric power was out, the roads were clogged with debris and "panicked residents of the area--some trying to get in, and some trying to get out."

Jim Stefkovich, KD5HLE, the meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service (NWS) Chicago Forecast Office, expressed gratitude for Amateur Radio's assistance in providing ground-level storm reports. "This was a true team effort," he said.

The Tri-County N9OUW repeater was put on battery power to provide essential communication. Hams also started up simplex nets on VHF.

LaSalle County Assistant EC Joe Tokarz, KB9EZZ, said some 30 amateurs responded in his county alone.

Salvation Army Team Emergency Network National Director Pat McPherson, WW9E, reports Salvation Army canteens have been roving stricken neighborhoods providing food, beverages and respite and assisting with damage assessment and cleanup.

"We used SKYWARN and our SATERN folks to keep us abreast of reports as the weather conditions turned sour," said McPherson, who's headquartered in Chicago.

Will County ARES Emergency Coordinator Rob Sobkoviak, K9NYO, said tornadoes destroyed one house and damaged dozens of other homes and businesses in Joliet. He said The Salvation Army--with SATERN support--was called in to assist with damage assessment and cleanup and to provide meals to affected residents and emergency workers.

Sobkoviak also commended the efforts of the ARES Severe Weather Net and of numerous weather spotters. Will County amateurs also staffed ARES stations at local emergency operations centers and at the National Weather Service in Chicago.



TARA e-Classified

The electronic way to
BUY, SWAP or SELL
your radio equipment

By: W.J. Eddy - NY2U

Picture this, it's Friday afternoon and you just realized that you missed last evenings TNT Trader Net. Well, I'm going to have to speak to you about that but all is not loss. And, you don't even have to wait until the following week to sell your items either. So, read on.

Okay, we need for you to sign onto the TARA website at: <http://www.n2ty.org> go down the opening page until you see the "TARA e-Classified" banner near the very bottom, click on it. Instantly you'll be redirected to the easiest way to *Buy, Swap or Sell* your amateur related items besides checking into the TNT Trader Net on Thursday nights. Once your on the right webpage you'll notice the headings for everything you'll need. Just start clicking on the titles and you're ready to go! It's *fast, easy* and most of all *convenient!!* You can shop 24 hours a day, and you can list as many items as you'd like. This service has had tremendous success since it first went into service but like the trader net it needs more participation. Get the hint? Good! Try it out today. If you have any difficulties, I'd be more than glad to assist you with them.

A Call to Arms The "BPL" War

From the ARRL's website:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/04/27/1/?nc=1>

"In direct response to the Bush speech, the ARRL is asking its members to support Haynie's request for the White House to withdraw its support for BPL technology. "Using power lines to distribute broadband services is a bad idea that should not be encouraged," said Sumner. "Federally licensed Amateur Radio operators need to tell him so--and also need to enlist their Members of Congress in reversing this bad administration policy. It is important for radio amateurs to get the facts across to the White House as well as to our Congressional representatives and senators."

"The ARRL Web site provides an information package at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/cta/> explaining how members can contact the White House and members of Congress to express their views on BPL deployment and why they need to do so.

"Do it now!" Sumner urges in his call to arms. 'We need thousands of responses from all parts of the country, right away, if we are to make an impression.'

"For additional information, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page (<http://www.arrl.org/bpl/>) on the ARRL Web site. 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/>)

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THE TARA NEWS

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Visit us on the Internet

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

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 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.

TROY'S FULL SERVICE REPEATERS

145.170/R

444.225/R