



THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

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Third Annual Chili & Chowder Fest Proves to be a Soup-erb Event

I'd just like to take this time to thank all of you that attended our Third Annual Chili and Chowder Fest. It was doubtful early Saturday morning if the weather was going to cooperate but by noon it was really beautiful. We didn't have a large crowd like our other functions but from everyone I chatted with it was a very enjoyable day.

Again, to those of you that brought along the different hot & cold dishes we thank you! The same goes for everyone that brought the chips & dip and all the other items we needed for a great Chili Fest.

A special thanks goes to Ken Smith, WA2TQK. Ken was able to haul our supplies for us and he even proved that a gas grill can FLY! Just kidding you Ken:-) Ken had a fantastic pan of homemade baked beans that never quite made it to the picnic but he did not let that dampen his day. However, he made a quick run home and returned with another pan of beans!

I don't know about you but I'm already looking forward to the 4th Annual Chili and Chowder Fest on September 16, 2006.

73 de NY2U

"Mr. Bill"



More than a Club



We're a Family



TARA Public Service Events



The 24th Arsenal City Run

On Sunday Sept. 25th, Watervliet held it's 24th Annual Arsenal City Run. There were 99 runners between the 2 races held on a really excellent day for running. Thank You, to all who helped volunteer their time for this race.

Margaret N2PEK
Karen KS20

Roy N2OWC

Bill (Doc) KC2JDW

Ramsay KC2GMW

Mac KB2SPM

73 de Karen KS20

Pumpkin Patrol



We are still looking for help for our upcoming Annual "2005 Pumpkin Patrol" which will be coming up on Sunday, October 30th & Monday, October 31st.

We are looking for numerous volunteers to help out on either one or both nights and in different Counties this year. If you are interested or need more information, please call me anytime at 273-6594 or email me at

KS20@N2TY.ORG

Thank you,

Karen KS20

T.A.R.A. Membership Continues to Grow



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest members who have recently joined our TARA Family.

Steve VanSickle	WB2HPR
Ronald Usenza	KC2NUS
Richard Biasiotto	KC2FOL
Mark Friedlander	NK2Y
Al Plouff	KB2MVP



The Magic Band

Six Meter Fun

It looks like my third installment got lost in the internet or was eaten by computer gremlins. In it I had additional information about the resonant feed-line dipole and travel overseas with my trusty 6M radios.

First, to the resonant feed-line dipole for 6M (or any band for that matter).....I received a few e-mails to better explain how I couple the feed-line coax to the radiator section. First, it is vitally important that the shielding is cut back at least 1 inch to isolate the coax side from the radiator. Remember, this shielding section must be 1/4 wave too. Next use the formula $234/\text{freq}$ in Mhz to find the length of the radiator. For 6M SSB the length is about 56". It you're making a 6M only dipole, just solder the radiator to the center conductor of the coax...leave it a little long in case you have to prune to tune. If you are using a small tuner, you can be a bit less exact. Don't forget to wind a 9 turn 6" diameter isolation coil at the beginning of the coax end to de-couple the antenna. Or, at that point, you can use 3 or 4 snap on #43 or #31 ferrite chokes to de-couple the antenna. Once you have the antenna tested, seal the coupling area with tape or whatever goop you have. I always take a resonant feed-line dipole overseas when I go. However, I take enough 8X Mini coax and pre cut radiators to make antennas from 40M up to 70 CM. To do this, you'll need a 40 foot section of 8X Mini coax with PL-259's at each end. I do pre-mark the coax for 1/4 wave increments for the bands I plan to operate on. I then use a rack mount SO-239 with a threaded screw instead of the solder channel to attach the radiators. The coax threads on to the SO-239 side and each pre-measured radiator has a crimped on circle clip at each end. One goes over the screw in the SO-239 and is nutted down...the other is used as a hanger. Instead of winding de-coupling coils on the coax side, I use about 5 snap on ferrite chokes. That keeps the length of the piece of coax you have to take with you down to a relatively reasonable amount. Also, keep in mind that overseas I'm on battery power at no more than 20 watts PEP with a small MFJ 945E tuner ...so the chokes work just fine. On the bands, if you try to put the RF spurs to this antenna...and it will take a couple of hundred watts...those chokes will get mighty hot.

To go overseas (Europe) with ham radios is not as difficult as some of the horror stories you hear would lead you to believe. In fact, I've been doing it since 1991. Here's the real skinny...the short version..on how to do it. First, this is for Europe...The European Union (EU) only. Other countries, you'll have to deal with their version of the FCC. Just go to the ARRL and you'll get all the help you need. To get your radio(s) in to the EU, all you need is your U.S. Passport, your Ham License, and a copy of the C.E.P.T. Agreement (available from the ARRL for free) and you're in. The hard part is on this side of the pond and it centers on you. You need to plan ahead and ruthlessly pare down what you take with you. I carry all that I need to put my FT-857 on the air in a laptop computer carry case. That includes, radio, batteries, 1 solar panel, a charger that works in Europe, coax, connectors, jumpers, tuner et al. If you forget something, chances are you can get it in Europe if you're in a big city. If you're in the toolies...you bet that you'll remember it the next time. It's my experience that you do NOT want to put any radio gear/items in your checked luggage. Those TSA folks have no sense of humor when it comes to wire, batteries, tools that show up on the screen when they check your unlocked luggage. I work at Albany International Airport and have seen what can happen. If TSA doesn't know, chances are you won't go...carry it all with you and tell the screeners at Security what you have. They may ask to see your license...they may not... In Europe, be prepared to show your credentials at Point of Entry and especially when you leave and go through security..like over here. While in Europe, if you carry a portable...like my VX-5R.. you need to carry all three pieces of information ON YOUR PERSON. However, NEVER carry your Passport on the street. A copy is perfectly acceptable. I have only been asked for my credentials once. That was last year when I was on top of the Arch of Triumph...a Gendarme asked me what I was doing. I showed him my papers and that was that...except that I had to turn off the radio as there had been a bomb scare at the Eiffel Tower and they weren't taking any chances. Oh well... As always, any questions may be sent to me at: n2neh@arrl.net

73,

Chris, N2NEH



Silent Key - Bob Daigneault, WB2ZCM



COHOES - Robert R. Daigneault, 74, died at his residence in Cohoes on October 10, 2005, surrounded by his loving family after a brief illness.

He was born in Waterford and graduated from Keveny Memorial Academy and Hudson Valley Community College.

He was the son of the late Rainey and Anna Mae McLinden Daigneault. He was a communicant of St. Joseph's Church, Cohoes and belonged to the Activity Club. He was a Scout leader and was an avid bowler and golfer.

After serving his country in the U.S. Air Force, he selflessly dedicated himself to provide emergency services through his extensive knowledge of radio communication. He was the Chief Radio Officer of Albany County R.A.C.E.S. for over 20 years.

He was a licensed amateur radio operator for 40 years, having the call sign of WB2ZCM. He was a member of the Albany Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL member and belonged to Albany County RACES and the Capital District Repeater Net and was an active instructor in teaching Morse Code and Amateur Radio Classes and Morse Code Instruction. He is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Joyce Fichura Daigneault of Cohoes. Loving and devoted father of Robert (Margaret) of Latham, John (Betsy) of Waterford, James (Sue) of Cohoes, Barbara (John) Marois of Waterford, Raymond (Kelly) of Cohoes, Kenneth of Cohoes, Edward (Margie) of Loudonville and Daniel (Carolyn) of Rensselaer and Brother of Ann Meyer of Savannah, GA.

After retiring with 35 years of service from the N.Y. State Public Service Commission. He then began his most enjoyable time being committed to the caring for the needs of his many grand children. Grandfather of Robert Jr., Nicholas, Tricia, Eric, Stephanie, Amanda, Heidi, Hannah, Meghan, Haley, Anthony, Sarah, Ricky, Tanya, Ryan, Christopher, Benjamin, Brandon, Heather, Gabrielle and Melissa. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Friday at 8:15 a.m. from the DUFRESNE FUNERAL HOME INC., 216 Columbia St., Cohoes, and at 9 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church in Cohoes where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will be at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Waterford, N.Y. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home on Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. Contributions may be made in Bob's memory to St. Joseph's Church organ Fund. For directions and guest registry, www.dufresnefuneralhome.com

Hudson Division Awards Dinner

The Sixth Hudson Division Awards Dinner will be held in northern New Jersey and it is sponsored this year by the North Jersey DX Association. This unique event will be held on Saturday evening, November 12th, 2005, from 7:00 to 11:00 PM at the Elks Lodge, at 13 Sulak Lane, Park Ridge, NJ 07656. Mary Hobart, K1MMH, of the ARRL Development Office and Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL's resident BPL expert, will be there. Proceeds from the event will go to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund for BPL. The new site can accommodate 150 guests, but its first come first served. Cocktails are at 7 PM and dinner at 8 PM. Tickets are \$45 per person. Send reservation requests and a check made out to North Jersey DX Association or NJDXA to 2005 Hudson Division Awards Dinner, 235 Emburgh Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-2918.

It will be a fun event, with many door prizes and a big raffle for those attending. We need your help to make the Hudson Division Awards Dinner and Journal a BIG SUCCESS. It's our hope that you will get your club or business to take an ad in the 2005 Hudson Division Awards Journal. Your participation promises to make this year's event the most successful ever. Remember all proceeds will be donated to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

You can help by attending. You can help by taking an ad in the Awards Journal.

You can help by getting your club or organization to sponsor one of the four plaques we will be awarding at the dinner.

More information about the event and copies of the ad and ticket forms are available at: <http://www.hudson.arrl.org>

2005 Hudson Division Award Winners:

Amateur of the Year, Tom Raffaelli, WB2NHC of Thornwood, NY.

Two Grand Ole Hams -- Frank Fix, K2AW, of Westbury, NY and Lew Malchick, N2RQ, East Meadow, NY. Technical Achievement Award, Ulrich Rohde, N1UL, of Upper Saddle River, NJ.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE ON NOVEMBER 12th



CAVEAT ON INTER-OPERABILITY

In the last issue of an ARES E-Letter, it was featured an "interoperability tip" relating to programming handhelds. It was noted that Amateur Radio handhelds should not be programmed for transmitting on anything other than Amateur Radio frequencies. Use of Amateur Radio gear on government or business frequencies is **illegal**. There are eager hams that think they can go onto any of these frequencies because they have modified their gear to operate there. If they need to help on these frequencies, they need to be issued commercial radios that have been properly programmed. This ARES E-Letter further stated that Amateur Handhelds should not to be programmed for CAP, where the user is authorized by CAP or MARS, or where the user is authorized by MARS. This area is grey about whether modification for C.A.P. or M.A.R.S. is allowed but use of Amateur equipment on Commercial frequencies is quite clear **"IT IS ILLEGAL"**.

Amateur radio equipment is not **"type accepted"** to be operated on commercial, CAP, or MARS frequencies but Commercially made equipment is.

Therefore, if you had a commercially made handheld with Amateur Radio frequencies in it and have the software available to program it and you receive authorization **and only then, would it be clearly legal** for you to use that radio on those frequencies since a commercial radio is **type accepted** to be operated on those frequencies.

The ARES E-Letter stated that in the next issue that there would be further clarification as to the dispute about using Amateur equipment on C.A.P or M.A.R.S. frequencies.

Editor



HELLO? Joe Carcia, station manager of the American Radio Relay League in Newington, Conn., is one of many hams helping to coordinate disaster relief until land lines and cellphone service is fully restored. LAUREN TAGLIATELA/THE HERALD/AP

OPINION: LET'S MAKE ARRL AN "NGO"

Nearly all government emergency responders still regard radio amateurs as outsiders and not part of their system of operations. They don't understand our capability. We don't fit their ideal of an emergency responder, and consequently there is a lack of trust.

Non-government organizations (NGO) like the Red Cross are also outsiders but have an accepted, defined role and provide an excellent, needed service. Maybe we, ARRL, should promote ourselves more as an official NGO. I worked for an NGO, Direct Relief International, in Santa Barbara, California, and had a chance to see how they work. NGO's see themselves as outsiders looking in, but take full advantage of that role. I saw them flourish during the tsunami disaster because they are an alternative to government agencies with their attendant problems. Let's make the ARRL an NGO, because that is exactly what we are: an alternative communications resource ready and able to function anywhere and anytime with trained and dedicated volunteers. –

John Wallack, W6TLK w6tlk@yahoo.com (John is the former ARRL Section Manager of the San Francisco section. - ed.)

Ham Radio Operators Tune In Hurricane Help

By Barbara W. Carlson
Contributor to The Christian Science Monitor

NEWINGTON, CONN. – Richard Webb, an amateur radio operator, was asleep on his air mattress at University Hospital in New Orleans during the aftermath of hurricane Katrina when he was awakened at 5 a.m. by a hospital administrator.

As Mr. Webb tells it, "He told me we had a lady who was in labor, who had swum five blocks in that dirty, nasty water to the hospital because she saw lights there - people with flashlights moving around." Medical personnel said the baby needed to be delivered by caesarean section. But the hospital had limited power, no running water, no way to sterilize instruments, no way to perform such surgery. "We figured we had two hours to get her medevac-ed out of there" before the lives of mother and child would be in danger. "So I got on the radio and was talking to a fellow who was with the Coast Guard auxiliary in Cleveland, Ohio. I was working with him to arrange a medevac."

MORE ON THE SATERN STORY

The following is from Bill Sexton, N1IN. I am still listening to the SATERN net on 14.265 MHz, which is still doing an excellent job.

--KICE

One of Katrina's many frustrating ironies was that trapped residents in New Orleans couldn't get through to local rescuers on the telephone but were able to connect with relatives or friends many miles away--as far away as China. Related to that was yet another wrenching anomaly: an all-too-pervasive lack (at least during the early days) of radio contact into News Orleans. Facilities were under water or without power.

For a fortunate number of storm victims, Amateur Radio operators working with the Salvation Army and other relief agencies provided the vital long-distance link to rescuers. It was roundabout, but it worked. When SOS calls began pouring into the Salvation Army, for example, a quick alliance was forged between SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) and SHARES (SHARED RESOURCES program), the federal net linking government offices across the country. Through SHARES, SATERN's radio amateurs could relay traffic via MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System), which is also composed of hams and is a key SHARES component.

"They are still stranded! They still stay in their house . . . please send rescuer there to save them," said the e-mail, one of more than 50,000 health-and-welfare inquiries received by the Salvation Army in the first week. It was forwarded through MARS, and a MARS operator later confirmed that the rescue was successful.

These pleas were typical:

* "He is elderly and stranded upstairs. No food, no water, no meds. Has health problems."

* "Handful of seniors in a senior building. Right off Lake Ponchartrain they are on the 10th floor and running out of food."

* "Stranded in girls' dormitory with dozens of other students in the upper levels. Lower levels are flooded. No food or water. Please rescue. Girls are from all parts of the USA."

Katrina is possibly the most catastrophic emergency in the MARS organization's operational history going back to its conception in 1925 (then known as the Army Amateur Radio Service). Among other things, this was also the most widespread communications breakdown in US history; and the primary mission of MARS is providing backup communications. Significantly, it was the communications know-how of radio amateurs, and secondarily their radio equipment that provided much of the immediate help to the disaster zone.

TARA T.N.T Trader Net

It's Alive and Well

Every Thursday Evening

9:00 P.M.

145.17Mhz/ 449.225Mhz Repeaters

Also

Echolink and I.R.L.P.

AMATEURS SUPPORT BROADCAST STATION ROLE

A low power FM broadcast station, WQRZ-LP is owned and operated by the Hancock County Amateur Radio Association, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. WQRZ-LP broadcasts on 103.5 MHz and was the only surviving broadcast facility in Hancock County, Mississippi, after Hurricane Katrina made landfall.

The station was granted an emergency waiver by the FCC to temporarily raise its ERP from 100 watts to 2,000 watts to increase its range in order to better information.

The following engineers, both Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) members and Amateur Radio operators donated their time and effort to serve the public with emergency news and install new equipment and raise the station's power level: Gary Sessums, KC5QCN; Sara Allen, KI4KMI; Gary Minker, KC4UDZ; and Brice Phillips, KB5MPW.

We moved the surviving WQRZ-LP studio equipment to the Hancock County EOC and installed it along with brand new equipment, creating a new radio station, allowing the Hancock County Emergency Management staff to talk directly to the public from the EOC. 3,000 portable AM/FM radios were distributed at the food, water, and ice distribution points. Harris Corporation and Marti Electronics provided the equipment used to make this happen. -- Gary Sessums, KC5QCN, RACES Officer/ARES Emergency Coordinator, Hillsborough County, Florida

Capital District Repeater Net Needs Check-ins

Early in September Bob Daigneault, WB2ZCM resigned as Net Manager of CDN because of illness. As a result, Frank Gagliardi, W2FPG was appointed Net Manager and Tom Cody, WE2G took over as Assistant Net Manager.

Due to lack of Interest in activity on the Net, it has been cut back to five weekdays and no weekends. Hurricane Katrina and Rita have proven the importance of the need of being able to handle Amateur Radio Emergency Radio Traffic in a competent and professional manner. Message handling is the one of the keys in transferring all traffic including Emergency, Health and Welfare and routine.

With Bob Daigneault's passing on Monday, October 10, 2005 there would be no greater way to honor the Memory of this Fine Traffic Handler, Gentleman and Brass Pounder than to have all of us start checking into the CDN in his Memory and in his Honor.

Don't Just do it for One Night. Do it Each and every night that you possibly can, like he did for thirty plus years. DO IT YOURSELF. DO IT FOR HIS MEMORY.

Sincerely,

Ken Davis - KB2KFV

Amateur Radio Continues Hurricane Rita Response

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 26, 2006--Amateur Radio volunteers have been utilizing a variety of modes, including HF, VHF-UHF [Winlink](#) and VoIP, to pass critical Hurricane Rita-related traffic. HF net frequencies remain busy with traffic related to the emergency. The West Gulf ARES Emergency Net continues 24-hour operation on 7.285 MHz days/3.873 MHz evenings, with health-and-welfare traffic taking place on 7.290 MHz days/3.935 MHz evenings. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Net ([SATERN](#)) has been activating at 1400 UTC daily on 14.265 MHz and monitoring for emergency requests. All amateurs are requested to keep these HF net frequencies clear for Hurricane Rita emergency operations.

South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, who lives in the Houston area, reports that the telecommunication infrastructure in the Houston metro area seemed to be in pretty good shape in Rita's wake. Reimer says his telephone, electrical and Internet services were back up and running as of Sunday morning, September 25, as evacuees from the city slowly made their way back home. Authorities were not yet allowing residents or relief agencies into some of the hardest-hit communities in Texas and Louisiana. Reports say downed trees and flooding are the primary reasons authorities are keeping out residents and relief agencies. Amateur Radio operators were among those who evacuated before the storm struck. As of Sunday, officials were restricting reentry to the Texas counties of Jefferson--where Beaumont and Port Arthur are located--and Orange. Because potential ham radio volunteers were among the evacuees, it's not known yet what Amateur Radio assistance will be needed for those areas. "Included in the mandatory evacuation areas were five ARES emergency coordinators, one district emergency coordinator and nearly all their ARES registrants," Reimer noted. "To the surprise of many people, mandatory evacuation orders also applies to Amateur Radio operators, which left some key facilities short of their last-minute expectations."

He said it also left some county emergency operations centers (EOCs) without operators, although the EOC staffs knew this ahead of time. "ARES was unable to meet a last-minute request for an HF station at the state DEM (Department of Emergency Management) regional Disaster District Committee," Reimer said. "Activation of the DDC-dedicated state RACES group met with similar result." Reimer says an ARES volunteer from Austin hauled his travel trailer 150 miles to meet the request. Not permitted inside the building, he fired up on HF from the mobile station in his pickup truck. Many ARES operators who had been positioned in advance at critical facilities in the Greater Houston area--including police substations and hospitals--have been released, Reimer reported over the weekend. ARES operators remained on-duty at the state EOC in Austin, Harris County EOC, Houston Emergency Center, and state DEM regional headquarters (DDC). Late Saturday afternoon, Harris County emergency management was requesting that ARES provide reports of traffic volume on major highways leading into Harris County. "The procedure to accomplish this was developed by DEC Ken Mitchell, KD2KW, and sent via [Winlink](#) to the North and South Texas SMs for e-mail distribution to ARRL members," Reimer said. The traffic routes of interest are US Route 59 (Humble, Kingwood, Porter, Cleveland, Livingston, Lufkin), Interstate 45 (Spring, The Woodlands, Conroe, Huntsville, Madisonville, Buffalo), US Highway 290 (Cypress, Waller, Hempstead, Chappel Hill, Brenham) and Interstate 10 (Katy, Brookshire, Sealy, Columbus)

Radio clubs and ARES groups in each of these areas were being asked to form teams of local operators to report Houston bound traffic volumes by counting the number of cars on these routes for a six-minute period, once per hour. "[Winlink](#) proved highly useful at the Harris County EOC, even though there was reliable Internet and e-mail," Reimer said. "The primary mail server also hosts the OEM Web server, a key source of information for citizens, greatly slowing the system."

In Williamson County, Texas, Tom Whiteside, N5TW, said the county EOC was staffed with ARES members and equipped with [Paclink](#) and voice capabilities. "At one point as hospitals saturated, we were asked to activate one of the hospitals," he said. "We had installed a *Telpac/Paclink* node and 2-meter voice setup there a few weeks ago and were able to have that going in just a few minutes. [Winlink](#) worked flawlessly."

In Louisiana, radio amateurs who live north of Interstate 10 were reported to be returning home and getting back on the air to confront any communication needs. Louisiana SEC Gary Stratton, K5GLS, told ARRL Sunday that southwestern Louisiana was not requesting outside assistance from Amateur Radio operators at this point. DEC Alan Levine, WA5LQZ, in Lake Charles weathered the storm and was trying to get back on the air. He was said to be checking over the weekend with local governments--many relocated to other areas--to determine needs before ARES members were deployed from other areas of Louisiana. Stratton says Louisiana's 800-MHz trunking system managed to stay up through Rita. ARRL Public Service Team Leader Steve Ewald, WV1X, says the situation is changing by the hour. "At the moment, it sounds like radio amateurs from the affected areas and those there now are handling the communication needs for the served agencies," he said. "As areas that were strongly hit by Rita begin to open up and folks can start to go into those areas to clean up and sort things out, then there's a chance of a call for volunteers from outside the region."

ARRL Maxim Memorial Station W1AW was up and running over the weekend to assist on HF if needed. As it turned out, the Hurricane Rita emergency provided some first-hand, real-life emergency communication experience for participants in the annual ARRL workshop for new section managers he was conducting. "The SMs from the workshop were monitoring with me in the W1AW conference room," Ewald said, "including Arkansas SM David Norris, K5UZ, who got to talk with his SEC, JM Rowe, N5XFW."

The Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) on 14.325 MHz secured its operation Saturday at 1700 UTC after Rita had been downgraded to a tropical storm. The net works in conjunction with WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center in Miami to relay ground-level weather data to forecasters.

"Without the *EchoLink* and IRLP modes used on the VoIP Hurricane Net we would not have received some of these vital reports," said WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R. Commented VoIP Hurricane Net Manager Rob Macedo, KD1CY: "The ability to connect *EchoLink* PC users, *EchoLink* and IRLP repeaters and links via the same system offers a large amount of flexibility to obtain reports from Amateurs in the affected area including Amateurs who do not have HF privileges."

Amateur Radio: A Voice In The Storm

By Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho)

July 13, 2005

http://www.thehill.com/thehill/export/TheHill/News/Frontpage/071305/ss_crapo.html

Communication has taken many forms: beacon fires alerting assassins to Agamemnon's return to Mycenae; a lone Athenian runner covering 150 miles in two days to request help from Sparta; Genghis Khan's invention of the "pony express"; Morse code; the telegraph, telephone, radio, television; and now the Internet and increasing types of wireless communications.

Perhaps most striking are the massive and complex changes communication has undergone in the past century. It boggles the mind to consider that 100 years ago radio experimentation was in its infancy and now we have the ability to send digital information via electromagnetic waves across the world or into outer space.

Yet, as anyone whose cell call has been dropped or who has simply experienced radio interference while driving knows, the invisible waves that carry our vastly increased communications load are not limitless.

Years ago, the federal government deemed it appropriate to regulate usage of electromagnetic spectrum to ensure that those who use particular portions of spectrum have the right to do so free of interference. It is a scarce but renewable natural resource. Therefore, regulation is necessary to create "highest and best use" allocations for frequencies.

The need for national regulation is further reinforced by the fact that spectrum is a national asset bound by international rules and regulations. It is impossible to "own" frequencies, but the federal government has determined that a system of allocation and auction will produce a climate in which the "highest and best use of spectrum domestically and internationally" can prosper in terms of innovation, efficiency and rapid deployment.

In an era of increasing demand for spectrum, there is a small but vital group of users whose allocations must be preserved.

One of the pioneers of modern communications was amateur radio. Amateur radio operators explored ionospheric propagation for worldwide radio, developed early mobile gear for automobiles and aircraft, created the first civilian communications satellite, developed early linked repeaters, established wireless local-area networks, developed the use of frequencies well beyond high-frequency bands and created new antenna configurations.

Today, amateur radio still serves a vital purpose, especially in our post-Sept. 11 world. Acting as volunteers, amateur radio operators provide assistance in numerous disaster-relief efforts, from the terror attacks in New York and Washington to floods in Texas, hurricanes in Florida, earthquakes in Seattle and California and

fires in the West and in my home state of Idaho. Amateur radio operators assist in search and rescue efforts and even place calls to Santa Claus on behalf of terminally ill children! Many of the 650,000 operators in the United States take part in emergency-preparedness exercises.

In the era of modern communications, we forget that cell-phone usage is dependent upon the viability of communications towers. Any smart military invasion strategy includes eliminating communications, and cell towers are primary targets.

When the World Trade Center collapsed along with the cell tower atop the building, mobile phones were rendered useless in the area. Amateur radio operators stepped in and, from as far away as California, provided communication lifelines for rescue workers and aid agencies. A number of amateur radio operators' organizations have memorandums of understanding with the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Communications System, the Associated Public Safety Communications Officers Inc. and the American Red Cross.

Since 1982, this vital and reliable communication source has lost 107 megahertz (the equivalent of 18 television channels, and 145 megahertz is in danger of being reallocated. The 1997 Balanced Budget Act authorized spectrum auctions, but amateur radio operators cannot participate in such auctions. In light of increasing numbers of new technologies requiring spectrum bandwidth and the ensuing competition by sources with larger financial resources, bandwidth allocations must be preserved.

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act will ensure the success of this vital link in our security communications infrastructure while continuing to encourage the innovation and creativity that is the hallmark of this field. The act requires replacement of any amateur radio spectrum that is reallocated by the Federal Communications Commission or National Telecommunications and Information Administration. It maintains spectrum allocation flexibility by only requiring that the basic amount of spectrum allocated to amateur radio operators be maintained.

Together with my colleagues Sens. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), Kit Bond (R-Mo.), Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Conrad Burns (R-Mont.), I look forward to working toward this bipartisan solution to the problem of lost spectrum for amateur radio operators.

Crapo is the sponsor of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005.



FRANKS FUNNIES

Making People Happy

The President, the First Lady, and Dick Cheney are flying on Air Force One.

George looks at Laura, chuckles and says, "You know, I could throw a \$1,000.00 bill out the window right now and make somebody very happy."

Laura shrugs her shoulders and says, "Well, I could throw ten \$100.00 bills out the window and make ten people very happy."

Cheney says, "Of course then, I could throw one hundred \$10.00 bills out the window and make a hundred people very happy."

The pilot rolls his eyes, looks at all of them, and says to his co-pilot, "Such big shots back there..... hell, I could throw all of them out the window and make 56 million people very happy."

Retired People

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting.

I went to the store the other day. I was only in there for about 5 minutes. When I came out there was a city cop writing out a parking ticket.

I WENT up to him and said, "Come on, buddy, how about giving a senior a break?"

He ignored me and continued writing the ticket.

I called him a name.

He glared at me and wrote another ticket for having worn tires. So I called him a worse name.

He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. then he started writing a third.

This went on for about 20 minutes. the more I abused him the more tickets he wrote.

I didn't care. My car was parked around the corner and this one had a "Hillary in '08" bumper sticker on it.

I try to have a little fun each day now that I'm retired.
IT'S IMPORTANT AT OUR AGE.



SSETI Express Launch

Delayed Indefinitely

The launch of the Student Space Exploration and Technology Initiative (SSETI) Express satellite, which will carry an Amateur Radio package, has been postponed indefinitely. That announcement from SSETI Express Project Manager Neil Melville put a damper on the enthusiasm building in anticipation of a planned September 30 launch. Melville blamed the delay on the failure of another spacecraft set to go into space during the launch from Russia.

"Early indications suggest that we have a delay of at least one month, but this is not confirmed," he said. "This is, of course, very unfortunate, but it is not critical," he went on. "The spacecraft can easily wait for the new launch date without any significant problems, and we will fly it as soon as we can." When it does fly, the SSETI Express, which also carries three CubeSat picosatellites, will leave Earth from Plesetsk Cosmodrome via a Cosmos-3M LV vehicle.

The Cosmos-3M will deploy the Topsat, China DMC and the low-Earth orbit 60 kg SSETI Express satellites. Plans call for down-linking AX.25 telemetry at 9.6 kb on 437.250 MHz and at 38.4 kb on 2401.835 MHz. The satellite will be turned into a single-channel amateur FM voice Mode U/S transponder after the transmitter serves initial telemetry duty.

SSETI Express will, in turn, release the three CubeSats--NCUBE-2, UWE-1, and XI-V. The XI-V ("sai five") package will include a CW beacon on 437.465 MHz and FM packet on 437.345 MHz.

The ESA SSETI Express initiative has brought together students from two dozen European universities via the Internet to build and launch a satellite. ESA provides managerial and technical coordination.

There's more information on the AMSAT-UK Web site at, <http://www.uk.amsat.org> and on the AMSAT-NA Web site at, <http://www.amsat.org>



Rensselaer County ARES/RACES Nets Meet

Each Wednesday Night at 7:30 PM on 145.17 Repeater

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

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THE TARA NEWS

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Visit us on the Internet

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Regular monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

7:30 p.m.

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