



THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Volume 17 © Issue 10 October 2006

New Part 97 Rule Changes **US Islands Award Program Alive & Well**

The FCC has this week issued a number of rule changes that affect the Amateur Radio Service. A synopsis of these changes is included below, along with a link to the full text of the Report and Order.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this R&O, we amend the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules as follows:

Revise the operating privileges of amateur radio operators to allow more spectrum in four currently-authorized amateur service HF bands to be used for voice communications.

Band	General	Advanced	Extra
75m	3800-4000	3700-4000	3600-4000
40m	7175-7300	7125-7300	7125-7300
15m	21275-21450 (no change)	(no change)	(no change)

Permit auxiliary stations to transmit on additional amateur service bands;

Permit amateur stations to transmit spread spectrum communications on the 1.25 meter (m) band;

Permit amateur stations to retransmit communications from the International Space Station;

Permit amateur service licensees to designate the amateur radio club to receive their call sign in memoriam;

Prohibit an applicant from filing more than one application for a specific vanity call sign;

Eliminate certain restrictions on equipment manufacturers that are no longer necessary

Permit amateur radio stations operating in Alaska and surrounding waters more flexibility in providing emergency communications; and Remove certain restrictions in the amateur service license examination system that are no longer necessary.

The full text of this report, please click on the link below:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf

This will go into effect 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register which will be about Nov. 15, 2006

www.usislands.org

The US Islands Award Program (USI) was started in summer of 1994 by John KL7JR (former NL7TB) as another form of Island collecting much like the international program IOTA (Islands On The Air). John had discovered IOTA and wondered why the US didn't have a similar award. He stepped up to the plate and with the help and advice of friends and fellow island hunters he started USI and became the first Program Manager.

The USI has had its share of growing pains over the years like many awards, but has continued to be a viable awards program run on the honor system. One big plus is the fact the program is fun for both the hunter and the activator. Not everyone can carve out months of time and thousands of dollars to travel to some remote Pacific atoll to play radio. Activating your local lake, river or shore island is possible to almost anyone. Mobile, portable on foot, wading, canoe; these are just a few of the methods I have used to operate from US Islands.

I jumped into USI with both antennas in May of 1996 just after I became a General and was immediately hooked. Activating DC001R, Columbia Island in the Potomac River, Washington, DC, on a weekday afternoon, I made 133 QSOs on 20 meter. I was using a 16 foot homemade home brewed vertical and my TS-50. I am limited to inside the attic wire dipoles at home so being on the receiving end of my first pile-up from was an unforgettable experience. I worked at least 4 new DX countries that day and knew, for me, USI was here to stay.

The US Islands Award Program is alive and well with a new domain name, www.usislands.org, new web master (Jay AE4MK) and a new qualifications manager (Ted W8TTS). Please take a minute to visit our site and get acquainted or reacquainted with another wonderful aspect of this great hobby called Amateur Radio.

Respectfully,

Jay AE4MK

Fredericksburg, VA

Web master www.usislands.org



More than a Club



We're a Family



Upcoming Public Service Event

Pumpkin Patrol



We have our Annual "Pumpkin Patrol" which will be here on Monday, October 30th & Tuesday, October 31st, 2006. We are still looking for numerous volunteers to help out either one or both nights and in different Counties.

If you are interested or need more information, please call me anytime at 273-6594 or email me at

KS2O@N2TY.ORG

Thank you,
Karen - KS2O

General Electric Family Day

By Steve VanSickle **WBHPR**



A few weeks ago on Saturday, my employer GE Waterford had their Annual Family Day. I felt that this would be a great opportunity to promote Amateur radio to my fellow employee's and their families and let them see first hand what Ham Radio was all about.

In addition to exhibiting amateur ham radio to everyone at work this gave me the opportunity to set-up a portable emergency station in the field and get the bugs out of it, if there were any.



I made quite a few QSO's at the GE Family Day. It only took me about a half hour to setup a 3.5 to 440 mHz station w/ G5RV and dual band U/V colinear. I used the FT-897D.

I promoted TARA, the ARRL and the capabilities of ham radio in emergencies and handed out a bunch of literature. It was a good practice for me to set this up. I look at it as a rapid deployment station, which fits in a couple duffle bags and is ready to go with short notice.

Arsenal City Run



On Sunday 9-24-06 Watervliet celebrated it's 25th Arsenal City Run. TARA's Public Service Team was there to help with the race that morning. As always it rained on us but not too much to cause problems. We did good and there were no problems with the race....

I would like to thank our volunteers who were....

Duffy.... N2TZQ Mac....KB2SPM Karen....KS2O

Tony....W2BEJ Ken....WA2TQK

Ron...KC2PSA Our newest volunteer (Who took this photo)

Thanks again for all your help!

Karen KS2O

Making Connections *A Series of Articles*

By *John "Steve" VanSickle* WB2HPR

Soldering on PL-259's

Last month, we took a look at some of the available PL259 coaxial plugs. They ranged in price from just under a dollar to more than three times that! - and quality varied, depending on the manufacturer and origin. This time, I would like to examine some techniques used to attach these connectors to the coaxial cable. We begin by assembling the required parts and tools: (Fig. -1)

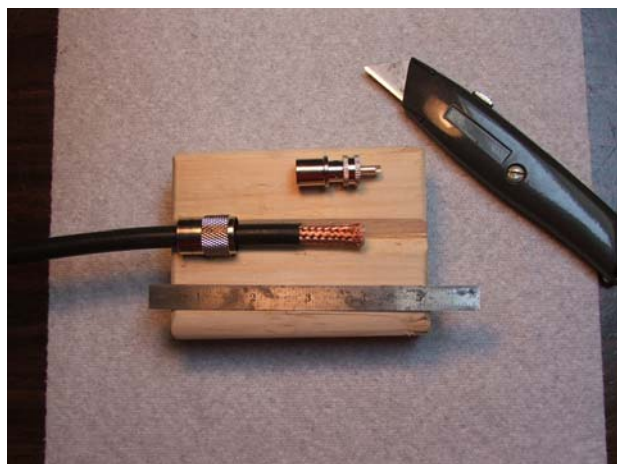
1. PL-259 Plug - remember: Buy cheap, buy twice!
2. Reducer/adaptor - preferably the same manufacturer as the plug
3. 60/40 rosin core solder
4. Soldering gun (Weller 140 watt, minimum)
5. Diagonal cutters
6. Razor-sharp utility knife or rotary coax stripper
7. Slip-joint plier or small vise-grip
8. Ruler - used to make accurate cuts/strips of cable insulation
9. Small piece of scrap wood - so you don't burn the top of your bench!
10. Denatured alcohol or acetone



With all the supplies on hand, you now must determine the proper stripping dimensions for the cable. In these examples, we'll use RG-213 or RG-8 and RG-58. The same principles apply to RG-8X, RG-59, as well as other cable types. The proper stripping dimensions may be found on the web: <http://www.lnl.com/howto/termination/uhf.htm> or in the ARRL Handbook, pp.: 22-7 thru 22-9. (2003 edition) There are numerous references available, but these are tried and proven - and they work!

Instructions for RG-8:

First, slide the coupling ring onto the cable. Next, carefully measure and strip the cable to the published dimensions. (Fig.- 2) Try not to damage/nick the braided shield or the center conductor. Then, lightly tin the exposed braid and the center conductor. (Fig.- 3) (Easy does it on the heat and the solder - you are just applying the barest amount of solder to coat the bare copper). Make sure that no stray pieces of braid are protruding past the end of the shield. Look inside the connector body - notice the female threads - these allow the body to be screwed onto the end of the cable by engaging the threads into the outer jacket of the coax.



Making Connections Continued

With the end of the cable prepared, screw the connector body onto the end of the coax, checking that the tinned center conductor enters the center contact pin correctly. As the threads begin to cut into the outer jacket, you will have to use a pair of pliers or small vise-grip to continue the process. With the connector firmly attached, the tinned shield will be visible through the 4 solder holes in the connector body. The center conductor should be even with the end of the plug's center pin. Proper mechanical assembly of the connection is extremely important. If you aren't sure, or it doesn't look like the pictures, do it over until it is right. (Fig. – 4)

Now that the mechanical part is accomplished, it's time to solder the shield and center conductors. You don't need a lot of heat to solder the center conductor - a 40 watt iron works just fine. I use the solder gun on "low" setting, allowing the solder to flow into the pin and onto the center conductor, filling the hole, but no more heat or solder than is necessary. You don't want solder dripping out and onto the outside surface of the pin! Next, with the connector sitting atop a scrap of wood, I apply heat from the gun (high setting for this step) to one of the 4 shield solder holes. When performing this tinned and that you apply enough heat to allow both the coax shield and the connector body to reach soldering temperature. (Over 375 degrees F - why we use the scrap wood to protect the bench top – and why you need to exercise great care to avoid getting an awful burn!)



As the connector reaches temperature (usually after about 45 seconds), begin touching the solder to the connection point. The object is to cause the solder to flow between the edges of the hole and the tinned braid. After the first hole is soldered, rotate the cable and connector, and solder the second hole, continuing until all four holes are soldered. This shouldn't take much more than a minute, and the connector will become extremely hot. Allow the cable/connector assembly to cool - don't try to use a wet rag to speed things up. Look at the pictures to judge your work. There will probably be solidified flux on the outer surface of the center pin. This needs to be removed - use of denatured alcohol or acetone is OK for this. Just swab it off with a Q-tip or piece of paper towel or rag. Slide the coupling ring onto the connector and engage the threads. That's it - you're done! Be sure to check for a short between the center conductor and the shield. After you install a few of these, you'll be a pro. You will find the process is very similar when installing these plugs on smaller cables like RG-58 and RG-8X. You just have to use the proper reducing adaptor (UG-175 or UG-176). Look at the pictures and the above referenced stripping dimensions. (Fig. – 5)



When screwing the adaptors into the plug body, I like to snug 'em up with pliers. Then solder the shield through the 4 holes in the connector body, and the center conductor to the center pin. After it cools off, clean the flux from the tip of the plug as before. (**Fig. – 6 and 7**) Finally, you can weather- proof the connection by using one of several products marketed for this purpose. Personally, I have had great luck with Scotch brand electrical tape. It seems to last forever, is readily available, and is fast and simple to apply.

That's it for this month - next time - a Look at Coaxial Cable. Solder those plugs on correctly to be sure that you stay connected!

Figures 6 & 7 on Next Page



Figure 6



Figure 7

GOIN' PORTABLE

It was just over one year ago that Hurricane Katrina wreaked its devastation on our southern states -- and we are still reeling from its affects. Prior to the storm, I had considered assembling a portable setup that I could take along in my travels; that would enhance my operating capability while away on business trips or vacation. When the storm hit, it became very clear that many amateur radio operators would be needed in hard-hit areas, and that portable operations would be the norm, providing vital links to get the lines of communications opened up into the affected areas. The urgency of this situation served as a catalyst, inspiring me to take some steps to make my portable station a reality.

I took inventory of the equipment which I already owned, and made a list of that gear which would be easy to setup, and have the desired frequency coverage and power output. The station would need to be fully self-contained, including power source. It had to be easy to put on the air -- following the KISS principal, and reasonably rugged. I can tell you -- I was able to meet my objectives, by utilizing an existing DC-daylight mobile rig, and a military surplus mast, to which I attached a G5RV dipole and a UHF/VHF mobile whip.

The Setup:

Transceiver: Yaesu FT-897D - HF, VHF, UHF with MH59 DTMF Microphone

External Tuner: MFJ 949 with coaxial jumper cable

Power Supply: Yaesu, switch mode, FP1023 & 50 ft. A/C Extension Cord

Mast: Military surplus, 8 sections -- 30 feet w/ guys, stakes, etc.

Antennas: Home-built G5RV dipole, dual band mobile whip

Miscellaneous: Cables, headphones, key, logbook, note pad, pen, small tool kit & operating manuals for equipment.

Well, the equipment is only part of the setup. It is absolutely necessary to test everything out under actual field conditions. Two camping trips this past summer provided the perfect opportunity to do just that. On the first trip, I simply erected the mast and the dipole, cabling it to the mobile rig in my car. That seemed to work very well, and in fact, was a noticeable improvement over the car's screwdriver antenna. A later trip was a bit more complicated. This time, I set up a complete stand-alone station, albeit using commercial power. Again, the results were outstanding. Putting up the 30-foot mast alone, and running guy lines alone in the woods is challenging! Each time I became more familiar with the hardware, "inventing" my own tricks and techniques to get the job done safely -- reassessing my operation and making a list of things I would change the next time.



GOIN' PORTABLE Continued

This past month, after the Katrina anniversary, I decided to take the portable setup “on the road.” My employer held a “Family Day” – replete with tents, entertainment, and displays for workers and their families. I volunteered to set up my portable station, to highlight amateur radio and raise awareness of our hobby -- and how we have served in times of emergency. It was a good exercise, and many contacts were made from WB2HPR/2. Also, ARRL literature and “eyeball” cards were handed out, as well as checklists for Family Emergency “go” kits. It was a very good day, getting the chance to talk with many people about our hobby, to test the equipment setup, and yes, myself!

Conclusion:

I have identified and secured the needed equipment for a very effective all-band portable station, which can be completely set up in well under an hour (under ideal conditions). It is versatile, rugged, compact and easy to operate and can be deployed on short notice. The portability of a ham radio station adds another dimension to our hobby, whether on vacation or away on trips. Such a station could be very simple, using a 2-meter hand-held radio with an improvised base antenna. Or, you may wish to add a laptop, using PSK-31 for digital modes. A “Go-Kit” of personal supplies is also needed in an actual emergency. There are no limits to the range of possibilities. I will continue to practice with my portable setup, from different locations, utilizing other power options (battery or generator). In an ever-evolving process, practicing with this setup will also ensure that I will be able to “Go Portable” when called upon to do so.

73,

Steve VanSickle . WB2HPR

Digital Pioneer TAPR Celebrates 25th Anniversary at DCC

Some 100 communication enthusiasts gathered in Tucson, Arizona, September 15-17 for the TAPR/ARRL Digital Communications Conference (DCC). This conference marked the 25th anniversary of the formation of TAPR <http://www.tapr.org> -- Tucson Amateur Packet Radio.

TAPR was one of the driving forces behind the packet radio revolution that began in the middle 1980s, and it continues to be at the cutting edge of Amateur Radio innovation. In recent years, the organization has moved away from its full name, Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation, and begun to identify itself solely as "TAPR." As its president David Toth, VE3GYQ, explained earlier this year, "We're not just about packet radio anymore, and we haven't been just about packet radio for some time." TAPR has broadened its scope into the entire arena of packet and digital communications. It also offers kits for experimenters.

DCC 2006 topics included progress reports on the status of the Eagle Project <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/eagle/index.php>, the next high-altitude satellite planned by AMSAT-NA, as well as developments in software-defined transceivers and APRS <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/aprs/>. During the event, Kenwood displayed a new 2 meter/70 cm transceiver, which will come on the market early next year and does not yet have a model number.

TAPR has announced that Eric Ellison, AA4SW, and Scott Cowling, WA2DFI, have been elected as new members of the TAPR Board of Directors. John Koster, W9DDD, was re-elected to a new term on the Board. QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, represented ARRL Headquarters at the conference. Other ARRL family members on hand for the 2006 TAPR/ARRL DCC included Southwestern Division Vice Director Ned Stearns, AA7A, Arizona Section Manager Tom Fagan, WB7NXH, and ARRL Honorary Vice President Fried Heyn, WA6WZO.

Source:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 38 September 22, 2006

TARA'S Real Flyers



Here is Steve Bozak – WB2IQU at the Cirrus N125LC, He says I don't chat much from this plane because I am the pilot, and even though it's all computerized I have to pay attention as I fly in and out of different airspace as I cross the country at over 200 Miles an hour at 12,000 feet. This plane is a treat to fly. No yoke, but a joy stick! I just tell the computer where I need to go and the altitude and the plane takes me. Once in a while I steer around big rain clouds. My favorite thing to do is fly out for breakfast and meet my friends.

Steve Bozak - WB2IQU

Specifications –

CIRRUS - SR22-G2 3 blade prop

The CIRRUS SR22-G2 offers pure aviation excitement. The 310-horsepower engine produces 1,000 feet per minute climb rate through 12,000 feet, allowing you to soar farther and higher. BRILLIANT in every respect, SR22 speed and range in excess of 1,000 nautical miles unlock the full potential of personal aviation.



Club member Mike O'Brien has quite a different story to tell. One day Mike bumped into Joel Glickman –KA1PRT in front of his apartment building on Congress St. Joel recognized him from the bus stop near HVCC and may have also met him at a TARA meeting at one time or another. Turns out he's a fellow HVCC employee and a radio enthusiast. Anyway, he said that he was going up to Maine to take a week-long trip on a 100+ year old schooner and asked me what it would take to charter a flight up to Rockland, ME. I told him that it would cost some serious bucks, but that if he were game, I'd fly him up there. He took me up on the offer and paid for the gas. I took a few photos of him and he thought they might end up in the TARA newsletter, so I figured I'd forward them along to you. We had a great flight, which only took 2 hours as opposed to the 13 hours it would have taken by bus with connections. We flew IFR to Maine, so we were in the clouds for a bit, but climbed above the clouds for most of the flight. I was in the clouds for most of the trip back.

I flew back up to Maine to pick him up early the following week and the weather was clear and let Mike do a little flying. The aircraft is a 1978 Piper Arrow.

Joel – KA1PRT



Apologetic Radio Jammer Jack Gerritsen

Gets Seven Years, plus Fines

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 19, 2006 -- It was a day many radio amateurs in Southern California had been anticipating for a long time. On September 18, US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner sentenced convicted radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, now 70, to seven years imprisonment and imposed \$15,225 in fines on six counts -- one a felony -- that included willful and malicious interference with radio communications and transmitting without a license. Before sentencing, Gerritsen apologized to the federal government, the FCC and the local Amateur Radio community, which had endured the brunt of Gerritsen's on-air tirades and outright jamming. "I'm sorry, and I apologize to everyone here," Gerritsen told those in the courtroom, which included more than a dozen radio amateurs and Gerritsen's family members. Gerritsen's contrition did nothing to convince Klausner toward leniency.

"How many times have you said you would not do this again?" Klausner reportedly asked Gerritsen, a repeat offender who served as his own attorney during his trial. "But based on your history, you come back again and again for this. I believe you will continue to do it, and it would send the wrong message to others, that five years is not long enough either!" The sentence even exceeded US District Attorney Lamar Baker's recommended 46-month sentence. Gerritsen's court-appointed attorney suggested that a two-year prison term would be sufficient. Gerritsen could have received up to 15 years in federal prison. Sentences for his convictions on all counts will run concurrently.

Fines, Conditions Levied

In addition to the prison time, Klausner fined Gerritsen \$225, payable immediately, and an additional \$15,000 to be paid through the Probation Department. The judge also tacked on two years' supervised probation following his prison term, but he recommended Gerritsen remain in custody in Southern California during that period.

Klausner further ordered Gerritsen to participate in a substance-abuse program at his own expense. He told Gerritsen he could not identify himself by using any other means -- including his previously held Amateur Radio call sign KG6IRO -- but his real name, and he prohibited Gerritsen from owning, possessing or using any radio transmitting equipment.

E-mail Courtesy Tip

I like to send my friends a lot of forwards through e-mail, but I'm afraid there's too much extra information in them before they're sent. How can I delete some of that to make it all an even safer process?

A:

This is a very good question and it's great that you're thinking about this type of thing. When it comes to e-mailing, you may not realize how much personal information is shared between people. This is especially true when you're forwarding e-mails. People you don't even know may have access to your e-mail address and vice versa. If someone slacks just a little, problems with e-mail spam could hit you before you can even blink your eyes.

So, you may be wondering how this information gets out to other people. Well, when you forward an e-mail you received from someone else, their e-mail address is still contained in the e-mail. You didn't think of that, did you? And when your friend sends it to 10 of their friends, your e-mail address remains in the e-mail and it's distributed to those people (and probably more) in no time. As long as the e-mail continues to be forwarded, your e-mail address is at risk.

The best thing to do to keep addresses safe is clean up every e-mail before you send it off. You want to share the e-mail with other people, not the e-mail addresses already in it, so it's best to remove all the existing e-mail addresses from the forwarding message. I know some forwards are rather long, but take some time to browse through it and delete any e-mail addresses you see. The person getting the e-mail only needs to see your address and their own.

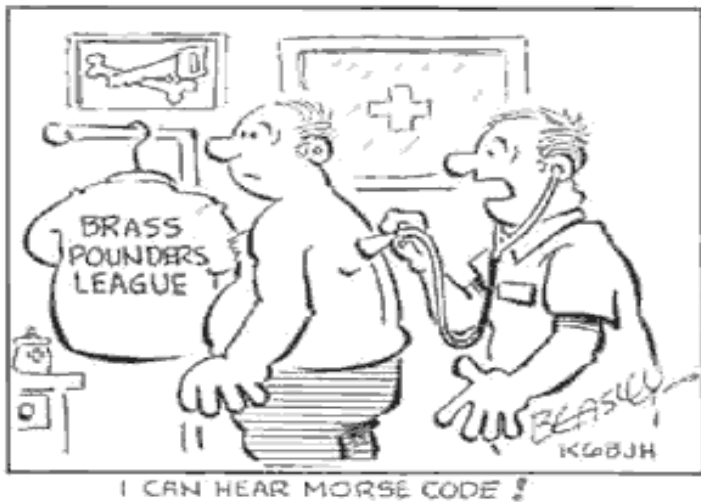
You can then inform your friends and family members to do the same thing when they forward e-mails. They might want to send the one you sent them to another person, so make sure they know to remove your address before sending it. This will prevent your e-mail address from being spread out to everyone, even strangers! Sounds like a good idea, doesn't it?!

Of course, there may be a few times you need to keep certain things in an e-mail, such as an important discussion between you and a few other friends. If that is an ongoing e-mail, it makes no sense to delete the addresses each time. Usually when you do something like that, you know everyone involved, so it's generally safe, but always be careful in other situations. You can also clean up your forwards by removing all the carets (>>>) that appear. Read [here](#) for some more help on doing that.

Practicing all of these procedures will help to keep you and all your forwarding friends extra safe in the wide world of e-mail! Now, go read those funny forwards and laugh the rest of the day away!



FRANKS FUNNIES



Tower Wind Loading

Area exposed to wind is the greatest single contributor to tower wind load. Wind load is far less where a tower is an antenna than where antennas are mounted on a tower. It is very easy to double or triple wind load on a tower by mounting antennas, rotators, brackets, coax cables, and other items on it.

Each added item necessitates a tower that is stronger, heavier and/or larger in cross section which tends to increase the wind load on a tower itself, necessitating an even more capable tower. Each item to be mounted on a tower therefore tends to increase the amount that must be spent on a tower to survive a stated wind speed.

Smile, You Never Know Where Our TARA Photographer Is



Recently, while they were minding their own business at a Hamfest at the Chemung Co. Fairground, Steve – WB2HPR and Kevin – KB2WIG were found by our TARA photographer, Craig Wood – N2UID. He said the first thing that gave Kevin away was the TARA Field Day hat. Great work Craig.

Rensselaer County ARES/RACES Nets Meet

Each Wednesday Night at 7:30 PM on 145.17 Repeater



Greetings Everyone,

While our leader Jim Noble – K2ZP is still recuperating our Nets are still going strong on the TARA Repeater System each week.

Tom Stewart – KC2FCR is filling in for Jim and is presently trying to set up a meeting schedule with the County and as soon as we find out what nights are available we will post the information on the Rens.Co. RACES and TARA Yahoo Groups.

73,

Ken Davis – KB2KFV

TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS

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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, October 17, 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!) Or so he thought!!!

Yup, just like he thought he was only

going to be President for one term !!

TARA VHF/UHF CONTESTING:

Contest Manager - Ray Ginter, N2ZQF

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:

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

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ATVET(ALB/TROY)VE TEAM:

Gerry Murray, WA2IWW 482-8700

FIELD DAY 2007 CHAIRMEN:

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Steve Kopecky, KF2WA 674-4150

Nick Demos, NW2D ...383-3983

VHF/UHF EQUIP. CHAIRMAN

Hollins Meaux, N2YQW. 465-7678

NEWSLETTER DEPT:

Editor-in-Chief: Perry White

Editor: Ken "Chief" Davis, KB2KFV

Co-Editor: Marilyn Davis KB2JZI

Co-Editor: Karen Smith KS2O

Design/Layout: Ken Davis, KB2KFV

Columnists:

Joe Pasquini N2NOU

Steve VanSickle WB2HPR

**PLEASE SEND ELECTRONIC
CORRESPONDENCE TO E-MAIL**

KB2KFV@aol.com or

KB2JZI@aol.com or

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

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145.170/R **447.075/R**