



THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

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October/December 2007 West Coast

Qualifying Run Schedule Change

ARRL HQ Newington, CT October 10, 2007

There is a slight change to the October and December 2007 West Coast Qualifying Run schedules. The October and December West Coast Qualifying Runs will be handled by Maritime Radio Historical Society station KPH/K6KPH. This station is the same one that sends out the W1AW Field Day Bulletin for the benefit of West Coast amateurs.

Look for station K6KPH to transmit the October West Coast Run on Saturday, October 13 at 2100z (local time 2 PM PDT) and the December West Coast Run on Saturday, December 15 at 2200z (2 PM local time). The code speeds will remain at 10-35 WPM for both Runs. The frequencies for both Runs are: 3581.5, 7047.5, 14047.5 and 21067.5 kHz. Qualifying Run submissions should still be sent to the ARRL for processing.



IARU Approves New Bandplan Region 2, Effective Jan 1, 2008

The IARU has approved a new band plan based on signal bandwidth. It becomes effective January 1, 2008.

Among other limiting changes, it limits traditional AM to only two small segments on 80 meters and above 10 meters.

This is similar but worse in several ways than the plan advocated by the ARRL that was soundly rejected by ARRL members and hams in general. Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, the ARRL CEO is also an officer with the IARU. The rumblings are that many Amateurs are not pleased with the proposed Band plan.

While IARU designations are "voluntary" they are traditionally what has become the official designation.

See the bad news at:

http://www.iaru-regionii.org/Region_2_MF_HF_Bandplan_2008.pdf



More than a Club



We're a Family





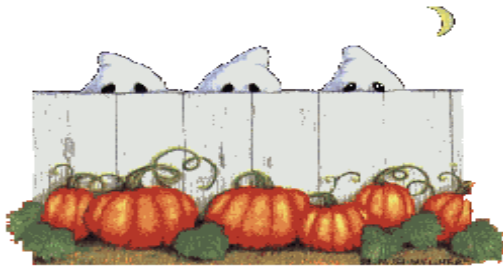
GOTCHA !!
John Lawyer KC2QZI
 finally got his outside
 antenna's erected
 after repeatedly getting
 his chops busted by Mr.
 Bill and Craig Wood.
There Is Everybody
Happy Now!
Ha, Ha, Ha!



Public Service Event Update for October 2007



Pumpkin Patrol



We also have our Annual "Pumpkin Patrol" which will be coming up on Tuesday, October 30th & Wednesday, 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

26th Arsenal City Run

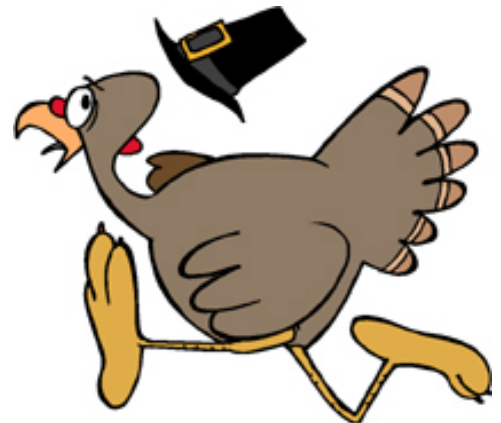
The TARA Public Service Volunteers did the 26th Annual Arsenal City Run on September 23, 2007 at 10:00 AM. We had a good turnout of volunteers.

For the first time, there was no rain for a change. The weather was great for running and there were approximately 600 runners. Thanks to all who came out to help!

Sue KC2IBI
Duffy N2TZQ
Beth KC2BSC
Paul KC2QPT
Marilyn KC2QEK
Tony W2BEJ

Ken WA2TQK
Frank W2FPG
Mac KB2SPM
Tom N2SQQ
Ken KB2KFV

Thanks & 73,
Karen -KS20



Columbia County ARES / RACES to Conduct Simulated Emergency Test

On Saturday, October, 20, 2007, Columbia Co. will conduct a Simulated Emergency Test. Net callup will be at **0800 hrs.** At that time we will take check-ins and make final assignments.

Plan on using backup power if at all possible. I will ask for your power source and estimated run time (in days) upon check-in. If you have a generator and are sure your generator runs then you can call that as your power source. Batteries, Mobiles, and HT's do count as backup power. If you must be on AC mains power just let me know at that time and we'll work around it.

We will need at least 2 members at, the EOC, Columbia Memorial Hospital, and the Clubhouse. We can also use members at their home stations if you would like to participate from home. The clubhouse will be a "shelter" and hopefully we will have some scouts there for JOTA, so we will keep the traffic load to and from light if needed. This emergency will be larger than Columbia County, so we will attempt to maintain contact with the Dutchess County EOC. We will also attempt HF contact with Dutchess County EOC.

The following hospitals will all be activated with ARES/RACES operators and equipment. We will be testing our ability to maintain contact with each of them.

Columbia Memorial Hospital **Vassar Hospital**
Northern Dutchess Hospital **Sharron Hospital**
St. Francis Hospital

We will attempt to send 1 or 2 NTS messages during the event. We will attempt to send SSTV from somewhere in the county to our own EOC. If Dutchess County has the ability at the time we may relay it to them as well.

Bring another HT if possible as a backup.

Bring a pen and paper and your RACES ID

Bring yourself (and if you want to show a non member what we do, let me know so we can position appropriately)

Please let me know soon, if you will or will not be available so we can scale the event appropriately.

Special thanks to Dutchess County EC, Adam, KC2DAA for working with us.

We will throw some fun twists into this one. So as the scouts say, "Be Prepared"...and this will be a good event.

Thanks,

Tom (N2NZZ)

Columbia County EC/DRO

From the Other side of the Pond



Contacts are made all the time on Echolink. But it takes time to develop a friendship. We are fortunate to have made friends with the gentleman on the

left. Quite often in the late morning you will hear Norman Rees throw his call **G0KMS** out on the TARA Repeater and try to make contact with Mr. Bill, Craig, Chief or Karen or sometimes he will just put out a CQ via Echolink from Blackpool, England to check on his friends from across the pond.



Blackpool is a beautiful resort community on the north shore of England. It has inland canals which also makes it quite conducive for boating and yachting for both the residents and tourists.

We have spent many an enjoyable conversation discussing politics, history and geography with Norman. He likes to talk about our country and our Geography and he often comes to the United States on Holiday to Visit friends or to sightsee or for an occasional excursion to Las Vegas.



I would be remiss if I didn't show you Norman's Best Friend Benji, who loves to pose for the camera. Hope to talk to you soon, Norman.

This Month in CQ Magazine

The November issue of *CQ* continues their series of *CQ Interviews* with senior government officials who trace their career roots to amateur radio - and who believe it continues to be important for today's generation of young people. This month, we talk with Dr. Tony Tether, K2TGE, Director of DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (the folks who brought you stealth airplanes and the internet). We also continue our 50th anniversary look at the launch of Sputnik in late 1957, sharing more stories of how the start of the space age affected hams' lives and careers, as well as a few "side stories," such as the high school radio club that grabbed headlines by tracking Sputnik and the ham who dropped thousands of "mini-Sputniks" from a plane all over his community to advertise his TV business! Next, *CQ* Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, has a special request for our readers to dig through their QSL collections in "A Shoebox Search Mission." Jefferson Drew, N4JDU, wraps up this month's features by sharing the experience of his trip to the headquarters of the Chinese Radio Sports Association in "Dah-dit-dah-dit Dah-dah-dit-dah' - A Visit to China's 'Ham Radio Headquarters.' " This issue also features the rules for the [2008 CQ WW 160-Meter Contest](#).



Among our columns, we start out with "Math's Notes," in which column editor Irwin Math, WA2NDM, continues a discussion he started last month on experimentation. Next, Public Service Editor Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, reports on the international response to summer hurricanes in the Caribbean as well as an international conference on amateur radio emergency communications in Alabama.

"World of Ideas" editor Dave Ingram, K4TWJ, continues the series he started last month on "One-Tubers from Yesteryear;" "Washington Readout" editor Fred Maia, W5YI, answers questions from the mailbag; and K4TWJ returns with "How it Works," focusing this month on how to fine-tune your transmitted signal. Phil Salas, AD5X, tunes this issue's "Weekender" column into packaging (and modifying) the Elecraft 2T-gen two-tone test oscillator; Mobiling Editor Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, shows us what some hams with lots of room in their vehicles have done in terms of ham radio installations, and in a connected theme, Antennas Editor Kent Britain, WA5VJB, this month covers the basics of mobile antennas.

Beginner's Editor Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ, takes us shopping for a handheld transceiver; New Products Editor Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, looks at Ten-Tec's new Omni-VII transceiver as well as a bunch of other goodies; and "VHF-Plus" editor Joe Lynch, N6CL, reports on the first recipient of the Worked All States award on 1296 MHz. Next, Contesting Editor John Dorr, K1AR, dusts off his crystal ball and looks ahead to Contesting in 2107; DX Editor Carl Smith, N4AA, reports on upcoming expeditions and other news; Awards Editor Ted Melinosky, K1BV, looks at some short-term and DX awards, and Propagation Editor Tomas Hood, NW7US, offers his last-minute predictions for the CW weekend of the 2007 CQ World Wide DX Contest on November 24th and 25th (for those of you reading this when it's posted in mid-October, don't forget the SSB weekend of the CQWW on October 27th and 28th).

That's a brief look at what's coming up in the November issue of *CQ* magazine, which should be on newsstands and in subscribers' mailboxes by late October.



Save Electricity and Save Money!

By **Larry D. Barr, K5WLF**
Rebel Wolf Energy Systems
<http://www.rebelwolf.com>

As the price of energy of all types keeps rising (along with the cost of almost everything else), it's only natural that folks in every walk of life are looking for ways to lower their energy usage. In this article, we'll explore various ways to do just that. Some of the methods will require a change in hardware –you'll need to make some changes in your home – while others will require a change in mindset. You'll need to make some changes in your habits. Either way, the results are worth it. You'll see the savings immediately.

We'll be talking about electricity in this article, since there are so many ways to reduce the number of Kilowatt Hours (kWh) we use each month and by so doing, reduce our bill. Those folks who are considering living off-grid in the future will soon be living by these precepts for “Conservation is the key to self-sufficiency.” Those living off-grid always have to remember that “Every watt saved is a watt that doesn't have to be generated.”

There is only one way to reduce your electric bill and that is to use less electricity. But there are two ways to use less – eliminate/reduce the use of a device or find a device which uses energy more efficiently to do the same task. We'll discuss both of these in this article, because I want to give you all the tools I can to save your hard-earned money.

Some of the methods for saving electricity are so glaringly obvious that we should never forget them, but we do on occasion. Let's remind ourselves of a few of them:

Turn off lights when you leave the room

That seems obvious, but how many times do we forget? And it's not just inside lights. Do you leave the porch light on when you go out for dinner and a movie? Over the long run, you'll save money by installing a motion sensor to turn the light on when you come home. Timers are also available to replace switches, so that the lights will go off after a preset time.

Turn off devices that you're not using

There really aren't many electrical devices in a home that need to be left on 24/7. In my own case, just the fridge and when I'm home the scanner and my 2 meter ham rig stay on all the time. That's about it.

Don't heat or cool to extremes

No matter how much you hate the heat (or cold), you'll save a lot of money if you keep your house around 78° - 80° in the summer and about 65° or so in the winter. I keep my house right at 80° during the summer and 60° - 65° (a much more pleasant temperature) in the winter. If you don't feel comfortable at those economical temperatures, adapt your clothing. It's your house, you can wear cut-offs or a sweatshirt if you like. And you'll love the money you save.

Add more insulation to your home

One of the most effective energy-saving things you can do. You're paying a lot of money to get the temperature in your house the way you want it. More insulation will help you keep it that way. The majority of heat loss or gain is through the attic, so add there first. Then consider walls and double-pane windows. Don't forget good weather stripping around doors as well.

Lower water heater temperature

You'll save energy by lowering the temperature of your water heater. Many times the heater runs just to maintain a tankful of water at a temperature much higher than you'll ever use.

Put electric water heater on a timer

You will be amazed at the money you save if you install a timer on your electric water heater. Set the timer to only turn the heater on when hot water will be used. For most families, that's in the morning and the evening. So, typical "ON" times would be from 0500-0900 and from 1700-2200. No need in running the heater when everyone's asleep or at work or school.

Install an insulating blanket around your water heater

This is the same principle as more insulation in your house. You're paying to heat that water. No point in letting it give up heat to the rest of the house. Keep the heat in the water. Now let's discuss some ways to use electricity more efficiently. A few more hardware changes here for most folks.

First off, if you're not using Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs), you should be. They use about 25% of the energy that incandescent lamps do, last ten or more times longer, generate a fraction of the heat and have equal light quality. If you tried them when they first came out and weren't happy, give them another try. The new generation of CFLs is exponentially better than the first ones. I have CFLs in every fixture in my house, except for the fridge, oven, microwave and two fluorescent tube fixtures that are built in.

Use task lighting instead of area lighting. If you're doing something at a fixed location, such as your desk or workbench, you don't need to have the entire room brightly lit. Use an LED task light, one of the excellent units by LittLite®, or some similar small fixture to put light only where you need it. A 25 or 40 watt CFL can provide ambient light in the room, and you 'll reap the savings.

Use appliances that are efficient and no larger than needed to do the job. For many cooking tasks, a microwave oven will do what you want to do and save a lot of energy doing it. Same with a CrockPot® or toaster oven. If all you're doing is heating up some fish sticks, don't heat the huge oven in your range, just use the toaster oven. Save heating that big space for something that won't fit in the toaster oven. Like a meatloaf or two. It saves money to make two and freeze one for later. You can save even more money by not preheating your oven, just let the food bake a little longer.

A CrockPot® can save you a lot of energy (money) over firing up a cooktop burner on your range. Using my small CrockPot® last night, I made a pot of beans and used less than one kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity. That's less than twenty cents to cook food for at least two meals. That CrockPot® draws only 85 watts maximum and cost me about eight bucks at WalMart. It will run off my PV panels and battery bank through an inverter in the event of a grid failure. And, a small single burner electric hotplate will use less energy than the cooktop burner on your range.

You'll use a lot less energy in the winter if you put a programmable thermostat on your heater and let the temperature in the house drop quite a bit at night. If you prefer, an electric blanket isn't as heavy on you as blankets and quilts. The thermostat brings the temp up in the morning so you don't have to get up into a cold room. Comfort and savings at the same time.



You might give some thought to a “solar clothes dryer” like Grandma used to use. It's low maintenance, no moving parts and the sheets flapping in the breeze give the puppy something to play with. It's not for everybody, but if you don't mind going back a few years, the initial cost is lower and the energy use much less than an electric or gas dryer. Doesn't work well on rainy days though.

Are you using “power hog” appliances and devices when there are smaller, more energy efficient units that will do the job. An example. I used to have a small sound reinforcement business. I'd work gigs in small venues up to 500 seats or so. When I didn't have a gig, I'd use part of my concert sound system as a home stereo. Nothing huge, you know. Just a couple of speaker cabinets about four feet high, two and a half feet wide and eighteen inches deep – with a one thousand watt amplifier for each one. No way I could use all that power in an apartment, so it sat there idling, drawing much more current than the sound level it produced and causing all the lights in the apartment to dim for a moment when I turned it on. Great sound, but at what cost? Nowadays I use a car stereo that runs off the 12 VDC power supply for my ham rigs and scanner. Or off the PV panels. Much more energy efficient. And at the low sound levels in the house, it's hard to notice a difference in quality.

One last thing you must do to save money on your electric bill is to eliminate phantom loads. What, you ask, is a phantom load? A phantom load is any device that is consuming energy when you think you've turned it off. It all started with “instant on” televisions back in the vacuum tube days. When you “turned off” the TV, the tube filaments still had power applied to them, and were costing you money. When you turned the TV “on”, you were only turning on the high voltage and the warm tubes went to work instantly.

It's even worse today. Anything that has a remote control is a phantom load. Think about it. There has to be a circuit inside there waiting to get the wake-up call from the remote control. The clocks on VCRs, ranges, microwaves and other gadgets are all phantom loads. And they are costing you money. Computer peripherals that are left on when the computer is turned off are phantom loads. When you turn your computer off, the display goes dark, but it's not off, it's just sleeping -- waiting for the computer to wake it back up. The printer, router, DSL modem – all phantom loads. Twenty-four hour night lights and plug-in air fresheners (a dubious invention), both phantom loads. And just look around your house, I'm sure you'll find more.

The way to cure phantom loads is to put the devices on a switched outlet or a power strip. Or simply unplug them. You may find that you're not willing to deal with the effects of completely dropping power to some of your devices. For example, you may have to reprogram some of your gear each time. If that's a problem for you, pick your battles. One of the really nice aspects of energy conservation is that you get to choose how much you want to save. It's up to you which, if any, phantom load devices you leave connected when you're not using them. Just balance convenience against savings. Your call. You now possess the knowledge to cut your monthly electric bill by 30% or so. No, I didn't make that number up. A friend of mine, living in an apartment at the time, followed these same recommendations and saw a 30% reduction in his bill the first full month. It can be done. And you can do it.

Larry D. Barr is the owner of Rebel Wolf Energy Systems in Stephenville, TX USA. He has been active in the RE movement since the 1970s, when he lived off-grid for almost two years. An amateur radio operator (K5WLF), he has developed the “Solar Powered Ham Station” for rapid deployment to emergency communications sites. For info on design and consulting services for RE systems or to discuss custom fabrication of a portable or mobile RE system, visit <http://www.rebelwolf.com/> or email Larry at ldb@rebelwolf.com.



TARA Flyers Return to the Watervliet Dome in November



Mac Smith – KB2SPM and the group of TARA Flyers wants to remind you that the RC Electric Flyer group as the weather turns cold, they will be heading back inside for the winter on weekends early in November. Check with Mac on the 145.17 Repeater.

The TARA RC Flyers will return to the Watervliet Dome (formerly the Ice rink) which is located on 13th Street across from the Watervliet Fire House. It is located between Broadway and Second Avenue (NY Rt.32).

All electric RC Flyers are welcome. Contact Mac at 273-6594.

Fall TNT Trader Net Every Thursday at 9:00 PM

The Fall TNT Trader Net Season is back in full swing. Our Net returned to the Air on September 20, 2007.

The Net starts at 9:00 PM on the **145.170 / 447.075 MHz** repeaters following the Rensselaer Co. ARES/RACES Net.

I ask each of you to come join us for this weekly net. This is your best chance of selling your new/used amateur related equipment locally. So, gather up your goodies and come 9:00 PM Thursday you can list them on the repeater. The more folks we get to join the net the better the chances are to sell your items.

73,
"Mr. Bill" - W2ZU



Buy, Swap, Sell or Just Check-in

Rensselaer County ARES/RACES Net Moves

to Thursday Night at 7:30 PM on 145.17 Repeater



Tune in every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM on the 145.17/447.075 repeater for the Rensselaer Co. ARES/RACE Net. Our group also meets once a month at the Rensselaer County Public Safety Building located at 4000 Main Street, South Troy, N.Y. Our next meeting date will be Thursday, October 18th, 2007 at 7:30 PM. We are always looking for New Members. We are proud to say that our group has increased in size in 2007 and we hope that it we continue to flourish.

Our Group has had a very busy summer since the "East Greenbush Emergency Exercise". Since then, we have had several Antenna Building session meetings at the East Greenbush Masonic Lodge which had exceptional turnouts. Everyone had a great time, plus gained a lot of homebrew antenna building knowledge. Recently, we also conducted a NVIS HF Exercise on October 13th, to test its capabilities within Rensselaer Co.

TARA OFFICERS TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS

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Vice President: Karen Smith, KS2O.....273-6594
Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI.....272-0112
Treasurer: Randy Stein, KL7TJZ.....

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Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....(06-08)..273-6594
Roy Warner N2OWC.....(07-09)..283-8485
Steve VanSickle WB2HPR.....(07-09)..
Ken Smith WA2TQK.....(07-08)..

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

Asst Manager

William "Doc" Kelley, KC2JDW.....235-5063

REPEATER TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

John Pritt, N1JP.....753-6231

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: NEW

Membership Manager & Greeting Chairman
Craig Wood – W2XAD.....370-5224

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE:

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

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THE TARA NEWS

Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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Troy, New York, 12181-1292



Visit us on the Internet

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

Regular monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

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
(If you take the Job, I will throw in a Free Case of Car Wax, too) ☺

TARA VHF/UHF CONTESTING:
Contest Manager - Ray Ginter, N2ZQF

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

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Randy Stein, KL7TJZ.....
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