



THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League
Volume 15 © Issue 09 November 2004



Remember Our Veterans
on November 11th



Amateur Radio License Grants Suspended

ARRL Headquarters Newington CT November 8, 2004
The FCC has stopped issuing Amateur Service license grants while it attempts to unravel an apparent computer program - ming glitch. The FCC posted a public alert on the Universal Licensing System (ULS) site on November 5. At this point, no one seems to know when the problem will be fixed. "The granting of Amateur applications has been temporarily suspended," the FCC announcement says without further explanation. "We apologize for the inconvenience." The Commission has given no indication when processing might resume, but when it does, the FCC likely will pull back more than 125 Group D (2x3) amateur call signs it mistakenly issued out of sequence and grant the applicants new in-sequence call signs. Although they eventually may be set aside and replaced, all call signs showing up in the ULS database are legal to use on the air. The difficulties began October 28, when the FCC implemented a ULS software change that caused applications to be processed improperly. ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the FCC was forced to halt the processing of amateur applications after attempts to correct the initial error only seemed to make things worse. "The FCC is still trying to get its arms around the problems," he said this week. The ARRL VEC has been working with personnel in the FCC's licensing branch to identify where the FCC had been in the call sign sequences, where it had jumped to and where it was supposed to be. Jahnke says the problem appears to have affected only Group D call signs.

Useful life of UO-22 Satellite appears Over

ARRL Headquarters Newington, CT November 4, 2004
According to AMSAT-UK, the UO-22 satellite is not in good shape and its useful life may be over. The Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) Ground Station control center has tried several times in recent weeks to reactivate the satellite, AMSAT-UK reports.

The satellite did come back to life briefly following one attempt, but other tries have failed completely. The SSTL ground control station may make further attempts to reactivate UO-22, "but it seems unlikely that they will be completely successful." The cause of the satellite's failure is not known for certain, but SSTL believes it may be related either to the spacecraft's batteries or to the fact that the satellite is very hot due to orbital precession, which has generally put the spacecraft in full sunlight. The elevated temperature has been causing problems with the receivers as well as with the batteries.

Launched on July 17, 1991, UO-22 has served for many years as the 9600 baud store-and-forward satellite for the Amateur Radio packet radio worldwide SatGate service, which linked packet radio networks in many countries. AMSAT-NA reports UO-22 as "non-operational."

For further information on UO-22 contact Jim Heck, G3WGM, via email at, g3wgm@amsat.org.



More than a Club



We're a Family



T.A.R.A. Completes Another Busy Public Service Events Season

Stop/Race for Hunger

The Church of the Good Shepard in Green Island sponsored the "STOP/RACE for the Hungry and Homeless" on Saturday, Nov. 6th. A majority of the proceeds will go to the Watervliet/Green Island - Maplewood Ecumenical Food Pantry. The remainder will be divided between Joseph's House and Bethany Center of Troy and a food pantry serving Arbor Hill.

Those who participated were:

Dick N2MOA
Margaret N2PEK
Pat KB2SRC
Steve KF2WA
Steve N2PZP
Karen KB2UUC

Art KB2JCJ
Mac KB2SPM
Barney KB2KDY
Marilyn KB2JZI
Kenny KB2KFV

The Race consisted of a 5K Run, 3K walk and a 1K Kiddie Run. Although the workers outnumbered the Participants the event raised almost \$ 3000.00.

I would like to extend my Thanks to all of you that came out for this worthy event.

2004 Pumpkin Patrol

On Oct. 30th and 31st. TARA and AARA and REACT joined forces to help the New York State Police in crime prevention for safe Halloweens. It has been a group effort for all involved and I would like to thank all of the volunteers from all the other clubs and individuals that helped out for this Special Public Service Event! Also A very Special Thanks to all my volunteers who went out to help for this great cause.

Randy KA2TJZ
Duffy....N2TZQ
Margaret....N2PEK
Joe KC2HLC
Mike N2JVE
Ed & Denise KC2HNC
Tom KC2FCR
Ken WA2TQK
Beth KC2BSC
Frank W2FPJ
Tony....W2BEJ
Ken & Marilyn....KB2KFV & KB2JZI
Sue, Dave & Ray....KC2IBI KC2IBF & N2ZQF
Mac & Karen....KB2SPM & KB2UUC

A Special thanks to a new volunteer who did an
Excellent job as back-up net control
Dick Carter....WA2COI

Thanks again for a very Excellent job done by all of you!

73 de Karen

I'd personally like to CONGRATULATE our Public Service Team for another fantastic year. If you look at the amount of events they do each year and the hours that our members volunteer I think we can all be very proud of them.

PLEASE, the next time we get together make it a point to CONGRATULATE those that participated this year. I think we also need to acknowledge the outstanding job that Karen, KB2UUC, has done with organizing this team each year.

While other club's are having trouble handling public service events Karen and her team keep things together and get the job done.

73 de NY2U "Mr.Bill"



Happy Thanksgiving!

George Bowen - W2XBS

This Week in Amateur Radio

November 1, 2004

" A Class Act "

Troy, NY

An open letter to the members of TARA, AARA, and the capital district amateur radio community at large, regarding the airing of amateur news items during the recent 2004 Pumpkin Patrol Net.

Over the years, in listening to the Pumpkin Patrol Net, I noticed that the day before Halloween, folks on the net usually brought in ghost stories, recipes and the like, to help pass the time on the net. I also noticed that during the net that was on the air on Halloween night itself, there were long gaps of dead air during the time the net was active.

In an honest effort to help keep the net interesting, I made an offer to Tony (W2BEJ) to bring individual amateur news items into the net during periods of inactivity. Tony, who was net control, thought it was a good idea, and accepted the offer.

It seems this was something I failed to think through when I made the offer to Tony. When I brought the first news item into the net, I had the exact same thought that many of you had. Murphy usually gets involved in many things that I do, and the time I spent many years ago in public service activities, began to come back to me. If something is going to happen, if someone needs the repeater, it is going to happen during the time I'm sitting here with this news article on the air.

I was going to stop after the first news item aired, but I felt I should honor my commitment to net control. At this point, I was hoping someone on the net would have spoke up if they felt the news items were inappropriate, as this would have given me an out.

Keeping the local ham radio community informed about the important news happening within the amateur service, and the production and airing of the weekly bulletin service, is something I take very seriously. It is my way of giving back to our hobby, much like elmering, participation in public service events, becoming a VEC, or the passing of health and welfare traffic may be your way.

This is all water under the bridge now, and I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the members of the Pumpkin Patrol Net, and the local amateur community, and assure you that this is something I will not do again. Failure on my part to think this through, has proven that it was inappropriate, and not suitable for a public service event, even when approved by the net control.

I hope that you will accept my apology, and will continue to listen to the local version of the weekly bulletins, to keep up to date with all the latest news concerning the amateur radio service.

Best 73,
George - W2XBS
This Week in Amateur Radio

Kathy Casey - N2SQY Elected to National Position

It gives me great pleasure to announce the recent election of Kathy Casey, N2SQY, Albany County RACES Program Coordinator, to the office of Secretary to the "ACBRA", (American Council Of The Blind Radio Amateurs). "ACBRA" is an organization of legally blind and visually impaired amateur radio operators whose goal it is to encourage the entry of blind and visually impaired individuals in to the hobby of amateur radio. This election occurred at the recent convention of the American Council Of The Blind, in Birmingham, Alabama, on Thursday, July 8, 2004. I'm sure you'll all join me in congratulating Kathy on the honor of her becoming Secretary of "ACBRA".



W1AW 2004/2005 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time Mode Days

 1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWs Wed, Fri
 1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWf Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST)

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
 2100 " " CWs Tue, Thu
 2200 " (5 PM EST) CWb Daily

2300 " (6 PM EST) RTTY Daily
 0000 " (7 PM EST) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri

0000 " " CWf Tue, Thu
 0100 " (8 PM EST) CWb Daily
 0200 " (9 PM EST) RTTY Daily
 0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily
 0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
 0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu
 0400 " (11 PM EST) CWb Daily

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on Page 98 in the November 2004 issue of QST or on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555
 RTTY: - 3.625 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555
 VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
 CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
 CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM
 CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins
 RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows
 Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

Blue Knights NY 8 invites TARA to Christmas Party

Blue Knights NY VIII

Christmas Party
 Saturday, December 11, 2004



TIME: 6:00 PM until 12 midnight
 Dinner Served at 7:00 PM
 Latham Masonic Temple
 444 Old Loudon Road
 Latham, N.Y.

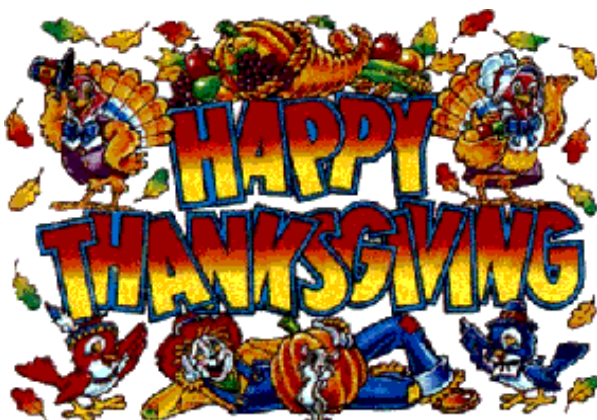
"Attendance By Reservation Only"
Closing Date: November 30, 2004
Bring Your Own Alcoholic Beverage

Participate in the Santa Grab Bag
 \$5 to \$10.00 max
 Gender Neutral

Entertainment By:
 Ondaroadagen
 Mobile Music



Roast Beast Dinner
 Family Style
 With
 All the Trimmings
 Donation
 \$20.00 per person
 RSVP: John Scavo
 At 785-4438



FCC Adopts New BPL Rules

Two Commissioners Express Interference Concerns

ARRL, Newington, CT

October 15, 2004

At a meeting on October 14 in open session, the FCC adopted revised Part 15 (unlicensed services) rules to specifically regulate broadband over power line (BPL) systems. Specifics of the new rules in a Report and Order in ET Docket 04-37 won't be known for a few weeks. In comments before voting, three members of the Commission, including Chairman Michael K. Powell, specifically mentioned the concerns of Amateur Radio operators and expressed either assurances or hope that the new BPL rules will adequately address interference to licensed services. Republican FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin addressed Amateur Radio's and broadcasters' interference concerns in his written statement. ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JBP, said he was encouraged to see the Commission acknowledge interference to Amateur Radio as a genuine issue in the BPL proceeding.

"What the League has done in the last year and a half on this issue showed in the Commission's public meeting today," Haynie said. He cited the FCC's approval of three major points that the League had been pushing for: Certification of BPL equipment instead of verification, a requirement for a public BPL database--something the BPL industry did not want--and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints.

Anh Wride of the FCC Office of Engineering & Technology (OET), outlined the draft R&O and acknowledged that Access BPL devices "pose a somewhat higher potential for interference to licensed radio services than typical Part 15 devices." But, Wride went on to say, "we believe the specific benefits of BPL warrant acceptance of a small degree of additional risk, and that this interference potential can be satisfactorily managed."

Commissioner Michael Copps, a Democrat, said he remains concerned about interference to Amateur Radio users. "I take the concerns of this community very seriously and believe that the FCC has an obligation to work hard to monitor, investigate and take quick action, where appropriate, to resolve harmful interference."

Copps said if interference occurs, "we must have a system in place to resolve it immediately," and he expressed the hope that the new rules would include such "rapid turnaround" provisions. Copps, who dissented in part with the R&O, raised the question of whether utility ratepayers should have to "subsidize an electric power company's foray into

The Commission's other Democrat, Jonathan S. Adelstein, said the interference question made the proceeding a challenging one because it had to accommodate concerns raised by Public Safety licensees, federal government users and Amateur Radio operators. "These are important services that we need to protect from harmful interference," Adelstein said.

Adelstein also said that, while it's clear that some BPL systems can co-exist with existing licensees, others "haven't fared so well." He said those systems shouldn't be deployed commercially until it's assured that they won't cause harmful interference.

Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy, a Republican, said the FCC had to "make some hard compromises" to deal with questions about interference. But she expressed confidence in "technical solutions."

Chairman Powell called it "a banner day" for communications in the US because, he said, BPL promises "ubiquitous service to all Americans at affordable rates." The chairman, a Republican, conceded that BPL will affect some spectrum users--including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there." Powell said the FCC has taken Amateur Radio interference concerns seriously from the start and has taken care to ensure that protections are in place "to allow that service to continue." At the same time, Powell implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

"But let me underscore the potential for the American economy is too great, too enormous, too potentially groundbreaking to sit idly by and allow any claim or any possible speculative fear keep us from driving this technology and drive America into the broadband future."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, suggested that Powell was overstating the necessity of yet another broadband pipeline. "It's astonishing to me that the chairman of the FCC can talk about needing a 'third way' to provide broadband to consumers when multiple technologies already are available, including wireless broadband," he said.

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

Can Amateur Radio Survive BPL ?

TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS

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Vice President: Karen Smith, KB2UUC...273-6594
Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI.....272-0112
Treasurer: Nick Demos, NW2D.....383-3983

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Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....(02-04).....273-6594
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Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248

HF DX & Contest Manager - NY2U

(Just Temp for now!)

TARA VHF/UHF CONTESTING:

Contest Manager - Ray Ginter, N2ZQF

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THE TARA NEWS

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Visit us on the Internet

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

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 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

449.225/R