



THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Volume 18 © Issue 09 October/November 2008

November's Guest Speaker

Dick Frey, WA2AAU of W2SZ/1 MGEF

Tuesday - November 18, 2008 at 7:00 PM

TARA is very excited to announce that Dick Frey, WA2AAU will be our next guest speaker for the November 18 meeting in Green Island. This is the first time that we've had the opportunity to welcome Dick to our club and I hope each of you will be on hand for this special presentation.

Dick is the driving force behind the Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force, or MGEF for short, which is an offshoot of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Radio Club (W2SZ). The group started in June of 1969, when several hams got together and operated the ARRL June VHF Contest from Slide Mountain (in the Catskills) using the call of W2SZ/2. In September of the same year, the same small group of hams, including still active members Dick Frey WA2AAU and Fred Lass K2TR, ascended Mt. Greylock in western Massachusetts and operated in the September VHF Contest in a collaborative effort with the Berkshire Hilltoppers.

Perhaps the largest contributing factor in MGEF's growth and success is the group's strong commitment to the advancement of VHF/UHF/SHF communications technology. The group prides itself in its technical knowledge and skills, resulting in many ground breaking firsts on the VHF/UHF+ bands. Another significant accomplishment for the group is that a majority of the equipment that is used in the MGEF operation has been "home brewed" by our members **(Continued on Page 2)**

Sylvia Stone - K2SLY Silent Key

ENY Section Staff Member

It is with incredible sadness that I have to announce the passing of one of our dearest members. On Saturday November 1, 2008 Sylvia Stone K2SLY passed away after difficulties from surgery. Sylvia now joins Frank Stone KB2YUR SK, her husband, in Heaven.

Sylvia was a member of the Eastern New York Section Staff by serving as Affiliated Club Coordinator and Co-Chairperson for the Empire State Games. Frank and Sylvia took a commanding role the last time the games were in Eastern New York and have been commended by the games organizers, government agencies and the Amateur Community for their leadership performance in helping Amateur Radio serve the games. For the 2009 games we originally decided that the games would be in honor of Frank. With a heavy heart, but with pride, the 2009 games will be in honor of both Frank and Sylvia.

I announced further details as I received them for members who wished to pay their respects.

In Sorrow,

Pete Cecere, N2YJZ

**Section Manager
Eastern New York**



More than a Club



We're a Family



Upcoming Public Service Events



Happy Halloween Karen,

Just a note, after we have "thawed out", Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Pumpkin Patrol 2008 , and a special thanks to the Albany County Rover that found our bridge with the yummy "tricks or "treats"!!

We had a few of the residents come out and ask who we were representing and offered us their hospitality and commented that "kids" have been throwing stones off the bridge and can you spend the night watching????

Thanks again for your significant contribution in making it happen.

Bill - KC2NXC

Dick Frey - WA2AAU re: W2SZ

MGEF also prides itself in supporting other amateurs in the community who share a common interest in VHF/UHF operation.

We'd like to offer you this opportunity to come hear first hand just what it takes to be "King of the Hill!" Dick is a great speaker and you'll enjoy his slide show presentation too. Also, Dick has promised to bring along a couple of pieces of portable Microwave equipment to better show us what they use in the field. Trust us...you DO NOT want to miss this presentation!

Below is a picture of just "ONE" of the many support vehicles they use on top of the mountain.



Greetings to All,

On Friday afternoon, Sept. 26 TH, the TARA Public Service Volunteers and guests did the 27 TH Annual Arsenal City Run. The weather was overcast and it sprinkled and the start cannon didn't work but the 294 runners got off to a good start!

I want to thank everyone who came out and helped me.

Howie...N2HIC

Ed...KC2HNC

Margaret...N2PEK

Bill...KC2NXC

Art...KB2JZJ

Bob...N2LUD

Tom...KC2FCR

Mac...KB2SPM

Ken...WA2TQK

Thanks to Bob for all he did for me!

73 de Karen

KS2O

***CONGRATULATIONS ATVET
FOR ALL YOU DO!***

ATVET completed its exam sessions for 2008 with an exam over at RPI last Saturday. All of us from TARA would like to thank the many volunteers that have assisted Gerald Murray, WA2IWW, with these exams this year. As soon as next year's schedule becomes available we'll have it on here for you. Just think, next year will mark the 25th Anniversary for ATVET.

(Albany - Troy Volunteer Examiner Team)

Pennsylvania Becomes 27th

State with PRB-1 Law on Books

On Wednesday, October 8, Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell (D) signed into law a bill that guarantees radio amateurs the right to erect antenna support structures up to 65 feet without the need for a Special Use Permit.

The bill passed in the House with a vote of 196-1; it passed in the Senate with a vote of 49-1. The new law is scheduled to go into effect December 8, 60 days after signing.

Senate Bill 884 (now Act 88), An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Restricting Municipalities from Regulating Amateur Radio Service Communications, was first introduced on June 1, 2007 by Pennsylvania Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf (R) who represents portions of Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

The bill requires local municipalities to "reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications, and to impose only the minimum regulations necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of themunicipality" and says that "no ordinance, regulation, plan or any other action shall restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 65 feet above ground level, but a municipality may impose necessary regulations to ensure the safety of amateur radio antenna structures, but must reasonably accommodate amateur service communications."

440 Repeater Down for Repair

Last Sunday, Bob Isby, N2LUD returned to the TARA Repeater site only to find that 447.075 MHz side of the system had drifted off frequency. After several hours of swapping out boards/components he still couldn't get it back functioning 100%. So, until some needed parts can be located the 447.075 repeater is temporarily **"OFF THE AIR!"** The 2 Meter side (145.170 MHz) is still up running but there is **no ECHOLINK/IRLP until further notice.**

TARA Fall/Winter Fund Drive

Thanks to Our Membership Team

On Saturday - September 13 we had the drawing for our Fall/Winter Fund drive up at Ballston Spa and things went smoothly. We were so fortunate to have the support that we received from the amateur community to make this the most successful fund drive yet. And, the weather even cooperated! There are a lot of folks that made this whole fund drive come to life and I thank each of you for your assistance and working with me. For those that showed up on Saturday to support TARA I salute you for sure. I need to say a special thanks to Ken "Uncle Sam" Smith, WA2TQK, for going the extra mile. We had so many folks that noticed him selling tickets and they really enjoyed his enthusiasm. And, it wouldn't be right if I didn't acknowledge Karen, KS2O, for all she did for this fund drive. Not only did she do a lot of work behind the scene but then she had to put up with me. :-)) All in all this was a fantastic club project and all of you did one heck of a good job! One more thing I need to mention. All of our success with this fund drive couldn't have been possible without the support from great friends from Saratoga County RACES, the same folks that sponsor the Ballston Spa Hamfest. Each year these fine folks provide us with a great hamfest to hold our raffle drawing at and it's greatly appreciated!

THIS YEAR'S WINNERS

1st Place Prize Winner
Howie Cummings, N2HIC
2nd Place Prize Winner
Gerald Murray, WA2IWW
3rd Place Prize Winner
David Pascale, W2VS

We're more than just another radio club....we're a Family!

73,
Mr. Bill — WJ2U

Welcome to Our Newest Additions to the TARA Family

Greetings To All:

On behalf of TARA I'd like to give a warm welcome to our newest members that were voted into this club at the September meeting. Over the months and years to come I hope this club will meet or exceed all of your expectations and that you will feel comfortable being part of our family!

If you ever have any questions you can either email myself, or any of our Board of Directors directly, or better yet, ask your questions in our Yahoo Group for all to see & follow.

OUR NEW MEMBERS ARE:

Stanley Engel - WA2UET - Ghent, NY
Michael Brodeur - N2NSL - Slingerlands, NY
Eric Champine - KC2TSW - Troy, NY

Again, WELCOME ABOARD!
73,

Mr. Bill - NY2U



TARA's First Octoberfest A Great Success

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of you that attended TARA's very first "OCTOBERFEST" the other night. For those that did not attend, we had over 100 hamfesters that came through the doors and the place was packed! Also, the meeting hall was loaded with all sorts of neat goodies looking for a new home. I never imagined that we'd have that many folks show up and certainly I did not expect to see the huge amount of equipment that you folks brought.

I had a chance to talk with a good number of you that were selling stuff and I was asked if TARA will be doing this again in the Spring. Right now I'm not sure about that but we certainly will consider it.

I need to thank so many folks but there is too little room here. Plus, I will without a doubt forget somebody. But, I need to really thank a few that worked extra hard to make this the huge success it was. Karen, KS2O, once again had enough hot food and goodies to serve everyone that came through the doors. For the better part of two days she spent cooking & preparing all the delicious dishes she brought and everyone sure loved the food. Especially "Bobski" KC2SKI who personally ate 14 meatballs of the some 250 homemade meatballs Karen made! I know Karen had help from the following folks; Margaret, N2PEK; Marilyn, KB2JZI; Beth, KC2BSC; Frank, KC2JRE; Ken, WA2TQK and Howie, N2HIC. In addition we really need to thank Mac, KB2SPM, for all the hard work he did in transporting all of the tables & supplies for this big night. There are many of times that Mac has done this but I have overlooked him when it comes to giving credit for all he does. So....this time I didn't forget...THANKS MAC! :-)

We had a really good cleanup crew too and I appreciate you staying afterwards to make sure the hall was completely cleaned up.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of the different clubs and their members that helped us promote this hamfest. Without your help this couldn't have been the successful event it was.

PRIZE WINNERS:

1st Place: Frank, KC2JRE - Yaesu FT-1802 2 Meter Mobile Radio

2nd Place: Mike, KC2JCJ - 2009 ARRL Handbook/with CDROM

3rd Place: Larry, KC2BLC - BOZAK Mag Mount Dual Band Antenna

Many Thanks!!

Bill - NY2U

Richard Garriott became the fifth space tourist

by [Jamie Anderson](#)

US Citizen, Richard Garriott, became the fifth space tourist to visit the International Space Station when he blasts off into space on Sunday. The 10 day trip would cost the American game developer about \$30m (£15m). Richard would launch into space on The Soyuz TMA-13 spacecraft, which has been the backbone of the Russian space program for more than four decades now. The voyage is scheduled to start from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, at 0701 GMT (0801 BST; 0301 EDT). Born on July 4, 1961, Richard Allen Garriott is a big name in the video game industry. Originally a game designer and programmer, he now engages in various aspects of computer game development. He was born in Cambridge, England, and raised in Nassau Bay, Texas. As he spoke with a British accent, he gained the nickname Lord British from older students at Clear Creek High School.

Garriott's father, Owen K. Garriott, was a scientist who later became an astronaut and flew with Skylab 3 and Space Shuttle Mission STS-9. He spent 60 days on a US space station in 1973. Owen, now 77, will support his son from mission control in Moscow. Richard will be joined on the flight by US astronaut Mike Fincke, and Russian flight engineer Yuri Lonchakov

The professional astronauts will supervise the start-up of new life support equipment for the ISS. Richard happens to be an amateur Radio Operator and during his stay at the International Space Station, he will communicate with students and other Amateur Radio operators using Amateur Radio.

Moreover, Richard is working with the Windows on Earth project, which provides an interactive, virtual view of Earth as seen from the ISS. During his flight, Richard will use Windows on Earth software to assist in the selection of locations on Earth for better photography. He plans to carry out various experiments, including one involving protein crystal growth, on behalf of companies that have sponsored his ticket.

Mr Garriott intends to take photos to record how the Earth's surface has changed in the 35 years since his father's voyage. Thereafter, Richard's photographs, along with ones taken by his astronaut father Owen Garriott in 1973, will be available to the public through Windows on Earth, adding a personal element to studies of Earth.



Thank You TARA

Hello Tara Family.

K2HAT, Lee Hatfield Jr here, folks.

Some of you may have heard me on the repeater recently, going "Waah" about my right leg. I ruptured the right leg quadriceps muscle/tendon at the knee on Oct. 15th 2008, and had to take an Ambulance ride to Albany Medical Center.

I went to the Bone and Joint center on Oct. 20th, for an MRI, and the following Monday Oct 27th 2008 had surgery to reattach the quadriceps to the knee bone.

I want to say Thank You to All who have kept me in your Prayers, and thoughts.

I got 2 get well cards from the Tara Family, and a Beautiful Fruit Basket too. My Dad and Step-Mom appreciate the fruit too. :) { My Dad and Stepmother were kind enough to ask me to move in with them, until I am able to drive again. I moved in with them Oct 22nd. }

My Dad told me to bring along a Ham radio setup to use at his Home, while it is my temporary Home. I am using a Bozak Mag mount mobile antenna, inside the bedroom, sitting on an unused steel comuter tower. The radio and power supply are the units I normally use in my bedroom at home.

I would ask you keep my Family in your prayers, my Mom had cancer surgery earlier this year, and has not been feeling well the past month. My Dad is at St. Peters Hospital as I am typing this, having a defibrillator/pacemaker installed.

I will probably be out of work untill Feb, perhaps March.

Hope to hear you on the Tara repeater, I try to sign in for the Capital District Traffic Net most evenings, at 6:45 pm local time.

May God Bless you all and Happy Holidays too.

73,

Lee Hatfield Jr. - K2HAT

ARRL VEC Announces Exam Fee Increase

On November 6, The [ARRL VEC](#) announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE)-administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by \$1, from \$14 to \$15. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VE teams may retain up to \$7 of this fee to directly reimburse their teams out-of-pocket examination expenses; currently, VE teams keep \$6. This is the first time in four years that the examination fee has been adjusted.

Somma said that the FCC allows VECs to collect an examination reimbursement fee from each candidate who takes one or more exam elements. "VEs and VECs may be reimbursed by examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering or coordinating an examination for an amateur operator license ([FCC Rule §97.527](#))," she said. "These exam fees help the VEC recover its costs of providing its services."

Saying that every examinee at each ARRL coordinated examination session is charged the same fee in accordance with the annually-established fee schedule, "Any person sitting for an exam, or having a new license or upgrade processed at a test sessions, must pay the exam fee applicable for the calendar year," Somma explained. "The ARRL VEC's exam fee for calendar year 2009 is \$15. Each time a candidate pays one exam fee, they are entitled to take tests for Elements 2, 3 and 4 as needed, up to all three elements under the single exam fee. Each time an examinee retakes an exam element (assuming the VE Team has different exam design available), another exam fee is charged."

Collected exclusively to offset expenses that are directly incurred in administering the VE program, VE teams may elect to keep a prescribed portion of each exam fee. "All out-of-pocket reimbursable expenses shall be necessary and prudent, and must relate to the examination process in some way," Somma said. "VECs and VEs are expected to use good business judgment with respect to reimbursement amounts. The examination reimbursement fee cannot be used to offset non-session related costs and must be kept separate from other accounts."

Somma pointed out that business expenses such as postal, utility, fuel and printing charges, are increasing: "Our VE teams are feeling the effects of the current economy, too!"

Teams are retaining reimbursement at amounts considerably larger than previous years. The amount of out-of-pocket costs that our VEs and the VEC are expending to provide authorized services in connection with Amateur Radio operator examinations continues to rise. "Recent ARRL VEC cost-cutting steps have included staff reduction, reduced printing charges of ARRL VE training material and exam software, renegotiating shipping and printing contracts and eliminating lesser-used services.

"Only so many cost-cutting measures can be justified without cutting back significantly on services essential to our VE teams, our customers and our program," Somma said. "As a result, an adjustment was needed in the 2009 exam reimbursement fee if we intended to maintain the basic levels of service that our VEs, VE teams and candidates have come to expect."

Somma said that the ARRL VEC permits its VEs to retain a portion of the exam fees they collect to directly reimburse themselves for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in setting up and conducting their examination sessions. "As long as the expense is warranted and has been prudently incurred -- and the expense is specifically related to exam administration -- then the fee can be retained," she said. "The team should keep a complete record of the expenses paid (with receipts) in team records for two years. Records must be made available to ARRL VEC upon request. Costs not related to the exam session processes or paperwork are not reimbursable."

"We believe that the ARRL VECs level of assistance and services are outstanding," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "Exam supplies, such as paperwork and software, shipping costs both to and from the VEC and ARRL VE accreditation, as well as credentials, are all free of charge for our VEs. We maintain a toll-free number for our VEs and we even offer reimbursement to the VE team for their expenses. We appreciate the dedication and volunteerism of all our VEs in the field. This is why we offer so many services free of charge. This is why we have that same level of duty and commitment here. Every test fee we collect goes right back into the VEC program and to serving the Amateur Radio community."



ARL 68

TARA still has some folks that are at home but could use some nice cards or letters to cheer them up: The following are:



The Radio Nightmare By Bill Continelli W2XOY

Imagine you are trapped in a world that is a combination of Franz Kafka's "The Trial" and George Orwell's "1984". Imagine being tied down to a hospital bed, in an unknown city, with no idea where you are or how you got there. Imagine being denied access to your radios and your cell phone.

I don't have to imagine it. I lived it.

It started simply enough. I was scheduled for surgery on September 15, 2008, in a Syracuse, NY hospital, to remove a pituitary cyst. I would have the operation, spend two or three days in the hospital, and then join my wife, Nancy, in Cincinnati, where she had a seven week teaching assignment. I would recuperate in the hotel while she worked.

In preparation, I packed all the essentials---meaning radios. In my main radio bag, I had a Yaesu FT-817 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver; various handhelds including a Yaesu FT-60, a VX-5, and an ICOM IC-V8; a Radio Shack scanner; two Kaito shortwave radios, a GMRS/FRS ht, and a CB walkie-talkie. In a smaller camera bag that I always carried with me, I had a Yaesu VX-6, a Nokia palm sized electronic organizer (with internet and e-mail access), and a spare cell phone. Of course, I had an ample supply of batteries, chargers, and antennas. Our reserved hotel room was on the 16th floor, with a balcony. I was prepared for seven weeks of radio heaven.

Nothing went as planned.

The operation took place, as scheduled, on September 15th. There were unexpected complications. As a result, I spent two weeks in the Isolation and Intensive Care units of the hospital, with feeding and breathing tubes down my throat. I was semi-comatose, under heavy sedation, with major drugs, including morphine, pumped into my body via an IV. Nancy had to cancel her Cincinnati assignment, rented a motel room in Syracuse, and visited me every day, waiting for me to wake up.

During this two week period, my mind, possibly fueled by the morphine, was active. I had vivid and graphic dreams, creating a fantasy world that was so detailed, I thought it was real.

This dream world was set sometime in the near future. Per the "Digital Radio Act of 2009", analog transmissions of any type were prohibited. All radio and TV stations were digital. The concept of "free" radio and TV was gone. Every time you tuned in to your favorite station, or watched your favorite show, your receiving device logged the station and the amount of time. At the end of the month, payment was automatically deducted from your account. All transmissions used proprietary digital software—if you didn't subscribe (and pay), you couldn't receive anything. Everyone was required to subscribe. Each receiver was licensed, with an annual fee. Internet usage was monitored and taxed. The Government issued cell phones free of charge to all citizens age 18 and over. What was the catch? You paid every time you used the phone; you had to carry the cell phone with you 24/7; and there was no way to shut the phone off.

In regards to the concept of radio as a hobby; it was officially obsolete.

The Government wasn't issuing any new amateur radio licenses. In fact, the Government prohibited the sale of any new scanners, shortwave receivers, ham and CB transceivers, and any type of two-way radios. The official explanation was that the digital infrastructure now in place was so efficient; anyone could contact anyone else anywhere without the need for an archaic, analog, spectrum wasting system such as ham or CB radio. The unofficial reason—the Government wanted to control, monitor and tax every aspect of personal communication. With all radio, TV, cell phone and internet activity routed through cell towers, cable systems, and satellites, the Government could allow or deny access to anyone. In addition, people could be taxed for every minute they used

The Radio Nightmare (Continued)



the system. Naturally, “free radio” was a danger to this concept. It would be impossible to effectively monitor, control, and tax “free radio”; therefore, it had to be banned.

In this dream world, there was a legal loophole. Amateur Radio operators, CB enthusiasts, MURS, GMRS and FRS users, and shortwave listeners were “grandfathered” in. They could continue to operate their radio equipment on frequencies they were authorized to use before the digital changeover. In addition, AM and shortwave radio stations that were independently owned and generated more than 50% of their programming from local sources were allowed to remain on the air, although with only 1000 watts. The Government shut down all independent FM and TV stations, because they were a waste of precious RF spectrum, and did not generate tax dollars. The Government believed that “free radio” would wither and die in a few years, due to attrition.

The Government, however, underestimated the love and passion that we have for our radio hobby.

A small, but fiercely devoted, group of radio enthusiasts continued to operate their individual stations. In this alternate reality, there were only about 150,000 active hams, and another 500,000 users of CB, MURS, GMRS and FRS radios. Nationwide, there were about 300 AM broadcast stations on the air, as well as five or six shortwave stations, including WWCN and WBCQ. The ARRL was still around and now represented all “free radio” adherents. The Government, however, had revoked the ARRL’s 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, and the League was in financial trouble.

Believers in “free radio” were defiant and almost militant in defending and preserving an individual’s right to the airwaves. We avoided digital broadcasts as much as possible. We eschewed the use of the internet. The law required us to carry our cell phones everywhere; however a “free radio” attorney pointed out we were not required to recharge them. We flaunted our hobby whenever possible; our belts were loaded down with 2 meter handhelds, CB walkie-talkies, MURS, FRS and GMRS radios; our cars all sported hamstick’s and 102” whips; there was an increase in the use of traffic nets and packet radio. ARRL Radiograms were popular again. Whenever possible, all communications were by “free radio”.

In addition to the ARRL, we formed regional Radio Councils across the country. I was president of the Eastern NY Council. (Hey, it’s my dream; I can make myself president if I want). These Councils guarded our frequencies against intruders; monitored local law enforcement agencies to ensure that “free radio” users were not harassed; kept watch for pending legislation that might impact us; and coordinated the regional nets. The Councils also tried to educate the public about the benefits of “free radio”, and acted as a central exchange for repairing, rebuilding, and refurbishing old ham, shortwave and CB radios.

On the national scene, the ARRL and the Radio Councils challenged the constitutionality of the “Digital Radio Act of 2009” in Federal Court. We won a major victory when a Federal District Court ruled that the Act was unconstitutional. Although the Government filed an immediate Appeal with the Supreme Court, “free radio” enthusiasts everywhere were invigorated and energized. We knew that the Act was doomed, and that we would no longer be compelled to use a monopolistic infrastructure, created by an Unholy Marriage between Government and Corporation.

The Government and the communications industry were in a panic. If the Act was overturned, they would lose billions of dollars in taxes and user fees, not to mention the ability to completely control how, where, and when we communicated. If they couldn’t win legally, well, there were other means.

Suddenly, things began to happen to ARRL and Radio Council leaders. Some disappeared; some had sudden heart attacks; a few committed “suicide”; others had “accidents”. As for me, I was in an unusual position. In my dream (as well as in the real world), I was a federal employee. Furthermore, I was an officer and steward in NTEU, a union

The Radio Nightmare (Continued)



that represents many federal workers, including FCC employees. One day, while at the Federal Building in Buffalo, I was seriously injured when part of the building collapsed under suspicious circumstances. I was rushed to the hospital and, while I was in ICU, I was indicted for various federal crimes, including treason, tax evasion and (believe it or not) being AWOL from my job. I was transferred to a hospital in a federal prison.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, I had been under sedation for two weeks. The nurses noticed that I was becoming very agitated; I tried to pull the feeding and breathing tubes from my mouth. When they tied my hands down, I chewed through the breathing tube, and pushed it out with my tongue. Since the immediate medical crisis was over, they decided to remove the tubes, and take me off the drugs.

I awoke in the real world sometime during the middle of the night on September 30th. I saw that I was in a hospital bed, hooked up to oxygen and an IV. In my mind, there was only one explanation---I was in the prison hospital. A few minutes later, a nurse came into the room. "Bill, you're awake! Can you hear me?". I just stared at her without responding. I was a prisoner, and I had no intention of cooperating.

The next morning, I was overjoyed to see Nancy and my mother walk into my room. Wow, the federal prison allowed visitors! I tried to talk, but the feeding and breathing tubes had destroyed my vocal chords. I had no voice. In addition, because my lungs were damaged, it was even difficult to whisper. With a lot of effort, I told them to call my attorney, and asked them about the status of my case. They looked confused; what case? I was surprised; didn't they know what was happening? Laboriously, I explained everything that occurred in my dream world (the real world to me). I emphasized that my freedom, and the future of free radio depended on the outcome of the upcoming court cases. They needed to call my attorney, NTEU Union officials, other Radio Council members, and members of the free radio community to get the latest information and coordinate our next steps.

My wife smiled; to me it seemed to be a condescending, amused smile. They spoke to me as though they were talking to a child. They told me it was all a dream; I was not in prison; I was not under indictment; ham and CB radio were not in danger; I was still in the hospital with complications from the operation to remove the pituitary cyst.

I was speechless (literally) and dumbfounded. Were they on drugs? Why were they lying? The cyst operation was last year, in 2008. It was now 2009, and I was in federal prison. Did the Government pay off my wife and mother? Were they part of the conspiracy? Had they been threatened?

I argued with them for hours (try arguing when you have no voice). They found my story to be fascinating and amusing, but they insisted it was a dream. Then, Nancy went to the closet to hang up her sweater. Suddenly I saw my salvation. The camera bag was in there! With the VX-6, the Tracfone and the Nokia electronic organizer! If I could get that bag, I could call for help! People in the free radio movement would come and rescue me!

Trying not to look excited, I nonchalantly asked for the camera bag. "Why? What do you need? I'll get it for you" Nancy replied. "I just want the bag to look through it" I hoarsely whispered. My wife's next statement sent me into a quivering rage; "Don't give him the bag Ma, he wants the radios so he can call for help". Nancy told me "Bill, you're delusional. You can't tell reality from fantasy. You can't have the radios until you recover". "Besides", my mother added, "you have no voice; no one will hear you".

I was furious. I cursed my wife and mother, calling them every name in the book. I verbally abused them for hours. They sat there quietly and took it. Looking back, I'm extremely ashamed and sorry for what I said. At the time, however, I truly believed that I was in my alternate world, incommunicado, and that my wife and mother were in on the plot. After they left, I fell asleep. I woke up sometime in the middle of the night. The closet door was open, and I could see the camera bag. I tried to get out of the hospital bed. Unfortunately, I was extremely weak, and had no coordination. I tumbled to the floor. Undaunted, I started to crawl to the closet. The nurses rushed in. "BILL,

The Radio Nightmare (Continued)

W

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?" they screamed. "Trying to escape" I whispered in response. They put me back in bed, and attached me to a bed monitor. They warned me that if I tried to get out of bed again, they would tie me down. I gave in; I knew I was defeated.

The next few days were anti-climatic. As my body gradually flushed the sedatives away, I became more lucid. Gradually, I realized where I was, and why I was there. By Monday, October 5, I could talk again, and was coherent enough that Nancy gave me my camera bag. I called family, friends, fellow hams, union officials, and co-workers. I listened to AM, FM, Amateur, and CB transmissions on the VX-6. Everything was normal. I was finally discharged on Thursday, October 8. I still have some medical issues; I can't walk or drive. My hands shake and I tire easily. But in three months, I'll be back in shape.

As I sit home recuperating, I mentally review the events of the past month and keep asking myself "was it just a dream?". It was so detailed, so real, so vivid; I'm convinced it was more. Some have suggested that I had a near death experience; others say I actually was able to see into the future. I don't know. However, I do know that I came out of this experience with a newfound love and appreciation for ham, CB, shortwave, MURS, FRS and GMRS radio. The scanner is now on 24/7, the two meter handheld is always at my side. Having "lived" in a world without radio, I'm now dedicated to preserving and protecting my hobby.

As a footnote, my co-workers took up a collection for me. They bought a \$200 gift certificate---to Amateur Electronic Supply. In addition to ham radios, AES carries a large selection of non-amateur equipment, such as GPS devices. That \$200 will buy Nancy a nice gift. After all the abuse I gave her, she deserves it.

Editors Corner

Greetings to Everyone,
Fall is now upon us and now everyone is finishing their antenna projects to prepare for the cold winter. Again, I would like to thank our friends and members for taking photo's and keeping me posted of what's going on, but we need more input from you the reader.

Unfortunately, we need more stories and articles about the members themselves. I would like to see more pictures of your shacks and stories about you and what you are doing,

This is your newsletter and I want it to be about you. Otherwise, it is just a bunch stories gathered from other sources for your reading pleasure. I don't really thing that is what we want.

Hoping to hear from all of you with some interesting stories in the future. I will close this communication for now.

73,

Ken Davis – Editor – KB2KFV

T.A.R.A. - T.N.T.
W2TRY - N2TY - W2PTR

SWAP NET

Every Thursday at 9:00 PM

on the

145.170 - 144.570 Repeater

Unfortunately, the 440 Repeater,

Echolink and IRLP are down

while the 440 Repeater is under repair

CLUB OFFICERS – 1 YEAR TERM

President: Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248
Vice President: Karen Smith, KS2O.....273-6594
Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI.....272-0112
Treasurer: Howie Cummings,.....N2HIC.....Unlisted

TARA DIRECTORS - 2 YEAR TERMS

Ken Davis, KB2KFV.....(06-08)..272-0112
Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....(06-08)..273-6594
Roy Warner N2OWC.....(07-09)..283-8485
Steve VanSickle WB2HPR.....(07-09). 461-2354
Ken Smith WA2TQK.....(07-08)...233-7055

REPEATER MANAGER:

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

Asst Manager

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

REPEATER TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

Robert Isby, N2LUD (Our Main Man)

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

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: **NEW**

Membership Manager & Greeting Chairman

Craig "SHREK" Wood –W2XAD...370-5224

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE:

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

NOTICE: THE EDITOR AND STAFF OF THIS NEWSLETTER WILL NOT ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENTS, ACCURACY, OR READABILITY OF THIS PUBLICATION. HOWEVER, BY READING THIS NOTICE, IT BECOMES THE RESONSIBLTY OF THE READER TO HELP PROMOTE GOOD OPERATING PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES ON THE AIRWAVE'S

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, November 18, 2008

7:00 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

Still looking for a replacement ☺☺

TARA VHF/UHF CONTESTING:

Contest Manager - Ray Ginter, N2ZQF

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:

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

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

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

Ken Davis. KB2KFV..... 272-0112

TARA HISTORIAN:

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

N2TY-“ N2TY-“TROY” NODE

DEPARTMENT:

Russ Greenman – WB2LXC

N2TY-BBS SYSOP:

Mike Styne KC2JCJ... 518-330-7592

ATVET (ALB/TROY) VE TEAM:

Gerry Murray WA2IWW...482-8700

FIELD DAY 2008 CHAIRMEN:

Bill Eddy, NY2U..... 273-9248

Steve Kopecky, KF2WA 674-4150

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

Ken Smith, WA2TQK.....233-7055

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

Cartoonist:

Dave Leavenworth WB2TGN

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

KB2KFV@aol.com or

KB2JZI@aol.com or

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

Troy's Full Service Repeaters
145.170/R **447.075/R**