

THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

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December 2002



Happy Holidays



4TH ANNUAL SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY IS DECEMBER 7

The fourth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/> is December 7 (UTC). That's when Amateur Radio operators set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other operators around the world. The event is sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service.

"The purpose of the event is to recognize the vital public service contribution that Amateur Radio operators make during National Weather Service severe weather warning operations," said David Floyd, N5DBZ, warning coordination meteorologist, at the NWS Goodland, Kansas, office. "It also strengthens the bond between Amateur Radio operators and the local National Weather Service office."

For several decades now, hams have assisted the NWS by providing real-time reports of severe weather and storm evolution. The information radio operators locate near a storm can provide plays a key role in aiding forecasters. SKYWARN operators in several states activated to spot and track an outbreak of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes November 10.

Scott Mentzer, N0QE--the meteorologist-in-charge of the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas, and the creator and annual organizer of SRD--says more than 90 stations are registered to participate, up from 80 last year. Most participating NWS stations will operate on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 2 meters using SSB and FM. Mentzer says a number of NWS offices will be equipped to support Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) stations. All contacts will be made utilizing the General or Novice portion of the bands. Stations will exchange signal report, location and a one-word description of the current weather at their respective locations ("sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc). This is not a contest, so no scoring will be computed.

SKYWARN Recognition Day will take place December 7 from 0000 UTC to 2400UTC. Since SRD is being held on Pearl Harbor Day, each NWS office will transmit a special message from approximately 1800 to 1900 UTC--approximately the time of the Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, attack on December 7, 1941--to honor the World War II veterans.

The deadline to register an NWS site is December 1. Contact Mentzer to register: scott.mentzer@noaa.gov. Complete information is available on the 2002 SKYWARN Recognition Day Web site <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>

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More Than A Club



We're A Family



TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



11TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Holiday Greetings to all of our TARA Friends

The Christmas Holidays are upon us. We will be celebrating Christmas with TARA, with another Super Holiday Party in the usual TARA Family fashion of a great time with lots of food, fun and great friends!!

We're hoping that everyone who comes would like to help us make this a super festive party by bringing one of your special dishes or a yummy dessert.

TARA will be providing the baked ham and beverages and some other yummy stuff.

Please get in touch with myself or Mr. Bill and let us know what you would like to bring so that we will not have to many of one dish!!

**Thanks so much for your help and Club support!!
Happy Holidays to all!!!**

73 de Karen KB2UUC



AMATEURS AID COMMUNITIES IN WAKE OF CONNECTICUT ICE STORM

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members got to work quickly the morning of Sunday, November 17, as an ice storm knocked out power to almost 130,000 Connecticut homes and businesses, mostly in the north western part of the state. The statewide alert--and the resulting ARES activation--lasted 48 hours. Connecticut Gov John Rowland toured the region and visited the ham station set up at the Torrington Emergency Operations Center.

Connecticut Section Emergency Coordinator Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said about 30 hams from all over The Nutmeg State headed into the affected area, mostly in north western Connecticut. He characterized ARES members' efforts as "wonderful." Pitts said Connecticut ARES had been drilling informally in conjunction with ARES teams in Eastern New York and New Hampshire, and the effort paid off. "The drills covered a very similar situation," he said. "The level of coordination and cooperation was incredible."

ARRL staffer Brennan Price, N4QX, was among those taking a turn as net control of the Connecticut Phone Net on 3965 kHz. "The good thing about this particular situation was with such a small part of the state hit, there were a lot of others in the state able to help out," he said. "It all came together quickly and was nicely pulled off."

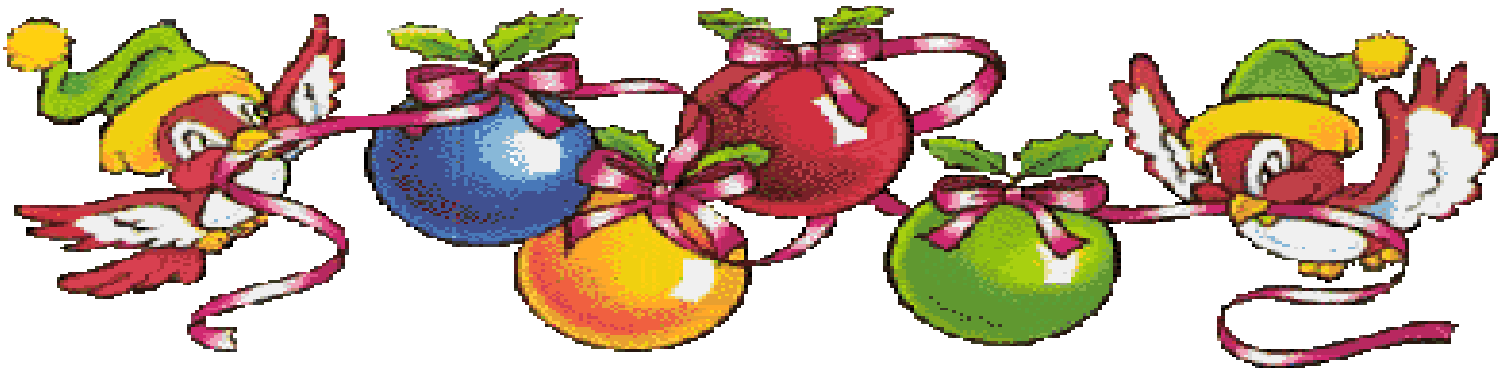
West Hartford-Area EC Harry Abery, AB1ER, said most of the work hams did was in Torrington area shelters. That Litchfield County community was among the hardest hit.

Connecticut ARES linked 10 VHF and UHF repeaters in Torrington, Vernon, Naugatuck, Meriden, New Milford and Washington. Separate resource and tactical nets were run on other 2 meter repeaters.

Dutchess County, New York, EC Adam Nowik Jr, KC2DAA, said amateurs in Eastern New York activated their own net, and more than a half dozen New Yorkers arrived in the Torrington area within three hours of the activation. "Our net was kept active in the event the Connecticut section had need for additional communications or had a complete communications breakdown," Nowik said. Frank Stone, KB2YUR, served as a liaison between Abery and the hams in Eastern New York for the duration of the incident.

After 27 hours, the Connecticut Phone Net's Emergency session on HF was able to stand down the afternoon of November 18, as temperatures rose into the 40s. But 20 minutes later, the net was back up after a trunk line from New York went down and more people lost power, Pitts said. Relief efforts by area radio amateurs continued into the evening of Nov. 18, when the statewide ARES alert was terminated. "We did not shut down statewide until we were sure every-one was off the roads, home safe and checked in," Pitts said.

Pitts credited greater professionalism and proficiency over the past several months to the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>> offered on-line. "We're seeing a real difference, and the quality of operations is definitely up," he said. Thanks to a \$33,000 grant from Hartford-based United Technologies Corporation, up to 250 Connecticut amateurs will be able to take the ARRL Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course (EC-001) free of charge.



Eliminating R.F. Noise in your Shack

One of the most annoying and frustrating thing that an amateur operator or shortwave listener encounters is RF Noise. Locating RF Noise and eliminating it can be an extremely frustrating task, but can be very rewarding, when the source of the problems are eliminated. This list is not a cure all, but may help you in determining some of the sources of noise.

Almost all the time fish tank heaters, oil burner igniters, heater controls like the heat anticipator, dimmer switches, touch lamps, door bell transformers not always but most times will create QRM on all bands and get quieter as you move up. You say that you have the TV on when operating. That could be several harmonics up from the color burst oscillator. It may be a slim chance but yank the plug and reverse it if it is not polarized. It may solve the problem.

The best way to make sure your rig is not doing it is to plug in a dummy load. Turn the AF gain all the way. Now use the band selector switch and listen to each band. All bands should sound about the same with little difference in RX noise.

You can go out into an open field and just use a random wire running from the battery. If the noise is gone then the QRM problem is where you're living.

A few years ago I had a tape heater on a cold water pipe, wipe out 40 meters. The other bands were fine so I think the tape heater was resonant on the band. The thermostatic switch was bad. Buy a new tape heater to get rid of the QRM.

If you have severe QRM on all bands and live near a store that has a display case with halogen bulbs and are controlled by touching a brass plate, follow the plug. It goes to a small black box that's a transmitter and transmits at 1240KC. I located one and the counter picked up the reading as soon as I walked into the store. The FCC advises that anything that transmits must say TYPE FCC ACCEPTED on the unit or it's illegal. We split the cost of a small power supply and the storeowner was happy with one setting.

Other things are the everyday light bulb and fluorescent light fixtures. Also watch out for the coin size device that's called an energy saver that goes into the socket and held in place with the bulb. Those wide rocker arm type switches that have a small neon bulbs that go on when the light is turned off at night and also light dimmer switches.

Touch lamps are a never ending culprit of RF noise and can generate noise for blocks across many bands.

Street lights with loose connections or bad transformers and defective power lines can be an annoying source of RF. Just take a pocket AM radio with you and tune it to an area where there is no station and walk around your neighborhood under the powerlines, you will easily locate the source. Actually your power company often appreciates this, because arcing is an early signal of a bad connection which may result later in a power failure.

Cable TV lines that have not been grounded or shielded properly give off a great deal of stray radio interference especially in the VHF and UHF bands. Example – tune your 2 meter rig to 145.250 Mhz and you will often hear a dead carrier. Your local cable company may have a bad connection at the pole or you have a cable wire in your house that does not have a terminator on the end of it to get rid of stray RF. Example – cable TV jacks on the wall that do not have a terminator on them. Your local Cable TV or cable sub-contractor guy will often give you a handful of these if you ask nicely. Also, beware of using cheap dollar store cables, they often leak RF like a sieve.

Your VCR can generate noise, this one drove me nuts for close to a year with a 4 second on and off buzz (timer circuit) Cheap telephones, cordless phones, scanner receivers can also generate stray RF. Computers, printers and scanners that are not being used but still plugged in. Gel cell battery chargers. TV antenna 110 volt receiving boosters and sometimes scanner pre-amp boosters.

The list is endless but I hope some of this will help.

73 de KB2KfV

W



*May everyone have a
Safe and Peaceful
Holiday Season!!!*



All-ham, all-male crew settles in onboard space station

Newington, CT December 3, 2002

One all-ham crew has replaced another onboard the International Space Station. The new crew is entirely male. The crew change also marks the first time since Expedition 3 that a US astronaut will be in charge of the ISS crew. The Expedition 6 crew of Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB and NASA ISS Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, lifted off November 23 on a four-month scientific mission.

The Expedition 6 team is the third all-ham crew to serve aboard the ISS. The team replaces the all-amateur Expedition 5 crew of Commander Valery Korzun, RK3FZ; Sergei Treshev, RK3FU and Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD. Whitson, Korzun and Treshev have been in space since June 5. They're expected back on Earth December 4. A final farewell and formal change-of-command ceremony between the crews took place this week before the hatches between the ISS and the shuttle Endeavour were closed and latched.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contacts will remain on hold for approximately the next three weeks as the crew settles in and takes care of its initial duties.

NASA says the Expedition 6 crew members will work with a total of 20 continuing and new experiments in the US Density Laboratory. Also, Bowersox and Budarin are scheduled to perform a six-and-a-half-hour spacewalk this month.

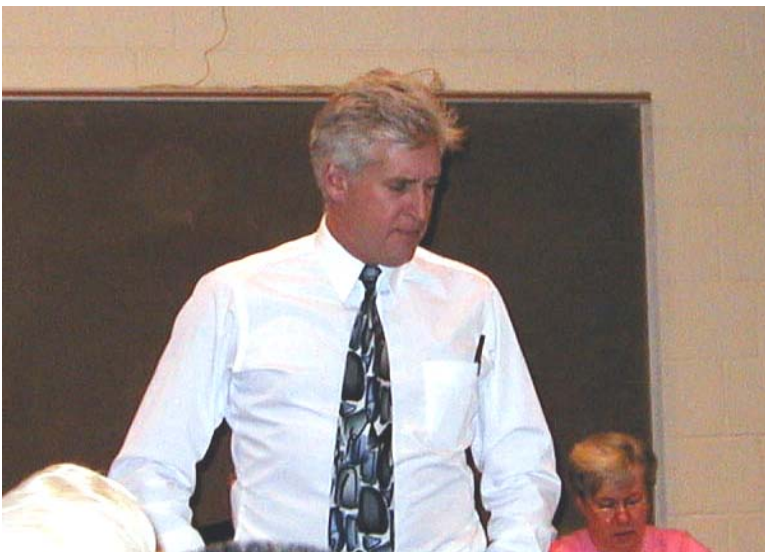
Rescue in the Rockies

Long-distance rescue via Morse code: Gene Nailon, K5DLE, reports a ham in the Rockies has a fellow amateur in Oklahoma and the Morse code to thank for helping after he fell ill during a QSO on December 17, 2001. Larry Watson, W5EIU, in Oklahoma City answered a CQ on 3710 kHz from the Wyoming ham. They had been talking for about 15 minutes when the Wyoming op told Watson: "I think I'm having a heart attack, and I can't get to the phone." After that, his transmission broke off, and Watson was unable to raise him further. About the same time, Jim Caldwell, WJ0C, of Waterloo, Iowa, broke in. WJ0C was able to look up the full name and location of the Wyoming ham and relay the information to Watson, who called the police in the Wyoming town to alert them to a potential medical emergency. It turned out they were right. The Wyoming ham--whose name and location were unavailable--was hospitalized, and the prognosis was said to be good. Watson, first licensed at age 13 in 1954, says this was a first for him. (By the way, both Watson and Nailon belong to Central Oklahoma Chapter 63 QCWA.)--Gene Nailon, K5DLE

This Story was contributed by Joe Squillace, KC



Steve Caporizzo Night



November 17, 2002

Silent Keys - A month of Loss to Ham Radio



Newington, CT November 22, 2002, DXCC legend Bob White, W1CW, SK

Former ARRL Headquarters staff member Robert L. White, W1CW, of Seffner, Florida, died November 22 from complications arising from pneumonia. He was 83.

Known to many as "Mr DXCC," White was the manager of the ARRL's DX Century Club program from 1952 until 1976, establishing the award--and its stringent standards--as Amateur Radio's premier DX achievement. White codified the rules for the DXCC program and oversaw the checking of some 250,000 QSL cards submitted yearly, often working as many as 90 hours a week to ensure that the job got done right. During his tenure at Headquarters, White also oversaw the ARRL QSL Service. He belonged to the ARRL for 62 years and was a Life Member.

"Dad was the guy who made DXCC what it was," said White's son, Jim, K4OJ, in a posting to the CQ Contest reflector. "He didn't cut any corners--everyone was held to the same high standard--and this is what made holding DXCC meaningful."

Introduced to Amateur Radio in his youth, White was first licensed in 1938. He served as a radio operator in the US Navy during World War II. White was an avid DXer and CW enthusiast. Active in the First Class CW Operators' Club, White was also inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in 1998.

NOV 29, 2002

Once again, our amateur radio community has lost another devoted amateur radio operator with the passing of Ron Rapozo, N2JAW, who passed away, at approximately 1:30 AM, on Wednesday, November 27, 2002. I do not have the exact cause of Ron's death. Ron, within the past two or three years suffered numerous health problems, with one of the most serious problems being a stroke, a couple of years ago.

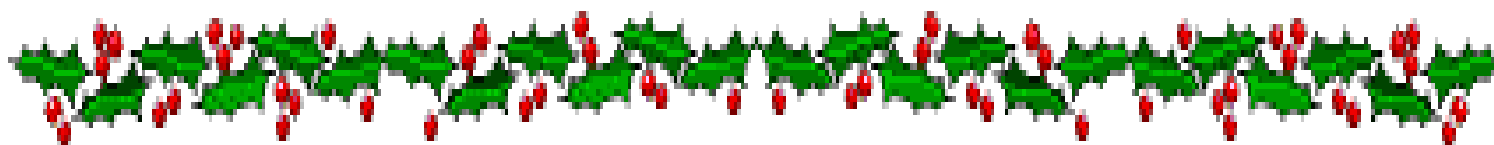
Ron was on numerous amateur radio traffic nets, including the NYSPT&EN, (New York State Phone, Traffic, And Emergency Net). This month was a very sad month for the NYSPT&EN, as in addition to Ron's passing, our net also has mourned the passing of Terry Kennedy, N2KPR, on November 9, 2002. Both Ron and Terry will always be fondly remembered for their caring and professional devotion to the hobby of amateur radio and the rich rewards of their never-ending efforts in public service communication events. Our fondest sympathies, thoughts, and prayers go out to the families of Ron and Terry.

November 9, 2002

Terry Kennedy, N2KPR, passed away on Saturday, November 9, 2002. Memorial services were held, Tuesday evening, November 12, 2002. Terry Had been in the hospital, on numerous occasions, due to cardiac problems. Terry, N2KPR, was the Tuesday evening net control station for the New York State Phone, Traffic, And Emergency Net. He was also involved with "OCTEN", the Oneida County Traffic And Emergency Net. In fact, many of you probably remember hearing Terry's call being reported as the OCTEN rep for the Capital District Repeater Net.

Terry was involved in many areas of amateur radio, for which his contributions were many. Terry will be dearly missed as a fellow amateur radio operator and a true friend to many.

Pete Cecere, N2YJZ, accompanied a group of several amateur radio operators who attended the memorial service for Terry, on November 12th.



Green Island Railroad History

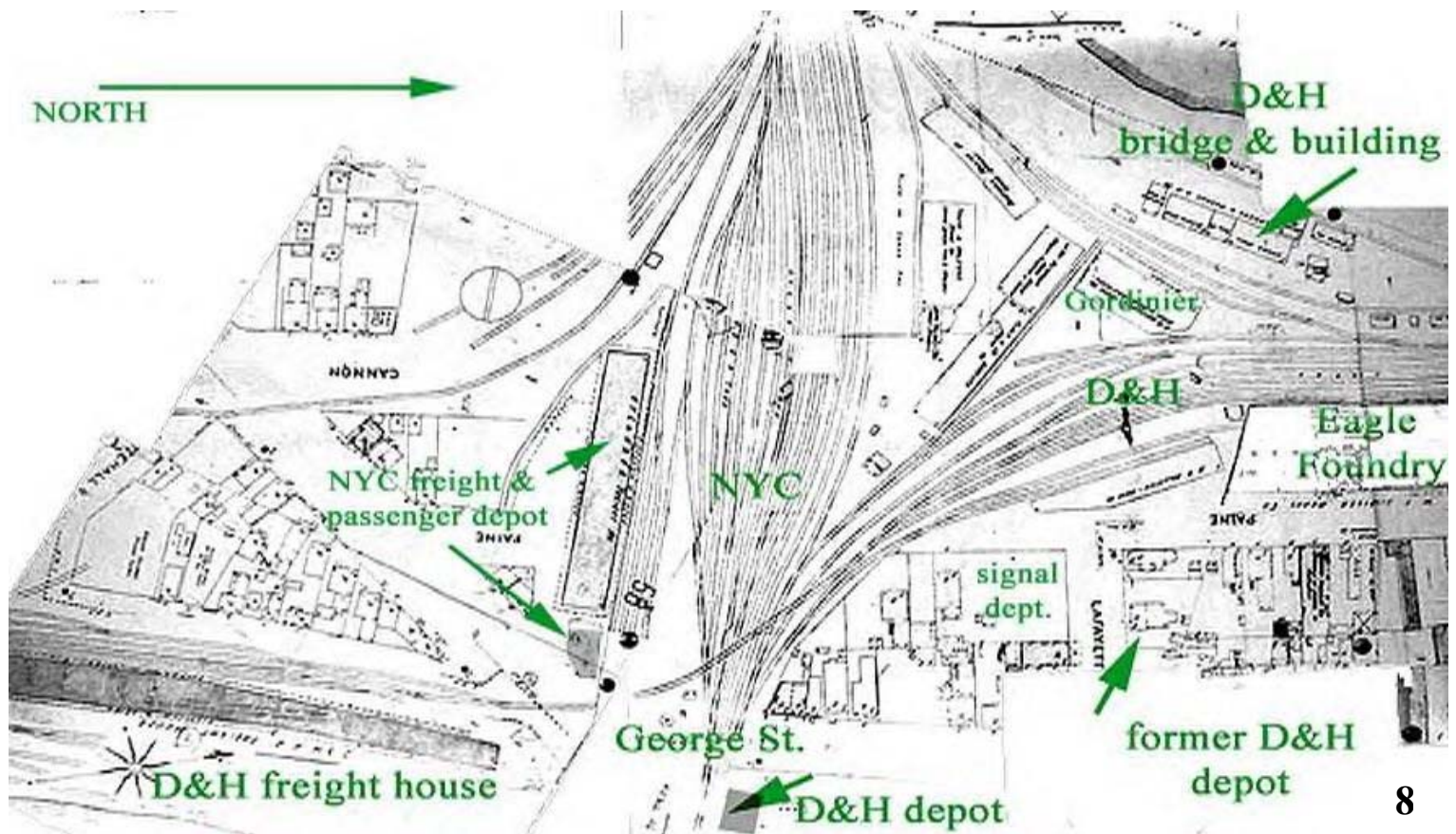


Choo-Choo Ragchew

The next time that you come to a TARA Meeting at the Green Island Municipal Center, think about this map and picture and imagine the Hey-days of railroading in Green Island. Use your VIEW button to enlarge the map and the picture above. As you come north on Lower Hudson Avenue past the Green Island Bridge and see that big empty lot, think of the above picture of the D&H Depot that used to stand there about 75 years ago. As you look at the map and see the siding for the D&H freight house, that is where the self storage buildings on Lower Hudson Ave are now located. At the bottom of the map, you see where all of the tracks converge and the D&H Depot were right at the Entrance to the Green Island Bridge. Also, Grimm Building Supply is located on the East side of George Street where the tracks converged. The New York Central Freight House is now the site of Bricks-R-Us and the yellow house just to its' left was the NYCRR Depot Office. If you take a ride over to Lafayette St, just off George St. and look at the Bowling Lanes, that is the former site of the Signal Department Shops. While stopped there look to your immediate left and you will see an old beige imitation brick cottage, which used to be another D&H depot building. If you look directly in front of you facing west on Lafayette St. you will be looking at Lafayette Park which was formerly the D&H shops site and farther back was Gordinier and the D&H Bridge and Building Shops. As you turn north onto Lower Paine St. and see the new row of homes you will be looking at the former site of the Eagle Foundry.

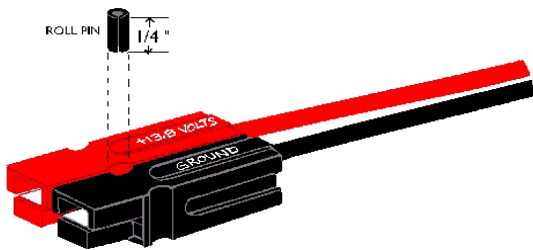
I hope that you enjoyed this little trek through some of the history of railroading in Green Island and if you enjoyed this type of story, please let me know and I will try to come up with some more interesting reading. I would like to thank the RR Historical Website at RPI for the resources for this article.

73 de Ken KB2KFV



Anderson Powerpole Assembly

The Ideal Standardized Connection for Ham Equipment



The 30 amp Anderson Powerpole® is quickly becoming the standard power connector of preference within **emergency communications** organizations around the country. First becoming popular in the Pacific Northwest, the Powerpole® allows for quick field installation and interchange of power supplies and radio equipment without having to resort to adapter cables, clip leads and other jury rigged arrangements.

Powerpoles® are both polarized and genderless, so you never have to worry about male vs. female or positive vs. negative. Connections can be quickly made and remade in the dark without any hassles and the 30 amp connector can easily handle 100 watt radios.

Housings should be mated according to the diagram above, viewing from the contact side (opposite the wire side), tongue down, hood up, RED on the LEFT, BLACK on the RIGHT. Use a 3/32-inch-diameter roll pin, 1/4 inch long, to keep the housings from sliding apart.

Highly conductive silver-plated copper contacts allow minimal contact resistance at high currents. Self-wiping action on make and break keeps conducting surfaces clean. Contact dents keep connectors mated in high-vibration applications and provide quick-break, snap action upon disconnect.

Noncorrosive stainless-steel leaf springs maintain constant contact pressure—ideal for frequent connections/disconnections and intermittent overloading. Durable, high impact-resistant, polycarbonate housing with UL94V-2 flammability ratings comes in many colors for circuit traceability and coding.

Identical connector halves are genderless—making assembly quick and easy and reducing the number of parts stocked. Molded-in dovetails allow for customized harness in a variety of configurations.

The 15-ampere contacts are designed for 16-20 AWG wire and the 30-ampere contacts are designed for 12-16 AWG wire. The contacts can be soldered or crimped to wires. A very expensive crimping tool is available from Anderson. After a contact has been attached to a wire, it should be installed into the housing so that the housing spring mates with the underside of the contact.

To remove a contact from the housing, use Anderson insertion/extraction tool #111038G2. You may also substitute a very small blade (jewelers screwdriver or X-acto knife) to depress the spring, allowing the contact to be removed.

Here are the Anderson part numbers:

30 A	Complete Connector	Housing	Contact	Roll Pin
Black	#1330G4	#1327G6	#1331	#110G16
Red	#1330	#1327	#1331	#110G16

Anderson Powerpole® connectors are available from:
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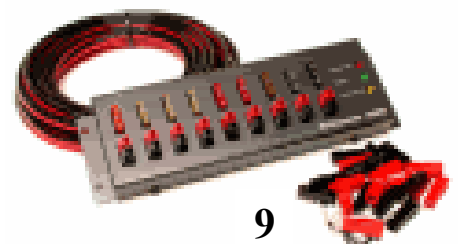
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Wes Allen, K7WWG



The West Mountain Radio Rig-runners utilize the Anderson Powerpole Connectors which make hooking up your equipment to your power supply a snap. By installing these connectors on all of your equipment, it allows you to standardize your hook-ups for mobile and emergency operations. These connectors are quickly becoming the A.R.E.S / R.A.C.E.S. standard.



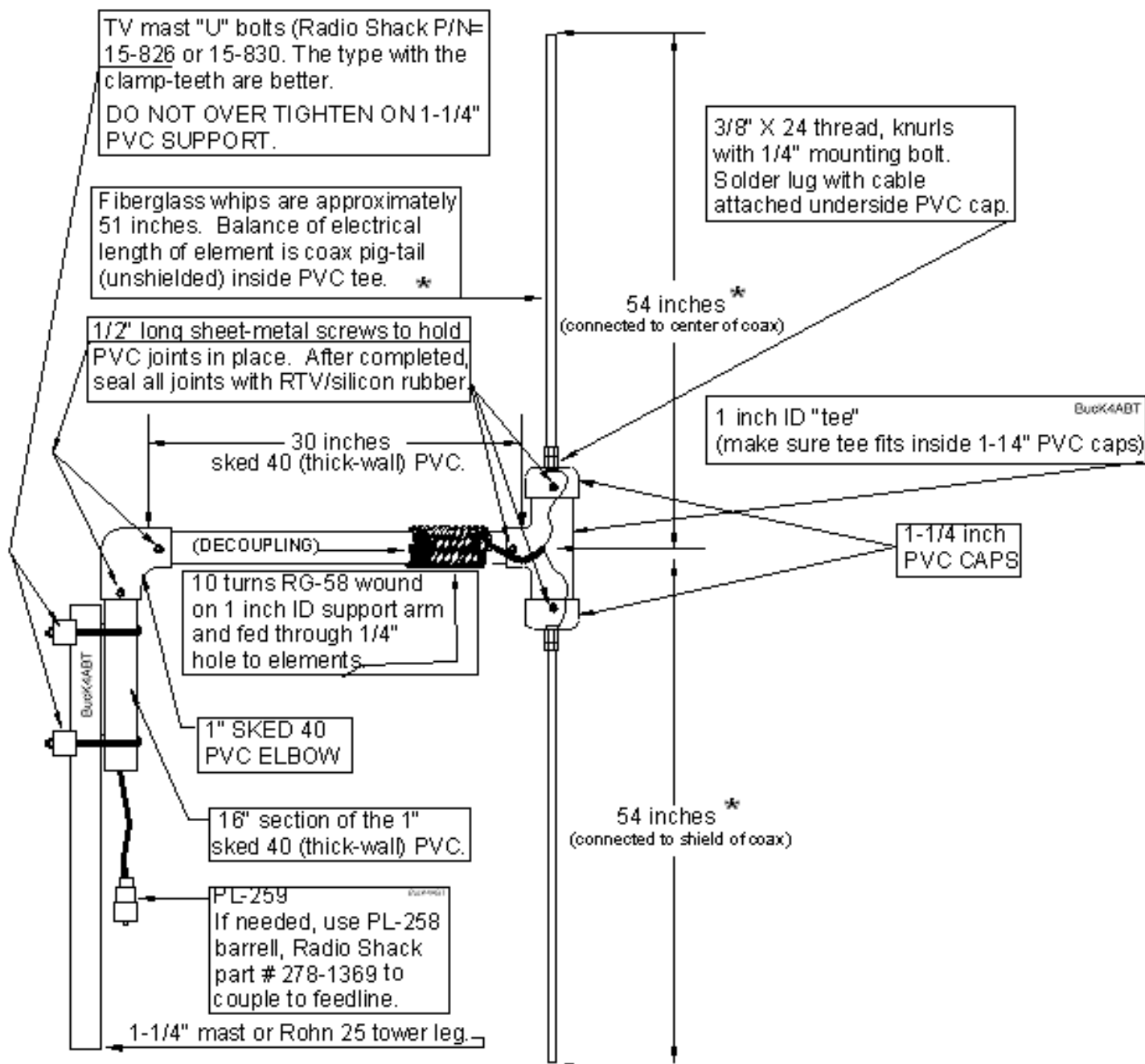
TARA Brew Crew

We hope that everyone enjoyed our first Brew Crew night at Heatly School. We had a great turnout for our first session. We are looking forward to seeing an even bigger turnout on December 9, 2002. The projects that we can work on are endless and only restricted by your imagination and your wallet. Hi, Hi !!!

Here is a simple and inexpensive project for you to try for those of you that are interested in getting on the "Magic Band" Six Meters. The nice thing about this antenna is that you can configure this dipole for either horizontal or vertical polarization. We would like to thank, Buck K4ABT for this great project.



Gary KC2HWE &
Bill KC2JDW



An improved "High-Performance" 6 meter Base-Station Dipole

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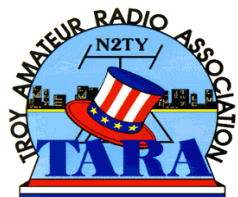
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THE TARA NEWS

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"The Home of Uncle Sam"

Visit us on the Internet

AT

[HTTP://WWW.N2TY.ORG/](http://www.n2ty.org/)

Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 17, 2002

7:30 p.m.

Christmas Celebration

Green Island Municipal Center

Intersection of

Hudson Avenue & George Street

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

Parking Lot on Hudson Avenue

Troy's Full Service Repeaters
145.170/R 444.225/R