

THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Volume 15 © Issue 10 December 2004

Happy Holidays

*Troy Amateur Radio Association
Annual Family Christmas Party*

The Christmas Holidays are Very Special to the TARA Family. Therefore, we dispense with the regular business meeting and we all sit down to share a few hours of friendship and holiday spirit with some great food and even greater friends.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite all of friends to share in the Spirit of the Holidays by attending our Annual Christmas Celebration to be held at the Green Island Municipal Center located at 19 George St, Green Island, New York. If you can break away from your busy holiday day schedule please let Karen know if you can attend at theboss@n2ty.org

**December 21, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
Green Island Municipal Center
Green Island, New York**



More than a Club



We're a Family



TARA Repeater Fund

Still Needs HELP

You're not going to believe this but I got a call from Santa this past week and he said he has a donation of \$100.00 for the repeater system. Yep...one of those listed below has decided that we needed a few more bucks to get this project on track and he has instructed Santa's Helpers to cut us another check! Also, Kenny, KB2KFV has decide to up his donation to \$30.00, now that's greatly appreciate!

Donations are still filtering in for our Repeater Fund Drive and I thank you very much. I ask of all of those that have NOT yet donated to the Repeater Fund if you might consider doing so. We really need to complete this project as soon as possible!

We're still shy of the funds we need to get both the power supply and batteries, especially after you tag on the shipping on those items. But, if we can get a few more to support this project I think we'll be looking good.

Send Checks To:
William Eddy
2404 - 22nd Street
Troy, NY 12180-1901

Troy ARA
P.O. Box - 1292
Troy, NY 12181-1292

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Troy ARA

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DONATIONS AS OF 12/07/04 @ 11:00 PM

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WA2COI - \$100.	NY2U - \$25.00
KA2TJZ - \$25.00	KB2UUC & KB2SPM - \$25.00
KC2HNC - \$25.00	N2ZKZ - \$125.00
N2MOA - \$20.00	WM2Y - \$25.00
WA2TQK - \$20.00	KB2KFV & KB2JZI - \$20.00
KC2KVZ - \$25.00	KB2SLE - \$25.00
Mike O'Brien - \$25.00	WA2IWW - \$25.00
KC2JRE - \$25.00	KC2GDG - \$25.00
Friend of TARA - \$20.00	KC2JDW - \$25.00
W2BEJ - \$25.00	K2ZP - \$25.00
W2FPG - \$25.00	KC2MIJ - \$25.00
WA2UET - \$20.00	SANTA - \$100.00

Thank You!
Bill - NY2U

Santa still Needs Helpers

for Christmas Party

I'm delighted to see that we have the following folks listed below to volunteer their services right away for our Holiday Party! However, we still need a lot more of you to join in too.

We need one or two volunteers that can take on the responsibility of operating the coffee machine on the night of the party. Karen can instruct you on what is needed and make sure you have plenty of supplies. I'm sure you'll all agree we need plenty of hot Coffee!!

If you need to ask Karen, KB2UUC any questions she can be contacted at: theboss@n2ty.org or 273-6594

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FOOD & REFRESHMENTS:

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Karen, KB2UUC...Main Course ***TOP SECRET***
Sue, KC2IBI and Family...Macaroni and Tuna Salad and Desserts
Joe, KC2HLCMacaroni Salad
Ed, KC2HNC and Denise...Mushrooms and Rice
Mike O'Brien...Rolls & Butter
Bill, KC2JDW and Family...Baked Ziti
Ken, WA2TQK...Baked Mac and Cheese
Frank, W2FPG...Baked Eggplant Parmesan
Kenny, KB2KFV and Marilyn, KB2JZI...
Macaroni and Shrimp Salad
June, KA2VEK and Dwight, N2SDL...
Hot Scalloped Potatoes
Dick, N2MOA...Dessert
Pat, KB2SRC and Barney, KB2KDY...Fudge
Earl, KB2SLE and Emma...
Earl's Famous Baked Beans
** NEW! 12/07 **
Kirk, N2LGE and Family...
Hot Sausage and Meatballs/With sauce
Tony, W2BEJ - Officially the TARA "Ground's Master!!"

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SET UP & TEAR DOWN:

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Mac, KB2SPM... Tables and Chairs + Food Transportation
Bill, NY2U ..Table Decorations
Ed, KC2HNC...Set Up and Tear Down
Bill, KC2JDW...Set Up and Tear Down
Dick, N2MOA...Tear Down



SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY LOCAL PACKET RADIO USE A GREAT SUCCESS ON THE RISE AGAIN

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) was held on Saturday, December 4, 2005. This 24 hour event began at 0000 UTC. As of Mid November, more than 65 NWS offices were registered to participate. Thanks to Jeff Dovyak (VE4MBQ), the Canadian Weather Service was also be represented by operations at the Prairie Storm Prediction Centre in Winnipeg. NWS Officials were hopeful that they would have around 100 weather offices participating this year. If you've lost the information about the registration web site, contact Dave Floyd via email at David.L.Floyd@noaa.gov.

The December issue of QST magazine also has a short article about SRD.

Remember to check the official SRD web site at: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>. They asked that amateur radio Operators review the information for their station and inform David Floyd about any corrections that need to be made.

There was also a great response and numerous check-ins thru Echolink and IRLP via the WXTALK Conference. NWS Officials throughout the US and Canada tried Echolink with great success.

Several Questions had been sent to Dave:

- Do we need to operate for the entire 24 hour period?
No. Work as many hours as you want. I estimate about 50% of the offices work the 24 hours. Others work between 8 and 12 hours during Saturday morning and afternoon.

What frequencies could be used ?

This is a common question. The answer is "any one that is free" on the General section of the 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 meter bands. You could also use any VHF/UHF frequency other than the national calling frequencies. There was not a band plan for the event. If the bands get extremely crowded, amateurs could move to the Extra portions of the bands assuming you have a control operator who is licensed in the Extra class.

Scott Mentzer (N0QE)
Meteorologist-in-Charge
NWS - Goodland, Kansas

What's all that racket on 144.91 Mhz? Well, it's the sound of PACKET RADIO again! It seems that Packet Radio here in Rensselaer County might be making a come back, of sorts. Lately we've been seeing a good number of the old Packet faithful making a return to the air. Also, the TARA sponsored NODE & BBS is experiencing a lot more traffic these day's.

If you haven't been on Packet for awhile that's okay, it might all seem new again to you. However, you still can have some fun and it makes a good learning experience for many that want to get their feet wet in the field of digital communication. If you're into APRS or you think you might be interested there are a lot of advancements that have taken place over the last couple of year's. But don't take my word for it...Fire up your TNC and see for yourself! Personally, I've been trying to get as many of you to fire up those TNC's and put them back on 144.91 MHz. I hope you'll join us soon and let's see if we can't show our support of this great amateur resource.

Also, Stan -WA2UET from RVWARS has advised us that if anyone is interested and has the equipment, Marty N2LDR has a BBS up on 223.440 with a call N2LDR-1.

The RIPPERS also have a BBS up on 145.030 with the call K2RVW-1...Feel free to play at will. They are there for practice and fun for anyone that can try it.

If you want to be prepared for emergency communications, Packet radio is extremely useful for traffic handling that will give you a means of passing traffic that you will be able to maintain a written copy of. So get out that old laptop that is gathering dust. Hook it up to your TNC with one of your extra Handheld radios and you have an automatic GO-KIT for emergency communications. Also you will be all hooked up for other digital communications modes.

You say that Packet is an old and ancient mode. WRONG !!

If this mode is so outdated, then why have public service gone to digital data communications terminals in patrol vehicles. Look in many of the police cars in your towns and cities and you will see these terminals in the patrol cars, which are nothing more than a sophisticated packet system.

73,

Mr Bill - W4ZU

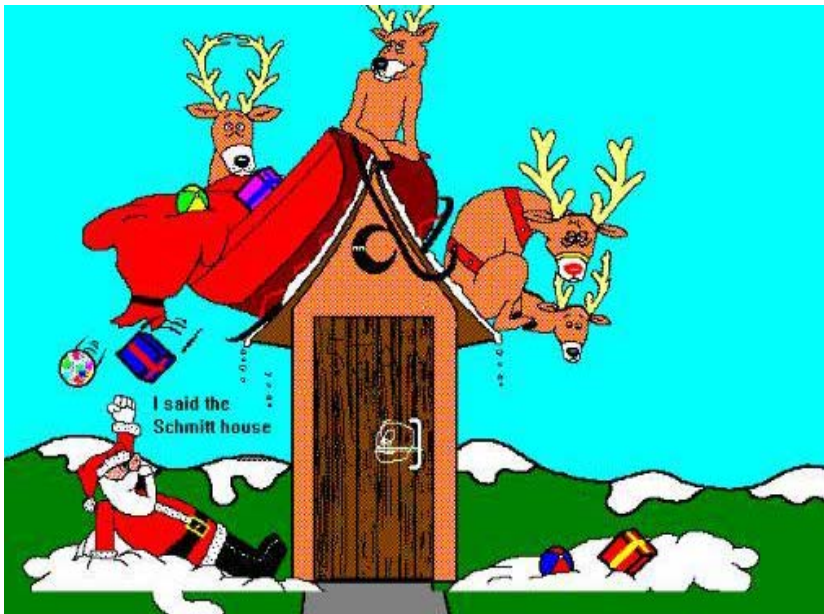




LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM THE N.Y.S.P.

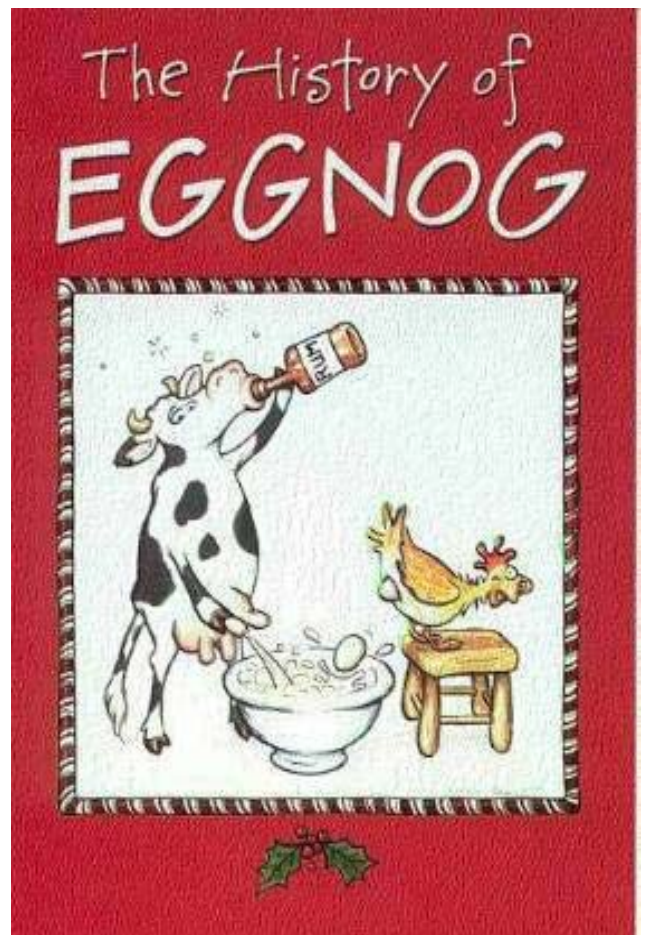
To the Troy Amateur Radio Association,
Thank You to all of you for helping out with the Pumpkin Patrol this year. Through your help and the help of many volunteers, there were no major incidents along the New York State Thruway, this Halloween. Certificates of Appreciation for those who helped out have been sent to Karen Smith for distribution. Again, thank you for the time given to the Pumpkin Patrol by all of the volunteers in your organization.

Sincerely,
Charles F. Stumpf
Sergeant
New York State Police
Troop D



Remember This At Christmas Time

Ah, yes - the women. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, it advises us that while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. The female reindeer retain their antlers until after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl. We should've known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat-ass man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.



Merry Christmas

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

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.

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.arl.org/w1aw.html>.

CQ to Celebrate 60TH Anniversary On Air with "CQ GANG" Event

Hicksville, New York -- CQ Amateur Radio magazine is inviting amateur radio operators around the world to join in its 60th anniversary by taking part in an on-air celebration during the first 60 days of 2005. CQ's first issue was published in January, 1945. During the "CQ Gang" activity, from January 1 to March 1, 2005, any ham who has ever had an association with CQ magazine -- as a staff member, contributing editor, author, etc. -- as well as current subscribers to CQ, CQ VHF and Popular Communications magazines may sign "/60" after his or her callsign. Certificates will be issued for contacts with enough "/60" stations to garner a minimum of 60 contact points, based on number of contacts times the number of different position multipliers (e.g., editor, columnist, etc.) worked. Shortwave listeners may also qualify by monitoring enough contacts for a minimum of 60 contact points. Endorsements will be issued for scores up to 600 points. In addition, CQ club station WW2CQ will be activated from various parts of the United States during the event period. A separate certificate will be available for working WW2CQ in all call areas from which it is active. Details on that portion of the activity will be released later. Complete rules for the CQ Gang 60th Anniversary activity are in the December, 2004 issue of CQ magazine, and by going to the magazine's website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com> (<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>) and clicking the link at the bottom of the home page.



TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS

President: Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248
Vice President: Karen Smith, KB2UUC...273-6594
Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI.....272-0112
Treasurer: Nick Demos, NW2D.....383-3983

TARA DIRECTORS - 2 YEAR TERMS

Ken Davis, KB2KFB.....(03-05).....272-0112
Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....(03-05).....273-6594
Roy Warner N2OWC.....(04-06).....283-8485
Randy Stein, KA2TJZ.....(04-06).....498-7838
David Fritts KC2IBF.....(04-05).....765-5147

REPEATER MANAGER:

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

Asst Manager

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

REPEATER TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

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

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Membership Manager - Dwight Ogle, N2SDL

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE:

Karen Smith, KB2UUC.....273-6594

RDF COMMITTEE:RDF Manager -

Richard Neimeyer - N2MOA.....489-0799

EQUIPMENT MANAGER:

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

TARA WEBMASTERS:

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

TARA HF CONTESTING:

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

HF DX & Contest Manager - NY2U

(Just Temp for now!)

TARA VHF/UHF CONTESTING:

Contest Manager - Ray Ginter, N2ZQF

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:

Karen Smith, KB2UUC.....273-6594

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

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

Ken Davis, KB2KFB.....272-0112

TARA HISTORIAN:

Karen Smith, KB2UUC 273-6594

N2TY-"TROY" NODE

DEPARTMENT:

Russ Greeman - WB2LXC

N2TY-BBS SYSOP:

Tim Roske, AA2WQ ...489-4346

ATVET(ALB/TROY)VE TEAM:

Gerry Murray, WA2IWW 482-8700

FIELD DAY 2005 CHAIRMEN:

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

Randy Stein, KA2TJZ...498-7838

Steve Kopecky, KF2WA 674-4150

Nick Demos, NW2D ...383-3983

VHF/UHF EQUIP. CHAIRMAN

Hollins Meaux, N2YQW. 465-7678

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CORRESPONDENCE TO E-MAIL**

KB2KFB@aol.com or

KB2JZI@aol.com or

[www: http://www.n2ty.org](http://www.n2ty.org)

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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/>

Christmas Party Celebration

Tuesday, December 21, 2004

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.

Troy's Full Service Repeaters

145.170/R

449.225/R