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Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Tara News

TARA Achieves TOP Honors in Division for Best Newsletter of 2007

It's with a great honor that I get to announce that the TARA NEWS and it's Editor, Kenneth Davis, KB2KFV, has been awarded the Hudson Division "Best Club Newsletter for 2007." Here is the press release from the Hudson Division - 'Beacon' Newsletter:

Hudson Division "Best Club Newsletter for 2007" Selected - "The TARA News" WINS....

"The Troy Amateur Radio Association, newsletter "TARA News" was selected by Hudson Division Assistant Directors as the best newsletter. "The TARA News" editor Ken "Chief" Davis, KB2KFV, will receive a plaque at the December TARA meeting. Weather permitting the Hudson Division team will be on hand to present the plaque to hardworking and creative editor, Ken Davis. Editor-In-Chief, Perry White will be unable to attend.
Well done, Ken. Thanks for a great newsletter."

Kenny, KB2KFV, first took over the newsletter back in December of 2001and he's been doing it ever since. I know there have been many of month's where he's just been completely under the weather yet he refused to give up his duties of publishing our club a "First Class" newsletter. An AWARD WINNING newsletter at that! This marks the first Hudson Division Award for newsletter of the year he's received but he's had several other newsletters that won monthly newsletter of the month award. Pretty impressive eh!

Please, join me in CONGRATULATING Kenny and his staff for making us "ALL" proud! As I've said and I'm sure you all understand - it hasn't been an easy assignment for him to keep up as editor, especially with a lot of medical conditions nagging him. Why don't you take a couple minutes and let him know by dropping him an email that you appreciate the job he's been doing. It's the least we can do for him, don't you think.

Also, we expect a packed house to welcome our ARRL Hudson Division leaders to our meeting and personally award Kenny his plaque, now that's "First Class" on their part! Make plans now for December 18th at 7:00 PM over in the Green Island Municipal Center for the Special Award celebration/holiday party.

CONGRATULATIONS!

"Mr. Bill" - N2ZU

More than a Club

SKYWARN

We're a Family

National Packet Radio Registry

USPacket.org is happy to announce our **National Packet Radio Registry**.

This is a registry for US Packet operators who would like to exchange Packet mail with other radio hams.

To register your packet address with the NPRR, send a personal Packet message to:

NPRR @ N5PVL.#STX.TX.USA.NA

Any message title will do... "Register" would be OK.

You should include the following information in the message text:

Your Name (or what you like to go by)
Your location (City, State)

After the message is received at N5PVL BBS, the information will be posted at USPacket, and distributed in NPRR bulletins on the Packet network.

To recap: For a registration to go through, it must be sent as a personal email through the Packet network, and it should include your name and location.

USPacket: http://www.uspacket.org

New Digital Voice Mode FDMDV

A new Digital Voice mode FDMDV has been announced on the N1SU.com web site. It claims to be able to require a bandwidth of only 1.1 kHz.

The website says:

"FDMDV is the latest digital voice mode on HF - it caters to high quality digital voice under poor band conditions, in only 1100Hz bandwidth !"

Personally I feel the words "high quality" may overstate it. Traditionally there has been a trade-off between bandwidth and quality, the less bandwidth the worse the quality.

But it's free and costs nothing to try so I'm downloading my copy and if it comes anywhere close to the quality of a 2.4 kHz SSB transmission then I'll be more than happy

Trevor M5AKA

FDMDV - the page also gives details of FDMDV net times http://n1su.com/fdmdv/

FDMDV Download also has Usage Documentation v1.0
http://n1su.com/fdmdv/download.html

WinDRM Email Group
http://groups-beta.google.com/group/windrm

Editor's Correction's Corner - Ooop's

"**Motorola Buys Yeasu" – WRONG not yet**
The Headline Read -
Motorola USA has announced its intention to launch a tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard Co, Ltd. Vertex Standard is the parent company of Yaesu.

Dave Stark – NF2G brought this error to our attention:

Thanks, as always, for sending the news. I have one minor complaint, and it's not about anything the TARA editorial staff did on their own.

The headline, "Motorola Buys Yeasu" has been appearing all over the place. It is misleading. Motorola has not bought Yeasu. They are preparing to make an offer. If Motorola's directors and shareholders approve, then the offer will be made. If Yeasu's directors and shareholders approve, then the sale might go forward. Because both companies are publicly traded, the SEC also must approve. They are a long way from buying or being bought right now.

73 de Dave, NF2G

The Headline stated:
TARA- N2TY - W2PTR Repeater Group
And should have read
TARA- N2TY - W2TRY Repeater Group
NEW HAM ENJOYS NET !!
Mr Bill advised us later on that evening that actually N2TY / W2TRY / W2PTR are synonymous when referring to the TNT Repeater Group Operations.

Editor's Note: If you see an error in the TARA NEWS and you feel that it is worthwile to be brought to the attention of the membership, drop an EMAIL to the Editor at KB2KFV@AOL.COM and we will research the issue and correct it as soon as possible.

Happy Holidays,
Ken Davis - KB2KFV

President's Message Mr. Bill - NY2U

Howdy Folks,
First, I want to thank those of you that made it to our November 20th monthly meeting. It was a smaller crowd than usual but we still had a good time. Perhaps the change with the starting time kept a few away but we'll have to stay with the time change for the present time. Maybe we'll catch you next month for the Holiday party.

We had a good crew that helped us Setup/Teardown for the meeting and that's GREATLY appreciated!! I know we had John, KC2PGL that guarded the crock pots full of KS2O's homemade Italian Sausage & Meatballs and he didn't even steal one before meal time. At least I don't think he did! :-) We also had KC2OEA, N2HIC, K2HAT, WA2TQK, KC2QPT, WA2IWW and I believe I noticed Tad, N2TAD in the back helping Karen with the food. If I missed anyone please forgive me. Also, Beth, KC2BSC, stopped over prior to the meeting and she explained that she was sorry but she couldn't stay for the meeting due to her new ferocious "Guard Dog". Take notice **DO NOT EVER** stick your arm in her car or you'll be missing it !! Thanks for the nice snacks that you left for our dessert.
Next, we need to thank Robert Dillon, KC2SKI, better known as "Bob-Ski" for filling out an application for membership in our club. Bob already is on the repeater nightly with the gang and as this Newsletter goes out he already got his General Ticket and has started studying for his Extra. Now there is a Man on a Mission. Please, take a few minutes to Congratulate Bob on his General and thank him for his support of TARA and to encourage him to keep going for his Extra Class license exam.

I hope All of you enjoyed a Healthy & Happy Thanksgiving Day last month and as we prepare for Christmas and New Years please be careful if you're out traveling on the roads.

I've updated the TARA web pages so you'll have something to read. You can find all of the latest news from the ARRL Headquarters and a whole bunch more at www.n2ty.org
73 de
"Mr.Bill" -NY2U

Tech Corner

I have a quick question about the fans in my computer. I'm not sure if they're working properly. Can you give me some information on how they should be acting? Thank you for your help!

A:

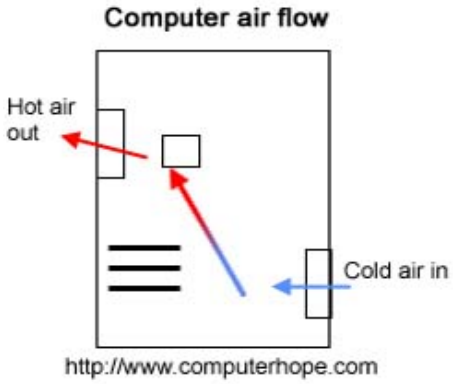
That is an excellent question and I'm so glad you asked! I'm sure you're not the only one who has ever wondered about this either. So, in a sense, I'll be taking care of two birds with one stone by helping you and everyone else who reads this tip. I love it when it works out that way! Well, let's not waste any more time and get right into it. Go!

I know every computer is different, but most of them usually have a heatsink fan and some case fans. All of the fans work to keep your computer protected so that it does not overheat or become inoperable. Let's start with an explanation of the heatsink fan.

Basically, the heatsink fan usually works right along with your CPU and it helps monitor the motherboard, video card and any other circuit boards that may work with your computer. The heatsink fan should always be blowing any heat away from the components I mentioned above. Its main purpose is to give the heat an escape route out of the computer case so that it doesn't damage any of the circuits inside. For example, if your motherboard was hit with too much heat, it's possible that it would stop working. And well, you need the motherboard to be able to use your computer, so you don't want that to happen!

So, while the heatsink fan is doing its job of blowing the air out, the case fans are working just as hard. How your case fans work depends on how your chassis is set up. Chassis is just another word for your computer case. It's the housing unit that holds all of your computer's components together. So, depending on how yours is laid out, the case fans will either be blowing the air out or sucking it in. Allow me to explain this a little more!

If your computer case only has one fan, it will more than likely be located in the back. In that case, the fan will be blowing hot air out. Now, another common configuration is to have one fan in the back and another in the front. In that instance, the fan in the back will be blowing hot air out while the fan in the front is sucking cooler air in. By default, your computer case brings cool air in from the front, because it's not constrained and it's more of an open area. So, once that cool air is sucked in by the front fan, it's blown out by the back fan once it's heated up. Interesting, huh? It's like this:



If you're still a little confused, all you really need to remember is if your computer case has two fans, one should always be sucking air in while the other is blowing it out. That's the best configuration to use to keep your computer I working condition. The heatsink fan then will always work on its own to blow hot air out, because it works in such close conjunction with all the major components of your computer.

That's it. Now you know exactly how the fans work for your computer. Who knew there was so much going on inside that little case?!

~ Erin www.worldstart.com

Exercise Common Courtesy on The TARA Repeater System

The TARA Repeater system is their for all of the members enjoyment and the use of guest's whom we invite onto the Repeater. Please try Set an example for other operators when using the System.

1. **Count to Three before you Key and then Talk.**
2. **Never transmit Tones without giving your Callsign First.**
3. **Never throw Blank Carriers over someone just because you don't like them personally or what they are saying.**
4. **Always ID every 10 minutes during a conversation.**
5. **If you are going to leave your transceiver unattended SHUT IT OFF.**
6. **Adjust your Transmitter Setting for a 3 minute TIME OUT.**

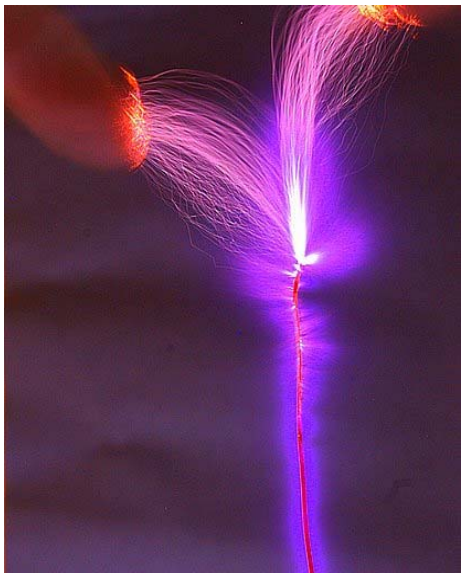
"YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL YOUR TRANSMISSIONS"

Homebrewing a Tesla Coil

By Steve Bozak WB2IQU

It worked! It's simple, and It's Noisy!

By the way, Don't put your finger too close, like I did !!



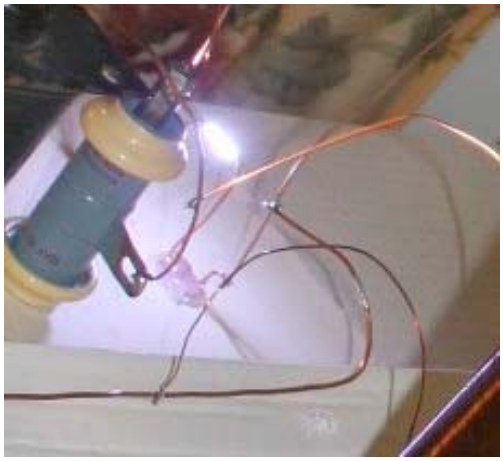
The Tesla Coil on the right was oscillating at about 150 Khz and by the length of the sparks the voltage is about 100,000 V AC.

Nikola Tesla was a Serbian-American inventor who remains shrouded in controversy and mystery even sixty years after his death. Establishment historians try to sweep Tesla under the rug.

Cult followers believe Tesla was centuries ahead of today's technology, inventing anti-matter, anti-gravity, free energy, and that Tesla and his followers left Earth to live on another planet. Coilers just love to design and build versions of the famous Tesla Coil. By any measure Tesla was eccentric and brilliant, and his patents founded empires of industry and technology.

Yet other men rode to fame and fortune on Teslas inventions. Teslas AC generators and motors power the wheels of industry, while the name of Tesla was all but forgotten. Tesla died in poverty in a New York hotel in January 1943, his papers were quickly seized by the FBI. For years after the death of Tesla, lawsuits raged over Tesla's patents. Out of only eleven patent suits ever heard by the US Supreme Court in its history before 1960, two were suits over Tesla inventions, and the Court found that Nikola Tesla was indeed the inventor of Polyphase AC and of Practical Radio Frequency Transmission.

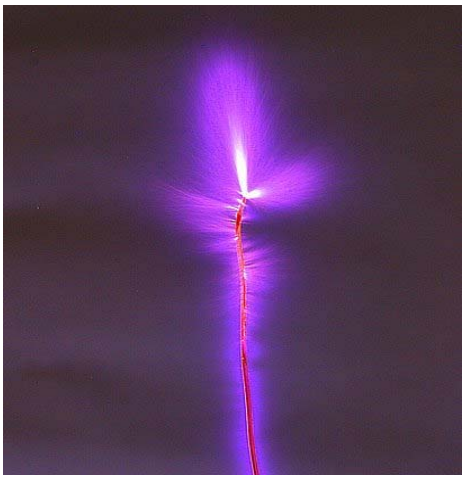
As a project, I decided to see if I could duplicate the famous Tesla Coil as a Build-It-Yourself Project. That is what we Amateur operators are supposed to do, isn't it? EXPERIMENT !! It just took a few hours, plus a few days of asking fellow hams on the TARA repeater to gather the parts to make this Telsa Coil.



Parts:

3 foot length of PVC – 4 inches wide
28 gauge wire wrapped on this PVC for the secondary winding
14 gauge wire 4 loops for the primary
C1 10000VDC
T1 oil burner ignition transformer
The 10KAC is fed directly to the C1 and then shorted through
The primary coil with the spark gap in that same circuit .

The primary coil is tapped onto the start of the secondary coil.



The lengths and sizes are not critical but after it is running you can adjust the taps and tune it to resonate for better out put.

I REPEAT, Hold your ears because it's extremely noisy !

Steve Bozak WB2IQU

Rensselaer County ARES/RACES Meeting Moves to North Greenbush Location

On Thursday December 20th, we will be moving our meeting location from the Rensselaer Co. Public Safety Building in South Troy to the County offices in North Greenbush. The reason for changing our location to North Greenbush is in order that we will be guaranteed an adequate room for our meetings each month on the same date, which will allow us to establish a meeting schedule, in advance.

Tune in every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM on the 145.17/447.075 repeater for the Rensselaer Co. ARES/RACE Net. Our group has grown and flourished in 2007. The East Greenbush Port Drill introduced us to numerous Emergency Agencies that were unfamiliar with us until we participated in the Drill. Our advance preparation and professionalism during the drill proved to them, that Rensselaer County RACES/ARES could be a valuable asset in the Incident Command structure. Hopefully, 2008 will be even more challenging and successful.

ARRL Hudson Division 2007 Awards Dinner

Frank Fallon - N2FF presents Larry Lutzak - WA2CNV with one of the two 2007 Amateur Of The Year Awards while Joyce Birmingham - KA2ANF looks on

Frank Fallon - N2FF presents the second 2007 Amateur Of The Year Award to Felicia Mattera - KB2NYF who accepted it on behalf of her husband Vincent Mattera - WB2AAP who was unable to attend

Tuesday Evening, November 20, 2007

T.A.R.A. November Meeting

Happy Retirement - Mark NK2Y

K2HAT - N2HIC - KC2PGL

Howie - N2HIC Enjoying Karen's Cooking

Rob Messier – N1YBT

Developer of Hurricane Intensity Scale Dies at 90

Herbert Saffir, an engineer who created the five-category system used to describe hurricane strength and warn millions of an approaching storm's danger, died Wednesday, November 21. He was 90. A structural engineer, Saffir created his scale in 1969 -- laying out for the first time what kind of damage could be expected from an approaching hurricane. It has since become the definitive way to describe intensity for storms that form in the Atlantic and parts of the Pacific. Before the scale, hurricanes were simply described as major or minor. Saffir's innovation was ranking storm destruction by type, from Category 1 -- where trees and unanchored mobile homes receive the primary damage, to Category 5 -- the complete failure of roofs and some structures. The five descriptions of destruction were then matched with the sustained wind speeds producing the corresponding damage. Saffir's scale was expanded by former National Hurricane Center director Robert H. Simpson and became known as the Saffir-Simpson scale in the 1970s. Simpson added possible storm surge heights for each category, and the hurricane center staff made a small adjustment to the scale's wind speeds. -- Some information from the Associated Press

End of the Line for CompUSA

End of the line for CompUSA

103 stores to be sold or closed after Holiday sales

Associated Press

Saturday, December 8, 2007 04:00 PST

Dallas Consumer electronics retailer CompUSA said Friday that it will go out of business after the holidays following sale of the company to Gordon Brothers Group LLC, a restructuring firm. Financial terms weren't disclosed.

CompUSA of Dallas operates 103 stores, which plan to run store-closing sales during the holidays.

Privately held CompUSA, controlled by Mexican financier Carlos Slim Helu's Grupo Carso SA, said discussions were under way to sell certain stores in key markets. Stores that can't be sold will be closed.

Gordon Brothers will also try to sell the company's technical services business, CompUSA TechPro, and its online business, CompUSA.com. It would be up to the buyers whether to continue the CompUSA name.

CompUSA has struggled for nearly a decade with falling prices on personal computers, its most important product, and competition from big-box retailers such as Best Buy. The slowing growth in computer sales has affected other companies.

Dell Inc.'s U.S. consumer sales fell 26 percent in the first half of this year, which could have accelerated the PC-maker's announcement this week that it will sell machines at Best Buy.

CompUSA was founded in 1984 as software seller Soft Warehouse, then branched out into computers. It took on the CompUSA name and went public in 1991. It bought Tandy's Computer City chain.

Slim bought his first stake in the company in 1999 and took it private the next year in an $800 million buyout. The chain went through several CEOs and tried different turnaround strategies, such as a move this year to focus on core customers such as gadget lovers and small-business owners.

CompUSA closed more than half its stores this spring and got a cash infusion of $440 million to restructure. During the wind-down, Bill Weinstein and Stephen Gray, managing partner at CRG Partners, will run the company. The chain's current chief executive, Roman Ross, will serve in an advisory role, CompUSA said.

Gordon Brothers created an affiliate, Specialty Equity LLC, to handle the deal. DJM Realty, a Gordon Brothers Group affiliate, will review leases of CompUSA's store locations.

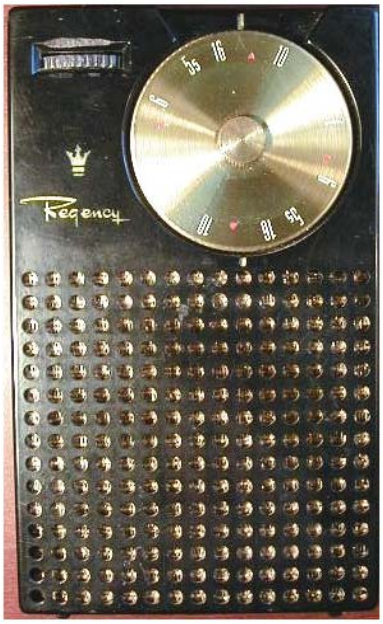
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/12/08/BU3ETQI3S.DTL

Happy 60th Birthday Transistor

It all started at Bell Labs

On Dec. 16, the transistor will turn 60. It was born at Bell Labs with the first on assembled in 1947.

It was called a point contact transistor because amplification or transistor action occurred when two pointed metal contacts were pressed onto the surface of the semiconductor material. Image and description courtesy of Bell Labs.



In 1954, the first transistor radio goes to market. The Regency TR-1 had four transistors and ran you $49.99, which in 1954 was a lot of money adjusted for inflation. Dr. Steve Reyer, a professor at the Milwaukee School of Engineering has more than you'll ever need to know about The Regency.

On Dec. 16, the transistor will turn 60. It was born at Bell Labs with the first on assembled in 1947. It was called a point contact transistor because amplification or transistor action occurred when two pointed metal contacts were pressed onto the surface of the semiconductor material. Image and description courtesy of Bell Labs.

The first commercial device to use the transistor was the Sonotone 1010 hearing aid in 1953. Image courtesy of Intel.

Electrical Hints & Kinks

W

American Wire Gauge

The American Wire Gauge (AWG) is used in North America to specify copper wire sizes. The AWG scale is counterintuitive, because smaller gauges have large diameters. The reason is that AWG numbers specify the number of times wire has been drawn through a diameter reducing machine to reduce its diameter. For example, 14-gauge wire has been drawn through a reducing machine two more times than 12-guage wire. In other countries wire size is specified according to cross-sectional area in millimeters.

RF Ground Conductors

Low impedance connections between radio equipment and a good ground system are important to the operation of some types of antennas and tend to reduce interference to and from other services. However, large gauge copper wire is heavy, difficult to bend, and expensive. Copper water pipe is a good substitute. RF currents flow mostly near the skin of a conductor, so the RF impedance of copper pipe is almost the same as for solid copper wire the same diameter. Copper pipe is light, easy to work with, and much less expensive. Copper tubing is even cheaper and easier to work with, but has higher impedance per unit length, because of its smaller diameter.

NO, IT'S NOT A RTTY CONTEST OR A PSK31 Contest.... IT'S OLIVIA 2008

Announcing the Digital Radio Century Club New Year Contest

Date : January 1 2008 Time : 1300 to 0000Z

Mode: Olivia - Maximum bandwidth 500. Suggested tones 4, or 8, but all permitted.

Suggested CQ: "CQ DRCC CQ DRCC"

Bands : 20M or 40M ONLY. (suggested frequency range 14073-14080 and/or 7034-7040 USB.)

Class: Single operator low power only (under 100 watts)

Exchange: DRCC members send name and DRCC number. Non-DRCC members send name and country.

Multipliers: Number of stations worked with DRCC numbers under 100 and... Number of stations worked outside your continent*

Scoring : 5 points each DRCC member contact 1 point each non- DRCC member contact Stations can be worked once per band

Example .... K3UK works 55 DRCC stations , 275 K3UK works 20 non-DRCC stations, 20 points sub-total = 295 Points

Of 55 DRCC stations worked, 10 gave DRCC numbers below 100.

295*10 = 2,950 points. Of 75 QSO's 10 were outside of North America. 2,950 * 10 = 29,500 total points.

(multipliers count PER band, e.g. K3UK DRCC, number 001 , work on 40and 20M is two multipliers. VK7DX worked by a North American station on 40 and 20M is TWO multipliers).

Submit logs in Cabrillo format to K3uk@obriensweb.com by Feb 1 2008.

Results will be posted at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/digitalradio/files/

Those who wish to obtain a DRCC number prior to December 31 may do so by sending a request to K3UK@obriensweb.com

* ARRL definition of continent boundaries . North America includes Greenland (OX) and Panama (HP). South America includes Trinidad & Tobago (9Y), Aruba (P4), Curacao & Bonaire (PJ2-4) and Easter Island (CE0). Oceania includes Minami Torishima (JD1), Philippines (DU), Eastern Malaysia (9M6-8) and Indonesia (YB). Asia includes Ogasawara Islands (JD1), Maldives (8Q), Socotra Island (7O), Abu Ail Island (J2/A), Cyprus (5B, ZC4), Eastern Turkey (TA2-9) and Georgia (4L). Europe includes the fourth and sixth call areas of Russia (R1-6), Istanbul (TA1), all Italian islands (I) and Azores (CU). Africa includes Ceuta & Melilla (EA9), Madeira (CT3), Gan Island (8Q), French Austral Territory (FT) and Heard Island (VK0).See http://www.arrl.org/awards/wac/

Andy K3UK

www.obriensweb.com

OFFICERS TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS
President: Bill Eddy, NY2U……. ….273-9248
Vice President: Karen Smith, KS2O…….273-6594
Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI…….272-0112
Treasurer: Randy Stein, KL7TJZ…...…..

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)..
Ken Smith WA2TQK……..…. (07-08)..

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: NEW
Membership Manager & Greeting Chairman
Craig Wood – W2XAD……370-5224
REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE:
Karen Smith, KS2O…..……...273-6594

RDF COMMITTEE:RDF Manager - Richard Neimeyer - N2MOA……489-0799

EQUIPMENT MANAGER:
Roy Warner, N2OWC……..283-8485

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Bill Eddy, NY2U……..273-9248
.
TARA HF CONTESTING:
Bill Eddy, NY2U……....273-9248
HF DX & Contest Manager - NY2U
Hey Santa, Take the Job, I will throw in Extra Cookies & Coccoa, this month) ☺
TARA VHF/UHF CONTESTING:
Contest Manager - Ray Ginter, N2ZQF
PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:
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Mac Smith, KB2SPM……...273-6594
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:
Ken Davis. KB2KFV……. 272-0112
TARA HISTORIAN:
Karen Smith, KS2O……. 273-6594
. 273-6594

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N2TY-BBS SYSOP:
Tim Roske, AA2WQ……..489-4346

ATVET (ALB/TROY) VE TEAM:
Gerry Murray,WA2IWW…482-8700
FIELD DAY 2008 CHAIRMEN:
Bill Eddy, NY2U……... 273-9248
Randy Stein, KL7TJZ…...
Steve Kopecky, KF2WA 674-4150

VHF/UHF EQUIP. CHAIRMAN
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KB2KFV@aol.com or
KB2JZI@aol.com or
www: http://www.n2ty.org/

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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/***

Gala Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

7:00 to 9:30 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 **447.075/R**