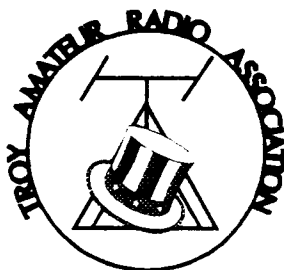


TARA



NEWS

"Home of the FULL SERVICE Repeaters"
147.27/R and 444.225/R

Volume III NO. 9

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1993

The Accident

Adapted from the FOC Focus, Summer 1992
National Contest Journal Nov/Dec 1992

I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block three of the accident report form. I stated 'poor planning' as the cause of the accident, but you said that I should explain more fully and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am an Amateur Radio operator. On the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley which, fortunately, was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. Then, I went to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure slow descent of 300 pounds of tools. You will note that in block 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds.

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower.

In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time,

I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for two fractured ankles and the lacerations to my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, as I lay there on the tools in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope....

Please wish me a speedy recovery and settle my claim. Thank you.

Although this is a funny story and brings laughs to all who read it, let us all stop and think for just a minute.

When was the last time you have done something that could have caused some personal injury to you or somebody close by. With the cooler days of autumn here it is time to do all the necessary chores to bring the antenna systems up to optimum performance for the winter months.

Just remember "Safety is NO Accident". Be careful and think about what you are doing. If you need help just give a call on the repeater. I am sure somebody will be more than willing to lend a hand.

de N2LBZ

Jack

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The End of An Era!

U.S. Coast Guard Closes Down Morse Code Operations

With an emotional last transmission, the U.S. Coast Guard closed down Morse code operations on 500 kHz on July 31st at 00:00Z. Coast Guard radiomen have been monitoring the 500 kHz radio frequency for distress signals since the turn of the century and in 1924 set up its first radio station to monitor the frequency continuously.

The advent of satellite and digital technology have now made Morse code obsolete on the high seas.

A misty-eyed Coast Guard radioman tapped out the following final good-bye message on 500 kHz:

"CQ DE NMC NOW CLOSING DOWN CONTINUOUS WATCH ON 500 KHZ AND CEASING ALL MORSE CODE SERVICES IN THE MF BAND. AS WE CONCLUDE OUR WATCH ON 500 KHZ, WE WISH THE MARITIME COMMUNITY FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR TRADITION AND LONG STANDING SERVICES ON MF WHICH

BEGAN IN 1901 WITH THE REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE ACTIVELY EXPERIMENTING WITH WIRELESS AS A REGULAR MEANS OF COMMUNICATION ON LAND AND SEA TO THE FIRST INSTALLATION ABOARD CUTTER GRANT IN 1903.

OUR FIRST DISTRESS CALL FROM AN AMERICAN SHIP WAS RECEIVED ON 10 DEC 1904 BY RELIEF LIGHTSHIP 58 AT THE NANTUCKET SHOALS STATION. THIS CONSISTED OF THE WORD "HELP" FOLLOWED BY A REQUEST FOR AID. BY ACT OF CONGRESS ON 4 MAY 1910, EVERY PASSENGER SHIP AND ANY OTHER SHIP CARRYING 50 PERSONS OR MORE, LEAVING ANY PORT IN THE U.S. WAS REQUIRED TO BE EQUIPPED WITH RADIO.

NECESSITY FOR IMPROVEMENT IN APPARATUS AND METHODS WAS EMPHASIZED WHEN OVER 1,500 LIVES WERE LOST IN THE TITANIC DISASTER OF APRIL

1912. SINCE THEN, THE COAST GUARD HAS FAITHFULLY AND DILIGENTLY LISTENED TO 500 KHZ. COPYING AND RESPONDING TO NUMEROUS CALLS FROM MARINERS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE AT SEA. WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED YOU WITH THOUSANDS OF URGENT, SAFETY AND NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS AND RELATED CW ASSISTANCE OVER THE YEARS. WE NOW LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU ON THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS VIA THE GLOBAL MARINE DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS).

FROM ALL COAST GUARD RADIOMEN AND WOMEN, WE BID YOU 73. DE NMC QRU CL AR SK ... (Dit Dit) 2351Z JUL 31 1993.

Ships at sea responded with "good luck" and a final CW "good bye."
Tnx W5Y1 REPORT

President Report de NY2U, Mr. Bill

Can someone please tell me where this summer went to so quickly? It seems like all of us were just talking about Field Day '93 and presto, zappo now it's fall. One thing for sure is the fact we cannot complain about the weather this summer but I'm still hoping for a long, long Indian Summer.

As the long dog days of August made way for September, TARA continued its busy schedule of events. First on August 29, we had the Run For Roses in Grafton. This was a very well planned event on the part of Bob, N2LUD.

One of key people that Bob put in charge of operations from the Field Comm was Jarred, KF2MR. Jarred, in my estimation, did one of the finest jobs of net control duties that I ever had the

opportunity to listen in on. Jarred, was able to keep everyone well informed and totally under control. So who were the professionals this day? TARA without a doubt.

Please let me thank the many that helped with the club raffle and our operations at the Ballston Spa Hamfest '93. Our club managed to make a few bucks but more importantly had the opportunity to help our friends from Saratoga RACES.

Finally TARA participated in the Uncle Sam Day parade in Lansingburgh. This marked the second year that TARA has helped and it looks like there will be a third. Our hats go off to Kim Clements for keeping our club in mind and her outstanding job as a parade organizer.

Getting Started In Amateur Radio - Circa 1968

By Dave Pascale, WB2HKR

It was June of 1968 and I was thirteen years old. It was time to take my first amateur radio licensing exam. There were no FCC examiners or ARRL accredited volunteer examiners. There was no trip to an FCC field office. There were no batteries of volunteer examiners rummaging through mounds of paper and shaking their heads sadly from left to right or gladly up and down, depending on the test paper in front of them.

It was just me and Harold Kiernan sitting at the kitchen table. He was a friend of my father's and was giving me the novice class exam. I copied the morse code at five words per minute and then took the twenty-five question written test. Anxiety takes on a whole new meaning when your parents are sitting there quietly waiting to see if you are a success or a failure. At least when you got your report card from school you could conveniently misplace it for a few days before you gave the folks the bad news. But alas, Mr. Kiernan smiled broadly. I breathed a sigh of relief, and Mom and Dad thought for the first time that maybe their son wasn't an idiot after all.

Mr. Kiernan shook my hand and said, "Son, you're an amateur radio operator. All you have to do is wait for ten weeks or so."

A thirteen year old kid had to WAIT for "ten weeks or so." Well, if I had to wait I had to wait!" So I waited about ten minutes before I went to check the mail box. I waited for the mail man every day. I don't mean after eight or nine weeks, I mean every day. I checked the mail for the first couple of

weeks, then I started checking the mail man. I knew he had my license in that brown leather sack. I was sure it was a conspiracy. He just didn't want me on the air. For ten weeks the mail NEVER made it to the mail box. I was in intercept mode. It was summertime and I had no job. I was going to get that license.

After week seven I decided that a more proactive stance was necessary. I'll just call the FCC in Gettysburgh. They were sure to understand. After all, how could I work Botswana on 15 meter cw without a license.

"Mom", I said, "I have to call the F.C.C. in Gettysburgh and straighten this out, you know, before the DX window to Botswana closes."

"Where's Gettysburgh?" Mom asked calmly.

"Right around here I think," I lied.

"Well you can call, as long as its not long distance."

Mom was a hell of a lot smarter than I thought.

But at last it came. It was a beautiful little window envelope, with the Gettysburgh return address in the left hand corner. WN2HKR was about to get his baptism of fire.

Editors Note: We're very excited to have Dave, WB2HKR writing for the *TARA NEWS*. Next issue: The First Radio.

Albany / Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

Fall 1993

Next Exam Date: October 9, 1993

Starting Time: 9:00 AM

Listed below are the times and dates that the Albany/Troy VE Team will be administering FCC exams. All exams will be given in the C.I.I. Building (Center for Industrial Innovations), Room 3051, on the Campus of R.P.I. in Troy. The doors will open at 8:20 AM and exams start at 9:00 AM. NOBODY will be admitted into the exam room after the 9:00 AM starting time. No pre-registration is required for these exam dates or any of the Albany/Troy exams. A test fee of \$5.60 either *cash* or *check* is required for those taking any elements above Element -2 or Element -1A. Make sure you bring two proofs of identification, with one being a picture I.D. Also bring your original documents (current license, C.S.C.E.s...etc.) along with photocopies, calculator, pens and pencils to the exam. Our VE Team will provide all FCC 610 forms. Anyone needing special handicap arrangements are asked to call in advance.

October 9, 1993 (Saturday)

November 13, 1993 (Saturday)

•Team Liaison: Bill Eddy, NY2U (518) 273-9248 •Team Contact: Harry "Bud" Hovey (518) 283-2337

Repeater Manager's Report *de* N2LUD, Bob

Well, the final design is here. We have successfully moved the DTMF controller into its final stages. Many thanks go to Dave, WA2GBO, for his efforts with this project. Hopefully, within the next couple of weeks, we will install and test the unit. With it we will be able to control repeater operations such as power output, cross-band linking and possibly a few other features. We will also be able to further enhance the link system.

Unfortunately, the 444.225/R (+5MHz) is experiencing a large amount of desense. We are working on obtaining another site to which we could move the repeater. John, WA1YXQ, and I are site

searching and we've come up with a few spots. We have secured a site in the city of Troy. This will be used for a remote receiver link site, hopefully the first of many. Mainly what we need now is TIME.

If anyone is interested in assisting with this venture, please contact John or myself on the 145.17/R (-600Hz), 147.27/R (+600Hz)[pl.110.9] or the 444.225/R (+5kHz) or stop by and talk to me at the next meeting.

Also, a hearty thank you to all those who helped Dave, WA2GBO, for cleaning and refitting his repeater site.

Ham Test Software

by John Seney, WD1V

Free Mac ham test-simulation software is available! If you are studying for an upgrading and have access to a Mac, this is for you.

Send WD1V a formatted Mac diskette and you'll get back five Hyper-Card stacks that simulate the tests-one per license class. Scores of 90-percent or higher even get applause!

Diana, KC1SP, designed the Hyper-Card stacks which have already helped hundreds upgrade. They make a great gift of encouragement.

A Morse Code program with practice QSO files for drill and a collection of ideas on how to learn CW are also on the disk.

Send a self-addressed, stamped disk mailer to: John Seney, WD1V, 144 Pepperidge Drive, Manchester, NH. 03013.

from the July '93 "ARNS" Bulletin

TARA PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

On Sunday, August 29, 1993, the Run for the Roses commenced at 9:00 AM at the Grafton Lakes State Park. This 5k race went well as there was plenty of coverage for runners. Although there were some logistics problems. We hope to eliminate these if we assist this group again. If there are any comments or questions, please see me at the meeting. I would like to thank the following people for all their help:

Clayton (KB2LSQ), Jared (KF2MR) our net control, Tom (N2TTA), Ken (N2RXO), Steve (N7LOD), Jim (N2PEM), Jim (KB2LNG), Ken (N2VLS), Jack (N2LBZ), Matt (N2LGZ), Dave (WD2K), Steve (N2PZP), Skip (KE2XF), Jerry (N2QIP), and June (KA2VEK).

de N2LUD

T.N.T. TRADER NET

147.27/R WA2SPJ (Bald Mtn.)

"The Full Service Repeater"



Every Thursday night at 9:00 PM

Treasurer's Report *de* N2TTA, Tom

Reminder about dues: with the change in the by-laws, everyone's dues now cover the period July 1 to June 30. If you weren't at last month's meeting, there is a sheet explaining the change included with this newsletter. Please send in the amount due as soon as possible so we can close the books on the '93-'94 dues.

Field Day was a GREAT time, but it did put a hurtin' on the ole bank

balance. With some dues adjustments coming in, we're building up again slowly. As I write this, it's the week before the Saratoga Hamfest. At this point we've sold enough raffle tickets to cover the cost of the first prize. Hopefully, we'll sell lots of tickets at the Hamfest!

Our biggest project, moneywise that is, is some work we are doing to secure a formal tax exempt status from the IRS. Along with some paperwork for

the State of New York, this will enable us to solicit tax deductible donations as well as exempt us from sales tax when we purchase items for the club. We'll have more on this at the September meeting.

I plan to have detailed reports available at each monthly meeting. The books are open to any member. If you have any questions I can be reached on 147.21 repeater (just kidding!!).

Bits and Pieces

In June the FCC issued 5,978 new amateur licenses, the largest monthly total in more than two years. Meanwhile, the Gettysburgh backlog remained virtually unchanged, as some 5,000 new amateur applications poured in (not to mention another 5,000 renewals and upgrades!).

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator administered 569 exam sessions in March, an all-time record. April's 501 sessions was the second-highest. The usual summer slump pulled that down to "only" 446 sessions in May.

Once In a Blue Moon

How many of you Volunteer Examiners thought that those crazy examples of what could go wrong at a VE session in the training manual were exaggerated? Well, I was one of those that felt those blunders would never happen to us, but how wrong I was. On Tuesday, August 30, 1993, just about every classic example of what might go wrong at a not so typical VE session happened. However we quickly found the answer when someone mentioned that it was that rare "Blue Moon". Then it all made sense. Please look below and you'll notice a few that aren't the least bit superstitious about the effects of the moon.

Congratulations

•Carolyn Yodis - NOVICE •Christine Bulger - TECH
•Adam Geer - NOVICE •Sarah Carney - TECH

The above were ALL under 13 years old!

Troy Digital Group

Sponsored By Troy ARA

Have any of you recently been on Color Slow Scan TV or Pactor? Are any of you flush enough with money to afford Clover? Have any of you been wondering where and how to get on the DX Cluster? Maybe some of you are into contesting and would like to know the best software for RTTY contesting? Does anyone know how to sign onto a H.F. Amlink? If you've answered yes to any of the above questions or have knowledge about them, you're the one we're looking for.

Each Wednesday evening around 8:30 PM on the 147.27/R (Bald Mt.) we're going to attempt again this year to assemble a digital round table discussion. Last year we had the T.N.T. Digital Net which went over extremely well but this year we would like to take a little more casual approach. Instead of having some "official" grand dragon net controller, we're all going to take on that responsibility each week. It will be up to all of us to welcome those new comers to the net and not just net control. Each week those wishing to join are asked to bring something into this open discussion so we don't go around and around talking about the weather outdoors. After all, it's a digital group.

How many of you bought new digital equipment this summer? I hear that the new HamWindows software is spectacular. Have any of you tried it yet? AEA came out with a new software program for Windows that they say makes operating your PK-232MBX a dream come true. What's your thought on this? These are just a few topics that we can toss around each week on the Troy Digital Group. Remember, unlike last year when we had a net control that kind of directed things, this year everyone is in charge. Please come and join us and give some input. You'll be surprised at the fun we can have each week.

STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, at 8:30 P.M.

A Diskette Handling Guide

Here are some tips for handling computer diskettes. You might even consider this the BIBLE of diskette care.

1. Never leave diskettes in the drive; data can leak out of a disk and corrode the mechanics of the drive. Diskettes should be rolled up and stored in pencil holders.

2. Diskettes should be cleaned and waxed about once a week. You can remove microscopic metal particles by waving a magnet over the disk surface. Scour with steel wool to remove stubborn metal shavings. When washing a diskette, make sure its surface is even, so it can spin fast for better access time.

3. You can fold "big" diskettes to use them in "little" drives.

4. Never insert a diskette into the drive upside down. The data can fall off the surface and jam the mechanism.

5. Diskettes cannot be backed up by running them through a photocopy machine. To back up your data, just insert two diskettes into your drive. That way, when you update a document, the data will go on both disks. For more legible copies, sprinkle iron filings between the diskettes.

6. Diskettes should not be removed from or inserted into a drive while the red light is on. Doing so can smear the data, making it unreadable. The red light sometimes flashes to indicate what is known as "hung" or "hooked" state. If your system is hung, you

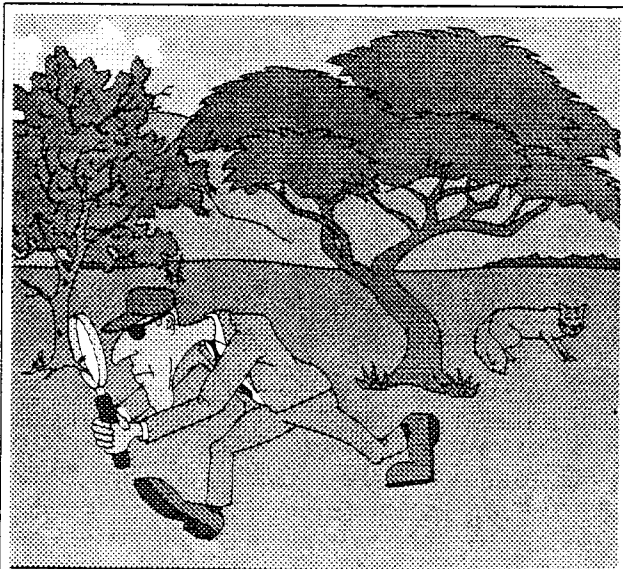
will probably need to insert a few coins. Or maybe you should give your drive two minutes in the penalty box.

7. If your diskette is full and you need more storage space, remove it and shake vigorously. This will pack the data (data compression) to allow for more storage. Be sure to cover all openings with scotch tape to prevent loss of data.

8. You can improve access time by cutting more holes in the jacket. This provides simultaneous access to more points on the disk.

9. Spray diskettes with insecticide, from time to time, to prevent bugs and viruses from spreading.

from "QUA/Ham News", Bluegrass ARS, Lexington KY "ARNS" Sept. 1993



A new ham came prepared for his first fox hunt not knowing what to expect !

Jack, N2LBZ

Questions

- Can ham bands play music?
- Could you avoid air sickness by taking a ground plane?
- To Watt size can a balun be inflated?
- Would you call wigs transformers?
- Would coffee taste better if you used a high-pass filter? Make sure it's well grounded first.
- Can hamburgers be fried on a grid? Can they be eaten from a plate, or would they splatter too much?
- Can you fish for channel bass with a ham net?
- Did you Volt in the presidential electrons?

by Val Scarcia, W3EFL
"ARNS", Sept. 1993

News Of Our Neighbors

R.C. RACES.

Rensselaer County ARES/RACES **Club Repeater: 147.18/R WS2B**

The first meeting of the new year was held Wednesday, September 8, 1993 at Hudson Valley Community College. This was an organizational meeting to discuss the new budget proposal for 1994 and evaluate the status of the repeater system. For those not familiar with R.C. RACES they operate the following repeaters: 146.76/R Troy, 147.18/R Grafton, 145.37/R Poestenkill and 147.345/R Hoosick. The future plans call for complete linking of all these repeaters. Presently only the 146.76/R and 147.18/R are linked.

Rensselaer County would like to invite everyone to attend their meetings and join RACES. If you'll volunteer your time they will provide the necessary training.

To find out more about RACES please call Chief Radio Officer, Neil, N2LOD, on the 145.37/R TN

A.A.R.A.

Albany Amateur Radio Association **Club Repeater: 145.19/R KM2H**

Albany meets the second Friday of each month at the Colonie Community Center off of Central Avenue. These meetings start at 7:00 PM with a social gathering, followed by the regular meeting beginning at 7:30 PM. The Fall/Winter meeting schedule hasn't been announced yet but as soon as we receive it we will post it here in the "TARA NEWS". The KM2H repeater is getting a complete overhaul before old man winter sets in. All are asked to please be patient with the Repeater Committee until they finish the project. The next joint VE session between Albany/ Troy ARA will take place on Saturday, October 9, 1993, at R.P.I. in Troy, NY. Starting time for this session is 9:00 AM.

To get more information about Albany ARA please call Ernie Popp, KA2HTU, at (518) 477-9581. TN

S.A.R.A.

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association **Club Repeater: 147.06/R K2AE**

SARA kicked off its new year on September 13, 1993, with an evening presentation on satellites. On hand for the presentation were Frank, KB2MVM, and Dave, WB2YLR, from Troy. Both of these gentlemen spend hours tracking and working stations around the world via satellite each year. Ray Wemple was the recipient of the 1993 Broughton Award which SARA presents each year. The citation specifically mentioned Ray's long term efforts with emergency communications and his role as liaison between the amateur radio service and local government.

SARA will have their VE team in action starting November 4, 1993 at the monthly meeting, as told in their newsletter. More details about this VE session next month. To find out more information about SARA contact President, Don Walsh, WA2TSW, on the 147.06/R TN

So.V.A.R.C.

Southern Vermont Amateur Radio Club **Club Repeater: 145.39/R WA1ZMS**

I hope all of you had the opportunity to work SoVARC under the call of N1JIF, while they commemorated the Battle of Bennington with a special event station. If you did, please send for your personal copy of their certificate. Send QSL card with the contact number on it, along with a 9" x 12" S.A.S.E. to Micky Carrow, N1JIF, RR#2 - Box 48, Bennington, VT 05201-9537.

I still haven't heard from Randy Gates, head honcho for SoVARC if he was able to get a new and younger traveling companion. TARA has received reports that the same old buzzard that traveled with Randy was seen driving a bulldozer with one track off. If anyone has info please send it to us. A photo would even be better.

News Of Our Neighbors

R.V.W.A.R.S.

Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society Club Repeater: 147.21/R WB2UEB

The Rippers have no final results yet on the VHF/UHF Summer Sprint sponsored by their club. If you haven't mailed your logs in, you have until September 15th to do so. Meanwhile plans are tentative for an October 3rd, Fall VHF/UHF Sprint from 10 AM until 2 P.M..

The latest Rip's Report explains that Chuck, KB2IBK, has been under the weather lately and could use a few get well cards to cheer him up.

Send your cards to: Chuck Kolb, Box 171,

Niverville 12130.

RVWARS will start their first Novice/Tech class for the fall on September 15, 1993. This class will be held at the Ichabod Crane Middle School at 7:00 PM.

Anyone that requires information about this club please contact Dave Watrous, WD2K, at home (518) 732-7532 evenings please.

A.C.E.S.

Albany County Emergency Services Club Repeater: 147.12/R WB2ZCM

The September issue of the "DISPATCH" announced that Bob Daignault, WB2ZCM, and ACES will be hosting a Novice/Tech class beginning September 16, 1993. The location will be Heatly High School at 171 Hudson Avenue in Green Island, NY. There will be a registration fee of \$5.00 and students will be required to obtain their own study material. The course program will follow the guide "Now

You're Talking" which is published by the ARRL. If you know someone that needs this book please have them contact Ken Davis, KB2KFV who will be handling book sales for TARA.

Albany County RACES now has a digipeater on-line under the call of WC2ACJ, located in the V.A.Hospital. You can find this digi running on the frequency of 145.09MHz.

For more information concerning Albany County RACES, contact Bob, WB2ZCM, at (518) 237-8473.

S.C.R.A.

Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S. Association Club Repeater: 147.24/R WA2UMX

Once again everyone from Saratoga County RACES deserves a round of applause for their outstanding job with this years Hamfest '93. This hamfest has experienced a steady increase in total attendance each year. Also they have always offered an invitation to all the clubs in the Capital District to take part in this yearly event.

The final head count for this hamfest hasn't been released as of press time but we'll have it for you next month.

Many thanks to everyone from Saratoga RACES that purchased ARRL publications or raffle tickets that went towards our club fund drive. We look forward to making a return trip next year for Hamfest '94, date pending.

If you need to find out more about this organization please contact President - Jim Polewczak, KG2H, at (518) 695-6878

B.A.R.C.

Burlington Amateur Radio Club Club Repeater: 146.61/-600

At the July 26, 1993, meeting of the Board of Directors for BARC the decision was made to proceed with the purchase of a Kenwood repeater. The directors set a limit of \$1,2000 for this project. When completed this repeater will be located at the Mt. Mansfield repeater site.

Also, it was noted by their Communications Committee that the problems with the Mt. Mansfield repeater in Burlington have ended. BARC is proud to announce its newest members: Ron Rossi, N1PBT, and Edwin Shipley, N1PEA.

In a message from Mitch, WB2JSJ, SM/Vt he is encouraging all the clubs in Vermont to send their representatives to the next VARC (Vermont Amateur Radio Council) on October 9, 1993. Call or write for information to: BARC, P.O. Box 312, Burlington, Vt. 05402.

FCC Actions

FCC turns up heat in WA4D QRM case

Michael E. Whatley, WA4D, has been hit with an FCC Notice of Forfeiture for \$2,000. The Commission denied a request from Whatley that it reconsider the Notice of Apparent Liability it issued to him in November, 1992.

Whatley was accused of willful and malicious interference based on FCC monitoring on 7.257 and 7.258kHz in late 1992. According to the FCC, Whatley asked the FCC's Field Operation Bureau for copies of recordings of the transmissions in question and also requested a 30 day extension of time in which to respond to the NAL.

The FOB said it granted Whatley the extension and provided him with both the tape and a transcript of it.

Whatley then argued that other amateur operators were interfering with his transmissions, that the transcript are incomplete (not reflecting all communications which were recorder on tape), and that the parties to other communications on the band ignored his attempt to "compromise."

On August 20 the FCC announced the monetary forfeiture order, the FOB saying "We have reviewed the record and affirm our initial findings."

The FCC said it was not persuaded by Whatley's arguments, and "further, Mr. Whatley's actions and communications indicate hostility towards the net members on 7.255kHz that were communicating, and do not support his claim that he intended to be conciliatory."

Although the base forfeiture amount for malicious interference is \$7,000, the FCC set the fine against Whatley at \$2,000 because he is an individual and has no record of prior violations.

Whatley has 30 days to pay the fine. The ARRL Letter

* * * * *

The FCC has adopted a new schedule of suggested base amounts for monetary fines, with some reductions and some increases.

Fines in the Amateur Radio Service have been more numerous since a 1991 Commission policy statement which outlined standards for assessing forfeitures. Most have been for amateur band operation by unlicensed persons, for indecent language, and for malicious and willful interference to other amateurs.

The FCC said that the new schedule still allows it leeway in adjusting forfeiture amounts up or down, depending on circumstances. It also said that a "significant change" is to "allow a presumption of diminished ability to pay in certain services for individuals."

The typical monetary forfeiture assessed for most amateur band violations under the 1991 guidelines has been \$2,000.

The National Association of Broadcasters, which challenged the 1991 fine schedule saying it had not been subject to public comment, noted that the new schedule is also not subject to public comment. The ARRL Letter

* * * * *

A Manchester, Connecticut man who was caught and subsequently found guilty of interfering with public service radio communications faces charges once again. John D. Bertrand, 38, charged with four counts each of criminal mischief and interfering with police, was released on bond. In 1990, Bertrand was placed on probation after plea-bargaining on two criminal counts of interference. Bruce Marcus, WAINXG, owner of a commercial 2-way radio company, was credited with the 1990 foxhunt that located Bertrand. When police began experiencing interference in April of this year they again called on Marcus, who, according to newspaper accounts, used a signal-tracking device to trace the interference to Bertrand's home. The ARRL Letter

HamWindows Plus Now Available

From *California Software, Inc.*

As you know, one of the basic principles of Amateur Radio is advancement of the radio art. What this means to us today is integration of the computer world into our daily communications routine. Without a doubt, packet radio and other types of data communications are the fastest growing aspects of our hobby. The power of the computer, added to the skills of the Amateur Radio Operator of today, and combined with the capability of the current amateur gear, adds a new dimension to the communications capability of the Amateur Radio Station. Truly it is the current state of the art, when an Amateur Radio Operator has the ability to control the entire high frequency station, and integrate VHF packet radio. Also, instant access to the CIA World Fact Book for detailed information on virtually every country in the world is available. World maps that allow you to pinpoint any distant point on the globe, and grayline maps for propagation information are at your fingertips. Immediate information on beam headings and distance are a click away, plus the ability to automatically turn the station's directional antenna just

by entering the DX station's call sign. Add to this, the ability to scan the bands of your choice, in frequency increments of your choice, and display the results graphically on your screen, whether you are at the station or not, giving the operator unprecedented power and flexibility in real time operation. So let's add a complete real time logging system that gathers information from the stations radio, TNC, and operator, then logs the contacts, and prints QSL labels, tracks DXCC, WAS and WAZ awards.

Here is a real example of how this state of the art station may be implemented. You are at the station's computer, writing an article for your club newsletter. Your computer emits five beeps, indicating to you that a DX spot has come in via your TNC. This is checked against your log and found to be a country that you need for your DXCC. You minimize your word processor, maximize your log screen, and double click on the DX spot in the tnc window. The radio is automatically tuned to the DX frequency, and the stations call is entered into your log along with the time and frequency information. You work the station, and

click on the **save** icon so that the information is **saved** for later printing. You are one **contact** closer to working the whole world! You minimize your log screen, and **continue** writing your article, all in about a minute.

Now comes the really good news. The future is **here** with the new HamWindows Plus system. If you are a relative newcomer to amateur radio, you will find the **wealth** of information at your command will give you the power to advance **rapidly** into the art of worldwide communications. If you are an old time DXer, you will wonder how you ever got by **without** HamWindows. California Software knows that one of the basic principles of amateur radio is advancement of the radio art and believe that we must stay at the forefront of **technology**. If you are challenged by the **idea**, HamWindows is for you!

California Software is pleased to make a special **offer** to members of TARA so the future of Amateur Radio communications **capability** can be in your station today. If you would like to take advantage of this exciting offer, please contact **one** of our club officers for more information. TN

HamWindows Plus™

Minimum Hardware Requirements

- An IBM/IBM compatible computer
- 386SX at 16MHz or faster
- 4 Megabytes of RAM or more
- A Bus Mouse (Recommended on IRQ 5.)
- VGA or SVGA monitor & adapter card
- One 1.4MB (3 1/2" diskette drive)
- Dos 5.0 and Windows 3.1 properly installed

HamWindows Plus-Version 3.0

HamWindows Plus is an all new **version** of HamWindows. The "Plus" part of the name means that you get everything from the original HamWindows system plus SVGA compatibility, new awards tracking and reporting, a new TNC window, the Radio Construction Set, the new CIA World Fact Book Alamac Window plus much, much more. You even get both VHF and HF **control** for your TNCs and radio all working at the **same** time!

We've designed HamWindows Plus to be your new "Personal Communication Control Center" where your amateur radio **station** is just one piece of the puzzle.



The TARA Trading Post...

TARA assumes no responsibility for any of the items listed in this section.
Those that wish to list their items must do so before the 1st of each month.
Amateur related items only please!



Goodies Galore

- ◆ Kenwood TH-27A 2 meter FM Handy Talkie, with extended receive. With 3 battery packs, soft case, BC-15 rapid charger, car adapter/charger, MINT condition...\$425.00
- ◆ Yaesu FT-290R MKII 2 meter all mode transceiver, 2.5/25 watts output, with mobile mounting bracket, TTP mike, manual and original boxes. BRAND NEW with warranty card...\$530.00
- ◆ Australian OUTBACKER 8 band mobile antenna/with manual, fits standard ball mount, EXCELLENT CONDITION...\$200.00
- ◆ Uniden Bearcat 70XLT 10 band/20 channel programmable scanner (29 - 512 MHz) w/charger, DC cord, leather case. EXCELLENT CONDITION...\$95.00
- ◆ Larsen LM-150 and 2 meter mobile whip (5/8 wave) ...\$45.00
- ◆ Comet Duplexer 2 meter/440 MHz ...\$55.00
- ◆ Cushcraft AR-270B 2 meter/440 MHz base antenna.....\$75.00
- ◆ Cushcraft 10-4CD Skywalker 4 Element 10 meter beam....\$165.00
- ◆ Weller soldering gun kit High wattage, case and accessories....,\$35.00
- ◆ GAM TG-5MS 2 meter double colinear vertical antenna 8.5db gain...\$80.00

For further information call:
John - WA2FUZ at
(518) 966-8654

T.N.T. TRADER NET

Every Thursday night at 9:00 PM
147.27/R WA2SPJ (Bald Mtn.)
"The Full Service Repeater"

For Sale

1.) MFJ -1278B Multi-mode TNC...VHF,UHF, and HF. This unit includes the following modes: **ASCII, PACKET, FAX, CW, RTTY, AMTOR** (Mode A & B), **COLOR SLOW SCAN** and the just released **FACTOR!** This TNC can also be used as a electronic keyer for your Bencher paddles.

2.) MultiComm™ upgrade Release 3.1 ..New Features: Simultaneous dual multi-mode or TNC operation for DOS. new FAX, PCX format compatible, YAPP binary file compatible.

Both of these units come with the original boxes and manuals. These items are about 4 months old and they are in excellent condition.

ASKING ...\$250.00 for complete package!

Contact "Skip" Wilson, KE2XF, at (518) 664-4521

WANTED

Looking for a 100 watt dummy load for use on the HF bands. If you have either an air cooled or oil cooled dummy load that you're not presently using please call Kevin, N2DCM, at (518) 273-8815

JUST LISTED

Kenwood TM-732A in mint condition with manual and shipping boxes. This radio has never been operated mobile. Features included with this radio are: 50 watts on 2m, 35 watts on 70cm, wide coverage receiver, CTCSS encode built-in, 50 memory channels, unique S-meter squelch, and remote controllable via DTMF. Package includes Daiwa duplexer.

Asking...\$500.00

Contact: Dave Pascale, WB2HKR, at (518) 785-5040

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Please send all correspondence to Editor-TARA
at 3 Oxford Circle, Troy, NY 12180 or via
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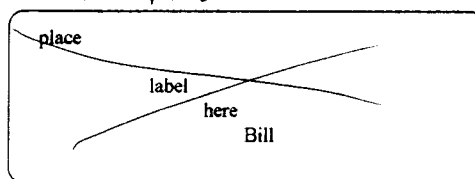
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Troy Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 584
Latham, NY 12110

Archives



NEXT MEETING: Sept. 21, 1993
Green Island Municipal Bldg.

7:30 PM