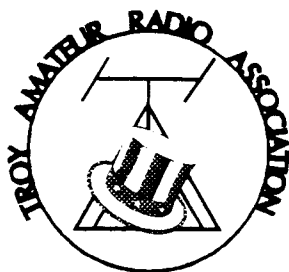


TARA



NEWS

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

Volume III NO. 10

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1993

SWEEPSTAKES 1993

"Twas the first night of
sweepstakes when all through
the shack
No RF was straying, not even a
spark

The keyer was placed by the
radio with care,
in hopes that a clean sweep
soon would be there.

The logsheets were nestled all
snug in their beds,
while visions of a cleansweep
coffee mug danced in my head.

With a cat in my lap and my
dog Louie in sight
We just settled down for a long
contest night

When out of the speaker there arose
such a clatter,
I sprang from my chair to see what was
the matter.

Away to the keyer like a flash in flight,
I tore open the logsheets, and threw on
the lights.



The new HF rig with the dials aglow
Gave a luster of green to the logsheets
below.

When my straining ears heard not a
thud,
But a distant call way down in the
mud.

With a little fine tuning so
lively and quick:
I knew in a moment it must
be KH6.

More rapid than eagles the
callsigns they came
And I whistled and shouted
and keyed them by name:

"Now Ohio! Now Iowa! Now
Utah and Arizona!
On Maine! On Vermont! On
South and North Dakota!

To the top of the dupe sheet
to the top of the log
Now, check away! Check
away! Check away all!"

Good luck to all who are crazy enough
to enter the competition this year. We
all have to do an outstanding job to
maintain bragging rights for another
year.

de N2LBZ

Jack

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Bits and Pieces

from around the world

■ "Let us help you out or in," says a sign in a locksmith's store window. The same can be said for radio-frequency interference (RFI). Keeping it from leaving the inside of your radio is just as important to your community as is keeping it from reaching your receiver from outside. A new type of interference filter in the form of a plastic-like sheet is now being used by many engineering firms to fight RFI. Companies that manufacture this material claim up to 100db of shielding, at frequencies as high as 18GHz! Soft and pliable, the shielding filter can be cut with scissors, positioned exactly, and used just about anywhere. Perfect for hand-held equipment. Tnx W5YI Report

■ The world's smallest PC-compatible motherboard is now available from Epson. Produced by SMOS Systems, the 386 motherboard includes VGA graphics, ROM and RAM on board— all on a space the size of a credit card! All external devices, such as power supply, keyboard, monitor and disk drives, are added through several small sockets. Tnx W5YI Report

■ The high cost of countries: A newsletter on the scheduled February, 1994 DXpedition to Peter I Island, the most needed DXCC country in everybody's poll, reports that 450,000 has been spent so far. That is a downpayment. The newsletter is going to DX movers and shakers and may be followed in greater detail in the various DX newsletters. The *ARRL* Letter

T.N.T. TRADER NET

147.27/R WA2SPJ (Bald Mtn.)

"The Full Service Repeater"



Presidents Report

de "Mr. Bill," NY2U

October's bright blue skies are shining upon us and that is just a reminder that the ARRL November Sweepstakes cannot be that far off. Once again this year TARA HF operators will try and defend the club's honor in this challenging contest.

This contest marks the third year that TARA and the fine folks from the Rip Van Winkle (*generic club*) will go to battle. I'm sure members from TARA will finally dismiss any doubt of whom the better club is at HF.

As I type this report plans are under way for yet another repeater move for the 145.17/R and 444.225/R to a site in Rensselaer County.

TARA has secured permission for the use of two repeater sites that will make up the new repeater system. One site will house both repeaters, while the second site will allow us to install our first voting receiver for the 145.17/R in Troy. Both sites also offer emergency backup generators should it be needed during outages.

How much of this can be completed before inclement weather settles in? Nobody knows at this time. Please extend some words of encouragement to these guys that are working to better the system for all of us and be understanding if the system should be shut down during this move.

I'm sure Bob, N2LUD, will have much more information in his report that will give you a better grasp of what's really happening.

It's really great to see the number of members and guests that have attended our meetings this year. At the September meeting we had 38 in attendance and even Bucky himself made it for the third consecutive month. After the formal meeting the floor was turned over to Steve, N7LOD, who gave an excellent packet radio demonstration. Steve even managed to get Norm, N2RXQ, to send a message via packet. I'm sure those that attended his little clinic were impressed and just might hit the keyboard soon. Thanks again, Steve, for a most interesting demo.

For the second year Ken Davis, KB2KFV, has picked up the responsibility of coordinating our winter fund drive. Last year this was a tremendous help to our club in making ends meet. So please get in touch with Kenny and help our club sell a few of the *Dine-A-Mate* books. Even if you only sell one, this can help TARA immensely. If you're interested please call Kenny at (518) 273-9248.

I hope to see all of you at the October 19, 1993 meeting when both Ben, KF2LW, and Paul, N2PEN, give a presentation on the new age of Slow Scan Television.

73 de NY2U

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR Mouse Balls?

by Dave Foster, WD5BRP

This is an actual alert that went out to all IBM branch office field engineers. It was not meant as a joke.

Abstract: mouse balls available as field replacement units.

Mouse balls are now available as FRU. Therefore, if a mouse fails to operate or should it perform erratically, it may need a ball replacement. Because of the delicate nature of this procedure, replacement of mouse balls should only be attempted by properly trained personnel.

Before proceeding, determine the type of mouse balls by examining the underside of the mouse. Domestic balls will be larger and harder than foreign balls. Ball removal procedures differ depending upon manufacturer of the mouse. Foreign balls can be replaced using the pop-off method. Domestic balls are replaced using the twist-off method.

Mouse balls are not usually static sensitive. However, excessive handling can result in sudden discharge. Upon completion of ball replacement, the mouse may be used immediately.

It is recommended that each replacer have a pair of spare balls for maintaining optimum customer satisfaction and that any customer missing his balls should suspect local personnel of removing these necessary items.

To re-order, specify one of the following:

P/N 33F8462 - Domestic Mouse Balls

P/N 33F8461 - Foreign Mouse Balls

TNX ARNS, Sept '93

SKYWARN Station Fund Drive

de WA3RKB, Stephan Anderman

The Saratoga County RACES Association has agreed to administer a fund drive which has been established to raise monies for replacement equipment for the SKYWARN amateur radio station located at the NOAA National Weather Service at Albany County Airport. The first donations to this fund were received at the Saratoga County RACES hamfest on Saturday, September 11th. Albany NWS and the SKYWARN station serve the Counties of Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, and Washington in New York, Berkshire County in Massachusetts, and Bennington and Windham Counties in Vermont. Donations may be made payable to: Saratoga County RACES Association c/o Millie Feeny, KV2A 5 Coesa Drive, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 12866. Please mark "SKYWARN Fund" on your donation. The fund also welcomes donations of equipment. For further details call (518) 587-7794.

New Repeater Site Tested

Thanks go out to many of you that were on hand and assisted with signal checks from the new proposed repeater site. For about one hour on Sunday, October 3, 1993 tests were made to check both the spectral purity and over all performance of our 444.225/R club repeater from its new proposed home. Many of you were even kind enough to go mobile and it's appreciated by the repeater gurus. Preliminary results show that 444.225/R caused no interference to any of the existing

equipment being housed at the new repeater site. With such a short test it was impossible to gather enough reports to determine the true footprint of this site but reports seem definitely on the positive side. Surprisingly enough, several known RF holes were now accessible from this site.

Earlier in the morning Bob, N2LUD, John, WAIYXQ, and Jim, N2PEM, retrieved our Station Master Antenna® (440MHz) from the old Helderburg Mt. site. Seeing how this site just didn't work out at this period in time, it was

decided to remove the antenna before winter.

The following stations assisted with signal checks: N2NEH, N2PEN, N2POS, KE2XF, KA2VEK, N2JZK, NY2U, N2IUL, N2SBA, N2LOD, KF2LW, WA2UMH, WA2GBO and N2KAD.

Repeater Team:

**N2LUD, WAIYXQ,
N2PEM, and N2USK**

Treasurer's Report *de* N2TTA, Tom

Boy, did we sell lots of books at the Saratoga Hamfest. Sales totaled just under \$1,100. Thanks to all who purchased items and helped man the booth. Special thanks to Stormy, N2VLS, for getting our booth location changed at the last minute. He got us moved into the same building with Lentini.

Unfortunately, I forgot to bring the dues notices to the staplin' and stickin' party last month. The dues notices, for those who haven't paid, are in this issue. If you have already paid, thank you.

Checks for dues, etc. can be sent to our P.O. Box or directly to me, Tom Remmert, 231 Walnut Lane, Slingerlands, NY 12159.

Kindly write your call sign on your check. This helps me keep track of things. I can remember everyone's call sign except when I sit down to do the bookkeeping. It's like knowing Morse code except when you sit down at the VE session.

You may have noticed the subliminal message included in my report. If not, we'll reveal it at the October meeting.

The Wait

by: Tim Davis, N2WJG

Now I lay me down to sleep
For slumber to take me I no longer count sheep
It's been 8 days since my exam I did take
And the wait for my ticket is keeping me awake

With my HT I "just read the mail"
Put repeaters in memory and seek antennae for sale
I'm anxious to join the NOBARC Newcomer's Net
But all I can do is lie here and fret

Instead of lying here awake all the while
Maybe I could sneak my form to the top of the pile
But I'd probably get caught and thrown into jail
And while there, my license at home, would arrive in the mail.

I'm anxious for QSO's with Bill, Dennis and Doc
But until it arrives, the PTT is on lock
I guess in the meantime I'll study the code
and with the General Class I'll have HF mode

But then I'll have to wait all over I'm afraid
For the U.S. Snail to bring me my upgrade
I'm not much of a bard, as you can see
but a good ham is really what I'm aspiring to be.
So until I'm on the air, I'll send 73's and if you see the mailman,
send him here please.

de N2WJG, Tim

Win a TURKEY?

R.D.F. Chairman Steve, N2PZP

Yes, you really have the opportunity for you and your family to win a turkey at the next monthly meeting for TARA.

Starting at 6:30 PM on the evening of the next meeting held at the Green Island Municipal Center, there will be a TURKEY HUNT. All you have to do is be the first amateur to find this hidden bird and you're the proud owner of what could be Thanksgiving dinner. The winner will be awarded a gift certificate from Price Chopper Stores where you can pick out your very own turkey.

All licensed amateurs are eligible to participate in this turkey hunt, even if you're not a member of TARA. Those wishing to try their skills at turkey hunting should get to the meeting at 6:30 when the hidden transmitter will be turned on. The turkey hunt will end at 7:20 PM just prior to the start of our monthly meeting.

The winner of this event becomes ineligible for prizes for 6 months in any other hunts.

Those that would like to find out more about this hunt should contact the head "Turkey" himself, N2PZP, Steve at (518) 272-7470 or the 147.27/R WA2SPJ Bald Mt repeater.

Next Meeting: Oct 19, 1993

60th ARRL November Sweepstakes

3rd Annual Club Challenge

Each fall amateurs from around the United States look forward to the November Sweepstakes. This year will mark the 60th anniversary of this contest. To give you a better idea of just how old this contest is both Clayton, KB2LSQ, and Dave, WD2K, were studying hard as seniors in high school when the first such contest began back in 1933. Now that's getting old!

For those of you that have joined TARA since last year, you might not know that this also serves as a club challenge between TARA and the Rip Van Winkle generic club. Since 1991 both clubs have battled it out on the air waves for bragging rights locally. Already this year we've heard members gearing up for this competition. Some

addicted testers have even put up towers and tri-bander antennas, right Carl, WB2TCV? Others have added equipment to the shack like new computers, electronic keyers, right up to new HF radios. Many of us wonder what surprises we might hear coming from the station of Walt, WA1KKM, (better known as King Kong's Momma), this year.

Now we're certainly sure who is going to win this year, again. However, the battle should be quite tense seeing how both clubs have won this just once, with this being the tie breaker.

Those of you new to TARA with HF privileges are hereby summoned to make an appearance on the air during this contest and make a few points for the club. Maybe some of us could ask

those that don't have HF privileges or equipment to join them at their shack. Maybe we could even encourage Ben, KF2LW, to do a multi-op at his QTH with that new HF rig? No, not for sending SLOW SCAN pictures, Ben.

If anyone thinks this sounds like fun please be at the next monthly meeting so we can give you the necessary forms and paper work to fill out. Also please keep in mind that as much as we joke and have fun ribbing one another about this, it's **ONLY A CONTEST!**

EXCHANGE	NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	CALL SIGN	CHECK	SECTION
SAMPLE	NR123	A	NY2U	84	ENY

Those that don't like the higher speed code may use the specific band segments set aside for slow speed code 10-13. Please refer to the chart below. *Tix Bucky*

All Sweepstakes rules are on page 122 of October 1993 *QST*.

1.) Contest Period:

- (A) **CW** - First full weekend in November
 (B) **Phone** - Third full weekend in November
 (C) **Time** - Begins 21:00 UTC Saturday and ends 03:00 UTC Monday. Operate no more than 24 of the 30 hours. Off periods may not be less than 30 minutes in length. Times off and on must be clearly noted in your log, and listening time counts as operating time.

"Clean Sweep" Award

Once again the ARRL will be offering a beautiful red coffee cup with a gold-and-white design commemorating the prestigious "clean sweep" for those who manage to work all 77 Sections on CW or phone during the 1993 November Sweepstakes.

To order, include a check or money order for \$8.00 with your log entry indicating "clean sweep."



Suggested Frequencies(kHz)

CW	Slow Speed CW	Phone	Nov. Phone
1800-1810		1.855-1.865	
3530-3600	3.665-3.705	3.850-3.950	
7030-7080	7.090-7.130	7.200-7.250	
14.030-14.060		14.250-14.300	
21.050-21.080	21.090-21.130	21.300-21.400	28.350-
28.050-28.080	28.090-28.130	28.550-28.650	28.400

Getting Started In Amateur Radio - Circa 1968

Part II

By Dave Pascale, WB2HKR

My parents and I had made a deal. They would buy my receiver, the Heath HR-10A, and I would buy the transmitter, the Heath DX-60B (it would not be until years later that I realized I should have held out for the complete Collins S Line). The price of each piece of equipment was \$79.95. That much money was a pretty tall order for a 13 year old kid with a paper route. After all, this was 1968, and a dollar was still worth at least \$.75. It didn't take long for me to realize that this was a question of "Up Front" cash. The key was to collect the cash prior to actual delivery of the goods. In accounting, this is called unearned revenue. While that term was foreign to me, the idea of hitting my customers up in advance for cash certainly was not--so I did.

Having all the confidence of a Wall Street Power Broker (years before Gordon Gecko) not to mention 37 Knickerbocker News customers, (yes, there really were 37, even then I had a penchant for numbers). I convinced my parents to buy the receiver before I had the money for the transmitter. After all, that was only a technicality. Dad said fine, and in the warm hearted fashion that only the father of a future tax and financial accountant could embrace, he really added, "No problem, Dave. Will slap a lien on your bike. Title to the receiver doesn't pass to you until the \$79.95 for the transmitter is given to the escrow agent." Dad was the kind of guy that could make you warm all over.

So we ordered the receiver from the boys in Benton Harbor, Michigan. (A couple years later, Heath merged with Schlumberger Industries in a leveraged deal including stock and debentures, but that's another story.) The receiver came a few days later. It was

basically a box of resistors, capacitors, tubes and other fogettasic pieces of electronic equipment and parts.

"Okay Dad, put it together," I ordered

"This will take some time," Dad responded.

"No time like the present," I urged.

So Dad stripped and soldered and examined schematics while I stared at him to make sure he was doing it right, not that I would have known the difference. This went on for a couple of weeks, until one night Dad said he was too tired to work on the receiver

"I think I'll take tonight off," Dad said.

"Why Dad?" I asked.

"I'm tired Dave! I worked all day. I just want to relax tonight." What? Was this guy--nuts!

I needed that radio put together.

"Okay Dad," I murmured, but my lower lip, by design, started to quiver. There was no way in hell this guy was taking tonight off.

"What's the matter?" Dad snapped.

"Oh nothing, Dad," I sobbed. "I'll just go listen to that old AM table radio you gave me, you know, the one with the broken volume knob."

"All right! A ll right." Dad grunted. "I guess I could put in a capacitor or two." A capacitor or two my foot. I wanted that bad boy put together and put together now.

So Dad stripped and soldered and studied more schematics and a few days later the radio was ready. Time to listen to some rare DX from Africa--or maybe even Utica.

Next Month: On The Air, For the First Time.

Free Maps...de N2LUD

Topographic maps (Black and White Copies) are available if you so desire. It may take some time to produce these because of time restraints and other commitments, but as always we'll try! If you're interested please contact me at the next meeting.

Thank You

Bob, N2LUD

Repeater Manager

Welcome New Members

Please help us welcome the following new members into our club. We thank them for choosing TARA and hope we live up to their expectations.

Michael Stadnik, (No Call)

Ed Robideau, N2PEO

Tim Davis, N2WJG

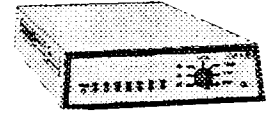
Troy Amateur Radio Association



TARA Digital Corner

Packet Radio -- Part I

by: Steve Kopecky, N7LOD



What do you think of when you hear "packet radio"? Probably the first thing that comes to mind is a computer hooked up to a radio. You are right, but there is also more to it. Packet is a digital communication mode like RTTY and ASCII. It is also a mode that is resistant to interference, and one that provides error free communications.

How is this done? Well, that's what makes packet. Packet. The first term to become familiar with is AX.25. AX.25 is the Amateur version of X.25, a CCITT communication protocol that defines the standardized communication between computer systems. In particular, it specifies the content and format of packet frames transmitted between computer systems. AX.25 is the standard used for packet radio that is modeled on this protocol. In computer networks, these frames are normally transmitted over a cable or wire.

In packet radio, these frames are transmitted by radio transmissions. Now, what are these frames? Well, there are three types of frames: Supervisory, Information, and Unnumbered. Supervisory frames control the communication link, acknowledging the receipt of, or the request for, retransmission of information frames. Information frames transfer data between linked stations. Unnumbered frames send information when there is no destination, as in beacons and CQ calls.

As I said, Packet is an error free mode of communication. These packet frames are a key to that error free communication. Each frame can be broken into several fields, one of which is the frame-check sequence field. This field can be thought of as a checksum and is transmitted along with the frame. The receiving station uses this field to decide if the frame was received correctly. The frame is

retransmitted until it is received correctly. Other fields included in each frame are the address field, containing the callsigns of the linked stations, and the information field containing the data.

Another key to error free packet communications is how collisions between transmitted frames are handled. Collisions occur when transmitted frames from two or more stations "collide" with each other. When this happens, the receiving station is unable to decipher any of the frames. To prevent this from occurring, each station listens to the frequency and does not transmit until it senses the frequency is clear.

After transmitting the frame, the sending station will wait a set time for an acknowledgment. If no acknowledgment is received, the sending station assumes a collision has occurred and resends the frame. However, before resending the frame, each station will wait an additional period AFTER the frequency clears before resending, hopefully eliminating a repeat collision.

This process continues until the sending station receives an acknowledgment. These keys ensure that an exact copy of the information gets from the sending station to the receiving station.

To minimize collisions, it's important to ensure your station parameters are set correctly for local operating conditions and level of packet activity in your area. It's also good to have a decent signal-to-noise ratio for your power and antenna. If your station cannot "hear," it may transmit when it thinks the frequency is clear, and if it cannot "hear" frames clearly, it will issue retries until whenever.

In the next article, I'll be discussing packet hardware and setting up your station.

Editors note:

I have listed some of the local packet BBS that you may want to try and I am sure Steve can give us a more extensive listing next month.

K2AE-1 145.09

WA2PVV 144.93

WA2UMX-5 144.95

N2AIG-4 145.09 National Weather Service

WA3RKB-4 144.95 Steve's BBS

K2TR 144.97 DX Packet Cluster

this is a great one for checking out what DX stations are on the air and what the propagation is like. Once connected type SH/DX which shows DX info type SH/MUF shows Minimum Useable Freq. Good luck and enjoy Packet. There is a lot going on if you know where to look. If you ever have anything you would like to direct towards the editor of the TARA News just send it to: N2LBZ @ WA2UMX-5



Bucky's Beat

Bucky™ is a proud member of the QCWA.

Bucky
c/o TARA
P.O. Box
Latham, N.Y. 12110

Dear Bucky,

You are my idol. I want to grow up to be a ham radio bean counter. Can you teach me accounting? I'm going to apply to HVCC when I'm old enough.

Love,
Suzie

P.S. Are you married?

Dear Bucky,

I love listening to the Bucky net. Can you have one on C.B.? My friends and me talk on channel 19 and if that's busy, we use channel 9 (no one is ever on that channel). When I'm on C.B., no one has call signs, except me, I use WB2HKR. Is that OK?

Love
Bobby

P.S. I wanna be a countant when I grow up

Are you looking for something to get you in the true Amateur spirit each day? If the answer is yes, then tune in each morning and afternoon to the TARA repeater system and meet one of amateur radio's finest operators...Bucky®. Each day Bucky has that extra special message to all amateurs which we're sure you'll find inspiring as well as uplifting. Also, Bucky gives his "Ham Tip of The Day" to all those listening, plus much, much more on the all new Bucky Net.

With the overwhelming popularity of Bucky™, WB2 HKR, we're proud to present this new monthly section called "Bucky's Beat." It's our goal to present just a few of the hundreds of QSL cards and letters that arrive monthly from all corners of the world.

If you know anyone that has a question they would like to ask the old "Buckmeister" regarding anything from soldering tips, right up to traffic handling, even accounting tips are fine, just send them to BUCKY, c/o Troy A.R.A., P.O. Box 584, Latham, NY 12110.

REMINDER NOTICE.....

License Renewals

The first ten year term ham tickets issued in January 1984 will be coming up for renewal. The FCC had hoped to be able to send out a renewal notice that, when returned to the FCC, renewed a ham license without the need to submit a FCC Form 610. It appears that amateurs will have to keep track of their own expiration date, since the reminder/renewal procedure will not be ready for some time yet. About 4,000 amateurs a month will begin renewing their license at year end — this is after 5 years of no renewals due to the changeover from a 5 to a 10 year term.

If there is anyone that needs the FCC Form 610 which is required for renewals please contact Bill Eddy, NY2U, at (518) 273-9248. You may also obtain this form at the monthly meetings for TARA.

NEXT TARA MEETING
October 19, 1993

Radio District	Group "A" Extra	Group "B" Advanced	Group "C" Tech/Gen	Group "D" Novice
0	AA0OR	KG0HW	N0YJG	KB0LLM
1	AA1HG	KD1QU	N1QBM	KB1BDK
2	AA2PI	KF2QV	N2WEQ	KB2QOE
3	AA3FS	KE3JR	N3QAO	KB3AYE
4	AD4JB	KR4BL		KE4FBE
5	AB5PD	KJ5PJ		KC5CNE
6	AB6VY	KN6QI		KE6AOT
7	AA7YG	KI7QS		KB7YBV
8	AA8MD	KG8DQ		KB8PKS
9	AA9ID	KF9RF	N9URQ	KB9IUZ
N.Mariana Is.	AH0U	AH0AN	KH0CD	WH0AAX
Guam	NH2U	AH2CT	KH2HC	WH2ANH
Johnston Is.	AH3D	AH3AD	KH3AG	WH3AAG
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AG	WH4AAH
Hawaii		AH6NC	WH6OQ	WH6CQV
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer.Samoa	AH8H	AH8AF	KH8AX	WH8ABB
WakeW.Peale	AH9C	AH9AD	KH9AX	WH9AAI
Alaska		AL7PF	KH9AE	WL7AHU
Virgin Is.	WP2B	KP2CC	WL7MO	WP2AHU
Puerto Rico		KP4VQ	NP2GQ	WP4MJF

Albany / Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

Fall 1993

Next Exam Date: November 13, 1993

Starting Time: 9 AM

The Albany/Troy VE Team will be administering its last FCC exam session for 1993 on November 13. This exam will be given in the CII Building (Center for Industrial Innovations), Room 3051, on the Campus of RPI in Troy. The doors will open at 8:20 AM and exams start at 9 AM. NOBODY will be admitted into the exam room after the 9 AM starting time. No pre-registration is required for this exam date 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 photo copies, 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.

Team Liaison: Bill Eddy, NY2U (518) 273-9248

Team Contact: Harry "Bud" Hovey, WF2B (518) 283-2337

News Of Our Neighbors

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

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

The Rippers hosted yet another VHF/UHF Sprint on October 3rd which I'm sure many of you participated in. Please make sure you mail your logs in early this year so you can make plans for the upcoming ARRL November Sweepstakes. By the sound of things the fine gentleman and ladies from the south are looking to avenge their defeat of last year. Even John, N2OJZ, has been following TARA members around at the hamfests to see what HF equipment they're buying, as well as keeping one ear tuned to the Full Service Repeaters.

The club repeater for RVWARS is 147.21/R and it has undergone recent repairs to the antenna system. Many stations from the Capital District have noticed a favorable change in this repeater and if you're doing a little repeater hopping try this one out. You can give your report to Dave, WD2K, on 145.17/R or 147.27/R. Anyone that requires information about this club please contact Dave Watrous, WD2K, at home (518) 732-7532 evenings please. TN

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 A.C.E.S. is hosting a Novice/Tech class which began September 16, 1993. The location will be the 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 VA 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. TN

S.C.R.A.

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

On November 13, 1993 RACES will celebrate their 40th anniversary with an on the air special event station. The bands of operation will be 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters, in the lower 40 KHz General phone segment, plus 21.115 CW.

The next VE session for RACES will take place Saturday, December 11, 1993 at 9 AM in the County Solar Building, Ballston Spa. The contact for this session is Jim Polewczak, KH2H, at (518) 695-6878. There were 907 people that went through the gates at the Ballston Spa Hamfest '93. This was down just 8 people over last year but up a whooping 202 people over 1991. Tentative plans call for Hamfest '94 to take place on Saturday, September 10, 1994 at the fairgrounds. If you need to find out more about this organization please contact President Jim Polewczak, KG2H, at (518) 695-6878. TN

B.A.R.C.

Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Club Repeater: 146.61/-600

The results are in and it looks like the 41st annual International Hamfest '93 was a big hit. This year BARC surpassed last years record crowd of 564 with a grand total of 640 paid attendance. Some of the prize winners at this fest were: *First Prize* KA5VVM, Sue Gitto, winner of a Yaesu FT2400; *Second Prize* KA2TOC, Dan McDonal, won a new Icom pen multimeter; *Third Prize* N1NPI, Steve Allen, won the 1200 baud external modem.

BARC provided communications for the Fourteenth Annual Shelburne Farms Harvest Festival on September 18, 1993. This years festival was chosen as one of Vermont's Top Ten Events thanks to the efforts of last years volunteers. There was also an appreciation dinner that followed for all volunteers.

Call or write for information to: B.A.R.C., P.O. Box 312, Burlington, VT. 05402. TN

News Of Our Neighbors

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

R.C.RACES.

The next regular meeting of RACES takes place on Wednesday, October 13, 1993 at HVCC, Room 101, Fitzgibbon Hall. Starting time for this meeting is 7:30 PM. If you've never attended a meeting for RACES why don't you make it a point to attend this meeting? You'll be glad you did. RACES has a lot to offer both the new amateur and the seasoned amateur alike. Many find the training that RACES provides a valuable tool in emergency communications. Rensselaer County RACES has one of the finest emergency communications vans in the state. This van was put into service just about two years ago and hosts a number of radios and computer equipment. Just last year this organization won first place in ENY 1992 Simulated Emergency Test.

On Wednesday evenings at 7 PM RACES hold their weekly training net. All are welcome to join.

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

Albany Amateur Radio Association Club Repeater: 145.19/R KM2H

A.A.R.A.

Albany meets the second Friday of each month at the Colonie Community Center off of Central Avenue. These meetings start at 7 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 here in the *TARA News*.

The KM2H repeater is getting a complete over haul before old man winter sets in. All are asked to please bear along with the Repeater Committee until they finish the project. The next joint VE session between Albany/ Troy A.R.A. will take place on Saturday, November 13, 1993 at RPI in Troy, NY. Starting time for this session is 9 AM.

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

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Club Repeater: 147.06/R K2AE

S.A.R.A.

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves at this years ANNUAL SARA Auction held on October 4, 1993. Their newsletter reports that this was one of the best attended meetings of the year. We still don't have a number of how many attended but we'll try and look for it in their next newsletter. I can't imagine what Kenny, KB2KFV, could have bought this time.

SARA is looking for a volunteer to assist Stan, WA2BAH, in compiling the SARA club score after the January VHF contest. Also there is a need for a file cabinet, either 2 or 4 drawer, to hold such things as log records, contest forms, etc. If anyone would like to volunteer please call Stan, WA2BAH at (518) 355-9632.

VE exams will be given at the November meeting for those needing that first license or an upgrade.

To find out more information about SARA contact President Don Walsh, WA2TSW, on the 147.06/R TN

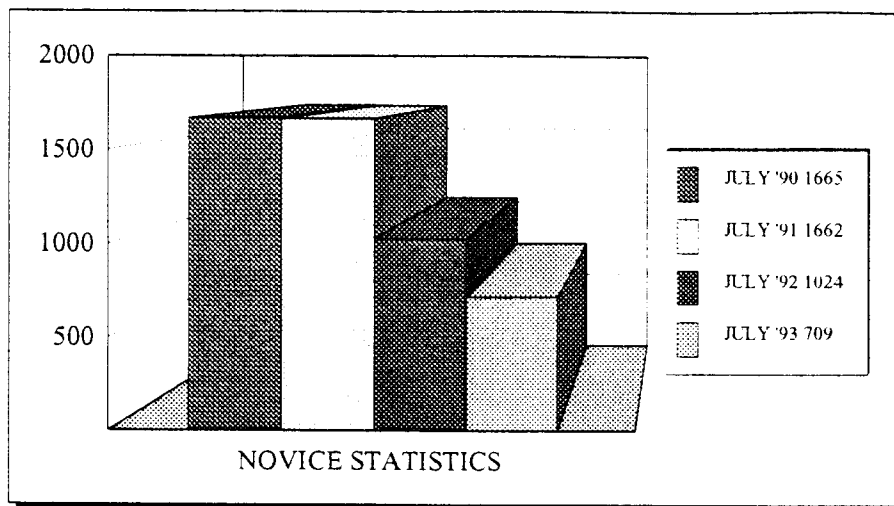
Southern Vermont Amateur Radio Club Club Repeater: 145.39/R WA1ZMS

So.V.A.R.C.

SoVARC at their last meeting discussed plans for the club obtaining their own callsign when they become available. Randy, N1GWL, will file the necessary FCC form when the time comes.

Members of SoVARC had their hands full with the Special Event Station to commemorate the Battle of Bennington. Already they've received in the order of 100 SASEs, and QSL cards, and certificates are ready for shipping. One of the guest operators for this event was Steve, WA3RKB, who logged some 8 hours of operating. It seems that Steve, while eating breakfast at the local "Golden Arches", received a personal invitation to operate when Micky, N1JIF, spotted him.

Besides Micky having to teach the gang on how to tame a bat and organize a search and rescue mission for a dog, things went well. We hear Micky next year is planning a high wire act for entertainment. TN



Reading from left to right this chart reflects those that were licensed as NOVICE class operators by the FCC in Gettysburg each July since 1990. Below you will find a chart that gives you the same statistics for those licensed as TECHNICIAN operators. The statistics for July '93 are misleading due to the fact that the FCC has fallen behind in its processing.

FCC Falls Behind

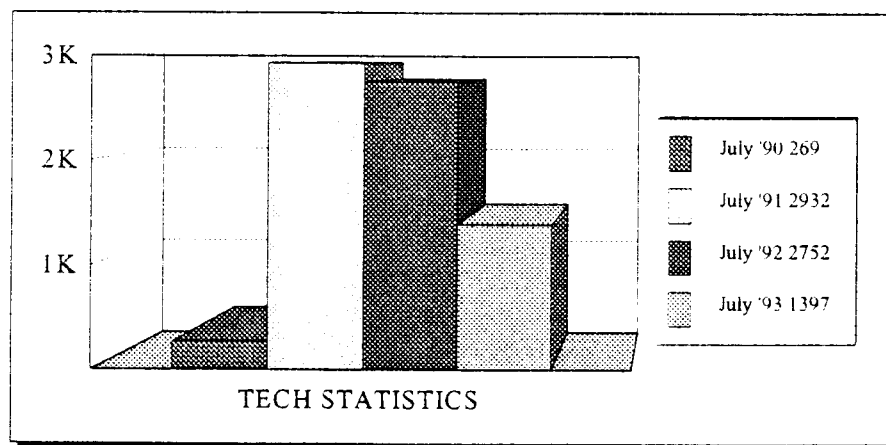
The number of amateurs holding a Novice Class operator license now exceeds 100,000! The fastest growing ham class by far is, of course, the Technician! One Amateur in three now is a Technician.

This month's licensing statistics are very misleading. It looks like the number of new amateurs is only half what it has been running, but that is not the case. The problem is the FCC has fallen behind in processing amateur radio applications into licenses.

The FCC in Gettysburg advised the W5YI Report (amateur radio newsletter) that up until recently it had been taking 8 to 10 weeks to issue a ham ticket from the date it is received in Gettysburg. To that you have to add another 2 or 3 weeks for the application to wind its way through the VEC System. That adds up to about a 3 month wait for a new ham.

FCC's Larry Weikert told the W5YI Report that their Gettysburg licensing facility entered Form 610 applications received between July 6 and 9 on August 31st. To that you have to add another couple of weeks for that ticket to actually get printed and mailed. That meant the backlog was 10 weeks at the end of August. Weikert said a "push" was then made to clear up the backlog. On September 9th, applications received between August 18 and 26 were handled. "Seven weeks of applications were basically handled in a two week period." The accumulation is now down to 3 weeks before Gettysburg can get to the application. To this 3 weeks you have to add another month to cover the time it takes the FCC to receive the application from the VE and VECs – and time for the license to be issued after it is entered into the Gettysburg terminals. (Before a ham ticket can be issued, the data must be filtered through the FCC's Washington, DC database.)

Weikert was asked how the new Gettysburg computer system was coming that eventually will be handling all amateur service functions and he replied that the implementation date was running behind. The new operator license renewal procedure probably would not be ready to go by the year end when renewals will be starting up again. TnxW5YI



From left to right this chart shows the number of new TECHNICIAN licenses that were issued in the month of July from 1990 up until July 1993. The total of new NOVICE and TECHNICIAN Class licenses issued in July, 1993 were 2125. As of July of this year we now have 616,576 licensed amateurs in the United States.

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!



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

T.N.T. TRADER NET

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

For Sale

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 control via DTMF. Package includes Daiwa duplexer.

Asking...\$500.00

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

WANTED

I'm looking for a set of paddles to hook up to my electronic keyer. Preferably a set of Bencher® paddles.

Contact: Moe at (518) 786-6546

For Sale

Selling my 2 year old Yeasu FT-470 dual band handheld, in excellent condition.

OPTIONS:

- 2 - Rubber Duckie Antennas
- 2- Chargers (1-wall charger, 1-NC-29 multi volt)
- 2- Carry Cases
- 1- Novacks Speaker/Mic
- 1- Valor Mobile Antenna
- 3- Battery Packs

Asking...\$300.00

Please Phone: (518) 477-6915

PARTS NEEDED

In need of a rotor control box for a Hygain rotor system. The rotor I have works fine but I'm missing the controller box. If you have any information where I might find one, please call the number listed.

Art Ceas, KB2JZJ, at (518) 439-7866

For Sale

One pair of brand new climbing spikes. If you have a use for these or questions, please contact:

Mitch, N2QIH, at (518) 237-3688

New H.T. For Sale

Due to a mix up I'm selling a brand new, in the box, Icom W2A dual band handheld. This radio arrived while I was out of the country and has never been used. Price...\$499.00 Interested parties please call Steve, WB2IQU, at (518) 371-9552.

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UHF/VHF Contest Coordinator: Art Ceas, KB2JZJ

Chris Linck, N2NEH

VE Team Contact: Bud Hovey, WF2B

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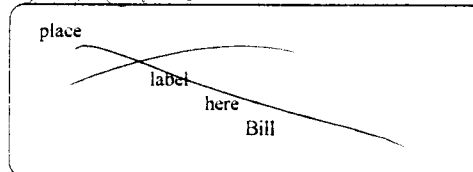
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John Tutein, WM2Y

Ken Collis, N2RXO

Troy Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 584
Latham, NY 12110

ARCHIVES



NEXT MEETING: October 19, 1993
Green Island Municipal Bldg.

SLOW SCAN

7:30 PM