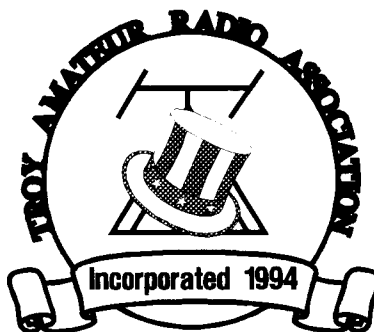


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TARA

"Home of the
FULL SERVICE
Repeaters"



147.27/R
145.17/R
444.225/R

NEWS

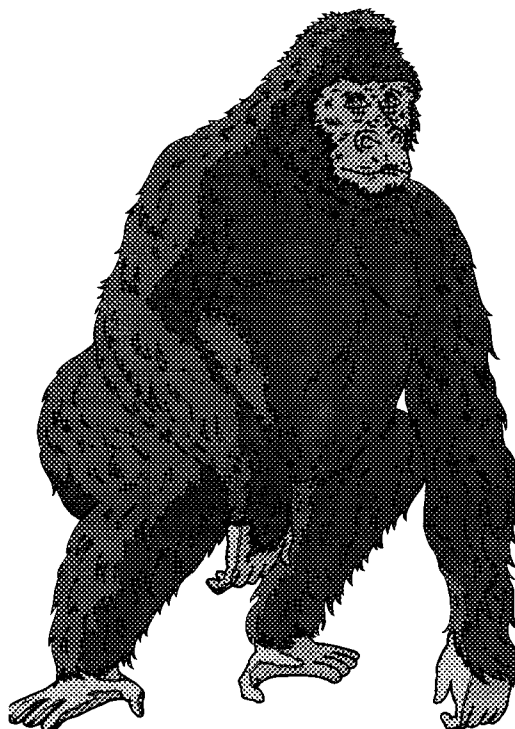
Volume IV NO. 5 PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC. MAY 1994

780,320

The results are in and it is unanimous. The November Sweepstakes winner by a landslide is the Troy Amateur Radio Association with a combined score of 780,320 total points for both CW and SSB.

The TARA assault team was led by Walt, WA1KKM, in both CW with a score of 93,240 and SSB with a score of 101,024.

The club was able to muster 23 entrants for the grueling task of operating for 24 hours out of a possible 30 hours of total operating time. A much deserved thank you for all club members who helped to



KING KONG'S MOMMA

achieve such an outstanding score.

But that was November, and now we must turn our sights toward the upcoming challenge for the Field Day activities with our neighbors from the southern section of the Hudson Division.

It's no time to sit on our past victories. The Arch Nemesis from the Southern Empire has recently sent two undercover agents to our last club meeting dressed as amateur radio operators, but the guise was up once they started talking. I think it was the "Evening, Good Buddies" that gave them away.

I know TARA is up to the challenge and look forward to another slaughter of the "Generic Club"

de N2LBZ

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President's Report

By Mr. Bill, NY2U

We're back! After missing last month's Prez Report and giving my dear, dear friend Ellen a break, I'm back pounding at the keyboard for yet another stimulating report. Isn't that right, Ellen?

The last two months have been very hectic with VE Exams, river watches, gustnado in Rensselaer County, WMHT Auction, March of Dimes WalkAmerica, monthly meetings, (more on that in a second), and several other club functions that have kept the membership busy as a bumble bee. Oh yes, the repeater gurus were hard at work over the last two months and have the repeater sounding the best since it was put into service. With the repeater working as fine as it is, Kenny, KB2KFW, and the morning crew have grown by about three fold.

Now a few words about April's monthly meeting which crowded about 60 members and friends into the Green Island meeting hall. When the Vice-Prez and myself arrived at the meeting hall around 7:10 PM, there were about 30 or better out front waiting to get in. By the night's end the final tally was just 60 in attendance. By far this was our largest meeting to date. That evening we had some very distinguished visitors from both the north country and our close friends from the generic club. Representing the north country was none other than the "Big Bopper" himself, King Paulie, N2MSY, and Don, N2UHH. Our 50/50 raffle was won by Don and in turn he donated the entire amount (\$30.00 +) to the memorial fund TARA collected in memory of one of the Rippers daughters. Representing the Rippers were Alex, N2NOU, and his trusty chauffeur Wayne, N2ROR. I still cannot figure how they fit in with Dave, WD2K, and that generic style club. Glad to have all of you to our meeting.

Plans for this year's Field Day are going smoothly with Steve, N7LOD, at the helm. Please do your utmost to attend this weekend outing for TARA and enjoy the fun. This definitely is our largest undertaking as a club for the year. If you would like to volunteer your services for Field Day or reserve some time to operate, please give Steve a shout at home or on the repeaters. You can be damn sure we'll be out again to BEAT the Rippers!

As we approach election time I would like to thank the officers of TARA for their complete dedication over the last year. Working with each of you has been most exciting, and the fresh thoughts you have brought to each Board of Directors meeting is the main reason why TARA is thriving so well. I once again will be running for the office of president in order to complete a few loose ends before calling it quits. I know this is just the opposite from what I preached last year, but that's just a sign of how happy I am with the present board. Although we'll be losing Tom, N2TTA, as Treasurer, I look forward to dealing with the board for another term.

As just mentioned, Tom will be moving to his new home in Sumter, S.C. sometime in June. I wish both he and his wife the very best in their new ventures and want them to know you'll be deeply missed. Even though you've been in TARA for such a short time your impact has been felt by many, and we owe you a great amount of appreciation for everything you've done. Your patience and ability to get the job done will be hard to replace.

In closing, I must wish Jimmy, KB2LNG, and Linda, N2USE, the very best on their wedding date set for May 21, 1994. If there truly is a couple that deserve and appreciate each other, it's the both of you. After your honeymoon to Nashville we'll be looking to see you both at the meetings and Field Day. All I can say to you, Jimmy, is "Yabaaa Dabaaa Dooooo!!!!!!!"
TN

• Club Elections • June Meeting

Reminder: Only those that are current with their dues may vote. If you have any doubt about how you stand with your dues, please contact Tom, N2TTA.

TARA Members Support Public TV

On April 22, 1994, members from TARA and other clubs throughout the Capital District invaded the studios of WMHT for their yearly auction. Amateur radio operators man the phones and help with other duties in support of Public TV and WMHT. There were 17 volunteers. Those that volunteered from TARA are:

Gerald, WA2IWW

Kenny, KB2KFW

Craig, N2UID

***Rumor has it Kenny made a stop on his way home to show another police officer his license and registration.*

Treasurer's Report - May, 1994

By Tom Remmert, N2TTA/AE

The big news is that EVERYONE'S dues are payable by June 30, 1994. We encourage early payment, if at all possible. Dues for 7/1/94 - 6/30/95 are \$25.00 for single membership and \$35.00 for family membership. Make your checks payable to Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc. You can give me your check at the May or June meeting or mail it to TARA, Box 584, Latham, NY 12110.

I want to thank Sears Automotive Center in Colonie Center for their donation of a very

large deep cycle battery. This will be used to provide emergency backup power to our 444.225Mhz. repeater and controller. The retail value of the battery is \$90.00. It should provide at least 11 hours of backup assuming 100% operation of the repeater. Actual use would probably be less, giving us almost a full day of backup.

Our insurance agent is checking on the cost of insurance for next year based on our increased inventory of club-owned equipment and the possible acquisition of a trailer. I hope to

have some more information at the May meeting.

Our application for tax exempt status has begun processing at the IRS. We received a letter requesting additional information on May 3. I hope to have a reply sent to them by May 5. They want budgets for 1994 -1996 as well as information regarding our sale of publications. They also want to know if we'll be doing any political lobbying. So things are looking good. I hope we have a final answer before the end of May. TN

SIDE BY SIDE COMPARISON OF TWO IDENTICAL(?) HF RIGS

By John, WA1YXQ/AE and Tom, N2TTA/AE

Have you ever wondered how consistent the radio manufacturers can be? They produce thousands of the same radio model. To check this out we put a brand new Kenwood TS-450 HF rig through some tests and then repeated the same tests on a two year old TS-450. We concentrated on the receiver side, testing sensitivity and 12dB SINAD quieting. Instead of tuning in signals, we used commercial test equipment costing a few megabucks. We checked sensitivity at 1.850 MHz, 3.800 MHz, 14.000 MHz, and 28.000 MHz. (Sorry Dave, WD2K, we didn't check 27 MHz.) What we found was that the two rigs were essentially the same and within the published specifications. Once you get below the 160 meter band, sensitivity drops off (Kenwood's published specifications indicated that this would be the case). So, the 450 doesn't make it a great AM broadcast receiver (who listens to Mets games anyway?). On the transmit side, we checked for spurious emissions and found both radios to be very clean..

What we did notice was some difference in the S-meter readings. This was John's original purpose behind the test. The newer Kenwood was receiving as

well as his old Kenwood TS-520 but gave lower S meter readings. This prompted John to ask Tom to check his radio. Sure enough, the new Kenwood needed more signal to record an S9. It heard the signals just as well as the other radios, it was just a little conservative on the S meter readings. This should be remedied by an internal adjustment.

Another thing we noticed is the sensitivity of the hand microphone. It took very little mic gain to produce a full scale reading on the ALC meter in SSB mode. So, if you're using the hand mic (which we all tend to hold closer than a desk mic) you should keep an eye on the ALC meter. Too much drive will cause splatter and possibly interfere with stations on nearby frequencies.

The word "we" is used quite a bit here, but John did all the technical work and Tom did the typing (and quite a bit of learning in the process). It looks like Bucky left all the diodes in his old 450!! TN

Editor's Note: Please remember that we're always looking for articles from our members. If you have something of interest you would like to submit, contact Jack, N2LBZ.

Gustnado Smashes Northern Rensselaer County

Reported by Stan Levine, KB2LNI

With the beginning of spring came our first bout of severe weather. On April 27th a small tornado ripped through the hamlet of Eagle Bridge in northern Rensselaer County. It caused damage to several homes and businesses. Roofs were damaged by the 80 mile an hour winds. The movie screen at the drive-in theatre was smashed into several pieces and flung into the parking lot.

My colleague John Quinlan and I investigated the damage on April 28th. We concluded that a small tornado did indeed touch down in Eagle Bridge. We based our finding on the direction that the debris was thrown. Instead of the debris being blown in the same direction that the storm was moving (east), it was actually thrown back to the northwest, or against the storm motion. A large tree in the front of one home also fell in a direction opposite the storm motion. This implied that some sort of rotation was present. Witnesses also reported to us that the wind abruptly changed direction from the west to east as the storm struck. It's unusual that a tornado would form on the advancing edge of a thunderstorm. They normally occur on the southwest, or trailing edge of the storm.

More accurately, what struck Eagle Bridge was more like a landspout or gustnado. These whirlwinds are the result of the terrain acting on the thunderstorm downburst wind, causing horizontal rotation to be

twisted into the vertical. They form from the surface up to the cloud rather than from cloud to ground.

In other news, a meeting was held between the National Weather Service and representatives of the amateur radio community on April 24th at the Albany County Airport. The meeting was led by Steve Pertgen, N2PBO, and Steve Anderman, WA3RKB. Also present at the meeting from the National Weather Service were John Quinlan and Area Manager Roland Loffredo.

The purpose of the meeting was to better coordinate the severe weather reporting efforts of the individual amateur radio operators and organizations into a more uniform and cohesive SKYWARN reporting network than is currently in place. A draft SKYWARN activation and reporting plan was presented at the meeting. It's based on a model originally written by amateur radio operators, and it's currently being used operationally in Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware.

Finally, the NWS recently purchased a new TNC to replace the loaner equipment currently driving packet radio at the Weather Office. The Kantronics KPC-3 is faster, has better programming features and has mailbox capabilities. Steve Anderman, WA3RKB will help set up the new equipment when he can set aside some time from his very busy schedule.

TARA Weather Spotters Respond

By "Mr. Bill," NY2U

On the afternoon of the storm described above, TARA ran an informal weather net that had 14 stations checked in. The first word of the violent weather was relayed by Skip, KE2XF, up in Stillwater who landlined me at my home. In his report he spoke of the severe winds and hail which in turn hit Northern Rensselaer County. The 145.17/R and 444.225/R repeater system was put in standby operation and checkins were called for. Within minutes we had several other reports of high winds and torrential downpours from Cohoes and areas north.

Later in the net Steve, N2PBO, checked in from the National Weather Service of Albany and received first hand reports of weather spottings. The most dramatic report came from Al, WA2FQL, who reported extremely high winds and driving rain like he has never before seen at his home. Al, WA2FQL, lives in the Village of Schaghticoke in northern Rensselaer County, just west of Route 40 going out of Schaghticoke where downed power lines were reported during the storm. After the storm Al reported back in the net with his report of losing the tops of several trees, some shingles off the roof and losing a number of his treasured QUAD antennas. Also it seems his wife even had to move to the safety of inside the home from her screened-in porch, which got drenched. Everyone from TARA can be quite proud of the turnout on the repeaters and the professionalism shown. Many thanks to Steve, N2PBO, for checking our repeater system for relays to NWS.

News from the Field Day Chairman

By Steve Kopecky, N7LOD

Here's the latest and greatest on Field Day '94! We've received approval from the city for our site in Frear Park. We also have permission to stay over Friday night, so we'll be needing volunteers, particularly ones with ladders, to come out that evening and help get the tarps up. Several members have volunteered to be part of the Friday night stay over crew, but anyone who would like to come on out and stay over is more than welcome. Rumor has it that a travel trailer, with all the conveniences, will be on site for the weekend. Between the trailer and a couple of tents that will be available, we should be able to accommodate anyone who wants to stay over either night. If we can get the tarps up on Friday, then all we have to worry about on Saturday is getting the antennas and stations set up.

The initial scouting report indicates that all the tarp "attachments" are still in place from last year, and for those of you who helped scramble through the brush getting the wire beam up, it looks like all that brush has been cut back.

So far for equipment, we have the club Kenwood TS-440S for HF-1, and John Tutein's, WM2Y, Kenwood TS440S with Bill's, N2UIF TEMPO 15-80 meter rig for HF-2. We also have a Kenwood TS-120 tentatively lined up for the novice station. I'd like to have an extra HF rig for a backup, so if anyone has one they would like to loan us

for the weekend, I'd appreciate it. We're planning on putting up 20 and 40 meter wire beam antennas, and a 80 meter dipole this year, so we should have the major bands covered. For the novice station, we have an MFJ Multi-loop and a 10-40 meter half-wave vertical as well. The packet station is lined up, and John (Tute), WM2Y, will supply a complete collection of VHF/UHF radios and antennas. We have a 30ft tower, a push-up mast section, and antenna rotor lined up for the VHF/UHF antennas. I'm still looking for some additional mast sections or poles to help hold the wire beam elements off the ground in those locations where we can't tie off to any trees. We are also still in need of three or four laptop or portable computers for logging. These do not need to be anything fancy, nor do they require a hard drive. The logging programs can be run off a floppy if necessary.

At present, 13 club members have volunteered for operating. Don't feel that you have to sign up. Feel free to come out anytime during Field Day and visit if you want, and operate if you like. Just find an operating position and jump on in! If you have any questions on anything, feel free to catch me on the repeater, or call me at 273-3632. So, until next time....73.

Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc. Field Day '94 June 25 & 26 Frear Park - Troy, NY

You are invited to attend TARA's Field Day '94 in Frear Park on June 25 & 26. You're encouraged to bring your family and friends for the complete weekend if you'd like too. As much as this is an emergency exercise, testing our skills at setting up and maintaining communication over a 24 hours period, it also serves as a family outing.

All of us at TARA pride ourselves on the fact that we pay equal attention to both aspects of Field Day. Some organizations go all out and treat this just like other contests, while TARA strives to make a good point tally but not at the expense of having fun with the family and friends. Come check us out we think you'll agree.!

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT

Samaritan Hospital - 10K Run June 5, 1994

We'll need around 12 - 14 volunteers that could assist with communications for this yearly road race. This will mark TARA's 4th year of providing communications for this event. Usually this race starts around 9:00 AM and winds down around 11:00 AM.

If you would like to volunteer please contact TARA's Public Service Events Chairman Ken Collis, N2RXO, at (518)233-1815 or 145.17/R.



TARA
Troy Amateur Radio Association

"Home of the Full Service Repeaters"

Repeater Manager's Report

By Robert Isby, N2LUD

Greetings. Hope you all have had a nice winter. I, for one, am happy it is behind us. If you all have been listening to the system, you have noticed quite a change. Since the warmer weather is now upon us, John (W1YXQ) and I have been to the site many times. Improvements to date include:

- **Repositioning the Antennas for both repeaters**
- **Retuning the Duplexers for the 145.170 Rpt.**
- **Adding a 12 volt battery back-up for the 444.225 Rpt.**
- **Adding remote [DTMF tone] control of the system (On/Off/X-Band)**
- **Adding lighting protection for both repeaters**

Thank you for allowing the interruptions to your conversations on Saturdays and Sundays in the past. Please encourage friends to see if they can get into the system from places not heard from previously. Look for upgrades in the system this spring and summer. We are already getting compliments about the systems operation. Only imagination and time are the limits of what can be possible.

Thanks again for your time and your unyielding support.

Upcoming Repeater Projects

Over the summer months you can expect several changes that should compliment the TARA repeater system significantly. The slickest addition to the repeater system will be the voting receiver that will be installed in the hill section of Troy. With this receiver its anticipated that we should have excellent handheld coverage for Troy, Green Island, Sycaway, Waterford, and Latham. Likewise parts of Brunswick and those located north of Troy should be able to make it into the repeater system more easily.

32 Candidates Attend April's Exam Session

Albany/ Troy VE Team Report

By "Mr.Bill," NY2U

On April 16, 1994, 32 candidates were on hand for the exam session held at RPI in Troy. This was the largest session so far this year. The following Volunteer Examiners attended this session:

Bud, WF2B	Seymour, N2AIF	Mr.Bill, NY2U	Rocky, WX2Q	Dave, WB2HKK
Ernie, WM2U	Bob, K2BUF	Bill, AA2DC	Nels, WB2SBO	Frank, KD2VI
Glenn, WB2FOB	Sue, N2LBR	Gerald, WA2IWW	Walt, WA1KKM	Bill, WB2KDD
Jerry, N2QIP				

Congratulations to the following TARA members that receive a license upgraded at the April 16 session:

Tom, N2TTA (EXTRA)
Joe, N2USK (EXTRA)

Denis, N2USN (GENERAL)
Steve, N7LOD (ADVANCED)

New General Class Question Pool - Element 3B

On November 29, 1993, a new General class pool was released to the public domain by the National VEC Conference Question Pool Committee (QPC). This new pool is to be implemented in examinations beginning July 1, 1994. Accordingly, the current General class pool will expire after June 30, 1994.

The next question pool up for revision is the Advanced pool (Element 4A), slated for update this

summer. Now's the time to offer your input to the QPC on any future amateur examinations. The new Advance pool would take effect July 1, 1995. An update Advance Class syllabus will be released by the QPC on February 1, 1994. The Extra Class question pool is scheduled to be updated during 1995, for implementation July 1, 1996.

Federal Communication Commission

Amateur Radio Call Signs

Issued as of April 1, 1994

Radio District	Group "A" Extra	Group "B" Advanced	Group "C" Tech/Gen	Group "D" Novice
0	AA0QI	KG0LO		KB0LYV
1	AA1IV	KD1TZ	N1RMF	KB1BGS
2	AA2RH	KF2UA	N2YBR	KB2QXD
3	AA3HG	KE3MC	N3RPA	KB3BBC
4	AD4QG	KR4NY		KE4KAL
5	AB5TB	KJ5VI		KC5FON
6	AC6AP	KN6YT		KE6FTE
7	AB7BL	KI7WH		KC7BDO
8	AA8ON	KG8HH		KB8RSM
9	AA9KI	KF9UM	N9WHC	KB9IXF
N.Mariana Is.	AH0W	AH0AQ	KH0CK	WH0AAY
Guam	WH2D	AH2CU	KH2JB	WH2ANK
Johnston Is.	AH3D	AH3AD	KH3AG	WH3AAG
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AG	WH4AAH
Hawaii		AH6NF	WH6SV	WH6CRD
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer.Samoa	AH8I	AH8AG	KH8BB	WH8ABB
Wake W. Peale	AH9C	AH9AD	KH9AE	WH9AAI
Alaska		AL7PO	WL7QW	WL7CHL
Virgin Is.	WP2G	KP2CC	NP2HG	WP2AHU
Puerto Rico		KP4WM		WP4MNW

Reduction In Code Speed DeniedReported by W5YI Report

The FCC has denied a Petition for Rulemaking submitted by Edwin R. Dahl, KI7FB, (advanced Class) of Spokane, Washington. Dahl requested on September 7, 1993, that the 20 words-per-minute (WPM) telegraphy requirement be eliminated while retaining the 5 and 13 wpm Morse code requirement.

By letter, Robert H. McNamara, a division chief in the FCC's Washington DC Private Radio Bureau told Dahl. "These matters were the subject of numerous major rule making proceedings which generated many thousands of comments from the amateur community. After considering the views expressed, the Commission adopted the rules which are now codified in Part 97. The current operator requirements, classes, and privileges were developed in accordance with the expressed desires of the amateur community to provide motivation for amateur operators to advance their communication and technical skills. You have not presented sufficient evidence to justify revisiting the matter at this time. Your request to change the telegraphy requirements is repetitive and is denied."

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!!

As of June 1, 1994, all TARA membership dues will be due. Please contact Tom, N2TTA, the earlier the better. Thank you for your support.

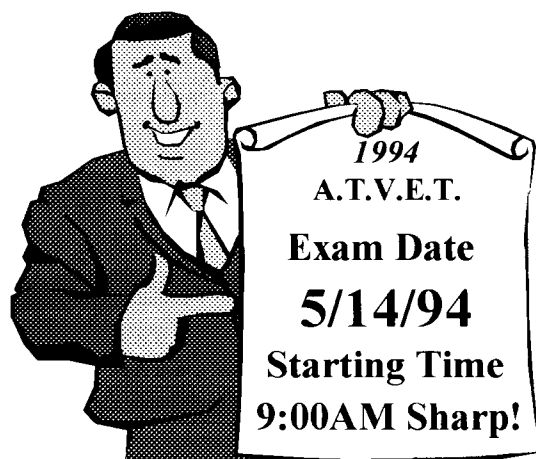
March of Dimes WalkAmerica Hugh Success

Reported by Ken Collis, N2RXO

After a shaky start the morning of April 24, 1994, the March of Dimes WalkAmerica went pretty smoothly. It seems that both TARA and another organizations made plans with WA2GBO for use of the 146.94/R repeater system on Bald Mountain. Early the morning of the event we found out that others were already in place and using the repeater, much to the surprise of Ken, N2RXO. This was Ken's first time acting as Public Service Events Chairman and not having a repeater was the last thing he was looking forward too. After some quick shuffling the group QSY'd to the 147.27/R which worked just fine. We do thank Rollie, K2RI, for his cooperation in rectifying this problem.

The course for this event was 6 1/2 miles all toll and the race took just around 3 1/2 hours to complete. TARA was able to muster 12 volunteers. Thanks to Jack, WA2YBM, for his assistance at freeing two of our members that he had signed up for an event in Albany. Congratulations on a superb job to Ken and all his volunteers!

N2RXO, KEN; N2VLS, STORMY; WB2VXS, DAVE; N2PEK, MARGRET; N2SGU, JOE; N2VGN, LYNN; WB2HKR, DAVE; N7LOD, STEVE; N2UID, CRAIG; N2WDL, KAREN; SHARON COLLIS; AND TARA's OFFICAL CLIPBOARD GIRL Katie "THUMBS" Collis



Albany / Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

On May 14, 1994 the Albany/Troy VE Team will be administering FCC exams to all candidates Novice through Extra. This exam will be given in the C.I.I. 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 9:00 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 \$5.75 (new fee for 1994) 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: Bud Hovey, WF2B**
(518) 283-3227

ATVET 1994 Exam Schedule

Volunteers Examiners from ATVET (Albany/Troy Volunteer Examiner Team) proudly announce their new exam schedule. Please remember all dates are subject to change as needed.

The following exam schedule (Dated: Jan. 4, 1994) will be held on the Campus of RPI in Troy, NY. All Saturday sessions will start at 9:00 AM, with the doors opening at 8:20 AM. Our Wednesday sessions start at 7:00 PM, with doors opening at 6:15 PM.

Cancellations will be announced on both the Capital District Repeater Net (Nightly on 146.94MHz at 6:30 PM) or WGY - 810 on your AM dial.

MAY 14

June 22

July 27

August 31

October 8

November 12

Schenectady Amateur Radio Assoc.

VE Team Notes

Testing will be held at each monthly meeting with a limit of one license class per person. Tests start 6:30PM at Schenectady High School.

Contact: Charlie, KA2VNP, at (518)399-1793

Saratoga County RACES, Inc.

VE Team Notes

The next VE exam will be administered on May 14, 1994 starting at 9:00 AM at the Ballston Spa County Solar Building on 50 West High Street.

News Of Our Neighbors

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

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

It's that time of year again when many amateurs begin discussing antenna projects and Field Day. On the other hand, if you're unfortunate enough to be a "Ripper", this time of year is yet another reminder of just how superior TARA is. Each year they await the May issue of QST with hope of a miracle victory over the powerful TARA-ists, only too be disheartened again. Meanwhile the editor and driving force behind this generic organization is beginning his one man assault against the "Evil Empire." In the April issue of the "Rip's Report" this same editor goes on to say "While it's doubtful that they (TARA) can make enough contacts on the 27MHz. band, the arrogance displayed by this upstart group cannot go on." Seems like Dave, WD2K, hasn't learned anything from the RVWARS failed contest attempts! Our thanks go out to Alex, N2UAO, and Wayne, N2ROR, for attending our last club meeting. Both were delighted to be with such a fun filled group. Also Alex placed his Field Day T-shirt order. For information about RVWARS please call Dave, WD2K, at (518) 732-7532 evenings. TN

Albany County Emergency Services
Club Repeater: 147.12/R WB2ZCM

A.C.E.S.

Albany had a great time at their May 3rd meeting when they went on a tour of Albany County Airport Fire and Rescue facilities. Many thanks go to Chief Joe Berkery for giving the group this opportunity to see the equipment and personal at the Airport facility. Rumor has it that Frank, WB2HKU, took a fire truck for a test run.

Tony, WB2BEJ, has announced that Joe Pasquini, N2NOU, will replace Tom Woznack, N2SQO as ARES -Albany County Emergency Coordinator and Tom, N2SQO, will become the new ARES District Coordinator. Also Ken Davis, KB2KFV was announced as the new Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Albany ARES as of April 1, 1994. On June 7, 1994 RACES will sponsor a satellite demonstration presented by George, N2LQS, and Marty, N2LDR.

For more information concerning Albany County RACES, contact Chief Radio Officer 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

In the last issue of "Sparks from the Spa" there was an article that appeared about the ongoing NWS FUND. This fund was established just prior to Saratoga's Hamfest last year and since that date has collected just \$10.00 in cash donations! Please keep in mind this is NO reflection on the efforts of Saratoga County RACES. If all of us would like to see changes at the weather service we're going to have to come through with the bucks which support them. We have learned by Stan Levine, KB2LNI, that the Fed's will come through with some bucks for equipment but this will not cover all the items needed. Please give this worthy fund drive some thought and drop a donation in the mail, or better yet make it too their next monthly meeting. Donations may be made payable to Saratoga County RACES Assoc. Inc., c/o Millie Feeny KV2A, 5 Coesa Drive, Saratoga, NY 12866. If you need to find out more about this organization please contact President - Jim Polewczak, KG2H, at (518) 695-6878. TN

Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Club Repeater: 146.61/-600

B.A.R.C.

BARC was presented a certificate of appreciation for their participation in the March Vermont ETV Membership drive. They were able to provide 22 amateurs that assisted with the answering of phones, and completing pledge donor cards. A very good time was had by all that attended.

The club agreed to set up a table at the upcoming VARC (Vermont Amateur Radio Council) Convention and staff it with one hour shifts. Members manning this table will provide information about the club, repeaters and club activities. Club applications will be available.

The BoD of BARC adopted to create a position of advertising in the newsletter. They will publish any information or notices submitted by other nonprofit clubs, space permitting.

BARC will host their Hamfest '94 on the weekend of August 12 and 13, 1994 at the Old Lantern. They're working on a new flyer that will be mailed out shortly.

For more information about BARC contact: Ralph Stetson, KD1R at (802) 878-6454 TN

News Of Our Neighbors

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

R.C.RACES.

With the increased popularity in satellite communications, you'll want to tune in each Monday evening for the satellite net on the Rensselaer County RACES 145.37/R N2JXO. The net control for the informational net is Marty, N2LDR, who lives in Philmont, NY. Net time is 9:00 PM.

Rensselaer County ARES will be sponsoring a SKYWARN recertification class at HVCC on May 11. Keep in mind everyone must get recertified every two years. All are welcomed to attend this meeting and it usually lasts around two hours. For further details about this NWS SKYWARN class please contact Rensselaer County Weather Coordinator Carli Drake, WB1BTJ. This meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

On Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM, RACES hold their weekly training net on the 147.18/R in Grafton. All are welcomed to join. Look for Dave, WB2VXS, as net control.

To find out more about RACES/ARES 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.

If you have any intentions of attending AARA's Annual Club Banquet, you'd better act quickly upon reading this article. AARA has reserved the Italian-American Community Center on May 13, for their Annual Club Banquet. Following dinner and a few after-dinner talks, music for dancing will be provided by Seth Evans Entertainment. The cocktail hour will begin at 6:15 PM. The price

of tickets are \$19.00. Contact Bob, W2XM.

AARA will be returning to their Field Day location high up in the Helderberg Mtns. Usually Albany has one of the largest Field Day setups in this area and run the 3A category. Please take time and visit the gang on June 25 & 26, 1994. Albany meets the second Friday of each month at the Colonie Community Center off of Central Avenue. Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. with a social gathering, followed by the regular meeting beginning at 7:30 PM. To get more information about Albany A.R.A. please call Ernie Popp, KA2HTU, at (518) 477-9581. TN

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Club Repeater: 147.06/R K2AE

S.A.R.A.

If you've ever had the thought of experimenting on the amateur microwave bands I hope you had a front row seat at the last SARA meeting. On May 2, 1994 they had Dick Frey, WA2AAU, on hand to explain why we should better utilize our microwave bands or be prepared to lose them. Many amateurs don't even know where or how to build this equipment, but assuredly Dick does. Over the last 20 some years he has been the driving force behind the W2SZ, Mt. Greylock VHF/UHF testers. If that isn't enough to impress you, take the time and do a little research on the world records this man has, along with the Mt. Greylock Expeditionary Force, racked up.

SARA's Field Day efforts will be spearheaded by Paul Mataruga, WA2MCO, and Tim Long, WB2SPN. Anyone wishing to volunteer are asked to contact either of these gentlemen.

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.

April's SoVARC newsletter saw the debut of their new newsletter. Their new editor is Bob Hendrie, N2OSQ, and he has certainly made many changes in this first edition. Bob is using a desk top publishing program called Express Publisher on his IBM compatible 386/33Mhz. Printing is done on a Epson 24 pin printer.

Alan, N1LSZ, has announced that he is running a new Packet BBS system at his home in Vermont. This system is under the identifier of BBSSVT:N1LSZ running 50 watts on 145.05MHz. This system is using a IBM compatible 286, using MSYS software V-1.16.

After discussion at their last monthly meeting SoVARC has agreed to establish a "Suggestion Box." Those members wishing to make suggestions about club projects or other activities may do so anonymously.

SoVARC meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Bennington Free Library. TN

News from Gettysburg

New message forwarding rules begin June 1

The FCC on April 13 released its Report and Orders in PR Docket 93-85, regarding messages relayed by amateur high speed networks. The new rules, effective June 1, 1994, will establish what FCC calls "a compliance policy for amateur stations participating in automatic message-forwarding systems."

The new rules relieve most station operators in such networks of responsibility for the content of the messages relayed by their stations. Under current rules, all licensees in a chain of forwarding stations are responsible for the message content. Originators of messages continue to be responsible for their content, and the first forwarding stations are responsible either for the content of the message or verifying the identity of the message originator.

The new rules also will relieve repeater control operators of responsibility for inadvertent retransmission of communications that violate the rules. All operators remain responsible for discontinuing communications that violate the rules as soon as they become aware of their presence.

Here are the exact wording changes in the FCC Rules Part 97:

97.3 Definitions

(7) **Auxiliary Stations.** An amateur station, other than in a message forwarding system, that is retransmitting communications point-to-point within a system of cooperating amateur stations.

(28) **Message Forwarding System.** A group of amateur stations participating in a voluntary, cooperative, interactive arrangement where communications are sent from the control operators of one or more destination stations by one or more forwarding stations.

(36) **Repeater.** An amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels.

97.109 STATION CONTROL.

(e) No station may be automatically controlled while transmitting third party communications, except a station participating as a forwarding station in a message forwarding system.

97.205 REPEATER STATION.

(g) The control operator of a repeater that retransmits inadvertent communications that violate the rules in this Part is not accountable for the violative communication.

97.219 MESSAGE FORWARDING SYSTEM.

[Section 97.216 is redesignated Section 97.217]

(a) Any amateur station may participate in a message forwarding system, subject to the privileges of the class of operators license held.

(b) For stations participating in a message forwarding system, the control operator of the station originating a message is primarily accountable for any violation of the rules in this Part contained in the message.

(c) Except as noted in paragraph (d) of this section, for stations participating in a message forwarding system, the control operators of forwarding stations that retransmit inadvertently communications that violate the rules in this Part are not accountable for the violative communication. They are, however, responsible for discontinuing such communications once they become aware of their presence.

(d) For stations participating in a message forwarding system, the control operator of the first forwarding station must:

- (1) Authenticate the identity of the station from which it accepts communications on behalf of the system; or
- (2) Accept accountability for any violation of the rules in this Part contained in messages it retransmits to the system.

FCC Views ARRL-VEC Figures

The ARRL has responded to an FCC request for information about the ARRL - VEC's reimbursement fees. The FCC made the request of several VECs late last year and the League provided the information when an independent accounting firm had completed its yearly audit of the League's finances in March.

As reported to the FCC, the ARRL - VEC finished 1993 with expenses of \$184,821 above and beyond those offset by examination fees collected. This amount is far greater than the amount of revenue the ARRL - VEC does not receive as the result of its policy not to charge for examinations Elements 1(A) or 2 (the two portions of the Novice examination, Morse code and written).

Tnx The ARRL Letter

From the Modem Line

By Ken (Stormy) Storm, N2VLS

This is my third article for The TARA News. I usually receive new files twice a week, but have begun to get them on a daily basis. They are now received by satellite. That's a twist, radio files by radio from space.

There are many Amateur Radio files in the public domain and shareware too (you pay the author when you use it). At this time there are two computer landline BBS's available in this area for the serious computerized amateur operator. Access is by telephone line (landline) using a modem. Each of the

two systems shown in this article are unique to their own specialties. The files listed here are available on both systems and are made available from the Ham Distribution Network (HDN) at NO CHARGE to you.

Don't forget the latest bulletins: The Keplarian Elements, Propagation, DX, AMTOR, RSGB, RTTY, etc. While STEAMER ONE does not maintain a working library of bulletins, you will find them on RADIO FREQS. Check it out! Leave a message to the SysOp, telling him where you heard about his system. In the *TARA News*. TN

• RADIO FREQ'S BBS •

(518) 782-0507

SysOp: Tom Woznack, N2SQO

Latham, NY

14,400bps - v32b

24 Hours - Daily

• STEAMER ONE BBS •

(518) 753-7421

SysOp: Ken Storm, N2VLS

Johnsonville, NY

14,400bps v32b - 21,600bps v32t

24 Hours - Daily

The following IBM compatible programs were received during the past 30 days, and may be of use to the serious computerized amateur.

- ♦ **APRS403B.ZIP** Automatic Packet Reporting System V4.03 by WB4APR - update
- ♦ **BEACONS.ZIP** Current HF Beacons 03/94
- ♦ **DSP12ROM.ZIP** GCE V2.0 ROM code for DSP-12
- ♦ **FREQFILE.EXE** Capital Area NY Freqlist-Print Compressed-by N2VLS
- ♦ **HAMCOM23.ZIP** HamComm v2.3 with German + English docs by DL5YEC
- ♦ **HOD004.ZIP** Ham on Disk magazine #4
- ♦ **MB1701.ZIP** Mail Box V17.1 General Release by W0RLI.
- ♦ **MSYS117.EXE** MSYS Packet BBS system v1.17
- ♦ **MSYSB117.EXE** MSYS packet BBS system (small version) v1.17
- ♦ **RFMATCH5.ZIP** RF Impedance Calculator - v5.0
- ♦ **RPTR010.ZIP** U.S. Amateur Radio Repeater Directory Database Project-V0.10
- ♦ **SOP9415.ZIP** STS Orbit Plus satellite tracker ver 9415
- ♦ **TRK320A.ZIP** TrakSat v3.20 Satellite Tracking Program

Very short list this month, but you can still find your favorite programs available from previous lists. Check those back issues. Keep tuned to monthly issues of *TARA NEWS* for program updates. 73. *STORMY*

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Editor: Jack Culliton, N2LBZ 271-6763

Assistant Editor: Bill Eddy, NY2U

Assistant Editor: Ellen Culliton

Copier: Bob Isby, N2LUD

Please send all correspondence to Editor-TARA
at 3 Oxford Circle, Troy, NY 12180 or via
packet at WA2UMX-5 144.950

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Field Day Committee Chairpeople:

Steve Kopecky, N7LOD

John Tutein, WM2Y

Ken Collis, N2RXO

Troy Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 584
Latham, NY 12110

place

label

here

Bill

NEXT MEETING: May 17, 1994
Green Island Municipal Bldg.

7:30 PM