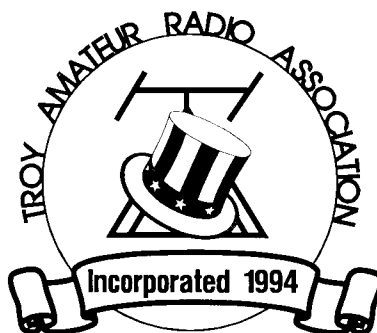


TARA

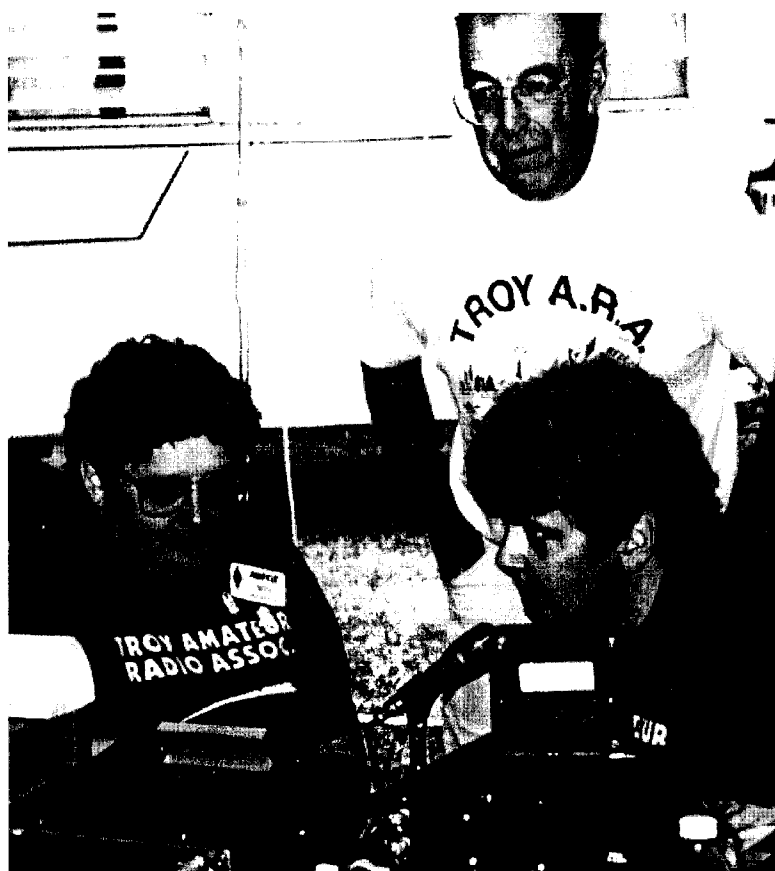
"Home of the
FULL SERVICE
Repeaters"



147.27/R
145.17/R
444.225/R

NEWS

Volume IV NO. 8 An Award Winning Publication of the Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc. August 1994



FIELD DAY 1994

Bud, WF2B, is being shown the finer points of 10 Meter contesting by Betty, N2POS, and June, KA2VEK.

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President's Report

By: Mr. Bill, NY2U

You know, I've always wondered what really makes a Field Day a complete success. I mean, is there any secret highlight of this tortuous weekend that determines if we're a failure or complete success? I'm sure many of you have heard the different clubs and groups around the country the day after Field Day say, "Our Field Day was a complete success." However, I've never heard even one group say it's Field Day was a flop. Prove it to yourself. Get on the HF bands the next day and listen to the horror stories some of these amateurs tell, only to say, "It was a complete success," or "I loved it!" Better yet, tune into your local 2 Meter repeater and there among those hoarse and tired voices you'll begin to hear the stories amateurs love to tell. Can all, or at least some, of these groups of amateurs be lying about their fun filled weekend? Not likely. Can amateurs really outfit a complete emergency communication station, then keep it running for 24 hours continuously even under adverse weather conditions? Can amateurs ever learn anything at Field Day that would prepare them for real life disaster situations? Certainly they can. It seems hams can overcome just about anything they set their minds to and in a friendly atmosphere. Many are amazed at how many amateurs establish lasting friendships from this single weekend in June.

I guess using the words "complete success" in itself can mean many different things to many different groups, wouldn't you agree? Just for starters, wouldn't you think in order for it to be a complete success that the weekend should whiz right along without a hitch, no unforeseen problems with anything? Well I don't know about you, but I've never experienced a Field Day yet that didn't have something go wrong. Considering that, maybe when we say "It was a complete success," it really should be interpreted as, "We beat the pants off the *Rippers*!" It could be called a complete success after the gang views themselves on the local television station or reads of their club in the newspapers, thanks to some good media relations. I guess it could also mean that we devoured some ungodly amount of food in just 24 hours, right Glenn? Maybe some deem it a complete success after they erect a Field Day antenna farm from nothing more than a roll of #10 gauge wire and they work the whole weekend flawlessly. Maybe if the tarps and tents went up and stayed up without a single problem for the entire weekend it could be best described as a complete success. As you can see, the list could go on and on but there is no singular answer that best describes what some call a complete success.

No matter how much planning we do, some problems just arise from nowhere each and every year. Each year, however,

we learn how to overcome these problems or obstacles through teamwork and become stronger as a club. One very important thing to remember is there are no "one man show's" when it comes to Field Day, just teamwork.

Are you starting to get the idea that maybe having a perfect Field Day just isn't meant to be? So am I. I know what I'm about to say will give many of you definite proof that RTTY has wiped out what little sense I once had, but here it is any way. I'm beginning to believe that possibly problems are what keeps us interested in Field Day and keeps us coming back year after year. Even with our months of planning, amateurs seem to thrive on the challenge of problem solving and the tougher the problem the better we love it. Amateurs just love to roll up their sleeves and beat Old Man Murphy and his Law. Does this mean we shouldn't try to make things a little better than the year before? Heck no. Let's just try and avoid the obsession. Easier said than done, I know!

One of the most gratifying things about being president of this organization is when I have members, friends and guests tell me how they appreciated our hospitality and were thoroughly impressed with our Field Day operation. Let's keep Field Day the happy blend between on the air operating and socializing. Let's make sure we keep Field Day a fun place to be and not a place to avoid!

In closing, there are all too many members and friends to thank personally. I know our business friends have been acknowledged in this newsletter. They pulled us through, so again, thank you. However, there are three people I would like to thank here: Steve, KF2WA, (ex. N7LOD), Jerry, N2QIP, and my old sidekick Skip, KE2XF, who bailed me out on Sunday with his truck. Our Field Day Chairman Steve, KF2WA, and his co-chairpeople certainly followed the footsteps of those before them and did an outstanding job. It was a pleasure to work with you, Steve. Prior to Field Day, Jerry, N2QIP, had a weak moment and told me how he was going to be on vacation the week before. One minute this poor soul was up 100' on Troy's Fire Department ladder truck and the next minute traveling to all corners of the Capital District retrieving donations. My old buddy Skip, KE2XF, made sure all the Field Day equipment made it back to its appropriate locations. Thank You!!

Should someone ask you how Field Day went, just tell them what I do: "IT WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS."

Strong Support From Business Community Propels TARA Into Field Day '94

Now that all the Field Day '94 QSO's have been tallied and the many pieces of radio equipment have been put away until next year, it's time to thank those that made Field Day '94 possible.

Since the very beginning of our organization we've relied tremendously on donations of any kind to help us out each year come Field Day and this year was no exception. We've had donations range from simple antennas to a self-contained trailer home. Yes, you read that right! Even a 18 foot trailer home with all the comforts of home was donated. Our donations came from not only the local meat markets or the local hardware stores, but they also included the heavy hitters on the block, like our good friends at Price Chopper. Some donations were even given anonymously, just so TARA could enjoy Field Day '94. Whatever the case may be, our presence in the community is appreciated and TARA has benefitted through each of these donations.

We know there were a great deal of you present at this years Field Day, and many of you expressed the fun you had. Let's do something in return for all of those that made it possible by simply saying "thanks." Each of us could stop into the list of businesses below and say thanks for their support of TARA. Quite truthfully, without their support we couldn't ever have such a successful Field Day.

**Troy Parks & Recreation Dept.
Troy Fire Department
Brunswick #1 Vol. Fire Dept.
King Fuels & Foods (Sycaway)
Troy Pork Store
Lusco Paper Co.
Price Chopper Supermarkets
Golub Fondation
Pizza Hut Restaurants (N.Troy)
Saratoga Water Company
Adirondack Soda Company
Popeye's Chicken (Hoosick St.)
Country True Value Hardware
Ted's Fish Fry, Inc. (Brunswick)
Tri City Meats**

**Joseph Aiello & Son Produce
John J. Mullins Rigging Co.
John Ray & Son Fuel Oil Co.
Ames Department Store (Troy)
Trojan Hardware Company
Geno's Italian Sausage
Niagara Mohawk Company
Prediger's Bakery
Tony's Sycaway Sub Shop
Cooper Enterprises
Frito Lay Potato Chips
McDonald's Restaurant (N.Troy)
Tobin's First Prize Meats
Bozack Antenna Company
Rem Printing, Inc.**

Record Crowds Converge On Field Day

This year's Field Day was our largest to date at attracting friends and family to our two day emergency exercise. It was particularly gratifying to see the number of Capital District Amateurs and non-amateurs alike that made the trip up to our Field Day site. The club received many complimentary remarks about the friendliness of our group and the professionalism shown at managing this emergency exercise. Also, TARA received many praises (none from WD2K, yet!) for our T-shirt and hat design. In fact many guests even purchased one of these items for a memento. Just think....Field Day '95 is just a few months away! TX

Field Day -- Cherishing The Memories

Written By: David M.Pascale, WB2HKR

I was cleaning out my briefcase the other day and came across a couple of Field Day pictures. They were from the first TARA Field Day in 1992, not the most recent Field Day. As I look back over the past few years and reminisce about Field Days of yore I can't help but think that the club has come a long way in a few years. And yet that first Field Day had a powerful significance of its own. Skip Wilson, KE2XF, working with a fraction of today's membership and a fraction of the equipment, put a couple of HF stations on the air and away we went.

I think, or at least hope, that the camaraderie enjoyed by all who participated in Field Day will be the one element that can always be superimposed on a few picnic tables thrown together on a hot June weekend. I don't think it really much matters who operates, or the modes or bands of operation. The first year the club had Field Day I don't think I operated at all. Last year I dabbled a little on VHF and this year I put in some serious time (and some serious mosquitoes) operating HF at night.

I guess what really strikes me, though, is the sight of that little Frear Park Hill before and after a few score

amateur radio operators invaded it with ropes, pulleys, masts, wire, radios and tarpaulins. It looks the same before and after. If you think about it, Field Day would be the ultimate frustration if we assigned it any permanence. We're there and then we're gone. So I guess we have another common element superimposed. The Field Day site, regardless of how much we do to it beforehand, is the same afterwards. It doesn't matter whether there are one-hundred stations or one. When its over-- they're gone.

What do we have then? Well, as Ralph Kramdem said in a famous scene from the old Honeymooner TV show "all that's left is the memory." Memories of food and drink shared among friends. Memories of that elusive contact finally nailed down. Memories of violent thunder storms and errant canopies trying to become airborne. Memories of coax and connectors and tuners and switches and generators, all thrown together in a magnificent jumble we call an amateur radio station. Memories of huddled groups often sharing nothing in common but T-shirts, hats, and love of an obsession technically described in Part 97 of the FCC Rules as the

"Amateur Radio Service," but known to us much more familiarly simply as "the hobby." The hobby we get into, and get out of, curse and acclaim but above all, always remember.

Field Day takes on an almost surreal aspect. It's a magnificent day because it represents the ultimate in terms of an event with great meaning and no purpose. No one really has to sit on top of a hill and roast all day and freeze all night in order to hear over and over again the familiar exchanges like "Three Alpha" and "Western PA." It's the ultimate because we do it because we love it. We love the idea of man and his rather sophisticated machines perched atop a little knoll and screaming "I am here." I am here in the middle of growling generators and rickety antennas and cranky colleagues who also haven't slept all night. I'm here because I want to be. I'm here because this is important to me, and I want to crave the memory.

The profound truth about Field Day is that the memories are not the most important thing that matters, they're the only thing that matters. So let's cherish them. TN

No Barriers -- Robideau Gives Tour

On Sunday morning June 26, 1994, TARA was able to remove any barriers that sometimes exists at Field Day sites and allowed two disabled residents from Albany to join our Field Day. Its not always easy to maneuver a wheelchair around all the different lengths of coax cables and wires on the ground, but our site is handicapped accessible, just ask Mr.Bill, NY2U.

This marked the first time that either had attended a operation of this kind and they were totally elated at the hospitality shown to them. We owe most of the credit to Paul, N2PEN, who personally gave them a guided tour of our site and even had one of them on the air. Who knows? Maybe we'll even see these two young adults get their own tickets and return next year. TN

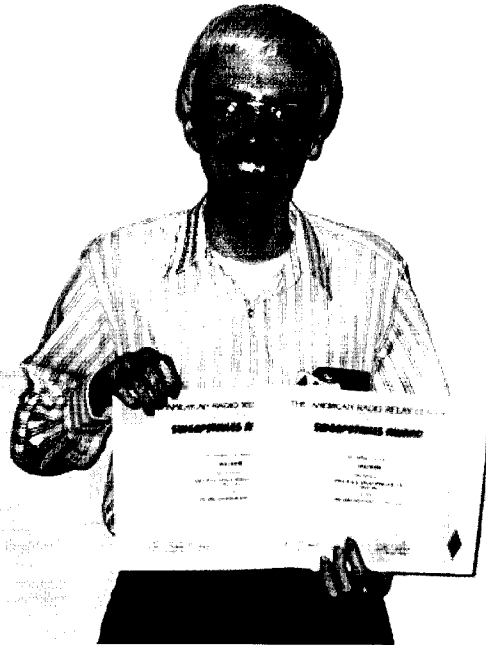
King Kong's Momma Awarded ARRL Certificates

At the June meeting Walt Legowski, WA1KKM, was presented with two handsome certificates from the ARRL for his participation in the 1993 November Sweepstakes. Walt scored the highest scores both in CW (93,240 - 630 Q's) and Phone (101,024 - 656 Q's) categories for TARA.

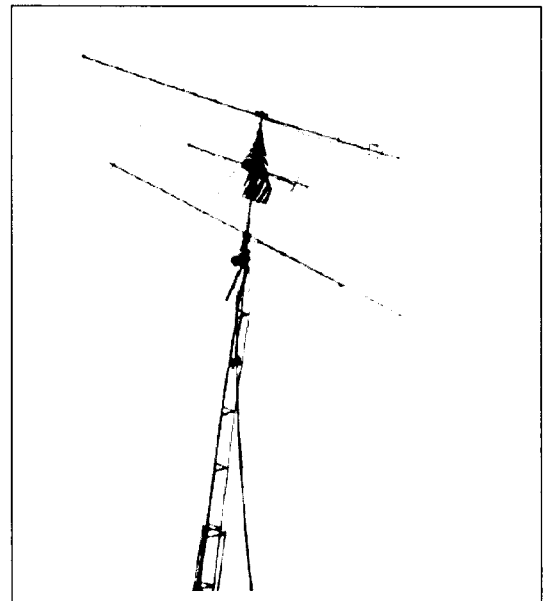
Already there are members that are gearing up for this year's contest. Rumor even has it that the competition within the club is going to be fierce, as a few try to pound the brass head to head with the King. TARA also looks forward to all the new members that have joined and those that have recently upgraded to help us beat the Ripper's -- AGAIN!

Both Walt and his wife Sue, N2LBR, chair the HF contesting efforts for our club. Since taking over, our score as a club has sky rocketed and enthusiasm has reached an all time high.

If you ever need information about HF contesting or you would like to become one of the TARA testers, contact Walt. Congratulations on a super job! TN



Pictured above: Walt, WA1KKM, shows his new CW & Phone 1993 November Sweepstakes Awards



VHF and UHF Spark Interest

TARA put a lot of effort into our VHF/UHF'ing at this year's Field Day and it paid dividends throughout the weekend. With our newly donated 40 foot tower from Wells Communications we were able to put beams up on 6M, 2M, and 70CM with 6 Meters working stations as far away as the Bahamas and Mexico.

Even Joel Glickman, KA1PRT (pictured above) one of W2SZ's finer operators manned the station for the better part of Saturday and showed the group a few tricks he has learned over the years. Out of everyone there it seems that Skip, KE2XF, was stricken the worst by that old 6 Meter bug. Skip even hinted of a new rig sometime soon. This was the first year that TARA erected a tower at Field Day and it surely won't be the last. TN

The Voice of Ravena

By: Bruce Roberts, KA2HRM

Well, it's that time of the month again. I have to get all of the good news ready to pass on to everyone. The big holiday of the summer, the 4th of July, is gone by us. I spent it as I usually do, at the "Doings" in Northville. For a small village, they sure put on a good fireworks display. It usually lasts about 25 to 30 minutes and is continuous. They also have a carnival and block dances.

The other good news is that doctors at Albany Memorial Hospital think they have found out what is wrong with me (Mr. Bill doesn't think that is possible). I have a small hernia in my esophagus. There is nothing wrong with my heart because Mr. Bill says I don't have one. I guess that I can handle it with medication and diet control. I don't know if I like that or not (the diet, that is).

Well, I wonder how many of you have managed to have the fruits of your labor pay off with a different class license? To all of you who made it, congratulations. One of these days, I have to get the old book out and study so that I can upgrade also.

Just think, only a month to go, and annual hamfest at Saratoga County Fairgrounds will be in progress. This gives us all a chance to get an eyeball with the that we don't get to see all year long, and to find something for the shack at a bargain price. We also have a chance to support one or more of our local clubs. Every year this hamfest gets a little bigger.

In a short time I hope that we can hear from our old buddy Tom, N2TTA. I hope that he has gotten all settled in without any problems. I just talked to good old Mr. Bill the other day, and I think that he may provide us with Tom's new address in the near future. That will be real neat as all of us can keep in touch with him.

You know, I just realized that I will have to stop at the garage and talk to the shop Forman soon. We don't think about it much, but quite a few new cars have to have special hook-ups for our radios. Some of the imports are next to impossible to install radios in. There is no way to RF proof them. I just bought a new Voyager Van, and found out that there is a large power distribution panel under the hood. It

will allow use of up to 100 amps, and there are quite a few open spots. I have to find out if I have to do any special shielding for the onboard computer. This is something that we don't think about much, but as computers allow our rigs to do all kinds of weird things, they make confusion in other areas. When I was reading the owners manual I found there is a way to reprogram the computer to lock the doors automatically when the van reaches 15 MPH. WOW !!!! Whoever thought that up should have gotten a pat on the back.

Poor Mr. Bill, he must have some faulty electrons floating around over there. It seems that almost everything electrical he owns has a small glitch. I think we need to do some kind of an Indian "Repair Dance" to get all of his stuff fixed! I think we need a blessing from Craig to get this done.

I need to know how much interest there is for our club to get a "club" jacket. I won't announce this at the meeting but will rely on what I get back from everyone on the repeater. We will have to move very fast to get this done before winter. Also, I need some assistance to get our yearly handouts packaged up when the material gets here. I hope that Rudy, N2JZK, will be able to help out again this year.

We have room for anyone else that is interested. We also would like to extend our sympathy to Rudy, Doe and Teddy Ault as Rudy's mother passed away.

Hopefully everyone took my hint and protected themselves against lightning strikes. I can't remember having such an active summer before. The intensity of the storms has been very scary. While I was on vacation the wind was blowing so hard that it ripped my dock loose from its tie downs, and caused my boat to go up on the rocks on the shore. Fortunately there was no serious damage. I observed some of the most active cross lightning that I have ever seen during this storm.

Well enough for this month. I don't want the editors to get after me again. See everyone next month. Now that summer is drawing to a close, I may be able to get some kind of technical article out to everyone in a future newsletter.

Attention: Bruce Roberts, KA2HRM, has voluntarily offered to look into the possibility of TARA ordering some fancy club jackets. However, right now everything is still in the planning stages as far as colors, styles, etc. For now we need a list of members that would like to purchase one of these new jackets. If you think you would like a brand new club jacket or you have some input to share with Bruce, contact him at 756-8996 evenings, please. Thank You!

CDARC Bulletin Schedule

CDARC Bulletin Manager, Stephan Anderman, WA3RKB

| Frequencies: | Monday | Thursday |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------|
| • 145.17/444.225 * & 145.19 | 7:00PM | 5:00PM |
| • 146.82/224.42 * & 146.76 | 7:15 | 5:15 |
| • 147.00/448.225 * & 147.06 | 7:30 | 5:30 |
| • 145.37 & 147.12 | 7:45 | 5:45 |
| • 146.91 & 147.18 | 8:00 | 6:00 |

* linked repeaters/repeater systems

The CDARC Bulletin Schedule, as published above, is subject to change. The Rensselaer County ARES/RACES repeater in Troy on 146.76MHz was added in lieu of the indefinite status of the link system on the 147.18MHz (WS2B) repeater. When SMARA's (WB2CRZ) new 147.375MHz repeater goes on the air it will be added to the schedule at 8:15 and 6:15PM time slot. At the same time, bulletins will be restored to the IBARC linked repeater system on 224.14/444.000/444.050/921.1/921.2 MHz. (Revised 8/94)

Albany/Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

It was reported by the ATVET liaison "Mr.Bill," NY2U, that there were 22 in attendance for the July 27, 1994 exam session. There were 37 total elements administered and 12 of that 37 had license upgrades. Also seven candidates received their very first ticket, all being NoCode Technicians. The complete exam session took just 1 hour and 38 minutes!

The list below are those Volunteer Examiners that were on hand, followed by those that received credit for their first license or license upgrades.

Volunteer Examiner Team:

NY2U, WB2FOB, N2DCM, WA1KKM, WA2IWW, WB2HKR, KA2HTU, N2LBR AND WM2Y

Candidates that earned a license or upgrade:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Carl S. Lester, WB2CFP | EXTRA |
| Gloria D. Morse, KB1AQP | EXTRA |
| Dennis D. Bulger, N2USN | ADVANCED |
| Hazen R. Ganance Jr., KB2QWT | GENERAL |
| Kim S. Fan (NONE) | TECH/HF |
| Ross G. Miller (NONE) | TECH |
| Barbara J. Nachbar (NONE) | TECH |
| Kevin M. Plouff (NONE) | TECH |
| Kurt B. Potter (NONE) | TECH |
| Joan K. Warren (NONE) | TECH |

* There were two candidates (TECH) that asked us not to publish their names.

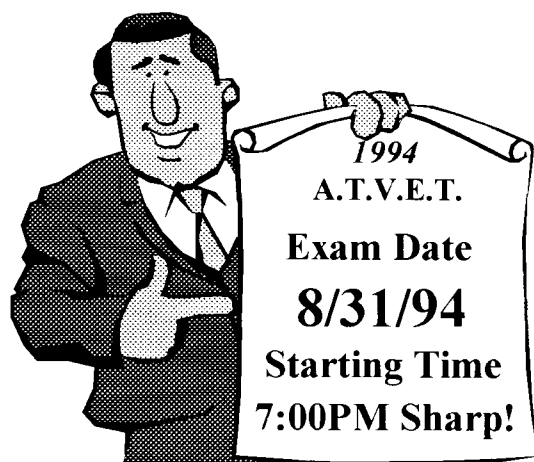
August Kicks Off TARA's Fall Fund Drive

Starting August 1st, TARA officially began its Fall Fund Drive with the raffle of a brand new Icom IC-281H 2 Meter mobile radio as *First Place Prize*. This radio is full of all the latest *bells and whistles* which include a 9600 baud data radio port, plus it has 440Mhz receive only built in. There will be a pair of 1994 Callbooks or the Buckmaster® CD Rom awarded to the *Second Place Prize* winner. The lucky winner of the *Third Place Prize* will receive a 2 Meter mag mount antenna. Cash amounts have been set for all prize winners should they choose. Tickets will cost just \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

The drawing for this raffle will take place at the Ballston Spa Hamfest, Sept. 10, at 1:30 PM. You don't have to be in attendance to be a winner. Last year Millie, KV2A, won the *First Place Prize* of a new Icom IC-28H.

We are asking all TARA members to please help us by selling these tickets and spreading the word of our raffle. As we've mentioned in the past this is our main fund raiser and your support can really make a difference.

Tickets are available by contacting any of the Board of Directors or you can get them by attending the monthly meeting in August. Let's see if we can't beat last year's Fund Drive.



Albany / Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

On Wednesday, August 31, 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 R.P.I. in Troy. The doors will open at 6:20 PM and exams start at 7:00 PM. NOBODY will be admitted into the exam room after the 7:00 PM starting time. No pre registration is required for these exam dates or any of the Albany/Troy exams. A test fee of \$5.75, 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. The following exam dates are part of our summer schedule held on the Campus of RPI in Troy, NY. Cancellations, if needed, 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.

October 8

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

November 12

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

• *Proudly Serving the Capital District Since 1984* •

John Yodis, K2VV, Receives Honorary Lifetime Membership

After years of giving more than his share of service to the Albany Amateur Radio Association and the amateur community, John C. Yodis, K2VV, of Hagaman, NY was honored.

At Albany's Annual Banquet held this past June, John was presented with an "Honorary Lifetime Membership." Upon receiving this prestigious award he now joins other distinguished AARA members like "Uncle Dave" Marks, WA2APF, Robert J. Rasche, W2NC, and Elmer Wirsing, W2AWF. John, K2VV, joined Albany back in the 60's and over the years has held just about every elected position and committee within AARA. John is an extremely avid DXer and contester, who holds world records, and he is often the loudest signal heard from this area. John has always been eager to help others and often finds himself at the center of attention answering questions from those wishing to learn. Congratulations!! TN

Results of 1993 ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Several area amateurs did quite well in the 1993 ARRL 10-Meter Contest. With 10 meters getting worse by the day, these amateurs made up for poor conditions by using their knowing contest skills. Patience and the knowledge of changing band conditions quickly became their greatest weapons for this 10 Meter contest.

If you're looking to learn a little something about changing band conditions mark your calendar now for December 10 and 11, 1994. The following were noted from the pages of July 1994 *QST*:

| | | |
|---------|----------------|-----------|
| ○ K2SIG | 345,978 POINTS | 895 QSO's |
| ○ WG2E | 143,276 | 731 |
| ○ K2ONP | 15,562 | 251 |
| ○ WM2Y | 13,630 | 145 |

Lightning Kills!!

By: Stan Levine, KB2LNI
National Weather Service at Albany, N.Y.

The past several weeks have been stormy ones in our part of the country. Thunderstorm winds have knocked trees down onto homes and automobiles, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage. Torrential rain has flooded streams, streets, and highways, causing additional damage and inconvenience. However, up to this point, the only thunderstorm fatalities have been the result of lightning.

Lightning is a powerful bolt of static electricity which occurs on our atmosphere. By definition, all thunderstorms contain lightning, and therefore can be deadly. It's caused by the rising and descending air currents within thunderstorm convection which has the effect of separating positive and negative charges.

Since air is a good insulator of electric current, these charges are allowed to build to a very high voltage. At some point, however, the buildup of opposite charges becomes too great, and it overcomes the insulating properties of the atmosphere. The resulting discharge is what we see as lightning. The flash is hot enough to heat the surrounding air to 50,000 degrees, and the rapid heating of the column of air produces a shock wave in the atmosphere which we hear as thunder.

Earlier this summer four people were killed in New York by lightning during a five day period, including one person in the immediate Capital District. On average, 93 people are killed annually by lightning nationwide. This makes lightning the second biggest thunderstorm killer, ahead of tornadoes which kill an average of 80 people annually, and behind flash flooding which claims an average of 140 lives annually.

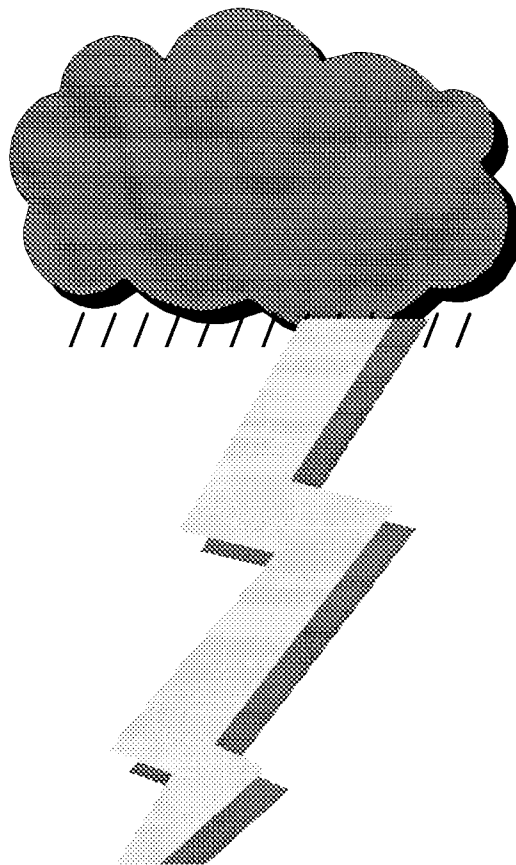
Your chances of being struck by lightning are about 1 in 600,000. However, you can greatly reduce those odds by following a few common sense rules. The vast majority of lightning deaths occur to those outdoors. Logically, the thing to do is to go indoors when a thunderstorm approaches. Don't wait for the rain to begin because lightning can strike well in advance of the storm. If you can hear thunder or see lightning in the distance, then it's time to seek shelter.

Avoid using the telephone or other electrical appliances unless it's an emergency. If you're caught away from shelter, you can get into your car. Although not the most ideal of places to be, it's still better than being outdoors. Be sure you're not touching any metal in the vehicle.

Here are a few other common sense rules:

1. If you're boating and a storm approaches, go to shore. Always have a NOAA Weather radio on hand.
2. Get out of swimming pools.
3. Get off and away from metal farm equipment or lawn tractors.
4. Avoid being the tallest object in an area, such as on a golf course or sports field. However, do not seek shelter under any tall, isolated object. If you feel your skin tingling or your hair stands on end, squat down, low to the ground, on the balls of your feet. Make yourself as small a target as possible.

Lightning is also no friend of the amateur radio operator. You should protect your equipment with the proper lightning suppression, surge protectors, and proper antenna grounding. If not, it would be best to turn off and unplug your equipment if a storm approaches.



News Of Our Neighbors

R.C.RACES.

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

Due to several setbacks the 145.37MHz N2JXO repeater is still in need of work. The power amplifier section is in need of repairs and maintenance work to the antenna system hasn't yet been performed. No date has been set for any of these repairs.

Rensselaer County RACES Assistant Weather Coordinator Bill Eddy, NY2U, has announced that some misinformed people were spreading word that members should look to 147.06 or 146.91 repeaters for official SKYWARN Nets. This is not completely true. SKYWARN Nets are still being held on repeaters in Rensselaer County. Although Schenectady County RACES run their nets on the .06 repeater, this is NOT the only place for amateurs to check in. During inclement weather look for these weather nets on either the 147.18MHz WS2B repeater or the 145.17 / 444.225MHz NY2U repeater systems.

To find out more about RACES/ARES call Chief Radio Officer, Neil, N2LOD, on the 145.37MHz repeater TN

Albany Amateur Radio Association Club Repeater: 145.19/R KM2H

A.A.R.A.

AARA once again proved why they are one of the premier contest clubs around with their impressive Field Day score of over 7,000 total points. AARA perched themselves high up in the Helderberg Mountains which makes a super Field Day site. One of the larger banking institutions in Albany made sure that AARA had a large commercial tent at their disposal, including setting it up. It just doesn't get any better than that.

Over the last few years AARA, under the direction of Dave, WB2YLR, has become the leader among Field Day stations doing satellite communications at Field Day.

Albany meets the second Friday of each month (not July or Aug) at the Colonie Community Center off of Central Avenue. Meetings start at 7:00 PM with a social gathering, followed by the regular meeting beginning at 7:30 PM. 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 honored this year's recipient of the Broughton Award. Each year the members of SARA nominate their choice for that special individual deserving of the "Broughton." Last year's winner, Ray Wemple, KA2DVM, was on hand for this presentation. We hope to have the name of the new Broughton Award winner next month in the TARA News.

Phil Bradway, KB2HQ, Editor of the SARA NEWS, thanked those folks that helped with the production of their newsletter throughout the year. Special mention was made to Bette, KA2AME, (his wife) and Dick, N2DGI, for their assistance in many ways. At the June meeting SARA rapped up this season's FCC examinations given by the SARA VE Team. As soon as we find out the fall schedule we'll let you know. Those needing additional information about SARA are asked to contact President Don Walsh, WA2TSW, on the 147.06MHz repeater. TN

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

So.V.A.R.C.

SoVARC again this year turned in a very handsome Field Day tally in the 4A category. After everything was added up by Chuck, WA1NBU, it looks like they did 2,184 QSOs, for 5,168 total points, including bonus points.

Summertime weather brings around those severe thunderstorms, which means amateurs must take extra precautions at grounding their equipment. Nobody knows this any better than the editor for SoVARC, Bob, N2OSQ, who received substantial damage to almost all of his electronic equipment during a recent electrical storm.

The SoVARC Volunteer Examiner Team will be sponsoring the following exam dates to round out the year October 29 and December 3. All exams are administered at the Bennington Free Library, 101 Silver Street, Bennington. Handicapped accessible!

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

News Of Our Neighbors

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

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

Plans have already been made for Professor Marty, N2LDR, and his crack education team for another upgrade class beginning this fall at Hudson High School starting September 14, at 6:30 PM. Classroom discussions of theory, rules and regulations will be combined with CW instructions at 13 wpm. RVWARS is making arrangements for books and they will be available at the class.

Once again this year our generic friends from the south put forth yet another valiant attempt at beating the finely tuned TARA Field Day machine, only to get trounced! How many remember that "Super Loop" antenna system that was going to bury everyone on the East Coast, as told by their "Old Loop Master," Dave, WD2K? Predictably this antenna became another one of those disasters that only the Rippers could build, or should we say attempt. Maybe they should have let Rich, KF2CE, a real antenna designer, put up one of his secret HF antennas.

For information about RVWARS, please call Dave, WD2K, at (518) 732-7532 evenings. TN

A.C.E.S.

Albany County Emergency Services
Club Repeater: 147.12/R WB2ZCM

Albany County RACES will have a guest speaker on hand for their September 6th meeting speaking about the "911" system in Albany County. This will be their first meeting after taking the summer months off.

All the details aren't in yet but it looks like Albany County and Rensselaer County will jointly be sponsoring a mass evacuation drill on the Hudson River on Saturday, September 17.

Both Albany and Rensselaer RACES are gearing up for this major operation. Tentatively the *Spirit of St. Joseph* and the *Captain J.P.* Riverboats will participate in this drill.

Albany County RACES and TARA will jointly sponsor a NoCode Technician Class to be held in Green Island at Heatly High School starting Thursday evening September 22nd. at 6:30 PM. This class is expected to last 8 weeks. Volunteer instructors are needed.

If you're not quite sure what RACES has to offer or how to join, take a moment and call 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

On September 10, 1994 starting at 7:00 AM until 3:00 PM Saratoga County RACES will be sponsoring their annual hamfest. Everyone is asked to please make plans now to attend. If you've lived in this area for more than two weeks you'll know that this is the largest hamfest this area has to offer. The friendly atmosphere that you experience at this hamfest is just one of the many reasons it

has continued to grow each year. If you've never attended a hamfest before, then you'll definitely want to experience this hamfest for sure.

Remember, rain or shine, this hamfest is all under cover. Also there is limited camping with hookup on Friday night for a \$15.00 donation. Both Lentini Communications and Azden Radio will be on hand to handle all your amateur needs. If you need to find out more about this organization, please contact President Jim Polewczak, KG2H, at (518) 695-6878. TN

S.M.A.R.C.

Schenectady Museum Amateur Radio Assoc
Club Repeater: 147.06/R K2AE

Hopefully many of you took the opportunity to visit SMARA during their First Annual Flea Market and Open House on Saturday, July 23. We haven't received word as to the attendance but surely it will be posted in their next club newsletter.

Speaking of their newsletter, the *RF MUSINGS*, in the July issue Tim Davis, N2WJG, had his debut as the author of the all new "SMARA Member Spotlight." Tim has been a ham for just around one year now and has been most active on the VHF and UHF bands. He is also an active member of TARA and we're all very proud of his new column. Congratulations!

Monthly meetings for SMARA are held the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:00 PM on the second floor of the Schenectady Museum and Planetarium, Nott Terrace. If you would like additional information regarding SMARA, please contact Pete Harvey, WB2FWK, on the 147.06/R. TN

What's New at Newington

Tnx.: The *ARRL* Letter

Ace Communications Fined

The FCC has issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for \$20,000 to Ace Communications of Fishers, Indiana, for marketing illegal scanner radios. Ace, the FCC said, advertised two different unauthorized scanners in magazines including *73 Amateur Radio Today*, *CQ*, and *Popular Electronics*. Both the models cover cellular telephone frequencies. The FCC based the fine on Ace's apparent ignoring of warning letters from the Commission and called the violation "intentional."

League Establishes Ombudsman Program

As of July, the ARRL now has an Ombudsman that helps you any time you have a question about ARRL services. If you have a complaint about ARRL services or need general information of any of the many ARRL services, just contact him.

You can contact the ARRL Ombudsman in the following ways:

By telephone: (203) 666-1541 ext. 285

By fax: (203) 665-7531 attn. Ombudsman

By Internet: ombudsman@ARRL.org

Mail Address: ARRL Ombudsman
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111 USA

CQ Communications Awarded Medal

Ham Radio Horizons, a video introduced to Amateur Radio produced by CQ Communications, has won a bronze medal in the Association for Visual Communicators 1994 Cindy awards competition.

The video won in the "public service and information" category. The Cindy awards honor outstanding productions in all fields on non theatrical video programming, including radio, television, cable, and non broadcast categories, according to a press release from CQ.

"*Ham Radio Horizons*" was written, produced, and directed by Rich Moseson, NW2L. He is the ARRL Section Manager for Northern New Jersey, as well as a member of the ARRL's volunteer Public Relations Committee. The awards were presented in June in Los Angeles.

Correction

In last months issue of the *TARA News* we told you of an amateur in Oregon named Scott Diamond that foiled an apparent auto theft. In this article we gave his incorrect call sign. Scott Diamond's correct amateur call is KB7ZHB. We apologize for the error.

FCC Computer Gives New Look To Licenses

Amateurs receiving new or modified FCC licenses after June 8, 1994, should carefully note their expiration date. Only new (first) licenses or specific renewals have a full 10-year term. Amateur license upgrades and changes of address, call sign, or name are processed with the original expiration date intact. That is, they are not automatically renewed for a new 10-year term. The FCC, using newly installed computer software, is processing amateur licenses in this manner to conform with the way in which it processes all other Private Radio Service licenses. The FCC currently recommends that amateurs submit license renewal applications 60 to 90 days before their expiration. The Commission said it intends eventually to mail license expiration notices to amateurs.

Another difference in these new licenses is the new "TECH PLUS" category for those that qualified. Persons upgrading from Novice, or those who upgrade from codeless Technician by passing a Morse code exam, or persons who pass the Novice and Technician written tests, plus a Morse code test will receive a license that reads "TECH PLUS" under Operator Privileges. Persons who became a Technician with HF privileges with a license dated prior to June 8, 1994 must continue to retain their "Technician" license and "Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination" (CSCE) in order to show that TECH PLUS privileges are held.

St.Jean Goes Hollywood

How many of you have seen the new TV commercial staring none other than "Hollywood Bill" St.Jean, N2YNP, driving his CDTA clean air machine.

This commercial promotes working in the Capital Region. The scene in which "Hollywood Bill" is shown graciously awaiting a passenger to board his bus was filmed on location in front of the old Palace Theater in downtown Albany. Bill plans to be at the next meeting and he does have a large amount of 8 x 11 glossy pictures which he will be signing at the door. Due to the large demand we can only make this offer to TARA members and their families. TN

Public Service Event

No definite date has been receive yet but plans call for TARA helping with communications for this year's Uncle Sam Day Parade in Lansingburgh in September. We're pretty sure it will be held on Sunday September 18, 1994. Just as soon as we can confirm this date we'll get word to you. We can use all the volunteers we can gather for this parade and it's hoped that we can try a mobile packet setup this year. Interested volunteers should contact Ken Collis, N2RXO, or Mr.Bill, NY2U. TN

Trailer Heavily Used

We originally had hopes of having a picture to proudly post in our newsletter showing the 18 foot trailer used at Field Day but you guessed it, we had none. It seems everyone thought the other guy had the snap shot. I'm sure something will surface. Anyway. The overnight conditions couldn't have been better and the comforts this trailer provided really were appreciated by many. Hopefully we'll find use for this trailer again soon, maybe even for a contest somewhere. It sure was a sight watching Ed snake that baby out of the park. Thanks again Ed, N2PEO. TN

Lightning Protection

Well we always heard timing was everything so we decided you folks would appreciate a offer from *PolyPhaser* Corporation makers of commercial grade lightning systems. This company offers protection for coax, data/phone line, power line as well as complete grounding systems. Here's the best part. If you call 1-800-325-7170 they'll send you a complete catalog of their equipment and you'll also receive a copy of the *PolyPhaser* Newsletter with important articles about lightning protection, absolutely FREE!. TN

Thunderstorms Pound Capital District

On Tuesday afternoon August 2nd the Capital District received yet another smashing thunderstorm packing torrential downpours and powerful winds. The TARA repeaters (145.17/444.225MHz) began SKYWARN operations at around 5:15PM and by the end of the storm we had 43 stations logged in. Several key reports were handled on the repeater system for both the National Weather Service and local Police and Fire Departments. As a result of the storm both Troy Police, Fire and Rensselaer County's Sheriff communication rooms were left without their normal telephone service. Both later posted emergency back up numbers through the media and our repeater system. Over 2 inches of rain fell in just a little over an hour in Troy!

Stations logged:

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| WB2HKR | N2RIZ | KA2YZW |
| N2PEK | KB2KfV | KB2GOM |
| N2XMO | KB2QWT | KB2HWL |
| KF2WA | N2QIP | WA2IWW |
| N2TTA | N2USN | WB2VXS |
| KB2JZJ | N2JZK | N2VLQ |
| N2RXO | N2NEH | N2ZQF |
| N2ZOI | KB2HUN | N2JVE |
| N2CJH | N2LBZ | NY2U |
| N2UIF | N2YNP | N2SSS |
| KB2LGA | N2SEJ | N2TJM |
| N2YXC | WA2QCY | N2XLC |
| N2QIH | WA1YXQ | N2SQY |
| N2VGN | WA2MKJ | KA2VBI |

Note: SKYWARN nets are held regularly on the 147.18MHz repeater in Grafton or the 145.17/444.225MHz repeaters in Troy. If weather treatens please tune in and give us a hand. TN

In Memory Of Louise Ann Ault

We're very sorry to announce the untimely passing of Louise Ann Ault on July 18, 1994. Mrs. Ault was the mother of Rudy Ault, N2JZK, and lived in Maryland at the time of her death.

Our deepest sympathy go out to Rudy, Dorothy, Theodore and the entire Ault family.

The "BUBBA" Report

BY; Tom "Bubba" Remmert, N2TTA/AE

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! What a shock I got when I stopped by Mr. Bill's shack the other day. He presented me with the Club's brand new achievement award. I can't tell you how honored I feel to be the first recipient. I'm especially honored that the award was named after me! I went right home to Mom's to show it to her and then I called my wife, Denise, who was still in South Carolina. Hey, I thought the going away party at the May meeting was too much! I thought I was just doing my part for the Club. From my observations, it seems that there are a LOT of people who do a LOT for the club. That's the main reason that TARA gets so much more accomplished than a lot of the other local clubs (most

of whom have two to six times the number of members). I don't think we have any members who don't do something for the Club on a regular basis, be it picking up chips and soda for the meeting, working on the repeater, writing for the Newsletter, or whatever they are asked to do. The recent showing at Field Day is one example of this.

The Club is made up of the best amateur radio operators in the Capital District. I guess that tells you which Club is the best. One thing I know for sure, I've got 50 or so lifetime friendships thanks to TARA. This award belongs to all of us (but I'm gonna hang it MY shack!!). Thanks again. I really miss you gals and guys.

From The "Green Keys"

SARTG WW RTTY Contest

CONTEST PERIOD: Third full weekend in August.
Three separate 8-hour operating periods:
00:00-08:00Z Sat., 16:00-24:00Z, and 08:00-16:00Z Sun.

MODE: RTTY ONLY
BANDS: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10M

CLASSES: A) Singleop, all band
B) Single op, one band
C) Multi-op, single xmtr.
D) SWL

EXCHANGE: Send: RST + QSO number

MULTIPLIERS: Each DXCC contry, including the first QSO with W, VE, VK, and JA, counts as a multiplier on each band. Each call district in W, VE, VK, and JA will count as an additional multiplier on each band

QSO POINTS: QSO with your own country counts 5 points. QSO with other stations in your own continent counts 10 points. QSO with other continents counts 15 points. In W, VE, VK, and JA, each call district is considered a separate country.

FINAL SCORE: = Total of QSO points x total multipliers

COMMENTS: Attention stations in W, VE, VK, and JA: each QSO with stations in call areas other than yours counts for 10 points. Band multipliers mean that activity will be spread over all the bands. QSO with same station on different bands is encouraged, especially if the station is on a different continent.

Club QSL Cards

Over the last two years we've had several members of our club that expressed an interest in purchasing club QSL cards if they were available.

Sound interesting to you? Good. What we need now is someone that would like to search out our possibilities and get a better idea of just how many would purchase QSL cards if they were available.

Maybe we even have someone within our club that would like to design our first QSL card.

If this sounds like a project you would like to head up please contact any of the Board of Directors or bring your suggestions to the next TARA meeting. Don't forget the HF season is coming upon us sooner than we think and we'll need those cards.

T.N.T. Trader Net

Troy Amateur Radio Association

Every Thursday evening at 9:00 PM on the
147.27MHz WA2SPJ repeater.

"The Full Service Repeater"

OFFICERS

President: Bill Eddy, NY2U 273-9248

Vice President: Ken Davis, KB2KFV 272-0112

Secretary: June Smith, KA2VEK 664-4521

Treasurer: Jack Culliton, N2LBZ 271-6763

Sergeant at Arms: Skip Wilson, KI2XF 664-4521

DIRECTORS

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packet at WA2UMX-5 144.950

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HF Contest: Chairpeople: Walt Legowski, WA1KKM

Sue Rothschild, N2LBR

Events Committee: Ken Collis, N2RNO

UHF/VHF Contest Coordinator: Art Ceas, KB2JZJ

Chris Linck, N2NEH

V1 Team Contact: Bud Hovey, W12B

Field Day Committee: Chairpeople

Steve Kopecky, N7LOD

John Tutem, WM2Y

Ken Collis, N2RNO

Troy Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 584
Latham, NY 12110

place

label

here

Bill

NEXT MEETING: August 16, 1994
Green Island Municipal Bldg.
7:30 PM