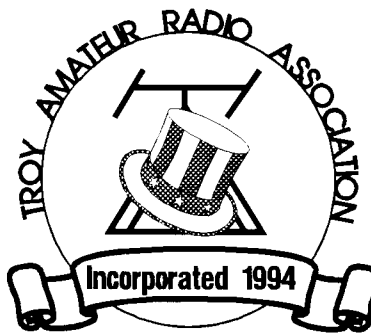


copy

TARA

"Home of the
FULL SERVICE
Repeaters"



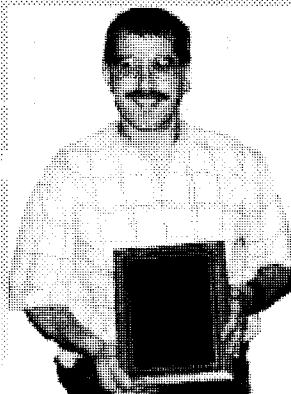
147.27/R

145.17/R

444.225/R

NEWS

Volume IV NO. 9 An Award Winning Publication of the Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc. September 1994



GOOD LUCK STAN, KB2LNI

Inside This Issue:

VHF/UHF Contesting 2
Computer Corner 3
Shipwrecked 3
Voice of Ravena 4
Bubba Report 5

Honors 5
Casual Contesting 6
VE Schedule 7
Radio Course 7
Q-Signals 8

Find your Grid Square 8
News of Our Neighbors 9
The Modem Line 11
Green Keys 13
TARA Trading Post 14

TARA Club Jackets

At the September meeting Bruce, KA2HRM, will have the final two selections that the club must decide on before taking orders. Both of these jackets were presented to the membership at the August meeting. Now the membership must approve the color and which style they like best.

If you're interest please join us and Bruce will have order forms available. Remember, no orders will be accepted without payment in full. Both suppliers have promised to accomodate all sizes from *small* thru *4-X*. All coats will be yellow with black lettering and the club logo on the back. Provisions have been made with both suppliers for your name on the front and your call letters. For additional info call Bruce, KA2HRM, at 756-8996.

New VHF/UHF Contesting Team

After months of searching for an individual to replace Chris, N2NEH, as chairman of TARA's VHF/UHF contesting efforts, we now have a new replacement. Our new chairman is Jerry, N2QIP, who is no stranger to club contesting. Already he has appointed Dennis Bulger, N2USN, as cochairman along with Art Ceas, KB2JZJ.

Over the winter months they will concentrate their efforts on building a first class contesting team, provided we have interest from within the club to warrant it.

Jerry will inform the Board of directors of any nescessary equipment expenditures needed to build up this team.

All those that are interested in helping our new contesting team become one of the finest in the Capital District, are asked to contact Jerry, N2QIP, at 272-5274; Dennis, N2USN; or Art, KB2JZJ, on the local repeaters

Club Historian Needed

We're looking for any individual that would be interested in becoming the club historian. Even for such a young club we have several pieces of documentation and pictures that need to be protected and saved for the future of the club. Also if there are any members that have any photographs of past events or members we would be greatly interested. If you're interested please call Mr.Bill, NY2U, at 273-9248.

TARA Purchases Fox??

TARA's has purchased a new Ramsey fox hunting kit which will be built by our RDF Chairman Steve Watson, N2PZP. This new low power transmitter will be used as a tool to sharpen our skills of direction finding, as well as supplying some fun at monthly meetings. When completed Steve will give a through explanation of RDF'ing techniques and show the club our newest piece of club equipment.

Turkey Hunts Begin in October

Beginning with the October monthly meeting TARA will again be presenting gift certificates for a free turkey from Price Chopper Markets to those lucky individuals that can find our hidden transmitter.

Our RDF Chairman, Steve, N2PZP, will hide the old buzzard prior to the monthly meetings and the first person that can find it before the meeting starts gets the gift certificate worth \$10.00.

CW Receivers

The club has two brand new CW only receivers that members may borrow to help them with there code practice.

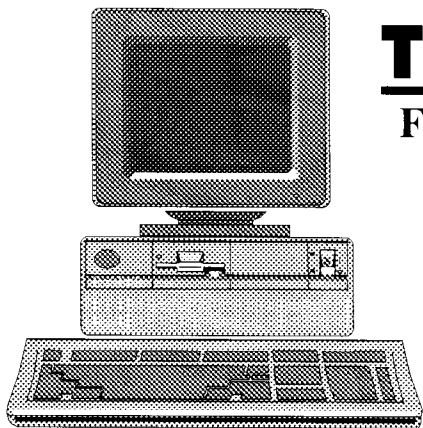
Both of these units were purchased last year as kits, and are capable of receiving on the 80 meter band only. Just a piece of wire for an antenna, and a set of headphones, will get you W1AW crystal clear for the CW bulletins. These units are available by contacting our club equipment manager Jerry, N2QIP, at 272-5274.

Hurricane Season Frequencies Listed

Here are some of the major net and emergency frequencies (in kHz) of interest during the summer/fall hurricane season:

- 3.815 - Inter-Island 75 meter net
- 7.165 - Antigua/Antilles Net
- 14.275 - Amateur Radio/Red Cross
- 14.283 - Caribus Net
- 14.283 - Health and welfare traffic
- 14.303 - Health and welfare traffic
- 14.316 - Maritime Mobile Net
- 14.325 - Hurricane Watch Net
- 21.310 - Health and welfare (Spanish)
- 14.185 - Caribbean Emergency
- 7.115 - Caribbean Maritime Mobile (12:00Z)
- 3.808 - Caribbean Weather (10:30Z)
- 21.390 - Interamericas health and welfare
- 21.400 - Transatlantic Maritime Mobile
- 7.268 - Waterways

**The ARRL Net Directory lists many state and regional nets that also carry storm-related traffic. As always, never transmit on these nets unless you are called upon to do so.)



TARA COMPUTER CORNER

Featuring computer tips and advise for IBM users.

Written By: Thomas Remmert, N2TTA

14-A Loring Place

Sumter, S.C. 29150

Tel. 803-778-2915

Well, shortly after loading the famous Double Space on my hard drive, I managed to fill it up again. So, I decided it was time to splurge and get a really big hard drive. I found that the prices of IDE drives were practically identical to SCSI (scuzzy) drives. The advantage of SCSI is that it has much faster data transfer. The disadvantage is that it requires a separate controller. If you have a CD-ROM drive in your computer, you probably already have a SCSI controller.

There are some things to consider before deciding to use your existing SCSI controller. The newer SCSI controllers are referred to as Fast SCSI-2. To get the most out of a SCSI drive, both the drive and the controller should be Fast SCSI-2. In my case, I purchased a new SCSI controller. You can have more than one SCSI controller in your computer as long as they have different addresses. This should be explained in the documentation. If you need to free up a slot, you can attach your CD-ROM to the new SCSI controller.

According to the SCSI standard, up to 7 devices can be attached to one controller. The devices and controller make up what is known as the SCSI bus. You use a daisy chain cable to connect the individual devices. Each item on the bus, including the controller card, must have a SCSI ID. The ids are numbered 0 through 7. In most cases the controller card uses ID 7 and a hard drive ID 0. If you want to boot from the SCSI disk, it must have ID 0. If you wish, you can also keep your IDE drive, however, your computer will then boot from the IDE drive, not the SCSI drive. If you already have 2 IDE drives (the maximum allowed, currently), you can keep them both. However, when you are installing the SCSI drive (FDISK, FORMAT, etc.), you should go into your setup program and set the "D drive" to "none." I couldn't get FDISK to see the SCSI drive until I did this.

Once I got everything up and running, I decided to do a little comparison. I already had the SAM database of amateur calls on my IDE drive. So, I copied it to the SCSI drive. I asked the database to give me a list of all the hams in Sumter. On the C drive, it took a little more than twice as long as on the new SCSI drives.

Runaway Boat Causes Havoc On Route 7

On the evening of Wednesday, August 17, 1994, at 8:52 PM the TARA repeater was used for one of the strangest emergency situations anyone has ever heard on this repeater, a runaway boat!!

One of TARA's members, Jim Rubino, N2PEM, was traveling westbound on Route 7 in Troy. Just two blocks east of Burdett Avenue he witnessed a 18 foot Starcraft boat that had broken loose from its trailer. The boat was

being towed by a New Hampshire couple heading west bound on Route 7 when it struck the rear end of a passenger bus. The impact broke the boat free from its trailer and it continued to slide westbound for quite a distance.

Jim, N2PEM immediately made a emergency call over the 145.17Mhz TARA repeater for Bill, NY2U, asking him to relay this accident to both the Troy Police and Fire Departments. Within 3

minutes emergency officials were on the scene but we still had a dispatcher a little stumped as to the situation at hand. Even though Jim served in the Coast Guard he never quite expected to witness firsthand a boat literally being grounded in this manner. It took officials better than an hour to remove the boat from the road and clear traffic.

Fortunately there were no related injuries with this accident.

The Voice of Ravena

Written By: Bruce Roberts, KA2HRM

I can't believe that the end of summer is almost here. It must be that I am getting older, as summer seems very short. I was talking to Mr. Bill, NY2U, the other night, and we were pondering what a good topic would be for my column this month. I think that we came up with a winner!

Have you noticed that you have to have a Mission Statement in today's corporate world? Well, guess what? We are a corporation and we need a mission. We should have some kind of project for the club. Should we adopt a section of road, or maybe adopt a family for Christmas project? We adopt a family where I work and it is a great success. I think that we could really move forward in this direction. There are a lot of things to be done. Have you ever heard of the Radio Club of School 22 in NY City, or could we consider the boy's or girl's clubs somewhere? Can we, the members of TARA, be the leaders in the Capital District? I think so.

I think that we can come up with something to eat up some of EVERYONE'S free time. It may be something that doesn't really take a lot of time or something that is very time consuming. Let's have a lively discussion about this topic at our next meeting. We need to come up with a mission statement such as, "We, the members of The Troy Amateur Radio Assn., have decided to be the best Radio Assn. in New York State by sponsoring the Adopt A Family Project in the Capital District Area". Well, how does it sound? Let's get the ball rolling and aim it someplace.

I can hardly believe it is almost Labor Day. Where did the summer go? I will have to find a few winter projects to do. I think that I really should get the upgrade books out and start studying the upgrade manual. I also wanted to hang up some new coax. I think that will have to get done soon. Here it is the last day of August, and I have had leaves falling off of the oak trees in the backyard. I

hope that we aren't going to get another real long, cold and snowy winter again. I had enough of that last year. One of the good things about it is we get a lot more radio time with that type of weather. I guess that it won't be long before I'll close up the camp for the winter. I didn't get to spend as much time as I wanted there this year. I'll have to get the boat and dock out of the water. Once the leaves are off of the trees it really looks a little sad.

Did anyone purchase an Icom 736A yet? If so, I would like to hear from you. I read one test report on it and it was very positive. It seems like it is going to be a good selling radio. It has a 110 volt built in power supply, an internal antenna tuner with memory, and dual antenna inputs. I would really like to try one out. Hey, just think, if we ever get enough members I might be able to do some test reports. That would allow the Mfg.'s to ship me new radios to try out. What do you think, can we get about 3000 or 4000 members? We would have to hire a paid executive director then. I guess that I'll just wait until I hit the lottery to buy one or get information from someone else that has one.

Well we also heard that a certain member of the club has purchased a new rig. The rumor is that it did not come equipped with the proper tone board in it. I heard that until the new board arrived the tone was generated by pulling the feather of a snow owl over the bow string of a certain ceremonial bow. (Hi, How Are You !!!) There was an explanation given about the oil content of the feather, etc. I have also heard that this individual is the person responsible

for all of the flaming arrow attacks. It seems that one of those arrows has struck the 444.225Mhz machine again. One of these days we will have the new arrow fence installed, and this will prevent any further damage.

How do we generate some more use on the repeater? Have you noticed that WD2K, N2USN, KF2LW etc. are back on again? They are there almost every night chasing DX. I have been waiting to hear the Buckmeister, but he hasn't been on that much. Let's get everyone down here. We used to have a large group every night just doing some rag chewing. It's good for the repeater machines to get used. It keeps the water out of the antennas.

Speaking of that, I had some RG-8, which was on the ground, that had water inside of the covering. I had moved some antennas and when I cut the cable to shorten it, water came out. I never had this happen to me before, and was quite surprised. I talked to one of our technical people, Dave, WA2GBO, and he advised me that this does happen with cheaper grade cable. You'll never guess what kind it was... Tandy. I must have put that up only 3 or 4 years ago. I think that I learned a lesson with this experience. No more cheap coax. Just think, everything looked okay, and I could have blown out the finals without any flaming arrows.

Well, that's all folks. I guess I have run out of steam for this month. 73 and 88 for now. C U folks later. *TN*

• TARA REMINDER •

If you're interested in a club jacket please be present at the monthly meeting in September. *Thx Bruce*

The Bubba Report - September, 1994

I thought y'all might be interested in a few observations of amateur operating in the South, so I'll just throw out some random thoughts. When you hear a "2" call on HF, the guy or gal is probably somewhere in Florida. Commercial towers over 1200 feet high are common. Mountains are rare. Repeater outputs of over 100 watts are commonplace. On HF, a station with a 1000 watt amp is considered "low power." Most pickup trucks don't have gun racks but they do have 102 inch whip antennas (and I thought only the Rippers did that!!).

PL tones are sensibly used on repeaters to prevent inter-repeater interference (it's pretty flat down here and 2 meters travels pretty far). I haven't found any 440Mhz repeaters that don't have a PL tone. The control operators turn the PL on and off as needed. Our local repeater will be adding a part-time

PL tone (147.015+ PL 156.7). When it's engaged, the courtesy beep will be different and the PL tone frequency will be announced with the voice ID.

When you can't remember someone's name (or if you just feel like it), call him "Bubba." I haven't figured out the female equivalent to Bubba. I don't hear very many "N4" calls on the air. They were used up a LONG time ago and I wonder where they all went. (Did you ever wonder where all the N2AAA through N2IZZ calls are?) I've encountered nothing but good ole Southern hospitality on the local repeaters and at the Sumter ARA club meetings. I have heard "horror stories" about some other repeaters. Local policy is that anyone being "inconsiderate" to another amateur will be banned from the repeater. Monitoring the local police I noticed that they use the international

phonetic alphabet for 25 of the 26 letters. I can't figure out why, but they use "rebel" for the letter "R."

I was really disappointed that I couldn't make it to the TARA field day. However, the nice folks at the Sumter ARA voted me into membership at their field day. It wasn't as big as the TARA field day, but we did have an air conditioned building!! I was able to do some operating on 15 meters and had a good time. Overall, Sumter ARA had 827 phone and 36 CW contacts. We operated with the call of K4NOC, known as Stormy. (What kind of club would it be if they didn't have a "Stormy?") With 900 bonus points, the club had a total score of 2,698 points operating in class 2A.

Sumter Hamfest is October 22, 1994. Time for the BEARS to make a road trip!!! 73's Y'all!!

Radio operator receives honor

The following story appeared in The Record, on Wednesday, August 24, 1994 on page C-3 of the REGION section.

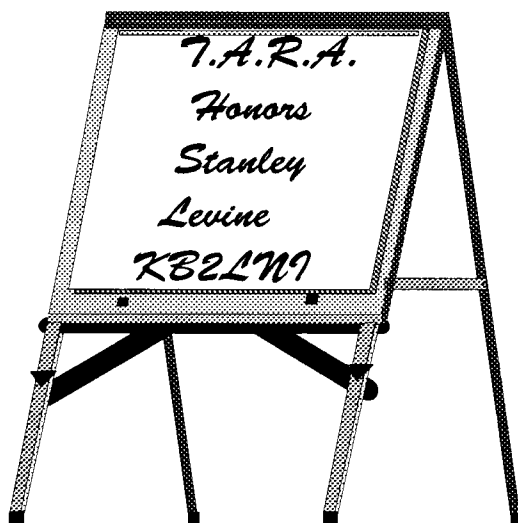
GREEN ISLAND -- The Troy Amateur Radio Association recently honored Stanley Levine, KB2LNI, weather preparedness meteorologist with the National Weather Service at the Albany County Airport, with its 1994 Recognition Award.

The award was given at the Green Island Municipal Center to Levine for his years of service to the amateur radio service.

Levine has spent the last 20 years with the weather service and will relocate to Buffalo in September to become the weather coordinator meteorologist.

Levine holds a Technician Class license issued by the Federal Communications Commission in 1991. Levine has been instrumental in the development and training of amateur operators throughout the Capital District under a program called "SKYWARN," which trains radio operators how to report changing weather conditions to the National Weather Service.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Kenny Davis, KB2KFFV, for another fine job of handling the press on behalf of our club.



Casual Contesting

Written By: Harry "Bud" Hovey, WF2B

Casual Contesting can be fun. You don't have to be a BIG GUN with an amplifier and monoband beams up 200 feet to enjoy contesting, especially if you take the view that you are in it for fun and to increase the number of different countries, states, counties, prefixes, or whatever. You just have to remember that contesting is not the place to ragchew, trade information about yourself and your station with the other station, or even get real signal reports from the other operator, because he or she is probably a serious contester out to beat the world.

If you would like to get DXCC, or WAC (Worked All Continents), or WAZ (Worked All Zones), or many of the other DX type awards, there is no faster way to work the necessary stations. This is especially true during both the ARRL DX contest and the CQ Worldwide Contest. During the height of the sunspot cycle it is very easy to work more than 100 different countries as a casual contester in one weekend. The same can be said for WAS (Worked All States). The ARRL Sweepstakes is a great contest for working most, if not all, of the states on a single weekend. The problem then is getting QSL cards from the stations you worked.

Got your attention? If so, we need a definition of Casual Contesting. It is many things to many people, but basically it is getting on during a contest without the intention of running up a score that is going to get your name at the top of the list for your Section, State, Call Area, or Country. It means spending a few minutes or a few hours on the air. It doesn't mean getting the family mad at you because you sat at your rig for 24 or 48 hours straight, or because you forgot that you and your spouse had a dinner date with your best friends.

Even though you approach contesting in a casual manner, you still have certain obligations to the rest of the contest community. First, learn the basic contest rules, i.e., the exchange, the stations you can not work for points, and the dates and hours of operation. These can usually be found in QST or CQ magazines dated about one to three months before the contest. Next, keep an accurate log (more about logs later) in UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) which is 5 hours later than Eastern Standard Time and 4 hours later than EDT. Finally, remember that every ham is not a contester, so respect the rights of those who are not in the contest.

The Exchange is usually a signal report plus some identifier. For example, the IARU contest requires a signal report plus your IARU Zone. Thus you may receive a report such as 5920 which means that the sending station is in Zone 20. Almost everyone sends 59 (or 599 for CW) even though the true report might be 4 by 5 or worse. If a contester can hear you, then you are 5 by 9. It makes sense to send 59 since you eliminate one potential error in the exchange.

The Log is your only way of knowing who you contacted, and when. It also provides you with a device for determining if a station is a duplicate of one you already worked in the contest. Many contesters use computer logging programs which are designed for contesting. Such programs handle duping and printing. If you are already using such a program, you probably didn't need to read this article.

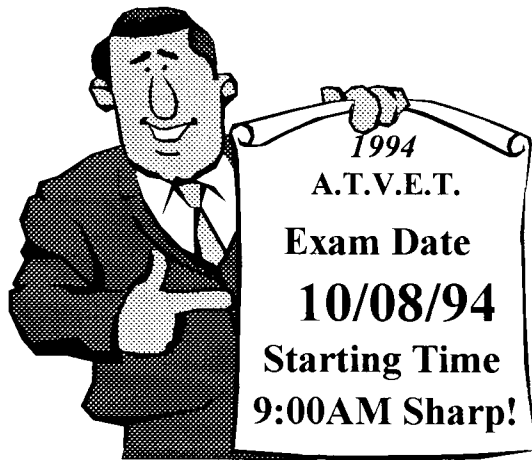
The key to success is to listen before you leap. If the contest is one you never entered before, then it pays to listen to one or two exchanges before you join the fray. Since you studied the rules, you already

know what you will send. So now you are ready to hunt-and-pounce. When the other station sends QRZ? or CQ, drop your call. You should always send your full call, not just your suffix, unless the other station asks for specifically for the last to letters of your call or some other foolishness. Also be aware that some CQs are directed to specific call areas. If he is asking for "threes", don't come back with your "two-area" call.

Now that the contest is over, what do you do? First, prepare QSL cards for all the stations for which you want a QSL and then follow the instructions that may have been given for the proper QSL route. In some cases this is via the Bureau, but in most it is either to a QSL manager or directly to the contest station. The trick is in finding the proper route. Sometimes the contest station will announce his QSL route every 5th or 10th transmission; sometimes only if asked for during the exchange. If he says QSL direct, don't waste his or your time asking for addresses, they are in the Callbook - if not he will probably give them out if he wants to QSL. If you want more information about how to QSL, talk to some of us who have gone through the agony of waiting for that QSL from a "rare" country. Anything is "rare" if you don't have it.

Should you decide to submit your logs for the contest, please read the contest rules very carefully, and use the required format. If you do submit your logs, you have moved one step closer to becoming an avid contester.

Editor's Note: We thank Bud, WF2B, very much for his interesting approach to contesting and look forward to his upcoming articles here in the *TARA News*.



Albany / Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

On Saturday, October 8, 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 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 fee 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* •

General Class Radio Course

Starting on September 22 until November 17, 1994, Jay, N2RIZ, and Charlie, KA2VNP, will be conducting an upgrade class for those wishing to get their General class ticket.

This course will be held in Schenectady at the General Electric Research and Development Center from 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

Those interested in taking this class are asked to contact Jay, N2RIZ, at 383-3421 or by contacting Charlie, KA2VNP, at 399-1793 prior to the starting date.

Albany Co. RACES and TARA Offer Tech/Tech Plus Course

Starting on September 22, 1994, both organizations will be teaming up to instruct a No Code Tech or Tech Plus (5 wpm Morse code) course at Heatly High School, in Green Island. The starting time for each class will be 7:00 PM.

For more information on this class please contact Robert, WB2ZCM, at 237-8473 or Kenny, KB2KFV, at 272-0112, evenings please.

TARA Bookstore.....ARRL Publications

The TARA Bookstore can help you with any of the study material needed for getting that first ticket with the *Now You're Talking* or the all new *General Class* manual for the needed upgrade. We have a supply of *ARRL Repeater Directories* as well as *FCC Rule Books*. Whatever the need please give us a call at 273-9248.

AMATEUR RADIO "Q-SIGNALS" FOR CW USE ONLY

QNA Answer in prearranged order.
 QNC All net stations copy.
 QND Net is directed.
 QNE Entire net stand by.
 QNF Net is free.
 QNG Take over as net control station.
 QNI Net stations report in.
 QNM You are QRming the net.
 QNN Net control station is [call sign].
 QNO Station is leaving the net.
 QNP Unable to copy you.
 QNS Following stations are in the net.
 QNT I request permission to leave the net.
 QNU The net has traffic for you.
 QNX You are excused from the net.
 QNY Shift to another frequency.
 QNZ Zero beat your signal with mine.
 QRG Will you tell me my exact frequency?
 QRH Does my frequency vary?
 QRJ Are you receiving me badly?
 QRK What is the intelligibility of my signals?
 QRL Are you busy?
 QRM Is my transmission being interfered with?
 QRN Are you troubled by static?
 QRO Shall I increase power?
 QRP Shall I decrease power?
 QRQ Shall I send faster?
 QRS Shall I send more slowly?
 QRT Shall I stop sending?

QRU Have you anything for me?
 QRV Are you ready?
 QRX When will you call me again?
 QRY What is my turn?
 QRZ Who is calling me?
 QSA What is the strength of my signals?
 QSB Are my signals fading?
 QSD Is my keying defective?
 QSG Shall I send messages?
 QSK Can you hear between your signals?
 QSL Can you acknowledge receipt?
 QSM Shall I repeat the last message?
 QSN Did you hear me?
 QSO Can you communicate with me?
 QSP Will you relay?
 QST General call preceding a message.
 QSU Shall I send or reply on this frequency?
 QSW Will you send on this frequency?
 QSX Will you listen?
 QSY Shall I change frequency?
 QSZ Shall I send each word more than once?
 QTA Shall I cancel message?
 QTB Do you agree with my counting of words?
 QTC How many messages have you to send?
 QTH What is your location?
 QTR What is the correct time?

Editor's Note: This one is for you Betty, N2POS

Finding Your Grid Square (From QST Magazine, 10/93)

Grids, grids, grids. That's all those VHF guys ever talk about. What is a grid square, anyway? And why should you care?

Well, grid squares are just a shorthand way of specifying a general location anywhere on the earth. The grid-square system is used primarily by contest operators and award seekers. The idea is to make it easier for you to determine where another station is located--short of dragging out an atlas and a bunch of maps.

Take my case, for example. If you and I make contact on VHF, I can say, "I'm in Wallingford, Connecticut," or "I'm in grid FN31." Chances are, you won't have a clue where Wallingford is in Connecticut without spending several minutes scanning through your atlas. My grid-square location, however, is much easier. The

ARRL sells grid locator maps for a measly dollar (see the publications catalog elsewhere in this issue). You can find my grid on the map in about 10 seconds! You may be able to determine your own grid-square location by simply looking at the ARRL grid map. If not, you'll need to find out the latitude and longitude of your station. With that information in hand, go to Chapter 12 of the ARRL Operating Manual (4th edition). Table 12-2 shows you how to determine your exact grid square location. If you have a computer and a telephone modem, call the ARRL Hiram BBS at 203-666-0578 and download GRID.COM. This program, designed for PCs and compatibles, calculates your grid square according to your latitude and longitude.--

News Of Our Neighbors

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

R.C.RACES.

After a little maintenance work, the 145.37Mhz N2JXO repeater is back on the air. Joe Hoffman, KA2AXN and Dave Edwards, WA2GBO, are currently trying to completely document this repeater.

George, N2LQS, has announced that RACES has submitted their 1995 budget to the county for review and, hopefully, approval by the county officials. Those that worked on this year's budget were: Neil, N2LOD, Nathaniel, KB2HPX, Russ Greenman, and Dave, WB2VXS.

If everything goes according to plans there will be several monthly meetings for RACES at the new jail facilities on Main Street in Troy. The facility is available according to George, N2LQS, as long as there are no conflicts with anything that the Sheriff's Department might have planned. John, KA2VBI, has announced that the EOC will also be moving to the new jail on Main Street. 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.

VHFers from the Albany ARA were hitting the airwaves for the ARRL VHF contest on September 10-11, 1994, from the hilltops of Altamont. Henry Mitchell, N2SGY, made his home QTH available to the Albany club and by sounds of things it must have worked just fine. The team had Dan, N2XGB, as on-site manager, Tom, KB2NAV, the master in charge of antenna installation and Stan, WA2BAH, will be helping with all the log work.

Albany is saddened to announce the untimely passing of Rose Hershberg, WA2OYV, who became a Silent Key on July 9, 1994. Also Steve Stanley, W2FQG and Earl Fisher, WA2WSY became Silent Keys this summer.

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 Emie Popp, KA2HTU, at (518) 477-9581 TN

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association Club Repeater: 147.06/R K2AE

S.A.R.A.

Bill Schwarting, WR2L, will be the guest speaker for SARA's September monthly meeting, about setting up a portable ham station. After years of extensively traveling the country he has experienced just about every conceivable problem that could happen while setting up your portable station. There will also be a question and answer session after his speech to help any of you. Also, Bill will have his beautiful Airstream trailer in the parking lot to show everyone his radio installation.

SARA has a new Refreshment Chairperson, Wendy Helm, N2XXX, who will be serving refreshments after the evening program.

Our hats go off to Phil Bradway, KB2HQ, Editor for the Sara News for the fine new look that their newsletter has taken on this year. 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 has cured the problem that was ailing the new packet BBS station the club put on the air this summer. SoVARC's new BBSSVT is again forwarding mail to the WA2UMX PBBS via 222MHz. once each hour. It was suggested by KA1DLK to move the BBSSVT to the home QTH of Ed, WA1MAG, in Shaftsbury, Vt. Bob, KA1DLK, pointed out that this move would take advantage of Ed's excellent horizon up the valley to the north. It is expected that this move would allow for direct connects from Pownal to Manchester.

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

Recently the Rippers held their Annual Fall VHF/UHF Sprint on August 24, 1994, from 23:00 - 01:00Z with much success. This contest, unlike others, favors the low power contester and encourages entrants to concentrate more on antenna building. How many times have you been in the other VHF/UHF contests only to hear the high power stations bury you? Well, in this contest you get more multipliers for using low power at the same time you are able to hone your contesting skills. This contest was designed by John, WA2FUZ, who holds many VHF/UHF records. John will be moving soon to the warmth of the Florida sunshine but rumors have it another local ham, Chuck, N2RKC, and his wife Tina have bought John's mountain QTH. We wish the very best to John, WA2FUZ, and hope to hear you on 10 meters from your new Florida QTH, or of course 6 meters.

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, why don't you 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 held their Annual Hamfest at the Ballston Spa fairgrounds. All of us from TARA would like to extend our thanks for allowing us to participate in your hamfest. Our club has always felt right at home and the hospitality shown by your organization is second to none. This hamfest is truly a first class act all the way.

This marked the third year TARA has been selling ARRL publications at this hamfest and each year it just gets better and better. We haven't yet heard the attendance record but assuredly we will post it in next month's issue of the TARA News. Maybe by then they'll have the date for Saratoga's Hamfest '95.

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

Schenectady will soon have their own club repeater on the air according to Pete, WB2FWK. The repeater has been coordinated by UNYREPCO and assigned the frequency pairing of 147.375/OUTPUT and 149.975/INPUT under the call WB2CRZ and will be located in the Helderberg Mountains. This location should provide outstanding coverage throughout the Capital District as well as the north country.

The Museum club also hopes to have more outings such as their recent trip to Newington, CT. to visit the ARRL Headquarters and operate from W1AW. Pete Harvey, WB2FWK, also invited members from TARA that would like to join them for one of these trips.

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

From the Modem Line

Submitted By: Ken (Stormy) Storm, N2VLS

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 BBSs 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 Bulletins, AMTOR

Bulletins, RSGB Bulletins, RTTY, Skeds, Space News, ARRL News, WICEN Bulletins, 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 that you heard about his system in the TARA News.

We now receive new files on a daily basis by satellite. This list shows all files received since August, 1994. They are, except as noted in the file description, IBM compatible programs and may be of use to the serious computerized amateur.

• 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

- ☐ 850DEMO.ZIP Full featured computer control for Knwd TS-850
- ☐ APOLLO11.ZIP Apollo 11 25th Anniversary Spcl Event Station activity 07/20/94
- ☐ APRS506C.ZIP Automatic Packet Report system V5.06c by WB4
- ☐ ASA11.ZIP Antenna System Analysis v1.1 for Windows
- ☐ AX25KRNL.ZIP (ax25krnl.tgz) AX.25 for Linux 1.1.20 or greater, by GW4PTS
- ☐ AX25READ.ZIP Information file for ax25krnl.tgz, by GW4PTS
- ☐ AX25UTIL.ZIP (ax25util.tgz) AX.25 utilities for Linux, by GW4PTS
- ☐ BSPI108G.ZIP Serial port interface for G8BPQ, by AA1FS
- ☐ DTMF11.ZIP (dtmf11.sea) Touch Tone decoding software for Macintosh
- ☐ DX.ZIP ARRL International DX Contest Summary Sheet (ASCII)
- ☐ DXCCLIST.ZIP DX Countries Listing 07/01/94 by k2DI
- ☐ FAISYN20.ZIP Filter synthesis program
- ☐ FD.ZIP ARRL Field Day Summary Sheet (ASCII)
- ☐ FX146.ZIP Ramsey FX-146 2-mtr Computer interface, by N9GMW
- ☐ HAMBBS.ZIP W3INK's HAM BBS listing for July 1994
- ☐ HAMCOM30.ZIP V3.0 by DL5YEC, Rtty/Morse/Baudot/ASCII/AMTOR/ARQ-FEC
- ☐ HAMFTP.ZIP Ham FTP sites on Internet, by VE3SUN
- ☐ HAMLISTS.ZIP Ham ListServers on Internet, by VE3SUN
- ☐ HLOG224.ZIP HyperLog V2.24 Logging Program
- ☐ HLWV13.ZIP Heard Last Week vol 1 no 3
- ☐ HLWV14.ZIP Heard Last Week vol 1 no 4
- ☐ HOD007.ZIP Ham On Disk # 7 vol 1

- ☐ **IC735C.ZIP** v1.0 IC735C computer control for windows
- ☐ **ID_NA481.ZIP** ID-Logic AM/FM Simulator for windows
- ☐ **ID_SW486.ZIP** ID-Logic SW Simulator for windows
- ☐ **ID_WT484.ZIP** ID Logic World Clock
- ☐ **ITALOC14.ZIP** Heading & coordinates locator, by IK0WRB
- ☐ **JVFAX70.ZIP** JvFax v7.0 Fax/SSTV program by DK8JV
- ☐ **KAGOLDTD.EXE** KaGold Test Drive for Kantronics TNC's by Interflex
- ☐ **KTWN42.ZIP** Kentrol v4.2 for Windows - has many new features
- ☐ **LOGEQF60.ZIP** v6.12 amateur radio logging program, by N3EQF
- ☐ **MSDATA94.ZIP** '94 Perseids data files for MSSOF42E.ZIP
- ☐ **NEWPOOLS.ZIP** 07/94 Nov/Tech/Gen pool questions for Autoexam
- ☐ **PAKET6.ZIP** Paket v6.0 by VK2DHU
- ☐ **PET02A.ZIP** PacketPet Lite for Windows v2.02a terminal program
- ☐ **PFQ0813.ZIP** VK2PFQ President's address / WICEN News
- ☐ **PKGOLDTD.EXE** PkGold Test Drive Version from Interflex
- ☐ **PTM542.ZIP** Packet Term & Mailbox by OZ4ZK
- ☐ **QLOG116E.ZIP** Quick Log - DataBase mgmt for SpotDX PacketCluster, by IK5HGL
- ☐ **RGMGR21D.ZIP** Rig Manager v2.1d for windows - DXBase linked version for Kwnds
- ☐ **RH20.ZIP** SSTV Robot Helper v2.0 for windows
- ☐ **SCANCAT.ZIP** Computer Control for most popular receivers/transceivers
- ☐ **TAPR801.ZIP** TAPR to make ARRL CNC & DC available
- ☐ **TL.ZIP** Transmission Line v1.7-Compute line loss, zin, & transmatch
- ☐ **TRAK33.ZIP** TrakSat v3.3 Satellite tracking program
- ☐ **VHFLOG.ZIP** VHF logging program by AA5ZX, KC5BOY and KC5BPC
- ☐ **VIRUS.ZIP** Virus found in "DOVE voice via INTERNET"
- ☐ **WG012.ZIP** WaveGazer v1.2 rcvr control for NRD-535D
- ☐ **WHDG10.ZIP** Heading & country finder v1.0 for windows, by WA6FHI
- ☐ **WNDIPOLE.ZIP** Simple dipole calculations for windows, by N4PVU
- ☐ **WNSAT.ZIP** Satellite tracking program for windows

Don't forget the latest bulletins: The Keplerian Elements, Propagation, DX Bulletins, AMTOR Bulletins, RSGB Bulletins, RTTY, Skeds, Space News, ARRL News, WICEN Bulletins, 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.

- Keep tuned to monthly issues of the *TARA NEWS* for program updates. 73, *STORMY* •

100/100 DX Challenge for 1995

How many of you remember last winter when Dave, WD2K and Ben, KF2LW, went on their 75 meter DX rampage? Night after night they worked stations from all parts of the world while some of us sat on our best intentions. Yes, there were a few that really had bonafide excuses like they simply didn't have any HF privileges or they didn't get their antennas up before snowfall, but there were many with no excuses. Come January that will all change. That's right! They're giving all of us plenty of advanced notice so we can install antennas, grounding systems or get that needed upgrade, but come January the DX hounds will accept NO EXCUSES.!

Okay, here is the 1995 DX Challenge, created by Ben, KF2LW and Dave, WD2K. Starting around the first week in January the DX hounds have sent word of their challenge of 100 countries in just 100 days, or less if you can. This applies to any band or any mode, as long as you share the information about the stations you're working on either the 145.17MHz (NY2U) or the 147.21MHz (WB2UEB) repeaters. Are you up for the challenge, or are you going to be a little weenie all winter and just listen to the excitement?

Now this is just the way to beat that old cabin fever. Come join the excitement and talk it up.

News Via the "Green Keys"

CQ WW DIGITAL

CONTEST PERIOD: Last full weekend in September, from 00:00Z Saturday to 24:00Z Sunday (48 hours).

Maximum operating time allowed: first 30 hours for single op entries for official score. Rest periods may not be less than 3 hours each.

MODES: RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR, (FEC & ARQ) and Packet

BANDS: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10M

CLASSES: 1 - Single Op, all bands
2 - Single Op, single band
3 - Single Op, assisted, all bands
4 - Multi Op, single xmtr, all bands
5 - Multi Op, multi xmtr, all bands

EXCHANGE: *For W/VE:* Send RST + State/Province + CQ Zone

For all others: Send RST + CQ Zone

MULTIPLIERS: Each DXCC/WAE country, and first W/VE QSO, counts as a multiplier on each band. Each W/VE call district will count as an additional multiplier on each band. Each CQ Zone counts as multiplier on each band.

QSO POINTS: Count 1 point for QSOs within own country. (In W/VE, each call district is considered a country) 2 points for QSOs outside own country, but within continent, 3 points for QSOs outside your continent.

FINAL SCORE = Total of QSO points x total multipliers

COMMENTS: Most popular WW digital contest in the world. Logs must be in by December 1, 1994

SEND LOGS TO:

CQ WW RTTY Contest
c/o Roy Gould, KT1N
P.O. Box DX
Stow, Massachusetts 01775 USA

Third Annual TARA RTTY SPRINT December 10, 1994

CONTEST PERIOD: Second full weekend in December, from 21:00Z Saturday to 01:00Z Sunday (4 hours)

MODES: RTTY ONLY

BANDS: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10M

CLASSES: A.) Single Op, all bands
1.) Less than 150W output
2.) More than 150W output
B.) Multi-op, single transmitter

EXCHANGE: *USA stations:* send RST + state
Canadians: send RST + province
All others: send RST + QSO nr.

MULTIPLIERS: each USA state, DXCC country, and each Canadian province, + VE6 & VY1

NOTES:

- Multipliers count only once, not once per band
- KH6 & KL7 count as DXCC countries only
- USA & Canada do not count as DXCC countries

QSO POINTS: Count 1 point per QSO

FINAL SCORE = Total of QSO points x total of mults.

COMMENT: Strictly a RTTY speed contest. Rules are the same as ARRL Roundup. No band multipliers. Logs must be in by January 25, 1994.

SEND LOGS TO:

Troy Amateur Radio Association
c/o William J. Eddy, NY2U
2404 - 22nd Street
Troy, New York 12180-1901 USA

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, KE2XF 664-4521

Newsletter: Editor-in-Chief Perry White

Editor: Jack Culliton, N2LBZ 271-6763

Assistant Editor : Bill Eddy, NY2U

Assistant Editor : Ellen Culliton

Copier: REM Printing

Please send all correspondence to Editor-TARA
at 3 Oxford Circle, Troy, NY 12180 or via
packet at WA2UMX-5 144.950
or E-mail N2LBZ@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Rudy Ault, N2JZK 271-7282

Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI 272-0112

Bud Hovey, WF2B 283-2337

Dave Pascale, WB2HKR 785-5040

Steve Watson, N2PZP 272-7470

Repeater Manager: Bob Isby, N2LUD

Repeater Technical Advisors:

Dave Edwards, WA2GBO

John Pritt, WA1YXQ

Membership Committee: Bruce Roberts, KA2HRM

Refreshment Committee: June Smith, KA2VEK

Equipment Manager: Jerry Jackson, N2QIP

RDF Chairman: Steve Watson, N2PZP

NOTICE: THE EDITOR OF THIS NEWSLETTER ASSUMES
NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENTS, ACCURACY OR
READABILITY OF THIS PUBLICATION, HOWEVER, BY READING
THIS NOTICE IT BECOMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE READER
TO HELP IMPROVE THE OPERATING PROCEDURES FOUND ON
THE AIRWAYS.

HF Contest Chairpeople: Walt Legowski , WA1KKM

Sue Rothschild , N2LBR

Events Committee: Ken Collis, N2RXO

UHF/VHF Contest Coordinator: Jerry , N2QIP

Assistants:

Dennis, N2USN

Art Ceas, KB2JZJ

VE Team Contact Bud Hovey, WF2B

Troy Amateur Radio Association

PO Box 584

Latham, NY 12110

place

label

here

Bill

NEXT MEETING:

September 20, 1994

Green Island Municipal Bldg.

7:30 PM