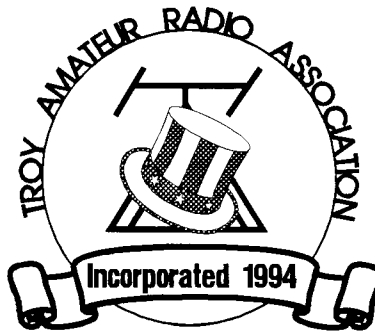


# TARA

"Home of the  
FULL SERVICE  
Repeaters"



147.27/R  
145.17/R  
444.225/R

# NEWS

Volume IV NO. 10

An Award Winning Publication of the Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

October 1994

## SWEEPSTAKES 1994

Yes, the time for Sweepstakes is upon us. For new license holders with HF privileges, this annual event is held the 1st and 3rd weekend of November. The first weekend is the CW portion and the third weekend is the SSB portion.

What is the main objective of Sweepstakes, aside from beating the Rippers, you ask? The goal is to work stations across the country and accumulate as many ARRL Sections as possible. If you are lucky enough to work all Sections, a Clean Sweep coffee mug and bragging rights for the year are your prize.

As this is primarily a stateside contest with propagation near the bottom of the solar cycle, my personal choice for antennas will be those for 40 and 80 meter work.

My reason for this choice is cost and easy installation. (If only I had a tower!) Obtain around 200 - 300 feet of #12 or #14 solid electrical wire and install in a square configuration as high as possible. Feed directly with coax or ladder line and bring it back into an antenna tuner.

How effective is this type of Skyloop antenna? Actually, pretty good! A few weekends ago during a worldwide RTTY contest I was able to work Europe, Asia, North and South America running just 100 watts of power. Ask Mr. Bill how effective his loop was as he acquired over 80,000 points in the same contest! Also, during this contest don't forget to check out 10 meters for a possible opening and some points from the West Coast and British Columbia. As the saying goes... Hey, you never know!!!

This is perhaps the one contest of the season that offers both a lot of fun operating and a chance to obtain the ARRL WAS Award (Worked All States) in one weekend.

As always the challenge from our neighbors to the South looms over us, so I ask all club members to contribute to this worthy cause for next year's Field Day tee shirt design.

73's de N2LBZ

*Jack*

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## TARA Club Jackets

At the September meeting, Bruce, KA2HRM, made the necessary arrangements so club members may purchase club jackets. These new jackets will be bright gold with our club logo on the back in black. Special arrangement can be made for those that wish to have their name and call put on the front.

TARA opted to purchase these jackets from the wife of Mark, N2XLC, who is a TARA member.

If you're interested please contact Bruce immediately. The first order for jackets will be placed on October 15, 1994. Remember, no orders will be accepted without the payment in full. Provisions were made to accommodate all sizes from *small* through *4-X*. For additional info call Bruce, KA2HRM at 756-8996 evenings please.

## Repeater Manager Appointed

The president of TARA has appointed Dennis Bulger, N2USN, as its new Repeater Manager. Dennis has been a member of TARA for around a year now and has recently upgraded to Advanced class operator. Dennis will be replacing Bob Isby, N2LUD, effective October 2, 1994. Bob, unfortunately, was unable to keep up with the duties of manager due to his new business ventures. We will surely miss Bob and thank him very much for overseeing the growth of our 145.17MHz and 444.225MHz repeaters since they were put into service. Under his watchful eye and the guidance of our Technical Director John Pritt, WA1YXQ, our club now has one of the very best sounding systems around.

Some of Dennis' duties as manager will be the task of coordinating work parties, if and when needed. He will keep in close communications with UNYREPCO and the FCC as to any changes and how they will affect our repeaters. Also those wishing to use the repeaters for either nets or public service events should contact Dennis in advance.

Please keep in mind John, WA1YXQ, will still be the resident guru in charge of repeater development and Dennis will assist in whatever way he can.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions regarding our repeater system he'll be more than glad to speak with you.

**TARA Repeater Manager**  
**Dennis Bulger, N2USN**

## Monthly Turkey Hunt Starts October

Beginning with the October 18, 1994 monthly meeting TARA will award the lucky or talented individual that can find our hidden turkey transmitter with a gift certificate worth \$10.00! Once you've won this little competition you can take your certificate and go buy a bird of your own. So get your books out, and do a little reading on the techniques of RDF'ing. Then when it comes time for the next meeting tell your better half that you're going hunting. That ought to keep her/him wondering for awhile.

Our RDF Chairman, Steve Watson, N2PZP, will hide the old buzzard prior to the monthly meetings (approx. 6:30 PM) and the first person that can find it before the meeting starts gets the gift certificate worth \$10.00 from Price Chopper Markets.

## TARA Raffle Winners

All of us from TARA would like to thank the many people that supported us for our second annual raffle at the Ballston Spa Hamfest. We had very strong support from all the various clubs and organizations, not to mention the many non-amateurs that purchased tickets. We owe a huge thanks to the folks from Saratoga County RACES for allowing us the opportunity to join them at their hamfest and allowing us to have our raffle drawing. A special thanks is also in order to Hollywood St. Jean, N2YNP; Bud, WF2B; and George, N2YXC; for their ticket sales prior to the hamfest. It really made a difference, guys!

The following were the prize winners of this year's raffle:

- ♦ Don Edwards, N2NUM Icom 281H
- ♦ Jack A. Strange, KE7NL \$50.00
- ♦ Charlie Glover, WA2VUO \$25.00

## NEWS FLASH.....Troy T.N.T. Trader Net Moves

Starting October 6, 1994, at 9:00 PM the TNT Trader Net will move from its present home (147.27MHz) in Brunswick and travel across town to the TARA club repeaters (145.17MHz & 444.225MHz linked). We hope this move will not inconvenience any one and it's hoped that we'll attract a few new people to the TARA repeater system. Our repeater gurus have spent hundreds of hours of hard work at making this repeater system work and we should use it to the fullest. Please let your friends know of this change and we hope to see you on the TARA "Full Service Repeater."

# POINT(er)S for the ARRL November Sweepstakes

Written By: Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR  
(TARA HF Contest Coordinators)

Every long-time member of TARA (3 years or less?) knows of the annual challenge between the Troy Amateur Radio Association (the good guys) and the Generic Club to the South (a.k.a. Rippers) in the ARRL November Sweepstakes, which this year will take place on the first (CW) and third (SSB) weekends of November. Every TARA member is invited to participate in this annual HF operating event to support our club's entry in the ARRL-affiliated club competition. (TARA members with no HF operating privileges can still participate by teaming up with a control operator in a multi-operator effort.) This contest offers an excellent opportunity to obtain Worked All States in a single weekend! In addition, you may have seen some TARA members sporting their handsome Sweepstakes participation pins from last year's contest. These pins will be available again this year for those participants who make at least 100 QSOs during either weekend (along with a check for \$3.00 for each pin).

The CW weekend this year is November 5-6 and the SSB weekend is November 19-20. Both contests start at 4:00 PM on Saturday and finish up at 10:00 PM Sunday (both are local times). The contest exchange for Sweepstakes consists of a contact number (starting from number 1), a letter designating transmitter output power (this is known as your "precedence", and is either A for less than 150 watts output, B for more than 150 watts output, or Q for QRP, 5 watts or less), your call sign, your "check" (the last two digits of the year you were first licensed), and your ARRL section (Eastern New York, or ENY, for most TARA members). A typical exchange may be something like "Number Forty-Five Alpha from Whiskey Delta Two Kilo Eighty-One Eastern New York". (Of course, the ARRL contest officials may not consider this particular exchange to be valid!)

There are two entry classes for Sweepstakes: single operator and multi-operator. Operators who are assisted by anyone else in any way, including logging, should enter in the multi-operator class. For multi-operator efforts to contribute to TARA's club score, at least TWO-THIRDS of the multi-op team must be TARA members. For either entry class, a maximum of 24 hours (of the total contest period of 30 hours) may be used. Off-times (of at least 30 minutes in length) must total at least 6 hours and be clearly indicated in the contest log. (Many of the computer logging programs out there DO NOT mark off times. It is up to the operator to fill this in!)

For logs containing more than 200 QSOs, a "Dupe Sheet" must be supplied along with the log, showing that duplicates have not been counted for points. (Stations may be worked only ONCE during each weekend in this contest.) Multipliers (U.S. and Canadian ARRL Sections) must be clearly marked in the log as well. EVERY entry must have a summary sheet attached to it with a signature attesting to the fact that all contest rules and amateur radio regulations were followed. (The official statement is included on every ARRL Sweepstakes summary sheet.) Also on the summary sheet is a tally of points and multipliers, as well as total score for the entry. All non-duplicate contacts count as two points, and each new ARRL section worked counts as a multiplier. Add up all the points, count up all the multipliers, and multiply the two together to obtain the total score. Separate summary sheets, logs, and dupe sheets are required for each mode submitted. (Unfortunately blank summary sheets and logs could not be included with this newsletter but they will be available at the October meeting.)

The club score is the grand total of all scores submitted by club members. As contest coordinators for TARA, we collect all the TARA entries and submit them together with a cover letter to the ARRL. Please send all Sweepstakes logs to us (not ARRL) by December 15, 1994 (or preferably, sooner) if you want your score to count for TARA! (Last-minute submittals for the previous years' Sweepstakes have turned Walt's hair even grayer!) Our address is as follows:

**Walter Legowski, WA1KKM**  
**6052 Old State Road**  
**Schenectady, NY 12303**

If you want participation pins, also send us a check payable to ARRL. Specify which mode(s) you are claiming your pin(s) for – they have different pins for CW and SSB. Also, if you work a "clean sweep" during either weekend (all 77 ARRL sections worked), you may order a Clean Sweep Coffee Mug for \$8.00. We hope to work you in November!  
*TN*

*Editor's Note:* If anyone has further questions about TARA's participation in the November Sweepstakes or HF contesting in general, please speak with either Walt, WA1KKM, or Sue, N2LBR, at the monthly meetings.

## The Bubba Report - October, 1994

Written By: Thomas "Bubba" Remmert, N2TTA

Hey, did you read Cousin Brucie's column last month? If not, get a copy of the *TARA News* and read it. I just love it when I hear people from other clubs say "Wow! Did you hear what they did over at TARA?"

I'm sure there will be mention in this issue of the upcoming November sweepstakes. As you know, the first full weekend in November is CW. Let's all make a pledge to get at least one CW contact in the log. If you're like me, you learned your CW on a computer and haven't made many CW contacts. Here's a chance to make some without having to worry about a rag chew. Let's plan to be on the Novice segments of 40 and 80 meters. Maybe we'll even get the famous King Kong's Mama in our logs on CW!!! *QST* is suggesting 3665-3705 and 7090-7130 as frequencies for slow speed code. All you need is to pass the 5 WPM test to have privileges here. There are test sessions coming up, so start practicing. Again, dig out last month's issue and re-read Uncle Bud's column on contesting.

It's great to see articles from different people in the Newsletter. Why not put something together to fill up some space for our editor? You don't have to worry about grammar, etc., we've got an assistant editor who can take care of that for you. How about some equipment reviews? I know someone got a new TS-850 not too long ago. I think some new advanced class ham is using an ICOM 736. How about writing about it instead of killing all those lemmings?

The holidays are fast approaching. This means an increase in NTS traffic. Let's try to have someone check in each evening on the Capital District Net as a representative from TARA. There may be some traffic coming up from Bubbaland and I'd hate to see someone from another club have to pick up traffic for TARA. If you're interested in being a regular "repeater rep" just contact Mr. Bill. A big advantage of this is being able to check in to the net ahead of the crowd of doubles and triples. This is a great job for some of the newer members.

Winter means more bad weather (at least for y'all up North). So, support your local ARES/RACES organization. If you're not an official member, why not sign up? Our own

Chief Ken Davis, KB2KFV, can help those of you in Albany County and Mr. Bill can put you in touch with the right people in Rensselaer County. (It's nice to see the continued teamwork between TARA and Albany ARES/RACES).

Now, for the lighter side of things, the following article appeared in the September 12, issue of *The Item*, Sumter's daily newspaper. I have sent a photocopy of it to Mr. Bill as proof that it is real.

### Bubbas, Bubbettes party

SUGAR TIT - She wore her red hair in pigtails with red ribbons and a red cap. Her patched-up overalls were fastened with rubber bands, a sign of not only her down-home roots, but her thrift.

"We recycle everything," said Deborah Lynn Hembree, 38, who can now be known as Queen Bubbette.

Hembree was crowned this past weekend at the second annual Bubbafest, a somewhat tongue-in-cheek celebration of at least part of the Southern lifestyle.

"I feel it's an honor because this is the way we are every day, not just on one day," Mrs. Hembree said.

"She's a country girl," said her husband, Chuck Hembree. "She's got a good head on her shoulders. She's made me a good wife."

The Hembrees live on Nipple Avenue in the festival's host community, an area known as Sugar Tit, though makers of South Carolina's official map are hardly courageous enough to note the Spartanburg County town's location.

Chuck Hembree competed for the King Bubba but he and nine other contestants lost to Bill Sexton, a toothless Bubba from the town of Moore.

The prizes for the king and queen were road kill spatulas.  
- Associated Press

### Welcome New Members

The membership of TARA is proud to announce its newest members to join our organization, the Pasquini's (Joe, N2NOU, Kathy, N2RKL, and the youngest member of TARA, Matthew Jonathan, no call yet!). We hope you will always find TARA to be a friendly and caring club. Thank you for your support.

*Mr. Bill, NY2U*

## Whisperings from the Rebel

Written By: Dave Watrous, WD2K

*Those of you that have participated in the Rip Van Winkle VHF/UHF contest have probably never heard just how this all came about, have you. Well Dave, WD2K, has decided to let us in on one of the Rippers better keep secrets.*

A couple of years ago, John, WA2FUZ, and I were yakking on 147.21 about the recent September VHF QSO Party. John, a well known proponent of frequencies above 50 Mhz, was trying as usual to convince me that contesting in the upper bands was the only way to go. I was maintaining that without expensive specialized equipment most of us were only fodder for the big guns. My contention was that it was not like HF where anyone with a wire and modest power can score well with a little effort. Those of us with handi talkies and small antennas can only give the big guns points in VHF/UHF contests. As the evening wore on I foolishly said that if anyone designed a contest that I could be competitive in I would participate. Not being wise enough to quit while ahead I went on to bemoan the fact that grid squares were too large to pile up multipliers and I was restricted to one mode in contests where power ruled the day. John listened patiently. When I said that the wave of new hams would be turned off and lost to contesting he reluctantly agreed. A true VHF/UHF fanatic, he saw the need to open the doors to new contest operators and before quitting for the night said "let me think about it".

With Sweepstakes coming up in a couple of weeks I forgot all about the conversation. One evening a week or so later I received a hand written notefrom John saying "Let me know what you think". Enclosed with the note was a beautifully designed and formatted entry form for "The Rip Van Winkle Winter VHF/UHF Sprint. Flipping the form over I found that my grid square was my telephone prefix. I was my

own grid square! Now that's a size I could deal with, but the big guns still had all the power and modes. But wait, this was an FM only contest! It had multipliers that took into account power ( nice touch ) , band characteristics ( humph ) and everyone not in my phone prefix. Let's see, a multiplier of 4 for five watts or less, now that works for me but still a kilowatt will bury me. If they use fifty watts or more and get fifty prefixes on two meters ( 50 ) times two points each for the two meter multiplier times a multiplier of zero for more than fifty watts is....., oh, I get it, they can't play! My immediate response to John was "let's do it."

We publicized the sprint and met with immediate success. The new folks turned out and participated! After congratulating John on a great idea, I said, " Oh, by the way, I figured out how to beat the system. I still have time to build a high gain antenna before the next sprint. Nice try but you forgot to keep me from studying the antenna book and legally beating the restrictions". John just looked at me with a big grin and said, "GOTCHA !"

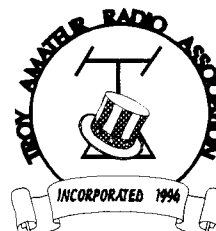
The enclosed entry form/rules may be a help in getting new hams involved. The Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Association Sprints are now held regularly. Anyone who can use the rules or improve them to foster new ham involvement in contesting is encouraged to do so. Maybe others will start with this on their way to being big guns.

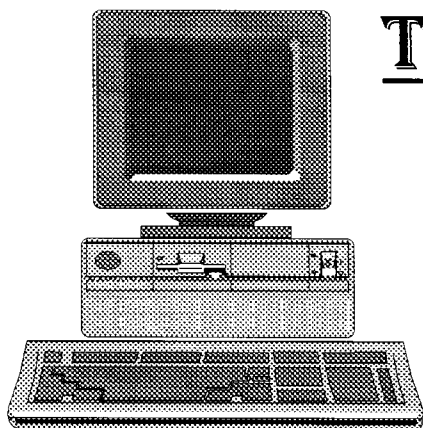
Another way to involve new and not so new hams in various activities is a challenge. Our club and the Troy Amateur Radio Association are in our third year of a club competition in

Sweepstakes. We've had a lot of fun., made a lot of friends and enjoyed Sweeps year round while doing it. This year the two clubs are sponsoring a "100 Countries in 100 Days" challenge. There are only two rules: 1 - All contacts must be made on a single band, in a single mode. CW, phone and digital modes are all included. 2 - All "finds" must be shared with others on the two club repeaters.

The folks at the Troy Amateur Radio Association developed and run a RTTYsprint in December. Many new hams have been attracted to RTTY and the other digital modes by their digital net on two meters and a locally sponsored contest. A copy of these rules are also attached. The two clubs have found that friendly ( and intense ) competition has fostered interest in the various aspects of our hobby.

The annual Pizza Party and Rumble has become a looked for event celebrating the friendship and spirit of working together that a little friendly competition can foster. Much of the pleasure of our hobby comes from sharing our enjoyment with others. A little imagination is all that is necessary to involve new comers in your favorite mode. Who knows, maybe you can grin and say "Gotcha!" to someone's "only the big guns can compete".





# **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**

This month we'll look at interfacing an HF rig to an IBM compatible computer. Most of the newer solid state rigs allow an interface to a PC. In my examples, I used a Kenwood TS-450S, but the same principles apply to the newer TenTec, Icom and Yaesu rigs.

Why hook up your HF rig to your computer? Well pretty soon, EVERYTHING will be hooked up to your computer, so you might as well start with the ham gear. There are many computer programs on the market, both commercial and shareware/freeware, that communicate with your rig. Many of today's logging programs can read the frequency and mode from your rig automatically. HamWindows Plus, which is available for Kenwood, Icom and Yaesu rigs, is probably the most sophisticated program on the market for controlling and logging. I'll go into some of it's features next month. You can download software from CompuServe's HamNet forum and the Ham Radio section of America On-Line. Many of the programs have been uploaded to Capital District BBS'. You can check with Stormy, N2VLS, for more info.

Before spending money on software (or download time), the first thing to check is the availability of an RS-232 port on your rig. For some reason, the rigs seem to use TTL voltage levels instead of the normal RS-232 levels. **DO NOT CONNECT YOUR RIG DIRECTLY TO YOUR COMPUTER** without first checking which level it uses. You will probably need some type of special interface or cable to make the connection.

There are basically two types of connections possible. The first, and cheapest, uses a cable with some electronics to convert the voltage levels. A popular cable is the J-Com which costs \$50-\$60. Recently J-Com was acquired by Ramsey Electronics (the kit makers). I ordered one from them, but eventually canceled the order when they reported an out-of-stock situation.

The other type of connection uses the "official" device supplied by the radio manufacturer. I ordered the Kenwood IF-232C interface. (ICOM has a CT-17 interface and Yaesu has an FIF-232C interface.) It consists of a "box" that requires 12V to operate and a cable to connect the box to the radio. I had to supply the box-to-computer cable. The IF-232C costs \$120. This seems like a lot more money than the J-Com cable, but I found that you get a lot more for your money. The Kenwood unit uses "opto-isolators" to connect the radio and computer. Basically, an "opto-isolator" uses a light source, such as an LED, that shines on a photo-resistor. The big advantage of this is that there is no hard-wire connection between the radio and the computer. This helps to reduce RFI.

Of course, you also need an available serial port on your computer. If you have an external modem, you can use an A/B switch to connect the HF rig to the same port as the modem. If you have a mouse and an internal modem, you may have some problems with interrupts. If you have a third serial port that can be configured as COM3 or COM4, you have a chance for success. If your modem is on COM2, use COM4 for the third port. If your modem is on COM1, use COM3 for your third port. You will NOT be able to use the modem and the rig control software at the same time. If you have used the modem since turning on your computer, I suggest that you turn the computer off then back on (don't just reboot) before using the rig control software. For more information on COM port conflicts, refer to previous issues of the TARA News. *TN*

## **Next month - a look at HamWindows Plus.**

**Editor's Note:** If anyone has a particular question that they would like to ask Tom, N2TTA, regarding computers, please forward your question to the address given above. Also you may send questions or articles to Tom via Stormy's, N2VLS, landline BBS system by calling STEAMER ONE BBS at (518) 753-7431. Many thanks to Stormy for allowing TARA use of his system so we may transfer articles electronically.

# The Voice of Ravena

Written By: Bruce Roberts, KA2HRM

*Now that a few of you have upgraded your license I thought I would give you a few places to find some interesting people and conversation. I hope you will enjoy them.*

HELLO RADIO! What does that phrase mean to you? Does it mean that someone is out there checking out his equipment? I guess so! I haven't heard that phrase in a long time. Have you ever reflected back over things that have happened since you became a ham? I used to listen to the good old boys on 75 meters and couldn't wait until I could join in with them. I hung out with a bunch of them on 3.938MHz LSB.

There was Greg, KK4XC, John Paul, Lucky, K4EBO, and Zemo, WA9ZMO, and a whole lot of others. The fun used to start about 10:00 PM and continue until the wee hours of the morning. I'll bet if you listen there at night, you will still find some of them there. I dropped in on the guys a while back and some of the old timers are still there along with some new people. There are more than one of these informal nets on HF. You could really be amazed at the amount of friends you can make here. Then, if you are lucky, you may have the chance to meet up with them at a hamfest someplace. I have had many offers to come visit and spend some time with many of the folks I have talked with.

There is a publication called the ARRL Net Directory. Included in this book are all of the nets that wished to have their net times, name and frequency published. They are listed in alphabetical order, frequency, and state. A lot of them are related to emergency operations and/or traffic. I have, over the past few years, been a member of the Cracker Net and The Maine Potato Net. These nets are on every night of the year. Also the 4 PM'ers are on every day. If you are an early bird, you can join in the Rooster

Net or maybe the Mug Club. You would really be surprised what is out there. There are missionary nets, computer nets and all kinds of interesting nets. There even used to be an Atari computer users net. This is one of the best buys the league has to offer at a steal of \$2.00 (plus tax). This publication is available from the TARA Bookstore. I guess my best advise to you is just to go and listen. You can find out how a net runs, is it a loosely run or very formal net, what time it is on, etc. You may decide that you don't like this type of activity. Every night on 3.953MHz m (give or take a few for QRM) at 8:00 PM is the Maine Potato Net. Usually your net control is either Phil, KA1DFY, or Ken, WB2ODU. I have even had the fun of being net control a few times. Remember if you become active in a net and become net control sometime, you should make a written net rooster. This will help you perform your duties more effectively, and record who was there in the net.

Another type of net you can listen to are the RTTY and AMTOR nets used by commercial news services. Some of these now are starting to use Pactor. There are a few publications, available by mail order, that list the times and frequencies used by some of these type services. I have not been overly lucky in finding some of them, but have come across a couple. These can either be very interesting, or strange. Don't get confused by the strange ones as some of the news services use coded type transmissions. I have monitored some ship to shore marine radio traffic. Boy, can that be fun. Sometimes these types of

transmissions are using two channels so you can only listen to one part of the conversation at a time.

Another interesting thing to listen to is GANDOR Radio. Listen in at 6.604, 10.051 and 3.485MHz. You can get the weather on the east coast by listening here.

Well, did I get anyone's interest yet? I sure hope so. There are all kinds of things to be heard out there. You may not think about it, but sometimes when you think that a band is dead, try listening to the heaviest amount of static. All of a sudden there are voices there. This is a trick that has been used for many years by some DX chasers. The band may be in a position so that it isn't open to us, but to another part of the world. The loud static is the sounds of the radio signals starting to come in. The DX chasers would wait and start to call when the band first started to open. By doing this they didn't get stuck in pileups. If you spend time listening around it is amazing how active a dead band can become in an instant.

I have enjoyed being part of many nets. I hope that maybe someone else out there may become a little further involved with another area of our hobby. I think that taking over as net control is as much fun as being part of the net. By looking at what you have written down in the net rooster, callsign, name, qth etc. you will help to retain other people's calls and names. It can be very rewarding later on. Well, as our old friend Elmer Fudd would say "That's all folks." Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

# The Finer Points of Sweepstakes

Written By: Walt, WA1KKM

*In preparation for this year's Sweepstakes Walt, WA1KKM (King Kong's Mama) shares a few of his contesting tips. Hopefully this article will better explain some of techniques the big guns have been using for years. Who knows, maybe you'll be the next contender to win the November Sweepstakes.*

The following tips have been scientifically tested over more than a quarter century and have been demonstrated beyond all doubt to generate more points for Sweepstakes (than what, we're not sure). These rules are intended for serious contesters, although many of them should be helpful for casual contesters as well.

The first and foremost rule of contesting is to make sure that all equipment and antennas are working properly well ahead of the contest. DO NOT install new equipment or antennas 10 minutes before the start of the contest. It either won't work at all, or it will not work properly, until many hours of operating time are lost searching for the connection you forgot to make because you were in such a hurry.

The second important rule is to know the strengths and weaknesses of your station. Which bands does your station do well on? Which bands are usually tough? Try to maximize your time on the bands where you have the best signal. (Hopefully, at this point in the sun-spot cycle, your best band isn't 10 meters!) Bear in mind that some multipliers may only be available on your difficult bands, so that at least some time should be spent hunting for multipliers on those bands. Don't waste your time calling stations that are not multipliers on bands where your signal is weak. What may take ten tries to work on a poor band may be gotten in one call on your best band. You could make nine band other contacts in the interim! If you have limited time to operate over the weekend, try to operate during the time when your best band is expected to be open. Also, if you have VERY limited time to operate, work as many TARA members as you can while you're on the air! This effectively makes your contact total count double for the club.

Rule 3 is that Rule 2 can be modified by unexpected solar and geomagnetic activity. Ten meters may suddenly open with 10-over-9 signals to VE8, KL7, and KH6 without any warning. More likely, however, your best band may become plagued by high absorption and S-1 signals due to a solar flare the day before the contest! At this point, you may wish to tough it out, or take some off-time to visit with your family.

The fourth rule is for time-off strategy. Operating 24 hours during a 30-hour contest period doesn't leave much time for luxuries, such as eating, sleeping, etc. Try to be well-rested before the contest. Avoid strenuous work (raking

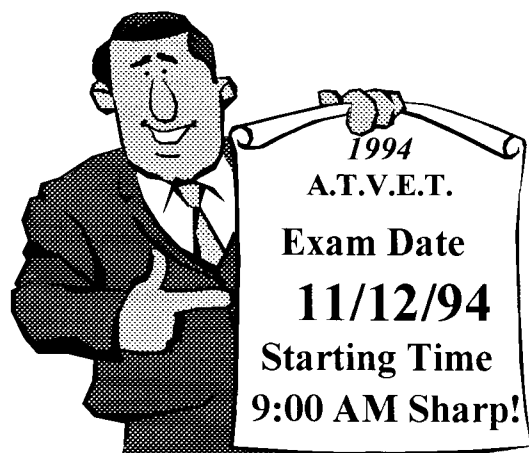
leaves, for example) on Saturday, before the contest starts. Have a good lunch around 2 or 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The best contact rate usually occurs during the first few hours of the contest, so you don't want to be taking your 30-minute dinner break until things slow down later in the evening. Sleep breaks are best taken after 3:00 AM, if you can last that long! That's only midnight on the West Coast (lots of good multipliers out that way!). Then, after a restful sleep of four hours, it's time to wake up by 7:00 AM to catch the early birds on 80 meters! This leaves you with 30 minutes for breakfast, 30 minutes for lunch, and 30 minutes for dinner on Sunday. (Any other luxuries you may desire must be squeezed in on your own time.) Memory keyers and digital voice recorders are helpful time-savers by allowing you to operate while eating, thereby allowing for a few extra minutes of sleep.

The fifth rule is that the contact rate is higher when calling CQ than when "searching and pouncing". Only call CQ on your station's best bands, since you'll need a good signal to hold the frequency. An added benefit of calling CQ is that many new multipliers will answer your call, reducing the need to hunt for those multipliers later. (This is in accordance with Rule 2 and 3. ) If you can't hold your frequency, search and pounce your way across the band try to call CQ again later in the contest.

The sixth rule regards contest logs. Make sure you have plenty of blank log sheets (and summary sheets) before the contest begins. If you plan to use logging software, practice using it well before the contest so that you're familiar with its capabilities. Also test the program while operating to uncover any RFI problems before the contest.

The seventh rule, and final rule, is to HAVE FUN. Contesting is supposed to be an enjoyable activity, and usually it is. For example, working a new state or province, cracking through a pile-up, or working 60 stations in an hour with 100 watts to a dipole can, and does, happen, and it can be a very satisfying experience. However, sometimes things just don't go the way we'd want: other stations have louder signals than we do, propagation is simply awful, the transmitter blows up in a final flame of glory, etc. Sometimes we can learn more about contesting when things go wrong than when everything goes according to plan. And then, there's always NEXT YEAR! *TN*





## Albany / Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

On Saturday, November 12, 1994 the Albany/Troy VE Team will be administering its last FCC exam session for this year 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 photo copies, calculator, pens and pencils to the exam. Our VE Team will provide all FCC 610 forms. Anyone needing special handicap arrangements are asked to call in advance. 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.

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

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

• ***Proudly Serving the Capital District Since 1984*** •

### VHF/UHF CONTEST CORNER

Written By: Gerald E. Jackson, N2QIP  
TARA VHF/UHF Contest Chairman  
Tel: (518) 272-5274

Well ga,ng the ARRL September QSO Party is now past history. Being on the air myself I heard several familiar calls. Whether or not you may have submitted a log, we do appreciate you getting in there and giving a contact. However, if you did log 25 contacts be sure to send in a log along with \$3.00 to receive your pin. The next ARRL VHF/UHF contest will be in January and I will give more details as the time approaches.

However, before then we have the Rippers Winter Sprint, which will take place January the 8th from 6 to 10 PM. The object is to work as many different stations and multipliers as possible using 2meter, 6meter and 70cm Fm bands. The exchange is your call sign and the first three digits of your phone number.

The reason this contest differs from others is because it is geared to the low power HT user. Power bonuses are given out as 26 to 50 watts = 1 point, 6 to 25 watts = 2 points, and 5 watts or less = 4 points.

We will have complete rule and log sheets available at the November meeting. So let's all get in there and show our support and have lots of fun at the same time. *TN*

### Normally 2 Quiet In Public What's Your Beef?

Written By: Gerald E. Jackson, N2QIP

This is what I intend to call my new column, due to the fact that many of us, myself included, will not speak up and communicate our feelings and ideas with fellow club members. The column will list short statements from you, the membership. These will be sent to me in an anonymous form, similar to what's your beef in the *Record*. The purpose of this column is not to degrade the club or its members, but to do just the opposite. Help us grow to become the friendliest group of hams in the northeast. We come from all walks of life, and are individuals with many different opinions. This fact made our country grow strong and proud. We can do the same thing with this precious gift for TARA. Let's give it a try! CUL 73s N2QIP send your statements to:

**Gerald E. Jackson**  
**16 Manor Blvd.**  
**Troy, N.Y. 12180**

## Country Hunting Tips from “DX Dave”

*With the big 100/100 DX challenge coming up, you guys at TARA need all the help you can get. So here we go with a few tips I've used for years for getting great DX contacts:*

1. Tuning up your antenna is most important. Find a frequency with a DX station that you need. Put your rig in “tune” mode if you have it, otherwise just put a brick on the CW key. Start at 10 watts, tune up, then go to full power and fine tune it. You may want to leave your rig in tune mode for about 60 seconds to be sure there's no drift. Tuning this way accomplishes a couple things: you are tuned on the exact DX frequency and you probably chased away some of the competition.
2. When calling DX, you should turn your mike gain up all the way and SHOUT. Yea, you might splatter a little, but that will chase away people on nearby frequencies who might interfere with your DX contact. Use your ALC meter function and see how fast you can “pin the needle.”
3. If the DX station gives someone else a less than “59” report, you know the guy must be really weak into the DX country. If the DX station turns the frequency back to the weakling, blow right over him with your signal. Most DX'ers miss this opportunity.
4. Force the DX station to give you a signal report before you give him his. If he gives you “59” give him “57” or “46” to let him know you've got a better rig and antenna than he does.
5. In a big pile up, do whatever you can to get the DX station to rag chew. After all, that's what ham radio is all about. If someone else gets into a conversation with the DX station and you still haven't “gotten” him, it's a good time to check your antenna tuning again.
6. If the guy has a bit of an accent, get him to repeat everything at least twice. Once you've exchanged signal reports, you can suggest English lessons.
7. When the DX station is in a country that the U.S. beat in a previous war, be sure to remind him of it.
8. Some DX stations ask for the “West Coast” or ask for contacts by call area. For example, if he's calling “QRZ fourth call area” just append “stroke 4” to your call sign. He'll never know.
9. If you really have problems getting through, start yelling “QRP” to get him to ask for QRP stations only. If he does, crank it up and give him a shout.
10. You can get his attention by using an exotic DX prefix and your own suffix. When he goes looking for the exotic DX station, jump right in.
11. As Tim Allen says on *Home Improvement*, **MORE POWER!** You've seen those ads for the amps that only need 65 watts drive to get 1500 watts out. What do you think happens when you drive them with 200 watts from an FT-1000?
12. Sometimes you'll hear other DX stations that you need make an exchange with the DX station holding the frequency. When you make your contact with the DX station, thank him, then in the same breath, call one of the other DX stations. Remember, you can always just end the contact by giving your call sign and saying “QRZ DX.”
13. If you think this is real, you qualify for a lifetime membership in RVWARS.

# 61st ARRL November Sweepstakes

4th Annual Club Challenge

## King Kong's Mama Ready for Action...Part III

It hardly seems like a year has gone by since the Evil Empire thrashed and humbled the little weenies from the Generic Club to the South, does it? With that in mind, can you think of a better way to start off the fall/winter months than by giving our dear little friends another taste of humiliation by beating them in the upcoming November Sweepstakes?

We would like to share with you a little excerpt from the Rippers Newsletter last year just prior to the contest. It reads as follows:

**"TARA FAILS TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE TAKE PART IN THE CONTEST TO SHARPEN OUR OPERATING SKILLS AND ENJOY THE SHARING OF PARTICIPATING WITH THE OTHER CLUB MEMBERS IN A MUTUAL EFFORT. THE LAST THING IN OUR MINDS IS HANDING THEM A HUMILIATING DEFEAT, THIS IS ONLY A FRINGE BENEFIT BUT ONE WE ARE SURE TO ENJOY."**

This article was written by none other than Dave "The

Rebel" Watrous, WD2K, or some of you might know him by "The Old Loop Meister."

It been amazing to hear the number of you that have upgraded your licenses and radio equipment over the summer months, just to ready yourselves for this contest. And some have added just a few finishing touches to the shack, right Glenn? Whatever the case may be, let's make sure we're all ready come contest time and show the Rippers just what a humiliating defeat is all about. Also, we are ever so close to breaking the 1,000,000 club score. With your help we could finally break it!!

Don't be surprised this year when you hear that gentleman that would "Kill For 2 Lousy Watts" smoking the airwaves gunning for top honors within the club, or better yet the Hudson Division. Look out Walt, he's serious!

If anyone has any questions about this contest please contact Walt, WA1KKM, or Sue, N2LBR. Come join the fun of contesting and be part of the TARA HF Attack Force.

### Sample of Exchange

EXCHANGE	NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	CALL SIGN	CHECK	SECTION
KF2LW	NR123	A	NY2U	84	ENY

#### 1.) Contest Period:

(A) *CW*- First full weekend in November 5-6

(B) *Phone*-Third full weekend in November 19-20

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

#### Suggested Frequencies(kHz)

*Phone*

*Nov.Phone*

1.855-1.865

3.850-3.950

7.200-7.250

14.250-14.30

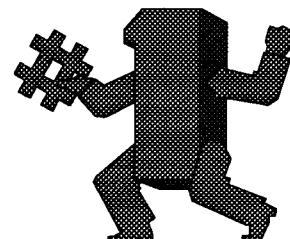
21.300-21.400

28.550-28.650      28.350-28.400

All Sweepstakes rules are on page 125 of October 1994 *QST*.

## "CleanSweep" Award

Once again the ARRL will be offering a beautiful red coffee cup with a gold-and-white design commemorating the prestigious "clean sweep" for those who manage to work all 77 Sections on CW or phone during the 1994 November Sweepstakes. To order, include a check or money order for \$8.00 with your log entry indicating "clean sweep."



## Beat The Rippers!

## News Of Our Neighbors

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

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

Who would have ever thought that you would hear Dave Watrous, WD2K, on a repeater utter such words as hard drives, DOS, phone modems, uploading and down loading. I know there are many on several repeaters that have heard this wise man state that he has no desire to use any computer at home, for any use! Well, that era has come to a complete halt. A little over a week ago, Dave "The Rebel," WD2K, informed us that he is now doing the Ripper's newsletter on a borrowed laptop computer.

The story doesn't just end here. You see, now Dave wants to try contesting, yes contesting, using his new little play toy. What ever brought on this change of events? Maybe both Skipper, KE2XF, and Paul, N2PEN, have secretly brainwashed Dave with all their talk of computers lately. What could be next for Dave? Maybe a little RTTY, Packet or BBSs!!

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

### *Albany County Emergency Services* Club Repeater: 147.12/R WB2ZCM

**A.C.E.S.**

Kathy, N2SQY, and the gang from Albany County RACES are gearing up for another fine year of exciting and interesting monthly meetings. At their October meeting they will host a SKYWARN class for those needing to get certified as a weather spotter. Officials from the National Weather Service of Albany will be on hand for this training session and those needing to get recertified should attend. Every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM Albany Co. RACES hold their weekly training session on the 147.12MHz repeater in Albany. These nets provide an excellent opportunity to familiarize yourself with RACES officials and receive on-the-air training.

Albany County RACES and TARA are jointly sponsoring a NoCode Technician Class in Green Island at Heatly High School starting Thursday evening, September 22., at 6:30 PM. This class is expected to last 8 weeks.

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

The Hamfest held back on September 10, 1994, wasn't the largest to date but it sure was the nicest as far as the weather goes. Millie Feeny, KV2A, reported in the recent issue of *Sparks From The Spa*, that the official attendance this year was 825 and the net profit was \$3,119.32. The weather turned out to be the best of the nine hamfests their club has sponsored. Last year they had an attendance of 900 and for 1992 they had 915. Kudos to Dave Atwell, N2FEP, who will be stepping down this year as hamfest chairman after nine successful years. The Yeasu handheld that RACES raffled off went to Leonard Frederick of Lion, NY.

RACES will sponsor a VE Session on Saturday, December 10, at 9:00 AM at the Solar Building.

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

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

**S.M.A.R.C.**

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

## News Of Our Neighbors

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

**R.C.RACES.**

John Clement, KA2VBI, has informed us that RACES now has in its possession the needed hardware and software to build up the new packet Go-Kits. These portable packet units, specially built for field use, will consist of newer Tandy 1200 computers and updated Paccomm Tiny II tics.

The necessary parts needed to rebuild the RACES repeater system have also been secured.

After a lengthy wait, several General Electric Master II mobile units are waiting to be re-outfitted for repeater use. All of these radios are capable of running 100 watts RF output power and they are completely solid state. Presently the 145.37MHz N2JXO repeater is running this same type of radio that was built for RACES by Doug Sharp, WB2KMY.

We still have no definite date when the EOC will 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.**

The repeater team from Albany is still hard at work building up the new repeater system that should soon be debuting. Just recently the guys were up on the mountain tweaking and tuning the older system until the new one is complete and ready for mountain top installation. The system will host a newly purchased repeater controller and offer more control operator flexibility than the present system. The receiver and transmit sections are being built from a solid state, Motorola Micor. If you've never tried the 145.19MHz KM2H repeater you'll love the excellent coverage it has throughout the Capital District.

Albany meets the second Friday of each month at the Colonie Community Center off of Central Avenue. Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. with a social gathering, followed by the regular meeting beginning at 7:30 PM. To get more information about Albany A.R.A. please call Ernie Popp, KA2HTU, at (518) 477-9581. TN

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

**S.A.R.A.**

I hope all of you enjoyed yourselves at the Schenectady ARA Annual Auction that was held on October 3, 1994. I know many of you were on best behavior and even showed no self control when it comes to impulse buying, but from all accounts so far it seems like everyone did well. With one weak moment Kenny, KB2KFV, could empty the place in a matter of minutes! Just ask Marilyn, KB2JZI!

ask Marilyn, KB2JZI!

This year's Schenectady Air Show came off without a hitch and there were 42 local amateurs to help with communications. Ray Wemple, KA2DMV, and his crew covered both the commercial bands as well as the amateur bands on both Saturday and Sunday. Two of TARA's members, Stormy, N2VLS, and Ken, N2RXO, were net control operators.

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 that 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 exam dates to round out the year on 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

## 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 BBS's available in this area for the serious computerized amateur operator. Access is by telephone line (landline) using a modem. Each of the two systems shown in this article are unique to its 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 - 28,800bps VFC

- **BPQKIS01.ZIP** KA9Q's JKISS for the Z80
- **CBLTNC30.ZIP** Packet Terminal Program by KE6CL
- **CMDSHELP.ZIP** MS-DOS JNOS commands help text files
- **DWELLE.ZIP** Duetsch Welle SWBC Sked '94/95 revised 09/19/94
- **FLOGGER!.ZIP** Field Day logging Program by KC6NSE
- **HCJB.ZIP** HCJB SWBC Sked effective 09/07/94
- **ID\_NA491.DOC** ID Logic NA Simulator Description
- **ID\_NA491.ZIP** ID-Logic AM/FM Simulator for Windows 3.x
- **ID\_SW491.DOC** ID Logic SW Simulator Description
- **ID\_SW491.ZIP** ID-Logic SW Simulator for Windows 3.x
- **ID\_WT491.DOC** ID Logic World-Time Clock description
- **ID\_WT491.ZIP** ID Logic World-Time Clock
- **JNOS110G.EXE** MS-DOS JNOS v1.10g executables
- **JNOS110G.ZIP** MS-DOS JNOS v1.10g source code
- **JVFAX70.ZIP** JvFax v7.0 Fax/SSTV program by DK8JV \*LATEST\*
- **PFQ0918.ZIP** VK2PFQ President's address / WICEN News
- **STARV600.ZIP** Domestic satellite location pgm v6.0 by KB8BMQ
- **TSTH\_137.ZIP** TstHost v1.37 TNC2 program w/Host mode by IK1GKJ
- **UPD110G.ZIP** Source to update MS-DOS JNOS v1.10f to v1.10g
- **VESTER\_E.ZIP** SSTV/Fax480/WeFax by K3BC
- **WM940805.ZIP** Wampes 940805 - unzip,mv-2-unix,ren wm940805.tar.gz
- **WN940815.ZIP** Turbo C source WNOS940815 of KA9Q TCP/IP for PC clones

*Author's Note:* The files list is shown with the names listed as received. On STEAMER ONE the file compression format is changed from .ZIP to .ARJ. Otherwise they are the same programs.

## An Over-the-Dash H-T Mount

Used with permission of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. and QST Magazine

By Herbert Leyson, AA7XP  
670 Wood Crest Dr  
Springfield, OR 97477

When I purchased my Radio Shack HTX-202 hand-held transceiver (H-T), operating 2-meter FM from a fixed location became a thing of the past. The portability of my H-T was wonderful and its rubber duck antenna was easy to manage on my patio! When I decided to try mobile operating, I quickly learned that I had nowhere to put the H-T when I wasn't using it--except in my lap!

My search for a suitable mounting position began. The radio had to be in front of me so I could easily change frequencies without taking my eyes off the road for more than a few seconds. The radio had to be within the length of my speaker/microphone cable. The H-T could not block my view of the instruments and it had to be mounted securely, yet easily released for out-of-vehicle action.

I located a good position on my dashboard. The radio would fit nicely just to the right of the instruments. The problem was how to mount it. I considered a handle secured to the dash with screws. The H-T's belt attachment could slip right over it. Not a bad idea, but I wasn't keen on drilling holes in the dashboard. I kept searching.

I soon discovered that I could hang my H-T in the desired position by using a rectangular wire loop covered with plastic tubing (see Fig 1). But how would I anchor the loop? Then I saw the air vents behind the windshield and my problem was solved. I hooked the loop into the air-vent slots and the H-T's belt clip attached to the end of the mount. The weight of the H-T held the entire mount in place (see Fig 2).

### Construction

All you need is about three feet of stiff wire (I used a coat hanger) and two feet of 1/4-inch plastic tubing. The total cost is about a dollar and it will take you 20 to 30 minutes to assemble the mount once you find a suitable location. The dimensions of the loop will vary according to the depth of your dashboard and the size of the belt clip on your H-T. I found that the fin hooks had to be long enough to prevent vibrations from bouncing the mount from the vents. In my case, the dashboard saddle was 8 1/2 inches long. I used a drop length of three inches for

eye-level height on the dash. The hanger portion of my mount is two inches in length.

With the H-T attached to the mount, I can use the rubber duck antenna, or attach a coaxial cable to my 5/8-wavelength mag-mount antenna on the roof. My cigarette lighter is close by for power and the cables provide a "bounce guard" to protect the dash. If you can't prevent bouncing in this manner, add a trapeze onto the hanger bar and use a small piece of foam rubber to act as a cushion between the H-T and the dash. If you encounter too much left-to-right sway, spread the fin hooks for a firmer grip. Remember: Thread the plastic tubing onto the loop before you form the fin hooks!

## New Ham Plates Arrive in New York

New call sign license plates for New York State amateurs started arriving shortly after Labor Day. The new plates bear the words "AMATEUR RADIO", a tower, and morse code "CQ DE" followed by the owner's call sign. For the first time, these plates are also available for commercial vehicles and the handicapped. The Tryon Amateur Radio Club of Gloversville had been instrumental in the development of the distinctive red, white, and blue ham tags, similar to the new vanity plates issued for sports teams and counties. Shipment of the first batch of plates followed delays to correct design flaws and proposed new legislation that would have increased the cost. Ham plates are issued pursuant to Section 401 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, which also covers EMTs, volunteer firemen, and other public service/public safety volunteers. The law calls for an initial plate charge of \$18.00 and an annual \$5 surcharge. Holders of the old 1986 issue "Statue of Liberty" call sign plates may exchange them for the new ones for \$13.00. A bill introduced in the New York State Legislature last Spring would have modified the state V & T law and increased the cost of the new plates. The flawed bill was withdrawn thanks to some "behind the scenes" efforts by State Government Liaison Phil Bradway, KB2HQ. Those wishing to apply for the new license plates should file both the MV-82 vehicle registration form and the "Emergency Services Special Plates" application, form MV-411. More information may be obtained from Linda Houston at the DMV's Albany office at 518/473-7719 or by calling 1-800/364-PLATE.

---

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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

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Troy Amateur Radio Association

PO Box 584

Latham, NY 12110

place

label

here

Bill

NEXT MEETING:

**October 18, 1994**

Green Island Municipal Bldg.

7:30 PM