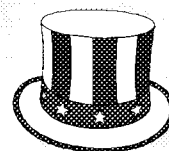


# THE TARABLE FACTS



ISSUE TWO

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY

1993

## DEFECTIONS !

On the night of January 17, 1993 an elite force of TARA commandos infiltrated the ranks of the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society.

Under the command of Bodacious Billy, the RATS of TARA (Reconnaissance And Tactical Squad) went about their mission.

Under the cover of friendly merriment, the menu selections were made. The chefs of Four Brothers did a stupendous job of delivering the many choices in short order.

After four hours of hearty conversation and the opposition full and content with the festivities of the evening, the RATS made their move.

Skillfully and methodically they moved towards their predefined targets which had been identified during the briefing. With the information obtained over many months of espionage, and computer generated profiles of possible defectors, there were no mistaken targets.

While the names cannot be released as of yet for fear of reprisals, let it be said that the RATS were successful and the membership of TARA has increased.

R.A.T.S.



## THE GHOST OF I-90

While the Rippers have their stories of Rip Van Winkle and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow ensconced in local folklore, TARA may not be far behind in adding a legend of their own.

The legend was conveyed as follows, and no changes have been made.

It was a cold dark wintry night with snow squalls moving through on a brisk Northwesterly wind. As a lonely westbound car approached the rest stop area on Interstate 90 after just leaving the B-1 Toll Plaza, a vision, blurred by the blowing snow, appeared.

During a return trip to Troy from a night at the Four Brothers, it happened !

A very heated discussion on the merits of females finally making it into Government Service erupted between a TARA member and a female passenger.

The sight of a wheelchair going about 60 miles per hour along side of a car must have been too much for anyone to even think of stopping.

The legend has begun to spread far and wide that on blustery, snowy winter nights, a wheelchair can be seen merging into traffic at the end of the ramp from the Interstate 90 Rest Stop.

So let this be sufficient warning to anyone to have the misfortune of looking in the rear view mirror and seeing a wheelchair slowly gaining on them -PLEASE DON'T STOP!

## Presidents Report...de NY2U

Over the last month the club has received many complimentary remarks about our new newsletter and editor. I also would like to join the many in thanking Jack, N2LBZ, for not only taking this position, but the outstanding job with last month's newsletter. I can hardly imagine what he might try next with it. Also, thanks go out to Bob, N2LUD, for offering to be the publisher and Jimmy, KB2LNG, who will be assisting in the photography department when things get rolling. Just for the records, both offered to pick up the whole job of newsletter editor; before they knew Jack, N2LBZ had already offered.

As long as we're thanking people I better thank Jack's family for putting up with me. They didn't know I was part of the newsletter package. In particular to Tara (Jack's Sweet Daughter) for allowing us to use the phone line (TARA Line...) after midnight to download files with your father. We wouldn't want to tie up the hotline; would we Jack? To my "DEAR FRIEND" Ellen, I thank you for accompanying both Jack and myself to the rumble party this past month. The conversation was simply delightful and certainly enlightening, to say the least!

I hope all of you have been observing how the day light hours are increasing each day now. What could this mean? Well first off, if Old Man Winter gives us a break, we just might be heading downhill towards Spring. Secondly, if we think about the Springtime, we better start making plans for Field Day 93. Yes, believe it or not we are that close that we must start making plans for this year. The other evening Jack, N2LBZ, and I had a chance to ask Skip, KE2XF, if he would take the challenge of heading up our field day efforts again this year. Unfortunately for the club, Skip denied, saying he would like someone else to try it out this year. All of us certainly know of the amount of time Skip put into this effort last year and the club owes you allot for this. Ok, so where does this leave us? We need someone that would like to take on the responsibility of organizing field day operations for 1993. Remember Skip already did the hard work at making all the connections

needed for most of the events. Anyone that's interested please contact either Bill, NY2U, or Jack, N2LBZ.

I hope all those that made the trek down to the rumble this past month enjoyed themselves. The hospitality shown by the *Ripper's* and the fine people at the Four Brothers made for fantastic evening of fun and laughs.

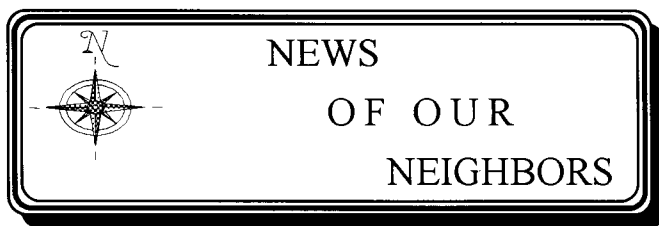
One last little item that has been sticking in my mind all month is the fact that Clayton, KB2LSQ, hasn't gotten stuck with his truck all month. Now that's a chore for him lately! Keep up the good work Rocket Man.

## Handheld Clinic...de WA2GBO

Has any of you ever been told you might be over deviating that handheld or mobile radio you're using? I'm sure you have at least heard, if not experienced that voice that comes on and says, "*Get that radio checked old man your over deviating.*" Better yet, while unsuccessfully being able to access the local autopatch you here someone scream, "*Get those tones checked!*" I know being a repeater operator that this sometimes can make the hair on your head stand up straight. If you're interested in knowing that your radio meets all the proper modulation, power output and touch tone levels plus a few more, be at the next meeting. I will have the necessary testing equipment on hand to evaluate your radio of these important functions. However, please keep in mind I will only test your radio for you. The time wouldn't warrant me to pop open each handheld and make the necessary adjustments. Even if you only come an observe the procedures and test equipment we use you'll benefit from this clinic. I hope to unveil a brand new piece of test equipment if all goes right. See you at the meeting.

### VHF/ UHF Contest

It seems quite a few club members enjoyed the recent ARRL VHF/UHF Sprint. Please make sure to send your logs to Stan, WA2BAH, for review. When filling out the log sheet make sure you enter the club name



## **Albany Amateur Radio Association**

The Albany *B-Plus* has posted the next few meetings of their club for this year (1993) and they have a pretty hard act to follow. February will continue to be their yearly auction and what more can be said about a chance to find some neat goodies at a great price. As March rolls in, so does John Makuch, NC1E, from the Amphenol Corporation, to speak about RF connectors (word has it that Dave, WB2HKR will be helping John solder on PL-259 connectors as a demo...). Have you ever wanted to speak with one of those guys from the other side of the world about DX'ing? Well, here is your chance at the March meeting, when AARA introduces one of their very own members Swen, DL1ZR, who will be speaking about hamming in "DL" land. Rounding out the schedule before summer break will be the yearly dinner and awards banquet in May.

If you don't want to miss any of these meetings then you better mark your calendar right now. AARA hold their meetings on the second Friday of each month at the Colonie Community Center, Central Avenue, Albany. Meetings start at 7:15 for the social hour, followed by the business meetings at 7:45 PM. If you would like more information about AARA please call Ernie Popp at (518)477-9581.

## **Albany County R.A.C.E.S.**

What a welcome it was to see the all new newsletter put out by Albany RACES this past month (Jan. issue). Their new editor, Joe Pasguini, N2NOU, has taken the assignment of producing a bimonthly newsletter called the 'DISPATCH'.

with the hopes of a monthly letter when funds become available. If everything goes right they just might have that funding now. Everyone from this organization is very proud of their new newsletter and the job Chief Radio Officer, Bob Daigneault, WB2ZCM, has done over the last year at recruiting new members.

On January 5, 1993 Albany County RACES held their first organizational meeting of the new year at the Samuel S. Stratton Veteran Administration Medical Center with around 23 in attendance. Some of the new officers to fill the thirteen radio zones for Albany are; N2CKV - Colonie, KB2KFV - Green Island, WA3RKB - Town of New Scotland, N2RBY - Town of Bethlehem, and WA2QCY - City of Albany. The Chief Radio Officer will be Bob, WB2ZCM and Frank, WB2HKU will serve as Deputy Radio Office for RACES.

The next monthly meeting for Albany County RACES will take place on February 2, 1993 in the V.A. Medical Center, starting at 7:30PM. Why don't you catch the next meeting and help the gang start this new year off right!

## **Rensselaer County A.R.E.S. / R.A.C.E.S. Association**

In the last issue of the RACES newsletter they spoke of the hopes of having RACES up and running for field day. Last year they had plans to go to the New York State RACES bunker and work FD from there, but things never developed. Right now Chief Radio Officer Neil Anderson, N2LOD is looking for all those that would be interested in getting things planned well in advance; to avoid a repeat of last year. At the time of this newsletter there is no definite location yet.

Any member of RACES that would like to drive the brand new communications van for the county must go through a rigorous training program before getting certified. If you would like to become one of the volunteer drivers on this team please contact C.R.O Neil Anderson, N2LOD or Assistant Radio Officer George Bowen, N2LQS for further details

RACES is still waiting for the final move of radio equipment from their present basement location in the county court house annex to the all new jail in South Troy. Presently, everyone else has move into the new jail and only county dispatch remains at its old location. They will need several volunteers to help with this move as soon as the date becomes established.

Are you wishing to learn more about RACES in Rensselaer County? Then please attend one of their monthly meetings that are held on the campus of HVCC, Fitzgibbons Hall, Room 101. Meeting nights are always on the second Wednesday at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise announced. Come join the Premier RACES Organization of The Northeast. Those needing additional information should contact Neil, N2LOD, at home (518)674-8904.

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

The Ripper's are reviewing the contest logs submitted in this year First Annual RVWARS VHF/UHF Sprint that was held back on January 9, 1993 and hopes to have the results soon. We'll print these results in the next issue of the *Tarable Facts*. Hopefully, John, WA2FUZ, will type the results for Dave, WD2K, so he doesn't make any errors. Now were not saying that Dave, has made any typing errors like reporting that T.A.R.A. has a repeater on 449.150 MHz! I Guess in the future we'll send Official NTS Traffic to get it right with the "Old Man" or excuse me, "Dave The Unit" (Ask him how he got that name!).

RVWARS can be quite proud of Dave, WD2K, for taking on another assignment of helping Albany County RACES present "On The Air" Morse Code practice over the 147.12/R in Albany. In a phone interview with Dave, on Saturday Jan.30th he stated, "I couldn't have done another year of this code practice without the strong backing from my close partner in crime, Mr.Bill." Isn't that right Dave? In addition, he wishes to extend, on behalf of the whole RVWARS organization a hearty "Thank You T.A.R.A."; to all those that attend the second rumble.

If you've been waiting for one of those important type of meetings to attend this year then the February meeting fits the bill. RVWARS has been invited to the New Public Service Building for a complete inspection of this facility. They credit Wayne, N2ROR, dispatcher for the county, for arranging this meeting and the chance to meet with the county officials that will be in attendance. This meeting could very easily be one of the more important meetings of the year! Mark your calendar now for February 15, and talkin will be on the 147.21/R. Those with further questions are requested to contact Dave Watrous, WD2K, at home (518)732-7532.

### Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

On February 1, 1993, S.A.R.A. had the 'Big Guns' in town for their monthly meeting. Heading up this evening were Steve Mendlesohn, WA2DHF, *Hudson Division Director* of the ARRL and Paul Vydareny, WB2VUK, *Hudson Division Vice Director & Eastern New York Section Manger* with information regarding both league and issues of general interest as it effects our hobby.

The club is asking all those that us the 147.06/R (K2AE) during inclement weather to **PLEASE...PLEASE...make short transmissions**; so that anyone needing the repeater for emergency traffic will have access. This is a very important message for 'ALL' repeater users!

If you would like to attend a monthly meeting of S.A.R.A., they take place on the first Monday, at 7:00PM, at Linton High School. Linton High School is located on McClellan Street and The Plaza in Schenectady. For additional information about S.A.R.A. please contact Don Walsh, WA2TSW, at (518)355-0362.

### Schenectady Museum Amateur Radio Association

Things are looking pretty good these days over at the S.M.A.R.A. club station (WB2CRZ) located in the Schenectady Museum. Pete Harvey,

WB2FWK, and other members of the amateur community, are setting plans that should catapult this club well into the 90's. Work parties have already repaired or replaced antenna's and station equipment as needed. Many of you might of heard from WB2CRZ, during the VHF Sweepstakes in January.

If you have any free time on your hands I'm sure S.M.A.R.A. would like to hear from you; as they always welcome new amateurs. Hopefully, at our next monthly meeting we can get Pete, WB2FWK, to give us some more information on this organization. For those who can't wait till the next meeting to find out when the work parties are held, or what other assistance you could offer, may call Pete at home (518)664-2188. All of us at T.A.R.A. can be very proud of having one of our members contributing as much to the hobby and the community as Pete has been doing. Keep up the great work and if our club could ever be of assistance, please let us know.

### SoVARC

SoVARC started the new year off with election of officers at the monthly meeting in January. Also, plans were to have a packet demonstration for those interested in the new digital communications. Oh boy, maybe they'll promote Rtty and Amtor a little at the same time.

Al, WA2FQL will be on hand doing what he likes best...building and demonstrating 2-Meter Quad antennas for all those interested. The only bad thing with having Al start talking about antennas is he just may never stop! Only kidding Al, we know you love those antenna projects.

The VE Team Liaison for SoVARC for the next few months will be Bob Moeller, KA1PXF. Micky Corrow, N1JIF will serve as the team contact person. It looks as though SoVARC and those from NoBARC will be joining forces to administering exams every month throughout 1993.

Those of you in the Vermont area please make arrangements to make the next meeting of SoVARC on February 23, 1993, at the Bennington Public Library, Bennington, Vermont. Those in

need of further assistance should contact SoVARC President Randy Gates, at home (802)375-1263.

### Saratoga County R.A.C.E.S.

In the February issue of *Sparks From The Spa* they have announced two new award programs that will take place this year. The first award voted upon by the membership will be presented to "**Amateur Of The Year.**" They point out that this is not a popularity contest but should be bestowed upon an individual who has shown outstanding service to the hobby, to public service and the club. The award will be a handsome framed certificate; a check for \$100.00 and the recipient becomes Chairman of the Award Committee for next year. The presentation for this award will take place at the May meeting.

The second award being presented in two categories; one for "**Outstanding Public Service**" and a second for "**Commendable Public Service.**" The winners will both receive certificates and the Outstanding Public Service Award winner will receive one year free dues to the club. These awards cannot be presented until next year when they will have a full year of public service records to determine the winner by. We'll post the winners in the *Tarable Facts* as soon as we hear about it.

The February 8, 1993, meeting for RACES had the crew from Talking Amateur Radio on hand to give a presentation about their new endeavors. Those interested in attending one of Saratoga County RACES meetings they meet in the Solar Building on East High Street (Route 67) in Ballston Spa. Meetings generally start around 7:30 PM but get there a bit early and meeting the fine folks from the North of us. Those needing additional information please contact Millie Feeny, KV2A at home (518)587-7794.

### OUR SYMPATHY

T.A.R.A. would like to extend our *Deepest Sympathy* to the family of Mrs. Murial H.Davis, mother to Kenny Davis, KB2KfV. Mrs. Davis passed away after a brief illness at Leonard Hospital in Troy.

In December we learned of a Silent key which many of our membership knew. On December 12, 1992, Jeffrey Uline, KB2GPK, was stricken at his home suddenly. Jeff was very active with Rensselaer County A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. along with other volunteer associations; most notably, The Boy Scouts of America.

### **EMPIRE OF THE AIR: THE MEN WHO MADE RADIO**

A Preview as submitted by  
Gerald Murray, WA2IWW

*This article originally appeared in the  
January 1992 edition of The TARable Facts*

Empire of the Air: The Men Who Made Radio is a well-crafted narrative of the development of radio, viewed by author Tom Lewis as a classic Greek tragedy containing elements of "anger and distrust, hubris and blindness, and destruction and death".

Professor Lewis teaches English at Skidmore College and has spent 14 years developing the book, film, and radio program Empire of the Air. This effort began in 1977 when Lewis' wife Gillian gave him a newspaper article on Edwin Armstrong. Lewis became fascinated with Armstrong and tried to learn as much as possible. However, he was frustrated with the lack of commonly available information on "The Men Who Made Radio". Mr. Lewis' extensive source notes hint at his extraordinary efforts to research this story.

The film was produced by documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, whose earlier productions include Brooklyn Bridge (no relation to the current Gary Goldberg series on CBS-TV), The Shakers, and the highly acclaimed PBS series The Civil War. Professor Lewis co-produced Empire of the Air with Burns and previously served as Director of Research for Brooklyn Bridge, as a writer for The Shakers, and as a consultant for The Civil War.

Readers should be advised that the book and film are not technical in nature (however some fascinating footage of spark-gap transmitters and receivers in operation does appear in the film). The story mentions only in passing some of the stars and programs which formed "the Golden Age of Radio". Instead, Lewis tells the stories of deForest, Armstrong, and Sarnoff as they helped to create a new world of radio, while driven by the ancient qualities of "idealism and imagination, greed and envy, ambition and determination - and genius".

Many of the events described have been generally unknown, and many other accounts dispel several myths (some of which have been widely held for decades). These items include:

- a. the story of men who overcame great odds; Lee deForest, the son of a minister who ran a black college in the Deep South during the Reconstruction Era.; and David

Sarnoff, who emigrated from Russia with his family, encountered anti-Semitism, and eventually rose to the presidency of RCA, the world largest communications company;

- b. the actual role of wireless telegraphy during and after the sinking of the Titanic in 1912;
- c. the 20 year legal battle between Lee deForest and Edwin Howard Armstrong over the invention of the regenerative circuit (which was the longest running patent litigation in U.S. history;
- d. Edwin H. Armstrong's conquering of static through the use of frequency modulation, even though conventional wisdom held that FM would not reduce noise (one engineer even had mathematical "proof" that increasing bandwidth in FM systems would increase noise);
- e. the reasons behind the FCC's 1945 decision to shift FM broadcasting from 42-50 MHz to 88-108 MHz;
- f. RCA's corporate commitment under David Sarnoff to develop television and color television; and
- g. lone inventor Edwin Howard Armstrong's FM patent-infringement suit against corporate giant RCA, which he believed would last "until I'm dead or broke".

The book and file are enthusiastically recommended for all ages and audiences, both in and out of the amateur radio community.

#### **BOOK-Empire of the Air: The Men Who Made Radio**

Written by : Tom Lewis  
Published by : Edward Burlingame  
Books/Harper  
Collins, \$25.00

#### **FILM-Empire of the Air: The Men Who Made Radio**

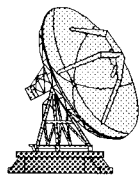
A Ken Burns Film

Produced by: Ken Burns, Morgan Wesson and  
Tom Lewis

Written by : Geoffrey Ward  
Narrated by : Jason Robards  
Edited by : Paul Barnes  
Associate Editor : Yaffa Lerea  
Interviews with: Garrison Keillor, Red Barber,  
Frank A. Gunther (W2ALS), and Robert M.  
Morris (W2LV)

2 hours

(program is expected to be rebroadcast on WMHT, Schenectady (Channel 17) in the near future. Consult your local program listings for date and time)



## THE SATELLITE PRIMER

de WA1KKM

This series of columns is intended to share some of the experiences that I have had becoming operational on OSCAR 13 recently. Hopefully, this information will be of benefit to those of you who may want to try this challenging, but exciting, mode of amateur operation. I first became involved with amateur satellite communications back in the early 70's with OSCAR 6. In those days, signals off the satellite were so marginal that most QSO's were done contest style (call sign, signal report, and QTH), with CW the predominant mode. The orbit of OSCAR 6 was quite low, similar to the Russian satellites of today, so that a typical pass was only about 10-20 minutes long. An operator's CW skills had to be in peak form to make the most of each pass!

Twenty years and seven satellites later, the progress in technology is clearly in evidence. The orbit of OSCAR 13 is sufficiently high that a typical pass last several hours, and ragchewing is now the norm. SSB is now the predominant mode, although you can still hear a few diehards on CW. The high orbit of OSCAR 13 also allows stations almost half-way around the world from each other to communicate on VHF/UHF. During some passes, you can work stations from Japan and Europe simultaneously in a three-way QSO!

The high orbit also has its down side, however. Working OSCAR 6 required no special antenna systems or rotators, but working OSCAR

13 does. Due to the fact its orbit is so high, it is necessary to point high-gain antennas directly at the satellites to hit it. This requires antenna rotation in two directions; azimuth and elevation. It also requires knowledge of where in the sky the satellite will be at a given time, so you know where to point your high-gain antennas with those fancy rotators! Satellite tracking software is normally used for this purpose, although I have managed to make all of my contacts on OSCAR 13 so far without any. I listen for the beacon (on 145.810 MHz) to ascertain if the satellite is within range, and then maneuver the antennas to peak the signal.

Onboard the satellite, a "transponder" receives signals in the "uplink" frequency range and retransmits them in the "downlink" frequency range. A transponder can be thought of as a repeater that has a range of frequencies for input and output instead of a single frequency pair. The downlink for "Mode B" operation on OSCAR 13 is 145.825-145.975 MHz, while the uplink is 435.42-435.57 MHz. OSCAR 13 can also operate in modes other than Mode B, but using these modes requires equipment that operates in the GHz range. My station is set up to work Mode B, and so discussion will be limited to that mode in what follows.

OSCAR 13's antenna orientation is constantly changing as the satellite tumbles through space. This can cause deep fading of signals if the polarization of the station on Earth is fixed either vertically or horizontally. This problem can be minimized by using circularly polarized antennas, which always have a component of polarization in the same direction as the satellite's antennas at any instant of time. Of course, two circularly polarized antennas are necessary, one for the uplink and one for the downlink.

Next month's installment will describe the details involved in setting up a Mode B satellite station for working OSCAR 13. Information on antennas, coax, connectors, and other equipment will be discussed. The following month's installment will provide information on operating techniques for using all that specialized equipment!

## Ham License Plates..de KB2KFV

After a discussion with a supervisor at Special Registrations of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles concerning "HAM OPERATOR" plates for commercial vehicles, they advised me that the special registration program does not have a provision for "HAM OPERATOR" plates. In fact, there are no other provisions except for passenger vehicles at this time.

Being very helpful, this supervisor informed me that D.M.V. Commissioner Patricia Adduci is very receptive to special registration groups that write to her in large quantities concerning their special needs. Quite often she responds positively to good suggestions.

I have composed a form letter with the hope that all "Hams" with commercial vehicles will fill out and send a copy to Commissioner Adduci. Feel free to make photocopies of this letter and distribute it to others that could help this cause. This letter may not guarantee "Ham" plates for commercial vehicles, but it sure might be a step in the right direction. ---- 73 --- Kenny, KB2KFV

(EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE LETTER ON SEPARATE PAGE.)

## Crystal Set For W1AW?

How many of you have been in the situation where you had someone very interested in getting their amateur license, but they didn't have anything to hear the ARRL CW code practice bulletins on. I know all of us try our best to help, but you just cannot tell someone to take your front line station for code practice either. Well, the ARRL has come through with the best solution to this problem. In this month QST, on page 56, they announced a complete kit you can purchase for just \$29.95 (Plus \$3.25 UPS Shipping)! Oh, I know some of you 'junk box freaks' are twiggling at the thought of spending \$29.95 for such a project, but they even have something that will make you happy. This kit includes: a two-IC, fixed-tuned direct conversion receiver that will get you listening to W1AW on either 80, 40 or 20 meters. Now, if your one of those 'junk box freaks' you can purchase just the PC board for \$6.50 postpaid; I told you they had something to keep you happy. One more important feature, these units are expandable into a low-power (QRP) transceiver! This surely would make a fantastic project to build during a novice

class or just a weekend project with that new potential amateur.

If there were enough that would like to purchase this little radio we could see about a possible quantity discount. Please let Mr. Bill, NY2U, know if you're interested and we'll order a few of them.

## News From Newington

In your February issue of *QST*, please take particular notice of two new changes that have been added to this magazine. First, is a new section dedicated to the newly licensed amateur; it's called *New Ham Horizons* (refer page 55, QST). Now, this isn't the first time that the ARRL has addressed articles for those new to the hobby, but, this by far has been the best approach since I've been reading *QST*. Within this section there are twelve pages of information covering handy operating hints, easy construction articles, practical advice and entertaining personal experiences. So, if you've recently just received your ticket, look for *New Ham Horizons* by Steve Ford, WB8IMY, each month and if you have any suggestions drop him a note to let him know what's on your mind.

The second change to the pages of *QST* will be a monthly section simply called, *Amateur Radio World*, which will bring us reader's more intune to what's happening throughout the world of amateur radio. This section is possible through the cooperation of the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) societies in other countries and the regional IARU organization's world wide. You big DX'ers should enjoy this section! This month it tells how Sweden is introducing a ....get ready for this....**CODE FREE LICENSE!** Now, this has to be wrong; only we American operators could wreck the hobby by doing such a thing, aren't that right Dave, WD2K? Yes, Sweden has introduced a new "Class N" (Novice) license. The new entry-level license is intended to encourage young students to become radio amateurs. Sweden now has four classes of amateur radio licenses available. Want to learn more about this new license in Sweden, look for it in *Amateur Radio World*, page 90 of *QST*.



## **Skywarn Training and Certification**

Have you ever wondered just how the Weather Coordinators get their information during the SKYWARN nets? Just what happens to that information we relay in during the SKYWARN net? Do you know the proper procedures to go through in reporting storm activity? Have you ever had any training so that you can tell just what those different cloud formations are telling you? If, you are the slightest bit curious about any of the above questions, then you'll want to be present at the March monthly meeting. Stan Levine, KB2LNI, from the National Weather Service (NWS) at the Albany Airport, will be presenting to TARA a certification training class on SKYWARN.

Yearly, thousands of amateurs throughout the United States work very closely with the National Weather Service to alert their communities of potential damaging storms. This training is made possible through the efforts of people like Stan and others from NWS who try their best at getting amateurs certified by the weather service. This class is always informative and certainly will answer many of the questions that you have wondered for years. So, please be one of the many on hand as TARA welcomes Stan Levine to our club.

## **Club Call Sign For T.A.R.A.?**

If everything goes the way the A.R.R.L. hopes it will, they will soon be reviewing 610-B forms for club calls and military recreational call signs. In October of last year, the A.R.R.L. requested of the F.C.C. to allow them to become sole administrators of club and recreational callsigns. If they are granted permission they would review all form 610-B's for either new callsigns or renewals. After they decide upon a club's eligibility, they would determine the proper call sign from a dedicated block of call signs, such as WC#BAA through WC#ZZZ. Next, the A.R.R.L. would prepare the needed 660 form and forward everything to the F.C.C. Gettysburg office for their endorsement.

OK, what does all this mean for T.A.R.A.? Our club would have an opportunity to have its own call sign for the repeater system and other events such as field day. So, please give this some consideration and at the next meeting we'll have some further information on this subject.

## **T.A.R.A. Sponsored Nets**

Both the T.N.T. Trader Net and T.N.T. Digital Net are doing well this year. After our short hiatus due to repeater malfunctions and the holidays, both are back running weekly. The Trader net is well into its second year and checkins have increased tremendously. Up until the 147.27/R went a little crazy we were getting 30plus checkins weekly. I regret having to run the net with the PLL tones on, but, for the time being this is the only remade. The tones will be removed just as soon as possible.

Each week at 9:00PM the net is called to order and those wishing to buy, swap or sell their amateur related items can list them. Many amateurs have credited this net for selling their items throughout the Capital District, Vermont and even into Massachusetts. Hopefully, after we get the club 440MHz repeater all settled down it might be possible to have a second evening of trading on that repeater, or maybe link it in to the system.

The T.N.T. Digital Net just like the trader net has experienced a very pleasant increase in total checkins over last year. As we look back to the year before last, we were luck to have just three show up for this net each week. Whereas this year we have had as many as 16 checkins--in just a single evening! It's hoped that the popularity of this net will continue to grow throughout 1993. Presently, the amount of amateurs showing up on the digital bands is staggering. Each Wednesday evening starting at 8:30PM, net control starts this net on the 147.27/R with a call for checkins. After that, we go several rounds to see just what everyone has been doing on the digital bands since they were last heard from. If you are looking for information about new equipment, Alinks, Clover®, or just what is Pactor, we hope these and many other questions can be answered. If you miss

us on the repeater you can look on 14.082MHz (LSB 45.5 baud) after the 2 meter net, as we try a little keyboard to keyboard. Additionally, several of the gang have been known to frequent the SCROWD node on the WA2UMX system. If you get a chance please come and check these nets out, we would enjoy your company.

### **T.N.T. Trader Net**

**Freq.: 147.27/R (WA2SPJ)**

**Time: 9:00 PM**

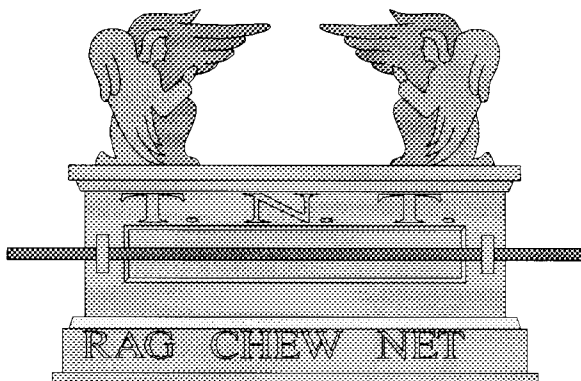
**Day: Thursday**

### **T.N.T. Digital Net**

**Freq.: 147.27/R & 14.082 MHz**

**Time: 8:30 PM**

**Day: Wednesday**



**Special Notice:** It's quite sad as we inform you of the success of the other two club nets we have to inform you of the end of the T.N.T. Rag Chew Net. This net has been in existence since 1986 and at one time was one of the largest nets in the Capital District. Several years back we use to attract ...get this...35 to 40 checkins quite easy. Recently this net has had trouble attracting anyone! On several attempts we have tried everything from different net controls, to different net nights, but none seem to work. So, as we celebrate the success with our other two nets we must say good bye to the T.N.T. Rag Chew Net.

## **Repeater Manager Report...de** **N2LUD**

By the time you receive this newsletter, the 442.150/R will be off the air and replaced with 444.225/R (+ *offset*) in the hopes that we can reinstall a repeater in the Heldeburgs. This will be are latest attempt at curing our intermod problems; as well as begin our tests for linking additional frequencies and radios. Keep your fingers crossed please!

Also, in the future, additional G.E. Masterpro 49 MHz radios will be available from our Technical Director Dave Edward's, WA2GBO, through his place of employment. The price tag on these radios will be \$10.00, however they are not available immediately due to a busy work schedule. Those interested; must give me your name, number of radios, a deposit of some amount and I will acquire the radios as they become accessible.

## **ACCEPT**

The charter meeting of ACCEPT, the Albany County Communications Emergency Preparedness Team, was held on Thursday, January 28th, at 7:30 PM and was called to order by Albany County Civil Defense Director Terry Ryan.

This fresh, new organization will work to combine ARES, RACES, SKYWARN, and NTS activities within the County, provide training, foster cooperation and operational expertise in these areas, and a higher level of visibility and public awareness of these amateur public service efforts within the framework of a fun, social, club- type entity.

Representatives from NOAA/National Weather Service/SKYWARN, Veterans Administration/NDMS, NYSEMO, American Red Cross, and other VOAD affiliated agencies, and ENY Section Manager Paul Vydareny, WB2VUK, will participate in this open forum. Newly appointed Albany County EC Thomas R. Woznick, N2SQO, and Albany County RACES Radio Officer Bob Daigneault, WB2ZCM, will preside over the session.

The new club plans to offer regular monthly meetings and programs, field trips, design/build construction projects, amateur license courses, training in emergency communications techniques, and friendships. All hams within and outside of Albany County are cordially invited to attend.

## **Capital District Repeater Profiles...de N2LUD**

### **The W2LWX Repeater System 146.94/R & 448.425/R Owners: John "Mac" McCormick,**

All of radio equipment for the W2LWX repeater system is located atop of Bald Mountain in the Town of Brunswick, N.Y. just outside the City of Troy. The site being owned and maintained by New York Telephone became available through the Telephone Pioneers of America.

The complete repeater system uses General Electric - MASTERPRO series equipment. There are two repeaters that make up the 146.94/R system and they can run 50 watts of output power. The first one being "Repeater A" with the identifier W2LWX/R (note just a "R" in cw id) and the second, "Repeater B" is W2LWX/RPT. Usually these repeaters run on just 15 watts. The 448.425/R will share whichever call the 146.94/R system is using. The power output for this system presently is running 30 watts with the ability of running up to 70 watts--easily. The reason for running these two repeaters on the lower power settings is to increase the life of the final tubes. Another special feature with both repeaters is, the ability (Selected via control operator remotely) of being able to cross-band then if needed. Only 146.94/R has an autopatch, but it's usually disabled due to "SEVERE" abuse in the past. The autopatch controller is a CES, INC. Model 510SA "SMARTPATCH" with microprocessor control. Both repeaters have Phelps-Dodge (Now Cel-Wave) 6 cavity duplexers. The main antenna

system for 146.94/R is a Decibel Products, DB-224 (4 bay dipole) offering 6db of gain omni-directional; the backup antenna is a 5/8 wave co-axial style antenna. Over on the 448.425/R the antenna is a Decibel Products, DB-411 (4 bay dipole) offering 9db of gain Westerly.

All functions (power level, squelch setting, antenna selection, repeater selection, autopatch on/off) on both repeaters' systems are remotely selectable by the control operator. The repeater controller is homemade, designed, assembled and maintained by Dave Edwards, WA2GBO.

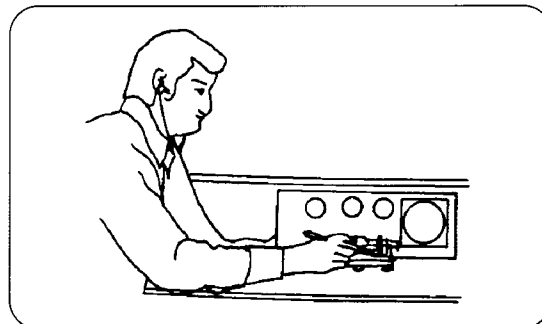
I hope you enjoyed this article and that it gave you a better understanding about the W2LWX system. Next month I'll review another one of the Capital District repeater systems right here in the *Tarable Facts*. If there are any individuals that have any questions that I could answer please feel free to contact me either on the 147.27/R or 444.225/R. Also, you can reach me at my office weekdays at (518)786-7615.

*(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of repeater profiles from Bob, N2LUD.)*

## **The Other Guy....by Fred, N2KFR**

Winter is here. When the snow stays on the ground its winter to me. They're always there, but winter is the time of year when they come out in full force, "**THE OTHER GUY**". All my life all I have ever heard is that I would be alright if it wasn't for the other guy. All I heard the other day on two meters was what the other guy was doing. I never heard anyone say look out, I'm the other guy.

So, watch out when you come to Galway, I just might be The Other Guy!



## Technician's Corner...de WA1YXQ

I'm sure there might be a few of you that would enjoy some hands on experience at installing *RF* connectors; at least I hope there are a few. I know when I first got started in this electronic stuff some years ago I made a few goofy mistakes. With this in mind, I've offered to conduct a little 'tech clinic' at the next meeting in February. After the regular business meeting we'll set up the soldering irons (Don't worry Dave, WB2HKR) to show you the easy and proper way of installing them. The three most common connectors we'll try are the PL-259, N-connector and BNC type. Think this might be something of interest? Then please come join me at the next club meeting for some hands on bench work..

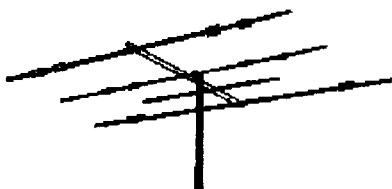
## Non-Technician's Corner. . .

de N2LBZ

We spend considerable time sitting at the operating desk. Therefore, it follows that we should be as comfortable as possible. Operator fatigue may result if your chair is unsuitable for long occupancy. The effects of an inferior chair will be noticed during contest operation, or if you chase DX for many hours.

I do not care for hard, straight-back chairs. Rather I choose a swivel chair with casters and plenty of padding. It must also have arm rests. If you plan to use a swivel chair with casters on carpeting or soft linoleum floor covering, be sure to install a rigid chair pad on the surface where the chair is used. Otherwise, the casters will dent the linoleum if a pad is not used.

( excerpt from W1FB's Help For New Hams )



## Volunteer Examiner Schedule

All exams administered by the TARA/AARA VE Team are held on the campus of R.P.I. in Troy, N.Y. in Rm. 3051 of the C.I.I. Building. Starting time for the next four exams is 9:00AM **SHARP!!** Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the exam. Cancellations if needed will be announced on the C.D.R.N. (nightly 6:30PM - 146.94/R) along with WGY 810 AM on your radio dial.

All candidates must bring their original license, plus a photo copy, a check or cash in the amount of \$5.60...exact please. Bring any C.S.C.E. certificates that you have; plus photo copies. Always bring a supply of pens and pencils. Calculators are allowed providing the memory can be erased. Our VE Team will supply all F.C.C. 610 forms, along with scrape paper.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** *This schedule can change at anytime; so it is recommended that you check about the scheduling just prior to each exam date.*

- ♦ February 13
- ♦ March 13
- ♦ April 10
- ♦ May 8

Well, before I get into trouble with the Treasurer I better call an end to this Newsletter.

**THAT'S**

**ALL**

**FOLKS !!!**

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Troy Amateur Radio Association  
PO Box 584  
Latham, NY 12110

NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 16  
7:30 PM  
GREEN ISLAND MUNICIPAL BLDG.

"CLINIC NITE " see page 2