

TARA NEWS

ISSUE THREE

A PUBLICATION OF THE TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1993

IS YOUR HAND-HELD GUILTY OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR ?

If you were with us at the February meeting you would know if you are guilty or not.

Although Mother Nature proved once again to be more powerful than mere mortals, even the resolve of **TARA** members was shaken, and the regular monthly meeting had to be postponed for one week.

Finally on February 23, 1993 at the Green Island Municipal Building the Quest for spectral purity started.

While the Chief Justice of the airways, Dave Edwards, WA2GBO, set up his test equipment, the line of apprehensive hams slowly moved toward the front of the meeting room.

Within minutes the wait was over for me, with sweat beading on my forehead (which, by the way, is growing rapidly) I handed my radio over for testing.

Knowing fully that the Judge and Jury were about to act swiftly, my body stiffened for the results of the verdict. **INNOCENT !** but not by very much.

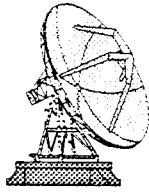
So just what is deviation in an FM transceiver. In FM systems, when a modulation signal is applied, the carrier frequency increases or decreases in proportion (or inverse proportion) to

the instantaneous amplitude of the modulation signal. The change in the carrier frequency either plus or minus is known as the frequency deviation. The maximum deviation allowed is ± 5 KHz from the carrier frequency. Over deviation of an FM transmitter causes splatter, out-of-channel emissions that can cause interference to adjacent frequencies.

So, for those of us at the February meeting who failed to meet the standards, it's time to get your radio serviced.

Our March meeting scheduled for March 16 at **7:00** at the Green Island Municipal Building will feature a **SKYWARN** certification by the National Weather Service. With the coming seasons of Spring and Summer just around the corner, this is a timely subject. With the amount of snow now on the ground a sudden warm spell with a heavy rain could cause problems at any location.

Reporting is fairly easy and no major knowledge of weather forecasting is required. I know even I can tell when it's raining or storming. However, it has also been said I don't know enough to get out of the rain. **SEE YOU AT THE MARCH MEETING !** de N2LBZ



THE SATELLITE PRIMER

de WA1KKM

As discussed in last month's installment of this column, Mode B on OSCAR 13 uses 435.42-435.57 MHz as its uplink and 145.825-145.975 as its downlink. Minimum requirements for working Mode B, therefore, include a multi-mode capability (SSB and CW) for each of these bands. At least three possible approaches to achieving this capability exist, each with its relative merits and drawbacks. The simplest approach, but among the most expensive, is to purchase a commercially available satellite radio. These radios, in addition to having multi-mode capability on the necessary bands, have the essential feature that allows simultaneous transmission on one band and reception on the other. (This feature is needed for many reasons, and will be discussed in detail in next month's installment.)

The second approach is to purchase two separate radios, one for each band. This method offers the most flexibility and convenience, but is also the most expensive. The third alternative is to purchase two inexpensive all-mode 10 meter radios and two transverters (10 meters to 2 meters and 10 meters to 70 centimeters). This last approach is certainly the least expensive and offers considerable flexibility, although the initial setup of the station is more difficult.

Once the decision about the radios is made, the most important part of the station needs to be addressed. As mentioned here last month, OSCAR 13 has a very high orbit, reaching as high as 20,000 miles above the Earth. Just imagine trying to communicate on UHF at this distance with an HT. High gain antennas and low loss coax and

connectors are a must. Sometimes, pre-amps and/or power amplifiers are also necessary. Commercially-made satellite antennas are readily available, although the antennas for these bands are small enough that home-brew is both a practical and less expensive alternative. Coax runs should be kept as short as possible, and Belden 9913 is recommended as a reasonably-priced, low-loss feed line alternative to hard-line. Bear in mind that at these frequencies, 50 feet of RG-58 is virtually a dummy load, so this is not a good place to cut corners. Connectors are also very important on these frequencies. Not only are so-called UHF connectors very lossy on UHF, they also promulgate what can only be described as "gremlins" along the feed line. These gremlins manifest themselves as curious variations in SWR and almost no signal at the satellite. Type "N" connectors are recommended on UHF to minimize this problem, and to make sure that the gremlins aren't being too well fed! Be aware that special "N" connectors are made for use with Belden 9913 coax. (Regular "N" connectors won't fit over the center conductor.) On 2 meters, requirements are not as stringent, but are still important. Teflon type PL-259's are recommended as a lower cost alternative to "N" connectors on this band. If the coax run to the antenna is short enough, and the antenna gain is high enough, the preceding considerations may be enough to complete a well-performing satellite station. However, many of us are not that fortunate. Receiving pre-amplifiers are often a useful accessory for a good satellite station. The most effective location for a pre-amp is on the tower with the antenna, since the signal gets boosted there before line loss takes its toll. If more output power is necessary to hit the satellite reliably, a power amplifier for the transmitter may also be required. These accessories can really increase the cost of setting up a satellite station, so your wallet may be much happier if you follow the recommendations above on antennas, coax, and connectors.

Next month's installment will describe operating techniques for Mode B on OSCAR 13. I will also share some details of my most (and least) memorable satellite QSO's.

F.C.C. Takes Action!!

Reprinted From: *The ARRL Letter*

A 19 year-old New York man faces charges for using an unlicensed 2-meter station to make fake distress calls.

Wayne A. Michalak of Newfane, New York, pleaded guilty to falsely reporting an airplane crash on January 25. He will be sentenced March 11 on a misdemeanor charge of falsely reporting an incident.

According to police and newspaper accounts, Michalak purchased a used Heath 2-meter hand held at an electronics shop in Medina, New York, the day of the hoax call. That evening Michalak, who said he had bought the radio hoping to fulfill his dream of becoming a volunteer firefighter, made transmissions on 2 meters, saying he was a passenger in a light airplane which had crashed.

His transmissions were heard by several local amateurs, including one who put in a "911" call to the Niagara County Sheriff's communication center. A two day search ensued. Original estimates of the cost of the search were set at \$60-70,000, but were later downgraded.

Michalak told the court he was testing the radio when he made up the phony plane crash, to try to get a response. "There was no joke behind it," he said.

Niagara Sheriff's Inspector Thomas Beilein said that Michalak then went to the site where he claimed the plane had gone down to watch the search operation.

The next day Michalak returned the HT to the shop where he had bought it, described by police as a hardware store with a Radio Shack franchise. The owner, his suspicions aroused, contacted authorities. According to Inspector Beilein, local amateurs were of help both in keeping Michalak on the air for several hours and in direction-finding his signal.

Editor's Note: This strongly shows the amateur community why it should and must have those that are trained in the art of direction-finding.

Fake SOS Brings \$50,000 Fine for Ham!!

An Amateur Extra class licensee has agreed to pay \$50,000 for making fake distress transmissions on 14.313 MHz.

Fifty-year-old Jorge Mestre, NS3K, of Fairfax, Virginia, pled guilty to knowingly and willfully communicating false distress signals on August 7, 1992.

Mestre entered his plea on February 12, 1993, in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria, under a plea bargain he had made with the government. Under the agreement Mestre will permanently surrender his FCC amateur license, dispose of his Amateur Radio equipment within 60 days, and make immediate restitution of \$50,000 to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Sentencing is set for May 7, 1993; under the law (14 U.S.C. 88c) Mestre could receive up to six years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The distress calls, on both SSB and CW, described a sinking vessel off the Turks and Caicos Islands in the West Indies. It was falsely reported that six persons aboard the vessel were in the water and needed to be rescued. For approximately two hours on the evening of August 7, 1992, the false distress communications continued intermittently and included the internationally recognized Morse code distress message "SOS."

The distress signals were monitored by other Amateur Radio operators, who notified the Coast Guard and the FCC. The FCC's long range radio direction finding network then began monitoring the signals. Using the direction finding data, subsequent detailed analysis of tape recordings of the hoax transmissions, and information provided by other Amateur Radio operators, the FCC was eventually able to identify Mestre's Amateur Radio station as the source of the false distress messages.

Subsequent tests of Mestre's radio equipment, which was seized on a federal search warrant, confirmed that his station was responsible for the hoax communications. Mestre is also suspected of having been involved in at least three

additional false distress cases within the last several years.

U.S. Coast Guard rescue policy requires that it commit the assets necessary for locating a vessel in distress and for assuring the safety of the individuals aboard such a vessel. Consequently, the Coast Guard, upon being notified of the distress signal, immediately began a major search and rescue operation, deploying both cutters and four aircraft to the area claimed to be the sinking vessel's location.

The government of the Turks and Caicos joined the search, launching patrol craft, and merchant marine vessels in the area were also advised of a vessel in distress.

Responding to such hoax distress calls diverts crucial Coast Guard equipment and personnel that may be needed to respond to real emergencies and conduct legitimate search and rescue operations, poses unnecessary potential threats to the safety of Coast Guard personnel, and is extremely costly to the government. As a result of the false distress messages transmitted in this case, the Coast Guard spent more than \$100,000 to conduct the search and rescue operations.

(From a February 12, 1993, FCC press release by Richard Cullen, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Richard M. Smith, Chief of the Field Operations Bureau of the Federal Communication Commission, and the United States Coast Guard).

Former Ham Sentenced For His Unlicensed Operation

Richard Burton, ex-WB6JAC, has been sentenced to seven months in jail for operating on amateur bands without a license, despite a plea from his lawyer that his punishment *not* include incarceration.

Burton, 48, was convicted in federal district court in Los Angeles in late November on four counts of operating without a license, his third conviction on such charges over the past 10 years. His lawyer asked for leniency due to Burton's poor health.

Burton served six-and-a-half month in jail on a similar charge in 1984. His amateur license was revoked at that time, while a charge of using obscene language on the air was dropped.

Burton told the *Los Angeles Times* that he blamed former President Ronald Reagan for the FCC's action against him, saying Reagan heard a tape recording of one of his transmissions after a church service.

"I blame Ronald Reagan," Burton told the *Times*. ***"I think he said something and the FCC took it as a presidential order. When Bush was pardoning everyone involved with Reagan, he should have pardoned me."*** *The ARRL Letter*

\$2,000 Penalty Sought Against 20-Meter Ham

The FCC has issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for \$2,000 to William A. Moskowitz, KA3HSZ, of Plano, Texas.

In the NAL, dated January 14, 1993, the FCC said its Vero Beach, Florida office monitored Moskowitz on November 26, 1992, and during a 17 minute period observed him changing operating frequency twice, in the vicinity of 14.313 MHz, ***"in order to interfere with on-going communications."*** ***"The violation was willful,"*** the FCC said.

The FCC said ***"we are treating this as a minor violation,"*** and that because Moskowitz is an individual, because it is a first offense, the Commission set the fine at \$2,000. The FCC's base forfeiture for malicious interference is \$7,000.

Moskowitz has the usual 30 days to pay the fine or to appeal it. *The ARRL Letter*

Editor Note:

This is just to remind all of us that no matter what we may think the rules set forth by the F.C.C. are enforceable and the fines that are being levied recently show that they are beginning to clamp down.

New's From The Mailbag

In our January newsletter we introduced you to Bob, NQ1R, who works at the ARRL in Newington, Ct. as an Assistant to the Manager for the E.A.D. (Educational Activities Department) and it's with great pleasure we give you his first article for The Tarable Facts.

I've enjoyed reading your newsletter, *The Tarable Facts*, over the past few months. Let me say thanks to each of you for sharing your club's happenings with me and the other ARRL HQ staff who have had the pleasure of seeing the copies you've sent me. It's especially great to hear about all the educational and recruitment activity in Troy!

I thought I would take an opportunity to share with you happenings from Newington, CT, and to keep you posted on my activities with ARRL. In August, I left the ARRL/VEC to begin my new capacity as Rosalie White's (WA1STO) assistant in the Educational Activities Department (EAD). For those of you who are ARRL members and are unfamiliar with EAD, here are a few highlights. For those of you who are not members, here are a few good reasons to join ARRL:

RECRUITMENT. One of our foremost duties in EAD is recruiting new amateurs. Did you know our office handled more than 13,500 requests for new ham information in 1992? ARRL has even placed ads in magazines such as *Popular Communications* and *Popular Mechanics* in search of new prospects.

And new for 1993, we've established a toll free WATS number for prospective hams (only); **1-800-32-NEW-HA(M)**. The number operates 24 hours a day, and is staffed by an answering machine after working hours. Each new prospect who calls receives our free booklet "You're Invited...Getting Started in Amateur Radio." The packet also contains a computerized state printout of area clubs, instructors and examination sites.

If you would like to recruit newcomers into Amateur Radio and into your club, we can provide you with free brochures, posters, and other handouts. Oh, and don't forget the popular

Archie® comic books. They're often the clincher toward attracting youth into Amateur Radio.

INSTRUCTION. Teaching an Amateur Radio evening class has never been easier. If you'd like to take part in ham radio instruction, we would like to invite you to become an ARRL-registered instructor. You will receive information on instructor manuals and guides, quantity discount publications for your class and you'll be kept abreast of it all in our quarterly newsletter, the Educational Activities Forum.

Instructors may also request free software to generate practice exams, information on finding code keys, and complimentary graduation kits for each of your students. We have a similar program for school teachers. Contact EAD for details.

SAREX. Here's an opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio to the public. The Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) flies three times in early 1993; February 25, March 23 and April 28. Schools from all over the world will eavesdrop on the astronauts' Shuttle-to-ground transmissions and even attempt to make random contacts with them.

Volunteers: Plan on bringing your radios to school during a Shuttle mission. Help your local school teachers get started in SAREX by requesting free lesson plans from EAD. We'll include information on public domain Shuttle tracking software and many other resources.

February's mission highlights an unprecedented SAREX test, when NASA will actually position the orbiter to compare the performance of two different SAREX antennas. Amateurs and school children all over the southeastern US will be participating in this receive-only experiment. If you'd like more information on SAREX, feel free to drop me a line!

Before I risk rambling on, let me also introduce the rest of the EAD staff; Tracy Simpson, our Educational Correspondent, and Samera Sulieman and Tom McCarthy both EAD

assistants. I hope you'll have a chance to meet each of them.

One of my favorite aspects of working at ARRL is the opportunity to meet many old and new friends during the day. Some of you have even made the trip down to Newington to knock on our door and enjoy a day at your HQ and, of course, operate from W1AW. If I haven't had the pleasure to meet you, please let me know how ARRL and the Educational Activities Department can serve you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely and 73,

Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R

Assistant to the Manager

Educational Activities Department

Letters From The Mailbag

This month we pulled a letter dated February 18, 1993, from the old mailbag that we found to be very interesting and decided that we should share it with the readers of The Tarable Facts.

Dear Sir,

It was with great interest that I read your article "**The Ghost Of I-90**" in this month (February) issue of your newsletter.

As a long time resident of the area mentioned in the article, I must protest the fact that you feel that our neighborhood would be host to a specter who displays such reactionary sentiments in this enlightened age.

To insist that fifty-one percent of the country's population is unfit to serve in public office based solely on gender is thought worthy of the best thinking of the fourteenth century. Carrying this line of thinking forward would lead to repeal of universal suffrage; a course of action that I'm sure is not championed by the members of your organization.

Knowing that TARA is a group priding itself on its policy of inclusion, it is only right that the offending member (whoever that may be) engages in an on the air debate of this issue. It would be most interesting to hear both sides of the issue in open debate.

As a format I recommend a moderated approach so both sides have fair hearing. Possibly one of the members of the Capital Region YL Net would be a good choice.

The offending "*Ghost*" has been known to have tantrums when his hot chocolate is late and to whimper that he didn't get enough cookies with his tea but due to his high post in your club he would undoubtedly be happy to clean the air on this issue.

In closing let me say that as a member of a small club dedicated to friendship and sensitivity towards others I am appalled that this could happen in my neighborhood and extend my apologies to the offending person.

Thank you for this fine piece of investigative reporting and commend you for exposing this behavior to the horrified members of the local Amateur community. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Dave, WD2K

Field Day Bonus

A new Field Day bonus has been added for 1993 to encourage more participation on the VHF bands. 100 points can be earned by Field Day groups for completing at least 10 contacts (excluding packet) on any band or combinations of bands above 50 MHz. The first VHF/UHF station does not count as an additional transmitter and is not limited to making just 10 QSO's; it may be operated for the entire Field Day period and all contacts (except packet) count for points

VE Session Canceled...de NY2U

On February 12, 1993, "Old Man Winter" made his worst visit to the Capital District in quite sometime. It seems every year at this time I begin to squirm just a little when it becomes time to administer another VE session with the thought of a snow cancellation in mind. In the past, at least since the volunteer examiners (Albany/Troy VE Team) have picked up the chores of administering examinations have never had to cancel a single VE exam session. However, on Friday, February 12, 1993, that all came to an end, as the Capital District received its worst storm of the year. On the eve of the Saturday morning exam the area already had some 2 to 3 inches of white stuff on the ground and reports from the National Weather Service of 6 inches on its way.

Shortly after 1:00 PM it became evident I had to do what no other VE Liaison for this team has done in the past ...**CANCEL THE VE SESSION!** Immediately, I called my old buddy and trusted friend "***Ruthless***" (Seymour, N2AIF) for some moral support. After a brief discussion we both concluded that it would be in the best interest of everyone to cancel this session. Ok, that call went well; so I decided to call Bud, WF2B, at work and you know what? He was actually in his office...really, no funny answering system, or any of that stuff, just Bud hard at work. Just like my conversation with "***Ruthless***," Bud was in total agreement that we should call this session off as soon as possible. The first call went out to WGY — 810 AM in Schenectady about our cancellation and things went very smoothly, the message was broadcasted within 30 minutes of our telephone call. After several other phone calls we had just about every Capital District radio station notified as well as the A.R.R.L in Newington, Connecticut. Later that afternoon we made arrangements to have our cancellation announced on several repeaters as well as the CDRN Net at 6:30 PM. Also, Albany A.R.A. made the same announcement at their club meeting that evening.

By Saturday morning it became very clear that the three of us made the right decision; as road conditions were terrible and reports of auto accidents scattered throughout the region. I regret having to cancel this session or any session, but under the same conditions I would do so again with no reservation. I know to the many that have been studying real hard this was the worst time to cancel any session, but there's always next month. Being Team Liaison one of my concerns is getting those VE Examiner's both to the exam and home again; as safe as possible. This holds true for those candidates coming to take the exam as well.

I would like to thank the many that helped the team get the word out about this cancellation. If everything goes right we'll be looking for you on March 13th.

Inventor of Beverage Antenna Dies

Reprinted From: *The ARRL Letter*

Harold H. Beverage, ex-W2BML, died January 27 in Stony Brook, New York. He was 99 years old. Although not an active ham since the 1920s, his name is immortalized as the inventor of the Beverage receiving antenna (or, as he originally called it, the "Wave Antenna"). It was developed in 1918 to enhance communications between the U.S. and Europe during the First World War, and described in *QST* in November 1922.

Beverage said in 1980 that he considered his two greatest inventions (he received more than 40 patents) the Wave Antenna and diversity reception. A biography of Beverage, ***Genius At Riverhead***, was written by Alberta I. Wallen and published by the North Haven (Maine) Historical Society in 1988.

Beverage was recognized with an obituary in the February 2, *New York Times*. The American Institute of Electrical Engineers awarded Beverage its Lamme Gold Medal in 1957, the *Times* said, and cited him "for his pioneering and outstanding achievements in the conception and application of principles basic to progress in national and worldwide radio communications."

President's Report...de NY2U

I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm showing signs of a severe case of cabin fever. Especially, as I write this report I hear on the weather report that we're about to get some six to eight inches of that white stuff, as if we need it. Oh well, I'll stop my complaining.

Even if the timing seems wrong we have to start making our plans for Field Day 93, to be held this June 26th and 27th. So far it looks as everyone would like to return to our location in Frear Park; where the club had its set up last year. This location proved to be quite convenient for everyone involved and for the general public to visit us. At the present time we are still in need of a volunteer(s) than would enjoy heading up this year's operation. Anyone interested can contact either Jack, N2LBZ, at 271-6763 evenings or myself.

On to other business I want to take a few lines to thank Bob, N2LUD, John, WA1YXQ, and Dave, WA2GBO, for the amount of time they have put into the club repeater system this winter. Most recently the club 440 MHz repeater was re-crystalled for 444.225/R and it has worked flawlessly since Saturday, February 27. I hope I didn't just jinx it guy's? I know Dave and Bob have been salvaging radio parts for over a year now and just the other night John, WA1YXQ, spent a whole evening going over repeater parts with Jim, WA2UMH. With the feedback I'm getting from the repeater guru's everything is looking real good for the new club two meter repeater (145.17/R) hitting the air waves early this spring. I know you members have been hearing for quite soom time now about this system and your patience will soon pay off.

As this repeater system continues to develop keep in mind that no repeater system is any good if we don't have members and non-members alike to use them and monitor them throughout the entire day. Since the very start of this club many of us have prided ourselves in always being there when needed! This was so true that people started calling the repeater "The Full Service Repeater" and we do so proudly. I wonder sometimes if this

still holds true? I know some of you don't have PLL tones and this winter has been a disaster for you, but I've heard stretches during the early morning that nobody has come back to those calling. On a more serious note the other afternoon I heard Stu, N2LLS, mobile looking for a station to report an over turned milk tanker near the B-1 exit, about 4:00 PM and nobody came back. I purposely waited to see if someone else would pick up this emergency call and you know what? Nothing! Nothing but silence! Lately this seems to be happening much to often for both casual conversations or for emergency calls. I know before you blow a fuse while reading my report that many of you have to work for a living; unlike myself. I also know quite a few that are home just as much as myself and have the time to monitor our club repeaters for emergency situations; like the one above. Let me make it perfectly clear that I know **nobody** in this club would intentionally ignore someone calling for emergency assistance, but if we don't have a group of us with our radios on listening we could miss such a call for help. Heah, that truck driver could have been a member of this club, would we want to hear that someone tried our repeater and nobody responded? I think not! So, if you have the free time please monitor the 147.27/R and 444.225/R so we don't get caught off guard. Keep in mind we have a lot of new hams that throw their calls in just as you and I did when we first got started, and if we don't give a shout back maybe we'll lose a new member. If anyone needs training on how to handle emergency traffic please contact our Repeater Manager, Bob Isby, N2LUD or Kenny Davis, KB2KFV.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the many that took time to send me a "Get Well" card and even those that sent me antenna designs inside them. During my 16 days in the hospital it was your cards and notes that brought some laughter to me. For this I could never thank you enough!

Ken Collis and Family

N2RXO



Albany Amateur Radio Association

How many of you thought that the last meeting for Albany A.R.A. was canceled due to the weather condition that evening? Better yet; how many of you thought nobody in their right mind would have gone out that evening? Well, have we got news for you; read on if you will please. The February 12, 1993, AARA annual auction of amateur equipment took place regardless of what the weather might have been that evening. Even with the Capital District getting dumped on with over six inches of snow by meeting time didn't stop those that braved some of this winter's worst driving conditions. It seems as some forty or so loyal hams just couldn't bare the thought of not making it to the club monthly meeting. Let's not forget to mention those that wouldn't sleep for a week if they missed an auction and the chance to pick up some used goodies (isn't that right Kenny, KB2KFV?). Despite everything this meeting had going against it everyone had a great time just the same.

The official newsletter for Albany A.R.A. is called the *B-Plus* and it presently is going through some face changes by their new editor Mike Bergman, WD2AJS, and it's looking just fine. Last month they had a very interesting article about satellites written by Dave, WB2YLR and Sy, N2IUL. They also reported the passing of Elmer Herman Wirsing, W2AWF, long time member of AARA.

Albany A.R.A. meetings are on the second Friday of each month at the Colonie Community Center, Central Avenue, Albany. Starting time for the meeting is 7:00 PM and refreshments are available. If you need additional information about this club please contact Ernie Popp, KA2HTU, at (518)477-9581 evenings please.

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

Albany will be sponsoring another Novice and Technician class to be held at Heatly High School in Green Island. This course will range from 8 to 10 weeks every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM. Those interested in this class or know of individuals that are in need are asked to contact either Ken, KB2KFV, (518)272-0112 or Bob, WB2ZCM, (518)237-8473 for details.

In the latest copy of the all new "*DISPATCH*" Ray Loeper, N2RAD, reported that Albany RACES held their SKYWARN training session on November 24, 1992, at the V.A. Hospital in Albany to train its members about weather spotting. This meeting was well attended by 15 amateurs and 2 non-amateurs. They are also asking all amateurs in the Albany area that experience severe weather to tune in the 147.12/R and report your weather observations on the emergency weather net.

The next general meeting for Albany RACES will take place on April 6, 1993, at the V.A. Hospital, Room 806, Albany, N.Y. To find out more about this organization please contact Chief Radio Officer, Robert Daigneault, WB2ZCM, at (518)237-8473.

Southern Vermont Amateur Radio Club

SoVARC held their yearly election of officers at the January meeting. There was a crowd of more than 30 members and guests in attendance for this meeting. TARA would like to congratulate these newly appointed officers and if TARA could ever be of any assistance please call. The following are those officers as listed in their February club newsletter; *President* - Randy Gates, N1GWL, *Vice President* - Pat Honan, WV1P, *Secretary* - Micky Corrow, N1JIF, *Treasurer* - Mike Lachant, N1HSJ. SoVARC also thanked their outgoing Treasurer - Ken French, KC1KI, for leaving his appointment in outstanding order for the new Treasurer.

The guest speaker for the evening was Eric Sinsibaugh from the National Weather Service of

Albany, who spoke about the SKYWARN program and the need for spotters from the Southwestern Vermont area. A quick packet radio demonstration showed the PBBS (Personal Bulletin Board System) that's running at NWS in Albany. Eric announced that Stan Levine, KB2LNI, will be conducting an official SKYWARN training class on March 6, 1993; this meeting will be held at the Bennington Free Library. This class is available to anyone that wishes to get certified by NWS as a SKYWARN spotter.

Remember, SoVARC meets each month on the fourth Tuesday at the Bennington Free Library in Bennington, Vermont; starting at 7:00PM. If you would like additional information about SoVARC or any of its programs, please contact Randy Gates, N1GWL, at (802)375-1263. Those of you on the packet side can obtain information by leaving a note addressed to (N1JIF@ WA2UMX) Micky, N1JIF on the WA2UMX BBS.

Saratoga County RACES Association

In the latest issue of *Sparks From The Spa* they announced that Saratoga will be providing communications for this year "*Tour De Cure*." This bike race will take place on Sunday, May 23, 1993, and will require around 15-20 amateur's radio operators. The "*Tour De Cure*" is sponsored by the American Diabetes Association.

On Monday, March 9, 1993, Saratoga held their third annual SWAPFEST at the county Solar Building located in Ballston Spa. Many were on hand to buy up all those little, or not so little gem's. (We're still trying to find out just what our own Kenny, KB2KFBV came home with this time.) This annual event, as well as their September HAMFEST have provided the Capital District with an excellent opportunity to locate those great bargains. Plus, what a better way for everyone to meet their neighbors from the other clubs.

Those of you in the Northern District that are in need of Morse code practice are in luck. Yes, if you've been looking for that extra helping hand to see you through the CW examination, please be on the 147.000/R on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. The

President himself Jim Polewczak, KG2H, will be pounding some brass for those interested in increasing their code speed anywhere from 5 wpm to 13 wpm.

The next meeting for Saratoga County RACES will take place on April 12, 1993, at the County Solar Building located on East High Street in Ballston Spa. Those in need of information should contact Jim Polewczak, KG2H, at (518) 695-6878 evenings please.

Schenectady Amateur Radio Association

On March 1, 1993, SARA had guest speaker John Anderson speaking to the club about the 80 year history of G.E. and its involvement in radio. This isn't the first time that John has entertained radio enthusiast and hopefully won't be the last. I hope some of you had the opportunity to make this exciting meeting over in Schenectady.

The SARA VE team is in full action and will be giving examinations at their monthly meetings. Rich Bardin, KE2UJ, has taken on the responsibilities for this team and would be more than glad to answer any questions you might have. Those planning on taking their exam(s) at one of these sessions are requested to call in advance, and let Rich know which element(s) you would be taking. You can contact Rich, KE2UJ, at home (518)381-3976 about the next test session for SARA.

The next monthly meeting for SARA will take place on Monday, April 5, 1993, at Linton High School, McClellan Street and The Plaza, Schenectady. Starting time for this meeting will be around 7:00PM. If you have any questions about SARA please contact Don Walsh, WA2TSW, at (518)355-0362.

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

The Ripper's have finally finished reviewing the contest logs from their first Annual RVWARS VHF/UHF Sprint that was held back on January 9, 1993. We are quite proud to report that TARA

was well represented in the standings. In the Low Power Single Operator Multi-Band the **First Place** award went to **Chuck, N2RKC** with 10,350 points and **Second Place** was awarded to **Fred, N2KFR** with 6536 points.

At the next meeting of the Ripper's scheduled for March 15, 1993 will feature their Auction. This will be held at the John L. Edwards School in Hudson and talk-in is available on 147.21 auction is scheduled to start at 7:00 PM.

SKYWARN Class Set For March

On March 16, 1993, T.A.R.A. has the privilege of having guest speaker Stan Levine, KB2LNI, from the National Weather Service out of Albany on hand for an official SKYWARN certification training class. With the severe weather that has wandered through the Capitol Region in the last two years it's high time we get our act together and get some of our newer members certified by NWS. Also, this makes a perfect opportunity for those individuals that are up for renewal to partake in this meeting. This meeting is going to start at **7:00 PM** instead of our usual 7:30 start. Please mark your calendar so you don't arrive late for this meeting. Remember, you don't have to be a member of T.A.R.A. to attend this meeting, or any meeting of our club. Those already accredited as SKYWARN weather spotters that aren't sure if they're up for renewal can contact Mr. Bill, NY2U, at (518)273-9248 and he will check this for you through the National Weather Service at Albany. Talk-in will be available on both the 147.27/R or the new 444.225/R for those needing assistance. Our meeting location is the Green Island Municipal Center, Intersection of George Street and Hudson Avenue, Green Island. Off street parking is attainable on the Hudson Avenue side of the building.

Thank You

The Family of Constantine D. Tutein wishes to thank TARA and its members for the cards of sympathy that were sent to the family.

John Tutein and Family
WM2Y

New Products

Kenwood TS-50

Kenwood has released its latest H.F. radio.

- 160-10 meters
- 100 memories
- 100 watts - AM/FM/SSB/CW
- Band Stacking Registers
- Black-on Orange LCD Display
- Dimensions 2.75" Tall
- 8.5" Wide
- 11.0" Deep
- NO Built in tuner!
- Dealer price \$928.00 (may vary)
-
-
-
-
-

de KA2HRM

1992

TARA RTTY CONTEST RESULTS

CALL	QSO'S	MULT'S	POINTS	W/VE	DX
VE6ZX*	62	35	2,170	30	5
WF1B*	50	28	1,400	26	2
K7WUW*	44	30	1,232	28	2
N7GVV	38	22	836	21	1
KD7YG	28	23	644	23	0
N2HOQ	25	22	550	20	2
VE7YR	26	21	546	20	1
W1HFN	23	20	460	19	1
JA3DLE/1	24	21	418	22	1
K6SV	25	15	375	14	1

By all accounts the First Annual Troy Amateur Radio Association (TARA) RTTY Sprint was a huge success! Over 160 stations participated in this contest. Even with very little advance notice the club managed to attract stations around the world; even a station from as far away as Japan. Yes, JA3DLE/1, from Japan submitted his log and looks forward to next years contest. This tells contest manager Bill Eddy, NY2U, and Peter Hines, N2KAD, that the word was spread quite adequately. For the greatest pre-contest coverage, we thank the RTTY Journal® for the wonderful press coverage. We also thank the operators of the Packet and Alinks systems throughout the world.

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Sue Rothschild N2LBR

Events Committee: Ken Davis, KB2KFV

UHF/VHF Contest Coordinator: Fred Wilcox, N2KFR

Troy Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 584
Latham, NY 12110

place

label

here

Bill

NEXT MEETING MARCH 16, 1993
Green Island Municipal Bldg.
"SKYWARN CERTIFICATION"
7:00 PM