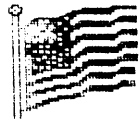




# TROY AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER



VOL. 1 - NO. 1  
SEPTEMBER 1991

### FIRST ISSUE:

THIS IS A KEEPER - and a lot of us weren't sure whether this would ever get printed or not! Vol. 1 - No. 1 as originally planned would have been mailed September 10th! Some of the original copy was lost (thankfully) forever in a major computer system crash. We've picked up the pieces and put together what I hope you'll find to be a very enjoyable first issue. We'll need a masthead and a name (sorry, such inane monikers as Rip's Report, B Minus, The NY2U Report, and QZZ have already been ruled out) and therefore we solicit your thoughtful input and suggestions. More on that later - ENJOY! de WA3RKB

### MEETING NOTICE:

The regular monthly meeting of the Troy Amateur Radio Association will be held at a new location, Room 3051 of the Center for Industrial Innovation (CII Building), just off the west side of 15th Street, in Troy, New York. From Hoosick Street, turn south onto 15th. After passing under the pedestrian bridge, turn left into the RPI parking area. Walk across the pedestrian bridge (which provides a spectacular view of 15th Street!), and go another 50 yards to the CII entrance on your right. After entering the building, room 3051 is on the right at the end of the corridor to your left. Talk-in will be available on 147.27 MHz. If you really get lost, the campus security office is located adjacent to the parking area at the eastern end of the pedestrian bridge.

### NET BUSINESS:

Begun on August 29th, the TARA Trader Net has been an instant success! Mark, N2LIJ is NCS for this weekly opportunity to buy, sell, or swap amateur radio related equipment. Prices CAN be discussed over the air in accordance with FCC Part 97. This net is informal and meets each Thursday at 8:00 PM local time on 147.27 MHz. All check-ins, with or without a "shopping list", are welcomed.

The TNT Net meets Thursdays at 9:00 PM local time on 28.495 (+/- QRM), immediately following the Trader Net. Skip, KE2XF, serves as net control for this ragchew-roundtable in the Novice portion of the 10 meter phone band. The net provides a terrific opportunity for newly-licensed amateurs to get into the fun of HF voice nets and to talk on the air with the people they see at the meetings.

### TARA PACKET MAILBOXES:

TARA has initiated two packet bulletin boards. Bruce - KA2HRM has set up KA2HRM-4 on 145.09 MHz. This PMS (Personal Mailbox System) can be used for various items of TARA business including meeting notices and other club events. KA2HRM-4 can be accessed directly or via NIMO-1, the Niagara Mohawk digipeater. Also, the KA2HRM-1 digipeater is also operational on 145.09 and provides fine coverage to the south. This system is located in Ravena.

Steve - WA3RKB recently set up WA3RKB-4 on 145.05 MHz to automatically take all outbound packet mail (must be sent to an "@" address) into the network via the WAZUMX PBBS. This will relieve some congestion on the board but you must log into UMX to pick up returning mail. RKB-4 also contains information on upcoming amateur radio related events such as licensing classes, examination sessions, meetings, and public service events. (Items for publication in this newsletter may also be placed there for pick up.) WA3RKB-4 may be accessed directly (if you can hear his 1/10th watt) or via WAZUMX-5 direct or through the NEDA network (SRTGA5). This system is located in New Scotland.

You may leave personal mail for club members on either PMS (do not use an "@" address) and both are generally available and in operation 24 hours a day.

Contact WA3RKB at 518/439-4519 if have trouble with or questions about the two PMS systems.

### CDARC BULLETINS:

The CDARC Bulletins were added to the 147.27 repeater just after TARA joined CDARC in April. They're heard on Mondays at 7:45 PM and Thursdays at 5:45 PM (local time). Here's the entire schedule:

Frequencies (MHz)	Monday (PM)	Thursday (PM)
145.19 and 146.91	7:00	5:00
146.82 and 224.42	7:15	5:15
147.00 and 147.06	7:30	5:30
147.12 and 147.27	7:45	5:45
146.76, 147.18, & 442.42	8:00	6:00

Additional 222 and 440 MHz repeaters in Albany, Utica, Massachusetts and Vermont are in the process of being added via a repeater linking system being assembled and tested by IBARC and Doug Sharp, WB2KMY. These additional frequencies will be published here when added within the next 60 days.

PUBLIC SERVICE:

We're into the Fall season and public service activities are at a traditional, seasonal low. There is the possibility of a rejuvenated Pumpkin Patrol in October, but details were unavailable at press time. Various ARES and RACES nets continue to function and we strongly encourage your participation. (All times are local.)

- Albany Emergency Services Net (ARES and RACES)
  - Tuesdays at 7:15 PM on 147.12 MHz
- Columbia County ARES Net - Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on 147.21 MHz
- Columbia County RACES Net - Thursdays at 7:00 PM on 147.21 MHz
- Greene County ARES Net - Sundays at 9:00 PM on 147.21 MHz
- Rensselaer County RACES Net - Wednesdays (except 2nd) at 7:30 on 147.18/442.2 MHz
- Schenectady County Emergency Net - Sundays at 1:30 PM on 147.06 MHz

SECTION EMERGENCY MEETING IN KINGSTON:

ENY Section Emergency Coordinator Bob Schaps, WB2NVR, held his second coordination meeting this past Sunday. This area was ably represented by Rensselaer County EC Carli Drake, WB1BTJ, Albany County EC Tony Pazzola, WB2BEJ, and Albany County Asst. ECs Jack Donnelly, WA2YBM, and Steve Anderman, WA3RKB. No one from Greene, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, or Washington Counties chose to attend.

Rensselaer County is fast becoming the standard to which others are compared. Members are cross-registered in both ARES and RACES, affording them great flexibility. The Emergency Management agencies have been very generous to the amateur radio cause thanks to the influence of Carli, Joe Hoffman, KA2AXN, Hugh Lupo, WA2OQE, and others.

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This newsletter is published monthly by the Troy Amateur Radio Association (TARA). It is made available to TARA members, subscribers, and amateur radio and community leaders. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and not necessarily the views and opinions of TARA, its Board of Directors, or membership. Items appearing in this newsletter may be reproduced without prior written permission providing that credit is given to the Troy ARA Newsletter and the author of the item being reproduced, if applicable. This newsletter is copyrighted (c) 1991 by the Troy Amateur Radio Association. All rights reserved.

To join, contact: TARA - P. O. Box 1603 - Green Island, New York 12183-1213. For subscription information, write: Editor - Troy Amateur Radio Association Newsletter - P. O. Box 8592 - Academy Station - Albany, New York 12208-0592.

SEPTEMBER VHF CONTEST:

Various members of TARA operated NY2U from the QTH of Art Ceas - KB2JZJ, in Feura Bush this past weekend in the September VHF/UHF Contest. Additional operators included Bob - N2LUD, John - KA2VBI, and Steve - WA3RKB. Preliminary results indicate that, despite a lack of participation, minimal equipment, last minute antenna problems, insufficient power supplies, bad weather, other amateur radio related activities on the same weekend, and a basic lack of sleep, the club did quite well. Raw scores showed 144 MHz phone with 99 QSOs in 15 grid squares and 440 MHz phone logging 23 QSOs in 3 grid squares. Early indications are that the TARA effort beat the Albany ARA club station, better than doubling their three-band (50/144/222 MHz) score!

KB2JZJ purchased an old 10 element 144 MHz wide-spaced beam at Saturday's Saratoga hamfest, which was immediately pressed into service. Using an old 11 meter vertical antenna for a mast (we knew that 27 MHz equipment had some useful purpose, only now did we recognize what that was!), the beam was used at horizontal polarization for SSB. The logic here was that the locals on FM could probably be heard and worked with no antenna at all! An armstrong/flashlight rotator system with ladder was employed with measurable success to pull in squares from DE, NJ, PA, NY, CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, Quebec, and Ontario. Our thanks to Marty - N2LDR (one of those RVWARS guys!) for the kind and generous use of the Kenwood All-mode 2 meter transceiver.

N2LUD provided his Kenwood dual-band rig and mobile antenna for use on 446.0 MHz FM at the last minute, which provided some operating flexibility and a much-needed source of UHF points. Rudy - N2JZK had built a neat looking dipole antenna for 440 MHz that might have worked fine for sideband gear, had we had some available. VBI and JZJ later tried to fashion it into a vertical beam with little success. Still, the double QSO point value on 440 MHz made it worth the effort. Some other JZK antenna specials could not be used due to lack of promised/hoped-for equipment on 50 and 222 MHz.

WA3RKB ran about 2/3 of the Qs on 144 MHz and loaned the use of some coax sections and his "monster" Lambda power supply, forcing the TARA packet station off the air for about 30 hours. This was also thought to be the cause of a lengthy power outage in the New Scotland area over the weekend.

KA2VBI organized the effort and deserves the praise of the club. As a result, John will probably be spending a lot more time on the air mobile as we've been led to believe that he'll probably be sleeping in the back seat of the car for the next few weeks! Thank you and congratulations to all who participated in this first club contest venture! Hey RVWARS, watch out for TARA in November!

EDITORIAL OPINION: "WE DID IT!"

"We'll wait and see how they do..."

"They won't get anywhere with that, their dues are too high..."

"Must be all of those rejects from the 87/27 machine..."

"Who do they think they're gonna get for members, everybody around here already is a member of some club..."

Those were the comments we were forced to listen to at the inception of the Troy Amateur Radio Association. It was the reason I joined. We swallowed hard, held our tongues, kept our already frazzled tempers under control. Summer was coming and we knew things would work out. Not that the road was ever that rocky, it wasn't. Now I'm glad to have the opportunity to thumb my nose in print to those of you who said that "This town ain't big enough for all of us." And we thank you and ourselves for our instant success!

Many of us were disgruntled and discouraged by the occasionally unseemly activities of some of the local radio clubs. Some of us even thought that things in the local clubs could be straightened out from the inside. Boy was that ever wrong! Turns out that TARA was just what the doctor ordered for a lot of us, a TRUE general purpose amateur radio club that was ours, not somebody else's that was easy or convenient to join. Let us make sure that, in the future, our club continues to be your club and that others coming into TARA can also say it is their club, too!

But TARA is here and has already made its mark. We've instituted nets and, this month, a newsletter. A new Constitution and By-Laws document has been enacted by the club (that's means YOU here at TARA). We have elected an active, forward thinking (just say "fun") Board of Directors. Two packet PMSs have been initiated and people are taking an interest in AMTOR (no matter what the rest of us think of our President's favorite mode!). Our members are active is Public Service, the VEC program, contesting, public relations and promotion of the hobby, building and homebrewing, and just good old-fashioned operating. These are all the things that make our hobby the GREAT HOBBY that it is. It can be anything we choose to make it. Let us remember never to take this too seriously. Amateur Radio is just a hobby, it shouldn't be give us an ulcer...

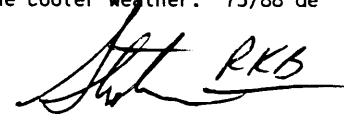
Quite frankly, the only support we got in the beginning was from a group of friends that most us have never met, "those RVWARS guys". A classic small amateur radio club with big but executable ideas. We heartily outstretch the hand of friendship and fraternalism to "those RVWARS guys" and congratulate them on their fortitude and accomplishments.

So now we're here, much to everyone's chagrin. The big clubs don't/won't know what they're missing! Too bad! And either because or in spite of what we're doing, we're growing, getting attention, and having fun. This club can be anything we want to make it. Let us choose wisely.

Likewise, this newsletter can be anything you want it to be. First, it can be anything you want to call it (within reason, of course), which means we need a name. The name could reflect upon the desired content. For example, TARAcature, might be appropriate if TARA were an organization for political cartoonists. Get the idea? The best name will be the right name, you'll know it when you hear it and so will we!

As for content, we hope to have a President's report (right, Bill?), an activities column (or two), and some other regular items from Contributing Editor Ken Davis, KB2KFBV. We look forward to, and would warmly welcome any and all contributions from others. All Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include an evening phone number, but authors' names will be withheld upon request. Suggestions and comments (good or bad) are always welcome, too. The deadline for all material is ten (10) days prior to the monthly meeting.

We will be experimenting with different type fonts and pitches over the next few months. In return, we hope to produce a newsletter of which we can all be proud! That's our editorial policy, no mumbo-jumbo, no old hams sleeping under bridges, AND NO DX COLUMNS! Enjoy the cooler weather. 73/88 de



Stephan M. Anderman, WA3RKB  
Editor

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OFFICERS:

- President - Bill Eddy, NY2U 273-9248
- Vice President - Bruce Roberts, KA2HRM 756-8996
- Secretary - Dorothy Ault, KB2JZI 271-7282
- Treasurer - David M. Pascale, WB2HKR 785-5040
- Sergeant at Arms - Ken Davis, KB2KFBV 272-0112

DIRECTORS:

- Stephan M. Anderman, WA3RKB 439-4519
- Tom Articola, N2CKV 473-5973
- Barbara Agneta, N2LCD 147.27
- Fred Wilcox, N2KFR 882-1238

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

- Repeater Technical/Liaison
  - Robert Isby, Jr., N2LUD 766-3473
- Newsletter Editor
  - Stephan M. Anderman, WA3RKB 439-4519
- Field Day
  - Paul "Skip" Wilson, KE2XF 664-4521

WE'VE BEEN CHALLENGED:

"Those RVWARS guys" think they know a thing or two about contesting, eh? What gaul, what gumption! (What lousy gumbo they serve at their meetings!) Well, despite the fact that we're not a contest or DX club, despite the fact that they've been around for years and years (Rip himself for at least 20!), and despite the fact that we're the new kid on the block, they've challenged us, total score vs. total score (we're not sure if phone and CW are separate sub-contests). Now we know that we're pretty good but let's face it, these guys couldn't beat their grandmothers on an 11 meter rig at a truck stop serving free food! So let's start to get the cobwebs out of the Alpha, grease up those rotor bearings, and check the integrity of those spacers, insulators, and feedlines. Beating them would be acceptable, embarrassing them will be great!

CALENDAR:

- 24 Sep - Southern VT ARC-Bennington Public Library-Union Street-7:00 PM-145.35
- 29 Sep - NoBARC-Polish Community Center-Linden Street-Pittsfield-7:00 PM-146.91
- 1 Oct - 1st Session-Novice License Course-Hudson Valley C.C.-call 518/283-1100
- 5 Oct - Exam Session-Room 3051-CII Bldg-RPI-15th Street-Troy-9:00 AM-145.19 and 147.27
- 7 Oct - Schenectady ARA-Linton H.S.-McClellan and the Plaza-7:30 PM-147.06
- 9 Oct - Rensselaer Co. ARES/RACES Assn.-Hudson Valley C.C.-101 Fitzgibbons-7:30 PM-147.18
- 10 Oct - Albany ARA-Colonie Community Center-Central Avenue-8:00 PM-145.19
- 14 Oct - Saratoga Co. RACES-4H Solar Bldg-Ballston Spa-7:30 PM-147.00 or 147.24
- 15 Oct - Troy ARA-Room 3051-CII Building-RPI 15th Street-7:30 PM-147.27
- 21 Oct - Rip Van Winkle ARS-John L. Edwards School-Hudson-7:30 PM-147.21

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ALBANY, NY 12208-0592

NOVICE CLASS LICENSE COURSE:

A new Novice class amateur radio licensing course starts October 1st in the Amstutz Building at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. This is a traditional Novice class course that offers both theory and CW (International Morse Code) instruction and will meet 10 times over 11 weeks. The cost of the course is \$35.00 (which covers a \$30.00 material fee), and includes a copy of the ARRL's Tune in the World. For additional information, call the Continuing Education Department at HVCC at 518/283-1100. If you'd like to help with instruction, please contact the course instructors: Joe Hoffman - KA2AXN (272-2055), Bob Spencer - WA2GYY (247-4782), or Ernie Popp - KA2HTU (477-9581).

FILLER STUFF:

Saw many of our members at the Saratoga County RACES Association hamfest over the weekend. Lots of goodies bought and sold.

George Bowen, N2LQS, and Neil Anderson, N2LOD, were seen video taping an interview that WA3RKB was doing with ARRL Hudson Division Director Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF. Apparently, the guys are busy working on a series of TV shows about amateur radio for the community on the different cable outlets.

Incidentally, Steve, WA3RKB, was appointed as a new ARRL Hudson Division Assistant Director by WA2DHF. RKB must be getting a sore neck from wearing all those hats at the same time.

Neil threatened to drive RKB home from the hamfest (he was reportedly unable to do so himself) and Steve was reportedly coerced into buying N2LUD's 440 HT in order to secure a ride home.

The Rensselaer County repeater link system should be back up with all four separate repeaters in operation shortly. The Samaritan Hospital (Troy) repeater has been changed to 146.76 and will be linked to 147.18 and 442.2 when the new 147.345 machine hits the airwaves in the next few weeks.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NEWS VALUE MAIL - DO NOT DELAY