



# THE TARABLE FACTS

## TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1992

**NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 20, 1992, 7:30 P.M. LOCATION: GREEN ISLAND MUNICIPAL BUILDING, GEORGE STREET, GREEN ISLAND, TALK IN AVAILABLE 147.27 OR 449.225.**

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Bill Eddy, NY2U

Well, here we are again, with pen in hand trying to write something very clever and witty. However, that will have to wait for now. Let me first take a few words to thank Barbara, N2LCD and Tom, N2CKV for the great job with the newsletter. Also, I am sorry there wasn't a President's report for September. However....Nah, there was no excuse. So, here is this month's report.

September has turned out to be a very busy month for TARA with a lot of participation from it's membership. First, we had a VE session on September 1 at the Albany Airport for the CAP, Civil Air Patrol. We sent one team that covered this session that consisted of Walt, WA1KKM, Sue, N2LBR and Jerry, WA2IWW, who helped me out a great deal. Second, there was a SET (Simulated Emergency Test) drill that saw several of

TARA's members tuning their skills at emergency communications. The same weekend many of our members could be found providing communications for this year's Uncle Sam Day Parade in Lansingburgh. Big thanks to both Kim and John, KA2BVI and his XYL Kim for asking us to help. TARA was able to field about 15 members at this event. Event organizers were thrilled with our performance. Hopefully, this will become a yearly event. On September 12 many of our club could be found at the Ballston Spa Hamfest, sponsored by Saratoga County RACES. This year our club sold ARRL publications and was able to turn a profit. Yes, the Club made \$27.10 from the sales. On the air in September, our members were found working the ARRL VHF/UHF contest, along with the CQ WW - RTTY contest. I wish I had enough room to thank all those that helped out with these events but, you know who you are, and we do thank you.

At our October meeting, TARA will be having our first guest speaker, Sue Morrison, N2OGP as the first speaker. Sue's topic will be DFing (Direction Finding). Sue has a lot of training in this field with her background in the Civil Air Patrol. This surely will be a presentation not to miss.

While on the subject of monthly meeting, we have a new meeting hall. With the help of Kenny (KB2KFB) and the fine folks of Green Island, we were able to gain access to the town Municipal building. Look out Green Island here we come. I think everyone will feel more at home here. Plus, with our new refreshment chairwoman, June, KA2VEK will make sure we have plenty of snacks. In addition, Kenny has volunteered to head up the Events Committee. So, why don't you come join us for the next meeting, have a nice hot coffee, a little snack and best of all enjoy the company.

If anyone is in the need of a club name badge, you can contact Jerry, WA2IWW. Already Jerry has put together two orders with no trouble. Just remember to bring your cash, Jerry's a hard guy to bargain with. (HI HI).

Before I close this report, there are a few people we haven't heard from lately, Ferrin, WA2MRL, Pete, N2PZE (Plus your parents) and Dick, WV2F. We still miss Larry, KF2CY at the meetings and on the air. Hope your wife is feeling better? How about Art, KB2JZJ are you still on the River? Give us a shout.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

To the Editor: Meeting Courtesy

As a reminder to all, let me restate the Second Principle found in the Preamble to the Troy Amateur Radio Association Constitution and By-Laws:

"Amateur Radio should promote fellowship, friendships and encourage camaraderie among its members."

What took place during the September meeting failed to even come close to promoting fellowship or friendships. To sit at a meeting and blatantly belittle another member is totally uncalled for.

We can all look at another person and find fault, but I really don't think that is why we joined TARA.

This is not the first time that this has happened at a meeting but hopefully it will be the last.

Jack Culliton, N2LBZ, Vice  
President

#### EDITORIAL

Without getting into the specifics, the Vice-President of our Club, Jack, N2LBZ, felt it necessary and appropriate to admonish the membership for improper behavior at the last club meeting. His letter, published in this issue, cites the "belittlement" of a fellow member and his point should be given due consideration by all of us. His criticism of our behavior was limited to the last meeting but I feel that his criticism could apply equally well to past behaviors on the 27 and 225 repeaters. Every day we talk with fellow members, kid around, rib each other and yes; occasionally "belittle" each other. I have heard some members brag about this behavior and boast that, "if you can't stand the heat, leave the kitchen". Granted, needling each other is a hallmark of our club and it is for the most part done with no malice. Yet, it becomes a "fine line" to separate the ribbing from the hurtful double entendres, innuendoes, abuse, and personal ridicule. Our club was founded as Jack pointed out to promote friendship and fellowship. We have generally succeeded and continue to thrive. We do go too far at times

and cross the "fine line". This nastiness is harmful to each of us and sets a poor example for new hams, scanner listeners and potential hams. All of us must set an example of civility and respect for each other and visitors to our repeater and avoid that tendency to cross the line into bad taste. Thank you Jack for reminding us.

Tom, N2CKV

### NEWCOMER'S NOOK

#### The Dipole:

One of the simplest yet effective antennas for HF is the dipole. All of us at one point in time have built dipoles and proceeded to apologize for its presence when working other stations on the air with yagis or quads. This is unfortunate because a well-constructed dipole can do a good job within its limitations.

A dipole is essentially a half-wavelength horizontally polarized radiator that has a feedpoint impedance of approximately 75 ohms which permits it to be fed with standard 50 ohm transmission feedline. The dipole is usually constructed as a single band antenna though variations such as trap dipoles or G5RV versions permit multi-band operation. The dipole has a narrow bandwidth largely because its wire construction has a small cross sectional area compared to its overall length. Under "ideal" conditions, it has a propagation pattern similar to a figure 8 broadside to its length. In reality, because of height, obstructions, etc., it most often has a circular pattern. The current along a dipole is at its maximum at the center feedpoint while the voltage is highest at its two ends. For optimum performance, the antenna should be at least one half wavelength above the earth's surface for the band it was designed for.

The formula for building the dipole is

$468 \text{ Fmhz} = \text{length of a half wave}$ . Dividing that figure by two will give you the rough dimensions for each of the quarter wave radiators. It must be emphasized that these only approximate dimensions. To tune the dipole for resonance at the operating frequency the antenna will need to be pruned a quarter inch at a time. The center feedpoint of a dipole may or may not be feed through a balun. Some hams swear by baluns; other simply do not use them. My own opinion is that they can't hurt. I use the W2AU balun which also serves as a centerpoint insulator for the dipole but its up to the individual ham. I also recommend that #12 copperweld be used as the radiators. I found that standard wire stretches after a period of time thus changing the resonant frequency of the antenna. Be very sure to seal the point where the coax connects to the dipole feedpoint. It is easy for moisture to seep into the transmission line at the point degrading the line and the antenna efficiency.

The dipole is not in the same league as large beam arrays but neither is its costs. The dipole is a good performer and, if care is taken during its constructions, it will last a long time.

### REPEATER UPDATE

**No Information Provided by Bob, N2LUD, Repeater Liaison this month.**

### SEPTEMBER MEETING RESULTS

The meeting was held at the RPI campus. Future meeting site for Tara will be the Green Island Municipal Center, located on George Street in Green Island. The Municipal Center is located 2 blocks north of the Green Island Bridge, across the street from the Park Hotel. Kenny, KB2KfV was successful in securing this site. Ample parking is available in the parking lot located

across the street on Hudson Ave. Special appreciation is extended to the Mayor and Village Trustees of Green Island for their generosity in providing this meeting space.

It was also decided at a previous board meeting to no longer read the minutes from each meeting. Instead they will be typed by the Club Secretary, Marilyn, KB2JZI and distributed at the monthly meeting. Included for distribution at future monthly meetings will also be the Treasurer's Report.

The booth at the Saratoga Hamfest proved to be quite a success. Minor difficulty occurred when the Club tried to obtain a larger than normal book order from the ARRL. Solutions have been presented and it looks like it will no longer be an issue for future endeavors.

Two committee chairpersons have been appointed; Refreshments Committee Chair is June, KA2VEK and Events Committee Chair is Kenny, KB2KFV. Thanks to both for their commitment.

It was decided to suspend the meeting portions for June, July and August and limit the Business portion of meetings during the rest of the year to no longer than a half hour. October's Program is "Direction Finding" and will be presented by Sue Morrison, N2OGP. Mark your calendars for an interesting presentation.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Birthday greetings to Dave, the Banker and Bob, N2LUD this month.

**Ed. Note:** To remind members; if you know of a club member's birthday or other event worthy of recognition, please send it to the Club mailbox and we will be sure to put it in the newsletter.

### OFFICERS

President:

Bill Eddy, NY2U, 273-9248

Vice President:

Jack Culliton, N2LBZ, 271-6763

Secretary:

Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI, 272-0112

Treasurer:

Dave Pascale, WB2HKR, 785-5040

Sergeant at Arms:

Skip Wilson, KE2XF, 664-4521

### DIRECTORS

Steve Anderman, WA3RKB	439-4519
Rudy Ault, N2JZK	271-7282
Ken Davis, KB2KFV	272-0112
Bud Hovey, WF2B	283-2337

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Barbara Agneta, N2LCD

Tom Articola, N2CKV

REPEATER LIAISON:

Bob Isby, N2LUD

REPEATER TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

Dave Edwards, WA2GBO

John Pritt, WA1YXQ

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Bruce Roberts, KA2HRM

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE:

June Smith, KA2VEK

**EVENTS COMMITTEE:**

Ken Davis, KB2KFB

**UHF/VHF CONTEST COORDINATOR:**

Fred Wilcox, N2KFR

**HAMFESTS**

Oct 16-17 Hosstraders, Deerfield, NH  
Oct 25 NOBARC Auction 7:05 p.m Polish  
Community Center, Pittsfield MA

**VE SESSIONS**

The joint VE team from the Albany ARA  
and Troy ARA have scheduled exam sessions  
for all classes of Amateur Radio license at  
RPI, Troy for the following dates:

October 10th      Saturday      9:00 a.m.  
November 14th   Saturday      9:00 a.m.

Exams will be held in the CII building, Room  
3051. Doors open one half hour before the  
exam. No one is admitted after exam start  
time. Please bring an original license and a  
photocopy, two forms of identification, any  
original CSCE's and \$5.40. Contact Bill  
Eddy, NY2U or Bud Hovey, WF2B for  
further details.

Schenectady Museum ARS will hold a VE  
session at noon on October 25. Pre-  
registration is required. Contact Peter,  
WB2FWK at 518 664-2188.

**WEEKLY NETS**

For your information, the following are some  
of the Capital District nets on VHF/UHF.  
Take the time to check into some. They all  
welcome your participation.

The following is a listing of when and where  
the CDARC bulletins may be heard. They  
always contain interesting and informative  
items; so tune in.

Freq	Monday	Thursday
145.19, 147.27	7:00 PM	5:00 PM
146.82, 224.14, 224.42, 444.0, 447.225	7:15 PM	5:15 PM
147.00 & 147.06	7:30 PM	5:30 PM
146.91, 147.12	7:45 PM	5:45 PM
146.76, 147.18, & 442.2	8:00 PM	6:00 PM

**TARA DEALER FOR ARRL**

With the sun and outdoor fun of summer  
behind us and with more indoor time  
becoming a reality, this might be the perfect  
time to study and an upgrade, design and  
antenna, or develop an interest in packet,  
SSTV or satellite operation. To help you  
pursue any of these interests, you might  
consider ordering from the large selection of  
ARRL books. TARA is an authorized dealer

hamfest. Looks like this area can really support an event like this. Nice to see ARRL honchos present. Saratoga RACES will hold its next meeting on October 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Solair Building on East High Street in Ballston Spa. The program will be Beginner's Night (VHF).

For those of you who wish to get involved in some public service work, Halloween is coming and the annual Pumpkin Patrol will take to the highway on October 30 and 31. To work bridge overpasses for gremlin's misbehaving, Jack, WA2YBM has organized this effort for many years and would welcome volunteers. Contact him at 869-1074 or on the daily CDRN net.

#### FOR SALE

Color Monitor 40/80 Column 13 inch diagonal screen made by Thompson or one made by Commodore. Your Choice \$125

Panasonic Printer, Model KX-P 1091 with interface cable - \$125

Contact Jack, WA2YBM, 869 1074 or 145.19.

have any information or articles you would like to see published, please forward to the Editors, TARA, PO Box 584, Latham, NY 12110, no later than the first of each month.

#### SQUELCH TALES

The October issue of QST (p69) noted the party RVWARS and TARA gave for "Dr. Dave" last winter to recognize his achievements in helping new people get into the hobby. Congratulations to the DOC.

Can tell its Fall, Seems like the talk on most of the local repeaters is about hams who are dusting off their code practice tapes and keyers and attempting to upgrade now that summer activities are over.

Don't have the call signs of the TARA members who helped out with the Uncle Sam parade in early September but we understand that a great job was done by everyone who participated.

Fred, I guess we will be hearing you burning up 2 and 440 on SSB as well as FM now that the new rig has arrived. Enjoy.

Saratoga RACES Hamfest was a huge success this year. Over 900 hams attended the