



THE TARABLE FACTS

TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER, 1992

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 15, 1992, 7:30 P.M. TALK IN ON 147.27 OR 449.225 FOR LOCATION: GREEN ISLAND MUNICIPAL BUILDING, GREEN ISLAND, NY

NEWCOMER'S NOOK

So you decided to become a ham radio operator. Quite probably, you took a class sponsored by a local radio club and at the end of the course took your first exam. The last thing on your mind as you tried to cram those frequency allocations or formulas was to ask who are these hams who are administering the exam. Most newcomers to ham radio are unaware of the role VEC's and VE's play in testing for initial licenses or for license upgrades. This article will try and explain how VEC's came into being and who they are.

All amateur upgrade testing was conducted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) prior to 1983. Typically, the FCC regional office would schedule visits to selected cities in their region to conduct the tests on a cycle of anywhere from quarterly to annually. In the early 80's, the government found that one means to help balance the budget was to cut funds from FCC regional

offices and this impacted on the road schedule of the FCC regions. In late 1982, Congress passed the Goldwater-Wirth bill and President Reagan signed it into law. This legislation, among other things, gave birth to the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Program.

In 1984, the FCC began certifying organizations to coordinate the activities of Volunteer Examiners (VE's). A VEC is an organization that has entered into an agreement with the FCC to coordinate the efforts of VE's in preparing and administering ham radio licenses. An individual VE must be accredited by a VEC. Examinations are coordinated by the VEC organization but are conducted by the Volunteer Examiners. As of last year, the FCC had certified a total of 18 VEC's and is not accepting any additional applications. Locally, the monthly Albany

ARA/Troy ARA test sessions are conducted by VE's who are accredited by the ARRL VEC.

Amateurs who hold either Advanced or Extra class licenses and meet other eligibility criteria may apply to any of the 18 currently certified VEC's for VE accreditation. The largest group is the ARRL VEC which has accredited over 16,000 VE's. The FCC authorizes VEC's to collect a fee from each candidate taking an amateur radio exam (excluding novice). The maximum fee ceiling is established each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The FCC permits VEC's to develop question pools for each ham exam element. At a 1987 conference of all VEC's, it was agreed that a subcommittee representing the VEC's would develop, maintain and distribute question pools on behalf of all the VECs. These question pools are revised periodically.

VE's and the corresponding VEC's provide a valuable service to the amateur radio community. Their success over the years has proven the wisdom of the Goldwater-Wirth law.

REFLECTIONS

by Tom, N2CKV

With the end of 1992 only a few weeks away, it seems like the proper time to reflect on what TARA has accomplished over the past year, what its successes were and what areas need improvement during the upcoming year. TARA is still a young and growing club but its achievements in 1992 are impressive. The club had its very first field day, a club picnic, and was successful in getting a club repeater up and running. We sponsored nets on both HF and VHF, had a table at the Saratoga RACES hamfest and volunteered for several public service events. Toward the end of 1992, we officially moved to a new meeting

site in Green Island. The membership continued to grow during the year, we had our share of disagreements and fun and learned a little about how to conduct a club in the process.

As we face next year, it might be appropriate to revisit the Preamble of the TARA bylaws so each club member may decide for him or herself if we're staying true to our charter:

"The Troy Radio Association was established based on several underlying principles. First and foremost amateur radio is a hobby and as such is meant to be enjoyed.... Second, Amateur Radio should promote fellowship, friendships and encourage camaraderie....Third, Amateur Radio should always be aware of its usefulness in providing emergency or public service communication...Finally, Amateur Radio should always encourage individuals to enter its ranks....."

Well, how well do you think we did this year?

NOTICE

Last June, The President of the Club asked us if we would assume responsibility for the editorship of the Tarable Facts. We agreed. From the onset, we wanted to make it a newsletter that almost exclusively focused on news of interest to members. From the feedback we received, some members were happy with our efforts and some were not so happy; but we tried.

This will be our last issue as editors of the Tarable Facts. We are resigning for reasons of a personal nature. We thank everyone who gave us support over the past six months and wish our successor the very best.

WIAW schedule

Pacific	Mtn	Cent	East	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	UTC	
6 am	7 am	8 am	9 am	Visiting Operator Time				Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	1400
7 am	8 am	9 am	10 am					Code Bulletin				1500
8 am	9 am	10 am	11 am					Teleprinter Bulletin				1600
9 am	10 am	11 am	noon					1700				
10 am	11 am	noon	1 pm					1800				
11 am	noon	1 pm	2 pm					1900				
noon	1 pm	2 pm	3 pm					2000				
1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	2100	
2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	5 pm	Code Bulletin						2200		
3 pm	4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	Teleprinter Bulletin						2300		
4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	0000	
5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	Code Bulletin						0100		
6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	Teleprinter Bulletin						0200		
6 ⁴⁵ pm	7 ⁴⁵ pm	8 ⁴⁵ pm	9 ⁴⁵ pm	Voice Bulletin						0245		
7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	0300	
8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	11 pm	Code Bulletin						0400		
9 pm	10 pm	11 pm	Mdnt	Teleprinter Bulletin						0500		
9 ⁴⁵ pm	10 ⁴⁵ pm	11 ⁴⁵ pm	12 ⁴⁵ am	Voice Bulletin						0545		

Morse Code transmissions:

Frequencies are 1.818, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz.

Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7-1/2, 10, 13 and 15 WPM.

Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM.

Code practice text is from the pages of *QST*. The source is given at the beginning of each practice session and alternate speeds within each session. For example, "Text is from July 1992 *QST*, pages 9 and 81" indicates that the plain text is from the article on page 9 and mixed number/letter groups are from page 81.

Code bulletins are sent at 18 WPM.

Teleprinter transmissions:

Frequencies are 3.625, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 and 147.555 MHz.

Bulletins are sent at 45.45-baud Baudot and 100 baud AMTOR, FEC Mode B. 110-baud ASCII will be sent only as time allows.

On Tuesdays and Saturdays at 6:30 Eastern time, Keplerian Elements for many amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

Voice transmissions:

Frequencies are 3.99, 7.29, 14.29, 18.16, 21.39, 28.59 and 147.555 MHz.

Miscellanea:

On Fridays, UTC, a DX bulletin replaces the regular bulletins.

WIAW is open to visitors during normal operating hours: from 1:00 P.M. until 1 A.M. on Mondays, 9 A.M. until 1 A.M. Tuesday through Friday, and from 3:30 P.M. to 1 A.M. on Saturdays and Sundays. FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1 - 4 P.M. Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy. Special arrangements must be made for weekend operation; please call or write at least a week in advance.

In a communications emergency, monitor WIAW for special bulletins as follows: voice on the hour, teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

Effective June 1, 1992, WIAW discontinued its Monday morning code practice and bulletins. Beginning on that date, Monday transmissions commence at 4 pm Eastern time. The change is to allow time for increased routine maintenance and performance testing of station facilities. The Tuesday-Friday schedule is unchanged.

Headquarters and WIAW are closed on New Year's Day, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the following Friday, and Christmas Day. On the first Thursday of September, Headquarters and WIAW will be closed during the afternoon.

Tentative 1993 ARRL Contest Calendar

JANUARY	1	Straight Key Night
	2-3	ARRL RTTY Roundup
	23-25	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
	30-Feb 7	ARRL Novice Roundup
FEBRUARY	8-12	School Club Roundup
	20-21	ARRL International DX Contest, CW
MARCH	6-7	ARRL International DX Contest, phone
APRIL	5 (Mon)	144-MHz Spring Sprint
	13 (Tues)	220-MHz Spring Sprint
	21 (Wed)	432-MHz Spring Sprint
MAY	1 (Sat)	902-MHz Spring Sprint
	1 (Sat)	1296-MHz Spring Sprint
	1 (Sat)	2304-MHz Spring Sprint
	22-23 (Sat-Sun)	50-MHz Spring Sprint
JUNE	12-14	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
	26-27	Field Day
JULY	10-11	IARU HF World Championship
AUGUST	7-8	ARRL UHF Contest
	21-22	ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
SEPTEMBER	11-13	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
	18-19	ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
NOVEMBER	6-8	ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW
	20-22	ARRL November Sweepstakes, phone
DECEMBER	3-5	ARRL 160-Meter Contest
	11-12	ARRL 10-Meter Contest

SQUELCH TALES

Tom, N2SQO has a ham related landline BBS up and running. He invites everyone with the necessary capabilities to "Dial-in" The board may be accessed by dialing 782-0507.(8NI)

Belated birthday wishes to Skip, KE2XF and Rudy, N2JZK, and Dorothy, KB2LGA who had birthdays during the months of November and October.

Very good scanner net has started up in the area. They currently meet Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m. on the 145.19 machine. NCS is Tom, N2SQO. While on the topic of nets, don't miss the Satellite Net with George, N2LQS and Marty, N2LDR on 145.37 Mondays at 9:00 p.m. Finally, there is a YL net held Mondays on 146.94 at 8:00 p.m.

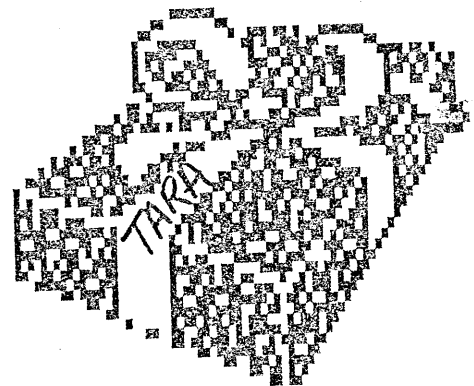
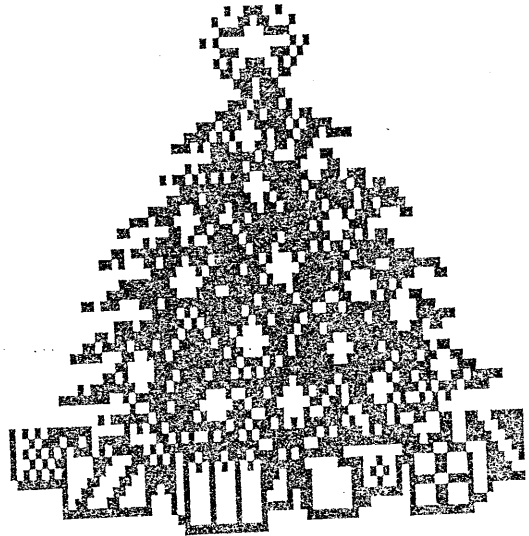
Hope everyone had lots of fun in the November sweepstakes contest. Understand Walt and Sue did a fine job coordinating the TARA effort. Congratulations to Walt for a "Clean Sweep". Watch out Rippers!!!

Don't miss the TARA Christmas party on December 15. If its like last year, bring a hearty appetite for all the good treats sure to be there. Also, don't forget a grab bag gift.

Congratulations to Neil, N2LOD for taking over the position of Chief Radio Officer of Rensselaer County RACES. He succeeds Joe, KA2AXF who will be too busy with job committments to carry on.

From the Editors of TARA:

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



BOARD MEETING:

The Next Board meeting for TARA is December 8, 1992, 7:00 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome two new members to TARA this month:

Glenn Cooper, WB2FOB
Brian Seymour, KB2LTU

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, KB2KFV

UHF/VHF CONTEST COORDINATOR:

Fred Wilcox, N2KFR

VE SESSIONS

The joint VE team from the Albany ARA and Troy ARA will soon schedule sessions for all classes of Amateur Radio license at RPI, Troy for 1993. The schedule will begin in February. Contact Bill Eddy for exact dates and times.

OTHER CLUB MEETINGS:

ALBANY:

They will hold their next meeting on Friday, December 11 at the Colonie Community Center in Albany. Talk-in on 145.19.

RENN. CO. RACES

This group will meet on December 9th at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. Meeting topic will be Packet Communications. Talk in on 147.18.

RVWARS

The December meeting of the Rip Van Winkle Club will be held on December 21, 1992. Talk in on the 147.21 repeater.

SARA:

The Schenectady Amateur Radio Association meets the first Monday of each month at Schenectady High School (formerly Linton H.S.) in Schenectady, NY. Talk in on 147.06. The program in December is a presentation by Lentini Communications of Connecticut.