

MORE THAN A CLUB. WE ARE FAMILY!!



# THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Vol 20, Issue 3



MARCH/APRIL 2011

## HOUSE BILL THREATENS 70 CM BAND

A bill currently being considered by the United States House of Representatives may threaten the 440 Mhz amateur radio allocation. "Among the bands to be reallocated for commercial auction within ten years of the passage of H.R. 607 are the paired bands **420-440 MHz** and 450-470 MHz." *As many hams know the 420-440 MHz range is well within the range of the proposed reallocation and thus, if passed, the allocation may sharply curtail if not eliminate these frequencies from ham radio use.*

Whether or not you are an ARRL member, you should write your Representative and tell them that **H.B. 607** in it's current form is the wrong way to go. **Make your voice heard!!**

(Link: <http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters>)

## UPCOMING HAM RADIO EXAMINATIONS

<http://www.n2ty.org/atvet.htm>

Two Sessions Upcoming

Saturday, March 12, 2011

Saturday, April 23, 2011

10:00 am

(doors open at 9:20 am)

Exam Location

CII Building - Room 3045

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Troy, New York

### ON EXAM DAY BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. A legal photo ID (driver's license, passport).
2. When no photo ID is available, two forms of identification must be presented:
  - a. non-photo ID/driver's license (some states still have them)
  - b. birth certificate (must have the appropriate seal)
  - c. social security card
  - d. library card
  - e. utility bill, bank statement or other business correspondence that specifically names the person; or a postmarked envelope addressed to the person at his or her current mailing address as it appears on the Form 605.

- Examinees may bring any of the above items and/or a school ID, minor's work permit, report card, or a legal guardian may present a photo ID.



*Jerry Murray, WA2IWW, Volunteer Examiner Liason*

- Bring your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC issued Federal Registration Number (FRN). VEC's

are required by FCC to submit either your SSN or your FRN number with your license application form. If you prefer not to give your SSN, then you may use your FCC issued FRN, if you have one. For instructions on how to register your SSN with the FCC and receive a FRN, visit the FCC's FAQ page and the FCC's registration instructions page.

- If applicable, bring the original and a photocopy of your current Amateur Radio license and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) you may hold from previous exam sessions. The photocopy(s) will not be returned.
- Two number two pencils with erasers and a pen.
- A calculator with the memory erased and formulas cleared is allowed. You may not bring any written notes or calculations into the exam session. Slide rules and logarithmic tables are acceptable, as long as they're free of notes and formulas. Cell phone must be silenced or turned off during the exam session. The phones' calculator function

may not be used.

- Bring a check, a money order or cash to cover the exam session fee(s).

***The ARRL VEC Exam Fee for 2011 remains at \$15.00 for one attempt at all three license elements.***

## WHY HAM RADIO ENDURES IN A WORLD OF TWEETS

by David Rowan of  
wired.co.uk

**WIRED**

<http://www.tinyurl.com/hamradioendures>

Somehow it makes little sense that amateur "ham" radio continues to thrive in the age of [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [iPhones](#). Yet the century-old communications technology -- which demands such commitment that you must generally pass an exam to receive a licence -- currently attracts around 350,000 practitioners in Europe, and a further 700,000 in the [United States](#), some 60 per cent more than 30 years ago. What is it about a simple

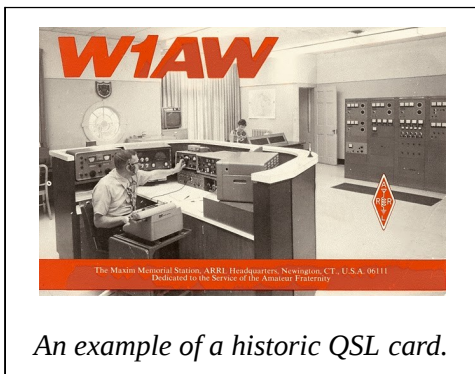


*One possible example of the marriage of amateur radio and the Internet using an Echolink application.*

microphone, a transmitter-receiver and the seductive freedom of the open radio spectrum that's turned a low-tech anachronism into an enduring and

deeply engaging global hobby?

For a start, there is that thrill in establishing a magical person-to-person long-distance radio conversation that no commodified internet communication can compete with. In a world of taken-for-granted torrents of emails, instant messages and [Skype](#) video-chats, there is a purity and a richness in the shared experience of exchanging "73s" during a live "QSO" with strangers on another continent. Why, the very "ham slang" that defines the community -- 73 translating as "best regards", and QSOs as two-way conversations -- tells practitioners that they belong to a special, mutually curious and highly courteous club. And the fact that DXers -- long-distance amateur operators -- take the trouble to acknowledge received transmissions and conversations by sending their new contacts custom-designed postcards through the analogue postal service... well, that is charm itself in a world where it's considered excessive to end a communication with anything more effusive than a "bestest".



You only need study a handful of these cards to understand, even today, the old-fashioned excitement of connecting with a stranger who might be many thousands of miles away. The postcards -- known as QSL cards -- can be as

quirky and personality-filled as the senders themselves. At times humorous and characterful, at others terse and geographically factual, they have naturally inspired their own subculture that has spurred DXers to collect and display them much as they would colourful foreign postage stamps.

The cards invariably display as a minimum some basic factual information about the sender. This will generally include the radio operator's individual call sign, his (there are not too many hers) location, and a few details about the signal detected. And just to show that the Twitter generation did not invent the linguistic contractions exemplified in text-message-speak, QSL cards too rely on slang and abbreviations to pack information into a tight space. So cards will display the "RST" -- the received radio station's readability, signal and strength; perhaps details of the sender's "XMTR" (transmitter) and "ANT" (antenna); and occasionally a request to reciprocate, expressed as the shorthand "PSE QSL TNX" (please send an acknowledgement card, thanks) or the more chatty "hw abt a crd om?" (how about a card, old man?). Old man, by the way, is not a reference to the recipient's age -- just as, on the rarer occasions when the DXer is female, she is referred to as a "YL", a young lady, whatever her chronological age.

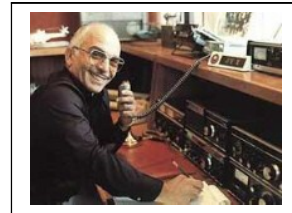
DXers have been exchanging QSL cards since at least 1916, when Edward Andrews of Philadelphia -- callsign 3TQ -- recorded the receipt of a card from 8VX of Buffalo, New York. Over the next decade, the hobby took off -- so much so that, by 1928, Paul Segal (W9EEA) had formulated an "amateur's code"

setting out six key qualities to which practitioners must adhere: "The radio amateur is considerate... loyal... progressive... friendly... balanced... [and] patriotic," Segal specified, always ready for service to country and community.

Since then, the hobby has captivated royalty and celebrities alike. Among the most celebrated DXers have been the late King Hussein of Jordan (callsign JY1), Queen Noor (JY1H) and Juan Carlos, King of Spain (EA0JC). Had you picked the right moment, you could have chatted to Morocco's King Hassan II (CN8MH), the former Sultan of Oman (A41AA) or Bhumiphol Adulayadej, King of Thailand (HS1A). If monarchs have never appealed, you could instead have shot the breeze with Marlon Brando (FO5GJ), prime minister Rajiv Ghandi of India (VU2RG), or the US newsreader Walter Cronkite (KB2GSD) -- not forgetting the singer Cliff Richard (W2JOF), Joe Walsh of The Eagles (WB6ACU), and genuinely beyond-this-world DXers such as Yuri Gagarin and Helen Sharman.

It's little wonder that collectors describe the buzz of receiving a new exotic foreign card as akin to that of philatelists discovering a rare commemorative stamp. That explains why the late Jerry Powell, a New Jersey ham between 1928 to 2000 (W2OJW), proudly displayed the 369 cards he had gathered from Okinawa to Papua. Another obsessive collector, Thomas Roscoe of Brookfield, Ohio (K8CX), has created an awe-inspiring QSL museum where he displays his trophies from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe (you can see his individual cards at [hamgallery.com](http://hamgallery.com)). Take a journey with Roscow to Wallis &

Futuna Island and Western Kiribati, to Kyrgyzstan and Kerguelen Island; visit "states" whose international status is somewhat contentious, such as the Republic of Ichkeria and the Principality of Sealand; celebrate one-off events such as Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, or the Queen Mary's last voyage.



*King Hussein, JY1/SK (1935-1999), of Jordan made his share of QSOs during his reign.*

But it's not simply the romance of card-collecting that continues to inspire DXers, nor the blunt urge to communicate. Instead, hams talk proudly about belonging to a global "brotherhood", with few rules and little bureaucracy and the ability to transcend language, religion and race -- while never quite knowing who they might come in contact with.

Plus, of course, the chance to be a genuine real-life hero. Days after a magnitude 7.3 earthquake devastated [Haiti](#) in January, amateur radio operators were busy at work connecting rescuers within the country and contacting survivors' families. When a magnitude 8.8 earthquake hit Chile the next month, and the phone network collapsed, a radio operator called Alejandro Jara broadcast the first information from the ground. Hams stepped in on September 11, 2001, and during Hurricane Katrina. Then there

was Tony Pole-Evans, a bird-lover with a short-wave radio on Saunders Island, who famously risked his life during Argentina's 1982 invasion of the Falkland Islands to radio the first news back to Britain that 1,000 soldiers had landed on Goose Green.

How exciting it must have been to intercept that particular radio call. And boy, what a QSL card to top one's collection. You can tweet all you like, but this is the way to communicate.

## THE PHONETIC ALPHABET

The NATO phonetic alphabet or more formally the international radiotelephony spelling alphabet, is the most commonly used spelling dictionary. The NATO alphabet assigns code words to all of the letters in the English alphabet so that combinations of letters (and numbers) can be pronounced and understood by those who transmit and receive voice messages by radio or telephone regardless of their native language. The main reason it is used is so that the message that is trying to be conveyed over the radio can be clearly understood. This alphabet is very important to all operator's as it allows them to transmit messages and radio calls.

Letter	Code word	Pronunciation
A	<b>Alfa</b>	AL FAH
B	<b>Bravo</b>	BRAH VOH
C	<b>Charlie</b>	CHAR LEE
D	<b>Delta</b>	DELL TAH
E	<b>Echo</b>	ECK OH
F	<b>Foxtrot</b>	FOKS TROT
G	<b>Golf</b>	GOLF

H	<b>Hotel</b>	HO TELL
I	<b>India</b>	IN DEE AH
J	<b>Juliett</b>	JEW LEE ETT
K	<b>Kilo</b>	KEY LOH
L	<b>Lima</b>	LEE MAH
M	<b>Mike</b>	MIKE
N	<b>November</b>	NO VEM BER
O	<b>Oscar</b>	OSS CAH
P	<b>Papa</b>	PAH PAH
Q	<b>Quebec</b>	KEH BECK
R	<b>Romeo</b>	ROW ME OH
S	<b>Sierra</b>	SEE AIR RAH
T	<b>Tango</b>	TANG GO
U	<b>Uniform</b>	YOU NEE FORM
V	<b>Victor</b>	VIK TAH
W	<b>Whiskey</b>	WISS KEY
X	<b>X-ray or Xray</b>	ECKS RAY
Y	<b>Yankee</b>	YANG KEY
Z	<b>Zulu</b>	ZOO LOO

Number	Code word	Pronunciation
0	Zero	ZE RO
1	One	WUN
2	Two	TOO
3	Three	TREE
4	Four	FOW ER
5	Five	FIFE
6	Six	SIX
7	Seven	SEV EN
8	Eight	AIT
9	Nine	NIN ER



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**This advertisement is from the old S9 Magazine which was a CB radio mag.**

THE TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

[www.n2ty.org](http://www.n2ty.org)



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