



MORE THAN A CLUB, WE ARE FAMILY!

THE TARA NEWS

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WINNERS OF THE TARA ANNUAL RAFFLE DRAWING

Hey, some money was raised too!

The Troy Amateur Radio Association had their annual Fall Fund Drive and the lucky winners were pulled on September 8, 2011 at the Ballston Spa Hamfest.



1st PRIZE - Yaesu 350R:
Craig Wood, W2XAD
(pictured left)

2nd PRIZE - Yaesu 1900R:
John Melisky, KC2PGL

3rd PRIZE - Bozak 2 meter antenna:
Paul Piche, KC2YHV

W2XAD seems surprised at winning the top prize.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRIZE WINNERS!



OCTOBER HAMFEST

SPECIAL TARA MEETING

Tuesday, October 18th

As we approach the Autumn season some of us are gearing up for the TARA October Fest! This will be our 3rd Annual Fest!

We spend the evening swapping, buying and selling electronic items, like ham and computer related.

Lot's of great company and good food also!

We have plenty of tables left and if you would like to reserve at table which is free, please let me know!

There will be refreshments and also a door prize! The date is Tuesday, October 18th at the Municipal Center in Green Island, just north of the Green Island Bridge, from 6 till 8:30 PM. Remember, anything you bring to the fest that you do not sell, you must take back home. We are not responsible for your clean up.

So let the world famous TARA President, Karen Smith, KS2O (ksmithkb2uuc@aol.com) know if you would like a table to display your wares!



THE PHANTOM IS A HAM!

But is he a TARA Member?

<http://www.qsl.net/vu2msy/phantom.htm>



Artists and writers are quite aware about the potentiality of amateur radio. The innovative ideas of the creator of the famous comic strip hero 'Phantom' can be seen in his comic books. In these comic strips, Lee Falk illustrated how Phantom operates his radio station from deep inside the jungle and how his short wave wireless message gets tied to the telephone line (hams call it telephone patching) with the help of a ham by the name of Oscar (*how original -ed.*). Every ham radio operator has got his own "handle" (name). Phantom's handle is 'Kit!' (*sounds a bit like CB -ed.*)



Superman and Jimmy Olsen have a QSO with a "Mars" station.



BOUNCING OFF THE MOON

By [ASHLEE VANCE](#)
New York Times

Editors note: This article was published in the New York Times on June 27, 2009.



PALO ALTO, Calif. — Dogs bay at it. Lovers swoon under it. And some people like to bounce their voices off it.

The first two are easy, but sending a voice signal 239,200 miles to the moon and back is not quite as simple.

On Saturday, amateur radio buffs or “hams,” as they call themselves, will hold a global bounce-fest, using as many giant parabolic antenna radio telescopes as they can borrow around the world.

Not that one needs an excuse to hold a moon-bounce, but this one is being held as a kind of advance celebration of the 40th anniversary next month of the Apollo 11 mission.

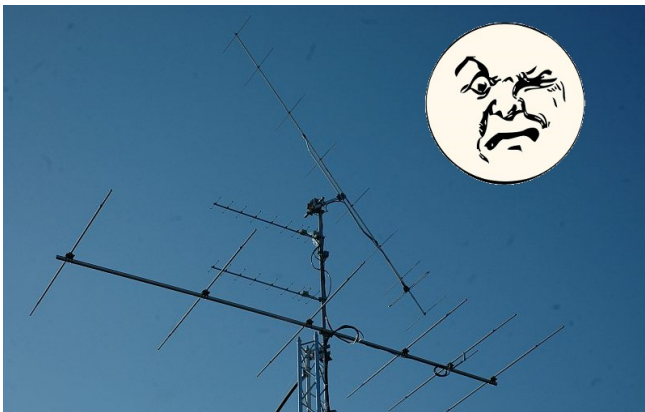
Moon-bouncing, also known as earth-moon-earth communications, or E.M.E. requires a higher grade of ham-radio technology than that used for

traditional earth-bound communication across parts of the radio spectrum approved by governments for amateur use. Only about 1,000 hams worldwide have stations capable of moon-bouncing.

Skill and luck also help. As the hams say, the moon is a poor sounding board, since it is spinning and has a rough surface that can disrupt signals. The hams' voices must survive atmospheric interference over the long round-trip journey in a discernible form.

"It's the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest in amateur radio," said Joseph H. Taylor Jr., a [Nobel Prize](#) winner and retired physics professor from [Princeton University](#) who has written software to help radio buffs communicate via weak signals. "It's possible, but only barely possible."

Large dishes like those owned by the government and communications companies can solve many of these problems by making it easier to send and receive signals. That's why the hobbyists have searched out retired or rarely used dishes. So far, operators of about 20 large dishes in the United States, Australia and Europe have agreed to participate in the event.



One of them is located on a hill overlooking Stanford University's campus, and will serve as the command center for the weekend's event. Known simply as the Dish, the 150-foot-wide antenna, owned by the federal government, will be outfitted with special equipment and a computerized tracking system to keep a powerful, focused signal on the moon.

A handful of radio enthusiasts have been working

on the structure over the last few weeks, huddling inside a central command center below the towering, rusting web of metal. They gathered around whirring communications gear as if it were a campfire and chortled with satisfaction when their "hellos" bounced back from the moon 2.5 seconds later.



"It is the thrill of pulling a weak signal out from a long distance that excites the amateur radio folks," said Jim Klassen (right), a ham in Reedley, Calif.

There is a point beyond the "because it's there" challenge.

The hams also hope to inspire young technology buffs. "People think of ham radio as something Grandpa did down in the basement while he smoked and talked to people around the world," said Pat Barthelow, who has organized the worldwide moon-bounce, called Echoes of Apollo. "I think moon-bounce retains an exoticness and difficulty that can hook some people and bring ham radio into the modern era."

Creating a homemade radio capable of hitting the moon can require years of tweaking custom components. The setups cost \$200 to \$2,000.

The United States military began bouncing radio signals off the moon in the 1950s to communicate over long distances when other transmission methods were hampered by atmospheric disruptions. By the mid-1960s, operators at large dishes started building amateur systems capable of moon-bouncing. In 1964, Michael Staal

accomplished the feat, linking a setup at Stanford



to another one in Australia.

“I got famous very quickly,” said Mr. Staal, who sells antennas to ham radio operators.



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MOHAWK HUDSON MARATHON

“TARA” Members Participate in October 9th Event as Radio Operators – NOT Runners



After much worrying and meetings with the Mohawk Hudson Road Runners Club and joining forces with RPI'S W2SZ Amateur Radio Club. Karen, KS2O says; “We did a GREAT Job!” Karen also said she is very pleased with how we conducted our net!

Thank you to all who helped to make this day such a good day: **Ralph W2RFP, Karen N2WDL, Paul KC2Y, Eric W2EEC, Br. Rich KC2FOL, Ridge KB2HWL, Tom KC2PSC, Dick W2ABY, Randy KL7TJZ, Ken WA2TQK, Craig W2XAD, Mike K2MTS, Sue KC2IBI, Ray N2ZQF, Mac W2VLT, Art KB2JZJ, Mac W2VLT, Brandon KB3IGC and Karen, KS2O**

