



MORE THAN A CLUB, WE ARE FAMILY!



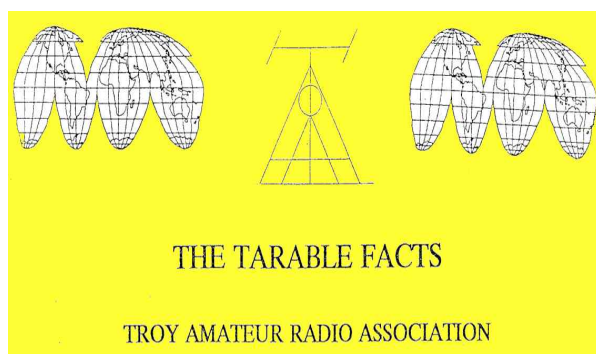
# THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League



March/April 2012

## T.A.R.A. TO CELEBRATE 21 YEARS OF FAMILY AND SERVICE TO AMATEUR RADIO AND THE COMMUNITY



The Troy Amateur Radio Association will celebrate their 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary as a club with a party at our next meeting on April 17, 2012 at the Green Island Municipal Center (the site of our usual meetings). All members of the club should be getting an e-mail from Karen, KS20, about this and asking for volunteers to help set-up and tear-down and to bring whatever goodies (meaning food) you can. Most of you know the drill already.

## PHOENICOPTERUS RUBER\*



*Plastic versions notwithstanding, the vibrant pink greater flamingo is found throughout the world in warm, waterside regions.*

*Photograph by Michael Nichols for the National Geographic*

These famous pink birds can be found in warm, watery regions on many continents. They favor environments like estuaries and saline or alkaline lakes. Considering their appearance, flamingos are surprisingly fluid swimmers, but really thrive on the extensive mud flats where they breed and feed.

Greater flamingos are likely to be the only tall, pink bird in any given locale. They also have long, lean, curve necks and black-tipped bills with a distinctive downward bend.

Their bent bills allow them to feed on small organisms—plankton, tiny fish, fly larvae, and the like. In muddy flats or shallow water, they use their long legs and

webbed feet to stir up the bottom. They then bury their bills, or even their entire heads, and suck up both mud and water to access the tasty morsels within. A flamingo's beak has a filter-like structure to remove food from the water before the liquid is expelled.

Shrimp-like crustaceans are responsible for the flamingo's pink color. The birds pale in captivity unless their diet is supplemented.

## Fast Facts (\*The Greater Flamingo)

**Type:**

Bird

**Diet:**

Omnivore

**Size:**

36 to 50 in (91 to 127 cm); Wingspan, 60 in (152 cm)

**Weight:**

8.75 lbs (4 kg)

**Group name:**

Colony

**Size relative to a 6-ft (2-m) man:**



Greater flamingos live and feed in groups called flocks or colonies. They find safety in numbers, which helps to protect individual birds from predators while their heads are down in the mud. Greater flamingos also breed while gathered in groups. Once mating is complete, a pair takes turns incubating their single egg. Young flamingos are born gray and white and do not turn pink for two years. In years when wetlands and pools are dry and food scarce, flamingos may not breed.

*From April 2012 issue of National Geographic*

## SOME VINTAGE HAM COMPONENTS AND EQUIPMENT



VIN

*TAGE HAM RADIO METER  
SIMPSON TMC DB 58939-N6625-  
672-5890*



*Vintage Oldham amp meter*



*Allied A-2515 general coverage receiver*

**:: Upcoming Events ::**

Thursday, May 17th 2012 -  
CDPHP Workforce Challenge

Monday May 28th 2012 10 AM -  
Watervliet Memorial Day Parade

Saturday, June 2nd 2012 -  
Freihofer's Run For Women

Saturday, September 22, 2012 -  
Bike MS - Hudson River Ramble

Sunday, October 7 TH 8 AM -  
Mohawk Hudson River Marathon



**CONTACT KAREN, KS20 IF  
YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER  
FOR ANY OF THESE PUBLIC  
SERVICE EVENTS**

## **PICTURES FROM FIELD DAY 1993**

All photos below from August 1993 issue of  
The TARA News



Pictured above: Jack, N2LBZ, handles public relations with Elaine Houston, from WNYT - Ch-13 for both the 6:00PM & 11:00PM news broadcast.

Photo By: Ellen Culliton  
Renss. Co. 1992 GMC- Model 40 Emergency Communications Van was present at Field Day. Put in service a little over one year ago, it is painted white with bright red lettering. This van is operated by the Bureau of Emergency Services and provides a mobile command post for Fire and Rescue personnel. This van is also used by Amateur Radio operators from Rensselaer County RACES



For those who can't read small print:

*Photo by Ellen Culliton*

*"Renss. Co. 1992 GMC- Model 40 Emergency Communications Van was present at Field Day (1993). Put into service a little over one year ago, it is painted white with bright red lettering. The van is operated by the Bureau of Emergency Services and provides a mobile command post for Fire and Rescue personnel. The van is also use by Amateur Radio operators from Rensselaer County RACES."*

Does this guy look familiar?

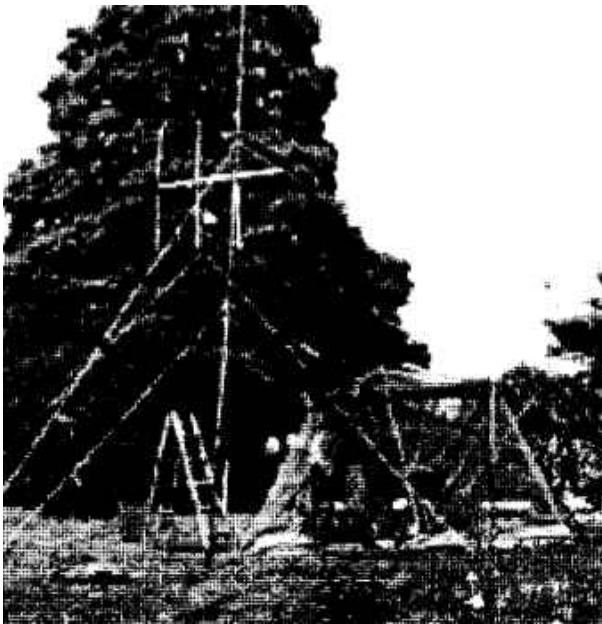


## 5.2/METER RADIO ASTRONOMY PROJECT FOR 1420 MHz

<http://www.signalone.com/radioastronomy/telescope/>



Civil War Era antennas:



This is a description of a 1420 MHz radio telescope (above) project for observing the natural radio emissions of neutral hydrogen atoms found throughout outer space. Specifically, the study of the radio spectra of these emissions is used to determine the distribution and dynamics of hydrogen throughout the Milky Way galaxy.

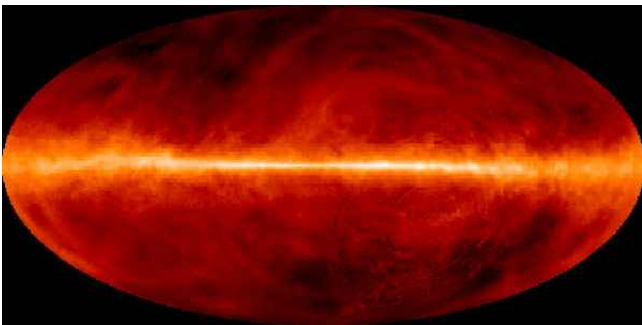


A

view of the radio room showing equipment.

*Editor's note: As interesting a project as this is the article is simply one I*

thought might be of interest to those interested in radio astronomy in general and any connection to ham radio in particular. Please check <http://www.signalone.com/radioastronomy/telescope/> for more information. Incidentally this is not my project as I don't quite have that kind of ambition or money. Clearly a team, club or school effort. Any takers?



## FOX HUNTING (aka HOMING IN)

The Art and Science of Radio Direction Finding (RDF)

<http://www.homingin.com>



*Fox hunting appeals to young and old (well somewhat old) alike.*

Although your editor has a somewhat simple setup for fox hunting which

actually belongs to our club (and no this isn't about hunting for foxes on horseback with dogs chasing after a poor little fox) and is apparently chair of the RDF (radio direction finding) committee I thought it my duty to find some information about this interesting side of amateur radio.

It took exactly 10.3559 seconds to find this website thanks to Google, the URL is <http://www.homingin.com>. This very informative website at least from first glance has a large number of interesting links and articles regarding fox hunting.



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[w2aby@localnet.com](mailto:w2aby@localnet.com)

