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Vice President: Karen Smith, KB2UUC…273-6594
Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI……..272-0112
Treasurer: Nick Demos, NW2D…….383-3983

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Co-Editor: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI
Co-Editor: Karen Smith, KB2UUC
Design/Layout: Ken Davis, KB2KFV

PLEASE SEND ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE TO E-MAIL

KB2KFV@aol.com **or**
KB2JZI@aol.com
www: http://www.n2ty.org/

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THE TARA NEWS

TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSN, INC.
P.O. BOX 1292
TROY, NEWYORK 12181-1292
OR
Visit us on the Internet
AT
HTTP://WWW.N2TY.ORG/

MEETING TIME
7:30 PM
GREEN ISLAND
MUNICIPALCENTER

Next Meeting: Feb 19, 2002

145.170/R **Troy's FULL SERVICE Repeaters** **444.225/R**

ARRL going to the mat on 70-cm band threat

W

ARRL officials have met with FCC staff members as part of the League's effort to stave off a band threat on 70 cm. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, delivered an ex parte presentation to FCC Office of Engineering and Technology staffers January 14. At issue was SAVI Technology's plan--already tentatively agreed to by the FCC--to deploy unlicensed transient RF identification devices between 425 and 435 MHz at much higher field strengths and duty cycles than Part 15 rules now permit for devices configured as such. RFIDs are used to track and inventory parcel shipments and vehicles.

"We told them that this was the worst possible choice of bands for these RFIDs," Imlay said. "Besides, there's no technical justification for that choice of frequencies." The request to use 70 cm has more to do with economics than technology, he said, because SAVI needs to bring down the cost of RFIDs in order to make a profit.

Imlay added that the ARRL would "do whatever it takes" to stave off the threat, and that could include further direct appeals to FCC staffers. The ARRL plans to file "strongly worded" comments on the SAVI petition by the February 12 comment deadline. Reply comments are due by March 12, 2002.

The FCC acted on the SAVI request last October in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (ET Docket 01-278) aimed primarily at reviewing and updating portions of its Part 2, 15 and 18 rules. The ARRL argued in comments filed last March that the field strengths and duty cycles SAVI proposed for its RFID tags as Part 15 "periodic radiators" were unreasonable and "would undoubtedly seriously disrupt amateur communications in one of the most popular of the Amateur Service allocations," particularly for weak-signal enthusiasts.

The ARRL's January 14 ex parte presentation was complemented by an interference study prepared by ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, and ARRL Senior Engineer Zack Lau, W1VT. The presentation supported the ARRL's assertion that the proposed signal levels would cause "substantial interference to amateur stations in excess of 1000 meters from the RFID transmitter."

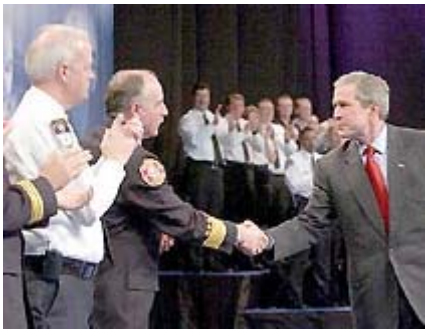
The League also maintains the FCC lacks the statutory authority to permit the RFIDs as unlicensed devices under Part 15 in the configuration SAVI has requested. The ARRL argues that under the Communications Act of 1934, such devices with substantial interference potential must be licensed. It wants the FCC to move such RFIDs to another band, such as an Industrial, Medical and Scientific (ISM) allocation.
A copy of the ARRL Ex Parte Presentation interference study isavailable on the ARRL Web site "Band Threats" page, http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-1005/SaviExParte.pdf .

President Bush Addresses Florida A.R.E.S. Net - On the Air

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 31, 2002--President George W. Bush spoke today via Amateur Radio to members of the Northern Florida Section Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net. The president was in Florida today to spotlight five volunteer groups--among them the Volusia County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)--for their value to the new Office of Homeland Security.

"The president spoke for about two minutes," Hubbard said. "The theme was people volunteering their services for the benefit of the country." He said Bush expressed his appreciation for those who were volunteering their time in public service--remarks, he said, that were similar to some Bush made during his State of the Union address earlier this week. Hubbard said a copy of revised Amateur Radio antenna (PRB-1) legislation was given to the President and to the president's brother, Florida Gov Jeb Bush, for possible introduction in next year's Florida legislative session. "We Amateur Radio operators will volunteer however we're needed, and maybe it will be seen that we can greatly help the nation if we have the antennas we need," Hubbard commented. The event marked a rare appearance on ham radio by a sitting president. Former President Gerald Ford spoke via a ham radio satellite hookup in 1986. The president also spotlighted Citizens on Patrol, a retiree group that patrols communities for the sheriff's office; Citizen Emergency Response Team, which helps coordinate neighborhood disaster response; the Council on Aging; and the Volusia County Fire-Police Volunteers. Bush's stop in Florida was part of a swing through the southeastern US, which included earlier stops in North Carolina and Georgia.

(*Article - Courtesy of Bert Bruins - N2FPJ*)



President George W. Bush greets local law enforcement officers after remarks on citizen preparedness at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on Wednesday. [White House Photo by Eric Draper]

Inexpensive Satellite Does the Job

By TOM STUCKEY, Associated Press Writer
Courtesy of T.J. Walker, KC2GAT

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) - Once every 100 minutes, a bargain basement satellite loops around the earth, sending and receiving digital messages over antennae made from a metal tape measure. A sailor on a solo crossing of the Atlantic bounces signals off the satellite to stay in touch with his family. New Zealanders on a cross-country hike use it to communicate with friends back home.

Any ham radio user with the proper digital packet-transmitting equipment who is within 2,000 miles of the 25-pound satellite can use it to send single-line text messages to a public channel. After four months in space, the U.S. Naval Academy's ``bird'' is proving surprisingly resilient, to the delight of the midshipmen and faculty advisers who designed and built it. The so-called Prototype Communications Satellite (PCSat) was the 44th amateur satellite put in orbit. It is one of more than a dozen built by university students around the world.

At a cost of just $50,000 - including plane tickets to the Alaska launch site - it was constructed using off-the-shelf parts not designed to withstand the rigors of space. Its life span was only expected to be a few months. Six students put together the satellite last year after a three-year research and design project made possible with a grant from Boeing Co. The Department of Defense (news - web sites) Space Test Program approved the project and put it on a launch list. A tape measure from Home Depot provided the antenna. Power comes from two dozen AA batteries that are recharged by the solar panels, which are in sunlight an average of 75 minutes per orbit. Midshipmen designed circuit boards, ordering them from an Internet supplier. Parts rated for use in space, which are built to withstand the effects of radiation from the sun, would have been too expensive, so the students went with regular circuit boards.

Sept. 29 was Launch Day, and there were anxious moments at the academy as the cube-shaped satellite hitched a ride aboard an Athena rocket that blasted into space from Kodiak, Alaska. Save for the failure of one of the six solar panels, damaged when the satellite separated from the rocket, there have been no problems.

On Launch Day, it was nine hours before PC Sat made its first pass over Annapolis and the midshipmen and faculty advisers could see for themselves that their satellite was working. ``I was thrilled. It was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life,'' said Steven Lawrence, who helped build the satellite before he graduated in May. In the following weeks, people in remote areas began to use the satellite as word about it spread through an international organization of ham radio operators. Just how long PC Sat works depends on how much solar radiation bombards the satellite and how long the batteries, solar panels and thousands of transistors withstand the sun's damaging effects. ``If we get lucky with radiation, it could last three years,'' said Darrell Boden, a professor in the aerospace engineering department.
On the Net: http://www.ew.usna.edu/pcsat

"Runnin' of The Green" (Island)

by Karen Smith - KB2UUC
We are going to start off the new year with our first Public Service Event in Green Island. It is called "The Runnin' of the Green".

This event will be held on Saturday, March 9th. at 10:00 a.m. The runners will be running about 4 miles and the run is about an hour. Then there will be a kiddy run after the main event, running for a few blocks.
We are in need of Many volunteers for this event. If by chance, they need to change for a snow date, it will be on the following Sat. March 16th, same time and place.

If you have any questions about this event, or if you would like to volunteer to help us out, please contact Karen, KB2UUC at 273-6594 anytime.

ARRL Board Adopts Modified Novice Band Re-farming Plan W

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted a modified proposal to re-farm the Novice bands, now that the FCC no longer issues Novice licenses. The Board met January 18-19 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee had proposed allowing Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate CW on General-class 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW segments at up to 200 W output. The panel recommended re-farming the current Novice/Tech Plus CW subbands, in part to allow expansion of phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

The Board approved a modified plan that would leave in place or slightly trim the amount of additional phone spectrum the committee had recommended for 75 and 15 meters. The amended plan would drop the US phone band to 3725 kHz on 75 meters but leave it at 21,200 kHz on 15 meters. The original plan called for dropping both by 25 kHz.

The 75-meter proposal would expand the phone band by 50 kHz for Generals over the present allocation and by 25 kHz for Advanced and Extra licensees. On 15 meters, Generals would get another 25 kHz of phone spectrum, but phone privileges for Advanced and Extra class operators would stay the same.

The Novice Spectrum Study Committee's original recommendations for 40 and 10 meters were accepted. The ARRL plans to propose the modified re-farming plan to the FCC later this year along with other regulatory requests.

The Board also deferred until its July meeting a decision on whether to cut "Section News" and contest "line scores" from QST and move them to the ARRL Web site as part of an effort to stem ARRL operating losses. Before deciding to relocate the QST content, the Board said, it wants members to be "aware of the reasons for the proposed relocation and the enhanced capabilities available on the Web site." The Board said it also wants to evaluate "variations and alternatives" to the proposal.

The Board did decide to eliminate the minutes of its own meetings--published as "Moved and Seconded"--from QST. Minutes already are posted on the ARRL Web site and will be made available via alternative means to members lacking Internet access.

The Board also voted to accept several changes to the field organization rules, as the Volunteer Resources Committee recommended. According to the new rules, "The Section Manager is accountable for carrying out the duties of the office in accordance with ARRL policies established by the Board of Directors and shall act in the best interests of Amateur Radio." Section managers will be proscribed from "committing, obligating, or binding the League" without review by the Field and Educational Services Manager and approval of the ARRL president.

Among other changes, the revised rules will prohibit a section manager removed from office for running in the next SM election following removal. Anyone removed by action of the Executive Committee would have to get that committee's consent to be eligible to run again. The Executive Committee also will have the power to cancel any field organization appointment "whenever it appears to be in the best interest of the ARRL to do so."

The Board also modified the ARRL by-laws to say that anyone removed from office by recall "shall not be eligible to be a candidate for director or vice director for three years following removal from office."

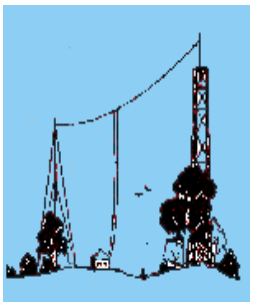
The Board further resolved to petition the FCC for reconsideration in ET Docket 98-156, by comments in ET Docket 01-278 and "by other necessary means" in order to elicit a clear statement from the FCC acknowledging the limit of its statutory jurisdiction to authorize the manufacture and sale of unlicensed Part 15 devices."

The Board resolved to extend the ARRL's "most sincere condolences to the families and friends of the radio amateurs who lost their lives on September 11, 2001." The Board also commended and honored amateurs "who generously volunteered their time and expertise during the rescue and recovery efforts on September 11 and thereafter."
The Board holds its next meeting in July in Windsor, Connecticut.

Field Day 2002

June 22-23, 2002

Mark Your Calendar



The Art of Soldering (continued)

Desoldering Methods

A soldered joint which is improperly made will be electrically "noisy", unreliable and is likely to get worse in time. It may even not have made any electrical connection at all, or could work initially and then cause the equipment to fail at a later date! It can be hard to judge the quality of a solder joint purely by appearances, because you cannot say how the joint actually formed on the inside, but by following the guidelines there is no reason why you should not obtain perfect results.

A joint which is poorly formed is often called a "dry joint". Usually it results from dirt or grease preventing the solder from melting onto the parts properly, and is often noticeable because of the tendency of the solder not to "spread" but to form beads or globules instead, perhaps partially. Alternatively, if it seems to take an inordinately long time for the solder to spread, this is another sign of possible dirt and that the joint may potentially be a dry one.

There will undoubtedly come a time when you need to remove the solder from a joint: possibly to replace a faulty component or fix a dry joint. The usual way is to use a desoldering pump which works like a small spring-loaded bicycle pump, only in reverse! (More demanding users using CMOS devices might need a pump which is ESD safe.) A spring-loaded plunger is released at the push of a button and the molten solder is then drawn up into the pump. It may take one or two attempts to clean up a joint this way, but a small desoldering pump is an invaluable tool especially for p.c.b. work.

Sometimes, it's effective to actually add more solder and then desolder the whole lot with a pump, if the solder is particularly awkward to remove. Care is needed, though, to ensure that the boards and parts are not damaged by excessive heat; the pumps themselves have a P.T.F.E. nozzle which is heat proof but may need replacing occasionally.

An excellent alternative to a pump is to use desoldering braid, including the famous American "Solder-Wick" [sic] or Adcola "TISA-Wick" which are packaged in small dispenser reels. This product is a specially treated fine copper braid which is applied to the molten joint, and the solder will be drawn up with surprising effectiveness. I recommend buying a small reel, especially for larger or difficult joints which would take several attempts with a pump. It is surprisingly effective, especially on difficult joints where a desoldering pump may prove a struggle.

Finally, here's a summary of how to make the perfect solder joint.

1. All parts must be clean and free from dirt and grease.
2. Try to secure the work firmly.
3. Clean the tip of the hot soldering iron on a damp sponge.
4. "Tin" the iron tip with a small amount of solder. Do this immediately, with new tips being used for the first time.
5. Heat all parts of the joint with the iron for under a second or so.
6. Continue heating, apply sufficient solder only, to form an adequate joint.
7. Remove and return the iron safely to its stand.
8. It only takes two or three seconds at most, to solder th average p.c.b. joint.
9. Do not move parts until the solder has cooled.

Troubleshooting Guide

* Solder won't "take" - grease or dirt present - desolder and clean up the parts. Or, material may not be suitable for soldering with lead/tin solder.
* Joint is crystalline or grainy-looking - has been moved before being allowed to cool, or joint was not heated adequately. (Too small an iron/ too large a joint.)
* Solder joint forms a "spike" - probably overheated, burning away the flux.

Written by Alan Winstanley alan@epemag.demon.co.uk

Happy Valentine's Day

Come and Share Your Evening With Us at the Next T.A.R.A. Meeting
Green Island Municipal Center

February 19, 2002 @ 7:30 p.m.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

The Art of Soldering (continued)
by Alan Winstanley

Really Clean Your Soldering Instrument and your Project -

Firstly, and without exception, all parts - including the iron tip itself, must be clean and free from contamination. Solder just will not "take" to dirty parts! Old components or copper board can be notoriously difficult to solder, because of the layer of oxidation, which builds up on the surface of the leads. This repels the molten solder and this will soon be evident because the solder will "bead" into globules, going everywhere except where you need it. Dirt is the enemy of a good quality soldered joint!

Hence, it is an absolute necessity to ensure that parts are free from grease, oxidation and other contamination. In the case of old resistors or capacitors, for example, where the leads have started to oxidize, use a small hand-held file or perhaps scrape a knife blade or rub a fine emery cloth over them to reveal fresh metal underneath. Strip board and copper printed circuit board will generally oxidize after a few months, especially if it has been fingerprinted, and the copper strips can be cleaned using an abrasive rubber block, like an aggressive eraser, to reveal fresh shiny copper underneath.

Also available is a fibre-glass filament brush, which is used propelling-pencil-like to remove any surface contamination. These tend to produce tiny particles which are highly irritating to skin, so avoid accidental contact with any debris. Afterwards, a wipe with a rag soaked in cleaning solvent will remove most grease marks and fingerprints. After preparing the surfaces, avoid touching the parts afterwards if at all possible.

Another side effect of having dirty surfaces is the tendency for people to want to apply more heat in an attempt to "force the solder to take". This will often do more harm than good because it may not be possible to burn off any contaminants anyway, and the component may be overheated. In the case of semiconductors, temperature is quite critical and they may be harmed by applying excessive heat.

Before using the iron to make a joint, it should be "tinned" by applying a few millimeters of solder, then wiped on a damp sponge preparing it for use: you should always do this immediately with a new bit, anyway. As a "hot tip" (well, I had to!) I sometimes re-apply a small amount of solder again, mainly to improve the thermal contact between the iron and the joint so that the solder will flow more quickly and easily. It's sometimes better to tin larger parts as well before making the joint itself, but it isn't generally necessary with p.c.b. work. (All EPE printed circuit boards are "roller-tinned" to preserve their quality and to help with soldering.) A worthwhile product is Weller's Tip Tinner & Cleaner, a small 15 gram tinlet of paste onto which you dab a hot iron - the product cleans and tins the iron ready for use. An equivalent is Adcola Tip-Save.
Normal electronics grade solder is usually 60% lead - 40% tin (and tin is eight times more expensive than lead) and it contains a "flux" which helps the molten solder to flow more easily over the joint by removing oxides which arise during heating. This will be seen as a brown fluid bubbling away on the joint. other solders are available for specialist work, including aluminium and silver-solder. Different diameters are produced, too; 20-22 SWG [19-21 AWG] is 0.91-0.71mm diameter and is fine for most work. Choose 18 SWG [16 AWG] for larger joints requiring more solder.

The next step to successful soldering is to ensure that the temperature of all the parts is raised to roughly the same level before applying solder. Imagine, for instance, trying to solder a resistor into place on a printed circuit board: it's essential to heat both the copper p.c.b. and the resistor at the same time before applying solder, so that the solder will flow much more readily over the joint. Heating one part but not the other is far less satisfactory joint, so strive to ensure that the iron is in contact with all the components first, before touching the solder to it. The melting point of most solder is in the region of 188 C [370 F] and the iron tip temperature is typically 330-350 C [626 -662 F].

Now is the time

Finally, the joint should be heated with the bit for just the right amount of time - during which a short length of solder is applied to the joint. Do not use the iron to carry molten solder over to the joint! Too much solder is an unnecessary waste and may cause short circuits with adjacent joints. Too little and it may not support the component properly, or may not fully form a working joint. The heating period depends on the temperature of your iron and size of the joint - and larger parts need more heat than smaller ones - but some parts (semiconductor diodes, transistors and i.c.s), are sensitive to heat and should not be heated for more than a few seconds.

With practice it will only actually take one to two seconds at most to solder a component to a printed circuit board, depending on the size of joint. Novices sometimes buy a small clip-on heat-shunt, which resembles a pair of aluminium tweezers. In the case of, say, a transistor, the shunt is attached to one of the leads near to the transistor's body. Any excess heat then diverts up the heat shunt instead of into the transistor junction, thereby saving the device from over-heating. Beginners find them reassuring until they've gained more experience.

Written by Alan Winstanley (alan@epemag.demon.co.uk)
 {continued Next Page)

EDITORIAL STAFF SHUFFLE or
The Three Musketeers Change Positions (Oh, Baby) by Ken Davis KB2KFV

Effective with this issue, The TARA NEWS editors will shuffle their positions due to personal commitments. Besides having PERRY WHITE as Editor -in -Chief you will now have the "CHIEF" as an editor. Marilyn and Karen will remain on the staff as co-editors. After working with Marilyn on the news for the last six months, I discovered that I really enjoyed doing this type of thing. As for my prior experience in journalism, I was a freelance news reporter for WTRY-AM in the late sixties and Media Relations Officer for the Green Island Police Department before being promoted to Chief in 1992.

The year of 2001 was an active year of transition for the TARA News. Editor changes, staff changes and presentation format changes. It has been quite a learning experience for everyone. Before I go any further, I would like to express my admiration and thanks to my predecessor's. Mr. Bill, Joe Squillace, Marilyn Davis and others who may have filled these shoe's in the past, have done an admirable job of serving the member's of this organization with their hard work.

While Marilyn was Editor she attempted to use different newsletter programs in an attempt to get the TARA NEWS web ready. I began to work on this project with her and became very interested in the publishing aspect of the newsletter. While she did the news each month, I assisted with editing.
I experimented with different formats that I could work with and will continue to try new things as time allows. Believe Me!!! I still have a long way to go. Oh yes, I do know I'm doing the pages in reverse on the Web, but I'm still working on that little bug. If you know how to correct this tell me.

Another thing that you may notice in future issues is that the WEB edition may have more pages or articles than the hardcopy edition. This is being done so that I can give you little extras when possible without being bound by mailing regulations. Secondly, when you get the newsletter via snail mail you don't get the full effects of the color graphics. Please get online and look around at http://www.n2ty.org/. I cannot do this without your help. If you find an article of interest or want to do a column, just contact me. I hope I will be able to do as good a job as those that served before me.

73 DE " The Chief" KB2KFV@aol.com

Get Well Wishes to, June KA2VEK

Early on the morning of Thursday, January 24, 2002, June Wilson, KA2VEK was in a very serious car accident . She was broad-sided by another vehicle up near the intersections of Route 4 & 32 in Mechanicville. As a result of the collision, June sustained a compound fracure to her lower left leg and additional simple fractures to other bones in the left leg and ankle, plus numerous other bruises. She was in Mary's Hospital in Troy until January 30. She was transferred to Sunnyview Rehabilitation Center in Schenectady We will attempt to keep everyone on TARA-groups knowledgeable about her whereabouts. She will probably be there at least, 3 to 4 weeks.

If you would like to send a Get Well card or note, she would be greatly appreciate it. She is very depressed about the whole thing and desperately needs to see or hear from her friends. Send your cards or notes to her at her present address at:
Mrs. June Wilson, Room 253
Sunnyview Rehab.
1270 Belmont Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12305

Please....If you can give her a shout on the telephone or better yet give her a visit, it will mean a lot right now. She still hasn't gotten over the loss of Skipper, KE2XF and now this! June has ALWAYS been there for all of us. So, let's return that favor. Let's show her that her TARA Family cares for her a lot!! **Her Phone Number is** **382-0074 Ext. 6034**

Mr. Bill Announces Big Plans for T.A.R.A in 2002

Just so we don't get too lazy over these winter months here are a few plans that TARA has coming up this year. We hope that you'll support & participate in these events. As always, we need your input for any new projects!
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"NEW" RTTY-TARA News Group (rtty-tara@yahoogroups.com) This news groups is dedicated to those primarily interested in RTTY operations, or those wishing to keep updated on the latest TARA RTTY SPRINT info. To sign up go to: http://www.yahoogroups.com/group/rtty-tara Then follow the direction on joining the group

"NEW" TARA Railroad Net - (Also known as the Choo Choo Rag Chew) Hosted By Craig, N2UID & Tony, W2BEJ This net will be heard weekly on Wednesday nights at roughly 8:30 PM on the 145.17/444.225 MHz repeater system, starting very soon! We know there are a large number of you that enjoying reminiscing about the good old day's of rails & locomotives and we can't think of any better way to round all of you up together. So, please come give Craig & Tony your input coming real soon to the TARA Repeaters!

"NEW" TRAINS-TARA News Group (trains-tara@yahoogroups.com) This news group was developed to enhance the ability of Capital District Amateurs to better exchange all sorts of information pertaining their favorite subject... Railroading! It's hope that those of you that participate weekly in the new TARA Railroad Net will become regular users and supporters of this news group.

The Installation of the new TARA Repeater System - N2TY We're still anxiously awaiting the installation of our new repeater system. All of the components have been purchased and final "prune & tuning" are now being done by Bob, N2LUD. This new system when completely will replace our aging repeater system on 145.17 & 449.225 MHz and we'll be able to link then "Full Time!" Also, many new user functions will be announced shortly after these repeaters have been installed. It's very import to tell all of you we appreciate your patience during this rebuild program!

TARA Contest Continue to Grow! Annual RTTY Sprint & PSK Rumbles 2002 TARA has already announced a schedule for its 2 PSK Rumbles, held in April & October and the annual TARA RTTY Sprint held each December. For a complete reading of the "Rules & Regulations" for the PSK Rumbles look at Ernie Mills, WM2U's Digital World at http://www.qsl.net/wm2u For all the latest information about the RTTY Sprint go to http://www.n2ty.org Later this year, we'll have an update about the "Rules & Regulation" for the New & Improved RTTY Sprint 2002! It's been a long time since this contest has been expanded/changed and this year we'll do exactly that!

Field Day 2002 - Ham Radio at it's Best! Already we've started the ball rolling for Field Day 2002, which takes place on June 22 & 23. This year's Field Day Team consists of:
Randy, KA2TJZ ka2tjz@n2ty.org Steve, KF2WA kf2wa@n2ty.org
Nick, NW2D nw2d@n2ty.org Bill, NY2U ny2u@n2ty.org
If there are others that would like to offer there skills and services for our Field Day Management Team drop us a note, I'd like to have you join the team!

TNT Trader Net Celebrates it 12th Anniversary in 2002!
The TNT Trader Net continues to provide amateurs throughout the Capital District a reliable means of being able to Buy, Swap or Sell their Amateur Radio related items on-the-air. Since 1990 this net has met each Thursday evening at 9:00 PM and this year will be NO different! Please come join us, even if you're only going to listen.

*** TARA e-Classified - Buy, Swap or Sell your item on the web 24/7!**

TARA's web site will continue to offer Capital District Amateurs a means to sell all your goodies all from the comforts of your shack, and by simply using your computer! Last year the TARA Web Site received a major overhaul and one of the services that were added was the popular "e-Classifieds" section of the web site. No longer do you have to wait until Thursday night to list your items, you can do it now 7 days a week, 24 hours a day! Come check this service out at: http://www.n2ty.org CLICK on e-Classifieds.

TARA was the 1st club to bring you this type service here in the Capital District, and we're making every commitment to continue! Come watch it grow in 2002!!

Remembering My Friend -2001 Part II

by William J. Eddy NY2U

OK...it's been easy as hell to tell you all the great things that this club has accomplished over this past year and now I must tell you of our largest loss!

This year, on December 12, 2001, we lost one of our founding members, Paul "Skip" Wilson, Sr. KE2XF. However, this wasn't just any average member. Over the last couple of weeks I've tried to put into perspective just how important Skipper was to this organization and I get all fumbled up for the words, I'd like to say. So, I'll try and tell you in the best way I can.

Skipper was TARA! That's right!! Skipper was everything that we could ever ask for in a member and a whole bunch more. As I mentioned, he was one of the original founding members that sat around my dining room table and laid plans for an organization that now has a membership of nearly 110 members! The same organization that got involved with public service events/community events, World-Wide contests, SKYWARN, FCC examinations, elmering new students, net operations, emergency operations, Field Day, fund raisers for Handi-Hams, and numerous other accomplishments.

What stayed consistent throughout his whole 10 plus years of helping us build and develop are two things...Loyalty & Devotion! Skip was never bashful to make his feelings known, just as me! I've received my share of reprimands over the years, .hi hi! But, I can say honestly, he always exemplified what a member should be...loyal & devoted. Even after all the years that Skipper busted his buns helping this organization it tore his pride apart that he was unable to do his share (the way he wanted to contribute!) at this years' Field Day. I'd often look over and you could see not only the pain of his illness taking its toll, but his inability to jump in and do things was even a worse pain to burden, for him. No matter what, he contributed! He didn't just sit by and let other's feel sorry for him, he kept on showing his support. Every time, something would go wrong, there would be Skipper trying to give us his direction and support.

Whenever Skip looked around and noticed an unfamiliar face show up at Field Day he acted as our "Good Will Ambassador" and gave them the royal tour. Again, for Skipper there was NO such thing as just sitting back! Right to this day his absence is felt on the repeater system, something we'll never get quite used to, but we must move on in his honor. In closing out this wrap on 2001, I pass along the words that Ernie Mills, WM2U, passed along to me recently,

"Don't cry because Skip's life is over - Smile because it happened!" God Bless my friend!

Let's make sure we keep this club going in the memory of ALL our departed members, friends & family!

Thank You for Listening!
"***Mr. Bill***" - NY2U

LETTER OF APPRECIATION RECEIVED from the NEW YORK STATE POLICE

Dear Karen,
Thank you again for helping organize the Pumpkin Patrol this year. As in the past thru your help and the help of many other volunteers, there were no major incidents along the New York State Thruway.
I've forwarded the certificates of appreciation, based upon the list that was forwarded to me. If there are any problems with names, please contact me and I'll arrange for the necessary corrections.
I have requested from the Thruway Authority a token donation of $25 to be given to your organization to help defray any additional expenses for postage and long distance telephone calls associated with the Pumpkin Patrol.
Hopefully, this small donation and the certificates will somehow demonstrate the appreciation for the time given to the Pumpkin Patrol by your organization and all of the volunteers.
Sincerely,
Andrew F. O'Mara
Andrew F. O'Mara - Sergeant, New York State Police, Troop "T"

The Year 2001 in Retrospect- Part I

By: William J. Eddy - NY2U

I thought while I had a chance I'd sit down and have a chat about some of TARA's highlights for 2001! First off, we have to let you know that last year was a fantastic year for new members. I haven't got the complete figures here in front of me but we had new members signing up at every meeting that we had last year! Compared to the before, which saw new memberships all but come to a halt, this was a huge shot in the arm for this club. And, we finally have attracted a few younger hams that have made us ALL very proud of them.

I'd like to first take a moment and thank all of you that came to our meetings and made the right decision to support this organization by joining. The impact of our new members had an immediate impact and the first test was during our fund drive for the new TARA repeater system, now being completed. We had some very good suggestions from our new members and their pledges pushed TARA and its fund drive well over our expectations!

Next, we had Field Day 2001, which again brought the crowds out in large numbers! By the end of the weekend over 75 members had signed the guest list insuring that we had the manpower to get the job done. We had a blend of new & old that worked tirelessly together throughout the weekend and proved that TARA has 'The Right Stuff!" (Seems like I heard that phrase before?)

By September the repeater project needed even more funding to build the system the way we want. Again, our membership dug down deep and was able to generate some $3000 in funds, which purchased all of the equipment needed to build the new 145/444.225 MHz repeaters. And, keep in mind one thing that I think is very important. TARA members contributed 98% of the total funds. The pride of our membership spoke "loud & clear!" If we need to replace these repeaters, then damn it let's get the job done!

Going into November our Public Service Team was still strutting its stuff. This team has had another stellar season and we've picked up a few new events thanks to the leadership in charge. The amount of participation by the new members was another bright spot, and the offers from the TARA faithful assured the team that this was going to be another awesome season. Wait till you see what's coming up for 2002!

Another area I'd like to congratulate is our Board of Directors/Officers. This past year we had several positions that were vacated by some key members to this club. Immediately we had offers to fill these vacancies and in fact, we had too many volunteers and too few openings. I highly compliment our Directors & Officers for their continued support and their leadership, which in itself is a success! Let's continue to keep the same ideas flowing and together we'll keep TARA the #1 Amateur Radio Club in the Capital District.

This past year TARA's image World-Wide continued to excel to new heights. Thanks in part to our digital contests. Yes, TARA's contests have been written up in such magazines as QST, CQ, 73, & Popular Communications, just to mention a few. Our contests include the Annual TARA RTTY SPRINT & PSK Rumbles that brought the bands alive with activity this year. Already the contest dates have been set for 2002. TARA members can take to the air in pride knowing that we have made a difference!

Monthly meeting attendance. Again, I do not have the figures at my finger tips but I'd bet you a good cold soda pop that we shattered all meeting attendance's this year. We had some excellent presentations in 2001, and hopefully this year we'll be able to duplicate that enthusiasm in our meetings throughout 2002. I'd be totally wrong, if I didn't thank all of those that assisted with the fine food that has been prepared for us over this past year. Each and every month, this team has been called upon and has risen to the call! Those of you that have been getting to the meetings early to assist with the setup, or staying afterwards for the tear down, we thank you too. Your offers of assistance HAVE NOT gone unnoticed!

Our meetings have been held in Green Island since 1991 and it has proven to be easily accessible for all, centrally located from all directions, comfortable and very economical! We owe the Village Fathers our gratitude for allowing us the use of this facility.

THE TARA NEWS

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AN ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

President's Day

A.R.R.L. ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2002

President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, Re-elected

The ARRL Board of Directors has unanimously re-elected President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, to a new two-year term. Haynie said defining Amateur Radio's role in homeland security will top his list of initiatives for his second term.

"We have a great role we could play in homeland security," Haynie said. "The problem we have is getting Amateur Radio introduced to the proper agencies." He said federal agencies "need a big education on what Amateur Radio does."

Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, January 18 and 19, the Board also elected former Southwestern Division Director Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, as Third Vice President. Heyn will replace incumbent Third VP (and former Roanoke Division Director) John Kanode, N4MM, who also was a candidate. All other ARRL officers were re-elected unanimously. Former Southeastern Division Vice Director Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR, was elected as an ARRL honorary vice president.

The Board was expected to review a wide range of FCC proceedings and regulatory issues. The list includes consideration of the possibility that the ARRL work toward getting a bill introduced in Congress on the issue of CC&Rs. "We're going to be talking about that at length and what strategy we're going to use as far as congressional support," Haynie said. The League has been unsuccessful in efforts to get the FCC to incorporate CCRs under its limited federal preemption policy known as PRB-1.

The Board also will hear a formal report from the Novice Spectrum Study Committee and consider action based on its recommendations. The committee last month advised eliminating the CW Novice/Technician Plus sub-bands, as such, and permitting Novice and Tech Plus (or Technicians with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate CW on General-class 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW allocations. The committee proposed refarming the current Novice/Tech Plus sub-bands, in part to allow expansion of phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

Attending for the first time as a new director will be Southwestern Division Director Art Goddard, W6XD, who succeeded Heyn. Newcomers to the back bench at this session include incoming ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Tuck Miller, NZ6T, and Southeastern Division Vice Director Sandy Donahue, W4RU. All took office January 1.