



THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League
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BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Old Man Winter and Mother Nature seem to be fighting a lot this season. According to the NWS, this winter has been one of the coldest and will result in one of the greatest total snowfalls records in recent history.

The result of this was the January meeting had to be cancelled due to frigid temperatures and the February meeting was cancelled at the last minute due to a major snowstorm which resulted in a Snow Emergency in Green Island. Roads in Green Island were open on the day of the meeting, but the parking lots that are usually available were being used by village residents trying to get their cars off the street for snow removal on the next day.

This was the first time that TARA has ever had to cancel two meetings in one season. We do not take this lightly, but the safety of our members and guests is the most important factor in having to cancel a meeting. The officers utilized our new emergency call-up list for the first time and it appeared to quite well.

The new TARA roster has proven to be a great tool. Please make sure that our secretary has your phone numbers, pager number & email for emergencies.



TARA presents
Dave Stark NF2G

TARA is proud to announce that our guest speaker for the February Meeting agreed to reschedule and will speak at the March 2003 meeting. **David Stark NF2G** is a well known local amateur radio operator and avid scanner enthusiast.

Dave will make a presentation about the hobby of scanning and the application of it to the NYSING notification network of which he is the founder.

Visit his web site at:
www.NF2G.COM

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RUNNIN of the GREEN

Public Service Chairperson
Karen Smith - KB2UUC

We are starting the 2003 season with our first TARA Public Service Event in Green Island. It is called The "Runnin of the Green".

This event will be held on Saturday, March 8th 9:00 AM. This running event covers about 4 miles and the run is about an hour. Then there will be a kiddy run shortly after the main event, running for a few blocks.

We are in need of **numerous** volunteers for this event. If by chance, they need to change for a snow date, it will be on the following Saturday, March 15th at the 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 or email her at KB2UUC@n2ty.org



Happy St. Patricks Day!



More than a Club



We're a Family





AN IRISH FRIENDSHIP WISH

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May your heart be filled with gladness to cheer you.



Amateur Communications for The Boston Marathon

Hi folks, here is a chance to help out our radio friends in Boston and have a great day trip. Please give it some thought. I know a couple of people who are already going. Thanks and 73, Pete N2YJZ

Radio operators are making preparations to support the 107th running of the Boston Athletic Association Boston Marathon on April 21, 2002.

Amateur Radio plays a vital part in supporting runners before, during, and after the marathon. This year we have a combined organization handling all phases of radio support; start area, length of the course, and finish line. Positions are available starting early in the day in Hopkinton, along the route at aid and water stations, and at finish line operations in Boston. You can choose which activity you will be involved with, or work multiple locations. In Hopkinton, we will assist with coordinating the multiple parking areas and providing for start line safety. Along the 26 mile route, assisting the Red Cross at aid stations with supply requirements and ambulance dispatch.

Runner pick up busses traveling the route will have hams on board. At the finish line, working with the medical teams and shadowing officials.

You will need a two meter or dual band HT, extended antenna, and extra batteries for participation. Procedure sheets will be available before the event. We will try to accommodate your needs within the confines of the event set up.

To sign up mail in the BAA volunteer form available at the baa web site (<http://www.baa.org>). You can find the volunteer form by clicking B.A.A Marathon under B.A.A. Volunteering then click GENERAL VOLUNTEER APPLICATION. Fill it out and mail it in as instructed. Check in the Race Day section: if you want to work the start check radio team; if you want to work the finish check ham radio (finish only); and if you want to work the course check ham radio (course only). We will be doing a mailing at the end of Feb. with more details. You will be able to change your mind at that time as well. Or feel free to contact Steve Schwarm, W3EVE at (508) 384-7697, w3eve@arrl.net Please no calls after 9PM or before 8AM.

ARRL Eastern New York Section
Section Manager: Peter A.Cecere, N2YJZ
n2yjz@arrl.org

ARRL FIELD DAY 2003 LOGO RELEASED



ARRL 2003 Field Day Logo, Slogan Emphasize Emergency Role
NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 13, 2003--The new 2003 ARRL Field Day logo says it all: "When all else fails . . .," the legend in the upper left-hand corner declares. The four-part image--which will be on this year's Field Day pin and other gear--depicts a tornado and downed utility lines in opposing corners, and an Amateur Radio transceiver in the lower right. Field Day 2003 takes place June 28 & 29, as always the fourth full weekend in June.

Jerry Conover, NE7I, of Flagstaff, Arizona, suggested the slogan for 2003. "It came to me just before Field Day last year," said Conover, a professor of marketing at Northern Arizona University. "I think there's a general lack of understanding in the public about what hams can do," he said. "I think the slogan shows our spirit and pride as amateurs and lets the world know we'll be there." The logo was designed by ARRL Graphic Arts Supervisor Sue Fagan and Senior Technical Illustrator David Pingree, N1NAS.

The "When all else fails . . ." slogan fits right in with the original notion of Field Day. Started in 1933, the exercise was--and still is--a way to test a station's or a club's emergency preparedness. The logo and slogan for 2003 also help to focus attention on the new Class F operating category. Stations operating as Class F will go on the air during Field Day from an official Emergency Operations Center (EOC) set up by a governmental agency or a non-governmental organization, such as the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, announced this week that 2003 Field Day products are now available to order via the ARRL Web site catalog. Products include the popular Field Day pins and T-shirts. Items should be ready to ship by the end of March.

HOLLINGSWORTH PREACHES COURTESY & COMMON SENSE

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth told those attending his forum at the Richmond, Virginia, Frostfest February 9 that Amateur Radio enforcement still has a long way to go, but that amateurs can do a lot through peer pressure to head off problems before they become enforcement issues.

"Enforcement is no substitute for courtesy and common sense," Hollingsworth declared. "More courtesy would go a long way. Hollingsworth again suggested that amateurs "operate so that listeners will be impressed with Amateur Radio," not offended or turned off by it. He said awareness of Amateur Radio is on the rise in the wake of media attention since September 11, 2001, and, more recently, with ham radio assistance in the search for debris from the shuttle Columbia. He pointed to 20 and 75 meters as the current enforcement hot spots as well as the bands where the least courteous operating practices are found--some of which he described as "a disgrace" to the Amateur Service.

Off-the-air peer pressure, he said, is an effective tool to provide guidance to amateurs who may be unaware of how they sound to others on the air. The reactions of some hams when they confront interference or perceived interference--can be worse than the original interference--whether or not it's deliberate.

"Don't overreact," Hollingsworth advised. "The best reaction is no reaction whatsoever."

"You have to always be aware of your image and be willing to protect it," he told those gathered in the packed forum. "You can't shoot yourself in the foot." More than 1000 attended the Richmond Frostfest, sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society <http://www.rats.net>

The use of new technology and on-the-air experimentation also sometimes brings controversy to the amateur bands, Hollingsworth said, and may prompt an occasion for the FCC to revisit its current Part 97 Amateur Service rules. Hollingsworth pointed to the use of so-called "enhanced SSB," where experimenters have been attempting to achieve full-carrier AM-like high-fidelity audio in that mode. Hollingsworth said the presence of the enhanced SSB experimenters has led to complaints to the FCC as many as 20 per week--that these signals are taking up excessive bandwidth.

Hollingsworth told his Richmond audience that deliberately operating a wideband mode in a crowded spectrum is "shortsighted and rude," may be ignoring the "minimum bandwidth necessary" rule. If its use isn't accompanied by courtesy and common sense, he said, it will lead to pressure on the FCC to revise the Amateur Service rules.

The "Emission Standards" section of Part 97--specifically §97.307(a) and (b)--requires amateur transmissions to not occupy "more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice" and to "not cause splatter" on adjacent frequencies.

Hollingsworth said the bandwidth of a given signal is not easily determined by the average amateur transceiver--even one equipped with a band scope of some sort. He pointed out that the problems with apparent splatter can be aggravated by the use of a noise blanker on the receiving end. "Just because it sounds wide doesn't mean it is wide," he said, adding that he'd prefer the amateur community come up a way to accommodate such experimentation, because "a government solution will be worse than the problem."



Repeater Battle Looms

ENFORCEMENT: COORDINATED REPEATER VS. COORDINATED REPEATER

Two coordinated repeaters in the North-East have squared off over the use of a repeater pair. And if the FCC does decide to try to solve this one, it may need the wisdom of a King Solomon. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

Connecticuts' Northville Amateur Radio Association's NA1RA machine is coordinated by the Connecticut Spectrum Management Association. This is a relatively new repeater coordinator that was formed a few years after the failure of the Tri-State Amateur Repeater Council. Tri-State was the group used to serve parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

And now Northville has complained to the FCC about interference to its NA1RA operation coming from the W2KGY repeater. This is a system operated by the West Point Military Academy Amateur Radio Club at West Point New York. But unlike most cases where one repeater is coordinated and the other is not, W2KGY holds coordination from UNYREPCO which is the Upper New York Repeater Council.

When one repeater is coordinated and the other is not, the answer is simple. The uncoordinated repeater bears the majority of responsibility to clear up interference to the coordinated machine. But in this case, both machines appear to hold legitimate coordination but from different adjoining coordinators. In other words, at least at this writing, both repeaters appear to be on the same channel pair because a coordinator says that's where each respective systems should be.

So far, the only action by the FCC has been to send out an information gathering letter to UNYREPCO.

UNYREPCO has responded and a copy of that response has been forwarded to the Northville group for its reply along with a recommendation that a response from the Connecticut Spectrum Management Association be included as well. Only after digesting that response is the FCC likely to render a decision as to whether or not it will get involved. We'll let you know what the agency decides.

For the Amateur Radio Newslite, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF.

TARA Field Day 2003 T-Shirt Design Contest

This year we will be holding a contest to design our 2003 Field Day T-Shirt.

It is open to all members of the club and the winner will receive his or her shirt for free. We would like all entries to be submitted no later than the May club meeting to give us time to select the winner and have the shirts made.

Good luck, we hope to be hearing from lots of you artists out there.

Randy - KA2TJZ

ATVET Exam Schedule 2003

Here is the ATVET Exam Schedule for 2003:

May 10, 2003	(Sat.)	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (doors open 9:20 AM)
July 23, 2003	(Wed.)	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM (doors open 6:20 PM)
October 11, 2003	(Sat.)	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (doors open 9:20 AM)
November 8, 2003	(Sat.)	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (doors open 9:20 AM)

Each candidate should bring:

- a. Social Security Number (required for CORES registration, ULS registration, and FCC Form 605 (application))**
- b. A picture ID and non-picture ID**
- c. Original and photocopy of any amateur licenses**
- d. Original and photocopy of any CSCE documents**
- e. Pens and Pencils**
- f. Calculator**
- g. \$12.00 exam fee (cash, check, or money order payable to ARRL/VEC)**

What is an Amateur Radio Operator

Considerate...never knowingly uses the air in such a way to lesson the pleasure of others.

Loyal...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to their fellow radio amateurs, their local radio club, and to the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio is represented.

Progressive...with knowledge abreast of science. It is well built and efficient. Operating practice is above reproach.

Friendly...slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are marks of the amateur spirit.

Balanced...radio is their hobby. They never allow it to interfere with any of the duties they owe to their home, job, church, school or community.

Patriotic...their knowledge and their station are always ready for the service of his country and their community.

Columbia Recovery effort is over for Texas hams

Ham radio support for the shuttle Columbia debris search and recovery effort in Nacogdoches and San Augustine counties in Texas wrapped up February 12. US Forest Service personnel were scheduled to assume the support role hams had filled in East Texas for nearly two weeks.

South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Bob Ehrhardt, W5ZX, praised amateurs for their professionalism and dedication. Ehrhardt said the weather often was rainy and cold with some sleet--and the brambles and briars in the forest did not help. Ehrhardt said the agencies the hams worked with were pleasantly surprised, and pleased, too. As he put it: "I know that we changed several minds that we could get the job done."

Hams spent about 12 days in the Columbia search-and-recovery effort, using GPS and off-the-shelf computer mapping software to pin down and report the locations of debris items as they were sighted.

Preliminary numbers reported this week indicated that 198 amateurs logged in at one time or another in Nacogdoches County and 148 in San Augustine County. An estimated 80 percent of the participating amateurs were from outside the two counties.

Upcoming Events

March 8, 2003

Runnin of the Green	9:00 am
Brew Crew Brunch	11:00 am
Brew Crew Homebrew Crew	1:00 pm

March TARA Meeting:

Tuesday March 18, 2003	7:30 pm
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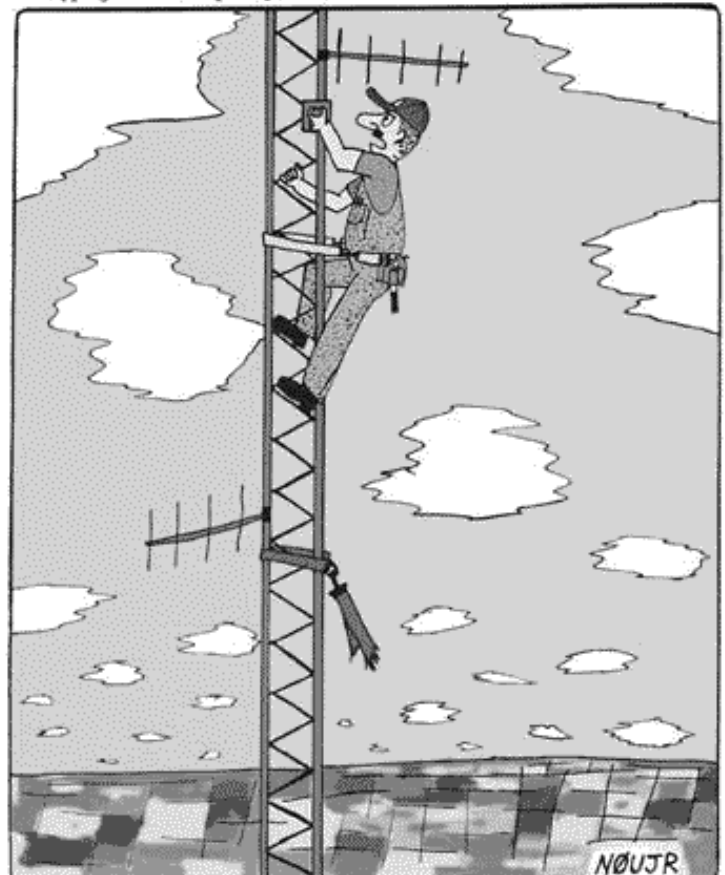
Nets:

Brew Crew	Tuesday	7:00 pm
AESN 146.940	Tuesday	7:30 pm
Rens. Co. ARES/RACES		
147.180	Wednesday	7:30 pm
CW on the Air	Wednesday	8:00 pm

CW VE Exam Session -

There will be a Morse-code test offered by the SARA VE team on Thursday, April 10 at 7 pm in Room A-215 of Niskayuna High School, 1626 Balltown Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309. To register, contact Bill Mischler, KG2AC, at 370-1350. With questions, call Bob Raffaele, W2XM, at 459-8435 (before 9:30. please).

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"So Bob...why did your ex-wife give you a new climbing belt for Christmas?"



Are You a Repeater Cop ?



There's one on every repeater

We've all heard the know-it-alls, the former class monitor, the self-appointed repeater cops, the Wanna Be Official Observer, the guy that always has to be the one to just key down first.

You know the type: The person who's made ham radio his life instead of his hobby, and--in the process--has made everyone else on the repeater miserable. Here's a simple quiz to determine if you're a repeater cop.

If you are, don't panic--there's a cure. But first, take the quiz. For each question, circle A or B:

1. Someone on the repeater has a noisy signal. What do you do:

- A. Tell the person to get a better antenna and a more powerful rig before using this repeater again?
- B. Say, "Try again, my friend; you're a bit noisy?"

2. You hear a low-level alternator whine on someone's signal. Do you:

- A. Tell the person to stay off the repeater until that damn alternator whine is gone?
- B. Suggest how the ham can cure the frustrating alternator-whine problem?

3. Someone new on the repeater doesn't wait for the beep before talking. Do you:

- A. Tell the person in an extremely nasty way to "Wait for the darn beep?"
- B. Explain the purpose of the beep--in a friendly way?

4. Someone from Fiji is visiting his sick mother in your area and gets on your local repeater. You then:

- A. Tell the person to join the repeater club and pay club dues before using the machine and wasting the repeater club's electricity.
- B. Welcome the visiting ham and invite him or her to enjoy the repeater while visiting the area.

5. A 10-year-old new ham gets on with an H-T. You:

- A. Refuse to talk to children on the repeater.
- B. Welcome the youngster and congratulate him or her on his or her great achievement, explain how wonderful ham radio is and what a friendly bunch of folks we all are on this repeater--except for that one repeater cop, of course.

Okay, now it's time to determine if you're a repeater cop. Get ready to rate yourself.

For each A you've circled, give yourself two points. For each B, subtract two points. Add up your score and rate yourself below:

- (10) You are a nasty SOB and should turn in your ham ticket for a job with the DMV or the Taliban Vice and Virtue Police.
- (6) You are not as friendly as most correctional officers in Attica or Sing Sing.
- (2) You're bordering on sociable, but still need a few drinks to be tolerable--not during mobile hours, however.
- (-2) You're passive-aggressive or aggressive-passive i.e., you're hard to figure out. Dogs like you, but cats don't.
- (-6) You're nice enough to take to a mildly violent hockey game.
- (-10) You're the kind of ham who makes ham radio a really fun hobby.
- (0) Er...you're cheating or believe you might, indeed, be a repeater cop; therefore, you were too afraid to take this quiz.

**Finally, what if you are a repeater cop?
There's a simple cure:**

***LIGHTEN UP ALREADY!
GEEZ, IT'S ONLY A HOBBY.***

ISS CREW TO RETURN TO EARTH VIA RUSSIAN SOYUZ CAPSULE

The all-ham crew aboard the International Space Station will return to Earth in early May via the Russian Soyuz escape vehicle. Appearing before the US House Science Committee February 27, NASA Chief Sean O'Keefe said that the 16 ISS partner countries have agreed to use the Russian capsule to ferry a new two-person crew to the station--one American and one Russian--and to bring the current three-man crew home. The shuttle fleet remains grounded in the wake of the Columbia tragedy.

"There are no threats to the ISS or its crew in the near term and we are working options to be able to sustain both over the long term," O'Keefe said in remarks prepared for delivery to the lawmakers. O'Keefe noted that the ISS would run short of potable water by June and that the Soyuz 5S vehicle now attached to the ISS will reach its lifetime limit in late April or early May and need to be returned. The fresh crew would remain in space until October, when a new crew would be sent up.

Additional unmanned Russian Progress cargo rocket flights will be scheduled to keep the ISS supplied--the next arriving shortly after the new crew in June. That Russian Progress supply mission will carry enough food, water, fuel and other provisions to sustain the two-person crew in space at least through October.

The implications of a two-person crew on the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program are not yet fully clear. A successful ARISS school contact with Hochwald Gymnasium in Wadern, Germany, was completed via DL0WR on February 27.

"Things continue to be very dynamic as the Columbia accident investigation unfolds," ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said February 27 in reaction to O'Keefe's announcement. "Despite the reduction in crew size, the ARISS team has been told that we will continue to perform one to two ARISS school group contacts a week." Bauer said since less scientific work will happen while the shuttle program is on hold, opportunities for school contacts will remain the same.

Crew member Don Pettit, KD5MDT, also was reported on the air this week seeking random contacts from NA1SS. Stan Vandiver, W4SV, in Indiana, reports he worked NA1SS February 27, but added that he'd heard that Pettit has been on the air on other occasions as well. The ISS downlink frequency is 145.800 MHz.

But the substitution of the Russian Progress rockets for the shuttle as a transportation system between Earth and the ISS will strictly limit the amount and type of supplies and equipment carried to the space station. The priorities will be food and water. This means that the ARISS hardware--including SSTV and all-mode HF/VHF/UHF gear that was planned to be flown this year--probably will be delayed, Bauer said.

O'Keefe meanwhile said that the ISS partnership was "committed to maintaining crew on-orbit." He told the House Science Committee that the new, two-person crew was training on Soyuz systems at Russia's Star City cosmonaut training center. Now onboard the ISS are Expedition 6 Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, NASA ISS Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, and Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB. The crew this week resumed a full schedule of maintenance and research work on the space outpost. The Expedition 6 team will mark 100 days in orbit on Mar 3.

NASA has not yet revealed who the two new ISS crew members will be. Originally set to replace the current crew next month was the Expedition 7 team of Commander Yuri Malenchenko, ISS Science Officer Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, and Flight Engineer Alexander Kaleri, U8MIR. The back-up Expedition 7 crew member is Mike Foale, KB5UAC. All four are now training in Russia.

Bauer said he considers the option to fly Lu and Malenchenko on Expedition 7 "the highest probable scenario, in my opinion. But is not definite yet." Pedro Duque, KC5RGG, who planned to use the ARISS equipment on the upcoming Soyuz flight, will probably fly in the fall, Bauer speculated.

Malenchenko and Lu have worked together in space before. During a shuttle Atlantis mission in 2000, the Russian and the American conducted a more-than-six-hour space walk to install equipment on the then-unoccupied ISS. That same shuttle flight also delivered the initial ARISS VHF and UHF hand-held transceivers, a packet TNC and other ham gear.

FCC Means Business

The FCC has cancelled the license of a Michigan Amateur Radio operator and told him he may not apply for another ham ticket until 2007. The Commission took the action against Thomas A. Brothers, ex-KI8BE, of Berkley, because he'd been the operator of an unlicensed FM "pirate" radio station.

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote Brothers, February 14 to confirm receipt of his amateur license--which Brothers had agreed to surrender. The FCC also had imposed a \$10,000 fine against Brothers, who's in his early 20s, but rescinded the forfeiture last December because of Brothers' demonstrated inability to pay. Brothers' Advanced class ticket was cancelled December 5, 2002. He had been licensed since 1997 and formerly held the call sign KC8CRI. Hollingsworth said he requested the five-year reapplication hiatus.

FCC sources say the Commission's Detroit Field Office became aware as early as 1998 that Brothers was operating an FM pirate radio station on 88.3 MHz from his home. On multiple occasions, an FCC agent used direction-finding gear to track the signal to Brothers' residence and sent Brothers Warning Notices ordering him off the air. Brothers ceased the pirate broadcasting in 1998, but by 2000 he was back on the air, and an agent from the Detroit Field Office again traced the broadcast signal to Brothers' home at least twice in 2000 and 2001, following up with Warning Notices.

In January 2002, the FCC issued Brothers a Notice of Apparent Liability for \$10,000 for repeatedly violating Section 301 of the Communications Act by operating an FM station without a license. In a subsequent Petition for Reconsideration, Brothers did not dispute that he willfully and repeatedly has violated Section 301, but he asked the FCC to cancel the fine because--among other factors--of his inability to pay. The Detroit Field Office turned the case over to Hollingsworth late last year to consider sanctions against Brothers' Amateur Radio license.



Amateurs Prepare for 2003 Hurricane Season



The upcoming 2003 hurricane season was the focus earlier this month as Amateur Radio volunteers, the National Hurricane Center's W4EHW Amateur Radio Group, representatives of the Hurricane Watch Net and emergency officials gathered for the eighth annual Amateur Radio Hurricane Conference. Among the approximately 50 attendees February 1 at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov> in Miami were representatives from the US as well as from throughout the Caribbean. "The presentations, post-season analysis and discussions are very helpful in preparing for the coming hurricane season," said Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, the NHC's assistant Amateur Radio coordinator.

ARRL Public Service Team Leader Steve Ewald, WV1X, highlighted the latest news in emergency communication training from ARRL through the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>>. He also explained how the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant was expanding opportunities for hams nationwide to take the Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course. Ewald also discussed how the ARRL Field Organization serves as a ready resource during emergencies.

National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, KU4GY, and Ripoll organized and led the annual event. Among other things, they brought attendees up to date on the latest news and activities of the 36-member team of Amateur Radio Station W4EHW. The station will adopt a new call sign, WX4NHC, on June 1 at the start of the new hurricane season. Ripoll said the new call sign would give "better on-the-air recognition, as WX is understood to mean weather, and NHC is well-known for National Hurricane Center."

W4EHW celebrates its 23rd year of continuous service this year. Calling upon a staff of trained volunteers, the NHC's amateur station activates during tropical storms or hurricanes and gathers and disseminates real-time, surface-level weather data from hams and other volunteer observers. NHC forecasters use the data and information to develop their forecasts. During the 2002 hurricane season, W4EHW was on the air for more than 140 total hours, gathering over 300 reports via 20 meters (14.325 MHz) and, for the first time, via the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) VHF/UHF repeater network. Hurricane Watch Net Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, told the conference that he expects the HWN to explore the possibility of accepting hurricane reports via EchoLink in the coming season.

Hurricane Hunter aircraft pilot Capt Dave Tennesen, NL7MT, told the conference that he's never without ham radio onboard, and he's been known to occasionally check into the Hurricane Watch Net during his Hurricane Hunter flights. "Ham radio serves as a vital backup link to NHC if other means of communications fail," he said.--information from Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, and Steve Ewald, WV1X

PIONEER 10 SPACECRAFT SENDS LAST SIGNAL

After more than 30 years, it appears the venerable Pioneer 10 spacecraft has sent its last signal to Earth. Pioneer's last, very weak signal was received on Jan. 22, 2003.

NASA engineers report Pioneer 10's radioisotope power source has decayed, and it may not have enough power to send additional transmissions to Earth. NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN) did not detect a signal during the last contact attempt Feb. 7, 2003. The previous three contacts, including the Jan. 22 signal, were very faint with no telemetry received. The last time a Pioneer 10 contact returned telemetry data was April 27, 2002. NASA has no additional contact attempts planned for Pioneer 10.

"Pioneer 10 was a pioneer in the true sense of the word. After it passed Mars on its long journey into deep space, it was venturing into places where nothing built by humanity had ever gone before," said Dr. Colleen Hartman, director of NASA's Solar System Exploration Division, NASA Headquarters, Washington. "It ranks among the most historic as well as the most scientifically rich exploration missions ever undertaken," she said.

"Originally designed for a 21-month mission, Pioneer 10 lasted more than 30 years. It was a workhorse that far exceeded its warranty, and I guess you could say we got our money's worth," said Pioneer 10 Project Manager, Dr. Larry Lasher.

Pioneer 10 was built by TRW Inc., Redondo Beach, Calif., and was launched March 2, 1972, on a three-stage Atlas-Centaur rocket. Pioneer 10 reached a speed of 32,400 mph needed for the flight to Jupiter, making it the fastest human-made object to leave the Earth; fast enough to pass the moon in 11 hours and to cross Mars' orbit, about 50 million miles away, in just 12 weeks.

On July 15, 1972, Pioneer 10 entered the asteroid belt, a doughnut-shaped area that measures some 175 million miles wide and 50 million miles thick. The material in the belt travels at speeds up to 45,000 mph and ranges in size from dust particles to rock chunks as big as Alaska. Pioneer 10 was the first spacecraft to pass through the asteroid belt, considered a spectacular achievement, and then headed toward Jupiter. Accelerating to a speed of 82,000 mph, Pioneer 10 passed by Jupiter on December 3, 1973.

The spacecraft was the first to make direct observations and obtain close-up images of Jupiter. Pioneer also charted the gas giant's intense radiation belts, located the planet's magnetic field, and established Jupiter is predominantly a liquid planet. In 1983, Pioneer 10 became the first human-made object to pass the orbit of Pluto, the most distant planet from the Sun.

Following its encounter with Jupiter, Pioneer 10 explored the outer regions of the solar system, studying energetic particles from the Sun (solar wind), and cosmic rays entering our portion of the Milky Way. The spacecraft continued to make valuable scientific investigations in the outer regions of the solar system until its science mission ended March 31, 1997.

Since that time, Pioneer 10's weak signal has been tracked by the DSN as part of a new advanced-concept study of communication technology in support of NASA's future Interstellar Probe mission. At last contact, Pioneer 10 was 7.6 billion miles from Earth, or 82 times the nominal distance between the Sun and the Earth. At that distance, it takes more than 11 hours and 20 minutes for the radio signal, traveling at the speed of light, to reach the Earth.

"From Ames Research Center and the Pioneer Project, we send our thanks to the many people at the Deep Space Network (DSN) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), who made it possible to hear the spacecraft signal for this long," said Pioneer 10 Flight Director David Lozier.

Pioneer 10 explored Jupiter, traveled twice as far as the most distant planet in our solar system, and as Earth's first emissary into space, is carrying a gold plaque that describes what we look like, where we are, and the date when the mission began. Pioneer 10 will continue to coast silently as a ghost ship into interstellar space, heading generally for the red star Aldebaran, which forms the eye of the constellation Taurus (The Bull). Aldebaran is about 68 light-years away. It will take Pioneer 10 more than two million years to reach it. Its sister ship, Pioneer 11, ended its mission September 30, 1995, when the last transmission from the spacecraft was received. Information about Pioneer 10 is on the Internet at:

http://spaceprojects.arc.nasa.gov/Space_Projects/pioneer/PNhome.html

ARRL Web Honors W2JHO - SK



Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF (right), greets Jimmy Hannell, W2JHO, in this 2001 photo.
[N2FF Photo]

James Hannell, W2JHO, SK: James "Jimmy the Newsagent" Hannell, W2JHO, of Albany, New York, died January 26. He was 53. An ARRL member, Hannell--who was blind--ran Jim's Newsstand on the concourse level of the New York Legislative Office Building for 30 years. ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, said Hannell had been extremely helpful in efforts to get an Amateur Radio antenna bill through the New York Legislature. "He not only kept tabs on the progress of our legislation, but he also made a constant daily effort to gain support for the bills by reminding senators, assemblymen and aides how important the bills were to ham radio."

Fallon said. "Jimmy really served Amateur Radio above and beyond the call of duty." According to Fallon, W2JHO also was "a invaluable source of inside information" regarding Albany happenings. "We are going to miss him," he said. Hannell was a member of the Troy Amateur Radio Association. Survivors include his wife, Mary, and two daughters.

In Honor of Jim's memory and his contribution to Amateur Radio, the 2003 Version of the New York State Antenna Bill has been re-introduced early in the 2003 NYS Legislative Session as the "Jimmy the Newsagent" Amateur Radio Antenna Bill and has the number of S 63.

Colorado Team reports successful Ham Radio Balloon Launch



The Experimental Sub-Orbital Society (ES-OS) of Colorado, headed by K.M. Caviezel, KC0JHQ, successfully launched a balloon January 25 that carried various payloads--including ham radio--to an altitude around 65,000 feet and floated the payloads there for a period of time. The flight--called ES-OS Five B--was launched from Deer Trail, Colorado, east of Denver. Amateur VHF/UHF APRS was used to track the balloon and payload, and it turned into quite a chase when the balloon took off over Interstate 70, traveling nearly to the Kansas border. The group used the Rocky Mountain Ham Group 449.225 wide-area repeater for flight communications, but despite the repeater's huge footprint, the balloon flight exceeded its coverage range. A cutdown command ended the approximately 115-mile flight, landing the balloon some 25 miles south-southeast of Burlington Colorado. Additional details and photos are available on the [ES-OS](#) Web site--*Jack Roland, KE0VH*

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THE TARA NEWS

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Visit us on the Internet

at

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

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

7:30 p.m.

Green Island Municipal Center

Intersection of

Hudson Avenue & George Street

H

**Parking Lot on Hudson Avenue
side of building**

Troy's Full Service Repeaters