



THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Volume 18 © Issue 04 April 2007

TARA Skirmish - April 21 Digital Prefix Contest

It's time to preplan your strategy for the upcoming "TARA Skirmish" Digital Prefix Contest is coming up on 21-April-2007. Our fearless leader "Big Ernie," WM2U is again looking for another huge turnout for this year's running of the Skirmish, so you better not let him down!

This Event is part of our Famous TARA Tourney:

http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_tourney.html

TARA Skirmish--Digital Prefix Contest

http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_dpx_rules.html

TARA Skirmish--Digital Prefix Contest--sponsored by Troy ARA, 0000Z-2400Z Apr 16. Frequencies: 160-6 meters, work stations once per band. Categories: High, Low (<100 W), Great (<20 W), QRP (<5 W), SWL. Exchange: Name and Prefix. Score: QSOs × WPX prefixes × power multiplier. (High ×0.5, Low ×1, Great ×2, QRP ×3).

SWL entries please read the SWL [Special Rules](#)

Operating Modes:

PSK, RTTY, Hell, MFSK, MT63, Throb, ASCII, SSTV and Packet.

Note: Operators can submit more than one mode. These must be separate entries and NOT combined. 'Sub' modes of the parent mode all count as one mode. ie **PSK** includes PSK10, PSK31, PSK63. **RTTY** includes 60wpm and 100wpm. MFSK includes OLIVIA. etc. Please submit an OnLine Score Submission Form for each separate **parent** mode.

[OnLine Score Submission Form](#)

This contest is brought to you by TARA - Four Season's Contesting & Awards Bringing you the very best in contests for ALL Seasons!

The Troy Amateur Radio Association
Cordially invites you to Its
16th Anniversary Celebration
to be held on
April 17, 2007 at 7:00 PM
At the
Green Island Municipal Center
19 George Street
Green Island, New York

It's hard to believe that sixteen years have passed since we all gathered in the living and dining rooms of Bill Eddy's House back in 1991 to discuss starting our own Amateur radio club in Troy, a new kind of club which has its roots in Friendship and Family, not in Roberts Rules, Politics and Cliques. To this very day, our club has stood by those standards and flourishes at over 100 members strong, from the original founders of 13 members. Our Motto, Keep it Simple and always Take Care of your Friends.

I remember spending many an evening meeting, sitting in Mr. Bill's driveway, with everyone bringing their own beach chairs and we all sat there with a bottle of soda and a snack and laughed and shared stories, jokes and got a lot of stuff done because we all good friends. Sure it was a club, but that was secondary. We were all just friends having a good time and those of us that are still around remain friends, today. When you stop to think, our Club has made one heck of a journey from 1991 to 2007.

Ken Davis – KB2KFBV, Editor



More than a Club



We're a Family



Upcoming Public Service Events



Thursday, May 17, 2007

6:25 PM

**GHI Work Force Run
Washington Park, Albany, NY**

Sunday, May 20, 2007

8:00 AM

East Greenbush Rotary Run

Monday, May 28, 2007

10:00 AM

Watervliet Memorial Day Parade

Saturday, June 2, 2007

10:00 AM

**Freihofer's Run for Women
Washington Park, Albany, NY**

Sunday, September 23, 2007

8:00 AM

Arsenal City Run –Watervliet, NY

October 30-31, 2007

6-10 PM

**Pumpkin Patrol - Rensselaer & Albany
Counties**

**Give back to Amateur Radio
by Participating in
a Public Service Event**

ARRL VEC Swamped With Upgrades After End of Code Tests

The avalanche of Amateur Radiolicense and license upgrade applications prompted by the FCC's elimination of Morse code as a licensing requirement is well under way with no end in sight. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that paperwork from upward of 450 Amateur Radio exam sessions held since the new rules went into effect February 23 has arrived so far this week.

The ARRL VEC, which typically receives paperwork from about 70 sessions each day, has had to add personnel and schedule extended hours to keep up with the workload. "We've been seeing some of the largest brand-new Technician sessions ever," Somma said. "These examination sessions are huge and a ton of new Technician license applications has been coming in -- sometimes 60 or 70 at a clip."

Somma says license upgrade traffic also has been brisk and with some 650 examination sessions already on the calendar for March and more arriving daily, it doesn't look like the pace will slacken anytime soon.

ARRL News

**PLEASE, BEFORE YOU LEAVE, YOUR RADIO
"CHECK YOUR MICROPHONE"
or "Shut the Radio Off"**

145.170

Tune in Every Thursday Night at 9:00 PM

For the

TARA International Trader Net

449.225

****** ECHOLINK ******

TARA's "Special" Catered Field Day Barbecue

Greetings:

As many of you well know this year's TARA Field Day is coming up on June 22, 23 & 24 over in Troy's Frear Park. This is a large event for this club and it takes a lot of planing to pull it all off. Last year we tried something different than any other year by holding a

Saturday BBQ Special for all to attend. In prior years we used to haul all the kitchen equipment and food over to the park and our refreshment committee would slave away all weekend feeding all of us. Whereas, last year we brought in Zeeko's BBQ Company and he present to us an "All Day BBQ" which went over tremendously with our members. In fact it was such a big hit that we're once again going to offer you another Saturday BBQ Special. We couldn't get Michael from Zeeko's to come back again but we believe we have another establishment that will knock your socks off. This year we offer to you TARA's Field Day BBQ Catered by Patricelli's Catering Company of Troy. This company has made ever attempt to keep the cost down and I think you'll agree these prices given below are pretty darn good!

We'll start thing off around 1:00 PM on Saturday with "All You Can Eat" Charbroiled Hamburgers, Cheese Burgers, Hot Dogs and Sausages & Peppers. Plus, we'll have no doubt a cold salad of some sort and chips too. That should hold us over until the evening meal.

Our Saturday evening meal will start at around 5:30 PM and you have a choice from the selections below.

SELECTION #1:

*** TARA Pig Roast ***

Enjoy a Succulent Slow Roasted Pig on site. (SPECIAL NOTE: We need at least 25 in order to get this meal!)

- * Roasted Pig (Roasted On Site)
- * BBQ Chicken
- * Kansas City BBQ Sauce
- * Mustard BBQ Sauce
- * Fresh Dinner Rolls & Butter
- * Garden Fresh Salad & Dressing
- * Homemade Macaroni Salad
- * Baked Potato
- * Sweet Corn on the Cob

Your Cost ==> \$ 24.95

SELECTION #2:

*** TARA Prime Rib Roast ***

Fire Roasted Seasoned Prime Rib

- * Slow Roasted Prime Rib
- * BBQ Chicken
- * Sherried Mushrooms & Onion's
- * Roulade Sauce
- * Fresh Dinner Rolls & Butter
- * Garden Fresh Salad & Dressing
- * Homemade Macaroni Salad
- * Baked Potato
- * Sweet Corn on the Cob

Your Cost ==> \$24.95

SELECTION #3: *** TARA Field Day Special ***

Charbroiled NYS Strip Steak * 14oz NYS Strip Steak

- * BBQ Chicken
- * Fresh Dinner Rolls & Butter
- * Garden Fresh Salad & Dressing
- * Homemade Macaroni Salad
- * Baked Potato
- * Sweet Corn on the Cob

Your Cost ==> \$21.95

Of course no Field Day would be the same without Karen KS2O's - Homemade Strawberry Shortcake!

We need to hear from you folks as soon as possible. We need to give our caterers a head count on what we need. So, please look your calendar over and see if you can't come join us.

We'd like to make something perfectly clear here and now! NOBODY should feel that they "HAVE" to attend or partake in the Saturday BBQ Special in order to attend our Field Day activities. We've moved to the catering style in order that "ALL" of our members can enjoy the weekend with their family and friends. There is a lot that can be learned from this emergency training exercise and we used to leave a few out of the loop. In the past the folks that kept us all feed never had enough time to share in on the real Field Day experience which is setting up the radios/equipment and operating them!

If you and your family would like to bring along your own meal feel free to do so. Also, the gas grill will be there for anyone to use. We truly understand that not everyone can afford these prices we are asking and that should never become a problem. The main thing is we want you to join us just the same.

I hope to hear from you all soon...

Field Day 2007 Offers a Learning Opportunity for HF Newcomers

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 12, 2007 -- Although [Field Day 2007](#) is still more than three months away, many ham radio clubs and groups already have begun making plans for this year's event, Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24. Field Day has always been an ideal time for new hams to become more proficient operators and for prospective licensees to get "bitten by the Amateur Radio bug." That may be even more the case during Field Day 2007, as many radio amateurs gain new HF operating privileges because of the rule changes that went into effect February 23.

"This is an opportunity to get new or upgraded licensees on the air for some active mentoring and active learning," says ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Field Day 2007 will be a chance to learn and grow, but above all, it will be a lot of fun -- and for many there is perhaps nothing more fun in ham radio than ARRL Field Day."

The numbers support that claim. Last June, more than 32,500 operators took part in ARRL Field Day -- some as individuals but many more as part of a club or group. The League saw some 2200 Field Day log submissions for the 2006 event, during which nearly 1.24 million completed contacts went into the log -- not a record but up a little from the previous year. While no longer a licensing requirement, Morse code (CW) remains a very popular Field Day operating mode, perhaps because CW QSOs are worth twice as much as phone contacts. Last year some 56 percent of Field Day contacts took place on SSB, while nearly 42 percent were on CW (the rest were digital contacts). Henderson points out two small changes in the Field Day rules starting this year. First, participating stations may only complete one satellite contact for bonus points via a single-channel FM-mode spacecraft (Rule 7.3.7.1), and it must be an Earth-satellite-Earth contact. "This will allow more stations to access this very limited resource," he says.

Second, an individual Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station operators will earn 20 points for each 20 contacts, up to a maximum of 100 per GOTA operator. Henderson notes that no partial point credit is available, and GOTA operators may not "pool" contacts toward any 20-QSO GOTA station bonus.

"Amateur Radio stands at a juncture where we can embrace both the old and new," Henderson says. He notes, too, that the variety of available operating modes -- traditional and experimental -- contributes toward Field Day's status as the most popular annual operating event.

"Field Day is truly the time where we bring Amateur Radio to Main Street USA -- a great time for 'the Bug' to bite as many people as it can," Henderson says. "Use Field Day 2007 to open up Amateur Radio to the next generation of radio amateurs on *your* Main Street! It's up to us to make it happen."

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/03/13/100/?nc=1>



Rensselaer County Emergency Exercise Saturday Morning - May 12, 2006



We have a Special Emergency Exercise with the County and the Town of East Greenbush on the Morning of May 12th. We are looking for Volunteers for this Event. So if you are not going to the East Greenbush Hamfest please contact Acting C.R.O. Tom Stewart or Club President Ken Davis at (518) 272-0112, for further details.

Tune in every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM on the 145.17/447.075 repeater for the Rensselaer Co. ARES/RACE Net. Our group also meets once a month at the Rensselaer County Public Safety Bldg located at 4000 Main Street, South Troy, N.Y. We are always looking for New Members.

Titanic's 95th Anniversary Commemorated With Worldwide Ham Radio Transmission From Branson, Missouri

The World's Largest TITANIC Museum Attraction (www.titanicbranson.com) will host a special event amateur radio transmission from Branson, Missouri to Belfast, Ireland and other points across the globe April 14-15, 2007.

Ham operators stationed at the TITANIC Museum Attraction will transmit the news of the 95th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic using special event call sign W0S. Operators from Nixa, Missouri have permission from the FCC to transmit using this special call sign, which stands for "White Star," the name of the company that built the Titanic. Radio operators in Belfast will use the actual call sign of the Titanic, GB6MGY.

The brainchild of the museum attraction co-owner, Mary Kellogg Joslyn and Nixa Amateur Radio Operators Rich Vogt (KB9YZE), Dave Beckler (WA0SAP), Al Gallo (W0ERE) and Rod Kittleman (K0ADI), the worldwide transmission will take place to honor the radio broadcasters working aboard the Titanic on the night she sank.

"The wireless radio operators aboard Titanic sent a distress signal which was heard by operators in Cape Race, Newfoundland immediately after the ship hit the iceberg. The Carpathia's operators also heard the signal," said Rod Kittleman, spokesperson for the group. "Without these successful radio transmissions, many additional lives would have been lost that night."

Spectators are invited to witness these ham operators live at the TITANIC Museum Attraction's free Outdoor Entertainment Center from 8 a.m. Saturday, April 14 until 7 p.m. Sunday, April 15, 2007. For more information or to participate as a ham volunteer, visit www.nixahams.net or www.zeros.com.

The World's Largest TITANIC Museum Attraction opened in 2006 and is Branson's new landmark tourist destination. The 17,000 square foot, ship-shaped structure -- built half scale to Titanic's original size -- towers more than 100 feet above its anchored position on the Branson Strip. A 90-minute, self-guided tour covers 20 galleries on two decks where more than 400 priceless artifacts that once belonged to Titanic's passengers or crew are on display. None of the artifacts were retrieved from the ocean's floor. The NEW 'London Waterloo Train Station' opens at TITANIC on April 12, 2007. Visit www.titanicbranson.com for the full story.

Tech Talk

Measuring Tree Branch Height

Trees often support the ends of wire antennas. Regardless of whether a tree is climbed, a weight is thrown, an arrow is shot, or a gas-filled balloon is used to get a line over a high branch, it can be difficult or impossible to directly measure the height of a branch above ground, because of interfering branches below.

However, the trigonometric tangent function provides a way to determine the height indirectly. If the ground is level, measure a convenient distance (such as 75 feet) from a point on the ground directly below the branch to a point away from the tree, where the branch can be seen. Then measure the angle from the ground to the branch at that distance and apply this formula:

$$\text{Height} = \tan(\text{angle}) \times \text{distance}$$

Beacon Hamfest Sunday, April 22

As most of you know by now, The Mount Beacon Club is putting on another great Hamfest coming up on April 22, 2007. It's on a Sunday and you should put it on your calendar since as always it will be a Blast!

Our location is Tymor Park, 249 Duncan Road in Lagrangeville, NY12540. The Coordinates are GPS: N41 39.240 W 73 41.818. Talk-in will be on 146.970(-) pl 100.

What more could you ask for? Tons of electronic STUFF at great prices, fine cuisine, a chance to put a face to that voice you've heard so many times on the air and even a chance to upgrade or just find out more about Ham Radio.



Know Your Privileges! Misconceptions Abound Regarding Tech HF Privileges

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 19, 2007 -- Some Technician licensees who gained new privileges February 23 remain unaware or uninformed as to what they may and may not do on the HF bands, says ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND. In addition to all Amateur Radio operating privileges above 50 MHz, Technicians who never passed a Morse code test now have CW privileges on certain segments of 80, 40 and 15 meters plus new CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on certain segments of 10 meters. And that's *it*. "Know your [privileges](#)," Henderson advises all Amateur Radio licensees. He says some Technicians apparently believe their new HF phone privileges go far beyond what they really have.

"Technicians have *no* phone privileges on any HF band other than 10 meters, *period!*" Henderson emphasizes. "That's the bottom line. If you want to operate phone on the other HF bands, you'll have to upgrade to General or Amateur Extra class."

Doing the Numbers

A lot of Technician licensees appear to have done just that, according to [statistics](#) compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A. So far in March, the number of General class licensees is up by more than 2700 over the February figure to 134,173, after hitting a 5-year low of just under 131,000 in January. The number of Technicians dropped by 4655 in the same period to 318,838 -- although there are still far more Techs than licensees of any other class. Meanwhile, the number of Amateur Extra licensees is at a 10-year high of 109,010 -- up by more than 400 since February.

Bending the Rules

Most Technician license holders face a learning curve to take advantage of their new CW privileges on HF, but they no longer have to pass a Morse code examination. Technicians also may use their new HF privileges without having to apply for them first. No other license class automatically acquired additional privileges February 23. The "omnibus" rule changes effective last December 15 did not give Technician licensees without Morse code credit any additional privileges either.

Henderson further warns new Techs not to extrapolate additional phone privileges by misconstruing the FCC Part 97 rules to mean something they don't.

"Calls I've been getting lately indicate that some misinformed individuals believe Technicians may operate 'digital voice' on 80, 40 and 15, where they have only CW privileges," he says. "Not true. *Digital* voice is really *digitized* voice, and it's *not* permitted in non-phone band segments."

Henderson reiterates that Technicians do not have FM voice privileges on 10 meters -- or on any other HF band, for that matter.

What Techs Do Have on HF

The HF privileges all Technicians now have are equivalent to those that Novice licensees have enjoyed for years, Henderson notes. "This also means the 200 W maximum power limit still applies, regardless of where you operate in the HF bands," he says. Technicians may operate at up to the legal limit on VHF and UHF, however.

On 10 meters, Technician and Novice licensees have CW, RTTY and data privileges from 28.000 to 28.300 MHz, and CW and SSB privileges from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz. "We're sorry that the sunspots aren't favoring 10 meters at this point in the sunspot cycle, but they will in a few years," Henderson allowed.

In addition, Technicians and Novices have CW -- and *only* CW -- privileges on from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz on 80 meters, from 7.025 to 7.125 MHz on 40 meters and 21.025 to 21.200 MHz on 15 meters.

Hearing is not Having

Hearing SSB signals doesn't necessarily mean the FCC rules permit phone operation in that segment of a band, even if a licensee may operate CW there. "Remember, just because you *hear* phone signals doesn't mean you have phone privileges there,"

Henderson said. "Not only do US operator privileges vary on HF, some regions of the world have different phone allocations than ours."

Henderson believes at least some of the confusion may have originated with a few brand-new or inexperienced Technician licensees who heard that the FCC deleted the Morse code requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license, but paid little attention to the fine print.

"And we all know the devil's in the details," Henderson says. "Remember, the FCC requires you to know where you may and may not operate and with what modes. Stick to the privileges your license allows or risk hearing from the FCC."

YOUR AMATEUR LICENSE IS A PRIVILEGE, TREAT IT AS SUCH

You are responsible for all Transmissions from your Equipment

whether it be intentional or accidental

ADJUST YOUR TRANSMITTER SETTINGS FOR A "3 MINUTE TIMEOUT"

IF YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE YOUR RADIO FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME

SHUT IT OFF



East Greenbush
W2EGB



Amateur Radio Association
4TH ANNUAL HAMFEST

Saturday May 12, 2007 - Rain or Shine!

Phillips Road Firehouse, East Greenbush NY

Vendor Setup - 6 AM

Gates Open to General Admission - 8 AM

General Admission - \$5

New for '07: **Indoor Tables* - \$15 Day of Event (\$13 Prepay)**

Tables under Pavilion* - \$10 Day of Event (\$8 Prepay)

Tailgating - FREE!**

Club Tables* - FREE!

(For a club table, please contact KC2FCP in advance)

** Includes one admission*

*** Free with General Admission*

VE Exam

- Offered offsite @ 9 AM
- Technician - Extra Class
- Contact *KC2FCP* for info

Hot Food All Day!

- Breakfast: Breakfast Sandwiches, Doughnuts
- Lunch: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chili
- Hot and Cold Drinks
- Much, much more

Premier Door Prize: Yaesu FT-1802M

*to be drawn at Noon**



Other Door Prizes*

ARRL Publications, Electronics, and MORE!

Drawings every 20 minutes starting at 9!

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN*

For info and/or reservations contact:

Tom, KC2FCP (kc2fcp@nycap.rr.com)

Talk-in: 147.270 (+), PL 94.8 Hz

TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS

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Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248

HF DX & Contest Manager - NY2U

(Just Temp for now!) Please Don't wake me up until SPRING really gets here ? ☺

TARA VHF/UHF CONTESTING:

Contest Manager - Ray Ginter, N2ZQF

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THE TARA NEWS

Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1292

Troy, New York, 12181-1292



Visit us on the Internet

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

Regular monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Green Island Municipal Center

Intersection of

George St. & Hudson Ave.

Green Island, New York

Ample Parking

Parking Lot on Hudson Ave.

Troy's Full Service Repeaters

145.170/R

447.075/R