

# TARA NEWS



*Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League*  
**Volume 18 © Issue 08 August 2007**

## **Frank Stone - KB2YUR \* ENY-SEC \* SK**

The Amateur Radio Service, and the Eastern New York Section in particular, lost a great friend and Section Emergency Coordinator on 7/17/07. Frank Stone KB2YUR passed away after fighting a long and valiant battle with cancer. Frank's dedication to emergency communications, professionalism, generosity and friendship will be sorely missed by all who knew him; and his contributions to the service and section have touched us all - either directly or indirectly.

Frank is survived by his wife Sylvia K2SLY, and mother. Please keep Frank, Sylvia and Mrs. Stone in your hearts and prayers during this difficult time.

Donations in Frank's memory may be made to the following:

[Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center](#) or  
Masonic Brotherhood Fund  
7 Kinderhook Street  
Chatham, NY 12037

### **Frank Stone KB2YUR 1953 - 2007**



## **August Picnic Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at 6:00 PM** will be our next summer Picnic meeting at Hudson Shores Park in Watervliet. Please prepare or bring something to share with the group to make it an enjoyable evening.

## **Hudson Shores Park**

Check on the Club Yahoo Reflector to see what Dishes might be needed. Also you can check with Mr. Bill on the repeater or give Karen Smith, KS20 a call at 273-6594 to see what she might need.



*More than a Club*



*We're a Family*



# Troy Amateur Radio Association

## Summer - Fall Fund Drive



**1st Prize**



### Yaesu FT-8900

**QUAD BAND** covers 29/50/144/440  
50 Watts of power output on the 29/50/144 MHz  
Amateur bands, and 35 Watts on the 430 MHz  
band. It includes leading-edge features like  
cross-band repeat, dual receive, VHF-UHF Full  
Duplex capability, and over 800 memory  
channels.

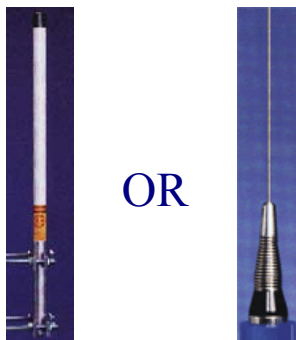
**2nd Prize**



### Yaesu FT-2800

**Heavy-Duty 144 Mhz FM Transceiver**  
**65 Watt Two Meter Mobile**  
Excellent Receiver Performance  
WX Channels with "Severe Weather" Alert  
Alpha-Numeric Channel Display

**3rd Prize**



OR

### CHOICE OF BOZAK ANTENNA

VHF or UHF

BASE or MOBILE

OR

\$ 50.00 Cash

Compliments of [www.BOZAKANTENNA.com](http://www.BOZAKANTENNA.com)

# SUPER RADIO RAFFLE

The drawing will take place on Saturday - September 8, 2007 at the Ballston Spa Hamfest. You DO NOT need to be present at the drawing in order to win. Tickets will cost you a donation of \$2.00 per ticket or 3 tickets for a \$5.00 donation!

If you'd like to get yourself a few tickets you can contact any member of TARA or drop Bill Eddy, NY2U an email at [ny2u@n2ty.org](mailto:ny2u@n2ty.org) and he'll get you the tickets you request. Please, help us out because this is a very important fund drive for TARA.

# It Seems to Us: So Far, So Good

By David Sumner, K1ZZ

August 1, 2007

At the bottom of the sunspot cycle -- where we are right now -- fewer HF bands are open and the ones that are open are more crowded than usual. A large influx of new HF operators at this point in the cycle could have been a bit chaotic. In actuality their arrival has gone quite smoothly, aided by a welcoming attitude on the part of many veteran operators.

At first, Technicians and others who are new to 10 meters must have wondered why the band was "forbidden fruit" for so long. Signals of other than the local variety were pretty rare. That's normal at the bottom of the cycle. Some time spent on 10 when conditions are poor increases one's appreciation for the good times that are coming, when you will be able to work the world with low power and a modest antenna. By May the sporadic-E season had arrived, giving many Techs a chance to get started on Worked All States or simply the opportunity to get acquainted with like-minded people hundreds of miles away.

We're pleased to report that ARRL membership increased in each of the past three months and now stands at more than 151,000. The biggest contributing factor is the increase in interest and activity that is evident among the relatively large number of recent upgrades to General and Amateur Extra. If you are in this group, welcome -- or welcome back! -- and thanks for your support of Amateur Radio's national organization. A second factor is a rise in the number of new licenses being issued. While the Technician license has been available without a Morse exam for the better part of a generation, it seems to be more attractive now. It's too early, though, to know whether these upward trends will last; they could just reflect pent-up demand.

One thing that's certain is that there has been no decline in the number of people wanting to learn and use the Morse code! Anyone who had feared (or hoped) that CW would wither away can put that thought aside. Demand for Morse training remains strong and on-the-air CW activity is robust. Some recent upgrades have told us that now that they don't have to learn CW they're more interested in doing so. It should be more fun for them than for their predecessors whose sole objective was to pass the 5 word-per-minute exam. If that's your only goal, you're likely to develop habits that will get in the way of developing real proficiency.

**Editors Note:** A perfect example of the success of the of the new No-code Format is the Students that have graduated from the last two classes from the Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Club.

These students were offered Morse Code as an Option because "THEY WANTED TO DO IT" not because they had to do it. This has resulted in a whole new group of Amateurs with a Love and Respect for CW. It's much easier to feed someone something when it's appetizing rather than trying to jam it down their throat. Dave -- WD2K must be looking down from Heaven and smiling at the new transition.

# CQIR - Ireland Calling Contest

The latest issue of CQ Magazine has information and a picture. ==> CQIR - Ireland Calling Contest Rules - perhaps I shouldn't let you in on this, but .....

You might be able to win a trip to Ireland. In 2007 the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS) celebrates the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1932. As part of the jubilee celebrations the Society is organizing an International Radio Contest, "CQIR - Ireland Calling". CQIR is a once-off event, with a difference - overseas entrants with 75 or more QSOs have the opportunity to win a trip to Ireland. The contest period is from 12:00 UTC Saturday 29th September 2007 to 12:00 UTC Sunday 30th September 2007. It is an everyone works everyone contest on the five contest bands and is both CW and SSB. You may work both modes or only one. CQIR celebrates the IRTS Jubilee and the "Irish" amateur- radio community worldwide. It's where the Irish, at home and abroad, work the World - and where those of Irish descent identify themselves by including their ancestral county in the exchange, for example: County Cork, County Antrim etc. Entrants are "Irish" if; they operate from Ireland, or they were born in Ireland, or have a direct ancestral link to Ireland - with no time limit. Anyone whose partner/spouse qualifies under this section can be Irish too. All other entrants are "World" entrants. My exchange will be "59 1928 Lon" as both of my parents came to the US in 1928 from County Longford, Ireland. For each and every 75 valid QSOs logged, entrants will qualify for one entry to the CQIR prize draw. Two prizes will be awarded, one for entrants operating from outside Ireland, and the other for entrants operating in Ireland. For entrants operating from outside Ireland air travel to Ireland for the entrant and one other person - with accommodation for one week in Kinnitty Castle, Co. Offaly.

<http://www.kinnittycastle.com>. For entrants operating from Ireland the prize is a weekend in New York City for the entrant and one other person. Free software for this event is available from <http://www.ei5di.com/sd/sdsetup.exe>. SD runs on any Windows PC. When SD starts, enter a new contest/file name (suggest CQIR07) and select the "CQIR" template. See <http://www.irts.ie/cgi/cqir.cgi>

## QUICK LINKS: Batteries

Now that Field Day is out of the way, it is a good time for clubs and hams to think and talk about emergency power. See the quick links below for some good information.

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

<http://www.batteryuniversity.com/>

<http://www.buchmann.ca/>

# Troy Expands Embrace of World Without Wires

*A growing WiFi network will bring free Internet access to a broader swath of city*

By [LARRY RULISON](#), Business Writer

First published: Friday, August 3, 2007

TROY -- The city has partnered with local businesses and building owners to expand its wireless Internet network.



Troy Mayor Harry Tutunjian made the announcement Thursday on the roof of Hedley Park Place, where one of the network's radio antennas has been placed.

Cornerstone Telephone of Troy and WiFiFee of Menands helped to build the network, with 26 radios placed around the city on buildings such as Hedley Park Place, Flanigan Square, The Atrium and Rivers Edge Apartments in Green Island.

**Caption: Mayor Harry Tutunjian unveils the expanded wireless Internet network from the rooftop of Hedley Park Place in Troy Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. (Steve Jacobs / Times Union)**



Brian Epstein, chief executive of WiFiFee, said residents and visitors to downtown can either pay for the Internet access or connect free if they agree to watch a 30-second video advertisement every two hours. The first advertiser is CR Wireless, a local cellphone company.

Epstein said the network unveiled Thursday expands on a wireless Internet system put in place last year on the riverfront. "It was really 'Let's just start somewhere,'" Epstein said of the earlier effort. A map of the network shows it stretching from slightly north of the Collar Street Bridge south to about Congress Street. It also covers the Rivers Edge Apartments in Green Island. Epstein declined to provide an exact cost for the network.

Each radio costs several thousand dollars, but the city is paying for access to the network for communication services for its police and fire departments, and the building owners allowed use of their rooftops and also installed rooftop generators to keep the radios working in case of power failure.

Rulison can be reached at 454-5504 or by e-mail at [lrulison@timesunion.com](mailto:lrulison@timesunion.com).

## Upcoming Public Service Events

**Sunday, September 23, 2007**

**8:00 AM**

**Arsenal City Run –Watervliet, NY**

**October 30-31, 2007**

**6-10 PM**

**Pumpkin Patrol - Rensselaer & Albany Counties**

**Call Karen at 273-6594 to VOLUNTEER**



# ***Empire State Games Notebook : Hamming it up at the Games***

By [HAROLD GUTMANN](#)  
THE JOURNAL NEWS

Original publication: July 30, 2007

**PLEASANTVILLE** -At every event and every venue over the past four days, there's been a few constants: athletes, officials, spectators ... and an amateur radio operator.

The "hams" are there to help injured athletes, using their radios for safety communications and medical-transport requests. Paula and Bob Brackett, who live outside Ithaca, headed a group of 60-70 operators, including between 20-30 Westchester residents, from their base on the Pace University campus. Last year's team put in more than 1,200 hours at the Games in Rochester.

"A lot of people think amateur radio is kind of a dinosaur. But when you see how efficiently we can communicate with other groups," said Paula.

For example, with one call on their radio, the Bracketts can shut down every field and get all the athletes out of the water if lightning is spotted in the area. And with everyone on the air at the same time, the highest priority situation takes precedence, which isn't the case with cell phones.

"If you're at ice hockey and you have an injured athlete, and I'm talking to someone who's asking for bandages, how long is it going to be before you get to talk to me?" said Bob. "With a radio, someone can interrupt right over top and say, 'We need an ambulance,' and we drop everything and take care of that."

Briarcliff Manor resident Alan Crosswell is among 400 hams who work the New York City Marathon each year. This week, he has overseen the action at cycling, volleyball, swimming and weightlifting.

"It's been great," Crosswell said. "It's just amazing seeing all the energy and all the people here."

## **League - Atlantic Div. Proposes Policy of No Background Checks "Except Criminal"**

A major concern at this Board meeting was the topic of served agencies and background investigations. The Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee agreed that pursuing federally recognized credentialing for Amateur Radio volunteers was critical for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to function. The Committee chairman, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, proposed that the Board adopt a policy with regard to Memoranda of Understanding with the various served agencies.

The Board adopted a policy that "communications volunteers participating in ARRL-sponsored programs should not be required by served agencies to undergo background investigations of any kind," but notes that criminal background checks--performed by law enforcement agencies--are "generally acceptable." The policy continues, "It is not reasonable for a served agency to require these volunteers to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports. In negotiating or renegotiating Memoranda of Understanding that commit the League to provide volunteer emergency communications support, the League must be assured that these volunteers will not be required by the partner organization to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports."

# Hamfest 2007

Saturday, September 8, 2007

**Saratoga County Fairgrounds**

**Ballston Spa, NY**

**7 am - 3 pm**      **Food booth open all day**

**VE Exam 9:30 AM**      **Fox hunt**

**Door prizes (Grand Prize - HF radio)**

**New and used equipment**

**Tailgaters - 8x8 section included in your admission ticket - each additional space \$5.00. Picnic tables available on first come first serve basis. Many covered buildings (with or without tables).**

**Vendors to include:** (only confirmed vendors to be listed)

- **Quick Silver Radio Products**
- **The Wireman**
- **Radio Oasis**
- **Kensto Products**

## **Rensselaer County ARES/RACES Nets Meet**

**Each Wednesday Night at 7:30 PM on 145.17 Repeater**

Well, to say that our July Antenna Building Session at the East Greenbush Masonic Lodge would be a definite understatement. Over twenty Amateurs showed up with their soldering irons in hand ready to build two meter 300 ohm coaxial J-pole antenna's. Due to the excellent turn out we decided to postpone our regular business meeting.



On August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM there will be another build session at the Masonic Lodge. All Amateur radio operators and guests are welcome to participate. Depending on how things go we may extend our Build session and have another one in September with a Simplex Radio Exercise that Mark NK2Y is working on. Our October Meeting will probably return to 4000 Main St., South Troy.

**TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS**

President: Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248  
Vice President: Karen Smith, KS2O.....273-6594  
Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI.....272-0112  
Treasurer: Randy Stein, KL7TJZ.....

**TARA DIRECTORS - 2 YEAR TERMS**

Ken Davis, KB2KJV.....(06-08)..272-0112  
Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....(06-08)..273-6594  
Roy Warner N2OWC.....(07-09)..283-8485  
Steve VanSickle WB2HPR.....(07-09)..  
Ken Smith WA2TQK.....(07-08)..

**REPEATER MANAGER:**

Roy Warner, N2OWC.....283-8485

**Asst Manager**

William "Doc" Kelley, KC2JDW.....235-5063

**REPEATER TECHNICAL ADVISORS:**

John Pritt, N1JP.....753-6231

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

Membership Manager – **POSITION OPEN**

**REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE:**

Karen Smith, KS2O.....273-6594

**RDF COMMITTEE:**RDF Manager -

Richard Neimeyer - N2MOA.....489-0799

**EQUIPMENT MANAGER:**

Roy Warner, N2OWC.....283-8485

**TARA WEBMASTERS:**

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

**TARA HF CONTESTING:**

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

HF DX & Contest Manager - NY2U

**(I wonder if Carl Rove wants a New Part-Time Job) ☺**

**TARA VHF/UHF CONTESTING:**

Contest Manager - Ray Ginter, N2ZQF

**PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:**

Karen Smith, KS2O..... 273-6594

Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....273-6594

**EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:**

Ken Davis, KB2KJV..... 272-0112

**TARA HISTORIAN:**

Karen Smith, KS2O..... 273-6594

**N2TY-"TROY" NODE**

**DEPARTMENT:**

Russ Greenman – WB2LXC

**N2TY-BBS SYSOP:**

Tim Roske, AA2WQ.....489-4346

**ATVET(ALB/TROY)VE TEAM:**

Gerry Murray,WA2IWW...482-8700

**FIELD DAY 2007 CHAIRMEN:**

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

Randy Stein, KL7TJZ.....

Steve Kopecky, KF2WA 674-4150

**VHF/UHF EQUIP. CHAIRMAN**

Hollins Meaux, N2YQW...465-7678

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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, August 21, 2007**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Hudson Shores Park  
Pavillion**

**Watervliet, New York**

**Located just off**

**Interstate I 787 - Exit 8**

**On 23<sup>rd</sup> St at**

**Green Island Exit**

# **Troy's Full Service Repeaters**

**145.170/R**

**447.075/R**