



# THE TARA NEWS

*Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League*

**Volume 17 © Issue 12 December 2006**

**RAFT, ANDE, MARSCOM and GeneSat-1**

**William "Hollywood" St Jean**



## Satellites Went Up this Week

## W2STJ - Silent Key

Space Shuttle Discovery was successfully launched on Saturday carrying to orbit three new satellites, RAFT-1, MARSCOM and ANDE designed, built, and tested by the Midshipmen of the US Naval Academy's Satellite Laboratory in Annapolis, Maryland.

Greetings,

It's with great sadness that I announce the untimely passing of William "Hollywood" St. Jean, W2STJ on Friday, December 15, 2006 at around 1:15 PM. Bill lived in Clifton Park until his passing with his loving wife Carla, KC2BKS and as a special request his illness was kept private.

The RAFT-1 and ANDE satellite downlinks will be 145.825 MHz. The frequencies used by MARSCOM are on Navy-Marine Corps MARS frequencies.

Bill worked for roughly 30 years as a CDTA bus driver until his retirement earlier this year. During these year's at CDTA he also served as a union leader. As you might imagine he was very popular as a CDTA bus driver too. He used to have riders on his bus that wanted no other driver but Bill and he genuinely cared for these folks. I can remember when he used to take his 2 Meter radio aboard his bus and he'd let the riders hear the chatter on the TARA repeaters. He even introduced a few of them to the gang by letting them say "hello" over the air.

For full technical details please refer to:

<http://www.ew.usna.edu/%7Ebruninga/ande-raft-ops.html>

Another feature of the RAFT mission will allow amateur radio operators to listen to the signal as the satellite crosses the National Space Surveillance Network satellite radar tracking system.

I can't begin to tell you the number of funny stories I could tell you about Bill and space here just doesn't permit it. Bill also served for a number of years on TARA's Board of Directors and he was always trying to get new members to join our club. For those of you that never met Bill or saw him in action at one of our meetings, you really missed out. He was 'ALWAYS' pulling some type of prank or simply setting somebody up for a good laugh. I can only tell you this, his laughter or pranks will forever be missed sorely in this club!

RAFT has a 216.98 MHz direct conversion receiver down to 145.825 MHz so you will hear the radar ping on RAFT's downlink. It will be a tone proportional to the Doppler as it flies through the radar fence, lasting about one second.

GeneSat-1, a secondary payload aboard the Minotaur Launch Vehicle, will launch from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) at NASA Wallops Flight Facility on December 11, 2006, about 7:00am EST. The Minotaur launch window is 3 hours, 1200z-1500z. GeneSat-1 is a 10 x 10 x 30 cm. spacecraft, which will conduct a cellular biology technology demonstration.

On the other hand Bill had his serious side too. As much as he was the "Ultimate" kidder/prankster he cared very much for his friends, family and all those that he came in contact with. He just loved meeting and being with people!

Of particular interest to the amateur radio satellite community, is the GeneSat-1 beacon. Operating at 437.075 MHz FM, the beacon sends an AX.25 packet every 5 seconds; the packet contains data about the spacecraft systems operation.

For those of us that were fortunate to know Bill know deep inside that we've lost a real true friend. However, at the same time we can all rest easy knowing that his memories will for sure out live all of us.

Full details are available on the mission website at

<http://www.genesat1.org>

May you rest in peace my friend. W2STJ SK ... -.-

Respectfully  
Bill, NY2U



*More than a Club*



*We're a Family*



# It's Back on Thursday's at 9:00 PM



## TARA International Trader Net

### 145.170

### \*\*\*\* ECHOLINK \*\*\*\*

### 447.075

## FCC "Omnibus" Amateur Radio R&O Published in Federal Register Takes Effect December 15

NEWINGTON, CT (November 15, 2006) Just a little over a month after the Federal Communications Commission released the *Report and Order (R&O)* in the so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) to the public, a revised version appeared today in the *Federal Register*. The changes in the R&O will take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST, 30 days after its publication.

As expected, the *Report & Order* as published this morning clarified two items that had raised some concerns when it was first released last month: That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7.075-7.100 MHz band.

Still to be resolved are three controversial aspects of the Proceeding:

- Expansion of the 75 meter phone band all the way down to 3600 kHz (thus reducing the privileges of General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees, who had RTTY/data privileges in the 80 meter band, and CW privileges of General and Advanced class licensees)
- The elimination of J2D emissions, data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter, of more than 500 Hz bandwidth (thus making PACTOR III at full capability illegal), and
- The elimination of access to the automatic control RTTY/data subband at 3620-3635 kHz.

The ARRL Board is discussing the possibility of a petition to reconsider several items in the R&O.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, commented: "The release of the R&O in the *Federal Register* has started the countdown clock. We are all looking forward to being able to use the refarmed frequencies starting on December 15. We are still anxiously awaiting the release of the *Report and Order* for 05-235, the Morse Code Proceeding. We are hopeful that the Commission will be able to move on that petition and address the outstanding issues in the Omnibus R&O soon."

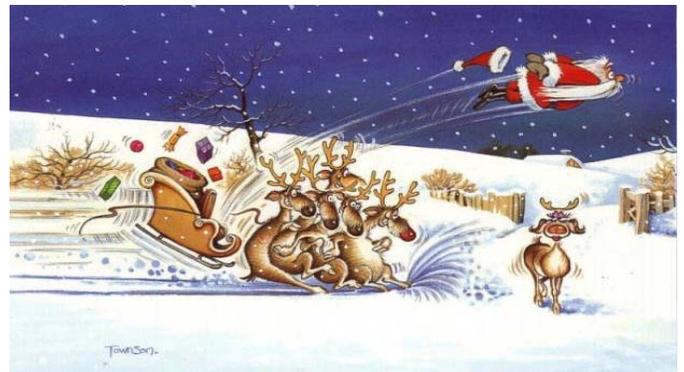
For more information, see the [band chart](#) [917,715 bytes, PDF] and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on WT Docket No. 04-140. Both have been updated to reflect the R&O as it was published in the *Federal Register*

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/11/15/100/?nc=1>

## FRANKS FUNNIES

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why," they asked, as they moved off.

"Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."



# A Ham's Night



# Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their HT's to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power,  
It smoked a small diode,  
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX PacketCluster,

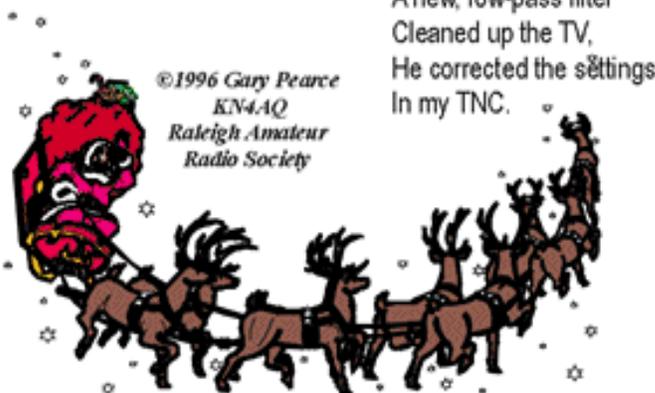
While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
who looked slightly mean.  
So I thought for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
\* Right into the shack.



While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth, till  
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Resoldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before --  
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV,  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box,  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.



I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent,  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."

*Happy Holidays from  
your TARRA  
Board of Officers*

# A "Relay" Useful Idea *A Series of Articles* By *John "Steve" VanSickle* WB2HPR

While sorting items in my junk box, I came upon several Dow-Key coaxial relays. They were designed for switching antenna leads between receiver and transmitter – back in the days before transceivers became mainstream. Dow-Key made many different versions, with numerous coil voltages and connector styles. These particular units were built with 110 A/C coils and UHF female connectors. I wanted to expand my antenna-switching network, but my existing system uses 12 volt DC signaling. I thought about mounting the relays on a chassis, with intermediate “pilot” relays to key the individual coils on–off, using external A/C. But I wanted the flexibility to make changes easily and quickly, so nixed that idea.

My final solution was to employ solid-state relays, which would allow DC signaling to control the A/C coils. Each solid-state relay was mounted in a small project enclosure, which was attached to the coaxial relay. This required only a few other components, and was easily completed in a couple of hours. The photos tell the rest of the story.

These solid-state relays are available in many different configurations, allowing great flexibility in the control of ancillary devices. In this case, it allowed me to interface some unused relays to switch antennas. With optical isolation, these little devices can be used for control of receptacles, lights, or other devices found in your shack or in your home. Use your imagination! You will find the specifications for them if you simply do a Google search.

Next time, as you sift through those “treasures” you may have squirreled away in your junk box, don’t write off something that seems to be unusable, until you explore ways to adapt it to today’s world. I wish you all a healthy 2007 --until next time – 73 -- Happy Chanukah and Merry Christmas – from WB2HPR.



**Dow-Key Coaxial relay**



**4 Solid State Relays**



**Parts Used to Adapt relay**



**Completed Relay  
Ready to Install**

# End of an Era: FCC to Drop Morse Testing for All Amateur Classes

## FCC Modifies Amateur Radio Service Rules Eliminating Morse Code Exam Requirements and Addressing ARRL Petition for Reconsideration

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration (Order) that modifies the rules for the Amateur Radio Service by revising the examination requirements for obtaining a General Class or Amateur Extra Class amateur radio operator license and revising the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees. In addition, the Order resolves a petition filed by the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL) for partial reconsideration of an FCC Order on amateur service rules released on October 10, 2006.

The current amateur service operator license structure contains three classes of amateur radio operator licenses: Technician Class, General Class, and Amateur Extra Class. General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees are permitted to operate in Amateur bands below 30 MHz, while the introductory Technician Class licensees are only permitted to operate in bands above 30 MHz. Prior to today's action, the FCC, in accordance with international radio regulations, required applicants for General Class and Amateur Extra Class operator licenses to pass a five words-per-minute Morse code examination. Today's Order eliminates that requirement for General and Amateur Extra licensees. This change reflects revisions to international radio regulations made at the International Telecommunication Union's 2003 World Radio Conference (WRC-03), which authorized each country to determine whether to require that individuals demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an amateur radio license with transmitting privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz. This change eliminates an unnecessary regulatory burden that may discourage current amateur radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of amateur radio.

Today's Order also revises the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees by eliminating a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician Class and Technician Plus Class licensees. Technician Class licensees are authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. The Technician Plus Class license, which is an operator license class that existed prior the FCC's simplification of the amateur license structure in 1999 and was grandfathered after that time, authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz, as well as frequency segments in four HF bands (below 30 MHz) after the successful completion of a Morse code examination. With today's elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained. Therefore, the FCC, in today's action, afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges.

Finally, today's Order resolved a petition filed by the ARRL for partial reconsideration of an FCC Order released on October 10, 2006 (FCC 06-149). In this Order, the FCC authorized amateur stations to transmit voice communications on additional frequencies in certain amateur service bands, including the 75 meter (m) band, which is authorized only for certain wide band voice and image communications. The ARRL argued that the 75m band should not have been expanded below 3635 kHz, in order to protect automatically controlled digital stations operating in the 3620-3635 kHz portion of the 80m band. The FCC concluded that these stations can be protected by providing alternate spectrum in the 3585-3600 kHz frequency segment.

Action by the Commission on December 15, 2006, by Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration. Chairman Martin and Commissioners Capps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell.

For additional information, contact William Cross at (202) 418-0691 or [William.Cross@fcc.gov](mailto:William.Cross@fcc.gov).

WT Docket Nos. 04-140 and 05-235.

# Steve Bozak - WB2IQU



This is a photo of our TARA member and world traveler Steve Bozak, WB2IQU while mixing business with pleasure in Miami, Florida.

Beside amateur radio, two of Steve's favorite hobbies are skiing anywhere that he can find a mountain and fishing anywhere he can find a body of water and someone to go fishing with. Don't forget that last month we also showed Steve flying his Cirrus SR-22.

Steve travels throughout the world because of his business <http://www.bozakantenna.com> which allows him to mix business with pleasure. He loves checking in on the TARA Repeater via Echolink from many of the countries that he travels to and loves to send confirmation QSL's to his contacts. Steve has a General class Amateur license. Steve loves to take photo's of everywhere that he travels to.

Steve is shown here with a beautiful swordfish that he caught just off the waters of Miami, Florida. He said that he was going to have this one sent to a taxidermist so that he could have it mounted for the wall in his house.



Hi Everyone,

This is June – KA2VEK. I just wanted to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to all of my wonderful “TARA Family” that kept my spirits up with cards, letters and phone calls while I was in the Hospital on two recent occasions and recuperating at home.

It just meant so much to know you all care and helped so much.

*73, June*

## New Travel Repeater Website

This summer a new website was built by webmaster, AB9IF, for the purpose of travelers throughout the United States, for traveling. All Band Plans have been completed for your viewing information. Information is updated daily and changes are added as they are sent to the webmaster of this very informative website.

Downloading information, future information will have an added feature of Mapping your routes. Echolink will also appear soon. All hams are urged to use this great website. Ham clubs can also send URL locations of all clubs for viewing at this website. This is a must see web site and you can determine this for yourself for its great, up to date contents.....

Mark your favorites for the site - [www.usrepeaters.com](http://www.usrepeaters.com)



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HF DX & Contest Manager - NY2U

**Just Temp for now!) He's Got Hopes !!!**

**Yup, sort of like when God told Noah it**

**was only gonna be a Sunshower!!**

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# ***THE TARA NEWS***

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**Troy, New York, 12181-1292**



Visit us on the Internet

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

**Annual Christmas Party**

**Tuesday, December 19, 2006**

**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**