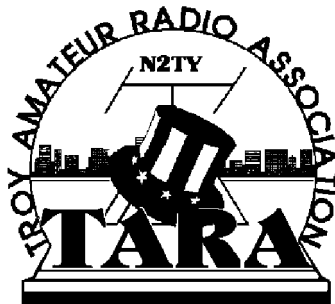


# TARA



# NEWS



## Troy Amateur Radio Association 1997 RTTY Sprint

Recognizes and Congratulates  
**Ron Stailey, K5DJ**

**NORTH AMERICA's  
first place winner  
High Power  
27,920 points**



*[Signature]*  
TARA PRESIDENT

*These distinctive certificates were presented to ALL of the high-power and low-power single operator and multi-operators winners from each continent in TARA's 1997 RTTY Sprint.*

*We've already received several compliments from stations from around the world via the WF1B RTTY Reflector.*

*Design work and printing of these certificates were performed by Glo, KC2BRY, and Time N2WJG.*

*A better reproduction of this certificate can be found on our web site: <http://www.n2ty.org/>*

If you're looking for all the latest news on TARA's RTTY Sprint please try <http://www.n2ty.org/>. The gang has been working on our web site and we're quite sure you'll notice the changes.

Recent changes include updating the home page to keep up with current events, and lots of work on the RTTY portion of the web site in preparation for the 1998 TARA RTTY Sprint. We have posted the final scores for 1997 along with copies of some of the award certificates. Also, we will have a page for the RTTY Sprint contestor's to post their claimed scores. The posted scores will automatically update the web page and be available for viewing as soon as they are posted.

### **Attention!**

TARA's web site now offers you the TARA NEWS for your viewing or downloading. Come check it out at our new address!

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

### **Inside this Issue:**

- TARA 1998 RTTY SPRINT - official rules
- FIELD DAY 1999 - catch the excitement!
- TOP SIGNS YOU NEED AN ELMER - ala Late Night
- HOLIDAY RAFFLE - Win a TV!! Help raise money.
- TARA MEMBERS TIE KNOT - film on the web

# FIELD DAY - 1999

By: Tom Remmert, N2TR/5

It's never too early to start planning for Field Day. Please start thinking about what YOU would like to accomplish this year.

This month I'd like to look at the contest aspect of Field Day. In years past, we've had some pretty good scores, but it takes the efforts of EVERYONE. With the increasing sunspot activity, there should be lots of HF activity, especially on 10 meters. This means we need operators for the "regular" HF stations AND the novice station (which will operate primarily on 10 meters). If we run in class 3A, that means we need to man FOUR HF stations plus the VHF/UHF setup. This is a lot of operators. Remember, this isn't work, it's FUN!!

To get some practice and get in the contesting mood, I'd like each member to participate in at least one contest between now and Field Day. The chart below lists some upcoming contests that are good possibilities for you to try. You can also check the contest columns in *QST* and *CQ Magazine* for other, less well-known contests. These can be fun, too!!

As you can see, there are 2 VHF contests that anyone can participate in. To operate the 10 meter contest, you only need a Novice or Tech-plus license.

All you have to do is make a few contacts and keep the appropriate log. Making the contacts involves giving the correct "exchange." This varies from contest to contest, but includes both stations' call signs and usually a signal report plus some other information. Contest rules are available on the ARRL web site at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests) or the *CQ Magazine* web site at [members.aol.com/cqmagazine/](http://members.aol.com/cqmagazine/). The rules are also published in *QST* and *CQ*. If all else fails, get a message to Tom, N2TR or Bill, NY2U and we'll get a copy of the rules to you.

Remember, this is good practice for Field Day and it's FUN. If you've never "contested" before, try to make at least 10 contacts. If you get in at the beginning of a contest it can be fun. Or, wait til well into the contest and start calling CQ. Since you'll be "a new one" for everyone, you should get a bit of a pile up to work.

I can't promise anything at this point, but if it's possible, I'll try to put together a multi-operator effort

for one of the HF contests. This means several people operate one station. You can use whatever privileges the control operator is licensed for.

My hope is to fire up some excitement for Field Day this year. Over the next few months I'll be exploring more ideas. If you have some thoughts, let me know. My goal is to have everyone participate in one way or another and to have as many of our members operate the radios at Field Day as possible.

For the next two contests, the exchanges are as follows:

**ARRL Sweepstakes** - A consecutive serial number, precedence ("A" if you run 150 W output or less, "B" if more than 150 W, or "Q" if 5 W output or less), your call sign, check (last two digits of the year you were first licensed) and your ARRL Section. For example, WJ1U answers W1AW's call by sending W1AW NR178 A WJ1U 89 CT for QSO number 178, less than 150 W, first licensed in 1989 and Connecticut Section.

**ARRL 10 meter contest** - W/VE stations (including KH6/KL7) send signal report and state or province (District of Columbia stations send signal report and DC). Novice and Technician Plus stations sign /N or /T. DX stations (including KH2, KP4, etc) transmit signal report and serial number starting with 001. Maritime or aeronautical mobile stations send signal report and ITU Region (1, 2 or 3).

*Please remember that you can always get in touch with our Field Day Chairman--Tom, N2TR, by mailing him an E-Mail at: **FDBOSS@N2TY.ORG***

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nov 21-23 HF  | ARRL Sweeps-phone  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec 5-6 HF    | TARA RTTY Sprint   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec 12-13 HF  | ARRL 10-M CW/Ph    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 2-3 HF    | ARRL RTTY Roundup  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan 23-25 VHF | ARRL VHF           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb 20-21 HF  | ARRL DX CW         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 6-7 HF    | ARRL DX Phone      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mar 24-26 HF  | CQ WPX Phone       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 9-21 HF   | CQ WPX CW          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jun 12-14 VHF | ARRL VHF QSO Party |

# Top sign that you may need an Elmer...

Written By: Jeffery S. King, N1DJS  
jeff.king@cbis.com

An "Elmer" is the guy you go to, to ask questions about topics in Ham Radio that you don't understand. In that vein, you know it's time for you to find an Elmer if...

- Your friend tells you he has a new two meter radio and you figure one of the meters must be for SWR and the other for power out.
- You hear a conversation on the low bands about CW and you think they're referring to the cold war.
- You hear someone sign with "this is N8XXX, mobile 4," and you think it's because he has three other radios.
- You hear that someone won a 40 meter radio at a hamfest and you wonder how they're going to get something that large in their house.
- You build a Morse code key out of Plexiglas and can't figure out why it won't key your radio.
- You think the difference between short wave and long wave is the speed at which you move your wrist back and forth.
- You're thinking about joining your other ham friends in the local ATV group because you own a four wheel drive vehicle that will go just about anywhere.
- You won't use a repeater because you've heard that using a repeater could be dangerous. You've heard an alligator could get you.
- You think a collinear antenna can only be used with two amplifiers.
- You think FM is the modulation type that came after EM, DM, CM, BM, and AM.
- You wouldn't mind getting into Packet Radio but no matter how much you practice you can't get the hang of sending those beeps and braps with your keyer.
- You wonder what sound a short wave makes and why anyone would want to listen to one.
- You think the repeater owner would be a lot happier if instead of talking about his cavities he just went to the dentist and got them filled.
- You think a CW ID is the number the Army gave you on your dog tags during the cold war.



**"We're more than just another radio club, we're Family!"**

## Portable Cases Donated

Thanks to Roy, N2OWC, we now have three high impact carrying cases for our HF radios. Our Kenwood TS-440 HF radios fit nice and snug in these new cases and they should greatly help protect them out in the field.

We'd like to thank Roy for this donation and we'll have one on display at the next monthly meeting.

## Entertainment's Ultimate The perfect holiday gift!

Ken Davis, KB2KFV, announced at our last monthly meeting that he'd again be handling the sale of the ever popular Entertainment discount book. These books are loaded with discount coupons for fine dining, casual dining, movies, sporting events, travel, with some coupons saving you up to 50% off! Your purchase helps support our fund-raiser, too!! This marks Kenny's 5th year of helping TARA raise money through this program and he'd like to have your support.

If you would like additional information about the Entertainment Ultimate, just call Kenny at: 272-0112.

# Troy Amateur Radio Association - N2TY

## 7th Annual RTTY Sprint

1) **Object:** Contact and exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible using RTTY only. Any station may work any other station.

2) **Contest Period:** December 5, 1997 (Saturday)

From: 18:00 UTC until 02:00 UTC Dec 6, 1998

3) **Modes:** RTTY only

4) **Bands:** All amateur bands 3.5-30 MHz

(excluding 10,18 and 24MHz).

5) **Entry Categories:**

(A) *Single Operator, multiband* - One person performs all operating and logging functions. Use of spotting nets (operating arrangements involving assistance through DX-alerting nets, etc.) is not permitted. Single operator stations are allowed only one transmitted signal at any given time.

1) less than 150 W output

2) 150 W output or more

(B) *Multi operator, single transmitter only*- More than one person operates, checks for duplicates, keeps the log, etc. Once the station has begun operation on a given band, it must remain on that band for at least 10 minutes; listening time counts as operating time. Multioperator stations are allowed only one transmitted signal at any given time.

6) **Exchange:**

*US:* signal report and state.

*Canada:* Signal report and province.

*DX:* Signal report and serial number starting with 001. *Both stations must receive and acknowledge the complete exchange for the contact to count.*

7) **Scoring:**

(A) *QSO Points:* Count one point for each completed QSO (anyone can work anyone). A station may be worked once per band for QSO credit (but not for additional multipliers).

(B) *Multiplier:* Count only once (not once per band), each US state (except KH6 and KL7), each VE province (plus VE8 and VY1) and each DXCC country. KH6 and KL7 count only as separate DXCC countries. The US and Canada do not count as DXCC countries.

8) **Miscellaneous:**

(A) The use of non-Amateur Radio means of communication (eg, telephone) for the purpose of soliciting a contact (or contacts) during the contest period is inconsistent with the spirit and intent of this announcement.

9) **Reporting:**

(A) Entries must be postmarked no later than 41 days after the end of the contest. **January 16, 1999.**

Any entry making more than 200 total QSO's must submit duplicate check sheets (an alphabetical listing of stations worked). No late entries can be accepted. Use *ARRL RTTY Roundup* forms, a reasonable facsimile or submit entry on diskette. Send entries to:

**William J. Eddy NY2U**

**2404 - 22nd Street,**

**Troy, New York 12180-1901**

**U.S.A.**

(B) You may submit your contest entry on diskette in lieu of paper logs. The floppy diskette must be IBM-compatible, MS-DOS formatted, 3-1/2. The log information must be in an ASCII file, following the ARRL Suggested Standard File Format, and contain all log exchange information (band, mode, date, on and off times, time in UTC, call sign of station worked, exchanged sent, exchange received, multipliers [marked the first time worked] and QSO points). One entry per diskette. Also, we can accept log files from CT and/or RTTY by WF1B. Please use your callsign for ALL file names. If you send your files via e-mail, please "zip" them up with WninZip, pkZip or any zip compatible program. One entry per diskette. An official summary sheet or reasonable facsimile with a signed contest participation disclaimer is required with all entries. You may send your files electronically by e-mailing: [rtty@n2ty.org](mailto:rtty@n2ty.org)

10) **Awards:**

Distinctive certificates will be awarded to: Top high-power and low power single-operator and multioperator scorers in each continent plus Novice and Technician entrant. Please note on your log if you are a Novice, Technician or Tech+ licensee.

11) **Conditions of Entry:**

Each entrant agrees to be bound by the provisions as well as the intent of this announcement and the regulations of his/her licensing authority.

12) **Disqualifications:**

For excess duplicate contacts and call sign or exchange errors.

**Reminder: Tune to 14.088 and 7.088 after contest for a round table of RTTY contesters comparing scores.**

**"We're more than just  
another radio club,  
we're Family!"**



## **Green Island's Annual Run for Hunger**

TARA again provided communications for this year's Annual Run for Hunger, in Green Island, on November 7th.

Members met prior to the race at the Green Island Police Department where everyone was treated to hot coffee and donuts.

Heading up TARA's Public Service Team was Karen Smith, KB2UUC, Mac Smith, KB2SPM, and Robert Jones, WB2SWA.

Kenny Davis, KB2KFFV, Co-chairman for this year's event, reports that participation has more than doubled for this worthy cause over last year. He also reported that donations are still coming in and at last count the total dollars raised was around \$4,300.00! All proceeds go towards food pantries in Green Island, Watervliet, and Maplewood. Plus support for Joseph House & Bethany Center for the homeless in Troy.

The following stations volunteered their services: W2STJ, Bill; AB2FO, Nick; KB2JZI, Marilyn; KB2KFFV, Kenny; KE2XF, Skip; KB2ZZC, Bill; N2PEK, Margaret; N2TTD, Rita; KB2LSQ, Clayton; KF2WA, Steve; WB2SWA, Robert; KC2BRZ, Bob; KB2SPM, Mac; and KB2UUC, Karen.

### **Win a 25" Color TV**

TARA will begin its next raffle at the November meeting. This new raffle will raise funds to purchase VHF/UHF equipment to be used during Field Day or emergencies.

The Board of Directors at their last meeting approved this raffle which was presented by Hollins, N2YQW.

In addition to drafting the proposal for this new raffle Hollins, N2YQW, will head up this endeavor.

Please come join us at our next meeting and pick up a few tickets to sell. Drawing for this raffle will take place at our January meeting.

- 1st Place...25" Zenith Color TV
- 2nd Place...Entertainment Ultimate
- 3rd...A Pair of Dinner Tickets

**TICKETS -- \$2.00 each or 5 for \$5.00!**

## **Pumpkin Patrol '98 Complete Success**

Our Public Service Team would like to thank those of you who volunteered your services for this year's Pumpkin Patrol.

The Pumpkin Patrol had volunteers stationed by nearly every bridge that crosses over the New York State Thruway between here and the western part of the state.

As you might imagine this is no easy undertaking each year. And the hours volunteered can be quite boring at times. After all, there isn't much to do while baby-sitting a bridge on some dark and desolate road for 5 hours. Although it seems like we heard about a few pranks that were pulled on someone that shall remain anonymous. Even if the hours seem to drag on, the rewards of knowing you helped first hand to protect the lives and property of others are well worth the hours volunteered.

The only station that experienced any "Trick or Treat's" was Margaret's car. It seems that Margaret was targeted by a few hobgoblin's who were partaking in some old fashioned egg tossing, sorry Margaret. Other than that, everything went extremely well.

The following stations volunteered their services on the evenings of October 30 & 31st:

KB2SPM, Mac; KB2UUC, Karen; N2PEK, Margaret; KB2KFFV, Kenny; KB2JZI, Marilyn; N2UID, Craig; KB2ZZC, Bill; KB2VQT, Bill; KC2DZB, Nick & Mother; and N2ZQF, Ray

### **TARA Apparel Still Available**

At our October meeting a whole new line of TARA apparel was introduced to the membership. Those items included a 3 button down Polo shirt, 3/4-length Winter jacket, and a baseball style cap. All of these come with an embroidered, multi-colored TARA logo. Plus for an additional charge you can have your apparel personalized with your name and callsign. If you're looking for a great Christmas gift, look no further. And all orders taken at the next meeting will be filled in time for the holidays.

- **Baseball Style Cap (Navy)**
- **3 Button-Down Polo Shirt (Navy/Red/Birch)**
- **3/4 Length Navigator Jacket (Navy/Green)**

# 2000 METERS AND UP? ARRL PETITIONS FOR LF BANDS

*Tnx: ARRL Letter*

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to create two low-frequency Amateur Radio allocations at 136 KHz and at 160 KHz. "These allocations will permit experimentation with equipment, antennas, and propagation phenomena in a small segment of the radio spectrum that has not been available to the Amateur Service for many years," the League's petition declared. The petition was filed with the FCC October 22.

Specifically, the League has proposed permitting CW, SSB, RTTY/data, and image emissions for amateurs in a 2.1-KHz "sliver band" from 135.7 to 137.8 KHz and in a 30-kHz segment from 160 to 190 KHz. The 135.7 to 137.8 KHz band adheres to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) band plan.

The ARRL has proposed allowing a transmitter output in both LF segments of 200 W PEP, but in no case greater than 2 W EIRP (effective isotropic radiated power). The League's petition points out that poor antenna efficiencies and ground-loss characteristics likely would keep EIRPs at less than 1 W. The two bands would be available to General and higher licensees.

Unlicensed experimenters—some of them hams—currently operate on LF in the US under the FCC's Part 15 rules. These limit transmitter input power to 1 W and impose substantial restrictions on the size of the antenna. The proposed allocations "will provide the only low-frequency allocation for amateur use and will accommodate more flexible experimentation than is permitted under current Part 15 regulations," the League's filing said.

Hams would be secondary to the Fixed and Maritime Mobile services in the 136-kHz allocation, and secondary to

the Fixed Service in the 160-190 KHz band. The League said its engineering surveys suggest that hams could operate in the two segments without causing problems to power line carrier (PLC) systems already active in that vicinity or to government assignments. Unallocated, Part 15 PLC systems are used by electric utilities to send control signals, data and voice.

Calculations included with the League's filing demonstrate how inefficient even relatively large radiators can be on LF (136 KHz is approximately 2205 meters). For example, at 200 W TPO (transmitter power output) and a 200 foot vertical radiator, efficiency is only in the range of 1%, yielding up to 2 W EIRP. A more practical setup—200 W TPO into a 100-foot vertical radiator (efficiency of 0.2%) would yield an EIRP of between 100 and 400 mW.

The article "Exploring 136 KHz" by Peter Dodd, G3LDO, appears in the November 1998 issue of QST. It discusses practical equipment and an antenna system for the allocation. Dodd also is the editor of the LF Experimenter's Source Book (2nd ed) published by the RSGB and available from the ARRL for \$14. Order Item 7148. Visit ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/catalog> for details or call, toll-free, 888-277-5289.

A special CW LF operation from the Netherlands is scheduled for November 14 at 0900 UTC at 136.5 KHz using the call sign PA2NJJ (see In Brief item, "Netherlands LF test" below). The operation will run 150 W to a wire antenna, tethered to a kite at about 920 feet in the air.

A copy of the ARRL petition is available on ARRL Web:

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/lf-pet.pdf>.

## Notes from the Prez

At one of our recent meetings I expressed my concern over the use of the TARA repeater system, or should I say the lack of use.

Well since then I must admit that I'm both surprised and pleased with the increase in usage. Now don't go thinking everything is peachy here in Troy, 'cause it isn't. While we've made great strides at keeping the repeater busy during peak hours, we're still in need of members to talk-it-up later in the afternoon and evening hours.

I do thank those of you who are joining us early in the morning hours, starting at around 7:00 AM and again in the afternoons starting at around 4:00 PM.

## Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Davis

On November 2, 1998 Tim, N2WJG, and Gloria, KC2BRY, were married in Schenectady County. The newlyweds then went on a honeymoon to Connecticut.

All of us from TARA would like to wish you both all the best in your new marriage. Here is a from lines I received from Glo, it says it all!

*"It doesn't matter where you go in life, or what you acquire; it's who you have beside you that really matters."*

Ed. Note: Check [www.n2ty.org/timglo/wedpix.htm](http://www.n2ty.org/timglo/wedpix.htm)

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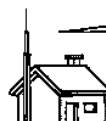
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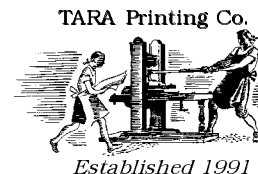
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**VHF/UHF EQUIPMENT CHAIRMAN:** Hollins, N2YQW.....UNLISTED

# TARA NEWS

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 P.O.Box 1292  
 Troy, New York 12181-1292

Visit us on the Internet at:  
<http://www.n2ty.org/>



*"The Home of Uncle Sam"*

Next Meeting: November 17, 1998  
 Starting Time: 7:30 PM

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