

TARA



NEWS



A.T.V.E.T.'99

Albany & Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

ATVET will be holding their first exam session on Saturday, March 13, 1999, in the C.I.I. Building (Center for Industrial Innovations), Room 3051, on the Campus of R.P.I. Examination room doors will open at 9:20 AM, with exams starting at 10:00 AM sharp! NOBODY will be admitted into the exam room after the 10:00 AM starting time. ATVET never requires any pre-registration for any of its scheduled exams. A test fee of \$6.45 cash, or check, is required for those taking any elements above Element -2 or Element -1A. Make sure you bring two proofs of identification, with one being a picture ID. Also bring any of your original documentation (current license, CSCEs...etc.), along with photo copies, calculators, pens and pencils to the exam session. Anyone needing special handicap arrangements is asked to call in advance. The CII Building is handicapped accessible.

The exam dates listed below are the remaining sessions for 1999. Cancellations if needed will be announced on both the Capital District Repeater Net (Nightly on 146.94MHz at 6:30 PM) and WGY - 810 AM. Talk-in on 145.17/R.

ATVET LIAISON: Bill Eddy, NY2U @ (518) 273-9248 or ATVET@N2TY.ORG

ATVET CONTACT: Nels Williams, WB2SBO @ (518) 439-7357

"Serving Capital District Amateurs Since 1984"

March 13

May 8

July 28

Sept 29

Nov 13

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:

- **Field Day** - *volunteers needed*
- **FCC** - *good-bye Novices and Techs*
- **Public Service** - *volunteers needed for upcoming event*
- **Considerate Operators Guide** - *useful for Field Day*
- **Free Email** - *how to get it*

Field Day '99 Check List

Volunteers are needed for the following assignments during this year's Field Day exercise, to be held on the weekend of June 25, 26 & 27. TARA will only operate what stations we have team leaders for, and those stations only! So in order to get things underway, we need volunteers. Each of YOU has a chance to make this year's Field Day special, so please volunteer now. Volunteer your services at the next monthly meeting, or by e-mailing our Field Day Chairman - Tom Remmert, N2TR, at: **FDBOSS@N2TY.ORG**

HF Team Captains:

Novice 10 Meter Station: *VACANT*

10/15 - Meter Station: *VACANT*

20 - Meter Station: Bill, NY2U & Kevin, KB2WIG

40 - Meter Station: *VACANT*

80 - Meter Station: *VACANT*

Digital Communications: Steve DeVoe, KB2SIX

Field Day Equipment Manager:

Food Committee: Karen Smith, KB2UUC

Electric Generation: Jon LaBarr, KB2UKV

Transportation: Ken Davis, KB2KFV

VHF/UHF STATION: Hollins Meaux, N2YQW

Public Info. Table: Steve Kopecky, KF2WA

Public Relations & Media: *VACANT*

Antenna's & Tower Manager: *VACANT*

Satellite Comm.: Gerald Murray, WA2IWW



Editor's Note: Don't forget to sign up for the "NEW" TARA E-mail Reflector, where you'll find plenty of discussion about our plans for this year's Field Day! If you're interested, simply go to:

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

Thank You

Dear Mr. Bill and All at TARA:

Many, many thanks for your card and prayers for the passing of my Mom. The service went well and now at peace and with my Dad.

I got back from 'G' land last Thursday night to find over 300 pieces of e-mail. yes....life does go on.

Thanks Again!

Ernie Mills, W2M2U

FCC Streamlines License Structure?

The FCC has proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place--Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. Under the FCC plan, Novice and Technician Plus licensees would retain current operation privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be granted. For examination purposes, current examination elements 2 and 3A would be combined into a new element 3A. For administrative purposes, the FCC would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus databases into a single Technician database. The proposal would eliminate the 5 WPM code test, Element 1A, as a required element for any class of License.

The elimination of the Novice and Tech Plus license classes would effectively raise the bar for future applicants desiring to gain HF operating privileges, unless the FCC ultimately reduces Morse Code testing requirements. Since the General class license would become the entry-level HF ticket under the FCC's proposed rules, applicants would have to pass at least the 13 WPM code test.

FCC's Top Amateur Radio Enforcer Shuts Down Repeater System

The San Francisco area's K7IJ Grizzly Peak repeater system is off the air in the wake of an FCC shut-down order, and the FCC's amateur radio enforcer Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says he's been in touch by telephone with the repeater's licensee and owner, Bruce Wachtell of Carson City, Nevada. Citing what it called "an alarming and unacceptable lack of control over the operations of these repeaters," the FCC had notified Wachtell that it was ordering his system shut down for 120 days as of midnight, February 28. The K7IJ system includes repeaters on 146, 222, and 440 MHz.

Wachtell, 64, a shipboard operator on a container vessel, has been at sea in the Pacific and did not receive the FCC's notification. Subsequent efforts to reach him by satellite telephone proved unsuccessful. On March 2, after he had not heard from Wachtell and was unable to contact him, Hollingsworth got the repeater site owner to shut down the four K7IJ machines and lock out access. Hollingsworth said he considered the K7IJ system "a runaway repeater" since the licensee apparently was not in control and was unavailable to the FCC.

Hollingsworth said that while he and Wachtell had a generally fruitful conversation, the repeater will remain shut down, and the FCC still expects Wachtell to respond fully and in writing to FCC inquiries. In his letter to Wachtell, Hollingsworth requested a reply within 30 days as to "any detailed steps you may propose to take to correct the operational problems with your repeater system and in regard to the control operator."

In the meantime, the FCC continues to look into "actions and omissions" of the individual identified as the K7IJ control operator, Blake B Jenkins, N6YSA, as well as the conduct of an alleged secondary control operator Steven R Rossi, KE6LNH. Hollingsworth said the FCC has information indicating that Jenkins "invited unlicensed operators to use the repeater, encouraged jamming, and has otherwise taken no

action to control the repeater systems to ensure compliance with our rules."

The K7IJ shutdown has put some repeater operators into a panic, Hollingsworth said. "There is no general cause for alarm," he advised. The only repeater owners who need to be worried are those who fail to maintain control over their repeaters, he said.

In a related move, the FCC also set aside recent license grants or upgrades of four operators while it continues its investigation. The FCC said three of the four--James C Walker, KF6VAA; Michael J Nichols, KF6UAS; and Eric B Shuler, KF6BMG (ex-KF6UJU)--used the K7IJ system before obtaining their amateur licenses. The Commission said it had evidence that the fourth operator, Gordon B Reese III, KF6QKA, was "engaging in rebroadcasts of cordless telephone calls and other broadcasting, along with profanity & obscenity." The FCC has permitted Reese, who had just upgraded to Tech Plus, to retain his Technician operating privileges for now. Hollingsworth said he's been in touch with all four individuals and will carefully consider their written explanations.

The FCC also issued warnings to Mervyn Ehambrave about alleged unlicensed operation on the K7IJ repeater, and to Timmy O Sheen Sr, N6MZA, about alleged jamming and rebroadcasts of cordless phones. *Tnx: The Hudson Loop*

Editor's Note: As we reported to you in last month's TARA NEWS, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, is a man of action. We personally had a chance to hear a few known LID's down on 75 Meters express their concern over Riley's strong-fisted actions. Riley has already made several appearances on frequencies known to be trouble areas, and NOBODY is taking him lightly!

HIGH-TECH PC SHARING

Leave it to engineers to figure out a more efficient and effective way for two users to share the same PC. With Vega Technologies' \$149 Buddy System, you no longer need to go for a coffee break when someone else wants to use your PC. The Buddy System comes with a hardware add-in board and an external box, into which you plug another monitor, keyboard, and mouse. Once installed, both users can work applications, browse the Web, and perform other work simultaneously on one PC. This sharing solution works best if your PC is a fast one (200MHz or faster), although Vega's minimum system requirements are only a 100MHz Pentium with 16MB of RAM. The Buddy System is also a way to get some more use out of the monitor, keyboard, and mouse from your old 386-chip boat anchor.

Vega Technologies' Web site is at:

<http://www.vegatechnologies.com>

Public Service Event, Volunteers Needed

Calling all volunteers, our Public Service Team needs your assistance. TARA has been called upon to provide communications for the Rensselaer County Run for Hunger, on May 2 in Wynantskill.

This is the first time we will be going to this location and we'll be working with an entirely new crew of race organizers.

Karen Smith, KB2UUC, would like to see as many of you as possible volunteer for this event. Not only would this make a good impression, it's also good training. Another thing to keep in mind, no prior experience is needed, we'll train you on the job!

If you could spare a few hours on May 2, between 1:00 PM until around 3:00 PM, it would be greatly be appreciated.

Please contact Karen, KB2UUC at 273-6594.

e-mail: KB2UUC@N2TY.ORG

TIP: TERROR BYTE **This Month's term:** **"Terabyte"**

Today we move from the gigabyte--which most of you have probably heard of--to the first of the byte sizes with which you may be unfamiliar: the terabyte. Even if you've never heard of a terabyte, you've probably guessed by now that it's a quadrillion bytes, or 1,000 gigabytes (measured precisely, it's 2 to the 40th power bytes). The biggest hard disk you can buy for your computer today is about 20 gigabytes; it would have to get 50 times bigger to hold a terabyte.

"Tera," by the way, is derived from the Greek "teras," for monster. (So why not "monsterbyte"?)

OHIO/PENN DX NEWS

DXCC ACCEPTANCE OF ZL9CI.

Ken Holdom, ZL2HU, Group Organizer/Team Leader/QSL Manager of the Kermadec DX Association Campbell Island DXpedition, announced that the ARRL DXCC Desk has accepted the ZL9CI Campbell Island - January 1999 DXpedition for DXCC purposes. Ken also mentions that they are currently awaiting the printed cards from Japan and will post progressive updates in the near future.

"The Daily DX" reports another operator is headed to E4-land. Peter, G3WQU, has submitted his paper work for a license to operate from Bethlehem, West Bank. He hopes to be active soon as E44/G3WQU.

FT5X, KERGUELEN ISLAND. The "DX News Letter" reports that Helios, F6IHY, shall be once again on the air as FT5XN starting sometime this month.

Things Technical

Free! That word's a grabber, isn't it? Everyone is interested to learn about things and services that are free. It's human nature, and marketers make their livings by understanding it. Consumers get bombarded by so many claims for free stuff that automatically assume there must be a catch, and they're usually right.

Ham radio operators are interested in e-mail and Internet services, because so much about Amateur Radio is now available via the Internet.

There are lots of free e-mail options, and sure enough, free e-mail is like free TV; there are advertisements. Of course that is not surprising, because the service must be supported somehow, and most everyone understands the trade-off for a free service is a few moments spent reading a commercial message.

Juno is a free e-mail service that offers dial-up telephone access in most major U.S. cities and many smaller cities. If you live in Los Angeles, Minneapolis, or in the local calling area of a major city, chances are you can access Juno without long distance charges. But even if you live outside a local calling area, connect times to get your e-mail are relatively short, and you shouldn't spend more than a few dollars a year on long distance charges. Several of us at HANDI-HAM Headquarters have tested Juno and find it to be a very good and reliable e-mail service. To use Juno, you must be

running a PC-Compatible WINDOWS computer with a 28.8K or faster modem.

HOTMAIL, Yahoo, Netscape, and other free web-based e-mail accounts. These accounts require the user to have Internet access, but they can be useful if you are traveling and have access to a computer hooked to the Internet, because you can retrieve e-mail anywhere in the world with a web-based account. Like Juno, these are WINDOWS-based services. NetZero is a free Internet access and e-mail account, also WINDOWS-based. You need a computer running a newer version of Internet Explorer or Netscape Communicator and a 28.8K or faster modem. This is a true Internet account, which makes it different than the above services. NetZero provides dialup services in most major U.S. cities, and you can use it not only for e-mail, but for surfing the net! We have tested NetZero with JAWS FOR WINDOWS and have found it to be compatible. There is an advertisement window that appears when you start the dialup session, and the ad window stays on top, though it is small and you can move it around the screen. JAWS users do not see the ad window in normal usage.

Check out some of these free services. They work well for casual users, and the price is right!

Tnx: HANDI-HAM World

Becoming a Juno Member:

If you would like to find out about becoming a Juno member, call (800) 654-JUNO.

NetZero Software:

NetZero software is available for a free download from <http://www.netzero.com>, or you can order a CD Online from their website for a cost of \$6.95. Their mailing address is: NetZero, 3835 R. East Thousand Oaks Blvd., #338 Westlake Village, CA 91362.

HotMail:

HotMail accounts may be opened at <http://www.hotmail.com>

Yahoo:

Yahoo accounts may be opened at <http://www.yahoo.com>

Netscape:

Netscape accounts may be opened at <http://www.netscape.com>

The ARRL Considerate Operators Guide

Here is a copy of the ARRL considerate operators guide. We ask all of you to please review this to be familiar with it prior to Field Day. We will have copies available at Field Day. If you have any questions, please ask at the next meeting or ask one of our HF gurus on the repeater.

3.56	QRP CW calling frequency
3.59	RTTY DX
3.580-3.620	Data
3.620-3.635	Automatically controlled data stations
3.71	QRP Novice/Technician CW calling frequency
3.790-3.800	DX window
3.85	SSTV
3.89	AM calling frequency
3.99	QRP SSB calling frequency
7.04	RTTY DX QRP CW calling frequency
7.080-7.100	Data
7.100-7.105	Automatically controlled data stations
7.11	QRP Novice/Technician CW calling frequency
7.17	SSTV
7.29	QRP SSB calling frequency
7.29	AM calling frequency
10.11	QRP CW calling frequency
10.130-10.140	Data
10.140-10.150	Automatically controlled data stations
14.06	QRP CW calling frequency
14.070-14.095	Data
14.095-14.0995	Automatically controlled data stations
14.1	NCDXF/IARU beacons
14.1005-14.112	Automatically controlled data stations
14.23	SSTV
14.29	QRP SSB calling frequency
14.29	AM calling frequency
18.100-18.105	Data
18.105-18.110	Automatically controlled data stations
21.06	QRP CW calling frequency
21.070-21.100	Data
21.090-21.100	Automatically controlled data stations
21.34	SSTV
21.39	QRP SSB calling frequency
24.920-24.925	Data
24.925-24.930	Automatically controlled data stations
28.06	QRP CW calling frequency
28.070-28.120	Data
28.120-28.189	Automatically controlled data stations
28.190-28.225	Beacons
28.39	QRP SSB calling frequency
28.68	SSTV

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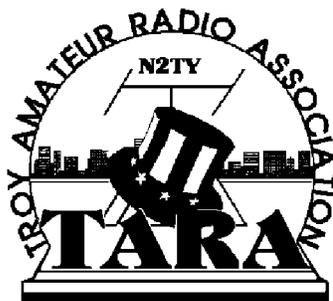
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TARA NEWS

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"The Home of Uncle Sam"

Next Meeting: March 16, 1999

Starting Time: 7:30 PM

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