



Troy Amateur Radio Association - N2TY

PO BOX 1292 - Troy, New York - 12181-1292

145.17/R * Troy's Full Service Repeaters * 447.075/R

(Use a PL Tone of 127.3 Hz on BOTH INPUT/OUTPUT)

Repeaters are now Yaesu Fusion running in automatic mode

Spring 2018

In The News:

ZCZC AG03
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 9, 2018.
To all radio amateurs:

SB QST ARL ARLB003
ARLB003 NCVEC Releases New Technician License Question Pool
into the Public Domain.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC)
has announced the release of the 2018-2022 Amateur Radio Element 2
Technician class license question pool into the public domain.

Each question pool must be published and made available to the public prior to its use as
a question set, from which individual examinations are developed.



Alert the NCVEC Question Pool Committee to any necessary
corrections or typographical errors via email at:
gpcinput@ncvec.org.

The new Technician license question pool contains 428
questions.

It will become effective for all Technician class license
examinations starting on July 1, 2018.

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Local News:

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Repeater (W2SZ-R) On the Air again!!!

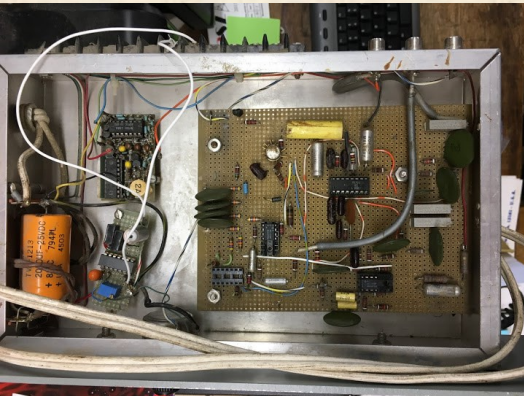
In the not so distant past, RPI's W2SZ 2m repeater was having some serious transmission issues. The squelch board failed on the transmitter side of the repeater, preventing anyone from using the repeater for "outside" communication.

Until last Sunday, March 18, 2018, the only way to talk to anyone via the repeater was from the local microphone inside the shack. Transmitting into the repeater was possible, but if you were trying to listen anywhere else other than on the local speaker in the shack itself, your message would not be conveyed into the airways.

Thanks to the help of students Galen Gold: KB6EE and Eric Johnson: KM4OYU, along with Alumnus and lifetime member Richard "Dick" Frey: WA2AAU, as well as community member David Jaeger, Jr: K2DEJ; the repeater works great again.

Thank you to Galen Gold (KB6EE) of RPI for providing us with this fantastic information:

"The squelch board has been repaired and the repeater is operational once again! Pictures of the old and new boards are provided below:



(Old Squelch Assembly)



(New Squelch Assembly)

The frequency is 146.82 (-), with no PL tone.

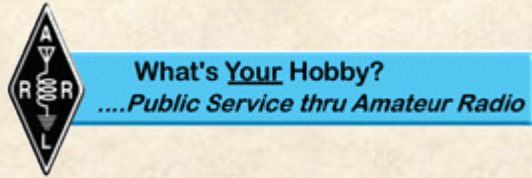
To use Echolink, you can dial into our node using the Echolink desktop or mobile client or by dialing out with DTMF tones. Our node is "W2SZ-R" (node number 428054)."

More info about EchoLink: <http://www.echolink.org>

How to use EchoLink DTMF tones:

http://www.echolink.org/Help/dtmf_functions.htm

Public Service Events:



CDPHP Corporate Challenge:

- Thursday May 17th....6:00 PM

Watervliet Memorial Day Parade:

- Monday May 28th10 AM

Freihofers Run for Women:

- Saturday June 2nd9:00 AM

Veterans Ruck March:

- Saturday Sept. 22nd

Arsenal City Run:

- Sunday Sept. 23rd....10 AM

Pumpkin Patrol:

- Tuesday October 30th and
- Wednesday October 31st
....6 PM - 10 PM

Stockade a Thon:

- Sunday November 11th....7 AM



Club of the Year:

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service ([PCARS](#)) of Ravenna, Ohio, is Hamvention's 2018 Club of the Year. PCARS was established in November 2005, and it is an ARRL-Affiliated Special Service Club. PCARS members average more than 40 hours of club activities each month, including special interest groups, license training, contesting run from the club site (K8BF), and club social events.

"Our members cover a wide range of interests that allow us to support public safety organizations, student outreach programs, and activities focused on growing our hobby," the club told the Hamvention Awards Committee. "We love to share our experiences and have a requirement that our events be filled with a lot of fun. Members have joined PCARS because of all the activities and fun we have."



The club donated more than \$6,000 in time and money to the community last year. It has created its own contests and events, including the annual Freeze Your Acorns Off in February and Ohio State Parks on the Air, which was used as a model for ARRL's year-long National Parks on the Air event in 2016.

PCARS sponsors several "Build Days" each year, with projects including home-built transceivers, antennas, and digital equipment to allow members to expand their horizons into new areas of Amateur Radio. A monthly "Get on the Air Day" lets members and non-members use club site equipment to learn about HF and new operating modes. "It is all about building our hobby, helping our community, building our skills, and, most of all, having fun," PCARS said.

Amateur of the Year:

Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, of Crescent City, Illinois, is the 2018 Hamvention® "Amateur of the Year." The Hamvention Awards Committee -- chaired by Michael Kalter, W8CI, and Frank Beafore, WS8B -- this week announced its 2018 award recipients for Club of the Year, Technical Achievement, and Special Achievement.



Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L. [Don Kerouac, K9NR, photo]

"I am extremely honored to even be nominated for Amateur of the Year, let alone to win this award," Hotzfeld told ARRL. "I would like to thank the Hamvention Awards Committee. Their decision must have been a tough one, as I am certain the other nominees have done an outstanding job representing this hobby too. I would also like to thank those who mentored me throughout my different learning phases of this hobby. Not only has Amateur Radio been a life-changing experience for me, there are so many helpful hams in this hobby that it just feels natural to give back."

First licensed in 2006, Hotzfeld has been very active in local Amateur Radio clubs and in ARES. Once she "discovered" HF, she became obsessed with DXing and contesting. In the past few years, she has enjoyed inviting new hams to her station to DX or contest. She has been the pilot or lead pilot for four major DXpeditions. Hotzfeld also is a co-host of the *Ham Nation* webcast and has created how-to videos on YouTube for the ham radio community.

In 2017, Hotzfeld became engaged in public service, first traveling to Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey to help rescue small animals. She subsequently was deployed to Puerto Rico with the American Red Cross for 3 weeks as part of an Amateur Radio volunteer contingent, facilitating critical communications after Hurricane Maria.



Around the World:

C8T Mozambique

International Team of Radio Amateurs will be active from Mozambique, as C8T, 2 - 15 May 2018.

Team - ON8KW (leader), ON7TQ, CS7ABG, CU2CO, DL8JJ, ON1DX, ON4ACP, ON4AMX, ON4CCV, ON4EI, ON4QX, ON5CD, ON6LY, ON7RU.

Recent DX Spots C8T

They will operate on 160 - 6m CW, SSB, RTTY.

They will operate also on 60m and 2m EME.

More information will be available soon.



Amateur “Mods”

Call Sign License Plates:

The NYS DMV has introduced a new form to apply for custom plates:

P-30 Application for Custom Plates: <https://dmv.ny.gov/forms/cp30.pdf>

This form replaces:

- MV-411 EMERGENCY SERVICES CUSTOM PLATES
- CP-62.1 ORGANIZATIONS, CAUSES, SPORTS OR REGIONAL CUSTOM PLATES
- MV-410 PROFESSIONAL SERIES CUSTOM PLATES
- MV-412 APPLICATION FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN CUSTOM PLATES
- MV-413 APPLICATION FOR ORGANIZATION, COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, FRATERNITY & SORORITY CUSTOM PLATES
- MV-414 I LOVE NY ADVENTURE CUSTOM PLATES

It appears that DMV is trying to streamline the form and make it resistant to obsolescence. For example:

The new form replaces six earlier forms

The form does not include check boxes to indicate the requested plate series (the applicant enters this in the first box on the form)

The form does not include a fee schedule - the applicant is advised to lookup the fees on the website <https://dmv.ny.gov/nav/custom-plates>

General information on custom plates (including available plate types, fees, and instructions for each) may be found at: <https://dmv.ny.gov/nav/custom-plates>

Specific information for the ham radio plate may be found at: <https://dmv.ny.gov/custom-plates/ham-radio-operator>

As of 3/13/2018, the fees for a ham plate are:

- Initial Fee \$35.00
- Annual Renewal Fee: \$6.25 (charged at time of registration renewal)

To lookup the mailing status for a previously-submitted Custom Plates order, check:

<https://process.dmv.ny.gov/platesmailingstatus/>

'73

Gerald W. Murray, WA2IWW



From the “League”:

Recently, ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors’ Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

“This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service,” ARRL said in its ***Petition***. “It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills.”

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees, present and future, with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, plus RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under the League’s proposal.

ARRL’s petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a “periodic rebalancing” between those two objectives, the League maintains.

“There has not been such a rebalancing in many years,” ARRL said in its petition. “It is time to do that now.” The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005.

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific, data- and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic that includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses.

“The Committee’s analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of communication than it did half a century ago, or even 20 years ago,” ARRL said in its petition.

Now numbering some 378,000, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL said that after 17 years of experience with the current Technician license as the gateway to Amateur Radio, it’s urgent to make it more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education “that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service,” ARRL asserted.

ARRL said its proposal is critical to developing improved operating skills, increasing emergency communication participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges. ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs.

“ARRL requests that the Commission become a partner in this effort to promote Amateur Radio as a public benefit by making the very nominal changes proposed herein in the Technician class license operating privileges,” the petition concluded.

“Hope you enjoy the Newsletter” (David, K2DEJ).