



Troy Amateur Radio Association - N2TY

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

145.170/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

January 2020

Happy New Year!

Yes 2019 is behind us and I for one can say I still feel like it is January of last year... Last year flew by faster than I can believe but I am happy to welcome in 2020 and welcome in the new decade! I am hopeful that it will be a great year for the club and all of our members. I am also excited to see what technological advances come about over the next 10 years, who knows what will come up??? I can only imagine what the radio manufacturer's will fabricate to make us want to buy more shiny expensive things with buttons and knobs on them...

Well, I hope you will welcome in the new year with me and the club and will join us for all the fun we have planned and to stick with us when unforeseen events present themselves from the abyss.

I know it's early, but consider paying dues this month so you are ahead of the game when we start asking for them. Also, remember that the TARA Anniversary party will be in April. Stay tuned to learn more about when it will be and about what goodies you can bring to share. I hope to see you at the next meeting. Happy New Year.

Also, please remember; this newsletter is completely created by me,

David Jaeger, Jr. K2DEJ. Any interesting articles, facts, upcoming events, or random comments you'd like to see in the newsletter are appreciated and requested. Thanks.

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A Note about the ARRL CEO, Next Steps

There have been a lot of things floating around the CEO's departure, as he was not re-elected at the January Board meeting. In particular there is a video from another director speaking at an ARRL convention that purports to give reasons why. I personally don't agree with that assessment. When the CEO first took office, he met with me privately at Ham Radio University 2019. We spoke for about an hour and he outlined some of his goals. I publicly pledged to give him a fair shake, and I did. I was in regular contact with him. The lifelong learning project is a major initiative by the League. It sets forth a system where one can take training courses on various ham radio topics.

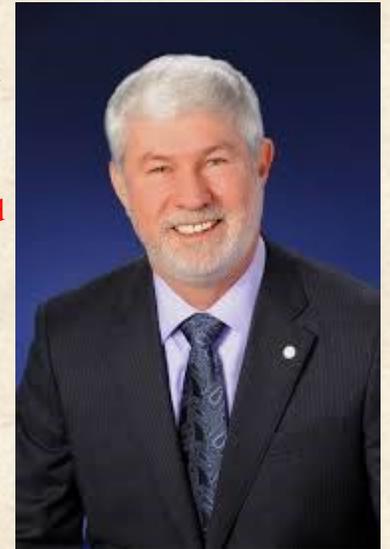
The CEO by and large was responsible for moving the project along. Understand that in the ARRL, we don't hire a CEO simply for their "vision." Rather, the CEO is the person that manages the League staff at the direction of the Board. This is in the ARRL by-laws. In October, the Executive Committee met at their regular meeting, and discussed the progress of the learning project. Several trouble signs arose and ultimately two Directors had to take over leadership of the project from the CEO. These are detailed in the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting in October which are publicly available. Minutes 5 and 6, in particular, should be required reading.

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/2019%20Board%20of%20Directors/2019%20Exec%20Com/EC%20Minutes%20October%202012%20Final.pdf>

This is one of the things that ultimately led my decision and that of several others not to renew the CEO contract.



Barry Shelley, N1VXY
(Interim) CEO of the ARRL



Howard Michel, WB2ITX
(Former) CEO of the ARRL

Now, next steps. The search process is going to be somewhat different this time. We will have a search committee set up, that is comprised of members of the EC, and a few others. They will present three candidates to the full Board for vote. There will be full transparency to the full Board of the entire process. I insisted on it before voting to authorize the search process. I plan to closely monitor the process. We have an interim CEO, Barry Shelley, N1VXY. Barry was chosen as he is known at HQ and the staff are comfortable working with him. I am also comfortable working with him, as are the rest of the Board. For the most part it's business as usual, (in a good way) and I personally want this process to be over sooner rather than later, so we have continuity and can get on with what we need to. I hope this answers some of your questions, and I personally thank you for your support during this difficult time.

ARRL Hudson Division

Director: Ria Jairam, N2RJ

n2rj@arrl.org

The K7RA Solar Update:

01/03/2020

Sunspots appeared recently, all indicating cycle 25 due to their polarity, opposite from spots in cycle 24. Sunspots appeared December 24-26, and it looks like a new cycle 25 spot on January 1. NOAA did not report it (too weak?) but Spaceweather.com reported a sunspot number of 11 on January 1.

On January 2 NOAA reported the new spot with a sunspot number of 23.

Sorry, but the final propagation bulletin of 2019 was not sent out due to a misunderstanding on my part, so the usual paragraph of numbers at the bottom of this bulletin has an additional paragraph for last week.

Predicted solar flux for the next 45 days is higher than recent forecasts. Solar flux is predicted at 72 on January 3-10, 70 on January 11, 72 on January 12-25, 70 on January 26 through February 7, and 72 on February 8-16.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on January 3-13, then 12 on January 14-15, 5 on January 16-25, 8 on January 26-28, 5 on January 29 through February 9, 10 on February 10-11, and 5 on February 12-16.

Geomagnetic activity forecast for the period January 3-29, 2020 from F.K. Janda, OK1HH.

Geomagnetic field will be
quiet on January 3-4, 8, 29
quiet to unsettled on January 5-7, 9-13, 18-21, 25-28
quiet to active on (January 14, 17, 22-24)
unsettled to active on (January 15-16)
No active to disturbed days predicted

Solar wind will intensify on January (14,) 15-16, (17, 22-24)

Parenthesis means lower probability of activity enhancement.

Everything suggests that we are very, very close to the minimum of the 11-year cycle.

Dick, K1HC, wrote on December 31: "I was on FT8 on 2 meters yesterday from home in FN42 (400 watts and four 12-element Yagis) at about 1630 UTC, and I was watching the PSK Reporter website to see if I was reaching any other stations. I saw that K2DRH in EN41 had received my FT8 signal at -14dB. With that being over 900 miles away, I went to the ON4KST chat page and tried to contact K2DRH there without luck. He was logged in but may have been tied up or away from the computer.

Continued on the next page...

The K7RA Solar Update Continued:

01/03/2020

“I am wondering if it was a meteor scatter long burn rather than sporadic E propagation. However, I switched to MSK144, and I did not see any pings from any other stations. I went to higher power, about 700 watts, and had no further spots on the PSK Reporter from the Midwest.

“I thought you would be interested in the unusual propagation. I will hope for more of it during the ARRL VHF contest in January from FN53 in Maine!”

Goodness! 48 elements in phase and 400 watts with FT8? With that gear, seems like anything may be possible.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see <http://www.arrl.org/propagation> and the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>.

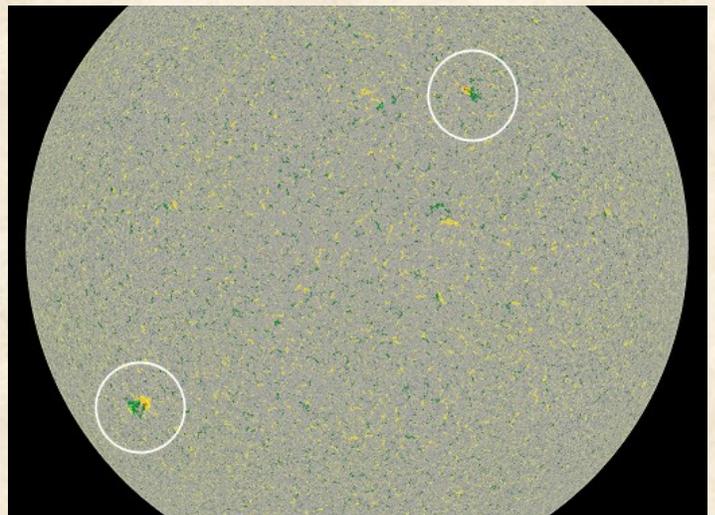
An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for December 19 through 25, 2019 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 24, and 23, with a mean of 6.7. 10.7 cm flux was 69.9, 70, 70.6, 71, 72.6, 72.7, and 72.1, with a mean of 71.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 13, 5, 5, 4, 4, 3, and 4, with a mean of 5.4. Middle latitude A index was 12, 4, 4, 2, 2, 2, and 3, with a mean of 4.1.

Sunspot numbers for December 26, 2019 through January 1, 2020 were 11, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 11, with a mean of 3.1. 10.7 cm flux was 72.1, 72.4, 72.2, 72, 70.9, 70.5, and 71.8, with a mean of 71.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 3, 2, 2, 3, 4, and 3, with a mean of 3.1. Middle latitude A index was 3, 2, 0, 0, 2, 4, and 3, with a mean of 2.



W1AW Winter Schedule:

ARRL Bulletin 22 ARLB022

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT November 5, 2019

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB022

ARLB022 W1AW 2019/2020 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
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1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
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1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu
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Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)

1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
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2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
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2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
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2300 " (6 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
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0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
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0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
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0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
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0200 " (9 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
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0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
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0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
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0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
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0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
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Continued on next page...

W1AW Winter Schedule Continued:

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 50.350 147.555

DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 50.350 147.555

VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 50.350 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds. On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays. Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, CW/digital bulletins and phone bulletin is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule. All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions

or comments to w1aw@arrl.org. In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the

November 2019 issue of QST or on the web at,

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule> .

NNNN

/EX

The Capital District Commuter Assistance Network:

The Capital District Commuter Assistance Network – why YOU should check in (even if you don't commute)

By Jock Elliott, KB2GOM

In 1996, I was suddenly thrust into being net control for the Capital District Commuter Assistance Network. The net was started by Ed Barnat, N2RKA, but he changed jobs and couldn't continue. The net struggled for a while, and then one day the repeater controller (Hugh . . . I've forgotten his call sign) said, in essence: "If you want the net to continue, you're the guy."

Boom! . . . instantly, I was net control. Talk about learning by doing! For a while, I tried to operate the way N2RKA had: monitoring CB 9 as well as two meters and listening to scanners for traffic related info. Over the years, though, I have continued to simplify and pare the net down to the absolute bare essentials. Now I simply operate on 2 meters and count on net participants to share relevant information.



Jock Elliott, KB2GOM

So here are the basics. The net operates from 6 am to 8:15 am every work day morning. In case of an imminent emergency – ice storm, big snow storm, etc – the net runs longer. The main frequency is 146.94 (no tone) with a backup frequency 147.27, pl 94.8. The first purpose of the net is to detect problems on the roadways and report them to the proper authorities, which usually means the Department of Transportation Traffic Management Center in Latham, NY (TMC also shares information with the net). The second purpose is to share that information with net participants.

The net has two rules: (1) Don't cause anything. (2) When in doubt, report anyway. The net also has a motto: Boring is our friend. The net has operated for over two decades without dues or bylaws and only three casual meetings for pie-and-coffee and shake-and-howdy.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the (estimated) 100-200 hams who have participated over the decades, to N2LUD and K2LM who maintain the 146.94 machine and keep it on the air with its awesome footprint, and to W2EMS who has graciously supported me in making presentations about the net to the various ham clubs in the area.

Here's why you should check in, even if you don't commute. At the request of ARRL leadership in the area, I keep track of raw numbers of checkins and incident that occur weekly during the net. This information get passed along (eventually) to Washington, where it helps to justify hams' use of the frequencies. So, check in!

Finally, if you have an incident to report, here's what you need: where (what route, what direction . . . nearest cross street, landmark or highway mile sticker), what (disabled vehicle, accident, debris, animal carcass, etc.), in traffic or not, how many vehicles, and any injuries.

PS – I have an interest in setting up an "emergency response station" – one that would be useful in a lights-out emergency – at the home QTH. If you have any expertise, info, or references you could share, please reach out to me at jock.elliott@gmail.com

TARA Committees:

In case you didn't know, one of the things that makes TARA so successful in the area with membership from the entire Capital District, is the committees that are set up and managed by members to keep the club running smoothly and allowing its members to have a more rewarding experience.

Below is a list of the 12 Committees of TARA and the current members of each one. We always encourage members to become part of a committee to benefit themselves as well as the group to improve TARA as a whole:

<u>Packet Radio:</u> Mike Styne K2MTS	<u>Contesting:</u> Ray Ginter N2ZQF	<u>Field Day Team:</u> Steve Kopecky KF2WA Ray Ginter N2ZQF Karen Smith KS2O	<u>Repeater Manager:</u> Randy Stein KL7TJZ	<u>Technical Advisors:</u> Robert Isby N2LUD James McKnight K2LM	<u>Equipment Manager:</u> Roy Warner N2OWC
<u>Food/Refreshments:</u> Pat Decker KB2SRC Margaret Warner N2PEK David Jaeger, Jr. K2DEJ	<u>Public Service Events:</u> Karen Smith KS2O	<u>Radio Direction Finding:</u> Dick Neimeyer W2ABY	<u>Newsletter Team:</u> David Jaeger, Jr. K2DEJ	<u>VE Liaison:</u> Chris D'Allaird AK2CD	<u>Webmaster:</u> Randy Stein KL7TJZ

2020 Public Service Events:

Dates coming soon!!!!

If you have any questions about TARA's Public Service Team:
Please contact Karen Smith, KS2O, at 518-273-6594 or ksmithkb2uuc@aol.com.



Krimskrams:

Rigs for Sale:

Call or text Peter Harvey W2FW at (518) 729-0325 for more information.

Radios:

Uniden BCD436HP Scanner

Many HF radios for sale , please contact Peter W2FW at the number above via phone or text message.

Email Ruby Garcia KE5MKG for pictures and prices. ruby73garcia@gmail.com Phone: 818 538 5017.

Radios:

Elecraft KPA500, Elecraft K3, Elecraft KX3

Icom IC-7800, Icom 7600

Yaesu FTDX-5000MP, Yaesu FTDX-3000

Kenwood ts 990s, kenwood ts 2000.

Flex 5000A, Flex 6500, Flex 6700.

Amps:

Icom PW-1

Acom 2000

Ameritron AL82.

Alpha 87A

Email Shirley Bethel KB5SIN for more information. sbesthel@gmail.com

Radios:

Icom IC 7700, Icom IC-7800, Icom IC-756 PRO III .

Yaesu FT-1000MP, Yaesu FTDX-5000MP.

Kenwood ts 990s, kenwood ts 2000.

Flex 5000A, Flex 6500, Flex 6300.

TenTec OMNI VII

Amps:

ICOM PW-1 HF AMPLIFIER

Alpha 9500 and

Acom 2000

Alpha 87A

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter —David.

