

MORE THAN A CLUB, WE ARE FAMILY!




# THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League



January/February 2014

**REPORTS OF THE  
DEMISE OF  
THE TARA NEWS  
HAVE BEEN GREATLY  
EXAGGERATED  
Alive and Well in 2014**



Mark Twain (1835-1910) reading the May/June 2013 issue of *The TARA News*.

We've been gone a little while but now we're back and hopefully better than ever. One thing that's needed are articles and submissions from our members. This newsletter can only get better with more participation from everyone in the **Troy Amateur Radio Association**.

-editor.

**LET'S GET BACK TO WORK**

**Want to buy a first class DX location?**  
*TN, Jan. 1994*  
 Cooper Enterprises of Albany, NY makes offer

If a local amateur gets his way he'll be the new owner of this dream come true.

The Voice of America has announced that it will solicit offers for the purchase of its broadcasting facility in Belize, Central America! The station will go QRT no later than March 31, 1994. The station is equipped with two 100 kW AM transmitters, two directional antenna arrays, an on-site diesel power plant, satellite links and control/monitoring equipment. Interested? Call the VOA at (202) 619-2538.

Recent rumors heard on the bands say that Glenn, WB2FOB, has made his first offer on this station. It seems Glenn wants a "First Class" station to compete against Ben, KF2LW, on the DX bands. Glenn also is looking towards his first contact (on the air) with his long time mentor, Tim, WB1HLR. Maybe he'll even have his own P&M Net!

## **JOHN APFEL, WE2TCC/SK**

John P. Apfel, 69, passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 29, 2013 surrounded by his family. John was born in Troy and been a resident of Troy and North Greenbush all of his life. He was a graduate of Troy High School and Hudson Valley Community College, where he worked as the Information and Technology Network coordinator. John was a member of the American Radio Relay League, the Troy Amateur Radio Association, and the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association. He was



the loving son of the late Emil G. And Marie Heckert Apfel. Loving husband of Gail Malinoski Apfel; beloved father of Dawn (Martin J.) Beberwyk and Caroline (Lawrence) Zimmerman; adoring

grandfather of Christine and Eric Beberwyk, Tyler and Carter Zimmerman. Also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins. Contributions in John's memory may be made to the ASPCA Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, 3 Oakland Avenue, Menands, NY 12204.

## **THE EARLY DAYS OF AMATEUR RADIO SLOW-SCAN TV**

Editor's note: The author of this article is widely regarded as the inventor of slow-scan television. This article by "Cop" describes his early efforts.

By Copthorne Macdonald, VY2CM

I got my ham license in 1951 at age 15, and like many hams of that era, the bug hit hard. I worked my way through the University of Kentucky's engineering school, taking 5 years to go through, working nights and weekends out at the transmitter of a local 5 kW AM station. Naturally, I was hamming on the way to and from work in my oil-guzzling 1948 Chrysler. The rig was a 15 watt surplus WWII AM rig that took up most of the leg room under the dash.

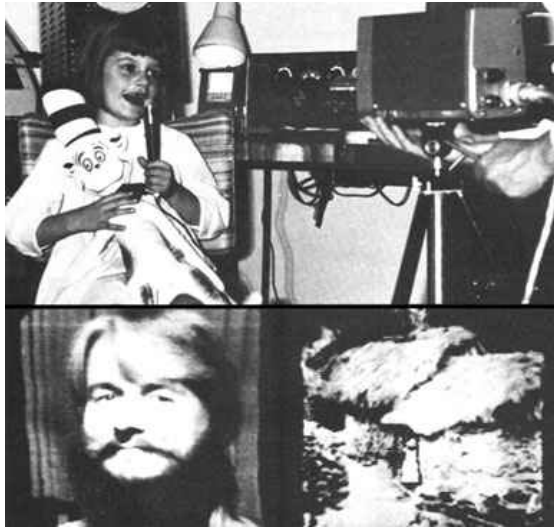
One day in 1957 I was in the engineering school's library, thumbing through the Bell System Technical Journal, when I came across an article on some Bell Labs signature transmission experiments using ordinary phone lines. For the first time I realized that picture transmission didn't necessarily mean extremely wide bandwidth. And being the ardent ham I was, I instantly wondered if



"Cop" MacDonald

some sort of practical SSTV system could be worked out for ham radio.

I spent my spare time during the next few months looking into the feasibility of the idea. What sort of display tubes were available? (Ans: P7 phosphor.) How did you get frequency response down to DC if ham rig audio response cut off at 300 Hz? (Ans: Modulate an audio subcarrier.) I kept waiting for the fatal flaw to appear, but I saw none. The idea looked feasible.



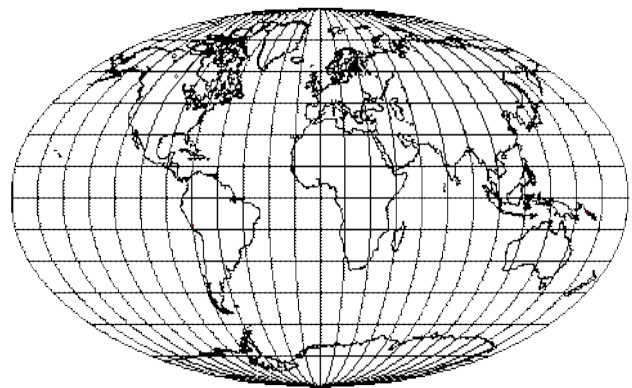
I took my paper feasibility study to the head of the EE Department, and asked him if I could design and build such a system as part of an independent problem course. (This would give me a few credits as well as legitimize my use of school facilities for the project.) He agreed, and I ordered surplus CRTs and power transformers and such from surplus houses like Fair Radio Sales in Lima, Ohio. During the next 6 months I designed the unit stage by stage, built a "tank" of a flying-spot scanner in the school's machine shop, and put it all together. I still kept waiting for the fatal flaw to appear, but it never did. The system worked!

What is now the Citizen's Band was at that time the 11 meter ham band. All sorts of strange emissions were allowed on 11 meters then, and the first on-air tests were conducted on that band. Since only one set of SSTV equipment existed, audio tape recordings of the SSTV signal were

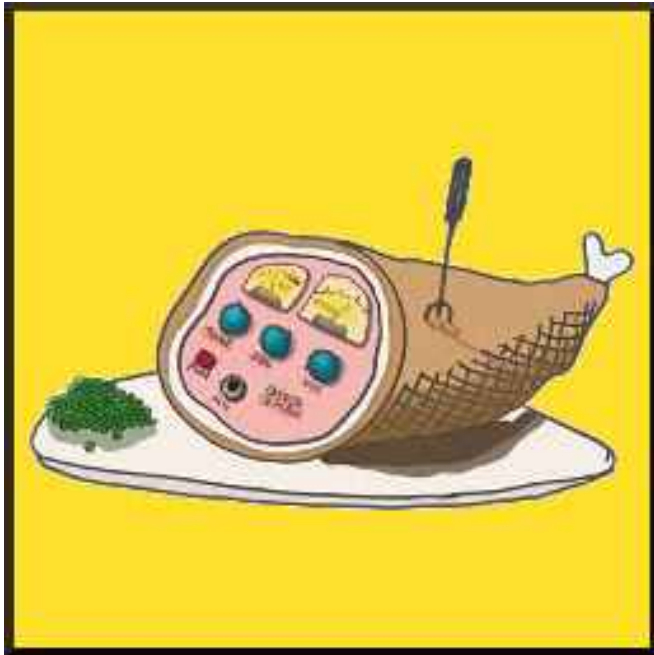
transmitted on the air by one ham station. At the receiving station we listened to this weird sound coming out of the receiver's loudspeaker as we watched the transmitted pictures being painted in light on the screen of the P7 (long-persistence phosphor, radar-type) cathode ray tube.

I wrote a paper describing the system, and entered it in the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (now IEEE) student paper competition in 1958. It won national first prize that year. The ham community first heard about the system in articles that appeared in the August and September 1958 issues of *QST* magazine.

Shortly thereafter we hams lost the 11 meter band to CB, and had no long-distance HF frequencies on which to use SSTV. I spent the next 10 years working with hams like Don Miller, W9NTP, and Robert Gervenack, W7FEN in specially authorized on-air tests to convince the FCC that slow-scan would cause no problems to regular ham activities and should be permitted in the 75- to 10-meter voice bands as a regular operating activity. In 1968 the FCC finally authorized SSTV operation on a regular basis in the HF bands. In the 1970s my interests shifted to the USES of ham radio -- to "New Directions Radio" -- ham radio for personal growth and social change. Since 1985, I've been spending most of my time writing -- some of it for rent and food money, some on dear-to-my-heart subjects like the development of wisdom, and strategies for living the most effective life possible.



**COMICS CORNER**  
**Ha Ha!**



**A GOOD BIT OF**  
**ADVICE**

**HAM FABLES**      DICK SYLVAN, WACBT



THERE WAS A YL WHO LIVED IN A SHOE...

When using a repeater please allow sufficient time between transmissions for another station to join in. If you are using the repeater please remind the others in the QSO to give an appropriate break before a response.

**THANK YOU.**

# SPECIAL NOTICE

Please note that the January meeting  
of the club will be held on...

January 28, 2014

at the usual time at the Green Island  
Municipal Center (aka the water  
filtration plant).



## Troy Amateur Radio Association

### Officers:

Karen Smith, KS2O	President
Randy Stein, KL7TJZ	Vice-President
Beth Whiting, KC2BSC	Secretary
Jack Culliton, N2LBZ	Treasurer

### Board of Directors:

	term expires...
Steve Kopecky, KF2WA	'14
Mike Styne, K2MTS	'14
Dick Neimeyer, W2ABY	'15
Roy Warner, N2OWC	'15
Margaret Warner, N2PEK	'14

Newsletter editor –	Dick, W2ABY <a href="mailto:w2aby@localnet.com">w2aby@localnet.com</a>
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# THE “NEVER SAY DIE” MAN IS DEAD WAYNE GREEN, W2NSD/1 /SK

Wayne S. Green II, W2NSD (“Never Say Die”), of Hancock, New Hampshire, died September 13, 2013. He was 91. A well-known and often outspoken figure during what some consider Amateur Radio’s golden years in the 1950s and 1960s, Green helmed **CQ Magazine** for 5 years before becoming the self-proclaimed “El Supremo and Founder” in 1960 of **73 Magazine**, which he published until 2003.

“Wayne will be remembered in many different ways by many different people, but he will be long remembered,” said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. “He maintained his membership in the ARRL despite being a persistent critic.”

Indeed, Green often was ahead of the curve in promoting such technologies as single-sideband phone, solid-state, FM, and the marriage of computers and ham radio.

Green maintained a larger-than-life presence, even in the years after he faded from the Amateur Radio spotlight, and he never did really retire. “Hey old buddy, I



Wayne Green II, W2NSD (1922-2013)

will miss you,” radio talk show host Art Bell, W6OBB, posted to Wayne Green’s blog. “**NEVER SAY DIE** is a phrase that will be with me till it’s my time.” Green was an occasional guest on Bell’s “Coast to Coast AM” overnight talk program. There hardly was an issue that Green would not confront, and he expounded a variety of unconventional science, health, and medical theories — from cold fusion and the moon landing to AIDS and cancer cures. He continued to write and speak frequently on these topics and others, as well as on public policy, even at hamfests where he was a guest.



The “Final” in his blog sums up Green’s overarching philosophy. “Wayne Green passed away September 13, 2013 in a peaceful, painless transition from this life on Earth. An eternal optimist, and one who loved to share his never-ending zest for life, he was a friend to many and will be missed greatly. Wayne was not afraid of dying and was very much ready to embark on his next great adventure to the afterlife.”

