

TROY'S TARA NEWS

Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc. - N2TY

June 2004

Field Day Rapidly Approaches, Operator's Are Needed

...are you ready?

Here it is June already and things are well underway for this year's Field Day activities. Just as we do each year - Tara will again be participating in the ARRL's Annual Field Day activities from Troy's Frear Park. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June (25, 26 & 27), beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 1800 UTC Sunday.

What is Field Day? Field Day is an operating event designed to test emergency preparedness in less than optimal conditions. It is the largest on-the-air operating event sponsored by the ARRL. Field Day gives both experience operators and neophytes a chance to share ideas and new experiences in Amateur Radio. Each year tens of thousands of amateurs and their guests join in the excitement and camaraderie.

For Field Day what does TARA need most in order to participate? That's a simple question...YOU! We need as many member's and non-member's alike to come support us over the weekend. We have a slew of things that need to be done and surely there is a job for everyone. Plus, the more we work/train together and plan how we'd setup during an emergency situation will make things a heck of a lot easier if/when the real thing should ever happen. In return for your help we'll try to give you a much better understanding of what it's like to setup a complete Field Day station. How about it, can you come support us for this year's Field Day?

Our volunteer's will get together starting at 12:00 PM on Friday - June 25 to assist with moving all of

our club owned equipment. We've accumulated quiet an inventory of equipment and many volunteers are needed for this job. Over the last four year's we've had a very strong showing for the FD setup which greatly helps out. In fact this group has been so good that 90% of all our setup is accomplished by late Friday night. This is much better than holding off until Saturday morning and then busting our backs to try and get things ready for the 2:00 PM start. By setting up on Friday we have more time to double check things and get it setup right. Plus, it sure is a heck of a lot safer to have the added manpower when you're trying to setup 50 foot towers, with Tribanders on top.

If you could manage to come join us on Friday that would be a big plus. However, if you find yourself in a conflict where you can't make it until Sunday afternoon, that's fine too! Each year we just ask our members to give us whatever time they can. You've pulled us along before and we're counting on you again this year.

Please let our Field Day Team know if you'll be available. Also, if you'd like to operate a certain station, at a particular time over the weekend--let us know that too. We have plenty of openings and we can use your help! Reserve your spot now. E-mail the FD 2004 Team at:

Bill, NY2U: ny2u@n2ty.org

Randy, KA2TJZ: ka2tjz@n2ty.org

Nick, NW2D: nw2d@n2ty.org

Steve, KF2WA: kf2wa@n2ty.org

“Bubba” Award 2004

At the May meeting members voted on who will be this year's winner of the Thomas M. Remmert - N2TR Achievement Award. This prestigious award is present each year during our Field Day weekend to that special member that goes above and beyond to serve this club.

The names listed below are those that were on the ballots. The winner will be announced on June 26th at 6:00 PM..

Pat Decker, KB2SRC
Bill Kelley, KC2JDW
Roy Warner, N2OWC

Annual Soda Drive Going Smoothly

Our soda drive for '04 is coming along quite well thanks in part to a number of very generous donations that we've received. However, we still need more help in order to avoid draining the treasury on those hot Field Day weekends

If you could help us out with a+ donation of a few six packs of soda or spring water it would greatly help. If it makes things easier you can just give Karen Smith, KB2UUC, a donation of a few dollars and she'll take care of the soda on your behalf. We've found this actually work best for everyone. In the past we've had a few Field Day's where we had 20 cases of cola donated but just about nothing else for a variety of beverages.

Anyone that plans on bringing any kind of beverages are reminded that they must be in "cans or plastic." Unfortunately, "NO" alcoholic beverages are permitted in Frear Park! If you'd like to help out please contact Karen at the next meeting, or you may contact her at 273-6594 or via e-mail: ksmithkb2uuc@aol.com.

2004 - Freihoffer's Run for Women

On Saturday, June 5th. the Freihoffer's 26th Annual "Run for Women" was held in Albany's Washington Park. Of course TARA's Public Service Team was there to help them out and it was a fantastic day! We had 14 volunteers, which was just enough and everything ran quite smoothly.

This year's race had a total of 3224 runners and the winner was none other than Marla Runyan. This was Marla's third consecutive win in the Freihoffers Run, and her winning time was just 15 minutes and 26 seconds.

The last "Young Lady" to finish the race was Mary Haines who came in at 79 minutes and 27 seconds. What makes this so spectacular was that she was 89 year's young and had her seeing eye dog by her side! She is one Fantastic Lady!!!

My Thanks to all those listed below that helped me out with this event:

Ramsey, KC2GMW; Gary, KC2HWE; Frank, W2FPG; Sue, KC2IBI; Randy, KA2TJZ; Russ, WB2LXC; Dwight, N2SDL; Denise & Ed, K2CHNC; June, KA2VEK; Art, KB2JZJ; Mac, KB2SPM; Kirk, N2LGE & Karen, KB2UUC

Hope to see you all at Field Day!

73 de Karen, KB2UUC

KB2SLE Recuperating

Earl Bull, KB2SLE, recently underwent surgery to replace a bad hip joint. We have received reports that he is on the mend and getting anxious to get back home and on-the-air. There is no keeping this kid down! If you'd like to send Earl a Get well Card or some type of greeting we suggest that you send your cards and letters to:

Mr. Earl Bull
19 - Ridgcrest Avenue
Latham, New York 12110

Well? I would say it went pretty well! The results of the First Running of the **TARA Tour'ney** are out. The TARA What? I hear you saying...

About two years ago we started on very ambitious project. We took two existing digital contests, created two more and melded them all together into a contest program called "**The TARA All Seasons Digital Contest**". This melding had the potential to produce the Worlds best Digital Contest Operator. We seized the moment and the TARA Tour'ney was born.

The first contest in the cycle is **The Grid Dip**. A new digital contest for Rtty and PSK operators. SWL also included. The unique feature of this contest is that the exchange includes the Maidenhead Grid Square. The operators of the Rover category had a lot of fun as they could change the contest exchange with location.

The next is the worlds first PSK Contest, **The Rumble**. This offers PSK only operation, also caters to SWL, and is a load of fun.

The Melee, or the TARA RTTY Sprint as you might remember it, has now been incorporated as the third in the cycle. This is RTTY only and is a classic with Rtty operators.

Last but certainly not least is **The Skirmish**. This very innovative contest allows participation of any type of digital mode. MT63, Rtty, PSK, SSTV and more. It offers SWL participation and some pretty interesting tactics when considering entering more than one mode.

So enter the **TARA Tour'ney**.... J Uhhh.. so now we take each result from each contest, rationalize it to level the playing field a bit and end up with a list of scores for each **All Season** participant. SWL excluded. Yea! and once a year TARA plans to crown the **King** or **Queen** of Digital contesting.

This years **Tour'ney** winner is **Tony Heatwole** – **N3FX**. Congratulations to Tony on this fb achievement. Tony beat out **327 entrants**, who represented **42 states**, and **52 countries**. J

The logistics of managing this project can be somewhat overwhelming to a single individual. To

overcome this we have put together a really fine team. Each contest is managed separately. The **Grid Dip by Tony - N3FX**, The **Rumble by Ed – KC2HNC**, The **Melee by Bill – NY2U** and the **Skirmish by Chris – N8PSK**. The **Promotion Manager is Karen – KB2UUC**.

We have just completed the First TARA All Season cycle. All the results can be seen at http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_seasons.html simply click on the contest you want. Although certificates are available for each of these contests, see; http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/certs_seasons.html. Tara is also trying to pioneer an **OnLine Contest Achievement Recognition** (OLCAR) system, check out; http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_olcar_melee.html

To complement these contests, we have also created two awards, **the TARA-PX**, which is a prefix award and the **TARA-Grid** award program. These are complete and ready for issue. They represent the most comprehensive award program available. Check em! out at; http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_awards.html

The Promotion of these contests is a difficult job and thanks to Karen all this hard work is transparent to the participant. The last time I promoted one I send out press releases to over 60 entities, 43 of which were DX.

To interface this project to the Amateur world we wrote dedicated web pages which are now on the TARA site. These consist of **1.57Mb of html code** in about **73 web pages/files** with **57 images** taking up **1.13Mb**. The Awards program code and art work represent **55.7Mb in 1170 files/images**.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank TARA for their encouragement and friendship. This kept me going on this project for the last two years.

I would like to thank the project managers for their support, constructive criticism and hard work. I would like to thanks Bill Eddy for being there again! And my XYL, Fran for supplying me with all that coffee. J

I really enjoyed doing this.

Ernie, WM2U

Election of Officers

Election of officers will be held at the June 15th meeting. All members are requested to come and participate in the elections and help determine the direction the club will take in the coming year. Starting time for this meeting is 7:30 PM over in The Green Island Municipal Building, on the point of George Street & Hudson Avenue.

Only dues paying members may vote in the elections and your dues must be current. If you need to pay your dues Nick Demos, NW2D, will be on hand. Please remember that everyone's dues come up in June!

Also, the July & August meetings will be picnic's instead of the business meeting indoors. We'll have more information as we get closer to those dates.

TARA NEWS
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Watervliet Memorial Day Parade

TARA provides communications...

On May 31st., Watervliet held it annual Memorial Day Parade. TARA's Public Service team helped out and we had a sunny bright day. The parade lasted for exactly 19 minutes and it was very nice.

Thanks to all who helped out with this public service event!

Margaret N2PEK; Gary, KC2HWE; Roy, N2OWC; Bill, KC2JDW; Duffy, N2TZQ; Frank, W2FPG; Sue, KC2IBI; Dave, KC2IBF; Mac, KB2SPM & Karen, KB2UUC