

THE TARA NEWS



AN ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 7 JULY 2001

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

Presidential Pride by NY2U

Well, I hope most of you have dried out from our Field Day weekend? I know it will probably take Jon, KB2UKV, several day to get dry. First off, I don't know where to start, I have SO MANY of you to thank. And if I forget anyone I'd really be upset with myself, so I'll try not to thank to many individuals here. Please keep in mind that I'm thanking each and everyone that assisted us in any way over the weekend and for all those that visted us too. You made an old president very proud!

The crew that keep our generators running this year did one heck of a job. Not to mention all the cables they ran throughout the entire Field Day site. It was no easy job and most of the time they got soaked. The same goes for the computer networking team. This year they obtained a lot of equipment (monitors, computer boxes, hubs & cable ...etc) for us and the network never failed! There was a few reports that the system was slow at times, but this had NOTHING to do with the guys that put the whole system together. The main thing we need is FASTER computers, mainly the server. Over the fall/winter months we need to generate some bucks and build up an ultra fast server, or else Kim, N2ZLA slaps me around! I know you wouldn't want that to happen...right!! Oh yes. I had a LOT of folks that loved the new software we used this year. Everyone seemed to think it was a lot more pleasing to the eye and a lot easier to navigate around. Let's hope we can stick with this software as it develops over the coming years.

I think this Field Day will go down not only as the wettest but as the largest one too. I had an opportunity to chat with Steve, KF2WA, and he too was floored at the amount of folks that came and helped with the setup/tear down. He also made mention of seeing a LOT of new faces amongst this crowd-which pleased the both of us. To all those that assisted us with setup/tear down you performed magnificently, I really mean that! On Saturday we were ready to run in record time. It almost seemed too unbelievable. And yes, we had a few kinks that developed, but you guys/gals worked together and solved them quickly. As for tear down. I've never seen the tear down go so smoothly. I thought last year it went quick, this year we shattered that record by around 2 hours! But, what made it go so smoothly was the large turnout of volunteers.

On Saturday we got off to a great start with the Field Day operations and we were able to keep every station running well in to the early morning hours of Sunday. in past years our over night shifts have always been a wee bit lax, but not this year. In fact, Kim, N2ZLA & Ray, N2VLY told me they had to wait until around 3:00 AM to get their whack at the rigs. This continuous manpower took us right up until the closing bell. Marvin, KG2GX & Ed, KC2HNC had the honors of making this year's final contacts on the 40 Meter Station. I think we need to thank the younger crowd. All to often they are forgotten. Let me tell you, for those of you who were not in attendance, these young adults worked their hearts out for TARA. They were right with us on Saturday morning and they were still working on Sunday. All of them had plenty of air time too! Myself, I'd like to compliment ALL of our younger folks for being so respectful. I never heard one single grunt or groan from any of them, just "yes Mr.Bill!"

continued on next page

This year my BIGGEST thrill was to see the number of new hams that got their feet wet (I can't believe I said wet!). I think every new ham of this club was operating at one time or another, something that I've waited years to see. All too often a lot of our new folks have a tendency to stand back and let the more experienced operators go at it. Not this year! Man alive, I had a rough time getting any op time for myself!

The Awards presentation was one I'll always remember. We had Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI, who won this year's Thomas Remmert Award, and quite deservedly I might add! Next, was Randy Stein, KA2TJZ, who was presented with the Community Service Award. Randy is NO stranger to and it was my honor to be able to present this award that's in my name to such an outstanding volunteer and friend. Plus, I'm sure a lot of you have noticed that Randy is taking on a lot of the responsibilities for many of our events and he's a leader for sure! The highlight of the night was seeing my close friend and "BRO" -- Skip Wilson, KE2XF, receive the "NEW" Paul "Skip" Wilson Field Day Award. I've had the pleasure to work hand-in-hand with Skip over the years and this award is going to be a sought after award for years to come. And of course there was food. And then there was more food! It seemed like it never ended. Our Saturday evening meal was simply delicious, as usual. We did have a new feature this year the "Stein Breakfast" and I hope it will become a regular event. Yep, Randy, KA2TJZ, put his chef's apron on and made the gang French Toast & Scrambled Eggs, with all the trimmings. I hope next year more folks come join us for this event. I'm not going to list all of you that worked your fannies off keeping the crowd well feed, so I'll just say thank you to ALL.

In closing I must add a special thanks to Jim, W2JHO. Jim's help with donations has SAVED us a LOT of bucks, I mean a LOT! And a slap on the back to Kenny, KB2KFV, for loaning us use of his walk in trailer which made things easy for the moving crew. For those of you that brought along all sorts of food and supplies you're the best! Well, I better stop right here. I have so much more that I could go on with but neither the time or space allows. I do know one thing. I'll be looking for you next June for Field Day 2002! Remember what I said above. If you helped us in any way, shape or form -- I here by thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Thank You

"Mr.Bill" NY2U

THANK YOU FROM KB2JZI

I would to take take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of the T.A.R.A. members that voted for me to receive the Thom as R. Remmert Award for 2001. I am deeply humbled by your thoughtfulness and consideration. From the beginning when the club was started in Bill Eddy's dining room, I was proud to be one of the original thirteen members and I have always felt great pride in working in any capacity with the club when needed and will continue to do so.

Furthermore, I was very proud to receive my award in such prestigious company. I want to congratulate Randy Stein, N2TJZ for getting the William J. Eddy Community Service Award which he was awarded for all the work he does behind the scenes. A special congratulations to my buddy Skip Wilson for his receiving the Paul "Skip" Wilson Field Day Award and being awarded lifetime membership. Skip, also has been there since the formation of this club and was in the old Troy club before I even knew about amateur radio. He has served in numerous capacities in the club, served as a V.E. and has elem ered many people who wanted to get into the hobby. A special tip of my hat to you Skipper for being the wonderful guy you are.

T.A.R.A. Club Secretary - Marilyn M. Davis, KB2JZI

You and the Law !!!

by Ken "The Chief" Davis - KB2KFV

For those of you in the amateur community and others who read this series of articles, the purpose of this column is to keep you informed and up-to-date as to your liability under the laws of the State of New York. This month we bring you information supplied to us from the ARRL in relation to the new NY State cellular phone bill which has just recently become law in this legislative session.

New York cell phone law does not apply to Amateur Radio: The widely reported New York bill banning the use of hand-held cell phone while driving should have no affect on Amateur Radio mobile operation, according to ARRL General Counsel Chris Imley, W3KD. "There is no ambiguity in the bill," he said. The bill, A 9280, was signed into law recently by Gov George Pataki, a former amateur. It requires cell phone users to use hands-free devices when calling. The measure specifies "mobile telephone" use, and defines a "mobile telephone" as a device used by subscribers to a wireless telephone service. That, in turn, is defined to specify a commercial two-way wireless telecommunications service that accesses the public switched telephone network. The bill also specifies "using" as holding the mobile telephone "to, or in the immediate proximity of, the user's ear." The new law will be phased in starting November 1. It calls for fines of up to \$100. The measure also calls upon the New York Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to study the effects of the use of mobile telephones "and similar equipment" in conjunction with the operation of a motor vehicle and report back to the legislature in four years. The full text of the measure is available on the New York legislature's Web site <<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A09280&sh=t>> . A similar measure requiring hands-free cellular telephones recently passed the Rhode Island legislature.

SILENT KEY - "Mister Guitar" Chet Atkins - W4CGP

Guitar picker, music legend and Amateur Radio operator Chester B. "Chet" Atkins, W4CGP, of Nashville, Tennessee, died June 30. He was 77. Known as "Mister Guitar," Atkins hailed from East Tennessee and began his musical career playing fiddle, but later earned his reputation as a guitarist. He went on to become the most-recorded solo instrumental musician in history.

Formerly WA4CZD, Atkins, a General licensee, obtained the vanity call sign W4CGP in 1998--the suffix standing for "certified guitar picker." He was an ARRL member. He won 14 Grammy awards during his career and was elevated to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1973.

He was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993 by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in part to recognize his guitar-picking technique as well as his wide influence on music. He had more than 100 albums to his credit.

In addition to his own success as a performer, Atkins helped launch the careers of other notable performers. He is given primary credit for developing the uptown Nashville Sound that helped country music to compete with pop music.

In his later years of performing, he sometimes paired up with musicians from the pop and jazz worlds and was a frequent guest on the radio program "A Prairie Home Companion."

A funeral service for Chet Atkins was held July 3 in Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, which formerly served as the home of The Grand Ole Opry where Atkins performed for many years.

More information on Chet Atkins is on the Chet Atkins, Mister Guitar, Web site
<http://www.misterguitar.com/index.html>.

Friehofer Run for Women

On Saturday June 2nd. the T.A.R.A . Public Service did its first Friehofer's Run for Women. This was a National Champion run, and was very proud that they asked our club to help . There were 3500 women that ran that day in the rain.

I want to thank everyone who helped , as there were some in the background who helped me out to get ready for this run.

Steve KF2WA Beth KC2BSC Gary KC2HWE

Margaret N2PEK Roy N2OWC Nick NW2D

Mac KB2SPM Randy KA2TJZ Kirk N2LGE

Frank KC2HRL June KA2VEK Skip KE2XF

Ed KC2HNC Tom KC2GAT (thanks for the badges)

You guys did a great job, even in the pouring rain, and everything else that went wrong . Thanks again !!!

Public Service Events Chairman, Karen - KB2UUC

Troy - Run for the Arts

On Sunday June 17th. the T.A.R.A. Public Service Team again went out in the rain for me to do the 1st. Run for the Arts in downtown Troy. It was a fast run, and was finished in about an hour. Then some of us got together for a very nice Father's Day breakfast at the Elk's in Colonie. Our chef for breakfast was Tony WB2BEJ. Again thanks to all who helped out:

Tony WB2BEJ Ed KCEHNC (2 positions)

Joe KC2HLC Gary KC2HWE

Mac KB2SPM Steve KF2WA

Margaret N2PEK Roy N2OWC

Beth KC2BSC

thanks de 73 Karen - KB2UUC

Picnic In the Park Time

We have finally made it past Field Day , and a super one it was, and now it is time to relax and have a nice get together and picnic in the Green Island Riverfront Park, located at the north end of the village. We would like to make sure that everyone would please park at the end of the park in the Old Ford Motor parking lot. The path is paved for all, so there is no problem getting in.

The picnic will start about 6:30 p.m. and T.A.R.A will supply the hotdogs, burgers, buns and soda . We would like anyone , members/guests to bring along some hot or cold dishes to the picnic, also some desserts would be great.

We also need to make sure that we pick up our garbage before we leave , and leave the park as clean as we found it. We need lots of volunteers to help out with the cooking and cleaning up, so lets keep this great picnic going , and have lots of fun with fun people.

If you have any questions , or would like to bring a food item , please call Karen, KB2UUC anytime at 273-6594 thanks for your consideration, in advance.

Below you will see a few of the regulations that the Green Islands Park Commission has asked us to publish. Please read:

NO bicycle riding in the park areas, bikes are to be parked in designat

NO glass containers allowed in the park (by local law)

NO pets allowed in the parks (by local law)

NO tree climbing

NO bare feet

NO throwing stones or sand

NO open fires except for cooking purposes

HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU THERE !!!



FIELD DAY 2001 PICTURES

We would like to take this opportunity to thank two of our members who took pictures of Field Day 2001.

They are available on the following websites:

<http://members.mybizz.net/~trout/20.jpg> by Gary Brooks - KC2HCF

<http://home.nycap.rr.com/kf2waweb/radio.htm> by Steve Kopecky - KF2WA

Thanks guys for a great job and all of your hard work.

UPDATE: N.Y. State Antenna Bill Still Needs Your HELP

We hope you had a great Field Day and that you will have a safe 4th of July with family and friends. We hope you can find time in the next week to act on the matter below.

Because many of you recently took the time to make telephone calls and send e-mails Assembly bill A.1565 was reported out of the Ways and Means Committee on June 27 just before the Assembly took a break for the July 4th holiday. Thanks for that effort on behalf of your fellow New York State hams. As you are aware, at least some of us need to have towers so Amateur Radio can continue to provide emergency communications in national and international disasters.

The Assembly plans to return along with the Senate for business on July 16th. Initially we had been told that the legislature would do no business except budget items once they recessed at the end of June, but now Albany insiders tell us that is not the case and that our bill still has a chance of passage in 2001. It's not over yet! Some of you may now have the opportunity to speak personally with your legislators at local events held during the Independence Day holiday. Please do so if you get the opportunity.

At this point we can get the bill enacted if everyone contacts the three key people listed below via letter, telephone and e-mail. These legislative leaders need to hear from you AGAIN and NOW! Even if you have contacted them before, please do so again. We must act quickly and again flood them with calls. Please encourage others to do the same.

Like you, I wish we did not have to do it this way, but unfortunately this is the way system operates in New York State.

Please immediately telephone, and e-mail the following legislators asking them to bring our bills to the floor for a vote when the session resumes after July 16th:

Senator Joe Bruno - Senate Rule Committee Majority Leader

909 LOB

Albany, NY 12247

Telephone 518-455-3191

E-mail - bruno@senate.state.ny.us

Fax - 518-455-2448

Assemblyman - Sheldon Silver - Chairman Assembly Rules Committee

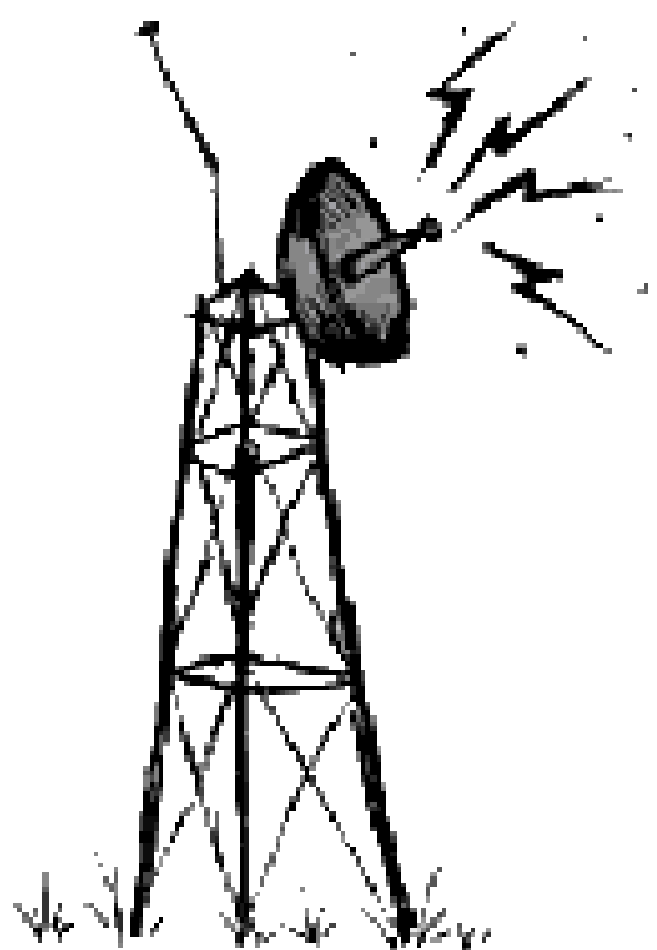
LOB 932/CAP 349

Albany, NY 12248

Telephone - 518-455-3791

E-mail - speaker@assembly.state.ny.us

Fax - 518-455-5459 and 212-312-1418



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Governor George Pataki

Governor's Office

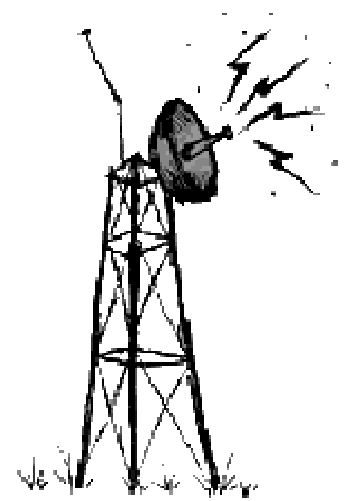
State Capitol

Albany, NY 12224

Telephone 518-474-7516

E-mail - gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us

Fax - 518-475-1513



You may want to send QSL cards this time around. The governor knows what they are!

Our message to them: "Please bring A.1565 and S. 2893 to the floor for a vote so New York State Amateur Radio operators can continue to serve their communities, at no cost to the state, in times of communication emergencies like those which recently took place during the Texas and Louisiana floods. These bills do not limit local government. The federal government did that sixteen years ago when they issued a limited federal preemption of local government in amateur antenna installations which has become known as FRB-1."

For those who can do more there will shortly be two lists on the Hudson Division Website, <http://www.arrl-hudson.org>, which have the telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of the members of the Senate Rules Committee and another with those on the Assembly Rules Committee. Please call the Senate Rules Committee list first. It is shorter and at this point more important that they hear from us.

+++++

Current Status of the bills:

Thanks to those concerned New York State Amateur Radio operators who recently sent e-mails and made telephone calls to Albany our bills are not dead. You did write and call didn't you? If you have not already contacted your local legislative representatives - New York State assemblyman and senator - please do so with a telephone call and e-mail.

See <http://www.arrl-hudson.org> for more information.

Both Assembly bill A.1565 and Senate bill S.2893B are currently in the Rules Committee and can immediately be brought to the floor for a vote thanks to the efforts of many dedicated New York State hams concerned that others may have effective antenna systems.

Our Assembly bill A.1565 recently gained a co sponsor, Paul D. Tonko of Amsterdam, NY and multi-sponsors Robin Schimminger and Richard A. Smith both of Erie County, and Harvey Weisenberg of Long Beach on Long Island.

Recently we have been told that some legislators are reluctant to act on the bills or perhaps vote for them because they feel the bill limits local government. Whenever we have heard this we remind them that this is not the case. Local government has been limited on the issue of Amateur radio antennas for the past sixteen years ever since the FCC issued FRB-1 in 1986. Our bill simply reminds New York State local government of that limitation and is aimed at saving both Amateurs and local government time and money implementing the provisions of the limited preemption we know as FRB-1.

Thank you for your efforts in accomplishing this important task. We would not ask you to do it again unless it was very important. It is!

73 de Frank Fallon ...N2FF ARRL Hudson Division Director, Bernie Fuller.. N3EFN ARRL Atlantic Division Director

Field Day 2001 Reaches A New High !!!!

Astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, took time out aboard the International Space Station to join in the ARRL Field Day fray last weekend. The operation was believed to mark the first time anyone participated in Field Day from space.

Helms worked several dozen stations--most of them Field Day operations--as the ISS passed over the US. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says the NA1SS contacts will count for Field Day credit, but they will not count for satellite bonus points.

Helms sounded like a veteran contester during Field Day, although not without some confusion as to what exchange she should transmit. Initially acting on incorrect information, Helms was giving out "one alpha maritime mobile-Russia" for a Field Day report. Later, she resorted to "1 alpha battery on the space station."

The NA1SS Field Day operation infused a lot of enthusiasm into the occasion.

"This Field Day is the one I'll remember the most, even after doing FD for 40 years," said ARRL Wisconsin Public Information Coordinator Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ. Romelfanger worked NA1SS as part of the WB9FDZ Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club Field Day crew. "Susan was having a ball up there!" he said.

Dave Swartz, KC7RRH, said his club's Field Day operation was another lucky enough to snag a contact with NA1SS. It happened almost by accident. Swartz, who operated with the Federal Way Amateur Radio Club's WA7FW setup in Washington, said the group was set up for a packet contact via the ISS when he heard Helms' voice coming over the speaker. Although he was on 20 meters at the time, he grabbed the mike at the packet setup next to him and made the QSO. Swartz said he was "very psyched" about working Helms but disappointed not to get the bonus points.

Henderson said that ISS contacts will not count for bonus points because the ISS is not an "Amateur Radio satellite," as rule 7.3.7 specifies <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-fd.html>>. Henderson said that, because of their nature, bonus points "need to be readily available to everybody," and the ISS offers only a limited window of opportunity.

As for the correct Field Day operating class for NA1SS, Henderson said there is more than one possible choice, but the question is largely academic.

"Whatever exchange she sent out, count it as a valid contact for Field Day and enjoy the experience," he said. Field Day entries require a list of call signs worked by band and mode.

Henderson said Helms' ISS Field Day entry will end up "in a class by itself."

US stations working NA1SS aboard the International Space Station QSL to Margie Bourgojn, KB1DCO, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Canadian stations QSL to Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Rd.-Suite 217, Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is required to get a QSL in return.

WWW.N2TY.ORG

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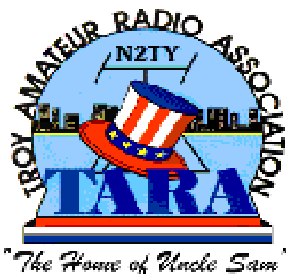
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Next Meeting: July 17, 2001

Green Island River Park

Starting Time: 6:30 PM

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A DISH

FOR THE PICNIC

145.170/R Troy's FULL SERVICE Repeaters 444.225/R