



# THE TARA NEWS

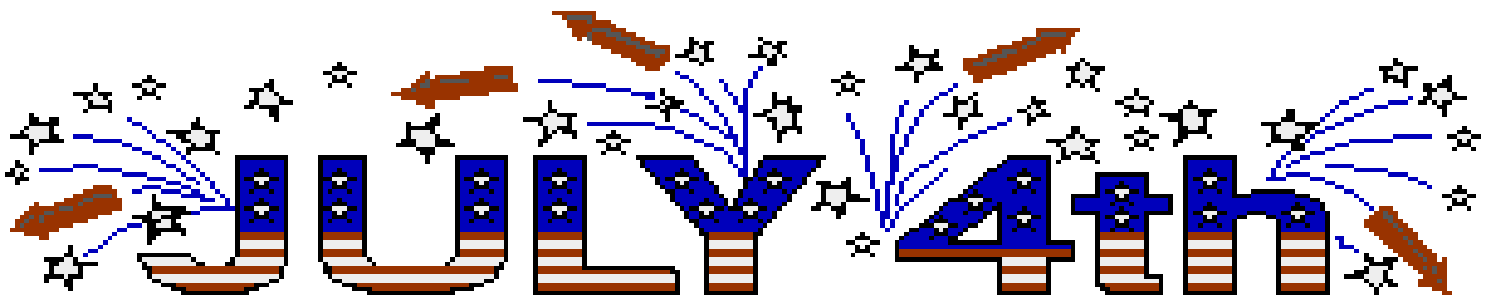
*Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League*

*Volume 14*

*Issue 07*

*July 2003*

## *Another Great Field Day at Frear Park*



*More than a Club*



*We're a Family*



# Another WM2U Contesting Concept...Get's Thumbs Up!!

## HUDSON DIVISION BEACON - JUNE 2003 \* NY HOSTS PSK GRID SQUARE CONTEST

I'm very proud to share with you an article that was just published in the ARRL Hudson Division Beacon for June 2003. I believe after you read this COMPLETE article you'll see why TARA is ecstatic to have Ernie Mills, WM2U, doing what he does best, developing & implementing new contesting concepts for the 21st Century.

All of these contests are the direct result of Ernie's passion for the digital modes, with the exception of the RTTY Melee. But even that contest is now under going changes to bring it up to the "WM2U" standard of contesting! I personally would like to thank Ernie and ALL of our Four Seasons Contesting Managers for volunteering their personal services. As you'll read further on this page your Ernie's efforts and concepts are NOT going unnoticed.

Also, I'd like to thank a lot of you that have written to us directly/indirectly for all of your input, suggestions, comments, queries and good old fashion support. We've needed you in the past and we need you now more than ever! I hope you'll support ALL of these exciting and challenging contests and then we'll see who win's the Tourney.

I wish to thank Frank Fallon, N2FF, ARRL Hudson Division Director and his staff of the Hudson Division Beacon for the beautiful write up and the vote of confidence!

*NY2U "Mr. Bill"*

**Four Seasons Contesting Calendar**  
**Proudly Sponsored By TARA - N2TY:**  
[http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_seasons.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_seasons.html)

Contest/Tourney Creator:

Ernie Mills, WM2U - [wm2u@n2ty.org](mailto:wm2u@n2ty.org)

Contest Managers:

The Grid Dip - Tony, N3FX - [grid-manager@n2ty.org](mailto:grid-manager@n2ty.org)

The psk-rtty Rumble - Ed, KC2HNC -

[rumble-manager@n2ty.org](mailto:rumble-manager@n2ty.org)

The Skirmish - Chris, N8PSK - [skirmish-manager@n2ty.org](mailto:skirmish-manager@n2ty.org)

The RTTY Melee - Bill, NY2U - [melee-manager@n2ty.org](mailto:melee-manager@n2ty.org)

Press/Media:

Karen, KB2UUC - [press-manager@n2ty.org](mailto:press-manager@n2ty.org)

Contest Assistants: Joe, N2NOU - [n2nou@n2ty.org](mailto:n2nou@n2ty.org)

Four Seasons Contesting Web Design:

Ernie Mills, WM2U - [wm2u@n2ty.org](mailto:wm2u@n2ty.org)

The TARA PSK Grid Square contest (The Grid Dip). Sponsored by Troy ARA, 0000z through 2400z, 2 August, PSK (and speed) and RTTY. 80,40,20,15,10,6 meters. Work stations once per band unless Rover has changed Locator. Exchange name, 4 digit grid locator. Enter 1 of 5 categories. QRP, 5w max. Low, 20w max. High, 100w max. Rover, 50w max. as a portable or mobile station operating from more than one Grid Locator, or SWL. Single/single only. Call CQ Grid Dip. Final score is QSO points \* total different Grid Locators. Mults. count once per band.

To be valid, scores must be received via our online score submission form found at:

[http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_grid\\_score.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_score.html) or e-mail Logs to [grid-manager@n2ty.org](mailto:grid-manager@n2ty.org), by the last entry date 23rd August 2003. Logs must be available for review if requested. Please read web rules for details on: [http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_grid\\_rules.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_rules.html) for more info e-mail to Bill Eddy, [ny2u@n2ty.org](mailto:ny2u@n2ty.org) or Ernie Mills, [wm2u@n2ty.org](mailto:wm2u@n2ty.org)

Originally announced for July 26, the test now occupies the 24 GMT hours of 2 August. Please note the change. This test is a wide-open shoot-out. All bands are included (80 to 6) and PSK31/63 and RTTY are the weapons available to the participants. There are some unusual rules including an exchange that includes the 4 digit Grid Locator. Note also that only single/single ops are allowed. Rules at:

[http://www.n2ty.org/sasons/tara\\_grid\\_rules.html](http://www.n2ty.org/sasons/tara_grid_rules.html)

Jump into this one! Multiple mode contests may just be the contest of the future. But that is not all TARA is doing.

This contest is but an integral part of the new TARA approach to their contest schedule. After restructuring their calendar they came up with one event for each season of the year Prefix contest for Spring, Grid Shindig for summer, PSK Rumble for fall and RTTY Melee for winter. TARA then decided to create a whole new class of shack wallpaper. Each year a Digital King or Queen, whoever has the highest combined score, will be crowned as the BIG ONE. Neat idea! I trust they have ordered appropriate crowns.

## National drill keeps radio operators on call

Troy-- Hobbyists practice emergency skills during annual field day

By [BREEA WILLINGHAM](#), Staff writer, TU

First published: Monday, June 30, 2003

About six amateur radio operators sat at their posts Sunday afternoon with their headphones on and fingers on the dials of their transceivers.



**Bill Kelley Jr. left, listens in as his dad, Bill Kelley, of Cohoes, sends a message out during Sunday's American Radio Relay League field day at Frear Park.**

**Photo by Luanne M. Ferris / Times Union**

"A good example of why you set this up is the San Francisco earthquake (in 1989). There were a lot of phone lines down and people couldn't communicate," said Joel Glickman.

Ironically, the earthquake happened on the weekend of field day and the drill turned into a real-life exercise when TARA operators were asked to relay information, said Ken Davis, one of TARA's founding members. Amateur radio operators typically help with communication during weather-related disasters -- such as last month's tornadoes in the Midwest -- that damaged regular lines of communications due to power outages and downed telephone lines.

"CQ Field Day, this is N2TY -- November two, tango Yankee," the members of the Troy Amateur Radio Association recited so quickly that some of them sounded like auctioneers.

They repeated the call until they made contact with another operator. When that was accomplished each operator repeated the other's call letters and meticulously marked them down on a list for entry into a computer.

For 24 hours over the weekend amateur radio operators conducted the routine as part of the 70th annual American Radio Relay League Field Day. The drill started at 2 p.m. Saturday and ended at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The field day is a nationwide event held annually on the fourth weekend in June. Seventy Troy operators participated in this year's event at Frear Park.

Radio operators all over the country and in Canada set up field radio stations using generators and other power sources, including solar.

The goal of the field day is to simulate the fast on-air skills needed to assist town officials and agencies during an emergency. "What would you do if you had to set up an emergency field and maintain it, keep it operational and see what mistakes you make and improve on it," asked Bill Eddy, president of TARA. Radio operators -- or hams -- try to contact as many other participating field day stations as possible.

**[Continued on Page 5](#)**



# TimesUnion.com article –continued

There are nearly 700,000 amateur radio operators in the United States and more than 2.5 million worldwide, according to the Radio Relay League.

During emergency situations, radio operators also serve as the communication link between families. TARA operators helped pass messages to men and women serving during Desert Storm; they called it Operation Desert Letters. Operators also help with homeland defense jobs such as delivering supplies to needy sites.

Ken Smith, a ham for 48 years, said communicating during an emergency can sometimes get hectic. "Everybody wants to chime in at the same time. You're on the edge of your seat, but you have to be disciplined and wait your turn," he said. But no matter how crazy the situation may get, Davis said, hams have to "keep a level head and make sure the message gets through."

## ***Presidents Report***

Well, I hope all of you enjoyed Field Day 2003 as much as I did. I've been attending Field Day's since our first one back in 1988 and this was another great one. Every year since then, I have proudly participated in TARA Field Day exercises. Every year something happens to throw us a curve and this one was no different.

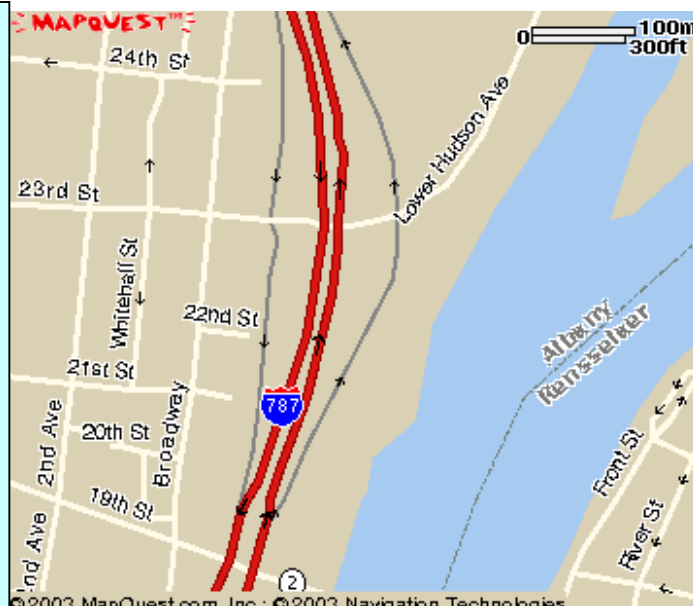
At the last minute our reservations for Field Day at Hudson Shores Park, were changed by the City of Watervliet double booking the pavillion, so we decided that Frear Park was our best alternative. With three towers, we needed to find more room. So we moved farther up into the park to a larger open area on the opposite side of the tennis courts. The new site worked out just wonderfully, with all types of space for antenna's and equipment. I just can't help but think that our buddies Skipper - KE2XF and Jimmy - W2JHO might have talked to the BIG GUY upstairs, because they figured that we shouldn't leave Frear Park. By returning to Frear Park, they threw in the good weather as a bonus.

I would again like to express my congratulations to all of our Awards recipients, both those that were there and those that couldn't attend. We really missed our visit from Pete Cesere – N2YJZ. Unfortunately, one of his entourage suddenly became ill and they had to return downstate. Pete contacted myself & Chiefy and explaining what happened. He told us to tell the gang, HELLO and he looks forward to seeing us, in the near future. Thanks again to all that attended and those that helped with set up and tear down. Without all of your hard work and effort, it would not have been possible.

*Mr. Bill - NY2U*

***Troy Amateur Radio Association  
Summer Picnic Location  
Hudson Shores Park  
23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Interstate 787  
Watervliet, New York***

***July 15, 2003  
6:00 PM***



## A VERY BAD IDEA IN NJ ASSEMBLY

If you want to stop this bad idea, please contact your New Jersey Assemblyman.

A2798 is a proposed Bill which attempts to define a distracted driver who may be charged with reckless, careless or unsafe driving. It seeks to amend existing statutes on reckless and careless driving with the following paragraph: "When so warranted, a law enforcement officer may charge a person with a violation of the provisions of this section if that person, while operating a motor vehicle, engages in distracting behavior including but not limited to the use of communications technology such as wireless telephones, pagers, facsimile machines, locator devices, AM/FM radios, compact disc players, audio cassette players, video players, citizens band radios, and dispatch radios; engaging in personal grooming, consuming food or beverages; reading; or tending to unsecured pets."

This NOT ABOUT HAM RADIO. The State already has statutes in effect, that define reckless and careless driving.

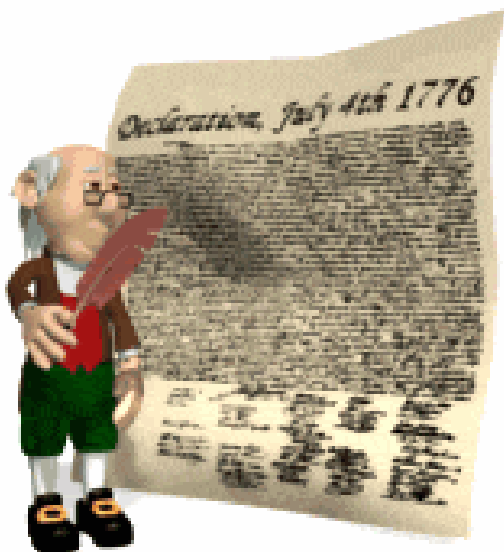
If you feel strongly about this proposed Bill PLEASE write your State Representative and/or the sponsors and let them know your feelings.

The Bill can be found at: [www.state.nj.us](http://www.state.nj.us)

Click on NJ Legislative, go to "find Bills" and follow the directions. E-mail links are there to the sponsors.

Please remember, legislators listen to their constituents if they want to get re-elected.

73, Bill Hudzik, W2UDT SM NNJ



## ARRL becomes Affiliate Program of Citizen Corps

ARRL now is an official affiliate program of Citizen Corps, an initiative within the Department of Homeland Security to enhance public preparedness and safety. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, signed a formal Statement of Affiliation between DHS and ARRL during the ARRL 2003 National Convention June 21 in Dallas, Texas.

Chief Operating Officer of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (FEMA) Ron Castleman represented DHS at the signing. Citizen Corps Liaison to the White House Liz DiGregorio called ham radio operators the "first of the first responders."

"You are there. You are part of that very, very first response when it happens locally," especially in the initial stages of an emergency or disaster. DiGregorio told the overflow audience at the signing ceremony. She urged amateurs to explore ways to expand their role in the community beyond being the last resort when other communication systems fail. "You need to show your community that you're engaged," she said. "They need to know as a community that ARRL is there."

Among other things, the affiliation statement calls on DHS and ARRL to raise public awareness of Amateur Radio as a safety resource. In addition, DHS and ARRL will cooperate in providing training and accreditation for Amateur Radio emergency communications and promote the formation of local Citizen Corps councils.

## A.T.V.E.T. 2003 SCHEDULE

**July 23, 2003 (Wed.) 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM**  
(doors open 6:20 PM)

**October 11, 2003 (Sat.) 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
(doors open 9:20 AM)

**November 8, 2003 (Sat.) 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
(doors open 9:20 AM)

**Exams will be held on the R.P.I. Campus,  
CII Building Room 3051**

# New 5 MHz Band Allocation Update

From ARRL Headquarters, Newington CT June 18, 2003

When the five new 60-meter channels become available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight (12 AM) local time on July 3, the rules will impose a new record-keeping requirement for hams. The requirement applies only to those using something other than a simple half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation.

According to Part 97.303(s), a half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation will be presumed to have a gain of 0 dBd. "Licensees using other antennas must maintain in their station records either manufacturer data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain," states the newest addition to the FCC's Amateur Service rules.

Because the new rules also require hams to run no more than 50 W effective radiated power (ERP) on the new channels, the choice of antenna becomes an important compliance factor. The FCC rules stipulate, "For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP will be multiplied (by) the antenna gain relative to a dipole or the equivalent calculation in decibels."

ARRL has posted a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) concerning 5 MHz operation on the ARRL Web site, [www.arrl.org/fandes/field/regulations/faq.html#sixty](http://www.arrl.org/fandes/field/regulations/faq.html#sixty) .



# NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Thanks for your support, but we were not successful. But we will, with your support, be back at it again next year. We have a very difficult project here. Yes, other states have been able to get bills enacted, but please be aware that very few of them talk about the issue of height. Our bills in New York and New Jersey deal with the issue of height. We remain committed to getting a bill in both states that specifies a height below which local government may not regulate.

Despite our letter writing efforts and visits to Albany our antenna bills were not voted on in the legislature this year. W2GLA and I made two visits to Albany in June during the last two weeks of the legislature to talk to the sponsors and key members of Speaker Silver's staff. The legislature was very distracted this year with other issues and problems - overriding the governor's veto of the budget, brown fields legislation, and Rockefeller drug laws - and finally the arrest of a key aide to Speaker Silver on rape charges only ten days before the session ended. The interesting sidelight here is the individual arrested is someone we had been dealing with on the telephone and that W2GLA and I were in the building when he was arrested. In the final days new staff people were brought in to fill his place but Silver's office never really caught up and our bill never came to the floor. Knowing that the bill was not going to pass in the Assembly the senate sponsor, Dale Volker, never brought our bill to the floor. It would have been a waste of time and we understood his action.

It is frustrating but not surprising that our legislation did not get the attention it needed. Should the legislature go back into session later in the year they will not deal with our bill. They will deal only with specific legislation. We are disappointed but not discouraged.

We had letters from two US Congressional representatives supporting our bill, Congressman Steve Israel and Congresswoman Nita Lowey. We will be working on gaining additional support between now and next January, when the next session opens.

*Frank Fallon, N2FF*







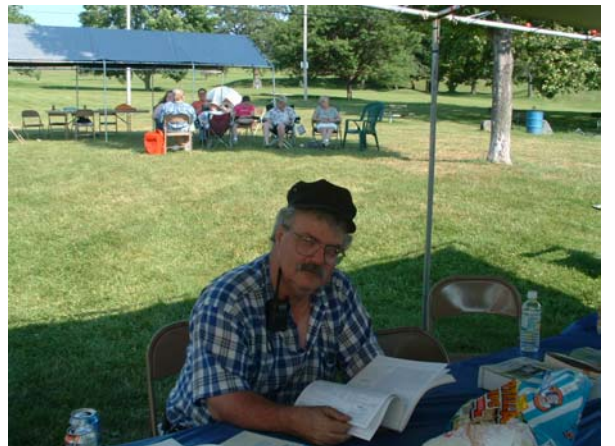
# FIELD DAY FROM 2002-2003



*Photo's by  
Dwight - N2SDL*



# ***The Gang at Frear Park***



***June 28-27-29, 2003***





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**Photo's by  
Brian Sullivan**







# THE TARRA GANG

Photo's by  
Dwight - N2SDL







# A W A R D S



**S**  
*Photo's by*  
*Dwight - N2SDL*



# Saturday Awards & Dinner



# ***FIELD DAY OPERATORS***



# ***Making Contacts***

W



# ***KPH On The Air - Night of Nights IV***

## ***HISTORIC MORSE CODE RADIO STATION WILL RETURN TO THE AIR***

### **Stations KPH and KFS To Be Heard Once Again**

In the fourth annual event that has become known as the "Night of Nights" historic Morse code radio station KPH will return to the air in commemoration of the last commercial Morse message sent in the United States.

KPH, the ex-RCA coast station located north of San Francisco, will return to the air for commemorative broadcasts on 12 July at 1701 PDT (13 July at 0001 GMT), 4 years and one minute after the last commercial Morse transmission in the US. These on-the-air events are intended to honor the men and women who followed the radiotelegraph trade on ships and at coast stations around the world. Transmissions are expected to continue until at least midnight PDT (0700GMT).

For this fourth annual Night of Nights one frequency for equally historic coast station KFS will also be activated.

Veteran Morse operators, including many former KPH and KFS staff members, will be on duty at the receiving station at Point Reyes, CA listening for calls from ships and sending messages just as they did for so many years before Morse code operations were shut down.

The transmitters are located 18 miles south of Point Reyes in Bolinas, CA at the transmitting station established in 1913 by the American Marconi Co. The original KPH transmitters, receivers and antenna's will be used to activate frequencies in all the commercial maritime HF bands and on MF as well.

KPH will transmit on 4247.0, 6477.5, 8642.0, 12808.5, 17016.5 and 22477.5kc on HF and on 500 and 426kc on MF. KFS will transmit on 17026.0kc. These frequencies have been made available through the generous cooperation of Globe Wireless, the current owner of the KPH and KFS licenses.

Many of the transmitters will be 50s vintage RCA sets. Power output will be 4 to 5kW. The transmitting antennas include a Marconi T for MF, double extended Zepps for 4, 6 and 8Mc and H over 2s for 12, 16 and 22Mc.

Operators will listen for calls from ships on 4184.0, 6276.0, 8368.0, 12552.0, 16736.0 and 22280.5kc on HF and 500kc on MF.

KPH and KFS will send traffic lists, weather and press broadcasts and commemorative messages, many of which will be sent by hand. At other times the KPH and KFS "wheel" will be sent to mark the transmitting frequencies.

Reception reports may be sent to:

Ms. DA Stoops

P.O. Box 381

Bolinas, CA 94924-0381 USA

Members of the public are invited to visit the receiving station for this event. The station will be open to visitors beginning at 1500PDT (3:00pm). The station is located at 17400 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and is on the route to the Point Reyes lighthouse. Watch for a cypress lined driveway on the right about a mile past the entry to Coast Guard station NMC.

KPH is operated by the Maritime Radio Historical Society in cooperation with the Point Reyes National Seashore, part of the National Park Service.

Further information may be found on the Maritime Radio Historical Society Web site at <http://www.radiomarine.org> or by contacting Richard Dillman, W6AWO at +1 415-990-7090 (email: [ddillman@igc.org](mailto:ddillman@igc.org)) or Tom Horsfall at +1 510-237-9535 (email: [wa6ope@hotmail.com](mailto:wa6ope@hotmail.com)).

VY 73, RD

Richard Dillman, W6AWO  
Member of the Maritime Radio Historical Society  
<http://www.radiomarine.org>



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 Vice President: Karen Smith, KB2UUC...273-6594  
 Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI.....272-0112  
 Treasurer: Nick Demos, NW2D.....383-3983

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www: <http://www.n2ty.org>

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# ***THE TARA NEWS***

Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**P.O. Box 1292**

**Troy, New York, 12181-1292**



Visit us on the Internet

At <http://www.n2ty.org/>

**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 15, 2003**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Hudson Shores Park**

**Intersection of**

**23<sup>rd</sup> St & I 787**

**Watervliet, New York**

**Ample Parking**

**Bring your appetite and a Dish**

## **Troy's Full Service Repeaters**

**145.170/R**

**444.225/R**