



THE TARA NEWS

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League



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September 2002



More Than A Club



We're A Family



One Year Later - Remembering 9-11

In memory of all those who perished on the morning of September 11, 2001, the passengers and the pilots on the United Air and AA flights, the workers in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and all the innocent bystanders. Our prayers go out to the friends and families of the deceased.

If I Knew

Editor's Note: *This poem has been circulated on the Web for almost a year. It is an appropriate reminder of how we might reflect on life after the horrific events of September 11, 2001.*

If I knew it would be the last time
That I'd see you fall asleep,
I would tuck you in more tightly
and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.

If I knew it would be the last time
that I see you walk out the door,
I would give you a hug and kiss
and call you back for one more.

If I knew it would be the last time
I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,
I would video tape each action and word,
so I could play them back day after day..

If I knew it would be the last time,
I could spare an extra minute
to stop and say "I love you,"
instead of assuming you would KNOW I do.

If I knew it would be the last time
I would be there to share your day,
Well I'm sure you'll have so many more,
so I can let just this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow
to make up for an oversight,
and we always get a second chance
to make everything just right.

There will always be another day
to say "I love you,"
And certainly there's another chance
to say our "Anything I can do?"

But just in case I might be wrong,
and today is all I get,
I'd like to say how much I love you
and I hope we never forget.

Tomorrow is not promised to anyone,
young or old alike,
And today may be the last chance
you get to hold your loved one tight.

So if you're waiting for tomorrow,
why not do it today?
For if tomorrow never comes, you'll
surely regret the day,

That you didn't take that extra time
for a smile, a hug, or a kiss and you
were too busy to grant someone, what
turned out to be their one last wish.

So hold your loved ones close today,
and whisper in their ear,
Tell them how much you love them
and that you'll always hold them dear

Take time to say "I'm sorry,"
"Please forgive me," "Thank you," or
"It's okay."
And if tomorrow never comes,
you'll have no regrets about today.

Author Unknown



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Public Service Events

PUMPKIN PATROL 2002



Dear T.A.R.A.,
Thank You again for your assistance with the Pumpkin Patrol in 2001. Through your help and the help of many other volunteers, there were no major incidents along the New York State Thruway during Halloween. I am forwarding this letter in order to request that your organization again participate in the Pumpkin Patrol 2002.

Sincerely,
Andrew F. O'Mara
Sergeant
New York State Police
Troop "T"



If anyone would like to help out with the Pumpkin Patrol, the dates are October 30th and 31st, which will be on Wednesday and Thursday, usually from 6 p.m. till 10 p.m.

If you are interested please contact Karen Smith at 273-6594 or KB2UUC@n2ty.org

SARATOGA TRIATHALON CANCELLED

The Saratoga Triathlon has been cancelled until further notice. They seem to be having trouble getting it to work out, so have cancelled it until some time next year. They would still like our help when and if they decide to have the race in the future.

Thank you to all who did volunteer to help me with it.

Recipe of the Month

Lemon Poppy Seed Bread

If you like lemons, you will love this sweet bread. Perfect for tea time!

Ingredients:

1 Lemon cake mix	1 Lemon Jell-O-Pudding & Pie mix	4 Eggs
1 Cup of water	1/2 Cup of oil	
1/4 Cup poppy seed or to your liking		

Preparation:

Mix all together and beat until creamy.

Bake in medium bread tins at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

Cool in pans slightly and turn out on rack. Makes 2 loafs or 4 small loafs

Mmmmmm, It's so Good

ARSENAL CITY RUN

The City of Watervliet will sponsor their annual "Arsenal City Run" on Sunday, September 22, 2002 from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon.

This is a very easy and enjoyable "Run" to volunteer for. The run lasts for about three hours and there are refreshments after the race for all of the volunteers.

The run starts at the Watervliet Library on Broadway and goes down to Menands and back up Broadway and returns to the Library. It consists of 2 races, and both are fast moving.

If you are interested in working this run please contact me anytime at 273-6594. All you need is either a hand held or a mobile rig.

Thanks for your help,
73 de Karen KB2UUC@n2ty.org

GREEN ISLAND - RUN FOR HUNGER

The "Run for Hunger" is scheduled for November 2, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at the Church of the Good Shepard, 89 Hudson Avenue, Green Island

This is a special event for TARA because Marilyn, KB2JZI has been one of the top individual fundraisers for the last two years. Also her husband Ken, KB2KFV is the Co-chairman of the Event.

Monies raised from this event are used to supply the Watervliet and Green Island Food pantries and to assure that the needy residents have a Thanksgiving turkey on their table and if possible a Christmas Ham.

There will be more information in the October TARA News.

ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Dave "Bucky" Pascale
W2VS

JUST SOME RAMBLING THOUGHTS...

I guess more and more we are turning to the internet as the primary source of the written words we read. (now that I think of it you can't read words if they're not written can you?) With respect to our hobby, I was saddened to see that the Callbook has finally gone south because it's just too easy to look up a call sign on the FCC data base. The Callbook editors tried to publish the Callbook on a CD-ROM but this was, to me anyway, doomed to failure. The problem with this method is that the CD-ROM is, of course, obsolete as soon as it's produced. I also see that the ARRL Section News will no longer be published in QST. It will now be accessible through the web. Nobody of course, read the ARRL Section News when it was published in QST and of course nobody will read it when it is only available through the web. What amazed me was that some ARRL directors actually voted to keep publishing the Section News in QST. I wonder what they could have been smoking? Or maybe they just got bombarded with one too many sub-audible tones. (that's amateur radio humor, humor which non-hams don't understand and hams don't laugh at) I guess the thought of not being able to read that WIDUM heroically handled three pieces of traffic after having his gall bladder removed and visiting his maiden aunt in Wichita was just too much for some of the guys.

I think the neatest thing about the Section News is the size of the print. It's a real 2 pica event. I mean guys like me can't even read it sans (sans means without) eyeglasses much less with them. So if I wanted to know my section news I would have had to have somebody read it to me every month. I guess I could have hired one of the neighborhood kids (that is if there are any kids left who can do anything that doesn't require a joystick) to come in each month and read it to me. I really should know who won the last election for Section Emergency Coordinator. (Actually, I don't think they elect those guys, but you catch my drift.) To my simple mind (yes, I know it is simple, but I think that makes me profound) nothing printed in type that small is literally intended to be read.

I think while they are on a roll the ARRL should stop publishing Board of Directors meeting minutes, too. Come on, nobody reads that stuff. I don't even think it should be published on the web, either. I think they should just have one of the guys take notes and the rest of us can call him if we want to know anything. It would work- trust me. Besides that -we're HAMS, we don't mess with any of that internet stuff.

Although really, we hams are not much different from (or is it different than, I could never get that right) our internet junkie brothers. The only real difference is the internet junkies have much neater looking backyards. And of course, an internet junkie can spend a few hundred bucks and communicate easily with just about anyone in the world while we hams typically spend thousands of dollars to possibly communicate with a few others just like us. Why anyone would want to communicate with people like us remains a mystery to me, but that's okay. The best thing about ham radio is that it's a humbling hobby. And of course, humbling hobbies help to build character.

When I first got my ticket (1968, the same year as the Tet offensive, the fall of Dubcek in Czechoslovakia and the year I graduated from grade school), although my grade school graduation only remains of historical interest to me. I set up my station complete with transmitter, receiver, dipole and antenna switch. There I was, ready to talk to mountain toppers, revolutionaries and medical doctors deep in the Congo. Well, one of my first contacts was with a guy literally around the corner from me. I walked out on my front porch and he walked out on his at the same time and waved to me. Not discouraged, (although my older brother howled with laughter) I put the proverbial positive spin on the experience by saying to myself that it would be hard for future contacts to be any closer to me unless the operator lived in the same house.

Like most kids (and a lot of adults) I was a pretty serious operator. Keeping a log book was mandatory in those days and I never missed an entry. If you called CQ and didn't make a contact you *still* logged it. There were no computer logging programs either. It was the pencil lead slapped on the old papyrus method. Of course, I only had a Novice ticket and two crystals for forty meter CW, so I had a fifty percent chance of being right each time I logged in the frequency.

ONE MAN'S OPINION - CONTINUED

Tuning in stations with my receiver was fun, too. Yup, the old "vernier tuning dial." By the way, "vernier" is a French word which, I think, roughly translated, means "everything". Which makes sense, since I usually heard every station within a broad range above and below the station I was trying to work. But I will admit it taught me how to copy CW. No fancy mechanical or digital filters for this boy. The only filters I had were the two natural ones hung on each side of my head-affectionately known as "Ear 1" and "Ear 2".

Eventually I graduated to a transceiver with a VFO that was also a lot more selective. But it wasn't quite the same. I missed all the company when I was trying to copy a station. And of course, today the filters are really sophisticated. A couple of years ago, during Field Day I was happily copying CW through a jumble of other stations and one of the guys said: "Dave, you know you can filter all that garbage out."

Garbage! Filter it out! It was a symphony to me - a trip down memory lane... Dave Pascale - W2VS

Legislative Push Appears Over for 2002

**From: Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, Atlantic Division Director and
Frank Fallon, N2FF, Hudson Division Director**

It now appears that the New York State Assembly will NOT go back into session this year. In July we had strong indications that the Assembly was planning to return around July 24th. That date has since past and as we draw closer to primary elections in September and then November elections chances of a return to Albany grow dim. We continue to monitor the situation and will send a delegation to Albany if the session goes into a Special session, but that does not appear likely. This is disappointing but not the end of our New York legislative effort to get a tower bill. Our New York PRB-1 Task Force will meet and plan for the 2003 session. We are disappointed but not discouraged. We have made a number of good contacts in Albany and those same people will be there in 2003. We have made some very important inroads. The proclamations we received this year during our lobbying effort from the legislature and the governor are important evidence of Amateur Radio's emergency communications capability that will be of help to us in years to come. Our bill was successful in the Senate and that support will not go away. The bills will have to be reintroduced in 2003 and will have new numbers attached to them. Our effort is not dead. It just does not appear that it will be successful this year. We want to thank all of you who wrote, telephoned and faxed. Without your effort we would never have had success in the Senate. We plan to thank Senator Volker for his support in getting passage in the Senate and hope that some of you will also find time to write and thank him. Thanks for your help. Please be prepared to help again in 2003.

The "New York Times" 'Metro' section on Sunday July 28th had the following article by James C. McKinley and Richard Perez-Pena on page 28. The in depth analysis of what was enacted and what failed has been omitted. It's simply too long. Hopefully the article will give you and idea of what we were up against.

A Summary of Major Actions of the Major Actions of the Legislature's 225th Session" Albany....

The 225th annual session of the New York State Legislature dragged quietly to a tentative close on July 2, after six months of partisan posturing and wrangling and very little real action. Time and again, Gov. George E. Pataki, the Republicans who control the Senate and the Democratic leaders of the Assembly appeared to make progress toward major deals, only to see them fall apart in waves of recrimination. It was, by all accounts, one of the most gridlocked years in memory, a sharp departure from the axiom that Albany finds a way to do business in even numbered years when officials must stand for re-election.

Even the end of the session was not agreed on, having become, like so many things about state government, something of a fiction. The session was scheduled to end on June 20, but trickled on, as each house found reasons to return a few times - the last session of the Senate on July 2 to pass a handful of bills - and each has signaled that it will come back this year, if deals can be reached on major legislation. The biggest agreement of the year included giving Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg far greater control of New York City's schools, a big increase in health care spending despite a looming fiscal crisis, and, after two years of bitter conflict, a package of women's health care measures, including requiring insurers to cover contraceptives. Chiefly among the long list of failures was the inability of lawmakers to agree on revamping the state's system of long mandatory sentences for drug crimes, enacted three decades ago under Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller. High hopes were also dashed for legislation to reduce rising auto-insurance premiums and insurance fraud, a package of anti terrorism bills championed by the governor, a bill to raise the minimum wage, an overhaul of the state's toxic waste cleanup program, a statewide ban on smoking in restaurants and a law to prevent discrimination against gays. A requirement that clergy members report abuse of children to the authorities, agreed on in principal by all sides, appeared to run aground on what seemed like a simple language problem.

The season began with a deal between Mr. Pataki, a Republican who is running for a third term, and Dennis Rivera, a high ranking Democrat and the leader of the largest health workers' union in the state, for \$1.8 billion in new health care spending over the next three years. About half of that money will go toward pay raises for members of Mr. Rivera's union, 1199/S.E.I.U. Despite questions about the fiscal soundness of the deal, it sailed through the Legislature in January and the union repaid Mr. Pataki by endorsing him for re-election.

There were 745 bills that passed in both the Assembly and the Senate, most of them narrow local issues like property transfers. Of those, Mr. Pataki has signed 198 into law and vetoed 2, but most have not yet been delivered to his desk.

August 2002 - Picnic in the Park



**Our Thanks to Brian Sullivan
for the great pictures**



Instructors Needed ***Fall No-Code Tech Classes***

It's hard to believe that, this beautiful summer went by so fast !! It's "Back to School " time, again.

As the fall season comes upon us, it looks like we may be running two amateur radio classes, this fall. For this reason, I will be in dire need of Instructors to help with the " No-Code Tech classes". One Class will be held at the Troy Masonic Temple on Tuesday evenings (most likely the 1st and 4th Tuesdays of the month). This class will consist mostly of Boy Scout and Masonic DeMolay youths. The reasons for this class only being conducted twice a month is so that these groups may conduct their regular meetings on the alternate Tuesdays and also that it does not conflict with TARA meetings. Time of the class will most likely be 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., which has yet to be confirmed.

The second class will most likely be on Monday evenings at Heatly School in Green Island in the old shop lab where we have had classes in the past. This is an excellent room since it has tables & chairs and is handicap accessible from the rear ground level. This class will most likely run from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. If possible, I would like to run this class every Monday.

I am well aware that this is a big commitment to try and run two classes, but if we can pull it off, we have the potential of bringing a lot of new faces into the hobby. This venture, as in the past will be a group effort of people from TARA, EGARA, Rensselaer Co. & Albany Co. RACES/ARES and any one else willing to volunteer their services, regardless of club affiliation.

Futhermore, I would like to schedule an Instructor's meeting prior to the beginning of the classes as soon as I find a location. If you think you can find the spare time to help me with this project, please call me at (518) 272-0112 which has voice mail or Email me at kb2kfv@n2ty.org

Ken - KB2KfV

From Your Editor

You never know who you are going to run into while you are out in the mobile !!! Recently, I stopped at a local Stewart's Store to get a coffee and as I approached the door, I met up with Green Island Congressman Michael R. McNulty. We exchanged greetings and went in to get our coffee. As we walked out of the store, I invited him to our TARA picnic in the park. He stated that if time allowed he would try to stop by and visit with the gang.

Mike has always been a friend and supporter of amateur related issues. He asked me what was going on with TARA and amateur radio in general. After a short discussion of pending state & federal legislation concerning Amateur Radio Bills, the Congressman asked me to send him additional information on any pending federal legislation concerning amateurs. I forwarded the information to him, a few days later in an email to his Congressional Office and quickly received a response within a few days.

The next page of the TARA Newsletter is a scanned copy of Congressman McNulty's response to me.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Congressman Michael R. McNulty for being a true friend and supporter of the Amateur Radio Community.

Ken Davis – KB2KFV

Editor – Tara News

ARRL introduces ARES gear

ARRL has announced that new gear for Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers is now available. The initiative to offer stylized ARES gear to volunteers arose during the ARRL Board of Directors' meeting last January--in the wake of Amateur Radio's deep involvement in responding to the September 11 terrorist attacks. The Board asked ARRL staff to look into the possibility of developing distinctive garments for use by ARES team members that would be similar to jackets and vests worn by other public service volunteers.

A questionnaire circulated among ARRL field volunteers indicated overwhelming interest in the idea. Results of the survey plus additional feedback from ARES volunteers led to arrangements to make available ARES vests, windbreakers and equipment bags.

The ARES vest is a reflective-style garment similar to those worn by law enforcement officers or joggers. This orange "bib" can be worn over a shirt or jacket. Constructed of neon mesh with large front and back reflector panels, the vest is imprinted with the words "AMATEUR RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS" on one side.

The vest is lightweight and easily folded and stored in your immediate-response kit. It features adjustable side straps, and one size fits most. The ARES vest retails for \$9.95 plus shipping and handling. The brightly colored, royal blue windbreaker jacket features an embroidered ARES logo on the front and the words "AMATEUR RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS" in white lettering on the back. The jacket is 100% Nylon and has a snap front and a polyester lining. There's a bottom drawstring to keep out drafts, plus side slash pockets and elasticized cuffs.

ARES members may personalize their windbreakers with FIRST NAME and CALLSIGN (optional) for an additional \$4. Sizes are medium (M), large (L) and extra-large (XL). The windbreaker retails for \$30.95 (sizes 2X are \$34.95 and 3X are \$38.95), plus shipping and handling.

The ARES equipment bag is the perfect immediate-response kit! It offers lots of places to store hand-held radios, spare batteries, paperwork and manuals, portable rigs, coaxial cable, clothing, and more. The ARES equipment bag comes in black only. It's embroidered with an attractive three-color ARES logo. It includes both hand and shoulder straps, heavy-duty zippers, Velcro and quick-snaps. It's great for travelers or as an airplane carry-on too. The bag measures 20 inches long by 11 inches tall and 10 inches wide. It retails for \$24.95, plus shipping and handling.

All orders must be placed through ARRL's authorized agent--BarkerSpecialty Company <http://www.barkerspecialty.com/arrl>
ARRL Headquarters cannot handle orders. Barker Specialty also carries other official ARRL sportswear and supply items. ARES stickers, decals, patches and other public service supply items are available directly from ARRL's online store <http://www.arrl.org/shop>

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

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WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2161 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-3221
(202) 225-5076



MICHAEL R. McNULTY
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

DISTRICT OFFICES:

ROOM 827
LEO W. O'BRIEN
FEDERAL BUILDING
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(518) 465-0700

U.S. POST OFFICE
SCHENECTADY, NY 12305
(518) 374-4547

33 2ND STREET
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(518) 271-0822

2490 RIVERFRONT CENTER
AMSTERDAM, NY 12010
(518) 843-3400

August 13, 2002

Mr. Kenneth T. Davis
139 Hudson Avenue
Green Island, New York 12183-1213

Dear Mr. Davis: *Ken -*

I am in receipt of your recent e-mail communication regarding amateur radio operator issues.

I have decided to cosponsor H.R. 4720, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act.

In addition, I have decided to cosponsor H.R. 817, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, a bill to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators.

My name will be added to the cosponsorship list for both bills when the House returns from the August recess. You may be assured of my strong support for both proposals.

Thank you for contacting me. Please feel free to do so whenever there is a matter of interest or concern.

Sincerely, *Best Wishes!*

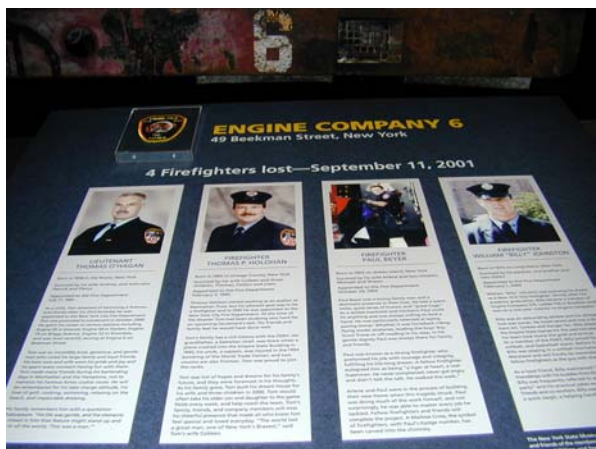
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike".

Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress

MRM/jeg

WTC Exhibit at Albany

Photo's by
Rita Patrick - N2JJD



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NTIA HEAVES POTENTIAL MONKEY WRENCH INTO 5-MHZ BAND

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has recommended that the FCC not grant an ARRL petition for a domestic-only, secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz. The NTIA regulates radio spectrum allocated to the federal government. The last-minute recommendation followed hundreds of largely favorable comments and reply comments from organizations—including the ARRL—and from individuals.

In an August 21 letter, the NTIA's Fredrick R. Wentland said federal agencies are making extensive use of HF for emergency services, including communications support for the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and Department of Justice law enforcement activities. "NTIA believes the Commission's current proposal does not adequately provide for protection from harmful interference to these critical government operations primary in the band," said Wentland, who is NTIA's acting associate administrator for spectrum management. In its recent comments, the ARRL called the 5 MHz allocation "an urgent priority of the Amateur Service" and asked that the proceeding to grant it be expedited. Wentland's letter arrived at the FCC beyond the cut-off date for reply comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 02-98.

Wentland said that without a more complete understanding of the interference potential to federal operations, the NTIA believes the secondary amateur allocation would be "premature." But he said that NTIA would work with the federal agencies, the FCC and the amateur community to determine whether "some future accommodation" for amateurs at 5 MHz would be possible. That could include limitations on power or emission types, a reduction in the size of the proposed band, the use of discrete frequencies or geographical restrictions, he suggested.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said that while he and the ARRL Board of Directors have been long aware of the concerns registered by the US Coast Guard and the US Department of Justice with the NTIA's Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC), he was surprised by the tone of the NTIA letter. "This is a lot worse than we were told to expect," he said, noting that the FCC had cancelled a meeting to discuss issues expressed by the NTIA several months ago and went forward with its proposal despite the NTIA's concerns. "We don't know how seriously the FCC will take NTIA's comments," Imlay added. "We're in the process of expediting coordination arrangements and other means to identify and satisfy NTIA's legitimate concerns."

On May 2, the FCC proposed granting the ARRL's requests for new amateur allocations at 5250 to 5400 kHz and 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and to elevate the Amateur Radio allocation at 2400 to 2402 MHz to primary and to create a primary Amateur-Satellite allocation there. Imlay said the 5250 to 5400 kHz segment was proposed because it appeared to have the fewest US government assignments.

Ironically, the ARRL's own timely filed comments and reply comments in late July and mid-August noted that the eagerly anticipated a 5-MHz allocation request was "essentially uncontested" and enjoyed "extensive support" within the amateur community."

The FCC went along with ARRL's proposal to permit amateurs to operate at full legal limit on a new 5-MHz allocation, but it left open for further discussion whether to restrict band access to certain license classes or to break the band down into mode-specific subbands. In its comments, the ARRL said that the band should be open to General and Extra class licensees and that band planning was sufficient to maintain order among modes.

Two non-amateur organizations commented negatively. The HomePlug Powerline Alliance (HPPA), while not opposing the allocation, suggested that its Part 15 home wiring telecommunication devices operating in the 5 MHz range be presumed to not cause interference to amateur operations and not have to cease operation if interference is alleged. The ARRL called HPPA's request "absurd."

The Power Line Communications Association (PLCA) said the FCC should not grant the 5-MHz band request because amateurs could interfere with its planned deployment of Part 15 broadband devices operating in the same region. "No Part 15 device manufacturer is entitled to oppose an allocation to a licensed radio service based on future deployment of an unlicensed device, period," the League said in its reply comments.

Many more negative comments were received regarding the proposed 136-kHz low-frequency allocation, most of them from utilities that employ unlicensed Part 15 power line communication (PLC) systems. The ARRL reiterated its request for 200 W PEP power-output limitation but in no case greater than 2 W equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) on 136 kHz. The League also asked the FCC to reconsider granting an amateur allocation at 160 to 190 kHz as it had requested in its initial petition.

The League also took a dim view of a suggestion by the IEEE Local and Metropolitan Area Network Standards Committee that Part 15 devices operating in the 2.4 GHz region enjoy a "safe harbor" of operation. The ARRL reminded the FCC that such Part 15 devices have "no allocation status at all."

The ARRL's comments and reply comments urged the FCC to immediately implement the three proposals. "The Commission cannot make allocation decisions based on non-technical assertions of Part 15 users or user groups or manufacturers of such devices," the ARRL said. "ARRL contends that compatibility between amateur uses in the subject bands and those of incumbents is not a substantial concern in any of the three cases."

A copy of the ARRL's comments

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et02-98/arrl-comments.pdf> and a copy of ARRL's reply comments

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et02-98/arrl-reply.pdf> in ET Docket 02-98 are available on the ARRL Web site.

The NTIA letter is available on the FCC Web site

http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6513290159 .

TARA OFFICERS: 1 YEAR TERMS

President: Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248
 Vice President: Karen Smith, KB2UUC.....273-6594
 Secretary: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI.....272-0112
 Treasurer: Nick Demos, NW2D.....383-3983

TARA DIRECTORS - 2 YEAR TERMS

Ken Davis, KB2KFV.....(02-04).....272-0112
 Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....(02-04).....273-6594
 Hollins Meaux, N2YQW.(01-03).....465-7678
 Jack Culliton, N2LBZ.....(01-03).....271-6763
 Randy Stein, KA2TJZ.....(01-03).....498-7838

REPEATER MANAGER:

Roy Warner, N2OWC.....283-8485

REPEATER TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

John Pritt, N1JP.....753-6231
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Karen Smith, KB2UUC.....273-6594

RDF COMMITTEE:

Craig Wood, N2UID.....370-5224

EQUIPMENT MANAGERS:

Roy Warner, N2OWC.....283-8485
 Craig Wood, N2UID.....370-5224

TARA WEBMASTERS:

Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248

TARA HF CONTESTING:

Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248

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 Mac Smith, KB2SPM.....273-6594
 Robert Jones, WB2SWA.....273-3072

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

Ken Davis, KB2KFV.....272-0112

TARA HISTORIAN:

Karen Smith, KB2UUC.....273-6594

N2TY-BBS NODE DEPARTMENT:

Ray Szlasa, N2VLY... ..233-9308
 John LaBarr, KB2UKV 284-2096

N2TY-BBS SYSOP:

Tim Roske, AA2WQ ...489-4346

ATVET(ALB/TROY)VE TEAM:

Gerry Murray, WA2IWW 482-8700

FIELD DAY 2002 CHAIRMEN:

Bill Eddy, NY2U.....273-9248
 Randy Stein, KA2TJZ...498-7838
 Steve Kopecky, KF2WA 674-4150
 Nick Demos, NW2D ...383-3983

VHF/UHF EQUIP. CHAIRMAN

Hollins Meaux, N2YQW. 465-7678

NEWSLETTER DEPT:

Editor-in-Chief: Perry White
 Editor: Ken "Chief" Davis, KB2KFV
 Co-Editor: Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI
 Co-Editor: Karen Smith, KB2UUC
 Design/Layout: Ken Davis, KB2KFV

PLEASE SEND ELECTRONIC
 CORRESPONDENCE TO E-MAIL

KB2KFV@aol.com or

KB2JZI@aol.com

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



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AT

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Next Meeting

Tuesday September 17, 2002 7:30 p.m.

***Green Island Municipal
Center***

Intersection of

Hudson Avenue & George Street

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

Parking Lot on Hudson Avenue side

Troy's Full Service Repeaters
145.170/R 444.225/R