



THE TARA NEWS



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November 2002

Happy Thanksgiving

Steve Caporizzo, WTEN - TV

November Guest Speaker

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The Troy Amateur Radio Association is extremely proud to announce that we have arranged to have WTEN-TV Chief Meteorologist Steve Caporizzo as our guest speaker for our November 19th meeting at 7:30 p.m. We'll put the Hot Coffee on for you !!! Plus, refreshments will be served afterwards.

Mr. Caporizzo is familiar with the service that is provided by TARA conducting SKYWARN Nets on the 145.170 Mhz repeater whenever there is a Severe Weather Warning issued by the National Weather Service and will give his famous Weather school presentation with an emphasis on Winter Weather

Steve Caporizzo was named NEWS 10 chief meteorologist in December of 1989. He also served as chief meteorologist in Bangor, ME and Springfield, MA prior to joining WTEN. Steve has been interested in weather since the age of 9 years old. It was his dream come true to be paid for forecasting and reporting on the weather.

Please take a look at what [Metroland Online](http://www.metroland.net/guides/best_of_2002/media.html) had to say about Steve Caporizzo. http://www.metroland.net/guides/best_of_2002/media.html. This was a review of what they called "The Best of the Capital Region 2002." We couldn't agree more with their findings!!

Best TV Weatherman Steve Caporizzo, News 10, WTEN- TV

Steve Caporizzo finally made the top of our list earlier this year when that flurry of freak tornadoes touched down in Saratoga and Rensselaer counties. While we watched and waited in anticipation for the other news channels to bring us the up-to-the-minute information—to no avail—we found ourselves repeatedly flipping back to News 10. There we could reliably find Caporizzo reading viewer e-mails and faxes, reporting from weather tickers and providing us with regular news flashes on the storms' progress. While the other weathermen popped in and out with updates every once in a while, Caporizzo stood by us almost literally throughout the storm. (Cont'd on Page 2)



More Than A Club



We're A Family



Steve Caporizzo to Visit TARA - cont'd

It's also worth noting that Caporizzo uses his high-profile position to better the lives of the less fortunate—less-fortunate animals, that is. He raises funds constantly for animal shelters in New York and Massachusetts, and in 1990 he started the “Pet Connection” segment of the Channel 10 news, in which a homeless animal is featured on the 5 PM news every Monday and Thursday evening. We've even spotted him on his days off at animal-adoption clinics in the region. To top it all off, we hear he's also raised funds for the American Lung Association, the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center and the Center for the Disabled. Come on—with a record like that, how could we not give this guy Best TV Weatherman?

Steve is very active in the community and in the past 10 years has visited over 850 schools, civic groups, and senior centers. In 1994 he was presented with the Partners in Education award by the Capital District Council for Social Studies for his efforts to educate children and adults about weather.

Caporizzo holds the seal of approval for Television Broadcasting from both the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association.

HUDSON DIVISION AWARD WINNERS SELECTED

The Hudson Division Awards Committee has selected Tom Carrubba, KA2D, to receive the Amateur of the Year Award for 2002. Tom, a resident of North Babylon, is the Section Emergency Coordinator for the NLI Section and was the point man in the ARES 9/11 response. He was responsible for feeding operators into Manhattan from outside the area. Earlier this year he was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Western Washington Section Convention and was awarded the prestigious Kenwood "Top Gun" award at Dayton. Tom is past president of the Great South Bay ARC and is an active contester and DXer.

Dave Watros, WD2K, of Schodack Landing, NY was selected for the "Grand Ole Ham" award. Dave is a long time ham and member of the Rip Van Winkle ARS and long time editor of the club newsletter who contracted polio as a child. He has been helping others for years. Dave will, unfortunately, not be able to receive the award in person but some of his friends will be on hand to pick it up.

Tom Marrin, W2RN, of Woodbridge, NJ was awarded Technical Achievement. Licensed for more than thirty years, Dave is in the Electronic Engineering Department at NBC News. He has unselfishly given of his time, expertise, and equipment to put a number of New Jersey repeaters on the air and keep them going. Time and again he has helped others with less experience solve their technical problem and get their rig back on the air.

Honored guest at the event will be New Jersey Assemblyman Matt Ahearn, KB2PNN, of Fair Lawn who will shortly introduce a New Jersey tower bill. Assembly Ahearn, who represents the 38th district in Bergen County, recently contacted Director Fallon offering to sponsor a New Jersey tower bill after reading about our planned effort in the Hudson Division "Beacon" newsletter. Assemblyman Ahearn, a former Army paratrooper who went to law school after serving as a U.S. Defense Department analyst, was a member of the Fair Lawn Borough Council. Assemblyman Ahearn was a communications officer with the 82nd Airborne Division in the early 1980's became a ham as a teenager.

The awards will be presented at a dinner to be held at Biagio's Ristorante in Paramus, New Jersey on November 9th at 7 PM. The event is hosted by the 10-70 Repeater Association. We hope many of you will be able to attend and help us honor the recipients of the awards. Dinner includes an appetizer, a house salad, a choice of five entries, coffee and tea, dessert and unlimited soda. Dinner is \$38 per person including gratuities and tax with unlimited soda. A cash bar will be available. The restaurant gets rave reviews from the many local hams who have eaten there. There will be a choice of five entrees and plenty of door prizes and a "loot bag" for all. ARRL, Alinco, Writelog, HAL Communications, World Radio, prizes have already been received. More are on their way. It will be a fun event. Tickets are available from the 10-70 Repeater Association, 235 Van Emburgh Ave., Ridgewood, NJ 07450-2918 or e-mail Joyce at KA2ANF@aol.com Order forms are available on the division web site.

TARA Brew Crew

At the October TARA Meeting, our guest speakers **Gary KC2HWE** and his trusty sidekick **Bill KC2JDW** gave a great presentation on building homebrew antenna's and other homebrew projects. The presentation was so well received that Gary and Bill approached the club about starting a homebrew class and also starting a Homebrew Net on the TARA repeater.



Starting Monday November 11, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. The TARA Brew Crew will Have its first Homebrew session at Heatly School, 172 Hudson Avenue in Green Island which is the same classroom where the No-code tech class is taught.

This class will be on the second Monday of each month at the above location and if there is enough interest we may try to get a second monthly session going on an alternate day or evening.

This group is open to all amateur radio operators and radio enthusiasts interested in building your own antenna's and learning how to repair your own gear. This is not going to be a group where you bring your old boat anchor and expect someone else to fix it for you. We will help and guide you but you will be doing the work yourself with the assistance of other hams that have the same common interest of learning how to fix and build amateur radio gear and associated equipment.

We request that if you have your own tools and parts bring them with you. This includes soldering irons, soldering pencils, solder, voltmeters etc... We will be playing by ear at the first session to see which way the group wants to go with their initial projects.

There is only one standing rule for the class, "What comes in with you goes home with you" and totally clean up the area before you leave the classroom.

Beginning every Tuesday, starting on October 22, 2002 at 7:00 p.m., except for third Tuesday of the month, tune to the TARA Repeater 145.170 Mhz for the "Brew Crew Net", where the topic of homebrew projects will be discussed .

Also, there is a distinct possibility of this article becoming a monthly addition to the TARA NEWS with links and tips for homebrew projects. Links for this month are:

[Click here: Amateur Radio And DX Reference Guide](http://ac6v.com/) <http://ac6v.com/>

Welcome to Arrow Antenna: <http://www.arrowantennas.com> for ideas on building antennas

We hope to see you at the class and hear you on the nets.

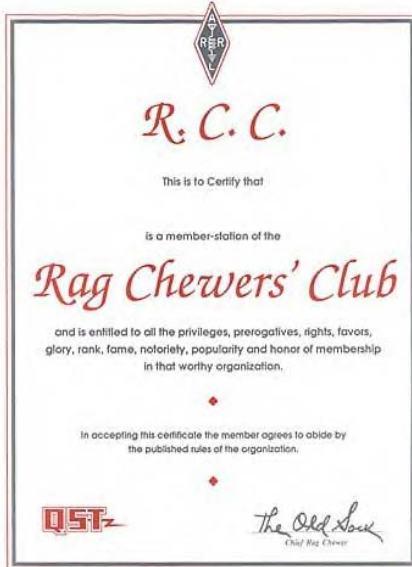
73 de Gary KC2KWE & Bill KC2JDW



Awards and Certificates

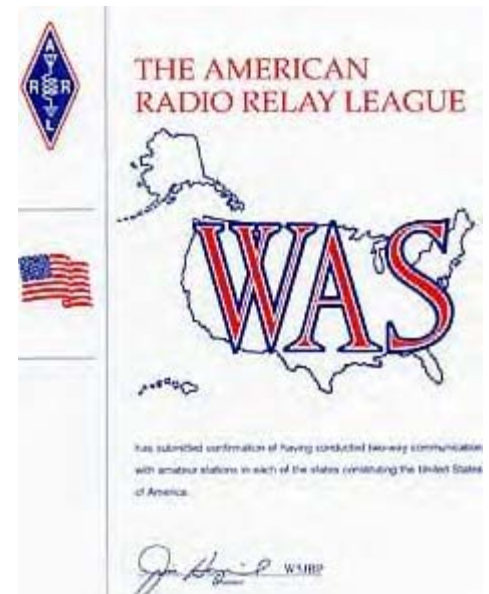
One of the most exciting facets of Amateur Radio operating is awards chasing. It's a major motivating force of so many QSO's that occur on the bands day after day. Indeed, it's a vital aspect that--if you want it--makes each and every radio contact a key element in your present or future Amateur Radio success. So transform those QSO's into beautiful certificates or plaques for your ham-shack wall!

Aside from the fun of operating itself, awards chasing is also a good way to get maximum performance from your station, become familiar with propagation, and even learn about the geography, history or culture of places near and far.

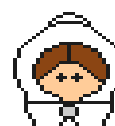
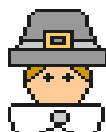
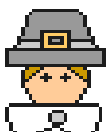


Novice, Technician or Extra--start off right, where just about every awards hunter begins, with the Rag Chewers Club certificate, which encourages friendly, meaningful contacts, rather than the impersonal hello-good-bye QSO. Chew the rag for at least a 1/2 hour, report that QSO to HQ, and enclose a fee of \$10.00. Your Rag Chewers Club certificate will be sent to you by return mail. Your first contact as a licensed amateur could enable you to earn your first award!

The [Worked-All-States award](#) is given for submitting confirmations from all [50 states](#). The cost of this award is \$10. Aside from the basic certificate for any combination of bands/modes, specialty certificates are issued for a variety of different bands and modes such as Satellite, 160-meters, SSTV, Digital, and each VHF band. Available endorsements, for a \$7.50 charge, include SSB, CW, Novice, QRP, Packet, EME, and any single band. The Digital award is available for the various modes. It will be dated, but not numbered. Cards are checked by a volunteer [ARRL HF Awards Manager](#) affiliated with ARRL.



Special Service Clubs (although QSL cards can be checked at HQ, absent an awards manager). To encourage increased activity and station improvement throughout the bands, the [5-Band WAS](#) certificate, at a cost of \$12.50, is available for working all states on 5 amateur bands (except 10/18/24 MHz). Cards for 5BWAS can be checked by your local HF Awards Manager or at ARRL HQ.



INGREDIENTS

3 cups water
1 pound un-peeled, large fresh shrimp
1 teaspoon Creole seasoning
1 pound fresh asparagus
8 ounces uncooked spaghetti
1 1/2 cups basil leaves
1/2 cup olive oil
1/3 cup lemon juice
3 garlic cloves
2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon dried crushed red pepper



INSTRUCTIONS

Bring 3 cups water to a boil; add shrimp and Creole seasoning, and cook 3 minutes or just until shrimp turn pink. Drain and rinse with cold water. Peel shrimp, and de-vein, if desired; set aside.

Snap off tough ends of asparagus; cut asparagus into 2-inch pieces.

Cook spaghetti according to package directions, adding asparagus the last 5 minutes. Drain, rinse, and set aside.

Process basil and next 5 ingredients in a blender or food processor until smooth, stopping to scrape down sides.

Combine shrimp, pasta, and asparagus in a large bowl; drizzle mixture with dressing, tossing gently to coat. Sprinkle with crushed red pepper.

Barbara Wagner
Gainesville, Florida

YIELD: 3 to 4 servings
PREPARATION TIME: 15 min.
COOKING TIME: 20 min.

Computer Tips

Using A Word Processor To Get Rid Of Forward Brackets

Do you ever get an e-mail forwarded to you which has all those annoying >> marks in front of each line? There's an easy way to eliminate these marks when you copy the message to a word processor such as Microsoft's Word Pad (which comes with all Windows versions). Following is a partial e-mail message that was forwarded to me:

> > Jake, the rancher, went one day to fix a distant fence.
> > The wind was cold and gusty and the clouds rolled gray and dense.
> >
> > As he pounded the last staples in and gathered tools to go,
> > The temperature had fallen, the wind and snow began to blow.
> >
> > When he finally reached his pickup, he felt a heavy heart.
> > > From the sound of that ignition, he knew it wouldn't start.
> >

Copy this mess into Word Pad (Found under the Start button, Program Files, Accessories) and press the **Ctrl+H** keys on your keyboard to bring up the Replace box. (This is a shortcut to the Replace option found in the Edit menu.) In the "Find What" box, put > (found on the period key) and check the Match Case box. Leave the "Replace With" box empty.

Then select Replace All. All the ">>" marks will be gone! Hit Cancel to close the Replace box and continue editing the document.

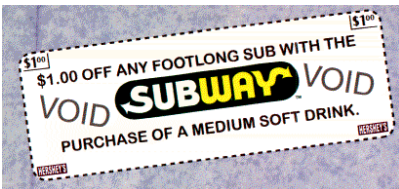
TARA Fall Fund Drive



We Need Your Help !!!!

The purpose of the "The TARA Fall Fund Drive" is to raise money for additional Club equipment and little extra's for Field Day and other Club functions and projects.

If you can fit this into your busy schedule we would greatly appreciate your help.



The candy sells for \$1.00 per item
The All-American includes a
\$ 1.00 coupon for
A "Subway" Foot-long sandwich

For Details - Please Contact:
Karen Smith - KB2UUC at
273-6594 or
kb2uuc@n2ty.org

Green Island - Run for Hunger

It was a frigid morning, November 2, 2002 when TARA showed up with a full Public Service Team for this event. Due to the weather this year, there was a very poor showing of runners in this event, but spirits ran high. The event still raised in excess of \$ 2000. Things got a little hectic when the Chairman of the Event failed to notify Karen, KB2UUC that he was starting the Run early. Karen dealt with the situation (minus her nervous breakdown) and still did a great job with the Public Service Team to supply a safe route for the participants.

Marilyn Davis, KB2JZI again took "First Place" in the Individual Fund Raising Category, but when they called her up for her trophy, Jeff Miller – Chairman of the event announced to the Crowd that it was Marilyn's Birthday and everyone sang "Happy Birthday to her while her husband, Ken brought out a Birthday cake to further embarrass her.

We are glad to have Bill KC2JDW and Dick N2MOA doing their first time Public Service event with us!!

Mac.....KB2SPM
Bill.....KC2JDW
Donna.....WA2ILD
Steve.....N2PZP

Karen.....KB2UUC
Mike....KB2LTV
Rita.....N2TTD
Kenny....KB2KfV

Gary.....KC2HWE
Dick.....N2MOA
Steve.....KF2WA
Marilyn....KB2JZI

And a Special thanks from me Karen for everyone's help!!!

Pumpkin Patrol 2002

Again this year the T.A.R.A. Public Service Team worked in a joint effort with the Albany Club to make safe most the bridges over the Thruway for The Pumpkin Patrol. Thank you so much, to all who participated with this worthy cause:

Margaret Warner N2PEK
Mike Aleksynas N2JVE
Frank Carey KC2HRL
Ray Ginter N2ZQF
Jim Hannell W2JHO

Ken Davis KB2KfV
Joe Squillace KC2HLC
Randy Stein KA2TJZ
Tom Wozneck N2SQO

Marilyn Davis KB2JZI
Ken Smith WA2TQK
Frank Gagliardi KC2HCE
Tony Pazzola W2BEJ

And thanks to Laurie Warner N2OSB for working with me to fill all the bridges.

Karen KB2UUC

New cosponsors for CC&R bill continue to sign on

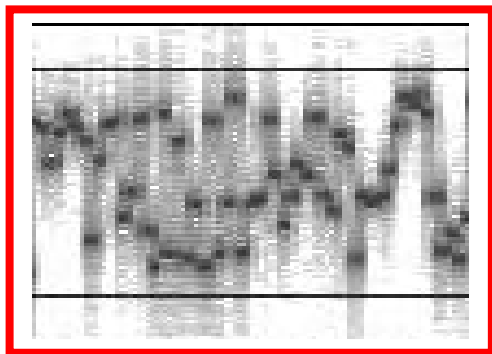
Despite the fact that action on the CC&R bill, HR 4720, is highly unlikely as the current session of Congress winds down, additional cosponsors continue to register their support for the measure. The latest--representatives Todd Platts (R-PA), Larry Combest (R-TX), Duke Cunningham (R-CA), and Mary Bono (R-CA)--raise the total cosponsor count to 34.

The recent spurt in cosponsors may have resulted from an eleventh-hour initiative in late September, when the bill's sponsor, Rep Steve Israel (D-NY), and the only two amateurs in the US House of Representatives--Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR) and Greg Walden, WB7OCE (R-OR)--appealed in a letter to colleagues who had not already done so to agree to cosponsor the measure.

HR 4720 is aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas. No more votes will occur until a post-election "lame duck" session that begins November 12 to complete several appropriations, homeland security and other high-profile bills. Another lame duck session in December also is possible.

With further progress on the bill unlikely this year, the effort to secure a congressional solution to the CC&R issue will start all over again when the new Congress convenes in January. The current list of HR 4720 cosponsors <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr4720/> is available on the ARRL Web site. For more information, visit the HR 4720, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2002 page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr4720/>.

MORE FUN ON SIX WITH ONES AND ZEROES



If you enjoy six meters, but you're a little weak on CW to make QSOs during marginal conditions, then why not try out some of the digital modes? The [Digital On Six](#) group is doing just this. The popular modes of PSK31 and MFSK hang out on **50.290** and **50.300**, respectively, while calling frequencies for other modes are presented as well. K1JT's WSJT software offers modes FSK441 for Meteor Scatter and JT44 for EME and Tropo work. Check out the activity on [Ping Jockey Central](#) and [JT44 Tropo](#) before you declare the six meter band to be dead!

Congratulations to A.T.V.E.T.

I'd like to take this time to CONGRATULATE all of the accredited volunteers that offered their services for 2002. As in past years ATVET has always been the "#1 - Top Rated" Volunteer Examiner Team around and all of you that volunteer each year help to preserve that fine distinction. It certainly isn't easy to give up your free time on the weekends but I know I can certainly speak for many of us, it is greatly appreciated!

I believe we all owe Gerald Murray, WA2IWW, a lot of credit for heading up the ATVET Team and for his devotion to excellence! I hope all of you will take the time to maybe drop Jerry a personal message and acknowledge his efforts. Additionally, there are a lot more of you that have supported ATVET over the years and your continued support is not only appreciated but it is vital the amateur radio service.

Seeing how we're at the end of another exam season I'd like to personally thank two individuals that continue to volunteer their services at each and every exam session, they are Nels Willams, WB2SBO & Seymour Miller, K2XF. Over the year's I've personally had the opportunity to work with both of these gentlemen and I can only say it was a pleasure. The faithful attitude and professionalism of these two volunteers is something I admire and certainly something I respect! Also, I really miss working with you guys. This coming year ATVET will be celebrating it's 19th anniversary and I only hope that the pride and excellence continues for many more year's to come! Once again, CONGRATULATIONS on a fantastic year.

73 de NY2U "Mr.Bill"

TROY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

It's that time of year again, when TARA shows that we are truly a Family. Please mark December 17, 2002 on your holiday calendar of events. On this special night, TARA dispenses with our usual business meeting and concentrates on Family, Friends and Fellowship. So come with an appetite and loose clothing because you will probably gain one size after an evening of holiday celebration with the TARA Gang.



Blue Knights NY VIII



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Larry Moyer, President of Blue Knights NY Chapter 8 has again extended a cordial invitation to the Troy Amateur Radio Association to participate in their Annual Christmas Party.

The party will be held on December 14, 2002, 6:30 p.m. at the Latham Masonic Temple, Old Loudon Road, Latham, N.Y. The Masonic hall is located just off NY Route 2 in Latham.

This party is always a fun evening. Get your dancing shoes on because the musical entertainment will be provided by "Ondaroadagen Mobile Music" which you might know as Marilyn KB2JZI and Ken KB2KFV. The meal will be the "Famous Roast Beef Dinner". Tickets are \$30 per couple. To make your reservations, call Ken Davis KB2KFV at 272-0112 or email kb2kfv@n2ty.org

Tribute to Veteran's Day



Do you know that at military funerals, the 21 gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.

The 6th fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why. Share this with the children you love and all others who love the symbol of "Liberty and Freedom."

Rail Road Enthusiasts

Proceed With Caution



Well gang, this a cross post from a story that I got off of the DANDH yahoo group of the experience of a rail-fan. Although it happened in Texas, it is representative of police agencies across the country during this trying time, especially with warnings from the Homeland Security Office about possible terrorist attacks on railroads. This article is presented with the permission of the author.

Law enforcement and railroad personnel are taking this seriously and you can't blame them.
My advice, STAY OFF RAILROAD property and right of ways.

Although we all love the Hobby of Rail-fanning, this is a good time to curb you hobby more to the rail-scanning end of it until we know are railroads are safe from terrorists. My suggestion is to still keep your eyes open for any suspicious persons on railroad property and immediately report suspicious activity to your Railroad Police or Local Police.

Here is one Rail-fans' experience: Tower 55 – Arlington ,Texas 10/27/02 (Day From Hell)

I have removed the names of the Law Enforcement Personnel because it does not affect the story.

This day started out rather innocently, having spotted a westbound manifest at the Cooper St crossing in Arlington, Tx (MP 233.11 Dallas Sub) at approximately 1447HRS. The train consisted of UP 5011 (SD70M) and UP 9574, with 77 cars. I thought to myself, that since this was a westbound, I'd head for Tower 55 and the Bernhardt wye and wait for it to arrive at the tower. I arrived at Tower 55 at approximately 1515HRS and set up to record the trains. When I arrived via the muddy roadway, I saw Danny (non Railspot) and a gentleman by the name of Ken (learned later he was out of Norfolk VA, doing some work on a condenser for TXU (Texas Utilities)); he was at this location taking photographs. I later learned there was another individual out there (unknown name) out of Cleburne, TX, also taking photographs. I talk to them a little, while I have my specially made vacation binder open and jotting down my engine numbers, direction, amount of cars, etc for the train movements at Tower 55.

There was light traffic initially, but my day from Hell began at approximately 1615HRS. This is when two patrol cars of the Fort Worth Police Dept (hereafter referred to as FWPD) arrive on scene. I thought to myself, "Oh, s**t!" These two officers get out of their cars and one comes to my car, identifies himself and ask what I was doing out there. I tell him I'm watching the trains as they move through the area. While he asks for and takes my Texas DL to run a "wants and warrants" check on, his backup officer walks over to Ken's vehicle, which was parked next to mine. The officer that spoke with me explained that an engineer for one of the passing trains had called his dispatcher, letting them know there were individuals out there taking photographs of the trains (that would be Ken and the subject from Cleburne). They also explain the fact that they were briefed at the start of their "watch" or shift that the FBI had put out a warning about Al-Queda possibly targeting the railroads for terrorist activity. I tell him that I understand what he's talking about, because I work for a police department and have heard the same thing. At this point, he has already interviewed me and still has my Texas DL. He tells me that he needs me to stay put in my car, and that his supervisor (i.e. Sergeant) is on the way to speak to them (she doesn't even show up until about 1715-1730HRS). She shows up about an hour later, along with a detective with the Terrorism Task Force out of Fort Worth and/or Tarrant County (this guy is Det X). Det X interviews each one of us separately of course. I basically tell him that I'm out there watching the trains as a hobby. I explain to him what I was looking for and what information I take down (Lord I won't do that again <grin>. Continued – next page.

He basically reiterates about the FBI warnings and asks me several questions about why I was out there, do I look for specific types of cars, have I been asked by any suspicious individuals to come out there and look for specific types of cars, etc, to which I answer truthfully. By this time the UP Yard Supervisor on call is out there on scene (believe his name was Mr. X; he was representing Union Pacific).

At some point, the FWPD make the decision to search our vehicles, having each one of us sign a "Consent to Search" form, which I sign because I have nothing in my car that would be incriminating. They ask to see my log book or Vacation record, which included my directions for my vacation, my railroad spotting form, my explanation of all of the "marks" on the cars, the explanation of the UP and BNSF point of origin signifiers, etc. This was later "seized" by the Det X, in order for them to understand what we were basically talking about to them, since they were police officers and not hobbyist like those of us on Railspot. I sign the form and acknowledge that he is taking custody of the book...so there went all of my 11-12 sightings that I was going to post to the list, vice this long recitative. But, it gets worse, as the detective from the Terrorism Task Force asked me to wait, because a rep from the FBI wanted to talk to us. If I had a clue this day would have been like this, I never would have set foot in that area. This gorgeous FBI Special Agent, who works out of Fort Worth, Tx, basically takes my name, SSN, who I work for, business phone number and my name of course. The FWPD Sergeant/watch supervisor, uses a digital camera to take a picture of my car, the license plate of my car, the interior of my car, and of course me. By this time, I have a pretty good idea what would happen next, and I was right. At approximately 1930HRS, I sign a FWPD Trespass Warning, issued by Mr X, in the presence of a FWPD officer, basically warning me from returning to 665 E Vickery St, Fort Worth, Texas, the Bernhardt wye area.

Since I work for a PD, I know to return would mean being arrested for a Class-B misdemeanor for Criminal Trespass, which could result in a fine of about \$1,000, and a maximum of 90 days jail. So, I ain't going to set my bohiny back in that area, unless Mr. X says it's okay to do so. I was advised by one of the FWPD officers that I could probably check with MR. X in six months, to see if they would allow me to come back to the area. I think they realized that we were there because we like the trains, but I also believe they had no choice to issue us a trespass warning, which I fully understood.

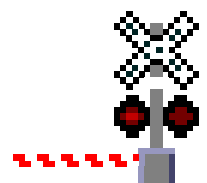
So, I'm without my log book, which Det X stated would be copied and eventually returned to me, most likely by a Det X, which is a police officer from my department, assigned to the task force. I don't look forward to what he might have to say to me, because he'll probably tell me that I should have known better than to have showed up there, since it is private property. But, it should be noted that the UP are basically aware of us Railspot personnel and are more than willing to allow us to park in that area, as long as we don't interfere with the UP operations, such as walk on their tracks, which I'm smart enough not to do.

If the Task Force learns on how to better protect the railroads, then my experience would have been worth it. I hate the idea of missing out on watching the trains at Tower 55, but I probably should have seen it coming. I would recommend to everyone on this list who frequents the Tower 55 area, to consider it an Off Limits area, as I was advised by the FWPD that they've had some "incidents" there prior to them speaking to us.

So, this is my final (for now) report from Tower 55. I hope that the UP will allow me back in there sometime in the future, but for now, I'll watch my trains from a few points in Arlington that are accessible to train fans, etc. There are a few points in Saginaw, but I'm not sure whether they've tightened up their security at the ATSF yard or not.

Well, in closing, I hope everyone had a great weekend :-)

Regards,
Richard Whitenight
Arlington, Texas



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THE TARA NEWS

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Next Meeting

***Tuesday, November 19, 2002
 7:30 p.m.***

***Green Island Municipal
 Center***

***Intersection of
 Hudson Avenue & George Street
 HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
 Parking Lot on Hudson Avenue***

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