



# THE TARA NEWS

*Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League*

**Volume 14 © Issue 11**

**November 2003**

## **TARA's own, Daniel Bradke - W2AU Wins Dxpedition Trip**

**Young ham wins DXpedition trip:** Fourteen-year-old Daniel Bradke, W2AU, of Niskayuna, New York, will be operating as part of the VP5X Contest Group for the CQ World Wide CW contest November 29-30. Bradke was the winner of a competition sponsored by VP5X (David Kopacz, KY1V). "Daniel's essay, operating skills and enthusiasm have moved our contest team to select him to be our first annual VP5X Young Ham Team Member," said an announcement on the [VP5X Contest Group](#) Web site. Bradke has held an Amateur Extra class license since age 11 and can handle CW at 30 WPM and will be a significant asset to our team for this year's upcoming CQWW CW contest.

Daniel claims he is a team player, can handle his own in a pile-up and is eager to learn from more experienced operators. Who knows, maybe he can teach us a thing or two. This will be Daniel's first DXpedition. We are pleased he will be joining us!

He's a member of the ARRL, the [Yankee Clipper Contest Club](#), [Troy Amateur Radio Association](#) and [FISTS](#) and regularly operates during the ARRL Straight Key Night each New Year's Day (UTC). The trip to Turks and Caicos will mark his first DXpedition. His dad, John Bradke, W2GB, says he urged his son apply for the call sign that had once belonged to Paul Wandelt of W2AU balun and antenna fame (Unadilla Radiation Products). The elder Bradke says he met Wandelt a few times in the 1960s and never dreamed he'd have a son who would one day hold the well-known call sign. There's more information on Daniel Bradke under his call sign listing on the [QRZ.com](#) Web site.



**Daniel Bradke, W2AU, operating a contest from the shack of fellow YCCC member Dave Robbins, K1TTT, in Peru, Massachusetts.**

## **ELECTIONS IN HUDSON DIVISION PLEASE VOTE**

Most ballots for the Hudson Division Director election have been received at this point. As ballots are sent bulk mail some may take weeks to dribble out to you. If you have not received your ballot by October 20th please contact Lisa Kustosik, 860-594-0245, at ARRL HQ for a replacement ballot.

Please make your decision and send your ballot back in time to be counted. The message from both candidates: Please vote and return the ballot. Ballots will be counted on November 21st at HQ and must be received by noon that day.



*More than a Club*



*We're a Family*



# TARA RTTY MÊLÉE

I am pleased to inform you that the next running of the TARA RTTY Mêlée will be held on the first Saturday of December and which is on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2003. This contest was formerly called the TARA RTTY SPRINT. Since last year the rules have changed and so has the name, but I can assure you it's still the same great contest! Please review the expanded hours of operation we've made to the rules

[http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_melee\\_rules.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html)

Also, I ask you to please look at the contesting schedule for our "Four Season's Contesting" at

[http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_seasons.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_seasons.html) Under

this program we now sponsor the "TARA Tourney," which we'll crown the King/Queen of Digital Communications each year. Score credit from the RTTY Melee will go towards the Tourney.

TARA and its members would like to thank you for you're continued help in promoting this effort. We hope you can help.

73 de NY2U

*Bill Eddy*

President of TARA

[ny2u@n2ty.org](mailto:ny2u@n2ty.org)



=====TARA CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT=====

TARA RTTY Mêlée--(Formally TARA RTTY Sprint)  
RTTY ONLY!

sponsored by the Troy Amateur Radio Assn, 0000Z - 2400Z Dec 6. Categories: SOAB-HP (>150 W), SOAB-LP (<150 W), MOAB, SWL, 10 min band change rule for MO. Frequencies: 80 - 10 meters, operate 16 hours max. Exchange: RS + State/Province or serial number for DX. QSO Points: 1 pt/QSO. Score: QSO points x S/P/C counted once only (US and VE only count as S/P). For more information:

[www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_melee\\_rules.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html). Summary sheets (no logs) due 31 Dec via on-line submission form at [www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_melee\\_score.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_score.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)

## DECEMBER 6, 2003



# Happy Thanksgiving!

# TARA PSK "RUMBLE" GETS RECOGNITION

Please read the following it's a REPRINT from Jim's GAZETTE  
Newsletter #154 [jem@n2hos.com](mailto:jem@n2hos.com)  
5 October 2003 GAZETTE at [www.n2hos.com/digital](http://www.n2hos.com/digital)

The TARA Rumble of 4 October was an obvious and remarkable success. The number of participants easily reached a level two or three times any previous test. Even propagation cooperated! Despite being totally unprepared and very rusty, macro-wise, I jumped in Friday night and worked a dozen or so calls on 20M. It was a bit messy at first, but I gradually got back into shape. Hi!

On Saturday, with so little time available, I looked at 15M and was astonished. The PSK space was filled with calls, mostly DX. I worked about 15 stations, including a dozen or so DX, and could have easily worked most of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East had I the time. I even made a contact on 10M, a band I haven't even looked at for many weeks.

So, TARA should be pleased as punch. And so should those who operated the PSK31 stations. There were but a few over driven signals, exchanges were crisp and would make even a diehard RTTY contester shake his or her head in agreement. It's quite clear that the PSK31 contester has moved a long way toward the normal kind (albeit more relaxed) of contest behavior. Exchanges aren't down to 16 characters yet, and I doubt they ever will be. But they were comfortably brief, yet informative. And there was time to say hello, g/l, cuagn, ciao, cul, and even bye-bye. In a word, it was a pleasure, if not a competitive thrill, for the contester-lite that's within me.

If it ever changes, I'll take up the next leisurely mode. Hi!

On behalf of TARA I'd like to thank Jim, N2HOS very much for his kind remarks. Keep in mind that Jim isn't exactly the new kid on the block! He's been around for a long time promoting and critiquing our digital modes. So, having some one of his caliber critique our Rumble is quite impressive.

Thank you very much Jim and I hope we'll see other reviews with their take on the Rumble.

Thank You & 73

*Bill Eddy - NY2U*





# **Pumpkin Patrol 2003**

## **Peaceful Again**

November 2, 2003 Pumpkin Patrol  
Report by Jack Donnelly WA2YBM

It happened again, on a warm and partly cloudy night. The vehicles were parked along the edge of the road. Hour after hour they sat there inhabited by sometimes, lonely individuals. They had one thing in common. The radio was tuned to 145.19 Mhz listening for the bad news that never came and didn't want to hear – someone trying to drop a pumpkin or another object off a bridge that crossed the New York State Thruway. It was Pumpkin Patrol again this year. These devoted individuals have participated many times over the years. Dedicated they are.

Over the two nights, over 40 individuals from various clubs participated. They came from AARA, TARA, SMARA, SARA, and Central React all united with one idea in mind – to prevent accidents. They succeeded. The Hams taking part, in no special order were:

**Jack Donnelly – WA2YBM**  
**Bill Houlton – KA2OWW**  
**Dave Gallently, KM2O**  
**Nathanial Greenman – KB2HPW**  
**Tom Stewart – KC2FCR**  
**Tim Moody – WA2QAC**  
**Dave Kinerson – WA2VXS**  
**Margaret Warner – N2PEK**  
**Dwight Ogle – N2SDL**  
**Mike Alecksynas – N2JVE**  
**Ken Davis – KB2KFB**  
**Steve Marsh – no call**  
**David Fritts - KC2IBF**  
**Tony Pazzola – W2BEJ**

**Mike Boggs – KC2DTL**  
**Ken Clickman – AA2CW**  
**John Naberezny, WE2F**  
**Bill Neiger – KC2BBP,**  
**Barry Leet – WA2CW**  
**Frank Gagliardi – KC2HCE**  
**June Kinerson – KB2JTG**  
**Bob Messier – N1YBT**  
**Ken Smith – WA2TQK**  
**Karen Smith – KB2UUC**  
**Marilyn Davis – KB2JZI**  
**T.J. Walker – KC2GAT**  
**Alec Downey – KC2KVY**  
**Peter Rea - W2PR**

**Randy Stein – KA2TJZ**  
**Mike Joyce – KB2TYC**  
**Dave Patti – KB2HPW**  
**Mike Dundon – no call,**  
**Rich Duffy – N2TZQ**  
**Herb Orth – N2TJM**  
**Ed Eades – KC2HNC**  
**June Wilson – KA2VEK**  
**Richard Wager – W2RMW**  
**Mac Smith – KB2SPM**  
**Andy Lichioveri – KB2TSA**  
**Sue Fritts – KC2IBI**

**NET CONTROLS**

**Also from Central React were Ray Kipp, Bob Snell, John Batchler, Tom Munhall, Dave Wilkinson, Steve Schlamowitz, and T.J. Walker.**

Not to be forgotten were the rovers. Ray N2ZQF, Sue KB2IBI with the boys (smart) Alex (that's a pun) and Dave who drove to every location dispensing Hot Cider, Chocolate, donuts etc. THANKS GANG FOR THE TREATS. Oohhhh! they were Sooooo good! On the other side of the river, Karen and Mac were the rovers on Thursday night with Ken and Marilyn taking over on Friday night. All told, there were 45 individuals helping out over both nights. What a HUGH group of Public Service people in a relatively small geographic area.

Submitted by,  
Karen Smith – KB2UUC  
TARA – Public Service Chairperson



# TARA Public Service Team keeps busy

## 22nd Arsenal City Run

## 20th Annual Run for Hunger

On Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the TARA Public Service team worked the 22nd Annual "Arsenal City Run" in the rain, that is because Steve KF2WA was away on vacation. Thanks to all who came out in the rain to help out with this Run.

**Bob N1YBT      Mike KB2LTV      Bill KC2JDW**  
**Duffy N2TZQ      Tom N2SQO      Beth KC2BSC**  
**Ed KC2HNC      Frank KC2HCE      June KA2VEK**  
**Dwight N2SDL      Mac KB2SPM**

I have to point out that it was Bob's N1YBT first Public Service event and he had a crazy driver that almost ran him over!!!

But, he came back and helped with the Pumpkin Patrol!!  
Thanks Bob!!

73 and Thanks,

*Karen KB2UUC*

## **WA2OQE opens Amateur & Marine Equipment Sales & Repair Shop in Rensselaer, NY**

There is a new Electronics Store in the area.  
It is owned and operated by Hugh Lupo - WA2OQE.  
The store is located on Broadway in Rensselaer, N.Y.

### **"New England Marine Electronics"**

Hugh does service on all Amateur and Marine Radios  
and also has sales and service.

Hugh can be reached at 518-858-8906 or  
toll free at 1-866-246-5439



On Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, the always faithful, TARA Public Service Team gathered in Green Island to supply communications for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for Hunger. Everyone arrived around 8:30 AM at the Church of the Good Shepherd, where they had Coffee and Donuts. Jeff Miller is the Chairman of the event and the co-chair is TARA's own Ken Davis - KB2KFBV.

At first everyone thought that 8:30 was a little early, considering the fact that the first Race did not start until 9:30 AM. In retrospect though, everyone was relaxed after conversing with friends and they all arrived in their respective positions at around 9:15 AM. The additional time of being early afforded the opportunity to resolve any logistical problems before the Race even started.

All three races went off without a hitch. Although the turnout for the event was light the "Run for Hunger" surpassed last years' total by raising \$ 2600 which surpassed the 2002 total by \$ 500.

Bill Eddy - NY2U, President of TARA came on the repeater immediately after the Net closed and praised Karen and the Public Service Team. He told the group that it was one of the finest and most well run public service events he had ever heard on-the-air and praised everyone for their professionalism.

The Public Service Team at this event were:

<b>Mac - KB2SPM</b>	<b>Karen - KB2UUC</b>
<b>Bill - KC2JDW</b>	<b>Steve - KF2WA</b>
<b>Ed - KC2HNC</b>	<b>Margaret - N2PEK</b>
<b>Dwight - N2SDL</b>	<b>June - KA2VEK</b>
<b>Ken - KB2KFBV</b>	<b>Marilyn - KB2JZI</b>
<b>Bill - W2STJ</b>	<b>Carla - KC2BKS</b>
<b>Randy - KA2TJZ</b>	<b>Art - KB2JZJ</b>
<b>Steve - N2PZP ( Bicycle Mobile)</b>	<b>Dick - N2MOA</b>

**As Always Gang , you did a fantastic job !!!**  
Thanks,

*Karen - KB2UUC*

# 73 Magazine says 73 and QRT

After completing 43 years of publication, 73 Amateur Radio Today magazine is calling it quits. Plans to publish a joint October/November issue fell through this week, and the September 2003 issue was the magazine's last. According to self-proclaimed "El Supremo and Founder" Wayne S. Green II, W2NSD, it was a simple matter of economics.

"After failing a last minute effort to collect on some larger accounts receivable we decided yesterday to throw in the towel--that the September issue will have to be the last," Green told ARRL October 9. "SK after 43 years of publishing."

The first issue of 73 was published in October 1960 from what Green--a former editor of CQ--once described as "a small, dingy apartment" in Brooklyn, New York. Since the summer of 1962, 73 has been based in Peterborough, New Hampshire--Green's home state. The magazine was a pioneer promoter of SSB, FM, solid-state, easy construction projects and the marriage of personal computing and Amateur Radio. His interest in micro computing led Green in 1975 to found Byte, a magazine devoted to the then-nascent and largely do-it-yourself computer hobby.

At the peak of its popularity in the 1970s and 1980s, individual issues of 73 totaled more than 300 pages of ads, articles and commentary. Heading each issue was Green's inimitable "Never Say Die"--some would say never-ending--editorial, in which he rarely missed an opportunity to tweak the ARRL and his magazine competitors for their perceived shortcomings.

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, says 73 published his first article in the 1970s. "I was saddened to hear that 73 has ceased publishing," Ford said. "Wayne's excitement about the growing amateur FM repeater phenomenon at the time was infectious."

Green's 73 editorials and regular round of personal appearances originally concentrated on Amateur Radio and his ideas to improve, advance and grow it. In recent years, however, they've veered into conspiracy theories, cures for cancer, AIDS and other ailments and Green's proliferation of book titles on those topics.



Green says he'll continue his essays on his Web site <http://www.waynecgreen.com> "for those subscribers who mainly bought the magazine for them." He told ARRL that no definite arrangements have been made yet about how to handle outstanding 73 subscriptions.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said he takes no joy from the passing of 73. "The loss of any publication serving Amateur Radio leaves all of us a bit poorer," he said. "Thank you, Wayne, for 43 entertaining, informative, sometimes infuriating, and always interesting years of 73. We'll genuinely miss it."

## Editorial Comment by Ken Davis- KB2KFV

I have been an avid radio enthusiast since the early sixties and enjoyed many of the publications that Wayne Green had worked for. Green and Jim Kyle [Jim Kyle's Magazine Work](#) worked together at CQ Magazine in the sixties and when Kyle discovered that Wayne Green had started 73 Magazine. Kyle contacted Green from the west coast and re-established their old friendship. Kyle wrote for 73 for a few years and continued to do so sporadically, until 1975. During the heyday of 73 during late 70's & early 80's, The magazine was filled with advertisers, homebrew projects and great amateur articles. Greens' amusing editorials were short, sweet and to the point back then. During the 90's the magazine seemed to take a turn, it became more of a forum for Waynes' writings and opinions and less of an amateur magazine. There were less home brew projects, fewer advertisers and generally it appeared that the magazine was downsizing.

Whoever was handling their subscription department and answered the phones in the late 90's had a generally bad attitude towards subscriber complaints. I once called with a complaint that the magazine was on the newsstand two weeks before the subscribers got 73 in the mail. Her brilliant response to me was, that maybe I should show my unhappiness by letting my subscription lapse and buy it in the store. This was definitely not in Mr. Green's best interest.

Shortly thereafter, 73 disappeared from local news stands in the Capital district around 2000. I continued to subscribe to 73 at that time, hoping that 73 would improve. I only had 3 months left on my subscription when they stopped publication, in October.

Maybe, Wayne Green could have served his amateur readers better by sticking with amateur radio topics rather than turning it into a forum for complaining and expressing his personal opinions about the entire world in an amateur radio magazine. Personally, I enjoyed reading his articles on conspiracies, but he should have started a new magazine called "Conspiracy Theories" and expressed those ideas there. 73 Magazine should have returned to the once successful roots that it came from.

**I will miss "73 Magazine" and what it once was.....**

# It Is The Veteran...

**It is the VETERAN, not the preacher,  
who has given us freedom of religion.**

**It is the VETERAN, not the reporter,  
who has given us freedom of the press.**

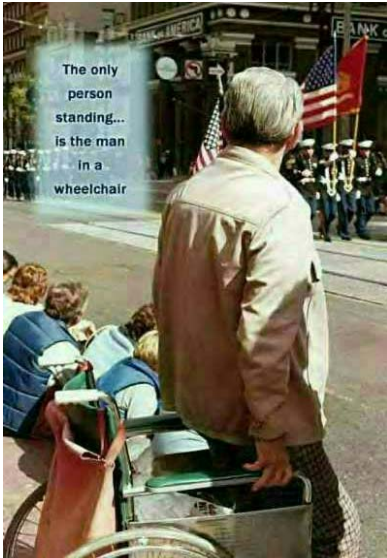
**It is the VETERAN, not the poet,  
who has given us freedom of speech.**

**It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer,  
who has given us freedom to assemble.**

**It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer,  
who has given us the right to a fair trial.**

**It is the VETERAN, not the politician,  
Who has given us the right to vote.**

**It is the VETERAN,  
who salutes the Flag,**



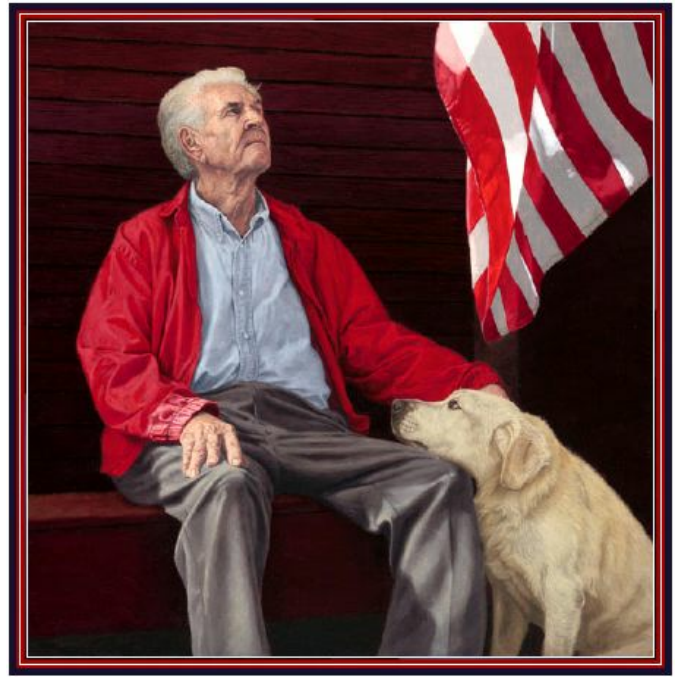
The only  
person  
standing...  
is the man  
in a  
wheelchair

**who serves under the Flag,**



**ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM LORD,  
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT  
SHINE UPON THEM.**

# VETERANS DAY



**I don't know if you saw this in the news but it  
really impressed me. All government in  
Washington, D.C. came to a standstill and  
closed for two days.**

**On the ABC evening news, it was reported  
that, because of the dangers from Hurricane  
Isabelle approaching Washington DC, the  
military members assigned the duty of  
guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier  
were given permission to suspend the  
assignment.**

**They refused. "No way, Sir!"**

**Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting  
rain of a tropical storm, they said that  
guarding the Tomb was not just an  
assignment, it was the highest honor that can  
be afforded to a serviceperson.**

**The tomb has been patrolled continuously,  
24/7, since 1930.**

**We can be very proud of our young men and  
women in the service no matter where they  
serve.**

**God Bless them.**

**Remember Our Veterans  
On November 11th**





# ***Frank's Funnies***

***By: Francis X. Ryan - KC2JRE***

## ***Follow ups to Murhpy's Law***

**Nothing is ever as simple as it seems.**

**If you fool around with a thing long enough, it will eventually break.**

**If you try to please everybody, somebody is not going to like it.**

**It is a fundamental law of nature that nothing ever quite works out.**

**It is easier to get into a thing than to get out of it.**

**If you explain something so clearly that no one can misunderstand, someone will.**

**Whatever you want to do, you have to do something else first.**

**It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious.**

**Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.**

**Rule of Accuracy: When working toward the solution of a problem, it always helps if you know the answer.  
Corollary: Provided, of course, that you know there is a problem.**

**Everything takes longer than you think.**

**If anything simply cannot go wrong, it will anyway.**

**Every solution breeds new problems.**

**You cannot successfully determine beforehand which side of the bread to butter.**

**The chance of the bread falling with the buttered side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.**

**You will always find something in the last place you look.**

**No matter how long or how hard you shop for an item, after you've bought it, it will be on sale somewhere cheaper.**

**The other queue always moves faster.**

**To get a loan, you must first prove you don't need it.**

**Anything you try to fix will take longer and cost you more than you thought.**

**If you fool around with a thing for very long you will screw it up.**

**If it jams - force it. If it breaks, it needed replacing anyway.**

**When a broken appliance is demonstrated for the repairman, it will work perfectly.**

**Build a system that even a fool can use, and only a fool will use it.**

**Everyone has a scheme for getting rich that will not work.**

**In any hierarchy, each individual rises to his own level of incompetence, and then remains there.**

**There's never time to do it right, but there's always time to do it over.**

**When in doubt, mumble. When in trouble, delegate.**

**Anything good in life is either illegal, immoral or fattening.**

**Murphy's golden rule: whoever has the gold makes the rules.**

**A Smith & Wesson beats four aces.**

**In case of doubt, make it sound convincing.**

**Never argue with a fool, people might not know the difference.**

**No good deed goes unpunished.**

**Penza's law about math lessons: The porter will knock at the door at the most crucial point of the lesson.**

**Where patience fails, force prevails.**



## ***The Annobon Island 3C0V DXpedition Ends Abruptly***

<http://personal.telefonica.terra.es/web/ea5yn/> ended abruptly October 4. Local officials reportedly ordered the operators to shut down and vacate the tiny, mountainous South Atlantic island. The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com> reports that at least three of the 3C0V operators have left Annobon--a part of Equatorial Guinea and located in the Gulf of Guinea off Africa's west coast--while one remained at last report. The Daily DX Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, got word of a very brief telephone call October 6 from the DXpedition to pilot station Gaby Mardiros, OD5NJ.

"Gaby received a 10 second phone call from EA5BYP, Elmo [Bernabe], who reported that 'the military soldiers allowed only the three operators to go back to Spain,'" McClenny said, adding that it appeared that that Franz Langner, DJ9ZB, Victor Polo, EA5FO, and Vicente Pastor, EA5YN, had been released but that EA5BYP--the team leader--would be remaining on the island. McClenny said the telephone call was cut off before Mardiros could obtain additional information. At week's end, The Daily DX reported that Langner was safely back in Germany, but there was no word concerning the other three operators.

Some initial reports indicated that local authorities had given the DXpeditioners 24 hours to pack up and get off Annobon "or else," McClenny said. The details surrounding the shut-down remain a mystery, however.

The 3C0V operation took to the air September 26. Although struggling with technical, antenna and weather issues, it was expected to remain operational until October 11. The team had managed to log numerous contacts on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters but had not yet activated the lower bands.

Also known as Pagalu, Annobon was the site of the 1993C0R DXpedition <http://web.jet.es/lynx/annobon/annobon.htm> in which EA5BYP and EA5YN operated.

### ***Update***

An update to the plight of the DXpedition group forced to flee Annobon Island a few weeks ago. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, is in Nottingham England with the rest of the story.

We reported two weeks ago that the 3C0V DX pedition to Annobon Island -off the west coast of Africa - had been forced to close down but at that time the reason for the enforced closure was not known. A press release has now been issued by the 3C0V team which says that all four operators - DJ9ZB, EA5YN, EA5FO and EA5BYP - are now back home safe and sound. The press release says that each operator had proper individual licences and the group had written authorisation to import and operate amateur radio equipment on the island. However, on the 4th of October the military authorities there demanded that the group should dismantle the stations and leave for the Equatorial Guinea capital. Two days later DJ9ZB and EA5FO were allowed to leave the country but the other two team members remained in the capital until the 10th, when they were eventually able to return to Spain.

**Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.**

## ***WB2HKU gets new Vanity Call W2JIO with special meaning***

It's official! I, now, have a new amateur radio call sign, W2JIO! In September 1962, I became a student of the New York Institute For The Education Of The Blind, (now known as the New York Institute For Special Education), in Bronx, New York. My Radio-Electronics instructor was a knowledgeable gentleman by the name of Robert W. Gunderson. Mr. Gunderson or "Gun", as we called him, held the amateur radio call sign W2JIO. "Gun" was responsible for me, and several other blind students obtaining their amateur radio licenses. Unfortunately, he, Mr. Gunderson, passed away, becoming a "silent key", in the Winter of 1987.

Since that time, I've always wanted the W2JIO call sign. After FCC rules were modified, allowing licensed amateur radio operators to modify their call signs, I gave serious consideration to applying for the W2JIO call sign. Finally, I made the big move, filing for good old W2JIO. On Saturday, October 11, 2003, the FCC granted me my request for W2JIO.

Special thanks go to Dave Galletly, KM2O, for mentoring me on the call sign modification procedure, and my Wife, Kathy, N2SQY, for assisted me in filing, electronically, for my new callsign.

Yes, WB2HKU served me well, for many rich years of amateur radio enjoyment and service. However, the time has arrived to place WB2HKU in its appropriate place, and place W2JIO in operation for someone who has an enormous amount of respect for "Gun", Robert W. Gunderson, the fine gentleman who blazed the trail for so many blind amateur radio operators.

Best regards,

**Frank Casey, W2JIO**

[frcasey@nycap.rr.com](mailto:frcasey@nycap.rr.com)

If you are considering getting a new vanity call, this site will prove to be invaluable [N4MC's Vanity HQ](#)

## ***A.T.V.E.T. Final Exam Session for 2003***

**Make sure you bring two proofs of identification, with one being a picture ID. Also bring all of your original documentation (current license, CSCE's ...etc.), along with photocopies, calculators, pens and pencils to the exam session.**

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

**ATVET CONTACT: Nels Williams**

**[wb2sbo@aol.com](mailto:wb2sbo@aol.com) or 518-439-7357**

**ATVET LIAISON: Gerald Murray,**

**[atvet@n2ty.org](mailto:atvet@n2ty.org) or 518-482-8700**



# ***VIRGINIA BPL STARTUP SPARKS ARRL RESPONSE***

The ARRL this week put officials in Manassas, Virginia, on notice that the League will act on behalf of its members to ensure full compliance with FCC regulations when the city's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) system starts up in a few months. The League was responding to media reports that Manassas--a Washington, DC, suburb--has approved plans for a citywide BPL rollout. Manassas City Council reportedly voted unanimously October 16 to grant a 10-year franchise to Prospect Street Broadband to expand a BPL field trial and offer high-speed Internet service to the entire community over municipal power lines. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, on October 22 faxed Manassas Mayor Marvin L. Gillum to point out BPL's dark side--the potential for RF interference from and to any BPL system.

"Your advisors no doubt have made the Council fully aware of the great potential for radio interference from such a system," Sumner said. "In particular, you are no doubt well aware that Title 47 CFR 5 requires that no harmful interference is caused to any radiocommunication service, and that the operator shall be required to cease operation upon notification by a Federal Communications Commission representative that the device is causing harmful interference." Sumner noted that the same FCC Part 15 rule also provides no protection against interference from the operation of an authorized radio station.

"Tests conducted by ARRL technical personnel have shown that the system planned to be deployed in Manassas causes harmful interference to the Amateur Radio service," Sumner said. "We also have reason to believe that the system will be susceptible to interference from normal amateur station operations."

An article in Potomac News.com touted the impending Manassas BPL rollout as the first of its type in the US. Sumner said he was writing to alert the City of Manassas "on behalf of its members who live in and use the public thoroughfares of Manassas" that the ARRL "will ensure that there is full compliance with the FCC regulations" once the city's BPL system is in operation.

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Prospect Street Broadband reportedly will offer the BPL service for \$29.95 a month. One estimate predicts the city stands to gain up to \$4.5 million over the 10-year life of the contract, due to be signed this week.

The Manassas BPL field trial is one of the smallest now under way and involves fewer than a dozen homes and businesses. It was installed in an area that has underground utility wiring and no Amateur Radio licensees nearby.

BPL articles in major media have proliferated in recent weeks, many of them painting the service in rosy hues and neglecting to point out the potential for radio interference to and from BPL by other HF spectrum occupants. An October 13 article in The Wall Street Journal, "A New Outlet," by Walin Wong, quotes one trial user who calls the service "fantastic." But Wong also notes that one "Achilles' heel" of BPL is that serving rural areas would require installing costly repeaters every mile or so along the power line. The article also deals with the reluctance on the part of some electric utilities to embrace the technology.

Sumner also reacted to the WSJ article. In a letter to the editor not yet published, he pointed out that BPL "amounts to sending a wideband radio signal over unshielded wires that were not designed for the purpose" and that do not work well for the 2 to 80 MHz signals common in BPL systems. Instead, "they function as antennas," he said, and that can lead to interference to radio services, including some involved with public safety.

Sumner said potential broadband technology and delivery investors would be far better off considering fiber in densely populated areas and adaptations of wireless LAN technology in rural areas.

Additional information on BPL and video clips from field trial sites are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc>. To support the League's efforts in the BPL fight, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site: <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl>

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Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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

**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 18, 2003**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Green Island Municipal Center**

**Intersection of**

**George St. & Hudson Ave.**

**Green Island, New York**

**Ample Parking**

**Parking Lot on Hudson Ave.**

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