

December 2020

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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## No Party? No Problem!

## Santa Has Gifts to Give Anyway!

For the first time in club history, the annual Holiday Party won't be held this year because of the continuing Covid-19 Pandemic. But, that doesn't mean Santa won't be bringing presents to some lucky club members!

On Wednesday, December 23rd at 7 pm, Santa will join the monthly on-air EGARA Roundtable to draw gift winners at random from among all of the club's members. Gifts in Santa's bag will include:



- Complete Six Volume Set ARRL Handbook
- BTECH UV-5x3 Tri-Band HT Radio with accessories
  - MFJ Atomic Clock
  - EGARA baseball caps
  - Yaesu Baseball Caps
  - and more!

Members do not have to join the December 23rd on-air holiday party to win gifts, but everyone's participation is welcome. So plan to join in on December 23rd as we celebrate Christmas over the airwaves!

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### Club Gains Two New Members!

The EGARA family has grown again with the addition of two new members during November.

Mike Shanahan, WO2H, has rejoined the club and brings with him certification as a Volunteer Examiner, adding to the club's ranks of those authorized to give FCC exams. Mike is also the Emergency Coordinator for Rensselaer County ARES/RACES (see related story on page 3).

Also coming aboard is Elvin "Rusty" Reed, KD2UFC, of Loudonville. He holds a General class ticket. Both members also belong to ARRL, which helps maintain EGARA's designation as an affiliated member of the League. They bring total club membership to 64, including three members who are overseas.

Please welcome Mike and Rusty to EGARA!

Next Membership Meeting - December 9, 2020 - via 147.270 Repeater @ 7 pm

## Celebrating the History of Ham Radio through Boat Anchor Restoration

By Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR



An example of a late 1950's 6 meter transmitter paired with an early 60's receiver for 6 meter AM (with a vintage microphone, of course!)

As many of you know, I'm a big fan of so-called legacy radio equipment. You know, the type that may include vacuum tubes and cloth-covered wiring. You may wonder why. Simply stated, it's a way to reconnect with the past and to bring attention to how the amateur community got to where we are today.

Older equipment is frequently sold on eBay or other websites. Sometimes, it can be obtained as an outright gift – from people who are clearing out their basement or garage, or just want to find a good home for radio ephemera that once belonged to a loved one. Hamfests, (when they resume post-Covid-19) are also an obvious way to acquire an older piece of ham gear. I have been quite fortunate to have obtained my older equipment in this way.

After finding that sought-after treasure, one must plan to carefully inspect that addition to your collection. That usually begins with a thorough physical inspection and cleaning, making note of missing hardware, damaged wiring, or empty tube sockets. In addition, a search must be made to find the appropriate schematic and manual. Often, there are many variations and changes made to the basic design during the production of each piece of apparatus. Some differences are quite subtle, others not so.

It is necessary to observe caution and take necessary steps to safely power on the older equipment. That should include a variac (variable a/c transformer) and a grounded power source. There are several websites which address this and other safety considerations. Once powered on, another inspection must be made to check for proper voltages and to determine what repairs are necessary to restore the unit to proper performance. Proper test equipment is a necessity.

All of this is, of course, an oversimplification, but should serve to give one an idea of some of the very basics that must be followed in order to return that old “boat anchor” radio back to its former glory.

The process of resurrecting these old radios brings a great deal of satisfaction: first the hunt, the repair and restoration, and the big moment of truth when it is finally powered on and put back into operation. That is just one facet of the ham radio hobby, and results in establishing a vintage station and enjoying its use. There are even nets which meet regularly to commemorate these older vintage radios. The net schedules are available on the Internet. You can see some examples of vintage equipment in QST's Vintage Radio column.

If you want to experience the thrill of operating the old equipment, don't be afraid to try – there are many resources to offer help and members of your club can assist, too. Besides the chance to own and operate one of these relics from amateur radio antiquity, you may learn some new skills in the process of acquiring, researching, and restoring one of these old radio golden oldies!

Keep the filaments bright! 73 until next time!

## A Message from Mike Shanahan, WO2H

### Rensselaer County ARES/RACES Emergency Coordinator

Rensselaer Co ARES/RACES provides emergency communications support for the Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety in the event of a system failure or whenever extra radio communications coverage is needed for our area.

In the past we have made our own NVIS antennas that are field tunable for both for voice and digital sections of the 160, 80 and 40 meter bands. We have tested it extensively through out the county and have had very good success with it. We have focused on project extensively, as the geographic of the county can sometimes be tough for repeater coverage.

Other activities include our current training on Winlink and we participated in the national drill with the American Red Cross on November 14th

On a positive note, the 147.18 repeater in Grafton is back in the air with new equipment. The gear and antenna are all located in the building and on the tower that supports public safety communications. So far we have had great reports of coverage with this repeater.



In the near future we also hope to have the 146.76 also back on the air at Samaritan Hospital in Troy with new equipment as well. Once in operation, the two repeaters will be linked together for even greater coverage.

We appreciate the help and support of the County's Public Safety Bureau for helping us purchase some of the equipment. We also wish to thank Bob Isby, K2RHI for helping us getting the equipment installed.

We also have weekly nets on the 147.18 repeater Thursday at 7:30 pm except the third Thursday when we have our in person zoom meeting. All of these events can be found on ARES Connect website at: <http://vhub.at/aresconnect-ENY>.

In addition, if you are not a member on ARES Connect, please feel free to sign up. Through this system we are able to track service hours donated by Amateur Radio operators and demonstrate the value of their work.

If anyone would like more info on any of the above topics or are interested in helping out, please contact, me at [WO2H@nycap.rr.com](mailto:WO2H@nycap.rr.com).

Finally, thanks for the warm welcome back as a returning member of EGARA. I wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

73,  
Mike

## EGARA November Meeting Minutes

EGARA held two virtual meetings during November, the first serving as the club's regular monthly meeting and the second as the Roundtable meeting that is held the fourth Wednesday of the month. Items that were discussed included:

- Treasurer Don Mayotte, KB2CDX, called the monthly meeting to order on November 11th at 7 pm using the club's 147,270 Repeater. Ten members checked-in. As the meeting fell on Veterans Day, all club members who are Veterans were acknowledged and thanked for their service to the nation;
- President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, brought members up to date on a number of items. They included that the club's application for 501c3 status is still pending with the IRS; Maintenance was performed on the club's 444.700 mhz repeater to resolve some technical issues; Orders for club hats are still available; A VE exam session will be held on November 21st for a club member who wants to upgrade their license. Other members may also want to take advantage of the session if they are also seeking to upgrade; New club member Mike Shanahan, WO2H, was welcomed; Members were reminded to submit their classified listings for the newsletter.
- Treasurer Don Mayotte reported that the club had received additional dues from members and reminded everyone that although they can pay dues early, they will be for the entire 2021 calendar year;
- There were no items to be reported by the Vice President or Secretary;
- It was announced that the annual Holiday Party will not be held this year due to the continuing pandemic. Instead a holiday party will be held on the air and a random drawing will be held to give out gifts;
- The meeting concluded at 7:25 pm and the repeater was returned to general use.

## Gina's a General!

### VE Sessions Get Underway Again for Club Members

With the pandemic canceling many VE sessions -- EGARA's included -- it's been frustrating for many would-be Hams to get their tickets. And, it's been even more frustrating for operators looking to upgrade their existing license class. With that in mind, EGARA held its first "member only" VE exam session on November 21st.

Four club VEs worked together to give the General Class test to Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC, who was looking to upgrade from her Technician ticket. After much studying and hard work, she easily passed her exam, giving herself an early Christmas present. She also earned well deserved congratulations from the club's VE crew, as well as her dad, Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO, who was on hand as well.

To ensure the safety of everyone involved, face masks were required to be worn at all times. In addition, precautions were taken to observe social distancing among all of the participants and hand sanitizer was available for use after handling the test materials and paperwork.



**Gina (center) holds her General exam "passed" certificate with the VEs -- (L to R) Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU, Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL, Russ Greenman, WB2LXC, and Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ.**

"The test session went as planned and it was very satisfying to help a club member who wanted to take her Amateur Radio skills to the next level," said Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU, one of the VEs who administered the exam.

EGARA members who wish to take their FCC exam can do so by requesting that a VE session be held for them. Requests can be made by email to Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, at W2RBJ@outlook.com. A time that is mutually convenient for the applicant and the examiners will then be scheduled. The club hopes to resume public testing some time in 2021 as the pandemic eases.

## On the Beam

### News & Notes

### Universal Radio Closing After 37 Years in Business



Long-time Amateur Radio supplier Universal Radio has decided to close its doors after nearly four decades in business, according to owners Fred Osterman, N8EKU and his wife, Barbara Osterman, KC8VWI. While its physical store closed November 30th, its online site at [www.universal-radio.com](http://www.universal-radio.com) will remain open for the foreseeable future as it sells off its remaining inventory. Universal carries both new and used equipment at competitive prices.

“We have met many wonderful people along the journey who have supported me personally as well as Universal Radio. It has been a privilege to have a continuous career in the fascinating field of radio since 1969,” the couple wrote on the company’s website.

Universal’s new address for correspondence and mail order is: Universal Radio Inc., 752 N. State St. Unit 222, Westerville, OH 43082. It can also be reached by phone at: Phone: 614 866-4267.

### Congressional Resolution Seeks to Recognize Amateur Radio Contributions

U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Lesko (AZ-08) introduced a resolution to designate April 18, 2021, as National Amateur Radio Operators Day to recognize the important contributions of amateur radio operators to our nation.

“It is my honor to introduce this legislation to honor the important contributions of amateur radio operators in Arizona and across our nation,” said Congresswoman Lesko. “Amateur radio operators are critical in times of crisis and our communities are safer thanks to their dedication to sharing important information with the public.”

Lesko was approached to introduce this resolution by a young amateur radio operator, Raymond Smith, KA6TQT, from Peoria, Arizona.

### SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020 - Making Adjustments for COVID-19



Since 1999, the annual SKYWARN™ Recognition Day celebrates the long relationship between the amateur community and the National Weather Service program. The purpose of the event is to recognize amateurs for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service.

Normally each year, radio amateurs participate from home stations and from stations at National Weather Service (NWS) forecast offices with the goal of making contact with as many offices as possible. However, this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, participation from NWS forecast offices will be minimal at best. The focus will shift to contacting as many SKYWARN trained spotters as possible during the event.

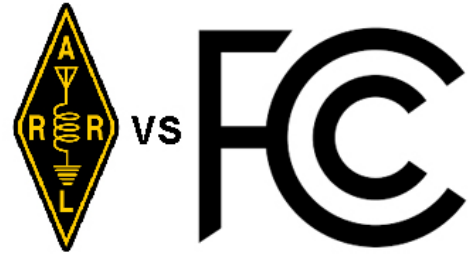
Radio amateurs who wish to participate may sign up for a SKYWARN Recognition Day number by completing the form found on the SRD 2020 website. During the event, operators are encouraged to exchange their name, QTH, SRD number, and current weather conditions with other participating stations. See the event website for the full operating guidelines at: <https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>.

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020 will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC December 5.

## ARRL Petitions FCC for Reconsideration of Order Removing 3.4 GHz Amateur Allocation

ARRL has petitioned the FCC to reconsider its order removing the <sup>46</sup> secondary amateur allocation at 3.3 - 3.5 GHz and requiring that amateur operations in the 3.450 - 3.500 GHz band cease "on a date consistent with the first possible grant of flexible use authorizations to new users."

ARRL said the public interest is in using the spectrum, not in leaving it vacant waiting for some future application. "The Commission's decision in this proceeding undermines its long-standing policy objective to provide for and encourage more intensive use of spectrum," ARRL said.



"The Commission's decision to remove the amateur secondary allocation throughout the 3300 - 3500 MHz band," ARRL said, "appears to be based upon a mistaken conclusion that amateur secondary 'sharing' of this spectrum is equivalent to the type of 'sharing' that occurs with primary government and other primary commercial users, when in fact amateur secondary operations are quite different in usage, scope, and signal range."

ARRL outlined a number of ways radio amateurs use the band.

ARRL said that weak-signal point-to-point amateur communication often applies new technologies, methodologies, and coding to improve the communications capability of equipment. "Since the purpose of this type of activity is to hear or decode weak signals, operators use every possible means to avoid frequencies with other signals."

Amateurs also operate radio beacons to study propagation, contributing to a better understanding of propagation in the 3.4 GHz range, ARRL said. "Amateur beacons are fixed and low power, and therefore relatively easy to engineer into the environment if other users initiate operations, or to relocate or shut down if they cannot be 'engineered in.'"

ARRL's petition also cited Moonbounce as another aspect of amateur operation. "This field of activity has led to a chain of improvements in antennas and equipment design in the 3.4 GHz spectrum," ARRL asserted, and is extremely unlikely to interfere with terrestrial services.

Amateur satellites could also use the 3.4 - 3.41 GHz band with minimal likelihood to present interference concerns due to the signals' low power and narrow antenna beam widths. Additionally, uplinks employ antennas that point skyward, further minimizing any possible area of concern. "Other frequencies will not necessarily be available when needed, and this limitation threatens to constrain future experiments with space communications technologies as the number of amateur satellite experiments increase in number and purpose," ARRL said.

The 3.3 - 3.5 GHz band also is used for digital high-speed data mesh networks and for amateur TV repeaters. "Design of and work with mesh networks has attracted an ongoing stream of computer-literate youth to the amateur ranks," ARRL contended. "The networks themselves are commonly employed for digital experimentation with a wide range of technologies and services, with a bedrock purpose of emergency readiness and availability during actual emergencies. ARRL noted that the greater the number of available band choices, the more likely that a suitable link could be engineered for a specific path.

ARRL said that these and other amateur experimental activities make good use of the spectrum, "and should be permitted to continue on a secondary basis unless and until a new primary licensee is ready to operate in a geographic area where interference would result."

## Final Results In for Field Day 2020

ARRL has published the final totals for Field Day 2020. Of course, this year's ARRL Field Day was unlike any other. With most of the country under restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many groups chose to participate from their home stations as Class D or E entrants, rather than gathering as a large group. But FD 2020 was still a success, with a total of 10,213 entries from 18,886 participants.



EGARA reported 3,125 contacts with 10 members participating. All worked as either Class D (commercial power) or Class E (emergency power) stations. Field Day totals for other area clubs were:

<u>Club</u>	<u>Contacts</u>	<u>Participants Reporting</u>
Albany ARA	13,728	12
Fulton County ARA	3,500	4
Rip Van Winkle	2,014	3
Saratoga ARA	7,408	15
Troy ARA	778	4
Warren County ARA	6,270	4

2020 Field Day Overall Statistics	
Number of Participants:	18,886
Total Entries:	10,213
Checklogs:	610
CW QSOs:	821,190
Digital QSOs:	380,317
Phone QSOs:	661,478
Total QSOs:	1,862,985

The 2021 ARRL Field Day will take place on June 26 – 27.

## Please Support Our EGARA 2021 Hamfest Sponsors

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## The History of Ham Radio: Transcons at Record Speed

Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

The League ran another round of transcontinental relays over several nights in January 1921, setting new records for coast-to-coast round-trip message relaying. Maxim's station, 1AW, participated in several of them, even unplanned ones, operating all night with several guests sharing the duties as operators.

On the first night, 14 January, the Hartford Courant and Los Angeles Times editors exchanged greetings, as did the editors at The San Francisco Examiner and Boston American. The second night, the mayors of Hartford and Los Angeles exchanged messages, along with the editors at The Boston Globe and San Francisco Chronicle, and those at the Ellendale, North Dakota Leader and The New Orleans Item. And on the third night, the Elks in the two Portlands, Oregon and Maine, exchanged messages from their respective mayors in just an hour and 21 minutes.

Though not as good as on previous nights, conditions on the final night seemed good enough for an all-out record speed attempt, with light strays in the east and an intense rain storm in the west.

Anticipation again ran high and Warner pondered the compelling draw of such on-air collaborations, writing,

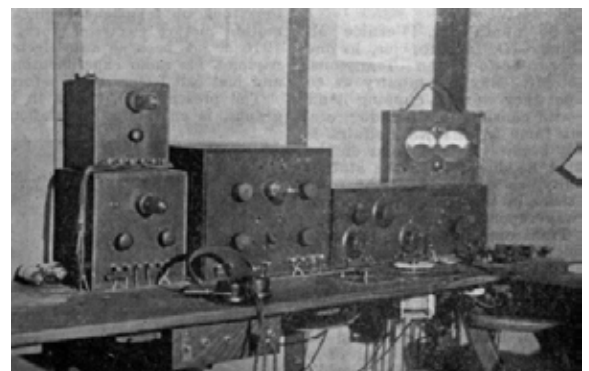
*"There is really something very theatric in the line-up for a big Transcon test. We have been interested in radio for a good many years, and we have seen a good deal of it from the amateur side, but the wonder of it never palls. There is a genuine fascination for us on any old night when we marvel of our ability to sit in a half-darkened room before a little collection of instruments, with the audions dimly glowing and hear the messages from our friends come buzzing in thru the night. How much greater the thrill, then, on this eventful night as the entire country got set for the endeavor to hang up a new speed record."*



A. E. Bessey, 6ZK

The special message was postponed until 3:00 a.m. to allow conditions to improve and perhaps quiet down a bit. Stations then fell silent in response to "QRX pse OM transcons," leaving the airwaves to only those directly participating in the tests. "The great organization of the A.R.R.L. was clearing decks for action," wrote Warner. "From 3 o'clock until 4:45 not a signal was audible at 1AW when 9ZN was silent ... yet hundreds upon hundreds of stations were QRX with eager ears, and the very air was tense."

Five round-trip messages were planned to be sent by Maxim and Schnell at 1AW to Pacific Division Director A. E. Bessey at 6ZK in Sunnyvale. The first one traveled out and back in 23 minutes triggering many intermediate relays to be "clipped off at a speed around 30 w.p.m." The second one never reached 6ZK due in part to poor conditions but also because he simply was not expecting a second message, having received incomplete instructions.



6ZK, Sunnyvale

-continued on page 9 -

## Transcons at Record Speed...

But 29-year-old Californian Vernice M. Bitz at 6JD, who had been one of the intermediate relayers, intercepted it and sent a reply himself that was received just minutes later by 1AW. A stickler for detail, Maxim nevertheless considered this a failure since the reply did not come from the addressee.

No matter. On the third try, 1AW changed his target to try a round trip to 6JD, who immediately dashed off a reply “right out of his head.” This third message set the new round-trip speed record of 6-1/2 minutes, Hartford to Los Angeles and back again, via four relay stations each way.

The bugs in Hartford were jubilant. 1AW sent a fourth message simply asking “6JD—How does Calif regard prohibition —Maxim.”

13-1/2 minutes later the reply arrived: “Mr Maxim—Calif is supposed to be dry but it is very wet here now it has been raining all day—V M Bitz.”



**Vernice M. Bitz, 6JD**



The test ended with a QST message reporting the new records and thanking all involved. Success that night was due every bit as much to cooperation by everyone on the sidelines in clearing the air as it was to the skill and persistence of the direct participants. The ARRL would now make the Transcons a yearly event.

The New York Times reported the new record in a short article, noting a “new civilian wireless record,” crediting Maxim and the ARRL.

**Left: Bitz's 6JD, Los Angeles**

## *Thanks for Your Support!*

EGARA recognizes with grateful appreciation the following members who have paid their 2021 dues!

- Lee Hatfield, K2HAT
- Fred Carroll, AJ4CN
- Elvin “Rusty” Reed, KD2UFC
- Mike Shanahan, WO2H
- Randy Brinson, KD2TGR

Online payment is quick, easy and safe!

Just visit:

<https://www.egara.club/pay-dues>

## AMSAT 2020 Space Symposium Video Now Online

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



The 38th AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting was held online on October 17, 2020. I'm kinda bummed about this because I just joined AMSAT, but somehow, I managed to miss this event. Fortunately, the symposium was recorded and is now online, and I've been enjoying watching the video which is available on YouTube at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHDgrI\\_w8hY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHDgrI_w8hY).

The video includes updates on AMSAT projects and presentations on amateur satellite technology. For details on presenter names and presentation titles, visit the AMSAT website. AMSAT members can access the Symposium Proceedings on the AMSAT website as well. The proceedings for all the AMSAT Symposiums are available there as well, but you do have to be an AMSAT member.

Here's a list of the different presentations on the video and the times at which they start:

- 0:00:00 Welcome
- 0:02:07 AMSAT GOLF-TEE System Overview and Development Status
- 0:43:02 GOLF IHU Coordination
- 1:19:10 GOLF Downlink Coordination
- 1:50:15 FUNcube Next
- 2:13:50 LunART – Luna Amateur Radio Transponder
- 2:45:35 CatSat HF Experiment Overview
- 3:13:30 Neutron-1 CubeSat
- 3:39:58 Progress and Development of Open Source Electric Propulsion for Nanosats and Picosats
- 4:15:00 AMSAT Education
- 5:14:00 ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) / AREx (Amateur Radio Exploration)
- 6:14:00 AMSAT Engineering
- 7:21:16 AMSAT Annual General Meeting

So far, I've only watched the GOLF-TEE System Overview and the AMSAT Education presentation. They were both interesting and I'm looking forward to watching the others.

I really hadn't been keeping up with AMSAT lately, so the presentation on the GOLF project was definitely news to me. GOLF is an ambitious project aimed at sending up high Earth orbit (HEO) satellites. GOLF is short for "Greater Orbits Larger (user communication) Footprints." This is really pretty exciting stuff.

Watching these presentations really gives one an appreciation for the work that goes into the design of these satellites and the technical skills and dedication of the hams working on these projects. These guys are not getting paid to do any of this work, and as Eric Skoog, K1TVV, the GOLF System Engineer said in his presentation, "Space is hard."

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not trying to work the satellites, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands.

**Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a  
Happy and Safe New Year  
From the EGARA Officers and Board Members**



## International Broadcast Station Interference Overwhelms Hurricane Watch Net

As Category 4 Hurricane Iota neared landfall in Central America on November 16, the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) was forced to suspend operations at 0300 UTC because of what HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, described as "deafening interference from a foreign AM broadcast station that came out of nowhere at 0200 UTC." At the time, the net had shifted to its 40-meter frequency of 7.268 kHz, collecting real-time weather and damage reports via amateur radio.

"This was heartbreaking for our team, as the eye wall of Iota was just barely offshore," Graves said. "The storm had weakened slightly to a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 155 MPH." After activating at 1300 UTC, the net was able to collect and forward reports from various parts of Nicaragua and Honduras via WX4NHC throughout the day for relay to forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Iota was the most powerful storm on record to make landfall this late in the hurricane season.

Graves said the very strong AM signal was on 7.265 MHz. "From my location, it was S-9," he told ARRL. "You could not hear anything but the BC station." Graves noted that other foreign broadcast stations were heard from 7.265 to 7.300 MHz and splattering close by. The offending signal appeared to be from a 500 kW broadcaster in Turkey. Graves said the HWN has a long history on 7.268 MHz, but that the net is now considering a 40-meter frequency below 7.2 MHz.

Stations handling emergency traffic during the response to Category 5 Hurricane Iota had requested clear frequencies on November 16 to avoid interfering with the HWN and with WX4NHC, as well as with a Honduran emergency net operation on 7.180 MHz and a Nicaraguan emergency net operating on 7.098 MHz. It's not known if those nets were also affected by interference from the numerous broadcasters on 40 meters.

## ARRL Seeks Waiver of Proposed FCC Amateur Application Fees

ARRL has urged the FCC to waive its proposed \$50 amateur radio application fee. The proposal was made last month in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The proposal has already drawn more than 3,200 individual comments overwhelmingly opposed to the plan. The fees, directed by Congress and imposed on all FCC-regulated services, are to recover the FCC's costs of handling and processing applications.

"Amateur radio applications were not listed when the Congress adopted its 1985 fee schedule for applications, and therefore amateur license applications were excluded from the collection of fees," ARRL said on November 16 in its formal comments on the proposal. "Similarly, a decade later when regulatory fees were authorized, the Amateur Service was excluded, except for the costs associated with issuing vanity call signs." The new statutory provisions are similar. Amateur radio license applications are not addressed in the application fees section and explicitly excluded from regulatory fees," ARRL said, and there is "no evidence of any intent by Congress to change the exempt status of amateur applications.

ARRL argued that the FCC has explicit authority to waive the fees if it would be in the public interest, and should do so for the Amateur Radio Service. Unlike other services, the Amateur Radio Service is all volunteer and largely self-governing, with exam preparation, administration, and grading handled by volunteers, who submit licensing paperwork to the FCC.

In 2019, ARRL and the FCC signed a memorandum to renew and enhance the ARRL's Volunteer Monitor program, relieving the Commission of significant time-consuming aspects of enforcement. These volunteer services lessen the regulatory burden -- including the application burden -- on the Commission's resources and budget in ways that licensees in other services do not, ARRL said.

Amateur radio's role in providing emergency and disaster communication, education, and other volunteer services also justifies exempting radio amateurs from FCC application fees. Additionally, amateur radio has also motivated many students to develop critical science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills. ARRL noted that the Amateur Radio Service contributes to the advancement of the radio art, advances skills in communication and technology, and expands the existing reservoir of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts -- all expressed bases and purposes of the Amateur Radio Service. "Accomplishing these purposes entails working with young people, many of whom may have difficulty paying the proposed application fees," ARRL said.

ARRL concluded that the FCC should exercise its authority to exempt amateur radio from application fees generally. If the FCC cannot see its way clear to waive fees altogether, it should waive them for applicants age 26 and younger.

# CALENDAR

**December 9, 2020 - 7 pm** - Monthly club meeting over 147.270 club repeater.

**December 9, 2020 - 5:30 pm** - VE test session, TRYON Amateur Radio Club. Contact: Don Gifford, 518-752-9226, Email: WA2EZ@live.com

**December 13, 2010 - 12 pm** - VE test session, CARES, Shaker Road Fire Department, 550 Albany Shaker Rd., Loudonville NY. Contact: Glenn Cooper, 518-482-5584, Email: wb2fod@arrl.net

**December 23, 2020 - 7 pm** - EGARA On-Air Christmas Party and Roundtable on 147.270 repeater

## Pro Tip: Extend the Range of Your HT

HT radios are great for communicating on the go, but if you're frustrated with the range of your HT, there's several things you can do to improve it:

1. **Get it off your belt!** A transceiver located next to you, especially with an antenna pressed against your body is operating at a big disadvantage. If you are outdoors and in good range of the repeater, you may have no problem being heard. But move indoors and a waist mounted radio is all but useless.
2. **Hold it right!** Some people hold their radio horizontally with the microphone all but covered up by their hand. Not only does the covered mic muffle the sound, but with the antenna in a horizontal position, your radiated signal becomes horizontally polarized. A good repeater may be able to pick up this signal, but move to a compromised location and all the repeater will receive is a muffled, scratchy signal.
3. **To increase your range, consider an after market antenna.** Stock antennas are often not much better than a dummy load. Many brands and styles are available. Most of them also claim outrageous gain figures, so take those numbers with a grain of salt. But none the less, most any after market antenna will outperform the one that originally came with your radio.



### For Sale

- **Ameritron 811 Amplifier** with latest updates. Worn parts replaced. Does not include tubes. Asking \$450. Email wo2h@nycap.rr.com phone 518-860-4971
- 
- **QYT KT-7900D 25 watt Quad Band Mobile Radio** 136-174/220-270/350-390/400-480mhz, with mike and cigarette 12v power plug. Like new. \$45.  
**Contact Bryan at: W2RBJ@outlook.com**
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- **Arrow Model 52-S4** - 4-Element 6 Meter Yagi antenna in good condition. \$75.00  
**Contact Steve at: svansick@nycap.rr.com**
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- **IFR-1100S Service Monitor. With Spectrum Analyzer and Oscilloscope.** Tested, Preventive Maintenance and Calibrated (\$895) last year. AM - FM, CTCSS Generator, In very good condition. 900.00 or reasonable offer.
- **Military Watt Meter AN/URM-120 B/U 2 to 1000 MHZ** Complete and with Carrying Case. In excellent condition. Never abused or used on the road. Great Shack / Bench Watt Meter. \$100.00 or reasonable offer.
- **Yaesu FT-2900 Programing Software by RT Systems** Cable included. Registered, includes password. \$35.00  
**Contact John WB2HZZ at: Radiowizz@aol.com**
- 
- **Yaesu FT2DR/DE Digital Transceiver** with Original box and parts. Added accessories: Diamond SRH77CZ antenna, Yaesu MH-34 Microphone, Yaesu SDD-13 charger (for mobile) \$ 375.00 offers considered. Excellent condition. Sells new for \$419 without extra's.
- **Alinco DJ-596 2M/440 analog Transceiver** with MFJ-1715 antenna, optional Battery Case (AA batteries), with Chargers including mobile. \$30.00
- **Cisco Linksys Router EA6300** \$25.00
- **Cisco Linksys Router EA3500** \$20.00  
**Contact Fred, AJ4CN at: aj4cn@twc.com**
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- Gear to Sell, Swap or Buy?**  
Send your listing to W2RBJ@Outlook.com

### The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.