Sidebands

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

W2EGB

www.egara.org

May 2025

May Meeting: Hamfest Planning

EGARA's annual Hamfest is on tap for Saturday, June 7th and planning for the event will be the main topic of May's membership meeting. Once again, the club's Hamfest will be held at the East Greenbush Fire Department pavilion located on Phillips Road.

Although the club and its members have years of experience putting its Hamfest together and operating it, there are many details that need to be worked out to ensure each one is successful. In addition to assigning the various jobs involved, planning for food service and vendor space must be handled. In particular, pricing for food needs to be analyzed and updated due to rising costs.

This year's event will also offer a new feature -- a testing area for those who want to check out gear before they purchase it. Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR, has graciously offered to supply the test equipment that can be used to ensure gear is in good operating condition or to identify any issues that might need to be addressed.

All club members are being urged to attend the May meeting to assist with the planning, scheduling and any concerns that need to be resolved. Success of the EGARA's annual Hamfest is important to the financial stability of the club and to cover expenses related to its operation, including items such as liability insurance, Internet service and maintenance of its repeaters.

In This Issue

April Election Brings Leadership Change

EGARA's annual election brought with it a new club President -- Pat Negus, KD2ZQR. He replaced Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, in the post, with Jackson moving to the President Emeritus spot.

Also returned to office were three incumbents, Vice President Walt Snyder, N2WJR, Treasurer Peter Brickman, KD2YLG, and Secretary David Jaeger, Jr., K2DEJ.

Two open seats on the board were also filled by Jackson and Don Mayotte, KB2CDX. Board members normally serve for three years, with each seat up for election on a staggered basis.

Pat Negus, KD2ZQR (right) took over as President after being elected at the April membership meeting. Walt Snyder, N2WJR, was returned as V.P.

Membership Meeting - May 8, 2025 - 7 pm - Hamfest planning

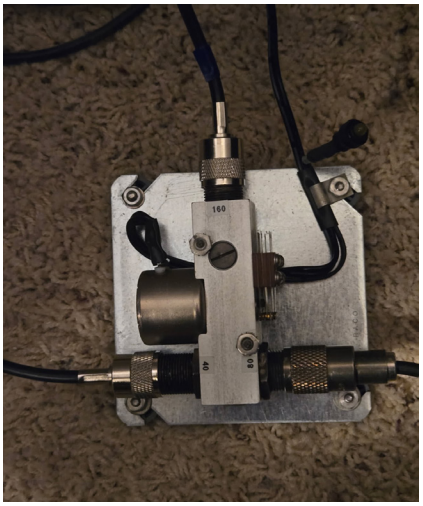
Another Method to Switch Antennas

By Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Several months back, I decided to update my antenna selection switching to allow the use of a common dipole between two stand-alone vintage AM rigs. One rig is setup and ready for 40 meters AM operation, the other for 75 meters AM. One of my pet peeves has been the need to manually connect and disconnect cables and plugs, so I have all but eliminated this necessity through the use of RF coaxial relays, wherever possible. This allows the associated equipment to remain connected, but to be switched between antennas by energizing an RF coaxial relay as needed.

The previously mentioned, the AM equipment utilized a coaxial SWITCH for a number of years until I came across a display of "smart" receptacles at my local home supply store. I had been thinking of a better antenna selector system for the AM gear and that's when I got the idea to try one of these smart receptacles to control a relay that could replace the old mechanical switch that had served me well for many years.

The particular receptacle i Used is branded Hubspace, and is carried by Home Depot. This smart receptacle is designed for permanent installation as a wall receptacle. There are two independent AC connections, allowing independent control of two separate AC appliances that can be controlled individually OR in tandem. There are also manual selector buttons with indicator lights for each receptacle, showing the status of each. The operation of the Hubspace receptacle is controlled remotely by WiFi and activated with a free cell phone app.



As an experiment, I mounted the Hubspace smart receptacle in an approved enclosure with a 3-wire grounded cordset. This allowed me to perform some tests on my workbench without removing an existing wall receptacle. I then plugged in a 12 Volt DC wall power pack to energize a separate RF coaxial relay. The end result allowed me to control the coaxial relay through my home WiFi network. I then added a second wall power pack to energize a second remote relay, allowing expanded antenna switching capability. As mentioned, either relay can be individually energized, or both in tandem. And if that's not enough, the Hubspace receptacles can be controlled by Siri, Alexa or other voice assistant app. The pictures provided here should help illustrate the pieces I used for the project.

These smart outlets can also likely be used to control other relay to switch ladder lines, end-fed antennas, automatic antenna grounding, or to perform other switching functions within the shack. Since I began using this product, Hubspace has produced a plug-in smart outlet that can be controlled via BlueTooth, as well as by the WiFi apps.

Other uses may be to control equipment such as PCs, power supplies, audio routing, battery chargers, lighting, repeater control, or to bypass linear amplifier RF Coaxial relays. For example, suppose that you are away from home, and learn there's an incoming thunder storm. You can click on your phone to ground or disconnect your antenna and safeguard your gear from a lightening strike.

There are other manufacturers offering similar smart receptacles, with some designed for portable plug-in applications, and some allowing for outdoor use. I don't endorse this particular product, it just happens to be the one I purchased off the shelf.

Bottom line: I have made operation of my AM station equipment easier and I no longer have to reach beneath the operating desk to turn a switch. Instead, I control antennas by clicking a button on the Hubspace app. Smart receptacles can be used to automate some of the switching in your radio setup. Go ahead and experiment and see if you can find other ways to employ these in your shack. I would like to hear some of the ideas that you come up with so they can be shared with others in our radio community!

73 and good DXing!

On the Beam
News & Notes

Club Station Set Up at Search and Rescue Building

EGARA now has a permanent HF station set up at the Rensselaer County Search and Rescue (RCSAR) building for use by members and club events. Permission to install the station and antenna was made possible through the efforts of club members Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO and his daughter Gina, KC2QJC, both of whom also hold leadership positions with RCSAR.

In addition to installing a multi-band off-cetner fed dipole antenna in the building's attic, RCSAR provided a computer desk to house the club's Yaesu 450-D transceiver, power supply and antenna tuner. The installation also includes a new i5 computer -- one of two purchased to upgrade the club's PC equipment.

EGARA Vice President Walt Snyder, N2WJR, also donated a compact desktop computer to the club. Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, was able to secure additional memory for the machine and install Windows 10 on it, making it capable of running software used for club activities, such as Field Day logging and online FCC license examination programs.

The club's new HF station includes an attic antenna

Exam Tools Training Session Set for May 10th

ARRL has announced it plans to end providing paper-based testing for FCC license examinations and move the process to its online "Exam Tools" program. Training for Volunteer Examiners will be held by EGARA at 11 am on Saturday, May 10th and be led by club member John Fisher. W2JSF.

Exam Tools training is *https://examtools.dev*. This is the sandbox/test site for the online testing tools whereas *https://exam.tools* is the production site. For the hands-on training, VEs need to be registered at the sandbox to participate. Participants will need to have an official copy of their license which can be downloaded from the FCC by logging into the ULS license manager at: *https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp*, then "Download the Electronic Authorizations". The FCC website can be very, very slow at times, so be patient while the PDF file of your license downloads.

Then people can go to https://examtools.dev and sign up for a VE account. They will need to upload the official license PDF downloaded from the FCC. It may take a day or so for the registration to be approved, so plan accordingly.

ARRL Hudson Division Convention Set for July 13th

The 2025 ARRL Hudson Division Convention will be held at the Sussex County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest on Sunday, July 13th 2025. It will be at the Sussex County Farm & Horse Show Fair-grounds, 37 Plains Road, Augusta, NJ.

According to Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson N2XDD, several ARRL events are planned to take place as part of the convention. These include an ARRL Membership Forum, a clean signal update from the ARRL Lab and other programs. A VE testing session will also be held starting at 10 AM at the Fairgrounds Administration Building.

Sussex County Farm & Horse Show Fairgrounds site offers 270,000 square feet of outdoor tailgate space (over six acres) and 10,000 square feet of indoor space. Admission will be $8, indoor tables will be $25, and tailgate space, including one admission, will be $25. Gates open at 6:00 am on July 13 for sellers/tailgaters and 8 am for buyers. For further information and advance registration, you can email ***hamfest@scarcnj.org***. Website for the Hamfest is: ***www.sussexhamfest.org.*** Talk-in is: 147.300+ (PL 151.4)

Judge Rules Against VOA Shutdown

Voice of America workers who were placed on leave or fired should return to work and the Trump administration must restore funding to the VOA and other U.S. government-funded news outlets, a federal judge has ruled. The ruling effectively halts the Trump administration's plan to gut the VOA and its parent, the government-funded U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM).

In addition to VOA, USAGM houses several other internal broadcasters, some of which are waging their own legal battles against the administration in an attempt to survive.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth noted in his order in D.C. that the VOA "is not reporting the news for the first time in its 80-year existence" as a result of the Trump administration's action. The Reagan-appointed judge said the outlet's website has not been updated since March 15 and "radio stations abroad that rely on VOA's programming have either gone dark or air only music."

Lamberth said the administration acted "without regard to the harm inflicted on employees, contractors, journalists, and media consumers around the world," adding: "It is hard to fathom a more straightforward display of arbitrary and capricious actions than the Defendants' actions here." The judge ordered that the Trump administration restore VOA programming.

The agency's leadership, which is run by Trump ally Kari Lake, has appealed the court ruling and has asked that VOA's restart be held up. The appeal means VOA won't resume its suspended news operations for at least a while longer as the case remains tied up in court. In her appeal, the legal team for Lake, a senior adviser to the U.S. Agency for Global Media that oversees VOA, argues that the government risks paying employees and contractors with no assurance they will repay the funds if Lake ultimately prevails with her effort to shutter the operations.

Trump allies have long criticized the VOA and USAGM, calling the independent news agencies propagandists. VOA and its sister broadcasters came under attack as part of Elon Musk's efforts to cut government spending. Meanwhile, Lake, who is named in the suit, said in an announcement about USAGM: "This agency is not salvageable."

Lake, who is reportedly transitioning to a vaguely defined role with the U.S. State Department, is part of an agency with an $857 million budget approved by Congress for the current budget year. Of that, $260 million was set aside for VOA, with other shares for related international media operations funded by the U.S. government. The day after Trump sought to slash VOA, he signed a spending bill into law that continued to fund VOA and its sister organizations within AGM.

The rulings in favor of the U.S. government-funded foreign broadcasters suggest the administration will face an uphill battle trying to completely dismantle the foreign broadcasters that for years received bipartisan support from Congress. VOA was created after World War II to combat Nazi propaganda and Radio Free Europe was created during the Cold War to combat Soviet Communist propaganda.

EGARA April Meeting Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
- Introductions were made by all members (15) and guests (2) present.
- President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ made his report:
    - Repeater Update: Jackson noted that the club would not be able to use the Channel 10 tower and that a temporary site would need to be set up sometime in the near future to estimate coverage. Jackson also noted that a work party would need to be scheduled to deal with brush and weeds around the Channel 10 building and that the door would need to be repaired due to a frost heave.
    - EGARA Home Station Update: Jackson announced that RCSAR approved of the club placing a permanent wire antenna in the attic of the SAR building for club ham operation. Jackson also announced that two new HP Mini PCs had been purchased for operations at the station.
    - Jackson noted the club's Internet bill was due $240.00/year for the RCSAR building and the Channel 10 site.
    - 2025 Hamfest Update: Jackson noted that he spoke to Gene at KJI for the Hamfest, but was not sure if he would be able to attend the event or not. Jackson also noted that the Hamfest would feature ARRL gift certificates as well as the regular host of prizes. Gina Pendolino, KD2QJC noted that she would be providing a POTA chair and custom coffee mugs for the Hamfest.
    - Jackson noted that Field Day would be at the RCSAR building and re-mentioned the POTA Erie Canal bicentennial. Jackson added that the club was considering having the event at the USS Slater since it offered extra points and a similar warship in Buffalo would be activated as well.
- Old Business
    - Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO asked if a shed size had been determined yet or not and noted that a Building Permit would be needed regardless of size. President Jackson noted a size had not been determined yet.
- New Business
    - Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC announced that there would be an FAA Drone Demonstration on 4/26 at the Delmar Elm Avenue Park Pavilion.
    - John Fisher, W2JSF noted for VEs that examtools.dev was an online option from the ARRL for administering VE sessions and suggested the club should host an informational class for VEs.
    - Jim Pendolino noted that the club's presentation on Amateur Radio to the Civil Air Patrol went well and that many of the cadets showed an interest in Amateur Radio.
- Vice President's Report: Vice President Walt Snyder, N2WJR noted there was an older computer he could bring to use for the new club station as well.
- Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Peter Brickman, KD2YLG noted that there was: $4,143.74 in the checking account less the $26 for the club meeting pizza, and noted that $22 was coming in from the raffle.
- 2025 EGARA Election: Officer Positions for 2025 were elected as follows: President: Pat Negus, Jr. (W2PMN), Vice President: Walt Snyder (N2WJR), Secretary: David Jaeger, Jr. (K2DEJ), Treasurer: Peter Brickman (KD2YLG), Board of Directors: Don Mayotte (KB2CDX) and Bryan Jackson (W2RBJ)
- The meeting ended at 8:00 PM.
- Minutes recorded by Secretary, David Jaeger, K2DEJ

EGARA Welcomes Three New Members!

The club is pleased to welcome three new members. Pete Gilbert, KE2EJO, holds a Technician class license and lives in Wynantskill. Christopher D'Allaird, AK2CD and his wife, Diane, KT2DBD, are both licensed Amateur Extras and hail from Troy.

Please join the officers and board in welcoming them to EGARA!

Mystery Surrounds 3 Pending U.S. Shortwave Stations

The FCC has granted two new Construction Permits (CPs) and one new license in the high-frequency international shortwave broadcast band to U.S. operators. The two CPs granted in Illinois — to DPA Mac, based in San Francisco and Parable Broadcasting, based in Virginia — were partial in nature. These operators received grants for traditional international band broadcasting, under Part 73 of the FCC rules. But the applicants were denied their desire for "datacasting," or non-broadcast, point-to-point transmissions.

Multiple objections had been filed with the commission against the two applications. They questioned how such data transmissions could be received by the general public, as such licenses are intended.

"We find that a partial grant of the application is in the public interest, as it would enable the general public in foreign countries to directly receive programming," the commission wrote in its CP grant to Parable Broadcasting.

A group called the "High-Frequency Parties" had filed an objection with the FCC regarding the Parable application. "Persons wishing to conduct commercial HF point-to-point messaging for third parties should do so in a radio service dedicated to that function," they wrote in the objection, "and if none exist, they should petition the FCC to create or reinstate such a service."

The commission concurred. "Such encoded data would render the transmitted signal incapable of being received by the general public in other countries and not enjoyable as an international broadcast service," it wrote in granting the two CPs.

Parable Broadcasting had filed for a construction permit in April 2020 for a station from Batavia, Ill., while DPA Mac filed in December of that year for one in Maple Park, Ill. Both communities are within 50 miles of Chicago, west of the city. The third station, granted call sign WIPE and filed by Turms Tech, which is based in New York City, is farther along. It has been granted a license, as opposed to a CP. Turms too filed for its application in 2020. All three applicants wish to use the Digital Radio Mondiale or DRM standard.

Multiple objections were also filed against the Turms application. Turms never explicitly requested datacasting in its application but speculation has abounded. It originally mentioned its desire to "broadcast 'financial, economic news and data through distribution of programs generally prepared on the basis of requests by clients.'" As a result, the FCC reminded Turms of the nature of its license in the grant.

"[B]oth audio and data components of all broadcasts by any International Broadcast station must meet the definition of broadcasting," it wrote in Turms' grant. "Licenses for International Broadcast stations do not authorize non-broadcast services, such as subscription-based data transmissions."

The three applicants are left with the opportunity to broadcast on shortwave stations in the year 2025. But what do they plan to use the stations for?

Meetings raised with the FCC

According to the public record, each of the operators met with FCC officials about their plans; but public information is sparse. Here is a chronology based on filings by the operators, their legal representation and the FCC's Office of International Affairs.

DPA Mac – CP for Maple Park, Ill., IHF station: DPA Mac is operated by entrepreneur Seth Kenvin. The applicant originally stated that its broadcasts, via DRM, "will be a supplemental, fee-for-service datacast optimized for low-latency transmissions."

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Shortwave Mystery...

However, the commission wrote in its grant: "Based on the record and the commission's rules and precedent, we find that the proposed 'supplemental datacast' service is not permitted under the International Broadcasting Service rules."

Kenvin's legal representation met with five members of the commission's Office of International Affairs in December 2021 to discuss plans for the station. In a summary by its legal team, it said it would transmit data via DRM without encryption. It referenced a "supplemental datacast" with "proprietary modulation" to reduce latency. "DPA Mac will use purpose-built equipment to transmit, receive, encode, and decode the supplemental datacast for the benefit of fee-for-service customers," its legal counsel wrote.

DPA Mac representatives met again with members of the FCC's Office of International Affairs and the Office of General Counsel almost a year later. A summary of the meeting by DPA Mac's legal representative stated "the proposed HF station would transmit Voice of America audio and real-time ticket feeds of stock market information to anyone in Europe and many nations of Asia that has access to a standard, off-the-shelf DRM radio receiver."

But the applicant continued to advocate for a waiver to allow a separate, encrypted feed in its transmission, saying datacasting would allow "greater access to timely data and information about the performance of stocks, bonds, derivatives, foreign exchange and commodities in U.S. exchanges will serve the public interest."

In DPA's 2020 application, it listed Tamir Ostfield of Raft Technologies as its technical consultant. Raft is an Israeli developer of low-latency HF systems for so-called algorithmic trading. During DPA's most recent meetings with the FCC, the subject was to clarify that Raft did not have a controlling interest in the shortwave broadcast license. DPA Mac described itself as having an "arms-length" distance from Raft. DPA Mac also sought a waiver to broadcast with a lower transmitter output than required by Part 73, seeking a 2 kW output. Minimum power levels start at 50 kW baseline for AM and 10 kW DRM.

It was unable to convince the commission on either account. The FCC mentioned the need for such a data transmission to be coordinated among ITU member countries. "As the propagation of the proposed service would cover and affect many other ITU member countries, we find that such multilateral coordination outside the established ITU processes would be unfeasible," the FCC wrote.

Parable Broadcasting – CP for Batavia, Ill. IHF station: Charles Schue, the operator of Parable Broadcasting, spoke on a video conference call with six members from the commission in January 2022. Schue said his proposed station would broadcast via DRM and comply with existing IHF rules. He referenced discussions with a Catholic radio and TV programmer, an educator and an author who expressed interest in broadcasting audio on his station.

With regard to datacasting, Schue said the station would not be offering a subscription service nor did it have any knowledge that any content provider would provide a subscription service related to the station's content. But in the meeting, according to the commission, Parable referenced a datacast provider being able to provide content "that is encoded at times." The operator emphasized that the "encoded" content was "expected to be a negligible portion of the datacast airtime and will not interfere in any way with the simultaneously broadcasted audio content."

In Parable's CP grant, the commission said any encoded portion of data transmissions "would not conform to the requirements" of its international broadcast service.

Turms Tech – License for Alpine, N.J., IHF station: Paolo Cugnasca, the manager for Turms Tech, was on a conference call with FCC staff in January 2022. In a summary filed to the commission, he said the proposed station intended to broadcast in the DRM standard. "Contents will not be encrypted and will be available to the audience under the area of coverage without subscriptions," he wrote. Turms plans to broadcast from the historic Armstrong Tower in Alpine. In theory, WIPE could begin broadcasting at any time.

The FCC noted the antenna Turms plans to use at Alpine, a SteppIR DB36 yagi, must first obtain an antenna code issued by the ITU before the Office of International Affairs can assign the operator international broadcast frequencies. In its application, Turms desired to operate on 9.650, 11.850, 13.720 and 15.450 MHz. Cugnasca declined to comment further.

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Shortwave Mystery...

Likewise, calls and emails to Kenvin and Schue, meanwhile, were not returned.

How rare are new shortwave stations in the U.S.?

The following is a list of the active private shortwave broadcasters in the U.S., with what are believed to be their first operation dates, collected from the FCC website and Wikipedia:

Callsign	Community of License	State/Territory	First Year Believed to be Operating
KNLS	Anchor Point	AK	1983
KSDA	Agat	Guam	1987
KTWR	Agana	Guam	1977
WBCQ	Monticello	ME	1998
WEWN	Vandiver	AL	1992
WINB	Red Lion	PA	1962
WJHR	Milton	FL	2009
WMLK	Bethel	PA	1985
WRMI	Okeechobee	FL	1994
WRNO	New Orleans	LA	1982
WTWW	Lebanon	TN	2010
WWCR	Nashville	TN	1989

This list does not include government broadcasters such as the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty or WWV, for example.

Bennett Kobb, a member of the High Frequency Parties that filed an objection against the Parable application, has extensively followed these proceedings, including as the editor for Experimental Radio News. He said these applications are highly unusual because the FCC typically receives only renewal applications for the service.

A license for International Fellowship of Churches to operate KIMF in Lander County, Nev., granted in 2017, recently expired.

While an operation like WBCQ stands out, in the appeal of broadcasting from the U.S. to foreign audiences has diminished, for a multitude of reasons. Kobb wonders how any of the three prospective operators could make a go of conventional shortwave operation playing by the rules as they are constituted.

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Shortwave Mystery...

"Perhaps Turms' WIPE will be the first to sign on, but unless and until that station begins service, all we have is speculation," Kobb said.

Another group of petitioners makes no bones about their desired use of the shortwave spectrum.

The Shortwave Modernization Coalition (SMC) filed a petition in 2023 to amend existing FCC rules to allow long-distance non-voice communications between 2—25 MHz. The firms that comprise the coalition largely "serve as market makers and liquidity providers for exchange-traded financial instruments," according to the introduction in the petition. The SMC petition goes on to explain how frequencies in the "under-licensed" band are the optimal medium for fixed, long-distance transmission of time-sensitive data.

"The value is so significant that it has driven tremendous engineering efforts and real estate acquisitions to support both experimental HF facilities and more conventional telecom networks," Kobb said.

Several publications have profiled how high-volume stock traders look for every advantage possible to shave off milliseconds to gain an edge. While data is transmitted between continents via undersea fiber-optic cables, over-the-air radio signals are inherently faster. A Wall Street Journal profile on high-frequency trading cited Deutsche Börse data showing that sending data from Chicago to Frankfurt via shortwave is nine milliseconds faster than via undersea cables.

The Armstrong Tower in Alpine, NJ where shortwave broadcast station WIPE plans to transmit from.

DPA Mac, Parable Broadcasting and Turms Tech are not named as part of the SMC. The petition remains pending before the FCC.

Experimental HF stations

Another avenue that has been pursued by HF traders are experimental radio service licenses. DPA Mac, under its former name 3DB Communication, also operates experimental HF station WI2XXG.

Experimental HF stations can operate under Part 5 of the FCC rules. The commission states such licenses "are not permitted to provide commercial service, charge fees or receive payments for products or services of operation."

Kobb detailed how traders have made use of such licenses. He indicated they've ultimately reached a dead end there, too, as in the specific case of DPA Mac, the FCC placed wording prohibiting "widely divergent and unrelated experiments" in its ERS license.

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Shortwave Mystery...

Ham interference concerns

Meanwhile, Amateur Radio operators have expressed worry about interference produced by an HF band full of financial traders. The ARRL has already made its feelings against the service known. Kobb mentioned that operators already are familiar with unidentified, high-power transmissions detected in or adjacent to the Amateur Radio bands. The U.S. Coast Guard also placed concerns of interference in the 2—25 MHz band from a proposed data service record.

Much would need to transpire to produce a shortwave "reawakening." But the outcomes of these three grants will have quite a few people watching. "The FCC could combine the Part 90 and Part 73 issues into a single, omnibus shortwave proceeding," Kobb wrote on his website.

A need for reform

While Kobb has filed objections against the datacasting portion of the applications, he also felt it is time to update HF band regulations. They date back to the 1950s and he believes they prevent innovation.

Among them are rules forbidding HF broadcasters from constructing and operating primarily for domestic audiences. Minimum power levels are "unnecessarily high," Kobb believes. There are rules that also dictate language and advertising practices.

"It's long past time for sweeping review and update of these old regulations," he said of the Part 73 and Part 90 rules.

The applicants each applied to broadcast in DRM. Parable and DPA Mac mentioned in their filings with the FCC how DRM can be heard via "off-the-shelf" equipment. Kobb expressed skepticism: "Although DRM is an established technology, no private, economically sustainable DRM HF broadcast service has ever been demonstrated," he said.

For now, it's wait to see if any of these three stations end up coming on the air in traditional shortwave form.

"An open question is whether the Carr FCC will simply give the SMC what it wants, or will take the further step to address the regulations that suppress innovation in the HF service," Kobb said.

FCC Licensing Session Set for May 31st

EGARA's VE Testing Team will hold an Amateur Radio licensing session on Saturday, May 31st at the East Greenbush Library starting at 10 am. Exams for all license classes will be held - Technician, General and Amateur Extra.

Applicants are asked to pre-register by email to W2RBJ@outlook.com. However, Walk-ins will also be accepted. Each applicant MUST have an Federal Registration Number (FRN) and valid email address in order to take their test. A $15 test fee will be collected. Successful test applicants will also be required to pay a $35 licensing fee imposed by the FCC. A link to make the payment online will be sent to the applicant's email address.

For complete information, please visit EGARA's website at: https://www.egara.org/ve-exams-sessions

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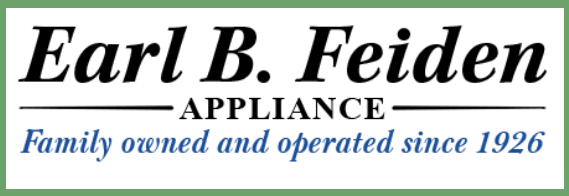

CALENDAR

May 8, 2025 @ 7 pm - Regular Club Membership Meeting - Rensselaer Co. Search & Rescue - Hamfest Planning.

May 10, 2025 @ 11 am - VE Exam Tools Training - Rensselaer Co. Search & Rescue

May 31, 2025 @10 am - FCC Exam Session - E. Greenbush Town Library, 10 Community Way

June 7, 2025 - EGARA Annual Hamfest, East Greenbush Fire Department, 66 Phillips Road, Rensselaer

Pro Tip: Sealing Connections

Weatherproofing coaxial connections often includes electrical tape being used to create a "seal."

But, this isn't a long-lasting solution, although most hams believe it's better than nothing. However, there is a better way -- Shrink Wrap Tubing!

Double-walled heat-shrink tubing comes in a variety of sizes and this type of heat shrink includes an inner lining of hot melt glue with excellent bonding properties.

The shrinkage ratio is better than two times (closer to three times) of the initial diameter, and the hot melt glue completely seals the tubing at both ends.

Should it become necessary to access the connector, cut the tubing with a box cutter and pull it free of the connector or splice. You can find kits from www.mpja.com, where the stock number is 38443 HS. An assortment of 140 pieces of double-walled heat shrink in various sizes is only $11.

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.

GEAR FOR SALE

- **Pyramid PS-36KX Linear Power Supply** 12V-15V @ 32 amps. Pass transistors replaced with 2N5686's rated at 50 Amp. Installed self resetting 35A fuse in order to protect the transformer. Good condition. $100.

  Contact Mark at: DoctorWho@twc.com

- Yaesu FT-2000 --$800.00
- Yaesu Ft-950-$700.00
- Yaesu Ft-1200- $800.00
- Kenwood TS-590S- $700.00
- Icom IC-7000 with AT 7000 auto-tuner -$800.00
- Yaesu FT-7100 Dual band mobile- $ 150.00
- Icom IC-2100- 2 meter $ $110.00
- Icom IC-V-8000 75 watt 2 meter mobile $150.00
- MFJ 921 144-220 Antenna Tuner- $60.00
- Several desk microphones also.

Contact: Frankie Cardella at:
kf2qt @ yahoo or
518-636-3510

- **Classic Hallicrafters SX-130 Receiver.** Freshly overhauled and aligned. Offers a 4 bands covering AM broadcast and shortwave from 1.725 to 31.5 MHz. Also provides for reception of code (CW), voice (AM) and upper and lower single sideband (SSB) signals. Price reduced to $75.
  Contact Bryan at: W2RBJ@Outlook.com

Sell your unused gear with a free ad in Sidebands!
Send details to: W2RBJ@Outlook.com