

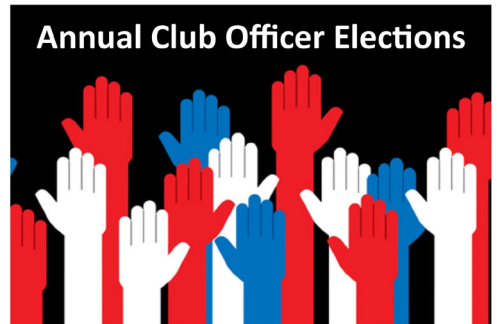


President Emeritus - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP President - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ Vice-President - Walt Snyder, N2WJR
Secretary - David Jaegar, Jr. - K2DEJ Treasurer, Pete Brickman, KD2YLG
Board Members: Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP Patrick Negus, KD2YLG Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Club Election Slate Set

EGARA's April 10th membership meeting will bring with it the club's annual election of officers as well as two board members. Members in good standing whose dues are current are eligible to both run for the open positions and to vote in the election. The slate of candidates is:

- President - Pat Negus, KD2ZQR
- Vice President - Walt Snyder, N2WJR
- Treasurer - Peter Brickman, KD2YLG
- Secretary - David Jaeger, Jr., K2DEJ



There will also be an election for two open seats on the board. One is being vacated by Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR, whose term is expiring. Pat Negus has also indicated he will resign his board position to run for President.

Three club members have announced their candidacy for the open board spots. They include Don Mayotte, KB2CDX, David Gillette, KC2RPU and Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, who will also become President Emeritus.

Self-nominations from the floor nominations will also be accepted at the meeting before the vote.

All members are asked to considering running and bring their leadership skills to the club's management. Nominations can also be submitted prior to the April meeting by email to Egararadio@gmail.com.

Civil Air Patrol Cadets Get Intro to Ham Radio

EGARA members took the opportunity to meet with local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadets to outline the benefits and fun of the Amateur Radio hobby -- and the important role it plays in providing emergency communications. At the conclusion of the meeting which was held on March 20th, the club also offered to hold a training class and exam session so the Cadets can earn their Technician license.

Leading the presentation was club member Pete Sochocki, NY2V, who was accompanied by Club President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, Vice President Walt Snyder, N2WJR, and members Jim and Gina Pendolino, KC2HRO and KC2QJC. The intro session was made possible by Jim and Gina, who had previously addressed the group about the operations of Rensselaer County Search and Rescue, which they lead.

The cadets, who range in age from 12 to 19, were also given information packets which included a list of online resources about Amateur Radio, as well as links to study guides and practice tests.

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Membership Meeting - April 10, 2025 - 7 pm - Club Elections

Voice of America Silenced by Trump Cuts

Employees showed up at the Voice of America (VOA) on Saturday, March 15th to broadcast their programs only to be told they had been locked out as Trump administration officials embarked on indefinite mass suspensions and firings.

All full-time staffers at the Voice of America and the Office for Cuba Broadcasting, which runs Radio and Television Martí, were affected — more than 1,000 employees in all. The move followed an edict from President Trump that its parent agency, the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), to eliminate all activities that are not required by law.

In addition, Trump appointees severed all of VOAs contracts for the privately operated international broadcasters it funds, including Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks. However, a federal judge blocked the move and ordered the funding restored after those networks sued the administration..



The termination notices at VOA carried the signature of Trump's senior adviser Kari Lake, whom he placed at USAGM, as the agency's acting chief executive. Legal observers said Lake doesn't appear to have the authority to carry out the terminations. Some 500 VOA staff have sued the Trump administration charging that only Congress can end its funding.

Grant Turner, the former chief financial officer at the U.S. Agency for Global Media, called it "Bloody Saturday" for the agency and its networks. "It took decades to build this goodwill and an audience of hundreds of millions every week. Seeing arsonists just set fire to it all is awful."

"The cancellation of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's grant agreement would be a massive gift to America's enemies," Steve Capus, the president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, said in a statement. "The Iranian Ayatollahs, Chinese Communist leaders, and autocrats in Moscow and Minsk would celebrate the demise of RFE/RL after 75 years. Handing our adversaries a win would make them stronger and America weaker. We've benefited from strong bipartisan support throughout RFE/RL's storied history. Without us, the nearly 50 million people in closed societies who depend on us for accurate news and information each week won't have access to the truth about America and the world."

Together, the broadcasters and their sister networks covering the Middle East and Cuba reach 420 million people in 63 languages and more than 100 countries each week, according to the agency. They are fully funded by federal dollars.

VOA sparked Trump's ire during his first term in office over reporting about his response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This time, Trump's budget-slashing adviser, Elon Musk, and other administration officials have called for Voice of America and some of the sister networks to be shut down. The scope and legality of these acts are not yet in full focus, but they appear to be designed to gut them and place whatever coverage survives under tighter control of politically appointed officials.

Voice of America and its sister networks have come in for criticism on specific editorial judgments. VOA reporting has also angered some powerful figures abroad, including those who have close links to Trump. The reporting of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, for example, has vexed autocratic-minded leaders in Russia and Hungary, as well as their allies.

In 2020, North Korean officials executed the owner of a fishing fleet for secretly listening to broadcasts by Radio Free Asia while at sea, the network reported. North Korean authorities brought in 100 of his peers to watch the execution as a warning of the dangers of tuning in.

Despite strong criticism from Trump administration officials and their allies on Capitol Hill, the networks have largely won strong bipartisan support over the years. U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, the Republican former chairperson of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said in a statement that he appreciated the ability of USAGM networks to disseminate information in China that the ruling Chinese Communist party censors sought to block there. "That's why I strongly support many of its programs.

On the Beam News & Notes

Delete, Delete, Delete

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a Public Notice titled “*In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete*,” seeking input from the public on FCC rules that may be outdated, unnecessary, or in need of modification. The move is part of the FCC Commissioner, and now chairman, Brendan Carr’s ongoing effort to limit regulatory oversight across various services, including the Amateur Radio Service.

As part of this review, ARRL is conducting a thorough examination of the provisions in Part 97 and related rules that affect Amateur Radio operators. The Commission has given the public until April 11th to comment. ARRL plans to submit written comments on behalf of the ham community. ARRL’s FCC Counsel and the ARRL Executive Committee, will include consideration of feedback received from its members. Members who want to share comments and concerns can send feedback directly to ARRL using the form posted at: www.arrl.org/fcc-public-notice-march-2025.

After the April 11th deadline, there will be an opportunity for reply comments to the FCC until April 28, and then later, opportunities for public comment on any rules the FCC proposes to delete or modify. While the FCC Public Notice is a broad inquiry that does not single out any specific radio service, ARRL says it will work to protect the Amateur Radio Service, promoting its public interest goals, and ensuring your right to access radio spectrum.

A PDF of the FCC Public Notice is available at: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-219A1.pdf>.

EGARA Opens the Door to GMRS Users

Users of the General Mobile Radio Service -- better known as GMRS -- are being invited to join EGARA, providing an opportunity to expand the club’s membership and interest in radio. In addition, the move is aimed at exposing GMRS users to Amateur Radio and hopefully enticing them to get licensed.

“Those who use GMRS would seem ideal candidates to help get upgraded to the added flexibility and privileges that Amateur Radio provides,” said Club President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. “Many of our members already use both services and they’re being encouraged to reach out to the GMRS users they know.”

GMRS was created in 1996 by the FCC and is a land-mobile FM UHF radio service designed for short-range two-way voice communication. It requires a license which is issued for a period of 10 years and covers the licensee as well as their immediate family members.. It can be used for both personal and business purposes.

GMRS radios are typically handheld portable (walkie-talkies) much like Family Radio Service (FRS) radios, and they share some frequencies with FRS. Unlike FRS, GMRS licensees are also allowed to establish repeaters to extend their communications range. However repeaters cannot be linked together over the Internet or connected to the telephone network.

Any individual in the United States who is at least 18 years of age may apply for a GMRS license by completing an online application form through the FCC’s Universal Licensing System. No exam is required. Like Amateur licensing, GRMS applicants also pay a \$35 fee.

GMRS users are welcome to stop in at any club meeting to learn more about EGARA, Amateur Radio, and how the club can help them get the most use and enjoyment from their radios.



Hams to Celebrate Erie Canal Bicentennial with POTA Event



The Erie Canal turns 200 in this year and upstate ham clubs will operate a special Parks on the Air (POTA) activation of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in September. The event will take place during the World Canal Conference which is being hosted this year in Buffalo, New York. The event will celebrate the completion of the waterway in 1825.

EGARA is planning to participate and is considering operating from the USS Slater which is moored on the Hudson at Albany and is within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

The canal celebration itself is set to run from September 16-25. The World Canal Conference will officially kick off on Sunday, September 21 in Buffalo, and will be preceded with events along the canal starting on Thursday, September 16. Many Amateur Radio clubs and individuals are expected to make POTA activations within the Erie Canal corridor over the 10 days of the celebration.

The event's organizers are inviting Amateur Radio clubs and individual operators across the state to join in promoting Parks on the Air and customize POTA activities to best suit their individual organization. The goal is to engage members and newer hams to participate, possibly creating a custom QSL card, and promoting their activity across social media. EGARA already has custom QSL cards that can be used for the canal celebration.

Online Resources

- For more information about Parks on the Air, visit: <https://parksontheair.com>
 - The Parks on the Air Club Activation Guide can be found at: https://docs.pota.app/docs/activator_reference/activator_guide_clubs.html
- Information on the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor is available at: <https://eriecanalway.org>
 - Details about the World Canal Conference can be found at: <https://wcc2025buffalo.com>
- Upstate New York POTA Facebook Group is at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1207733937203773/>



EGARA March Meeting Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Introductions were made by all members (16) present.
- Introductions were made by all members (14) present.
- President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ made his report:
- Jackson noted that the club's liability insurance had been paid for 2025. He also noted that he was planning on informing Channel 10 of the renewal and discuss the possibility of allowing the club to install an antenna on their unused tower on the Helderbergs. He said he had been in contact with Bob Isby (K2RHI) and that he is willing to complete the install as a professional tower climber. Jackson added that if the install were to happen, we would need to have the antenna at least 50-60' up the tower to overcome the local topography near the site to allow for a good repeater footprint down in Albany.
- It was announced that the club's website hosting through Wix had been renewed for two (2) years, costing the club \$362.88. Jackson stated that the club would be researching free web hosting options for the future of the website to save money.
- Jackson noted that the club would be participating in a ham radio presentation to the Civil Air Patrol in Albany on March 20th, where cadets whose ages ranged from 12-19 would be present (see story on page 1).
- Members were thanked for helping out at the 3/1/2025 equipment clean up and organization day and noted that the next steps for the club were to increase storage by having a shed located behind the RCSAR building. Jackson added that the limiting factor on obtaining a shed at that point was funding which would depend on the costs for the reinstall of the .270 repeater and whatever seed money that would come from the upcoming Hamfest in June.
- The Erie Canal Bicentennial is scheduled for September 2025 and the President suggested that the club participate in a Parks on the Air (POTA) event at one of the local State Park locations or aboard the USS Slater. It was suggested that the club participate with either the Troy (TARA) or RPI (W2SZ) club or both if they were interested. The bicentennial is scheduled to take place between September 16th and the 25th (see story on page 4).
- Lastly, Jackson noted that the annual EGARA elections were coming up in April and noted that all officer positions were open for nominations. Jackson added that any member who wanted to run for office or vote needed to have their dues paid (see story on page 1).
- Old Business:
- A discussion about the proposed shed ended with the club deciding a resin-type shed that would rest on pressure treated 2x4s and plywood would be the best option for the club's needs.
- New Business
- Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC had the idea to offer a camp chair with a folding table, cup holders, and a cooler stainless steel coffee mug with the club's logo on it from Amazon. Multiple members liked these ideas.
- Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO stated that RCSAR would allow the club to install a permanent antenna for ham radio use in the attic of the building.
- Treasurer's Report:
- Treasurer, Peter Brickman, KD2YLG updated member on club finances . Brickman also noted that his report did not include payments made for liability insurance or web hosing.
- Following the business portion of the meeting, a presentation on useful knots made by Jim and Gina Pendolino.
- Minutes recorded by Secretary, David Jaeger, K2DEJ

Need to Pay Your EGARA Club Dues?

It's as easy as www.EGARA.org/pay-dues

Southern Hurricane Proves “When All Else Fails, There’s Amateur Radio”

During the recent hurricane that devastated the South -- and especially western North Carolina -- many traditional communication services were knocked out, including broadcast stations which provide news and information.

Power grids, roads, and virtually all communication infrastructure was destroyed. In some areas, entire commercial radio stations saw floods carry off their studios -- and their transmitters. Mud slides and other damage literally wiped out entire towns. In many areas, nothing was left.



Of course, most people would think to turn to the Internet via their computer or cell phone to get news and information on the extent of damage, and how and where to get help. But without power, the Internet was just a memory -- and most operating cell sites went out of service as their batteries ran out. For many emergency services, much of the area was a black hole, accessible only by helicopter.

And yet, there was a source of contact, news, and information that did reach the outside world -- Amateur Radio.

Throughout the disaster, it was ham operators who were heard and who helped direct needed services and other assistance. This was important because information was both hard to come by in many areas and resources to aid survivors were severely limited. Clearly, it was critical to reach those in greatest danger as soon as possible.

Fortunately for many, hams volunteered whatever means they had to reach out and pass the word along to first responders and broadcasters. The service provided by the ham community was evident and appreciated by those affected by the disaster.

But don't think that Ham operators are important only when a rogue hurricane blows through.

Every year hikers and hunters get lost in wilderness areas where there is no cell phone coverage. Fortunately, modern Ham radio facilities include repeaters atop tall towers or mountaintops -- often providing communication resources that other services do not. And every year there are stories of lost hikers and hunters found by search and rescue organizations that rely on Amateur Radio Radio communications.

In short, it's hard to beat the value hams give to our communities, providing a lot and asking for little in return.

Before Albuquerque, New Mexico got relief from periodic summer flooding with the construction of several flood diversion channels, parts of downtown Albuquerque would regularly flood. Usually it would be less than a foot of water, but on one particular occasion the threat from an unusual cluster of thunderstorms brought several feet of water into homes and stores. In addition, an earthen dam, the Embudo Dam in northeast Albuquerque, was threatened with being over topped by the unusual height of the water behind it.

- continued on page 7 -

Storms Prove Amateur Radio's Value in Emergencies...

If the dam had been breached, the downtown flooding would have been much worse, so public safety agencies needed up-to-the-minute information on whether the dam was holding or was about to fail. A dozen or so ham radio operators with mobile and portable radio facilities assisted rescuers, leaving the police and fire department dispatchers and their radios free for emergency communications.



Hams reported on the condition of the earthen dam every 15 minutes. Thankfully the dam held, and disaster was averted. In retrospect, it was a great public service, and an indication of how ham radio operators serve the public.

The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) recognizes the value of Amateur Radio and includes it in its guide for national emergency preparedness.

FEMA recognizes that Amateur Radio operators often have detailed knowledge of the areas where they are located, and often have backup power and vital communications in areas where regular telephone, cell phone, and other normal communications links fail. Best of all, hams are found all over the country.

FCC Rules in 47CFR97 specifically state that a broadcast station can monitor Amateur Radio communications and use any information heard, including recording the actual information being communicated by Amateur Radio stations serving disaster areas. This is unlike nearly all other communications services – most communications services are protected by the Communications Act from anyone “intercepting and divulging” communications they hear.

There is a caveat: Per FCC 97.113(b), Ham operators cannot *actively* participate in news gathering.

So, no, stations cannot use Amateur Radio actively to gather news, but news organizations can passively tune in Amateur Radio stations and use whatever you hear hams talking about.

Additionally, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), states on its web site that “Amateur Radio operators are permitted to assist news media representatives in gathering information to be relayed to the public from areas where normal communications have been disrupted, particularly when the information involves the safety or life of individuals, or the immediate protection of property, and no other channels of communication are available.”

Even if Amateur Radio operators’ networks in a disaster area are not officially activated, they often have knowledge about the event that can be valuable to broadcast stations as they seek to provide information to keep people safe.

The ARRL sponsors the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) specifically to encourage Amateur Radio Operators to equip themselves to provide emergency communications. EGARA members interested in joining the Rensselaer County ARES team can find an application at: <https://www.k2ren.com/>.

The Eastern New York ARES website is at: <http://eny.arrl.org/ARES/FILES/Rensselaer.htm>

As most Hams know: “When All Else Fails -- There’s Amateur Radio”

Learning the Ropes It's Knot to be Missed

The March EGARA meeting featured a presentation by member Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO, on how to tie several knots that can be useful in Amateur Radio, such as when installing antennas. The demonstration included an opportunity for those in attendance to try their hand at making the various knots shown.

The program also highlighted a helpful website that provides step-by-step animated displays of how to tie a wide variety of knots for many different types of applications.

It can be found at: <https://www.animatedknots.com/>



Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO, shows the group how to begin tying one of the many knots he demonstrated. His presentation centered on knots that can be useful for installing Amateur Radio antennas.



Frank Cavaliere, KE2ATD, tries his hand at tying one of the knots that was featured.



The group looks on as Jim highlights how the website “AnimatedKnots.com” can help teach the steps needed to tie a wide variety of knots. Assisting with his presentation was his daughter, Gina, KC2JQC.



Dave Jaeger, Jr., K2DEJ, Don Mayotte, KB2CDX and Any Sullivan, KC2WWJ, practice tying a handy loop that can be slid up and down a rope line.

Warren County Radio Club *Ham Radio Swapmeet* April 12th 2025 10am until 2pm



Inside the common area
at the Aviation Mall
Queensbury, NY Exit 19 off I-87
Entrance near
99 Restaurant/Planet Fitness

Entry is FREE \$10 fee per table to sell
Raffle tickets will be available
for purchase

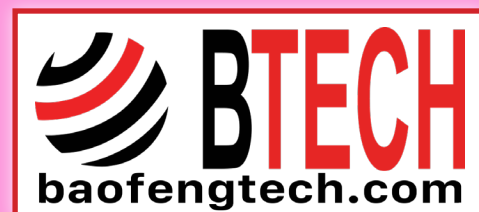
License testing will be
held at 8am in the old
American Eagle store



www.w2wcr.org

Would you like to learn more
about amateur radio?
Check out our public info table
or discover more at
www.w2wcr.org

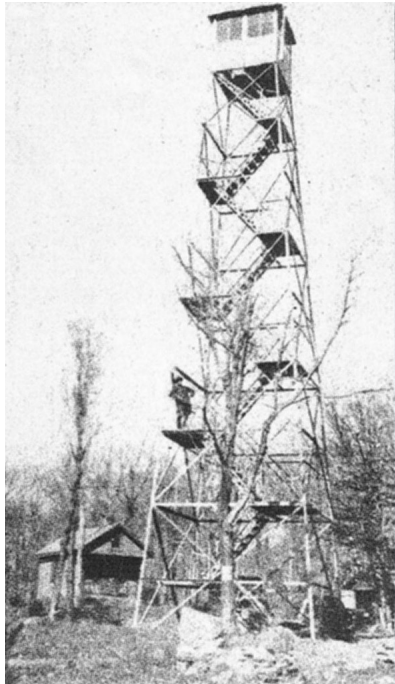
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Our Hamfest Sponsors!*



Big Plans for EGARA's Field Day 2025

Field Day 2025 promises to be fun and exciting for EGARA members with plans now in place which present new opportunities that truly embrace the purpose of the event. This year, Field Day will run June 28 - 29.

Thanks to an agreement with the United States Forest Service, the club will be operating on Field Day from the former Mt. Adams fire lookout station located in the High Peaks region of the Adirondacks. The site is completely “off the grid”, allowing the club to experience real “Field Day” conditions using non-commercial power that offers extra points for operating on solar, car batteries, or a manually-powered generator hooked to a stationary bike.



The historic Mt. Adams Fire Tower will host EGARA's Field Day. It was last used in 1946.

“Field Day means working under usual conditions and making things work” said club President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. “I think this will be the best Field Day ever and I know every member will pitch in to make it a big success.”

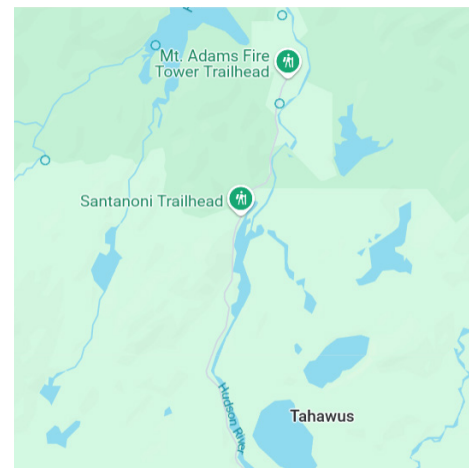
To prepare for the event, assignments will be made to move the needed equipment to the site, which is just three miles uphill off County Route 25 north of Tahawus. Access to the former fire tower is usually made on foot, however, the club is hoping to secure a golf cart and wheelbarrows to help get gear to the location. In addition to the club's radios and giant six-element beam antenna, members will also transport coolers, grills, food, batteries, generators, gasoline, firewood, and his & hers Porta-Potties to the site. Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP, has graciously agreed to climb the 100 foot tower to string a multi-band fan-dipole to an adjacent tree.

Because of its remote location, EGARA members must remain on the site throughout the 24 hours of Field Day. Fortunately, there is a nearby cabin which will house those who are not operating from the fire tower. To ensure everyone's safety, Walt Snyder, N2WJR, has agreed to staff a patrol for Black bears and Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO, will organize a search and rescue party in the event anyone wanders off and gets lost in the dark, desolate and heavily wooded area.

Club members who plan to operate this Field Day are requested to sign up on April 1st. “Only a fool will want to miss this,” Jackson concluded.



EGARA members who are “off duty” during Field Day will be able to stay in this nearby cozy cabin. Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC, and Dave Gillette, KC2RPU, have agreed to entertain with a sing-along featuring Siberian Labor Camp songs.



The site for Field Day 2025 is in the Adirondacks “High Peaks” region, off Route 25 just north of metropolitan downtown Tahawus.

CALENDAR

April 10, 2025 @ 7 pm - Regular Monthly Club Membership Meeting - Rensselaer Co. Search and Rescue Building

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



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

- VIBROPLEX "Bug" semi-automatic key. Original "PRESENTATION" Model with Gold Plated baseplate escutcheon. Heavily chromed upper parts, bright red finger pieces, jeweled bearings. Lists for \$350, sell only \$250, plus postage if shipped. Beautiful wood case.

All equipment is working, clean and in very good condition. Contact Steve / WB2HPR by email at: stevewb2hpr@proton.me

- Radio Shack 12 volt 10 amp power supply \$20.

Contact Ridge Macdonald at:
kb2hwl@gmail.com

- 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 \$100.

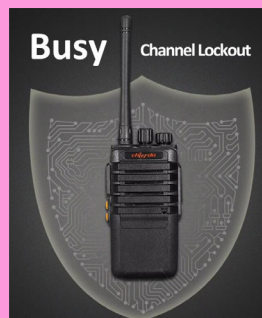
Contact Bryan at: W2RBJ@Outlook.com

Sell your unused gear with a
free ad in Sidebands!

Send details to: W2RBJ@Outlook.com

Pro Tip: Don't Double! Use BCL!

It's annoying when two hams try to transmit at the same time -- normally referred to as "doubling". But you can avoid colliding on the air with another operator if your radio has a 'BCL' setting -- which stands for "Busy Channel Lockout".



When BCL is activated, the radio will not transmit if it detects that the channel is already in use.

Many HT radios incorporate this feature, but it may not be turned on by default. You should be able to find it as a item on your radio's menu setup.

For example, on many Baofeng HT radios it is found as menu item #23 and it is labeled as "BCL". Toggle it to the "on" setting and your radio will now block transmitting if it finds a signal coming from another radio or repeater.

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.