

# Sidebands

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



www.egara.club

October 2017

President - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP  
Secretary - Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Vice-President - Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL  
Treasurer & Newsletter Editor - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

## Who's YOUR Elmer?

By Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

**W**e hams have all heard the term “Elmer”, right? No? ELMER? – Who?? Well, the “Elmer” I’m referring to is that person, or persons, who have given you their support, or assistance as you gained, and continue to develop, your ability to participate in our ever-evolving hobby of amateur radio.

Your Elmer may have helped you set up your first station, or offered their advice to help you select that perfect antenna, or explained technical principles, or perhaps repaired a cable to get you back on the air. Your Elmer is that person whom you sought for help because they had the respect of the amateur community, and you felt that he or she would have the expertise to help you solve your radio problem or answer your questions.

We have all had radio “Elmers” – and while most of us can name a person or two who was instrumental in getting them started in the hobby, some always stand out from others. In my case, I was very fortunate to have an industrial arts teacher who encouraged my interest and helped me get involved in radio.



The author, Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR, (3rd from left) has been an “Elmer” to many club members over the years. He believes sharing information and helping others is key to keeping ham radio alive and well.

- continued on page 3 -

## Looking to Buy, Sell, Swap? EGARA's Mini-Hamfest is for You!

EGARA will continue its annual tradition of holding a Mini-Hamfest during its monthly meeting in October. Once again, the event will be open to all hams in the area, with free admission and free tables for those who want to sell gear. The Mini-Hamfest will begin at 7 pm at EGARA's home base, the East Greenbush Masonic Temple. The site also provides ample parking.

In addition to being a free event, the club will also offer free refreshments for those who attend.

“Our Mini-Hamfest is a great opportunity to turn unused gear into cash -- as well as a chance to pick up some good bargains,” said EGARA President Tom Scorsone.

Club members are encouraged to take advantage of the event, and spread the word to other hams, as well.

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KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
GRAB A  
BARGAIN

Next EGARA Club Event - Mini-Hamfest - October 11, 2017 at 7 pm. See you there!

## Project Corner: Building a 6-Meter Dipole with Standoffs

During the club's monthly meeting in September, member Bill Leue, K2WML, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the installation of his 6 meter antenna. Bill designed and custom made the antenna mounts, utilizing equipment in his machine shop. Materials included PVC, aluminum, and epoxy. Here's an overview in case you missed it or are interested in making your own.

### Project Overview by Bill Leue, K2WML:

I wanted to build a 6-meter antenna because none of my other antennas were resonant on the 6-meter band. The antenna needed to be inconspicuous -- and inexpensive. It also had to be located so that it did not show from the front of the house. The least expensive option was a simple wire dipole. I could mount it to the rear of the house at about 22 feet above the ground, and it would have the advantage of a short feedline down to my second-floor radio shack.

However, I thought mounting the antenna in close proximity to the wall of the house might cause some bad interactions with nearby wiring and other metallic objects. So I decided to build some standoffs to space the antenna at least one foot away from the side of the house.

My standoff design comprised some aluminum base blocks into which one foot lengths of 1/2-inch PVC pipe is inserted. The pipe, which is fairly flexible, was stiffened and strengthened by filling it with epoxy. And if the one foot clearance should prove insufficient, it's easy to substitute longer PVC pipes.



-- The finished project --  
The highlighted area shows the three stand-offs for the 6-meter antenna.

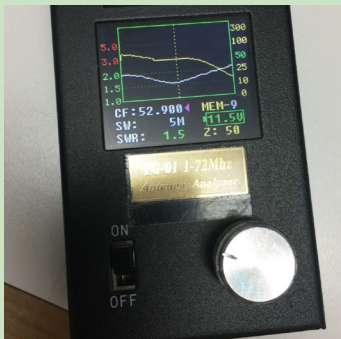


Aluminum blocks drilled and tapped. The PVC pipe stand-off fits in the center and the outer holes allow for mounting to the side of the house.

Having a small home machine shop, including a lathe and milling machine, made it simple to make the aluminum base blocks. The photographs show a few of the phases in producing the antenna mounts and the completed antenna installed on the back wall of my house (above).



The PVC stand-offs are inserted into the machined aluminum blocks and held in place by set screws which are inserted into holes that are drilled and tapped into the sides of the blocks. The PVC was sprayed painted to match the color of the house before mounting.



The SWR of the installed antenna is 1.5 at the best point and is below 2.0 throughout the band.

The standard formula for a dipole is:  $468 / \text{Freq mhz} = \text{total feet}$ . At 50.1 mhz, each half of the dipole would be roughly 56 inches each. You may wish to go a little long and then trim the ends to get the resonance you want. I had to trim 4 inches off each end, as the original resonance was at 46.8 mhz. In addition, a 1:1 balun, although not required, can help to keep RF off your feedline and help to keep a clean pattern at the antenna.

It's a relatively easy project that shouldn't be too hard to replicate. If you are unable to machine aluminum, hardwood blocks may also work. This project met my needs perfectly and hopefully will do the same for others looking for a similar solution.

# Who's Your Elmer?

(continued from page 1)

And after we earn our licenses and get on the air, we tend to discover many new operating modes, technical gear, or learn new operating skills and participate in contesting, chasing DX or operate public service events, relay traffic, or even take on net control duties to serve the community. We tend to learn by active participation under the watchful eye of our Elmers, and they provide the encouragement and motivation to develop new skills.

Since the advent of the Internet, we have had the luxury of being able to research various topics – just “Google it” – and we are instantly inundated with a wealth of web sites, and U-Tube videos that show how to do virtually everything. So it comes as no surprise, that when we discuss our technical or operating projects and problems over the air, we are sometimes dealing with someone who may or may not have first-hand knowledge about the problem to solve. How many times have you tuned to the local repeater, heard someone mention that they were trying to get an antenna working, only to be offered several solutions to the problem? In effect, that “voice on the other end” is their virtual “Elmer”, and they may be getting the correct answer to their question --- or not!

Before the Internet, besides direct one-on-one conversation, we had to go to the local library, hoping that there would be a book or two that we could borrow until we got our problem solved. Now, of course, this has been augmented by the web, and we can order any needed books from the League or other sources. Also, QST provides us with timely information each month. These all become valuable tools for use in solving problem or learning about new radio theory or operating techniques. So – in a manor of speaking, these books and on-line resources become – our Elmers.

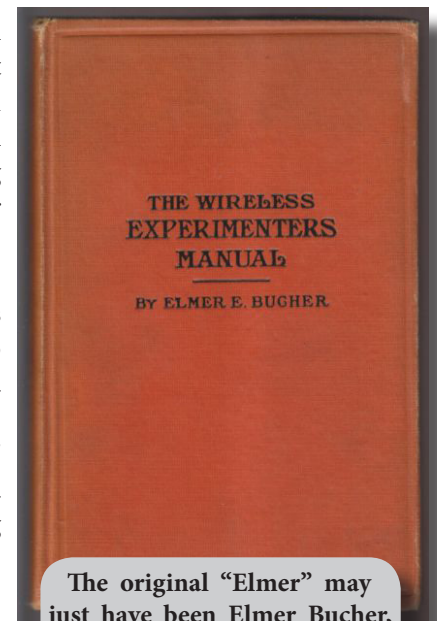
In the early days of amateur radio, hundreds of books were published on various radio topics. Some books were simple “How-To” instructions showing basic radio construction. Others, however, covered basic electrical principles and advanced through radio, telegraph, voice modulation, and even basic rudimentary television. Notable among many authors, Elmer E. Bucher, wrote several early “wireless” textbooks, covering vacuum tube based radio principles, and telegraphy. He was billed as an “instructing engineer” for Marconi Wireless, and was instrumental in giving many a budding amateur a start in the field. Bucher eventually became general-sales manager of the Radio Corporation of America. Is it any wonder that we refer to our mentors, then, as “Elmers”??

This author has two of Bucher’s many text books, and they are richly illustrated with drawings and photographs, taking the reader through the basics, teaching and refining the understanding of the title topics. These were widely circulated as the “go-to” sources for all things “radio” – and were as popular in 1917 as the ARRL Handbook is today. Today, the ARRL Radio Handbook is the “go-to” reference for ham radio operators, covering all phases of amateur radio operation.

The 2018 edition, with dozens of chapters, and hundreds of pages will be a great addition to your ham radio library, just like the 1934 edition was, when it was also the authoritative source of radio theory of its day. Best of all, it has undergone a major revision for 2018, making it a worthwhile investment even if you have a previous edition from a few years back.

So when we think of our Elmers, we probably can name more than one, and it is a sure bet that we include those who contribute their expertise to the written works, the internet web sites, and those who provide one-on-one and group training.

Those are our Elmers!



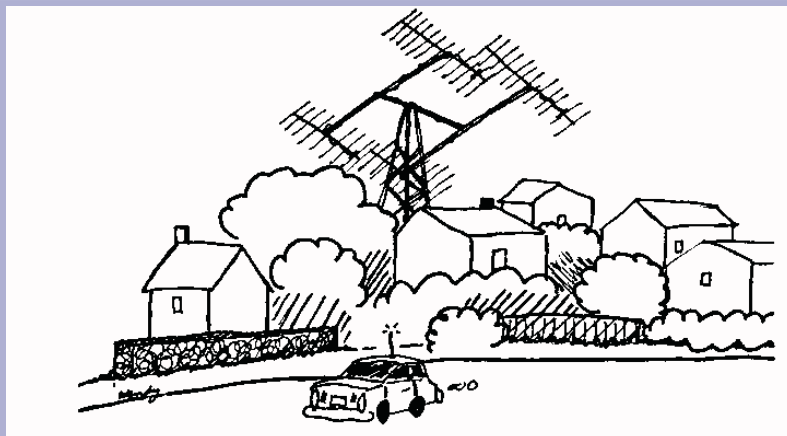
The original “Elmer” may just have been Elmer Bucher, an early radio engineer who wrote several “wireless” textbooks on radio theory and principles. Bucher worked on radio development for both Marconi and RCA

## EGARA September Meeting Minutes

- The September meeting of the EGARA was called to order at 7:11 PM by President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP;
- The minutes of the previous meeting were not read – they are available in Sidebands, the EGARA Newsletter. The Treasurers report was not given. Tom welcomed new Technician Nancy Drischler, KD2NSR. It was also announced that programming software is available to program all the local repeaters into various brands and models of radios;
- Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL circulated a sign up sheet for the “Run for Hope volunteers”. The race will be conducted on September 30. Ridge is the EGARA race communications coordinator. The race benefits cancer research;
- Next month’s EGARA meeting is the Mini-Hamfest (OKTOBERFEST) – open to all area amateurs. Admission is free, and free refreshments will be available. Members are encouraged to bring any surplus equipment they wish to sell or swap;
- A VE session is scheduled for October 7th at 10 AM at the East Greenbush Community Library. Further details can be found on the EGARA website, [www.egara.club](http://www.egara.club). Gordon West and ARRL study guides are available to help prospective candidates to prepare for the exams;
- Steve, WB2HPR, distributed pins to Field Day participants. The commemorative pins were purchased by the club for all who helped set up, tear down, or operate during Field Day 2017. If you didn’t get your pin this month, see Steve at the next meeting;
- Ridge also discussed participation in the recently concluded Maccabi Games held this year in Albany. Sports activities included swimming, baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, ice hockey, and golf. Hundreds of delegates from 21 countries attended. He stressed the value of amateur radio in providing communication support. As a result of this great success, all future editions of the Games will include amateur radio as a key player;
- Ridge also mentioned that he will be taking orders for Power Pole connectors and bulk coaxial cable purchases. Members should contact Ridge for details;
- Following the business meeting, Bill Leue, K2WML, gave a power point presentation showing the installation of his 6 meter antenna. Bill designed and custom made the antenna mounts, utilizing equipment in his machine shop. Materials included PVC, aluminum, and epoxy. He displayed the SWR results and has been successful in making contacts when the “magic band” is open;
- Refreshments were on hand for all in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

--de Steve VanSickle WB2HPR / Secretary

Ham  
It  
Up



*“OK, I’m on Maple Street. Which one is your house?”*

## ARRL Finally Realizes Status Quo Isn't Going To Cut It

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

An item in the July 2017 ARRL board meeting caught my attention. It notes that a committee of staff members was tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The August 3, 2017 issue of the ARRL Letter ran the following report:

“ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

“The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice.”

The board meeting minutes were a little more detailed:

“Mr. Roderick yielded the floor to CEO Gallagher who presented the report of a committee of staff members tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The members of the committee – Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF; Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY; Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ; Steve Ford, WB8IMY; and Sean Kutzko, KX9X, joined the meeting at 9:20 AM, to present this report. Their findings show the importance to ARRL of getting newly licensed hams actively on the air and how that relates to continued growth of the organization. In order to achieve that goal, the committee proposed developing a lifelong learning department, which would address the needs of all amateurs with the focus being on developing a clear knowledge path for all amateurs. They proposed creating straightforward programs and services to enhance the knowledge base of new amateurs as well as to enhance their sense of community within the hobby.

“Another recommendation involved refocusing the priorities of the emergency preparedness department to address the current trends in public service.

“A third recommendation was to improve the value proposition of membership. The committee proposed doing a survey, which would include test material that is targeted to the interests of newer hams. The content would include a strong emphasis on serving communities, agencies, and partners; digital communications, and human interest. Projects would be simple. The survey would obtain information on new ham's interests and needs in the hobby. The survey would also try to determine the delivery system that might best meet the newcomer's desire for receiving this type information (print, digital, messaging, etc). The test material is proposed to be delivered to recipients in fall 2017.

“From the committee's vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership. If we do not convey the need to change the paradigm, the ARRL's relevancy will not move forward.”

The good thing here is that the ARRL finally realizes that there are some serious problems. I've written about these in the past. I've challenged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of the licensed amateurs in the U.S (<http://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-membership-is-25-asking-too-much/>). I've also encouraged the ARRL to play a bigger part in emergency communications research (<http://www.kb6nu.com/go-big-go-early-go-fast-smart/>).



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## ARRL Finally Realizes Status Quo Isn't Going To Cut It

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Unfortunately, it appears that the ARRL is approaching this issue in typical ARRL fashion. That is, working on these issues in their little cocoon in Newington and then issuing these statements as if they expect everyone to just fall in line.

I quote, "From the committee's vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership." That approach is doomed to failure. Any "visioning" or strategic planning that doesn't get the membership involved right from the start just isn't going to work.

The ARRL HQ staff just doesn't have the horsepower to pull this off properly. The staff is already pretty bare bones, and they still have to publish QST every month, keep Logbook of the World running, process thousands of license applications, etc., etc. The only way this is going to be a fruitful effort is if they get members—and lots of them—involved in this process.

If you agree with me, please let your director know. Contact your director and tell him that you want to be involved. The status quo of having the HQ staff not working with the membership "is no longer adequate." That's how we got here in the first place.

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

### Stay Up To Date at [www.EGARA.club](http://www.EGARA.club)

You don't have to wait for the next issue of *Sidebands* to stay informed about club news and events. Just point your Internet browser to the club's website to catch up on the latest developments.

You'll also find a calendar of upcoming meetings and events, as well as helpful links to other interesting amateur radio websites. Plus, you can check out gear for sale by club members and list any equipment you're looking to buy or sell -- all for free! An archive of past newsletters is also available for downloading.

It's all at:

[www.egara.club](http://www.egara.club)!

## During Hurricanes, Emergency Officials Turn to Ham Radio

(Courtesy USA Today)

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Operators of amateur radios, also known as ham radios, play a vital role in the gathering of information during hurricanes like Irma.

"We take for granted our communications," said Etta LoPresti, emergency management coordinator for Indian River County.

"But when you have something catastrophic like they do in the Keys and in the west coast of Florida, where you're not going to have communication, these amateur radio operators take care of things for us."

In Indian River County, Paul Bartoszewicz and Willie Thompson work 14-hour shifts during Hurricane Irma. They're part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) — a group of licensed radio operators who help with communication during storms. They work in a small room off the main area inside Indian River County's Emergency Operation Center.

Bartoszewicz, 66, and Thompson, 61, do hourly calls to fellow amateur radio operators at each of the shelters in Indian River County.

"Are there communications such as land lines? Are they still up and running? Is their electrical up and running or down?", Bartoszewicz said. "Then we notify either FPL (Florida Power & Light) or City of Vero Beach because we have to get these shelters back up online. They all have generators; sometimes the generators fail."

Irma is Bartoszewicz' second hurricane since moving to Vero Beach six years ago. He also worked during Matthew last year. Thompson moved to Vero Beach in 2004 — just in time for hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.

"I started (amateur radio) way back in the day," he said. "I enjoyed the hobby and then I started doing emergency communications. When I was in the army I was able to travel a lot and got to work in Texas with ARES there and then Oklahoma, so I got tornado experience and then I got hurricane experience here."

The hours are challenging — 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. — but Bartoszewicz and Thompson feel a special responsibility for people in shelters.

"(The days are) long," Bartoszewicz said. "But it's rewarding to the fact that we are in charge of over 1,200 clients at our shelters that are located here." (see related story on page 8)

## On the Beam

### News & Notes

#### FCC Opens 630- and 2200-Meter Bands -- But Stations Must Notify UTC Before Operating



The FCC has announced approval of Amateur Radio service rules for the two new bands — 630 meters and 2200 meters. The approval is for three years, at which time it will be reviewed. Notice of the action appeared in the Federal Register. However, before using either band, stations must notify the Utilities Technology Council (UTC), that they plan to do so. If UTC does not respond within 30 days, they may commence operation.

Last March 27, the FCC amended its Amateur Radio rules to — in the FCC's words — “provide for frequency-sharing requirements in the 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200-meter) and 472-479 kHz (630-meter) bands.”

### Federal Communications Commission

Section 97.313(g)(2) of those rules requires that, prior to starting operation in either band, radio amateurs must notify UTC that they intend operate by submitting their call signs, intended band(s) of operation, and the coordinates of their antenna's fixed location. The new rules DO NOT permit any mobile operation.

“Amateur stations will be permitted to commence operations after a 30-day period, unless UTC notifies the station that its fixed location is located within 1 kilometer of Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems operating on the same or overlapping frequencies,” the FCC said. PLC systems are unlicensed. “This notification process will ensure that amateur stations seeking to operate [on 630 or 2200 meters] are located beyond a minimum separation distance from PLC transmission lines, which will help ensure the compatibility and coexistence of amateur and PLC operations, and promote shared use of the bands.”

Amateurs seeking to use the new bands may inform that UTC by visiting the following web address: <https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/>

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## EGARA Recognizes Field Day '17 Participants



Field Day 2017 was one of the most successful ever for EGARA and the club's Board of Directors took steps to show its appreciation by providing each member of the team with an ARRL FD17 pin, with the club covering the cost.

The pins were handed out during the club's membership meeting in September. Those recognized for their participation included:

Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP -- Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR  
 Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL -- Andrew Sullivan, KC2WWJ  
 Dave Williams, N2VLQ -- Peggy E Donnelly, KD2LMU  
 Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ -- Peter Mattice, KD2JKV  
 Christopher Linck, N2NEH -- Russ Greenman, WB2LXC  
 Dave Gillette, KC2RPU -- Nick Field, KD2JCR  
 Walt Snyder, N2WJR -- Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO  
 Frank Simon, WB2PUH -- Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC  
 Jim Arnold, KB2HRM -- Phil Quandt, KB2WVO  
 Mike Sisno, KD2NST -- Tim Antonacci, WA2WDX

## Amateur Radio Serves the National Hurricane Center

WX4NHC (formerly W4EHW) is an Amateur Radio Station that is operated by volunteer amateur radio operators and is located at the National Hurricane Center, located on the campus of Florida International University in Miami, Florida. The station has been totally assembled from donated equipment and has been in operation since 1980.

WX4NHC has been activated whenever a hurricane is within 300 miles of land fall in the areas of the western Atlantic, the Caribbean or the eastern Pacific. It also provides Emergency Backup Communications from the National Hurricane Center to the National Weather Service and other agencies in case of local landfall.

The WX4NHC Team is composed of 30 specially trained volunteer operators that staff the Ham Radio station in three to four hour shifts. For example: during the Historic 2005 Hurricane Season the station was manned -- sometimes with two to three operators at a time -- for more than 500 hours, sometimes with back-to-back hurricanes. It operated twice from inside the Eye of a hurricane (Katrina and Wilma) and collect hundreds of surface reports each hurricane season.

The operators work in conjunction with the Hurricane Watch Net, VoIP WX-Talk Hurricane Net and other volunteer networks to collect real-time surface reports for the NHC Hurricane Specialists.

WX4NHC also relays Hurricane Advisories via the Ham Radio Networks to hurricane affected areas and governmental agencies when conventional means of communications have been interrupted.

These surface reports provide the forecasters with supplemental weather and damage data that are not normally available to them. It is frequently incorporated into their advisories as they provide a human perspective and Eye Witness accounts of what people are experiencing during a hurricane.

The WX4NHC Team has been nationally recognized for their volunteer international humanitarian efforts by the National Hurricane Conference and the South Florida Hurricane Conference.

"When I was a hurricane specialist here at NHC, especially during the extremely busy year of 2005, I frequently relied on information from dedicated HAM radio operators in the U.S. and in many other countries," said Dr. Richard Knabb, Director of the National Hurricane Center. "They are key partners with us as we disseminate forecasts and warnings, and collect all available data both while an active tropical cyclone is out there, and after the event when the crucial task of documenting the impacts is conducted."

"Our HAM radio friends are as passionate as we are at NHC about disaster safety and preparedness, and they provide a method of communicating that has withstood the test of time, even in the midst of other technological advances," he added.



### Shortwave Frequencies Used for Hurricane Emergency Communications

#### Amateur Radio HF Frequencies - (single sideband mode)

20 meters : 14.325 MHz Hurricane Watch Net (Main frequency during Hurricanes)

40 meters : 7.268 MHz Water Way Net (secondary frequency) Maritime Mobiles Net

80 meters : 3.815 MHz Caribbean Net, (Alternates: 3.950 : North Florida / 3.940 South Florida)

#### Amateur Radio EchoLink / IRLP

EchoLink Conference: "WX-TALK" Node 7203

EchoLink Alternate Conference: "VKEMCOMM"

IRLP Node 9219, Alternate Node: 9508 or 9123

#### APRS mode Frequencies

HF : 30 meters : 10.151 MHz (LSB)

VHF : 2 meters : 144.390 MHz simplex

## Transitions

### Long-time Proprietor of Trojan Electronics Dead at 88



Herbert A. Page, the long-time proprietor of Trojan Electronics in Troy, passed away on Monday, September 18, 2017. Born in Troy, he was raised in Green Island and later resided in Brunswick. After proudly serving his country in the U.S. Army, Herb returned home to join the family business, Trojan Electronic Supply, until retiring in 2010. His son, Steve, continues to run the business.

Private interment took place in his family lot at the Oakwood Cemetery in Troy. Contributions may be made in memory of Herb to the Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern N.Y., 4 Pine West Plaza, Suite 405, Albany, NY 12205.

### George Politzi, K2ZZ, Owner of Radio Oasis, Passes Away at 65

The amateur radio community was saddened to learn of the passing of George Politzi, the owner of Radio Oasis, a supplier of antennas. George's call was K2ZZ and he was an amateur for nearly 50 years.



"We could always count on George to support our club," said EGARA President Tom Scorsone. "His products were well designed and built to the highest standards. His donations to our Hamfests were always appreciated. I know I speak for the entire ham community when I say he will be missed."

George was very proud to be #1 Honor Roll for DXCC, having worked every DXCC entity that is currently on the DXCC Chart including North Korea.

### President's Corner: Where Are All the Volunteers? By Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP

Our world is full of volunteers. Volunteer firemen, ambulance crews, scoutmasters, school aides, little league coaches -- the list goes on and on.



Of course, amateur radio operators are on the list, too. A prime example can be found during the recent hurricanes that ravaged the Caribbean, Florida and Texas. Hundreds of hams took to the airwaves to provide vital emergency communications support. Which leads me to ask: "Would WE be ready if a similar disaster struck here?"

But before you answer -- ask yourself when was the last time you took advantage of staffing one of our public service events? EGARA provides communications support for several local events each year, including the Run for Hope, the Run for Literacy and the Run for Help. **Unfortunately, the club often struggles to get enough members to adequately staff these events.** Yet they provide an excellent opportunity for us to practice the same operating skills we would have to rely on during an emergency. Each time we don't participate is an opportunity lost.

While we might consider ham radio as a hobby, it really is much more. In fact, the FCC established amateur radio as a voluntary, non-commercial radio communications service that would also provide the nation with a pool of trained radio operators and technicians who could provide essential communications during emergencies. The reliance on amateur radio is right there in the regulations, as can be found on the FCC's website:

*"When normal communications systems are not available, amateur stations may make transmissions necessary to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property [47 CFR 97.403]. This provision of emergency communications is regulated by Part 97, Subpart E of the FCC's rules."*

As amateur operators, each of us has an obligation to understand the vital role we play when emergencies take place -- and to be prepared for them. Our public service events are a great way to get that training and experience, so please consider participating in these opportunities.

It's your chance to use your license to serve the community.

# CALENDAR

October 11, 2017 - EGARA Mini-Hamfest, 7 pm, East Greenbush Masonic Temple, 710 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush, NY, 7 pm.

October 7, 2017 - EGARA VE Exam Session - 10 am, East Greenbush Community Library. Walk-in accepted, but RSVPs appreciated. Contact Tom at: KC2FCP@nycap.rr.com.

May 12, 2018 - EGARA Hamfest 2018 - 8 am to 1 pm at the East Greenbush Fire Department.

## ProTip:

### Not Too Much -- Not Too Little

Heat sink compound is often used to help transfer heat from power transistors and similar components to the heat sinks to which they are mounted. But more is *NOT* better.

It's generally best to put a bit on and rub it around so there is a thin layer on the component before it is bolted to the heat sink.



The photo shows the white compound on transistor leads. Bad choice! Keep the leads clean so they can make good contact with the socket they mate with.

This photo shows just the opposite. Too little heat sink compound. In either case, the transistor will likely run hotter than it should and will fail early.



Remember, heat is the enemy of semiconductors!



### For Sale

- **Force 12 Stealth Vertical Antenna** - Covers 80-10 meters. Can be used as a flag pole for stealth. No radials needed. Aircraft grade aluminum. Paid \$350, sell \$200.. Pick up in Rensselaer, NY. Contact Bryan at: W2RBJ@outlook.com.
- **Yaesu FT-7800 mobile radio** - Dual band 2 Meter & 440. \$150 with the separation kit. Contact Lee Hatfield, K2HAT@Ymail.com.
- **Kenwood Ts-480 Hf Rig** - 200 w PEP output, w/ manual, cable, and microphone - like new - \$700 obo; Contact: Steve Van Sickle, WB2HPR, by phone at 326-0902.

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**Looking to Buy, Sell or Swap?**  
 Send your info to [W2RBJ@outlook.com](mailto:W2RBJ@outlook.com)

## Time to Upgrade?

Next VE Exam Session is October 7th  
 10 am - East Greenbush Community Library

Contact Tom at: [KC2FCP@nycap.rr.com](mailto:KC2FCP@nycap.rr.com)

## The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (Silent Key) 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 the 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.