



June 2021

President Emeritus - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP President - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ Vice-President - Nick Field, KD2JCR
Secretary - Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR Treasurer, Don Mayotte, KB2CDX
Board Members: David Jaeger, Jr., K2DEJ Russ Greenman, WB2LXC Dave Gillette, KC2RPU

Home Stations to be Centerpiece of Field Day

After much discussion, EGARA members will once again participate in Field Day by operating from their home stations. Because of the pandemic, ARRL has extended the special rules it put in place last year that gave home stations (Class D & E) the ability to earn points by contacting each other. However, this year their power will be limited to only 100 watts.

Bonus points will continue to be available for things like operating with 100% emergency power and copying the Field Day message sent by the League's W1AW station. A complete list of bonus points is on page 2.

Again this year, EGARA members will operate using their own call sign and will report their total contacts and points under the club's name on their entry form. Last year, EGARA earned a total of 3,125 points.

To make Field Day logging and reporting easy, club members can use N3FJP's 2021 FD software, which is available at: <http://www.n3fjp.com/fieldday.html>. Field Day information and rules are available online at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>



"We're looking forward to everyone's participation this year," said EGARA President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. "At our June meeting, we'll go over Field Day details and work to team up any Tech license holders that would like to work HF frequencies with members who hold General and Extra tickets."

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EGARA Gets Another Generous Gift

EGARA member Randy Brinson, KD2TGR, has generously contributed \$150 to the club in support of its 2021 Hamfest.

It is the latest deductible gift the club has received since it was designated as a 501(c)3 charity by the Internal Revenue Service last October.

"Randy's gift is gratefully appreciated and has helped to bolster the club's finances in preparation of this year's Hamfest," said EGARA Treasurer Don Mayotte, KB2CDX.

As a 501(c)3 organization, all donations to the club are tax deductible under IRS rules.



Next Membership Meeting - June 9, 2021 - Masonic Lodge at 7 pm

BONUS POINTS ADD UP!

Use this Bonus Points Calculator to keep track of your Field Day Bonus Points (see Rule 7.3 for details). All bonus points require submission of proof and will be verified before being added to your score. Maximum bonus points are listed unless otherwise noted.

POINTS	ACTIVITY	AVAILABLE CLASSES
	100% Emergency Power. 100 bonus points per transmitter; max. 20 transmitters, max. 2,000 points. Bonus stations (such as the GOTA station and satellite station) do not count toward determining the number of transmitters for the class and do not qualify for transmitter bonus points.	A, B, C, E, and F
	Media Publicity. 100 bonus points. A copy of a press release, or a copy of the actual media publicity received (newspaper article, news website post, etc.) must be submitted to claim the points.	All
	Set Up in Public Place. 100 bonus points.	A, B, and F
	Public Information Table. 100 bonus points. A copy of a visitor log, copies of club handouts, or photos are sufficient evidence for claiming this bonus.	A, B, and F
	Message to ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator. 100 bonus points. See Rule 7.3.5 for message format. This message is separate from the messages handled in Rule 7.3.6 and may not be claimed for bonus points under that rule.	All
	W1AW Field Day Message. 100 bonus points. Copy, via amateur radio, the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW or K6KPH and include an accurate copy of the message with your Field Day entry.	All
	Message Handling NTS/ICS-213. 0 to 100 points maximum, calculated by taking the Number of Messages (max. 10 messages): _____ × 10 bonus points for each formal message originated, relayed, or received and delivered during the Field Day period. Copies of each message must be included with the Field Day entry. The message under Rule 7.3.5 does not count. All messages claimed for bonus points must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF.	All
	A Satellite QSO. 100 bonus points. Satellite QSOs also count for regular QSO credit. List these contacts separately on the summary sheet as a separate "band." The QSO must be between two Earth stations through a satellite. Stations are limited to one (1) completed QSO on any single channel FM satellite.	A, B, and F
	Natural Power QSOs. 100 bonus points. Complete at least five QSOs without using power from commercial mains or petroleum-driven generator. A separate list of natural power QSOs should be submitted with your entry.	A, B, E, and F
	Site Visit by Invited Elected Official. 100 bonus points.	All
	Site Visit by Invited Served Agency Official. 100 bonus points. Visits from ARRL officials (SM, SEC, DEC, EC, etc.) do not qualify for this bonus.	All
	Educational Activity. 100 bonus points.	A, D, E & F. See website for D & E rules
	Youth Participation. <input type="checkbox"/> For Class A, C, D, E, or F groups: 20 bonus points per participant age 18 or younger that completes at least one QSO; max. 100 points. <input type="checkbox"/> For a one-person Class B station: 20 bonus points if the operator is age 18 or younger; max. 20 points. <input type="checkbox"/> For a two-person Class B station: 20 bonus points for each operator age 18 or younger; max. 40 points.	All (see specific points per class)
	GOTA Bonus. See Rule 7.3.13 for the bonus point breakdown.	A and F
	Use the Field Day Entry Web App. 50 bonus points. Submit the entry using the web app at https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php .	All
	Safety Officer Bonus. 100 bonus points. Include a statement with the supporting documentation for your entry, verifying that a designated Safety Officer completed the ARRL Field Day Safety Check List.	A
	Social Media Bonus. 100 bonus points. Promote your Field Day activation to the general public via social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.). Individual participants do not qualify for this bonus. Club websites do not qualify as social media. Available to all classes who welcome visitors to their operation.	All

Job Assignments Listed for Hamfest 2021

Job categories and assignments have been laid out for this year's Hamfest, with several members already signed up. This year's Hamfest will be held at the East Greenbush Town Park on Saturday, August 21st. Setup will take place Friday, August 20th beginning at 4 pm, with supplies being moved from the Masonic Lodge to the park. Final preparations will take place Saturday morning at 5:30 am, with vendors being set up, parking arrangements and food prep. The Hamfest is set to run from 8 am to 1 pm, with tear down and clean up following. Because of higher costs this year, members agreed to increase the admission price to \$7.00, an increase of \$1.00. Food prices will be determined later and will depend on market conditions.

The current roster and job assignments include:

Friday PM Setup: Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR; Bob Stanley, W2RBS; Russ Greenman, WB2LXC; Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO; Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ; Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP; Dave Jaeger, K2DEJ; Rick Jaeger, K2JGY; Chris Link, N2NEH; Bill Leue, K2WML

Saturday AM Setup: Russ Greenman, WB2LXC; Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO; Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ; Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP; Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO

Road Signage: Open

Admission Gate: Dave Jaeger, K2DEJ; Rick Jaeger, K2JGY and Paul Dahoda, KD2JMM

Cash Control: Don Mayotte, KB2CDX and Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

Cash Register: Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL and Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

Food & Supplies Pick-up: Don Mayotte, KB2CDX and Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

Kitchen & Food Prep: Dave Smith, WA2WAP; Tim Antonacci, WA2WDX; Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP, and Andy Sullivan, KC2WWJ

HT Radio Raffle - 50/50 Raffle: Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU and Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC

Public Address & Prize Giveaway: Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR and Rusty Reed, KD2UFC

Parking & Tailgater Management: Rusty Reed, KD2UFC; Steve Marsh, KC2USX; Deb Mariani, KC2ULU and Paul Dahoda, KD2JMM

Publicity and Outreach: Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

Rotating Fill: As determined and assigned during Hamfest.

Table and Vendor Reservations: Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP and Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

Talk-in: Chris Link, N2NEH and Nick Field, KD2JCR

Photography: Dave Gillette, KC2RPU and Rusty Reed, KD2UFC

Saturday Cleanup and Tear Down: Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR; Russ Greenman, WB2LXC; Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ; Bob Stanley, W2RBS; Dave Jaeger, K2DEJ; Rick Jaeger, K2JGY; Chris Link, N2NEH; Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP; Bill Leue, K2WML

If you have not signed up yet, please consider helping with placing road direction signs, parking management, kitchen assistance and general help.

Please Support Our EGARA 2021 Hamfest Sponsors



Need a Table at Hamfest? Reserve Now!

Reserve your space now if you want a vendor table at Hamfest 2021, as they go fast! Tables are just \$10 and include an admission ticket. Best of all, they're all either inside our climate-controlled exhibit building or under cover. And, they're a great way to display and sell equipment, parts and accessories you no longer need. But don't wait -- they're first come, first served.

To reserve table space contact Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, by email at W2RBJ@Outlook.com or call 518-894-3500.

EGARA Makes a Change of Address

Due to increasing fees by the U.S. Postal Service, club officers and board members have approved discontinuing the rental of the club's P.O. Box to save funds.

Mail sent to the old address of P.O. Box 25, East Greenbush, NY 12061 will now be forwarded to Club President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ at **983 Sterling Ridge Drive, Rensselaer, NY 12144**. Anyone wishing to contact the club by mail should also now use the new address.

A New Ham and A New Member!

EGARA member Harry Olson is our newest ham! Harry passed his Tech license on May 15th and has been assigned KD2WKW. He's now studying for his General ticket. We look forward to seeing him at our future meetings to offer our congratulations in person!

In addition, EGARA has another new member -- Mark Crieghton, KC2QP. Mark is an East Greenbush resident and holds an Advanced ticket. Please welcome him to the club!

On the Beam

News & Notes

Mid-Hudson Hams Set to Go Worldwide to Raise Funds for Bannerman Island Restoration

On Saturday, June 12th, a group of Mid-Hudson Amateur Radio operators will run eight “Pop Up” Amateur stations to help raise funds for the Bannerman's Castle Trust. The goal is to make 2,000 contacts with other ham radio operators around the world in just four hours from 1 pm to 5 pm (USA-EDT). It is sponsored by the Hudson River Radio Relay.

The event is designed to bring attention to the Trust's “Go Fund Me” campaign that is raising money for preservation of the historic site that sits on Pollepel Island in the Hudson River near Fishkill, New York. Better known as Bannerman's Island, it was used during the first half of the last century by munitions dealer Francis Bannerman to store surplus military equipment and ammunition. Bannerman also built a castle on the island as his residence. The site was abandoned in the early 1950s and was eventually purchased by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Trust is a volunteer organization that is working to make the island's structures safe and the grounds a park for visitors.



One of the eight Amateur stations, N2B, will operate from the island, while the other seven “Pop Up” stations will operate from various parks in the mid-Hudson region. Radio operators that contact these Special Event stations will receive a special commemorative certificate and information on how to contribute to the Trust's fundraising campaign.

In addition to supporting the Trust, the eight Amateur Radio stations will demonstrate how the hobby encompasses “STEAM” -- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Agriculture, and Mathematics. Members of the public who visit the stations will have the opportunity to see how they operate, including the ability of “hams” make contact from virtually anywhere without reliance on any additional infrastructure, such as cell service, landlines or the Internet.

“Amateur Radio is the original social media and it has been bringing the world together for over a century” said Ria Jairam, N2RJ, who serves as the Director of the Hudson River Division of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). “Ham radio operators have the ability to connect with others all over the globe, sharing their knowledge, culture and friendship -- all without the need for cell service or the Internet. “It's also been a great way to ‘get out of the house’ during the pandemic.”

During the Bannerman radio relay project, the eight “Pop Up” stations will use four different amateur radio technologies to communicate, including voice, digital modes and traditional Morse Code.

- **N2B** - Hudson Valley Digital Network (HVDN) - Bannerman's Island. Bannerman's Island is only accessible through a permit issued by Bannerman's Castle Trust and Department of Conservation (DEC).
- **N2H** - Overlook Mountain Amateur Radio Club - Kingston Point Park, Delaware Ave, Kingston, NY 12401
- **N2U** - Putnam Emergency Amateur Repeater League - Castle Rock Unique Area. Parking lot off Wing and Wind Road, Garrison, NY 10524
- **N2D** - USMA Cadet Amateur Radio Club – Constitution Island – West Point. Constitution Island is not easily accessible to the public since part of it is the property of United States Military Academy (USMA). To
- **N2S** - QSY Society & Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club - College Hill Park, 149 N Clinton St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
- **N2O** - Orange County Amateur Radio Club - Bear Mountain State Park. The station will operate from the base of the Perkins Tower.
- **N2N** - Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Assn. - Hudson Highlands State Park 3260 NY-9D, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Station will be in the Annsville Creek Preserve Area.
- **N2V** - Crystal Radio Club, Inc. - High Tor State Park 415 S Mountain Rd, New City, NY 10956

More information about the event and frequencies to be used is at: <https://hudsonriverradiorelay.com/index.html>.

EGARA May Meeting Minutes

- The May meeting of the EGARA was called to order at 7:00.PM. A total of 21 members attended the meeting at the Masonic Temple
- President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ welcomed everyone, followed by a round-robin introduction. Two raffles were held and prizes included an assortment of tools and a Cisco Hamshack Hotline telephone generously donated by Dave Smith, WA2WAP.
- A call was made for volunteers to serve on the Hamfest Committee and a sign-up sheet was circulated. Some of the positions and duties were described by Bryan Jackson (see sign up list on page 3). A gift certificate was recently received from one of our sponsors, The Wireman. There will be over \$3,500 in door prizes and raffles this year.
- The Hamfest admission will be raised to \$7 this year due to increased costs. There will be several new logistical issues which will be addressed. Promotional materials/flyers will also be prepared. More members will be needed to help with parking and to direct traffic. An overhead view of the facility will be distributed. Setup will begin after 4:30 PM 8/20/21.
- The monthly 2 meter roundtable will be conducted on May 26th at 7 PM using the 147.270 repeater (PL 94.8).
- The EGARA PO Box will be discontinued to save money. (See item on page 4).
- The Town of East Greenbush has planned a Memorial Day town parade. EGARA is invited to participate.
- The next VE session will see the free distribution of 5 EGARA hats to new Techs thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor.
- Steve Marsh's home was hit by lightning and he has requested help to get back on the air.
- Member Pete Sochi has taken ill, and wishes for a speedy recovery were voiced.
- The business meeting was followed by a presentation about Ham Shack Hotline by Russ Greenman, WB2LXC. He discussed all aspects of the HH system, from equipment purchase and programming, as well as a live demonstration of the system and its many uses.
- The meeting and presentation were concluded at 9:12 PM.
- Submitted by Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR - Secretary

Ahoy! USS Slater Invites Local Hams to Work Its Special Event Station

The USS Slater, *WW2DEM*, will participate in Museum Ships Weekend on June 6th and 7th by operating a Special Event station from its shipboard radio room -- and area hams are being invited to help work the station.

The Slater -- the last World War II destroyer-escort still afloat in the United States -- will be among 73 historic museum ships around the world expected to take part in the event. Operating hours are slated to be 8 am to 4 pm local time both days.

While ships participating in the event can use any Amateur frequency, the Slater plans to operate on 14.260, 14.039, 7.260 and 7.039. Although the program is targeted at communications between the museum ships, Amateur operators are also expected to make contact and can request verification by writing: QSL, USS Slater Radio, PO Box 1926, Albany, NY 12201.

During her wartime service, the Slater escorted convoys in the North Atlantic to the United Kingdom and later in the Pacific to the Philippines and Japan. The Port of Albany has been the Slater's home since 1997 where she is displayed accurately restored to her 1945 condition.



Volunteer Joe Breyer N2LL, operates the Slater's crown jewel, a rare RCA TBL-8 on 40 meters. The restored rig is periodically on the air, capable of either 100 watts AM or 400 watts CW. The TBL-8 is nearly six feet tall and weighs 850 pounds.



CALL SIGN	U.S.S. SLATER (DE-766)	SIG
From:	USS SLATER/WW2DEM	
To:	QST	
Heading:	NR 5 R OPDH CHK 45 15MAY2021 1648	
<p>USS SLATER/WW2DEM WILL BE QRV FOR MUSEUM SHIP WEEKEND SATURDAY 05JUN2021 AND SUNDAY 06JUN2021 STOP HOURS OF OPERATION TO BE DETERMINED BUT MOST LIKELY 1800 TO 1400 LOCAL STOP QRG 7062KC AND 14062KC PLUS/MINUS QRM STOP HOPE TO WORK YOU STOP</p>		
RIZZUTO DIRECTOR		
USS SLATER/WW2DEM		
Station and NR	Op	Time

In 2014, she received a major hull overhaul and was repainted in the authentic "dazzle" paint scheme she wore in 1945. This camouflage scheme was not intended to make the ship "invisible" but rather it was meant to make it more difficult to judge her distance, direction, and size -- all important factors in setting up a torpedo attack on her.

Local hams that wish to help work the Slater's Special Event station are invited to visit the ship either day and request to help operate. The radio room can accommodate up to four operators at a time. As CW will be among the operating modes used, those proficient at code will find the event particularly enjoyable.

Additional operating information can be found at www.qrz.com/db/ww2dem or www.ussslater.org

The History of Ham Radio: Broadcast Boundaries

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

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

Despite several attempts, no successor to the outdated 1912 radio law had yet emerged. Now it could wait no longer since things had changed so radically with the rise of broadcasting—"well over a half-million receiving stations in the country, some sixty broadcasting stations, and rumor has it that there are some five hundred applications for broadcasting pending in the department of Commerce," wrote Warner. Companies were trying to control access to the airwaves too; AT&T, for example, was formally requesting a monopoly on broadcasting.

In early March, 1922, Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover convened the first National Radio Conference in Washington. In assembling the conference committee, Hoover had chosen thirteen individuals prominent in radio but ostensibly independent of any particular interest group. It included a senator and a congressman, Stratton, the director of the Bureau of Standards, Hazeltine of Stevens Institute of Technology, Jansky of the University of Minnesota, Armstrong of Columbia University, Goldsmith, secretary of the IRE, several from other departments of the government, and Hiram Percy Maxim of the ARRL. The conference committee was then termed a commission whose job, beyond organizing the conference, would be to recommend changes to the 1912 law and draft an amendment on behalf of the Department of Commerce.

During two days of open session the conference heard views from the various interest groups present. Then, in closed executive session, three committees were formed—Legal, Technical, and Amateur. Maxim would chair the amateur committee and have Armstrong and Hazeltine as members.

"The hearings were funny," remarked Warner. The prevailing sense was that the corporations were in a power grab, conspiring to create a group monopoly yet not selling equipment to competitors, all the while producing inferior receivers. This caused the hearings to take on the mood "of a Congressional Board of Inquiry" grilling the commercial broadcasting firms.

AT&T wanted to sell what it termed toll broadcasting, the progenitor of commercial broadcasting where programs are interspersed with advertisements paid for by sponsoring companies. Under a government-sanctioned agreement to merge patent rights with General Electric, AT&T claimed to hold the rights to "all commercial applications of the radiophone." GE had similar rights to the amateur phone business and all radiotelegraphy. Other companies' access to licensed equipment was then considered in combination with these two. For example, RCA and Westinghouse would be allowed in with GE, and Western Electric with AT&T. Thus, for example, radio manufacturers GE and Westinghouse were cross-licensed with RCA, who could only sell those two brands of receivers.

Edwards of GE suggested commercial broadcasts should only occur during daylight and entertainment in evening (implying that he considered entertainment not to be commercial). Various suggestions for wavelength allocations were made by the companies' representatives. Some voiced support for protecting amateurs. But in order of importance, Elwell of RCA ranked the services as: government, civil departments, maritime, educational, entertainment, amateur, public service.



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History of Amateur Radio...

On day two, the amateurs' viewpoint was heard, presented by an ARRL delegation consisting of Paul Godley, ARRL VP Charles Stewart, and Secretary Kenneth Warner. Godley pressed the need for wavelength allocation and rightly (and with credibility as a receiver expert) blamed at least some of the interference problems on the inferior quality of the receivers being produced by the commercial firms. Recent publicity, portraying amateurs as "the American small boy" and something to be curtailed, was quashed by Secretary Hoover himself in a strongly worded statement that "the whole sense of this conference has been to protect and encourage the amateur in every possible direction." Stewart and Warner recommended moving broadcasts above 1,000 meters.

Several small companies testified too, some of which had representatives who were also amateurs. Other interests were heard from including public services, the Boy Scouts, the US Shipping board, and the Philadelphia police.

Warner was permitted to sit in on the confidential executive session as advisor to Maxim. The basic plan was to propose amending the 1912 law to designate the Department of Commerce as the main regulatory body, and the conference commission was to outline guiding principles for its actions.

They would define four classes of broadcasting:

- Government—self explanatory
- Public—material of general interest such as informational, educational, weather, etc.
- Private—broadcasts by owners of stations (e.g. Westinghouse); "the big popular class"
- Toll—the AT&T model of leased commercial stations

Allocations were proposed: Below 150 meters was designated reserved; 150 to 275 for amateur use; 275 to 1,050 for various utility services; 310 to 435 for private and toll broadcasting; 310 for restricted special amateur telegraphy (in sparsely populated areas only); 1,050 to 1,500 for Government and public broadcasting; 5,000 to 6,000 for transoceanic telephony.

The commission's amateur allocation from 150 to 275 meters allowed spark, MCW, phone, and straight CW in segments from shortest to longest wavelength—once again, a model similar to today's band plans. On one hand, pushing up to 275 meters seemed good but they had also introduced a lower limit at 150 meters that did not exist before. What could amateurs infer from that? It was troubling.

The status of the amateur would be established by law within an allocated band, with smaller bands for the various modes in the order: spark, interrupted or modulated continuous wave telegraphy, telephony, continuous wave telegraphy. And to promote self-policing, positions for Deputy Radio Inspectors would be created, elected by the amateurs, serving without compensation or for the sum of one dollar per year if compensation is legally required, to accomplish the observance of laws and regulations and observance of co-operative measures for the minimization of interference.

Abolition of amateur spark was widely discussed at the conference. But the consensus among amateur representatives was that the price of CW equipment was still too high to force this just yet. There was equal agreement that when that situation changed, "the amateurs would be willing to forsake the spark upon reasonable notice."

Amateurs did not get all broadcasting pushed up above 1,000 meters as suggested because there just was not enough bandwidth up there—more stations could fit in the 310–435 range than the 1,050–1,500 segment which could only accommodate twelve stations at 10 kc width. The most important provision was the recognition of amateurs as one of the classes to always be established. The proposed allocation would help improve conditions for the estimated 15,000 stations.

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History of Amateur Radio...

At a District Radio Convention, Chief Radio Inspector Terrell of the Department of Commerce recognized that the League would have a representative on the Secretary's committee on new rules. That would be the channel through which all amateurs could express their views and influence the committee's conclusions and recommendations, and he encouraged them to do so. He remarked that "there is at present, and I hope there always will be, just one amateur radio organization of the amateurs, by the amateurs, and for the amateurs." He reported a total of 14,179 licensed amateur radio stations in the US, with the largest number, 2,664, in the ninth district, and the first, eighth and second close behind with more than 2,000 each. This was an increase of about 4,000 in just the last eight months. He believed it necessary to note that this did not include receiving stations whose number he could not begin to estimate. But he observed that "broadcasting promises to become one of the most valuable functions of radio" if it could provide the public with what they wanted to hear. He predicted that reallocation of segments would be necessary and that hams would have to forfeit their 375-meter segment for experimental use to allow for broadcasting expansion. Since hams had gotten across the Atlantic on 200 meters, he reasoned, they should be willing to relinquish 375 meters "unless [hams] contemplate a test with China," still perpetuating the notion that the longer wavelengths were best for DX.

A suggestion that the government might print monthly lists of new amateur stations was met with wild applause by the convention.

At another District Convention in New York, David Sarnoff, Commercial Manager of RCA, speaking to an overflow dinner crowd, noted that if one were to take into account actual accomplishments, many amateurs were more like commercials (meaning professionals) whereas many commercials were amateurs. It was meant as a compliment.

Bewilderment pervaded the talk in amateur circles as they greeted the explosion of broadcast radio with a mixture of pride and sorrow, as ARRL Secretary Warner put it. Once the companies got going after the war, "everybody promptly went bugs on wireless," he wrote, causing a huge demand for receivers which could not be met despite the start-up of new companies and increased production. He compared it to the Texas oil rush. Many hams had left to become part of the commercial radio world.

Other media was jumping on the radio bandwagon. New radio magazines appeared and newspapers now had radio columns that sometimes were written by writers posing as experts who, in Warner's estimation "simply ain't." "The movies are full of it" too, claimed the editor, evidently referring to radio appearing prominently in films of the time. Advertisers "dump great piles of radio pictures upon us, many of which are decorated with feminine legs,



The Radcliffe radio girls

always a sign of popular interest." As if to validate the point, QST then printed one such photo in its Radiophone column that month, showing a picture of four students, labeled "college girls," at Radcliffe operating a radiotelephone station. The 8ZZ cover drawing for April showed a young woman in an evening gown sitting in front of a receiver – no headphones, just a big loudspeaker – with a radio-wise gentleman in a tuxedo handling her chair while instructing her on the art of tuning. Although radio was permeating popular culture, not everyone in business was happy about it. Theaters reported a downturn in business that they attributed to people staying home to listen to radio. Record dealers were also complaining; they had not yet caught on to the vast new opportunity to promote their product.

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History of Amateur Radio...

QST's editor wondered what it would all mean for hams, asking "what's going to happen to the old game and where will we be a year from now?" And hams still did not quite believe all of it, wondering if the radio broadcast boom wasn't just a transient bubble, a fad of average people who would either lose interest or become hams. Nevertheless, QST predicted eventual stability in the market and the coming of broadcast regulation. In the end, amateur radio by definition could not be commercialized—at least not on the air.

There was also some debate about the purpose of QST in the light of all the interest in broadcasts, and whether or not to expand its scope to encompass broadcast listening. By June 1922 the League decided that QST would remain purely a magazine for "the practical amateur." The listeners, whom they called "new radio folks," were not really amateurs but more like radio fans. Nevertheless, some of them might become amateurs and QST's role was to be there as a source of information when they became interested.

Meanwhile, the overall amateur ranks continued to grow, and QST's circulation stood at fifty thousand in the spring of 1922. The June issue had 148 pages including covers, 80 of which were ads. The Calls Heard section was now up to seven pages.

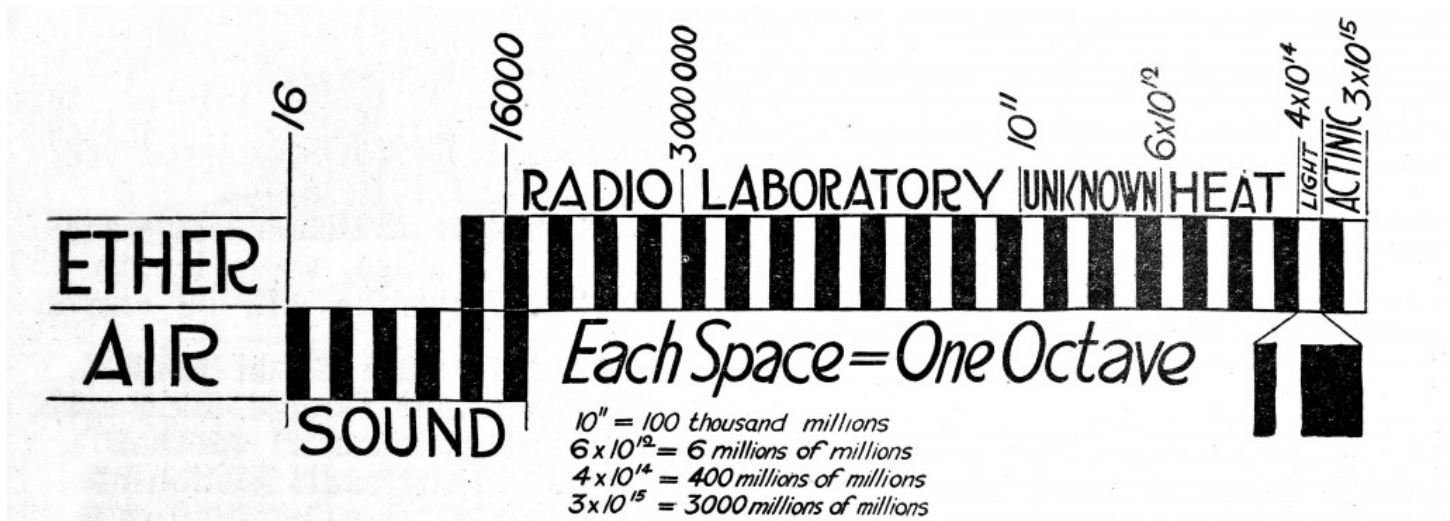
Besides enabling the transatlantic test successes, hams were increasingly demonstrating the effectiveness of CW for relay work. In February 1922, QST reported that in the Roanoke Division nearly seven times the number of messages were passed on CW as on spark, and in three other divisions the CW total now exceeded that of spark, including in the Atlantic Division where 2,773 messages were passed on CW topping all others by a factor of five.

March QST was the first issue in which no ads for spark gaps appeared at all. And in the May Strays column, an item read, "Wouldn't it be wonderful ... if Henry Ford would buy up all the spark transmitters in the second district and use them for ship moorings?" Perhaps this hinted at the first use of the term boat anchor as a derogatory reference to obsolete equipment, long before it took on the gentler, nostalgic meaning it has today.

Another item in the same Strays column poked fun at Vermilya's shifting opinion of CW contrasting his view in August 1921—"to hell with CW"—with his change of heart seven months later—"I am now in favor of passing a law against all sparks—no excuse for them".

In a lecture to the Commonwealth Club of California, a naval officer involved in radio explained frequency and wavelength, for describing waves of sound, radio, and light, and speculated that, in view of Einstein's theory of relativity, there may, in fact, be no such thing as "ether."

Whatever it was, the air was filling up fast.



First-Time Exam Applicants Must Obtain FCC Registration Number Before Taking Exams

Since May 20th, all amateur examination applicants have been required to provide an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) before taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system.

Amateur candidates who already have an FCC license, whether for amateur radio or another service, and already have an FRN may use the same number. All prospective new FCC licensees, however, will be required to obtain an FRN before the examination and provide that number to the volunteer examiners on the Form 605 license application.

An FCC instructional video provides step-by-step instructions on how to obtain an FRN through the FCC's Commission REgistration System (CORES). It can be viewed at <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fcc-registration-system-cores/commission-registration-system-video-tutorials>.

The FRN is required for all new applicants to take an amateur exam and is used afterward by the applicant to download the license document from the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS), upgrade the license, apply for a vanity call sign, and to submit administrative updates (such as address and email changes) and renewal applications.

In addition, after June 29th, all applications will also be required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence. (see related story below). Applicants will receive an email directly from the FCC with a link to the official electronic copy of their license whenever a license is issued or changed. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email should use the email address of a family member or friend. Licensees will be able to log in to the ULS using their FRN and password to download the latest version of their license at any time. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents.

Amateurs' Email Addresses Will Continue to Be Kept Private, FCC Says

Starting on June 29, all applications filed with the FCC must include an email address for FCC correspondence. After receipt of the initial announcement that all future applications would require an email address, ARRL was concerned for the privacy of its members and requested that amateurs' email addresses not be made public. The FCC has agreed to the request, stating in an email to ARRL counsel that it will continue to "mask" amateurs' email addresses from public view in the Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will use the email address supplied by amateurs to correspond with applicants, including to send a link to the official electronic copy of the license when an application is granted.

The FCC is transitioning to fully electronic correspondence and no longer mails hard-copy licenses. Amateurs are able to view, download, and print their official license grant, using the ULS. When a license is first granted, each applicant will receive an email with a direct link to the license. Although the link expires in 30 days, the license itself will remain available in the ULS and may be downloaded at any time by signing into the licensee's account using their FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password.

On or after June 29, a valid email address must be provided with each application, and must be kept current by filing a modification application as necessary. Under the amended Section 97.23, "The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence. Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address."

Applicants lacking an email address should consider using the email address of a friend or family member on their FCC applications.

Intrepid-DX Group Prepares for Trip to "Cold and Inhospitable" Bouvet Island

"Bouvet is like the Mount Everest of DXCC entities," 3Y0J DXpedition co-leader Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said. "It is among the most challenging entities to activate due to significant transportation costs and personal sacrifices required by the team to make the 42-day round trip. Fortunately, Bouvet is not our first mountain." The DXpedition's website describes Bouvet as, "a cold and inhospitable place." At 54° S, Bouvet Island, a sub-Antarctic island in the South Atlantic and a dependency of Norway, is the most remote place on Earth.



Ewing announced recently that Mike Crownover, AB5EB, a veteran emergency room physician, has joined the 3Y0J DXpedition team to pair with ER doctor Bill Straw, KO7SS. The DXpedition is set for January - February 2023, but the planning stage to activate the second-most-wanted DXCC entity is well under way, with the team researching polar-quality tents and equipment and discussing antenna specifications with various manufacturers.

"We will make careful choices to help us meet the demand for Bouvet contacts," Ewing said. The 3Y0J team has set a goal of making at least 100,000 contacts from Bouvet. "3Y0J will be a DXpedition with a focus on good, fast, and

accurate operating. QSO rates will be very high," Ewing said. "We have assembled a team of strong operators who will strive to work everyone. We will focus on CW/SSB/digital for the 10 - 160 meter bands. Our goal is to match our VP8STI/VP8SGI achievement with 135,000 contacts made."

Ewing said that in the later stages of the DXpedition, operators will use "proven techniques" to work the weakest of callers. "We will also use techniques to work the youth in our audience," he added.

No real-time log search will be available, but 3Y0J will upload to Club Log and to M0OXO Log Search each day, Ewing said.

The DXpedition has an estimated budget of \$764,000, with each team member contributing a minimum of \$20,000 each. In April, ARRL awarded a Colvin Grant of \$5,000 to the Intrepid-DX Group to help in funding the 3Y0J DXpedition. Ewing and ARRL member Ken Opskar, LA7GIA, will share DXpedition leadership duties.

Not Sure If You Paid Your Club Dues for 2021?

A quick email inquiry to Club Treasurer Don Mayotte, KB2CDX, will get you an answer!
Contact him at: ddm653@gmail.com

Pay quickly and easily online at: <https://www.egara.club/pay-dues>

or mail your check to: EGARA, 983 Sterling Ridge Drive, Rensselaer, NY 12144

\$15 / individual - \$25 / family

Multi-year rates also available. Check the website for details.

Volunteer Monitor Program Report Released

The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program -- a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service -- has issued an update on its activities.

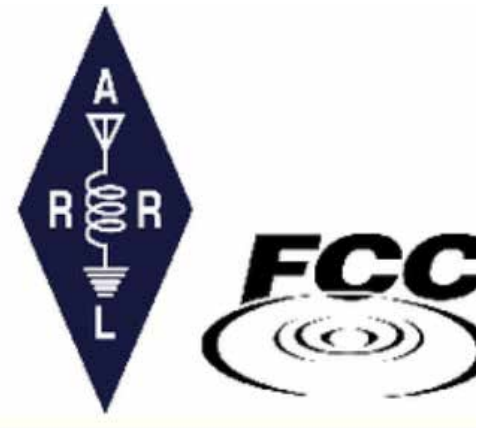
Among the items in the report was an item about a General-class renewal applicant who withdrew his application after FCC notice that the renewal application would be held up pending review of Volunteer Monitor complaints. As a consequence, the Quakertown, Pennsylvania, applicant has no operating privileges.

Twenty-one operators in 14 states received Advisories because of their operation in the March CQ World Wide DX Contest. While making contacts with VC3T and VC2W, their LSB signals extended below 7.125 MHz, which is the lower limit of the 40-meter amateur phone band.

Volunteer Monitors participated in a nationwide training program on April 7 that was conducted by ARRL and the FCC.

In addition, Volunteer Monitors had two meetings in April with FCC Enforcement Bureau personnel.

The totals for VM monitoring in March were 1,394 hours on HF frequencies and 2,515 hours on VHF and above frequencies.



Updates on Mask Guidance and Summer Meetings



Guidance regarding the need to wear masks continues to evolve from both the CDC and New York State. Unfortunately, the information is sometimes inconsistent between the two.

According to the latest guidance, fully vaccinated individuals have the option of not wearing a face mask. Those who have not been vaccinated are requested to continue wearing them. EGARA asks its members to use the "honor system" as to whether a mask is required.

As far as outdoor activities, face masks are no longer required. However, members who are not vaccinated are asked to still observe social distancing as a precaution. As the number of vaccinated individuals increases and the pandemic continues to recede, hopefully all restrictions will be eased.

In addition, because the pandemic resulted in the cancellation of in-person club meetings for most of last year and the start of this year, members have agreed to hold regular monthly meetings during this July and August -- the summer months when meetings are usually suspended.

Following the regular schedule, these meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month, as they are the rest of the year. The July meeting will be held June 14th, and the August meeting will be held August 11th.

A Safer Way to Climb

Drones, “they ain’t just for kids anymore!”

Farmers are using them to measure crops, real estate developers are using them to survey land and medical professionals are even using them to deliver supplies to unreachable areas in disaster zones.

There’s no question about it, these unmanned aerial vehicles or UAVs make it easier to go where no human can or should go -- and for Amateur Radio operators it means a safer way to inspect towers and antennas. One drone = fewer climbs... all without human intervention other than the pilot on the ground.

Without putting a climber on a tower, it’s now possible to confirm that everything appears to be in good shape. The drone can perform different types of inspection services efficiently, accurately, safely and faster than a human without presenting a hazard. Drones identify damage, exactly where it is, and make it easier to plan repairs.



Using a drone for antenna and tower inspections can spot problems without having to make a dangerous climb.

Three of the most common and important inspections are:

- Confirm antenna functionality, installation, operation, and enable maintenance trouble shooting.
- Line inspection — identify compromised cables, burn outs, potential burnouts, and connection joint integrity.
- Structural inspection — directly related to the structure and all components surrounding it as part of the anchoring system. This inspection provides “points of interest” of any potential structural issues and potential failure points so the operator can make the best decision to ensure the structure’s safety.

Every drone flight reduces a tower climb, lessens risk to life and arms operators with information needed to make better, faster, more intelligent, actionable decisions. If you have a tower installed as part of your station’s setup, perhaps the greatest benefit of using drones is for making a “tower survey” -- a video inspection prior to climbing the structure. The imagery can help to ensure the structure is safe, thus minimizing risk of injury.

Have you ever asked yourself: Is my tower as sound structurally as it was when I originally installed it? Well, the answer is probably not. There could be a bee’s hive, or a bird’s nest, or maybe a cable that has been damaged by wind, corrosion, or even a lightning strike. A drone inspection can help determine if signal strength is being compromised, or gradually degrading.

Send the drone up and take a baseline for everything. Whether the tower is five decades old, or it’s brand new, a baseline for your RF and structural effects will allow you to move forward confidently and evaluate solutions for problems down the road. You can explore, compare and determine what it takes to fix, and what makes sense to invest capital in, and what doesn’t. Once you have a baseline, how often should this be done? It depends on the initial find, the age of the equipment and if everything is up to specs.

In the past several years, numerous towers have fallen and there have been fatal injuries to operators. A birds-eye inspection could have uncovered structural weaknesses before disaster struck.

Inspection by drone eliminates the “Needless Climb” -- an unnecessary and potentially dangerous human journey up the side of a tower.

A Blast From the Past...



Shack of the Month - N2WJR

“On the Air from Everywhere” might be the motto of Walt Synder’s N2WJR setup. In addition to his shack, Walt has gear in his living room, workshop and truck.

His list of gear is also impressive and includes...

Connect Systems CS 800d - Yaesu FT 450d - Alinco DR 235 MK 2 - Yaesu FTM400 - Yaesu FT 950 - LDG Auto Tuners YT 1200 & Z 100 Plus - Vectronice HFT 1500 tuner - Yaesu FT 891 - Uniden Bearcat 880 CB - Ameritron AL 811 power amp - Uniden Bearcat 15x scanner - TYT MD 9600 w/ Powerwerx ss 30dv power supply - Yaesu ft 7800 w/ Jetstream JTPS power supply - Yaesu FT 7900 QYT KT 8900r tri-bander - Yaesu FTM 100 w/ Jetstream JTPS 28 power supply - Anytone 878 DMR ht - Yaesu FT65 ht - Wouxun 2M./440 HT - Wouxun 2M/220 HT - Homepatrol scanner - Astron 35RM rack mount power supply.

Meanwhile... for antennas...

A99 Diamond 144 & 1.25 m - Diamond X510 2m/440 - Diamond X50 2m/440 - 6 m ground plane - Cobra Ultra Lite dipole 40-6 m - Scan King scanner antenna - Cobra Ultra Lite Junior dipole 80-10 m - Cobra Ultra Senior dipole 160-10 m - Diamond x50 2m/440.



And in the truck...

Yaesu FT 7900, QYT KT-8900 - and a Uniden CB.



Finally... at camp...

Yaesu FTM 100 with a Jetstream JTPS 28 volt power supply and the Anytone 878 ht for DMR!

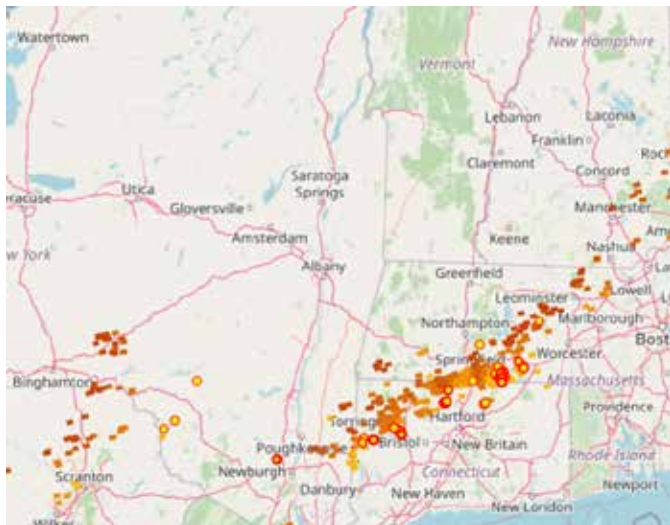


Let Sidebands Feature Your Shack!

Send photos and a brief description to W2RBJ@outlook.com

Wondering Where Lightning is Happening? See it in Real Time!

Keeping an eye on lightning is always a good idea, but particularly for hams who may have antennas and feed lines connected to their gear (Ask any ham who's suffered a strike in their shack). Now there's a way to track lightning events in real time using *Lightning Maps*, a web based product available at www.lightningmaps.org. It's also available as a phone app in the Google Play store at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.blitzortung.lightning.tracker.app>.



Lightning Maps gives real-time visual information about the location of lightning strikes. The system monitors the RF energy the bursts emit.

The program works by detecting the radio frequency (RF) given off by lightning events. These are tracked by networks like Blitzortung.org, a community of station operators who transmit their data to the central server. LightningMaps.org visualizes the gathered lightning data in different variants, and displays them for example as an overlay on ground maps or satellite images.

On its real-time maps you will often see multiple strikes appearing almost at the same time within a small area. This whole event is called a lightning flash. Flashes can have up to 40 strikes, although the typical number is three. Hence they can appear to flicker. All other words such as "discharge" and "strike" are more generic and not formally related to the scientific lightning terminology. The word "strike" is usually used to refer to a cloud-to-ground lightning flash.

While the system currently can't distinguish between cloud-to-ground (CG) and intra-cloud or cloud-to-cloud events, but it generally gives hams enough information and time to prepare before lightning gets close enough to their QTH to cause damage.

Take a Look After Mother Nature Pays a Visit

By Steve Van Sickle, WB2HPR



As I write this, I am reflecting on the events of the past 24 hours. We all had ample warning, from on line apps, or web sites, and NOAA weather radio. We knew the stormy weather was approaching. We had already done all the requisite preventive maintenance to our antennas, repaired all the winter wear and tear, or, in some cases, put up new antennas with the hopes that all would be well for at least another year. So we had done all that we could to be ready when the storm hit.

Today was a beautiful day – the storm had passed - sunny skies, low humidity, temperature in the mid 70's, and with a holiday weekend at hand, who would be thinking about antenna work? During my tour around the QTH, I picked up numerous twigs and tree limbs and leaves, until I finally ventured a gaze upward. Looking at my wire antennas, I saw the storm had undone much of the hard work I had performed to keep my dipoles in good shape.

I spent some three hours replacing insulators in my fan dipoles and two broken strain reliefs where the coax line attached to the feed point in another. So I guess this serves as a reminder to give our "sky hooks" a once over to ensure that all is well. I guess I could have become complacent and assumed everything was OK. But a quick check turned out to be more than a good idea, and I got everything back in ship shape.

What looked good the last time I checked had indeed reached the end of its service life, requiring repair and replacement. The bottom line: always a good idea to take the time to eyeball your antenna system after severe weather, and make necessary repairs to keep your station on the air. 73 everyone and stay safe this Summer!

CALENDAR

June 9, 2021 - 7 pm - Monthly club meeting - in person at Masonic Lodge. Face masks optional for those who are vaccinated. Bring your own refreshments.

June 23, 2021 - 7 pm - EGARA Roundtable on 147.270 repeater

June 26-27 - Field Day - Members to operate home stations and list EGARA on FD reports to ARRL for club credit.

August 21, 2021 - Hamfest 2021 - At the Red Barn, East Greenbush Town Park. Setup Friday afternoon at 4:30.

Pro Tip: Easy Ground Rod Drilling

Having a good station ground is essential to ensuring a good signal and reducing noise -- and also important for lightning protection!

But, getting grounding rods in the ground can be difficult, especially if you have clay or other soil that doesn't give easily. The solution? Hydraulically drill your ground rods using a simple garden hose! Here's how:

First, purchase one or more copper water pipes. Eight foot sections of 1/2 or 3/8 inch pipe work well.

Next, purchase the proper size "SharkBite" push-on adapter that has a garden hose connection on the other end. Attach the adapter to the copper pipe, connect a garden hose and select where you want to bury the pipe as your grounding rod. Hold the pipe in a vertical position and turn the water on as you "drill" the pipe into the ground.



The water flow should soften and displace the soil, letting you push the pipe into the ground fairly easily. Keep working the pipe up and down until you have only 6 or 8 inches left above ground. Now secure your ground wire/strap to the exposed portion. Done!



Looking for...

- **Rens. Co. Search and Rescue** is looking for a 2 meter whip for sale or donation. Needed for communications truck.

Contact Nick at kd2jcr@gmail.com

For Sale...

- **Ameritron AL-811H** in good condition, wired for 120 volts. Will demonstrate at time of pickup. \$700.

Contact Steve at: svansick@nycap.rr.com

- **Misc. Kenwood, Icom, Standard, Used Mobile Commercial Microphones.** Email me with your needs.
- **Military Watt Meter AN/URM-120 B/U 2 to 1000MHZ** Complete and with Carrying Case. Excellent condition. Never abused. Great Shack / Bench Watt Meter. Picture available. PRICE REDUCED \$70.00
- **UHF 440 Mhz Fast Scan Amateur TV Transceiver** including B&W Camera. Make offer! Pictures and more info available.
- **IFR 1100S service monitor.** \$875.00

Contact John at: radiowizz@aol.com

- **Hamshack Hotline Phones - Cisco SPA-303.** They are cleaned, factory reset with EGARA members # in directory. Comes with power supply. Just \$21 each.

Contact Dave at: WA2WAP@VERIZON.NET

- **Estate Sale (SK KA1AC)- Vintage Collins 75A4 & Collins 32V3.** Both in good working condition. \$200 - \$250 each.

Contact Bob at: 518-459--8435 or W2XM@arrl.net

- **Heil mic boom Model SB-2,** asking \$ 25.00
- **Battery Eliminator for Wouxun HTs,** asking \$ 10.00
- **2m/440 Mag mount antenna Model BCA-300 w/ sma female connector,** asking \$25.00

Contact Walt at: n2wjrr07@gmail.com

Got stuff to sell, swap, or looking to buy?

List it here for FREE!

Email W2RBJ@outlook.com

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

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