



# Amazing Software at the Shack

by Tom Tumino, N2YTF

Having a professional looking shack with easy to understand and useful software is important to our club, as we are the first sight of amateur radio to many in the public. This month we have advanced the ball with a donation from Afreet of the programs Bandmaster, DXatlas, Ionoprobe, and Hamcap. Together, these pieces of software present an impressive guide to global HF propagation in real time completely integrated with live dx cluster information. Forecasting capabilities include prefix based signal to noise ratio prediction and best time/band analysis. With this software, it is easy to demonstrate for guests and opera-

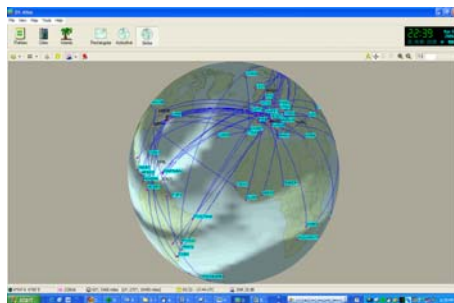
tors the effects of solar radiation on HF propagation as the earth turns.

This isn't rinky dink MS-DOS software, the Afreet suite presents its information in beautiful and easily maneuverable graphics that can impress visitors and inform ham operators. Using DXatlas working with Bandmaster, Ionoprobe, and Hamcap we can produce some spectacular world views. Here is a screenshot of live world dx

conditions at 24 Mhz this afternoon with the brighter areas representing higher potential received signal strength and dx cluster reports of HF activity overlaid. When running, you can grab the globe with your mouse, rotate and magnify it.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg, perhaps your geographic area of interest is not available on your band of interest at the moment, well its easy to create

a graph with the best band/times for a given geographic location using up to the moment solar weather and ionospheric information from the internet. Using Hamcap working with Ionoprobe we can generate informative and im-



## HOSARC Silent Key: KB2MQK

It is with sorrow that we report the passing of club member Charles J. Renda, KB2MQK.



KB2MQK at his station.

In addition to being a member of HOSARC, he was a member of the Kings County Repeater

Association. Charles was first licensed in 1991 as a Novice. He worked his way to Extra Class by 1994, earning his DXCC in 2004. When Charles was not on the air, he volunteered his time as a VE.

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### THE AMATEUR'S CODE

#### The Radio Amateur is:

<i>Considerate</i>	<i>Loyal</i>
<i>Progressive</i>	<i>Friendly</i>
<i>Balanced</i>	<i>Patriotic</i>

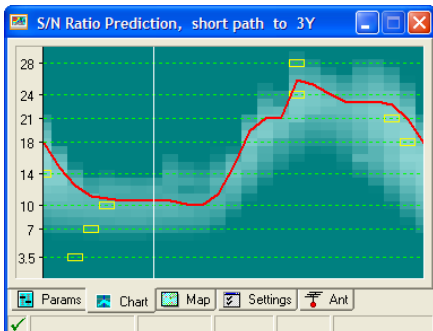


# DX Software in Shack

by Tom Tumino,

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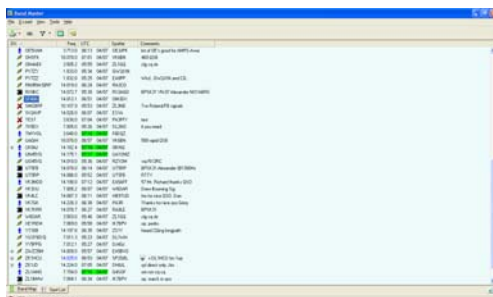
pressive looking graphs in seconds. For example, here is screenshot of a graph of forecasted signal strength from the NYC area to the Antarctic island Peter I (3Y).



The left side of the chart is labeled by frequency band, the white vertical line represents the current time and will progress across the graph from left to right as the day goes by. The red line is a statistical representation of the best forecasted signal to noise ratio available to 3Y. The yellow boxes represent the best opportunity to work 3Y on a given band. By this chart, we can see that the best 14Mhz conditions to 3Y are now past us for today, but the best 28Mhz, 24Mhz, 21Mhz, and 18Mhz conditions are still ahead of us. At this instant, 10Mhz would be our best bet to work 3Y, although we are somewhat past the best chance for 10Mhz propagation to 3Y for the day.

The best antenna in the world and great

conditions are worthless if no one is at the radio at the other end of your path. Hams all over the world are constantly reporting their more noteworthy contacts over the internet to a global dx cluster information network. My favorite way to view dx cluster information is via Bandmaster. Bandmaster lays out the dx cluster spots either by prefix or band. Below is a view of the prefix view page. Here you can roll your mouse over the dx call to recover country information (if you can't remember country prefixes) and



organize the spots by call, frequency, time spotted, or spotter. Recently made spots can be highlighted or bolded to show they are great targets.

If you are unsuccessful in working your station of interest, you can simply click on the callsign and bring up the stations qrz information, dx cluster history, S/N ratio prediction, or geographic location via DXAtlas. Simply amazing.

This is a truly impressive suite of software, and while it is impossible to explain all of the suite's functionality and operating instructions in a short article, a computer comfortable ham could learn how to use this software and many of its features in 10 min or less. I have Peter, W2IRT, to thank for making me aware of this powerful software and Alex, VE3NEA ([www.dxatlas.com](http://www.dxatlas.com)), for donating the software completely free of charge to the club shack. I would be happy to meet interested hams in the shack one day for a demonstration and lesson in using this valuable resource.

73, and get into the shack. DX adventures are waiting for you!



Tom Tumino, N2YTF, shows a museum visitor how solar radiation affects propagation with new software

# Montauk Fishing Trip Scheduled



This year's fishing trip is a very special event. The club has chartered a six-pack, called the Miss Mac, to depart from Montauk, Long Island.

The Miss Mac is a 35 foot Downeast Sports fisherman custom built by T. Jason Boats of Steuben Maine. Her hull was custom designed to provide for a soft, dry ride even in the roughest seas. Fast and comfortable, the boat is equipped with the latest electronics and safety gear.

Unlike a party boat, where maybe 50 or

100 fisherman are likely to board the vessel, a six-pack is a small boat that only takes 6 paying passengers. It is a much more intimate fishing experience for the serious fisherman.

The boat is chartered for 7 hours of fishing in the waters around Montauk, the fishing capital of the world. The boat will depart in the late afternoon, securing daylight for Fluke fishing and night-time for Striped Bass fishing! The trip is scheduled for the full moon of Sunday, June 11. Those wishing to take advan-

tage of this spectacular fishing opportunity should be prepared to not return home until Monday morning. The cost will be approximately \$150-\$200 per person. A \$50 non-refundable deposit will be required. Immediately contact either Tom Golero, KC2CBA, or Felix Lam, K2KHV, if you want to go fishing. All ice, bait, and custom tackle are included. You should plan on bringing food, snacks, drink, and a cooler to bring home your catch.



# Swap-n-Shop

A new feature of the HOSARC NewsFuse is the Swap 'n Shop column. In this column the NewsFuse Editor will list any ham related equipment, including computers, that HOSARC members would like to sell, swap, or trade. There are no warranties or guarantees implied by HOSARC with these postings. If there is a piece of equipment that is listed that you are interested in, please contact the seller directly. If you would like to list a piece of equipment please send an email to the Editor. Good luck and happy hunting.

**Seller: KC2KXC**

**Email: motoshack@optonline.net**

Mark has a number of commercial Motorola radios for sale. All of these radios are capable of covering the ham bands and then some. Mark has a Motorola Astro Saber in excellent condition. The Astro Saber covers 403 MHz to 470 MHz. Mark also has a very rare Motorola GP300 radio that covers the 220 MHz band! Send Mark, KC2KXC, an email if you are interested in his radios.

**Seller: KC2CBA**

**Email: Tomflushing3@aol.com**

Tom has 50 feet of RG-8 coax, brand new in the box from Radio Shack. He is looking to sell it for \$22. If you are interested please send Tom an email.



**Seller: K0SID**

**Email: sidney@sidneyko.com**

Sidney has Yaesu FT50 dual band handheld radio in excellent condition for sale. This is a solid radio. It comes with dual battery charger (NC-50), two NiMH batteries, and a built-in digital recorder. Asking price is \$250.

Also for sale is a Yaesu FT-847 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver with cross-band repeat in excellent condition, very clean. It comes with original power cable, hand microphone, and optional voice synthesizer installed. Asking price is \$1,200.

For sale is a Yaesu VX-150 VHF handheld radio in very good condition. Radio is a solid performer. It comes with original battery and wall charger. Asking price is \$100.

Sidney also has a Radio Shack HTX-10, 10 meter FM and SSB mobile transceiver for sale. It is brand new and still in the box. Asking price is \$75.

Motorola Saber I, UHF handheld radio with 12 channels. Radio does not come with battery or antenna. It is a very clean commercial radio in good condition. Asking price is \$75.

Finally, Sidney is selling his Sony Vaio Notebook VGN-T250. It is in good condition. Laptop is ultra portable with a long lasting battery and was recently upgraded with 1 GB RAM. Deal includes power supply and 5.0 MP Sony W1 digital camera. Asking price is \$1,600.

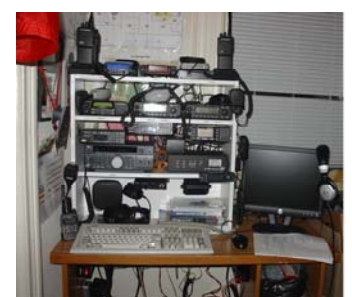
# Members' Shack Photos



W2IRT Shack



K0SID Shack



KC2OSF Shack



## New Member Focus: KC2OSF aka VE3ECM

Richard T. Henderson was born June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1977 and was first licensed as VE3ECM. When Rich moved to the U.S. the FCC assigned him the call KC2OSF. A Canadian-born citizen, Rich phonetically spells his U.S. call-sign as kilo-charlie-two-one-sexy-foxtrot and his Canadian call as victor-echo-three-electronic-counter-measures. Living in Astoria with his U.S. born wife, Amanda, Rich is a permanent resident. Rich explains that he has every intention of becoming a U.S. citizen in the next two years and maintaining dual citizenship with his mother country. Although he will always be a Canadian citizen, he will lose the ability of using his Canadian call-sign in the U.S. once the Federal I.N.S processes his citizenship application.

Canada has a different licensing structure than the U.S. For instance there is no Technician license class in Canada. Instead, the entry-level exam is called, Basic, and it entitles the license holder to operate on the HF spectrum. This was made possible when Canada eliminated the Morse code requirement, something the FCC is still struggling to accomplish. Here in the U.S. Rich is a no-code Tech and proud of it.

Although Rich earned his Basic Canadian license more than four years ago, he only recently became a U.S. licensed operator last summer. Rich attended the June 2005 HOSARC ham-fest; he took and passed the exam administered by our very own VE Team. Rich learned of the club's ham-fest from visiting the ARRL website. He enjoyed himself at the ham-fest, won a door prize, and decided right then to take the exam cold.

Rich first became interested in ham radio as an extension of his hiking and camping hobby. Fond of the Canadian wilderness, Rich and his hiking buddies soon realized that FRS radios had very limited range,



***Rich Henderson, KC2OSF, enjoys investigating reported ham-sexy sightings.***

and it was difficult for the group to maintain reliable communication, with each other and with rescue officials if the need ever arose. They collectively decided to study and take the licensing exam so that they could take advantage of the more powerful transceivers used by amateur radio operators.

Like any good ham, Rich has a shack littered with gear. For HF he has a Kenwood TS-450, two Motorola MCS 2000 mobile radios (VHF and UHF), a Bearcat Trunk Tracking scanner, two CDM1250

vhf mobiles, a Yeasu FT-7100, a Yeasu FT-7800, and a whole bunch of other stuff too numerous to mention.

His current projects include setting up a WIRES node in his shack and helping HOSARC put into operation its first 2-meter repeater. He has assembled about three quarters of the equipment necessary for the 2-meter repeater. Rich estimates that once Metro-Cor assigns HOSARC its new 2-meter frequency pair, the club will be up with its own repeater in approximately a month or two. The only major piece of equipment Rich is in search of is a vhf duplexer and coax.

Rich's most memorable contact was on 6 meters where he was able to qso with several other states using a Yeasu FT-847 and ATAS-120 antenna. Both pieces of equipment were set up for base operation. Renting the top floor of a two-story walk-up, Rich is limited in terms of what antennas he can erect. As a result, he chooses antennas based on their stealth and ease of installation qualities.

You can hear Rich hanging out on his two favorite repeaters: N2ROW and WB2ZZO. The reason Rich loves ham radio as much as he does is because the hobby is so diverse; it's hard to ever get bored of it. His goal for 2006 includes expanding the HF and DX capabilities of his shack and to begin to earn some of the many awards available from the ARRL, such as WAS, WAZ, and Century Club to mention just a few.

Welcome to HOSARC, Rich! We hope you find it ham-sexy.

## Volunteers Needed for HOSARC Ham-Fest



Ham-fest chairman Steve Greenbaum, WB2KDG, is looking for volunteers to help run the June HOSARC ham-fest. Helping to run the ham-fest is really a lot of fun, especially if the weather is nice. Those who volunteer gain free entrance to the ham-fest and free lunch. It's a

great opportunity to learn how one of these events is planned and executed.

There are plenty of ham-fest jobs needing volunteers: set-up, ticket distribution and money collection, selling 50/50 raffle tickets, assisting VEs, and manning the shack. The club shack is an important element of the ham-fest. The club uses

the shack to provide "talk-in" over the repeater. Ham-fest announcements and real-time driving directions are handled during "talk-in" operation.

Please contact Steve, and volunteer to help with the first ham-fest scheduled for Sunday, June 4.



## Timonium Ham-Fest Report

The club again made its annual trip to the Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest in Timonium, Maryland the weekend of March 25<sup>th</sup>. Unlike the past two years, all who attended were blessed with great weather. It was cloudy and bit cold, but it didn't rain, which meant the huge outdoor tailgating section of the hamfest was alive with buyers and sellers.

Another new twist in the trip was our purchase of a table. This meant that instead of parking at the end of a huge lot with thousands of other vehicles, we were right in the middle of all the tailgating action. Everyone was surprised at how well the club table did in terms of sales.

KC2CBA's minivan was the perfect vehicle for a tailgate. Large and roomy inside, there was plenty of space for club members who were selling merchandise to sit and relax. The minivan also served as the central meeting point, and a place for folks to stage all the ham radio goodies purchased that day.



*The HOSARC table at the Timonium ham-fest. Rich, KC2OSF, tailgating with a real radio-head!*

I took the Yeasu FT-847 off my desk at home and operated with it in the back of Tom Golero's minivan. I made 25 different DX contacts while operating mobile.

I contacted stations in the following countries: Cuba, Ireland, Cayman Islands, Venezuela, Poland, Canada, Mexico, ZD8Z (as of yet unknown DX entity), England, Belgium, Luxembourg, Belize, Brazil, England, Dominican Republic, and the Netherlands Antilles. The only stateside contact I made was with a station in Michigan.

Dave Huryn, KC2ILK, also contacted an impressive number of DX stations with his Yeasu FT-857D. In addition to making DX contacts, we also had a mobile-to-mobile QSO on 40 meters during the 4 hour journey to Timonium, Maryland.

After the hamfest, the entire HOSARC group met for a healthy serving of barbecued baby back ribs at a local eatery in Maryland. Over baked beans and beer, we laughed and shared stories about the great deals everyone made at the ham-fest.

I'd like to thank the following members who volunteered to drive: Pete, W2IRT; Dave, KC2ILK; Tom, KC2CBA; and Jim, N2BAL.

## Call for Help with Lost Dog



Dear Stephen, WB2KDG:

Thank you again for your help in getting out information over the airwaves about Vivi, the lost whippet dog. Information about her is at [http://newsday.typepad.com/news\\_local\\_flaim/](http://newsday.typepad.com/news_local_flaim/)

This is some of the information you may want. On Feb. 15, the family was boarding Delta airlines at JFK International airport on a flight back to California with their dog, a whippet named Vivi. Vivi had just competed in the Westminster Kennel Club dog show and had won an award of merit. At take off, a representa-

tive of the airline boarded the plane to inform the people that the dog was no longer in her crate! She was released from her crate at the airport. She has been positively spotted and identified the Flushing/Corona Park/College Point NY area within the past week.

A whippet is a medium sized dog who looks like a small greyhound, but about 20" at the shoulder and is white with a brindle (tiger-stripe brown coloring) mask and brindle patches on her body. She weighs about 25 pounds. All these weeks, she has been lost and frightened. Anyone who sees her should call either

917-647-4848 or 917-626-1374 at any time of the day or night to report a sighting.

We are trying to cover all bases and keep the public informed that Vivi is still loose and desperately missed by her family in California. There is a reward for her safe return, no questions asked.

Thank you again, Stephen. We all so appreciate your club's help.

Sincerely,

Jackie Levin

[fyrefly@fast.net](mailto:fyrefly@fast.net)



# HOSARC Hamfest Signals Arrival of Summer

## HALL OF SCIENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SEMI-ANNUAL HAMFEST AND ELECTRONICS BAZAAR

### SUNDAY JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> 2006 SUNDAY OCT. 1<sup>ND</sup> 2006

- ❖ **Amateur Radio Equipment**
- ❖ **Antennas and station supplies**
- ❖ Computers & peripherals



- ❖ Software and accessories
- ❖ CB equipment
- ❖ Consumer Electronics
- ❖ TV & Stereo parts






**GET LICENSED HERE!**  
Register now for our  
**10AM VE Test Session**  
(visit [hosarc.org](http://hosarc.org) for details)

**FREE Tune-up Clinic!**



**Door Prizes!**

**ARRL Information!**

**AMPLE FREE PARKING!**

**Refreshments Available!**

HAVE A FEW ITEMS YOU WANT TO SELL BUT DON'T WANT TO MISS THE HAMFEST? THIS YEAR TRY OUR NEW DROP'N'SHOP SERVICE! JUST LEAVE YOUR ITEMS WITH US AND WE'LL SELL THEM FOR YOU. IF YOUR ITEMS SELL, WE TAKE A SMALL FEE. IF NOT, YOU PAY NOTHING. FULL DETAILS AT THE DOOR AND ON OUR WEBSITE.

**The New York Hall of Science 47-01 111<sup>th</sup> St.**  
Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens, NY 9AM-2PM (SETUP STARTS 7:30)  
VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [HOSARC.ORG](http://HOSARC.ORG)

**TALK-IN: 444.200 (+) 136.5 PL & 146.52 SIMPLEX**  
**\$5 FOR BUYERS, \$10 VENDOR SPACES!**

ADMISSION BY DONATION. RAIN OR SHINE! CHILDREN UNDER 12 ADMITTED FREE. NO FOOD OR DRINK SALES ARE PERMITTED. EACH SPACE ADMITS ONE PERSON. SELLERS MUST LEAVE THEIR SPACES CLEAN. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT STEVE GREENBAUM (EVENINGS ONLY) 718-898-5599 OR E-MAIL [WB2KDG@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB2KDG@ARRL.NET). DROP'N'SHOP ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETE AND IN GOOD CONDITION!

# June 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
HamFest		Board Meeting	Club Net			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Fishing Trip		General Meeting	Club Net			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Club Net			Field Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Field Day			Club Net			

## Schedule of Events

- May — Jonathon Taylor Echolink Inventor Guest Speaker at Meeting.
- June — Field Day, HOSARC ham-fest, and Special Fishing Trip
- July — IARU HF World Championship.
- August — ARRL UHF Contest.
- September — ARRL VHF QSO Party.
- October — HOSARC ham-fest.
- November — ARRL November Sweepstakes.
- December — Holiday Party.



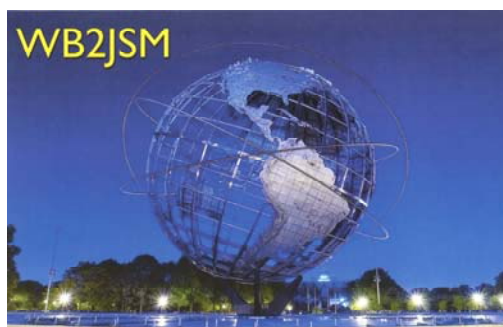
## Chairman's Report by Tom Golero

I'd like to send a warm welcome to the club's newest members: Lius Perez KC2PGQ, Lewis Bona N2ONW, Chris Casa N2YRP, and Keivan Keihani W2KTU. Hopefully I didn't forget anyone. If I did please email me.

I would also like to thank all members who participated in this year's Skills Night: Bernie K2ZIR, Allen AE2J, Tom N2YTF, Ted KC2HEV, Elmar K2EL, and Pete W2IRT. This was our 4<sup>th</sup> annual "construction meeting". I think everyone who attended had a great time. I know I did, and hopefully you learned something new about the hobby. We want to hold more events like this in the future, but to make them successful we need your input, ideas for projects and help.

In past Chairman's Reports, I put out a call for members to volunteer to be speakers at our club meetings. I am happy to report that Wally Wentworth KC2MNV has volunteered to speak at the June meeting. His topic will be Moxon antennas. He has successfully built one and is willing to share his insights and

experience with other members. Club member Rob Smith, AB2UV, has also volunteered to present at one of our monthly meetings. His topic of discussion will be remote control base station operations. I hope more of you will follow the example set by Wally and Rob and share with other club members your ham radio experiences by volunteering to



The official HOSARC QSL card.

speaking at a meeting.

We would like to start a new section of the newsletter where members can publish photos of their shacks, mobile instal-

lations, and antennas so we can get an idea of what others are up to in the hobby. I personally like the section of QST and CQ magazines where hams send in photos of their shacks or themselves on ham radio expeditions and casual vacations.

I will be sending an email to all members advising them of upcoming Field Day (FD) planning meetings. All club members should be reading FD rules now so that on the day of the event the club can maximize the number of extra points it can earn. FD is what we make of it. This year we would like to attract new operators. It's a great opportunity to introduce non-hams to the hobby; who knows, we might get some converts!

The month of June is very busy. We have the ham-fest, FD, and the fishing trip scheduled. There is something for everyone.

I hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

73, Tom



**NEW YORK HALL OF SCIENCE  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

Allan Koenigsberg, AE2J, President  
Bernard Stein, K2ZIR, Vice President  
Howard Weissman, WB2HLW, Secretary  
Steve Greenbaum, WB2KDG, Treasurer

Felix Lam, K2KHV, NewsFuse Editor

E-mail: K2KHV@HOSARC.ORG

***Do you have a story?  
Contact the NewsFuse Editor.***



*The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club, HOSARC, was founded in 1972 and is affiliated with the New York Hall of Science, a hands-on science and technology center located in the historic Flushing Meadows, Corona Park in Queens, New York. HOSARC club members maintain and operate the amateur radio exhibit located in the lower level of the center's central pavilion. The exhibit is a fully functional radio shack, equipped with top-of-the-line, modern amateur radio equipment. The shack operates all modes on all HF, VHF, and UHF bands. Visitors to the Hall of Science can operate the kilowatt HF station, WB2JSM. The club also operates the WB2ZZO repeater on 444.200 with a positive shift and a PL tone of 136.5. You do not have to be a club member to use the repeater; all are welcome. Please join our club nets which occur every Wednesday evening at 9pm. Net control operators are Ken, K2JLK and Bernie, K2ZIR. The club meets at 8pm every second Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria of the New York Hall of Science. Come on down, and meet the gang!*



## Amateur Radio Operator's Code of Conduct

The Code has appeared in every issue of the Radio Amateur's Handbook since 1927.

The radio amateur is:

**CONSIDERATE**, never knowingly operates in such a way to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL**, offers loyalty, encouragement, and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay

League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE**, with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station, and operates above reproach.

**FRIENDLY**, slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assis-

tance, cooperation, and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED**, radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

**PATRIOTIC**, station and skill always ready for service to country and community.



**The HOSARC Board of Directors**

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