

# The NewsFuse

The NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

## April 2004

Next meeting Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup> 8pm

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### Club News

2004 dues are past due! Those members who have not paid will be dropped from the club roster. If you still need an application you can download one at <http://www.qsl.net/hosarc/application.pdf>

The repeater has been working flawlessly since it was put back on the air more than a month ago. The repeater committee is making a recommendation that we replace the repeater duplexer to the HOSARC board of directors. If approved we will begin the search for a new duplexer and improve the repeater coverage!

By the time you read this the new cable runs should be "in the conduit" If you are reading this before 9am on Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup> then please come down to the hall of science and help with pulling the cable from the roof to the shack.

Don't forget that the April HOSARC meeting will be kit-building-night. It is not too late to order a kit of your choosing to build at the meeting, but don't delay as many kits can take a week or more for delivery. Come to the April meeting even if you are not planning on building a kit. Most of the kit building will be a group effort and who knows you might actually learn something ☺

The HOSARC June hamfest will be held on Sunday, June 6, 2004. Keep your calendar open! We will need your help to make it the great event that it always is!

### President's Corner

Tom Golero KC2CBA  
e-mail: [tomflushing3@aol.com](mailto:tomflushing3@aol.com)  
phone: 718.886.3175 (Evenings Please)

Hello to all

At our February meeting Peter W2IRT was our guest speaker and he gave the club a great presentation on Dxing. The hour we gave him was barely enough time for him to share with us all that he has learned on the subject but we know that it's impossible to cover any topic at our meetings with an hour allotted for our guest

speakers . Peter outlined the basics for Dxing and he recommended the book ,The Complete Dxers Guide 3rd edition by Bob Locher, W9KNI available at [www.idiompress.com](http://www.idiompress.com) for anyone serious about Dxing. I bought AC6V's book Dxing 101 available at [www.ac6v.com](http://www.ac6v.com) and was able to work over 100 DXCC entities from the shack using the techniques he outlines. Peter has made himself available to anyone who wants to learn first hand how to work Dx, all you have to is drop him note to find out when is coming down to the shack. I have watched Peter in action and when he wants to work a new station nothing stops him. Peter has worked some of the most interesting Dx the station has seen in years such as 1A0KM, ZW0S ,XF4IH, TO4E and many others. He has made Dx at the shack real easy for me each month.

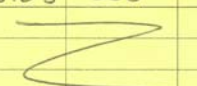
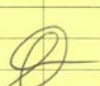
Our next meeting in April will be our annual kit building night so try to get to hall by 7:00 PM to get set up. No business will be discussed at this meeting. Up coming events in May weather permitting include a night fishing trip out of Freeport (date to be announced) and a trip to The Battleship New Jersey BB62 to work the station aboard her on May 15<sup>th</sup>, Armed Forces Day. The New Jersey is berthed in Camden, NJ a two hour trip from Queens. I need to know by next meeting who interested in these trips so I can make reservations for the club. As usual we will car pooling so please let me know if you can drive or if you need a ride. Our next field day meeting is April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the shack.

I look forward to seeing all you at our meeting and don't hesitate to call me or email me with anything you want to discuss.

73's Tom Golero KC2CBA

## DX at the shack

## Ham Ski Trip Adventures of Art WA2YQV and Elmar K2EL

AFRICA		LESOTHO "THE MOUNTAIN KINGDOM"		ZONE 38	
<b>7P8ZZ</b>					
ANDRE VAN WYK					
Confirming QSO with: <u>WB2JSM</u>					
DATE	TIME	FREQ	MODE	RST	QSL
15/12/02	18:03	28	SSB	59	TNX
					
Thank you for a fine QSO and best of 73's Another ZS6WPX Operation.					
Come to Africa! Visit <a href="http://www.dxsafari.com">www.dxsafari.com</a>					

This month's selection is a ten meter side band contact which took place on 12/15/02 with Andy Van Wyk, 7P8ZZ. Home call ZS6WPX

Lesotho is an enclave of South Africa slightly smaller than Maryland. It's population is 1,861,959. Lesotho was formally known as Basutoland but was renamed the Kingdom of Lesotho upon its independence from the U.K. in 1966. Lesotho's king was exiled in 1990 and a constitutional government was restored in 1993 after 23 years of military rule. In 1998 violent protests and a military mutiny promoted a brief bloody South African military intervention. Constitutional reforms and a peaceful elections were held in 2002.

Please visit Andy's web site at [www.kb2erj.com/zs6wp/7p8zz](http://www.kb2erj.com/zs6wp/7p8zz) for more information on station 7P8ZZ and travel in Africa.

By Tom Golero KC2CBA

Art and I took a ride up to Lake Placid to Ski Whiteface Mountain February 29th through March 3, 2004. Whiteface is about 400 miles north of NYC. Art took his truck and we had access to a condo in Lake Placid. On the way up we took a wrong turn and headed west on route 90 instead of going north on route 87 around Albany. We had to drive back down once we discovered our mistake which took us about two hours out of the way. We monitored the two meter calling frequency and called "CQ" from time to time and made a simplex contact with Les Stay W2LES. We were corrected by Les who explained to us that merely a call sign is enough. I think it is still more fun to call CQ. The

contact lasted about an hour or even more where we talked about ham subjects and Les told us about his adventures in the Navy during WWII. Art and I were definitely intrigued by his stories and personality as well as his knowledge of ships. He had served on many islands in the Pacific with a construction battalion. Speaking with him was fun and helped pass the time on the road as we got to know Les on the air. He has quite a setup using a preamp with a vertical antenna up high enabling us to talk for quite a while. While heading north we lost his signal but told him we would be coming back his way Wednesday afternoon and to look out for us.

We skied Monday and Tuesday with very good conditions. Warm weather and soft snow made the skiing just that much more enjoyable. This was a rarity because in past years conditions were usually icy. Tuesday was rainy but we decided to ski anyway hoping it would subside and it did. The mountain was empty which gave us even better skiing conditions that day.



I brought the "Rock-Mite" HOSARC kit project that I had built last year. Art set the wire antenna up over the

balcony as an inverted vee. (See photo). We both tried to make contact at night on 40 meters. We heard quite a few signals but due to the crowded band conditions and noise no one heard the half-watt Rock-Mite signal.

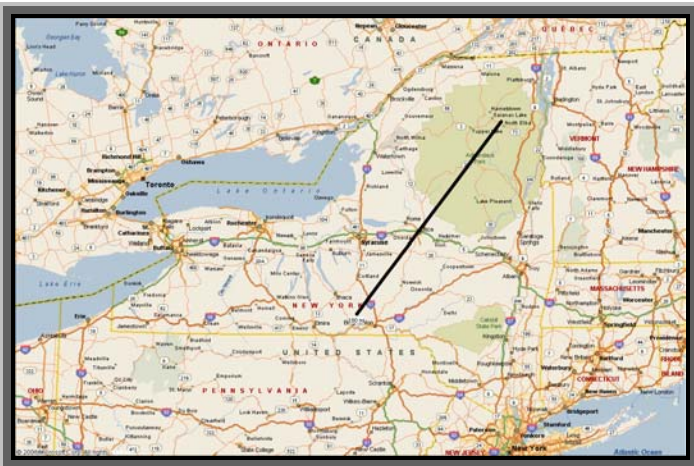


Being a ham is being a member of a great fraternity where I have gotten many opportunities to meet interesting people this being just an example of one of them.

Maybe in the future some other hams would be interested in coming along to ski.

By Elmar Vahe K2EL

Just before packing up on Wednesday I tried one more time and made contact with W2UW, 3/3/04, 16:12 UTC, 559 sent, 559 received with QSB. Using a GPS and getting W2UW's coordinates I calculated the mileage to be 180 miles, which is pretty good for a half watt 40 meter radio. I have tried in the past to use the Rock-Mite at my home QTH in NYC but the QRM is just too strong from the Disney AM radio station. I still made a few local contacts in NYC. One of these days I will get around to building a filter circuit.



On the road back home we gave Les W2LES a call on two meter simplex when we approached his area. He came back to us so Art and I decided to invite him out to lunch. We met at Friendly's Restaurant on route 146 West just off exit 10 on the North-way. Les brought along his lovely wife Anna N2LGD and we all had a nice lunch together as well as a fine eyeball QSO. Les also insisted on picking up the tab citing it as "northern hospitality". So if your up around Albany be sure to give Les W2LES a call on two meter simplex.