

The NewsFuse

The NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

February 2004

Next meeting Tuesday February 10th 8pm

Club News

2004 dues should be sent in as soon as possible. Membership applications are available at our monthly meetings or you can download one from the HOSARC web-site <http://www.qsl.net/hosarc/application.pdf>

Please fill out the application and mail it along with your \$20 annual dues to:

HOSARC
PO BOX 150131
Kew Gardens, NY 11415-0131

The HOSARC repeater has been disassembled and moved down to the shack. The repeater committee will begin cleaning and troubleshooting the transmit problem with the repeater this week. The plan is to have the repeater back on the air in a few weeks.

The coax runs from the shack to the roof have been measured at 300 feet. A vote is currently being taken of all HOSARC members regarding two different plenum rated cable options, LMR-400 or Helix cable.

Don't forget that the April HOSARC meeting will be kit-building-night. See last month's NewsFuse for a list of Ten-Tec kits that you can order through the club for a 10% discount. Please send Allan Koenigsberg ae2j@earthlink.net an e-mail with the name of the kit that you will be building at the April meeting.

The June hamfest date conflict with LIMARC has been resolved. The hamfest will be held on Sunday June 6th.

President's Corner

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

I would like to welcome the following new members to our club: Abastasuis Nurusus KC2KSE, James Rubin KC2LMH, Norbert Ferka and Mitchell Grotch KC2MBN. I

would also like to thank Allan AE2J for stepping in as our speaker for the January meeting on very short notice.

On Sunday the 18th, the club set up a table at Ham Radio University 2004 held at the East Woods School in Oyster Bay Long Island. The weather and driving conditions were terrible and the overall attendance was low for the event but HOSARC had six members taking turns at our table. A big thanks to Steve WB2KDG, Ted KC2HEV and Howie WB2HLW our set up crew who arrived early and had our table looking good. I didn't attend any seminar's however Rich KC2GSK and Bernie K2ZIR did and hopefully they will share their new found knowledge with us at our next meeting.

At the January meeting I was pleased to announce that the conduit the club is installing for our coax replacement is close to completion. We still have a lot of work ahead of us but I am confident that the club will rebound from the setbacks that we have been dealt. The next stage in our project is to install new coax runs from the roof down to our shack. As this article is being written a portion of the necessary cable is being shipped to us from Nema Cable in Florida who has been generous enough to donate them to us and the remainder of our cables will be purchased at a deep discount as soon as we make a decision on the number and type to be used. When all the cables arrive the club will be calling a work party of at least 10 club members to help pull the cables and remove the temporary runs from our shack. This working party will be a cold, dirty and long one so please keep this in mind as you volunteer. Also, discussed at our last meeting was a trip to the USS LING and the setting up of one or two stations at the submarine for a day of operating HF and any other mode you want to. We are going to treat this operation like a winter field day, so it's up to whoever wants to participate to bring whatever gear he or she wants to operate. If you are interested in this trip I need to know by no later than February 6th in order to give the trustees of the station aboard the LING the minimum three weeks notice they have requested. The trip will probably take place either Saturday the 28th or Sunday the 29th of February depending which date is chosen by those taking the trip, so please let me know what date is best for you when you contact me. Please visit www.njnm.com for more info on the submarine. The Ling is located in Hackensack, NJ.

Up coming Activities:

February 21st, First field day planning meeting at 10:30 a.m. in the cafeteria.

March 27th, Road trip to the Timonium, Maryland Hamfest, leaving the museum at 5:00am- returning 10:00 p.m. I need to know who is willing to drive and how many members can you take as well as who needs a ride. Please get this information to me ASAP so I can have a plan ready by the March meeting. Visit www.gbhc.org for more details on the Hamfest.

April 13th, kit building night
May (TBA) A Night fishing trip
May (TBA) Battle Ship New Jersey trip
June 6nd HOSARC Hamfest
June 26-27 Field Day.

As always please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss any club matters.

73's Tom Golero KC2CBA

DX at the shack



This months DX at the Shack is from a contact with Jorge A. Espinoza, OA4BA who lives in Lima Peru. The contact took place on 6/16/01 on 15 meters SSB.

Lima, named the "City of Kings" by the Spanish conquerors was founded on January 18, 1535 and is the capital of Peru as well as the gateway to the country.

Peru at a glance:

Population: Approximately 25 million
Location: 12degrees south of the equator on the Pacific coast of north-central South America
Principal exports: minerals ,petroleum ,coffee, cotton, wool and fish products

Official languages: Spanish, Quechuan and Aymara
Religion: Catholic, all catholic holidays are observed nationwide.

Distance from WB2JSM : 3,649 miles

By Tom Golero KC2CBA

Antenna Crazy



It's no great surprise that amateurs have an affinity for certain pieces of gear. The gamut runs from morse keys to boat anchors to mobile radios for each VHF/UHF band and anything else you can think of in the hobby. For me it's antennas. I find myself constantly looking up at the rooftops of buildings while I drive throughout the five boroughs (I know this doesn't sound safe but I can't help myself). In the most unscientific of observations the Bronx has the largest collection of communication antennas in the city, in case you were wondering.

My own collection of antennas is small at present. I own three cushcraft HF verticals, a cushcraft 3el 6 meter yagi, a G5RV, outbacker mobile HF antenna and two dual band VHF/UHF mobile antennas but as the saying goes "The shoe maker's children have no shoes," none are installed and some are still in the box awaiting assembly. However that's not the case with a local ham I had the pleasure to meet last summer. While driving through my neighborhood, I passed a house with an impressive collection of verticals and small beams on it. I knew I had to meet the owner and take a closer look so I had my son drop a note under his door expressing my wish to visit his shack. That same night I received an email from Joe WA2ZFH that he would be happy to have me over. After several attempts to get over to Joe's home I finally made it and was also fortunate to meet his lovely wife Ruth KB2CWM.

Joe is retired from a long and distinguished career in the ornamental iron industry. He has been involved in radio since the sixties starting out as a CB'er and moving onto amateur radio in 1975. Joe has been active in Mars operations as well as being a member of the two

borough radio club with our own Nelson Sidman N2CKK (who is still listed as the president of the club). Joe owns a modest ranch home on a 40x30 plot and at present he has seven verticals covering 6, 220, 2 and 70cm bands mounted on the side of his house as well as three yagi's covering 2, 70cm and 1296 meter bands mounted on the chimney. In his backyard he has two HF verticals covering 160-10 meters with buried ground radials that zigzag throughout the yard.

I asked Joe why verticals and he told me that he wished that he had a tower and all yagi's but as the case for most of us he doesn't have the room and doesn't think his neighbors would like it if he did. His antenna collection started with one vertical and throughout time he kept adding until it grew to its present count. All the antennas are fed with 9913 coax in a neat and professional manner no hanging cables or haphazard work here. The coax cables run into a switching network in the basement where Joe has his shack. His shack boasts an impressive array of HF and VHF/UHF equipment. His many radios include a Kenwood TS940 and Kenwood 922A linear amp for HF, Kenwood TS600 for six meters, Kenwood TS790A for 2, 70cm and 1296 meters and an Icom IC37A for 220MHz. Joe owns astron and cless power supplies, Nye Viking tuners, various test equipment and several computers for logging and packet radio. I am not doing his shack justice due to my sloppy note taking during my visit and my procrastination in writing this article so Joe please forgive me. If you look at the photos of his shack you will have a better appreciation for the great setup he has.

Joe is active in all the major VHF/UHF contests and is an avid cw operator and his wall of certificates and awards testify to his accomplishments. He is currently working on DXCC one country at a time.



Before I left Joe's house I asked him for one piece of advice in installing antennas and he answered me with a story of the first CB antenna he installed on the roof of an apartment house he was living in at the time and how his wife called him at work and told him that it was

tangled in the clothesline and he better get home to take down. Joe hadn't guyed the antenna so the wind sent it crashing down. He ended the story by telling me to make sure that any antenna I install is securely fastened and properly guyed.

I want to thank Joe and Ruth for allowing me to visit their home and the next time you hear Joe or Ruth on the air please give them a call.

Tom Golero KC2CBA

Meet the Members

Susan Bernstein KB2TEP

How Long have you been a HAM?

9 years. Received license in Feb 1995.

How did you discover HAM radio?

Ironically, I discovered Ham Radio at the Hall of Science, many years before receiving my license. I remember taking my kids to the HOS and visiting the Ham Radio Shack and was fascinated by the idea of talking to people thousands of miles away (this was in the days before the popularity of the PC). I still have this comic book they gave me, "Archie's Ham Radio Adventure" which was published in 1986. Always wanted to learn the Morse code, which seemed like it could be fun, (certainly would make a great secret language, better than pig Latin anyway) but never got around to it. I don't think you could get a license in those days without learning the Morse code, but by 1995 they dropped the requirement. It was actually an electronics professor that encouraged us to get a Ham Radio license that gave me the push to study for the exam.

Did you have an elmer (ham radio teacher)?

When I realized I would need a club to help me out with using my radio, I called the HOS and spoke to Nelson Sidman N2CKK. He was so nice and helpful, and invited me to come down to the meetings, and told me he'd be my elmer.

What class of amateur radio license do you have?

Technician No-Code.

Any plans to upgrade your license?

Not at the moment, but if I should ever have the time to learn the Morse code, then I'd certainly consider it.

Where did you take your exam?

I think it was in L.I. or Westchester. Don't remember where exactly.

Do you have any friends or family members who are also hams?

No.

What does your family think of your HAM radio hobby?

They think it's "different", but maybe they'd be more interested in learning more about it if I had more success in communicating with people. My house is located in a "dead" spot, so that the regular rubber ducky antenna that came with the radio never transmitted properly, hence no one could ever hear me. A few months ago John Neugebauer N2STX donated his home-brew antenna to me and I was finally able to transmit from my home. A very exciting moment after all these years of thinking that I was being ignored.

What is your main interest in HAM radio?

Learning about the electronic aspect. I think a lot of members enjoyed the Kit-Building Meetings for that reason too. We need to do more hands-on activities at meetings, which I think would attract even more members.

What kind of work do you do?

I graduated college with a degree in Biology and worked as a Research Lab Technician before I worked as a Mother and Homemaker (yes, that's work!). When my youngest child was in elementary school I enrolled in the local community college and studied Electronic and Computer Engineering Technology. In 2000, I got my A+ Certification and have worked as a part time computer tech and consultant. I also work part time as a web page designer for a firm in Manhattan. I also do lots of volunteer work in my community.

How did you discover HOSARC?

Same way I discovered Ham Radio. See above.

What other hobbies/interests do you have?

I love hiking and the outdoors. I belong to several hiking clubs, primarily the NY/ North Jersey Appalachian Mountain Club, of which I am part of the new web team, and the NY/ NJ Trail Conference, of which I am a Volunteer Trail Maintainer. Other interests would be music, (particularly alternative rock), yoga and environmental issues. Of course I also love anything that has to do with computers, whether it be the hardware or software end of it.

You are doing a great job with the HOSARC website. Is there anything that you would like to request of the members in regards to the website?

Since the website is for the benefit of our members, I would love to get suggestions as to what they would like to see on the site. Perhaps they'd like a page where they could advertise their business, service or stuff that they'd like to sell or buy. Or maybe they'd like to post a technical question, anonymously if they'd like, and have members answer.

What radios do you have?

An ICom W21AT.

What antennas do you have?

The original rubber ducky and the donated home-brew made out of wire hangers.

What is your favorite ham band or frequency?

The HOSARC band. :)