

The NewsFuse

The NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

January 2004

Next meeting Tuesday January 13th 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

Code practice on the repeater will begin as soon as the club repeater is repaired.

The two 5" diameter holes have been drilled. We are waiting for the electricians to run their conduit and then we will follow with our conduit for the new cable runs to the roof. We will need volunteers to help pull cables as soon as the conduit is installed. An announcement will go out via e-mail and or the repeater when we are ready to run cables.

How would you like to be the next member for the "Meet The Members" section of the NewsFuse? If you are interested send an e-mail to kc2hev@arrl.net or see Ted Bicking KC2HEV after the meeting.

A repeater committee has been formed to maintain and operate the HOSARC repeater. The following members volunteered to be on the committee: Ted Bicking KC2HEV, Bernie Bretton AB2GG, Sidney Ko KC2GEC, Sal Lombardo (chairman) WB2HQO, Marc Eidelberg WR2I, Steve Greenbaum WB2KDG, and Bernie Stein K2ZIR. The first order of business is to fix the intermittent transmit problem with the repeater. The repeater may be off-the-air for a few days this month.

Chairman's Report:

Stephen Greenbaum WB2KDG
e-mail: WB2KDG@arrl.net
phone: 718.898.5599 (Evenings Please)

I wish everyone a Happy and Health New Year. We had the best turn out I can remember for the holiday party. I thank Lenny Menna W2LJM for doing another fine job. Alice Newman KC2JIR took many pictures of the event and they can be seen on our club website.

Our Club will again have a table at Ham Radio University on January 18. Location is at the East Woods School in Oyster Bay LI. There will be 20 seminars. Call me if you need a lift. For further info go to the website www.hudson.arrl.org/nli/hru2004.htm. Let me know if you would like to volunteer at our club table. We will accommodate you so you do not miss any of the seminars you care to attend. If you have something that you would like to show, bring it down. If you have any 2003 digital pictures of club activities I will use them in an updated video presentation.

There is a new version of APRSPoint with updated street maps on the right computer in the station. If you are interested, I will happily show you how to use it.

73 to all Steve Greenbaum WB2KDG

President's Corner:

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

I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. In December the club held its annual holiday party and this year we had 56 people in attendance. Since I've heard no complaints so far, I'm going to assume everyone was well fed and that they enjoyed themselves. I encourage all members to attend events like the holiday party and summer barbeque if there family and work commitments allow them. These types of events allow you the opportunity to meet your fellow club members in a more relaxed atmosphere and it also

gives your family and friends a chance to meet each other. It also benefits the club because the next time we call a work party hopefully you will get permission to come down to the shack and believe me there are quite a few on the horizon

I believe that 2003 was a good year for the club in spite of the setbacks caused by the construction on the museum. The club participated in a number of activities this year such as our first kit building night, holding two Hamfests, Timonium hamfest road trip, field day, summer barbeque, a fishing trip, air show trip and a trip to ARRL headquarters. We also had two meeting nights that included guest speakers from our ranks, which was a real treat. Speakers who travel from club to club are great but learning from your fellow club members not only allows you gather information on the topic, it lets you share in what your fellow club members are up to in the hobby and for me that is one of the reasons I joined the club. 2003 also was the year in which our membership rolls passed the ninety-member mark. I believe it's been quite a few years since we have had a membership this high. Lets hope this trend continues for 2004.

The club's goals for 2004 include expanding its activities outside the museum as well as restoring and improving our station. As developments unfold concerning our station restoration, I will pass them on to you in this newsletter as well as at the monthly meetings. Please remember we are at the mercy of the museum with regard to all work on our project. The club will be repeating some of the same activities we participated in 2003 but this time they will be different due to increased participation in them from the membership. Additionally the club is planning some new trips this year including a trip to the Battle Ship New Jersey as well as a possible US Island activation and activating a lighthouse. Art Breen WA2YQV has been diligently working on the island activation and we should have some preliminary details soon.

I look forward to working with all of you in this upcoming year and remember you can contact me anytime on the phone, via email or in person at a meeting with your concerns, suggestions, comments and help.

73's Tom Golero KC2CBA

Vice President's Corner:

Kit Building Project for the April 2004 meeting.

The very successful kit-building event of last year will be repeated at the April meeting this year. Suggestions received from the membership indicate that the preference was to have individuals build different kits rather than the same one. I have done some research and would like to recommend the kits being produced by the Ten-Tec Corporation. They are producing a wide

variety of kits that could be useful additions to everyone's hamshack. Some come with cases and knobs, while others are just the circuit board, leaving the individual to package the project as they see fit. Of course Ten-Tec does sell cases and would love to sell you one of those as well, if you should choose to create a more presentable finished product. Below is a brief description of some of their kits that would be nice projects. We would like you to order the kits through the club for a variety of reasons.

We would attempt to obtain a club discount for the kits. The club will absorb all the shipping costs. We make sure the kits are available on the evening of club meeting. If you wish to check out all of the kits available from Ten-Tec you can visit them at www.tentec.com

ACCESSORY KITS

Broadband, untuned RF preamp. 50 ohm input, 50 ohm output. THIS one is your best buy! Excellent noise figure, gain and frequency coverage at a BUDGET PRICE. Up to 18.5 dB gain at 100 MHz. 17 dB gain typical at 500 MHz. Supply voltage: 8-14 VDC.

Item #1001 Universal Low-Noise Broadband DC to 1 GHz RF Preamp \$9.00

Have you ever wondered what good one of those \$60-100 "RX Noise Bridges" could do for YOUR station setup? Are you baffled by your antenna tuner or "transmatch"? The 1051 is easy to build and super-easy to use. No "R-X" controls, calibration or calculations needed. Just connect it between your rig and antenna tuner, set receiver to desired operating frequency, and adjust the antenna tuner until the distinctive modulated pulses (NOT just straight "noise!") drop to an easily-recognized "null" indicating that the tuner offers a 50-ohm match to your transceiver with NO on-the-air nervous experimenting with the tuner controls!

Item #1051 Transmatch Tuning Bridge \$17.00

Here's a great gadget at a great price for clubs, classes, scout troops and packs, camps and family fun! Tune it to any quiet part of the 88-108 MHz FM band, hear the distinctive "beep- beep" modulation from the 1059, and let the kids use their own FM portable radios to discover the basics of direction-finding. Hide it indoors on rainy days! Includes card-mounted on-off switch and 9V battery snap. Use several to demonstrate triangulation.

Item #1059 Foxhunt "Beep-Beep" Transmitter \$12.00

Item #1207 High-Power Variable Capacitor \$49.00

Also known as the DXer's "integrating Squelch," this great circuit liberates your family from hiss, whines and other noises when your receiver is tuned for those unpredictable openings on any HF or VHF band that usually seems DEAD. This "integrating" squelch responds to the cumulative effect of several seconds of weak signal rather than to isolated noise bursts. Connect between rig and external speaker; no receiver modification required. You supply creative 12VDC alarm devices (piezo, chime, strobe, light, etc.) Also may be used to add conventional squelch feature to older receivers, any mode. (strong signals break squelch quickly.)

Item #1064 Smart Squelch \$19.00

The T-Kit model 1201 desk microphone is a kit version of the popular model 705 desk microphone that is sold as an accessory item for our transceivers. The kit version is supplied without a mic connector - the model 35057 (\$3.00) is required for operation with modern Ten-Tec transceivers.

Item #1201 Desk Microphone Kit \$59.00

Item #35057 Microphone connector 4-pin \$3.00

HF and 2 meters with one wattmeter. This top quality station accessory may be the most useful addition to your hamshack. Separate HF and VHF connectors lets you leave the unit in-line with both rigs at the same time! Housed in a rugged steel enclosure. Use it anywhere you need an RF power/SWR meter.

Item #1202 HF/VHF SWR Bridge and Wattmeter \$59.00

Yes, a dummy load is the least exciting of all radio tools. But there are those times when it's the right tool for the job. Your complex transceiver suddenly acts like a QRP rig; is it the rig, the tuner or the antenna? Loading the rig directly into the 1203 dummy load will report the basic health of your transmitter section. With many common sense uses, this is the boring accessory you'll appreciate whenever you start to wonder what's going on with ANY transmitter setup. Good for HF through 2 meters.

Item #1203 300 WATT RF Dummy Load \$29.00

Air-variable capacitors cost \$\$\$ these days because of all the hand labor of putting them together. Save money by assembling your own high-power variables from our top quality factory-ware. Same tuning capacitor used in Ten-Tec linear amplifiers and Ten-Tec's 2kW tuner. Great for all hi-power homebrew projects, including experimental loop antennas.

At a fraction of the cost and size of other "artificial ground" gadgets, the T-Kit 1251 helps solve those annoying RFI/TVI and "Hot Chassis" problems caused by a lack of proper RF ground. Ideal for condo and travel situations where PVC plumbing makes classic waterpipe grounding schemes impossible or where a ground is too far away. While NOT a substitute for vertical's radial system or for a safety ground it does provide a tuned counterpoise to satisfy the transmitter's need for an RF ground path.

Item #1251 Compact RF Ground Counterpoise \$59.00

While speech processing IS a standard feature of today's SSB transceivers, there's plenty of nice equipment at hamfest flea-markets which can benefit significantly from the addition of this proven speech processor circuit used in all of today's TEN-TEC transceivers. If there's room, build it into that older rig. Or, design it into that audio console you've been planning, or just use a neat TEN-TEC box!

Item #1551 Microphone Speech Processor \$12.00

A classic circuit and a nice price make this a great project for beginners or for building into extra rigs. Includes speed control, weight control (rarely offered in "simple" CMOS circuits) and sidetone pitch control. A lot of keyer for the price, it features self-completing dits and dahs for standard single-lever keyer paddles. While not designed for iambic operation, the price and reliability make the 1553 a very nice introduction to electronic CW keying.

Item #1553 Budget Electronic Keyer \$12.00

Please let me know what you think of the above selection. If you have some other suggestions let's hear about it. 73's Allan AE2J

Allan Koenigsberg ae2j@earthlink.net

DX at the shack:



This month's Dx at the shack is a 20 meter contact with Dx-pedition station C56TA which took place on 3/28/03. The operator of the Gambian station was Andrius Ignotas LY2TAT.

The nation of Gambia is located on the West coast of Africa bordering the North Atlantic Ocean and Senegal. Its population at present is 1,501,050 and its size is slightly less than twice the size of Delaware. The Gambia gained its independence from the UK in 1965 and it formed a short-lived federation on Senegambia with Senegal from 1982 and 1989. In 1991 the two nations signed a friendship and cooperation treaty. In 1994 the government was overthrown in a military coup and the president was exiled and all political activity was banned. It wasn't until 1996 that a constitution and presidential elections were reinstated. At present the Gambia enjoys rule by an elected civilian government.

For more information on Gambia, please visit:
www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ga.html

By Tom Golero KC2CBA

My Dx-pedition to the Dominican Republic:



The Dominican Republic is an island country located in the Caribbean between Cuba and Puerto Rico. This was my eighth trip to the DR but my first with HF equipment. We spent several days at a beach resort before heading to my in-laws house in Santiago. Santiago is the second largest city in the country and located in the mountainous central region of the country.

I considered setting up the station while we were at the beach resort (I even had rooftop access to run the antenna wire). I tested the idea with the XYL about setting up the station at the resort "We came here for a vacation and your going to sit there and operate that radio!!!". That response plus the thought of having to repack everything for the 5+ hour trip to Santiago convinced me to wait a few more days to setup the station.

We stopped at the Instituto Dominicano de las Telecomunicaciones office in Santo Domingo on the way to Santiago. The office staff was very helpful and helped me fill out the required form to apply for my Portable-HI radio license. The process usually requires 3 business days to complete but they were able to do it in just one day. The license was faxed to us in Santiago the next day.

The morning after we arrived in Santiago I was up on my father-in-laws roof surveying the layout and deciding if I had enough room to run a 70ft long-wire antenna. I had room, and with a few old mop handles as wire supports and some mason's line to secure the antenna to the house I had the antenna securely mounted. I connected the ICOM-706 and tuned to 14.070 (the psk-31 portion of the band). I setup the rig blaster, connected the computer, tuned-up and started answering CQ calls. To my shock and amazement HR1RQF from Honduras came back to me almost immediately. Then I made a contact in the Canary Islands, The Azores, Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, Columbia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Uruguay, and of course several stations in the USA. I was hoping Tom Tumino N2YTF or another HOSARC member would be operating psk-31 but we never made contact. PSK-31 is a great mode when you don't have much power or big antennas. I operated mostly at 40W or below on 40M, 20M and 10M.

The night before we returned home at 2am I was listening to the "3905 Century Club" net on 40 meters. The XYL and I had just finished packing. I figured I would give a SSB call and see if anyone heard me. "KC2HEV/HI3 calling net control" with my 100W station and the long-wire antenna. Net control heard me and gave me a signal report of 56. The other stations on the net were also eager to make an HI3 contact, so I took turns answering calls and giving signal reports. By this time it was 2:45am and the XYL was more than a little upset that I was talking so loud into the mic. "You are going to wake-up my parents" I thought if the roosters, chickens, dogs barking, car alarms, and loud music don't wake up your parents then I don't think my "hamming" will wake them up either. I didn't wake them up but I did cut it short, as we had to get up early to catch the plane home. I was on the air for a total of 5 days and made 44 psk-31 contacts and 6 SSB contacts. No I did not make thousands of contacts like some DX-peditions set out to do, but I had a great time and I would recommend bringing portable HF gear on your next trip.

Entering the country with radio gear was not a problem, as our bags were not checked by customs. Leaving the country was a different story. The inspector who checked our luggage at the airport got a very concerned look on his face when he discovered the radio, tuner, and power supply. He called over his supervisor who was also a little confused. He asked if I worked for the local phone company. I explained that I was a "radio aficionado" and showed him the portable-HI license/letter from the government agency. "Oh radio aficionado Ok Ok" and he sent us on our way. So I was glad that I had taken the time to do the "paperwork" and become a legal HI operator. The portable-HI license is only a temporary license. You must tell the government how long you plan on being in the country. I was told that the next time I need a license that I can repeat the process via e-mail.

If you are going to travel with radio gear make sure you setup and test everything at home for as long as possible to make sure everything will work as planned when you arrive at your destination.

So now it's time to make up some KC2HEV/HI3 QSL cards and verify those QSO's...

73 de KC2HEV/HI3 Ted Bicking