

# The NewsFuse

The NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

## June 2003

### Next meeting Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup> 8pm

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#### Club News:

The June 1<sup>st</sup> hamfest was not a complete wash-out... Ten HOSARC volunteers showed up to help and about a dozen vendors came to sell their wares. The wise decision was made to drop the admission charge for vendors and attendees. The VE session kicked-off at 10am and the club table actually did very well. Pray for better weather for the October hamfest

The HOSARC club patches are in and they look great! Come to the meeting this month to purchase your patch.

#### Chairman's Report:

Stephen Greenbaum WB2KDG  
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phone: 718.898.5599 (Evenings Please)

As I am writing this before the hamfest, I thank those who will be volunteering and pray for good weather.

Several new radios were shown at Dayton this year. ICOM showed a new high end HF transceiver with a 7 inch LCD display, 2 fully independent receivers and a power output of 200 watts. Kenwood showed off a small HF transceiver, which will replace the TS-50. Yaesu was selling a new compact low power HT, the VX- 2R which replaces the VX-1R. The new unit has 1000 memories and a greater receive range. I met up with Tom Tumino N2YTF and Peter Dougherty W2IRT and we all had a great time.

I will be demonstrating the logging program CT at the next meeting in June. The club owns three laptops, which will be used for logging at field day.

I have some great news. West Mountain Radio has donated a "RIGblaster Plus" to our club exhibit station. It has been hooked up to the Yaesu 847 and our computer sound card and will now let us transmit and receive many new modes of operation. One software package that has been installed is MMSSTV. It is a free SSTV program written in Japan that anyone can download from the net. Other programs will be installed in the future. Also I received at Dayton a lamented CW poster.

We plan on having a BBQ in July as usual. More info will be available soon. There will be no general meetings in July or August.

73 to all Steve Greenbaum WB2KDG

#### President's Corner:

Tom Golero KC2CBA  
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phone: 718.886.3175 (Evenings Please)

Well it's almost summer, at least that's what the calendar says and you what that means-its "work party time". The club has a few small projects that we would like to take care of now that the weather has finally turned. The R7 vertical antenna needs to be taken down and repaired, new and higher G5RV supports need to be installed, a few coax connectors need to be soldered and the 1.2 gig antenna needs to be installed. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering to work on any of these projects and I will set you up with everything that you will need.

While I'm on the subject of volunteering, last month I put out a call for members to come down on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss field day, help bring down supplies from the repeater room and climb up to the roof to check out our antennas. Well only one person showed up and I would like to thank Bernard Stein K2ZIR for helping me organize the field day supplies and accompanying me to check out the roof. Lets hope the club response for these up coming projects is more enthusiastic!

At our May general meeting the board of directors released the door access code policy to the membership. If you are interested in obtaining a copy please see me at one of our general meeting and I will be happy to go over the requirements with you. Also, at our last meeting the club was fortunate to have Steve Mendelsohn W2ML ARRL Vice Director as a guest speaker. Steve gave the club an interesting presentation on how the ABC network technically prepares for the Super Bowl broadcast. The club tries to get the best speakers that are available to us throughout the year to come to our meetings. However as I have requested in the past, we need you the

membership to help with this task by finding guest speakers for the club as well as being a speaker yourself. There are no general membership meetings this summer, so you LL have at least two good months to prepare a 30 to 45 minute presentation with a 15 to 20 minutes period for Q & A for the upcoming meetings that begin again in September.

The club will be participating in the ARRL Kids' day radio event on Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> from 1800 to 2400utc. The station will be staffed by our younger members for this event. Also we will be participating in field day on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>. Field day begins at 2:00 pm on Saturday and ends 2:00 pm Sunday. We will be meeting for set up at 7:00 am on Saturday morning. If you plan to be part of field day please contact me by email, phone or in person. It's important to know how many members are participating so I can assign job tasks and we can have the proper amount of food on hand. The club will be setting up three stations for field day. We will most likely be in the parking lot this year. If any member(s) wish to set up an additional station(s) you will have to bring down everything you will need to operate, including a laptop computer. The first three stations will run off generators and a set of batteries will be available for another set up. The only requirement we ask of anyone who wishes to operate an additional station is you must use CT Logging software. Visit [www.k1ea.com](http://www.k1ea.com) for a free version. It's also a good idea to visit the site to learn how to use the program if you plan to operate on field day. I look forward to seeing all you at our June meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> and at field day.

73's Tom Golero KC2CBA

DX at the shack:



This month's pick for DX at the shack is from a contact with K80 on OFU Island American Samoa. The contact was made on ten meters using the Kenwood TS440 and 100 watts.

American Samoa is a US territory that lies about 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii. Six of the territory's seven

islands are divided among three groups-Tutuila and Aunuu; Ofu, Olosega, and Tau; and Rose. These islands are in the Samoan chain. The seventh, Swains Island lies 200 miles north. The Jennings family has owned Swains Island since 1865 when Eli Jennings, an American and his Samoan wife settled there.

The capital of American Samoa, Pago Pago is located on the Island of Tutuila. Pago Pago is the territory's only port and urban center.

American Samoa's 77,000 people are nationals but not citizens of the United States. They may freely enter the country at any time. Almost all American Samoans are Polynesians whose ancestors probably migrated from eastern Melanesia and settled the islands at least 2,000 years ago. The first European explorers reached the islands in 1792.

In 1872 the US established a naval coaling station at Pago Pago which remained active and under the US naval control until 1951 when the islands were transferred to the Department of the Interior. In 1977 the Samoans elected their first governor.

Information for this article gathered from World Book On Line. Please visit [www2.worldbook.com](http://www2.worldbook.com) for more information on American Samoa.

By Tom Golero KC2CBA

Meet the members: Alice and Ken Newman KC2JIR and K2JLK

Alice, KC2JIR: Since March 2002, I have been a ham after Ken's urging me to do so for many years. Having studied the Gordon West book for Techs for about three weeks, I then took several practice tests on the Internet from various ham sites and was able to score high grades. Thus, I then decided to take the Tech test at the Hall, which I passed easily becoming a licensed Tech, and joined HOSARC.

I communicate at home on Echolink via the Internet and to my astonishment have had the opportunity of speaking with many other hams from all over the world. Some of these contacts have been with YLs who live in such exotic places such as Monaco, Taiwan, Australia, and Switzerland. In addition, many of my contacts have been with OMs who reside in Iceland, Luxembourg, Israel, Thailand, Australia, Russia, etc.

Often, I accompany Ken to the Hall and under his supervision use the HF equipment in the radio shack. A few months ago, I was elected to our Board of Directors, along with another YL member Ilda Schneider, KC2JOM. Moreover, I have become the HOSARC unofficial photographer and have taken numerous digital pictures of our activities and guest speakers at our meetings, which have been put upon the website by our webmaster, Susan Bernstein, KB2TEP.

At the present time, HOSARC only has five YLs; it would be wonderful if more women joined this hobby and became members of our club.

Ken, K2JLK: Since childhood, I have always been interested in radio communications. Then, in 1954, at the ripe age of 16 I was first licensed as KN2JLK. The next year I upgraded to K2JLK, a call I have had now for 48 years. When I started in ham radio, we were in hollow-state technology (i.e., vacuum tubes). In all these years, I have watched with awe and amazement as solid-state technology has supplanted the former and things have gotten smaller and more complex.

I was quite active from 1954 through 1965. At Alice's urging, I got back on the air in 1995. At home I operate on VHF and UHF. Because I live in an old co-op with no terrace, HF is out of the question for me. I do my lower-band operations at the Hall. Back when I was a kid and operating with a window dipole on 6 meters, I had severe TVI problems with my neighbors, who actually threw garbage down on my antenna (I was operating at Sunday, 8pm when the Ed Sullivan Show was on channel 2). As you can see, I am very sensitive to any possible TVI problems at the home QTH.

After many years of bugging Alice to become a ham, she finally did at the beginning of last year. I was so ecstatic that I had her callsign put on a cake at a public religious function at our synagogue. Since then, we have been happily DXing together!

### Rock-Mite Night at HOSARC



After planning for the better part of 3 months the kit building of the Rock-Mite 40 meter CW transceivers took place at the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. A dozen kit builders developed their skills at constructing the QRP rigs. Of course some guys like Dave, WA2KWP couldn't wait and had his kit completed before the meeting, so he worked on creating a box for the rig. Most of the kit builders got started, but of course could not get the project done in one night. The kit really requires about 3 to 4 hours of concentration to complete, but we got ourselves started in the right direction.



Much thanks has to go to the mentors, those experienced constructors who lent a hand. They seemed to be having as much fun as the builders. Ted, KC2HEV, showed all of us how a serious constructor works. Looking at his portable workbench with its light, work surface and clever work holder was a sight to inspire anyone who loves the smell of solder. Elmar, K2EL, showed off his great eyesight and steady hand by helping many of us solder the Surface Mount chip to the board, a feat requiring as very steady hand and much courage.



The reaction of everyone who took part was that this was a great departure from the normal club meeting, and one that should be repeated in the future. To those of you who missed the meeting, we hope you'll be able to join us next time.

By Allan Koenigsberg AE2J