

# The NewsFuse

## The NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

### June 2005

#### Next meeting Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup> 8pm

#### Club News:

3 New members have been voted on and approved. Jeff Schneller N2HPO, Art Coppola KC2JYK, and Ira Friedberg AB2TM. Welcome to HoSARC!

10 people took VE exams at the hamfest. Thanks to Lenny Mena and all of the other HoSARC members who volunteer their time to make the exams possible. We need more VE's in the club. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Examiner you can download the VE manual at [www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemmanual/index.html](http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemmanual/index.html)

The HoSARC repeater has been off-the-air since mid May. The repeater committee is actively working on repairing our motorola repeater as well as acquiring and setting up a backup repeater on the HoSARC frequency pair. Please come to the general meeting to hear the latest on the HoSARC repeater status.

The annual barbecue will be held on Tuesday July 12th at 7pm. There will be a suggested \$5 donation for adults attending the barbecue. The event is open to members and their guests. Please let Tom Golero know if you plan on attending the barbecue so that we can plan the amount of food to order.

There are NO HoSARC CLUB MEETINGS in July or August! Have a great summer!

#### Shack News:

Both computers in the station are now running Windows 2000 Professional and most software has been properly configured. The last few programs will be fully set up within the next couple of weeks. These computers are connected to a printer, the Internet and to each other. There's also an 802.11b/g wireless access point up and running with the SSID of DX, so if you're WiFi enabled you can bring your PC down to the shack

Everyone is welcome to use either PC. You must log in to be able to do anything. If you want to log in and don't know the password please e-mail anybody on the executive board. Please note that the left-side computer is generally used for surfing and is also connected to the FT-847 for VHF/UHF logging, and the right-side computer is used for logging on HF. On the right PC we

have an Instant Messenger account set up -- our screen name is HoSARC WB2JSM (with the space) so look for us online!

Please do not install or attempt to install any software to either computer. Secondly, and this is the most important, after you have finished with the computer, please log off! Click START, then SHUTDOWN then LOG OFF HoSARC. I have set both systems up so that users can not shut the machines down. This is by design. Please do not attempt to power-down either computer as there is a very real risk of database corruption of our loggers if not done correctly. It has already happened once recently and I'm scrambling for a fix even as I write this.

You may also notice that the right-side machine is very slow. We only have 128 Mb of RAM in it, so please be patient until we can get to the next computer show and put some more RAM in it.

#### Chairman's Report:

Hello to all,

I want to thank Pete W2IRT, Steve WB2KDG, Art WA2YQV and Tom N2YTF for their help in purchasing the club's supplies at the Dayton Ham Fest. The club purchased some necessary supplies (coax cable, rope, connectors, lighting protection, etc.) for the upcoming projects we will be undertaking this summer season. Steve our treasurer received some donations for the club but I'll let him tell you all about that himself at our next meeting.

The club has sold almost all the donated equipment it has received and we will have an exact figure available when we receive all the payments due to us. Out of the 18 items for sale we have received payment on 16 items so far. Thanks are in order to all involved in the sales and packing of the gear for shipment-Pete W2IRT, Allan AE2J and Bernie K2ZIR.

As most of you have probably heard by now the weekend of Field day, June 25-26 the park (Tennis Stadium) will play host to a Reverend Billy Graham Revival. We will have to work our F.D. plans around this other event. According to Parks Department there are

Chairman of the Board: Tom Golero KC2CBA  
President: Allan Koenigsberg AE2J  
Vice President: Peter Dougherty W2IRT

Secretary: Ted Bicking KC2HEV  
Treasurer: Steve Greenbaum WB2KDG  
Newsletter Editor: Ted Bicking KC2HEV

two services being held on the Saturday, June 25. The first being a morning prayer service at 10 AM to 11:30 AM with an estimated attendance of 20,00 people. What this means to us is if you plan to help set up please arrive between 7-8 AM and plan on staying until after the service at least to 11:30 AM. The second service that day will take place at 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM and crowds are estimated at 80,000 plus. If you plan to participate in the early evening please arrive by 4:00 and plan to stay until after the service-9 PM. For those planning to participate in the late evening you should have no problems after 9:30 –10 PM. The times provided to arrive and depart are all my best guesses without knowing how the parks dept. and the police department will handle parking and crowd control and if the field day site will be used for overflow parking. Remember to bring your club membership cards with you. On Sunday at 2:00 PM is where we need members to help tear down our F.D. setup. The last event for the Graham revival takes place at 3:00 to 6:00 PM. Remember if the weather is warm the park has lots and lots of visitors on the weekends and especially on Sundays so give yourself some extra time to get into the park. If you have problems please call on the repeater for someone to come to the main entrance gate. If the repeater is not up by F.D. use the output of the repeater (444.200) with enc/decode set. If all this looks like it is going to keep you away don't let it. Take the train, bike, walk or, car pool. Field Day is about operating in the Field under less than perfect conditions, just treat the crowds as a condition to overcome. Remember we need operators after midnight on Saturday even if you can only come down for only an hour. Your participation will be appreciated and who knows you might just enjoy yourself.

The problem with our repeater is being worked on by our repeater chairman Sidney KO KOSID and the rest of the committee and as information becomes available we will post it on the website and send out email. Please have patience our repeater and controller are not standard amateur equipment and are complex and challenging to work on. I hope to see all of you at our next meeting on the 14th. We have a guest speaker from HRU, Lance Aue KA2EJD and his topic will be mastering the code. We would like a good turnout for him so please come to the meeting.

Tom Golero  
KC2CBA

#### President's Corner:

The summer season is already upon us. I don't know where the year has gone. We still have a meeting to look forward to this coming Tuesday evening, soon to be followed by Field day and then the annual Bar-B-Q for members and guests. It's always very nice to see members at all the events and meetings so try and come to as many as possible. At this year's Bar-B-Q we are asking attendees to voluntarily contribute \$5 / adult to

help defray the cost of the food, drinks and supplies. Family members who are too young to drive, eat for free, as does anyone showing a Medicare card (our contribution to the senior citizenry).

This is a good time to recall the events of the past year. We have seen the club come through a very difficult time with real optimism. The expansion of the museum and the challenges it presented to us were monumental. The physical and financial pressures really sapped our resources. Several bad hamfests due to bad weather and the costs of upgrading the station and its equipment had depleted our cash reserves. The maintenance issues surrounding the repeater and its management were a major concern to the repeater committee.

As we look at our situation today the outlook is much brighter. The station is up and running in better shape than ever before. The cables have all been replaced, newer equipment installed, older gear retired and we have a station that is on the verge of being a very fine example of what a modern ham shack should be all about. The walls are painted, there's new carpet on the floor, and the appearance is very nice and clean. We will be adding just a few more items, including decorations that will allow us to make a very positive impression on the visiting public. What we do need is more operators to take advantage of the facilities. That means you!!

Congratulations to all who made the eBay auction sale happen. Special thanks to Peter W2IRT who did the bulk of the work in writing up the descriptions, placing the ads and following through on all the details. I think the results were a resounding success. With all the fees, shipping and packing expenses we still managed to clear 80% profit for the club. The infusion of money at this point is most welcome to help pay for the previous mentioned improvements.

The repeater committee has devised a plan to put its operation on a more reliable basis. It involves several items that will be dealt with in the near future. The board of directors has made a financial commitment to allow the repeater group to do its work. I am optimistic that the repeater will shortly return to full operation in the near future, with reasonable assurance that operate consistently.

Steve's work on the Hamfest has paid off, especially his intervention with the Supreme Being for good weather. We now can breath a little easier as far as making financial commitments for the club operation.

Finally I am looking forward to the fact that in the near future we will decorate the walls with some nice DXCC and WAZ certificates for the club station. Its not easy to be competitive in the DX arena from New York City. The fact that we can do so from the club station is very nice. I invite more members to use the station to become real

DXers by using the equipment. There is nothing wrong in using our equipment and your own callsign just so long as you operate within the limits of your license class. Of course if you dig out a rare one, don't forget to get a signal report for WB2JSM as well.

73 Allan Koenigsberg AE2J  
e-mail: ae2j@earthlink.net

#### Vice President's Corner:

Over the Dayton weekend, the Hall painted and re-carpeted our shack. The walls and floors look great but in the hurry to get everything out of the room in time to meet the workmen's schedules things got a little out of kilter. Thanks to the hard work from Tom, Bernie and Steve it's getting back to normal pretty quickly, however we'd appreciate an hour or two from any members who have good organizational skills and would like to come down and help us get things back to full-normal.

We'll also need to get some folks down soon when we have a weekend of good weather to a little antenna work upstairs. Please call me or Tom if you can spare a day or two. We have good long-life coax and we'll be in great shape once we get this done. That and the satellite antennas are the last piece of the puzzle on the roof.

We put in a good showing in the CQ-WPX contest held on the last weekend in March. We had a few operators come down to help our 15m single-band entry rack up 235 QSOs over two days. Propagation was less than optimal again for this contest, but we picked the band clean both afternoons.

As I mentioned in March, our QSLs are here and looking good. I was a little displeased with the pronounced curl they have, however -- caused by insufficient drying time, since blue ink takes significantly longer to dry than other colours. I brought my concern to ELLI Print in Prague, and without a further word these gentlemen graciously offered to re-print the order at no cost to us and mail out the new lot, again at no cost to us. I would not hesitate to recommend them to one and all as a result of this excellent customer service.

On the topic of QSLs, Tom KC2CBA and I are just about caught up in mailing out QSL requests to several all-time-new entities for the club. Our current DX totals stand at 228 countries worked, 191 confirmed with new ones now coming in almost on a daily basis. About 50 cards were sent directly to DX stations abroad, another 20 to stateside managers and about 150 or so went out via the bureau system in the last few weeks. Once we have about 205 to 210 entities confirmed we will formally submit our DXCC application to the ARRL. We also sent out about 250 band-fill QSLs (dating back to 1999) through the buro and maybe someday we'll have a shot at 5-Band DXCC (an award your humble scribe

just achieved this past month after 4 years of hard-core Dxing).

Pjd  
W2IRT

#### HOSARC MEMBERS BRAVE NOR'EASTER TO ATTEND TIMONIUM HAMFEST

Written by: Felix Lam, K2KHV

Despite weather forecasts calling for a Nor'easter, a few brave HOSARC members made the annual pilgrimage to Timonium, Maryland to attend the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest, hosted by the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club.

The storm's heavy rains and winds practically shut down all outdoor tailgating this year. A big disappointment since the outdoor tailgating area is usually where some of the best deals can be found. But no fear, there is plenty to see and bargain for in the 5 acres of indoor vending space. Besides visiting table after table of used radios and computer equipment, the random inventor trying to sell his newest radio related "thing-a-ma-jig" always proves to be an interesting aspect of the big Timonium show. In spite of the weather, we all had a lot of laughs and a great time.

This year's Timonium trip wasn't just about looking for a great bargain on ham radio gear. Thanks to our trustee, Lenny Menna, we operated mobile HF using the club's call-sign, WB2JSM. Sidney Ko's (KC2GEC) minivan became the club station on wheels. The minivan's middle-row of seats was removed to make room for Sidney's Yeasu FT-847 which was strapped with bungee cords to a step ladder. The step ladder raised the radio to a comfortable operating height and provided shelf space for additional operating equipment. The FT-847 was connected to a Yeasu ATAS 120 screwdriver-type antenna. We discovered the two were a perfect match. One press of the "Tune" button on the radio triggered the antenna to move and tune to the specific operating band. With the minivan speeding at 70 miles per hour in the heavy storm, the FT-847 and ATAS-120 were used to contact the following stations.

UTC	FREQ	STATION	LOCATION
11:56	7.153	AD6P	Kansas operating portable 0
11:58	7.153	N4WC	Georgia operating portable 4
12:23	14.198	J79XBI	Dominica, West Indies
12:40	7.238	N8DMW	Michigan
12:42	7.238	W4JAR	North Carolina
12:54	7.230	WA4ROG	Ohio
18:25	14.275	SP9QMP	Poland
19:25	14.241	SP8BRQ	Poland
19:29	14.222	SP9KJT	Poland
19:33	14.216	YZ4X	Unknown as of yet.
19:38	14.210	SP6PWT	Poland

19:45	7.230	W4DZO	Virginia
19:46	7.230	N4JA	South Carolina
19:47	7.230	N2HTL	Buffalo, NY

While operating HF, we were sure to mention that we were the NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club. We had qso's with a few stations who were indeed familiar with HOSARC! In fact, W4JAR stated that he had made the trip to Timonium years earlier when he lived in the New York area, and our contact brought back for him some great memories!

In addition to making some DX contacts, the minivan broadcasted its position approximately every 120 seconds using APRS equipment supplied by Joe Hernandez (W2JLH). Joe used a Kenwood THD7A handle-talkie, connected to a Garmin Etrex Navigator handheld gps unit. A mag-mount antenna and a Roadpro 12 volt portable battery pack completed the APRS set-up.

You can check out the route traveled by mobile club station by going to [www.qsl.net/n9wtm](http://www.qsl.net/n9wtm) and typing WB2JSM-\* under "find location for call". You will then find three ssid's for wb2jsh: 1, 2 and 3. Click on either one of them and you will see a map and the callsign. At the left of the page click on "display track". If the site has expired by the time you visit it, check out W2JLH's website at <http://www.w2jlh.net/timonium2005.html>, where Joe has also posted the APRS output and map.

In addition to HF and APRS operations, the minivan was also equipped with a Kenwood TM-V7A for VHF and UHF work. This radio was mostly used UHF simplex to keep in voice contact with the other vehicles making up the HOSARC convoy.

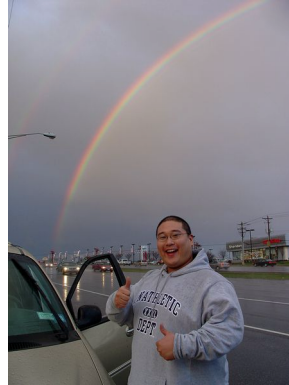
I'd like to thank those guys who volunteered to drive because they made the trip possible: Sidney Ko, Jacob Stockton N2ZWV, Bob Aluska W2RFA, and Pete Dougherty W2IRT. Also, thanks to Bernie (K2ZIR) for lending us his ATAS 120 antenna.



Art Breen (WA2YQV) looks approvingly as Joe Hernandez (W2JLH) grooves to the latest sounds in HF sideband.



Felix Lam (K2KHV) is pleased with the minivan's operating amenities, such as UTC clock, and logbook.



The gods grace Sidney Ko (KC2GEC) with a rainbow for a job well done behind the wheel of the mobile club station minivan.



The brave HOSARC members who dared mother-nature to keep them away from another hamfest, and another round of steak and beer.

Back row from left to right: Tom Golero KC2CBA, Bob Aluska W2RFA, John Neugebauer N2STX, Art Breen WA2YQV, John Plunkett KC2JCP, Steve Greenbaum WB2KDG, Pete Dougherty W2IRT, and Jacob Stockton N2ZWV. Front row from left to right: Felix Lam K2KHV, Joe Hernandez K2JLH, and Sidney Ko KC2GEC.