

The NewsFuse

The NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

November 2003

Next meeting Tuesday November 11th 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

Elmar Vaheer K2EL and Bernie Stein K2ZIR have setup a grounding system at the club station.

Code practice on the repeater is on hold until we can setup a rigblaster interface between the CW software and the repeater.

Several HOSARC members participated with emergency communications at the 2003 NYC Marathon on Sunday November 2nd. Thanks for donating your time and representing the club at the marathon!

John Neugebauer N2STX donated a homebrew vertical antenna to Susan Bernstein KB2TEP. Susan can now make it in to the repeater from her home QTH.

There is a problem (possible bad potentiometer) with the HF beam rotator on the roof of the Hall of Science. A work party will be scheduled to investigate and repair the rotator. Contact Tom Golero if you are interested in helping.

The HOSARC 2003 election ballots have been mailed out. Please return your ballot as soon as possible or bring it to the November general meeting.

Thanks to Sidney Ko KC2GEC for the digital pictures of last month's meeting.

If you have something you want to put in the NewsFuse e-mail it to kc2hev@arrl.net (yes my spam filters are working well) or bring it to the next club meeting.

Chairman's Report:

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

I would like to thank all who volunteered at our successful hamfest on October 5th. Even the weather cooperated and we had high marks from both the buyers and sellers. The food vendor was happy and sold out some of his selections. He will be back! I especially thank Bernie Stein K2ZIR who handled talk in for most of the hamfest. We also sold some equipment from a donation from Alvin Rohssler WB2DLA. I would like to thank William Vogel KC2GSK for donating a PA amp, which worked much better than the bullhorn.

I would like to thank Jim Shannon N2BAL for donating a Rigblaster. This will be used for our upcoming CW practice to be held on our repeater. Dave Ellenberg WA2KWP has graciously donated a cordless soldering iron. We are still looking for a donation of a Byrd wattmeter for our repeater. We already own the required slugs.

We plan on having our holiday party on December 9, 2003. Lenny Menna has agreed to set it up again. We all had a wonderful time last year and nobody went home hungry.

We plan on setting up a table in January for Ham Radio University 2004. This has helped our club grow to 89 members. HRU 2004 will be held at East Woods School in Oyster Bay, Long Island, NY, on Sunday, January 18, 2004. Their website is www.hudson.arrl.org/nli/hru2004.htm.

Lastly remember to cast your vote in the Hudson Division election. Deadline is November 21. For more info visit the ARRL website at: www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/09/03/1/?nc=1

73 to all Steve Greenbaum WB2KDG

President's Corner:

Tom Golero KC2CBA

e-mail: tomflushing3@aol.com

phone: 718.886.3175 (Evenings Please)

I want to thank the nominating committee for the outstanding work they have performed for the upcoming elections. Especially Bernie Stein K2ZIR, who worked very hard on the ballots. I hope that all of you will either mail them in or bring them in person to the November meeting.

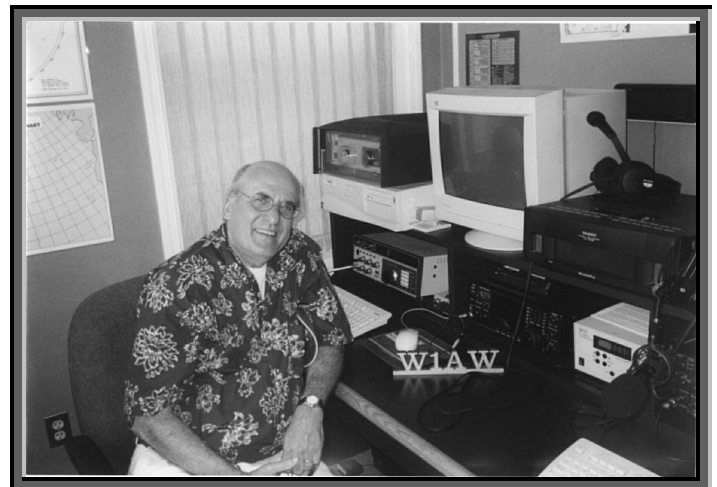


At the last meeting I proposed another trip to ARRL Head Quarters. The league is only open Monday thru Friday for tours from 8am to 5pm and W1AW can be operated from 10am-11:45am and 1-3:45pm. The club trip is being planned for November 12th, the day after our November meeting. We will meet in the museum parking lot at 7:30am. I need to know by November 7th who is going and if they can drive or if they need to car pool. Remember if you plan to operate W1AW you must bring your license with you.

We had a great speaker and turnout for our October meeting. For those of you who couldn't make the meeting our own John Neugebauer, N2STX accompanied by three scouts from his troop who are also club members (Taso KC2KSE, Paul KC2LNR and Andrew KC2KSG) demonstrated a pair of portable ham stations that he had built by hand. I can't do justice to the craftsmanship involved in building the stations in this short column but I can speak for all in attendance that his ingenuity and attention to detail was truly enjoyable to behold. John built the portable stations to be used by his troop for an upcoming Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air event. John and the scouts were planning to operate from Bear Mountain on Sunday the 19th, on VHF and UHF. We look forward at our November meeting to hear from John and the scouts on how the event turned out. John also provided the club with a demonstration and handout on how to make a simple but efficient portable antenna for 440 and 2 meters.

Speaking of the November meeting we are again privileged to have one of our own, Peter Dougherty W2IRT as our guest speaker. Peter's topic will be scanning and monitoring. We have six general meetings in 2004 and I hope that more members take the time to share with us what they are up to in the hobby.

I would also like to welcome the following new members to the club: Estima Artomene KC2FLK, Jean Elize HH2LQ/W2, Anthony Iaccio WA2EMD and Marc Eidelberg WR2I.



Dave Ellenberg WA2KWP operating W1AW last summer

Lastly we are trying to start an upgrade course from Technician to General. I need to know who is interested in taking the course as well as those who would like to teach it. The meeting place and time are still being worked out. I hope to see all of you at our next meeting.

73's Tom Golero KC2CBA

DX at the shack:

RODRIGUEZ ISLAND		3B9FR					
		IOTA : AF 17					
CFM QSO WITH.....		WB2JSM					
DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	MHz	RST	2-WAY	QSL
06	04	02	19:57	21	519	SSB	PSE
							TNX
Robert FÉLICITÉ							
Citronelle - Rodriguez Island							
Indian Ocean - Via Rep. of Mauritius							73... WB2JSM

This month's selection for DX at the Shack is a contact with Robert Felicte, 3B9FR on Rodriguez Island, which was made on 4/6/02 using 100 watts on 15 meters SSB. The qsl card was just received this month after two attempts using direct qsling since there is no bureau service to the island. Rodriguez Island according to information obtained from The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition 2001 is located in the Indian Ocean 350 miles East of Mauritius, of which it is a dependency. Rodriguez is one of the Mascarene Islands, named after the Portugese explore Pedro Mascarenhas who visited the islands c.1512 (Reunion and Mauritius are the other two). The island is surrounded by a coral reef and Port Mathurin is the chief town. The majority of the 34,883 inhabitants are of African descendant, and the remaining population claiming European, Indian and Chinese descendant. The population is largely French speaking and Roman Catholic. The main occupations are subsistence farming and fishing. Rodriguez was discovered in 1645 by the Portuguese, was briefly occupied by the Dutch (1691-93) and was colonized in the 18th century by the French from Mauritius. Britain took control of the island in 1810 and administered it as a part of Mauritius, which became independent in 1968.

By Tom Golero KC2CBA

The Return of the "Rock-Mite"

We're not finished with you yet. All of you who participated in building the Rock-Mite are about to do a Show and Tell. During the Xmas Party meeting in December, we want to display the finished product of your efforts. At least as much as you have finished!! So get out the soldering iron, tweezers, reading glasses etc. and finish up the Rock-Mite. Maybe we can have a couple of CW QSO from one side of the cafeteria to the other, but whatever you have done, bring it on down and show it off. If you still haven't completed it, bring a couple of tools and let's see if we can't get the project

done. On this note it is time to start planning the construction project for a club activity. Suggestions are in order for what we want to do this coming April at our meeting. Do you know of a kit that's fun to build, and not expensive? Something useful that all might find valuable around the shack. The Rock-Mite evening was a great success in terms of membership participation. We want to do it again. If you have a suggestion please let me know as soon as possible so we can make a decision and start the ball rolling. Tell me about it at the next meeting or email me at ae2j@earthlink.net. Please note that this is a change in my email address. My old address at arrl.net is no longer useful as earthlink will not accept forwarded mail from the ARRL. It is part of their attempt to combat spam.

On a more personal note, yes, the antenna erection was successful. Thanks to Tom, KC2CBA and Art, WA2YQV my rotating mast and SteppIR antenna have been raised and are operating. Talk about phallic symbols! If you have a couple of hours I will be glad to bore you with all the details ad nauseam. Anyone who can identify the pun in the previous sentence will be rewarded with pictures that should tie up your computer for a couple of hours while they download. Don't forget to vote in the club election. Do it early and often.

--- Allan Koenigsberg
 --- ae2j@earthlink.net

Meet the Members:

Bernie Stein K2ZIR

Being a senior club member who turned 65 in August, now gives me time to reflect on my beginnings in Ham Radio as well as to greatly enjoy the hobby. It all began with a gift of a galenium crystal, cat's whisker, a variable capacitor from an old radio, and a set of WWII headphones. Along with an oatmeal tubular cardboard box and some wire, a workable radio was made. Much fun was had listening to the stations received, even thought there was a big Philco standup radio in the living room. As soon as I was old enough to go on the Subway by myself, many of my free hours were spent on Cortland Street, NYC, which was then known as radio row. After the war, there was shop after shop with surplus items, such ARC 5 and BC610 transmitters, and vacuum tubes and capacitors up to the ceilings. I think this exposure lead me to want to become an Electronics Engineer. That training began by my passing the test for Brooklyn Technical High School, going there and graduating, and then progressing to Brooklyn Poly from 1956 to 1960. Poly is now known as the Polytechnic University of New York and occupies part of the Metro Center in downtown Brooklyn. Even though Brooklyn Tech was difficult, it was nowhere as hard as college. One could not believe how much homework was given. To get a degree in four years, it is a race to stuff in each student's head an enormous amount of information. I

was up most of each night doing this work while listening to Jean Sheppard on WOR radio. Jean was also a ham with the call letters K2ORS. While at Poly I joined their radio club, call sign W2BXK. The transmitter was a one-kilowatt rig, whose final amplifier had a pair of 100TH vacuum tubes. With the exception of the receiver which was a Collins 74A4, all the other equipment was built by the students under the direction of the faculty advisor. The final amplifier had a balanced output going to a tank coil, with a movable link that fed the antenna transmission line. If when moving this link with power on, which was the usual procedure, one touched the coil, a 2500-volt shock greeted you. I only did that once, and it knocked me across the room. It was in March of 1957 I got my novice license with the call KN2ZIR. As a gift from my dad, he bought me from Arrow Electronics a Johnson Viking Ranger transmitter and a Hallicrafter SX100 receiver. Soon I was on the air with HF CW contacts. This enabled me to get my code speed up from 5 wpm to about 20 wpm, allowing me to take my General license exam. In those days to get that license you had to go to lower Manhattan to the regional FCC office, and take the exam. There were no VE's in those days. I passed, and got the General ticket effective July 26, 1957. At last I was able to use my Astatic D-104 microphone and make my first AM contact. From that point until graduation in 1960, I used the college station as well as my home station, which at that time was in Flatbush, Brooklyn. I moved to my current Jamaica Estates home in 1958. After getting my degree I fortunately got my first job at the ARMA division of American Bosch Arma Corporation. At that time they were fairly new to Garden City, having been at Bush Terminal Brooklyn for many years. One of their claims to fame was the "torpedo pre-setter" used on our submarines during WWII. For those that remember seeing the movie, "Run Silent, Run Deep" with Clark Gable, the Pre-setter was shown. My first job at ARMA was being teamed up as a junior engineer with one of this country's top servo design engineers. He designed the new Pre-setter for the Navy, and I learned a tremendous amount from this senior engineer. Engineers really did use Bode Plots and the Nyquist criteria to determine servo-loop stability. Up until then, we only saw these problems on college examinations. ARMA's other claim to fame was the design and development, plus manufacturer of the first all inertial guidance system. This hardware steered the ATLAS missile system, and when you think that in those days there were no IC's, memory chips, or computer chips, it was amazing that such a system worked, and so well. I worked on the design of the temperature controllers for the gyros that flew on that vehicle. During this time I was going to graduate school at night. Most of the classes were at Farmingdale, LI, but a number still at the Brooklyn campus. My Master's thesis was in the design of semi-conductor companders. A compander is a compression and expansion amplifier. There were no A-D converters at that time, so one was only left with using AGC techniques and the non-linear nature of semi-conductors in some of their operating regions. My thesis

professor was one of the first to write a textbook on transistor technology. Unfortunately he died at an early age of a brain tumor.

I left Arma after three years because of a giant lay-off after it lost the Titan III missile contract, which essentially shuttered the company. I went to Lundy Electronics in 1963, and stayed there for 21 years. My position when leaving was Director of Engineering. While Lundy was in Glen Head, LI, our commercial equipment manufacturing facility was in Charlotte, North Carolina. Conveniently the facility was almost at the end of Douglas Airport's runways. I say convenient, because I would go there on a weekly basis, and later on, a monthly basis. It was while at Lundy; I commuted to Liverpool England for four years. As Program Manager I had one of my New York software groups do a few hundred man-years of software, and my hardware engineers, which I include myself as, do the design and development of 256 multi-font OCR work stations. These work stations fed to DEC PDP-LSI mini-computers in groups of 16, which in-turn fed redundant Digital Equipment Corp. (DEC) PDP-11/70 Mainframes. The capture system was custom designed, manufactured for, the National Gyro Bank of England. The operating system for the 11/70's was DEC's RSM-11. Unfortunately, it did not work as advertised, and we had to rewrite a major portion known as QueIO. Gyro banks are popular in Europe, and unlike our banking system, they include both credit before debit check processing, just about the same as our DDA (demand deposit accounting), and Debit before Credit check processing. The reason I stayed only for a few weeks at a time in England was that I had two engineering departments and three software departments to run in New York and Charlotte. This activity further led to doing proposals and presentations to other European countries. I remember going to Norway a few times in the dead of winter to make presentations. Interesting work, but one spends most of their lives on airplanes. All during this time, from June 1962, I had no time for Ham Radio, so was off the air. My Ranger and Hallicrafters just gathered dust. I still own them, but they have not been turned on since 1962.

Tired of so much travel, I left Lundy in 1984 and went to work with an internationally known company in the airline printer business. I accepted the position of Vice President of Engineering, and after a while I also ran Operations, better known as manufacturing. Our customer list included just about every airline in the world, as well as companies needing entertainment ticket printers, such as TicketMaster. Bear in mind that up until a few years ago, airplane tickets were multi-part documents consisting of a packet of seven tickets. To print through seven copies plus a top sheet we utilized hammer and drum technology. It is only recently that the airlines have moved to what is called an ATB (Airline Ticket and Boarding Pass Ticket) with a magnetic stripe on the back. We are now experiencing the ticketless society and this along with thermal printing, lead to the

end of my company. Until its demise, it was taken from a public to a privately owned company by the Piaget family who are Swiss famous for the wristwatches you see advertised for thousands of dollars. But the handwriting was on the wall, and I left to be a futures day trader in 1991. I was off the air all during this time. I noticed a mention of the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club in one of the issues of QST, and decided to come down and join. Shortly thereafter I purchased an ICOM T90 HT, and on March 27, 2003 made my first contact after all these years being off the air. This first QSO was to KC2KXE, Mark, a club member.