



PCARA Update



Volume 26, Issue 4 Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc. April 2025

Park, schools and tools

Our monthly meeting at Putnam Valley Library on Saturday March 1 had fifteen people attending. David KD2EVI announced that the pavilion adjacent to Parking Lot 3 in FDR State Park has been reserved for PCARA's 25th anniversary celebrations on May 10. Several members visited the site to assess arrangements. David and Bob N2CBH are also looking into an Echolink connection for the 2 meter repeater.

Joe WA2MCR has reserved the site for ARRL Field Day 2025 with Lakeland Central School District. PCARA will be back at George Washington Elementary School on Lexington Avenue on June 28-29, with a choice of the front of the school or the field at the back depending on weather. Thanks Joe!

A club table has been requested and confirmed for Orange County ARC's Hamfest at Black Rock Fish and Game Club on Sunday May 4. Members are welcome to bring equipment for sale on the club table.

After the March 1 meeting, a Laurel VEC test session took place at Putnam Valley Library with three successful candidates. This was the first time that PCARA has made use of the ExamTools system for electronic administration, scoring and signing of test forms. Thanks to Lou KD2ITZ, Dave KF2BD, Joe W2BCC and the VE Team for spearheading this development.

PCARA Breakfast on Saturday March 15 at Uncle Giuseppe's attracted 14 members — including Jay



PCARA's March 1 VE Test Session at Putnam Valley Library made use of ExamTools for the first time.



FDR Park pavilion near parking lot #3 has been reserved for PCARA's 25th anniversary celebrations on May 10.

NE2Q who had brought along the "carbon fiber slotted sleeve" featured in Jay's article for April 2025 QST.

Please mark your calendar with these upcoming events:

- Saturday April 5, 2025: PCARA Membership Meeting at 10:15 a.m., Putnam Valley Free Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, NY.
- Saturday April 5, 2025: PCARA Laurel VEC Test Session at 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Free Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, NY. Candidates should (this time) contact Lou KD2ITZ using radocassetta'at'gmail.com.
- Saturday April 19, 2025: PCARA Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace, 327 Downing Drive, Yorktown Heights, NY.
- Saturday April 26, 2025: members who are interested in participating in *Continued on page 2* ⇨

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the ENY-NNY Spring Simulated Emergency Test should contact Westchester County – Emergency Coordinator Steve KD2OFD, KD2OFD‘at’WECA.org.

- Sunday May 4, 2025: Orange County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Black Rock Fish and Game Club, Mountainville, NY.

Reminder: our next scheduled PCARA Membership Meeting is at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday April 5 at the Putnam Valley Free Library in Putnam Valley NY.

PCARA Board

President:

Greg Appleyard, KB2CQE; kb2cqe ‘at’ arrl.net

Vice President:

Bob Tarsio, N2CBH; bob ‘at’ broadcast-devices.com

Secretary:

Lou Cassetta, KD2ITZ; radiocassetta ‘at’ gmail.com

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David Fredsall KD2EVI; joanndavidss88 ‘at’ verizon.net

Director:

Mike Dvorozniak, W2IG

Vice President Emeritus: Joe Calabrese, WA2MCR.

Net night

Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association holds a roundtable net on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. and a directed ‘Old Goats’ net on Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m. Both events take place on the 146.67 MHz W2NYW repeater, offset -0.600, PL 156.7 Hz.

Join the roundtable to find out what members have been doing or join the Old Goats with net control Karl N2KZ for news and neighborly information.

VE Test Session

PCARA’s latest VE test session took place on Saturday March 1 at Putnam Valley Library. This was a Laurel VEC Test Session (no test fee) — and it took a significant step forward in the way candidates are processed. Instead of using paper forms the session would be administered, scored and signed electronically using the **ExamTools** online system.

Thanks to encouragement from Joe W2BCC, a total of *five* candidates were scheduled for testing, with three successes. Maria KE2CGB of Amenia, NY upgraded from General to Extra and was granted new call sign AD2JS. Philip KC2DGF of Hopewell Junction, NY upgraded from Technician to General. David KE2FFO of Campbell Hall, NY also upgraded from Technician to General. Results were made effective by the FCC on March 3, 2025.

The ExamTools online exam system was set up by Richard KD7BBC, originator of the HamStudy web site (<https://hamstudy.org/>). ExamTools (<https://exam.tools/> OR <https://examtools.org/>) is a web-based software package that allows administration and grading of exams via computer or paper, with digital signing of forms — including the NCVEC Form 605 and Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE). ExamTools can generate randomized exams for Technician, General and Extra tests. Hamstudy and ExamTools are supported by the antenna company SignalStuff and by Icom America.

Volunteer Examiners who participated in the March 1 test session included Dave KF2BD, Lou KD2ITZ, Joe W2BCC, Rob AD2CT and NM9J. Dave KF2BD had brought his notebook computer along to assign VEs, update session information then transfer results from ExamTools to the Laurel VEC system. At Joe W2BCC’s suggestion, Dave’s screen was projected onto the wall for all VEs to follow along.



Dave KF2BD administers the VE Test Session with ExamTools then transfers results to the Laurel VEC system.

Individual examinations and answer sheets were still printed on paper, but grading was carried out ‘automagically’ using ExamTools “Scan with GradeCam™” technology. This allows the camera on a smartphone or computer to scan the answer sheet and detect the filled-in circles (bubbles). Signing in of candidates and VEs was also accomplished on smartphone, tablet or computer.

At the end of this Laurel VEC test session, use of ExamTools was declared a success. (The ARRL VEC can also make use of ExamTools and has decided to move all testing to this system by the end of 2025.)

PCARA’s next VE Test Session is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Saturday April 5 at Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley NY. This will be a Laurel VEC test session (no test fee) and **for the April session**, candidates must contact Lou KD2ITZ using radiocassetta‘at’gmail.com by 11:30 a.m. on Friday April 4th.

Adventures in DXing

- N2KZ

Rock Radio?

Have you ever experienced radio magic? You are riding along in your car listening to your favorite AM radio station but the signal is getting weaker and weaker. Maybe you are on the way to the beach or you are about to arrive at a big body of water. Suddenly, the over-the-air signal strength just soars up for no apparent reason. What is going on?

Well, the little bridge you just went over — or — that very long and straight guard rail along the road is acting like a well-grounded antenna and your car becomes loosely coupled with it. The combination of massive amounts of steel with moist and soggy surroundings creates quite a wave catcher. Good fun listening! You might even stop somewhere out of traffic to enjoy and investigate just what you can pick up in this miracle location. Stations from hundreds of miles away are coming in, even in the daytime!

Some places are forever gifted with this phenomenon. Try the West End parking lots at Jones Beach or farther east at Captree State Park on the south shore of Long Island, especially at dusk or dawn. Another choice place is the little Verrazano View parking lot off the Belt Parkway right under the bridge's superstructure in Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn. The combination of enormous steel and water's edge can be magical.

Serious listeners know the cream of the crop: Wellfleet on Cape Cod and the legendary sea shore at Cappahayden, Newfoundland attract DXers who camp out for days after rolling out long Beverage antennas to

capture AM stations from around the world. Passionate medium wave DXers know a host of these locations... and, boy, can they bring you

spectacular results from the farthest reaches of the globe! One more thing: Newfoundland's nickname is "The Rock." St. John's radio station, **OZ FM**, call themselves "The Rock of the Rock"!



Newfoundland's OZ FM with Kayleigh and Noah.

Listen to the Rocks

Do you hear voices? Usually, you would ask that question if you or a friend were acting delusional. On rare occasion, your summation might be true!

Many years ago, my aunt, uncle and cousins lived in a modest ranch-style home on Duanesburg Road in Schenectady, New York. There was an enormous undeveloped backyard with plenty of trees and a few small meadows with scrub where we used to play. Lady the dog was our constant companion. Years of young adventurers like myself had worn obvious paths through the woods to get to areas where we could play ball or anything else to our heart's delight.

My cousins warned me that on misty mornings or evenings the woods would talk. I was sure they were teasing me. One moorish morning, I walked out into the woods by myself in a damp fog... and I did hear voices! I could swear I was hearing the tune "Yankee Doodle" over and over again. I was spooked!

I looked all around wondering what was going on. My eyes looked forward, eyes from side to side, eyes up and down and there was nothing to be seen. Maybe it was an ice cream truck or something? Yikes! And then it stopped! "OK... What's next?" I said to myself.

A booming voice was heard. Actually, it was a booming baritone *Voice!* "This is the Voice of America in Washington, DC signing on!" followed by a long version of "Yankee Doodle." Did someone have a loud shortwave radio playing? No, it was the rocks!

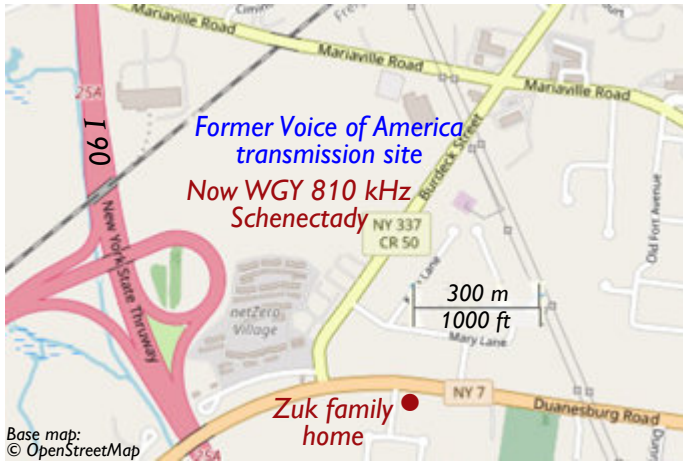
My uncle was a scientist of great renown. I told him about what I heard and he just chuckled. All my cousins were used to this effect and I was getting my indoctrination into the club!

If you look down in the woods, you would see a sort of sparkle in the soil and dust. The resident glacial granite rock was filled with mica and quartz — the same material you might recognize as used in frequency-control crystals in radio transmitters.

When the moisture outside was just right, the rocks and surrounding ground acted like a great big radio detector and resolved The Voice of America without any human electronic effort at all!

There was a very strong reason creating this effect. Just across the street from their home was a 58 acre plot filled with antennas. The entrance at Burdeck Street and Mariaville Road was less than half a mile away from my aunt and uncle's home on Duanesburg Road. It was no wonder we could hear their broadcasts with very little help! The Voice of America was broadcasting with 50 or even 100 kilowatts into directional arrays. How's that for field strength? Pow!

My first visit to their house was in 1956. This Voice of America facility was retired in 1963. Later on, when I listened to my very first shortwave receiver in 1965, I could hear them the traditional way... with a radio! Can you imagine? 1965 was 60 years ago!



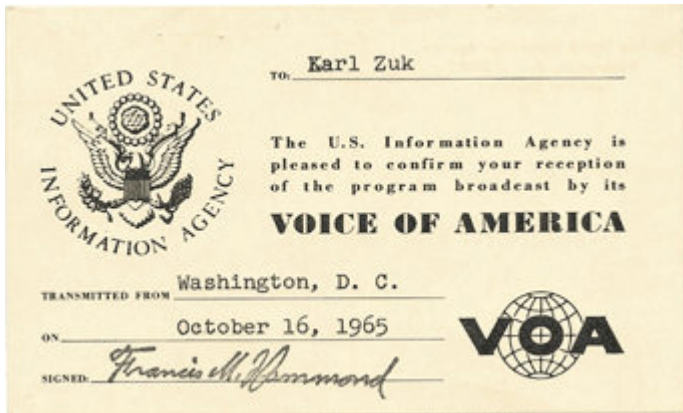
Today, the old VOA antenna site hosts 50,000 watt powerhouse WGY 810 kHz Schenectady with a single tower on the same property! I wonder if you can hear WGY today on the rocks? FYI: this facility was originally



AM broadcast tower of WGY, 810 kHz.

built for General Electric's experimental short-wave station known as WGeo. The facility was handed over to The Voice of America by GE on November 1, 1942.

Sadly, on March 15, 2025, the entire worldwide Voice of America operation — radio, video and streaming — was discontinued due to financial considerations. There will be a silent void on the HF shortwave bands without its authoritative content. The Voice will speak no more.



One of Karl's old Voice of America QSL cards.

Balanced Rock

The most basic type of radio detector occurs when two dissimilar materials touch to form a primitive diode. It helps when plenty of minerals are involved like mica, quartz or galena (lead sulfide). There is a

place in nearby North Salem, New York where you can see a magnificent and curious place where dissimilar rocks touch in a big, big way.

Ride along Route 121 into North Salem. Just south of historic Baxter Road, look carefully along the road and you will see the world-renowned **Balanced Rock**. It's quite a remarkable sight! A 60 ton glacial boulder sits perfectly atop several small limestone pillars above the ground in a perfect balance. You can even crawl under it. Hint: Clear out the spiderwebs before you try!



The Balanced Rock with North Salem Historical Society's accompanying sign. [N2KZ pic.]

How did this miracle come to be? Some experts say that it must have been human engineered and placed, maybe as a monument or even an astrological instrument like Britain's Stonehenge. Rock structures honoring folklore as ceremonial stones — or astronomical events — are known as **dolmens**. It has been said that the North Salem Balanced Rock may be the finest example of a dolmen in the entire world!

Another theory claims that it is a *glacial erratic*. These occur naturally during glacial ice ages where enormous amounts of rock are pushed with unmeasurable might. Glaciers brought rock you see all over our environment on the East Coast. Could the boulder have found its place atop the limestones by coincidence?

The mystery continues: Geologists have noted that the massive boulder is pink granite filled with potassium feldspar crystals. Rocks like these are rarely found in our area but are more common in the Hudson Highlands to the north. The supporting small pillars, holding up the rock, are made of limestone.



Three of five dissimilar boulders holding up the Balanced Rock. [N2KZ pic.]

In 1856, a scientist named John Wilson published a book in London that claimed the North Salem, New York Balanced Rock truly is a dolmen. He described it as ‘an ancient ceremonial stone erected as a memorial or for religious purposes.’ John Jay 2nd spoke of his studies of the rock in a speech given in 1875. He suggested that the boulder may be of possible Viking origin. Many similar rock formations can be found in Ireland, England and Wales.

Archaeologists have also found similar stone structures scattered around New England — often including nearby cellars, monuments and tunnels following in the work of ancient Celts using techniques from thousands of years ago.

(The Celts are a grand conglomeration of many tribes and cultures from middle and western Europe that later inhabited most of Britain, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Their dominance began around 1500 BC and remained until the Roman invasions. Celtic culture is still alive and well throughout the British Isles and many other places around the world where descendants have now migrated.)

One pivotal question remains: If Balanced Rock is man-made, how did they ever bring the enormous stone to this site — and — lift it perfectly into place where it would sit for hundreds or even thousands of years?

The Balanced Rock never ceases to inspire grand curiosity. A truly fascinating book was published in 1976 by New Zealand Professor of Biology Barry Fell. Dr. Fell earned his PhD at the University of Edinburgh. It was here that he began his studies of the Celtic literature, language and culture while working on his doctorate. Fell’s studies took him far and wide and his research findings became quite controversial.

“It is now known that about 3000 years ago bands of Celtic mariners crossed the Atlantic from Portugal and Spain to establish settlements in New England and Oklahoma.

They were followed or accompanied by other colonists from Europe and North Africa speaking Basque, Phoenician and Libyan. These ancient settlers established kingdoms in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and other states.” (This from Dr. Fell’s book *America B.C. — Ancient Settlers in the New World*

1976 Quadrangle / New York Times books.)

Dr. Fell’s book is extraordinarily detailed and illustrated, bringing to life all of these ancient peoples, their

cultures and architecture. Dr. Fell combined his love of Celtic life with the research of others to compile an astounding book like no other. Imagine many Celtic settlements being established long, long before the Vikings and Europeans began to arrive during the middle of the first millennium AD.

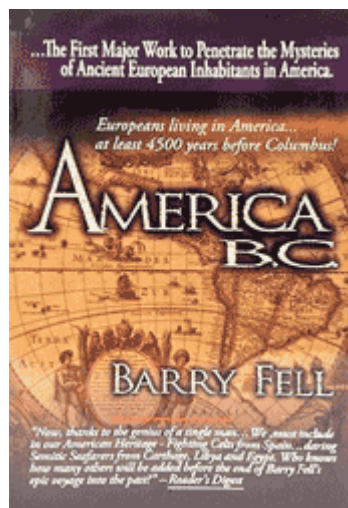
It is said that over hundreds of years these Celtic settlers interbred with indigenous Americans in the Algonquin, Iroquois, Zuma and Pima tribes. When European explorers began to arrive after 1500, most signs of the former Celtic immigrants had been assumed into indigenous cultures, all but invisible to newcomers from across the Atlantic — but some of the Celtic culture remained — literally carved in stone! The North Salem dolmen is said to probably be a memorial to a Celtiberian* king. In addition, in nearby Danbury, Connecticut, are six Celtiberian megalithic chambers dedicated to their sun god Bel. What did it all signify? [*Celtiberian = relating to Celtiberia, a mountainous district of ancient Spain. -Ed.]

One must wonder if there are any yet unknown relationships between our mammoth pink granite boulder and the sturdy limestone supports below. If the Celts actually assembled the Balanced Rock precisely in this manner, were they aware of what might be an inter-relationship between dissimilar stone types arranged in this design? What exactly did they know or believe? Maybe they were trying to communicate or reach unknown places or spirits just like we do with our antennas on amateur radio? It certainly makes you ponder!

Maybe you should visit the rock and decide for yourself! You will find it on the east side of Route 121 at 667 Titicus Road — just south of historic Baxter Road — in North Salem. Look for the great big white barn where you can park. Don’t worry! It won’t be moving soon!

My sincere thanks to the North Salem Preservation Commission; Stan Blomfield — author of an article titled ‘The Great Boulder’; Dr. Barry Feld for opening my eyes to a new world; and especially to Cathleen Sulli, Director of The Ruth Keeler Memorial Library in North Salem for all her gracious help. What a fascinating study and so much more to read and learn!

Let’s celebrate! This month marks the 25th anniversary of The Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association! It’s been a wonderful quarter of a century of good times and great friends. Look forward to our grand celebration on May 10, 2025 at FDR Park in Yorktown Heights! Details will follow. Until next month, 73 es dit dit de N2KZ “The Old Goat.”



My experience at HamCation 2025 - AD2CT

Here is a description of some of my experiences at HamCation® 2025, which was hosted by the ARRL Southeastern Division in Orlando, Florida from February 7 - 9, 2025.

My XYL and I flew into Orlando a couple of days early, and arrived on Wednesday February 5. Wednesday and Thursday we relaxed at the pool at our hotel, and then Friday was our first day at the convention. The event was held at the sprawling Central Florida Fairgrounds, and the first thing my wife and I did Friday morning was check out the exhibit hall in the large East-West Hall.

I made a few purchases here, including an unusual EDC [tactical keychain](#) that included a flashlight as well as a fire starter and a programmable green LED [name-tag](#) from Sol-Tac . I also purchased a [battery box](#) at the Gigaparts booth. Both companies offered their items at a small show discount. While at the exhibit hall, we met up with David KD2EVI, as well as a couple we met at the HamXposition last fall: Dennis K1LGQ and Jean K1AVM.



Inside the Exhibit Hall, L to R: David KD2EVI, Jean K1AVM, Dennis K1LGQ, and Rob AD2CT. [All pics - AD2CT.]

Outside the hall, several photo ops presented themselves. David KD2EVI and I posed in front of the “Rover” SUV that’s been featured on social media. Additionally, I met several of the YouTubers who I follow regularly, one of whom was the first to inspire me to get into ham radio: Josh KI6NAZ from Ham Radio Crash Course. I was happy to tell Josh that he was the one who motivated me to get my license, and when I told him I was a VE, he commended me for giving back to the hobby. We were joined by two other YouTubers: Frank KG5AHJ from Tank



Rob AD2CT and David KD2EVI in front of the “Rover” SUV of contesteer Andrea Slack, K2EZ.

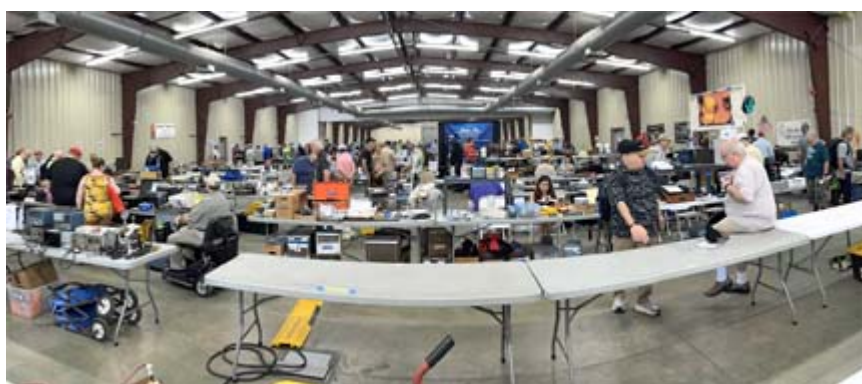
Radio, and Jason KM4ACK, who often posts about using Linux-based systems in ham radio.

After a quick lunch at the outdoor food court, we checked out the “Swaps” tables. Lots of interesting ham radio and electronics equipment for sale. I purchased an inexpensive single-action wire stripper, and a Morse code-themed T-shirt for my son.



Rob with amateur radio YouTube personalities, L to R: Rob AD2CT, Josh KI6NAZ, Frank KG5AHJ (photo-bombing in the back), and Jason KM4ACK.

Friday afternoon, David and I attended two forums: “Close En-



Panoramic view of the “Swaps” tables.

counters of the Microcontroller Kind” with Glen Popiel KW5GP, and “Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) Antenna for EmComm” with Gary Spangenberg KF4GGK. We enjoyed both forums, despite them being held in tents with noisy air conditioners. Friday night, my wife and I met with David KD2EVI for dinner at our hotel.

The Saturday forums were less relevant to us, though both presenters were well informed and did an admirable job. As David mentioned in his previous article, “ARRL: Pioneering Human Spaceflight Amateur Radio for All” with Frank Bauer KA3HDO was geared more toward educators than ham radio operators, and the “ARRL EmComm Update” with Josh Johnston KE5MHV was meant for those already working with state and local governments. We also spent some additional time in the exhibit and swaps halls, but no further purchases were made.

Saturday night, we were joined by Dennis K1LGQ and Jean K1AVM for dinner at our hotel. On Sunday, there were no forums offered, and by then I had visited the exhibit and swaps halls several times. So, my wife and I went into Orlando to walk around I-Drive (International Drive) and pick up souvenirs for friends and family. Our flight home left on Monday morning. All in all, my wife and I had a great time, and we are hoping to be able to attend HamCation 2026.

- Rob AD2CT.

VE Test Session April

**Test Session for
FCC Amateur
Radio License**

**Saturday
April 5
11:30am**

**Free Study Guide
Available**

Get your amateur radio license and discover...
Camaraderie – Community Service
Emergency Preparedness – Fun
Science – Technology

Laurel Volunteer Examiners – No Testing Fee
There are no Morse Code requirements
Must RSVP – radiocassetta@gmail.com



[Base graphic courtesy Lou KD2ITZ]

Mt Beacon ARC license class

The Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response and the Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club offer a free one evening / two day “Amateur Radio license test review seminar” to be held on Friday evening and Saturday / Sunday 25 – 27 April 2025. FCC License Exam Session held starting Sunday at 1:00 p.m.



Location: Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response, 392 Creek Road (near Dutchess Community College), Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Why Amateur Radio?

- To assist your community in time of need when all else fails
- To promote good will around the world
- To have fun communicating with fellow hams!
- Morse Code knowledge is no longer a requirement!

The seminar is open to all without age limit and is for the entry level FCC Technician Class Amateur Radio License. Obtain and study the text before the seminar: “ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 5th Edition”, with FCC Technician class license questions, July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026. Available from the ARRL store or from Amazon.

This seminar will review all material and test questions for the FCC exam, but attendees are expected to study material ahead of time in the License Manual. For registration (cutoff date is April 4) and/or additional information: contact: Adam Nowik Jr. AE2AN at 845-849-3666 or AE2AN@at'aol.com.

FCC License Exams on Sunday 1:00 p.m. — open to all hams, regardless of whether they took the class. A \$15 FCC exam fee (cash or check) is due to take the test. Upon successful completion, a \$35 FCC license fee will be charged directly by the FCC for all new licenses. Test pre-registration for all required if not taking the class. Contact: Lynn Rightmyer KV2J at kv2j54@at'ya-hoo.com.

[Source: Andrew, W2BOS, Assistant Section Manager, ARRL ENY Section and — Treasurer, Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club (MBARC), PO Box 841, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.]

A Quarter Century of wireless

In April 2025, Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association celebrates its **25th anniversary** of incorporation. This prompts the question — what was amateur radio like, 25 years ago, when PCARA was the new kid on the block?

2000 happenings

To set the scene, in April 2000, President Bill Clinton was calling for every home and classroom to be connected to the Internet. A federal judge had ruled that Microsoft violated antitrust laws by abusing its monopoly in personal computer operating systems.

Heavy metal group Metallica filed a lawsuit for copyright infringement against music-sharing service Napster. The movie *Frequency* was released starring Dennis Quaid and Jim Caviezel as father and son who communicate mysteriously across a gap of 30 years using an old Heathkit transceiver.



Licensing changes

Amateur License Restructuring came into effect on April 15, 2000, reducing six Amateur Radio license classes (Novice, Technician, Technician Plus, General, Advanced and Extra) to just three (Technician, General and Extra).



Old-style FCC license.

Existing Novice, Technician Plus and Advanced licensees could keep their privileges, but no new licenses would be issued. Technicians who had passed written Element 3 and were first licensed before March 21, 1987 were qualified for an exam-free upgrade to General. The three Morse code tests (5, 13, 20 words per minute) were reduced to a single 5 wpm test.

2000 equipment

Newly-qualified Generals in the year 2000 could purchase an HF transceiver with the latest development — **digital signal processing**. The Kenwood TS-870S

and Icom IC-756Pro had IF-stage DSP, allowing a wide selection of receiver bandwidths without purchasing additional filters. Yaesu radios such as the FT-847 and FT-1000MP had *audio* frequency DSP.



Icom IC-756Pro HF transceiver featured 32-bit IF-stage digital signal processing.

Technicians looking for a dual-band VHF/UHF FM mobile radio could choose from the Kenwood TM-V7A, Icom IC-2800H or Yaesu FT-8100R. Popular hand-talkies included the TH-D7A, IC-W32A and FT-50RD, usually powered by a nickel-cadmium or nickel-metal hydride battery — lithium-ion was still a few years away. The DC-to-light mobile radio of 2000 was Icom's IC-706MkIIIG, covering all modes and all bands from 1.8 MHz to 440 MHz. There was no digital voice equipment — D-STAR would not be available until 2004-5.

Some vendors from the year 2000 are no longer with us, for example: Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), The Ham Station, Radio Works and Ham Central (Poughkeepsie).



The three RadioShack stores in local shopping centers were all gone by 2017.

Publications

In 2000, there were *four* national amateur radio publications available on subscription or on newsstands. Since then, *WorldRadio*, *CQ Amateur Radio* and *73 Amateur Radio Today* have all ceased publication. The only survivor is ARRL's *QST*.



These three publications from 2000 are no longer with us.

Y2K amateur shack

By the year 2000, many amateur radio stations featured a personal computer. My own shack had an HP Pavilion 8595C mini-tower equipped with Windows 98 and a “high-end” Pentium III processor running at 733 MHz. The computer came with 128 MB of RAM, DVD ROM, CD-RW, 56 kbps modem and network

adapter. LCD monitors were starting to appear but I was still using a cathode ray tube display.

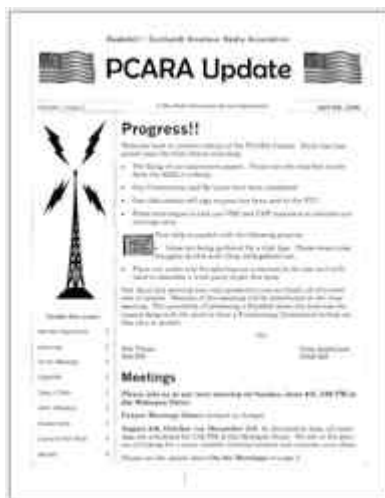
Digital modes were in use on the amateur bands in 2000, including well-established RTTY plus AMTOR, packet-radio and the newly-arrived PSK31. WSJT would have to wait until 2001, with JT65 mode added in 2003 and FT8 in 2017.



HP Pavilion 8595C with Pentium III, 128 MB RAM and 36 GB disk.

Newsletter

The *PCARA Update* editor back in 2000 was Joe Ellman KC2DWP, later KR2V. The April 2000 issue (Vol 1 Issue 2) is available on the web archive and mentions the club's new web site, www.pcara.org.



PCARA Update for April 2000.

Electronic distribution did not begin until December 2001.

2000 happenings

Charter Members who were present from the beginning and donated to the club include: Bob N2CBH, Diane KB2SFV, Greg KB2CQE, Jerry WA2ZOA, Ed WA2AXP, Gary WB2HNA, Joe KC2DWP / KR2V, Bob/ 'Radar' N2GDY, Billy WB2MKQ, Jon N2JLK, Rich WZ2P, Mike N2EAB, Larry WB2PMQ (SK) and Malcolm NM9J.

PCARA's first three meetings took place on Sunday afternoons at the Mohegan Diner on Route 6. In August 2000, meetings were transferred to the Hudson Valley Hospital Center in Dining Room B.

Some of the activities that took place in PCARA's busy first year included —

- Affiliation with ARRL.
- Application for a club call sign – W2NYW.
- New controller and autopatch for the 2 meter repeater.
- First emergency call by N2TTL through autopatch.
- Membership of frequency coordinator MetroCor.
- Information letters sent to all local radio amateurs.
- Invitation to design a club logo. Chosen design was by Clint KB2ZRJ.
- Kid's Day station at St. Patrick's School, Yorktown.
- PCARA license plate frames made available.
- PCARA table at WECA Fest, in the County Center.
- Participation in Jamboree on the Air at St Patrick's Church, Yorktown.
- Article on PCARA in the *Star*.
- Monitoring of 200 Scouts on Trekoree in Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks.

Technology

While we have been looking back at the Amateur Radio world of 25 years ago, it is worth remembering some other technologies that have changed with time.

Cell phones from the year 2000 had speech and SMS text messaging, but not much else. Smartphones did not arrive until the Apple iPhone was announced in 2007. GPS navigation and digital photography required separate devices — until those capabilities were incorporated into smartphones.

In 2000, broadcast television and cable TV were still using **analog** transmission, with only one program per physical channel. Over-the-air digital TV began around 2005, with the "Digital Television Transition" switching off analog transmitters in 2009.

Home connection to the Internet in the year 2000 required a dial-up modem. If you can remember the squawks and screeches from a Hayes-compatible modem as it ne-

gotiated connection speeds up to 56 kbps (more likely 22 kbps!), then you must be over the age of 25.

High speed Internet would not become available in

Peekskill/Cortlandt from Optimum Online until November 2003. WiFi was around in 2000 but did not take off until the introduction of 802.11g in 2003.



In April 2000, Internet connectivity required a dial-up modem connected to the phone line — like this USRobotics® V.90 56K model.

- NM9J

Radio amateur to lead Germany?

The leader of Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Friedrich Merz, is the most likely candidate for the post of German Chancellor. He is also a radio amateur with call sign DK7DQ.

The German federal elections held on February 23, 2025 awarded most seats in the Bundestag to the CDU/CSU alliance, but not enough for a majority. The CDU/CSU alliance is expected to form a coalition with the Social Democratic Party (SPD). Chancellor Olaf Scholz and his cabinet were officially dismissed on March 25 with Scholz remaining as caretaker chancellor until a new government takes office. The coalition is expected to vote for CDU/CSU chairman Friedrich Merz as Germany's new chancellor, possibly by Easter.

- . . . - - . . . -

DK7DQ is a pilot — and he has served on the board of various German companies including BlackRock, Bosch and Rockwool. In 2004, an article appeared in the German DX Foundation (GDXF) Journal where GDXF Secretary Dr. Lutz D. Schmadel, DK8UH (SK) invited Bundestag member Friedrich Merz DK7DQ to write a short, personal contribution for the next issue. Friedrich Merz did not have time but he did send a letter in reply, which was published in the Journal.

[Via Google Translate, edited.]

Friedrich Mertz

Member of the German Bundestag
Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU
Federal Parliamentary Group

Berlin, May 18, 2004

Dear Dr. Schmadel,

Thank you very much for your letter of April 14, 2004. I was very pleased to receive it.

I would have gladly complied with your request to write something worth reading and worth knowing for the next issue of the GDXF Journal. Unfortunately, for several years now, I have lacked the necessary time to pursue our wonderful common hobby. Therefore, I have not been "on air" for quite some time. Nevertheless, I have not returned the license, as I have not given up hope that one day I will be able to organize an antenna again. I obtained my A license in 1972 at the age of 16 and was active in the [DARC] Brilon chapter (O29) until around 1979/80. For Christmas 1972, my parents gave me a used shortwave radio from the American Army, and I used it primarily on the 80-meter band, exclusively on CW. I have many fond memories of the nightly QSOs, even though I often arrived at school the next morning not well rested. During my legal internship, I briefly oper-

ated a modern, small shortwave radio from Kenwood, but this time primarily with the microphone rather than the key. Due to multiple moves for work and family reasons, and finally due to my political work, setting up a larger station, including the necessary antenna systems, has not been possible to this day.

Nevertheless, I will continue to enjoy our shared hobby in the future, reading the CQDL magazine [DARC journal] again and again and following rapid technological developments, even if I understand less and less about it. This is incentive enough to one day raise my technical understanding to the level required to pass the exam today.

Dear Dr. Schmadel, I wish you, as before, much enjoyment of amateur radio. If you wish, I will agree to the publication of my letter in the GDXF Journal if you consider it worthy of the readers' interest!

Best regards and vy 73

Friedrich Mertz DK7DQ



Friedrich Merz, DK7DQ, Attorney at Law, born November 11, 1955 in Brilon, a town in North Rhine-Westphalia. Member of the Bundestag since 1994. Deputy Chair, then Chair of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group since 1998/2000. [Pic credit: CC BY-SA 4.0 Steffen Prößdorf.]

Simulated Emergency Test

Emergency Coordinator - Westchester County Steve, KD2OFD has extended an invitation to PCARA members to participate in the upcoming ARRL Spring Simulated Emergency Test (SET) taking place on Saturday April 26 on 60 Meters.

The Spring SET is being organized by Rocco, WU2M, NNY Section Manager and Fred W2EMS, Section Emergency Coordinator, ARRL Eastern New York Section. There will be Zoom meetings ahead of the event to address operation on 60 meters and preparation for the SET. Additional information is available at: <https://www.nnyarrl.org/emcomm/set>.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Steve KD2OFD using KD2OFD@atweca.org.



High tension anxiety

Noise search

A few weeks ago, Joe WA2MCR called me and asked for assistance hunting down an unusual noise that he was experiencing on the HF bands. At Joe's request, I checked the noise level at my own location but found nothing out of the ordinary. I gathered together my noise-locating equipment — a portable AM radio and "EMC-Spy 2" RFI tracker — then paid a visit to the WA2MCR shack.

Joe demonstrated the noise on his HF transceiver. As well as the usual smooth noise there was a constant S-9 crackle, audible on 20, 15 and 10 meters. I checked on my portable AM radio — there were a few domestic noise sources nearby, including a Samsung cable box, but even when unplugged the crackles were still present on Joe's HF transceiver. We checked outside the shack in case there might be a loose connection to the antenna. I tightened the G5RV's PL-259 connector, but there was still no improvement to the noise.

The next step was to look at connected equipment.

Joe has an Ameritron AL-811H linear amplifier, in-line between the Icom IC-7410 HF transceiver and HF antenna. The AL-811H has a built-in high-voltage power



Ameritron AL-811H linear amplifier.

supply and four 811A transmitting tubes capable of producing up to 800 watts PEP output. The amplifier was powered up, ready to transmit. Joe switched the amplifier's AC power off — and the crackly noise in the HF transceiver disappeared.

We took the 30 lb amplifier down from Joe's shelf, placed it on a table and removed the metal cover for



The Ameritron AL-811H amplifier was located on the top shelf of Joe's basement shack.

closer inspection. (See the next section for all the safety aspects of this operation.) I used canned air to blow dust out of the air-spaced variable capacitors and away



Joe's AL-811H amplifier with top cover removed. Note the orange warning label "DANGER!!! LETHAL VOLTAGES" and the safety interlock (arrowed) at rear of chassis.

from the high voltage circuitry — but there was no improvement. Then Joe noticed that one of the 811A tubes had an **unlit filament**, so he switched off and removed it. When AC power was restored, a second tube lit up with internal fireworks! Finally, with only two vacuum tubes in circuit, the amplifier was no longer producing crackly noises in the HF transceiver.

Conclusion — Joe's noises were being produced by one or more 811A vacuum tubes that had gone bad. The problem could be a grid-to-filament short inside the tube or a short caused by high voltage arcing from anode to grid. (See W8JI's site: https://www.w8ji.com/ameritron_811h_572_amplifier_trouble_shooting.htm).

As a result, Joe placed an order for a set of replacement vacuum tubes to restore power output.

Safety first

The Ameritron AL-811H amplifier incorporates an extra high tension (EHT) power supply of 1500 – 1700 volts, rated up to 700 mA. This amount of high voltage is *lethal* and the greatest care is needed when working on such equipment.

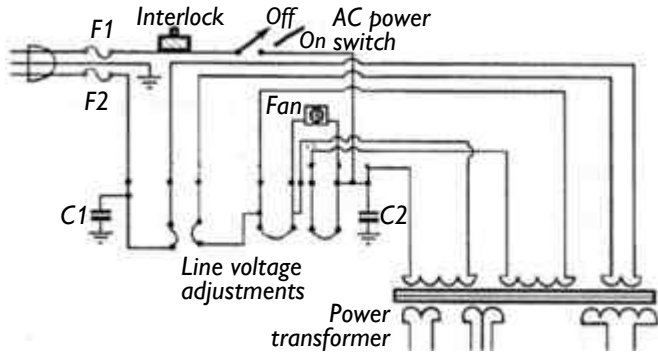
The first precaution is to switch the amplifier **off**, pull the 120 volt or 240 volt AC plug from its electrical outlet, then wait a few minutes for the high voltage supply to drain away from the filter capacitors before *carefully* taking the metal cover off. I asked Joe to check the high voltage line with a suitable multimeter — it had dropped to zero volts — followed by shorting the high-voltage point to chassis with a jumper cord. It was then safe to carry out an inspection of internal components, checking for any signs of arcing or a burning odor. This was followed by use of canned air to blow the dust away.

The Ameritron AL-811H manual recommends:

“Do not attempt to put this amplifier in service with the cover removed! Contact with voltages inside this amplifier can be fatal! Always disconnect the amplifier from the power mains and wait for the filter capacitors to discharge before removing the cover.”

The next part of the investigation *did* require the cover to stay off while power was restored and the four vacuum tubes were observed.

The Ameritron AL-811H has a safety **interlock** switch. When the top-cover is removed, the switch opens and interrupts AC power to the power transformer.



Part of Ameritron AL-811H schematic showing AC power connection, fuses, interlock, AC power switch, power transformer and 120V/240 V AC adjustment taps.

I suggested that Joe should use a long, insulated rod to close the interlock switch, allowing observation from a safe distance. I was aware that the rectifier circuit board and anode connections are high above the amplifier chassis and must also be avoided.

Joe and I completed our diagnosis with the cover off, being careful to remove AC power and short the HT line to chassis before removing any vacuum tubes — then being equally careful to keep the loose anode connectors well away from ground before power was restored.

I was grateful when the investigation was completed, the amplifier cover had been replaced and we could relax once again.

Work smart from the start

When I began my interest in amateur radio, most equipment was still based on vacuum tube technology. Receivers, transmitters, power supplies and test equipment all incorporated high voltage circuitry. Anyone delving into such equipment has to maintain a



Equipment from the 1960's was mostly based on vacuum tubes.

healthy respect for the hazards involved. I was guided by safety training in the school Physics Laboratory, advice from club members and chapters on Safety in the Radio Society of Great Britain “Amateur Radio Handbook” and the ARRL “Radio Amateur’s Handbook”.

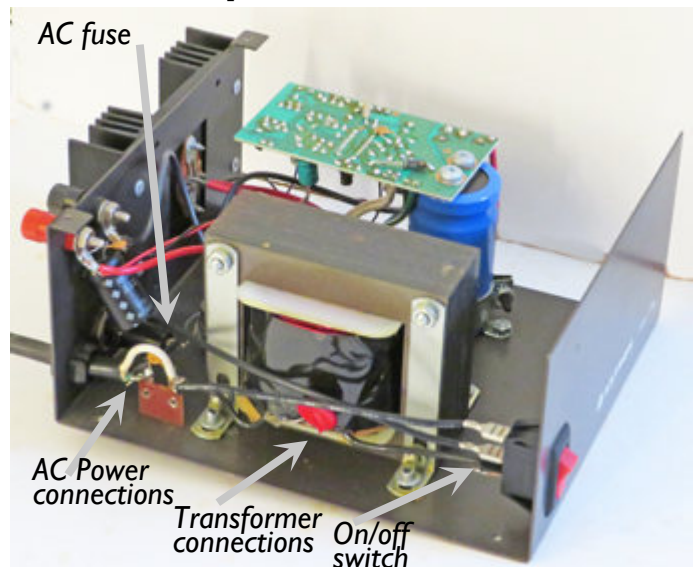
Here are a few bullet points to summarize the approach that I adopted:

Power supply

- There should be one switch that isolates all shack equipment from the AC power supply.
- All equipment must be safe for operation by the station owner, for shack visitors and inquisitive pets.
- Battery supplies should have safety fuses close to the battery terminals, with no chance of accidentally shorting terminals together.
- Be aware that switch-mode power supplies contain high voltages inside the case. Just like a battery, the DC output terminals must be protected from accidental shorts.
- AC equipment with a three-wire power cord must be adequately grounded through the third pin (round pin on USA plugs).
- AC equipment with a two-wire power cord and metal chassis should also be grounded if a connector is provided.

High voltage concerns

- When equipment covers are off for troubleshooting, be aware of all items with high voltages exposed (50 volts or more). Danger points include the AC on/off switch, safety interlock, fuse connections and transformer terminals. Check whether terminals have insulating sleeves. High DC voltages could also be present on HT rectifier diodes,



Hazards associated with a 12 V DC power supply when cover is removed.

smoothing capacitors, panel meters, anode connectors, RF chokes, blocking capacitors, voltage regulators etc.

- Even though AC power is switched off, high voltage could still exist until bleed resistors across the HT filter capacitors have done their work. Check with a DC voltmeter then short the HT line to ground.
- Vintage AC/DC equipment with no isolating power transformer requires special care as the “hot chassis” could be connected to either the hot or neutral power conductor. Be sure the electrical outlet and polarized plug are wired correctly. Use an isolating transformer for safety.
- EHT supplies can arc across an air gap. An electric field of 3 kV/mm is all you need. Keep a safe distance.
- Never change fuses while equipment has power applied. Unplug for safety! Always replace with a fuse of the correct rating.

Physiological precautions

- Electric shock can produce muscle spasms. If current passes through the chest, as little as 30 mA can cause heart fibrillation. “It’s volts that jolts but mils that kills.”
- When working on equipment that is powered up, keep one hand in your pocket to avoid current through the chest — in the event that your other hand touches a component at high voltage.
- While using a multimeter to measure voltages, connect the negative lead to chassis with a suitable clip so you can still keep one hand in your pocket while probing around with the other hand.
- Never get into a situation where one hand is holding onto chassis/ground while the other is plugging or unplugging a tight connector.



Keep one hand in your pocket while working on equipment with power applied.

For more information, see the “Safety” chapter in the ARRL “Handbook for Radio Communications”.

Safety starts with me

I have had a few “close shaves” with electrical safety. Back in the U.K. I had a G2DAF SSB transmitter for the HF bands with home-built transverters for the 2 meter band and U.K. 4 meter band. Both transverters employed a Mullard QQV06/40A (5894) dual tetrode vacuum tube in the power amplifier, fed with 800 volts DC from the transmitter power supply.

I had incorporated SEW MR38P meters on the front panel to measure anode current of the QQV06/40A tubes. Those Japanese meters have a clear, plastic face which allows even illumination from all sides. I noticed that the meter face was getting dusty



SEW MR38P panel meter (38 mm dia. hole) with clear plastic cover.

and in a thoughtless moment, popped the clear plastic cover off for cleaning. Unfortunately, the +800 V DC supply was *still connected* and my fingers brushed against the exposed meter circuitry. Yeeeeeow!

I subsequently learned that it is *much* safer to monitor high power vacuum tube current by placing the meter in the *cathode* circuit, rather than the anode. The cathode is either directly grounded or connected to ground through a low-value resistor by-passed for RF.

A few years later, I constructed a linear amplifier for 144 MHz SSB. It was based on a 4X250B forced-air-cooled external-anode power tetrode and produced around 300 watts PEP. (At the time, maximum legal power output for U.K. radio amateurs was 400 watts PEP.)



The special tube socket came from a military surplus unit rumored to be ex-U.S.A. airborne counter-measures equipment. The EHT supply provided by a



Home-brew amplifier for 144 MHz employed 4X250B and 1.2 kV DC supply.

high-voltage transformer and multi-diode bridge rectifier was in the region of 1200 V. I took all necessary precautions to keep myself well away from it.

- NM9J

Up to par

A recent conversation with Bert G2LPA was on the subject of enthusiasm for amateur radio. (Bert's work has been described in previous editions of this publication^{1,2,3,4}.)

"One of the problems in amateur radio," Bert began, "is that activity varies with the solar cycle, with equipment developments, with new modes, and with activities such as Parks on the Air. Most radio amateurs have additional demands on their time including work, family, domestic chores and volunteer activities. So, it becomes a necessity to keep amateur radio fresh and inviting."

"Over at the Neoteric Amateur Radio Club, we noticed that newly licensed members would show great enthusiasm for a short time, then drift away, becoming inactive. The Executive Committee pondered this question for a while then came up with a scheme to encourage participation in club activities."

"The solution was called 'NARC Numbers'. Anyone taking part in a club activity was awarded a number of points, depending on the value of their contribution. For example..."

Attending a club meeting	1 point
Taking part in a club contest	2 points
Participation in a foxhunt	2 points
Designing a presentation	3 points
Operation in an emergency exercise	4 points
Teaching a licence class	4 points
Organizing a hamfest	5 points

"Each year, there was a prize for the member who accumulated the most points. This worked well for the first year, but the club secretary complained that there was too much work keeping track of everybody's points and he threatened to resign. We tried a self-assessment scheme, but members had trouble remembering all the things they had done."

I asked Bert what happened next. "We needed something to encourage amateur radio activity that was easier to administer," he replied. "Committee members were concerned that there was less and less *real* amateur radio taking place and they wanted to return to the basics of the hobby with a modern twist. So — they came up with the following scheme.

Amateur content

"In the past a good deal of amateur radio equipment was **home-built**," said Bert. "Nowadays, the amount of home-brew gear is much lower. So — the committee came up with an Excel spreadsheet that rated each item of equipment in a member's shack for its percentage of amateur content. For example:

Equipment	Percent amateur
Commercial HF transceiver	2%
Kit-built HF transceiver	50%
Home-built transceiver	100%
Commercial HF antenna, amateur installed	20%
Home-built HF antenna	100%
Commercial antenna tuner, automatic	5%
Manual antenna tuner	30%
Home-brew antenna tuner	100%
Manual morse key	100%
Electronic keyer	50%
Coaxial cable with connectors installed	10%
Coaxial cable, owner installed connectors	50%

"Each member simply checked off their items in use and the spreadsheet calculated an overall percentage of amateur content. Some members with lots of home-built QRP CW equipment and wire antennas had an amateur content close to 100%."

Check	Equipment	Percent amateur		PAR Fraction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commercial HF transceiver	2%	TRUE	0.02
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kit built HF transceiver	50%	FALSE	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Home brew HF transceiver	100%	FALSE	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial HF antenna	20%	FALSE	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home brew HF antenna	100%	TRUE	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial ATU automatic	5%	FALSE	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manual antenna tuner	30%	TRUE	0.3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Home brew antenna tuner	100%	FALSE	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Electronic keyer	50%	TRUE	0.5

Members checked off their station equipment in an Excel spreadsheet — which calculated overall amateur content.

Radio ratio

Bert continued: "The committee was also concerned about the proportion of each contact that was taking place over amateur radio frequencies, originating from an operator's *own* station — compared to other methods such as radio links or the Internet. They assigned a set of percentages as follows.

QSO type	Percent radio
Simplex contact on HF or VHF	100%
HF contact using operator's own remote station	75%
HF contact using somebody else's remote station	0%
VHF/UHF contact using local repeater	50%
VHF/UHF contact using Internet linked repeater	25%
VHF/UHF contact using Internet connected hot-spot	5%

"There was quite a lot of argument about these figures. Some members who worked the world on DMR using an Internet-connected hot-spot thought that their efforts to get it all working were worth far more than a

a miserable 5%. This was countered by the QRP enthusiasts who wanted 110% for working the world with less than 5 watts.”

Adding it all up

“The committee wanted to combine the content of “amateur” and “radio” along with the number of contacts,” said Bert. “So they turned to another member who was a software engineer. He wrote an add-in module for the popular logging programs, drawing data from each logged QSO and from the Excel spreadsheet, then calculating the overall result, with a running total displayed on-screen. This was called the Percent Amateur Radio or PAR rating.”



The add-in module drew data from the Excel spreadsheet and from the logging program to calculate overall Percent Amateur Radio content for each QSO.

“The PAR numbers and QSO numbers were uploaded to a central database, so club members could see their progress during the year. This encouraged people to enter more contacts into their logging programs, including local VHF and UHF QSOs. It also encouraged more participation in contests as they can generate a lot of contacts in a short time, usually with high PAR ratings.”

Showdown

I asked Bert how the Neoteric club’s PAR scheme had worked out. “All was going well,” said Bert, “until the Annual General Meeting. There were two members who were heavily involved in contests and special events who were running neck-and-neck on their overall PAR-QSO numbers. The committee was on the point of awarding them a joint first prize. Then one of the contestants accused the other of having a home-brew ATU in his shack that had actually been constructed by someone else. There was a bitter argument from the ATU owner, who pointed out that PAR rules did not

specify who had built an item of home-brew equipment.”

“The entire meeting ended in commotion, with members regretting the day that the PAR scheme was ever invented. We’ll never forget NARC’s Annual General Meeting of April 1,” Bert concluded. “It was definitely sub-PAR.”



- NM9J

References

1. PCARA Update, April 2018 pp 11-14, “Seeing it through”.
2. Ibid, April 2019, pp 10-11, “Hooking back up”. See also RadCom April 1980.
3. Ibid, April 2023, pp 14-15, “Feeding your line”.
4. Ibid, April 2024, pp 10-12, “Voicing complaints”.

Jay strikes again

Congratulations to PCARA member Jay NE2Q for his article “Turn Your Vertical Antenna into a Rotatable Beam”, published in the April 2025 issue of ARRL’s QST, pp 60–61. Jay describes the use of carbon fiber tubing with a VHF antenna and an HF antenna.

This is not the first time that Jay’s writings have featured in the pages of QST. His call sign has appeared in the ARRL’s journal at least 15 times — in letters, short notes and in full length articles. For example, “NE2Q’s Antenna Fell from the Sky!” is a longer article that appeared in the April issue of QST for the year 2000, pages 49–52.

Members of ARRL can search for and download QST articles published between 1915 and 2011 using the ARRL web site, <https://www.arrrl.org/arrrl-periodicals-archive-search>. QST issues from January 2012 onward can be accessed via the archive of the digital edition, <http://www.arrrl.org/magazines>.



Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association

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PCARA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pcararadio>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@peekskillcortlandtamateur7670>

PCARA Update Editor: Malcolm Pritchard, NM9J

E-mail: NM9J 'at' arrl.net

Newsletter contributions are always very welcome!

Archive: <http://nm9j.com/pcara/newslett.htm>

PCARA Information

PCARA is a **Non-Profit Community Service**

Organization. PCARA meetings take place every month (apart from July/August break). See <http://www.pcara.org> for current details.

PCARA Repeaters

W2NYW: 146.67 MHz -0.6, PL 156.7Hz

KB2CQE: 449.925MHz -5.0, PL 179.9Hz

N2CBH: 448.725MHz -5.0, PL 107.2Hz

PCARA Calendar

Sat Apr 5: PCARA Monthly Meeting, 10:15 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley, NY.

Sat Apr 5: PCARA V.E. Test Session, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library. See below.

Sat Apr 19: PCARA Breakfast, 9:00 a.m., Uncle Giuseppe's, 327 Downing Dr. Yorktown Heights, NY.

Sat May 10: PCARA 25th Anniversary, FDR State Park.

Hamfests

Check with organizers before leaving.

Sun Mar 30: Southington ARA Hamfest, Southington High School, 720 Pleasant St., Southington, CT. 8:30 a.m.

Sun May 4: Orange County ARC Hamfest, Black Rock Fish & Game Club, 5 Pleasant Hill Rd, Mountainville, NY, 8:00 a.m. **Club Table.**

VE Test Sessions

Check with the contact before leaving.

Apr 5: PCARA, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley NY. Laurel VEC (no exam fee). Must contact VE Lou KD2ITZ, radiocassetta'at'gmail.com.

Apr 10: WECA, Westch Cnty Fire Trg Center, 4 Dana Rd Valhalla NY. 7:00 p.m. Contact VE, robert.casino'at'verizon.net

Apr 11: Orange County ARC, Munger Cottage, 40 Munger Dr., Cornwall NY. Contact VE Joseph DeLorenzo: w2bcc'at'arrl.net.



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