

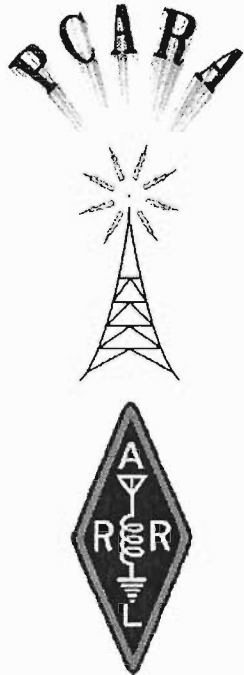
PCARA Update



Volume 2, Issue 6

A Non-Profit Community Service Organization

June 2001



Field Day 2001

There will be a special on-site Field Day planning meeting on Sunday, June 10th, 10:00 AM, at the top of Perkin's Memorial Drive. In addition, there will be a special on-air Field Day meeting on Saturday, June 16th, 10:00 AM, on the 146.670 repeater.

Please find elsewhere in this newsletter a Field Day spreadsheet (thanks to the efforts of Jim- N2KLC), detailing what is needed, etc.

A Couple of the PCARA Tech Class Students are Gone!!

What happened to a couple of the PCARA Tech Class students? Why are a few extra seats suddenly available? For starters, I would like to say it's a direct reflection of the instructors! Not to worry though, the news is good. As a result of the class, combined with self-study, Monica Wilson (13 years old) and Sean Ellman (9 years old) have taken and passed their Technician Class exams ahead of their official graduation date! Congratulations to Monica and Sean, as well as their parents and the Tech Class instructors for a job well done!

73,
Greg, KB2CQE

PCARA VE Session

21-Jun-2001 Time: 7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: MALCOLM G PRITCHARD (914) 736-0368

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: HUDSON VALLEY HOSPITAL CENTER DINING ROOM B
1980 CROMPOND RD - RT 202

CORTLANDT MANOR, NY 10567 PARK & ENTER REAR OF HOSPITAL

Meetings

Please join us at our next meeting (on-air) Sunday, July 1st, 3:00 PM, 146.670 Repeater

Future Meeting Dates: (subject to change)

08/05 09/02 10/07

****Note - The July / August meetings will be on-air meetings.**



On Sunday, June 3rd, Malcolm-NM9J, and Bob-N2CBH, attended the CSMA Meeting in Newington, CT. A quick stop was made at the ARRL HQ. Photo by NM9J

Thanks for Renewing your Membership!

Armen - N2PLZ

Billy - WB2MKQ (Thanks for your generous donation!)

Gary - WB2HNA

Ray and Marylyn - W2CH

Luigi - N2CWV

Jerry - WA2ZOA

Clint - KB2ZRJ

PCARA Membership Renewals

Please check your mailing label on this newsletter for your PCARA membership renewal date. Also, please keep in mind our One for One in 2001 Program, where each member who brings in a new member will receive a free year of PCARA membership.

Welcome New Members -

Kevin - N2KZE

Charles - WA2WGJ

Donations

PCARA, as a 501 (c) (4) organization, is able to accept financial and equipment donations, which are tax deductible (as allowed by law) for the donor. **We encourage our members to look into whether their employers offer grant /donation programs.**

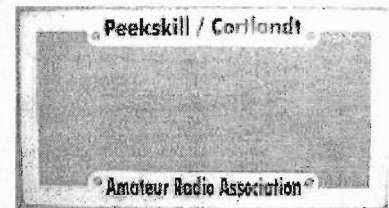
Upgrades & New License Holders

Sean Ellman - Technician

Please share your upgrade news with us. Send an e-mail to pcara@email.com.

PCARA License Plate Frames

PCARA License Plate Frames are available for 5.00 a pair. This is a great way to get the PCARA name out and to support our club. To order, please send your payment to PCARA, PO Box 32, Crompond, NY 10517, or contact PCARA at pcara@email.com. License plate frames are also available at PCARA meetings.



Calendar of Events

Field Day - June 24th & 25th

JOTA - October 20 (Yorktown Girl Scouts) October 21 (Ossining Boy Scouts)

ARRL Membership / Renewals

PCARA, through the ARRL Club Affiliation Program, is able to assist PCARA members in establishing and renewing ARRL memberships. This is a great way to support PCARA, as we are provided with a commission from the ARRL for offering this service. You can obtain the appropriate forms from a link off the PCARA website or contact me direct at kr2v@arrl.net or 737-0348. Below are the steps for this program:

1 - Please return your completed ARRL Membership/Renewal form, along with your ARRL dues check **made out to PCARA** to: PCARA, PO Box 32, Crompond, NY 10517.

2 - PCARA will forward a check along with your application and the Affiliated Club form to the ARRL.

Skywarn Spotter Training

NWS / WECA Sponsored - Monday, June 18th, 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM, at the Yonkers Public Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue, just south of Tuckahoe Road. Please contact Sandro - N2TWN (n2twn@weca.org) to register.

<u>Supplies</u>	<u>QTY Needed</u>	<u>Who and Type</u>	<u>Who and Type</u>	<u>Who and Type</u>
Electrical				
Generators	3	n2klc 3500w 110/220v	KB2CQE 1500W	KR2V 1500W
Ground rod	2			
Waber strips				
Extension cords		N2CBH		
Desk lights				
Compound lighting	2	n2klc 100w Stadium	n2klc 100w Stadium	
Batteries		KB2CQE Deep Cycle 115 AH		
Inverter		KB2CQE 600 W		
Radio Equipment				
Headphones				
Power supplies		N2CBH 12V@35A	W2CH	
HF radios		N2CBH Kenwood 530	KB2ZRJ 706	W2CH QRP All Mode
Antenna Tuners				
SWR Meters		N2CBH Heathkit Power/VSWR Meter		
VHF multimode radios		N2 CBH ICOM VHF All Mode		
VHF FM radios				
Dual Band Compound Radio				
HF Antenas				
VHF/UHF Antennas Horizontal			W2CH	
VHF/UHF Antennas Vertical				
Dual Band Compound Antenna				
Coax		KB2ZRJ	W2CH	
CW Keys / Keyers				
Computer Equipment				
Laptops for logging each station		N2CBH DEC Laptop/Logging Software		
AC adaptors for each computer				
Compound Equipment				
Stove				
Grill				
Cooler				
Folding Tables		N2CBH - 1		
Chairs		N2CBH 4 Lawn Chairs		
Tents for each operating position		KB2ZRJ		
Tent for generators				
Tent for cooking/gathering				
Lanterns (not electric)		KB2CQE Propane		
Flashlights				
Tools		N2CBH Complete Tool Kit		
Spare parts				
Rope		KB2CQE		
Bungie Cords				
Plastic Tarps				
Food				
Drinks				
Personal sleeping Tents				
B+A24ug repellent				
HT's				
Tent stakes				
First Aid Supplies				
Drinking Water				
Generator Fuel		KB2CQE		
Generator Oil		KB2CQE		
Wire		KB2ZRJ		

Six Meters is open! I saw it on TV!

A pair of rabbit ears can make your DX day! Your TV set can be an excellent propagation alert device this time of year. Watch our local channels 2,4 and 5. If you see rolling black horizontal bars or a cross-hatch coming over the usual local station, chances are you are seeing strong E-skip. It's time to head for six meters, or even two meters, and work stations and repeaters up to 1800 miles away or more. Needless to say, if E-Skip has warmed up the TV channels from 54 to 88 MHz, chances are 10 meters is dancing with skip as well.

Another indicator is to simply watch locally unused channels 3 or 6 and see what comes in. At any given time at my QTH in North-east Westchester, I can see channel 3 from Philadelphia and Hartford and channel 6 from Albany and Philadelphia. With antennas pointed south/southwest and northeast, using two TVs, I can watch two different channel 3's at the same time! All tolled, I have logged three countries and 17 states on channel 3 alone. The true pests of E-Skip TV DX are WPBT channel 2 Miami and WEDU channel 3 in Tampa/St. Petersburg, both PBS affiliates. They will pop up relentlessly day after day in early summer.

When E-skip is seen on TV, reception can range anywhere from crystal clear local-like reception to blurry multi-images and a characteristic singing roar you'll never forget after you first hear it. VHF E-Skip will bring in signals between 500 and 1800 miles away. The most active areas are the states of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Cuba is seen several times a year. Rare openings bring in the maritime provinces of Canada. Watched the news from Newfoundland lately?

E-skip usually moves back and forth across this range like a flashlight. If you're lucky, you will catch Cuba in Spanish on Channel 3, with very interesting TV sometimes pirated from American sources. They are known to have test patterns up most of the afternoon signing on around 5 pm. Sometimes it is very obvious that your reception is DX. Look for TV news still on the air at 8 pm and time references one hour different from your local time. Local news weather reports, laden with local weather maps, are wonderful clues to where you are watching.

E-Skip season is in its prime from late May through August, with another window during the two weeks preceding Christmas. Mid-day and late afternoons at dusk are the hottest times for E-skip, although I have seen powerful openings at 1 am and 4:30 am enough to obliterate local channels with full quality color pictures and sound. Weaker openings are possible nearly any time of the day or night all year long. I remember once putting on channel 3 after midnight and saying to myself "You know, this program is from Nebraska!" It was Nebraska PTV in for over an hour in the middle of the night!

The E-layer of the ionosphere is often activated by thunderstorm activity. If there are thunderstorms overhead in the midwest, you have an excellent chance of seeing TV pictures and hearing amateur radio ops on the scene. Often, E-skip TV images will show thunderstorm warnings and maps superimposed over regular programming. This makes for an easy ID for a TV DXer.

The Worldwide TV-FM DX Association is a well-established group of hundreds of DXers that enjoy many modes of propagation also enjoyed by VHF amateurs. They publish a monthly newsletter and have an informative web site: <http://www.anarc.org/wtfd> and web reflector available to members at subscribe@topica.com.

More E-skip fun can be found on your scanner. Plug in the narrow-band FM frequencies on 10 meters: Repeater inputs at: 29.52, 29.54, 29.56 and 29.58. Simplex on 29.60 and repeater outputs on 29.62, 29.64, 29.66, and 29.68. Depending on your perspective, these channels can be an early indicator for 6 meter and/or TV/FM E-skip. Of course, the 10 meter FM frequencies are also susceptible to worldwide F layer skip too.

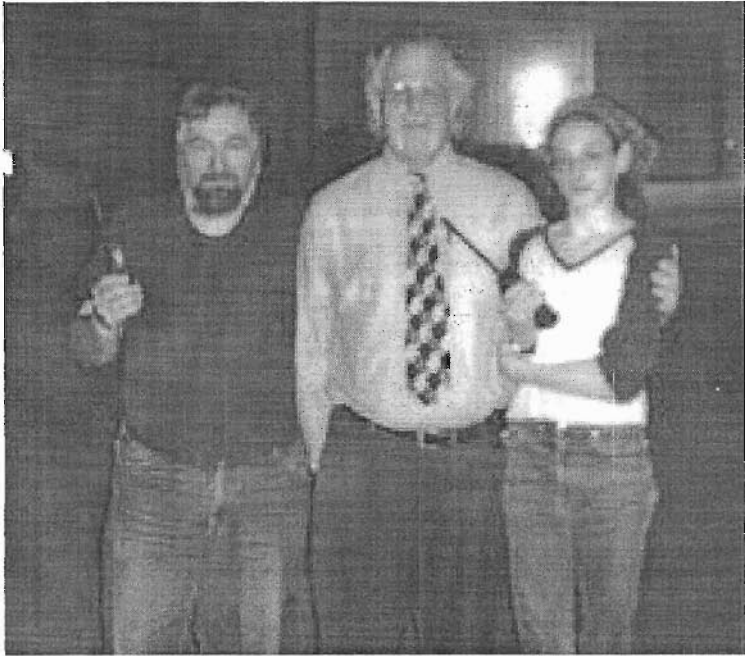
If you'd like to work states up and down the east coast, wait for hurricane season. Tropospheric ducting can open up DX deep into South Carolina and beyond, but this is food for another article! So forget cable TV or DirecTV and hook up your outside antenna. See distant TV for free and get a clue where the DX is happening fast! E-Skip can be a blast!

- Karl Zuk N2KZ

Thank You PCARA!

...for the generous gift on the birth of our baby.

KR2V & Family



This photo was taken on May 31, 2001, by NM9J, and features Monica-KC2IAY, her dad Bruce, and Mike-N2HTT, just after Monica completed her first QSO with Mike's assistance, on the W2NYW Repeater.

**PCARA
Membership Application**

___ NEW ___ RENEW ___ FULL (\$20/year) ___ STUDENT (Free up to 18) ___ FAMILY (\$30/year)
 ___ ASSOCIATE (\$15/year) ___ AUTOPATCH (\$20/year)

=====

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

ADDRESS _____ Include on Roster*

HOME # _____ Include on Roster*

WORK # _____ Include on Roster*

OTHER # _____ Include on Roster*

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ Include on Roster*

PERSONAL WEB PAGE _____ Include on Roster*

* THE ROSTER WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS ONLY.

THE BELOW TWO ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS:

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR WEB PAGE LINKED FROM THE CLUB PAGE? _____ YES _____ NO

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS LINKED FROM THE CLUB PAGE? _____ YES _____ NO

ARRL MEMBER _____ YES _____ NO

=====

FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:

CALL: _____ NAME: _____

CALL: _____ NAME: _____

=====

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: PCARA, and mail with your application to: PCARA, PO Box 32, Crompond, NY 10517

DATE _____ AMOUNT OF CHECK _____

Voice & Fax: 914-737-0348
Email: pcara@email.com
www.pcara.org



Update Editor:
Joe Ellman
kr2v@arrl.net



PCARA



A Non-Profit Community Service Organization

VE Sessions:

WECA (Thursday, June 14th - 7:00 PM)
Emergency Operations Center-Sub Basement. 148 Martine Ave., White Plains
Contact: Sandy Fried N2SF - (914) 273-2741

YARC First Sunday of Every Month
Yonkers 1st precinct
Contact: Emily AC2V (914) 237-5589 or Dan AA2HX (914) 667-0587
Call in 146.865

W5Y1
Pelham Doronco Town House
Contact: Mike W2MAC (914) 738-5775 or Dan AA2HX (914) 667-0587
Call in 145.495

Ham Fests:

10 Jun 2001 + Long Island Mobile ARC-Bethpage, NY
<http://www.limarc.org>
Contact: Eddie Muro, K2EPM Phone: 516-520-9311 Email: hamfest@limarc.org

16 Jun 2001 + Raritan Valley Radio Association-Dunellen, NJ
<http://www.w2qw.com>
Contact: Doug Benner, W2NJH Phone: 732-469-9009 Email: wb2njh@aol.com

Wanted

Information for the Update. Please send any suggestions, news, articles, etc. to kr2v@arrl.net.