



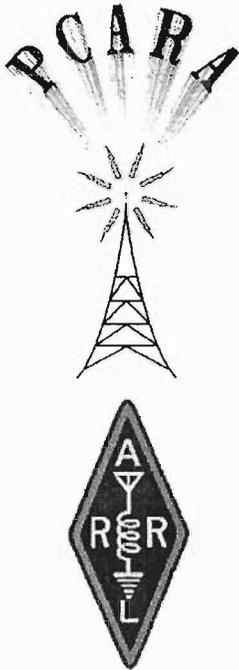
# PCARA Update



Volume 2, Issue 9

*A Non-Profit Community Service Organization*

September 2001



## September VHF/UHF Contest

PCARA and the QSY Society have teamed up to participate in the September VHF/UHF Contest during the weekend of September 8th and 9th, at Perkin's Drive (Bear Mountain). Thanks to the efforts of QSY member Roy-KC2DMH, details for this event are all worked out. If you are interested in participating and haven't yet signed up, please contact Joe-KR2V (kr2v@arrl.net or 914-582-0760) as soon as possible. The most important aspects of this event is that we all have fun, practice our skills, and work the radios. Points and competition are secondary.

Most of the equipment details have been handled by QSY, however, PCARA members are encouraged to bring along any equipment they would like to work with. In addition, each PCARA member is asked to bring the following:

- Pair of Gloves
- Power Cords and Outlet Strip
- 1 Roll of Electrical and Duct Tape
- Hard Hat (If you have one)
- 1 Gallon of Water and 1 Bottle of Soda or Juice
- Bag of Chips, etc.
- Lawn Chair(s)
- Table if Available
- Tent (If you have one)
- Rope
- Carpenter Apron
- Flashlight
- Any other essential items you may need (medications, etc.)

73,  
Greg, KB2CQE

**Thanks for your Generous Donation! Charles - WA2WGJ**

## PCARA VE Test Session

PCARA's second VE test session was held on Wednesday August 22, 2001 at Hudson Valley Hospital Center.

Two candidates were served at the session. PCARA member David Santo, K2JAQ upgraded from Technician to General by virtue of being licensed prior to 3/14/87. Robert Enright passed the Technician examination (Part 2). Paperwork was sent to ARRL-VEC the following day.

Thanks to all the Volunteer Examiners who took part:

Armen, N2PLZ Mike, N2HTT Karl, N2KZ... plus NM9J.

## Meetings

Please join us at our next meeting Sunday, October 7th, 3:00 PM.

Future Meeting Dates: (subject to change)

11/04 12/02

## Thanks for Renewing your Membership!

### 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.

### Donations

PCARA, as a 501 (c) (3) 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

Please share your upgrade news with us. Send an e-mail to [pcara@email.com](mailto: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](mailto:pcara@email.com). License plate frames are also available at PCARA meetings.

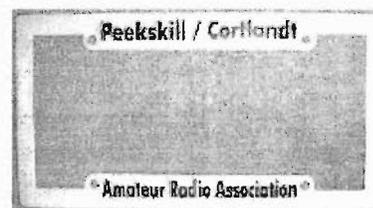
### Calendar of Events

#### September

8th & 9th - VHF/UHF Contest @ Perkin's Drive

16th - Sullivan County Bike Tour

16th - CARA Hamfest



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](mailto: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.

### PCARA Name Badges

PCARA name badges are available for 12.00 each. They are blue and white with a pin back and contain the logo designed by Clint-KB2ZRJ, along with your name and call sign. To order, please contact Joe-KR2V ([kr2v@arrl.net](mailto:kr2v@arrl.net) or 914-582-0760).

**w2nyw** ☐ Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Assn @ **YAHOO! Groups** 

#### New Listserver Information:

Post message: [w2nyw@yahoogroups.com](mailto:w2nyw@yahoogroups.com)  
 Subscribe: [w2nyw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:w2nyw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
 Unsubscribe: [w2nyw-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:w2nyw-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
 List owner: [w2nyw-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:w2nyw-owner@yahoogroups.com)

## My Ham Radio Experience

Way back in 1970 when I was 20 I earned my novice license and built a 3 band Heathkit HW-16 CW transceiver. I was pretty active in those days. I have always been interested in electronics and when my friend introduced me to amateur radio it was a natural. I lived on a large farm property back then and antennas were no problem. In 1971 I met my wife Gloria and we were married Sept of '72. Apartment dwelling was the case from that time till the present. When our first child came along there was not much room, money or time for radio. I was fully occupied with the new baby and working to pay our bills.

We have 3 children now and they are on their own so I have a little money and a lot more time to spend on myself. This past fall I was tinkering around with electronics, building small semi useful projects when I saw a short-wave receiver kit that RadioShack was selling, so I told my wife about it and she bought it for me for Christmas. I put it together in four hours one evening and started listening and was fascinated with the stations I was hearing. I listened every night for a while when I wanted to have more of a radio with a much more accurate frequency readout and a bfo. I began looking on Ebay and saw a Hallicrafter SX-117 and won the bid on it. When it arrived I was amazed at how much more I could hear. It just so happens that the SX-117 is really a ham receiver and I was listening to all the ssb and cw out there.

It was about February of this year when I got the idea of getting my ticket again. I looked into it and discovered the Morse Code requirement was lowered and since I am hearing impaired this was good news. My hearing is what kept me from getting my general in '71. I found out about PCARA from some people at work who know Greg-KB2CQE. I gave him a call, went to a meeting and quickly joined. Soon after that I bought the manuals (technician and general) and studied them for a couple of weeks. Then on April 28, I took the exams and passed them and on May 3 had my new call.

I bought a 2 meter rig (\$169) and was on the air. A little time went by and at the June meeting I learned that PCARA had a VE Session scheduled. I thought about it and bought the manual for the extra class exam. I showed up at the session feeling a little confident since I was doing ok with the online test. As it turns out I passed and was totally thrilled with my latest personal achievement. Now more than ever I had to get on HF.

HF was my ambition all along. I was going to buy a 20 meter QRP kit since my budget doesn't allow much money for each purchase. I bought a 2 meter handheld VX-150 (\$159) and the kit was going to be my first stab at a HF rig. It was then that my wife said her brother had a radio of some sort and I should call him and find out what it is. I did and it was a Kenwood TS-520SE. I asked him how much he wanted for it and he said \$175. Well I was at his house with bells on that Saturday and went home with a nice radio in really good shape. Now I have 2 meters mobile/base and a handheld. Add to this a nice HF rig, some wire for an antenna, and an antenna tuner from a ham fest and I'm making lots of fun HF contacts. Not bad for a few months time and very little money.

**Mark Dugan - AB2ML**

### Editor's Note:

On behalf of the Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association I would like to congratulate Mark on his ham radio achievements. His story is one of inspiration and truly speaks for what this hobby is all about.  
Joe - KR2V

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Email: [w2nyw@arrl.net](mailto:w2nyw@arrl.net)  
[www.pcara.org](http://www.pcara.org)



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### 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:

See the calendar on page 2 for further information.

### Wanted

Information for the Update. Please send any suggestions, news, articles, etc. to [kr2v@arrl.net](mailto:kr2v@arrl.net).