



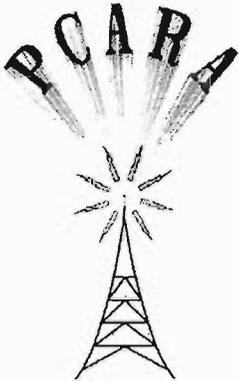
PCARA Update



Volume 2, Issue 10

A Non-Profit Community Service Organization

October 2001



9-11-2001

God Bless America

We offer our prayers for the victims, their families and friends, as well as for all Americans.

September 11, 2001: The evil and horrific events of that date stand as a macabre and harsh reminder that there are times where emergency and noncommercial communications become necessary.

As amateur radio operators, we have an obligation to step in and provide this means of communications. PCARA has several members who rose to the occasion and unselfishly helped with this task at the American Red Cross in White Plains, as well as locations in New York City. They are: Armen-N2PLZ, Joe-KR2V, Gary-WB2HNA and Will-KC2FYY. These members generously gave their time to help others, and we are privileged and honored to be amongst them. On behalf of the membership, Thank You for "doing us proud!"

As many of you know, PCARA is a member of the *Town of Cortlandt Regional Emergency Planning Task Force*. In the event of an emergency or disaster, we most certainly will be called upon to help with communications needs. In order to further prepare, I will be forming the *PCARA Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Team*. This team will be responsible for tracking the association's resources, so we have a record of what we have available in the event our services are required. I would also expect the team to develop response plans and/or protocols. In light of the recent and ongoing events, we should begin work on this as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact me with comments, suggestions, etc., and to volunteer for this important committee.

73,
Greg, KB2CQE

Meetings

Please join us at our next meeting Sunday, November 4th, 3:00 PM, at Hudson Valley Hospital Center-Dining Room B.

Future Meeting Dates: (subject to change)

12/02

Membership Renewal

If there is a green circle next to your address label, your renewal is more than two months past due, and unfortunately, due to printing and postage costs, this will be your last issue of the PCARA Update. Please renew your membership and help support PCARA.

Welcome New Members

Roy Brand

Mark Carsman-N2CHJ

Roy Spangenberg-KC2DMH

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) (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

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 w2nyw@arrl.net. License plate frames are also available at PCARA meetings.



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 Joe 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.

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@arrl.net or 914-737-0348).

On vacation a friend says to me...

"Oh, you're a ham? What's your call sign?" I say "N2KZ" His wife, not missing a beat, says: "What happened? R2D2 was taken?"

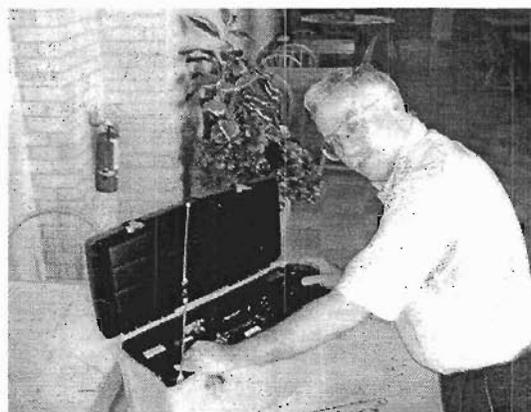
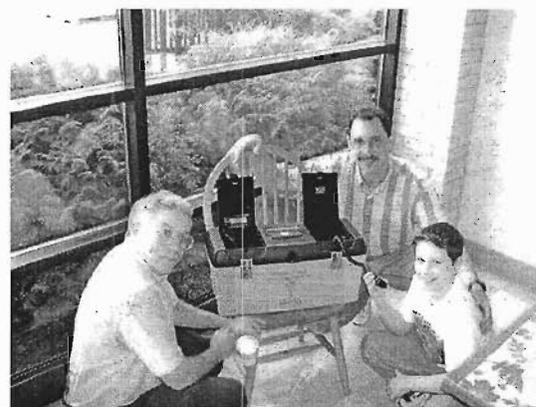
By Gary-WB2HNA

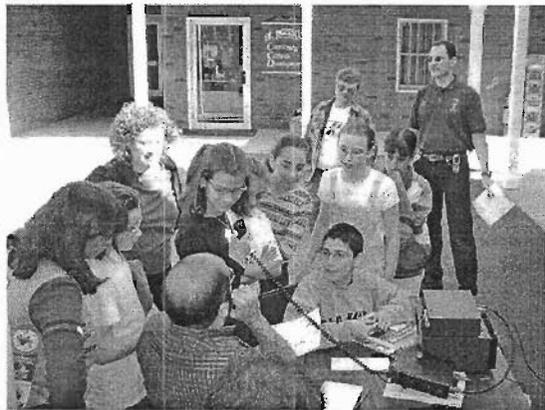
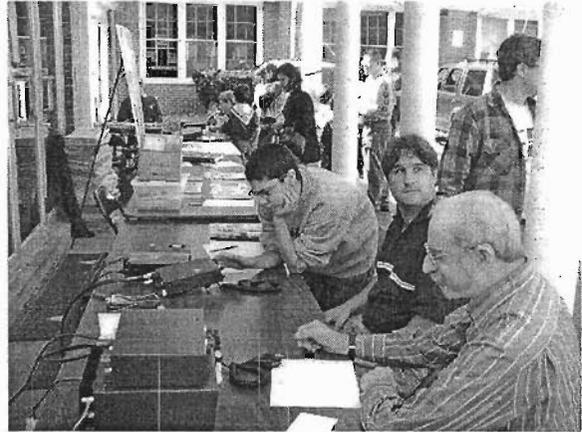
Hi Diane...I learned of the request for additional amateur radio operators from another member of the local ARRL affiliated club, the Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association who had worked at the American Red Cross in Westchester a few days earlier. I felt I could provide some help so I decided to get involved. I volunteered for service on the net that was conducted on the WECA (147.06) repeater from the Red Cross Location in White Plains, on Thursday, September 19th. The Westchester group was helping to coordinate additional volunteers for the New York City effort. I was given information about the need for self-contained communications equipment and the requirement to work 12 hour shifts in New York City. Luckily, several members of PCARA had worked on an emergency communications tool box idea and a few boxes were constructed and operational. I borrowed one from Joe (KR2V), who had incorporated gel-cell batteries, a small switching power supply, and an ICOM 207H dual band 50 Watt mobile rig into his tool box. I was told to report to the Westchester Red Cross location at 3:00 AM on Friday, September 21st. I live in Putnam County and had a 45 minute ride there in heavy rain and wind. I filled out paperwork there and met two other volunteers who would join me on the van ride to the city. One was from Saratoga, NY, and the other from Providence, RI. The three of us caught a ride in the Westchester Red Cross van and were transported to the Brooklyn location of the Red Cross. We went through several screenings, including a physical questionnaire, mental health screening and an interview with a psychologist. After a briefing on logistics and frequencies, I was assigned to a local Red Cross shelter that was within walking distance of the Brooklyn Red Cross. After some hasty directions, I set out on foot to find the George Westinghouse Vocational School, which was the site of one of the shelters set up to house and feed displaced persons from the attacked area. As I entered the lobby of the school I was met with a big grin from the other ham who had worked the night shift and was very happy to see me. He gave me a quick rundown and helped me set up. All I had to do was plug in the power supply and set an antenna near the door and check into the ARES net to announce the shift change. I was all set! There were two nurses, a Red Cross representative, and the shelter manager with me in the lobby. Later on, another volunteer and a mental health professional also joined us. I had to keep one ear on the radio for my entire shift, and checked into the net for roll calls and for a few minor requests from the shelter. The day passed quickly and there were no major incidents on the radio. Most transmissions were concerned with shelter logistics and the net was conducted professionally. I was relieved by my replacement operator at about 7PM that evening and handed over radio communications control of the shelter to him. After walking back to Headquarters and passing through several security screenings I tried to find out about the return trip to Westchester. No one knew anything about the return trip! I felt stranded and tired at that point, thinking that I was going to try to get home via public transportation. I did manage to contact the Westchester Red Cross via phone and they said their van would show up in Brooklyn some time that night after dropping off some supplies in Manhattan. I waited in the radio room at Headquarters and was interviewed about my shift...what went right, and what didn't, all in an effort to improve things for the next day. Our van eventually appeared at about 10:30PM to take us back. I finally felt a lot better when we all sat down in the van. We exchanged stories about our individual assignments and were back in Westchester before long. I didn't envy the guy from Providence, RI, who had a few more hours to drive to get home. I have also donated blood and am in a classic rock band (ESCAPE) that donated our performance for a "Freedom Festival" held in Peekskill, NY, to raise money to support the American Red Cross.

Wanted - PCARA Update Editor

As is evidenced by the late arrival of the October PCARA Update, I am having difficulty juggling my work schedule, family, and the newsletter, among other things, and have decided that after two years as editor it's time to pass the reigns. Producing the newsletter each month has been enjoyable and I regret being unable to continue beyond the end of the year. Please contact myself, Greg-KB2CQE, or Bob-N2CBH, if you are able to step in and assume this important club function. Joe-KR2V

Photos by NM9J:
Oakland Hamfest
VHF Contest
JOTA 2001





Fax: 914-737-0348
Email: w2nyw@arrl.net
www.pcara.org



Update Editor:
Joe Ellman
kr2v@arrl.net

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

WSY1
Pelham Doronco Town House
Contact: Mike W2MAC (914) 738-5775 or Dan AA2HX (914) 667-0587
Call in 145.495

Ham Fests:



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Wanted

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

PEEKSKILL / CORTLANDT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
PO Box 32
Crompond, NY 10517