



PCARA Update



Volume 18, Issue 11 Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc. November 2017

Hikes and mics

We had another great turnout for the most recent PCARA Breakfast on Saturday October 14th at Turco's in Yorktown Heights, NY. Some really good discussions were held with some really great ideas being brought up. It seems as if food gets people thinking, gets the creative juices flowing — maybe we should cater our monthly meetings! The next PCARA Brainstorming Breakfast will be held on Saturday November 18, 2017 at Turco's. Please plan on joining us.

PCARA in partnership with WECA helped to provide communications support for the 37th Annual Harry Chapin Memorial Walk/Run Against Hunger on Sunday October 15, 2017 in Croton-on-Hudson, NY. From a communications standpoint the day was thankfully uneventful, but we were short a few members to cover a couple of stations. Thanks to all who came out to support a most wonderful cause!

PCARA's participation in the 2017 NY QSO Party on Saturday October 21, 2017 generated 432 QSOs! Thanks to Joe WA2MCR for volunteering his QTH and to all who helped make it happen.



Joe WA2MCR and Lou KD2ITZ operate from Joe's sun room on 80 meter SSB during the New York QSO Party. See report on page 15.

The next PCARA event is a hike to Anthony's Nose at the east end of the Bear Mountain Bridge in Cortlandt Manor, NY. The hike will begin on Rt. 9D near the end of the bridge, and what kind of hike would it be without HF, VHF, UHF equipment and antennas? The hike is about 2.5 miles long and will ascend approximately 800 feet for a beautiful vista of the

Hudson Highlands from Anthony's Nose. My only question is "Who will be bringing the O₂ tank and non rebreather masks?" Details will be discussed at the November meeting. [And see p. 5 -Ed.]

Reservations have been made for the Annual PCARA Holiday Dinner on Sunday December 3, 2017 at the Cortlandt Colonial Restarant, 714 Old Albany Post Road in Cortlandt Manor, NY. Festivities will begin at 5:00 p.m. and all are invited to attend. Menu is available in this month's edition of the PCARA Update. *Bon Appétit!*

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is **Sunday November 5, 2017** at 3:00 p.m. at New York-Presbyterian / Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor, NY. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

- 73 de Greg, KB2CQE

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PCARA Officers

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Net night

Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association holds a weekly net on the 146.67 MHz W2NYW repeater on Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.

Join net control Karl, N2KZ for news and neighborly information.

Adventures in DXing

- N2KZ

Preferred Places

Let me introduce myself. I am a QRP CW enthusiast. I know how much power one watt is and, I can assure you, it is probably more power than you ever need! What I am not is a contester. I have never been one for filling logbooks with momentary QSOs or gathering 'points' towards statistic Nirvana. We all have signature personalities on the air. This is mine!



Small Wonder Labs DSW-II single band CW transceiver.

My foremost achievement is a Worked All States award earned very early in my career as a ham. I touched base with my last needed state, Hawaii, using a borrowed three watt Small Wonder Labs DSW-II one late afternoon on 20

meters. I felt like I was cheating! All of my other states found me while using assorted other QRP rigs or my trusty Heathkit HW-16, circa 1968, blazing 50 watts on a good day. No modulation was ever used. My certificate states: 'CW Only.' For this I am forever proud!

Don't get me wrong! Some of my best friends are contesters and DXers who have spent their entire lives listening to static, pile-ups and sporadic skip waiting for the next magical moment. This is especially true for those who DX broadcast band AM radio stations and DXCC certificate holders. My good friend Bob Myers, K2TV, has worked 353 countries. Consider his dedication, experience, skill and longevity! Another friend, Patrick Martin living on the Oregon seacoast, has heard AM broadcast stations on medium wave literally from all over the world. What a fascinating collection of QSLs he has earned!

My career on the air is from a different perspective. I enjoy the unusual, the challenging and the miraculous. CW can be very interesting. I once worked a deaf ham who copied me by resting his fingers against a speaker cone. Another sent code with his big toe when his arthritis crippled his



Heath HW-16 CW transceiver.



Bob, K2TV.

hand motion to operate a CW key. A Russian ham in Antarctica once heard my Heathkit on 15 meters when the band seemed dead. I could write a book about my adventures on 6 meters alone!

In this year of 2017, there are eighteen bands and dozens of modes to discover. It doesn't matter how you find your jollies on amateur radio. Use the privileges of your license class and never stop experimenting. Organize activities that you can share with others. Continually exchange information and learn and expand from the experiments of others. Enjoy the fraternity of ham radio!

Old Goat Inspiration

My buddy, Charles N2SO, is a regular participant on our weekly Old Goats Net. Charles often mentions all the coming DXer events as a part of his opening comments. I have always been intrigued by the diversity of all his exotic suggestions.

One finally piqued my interest enough to give it a try: The Oceania CW Contest starting at 0800 UTC (4:00 a.m. Eastern) on October 14th for 24 hours. The challenge here is to work as many hams as possible in places all over the Pacific Ocean. I have always wanted to land a contact with Australia. This was my big chance!

I did my homework in preparation for the big 'test.' I programmed my Yaesu's memory keyer with the Oceania contest exchange. Charles inspired me to learn how to configure a CW memory keyer to automatically provide incremental numbers for each QSO. Press the button once and it sends your message with 001. Press it for the next QSO and it sends 002. Cool! I also created a memory to send my nice short call sign twice. The keyer also allowed me to ramp up my CW speed to the necessary 30 or 35 wpm to fit in with my competitors. Now I was ready!

I rise at 3:30 a.m. to prepare for work during the week, so 4:00 a.m. is no stretch for me. Bright and early on October 14th I popped onto 40 meters and took a good listen across the band. What I heard was frustrating. Some big boy DXers on the West Coast were calling stations that I could barely perceive. Even the domestic USA hams calling into the Pacific Ocean were hard to hear! I did a lot of listening, but my signals were not to be recognized. I even sent **CQ OC** with my call sign in hope for passerby interest. Nothing heard!

I bailed out just as dawn was breaking. I can't say I heard one station from the Pacific but I could hear that many hams closer to the ocean could. I even dropped down to 80 meters for a few quick looks. Very little was going on down there. I had best move back up to 40m!

Around 11:00 a.m. I took a try on 20 meters and it seemed that other contests and special event stations were filling up the band nicely. OK, so I couldn't reach

out to the Pacific but I wanted to give my memory keyer a try. I worked HG500N from Budapest, Hungary by pressing just two buttons - no key! They called CQ. I answered with a 35 wpm programmed burst of 'N2KZ N2KZ.' The reply was N2KZ DE HG500N UR 5NN 5NN TU. I modified my second keyer memory away from the previous contest jargon and replied UR 5NN 5NN DE N2KZ TU E E (for dit dit.) End of QSO!

I looked up the call sign on QRZ.com and discovered that HG500N was a station commemorating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther and religious reform. If you could catch a variety of similar call-signed stations you would earn a certificate you could download for yourself online. One QSO? Not so much! I guess that was fun...

I then worked a normal straight key conversational 20 wpm QSO with Bob, N5URL in Arcadia, Oklahoma. It was FB especially since he was QRP. Of course, we were on 14060 – *the* place to be for QRP CW on 20 meters. I really enjoy QRP QSOs! When Bob and I were done I moved down in frequency to 14020 and quickly worked Martin, OE3WMA in Austria once again using my memory keyer. Of course we were both 599. Another 20 second QSO into the logbook. Contest style QSOs certainly add to your totals but, to this humble straight key CWer, 'I can't get no satisfaction.'

I Need Advice!

Now that I had quite a first experience zapping into contest-style QSOs with a mile-a-minute memory keyer, I thought I would ask some of our seasoned club DXers their advice on the topic. **Charles, N2SO** was my first reply:

"Lately my contesting, using N1MM software, is mostly on 40m and 20m. When open, I will try 15 and, if there is activity, on 80m as well. I have no antenna for 160. I rarely use 6m unless there is a VHF contest. I will try 10 if there is a contest with activity."



Charles, N2SO.

"I try to monitor the 7.050 and 7.035 areas when not contesting although I have to admit I am not much of a rag chewer. When I was taking my CwOps Level II academy course, it was a requirement to make at least a QSO every day and I really enjoyed that a lot."

"Now it seems the only time I send CQ is during the SKCC K3Y/2 activity when I operate six 1hr slots per week."

[K3Y, the Straight Key Century Club's annual January celebration, commemorates the club's founding in 2006 following the American Radio Relay League Straight Key Night. Several SKN participants wanted to extend the fun of hand keying

beyond one day a year. SKCC is the result.' - from the K3Y QRZ.com page. – KZ]

Charles continued:

"Then I CQ on all bands including 80, 30, 17, 12 & 10 whether open or not trying to make contacts. I have always had great fun during the K3Y event which spans the entire month of January."

"Sending with a straight key is very tiring on my arm. I limit my activity to 1 hour at a time. I am not much good using my single lever paddle (for non-SKCC activities) despite more than a year of practice. Sending CW with a paddle seems to use up much of my brain power leaving very little left over for thinking of how to spell simple words or remembering what I just sent. I recently bought the K44 CW Keyboard by K1EL with the plan of using a non-computerized keyboard to send code. We'll see how that turns out."

Another ace PCARA DXer, **Joe WA2MCR**, offered me these comments:

"At the present time I don't have any particular favorite band. In the winter I like to operate on 160m if conditions are good as I am trying to get my 100 DX contacts for a 160 DXCC. I have 77 countries at the present time."



Joe, WA2MCR.

"Lately I have spent a lot of time using a new digital mode FT8." [See <http://www.arrl.org/news/ft8-mode-is-latest-bright-shiny-object-in-amateur-radio-digital-world> for details – KZ] "It's not the kind of thing some people would like but it's kind of like contest operating. It's very fast and there are lots of stations on the air. Like you, I enjoy operating 6m when it's open and the WARC bands. For me, 17m works out. It's open a lot and there are a lot of DX stations. 40 and 80 meters I usually only operate during a contest unless there is a DX station on that I need. As you probably have figured out by now I am not much of a rag chewer!"

Lovji N2CKD, told me all about his experiences:

"I am not much of a DXer anymore but do listen for DX. My favorite bands used to be 10m, 15m and 20m. Then I started listening to 17m which is good for DX when propagation is good. Some evenings I listen on 40m for which I have a Hustler vertical and also recently an antenna in the attic. I have never operated on



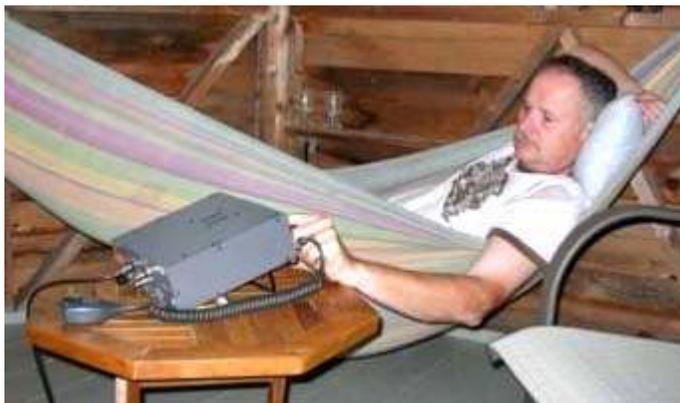
Lovji, N2CKD.

6m because I did not have 6m coverage. Now I do, so will have to try it out. Recently I have been busy and have not operated much. Looking forward to operating in the winter months. I want to start operating on digital modes when I get some time.”

My Favorite Hangouts

I may not be the most experienced CW DXer, but I do have several places I really like to operate! When I was first licensed as a Technician Plus, I did not first jump onto 2m or 70cm with a portable HT. My Heath-kit HW-16 was my first transceiver and I put it to endless good use. My very first watering hole was **3700 kHz** and surrounds. At the time, I only had one antenna and that was a dipole for 80 meters! I must have worked hundreds of QSOs around 3700. It really made me comfortable with sending code. Good times! Alas, now everything above 3600 kHz is considered a phone band.

40 meters used to be an exclusive CW band much like 30 meters is today. To many, 7040 kHz is a QRP CW watering hole but it is often occupied by PSK31, RTTY and other digital modes. I like to drift down to **7035 kHz** and look for QRP CW down there. Granted, I will drift up to 7040 or even drop down to 7030, but 7035 is right in the middle! One of my favorite memories was working a friend of mine, Paul VE1DY, in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada QRP to QRP. The total output power of both of our transmitters combined did not total half of a watt. I could even hear him when he dropped down to microwatt level. Amazing!



Paul VE1DY uses horizontal polarization.

Any dyed-in-the-wool CW enthusiast loves 30 meters. It is all digital – CW and all that fast new stuff! It sits right between the two most popular amateur bands — 20 and 40 meters — and shares characteristics of both bands. Since it is a WARC band, you will not hear contesters on 30. Most people who operate on 30 meters have made an effort to transmit there. You need at least a General class license to operate on 30 meters. Novices and Technicians do not have an allocation here! The area between **10100** to about **10125 kHz** is usually all traditional Morse Code CW.

Above 10125 hosts more advanced digital modes of every type imaginable.

I have two favorite times to operate on 30

meters. Between 1800 and 2400 UTC you will hear lots of European stations, especially around the time of our dusk. Even with my 30 meter QRP kit rig — a Oak Hills Research OHR-100A at 5 watts output — and a trusty straight key, I can usually work just about any station I can hear. From very early morning, 0700 to about 1200 UTC, you can find your way all along the Pacific Rim and beyond. Learn to work ‘grey line’ as sunshine greets new areas during this time span for some remarkable DX catches. This could be the perfect band... except for maybe 6 meters!

14060 kHz might be the most challenging frequency of all. Everyone who comes here is using very, very little power and seeks adventure. This is the center of the universe for QRP CW. Operating on 20 meters does not require a long antenna. A full size dipole is only 33 feet long so remote location setups are easy to do. 20 meters is alive during the waking hours of the day. It will carry your signals long and far, from mid-morning deep into the evening until midnight or even beyond. This is everyman’s DX band. Have fun!

If you want to send your signal deep into left field and go as far as you possibly can, try 10 or 6 meters. Using the maximum usable frequency is a very basic strategy for long-haul communications. I have had miracle results on these bands. Operating mobile CW on 10 meters, I once worked New Zealand while driving through Toledo, Ohio during rush hour! Using a 6 meter CW walkie-talkie (they do exist) I once worked Minnesota with one watt with its whip antenna lying on a bed! I nailed Japan and Alaska on 10 meter CW, as well. Try just under 50100 kHz (**50095 kHz** or so) on six meters and about **28020 kHz** on ten meters for the best CW results.

Finally, there is one frequency that I operate on at least once a week and I actually use a microphone! Try **146670 kHz** (the PCARA 2m repeater) on Thursday nights at 8:00 p.m. for the Old Goats Net. We use a minus 600 kHz offset (you transmit on 146070 kHz) and please use a 156.7 Hz PL tone. Chances are, you will hear someone on the air that sounds just like me! Until next month, get on the air and have fun! 73 es dit dit de N2KZ ‘The Old Goat.’



Oak Hills Research OHR 100A low power CW transceiver kit. See:

<http://www.ohr.com/ohr100a.htm>.

PCARA Hike Nov 11 – KD2ITZ

Join PCARA for a hike to the summit of Anthony's Nose on Saturday November 11th. Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy the autumn scenery and make radio contacts from the great outdoors. Mike W2IGG will be bringing his Yaesu FT-857D and portable antenna system. The QSO log will be submitted to the World Wide Flora & Fauna in Amateur Radio Program (WWFF). According to their website: <http://wwff.co/>

WWFF is an international amateur radio program, the purpose of which is to 'draw attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora and fauna, and to encourage the development of radio skills, especially in portable operations'.



The WWFF program encourages amateur radio operators to operate portable from designated parks and/or protected nature areas around the world, and in turn generate attention for these areas, whilst providing the amateur radio community an interesting and rewarding activity.

World Wide Flora & Fauna in amateur radio (WWFF) has been active since November 2012. Their motto is "Make nature your shack!"

Anthony's Nose is a section of Hudson Highlands State Park. WWFF recognizes this entity as KFF-2079. Historians are not certain why the formation is called Anthony's Nose, but the name dates back to at least 1697 during the Dutch colonial era. From the top, over



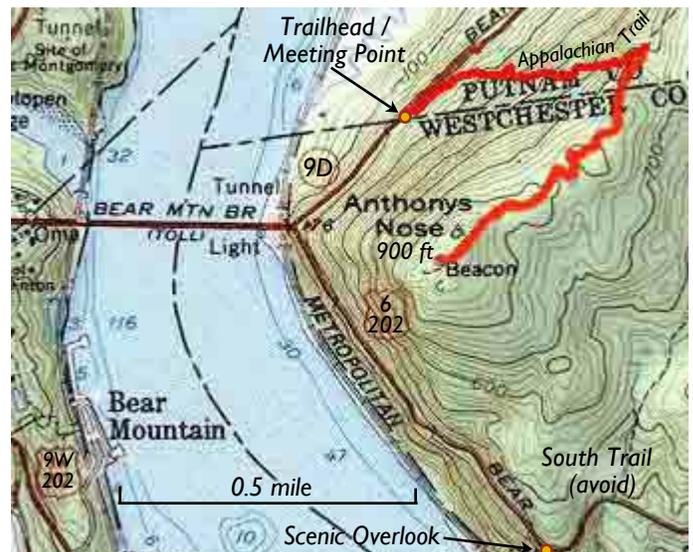
At over 900 feet above sea level, there are great views from the top of Anthony's Nose. [Image credit: Wikipedia.]

900 feet above sea level, the views are spectacular. One point of interest on the west side of the Hudson is the site of Fort Montgomery. During the American Revolution, chains were placed across the river to prevent the passage of British warships. A chain was stretched

from the foot of Anthony's Nose to the fort. Start your Veteran's Day with this hike and witness the rich history of the Hudson Valley.

Participants will meet at 8:30 a.m. Parking is limited and carpooling is encouraged. The ascent will begin from the trailhead on 9D just north of the Bear Mountain Bridge. GPS Coordinates: 41° 19' 22.2"N 73° 58' 32.2"W. The round-trip journey is over 2.5 miles. Please avoid the south trail on Route 6/202. The ascent is about 800 feet and some sections are steep and rocky. Please dress appropriately; pack food and plenty of water. Hikers are encouraged to bring hand-held VHF radios. In case of inclement weather, contingency plans will be sent to the PCARA Yahoo! Group.

Those who are unable to hike are encouraged to



Map shows meeting point on Rt. 9D and the planned route to Anthony's Nose (red). The group will depart from the trailhead at 8:30 a.m.

make contacts to the summit. Conditions permitting, QSO's will be made on 20 and 40 meters. Monitor the W2NYW repeater 146.670 MHz for information. At 11:00 a.m. there will be a call on the repeater for anyone who wishes to attempt 2 meter FM simplex. Once your station is acknowledged, please listen on 146.565 MHz.

All are welcome to hike with the group. Bring your family and friends. Please spread the word to hams who may wish to contact the summit on VHF and HF. We also encourage shortwave listeners to send their reports. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Lou Cassetta, radiocassetta@gmail.com.

- Lou KD2ITZ

CARA Foxhunt follow up

Readers will recall that **Karl N2KZ** conducted a Foxhunt University at Walter Panas High School on September 16. This event was followed by a PCARA Foxhunt on September 23. Winners of the foxhunt were **Jay N1NRP** and **Marlon KC1EHW** from Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA).

Our guests from CARA enjoyed themselves so much that they invited Karl to give an encore presentation of the Foxhunt University at CARA's meeting on Friday October 13th. This went down well, with attendance around 25, including Al K2DMV.



Karl N2KZ (right) gives an encore presentation of the Foxhunt University at CARA's October meeting. [Pics K2DMV]

Jay and Marlon had been unable to attend PCARA's award presentation at the Westchester Diner, so Al presented them with their first place certificate at CARA's October meeting.



L to R: Al K2DMV presents the certificate for first place in the PCARA Foxhunt to Marlon KC1EHW and Jay N1NRP.

Candlewood ARA recently held another foxhunt-related activity. Here is a short report from Al, K2DMV.

Saturday the 21st Jay Albano, N1NRP held a "Tape Measure Yagi Build and Outdoor BBQ". It was a very fine session and such a nice visit that I nearly forgot to take pictures. As you can see it was a fun time full of good conversation and great humor. Fred KD2GJJ and another great friend and mentor Stan Rothman WA2NRV were there. Stan committed a great deal of time showing other hams how to use their newly made antennas.

– Al K2DMV.



CARA's antenna build and outdoor barbeque. [Pic K2DMV]

Here is a further account of the antenna event from Fred KD2GJJ:

On October 21st The Candlewood Amateur Radio Association (CARA) held a workshop to construct and test the tape measure Yagi antennas for their November 12 foxhunt. Al K2DMV and Fred KD2GJJ from PCARA attended to assist CARA's Jay N1NRP, who hosted the event. Five antennas were constructed and tested in-between the sampling of hamburgers, hotdogs and salmon that Jay prepared on the grill. This event was a follow-up to the highly acclaimed Foxhunt University that PCARA's own Karl N2KZ taught at CARA's October meeting.

CARA will be holding their foxhunt on Sunday November 12 at 2:00 p.m. The starting point is the boat launch at Candlewood Town Park, 36 Hayestown Rd., Danbury, CT. Afterwards, everyone is invited to meet at Three Brothers Diner, 242 White St., Danbury, CT for socializing. Jay N1NRP extends an invitation to all members of PCARA to the CARA Foxhunt.

– Fred KD2GJJ.



Tape measure Yagi construction by CARA. [Pic KD2GJJ]

Power supply refurb

Long ago

Back in 2002, I purchased a Superex “Portable Power and Air System” from the local warehouse club. The bright yellow plastic case contained a 17Ah 12 volt sealed lead-acid battery with heavy duty power leads and alligator clips to jump-start a motor vehicle. There was a cigar-lighter outlet for powering external devices, a festoon bulb for local illumination, LED voltage indicator, air pump with pressure gauge and an external wall-wart power supply to recharge the battery.

I had used the Superex unit as a source of portable 12 volt power for activities such as Field Day, Foxhunt transmissions, net control and to power my MFJ antenna analyzer in the field.



Superex Portable Power & Air System contains a 12 volt sealed lead acid battery, with heavy duty leads and alligator clips for jump-starting a vehicle.

The unit had given good service, but I recently noticed that the internal battery was failing to take a charge and would only power the incandescent lamp for a few seconds. Should I scrap the power supply or try to update it? The rest of the Canadian unit was well-made and still in good condition, so I decided on a multi-step refurbishment.

Step 1: Replace the battery

I opened up the yellow plastic case, which is held together by nine Phillips screws through the sides and the handle. Lifting off the back of the case revealed the original battery, which was labeled as a “Sunnyway SW12170 (12V 17.0Ah) rechargeable sealed lead acid battery”. The battery had T3-size NB terminals – these are flat and rectangular, with a hole for securing connecting cables using M5 nut and bolt fasteners.

I carried out some Internet research to find a suitable replacement. This particular battery was originally

intended for UPS, engine starting and emergency lighting service. Similar batteries are available from online vendors, as well as the local

Auto Parts store on Route 6 — but the item was not in-stock. I checked with “Interstate Batteries” on John Walsh Boulevard in Peekskill — they *did* have the unit in stock, and they also offer a comprehensive recycling program.

(<http://www.interstatebatteries.com/>)

I decided to take the old battery to the store to make sure I had the correct replacement — then recycle the old unit — plus some other sealed lead acid batteries that I had acquired. This turned out to be a good move. But first a word about safety.



Removing the back of the yellow plastic case reveals the original SW12170 battery.



Sunnyway SW12170 rechargeable, sealed lead acid battery.

Safety first

One of the warnings drilled into me as a youngster was to treat lead acid batteries used for portable and mobile operation with the greatest caution. If you short out the terminals accidentally, the current can be hundreds of amps, insulation can melt, sparks can burn and the battery can heat up sufficiently to explode and eject hot sulfuric acid. Electrical shorts are most likely to occur when using metal tools to attach or remove connections to the battery terminals. In a vehicle, touching a metal tool across the live terminal and chassis/ground is almost as bad as dropping the same tool across the battery terminals.

The correct procedure for disconnecting a vehicle battery (most of which are negative ground) is as follows:

- Wear eye protection. Take off any metal jewelry such as watch-strap, rings, necklace or bracelet. Use insulated tools.
- If the battery is maintaining vehicle systems or radio memories, provide a back-up.

- (c) **First** remove the chassis/ground connection from the battery terminal — usually negative.
- (d) **Second**, remove the connection to the live battery terminal — usually positive.

With the negative terminal disconnected from chassis/ground, no harm would be done if a metal tool should accidentally touch the positive terminal to chassis. Additional precautions should be taken for older-style flooded lead acid batteries containing liquid electrolyte in each cell. As well as eye/face protection, be sure to wear rubber gloves and if any skin is exposed to the corrosive liquid, immediately drench with water.



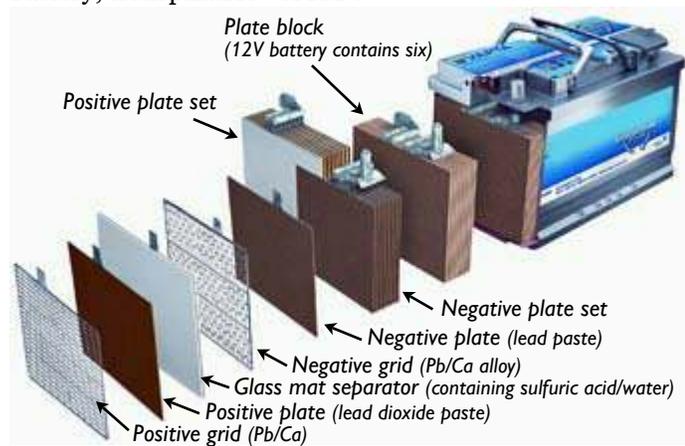
For reconnection of the battery terminals, reverse the order of terminal disconnection — (d) connect live terminal first, followed by (c) connect ground terminal.

Recycling

With the old battery safely removed, I paid a visit to “Interstate Batteries” store in Peekskill. I found that under New York State law, you are encouraged to bring your used battery into the retailer for recycling at the time you purchase a new one. If you do not return a used battery, the retailer will charge a \$5.00 “return incentive payment”. You may receive an additional discount or “core charge” based on the weight of any other sealed-lead-acid batteries that you bring in.

New battery

The replacement battery was an SLA1116 model labeled “SLA1116, 12V 18.0Ah / 20 HR, max charge current 5.4A, Sealed maintenance-free rechargeable battery, nonspillable - AGM”.



Construction of an AGM (absorbent glass mat) sealed lead-acid battery. [Diagram after SAE International]

AGM stands for “Absorbent Glass Mat”. In this type of lead acid battery, a minimal amount of sulfuric acid/water electrolyte is absorbed onto fiberglass mesh which is then placed between the positive and negative plates and compressed. Compared with a flooded lead acid battery containing a significant amount of sulfuric acid/water mixture in liquid form, the AGM type of battery is safer to use, charges more quickly, does not lose water or vent explosive gases (unless mistreated) and can be mounted in any position.

I installed the new battery by first applying foam rubber pads in the same places as on the old battery. I positioned the new battery back inside the yellow plastic case then — observing safety precautions once again — reattached the positive and negative cables by their ring terminals, using the existing nut and bolt fasteners. I had given all terminals and fasteners a light smear of Vaseline® petroleum jelly to protect against future corrosion.



Coat the terminals with Vaseline.

Charge time

It was time to recharge the new battery. The Superex “Portable Power and Air System” originally came with a simple wall-wart power supply, output 12V DC at 500 mA, to re-charge the battery. Superex’s instructions advise recharging for 20 hours, 36 hours maximum. When not in use, the battery should be recharged every four months.



Original “wall-wart” charger supplied with Superex portable power supply.

The wall-wart supply was not regulated and had an open-circuit output of **18 volts** DC. This is too high for trickle-charging an AGM type battery so I decided on the next upgrade... a modern battery charger.

Step 2: Replace the charger

I carried out more Internet research, looking for lead acid battery chargers and found various products from Deltran in their Battery Tender® range (<http://products.batterytender.com/Chargers/>).

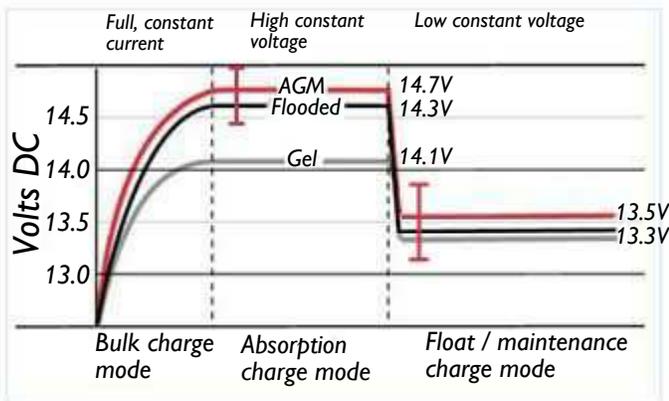
The **Battery Tender Junior**, rated at 12V, 750mA has similar capacity to the original Superex wall-wart charger and is available from Walmart.

The Battery Tender Junior is suitable for most lead-acid batteries — both older wet flooded types and sealed maintenance free batteries, including **AGM** and gel cell.

After connecting the Battery Tender Junior to a battery and powering on, the device first checks to ensure the battery is connected correctly and functioning normally — with a voltage higher than +3V. It will then deliver charging current at a steady 0.75 amperes. Battery voltage will rise and when it reaches a predetermined level the charger will hold the charge voltage constant, allowing the current amplitude to drop. When the current drops below a very low value, usually below 1/8 ampere, the device switches to a float / maintenance charge mode which keeps battery voltage just slightly above the fully charged and resting voltage.



'Battery Tender Junior' automatic battery charger.



Curves show average voltage for AGM, flooded and gel-cell 12 volt lead-acid batteries during charging. Vertical "error bars" on the (red) graph show the wide range of expected voltage for the AGM type of battery. [Pic after West Marine]

The float/maintenance mode is an important difference between a microprocessor-controlled charger and the older-style trickle charger — where the voltage may rise above 16 volts at the end of charging. If left connected, this older type of charger will cause gassing and irreversible damage to the battery. By contrast, the

Battery Tender Junior's multi-step charging program prevents any damage and progress through the various stages is shown by a combined red/green LED which is either flashing or steady.

LED	Mode	Description
Red flashing	Initialization	Checks battery connection is OK.
Red steady	Bulk mode	Constant current, full charge.
Green flashing	Absorption	80% charged. High, constant voltage.
Green steady	Maintenance	Low, constant voltage.

Charger hook-up

The original wall-wart charger had a 3/16" dia. coaxial power connector for plugging into a power socket on the front panel of the Superex portable power system. This input is wired through a series diode to the internal battery. The arrangement would *not* be suitable for the Battery Tender Junior charger as *direct* connection to battery terminals (or to terminal and chassis/ground in a vehicle) is recommended by Deltran so that battery voltage can be accurately monitored.

The Battery Tender Junior is supplied with two different connector cables fused at 7.5A — one cable has alligator clips to attach temporarily to the battery — while the other has ring terminals for permanent mounting to a battery with flat terminals using nut and bolt fasteners. Either cable can be connected to the charger's output cable using a polarized two-conductor SAE "bullet" connector. (SAE = Society of Automotive Engineers).



Battery Tender cable with ring terminals.



SAE 'bullet' connectors on the charger and battery cables.

I decided to mount the ring terminal cable directly onto the new lead acid battery inside the Superex case. Fortunately there is a storage compartment at the back of the case which houses the rubber hose for the air compressor. The hole for the hose was large enough to accommodate the charger cable as well.

After installation, I carried out a test by discharging the new battery into an external load — an old sealed beam headlamp — until the voltage had dropped from 13.0V to 12.2V. I then connected the Battery Tender Junior and let it recharge the battery until the two-color LED on the charger went through its red/green/flashing/ steady modes and eventually showed a steady green, indicating ‘maintenance mode’. This process took about 7 hours.



Battery Tender Jr in maintenance mode.

Step 3: Improve the output connection

While using the Superex power supply with radio equipment connected through the cigar lighter outlet, I had noticed a significant voltage drop when current draw was several amps. Ohm’s law suggested a series resistance of around 0.1Ω. With the yellow plastic cover off, I noticed that wiring from the battery terminals through the on/off switch to the cigar lighter outlet was in a light-gauge, plastic covered wire — estimated at 18 AWG or thinner. There would be additional resistance losses in the cigar lighter outlet and the fuse within the cigar lighter plug.

I decided to leave the cigar outlet as-is for light loads — but then add a pair of Anderson Powerpoles® for any radio equipment that required higher current.

I made up a new cable with ring terminals at one end and Powerpoles at the other. A 25A ATC blade fuse was included in the positive lead, near the battery terminal. The Powerpole end of the cable would be stowed away in the storage compartment at the back of the yellow plastic box, alongside the air hose and charger cable.



New cable with ring terminals, fuse and Powerpole contacts.

There was very little space remaining in the hole that leads into the storage compartment, so I used a helpful feature of Anderson Powerpoles — unlike audio jack plugs and coaxial connectors, you do *not* have to thread Powerpole plastic housings onto a cable before terminating the wire with a power contact. Instead the crimped contact can be pushed into the plastic housing *from the rear*. This means you can leave the plastic housings off while a cable is threaded into place, then press contacts into their respective housings after the restriction has



12 AWG cable with Powerpole contacts threaded into position in the storage compartment *before* insertion of silver-plated contacts into the Powerpole plastic housings.

been negotiated.

One word of warning! Do *not* connect the ring terminals to the battery before threading the ‘naked’ contacts through a hole — there is a good chance those unprotected contacts will touch, short out the battery and blow a fuse – or worse!



Superex portable power supply with the new SLA1116 AGM battery. Cables are already in place for the Battery Tender Jr charger and external Powerpole connection.

Was it worth it?

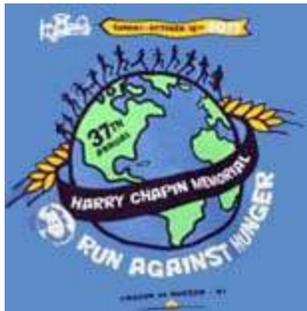
At the end of the refurbishment project, I had a portable 12 volt power supply with new AGM battery, modern microprocessor-controlled charger and Anderson Powerpoles for connection of radios.

A new power supply/air system with similar capacity would have cost around \$130.00. A new 12 volt LiFePO₄ battery with similar ampere-hour rating would have cost around \$200.00. So, in my view, the upgrade was well worthwhile.

- NM9J

Run Against Hunger 2017

The 37th Annual Harry Chapin Memorial Run Against Hunger took place on Sunday October 15, 2017. Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association and the Westchester Emergency Communications Association (WECA) once more provided communications support for the event, which takes place around the streets of Croton-on-Hudson. Greg KB2CQE and Al K2DMV had met with the race organizers on Sunday October 1 to discuss the support required this year.



Brief background

Singer-songwriter Harry Chapin was killed in a Long Island motor accident in 1981. Residents of Croton-on-Hudson decided to honor his good works by organizing an annual race which would raise funds and provide food for children and adults in need. The race has taken place every year since 1981. Organizations that benefit include the Cortlandt Emergency Food Bank, Croton Caring Committee, Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill (C.H.O.P.), Hillside Food Outreach in Pleasantville and Food Bank for Westchester.

About this race report

In the past three years, your editor was based at Croton-Harmon High School, location of net control, race organizers and the finish line for all three events. Start lines for the three races are within walking distance of the school. The location gives a good insight into activities of net control and the organizers' radio shadow.

For 2017 I wanted a different approach. Despite its central position, the High School only gives a limited view of overall activity, with no chance to see what is happening at mile posts and water stops manned by members of PCARA and WECA. Public Address equipment at the school is unbelievably loud (audible one half mile away!) and the atmosphere can become tense as net-control tracks events while the radio shadow tries to keep up with race organizers who need to be in a hundred places at once. The angst generated reminds me of a crowded airport on a busy Friday evening.

So — for 2017 your editor went out into the field. For the first two events, I joined forces with Al K2DMV to find out what happens at the run locations where radio stations had been requested.

Early start

Sunday October 15 began cool and damp, around 60°F, with an overcast sky and mist in the air. Greg KB2CQE arrived early at Croton-Harmon High School, followed by Westchester's RACES communications vehicle, with Alan N2YGK and WECA Public Service Director Kathleen KC2VCT. The truck was parked in its allocated space in front of the school, then readied for the races by raising its hydraulic mast. PCARA and WECA members who arrived at the school were dispatched to their race locations. Operation was to be on 146.565 MHz simplex.



Westchester RACES vehicle at Croton-Harmon High School. L to R: Marlon KC1EHW, Jay N1NRP, Alan N2YGK (preparing antenna), Robert N2TSE, Richard N1GIL, and Greg KB2CQE. [Pic credit - Run Against Hunger].

5K Run/Walk

The first event begins at 9:30 a.m. from Old Post Road South, near Veterans Corners. The course is then along Truesdale Drive and Nordica Drive to the Croton Gorge Trail where the first stop is located. This location was manned by Robert N2TSE. Stop #2 at the northern end of the Croton Gorge Trail was manned by Al, K2DMV. At this point a large rock stops vehicles from entering the trailhead at the end of Cleveland Drive.

Your editor arrived at the designated spot around



Two-mile marker on the 5K Run/Walk at northern end of the Croton Gorge Trail, by Cleveland Drive.

9:00 a.m., shortly before Al's arrival. We were soon joined by Ruby and Heather from the Croton Tigers Girls Soccer who were there to encourage runners and guide them along Cleveland Drive, back toward the High School.

We heard the 9:30 a.m. start announced over the 146.565 MHz simplex channel, followed by N2TSE's report of first runners entering the Croton Gorge Trail at 9:40 a.m. A few minutes later, runners began appearing at our end of the trail and Al reported the fact to net control, with bib numbers of the leaders. Meanwhile Ruby and Heather were offering plenty of support to the runners as they passed the 2 mile marker, pointing out that they were now at the top of a long slope, with only 1.1 miles to go.



Al K2DMV keeps an eye on runners during the 5K event as they reach the end of the Croton Gorge Trail.

Hot dog

Following the early, energetic runners came a bunch of slower entrants, many in family groups. The 5K walkers were close behind, some with youngsters in strollers and others accompanied by dogs on a leash. One long-haired dog decided to take a Sunday morning soak in the muddy puddle at the end of the trail. Said dog emerged wet through, with its lower half soaked in dark brown mud — which it promptly shook off at anyone nearby. Take cover!

One member of Croton-on-Hudson Police Department was covering the trail on bicycle and reported no injuries so far. By 10:30 a.m. Al was able to contact net control and report that a couple of late starters had now passed the end of Croton Gorge Trail. This marked the last of the walkers, who were by then proceeding down Cleveland Drive and back to the High School.

One Mile Fun Run

The Fun Run is a short event intended mainly for youngsters. The race begins at 11:00 a.m. on Cleveland Drive, south of Veterans Corners, then runs north to Gerstein Street and the turn-around circle in front of Carrie E. Tomkins (CET) Elementary School.

Al, K2DMV positioned his vehicle at the intersec-

tion of Cleveland Drive and Gerstein Street, just behind the Police Car which was there to prevent entry of vehicular traffic while young runners and walkers were filling the streets. We were joined by Greg KB2CQE who was on his way to the 10K run.



Al K2DMV and Greg KB2CQE watch Fun Run participants approach the turn-around at CET Elementary School.

Nothing untoward happened on the Fun Run and by 11:26 a.m. Al was able to report to net control that last participants were entering the turn-around circle.

10K Run

The main event of the day is the 10K Run which starts on Old Post Road South close to the High School, then proceeds along Cleveland Drive to Wood Road where runners cross busy Route 129. The route continues along Batten Road toward the New Croton Dam then after crossing the dam, turns south at Quaker Ridge Road. On the homeward stretch, runners cross the river at Quaker Bridge Road, take in a short length of Route 129 then return via Jacoby Street and Cleveland Drive to the High School. Here is a list of operator assignments:

10K Run, start time 12 noon

Station	Location	Operator
Net control	Croton-Harmon HS	Alan N2YGK
Trail car	Following last runner	Larry W2UL
Water Stop #1	140 Batten Road	Greg KB2CQE
Water Stop #2	East end of Croton Dam	Victor KC2UAP & Richard N1GIL
Mile Point 3	Croton Dam Rd & Quaker Ridge Rd	Jay N1NRP & Marlon KC1EHW
Water Stop #3 / Mile 4	Danish Home	Malcolm NM9J
Mile Point 5	Quaker Bridge Rd & Niles Rd	
Water Stop #4	Jacoby Street	Robert N2TSE
Mile Point 6	Cleveland Dr & Alexander Lane	Al K2DMV

There was a shortage of operators for the 10K event, so instead of following Al K2DMV to Mile Point 6, your editor was asked by net control to cover Water Stop #3 at the Danish Home on Quaker Ridge Road.

I arrived at Water Stop #3 at 11:45 a.m., fifteen minutes before the race was due to start. There I found Boy Scout leaders Tom and Stu, plus Sam, Nathan and Oliver from Boy Scout Troop 28, Croton-on-Hudson. They had set out folding tables with lots of plastic cups, ready to cool off the arriving runners.



Water Stop #3 at the entrance to the Danish Home on Quaker Ridge Road.

The 10K event began at 12:01 p.m. and we were able to follow progress by radio as stations around the course reported passage of their first male and female runners back to net control. Those stations included Greg KB2CQE at Water Stop #1 on Batten Road. By 12:22 p.m. the first male runner, bib number # 183 had reached our post and picked up the first of many water cups from the Scouts. I was able to report this to net control by handi-talkie on 146.565 MHz simplex. The first female runner, # 187 was close behind.



First male runner #183 picks up a cup at Water Stop #3.

For the next 40 minutes a stream of runners continued past our location, picking up water cups and keeping the scouts busy. Meanwhile two volunteers from Croton Tigers at the Water Stop were shouting out run times to participants as they passed by.

At 12:58 p.m. a gray Volkswagen approached Water Stop #3. This was the Trail Car, containing Larry W2UL — it had been specially allowed to cross the Dam, following the very last of the runners. We were

able to report the fact to net control, and were told to secure the station. I helped the scouts tidy the road and pack-up, waited a little while to allow the Trail Car to clear the single-file road across Quaker Bridge then made my own way back. On the way, I was listening to Al K2DMV reporting from Mile 6, just before runners turned into their home stretch.

Later, I heard that our first male runner at Water Stop 3, # 183 Sean Gardiner, had finished **first** at the High School with a run time of 36m 15s. Our first female runner # 187 Sara Mandelburg also maintained her position with a time to the finish of 41m 30s. Total number of entrants in the 10K event was 205 with one fail-to-finish.

Final thoughts

I have to report that experiencing WECA/PCARA radio support for the Run Against Hunger out in the field was more satisfying than my previous location at the High School. I enjoyed Al's company for the first two locations. The time went by faster, with less anxiety than before and a greater sense of achievement, seeing runners encouraged along their way by radio club members and knowing that help could still be summoned by radio from parts of the course where cell-phone coverage is spotty.

Greg KB2CQE, located at Water Stop #1 on Batten Road advised that it is not a good idea to park immediately downstream from a water stop. Runners pick up their plastic cups, empty the contents down their throats (or onto themselves to cool down), then throw the cup away into the road — all around any parked vehicle.

Richard N1GIL was located at Water Stop #2 at one end of the New Croton Dam. He had been assigned to assist WECA's Victor KC2UAP and enjoyed their joint effort. They were on-station well before runners began passing at 12:15 p.m., but this was necessary as roads are closed for earlier races before the start of the 10K event at 12 noon. Richard said he plans to take part again next year, and observing KC2UAP on 2 meter simplex should make it easier to run a station by himself. Richard formulated a list of items he would take along next time.

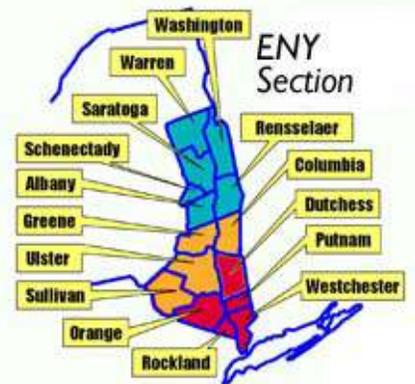
After the race, Kathleen KC2VCT reported that the participation of WECA and PCARA radio operators, keeping participants safe, was not lost on the Run Against Hunger's principal, Mike Grayeb, who said he was thankful for all we do. Our communicating, which thankfully did not include any emergencies this year, allowed Mike to run around the school yard, putting out other fires.

Kathleen closed by thanking all participants — including those who covered more than one post and those who mentored newcomers.

- NM9J

ENY ARRL Affiliated Clubs

ARRL's Eastern New York Affiliated Club Coordinator **Ron Fish, KX1W** sent out a revised list of Affiliated Clubs in the ENY Section of the Hudson Division. For members who might want to attend a meeting at a nearby club, here is a list of ENY clubs within easy driving distance of Peekskill / Cortlandt.



American Emergency Communications Association – W2COM: Meets TBD. Contact: Thomas Fegan, KB2ZAM, AmericanEmergencyCommAssoc'at'gmail.com, (914) 962-6004.

Crystal Radio Club – W2DMC: Meets 1st Wednesday at 1930 (except July/August) in Rockland County Fire Training Center, Pomona, NY. Contact: Paul Horenstein, K2PH, prh'at'aol.com, (845) 510-2998.

Hudson Valley Contesters & DX – K2UG: Meets 2nd Monday at 1930 in Hurley Reformed Church, Hurley, NY (date and place vary). Contact: James Janack, N2JJ, n2jj'at'ix.netcom.com, (518) 882-9216.

Mount Beacon ARC – WR2ABB: Meets Monday at 2000 on the air, KC2DAA repeater, 146.97 (-), optional PL 100Hz. Contact: Andrew Dana Schmidt, W2BOS, W2BOS'at'arrl.net, (845) 462-7539.

Orange County ARC, Inc. – W2HO, (SSC): Meets 3rd Friday at 1930 in Munger Cottage, Cornwall, NY. Contact: Bruce Baccaro, K2ULZ, baccaro'at'attglobal.net, (845) 562-4226.

Peekskill/Cortlandt ARA – W2NYW. Meets 1st Sunday at 1500 (except July/August) in New York Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital Center, Dining Room B, Cortlandt Manor, NY. Contact: Gregory Appleyard, KB2CQE, kb2cqe'at'optonline.net, (914) 737-4210.

Putnam Emergency and Amateur Repeater League – K2PUT: Meets 3rd Wednesday at 1900 in TOPS Center, 112 Old Route 6, Carmel, NY. Contact: Laurretta Glatz, KC2VMH, kc2vmh'at'gmail.com, (845) 661-7991.

QSY Society – K2QS: Meets 1st Saturday (Jan-Feb) at 1000, 1st Tuesday (March-November) at 1900 in East Fishkill Community Library, 348 Route 376, Hopewell Junction, NY. Contact: Shirley Dahlgren, N2SKP, shirleyjean'at'optonline.net, (914) 582-3744.

R.E.C.W.A./Metro 70 Communications – WR2MSN: Meets 1st Monday Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct at 1930, 28 Wells Avenue, Bldg 5, 5th Fl, Yonkers OEM, Yonkers, NY. Contact: Carl Everts, N2VQP, ceve914'at'aol.com, (914) 760-1984.

Rip Van Winkle ARS – K2RVW: Meets 3rd Monday at 1900 in Churchtown Firehouse, Hudson, NY. Contact: Stan Engel, WA2UET, wa2uet'at'taconic.net, (518) 392-4554.

Rockland Satellite and DX Association: Meets Last Friday on the air at 2000, 443.200 (+), PL 114.8 Hz, TG 9. Contact: Larry Berkowitz, W2LGB, lberk26'at'gmail.com, (845) 521-1317.

RZS Amateur Radio Club – W2RZS: Meets Mondays at 1700, 40 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, NY. Contact: Robert Schaps, WB2NVR, wb2nvr'at'optonline.net, (914) 262-3535.

United States Military Academy ARC – W2KGY [School Club]: Meets Tuesdays at 1930 in Thayer Hall, TH1126, West Point, NY. Contact: Matthew Sherburne, KF4WZB, matthew.sherburne'at'usma.edu, (703) 881-2934.

Westchester Amateur Radio Club – N2PAL / WE2OEM, (SSC): Meets Saturdays at 1200 in Radio Barn, 4 Ledgewood Place, Armonk, NY. Contact: Michael Rapp, KA2FBL, KA2FBL'at'live.com, (914) 907-6482.

Westchester Emergency Communications Association – WB2ZII, (SSC): Meets 2nd Monday at 1900 in Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY. Contact: R. E. Stevenson, N2AMP, scarsys'at'cloud9.net, (914) 725-2376.

Yonkers ARC – W2YRC, (SSC): Meets 2nd Sunday (except July/August) at 1200, 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY. Contact: Efrem Acosta, W2CZ, w2cz'at'optonline.net, (914) 751-2390.

Note: (SSC) = ARRL Special Service Club, meaning a club that provides active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursues technical projects and operating activities.

KX1W advises that information in the list is subject to change, so check with the Club Contact indicated in the listing. Please send updates and corrections to Ron Fish, KX1W, kx1w'at'arrl.net. You can find further details of ARRL Affiliated Clubs at: <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>.

NY State QSO Party 2017

Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association's entry in the 2017 New York QSO Party was hosted once again by Joe WA2MCR. One early difficulty was overcome with only hours to spare: Joe returned from a trip to find that his Carolina Windom — normally supported high in the air by two tall trees — was instead lying halfway across the ground thanks to failure of a supporting line. Supports were restrung the evening before the contest began.

There had been plenty of publicity for the club effort in the newsletter, in a Yahoo Group notice from Lou, KD2ITZ and on the Thursday evening Old Goats Net. As a result, three members joined Joe for the QSO Party effort.

Joe had set up equipment for the club entry in his sun room, bathed in warm sunlight for most of Saturday October 21. The Icom IC-7410 transceiver had a choice of wire antennas available — the repaired Carolina Windom or a ZS6BKW computer-optimized G5RV. Joe also had logging software by N3FJP available (<http://www.n3fjp.com/stateqsoparty.html>), plus CW decoding.

First of the club operators to arrive was Charles, N2SO. Charles concentrated on 40 meter CW for most of his time on the air. He was assisted by a K44 CW Keyboard from Hamcrafters (<http://www.hamcrafters2.com/K44.html>). The K44 provides a CW reader, iambic paddle keyer, backlit LCD display and optically isolated keying outputs within a small metal enclosure. There is also a mini-DIN socket



Charles' K44 CW Keyboard.



Joe WA2MCR (left) and Charles N2SO operate 40m CW.

to plug in an IBM PS/2-style keyboard.

After a break for lunch, Charles continued through the afternoon. A switch was made from 40 meters to 20 meters. In addition to DX stations taking part in the QSO party, there was also activity from DARC's 'Worked All Germany' contest.

As evening arrived, conditions changed and 20 meter propagation faded out. There was a short return to 40 meters, then a move down to 80 meters as night-time conditions took over. At this point, Lou KD2ITZ joined in as Joe's third visiting operator. Lou was enthusiastic about CW operation as well as phone.

The QSO Party ended at 10:00 p.m. Eastern after 12 hours of operation. At that point, 432 contacts had been made, a significant increase over 2016. Joe has provided the following QSO count and claimed points as calculated by the N3FJP software.

New York QSO Party 2017, W2NYW WES

Band	CW	Phone	Total
80m	38	42	80
40m	105	178	283
20m	37	32	69

Total contacts = 432

Total points = 53,244

Total points are calculated by multiplying the QSO points (with 2 points per CW contact) by the number of multipliers — consisting of NY Counties worked (62 max) plus U.S. States (50 max) and Canadian Provinces (9 max). For the New York Counties, 40 out of a possible 62 were contacted.

PCARA sponsored two awards for the 2017 NY QSO Party. The first plaque will be for "New York Multi-One Low Power" and the second plaque is for "Non-New York SSB Low Power". Multi-one means multiple operators with only one operator at a time. Low power means 5-100 watts.

Here is a summary of results from past New York QSO Parties for comparison with this year, 2017.

Year	QSOs	Points	Multiplier	Claimed total
2013	300	345	83	28980
2014	463	548	100	54800
2015	292	359	81	29079
2016	352	441	86	37926
2017	432	612	87	53244

Final results should be available around April in the New Year. Keep an eye on the NYQP web site, <http://nyqp.org/wordpress/> hosted by the Rochester DX Association, for publication of the results.

- NM9J

Holiday Dinner

The 2017 PCARA Holiday Dinner has been arranged at the same location as in the last four years, the **Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant**. The event begins at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday December 3.

The restaurant is located at 714 Old Albany Post Road. Take the Bear Mountain Parkway to the Highland Avenue exit, then head north. Proceed down Highland Avenue and across the bridge. The restaurant and car park are immediately on the left.



The dinner menu is the same 'Package Number Three' as in previous years.

Open Soup and Salad Bar
Soda, iced tea and soft drinks (unlimited)
♦♦♦♦ choice of: ♦♦♦♦
Prime Ribs of Beef
Grilled New York Strip Steak
Grilled Pork Tenderloin Medallions
Jumbo Shrimp with crabmeat stuffing
Chicken — Marsala, Chardonnay, Sherry or Madeira
Penne ala Vodka, traditional or w/grilled chicken
Cake – chocolate mousse

Cost will be \$40.00 per head including service, but not including any alcoholic drinks.



The Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant in Cortlandt Manor.

Fall backward

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday November 5, 2017. Remember to change any of your household clocks and watches that still require manual adjustment.

The change from Eastern Daylight Time to Eastern Standard Time takes place on the same Sunday as PCARA's November meeting — which starts at 3:00 p.m. EST on November 5. Be sure to change your clocks, or you might turn up one hour too soon for the meeting.



Smoke detectors

Don't forget to check the battery and operation of all your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors at the same time as moving the clocks back.

AAA rating

If your clock depends on an AA or AAA alkaline cell to keep it ticking, check the cell voltage while you are making the time adjustment. If the voltage has dropped below ~1.4V, change the battery **now**, before it starts oozing electrolyte onto the metal contacts. It does not hurt to place a dab of Deoxit contact cleaner onto the battery contacts.

This is also a good time to check other electronic equipment that incorporates one or more alkaline cells. If the device has not been used in a while, it is quite possible that the cell has run down and started to leak. Examples include handi-talkies, multi-meters, portable test equipment (such as antenna analyzers) and remote controls.

The latest device that I discovered with a leaky battery was a Fluke VoltAlert tester. One of the AAA cells had a covering of white powder on its negative end and the adjacent brass contact had corroded. The device needed scraping, cleaning with Deoxit and replacement of both AAA cells.



Fluke VoltAlert AC voltage detector after cleaning the bad battery.

- NM9J

Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association

Mail: PCARA, PO Box 146, Crompond, NY 10517

E-Mail: mail 'at' pcara.org

Web site: <http://www.pcara.org>

PCARA Update Editor: Malcolm Pritchard, NM9J

E-mail: NM9J 'at' arrl.net

Newsletter contributions are always very welcome!

Archive: <http://home.lanline.com/~pcara/newslett.htm>

PCARA Information

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

Organization. PCARA meetings take place the first Sunday of each month* at 3:00 p.m. in Dining Room B of NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital, Rt. 202, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567. Drive round behind the main hospital building and enter from the rear (look for the oxygen tanks). Talk-in is available on the 146.67 repeater. *Apart from holidays and July/August break.

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

Sun Nov 5: PCARA Meeting, New York Presbyterian - Hudson Valley Hospital, 3:00 p.m.

Sat Nov 11: PCARA hike to Anthony's Nose. 8:30 a.m.

Sat Nov 18: PCARA Breakfast, Turco's, Yorktown Heights, 9:00 a.m.

Sun Dec 3: PCARA Holiday Dinner, Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant, 5:00 p.m.

Hamfests

Sun Oct 29: LIMARC Hamfest, Levittown Hall, 201 Levittown Parkway Hicksville, NY. 9:00 a.m.

Fri Nov 24: Fairlawn ARC Auction, Fair Lawn Senior Center, 11-05 Gardiner Road, Fair Lawn, NJ. 6:30 p.m.

VE Test Sessions

Nov 4, 11, 18, 25: Westchester ARC Radio Barn, 4 Ledge-wood Pl, Armonk, NY. 12:00. Pre-reg M. Rapp, (914) 907-6482.

Nov 9: WECA, Westchester Co Fire Trg Center, 4 Dana Rd., Valhalla, NY. 7:00 p.m. S. Rothman, (914) 949-1463.

Nov 12: Yonkers ARC, Will Library, 1500 Central Park Ave, Yonkers NY. 1:00 pm. Pre-reg. John WB2AUL, (914) 969-6548.

Nov 17: Orange County ARC, Munger Cottage, 183 Main Street, Cornwall NY. 6:00 p.m. Joseph DeLorenzo (845) 534-3146.

Nov 20: Columbia Univ ARC, 531 Studebaker Bldg, 622 W 132nd St, New York. 6:30 pm, Alan Crosswell (212) 854-3754.



Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc.
PO Box 146
Crompond, NY 10517