PCARA Update

Volume 26, Issue 11 Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc. November 2025

Run away success

The October 2025 **PCARA Membership Meeting** was held on Saturday October 4, 2025 at the Putnam Valley Free Library in Putnam Valley, NY. It was well-attended, with 24 people present. PCARA had a visit from ARRL Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson N2XDD. Ed presented a plaque to PCARA celebrating 25 years since PCARA's affiliation to ARRL in July 2000.

At the October meeting, Ed Wilson N2XDD (right) presents Greg KB2CQE with a plaque celebrating PCARA's 25 years of ARRL affiliation.

Ed N2XDD gave an inspiring talk on "The Role of Amateur Radio Clubs in Advancing Our Hobby". He described some of the activities undertaken at Suffolk County Radio Club on Long Island to encourage participation and new members. He covered topics such as construction workshops, working with the local library, library book donations, the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, ice cream socials and the best way to offer introductory training. You can watch the entire presentation on PCARA's YouTube channel courtesy of Rob AD2CT using: https://youtu.be/8YLNHwG-aFc .

After the talk, Ed presented the *QST* Cover Plaque Award to Jay NE2Q for writing "Turn Your Vertical Antenna into a Rotatable Beam", voted best article in the April 2025 issue of *QST*. [There is another article by Jay on page 12. *-Ed.*]

PCARA offers its thanks to Ed N2XDD and Suffolk County Radio Club Secretary Nicole AD2IM for traveling 75 miles to present plaques and suggest more ways to make amateur radio an attractive and inviting hobby.

Jay NE2Q (left) was presented by Ed N2XDD with the QST Cover Plaque Award for the April 2025 issue of QST.

On Saturday October 11, Karl N2KZ organized a simplex test to check coverage in the event of a power outage making repeaters unavailable. [See Karl's report on page 3 *-Ed.*]

Saturday October 18, 2025 saw another **PCARA Breakfast** take place at Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace in Yorktown Heights, NY. We were outside in the sunshine, with 17 people present, including WECA's Kathleen, KC2VCT.

On Sunday October 19, 2025, PCARA along with our friends at WECA provided communications support for the 45th Annual **Harry Chapin Memorial Run Against Hunger** at the Croton-Harmon High School in Croton-on-Hudson, NY. This was the 11th year that PCARA has been invited to take part. A total of 15 radio amateur volunteers partici-

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pated — plus two PCARA members who ran the 10K course, now modified to avoid Quaker Bridge. Thank you to all that helped make the day a success. [Report on page 7 -*Ed.*]

On October 19, Masa JR1AQN (left, bib #5) was crossing the Croton Dam, turn-round point for the 10K Run in the Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger. [David K2WPM pic.]

A **PCARA Foxhunt** was held on Saturday October 25, 2025 at FDR Park in Yorktown Heights, NY. There were six teams of hunters, with NM9J first and KD2ITZ second to find the fox operated by Rob AD2CT.

Please mark your calendars with these upcoming events:

- Saturday November 1: 10:15 a.m. – Monthly meeting with election of three board members and VE Test Session at Putnam Valley Library. See below.
- Saturday November 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.: PCARA Breakfast at Uncle Giuseppe's Marketplace in Yorktown Heights, NY.
- Sunday December 7, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.: Annual PCARA Holiday Dinner at new location — Table 9 restaurant in Cortlandt Manor, NY. Price is $60.00 per person. The menu can be found in this month's edition of the *PCARA Update*. Please contact David KD2EVI if you and yours are planning to attend. You can best enter the restaurant parking lot from Route 9/Albany Post Road as the new traffic circle is blocking the Roa Hook Road entrance.

Our next **PCARA Membership Meeting** is scheduled for Saturday November 1, 2025 at 10:15 a.m. at the Putnam Valley Free Library. The meeting will include election of three PCARA Board Members (Lou, Mike and Greg). A PCARA ARRL VEC Test Session will follow the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Candidates should contact Rob AD2CT using: ad2ct‘at’arrl.net.

PCARA Board

President:
Greg Appleyard, KB2CQE; kb2cqe ‘at’ arrl.net
Vice President:
Bob Tarsio, N2CBH; bob ‘at’ broadcast-devices.com
Secretary:
Lou Cassetta, KD2ITZ; radiocassetta ‘at’ gmail.com
Treasurer:
David Fredsall KD2EVI; joanndavidss88 ‘at’ verizon.net
Director:
Mike Dvorozniak, W2IG
Vice President Emeritus: Joe Calabrese, WA2MCR.

Net night

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

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

VE Testing

PCARA's most recent VE Test Session was scheduled to follow the October 4 meeting at Putnam Valley Library. There were *no* candidates, possibly as a result of the U.S. Government shutdown which began on October 1, 2025.

The FCC said on September 30th that it would suspend most operations, with the FCC CORES system not issuing any new FRNs (FCC Registration Numbers) and the FCC ULS system not processing any amateur radio license applications — including new and upgrade applications from VE Test sessions. FCC ULS is also unavailable to the public for searching license details. (Reference: https://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-licensing-update-during-us-government-shutdown.)

ARRL has announced a temporary testing procedure for license applicants without an FRN. The candidate can still take an exam *without* an FRN and be issued with a CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination). In the ExamTools system, the FRN can be entered as ten zeros, followed by “I don't have an FRN”. When the CORES system comes back on-line, candidates should register for an FRN then notify the VEC about their new FCC Registration Number. The VEC would then submit the license application to FCC.

PCARA's next VE Test Session is scheduled for Saturday November 1, 11:30 a.m. after the monthly meeting at Putnam Valley Library. Candidates should contact Rob AD2CT using: ad2ct‘at’arrl.net.

Simplex Test - Oct 11 2025 - N2KZ

As a first step toward PCARA emergency preparedness, we held a simplex test net on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. on 146.565 MHz. The object of the test was to see, in real-time, what our communications coverage would be like without the help of a repeater. If all regular AC power disappears, how could we communicate? Let's start from the beginning… there were lessons to be learned!

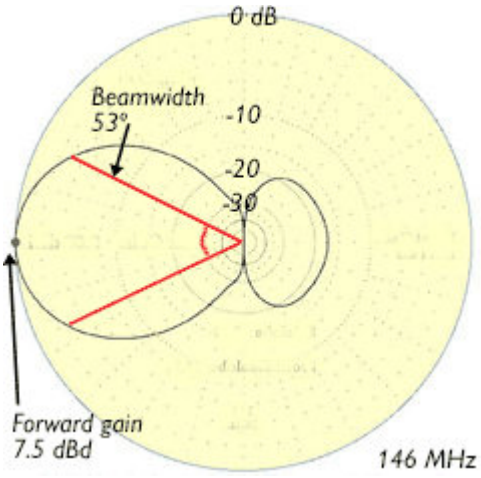
The test took place on simplex frequency 146.565 MHz. *[N2KZ pic.]*

The test proved simple to produce but quite revelatory. Historically, I rely on my Arrow 4 element Yagi antenna to aid my hop from the Goldens Bridge area of far eastern Westchester to our two-meter repeater in Lake Peekskill. When I host our weekly Old Goats Net, I know to aim it at 283º northwest and away I go. It is reliable and proven. I face the repeater to transmit and I hear the repeater flawlessly. Easy!

Karl uses an indoor 4-element Yagi antenna to reach the PCARA 2 meter repeater from eastern Westchester. *[N2KZ]*

Although my Yagi serves my weekly purpose well, it is a pretty miserable antenna for simultaneously working a wide geographical range of stations on a simplex net. With four elements, my Yagi has a remarkably narrow 'nose' for pickup. It is not an appropriate antenna for this task.

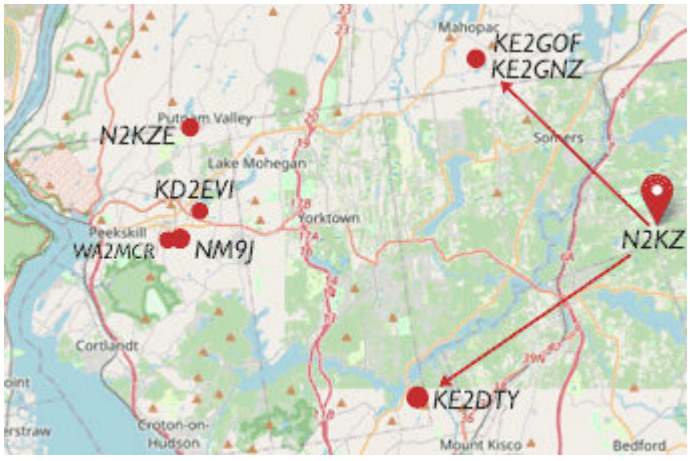
I tried quickly rotating the antenna to pick up all the other test participants. I discovered that everyone had a unique singular spot where they would come in nicely. A few degrees in any other direction and their received signal would fall off to static rapidly. I was a horse with blinders on. I could hear nearly everybody individually with my Yagi… but only one at a time. All others were hidden in the noise floor.



Azimuth plot of Arrow Antenna 146-4S four-element Yagi antenna for 2 meters. *[After Arrow.]*

Similarly, my transmission was narrowcast, as well. Malcolm, NM9J and David, KD2EVI could sometimes hear me even if I moved my antenna back and forth looking for a sweet spot. Although they could hear me, I couldn't hear them! I then tried moving my entire antenna back only three feet or so and I found a perfect spot that brought both of their signals in with good copy. Malcolm and David could hear me, too! QSL!

Overall, from my locale I worked stations over a 75º span — bearings from 311º all the way to 236º west of the N2KZ QTH. No Yagi could cover that span without my constant antenna repositioning! Even worse, my narrow focused pickup pattern made me miss hearing stations that were coming from divergent positions away from where I was precisely pointed.



Map shows location of Karl N2KZ relative to the stations who joined in the PCARA simplex test on 146.565 MHz. *[Base map: OpenStreetMap]*

I faced a puzzling conundrum. Theoretically, my four-element Yagi should have a 53º beamwidth nose. Was I being taunted by FM threshold effect or possibly coaxial cable interaction with its vertical design? Were there lots of reflections and other distortions going on due to my unconventional indoor mounting of my Yagi? I use a piece of leftover wooden curtain rod as a

mounting pole in an attempt not to distort the vertical polarity of the antenna. I found my capture of weak signals could be limited to 10º or even 5º in positioning. What really caused this tight effect?

Malcolm, NM9J, made an important observation: If you want to effectively operate in a simplex net, begin by using an omnidirectional gain antenna. Otherwise many signals may be hiding and unheard outside of your Yagi beam span.

Proper etiquette is mandatory during simplex nets. Early on, I was chatting with John KE2DTY — close to my QTH. I thought I heard another weak station on frequency but it was too weak to copy. I later realized the weaker station was David KD2EVI who thought I was talking to him but after a few 'overs' it became obvious that I was working someone else. When running a simplex net, stating both station's callsigns at hand-over should be mandatory. Let there be no question who is talking to whom, otherwise, confusing chaos can occur quickly. I proved that point!

Another lesson: My QTH would not be a good central location for a PCARA emergency control station. I am too far away from the majority of PCARA members located on the western side of the county. No matter how much power I would use, my field strength would not be strong enough with good local presence to provide an authoritarian signal to this cluster in an emergency.

Many PCARA members participated in our test. Here is a summary of my logbook of simplex stations heard at the N2KZ QTH. Many thanks to everyone who worked with us on the air!

Station	Bearing	Distance mi	Location
KE2DTY John	236°	8.4	Mt Kisco
KE2GOF, Rob	311°	6.8	Mahopac
KE2GNZ, Mary Ellen	311°	6.8	Mahopac
NM9J, Malcolm	270°	13.2	Cortlandt Mnr
KD2EVI, David	272°	12.9	Cortlandt Mnr
N2KZE, Kevin	282°	13.3	Lake Peekskill
WA2MCR, Joe	270°	13.2	Cortlandt Mnr
KE2FRX, Zee	315°	10.9	Big Woods Trlhd

The last three stations, N2KZE, WA2MCR and KE2FRX were heard by others — but not by N2KZ across the county. KE2FRX was located at the Big Woods Trailhead in Fahnestock State Park, 1075 ft asl.

I also verified another anomaly at my QTH. I am only half way up a hill in my neighborhood at about 540 feet above sea level. Ground level at the bottom of my hill is 420 feet ASL. Directly to my ENE is another 110 feet of dense glacial rock creating a 650 foot peak. This massive rock wall above my house disturbed my Yagi positioning greatly. RF randomly bouncing off tall rock walls can be very confusing! Should I try to aim at a reflection of someone's incoming signal or their direct bearing?

It would be interesting to experiment to see if using reflections — for both transmission and reception — would be a better choice. Your surrounding terrain can really affect your results on VHF!

Takeaways from our simplex net experiment became obvious from our test:

- During a simplex net, identify both participating stations with each 'handover.' Let there be no confusion regarding who is talking to who!
- Use sufficient RF power to reach all members of the net. Strong signals produce stronger reception (at least in theory!)
- Initially, use an omnidirectional gain antenna (like a Comet GP-3 or GP-6 or similar) and find a central location for your host base station. Save Yagi-use only for one-to-one weak signal simplex situations.

We encourage members to have a good mobile FM transceiver and 12 volt power supply installed in their radio room, feeding an outside antenna. If you want to enjoy reliable communications, with a robust signal, you need good equipment properly installed.

For best coverage from home in a hilly area, use a mobile transceiver with a 12 volt power supply and a good, external antenna. [N2KZ pic.]

New members may be inclined to come on-air with a handi-talkie and rubber-duck antenna combination that can barely reach the repeater from indoors. In our hilly and mountainous terrain, this is insufficient. Also, be sure to set deviation for wide FM (±5 KHz), not narrow (±2.5 kHz).

Make sure you have a way to power your station long term with a gasoline generator or solar-powered system. A sealed lead-acid battery or $LiFePO_4$ battery is an additional way to power a station during a short-term power outage. This could be combined with the transceiver in a Go-box, as used by several PCARA members. Think now! Be prepared!

Emergency preparedness is an important aspect of any amateur radio club. Let's discuss our first test results and strategize our next moves. I am dreaming of an omnidirectional two-meter vertical, in the clear, atop a 100 foot tower. A mountaintop location might be nice too. Thanks for an interesting and educational test.

- Karl N2KZ

QSL Cards *via* email

Fast and Simple - N2SO

QSL cards are almost as old as Amateur radio. Certainly by the early 20th Century reception reports to radio broadcasting stations were made by letter and later post cards. This concept spread to amateur radio operators for two-way communications. Here is an image of a 1925 QSL by Bill Corsham, G2UV.

More recently, in August of 2024 I had a QSO with N5J, a DXpedition to Jarvis Island which is located in the South Pacific about halfway between Hawaii and the Cook Islands. Jarvis Island is an uninhabited National Wildlife Refuge which was last activated in 1990 and was in the list of the top 20 wanted DXCC entities. (KH5 Palmyra & Jarvis Islands #197). The DXpedition used an unusual radio in the box (RIB) unit which allowed all of the radio equipment to be placed on a small amphibious vehicle which was simply steered over the water and driven onto the island with minimal environmental impact to the natural surroundings. Only five operators visited the Island during the operation for control and equipment maintenance as per FCC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulations. The five local operators spent their nights and days working remotely from the *MV Magnet* pilot ship just offshore. The remainder of the 24 operators from eight different countries operated remotely via StarLink Internet from all over the world and from multiple time zones. For more information on this fascinating DXpedition, see: https://jarvisisland2024.com/news/108-the-dxpedition-to-jarvis-island-n5j-2

Charles' QSL card from N5J lists the Island Team above the line with remote operators and pilots below the line.

I recently received my QSL card for my QSO with N5J via Club Log (https://clublog.org) OQRS (Online QSL Requests). According to Club Log, my contact was made with one of the remote operators, JH8JWF in Sapparo, Japan, which qualified my QSO as a new DXCC entity as far as Logbook of the World (LoTW) was concerned but not for purposes of Islands on the Air (IOTA, https://www.iota-world.org/) for OC-081. Same Island — different rules! This highly nuanced exception came about because IOTA determined that the five operators on the pilot ship were still within the confines of the Jarvis Natural Wildlife Refuge even though not actually on the Island.

USPS Amateur Radio stamp.

The USA-CA award was first established by *CQ Magazine* in 1964 about the same time that the USPS issued their Ham Radio 5 cent postcard stamp. The sixties and seventies were the "golden age" of QSL cards — long before the existence of ARRL's Logbook of the World, which got started in 2003. The entry level award required confirmation of at least 500 of the 3,077 counties in the US by a physical QSL card. In 1998 *CQ Magazine* began accepting confirmations by QSO matching via third party eQSL (https://www.eqsl.cc) but not by LoTW. When *CQ Magazine* stopped publishing in 2024, the award was picked up by Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC, http://marac.org/) for administration. In May of 2024 MARAC announced that written confirmations of contacts were no longer required. It is easy to see why MARAC dropped the QSL requirement. Logging, printing, sorting, addressing, stamping and mailing physical QSL cards is a labor intensive and expensive process for both the sender and the recipient — time that is better spent making contacts on the air.

The adoption of email QSLs recently has not been without controversy. Some hams feel that receiving an unsolicited QSL via email is tantamount to spam. Others feel that since they are not valid for any ARRL award like DXCC or WAS or IOTA, there is no point to such emails. Since the QSL image cannot be independently verified by a third party, it is possible that such emails might be falsified. Some tradition-minded folks enjoy the physical and tangible nature of a paper QSL card which requires a special effort. Operators who make thousands or more QSOs in a month find that sending physical QSL cards for every contact is prohibitively expensive. These limits do not prevent mass mailing of email QSL cards although email servers like Gmail place limits of 500 cards per day and no more than 60 cards per minute. Although this may not stop a dedicated spammer, keep in mind that the recipient only gets one card usually.

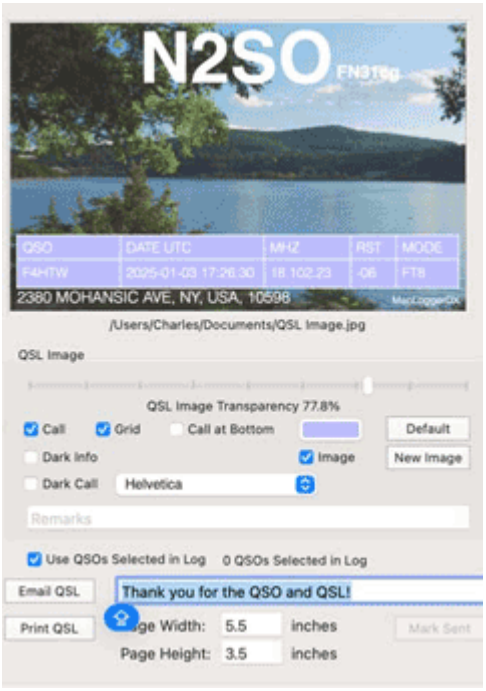
These negative arguments miss the entire point of email QSL cards. The only purpose of an email QSL card is to confirm a contact easily and with minimal cost. This was the only objective of G2UV's 1925 QSL card discussed earlier. Obviously, if your purpose is to qualify for an award granted by a third party like the ARRL or IOTA, then follow their rules and regulations. If you want to simply confirm a contact, use an email and send an image of your card. The real objection of all of the naysayers is that they do not know what to do when they receive an email QSL card. There are only three options:

1. If you do not want it, delete it and — if possible — opt out of additional emails,
2. Log the receipt and then delete. Most logging programs allow you to save an image of the QSL card that you have received, so no expensive or environmentally unfriendly printing is necessary,
3. Respond to the email as below.

The popular and free QSL emailing app QSL World (https://qslworld'dot'com/*) allows you to load an ADIF file from your logging program to map your QSOs and send out QSLs. The selection of QSL templates is very limited however, and after a while you see the exact same QSL design from different operators. Nor does the program interface with any logging program. If you want to design your own card to use as a template you can use their "QSL Design Studio" but this presumes some prior experience with graphic design. [*Site is a Spam souce -*Ed.*]

QSL World design sent from ON2ACO to Charles N2SO.

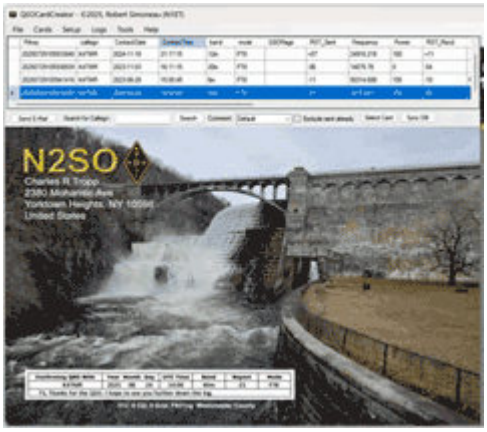
Bearing in mind the old adage that you generally get what you pay for, the following commercial programs require a one-time license fee. If you use a Mac or an iPad to do your logging, the MacLoggerDX program (https://dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html) includes a QSL panel which allows you to create a custom QSL card with any background image you want and email or print the QSL right from the program.



QSL card from N2SO to F4HTW designed using MacLoggerDX software.

Since there is no third party involved, you can, if you wish, archive both the received and sent emails right in your Mac storage.

If you use Windows 11, there is a very nice program **QSOCardCreator** (https://www.n1et.com/) by Robert J. Simoneau N1ET which includes one custom QSL design and which also interfaces with N3FJP Amateur Contact Log (ACL), Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) or Log for the Old Man (Log4OM). Here is my reply card that I emailed to Terry, K4TMR. All I did was enter the call, select the QSO and press the "Send email" button. Fast and Simple… right?



QSL card from N2SO to K4TMR prepared using QSOCardCreator.

I hope this has been enough to get you started with email QSLs. In the meantime, go work some DX!

- 73 Charles N2SO

Run Against Hunger 2025

The 45th Harry Chapin Memorial Run Against Hunger took place on Sunday October 19, 2025. This was the eleventh time that Race Organizers had asked PCARA to provide communications support after our first participation in October 2014.

The very first Run Against Hunger commemorated singer-songwriter — and hunger activist— **Harry Chapin** who was killed in a car accident on the Long Island Expressway in July 1981. A few months later, a group of concerned citizens in Croton-on-Hudson decided to create an annual race in his name to raise funds to fight hunger and provide food for children and adults in need.

10K route change

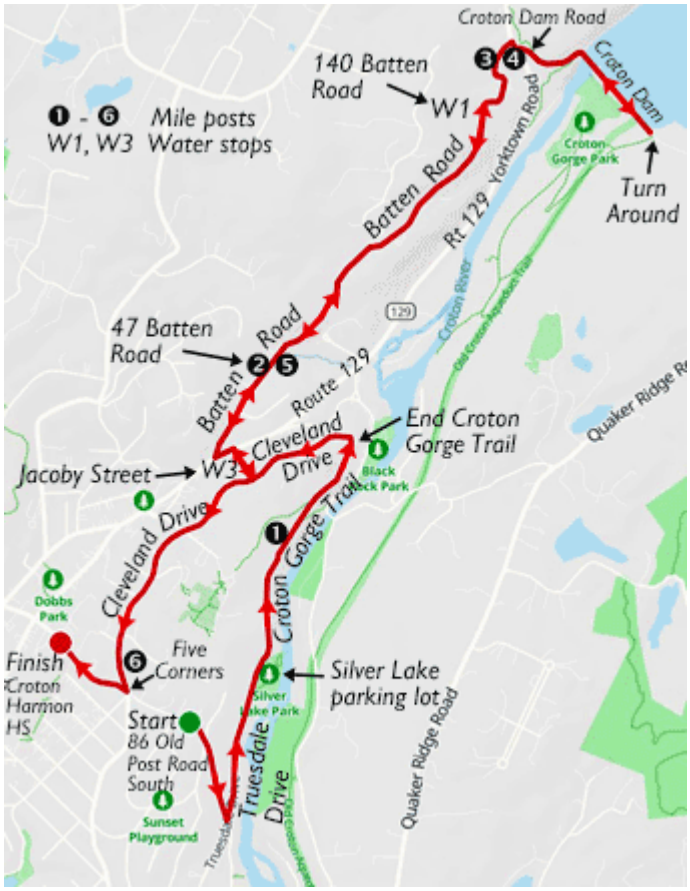
In November 2024, the 130-year old Quaker Bridge in Croton-on-Hudson was declared unsafe and closed by Westchester County. As a result, the 10K Race needed a new route. On September 15, David KD2EVI, Greg KB2CQE and WECA Public Service Director Kathleen KC2VCT were informed by Race Director Mike Grayeb that a revised route for the 10K Run had been decided.

The new route would start on Old Post Road South, turn into Truesdale Drive then follow the same path as the 5K Race and Walk along the Croton Gorge Trail to the Cleveland Drive cul-de-sac. Runners would turn down Jacoby Street to enter Grand Street/Rt 129, quickly turning into Batten Road, then crossing Route 129 to Croton Dam Road before crossing the Dam. After turning round at the end of the dam, runners would return by the same route down Batten Road, Rt 129, Jacoby Street and Cleveland Drive back to Croton-Harmon High School.

David KD2EVI attended a meeting at Cortlandt Town Hall on October 6 and relayed details of 10K Water Stops, UTV assignments and arrangements for the lead UTV and Trail Car that could not travel along the Croton Gorge. David and Kathleen KC2VCT provided an updated list of radio station assignments on October 18.

Cool start

The weather forecast for Sunday October 19 was sunny, rising to 71°F. The early morning temperature was only 50°F, with mist rolling off bodies of water as the Westchester County RACES Emergency Communications Vehicle arrived at Croton-Harmon High School and was set up on the driveway in front of the school



New route for the 10K Run starts on Old Post Road South then via Croton Gorge Trail up to the Croton Dam, returning down Batten Road and Cleveland Drive. *[Base map, Run Against Hunger.]*

building. WECA members at the school included Alan N2YGK, Kathleen KC2VCT and Steve KD2OFD. They were joined by David KD2EVI who came on-air as Net Control at 8:15 a.m. using the WECA 2 meter repeater.

Westchester County Emergency Communications vehicle parked outside Croton-Harmon High School. *[KD2EVI pic.]*

Your editor aimed for his assigned post at the Cleveland Drive cul-de-sac, at the north end of the Cro-

ton Gorge Trail. At 7:55 a.m. I was the first vehicle to arrive, but I was soon surrounded by young men with "Runners Ahead" signs who would be acting as guides to direct participants around the courses. (No cheerleaders on the Gorge this year.)

5K Run/Walk

First event of the day was the 5K Run/Walk, starting at 8:30 a.m. from Croton-Harmon High School, proceeding down Old Post Road South, via Truesdale Drive to Cedar Lane. The route turns north on Nordica Drive, onto Truesdale Drive to the start of Croton Gorge Trail at the Silver Lake Parking Lot. The water stop at this location normally has a radio station, but nobody was assigned this year. The route continues north on Croton Gorge Trail to the **Mile 2** marker at the trail end where I was waiting along with two EMS UTVs and the Croton EMS cyclist. From Mile 2, the race follows Cleveland Drive past Jacoby Street where Zee KE2FRX was already located, then back to the school.

Kathleen KC2VCT announced the start of the 5K race at 8:33 a.m. and first male runner, bib number #2656 went past the end of the Croton Gorge Trail at 8:45 a.m., with first female #2557 close behind. Travis Knaggs #2656 went on to finish first out of 252, completing the 5K course in 17 minutes 48 seconds.

First male runner #2656 approaches the 5K Mile 2 marker at the end of Croton Gorge Trail. [NM9J pics.]

There was one incident at the 5K Mile 2 location. Just ahead of the large rock that blocks the end of Croton Gorge Trail, a runner slipped on a small rock, fell over and cut his hand. He picked himself up and carried on running, even though Croton EMS personnel asked if he wanted help — they then warned colleagues further down the course to watch out for him. I used an orange safety cone to mark the problem rock, before any 10K runners arrived. There was a similar incident at this **same** location in 2024 where a 5K runner slipped, gashed his palm on a sharp rock then had to be treated by EMS personnel at Mile 2.

10K Run

The main event on Sunday October 19 was the 10K Run, beginning at 10:00 a.m. from 86 Old Post Road South, following the new route through Croton Gorge Trail then up Batten Road to the Croton Dam. After the turnaround at the end of the Dam, runners would retrace their route along Batten Road then back to the High School. From 9:00 a.m., radio stations were taking up positions along the new route before any roads were closed.

I stayed at the end of the Croton Gorge Trail and was joined at 9:11 a.m. by Peter W2PDK and Christie KE2GTA. Peter had been asked to locate near the 10K course's Mile 1 marker, roughly mid-way down the Croton Gorge Trail. He came equipped with chair, pole and vertical gain antenna for his handi-talkie. Kathleen announced the start of the Race at 10:04 a.m. and at 10:09 a.m. we heard Peter W2PDK report first male runner #160 and first female #143 passing Mile 1. Almost immediately, runner #160 with #154 close behind reached my end of the trail and this was the cue for the Verplanck FD UTV to take off, leading runners around the remainder of the course. First runners were re-

Peter W2PDK sets out for 10K Mile Post 1.

First 10K runners reach the end of Croton Gorge Trail.

ported passing Jacoby Street by Zee KE2FRX at 10:13 a.m. By 10:29 Steve KD2OFD reported lead runners passing his location at Route 129 and Croton Dam Road. Reports also came in from Greg KB2CQE at Water Stop 1, 140 Batten Road, from David K2WPM at the Croton Dam turn-around and from Jennifer KE2AGN and Elliot KE2GEQ on Mile Post 2/5 at 47 Batten Road. The lead runner was reported passing Jacoby Street at 10:33 a.m. with 7 minutes to the end.

Elliot KE2GEQ standing by at Mile Post 5. [KE2AGN pic.]

Mary Ellen KE2GNZ and Robert KE2GOF were near Mile Post 6 at Alexander Lane and were able to report the lead male #154 and female #143 runners approaching the 10K finish line at Croton-Harmon High School. The 10K winner was Sean Gardiner #154 in 34 minutes 13 seconds, (closely followed by Dennis Arnold #160). First female runner was Jennifer Campoverde #143 in 39:09.

10K runners #160 and #154 pass Mile Post 2 / 5. [KE2AGN pic.]

10K runners Sean Gardiner #154 and Jennifer Campoverde #143 pictured at the 6 mile point by Mary Ellen. [KE2GNZ pics.]

Two PCARA members took part in the 10K Run. Scott KE2CNS (bib #178) was spotted at Mile Post 2/5 by Jennifer and Elliot. He finished 106th out of 236 in time 57:22 and was 6th in his age group. Masa JR1AQN (bib #5) was cheered on by your editor at the Croton Gorge Trail. David K2WPM also saw Masa on the Croton Dam. Masa finished the event 127th out of 236 participants in time 1:00:53, placed 4th in his age group. Well done to both!


10K runner Masa JR1AQN, bib number 5, reaches the end of the Croton Gorge Trail.

Trail Car

The last 10K runners passed the end of the Croton Gorge Trail at 10:19 a.m. This was the cue for the white Subaru Trail Car to leave, following behind the last 10K participants with a "Runners Ahead" sign taped to the tailgate. Accompanying the Trail Car driver was Larry W2UL with 2 meter transceiver and APRS transmitter WB2ZII-5 in the vehicle to indicate precise location.

With the 10K runners all passed, Peter W2PDK rejoined Christie KE2GTA at the end of the Croton Gorge Trail and we secured the stations. Leaving enough time for runners to clear Route 129, I drove down to Jacoby Street where Zee KE2FRX was still posted, then walked past the Jacoby Street Water Stop to join Grand Street/Route 129 then on to Batten Road, where Police and EMS personnel were busy keeping Grand Street closed to traffic. I saw the Trail Car approaching down Batten Road behind a single, slow runner. The Trail Car completed the turn onto Rt 129 and into Jacoby Street for the home stretch.

Trail Car with Larry W2UL follows last runner from Batten Road to Jacoby Street.

One Mile Fun Run

The final event of the day was the One Mile Fun Run which begins on Cleveland Drive, south of Veterans Corners then follows Cleveland Drive to Gerstein Street and the turn-around at CET (Carrie E. Tompkins) Elementary School. Official start time was 11:45 a.m. and there was an announcement from Kathleen that the Fun Run had started at 11:47 a.m. First runners reached Gerstein Street at 11:50 a.m. then continued to the school where Mike KD2ARZ and Zee KE2FRX were observing the turn-around. At noon, Net Control declared the operation complete and closed down the station at Croton-Harmon High School.

Fun Run participants turn around outside Carrie E Tompkins (CET) Elementary School in Croton-on-Hudson.

Final comments

Despite the complication of a brand-new route for the 10K Run, the 45th Harry Chapin Memorial Run Against Hunger went reasonably smoothly. The WECA 2 meter repeater provided excellent coverage around all three courses. My auxiliary mobile station was pressed into service again, with an Icom IC-207H mobile transceiver fed from a 12 Ah Bioenno $LiFePO_4$ battery and Diamond NR770 mobile antenna.

I asked PCARA members to send their thoughts and pictures for this report. From Mile Post 2 and 5, on Batten Road **Jennifer KE2AGN** wrote:

"As Elliot KE2GEQ and I were clapping for the runners, we were thanked many times for volunteering. I offered to take someone's empty cup he was running with. He made me laugh. He said 'no thank you'. He was holding onto it because it was his **Wilson**, referring to the movie *Castaway*. There weren't any obstacles noted. Everything was good at our stop."

From his post at the turnaround on the southeast end of Croton Dam, **David K2WPM** reported:

"I had two separate runners inquire about Porta Potties on the route. Maybe put one up at the dam. [I heard a similar comment at Croton Gorge Trail -*Ed.]*. Also, I understood the dam would be closed during the actual race. However, a group of about a dozen people were walking across the dam — with full knowledge the race was going to start soon. They got across easily, but then came back and hung out in the middle, potentially obstructing runners. Maybe issue some clear rules about that area — which gets quite congested at points. I propose: the dam is closed from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m. from both ends. Any visitors from 9:00 a.m. on would be alerted to the rule and the police officer at the dam could be asked to enforce it. Otherwise, I felt it went very smoothly."

David K2WPM's station at the southeast end of Croton Dam with Baofeng HT, Yaesu FTM-3200D 2 meter transceiver, $LiFePO_4$ battery, solar back up and VHF-UHF antenna on Pyle tripod. "Ready for anything!" [K2WPM pic.]

Kathleen KC2VCT sent the following remarks to WECA and PCARA participants on October 19.

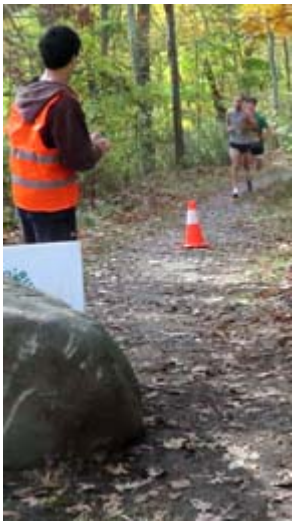
"Today, the Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger went off without a hitch. The communications were clear and clean. We had no injuries or problems to report, you can't ask for a safer event. Alan N2YGK was the lucky fellow to get to drive the RACES vehicle today. While at the event, he even repaired some pieces of equipment. What would we do without that skill? We appreciate the extra time the drivers extend in their travel time."

"Working with PCARA is always fun and a great opportunity to become familiar with each other. You all did a great job keeping the runners safe. From the start, as Net Control, David KD2EVI kept us all on the same page. Larrie W2UL got to enjoy a chauffeured tour of the event as the Trail Car, and we were all anxiously waiting to hear him pass the next stop. From the End of the Trail to the Valley in the Gorge, to the Croton Elementary School, communications were smooth through the entire event."

Your editor's own comments would mention the problem rock at the end of the Croton Gorge Trail

which needs to be permanently marked so runners can avoid falling over it.

There is only a short distance between the 10K Run's 1-mile marker where Peter W2PDK was located and the end of the Croton Gorge Trail. As the first 10K runners approached, this left little time to warn the Verplanck FD UTV waiting to lead runners around the remainder of the 10K course.



Problem rock marked with an orange safety cone.

The situation at Route 129 at the end of the 10K Run is also worth mentioning. When I walked down Jacoby Street to Grand St/Route 129 and on to Batten Road, I passed several police and EMS vehicles who were keeping Route 129 closed to traffic. They wanted to know where the last runner was, so I showed them my phone with web site: https://aprs.fi and location of APRS station WB2ZII-5, the Trail Car on Batten Road. At that point, the Police decided to reopen Route 129. This transfer of information might be a reason to locate a future Jacoby Street radio station at the Grand Street end, rather than at Jacoby and Cleveland Drive.

Grand Street/Route 129 was closed to traffic between Batten Road and Jacoby Street.

I would give a thank you to Peter W2PDK and Christie KE2GTA plus Croton EMS for keeping me company at the Croton Gorge Trail. And thanks again to the WECA 2 meter repeater for its excellent coverage.

- Malcolm, NM9J

Holiday Dinner

PCARA's 2025 Holiday Dinner is being organized in a different location from last year. The new venue is "Table 9". The event begins at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday December 7, 2025.

PCARA's last visit to Table 9 was in December 2012. The restaurant's mail address is 92 Roa Hook Road in Cortlandt Manor, NY. The two-year reconstruction project to raise Annsville Circle roundabout is still underway, so access from Roa Hook Road is probably blocked. Watch for signage to reach the restaurant parking lot from Albany Post Road / US Route 9.

Location of Table 9 Restaurant. *[Base map: OpenStreetMap.]*

The dinner menu is as follows:

Appetizers
Fried Mozzarella Wedges, Santa Fe Egg Rolls

Main Course (choose one)
Cranberry Pecan Salad
10 oz New York Strip Steak
Simple Salmon
Penne Alla Vodka
Parmesan Crusted Chicken

Dessert
Chocolate cake

Soda, Coffee, Tea are included.

Cost will be approximately $60.00 per head, including service but not including alcoholic drinks. Our Treasurer suggests bringing **cash** to the event. All are welcome and family participation is encouraged. Please let David KD2EVI (joanndavidss88'at'verizon.net) know if you will be attending, with your headcount.

Op-Ed - How many friends did you make?

Jay Kolinsky, NE2Q

After 4 years of inactivity I recently returned to HF operation with refurbished antennas. I was surprised to hear a dramatic increase in contest types of exchanges during times when there is no contest. Understandably, some hams have just enough grasp of a foreign language to make a short contact. On the other hand, for hams with a good grasp of English, I don't see the point of making 15-30 second contacts for hours on end as if one is actually in a contest.

I hear numerous American operators calling CQ and when answered by other Americans or English speaking DX stations, their contact lasts a few seconds. It consists of a signal report, possibly their name and then a quick return to calling CQ. I really don't get it. Interestingly, some of these hams are on the A-l Operator Club roster (https://www.arrl.org/a-1-op). What is the point of these rapid fire contacts? Does it help inflate one's ego when making hundreds of contacts per hour? Possibly hams operating this way feel extremely important with all those stations calling them. I've actually heard some operators continuously announce that a big pileup is waiting to speak with them. On multiple occasions I've heard callers ask a simple question like, what is your antenna or what city are you in, only to be answered with, "look it up on my QRZ.com page — *next*."

Is this really a test of one's station? That's doubtful. If you can easily reach one fellow running a low dipole in Europe does it prove your station is any better if you reach 100 stations in Europe in an hour? When propagation is decent almost anyone can contact anywhere.

Some proponents of the "micro-short" contact claim they want to give everyone a chance at working them. If these fellows aren't operating from a very rare DX country, many of the stations calling would appreciate a nice friendly two-way chat. I've had many domestic and DX stations thank me for the extended duration contact and usually mention how they abhor those 59 — goodbye types.

Rapid fire contacts prove nothing but one's stamina of sitting in a chair and talking. Operating this way is like going to a party with 100 guests, walking over to each one of them and saying "Hi, I'm Bob. Goodbye." Does that make any sense?

Face Time Turns to Display Time

The Internet and computers seem to have reduced interpersonal relationships. Many people in their 20s and 30s are now uncomfortable with face to face relationships and avoid them whenever possible. Maybe this attitude has carried over to the ham bands by many who never learned how to have a pleasant casual conversation.

On the other hand, contesting is indeed different. Brief contacts are desired but have you noticed everyone is 5×9? When making 1000s of contest exchanges with all being 5×9 what is the point of even mentioning a signal report? Seems rather superfluous doesn't it? They can certainly up their contact rate if that completely meaningless signal report was eliminated.

With over 53 years of contacts I've made many lifelong friends all over the world. I'm certain one of the reasons for making these friends is because I take the time to actually find out a little about the person I'm talking to. The March 2011 issue of *QST* had an article by Steve Ford, WB8IMY, called "The Art of Conversation." It explained how to make contacts that are more interesting and fun. A wonderful article, but it's pretty sad that some of us who have been hams for years have to read a magazine article about how to have a real conversation. If you are an introvert, have trouble making real friends and prefer to stay that way, rapid fire 10 second contacts will always be your mode of choice. If you want to make friends both locally and all around the globe — start communicating! You may be pleasantly surprised at how much fun a 5 minute or longer contact can be.

For years I've had fellow hams tell me how many hundreds of contacts they've made over a few hours. The larger the number, the more proud of their "accomplishment" they seem. I never had a reply for these types of operators until recently. Now I simply ask, "How many friends did you make?"

Jay Kolinsky, NE2Q, an ARRL® member, was first licensed in June 1958 as WN2BLX. After 3 months he upgraded to General and became WA2BLX. In 1984 he changed his call to NE2Q. He currently holds an Extra class license and operates CW and SSB on 160-2 meters.

Jay founded Kolin Engineering Company in 1960. He started making noise limiters for shortwave receivers and CB units. In 1969 he invented the electronic sirens used in most burglar and fire alarm systems and marketed under Kolin Industries, Inc. Jay developed the first solid-state wireless alarm system around 1971. He is now involved with the worldwide distribution of the 2Q-lite line of very high quality lightweight commercial-boom headsets (https://www.2qlite.com/).

Jay enjoys meeting people for interesting conversations. He has made many friends through ham radio and visited with many in all parts of the world. Jay can be reached at Box 300. Pound Ridge, NY 10576, ne2q'at'arrl.net.

Reprinted with permission *QST* October 2012, page 90, author Jay Kolinsky, NE2Q

Do you need another radio?

How many radios do you have within reach at the moment? Only one? I think you need another — here's why.

Starting out with separates

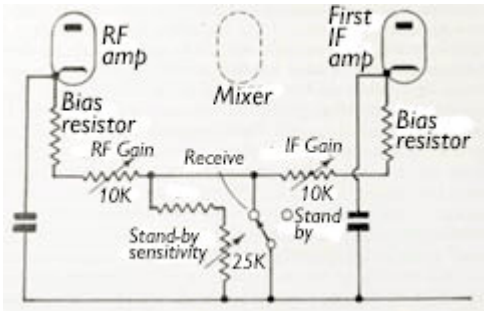
When I was first licensed in the U.K., most radio amateurs were operating with a separate **receiver** and **transmitter**. Only a few stations could afford a modern HF **transceiver** such as the KW-2000A (£235) or the Swan 350 (£250). Cost was the main factor — it might take 10-to-11 weeks' wages to pay for one of those expensive rigs. For comparison, 10-to-11 weeks of average wages today might buy you **ten** FT-991As or IC-7300s!

KW Electronics' separates — KW Vespa transmitter and KW-201 HF receiver. [1966 ads.]

Back then, stations with separate components would probably have an ex-military HF receiver alongside a home-built transmitter. Twenty-year old World War II-surplus receivers were good value for money and a home-built transmitter could be assembled from surplus components at low cost. If you could afford a higher price, separate transmitters and receivers were available from commercial manufacturers such as KW, Yaesu, Hallicrafters and Drake.

World War II R1155 HF receiver [in an Avro Lancaster Bomber, Imperial War Museum, London].

Separate transmitter/receiver stations had their problems. The operator had to "net" the transmitter's VFO to the incoming receive frequency and had to change the antenna connection back and forth between receive and transmit. Unless a relay was provided, there was usually no break-in or press-to-talk facility. But separates had one big advantage — the operator could **monitor** the outgoing transmission in the main receiver. You would still need to reduce receiver gain during transmit — one way was to introduce a variable cathode bias resistor in the cathode circuit of the receiver RF amplifier and IF amplifier. This allowed adjustment of gain in the standby position to provide a suitable level for monitoring.



*Vacuum tube receiver **stand-by** switch reduces gain by applying extra bias to the RF amplifier and IF amplifier stages. [RSGB]*

Listening to the outgoing signal in a separate receiver provides side-tone for Morse code transmissions — and allows a check for undesirable chirp or drift. On AM and SSB phone, monitoring can reveal signal distortion, perhaps from AM over-modulation, inadvertent frequency modulation — and "flat-topping" in an SSB transmission.

Transceivers take over

In 1957 Collins Radio introduced the KWM-1 model. This was a pioneering **SSB transceiver**, with transmitter and receiver sharing common circuitry inside a single, compact case, small enough for mobile use with a 12V DC solid-state power supply. The double-conversion design made the transmit frequency automatically track the receive frequency, with a single VFO knob providing linear coverage on ten 100 kHz band segments in the range 14.0 – 30.0 MHz. Single sideband selectivity was determined by a 455 kHz mechanical filter. VOX, break-in and CW side-tone were all included. Power output was 100W PEP from a pair of 6146 vacuum tubes.

Collins Radio's pioneering KWM-1 transceiver from 1957 covered three HF bands (14 - 30 MHz) with 100 watts PEP out.

Collins Radio 12 volt solid state power supply for the KWM-1 transceiver. [BARA Hamfest 2025.]

Sharing of RF circuitry, IF circuitry, crystals, mechanical filter, power supply and case produced a cost saving compared with a separate transmitter and receiver of similar specification. Over the next 20 years, other manufacturers followed Collins' lead, phasing out their separate designs in favor of space-saving and cost-saving transceivers.

There was a similar trend on the amateur VHF and UHF bands. When I started out, a typical amateur station would have a crystal-controlled receive converter for 4 meters, 2 meters or 430 MHz connected to a military surplus HF receiver for reception — and a separate home-built, crystal-controlled AM/CW transmitter with high level modulator. As FM operation became popular in the 1970s, converted radiotelephones and small, synthesized solid-state transceivers from the Far East took over, especially for mobile use.

Where are we now?

You might roam far and wide today before you find an amateur radio station with separate HF transmitter and receiver. One local exception is Bob N2CBH — you can read about his "Restoration of a Classic" — a Drake T-4XC transmitter and R-4C receiver — in *PCARA Update* for October 2020, pp 15-17.

Drake R-4C separate receiver (1973-79) as seen at BARA Hamfest, October 2025.

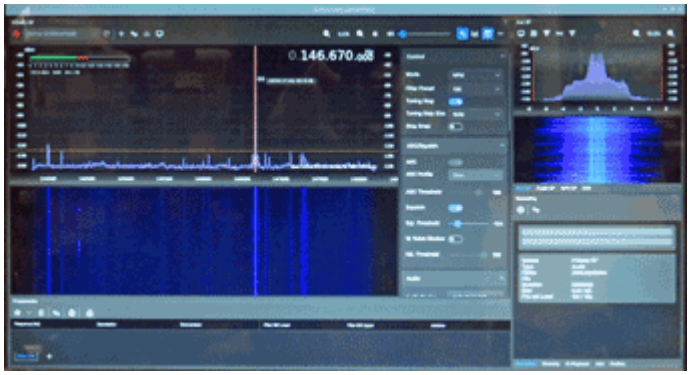
Meanwhile, the rest of us continue to enjoy the benefits of a modern HF transceiver… compact size, built-in antenna tuner; fully synthesized VFO; perhaps even a continuous waterfall display of the frequency spectrum. But one thing you cannot do with a transceiver is directly **monitor** the outgoing frequency. Some transceivers (such as the Icom IC-7410 and Yaesu FT-991A) do have a built-in "**monitor**" function but this only listens to the transmitter's **IF** signal in order to assess voice characteristics while adjusting bandwidth, equalizer and speech processor settings. What this function does **not** do is monitor the full power emission on the transmit frequency. For that, you need a second radio.

Add a receiver

The least expensive approach to "You need another radio" is addition of a low-cost receiver. Nowadays, this could be a **software-defined radio** (SDR) such as the SDRplay RSP1B — around $133.00. Connect to the USB port of a Windows, Mac or Linux (Raspberry Pi) computer, load the free SDRConnect™ software, add a suitable antenna and you have a receiver covering the frequency range of 1.0 kHz to 2000 MHz — from ELF to UHF in a 3" × 4" × 1.2" box.

SDRplay RSP1B SDR receiver

Not only do you have a well-shielded multiband receiver capable of AM, FM, SSB and CW but you also have a wide spectrum display covering several megahertz, with a narrow auxiliary display showing the RF or AF spectrum of a single channel.



Screen shot of SDRConnect software displaying two meter band during the Old Goats Net. Auxiliary display top right shows spectrum of signal on 146.670 MHz.

One disadvantage of an SDR — there could be a short delay in the received audio compared with a conventional analog receiver. This may be a problem when monitoring your *own* transmit audio, as the delay could cause you to stumble over your own words. Best to make adjustments on a dummy load.

Another way to add a receiver might be to purchase a dedicated communications receiver. Unfortunately, current offerings such as the Icom IC-R8600 are extremely expensive. Another possibility is a previous-generation receiver from a hamfest or eBay — examples include the Icom IC-R75, IC-R7000 or Yaesu FRG-9600. But I'd suggest that vintage receivers like these could be poor value-for-money compared with a transceiver.

Add a second transceiver

There is a lot to be said for adding a second transceiver, preferably a recent model. It does not need to be "top-of-the line". Think of it as your standby radio in case the main transceiver has a problem, or as your "go-box" radio, for field operation. It could be an HF/6 meter model or a multiband HF/VHF/UHF transceiver.

Front-end protection

If you have a second transceiver or receiver in the radio room, then you will need a way to connect your antenna to either radio without fear of damaging the input stage while the other set is transmitting. One way to do this is with a rugged antenna


Alpha Delta coax. switch.

switch such as the Alpha Delta models. See "Antenna switch choices", *PCARA Update*, September 2024, pp 10-12.

If you have an SDR receiver for monitoring the frequency spectrum of the band in use on the main transceiver, there are SDR antenna switches available such as the N2EME models (https://sdrswitch.com/) or similar imports from Asia. They allow simultaneous listening on both radios, while protecting the SDR receiver input whenever the main transceiver is transmitting. (Note: MFJ-1708 models are no longer manufactured.)

Another approach is the use of **two** antennas, one for the main transceiver and another for the monitor receiver or transceiver. For example, you might have an HF trap antenna for 10/15/20 meters and an end-fed long wire for 40 and 80 meters. Unfortunately, there is insufficient space in a suburban yard for much isolation between these two antennas. Several volts of RF energy could be induced into the second antenna while transmitting on the first. One solution is a device such as DX Engineering's DXE-RG5000HD Receiver Guard, which will protect against 10 watts of RF power arriving at the receiver.

DX Engineering Receiver Guard.

On the VHF/UHF bands, you may be able to ensure sufficient isolation between multiple antennas by spacing them far apart. For vertically-polarized antennas, you can take advantage of polar diagrams optimized to aim RF at the horizon, by locating a second antenna directly below the first one.

Suggested strategies

Here a few problems that might be solved with a second transceiver or receiver.

Monitor transmissions: Are your transceiver settings optimal for microphone gain, equalizer and bandwidth? Transmit on the main transceiver into a dummy load while monitoring the transmit frequency on your second (SDR) receiver or second transceiver. Keep the receiver audio level low to avoid feedback, or wear headphones.

Check reception: Has the band gone quiet? Is there really no activity? You can quickly check by switching to your second transceiver and tuning around.

Split frequency: Is there a DX station working split-frequency that your transceiver cannot cope with? Use your SDR or second transceiver to monitor the DX station, with your primary transceiver fixed on your own transmit frequency. This allows simultaneous reception of both the transmit and receive frequencies but does requires front-end protection for the receiver.

SO2R Contesting: If you are a contester, then two transceivers with two antennas will allow 'Single Operator Two Radio' (SO2R) operation. Dave K8CC defines this mode as "a single operator using a second receiver to listen and search for new stations to work while his first radio is transmitting." (See: https://www.madriverradioclub.org/index.php/2016/04/06/so2r-what-it-is-and-how-to-get-started/). You might be calling CQ automatically on 20 meters while searching around 40 meters for the next station to work. Only one transmission at a time is allowed. (And one receiver at a time is quite enough for me!)

Transceiver off-frequency: Does your master oscillator require adjustment? Use your second radio to monitor the master oscillator in the primary transceiver. This might have a crystal-controlled oscillator on 10.000 MHz or 20.000 MHz. You may be able to observe beats with the standard frequency transmissions from WWV.

Digital modes test: Are you having problems setting up a computer for digital modes such as FT8 or RTTY? Modern transceivers with a built-in USB sound card make the procedure a little easier, but it is still tricky to get all the settings working correctly. Adding contest software to automate logging of successful contacts can be even more challenging.

If you have another transceiver and computer already set up for digital modes, you can carry out a test before going on-air. Simply connect both transceivers to their own dummy loads, then see if you can work yourself. Hint: add a distinguishing suffix to one of the callsigns so you don't get confused who is who.

VHF/UHF bandwidth: Is your VHF/UHF FM transceiver on a narrow bandwidth setting? This might be acceptable in Europe with 12.5 kHz channel spacing, but in the USA, you mostly need a wider FM deviation of ± 4.5 – 5.0 kHz. You can check your bandwidth on an SDR, comparing your own audio with other stations.

VHF/UHF repeater monitoring: If you have two transceivers connected to widely-spaced antennas, you can monitor your signal as it comes back from the repeater output while you are transmitting on the input. Turn down the volume or wear headphones then listen to the repeater ID and hear when your own lengthy transmissions time-out the repeater. Just program both transceivers with the usual repeater parameters. Program an additional channel for listening on the repeater input frequency.

- NM9J

Fall Foxhunt 2025

PCARA's Fall Foxhunt took place on Saturday October 25. Lou KD2ITZ had scheduled the event with FDR State Park and advised that other activities would be taking place at the same time. This included the "FDR Ghoul's Fest" tournament near Parking Lots 1 and 4. Hunters entering the park from 9:45 a.m. encountered another event — the Katonah ASP Monster Dash 5K, with runners in Halloween costumes.

At the north end of the Pool Parking Lot, the hunters listed below gathered in the Saturday morning sunshine. Several passers-by asked about our activity. (The last two teams arrived after the 10:00 a.m. start time.)

Lou KD2ITZ
Jim KD2WSU
David KD2EVI
Malcolm NM9J
—
Jasper NK2Y
Rob KE2GOF & Mary Ellen KE2GNZ

David KD2EVI (left) and Lou KD2ITZ prepare their directional antennas in the Pool parking lot.

Steve KD2OFD had been winner of the Fall 2024 Foxhunt, but was busy in October 2025 and unable to operate the hidden transmitter. Our 2024 runner-up **Rob AD2CT** agreed to supervise hiding and discovery of the fox in 2025.

Fox on the air

At precisely 10:00 a.m., the fox transmitter appeared on 146.565 MHz FM simplex. On your editor's Icom HT and tape-measure Yagi antenna, the signal was strong and coming from the south-south-west.

I set out toward the south end of the Pool parking lot, while noting that other hunters had taken a westerly exit. Leaving the Parking Lot, I followed the path past the Pool Concession building and around the south end of the pool. At this point the fox harmonic signal on 439.695 MHz (3 × 146.565) became strong enough to copy through the passive attenuator.

I followed the path around to the east side of Mohansic Lake, but could not see any sign of Rob AD2CT or his co-conspirator Vinny. I changed over to my 440 MHz tape-measure Yagi and circled round a spot on the lake bank near a large manhole cover. There was the fox, low on the ground behind the cover, with his vertical antenna hidden by a few twigs. I spotted Rob AD2CT in an unfamiliar vehicle, parked a short distance away in the shadow of the Pool building.

Arrivals

I stayed with Rob and his decoy observer Vinny waiting for the other hunters. Next to arrive was Lou KD2ITZ accompanied by Jasper NK2Y and park visitor Spiros KE2ZT. They all walked straight past the fox, then Lou looped back with his UHF Yagi connected to the transceiver — he completely removed the antenna before discovering the fox.

L to R Jasper NK2Y, Lou KD2ITZ and Spiros KE2ZT approach the fox.

Lou was followed by Jasper NK2Y, who was using a ZS6YI dual-band antenna and KC9ON offset attenuator.

There was a pause before any further hunters appeared so Rob gave a couple of clues on 146.565 MHz — "Danger! sodium hypochlorite", followed by "Danger! chlorine" — warning signs on the side of the pool building.

At 11:00 a.m. Jared KD2HXZ appeared walking his dog 'Zeke', but not taking part in the hunt. He was followed by David KD2EVI, using an ELK dual-band log-periodic antenna. Jim KD2WSU was very close behind,

using a tape-measure Yagi. They had both been sidetracked a couple of hundred yards west, on the side of the lake.

Rob AD2CT points out location of the Fox transmitter to David KD2EVI (left).

Rob turned the Fox transmitter off — then a few minutes later we were joined by Mary Ellen KE2GNZ with dog 'Ghost' and Rob KE2GOF asking where the transmission had gone. Rob was using a coaxial loop antenna on his HT. This gave peaks and nulls but no indication of forward direction. They had arrived late, so were not on the list of starting hunters. The loop antenna had initially sent them in the wrong direction, away from the fox.

Here are the arrival times as observed and recorded by Rob AD2CT.

Malcolm NM9J	10:18 a.m.
Lou KD2ITZ	10:46 a.m.
Jasper NK2Y	10:49 a.m.
David KD2EVI	11:05 a.m.
Jim KD2WSU	11:06 a.m.
Rob KE2GOF & Mary Ellen KE2GNZ	11:15 a.m.

Experiences were exchanged in the warm sunshine then competitors walked back to the Pool Parking Lot, where Lou joined Jasper NK2Y for a little POTA activity (see below).

Thanks to everyone who joined in the hunt and to Rob AD2CT plus Vinny for providing a nearby but challenging fox location. I'll look forward to supervising transmitter placement during the next PCARA Foxhunt.

- NM9J

Post Foxhunt POTA activation – NK2Y

After the FDR foxhunt on Saturday October 25, Lou, KD2ITZ, and myself, NK2Y, activated Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park (US-2056) on 17 meter single sideband. The bands were congested due to a weekend contest, so we started off hunting other park stations and managed almost 10 "Park-to-Parks" before switching to running. Good signal reports were earned from States as far west as California and Washington. The set up was mobile stationary, an IC-7300 at 90 Watts power to an Icom tuner. Antenna used was an Icom AH-2B mobile antenna mounted on the receiver hitch. Logging was handled with PoLo (Portable Logger) Ham2K (https://polo.ham2k.com/) and a Bluetooth keyboard.

Jasper NK2Y and Lou KD2ITZ enjoy POTA operation from FDR State Park on Saturday October 25. [NK2Y pic.]

Activating with two operators is an enjoyable way to make radio more social and I was grateful to spend some of the day getting on the air with a friend.

- 73, Jasper NK2Y

Lakeland Amateur Radio Club – NK2Y

On Thursday, October 23, ten students in the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club (KI2C) participated in the ARRL School Round-Up. This event is held twice yearly, once in October and again in February and gives school clubs an opportunity to contact other school clubs or amateurs. This was the first entry for KI2C and five QSO's were logged. Notably, W9YB (Purdue University) and KY4DH (Dixie High School) in Kentucky. Other home operators were helpful, supportive and kind during the event which students operated on 20 meter sideband.

KI2C Participation would not have been possible without PCARA support including the generous donation of a Yaesu FT-891 by Ray W2CH and Marylyn KC2NKU.

The club members are students at Lakeland High School in Shrub Oak and are excitedly looking forward to the next School Round-Up in February.

- 73, Jasper, NK2Y & KI2C Trustee

Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association

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

PCARA Information

PCARA is a **Non-Profit Community Service Organization**. PCARA meetings take place every month (apart from July/August break). See http://www.pcara.org for current details.

PCARA Repeaters

W2NYW: 146.67 MHz -0.6, PL 156.7Hz
KB2CQE: 449.925MHz -5.0, PL 179.9Hz
N2CBH: 448.725MHz -5.0, PL 107.2Hz

PCARA Calendar

Sat Nov 1: PCARA Monthly Meeting, 10:15 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley, NY. Election of three Board Members.
Sat Nov 1: PCARA V.E. Test Session, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, see below.
Sat Nov 15: PCARA Breakfast, 9:00 a.m., Uncle Giuseppe's, 380 Downing Dr, Yorktown Heights, NY.
Sun Dec 7: PCARA Holiday Dinner, Table 9 Restaurant, Albany Post Road, Cortlandt Manor.

Hamfests

Check with organizers before leaving.
Sat Nov 9: LIMARC Hamfest, Levitown Hall, 201 Levittown Parkway, Hicksville, NY. 8:45 a.m.
Sat Nov 22: New Jersey Antique RC Hamfest, Parsippany PAL, 33 Baldwin Road, Parsippany, NJ.
Fri Nov 28: Fair Lawn ARC Auction, Fair Lawn Senior Center, 11-05 Gardiner Rd, Fair Lawn NJ. 5:30/6:30 pm.

VE Test Sessions

Check with the contact before leaving.
Nov 1: PCARA, 11:30 a.m., Putnam Valley Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Rd., Putnam Valley NY. Must contact VE Rob AD2CT using: ad2ct'at'arrl.net.
Nov 13: WECA, Westch Cnty Fire Trg Center, 4 Dana Rd Valhalla NY. 7:00 p.m. Contact VE, rcasino48'at'gmail.com.
Nov 21: Orange County ARC, Munger Cottage, 40 Munger Dr., Cornwall NY. 6:00 p.m. Contact VE: joed99'at'verizon.

Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc.
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