



PCARA Update



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This year, next year

Another year is just about in the book, and we're ready to move into a brand new one! Looking back at 2014, there were a few new PCARA activities that took place. We had an Amateur Radio presentation to Cub Scout Pack 118 at Furnace Woods School in Cortlandt Manor in January, a delegation attended the ARRL Centennial Convention in July, and we provided communications support at the 34th Annual Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger in October. Let's keep up the pace for 2015!



PCARA's Holiday Dinner at Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant.

The 2014 PCARA Annual Holiday Dinner was a big



Bob N2CBH prepares for new repeater antenna.

success! This was the second year that we've gone to the Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant and had another excellent experience. The food and service were wonderful, as well as the company in which it was shared. I can safely say that a good time was had by all!

The new Super Stationmaster for the 449.925 MHz repeater has arrived and installation is awaiting a few more pieces of hardware as well as a temperate weekend on which to install it. Hopefully we can accomplish this during January. If you're interested in lending a helping hand, just let us know.

This brings us to the Annual PCARA Bring and Buy Auction at the January 2015 meeting. This is an opportunity for you to sort through your collection of treasures and choose those that you no longer need or use, and bring them with you to the January meeting. There you have a chance of sharing them with others who might find them more desirable than you do. You just may go home with a few new gems of your own.



Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on Sunday January 4, 2015 at 3:00 pm at Hudson Valley Hospital Center in Cortlandt Manor, NY. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

- 73 de Greg, KB2CQE

PCARA Officers

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Contents

This year, next year - KB2CQE	1
Adventures in DXing - N2KZ	2
Personal Emergency Comms - KB2VJP	4
Mapping the way	5
Exam news	9
President transceiver review - W2CH	9
Auction reminder	10

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. (No net on New Year's Day, January 1.)

Adventures in DXing

- N2KZ

Get Your Feet Wet

A long time ago, I operated exclusively on 80 meter CW on or around 3700 kHz. The challenge was simple: Make a contact, get the other operator's name and QTH and the rest was gravy. Fast CW operators intimidated me. Listen, wise guy, I can't possibly copy that fast! I always searched for someone who would take it s-l-o-w.

One night, while looking for a good rag chew QSO to practice my fist, I met another Karl. It was Karl Zuege, KB1DSB, from Bomoseen, Rutland County, Vermont just over 160 miles from my QTH. Karl's signal had a nice musical note and a very easy-to-read fist. Both of us held Technician Plus licenses. Two great things were about to happen.

One miracle happened early on. I copied the entire first message! It was only my 12th QSO and, for the first time, I got the name, location *and* the signal report! Wow! Karl and I managed to rag chew for almost an hour. Yes, the conversation sounded like two old friends who were hard-of-hearing, but we managed to cull the essence out of each sentence and keep the conversation going. Do you know what? It was great!

Karl and Karl, KB1DSB and KC2FPM, made a great team. Karl was the first ham I actually worked twice. We continued to find each other every once in a blue moon on 80 meters. I remember one Karl and Karl QSO that lasted over three hours! Operating CW just got easier and easier. Later that year, I upgraded to Extra and took the vanity callsign N2KZ. (It was much better than KC2FPM for CW use!) The next time I met Karl on the air, I had to re-introduce myself! Who the heck is Karl N2KZ?

Eventually, I migrated to other bands. I worked lots of DX commuting in my car on 10 meter CW. I built a QRP kit and introduced myself to 30 meter CW.



Oak Hills Research OHR-100A CW transceiver kit as constructed by Karl for the 30 meter band.

An Elmer at work lent me a 6 meter QRP rig and I combed that band for all it was worth. When I finally applied for my Worked All States award, (with CW endorsement, of course!) my rare Vermont

card had to be from Karl, KB1DSB! I had to thank him. He was the one who introduced me to FISTS.

Second great thing: Scroll ahead about 15 years. Karl, KB1DSB, suddenly found himself at the helm of the entire FISTS club. Good friends don't forget past favors. When Nancy, WZ8C, passed away, I sent Karl an offer of help. What can I do for you, old friend? A while later, Karl found me. He needed help with FISTS. After a long moment of thought, I signed on. My mission: Keep the CW tradition going by helping the beginners. It was hard to say 'no'!

New CW ops now don't have to look far for a big hello and welcome. On the third weekend of each month, dozens of FISTS members scan the airwaves for newcomer CW operators. The party goes on all day Sunday, January 18th from 0000 to 2359 UTC (7:00 pm Saturday to 7:00 pm Sunday Eastern time, 4:00 pm Saturday to 4:00 pm Sunday Pacific time) and everyone is welcome! More experienced operators get ready to meet the new generation! You have to start somewhere! Get your feet wet!

It is easy to get started. Even if you have never tried CW before, just get on the air. Send your CQ just as slow as you like and get ready to copy. We will reply just as slow as you send. We are glad you are here and we are patient. I have had QSOs where it took about twenty minutes just to exchange names and places. No problem! Let's do it!

As an added incentive, if you can contact five or more stations during a Get Your Feet Wet event day, your name will be entered into a pool. Wait until the end of the year and your name might be chosen as the recipient of a gift certificate to your favorite ham radio store. Just send me a short note with your station logs and experiences: feetwet 'at' fistsna.org. Give CW a try!

Tall? Not yet!

Let's do the math: My antenna trunk mount is 41 inches above the ground. My new Diamond NR22L single band 2 meter antenna is 97 inches long. Overall height? 138 inches or 11 feet 6 inches. Karl, are you crazy? Well, maybe, but it does provide 3 dB more gain compared to my current single 5/8 wavelength whip — the Diamond M285S.

Let's try to improve this seemingly insane rationale. The Diamond NR22L is only 20 inches longer than the 108 inch CB whips on



Diamond M285S 5/8 λ antenna



Diamond NR22L 2x 5/8 λ antenna

those big *spronging* springs I knew as a kid. 18 wheeler trailer trucks stand 13 feet 6 inches tall (give or take.) I'll be 2 feet below that! No doubt, I'll become very, very aware of bright yellow height clearance signs. Those low bridges will become memorized rapidly. Is it worth it?

My motivation is simple: commuting to and from work, I travel in the deep fringe area of the PCARA repeater and beyond. Attempts to check into our 2 meter repeater from exotic Connecticut locations like Danbury, Darien, Norwalk, Ridgefield and beyond are often futile. The terrain is pretty brutal and foreboding. My route's well-traveled roads all feature deep valleys surrounded on both sides by mini-mountains stacked with hundreds of feet of left-over glacial sludge and rock. I need all the help I can get!

An extra 3 dB of gain would also be nice to have when I troll the two locally popular simplex frequencies: 146.52 and 146.58 MHz. At these two watering holes, I regularly correspond with hams near the Throgs Neck Bridge, New Jersey, the north shore of Long Island and around Fairfield County in Connecticut. Who knows whom I might reach with the giraffe of all mobile antennas!

My formal review of performance was planned for this issue, but we will all have to wait awhile. Sad news is currently posted on the Diamond web site. "Dear loyal Diamond customers: We apologize for the amount of backorders and items being out of stock.

Unfortunately, the port where our shipments come in is on strike, and it is next to impossible to get our product. In this mess, we have 2 containers of product and one more container of product on a boat that is waiting to dock."

(<http://www.diamondantenna.net/>)

A little research revealed a complicated situation. A team of clerks, represented by The International Longshore and Warehouse Union, went on strike in September after working without a contract for an extended period of time. Additional port workers honored their picket lines bringing both the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports to a halt.

These support workers are also looking for a fair shake. The two companies that conduct business at the Long Beach Port, Pacer Cartage and Harbor Rail Transport, insist workers be hired as independent contractors instead of true employees. As employees, they would be eligible to organize under the Teamsters Union and also receive benefits such as health coverage. A lot is at stake here. Container ships idle and waiting off-shore to unload for days and weeks at a time is an expensive



Under normal conditions the Port of Long Beach, California handles over 6.7 million container units per year.

and frustrating situation. Hundreds of people out of work isn't too pleasant, either. The backup of hundreds of containers on the docks is not to be believed! Let's hope all the workers and port operators reach a compromise soon. Time will tell when my antenna will finally be unloaded and delivered for use on the N2KZ mobile. Be patient!

Straight Key Night

As 2014 comes to an end, a couple of reminders! ARRL's Straight Key Night begins at 7:00 pm New Year's Eve and continues



ARRL Straight Key Night is on December 31 - January 1.

until 7:00 pm New Year's Day (0000 - 2400 UTC 1/1/2015.) This event is not a contest but a gathering of CW operators manually sending only with straight keys, often using vintage equipment. Lots of beloved tube-type rigs will hit the

air. The code will sound slow and distinct. You'll not hear the CW bands sounding like this for an entire year, so tune in! You don't need to copy code to enjoy it. Just take a listen!

The PCARA weekly Old Goats Net will convene for the first time in 2015 on Thursday night, January 8th at 8:00 pm. Look for us on the PCARA two meter repeater on 146.67 MHz with a minus 600 kHz offset (transmit on 146.07 and use a 156.7 PL tone.) You'll hear news, reviews and the question and topic of the week. All licensed amateurs are encouraged to participate and everyone is invited to tune in! Make a New Year's resolution to join in!

Until next month, 73 es dit dit de N2KZ 'The Old Goat.'



Personal Emergency Communications -KB2VJP

This article is about a book that has some very good information that could be passed on to others. After reading *Personal Emergency Communication, Staying in Touch Post-Disaster: Technology, Gear & Planning* by Andrew Baze, AB8L, I thought that other people should know about it. Knowing about and plan-



ning for post-disaster communications could help people cope with a serious large-scale emergency situation.

As radio amateurs, we know and appreciate how to communicate in emergencies — but what about our other family members, friends and neighbors? This book discusses many different ways to gather information and communicate using radios to both receive and transmit.

Starting with a portable radio to receive information, the book goes on to show how other types of radio could be used to communicate with others. The pros and cons of each type of radio and their use are discussed and whether a license is required. Of course, it is mentioned that getting an amateur radio license is a very good option.

It is interesting to note that some EMCOMM people are starting to mention using hams at their home locations to provide disaster communications for the neighborhood. Using a simple VHF/UHF radio, they can tie the local area together and then provide longer range amateur radio contacts if required.

Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4 cover creating a personal emergency communications plan. A very important part of this plan is who needs it and creating a Calling Clock plan. A plan can be created using some listed questions and a Clock template — to reach someone more reliably and save precious power. Some examples are included, along with what gear can be used.

Chapters 5 & 6 cover listening strategies. Chapters 7 to 11 cover the available technologies to communicate. Chapters 12 to 14 cover amateur radio. Chapter 15 covers power.

The remaining chapters and appendix give additional information, recommendations, resources and examples. Additional info can be found at <http://www.EmergencyCommunicationsBlog.com>.

I think what is in this book is very important for all and recommend it. How would I communicate with my immediate family, relatives, friends and neighbors when there are no phones, no Internet and no power? Yes, hams can talk to hams but what about the rest?

Personal Emergency Communications Plan		Name _____
Plan A	Method	
	Who	
	When	
	Phone number/ Channel/Frequency	
	Notes	
Plan B	Method	
	Who	
	When	
	Phone number/ Channel/Frequency	
	Notes	
Plan C	Method	
	Who	
	When	
	Phone number/ Channel/Frequency	
	Notes	
Other		

Template for a Personal Emergency Communications Plan as suggested by AB8L.

- 73, Henry KB2VJP

[Footnote: Author Andrew Baze is a speaker and certified disaster recovery planner for a multi-billion dollar business in the Pacific Northwest. Regarding *Personal Emergency Communications*, AB8L comments: “I wrote this book for my friends and family, and for anyone who isn’t interested in radios at all, but who is interested in taking care of loved ones when the chips are down.”



Andrew Baze, AB8L

Andrew Baze has also authored two fictional works: “The Road Home” and its sequel “The Day After”. All three books are available



from the ARRL store (Order numbers: #0081, #3006, #0427).

Kindle editions of these books can be ordered from Amazon, along with the paperback versions. -Ed.]

Mapping the way

Voyages of discovery

One of the hazards of working for a multinational company was that your employer might ask you to move whenever necessary. As a result, items were boxed up by the moving company and unless needed immediately, some possessions might not be unpacked for weeks, months or even years.

After moving from the United Kingdom, one item I really missed was my **Wellingtons**, which had accom-



Wellington boots from the UK.

panied me through many a muddy field on contests and hamfests in Great Britain. In American English, Wellingtons are better known as **rubber boots** or **gumboots**.

The British name comes from the Duke of Wellington who asked his shoemaker to make some calf-length leather boots to protect his legs on the battlefield. Modern “Wellingtons” or “Wellies” are molded from rubber or PVC and are completely waterproof. Watch out for the vet James Herriot or

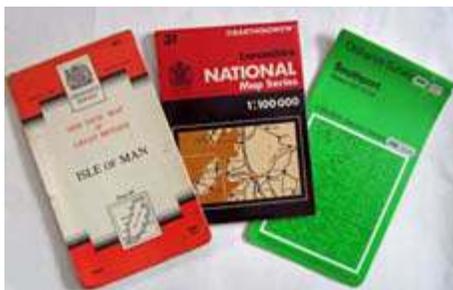
Paddington Bear wearing them on TV. Fortunately, my own Wellington boots eventually turned up behind the door of a little-used nightstand, where they had been stashed for safekeeping by the UK removal team.

Another item shipped from the UK went missing for much longer than my Wellington boots. Just a few months ago, as I was going through the contents of a moving box in the basement, I came across my old **UK map collection**.



These maps from Great Britain showed up after being stored for 28 years.

The cardboard file-box contained around fifty folded paper maps, dating back to the early 1960s. They brought back lots



Maps bring back memories.

of memories and started me thinking about the importance of maps — both ancient and modern — to our hobby of amateur radio.

Surveying the land

Official maps of the United Kingdom are produced by a government department called the **Ordnance Survey**. This organization has been triangulating the country and producing detailed maps of landscapes, towns and roads since the mid-eighteenth century — initially for military purposes.



Though I had been using Ordnance Survey maps on family trips for several years, my first formal introduction was in Grammar School (High School) where the ability to read OS Maps was a requirement of the “O-Level” Geography syllabus. I remember exam questions that provided a sample map in color and asked you to interpret symbols, grid and terrain.

As I became interested in amateur radio, with mobile operation and expeditions to high spots, I gathered a collection of Ordnance Survey “One Inch” maps that showed footpaths, field boundaries and terrain at 50 foot contour intervals. These maps, with their scale of one inch to the mile, were sufficient to find a high site that could be reached by vehicle — or that was within reasonable walking distance of a parking spot.



Part of the Ordnance Survey One-Inch map of the Liverpool area from 1966 showing Parbold Hill (394 ft). This hill was a high spot on the (then) B5239 road, on the route from Southport to the M6 motorway. This sample map shows 50 ft contour lines plus the O.S. symbols for roads, churches, railroad stations, a river and a canal.

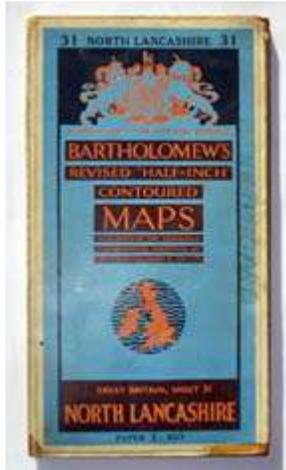
Some of the high sites used by Ainsdale Radio Club for VHF contesting were a bit further from the road than easy walking distance — I can remember carrying heavy equipment and lead-acid batteries up the hills of NW England to find a commanding view.

The ability to depict a three-dimensional world on a two-dimensional sheet of paper is one of the wonders of maps. Whether you are a radio amateur, fox-hunter or hiker, this is one property of maps that makes them invaluable to our hobbies.

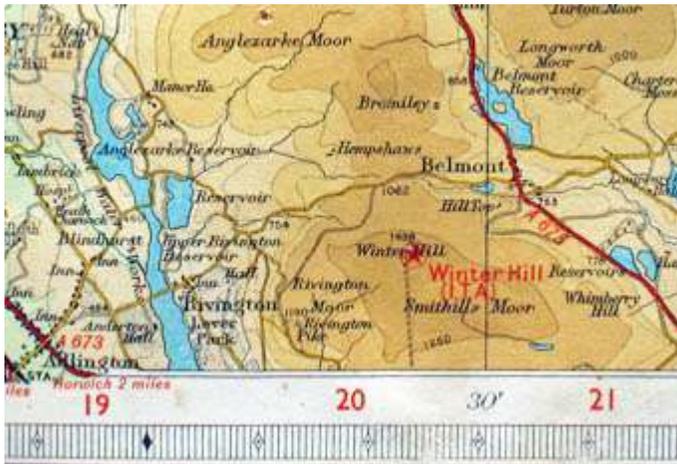
On a different scale

Ordnance Survey “One Inch” maps were fairly expensive and only covered a limited area. A grand total of 190 separate maps was needed to cover all of Great Britain, from the Shetland Isles in northeast Scotland down to Penzance at the tip of southwest England. I supplemented my limited collection of O.S. maps with several Bartholomew “Half-Inch” maps, at a scale of two miles to the inch.

Apart from covering a much larger area, the Bartholomew Half-Inch maps had two more useful features. Land of similar height between the contour lines was colored-in. And sites of radio and TV broadcast transmitters were marked with a red circled-star, along with the site name. Bartholomew maps kept their old-style lettering with a hand-engraved look, long after the Ordnance Survey had standardized its own typography on photo-typeset Times Roman and Gill Sans.



Bartholomew Half-Inch Contoured map of North Lancashire from 1961.



Part of Bartholomew's Half-Inch map of North Lancashire from 1961, showing Winter Hill (1498 feet), site of the (then) Independent Television Authority transmitter on channel 9. Note the color-coded contour heights.

Gone metric

In the mid 1970s there was a move by map-makers away from the “Imperial” units of miles, feet and inches toward the metric system. The Ordnance Survey magnified their 1:63360 “One-Inch” series maps to a new scale of 1:50,000 or approx. 1¼ inches to the mile. As a result, the number of maps needed to cover Great Britain increased from 190 to 204. As maps were redrawn to the new scale, lettering was changed to sans-serif. The typeface appears to be modified Univers,

with the addition of a curved tail to the lowercase l.



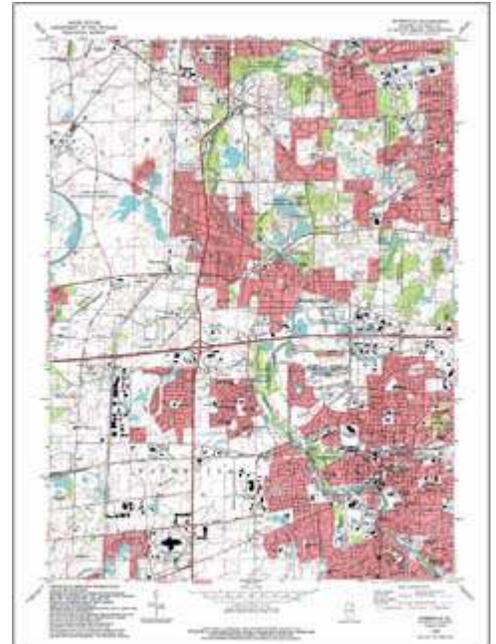
Post-metrication Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map, with new lettering in a modified Univers. Contour lines are at 10 meter intervals. Compare with the earlier map of Parbold Hill on the previous page.

John Bartholomew & Sons of Edinburgh also went metric, with their Half-Inch series being modified to a scale of 1:100,000 or 1.6 miles to the inch. Contour lines also went metric, with a spacing of 50 meters at low elevations and 100 meters up in the hills.

Stateside maps

Arriving in Illinois in the 1980s, I found the U.S. equivalent of a “One-Inch” Ordnance Survey map was the Topographic Map supplied by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The most popular size was the 1:24,000 quadrangle map, with a more detailed scale of roughly 0.38 mile to the inch. The term “quadrangle” or quad refers to the size of the map, which represents 7.5 × 7.5 minutes of latitude / longitude. The symbols used on these maps were not so different from Ordnance Survey maps, and they also used brown-colored contour lines to depict the terrain.



U.S. Geological Survey topographic map. This is the “Naperville” quad, showing the far-western suburbs of Chicago, IL.

However, in my part of Illinois, “the Prairie State”, there was not much opportunity to study contours as most of the place is pretty **flat**, from Chicago in the east all the way out to the Mississippi River in the west.

A result of this featureless topography is that coverage of VHF repeaters is quite outstanding. One of the radio clubs that I joined — Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society — had 147 MHz and 224 MHz repeaters located at two of the town’s water towers. The antennas were mounted on top of each tower, around 120 feet above ground. Nevertheless, radio coverage was excellent, reaching out to the 15 mile visual horizon in all directions.

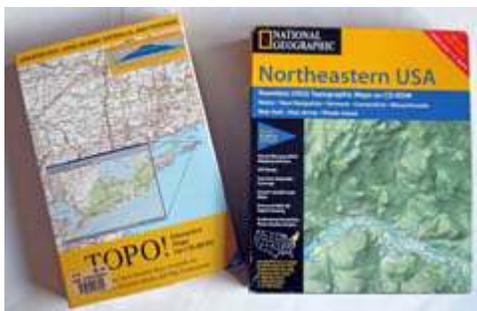


One of Bolingbrook’s tall water towers.

After the move to New York, I acquired USGS maps of the area and noted that the topography was much more interesting than Illinois. There were hills and mountains, rivers and streams, glaciated valleys... and all within a few miles of my new home. These maps were available on paper from local sports shops, book stores and hamfest vendors. But as time went on and maps became available in digitized formats, local sources of the paper maps have dried up.

Modern maps

I have “Topo!” maps on CD-ROM supplied by Wildflower Productions and National Geographic — they contain scanned versions of USGS quad maps for New York and the Northeastern USA. Unfortunately, National Geographic has discontinued these products and the software is no longer supported. Demand for CD-ROM products seems to have dwindled with the arrival of high-speed Internet and sites such as:



USGS topographic maps, previously available on CD-ROM.

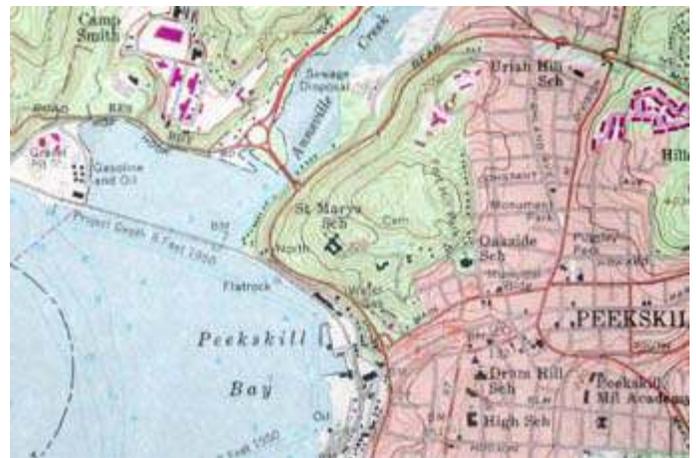
<http://www.mytopo.com/maps/> which provide online access to traditional USGS topographic maps for any location you desire.

These days, the latest U.S. Geological Survey maps are available online from the Geological Survey’s own

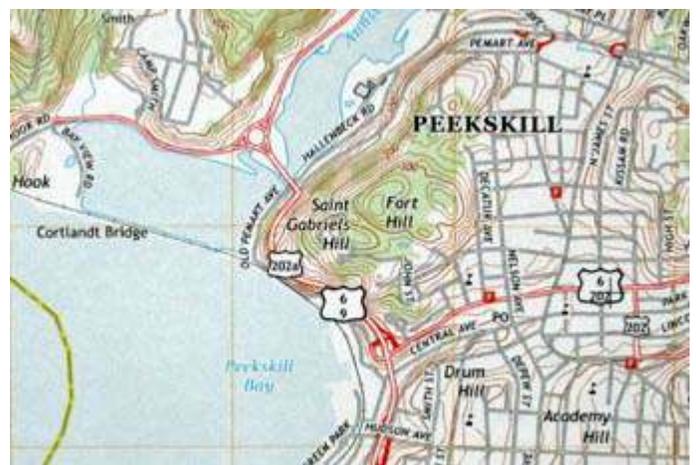
site: <http://www.usgs.gov/pubprod/maps.html>. You can zoom into your own area, select a particular quadrangle then download a (free) local map in PDF format. For example, the latest Peekskill quad dated 2013 has a download size of 20MB. You can print it out in large format from Adobe Reader using the “Poster” option.

At first glance, these new maps look clean and attractive — they show roads and contour lines and are much more up-to-date than the old-style 1:24,000 series paper maps. But side-by-side comparison of a new map with the old hand-drawn version reveals a large amount of *missing* information. That’s because the new series of maps, named “US Topo”, are produced by a largely automated process, based on digital data stored in various databases. Missing from the new maps are man-made features such as buildings, water tanks, parks, trails, pipelines and electricity lines.

The new “US Topo” maps make use of the digital typefaces Georgia and Trebuchet, commissioned by Microsoft. These choices are not ideal for packing a lot of information into a small space and they are undistinguished when compared with thousands of everyday



Detail from old-style USGS Peekskill quadrangle paper map, photorevised to 1981.



Detail from the digital USGS “US Topo” quadrangle for Peekskill, dated 2013. Note the lack of buildings and other features, plus the use of Georgia and Trebuchet typefaces.

documents that employ the same fonts.

The “US Topo” series is not the only example of digital cartography that is a long way behind the previous generation of maps. In the recent past, maps were largely drawn by hand, with a human touch deciding exactly where letters and symbols should be placed so as not to obscure important features. The move from manual map preparation to digital cartography reduces costs and allows for faster revisions — but at the same time, the beautiful balance of a hand-drawn map along with the concise form in which information is imparted seem to have been lost.

I acquired some examples of UK Ordnance Survey 1:250,000 maps (1 inch = 4 miles) from the 1990s which look far less elegant to me than the old “Route-master” series that I purchased a decade earlier and posted on the wall of my UK shack. The artificial “bold” and “oblique” sans-serif typography on the newer maps was less legible (to my eye) than the old mixture of serif and sans-serif fonts in normal and italic styles. Fortunately, newer versions of the OS 1:250,000 maps have a cleaner design with better use of color and proper bold and italic fonts.

Radio maps

The contrast between traditional, hand-drawn maps also applies to the world of amateur radio. I have a couple of elderly maps on the wall of the radio room which I still prefer to their modern equivalents. One is ARRL’s “Amateur Radio Map of the World” from 1985, which combines a great-circle map centered on the mid-west along with a list of country prefixes around



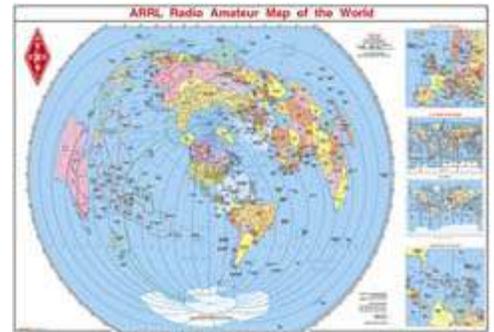
ARRL Amateur Radio Map of the World, vintage 1985.

the edges. If you hear an unusual callsign over the air, it does not take long to check which country it belongs to from the prefix list, then decide on the beam heading from the prefixes and countries marked on the great circle map itself.

ARRL has a modern version of this map available

— the description is: “Amateur Radio Map of the World (Azimuthal)”. Unfortunately, the size is smaller, the computer cartography by Mapquest.com is not as refined and the lettering of the prefixes is not as large.

Worst of all, the alphabetical list of prefixes has disappeared from the edges of the map. Instead, the new version has four inset maps showing Europe, the Caribbean, ITU zones and CQ



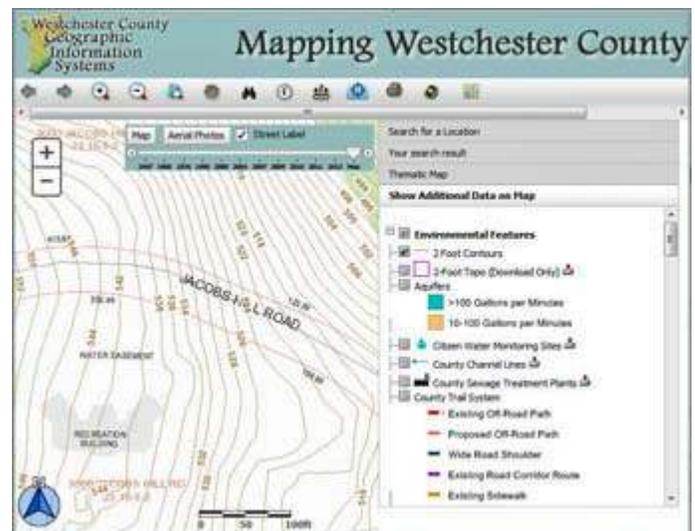
ARRL Azimuthal Amateur Radio Map of the World (Order #7717).

zones. No doubt this map is less expensive to prepare and update than the old hand-drawn version — but I still miss the old design.

I also have an ARRL “Amateur Radio Map of the USA” on the wall which shows states, call-areas and ARRL section boundaries. The latest version of this map from ARRL’s web site (#8977) concentrates on grid squares and states rather than the USA call areas.

Mapping future and past

There are some modern electronic maps that are really useful. Contour lines on USGS quad maps are usually at 20 foot or 10 foot intervals. If you would like to see more detailed contour lines within Westchester County, take a look at Westchester County’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) site: <http://giswww.westchestergov.com/gismap/>. Once you have dragged and zoomed into an area of interest, from the right-hand side of the screen click “Show Additional Data on Map” then expand “Environmental Features”.



Screen-shot of Westchester County’s online map system.

You can check and uncheck various features, including “2 Foot Contours”. The contour lines do not appear until you have zoomed in to a scale of 100 ft or beyond. For example, I can see from the online map that my house sits on a 436 foot contour line and the land rises a further 44 feet, just 1/5 mile to the south.

After you have checked your local contours, you can change the map view to show different aerial photos of the same location, if available, dating from 1947 to 2013. Fascinating stuff!

- NM9J

Exam news

WECA Extra Class

Westchester Emergency Communications Association will be conducting a free license class for the Amateur Extra FCC exam. The class will run for ten weeks every Tuesday night from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, starting Tuesday January 6, 2015. Location is the Westchester Fire training Academy, 4 Dana Road in Valhalla. On the tenth week, there will be a V.E. Test Session at the same location.

All are welcome to attend. Candidates are advised to purchase the ARRL Extra Class License manual, 10th Edition, with CD-ROM practice exam software and a copy of ARRL's Extra Q&A Third Edition. Begin reading the License Manual as soon as possible. Both items are available from ARRL and from local dealers.

Further details are available on the WECA web site, <http://www.weca.org/>. If you would like to upgrade to Amateur Extra, please contact WECA Education Director Larrie Sutliff, W2UL — e-mail: W2UL ‘at’ WECA.org.

New General Pool

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a new pool of questions for the Amateur General Class exam. The new question pool becomes effective for examinations administered on or after July 1, 2015. If you know of anybody who is studying for the General test, make sure they have the correct version of any tuition materials, depending on the date they will be taking the test.

Here is a sample (up-to-date) question from the new General pool:

G1D01 (A) [97.501, 97.505(a)]

Who may receive credit for the elements represented by an expired amateur radio license?



A. Any person who can demonstrate that they once held a FCC issued General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra class license that was not revoked by the FCC

B. Anyone who held a FCC issued amateur radio license has been expired for not less than 5 years and not more than 15 years

C. Any person that previously held an amateur license issued by another country, but only if that country has a current reciprocal licensing agreement with the FCC

D. Only persons who once held a FCC Issued Novice, Technician, or Technician Plus license.

Copies of all current question pools are available from the NCVEC website, <http://www.ncvec.org/>. For more information about examination credit for expired licenses, see <http://www.arrl.org/exam-element-credit>.

President transceiver review – W2CH

I recently acquired a President Lincoln II Version 3, updated 10 meter all-mode transceiver — purchased for \$305.00 from an eBay dealer in Michigan. It was shipped via U.S.

Postal Service Priority Mail, a little slower than the usual two days due to extra Christmas volume. This radio has AM, FM, USB, LSB and CW modes, initially covering 28.000 to 29.700 MHz — though by cutting an internal jumper it will also cover frequencies down to 25.000 MHz — so it could include the U.S. CB 11 meter band. Transmit power is 12 watts AM and CW, 28 watts FM, and 31 watts PEP on USB/LSB. The radio draws 6 amps at 13.8 volts.

*[Caution! This transceiver appears to be an “Export” model, **not** intended for CB transmission in the USA. According to the FCC... “You may operate a CB transmitter at any location where the FCC regulates radio communications, subject to certain restrictions. A CB transmitter **must be certified by the FCC**. A certified CB transmitter has an identifying label placed on it by the manufacturer.” So please restrict transmissions with this radio to the amateur 10 meter band. -Ed.]*

There are 6 memories, which I use mostly for 10 meter repeater frequencies. The radio tunes in various steps, selectable by pushing in the frequency



President's Lincoln II transceiver for 10 meters.

knob, down to tenths of a kHz. The BAND selector button lets one step through the 10 meter, and if modified, the 11 meter frequencies in “Bands” A, B, C to Band J. It only operates beyond 10 meters when the transceiver is modified to cover additional frequencies. Band A then covers the 11 meter CB Band in 40 channels, also displaying the frequencies of the channels. The other band choices step through frequencies from 25.610 to 30.110 MHz.

The controls on the front panel activate a variety of functions in two steps. A short press on the button gives the first function, while a longer hold on the button provides the second function. The INDIC button indicates voltage of the power supply momentarily, while in TX mode it can be set to show either frequency, SWR, time-out-timer, or voltage — each time one transmits. A longer press generates a CALL tone. There are other front panel button choices such as ECHO and ROGER, (roger beep, most likely for CB use), keypad BEEP on or off, NB (noise blanker)/ANL (useful for dealing with ignition and other noise), SCAN, CTCSS/DCS for 10 meter repeaters, VOX, and SPLIT for separate transmit and receive frequencies — in addition to memory function and memory choices.



Lincoln II front panel showing the fourteen push buttons, most of which are dual-function. [W2CH pic.]

Rotary controls for MIC GAIN/RF GAIN, plus-minus CLARIFIER for receive frequency adjustment, VOLUME (audio receive level), RF PWR and SQUELCH are also on the front panel.

The rear panel has an external speaker jack, CW key jack, and public address speaker jack. There is a USB data jack for PC connection, but no further details are provided in the manual. The VOX jack is for use



Rear panel of Lincoln II [W2CH pic.]

with an external microphone — though the supplied PTT microphone can also be used with vox. There is an SO-239 connector for the coaxial cable, and a substantial heat sink.

Additional menu items, adjusted from the front panel using the up-down channel keys provide choices for Roger-beep frequency and time, CW frequency, monitor volume, time-out-timer, SWR protection and setting, voltage protection – high and low, scan type, back-light colors



Close-up of the Lincoln II left front panel showing ten of the push-buttons. Choosing a backlight color of green affects both the display and the backlit buttons [W2CH pic.]

(orange, green or blue), brightness, up-down channel key setting for frequency or channel, dual watch, CTCSS/DCS, and finally reset.

The transceiver comes with a microphone, power cord with 6 amp fuse, and a vehicle mounting bracket with mounting hardware.

In use

I have been using the President *Lincoln II* version 3 transceiver on 10 meter SSB, and have had numerous QSOs with Europe, plus several with Cuba. I have received good reports on both signal and audio. It is not as powerful as a larger radio — signal strength can be lower than with a full-power transceiver. So far, I have not experienced any problems.

The radio does not have a choice of IF filters such as some of the higher priced HF transceivers, but 10 meters is a pretty spacious band, so crowded signals are not a big problem there.

I have been using a 10 meter dipole at home and a K40 CB/10 meter antenna on the car. I would recommend this transceiver in its price range for what it accomplishes.

- Ray, W2CH

Auction reminder

Just a reminder that PCARA’s annual Bring and Buy Auction takes place at the January 4 meeting. Check your basement and attic for saleable items that might appeal to fellow radio amateurs. And if you are successful in making a sale, a small contribution to PCARA’s coffers would be appreciated.

All are welcome at the PCARA Auction — the more the merrier.

Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association

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Newsletter contributions are always very welcome!

Archive: <http://home.computer.net/~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 the Hudson Valley Hospital Center, Route 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 Jan 4, 2015: PCARA Meeting with Bring and Buy Auction, Hudson Valley Hospital Center, 3:00 p.m.

Hamfests

Sun Jan 4, 2015: New York City/Long Island Section Convention (Ham Radio University 2015), Briarcliff College, 1055 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY. 7:30 a.m.

VE Test Sessions

Jan 4: Yonkers ARC, 1st Police Precinct, E. Grassy Sprain Rd, Yonkers, NY. 8:30 am. John Costa, (914) 969-6548.

Jan 8: WECA, Westchester Co Fire Trg Cen, 4 Dana Rd., Valhalla, NY. 7:00 pm. S. Rothman, 914 831-3258.

Jan 16: Orange County ARC, Munger Cottage, 183 Main Street, Cornwall NY. 6:00 p.m. Thomas Ray (845) 391-3620.

Jan 26: Columbia Univ VE Team ARC, 531 Studebaker Bldg, 622 W 132nd St, New York. 6:30 pm. Alan Crosswell, 212 854-3754.



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