



PCARA Update



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Falling about

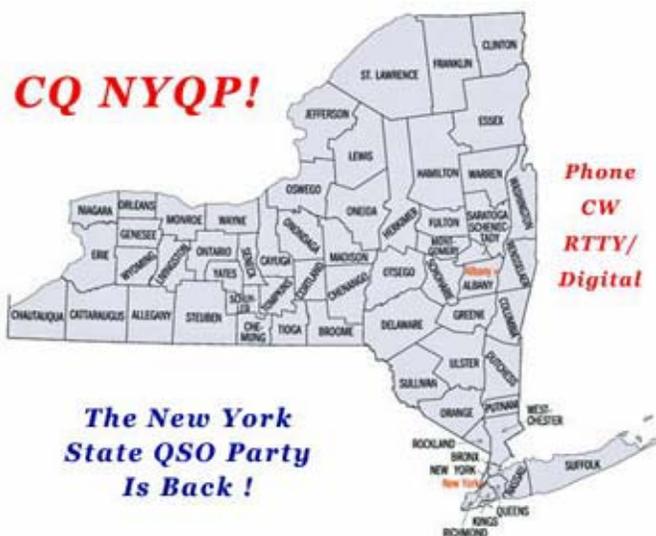
Welcome to Autumn. As sure as the leaves begin to change color, there are a couple of annual events coming up this month. The first is the Bergen Amateur Radio Association (BARA) Fall Hamfest on Saturday



BARA Hamfest, June 2012. [Photo by W2CH.]

October 6, 2012 at Westwood Regional High School in the Township of Washington. Complete details can be found at the BARA website, <http://www.bara.org/events/hamfest> .

The second event is the New York QSO Party on October 20-21. As in years past, PCARA should be



sponsoring a plaque. Further details can be found at <http://www.nyqp.org> .

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be Sunday October 7, 2012 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

President:

Greg Appleyard, KB2CQE, [kb2cqe at arrl.net](mailto:kb2cqe@arrl.net)

Vice President:

Joe Calabrese, WA2MCR; [wa2mcr at arrl.net](mailto:wa2mcr@arrl.net)

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Mike, N2HTT demonstrates his updated Tuna Tin 2 CW transmitter at the September PCARA meeting while Marilyn KC2NKK looks on.

Adventures in DXing

- N2KZ

Oh Happy Day

FCC regulation Part 97.313 (a) states: "An amateur station must use the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications." I can say, in good conscience, that I abide by this rule on a daily basis. Using single digit wattage, and sometimes even milliwattage, I often drift in and out of the ether. Some good friends, like Bob, N2CBH, would testify that my signals are usually more out than in! Such is the life of a dyed-in-the-wool QRPer.

Bob can now attest a new era has just begun. I'll explain...

The PCARA 2 meter repeater recently had to make a hasty retreat from its primary site to our backup site. Bob and Joe, WA2MCR, removed the gear and restored our repeater service with style and grace. Unfortunately, the reach of the repeater from the backup site is not quite as far as we were accustomed. I test the system on a daily basis. My commute includes miles and miles of heavy woods and roads surrounded by endless piles of leftover glacial rock. Using my trusty Icom IC-T7H HT with a dual band magnet mount whip was no longer adequate. The N2KZ mobile needed an upgrade!

After some research, I decided to purchase an inexpensive Yaesu FT-1900R two meter transceiver and a Diamond M285 antenna. The new antenna employs a $5/8$ ths wave design using a trunk lip mount. It is sleek and simple with a small base mounted loading coil at the bottom of a nearly five foot whip antenna. Diamond's ultimate 2 meter single band antenna, the NR22L, extends 96 inches (nearly as long as an old-fashioned CB whip.) I'd love to use one and enjoy the extra 3 dB of gain, but the excessive length seemed impractical. The M285's shorter design is a good compromise of size and performance for everyday use.

The installation of the antenna was simple. I fitted the Diamond K600M mount at the center of the trunk lid and lightly tightened the four set screws. After marking where the set screws would grab the trunk lid, I removed the mount and used a Dremel tool to clean out these four points of weatherproofing seal



*Diamond M285
 $5/8 \lambda$ antenna.*

to reveal bare metal. A good ground connection is essential to success. I tightened down the mount and ran the Diamond 5DQ-II RG-8X type coaxial cable into the passenger compartment. That part was easy!

Cool It!

Mounting the transceiver was a little more of a challenge. I ran two #10 gauge wires, through the firewall, directly to the car battery using large lugs for the connections. I attached these wires to the Yaesu-provided power wire harness supplied with the rig. I thought I might mount the transceiver into one of the handy dashboard utility pockets just above the gearshift. The FT-1900R fit like a glove, but after a short trial run I noticed that the rig needed a lot more air circulation to lose the ever-increasing sizzle coming off the large heat sink on the bottom of the rig.

A proper solution required some creativity. I didn't want to make permanent holes in the dashboard or mount the rig in the glove compartment. I needed to secure it somewhere free and clear to allow for best air cooling. The transceiver also needed to be easily seen and convenient to my hands. After a little experimentation, I decided to make use of my Toyota Corolla's cup holders. I found a scrap of wood at Home Depot and had it cut to the size of the transceiver. I mounted the transceiver's bracket onto the wood. Now the rig could stand up without falling over. Placed over the recesses of the two cup holders, I had fine clearance for the power and coaxial cables while still standing up nicely. Out in the free air, in direct line with the air conditioning vents, it ran cool as can be. This unorthodox approach worked really well!

One thing became obvious from the moment I turned on the transceiver. This was a complex beastie with deep menus that you could spend a lot of time with. My first move was to re-create the essential memory pre-sets I used with my HT. I programmed in



Diamond K600M trunk lip mount.



Yaesu FT-1900R transceiver is a rugged, single band, 55 watt transceiver for 2 meters.



Karl mounted his Yaesu FT-1900R transceiver on a wooden base, standing up in the Toyota's cup holders.

all the often-used repeater pairs including PEARL, WECA, WB2IXR, Alpine, Chappaqua, Mount Beacon, Yonkers, LIMARC and, of course, PCARA. The fourth function key on the microphone's remote control panel was already pre-set with all seven American weather radio frequencies from 162.4 through 162.55 plus four weather frequencies used only in Canada.

After some brief tests, (thank you, Malcolm!) I was assured that my newfound 55 watts were radiating well. I instantly noticed a dramatic drop in ambient noise level on receive now that I was using a properly grounded antenna instead of a mag-mount. Reception became much more reliable and full for nearly every signal I could retrieve. I also checked my two reference signal sources: Distant weather stations and the ARRL's W1AW broadcast on 147.555 MHz. I ventured to 162.425 MHz and looked for WNG704 from Hibernia Park, Pennsylvania. Operating with one kilowatt southwest of Philadelphia near Lancaster, they could be heard quite clearly. I could also almost hear WWF48 on 162.525 MHz from



Mt. Greylock tower, home to weather station WWF48. The barrels are radomes protecting the multi-element array for WAMC - Northeast Public Radio.

Mount Greylock in Western Massachusetts. W1AW on 147.555 sounded stronger than I have ever caught it before. Things were looking up!

In the days that followed, I tried to reach distant repeaters to see just how far I could go. My initial targets were W3OHX Hazelton, Pennsylvania (south of Wilkes-Barre / Scranton on the quite familiar 146.67 MHz but with a different PL: 103.5,) WA1ZMS on Mount Equinox near Manchester, Vermont (145.39 MHz 100 PL) and TOPS (Tower of Power) (145.21 MHz 77.0 PL) on Mount Greylock. Although I could not hit these from my home QTH, I did have marginal results when sitting on top of Church Tavern Road in South Salem, very close to the Connecticut - New York border and

the town of Ridgefield. This site is famous for its spectacular view to the north, west and south. From this excellent lofty perch, I could also hear distant stations chatting on 146.52 and 146.58 MHz simplex.



Church Tavern Road in South Salem, NY.

Has all this power gone to my head? No, it is being radiated by my shiny new antenna! I am now on a quest to find the most distant repeater I can hit. Armed with a new copy of the ARRL Repeater Directory nothing can stop me! One recent find is the KD1CDI repeater, operated by "The Rocky Hill Donkey Dusters," in the East Hampton / Terryville area near



KD1CDI repeater in Terryville, CT

Hartford, CT. On 147.31 MHz with an 88.5 PL, I am amazed how far this one can be heard. I'll write about what can be reached from atop our local peak, Bear Mountain, next month!

The FT-1900R is the least expensive Yaesu transceiver, yet it has many useful features. You'll find an onboard voltmeter to monitor your power supply or battery voltage at any given time. There is also a thermometer to measure the rig's interior heat. What made this unit especially appealing to me was the inclusion of a CW trainer providing a wide variety of practice drills to keep your code speed up when two meters isn't active. Overall, there are enough menus to

| CH | FREQUENCY | CH | FREQUENCY |
|----|-------------|----|-------------|
| 01 | 162.550 MHz | 06 | 162.500 MHz |
| 02 | 162.400 MHz | 07 | 162.525 MHz |
| 03 | 162.475 MHz | 08 | 161.650 MHz |
| 04 | 162.425 MHz | 09 | 161.775 MHz |
| 05 | 162.450 MHz | 10 | 163.275 MHz |

FT-1900 weather radio channels available using the transceiver's programmable P4 key.

keep you busily experimenting for a very long time. The Yaesu FT-1900R features a wide band high-VHF receiver covering 136 MHz to 174 MHz and 200 programmable memories, enough to save nearly every frequency you wish. To keep order among all your memories, you can customize select banks of frequencies as you like them. Besides the factory standard weather radio bank, I built another bank for monitoring marine radio frequencies, particularly useful when you work adjacent to a marina! I also built a bank covering broadcast auxiliary frequencies in the 161 MHz region. You can scan banks or prescribed segments of spectrum (144.300 to 148 MHz for example), individual select frequencies or everything altogether as you wish.

keep you busily experimenting for a very long time. The Yaesu FT-1900R features a wide band high-VHF receiver covering 136 MHz to 174 MHz and 200 programmable memories,

The receiver section is adequately sensitive and selective. I've witnessed some mild bleed-through and intermodulation when closely passing by known repeater sites housing several industrial strength pager and two-way transmitters. I also hear some spits when driving nearby a particularly sloppy 3 watt FM translator in Stamford on 103.1

MHz. Even in these tough circumstances, the receiver showed no signs of being incompetent.

Transmit audio received universally good reports using the provided stock microphone. Full enjoyment of this rig does require a copy of the operator's manual present wherever you go. I printed an extra copy for everyday use in my car from the Adobe Acrobat .pdf file Yaesu provides for free on the Web. Look for it at: <http://www.yaesu.com/>. It is an essential document as you get to know all the mesmerizing features packed into this little rig. Anyone who can remember all the 59 "set menu" functions of this rig (without the manual) and where to find them has amazing powers!

For under \$250 delivered, the Yaesu FT-1900R combined with a sleek Diamond M285 antenna is quite a bargain. I just wonder how far I can make it go! 55 watts of transmit power, combined with a nice efficient antenna, certainly changed my signal strength. The N2KZ mobile is now operating with 11 times its original RF output power. I can't wait to try it at the top of Bear Mountain! Sit back and enjoy, Karl! Oh happy day!

Want to hear my new rig for yourself? Tune in to the ever-popular Old Goats Net, Thursday nights at 8 pm on the PCARA 2 meter repeater: 146.67 MHz -600 offset, 156.7 PL. We can also be heard via several apps over the Internet such as Radio Reference.com (<http://www.radioreference.com>). Also, check out the PCARA web page at <http://www.pcara.org> and our Facebook page, as well! Have a great month!

- 73 de N2KZ
The Old Goat, dit dit.



Rear view of Karl's vehicle with newly-installed Diamond M285 monoband antenna for 2 meters.

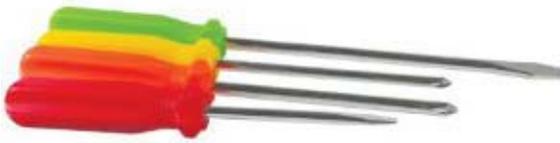


FT-1900R Operating Manual is on Yaesu's Internet site.



Neo-screwdriver

If I said that I had a **neon screwdriver** in my toolbox, younger readers might think I was referring to the bright color of the screwdriver's handle. Perhaps a hot, flaming pink or a glaring green?



Not what I mean by a 'neon screwdriver'.

own, rather like a neon sign. More accurately, these types of colors are *fluorescent*, meaning they include pigments that absorb invisible ultra-violet radiation, then re-radiate the energy as longer-wavelength visible light, adding to the brightness of the object.)

What I really mean by a **neon screwdriver** is a simple device that combines a high voltage indicator with a standard slotted screwdriver, for electrical use. When I was growing up in the UK, they were common objects and I usually had one clipped in my pocket, ready to tighten screws or to check all sorts of electrical circuits. They were also inexpensive, which was important for a youngster.

The handle of a neon screwdriver is a hollow, transparent molding made of yellow or clear plastic. Inside the hollow section is a neon lamp, a high value resistor and a spring to push the components down onto the end of the metal shaft of the screwdriver. The top of the plastic handle usually has a brass button for the young electrician to carefully touch.



Neon screwdriver combines a detector for high voltages with a traditional slotted screwdriver.

The main use of a neon screwdriver was to confirm the presence of high voltage on domestic electrical circuits. In the UK, alternating current was delivered to standard outlets at 240 volts AC, 50 cycles per second, with mainland Europe standardized on 220 volts AC, 50 Hz. These days, the supply in the European Community is harmonized at 230 volts AC.

With this relatively high voltage, touching the blade of a neon screwdriver against the live electrical conductor, while completing the circuit with a finger on the brass cap starts a discharge through the neon lamp, resulting in a bright red-orange glow inside the

(The modern meaning of "neon" usually suggests colors that glow with a light of their

screwdriver handle. The electrician did not need to have a good ground connection through his feet — capacity of the body to ground was sufficient for enough AC current to flow through the neon bulb.

Risky business

You might think this was a rather dangerous way to check for a live circuit, but the risk was low on standard domestic circuits. The blade of the neon screwdriver was insulated all the way up to the exposed tip. There was a high value resistor in series with the neon lamp to limit the current once the discharge had begun. The resulting current through the neon lamp and through the electrician's finger was just a few microamps, too low to cause any harm under normal circumstances.

This made the neon screwdriver a handy tool when moving into a new home or when checking electrical outlets in a new installation. In the UK, the standard electrical plug has three rectangular connectors for ground, line and neutral. It's important that these are connected correctly, otherwise there is a danger of shock.



240 volt, 13 amp 'square-pin' plug as used in the United Kingdom

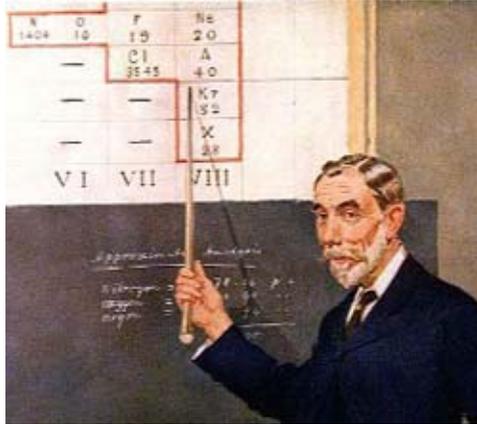
In almost every home I've moved into, I have found problems with electrical outlets. Not only can the line and neutral conductors be crossed over, but the ground connection is sometimes missing. For metal-cased electrical equipment with power-line filtering capacitors between conductors and equipment chassis, a missing ground connection can cause the chassis to float at half-supply voltage. In the UK this half-supply voltage was 120 volts — still sufficient to strike a neon lamp, and depending on the size of the filter capacitors, enough to make the voltage perceptible by running the back of a finger gently across the metal chassis.

There were other uses for a neon screwdriver when no other test gear was available. If 50 cycle or 60 cycle per second AC is detected, the electrodes within the neon bulb illuminate evenly. When a non-alternating *direct* current flows through the neon lamp, there is uneven illumination of just one electrode. This would allow a neon screwdriver to indicate the presence and polarity of high DC voltage, as found in tube equipment. If there was high voltage RF present, this could light the neon lamp with a different inten-

sity — but touching RF conductors was really not a good idea as the screwdriver blade could de-tune the circuit.

Essential₂ glow

There is some interesting chemistry and technology connected with neon lamps — which were much more common a few decades ago, before the arrival of light emitting diodes and liquid crystal displays in the 1970s. Neon is a chemical element, and one of the “noble gases” which are generally unreactive and only form chemical bonds with other elements with great difficulty. Neon was discovered by British chemist Sir William Ramsay in 1898 when he allowed liquid air to evaporate and examined the fractions that boiled off at different temperatures. Ramsay and his assistant Morris Travers also discovered krypton and xenon the same way. Travers applied a high voltage to neon gas and was the first to observe the bright orange-red color of a neon discharge. Neon is still manufactured today as a by-product of the process for liquefying air. Its name comes from the Greek 'neos', meaning new.



William Ramsay points to the column of the periodic table of the elements containing the noble gases.

stabilizer tubes and in “Nixie” tubes which displayed alphanumeric data in the early days of digital electronics. The

“neon” gas used in these devices is actually a **mixture**

invented by Dutch physicist Frans Penning, containing mostly neon, but with a small percentage (0.5%) of argon gas to lower the striking potential. These small neon lamps will strike at around 70 volts and maintain a discharge with around 50-60 volts applied to the electrodes.

Neon/argon is also used in low pressure sodium-vapor lamps to start the discharge, before the sodium metal warms up and provides sufficient metal vapor for the sodium atoms to become ionized. This explains the red glow when a sodium lamp is first lit, changing to the normal bright yellow color of a sodium discharge lamp.



Neon is still used today in illuminated power switches.



Sodium lamp

Stay safe

Since I left the UK, Health and Safety rules have caught up with the humble neon screwdriver, and their use is no longer recommended for electricians. Modern test equipment has to provide more protection against such possibilities as the neon bulb and current-limiting resistor shorting out. Worse still would be an arc caused by contacting a much higher voltage than expected. Nevertheless, a neon screwdriver can still give warning about a “hot” screw or a live metal chassis that should be grounded.

When I moved to the USA, I found that neon screwdrivers were not only less available, but also less useful. With most domestic outlets wired for only 120 volts AC, my UK neon screwdriver was a dim bulb, glowing a dull orange and quite difficult to see in bright daylight. I still wanted to check that electrical outlets had been wired correctly, so I picked up a Sears



My Heathkit IB-1101 frequency counter from 1973 has neon-based Nixie tubes in the display.

Before the age of LEDs and LCDs, neon was commonly used in power indicating lamps, in voltage



Neon screwdriver glows dimly on 120 volts AC.

outlet tester that lit green when all was well.

Stay alert

More recently, I came across the Fluke “VoltAlert” series of voltage testers which act rather like a neon screwdriver, but with more protection for the user. Unlike a neon screwdriver, the VoltAlert has no exposed metal parts. Instead there is a plastic test probe which is just wide enough to fit inside the “line” side of an electrical outlet. The AC circuit is completed by the electrician holding



Fluke 1AC-A1 VoltAlert

the other end of the VoltAlert. Inside the body of the tester are a pair of AAA batteries and circuitry to detect the electrostatic field at the tip of the instrument. The circuit detects the constant changing of an AC voltage of 90 volts or higher and lights the tip bright red. Patents describing this type of detector suggest that they use a sequence of Schmitt triggers to square up

the AC waveform and provide a steady voltage to light the red LED when the AC voltage detected within the insulated probe exceeds approx. 1.5 volts AC.

This type of AC detector has some advantages over the neon screwdriver. Since direct contact with the live conductor is not required, it is possible to detect the AC field around a live conductor within an insulated cable —

provided the cable is not shielded. This provides a way to detect a break *inside* a cable — or even within a set of series-connected festive tree lights.

One word of caution about these test devices —

they should never be used to indicate the *lack* of dangerous voltage without some independent verification. The AAA batteries in a Fluke VoltAlert tester might have run down. The resistor in a neon screwdriver might have failed open-circuit. Always check operation on a live circuit before relying on the indication from any test device.

But is it sonic?

I cannot finish an article like this without mentioning a fictional spin-off from the neon screwdriver of the 1960s. The BBC-TV series *Doctor Who*,



which was born in 1963 gave the time-traveling Doctor a multipurpose device in 1968 when he began using his “Sonic screwdriver”. This special screwdriver was capable of unlocking doors without physical contact, presumably using ultrasonic energy. In later episodes, the sonic screwdriver had more impressive powers, being able to fuse materials together and diagnose and repair faulty equipment. Just as I relied on my trusty neon screwdriver for diagnosing electrical faults, the Doctor continues to investigate alien worlds with his ever-versatile Sonic screwdriver.

- NM9J

New York QSO Party

The New York QSO Party takes place this year on Saturday October 20th. Start and end times are from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. EDT. New York stations try to work as many contacts as possible with stations both inside and outside New York State. For stations within New York, the exchange consists of Signal Report plus County, using a three-letter code. Westchester’s code is WES and Putnam County is PUT. Stations outside New York will send signal report plus State.

There are additional points for CW contacts (2 points each) and for RTTY/digital contacts (3 points each). Multipliers can be claimed for all the NY Counties and US States worked. Bands include 160 - 10 meters HF plus 6 meters and 2 meters on VHF. There are school, youth and rookie entry classes available. Rochester DX Association sponsors the NY QSO Party and arranges plaques for various leading band entries. PCARA has sponsored the New York Phone plaque in the past and hopes to sponsor another plaque this time around. Further details are available at <http://www.nyqp.org/>.

Elk antenna - W2CH

I just received the Elk 2M/440L5 Dual Band 5 Element Log Periodic Antenna from HRO. It was \$124.95, plus \$24.95 for the carrying bag. It's a small portable antenna with moderate gain, 6.6 dBd on 2 meters and 7 dB on 70 centimeters, at only 2 feet in length and weighs about a pound and a half.



Parts for the Elk dual band antenna before assembly.

It's easy to screw on the elements, which are color coded with the boom. So it's quite portable with the extra carrying bag. It can be used with vertical polarization for FM and horizontal polarization for weak signal work such as SSB/CW. It's supposed to be good in use as a satellite antenna, outdoors with an HT.



Elk log-periodic antenna after assembly.

It's also good for use in fox hunts due to its small size and weight. It has an interesting front end SO-239 coaxial connector for the cable. More details are available at: <http://www.elkantennas.com/>.

Comparison

My full size, MFJ-1768 Dual Band VHF antenna, which has 7 elements on 70 cm, and 4 Elements on 2 meters, and is almost 6 feet long, has more gain than the Elk Log Periodic antenna.



Ray's MFJ-1768 dual-band antenna was described in the September 2011 PCARA Update. [Photos by W2CH.]

When I aim the MFJ antenna in the direction of the PCARA VHF repeater, I do get a responding signal from it, which I did not hear with the Elk Log Periodic antenna. But one must realize that the Elk Antenna is much smaller and lends itself more easily to portable use — such as for a Fox Hunt — with the plastic handle provided.

- Ray, W2CH

Favorite frequencies - N2KZ

Lots of fun awaits outside the amateur radio bands. Use your transceiver's excellent receiver and look beyond the limits. Longwave, medium wave or shortwave, there is so much to discover and experiment with. Here are some of my favorite frequencies. Give them a try!

Interesting to some and a curiosity to all are the shortwave broadcasts known as VOLMET (*meteorological information for aircraft in flight = vol*). The three VOLMET stations most readily heard in our area broadcast in USB from New York, Gander (Labrador) and Shannon (Ireland.) Gander and New York share time on **3485, 6604, 10051** and **13270** kHz. Shannon can be found on **3413, 5505, 8957** and **13264** kHz. These stations make wonderful propagation beacons and are generally very easy to hear.



Gander International Airport in Newfoundland/Labrador, Canada

Time and frequency standards WWV Ft. Collins, Colorado (**2.5, 5, 10, 15** and **20** MHz) and CHU in

Ottawa, Canada (**3330**, **7850** and **14670** kHz) also make good indicators. Colorado is reasonably distant and Ottawa is only a couple of hundred miles away.

Three Canadian shortwave broadcast stations still survive. Look for 'Newstalk 1010' CFRX



Shannon Aeradio in Ballygirreen, Ireland.

6070 kHz from Toronto and CKZU Vancouver and CKZN St. John's, Newfoundland sharing **6160** kHz with CBC Radio One programming. CKZN has been about 800 cycles off frequency in the past few months creating a distinctive heterodyne tone between these two stations. Maybe they will fix it someday!

Other shortwave broadcasts of note: Radio Australia is still dominant on **9580** kHz from 0800 to 1500 UTC (4 am to 11 am Eastern Daylight Time) with powerful signals to Eastern North America every morning. It's an unusual and interesting listen with new points of view and in-depth coverage from the other side of the world often not heard about in the American press. From Monticello, Maine, independent broadcaster WBCQ offers many diverse broadcasts including their signature show 'Al Weiner Worldwide' on Friday nights at 8 pm. Catch WBCQ on **5110**, **7490**, **9330** and **15420** kHz.

Looking for a long shot? Try for a couple of stations on long wave: Most famous are TDF France

RTE RADIO 1

Inter on **162** kHz with a huge 2 megawatt transmitter in Allouis. It doubles as a time station with accurate phase encoded information 24 hours a day. Ireland's RTE Radio 1 on **252** kHz also offers a powerful signal propelled by hundreds of kilowatts from Clarkstown, Summerhill, County Meath. Listen for both of these stations between dusk and midnight Eastern Time. At dusk, also try the regular AM broadcast band and tune in Buffalo's WWKB on **1520**. If you happen to hear a one kilohertz tone, you are actually hearing a heterodyne from a station in Dubai, Saudi Arabia on



Broadcasting Services of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

1521 kHz! It is operated by the BSKSA (Broadcasting Service of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.) Rotate your radio to null out WWKB, if you can. Catch a powerful signal on a good night and you'll hear Arabian chanting and talk in Arabic. Fascinating stuff!

- from Karl N2KZ

Blooming ham

Lovji N2CKD sent a copy of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Proclamation for the 2012 Maker Faire, held September 29th and 30th at the New York Hall of Science in Queens, NY. Here is the first paragraph...

Office of the Mayor City of New York Proclamation

"Whereas: I was a ham radio operator when I was a kid. After I studied engineering, got fired from the only job I ever had, and acted on a crazy idea to start my own company, I found myself soldering capacitors in a garage and still working on our prototype model in the back seat of a cab on the way to our first demonstration. Planning, building, tinkering, ripping up the plans, starting from scratch and rebuilding—such a process can be frustrating, of course, but it can also be incredibly fulfilling and rewarding."



Mayor Bloomberg went on to proclaim September 24th–30th, 2012 in the city of New York as "Maker Week". The interesting part for us is that Michael Bloomberg mentions being a radio amateur as a youngster. In an interview in April with Ira Flatow on NPR's "Science Friday" radio program, Mayor Bloomberg admitted that he was a student of electrical engineering. Born in 1942, he graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1964 with an electrical engineering degree before going on to Harvard Business School for an MBA. In 1981 he was 'fired' from Investment Bank Salomon Brothers and using his severance money he founded his own financial data company.

Ira Flatow asked Michael Bloomberg about building a ham radio as a child — Mayor Bloomberg replied that he *was* a ham radio operator, but he could not remember his call letters. He said he was OK with Morse code, but he could not spell, and that was a problem. He used to go regularly to the Museum of Science in Boston as a child. The full interview is available as a podcast from NPR, <http://www.npr.org>.

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.

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 Oct 7: PCARA monthly meeting, Hudson Valley Hospital Center, 3:00 p.m.

Hamfests

Sat Oct 6: Bergen ARA Fall Hamfest, Westwood Regional HS, 701 Ridgewood Rd, Washington Township, NJ. 8:00 am.

Sun Oct 7: Meriden ARC Nutmeg Hamfest, Sheraton Four-Points Hotel, 275 Res Pkwy, Meriden, CT. 8:00am.

Sun Oct 14: HOSARC, NY Hall of Science 47-01 111th St, Flushing, Corona Pk, Queens, NY. 9:00 am.

Sun Oct 28: LIMARC Hamfair, Levittown Hall, 201 Levittown Parkway, Hicksville, NY. 9:00 am.

VE Test Sessions

Oct 6: Bergen ARA Hamfest Test Session. 8:00 am.

Oct 6: Yonkers PAL Ham Radio Club, 127 N Broadway Yonkers NY. 2:00 pm. Contact: M Rapp, 914 907-6482.

Oct 7: Yonkers ARC, Yonkers PD, Grassy Sprain Rd, Yonkers. 8:30 am Contact D Calabrese, 914 667-0587.

Oct 11: WECA, Westchester Co Fire Trg Cen, 4 Dana Rd., Valhalla, NY. 7:00 p.m. S. Rothman, 914 8313258.

Oct 15: Columbia Univ VE Team ARC, 2960 Broadway, Columbia University, 115 Havemeyer Hall, New York NY. 6:30 pm. Contact Alan Crosswell, 212 854-3754.

Oct 27: OCARC, Orange County Emergency Comm. Center, 110 Wells Farm Rd, Goshen NY. 9:00 am. Contact: Thomas Ray 845 391-3620



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