



PCARA Update



Volume 9, Issue 11

Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association Inc.

November 2008

Something to celebrate

The *PCARA Update* Editor-in-Chief Malcolm, NM9J has done it again! The *PCARA Update* has been chosen as the ARRL Hudson Division's Newsletter of the Month for October 2008. This is the fourth time that the *PCARA Update* has received this honor. Kudos Malcolm, for another **well deserved** feather in your cap!

The PCARA Holiday Dinner will take place on Sunday December 7, 2008 at *At the Reef* on Annsville Circle. There are a couple of changes this year. First, the dinner will be at 5:00 p.m. in order to make it easier for more of our friends and members to join us. Second, there are two prices depending on your choice of entrée. The basic meal will cost \$28.75. If you prefer Prime Rib, the price for the dinner will be \$32.50. Both choices include unlimited soda, tax, and gratuity. As always, if you prefer ethanol with your dinner, you are responsible for the additional charges. **All are welcome.** Family and friends, hams and non-hams, spouses and significant others. Please consider joining us, to enjoy each other's company and revel in the spirit of the season. If you decide to attend, please bring your checkbook or cash to the November 2nd meeting. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Marylyn, KC2NKU and Ray, W2CH for their efforts in organizing this annual fete. **Thank you!**

This is the time of year for another annual event, nominations for President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. Nominations are due at the November 2nd meeting, with the election being held at the December 7, 2008 meeting during the PCARA Holiday Dinner. Now is a great time to consider tossing your hat into the ring!

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2008 at 3:00 PM at Hudson Valley Hospital Center. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

73 de Greg, KB2CQE



PCARA members at the Bergen ARA Fall Hamfest on October 4 included Karl, N2KZ with Sarah plus Marylyn KC2NKU and Ray W2CH.

PCARA Officers

President:

Greg Appleyard, KB2CQE, kb2cq@arrl.net

Vice President:

Joe Calabrese, WA2MCR; wa2mcr@arrl.net

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.

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Do you recognize this item, which might be on a street corner near you? If not, see page 4-5.

Adventures in DXing

- N2KZ

No Sunspots? No Problem!

Is band propagation quiet as a mouse? A majority of this dilemma is psychological. No one is heard because no one is sending because no one is heard! Break this pattern and become an incessant caller! I have recently had some very interesting contacts, sending my CQs into the silence using QRP CW, negating the theory that “the band is dead.”

WARC bands actually might be the best places to look. One of the most productive times to look for exotic DX on 30 meters is the hours around dusk local time. Nearly every day a handful of interesting stations can be found in the bottom 5 kilohertz (10.100 to 10.105 MHz.) You’ll hear call signs from near and far and most of them are truly unusual. I worked Dan, VO2FF, in Labrador City, Labrador, Canada with my measly 5 watt Oak Hills Research OHR-100A using a simple dipole up about 25 feet. The next evening, I worked Bob, XE3ARV, in Quintana Roo, Mexico using the same gear. All you have to do is speak up and they will find you (unless you find them first.) It can be great fun!

80 Meters has also become a hot spot for finding good contacts. Look between 3525 and 3600 kHz and you’ll find a lot of domestic activity ripe for good long rag chews. Not much power is required here either. I often get on the air on 80 meters CW with as little as one watt and work stations near and far with ease. The low bands are truly remarkable during this part of the sunspot cycle. Announce that you are a Fists or SKCC member and number collectors, seeking new awards, may line up to get you in their log books.

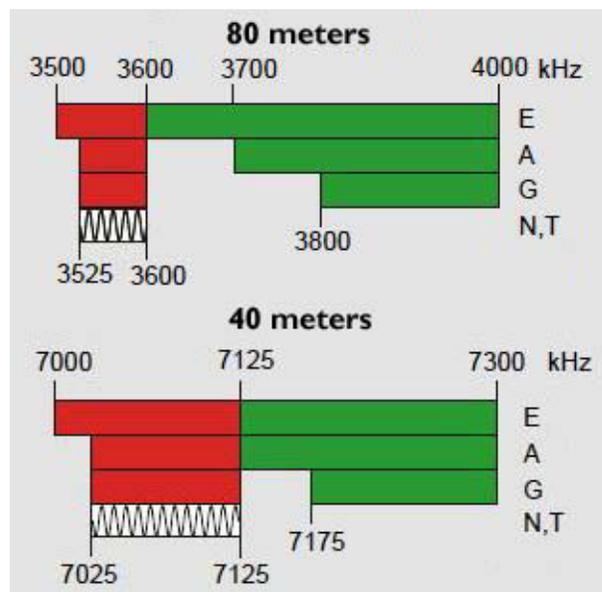
One thing on my to-do list is rebuilding my 80 meter dipole. It originally went up cut to the old Novice and Tech.-Plus haunt of 3700 kHz. Now my activity is about 150 kHz south and my resonance leaves a little to be desired. One of my QRP rigs doesn’t enjoy the high SWR and slowly loses power using my current antenna. It’s either an antenna tuner or new antenna for a cure. I will probably go for the latter trying to keep efficiency as high as possible.

The low bands have been very interesting during these sunspotless years. Fantastic deep DX into the Pacific Rim is often seen during early mornings from about 4 a.m. until as late as an hour after local sunrise. CW is my mode of preference and it is not unusual to hear Australians and New Zealanders pop up on the 40 and 80 meter bands. My trusty Heathkit HW-16 has brought me a host of contacts down under. Try it for yourself!

Another place for those with strong fortitude is six meters. The two main haunts for activity are 50.098 MHz for CW and 50.125 MHz for USB. I often send CW on 50.125, adding a 700 hertz offset to be heard and occasionally reap fine benefits. Six meters is the one band where die-hard ‘magic band’ DXers care not about mode of operation when reaching for a new grid square. Near and far might be caught at any given time, so sending CQ on six can only lead to an eventual wonderful catch.

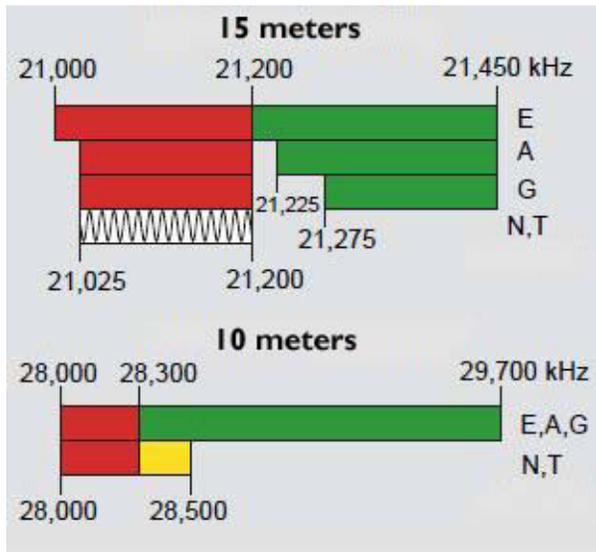
Know Code

One topic that arose during PCARA’s Old Goat’s Net (Thursday nights, 8 p.m. on 146.67 MHz) was finding courage and getting on the air, for the first time, with Morse code. All licensed amateurs, including Technician class, can operate on HF frequencies if they use CW. The possibilities are powerful. Technicians can use 3525-3600, 7025-7125, 21025-21200 and 28000-28300 kHz and operate with up to 200 watts! So why not try this most-basic mode?



Novice (N) and Technician (T) can operate CW (WW) in the 80 meter and 40 meter bands.

If you are apprehensive about your beginner CW skills on the air, fear not! Two organizations, and all their members, are ready to help you. The International Morse Preservation Society, known as Fists, offers a mentor program which can provide you with your own assigned ‘code buddy’ to help you with your keying. Look for Fists members on 3558, 7058, 21058 and 28058 kHz. You’ll find all the details at www.fists.org. Another group, The Straight Key Century Club (www.skccgroup.com) thrives on slow-speed Morse. Here the goal is to never use an electronic keyer and to operate as much as possible at slower speeds. Both groups are warmly fraternal by nature and great places



Novice and Technician are permitted to use CW in the 15 meter band — and CW/RTTY/data (red) plus CW/SSB (yellow) on 10 meters. [After ARRL.]

to meet new friends and really enjoy our hobby. If you are looking for new ham radio fun, this is your key!

New! Improved!

With only three and a half months left before the transition to all-digital over-the-air TV, the New York City broadcast center is finally stabilizing and becoming reliable. All the major broadcasters, with the notable exception of PBS' WNET, are now present and operating with signals that are mostly solid and stable.

I'm still apprehensive about the effects of UHF propagation and the attenuation of tree leaves. ABC, WPIX and WNET will find their permanent digital homes on their current hi-VHF analog frequencies which may add great strength and stability to their broadcasts. All the others broadcasting on UHF will be fading away from time to time. What is better? Watching possibly snowy or ghostly analog pictures or no digital pictures at all? The point is moot. Digital is coming and we'd better get used to it!

Keep in mind that digital TV has come a long way. As an early adopter, I had to purchase a separate HD tuner for my 16 x 9 TV and then came to find that the only channel broadcasting in digital was WCBS-DT on Channel 33. Back in those days, programming could be interrupted at will by test patterns, black or the famous Harris HDTV test tape of a Space Shuttle launch. You would wait for the few seconds at the top of the hour when they would run their all HD identification featuring aerial scenes of New York City. When WNYW came on the air on Channel 44 it was a revelation! Now I could get two channels! Finally, nearly every analog broadcaster is broadcasting digital, but it is about 11 years since WCBS-DT first signed on the air!

Some digital programming changes of note: New

Jersey Network (PBS) has scaled back their digital programming extensively. NJN used to broadcast four analog channels switching to one analog and one HDTV from 8 p.m. to midnight. They now broadcast two analog channels 24/7. NBC has announced they are ending their nationwide Weather Plus channel, seen in New York as virtual channel 4.2, due to their recent acquisition of The Weather Channel. Local WNBC is developing an all-news all-the-time channel to be launched sometime in the near future. '4 New York' will probably air on channel 4.2. WPIX is now airing (Latino Alternative) LATV on virtual channel 11.2. You'll see music videos, entertainment programming and live texting of viewer messages. Already all-digital Regional News Network (RNN DT-48) has dropped nearly all of its newscasting. They now only broadcast a half hour newscast at 4:30 pm. Nearly all of their program schedule is filled with infomercials.

XM RIP

XM Satellite Radio is scheduled to pass away on or about November 15th. Born September 25, 2001, XM lived for seven good years and was loved by many. Now, the radio service that changed our way of listening and introduced us to many new musicians and talk personalities is about to be swallowed by Sirius the whale. On the brink of its own extinction, Sirius revived itself in 2006 becoming a one trick pony by signing shock jock Howard Stern. This once-meek satellite service is now inheriting the earth.



The XM-Sirius merger gained approval from the FCC in July 2008.

As the consolidation of these two recently-merged companies continues, programming will become more and more a simulcast than two different distinct flavors. Many XM employees have already been dismissed from their headquarters based in Washington, D.C. Most severely hit were air personalities and support staff for XM's dozens of original music channels. Nearly all of these innovative XM channels are about to be replaced by bland Sirius equivalents produced from New York City.

I mourn this loss. XM Radio was revolutionary in

presenting a wide and vast variety of music from nearly every conceivable genre. Where else could you hear eclectic channels filled with movie music, Broadway tunes, bluegrass, blues, Mexican tunes or hits from the 1940s? XM introduced me to many, many new artists and I began to love radio again. I had not enjoyed a renaissance like this since the advent of free-form FM radio in the late 60s.

XM's glory days are sadly about to end. If predictions prove true, November 15th will be the day the XM music died. The switch will be thrown and the Sirius channels will reign. The past seven years will always be remembered fondly. XM's music was hosted by many, many knowledgeable and enthusiastic expert hosts who really had passion for their music. Listeners developed strong relationships with all the XM presenters who gladly served as great teachers and entertainers to us all. Goodbye, my friends, and thanks for some great times!



XM satellite radio uplink dish at the 1500 Eckington Place studio center in Washington, DC. The XM studios are housed in the former Judd & Detwiler printing plant.

Sirius Satellite Radio, chaired by media mogul Mel Karmazin, has always been known to emulate "real" (terrestrial) radio and its narrow playlists. XM had a similar series of monotonous channels that were managed by another media monster, Clear Channel, but those in the know avoided them at all costs. I will try to keep an open mind and sample the Sirius offerings in the weeks and months to come. Only time will tell if the new Sirius programming will grow or wilt.

The consolidation of XM and Sirius certainly will not increase their overall popularity. There is little incentive to invest in equipment and subscriptions to a medium that might soon be defunct or obsolete. America's favorite source for tunes, Apple's iPod, will continue to be a strong and bold distribution tool for the musicians. Word-of-mouth can be a powerful force!

Eventually, as many have predicted, satellite radio may become a partially-free nationwide medium just to survive financially.

In the future, satrad's biggest competition may be the Internet, offering thousands and thousands of worldwide broadcasters vying for our attention. This system of distribution is just about to flower and bloom. My only wish is that music and performance royalty regulations will not squelch the homebrew feel of many of today's Internet micro-broadcasters producing programs in basements nationwide. Public access radio might finally get its day in the sun, but expect heavy protest from the entrenched media establishment. Independent Internet radio is the strongest hope for America's music lovers and for those who seek novel and interesting talk programming. Rest in peace XM. Our years together will never be forgotten.

Find fine entertainment and comment at <http://karlzik.blogspot.com> and please join us on the PCARA's Old Goat's Net Thursday nights at 8 p.m. on 146.67 MHz! Until next month, happy trails de N2KZ Karl dit dit.



Four for FiOS

On October 23, Verizon announced that four more municipalities in Westchester, Rockland and Long Island have approved franchises for Verizon cable television.

The town of Yorktown in Westchester, plus the villages of Pomona in Rockland County, Lindenhurst in Suffolk County and Hewlett Bay Park in Nassau County have all granted video franchises to Verizon. Yorktown's decision followed a public hearing on October 21. The



A Verizon technician tests fiber-optic cabling at a fiber service terminal on a pole. The fiber service terminal contains equipment capable of delivering FiOS to 32 individual homes. [Verizon photo]

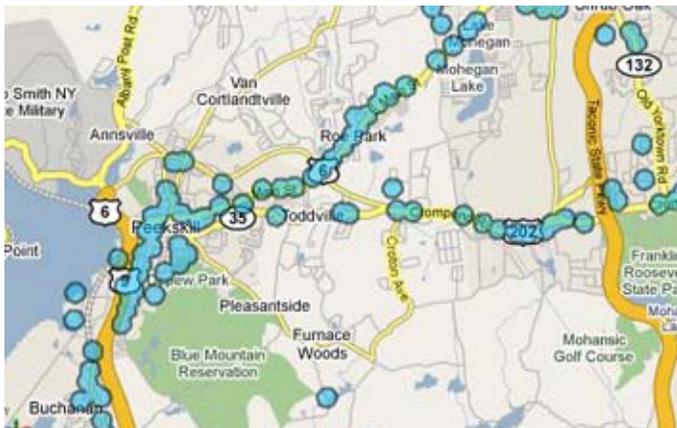
agreement allows Verizon to install FiOS cable throughout Yorktown. As usual in these proceedings, the agreement with each town has to be approved by the New York State Public Service Commission before Verizon can offer actual video service.

The new agreement with Yorktown completes FiOS-TV coverage for much of our area. In addition to Yorktown, the towns with agreements in northern Westchester now include: Peekskill, Cortlandt, Buchanan, Briarcliff Manor, Mount Kisco, North Castle, New Castle plus the town and village of Ossining. In Putnam County the only agreement so far is with Kent.

Verizon's FiOS TV offers more than 275 digital video and music channels with up to 100 channels in high definition. Verizon is currently offering a triple package of cable TV, Internet and phone service over FiOS for \$95 per month. Internet service is available with speeds of 20 to 50 Mbps download and 5 to 20 Mbps upload.

Cablevision comes out fighting

The expansion of FiOS-TV service means more competition between Verizon and Cablevision. With its 'triple play' combined TV/Internet/phone service, Cablevision has succeeded in attracting over 2 million phone customers away from Verizon, and without pausing for breath, it is now rolling out 'free' Wi-Fi coverage using wireless mesh technology. The company announced in May that it would offer Optimum Wi-Fi



Blue circles show Optimum Online WiFi hotspots in the Peekskill/Cortlandt area, concentrated along the main roads. Coverage circles are approximately 1200 ft diameter.

free of charge as an enhancement for customers of its existing broadband Internet service. On October 15 Cablevision activated its network in parts of Westchester and Dutchess counties plus Long Island and Connecticut. The hot spots are concentrated in commercial, high-traffic areas including downtown, parks, shopping plazas, train station platforms and commuter parking lots. Previously activated Optimum

Wi-Fi community zones included Denville, Ridgewood and Tenafly in New Jersey, plus Parkchester in the Bronx.

Optimum Online customers with wireless-equipped notebook computers and portable WiFi-enabled devices like the iPhone and BlackBerry can access Optimum WiFi through a simple sign-on screen. Once a customer logs into the service by entering their Optimum User ID and password, the network delivers fast symmetrical speeds of 1.5 Mbps.

Cablevision is reported to be using BelAir 100S Strand Mounted Wireless Multi-service Nodes and Cisco Aironet 1500 Series mesh access points mounted on utility poles. Your editor located two nearby BelAir units on Route 202, at Locust Avenue and at Toddville Plaza. While close by, it was possible to connect my notebook PC to the Internet using a wireless adapter. I'm assuming the BelAir node uses one antenna for the notebook Wi-Fi connection on the unlicensed 2.4 GHz band and the other antenna is used for the mesh network back-haul connection on 5.25 - 5.85 GHz.



BelAir 100S strand-mounted wireless node.



Cisco Aironet 1500 series outdoor mesh access point.



BelAir 100S wireless node at Toddville Plaza on Rt 202.

You can check availability of Optimum WiFi hotspots in your area at the following site: <http://www.optimumwifi.com> .

- NM9J

Essential₂ light

September 2008 marked the third anniversary of the American Chemistry Council's "Essential₂" campaign. Over the past three years, *Essential₂* has sought to explain how modern life is improved by chemistry. Whether it's in medicines, electronics or water treatment, chemistry is often involved in making life better. The American Chemistry Council released two new television advertisements as part of its essential₂ program. The new ads focus on chemistry's contributions to things that protect and connect us, such as seat belts and cell phones, and also highlight the strengths of plastics in everything from a firefighter's protective outerwear to the space shuttle's external tank.

A recent print advertisement in the "essential₂" campaign features a small dog covered in soap suds with the tag line "essential₂ cleaner". The copy continues: "It helps keep our four-legged friends odor-free, flea-free, germ free and fancy-free. It is American Chemistry." No doubt this refers to dog shampoos containing – *inter alia* — pyrethrins that provide flea and tick control.



NY Times Magazine, Sep 28 2008.

There was another anniversary to celebrate in September. Altuglas International, part of Arkema, marked the 75th anniversary of Plexiglas® acrylics with a gala event at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA, on September 19, 2008.

The story of acrylic plastics begins in the early 20th century with Otto Röhm who was investigating polymerization products of acrylic acid at Röhm & Haas in Darmstadt, Germany. Röhm found a method to cast methyl methacrylate between two plates of glass and to polymerize it inside this cell. Röhm patented the process in 1933 and trademarked the crystal-clear, break-resistant plastic as Plexiglas® the following year. The early manufacturing technique could only produce small plates, and these were used to manufacture watch glasses and lenses for protective goggles. Sheet sizes increased, and by 1936, forming and machining of these larger sheets was producing curved windshields for buses and automobiles, which were more shatter-proof than glass.

In the 1930's, acrylic plastics were also being developed in the UK and USA. In the USA, DuPont

named their acrylic 'Lucite', and began selling it to the medical industry as a break-proof replacement for glass in medical instruments. In the UK, Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) had begun working on the polymerization of ethylene, but gained more immediate commercial success with an acrylic sheet trademarked as Perspex. It was first used in windscreens for cars and aircraft.



Mercedes omnibus with curved Plexiglas rooflights (1937).

Light and strong

Acrylic sheet played an important role in World War II as bullet-resistant glazing for aircraft. It was found to be light and very strong and could easily be formed to fit the structural designs of airplanes. Tens of thousands of aircraft were produced with Plexiglas noses and canopies during the war, including the B-17 Flying Fortress, and the Avro Lancaster. The acrylic material in these old planes is still clear and free from yellowing, and the material is used in aircraft windows to this day.



Royal Air Force Avro Lancaster bomber with nose cupola and other glazing made from Perspex.

After the war, use of acrylic plastic sheet expanded to include safety glazing, electrical and chemical applications, skylights and windscreens, fish tanks, light fittings, protective screens around machine tools, car number plates, laser-disks, and coffee tables. Colored acrylic finds widespread application in outdoor illuminated signs.

In amateur radio, Plexiglas has some special uses of its own. If you ever want to protect an elegant, lettered front panel, you can cut a thin sheet of Plexiglas to size, drill holes for the controls then place it over the metal panel. If the glass in a meter should become cracked, you can cut a sheet of Plexiglas to fit.

Plexiglas has good electrical and RF characteristics. Its dielectric strength is 15-40 kV/mm, so a thin sheet can make a good insulator. Plexiglas is relatively

easy to fabricate – it can be drilled and sawed, or you can scribe it with a sharp knife prior to snapping it. If you need a dipole center insulator, an end-insulator or spacers for open wire feeder, then you can make them yourself from Plexiglas sheet and rod. Plexiglas is lightweight and has excellent weathering characteristics, so it can be exposed outdoors without problems. The only disadvantage to using Plexiglas as an insulator is its low softening point of around 110 deg C. Beware of circumstances where conductors could run hot, for example in an ATU inductor with heavy circulating current.

Some radio amateurs have replaced a pane of glass in the shack window with a sheet of Plexiglas. The Plexiglas can then be drilled to allow feeders to pass through the window. When the shack is eventually decommissioned, the original glass plate can be replaced.

Acrylic sheet can be found in your local Home Depot. Look for the glazing section, where sheets of glass are stocked. In our Cortlandt Town Center store, this section is tucked away behind the Andersen double glazing. Alongside the panes of glass, you will find GE Lexan polycarbonate sheet and GE Crystalite acrylic sheet in various sizes and thicknesses.



Glazing section of Home Depot with glass, acrylic sheet and polycarbonate sheet available.

How it's made

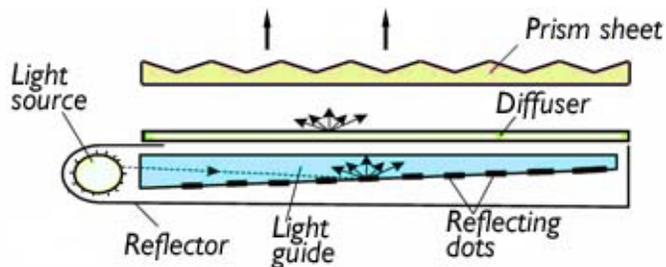
Manufacture of methyl methacrylate, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$ begins with methacrylic acid, which is prepared by reacting acetone CH_3COCH_3 with sodium cyanide NaCN to produce acetone cyanohydrin $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{C}(\text{OH})\text{CN}$. The acetone cyanohydrin is then reacted with methyl alcohol CH_3OH to produce methyl methacrylate. Acrylic polymers are formed by reacting a monomer, such as methyl methacrylate, with a catalyst. A typical catalyst would be an organic peroxide. The catalyst starts the reaction and keeps it going, but does

not become part of the resulting polymer. Acrylic plastic sheets are formed by the process of bulk polymerization in which the monomer and catalyst are poured into a mold where the reaction takes place.

Organic peroxide initiators for acrylic polymers (and many other polymers) are manufactured by the company I work for. A couple of other links with acrylics – in the 1970s I worked on reaction products of acrylic esters with tin – the resulting organotin compounds are useful as PVC stabilizers. And earlier this year, the original developer of Perspex – ICI – was bought by my company.

Light 'em up

I'll finish with a couple of modern applications of acrylic plastics. The first is the "optical lightguide" that is part of the flat panel liquid crystal display in PC monitors, notebooks and cell phones. The light source is usually a cold cathode fluorescent lamp or an LED. Light is fed from the lamp into the edge of the lightguide, which must then distribute the illumination evenly across the entire surface of the panel without loss, even in long lightguides. The material for the lightguide must be pure and show high transparency – for which Plexiglas is ideal.



Backlight for liquid crystal display contains a "Light guide" made from Plexiglas acrylic polymer.

The second application is plastic optical fiber or POF. Optical fiber used for long distance communication is usually based on glass fiber. However, for short, consumer-grade fiber optic cables, a 1mm fiber made of polymethyl methacrylate is perfectly adequate as the core material. The thin cladding over the core is composed of fluorinated polymers.



Clear TOSLINK plastic optical fiber cable for digital audio applications.

- NM9J

Analog shut off test

[Karl N2KZ draws our attention to the following news item.]

Television stations associated with ION Media Networks, NBC Universal, Telemundo, and the Association of Public Television Stations, will commence analog shut-off (ASO) tests in major markets, including New York. These tests are in preparation for the February 17, 2009 government mandated analog shut-off and transition to digital television. Nearly all broadcasters, cable operators and satellite providers have joined in the effort.

The shut-off tests, which are designed to ensure consumer DTV preparedness and a smooth transition to DTV, will begin in New York City, with a two minute shutdown between **5:59 and 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28**. Participating New York metropolitan area stations include:

- WCBS - TV (CBS, channel 2)
- WNBC - TV (NBC, channel 4)
- WNYW - TV (Fox, channel 5)
- WABC - TV (ABC, channel 7)
- WWOR - TV (MyNetworkTV, channel 9)
- WPIX - TV (TheCW, channel 11)
- WNET - TV (PBS, channel 13)
- WLIW - TV (PBS, channel 21)
- WNYE - TV (NYC Media, channel 25)
- WPXN - TV (ION Television, channel 31)
- WXTV - TV (Univision, channel 41)
- WNJU - TV (Telemundo, channel 47)
- WFUT - TV (Univision, channel 68)

Subsequent one minute tests will take place in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, December 2, and two 30-minute tests in Hartford on Wednesday, December 3. In addition, the broadcast partners will participate in existing tests being conducted across the country, like San Francisco, Philadelphia, and other areas with varied population densities and terrains.

“With a little over one hundred days left to the national shutdown, it is critical that broadcasters unite, making a concerted effort to properly educate and prepare consumers well ahead of the deadline,” said Brandon Burgess, Chairman and CEO, ION Media Networks. “By addressing viewers’ concerns early through these tests and our ongoing education campaign, we are ensuring that no viewer will be left behind.”

In September, ION Media and its partners extended an invitation to broadcasters, cable companies, satellite providers, and relevant broadcast associations across the country to participate in the testing and to help generate elevated consumer awareness. Participa-

tion has been strong across all designated markets; additional outreach continues and a list of upcoming markets will be announced once confirmed.

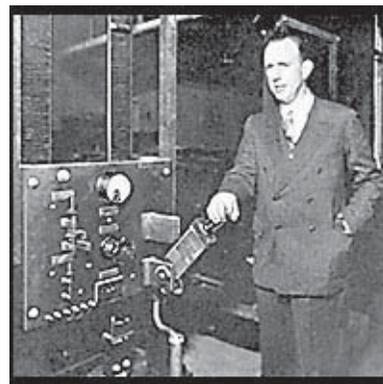
Test Details:

Participating stations will turn off their analog broadcasts on specified dates for varied lengths of time during the analog shut-off tests. Messaging will vary depending on the market, but may include slates and audio notifying viewers whether or not they are digitally connected. Should they require further preparation, additional on-screen graphics and audio will inform viewers to call a designated hotline and will provide them with several options for receiving more information about preparing for the end of analog broadcasting on February 17, 2009, including direction to the FCC website, www.DTV.gov. Some stations have elected to include associated audio and message slates in other languages such as Spanish.

The Metropolitan Television Alliance, LLC is establishing the consumer hotline, in close cooperation with the FCC. Saul Shapiro, President of the Alliance, said, “The New York broadcasters have made an enormous commitment to ensure that consumers are ready for the transition. This analog shut-off test is another major step in making sure our viewers are prepared well before February 17.”

Background on Analog Shut-Off:

The decision to convert from analog television to digital began in 1996 when Congress authorized the distribution of an additional broadcast channel to each TV broadcast station to free up parts of the increasingly scarce broadcast spectrum for public safety use and new wireless service opportunities. Later, Congress mandated that February 17, 2009 would be the last day for full-power stations to broadcast in analog. After the transition deadline, consumers will have to swap their analog televisions for digital TV sets, subscribe to cable, or attach digital converter boxes to their analog TVs in order to receive a signal. The purpose of the shut-off tests is to provide real-time alerts to consumers to increase their DTV readiness and present valuable data to broadcasters, cable and satellite companies, the FCC, National Telecommunications and Information Administration and Congress about consumer and industry response.



“Throw the big switch...”

Source: ION Media Networks

Holiday Meal

Ray and Marylyn have been collecting details of the upcoming Holiday Meal, planned to coincide with the December meeting on Sunday December 7. Location will be as before, "At the Reef", located at Annsville Circle. The start time has been adjusted to 5:00 p.m. to accommodate members who are working that day.

The menu will be as follows:

DINNER MENU

Tossed green salad

Choice of entrées with Baked Potato and Vegetable:

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Boneless Breast of Chicken Marsala

Penne à la Vodka with grilled breast of Chicken (no potato or vegetable)

Broiled Stuffed Filet of Sole

Broiled Filet of Salmon

Prime Ribs of Beef (\$\$extra)

Cake of the Day, Coffee or Tea

Unlimited soda

A standard choice from the menu complete with unlimited soda, plus tax and gratuity will be \$28.75. If you would prefer the beef, the price increases to \$32.50.

Please bring your check or cash to the November meeting. Checks should be payable to Marylyn Nahl, KC2NKH.

Fall backward

Don't forget that the clocks now go backward on Sunday November 2nd. Starting last year, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 extended Daylight Saving Time in the U.S.A. as follows:



- begins 2:00 a.m. on second Sunday of March
- ends at 2:00 a.m. on first Sunday of November

If you are arranging schedules or conference calls with people in Europe, bear in mind that the U.S.A.

now falls backward one week later than Europe. Our European friends get their extra hour in bed on the last Sunday in October. And on this side of the pond, don't set out too early for Sunday's PCARA meeting.

ARRL Hudson Division



Don't forget that you can subscribe to the "Hudson Beacon" with news about the ARRL Hudson Division as follows.

In order to receive the Hudson Division Newsletter, you will need access to the ARRL members only web site. After becoming a member you must edit your profile and elect to receive bulletins from the Section Manager and Director.

Assuming you are already a member, browse to the ARRL site (<http://www.arrl.org>) and from the "Members Only" box click on "members data page" and then under email notification options set "Division/Section notices" to YES. You should then receive the next bulletin.

Here is the section of the October Hudson Division newsletter that Greg, KB2CQE refers to on page 1:

DIVISION NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTH

Please take a look at <http://www.hudson.arrl.org/pages/newsletterawards.htm>

The October 2008 award goes to "PCARA Update" of the Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association for their October Newsletter. Congratulations once again to editor Malcolm Pritchard, NM9J for a consistently fine job on the club newsletter.

Clubs please make sure that you continue to send a copy of your pdf file to n2ff@arrl.org. I have been missing some issues in the last few months. Not every division club is submitting each month. It's like Lotto, if you don't buy a ticket or send a PDF you can't win!

Thanks to the ARRL Hudson Division team of Director Frank Fallon, N2FF and Vice Director Joyce Birmingham, KA2ANF for making this award.

Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association

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

E-Mail: w2nyw@arrl.net

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

(Alternate address: <http://www.geocities.com/pcara2000>)

PCARA Update Editor: Malcolm Pritchard, NM9J

E-mail: NM9J @ arrl.net

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

(IRLP node: **4214**)

N2CBH: 448.725MHz -5.0, PL 107.2Hz

PCARA Calendar

Sun Nov 2: PCARA meeting, Hudson Valley Hospital Center, 3:00 p.m.

Sun Dec 7: PCARA Holiday Dinner, 5:00 p.m.

Hamfests

Sun Oct 26: LIMARC Hamfair & Electronics Show, Levittown Hall, 201 Levittown Pkwy, Hicksville, NY. 9:00 a.m.

Sun Jan 11: NY/Long Island Section Convention/ Ham Radio University, Briarcliffe College, Steart Ave, Bethpage, NY.

VE Test Sessions

Nov 2: Yonkers ARC, Yonkers PD, 1st Precinct, E Grassy Sprain Rd, 8:30 a.m. Contact D. Calabrese, (914) 667-0587.

Nov 13: WECA, Westchester Co Fire Trg Center, 4 Dana Rd, Valhalla NY. 7:00 p.m. Contact: Stanley Rothman, (914) 831-3258.

Nov 21: Bergen ARA, Westwood Regional HS, 701 Ridgewood Rd, Washington Township NJ. 7:00 p.m. Contact Donald Younger (201) 265-6583.

Nov 24: Columbia University, 2960 Broadway, 115 Havemeyer Hall, New York. 6:30 p.m. Contact Alan Crowell (212)854-3754.



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