

Sidebands

The Newsletter of the **EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**



July 2016

President - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP
Secretary - Russ Greenman, WB2LXC

Vice-President - Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL
Treasurer & Newsletter Editor - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

Field Day 2016 Makes Contacts Coast-to-Coast

Field Day 2016 saw EGARA members work more than 200 contacts from one end of the nation to the other during the weekend of June 25-26.

The first contact to be logged was KD9GY in Illinois, a phone contact made on the 20 meter band. The very next contact -- W6TRW -- set the record for distance within the USA when it returned a CQ call from the Los Angeles area. However, the longest contact came on Saturday when US ham David Mitchell, N5PSM, was logged calling on 80 meters from Papua New Guinea, an island in the southwestern Pacific Ocean north of Australia.



Les Johnson, AC2OX, picks up extra points for the club on Field Day by operating CW

Overall, EGARA logged 219 phone contacts and 7 by CW. During the event, contacts were made on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters using a club-built multi-band HF fan dipole antenna that was erected behind the East Greenbush Masonic Temple.

(continued on page 2)

EGARA Team Supports Annual “Run for Help”

Once again this year, members of EGARA were on hand to provide communications support for the annual “Run for Help” -- a 5K Race/Walk Against Domestic Violence sponsored by the family and friends of Liza Ellen Warner. The race was held June 12th at the Goff Middle School in East Greenbush, with all proceeds benefiting the Nikki Hart Children’s Memorial Fund & Unity House Domestic Violence Program. EGARA covered the 5K course using HTs and a mobile repeater on 440.770 mhz.

In This Issue

Page 1 - Field Day 2016 / Run for Help

Page 2 - A Look at Field Day 2016

Page 3 - Advances in Portable Operations

Page 4 - New Extra Class Study Guide / Why We Become Hams / Calls Hit the Road

Page 5 - Ham Radio Gets New Respect

Page 6 - On The Beam: News & Notes

Page 7 - EGARA Works “Run for Help”

Page 8 - Profile: Why We Become Hams

Page 9 - More Field Day / No Lifetime Licenses

Page 10 - Calendar / Pro Tip / Buy, Swap, Sell

“The repeater worked as planned and provided excellent coverage to all of our field units,” said Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR, who handled operations at net control.

In addition to Steve, the various stations along the race route were staffed by Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP, Russ Greenman, WB2LXC, Chris Linck, N2NEH, Steve Sconfienza, NC2S, Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, and Ridge MacDonald, KB2HWL.

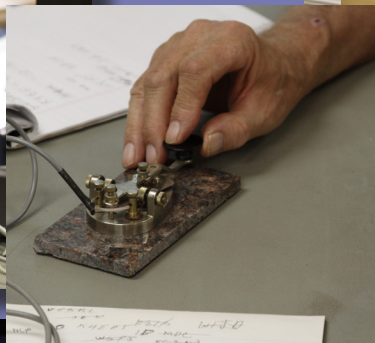
-- continued on page 7 --



Tom Scorsone sets up the mobile repeater

Reminder! Next EGARA Monthly Meeting is September 14th. Enjoy the Summer!

A Look at Field Day 2016



NCFJP's ARRL Field Day Contest Log 5.1

File Settings Band Mode View Network Operator Help

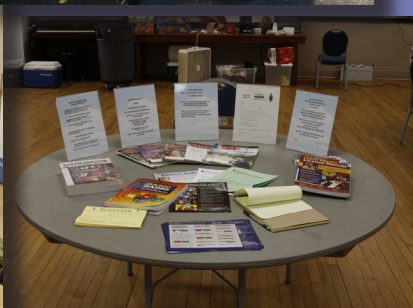
Current Band & Mode Find

Recent Contacts

Rec	Call	Class	Sec	Date / Tl.	B	Mode	Cou.
200	W4PW	1D	VA	06/26 16:15	40	PH	USA
199	N4LNR	4A	NC	06/26 16:14	40	PH	USA
198	KB3CWQ	1D	MDC	06/26 16:13	40	PH	USA
197	K6ZNI	1D	WNY	06/26 16:12	40	PH	USA
196	K4EET	1D	MDC	06/26 16:11	40	PH	USA
195	W3RL	3A	ONE	06/26 16:10	40	PH	USA
194	W3HRS	1E	WPA	06/26 16:09	40	PH	USA
193	W3GR	2A	MDC	06/26 16:08	40	PH	USA
192	W2PJ-M	1C	EMA	06/26 16:07	40	PH	USA
191	W3SGJ	3A	WPA	06/26 16:04	40	PH	USA
190	W3MIE	7A	WPA	06/26 16:04	40	PH	USA

Call Class Section DX

1



More Field Day on Page 9

Design Advances Make Portable Operation Easier, More Fun

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I've just returned from the Dayton Hamvention. Dayton was a blast as usual, and if there's one thing I took away from this year's event it's that portable operation is not only becoming more popular, but more sophisticated as well. In fact, it's a virtuous circle. More sophisticated portable equipment is making portable operation more popular, which is spurring manufacturers to make more sophisticated equipment, which is making portable operation even more popular, and around we go.

This is perhaps most easily seen in the evolution of the Elecraft products. One of their first rigs was the K1, a small rig that was frequently toted out into the field, even though it wasn't really designed for that purpose. It had a small form factor, but had a conventional front panel layout.

The next evolution was the KX1. This CW-only radio was designed specifically for field work. It originally only covered 40m and 80m, and had a very limited front panel, but its built-in battery pack and KXPD1 paddle made it a great choice for portable operators when it was introduced in 2004.

A big leap forward was made when they introduced the KX3 in 2012. This radio combined a bunch of features never before found in a portable rig. The KX3 features an SDR architecture and covers all modes, including (SSB, CW, Data, FM, AM); used the same full-sized LCD display as the K3; has advanced DSP features; and can be connected to a computer via USB for firmware upgrades and for use with other ham radio software. The KX3 is so full-featured that many operators use it as their main rig with a suitable linear amplifier.

At Dayton 2016, Elecraft took this concept even further and introduced the KX2. It's about half the size of the KX3, but yet has almost all of the features of the KX3. There was a tremendous amount of buzz over this radio at Dayton among portable operation aficionados. The base price of the KX2 is \$750, and with options, will cost you about \$1,000.

Of course, Elecraft isn't the only company competing in this market. LNR Precision sells a radio called the LD-5, and at Dayton, they introduced the LD-11, which like the KX3 and KX2 features an SDR architecture and covers 160m - 6m. This radio goes for about \$800, and has also proven to be popular among portable operators.

Dayton also had a number of exhibitors that supplied products other than radios to aid portable operation. There were several portable antenna manufacturers, including Buddipole (buddipole.com) and PackTenna (packtenna.com), and BiEnno Power (biennopower.com) was also there, showing off their new lithium-iron batteries,

While radios like the KX2 and LD-11, at relatively low prices, allow operators to easily get out into the field, portable operation would not be as popular as it is without organized activities. Programs like the Summits on the Air (SOTA, www.sota.org.uk, na.sota.org) and the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA, npota.arrl.org) make portable operation even more fun. These programs do this by providing a structure in which operators can find one another and gain awards for operating. SOTA did not have a booth at Dayton, but NPOTA was a big part of the ARRL section there.

If you aren't already a portable operator, you should give it a try! You don't have to invest a bunch of money in a rig to just try it. KX1s have been had for less than \$400, and simpler QRP rigs cost a lot less. Getting outside and operating in the fresh air is a lot of fun and could give you a whole new perspective on amateur radio.

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. Listen for him operating his KX1 from the park or beach this summer.

New ARRL Extra Class License Manual Available

The new ARRL Extra Class License Manual (11th edition) is now available with the exam question-and-answer key built from the latest Amateur Extra class question pool, which goes into effect on July 1, 2016.

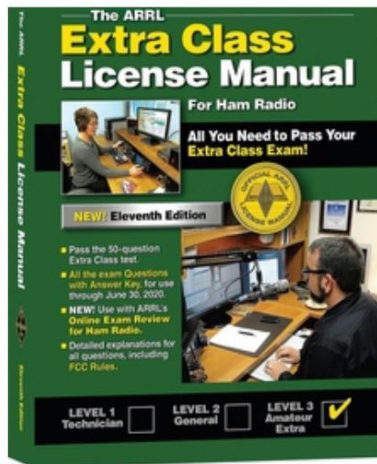
Expert instruction will lead you through all of the knowledge you need to pass the 50-question exam -- rules, specific operating skills, and more advanced electronics theory.

You can use the Extra Class License Manual in conjunction with ARRL's Extra Q&A (4th edition) and ARRL's online Exam Review for Ham Radio, so you won't have any surprises on test day.

ARRL Amateur Extra class licensing guides are available from the ARRL Store or from a local ARRL Dealer. Call ARRL Publication Sales, (860) 594-0355; toll-free in the US, (888) 277-5289, to place an order.

ARRL has just released a digital edition of The ARRL Extra Class License Manual in Kindle format from Amazon.

The ARRL also offers Kindle editions of The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, The ARRL General Class License Manual and its question-and-answer study guides, ARRL's Tech Q&A, ARRL's General Q&A, and ARRL's Extra Q&A.



Why We Become Hams - FCC Part 97

FCC rules and regulations covering amateur radio are contained in Part 97. The opening section provides an overview of the importance of why we become hams.

§97.1 Basis and purpose:

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Hit the Road With Your Calls

If you've ever thought about getting a license plate with your call sign, it's easy to do!

Just fill out form MV-411 and mail it to the NYS Department of Motor vehicles along with \$35.00 and a copy of your FCC license.



You can download MV-411 at: <https://dmv.ny.gov/forms/mv411.pdf>. Send everything to:

NYS DMV Custom Plates Unit, P.O. Box 2775, Albany, NY, 12220.

Your new plates should arrive in 6-8 weeks. You can not submit your application at a DMV office, only by mail.

Reminder

The Extra Class Exam Question Pool
Changes July 1, 2016

Ham radio: Old technology gets new respect

Seeking reliable backup communication in a crisis, emergency managers are finding new solutions in an old technology: ham radio.

“It’s just another avenue, another opportunity for us to be able to communicate,” said Herb Schraufnagel, public safety captain with Atlanta’s Emory University Hospital.

Emory HealthCare is among a growing number of hospital systems to adopt ham radio. Hospital administrators and government officials took a lesson from Hurricane Katrina, which left some Gulf Coast medical centers isolated from the outside world, as landlines and cell towers failed.



When power, phone and Internet services go down, a battery-powered amateur radio and portable antenna can provide that crucial link to the outside world.

“Ham radio will never die,” said Barry Thomas, Sr., a ham radio enthusiast and employee at Emory University Hospital.



“The quickest means of communication is Morse Code. It’ll get out when none of this will,” Thomas said, referring to a room filled with computers and smartphones.

“It is interesting that some of the technology that has been around for 80, 90, 100 years is still relevant,” said John Davis, a ham radio enthusiast.

In addition to major hurricanes, Davis says the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 rekindled interest in ham radio as a public safety tool.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) has set up a permanent ham radio station in its command center.

“We look at ham radio operators just like GEMA staff, just like DOT staff and Georgia State Patrol staff,” said GEMA Director Charlie English. “They are a critical partner with us.”

“I really hope that it stays relevant and that we can be a resource to emergency management agencies,” enthusiast Davis said. “Because I think that is where ham radio shines.”

On the Beam

News & Notes

Recent Licensing Statistics

NEW FCC LICENSES ISSUED 2011 THROUGH APRIL 2016						
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jan	1,200	1,502	1,866	1,999	2,148	1,792
Feb	1,803	2,752	2,496	3,205	2,463	3,328
Mar	2,806	3,278	3,370	3,739	3,764	4,080*
Apr	2,677	2,884	2,762	3,863	3,183	3,041
subtotal	8,486	10,416	10,494	12,806	11,558	12,241
May	2,147	2,618	3,083	3,595	2,594	0
Jun	2,378	2,166	2,097	3,352	2,752	0
Jul	1,556	1,901	2,122	2,309	2,061	0
Aug	1,698	2,021	2,027	1,901	2,384	0
Sep	1,787	1,339	1,891	1,904	1,862	0
Oct	1,967	2,086	2,347	2,449	3,270	0
Nov	2,363	2,589	2,825	2,790	2,994	0
Dec	1,690	1,946	2,000	2,135	2,602	0
Totals	24,072	27,082	28,886	33,241	32,077	12,241

*March 2016 is a record month for new licenses.

This report of new FCC licenses issued is supplied by Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VEC Manager.

Somma notes that the growth of new licensees is continuing through the beginning of 2016. During the first four months, the FCC issued 12,241 new licenses, a 6% gain in new Amateurs over the same period last year.

If this trend continues, we should see 32,000 new Amateurs by the end of this year!

= EGARA June Meeting Minutes =

- The May meeting of the EGARA was called to order at 7:20 PM by President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP. The minutes of the previous meeting were not read.
- Sign-up sheets were circulated for Field Day: Antennas, Equipment setup, Operating, and Tear down.
- Les Johnson and Tom Scorsone demonstrated two methods for rigging ropes in trees for antenna erection. Les used his Ice-Puck launcher driven by compressed air. Tom used his trusty bass fishing pole. Both Les and Tom were able to achieve successful launches.
- Also, Rick and Liz Gross updated the Field Day logging programs in the club's computers. We now have the most current version on the machines.
- VP Ridge Macdonald canvassed the membership for ideas for upcoming meeting topics. Some topics included: boat anchors, soldering, QRP operating, and antique radio.
- A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated for the Run for Help at the Goff Middle School on June 12th
- The CW practice session which normally follows the formal meeting was postponed;
- Refreshments were on hand for all in attendance. The meeting was closed at 9:00 PM.

- Minutes prepared by Steve VanSickle WB2HPR

EGARA Provides Communications Support at Annual “Run for Help”

(continued from page 1)

Thanks in part to good weather, this year's event saw a record turnout, with several hundred runners gathering at Goff Middle School in East Greenbush for the event's ninth annual run. As a result, the communications support provided by EGARA was especially helpful.

“We partnered with the East Greenbush police to keep everyone informed about the progress of the runners and to keep the course safe by working together to divert traffic as needed,” said VanSickle. “It all worked very well.”

The communications network was particularly helpful during the children's run.

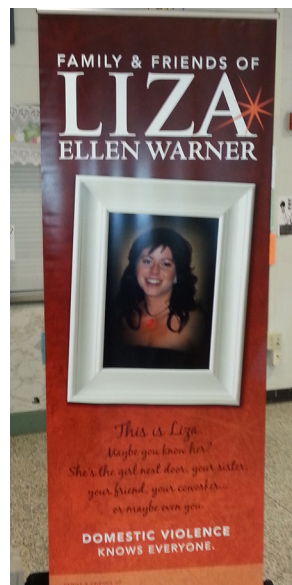
“Apparently the turnaround for the kid's race didn't get set up, but we were able to quickly coordinate with net control to make sure the runners got headed back in the right direction,” said Bryan Jackson, who staffed the race at Hays and Phillips Road.



EGARA's Net Control set up

“I think some of the kids would still be running if we hadn't gotten them turned around, Jackson chuckled. “But is also proved how valuable our services were.”

For the last nine years, the Run for Help has been a haven of safety and a forum of open communication about domestic violence. Participants said running is a powerful tool.



Runners sign up for the 9th Annual “Run for Help”

“Domestic violence is an issue of power. Women or men -- whoever the victim is -- have the sense of power and control taken away from them, and this is just part of the recovery process and helping them restore that sense of power,” said Jennifer Gish, President of Strong Through Every Mile.

Join the Nightly Ragchew

EGARA members are invited to join the club's 6 meter ragchew every weeknight at 6 pm on 50.125 Mhz.

It's a great way to catch up on club news and events, as well as keeping in touch with other club members. Tune in!

Ham It Up



Edgar is in touch with everyone but me.

Why We Become Hams: A Profile of Marsha Flemming, N8FE

The July 2016 issue of QST Magazine profiles Marsha Flemming, N8FE, on why she became a Ham. If you missed it, we present it again here, as it is worth reading.

Marsha Fleming, N8FE

Active in public service and mentoring, Marsha uses Amateur Radio to connect with her community. Marsha Fleming, N8FE, is a social ham. She met most of her best friends on the radio. She spends her time assisting in public service events, or teaching and mentoring new hams. Whether it's piquing her sons' interest in the hobby on long childhood car rides, organizing hams for local emergency tests, or volunteering at the Young Ladies' Radio League booth at the Dayton Hamvention, Marsha connects her community through ham radio in every way she can.



Marsha Fleming, N8FE, at her home station in Oak Park, Michigan.

A Voice on the Radio

Marsha got her License in 1979, after being married to a ham, John Fleming, K8UP (SK), for 10 years. She was introduced to ham radio on dates with John, driving around on foxhunts. This was when the radio was big enough to take up the entire middle seat. "I thought it was hysterical," she said. "And we did find the fox!"

After they got married, John continued to use the radio while driving home from work. One day, Marsha was at home making dinner and listening to commercial radio stations, when she heard John's voice coming through. She knew she shouldn't be able to hear him on commercial stations, but she made a habit of listening to the radio in the evenings. Once she heard John's voice coming through the regular broadcasts, she knew he was nearby and it was time to put the vegetables on.

After a while, she decided it would be nice to actually talk back to John on the radio, so she got licensed. She eventually had a radio installed in her car, joined the Oak Park (Michigan) Amateur Radio Club, and edited their newsletter.

As she drove her children around, she connected with more and more local hams on the radio. On the way to take her kids to Boy Scout camp, she chatted with nearby hams to pass the time. Her sons, in the back seat, took interest. Now both veterans of the US military, Sean, K8KHZ, and James, VK4TJF/K8UP, earned their licenses while in the service.

Public Service

Before there was an Emergency Coordinator or any organized structure in her county, the headquarters for the local ARES was in the police department, with only two radios - one for 220 MHz and one for 2 meters. Her husband put up the antenna at the Oak Park Police Department. 220 MHz was for the weather service and 2 meters was for hams. Marsha and her friends knew to tune into the net when there was bad weather, and the possibility of tornadoes.

She found her way to public service through that net, and went on to volunteer at local church walks, then did net control for the March of Dimes in a local park. Once a month, she helps organize hams to assist local officials to test the warning sirens in case of tornadoes or high speed winds.

"I'm not the one who's going to go out and do damage assessment after a storm," she said, "but I can be net control, or I can be on the radio, or tutoring, or mentoring, or teaching." She's taken all of the FEMA classes recommended for public service, and believes others should as well, whether their jurisdiction requires them or not.

Having Fun

Marsha constantly tries to improve her skills, whether that's by working through DX pileups, activating special event stations, or taking part in public service events. "You can't be a good mentor if you don't try to improve yourself," she explained. She's currently working towards her 5-Band Worked All States, and uses special events to help toward that. She goes to the Dayton Hamvention every year, and is also part of the Young Ladies' Radio League. When she used to come home from working afternoons, she never had to worry about having someone to talk to on the 40-minute ride. She would just get on 2 meters in the car and announce, "YL Mobile." In between public service events, emergency response, and engaging hams in the community, Marsha enjoys the more casual aspects of ham radio. She said, "I think the most important thing about ham radio is that a license was given to us with the primary purpose for us to be trained for emergencies - but they allow us to have fun while we're waiting for the emergency. My goal in life is to have as much fun with ham radio as I can, and I'm going to do it."

Field Day 2016

(continued from page 2)

Field Day first started in 1933 as a way to showcase the science and skill of amateur radio by establishing temporary ham radio stations in public locations. Each year, it demonstrates ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location, creating an independent communications network.



Last year, over 45,000 people participated in Field Day activities from thousands of locations across the United States and Canada.

Nationally, the event is sponsored by ARRL.

EGARA members who participated in this year's Field Day included:

- Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR
- Nicholas Field, KD2JCR
- Chris Linck, N2NEH
- Ridge Macdonald, KB2HWL
- Andy Sullivan, KC2WWJ
- Tom Scoresone, KC2FCP
- Walt Snyder, N2WJR
- Les Johnson, AC2OX
- Peggy Donnelly, KD2LCE
- Liz Gross, W7BYK
- Rick Gross, Jr, K3YT
- Jim Pendolino, KC2HRO
- Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC
- Rick Gross, W2RWG
- Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

In addition, Ron Fish, KX1W, the ARRL's Field Membership rep for the Hudson Division, stopped by to check out the club's Field Day setup and activities.

Overall, Egara claimed a score of 466 in contact points, and 850 bonus points for meeting additional Field Day criteria.

Thanks to all who turned out to make Egara's 2016 Field Day a success!

FCC Says "No" to Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC has denied the petition of an Arizona radio amateur, who had petitioned for lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, had filed his Petition for Rule Making with the FCC last November, and the FCC invited public comments in February. Krotz wanted the FCC to revise Part 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of the current 10-year term. Hundreds of radio amateurs commented on the petition, but the FCC was not swayed.

"Based on our review of the record, we are not persuaded that the petition discloses sufficient grounds for the requested rule change," the FCC said in a June 21 Order. "Krotz's primary argument is that extending the term of amateur licenses to the lifetime of the holder would reduce the Commission's administrative and personnel costs, but it is not clear to us that the proposal actually would enhance administrative efficiency." That's because the vast majority of license renewals are submitted online and processed automatically by the Universal Licensing System (ULS), "with minimal staff involvement," the Order said.

The FCC said it had further reduced its overhead by no longer routinely mailing out paper licenses. "[I]f license terms were extended to the holder's lifetime, we likely would receive more cancellations on account of the licensee's death, which are labor-intensive, because staff must carefully verify the deceased's identity and licenses in order to guard against erroneous cancellations," the FCC said.

Krotz argued that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, but the FCC said that's not a comparable situation, because an Amateur Radio license is both an operator's license and a station license, "and there is no Commission precedent for issuing a lifetime station license."

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2. The FCC pointed out in its Order that this was done to address the concerns that a licensee who had not renewed also may not have maintained or expanded his or her knowledge and skills.

CALENDAR

July 6, 2016 - VE Exam Session - Location: RPI Campus CII Building - Rm 3045 - Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) - Sponsor: ATVET

September 11, 2016 - Hamfest 2016 - Saratoga County Amateur Radio Assn., Saratoga County Fairgrounds, Ballston Spa. Opens 7 am. Admission \$10.

September 14, 2016 - EGARA Membership Meeting East Greenbush Masonic Temple, 7 pm

October 8, 2016 - VE Exam Session - Location: East Greenbush Community Library - Time: 10:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed) - Sponsor EGARA

Pro Tip: Dealing With Noise in HF Mobile Installations

Many hams find that their HF mobiles receive more noise than they do usable signals. Common noise sources include the ignition system and alternator.

Spark plug noise is propagated through ungrounded body panels and the exhaust system, which is normally suspended from rubber vibration dampers. The rubberized supports insulate the exhaust from ground, essentially creating a radiating spark antenna.

To deal with spark noise, use tinned copper braid to electrically connect the hood to the firewall of the vehicle. This will turn your hood into a Faraday shield. Stainless steel clamps of the proper size may be used to clamp braid to the exhaust system, (typically in two places- one near the front and one in the rear) thereby reducing the radiation of noise.

DX Engineering DXE-TCB-050 Tinned Copper Braid is a half-inch wide and ideal for this purpose. For alternator noise, a suppressor will eliminate noise from DC supply lines in radios up to 100 watts output. As a fringe benefit, noises other than alternator noise, like that of onboard system control computers, will also be reduced.



For Sale

Vibroplex Original semi automatic "bug" key. Like-new, Excellent condition, adjusted and tested – ready for your CW operating position. \$170 – Steve WB2HPR 518-326-0902

Icom 7100 All-mode transceiver HF / VHF / UHF / S-Star and touch screen - HF 100 watts / 6 meter VHF 50 watts / UHF- 35 watts. Original box, manual, mike, dc power cable, cd and usb cable. \$ 950.00

Kenwood TS 480 HX features all-mode operation from HF - 50 mhz amateur radio band. Separate remote control panel for mobile operation; DSP processing w/ adj filter; 200 watts power on ssb, cw, fsk & fm, 50 watts output on AM; 50 Mhz band 100 watts and 25 watts on AM. \$ 875.00

For above two items, contact Tom Scorsone by e-mail at: kc2fcp@nycap.rr.com.

Wanted to Buy

Any old broadcast radios for possible restoration, any brand, style, preferably tubes models. Contact: Steve WB2HPR at 326-0902.

Looking to Buy, Sell or Swap?
Send your info to W2RBJ@outlook.com

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, SK and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to the amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.