

WALTON RADIO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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WRA EMERGENCY SERVICE

On the evening of July 23rd some members of the Walton Radio Association, plus one member of the Margaretville Club, were involved in providing possible emergency communications back up. There was a danger of some serious flooding in the southern part of Delaware County. Initially the National Weather Service station in Binghamton requested that an operator be located in the communications room of the Public Safety Building in Delhi to forward weather and any flooding information to them.

Once an operator was in place, the County Emergency Coordinator requested that we have some operators in place in Fishs Eddy, the Downsville Fire Hall and Margaretville.

John Nichols was able to get the following operators in place to forward reports to the County PSB. In Fishs Eddy, Donald Reinshagen was able to provide reports from his community. In Downsville, both John Hampel and Rich Kelly were able to provide communications to the PSB. Rich Kelly stayed on that location till the danger of flooding was past.

In Margaretville, Lester Bourke agreed to work with the operators at the PSB to

forward any reports of flooding in his part of the County.

At various times during the evening Bill Holland, James Stewart and John Nichols manned the two-meter rig in the Communications Room at the PSB in Delhi.

Fortunately there was no really serious flooding in Delaware County during the weather alert. There was some damage to the Cat Hollow Road towards the Route 17 Side of the road.

It was rewarding to know that the Club could put together a small emergency net on short order. We thank all of those who helped in the emergency, and we were happy that regular communications in the County remained in operation throughout the emergency.

NEW WRA MEMBERS

The WRA is pleased to have two new members added to the membership roll. They are:

Ed McGinley WB4AEF, who lives at 955 Freer Hollow Road in Walton. Ed is a creator of web sites and he has very generously helped John Hampel set up a new website for the club. Be sure to check it out at www.waltonhamradio.com

Jon Seeley KC2LEA, who lives at 5167 State Highway 206, Sidney Center. Jon is active in the Boy Scouts and we welcome both new members to the Walton Radio Association.

HORACE AT 102



At the June meeting of the WRA, the club had a surprise birthday party at the house of Horace Staley. Horace is well on his way of becoming one of the oldest active hams in New York State, and perhaps the nation!

WRA FIELD DAY

For the WRA Field Day exercise in 2008, the Club had both CW stations and a phone station. The bands were somewhat noisy this year, but we did slightly better than we did in 2007. Our total score was 3600 compared to last year's 3130. Operating on our usual five watts of power a total of 42 phone contacts were made, and 292 were



made on CW. All the stations operated on battery power. We did some contacts with emergency power that was generously provided by Frank Falknor (know as Falknor Power) with a hand-operated generator.



WRA CLUB EVENTS

This year, as in past years, the Club provided a group of Operators to help cover the Delhi Covered Bridge 10K run. The event went well with no runners needing any assistance. A somewhat unique addition was the use of three radio operators to get two races started at the exact same time. There is a shorter 5K Run that occurs simultaneously with the main race. The runners start about a quarter of a mile apart on the Main Street in Delhi. They run towards each other at the start and the race organizers wanted both races to start at the same time for timing purposes. They asked us to have an operator at a police car that used its siren to start the race. That operator in turn told one operator at the start of each the two races to yell go when the operator at the police car announced the start of the race. Much to our surprise it worked well and the race organizers were pleased with the results. As in the past we not only provided operators to cover the race, one of

our members, Paul DeAndrea was a runner. He did well with a strong finish!



WALTON HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Club had a very successful day at the annual Harvest Festival event at the Walton Fair Grounds in October. This year we had two stations set up. John Hampel operated a phone station and Frank Falknor and Aiden Miller had a unique CW Display. Aiden

would have people ask a question which he would then send to Frank in CW. It created lots of interest. Both stations attracted over thirty people. We had some prizes to give out to people who participated, and Caitlan Barlow of Walton won the ten-dollar prize. Many people asked how did one obtain an amateur license. Dennis Klimowski and Rich Kelly provided help on the day of the event and the set-up on Friday.

(John Hampel also provided some nice photos of the event, which your editor lost, in his in computers unique gmail archive feature. That was the first and last time I will use that feature).

WRA TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS



Paul DeAndrea bought a 4-400A beam power tetrode vacuum tube to our September meeting. It's plate (anode) dissipation rating with suitable cooling is 400 Watts. Therefore, with an output circuit efficiency of 80% as a class "C" amplifier, this tube should be able to develop an RF

output of approximately 1000 watts of carrier with about 10 watts of driving power all the while remaining well within its rating. The typical plate voltage is 3000 volts, DC. The filament (cathode) requires 5 volts AC at 14.5 amperes (72.5 watts). It should be able to keep a small shack warm in the winter months!

NVIS ANTENNAS

At our October meeting, John Hampel gave the club a presentation about the design and uses of Near Vertical Incident Skywave Antennas, also referred to as “cloud warmers.” In times of emergencies these antennas should be useful in providing operators with the ability to communicate over terrains where VHF repeaters may work well, if at all. The antennas are designed to make use of ground reflecting conductors as well as the driven dipole elements. The operational bandwidth, impedance and radiation patterns were illustrated by an excellent visual system hooked to John’s computer. The club hopes to have similar presentations from the ARRL at future meetings.

CANOE RACE COMMUNICATIONS



Jim and Judi LeBaron helped out with the first day of the Classic 90 Mile Adirondack

Canoe Race in September. They had to carry all their radio gear about a third of a mile to the site that they worked from. They were on site for about six hours, and logged around 250 boats through the checkpoint. They also helped to provide any emergency communications for paddlers who were ill or delayed in the race.

LOCAL NETS AND REPEATERS

2 METERS:

WRA NET WEDNESDAYS @ 7 PM ON THE 146.955- REPEATER

W2LZ REPEATER 147.315+

H.F. NET

WCN WESTERN CATSKILL CW NET MONDAYS @ 7 PM 3545

