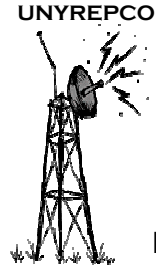




makin' *waves*



Newsletter Number Eighty-Two

March 2005

The Changing of the Guard

As most of you will have heard by now, through the RRA reflector, on the air, word of mouth, or just a rumor, Sheila and I have decided to do what we planned almost ten years ago - move to Florida - and the move will be in the next two months.

When Barry Cohen, N2BJ, president of the RRA, left for Chicago *fifteen* years ago (I just can't believe it is that long), the RRA Eboard elected me as president. Although I did not think that I was qualified enough to perform that task, Barry and the Eboard members did, and, over time I grew into the job.

Now it was my turn to ensure that the RRA continued to be the premier repeater club in the area, by recommending the right person to the Eboard to become president.

(Continued on page 2)

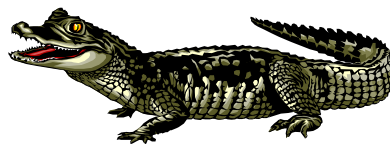
RRA Meeting Sunday, April 3, 2005

Our Spring membership renewal meeting will be held in the Rockland County Fire Training Center situation room, in the rear of the building, at 1:00 PM on April 3rd. All hams or prospective ones are invited to attend.

Talk-in will be held on 147.165 MHz (114.8 PL).

Light refreshments will be available and a 50/50 drawing will be held.

Come visit with your ham friends and learn about your repeater system!



Renewal Time...

Almost all of the RRA memberships will expire at the end of this month. Please use the enclosed RRA addressed envelope to send your renewal in today! If your information has not changed, you need not fill out the whole form, just your call -- and enclose your check in the self-addressed envelope.

Please inspect the label on your newsletter. If the expiration date is not "xxxx/04" (April), please adjust your renewal amount so that your next renewal will be in April. You may divide your dues by four to get a quarterly amount. For full members, for example, apply \$8.75 per quarter (3 months).

Please renew now, while the renewal form is in your hand.

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4 Susan Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980
N2ACF@arrl.net

...Guard continued

The task was to find an RRA member of proven leadership abilities, a person with vision, and one who had the respect and confidence of the membership. Not a small task.

It only took a few microseconds to realize that that person was already among us: Adam Feuer, N2ACF, our Director of Sites. Not only did he have the above qualifications, he had good management and delegation skills, and his dedication to repeaters was legendary.

I asked Adam if he would take the post, and he replied, "I would be delighted to do so, and it would be an honor."

Presented with my recommendation, the board members placed a unanimous vote for Adam, and it was decided that he would take over as president on April 1, 2005, our thirtieth anniversary.

I wish Adam the best of luck in this new endeavor, although I know that it is not luck which makes a person successful, and I know he has what it takes. Sheila and I can take off for Florida knowing that the RRA is in good hands and will continue to be the finest repeater group I've ever known.

I will miss all of you, but will have local repeaters with IRLP available (nodes 4657 or 4394), and I might even be able to string a wire in my attic and get on HF (serious restrictions on visible antennas) and talk with you direct.

I hope all of you can make the meeting so I can say, "goodbye," in person.

73 for now, John, K2CIB

System Update

29.640 - new antenna planned for the Spring

145.170 - complete replacement repeater planned this year.

147.165 - new antenna (and back to top of pole) this Spring.

444.450 - new repeater - up now! Linked to the 443.850 system. Same PL.

More at the meeting!

New Members

Welcome aboard!!

The RRA welcomes our new members. Please make them feel, "at home." I apologize that many of the hams listed here are already old friends, since I did not publish a newsletter last Fall.

Peter, WB6QEX of Monsey; George, K2BIE and Joyce, KC2EME of Tarrytown; Matt, KE4USM, now KC2NSG; Avi, KC2MUT and Judah, KC2MS of Monsey; Lance, N2HBA of Plainview; Frank, KB2TNH of Jersey City; Robert, WB2NVR now W2RZS of Hawthorne; Phil, KC2GDF of Ossining; Lawrence, KC7PHX of Newburgh; Ken, WB2SCT of Valley Cottage; Steve, K2SGT of Merrick; Noel, W2MSA of Hasbrouck Heights; Bob, N2GDY of Dobbs Ferry; Dermit, KC2MBW of East Moriches; Randy, KI4HJR of Manhattan; and Ed, KC2NNT of Stony Point.

Help will be needed for a "Heavy Duty" Cleanup this Spring: Our future President will be looking for "A Few Good Men" (with strong backs!)

Did You Know...?

- That a new, beautifully designed RRA badge will be available for inspection and order at the April meeting? Can't make the meeting? Send your order to Paul, k2ph@arrl.net or to his home address. The badges will cost about \$10.00. Specify your call and desired first name.
- The 443.850 system automatically transmits severe weather watches and warnings from the National Weather Service for Rockland and surrounding counties?
- The 147.165 repeater now changes over to normal daytime mode at 9 AM, not 10 AM? And the Tuesday evening net mode is kept until 9 PM?
- The ARRL is the only organization which supports our ham interests at the national level? Please support them by joining today!

Silent Keys

• **Lou Chorba, N2VFT, 10/2004**
member since 1994.

• **Bill Hoenig, WA2WEJ, 10/2004,**
member since 1982.

We will miss our friends.

RACES & ARES

The W2DMC packet radio F6FBB bulletin board and Flexnet node is complete and in-place in the RACES room! John, K2CIB, with the help of Bob, K2BJG, and Bill, WA2AHR, completed the installation in January and it has operated without a failure since. All hams are invited to connect to the system on our LAN frequency of 145.510 MHz. The node has connectivity to the North Eastern States FlexNet Network on 223 MHz through WB2ZII in Westchester, and WA2AHR in Dutchess County.

Bulletins of emergency interest, RACES, ARES, computers, DX, etc., are available now on the BBS. If there are certain bulletins you would like to see, let the sysop know.

To connect to our FlexNet node, type "C W2DMC". To connect with the F6FBB BBS, type "M" or "C W2DMC-4".

Please leave a message on the bulletin board for the sysop and let him know your thoughts about the node and BBS, and the quality of your connection.

With John leaving, Steve, KF2JA, is looking for one or two packet sysops to monitor and make changes to the system from time-to-time. Contact him if you are interested.

Public Service

Sunday April 17

The Rockland Road Runners Club is holding a Half Marathon Running Festival to benefit the United Hospice of Rockland on Sunday, April 17, 2005 at Rockland Lake. Ray, K2NET, is looking for Radio Operators to provide communications.

Hours of Radio Communications are from: 08:30AM-11:30AM. (approx. 3hrs.). The race is planned to start at 09:00AM. Talk-In will start at 07:00AM - 08:30AM on 147.165 Repeater.

Volunteering for public service is a very rewarding part of ham radio and helps teach the public about what we can do. For RACES members, please note: This event will credit towards RACES membership.

Anyone willing to take part in Radio Communications for this event should contact K2NET@arrl.net. Please respond early, since a logistics plan must be built with the Race Director prior to the event.

Thanks for your support,
Ray Bernabe - K2NET@arrl.net
Rockland-RACES/ Rockland Repeater Association
Public Event Communications Coordinator

Skywarn

Alan Goodman, N2CYC, Rockland County Skywarn Coordinator reports:

- The new web address of Rockland County Skywarn is:

<http://www.geocities.com/rocklandskywarn>. There is also a link from the RRA web page to the Rockland County Skywarn web page.

- The National Weather Service will be running a Basic Skywarn Spotter Training Class this spring at the Rockland County Fire Training Center in Pomona. The date and time of the class will be announced shortly.

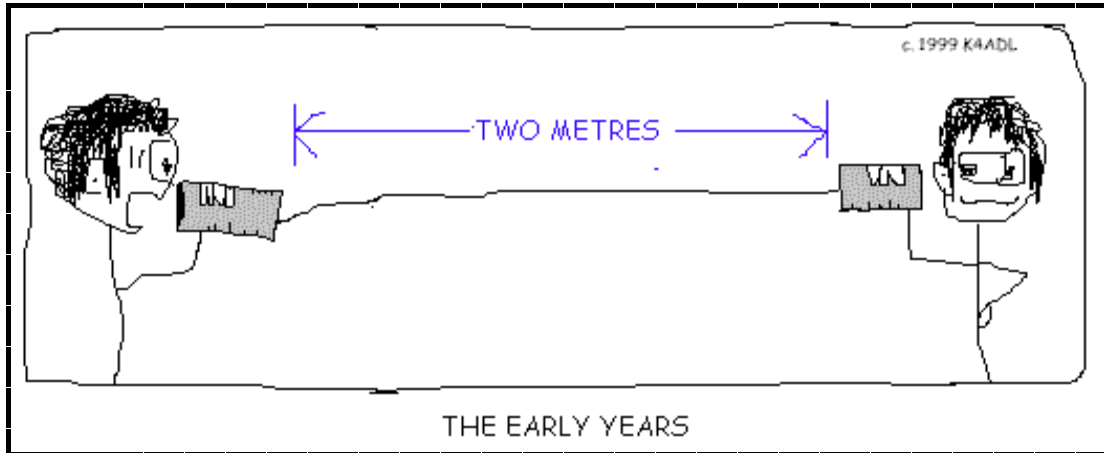
- Don't forget to participate in the Rockland County Skywarn training sessions held on our 147.165 repeater the second Wednesday of each month at 8 PM.

- If you detect a severe weather condition, and no net is operating, you should report it by telephone, or via the Internet at: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/report.html>

Don't forget: there *will* be weather!

73, Alan





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