



PCARA Update



Volume 2, Issue 2

A Non-Profit Community Service Organization

February 2001



Meetings

Please join us at our next meeting on Thursday, March 1st, 7:30 PM, Hudson Valley Hospital Center

Future Meetings
Dates: (subject to change)

04-05 / 05-03 / 06-07

It's Almost Here...

The W2NYW Special Event Station!!

- **Charter Membership**

There is still time to become a Charter Member of PCARA, but it is growing short. If you wish to become a Charter Member and sign the certificate for the PCARA Special Event Station on April 7, 2001, you must act soon. To make arrangements for your contribution and to sign the certificate, please contact Joe-KR2V, at 914-737-0348 or kr2v@arrl.net. Act now!

- **Monthly Meetings**

There has been some discussion about moving the monthly meetings back to the first Sunday of each month at 3:00 pm at Hudson Valley Hospital Center. The meetings on Sundays seem to have been more convenient for many members, and somewhat better attended. A vote will be held at the March meeting (Thursday, March 1st at 7:30 pm) to get a consensus on this possible change. If you're unable to attend the meeting but still want to express your opinion, please e-mail me at kb2cq@arrl.net with your thoughts and comments.

- **440 MHz Repeater Usage**

Some of you may be aware of the recent threats to our 440 MHz repeaters on 448.725 MHz and 449.925 MHz. I am proposing we hold on-the-air meetings every two weeks, alternating between the two machines, which would allow us to free up the two meter machine during the nets, while increasing the usage of the 440 machines. In the event of a public emergency or service event, the 440 machines will play an important role in our communications function. The 440 machines have already proven their importance during large scale public service events, however, during our recent SET at Camp Smith, the interference on the 449.925 machine became such that it was difficult to properly run the communications on this repeater. Any comments or suggestions regarding the nets are most welcome.

- **Field Day 2001**

PCARA may have an opportunity to hold Field Day 2001 at Camp Smith. We need to begin making preparations now. A Field Day 2001 Committee will be created at the March meeting to coordinate planning.

- **Technician Classes**

Over the last few weeks there have been inquiries about PCARA holding an amateur radio license preparation course from people referred to us by the ARRL. We have several members who are VEs and we should consider sponsoring a course for Technician Class candidates. A training/education committee will be formed at the March meeting to follow up on this. Please contact me if you are interested or able to help in any way.

- **Guest Speaker**

Ray-W2CH, will be our guest speaker at the March meeting, providing an overview of his almost 40 years in the hobby. Based on discussions at a previous meeting, it would be important to video tape Ray's presentation as we begin our club documentary tape. Please contact me if you would like to handle this task.

73,
Greg, KB2CQE

Membership Report

PCARA has received 34 membership applications to date. Applications are available on our website @ www.pcara.org. Completed applications should be mailed to: PCARA, PO Box 32, Crompond, New York 10517

New Charter Members

Marylyn & Ray-W2CH (...and Newlyweds as well...Congratulations!!)
Armen-N2PLZ



Thank you to all the members who have so generously donated to PCARA's Charter Membership Program. If you haven't already, please consider a small gift to PCARA to help us meet our operating expenses.

Welcome New Member -

William Lloyd-KC2FYY, a student member who recently upgraded to General Class.

Donations

PCARA, as a 501 (c) (4) organization, is able to accept financial and equipment donations, which are tax deductible (as allowed by law) for the donor. **We encourage our members to look into whether their employers offer grant /donation programs.**

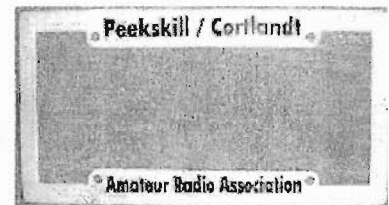
Upgrades

Please share your upgrade news with us. Send an e-mail to pcara@email.com.



PCARA License Plate Frames

PCARA License Plate Frames are available for 5.00 a pair. This is a great way to get the PCARA name out and to support our club. To order, please send your payment to PCARA, PO Box 32, Crompond, NY 10517, or contact PCARA at pcara@email.com. License plate frames are also available at PCARA meetings.



Calendar of Events

March

1st - 7:30 PM Meeting at Hudson Valley Hospital Center Dining Room B
Kids Day--- June 16
JOTA--- October 20-21

ARRL Membership / Renewals

PCARA, through the ARRL Club Affiliation Program, is able to assist PCARA members in establishing and renewing ARRL memberships. This is a great way to support PCARA, as we are provided with a commission from the ARRL for offering this service. You can obtain the appropriate forms from a link off the PCARA website or contact me direct at kr2v@arrl.net or 737-0348. Below are the steps for this program:

- 1 - Please return your completed ARRL Membership/Renewal form, along with your ARRL dues check **made out to PCARA** to: PCARA, PO Box 32, Crompond, NY 10517.
- 2 - PCARA will forward a check along with your application and the Affiliated Club form to the ARRL.

CSMA Meeting

Last month, Bob-N2CBH, Malcolm-NM9J, Greg-KB2CQE, and Joe-KR2V once again headed east to Connecticut for the CSMA meeting. The next meeting is Sunday, April 1st, and will be held at the Southington ARA's hamfest. All PCARA members are welcome to attend. We'll setup a car pool; please contact Joe-KR2V, if you would like to attend.

From The ARRL Letter, Vol 20, No 6 2/9/01

==>ARRL OFFERS NEW FIVE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP PLAN

With a membership dues increase going into effect July 1, 2001, the ARRL is offering a special five-year membership plan until then, so members can lock in at the current, lower dues rates. Effective immediately, current or prospective ARRL members in the US and US possessions can obtain a five-year renewal or membership for \$146 (\$122 for those 65 or older)--a saving of \$24 (\$18 for those 65 or older) from the cost of year-to-year renewal at current rates!

Due to postal considerations, this offer cannot be extended to those living in other countries. The special five-year membership offer expires June 30, 2001, the last day the present dues schedule is in effect. After that, annual dues will increase to \$39 for individuals (\$34 for those 65 and older).

Another option is to apply for an ARRL Life Membership for \$850. Special discounts apply to senior and visually impaired applicants. A complete rate schedule and application form is available on ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/join.html>.

==> ARRL Outgoing QSL Service announces revised rates: The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service has announced a new and simplified rate structure, effective March 1, 2001. The new basic rate will be \$4 per one-half pound (8 ounces, or approximately 75 cards) or any portion of a half-pound, a change from the current rate of \$6 per pound or any portion. DXers still may ship 10 cards for \$1, but the 20 and 30-card rates are being discontinued. The new rate structure will help to cover basic handling costs for smaller packages while actually offering a price break to moderate-volume users submitting up to one-half pound of cards. Under the current rate schedule, a half-pound of cards would cost \$6, but it will be \$4 under the new schedule. The new rates are in response to the recent postal rate increase and price restructuring. The Outgoing QSL Service is available to ARRL members. The last rate increase was in January 1999. For information on using the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, visit ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/qs/qsout.html>.

Subj: FW: NEW Hudson Division Web Site
Date: 2/8/01 10:15:55 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: JKleinhaus@etcny.com (J.P. Kleinhaus)
To: peekcortara@listbot.com ('peekcortara@listbot.com')

Greetings:

As of last night, the ENTIRE Hudson Division web page at www.arrl-hudson.org has been scrapped and replaced by a newer model. Much of the old site is gone, never to be heard from again, some of it has been updated and some of it is in the reconstruction process.

Among the "live" pages is the club links page, which has been modified to include the PCARA home page.

There is some important information up on the home page about the NEW PRB-1 bill in NY State. Please have a look, and spread the word about this important issue.

73, J.P. W2XX
w2xx@arrl.org

Subject: NYC / Long Island Hamfest
From: k2epm@aol.com (K2EPM)
Date: 2/7/01 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time

LIMARC Winterfest 2001 Electronics Hamfair and Flea Market
Sunday, February 25th, 2001
Levittown Hall
201 Levittown Parkway
Hicksville, New York 11801

Doors open at 8 AM for Vendors, 9 AM for buyers.

Vendors: Time is running short to reserve your table, get your check in today!

Tables are by advance reservation only, \$20 if received by 2/14, \$25 after. Payable to LIMARC, PO Box 392, Levittown, NY 11756. Each reservation includes one 6 foot table and admission for one person.

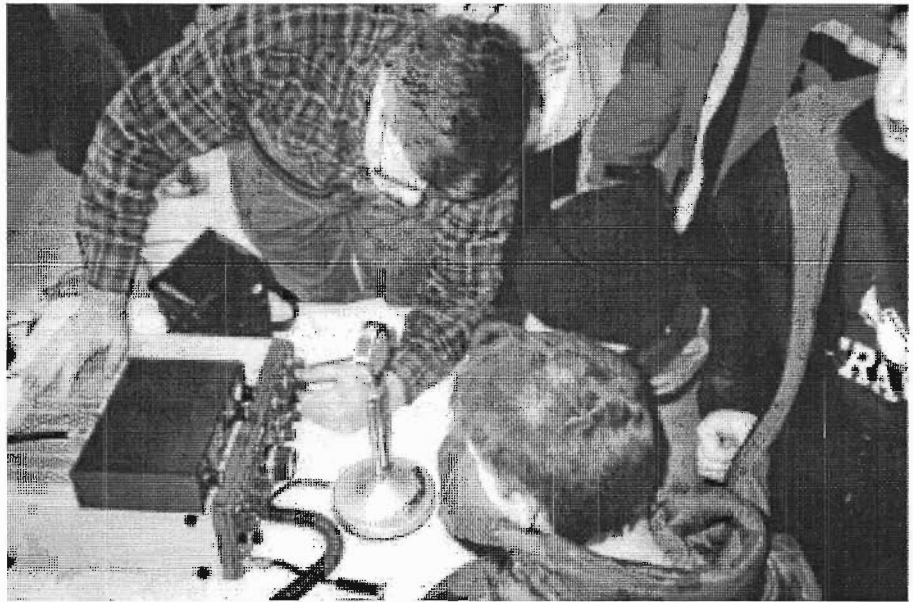
General admission is \$6, children under 12 accompanied by a paying parent are free.

For More info visit the LIMARC web site at : <http://www.limarc.org> or call our 24 hour info line at (516) 520-9311. Talk-in is on the 146.850 repeater (PL=136.5).

See our display ads in the January and February issues of QST Magazine.

Klondike Derby @ Camp Smith

Another excellent program thanks to the members of PCARA!



Photos by NM9J





Special Event Station

Commemorating the First Anniversary of the Peekskill / Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association

This Certifies that Amateur Radio Station _____ Completed a Contact with PCARA Special
Event Station W2NYW on the 7th day of April 2001:
UTC: _____, Frequency: _____, Mode: _____, RST: _____.

Confirmed by the Charter Members of this Fine Amateur Radio Group:

PCARA, Inc. PO Box 32, Crompond, NY 10517 • www.pcara.org • pcara@email.com

PCARA - W2NYW First Anniversary Charter Member Special Event Station Certificate

Above is a copy of the QSL Certificate for our Special Event Station. It will be signed by PCARA Charter Members and color copies will be made for the event. Please use the below form if you would like to become a Charter Member in time for this Special Event. **The cut off date to sign the certificate will be the March 1st meeting, as time will be needed to have the certificate printed. Please contact Joe at kr2v@arrl.net or 737-0348 to make arrangements to sign the certificate if you will be unable to do so at the March meeting.**

Member Assessment / Charter Membership Program

At our April 2nd meeting we discussed the need of a voluntary member assessment. This is necessary in order to help PCARA get up and running at full strength. The level of enthusiasm among our members is phenomenal and we have some great plans in the works to make PCARA the best it can be for our members and served communities. However, our current financial situation cannot support our goals.

There are several things we ask of our members:

- 1 - Please let others know about PCARA. Member packets are available for licensed amateurs, or persons interested in amateur radio (Associate Membership).
- 2 - Please consider donating your surplus radio, computer, etc., equipment to PCARA. Items we are unable to use will be brought to a hamfest to help raise funds for the association.
- 3 - Please consider a voluntary contribution to help offset our association expenses (repeater upgrades and maintenance, equipment insurance, incorporation costs, etc.) Any member who donates 50.00 or more during our first year will be considered a charter member of PCARA. The below form can be used for contributions and returned to the PCARA address:

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Donation Amount _____

Please mail this form along with your check to:

PCARA
PO Box 32
Crompond, NY 10517

Voice & Fax: 914-737-0348
Email: pcara@email.com
www.pcara.org



Update Editor:
Joe Ellman
kr2v@arrl.net



PCARA



A Non-Profit Community Service Organization

VE Sessions:

WECA
Emergency Operations Center
Contact: Sandy Fried N2SF - (914) 273-2741

YARC First Sunday of Every Month
Yonkers 1st precinct
Contact: Emily AC2V (914) 237-5589 or Dan AA2HX (914) 667-0587
Call in 146.865

W5YI
Pelham Doranco Town House
Contact: Mike W2MAC (914) 738-5775 or Dan AA2HX (914) 667-0587
Call in 145.495

Ham Fests:

25 Feb 2001 + Long Island Mobile ARC Hicksville, NY
www.limarc.org Email: hamfest@limarc.org
Contact: Ed Muro, KC2AYC Phone: 516-520-9311

Wanted

Information for the Update. Please send any suggestions, news, articles, etc. to kr2v@arrl.net.