



TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 412

SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

www.w2li.org

MEMBER INFORMATION

2006

... a RADIO club, not a REPEATER club...

Member:
Hudson Division



An Affiliate Club of the
American Radio Relay League

TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

2006

OFFICERS

President.....NJ5R.....Jeff H. Regan
Vice President.....W2NJU.....Peter J Tauriello
Secretary.....KY2MMM.....Kymm L. Balinth-Regan
Treasurer.....N2ZU.....Michael Graham

TRUSTEES

Trustee.....K2SO.....Steven Ostrove
Trustee.....N2PSU.....Wayne DeBiasio
Trustee.....KC2LMX.....Robert H Dietz.
Trustee.....N2TDM.....Edward C. Grassmann
Trustee.....WB2EDO.....James M. Brown
W2LI Trustee.....KB2BBD.....Robert E Grassmann

CONTROL OPERATORS

Control Operator.....N2PSU.....Wayne DeBaisio
Control Operator.....KB2BBD.....Robert E. Grassmann
Control Operator.....N2ERN.....Harris M. Ruben
Control Operator.....N2TDM.....Edward C. Grassmann
Control Operator.....KE2D.....Eric S. Dobrowansky
Control Operator.....AA2ZJ.....Gerald E. Miller, Jr.
Control Operator.....N3DV.....Richard Montgomery
Control Operator.....N2YMI.....Stuart Blank

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

•

Considerate...

never knowingly operates in such a way to lessen the pleasure of others.

•

Loyal...

offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

•

Progressive...

with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

•

Friendly...

slow and patient when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

•

Balanced...

radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

•

Patriotic...

station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

* * *

The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA in 1928.

Some interesting facts about Tri-County Radio Association

TCRA was founded by a handful of amateur radio operators in the Fall of 1934.

- During its early years, TCRA was active on the contest circuit, going so far as to wrest the No. 1 position in an ARRL DX contest from the formidable Frankford Radio Club - one of the top contest clubs in the world.
- For the first 50 years of its existence, meetings were held weekly, and the dues were maintained at the 1934 level of 10 cents a week (\$ 5.20 per year).
- The early club repeaters were built from scratch, and even the 2-meter duplexer used into the '80s was homemade. The late George Deihl, W2IHA, built and maintained most of this equipment, and was the prime mover in our obtaining the site our machines now occupy.
- Members of TCRA have published articles in QST and other amateur radio magazines, have won Elmer-of-the-Year awards and have distinguished themselves in the worlds of technical and operating skills. George Deihl, W2IHA, was Director of the Hudson Division of the ARRL for many years.
- TCRA prides itself on being a *RADIO* club, not a *REPEATER* club.
- TCRA has always been dedicated to education, and encourages its members to learn through participation and experience.

Club Features and Activities

Repeaters

Packet Bulletin Board

Meetings

Newsletter

Nets

VE Sessions

Fox Hunting

Picnic

Field Day

Holiday Dinner

Auction

TCRA wants you to be ACTIVE! Your participation in club activities is welcome and encouraged. Write an article for the newsletter. Give a talk on your special interest in ham radio or computers or science or weather or ? at a meeting. Hunt for hidden transmitters. Volunteer for a committee and work with others who have only been disconnected voices in the ether. You join a club to be part of a group that shares your interests. Participation is FUN!

ARRL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



TCRA is participating in a program where club members can renew their ARRL memberships through TCRA. For processing your renewal, TCRA receives a portion of the renewal fee. All you have to do is fill out the renewal form normally, but make your check payable to TCRA *and not to ARRL*. Put *ARRL RENEWAL* on the memo part of check. Then give your completed form and payment to Mike, N2ZU at a club meeting or mail to the club at P.O. Box 412 Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

TCRA can also process new memberships to the ARRL. Ask the club secretary for an *ARRL New Membership* form.

W2LI Repeaters - Murray Hill, NJ

2 Meters
(Open Repeater)
147.255 Output; 147.855 Input
PL: 141.3 Hz

70 Centimeters
(Open Repeater)
449.975 Output; 444.975 Input
PL: 141.3 Hz

Part of the W2NJR Linked Repeater System

www.w2njr.org

SPECIAL NOTES REGARDING THE 2-METER REPEATER

The 2-meter repeater is the official repeater for the Union County Office of Emergency Management. In the event of an emergency, the repeater is to be cleared for the exclusive use of the Office of Emergency Management.

This repeater is also used preferentially by the "Skywarn" net in the event of severe weather.

W2LI REPEATER OPERATING PRACTICES:

- 1. To initiate a contact, simply indicate that you are on frequency.** "KC2ZZZ Listening" is the usual sort of message if you aren't calling a specific station. If no one comes back to you, no further transmission on your part is necessary. Phrases like "negative contact" or "nothing heard" serve no purpose and should be avoided. When you're done with your QSO, sign off with "KC2ZZZ clear and listening" or just "KC2ZZZ out."
- 2. Identify legally.** TCRA requires that you identify your station at the beginning of each contact, at least once each 10 minutes during the contact, and at the end of the contact.
- 3. Pause between transmissions.** Listen for others who may need to use the repeater.
- 4. Keep your transmissions short and thoughtful.** A long monologue may prevent someone with emergency traffic from using the repeater. Remember that repeaters have *timers* that will cut your transmission short if you talk too long.
- 5. Don't use a repeater for LOCAL contacts.** If you can carry on a conversation on simplex, do so, and leave the repeater open for weak stations and mobiles that NEED it.
- 6. Don't break into a QSO unless you have something to add.** Interrupting is just as impolite on the air as it is in person.
- 7. Repeaters are primarily intended to facilitate mobile communications.** ESPECIALLY DURING RUSH HOURS, base stations should relinquish repeater use to mobile stations.
- 8. Leave your CB lingo next to your old 11 Meter rig.** You worked hard for your amateur license. Listen a lot and learn how to sound like the licensed amateur that you now are.
- 9. Don't be a repeater hog.** The dues of *all* TCRA members support the repeaters, and everyone should have equal access to them. If you have *that much* to say, you should use some other frequencies, too. Remember that even your *mother* wouldn't want to hear your voice *all day long*.
- 10. Support your repeaters.** We try to keep the 2-meter repeater "open". If a non-member is a regular user, he or she should be encouraged to help support the repeater, too. Invite your friends who use the repeaters regularly to send in a check and help support our excellent repeaters.
- 11. Don't acknowledge or encourage any station causing malicious interference.** If necessary, telephone a Control Operator.
- 12. NEVER give out the precise repeater location.** "Murray Hill" or "Berkeley Heights" is sufficient. We don't want to jeopardize the site by putting our hosts under pressure by others or by calling undue attention to them.
- 13. Don't bring up more than one repeater.** We share our frequencies with other repeaters. If your transmissions key up more than one repeater, *lower your power*. It's inconsiderate to tie up multiple repeaters at the same time. Nearby repeaters on 2 meters are in Long Island and Pennsylvania.
- 14. NEVER ARGUE WITH A CONTROL OPERATOR OVER THE AIR.** Control Operators have a thankless job. They must police the club's repeaters as they deem necessary in order to protect the club's callsign. If you disagree with the actions of a Control Operator, you should write down your grievance and contact the Officers and/or Trustees.

Packet Bulletin Board
2 Meters - 1200 and 9600 baud
Connect to W2LI-4, on 145.050 simplex

This packet station is a member of the national PBBS network.

BASIC NAVIGATION AROUND THE BOARD

- ! "!" will get you the board's current status. Try it when you log on.
- ? **HELP** "?" will get you a help file about any command. Send "?space<command>".
- A **ABORT** "A" will abort a long list in midstream.
- B **BYE** Always send "B" to log off. Wait for the "DISCONNECTED" prompt before you turn off your TNC or change frequency.
- D **DOWNLOAD** "D" will download a file. Send "Dspace<directory name>/<file name>" to download a file. For example, to download a file named *FT990.MOD* in the *MODIFICATIONS* directory, send "DspaceMODS/FT990.MOD". See "W" below to learn what directories and files are available for downloading.
- K_<nnnnn> **KILL #** "Kspace<nnnnn>" will delete that message if it is addressed to or from you.
- L **LIST** "L" will list all messages since you last sent an "L". Bring a sandwich and a soda into the shack before you send this command!
- LL_<nn> **LIST LAST #** "LLspace<nn>" will list the latest specified number of messages on the bulletin board. For example, "LLspace50" will list the last 50 messages.
- LM **LIST MINE** "LM" will list all messages addressed to you.
- R_<nnnnn> **READ #** "Rspace<nnnnn>" will read that particular message. You can read up to six messages with a single "R" command: for example, "Rspace<33333>space<33335>space<33339>space<33347>" will read messages 33333, 33335, 33339 and 33347 without a break between messages.
- SB **SEND BULLETIN** "SB" will put your bulletin on all PBBS boards you have specified. For example, "SBspaceHELP@TRIBBS" will send your help request to all boards in our tristate area. Think twice before you send recipes, jokes and political statements. Remember all the silly messages you have to wade through before you send one of your own out to the world. *You must end your message with "control-Z" or "/EX" on a separate line.*
- S **SEND, or**
- SP **SEND PRIVATE** "SP" will send your message ONLY to the person you have specified as the addressee. "S" will allow anybody to open and read the message. *In general*, you enter the home PBBS, State, Country and Continent (separated by periods) of the addressee UNLESS YOU ARE RESPONDING TO A MESSAGE CURRENTLY LISTED. *Sometimes* the ARRL Section abbreviation is included (prefixed with a "#"). To send a message to Joe N8ZZZ, and you know his home PBBS is WB8YYY in Milwaukee, you address your message to "N8ZZZ@WB8YYY.WI.USA.NOAM". *You must end your message with "control-Z" or "/EX" on a separate line.*
- SR **SEND REPLY** "SR" will automatically reply to a message that you have JUST read. If you are responding to message 12345 from W6ABC, just send "SR" immediately after reading the message and send the message (no message number, "to", routing, or subject header). To reply to a message that you read PREVIOUSLY, send "SRspace<nnnnn>" *You must end your message with "control-Z" or "/EX" on a separate line.*
- W **WHAT'S THERE?** "W" will list all of the downloadable *directories*.
- W_<directory name> "Wspace<directory name>" will list all downloadable *files* in the directory.
- QTH "QTH" will take you into the callbook file server. To get back to the bulletin board from here send "M" (MAIN MENU).

This list is by no means complete. It is only meant to help you get started using the bulletin board.

All of the available command (letters) are listed when you log on. For detailed help about any command, type "?space<letter>".

Meetings

Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of every month except December.

Union Elks 281 Chestnut Street, Union, NJ 07083

Meeting locations are subject to change. Check your newsletter for up-to-date details.

Programs of interest to members and other amateurs are scheduled whenever possible.

Monthly Newsletter

A newsletter is published monthly 10 times a year (no issue in August or December). It includes a calendar of events for the month, new memberships, items wanted, for sale or trade, and other information of interest to members.

The newsletter is handed out at the second meeting of the month and mailed to those not in attendance, and is sent via Email to members wishing to participate in this experiment.

VE Sessions (Examinations)

Examination sessions are given quarterly.

Dates and times are published in the TCRA Newsletter.

Fox Hunting

Knowing how to find hidden transmitters can be an important, life-saving skill.

TCRA holds direction-finding exercises from time to time.

The club encourages experimentation with various antennas and direction-finding devices and offers technical help to aid in the construction and use of these devices.

Summer Picnic

A picnic is usually held each summer in a local park. Direction-finding skills are not necessary.

Field Day

TCRA mounts a Field Day station in conjunction with the ARRL's annual Field Day exercises.

This event takes place during the last full weekend in June, and involves setting up and operating amateur radio stations on all bands and modes under simulated emergency conditions.

All members are encouraged to participate.

Holiday Dinner

A "Holiday Dinner" is usually held early in December.

For the past few years, this event has been held at Snuffy's in Scotch Plains. It's a pleasant evening and good opportunity to meet other members and their usually invisible and unheard spouses.

The Holiday Dinner is the only event held in December.

Hamfest and Flea Market or Auction

TCRA usually sponsors an event in the Autumn.

Times and dates vary according to the location used and specific details of the event.
