



## Tri County Radio Association

W2LI Since 1934



Tri County Radio operates repeaters on 147.255 (PL 141.3) and 449.975 (PL 141.3) using the W2LI memorial call sign / PO BOX 1291 Union NJ 07083-1291 / Web Site: <http://www.w2li.org>

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### TCRA NEWS STAFF:

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## Any Ideas???

Do you have an article you'd like to submit for publication in the TCRA News? The TCRA News editors are always seeking articles for future issues. If you have any ideas, please contact Bob, KB2BBD at [kb2bbd@arrl.net](mailto:kb2bbd@arrl.net).

### TCRA NEWS FEBRUARY 2009

TCRA News is published ten times a year, with no issues in August and December.

#### PROGRAMS/EVENTS FOR

#### FEBRUARY\*

\*Subject to change.

February 2<sup>nd</sup>: "TRUNKED REPEATER SYSTEMS" Paul Cuva, N0HPR will discuss Trunked Repeater Systems. (8PM AT THE UNION ELKS)

February 14<sup>th</sup>: "VE TEST SESSION" 8AM at the Union County College Cranford Campus.

February 16<sup>th</sup>: Plans were not finalized at press time. It may be a social meeting or a topic you would not want to miss. (8PM AT THE UNION ELKS)

February 23<sup>rd</sup>: "ON THE AIR MEETING" (9PM W2LI 2M 147.255 PL 141.3).

February 28<sup>th</sup>: "VE TEST SESSION" 9AM at the Roselle Fire Department, 725 Chestnut St., Roselle, NJ 07203 in the third floor conference room (handicap accessible).

### 2009 DUES

Just a reminder: TCRA 2009 dues are due for 2009 membership. Dues are \$20.00. If you can't make it out to a meeting, you may send it to the club: **PO BOX 1291 Union NJ 07083-1291.** Please note new mailing address. Please note that although the dues are the same as last year the clubs expenses continue to rise. If you are able please add a donation to your dues payment. In advance thank you for your donation.

**From The ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 2,**  
**1/16/09**

**FCC LICENSE ACTIVITY ON THE RISE**

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, there continues to be a heightened interest in Amateur Radio following the FCC's elimination of the Morse code exam requirement in February 2007: "The number of new license applicants remains strong under the new Amateur Radio Service rules. The following table chronicles all 14 FCC authorized VEC organizations' new license activity over the last few years." In 2008, the total number of US amateurs rose 1.2 percent, from 655,800 in 2007, to 663,500 in 2008:

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New Amateur Totals  
2006 through November 2008

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Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	1274	1647	1755
Feb	1605	2435	2998
Mar	2531	3478	2816
Apr	1728	2673	3090
May	2283	2607	2562
Jun	1967	2281	2402
Jul	1401	1786	2077
Aug	1623	2183	2084
Sep	1357	1462	1763
Oct	1781	2109	2303
Nov	1993	2132	2197
Dec	1569	1935	2019

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Totals: 21,112 26,728 28,066

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Somma said that the number of General and Extra class upgrades is also on the rise. "When looking at 2006 totals," she said, "we see that upgrade applications for 2007 were up 286 percent; in 2008, they were up 146 percent over 2006. Requests for new club licenses also

remain strong. In 2008, we had 671 applications for club licenses come in, while in 2007, there were 506 applications. That's an increase of 133 percent."

Calling it a "ripple effect," Somma said that the number of amateurs who want to be volunteer examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up. "Here at the ARRL VEC, we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as examiners and instructors," she said.

Somma further broke down the numbers to show the approximate number of licensees per FCC license class:

Novice:	18,500
Technician:	322,500
General:	145,000
Advanced:	62,000
Extra:	115,500
Total US Amateurs:	663,500

"I can think back to the mid 1980s when there were approximately 450,000 US Amateurs," Somma recalled. "These are the highest numbers of General and Extra class licensees I have ever seen." As of April 15, 2000, the FCC no longer issues Novice or Advanced class licenses. "As expected, the number of Novice and Advanced class licensees has decreased," she said. "As I look toward 2009, I see Amateur Radio growing in a positive direction." -- Some information provided by Joe Speroni, AH0A

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***NPARC Annual Auction and Indoor Flea Market. Friday February 20, 2009***  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; auction begins at 7:00 p.m. New Providence Municipal Center Gymnasium. Further information is at: <http://www.nparc.org/auction.htm>



February 2009



# TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 8:00 PM TCRA MEETING AT THE UNION ELKS "TRUNKED REPEATER SYSTEMS"	3 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	11	12	13	14 8:00 AM VE TEST UNION COUNTY COLLEGE CRANFORD
15	16 8:00 PM TCRA MEETING AT THE UNION ELKS "TBA"	17 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	18	19	20	21
22	23 9:00 PM TCRA ON THE AIR MEETING - NJ5R 147.255 MHz	24 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	25	26	27	28 9:00 AM VE TEST ROSELLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION  
**NEWS**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Union NJ 07083-1291

PO BOX 1291

