



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 / P.O. Box 412 Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 / Web Site: <http://www.w2li.org>

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TCRA NEWS STAFF:

E-MAIL address	KB2BBD@arrl.net	
Editor	Robert E. Grassmann	KB2BBD
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Thomas L Colley, WS2S SILENT KEY

It is our sad duty to report that Thomas L. Colley, WS2S of Summit became a silent key on February 22, 2005.

FIELD DAY?

It is not too early to start thinking about Field Day. Would you like to try something new? Start thinking about how you can participate.
April 2005

TCRA NEWS APRIL 2005

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

PROGRAMS/EVENTS FOR APRIL*

*Subject to change.

March 30th: "VE TEST SESSION" VE testing session sponsored by TCRA and the Union County O.E.M will be held on Wednesday March 30th at the Union County E.O.C building, 300 North Avenue East in Westfield. Testing will begin at 7:00PM. All license class tests will be given. Note: this session will replace the regularly scheduled date of April 5th.

April 4th: "BASIC SKYWARN TRAINING CLASS" 7 to 9PM at The Union County Police Academy (John H. Stamler Police Academy) 1176 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. Please E-mail Kymm, KY2MMM at ky2mmm@arrl.net that you will attend so accommodations can be made. Note: club business will be held following the class.

April 18th: "FOX HUNT ANTENNA BUILDING PROJECT" Direction Finding antennas discussed at the March 7th meeting will be assembled. See page 2 for more information. (8PM AT THE UNION ELKS)

April 25th: "ON THE AIR MEETING" (9PM W2LI 2M 147.255 PL 141.3).

Fox Hunt Antennas To be Built At the April 18th Meeting

There were several antennas discussed at the March 7th meeting. Please visit the web addresses listed below and order the kits or purchase the needed parts for the antenna(s) you would like to assemble at the April 18th meeting. We will then test them in the spring during a Fox Hunt.

The first antenna discussed was the Handy Finder. The Handy Finder is a phase detector. It consists of two antennas and a small switching circuit. The two antennas are alternately switched on and off at a rate of 1 KHz. When the observed signal is received on one antenna before the other, the two antennas are out of phase with the source signal. The result is the appearance of a 1 KHz tone on the incoming audio. This tone is incidental phase modulation produced by the switching action. When the incoming signal is received by both antennas at the same time, the tone disappears, which indicates that each antenna is an equal distance from the source. Therefore, you are pointing right at the signal source! The unit theoretically works on any frequency, but it's most effective frequency range is from 50 MHz to 500 MHz. Kit comes with; board, components, antennas, coax and BNC connector. Needed: 9 volt battery and PVC pipe handle. Cost \$21.00 To purchase the Kit click on the following URL:

<http://www.towerofwine.com/steven/handy.htm>

The next antenna discussed was a three element portable hand held Yagi for 2 Meters by Arrow Antenna. Cost \$49.00 plus shipping. To purchase click on the following URL:
<http://www.arrowantennas.com/146-3ji.html>
Note there is also a 70cm version for \$54.00.

The last two are from a web site by Joe Leggio, WB2HOL. A 2 element and a 3 element Yagi built using 1 inch wide tape measure blade.
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His site gives detailed instructions, but you need to purchase the needed parts. I purchased the tape measure blade at Sears, the PVC pipe and fittings at Home Depot and the RG-58 coax cable with BNC connector from Radio Shack. I estimate the cost for the 2 element Yagi to be less than \$13.00 and the 3 element Yagi to be less than \$17.00 Note some of the items such as the PVC tubing (10 feet long), replacement tape measure blade (25 feet long), and the 12 foot long RG-58 coax cable with BNC connectors P/N 278-965 can be used to build more than one antenna. To get the article with instructions for the 2 element Yagi click on the following URL:

http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/snif_b m.htm

To get the article with instructions for the 3 element Yagi click on the following URL:

http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape_b m.htm

SKYWARN CORNER

BY KYMM, KY2MMM

Each and every spotter is valuable. Not only for the service we provide to national weather but as hams. Often we are in our vehicles as a storm may approach, especially in the spring and summer months. Do not try to chase the storm. This is not the west...Here in NJ we have very little open areas and there is a lot of congestion on our roadways. SAFETY is your #1 priority. JUST observe what comes to you...Watch the road as well or pull over....we need each and everyone of you!

UPCOMMING NPARC MEETINGS

April 8th NPARC Annual Auction 7PM in the cafeteria of the Salt Brook School 40 Maple Street, New Providence. \$2.00 Donation

For further details please visit NPARC's web site at <http://www.nparc.org/>.



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TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION EVENTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 7:00 PM "SKYWARN TRAINING" UNION COUNTY POLICE ACADEMY	5 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	6	7	8	9 8:00 AM VE TEST UNION COUNTY COLLEGE CRANFORD
10	11	12 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	13	14	15	16
17	18 8:00 PM TCRA MEETING AT THE UNION ELKS "FOX HUNT ANTENNA BUILDING"	19 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	20	21	22	23
24	25 9:00 PM TCRA ON THE AIR MEETING - NJ5R 147.255 MHz	26 8:30 PM SATERN NET 449.975 MHz	27	28	29	30