

WARC Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wantagh Amateur Radio Club

January 2004



Meeting Notice: The next monthly meeting of the Wantagh Amateur Radio Club will be held at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, January 9th, at the Wantagh Public Library.
Agenda: Goals for the New Year to be discussed.



Minutes of the December 12th General Meeting

WARC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 12th, 2003.

Meeting was opened by Vince, KD2EP, President.

All officers were present.

Treasurer's Report: Chris KC2FBW reported a current balance of \$335.14

The secretary, Bill N2RRX, accepted prior minutes as read.

Frank N2RSO reported that Mr. Howard Atlas, W2HA, donated an HF transceiver to the club. It was donated with the stipulation that the equipment be used in the promotion of amateur radio, e.g. field day, demonstrations, teaching, or given to an amateur who cannot afford equipment. Frank showed the equipment with a label noting Mr. Atlas's gift. Dan KB2HTB has custody of the radio. He and Frank N2RSO are working on setting it up as a "Rig in a Box - Grab-N-Go Kit". Mr. Atlas is in poor health and it was suggested that those who know him

Howard Atlas, W2HA, Donates HF Equipment

The Wantagh Amateur Radio Club was the recipient of an assortment of radio equipment from Santa's bag this season. Santa, in the guise of Howard Atlas, W2HA of Massapequa Park, gave the club an Icom IC-745 HF Transceiver, a Ten-Tec Antenna Tuner, and an MFJ SWR/Wattmeter. Howie, a friend of several of our club's members, and a ham for many years, found that he was no longer able to pursue his hobby due to various illnesses that have increased in severity over recent years. According to his daughter Caryn, "he would like to donate his radio equipment to someone, or to an organization where it would have a good home." She expressed a desire to have the equipment used to help advance the amateur radio hobby in her father's name. We accepted the gift with the understanding that it will be used as an aid to training new hams, and be made available for emergency preparedness exercises, and for real emergencies, disasters, etc. Frank, N2RSO, has agreed to act as custodian of the equipment, making it available whenever needed.

We wish to thank Howie and his family for their kindness and generosity during this holiday season. A temporary laminated card has been affixed to each piece naming Howard Atlas as donor, until permanently etched plates can be purchased. ■

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MINUTES, Continued

drop him a line at 65 Violet St., Massapequa Park, NY, 11762.

It was announced with sad regret that Ellie (N2RRE) Spiro's mother died yesterday.

Sid K2LJH gave a brief overview of Ham Radio University. The club agreed to have a table there. Herman N2CCF, Al K2ES, Lee N2EMG all have agreed to man the table.

NOTE: Dues are due - \$20.00

Meeting was closed at 8:45 PM and our holiday party began.

Respectfully submitted by Bill N2RRX, Secretary

ARRL NEWS CLIPS



New General Class Question Pool Released (Dec 3, 2003) -- The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Radio General class (Element 3) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2004, and must be used to generate all General written examinations administered on or after that date.

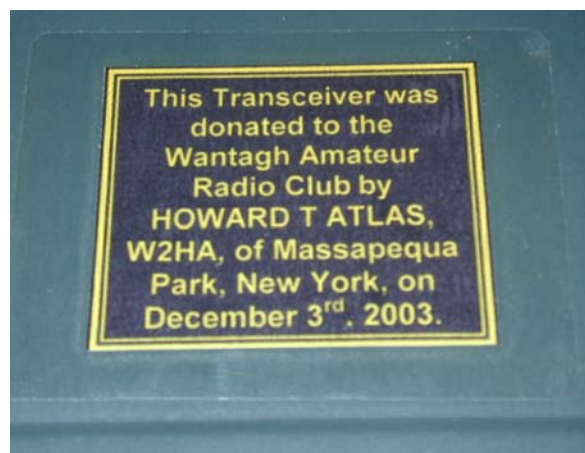
[Full Story](#)



FEMA to FCC: BPL will "Severely Impair" Mission-Essential HF Operations (Dec 8, 2003) -- Expressing "grave concerns" about likely interference from unlicensed Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has told the FCC that BPL could "severely impair FEMA's mission-essential HF radio operations in areas serviced by BPL technology." FEMA filed comments December 4 in response to last April's FCC BPL *Notice of Inquiry*, ET Docket 03-104. FEMA expressed primary concern over BPL's potential impact on the FEMA National Radio System (FNARS), which operates on HF and serves as the agency's primary command and control backup medium as part of the Federal Response Plan.

[Full Story](#)

Photos of Equipment Donated by Howard Atlas, W2HA. Photos courtesy of Bob, N2AUD.



NOTE: Arnold Tarallo, W2OEJ, purchased the Vibroplex CW Bug shown in this photo from the estate of Pete Froloff, W2SUM, SK, and donated it to our club to be used with Howie's equipment.



AMSAT-Phase 5-A



[Deutsche Seite](#)



AMSAT P5-A ground station successfully receives ESA's MARS-EXPRESS Probe

Since June 2nd 2003 the European probe MARS EXPRESS has been on it's way to the "red planet" scheduled to arrive on Christmas Day and to deploy the lander BEAGLE toward the Mars surface.

Joint preparations by the IUZ (Institut für Umwelt- und Zukunftsforschung / Institute for Environment and Future research) and the AMSAT-DL for this event have started months ago, because the 20 metre parabolic antenna is also deemed to be used as ground station for the AMSAT-DL for the future P5-A Mars Mission.



On Sunday, Nov. 16th, Germany saw a first event when a strong (40 dB Hz ~ 6 dB s/n at 2.4 kHz bandwidth) 8.4 GHz signal of the MARS EXPRESS - at that moment 102 million kilometer distant - was directly received at Bochum over a number of hours. The receive equipment was a horn, low noise downconverter to 1270 MHz and a Yaesu FT736R radio plus power meters . Although travelling through space with the speed of light it took about 6 minutes for the signals to be received on earth!

It was probably the first time that such a signal was received by amateur radio operators.



The above picture shows the facilities in Bochum/Germany. The ground station of ESA with a 35-m parabolic antenna is situated in New Norcia / near Perth, Australia.



With this successful test the general functional and operational readiness of the 20 metre parabolic antenna in Bochum to serve as AMSAT-DL command station for the P5A Mars Mission has been proven. It will then be used to navigate the P5-A Satellite safely towards Mars and to enter a Mars orbit. When AMSAT P5-A has left the Earth vicinity its signal will be too weak to enable reception for most of the amateur radio operators. Therefore it's intended to connect the Bochum ground station via the internet with the terrestrial amateur radio packet radio net to have telemetry data available on a broad and permanent basis. This will enable our "martians" (actively in the project participating people) as well as all amateur radio operators to have a permanent view on the advance the project is making. The command stations will then have the opportunity to enjoy the comfort of controlling the 20 metre parabolic antenna as well as the satellite via the internet

AMSAT P5-A is further expected to deploy a balloon from the "Mars Society Deutschland" onto Mars and P5-A will then be used as communication satellite to forward data signals from Mars to Earth. Some of the techniques required for this purpose will be tested on AMSAT- DL's new satellite AMSAT P3-E in the year 2005.

More sensational news from Bochum: The receiving system was improved with additional more than +4 dB from further testings on 22nd November. MARS-EXPRESS was received again with a stronger signal than before. In addition, the AMSAT/IUZ team succeeded in receiving the American probe MARS ODYSSEY on 8407 MHz. Since October 2001 MARS ODYSSEY has been orbiting the red planet, and the large doppler effect of approx. ± 100 kHz of the Mars orbit could easily be observed. [This web page](#) shows how MARS ODYSSEY sees the Earth from above.

Naturally this is one more good day, but it is still very early, and further optimisation will be performed on the system. However, we now know that we have a high grade and precise instrument available in Bochum of which we are all proud of. These are the best indications for success with the future AMSAT P5-A Mars mission.



2004

ARRL New York City-Long Island Section Convention

Sunday, January 18, 2004
East Woods School in Oyster Bay, Long Island

Featuring:

[A seminar by the ARRL on Amateur Radio Emergency Communications](#)

George Tranos N2GA
ARRL Section Manager NYC/LI
Chairman, Ham Radio University 2004

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Oyster Bay, New York - On Sunday, January 18, 2004 at 8AM, the doors of the East Woods School will open for the fifth annual Ham Radio University and the ARRL New York City/Long Island Section Convention. Ham Radio University 2004 is a day of education about Amateur Radio.

The event is being held at the prestigious East Woods School, a private school on 46 acres in Oyster Bay. There will be special forums geared to the non-ham as well as the experienced ham radio operator. The focus will be "hands on" with many demonstrations.

Come join us at the East Woods School, 31 Yellow Cote Road, Oyster Bay, Long Island, and learn about everything from satellite communications, low power operating using radios as small as a tuna tin and the latest in emergency communications. There will also be a VE session for those who would like to take an FCC exam and a Special Event Station set up and operational on HF.

HRU 2004 is sponsored this year by the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club and is a cooperative effort between over twenty clubs and organizations in the New York City - Long Island area. Besides the forums, there will be tables set up with information about different organizations and clubs including the Red Cross, Salvation Army, National Weather Service, Friends of Long Island Wireless as well as ham radio classes, local FCC exam schedules, ►

public service and other activities. New this year is a special seminar presented by the ARRL explaining the different on-line educational courses that are now available. They include Emergency Communications, Antenna Modeling, HF Digital Communications, Beyond Repeaters, RFI and more. These are part of the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education program that can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/cce>.

Join us for a day of fun and education for the whole family! Admission is open to all - donation is \$2 per person. (Refreshments will be available).

Directions: The school is approximately 18 miles east of the Queens/Nassau border in Nassau County. Take the Long Island Expressway east to Exit 41 North (Rte 106/107). Routes 106 and 107 will split about 1/2 mile north of the LIE, then follow 106 north (to the right). Go about 4 miles to Route 25A. Make a right and head east on 25A and go about 2 miles to Yellow Cote Road (on your left). Look for the white sign that says "East Woods School". Proceed approximately 1/2 mile - the entrance to the school will be on your left at another white sign. There is parking available in one of the three designated areas in on three sides of the school. Look for the HRU signs!

TALK-IN on W2VL 146.850 -600 136.5 PL ■

Holiday Party Photos, courtesy of Bob, N2AUD



From left to right: Members Arnold W2OEJ, Joe NV2I, visitors Artie WA2YBG and his YL, Carol KC2KXE.



From right to left: Visitors Jack Keegan and his XYL, Irene. Arnold W2OEJ can also be seen in the background



Is that Oscar Madison and Felix Unger, the Odd Couple? No, - from left to right it's our members Herman W2TLC and Al K2ES.

The WARC Newsletter, an official publication of The Wantagh Amateur Radio Club, is edited and published monthly by Frank Porcaro, N2RSO.

The Wantagh Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Friday of each month at the Wantagh Public Library. Directions to the library, along with notices of meeting changes, invited speakers, demonstrations, etc. can be found at the club's website, <http://www.qsl.net/w2va/home.htm>. Visitors, both hams and other persons interested in amateur radio, are invited to attend. Coffee tea and doughnuts usually are served after the business meeting and before any presentations from guest speakers.

The newly elected officers and directors of The Wantagh Amateur Radio Club wish all of you a very Happy, Healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Frank Porcaro, N2RSO, Editor

