

Sidebands

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



Fall 2015

President - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP

Vice-President - Steve Sconfianza, NC2S

Treasurer - Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Secretary - Russ Greenman, WB2LXC

Newsletter Editor - Bryan Jackson, KJ4RFX

EGARA Holiday Dinner Set for December 9th

Plus! "Radio Raffle will Giveaway Dual Band Portable



The annual EGARA Holiday Party will be held December 9th at 6:00 p.m. at Mercato's Restaurant. In addition to fun and friendship, a holiday "Radio Raffle" will have one lucky club member win a dual-band VHF/UHF portable radio. Raffle tickets will be \$2 for one or \$5 for three. Dinner will be from the menu and there will be a cash bar. We request that club members who plan to attend *please RSVP by December 6th* to Tom Scorsone so we can give the restaurant a head count. He may be reached either by email at KC2FCP@nycap.rr.com or by phone at 272-1494. Mercato's is located on Rtes. 9 & 20, just east of the Masonic Temple, and just west of I-90. We look forward to seeing all of you!

Looking to Upgrade? Next VE Exam Session Coming in January

If you've been thinking of upgrading your current license or know someone who wants to get started in amateur radio, the EGARA will hold its next licensing exam session on January 16, 2016. Testing will take place at the East Greenbush Library located 10 Community Way, East Greenbush, N.Y. 12061. Applicants should arrive at 10:00 a.m. so they can complete the necessary paperwork before the tests begin at 10:30 a.m.

Each applicant should remember to bring the following:

- Proof of identification
- Your Social Security Number or FCC-issued Federal Registration Number (for Form 605)
- Exam fee, \$15.00 (cash, check, or money order payable to ARRL/VEC)
- If you already have license, original and photocopy (we will keep the photocopy)
- If you have taken exam elements already, original and photocopy of CSCE documents



- Pens and pencils
- Simple battery or solar-powered calculator
- Special documentation if credit is requested for Element 3 (General class written) for Technician class licenses issued prior to 3/21/1987 (Technician Plus covers Element 3 without special documentation)

For additional information, visit the EGARA website located at:

<http://www.w2egb.org/ve.html>.



Welcome to
Our Club's New
Newsletter!

See Details on Page 2

Sidebands - It's All About You

EGARA Newsletter Launched

Welcome to *Sidebands* -- the new newsletter of the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association! Each issue will feature stories about club news and events, operating tips, a calendar of events, member achievements, ARRL announcements, FCC updates and even a free classified section for members who have gear to sell or that they are looking to buy.

“The EGARA board is excited about being able to offer our members a regular newsletter that will help allow us to keep everyone up-to-date about club news, activities and events,” said EGARA president Tom Scorsone. He added that members are urged to submit stories or ideas for stories that they would like to appear in the newsletter.

“We want our newsletter to be a joint effort that involves every member because we know that will make it a success,” Scorsone said.

Sidebands will be edited by Bryan Jackson, KJ4RFX, a new EGARA member who recently gained his Amateur Extra license during the club's October exam session.

Jackson, a former reporter for WNYT NewsChannel 13, also built and operated two FM broadcast stations, 96.3 mhz (originally WCDA, now WAJZ) in Albany, and 88.3 mhz, WRGC-FM in Milledgeville, Georgia. In addition to working in the broadcast industry, he also has extensive experience in media and public relations.

East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, SK and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to the amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members or the public.

The FCC Is In Your Shack -- Now What Do You Do?

How do you know what you've done? Do you remember your contacts? Were you running five watts or 500? What frequency were you on?



The FCC says in Subpart B, 97.101(a) that “each amateur

station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice.”

So -- when an FCC engineer is standing in your shack how do you prove you operated within the law? The answer, and good practice, says keep a log even though it is no longer required!

Many hams still make sure their paperwork is in good order, in small part because of the rules, but mostly as a reminder of the contacts they have made. A fun part of logging is the information an operator gets during a contact. Today, fortunately, computers make the chore of logging a whole lot easier.

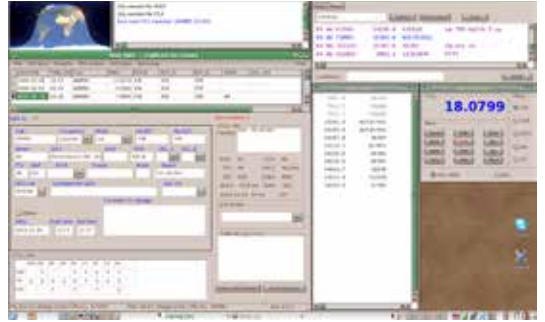
Many of the logging software programs now available let you type a call into the electronic log and then they immediately display the other operator's name, address, mileage from you and whether you have spoken with him (or her) before. Some of these programs can interface with your radio and also tell the logging program the frequency, mode and power used to make the contact. Best of all, many of these programs are free or relatively inexpensive.

(continued on page 3)

The FCC Is In Your Shack...

Some of the more popular logging programs are:

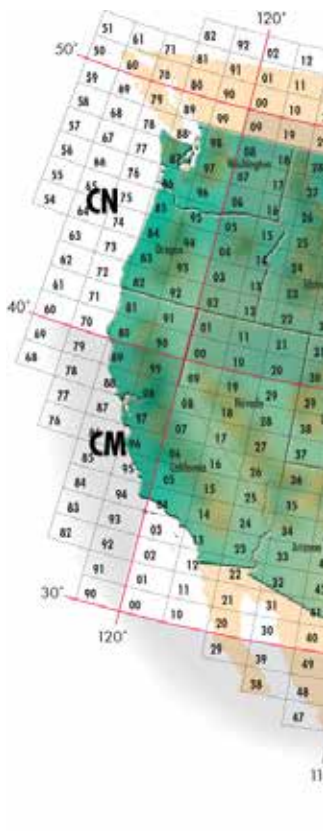
- *N1MM log* is used by many hams. It has been updated and now is called the N1MM+. It's free and can be found at <http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/>.
- *Logbook of the World (LoTW)* is another popular option that is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. It is free and available at <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>
- *DXLab* by AA6YQ is also free and is an integrated suite of programs for logging and station management. Find it at <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/>.
- *MacLoggerDX* is an option for Apple fans. It is a general-purpose logging software with interfaces to many radios, internet DXClusters, TNCs, and QRZ CD ROM database. Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X. It is \$95 and available at <http://www.dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html>.



For a comprehensive list of logging programs and reviews, check out the reviews on eHam.net at <http://www.eham.net/reviews/products/27>.

U.S. Grid Square Map

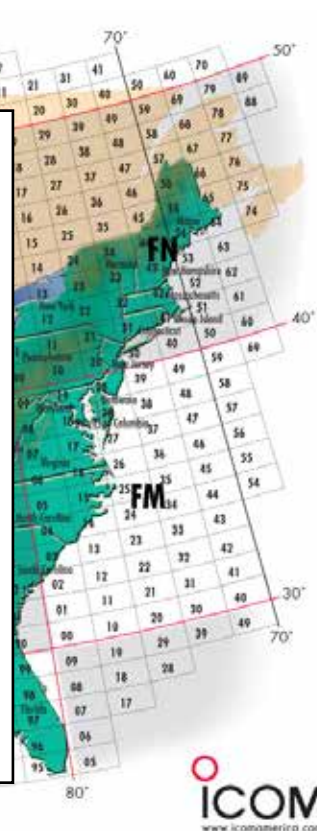
4-Digit




Be square

Grid Square - An alphanumeric geographical coordinate system (usually four or six characters), based on the Maidenhead Locator System developed by VHF enthusiasts in 1980, in which the entire globe is divided into equal-sized rectangles denoted by alphanumeric codes. Grid squares are increasingly popular as contest exchanges, as they offer a challenge for successfully completing contest QSOs with accuracy, providing universal location information for all countries/states, and underpinning distance based scoring criteria.

Learn more at www.arrl.org/grid-squares





Looking to Sell or Buy Gear?

Take advantage of a free classified ad in the next issue of Sidebands

Email your info to KJ4RFX@GMAIL.COM