



# The LongWire

October 2007



PUBLISHED BY THE LIVERPOOL AMATEUR REPEATER CLUB

## Thanks for all of the input for this month's LongWire!

*Please take no offense if your submission is left out or truncated- had a lot submitted for this month.*

## Free Tower

Mike Meltzer, K2SDD

**50 Foot ROHN-25-** On top of the tower is a ten-foot mast and a Diamond X-50 2 meter/70 cm antenna.

The tower is in five 10-foot sections.

Free! With the following stipulations:

- It is up to you (and your friends) to take the tower down and remove it
- You must agree to not hold my family or me responsible for any injuries
- You may have to convince me that you know how to take down a tower- I do not want anyone to get hurt.

Towers are quite expensive; the shipping alone is many hundreds of dollars. I am giving it away because we are selling the house. If you wish to see the tower, call Mike Meltzer, K2SDD, at 315-446-9183. In Dewitt, not far from Shoppingtown.

## Down and Dirty Public Service Opportunity

Forwarded by Steve Auyer, N2TKX

On Sunday, October 14th we are looking for more operators for the "Danby Down and Dirty"... it would be great if we could get even more people to provide communication support for this event. As always the more operators the better. Information on the event can be found at <http://www.fingerlakesrunners.org/races/forms/Danby.html>

This event will have challenges that we have not seen before. Foot trails so no conventional sweep vehicle and possible foot trail stations!!)In preparation of whatever may be required I would like to know if anyone who has signed up (plus from any additional volunteers)have the following equipment: 4 wheel off-road vehicle, ht's, & would be willing to be placed somewhere on a foot trail. For out of band traffic would you indicate your cell phone numbers if available.

This is who I have signed up at this point:

Bill KC2OYN  
Bill KB2ETO (If back in time.)  
Bob N2WRC  
Karl KC2QDX  
Lydia KC2OYO  
Doug KB2BON (If not on call.)> Adam  
KC2ANT  
John KE4AEK (Polaris Ranger or Truck)

We currently have very little information available and little time for planning. In preparation I am looking to have this information available for whatever is asked of us. I will be checking the course (from the map on the web site)to get an idea of communication issues in the

next couple of days. At this point these are the frequencies to have available:

- > 146.970 (-) / PL 103.5
- > 146.940 (-) / PL 103.5
- > 146.610 (-) / no PL
- > 147.570 (s)

For time commitments you should be on post by 8:30AM (for the early locations) and judging from last years results we should be done between noon and 1PM.

Thanks for all who volunteer to help out with this event.

Bill KC2OYN

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## Improved Weather Warnings

Forwarded by Steve Auyer, N2TKX

“The National Weather Service has changed the way it delivers short fused warnings (severe thunderstorm, tornado, and flash flood). We are using a storm-based approach instead of a county based approach. This means that if two severe storms are affecting different parts of a county, you will get two warnings for that county. Each warning will detail the storm track of the individual storm. End result is more accuracy but there could be more warnings issued for a county.”

More information? See

<http://www.weather.gov/sbwarnings/>

-NOAA-National Weather Service  
Binghamton NY

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## October Meeting Program- Rocket Telemetry Review

Dan O’Shea, N2MRE

The October meeting will provide some of the details about the launch of the rocket by the MOST and others in July.

The auxiliary telemetry system that flew in the rocket will be demonstrated. Some data from the flight will also be presented. There may be more pictures than you have already seen. Be there to enjoy it all- this was truly a unique opportunity.

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**Reminder- Pumpkin Patrol coming up-  
contact Bob Hamby to volunteer.**

[rhamby1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rhamby1@twcny.rr.com) 622-1068

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## Peter Kitt, Sr., Past President of RAGS, Silent Key

Dan Tokarz, N2KQL

*“Just thought I would mention about the passing of a good friend and mentor who got me into ham radio. He died Friday... Peter Kitt Sr. of Fairmount- The obituary was in Sundays paper He was a past president of R.A.G.S.”*

Full obituary for Peter:

<http://obits.syracuse.com/Syracuse/Obituaries.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonId=94953453>

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## Yaesu FT-450 AT Review

Web Kennedy, WA2GEI

I read a review of a new Yaesu Transceiver for HF + 50 MHZ. It is a Yaesu FT 450 AT and has many beautiful ads in all the Ham Radio journals. I fell victim to all this and now.....like Paul Harvey.....THE REST OF THE STORY.

The radio will do anything but slice your Bologna, probably many capabilities that I will never use. The problem I have with it is two fold. I am 75 years old and have cataracts, poor vision. The digital readout of the frequency, mode and status is very hard for me to read. The frequency readout is nice and large and that is no problem but all the other mode and status Icons are very small. I have to have the radio mounted at eyeball level and about a foot away.....also in an area of subdued light so see the LCD display sharply. The push button labeling is in a dark red color on a black surface.....not the greatest contrast for someone like me to read. It would

be a tremendous plus if the labels were lighted or at least printed in white. The second thing I don't like is the "combination push button sequence" to change bandwidth, IF Shift, metering of Power Out, SWR, etc. After reading the manual several times and going through setting it up on a particular band and mode of operation the sequence of push button combinations become somewhat redundant. However, "Us Older Folks" don't automatically retain memory for long periods unless we use the item daily. You can go through the exercise of putting into memory each band, frequency and mode of operation you like to use and then the next time you fire up the rig you can punch in the memory channel number for up to 500 choices. I haven't had time to do that yet and don't know if I ever will. The rig is Microprocessor controlled and is like a Computer in a Ham Radio. The Internal Keyer is very nice and I get tremendous reports on CW and also great Audio reports on SSB. If you go through the trouble of, once again, reading the manual you can set it up to give you a voice readout of the frequency at each 100 KC. Don't know what I would ever use that for. Also automatic sending of call outs for DXing. It is a very small rig, meant more for mobile or portable operation but I can't imagine trying to operate this thing mobile. All the trying to look at the digital display would certainly be much more distracting than using a cell phone while driving and would be a real hazard on the road. It puts out 100 Watts and works like a shot except for the things I have mentioned. Maybe I'll find more likes or dislikes on down the log. I hope this will be useful information for anyone contemplating buying one of these radios. I'm sure that if I had had the opportunity to see one of these in-hand at a Hamfest I would not have purchased one, especially at the price they sell for, main reason being the vision shortcomings. Like all the new, tiny electronic gadgets of today like I-pods, cell phones.....they are made for young people with good eyes and small fingers.

## Part 2:

As an afterthought on one solution to the vision problem with the 450....I went into the Operations Manual, found a print of the front of the rig, scanned it, blew it up to a full page and printed out a copy to have on the desk for a reference. I also saved a copy on the computer so I can print out more copies as I wear them out or spill coffee on them. A ham friend of mine

down in New Jersey told me to get a software program from Yaesu so that you can use the computer screen for the front panel display of the rig....probably even operate off the computer and use the keyboard for CW. That would be no fun, I like to bat the paddle around for real Ham Radio. I haven't looked into whether or not that program is available yet.

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## Items for Sale

Andrew Slaugh, KC2LUV

From estate of K2DN- as is  
Yaesu FT-1000D HF Transceiver may have "issues". Manual, no mic found. Rumored to have unknown problems. Asking \$1,500.00

Kenwood TS-440S HF Transceiver - includes manual, power cord, no mic found. Asking \$375.00

Swan P-1215 Power Supply - \$50.00 Heathkit V-6 VTVM - appears to work, needs test leads - reasonable offer.

Also- an HF SWR/wattmeter (mine), no brand name on it, has 200 and 2000 watt ranges. Reasonable offer, please.

And- several Spectrum repeater boards, 1-10 watt transmitter/exciter, 1-70 watt RF amplifier, the original transmitter/exciter box, 3 receiver boards, the original receiver box and schematics; may or may not be working. I may also have the 30 watt RF amp, I'm not sure. These were on the 145.490 in Cortland until the lightning hit two years ago which caused me to replace everything with a GE mastr II. Make a reasonable offer.

Contact KB2LUV kb2luv@arrl.net or 315-677-5242 evenings or all day Monday. **Also ask me about a Yaesu FT-101E for \$200**

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**Minutes of the September 27, 2007 Meeting of the Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club, submitted by Carrie Williams-KC2OPF, Secretary.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:17pm by John Rockdashil-WB2DVE. Present were: KC2GFT, N2VZD, N2JOM, W9IP, KE2FV, WB2DVE, WA2DGC, K2JDD, N2RGU, N2MRE, KD6BWE, KG6SWD, KK5MM, KC2OPF, KC2CZH, WB2BJW, KB2VSJ, N2UAY, N2IK, KC2SAB, KC2BHE, and KC2UT.

**Old Business:**

**Secretary –**

The minutes of the June 28, 2007 General Membership Meeting as recorded by KC2OPF and published in the July LongWire were approved on a motion by K2JDD, seconded by N2IK.

**Treasurer –**

Recent expenses from the checking account included \$150.00 for tower work (to be replaced by a transfer from the savings account), \$503.00 for insurance paid to Travelers, \$134.67 for the picnic and associated postage costs to mail out reminders, and \$46.53 for the September LongWire.

The club took in proceeds of \$188.00 from dues and raffle ticket sales. With the above expenses and these proceeds, the balance in the checking account is approximately \$515.00. KC2IQM also has approximately \$200.00 of dues and raffle ticket sales obtained at the RAGS Hamfest to be deposited, and may have more after Saturday's Elmira Hamfest.

When the club considers expenses for the upcoming Christmas party, ongoing costs of the hardcopy LongWire, a growing number of members moving to senior citizen status, and auction proceeds having decreased last year, a shortage of funds is a concern. Members are encouraged to keep bringing in new members! In addition, the board has looked at the costs of

printing and mailing the hardcopy LongWire and determined that the current charge of \$5.00 per year is insufficient to cover costs, so an increase is more than likely for next year.

There have not been many repeater expenses, but the repeater fund should be maintained for this contingency and not used for other expenses.

KC2CZH received payment of dues for the next two years from KB2SWL, who at 91 may be our oldest LARC member!

The Treasurer's Report was accepted on a motion by WA2DGC, seconded by KD6BWE.

**Membership –**

**There are many members yet to renew their dues. A new New Member/Renewal form is to be published on the website soon; in the meantime, if anyone requires a form, please contact a board member. It is very important to fill this form out when joining or renewing dues, as the Treasurer needs to forward it on to the Membership Chair after collecting dues.**

**Repeaters –**

146.91 – working properly.  
147.21 – The club has a new antenna for this repeater, which will hopefully be installed before inclement weather starts.  
224.12 – N2MRE has successfully replaced a fuse in the repeater. Its future site is still in question; the board has considered placing it at the same site as the 147.21 to save costs.  
448.30 – working properly.

**New Business:**

**Raffle –**

Tickets are on sale for \$5.00 for a chance to win an ICOM ICV82. Ticket sales have been more successful this

year, as the cost is much lower than last year's. The drawing will be held at the Christmas party, and entrants need not be present to win. Contact a board member if tickets are needed.

### **RAGS Hamfest Table –**

KC2IQM and KC2OPF were thanked for their efforts in staffing a table at the RAGS Hamfest, where approximately \$200.00 in dues and raffle ticket sales was raised.

### **Frequently Asked Questions –**

Copies of the FAQ will be available at meetings next to the sign-in sheet. A copy should also have been included with the LongWire at the start of the current season. Members who have not received it, or the LongWire itself, should contact a board member immediately so the problem can be addressed.

### **Upcoming Programs –**

**October – N2MRE and possibly N2TKX will give a program on the telemetry obtained from the launch of the MoST's rocket at the Geneseo model rocket launch in July.**

**November – Tour of the Onondaga Hill 911center, one week early on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.**

**December – Christmas Party, Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**January – Annual Equipment Auction**

**If anyone has suggestions for a future program, please contact any board member.**

### **Pumpkin Patrol –**

**If anyone is interested in volunteering for this year's Pumpkin Patrol, please contact W2WRH.**

### **Chairs in new meeting room –**

A comment was made that the chairs at the tables in the new meeting room are uncomfortable. WB2DVE will check if alternative meeting rooms are available.

### **Program –**

Dr. Michael Owen-W9IP, Senior Systems Engineer at Sensis Corporation, gave a talk on and demonstration of the NOVA satellite tracking software he created. Dr. Owen earned his Novice license in 1969 after becoming interested in ham radio through his uncle, W5AHC. At first, he was fond of chasing DX on HF, but migrated to weak signal CW on VHF during his college years, and became very successful in VHF contesting. He was part of a group of hams that first introduced grid squares in the mid-'70's.

One of his VHF contacts first interested him in moonbounce, and he returned to this mode while a professor at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Seeing a need for a program that would incorporate azimuth and elevation data to predict good conditions for moonbounce and meteor scatter, he wrote one in Basic. This led to his writing other programs to predict movement of the sun, planets, and satellites, including a satellite-tracking program called RealTrack. Building on these, he created a DOS-based program called NOVA, and despite an initial wariness of Microsoft Windows, eventually adapted the program for release as NOVA for Windows. The program contains approximately 350,000 lines of code, of which only 1,500 involve calculations and predictions (the rest are aesthetic)! He demonstrated many interesting features of the program, and mentioned that it has made over \$20,000 for AMSAT.

In addition to his career at Sensis, Dr. Owen has a new program in development called Orbital Mechanic. He credits much of his career success

to his ham radio experience, especially that involving homebrewing, but did caution that ham radio can become too much of a person's life as well!

**Announcements –**

N2JOM was our 50/50 winner this month.

**The October Club Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm at the Roxboro Road Middle School.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

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**LARC Picnic Pictures**

*Looks like a fine time was had by all on a very nice day!*



**LARC Christmas Party**

**Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>,  
2007**

**Twin Trees Too, Milton  
Avenue, Solvay**

**\$15/member—payment by  
December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**\$20/member—payment after  
December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**\$20/person—non-members &  
spouses**

**Fabulous Door Prizes**

**Gather at 4:00pm, buffet  
served at 5:00pm:**

**Baked Ziti & Meatballs  
Chicken & Roast Potatoes**

**Pizza**

**Chef Salad**

**Relishes**

**Coffee**

**Dessert**

**Fill out coupon and return,  
with payment,**

**no later than December  
4<sup>th</sup>!**

(I know- is no coupon- will post in the November issue.

Meanwhile, send payment and number of people going in without the coupon- just write a note.)

# October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARRL VEC Amateur Exam Day</li> </ul>	<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU)</li> </ul>	<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF)</li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00pm—Rome Radio Club Meeting, Griffiss</li> <li>7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R</li> <li>8:30pm—5WPM CW Practice, 147.00R (K2JMA)</li> </ul>	<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00pm—Camilus VE Session (KB2ERJ)</li> </ul>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00pm—Rome ARC VE Session (K2GVI)</li> </ul>	<b>6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARRL Simulated Emergency Test</li> <li>NNY Section Convention and Hamfest, Lake Placid (WZ2T)</li> </ul>
<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARRL Simulated Emergency Test</li> </ul>	<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Columbus Day</li> </ul>	<b>9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF)</li> <li>7:00pm—Central District Emergency Net, 147.00R, (N2BK)</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm—Skyline ARC Meeting, Cortland (KC2BQZ)</li> <li>7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R</li> <li>8:30pm—5WPM CW Practice, 147.00R (K2JMA)</li> </ul>	<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm—RAGS Meeting (W2BCH)</li> </ul>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0000Z-0400Z—North American RTTY Sprint</li> <li>Western NY Section Convention, Buffalo (KC2BLH)</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU)</li> </ul>	<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF)</li> </ul>	<b>17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R</li> <li>8:30pm—5WPM CW Practice, 147.00R (K2JMA)</li> </ul>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00pm—MOARC VE Session (KG2DI)</li> </ul>	<b>20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scout Jamboree On The Air</li> </ul>
<b>21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scout Jamboree On The Air</li> <li>Orionids Meteor Shower</li> <li>Town of Babylon AR Emergency Services Hamfest, Lindenhurst (KA2RGI)</li> </ul>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm—Madison-Oneida ARC Meeting, Verona</li> <li>8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF)</li> </ul>	<b>24</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R</li> <li>8:30pm—5WPM CW Practice, 147.00R (K2JMA)</li> <li>6:30pm—Fulton ARC VE Session (KC2PAM)</li> <li>7:00pm—Fulton</li> </ul>	<b>25</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00pm—LARC Meeting (WB2DVE)</li> </ul>	<b>26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:30am—QCWA Luncheon, Weber's Restaurant (WB2PEM)</li> </ul>	<b>27</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0000Z—CQ WW DX SSB Contest begins</li> <li>0000Z—ARRL International EME Contest begins</li> </ul>
<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2400Z—CQ WW DX SSB Contest ends</li> <li>2400Z—ARRL International EME Contest ends</li> <li>Long Island Mobile ARC Hamfest, Hicksville (K2KNB)</li> </ul>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pumpkin Patrol (N2PMQ)</li> <li>8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF)</li> </ul>	<b>31</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halloween</li> <li>Pumpkin Patrol (N2PMQ)</li> <li>7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R</li> <li>8:30pm—5WPM CW Practice, 147.00R (K2JMA)</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ARRL November CW Sweepstakes</li> </ul>

## The LongWire October 2007

Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club  
Web Page:  
[www.LiverpoolAmateurRepeaterClub.org](http://www.LiverpoolAmateurRepeaterClub.org)  
Club Call: W2CM

### Club Officers and Directors

President John Rockdashil-WB2DVE, 457-2139  
1st Vice President Jerry Monroe-KC2UT, 234-7901  
2nd Vice President Sam Coffey-KC2IQM, 673-1828  
Secretary Carrie Williams-KC2OPF, 451-5231  
Treasurer Linda Jackson-KC2CZH, 458-9685  
Director of the Board Walt Bordett-N2IK, 445-8161  
Sergeant at Arms Earl Dewey KB2VSI, 457-1671

### Repeater Trustees

146.31/146.91 Ed Schultz-KC2AWD, 668-9206  
147.81/147.21 John Storsberg-WA2U  
222.52/224.12 Art Bronstein-W2YPP, 445-1637  
448.30/443.30 Bob Jackson-WB2BJW, 458-9685

### Committees and Chairs

Membership Sam Coffey-KC2IQM, 673-1828  
Technical Committee Jerry Monroe-KC2UT, 234-7901  
LongWireEditor Lee Badman KC2IYK 689-2175  
LongWire Publisher John Soergel-WA2DGC, 437-5805

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Lee Badman  
82 S. Hamilton Street  
Jordan, NY 13080

Material may be submitted electronically to any of the club officers through the club web site. Articles may be on any subject of general interest to radio amateurs. The deadline is generally about the end of the month. This allows us to meet our goals of having the electronic edition to members by the end of the first week of the month with the hard copy edition following within a week.

**The November Deadline is October 31**

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Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club  
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Stamp

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