

Tri County Repeater Association

Volume 9, Issue 3

December 2005

October Meeting

October 4th, 2005

Dale McGraw - N9XMU

The regularly scheduled meeting of TCRA was held at Ruby's Roadhouse 7:00 PM, Oct 4, 05 with the following members present: AB9EJ, KA9YLI, N9LIE, N9XMU and KC9FEE.

Treasurer's report by AB9EJ indicated a balance of \$984.15 as of Oct 4, 05.

During general discussion N9LIE indicated that the 145.47 repeater was performing well and all seemed to be in agreement.

Members decided the club needed to search for a TA 33 Jr. or similar antenna to replace the large beam we have been using on Field Day. This would allow the tower to be raised with a minimum amount of effort and climbing.

The Christmas Party will again be held at the residence of N9XMU with a Gift Certificate and door prizes provided by the club (6:00 Pm Dec 6, 05) please

Continued on page 2

2005 Christmas Party & Election of Officers

November 15th, 2005

Paul Brooten - KB9TYC

The annual Christmas Party and election of officers will be held on December 6th at N9MXU's residence in Chippewa Falls. The address is 12568 44th Ave. If you don't know where it is and need help getting there give a call on the 145.470 repeater and someone should be able to help you out. This will begin at 6:00 p.m. and everyone is to bring a dish to pass. There will be prizes provided by the club.

You must be present to win. If you are interested in being an officer for 2006 and will not be at the meeting please let KB9TYC know so you can be on the ballot. If you don't want to be voted in to be an officer for 2006 please show up to defend yourself.

Also it is getting to be that time of year to pay your yearly membership dues. They can be paid at the meeting or mailed to:

Mike Metzdorf - AB9EJ
23701 69th Avenue
Cadott, WI 54727

Have a safe holiday season!
KB9TYC❖

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 October Meeting
- 1 2005 Christmas Party & Election of Officers
- 2 Mike's Code Corner
- 2 Upcoming Events
- 3 FCC Affirms \$42,000 in Fines in Radio Jamming Case
- 3 October Code Corner Answer
- 4 Membership Roster

2005 TCRA Officers

President: Ray Johnson - W9RAY
Vice President: Matt Metzdorf - KC9CGW
Secretary: Paul Brooten - KB9TYC
Treasurer: Mike Metzdorf - AB9EJ

<http://www.tcra.org>

October Code Corner Answer

Mike Metzdorf – AB9EJ

The following is some code that has a message. Some of you will find this very easy, others will find it educational, and others won't bother at all. That's ok. Have fun anyway.

Code Corner # 10 – A message from President George W Bush

"I send greetings to those celebrating the annual Field Day for Amateur Radio, hosted by the ARRL. Across our country, radio plays a vital role in relaying important information to the public and emergency service personnel in times of need."

"By providing emergency communications at the federal, state, and local level, licensed Amateur Radio operators help first responders and law enforcement officials save lives and make our country safer. Your efforts help ensure the right assistance gets to the right people at the right time. I appreciate all ham operators who give their time and energy to help make our citizens more secure. Your good work reflects the spirit of America and contributes to a culture of responsibility and citizenship that strengthens our nation. Laura and I send our best wishes." ❖

Continued from page 2

of malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States and a misdemeanor count of transmitting radio signals without a license, according to a statement earlier this year from the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. If convicted, Gerritsen, 68, could spend up to 11 years in federal prison. In affirming the fines, the FCC again turned away every argument Gerritsen offered in responding to each *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)*, including a "freedom of speech" claim.

"His unlicensed operation on amateur frequencies is not protected by the US Constitution as it is well established that the right to free speech does not include the right to use radio facilities without a license," the FCC said in a footnote in one of the *NOFs*. Both documents include detailed recitations of the charges and allegations in the case.

One of the \$21,000 forfeiture notices involves alleged willful and repeated malicious interference with Amateur Radio communications. The second *NOF* focuses on alleged willful and repeated interference with the radio communications of a US Coast Guard Auxiliary officer attempting to use Amateur Radio frequencies to assist a sailboat in distress. Last March, the FCC upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. The government has yet to collect.

FBI agents, accompanied by FCC staff, arrested Gerritsen without incident last May at his home in Bell. Federal agents also seized his radio equipment. Gerritsen was released on a \$250,000 property bond and has remained in home detention, barred from possessing any radio equipment, while awaiting trial. Yang's office said the FBI "received substantial assistance" from the FCC in the case.

Gerritsen's history of radio-related legal problems go back to 1999 when the California Highway Patrol arrested him for intercepting, obstructing and/or interfering with police radio communications. He was convicted the following year. Shortly after granting Gerritsen's application for a Technician class Amateur Radio license in 2001 and issuing him the call sign KG6IRO, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau rescinded the grant because his earlier conviction raised questions about his qualifications to be a licensee. While transmitting on various Los Angeles-area repeaters, Gerritsen continued to identify as KG6IRO, however, claiming the FCC could not take away his license without a hearing.

Radio amateurs on the West Coast complained for months about the slow pace of enforcement action in the Gerritsen case. Los Angeles-area repeater owners had taken to shutting down their machines to avoid the nearly constant barrage of malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Gerritsen's trial gets under way Monday, December 5 in Room 850 of the Edward R. Roybal Courthouse, 255 E Temple Street, Los Angeles. ❖