



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RADIO AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERS, INC.

Headquarters Highlights: Summer 2003



I have a mole on my forehead. It has been there for years. With the passage of time my hairline has receded to the point that the mole is all by its self on a vast sea of skin, not unlike the lone tree standing majestically by itself in a plowed field. It's there. It is a part of me. Most people ignore it.

My granddaughter is visiting me. She is three, has an excellent grasp of language, and possesses that natural curiosity inherent in children of her age. She is not intimidated by social convention but genuinely cares about other beings, both animals and people. If you have a dog, she will ask permission to pet it. If you have a baby, she will hug it. She is concerned about big bellies, owies and other phenomena.

I was sitting in my chair, reading the paper as grandfathers are supposed to do. She came up to me, reached out to my forehead and — touched the mole. She ran her finger over it a bit then she turned to me, looked at me with her big blue eyes and asked "Grandpa — is that a nipple?"

I had no reply.

Next Issue—NARTE News Is Electronic!

Our long awaited jump in technology is about to happen! We are running trials on the electronic version of *NARTE News* now. Our process will be to create the text version, put it on the web site as a PDF file and notify you individually that it is available. We will only be notifying you that the news is available, not sending you a gargantuan file that plugs your email download so you can't get to your boss's memo because it is behind this huge file. I hate it when that happens.

There will not be any hard copies produced, just the web version. We need your email address to shoot out the notification of availability. If your email address changes, we need to know so we can keep sending you notice that the news is out. If we do not have your email address you can still go to www.narte.org and check out the News, but wouldn't it be easier to be told when to go?

Change of Address—NARTE PO Box is Now Officially Closed

We have now officially closed the post office box and are happily receiving mail delivered to our door. Its kind of a "Donna Reed" moment with the "bird clock" chirping in the background as Charlie drops by with today's stuff, not to mention not having to go out in the wind and cold to get it. (Funny how the rain is nasty for us but OK for Charlie). By the way, our door is at 167 Village Street, Medway, MA 02053.

Possible Governance Change

This is serious. We hold a membership meeting every year. The meeting has been held at Medway in the spring for the past several years. We never get any member turnout to the meeting beyond the Board members attending. This year, a member proposed that NARTE amend the Articles of Incorporation to

provide for NARTE to be governed by the Board of Directors instead of membership. The proposal included review by our lawyer to be sure that such a change will be legal and will not adversely affect our tax-exempt status.

If the change does come about, it means that NARTE will be governed by a Board of Directors and no longer be a membership association. Certificate holders will not have to worry about nominating directors or attending meetings. Their certificate will be unchanged. The Board will be able to respond to changing requirements more rapidly. There is no intent to change NARTE's mission, vision, or non-profit status.

New Renewal Notice

Your creative staff has struck once again! Headquarters began sending out our newly structured renewal notices in April. These are one-page notices that combine the features of the letter, an invoice and a member merchandise order form. They reduce staff burden and cost less than the old forms. Another great innovation from NARTE staff!

"CQ" NARTE

NARTE Hams unite! The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) in affiliation with NARTE has registered a High Frequency (HF) Amateur Radio Net called "The NARTE Net". The NARTE Net, fraternalism between the members of NARTE and the ARRL, will be used to promote the furtherance of technical understanding and achievement in radio and other telecommunication disciplines.

Frequency (MHz)	Day	(UTC)
18.1400	Saturdays	1700 UTC
18.1400	Sundays	2100 UTC

All Amateur Radio Operators are welcomed to check in. More information is also posted on the ARRL Web Site at www.arrl.org <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/05/23/1?nc=1#NARTE>>

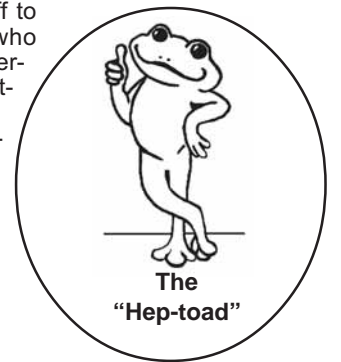
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SUMMER HEPTODE AWARDS

The "Heptode Award" is granted by NARTE Headquarters staff to properly recognize those who lighten their burden or who otherwise represent NARTE in an outstanding manner.

Congratulations to the Summer 2003 Heptode Award recipient:

Jim Marley
for his consistent, conscientious commitment in providing NARTE's examinees with an excellent examination experience.



Headquarters Highlights, *continued*

Accredited EMC Test Laboratory Program Under Review

From time to time we use this column to inform you of changes in program administration. In an effort to re-direct NARTE's focus to the enhancement of the EMC (Electromagnetic Compatibility) Certification program, and because the full EMC and the EMC ATL certifications are being confused in the field, the Accredited EMC Test Laboratory Personnel Certification program is under review. While the program is under review, no new applications will be accepted. Accredited EMC Test Lab personnel previously awarded certification/endorsement will remain certified as long as they remain employed by an accredited test laboratory.



Members of the KEC-NARTE/Japan EMC Committee and NARTE met on May 1, 2003 at NARTE Headquarters in Medway. Left to right: Shin-Ichiro Kudo, Secretary; Katsuo Ishihara, Chief of Education; Russell Carstensen, Executive Director; and Laura Holmberg, Operations Director.

Telecommunications Certification Endorsements Suspended

NARTE offered a long list of endorsements to the basic telecommunications certification. However, very few people chose to obtain endorsements. On March 5, 2003 an Executive Committee meeting was held to discuss the endorsement portion of the telecommunications certification program.

The committee members recognized that participation by the telecommunications members, as documented by a NARTE HQ staff study, was insignificant and had not seen any appreciable activity since 1995. The group discussed various approaches to recognition of special skills beyond the basic certificate. However, the major difficulty with the various approaches is that not enough participants exist. NARTE cannot recover the expense of test development and maintenance.

The Executive Committee directed that the endorsement program be revamped, and suspended accepting any new applications. Endorsements previously awarded will remain in effect.

Certification Fee Adjustments

In my role as Executive Director, I am pleased that the Board and I have been successfully mounting a drive to increase the awareness, meaning, and prestige of NARTE certification. Along with these expansion efforts, we have been continuing to streamline our processes in an attempt to keep associated costs at a minimum. However, NARTE, along with other non-profit technical support organizations, is faced with the increasing cost of doing business.

Though we have been avoiding a dues increase for years, we ultimately have had to accept that funding the maintenance and expansion of a viable NARTE certification organization will require an increase in certification fees. Along with improvements in the NARTE website, added capabilities for member networking, relevance and value (quality enhancement) programs create a context in which a fee adjustment is justified. Support of other professional organizations, such as the IEEE and the ESD Association, is spreading the word and endorsing NARTE certification as a career marker of technical excellence.

Additional information and details surrounding this difficult decision are posted on the NARTE website at www.narte.org.

The bad news is that fees are going up. The good news is that they will not be imposed until October of this year. You can renew early and avoid the price change.

Antenna Breakthrough

Do you remember Lou Genecco's article on conductive fabric from last issue? Experimenting on their own time, the NARTE headquarters staff recently invented an entirely new type of antenna. Using samples of SNOWTEX electrically conductive

fabric that were provided by Lou, NARTE staff members Shannon Reynolds, Sandy Felone and Laura Holmberg demonstrated that it could be used to improve FM reception. Lou had been telling SNOWTEX that their fabric could probably be used to make antennas, but I think NARTE staff is first in the world to actually do it!

This may seem like a simple thing, but is actually a real innovation. If they wanted to, they could get a patent on this. (Getting rich is a bit harder, but a patent always looks good on a resume.) This is how progress is made: by intellectually curious people playing around with new things.

WHICH BRINGS ME BACK to my granddaughter. Who knows – maybe it is a nipple. It's all in how you look at it. ☺

Russ

**The NARTE News
is going
ELECTRONIC!**

Contact NARTE with your email address at
www.narte.org/email or 1-800-89-NARTE

NOTICE

Shin-Ichiro Kudo was the author of the article, "NARTE/Japan EMC Committee of KEC" that appeared in the Spring Issue. We regret and apologize for the inadvertent omission of his name.