

CROSSTALK

Issue #4

APRIL, 2003

Presidents Message

The time has come to look at our club and decide what will be the best course to follow to keep our club viable. We must try to get new members and make sure some fallen away members are brought back to the fold. If anyone needs membership applications they are available from John Fisher, K2JF, or from me. I can be reached at wb2nbj@att.net.

2003 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2003 are due. The annual dues are \$15.00.

Please send your checks directly to the treasurer, Bob Krchnavek, (K2DAD) at 50 Eastwick Dr., Gibbsboro, NJ 08026.

Membership dues are now due and if you haven't re-upped please do so as soon as possible. The Hamfest and field day are coming up and they both need help and dues money to make them happen.

We have a field day chairman and if you want to participate either as a band chairman or an operator, notify Ray Martin at rrm1@comcast.net. We need all the operators we can get to keep things going smoothly.

I can't attach any more urgency to the fact that we still do not have a Hamfest Chairperson. While there is still some time until August, several details need to be attended to in a timely manner. We need a Chairperson to contact organizations such as the ARRL for publicity, Monroe Township for a raffle permit and the 4H. Harry, AA2WN, and I can be of assistance to help make things run smoothly.

There isn't much more for now, so I'll say best 73 and see you at the meeting on April 2, 2003.

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

One of the least understood areas and biggest sources of confusion to beginners in the world of DXing, is the mystery of the QSL card. We all like to receive a rare entity card to authenticate our QSO. The card is required if we plan on applying for awards, certificates, etc. But why in the world do we have to buy the card from the DX ham? How can we develop a true friendship, etc., if we have to pay for his card, and yet it's a one way street for the foreign ham? Doesn't seem fair somehow! Well, to begin with, if the foreign ham is from a country like England, Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, etc, there are hundreds, even thousands (Japan for example) of hams living in these countries and there are always many affluent hams there who want your card and can handle the expense. But, consider a country (entity) such as Monaco, or Tanzania, where only perhaps two or three natives are active hams. When Ralph, 5H3RK, comes on the air and operates for 2 hours, he may "work" 100 hams and they all want his card. The next night it is the same story. Within a few weeks Ralph receives maybe 500 QSL cards all requesting his semi-rare card from Tanzania. Ralph would soon go broke sending out QSL cards to one and all. And most hams are not independently wealthy. About 80 percent of all entities unfortunately are not populated with that many hams. Also, consider the DXpedition where a few hams will spend thousands of dollars to travel to, live on, and operate from a rare, uninhabited island (Kingman Reef, for example) and in the time spent there may contact 30 or 40 thousand hams who all want the rare QSL card. Think what the additional cost to them would be if they had to pay to mail each persons card.

Hence, to alleviate this inherent burden on the rarer DX ham, typically the ham from the more populated country will include an IRC or two or a "green stamp" or two in the envelope with the QSL card and a preaddressed return envelope. This helps subsidize the DXer, whereas the alternate is no QSL card or perhaps no ham on the air from that entity.

So, what's out there for this month?

Station	Dates	Frequency/Mode	Rarity*	Country
ST0RY(1)	3/19-4/2	160-6; All	4	Sudan
YK1BA	4/15-4/27	40-10; SSB, CW	3	Syria
A35XM	3/19-4/4	80-10; CW, SSB, RTTY	2	Tonga
XY4KQ	3/31-4/17	160-10; CW, SSB	3	Myanmar
9N7DX	4/22-5/15	160-6; All	3	Nepal
SO5X	4/16-4/21	160-6; CW, SSB, RTTY	3	Western Sahara
ZW0S	4/1-4/14	40-10; CW,SSB	3	St. Peter/Paul Rocks
C93?	4/20-5/4	80-10; SSB, CW, RTTY	3	Mozambique
6W/F5VHQ	4/19-5/1	40-10; SSB	3	Senegal

(1) A major DXpedition by DL's.

* 5 is the rarest

Thanks to Weekly DX; 425 DX News, W2YC, K2JF, WA2LET, and AA2WN.

Constitutional Change Proposal Passes at March Meeting

The Constitutional Change Proposal which appeared in the February issue of Crosstalk was voted on and passed at the March General Membership Meeting. Along with the passing of the Constitutional Change Proposal which moves the setting of the current dues from the Constitution to the By-Laws, an article was added to the By-Laws which sets the dues for Full Members at \$15 per year and for Associate Members at \$10 per year unchanged from last years dues. These changes will make the changing of dues much easier if the Club decides it needs to change the dues in the future.

United Kingdom to Alaska on 136 kHz

Reaching Alaska from the United Kingdom using just 1 W ERP is quite a feat for any band, but the Radio Society of Great Britain reports that Laurie Mayhead, G3AQC, was heard in Alaska on 136 kHz. In the early hours of February 15, he transmitted to Laurence Howell, GM4DMA/KL1X in Anchorage, and just before dawn in the United Kingdom at 0615 his call sign was clearly identified using software to read the signal.

G3AQC was using QRSS, very slow CW, with a 60-second-long dit. The 7278-km distance is a transmission record for 1 W ERP on 136 kHz. Two years ago, Mayhead and Larry Kayser, VA3LK, made ham radio history when they completed the first two-way transatlantic exchange on 136 kHz, also using very slow speed CW. Last year G3AQC became the first person to span the Atlantic on 73 kHz.

Howell expressed surprise that the path involved in the latest accomplishment is "notoriously poor" between south-eastern Alaska, on the east coast of the Pacific, and Europe. "The signal would theoretically go on a Great Circle route to nearly 80 degrees north, over the northern Canadian Arctic, northern Greenland, east of Iceland, Glasgow, then over the UK to the South Coast--across and through the auroral oval."

He said there's speculation that the actual path might have been around or even under the auroral zone, since there was no auroral Doppler seen on the received signal. Howell and Mayhead credited research and preparation carried out by G3NYK, G3LDO, W3EEE and W4DEX, for helping to set the new LF record.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the ARRL Letter

Will Ham Radio be Shut Down if War is Declared?

Some amateurs have been wondering if the FCC will shut down Amateur Radio in the event that war breaks out in the Middle East. The short answer is "no."

Just prior to the Gulf War, §214.4(b)(4) of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations was deleted. This section had mandated the closing of all Amateur Radio stations except Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations in the event that the president proclaimed a war or national emergency. The last time Amateur Radio was shut down was during World War II, although the FCC continued to give Amateur Radio examinations.

While the Amateur Radio Service will not automatically be shut down if the president invokes the War Powers Act, Amateur Radio licensees must continue to observe any directives the FCC may issue in the interests of national security and of making spectrum available for government use.

The FCC is directed to work in coordination with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to issue "appropriate rules, regulations, orders and instructions" for use of the spectrum "as may be necessary to ensure the effective use of those portions of the radio spectrum shared by government and non-government users." Amateurs share most UHF allocations with the US government.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the ARRL Letter

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following Club members:

Merrill Brown, WK2G	4/1
Irma Colabrese, N2FNF	4/18
Gurdon Cooper, AA4N	4/12
Robert Krukowski, KR2U	4/24
Raymond Metzger, AI2B	4/2
Whitney Myers, KB2ZTL	4/18



Crosstalk Submissions

All submissions, queries, comments, editorials, etc. should be directed to:

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
401 Westwood Drive
Woodbury, New Jersey 08096-3131

aa2yo@arrl.net

Submission deadline: 4/21/2003

GCARC Officers

President-Ray Schnapp WB2NBJ
Vice President-Wayne Wilson WA2LET
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML
Lou Joseph W2LYL
Al Arrison KB2AYU

Recording Secretary-Harry Bryant AA2WN
Corresponding Secretary-John Fisher K2JF

Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO
Bob Krukowski KR2U
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

Committees

Advertising-Open
ARES/RACES-Chick WA2USI
Awards-Jack K2ZA
Banquet-Bob KR2U
Budget-Bob K2DAD
Clubhouse Site-Al KB2AYU
Constitution-Open
Crosstalk-Gene AA2YO
Database-Bob K2DAD
DX-Doug WA2NPD
Field Day-Lou W2LYL
Hamfest-Open

Hospitality-Ken N2CQ
Membership- John AA2BN
Nominations-Art Strong KA2DOT
Publicity-Open
Repeaters-Chuck WA2TML
Scholarships-Greg WN2T
Special Services-Gene N2IMK
Sunshine-Open
Technical-Bob KR2U
TVI-John AA2BN
VEC Testing-Chick WA2USI

The W2MMD Repeaters

147.78/18 Mhz- Pitman
(CTCSS 131.8Hz)

223.06/224.66 Mhz-Sewell

447.1/442.1 Mhz - Pitman
(CTCSS 131.8Hz)

Nets

ARES/RACES
Sunday 20:00 Hrs
(147.78/18 and
223.06/224.66
repeaters)

10 Meter- Sunday
following the
ARES/RACES Net
(28.350 Mhz)

GCARC Meetings

General Membership

8 pm 1st Wednesday every month
Pfeiffer Community Center
Williamstown, NJ

Board of Directors

8 pm 3rd Wednesday every month
GCARC Club site
Harrison Twp. 4H Grounds
1 mile south of Mullica Hill on RT77

April Meeting Program

Socializing

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club
P. O. Box 370
Pitman, NJ 08071