



Presidents Message

Tis the season to stay away from the shopping malls. Stay in your “shack” and play radio. Don’t fret if Santa doesn’t bring you that big amplifier or multi-kilobuck rig. That’s one of the nice things about Amateur Radio; you don’t need a massive station to have fun on the air.

At the December meeting we will have the election of Club officers for 2011. Below is the slate of nominees to date.

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Officers: | | Board of Directors: | |
| President | Al (KB2AYU) | 3 yr. Director | Wayne (WA2LET) |
| Vice President | Tom (KE2ES) | 3 yr. Director | Bob (KR2U) |
| Treasurer | Open | | |
| Recording Sec. | John (K2ZA) | Board of Trustees: | |
| Corresponding Sec. | Vinnie (N4NYY) | 4 yr. Trustee | Ray (WB2NBJ) |

As you can see, we still don’t have anyone for Treasurer. Our current Treasurer, Ken, N2CQ, has held the position for many years and would like to take a break. Ken would be happy to help the new Treasurer get up to speed and he has developed a nice system to streamline the job.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

73, Al KB2AYU

December Club Meeting Program

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

We have a most interesting program on the docket for our December 1st Club meeting. Gary, WA3SVW, has a DVD video tour of the KYW-TV transmitting facilities in Roxborough, PA which he will present. We have all seen those huge vertical transmitting tower antennas from the expressway, now we will have the pleasure of viewing the rest of the operation. This should prove to be a very informative show and a very nice Christmas present which you will not want to miss. Trust everyone can make it.

Happy Thanksgiving
From The Editor and Contributors of Crosstalk!

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Watching some 30 MPH gusts outside during a 50 degree November day reminds me of our most vulnerable systems for working DX, our antennas! Coax, rotor cables, guy lines, oxidation on connections, all need to be addressed before winter weather and potential for a replay of last year's arctic-like conditions here in the Promised Land! It seems as if winds have become an increasing problem in our area the last few years. I never did a repaint of the roof tower on my barn that I planned this summer/fall. We have seen a growing number of costly tower/antenna wind incidents involving our club members and our club! It might be more important to do some antenna work on a nice Sunday afternoon rather than watch the Eagles inside on your plasma TV! Plan ahead.

We continue to be "teased" with many more sunspots than at this point in the year compared to last. The solar activity hasn't opened up all the HF bands yet to the potential we are used too, but my bandswitch is getting used more this year! 10 Meters has shown some fair DX openings especially in October. 12 Meters is open more often than 10 and providing some more distance and variety in its propagation. Mid to late morning locally is a good time to listen on 12 with openings possibly continuing until later in the day if sunspots support it. Some nice DX qsos are possible with much less power and aluminum that are necessary usually on "good ole 20 Meters". 15 Meters has been improving also. Be aware that 10, 12, and 15 will probably diminish in usefulness because of shorter days and daylight.

Low bands are quieting and sounding better with longer periods of darkness and less atmospheric noise. Lately 40 Meters has been quite good to JA's in the morning even well after sunrise. 80 and 160 Meters are yielding some DX with more to come as winter conditions approach. This should be a good winter to pick up those new PJ-DXCC entities on the low bands! Don't forget 30 Meters! I heard the ZL8 Kermadec DXpedition guys /Maritime Mobile on 30 yesterday as they approached their destination.

Mark your calendars for two large DXpeditions in January that will keep the bands hopping. DX0DX (love that call sign!) will be active January 6-24 in the Spratly Islands. VP8O will be active from South Orkney Islands from January 27 through February 8. Google these call signs for more details about these well planned excursions, get out an atlas to find them geographically, and do a little research concerning the history of these faraway places. It might make the hunt for them a bit more interesting.

Holiday season curtails much DX action in December so our selection is a bit limited. Too much liquid "cheer" just might prevent you from working the following that will be active during this busy month:

| CALL | DATES | HIGHLIGHTS | RARITY | ENTITY |
|--------|-------------|----------------------------|--------|-------------|
| VP2M | 11/26-12/6 | USA EFFORT/160-10M | 1 | MONTSERRAT |
| XV4SP | 11/26-12/06 | DL7DF - IOTA AS-128 | 4 | VIETNAM |
| ZL7 | 12/2-12/9 | 160-6M/CW,SB,DIG | 3 | CHATHAM IS. |
| 9Q500N | 12/3-12/13 | 160-6M/2 STNS/CW,SB,DIG | 2 | DR CONGO |
| J6 | 12/5-12/13 | 160-10M/3 STNS/CW,SB,DIG | 1 | ST. LUCIA |
| VK9NN | 12/5-12/19 | 160-6M/ESP. LOW BANDS | 2 | NORFOLK IS. |
| CY0 | 12/6-12/13 | LARGE VE/USA OPER. | 1 | SABLE IS. |
| H40 | 12/21-1/23 | 160-6M/CW,SB,DIG/IOTAS | 3 | TEMOTU |
| JD1's | 12/24-1/8 | 2 JA STNS/160-10/CW,SB,DIG | 3 | OGASAWARA |

SOURCES: N3GK ADXO

Welcome to New Members

This month the Club welcomes three new members from the same family. Bret, KC2ZDY, Nate, KC2VXS, and Spencer, KC2VXT, Hoffman. Bret is the father and Nate and Spencer are his two sons. All three hold Technician Class Licenses and live in the Wenonah area. Please make them feel at home when they attend Club meetings and functions.

On the Web

By Art Strong

After several months of getting “other things” done, and out of my way, I have finally been able to get to the club trailer and start digging through the 4 drawer cabinet of club history. I learned very quickly that I could put out of my mind any thought that this would be a short term project. There are folders, piles of notes, minutes, pictures, and Crosstalks to dig through not to mention all of the useless junk that has been tossed into the cabinet over the years. Anyone interested in a July 1983 bank statement? Well, maybe I’m wrong. It may have actually been October 1977. We also have an abundance of old hamfest ticket stubs. Plus, there are more cancelled checks from the 80’s than I care to count. While I don’t see much historical value in the junk the rest is pure gold.

I only spent about an hour and a half on my first trip to the trailer but I quickly realized I would be better off doing my scanning here at home. I can set things up and work at my own pace rather than going into and out of the trailer. That has worked out well as I scanned in all of 1983 Crosstalks, posted it on the web, and then realized I have to keep my file size much smaller than what I had done. That meant re-scanning 1983’s Crosstalks all over again, cleaning up the pages, and reloading them to the web. If I have all 12 issues of a year of Crosstalk it will then take on the average of 5 to 7 hours to scan, clean, and post those issues on the web and set up the links to each month.

The job is going to be much bigger than I originally thought but it’s worth it in just the enjoyment I get from reading these old newsletters. My biggest problem that I have encountered thus far is losing track of what I’ve scanned and what I’m scanning because I get so engrossed in what I’m reading while I’m scanning. I have found and posted Volume 1, issues 6 and 7 of Crosstalk. That translates to September and October of 1959, the year the club started! The paper is so bad that I had to put the pages into plastic page holders to protect them after I scanned them. Otherwise they would be easily destroyed by any careless handling.

The hardest part of this job is trading resolution for storage space. I had originally started scanning at a higher resolution than what I use now so as to get good quality dark print from the faded pages. This created a file size problem as we only have a finite amount of storage on the web. You’ve heard me yak about storage space before and I watch it very carefully now that I have something that could very easily eat it all up. So scanning resolution was a major part of my learning curve and I now have that pretty well nailed down. However, not everything that I scan will be published on the website. I’ve encountered many pictures which will eat up lots of space so they will only appear on the DVD’s when I’m finished. Also, club rosters will only be published on DVD’s for the privacy aspect of them.

The website has pages set up in 10 year segments, except the 1959 to 1970 segment, for the issues that I’ve been able to scan and post thus far. The quality of print is the best I can do with what I have to work. Please see “On the Web” on Page 4.

“On the Web” from Page 3.

with and I’ve seen some upcoming issues that are really faded, but they will be scanned and posted, anyhow. Some pages look crooked because they were that way on the originals due to the way they were put together prior to printing. So I couldn’t fix that.

I have no illusions that many issues of Crosstalk won’t turn up missing. On the website you will see different years that have issues missing and this will be an unfortunate dilemma. However, once I have gone completely through everything in the cabinet then I will put out a call to all members to go through your own storage areas and see if you can come up any of the missing issues that I could borrow for scanning.

Finally, I have learned a great deal about our Club already and have been reminded of how things were years ago. The problem of people yakking in the back during a meeting or program is nothing new and was criticized years ago. Crosstalk used to have a lot of contributors in the earlier years and was even publishing recipes. We had a large number of ladies in our club that were part of the YLRL group. One of our own was President of the YLRL, Rose Ellen Bills, N2RE. We used to have picnics at Lake Garrison. We had Club sponsored dinner-dances of which the last one was in 1995 at Degenhardt’s on the Black Horse Pike. We used to have “The Eavesdropper” who made monthly reports on what he heard on the repeater.

If you are interested in the club’s history then just logon to the website and check out the Antique Crosstalk section and see what’s new. More uploads will be coming as time goes on and constantly checking is the only way to see what has been recently added.

See you on the web

Editor’s Note: I would love to see the contributor base for Crosstalk expanded. If you have any ideas for Crosstalk, don’t be shy. Send them to me!

The Chinese Invasion Continues

By Cory Sickles, WA3UAA

Throughout this year, we have seen an increasing number of repurposed LMR hand-helds from China that cover 144, 222, and 440 MHz. While there are others that can cover 50 MHz, they haven’t been as well known and I’m not sure of any dealers have them at the moment.

Now I’ve read that there may well be a mobile 50W radio arriving soon that will cover 29 and 50MHz. Given that the pricing is supposed to be well under \$200, that could help inspire more activity on bands where openings allow communications over hundreds of miles or more. Stay tuned...

Gloucester County Alerts

By Cory Sickles, WA3UAA

Not getting enough text messages on your cell phone? Would you like to know about weather-related warnings, road closings, Amber Alerts and more in Gloucester County? Then sign up with the alert system at www.gloucesteralert.com.

Please see “Alerts” on Page 5.

“Alerts” from Page 4

Speaking of weather-related info, have you checked out the “Storm Centers” page on our Club’s web site – www.w2mmd.org recently? There are links to local radar, hurricanes in the Atlantic and Gulf, streaming audio from NOAA WX Radio and more.

Feeling too cold? Then just call up the link for Honolulu, Los Angeles or Miami then close your eyes and you’ll feel warmer in minutes.

QRP on a Post Card

By Cory Sickles, WA3UAA

Most of us, I think, would build more if there were more kits around that don’t require winding toroids and lots of alignment time. That’s probably one of the reasons that kits like the Rock Mite are so popular. The inductors are “drop in”, the investment in time and cash is little and the rewards are ongoing.

The Four States QRP Group (www.4sqrp.com) has been shipping a transmitter that takes the simple coil idea one step further – they have produced a kit that has no coils to install at all! They are etched as part of the PC board.

Designed by David Cripe, NM0S, the NS-40 rewards its builders with an under 10 watt, Class E CW transmitter for just \$30 (postage included) that can be put together in less than a half hour. As the name implies, it works on 40 Meters and comes with a crystal for 7030 KHz. If you add a socket for the crystal, you can pick up others for 7040, 7122 and others from Rich Kennedy, N4ESS at www.expandedspectrumsystems.com for very reasonable prices. Rich has even added 7114 KHz to his inventory - the “watering hole” frequency of the Straight Key Century Club (www.skccgroup.com) which welcomes, encourages and mentors the more-QRS operators among us. I like operating in that section of the band as it allows me to use my collection of FT-243 crystals and brings back fond memories of when I was a Novice as WN3UVV.

Take a look at the NS-40 and the other rocks available. Things like this make nice stocking stuffers and keep on giving throughout the year.

Happy Thanksgiving!

By Cory Sickles, WA3UAA

I know it’s been a harsh year for many of us. Along with financial issues, we’ve lost some good friends and relatives. Still, all of us (let me repeat) ALL OF US have so many reasons to be thankful and reflect on our blessings and the richness of what we have.

If you’ve been down about “things” recently, try putting this all aside for at least one day and enjoy the positives. If nothing else, it will make you feel better. A positive outlook can make all the difference.

December Birthdays

Kelly Glans, N2SBQ
Arthur Goldman, K3WIN
Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Bill Grim, W0MHK
Bob Jonas, WX2RBJ
William Martino, N2AAY
Jim McDonald, WB2AOL
Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW
Sheldon Parker, K2MEN



Crosstalk Submissions

This is your Club newsletter. Make use of it. Feel free to contribute general interest articles and ideas for articles.

All submissions, queries, comments and editorials should be addressed to Gene Schoeberlein at aa2yo@arrl.net.

Submission deadline for the January issue:
12/19/2010

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Acting Vice President-Wayne, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Doug Gehring, WA2NP

Steve, W2TDS
Cory, WA3UVV

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Harold Garron, AC2BK
Corresponding Secretary-Vinnie, N4NYY

Board of Directors

William Grimm, W0MHK
Harry Bryant, AA2WN
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO

Trustees

Ray, WB2NBJ
Mike, N2SRO

Committees

ARES/RACES-John, K2ZA
Awards-Dave, W2YC
Budget-Steve, W2TDS
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E
Constitution-As needed
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ken, N2CQ
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-Vinnie, N4NYY
Hamfest-Al, KB2AYU
Historian-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
Website-Art, K2AWS

The W2MMD Repeaters

147.78/18 Mhz-Pitman
(CTCSS 131.8Hz)

223.06/224.66 Mhz-Sewell

447.1/442.1 Mhz-Pitman
(CTCSS 167.9Hz)

1272.4/1284.4 MHz-Pitman

GCARC Meetings

General Membership

7:30 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

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)

December Meeting

KYW-TV Transmitters
Gary, WA3SVW

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

