



Presidents Message

December is upon us and with it comes Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year's Eve and elections of GCARC officers for the 2013 calendar year. Nominations are as follows:

Tom, KE2ES – President
Jim, N2GXJ – Vice President
Alan, KB2AYU – Treasurer
Sheldon, K2MEN – Recording Secretary
Cory, WA3UVV – Corresponding Secretary

Nominations for board of directors to fill a three year term include:
Gene, AA2YO and Wayne, WA2VOY

As many of you know, the Williamstown Fire Company #1 donated its 14'x70' mobile home trailer that was used for training to our Club for which we are extremely grateful. The trailer has been recently moved to our Clubhouse site adjacent to our old unit. Efforts are currently underway to secure the necessary Harrison Twp permits to permanently position the new trailer and dispose of the old unit. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize those Club members that made this happen. They are:

Marty, W2ILT
Chuck, WA2TML
Bill, N2VIL
Joe, KC2PHM
Cory, WA3UVV
Alan, KB2AYU

Pictures of the trailer and more information are available at the Club Website www.w2mmd.org.

The Motorola controller board has now been integrated with our new 147.18 repeater and arrangements are being made to change out the machine at the Pitman site.

In closing, amateur radio operators celebrate the world in all its glory...but it's the warm glow of Christmas' past, old and new friends alike, that hold the fondest memories. From this old shack to yours-

73 and Season's Greetings

Tom, KE2ES

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

PT0Ss November showing on the bands was similar to iPad followers lining up at Apple Stores around the world to get their "fix"! The DX community could not get enough qsos with this four man DXpedition in the middle of the Atlantic on a few wave-swept and equator-crossed rocky islands. Hope you got through for an all-time new one or a new band. Jammers and "multiple-qsoers-on-the-same-band" plagued their operation, but over 15,000 contacts were recorded to date. It was another against-odds amateur radio venture to a geographically unfriendly place overcome by some "ham spirit" dedication! I hope they put out a video of the adventure.

The Campbell Island DXpedition will have hopefully commenced by the time you read this. It seems to be a well organized operation with 3-4 stations being operated continuously. We shall see how friendly solar peak propagation is to this distant area of the Pacific. Be aware that ZL9HR does not have permission for the team to stay overnight on the island! This will be an additional challenge to low band qsos from this rare DXCC entity. Checking sunrise/sunset tables for Campbell Island should help you navigate this problem. Also, their ZL9HR website has some detailed information on propagation possibilities to the East Coast USA. It is worthwhile reading.

It's quite a shock to go from EDT to EST Down Jersey with the early sunrises and ultra-early sunsets. Use this daily change to your advantage by watching for low band openings at sunrise and sunset if you are not at or on your way to work. Enhanced conditions around sunrise and sunset can mean DX success for you with signals peaking at these times. Remember also that there is sufficient solar flux now to realize more Long Path openings that you can utilize especially on the higher bands. Turning your beam/directional antenna in the opposite direction of a Short Path direction seems counter-intuitive, but you may find the station peaking stronger in this opposite direction especially for a very distant station. Be aware also that the Long Path direction may be "skewed" to either side of that 180 degree path. Rock your antenna from side to side to see if the signal peaks in a somewhat different direction from exactly 180 degrees from the Short Path direction. Note if L.P. is mentioned in a spot if you are seeing a desirable station on your favorite DX cluster.

December is always a low activity month for DXpeditions. Fill in some of your easier band or all-time DX needs with the following:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	PRIORITY(5=MOST RARE)	ENTITY
ZL9HR	11/28-12/9	160-10M,MANY MODES	4	CAMPBELL IS.
PJ5J	12/1-12/12	80-6M, CW/SSB/RTTY	1	ST.EUSTATIUS
J6	12/2-12/11	160-6M,3 STATIONS	1	ST. LUCIA
V63XG	12/5-12/11	40-6M, CW/SSB/DIG	3	MICRONESIA
PY0FRP	12/6-12/10	40-10M	2	F. D. NORONHA
C6AVA	12/7-12/13	40-17M, IOTA NA-054	1	BAHAMAS
JD1BLY	12/10-12/13	40-10M, CW/SSB/DIG	3	OGASAWARA
H40FN	12/22-1/7	160-6M	3	TEMOTU
T8CW	12/24-1/6	160-6M, MAINLY DIG	3	PALAU
8Q7MS	12/26-1/3	80-10M, SSB	3	MALDIVES
WA2NPD	11/24/12	LOVED HIS FAMILY,	5	DOUG

Sorely missed already by your FAMILY, COMMUNITY, GCARC, AND DX!
CREDITS: NG3K ADXO

December Program

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

The program for December is titled, “What I like about Ham Radio”. Following the Club officers elections, the agenda for this evening is a relaxed, informal, and popular program where Club members have the opportunity to stand up and share a few words about how they first got interested in ham radio, and what they like most about our great hobby today.

EME Attempt #2 at the Clubsite

By Al, KB2AYU

The second weekend of the ARRL International EME (moonbounce) Contest is the weekend of December 1-2. I will be attempting to work the big guns using the digital mode WSJT. I am hoping to have better luck this time as most of the kinks have been worked out. Since our antenna cannot be elevated, we will only have an hour or so of operating time at our moonrise and moonset. (Moonset times are an hour before moonset). The start times are as follows:

12/1	0000Z	moonrise	(7:00PM Fri night local)
12/1	1130Z	moonset	(6:30AM Sat morning local)
12/2	0030Z	moonrise	(7:30PM Sat night local)
12/2	1210Z	moonset	(7:10AM Sun morning local)

Anyone is invited to stop by. Call the Clubhouse first to make sure someone is there. The number is 856 478 4738.

A Living Legacy

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

A lot has happened since October, when I wrote for the November issue of Crosstalk. First and foremost, we lost Doug Gehring, WA2NPD. While many can claim a closer and longer relationship, Doug was a friend and welcome dinner companion each month. While much has been said about his life and his love for amateur radio, there are a few things I'd like to point out for all of us to consider.

No one lives forever, but many of us touch the lives of others in our short time here. In Doug's case, he did that, but also left a living legacy for the GCARC that we enjoy today. Doug served as a recurring officer and board member throughout the years. He Elmered many new (and some not-so-new) hams. He was also a man of ideas. Our Hamfest and publicity signs were just one of Doug's ideas – which he helped fund. Continued participation in events like Field Day and other events, while helping involve newer members/hams was another. Doug was also one of a handful of people I could count on for feedback on the pieces I wrote for Crosstalk or in magazines. Just mentioning that he had read an article was encouraging. Complimenting the work was just icing on the cake.

Another idea was to create an “Atta Boy/Girl” award for someone that had done something that furthered our Club and ham radio. Since the Milt Goldman Award is passed out on an annual (only if the committee feels there's a deserving recipient) basis, this sort of recognition could serve an ad-hoc purpose for acknowledging service that didn't rise to the criteria of a Goldman.

Please see “Legacy” on Page 4.

“Legacy” from Page 3.

The last thing I’ll mention at this opportunity was embracing an agenda to involve new members in leadership positions. A number of us had thought about the idea and the need for such things in ensuring the GCARC’s continued future, but Doug seemed to be the one with the most suggestions as to who some of those folks should be.

The legacy of ideas, efforts and vision that someone like Doug leaves behind will be all that much greater if each of us embraces that same philosophy and continues to see what we can do to keep our Club moving forward.

Survivor Guilt and Thanksgiving

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Much has also been written and will be written for years to come about Hurricane/Superstorm/Frankenstorm Sandy. I was reminded about a prediction I made almost 2 years ago about severe weather systems encroaching on New Jersey, even though we had traditionally been spared such destruction. I warned that a major event could hit us within 5 years. I usually like being right, but have taken no joy in the damage done by Irene, a Super-Derecho, two earthquakes and of course, Sandy.

In Gloucester County, we’ve been fairly blessed as each of these have occurred. At my QTH in Glassboro, our power only winked (never actually dropped out) and the worst of the aftermath was a few small branches in the yard. After the initial feelings of relief, emails and Facebook messages from all around the world began to arrive. Most of these were from friends who had seen images of the destruction at the shore and wondered if we were OK.

My typical response was that we were all fine, but yes, there was much to be sad about at the Jersey Shore. With some feelings of “survivor guilt”, I realized something interesting while I viewed the destruction. While I grew up in Pennsylvania, I’ve lived in New Jersey for decades. My wife is a native and my kids were brought up here. We have dating and family memories of many fun days on those barrier islands. Seeing what Sandy had done tugged at my heart, too.

I’ve since been to what’s left of some of those towns. The pictures don’t do justice to the scenes. There’s nothing like standing there and seeing the fine details of what happened. Returning home made me all that much more thankful for what I still have – all intact.

In the October issue I wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving – both for what you had and what you did not have. I hope all of you took a moment to be Thankful for those things and reflect with your family.

Key in the New Year

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

January 1st marks a new year, but it’s also Straight Key Night. More an event celebrating the love of CW and keys than a contest, SKN has existed for more years than I’ve been a ham. It’s a good excuse to get back to basics and have some fun.

It’s also become an opportunity to dust off and fire up some older tube and/or homebrew gear. There’s Please see “Key” on Page 5.

“Key” from Page 4.

nothing quite like reacquainting yourself with that DX-20 and S-38B on the shelf or something you built yourself – especially if it’s from your time as a Novice.

There’s traditionally lots of activity on 80 and 40 meters (especially from 7.100 to 7.125 MHz) and of course, 30M. Watering hole frequencies for straight key activity are 3.560, 3.579, 7.114, 7.122 and 10.120 MHz. Get ready to fire up whatever you have, for an enjoyable way to ring in 2013 and note that the Myans didn’t know anything we don’t know.

My New Computer

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

In mid-November, I bought a “new computer”. I put that in parentheses, since I need to qualify that term a bit. First of all, it’s a kit, so some building will be in order. Second, it was manufactured in 1977, although it was still “New In Box”. Third, it uses an 8-bit Motorola 6800 microprocessor running at 625 KHz and includes 128 bytes of memory, expandable on-board to 256 bytes. Some of you may not consider that to be a computer, either. I’ll leave it to you as to whether you consider it to be a “new computer”.

Whatever it may be, I’m going to have fun building it and expanding it to 8K of RAM and TTY interface. I owned one of these – the Motorola Educator II – in 1977. After awhile, I got bored with it and let it go. A few years ago, my interest in restoring classic/vintage computers came back to me and I started looking around for one of these. It fits in well with my collection, which inspired the ongoing multi-part series “Cross Streets: Microcomputers and Amateur Radio” that’s appearing in World Radio Online magazine.

I was thrilled when I found it. Much as many get a thrill out of bringing a vintage tube rig back to life and on the air, or find themselves in a personal nirvana if they can acquire a HW-8 still in the box, that’s how I feel with the Educator II.

By comparison, the US has a new computer, as well. It’s a bit more sophisticated and faster than mine. The Titan is now the #1 supercomputer in the ongoing contest of who has the fastest machine. With 560,640 processor cores and a computational speed of 17.59 petaflops (a quadrillion floating point calculations per second). This expanded Cray XK47 lives in Tennessee at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

So, what do you use a supercomputer for? How about modeling the predicted path of a Frankenstorm? As we saw, they work rather well for that...

Mr. Spacewrench

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

A company by the name of ViviSat is planning to launch a group of Mission Extension Vehicles into orbit that will be able to effect repairs to orbiting satellites. In-orbit repairs, long held as one of the compelling reasons for Space Shuttle astronauts to take spacewalks, may see robots (droids from “Silent Running”?) soon perform these functions in the not-too-distant future.

Please see “Spacewrench” on Page 6.

“Spacewrench” from Page 5.

I don’t know what missions they may have in mind to test the MEV out - but if I might suggest – replacing the dead batteries in OSCAR 7 would be very useful.

In slightly further out space news, NASA has apparently discovered something “interesting” on Mars, by virtue of the Curiosity rover. As I type this, they still haven’t said exactly what it is, but I’m thinking they’ve either found Marvin Martian’s misplaced Illudium PU-36 Space Modulator or the other end of the wormhole that’s been responsible for socks to go missing from washing machines here on earth.

Enemy Ears Are No Longer Listening

Many of you are aware of a certain neighbor down the street (nicknamed Fritz) who attempted to completely ruin my enjoyment of amateur radio through a campaign waged for over 2 decades. Fritz insisted that I was causing TVI at times when I wasn’t on the air or even at home. Fritz sent numerous unsigned notes to me in the mail. Fritz left others on my front door on car windshield. Fritz wrote rambling missives to the FCC and made calls on a recurring basis. Fritz went out of his way to yell at me while I was mowing the lawn. Fritz harassed my kids on the way home from elementary school, forcing them take “the long way”.

I finally wrote about the whole affair in the March 2012 [World Radio Online](#), published just months after his latest FCC complaint letter to Laura Smith, head of enforcement (featured in this month’s [QST](#)). I have an incredibly thick FCC file. I hoped that sharing my story might help others out there, wrongly accused of causing interference.

Fritz would not be dissuaded by facts. He lived in his own special universe where the normal laws of physics did not apply. Only what he believed in his deluded reality was right. There was no sense trying to reason with Fritz, as I learned the hard way.

Realizing that the only way my troubles would cease was if one of us moved or died, I set a Google Alert for Fritz’s real name some time ago. When I got back from a business trip near the beginning of November, the Google Alert had an article link for Fritz – his obituary.

It was late at night and took a few moments to sink in. A vision of Saturday Night Live’s Garrett Morris



flashed in my brain – “Our top story tonight, Fritz, the *schadenfreude* neighbor, is still dead!”

Initially, I felt elation. It was finally over. Then, I felt bad about feeling so good. All the years of nonsense over nothing. At last, my feelings were and remain, one of relief.

Club Programs, 2013

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

Do you have a general passion, interest, or knowledge related to our hobby that you would consider sharing with other club members at one of our club meetings next year? If so, I'd like to hear from you! Just give me a call, or drop me an email at theWrightPlaceNJ@aol.com.

Foxhunt II

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

November 11 turned out to be a picture-perfect sunny fall afternoon for our second radio direction finding foxhunt event of this year. The event was organized similarly to the one in August, where one of our Club members drove to hide somewhere within central Gloucester County, and the rest of us, starting from wherever we wanted within the county, would try to find him by homing-in on his transmissions.

The fun of being the radio fox this time went to Al, KB2AYU, who earned the honor by having been the first to find Gary, WA3SVW, who had been the radio fox in our last event. Parked in his truck with the windows down to enjoy the great afternoon, Al secretly selected the lower parking lot of Alcyon Park in Pitman to await the start of the event. At the 1:00pm start time, hunt teams checked-in on our W2MMD repeater. A few minutes later, Al, as the radio fox, was asked to ID to us on the repeater. He then switched over to a designated 2M simplex frequency, and the hunt was on!

Sheldon and I had teamed up, and did our best to try and get a directional bearing on Al's first transmission. With my small hand held beam, I was getting reflections from several directions, so wasn't sure which way to go. But Sheldon, turning in circles with his hand-held radio in close, thought he had a null "in that general direction" (pointing), and so, with that, we hopped into his car and were off!

While driving, we were missing transmissions, so we decided to pull over to try and get a new bearing before the next transmission. From a location in Glassboro, near the water tower that has our club's 2M repeater antenna on it, we picked up Al's next transmission and it seemed stronger, meaning we were generally heading in the right direction, but maybe needed to go more "towards the right a bit". Consulting the GPS, we weaved our way onto route 322, and the campus of Rowan University (for a little warm weather sightseeing) while continuing to monitor the strength of Al's periodic transmissions. By the time we got near where route 322 crosses over route 55, Al's transmissions were now strong enough to break squelch on the hand held, so we knew we had to be getting closer. We pulled over into the driveway of a small post office there behind the Wawa, and got out into the open, away from the car, to await the next transmission.

When Al next transmitted, the S-meter was full strength in every direction my beam pointed, so it was pretty useless. I tried as many tricks as I could remember - switching slightly off frequency to knock the received signal strength down, tuning up to the third harmonic, and such, but I still wasn't sure. I looked over at Sheldon and he was spinning first this way, then that, using his hand-held with the body-fade technique to try and get us a bearing. We knew Al's transmission was about to end, and I still didn't have a new fix, so, in desperation, I started to unscrew the coax to my antenna. By lucky chance, just before the connection was broken, I noticed the S-meter dropped to a usable mid-scale! Quickly spinning around in a circle with the coax barely attached, I got two "peaks" in opposite directions from each other, but one seemed slightly higher.

Please see "Foxhunt" on Page 8.

“Foxhunt” from Page 7.

When the transmission was over, Sheldon and I compared notes. We knew we were close, maybe even within a half mile, but were uncertain about which direction to try next. I mentioned that, to me, the signal seemed to be coming from across this open field, just beyond the line of trees in that direction (pointing). Sheldon recalled an old racetrack nearby, which was now a park, in the same direction I had been pointing, and suggested that we give that a try next, so we did.

When we pulled into the park, we knew we were very close, because the next transmission came through near full strength, even with the antenna completely detached. Driving around a bit, we checked license plates and looked for antennas, but saw nothing in the main parking lot. Then we thought to look to see if there was a lower parking lot, drove down there, and the fox was found!

With high fives and congratulations, the fox announced on air that we were the first to find him! We pulled into an empty parking spot, and got out of the car to enjoy the nice day, now wondering who would be next to the fox. It wasn't too much later when a smiling Harry (K2ATX) arrived with KC2WXQ and her daughter.

After some on-air clues from Al (and some good natured taunting from Jim) Wayne, WA2VOY, and his wife were next to arrive at the fox. Finally, Jeff, KC2WCS, Adan, KC2YJX, and Dan, N2TXG, team arrived, all with stories of how close they had been, and having seen another team earlier going in a different direction.

In the end, it was a great day and a fun time for all. We're now talking about planning a club picnic for this spring for all Club members and their families, where we could include an on-foot hidden transmitter hunt and some geocaching too!

Happy holidays, and great radiosport to all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

December Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in December.

Arthur Goldman, K3WIN
Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Bill Grim, W0MHK
Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW
Sheldon Parker, K2MEN
William Robinson, KD2ANM
Wayne Welsh, WA2VOY



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 /21/12

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Vice President-Jim Wright, N2GXJ
Treasurer-Al Arrison, KB2AYU

Doug Gehring, WA2NPD
Art Strong, K2AWS
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ
Mike Mollet, N2SRO

ARES/RACES-Gary, N2QEE
Awards-Kenny, W2KRD
Budget-Al, KB2AYU
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E
Constitution-As needed
Contests-Ken, W2KRD
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ken, N2CQ
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-Vinnie/Bill, N4NYY/NJ2S
Hamfest-Vinnie/Bill, N4NYY/NJ2S
Historian-Art, K2AWS

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Sheldon Parker, K2MEN
Corresponding Secretary-Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY

Trustees

Cory Sickles, WA3UVV
Martin Wilt, W2ILT

Committees

Hospitality-Dave, WB3JOY
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Tom, KE2ES
Programs-Jim, N2GXJ
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Tom, KE2ES
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
Website-Jeff, KC2WCS

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

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

Nets

GCARC 2 Meter Net
Third Thursday of the Month
8:00PM
147.78/18Mhz (PL131.8Hz)

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

December Meeting
Annual Club Elections
What I like about Ham Radio
Club Members

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