

## Presidents Message

The big news this month is the program for our upcoming February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. We are delighted to announce as our guest speaker; Mr. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, former Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. If you only make one meeting this year, make it this one. Thanks to Vinnie, N4NYY and Doug, WA2NPD, for their work on this special event.

As we start the 51<sup>st</sup> year for the GCARC, I would like to thank those members, both past and present, who serve as Club officers, directors, and committee chairmen. A Club does not stay in existence as long as the GCARC has without the considerable "behind the scenes" effort of its members who hold these important positions.

For the past 20 years or so I myself have held just about every position available in the Club and have found it to be very rewarding. We all have certain talents or areas of expertise that can be of benefit to the Club. So, to the newer Club members, I say don't be shy about getting more involved with your Club. If nothing else, you may learn something new in the process.

Speaking of learning something new... The membership of the GCARC has many years (centuries?) of combined experience in Amateur Radio. Many members have certain "specialties" with regard to a particular aspect of the hobby. If you have any technical questions see any Club officer or director and we will get you in touch with someone who can help you.

73,  
AI-KB2AYU

### Haitian Relief

Gary Wilson, K2GW, of the ARRL asked that this be passed on to all amateurs in the Southern New Jersey region:

If you've been involved in disaster relief for any time, you know the problems created by well-meaning but unsolicited spontaneous volunteers, collections of cast-off clothes from folk's closets, and poorly packed and un-palletized random boxes of household-sized food items. It should be obvious that well supported, trained and experienced folks are needed in the first weeks and months after a disaster and that money is a lot better way to help supply needed items as money can be used to buy precisely what the victims need. Please let your family and friends gently know this for this disaster and others. Please see "Relief" on Page 3.

# Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

"Cautious Optimism" might be the best way to describe DXing since our last month's comments. Recently the largest active sunspot in two years has been seen with other additional spots being observed also. Unfortunately, HF conditions have not noticeably changed a great deal but random openings are occurring. The sun's outpourings are certainly welcome, but the "work'em with a wet noodle antenna" super days are not here yet.

To promote interest in using the higher HF bands (let's narrow it to 17 through 10 Meters) I've begun my own 2010 High Band Prop Test (hereafter known as HBPT). I am trying to working as many DXCC entities as I can on these four bands in the 2010 calendar year. I will use no contest QSOS and only randomly and leisurely work any DX stations on these four bands for this purpose. I'll listen to these bands and watch for potential stations to work. No pressure, no quotas, no certificates. Just working for a better understanding of what my station can do in these times of solar ambiguity and potential. If DXing is not of great interest to you, this same format could be used to work USA states. Many of us formally or informally get a kick out of seeing how many states we can work on particular bands. Working "short skip" for that purpose is a science and art in itself!

I've photocopied some log sheets that will hold 120 QSOS (contact info very abbreviated) to keep track of my Qs on each of the four bands previously mentioned for myself. I'll be glad to send you copies for your own use or modification if you send me an email at w0mhk7388@aol.com. I'm sure many of you are creative computer enthusiasts that could create your own 2010 HBPT logs on line or print out your own particular formats (possibly noting propagation figures for the day of the QSO for comparisons). I'll mention my HBPT progress in future Crosstalk issues.

Just an additional winter reminder! Tis the season for 160 Meter QSOS! You might have missed the January 30th CQ WW 160M Contest (CW), but the phone version will be coming up on February 28th. It's a great time to see if you have some 160M capability at your station. Get the cobwebs out of your antenna tuners and see what you can load up and work the Top Band! The vast majority of the QSOS you'll make will be stateside. The amount of participation each year is nothing short of amazing since most of us often forget that the band exists for our purposes and pleasure!

Let's think about some warm exotic DX locales we can nab during February's cold South Jersey days:

STATION	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RATING	ENTITY
TI9	2/1-2/28??	NO FIRM INFO, BUT RARE!	4	COCOS IS.
H40	2/6-2/19	CW,SSB, DIG	3	TEMOTU
TX4T	2/9-2/25	160-10/MOST MODES	2	FR. POLYNESIA
J38XX	2/10-2/23	FOCUS ON LOW BANDS	1	GRENADA
5Z0H	2/12-2/25	2 IOTA'S - MOST MODES	2	KENYA
ZK3	2/17-3/10	160-10/MAINLY CW	2	TOKELAU
VK9X	2/20-2/27	80-10M/MAINLY CW/2 STNS	4	CHRISTMAS IS.
S2	2/21-2/25	IOTA AS-127	5	BANGLADESH
SV5	2/24-3/17	160-6M/CW,SSB	2	DODECANESE IS.
KH0	2/25-3/1	HF/IOTA OC-026	3	GUAM

RATINGS: 5 = MOST RARE      CREDITS: N3GK ADXO

“Relief” continued from Page one.

Also, the ARRL is working daily with the IARU and the ITU to ensure that any communication needs for this international disaster that might be filled by the Amateur Radio community are addressed. At this time there is no direct need for our services from here in the US. Continue to watch [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for updates and give cash to reputable agencies such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc, if you can.

## Welcome New Member

This month the Club welcomes Robert L. Anderson, Jr., KC2JJU. Robert lives in the Wenonah/Deptford area and holds a General Class License. Please make Robert welcome when you meet him at Club meetings and functions.

## And The Password Is...

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

In the world of amateur radio, we decide who we want to communicate with and have control over the information we want to share. In the world of computer-based communications, this isn't as true.

In order to help protect ourselves from on-line intrusions, we (should) password protect access to files and/or the system itself. However, it seems that a significant portion of computer users don't take the threat of unauthorized access all too seriously.

Some years ago, the voicemail and long distance access accounts of numerous IBM (yes, that IBM) executives was accessed because most of them used “ABC123” as their password. Recently, a list was published of the top 10 passwords used by Facebook and MySpace subscribers as a result of a (lax) security breach at RockYou.

Here's the Top Ten:

10. abc123 (sound familiar?)
9. 12345678
8. 1234567
7. rockyou (really?)
6. princess
5. iloveyou
4. password (how creative)
3. 123456789
2. 12345 (sensing a pattern here?)

And the number 1 password choice – 123456

Hopefully, the security measures on your systems and accounts are a bit more sophisticated. You can always go the route of the person that chose HueyDeweyLouieMickeyMinnieDonaldGoofyPlutoTrenton” because the instructions said to use 8 characters and a capital...

## Pitman Bike Race

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Tentatively scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>, Pitman is hosting a bicycle race. I'm looking for a few volunteers (at least 8) to handle communications for this multi-lap event laid out over a 3-mile track. Additionally, it would be great if 2 others could set up a table to talk to spectators about ham radio. The call time will be 08:00 and you should be able to sit down for a nice lunch in town by 11:45.

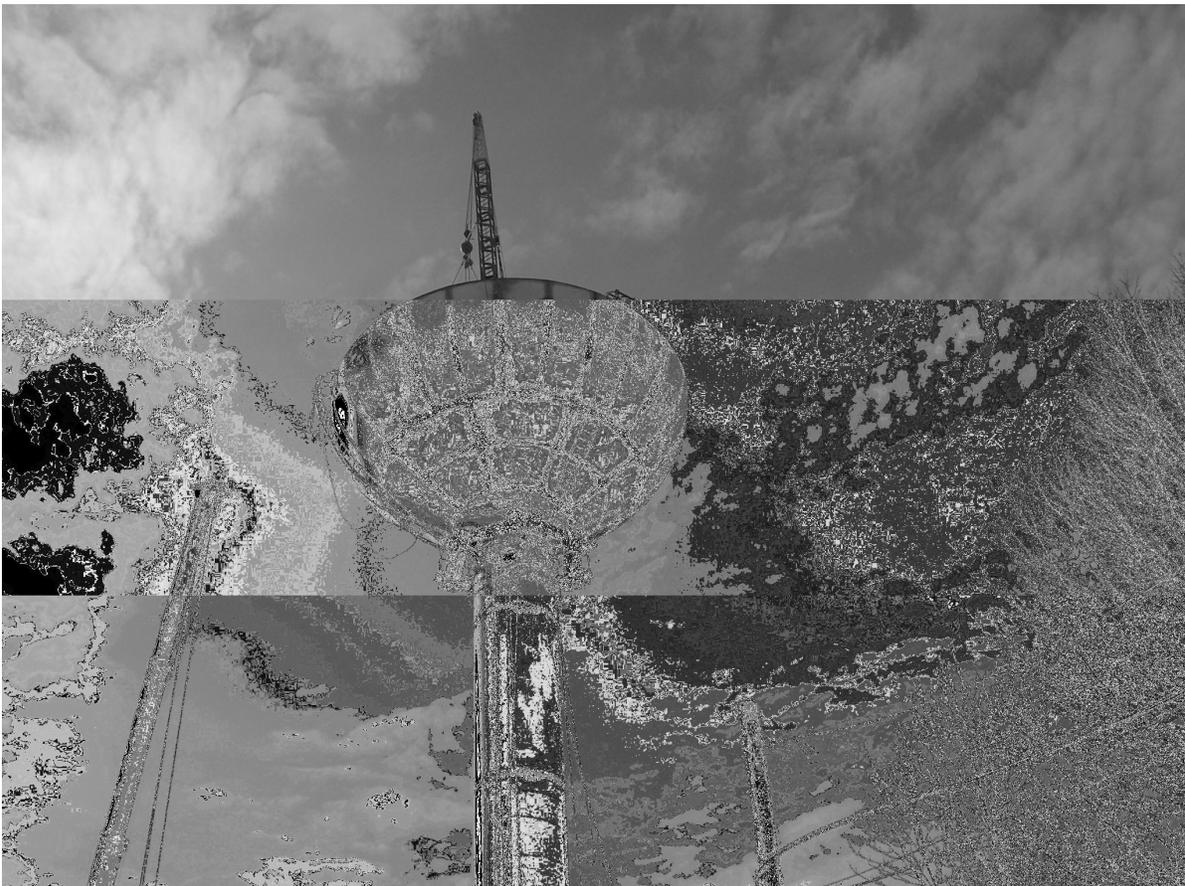
Many years ago, GCARC members participated in several walks and races throughout the year. It would be nice if we could help out the Borough and Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce with this. It's an easy and short event, plus a good opportunity for some positive publicity and a display of "relevance" in the town that hosts 3 of our repeaters.

If you are interested, please contact me – [WA3UVV@ARRL.NET](mailto:WA3UVV@ARRL.NET)

## New Water Tower

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

This is not a picture of Uptown Pitman's new radio telescope; rather it is a work in progress shot of their new water tower, which replaces an older cylindrical vessel. Why is this important? Because when it is finished, the cellular systems that have moved to "our" tower, causing problems with the .18 machine, will be going back "home".



## Rediscovering 2 Meters

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

In the early days of the 2-meter band, (moved post-WW2 from 2 ½ meters) the voice mode of the day was AM. There were even AM repeaters, typically brought up with audible tone burst access. In many cases, encoders weren't necessary if you could whistle the right frequency for a few seconds.

As public service users moved from wide-band to narrow-band deviation, surplus equipment became available and hams began to explore the advantages of FM. This was tube-based gear and power levels in the 60W range were not uncommon. Although repeaters began to appear in certain areas, most communications was direct or simplex. The most common frequency in use became 146.94. If a repeater was set up, the input would be on 146.34. Thus, with 2 transmit crystals and 1 for receive, you were pretty much covered.

When I entered ham radio, "repeater fever" was just starting and there was a move to make 146.52 the national calling frequency. (There's a lot of history behind all of this and if you are really interested, ask me sometime.) Where I grew up, there were still few repeaters and it was a regular ritual for many of us to drive up to a mountaintop with a simple antenna and see how many counties and states we could work. Solid-state rigs brought 10W levels, but more channel possibilities. Even just at home, band openings were a lot of fun. Of course, repeaters multiplied logarithmically and over time, most forgot about simplex and just started hanging out on the local machine.

Over the Christmas and New Year Holidays, we went out to my hometown and visited Pittsburgh to catch the Steelers' last home game for 2009. I put a 65W 2-meter rig in the car and programmed a set of repeater frequencies for both the PA turnpike route and the one that takes us through western MD. During that entire trip, I never worked anyone on any of the repeaters. I did make several contacts, however. All of them were simplex, most were on .52 and depending on whether the other ham was driving in the same or opposite direction, lasted from 5 minutes to 45.

On the way back through Baltimore (home of the team we beat) I started talking to a fellow with a nice, high tower and power to match, along with another ham not far away from him. I was able to stay in contact with them all the way up the Delaware Memorial Bridge. Not too shabby. They said they are able to talk to hams in Salem and Cumberland County almost every night.

This started me thinking about how many times someone has lamented a lack of activity on repeaters. (not just ours) Now I'm wondering if the activity has gone back to the simplex channels between 146.415 to 146.595 and 147.405 to 147.585 MHz. When the WX breaks, I'm going to put up a Ringo Ranger I have in the garage and see how much area I can cover up and down the coast. There isn't much in the way of hilltops to drive to in South Jersey, but I'm willing to bet there's still a reasonable amount of activity to be had – just like in the "old days".

The next time you are in the shack or riding around in the car, put your rig on .52 and see what's going on. Maybe you'll have a nice conversation with someone who's passing through...

## February Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in February:

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML  
Thomas Cusack, KC2THO  
Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY  
Herb Schuler, K2HPV



## 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](mailto:aa2yo@arrl.net).

Submission deadline for March issue:  
2/20/2010

## Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.com>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU  
Vice President-Harry Ewell, K2ATX  
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB  
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, AA2W  
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO

### Trustees

Ray, WB2NBJ  
Mike, N2SRO

### Committees

ARES/RACES-John, AA2BN  
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-Harry, K2ATX  
Historian-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ  
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ  
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD  
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD  
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV  
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU  
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T  
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E  
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM  
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV  
VEC Testing-Harry, K2ATX  
4H Liaison-K2ATX

**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)

**February Meeting**

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH

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

