



Presidents Message

Boy, time seems to really fly as one gets older. I can hardly believe that it's nearly Field Day time again. But first, a few other items.

With regard to our downed tower, we have only bad news to report. Following exhaustive discussions with our Insurance Company, our in-house insurance expert Dennis, K2SE, reports that we have absolutely no coverage at all for external wind damage. Apparently, some years ago, our Club concluded that the chances of losing the towers to wind damage did not justify our paying the \$1,000 premium for adding such coverage as a rider to our policy. Hence, we are not able to collect anything at all. The Board thanks Dennis, and also Ray, W2RM, and Wayne, WA2LET, for gathering additional information necessary for filing a claim should that have been necessary. Following extensive discussion at their last meeting, the Board will recommend that we immediately replace the VHF, UHF, and Satellite antennas and mount these on the existing crank-up tower. We will continue to look for a suitable, free, replacement tower that can be mounted on the existing base. Al, KB2AYU, will prepare recommended replacement antennas with the cost not to exceed \$1,000. It is hoped the Club will support this plan at our June General Membership Meeting.

We reported last month that Harry, K2ATX, in a chance meeting with the 4H program people, has opened lines of communication with them and they are very interested in having us sponsor and work with 4H youth interested in forming a 4H Ham Radio Club. Presently, we are awaiting word from the 4H that they have identified the charter members of such a club and then we will precede to set-up a first meeting with them. Once this gets underway, Harry will be looking for some volunteers to help work with the 4H hams-to-be. Also, at our last General Membership Meeting, Dave, W2YC, has resurrected not only the Club Award program but also the Club Megapoint Award given to a member who earns a cumulative million points in working contests. See the article on our Awards program elsewhere in this issue of Crosstalk. Dave, at this writing, has almost completed computerizing all of the past records and the results will be published when completed.

The Club will participate in Williamstown Main Street Day, on Saturday, June 7th. We have a table and plan are to have 20 M and 2 M stations operating. The idea is that the public can talk to the Battleship via 2 M and to wherever via 20 M SSB radio. We plan to have hand-outs, Club members manning the booth and to be available to talk ham radio with the public. The affair is just for the one day and gets underway at 8:30 AM. Harry, K2ATX, is handling the arrangements and we are grateful to him.

OK, that's about all for now. Be sure and attend the June 4th General Membership Meeting. We have a really outstanding mystery gift for this month. This month's gift was again donated by Charlie, K2PQD, to whom we are most grateful. Last months winner of a donated Heath Scope, also from K2PQD, was AA2WN. Harry in turn donated this scope to the Battleship New Jersey (think AA2WN already owns one).

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Let me begin by asking for your DX progress since last year for our annual July Crosstalk posting. I need your help in relating your accomplishments toward awards as expressed in the format of any previous July Crosstalk. Let's see your numbers and gains in these tougher DX conditions we are encountering. E-mail your information to me at w0mhk7388@aol.com.

This leads us to the lack of significant assistance from Old Man Sol in our DX desires. But there are significant DX openings from band to band and time to time that can surprise and reward you. Doug, WA2NPD, recently worked VU and AP on 17 Meters. I have had luck with A71AN on 20 M and 9K2HN on 40 M for some nice Middle Eastern QSOs. There are some super stations being assembled and operated (no doubt directly or indirectly from oil revenues in the Middle East) that make for juicy DXCC entities from otherwise rare locales in that part of the world. Don't forget morning and early evening openings on 20 M and 40 M with our many European and Asiatic Russian friends.

So let's concentrate our efforts in the coming summer weeks to accomplishing some DX Cleaning Up. Below is a list of many relatively easy to work DX stations that you might need to fill in for a new band, entity, mode or state for 5+ Band WAS. Do some checking about what you still need to complete some of your personal goals and awards. Note that a number of the DXpeditions shown are placing great emphasis on or exclusively on 6 Meters. Why not try to hear and/or work these fellow hams who have invested their hard earned, but declining, US dollars in adventures to help our pursuits in the hobby?

Finally, don't put all your DX eggs in one basket by just checking the DX clusters and not turning the rig on to listen. The clusters are a wonderful tool, but plain-old listening can give you more of sense of what is happening on the bands. I strongly feel that many DX gems are missed by not actually tuning around the bands for a better look-see than what is represented on a cluster. Also, let's get your DX ears in training and optimized before one of our best club activities of the year, Field Day!

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODES	RARITY	ENTITY
TF/DL's	6/9-6/23	80-10/cw/s/d	1	Iceland
K7A	6/12-6/18	40-10/cw/s	1	Alaska
CY0X	6/25-7/7	6M/cw/s(8EL/800W)	1	Sable Island
V36M	6/20-6/26	6M + EME	1	Belize
ZF	6/27-7/6	6M/cw/s	1	Cayman islands
5J0M	6/28-7/6	6M+ EME	1	San Andres Is.
TO5	6/28-7/6	6M+SOME HF	1	St. Barthelemy
HB0	6/28-7/5	160-10/cw/s/d	1	Liechtenstein
4W6R	JUNE(?)	ALL MODES/2 STNS.	4	Timor Leste
FH	6/11-6/23	80-40-30/cw/s	3	Mayotte

#5 = Most Difficult

Credits: NG3K ADXO

June General Meeting Program

Come join us at the June GCARC General Membership Meeting and hear Cully Phillips, N3HTZ, talk about "The PA Turnpike Communications System." Cully has been a ham since 1990. He has worked as a TV repair technician since 1984 and worked on the PA Turnpike since 2000 maintaining radios and microwave systems for the Turnpike and the state police.

ARES/RACES Reflections

by John Zaruba Jr., AA2BN

Got Power? With the 2008 Hurricane season starting soon I have begun the annual examination of my equipment preparedness. One of the first areas I examine is the condition / capacity of my backup power source. I have 4 solar panels mounted on a PVC rack that generate about 90 watts peak power; that power is stored in a battery bank made up of 8 Group 27 gel cells that give me about 800 amp hours of capacity. The size of the battery bank will allow me several days of radio operating capability in overcast conditions, with appropriate power management. What's your plan to keep "radio active" during an extended power outage? Admittedly, my set up is kind of elaborate since it powers all of my equipment, but there are ways to start giving yourself a back up energy source for a least one radio without a huge financial investment. Solar based systems are very reliable and don't require as much maintenance as gasoline generators. You do need to be mindful of your power consumption versus the ability of your solar equipment to re-charge your batteries but a little planning and testing will give you solid data to work from. You can see my solar panels out at field day again this year powering my satellite radio, computer, and camper. I'm happy to answer questions and give out tips on sizing a system.

Gary, WA3SVW, has made the leap into 220 MHz with the purchase of an Alinco mobile rig and I found a deal on a 220 MHZ J-Pole antenna from Arrow Antennas <http://www.arrowantennas.com>. At least Gary will one person to talk to!

Non-Ham Radio Magazines for Hams

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

There was a time when you could easily find more than a dozen monthly publications available that touched on ham radio in one way or another. There were general magazines like Electronics Illustrated, Popular Electronics, and Radio Electronics and others focused directly on our hobby like 73, Ham Radio, and A5. Some even narrowed the view further and limited themselves to a particular mode or band. In the States, only CQ, World Radio and QST have survived as ham-only rags. Others, like Nut and Volts and Circuit Cellar cover electronics in general and sometimes have a radio article of interest.

One magazine, published quarterly and overlooked by many, is Make. Targeted at the gadgeteer and others with way too much time on their hands, it covers a wide variety of interests and projects, some more mechanical than electronic. A sampling of the current issue reveals articles on Spy Gadgets, an Electric Motorcycle, a Web cam Microscope and how to build your own Taffy Puller (yum). Past articles have covered how-to build your own transistor-based minicomputer and an article titled "Not Your Father's Ham Radio". Written with an occasional wink in the direction of satire and a dry sense of humor, even the new product reviews poke fun at authority, such as a type of "Lite Brite" kit that can be used to freak out the ever-nervous Boston PD. Check out the PIC-based kit that turns your old oscilloscope into an analog clock. Make is \$14.99 per copy on news stands and subscriptions start at \$34.95 per year. Hint around for a gift subscription, it sure beats getting another tie for Father's Day!

GCARC Awards Program

Club Award Program

GCARC has an Awards Certificate to present to any Club member giving evidence of having worked 15 other Club members on the air. Simply present your log or a photocopy of your log showing the particulars of the QSO. QSOs cannot be the hello-goodbye variety but must be a ragchew of some length. The Awards Chairman is the sole judge and jury of your report. The honor system prevails.

1. Contacts may be on any hf, vhf, uhf, or digital frequency except that at least 5 of the QSOs must be on any hf frequency.
2. QSOs are not permitted during any formal net sessions (RACES, AREC, etc.).
3. There is no time limitation required for the submission of any QSO.
4. QSL cards may be presented as proof of QSO, but cards are not mandatory.
5. Skeds are permitted and QSOs may be carried out using any mode.
6. The certificate is endorsed for an additional 15 QSOs (the 30 level) except that 5 of the additional QSOs must be on an hf frequency.
7. After 30 QSOs, the certificate is endorsed at the 50 QSO level with ten (10) of the QSOs having been on any hf frequency. Thereafter the award is endorsed at 10 QSO intervals with half of these on the hf frequencies.
8. Awards may be made only to members in good standing of GCARC.
9. Following approval of the Awards Chairman, certificates are prepared and presented by the Awards Chairman (or Club President) at the next appropriate Club meeting.

Megapoint Award

This award is given to any GCARC member in good standing in recognition of having achieved one million points by competing in any contests which are listed on the WA7BNM contest calendar. The member has five (5) years in which to submit his/her score to the Awards Chairman. The honor system prevails. The members score need not be credited to GCARC. The Awards chairman maintains a record of the members submitted score and, when the total exceeds one million points, the Megapoint Award is then presented to the applicant. A score weighting factor which is up to the discretion of the Awards chairman, is assigned to each contest. Some of the more common contest weighting factors are shown here:

ARRL DX Contest	x50	CW Worldwide WPX Contest	x1
ARRL Nov. Sweepstakes	x5	NJ QSO Party	x3
ARRL Inter. DX Contest	x3	All other Contests	x1
CQ Worldwide DX Contest	x2		

The following current active Club members have earned the Megapoint Award or have the indicated totals towards the award:

Mark Wilson (Honorary Member), K1RO	Ken Newman, N2CQ
Ray Metzger, AI1B	Darrell Neron, AB2E
Dave Strout, W2YC	Ray Martin, W2RM
Herb Schuler, K2HPV	
Jim McDonald, WB2AOL	670,792
Bill Kardas, N2BK	64,590
John Zaruba Jr., AA2BN	98,800
Sonny Gutin, WB2DXB	192,100

Wayne Wilson, WA2LET	146,118
Bill Grim, W0MHK	1,000,000 plus
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD	226,895
Jim Mullica, K2OWE	928,980
Dennis Sandole, K2SE	813,000
Tony Gargano, N2SS	1,519,076
Harry Bryant, AA2WN	5,000,000 plus
John Zaruba, Sr. K2ZA	1,155,824

Obviously, we have some members (above) who have not yet been presented their Megapoint Award. NOTE: Some of the above Award requirements have been modified recently to make the program more attractive and worthwhile to those participants. The GCARC Board of Directors at its meeting on May 8, 2008, unanimously voted to approve these changes.

Field Day 2008

Field Day is fast approaching! In fact it is June 28 and 29th. It is only about 4 weeks away. This is one of two major annual events in which the Club participates each year. Please reserve that weekend for your Club. If you can't operate, we need you to help set-up the antennas and stations on Saturday morning and help taking them down on Sunday afternoon. Field Day starts at 2 PM on Saturday the 28th and runs continuously for 24 hours. The idea is to keep the stations on the air continuously for the 24 hour period using power other than commercial mains. Our generator is raring to go thanks to Ray, WB2NBJ, who has looked after this unit for lo these many years. And our food department is again in professional hands thanks to Wayne, WA2LET. Harry, AA2WN, will again handle the scoring and reporting and Cory, WA3UVV, will handle the publicity. The purpose of Field Day is to demonstrate that we can operate our stations under emergency conditions continuously. It is not strictly a contest, although our scores are reported to prove that we operated as intended. We want all club members to give the operating part a try. This is your chance to have some fun and help keep the stations on the air. Just check with the band chairman of your choice to get on the schedule. The band chairman as of this writing are: 80 M CW, W2YC and W0MHK; 80 M SSB, N2WUP; 40 M CW, AA2WN and WA2NPD; 40 M SSB, WA2LET; 20 M CW, WK2W; 20 M SSB, WB2NBJ; 15 M SSB, KA2DOT (unconfirmed as of this writing); 15M CW, open; and 6 M phone, N2WUP. Our operating precedence is expected to be 9A (9 transmitters, emergency power), except that at this writing we need someone for 15 M CW. We also are hopeful of having a GOTA (get on the air) and Satellite stations, however, these are not certain at this writing either. If you have any questions or want to volunteer in any way to participate in Field Day, please check with John, AA2BN, our Field Day chairman this year. See you all on Saturday, June 28, at the Club site just south of Mullica Hill on Route 77. You will have a great time.

July Crosstalk Submissions

For all of you regular contributors to Crosstalk, please note that the deadline for July submissions is extremely early. Unfortunately, I will have to hold to that date and go to press with what I have as of then as I will not be available to work on Crosstalk for the following two weeks. Thanks for your help in advance.

Your editor

June Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in June:

Joseph Arsenault, WA2KDV
Ken Newman, N2CQ
Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ
Charles Sketchley, K2PQD
Kyle Townsend, W2KBT
James Wilson, N2SVN



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 July issue: 6/15/2008

Club Web-Site

<http://users.tellurian.com/freddie/w2mmd/>

President-Doug, WA2NPD
Vice President-Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Darrell Neron, AB2E
Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB

Cory, WA3UVV
Steve, W2TDS

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Corresponding Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU

Board of Directors

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

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-Ray, W2RM
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-John, AA2BN
Hamfest-Harry, K2ATX

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Ray, W2RM
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD
Programs-Dave, WB3JOY
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Ray, W2RM

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)

June Meeting

Communications on the Pennsylvania Turnpike
By Cully Philips, N3HTZ

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

