



Presidents Message

There are only a few things that come to mind to write about this month. One of them is the new category for Field Day called Class F. These stations will be operating at an EOC (emergency operations center). This change renews the Field Day emphasis of emergency preparedness as opposed to a contest. The ARRL is going to include this aspect of Field Day in its 2003 field day packet. If we can operate this year with two sites, at the club property and at an EOC, it may be a chance to garner a few extra points. I think we should look into this and if feasible incorporate it in our field day plans.

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.

At last month's meeting some new faces were present and a few old members too. It is my hope that we can boost our membership again. I hear that Wayne, WA2LET, has Doug, WA2NPD, scheduled to give a talk on global warming at the March meeting. Doug is a recognized authority on the subject due to his work at National Refrigerants and other companies including Dupont where I had the pleasure to meet and work with Doug many years ago, before I became a Ham.

The repeater seems to be operating better now and I hope it continues to do so. Thanks to Chuck and Mike.

Since the board meeting was rescheduled due to the heavy snow it will be on February 26th at the trailer if we don't get another bad snow before then.

'73 and '88
Ray WB2NBJ

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Every so often, some Good Samaritan sends me an issue of WORLD RADIO; I guess in hopes that I will break-down and subscribe. So far, their hopes have been shattered. However, in the February 2003 issue, there is an article by K9LA entitled "Propagation, What a Difference Two Months Makes" which, lo and behold, answers a question that has long baffled yours truly, who fancies himself as an old timer who knows-it-all by now. And K9LA's explanation is as simple as it is correct. I guess the best way to describe the gist of this question and answer is by an example. I want to work Zone 23 (Mongolia) on 80 meters via the gray line propagation which (theoretically) can be done now between about 5AM and 6AM (EST) and between about 5:30PM and 6:30PM (EST). Well, in the morning I can hear the W8's and W9's working JT, but not until maybe 6:30AM to 7AM, and in the evening JT is working mostly VE and W1's, but not until maybe 7:30PM or 8PM. Why is there this lag which also has the effect of diminishing the JT signal? The explanation is that just as radio waves are bent (refracted) up or down by changes in ionization layer densities, they can also be bent either left or right as they travel along the gray line. On the sun side of the gray line we have a far greater ionization density (sunlight excitation) which refracts the radio waves towards the darker less dense side of the line. The difference in miles can be very significant and is dependant upon several factors including elevation angle of the transmitted signal and distance away from the receiving station. Also, as the article points out, the times change (of course) with the changing seasons as the sun appears to move up and down towards (and away) from the Poles. The article goes on to present a more comprehensive explanation. The above is cursory at best. But after reading this article, your scribe is almost inclined to subscribe to WORLD RADIO!

On the lighter note, last month W2YC and yours truly had left Newington, CT at about 3:30PM and on approaching the George Washington Bridge and among all the overhanging metal structures, overpasses, tunnels and tall buildings, Dave managed to work a Venezuela station on CW, the QSO lasting only a few seconds before his linear battery went dead. Later that evening at home, Dave received an e-mail from Mark Wilson, K1RO, stating that he heard Dave work the YV station but couldn't understand how we got home so quickly from Newington (home of the ARRL)! Just goes to prove, one never knows who is listening (Hi).

Station	Dates	Frequency/Mode	Rarity*	Country
STORY(1)	3/19-4/10	160-6; All	4	Sudan
VP6D	3/8-3/15	160-6; All	4	Ducie Island
A3?	3/17-4/5	No information	2	Tonga Island
CT3/DL?KWR	3/6-3/20	WARC; CW	2	Madeira Island
PJ6/DJ4SO	2/18-3/12	40-6; All	2	Saba Island
V31QQ	2/22-3/5	80-10; SSB pri.	2	Belize
6Y5/H/C	2/22-3/9	80-10; SSB pri.	2	Jamaica
9S1X	2/24-3/10	80-10; SSB pri.	3	Republic of Congo
ZK1EAA	3/8-3/15 (N) 3/17-3/22 (S)	80-10; CW, SSB	3	N. and S. Cooks
PJ7/W8EB	2/23-3/23	160-10; All	2	St. Maarten
TR8SA	Now -3/8	No information	3	Gabon

(1) A major DXpedition by DL's.

* 5 is the rarest

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

Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest Trip

The Old Barney ARC is running a bus trip to the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest in Timonium, Maryland, host to the ARRL Maryland State Convention, on Saturday, March 29

They can arrange for a coordinated pickup point somewhere along Route 70 if we get a group together. Price is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$30-\$40 per person depending on how many they get. They already have about 20 signed up. The bus carries 48 and has ample space for bringing back large items underneath. Pick up would be around 6:30-6:45AM for a Route 70 pickup point. They leave the hamfest at around 3PM, stop for dinner at the Maryland House and get back sometime after 7 PM.

Marty Sarrett, AA2WB is taking names and will be asking for the money up front, probably \$30. If it ends up costing more, they will collect the difference on the bus. Marty's e-mail address is sarrettnj@comcast.net

Editor's Note: The above came to me via John Fisher. If you are interested in the trip contact Marty and John so that you can coordinate a pick up point.

Metric System in the United States

John Fisher, K2JF passed along the following:

Now I know why we never went metric in this country. If the metric system did ever take over, we'd have to change our thinking to the following:

A miss is as good as 1.6 kilometers.

Put your best 0.3 of a meter forward.

Spare the 5.03 meters and spoil the child.

Twenty-eight grams of prevention is worth 454 grams of cure.

Give a man 2.5 centimeters and he'll take 1.6 kilometers

And don't forget one inch is the size of King Henry's big toe.

Ah, but to count to 10 is so nice.

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community. --

The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

Chris, WK2W

March Program: Greenhouse Warming Effect Good or Bad

The program for the March Club meeting will be a talk by Doug Gehring, WA2NPD, entitled "The Greenhouse Warming Effect, Good or Bad?" The issue of global warming is almost an everyday topic now appearing in virtually every news outlet, TV, etc. Our Nations concern, or lack thereof, regarding the recent Kyoto Protocol is a continuing issue of discussion. The talk will explain the warming effect, how it affects the environment, and how these effects are measured and quantified. Gehring is a retired Dupont analytical chemist and recently retired as Laboratory Director for National Refrigerants. He is author or co-author of some 16 technical publications and has traveled extensively to all continents (except Africa) including Antarctica. He served as coordinator of the international analytical PAFTT group, consulted for AFEAS, and was a member of the International Standards Organization (ISO) for Fluorocarbon testing.

Membership Database

Bob Krchnavek, K2DAD, our Treasurer, is in the process of updating the club database and needs your help. He needs updated information for each member including name, home address, e-mail address, phone number, birth date, license class and call if applicable and if you are a current ARRL member.

Dues for 2003 are due so if you are mailing Bob a check for your dues please include the above information with the check or you can e-mail Bob with the information. Bob's e-mail address is krchnavek@rowan.edu and his mailing address is 50 Eastwick Drive, Gibbsboro, NJ 08026.

Six-Year Old Oregon Girl Gets General Ticket

A six-year-old girl from Roseburg, Oregon, has upgraded from Technician to General. Mattie Clauson, KD7TYN--a fourth-generation Amateur Radio operator in her family--could be the youngest General-class operator in the US. Her new ticket was granted January 13.

Mattie allowed that the Element 3 test "was pretty hard" and she had to study for a long time before passing it on her third attempt. "The Element 3 test was a lot harder than the Tech test," she said. She was ambivalent about the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code exam, characterizing it as "not too hard, just a little, but kind of easy too."

Her parents, Tim and Charlotte Clauson, AC7SP and KD7QZB, say Mattie became interested in Amateur Radio when she was five. The Clausons discovered "a kid-friendly study book," Ride the Airwaves with Alpha and Zulu by John Abbott, K6YPB (no longer in print). The Clausons say Mattie, who already knew how to read, dove into it right away. Her mom and dad helped her to study, explained the "hard questions" and encouraged her to take practice tests at various Web sites. She obtained her Technician license last July and became KD7SDF.

The Clausons said Mattie learned Morse code using several different computer programs, and they helped her practice by tapping out letters--and later words--for her. In the end, she passed her code exam on the very first try. For the time being, Mattie says, she's sticking with phone operation but plans to give CW a try in the future. Mattie says she prefers HF over VHF "because I can talk to people in other countries."

The Clausons say Mattie doesn't consider herself "someone special" since passing her General test, and neither do they. "We do not feel that Mattie has any abilities above any other child," Charlotte Clauson said.

For her part, Mattie says she hopes that she can be an inspiration to other youngsters her age to get involved with Amateur Radio. "I think that since I got my license, whether Tech or higher, other kids can do it also," she said. Mattie and her mom now are working on their Amateur Extra tickets.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the [ARRL Letter](#)

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following Club members:

James Castro, N2IMH	3/5
Stuart Cleveland, N2WUP	3/27
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD	3/13
Janice Gorman, N2HYS	3/27
Paul Munzenmayer, K2DX	3/22
Gregory Potter, WN2T	3/13
Daniel Tremolini, N2TXG	3/8
John Zaruba, Jr., AA2BN	3/13



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: 3/21/2003

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

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML
Lou Joseph W2LYL
Al Arrison KB2AYU

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

GCARC Officers

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

Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO
Bob Krukowski KR2U
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

Committees

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)

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

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)

March Meeting Program

Constitutional Change Proposal
Greenhouse Warming Effect
Doug Gehring

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



2003 Dues are due.