



Presidents Message

We have a number of items to report this month, and all are good stuff! Only negative item so far is the K5D is still not in the log on 10 and 12 meters (no propagation so far to SNJ area, I guess).

First off, we need to thank Cory, WA3UVV, for putting together the DTV help group over at the Deptford Mall. The idea was to help explain the switch-over to the public passers by. The major item missing was the numbers of folks who needed help! Apparently, most everyone was already informed as very few people stopped to ask us for information, etc. Those manning the table were K2HPV, N2CQ, WA3JOY, KB2AYU, WA2LET, KC2THO, WB2NBJ, WA3UVV, and WA2NPD and we thank these guys for a fine showing.

We are pleased to announce that Vinney, KC2NXV, has agreed to be FD chairman for 2009. Vinney is a relatively new member of our Club and we are delighted to see that some new blood is volunteering for this most important job. He was assured by your scribe that he would receive much help from the old-hands and that many of last year's band chairmen would again be on hand. Vinney especially will be looking for many of our newer Club members to take part in this years exercise. So mark your calendars for the 4th weekend in June. We especially need phone operators in addition to help with set-up and take-down. This is a great opportunity to get on-the-air experience and have a lot of fun at the same time. In addition, we expect to have some FD embellishments, as this is also our Club's 50th Anniversary.

A 4H Ham Radio Club workshop will be held in Maple Shade, 10:30 to Noon, on March 14th. This is for the teenagers (or younger), and our Club 4H "Elmers." Harry, K2ATX, will be heading-up this activity. Please see Harry if you can give-up a Saturday morning to help with the instruction, set-up, etc. More details will be forthcoming at the March 4th Club Meeting.

Our Special Services Chairman Darrell, AB2E, has recently completed and sent in to the League, our application for Special Services Club status for this year. Thanks to Darrell. We will keep you informed as to whether or not we met all of the Leagues' requirements.

Finally, thanks to Harry, AA2WN, for reminding us that, if you renew your annual ARRL membership through the Club (see Ken, N2CQ), the Club gets a \$2 credit for each club members renewal. Also, if you join the ARRL for the first time, submit your application through the Club (see Ken) and the Club receives a \$15 dollar credit! In addition, if your ARRL membership lapses for two or more years, and you decide to renew your membership, again do so through our Club and the Club again receives another \$15 credit. This is an excellent way to earn a few bucks for our Club. See you at the March 4th Club Meeting, we have a really great program this time!

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Well, how did you do with the club-backed K5D, Desecheo Island DXpedition? Currently, they are at the half-way point in their operation. Fresh ops will be coming to the island this week to help defray the fatigue and tropical heat they are experiencing. QSOs have been made with K5D by fellow club members on all HF bands, 160-10M. W2YC has been fortunate to pick them off on both 10 and 12M with his fine set-up! Not bad results as we drag along the bottom of this solar cycle. Dave has the edge on a 6M contact after he heard some possible "pings" on their calling frequency. They have made 81 QSOs so far on the Magic Band from KP5's rugged landscape. Good 160M conditions from the DX gods have given at least three club members a K5D qso on that band. Recently they have been on 160M phone as well as cw with around 2,000 Top Band qsos accomplished during their stay!

Propagation-wise, we have had a 22 day "streak" with no sunspots. One that did emerge after the lull was from the OLD solar cycle rather than the new one. A small solar flare failed to raise solar flux much with a maximum reading of 71. Hopes for some nice openings on the higher bands were not met. Keep watching the website, spaceweather.com, for the latest status on solar activity and always interesting photography on solar interaction with the earth around the world. No charge, and some great entertainment!

Don't forget that sunrise/sunset times at this juncture of the winter season make some gray-line DXing very possible in the next few weeks. Sunrises are happening just before 7AM locally (a good time for many just before work) and sunsets occur around 6PM (a good time for many coming home from the salt mines)! Try to use these windows of opportunity for long-haul QSOs on low bands. Mother Nature enhances propagation on either side of these daily events. Also, the present cold weather can be used to your QRN advantage now on the low bands. With the exception of some storms coming through, the lack of intense continual static crashes will soon be leaving us with the advent of warmer weather. Enjoy and utilize the better conditions for your "ham's ears" now!

In looking back at my records concerning what months I have worked new band countries from 2003-2008, March comes up as the best month for me to have a chance to work a new one for DXCC Challenge! Hope "lucky" month March rubs off on your DXCC totals with the following prospects:

STATION	DATES	FQ/MODES	RARITY	ENTITY
T27A	2/17-3/2	160-10/CW,DIG	3	TUVALU
H4	3/2-3/16	160-6M	3	TEMOTU
ZL7T	3/6-3/11	160-10/CW,SB,DIG	3	CHATHAM
S2	3/7-3/12	160-10/CW,SB,DIG	4	BANGLADESH
V2	3/10-3/19	160-6M(+60M)	1	ANTIGUA
VK9AA	3/14-3/27	160-10/CW,SSB	3	COCOS(KEEL)
4K0CW	3/19-3/25	HF/CW	2	AZERBAIJAN
VK9GMW	3/22-4/6(?)	HF/CW,SSB	4	MELLISH REEF
C9	3/25-4/5	160-10/CW,SB,DIG	2	MOZAMBIQUE
GT4BRS	3/28-4/4	160-10/CW,SB,DIG	1	ISLE OF MAN

CREDITS: NG3K, ADXO

March General Meeting Program

Our program for the upcoming meeting will be presented by Harry, AA2WN, and will be an update of the on-going electronics restoration of the Battleship New Jersey. AA2WN is, of course, one of our capable Club Directors and has served as Hamfest Chairman and in other Club activities over the years.

Harry currently is President of the Battleship New Jersey Radio Club (BNJARS) and was just reelected for a new 2 year term. He was awarded the prestigious Milt Goldman Award by our Club in 2006. His program will employ power point slides and there will be plenty of time for questions. You will not want to miss this program. The usual 50:50 drawing will include a very nice mystery gift this month.

Club Dues are Due

It is a new year and that means that Club dues for the year are due. Dues are due to be paid each year before April 1st and that deadline is fast approaching. You can pay your dues to our Treasurer, Ken, N2CQ, in person at meetings, by mailing your check to Ken at 81 Holly Drive, West Deptford, NJ 08096 or via Pay Pal (cash accounts only) at N2CQ@comcast.net.

VHF Tower Restoration

At our last Club meeting, the Club, at the recommendation of the Board of Directors, voted to approve the expenditure of a maximum \$2,000 for the equipment necessary to bring our new (thanks to W2RM) VHF tower back to operating condition. Al, KB2AYU, has prepared a complete list of what we need to accomplish this. The list is below with the estimated new cost of each item. The Board is encouraging all club members to contribute to the purchase of the needed items. Alternatively, donated, equivalent items are perfectly acceptable, if the items are new or in like new condition. Any help at all from the membership would obviously be greatly appreciated and would help to slow the erosion of our treasury balance. All questions should be directed to KB2AYO.

1. M2 2M12 144MHz yagi	\$210
2. M2 222-5WL 222 MHz yagi	200
3. M2 432-9WL 432 MHz yagi	220
4. Comet CX-333 144/222/440 Vertical	190
5. Comet CFX-324A 144/222/440 Triplexer	90
6. Flex-weave antenna wire 500' 14 ga.	80
7. 500' UV resistant 3/16 " rope	50
8. Yaesu G-800DXA rotator	400 *
9. 40' aluminum mast/w 5' steel reinforce.	200
10. 100' 9913 flex coax cable	81
11. 100' heavy rotator cable	56
12. coax connectors	50
Total	\$1,827

* Al may be able to fix used one if in decent condition.

Say "73" to the 6L6

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Sometime in the spring of this year, the 6L6 will celebrate its 73rd birthday. Originally conceived of a year earlier by engineers at General Electric, it represented a new design in receiving tubes (more about that later) and used the recently developed metal case (envelope), instead of glass. RCA was licensed to manufacture it and the first ones hit the market in 1936.

Originally thought of for audio use, it could give you 30+ watts of RF if used in a single-tube oscillator circuit. Not bad for a "receiving" tube-a general name used for things that were "low power" when thought of in comparison to broadcast radio transmitter power levels. It quickly became the most popular tube for ham transmitters for many years to come.

In a fairly short period of time, the 6L6 was also produced in a variety of glass envelopes. In fact the basic 6L6 went through many changes and upgrades as it went through life. RCA moved the plate connection to the top and the 807 was born. This power house, when given 600 volts on the plate could manage 60 watts without breaking a sweat. So much in use, the term "807" was once a popular ham nickname for beer. Technology marches on, and eventually the 807 was succeeded by the shorter 6146. The 6L6 saw its life increased as the 6LQ6. Both of these tubes were quite popular, as well. Used in sets in kilowatt-level amplifiers with over 1,000 volts on the plates, they also showed up in pairs as finals in hybrid rigs in the 70's. I have a Handbook from 60+ years ago with a circuit for a one-tube 6146-based, 75 watt crystal-controlled transmitter. Don't try that with anything less than a FT-243 crystal...

The 6L6 also had lower rated siblings, the 6V6 (popular with Novices and used in some commercial designs like the Ameco AC-1 transmitter kit), and the 6K6 (very QRP-friendly). "Circle of Life" fans will note that 6L6s still enjoy use every day although primarily in audio amplifiers for those who like the glow and "warmth" of the the sound. You can find them at music stores for \$50 a pair and up or at ham-fests and Ebay for much more reasonable prices.

While I don't know the exact date the 6L6 arrived, March 14th is the 73rd day of the year. There's still time to celebrate the 6L6 by building a rig and putting it on the air that weekend. A straight key is strongly suggested. A quick perusal of the League's searchable QST database (you are a member, aren't you?) will turn up many design ideas and possibilities. Even if you don't have a spare 6L6, 6V6, 6K6, etc. to play along, they're easy to find. (In fact, I'm sure I have a spare for someone who wants to build his own rig in the coming weeks.)

Need a power supply? A 6 volt filament supply is easy - you can even use some wall warts for that. Coming up with 150 to 600 volts may be a bit more daunting, but if you have a tube-based receiver (makes a nice companion) you can carefully borrow some B+ for a low-power version. Or, go to the "everything we sell is a dollar, so please don't ask how much it is" store and pick up some 9 volt batteries. If you buy 15 packs of 2, you can click them together and come up with 270 volts for (wait for it) \$15. Hey, don't touch the ends to see if it's hot - it's still 270 volts and is dangerous if not respected! Pick up 15 more packs and you'll have a real rock crusher on the air. If you've never gone on the air with tubes, here's a fantastic opportunity to mark "73 to the 6L6 Day" (or something like that). Remember, real radios glow. Also, if you decide to build one or have a homebrew rig already, why not bring it to the March and/or April meeting to show off a bit?



MARCH **CONDUCTED by N2SS** **2009**

WARC BANDS

<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
W2YC. 314	N2SS ...326	WØMHK313
N2SS299	WØMHK.. 323	N2SS.....303
WØMHK ..288	W2YC 319	W2YC.....281
WA2NPD ..231	WA2NPD .243	WA2NPD.. 102
AA2WN....171	AA2WN ... 122	N2CQ.....99
AB2E147	AB2E..... 122	AB2E92
N2CQ.....111	N2CQ 115	AA2WN.....20

When the same call heads all 3 WARC bands we will have that elusive, undisputed **KING OF WARC**

MOBILE DX

W2YC276	WØMHK 141
N2SS.....234	AA2WN..... 131

Looks like Dave and I have spent entirely too much time behind the wheel!

6 METER DXCC

WØMHK..... 108	W2YC.....47
N2SS55	AA2WN.....15

1.5K Club

W2YC1607	AA2WN 1369
N2SS.....1545	AB2E 1185
WØMHK 1499	N2CQ..... 1135
WA2NPD ... 1474	

GRID SQUARES

WØMHK..... 540
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160 Meters

W2YC..... 211	N2SS 81
WØMHK 158	AA2WN 36
AB2E 100	N2CQ 9
WA2NPD..... 99	

W2YC continues as our undisputed Top of Top Band.

Islands On The Air

N2SS.....858	AB2E 205
W2YC.....692	N2CQ..... 159
WØMHK381	

Rules for GCARC Honor Roll Listings
Provide me with your total IOTAs worked, or countries (including deleted) worked for: WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters or your total for 80,40,20, 15 and 10 for 1.5K Club. Final category is Grid Squares – just send me your total worked. Lastly, you do not have to participate in every category to be listed; just send me your totals for any of the categories listed.

RTTY **DIGITAL**

W2YC..... 294	N2SS 67
AA2WN..... 187	K2AWS..... 29
N2CQ..... 151	WA2JSG 10

CURRENT OFFICIAL ARRL DXCC STATISTICS

Active Count	338
Deleted Count.....	58
Last Addition.....	KH8/S
Last Deletion.....	STØ

March Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in March:

James Castro, N2IMH
Ed Champion, N2RO
Stewart Cleveland, N2WUP
Robert Doak, K2MA
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD
Janice Gorman, N2HYS
Paul Munzenmayer, K2DX
Greg Potter, WN2T
Mark Smith, N2MR
Dave Stout, W2YC
Mark Townsend, W8HCL
Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
John Zaruba, Jr., AA2BN



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 April issue:
3/21/2009

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.com>

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

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

Steve, W2TDS
Cory, WA3UVV

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Corresponding Secretary-Harry Ewell, K2ATX

Board of Directors

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

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-Vinney, KC2NXV
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)

March Meeting

**Electronic Restoration of the Battleship New
Jersey-Harry Bryant, AA2WN**

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

