



Presidents Message

As I put pen to parchment for this issue, it is now about 11 PM on a Sunday evening, and already this article is pushing the Editor's deadline for submission. Your scribe has just returned from a surprise birthday party for son number 2 and, unfortunately, there were ample 807s both served and consumed at the party. Your scribe was also an ample consumer and the touch typing expertise is now undergoing an extreme test of acquired skill and robotic-like performance. Nevertheless, perseverance will win the day! First off, let us again congratulate Dave, W2YC, for having earned the ARRL's new Triple Play Award, the first one awarded any ham in the entire world! Thanks to George, W2GSS, (his new call) our SNJ Section Manager, for driving up here from Wildwood Crest to make the presentation. At this juncture, we are attempting to have a picture of the presentation taken by Ray, W2RM, with follow-up article, submitted to QST for publication as well.

In looking over our annual Field Day line-up to date, we seem to be coming along in fine shape, thanks to overall Chairman Vinnie, KC2NXV. We now have band chairman lined-up for all desired bands and the chairman are already giving thought to the antennas needed and the other equipment necessary to bring about a successful weekend operation. With Wayne, WA2LET already handling the food and Ray, WB2NBJ, the generator, we are just about set for this fun weekend. So reserve the 4th weekend of June for your Club's annual Field Day. This year, we are especially encouraging all of our newer club members and older members who heretofore have never participated in any Field Day, to lower the barriers and this year make the effort to give-it-a-shot as it were! All band chairmen will be receptive to any new member wishing to operate, or wanting to learn to operate, etc. The best way to learn is to listen first to an experienced station in action. Then, take a turn at logging, and finally pick up the mike or key and work a few. Pretty soon, you will be a seasoned operator! And, reserve June 6th to help the club with its booth at the Williamstown Main Street Day. See Harry, K2ATX, who will again coordinate this event.

And, at our May 6th meeting, we will be presenting a Milt Goldman Service Award to one of our deserving members who has unanimously been selected by the Award Committee. Finally, thanks to Ray, WB2NBJ, we have a refurbished oscilloscope donated by Vinnie, KC2NXV, which will be raffled off at the end of our Club meeting. This scope is an older tube model, quite heavy, formerly listing in the thousands of dollars, and is working like new. Ray has fabricated new cables for it and also made a new carrying handle. We will also have our usual mystery gift. So hope to see one and all at the May 6th meeting.

Doug, WA2NPD

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Static has raised its ugly head on the low bands. With more daylight our DX openings on the low bands will diminish as summer approaches. But 40 Meters can still bring us some good DX even in May. Pacific openings should be possible 3 out of 4 days between 3AM and a little after sunrise local time. Solar minimums will make no difference with this propagation path. Take advantage of it when thunder storms and QRN are at a minimum.

30 Meters also offers DX to us for most of the day and evenings too. VK9GMW, on Mellish Reef, was a fine example of good signals from rare places on 30 Meters. I never cease to marvel at the activity level with some of the huge pile-ups on cw-only 30Meters. Who says cw is dead or dying? More and more ops seem to be finding this band is very friendly to DXing and are joining the multitudes calling new entities. It's a great band, easy to build an antenna for, and an additional weapon to add to your DX arsenal!

Be sure to sign up for the band of your choice in Club's upcoming Field Day effort. Field Day is an excellent place to improve your operating proficiency for DXing. Picking out calls under QRM/QRN conditions, when and where to call CQ, using proper phonetics, when to "dump in" W2MMD are all skills that will pay off in DX dividends for you in the future. I know Field Day was an important stepping stone for me to pursue DX and DX contesting.

Although the sunspot cycle is still lagging, let's check out DX possibilities for this month. Remember, May is an excellent time to start utilizing Sporadic E on 6 Meters for some new stateside grids or DX!

STATION	DATES	FQ/MODES	RARITY	ENTITY
C21TI	5/1-5/20	160-10/CW,SB,DIG	3	NAURU
3D2	5/4-?		2	FIJI
YJ0KS	5/3- 5/7	160-6/CW,SB,DIG	3	VANUATU
V6	5/11-5/16	40-6M	2	MICRONESIA
ZK2V	5/16-6/20	80-15/CW,SB,DIG	2	NIUE
YS1G	5/17-5/23	160-30/CW	1	EL SALVADOR
TK	5/22-6/11	80-10/CW,SB	1	CORSICA

A Wider Audience – A Greater Voice

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Thanks to the efforts of our Section Manager George, W2GSS, and placement on our getting-better-every-day website run by Harry, K2ATX, [Crosstalk](#) has been getting read by an increasing audience. I know Gene, AA2YO, would like to have more articles and thoughts each month, so if you've been holding back because you didn't think enough people would be paying attention, think again. I've received feedback from several states and countries. Here's your opportunity to put your musings on the Infobahn for all time...

Editor's note: Your editor heartily agrees with Cory. I can always use more articles and thanks to Cory for his contributions.

Welcome New Members

The Club welcomes two new members this month; Robert Jannone, K2RJJ, and Tom Watts, WB2AXI. Robert is from the Millville area and Tom is from Glassboro. We hope to see them both out at Club meetings and functions soon. Please introduce yourself to them when you meet them at Club activities and make them feel at home.

2009 Hamvention May 14 through May 17

For those of you interested in attending the 2009 Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio, The North American DXD Association has put together a package including transportation, lodging, some meals and the entrance fee for this year's event. Tickets are still available but may be gone soon. So if you are interested please contact Mike DiPersio, KC2Q, at kc2q@arrl.net.

Oh, Canada?

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Yes, our neighbor to the north. Canada is home to 13 Provinces and Territories, and has more islands that you can shake a Looney at. (Or a Twoney, for that matter) A land with the most stable banking system going and, with the exception of spelling words like "Licence" and "Colour" like that, they speak English (mostly). Plus, unlike Mexico, can be called on the telephone without any problems.

Yet, how much do you know about Canada? Well, read up. Next month there will be a quiz...

Piratas Brasileiros do Espaço Contra a Marinha de Estados Unidos (Brazilian Space Pirates Versus the United States Navy)

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

As if the Navy didn't have enough to deal with in the way of Somalian pirates, it seems they've also had to take on pirates from Brazil. These pirates, however, are not committing their crimes on the seas but rather in space.

About 30 years ago, a group of satellites known as FLTSATCOM went into orbit. Most are still functional and have carrier operated channelized uplinks around 300 MHz and downlinks 41 MHz lower. Yes, these things operate totally "in the clear".

Although I understand some transponders allow for SSB or AM, the majority were designed with FM use in mind. Most traffic is routine, but they were reportedly placed in orbit with emergency communications as the motivator.

Well, back in the 90s, some creative individual figured out that a 2 meter rig and a homebrew varactor frequency doubler (like a tripler, but without the idler cap and coil) could be used to provide an uplink along with a fairly simple antenna. The doubler, by the way, is a completely passive LC device that can be built with 5 components and some connectors and standoffs. The downlink channels can be heard. Please see "Pirates" on page 4.

“Pirates” from page 3.

with a converter or rigs with wide band coverage like the FT-7800R or IC-880H. This activity has been exploding. In many Brazilian truck stops, you can buy the whole package for the equivalent of about \$500. Put that all together, and you have the new Brazilian CB. (Also known as “bolinha” or “little ball.”) Plus, you can talk with your friends who have immigrated (in one way or another) to the States. Such a deal!

As you might suspect, the USN has frowned on this hijacking of their technology and – with the help of Brazil’s equivalent to the FCC - have been rounding up a number of the culprits. Of course, the rag chewers are the easiest to find. Heavy fines and imprisonment (in the brig?) may be in store for many to come before this saga is at an end.

If you are curious, tune in to the 250 to 270 MHz range. If you understand Portuguese, then listen along matey – arrg!

GCARC Hamfest Marketing Video Content Needed

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

To help promote our Club’s 50th Anniversary and this year’s Hamfest, I’m turning once again to television – the kind you find on the internet. In anticipation of this year’s project, I took some shots at last year’s event. While that takes care of contemporary images, I’d also like to have some that go back a few years or more.

If you have any film pictures or digital stills of the hamfest in years past, please let me know. They would really help. I hope to have the piece built and “on the air” (web site, YouTube, etc.) by the end of May, so the sooner I can get something, the better. We’ll also be including pointers to the video in the other Hamfest promotionals. Thanks!

GCARC Variety Hour? Not Quite...

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

But, the GCARC is on TV! Recently, the ARRL released a Public Service Announcement in the form of a 30-second commercial. It promotes the “We Do That With Radio” campaign with a call to action at the end directing viewers to their web site, www.wedothatradio.org.

Looking at it, I liked the overall production value and noted that it was created in a format known as “letterbox”, which displays as black horizontal bands on the upper and lower part of a conventional 4:3 aspect ratio screen, the same format that cable providers like Comcast use.

In those blank spaces, you can insert some titles that personalize the piece, without interfering with the core message and visuals. I sent an email to the League to see if it would be OK for us to use and, hearing nothing to the contrary, proposed the Club set aside some funds to air it if I customized it with information about ham radio and contact information for us. Alternately, I also mentioned that any interested members could “pony up” some funds in the way of \$35, \$50, \$70 or more to help fund the idea.

It was genuinely heartwarming how many members offered to donate toward the campaign at our last meeting. In fact, it all happened so fast, I lost track of who was donating what. Thankfully, Al and Ken keep good notes. I’ll have a “Thank You” list in next month’s issue. Please see “TV” on page 5.

“TV” from page 4.

We voted to allocate \$350, which at the special rates that Comcast Spotlight is offering, allows us to air 100 times. (And you thought TV advertising was expensive...)

The spot is currently running 2 to 3 times a day on SciFi and Spike and will continue to air through May 17th. Harry, K2ATX should have a copy of it on the www.w2mmd.com web site by the time you read this, as well.

If you would like to donate to the cause, please contact Ken, N2CQ.

Hopefully, we will see some increased interest in ham radio and our Club, plus garner some well-deserved PR and Goodwill in the county. Stay tuned!

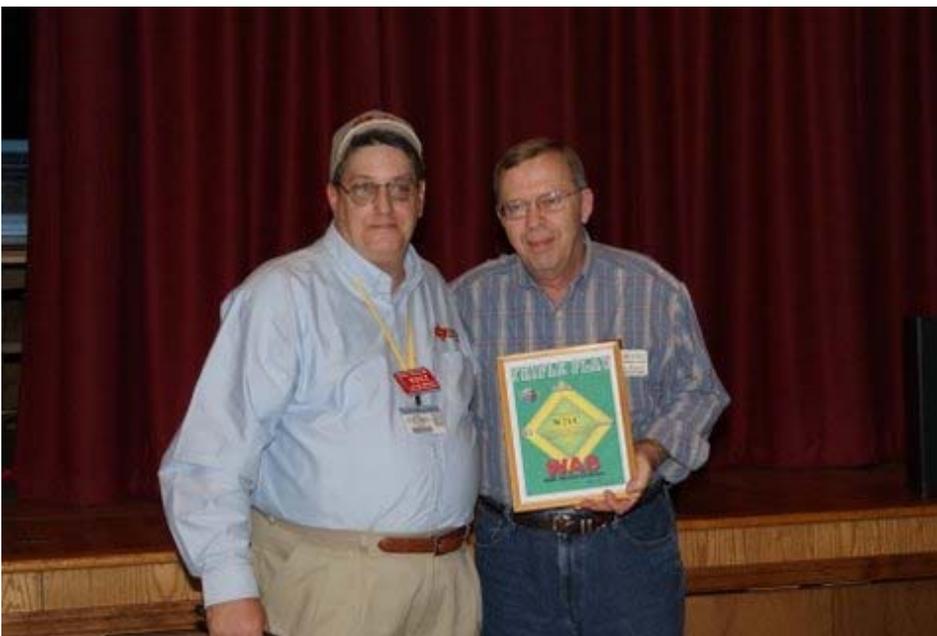
German AMSAT Team Transmits and Receives Signals from Venus

On March 25, a group from AMSAT-DL bounced radio signals off the surface of Venus, marking the first time Amateur Radio operators have bounced radio signals off another planet. According to an AMSAT-DL press release, the team's transmitter was generating about 6 kW CW on 2.4 GHz.

Peter Guelzow, AMSAT-DL President, said that signals were sent from a ground control station at the IUZ Sternwarte observatory in Bochum: "After traveling almost 100 million kilometers and a round trip delay of about 5 minutes, they were clearly received as echoes from the surface of Venus. This was the first German success to receive echoes of other planets. In addition, this is the farthest distance crossed by radio amateurs, over 100 times further than echoes from the moon (EME reflections)."

The Earth Venus Earth (EVE) experiment was repeated on March 26 for several hours with "good echoes" from Venus, Guelzow said. "Morse code was used to transmit the well-known 'HI' signature known from the AMSAT OSCAR satellites."

Thanks to the ARRL and [The ARRL Letter](#).



George Strayline, N3GZ, ARRL SNJ Section Manager, awards first ever Triple Play award to Dave Strout, W2YC

May Birthdays
Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in May:

Walt Ashton, WB2OYQ
In Su Chon, AB2IT
Carmen Inverso, WA2TRS
Darrell Neron, AB2E
Virginia Wallace, KB2JCQ



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 June issue:
5/25/2009

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)

**May Meeting
PSK-31**

Ken, N2CQ, Steve, W2TDS, and John, AA2BN

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

