



Presidents Message

Fall has begun and the GCARC has held another successful Hamfest. I would like to thank all those members who helped make this Hamfest the biggest and best in the area. We could have used a little more help, and there are a few details that need to be ironed out, but otherwise things went well. With the beautiful weather and the state of the economy, I was hoping for a little better turnout. Gate ticket sales were about the same as last year, but pavilion table sales were down. Overall our net profits were on par with last year. We will be reviewing our pricing structure for next year.

This is the time of year to start preparing for winter. In particular, making sure your antenna system can withstand the harsh winter weather. Out at the Clubsite, there is still quite a bit of work that needs to be done. I will be sending out emails to the group regarding any upcoming work parties.

It is also time to start the nomination process for next years Club officers. If you have not served as a Club officer or director please consider doing so. Most of the current officers have already served the Club for many years and we need some new members to help run the Club in the coming years.

73, Al KB2AYU

October Club Meeting Program

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Our program for the October 6th Club Meeting will be a presentation on Radio Frequency Oscillators by WA2NPD. The guts of any radio transmitter and even the receiver is arguably the oscillator stage. This presentation, aimed at the new amateur, will show how an oscillator operates from the current (electron) flow perspective, beginning with the tank circuit and ending with some schematics of the more popular circuits. The presentation will rely on flip charts unless the author is able to coerce some knowledgeable computer expert to convert the charts into power point slides. The talk should consume about 30 minutes.

Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB Silent Key

It is with great sadness that we that we report on the passing of Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB. Bill has been a long time, active member of the Club. Most recently he had served on the Board of Directors of the Club. Over the years Bill has welcomed many new members to the Club with the name tags that he created. Bill will be missed greatly. We send our condolences to Bill's family from the whole Club.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

"Commencing at 0400Z(12:00AM local time) on 10 October 2010, operation from islands of Curacao, Bonaire, Sint Maarten, Saba, and St. Eustatius will count for a yet-to-be-determined number of new entities under the DXCC List Criteria, and Political Entities Rule 1 and/or Rule 2 Geographic Separation Entities. When the Awards Committee determines what Rule 1 or Rule 2 actions apply, it will announce the final disposition of the entities on the DXCC list." So saith the DXCC desk on September 23, 2010.

Don't get your DX "shorts" in a bind! After October 10, just work PJ's first and worry about status later! Numerous stations will be activating the Dutch Antilles before and just after the October 10 transition! Here in SNJ we have proximity on our side for a delightful change. All these new entities should be easy to work especially after all the excitement dies down after their inception. With the possibility of 5 new DXCC countries coming into existence in this area of the world there will be competition and congestion to work these stations. Be patient and surely new DXCC credits will be coming your way!

Currently, though, seasonal changes are spiking the higher HF bands into DX action. I just saw reports of 12 Meter DX openings to stateside stations in the past 24 hours. Fifteen meters has been showing some nice signs of long-haul DX life with HS, YB, EY and almost an EP qso on 15 phone getting into my log within the last few days. Listening around 9AM locally seems to be a good time to look for 15 Meter DX activity when solar flux is up to 80 and the solar wind (A and K indices) are low.

This past month OJ, SU, 7X, and T6 (newer prefix for Afghanistan) have been worked with a minimum of effort on 17 Meters. 17 is still quite productive much of the day and into the night for DX. Some nice openings to BY, BV and VR2 have also been noted on this band. Hopefully 15 Meters will begin to take some of the burden from 17 Meters with long distance openings this autumn.

I wish I had something more encouraging to say about 10 Meter DX, but even with the recent equinox it has been a pretty dead DX band. It looks like concentrated sunspot activity will be required to bring this band out of the doldrums. Caribbean and South American band openings do occur for the watchful, usually during late afternoon local times.

30 Meters still seems to be DX sleepy, but the change in seasons and improving low band conditions with shortened daylight should be a catalyst for this band in the next few months. A dedicated dipole or vertical for this band can be most productive starting this time of year. The 200 watt limit also helps newer cw ops have a better chance of working some excellent DX without the super antenna farms and legal limit linears found on 20 Meters.

Fortunately, DXpedition activity is on a noticeable upswing this month. CQ World Wide DX Contests in October and November stimulate DX activations globally around this time of year. Check the list below for DX needs and with all the PJ Caribbean activity in October, visit the Announced DX Operations website for specific details on several activations.

This month's offerings are:

Please see "DXing" on Page 3.

“DXing” continued from Page 2.

STATION	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RARITY	ENTITY
T6JC/T6TL	10/1-5/2011	ASSORTED BANDS/MODES	4	AFGHANISTAN
5H9PD	10/2-10/30	40-10M/CW,DIG	2	TANZANIA
5R8RJ	10/4-10-29	160-10M/CW,SSB	3	MADAGASCAR
KG4AS	10/5-10/19	160-6M/CW,SSB	1	GUANTANAMO
PJ'S	AFTER 10/10	MANY STNS/MODES	1	NEW DXCC'S!
TO7ZG	10/6-10/20	HF	1	ST. BARTS
H40KJ/BQ	10/7-10/22	OC-O65/160-10M/SSB,DIG	3	TEOMOTU
ZD9GI	10/12-11/12	160-10M/SSB,DIG	4	TRISTAN DA CUNHA
C91	10/15-10/31	HF, MAINLY SSB & DIG	2	MOZAMBIQUE
CY0	10/21-10/29	MULTI BANDS/MODES	1	SABLE ISLAND
9X0SP	10/27-11/2	HF/ALL MODES	3	RWANDA

CREDITS: NG3K ADXO, THE DAILY DX

Club Welcomes New Members

This month the Club welcomes three new members Mark Mastrogiacomo, KE2WC, Lee Pamplin, N3EKR, and Ann White, KC2VCO. Mark holds an Extra Class license and is from the Sewell area, Lee also holds an Extra Class license and is from Bridgeton and Ann holds a General Class license and is from Somerdale. Please introduce yourself to these new members and make them feel welcome when you meet them a Club meetings and functions.

GCARC on Display

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Inspired by an article about HR promotions in the October issue of [World Radio Online](#) by Dee Logan, WIHEO. I stopped by the Mullica Hill Library to take a look at their display case and ask some questions. Long story short, we have an opportunity to create a GCARC and Amateur Radio themed display that can run through the month of November. While the official start date is at the beginning of the month, I got the impression that if we could be ready earlier, we could get in ASAP as there is nothing slated to replace the current display in October.

While I can certainly come up with some pictures and artwork for the case, I could use some gear. If you have a somewhat-modern HF rig that you're not using and could part with for several weeks, that would be wonderful. Also, an antique receiver or tube-based breadboard transmitter in good condition would be cool, too. I have several FM rigs to choose from and an old S-38 receiver, plus some books to display, but I'd like to have something that shows something of a historical progression from the beginnings to the state-of-the-art of today.

Spare QSL cards would add some needed color, as well. If you have an old log book, good looking home brew project, etc. – I think you get the idea – that's the kind of items I'm looking for to breathe some life into the display. The case is roughly 6' high by 5' wide by 1' deep with some movable shelves. If you look at page 44 of [World Radio Online](#), you'll get some concept of what I'm looking to do. Please see “Display” on Page 4.

“Display” continues from Page 3.

Please contact me about any items you are willing to loan out. I’ll make up something in the case to acknowledge each contributor’s generosity. If I could have them in hand by the October meeting, that would be great!

On the Web

By Art Strong

Last month I had stated that I plan to start putting together as much of the club history as I can find and what I can’t dig up myself I’ll start asking for member contributions. What I left for this month is what I plan to do with all that I gather.

I plan to put all back copies of Crosstalk that I collect, and any written history that I can put together, on our website for all to view. How much I can put up remains to be seen as it will take up space and I don’t want to use every available byte of storage for just our history. Though it would be nice to read when one wants to, it may be even better if one could make a copy of it for themselves. Unfortunately, one can only download a page at a time if they wanted to make a copy of it. This is not very practical in terms of time spent and there may be another ways to do this.

In 1981, after I bought my first VIC-20 computer, I never thought I would ever have more than one computer for any reason. In 2010, I built a server tower to handle backups for two other towers, two laptops, and a third tower under construction. The server software entitled me to create my own website which is directed by Microsoft to my server IP address. I can then store the files on my server, and provided I remember to leave the server running, someone could log into my website and download the files for their own use. Storage capacity is determined by me and right now it is much more than I would need for all of the club’s history.

While getting ready for the Hamfest I was able to sneak a peek inside the file cabinet at the trailer and I can see that I have a large number of things to go through. There were quite a few documents just in the first and second drawers and I was told the good stuff is in the bottom drawer. So this should prove to be a very interesting trip down memory lane. Hopefully I will have some good information to briefly share with everyone as I dig through our history.

Does anyone know if there are any skeletons I should watch for? See you on the web.

Brother, Can You Spare a Rig?

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Most of us have them – 2 meter rigs from long ago that were manufactured in an age before “PL Frenzy” took over our repeaters. The need for CTCSS in most parts of the country is what made most synthesized rigs obsolete, virtually overnight. While there are still many parts of the country that weren’t forced to abandon carrier squelch do to overcrowding, we aren’t one of them. The result is that most of us have one (or more) FM rigs that we don’t use, and aren’t worth the investment to add a sub audible multi-tone generator, given the power and feature levels of new gear. So, they sit on our shelves, of no use to anyone. Hold that thought for a moment.

Please see “Spare” on Page 5.

“Spare” continued from Page 4.

In working to get more young hams in our midst, one of the most common obstacles is cost of equipment. While I’m not a huge fan of 2 meters as an entry into our world, it is what it is and it does get kids on the air and offers them the opportunity to become part of our community. Hopefully, we can encourage them to upgrade and experience the “so much more” that amateur radio has to offer.

As I work to encourage more youth into our hobby and our club, the need for equipment is going to become even greater. If some of the work with Scouting takes off, that will happen in a relatively short time. Hold that thought, too.

At this point, those that think ahead may well be wondering why a radio without CTCSS is going to be any more usable for someone else in the same area. It’s true; the monetary impracticality of adding a conventional tone generator like the Com Spec TE-32 at \$60 is the same impediment, no matter who has the radio. But what if we can add a CTCSS encoder for almost free? What if a common item that most kids already have can be used to add tones to these rigs with just minor modifications? (Stand by to put all those thoughts together, now...)

Well, that’s just what I’ve come up with, a dirt-cheap way to add tones to old radios that will allow new hams with more enthusiasm than cash to get on the air. The solution is something that you and I would consider to be somewhat cumbersome and/or undesirable, but I’ve been testing and refining it for some time. I’ve already brought a couple of my older rigs back to usefulness. Now they stand ready to help other hams get on the air.

If you would like to donate one of your older, but working, 2 meter rigs to the cause, please let me know. Already, some of our members have been generous with their gear. Will you be another?

I’m going to take care of the conversion work necessary, so no one inexperienced needs to worry about soldering. The availability of on-line manuals takes the guesswork out of finding the ideal injection point. If you’d like the technical details on how this is being done, please donate a synthesized radio or two and I’ll tell you. Oh yeah, power supplies are welcome, too.

Many members of our Club have been so generous with their time, gear and expertise over time. I witnessed some very heartwarming acts of kindness at our Hamfest this year. While I’m asking for even more of that, on the behalf of others, it seems like another good opportunity to say “Thank You!” to everyone that helps and supports our growth and welcomes new members.

The Mind of Lew McCoy is Alive and Well

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

A few weeks ago, I walked into the store of a client that sells antiques, collectables and well, all sorts of stuff. Near the front door was an old TV with a sign that read “1930s TV”. Noting the lack of a spinning wheel, I knew it wasn’t from the 30s. Taking a closer look (which I probably should learn not to do) I saw it was manufactured in the early 50s and still had a complete set of bottles inside. A quick look at the tube layout sheet brought me back in time to when I was building my first transmitter. The basis was 2 TV chassis that a generous member of my hometown’s radio club let me have for \$5. Out of these and some new coils and variable caps, I was able to build a 60 watt transmitter. It was based on one of Lew McCoy’s (W1ICP) prolific designs from the 1963 edition of Understanding Amateur Radio. It used a Please see “Lew McCoy” on Page 6.

“Lew McCoy” continued from Page 5.

6K6 oscillator and a pair of 6BG6s as amplifiers. Looking inside this TV, I also saw it used a 6K6 and also had a 6BG6. Additionally, there are some 6SN7’s and some other things that started to inspire a 30 watter for 80, 40 and 30 meters and a regenerative receiver.

One of the regrets I have is that I ever got rid of my original transmitter. There’s just something about getting on the air with something you’ve built, especially if it was your first attempt. In contrast, one of the happier moments as a ham was when I was fortunate enough to meet Lew McCoy over the July 4th weekend in 1976 at the West Virginia State Convention. I took advantage of the opportunity to thank him for publishing his designs and the generosity he’d shown over the years to hams like me. He was a friendly individual who freely shared his knowledge and we must have spoken for over 3 hours during our time there. He inspired me and I have tried to pay back that sort of kindness and sharing of expertise toward others.

Looking at the back of that TV had me thinking a lot about my time as a Novice, plus that weekend in WV when I also got to meet Herb Morrison. Herb was a guest speaker and - to a packed house - described his broadcast experiences and the behind-the-scenes drama at the time of the Hindenburg disaster. Another vivid memory was when they rang the bell on the afternoon of the 4th and read the Declaration of Independence.

Well, as you may have seen coming, I bought the TV. More than one person I later talked to about building a transmitter and receiver out of it was shocked and thought I should keep it intact and sell it. I tried at the Hamfest, but no one was interested. That sealed the deal.

In the coming months, I plan to cannibalize it to create a power supply, rock-bound CW transmitter and “rush box” receiver to put together a minimalist station – hopefully in time for Straight Key Night and for many years to come. This time, I won’t be so eager to get rid of it.

October Birthdays

Steve Blasko, W2TDS
Harry Bryant, AA2WN
Harry Elwell, K2ATX
Chris Heller, WK2W
William Kardas, N2BK
Dennis Sandole, K2SE



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 the November issue:
10/23/2010

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Acting Vice President-Wayne, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

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, AA2WN
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO

Trustees

Ray, WB2NBJ
Mike, N2SRO

Committees

ARES/RACES-John, K2ZA
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-Al, KB2AYU
Historian-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
Website-Art, K2AWS

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)

October Meeting

Oscillators
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

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

