CROSSTALK

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Presidents Message

Fall has begun and another successful GCARC Hamfest is in the history books. I would like to thank all those members who helped make this Hamfest the biggest and best in the area. This list is from memory, so let me know if I left anybody out.

Wayne	WA2LET	Frank	W2FJM	Doug	WA2NPD	Harry	AA2WN
Vinnie	N4NYY	Bill	NJ2S	Tom	KC2THO	Tom	KE2ES
Gene	N2IMK	Gary	N2QEE	Chris	WK2W	Dave	WB3JOY
Jim	N2GXJ	Dave	W2YC	Lou	KC2FXK		

This year went much smoother thanks to having the tailgating spots marked out with paint. We went back to a $5 fee for tailgating and this helped offset the higher cost of renting the fairgrounds. We were lucky to have fairly good weather considering the wacky weather patterns we have been experiencing this year. The state of the economy being what it is, I think we did very well with over 460 admission tickets sold. The number of sellers seemed down just a bit, but overall I think we will end up with a better net profit than last year. We could have used a little more help, especially for cleanup at the end of the day.

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.

We are honored to once again have Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, former Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, as a guest speaker at our general membership meeting this month. Make plans to attend.

73, Al KB2AYU

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Autumn radio conditions seem to be of marginal help to the 4W6A DXpedition on East Timor at this writing. There are only a few days left to their effort and they have not been the easiest to hear on the East Coast so far. The 10,000+ mile short path is also hampered by opposite sunrise/sunset times that are often out of sync with our day and night hours. My getting through to them after five days on ANY band was accomplished here today at a bit after 11PM local time on 15 Meter CW! (I also listened for half an hour to a Thailand station working USA East Coast stations at just before Noon local time on 10 Meter Phone !)

Which leads to my simple DX topic for the month... Get you ham radio "butt" on HF! No excuses! Openings are appearing all over the HF bands with favorites like 10 and 12 Meters producing some very interesting DX opportunities. W3LPL, a well-known DX'er from across the wide Delaware, mentioned the other day that **this past week** has been the first time in **seven years** that we have had sustained solar flux over 140! We're matching some propagation dating back to 2004 before our recent years of DX doldrums!

I am cutting to the "DX Goodies List" which I have expanded this month to 15 selections because of increased DXpedition activity and improved conditions. Now is the time operate; not read or talk! Just a reminder. 5 is the most difficult for rarity. Get on HF and ENJOY:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RARITY	DXCC ENTITY
3D2R	9/27-10/7	BIG EFFORT!	4	ROTUMA
V63	10/310/8	406M/CW,SSB,DIG	3	MICRONESIA
OJ0X	10/4-10/11	EXCELLENT OH OPS!	2	MARKET REEF
H40	10/8-10/21	160-15M/CW,RTTY	2	TEMOTU
V47JA	10/10-11/5	80-6(&60M)/SSB	1	ST. KITTS
TX3T	10/16-10/19	10 OPS/160-6M/CW,SB,DIG	2	TAHITI
3XY1D	10/18-11/1	5 STNS/6 OPS	2	GUINEA
TX7M	10/19-11/1	10OPS/1606M/CW,SB,DIG	2	MARQUESAS
VK9CX	10/19-11/19	BY DL7AFS & DJ7ZG	3	COCOS/KEEL.
GU	10/20-10/30	160-6M/CW, SSB	1	GUERNSEY
PJ5	10/20-11/3	160-10M/CW,SSB,DIG	1	SABA
S9	10/21-10/27	HF+6M/CW,SSB,DIG	2	SEYCHELLES
3D2T	10/24-11/9	160-6M/CW,SSB,DIG	2	FIJI
TL0CW	10/26-11/3	160&80M EMPHASIS!	2	CENT. AF. REP.
TU	10/27-11/11	BIG ITALIAN EFFORT!	2	IVORY COAST

October Club Meeting Program

By Tom Gorman, KE2ES

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, the former Special Counsel in the FCC Enforcement Bureau will speak at the General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, October 5th. Riley came once before about 1 1/2 years ago, and gave a great speech and is very excited to return. The maximum seating that can be accommodated at the Pfeiffer Center is about 100 people. Other area clubs have been invited to this meeting and seating will be on a first come, first served basis so plan to get there early.

More on Heathkit

Heathkit Educational Systems hopes to reenter the Amateur Radio market by the end of 2011. Back in August, Heathkit announced its return to the kit business and actively solicited suggestions. The response from Amateur Radio operators convinced Heathkit to develop several Amateur Radio products.

"When we made the announcement on our web page about a month ago, we had no intention of entering the Amateur Radio kit market," Ernie Wake, Heathkit's Director of Sales and Marketing, told the ARRL. "The response was really overwhelming, exciting and scary. The scary part is that the brand name has so much loyalty that we don't want to disappoint the people who have such fond memories." Wake said that Heathkit is presently working on developing a few Amateur Radio kits. "Initially, the kit line will include a few 'accessories,' like kits for a Dual Watt Meter, Antenna Tuners and the Cantenna," he explained. "Once we are a little more 'settled,' I think we will develop a QRP receiver. We won't rush to market just to get there. We want to develop a line of kits in the tradition of Heathkit. I'm hoping to have one or two kits by the end-of-the-year."

These announcements have stirred lots of memories in the Hams who owed or still own old Heathkit gear and different groups are digging out their old radios and putting them back on the air. The Great Outdoor Radio Club (GORC) is one such group that is sponsoring a Heathkit related event. Their event is the Heathkit Nostalgia Event and is scheduled for October the 1st and October 8th and will be on 160 through 6 meters on CW and SSB from 0000UTC Friday to 0000UTC Saturday. According to the sponsor, "This is not a contest nor is it a sprint. It's just a bunch of hams putting their Heathkit radios back on the air. If you don't have a Heathkit, that's ok as you can still work Heathkits for a certificate. Look for the GORC Heathkit Special Event Station K3H on the air and work it for a Heathkit Certificate! If you take your Heathkit radio portable outdoors and work just five stations, GORC will send you a GORC Heathkit Certificate with a picture of your rig on it!" For more information, please use the following link.

http://www.wa3wsj.org/GORC1.html

Thanks to the ARRL Letter for the information about Heathkit's plans.

Robots, Radios and Rewards

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

I know at least some of you saw the articles on the 4-H Amateur Radio Club and public service / preparedness in the Gloucester County Times in late September, since I've received some nice emails in response. I tried to cover a lot of ground in there and Jessica Driscoll did an excellent job of writing up the interview.

As we work to reboot the 4-H club this year, we are adding robotics to the mix. There are many kids interested in the subject and enjoy working with electronics, but have never heard of Ham Radio. Hopefully, with the introduction of a very enthusiastic and experienced 4-H leader (who is studying to become a Ham) we should be able to join the two areas of interest into one.

Imagine a robotics platform with APRS, ATV an intelligent microcontroller and the ability to sleep and recharge all on its own, one that could be sent kilometers away, while still communicating and reporting back what it sees. While something like this obviously has some practical applications, it's a great way
Please see "Robots" on Page 4.

"Robots" from Page 3.
to show off some of the capabilities of Ham Radio and stimulate the imaginations of the 4-H'ers.

At our "Back to 4-H" open house, Tom Gorman, KE2ES and Bill Price, NJ2S, joined me to help demonstrate, explain and attract some of those attending to Ham Radio and our club. (A "Big Mahalo" goes out to Tom and Bill!) We have several boys and girls now interested in getting involved, plus I want to encourage some of the original members of the club to get involved in the new activities and even Elmer some of the new members along.

What I would like is for a few of our GACRC members to step up and help out in leading the 4-H club. I want to set up a rotation, so no one person has to be at each and every meeting. That way, it won't take up a lot of time on any individual's part. By working together, we can grow the club and provide for a positive experience for its members.

Please give this some thought. If you feel blessed that someone mentored you along your path to Ham Radio (or anything else, for that matter) and you'd like to thank them by assisting this effort, please let me know!

Are You Ready for On-Line HR Magazines?

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

When the folks at CQ Magazine bought "World Radio", they re-launched it as "World Radio Online" and made it available for free. This magazine has become very popular and probably has a larger reach than the original print version. Plus, the content is in color. Another online magazine with some Ham Radio related content is "MTXpress", the electronic version of "Monitoring Times". This one is not just advertiser funded as WRO is – there's also a subscription fee, although it is significantly less than the print version.

Our neighbors at Radio Amateurs of Canada are also looking into producing an electronic version of "The Canadian Amateur". Also, across the pond, the RSGB publication "RadCom" may become available this way, as well. Both of these magazines have interesting content, but the cost of postage puts them out of a reasonable price range. Having the content available electronically, would allow us to learn what is going on in other English-speaking (even if it is a different English) countries with regards to Ham Radio activities.

The folks at CQ are studying the idea of making "CQ", "CQ-VHF" and "Popular Communications" available as downloads. Plus, the ARRL is looking to offer "QST" in the future as an electronic publication. (The existing archive of back issues is worth the price of membership, alone!)

While there's something special about holding the printed page in your hands, electronic magazines take up considerably less space and can offer instant access to an article. Right now, it's not as practical to just carry with you as paper is, but in the future when "electronic paper" (look it up…) becomes a reality that may merge the best of both worlds.

Do you read any of the online magazines, now? What do you think of the eventual diminishing of paper as a medium for such things? You can look at some samples of these at:

http://rac.ca http://monitoringtimes.com http://worldradiomagazine.com

Plan “B” Power Systems for Better Living

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

The electric grid in the United States is an aging, overtaxed collection of resources. However, it manages to deliver good quality power to all of us on a regular basis. Compared to what some other countries experience, it’s like comparing racing fuel to watered-down kerosene.

However, as we all know, there are occasional brown outs, black outs, surges and outages. That’s why so many of us have uninterruptible power supplies for our electronics. They can help us with these anomalies and even keep things going if the outage lasts less than 10 minutes or so. Our recent weather experiences of heavy rains, high winds and hurricane/tropical storm systems passing through, plus lightning strikes have taken many homes and businesses off-line for as much as days.

What then? UPS backups aren’t going to keep you going unless you have large units with racks full of deep-cycle batteries to feed them. Generators are good for some limited power – enough to keep refrigerators, deep freezers, sump pumps and furnaces running, but you’d better have sufficient fuel around to keep them going. The whole solar panel or wind turbine concept is a “green” alternative, but you’ll still need a “rack-o-batteries” and suitable inverter to keep them going.

The October 2011 issue of “QST” includes an editorial on the subject of backup power, as it relates to our Ham Radio gear. I’ve written here before about the importance of having charged or long-life batteries available for radios ready for unanticipated events.

But being able to communicate doesn’t keep your cold food from spoiling. It doesn’t warm your house and it won’t keep your basement from flooding. It won’t magically place food in your home that doesn’t need to be cooked if you have an electric range. (A gas range will still work if you have something safe to light the burners)

If you were one of the people who frantically plundered the grocery stores in advance of Irene and burned up gasoline while trying to find D-cells at the last minute, then you might want to look at your readiness for such things. At least with Irene, we had more than enough warning.

September was National Preparedness Month. Of course, we should be ready every month. Take a look at www.ready.gov and see how well you are prepared on an ad-hoc basis to keep your family and yourself going in times of power loss.

New Stuff Coming

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

At Dayton this year, a number of new products were announced and displayed. One that’s generated a lot of buzz is the Elecraft KX-3. This portable all-mode QRP rig has been demoed in limited release and is expected to on the market in time for your Christmakwanzakah wish list.

Also, to much applause, Heathkit is going to be introducing some Amateur Radio items to their growing list of kits. They’re reportedly going to start with simple items and grow from there. They’re also looking for input and ideas on what kits to bring to the market, so your email contributions are welcome. As for me, a “HW-6” portable 6 Meter rig would be welcomed at my QTH.

Please see “New Stuff” on Page 6.

"New Stuff" from Page 5.
Just this week, pictures and some preliminary details on two new Ten-Tec products were released. The 539 is a 10 watt HF rig with a footprint near the Elecraft K2 and height of a Yaesu FT-817ND. Also, there is the 418 MF/HF/VHF 100 watt amplifier for QRP gear. The company is rumored to start taking orders around April 2012.

More details on all of these are at:

http://elecraft.com/
http://www.heathkit.com/

Field Day 2011-Nobody goes away hungry.

VEC Testing

Regular VEC testing sessions are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM and are held at the Franklin Township Public Library on Coles Mill Road in Franklinville. The cost of the exam is $15. Candidates are required to have a photo ID and two copies of their current license if they have one. For further information on VEC testing or to sign-up for a session contact Gary Reed at 856-582-4365 or at glreed49@verizon.net.

October Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in October.

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: 10/25/2011

Club Website

http://www.w2mmd.org

GCARC Officers

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Vice President-Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Treasurer-Lou Ranson, KC2FXK
Recording Secretary-John Zaruba, K2ZA
Corresponding Secretary-Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY

Board of Directors

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD
Art Strong, K2AWS
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
Bob Krukowski, KR2U

Trustees

Steve Blasko, W2TDS
Cory Sickles, WA3UVV
Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ
Mike Mollet, 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-Art, K2AWS
Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU
Programs-Tom, KE2ES
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

GCARC 2 Meter Net
Third Thursday of the Month
8:00PM
147.78/18Mhz (PL131.8Hz)

ARES/RACES
Sunday 20:00 Hrs
(147.78/18 and
223.06/224.66
repeaters)

October Meeting

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH

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