

CROSSTALK

Issue #9

September, 2001

Presidents Message

The Hamfest was a successful one considering the difficulties we encountered at the last minute. When we got there the 4H was having a horse show and we were not able to mark out the tailgate spaces until 1900 hrs due to trailers and horse poop in the area. The gang did manage to arrange the tables in the Pavilions and get the PA system working.

On Sunday work began on the last minute stuff, I set up and did the talk in while others did the parking, tailgate spaces, manning the PA system and many other jobs.

The attendance was good and the WX held out until about noon when we had just a few drops of rain. A few people left but the rain was over quickly. The revenueurs didn't bother us either. I was glad to see some old friends and Hams from the battleship. Joe Kramer, N2XYZ, had a presentation on the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station which was very successful. He got six new members and possibly more. Good work Joe!

I wish to thank all the people who came out and helped make it happen, there were many working behind the scenes also. No report of money made at this time so we will have to wait until the September meeting to get some idea of how we did.

Many thanks again to ALL of you that helped!

73, Ray WB2NBJ

Editors Note: Ray deserves a special thanks from the membership as nobody came forward this year to act as chairman of the Hamfest. This meant that Ray had to assume this role along with his other duties as President. Thanks Ray.

2001 DUES
GCARC dues for the year 2001 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.

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

In the most recent issue of QST, there is an article by JA1BK (How's DX Section) in reference to the on going saga of making Ducie Island into a new DX Country (uh, Entity). Ducie Island is separated some 360 Km from its Parent Entity, Pitcairn Island, which just exceeds the 350 Km (218 miles) minimum distance to be a separate Entity. The problem here is that the Parent Entity here, i.e. Pitcairn Island is itself an Entity with England as the Parent. Hence, Pitcairn has formed a Radio Club calling itself the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association (Tom Christian, VP6TC, President) and the group has applied for membership in the IARU. Once membership has been granted (expected near the end of the year), then Pitcairn will meet the separate IARU Member Society requirement and qualify as a Parent. Hence, Ducie Island will then qualify as a separate county-it's Parent, Pitcairn being more than 350 Km away. Already, a DXpedition is planned to Ducie Island with operations planned for a November 16, 2001 start-up. If all this seems confusing-it is, or, at least, somewhat. To learn about what constitutes a DX Entity, I suggest reading (studying, more apt) the first few pages of The ARRL DXCC List (\$3.00), published annually by the League. Everything is explained reasonably well and it shouldn't require an attorney to explain the details (although W2YC helped your scribe, etc.) Currently there are 334 DX Entities-this number having held now for almost 2 years!

Well let's take a look to see what is new for this month.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Freq./Mode</u>	<u>Rarity*</u>	<u>Country</u>
FR5ZU/T	9/6-10/5	All; SSB	5	Tromelin Island
5R8HA	9/14-9/20	40-10; CW	4	Madagascar
A25/KG6GPA	9/19-9/28	20; SSB (QRP)	3	Botswana
EA6/DL6KAC	9/5-9/27	40-10; SSB	2	Balearic Island
C91RF/7	9/19-9/23	20-10; SSB, CW	3	Mozambique
T12/AK0A	9/25-10/9	All; All (digital)	2	Costa Rica
K3J	9/11-9/18	160-6; SSB, CW	3	Johnston Island
9N7IG	9/7-9/9	20-15; CW, SSB	4	Nepal
V63DX/V63XC	9/28-10/4	All; All Digital	3	Micronesia
P29AM/P29WS	9/7-9/16	160-10; SSB, CW	3	Papua New Guinea
PJ7/W6JHB	9/8-9/14	40-10; CW (QRP)	2	St. Maarten Island

* 5 is rarest

Thanks to Weekly DX, 425 DX News, WA2LET, AA2WN, K2JF

New HF Band Possibility

The FCC is accepting comments on the ARRL's petition seeking the allocation of 5.250 to 5.400 MHz to the Amateur Service on a domestic (US-only), secondary basis. The Commission put the proposal on public notice this week and assigned a rulemaking number, RM-10209, to the proceeding. Comments are due by September 12, 2001.

New HF Band Possibility -cont'd

Interested parties may comment on the proposal using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (EFCS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Commenters should reference "RM-10209" in their postings. Even if the FCC eventually okays the petition, it's likely to be several years before the new band actually becomes available.

In its petition, the ARRL told the FCC that the new band would aid emergency communication activities by filling a "propagation gap" between 80 and 40 meters, particularly for emergency communications during hurricanes and severe weather emergencies. The ARRL also said a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz also could relieve substantial overcrowding that periodically occurs on 80 and 40.

The ARRL has proposed that General class and higher amateurs be permitted to operate CW, phone, data, image and RTTY on the new band running maximum authorized power. No mode-specific subbands were proposed. If allocated to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, hams would have to avoid interfering with--and accept interference from--current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30 meters.

The ARRL said that it's successful WA2XSY experimental operation between 1999 and this year has demonstrated that amateur stations can coexist with current users and that the band is very suitable for US-to-Caribbean paths.

Thanks to the ARRL Newsletter

Estate Station Available

Ken Newman still has a couple of items left from last month's estate sale and he wants to get rid of them. Make an offer! Contact him at: N2CQ@ARRL.NET

Heath HD-15 Phone Patch
Tempo One HF Xcvr, Speaker and remote VFO (No WARC Bands)
Heath VTVM
B&W Lowpass Filter (High Power)

Make an offer on the complete package below. You take it down and take it away after caulking the bolt holes in the house.

Small 3 element Tribander with big traps. (About 12'-15' boom)
CDR Rotor Ham III and control box.
2 Meter Ringo vertical
Tri-Ex MW-35 tower which can be raised/lowered with manual winch.
Nested at about 20.5'. Raised at 35'. Bolted to house.

Antenna Safety

Recent issues of QST have carried several reports of serious accidents involved with erecting antennas. I can think of one involving a new Ham erecting a 2 meter antenna who was killed when the antenna came in contact with electrical wiring and one of a fatal fall from a tower.

Antenna Safety-cont'd

Recently several members of the NJQRP group were helping remove an existing antenna and found out that old equipment can be just as dangerous if not more so than new systems. In this case, they were lowering a tilt-down tower when the antenna at the top of the tower started to rotate which caused enough torque for the tower to shear several 3/8' bolts. Instead of the tower tilting down on it's intended pivot the tower came twisting down. Due to the unexpected path of the tower on it's descent, one of the participants received a very bad knock on the head. He luckily escaped with only 4 stitches in his scalp and some very sore back muscles.

So if you plan to install or take down an antenna, make sure you think the job through before you get started.

As they used to say on Hill Street Blues, "Let's be careful out there."

NJ2BB Update

The radio club on the Battleship New Jersey, BNJARS, has been active for eight months and has over 100 members from the Delaware Valley area and is still growing. 15 to 20 members are out each Saturday working on board the ship. The amateur radio station will be ready for operation when the ship gets to its final mooring.

Look for NJ2BB/MM to be on the air Labor Day weekend if the ship is moved. That is the proposed time for the ship to be moved to its new home. The ship will be opened to the public several weeks after it moves. The move was delayed do to the storms in the Gulf of Mexico that delayed the delivery of the parts for the new pier. The new pier for the Battleship New Jersey will be in Camden near the Aquarium just south of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge.

BNJARS is looking for help from the local amateur radio clubs in operating from the ship. They hope to set up a schedule where each local club will volunteer to man the station on a regular basis. Hopefully our group will be participating in this activity and we will get enough volunteers to fill a regularly scheduled spot. If you are interested in participating in this let Ray, WA2NBJ, or Harry, AA2WN, know.

GCARC Officers

President-Ray Schnapp WB2NBJ
Vice President-Bob Budd KB2EAH
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD
Recording Secretary-Harry Bryant AA2WN
Corresponding Secretary-Chris West WA2MVU

Board of Directors

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML	Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO
Lou Joseph W2LYL	Bob Krukowski KR2U
Wayne Wilson WA2LET	Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following club members:

William Blakeley WA2ADB	9/3
Sonny Gutin WB2DXB	9/7
Mark Mastrogiacomo KE2WC	9/12
Joseph Mitchell KB2FRN	9/5
Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO	9/15
Harry Spiece NJ2B	9/26
Edward Wargo WA2ED	9/4



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: 9/22/2001

Committees

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-John AA2BN
DX-Doug WA2NPD
Field Day-Lou W2LYL
Hamfest-Open

Hospitality-Open
Membership- John AA2BN
Nominations-Bob KR2U
Publicity-John N2AWD
Repeaters-Chuck WA2TML
Scholarships-Greg WN2T
Special Services-Open
Sunshine-Open
Technical-Open
TVI-John AA2BN
VEC Testing-Chick WA2USI
4-H Parking-Bob KR2U

The W2MMD Repeaters

147.78/18 Mhz- Pitman

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)

September Meeting Program

Socializing

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

