



# Crosstalk

Issue #4

April, 2000

## President's Message



*affiliated club*



I'm sure everyone is aware, by now, that the trailer is without power and has been for some time. The problem has been addressed and is being worked on, albeit, not very quickly. This is due to some scheduling and technical conflicts but is being handled appropriately. Board meetings, normally held at the site, have been held at the Harrison House diner instead. Although this worked out to be a nice temporary solution turnout at the Board meetings has been dismal. We really need to see all the elected officers and their smiling faces at each and every Board meeting so we can conduct our business in an appropriate fashion.

A rather distressing situation is that we have no Hamfest Chairman this year. I have talked to our Hamfest Chairman of 1999 and he has had to decline from doing it again this year, therefore, we need a volunteer to take the lead. If we can get someone to head up the Hamfest then possibly they could get some people to do the legwork. If we don't have things fully underway by May then we would be hard pressed to get anything into QST for publication in August. If we don't have a hamfest we would not reap the financial benefits needed for sustaining the clubhouse. Something for all to consider.

I have received an invitation to join an internet listserv for club presidents for the Atlantic Division. I took them up on their offer, if I did it right, and hope to start receiving some really useful information on different concepts, etc. that are being used in other clubs to sustain and enhance membership, activities, etc. I should have more information on it by next meeting.

I hope someone gives careful consideration on the Hamfest and steps forward to head it up this year. See you at the meeting.

ART - KA2DOT

### 2000 DUES

**GCARC dues for the year 2000 are now 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

Well, this has been a "banner" DX month with solar flux index numbers mostly over 200! 10 meters has been especially hot with countries such as Thailand, China, and Mongolia blasting through with big signals. The northern longitudinal path is now open, especially between 5 and 8 PM, to the Orient. If you haven't gotten that li'l ol' 10 antenna up by now, oh well, time marches on, etc. By now, many of you probably have worked the two new countries, namely, East Timor (4W prefix), and the Chesterfield Islands (TX0DX). Future Chesterfield operations necessarily will be DXpeditions, whereas there will be a number of (eventually) 4W hams in permanent residence.

On a related subject, this ham just received a 10 meter QSL card direct from Botswana! That's the good news. The bad news is the card listed no time of the QSO and no mode! Well, guess what? That card will not count for any award anywhere (if one desired to use the card for that purpose). Be sure you do yourself and your QSO station a favor and include all pertinent information on your QSL card, namely the date and time of the QSO in UTC or GMT time (always!), the mode used (i.e. SSB, CW, RTTY, etc.), signal report exchanged, and frequency or band. Oh, yes, don't forget to include the correct callsign of the station worked. Thousands of QSL cards are never exchanged each year because of missing or misinformation. Don't be one of them !

Now let's see what's hot for this month:

Station	Dates	Freq/Mode	Rarity*	Country
WINNIE	on-going	20,15,10,CW,SSB	5	East Timor
CE0Z/OH3JF	till 4/8	20,17,15,10, all mode	4	Juan Fernandez
XT?? y F5JRY	3/27-4/11	20,15,10,SSB	3	Burkina Fast
KC4AAA	til 11/2000	SSB, 14.243@05:15M	2	Antarctica
ZF2NT	til 5/2000	All, mostly CW, SSB	1	Layman Islands
XU7	til 5/5/2000	All bands, modes	4	Laos
4S7BRG	til 6/2000	All bands, CW, SSB	2	Sri Lanka
JT1CS	now, 2300z	10, CW, SSB	4	Mongolia
JT1CO	now, 2300z	10, CW, SSB	4	Mongolia
KH2JU	now	20,15,10,CW,SSB	3	Guam Island

\* 5 rarest

73 de Doug WA2NPD

-TNX to 59(9) Report, K2JF, and AA2WN

# Field Day 2000

You are cordially invited to join the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club during its annual participation in the ARRL Field Day exercise. If you like to mix your hobby with a little bit of "roughing it" in the form of camping, this event is for you. Field Day is an exercise where your skills in setting up and operating under less than ideal circumstances are put to the test.

Field Day is NOT a contest, although it may seem like one. You keep track of the contacts made as though it was a contest, and you try to make as many contacts as possible in a twenty-four hour period. However, the event is one that tests the ability to throw a station together under "emergency-like" circumstances.

Typically, contesters spend many man-days a year preparing for a major contest. Towers are erected. Massive amounts of money are poured into equipment in the form of competition-grade transceivers, accessories, and amplifiers. The station is usually built to go "all out" for a 24-48 hour time period.

Field Day is different in that the preparations are for stations designed to be temporary and "make-do". This introduces a whole new set of variables. How quickly can an antenna be erected and still be reliable enough for what could be several weeks of operation? What is the minimum amount of equipment necessary to get the job done? Can I easily repair or replace this piece of equipment if it fails? Is it easily transportable? These are the types of questions that should be going through the mind of your band chairman or anyone designing a station for emergency communications. If you are an operator, you should be looking for ways to improve your operating skills. Perhaps you just need more practice in digging out that weak station buried in the QRM. Field Day is a perfect way to hone all these skills.

Even if you have never joined us before, you can make a valuable contribution to our effort. We typically have several stations on the air using both CW and SSB. We try to have a presence on all the bands from 160 through 2 meters during the event. We have even had a satellite station in the past several efforts. Perhaps you are looking to get your feet wet on a band you have never been on before. Or perhaps you want to get a feel for what it is like to "contest". As I mentioned before, Field Day is not a contest, but because it has a feel like one, you can try it out and see if you like it without the pressure of thinking you are disappointing your fellow "contesters".

Field Day is an educational event as well as a great social event. When we aren't operating or fixing whatever Murphy broke this year, we are reminiscing about previous Field Days, discussing the unique design of a particular antenna being used at the site, or

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## Field Day 2000 - continued

enjoying a meal among friends who share a common interest. There's something for just about everyone at the site. You don't want to miss it.

I will be calling the band chairmen from last year to see if they wish to host the bands again this year. I will list the chairmen as I get them confirmed in the next several issues of Crosstalk leading up to Field Day. Please contact the chairmen directly if you wish to help out their effort. Even if you sign up to operate a particular band, feel free to float among the stations when you aren't working that particular band. Help at the other stations is always appreciated.

If you are an incumbent band chairman or are considering being a chairman, I can be reached in the evening or via email at [kg2my@snip.net](mailto:kg2my@snip.net) any time.

This year's GCARC Field Day effort will be held at the club site on the 4H fairgrounds in Mullica Hill, NJ just off Rt. 77. It will be on June 24th and 25th. The event starts at 2:00PM EST and lasts for 24 hours. Setting up the previous night is permitted. When I have a clearer picture of what bands will be on the air this year, I will be creating a site map of where the various stations will be on the site. **Note for band chairmen: This map will be STRICTLY adhered to.** I expect to get input from all of you so we can keep inter-station interference to a minimum. Once the site map is blessed, no deviation will be tolerated. I hope to see you there.

So far, as of March 22, we have the following band chairmen:

160 CW OPEN  
 160 SSB OPEN  
 80 CW OPEN (incumbent Jim, K2OWE)  
 80 SSB John, K2JF and Stu, N2WUP  
 40 CW Harry, AA2WN and his band of merry men /;-)  
 40 SSB Gene, N2IMK and Wayne, WA2LET  
 20 CW Willie, WA2DUV and Merrill WK2G  
 20 SSB OPEN (incumbent Ray, WB2LNR)  
 15 CW OPEN (incumbent John, K2ZA and John, AA2BN)  
 15 SSB OPEN (incumbent John, K2ZA and John, AA2BN)  
 10 CW OPEN  
 10 SSB OPEN  
 6 John, K2JF and Stu, N2WUP  
 2 OPEN (incumbent Alan, KB2AYU)  
 Satellite OPEN (incumbent Alan, KB2AYU)  
 Nov/Tech OPEN (the ARRL may eliminate this station)

## Return to Mir On Schedule

Several news agencies (including Reuters) are reporting that all systems are go for cosmonauts to return to the abandoned Mir space station. Bolstered by deep pride in its long history of space exploration, Russia will launch a new crew on April 4th to the orbiting Mir station, which had previously been slated to see retirement by crashing into the atmosphere at about the same time.

"There will be a lot of work to do when they get there but until then all we have had to do is to turn on the computer and we've done that," said Viktor Blagov, Mir's deputy flight director. Yuri Grigoriyev, deputy head designer at the Energiya space corporation that owns Mir, said the latest crew will be aboard the station for about 45 days, but that the journey could be extended by a month or so.

Acting President Vladimir Putin has backed Mir's revival, but space officials say it remains unclear whether space will remain a priority for this new administration. "We have not had a single government that did not promise its support," said Sergei Gorbunov, spokesman for the Russian Aviation and Space Agency, "but our budget is still not enough and financial questions remain."

It is hoped that the amateur radio equipment aboard Mir is still functional -- and will be activated during this mission.

Stay tuned to ANS for further details.

- *TNX to AMSAT News Service, Reuters, and Florida Today*

## General Membership Meeting Program

"Skywarn, National Traffic System, and MARS"

presented by

Gene Bond WB2UVB

## Hams helping Hams

Back in December 1999 I had a very nice 15 meter SSB QSO with a ham in India (Zal VU2BK). Since this was a "new one" for me on 15 phone, I sent my QSL direct to Zal. Later in the month I received his QSL back. In addition to his card I received a request from him asking for assistance in acquiring some capacitors to help repair his father's (VU2BK) old home brew rig. If memory serves me, VU2BK is a retired Army vet who is severely handicapped.

I placed a message on the local Dx-packet cluster requesting assistance and promptly received a reply back from Jim (K2OWE). Jim passed along a bag of caps of various values at the next GCARC meeting. A few days later sent these, a few from my stash and an assortment donated by Doug (WA2NPD) off to India. I recently received word via snail mail that the caps had been safely received and repairs had been completed.

So Ham in a distant land is now back on the air do the generosity of our fellow club members.

Here is a small excerpt from Zal's letter:

"Haven't enough words to thank Jim, Doug and your good self, for all the kindness and generosity. Thanks very much for the lovely caps, received all Ok yesterday (2-22-00).

Ham radio still not recognized fully over here and on pretty low priority. Will keep a ear open for all of you - preferably on 10/15M where we still have some breathing space!"

My personal thanks to Jim and Doug for their donations. I thought it appropriate to pass this story along to the rest of the club, as it is another fine example of what a great hobby we are involved in.

- *TNX to Harry Bryant AA2WN for this story*

### **GCARC Officers**

President - *Art Strong KA2DOT*  
 Vice President - *Gene Wallace N2IMK*  
 Treasurer - *Bob Krchnavek K2DAD*  
 Recording Secretary - *Open*  
 Corresponding Secretary - *Chris West WA2MVU*

### **Board of Directors**

*Chuck Colabrese WA2TML*  
*Wayne Wilson WA2LET*

*Al Arrison KB2AYU*  
*Bob Krukowski KR2U*  
*Bill Blakeley WA2ADB*

## Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following club members:

Ron Block KB2UYT	4/12
Irma Colabrese N2FNF	4/18
Gurdon Cooper AA4N	4/12
Greg Glenn KA2KTW	4/7
Bob Krukowski KR2U	4/24
Ray Metzger AI2B	4/2
Mike Mollet N2SRO	4/18
Whitney Myers KB2ZTL	4/18
Bill Wyatt N2WIB	4/4



## Crosstalk Submissions

All submissions, queries, comments, editorials, or requests for interviews may be directed to:

**John Zaruba AA2BN**  
**491 Pennsylvania Ave**  
**Franklinville, NJ 08322**

**[jzaruba@snip.net](mailto:jzaruba@snip.net)**  
**[aa2bn@amsat.org](mailto:aa2bn@amsat.org)**

**Submission deadline: 4/21/00**

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## Committees

*Advertising - John N2AWD*

*ARES/RACES -Chick WA2USI*

*Awards - Jack K2ZA*

*Banquet - Bob KR2U*

*Budget - Bob K2DAD*

*Clubhouse Site - Al KB2AYU*

*Constitution - Open*

*Crosstalk - John AA2BN*

*Database - John AA2BN*

*DX - Doug WA2NPD*

*Field Day - Tony KG2MY*

*Hamfest - John N2AWD*

*Hospitality - Ray WB2NBJ*

*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 131.8 Hz)

**GCARC Meetings**

**General Membership**

8p.m. 1st Wednesday every month, Pfeiffer Community Center, Williamstown, NJ

**Board of Directors**

8 p.m. 3rd Wednesday every month, GCARC Club site, Harrison Twp. 4-H Grounds  
~1 mile south of Mullica Hill on RT77

**Nets**

**ARES/RACES -  
Sundays 20:00 Hrs  
(147.78/18 and  
223.06/224.66  
repeaters)**

**10 Meter - Sundays  
following the  
ARES/Races Net  
(28.350 Mhz)**

**April Meeting Program**

**“SKYWARN, NTS, & MARS”**

presented by

*Gene Bond WB2UVB*

stamp



P.O. Box 370  
Pitman, NJ 08071

Mailing Label