



## Presidents Message

After a week in Florida, I now have to get busy and write this month's message. There is still much to do this month and I will discuss that in a minute. But first let me say that I enjoyed my visit with my brother Art, WB2HIF, and his family. Art has recently returned to ham radio and is enjoying it very much. While I was down there, I helped him get set up on PSK and other ham things. He is on the air with several nets including the subnet, the spiderweb net and the marine mobile service net.

### 2004 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2004 are due. The annual dues are \$20.00. Please send your checks directly to the treasurer, Bob Krchnavek, (K2DAD) at 50 Eastwick Dr., Gibbsboro, NJ 08026.

Getting back to club business, we need, as far as I know at this point, a chairman for Field Day. Ray, WB2LNR, did a fine job last year. We didn't do quite as well as we had hoped to do due to band conditions. A few more contacts would have put us over the top. I hope everybody is ready to get out there and beat last year. If anyone would like to be Chairman for the event, let me or one of the other officers know. How about it Ray?

With Harry, AA2WN, doing the Hamfest things are moving along. The Hamfest will be August 22 and work is underway to get ready. We always need help to get the show on the road. Flyers have to be printed and mailed, permits needed and other chores accomplished. Don't leave it to Harry to do it all. Let him know what you can do to help!

If anyone knows of a speaker we might get for a future meeting see me or Harry and we will see if we can make it happen.

I hope to see a good turnout at the meeting which will be at the usual place.

Best 73 & 88 to all,  
Ray, WB2NBJ

# DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Well, I guess its official now. I have now read two articles from experts in the field, in addition to Tad Cook's February propagation bulletin, which concludes that the two top bands (160 and 80 meters) are more negatively affected by high geomagnetic field disturbances (i.e. high A and K indices) than are the other HF bands. In fact, K values of 3 and above, affect these bands very negatively especially in the higher latitudes. Studies have found that magnetic disturbances greatly lower the signal to noise ratio at the receiver because of scattering of the wave, whereas the rest of the propagated wave parameters are not affected. Because the 160 and 80 meter DX waves involve more skips, the signal strength is much reduced by the resultant wave scattering. This is why working DX is more successful on 160 and 80 meters during years of low sunspot activity (11 year cycle lows) because the resultant drop in geomagnetic disturbances (quieter band conditions) more than makes up for the loss in signal due to lower solar flux conditions. That is during the eleven year cycle lows, the sun is not emitting as much radiation flux (lower SFI), but is also not emitting as many flares, coronal holes, magnetic storms, etc. (i.e. low K values). The polar DX paths are especially hurt by high K values, as any magnetic disturbances are almost always more severe at the earth's poles. Hence, during such times, one may not be able to hear China or Mongolia on 80 meters living in New Jersey (polar path), whereas, the ham living in Florida may be able to work those countries without too much difficulty. One other factor pointed out by the experts is that, because of the sun's eleven year somewhat repetitive behavior, the geomagnetic disturbances are at their maximum when the eleven year cycle is about half way between the high and low (like about right now). Hence, maybe next year we will be able to work those 80 meter zones still needed for 5BWAZ (Hi). So, what's up for this month?

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	COUNTRY
7Q? (1)	4/18 – 5/1	80 – 10; All	3	Malawi
D2U	next 6 Mo.	All; All	3	Angola
3B9C (1)	3/19 – 4/12	All; All	3	Rodrigues I.
5H3/SM1TDE	4/4-4/18	30,17,12; CW,RTTY	3	Tanzania
HB0/h/c	4/1 – 4/8	160-10; CW, SSB	2	Liechtenstein
T33C (1)	4/4- 4/17	All; All	3	Banaba I.
4X/K2LS	4/14-4-24	80-10; CW, SSB	2	Israel
EA9IE	3/29-4/5	160; CW, SSB	3	Ceuta/Melilla
C56JJ	3/29-4/5	160,80,WARC; ? ?	2	Gambia

\* No. 5 is rarest (1) is major DxPedition

Tnx to Weekly DX, 425 DX NEWS, K2JF, W2YC, WA2LET, AA2WN

## Bogus ARRL.net Messages Still Circulating

E-mail messages purporting to be from the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service, "The ARRL.net team" or some variation continue to show up in members' inboxes. The messages, which often carry a subject line along the lines of "Warning about your e-mail account," indicate that the recipient's ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service <call sign>@arrl.net address will be closed within three days because of an alleged violation of acceptable practices. These messages are false and did not come from The ARRL Forwarding Service. They are the result of one of the variants on a number of viruses now permeating the Internet. A file usually is attached to these messages. Do not open these files. Opening them could result in your computer being infected by a virus. The ARRL advises its members to be cautious in opening any message and/or attachment, even if it appears to be from someone you know. All of these viruses use e-mail addresses from the address book of an infected computer to falsify the "From:" address in the header to make it appear that the message is from someone the recipient knows.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the [ARRL Letter](#)

## Club Member Profiles

This month Crosstalk profiles Doug Gehring, WA2NPD, a regular contributor to this newsletter. Doug is the second longest continuously registered member of our Club, having joined in late 1960 (the oldest is Gurdon Cooper, AA4N).

Doug was a Morse code intercept operator for the Army Security Agency (NSA) during the Korean War period, and served for 15 months in Taiwan. Doug says he could copy about 35 wpm during his days with the ASA. Following discharge from the Military and marriage, Doug decided to retain his interest in code and radio and obtained his General Ham License in 1960 receiving the call WA2NPD which he has retained until this day. During the year incentive licensing was introduced (early 1970's), he upgraded to Extra Class. His radio interests have always been DXing and Contesting. Presently, Doug uses an ICOM 756PRO transceiver, a Ten Tec Titan 425 Amplifier, and has a base station, mobile rig, and handheld for 2 M FM. His computer is a Dell running Windows XP and uses DX4WIN and DXTELNET (TNX to W2YC) for DXing enhancement. He has a 55 ft. crank up tower with a triband Cushcraft ATB-34 antenna. Other antennas include dipoles for 80 and 40 meters, a trapped dipole for the WARC bands, and a Butternut 80/40 M vertical mounted in ground plane configuration.

Doug has achieved the Honor Roll in Mixed, CW, and SSB modes, has 5BDXCC, WAZ, WAS, the DXCC Challenge Award, and has 195 zones towards his 5BWAZ. He is a recipient of the GCARC Milt Goldman Award, a member of the A-1 Operator Club, and is a Life Member of the ARRL

Doug has not worked many contests in recent years claiming he wants to maintain tranquility within his present family.

Doug holds an AB in Math from Bucknell University, and MS in Chemistry from the University of Delaware, and is 12 hours shy of a PhD in Chemistry. He retired as a Senior Research Associate from the DuPont Company in 1992 after 37 years of service and then for the next ten years served as Laboratory Director for National Refrigerants, Inc., retiring in 2002. He is the author or coauthor of some 20 technical publications in various Chemical and Refrigeration Journals. In 1996, the Refrigeration Industry awarded Doug the Schultz Medal for outstanding service in the field of refrigeration chemistry. As a result of his jobs and military service, Doug has traveled to all continents of the world except Africa.

Doug's other interests include memberships in the Wenonah Lions Club, the American Legion, the Battleship Radio Club, NJ2BB, the Boy Scouts where he serves presently as Vice District Chairman for Finance of the Old Colony District, is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, belongs to two duplicate bridge Clubs, and served previously as a Borough Councilman in Wenonah for 17 years.

He is married to Diana, has two sons and two daughters, and 5 grandchildren. Doug was born and raised in Wenonah, and, except for military service and a 4 year tour with DuPont in Corpus Christi, TX, has always lived in Wenonah. Doug welcomes anyone in the Club to visit his shack where he says the nearby refrigerator always has sufficient 807s for all.

## The American QRP and NJQRP Clubs

The NJ QRP Club which usually meets once a month at a Mall on Route 1 near Princeton has been a very active in promoting QRP as well as kitting some very interesting projects. Last summer the NJ QRP Club joined with a number of other regional QRP clubs to form the American QRP Club.

Even if you have no interest in QRP operation, you might be interested in visiting these Clubs web-sites where you can see the types of kits that are available at very reasonable prices. These kits can be very educational and be a big help to new hams who want to learn more about electronics. The web-sites are [www.amqrp.org](http://www.amqrp.org) and [www.njqrp.org](http://www.njqrp.org).

## Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following Club members:

Merrill Brown, WK2G	4/1
Irma Colabrese, N2FNF	4/18
Daniel Damiano, KC2ELC	4/20
Gurdon Cooper, AA4N	4/12
Bob Krukowski, KR2U	4/24
Frank Mayer, WY3D	4/21
Raymond Metzger, AI2B	4/2
Whitney Myers, KD2ZTL	4/18



## 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: 4/26/2004

President-Ray Schnapp WB2NBJ  
Vice President-Wayne Wilson WA2LET  
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML  
Lou Joseph W2LYL  
Al Arrison KB2AYU

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-Ray WB2LNR  
DX-Doug WA2NPD  
Field Day-Ray WB2LNR  
Hamfest-Harry AA2WN

## GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Harry Bryant AA2WN  
Corresponding Secretary-John Fisher K2JF

## Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO  
Bob Krukowski KR2U  
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

## Committees

Hospitality-Ken N2CQ  
Membership-Ray WB2LNR  
Nominations-Art Strong KA2DOT  
Publicity-Open  
Repeaters-Chuck WA2TML  
Scholarships-Greg WN2T  
Special Services-Gene N2IMK  
Sunshine-Open  
Technical-Bob KR2U  
TVI-John AA2BN  
VEC Testing-Chick WA2USI

**The W2MMD Repeaters**

147.78/18 Mhz- Pitman  
(CTCSS 131.8Hz)

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)

**April Meeting Program**

Socializing

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

