



## Presidents Message

Well, spring is now here, and it's time to start thinking about fixing any damage to the antennas, which might have occurred during the harsh winter weather. It's always a challenge to fend off the visits of Mr. Murphy and his associates, who take delight in tearing down what we have so carefully constructed. While you are thinking of antennas, also think of what you might be able to do at Field Day. Maybe last year the band you were on had a last minute antenna. Maybe you have since thought of what might be a better antenna. On the low bands, sometimes a horizontal loop is the best antenna for working the near stuff. A good NVIS loop doesn't have to be very high off the ground to be effective, and is easily constructed and erected in a short period of time. We have some great telephone poles out at the Club site, which would make great places to tie off the corners of the loops. Even the high-rate 40M CW guys might find a loop useful as an alternate antenna at times. I'm going to attempt to build one for 80M CW this year. If you haven't come out to Field Day in awhile, why not come out and join the fun this year? Last year we had gourmet cooking provided by our own Bill, WA2ADB. Perhaps he will again provide outstanding nourishment to the hard-working operators.

### 2005 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2005 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.

I want to say a few words about the ARRL Logbook of the World program. I only recently got around to checking it out. Although I have been a ham for 38 years now, I had never gotten around to applying for DXCC. The past week or so I took the time to figure out the whole LOTW process, and submitted all of my QSOS from my novice days in 1967 forward to now, about 27,000 QSOS. Once you have submitted your cards, and logged into your special area, you can see how many of your contacts have been confirmed (submitted as a file) by the other hams you have worked. In my case, it was about 2300. I was pleasantly surprised to see that I qualify for basic mixed DXCC in their system, as well a CW DXCC. It also tracks all of the bands automatically for the various band DXCCs. It took me all of about 5 minutes to complete the process and pay with a credit card. I have now avoided creating paper lists for the 406 QSOS, which I will be credited for the various bands, and I should receive my DXCC as soon as they process it. New arrivals to the QSO list are placed in a separate column, so you can easily see what new countries have arrived for you to add to your award. I do have 315 DXCC entities confirmed by QSL, and many of these are old and will probably never appear in LOTW. However, the LOTW system seems great to take the initial burden of paperwork off of your application. By the way, it's not free, but all things considered, to me at least, is worth the cost. You are charged by the QSO. My 400+ credited QSOS came to about \$85.00 plus the initial DXCC filing fee of \$10.00. The system seems to be catching on, with almost 68 Million QSOS having been uploaded to LOTW!

Darrell, AB2E

# DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Thanks to Harry, AA2WN, we were alerted to an interesting article appearing in a journal entitled Research News, March 26, 2005 issue. The article can be recovered via <http://solar.uleth.ca/news/05Mar2005/index.php>. The title of the article is The Next Solar Maximum the Smallest in 100 years, and reports on solar studies conducted by two PhDs from the Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratory, Nagoya University, Japan, and Edward W. Cliver at the Space Vehicles Directorate, Air Force Research Lab., Hanscom Air Force Base, in Massachusetts. Their results are based upon one of the most successful solar cycle prediction methods in existence, called the "Precursor Method." This method is able to predict the magnitude of the next solar maximum up to about 7 years before the solar maximum occurs. This is possible by examining the strength of the magnetic fields that congregate in the polar regions of the Sun a few years before the solar minimum of each solar cycle and relating the strength of those fields to the observed sunspot numbers during the next solar maximum. The strength of these polar magnetic fields of the sun is related to the magnitude of the magnetic flux necessary to drive the sunspot activity during the next solar cycle. Sufficient data now exists that they can reasonably predict the next solar maximum will be associated with a sunspot number of only 75, with an error of plus or minus 8. If this prediction holds, the next cycle (cycle 24) will peak around year 2011 with a sunspot number lower than any previous cycle since cycle 14 which peaked in 1906 with a value of only 64. Obviously, one must read the entire article to get a better understanding, as we have room here for only the gist of this study. Regardless, this kind of prediction is pretty gruesome news for the avid DXer who is eagerly awaiting the next maximum to occur. I guess a word to the wise would be to work all you can over the next few years and not to wait until euphoria arrives in another 6 years, or so. Well, let us see what will transpire for this month. By now, I hope all have worked FT5XO at least once. No question, the Kerguelen Is. operation was very well done with a great group of operators. Unfortunately, the SFI values were quite low during this operation and to work them on 10, 12, and 15 meters was either impossible or most difficult.

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	COUNTRY
9Q6MGK	Now till 4/5	30 – 10; CW, SSB	3	Rep. of Congo
4T5--- (1)	2005	All : All	2	Peru
PJ4/PA3CNX	2/23 – 3/14	80 – 6; SSB, CW	2	Bonaire Is.
DU7/K7QN	April	20 – 10; CW, SSB	3	Philippines
FM/F5MNW	4/10 – 4/24	160 – 10; CW	2	Martinique
TT8M: AMO	3/12 – 4/7	160 – 10; CW, SSB	3	Chad
XX9---	4/7 – 4/11	20 -10; Digital, SSTV	3	Macau
ZK1APX	4/4 - 4/12	40 – 10; CW, SSB	2	So. Cooks
ZL7/AI5P	4/15 – 4/26	40 – 10; CW, SSB	3	Chatham Is.
ZF2UF	4/1 – 4/9	80 – 10; CW, SSB	2	Grand Cayman
3D2IZ	Now – 4/3	160 – 10; CW, SSB	3	Fiji Is.

(1) Special Callsign to be used in Peru during the 2005 Anniversary year.

\* Nr. 5 is rarest

Tnx to The Weekly DX, 425 DX News, K2JF, AA2WN, W2YC, and WA2LET

## April Meeting-Operating from VP5

If you read last month's President's message and DX Dope, you know that Harry, AA2WN, and Dave, W2YC, recently traveled to the Caicos Islands to operate during a contest. At the April meeting Harry will put on a presentation about that trip. If you have always wanted to operate from an exotic destination this is a chance to get the story on the planning and work that goes into such a trip.

## Club Member Profile

This month Crosstalk profiles Ken Newman, N2CQ:

Ken's interest in ham radio began after he saw a ham radio demonstration at a Boy Scout event in Nebraska. He and four other scouts worked together as an unofficial club to pass the licensing test and all four passed.

He was first licensed as W0RNH in November 1953 at age 16. To take the test Ken needed to go 100 miles to the nearest FCC Office in Omaha. The highlight of his trip to Omaha was a visit to the famous World Radio Labs in nearby Council Bluffs, Iowa where they saw all the radio equipment the company used to build and sell nationwide. It was a great store. He didn't have the cash for a "Globe King" but ended up with a used National NC-88 and a very old used Hallicrafters transmitter.

Ken was in the Navy from 1957 to 1961, and stayed in Philadelphia after the service. He married Martha in June 1962 and got back on the air as WB2EUU from their apartment in Woodbury. In 1964 he and Martha moved to their current home in West Deptford.

Ken joined the GCARC around 1968. After he upgraded to an Advanced Class License his call sign was changed to W2FBF. He and Martha were blessed with a "Harmonic", Michelle, in 1970 and he got his Extra License as N2CQ at about the same time.

He has had many interests in ham radio including DX and contesting. He is mostly into contesting these days and says that being a part of the Frankford Radio makes contesting even more fun. He is also into QRP operations, and building simple transceivers and using them.

He retired from Unisys in the fall of 2000 after 38 years of service. He had been working at the Federal Reserve Bank in Philadelphia for Unisys, maintaining the mainframes and banking equipment. He has been a member of ARRL for 50 years and GCARC member for almost 40 years. He says he has enjoyed his years in ham radio and hopes to continue for many more.

## Repeater Correction

Last month in the Club Member Profile column I said that Ray Martin had an operating repeater at 443.450 MHz. Unfortunately that repeater is not yet functioning. Ray has an operating repeater on 444.400 MHz with a PL tone of 203.5 Hz that is open for all to use. Sorry for any inconvenience this error might have caused you. I hope you did not spend too much time trying to bring up a repeater that was not on the air yet.

Your Editor

## GCARC DX Honor Roll

Let me first say that I am sorry that I have been unable to attend a club meeting in quite some time now. My wife has Parkinson's disease, complicated by Lewy body dementia and as her primary caregiver it is difficult to get out in the evening.

In addition to GCARC, I am also a member of the Frankford Radio Club and I have been writing a DX column for the FRC for over 20 years now. Many years ago I started a monthly FRC DX Honor Roll listing. Recently, 'El Presidente', AB2E, contacted me and asked if I would start up a GCARC DX Honor Roll for Crosstalk. I told him I would be happy to do so if we got some participation. So, here's the deal: I need you to send me information on your total countries (DXCC entities) worked as per the below. Note, I said worked – if you worked it, it counts. We're on the honor system.

- WARC Bands: total countries worked on each of 30, 17 and 12 meter bands
- 160 Meters: total countries worked
- Mobile: total countries worked
- 5BDXCC: add together the total countries you have worked on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters and provide me that number
- 6 Meters: total countries worked
- IOTA: if you chase IOTA's, let me have your total number of IOTA's worked

So, there you have it. Send me anything you have, even if it is just one number. If I get enough participation, I'll run with this. We'll publish a monthly GCARC Honor Roll listing which I will keep updated as you keep sending me your latest stats. So, participate and watch your call moving up the Honor Roll ladder. You can email me at [n2ss@n2ss.com](mailto:n2ss@n2ss.com)

Tony, N2SS

## FCC Licensees outside Region 2 to Gain Early Access to 7100-7200 KHz

The FCC has given licensees operating in FCC-administered territory in Regions 1 and 3 early access to 7100-7200 kHz. The change was included in a massive Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-139, a portion of which dealt with 40-meter worldwide realignment. The R & O cautions Commission-licensed amateurs outside of Region 2 to avoid interfering with broadcast stations in the 7100-7200 kHz band during the transition period, which ends in 2009 per an agreement reached at WRC-03.

Other countries also have made 7100-7200 kHz available to amateurs, generally on a secondary, non-interference basis.

In a footnote to the R&O, the FCC said amateur operators may file interference complaints if they receive interference from HF broadcast signals directed to Region 2. "In the current seasonal schedule, we observe that several HFBC signals are directed to the United States in the band 7100-7300 kHz," the FCC noted. The FCC has not announced the effective date of the rule change.

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

## April Birthdays

Congratulations to the following Club members with birthdays in April:

Merrill Brown, WK2G  
Irma Colabrese, N2FNF  
Gurdon Cooper, AA4N  
Daniel Damiano, KC2ELC  
Bob Krukowski, KR2U  
Frank Mayer, WY3D  
Ray Metzger, AI2B  
Mike Mollet, N2SRO  
Whitney Myers, KB2ZTL



## 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: 4/25/2005

President-Darrell Neron, AB2E  
Vice President-Wayne Wilson WA2LET  
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML  
Bob Krukowski KR2U  
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

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-Bob KC2NLM  
Hamfest-Harry AA2WN

## GCARC Officers

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

## Board of Directors

Al Arrison KB2AYU  
Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO  
Steve Blasko, W2TDS

## 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-Open  
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**

VP5 Operation  
Harry Bryant, AA2WN

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

