



Presidents Message

Last month I talked about using less than optimal antennas for DX. I thought I would continue along those lines this month. A few years ago I purchased a Butternut HF9V $\frac{1}{4}$ wave vertical to take along on DXpeditions for rapid deployment and quick setup. Very often the Butternut has been reported to perform extremely well, especially if very close to salt water. Before moving to my current QTH, I had the Butternut set up at a temporary location where I was living. The landlady graciously allowed me to set up the Butternut in her back yard, which was rather small, but had enough room to run some radials. I want to stress the importance of using the right kind of radials with the Butternut. The antenna will work like a champ on all bands, if you follow Butternut's technical notes on using elevated tuned radials, 3 or 4 for each band. I wasn't able to elevate them properly at that location, but if you use insulated wire for the radials, you can string them out in several directions along the ground, or in my case, woven into the fabric of a chain link fence which also served as a mount for the Butternut. At 26 ft, the antenna performs extremely well on 40 meters and above (32 ft height being optimal for 40M, but the supplied loading coil does a respectable job). The antenna is not bad on 80M, and although I purchased the 160M loading coil, performance was next to nil on that band, the antenna just being too short. The formula for a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave vertical element is $234/\text{fMhz}$. The formula for the tuned radials is $240/\text{fMhz}$. I've seen Butternut HF9Vs going on eBay for about \$150, not bad for a compact and portable antenna.

Another excellent (and cheap) homebuilt antenna, which is very effective for DX is the wire Inverted L, also using the above formula for use with 3 or 4 tuned radials per band. I made a multi-band prototype which I used a couple summers ago in England with great results for DX. I made it for 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, and 40M, using $\frac{1}{4}$ wave vertical elements for each of those bands to a common feed point, then cutting 3 tuned and insulated radials per band. In my case, I strung the whole thing up indoors, in our 3rd floor London flat. I made the vertical section the height of the room, about 8 feet, and strung the rest horizontally. A few weeks later I had about 800 QSOs in the log, about half from the Russian DX contest, and the rest from casual QSOs as M/AB2E. Of course, ideally you would want to have a nice copper ground for the radials, but on the 3rd floor I had to make do with a copper plumbing pipe of unknown grounding properties.

Putting up an antenna in England is a challenge. Housing is extremely close in the urban areas, much like a condo or apartment complex is here in the US. To make matters worse, the ground floor owner of the flat (condo) also takes use of the ground which would normally be shared by all owners in a normal US condo association, so any attempt to put up an outdoor antenna draws the immediate ire of your neighbors below. From living in England, I can see why the G5RV antenna became so popular so quickly there. It can easily be hidden, and works very well, given its parameters and size. An excellent resource for all the antennas I've mentioned here is the antenna book by ON4UN, John Devoldere, published by ARRL.

WA2QOY Silent Key

Ray Martin reports that GCARC member Harold B. Berry, WA2QOY, passed away on February 14 and was buried on February 19 in Clarksboro. Our sympathy and thoughts go out to his family. Harold was a long time member and will be missed.

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Looking at the DX line up below for this month, one has to wonder if there has ever been a time period in the recent past when such a rare group of entities has appeared all at once! The irony is that we are at the bottom of a cycle and they pick this particular time to make their rare appearances (BS7, TL, KH8, etc.). Oh well, beggars can't be choosers. Time to crank up the low band systems, for certainly 10, 12, and 15 meters will be wipe outs. Yours truly has his 40 m dipole showing a dead short. Most likely it's the balun which has been going strong for some 15 years. One problem with baluns is that, even when they are working perfectly, they present a dead short if measuring the coax shield to inner conductor. The only way to check them is to climb the tree, etc., and remove the balun and replace with a dummy load. My guess is that I "zapped" it with an overload shot from the linear somewhere along the way. Do we really need a balun in the dipole circuit? Probably not. If one has a real TVI/BCI neighbor problem, the balun will help. It will also help if one has trouble fabricating the two dipole legs to be the same length. Otherwise, if one uses a matchbox or the XCVR has a built in tuner the loss of RF output without a balun is negligible anyway. Hence, I will replace the balun (if found to be the problem) with a standard center insulator and split the feed line on either side, etc. Hopefully, in this way, it will be good for another 15 years, at which time I shall be 90. Well, let's see what there is to see for this month:

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	ENTITY
YK1BA	4/10 – 4/27	80 – 10 : SSB, CW, RTTY	3	Syria
TL8QC	Now – 4/30	30, 17 : CW, RTTY	4	Cent. Afr. Rep.
N8S (1)	4/4 – 4/15	All: All	4	Swain's Is.
5W5A (1)	4/17 – 4/24	All: All	3	Samoa
3DAOFC (2)	4/5 – 4/9	80 – 10: CW, SSB, RTTY	3	Swaziland
3D2AP, et. al. (1)	4/27 – 3/3	All: All	3	Fiji Is.
7P8-- (1)	4/5 – 4/12	80 – 12 : All	3	Lesotho
BS7H (1)	late April	All: All	5+	Scarborough
K3TRM/6Y5	3/31 – 4/9	160 – 10 ; All	2	Jamaica
FS/K8EL	4/17 – 5/6	80 – 17; SSB, CW	2	St. Martin
OX60AO	4/1 – 4/30	? : ?	3	Greenland

(1) is major Dxpediton (2) is minor Dxpediton * Nr. 5 is rarest
TNX to: The Weekly DX, QRZ.DX, AA2WN, W2YC, WA2LET, K2JF

GCARC Hamfest 2007

This will be the 30th consecutive year GCARC has sponsored this event. Please plan to attend and lend a hand for our only money making event of the year. Without our Hamfest, we can not support other activities such as Field Day and maintaining our Club site and station. If anyone has an idea about how we can make this our best Hamfest ever to celebrate our Pearl anniversary, please let me know.

This will be the 5th and final year I plan to act as the Hamfest Chairman. I would like to "Elmer" a new chairperson for the future of the Hamfest starting this year. The job is very easy, requires only a few hours of preparation time before the event and your fellow club members always are available for assistance. If you are interested in taking on this very important responsibility, please let me and our President know.

Harry Bryant, AA2WN
aa2wn@arrl.net

April Meeting

At the April meeting Joe Vilardo, K3JV, will give a presentation on emergency power supplies for home and shack use. Joe is a native of Western New York but lived in numerous part of the USA while working for Honeywell in sales, marketing and management. He is now retired from Honeywell and works for HRO in Delaware. He was first licensed in 1963 after he graduated from Radio Operators School at Fort Dix while in the service. He is an active ham in Chester County Pennsylvania where he volunteers with ARES/RACES and the Department of Emergency Services. He is also a Habitat for Humanity volunteer.

Paid Up Members for 2007

The following members have paid their dues for 2007. If you don't see your name on the list, please see our Treasurer Ken Newman or mail your check to him at 81 Holly Drive, Woodbury, NJ 08096. Dues for Full Members are \$20, Associate Members are \$15, Junior Members are \$10 and Family Members are \$10 per person.



AA2WN	Harry V. Bryant	AA2YO	Eugene E. Schoeberlein
AB2E	Darrell L. Neron	AI2B	Raymond Metzger
K1TSW	Thomas Wright	K2HPV	Herbert L. Schuler
K2JF	John M. Fisher	K2NZY	Diane Wright
K2PQD	Charles E. Sketchley	K2ZA	John A. Zaruba Sr.
K3WIN	Arthur R. Goldman	KA2DOT	Arthur W. Strong
KB2AYU	Alan D. Arrison	KB2ZTL	Whitney H. Myers
KC2PC	Christopher J. Kelly	KC2PHJ	David J. Boswell
KD4UT	Fr. Brian K. Burgess	KE2ES	Tom Gorman
N2ASV	Russel W. Glans	N2BK	William F. Kardas
N2BYC	Paul Trainer	N2CQ	Kenneth D. Newman
N2FNF	Irma R. Colabrese	N2HYS	Janice Gorman
N2MR	Mark Smith	N2QEE	Gary L. Reed
N2SRO	Mike Mollet	N2SRS	David L. Regn
N2WUP	Stuart C. Cleveland	W0MHK	Bill Grim
W2FJM	Frank J. Messick Jr.	W2GTV	Neil Griffith
W2LYL	Louis D. Joseph	W2RM	Raymond R. Martin
W2TDS	Stephen J. Blasko	WA2GFK	Joseph A. DiNovi
WA2IBZ	Howard L. Marder	WA2JSG	Curtis W. Myers
WA2KDV	Joseph A. Arsenault	WA2LET	Wayne A. Wilson
WA2NPD	Douglas G. Gehring	WA2TML	Charles A. Colabrese
WA3UVV	Cory Sickles	WB2AOL	James McDonald
WB2DXB	Sonny Gutin	WB2GSF	Harry O. Jackson
WB2HTE	Lawrence Mommicco	WB2NBJ	Raymond G. Schnapp
WB2OYQ	Walton T. Ashton Jr.	WB3JOY	David MacDonald

Amateur Radio Old Timers Hobby?

In the Old Radio column in the April issue of QST John Dilks, K2TQN, features the first issue of the St. Louis Radio Association newsletter, The Hot Wire, which was issued in November of 1921. In the Editorial section of the newsletter the editor laments that looking around at the members gathered for a meeting there are forty five men present who were all over the age of 30. The editor goes on the say "This radio 'game' apparently is not a 'kids' game after all, eh?" Although I would not call 30 old it appears that amateur radio has never been a real young mans hobby and that the recruiting of younger people has always been a problem. Let's hope that the Club can follow through on some of the brain-storming ideas that came from the February General Meeting and try to get some youngsters interested in amateur radio.





APRIL **CONDUCTED BY N2SS** **2007**

 **WARC BANDS** 



<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
W2YC. 306	N2SS ...324	WØMHK310
N2SS294	WØMHK.. 316	N2SS 302
WØMHK ..276	W2YC 309	W2YC 278
WA2NPD ..197	WA2NPD . 190	K2JF 135
AA2WN....171	K2JF 168	N2CQ 99
AB2E132	AA2WN ... 116	AB2E 92
K2JF112	N2CQ 115	WA2NPD... 85
N2CQ111	AB2E 110	AA2WN 20

When the same call heads all 3 WARC bands we will have that elusive, undisputed **KING OF WARC**


 160 Meters 

W2YC..... 191	N2SS 79
WØMHK 137	AA2WN 36
AB2E 100	K2JF 34
WA2NPD..... 88	N2CQ 9

W2YC continues as our undisputed Top of Top Band.


 **R T T V**  **DIGITAL**

W2YC..... 267	K2JF 113
AA2WN 187	N2SS 53
N2CQ 151	


 **MOBILE DX**

W2YC276	WØMHK 141
N2SS.....234	AA2WN 131
K2JF 150	


Looks like Dave and I have spent entirely too much time behind the wheel!

 **1.5K Club**

W2YC1571	AA2WN 1369
N2SS.....1529	K2JF..... 1350
WØMHK 1452	AB2E 1185
WA2NPD ... 1429	N2CQ..... 1135


 **Islands On The Air**

N2SS.....841	AB2E 205
W2YC.....645	N2CQ..... 159
WØMHK341	

 **6 METER DXCC**

WØMHK..... 102	W2YC.....29
K2JF 94	AA2WN.....15
N2SS 55	

Congrats to Bill for hitting the Century mark on 6 Meters!!

 **GRID SQUARES**

WØMHK.....510	K2JF285
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Rules for GCARC Honor Roll Listings
Provide me with your total IOTAs worked, or countries (including deleted) worked for: WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters or your total for 80,40,20, 15 and 10 for 1.5K Club. Final category is Grid Squares – just send me your total worked. Lastly, you do not have to participate in every category to be listed; just send me your totals for any of the categories listed.

CURRENT OFFICIAL ARRL DXCC STATISTICS

Active Count	337
Deleted Count.....	58
Last Addition.....	KH8/S
Last Deletion.....	STØ

April Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in April:

Irma Colabrese, N2FNF
Daniel Damiano, KC2ELC
Raymond Metzger, AI2B
Mike Mollet, N2SRO
Whitney Myers, KB2ZTL
John Pardini, N2JWF
Gregory Potter, WN2T



Amateur Radio Activity Shut Down in Iraq

Iraq Amateur Radio Society (IARS) President Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, has informed ARRL that all Amateur Radio activity in Iraq has been suspended until the security situation there improves. The ham radio blackout began the week of March 16.

Sayah says the suspension affects both Iraqi citizens as well as any foreigners, including military personnel and contractors -- who have been on the air from Iraq identifying with YI9-prefix call signs. It does not affect the operation of Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) stations, however, since they operate on military frequencies, not amateur frequencies.

Crosstalk Submissions

All submissions, queries, comments and editorials should be addressed to Gene Schoeberlein at aa2yo@arrl.net.

Submission deadline: 4/25/2007

GCARC Officers

President-Darrell Neron, AB2E
Vice President-Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Recording Secretary-Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY
Corresponding Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU

Board of Directors

Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

William Grimm, W0MHK
Harry Bryant, AA2WN
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO

Committees

Advertising-Open
ARES/RACES-Dave, WA3JOY
Awards-Jack, K2ZA
Banquet-Open
Budget-Steve, W2TDS
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Constitution-Open
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ray, W2RM
DX-Doug, WA2NPD
Field Day-Mike, N2SRO
Hamfest-Harry, AA2WN
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E

Hospitality-Ken, N2CQ
Membership-Ray, W2RM
Nominations-Darrell, AB2E
Publicity-John, K2JF
Repeaters-Mike, N2SRO
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T
Special Services-Gene, N2IMK
Sunshine-Open
Technical-Open
TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Wayne, WA2LET
Programs-Gene, WB2UVB

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)

1284.4/1272.4 MHz-Pitman

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

Joe Vilaro, K3JV
Emergency Power Supplies

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

