



## *Presidents Message*

Greetings to all this month, and a personal greeting seems like it should be in order as this is the time of year when our Club and Ham Radio in general seem to be in a state of limbo. With winter coming to an end and spring about to burst forth, it always seems to me to be a time for action to begin, but it has not yet begun! We are waiting for nice weather to finish the VHF tower and get it erected and to do some badly needed repair work on the Club Trailer. Then, of course, there are our home antennas, etc. which may have been beaten up a bit by winter. Also our 50 year Club Anniversary preparations are about to get underway.

First off, let me congratulate and thank Harry, K2ATX, for what turned out to be a successful 4H Work Shop on March 14<sup>th</sup> in Maple Shade. There were a few bugs and Murphy struck as usual, but, overall, things went quite well. While Harry, et al were struggling to get the portable tower in place, Cory, WA3UVV, did a FB job of narrating the power point slide opening salvo. The Morse code and soldering demonstrations went over quite well and there were some 30 students in the room (mostly young ladys) getting a "Ham Radio" education. And the radio and antenna came aboard near the end and the students (some of them) were exposed to some late arriving RF. Special thanks to Mark, N2MR, Ken, N2CQ, Wayne, WA2LET, and Doug, WA2NPD for helping with the demonstrations, and, of course, Harry, K2ATX, who arranged the entire affair.

Hope we will have a large turn-out at our April 1<sup>st</sup> Club meeting where we will have a major visit from our SNJ Section Manager, George, N3GZ and our SNJ Affiliated Club Coordinator, Skip, N2EI. These two gentlemen visited with us at our February meeting, but this time we will put them to work. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation, by George, of the Worlds first "Triple Play Award" citation earned by our own Dave, W2YC! Also, both George and Skip will provide the program by each giving us a brief talk on their respective jobs with the League and their future plans, etc. And we have asked our refreshments chairman, Ray, WB2NBJ, to see if he can get his hands on some of those chocolate éclairs that he had 2 months ago, and he has promised he will do his best.

Many thanks to our hard-working Club Treasurer Ken, N2CQ, who has been busy this past month transferring our Club CD's to another bank which he found, pays a much better interest rate. Also, Ken has gotten a second key to our safe deposit box by cleverly arranging to transfer to another box number (for ten bucks) thus saving the much larger cost of having a new second key made for our existing box.

Finally, it is good to see our new Field Day (FD) Chairman, Vinny, KC2NXV, already lining up band Chairmen for the upcoming field day, the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in June. This year we are especially stressing the need for more operators (especially phone) so as to keep all stations running for the entire 24 hours of the Please see "Presidents Message" on page 3.

# Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Sure was nice to see many hands go up at our last club meeting confirming a qso with K5D! Our club had very good representation in working that rare one in the Caribbean. Maybe it will be better luck for us all next time on 6 Meters too! In the meantime, a pat on the back to our members for supporting the DX effort and getting their call sign onto the list of 115,000+ qsos they gave out.

Check your April pages of QST for an article about some positive regulatory changes on 40 Meter Band. After decades of broadcasting in the middle of 40 Meter band, commercial stations that have been the cause of tremendous QRM on the band are moving. Using "split" operation on 40 Meter Phone for DX here in the USA has been difficult, to put it mildly, for many years. These detailed changes will make for much easier DXing on "ole reliable" 40!

As this column is being written, winter will be easing into spring this weekend. Be aware of seasonal HF signal enhancement on the HF bands with this event. The condition occurs despite solar cycles. Look for some short but hopefully sweet openings on the higher bands through 10 Meters in the next few weeks!

There seems to have been quite a flurry of DX activity in March as compared to the April. Contest scheduling might have had something to do with it. At any rate, DX "pickings" are not as substantial as last month. But, there appears to be improved IOTA activity starting up again, for you island hunters. Possibly the Europeans are coming out of winter hibernation to offer us some new and different islands to enhance our totals. Bear in mind that our continental friends are afforded many more work days off normally in the calendar year than we have in the states! Watch the DX clusters for activity and island designations.

See if the following help you with your April DXing:

STATION(S)	DATES	FQ/MODES	RARITY	ENTITY
3B9	4/1-4/9	ALL BANDS/MODES	3	RODRIGUES I.
VK9N	4/4-4/14	80-17/CW	2	NORFOLK I.
VK9XGI	4/4-4/11	LL BANDS/MODES	3	CHRISTMAS I.
XU7MDY	4/9-4/21	80-10/CW,DIG	3	CAMBODIA
S04R	4/12-4/17	160-10/ALL	3	W. SAHARA
TI7	4/17-4/20	ALL BANDS/MODES	1	COSTA RICA
5W,KH8,3D2,T30	4/22-4/29	ISLAND HOPPING	2	MULTI-DXCCS
JD1	4/29-5/5	160-6/CW,SB,DIG	3	OGASAWARA

CREDITS: NG3K ADXO

## Welcome New Member

This month the Club welcomes new member William Price. Bill's call is KC2JGL and he holds a General Class License. Bill lives in Wenonah and has his own electrical contracting business. Please introduce yourself to Bill when you see him at Club meetings and functions.

“Presidents Message” continued from Page 1.

event. This is supposed to be a major goal of the exercise simulating an emergency situation which requires at least 24 straight hours of support activity. And this would, of course, give us a better score in fulfilling the contest part of the exercise. We are especially desirous of new club members who have never before participated in any FD to be on hand and to give it a shot.

That’s about all for this month I hope to see all at our April 1st meeting.

73 de Doug, WA2NPD

## Club Dues are Due

April 1st is the deadline for paying dues each year. Anyone not paying their dues by April 1st will be removed from the Club roster. If you are experiencing financial difficulties you can apply to the Board of Directors for an extension or suspension of dues which the Board normally approves for sufficient cause.

You can pay your dues to our Treasurer, Ken, N2CQ, in person at meetings, by mailing your check to Ken at 81 Holly Drive, West Deptford, NJ 08096 or via Pay Pal (cash accounts only) at N2CQ@comcast.net.

## Novice Bands Are Alive and Well

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

A long time ago in a hobby far, far away, the means that most folks entered ham radio was through the Novice license. Originally with just an allocation on 80 meters, it was a low-impact way to discover what it was all about, build some gear, keep mistakes to a minimum, make some contacts, meet new friends and be mentored into the community.

That has changed, of course and there are relatively few Novices who still hold that license. Most still involved have upgraded as was originally intended. There is still a section of the 40 meters, once termed the “Novice Band”, where life slows down a bit and learning/improving your CW skills are very much encouraged.

From 7100 to 7125 KHz, you can still find many slow speed QSOs. More than a few are done with straight keys, helping all to improve their "fists" and work off some nervousness. You'll find a mix of operators all the way up to Extras - either recent entries learning the code for fun to Old Timers Elmering others. The Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) had designated 7114 KHz to be something of a "watering hole", while others can be found near 7110, 7116, 7122 or just about anywhere in between. In the evening, you'll have to squeeze your way in between European broadcasters, but the propaganda remnants of Il Duce and Mrs. Schickelgruber's son will disappear at the end of March to other places in the spectrum to finally free up the band just for us.

Many are using crystal controlled homebrew rigs, and a random sample indicates that many are running 20 watts or less. So give it a try sometime. QRP/QRS - low and slow.

# The Never Ending DTV Transition

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Originally rescheduled (yes, the previous date was in 2006) for February 17th and now set for June 12th - the DTV transition has been a source of confusion and frustration for many. Although the over-the-air (OTA) viewers make up less than 6% of viewers overall, the time, effort and money expended to ensure these folks can still watch "Wheel" once the analog transmitters shut down has been incredible.

One doesn't have to go far to see the myriad of ways this entire affair has been handled by the "Kevin Martin's Playhouse" edition of the FCC. Hopefully, the new sheriff in town will handle things much differently.

As hams, we were offered a last-minute opportunity to help clear up any remaining confusion that the OTA public might have, as well as dispelling rumors and misinformation being disseminated by technically ignorant sales clerks in electronic stores and department stores nationwide. In our area, the call went out and certain GCARC members stepped forward to help answer questions and put a positive face on amateur radio.

We set up at the County Store in the Deptford Mall for 2 days. My appreciation for their volunteer service goes out to Al - KB2AYU, Dave - WB3JOY, Doug - WA2NPD, Herb - K2HPV, Ken - N2CQ, Ray - WB2NBJ, Tom - KC2THO and Wayne - WA2LET. While we didn't have a line out the door, we were able to meet some folks, answer some questions and let folks know that ham radio is alive and well and provides many types of public service, including this.

## A Sign of the Times

On March 16, Jim Smith, W0MJY, owner of Burghardt Amateur Center in Watertown, South announced that the company will no longer sell Amateur Radio transceivers and accessories. The company will now be called Burghardt Radio Repair and the company has canceled all backorders of amateur radio equipment.

Smith blamed the current economic conditions for the change that forced the company "to re-evaluate our goals and direction." He said further, "We will continue to provide radio repair service as it has become a very busy business." The company had been forced to lay off employees in the past couple of months.

We will probably see more of the above until the economy straightens out. The bright side of this is that as things tighten up maybe more amateurs will return to the basics of amateur radio with less appliance operation and more understanding of how the equipment works. Who knows home brewing may even become more prevalent again.

Thanks to the ARRL and the [ARRL Letter](#) for the above.



## April Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in April:

Irma Colabrese, N2FNF  
Daniel Damiano, KC2ELC  
Thomas Litle, AB2YG  
Raymond Metzger, AI2B  
Michael Mollet, N2SRO  
Whitney Myers, KB2ZTL



## Crosstalk Submissions

This is your Club newsletter. Make use of it. Feel free to contribute general interest articles and ideas for articles.

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

Submission deadline for May issue:  
4/26/2009

## Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.com>

President-Doug, WA2NPD  
Vice President-Wayne Wilson, WA2LET  
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Darrell Neron, AB2E  
Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB  
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML

Steve, W2TDS  
Cory, WA3UVV

### GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU  
Corresponding Secretary-Harry Ewell, K2ATX

### Board of Directors

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

### Trustees

Ray, WB2NBJ  
Mike, N2SRO

### Committees

ARES/RACES-John, AA2BN  
Awards-Dave, W2YC  
Budget-Steve, W2TDS  
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU  
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E  
Constitution-As needed  
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO  
Database-Ken, N2CQ  
DX-Bill, W0MHK  
Field Day-Vinney, KC2NXV  
Hamfest-Harry, K2ATX  
Historian-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ  
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ  
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD  
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD  
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV  
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU  
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T  
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E  
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM  
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV  
VEC Testing-Harry, K2ATX  
4H Liaison-K2ATX

**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)

1272.4/1284.4 MHz-Pitman

**GCARC Meetings**

**General Membership**

7:30 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**

**Meet you local ARRL Representatives  
Triple Play Award to W2YC**

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

