



Presidents Message

First of all, our heartiest congratulations to our immediate past-president Darrell, AB2E, who very recently became the proud father of twin girls. Darrell missed Field Day this year as he was standing the maternity watch, for which we will forgive him. Mother and the twins are all doing very well. We understand Darrell has purchased baby diapers, tiny matching dresses, and a pair of small, matching iambic keyers for each girl to practice her CW with when she reaches about 2 years of age. Darrell is used to staying up late at night to work many rare ones half-way around the world, so he will have no trouble staying up late at night to warm the bottles and to rock the cradles.

I wish to thank all who participated in Field Day this year and to thank John, AA2BN, for serving as overall chairman. Refer to details in the Field Day write-up elsewhere in this issue. It seems like a pause in the radio world activities following Field Day, but, in reality, the Club is about to embark upon our second premier event of the radio-year, that of our annual Hamfest coming along September 21st. Harry, K2ATX, is our Hamfest chair and is doing a very great job in getting things organized. So, reserve that date, this is our premier fund-raising event for the year, and also a day for fun and renewal of old acquaintances, etc. Harry will be soliciting your help as the event draws nearer, so be sure to help out when and where you can (See separate article in this issue by Harry).

On another topic involving Harry, K2ATX: through Harry, we were asked by the present 4H Leadership to help-out with their food service department during their annual Fair, the week of July 20th. Numerous club members volunteered their services for shift times during the week. Thanks to all who volunteered their time. For those of us who vividly recall our not-to-distant past relations with the 4H, this is a complete turn-around of the past scenario! Together, with our recent reactivation of the 4H youth Radio Club, we can only trust that these actions will help to improve our relations with the 4H and help to bury the problems of the last few years. Time will tell, as the saying goes.

That is about all for now. Hope to see all at our August 6 meeting where we hope to welcome some 5 new members into our Club. Also, our speaker, Ron Cohen, K3ZKO, a recently retired DRPA electronics technician, will be talking on radio lightning protection techniques, which, considering the recent weather, should be very timely. Ron also serves as Secretary of the Battleship Radio Station organization. Also, a very fine mystery gift door prize awaits the lucky ticket winner.

August General Meeting

At the August General Membership Meeting the guest speaker will be Ron Cohen, K3ZKO. Ron will talk about Grounding and Lightning Protection for Communications Equipment. Ron has had over 40 years experience in the Two-Way Radio field and will give you information to how to help you design your installation to direct lightning away from your equipment and home.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

I had a very satisfying bit of DX enlightenment this past month. I was able to meet with Bob Fabrizio, 9V1QQ, for a few hours during one of his stateside visits at W2YC's location with Doug, WA2NPD, our President, also in attendance. Bob is an avid DX'er with approximately 200 DXCC entities confirmed on CW, SSB and RTTY from that small and somewhat rare location of Singapore! Not bad statistics for a guy that runs 200 watts to a mobile screwdriver antenna on the 29th floor of a 30 floor apartment building. Space in 9V1 is at an expensive premium, but he manages to do well DXing with a modest set-up and innovative ground system. He told of licensing requirements there (9V officials have visit your station to make regulatory measurements of your station before licensing it), climate, culture, cost of living, and what it's like being on the DX-end of the action! A native of the Philly area, Bob is active on CW, Phone, and Digital on 40 through 10 Meters. He has a beautiful QSL card which you can see at QRZ.com or get one of your own if you can snag him on an opening to that part of the world.

Propagation continues to be less than "peachy" here in our domain. I've noticed some decent Far East openings during mornings on 20 Meters when the K-Index (stability of earth's geomagnetic field) is zero. Once it gets up into the 3+ range, HF conditions seem to suffer more than usual at this solar minimum time. Fewer openings seem to be occurring on 17 Meters while 6 Meters still satisfies the hard-pressed DX'er at times with openings to the Caribbean and Northern South America.

Before going to DX possibilities for the month of August, let me quote some bad news and then potential good news on the Solar Cycle front. On July 16th the sun hit a new Solar Flux Minimum of 64.2 (usually doesn't go below 65 even in bad times) beating the last most recent Minimum on July 2, 1954 when the reading was 64.4. But that Minimum in 1954 was the beginning of Solar Cycle #19 which, as you old timers may remember, was one of most spectacular Solar Cycles ever recorded!

Below are some August possibilities for your DXing pleasure:

STATION	DATES	FQ/MODES	RARITY	ENTITY
TO8S	8/4 - 8/17	80-10/MULTI	1	GUADELOUPE
D4	8/6 - 8/18	80-6/MULTI	1	CAPE VERDE
6V7L	8/8 - 8/22	HF/SSB,RTTY	1	SENEGAL
JD1BLX/BLY	8/10 - 8/16	HF/MULTI	3	OGASAWARA
FK	8/12 - 8/29	HF/MULTI	2	NEW CALEDONIA
ZD8	8/15 - 9/14	40-10/ ?	2	ASCENSION IS.
MJ	8/21 - 8/26	HF/CW,SSB	1	JERSEY IS.
VK9CJW	8/22 - 8/29	HF/MULTI	4	COCOS/KEELING

Welcome New Members

The Club welcomes the following new members: Frank McLaughlin, KC2ROW, of Williamstown; Louis Ranson, KC2FXK, of Pittsgrove; Ed Smith, KC2IKE, of Blackwood; Martin Wilt, W2ILT, of Williamstown and Harry Wolf, KC2THV, of Somerdale. We hope to see all of you out to Club Meetings and functions soon.

WA2LET Goldman Award Winner

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

The Club offers its hearty congratulations to Wayne Wilson, WA2LET, to whom I had the honor of presenting 2008 Goldman Award plaque at our June General Membership Meeting. This Award is presented annually to a richly deserving Club member who has given years of dedicated service to our Club in a variety of ways. The award winner is selected by a unanimous vote of a standing committee consisting of all previous award recipients. Wayne has been a member of GCARC since 1979 and has served the club as Vice President, Director, Field Day Band and Food Chairman, Hamfest ticket and advertisement support, technical committee chairman, and was influential in ridding our annual hamfest from visits by the NJ Division of Taxation. He recently retired as the DRPA communications engineer and his reputation as an authority in communications disciplines and problem solving is well recognized. Wayne has never turned down a request for help from any club member with a technical problem and his former employer, the DRPA, still regularly consults with him. Wayne heartily deserved this honor and, again, we congratulate him upon this achievement.

Club Member Gets U. S. Citizenship

Leonid Surnin who has been a Club member for a number of years just recently obtained his U.S. Citizenship. Leonid's old call is UT5ZF and he has been operating in this country as W2/UT5ZF. Leonid hopes to get a U.S. ticket now that he has his Citizenship. If anybody can help Leonid get through the maze of paper work needed to obtain his license please contact Leonid directly or contact Rau Schnapp, WB2NBJ.

Reflections on a Great Opportunity

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

During the 4H fair, I had the opportunity to work with an outstanding group of young people at the food booth. I imagine the others who volunteered from the GCARC also shared this experience. From what I observed, these teenagers have the inherent drive and wherewithal to succeed in their lives and become leaders in whatever they pursue. If we can get just a few of these young men and women to embrace amateur radio as we have done in the past, our service and our Club will benefit greatly.

Harry has done and continues to do an outstanding job in working with the new leadership of the 4H. The improved relationship we are experiencing and the possibilities of working together are exciting. The next time you have the opportunity to work with these "kids" make sure you take advantage of it.

Hamfest 2008 is Right Around the Corner

By Harry Elwell, K2ATX

Well August is here and the GCARC Hamfest is less than two months away. Hamfests offer an opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. There are bargains to be had, prizes to be won and tasty treats to tempt the taste buds. But a successful Hamfest requires preparation. Earlier this year we secured our date with the 4-H to use the fairgrounds for our event. Arrangements have been made with Bondie Food Service to provide food and refreshments, and our ads have been sent to QST and CQ magazines as well as some websites.

However for our Hamfest to be a success we need your help. And we need your help not only on September 21st but now! How can you help? Well I am glad you asked. It is time to get the word out about our Hamfest. We will have ads in some magazines and a mailing will go out to approximately 500 addresses. But with skyrocketing fuel costs we need to plan for the fact that many of our attendees will be coming from a lot closer to home.

You can begin right now by simply telling those you see everyday. Co-workers, neighbors and friends are a great place to start. For those internet savvy members, there are hundreds of forums, bulletin boards and blogs where you can let people know about our event. Contrary to popular myths and urban legends Hamfests aren't the meeting places of secret fraternities open only to those possessing the coveted FCC Amateur Radio license and a secret handshake. In fact Hamfest could and should be one of our largest public outreach events providing education and awareness about our beloved hobby.

In addition to word of mouth we will have flyers, lots and lots of flyers. Start looking now for places where you could display our Hamfest flyer. Libraries, community centers, grocery stores and schools are only a few of the possibilities. Many organizations welcome the opportunity to help promote events for groups involved in community service such as Amateur Radio. Some of you may have connections in other media outlets. Use your imagination. As the date for Hamfest gets closer we will have printed flyers available for you to use. Also you will be receiving a flyer via e-mail that could be printed or e-mailed to potential attendees.

In addition to promotion there are many other ways to volunteer to help out. There is parking, testing, set-up, break-down and so much more. Many of you have helped in previous years. Some have never had the opportunity to help. There is plenty of fun for everyone so contact me as soon as possible to find out how you can help make our 31st annual Hamfest a success.

MS150 Needs Help

The Annual MS150 ride needs radio operators for communications during the two day bicycle ride on September 27th and 28th. Having emergency communications along the course has proved to be very helpful in the past due to the quick reaction of emergency medical teams afforded by the rapid communications. Once again they are asking for help from our Club. You do not need to volunteer for both days. You can volunteer for Saturday, Sunday or both. They will be happy with whatever time you can help. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ed Champion, N2AYK,

Upcoming Hamfest

The Ramapo Mountain Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a Hamfest on August 16 at the American Legion Hall in Oakland, NJ. For more information contact Robert Kogan, KB2KQO, at kb2kqo@gmail.com.

Your editor has a copy of the flyer for this event and can e-mail it to anybody who requests it via an e-mail to aa2yo@arrl.net until he erases it in his computer.

Don't Touch Me There!

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Those of us who grew up with tubes in our electronics quickly gained a healthy respect for high voltage circuits. Proper grounding, no bare feet, nonmetal probes and the all important rule of "one hand behind your back" were the kinds of safety items that kept one alive.

One of my Elmers owned a TV repair shop and regularly made a practice of touching live circuits to see if the voltages "felt right". He claimed his calluses had just the right amount of resistance that he could safely tell the difference between 700, 600 450, 350, 275 volts. While he never claimed to be able to detect polarity (grid bias, anyone?) he supported his claims by seldom using a VTVM. This was definitely in the "don't try this at home" category.

While it's an amusing memory, high voltages are nothing to play around with. It doesn't take much current to stop your heart. Ever since solid state electronics began to permeate the market, we who open up our treasures to see what's inside have become somewhat careless about poking around a live chassis. Let's face it, there's not too much deadly potential in 5 and 12 volts. Using that same mentality around a rig with some 6146s or supporting components that also glow will bring you a shocking surprise if you are careless.

Some of you may remember an appliance of the 70s which I believe was called the Hot Dogger made by Sunbeam. It cooked hot dogs by passing 117 VAC through them (no isolation transformer). It worked OK on bratwurst, too. Something to keep in mind is that meat is meat, whether it's a cow or you.

When we put up antennas or work outside, we need to be even more careful of our surroundings and the potential to kill ourselves through carelessness and/or tunnel vision. Putting up a mast vertically may keep you clear of the mains coming into your house, but if it falls, will it hit the wires? Pre-deciding to let it go instead of holding on might be what saves your life.

By now, some of you know where I'm going with this. In the past few weeks fatal incidents have killed four people and critically injured a fifth. In Kansas, a ham and his son were erecting a fiberglass-coated antenna. While no one knows the exact details, the antenna and mast came near a 7,260 volt line. Yes, near is enough at that potential and the fiberglass isn't insulating anything. Bear in mind there is also 600 (or a multiple, thereof) amps waiting for you, as well. Once you get close enough for an arc to form, there really is no chance to let go and save yourself from extreme injury or worse. Plus, as you may have noticed when an electrical storm disrupts power, there are 4-second resets that reconnect the lines. So, even if the electricity burning through you causes a throw out to drop, it may keep trying to come back a few more times.

In the Kansas incident neighbors heard a loud "pop" and lost power, but didn't think to investigate. About 15 minutes later, the ham's 7 year old granddaughter knocked on the door of a neighbor's house

and reportedly said “Can you help me? My Daddy and Grandpa are dead”. One first responder noted that even after more than 15 minutes there was still smoke coming out of their mouths. That’s certainly not the last image I want my granddaughter to have of me...

Last week in a suburb of Pittsburgh, 3 contractors were setting up some scaffolding when a pipe started to fall. With all of them holding it, it came in contact with another 7,260 volt line. The incident (they’re not accidents - accidents are things that aren’t avoidable) was witnessed by a pediatrician’s practice next door. The doctor and staff immediately tried CPR, but to no avail. The third man survived and it is believed he only had one hand on the pipe.

Those who live through such incidents usually have lifelong injuries to nerves and muscles, having been cooked to some extent. Others have lost limbs, like a pair of TV reporters out west (again, 2 weeks apart) a few years ago. In one incident, the antenna on the truck had been raised in the clear, but when the driver needed to move the truck to improve the signal quality, he came in contact with an overhead wire. Because station management didn’t think it was necessary to have appropriate alarms installed in the trucks that would have alerted them to the danger, it took an unsuspecting reporter grabbing the door handle to complete the circuit. She lost most of 2 legs and an arm, if memory serves. The other reporter, 1 week prior, died at the scene.

The Big Bang

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Perhaps staying with a “high energy” theme this month, there has recently been some press about a threat of EMP attacks. (It’s always something.) EMP - short for Electro Magnetic Pulse is typically a byproduct of a nuclear explosion. As if the blinding light, heat and radiation weren’t enough, such a discharge generates a high energy pulse that disrupts electrical service and will “fry” most solid-state electronics. Yes, that includes computers and radios.

Even today, governments around the world have a sizeable inventory of tube-based communications equipment. Empty State technology is far less vulnerable to such energy bursts. Of course, you’re not going to find much in the way of portability with it. Still, it might be a good reason to hold onto those rigs from the 50’s.

Thankfully, it’s still a significant task to build a nuclear device. The electronics and triggering mechanism can be thrown together with the proper know-how, but creating quality fuel without killing yourself in the process is still not something for the garage experimenter.

Lightning strikes also produce EMP’s. Our weather makes this a relatively common occurrence. Here again, our solid state gear is vulnerable. Look up Faraday Cages and/or Shielding on the Infobahn and you’ll get some ideas of how to protect at least some of your gear for emergency readiness.

The real threat from “engineered” EMP’s comes from NNEMP (Non-Nuclear) generators. Without going into too much detail, (I’m not writing a how-to manual, here) these can be built using some fairly

“off the shelf” materials by someone who knows their way around a machine shop and has an understanding of electronics. By getting one (or several) high above the earth (again, not difficult) you could cause some fairly significant damage over a good-sized footprint.

It’s just one more thing to think about when it comes to emergency preparedness “When All Else Fails” and another thing to keep you awake at night. Oh and, by the way, something in your medicine cabinet

2008 FIELD DAY

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

The weather was near-perfect, the food was great, the generator purred-along, and we had quite a few visitors including some hams from years gone by. The antennas all went-up without a hitch, and, in general, it was hard to find anything wrong, except for 20 m CW, where “Murphy’s Law” got the best of Chris, W2KW. There were, of course, a few glitches; the 80 m SSB station did not appear (hope that Stu is feeling better now), and band conditions continued to be horrible (SFI was 65 that weekend) which effected all scores, some bands more than others. The cycle “bottom” was evidenced with an overall decrease in nationwide (and Canada) participation which, of course, effected all scores everywhere. Condolences to Chris, W2KW, at 20m CW. His logging computer shot-its-wad after only a few hours into the operation. His overall score was really terrific considering he was only able to operate for some 5 hours. Our satellite (AA2BN), 15 m SSB (KA2DOT), and 6 M (W2KBT) stations all did well and kept us at our 8A precedence. Our other CW and SSB stations performed as expected and their scores were respectable as in previous years.

The weather was really quite hot during daytime hours, but nearby thunder storms and some brief rain squalls cooled things down in the evening. Special thanks to John, AA2BN, who served as overall Field Day chairman, to Wayne, WA2LET and Frank, W2FJM, who provided the food service, to Ray, WB2NBJ, who did his usual great job with the generator, to Al, KB2AYU, for having the Club trailer and grounds in fine shape, and to Harry, AA2WN, for tabulating and reporting our results to the League. Our station scores were as follows:

	QSO’s		QSO’s
80 m CW	446	40 m SSB	170
40 m CW	549	20 m SSB	113
20 m CW	293	15 m SSB	77
Satellite	18	6 m SSB	13

All of the participants had a very enjoyable weekend and we hope that in future years we can get even higher participation by Club members.

Crosstalk Feedback

I have been editing this newsletter for a number of years and never seem to get any feedback from the membership about what you would like to see in your Club’s Newsletter. We have had a few faithful contributors over the years but most of the members seem to have no interest in what appears in Crosstalk each month. If I got a letter to the editor once and a while telling me what you think is good and bad about Crosstalk hopefully I would be able to improve it to suit the majority of the member’s tastes. I have a thick skin so don’t worry about hurting my feelings. I would just like to know if anybody actually reads these articles once and a while. Some of the regular contributors have also asked if I ever get any feedback on their articles. So please lets us all know how we are doing. If I don’t get some feed-

August Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in August:

Harry Jackson, WB2GSF
Frank McLaughlin, KC2ROW
James Mollica, Sr., K2OWE
James Mollica, Jr., N2NRD
Curtis Myers, WA2JSG
Harry Strahlendorf, KC2OJN
Leonid Surnin, W2/UT5ZF
Harry Wolf, KC2THV



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 September issue:
8/24/2008

Club Web-Site

<http://users.tellurian.com/freddie/w2mmd/>

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

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

Cory, WA3UVV
Steve, W2TDS

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Corresponding Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU

Board of Directors

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

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-Ray, W2RM
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-John, AA2BN
Hamfest-Harry, K2ATX

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Ray, W2RM
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD
Programs-Dave, WB3JOY
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Ray, W2RM

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)

August Meeting

Lightning Protection
Ron Cohen, K3ZKO

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

