



Presidents Message

Due to technical difficulties I was unable to receive Al's email with his message but I talked to him on the phone and he asked me to pass along a few things:

First he wanted to congratulate the Club for the effort that members put out for Field Day. It was an excellent effort and a large turn out. The Club set a new record for the number of points scored and even more importantly a large number of the members turned out and had a great time. He wanted to thank Vinnie, N4NYY, our Field Day Chairman, for all his work organizing the event and working so hard to get the extra bonus points. Chairing an event like this can be a lot of work and it not until after it is done that anybody says thanks for the effort. Al also wanted to thank Wayne, WA2LET, and all his helpers for the great food and Ray, WB2NBJ, for his work in getting the generator ready for Field Day and for keeping it going during the event.

Al also wanted me to mention the upcoming Hamfest. The Hamfest is the next big event for the Club and is on September 19. Al has taken over as this year's Hamfest Chairman and is going to need lots of help organizing this event and lots of help during the Hamfest. Let Al know he can count on your help for the event. If you have done a job at the Hamfest in the past, let him know if you can do it this year and if you haven't been able to help out in the past, volunteer and Al will find something for you to do. Let's make this a total Club effort and minimize the work for the Chairman.

Generally Speaking

By Cory Sickles, Wa3UVV

Over the years, I've taught a number of license classes. Most of these have been entry-level Novice or Technician sessions. Since I think that the General is where most of the fun begins, with multiple mode options on HF and more, I'm thinking of teaching a General Class class. This will be more than just a "Ham Cram" session, as I don't want to just teach for the test. I want attendees to walk out with a better understanding of the technologies and basics of what we do and how we do it.

What I'd like to know is if there is sufficient interest. Please let me know if you'd like to upgrade and pass this info on to others. If I get a good response, we'll schedule something in the near future. You can email me via wa3uvv@arrl.net with your interest level and contact info. You don't need to be a GCARC member to attend (but it might help).

Look for upcoming info on the Club's web site – www.w2mmd.org.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

The corn crop Down Jersey is getting to be about "as high as an elephant's eye", but HF DX seems to be still stuck at a low point! We are getting more information about possible differences with the sun's behavior and the earth's atmospheric layers, but no complete explanation for sure as to why propagation hasn't been better since we hit our cycle minimum. 30, 20 and 17 Meters are still handling the DX "load" for us this summer. I now have 109 DXCC countries in my log on 17 Meters since January 15th this year. D44 and JX are the only new ones added to my total on 17M this month. Six Meters has had a disappointing DX season so far with Sporadic E in our environs. I did manage to work J8/W8IF on 6M for a new one, but even the Caribbean has been spotty on the Magic Band this summer.

I will make the case that our superlative club effort this Field Day does show that planning and perseverance can challenge poor radio conditions. Fifteen Meters was even better than last year, and Twenty Meters CW set a new all-time record for qsos this year! I will also maintain that we are using some great equipment and antennas that were just not being used a couple of cycles ago. Besides Field Day, DX ops are running some very enviable set-ups trying to work US! Take a look at some of their set-ups on qrz.com, and it has got to make it easier for them to work us than it was just a few years back. Gone are the days when Eastern Europe, mainly, had converted war surplus military equipment from the United States and wire antennas!

Keep an ear out for two long-term possibilities that you might need for your DX collection. ZS8M, on super-rare Marion Island, will be on the air until May 2011. He is not that active but can often be seen on the DX cluster on 20 Meter Phone. Marion Is. was the 3rd most wanted DXCC entity in 2009! KH2/N2NL is making his HF DX presence known on Guam during a three year Coast Guard assignment. Dave will also use NH2T as a contest call sign to give out CQ Zone 27 contacts. For your qsling convenience, his qsl manager is W2YC, a fellow GCARcer! Mr. Strout advises me that the KH2 QSL is quite impressive and may be seen on NH2T's qrz.com look-up.

Looking ahead a few months, there will be a large German effort from Kermadec Island, ZL8X, beginning November 29th this year. DX0DX from Spratly Is. is gearing up for an operation January 6-24, 2011. Three days later the Micro-Lite Penguins are due to fire up from the South Orkney Islands with a VP80 moniker. Their Antarctic area effort is scheduled for an almost two week appearance. Place these on your long range DX calendar and catch more information on these groups at NG3K's Announced DX Operations website. We don't have a particularly sterling list of August DX opportunities for you, but here are some samples:

STATION	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	PRIORITY	ENTITY
KH2	8/1-8/7	OC-026/ BY DL3OCH	3	GUAM
S79DB	8/3-8/14	40-10M/CW,SSB,DIG	2	SEYCHELLES
KH0	8/8-8/14	OC-086 BY DL3OCH	3	SAIPAN
XU7ATM	8/10-8/17	HF/SSB, DIGITAL	4	CAMBODIA
XV2LC	8/12-9/10	40-15M/SSB,CW	4	VIETNAM
OX1JA/OX3KQ	8/13-8/16	BY JA5AQC	1	GREENLAND
A25	8/16-8/19	BY W2LPL/HF/SSB	2	BOTSWANA
YJ0	8/27-9/2	VK EFFORT/2 STATIONS	3	VANUATU

CREDITS: ADXO NG3K

August Club Meeting Program

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

This should be a good one. Ray, WB2NBJ, will present a brief talk on the Club generator, how it works, what he has done to maintain it, the secrets of a full 24 hour performance at Field Day without shutting down, etc. This will be followed by a brand new DVD (with sound) showing of the recent K4M DXpedition to Midway Island, produced by Jim Brooks, 9V1YC, who was a part of the DXpedition. Recall that the Battle of Midway was a major turning-point in World War II, whereby the Japanese lost four aircraft carriers. The DVD is about 35 minutes. You won't want to miss this month's program. The meeting hall is air-conditioned too.

Make August 4th 'Buddy Night' and Bring a Friend to the Meeting

By Cory Sickles, Wa3UVV

At our local Karate school, they have "Buddy Week" every other month for students to invite friends to learn about martial arts and experience it for themselves. Let's try that concept at our next meeting.

If you know someone who is interested in Ham Radio or who might be an inactive ham, offer to pick them up and bring them with you. For that matter, if you haven't been to a meeting yourself lately, then here's your invitation to join the rest of us.

Welcome New Member

This month the Club welcomes Don Vincent, KC2LRK, as a new member. Don has been a member in the past, lives in Deptford and holds a Technician Class License. Please say hello to Don and make him welcome when you see him at Club meetings and functions.

Lousy Conditions or Lousy Antenna

We are definitely in the summer ham radio doldrums. It is the time of the year when you often hear comments like: "What is wrong with the bands?" "I don't hear anything on HF." This year along with the normal summer slump we have a period of extremely low sunspot activity. This combination makes for some slim pickings on the bands.

Yes, the bands are not that great but there is also the possibility that your equipment may be causing some of your problems. This is a great time for a quick look at your antennas, feed lines etc. There are some very simple things to look for. For instance are your antennas still up in the air? Don't laugh it is possible that your antenna is laying on the ground someplace after one of the recent windstorms. With wire antennas particularly, the antenna might be hanging on tree branches and you might not notice it. A good visual inspection will include making sure that any wire antennas are still in position and that tree branches are not impinging on the radiating elements or feed line. Check verticals and beams to see that all elements are in place. Also check rotating antennas to see that trees have not entered their turning radius.

Who knows? A simple antenna inspection may reveal problems that are making it hard for you to hear the stations that are out there. The bands might not be as bad as you first thought.

Field Day 2010

By Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY

Field Day 2010 at GCARC was another resounding success. The event was visited by upwards of 60 visitors/participants. We ran 9 stations for a 8A designation. Our claimed score was 11,306 points, which appears to be a new club record.

Among the highlights were a home brew 15M Moxon beam, constructed by the 15M SSB chairs Larry, AD2L, and Art, K2AWS. At the 20CW station, Chris WK2W, had a home brew 2 element fishing pole Yagi. The Camden County OEM van once again participated, housing 40M and 80M SSB. Equipped with A/C, and self-sustained power, it was a true blessing. Thanks again, to the Camden OEM group for lending us the use of their van. Lastly, thanks to Bill, NJ2S, for the use of his Deptford Electric bucket truck. The truck helped erect all the antennas at nearly twice the speed and half the effort of previous years.

We had some great scores this year. The 20M CW team of Chris, WK2W, and Darrell, AB2E, appeared to have set a new record for contacts with an incredible 864! The 80M/15M CW team of Bill, W0MHK, and Dave, W2YC, combined for 491 contacts. The 40M CW team led by Doug, WA2NPD, and Harry, AA2WN, scored a wonderful 635. The 40M SSB group led by Wayne, WA2LET (who doubled as food chairman), scored 312. Ray, WB2NBJ, (who doubled as a generator chairman) on 20M SSB, scored 70 contacts. That's not bad for an 81 year old. The 15M team of Art, K2AWS, and Larry, AD2L, bested their 2009 total with 125 contacts. Twelve year old Kyle, W2KBT, scored 21 contacts plus he brought in 80 bonus points by being a youth operator and making contacts at his station.

As for bonus scoring, the following people either achieved or attempted to achieve bonuses for the club: Ed, N2RO; Wayne, WA2LET; Al, KB2AYU; John, K2ZA; Chris, WK2W; Mark, W2OCY; Harry, AA2WN; Kyle, W2KBT, and Vinnie, N4NYY.

Lastly, thanks to all the people that participated the event, including all those that volunteered their services ranging from food, antenna assembly, special equipment, relief operators, and more, as well as just plain visitors.

We look forward to Field Day 2011!

Editor's note: To view some of the photographs taken at this year's Field Day go to the Club's Website at www.w2mmd.org.

Echolink: New and Old Technology

There have been a lot of detractors of Echolink and those detractors often say that it is not real ham radio. Echolink not only is ham radio, it is now also being used to meld that most traditional of operating modes, Morse code, with modern operating practice. A recent story headline from ARRL, says it all: "W1AW Offers Code Practice, Bulletins via EchoLink" Yes, it's true - the network of Echolink-enabled computers worldwide to be pressed into service as a learning resource for Morse. When the QRN is blasting the dickens out of 80 meters this summer, you can learn code or copy bulletins sans-interference, via Echolink. Go for it - you'll have fun with the code, and rest assured, you are using real ham radio technology in the process!

The above is extracted from [Handiham World](#) thanks to Tom Cusack, KC2THO.

Field Day 2010 Great Success

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Before going any further, the report here is meant to supplement the fine business report appearing in this issue of Crosstalk by Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY, and on the W2MMD Web page. It goes without saying again, that our annual Field Day was very successful as we set a new club record, 11,306 reported points! To a large extent, this record was due to the tireless efforts of our overall chairman, Vinnie, N4NYY, who organized, operated, and gathered most of the bonus points available. Also, 20 m CW set a new W2MMD band record with 864 QSOs with Chris, WK2W, and Darrell, AB2E, paving the way. Many Congratulations to these two excellent CW operators; the perennial 40 M CW QSO champs (N2CQ, AA2WN, K2SE, K2MEN, and WA2NPD), gladly pass the banner on to 20 m this year. The individual band QSO totals are tabulated below. Unfortunately, Murphy did strike this year as the 20 m phone station suffered microphone problems which greatly affected their total. The outstanding antenna this year was certainly the 15 m SSB Moxon beam which was built by K2AWS and AD2L. With the beam they managed to double their score from last year. The outstanding 80 and 15m CW team of W2YC and W0MHK squeezed-out virtually all of the available stations on these bands and turned in a fine business total of 491 QSOs. And the 40 m SSB crew with WA2LET at the helm, improved upon the previous year's score with a total of 314 QSOs, as did the 80 M SSB team (328 QSOs) with N2WUP leading the charge. Our 6 m score (W2KBT and W2OCY) also improved over last year. Unfortunately, due to a death in the family, these guys were unable to complete their 10 M station and we will have to await next year's operation. John, K2ZA, gave 2 M the best "shot" ever by our Club with an antenna at over 40ft in the air thanks to NJ2S and his bucket truck. The handful of QSOs proved that there are hardly any 2 M stations within our corridor that participate in Field Day. Lastly, but not least, KB2AYU's effort at a satellite contact was unsuccessful although the effort was A-1.

As with last year, this year's operation of both generator (tnx to WB2NBJ) and our food service (special thanks to Wayne, WA2LET, and XYL Pinky), and XYL Martha, (N2CQ's better half) were really first-class, to say the very least. These folks really put the enjoyment factor into Field Day and made us forget the too hot WX. With regard to next year, note that the club just voted to purchase some band-pass filters for use at Field Day in the future. This acquisition should help to improve reception for next year.

QSO scoring was as Follows (Thanks to AA2WN): 80 m CW, 300; 80 m SSB, 328; 40 m SSB, 314; 40 m CW, 635; 20 m SSB, 70; 20 m CW, 864; 15 m SSB, 125; 15 m CW, 191; 6 m SSB, 21.

Hey, That Radio Looks Like a Computer

By Cory Sickles, Wa3UVV

If you're willing to look for them, there are still some bargains out there in the way of all things Ham Radio. For example, did you know you can get a 3-band HF all mode transceiver for less than \$80? Cheap, huh...

Of course, there are a few caveats. For one, it is a kit and that price is without an enclosure. For another, the output is very QRP at about 1 watt. Further, in order to use it, you'll have to make use of a computer you already have. The rig is a Softrock Ensemble RXTX and is designed by Tony Parks, KB9YIG. By the way, the board is smaller than a 3x5 index card.

The Softrock series comes from the Software Defined Radio lineage that has slowly crept its way into Please see "Computer" on Page 6.

“Computer” from Page 5.

amateur radio. Initially, the technology was just used for receivers, but now the transmit side of things is “taking off as well. Tony also makes a single band receiver and another kit that can be configured for LF or HF. They currently sell for \$20 and \$56, respectively. Quite a bargain, all things considered. Wouldn’t you like to have a second HF receiver for less than \$100 in the shack? How about if it could scan and record automatically?

Other SDR kits are available from an Australian company, Genesis Radio. They have slightly higher-powered rigs that are single, dual and multiband. Also, if you remember the ARRL’s Homebrew Challenge of last year, there was a winning design for a 40 meter rig that was also SDR. Finally, if you don’t want to roll your own, there are companies like Flex Radio that have a line of transceivers already built and ready to go.

All you need to do is attach a spare computer (sorry, but so far it’s a Windows-only world) and install some software. The computer acts as the front panel and allows you to control virtually all the things you would with “regular” controls. Hook up a mike or key to the SDR, attach an antenna, run the audio and control cable the computer and you are set. If 1 or 5 watts isn’t enough to satisfy your cravings for power, then there are always amplifiers, many of which you can build on a “beer budget”.

Maybe we’ll start to see SDR-based solutions for VHF and up in the near future. Imagine a satellite station where you could have capabilities on 29, 144 and 435 MHz all in the size of an index card box with all-mode availability on the same computer that’s controlling your rotors and tracking the birds...

Take a look at these web sites, plus Google “SDR” for more info on this exciting, new aspect to Ham Radio: www.kb9yig.com, www.wb5rvz.com/sdr/ensemble, www.genesisradio.com.au and www.flex-radio.com

On the website

by Art Strong

The website is operating very nicely and as time goes by I’m learning more and more things that can be done with it. By receiving and uploading all the pictures that came in from Field Day I found that there is a bulk uploader/processor on the site. Normally when I receive pictures of a high pixel count, such as 4000 X 3000, I have to manually reduce the count so as not to overload the site. Microsoft provides such a system for the site which makes things go much faster and smoother as you may have seen in the 70 some pictures that are posted from Field Day. That would have taken several days to do if done manually.

As our illustrious Crosstalk Editor has said many times, “Give me some input”. I also use that phrase for input to the site. I would like to see stories of humor, interest, or excitement come from the various members in regards to their amateur radio experiences. If you have a story and pictures to go with it, that would be even better. If you want me to publish your article just e-mail it to me and I will get it onto the web, and hopefully it’s faster than I got Harry’s on. If there are pictures with it, please send them separately so that I can manually control them. I had to learn with Harry’s story how to handle pictures as the site doesn’t allow me to do import Word files with pictures built into the file.

We are getting hits. Some days are better than others but that is probably standard for most any site. Overall, I think we are doing well.

August Birthdays

Harry Jackson, WB2GSF
Jim Mollica, Jr., N2NRD
Jim Mollica, Sr., K2OWE
Curtis Myers, WA2JSG
Harry Strahlendorf, W3DNQ
Leonid Surnin, W2/UT5ZF



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 the September issue: 8/18/2010 (this date may need to be changed)

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Acting Vice President-Wayne, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Doug Gehring, WA2NP

Steve, W2TDS
Cory, WA3UVV

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Harold Garron, AC2BK
Corresponding Secretary-Vinnie, N4NYY

Board of Directors

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

Trustees

Ray, WB2NBJ
Mike, N2SRO

Committees

ARES/RACES-John, K2ZA
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-Vinnie, N4NYY
Hamfest-Al, KB2AYU
Historian-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
Website-Art, K2AWS

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
Field Day Generator
Ray, WB2NBJ
Midway DXpedition

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

