

Presidents Message

July is behind us and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those that came out and supported the volunteer efforts within both Atlantic and Cumberland counties. Heavy storm damage caused power failures lasting several days to thousands of homes in these two counties.

Thanks to all those that came out and supported the Club's 2012 Field Day exercises. Vinnie, N4NYY, reported that our total score was 12,746 with 40CW and 20CW/Digital winning top awards with scores of 846 and 840 respectively.

The program for August will include a presentation by Jim, N2GXJ, on Radio Direction Finding.

Harry, W2FLY, has completed testing on the Motorola Micor repeater using the new crystals for 147.18/78. The repeater has been transported to the Clubhouse where additional work is required to change out the controller board.

With the 2012 Field Day behind us, efforts are currently underway to finalize plans for our upcoming Hamfest in September. We will need help from the whole Club to make the Hamfest a success.

Bike MS: City to Shore Ride (Sept 29-30) is an event sponsored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Delaware Valley Chapter designed to raise money for MS research and treatment programs for those affected within the Chapter. This event is the Chapter's largest and generally brings in \$5 million every year. Amateur Radio operators are needed to provide communications along the route at designated intersections, rest stops, and in certain support and staff vehicles. Usually about 100 hams are needed, but more is always better. For more information about the ham radio side of the event, contact Carmen DeCiccio, KE3QB, at ms.eventcommunications@yahoo.com.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that Joe DiNovi, WA2GFK, is recovering quite nicely and is looking forward to being 100% recovered in the near future.

Tnx and 73,
Tom, KE2ES

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

The Dog DX Days of SNJ continue. We seem to be getting the worse possible effects when the sun bounces between being active and inactive this summer. During times of high solar activity, our over-the-pole long haul chances have been disrupted while generally poor HF propagation has been the norm. Quiet times on the sun have resulted in poor DX opening for HF propagation with no corresponding help from seasonal Sporadic-E propagation on 6 Meters to help compensate for our summer time DX blues! Best we can do with the remaining period of summer time propagation is to hope the sun will find a way to please our DX/propagation needs. There is always a chance of a significant reversal in Sporadic-E propagation on 6 Meters to add a little DX "spice" to the HF underperforming days through the end of August. Keep your eye on the Magic Band and note some of the DXpeditions emphasizing 6M activity for their exotic stays.

At least the Brits will give us something to chase with their hosting of the Summer Olympics in London. GB stations and splashy qsls will be offered to those who work the radio stations at the Olympic sites. Summer propagation should at least afford us as easy shot at this world-wide event. Google 202W (or www.2o2w.com (NOTE: o not zero) for more operational info and where to send for a confirmation.

The D64K Comoros Islands DXpedition and the 9M4SLL Spratly Islands DXpedition should be the biggest on air DX events of the month. We have to temper our hopes of working these stations with the poor propagation so far this summer with Spratly being the tougher of the two to work. Best bets band-wise for a qso would be 20M, 17M, and 15M in that order. Be sure to do some listening as well as cluster-spotting to ascertain best times to hunt for these rare DX activations. Also, late August can sometimes display propagation characteristics of the fall season at times which could produce a pleasant surprise for your logbook!

"Keep the Propagation Faith" and clean up some of these August possibilities for a new band, mode or all-time new DXCC entity for your totals:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	PRIORITY (5=MOST RARE)	ENTITY
D64K	8/1-8/31	7 OPS, 160-6M	3	COMOROS IS.
J68HZ	8/4-8/19	40-10M/FOCUS RTTY	1	ST. LUCIA
9M4SLL	8/7-8/13	80-10M/CW, SSB, RTTY	4	SPRATLY IS.
JW	8/10-8/12	CW, SSB, RTTY	2	SVALBARD
FP	8/10-8/20	160-6M/500W/SSB,CW	1	ST. PIERRE IS.
5H3ME	8/14-9/3	80-6M, FOCUS-CW/DIG	2	TANZANIA
6W	8/15-8/22	SSB,CW, PSK	2	SENEGAL
C5	8/22-8/29	HF/SSB, CW, PSK	2	GAMBIA

Welcome New Member

Last month I failed to list one of the Members who rejoined the Club, Merrill Brown, WK2G. Merrill has been a member of the Club in the past is now back in the area. Merrill is an Extra Class Licensee and lives in North Wales, PA. Merrill participated in Field Day this year, operating 20M CW as he has in the past. Good to have you back Merrill and sorry I missed you last month.

August Meeting Program

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

The program for the August 1st Club Meeting is an introduction to Radio Direction Finding (RDF) and to one of the most fun and best-kept secrets in all of radio sport, T-hunting! Also known as foxhunting, the idea behind a T-hunt is simple. A ham (the fox) takes his transmitter to a spot of his choosing within the boundaries of a pre-arranged area, and then intermittently calls out for the radio hunters to try and find him. The hunters, in small teams, compete against each other to try to be the first to find the transmitter. "Foxhunting is certainly fun and a competitive challenge," says CQ's Editor Rich Moseson, "but it also teaches important radio direction-finding (RDF) skills that may be called upon in searching for a lost hiker or downed airplane's Emergency Locator Transmitter. RDF techniques are also useful for tracking down sources of electronic interference."

The history of RDF is almost as old as radio itself. In the early days, not only was being able to communicate over long distances found to be invaluable, but so was being able to locate the source of such a signal, especially in the event of an emergency. As a military tool, RDF at HF frequencies (HF/DF) has played a major role in world conflicts since WW1 and is still important today.

Amateur radio has had a long history of RDF as well. It is not surprising that radio enthusiasts would make a sport out of their hobby. Today, on-foot ARDF competitions are held the world over. For example, the USA ARDF championships were held this past June in the mountains east of San Diego. The ARDF World Championships are being held in Serbia this September.

Although the technology has changed over the many decades, the essential elements of the techniques have not. Despite advances in technology, it is still largely up to the skill of the RDF equipment operator to make sense out of the information gleaned from their gear. From cold war elephant cages, to tape-measure antennas and body fades, T-hunting history, technology, and techniques take center stage in this evening's presentation, all in preparation for this month's special Club event, a mobile T-hunt! As always, visitors welcome. Hope to see you there!

Club Event Mobile T-hunt!

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

So, you've got a 2M handheld, now what? How about trying a mobile T-hunt? This is a fun activity for spouses, friends, and non-hams as well! Note: This T-hunt is a driving, navigating, and radio direction finding activity. Members are encouraged to partner with a designated driver, so that navigating and RDF activities are less of a driving distraction during the event.

How it works: With an emphasis on fun, and starting from wherever you want in the county, teams will check-in with the hunt's coordinator, Jim, N2GXJ, on our club's 2M repeater (147.180+, PL 131.8). Once all teams have checked-in (and exchanged sufficient bravado and trash talk), at the designated start time, the fox will be asked to reveal his identity, but not his location to us on the repeater frequency. After ID (and most likely some taunting), the fox will then switch his transmissions to a simplex frequency (probably 147.54), and the hunt is on! The fox will transmit a couple of times each minute, while we all try to be the first to find him. Teams will stay in touch with (and mislead?) each other on the repeater frequency, keeping the simplex frequency open for fox transmissions. After an hour has passed, if there are still teams out there searching for him, the fox will start giving better clues. Once all teams have Please see "T-Hunt" on Page 4.

“T-Hunt” from Page 3.

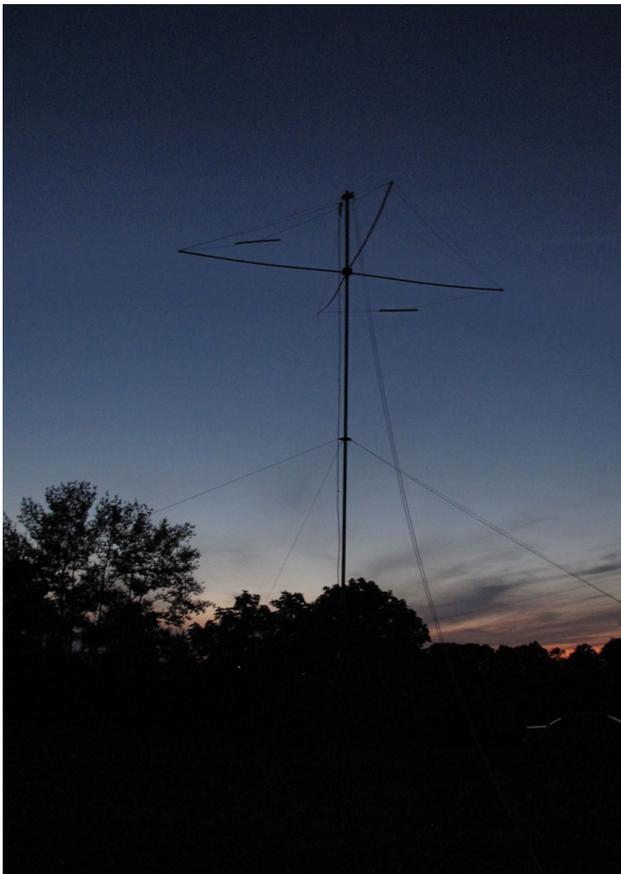
found the fox (or have given up), we’ll all meet up at the Whitman Diner for some refreshments, and a chance to laugh a bit while sharing our hunt stories.

When: Sunday August 5, 1-3pm. Check-ins will start a few minutes before 1pm. Fox reveal, after all check-ins, and expected start time: approximately 10 minutes after the hour.

Where: Fox will hide himself in central Gloucester County, defined for this hunt as being anywhere within the bounds of Salem County in the southwest, Camden County in the northeast, south of the NJ Turnpike in the northwest, and generally north of Franklinville in the south, and to the west of the line of County Rd 612 (Williamstown Rd) continuing through down-town Williamstown onto Sicklerville Rd (County Rt. 536 Spur) across to just before the Atlantic City expressway entrance. Socializing afterwards is at the Whitman Diner, 4990 Route 42, Turnersville, NJ. All are invited.

Things you might want to take with you: Portable 2M radio with built-in S-meter (or some other way for you to know if you are homing-in on the fox’s signal), road map(s) for navigation that cover central Gloucester County (where the fox is hiding)a wrist watch/clock (so don’t miss check-in at 1pm). Might also want to carry a copy of your ham license, just in case there are any questions..... “Yes officer, this is directional antenna. We’re hams, amateur radio operators, participating in a radio fox hunt; it’s like a radio version of hide and seek. It’s a fun way for us to practice radio skills for search and rescue, and other civil defense skills that may be needed to help during emergencies.”

Talk it up amongst your friends. Let’s have some fun! Hope to hear you during the check-ins on Aug 5th!



Antenna at Sunset
Field Day 2012
Picture courtesy of Jim Wright,
N2GXJ

Field Day Results

From Harry Bryant, AA2WN

The total score the 2012 Field Day effort was 12,746 which consisted of 11,396 points for contacts and 1,350 bonus points. The Top Dog award goes to the 40 Meter CW operation with 846 QSOs. The 20 Meter CW/DIG operation was a very close second with 840 QSOs.

The individual breakdown of contacts follows:

	CW QSOs Pwr(W)		Digital QSOs Pwr(W)		Phone QSOs Pwr(W)	
80m	390	100			242	100
40m	846	100			386	100
20m	752	100	88	100	186	100
15m	190	100	38	100	133	100
10m					98	100
6m					40	100
2m					5	50
TOTAL	2178		126		1090	

Great job again by all who participated!

Chairing Field Day

By Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY

Four years ago, I joined GCARC to learn more about the ham radio hobby. After I had attended several meetings, Doug Gehring, who was Club President at the time, asked me if I wanted to be Field Day Chairman. My response to him was, "What the hell is Field Day?" After Doug explained, I said that I would get back to him. I initially was not going to take the responsibility because I simply was at the entry level of the ham world. After a few days, I decided to accept the position if I got some help, as I did not want to make a bad impression by declining it. Well, I got a ton of help, especially in that first Field Day. I had such a good time at Field Day that I decided to do it again. I ended up chairing four Field Days. In each, it got more hectic and seemed to get harder each year. But when the setup was over and 2pm Saturday rolled around, it was all well worth it. The operating period of Field Day has become one of my favorite days of the year. In each of the last 4 years, we bettered our score, and appear to have set Club records the last 2 years. This year, was especially shocking as we had terrible band conditions on the upper bands, and about 300 less bonus points. But somehow, we bettered last year's record. The lower bands really pulled the load.

I am frequently complimented by people on running a great Field Day. But let's be realistic here. The participants are the ones that deserve the credit. Everyone including operators, caterers, antenna raisers, generator tenders, and the people that came and spent time socializing, are the people that made Field Day. Those are the important people.

This year was my last Field Day as chairman. I am going to dedicate myself to help run a band or be a normal participant at Field Day 2013. Thanks to everyone that helped the Club and me, getting and keeping Field Day rolling for the last four years. The enthusiasm was simply great!

15 Meter Field Day Recap

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

Setup was a breeze this year, with antenna lifting and expert tent setup help from the Boy Scouts (thank you)! For the father-and-son team of Jim (N2GXJ) and Miles (KC2YWP), a new home-brew wire beam made its debut this year, offering some punch to fight what would otherwise have been disappointing band conditions.

After a slow couple of hours of occasional and fleeting sideband contacts into the Southern states of Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas, the first excitement of the day came when "out of the blue" we found ourselves in a run of stations hitting us from all over the Midwest, including Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and then Indiana and Ohio.

Soon the contacts stretched bi-coastal, with contacts all up and down the Western side of the USA. In addition to the more popular California sections "ORG", "LAX", "SDG", and "SF", we found ourselves having to check the charts when we got the chance to log some less-common sections including "EB", "SB", "SCV", and "SJV". After giving the antenna a little bump to the North, we ended up with contacts all the way up the other coast, through BC and into the northern territories, including over a dozen contacts each to stations in Oregon and Western Washington.

Highlights of the evening included when we pounced and were able to bust through a Pacific pileup on sideband to bag our first Hawaii station, and then later on, when calling CQ on PSK31 around midnight local time, when we got an unexpected reply and perfect "599, 1D DX" report from VK7KT in Australia! It's not that often one gets a Field Day contact from a station that's over 10,300 miles away, on the other side of the planet!

The largest station contacted was WONT (14E, Colorado). That's 14 simultaneous transmitters. I had to ask how they did that, and they said they were spread out over a large ball field. Very impressive! Once again, the funniest call heard was K9FUW (1E, Illinois), who was phonetically calling "Kilo Nine Fat Ugly Wife", and getting lots of attention. If I understand correctly, that's actually his "Fine Understanding Wife's" call. Understanding indeed! We were still smiling as we signed off in kind, saying "Thanks, from Whiskey Two - Made My Day!"

Though the QSO count could have been higher, we had fun. And in the end, that's what will make this, once again, a Field Day to remember.

VEC Testing

Regular VEC testing sessions are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM and are held at the Franklin Township Public Library on Coles Mill Road in Franklinville. The cost of the exam is \$15. Candidates are required to have a photo ID and two copies of their current license if they have one. For further information on VEC testing or to sign-up for a session contact Gary Reed at 856-582-4365 or at glreed49@verizon.net.

August Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in August.

Harry Jackson, WB2GSF
James Mollica, Sr., K2OWE
James Mollica, Jr., N2NRD
Curtis Myers, WA2JSG
Lee Pamplin, N3EKR
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: 8/22/12

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Vice President-Jim Wright, N2GXJ
Treasurer-Al, KB2AYU

Doug Gehring, WA2NPD
Art Strong, K2AWS
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ
Mike Mollet, N2SRO

ARES/RACES-Gary, N2QEE
Awards-Kenny, W2KRD
Budget-Al, KB2AYU
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E
Constitution-As needed
Contests-Ken, W2KRD
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ken, N2CQ
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-Vinnie/Bill, N4NYY/NJ2S
Hamfest-Vinnie/Bill, N4NYY/NJ2S
Historian-Art, K2AWS

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Sheldon Parker, K2MEN
Corresponding Secretary-Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY

Trustees

Cory Sickles, WA3UVV
Martin Wilt, W2ILT

Committees

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Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Tom, KE2ES
Programs-Jim, N2GXJ
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Tom, KE2ES
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
Website-Jeff, KC2WCS

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

GCARC 2 Meter Net
Third Thursday of the Month
8:00PM
147.78/18Mhz (PL131.8Hz)

ARES/RACES
Sunday 20:00 Hrs
(147.78/18 and
223.06/224.66
repeaters)

August Meeting

Radio Direction Finding
Jim Wright, N2GXJ

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

