



## Presidents Message

By the time you will get this message thanksgiving will be just a memory, happy I hope. With the holiday season upon us, I wish all the members and their families very happy holidays and a healthy New Year.

### 2003 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2003 are due. The annual dues are \$15.00. Please send your checks directly to the treasurer, Bob Krchnavek, (K2DAD) at 50 Eastwick Dr., Gibbsboro, NJ 08026.

There are several things on the agenda for the December meeting. First of all is the election of officers for the year 2004. We have a full slate of candidates and would like your vote to show your support for your new officers. The other item is the presentation of the proposed budget for the new year. Bob, K2DAD, has spent a large amount of time working out a budget we can live with based on actual expenses for 2002 and year to date expenses for 2003. With only a month to go in 2003 we don't expect any surprises in our expenses, I hope.

The silent auction was a pleasant activity and many members walked away with great bargains. The club realized about \$200 dollars from auctions at the October and November meetings. Many thanks to Ann Peck for donating the items from her late husband's ham station. We all wish her well.

The open house at the trailer was attended by some members and we all had a productive time. At these open houses there is more time to socialize especially for me as the business of the meeting does not limit the time for chatting with friends. Try to get out to a future meeting at the club house and enjoy the fine station we have there. Last time I had the pleasure of working Antarctica for the first time.

I hope to see a good turnout for the next meeting on December 3rd for elections and other business.

Best 73 & 88 to all,  
Ray, WB2NBJ

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

# DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

How many times have you listened while some ham friend, typically a Technician Class, explained to you that years ago he/she used to copy about 25 wpm code but, now, after having ignored code for lo these many moons, he/she can no longer even remember the alphabet except for maybe SOS, when reminded that he/she should at least remember the international distress call. And, when quizzed about a few letters, sure enough, they don't remember most of them. Well, of course, it takes no brain surgeon skills to conclude that these folks have never gotten beyond maybe 10 wpm, at best. In fact, why was the General test speed hurdle, for many years, set at 13 wpm (today element 2 has been proposed by several at 12 wpm)? Very simply, because the human brain must undergo a transition when copying code and this transition occurs typically between 10 and 13 wpm. One cannot copy code at this speed by mentally breaking up the dits and dahs and piecing them together to recognize a given letter. One begins to recognize and hear the entire sound of a given character and this recognition occurs in the 13 wpm speed range. Without this change, one cannot progress up the speed ladder, trying to piece together is simply too slow. But a marvelous phenomenon occurs within the brain. Once the sounds of each character are mastered, the brain, as with touch typing, or riding a 2-wheeled bike, will never, ever forget. One can learn to touch-type, not touch a typewriter for 20 years and sit down in front of a typewriter and, presto, you are touch typing again at a high speed after just a small amount of practice. The same is true of Morse Code. You will lose your speed with time, but never forget the characters once having cleared the 13 wpm hurdle. If you never cleared the 13 wpm hurdle at some point in time, then you can be forgiven for forgetting the entire alphabet with the passage of time, but at 25 wpm, nope, not possible! Well, on to this month's activity.

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	COUNTRY
TO4E	11/24 - 12/15	All/All	5 plus	Europa
FS/HC (1)	12/3 - 12/10	160-6/CW,SSB, PSK	2	St. Martin
T32/suff's	11/24- 12/8	All/All	3	E. Kiribati
VK9CJ	11/27- 12/15	160-6; CW,SSB,RTTY	4	Cocos Keel.
5T5/suff's	12/4- 12/17	NA/NA	3	Mauritania
ZW0S	12/2 - 12/15	160-6/ SSB, CW	3	Pete/Paul R's.
3Y	Peter Is. Dxpediton postponed for one year.			

\*No. 5 is rarest

(1) Major Dxpediton

TNX to [WEEKLY DX](#), [425 DX NEWS](#), K2JF, AA2WN, W2YC, WA2LET

## W2LVW, SK

For those of you who do not know Jim Peck, W2LVW, Jim was a charter member of our Club and our third president. Jim also was a long time member of the Board of Directors, an avid Field Day participant, a World War II veteran, a DXer, and an active member of the Club serving the Club in many capacities. He worked at the Navy Yard, worked for the FAA, and finished up his working career as the manager of the Radio Shack store on Route 45 just north of Mantua. Jim and his XYL, Ann, kept a trailer at Lake Garrison for many years. From that location, they hosted many of our Club Picnics. For many years, Jim lived in Deptford Township where he operated a Collins S-line and had a 70 ft. tower which supported his tri-bander. In later years, he also became a VHF/UHF enthusiast and also was a RTTY operator. He participated in RTTY nets handling traffic and was an avid AREC operator. He held an Advanced Class license and held the W2LVW call since right after World War II. The Pecks moved to Glassboro during the 1980s. Jim became ill during the early 1990's and became a silent key about one year ago.

At our last two Club meetings, we auctioned off (via silent auction) much of Jim's equipment, peripherals, and a host of supporting items from his station, all kindly donated to the Club by his widow, Ann. The Club realized over 200 dollars from this auction which certainly helps the Club Treasury. The Club wishes to sincerely thank Mrs.

Peck for her continued interest and for her most generous bequest; for, through Jim's legacy, she has greatly benefited the Club and made a number of high bidders very happy. Fond memories of Jim and Ann will remain with the Club members for many years.

Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

## December Membership Meeting

The annual election of officers for the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club will take place at the December meeting. The following candidates have been nominated as officers:

President	Ray Schnapp	WB2NBJ
Vice President	Wayne Wilson	WA2LET
Treasurer	Bob Krchnavek	K2DAD
Recording Secretary	Harry Bryant	AA2WN
Corresponding Secretary	John Fisher	K2JF
Directors	Bob Krukowski	KR2U
	Ray Martin	WB2LNR
	Gene Schoeberlein	AA2YO

Only one candidate has been nominated for each office except Directors. The Club must elect two Directors from the three nominees at the December meeting.

A preliminary 2004 budget will also be presented at the meeting and the membership must decide at what level to set the dues for the coming year.

Come out to the December meeting and help determine the future direction of your Club.

## New Engineering Conversion Factors

From John Fisher, K2JF

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter? = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese soup? = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash? = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement? = 1 bananosecond
5. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour? = Knot furlong
6. One 6.5 feet in the Twilight Zone? = 1 Rod Serling
7. Half of a large intestine? = 1 semicolon
8. 1,000,000 aches? = 1 megahertz
9. Basic unit of laryngitis? = 1 hoarsepower
10. Shortest distance between two jokes? = A straight line
11. 453.6 graham crackers? = 1 pound cake
12. 1 million-million microphones? = 1 megaphone
13. 1 million bicycles? = 2 megacycles
14. 365.25 days? = 1 unicycle
15. 2000 mockingbirds? = 2 kilomockingbirds
16. 10 cards? = 1 decacards
17. 1 kilogram of falling figs? = 1 Fig Newton
18. 1000 milliliters of wet socks? = 1 literhosen
19. 1 millionth of a fish? = 1 microfiche
20. 1 trillion pins? = 1 terrapin
21. 10 rations? = 1 decoration
22. 100 rations? = 1 C-ration
23. 2 monograms? = 1 diagram
24. 8 nickels? = 2 paradigms
25. 2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital? = 1 IV League

## Field Day Results 2003

The 2003 Field Day results were published in the December issue of QST and unfortunately GCARC did not win its category as it did in 2002. We were beaten out by a club from Illinois by 18 points out of a score of over 7500. With a score that close, all we needed were a few more contacts to win our class. I guess we needed a few more feet on that tower after all and maybe a few more rested operators. The group that beat us used 66 participants in their winning effort while we only had 26 members helping out.

With more participation from our Club membership in 2004, we should easily be able to improve our performance. So start making plans and arraigning your schedules so that you can participate next year and we will again take our rightful place as the King of the 9a's.

## Club Member Profiles

Beginning next month Crosstalk will contain a new column. Each month Crosstalk will profile one or more active Club members. This will allow us all to get to know other Club members and learn about the areas of ham radio in which they are active. This won't be an in depth biography but will tell a little about each individual and concentrate on their Club involvement and ham radio activities.

To make this work you will need to provide the information needed to write this column as you are the one who knows you best. So, I will be in contact with several people each month asking for information. When you get this request, please try to send the requested information in a timely fashion so that I have something for each issue. One thing that I will be asking for is a picture of each of you to include in the column when you are profiled. So if you have a digital picture, hold on to it for when it is your turn to be profiled. This will only work if you help out with the basic information.

## Australia will Drop Morse Requirement January 1st

Australia is the latest country to announce it's dropping Morse code testing as a licensing requirement. The Australian Communications Authority says it will eliminate the Morse testing requirement starting January 1, 2004

The change will give holders of Intermediate and Limited Amateur licenses access to the same frequency bands as Unrestricted Amateur licensees, and holders of the Novice Limited Amateur license access to the same frequency bands as Novice licensees.

The Wireless Association of Australia says dropping the Morse requirement will mean no changes in existing licenses or call signs.

Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Singapore and Papua-New Guinea have already dropped their Amateur Radio Morse testing requirements or have announced an intention to do so.

Radio Amateurs of Canada asked Industry Canada to drop the Morse requirement at the 21st Industry Canada-Radio Amateurs of Canada Amateur Radio Advisory Board meeting October 23 in Ottawa. US amateurs have commented on 14 petitions calling for outright deletion of the Morse requirement or changes in existing requirements. The FCC is not expected to act on the matter until 2004 at the earliest.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the ARRL Letter.

## Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following Club members:

Arthur Goldman, K3WIN 12/19  
Tom Gorman, KE2ES 12/5  
Wayne Welsh, WA2VOY 12/1  
Norm Williams, WA2HVJ 12/14



## Crosstalk Submissions

All submissions, queries, comments, editorials, etc. should be directed to:

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO  
401 Westwood Drive  
Woodbury, New Jersey 08096-3131

aa2yo@arrl.net

Submission deadline: 12/22/2003

President-Ray Schnapp WB2NBJ  
Vice President-Wayne Wilson WA2LET  
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML  
Lou Joseph W2LYL  
Al Arrison KB2AYU

Advertising-Open  
ARES/RACES-Chick WA2USI  
Awards-Jack K2ZA  
Banquet-Bob KR2U  
Budget-Bob K2DAD  
Clubhouse Site-Al KB2AYU  
Constitution-Open  
Crosstalk-Gene AA2YO  
Database-Ray WB2LNR  
DX-Doug WA2NPD  
Field Day-Ray WB2LNR  
Hamfest-Harry AA2WN

## GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Harry Bryant AA2WN  
Corresponding Secretary-John Fisher K2JF

## Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO  
Bob Krukowski KR2U  
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

## Committees

Hospitality-Ken N2CQ  
Membership-Ray WB2LNR  
Nominations-Art Strong KA2DOT  
Publicity-Open  
Repeaters-Chuck WA2TML  
Scholarships-Greg WN2T  
Special Services-Gene N2IMK  
Sunshine-Open  
Technical-Bob KR2U  
TVI-John AA2BN  
VEC Testing-Chick WA2USI

**The W2MMD Repeaters**

147.78/18 Mhz- Pitman  
(CTCSS 131.8Hz)

223.06/224.66 Mhz-Sewell

447.1/442.1 Mhz - Pitman  
(CTCSS 131.8Hz)

**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)

**December Meeting Program**

Election of Officers  
Proposed 2004 Budget  
Set Dues for 2004

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

