



Presidents Message

This will be one of my last president's messages. It has been an honor to serve and I got to know many of the Club members much better than I would have had I not served. I know Darrell Neron, AB2E, will make a fine Club President. He is an avid contester and has put our club in forefront of active stations along with our other top ops.

2004 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2004 are due. The annual dues are \$20.00. Please send your checks directly to the treasurer, Bob Krchnavek, (K2DAD) at 50 Eastwick Dr., Gibbsboro, NJ 08026.

Our next meeting on December 1 will be at the senior center across the parking lot from the usual place. Monroe Township has need for the big hall on that night. We are getting to use these facilities for free and I kind of like the senior center because it is not so spread out.

As you know next meeting will be elections and I'm sure the editor will list the candidates elsewhere in this issue.

Being President has been a blast and everyone has given me their utmost in cooperation. I am sure that Darrell will receive the same sort of help. Personal duties have caused me to step down, however I am running for trustee and I will still print and send out Crosstalk as long as I am able.

I want to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving (I hope this issue gets out by then) and also Happy Holidays.

My best 73 and 88 to all,
Ray WB2NBJ

Happy Holidays

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

This month's blurb was triggered by a most recent article written by Bernie, W3UR, Editor of the Daily and Weekly DX bulletins. Your scribe here feels this problem needs maximum publicity and attention, hence, it will be the major thrust for this month. It is a spin-off of the chronic situation whereby most liberal do-gooders think Amateur Radio is a hobby for goof balls and riff-raff (my description).

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) apparently is staffed by many folks who look kindly upon the wildlife, flora, and fauna (as they should), but, simultaneously, look upon Radio Amateurs the same way as radical Muslims look upon Christians. Hence, we "infidels", now for ten (10) years, have been banned from setting foot upon Navassa and Desecheo Islands, and, now apparently the same is to be mandated for the other five islands controlled by the FWS (I believe these are Midway, Kure, Wake, Johnston, and Palmyra/Kingman Reef). As evidence of this, a recent request by NA5U to operate from Midway (in honor of the battle anniversary) was denied by FWS. If this ban is perpetuated, these US Islands could eventually be removed from DXCC status! As further evidence of the FWS attitude, a FWS official was overheard telling a Congressional staff member that "Amateur Radio is a worthless pastime conducted by people who have nothing better to do". The FWS insists that Desecheo is unsafe due to its former use as a military bombing range and that Navassa's delicate habitat cannot withstand visitors. However, FWS records show that demolition teams have cleared Desecheo and that FWS personnel regularly camp out on the island. Furthermore, the FWS ignores the presence of illegal immigrants from Haiti who are living on Navassa, start fires, and harm wildlife. And, quoting from W3UR, in 2000, when FWS personnel spent several days on Navassa doing field work, they didn't even tell the dozens of Haitians on the island to leave! Fortunately, relief help is on the way!

For over two years, a group led by Brad, K4RT, has been working to reach a solution to the FWS closure of Navassa and Desecheo. Also, recent efforts by the DX community have resulted in legislation being drafted to force the FWS to allow access to these two Islands. Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) has introduced HR5361 and Congressman Richard Pombo (D-CA) has signed on. It is critical that all DXers in every state contact their respective Congressmen and urge them to sign-on this pending legislation. Urge them to contact Rep. Rahall's office at 202-225-3452. Now, the Lone Star DX Association (LSDXA), a very large and respected DX group, has joined in the effort to get these Islands back on the air. Judicial review and litigation will be both prolonged and costly. Individual DXers and Ham organizations can help. To get started, LSDXA has donated \$500 to a fund it will administer to help pay the costs. Please send your donations to the LSDXA, c/o Jim Bass, K5KQI, 2709 Monarch Drive, Arlington, TX, 76006. Note your donation for the "Navassa-Desecheo Project". Also, note that LSDXA has been granted tax exempt status by the IRS. New updates and additional information and resources can be found at <http://www.dxer.org>.

Well, finally, after all these years (Navassa and Desecheo are now in the top ten most wanted entities) some action is underway in earnest to help save these two Islands from the wrath of irrational environmentalists. There is still a long ways to go (Senate concurrence and presidential signature), but at least it's a start. Your scribe trusts that all GCARC DXers will get behind this worthwhile effort.

Well, not to overlook several good ones upcoming, we have for this month:

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	COUNTRY
VU4---	12/1 - 12/31	To be Announced	5 +	Andaman Is.
VP8---	11/30-12/10	10 M only; CW	4	Falkland Is.
XU7ADI	11/22-12/5	80 - 10; CW, SSB	4	Cambodia
ZK1DRA	11/24-12/5	160 - 10; CW, SSB (QRP)	3	So. Cook
FK/F5IRO	now till 2/15	40 M; CW	3	New Calidonia
ZD7ZA	12/24-1/1	40 - 10; SSB, CW	3	St. Helena Is.
ZD8ZA	1/3 - 1/7	40 - 10; SSB, CW	3	Ascension Is.

* No. 5 is rarest

* Tnx to The Daily DX, 425 DX News, and W2YC, WA2LET, AA2WN, K2JF

Election of Officers for 2005

The following people have been nominated for GCARC officers for 2005:

President – Darrell Neron, AB2E	Vice President – Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
Treasurer – Robert Krchnavek, K2DAD	Recording Secretary – Harry Bryant, AA2WN
Corresponding Secretary – John Fisher, K2JF	Director – William Blakely, WA2ADB
Director-Steve Blasko, W2TDS	Trustee-Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ

Nominations are now closed for 2005 Club officers. Come out to the December meeting and cast your vote and show support for your new officers.

Phone Patch Question at December Meeting

At the November General Meeting, usage of the Club's phone patch on the 147.78/18 MHz repeater was discussed. The consensus was that the phone patch is not used enough to justify the expense to the Club of keeping the phone line in service. It was decided that the question of the phone patch should be advertised in this issue of Crosstalk and that a vote on eliminating the patch would be taken at the December meeting. Come out to the meeting and vote your feelings on this issue.

Club Member Profile

This month's Crosstalk profile features Darrell Neron, AB2E, the nominee for Club President for 2005:

Darrell Neron has been a ham since June 1967, when he finished his freshman year in high school. Then-GCARC member Paul Callahan, WB2WAK, was a science teacher at Williamstown High School at the time and was the faculty sponsor of the high school amateur radio club. By the end of that school year Darrell passed his novice and obtained the call WN2BVV. Ham radio immediately became a fascination and indeed, a way of life for Darrell. Starting out on 2M phone (novices had 2m phone at that time) and quickly moving to CW on the 15m, 40m, and 80m novice bands, he worked all 50 states and DXCC by the time he passed the general and became WB2BVV the following spring.

Part of the efforts of WB2WAK was to introduce the new novices to the GCARC. Some notable members who AB2E remembers from those days include N2CQ, K2HPV, WA2NPD, N2SS, K2JF, WB2FJE, and several silent keys. One morning in 2003, while having breakfast at Heroes in Pitman, K2JF suggested he renew his membership with GCARC. He joined again in 2003, and participated in Field Day for 2003 and 2004, flying home from London to make it in 2004. He has also been involved in work activities at the GCARC Clubhouse, lending a hand to KB2AYU when possible.

Darrell is currently a full-time professor of economics and international business at Peirce College in Philadelphia, teaching mostly online via the Internet. Prior to that he was in the travel industry, managing corporate travel agencies. His radio activities primarily involve contesting and DXpeditioning these days. From 1993-1999, he operated frequently from Antigua as V26E and was a founding member of the V26B superstation there. In 1999, he operated as ZP6/AB2E from Paraguay and was part of the ZP6T multi-multi team for CQWW CW. Since then, he has also operated as M/AB2E, MJ/AB2E, multiop at GJ2A, and in the upcoming CQWW CW from Ireland as EI/AB2E.

Useful Conversions?

For those who thought the hardest part of Physics 101 was the constant conversion from MKS or CGS units to English units, here are some useful English system conversions:

Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter-Eskimo Pi
2000 pounds of Chinese soup-Won ton
1 millionth of a mouthwash-1 microscope
Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement-1 bananosecond
Weight an evangelist carries with God-1 Billigram
Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour-Knot-furlong
365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer because it's less filling-1 lite year
16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone-1 Rod Serling
Half of a large intestine-1 semicolon
1000 aches-1 megahurtz
Basic unit of laryngitis-1 hoarsepower
Shortest distance between two jokes-A straight line (think about it for a moment)
453.6 graham crackers-1 pound cake
1 million-million microphones-1 megaphone
2 million bicycles-2 megacycles
365.25 days-1 unicycle
2000 mockingbirds-two kilomockingbirds
10 cards-1 decacards
1 kilogram of falling figs-1 Fig Newton
1000 grams of wet socks-1 literhosen
1 millionth of a fish-1 microfiche
1 trillion pins-1 terrapin
10 rations-1 decoration
100 rations-1 C-ration
2 monograms-1 diagram
8 nickels-2 paradigms
2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital-1 I.V. League
100 Senators-Not 1 decision

Thanks to John Fisher, K2JF, for the above.

Experimental Licensees Moving Low-Frequency Forward

With no Amateur Radio low-frequency allocation in North America, stations operating under FCC Part 5 Experimental licenses in the US or under special experimental authorizations in Canada nonetheless continue to research the nether regions of the radio spectrum.

The holder of Part 5 Experimental license WD2XDW, Laurence Howell, KL1X/5 in Oklahoma is active in LF operating on 137.7752 and 137.7756 kHz. He's reporting some spectacular success, despite antenna limitations. On October 28, New Zealand LFER Mike McAlevey, ZL4OL, copied WD2XDW's 137 kHz carrier "bursts" over a path of more than 13,000 km (8000 miles). Howell believes the reception probably marked the first transpacific reception of a US-generated signal.

The next day, Jim Moritz, M0BMU, copied the LF signals of three North American in the vicinity of 137 kHz (137.777 kHz)--including Howell's WD2XDW and WD2XES, operated by John Andrews, W1TAG, in Massachusetts--using Argo software, which can detect signals not otherwise readable. The third station, Joe Craig, VO1NA, in Newfoundland, has been operating a beacon on 137 kHz. Howell says, VO1NA's signals serve as a bellwether of LF transatlantic propagation. LF signals of European amateurs likewise are heard in North America.

On November 12, Andrews and another LF experimenter in Massachusetts completed the first two-way data exchange between Part 5 Experimental license stations on 137 kHz. Andrews worked Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, operating as WD2XGJ in Wayland, using conventional CW. The stations are about 25 miles apart, and both used loop antennas for transmitting. Jay Rusgrove, W1VD, some 100 miles to the south in Connecticut, monitored and recorded the QSO.

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
William Grim, W0MHK 12/2
Wayne Welsh, WA2VOY 12/1
Norm Williams, WB2HVJ 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: 12/27/2004

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-Bob KC2KGM
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-Norm W2FHO
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
Vote on Phone Patch

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

