



Presidents Message

We were pleased to see that the Club turn-out for the Pitman Crop Walk was superb and all points of the route were well covered. Many thanks to: WA2SVW, KC2SGN, K2AWS, AD2L, WA2KDV, KC2OJN, N2IMK, N2QEE, N2QED, W2FJM, KC2SGR, WB2NBJ, and K2ATX. And a very special thanks to Ed, N2RO, our County EC who coordinated the operation. We have helped out at this charity event for many years. Assisting with this event helps us qualify as an ARRL Special Service Club.

We are pleased to have Martin Wilt, W2ILT, volunteer to handle a sign-up list for a Club jacket and to arrange for the purchase of a jacket model suitable to one and all. Marty will have a sign-up sheet at the December Club meeting. For those who cannot make the meeting please e-mail Martin and let him know you would like to get a jacket. Please list your jacket size and call at the time of sign-up. As usual, the more that place an order, the less expensive the jacket will be. In addition, Marty has volunteered to be our Club Historian. He will have a heavy work load in resurrecting this job and bringing several years of accumulated paper up to date. We profusely thank Marty for undertaking this major effort.

Due to other commitments, Al, KB2AYU, has not been able yet to prepare the new replacement VHF tower for erection (needs new mast, rotator, cabling, etc. preinstalled before tower raising). Now the weather has caught up with this effort and it may be sometime before a warm, sunshine laden weekend descends upon us again. Until such time, the tower will remain horizontal to the ground.

We very recently learned (thanks to N2CQ and W2TSD) that CQ Magazine Publications bought-out WorldRadio Publications. Why is this a big deal? Well, it turns out that we have six (6) complimentary subscriptions to WorldRadio Monthly (Hamfest prizes) that we were planning to chance-off during our monthly club meeting drawings, one per month for the next six months. Following a call to WorldRadio, they will still honor these gift cards, but strongly suggest we chance them off at once and send in the winners immediately in one mailing. This, of course, we will do at our December 3rd Club meeting. We will include all of these subscriptions within our monthly 50:50 drawing which, as usual, will include a mystery gift.

Finally, we should mention that our \$100 donation towards the Desecheo Is. upcoming DX-pedition was gratefully and promptly acknowledged by the DX-pedition coordinator. Now, hope everyone in our Club will have the chance to work them on at least one band. That's about all for this month. Hope to see all at our December General Membership Meeting.

Happy holidays from all the Club Officers and the Crosstalk Contributors and editor.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Well, the snowflakes were flying around South Jersey yesterday and today in late November. I was the recipient of a snow squall while raising and re-securing a leg of my 30/60 Meter dipole (or doublet to be WA2NPD correct!). Hope you all had some time to perform antenna maintenance and/or complete new installations of some copper or aluminum! While radio propagation is still in the doldrums compared to peak sunspot times, I would like to pass along some personal observations on HF conditions recently from our South Jersey environs. Please keep in mind that my experiences are not from a "super station." I have no antennas over 45 feet in height, and those are vertically polarized for 40-160 Meters. The highest tree on my property is a 25 foot maple that is too young to support any antennas. This is flat farm land!

12 Meters surprised me just a few days ago with an opening to Italy around 10AM local time. It was a narrow opening to that part of Europe, but hopefully a sign of more to come on 12 as well as 10 Meters for this time of the morning. Meanwhile 15 Meters has been a bit more predictable to Western Europe in general during the mid and late morning here. I have found 17 Meters to be even more consistent to most of Europe and some of Africa up to lunch time.

40 Meters has been quite solid for the Pacific from sunrise to 9AM. I recently copied H44MY for 2 hours after sunrise on a sailboat accessed rare IOTA island group in the Solomon Islands, infamous for World War II combat operations. 40 Meters should improve with the colder weather. 80 Meters has been noisy and not very DX-productive lately. Western Europe has been accessible on 160 Meters. DX signals begin appearing shortly after sunset. Caribbean stations that are active are workable now on this band too. Longer nights and lower seasonal static levels will contribute to making this band very interesting for another winter season. It's a tough band but very rewarding when you work them!

I'll leave 20 Meters, the "work horse" DX band, to your exploration and discovery. 20 Meters is often open not long after sunrise into past sunset. Look for 20 and 17 to be your easiest bands to work some DX. 40 and 30 Meters will vie for your DX attention as the cold weather deepens.

With seasonal holidays approaching, there is typically a decline of big, heavily organized DX-peditions in favor of one man and casual, vacation like, operations. Our DX list this month reflects those factors and is a bit sparse. Try a few of these on for size in the upcoming month.

STATION	DATES	FQ/MODES	RARITY	ENTITY
YS1	12/3-12/28	HF	1	EL SALVADOR
FK	12/7-12-12	HF/RTTY,SSB,CW	3	NEW CALEDONIA
XU	12/15-1/15	160-10	4	CAMBODIA
CN	12/21-1/3	160-10	1	MOROCCO
JD1	12/28-01/02	160-6	4	OGSAWARA IS.
ZD8	12/31-01/09	HF/SSB, CW	2	ASCENSION IS.
S2	2/31-01/10	80-10	5	BANGLADESH

Election of Officers for 2009 and Program at December Meeting

Nominations for 2009 officers were closed at the conclusion of the November Meeting and listed below are the candidates for Club officers:

President-Doug Gehring, WA2NPD	Vice President-Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU	Corresponding Secretary-Harry Elwell, K2ATX
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ	Director 3 Yr.-Harry Bryant-AA2WN
Director 3 Yr.-Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML	Director 3 Yr.-John Zaruba, AA2BN
Trustee 4 Yr.-Mike Mollet, N2SRO	

The list is the slate presented to the Club from the Nominations Committee and also includes an additional candidate for a 3 Year Director as nominated from the floor at our October Club meeting. Please note that the slate listed in last month's Crosstalk was in error as Steve Blasko was shown as running for Trustee. In actuality Steve's term has not expired and it should have shown Mike Mollet as running for Trustee as above.

Following the election of officers Doug, WA2NPD, will be present a program entitled "The Ionosphere". As most hams know, the Ionosphere is responsible for long range propagation of HF radio waves. The talk will describe the make-up of the ionosphere, its chemistry, and how radio waves are reflected and refracted in the ionosphere. The talk will include factors which influence the extent of wave refraction, the ionospheric plasma, the eleven year sunspot cycle, and the terms used to describe the ionospheric activity. For those of you not familiar with WA2NPD, Doug holds an AB in Mathematics, an MS in Chemistry, and is now retired after many years with DuPont as a Chemist and National Refrigerants as Laboratory Director. He is author and coauthor of 16 technical publications and coauthor of 3 patents and is a consultant regarding the Greenhouse Warming Effect and its chemistry.

Questions from the New Guy

By Martin Wilt (W2ILT)

Sorry, I will not be able to make our December meeting due to a prior commitment with my wife, Mickey Mouse and Goofy. However, I did not want to wait to get the ball rolling regarding my new position as Club Historian. I am interested in gathering the facts and stories from the very start of our Club all the way up to present time.

I need your help! For those of you that have been around for a while, I am going to depend on you to send me stories about past Club events and interesting stories about unusual contacts, different operating locations or how your radio may have saved the day for someone. Also if you have photos of Club members, previous field day events, old radios or antennas and get-togethers involving club members, please bring them to the club meeting starting in January. I will have equipment at the meeting to copy photos and documents, so you do not have to worry about losing prized photos or documents.

In future months, I will try to meet with as many of the Club members as I can, to try and see what facts and stories can be brought out for everyone to enjoy. It would be nice to meet with several members at a time, since one person's story is likely to jog someone else's memory of another story or event. I will be depending on you to help me out with making this project a success and something our Club can be proud of! Feel free to start e-mailing me any information, facts, stories, documents, etc. that would help

Club Certificates Presented

At our November General Membership Meeting, following the unanimous recommendation of the Board of Directors, President Doug, WA2NPD, presented two very deserving Club members with Club Certificates of Appreciation. Bill Blakely, WA2ADB, was presented a certificate for his many years of reliably and faithfully engraving our Club badges and awards in a very professional manner. And, for his just short of miraculous diplomacy in reuniting the Gloucester County 4H back into the GCARC good graces, our President presented a certificate to Harry Elwell, K2ATX. In fact, Harry has reorganized the County 4H Youth Radio Club and they are about to hold their first Club meeting. Congratulations are extended to both of these hard working Club Members.

TV or not TV

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

With the analog to digital television broadcast transition coming up in February, do you find yourself with an old set that's about to hit the street? Before you toss it entirely, think about what's inside. There is lots of wire in the yoke, many connectors, transistors, capacitors, resistors, coils, controls, etc. There's a 3.579545 MHz crystal in there, too.

If you haven't built anything in awhile, consider the guts of your old friend as the basis for a new project or two. While a CW transmitter for 80 meters quickly comes to mind, what else could you do with the parts on that PC board? Even if you don't have a good project idea today, pull the board, speaker and other stuff out and save it for when you do. If nothing else, you can use it to teach someone how to unsolder and solder.

Also, see if you can recycle the CRT (watch out for any residual HV charge) before you throw it out. By the way don't bother looking for that crystal in an old black and white TV. It is not in there-just the ghosts of Ricky and Lucy...

New Club Website

The Club website is undergoing major changes. The server that we have been using to host the Club website which has been made available to us by Margaret Burgess, KB2BRR, will not longer be available as of the end of the year. Harry Elwell, KA2ATX, has arranged for a new, easier to access website. The new web address is <http://www.w2mmd.com> and the new website is already up and running thanks to Harry. Until the end of the year if you go to the old website it will automatically forward you to the new website but after the end of the year you have to use the new address to get to the Club website.

For the time being the Club website contains only the items that were on the old website but Harry hopes to develop the site over the next few months so that it will contain a lot of useful information for Club members and non-club members alike. There should be space for Harry to put a lot more information about the Club on the site and to have useful links on the site for us all to use. So check out the new website and watch as it grows and improves over the next few months.

Thanks Harry for your efforts for improving our Club.

Long Live the J-38

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

I recently picked up a Lionel J-38 straight key on the original base. It came from an out of state estate sale (say that fast a few times). What's special about it is that it came in the original box. Although worn and discolored, the companys logo and manufacturing information are still proudly displayed. The key itself, except for a few scratches, looks to have been well taken care of.

It looks like the key was made in 1943. Holding it, I wondered how many fists it has seen and how many QSOs it has made possible. It really is amazing how much enjoyment a simple object like this can give someone in the right hands. I'll probably never know the keys history, but there is a certain reverence in knowing that a 65-year old key can still help make the magic of my own first contact as a Novice still a vivid memory. Do you still remember yours?

Holiday Memories that Last

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Halloween is the second-largest holiday in terms of commercial success (and isn't that what its really all about?) right behind Christmas. By comparison, there isn't all that much money in Thanksgiving, so its widely forgotten by retailers as they move straight from lighted pumpkins to lighted trees. Still, the opportunity for family and friends to get together and share with others shouldn't be wasted. While some of us have small families, others are huge. Many travel across the country to be together and share our special bonds.

One of the opportunities that Thanksgiving and the whole Christmakwanzakah holiday package affords us is to sit down with the members of our families and talk. For some that gather this year, it may be their last time. For the younger set, you can experience the uniqueness of youth and seeing the world through a childs eyes, once again.

Most of us have some sort of camcorder at home. Instead of waving it about while the kids open presents or your better-half tries to cook, a better use is to sit down (even if just for a few minutes) and talk to family members in a sort of interview. The memories you record will be priceless.

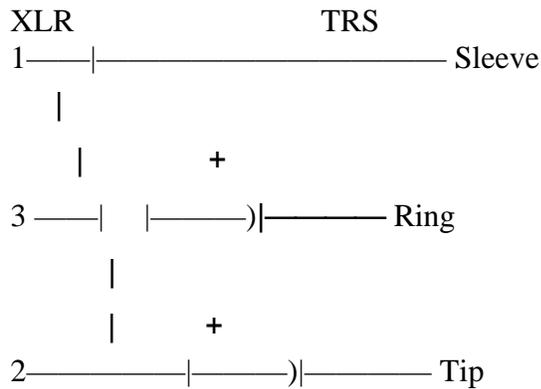
Three things are typically lacking from home movies:good sound, proper lighting and a steady camera.

If most of your footage over the years looks like you had 4 quad-shot espressos before shooting, then get a tripod. If you don't plan to do anything but "lock it down"and record, then you don't need anything fancy. A simple tripod designed for a still camera will suffice. This also allows you to sit next to the camera and concentrate on Q&A with your subject.

The built-in microphones in most camcorders are a joke. To really capture good sound, you need a mike on or near the person speaking. The "big boys"use microphones that are designed for balanced interfaces. This eliminates hum and allows for longer cables. Some reasonably good ones can be had for \$50 and up. Try a music store to see if they have any used mikes. A lot of bands form, buy lots of gear

and then realize they shouldn't give up their day jobs. So there's always quite a selection of used audio equipment available at nice prices. Here's also a chance to get a better mike for your rig. Those Heil products would be a good choice for the rest of the year when you want better "on the air" sound for yourself.

Your camcorder probably wasn't designed for a balanced mike, so here is a quick-and-dirty adapter to stick inside an XLR connector.



Basically, you tie pins 1 and 3 together as ground. Pin 2 is connected to the negative sides of 2 electrolytic capacitors (4.7 to 10 uf) to act as DC blocks then have their positive sides go to Tip and Ring. It's not fancy, but it works and you'll be amazed at how much better your audio will sound. A floor stand from Radio Shack or the music store will hold the mike in place near your subject. Oh yeah, some of the previously-mentioned Heil products already have some sort of blocking arrangement. It doesn't take an Electrical Engineer to figure out how to make up an 8-pin to TRS adapter.

Better lighting can be had by picking up some compact fluorescent lights at your local hardware or home improvement store. What you want are the lights labeled with a temperature setting. If you are going to be anywhere near a window, get the 6500 degree lights. Otherwise get the 3500 degree lights. They typically come as 100/23W lights in a 4 pack. Don't be tempted to use "regular" fluorescents as they emit too much blue/green light and will make everyone look like John Kerry.

Also use a couple of borrowed table lamps (the shades act as diffusers) and place one on each side of the person's face. Make sure they look "natural" in your viewfinder and not like they're being taped for a deposition. Also, turn off the other lights in the area and rely on just these.

What all this gadgetry does is eliminate common distractions (sinister shadows, noisy audio, blue light

Field Day Results

The December issue of QST contained the 2008 Field Day results. The GCARC finished a respectable fourth in the competitive 7A division with 1679 contacts and a total score of 6990. As they say "There's always next year."

December Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in December:

Kelly Glans, N2SBQ
William Grim, W0MHK
Arthur Goldman, K3WIN
Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Jim McDonald, WB2AOL
Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW
Wayne Welsh, WA2VOY



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 January issue:
12/19/2008

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.com>

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

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

Steve, W2TDS
Cory, WA3UVV

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)

December Meeting

Elections

Understanding the Ionosphere
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

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

