

Presidents Message

The big news this month was the December QST article on Field Day, 2009. All of the numbers are in and our Club finished 2nd in our 9A category! We had over 10,000 points., but a Club in Orange County, California had about 19, 000 points. This is the best FD score our Club has earned since back in the late 1990s, and is a tribute to primarily the hard work put forth by Chairman Vinnie, N4NYY, and to all of the Band Chairmen and the other chairmen especially the Generator, Food, and Publicity Departments. This great score gives us a goal to try and break next year.

On another exciting topic, through N4NYY's influence, we are delighted to announce that former FCC Administrator of the Ham Radio Enforcement Bureau, none other than Riley Hollingsworth, has agreed to come to Gloucester County and present a program to our Club. This visitation is expected early next year, perhaps in January or February. Arrangements are in the making and we will keep you posted. This should be a most interesting and exciting program as testimony from numerous other Ham Radio conferences and meetings have proven. Riley apparently enjoys meeting and talking with active Radio Clubs in the area (he now lives in Gettysburg, PA) and, in this case, he has picked out the best Club in his area. Are we just a bit prejudiced? In addition, he has expressed interest in a photo op session to include the 25 year members of our club, etc. So, begin formulating your questions for Riley now and don't miss this presentation.

It is with some degree of sadness that I wind-up my final month as President of our Club. It has been a great two years from my perspective and I am delighted to turn the presidency over to most likely KB2AYU who is richly deserving of this position having been Club President before in 1998 in addition to experience in many other Club positions. Our Club has grown in membership (we are now at 93 members) and we have been most active during the past couple of years. To thank all of you who have made my job easier these past couple of years would be difficult only because I would forget to thank somebody. If our new president receives even half as much cooperation as I did, I am sure he would be quite pleased. Nevertheless, I urge everyone to continue providing Al the same or better degree of help and support as you have done for me. Although only a couple of years away from being an octogenarian, I do plan to continue helping the Club in various ways health issues notwithstanding.

73 and Good Luck to one and all.
De Doug, WA2NPD

Editor's note: We all thank Doug for a job well done during his tenure as President and are glad to hear that he will still be active with the Club and be willing to offer his guidance and sage advice to us all in the future.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Be you a DX "optimist" or "pessimist" you have got to admit that we are getting some increased sunspot activity and solar flux for our "radio recreation". At this writing, we have two sunspots visually on the sun's surface facing the earth with the solar flux reading at 77. It's a far cry from a 200 flux reading during the "good ole 1950's" you may have heard of or experienced. It sure beats the 67-69 range of solar flux numbers we have endured for so many months.

Remember to check out the higher HF bands (15,12 and 10M) when the flux rises to the mid and upper 70s or even the 80 level as it did the other day. A huge difference was noted locally in 15 Meter propagation during the CQ World Wide Phone DX Contest in late October. All continents and over 120 DXCC entities were worked on 15M Phone at W2YC's Williamstown location, including many qsos with a 40 Meter Dipole loaded on 15 Meters to take the place of an ailing 4 element yagi on the same tower!

Hope you had DX success with TX3A putting out Chesterfield Islands qsos for a long stint in November. Only two hams were responsible for the effort which included a very different wire multi-band antenna permanently located in the surf! Take a peek at this unusual array and other tropical pictures of their set-up at www.tx3a.com. Their daily commentaries at the website give a great perspective of organizing a successful operation with limited resources at a very exotic location.

Looking at the other side of the DXpedition coin is the D68F effort scheduled for mid November also. F6AML, who headed-up the attempt, landed in the Comoros Islands with all his gear around Nov. 13. He was confronted with recent political upheaval which resulted in his written permission to operate being DENIED! All of his equipment was impounded by government authorities. He was allowed to go back to France but without his equipment! Not all DXpeditions have happy endings.

Here is one last commodity tip. Yes, I said commodity! The price of copper dipped dramatically worldwide during the last year. It has recently staged a come-back, but many local suppliers of copper wire have it for sale at a much better price than at its peak around a year ago. You might do yourself and your antennas a favor by buying some copper wire now before prices on new inventory head up again. I've seen reports of decent pricing at Lowe's and Home Depot on the net.

Here are some major holiday and potential stocking-stuffer QSLs to be on the look-out for in December. Be aware the number of DXpeditions usually takes a backseat to family activities during this month:

STATIONS	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	PRIORITY	ENTITY
K2V	12/2-12/14	160-6M/ALL MODES	1	US VIRGIN IS.
XU7UFT	12/3-12/8	HF/CW	4	CAMBODIA
VP2V	12/4-12/16	MAINLY 160/WARC/10M	1	BR. VIRGIN IS.
T70A	12/12-12/14	CW/SSB	2	SAN MARINO
JD1	12/27-1/1	CW/SSB/RTTY	4	OGASAWARA IS.
5R8HX	12/28-1/3	MAINLY CW	3	MADAGASCAR
VY1	12/30-1/4	80-10M/RTTY,PSK, CW	1	YUKON TERR.
ARRL 10M CONTEST-12/12-12/13 - FUN & MAYBE DX TOO!				USA & DX

RATINGS: 5 = MOST DIFFICULT CREDITS: NG3K ADXO, THE DAILY DX

Welcome New Member

This month the Club welcomes an old member back to the Club. Bob Krukowski, KR2U, who had been an active member of the Club in the past including holding the post of Club President has rejoined the Club. If you have joined the Club in the last few years and don't know Bob introduce yourself to him when you meet him at Club meetings and functions.

December Meeting Program

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

We are honored to announce that noted DXer Bob, N2OO, will be on hand to present the program for our next meeting. The program will be a power point slide presentation—with audio, on the recent DXpedition to Lord Howe Island, a rare DX location between Australia and New Zealand. Bob has been president of the SNJ DX Association for many years and currently is president of the Old Barney ARC. Bob is positioned high in the total DX countries confirmed list at 352. He has been part of numerous DXpeditions over the years including locations such as V8, Brunei, Wake Island, KH9, and Spratley. When not on location, he has served as QSL manager for many DXpeditions, the latest being the Desecheo operation earlier this year. Following the slide presentation, he will be glad to answer any questions. You won't want to miss this program.

Officer Slate for 2010

Your Nominations Committee is delighted to report that we have the following slate of Club Officers for next year. All have agreed to run for the indicated office:

President: Al, KB2AYU
Vice President: Harry, K2ATX
Recording Secretary: Harold, AC2BK
Corresponding Secretary: Vinnie, N4NYY
Treasurer: Ken, N2CQ
3 Yr. Director: Gene, AA2YO
3 Yr. Director: Doug, WA2NPD
4 Yr. Trustee: Steve, W2TDS

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for any of these positions at the December 2nd meeting but remember nominated people should be present at the meeting to accept the nomination. The election of officers will be held following the closing of nominations from the floor. Come out and make sure your vote counts.

Thanks to Contributors

Your editor thanks all of the contributors to Crosstalk during the past year. Contributions by members make the editing job much easier and add different flavors and viewpoints to your newsletter. I urge all of you to let your voice be heard during the coming year by contributing an article to Crosstalk. The article does not need to be worthy of a Nobel prize in literature to be included and will be edited if needed to make it more readable (hopefully). So if you have something you want to say write something up or jot down some notes and forward them to your editor at aa2yo@arrl.net. Your editor hopes you all have a great holiday season and a happy new year.

NJQRP Dinner and Forum

The NJQRP group, a loosely organized bunch of low power amateur radio enthusiasts in New Jersey, has scheduled a Dinner and Forum for December 7, 2009 from 5 to 8pm. The Dinner and Forum will be held at the Food Court at the Forrestral Village Mall, just off Route 1 in Princeton.

The Dinner and Forum will give participants a chance to socialize, show off projects, kits and parts, enjoy the food available at one of the four restaurants at the food court and hear a couple of QRP presentations by the NJQRP group members. The group has some very talented builders and designers who always come up with some very interesting topics for presentations. They also welcome guests and families to their meetings and functions. There will be a small charge of about \$5 for attendees to cover the cost of door prizes.

For more information on how to get to the Forrestral Village Mall please go to <http://www.njqrp.org/meetings/Forrestral%20food%20court.html>.

Manassas BPL System May Be on the Way Out

The Manassas BPL system which many considered the most successful BPL deployment in the US is in trouble. The system does not appear to be economically viable and the City has stopped all marketing and advertising of the Internet service and may pull the plug on the system in the near future. No final decision has been made on ending the service but in these financial times it is doubtful that the City will continue to fund the service if it is a money loser. It is expected that they will have to make a decision about keeping the system by the end of the current fiscal year which is June 30, 2010.

Amateurs have been fighting BPL deployment since it was first announced because of its potential for interference on the Amateur bands.

Thanks to the [ARRL Letter](#) for this information.

Happy Anniversary, Oscar 7

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Recently, a significant birthday of sorts occurred. On November 15, Oscar 7 marked its 35th year in space. Launched in 1974, it was an improved design over its predecessor, Oscar 6. Notably, it was an octahedral enclosure, allowing for 8 solar panels. A pre-microprocessor era control system allowed for 4 operating modes, plus beacons and both CW and RTTY telemetry. Quite a lot was stuffed in there, by the standards of the day.

Oscar 7's primary modes were "A"(with a 2 meter uplink and 10 meter downlink) and "B"(70 cm up/2 meters down). While both 6 and 7 were running and within range of each other, there were times you could get into 7 on Mode B, with the downlink frequencies passing through 6 in Mode A and ending up on 10 meters! With the Easysats still some years off, the linear transponder modes of the day were SSB and CW (preferable). Some experiments were done with SSTV and RTTY, but were never "mainstream" due to the duty cycle and power budget requirements.

My first satellite station used a tube-based FM transmitter strip and modified Heathkit VFO with a homebrew turnstile antenna. My general coverage receiver used a preamp and one of 2 dipoles, oriented 90

degrees apart. This gave me CW capabilities and got me working the birds very inexpensively. Plus, with the simple antennas, I didn't have to worry about tracking. (Computer control with a DEC LSI-11 would have to wait another 3 years.)

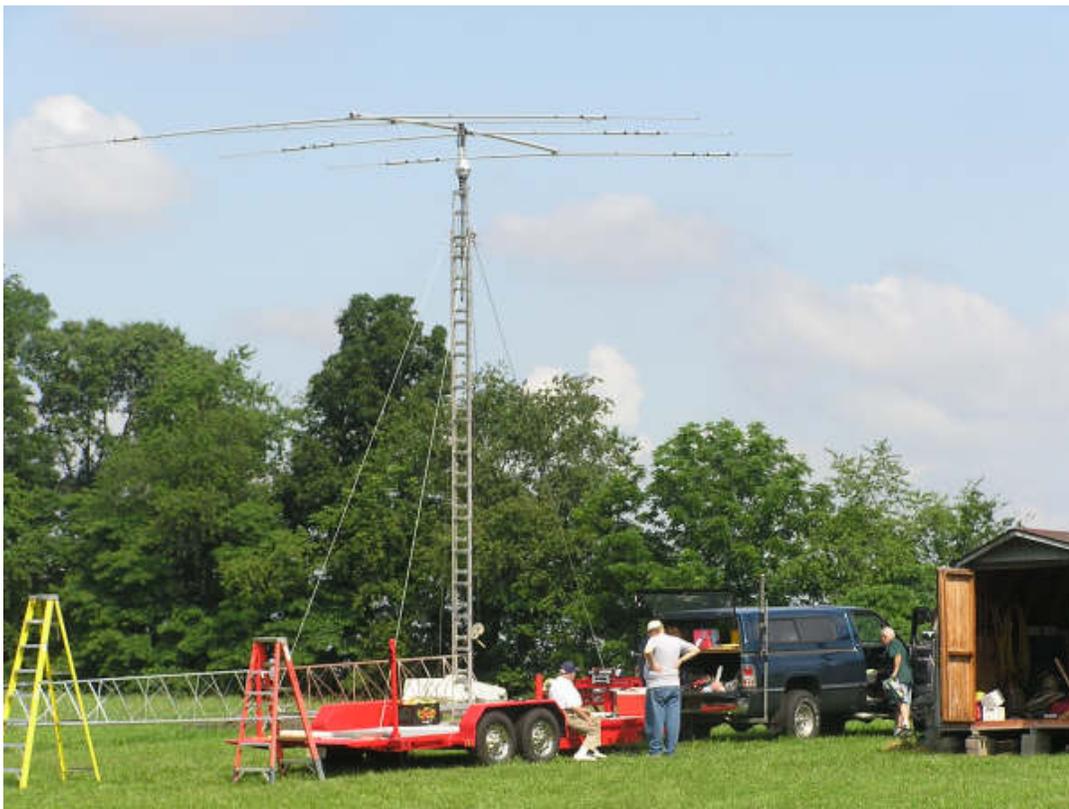
In 1981, the orbit started taking the bird into 20+ minutes of darkness each time. Some weeks later, Oscar 7 stopped talking. But our story would not end there. In 2002, the beacon was once again heard and soon, hams discovered Oscar 7 all over again.

This is not to say it came back whole. The leading theory regarding the failure is that one of the batteries failed as a short due to the thermal stress the orbit caused. This created a significant load to the panel array and there was nothing left to power the radios or control circuitry. After some 16 years of silence, one of the batteries (perhaps the same one?) managed to fail as an open, thus disconnecting the battery pack from the circuit.

Although, in the case of undervoltage or power loss, the controller was supposed to place the system in a recharge-only configuration (Mode D) for 24 hours, that is luckily not happening either! What this specific set of failures means is that you can operate the satellite only as long as it sees good old Sol. Also, there's no way of knowing whether it will start back up in Mode A (still my favorite) or Mode B.

Still, old tech is good tech. With a fairly simple setup, you can enjoy this 35 year old veteran of space travel from the Apollo era. While some years ago, a suggested ERP of 60-80 watts was the norm, the way to use it today is with near-QRP power levels. Oscar 7 was blessed with a rather sensitive receiver, so the easier you make it on the satellite, the more QSOs it can simultaneously support and the longer it should last.

Because of space (the paper kind) and time constraints, I have left out some interesting and important details. Suggested reading is available at www.amsat.org and by searching on the Infobahn. Enjoy!



Field Day 2009



DECEMBER

CONDUCTED BY N2SS

2009

WARC BANDS

<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
W2YC. 315	N2SS ...327	WØMHK313
N2SS303	WØMHK.. 325	N2SS.....303
WØMHK ..290	W2YC 321	W2YC.....283
WA2NPD ..238	WA2NPD . 257	N2CQ..... 128
N2CQ.....181	N2CQ 191	WA2NPD.. 105
AA2WN...171	AA2WN ... 122	AB2E92
AB2E147	AB2E..... 122	AA2WN.....20

When the same call heads all 3 WARC bands we will have that elusive, undisputed **KING OF WARC**

160 Meters

W2YC..... 222	N2SS 82
WØMHK 161	AA2WN 36
AB2E 100	N2CQ 9
WA2NPD..... 103	

W2YC continues as our undisputed Top of Top Band.

DIGITAL

W2YC..... 303	N2SS 87
N2CQ..... 188	K2AWS..... 29
AA2WN..... 187	WA2JSG 10



MOBILE DX

W2YC276	WØMHK 141
N2SS.....234	AA2WN..... 131

Looks like Dave and I have spent entirely too much time behind the wheel!



1.5K Club

W2YC1616	AA2WN 1369
N2SS.....1548	AB2E 1185
WØMHK...1503	N2CQ..... 1135
WA2NPD ...1479	



Islands On The Air

N2SS.....879	AB2E 205
W2YC.....712	N2CQ..... 159
WØMHK432	



6 METER DXCC

WØMHK..... 108	N2SS.....55
W2YC69	AA2WN.....15



GRID SQUARES

WØMHK.....563
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Rules for GCARC Honor Roll Listings

Provide me with your total IOTAs worked, or countries (including deleted) worked for: WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters or your total for 80,40,20, 15 and 10 for 1.5K Club. Final category is Grid Squares – just send me your total worked. Lastly, you do not have to participate in every category to be listed; just send me your totals for any of the categories listed.

CURRENT OFFICIAL ARRL DXCC STATISTICS

Active Count	338
Deleted Count.....	58
Last Addition.....	KH8/S
Last Deletion.....	STØ

December Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in December:

Kelly Glans, N2SBQ
Arthur Goldman, K3WIN
Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Bill Grim, W0MHK
Pete Krasowski, K2COD
Jim McDonald, WB2AOL
Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW



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:
12/20/2009

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.com>

GCARC Officers

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

Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Corresponding Secretary-Harry Ewell, K2ATX

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

Board of Directors

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

Steve, W2TDS
Cory, WA3UVV

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-Ken, N2CQ
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-Vinnie, N4NYY
Hamfest-Harry, K2ATX
Historian-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Harry, K2ATX
4H Liaison-K2ATX

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

DXpeditions, Bob Schenck, N200

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



Happy Holidays