

CROSSTALK -- Official Publication of the
GLOUCESTER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, W2MMD

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AREA NETS

GCARC RTTY NET:	Tuesday,	8:00 PM	147.78/18 Rptr
ARES NET:	Sunday,	8:00 PM	147.78/18 Rptr

Club Repeaters: 147.78/18, 223.06/224.66, 447.10/442.10

General Meeting: First Wednesday of each month at the V.F.W. Hall in Woodbury, NJ. Meetings begin at 8:00 pm sharp.

Contributions: CROSSTALK, Tony Starr,
Deadline: Ten (10) days before each general meeting.

MEETING PROGRAM-- DECEMBER 1986

This month, in lieu of a program, we will be holding our annual elections. As you know, all of the club's officers excluding Directors and Trustees serve only a one year term. It is a challenge each year to come up with a full slate of nominees to run for these offices. It should be easy, considering the size of our membership, but finding qualified people who are willing to serve is sometimes difficult. Your nominating committee has chosen what it believes is one of the best slates in recent years. This fact should not deter others from seeking nominations, however. We will accept additional nominations before the election, as we have always done.

As we mentioned last month, one should never announce a nomination on the floor without having the approval of the person one is nominating. If you know someone who you think would serve us well, talk to him/her first and find out if he/she is able to spare the time necessary to do a good job. This is so important, we can't stress it enough. Let's get the right people for the job, so that we can make our club a standard by which others are judged. Come to the meeting, and make your vote count!

BOB DICKSON, N2AJR

We are sorry to report that due to an oversight we were not notified of the death of Bob Dickson, who passed away on June 15, 1986. Bob lived in Glendora, and attended meetings frequently. We would like to extend our belated condolences to his family and friends. Tnx to John, WB20NY for the info.

NEWS FLASH!

On October 21, President Reagan signed landmark communications privacy legislation (passed by Congress less than a month ago) into law. Public Law 99-508 takes effect on January 19, 1987. On the surface, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act appears primarily directed against the scanner industry and users who listen to cellular phone calls, although it covers far more than that. For more detailed information, contact John, K2JF.

A REMINDER

If you have any club equipment in your possession, contact the trustees. Arrangements can be made to have the equipment stored in the club's storage shed.

CONTEST CORNER

To continue the contest season, December offers the ARRL 10 Meter & 160 Meter Contests. January is full of contests -- including the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes, which is a club competition and counts toward your Megapoint Award totals.

The 73 SSB contests count both individually and as a total for awards. I expect to have forms for a number of these upcoming contests available at this meeting. If there are any areas of contest activity I'm missing that you feel should be included here or with entry sheets, please let me know. Remember the W2SUA Award for 1986/1987 contest season will be based on both scores reported for the ARRL DX CONTESTS, CW (February 21-22, 1987) and PHONE (March 7-8, 1987).

The CQ WW DX Contest returns. Thus far number one only for the CW portion. ALL MEMBERS SUBMITTING LOGS, PLEASE GIVE A COPY OF AT LEAST THE SUMMARY SHEET TO YOUR CONTEST CHAIRMAN. AT LEAST 3 ENTRIES MUST BE MADE AND THE MEMBERS' NAMES AND SCORES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY A CLUB OFFICER IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED IN CLUB COMPETITION!!!

I'll also be looking for returns from the November ARRL SWEEPSTAKES, both Phone and CW. Again, we need entries in order that the GCARC entry will count. Your scores are also needed for the Megapoint Award records.

Sheets for most contests are available from me for the asking-- give me a call or on "18" and we'll work out the details!

The contest list is updated below:

MONTH	DATES	CONTEST
1986		
DECEMBER	5-6-7	ARRL 160 METER CONTEST
	13-14	ARRL 10 METER CONTEST
	28	Canada Winter Contest
1987		
JANUARY	3-4	73 10 Meter SSB Championship
	10-11-12	ARRL VHF SWEEPSTAKES
	10	73 15 Meter SSB Championship
	11	73 20 Meter SSB Championship
	17-18	73 160 Meter SSB Championship
	23-25	CQ WW 160 Meter CW Contest
	24	73 40 Meter SSB Championship
	24-(1)	ARRL NOVICE ROUNDUP
	25	73 75 Meter SSB Championship
	31-(1)	YL ISSB CW Contest

FEBRUARY	14-1	YRYI YL-OM Phone Contest
	20-22	CQ WW 160 Meter SSB Championship
	21-22	ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST, CW
	21-22	YL ISSB Phone Contest
	28-(2)	YRYL YL-OM CW Contest
MARCH	7-8	ARRL INT'L DX CONTEST, PHONE
	28-29	CQ WW WPX SSB CONTEST

(Inx ARRL, CQ, QST, 73, WORLD RADIO) de KB2GW

SWAP & SHOP

FOR SALE:

440 MHz HANDHELD XCVR; Icom IC4AT w/ BP3 battery and toneboard (#25, 156.7 Hz). Like new, manual.

440MHz AMPLIFIER; Tokyo Hi-Power Model HL-204 Input .2W for 3W out, 2W for 20W out. Like new with manual.

440 MHz PREAMP; Advanced Receiver Research. Model SP4432VDG, still in box w/ manual.

220 MHz XCVR; Midland model 13-509 12 ch. XTAL. GCARC & 223.50 plus other repeaters. Like new, with manual.

144 MHz PREAMP; Advanced Receiver Research, model SP144VDG. Like new with manual.

For all above items, contact John Fisher, K2JF

CATVI -- DO YOU HAVE IT???

(Reprinted from the "The Atlanta Ham".)

Ever since the last HAM came out, I have been getting calls from members (and some non-members) about what to do about CATV interference. In my last article, I mentioned that if you had the problem - to call me - and many of you did! Although I am still available to help resolve these problems, there are a few things that you can do even before you make your first telephone call.

First of all, it is imperative that you have a basic understanding about how a CATV system works and the frequencies that are used. Armed

with this information, you may be able to trace the problem yourself.

The CATV systems here in Atlanta distribute at least 36 channels. Although there are a number of different systems in use, they all work the same way. The lowest channel starts with a video carrier at 54 MHz, and there is a TV channel every 6 MHz, all the way up the spectrum with the exception of the FM broadcast band. In a 36 channel system, it continues to almost 300 MHz and on a 54 channel system it goes all the way up to 402 MHz. And, all of the spectrum is used - ALL OF IT!!!

The numbering of the channels has little correlation to the frequency that they are on, and indeed a number of CATV channels don't even have a number designation, but a letter instead. Such it is with channel "E" (which is channel 18 on your CATV converter). CATV channel "E" goes from 142.75 MHz to 148.75 MHz with the video carrier at 144.00 MHz - that's right, it covers the 2 meter band like the proverbial bucket of paint!

We can comfortably operate on 2 meters, even if everyone around us is watching channel "E" ONLY if the integrity of the CATV system has not been voided. The CATV company, contrary to popular opinion, does NOT use the cheapest coax cable that they can get their hands on. As a matter of fact, the stuff that Prime Cable uses has got 4 separate shields. (A foil shield is molded to the dielectric, a braid shield covers that, then another foil shield covers that and then another braid covers that second foil.) This "quad shield" cable has upwards to 120 db of shielding, or 70 to 80 db more than your prized high quality RG-8 that you paid so much for!!!

Shielding on the CATV coax has two important functions:

1. it keeps the CATV signal from getting out
2. it keeps something else (ham operators for example) from getting in

The first thing that you need to check, if you are getting into the CATV system, is your own installation. Additional outlets on the cable cannot be added as easily as additional telephone outlets. Unless you are using the extremely well shielded coax that the CATV company uses you cannot be sure that you are not getting into the system due to poorly shielded cable. If you have added anything in the way of splitters, taps etc. to the cable, prior to it's termination to the CATV converter, remove it - and terminate the CATV feed directly to the converter, the way that the CATV installer originally did. You don't need to be too concerned with stuff that you have added AFTER the converter, only things that you have done to the CATV feed PRIOR to it's entry to the converter. Then see if you are still getting into the CATV system. If you aren't, then it is something that you did - and you need to clean it up and not let anybody else know about it!!!

In defense of the CATV operators, I must say that they have been VERY cooperative whenever we have had a channel "E" problem.

If you get to the point of having to contact the CATV company, you will encounter a couple of terms that you may not be familiar with:

1. ingress means a signal from the outside environment, getting into the CATV system.
2. egress means the CATV signal leaking out of the cable, and radiating.

These are terms used by CATV people in dealing with these situations.

Generally an egress problem can be an ingress problem as well. Many CATV companies put a kind of a "wailing" signal on the CATV system at the high end of the FM band so that their technicians, armed with nothing more than a portable FM radio, can easily spot an egress problem. You can do the same. Just disconnect the CATV feed from the converter, and place it near an FM radio, tune to the high end of the band - and you will hear the "wailing" sound. Reconnect the converter and then go to the place where you suspect the cable problem, and if you hear the same kind of signal on your portable FM radio, you probably found it!

Now, your neighbor with the CATV problem is not going to understand anywhere near as much about the situation as you do, so if the problem appears to be the work of the neighbor taking liberties with the cable system, i.e. using a video switchbox to control CATV signals, installing extra outlets etc., LET THE CATV COMPANY DEAL WITH THAT!!! You do not need to be telling the neighbor that he or she shouldn't be "messing with the CATV system". The CATV company knows how to deal with an "RF leak". After all, maintaining the integrity of the CATV system is THEIR responsibility, not yours. That is when we will send the CATV company out to do their troubleshooting.

It's a touchy situation. Many people (unfortunately) including some hams) think that adding an outlet to the CATV system is just like adding an additional telephone, and it can be done in just about any old schlockmeister manner. Not so!!! When the CATV company says that additional outlets should be added only by them, THEY MEAN IT!!! CATV radiation is a problem that we as amateur radio operators are going to have to live with. Right now, we have a good working relationship with the CATV operators. They are very willing to work with us in solving any kind of situation, insure that we maintain a spirit of cooperation with them, and I'm sure that we will receive their full cooperation in return.

John, W4MRJ

HOW TO ADJUST THE "WEIGHT" CONTROL OF YOUR KEYS

By: James Reid, KD3S

In almost every electronic keyer you will find a small pot called the "weight" control. What is it and what does it do? The "weight" control adjusts the relative lengths of the dot and dash (the dash should be three times as long as the dot). How do you know if this needs adjusting and how do you do it? Read on...I'm not typing my fingers to the bone just to amuse myself.

To make this adjustment you will need an old type Volt-Ohmmeter, i.e. an honest-to-God meter with a needle. Proceed as follows:

1. Switch the meter to read ohms.
2. Connect the meter leads to the keyer output.
3. Set the keyer to it's highest speed.
4. Press the dot paddle and adjust the zero-ohms knob on the meter to read 50% of full scale on a voltage scale (if you have a 10 volt scale then it should read 5.0 volts). If you don't read anything try reversing the meter leads.
5. Release the dot paddle and now press the dash paddle. The meter should now read 75% of full scale (7.5 volts on the same 10 volt scale). If you don't read 75% of full scale then adjust the "weight" control until the meter reads 75% and then repeat steps 4 and 5

THEORY

If you send a perfect series of dots, the dots will be the same length as the space between the dots. This represents a duty cycle of 50%. If you now send a perfect series of dashes, the dashes should be exactly three times as long as the space between the dashes giving a duty cycle of 75%. Tnx Maryland Radio Center Newsletter

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Satellite Oscar 10 is now dead and should not be tried at all. RS5 and RS7 (Sputniks) are still active and doing real well. The new Russian Amateur Radio satellites are apparently now complete and awaiting launch (RS9 and RS10). These will give Mode K uplink of 21.260 - 21.300, also uplink 145.960 - 146.00. Down link of 29.460 - 29.500 and 145.910 - 146.950 Mode A and Mode T. Oscar 12 (JO-1) is now operating with much success with both SSB/CW and digital communications. Uplink is 145.955 - 144.845, downlink 435.050 - 435.160. Beacon is 435.797.....By K2JF

FCC-- The FCC is serious about selling spectrum! Comparing the valuable radio spectrum to land, FCC Chairman Mark Fowler asked for an end to the "free ride". Fowler asked Congress last month for the authority to auction off the spectrum just as the Department of the Interior auctions mineral leases. Much ado about it is now going on. Watch for later developments. Tnx W5YI/K2JF

Want to buy your call letters? Keep a sharp ear tuned to ARRL who may soon control the call letters. The FCC will issue your original call sign, but soon the ARRL may have the opportunity to "sell to you special Call Signs". Have fun... Tnx K2JF

PROPAGATION FORECAST FOR DEC. 1 - 15... by K2JF

The solar activity is expected to be very low. The geomagnetic field is expected to be generally unsettled to active. An increase to active levels is expected on the 8th, 9th, and 12th of December due to the weakening recurrent pattern. Brief storm conditions are probable during both of these short disturbances.

Projected Solar Flux and K-index thru December 15:

DATE:	SOLAR FLUX:	K-INDEX (avg)
01	70	3
02	70	4
03	70	3
04	70	3
05	70	3
06	70	3 unsettled
07	69	3 unset./active
08	68	5 active/storm
09	67	4 unsettled
10	68	3 unsettled
11	69	3
12	70	4
13	71	4 active
14	72	4
15	73	3



The World of DX

by WA2VEE



In The Beginning

Voice on intercom: "Mr. Rooney, 30 seconds to tape."

"Right."

From the director, "Andy, turn to your left a little."

"This all right, Maurie?"

"Fine, Andy. Roll tape! Five seconds, four seconds, three seconds, two, one..."

"Hello. You know what bothers me? DXers. Yeah, those hams that you hear so much about. You can't even understand what they're doing. I heard one fellow saying he had contacted YU, DU, VU, and TU but still needed ZU. His friend said he had G, F, and W but had not contacted I. What are these guys talking about? The alphabet? How can you contact the alphabet? And I thought Californians were weird."

"Then one day I heard one of them say that he had 248 in the fist. What does this mean? Is he physically grasping the number two hundred forty-eight? I looked in his hand and I didn't see anything."

"And regular hams at least say 'hello' when they speak to others on the radio. DXers only say something like 'five-nine.' What is this? A subversive code? Is this the signal to take over Foughkeepsie? Is Washington, DC next?"

"But the strangeness doesn't stop here. I heard a DXer once say, 'You're five and three, five and three, that's fifty-three, QSL?' My goodness. Five and three is EIGHT not fifty-three. Can't they add? These fellows must be deficient in math."

"Yes, DXers are strange. They're like those toothpaste tubes that don't roll up right, a constant annoyance. I went into a DXer's shack once. SHACK is a good work here for even though his house was nice this room was utter chaos. Wires and equipment and stacks of papers and cards were everywhere. I wonder what the divorce rate of DXers is."

"Then another DXer wanted to show me his finals. I thought he meant exams or something. He straightened me out quick. He meant tubes. Well, I thought tubes were not bigger than beer bottles but he showed me something that looked like a couple of five gallon water jugs. When he turned it on, all the room sort of glowed. I thought we were going to evaporate. But this DXer just stood there calmly with a strange smile and a peculiar gleam in his eyes. He wasn't worried...he was happy. He was possessed."

"There are other things that bother me about DXers. They remind me of paper clips that bend too easily or postage stamps that don't stick...you know, the kind of things that really get under your skin. For example, I saw a DXer get a 'sorry, but not in log' QSL response once. He got very upset and bit his dog. Another got squeezed out of

the BY pileup, he sacrificed his daughter to appease the gods. Goodness, these fellows are crazy! I'd hate to see what would happen if one of them lost all of his QSL cards collected over the years. Well, that's it. That's enough of DX and DXers. Good night."

Brief silence.....

Then, the director: "OK. That's a wrap. Put it away guys. Thanks, Andy."

"OK, Maurie. Good night, fellas. Oh! Maurie. Close the door behind you."

"Right, Andy."

The crew's footsteps shuffle away. It is quiet in Andy's office. A few buttons are silently switched on. A microphone is grasped. A crusty, familiar voice calls, "CQ DX, CQ DX, this is Whiskey Alpha 2....."

Good DXing...

Congratulations to: K2JF, K2DWE, NJ2D, and WA2VEE on getting the XU1SS QSL cards.

The DX Bureau has just approved the G3JK1/5A DX-pedition in 1980. NJ2C and WA2VEE and others have just bagged a big one there! Congratulations!

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Upcoming DX:	Isle of Man	GDOAVF	160-10 thru Dec 11.
	Ogasawara Is.	JA4GXS/JD1	80-10 thru Dec 5.
	Mayotte	W6QL/FH	all bands CW (Iris).
	So. Cook	ZK1XU	all bands CW (W7TB).

The vote of the DX Advisory Committee on Separate DX Country Status for Aruba has ended in a tie. According to DXAC rules, this defeats the motion. Thus Aruba will continue to count for the Netherlands Antilles listing, which includes Curaco and Bonaire.

Tnx John, K2JF. 73 and Good DX!

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