

CROSSTALK

Issue #2

FEBRUARY, 2002

Presidents Message

It seems that the January meeting was one of the best in a while. We accomplished all that was necessary and then some. I sincerely hope we can keep things going that well for the rest of the year. The meeting was topped off by a great buffet. Thanks to Chris, WK2W, who prepared many of the buffet items.

2002 DUES
GCARC dues for the year 2002 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.

Paul, KB2TKV, has given the club an Icom 735 solid-state transceiver to be used at the trailer. This will work out well because it is a rig that will not intimidate a new operator; it has just the right amount of bells and whistles for a beginner.

On Wednesday, January 23, 2002, we had an open house at the trailer attended by Paul, KB2KTV, Harry, AA2WN, Lou, W2LYL, Chuck, WA2TML, Ray, WB2LNR, John, K2JF and myself. We got a chance to check out the rig Paul gave us and it works fine with many good reports on the air. Lou did some work on 160 meters and his antennas seem to be really doing a good job. My hope is that we can generate enough interest in the clubhouse to justify the cost of running it. My special thanks to John, K2JF, for coming out to the site earlier and turning up the heat and also for bringing out his VHF rig. We tried to work some 6-meter DX, however, the propagation gods were not agreeable. Many thanks anyway John.

Unfortunately, due to illness I was not able to attend the board meeting but I hear all went well thanks to all who stepped in.

Very best 73
Ray, WB2NBJ

2002 DUES ARE NOW DUE

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

The well-known and very comprehensive 425 DXNEWS just released its annual survey of the 100 most wanted DXCC Countries (i.e. entities). Some 2000 DXers worldwide submitted their individual preferences (your scribe included) with some 47% of the responses coming from Europe, 40% from North America, and the remainder from the rest of the world. Of course, every DXer, everywhere, was solicited and/or urged to submit their preferences via the 425 weekly report. It was no surprise that Ducie Island was number one on the list (no one has been there yet, however the first DXpedition to Ducie is coming up next month), and that P5, VU4, BS7 were number 2, 3 and 4 respectively on the list. There were no surprises among the others in the top ten either. It's in the remaining list, especially from 10 to 50, that came as a surprise. Some of these surprises may strongly reflect propagation differences with respect to Europe and North America especially on the VHF bands. For example, Wake and Sable Islands are numbers 25 and 35 respectively, whereas Sudan and Rwanda (almost dead here) are far down the list at numbers 43 and 82. Of course, other organizations, groups, etc. formulate their own lists. The American Radio Relay League, for example, will publish its list in the Annual DXCC Yearbook, which normally is issued in the late spring. And, not all lists are based on the same data-gathering methodology; the League, for example, relies on QSL card submission data, and this method also has its detractors. The problem here is that there is typically a 2-3 year lag time between the date of a rare operation and the time the League has received the bulk of the QSLs. Certainly, the "correctness" of any such listing is in the eye of the beholder. To wit, the North American ham who has long ago worked Navassa Island on all bands and all modes wonders how come it is ranked number 11.

Well, there is some "good stuff" coming up this month, so let's surge onward! Incidentally, the SFI remains high and 6-meter activity is still A-1.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Freq./Mode</u>	<u>Rarity*</u>	<u>Country</u>
TI9—	2/17-3/4	160-6; all	4	Cocos Island**
VP8GEO	1/28-2/7	80-10; all	5	So. Georgia**
PW0T	2/18-3/2	160-6; all	4	Trinidad**
A52OM	1/14-2/6	80-10; CW, SSB	4	Bhutan
LU1ZA	Now-3/1	15, 10; SSB	4	So. Orkney
8Q—	1/31-2/9	80-10; SSB	3	Maldives
J73CCM	2/2-3/4	80-10; CW, PSK31	2	Dominica
KG4—	2/12-2/19	80-10; all	2	Guant. Bay
5H—	2/5-2/27	80-10; CW, SSB	3	Tanzania
T88XF	2/9-2/12	80-6; all	3	Palau
P5/4L4FN	Now Back!	15,10; SSB	5+	No. Korea
TG7/W9AEB	1/31-2/9	20,15,10; SSB,CW	2	Guatemala

* 5 is rarest

** Major DXpeditions

Thanks to [Weekly DX](#), [425 DX News](#), WA2LET, AA2WN, K2JF

From the Other Side of the Pile-Up

By Harry Bryant, AA2WN

On a recent business trip to Shanghai, China I had the immense pleasure of meeting with local ham BA4DW, David Zhou. Prior to my visit, David had graciously offered to meet with me and invited me to operate from his home station.

Recent changes to Chinese rules allow foreign nationals to operate from within most areas of China. The application process is quite simple and inexpensive. All that is required is to provide a copy of your US license, two passport size photos and \$5.00. Details on how to obtain an "Amateur Radio Operator's Certificate for Visitors", which is good for one year, can be found on the ARRL's web page at www.arrl.org. In addition to issuing the permit, CRSA (Chinese Radio Sport Association) can also provide detailed information about club and private stations in the areas you plan to visit. Since it is not yet possible to bring transmitting equipment into the country, leave your own gear at home, befriend a local ham and avoid the hassles of lugging high priced electronics through the airports of the world. My experience is that most club and local hams have excellent and modern stations from which to operate.

Back to my trip - I arrived in the Pu Dong section of Shanghai about 1600 local time on the return leg of my trip from Sichuan province. After checking into my hotel for the night, I contacted David at his office, which is also in Pu Dong. David offered to meet me at my hotel and escort me to dinner and to his home. David arrived right on schedule and after a short subway and taxi ride, we arrived at his apartment building in the Pu XI section of town. Following a feast of typical Chinese cuisine we rode the elevator to David's apartment which he shares with his wife Susan and their newborn son.

BA4DW's station consists of a Kenwood TS-50 (100watt) rig, a Yaesu linear amplifier and great antennas. I didn't even turn the amplifier on during my operating time - when you sign on from BA, 100 watts are enough to invite a nice pile-up. David's antenna farm is located on the roof of the building some 80 meters up (that's about 265 feet for us non-metric types!). He has multi element, mono band Yagi antennas on 40 through 10 meters and uses a vertical for 75/80 meter operation.

At 1148Z on November 20, 2001, I began calling CQ on 21.295Mhz signing AA2WN/BA4DW, quite a mouthful on SSB and a fist full on CW. My call was answered immediately by Tony BV7ID/8 and we chatted for about 5 minutes about my visit to China and exchanged the normal pleasantries and technical details about our stations. By the end of our QSO, I had been spotted on the cluster in Europe and the fun started. Band conditions were not very good but I was receiving many 59plus reports, a tribute to David's great station. He has accumulated many DX and contesting awards in his short 10 years on the air including many firsts from China. His awards include the first 5BWAZ and several contest first place finishes. After running all of the Europeans I could hear on SSB, I shifted to 15 meter CW and from there to 20 meter SSB. Unfortunately there were no US openings during my short operation, so I apologize to those in the club I didn't work. Maybe we can do it next time.

During my mini-DXpedition I made a total of 63 contacts, working 22 different DXCC entities and 7 CQ zones on 4 different continents. This experience leads me to believe you can easily work DXCC in a day from such a location with a good station. Being DX certainly is a blast!

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3

Many thanks to CRSA and a very special thanks to David and his lovely wife for opening their home to me.

Editor's Note: This article was originally written by Harry Bryant for the December 2001 issue of Crosstalk which received very limited distribution so it is reprinted here. Thanks to Harry for his contribution and patience.

Repeater Problems

The Club 2-meter repeater has been experiencing difficulties for the last month or two and has been in and out of service. Our experts, Chuck, WA2TML, and Mike, N2FKS, have been trying to locate the source of the problem and think it is on the repeater's PL board. They hope to replace the PL board in the near future but in the meantime the repeater is operating without the PL and the auto-patch.

When our repeater is out of service, the W2FLY repeater in Winslow Township is available to the club for our use. The frequency of this repeater is 145.210/144.61 and uses a PL tone of 77.0. The antenna for this repeater is at an elevation of 800 feet and gives very good coverage to most of South Jersey.

Another repeater available for our use is the WB3JOE repeater. The frequency of this repeater is 147.060/147.660 and does not have a PL.

Thanks to the owners of the W2FLY and WB3JOE repeaters for allowing us to use their repeaters when ours is out of service.

Clubhouse

On the 9th of January, Ray Schnapp, WA2NBJ, and Lou Joseph, W2LYL, held an open house out at the clubhouse at the Gloucester County 4H Fairgrounds. Six people showed up for the event. Ray and Lou would like to continue opening the clubhouse up for visitors on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month as long as there is interest in them doing so. However, Ray is currently experiencing some medical problems and may not be able to make it out to the clubhouse each date. Ray has suggested that if you have an interest in visiting the clubhouse on one of these evenings, call ahead and he will let you know if they will be there.

Speaker at February Meeting

At the February meeting Ron Cohen, K3ZKO, will be the guest speaker. His topic will be Amateur Television (ATV). Come on out to hear what Ron has been doing with ATV. This might be just what you have been looking for to spark a new interest in our hobby.

For Sale

Kenwood 2-meter TR-7730 transceiver and Larsen NLA-MM for sale, best offer. Tubes also. Call Vince, WB2VNS,

Happy Birthday

The February birthdays are unavailable at press time but your editor wishes a happy birthday to each and every club member with a birthday in February.



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: 2/25/2002

Crosstalk is available on the web at:
www.gcarc-w2mmd.org

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
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Banquet-Bob KR2U
Budget-Bob K2DAD
Clubhouse Site-Al KB2AYU
Constitution-Open
Crosstalk-Gene AA2YO
Database-John AA2BN
DX-Doug WA2NPD
Field Day-Lou W2LYL
Hamfest-Open

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VEC Testing-Chick WA2USI
4-H Parking-Bob KR2U

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)

February Meeting Program

Guest Speaker
Ron Cohen, K3ZKO-Amateur TV

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

www.gcarc-w2mmd.org

