

Presidents Message

The month of January has been a really nasty one so far. I'm sitting here looking out at the snow that fell this morning. If you want an antenna that really performs, today is the day to set it up, or so I'm told.

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.

The club house has been getting some use lately. Jim, N2NRD, Rob, KC2KGM, and Bob, WA2COB, worked the vhf/uhf contest on the weekend of January 24 and 25 and really heated up the air waves. If you remember the SB-220 amplifier that was sent out to be refurbished, well it is back and it not only looks great but it performs super also. It maxed out at 1300 watts on CW key-down, of course the drive had to be lowered to keep it legal. Many thanks to Ray, WB2LNR, for handling the paperwork involved.

We are looking forward to Doug's, WA2NPD, presentation about propagation including what the various numbers mean. I know what some of them mean as far as if they go up its bad or good. It would be nice to get a feel for the "A" index and the correlation between sunspot numbers and solar flux. I'm sure Doug's presentation will be very informative as are his usual reports on DX.

I am updating my address list for Crosstalk postal mailing. If you hear that someone is not receiving their copy by e-mail or regular mail, let me know so that I can keep my lists up to date.

I will be looking forward to the February meeting. Remember dues are due and we must get some new members. I hope the weather is not affecting you too much. Keep warm!

Best 73 and 88 to all,
Ray WB2NBJ

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

One of the parameters we use to describe the upcoming DX station is its rarity, using a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the rarest. OK, so what is this based upon? Well, we use the ARRL annual survey which is listed in the DXCC annual Yearbook which comes out usually in the spring of each year. This survey is based upon input from DXers worldwide. This years most needed (top 10 countries) will certainly be as follows: Scarborough Reef, Andaman & Nicobar, N. Korea, Lackshadweep, Peter I, Navassa Is., Desecheo Is., Juan de Nova (cards not out yet), Yemen, and either Marion or Aves Is. Hence, it will be easy to assign a 5 (or even 5 plus) if and when any of these guys show up. We also assign fives to several other entities, such as the Islands in the south Indian Ocean (Crozet, Kerguelen, Heard, etc.) and countries in the orient such as Nepal and Bhutan. Also, some of the rare Pacific Islands (Temotu, Kingman Reef, Kure) which, although not rated all that super high, are, nevertheless, difficult for we New Jerseyites to work easily and frequently. For example, Sudan was never rated all that high worldwide because a few stations there were up on 40, 80, and 6 meters for several years. Hence, many Europeans and Asians worked Sudan, but few in the USA at least until the large DXpeditions there last year. So, we customize the numbers more or less to try and produce a better fit for those of us in W2 land. So, let's see what's out there for this month.

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	COUNTRY
FG/F6FXS	1/14-2/13	40-10; CW	2	Guadeloupe
V31YN	1/10-2/28	160-10; CW, RTTY	2	Belize
C6ASB	2/21-2/28	80-10; CW, SSB	2	Bahamas
FM/F5FUA	2/3-2/24	80-10; SSB, CW	2	Martinique
J3/H/C	1/29-2/6	HF; CW, SSB	2	Grenada
CE9R	1/10-2/24	160-10; CW, SSB, PSK	4	S. Shetland
JW5RIA	Now-5/30	160-10; SSB, CW	3	Svalbard
SV1ASP/A	Now	17-12; SSB, CW	4	Mt. Athos
9Q0AR	1/22-3/22	160-80; CW, SSB, Digit	3	Rep. Congo
XU7ACY	2/2-2/8	160-40; SSB, CW	4	Cambodia
ZD8Z	2/19-2/28	80-10; CW, SSB	3	Ascension Is.
FS/H/C (1)	2/18-2/24	80-10; CW, SSB	2	St. Martin
AY1ZA	1/27-2/29	160-10; All modes	4	S. Orkneys
9Y4/H/C	1/26-2/14	20-10; SSB, CW	2	Tobago Is.
J73CCM	2/7-3/4	160-6; CW, RTTY	2	Dominica

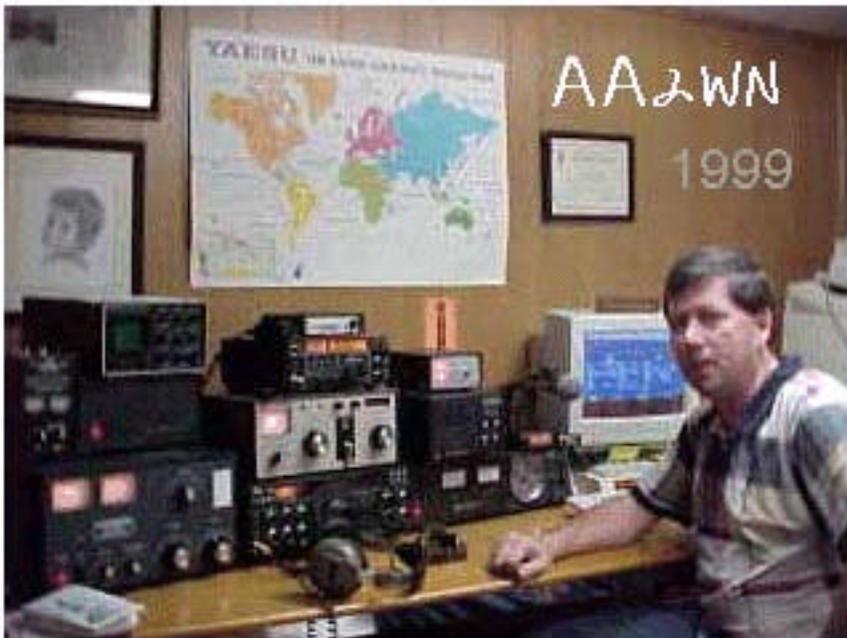
* No. 5 is rarest, (1) is Major DXpedition

Thanks to Weekly DX, 425 DX News, K2JF, WA2LET, W2YC, and AA2WN

Program at February Meeting

Our program for this month will be a presentation by Doug, WA2NPD, on Propagation, as represented by the SFI, A, and k Index values. These values are routinely presented by the atmospheric/propagation gurus to represent the band conditions and propagation forecasts. It is hoped that this talk will take some of the mystery out of these indices and give some background as to their origin.

Club Member Profiles



This month Crosstalk profiles Harry Bryant, AA2WN, the 2003 Hamfest Chairman and 2004 Recording Secretary for the Club:

Harry is 50 years old and married to Kim. They have three children including Mike, KB2VVU, and live in Pennsville.

After high school Harry spent 8 years in the navy first riding the submarine USS Ben Franklin and then running the submarine broadcast from Submarine Headquarters in Norfolk, VA. While stationed in Norfolk, he attended night classes at the Electronic Computer Programming Institute learning computer hardware maintenance. He is now self-employed and does work installing and maintaining

measurement and control equipment in paper manufacturing facilities.

Harry was first licensed in 1993 as a General and upgraded to Extra in 1995. He has been a member of GCARC for about 7 years and is now starting his third term as Recording Secretary. He has also served a one year term as Vice-President.

Harry operates 10-80 meters from home and the higher bands mobile. He does a lot of mobile operation as he spends a lot of time on the road with his work. He likes DXing (327 worked, 326 confirmed) and contesting. Lately he has had the opportunity to operate from the new W2YC super station in Williamstown. He prefers CW but also operates SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and Feld Hell.

His home station consists of a Yaesu FT990, Ameritron AL80B amp, TA33 10/15/20m 3 element Yagi with a 40m add-on rotatable dipole at 50 feet and an inverted vee for 80m and 30m using a tuner. His home station also includes an Icom 275H all mode 2 meter rig to a horizontal 10 element Cushcraft Yagi at 53 feet and Ringo Ranger at 70 feet for 2m FM.

Mobile he uses an Icom 706MkII to a Diamond HV multiband mobile antenna. He sends CW using the up and down keys on top of the stock microphone. He says, "Takes a bit to get used to but is easier than dragging along a key."

Harry is also a member of the Frankford Radio Club and is the current president of the Battleship NJ club. He is the Salem County ARES Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer. He helps out from time to time on the USS Torsk, a WWII submarine in Baltimore.

ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would grant HF phone privileges without a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class.

A new entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now—would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up. The plan would grandfather current Novice licensees into the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, and the written exam would stay the same. ARRL Secretary, David Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.

The restructuring calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the [ARRL Letter](#).

Investment Tips for 2004 (for those of you with any money left)

John Fisher, K2JF, passed on the following tongue-in-cheek investment advice for 2004:

In the wake of the Exxon/Mobil deal and the AOL/Time Warner implode, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks. Watch for these consolidations in 2004:

1. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W. R. Grace Co. will merge and become: Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.
2. Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become: Poly, Warner, Cracker.
3. 3M will merge with Goodyear and issue forth as: MMMGood.
4. Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become: ZipAudiDoDa.
5. FedEx is expected to join its major competitor, UPS, and become: FedUP.
6. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: Fairwell Honeychild.
7. Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become: Poupon Pants.
8. Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become: Knott NOW!

That's all for now....invest wisely!

Austrian Authorities Pull Plug on BPL Pilot Project

The Austrian Amateur Transmitter Federation reports that a Broadband over Power Line (BPL) field test in the city of Linz has been cut short as a result of excessive radio interference. ÖVSV, Austria's International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society, said in December that the Government Ministry for Commerce, Innovation and Technology closed down Linz Power Company's BPL pilot project because it was generating interference on the HF bands. Shortwave broadcaster, Radio Austria, says the case that brought the issue to a head was a Red Cross report that emergency services radio traffic during a disaster response drill last May was the victim of massive BPL interference.

"The Commerce Ministry Order not only means the end of the Linz BPL pilot project," the Radio Austria report said, "but the end of the deployment of this technology in Austria,..." According to the broadcaster, measurements were said to have indicated that radiation from the BPL system exceeded permissible field strength levels by a factor of 10,000.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the [ARRL Letter](#).

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following Club members:

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML 2/27
Herb Schuler, K2HPV 2/10
John Stauffer, K7LIF 2/18
Chris West, WA2MVU 2/19
Alvin Zipkin, KZ2N 2/25



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: 2/20/2004

President-Ray Schnapp WB2NBJ
Vice President-Wayne Wilson WA2LET
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML
Lou Joseph W2LYL
Al Arrison KB2AYU

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

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-Ray WB2LNR
Hamfest-Harry AA2WN

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-John AA2BN
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)

February Meeting Program

2004 Budget
Propagation Indexes

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

