



Presidents Message

As I sit here writing this, looking out the window at nearly a foot of snow, I'm hoping that all of you are well, and have had a safe weekend if you had to travel anywhere in the snow the past few days. Joy and happiness permeates the region, as the Eagles prepare to go to the Superbowl. Perhaps amateurs will have much to be happy for this year as well. The FCC will be getting a new Chairman, but will this be good for ham radio, or bad? Only time will tell. The existing commissioners favor BPL, but there is a chance someone from outside will be appointed. It appears that amateur radio is being attacked on more and more fronts, and to a degree, we are finding ourselves backed into a corner. Even the small battles, which are won, such as the 42ft tower compromise recently cited as a victory by ARRL, have mixed results. Although N9NA won the case before the local zoning board, he had 100 neighbors with anti-tower signs in their yard – there's no question they wish he would leave. It looks as if 2005 brings us plenty of challenges. We need to be more aware of legal happenings, which affect our hobby more than ever before. Whenever a chance arises to put amateur radio in a favorable light in the media, we need to grab it.

2005 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2005 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.

On a more local note, it's time to start preparing for Field Day! There's a lot of planning to do. Only four months to go! We did great this past year, coming in second nationally in the 9A category. This is a great accomplishment for a club of our size, and you are all to be congratulated for this achievement! We can do even better this year. Maybe have one more op come out who hasn't operated in awhile. Maybe have one more mode or band or make better use of the ones we had on the air (some were idle, especially on the night shift!). Field Day is a great opportunity for us to generate some local PR, and we could also promote it as a way to get some beginners into the hobby (i.e. new members for the club).

Darrell, AB2E

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

As you know, DXers get their kicks out of ragchewing with hams halfway around the world and across the wide oceans. Unfortunately, it doesn't take very long before the US ham finds out that to ragchew with another ham from some rare place like Kure Island, is next to impossible. The ham on Kure Is. does not live there (no one does), and, because Kure counts as a country, there are about a zillion other ham station signals all wanting a contact with Kure. The Kure operator simply gives out signal reports in rapid order such that all stations can say they worked Kure and eventually get the QSL card. Hence, the DXer finds himself chasing down countries and zones and prefixes, etc. to qualify for all of the various DX awards and certificates. This in itself becomes addictive, sort of like coin and/or stamp collecting (consider the DXCC Challenge Award, for example), and requires a lot of perseverance and a first class operating station. For those of you who may be novices at DXing, or even for those who are considering this area of interest, be alert to the DXpedition to Peter I Island which will start somewhere around February 18th and will run for about 2 weeks. Peter I Island is perhaps the most remote place on the planet earth; located some 300 miles off the Antarctica coast in the Bellinghausen Sea, it is accessible only by ice breaker type ships and helicopters. The last DXpedition there was in 1994. The large international group going there this time is well funded, well equipped, very experienced, and should give us a very satisfying operation. They will be on all amateur bands and modes. So, even the most modest stations will most likely be able to work this group on some band, perhaps during the second week when most of the big gun stations will have died down. Give it a shot, for it could be many years before you get another chance at this rare entity.

And, speaking of Dxpeditions, GCARC's very own Dave, W2YC, and Harry, AA2WN, are expected to arrive on North Caicos Island in the Caribbean and will be operational about February 16th. They plan on operating the ARRL DX CW contest the week of February 19/20 using the call VP5Y. They will depart on February 22nd and will use VP5/ Home calls before and after the contest. Look for them on all of the HF bands mostly using CW. They are especially anxious to work GCARC club members both during and after the contest and will QSL 100 percent for Turks and Caicos Is. It certainly isn't everyday that our club members head-off for far away lands and operate (K2JF was one several years ago that went to Galapagos Is.), so be sure and look for Harry and Dave. So, what else is out there this month?

STATION	DATE	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	COUNTRY
ZK1(H/C) (1)	1/31 - 2/17	160-10; SSB, CW, RTTY	3	So. Cooks.
ZK1(H/C) (1)	2/17 - 2/24	“ “ “ “ “	4	No. Cooks
ZK1(H/C) (1)	2/24 - 3/3	“ “ “ “ “	3	So. Cooks
TO00	1/27 - 2/13	160 - ??; CW, SSB	2	Martinique
3Y0X (1)	2/18 - 3/4	All; All	5+	Peter I Is.
5T0CW (1)	2/24 - 3/4	160 - 10; CW	3	Mauritania
PY0ZFO	2/16 -2/22	WARC, 6; CW, SSB	3	Fern. De Nor.
V31ZP	2/10 - 2/14	40 - 10; CW	2	Belize
ZK2ML	2/7 - 4/7	40 - 6; SSB, CW	3	Niue Is.
V4 /H/C	2/24 - 3/4	All ; CW, SSB, PSK	2	St. Kitts
VP2V/H/C (1)	2/23 - 3/9	160 - 10; All	2	Brit. Virg. Is.
J73CCM	2/16 - 3/14	80 - 10; CW, RTTY	2	Dominica
VP5/ H/C (2)	2/15 - 2/22	160 - 10; CW, SSB	2	Caicos Is.
9H3CT	Now till 2/25	? ; ?	3	Malta Is.
KP2/H/C	Now till 2/6	160 - ? ; SSB, CW	2	US Virgin Is.
ST2T	Now till 4/1	? ; ?	4	Sudan

(1) Major DXpedition (2) GCARC deadly duo (see above art.).

* Nr. 5 is rarest

Tnx to The Weekly DX, 425 DX News, W2YC, AAWN, WA2LET, K2JF

Club Member Profile

This month Crosstalk profiles Anthony Gargano, N2SS:

My route to ham radio was probably not untypical of those that entered the hobby back in the '50's. I'll start from the beginning. As a youngster I was a big fan of the Philadelphia Athletics baseball team and my dad used to take me to ball games. But when I was 12 years old the A's moved to Kansas City, so I adopted the New York Yankees as 'my team'. (I was a staunch American Leaguer - forget those Phillies!) Well, I needed a way to listen to those Yankee ball games and soon became very interested in radio sensitivity as I had to 'pull in' New York from our South Philadelphia row house in order to listen to the games. That led me into broadcast band DXing. Seeing my interest in broadcast band DXing, an uncle gave me an old Hallicrafters S-38C shortwave receiver as a gift. That got me into SWL DXing. During the course of my listening I used to hear these conversations interspersed between the foreign shortwave bands. I found I was listening more and more to 'those guys who were talking and sounding like they were having lots of fun'. I asked my uncle what they were all about and he explained that they were 'radio hams' - something he was interested in as a youth but never pursued.

I decided I wanted to become a 'radio ham' and at the time a magazine called Popular Communications used to run a write in column entitled "Help Us Obtain Our Ham Licenses". (Pop Com was the must magazine for SWL's at that time.) I wrote to the magazine and they listed my name and address in the column. I was soon contacted by a gentleman that introduced himself as a member of SPARK, the South Philadelphia Amateur Radio Klub, and he invited me to attend a meeting. There I found my 'Elmer' who helped me at age 15 to learn Morse code. He also gave me a dog-eared copy of the Handbook to study theory in between the Morse lessons. I passed my Novice exam and was issued the call, KN3EHP, in early 1958 and have been active ever since. I moved to NJ with my XYL in 1969 and was issued the call W2EHB. For a brief period in the mid 1970's the FCC allowed Extra Class licensees to request a call sign of their choice. I always liked the idea of using "Sugar Sugar" or "dit-dit-dit dit-dit-dit" in a pile-up so I requested N2SS from the then newly opened N block.

From day one I've always been a DXer and enjoy the chase, whether it be a new country or a new IOTA. I guess my 'thing' is that I'm always ready for a challenge. There is no DX oriented club in the area so I am a member of the next best thing - Frankford Radio Club, a DX contest club. To maintain balance and perspective of our hobby I belong to GCARC which is a great all-around radio club. I first became a member of GCARC in 1970 or '71 when the club was meeting in Pitman. It was then that I met the gentleman of SJ DXers and GCARC stalwart, Shorty, W2SUA. A silent key for several years now, Shorty will be forever loom large in the annals of the GCARC.

My family situation has made it impossible for me to make club meetings in recent months but I am still very active and look forward to getting back to a GCARC meeting and renewing acquaintances.

Editor's note: Tony has been taking care of his wife who needs full time care for an extended time.

Merit Badge Class Great Success

A recent radio merit badge class was a great success and the Battleship New Jersey provided hams at the other end of the microphone to talk to the boys. Dr. Alex Magoun, curator of the Sarnoff Library, was a wonderful host and provided a meaningful venue to introduce Scouts to radio. Staff of the Battleship patiently provided endless and interesting contacts which held the boy's attention (and the one stray Girl Scout) and made them eager for their turn at the microphone. It was a great experience for everyone involved. Out of the scouts and parents participating, about 45 of the Scouts and 10 parents are now interested in amateur radio classes. It is hoped that Radio Merit Badge Day will become an annual event.

Thanks to Jean Priestly, KA2YKN, for the above.

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following Club members:

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML 2/27
Herb Schuler, K2HPV 2/10
Jack Stauffer, K7LIF 2/18
Chris West, WA2MVU 2/19
Al 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: 2/18/2005

President-Darrell Neron, AB2E
Vice President-Wayne Wilson WA2LET
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML
Bob Krukowski KR2U
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

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-Bob KC2NLM
Hamfest-Harry AA2WN

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Harry Bryant AA2WN
Corresponding Secretary-John Fisher K2JF

Board of Directors

Al Arrison KB2AYU
Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO
Steve Blasko, W2TDS

Committees

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-Open
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

Socialization

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

