

President's Message

I hope everyone is having a great 2007 so far. Being somewhere close to the bottom of the current sunspot cycle, it may be harder to work DX on the higher bands. However, it's interesting to note that at the bottom of the cycle conditions can actually be very good on 40, 80, and 160. I experienced this just the other night out at the clubhouse when I worked G3FPQ on 160. The band was quiet, and he was a true S7. He gave me a 549 using just 100W from the Club's TS850S into the extended doublet dipole out at the site (similar to a G5RV but cut as a full 160M dipole with the ladder line feed). I haven't had time lately to chase much DX, but it was refreshing to get into Europe on top band with low power. By the time you read this, I will have hopefully operated the CQWW 160M contest from the clubhouse. Remember, if anyone would like to go out and chase DX, or operate the fine VHF setup at the site, just contact Al, KB2AYU.

Reminder for February's Meeting

The February meeting will be at the George Ruch Building, at the Cecil Athletic Complex, 14th and Highland Avenue, in Sunset Lakes. The program for this meeting will be a brainstorming session with the membership on "What Can We Do for The Future of Our Hobby".

To get to the George Ruch Building go to page 186 of the Franklin Map of Williamstown and look for the coordinates E-10. Otherwise, take 322 towards Atlantic City. Pass Corkery Lane (Rt. 612) and Malaga – New Brooklyn Rd. (Rt. 659) and turn right on Whitehall Rd. Pass Shore Drive and Sunset Avenue and turn right on Lakeside Dr. Travel 14 blocks to 14th St. and turn left on 14th St. Turn right at the dead end onto Highland Ave. The small white building on your left, with the unreadable sign (until you get to the door), is where we'll be meeting.

Morse Code Requirement Ends Friday, February 23

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Deletion of the Morse requirement is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to Please see "Morse Code" on page 2.

DX Dope

By Harry Bryant, AA2WN (guest editor)

As some of you likely know, your DX Dope editor Doug, WA2NPD, has been in the hospital for the last couple of weeks. Something about chest pains during the Eagles miserable defeat! Well let me say that "Doug, we all feel your pain" and wish you a speedy recovery. The latest word from the Docs is that Doug is up and about, doing very well and expected to be back in the DX pileups very soon.

In Doug's last column he made mention of the 2nd Lakshadweep Island DXpedition which is now in full swing. From my viewpoint, these guys really are great operators with top notch equipment and are very active on all the bands. Every evening they are putting a good signal into Southern New Jersey on 40 and 80 meter CW and SSB. So even a meager station should be able to get these guys in the log with a little patience.

World renowned DXer Hrane, YT1AD, is on his way to the Pacific making preparations for a trip to KH8/S, Swains Island, later this year. During his February visit, he expects to be active from Fiji (3D2), American Samoa (KH8) and Western Samoa (5W1). The XT2C team is now active from Burkina Faso and have been quite active on all bands and modes.

Recent reports from NOAA predict that Cycle 23 will likely bottom out in July 2007. So dust off those HF rigs and get those shacks back in good working order as the sunspots are soon to reappear. If the readers of the propagation "crystal ball" are correct, Cycle 24 will be one of the best in recorded history.

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	ENTITY
YW0DX (1)	Feb	Mainly RTTY & PSK31	1	Aves Island
1S (1)	2/3 – 2/13	All: All	2	Spratly Island
XT2C (1)	1/6 – 1/20	All: All	4	Burkina Faso
YI9TU	Jan - Feb.	40 – 17: SSB, CW, RTTY	3	Iraq
VU7RG (1)	1/15 – 1/31	All: All	5	Lakshadweep Is.

(1) These are major DXpeditions. * Number 5 is rarest.

Thanks to The Weekly DX, ARRL DX Bulletin, GoList and W2YC

Editors Note: Thanks to Harry, AA2WN, for filling in so ably for Doug. We all hope to see Doug back on the air and writing this column again soon.

"Morse Code" continued from Page 1.

become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" order.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

Thanks to the ARRL for the above.

GCARC Potential Projects

by Steve W2TDS, Trustee

A number of potential Club projects have been discussed for some time. It may be time to move from discussion to planning and action. The purpose of this article is to generate interest among members to donate their time, materials, equipment and/or know-how to accomplish these projects for the good of the Club. Hopefully the following will inspire many members to get involved. Please read on.

Potential short list of projects gleaned from members:

1. Connecting the Field Day generator to the clubhouse.
2. Add one or two rotatable HF antennas to the clubhouse station.
3. Battery backup for the W2MMD repeaters.

There have been discussions every Field Day about wiring the Field Day generator to the clubhouse. Emergency preparedness is very important. After seeing what happened during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we should be prepared.

Adding one or two rotatable HF antennas to the clubhouse station would help Club members who don't have back-yards big enough for such antennas but want to experience DX operating or contesting.

Now that the W2MMD repeaters are working very well once again, having battery backup for the repeaters would be huge. A power outage at the W2MMD repeater locations and in particular the 2 meter repeater could mean problems for the ARES/RACES Net or the Sky-Warn Net.

Wiring to clubhouse will require at least a 50 amp service at a minimum as well as breakers, wiring and cabling for the two existing 12 volt storage batteries. The batteries will probably be located inside the storage shed. Also needed are all the nuts and bolts that go along with the job. Alan, KB2AYU, says that someone with electrical wiring know-how will be a big help. Ray, WB2NBJ, says a flexible gasoline pickup tube will probably be needed to run the generator from a car or truck's gas tank until gas can be obtained from a gas storage container. Under normal circumstance no gasoline can be stored on clubhouse grounds.

For rotatable antennas two rotators and controllers plus cabling and associated nuts and bolts will be required for the job. Alan, KB2AYU, says that heavy duty rotators will be required to handle the large HF antennas.

At least two 12 volt Deep Cycle batteries will be required for back-up power for the repeaters. Mike, N2SRO, says that the 2 meter Motorola repeater has its own charging system and can switch over to battery operation when commercial power is lost. The repeater will emit a tone during transmissions signifying lose of commercial power.

With donation of materials, time and expertise by the members these projects could be done very inexpensively. All members can help with these projects by coming out to Club meetings because everyone's input is valued.

Change in Committee Chair

Last month in Crosstalk it was announced that Dave MacDonald, WA3JOY, had agreed to take over as Committee Chair for Programs and that our president Darrell had appointed Dave to the position. Subsequently Gene Bond, WA2UVB, agreed to stay on a Committee Chair for Programs so Darrel, after discussion with Dave and Gene, re-appointed Gene to the position. Dave has agreed to work with Gene in setting up programs for the meetings for this year. Thanks to both Dave and Gene for volunteering their time to the Club.



JANUARY

CONDUCTED by N2SS

2007

WARC BANDS

<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
W2YC...306	N2SS...324	WØMHK310
N2SS.....294	WØMHK.. 316	N2SS.....302
WØMHK ..276	W2YC.....309	W2YC.....278
WA2NPD..197	WA2NPD .190	K2JF135
AA2WN....171	K2JF.....168	N2CQ.....99
AB2E132	AA2WN ...116	AB2E92
K2JF.....112	N2CQ115	WA2NPD...85
N2CQ.....111	AB2E.....108	AA2WN....20

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

160 Meters

W2YC.....191	N2SS 79
WØMHK 137	AA2WN 36
AB2E 94	K2JF.....34
WA2NPD.....88	N2CQ 9

W2YC continues as our undisputed Top of Top Band.

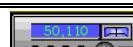
DIGITAL	
W2YC.....267	K2JF 113
AA2WN.....187	N2SS 53
N2CQ.....151	



MOBILE DX

W2YC.....276	WØMHK 141
N2SS.....234	AA2WN.....131
K2JF150	

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



6 METER DXCC

WØMHK.....102	W2YC.....29
K2JF94	AA2WN.....15
N2SS55	

Congrats to Bill for hitting the Century mark on 6 Meters!!



1.5K Club

W2YC.....1571	AA2WN.....1369
N2SS.....1529	K2JF.....1350
WØMHK1452	N2CQ.....1135
WA2NPD ...1429	AB2E1164



GRID SQUARES

WØMHK.....510	K2JF285
.....



Islands On The Air

N2SS.....841	AB2E 205
W2YC.....645	N2CQ 159
WØMHK341	

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	337
Deleted Count.....	58
Last Addition.....	KH8/S
Last Deletion.....	STØ

February Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in February:

Harold Berry, WA2QOY
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Herb Schuler, K2HPV



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: 1/24/2007

GCARC Officers

President-Darrell Neron, AB2E
Vice President-Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Recording Secretary-Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY
Corresponding Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU

Board of Directors

Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

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

Committees

Advertising-Open
ARES/RACES-Dave, WA3JOY
Awards-Jack, K2ZA
Banquet-Open
Budget-Steve, W2TDS
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Constitution-Open
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ray, W2RM
DX-Doug, WA2NPD
Field Day-Mike, N2SRO
Hamfest-Harry, AA2WN
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E

Hospitality-Ken, N2CQ
Membership-Ray, W2RM
Nominations-Darrell, AB2E
Publicity-John, K2JF
Repeaters-Mike, N2SRO
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T
Special Services-Gene, N2IMK
Sunshine-Open
Technical-Open
TVI-Open
VEC Testing-Wayne, WA2LET
Programs-Dave, WB2UVB

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)

1284.4/1272.4 MHz-Pitman

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)

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

February Meeting Program

Discussion
What Can We Do for the Future of Our
Hobby?

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