



Presidents Message

I hope everyone is surviving winter without too much trouble. Thankfully, the storms we have had so far have been relatively minor. While spring is still a ways off, it never hurts to daydream about warmer days to come.

I am happy to report that the office of Club Treasurer, which had been briefly vacant, has been filled by Lou Ranson, KC2FXK. Lou is a relatively new member of the GCARC and I'd like to thank him for taking on this important position.

A special GCARC thank you goes to outgoing Treasurer Ken Newman, N2CQ. For the past 5 years Ken has done an exemplary job of keeping the Club financials in order. From looking for the best interest rates and supplying informative monthly reports to being a part of the yearly Budget Committee and managing the Club membership roster, Ken has quietly given of his time and talents for the good of the Club.

The Budget Committee, consisting of the Chairman Steve, W2TDS; Al, KB2AYU; Ken, N2CQ; Wayne, WA2LET; Lou, KC2FXK; and Ray, WB2NBJ, convened at the Chairman's house. After drafting the tentative budget for 2011, the group enjoyed a nice lunch supplied by Steve. Thanks to Steve and the Committee for their efforts. The 2011 budget will be presented for approval at this month's meeting. See you there.

73, Al KB2AYU

Congratulations

Congratulations to Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY, for getting his DXCC and for coming in first in the State for the NJ QSO party. It sounds like Vinnie has really been active on the bands lately. Keep up the good work, Vinnie. We hope to hear of many more awards for you in the future.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Hey! It didn't happen! The much publicized and expensive DX0DX DXpedition to Spratlys was cancelled about a week after the scheduled early January kick-off. With all equipment and personal poised to leave for their South China Sea destination, confusion over clearance from the Philippines to land on the island could not be resolved. Expedition leaders vowed make another attempt hopefully later this year if not next calendar year. And so goes the trials and tribulations of successfully putting a major DXpedition into our waiting logbooks. No sure bets in this hobby either!

On a more optimistic note, my personal year long DXCC effort ended January 15, 2011 with some interesting success on 17, 15, 12, and 10 Meters from our SNJ vantage point without using any contest QSOs to bag a different one. As expected, 17 Meters had the most individual countries worked with a total here of 130. 15 Meters yielded 101 and 12 Meters a surprising 102. 10 Meters trailed the four bands with 41 DXCC entities mostly this past autumn.

A bit interesting to note, is the DXCC countries worked on all four of the bands during the past year: 5N, 6V, CT3, F, FM, HA, IS, LU, all new PJs, V3, V5, VQ9, Z2, ZB, ZP and ZS. So those working on multi-band DXCC's did have some opportunities to increase their totals. Not bad for a relatively low period of sunspot activity either! I really thought that 10 Meters would have been twice as productive, but bagging over 100 countries on 12 Meters in the last year was a nice consolation. Hope you had some similar success with the above mentioned DX activity.

Lately we seem to be getting "propagationally squeezed" with the higher HF bands being quite poor and the winter low bands not taking up the slack! 40, 80 and 160M have been disappointing for many of our winter weeks thus far. Not many DX signals seem to be bouncing in our direction and the downturn in DXpedition activity around the holidays was quite apparent.

I have been reading many comments from dedicated 160M DXers who say the "Top Band" has been worse this season than in the last two or three years. A number of them have commented that they see a possible relationship to the increased solar activity and coronal mass ejections from the sun and the disturbing low band success. Mention was made that present solar conditions might be detracting from our success on all the winter low bands. DX "misery" always loves company!

Ironically, JAs and southwest and west coast USA big "guns" on 6 Meters have been working into ZL and VK this December and January! ARRL's VHF column also talked of possible long-distance path changes being prompted by the new solar cycle. Our last year's sporadic-E season for South Jersey was extremely short on 6M. Possibly the lack of DX and few openings are on the way to be reversed this year on the Magic Band. I'm sure we would all like to see a "hot" 6 Meter season in 2011 make up for some of our HF doldrums!

With fingers crossed, I'll remind you that VP8O's South Orkney DXpedition should be "raging" as you read this. Activity is expected from the group until February 8th. Get in on this very rare one if you possibly can while looking for some of following additional DX activity:

Please see "DX" on Page 4

“DX” from Page 2.

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RARITY	ENTITY
S9DX	2/3-2/17	DJ TEAM, 160-6M, ALL MODES	2	SAO TOME
JW8HGA	2/4-2/17	HF, CW, DIFFICULT PROP.	2	SVALBARD
T30	2/8-2/22	160-10M, CW/SSB/DIG	2	W. KIRIBATI
TJ3C	2/10-2/20	6 STNS!,160-10M, ALL MODES	3	CAMEROON
T70DXC	2/12-2/13	EMPHASIS WARC & DIGITAL	1	SAN MARINO
TT8DX	2/14-2/24	HF, CW, FB OP!	3	CHAD
V47JA	2/16-3/30	80-6M,SSB, DIPOLES	1	ST. KITTS
VK9C	2/22-3/5	80-10M, CW, FB TEAM!	4	COCOS-KEELING
9M8	2/25-2/28	CW+SSB, OC-165	3	E. MALAYSIA

CREDITS: N3GK, ADXO

February Club Meeting Program: VHF/UHF Narrowbanding.

Many public safety and business/industrial licensees operate Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems in high band VHF and UHF frequencies that range from 150 MHz to 512MHz. Recent FCC mandates will soon require all land mobile system licensees operating in these frequencies to reduce system bandwidth. The mandates began on January 1, 2011, with full implementation by January 1, 2013.

Tom, KE2ES will give a PowerPoint presentation at February's Club meeting on the operational issues relating to these mandates, and give guidelines to help navigate the changes that lie ahead.

Club History Project

by Art Strong

Several weeks ago the continuing additions of Crosstalk had come to a complete stop due to the idea that I needed a break. I had gotten so tired of scanning in the issues that I decided a vacation was in order. So in place of the scanning of paper I turned to the shredding of paper. That was quite a delightful change from scanning though it was still a challenge when you consider that I shredded over a hundred pounds of cancelled checks, old budgets, phone bills, utility bills, bank statements, and thousands of receipts. Of which nothing was dated any later than 1998. I had decided long ago that if I was going to collect and digitize our history that I was also going to clean out the file drawers and that I did. No one can say that our organization does not save their records as I can seriously argue the point.

At our recent Board meeting I was able to dig up a large number of missing issues and years of Crosstalk, however, what I have still does not make the job complete. Fortunately several members have large caches of back issues and have offered them to me if need be. Once I have completely digitized what I have, I will generate a list of what I'm looking for and, hopefully, they can fill in most of the gaps. I doubt we will ever have a full accounting of every Crosstalk ever published but we will have a very high percentage.

Please see “History” on Page 4.

“History” from Page 3.

On a final note, for those that may be going through the back issues that are on the web and wondered just how many are there now, it's 329. Ninety-seven issues were given to me by Gene, our Editor, and I've scanned in 232 issues. Figure an average of 8 pages per issue times a minimum of 2 scans per page times 232 issues equals to about 4000 scans. Some pages had to be scanned a number of times so that number could even be higher. And I'm not done yet.

In this issue of Crosstalk I've included some poetry that was written 45 years ago, for Crosstalk, by Charlie Sketchley's wife, Ruth. She penned a total of three poems, all were directed at the ham, and they all were very enjoyable. In our past issues I have found quite a number of cartoons and funny articles that people had put together and in our future they will find their way, again, into Crosstalk.

Cat Detector Vans

The English government not unlike our own has a penchant for taxing everything. One of the things taxed in England over the years has been TV sets. In order to catch owners of unlicensed TV receivers, the British Postal Service, which sold the TV licenses, had green vans with large tapered rotary helix-dipole antennas on the roof. These antennas could in theory be used to pick up the signals from a TV receiver's local oscillator which then supposedly led to fines for the owners of the unlicensed sets.

Also licensed in England were pet cats, pet dogs and all sorts of other things. These licenses were also available through the local Postal Service Office. The following is a story told by one of the people "worked on the vans" back in the mid 60s.

He said that a driver and a mate would tour the "housing estates" in the mainly poorer working class areas in the sinister looking green Postal vans which had GPO TV DETECTOR printed on the side. The van was basically empty in the back except for a guy sitting on a stool who would occasionally turn the handle to move an aerial on the van roof. They would stop halfway down a street with kids in it, turn the handle to swing the aerial round a few times to make it look good and then stop at the end of the street and watch the housewives come into the street for a look around. You could guarantee there would be a queue at the local Post Office for the purchase of all sorts of licenses including dog and cat licenses within half an hour, as word spread that the detector van was about.

The van guys would stop off at a local Postal Office later in the day for a cuppa tea and to have a laugh with the Post Master about the increase in licenses bought.

Editor's note: The above was extracted from the a piece on the NJQRP Reflector by Bry Carling. I can't authenticate it but it makes a good story.

Local Hamfest

The Gloucester City Amateur Radio Club, NJ2GC, is conducting an ARRL approved indoor hamfest on February 19, 2011 at the Pine Grove Fire Hall on Jersey Avenue at 9th Street in Gloucester City, NJ. The hamfest will run from 8:00AM to 3:00PM. Admission is \$5.00 and tables are free. Refreshments, off-street parking and handicap access will be available. For more details please check our website, www.nj2gc.org.

The Boiled Ham

By Ruth Sketchley, XYL of K2PQD

Did you ever decide to go into the shack, when you had nothing else to do.
Just want to relax so you warm up the rig, and settle down for an nice rag chew,

You decide to listen around the band, and read the mail for a while,
You don't seem to hear anyone that you know, so you look for a clear spot on the dial.

First you tune up, and then you tune down. The QRMary's beginning to mount.
All that you hear is a whistler, and a fellow just learning to count.

You put out a CQ and keep trying, for a simple contact that you hunted,
It turns out the one finally answering you, is for a signal report that he wanted.

Then you get one that's all over the band, what does he think I am a retriever?
And that fellow calling CQ where I am, why doesn't he buy a receiver?

Ah, at last I am hearing from someone, whose signal has a terrific punch.
You get to the point where you think this is it, then (you guessed it) he's called for lunch.

You try once more and get hold of a guy, who comes booming in with a thud.
On about the second go-around he's disappeared in the mud.

All of a sudden you're in a QSO, you don't know how, but it's grand.
After talking for about an hour, an observer says you're out of the band.

You're sorry you ever went into the shack, by now you are really stewing.
You pull the big switch, turn out the lights, and go see what the family's doing.

I think I'll get out of ham radio, sell everything, it's just not for me.
You say the bands will come back to their own, well, maybe I'll wait and see.

Editor's note: This first appeared in the June 1964 issue of Crosstalk

2011 NJ ARRL State Convention

Last years revival of the ARRL New Jersey State Convention in conjunction with the Tenton Computer Fest was a big success. In addition to the normal convention events, we were able to add dozens of new hams to our ranks. This year the Convention will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 2-3, at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) in Ewing.

To build on it, we've been working behind the scenes to secure a larger facility at the College of New Jersey to hold the event this year. We're happy to now say that this year it is planned to be in the TCNJ Recreation Center, which gives us a large, one-building environment for forum classrooms, commercial vendors and for an indoor flea market!

Please see "Convention" on Page 6

“Convention” from Page 5.

We're now soliciting speakers on radio related topics for the Convention. We envision having classrooms dedicated solely to Amateur Radio presentation topics, such as contesting, DXing, homebrewing, Em-Comm, Youth Activities, etc. A VE session and one day Technician Course Boot camp are planned as well. Speakers are customarily offered free admission. If you're interested in making a formal presentation, please register at <http://www.tcf-nj.org/>

We're also creating a new opportunity for ham radio clubs to conduct hands-on "Radio Mentor Sessions" at special mentor tables in the exhibit space. A series of mentor tables will be set up, and your club can use them for 45 minute time slots to demonstrate a hands-on skill and promote your club at the same time. Clubs can sign up for a mentor table time slot by contacting Hy Gold, AB2VG, at ab2vg@arrl.net

To reserve commercial seller or indoor non-commercial space, please visit <http://www.tcf-nj.org/> or contact Henry Castiglione, N2HEM at HenryLion@aol.com

In order to be included in the published program, it is important that individual presentation speakers and club mentoring ideas be submitted by February 1, 2011.

Editor's note: The above is from Gary Wilson, K2GW, who can be reached at k2gw@arrl.net



I thought this Field Day picture might help you remember what the ground looked like when covered with green grass instead of snow.

February Birthdays

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Thomas Cusack, KC2THO
Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY
Herb Schuler, K2HPV



Crosstalk Submissions

This is your Club newsletter. Make use of it. Feel free to contribute general interest articles and ideas for articles.

All submissions, queries, comments and editorials should be addressed to Gene Schoeberlein at aa2yo@arrl.net.

Submission deadline for the March issue:
2/25/2011

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Vice President-Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Treasurer-Open

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD
Art Strong, K2AWS

Steve Blasko, W2TDS
Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-John Zaruba, K2ZA
Corresponding Secretary-Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY

Board of Directors

Open
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
Bob Krukowski, KR2U

Trustees

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ
Mike Mollet, N2SRO

Committees

ARES/RACES-John, K2ZA
Awards-Dave, W2YC
Budget-Steve, W2TDS
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E
Constitution-As needed
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ken, N2CQ
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-Vinnie, N4NYY
Hamfest-Al, KB2AYU
Historian-Art, K2AWS

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU
Programs-Tom, KE2ES
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
Website-Art, K2AWS

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)

1272.4/1284.4 MHz-Pitman

GCARC Meetings

General Membership

7:30 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

VHF/UHF Narrowbanding
Tom Gorman, KE2ES

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

