



Crosstalk

Issue #1

January 2000

President's Message



affiliated club



I certainly hope everyone had happy and safe holidays and New Year. Instead of playing ham radio during the holidays I spent most of it setting up a rather large fish aquarium. The next step is a small radio-controlled submarine to go into the tank.

With the new year comes a number of challenges that we as a club must face. Membership is declining, interest in ham radio is declining, and turnout at club meetings is declining. We as a club, not just your elected officials, need to find ways to reverse this trend. Now that we have a larger block of time in which to hold meetings we will be having programs at the meetings but we need to know what people would be interested in seeing. Gene N2IMK may be in charge of programs but if he gets input from members his job gets easier and he has far better ideas of what to set up. John AA2BN suggested looking into a program put on by an amateur licensed astronaut who has flown shuttle missions and is involved with the space station. Now that would be a program, in which case, if we can set it up I would ask the general membership to allow me to open the program up to other clubs in South Jersey. To sit at home and contest doesn't sound like much fun to me, but I'm not a real contester. To do a contest with other club members is a great time. We need to look into getting into some contests with those that know how and see what we can do. A little friendly competition and the camaraderie involved can go a long way into reviving our club.

I'm open to ideas and suggestions on making this organization again what it once was. With your help and efforts it will be again.

See you at the meeting ART KA2DOT

2000 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2000 are now 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.

DX Dope

Last month we highlighted some of the various DX related awards, notably the infamous DX Century Club certificate program, sponsored by the ARRL.

What many hams don't know is that a DXCC certificate can also be earned for the following individual bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 10, 6, and 2 meters. In addition, separate certificates may be awarded for all phone, all CW, all RTTY, all satellite, or any combination thereof (referred to as "mixed mode"). Hence, if 40 meters is your band, and you work only SSB, for example, you may (when you finally got them all) submit QSL cards from 100 different countries, all worked on 40m SSB, and receive your 40M Phone certificate. Where is 15 meters? I Don't know, I guess the league ran out of computer storage and can't, at the juncture, squeeze in 15 meters.

Once having submitted and having your 100 QSL's approved, the League maintains, in perpetuity (unless you become a silent key) a record in their computer of your individual accomplishments. Maybe, say 3 years after receiving your 40M SSB DXCC, you send in another 30 QSL countries, all on 40M SSB, the League will credit these to your 40M DXCC and send you an endorsement sticker for your certificate.

After each submission, the League will return your QSL cards together with a computer print out showing where you stand, what countries you have been credited with and so forth. You may lose all of your records, but the League will not.

So what seems to be hot this go around?

Station	Dates	Mode/Freq.	Rarity*	Country
XZ0A	1/13 - 2/6	All	(4)	Burma
5A1A	Almost Daily	SSB/28.455	(4)	Libya
XU7???	1/5 - 2/4	SSB, CW	(4)	Cambodia
VP6BR	1/10 - 4/1	SSB, CW	(4)	Pitcairn Island
CE0Z	1/6 - 1/16	ALL	(4)	Juan Fernandez
TG9AOC	Almost Daily	SSB, CW	(2)	Guatemala
OD5/OK1MU	QRV	SSB, CW	(2)	Lebanon
KH4/W4ZYV	till 1/10	SSB, CW	(3)	Midway Island
LZ0A	till 3/1	SSB (14.325)	(2)	South Shetlands
VK0LD	Don't ask!!		(5)	Macquarie Isl.

*(5) is rarest

73 de Doug, WA2NPD

- *TNX to 59(9) Report, AA2WN, and QST*

VAST MAJORITY OF HAMS NOT ULS-READY

Even though registration has been available for approximately two years now, most Amateur Radio licensees have yet to register with the FCC's Universal Licensing System. The ULS Task Force reports that, as of mid-November, 682,212 amateurs still have not registered. This figure includes individuals whose licenses have lapsed but remain in the two-year grace period. The FCC recently said approximately 3% of US licensees had registered with the ULS.

The FCC deployed the ULS for the Amateur Service on August 16, 1999. Amateurs must be registered in the ULS in order to file applications with the FCC--including renewals, modifications, and vanity call sign requests.

Meanwhile, the latest "good news/bad news" scenario from the ULS could go something like this: "Dear Amateur: The good news is that we have granted your requested Group C vanity call sign which you sought 10 weeks ago when you were a General class licensee. The bad news is that when we granted your long-awaited vanity call, we also undid the Advanced and Extra class upgrades you accomplished while your vanity was pending. So, congratulations! You're a General once again."

The ULS Task Force says it recently discovered that the bug occurs when several applications are pending (e.g., a vanity application and an upgrade application). The FCC is attempting to straighten out the unintended downgrades and says it will have the operator class of affected licensees corrected within a week.

FCC personnel are currently testing the processing for club, military recreation, and RACES applications and hopes to act on pending applications before the end of the month. Up until now, those applications have been filed on paper and still must be manually keystroked into the ULS prior to processing.

The ULS Task Force also wants amateur applicants to know that if they apply too early for license renewal, their applications will be dismissed. A license renewal must be filed no sooner than within 90 days of expiration, even if coupled with a license modification. This is only an issue for those filing paper applications; the electronic filing system will not let applicants file prematurely.

To register for the ULS, visit <http://www/fcc.gov/wtb/uls> and click on "TIN/Call Sign Registration". Paper registration also is possible. For more information, call toll-free 888-CALL FCC (225-5322).

-Tnx to the ARRL Letter

Crosstalk's New Look

As the new editor of Crosstalk, I'd like to thank Art Strong KA2DOT for his efforts and stewardship of this publication for the last few years. He did a great job, and I hope I can do at least as well.

I'm going to bring a new look to our newsletter, along with added content, and some special features. But, I can't do it alone, I need your help. If you're doing something in Amateur Radio, and you think other hams would be interested in what your doing, write it up. Find a solution to a common problem? Want to let club members know about your special interest? Write it up. If you don't think you can write an article, call me. I'll interview you, and together we'll get the message out!

There are two special features I'd like to introduce, the first being a member profile. During the November membership meeting, the accomplishments of two of our members, who had passed on, were recounted. I felt sorry that I hadn't gotten to know these men better. That's when the idea of the member profile came to me. It gives us all a chance to know each other better

The other new feature is a guest editorial. There are many views on a variety of facets of ham radio. Here is YOUR chance to express them.

-JZ

ARISS Delayed

NASA is reporting the schedule once again has been reset for space shuttle mission STS-101, which will carry aloft initial amateur radio equipment on the International Space Station. NASA now says the shuttle Atlantis will now launch no earlier than March 16, 2000.

The nearly 11-day mission will carry the initial ham equipment to the ISS for deployment aboard the Russian-built service module.

Wiring inspections and repairs on the Atlantis orbiter, along with the unplanned replacement of the ammonia boiler, are responsible for the most recent delay.

Observers also are keeping an eye on the situation in Kazakhstan, where a Russian Proton rocket recently was lost following launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome. The Proton launch vehicle is similar to the rocket that will bring next ISS piece -- the Zvezda module -- to orbit. NASA reports that it's too early to determine what, if any, impact the launch failure could have on Zvezda's launch schedule.

-TNX to AMSAT NEWS SERVICE, NASA and the ARRL

OSCAR Phase 3 D Update

AMSAT-NA President Keith Baker, KB1SF, brings ANS up to date on the activity surrounding the Phase 3-D satellite:

"Right now, P3-D is still in Orlando, the satellite team has been busy getting the last-minute paperwork clearances and shipping details in order for shipment to the launch site at Kourou in French Guiana. The team is waiting on various U.S. government agencies to issue the final, updated versions of the necessary paperwork and clearance documents. These documents contain shipping information, specific equipment lists, shipment contents, final weight and customs documentation needed to allow the international shipping contractor to actually schedule and then ship not only the P3D spacecraft, but also the SBS and several pieces of associated ground equipment via commercial airliner to Kourou. AMSAT has been assured that all clearances are forthcoming and we are simply waiting for all the paperwork to clear."

KB1SF tells ANS that the P3D team used this time for last minute tweaking on spin balancing of the spacecraft. "Right now," said President Baker, "all is in readiness and our plan right now is to have P3-D on the plane to Kourou as soon as possible."

As ANS has reported - a launch contract accepting Phase 3D as a payload for the first suitable Arianespace Ariane 5 vehicle launch assigned October 5th. Arianespace has noted that Phase 3D would be "one of the first secondary payloads boosted by Ariane 5, which will use a special adapter for orbital injection." Phase 3D, which weighs 1,430 pounds, will be injected into a geostationary transfer orbit (GTO). P3D will then use its own propulsion system to reach an elliptical orbit around the Earth.

-TNX to AMSAT News Service

FCC Adopts License Restructuring

More than a year after it first proposed reducing the number of amateur license classes and asked hams for input on code speed requirements, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) handed down its restructuring decision on the final business day of 1999.

Here is a summary of changes, which are effective as of April 15, 2000:

There will be only three license classes, Technician, General, and Amateur Extra, with a single written exam element for each grade of license. There will be only one code exam -- at 5 words per minute (wpm) -- for licenses with HF privileges (General and Extra).

No new Novice, Tech-Plus, or Advanced Class licenses will be issued after April 14. However, hams who now hold these licenses will retain all of their current operating privileges, and will be able to modify &/or renew their licenses indefinitely. Tech-Plus hams will be renewed as Technicians, but will retain their HF operating privileges.

There will be no "refarming" of the ham bands as proposed by the ARRL. This means that current Novice and Advanced Class sub bands will remain as they are, so there will be no expansion of frequency privileges for any ham without passing an upgrade exam or showing credit for all necessary exam elements (more on this later). There will also be no changes in the callsign groups. There will be no automatic upgrades, even for hams who qualify based on past credit. Even if no additional exams are required, a ham will have to apply for an upgrade at a VE (Volunteer Examination) session.

There will be only three written exam elements, one for each new class of license. Decisions on structuring the new exam elements will be made by the Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee (QPC), which will be given even greater authority in designing and administering amateur exams. The much-abused disability waiver for 13- and 20-wpm code tests is eliminated (since there will no longer be any 13- or 20-wpm code tests)

The changes will take effect on April 15, 2000. This will give the QPC time to create new exams, and will give publishers time to get new license manuals into print before the new structure is put into place. In addition, it will give tens of thousands of hams with partial credit toward one of the new license classes the opportunity to pass the remaining element(s) before the new tests begin, possibly requiring reexamination on certain topics. The full text of the Report and Order will be posted here as soon as we get it.

-TNX CQ Magazine Web site News

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following club members:

Al Arrison KB2AYU 1/15
Joe DiNovi WA2GFK 1/13
John Fahey WB2ONY 1/19
Bret Geiger KB2YJE 1/22
Louis Joseph W2LYL 1/22
Miriam Kravitz KB2EUA 1/19
George Munns KB2GW 1/17
Chick Naylor WA2USI 1/9
Gene Wallace N2IMK 1/21



Crosstalk Submissions

All submissions, queries, comments, editorials, or requests for interviews may be directed to:

John Zaruba AA2BN
491 Pennsylvania Ave
Franklinville, NJ 08322

jzaruba@snip.net
aa2bn@amsat.org

Submission deadline: 1/22/00

Committees

Advertising - John N2AWD

ARES/RACES -Chick WA2USI

Awards - Jack K2ZA

Banquet - Bob KR2U

Budget - Bob K2DAD

Clubhouse Site - Al KB2AYU

Constitution - Open

Crosstalk - John AA2BN

Database - John AA2BN

DX - Doug WA2NPD

Field Day - Tony KG2MY

Hamfest - John N2AWD

Hospitality - Ray WB2NBJ

Membership - John AA2BN

Nominations - Bob KR2U

Publicity - John N2AWD

Repeaters - Chuck WA2TML

Scholarships - Greg WN2T

Special Services - Open

Sunshine - Miriam KB2EUA

Technical - Open

TVI - Open

VEC Testing - Chick WA2USI

4-H Parking - Bob KR2U

The W2MMD Repeaters

147.78/18 Mhz - Pitman

223.06/224.66 Mhz - Sewell

447.1/442.1 Mhz - Pitman
(CTCSS 131.8 Hz)

GCARC Meetings

General Membership

8p.m. 1st Wednesday every month, Pfeiffer Community Center, Williamstown, NJ

Board of Directors

8 p.m. 3rd Wednesday every month, GCARC Club site, Harrison Twp. 4-H Grounds
~1 mile south of Mullica Hill on RT77

Nets

**ARES/RACES -
Sundays 20:00 Hrs
(147.78/18 and
223.06/224.66
repeaters)**

**10 Meter - Sundays
following the
ARES/Races Net
(28.350 Mhz)**



stamp

P.O. Box 370
Pitman, NJ 08071

Mailing Label