

CROSSTALK

Issue #1

JANUARY, 2002

Presidents Message

Happy New Year!

By the time you get this, Christmas will be gone and we will be looking toward getting the club back on a firm financial footing. At the last board meeting many suggestions were considered, some of which revolved around the club site.

2002 DUES
GCARC dues for the year 2002 are 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.

Lou W2LYL has put up two antennas for the lower bands at the club site. With these antennas we are able to operate on 160, 80 and 40 meters. An operating night is planned for January 9th at the trailer and everyone that is able to get there should come out and operate. There is still an urgent need for new members so feel free to bring non-club members out to the club site on January 9th. Lou says that our site has excellent propagation characteristics particularly on 160M. This issue of Crosstalk will have more information on the club site and the operating night.

Speaking of Crosstalk I want to apologize for not getting out the December issue. Many things contributed to the situation from computer problems to address labels that were not available.

An expanded hospitality table will enhance the January meeting so try to make it.

The board members and I want to wish everyone our best wishes for a happy and enjoyable New Year.

Best 73 & 88 to all,
Ray WB2NBJ

PS: My e-mail address has been changed to wb2nbj@excite.com or wb2nbj@att.com.

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Your humble scribe was a bit blind last month. I reported how well W2YC and WK2G scored in the 2000 10 meter contest, yet neglected to see where Ken, N2CQ, placed first in the section in the QRP category. Also, Herb, K2HPV, was not far behind. Having suffered at the QRP "trough" during a Field Day contest a few years back, I can vouch for the skill and perseverance needed to score well with 5 watts or less. Many plaudits to Ken and Herb for their super effort under the 5-watt yoke.

By now, I presume most of the Club DXers have realized that the year 2001 will, no doubt, go down in DX propagation history as possibly the most unusual sunspot cycle maximum ever! Although we reached the cycle maximum over a year ago and the SFI predictably headed downhill, suddenly, about 3 to 4 months ago, the flux headed on back up and has been holding reasonably steady at over 200 for the past 2 to 3 months! Hence, it has created a sort of "double-humped camel" plot of SFI versus time, which is singularly unusual. According to propagation guru K2JF, the experts have really been scratching their collective heads trying to figure it out. Even at the date of this creation (December 20, 2001), the SFI is a robust 221! This phenomenon has produced truly outstanding 10 and 6 meter openings with 10 meters lasting well into the evening hours and with openings from Europe beginning as early as 7AM EST along the East Coast. Six meters has set all kinds of records! Tony, N2SS, John, K2JF, and Harry, AA2WN, have logged 6 meter contacts from all across Europe, South America, and of course North America with no let up in sight yet. Many of the N2SS and AA2WN QSOs have been mobile. If you haven't yet tuned in on either 6 or 10 meters, there is still time.

So lets see what is up for this month.

| <u>Station</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Freq./Mode</u> | <u>Rarity*</u> | <u>Country</u> |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| P5/4L4FN | 1/18-on | 20, 15, 10; SSB | 5+ | N. Korea. |
| YA5T | Early Jan-on | 80-10; SSB, CW | 5 | Afghanistan |
| 9U5D | until 2/17/02 | 80-6; CW Jan., SSB | 4 | Burundi |
| VP8- | 1/18-1/25 | 80-10; CW, SSB, RTTY | 4+ | So. Georgia |
| VP8- | 1/28-2/3 | 80-10; CW, SSB, RTTY | 4+ | So. Sandwich |
| 3XY6A | 1/3-1/5 | 20-10; SSB, PSK31 | 3 | Guinea |
| LU1ZA | Now up | 40-10; SSB, CW | 3 | So. Orkney |
| EA6- | 12/21-1/6 | 40-10; SSB, CW | 2 | Balearic Is. |
| A3- | 1/5-1/15 | 160-10; CW, SSB, RTTY | 2 | Tonga Is. |
| WZ8D/C6AIE | 1/1-1/10 | 40-6; FM, CW, SSB | 2 | Bahamas |

* 5 is rarest

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

Editor's Note: In December it was announced that the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association (PIARA) plans to mount a DXpedition to Ducie Island in March leaving March 12.

GCARC Clubhouse

With the changing financial situation of the Club (no more 4H parking money), we need to look at what the members want the Club to support in the future. One of the Club's biggest assets is the clubhouse at the Gloucester County 4H Fairgrounds. It is also our biggest single expense. Much of the equipment that had been at the clubhouse was destroyed probably by a lightning strike. But even before the loss of the equipment, usage of the clubhouse had gone down sharply. The Club now has the option of replacing the lost equipment and fixing the clubhouse up to the way it once was or letting it continue to deteriorate until it is no longer useful. What do you the membership what to do?

With the money from our insurance policy we could easily replace the lost equipment. But that leaves us with two questions. Will the membership use the equipment enough to justify buying the new equipment? And, will the membership come up with the additional money necessary to repair and maintain the trailer?

In order to see if we have any interest in the clubhouse, Lou Joseph, W2LYL, and Ray Schnapp, WA2NBJ, plan to open the clubhouse for visitors on January 9, 2002 from 7PM to 10PM. Lou will set up his Ten Tec Omni VI and the Club still has one HF rig. Both should be operational that night. If you are not familiar with the facility, this is your chance to come out and see the possibilities it offers. Bring your friends. It will be open to all. If there is interest in this, Lou and Ray will try to open the clubhouse in the future on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

Now is your chance to make your feelings heard. If you want the Club to continue to have the clubhouse, speak up for it now. Come to meetings or send your ideas to the newsletter so all can read them. But remember if we are going to keep the clubhouse, we need ideas on how to support it, as the trailer will need repairs soon and our finances are limited.

ARRL Study Panel Recommends Eliminating Novice Bands

On the basis of nearly 5000 survey responses, the ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee has recommended that the ARRL petition the FCC to eliminate the Novice CW subbands and allow Novice and Technician with Element 1 credit licensees to operate CW on the General 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW allocations at up to 200 W output. The panel suggested setting aside portions of those bands for "slow CW operation" to aid new CW operators in enhancing their skills. The committee recommended refarming the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands in part to allow expansion of the phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

The committee's complete report will be presented to the ARRL Board of Directors for consideration during its annual meeting in January. The committee's determinations were based on opinions expressed by 4744 respondents to an ARRL Novice Spectrum Study survey launched in June. Those expressing their opinions included ARRL members and nonmembers. Nearly 61% of those responding were Extra class licensees.

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The survey offered possible refarming options for each of the bands involved--including no change at all. Generally speaking, the predefined options proposed retaining Extra class CW subbands on the affected bands, setting aside expanded CW reserves for all license classes except Technicians lacking Element 1 credit, and dividing the remaining spectrum into expanded phone segments for General, Advanced and Extra class operators. A guiding principle was that no class of licensees would lose any privileges as a result of refarming.

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

Take a Number: FRN Now Mandatory

Anyone filing an Amateur Radio application now will be asked to supply a 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN) issued by the FCC's new Commission Registration System, or CORES. The requirement applies to FCC applications filed on-line or on paper. The FCC also has supplanted Universal Licensing System (ULS) registration with "CORES/Call Sign" registration, so applicants no longer need to register separately in both systems.

Most, if not all, hams who registered previously with the ULS already have an FRN, although they may not know it yet. The FCC just completed another cross-registration to include those already on the ULS books within the CORES "entity registration" database, and another is scheduled. Amateurs can learn their FRNs by doing a license search on the FCC's Universal Licensing System page <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. FRNs also are displayed via the ARRL call sign server on ARRL Web <http://www.arrl.org>.

The FCC has updated its ULS page <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> to reflect the new reality and to make the page a bit less confusing. Amateurs not yet registered in CORES who click "CORES/Call Sign" registration will be redirected to the CORES site to complete that process. Amateurs who click "Online Filing" are advised to proceed to CORES to register if they do not already have an FRN, then return to ULS for filing.

Those filing on-line applications now are asked to supply either an FRN or a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN--a Social Security Number for an individual) plus a password, typically the same for both CORES and ULS.

The process is a bit more daunting for new club station applicants, who now will be asked to register in CORES as business entities. Such applicants also may file with a Club Station Call Sign Administrator using Form NCVEC 605 and simply leave the FRN field blank. ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says that in those cases, the Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA), such as ARRL, will register the club station entity in CORES on the applicant's behalf.

For more information about the Commission Registration System or on obtaining an FRN, contact the CORES Help Desk, 877-480-3201, cores@fcc.gov.

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

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following club members:

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Al Arrison KB2AYU | 1/15 |
| Joseph DiNovi WA2GSK | 1/13 |
| John Fahey WB2ONY | 1/19 |
| Lou Joseph W2LYL | 1/22 |
| George Munns KB2GW | 1/17 |
| Gene Wallace N2IMK | 1/21 |



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: 1/28/2002

Crosstalk is available on the web at:
www.gcarc-w2mmd.org

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-Chris West WA2MVU

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-John AA2BN
DX-Doug WA2NPD
Field Day-Lou W2LYL
Hamfest-Open

Hospitality-Chris WK2W
Membership- John AA2BN
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
4-H Parking-Bob KR2U

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)

January Meeting Program

2002 Budget
Election of Trustees

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

www.gcarc-w2mmd.org

