



## *Presidents Message*

As we enter 2007 (and a new sunspot cycle!), I hope all of you and your families had a wonderful holiday. The New Year brings plenty of challenges for us as a radio club. We face the same problem demographically as a club, as ham radio in general, which is that very few young people are entering the hobby. This year, we are going to focus on finding ways to attract new people to amateur radio. Try to think of some ideas, we will be discussing this further at the general meetings, and there are plans in the works to create a committee to deal with the issue as well. Happy New Year to all!

### **What Can We Do for The Future of Our Hobby?**

By Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY, Program Chairman

We have noted the rise in excitement over You Tube and My Space and the Internet in general, not to mention cell phones that seem to “be all they can be” in our pockets. According to Time magazine, “YOU” are even the person of the year. So why don't we hams feel that way?

Whatever happened to the excitement of pulling a station out of the mud or hearing a rare and distant call? I've often likened amateur radio to fishing, but with air conditioning. It's never going to be a phone call and wouldn't be too much fun if it were. So what do we do to convey that to others? There's some part of the hobby that keeps us coming back after all these years. Each of us can share that with others.

So the theme of our programs for the year is going to be “What Can We Do for The Future of Our Hobby?” Don't get nervous; we're not going to spend all our time on that. However, each person who presents on any subject will be asked for their input on that theme. Where possible, their presentation may even focus directly on some aspect of our central theme. We're even going to have a special meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> to get your suggestions. Stay tuned for more program notes as the year progresses.

### **W2MMD Adds 1200 MHz to Its Repeater System**

The Pitman water tower is now home to 3 W2MMD repeaters. On the tower with the 2M and 70cm machines is the new 23cm machine. The frequencies are 1284.4 output, 1272.4 input. The repeater was built by KB2AYU. It consists of a Hamtronics vhf receiver and vhf exciter coupled with a SSB Electronic 23cm low noise receive converter and 23cm 1 Watt transmit converter. A Down East Microwave power amp puts out 60 watts through Wacom duplexers. A Comet high gain vertical antenna is topside. Initial results indicate a big signal over the surrounding area, with very good receive sensitivity. The biggest problem at 23cm is multipath distortion, especially when in motion from a mobile. Experiments with diversity reception are planned to try and tame the multipath problem.

### **John Logan, KB2VSE, Silent Key**

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of John Logan, KB2VSE, a long time member of the GCARC. Our condolences go out to his wife Andrea, KB2ZWK.

# DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Thus far, the VU7LD “DX ride” has been extremely tough, a real DXers challenge and hurdle. Unless you have a few 100 ft. plus towers with multi-element beams and long wires attached at about the same height, chances are you won’t have him in your log very often. Looking at their on-line search, we see some of the USA “big guns” have him on the most workable bands, but the rest of us are lucky to have worked him on any band. And, as you read this, the operation, after going strong for the month of December, is about to shut down. The good news is the second group will be there starting about January 15 until the end of the month. So how can you work them? About the only time they are readable here in southern New Jersey, is between the hours of about 8 AM and 10 PM on 20, 17, and occasionally 15 meters. If you have a beam, listen on the long path (about 260 deg.) between 8 AM and 9 AM, and then go short path (about 80 deg.) for the next hour. This is true for 20, 15, and 17m. 15 m has only been open for 15 minutes or so for very few days, so best luck is on 20 m. 17 m has been very poor the past 2 weeks as the SFI has now dropped to the low seventies. 80 meters and 40 meters have been sporadically heard in the early evening hours between 6:30 and 7:30 PM, and that’s about it. High k values have plagued these two low bands for about half of the operation thus far. All times given here are in EST and are approximate at best. Also, note that most of their operations are SSB, some CW. Propagation has been much better to the 4 and 5 call areas, but, unfortunately, we don’t live down there. Oh, having an amplifier is a big help, however, towards the final week, not so critical. As we sink deeper and deeper into the 11 year cycle bottom (bottom now calculated to be in May, 2007), the above propagation situation will most likely be the same for the second VU7 operation. VU7/L is the second most needed entity in the world. Good luck, and have lots of patience.

The ARRL Outgoing DX Bureau prices go up after first of the year. Ten cards will now be \$1.50, up 50 cents, for example. So, what else is out there?

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	ENTITY
HI8/ON4AA	12/2 – 1/14	40,20 : SSB, Digit	2	Dom. Rep.
XT2C (1)	1/6 – 1/20	All: All	3	Burkina Faso
YI9TU	Jan.- Feb.	40 – 17: SSB, CW, RTTY	3	Iraq
S21XA (1)	1/10 – 1/16	All: All	4	Bangladesh
VU7RG (1)	1/15 – 1/31	All: All	5	Lakshadweep Is.
1A4A	Jan 1 – 1/7	160 – 2 : SSB, CW, RTTY	4	Sov. Mil. Ord. Malta
BX0ZR	1/8 – 1/21	160 – 6: All	3	Taiwan
8Q7AK	1/21 – 2/2	30 – 12: SSB, CW	3	Maldives
JT1/K4ZW	1/15 – 1/25	160 – 40; CW, SSB	4	Mongolia
T30XX	12/27 – 1/8	160 – 10; CW, SSB	3	W. Kiribati

(1) are major DXpeditions. \* Nr. 5 is rarest

Tnx to The Weekly DX, ARRL DX Bulletin, AA2WN, W2YC, WA2LET, K2JF

## New Committee Chair for Two Committees

Dave MacDonald, WA3JOY, has agreed to take over as Committee Chairs for ARES/RACES and Programs and our President Darrell has appointed Dave to the positions. Thanks Dave for taking on these positions as well as the job of recording secretary.

If you look at the next to the last page of this issue of [Crosstalk](#) you will see the current list of Committee Chairmen and officers. There are still a number of committees that do not have a chairman and there is one vacant directors position. If you feel you could fill one of these jobs please contact one of the Club officers and volunteer to take over the vacant position.

## Happy New Year Members!

By Ken Newman, N2CQ, Treasurer

I hope you all had a great Holiday Season. One New Year's resolution I hope you all make is to pay your Club dues for the year. But you knew that didn't you. For your information, the dues for Full Members are \$20 and for Associate Members are \$15. Family Membership dues are only \$10 per person and of course Junior Membership dues for those less than 18 years of age are also \$10. If you received a large box of cash for Christmas and you don't know what to do with it, you could upgrade your membership to a Life Member for only \$400. Life Members pay no dues for the rest their lives. Yes, we have several Life Members now. The good news is that you can pay your dues by sending a check to my home address, 81 Holly Drive, Woodbury, NJ 08096. Your check or cash will also be accepted at the club meetings or by mail to the club address. The bad news is that members delinquent on April 1 will be removed from the Membership Rolls, but I'm sure you won't let that happen will you?

## W2MMD Completes First EME (Moon Bounce) Contacts

By Al Arrison, KB2AYU

The GCARC club station W2MMD, operated by Jim, N2NRD, and Al, KB2AYU, completed 9 EME contacts on 144 MHz during the 2006 ARRL EME contest. The new WSJT computer soundcard based digital mode was used to pull the weak signals out of the noise. The club equipment consists of a Yaesu FT-847, a M2 17 element long boom yagi, a SSB Electronic tower mounted low noise preamp, and a generic 500Mhz computer. KB2AYU's power amp was used for about 700W output. Stations could be heard from as soon as the moon cleared the horizon, up to 30 degrees above the horizon. Big gun stations in both Europe and the US were worked including: RN6BN, EA6VQ, RA3AQ, RU1AA, IK3MAC, S52LM, K5GW, KB8RQ, and W5UN. For your information, the total path length to the moon and back is almost 500,000 miles!

## February 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting at Cecil Athletic Complex (George Ruch Bldg.)

By Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY, Program Chairman

As a result of a scheduling conflict, the February meeting will be at the George Ruch Bldg., at the Cecil Athletic Complex, 14<sup>th</sup> and Highland Avenue, in Sunset Lakes. This is a one-time only move and is about 10 minutes from the Pfeiffer Center. The rest of the year (except for July 4<sup>th</sup> when there will be no meeting) we'll be in the Pfeiffer Center, in Williamstown. The program for this meeting will be a brainstorming session with the membership on the topic of: "What Can We Do for The Future of Our Hobby." All are welcome so come on out and give us your input. We'll try to have a talk-in on 147.18 from about 7:15 pm to the 8:00 pm starting time.

Directions: If you have a Franklin Map of the Williamstown area look on page 186 with 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 Drives and Sunset Ave. to turn right on Lakeside Dr. Travel 14 blocks to 14<sup>th</sup> St. and turn left on 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes to be held January 20-22, 2007

By Al Arrison, KB2AYU

The GCARC station, W2MMD, will be in operation for the contest. If you would like to operate all or part of the contest please contact kb2ayu@verizon.net to sign up. Anyone is welcome to stop by and observe, or better yet, get on the air and work W2MMD on 50, 144, 222, and 432 for contest points.

## Bad News for VEC Testing

Diane Nafis, N2LCQ, reports that as of December 22, 2006 the Bellmawr VE team has disbanded. This means there will no longer be monthly testing sessions in Bellmawr, NJ or at local Hamfests.



**JANUARY**                      **CONDUCTED BY N2SS**                      **2007**



**A Very Happy 2007 To All**

<b>DIGITAL</b>	
<b>W2YC</b> .....267	K2JF..... 113
AA2WN.....187	N2SS ..... 53
N2CQ.....151	

<b>6 METER DXCC</b>	
<b>WØMHK</b> .....102	W2YC.....29
K2JF .....94	AA2WN.....15
N2SS .....55	

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

<b>MOBILE DX</b>	
<b>W2YC</b> .....276	WØMHK .... 141
N2SS.....234	AA2WN..... 131
K2JF .....150	

<b>GRID SQUARES</b>	
<b>WØMHK</b> .....505	K2JF .....285
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Looks like Dave and I have spent entirely too much time behind the wheel!

**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.

🌐 <b>WARC BANDS</b> 🌐		
<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
<b>W2YC. 306</b>	<b>N2SS ...321</b>	<b>WØMHK309</b>
N2SS.....291	WØMHK.. 315	N2SS..... 302
WØMHK ..272	W2YC ..... 309	W2YC..... 278
WA2NPD ..197	WA2NPD . 190	K2JF ..... 135
AA2WN....171	K2JF..... 168	N2CQ..... 99
AB2E .....132	AA2WN ... 116	AB2E ..... 92
K2JF.....112	N2CQ ..... 115	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**

<b>1.5K Club</b>	
<b>W2YC</b> .....1571	AA2WN..... 1369
<b>N2SS</b> .....1527	K2JF..... 1350
WØMHK .... 1441	N2CQ..... 1135
WA2NPD ... 1429	AB2E ..... 1164

<b>160 Meters</b>	
<b>W2YC</b> ..... <b>191</b>	N2SS ..... 79
WØMHK .... 133	AA2WN ..... 36
AB2E ..... 94	K2JF ..... 34
WA2NPD..... 88	N2CQ ..... 9

W2YC continues as our undisputed Top of Top Band.

<b>Islands On The Air</b>	
<b>N2SS</b> ..... <b>840</b>	AB2E ..... 205
W2YC.....645	N2CQ..... 159
WØMHK.....302	

**CURRENT OFFICIAL ARRL DXCC STATISTICS**

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

## January Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in January:

Al Arrison, KB2AYU  
Gene Bond, WB2UVB  
Chuck Chew, KC2LOC  
Robert Layton, KB2COB  
Anthony Pitale, N2PKN  
Gary Reed, N2QEE  
Curt Trainer, N2BYC  
Gene Wallace, N2IMK



## 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: 1/25/2007

## 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

Open  
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, WB3JOY

**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

**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**

Jean Priestly, KA2YKN  
ARRL Southern New Jersey  
Section Manager

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

