



Presidents Message

You will receive this well in advance of our January 7th Club meeting as the Crosstalk Editor needs to budget his time for his upcoming Income Tax Assistance campaign. Most of you may not know that Gene, AA2YO, spends a lot of time during the first few months of each year working with a group of volunteers to help many people (elderly, etc.) with their Income Tax returns. He (they) do this entirely pro bono for which he and others on his team are to be greatly commended.

We wish to thank the Club for placing confidence in yours truly et al for electing myself and the other Club officers to another year at the helm. We pledge to do our best to insure that GCARC has another year of varied ham activities, programs, etc., as to give all Club members a sense of satisfaction that belonging to GCARC is further enhancing our ham radio knowledge, interest, and enjoyment. At the outset, our Program Chairman, Dave, WB2JOY, is taking a year's leave of absence from this activity and we are currently in hot pursuit of someone to take his place. Dave, all agree, did a splendid job providing last year's programs and it will be a tough act to follow. I am not sure at this writing if we will have a program for our January meeting. We are also reviewing all of our Club Committee chairman roles and plan to add some new committees to our list. One new Committee that has materialized we will call "4H Liaison", and we have asked Harry, K2ATX, to head that Committee. As you all know by know, Harry was very instrumental in bringing the 4H and GCARC Clubs back under the same roof again and he is also heading-up the formation of the new 4H Youth Radio Club.

At our recent Board meetings, we unanimously accepted Tom, KC2THO, and Jim, KC2JFZ, as new members of our Club. They both expect to be at our January meeting so please shake their respective hands and welcome them to GCARC.

Winter is certainly upon us. As I write this there is a cold rain falling outside; I am glad its not snow! I always have looked at wintertime as a sort of pull-back position for ham radio. It is difficult to do any tower and antenna work and one simply prays that whatever repairs were affected during the summer and fall will hold-up throughout winter. This is 160, 80, and 40 meter time. Pray that all those long wire and/or vertical antennas will cut-it throughout the winter ice storms, etc. Not so much this winter, but we expect by next winter we will begin to see some reawakening of 10, 12, and 15 meters, and thereafter should be the onset of cycle 24!

Finally, I hope everyone in our Club had a nice Christmas Holiday and I wish all the best for a prosperous New Year in 2009.

73 de Doug, WA2NPD

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

If you did not jump into the ARRL 10 Meter Contest (weekend of Dec 13-14) you missed some really fun 6 Meter propagation! Yes, I said 6 Meter propagation. Sporadic E "skip" was alive and well on 10 meters during both days of the contest. Besides some Caribbean and long-haul South American standards (LU, PY, CX, etc.) you were able to work many USA stations stretching from W0-land to Maine and down to Florida. We had some great conditions for picking up new states on the 10M band! One of our club members from Williamstown managed to work 34 states, 13 DXCC entities, and a couple of hundred qsos just a few days ago at the bottom of the present cycle in the contest. All of these qsos were made with a solar flux count of 69-71 which is pretty close to minimum activity on the part of our sun. Let this be a reminder for you to check 6 Meter "spots" on the DX cluster to which you might subscribe. Those spots can translate into 10 Meter stateside or DX qsos. I'm sure that 10 Meters is one of your favorite bands at the peak of the cycle. It is often unfairly ignored during present solar activity.

Speaking of our new cycle, it seems that all this lack of ANY sunspots for so many days at a time at the beginning of a cycle MIGHT reveal some insight into the future this new period of solar activity. It could mean we are not going to have the intensive peaks or highs we were fortunate to have in the past 50 years or so of previous cycles. Now, this doesn't relegate us to a DX-less (plus or minus) 11 year period to come! It might just mean that prospects for higher band DXing will still be very much present, but not as easily and predictably available as in past cycles. Time will tell.

Let's start the New Year with a new DXCC credit for all-time, new mode, or new band entity, by working E44M, Palestine! This Italian DXpedition should be readily available after New Year's Eve clean-up. They will man 3 stations with 160M-2M capability on SSB, CW, and RTTY with 1 KW. They will focus on RTTY/Digital, low bands(one of my needs), WARC bands, and Non-Europeans. Unfortunately, licensing has not been easy to obtain from this area of the world. The political volatility certainly makes setting up radio stations by other than locals a possibly dangerous activity also! Let's hope for a safe experience for these operators and decent propagation for our logbook entries.

DX possibilites for the month of January include:

STATION	DATES	FQ/MODES	RARITY	ENTITY
E44M	Jan. 1-11	(See Above)	3	Palestine
HR9	Jan. 4-12	?/(IOTA NA-057)	1	Honduras
V73	Jan. 5-31	160-6M/CW+	2	Marshall Is.
TS7C	Jan. 8-19	?/(25 op team)	2	Tunisia
8Q7AK	Jan. 11-27	40-10M/CW,SSB	3	Maldives
ZD8N	Jan. 12-27	30-10M/CW,SB,RTTY	2	Ascension Is.
FW0RE	Jan. 29-Feb. 28	160-10M/CW,SB,RTTY	3	Wallis/Fortuna Is.
VP8DLQ	Jan. 31-Feb. 7	? - 100 Watts	2	Falkland Is.

#5 is Most Difficult

Credits: NG3K ADXO

2009 Officers

At the December General Membership the following Club Officers were elected for 2009:

President-Doug Gehring, WA2NPD	Vice President-Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU	Corresponding Secretary-Harry Elwell, K2ATX
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ	Director 3 Yr.-Harry Bryant-AA2WN
Director 3 Yr.-Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML	Trustee 4 Yr.-Mike Mollet, N2SRO

Please come out to meetings and greet your officers and support them throughout the year.

Welcome New Members

This month the Club welcomes two new members Tom Cusack, KC2THO and Jim Davidson, KC2UFZ. They both hold Tech Licenses and Tom lives in West Deptford and Jim lives in the Blackwood area. We welcome them both and hope to see them regularly at meetings and Club functions.

Frequency Change for Canadian Time Station CHU

After 70 years of broadcasting Canada's official time, the National Research Council's shortwave station CHU will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change goes into effect at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2009. Time transmissions on 3330 and 14670 kHz are not affected and will continue as before.

In April 2007, the ITU reallocated the 7300-7350 kHz band from the fixed service to the broadcasting service. Since then, the NRC said there has been a lot of interference on the 7335 kHz frequency from many information broadcasters around the world. "CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 kHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference," said Raymond Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility. "We have heard from Amateur Radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers and navigators who use the tones and voice signals. We also received comments from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment."

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the ARRL Newsletter.

The Hot Dog Stand

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

When I moved to New Jersey in 1979, I found a little hot dog place on Route 46 in Hasbrouck Heights. The place was small, about the size of Ted Kaczynski's Cabin. The parking lot, though, was almost always packed. It was filled with the full spectrum of America, immigrant landscapers, truck drivers, CEOs, lawyers, doctors, salespeople, police officers, you name it. They were all there taking a break. From dawn to dusk, there were regulars and newcomers all interacting with each other and the owner

who was a jovial guy who had learned some of the wisdoms of life and was always willing to share. It was a great place to network.

Next to the order window, was a little story about a hot dog vendor. While it has been updated and retold many times, I think it's an appropriate time to reflect on this old but powerful lesson again.

There was a man who had a profitable little business selling hot dogs on a busy street corner in a major city. He wasn't particularly well educated, but he sold great hot dogs and his customers loved him.

During the early morning rush hour, he'd wheel his mobile hot dog stand to position it near the exit of the central railway station in town. Recently he'd added a bacon and egg roll to his range and sold scores of them to this breakfast crowd every day. At lunchtime, he'd move his stand to a popular park where he had lines of loyal regulars. In the afternoon he'd be back at the station entrance and then later most nights he knew a great spot near a nightclub where young patrons rushed him off his feet. He had even installed special lighting and a flashing neon sign. Even people driving by would stop. He'd worked hard for years and had even done well enough to put his only son through college. After college the son became an accountant with a large accounting firm.

One day his son warned him that a recession was on the way. The old man asked his son what this meant. Being an educated man his son gave a very detailed explanation of how the recession would severely impact everyone in the community, particularly small business people like his father. There would be enormous unemployment; people would not be able to afford to spend money as they did now. He painted a gloomy picture of the future and warned his father that it would be wise to cut back on his expenses and "tighten his belt" financially and prepare for the worst.

The old man didn't know much about the economy or interest rates, but he trusted his son. After all, he was an educated man. Recession mentality kicked in. The old man began to cut back on the quantity of sausages and rolls he bought. He didn't want to get caught with stale rolls as business began to drop off. But it was hard to judge and some days he actually ran out of sausages and rolls earlier than he normally would. So he went home early and spent more time worrying about this recession that was coming.

Soon he knew that what his son had said was right. He noticed that his takings were indeed falling. This depressed him more and so he tended to get out of bed later each day. After all, why get to the station so early when obviously more people would be eating at home rather than spending money on breakfast in the city. He decided that his bacon and egg rolls were too expensive for most people now. After all, they were twice the price of a hot dog, so he cut them from his menu and his sales continued to plummet.

Wow, his son was right, this recession was hitting hard! He decided to save more money and not replace the batteries that powered his neon sign and lights at night. Now, because he was in the dark, fewer people saw and bought from him and soon he decided that it wasn't even worth his time setting up at night. Eventually he decided to sell off his equipment and his trolley. He was in luck though because the young woman who bought his trolley didn't seem to know how bad business was, or how severe the recession was going to be. He managed to unload the trolley for more than he thought he would get.

Now day after day he stayed at home, depressed, and occasionally his son would visit him and they would discuss how bad the recession was, and how lucky the old man had been to have an educated son who had warned him in advance about this terrible recession.

If you haven't figured out the moral of the story, yet, here it is: Recession mentality starts in one's own head. If you believe that a recession is coming and that times will soon be tough, then they will be for

Conversion Diversion

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Here's an inexpensive present to give yourself, a 6 band shortwave converter that uses an AM (or CB) radio as the IF. Matt Burns, KC8COM, is selling these easy-to-assemble kits for about \$25. His company, Cycle 24 Kits, is based in Rock, WV. These kits come with a nice single-sided PC board and all parts except controls and connectors.

Put one together during an evening and place it inline with your car radio. You can listen to the BBC, get yo'self some religion, or eavesdrop on the 160, 75 and 40 meter AM crowd. If you add an audio amp IC, it makes a nice stand-alone receiver, too.

For those of you who are SMD-phobic, there are no surface mount parts! Matt's also working on an article about converters for one of the ham rags, and plans on releasing some other kits (including a possible transceiver) in the near future.

The GCARC Website Project

By Harry Elwell, K2ATX

Most of us use the internet in some way or another. Whether it is news related sites, shopping sites or even the ARRL website they all have at least one thing in common; they all reside on a host computer somewhere. A host computer is simply the computer where all of the files necessary to show the page and content you see are stored. As some of you may know Margaret, KB2BRR has graciously provided the "hosting" for the GCARC website. Unfortunately we learned recently that this host computer will no longer be available and the GCARC website would need a new home.

At the November GCARC meeting the members approved funding for a new website project. Preparation began shortly thereafter and the first changes were implemented November 18. The changes included registering a domain name and setting up an account with a commercial hosting service. A domain name is a symbolic representation of a numerically addressed internet resource. All internet resources have numerical addresses and the domain name alias provides an easily recognizable name to simplify remembering sites addresses and navigation to the desired resource. For example most of us have made a visit to the ARRL's website by typing www.arrl.org or to QRZ by typing www.qrz.com.

The Gloucester Amateur Radio Club's domain name is **w2mmd.com**. Like the ARRL or QRZ you may type the address with or without the www designator. The .com is a top level domain name and among

the most common. All that anyone need to remember in order to find our site is the club call sign followed by .com. In addition the domain w2mmd.com is ours for as long as we desire to lease it. This offers several benefits including portability. The address of the old GCARC website was <http://users.tellurian.com/freddie/w2mmd/>. Since we were not the registered “owners” of this domain we can not use the address for another site. When the hosting on that server shuts down it will be similar to dialing a phone number that is not in service. Visitors trying to reach that address will most likely see a “404 Page Not Found” error. Since we “own” w2mmd.com, should the need arise to change hosting, the change for the most part will be transparent to the user visiting the site. They will continue to type w2mmd.com and arrive at our site.

In addition to setting up the hosting service and registering the domain name, Margaret has installed new pages on the old site that inform visitors of the change and after a period of 15 seconds automatically re-directs them to the new address, www.w2mmd.com. This will remain until the site is no longer active. Hopefully most of the regular visitors to the club website will have had an opportunity to make note of the new address before the site goes down permanently.

I have also setup a temporary account on Yahoo! Groups. The address of the group is “<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/w2mmd/>” (*without quotes*). Among other things Yahoo! Groups is an email reflector. An e-mail reflector is a program that acts as the forwarding broadcaster of e-mail messages to the names on a distribution list. The advantage is that the distribution list can be centrally managed so that everyone will always have the most up-to-date version. In other words when there are announcements or news concerning the web site project, we can post the message to the group and every member of the group will receive the message via email. Should a member have a comment or suggestion they may either reply to the email or post a new message. In either case the message will post to the group and all members will receive it. There are several options available for filtering the way you receive email however for those unfamiliar with the process the default options will get you started.

The reason for using a reflector such as Yahoo! is to allow only members wishing updates and news about the project to participate. In addition this choice allows for an efficient way for members to make comments and suggestions about the project.

This project is underway and in the coming months our website will be undergoing some exciting changes. Everyone is encouraged to signup for news and announcements via the W2MMD Yahoo! Group. To signup for the group go to www.w2mmd.com and scroll to the bottom of the page. Also by clicking on the large W2MMD.COM logo at the top of the page you will enter the rest of the site where currently you may still access the original GCARC pages including Crosstalk. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a great
New Year.
From your Crosstalk contributors and editor.

January Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in January:

Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Joseph DiNovi, WA2GFK
Louis Joseph, W2LYL
Anthony Pitale, N2PKN
Louis Ranson, KC2FXK
Gary Reed, N2QEE
Curt Trainer, AA2C
Gene Wallace, N2IMK
Matt Wilson, K2MFW



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 February issue:
1/23/2009

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.com>

President-Doug, WA2NPD
Vice President-Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Darrell Neron, AB2E
Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML

Steve, W2TDS
Cory, WA3UVV

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Corresponding Secretary-Harry Ewell, K2ATX

Board of Directors

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

Trustees

Ray, WB2NBJ
Mike, N2SRO

Committees

ARES/RACES-John, AA2BN
Awards-Dave, W2YC
Budget-Steve, W2TDS
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E
Constitution-As needed
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ray, W2RM
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-John, AA2BN
Hamfest-Harry, K2ATX

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Ray, W2RM
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD
Programs-Open
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Ray, W2RM

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)

January Meeting

Socializing

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

