



Presidents Message

As we say goodbye to 2010, I would like to thank all of the Club officers, directors, and committee chairmen for their help running the GCARC this past year. We had a successful Field Day and Hamfest, we boast a membership of almost 100, and we finished the year under budget. A good year if I do say so myself. As I have said before, it takes members willing to donate some of their time and talent to keep the Club healthy. As an example of such members, here are your newly elected Club officers for 2011.

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Officers: | | Board of Directors: | |
| President | Al (KB2AYU) | 3 yr. Director | Art (K2AWS) |
| Vice President | Tom (KE2ES) | 3 yr. Director | Bob (KR2U) |
| Treasurer | Open | | |
| Recording Sec. | John (K2ZA) | Board of Trustees: | |
| Corresponding Sec. | Vinnie (N4NYY) | 4 yr. Trustee | Ray (WB2NBJ) |

In the coming year there are two main items that need to be addressed. One is to get the Clubhouse trailer roof repaired and the other is to get the W2MMD two meter repeater restored to useable condition. Both items will require some money and manpower. I hope I can count on the Club to help get these important things done.

Special recognition goes to our Club Webmaster Art, K2AWS, for taking on the daunting task of putting the history of the GCARC in electronic form. Go to w2mmd.org to see Art's ongoing work and browse some documentation from the early years of the Club. I also want to thank Tom, KE2ES, and Doug, WA2NPD, for their efforts in retaining the Pfeiffer Center as our meeting place. Due to their perseverance we now have a contract to meet there for the upcoming year.

At the January General Membership Meeting we will vote on the Constitutional Amendment 2010-2 concerning the duties of the Club Treasurer that was published in the November issue of [Crosstalk](#).

Happy new year to all.

73, Al KB2AYU

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Don't say you weren't warned about outside antenna maintenance recently! The last few weeks reminded me more of living in the Midwest than SNJ! Winds were terrible and with an extra 15 degrees knocked off our thermometers it was enough to discourage any skywire work. At least low band noise has subsided (unless winter storms come through) to enhance opportunities for DX on those frequencies. My GAP Voyager (thrice fallen down over the last few years) was hearing Europe on 40CW at the end of November at 12:30PM. Let's hope 80 Meters and especially 30 Meters (with its unique band placement between 20M and 40M) will produce some good DX results for us in the next few weeks.

Looks like we have two exceptionally large and rare DXpeditions coming our way during January to start the new year! The Spratly Islands will host a twelve station effort by over 30 operators from 15 countries January 6th through January 24th. This very rare (and in the past very dangerous) entity is located in the South China Sea about halfway between Vietnam and Malaysia. The area is hotly contested by a number of Asian nations who would like rights to undersea petroleum reserves that have been confirmed there.

Google DX0DX for a fine business website that will give you additional details concerning operational statistics and layout. Propagation charts will be available at the website, but unfortunately, we won't be having any great propagation at this point in our solar cycle. 20M and 17M will probably be your best bets to snag these fellows for a new one. They will be running a 4 element monoband yagi on 20M with a KW linear.

DX0DX will also be providing free medical assistance by two ham doctors on the team to help the local 100 or so residents of the island. A VK radio club has contributed a stipend to the effort for medical supplies. Contributions may be made to DX0DX via Paypal and other methods if you are interested.

VP8O kicks off from the South Orkney Islands beginning on January 27th lasting through February 8th. This isolated island group between Argentina and Antarctica is also near the top of the Most Wanted DXCC Entities list. The "Micro-Lite Penguins" are noted for their very successful previous southern polar activations. This outing, they promise to include some linears to be heard better by the needy DX multitudes! Although 10 Meters will be "iffy" for this one with winter conditions now here, I think that 12 Meters should provide an excellent opportunity to pop this one for a new one if you need it even with modest antennas or QRP. 15M, 17M and good ole 20M should follow as other decent choices when propagation opens to the East Coast. Low band DX'ers will be impressed by their 80 and 160M plans including a 4-Square receiving antenna system.

Check out VP8O on the net at their website for more relevant data. With a \$300,000 price tag on this New Year's DX Venture these fellows are also looking for donations. The Antarctic climate makes the possibilities of a smooth operation here very challenging! But, a quick glance at the list of operators is quite impressive. Hopeful these veterans will "bring home the bacon" (not polar bears - on endangered list) for us DX'ers!

Please see "DX" on Page 3.

“DX” from Page 2.

After our "holiday" slowdown let's see what other DX awaits us in January:

| CALL | DATES | HIGHLIGHTS | RARITY | ENTITY |
|-------|-------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------|
| H44DA | 1/1 - 1/6 | HF & YAGIS | 3 | SOLOMAN IS |
| DX0DX | 1/6 - 1/24 | OTA AS-051 | 5 | SPRATLY IS |
| 3B9 | 1/11 - 1/20 | CW,SSB,RTTY? | 3 | RODRIGUEZ IS |
| VK9XA | 1/14 - 1/20 | 7 JA'S performing... | 4 | CHRISTMAS IS |
| FK | 1/16 - 1/26 | HF | 3 | NEW CALEDONIA |
| T88RX | 1/21 - 1/26 | 160-6M - CW, SSB | 3 | PALAU |
| YJ8HP | 1/27 - 2/2 | HF | 3 | VANUATU |
| VP8O | 1/27 - 2/8 | IOTA AN-008 | 5 | SOUTH ORKNEY |
| PJ6 | 1/27 - 3/3 | NEW DXCC AFTER 10/10/10 | 1 | SABA |
| PJ2 | 1/30 - 2/11 | " " " " | 1 | CURACAO |

CREDITS: NG3K ADXO, DX0DX & VP8O WEBSITES

On the Web

By Art Strong, K2AWS

If you have been watching the website, particularly “The Club’s History” department, you will have seen that the “Antique Crosstalks” section is growing little by little. It’s not growing at a rapid rate because it takes 3-5 hours to scan in 12 months of newsletters, clean them up, upload them to the site, and link them into the page they are on. Quite a bit of work but well worth it.

By reading some of the old issues of Crosstalk, the reader can gain some insight as to what ham radio, and the Club, were like in the past. One can learn that we used to have quite a few activities during the course of most any year. There was the annual Club birthday party, Club picnics at Lake Garrison, and annual dinner banquets. Some of our hamfests were held at swimming lakes where the entire family could attend. The OM could sell or buy and the XYL and harmonics could go enjoy the lake. I believe that our last club picnic, that I’m aware of, was at Lake Garrison in 1985 and our last dinner banquet was in 1995. Not bad from someone who can’t remember what year he joined the Club. One can also gain an idea as to what the ham equipment was like over the years by reading the “for sale” ads. Glegg twoers, Heath Senecas, Mohawks, DX-100’s and DX-35’s Gonset Communicators, old commercial VHF gear converted to 2 meter FM, new Collins gear, Hallicrafters, Hammerlunds, Lafayette and Knight-kits. I remember all of those from the catalogs that my grandmother used to call “the wish books”. They sure were wish books! I drooled over pictures of some of those rigs.

For those of you who have visited the site, and looked through some of the old newsletters, I’m sure you may be saying that some are hard to read as the print has faded. I agree and I wish I could fix that but I can’t. Probably the first two weeks that I was into the scanning I had changed my scanning methods and settings at least 6 times. Each time things got better but I’ve improved as much as I can. If I encounter the newsletters where the print is more readable I can rescan the page and incorporate it into the file on the web which I will do.

Please see “On the Web” on Page 4.

“On the Web” from Page 3.

By putting the old issues of Crosstalk on the web I'm hoping to accomplish several things besides just saving our history from being lost. I'd like to see some of the former members that are still around come back into the club. By them rehashing old times, they may encourage some of the newer members to get more actively involved in the club. Maybe someone will come forth and offer to put a banquet together for many of us to attend. Maybe they would want to put together a picnic this summer. This way we get to meet and greet the better halves and socialize on a more personal level without the radios. The way to keep any organization vibrant and alive is with activities for the members and activities that include the families.

See you on the web.

January Club Meeting Program

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

By popular demand, our program for January will feature a power point presentation showing all (or nearly so) of the ARRL et al Awards (plaques, citations, etc.) which can be earned by Hams. Actually, there are more different kinds of awards (i.e. wall-paper decorations for the shack) which one can earn, obtain, etc. than time will permit us to present, hence, we will show some 25 of the most popular ones. The narrator will be WA2NPD. Be sure to come out and support Tom, KE2ES, who is our Club's new VP and Program Chairman.

Boy Scout Annual Radio Merit Badge Day

The College of New Jersey will be hosting an Annual Radio Merit Badge Day on Saturday, January 08, 2011 and they need about 2 dozen local hams to help out as instructors and station operators to let about 60 Boy Scouts learn about Amateur Radio. If you can help out please contact Gary Wilson via e-mail at k2gw@arrl.net.

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.

Thanks

My sincere thanks to the Club for the condolences extended to me from the passing of my father Robert A. Strong. He was 88 years old, a wounded World War II vet, a Mason, former internal Auditor for the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Penn Central RR, Conrail, and a treasurer for many different organizations that he belonged to. He and my mother had very active lives together. Again, thank you for your caring.

Art – K2AWS

Club history project

by Art Strong, K2AWS

The past 4 or 5 weeks have been quite an adventure in getting some of the club's history together. My scanner software refused to scan multiple pages per scan job so I bought a new software package which still wouldn't work right. It turns out that a Windows file had disappeared which required a complete rebuild of my computer system in order to get it back. The new software was a blessing in disguise as it has enabled me to do things that need to be done with many faded pages and colored pages. Some old issues of Crosstalk were printed in red ink on white paper or black ink on red or green paper. The red and green pages were from Christmas issues but the reason the other issues were printed in red ink is still a mystery to me. Some were even printed in blue ink.

The history of our club, that I have learned over the weeks, astounds me. I have seen Crosstalk, itself, go through many variations in layout and content and even was abandoned for a year. I always thought it had been around since the Club began but from what I've learned it was not published during 1966 and only a few issues were published in 1967. I don't know why this happened but I hope to find out.

In the days of BC (before computers), it took, on average, up to 5 or 6 people to put Crosstalk together. There was the Editor, Typist, Publisher, Printer, and Circulation people. We had a YL section that was put together by our own Rose Ellen Bills WA2FGS (SK). She put out the news concerning the ladies of amateur radio and all that went on in the YLRL or Young Ladies Radio League. Even in the days of BC we had cartoons, poems, schematics, recipes, humorous stories, and technical articles. John Fisher, K2JF, (SK) had an article on HF propagation that took up a lot of paper and four issues of Crosstalk. But one thing that stood out with great prominence was that absence of a spell-checker. When that typewriter key hit the stencil that was it, right or not. There was no going back and making corrections, as spell-check encourages, because that would have meant a new stencil and starting over again.

There is an old saying we all have heard many times, "the more things change, the more they remain the same". It is very true and Crosstalk brings that out. In the 60's, 70's, and 80's, the complaints about lack of input to Crosstalk, lack of member participation, yakking in the back of the room, were all being brought out in print. Today the complaints are still there just as they were back then.

Though I have made quite a bit of progress and have nailed down my scanning and editing procedures I have a long way to go before I'm done. At times the scanning for hour after hour gets old but the history that I'm getting does make it all worthwhile. In this issue I have included a cartoon that was drawn by a former member and considering December 31 is Straight Key Night I thought it was most appropriate. As the months go on I will be putting various articles in Crosstalk that come from our digitized history as I think you will enjoy them and it will bring back good memories for others.

Pfeiffer Center Secured for the Future

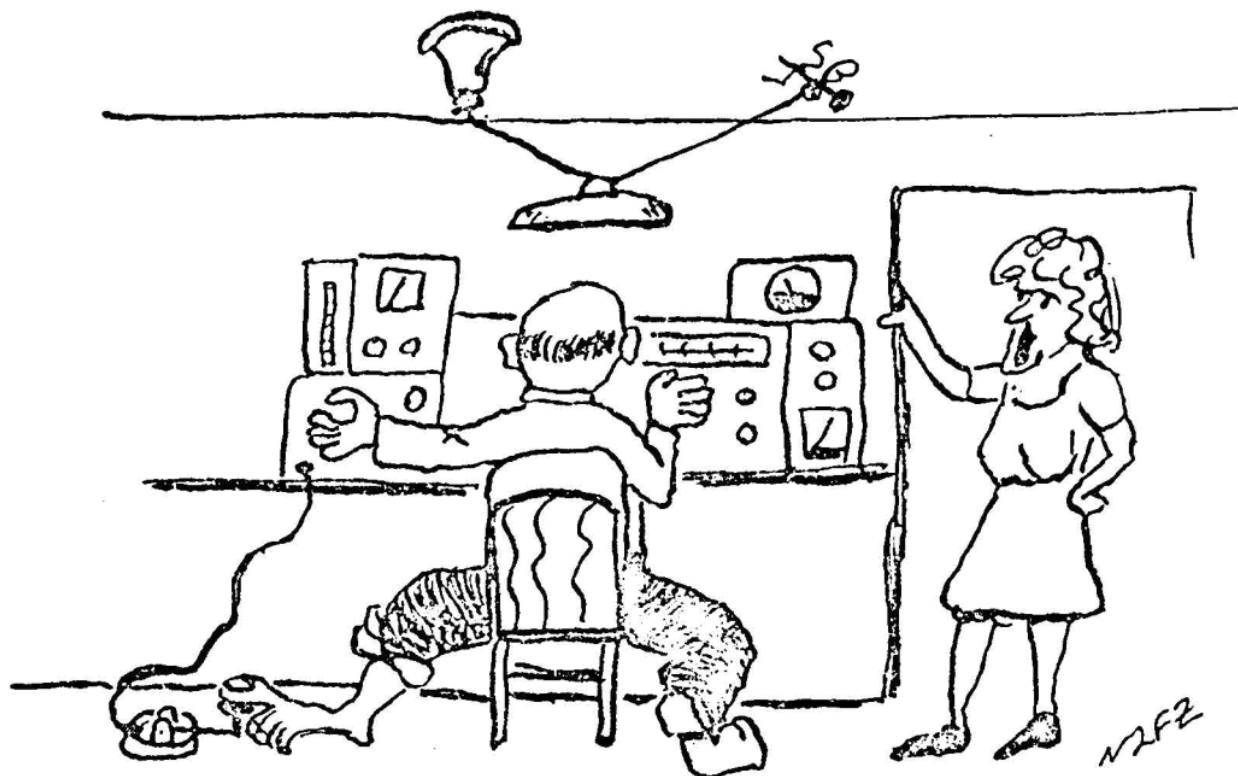
Thanks to Tom, KE2ES and Doug, WA2NPD, our monthly meeting hall has been secured for our use indefinitely. This fortunate turn of events has resulted from some hard and diligent work performed by KE2ES and required nearly a year of patient and continuous effort. It was announced by the Center Director last January, that GCARC could meet here, but only until the end of 2010. But, due to Tom's efforts and some other fortunate events during the year, we are now welcome to continue our Wednesday meetings, 7:30 PM as per usual. One caveat, all members are reminded that we are to vacate the building precisely at 9:30 PM, in order to accommodate the Janitor service.

Thank You for Helping Your Editor

Thanks to all the people who help in getting your Club Newsletter out each month. It is a cooperative effort and I would not be able to do it without the help of a lot of members. The regular contributors really take the load off me by guaranteeing articles of interest to the members each month. I won't name the regular contributors as you can see from the articles who contributed them. We are lucky to have some fertile minds writing for Crosstalk. We also have the people who help with the file conversions necessary to get Crosstalk into PDF format. For that I rely on Tony Gargano, N2SS, and Irma Colabrese, N2FNF. Last but not least we have Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ, who prints Crosstalk and distributes it to those who need paper copies. To all of you thanks.

Your Editor

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year
from all of us involved with Crosstalk



STRAIGHT KEY NITE MR. MARCONI ??

January Birthdays

James Alston, AC2BY
Al Arrison, KB2AYU
John Czuba, K2AEN
Joe DiNovi, WA2GFK
Bret Geiger, KB2YJE
Adan Maskery, KC2YJX
Anthony Pitale, N2PKN
Louis Ranson, KC2FXK
Gary Reed, N2QEE
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 the February issue:
1/21/2011

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

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

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Doug Gehring, WA2NP
Art Strong, K2AWS

Steve Blasko, W2TDS
Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

GCARC Officers

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

Board of Directors

Harry Bryant, AA2WN
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-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD
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)

January Meeting

Contests and Awards
Doug, WA2NPD, & Dave, W2YC

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

