



Presidents Message

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your families a very Happy and Healthy New Year! Also on behalf of the Club's new officers, we are honored to represent the membership in 2012. I would also like to thank the outgoing officers who served the Club so well throughout 2011. It goes without saying that your service is very much appreciated by all GCARC members.

2012 will be an exciting year for our radio Club. Our Club membership remains high and we're committed to recruiting new hams throughout the year. In addition to our many activities like ARES/RACES, Field Day, hamfest(s), contesting, BSA/4H, VEC testing, public service, publicity, etc we're also planning programs that will be of interest to all Club members. That said, we remain very interested in receiving inputs from all Club members regarding your interests, suggestions and how it would benefit the overall membership. And I would ask that you not be shy when it comes to volunteering your services to the Club. I would also ask our new hams to reach out to the membership should you have questions or need assistance with your new found hobby. We're all here to learn and help each other when it comes to the many facets of enjoying the amateur radio service.

In addition to the above activities, I believe one of the Club's main objectives in 2012 needs to be resolving technical issues at our 147.18/88 repeater site. I understand that frustrations remain high within the Club because these repeater issues have existed for the past few years. Together we need to resolve these issues or seek a feasible alternative. Finally, I plan on remaining in close contact with all committee chairpersons regarding their planned activities and requesting that they keep our membership apprised of their activities and support needed from the membership.

Looking forward to seeing each of you on January 4th at the Pfeiffer Community Center...

73,
Tom, KE2ES

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jim Wright, N2GXJ, for getting his DXCC. Jim got his DXCC with the modes of SSB, RTTY and PSK-31. That is not too shabby considering his antenna is in his attic. Jim will be the Club's Vice President next year and hopefully this will not keep him logging more DXCC entities during the year.

Also per Ray, W2RM, a former member of the Club's from the early 60s who now lives in Florida, Al Helfrick, K2BLA, was awarded 2 Meter DXCC award number 76. Al has been a ham for 55 years and got his start when he lived in the area and went to Woodbury High School.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Hope the Holiday Season was good to you DX-wise! The sun continues to do its "thing" by not being consistent in its journey to its peak in a few short years. While conditions have not been bad, they have been mixed. Sunspots abound but are not very active and are not pushing our solar flux readings to delirious DX heights. 10 and 12 Meters remain open regularly for DX and should be watched carefully by any one wishing new exotic entities.

With the short and cold winter days, the low bands are coming into their own. They need to be watched for DX at sunsets and sunrises when conditions peak to different areas of the world on different bands. Listening and cluster watching add to your chances of success on the low bands. Hearing a distant DX station peak on any of the low bands around our sunrise is a powerful reminder of how you can use physics and propagation to your advantage.

There are DXpeditions and then there are DXPEDITIONS! The upcoming January Malpelo Island DXpedition to this rare island entity off the coast of Columbia is indeed a singular event. Although it is only around 2,500 miles away from us here in South Jersey, it might as well be a half way around in world in rarity. It is not easy to get to and requires a great deal of coordination with the Columbian government to make the trip. It often is not activated for a decade at a time and offers multiple logistic problems to overcome to make for a big DX "splash" in the world. This effort in mid-January should be an excellent time for you to pick up this rare one if you don't have it or need it on a particular mode or band. The group is extremely well organized, seasoned, and savvy on making the maximum amount of world-wide contacts available for OUR pleasure. Just Google "Malpelo Island 2012" and the website site location should provide most of the information you might wish to know about the effort. The DXpedition dates are below and pencil it in on your calendar so you don't miss it. You might be quite a bit older before you get another opportunity to work it after January of this new year!

Congrats are front and center to GCARC member, N2GXJ, Jim Wright, who just qualified for DXCC using SSB, RTTY and PSK-31 to nail down the initial award! It's always an important milestone to confirm that 100th entity especially with Jim running 100 watts to an indoor fan dipole in his attic! Hope you rack up HK0NA on Malpelo for another new one, Jim!

Let's delve into the possibilities for a fresh, bright, cold, and crisp DX January in Down Jersey Country with the following bets:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RARITY(5=MOST)	ENTITY
TO5G	1/2-1/7	HF/ALL MODES	1	FRENCH GUIANA
KL7RCC/P	1/5-1/8	HF/IOTA-240	1	ALASKA
J79XB	1/5-1/31	160-10M/CW,SSB, DIG	1	DOMINICA
PJ4C	1/12-1/23	6 STNS/ALL MODES	1	BONAIRE
XU7	1/14-1/22	160-10M/CW,SSB,DIG	4	CAMBODIA
VP6T	1/20-2/4	160-10M/CW,SSB,DIG	3	PITCAIRN IS.
HK0NA	1/22-2/22	(?)MOST BANDS/MODES	5	MALPELO IS.
FW0R	1/24-2/23	160-10M, CW,SSB, DIG	3	WALLIS & FUTUNA IS.
TO4M	1/28-2/5	80-10M/MULTI-MODES	3	MAYOTTE
HU2DX	1/29-2/10	160-10M/LOW BANDS+	1	EL SALVADOR

Source: ADXO NG3K

January Club Meeting Program

The January General Membership Meeting, January 4, 2012, will feature a program by Cory Sickles, WA3UVV, on homebrewing your ham gear. As you probably realize from some of the articles that Cory has written for Crosstalk like the one last month "Happiness is a Warm Soldiering Iron", Cory is a big advocate of homebrewing ham gear. I am sure this passion will come through in Cory's presentation. So be there and enjoy the presentation and get your year of attending Club meetings off to a good start.

New Officers for 2012

At the December General Membership meeting the slate of officers shown in the December Presidents Message (and below) were elected to office. Congratulations to the new officers. The Club wishes all of you best of luck in performing your duties in the coming year. All of the membership should make an effort to support the new officers and do all they can to make their jobs easier.

President	Tom Gorman	3yr. Director	Dave MacDonald
Vice President	Jim Wright	3yr. Director	Chuck Colabrese
Treasurer	Lou Ranson	2yr. Director	Gary Mirkin
Recording Secretary	Sheldon Parker	Board of Trustees	
Corresponding Sec.	Cory Sickles	4yr. Trustee	Al Arrison

Thanks to the outgoing officers for a job well done. We hope you all will continue to stay very active with the Club and give your full support to the new officers and functions of the Club.

Did You See That?

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

Stories about the recent surge in interest in Amateur Radio continue to make the news. From church groups and others who are interested in a viable source of communications in times of natural disaster, to recent retirees, and to young kids who just find radio interesting, this growing interest in ham radio is something we encourage. As reported by Fox News, "The newest trend in American communication isn't another Smartphone from Apple or Google but one of the elder statesmen of communication: Ham radio licenses are at an all time high, with over 700,000 licenses in the United States, according to the Federal Communications Commission." You can read the full story here:

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/11/17/radio-days-are-back-ham-radio-licenses-at-all-time-high/>

Have you been keeping up with recent developments related to ham radio? Are you curious about "FOX-1" (AMSAT), Bob Orban on TWIT.TV, or the new ARRL video on "The do-it-yourself magic of amateur radio"? How about checking out the Amateur Radio Newslines or other online sources that your favorite search engine might find for you, such as one of the following:

<http://www.arnewslines.org/>

<http://www.qrz.com/>

<http://www.eham.net/>

Or something more off the beaten path, such as:

<http://ham-radio.alltop.com/>

The world awaits you!

Moon Base Alpha

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Some may recognize that reference to the British Sci-Fi series “Space 1999” of some decades ago. While we certainly haven’t established a colony on the moon, there have been some unmanned missions with more planned. In fact, the Chinese are planning to land there, presumably after they get their own space station put together.

I recently read a short article that touched on the idea of an OSCAR orbiting the moon. It’s a neat idea and certainly something we could accomplish now, if we just had the money available. If it could be placed in a lunar orbit that ran “parallel” to the earth, then we’d be able to access it whenever the moon could be seen.

What if we could piggyback on an unmanned spacecraft that actually landed on the moon? Presuming it survived the landing, this type of mission would have some advantages over one in orbit. Namely, a generous supply of maneuvering fuel (the moon’s gravitational pull is anything but consistent, owing to density differences) wouldn’t be needed and so the spacecraft could have a longer operational life.

How might it be configured? Well, first thing is to forget about any ideas of FM operation. The moon is significantly further away than any of the HR satellites we are using right now. Modes like SSB, CW and PSK make more sense. Having a set (for redundancy) of linear translators in place could allow for the multitude of QSO’s that would eventually pass through. A good-sized solar array would be needed as the power budget would be significant, as well. The bandwidth required would be much greater than any of the birds we have today, so 144 and 430 MHz is out. Uplinking on 1.2 GHz with a 2.4 GHz downlink is more practical. Generating a decent ERP on 1.2 is easier (and cheaper) than with 2.4, plus many AM-SAT enthusiasts already have Mode-S receivers – built for the ill-fated AO-40.

Some digital store-and-forward capability makes sense as well, since the moon can only be seen by about half the planet at a time. Communications will also have to take into consideration that the round trip time is just under 3 seconds.

Tracking? That’s always a concern for the satellites we have today. But the movement between a point on the earth and one on the moon is relatively slow. Even if you didn’t want to calculate the moon’s position, it’s pretty easy to find on a clear night (or day) and a simple video camera with monitor in the shack would allow you to keep it in the crosshairs.

Would you invest in a station upgrade to use something like this? Would you donate funds to AMSAT to make it happen? What features would you want to see? What effect might this have on the use of our HF bands, especially when the solar cycle is in a trough? This idea might worth some discussion at a future ARRL Webinar planning for the future.

Thanks to Contributors

Your editor thanks all of you who contributed to Crosstalk in 2011. As you realize having people contribute articles makes my job so much easier. Contributions also help keep interest in the Club and keep members up to date on what is happening in the Club and the hobby of amateur radio. So I encourage all of the members of the Club to make it a goal for the New Year to contribute at least one article to Crosstalk in the coming year. I wish you all a Happy New Year.

January Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in January.

James Alston, AC2BY
Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Mark Clark, N3QMJ
John Czuba, K2AEN
Joe DiNovi, WA2GFK
Bret Geiger, KB2YJE
Adan Maskery, KC2YJX
Lou 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 January issue:
1/23/2012

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Vice President-Jim Wright, N2GXJ
Treasurer-Lou Ranson, KC2FXK

Doug Gehring, WA2NPD
Art Strong, K2AWS
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ
Mike Mollet, N2SRO

ARES/RACES-John, K2ZA
Awards-Dave, W2YC
Budget-Lou, KC2FXK
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-Art, K2AWS

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Sheldon Parker, K2MEN
Corresponding Secretary-Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY

Trustees

Cory Sickles, WA3UVV
Al Arrison, KB2AYU

Committees

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU
Programs-Jim, N2GXJ
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

GCARC 2 Meter Net
Third Thursday of the Month
8:00PM
147.78/18Mhz (PL131.8Hz)

ARES/RACES
Sunday 20:00 Hrs
(147.78/18 and
223.06/224.66
repeaters)

January Meeting

DIY QRP Style
Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

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

