

Jan., 1974 Issue

*****GCARC VIP PAGE*****

President: Jack White, WA2MEM
Vice Pres: Doug Gerhring, WA2NPD
Recording Sec: Harry McCormick, WA2SEA
Corres. Sec: Della Parker, W2AFZ
Treasurer: Jim Klupar, WB2OER
Directors: Rick Carter, WA2OLS
Bill Frambes, WB2FJE
Ray Metzger, WB2BZY
John Stull, WB2JZX
Wayne Wood, W2SUA
Ken Newman, W2FBF

Trustees: Bill Bills, W2CDZ
John Kull, WB2GKH
Gurdon Cooper, W2PAX
Milt Goldman, K3WIL

*****UR X-TALK STAFF*****

Editor: Doug Gehring, WA2NPD, 468-5811
YL Page (Les Belles) Rose Ellen Bells, WA2FGS
Contest Corner: Ken Newman, W2FBF
Ham Interview: Harry McCormick, WA2SEA
Net News: Jack White, WA2MEM
ARRL Bulletins, etc. Della Parker, W2AFZ
Roving Reporter: John Stull, WB2JZX
Ghost Writer: (Call lost in QRN)
Typesetter: Jim Mauro, WA2DNL
Printer: Rick Carter, WA2OLS
Circulation: Bill Shaw, WB2PVI

*****CLUB. NETS*****

6M AREC 50.9----Sundays-8 PM Local Time
10M Rag Chew 28.8----Fridays-9:30 PM Local Time
Novice AREC 21.115 ----Mondays-8:30 PM Local Time
Friendship 7.265 ----3rd Sunday-1:00PM Local Time

*****CLUBMEETING, JAN. 2nd AT CLUBROOM*****

*****JANUARY MEETING TO FEATURE SOUTH POLE!*****

The January meeting (Jan. 2nd-8 PM) will feature Mr. Syd Clement, W2LZC, who will speak on his recent experiences down in KC4 land. Syd, who helped install an IFF system for the Navy there, spent nearly a year with the penguins and should have some choice information on South Pole propagation patterns. We thank Johnk WB2JZX, for having arranged to have Syd with us. Incidentally, what can we (or anybody) do, for that matter, to get you to join us also? Last month only 18 of you showed to hear a really fine speaker (W2REB)! Suppose we do much better than that this time, OK? OKAY! Let's show our new prexy John, WA2MEM. we are 100% behind him this year there is no better way than to attend club meetings regularly. For those of you who are apprehensive of the cold, WB2GKH, promises hot coffee for all. (anything stronger is illegal). See you on the 2nd.

*****WA2MEM ELECTED GCARC's 16th PRESIDENT!*****

At the December meeting, the membership unanimously elected John (Jack) White, WA2MEM, as our prexy for 1974. Jack has distinguished himself in a variety of club posts for several years and, most recently, was responsible for a rash of very excellent meeting programs during 1973. He also initiated and has perpetuated our Friendship net with the Canadian West Side RC. Within the next few weeks, Jack will be filling-up the various committee assignments. Don't wait to be asked-surprise Jack and volunteer! Your help and talents are needed to be sure. A complete listing of all committees will appear in X-TALK as soon as all posts are filled.

Retiring President Shorty, W2SUA, leaves in a blaze of glory after having completed an outstanding year piloting the GCARC ship. By all measures, GCARC had another excellent year and this must be attributed in no small way to shorty's dedication, leadership, and talent-to say nothing of the hours devoted to our club. However, all is not lost, for shorty will continue to serve as a club Director for which we are thankful. In this case, we are quite correct in stating that Jack has a pair of really big shoes (size 14) to fill.

Congratulations to the other 1974 club officers-a complete listing appears, (as usual) inside the X-TALK cover.

*****NEW EXTRA CLASS MEMBER!!*****

Many congratulations are in order for Ken, W2FBF, who very recently obtained his EXTRA class ticket!! Ken, who is rapidly capturing most of the amateur radio horizons, thus joins W2PH, WA2FGS, and WA2NPD as the GCARC extra class holders (who's next?)

Most of us could not figure out why Ken waited so long considering his excellent knowledge of electronics and his 30 plus WPM code speed (guess he finally wanted the peace and quiet at the low ends of the bands). Nevertheless, this is a tough accomplishment, and Ken is to be congratulated (don't forget to give him the 9 bucks, Jim).

*****W2FBF GARNERS WAZ*****

As if obtaining his extra ticket wasn't enough for 1 month, Ken has further astounded us all by capturing the most difficult of all DX Awards, the WAZ!! What more can we say? Ken thus joins Shorty as the only 2 GCARC members ever to have the WAZ. Thus, long hours of perserverance and operating skill have finally paid off and our heartiest congratulations to W2FBF.

*****WA2NPD RESIGNS AS EDITOR*****

After nearly 4 years at the X-TALK helm, Doug, WA2NPD, has tendered his resignation as editor. By the time this issue hits the mails, a new editor will have been selected. Thus far, 2 qualified candidates have applied and it will be up to the Directors to select one for the job (a most difficult choice). A resignation statement follows:

"It is tough to give up the editorship after such a long time--as I have really and truly gotten a "kick" out of the job. But I believe a fresh approach from a fresh source could be beneficial and, afterall, one can't go on forever. My very best wishes and luck go to the new editor and I assure him my every assistance. Many, many thanks over the years are extended to the many X-TALK writers and workers and especially to those calls who appear listed on the present staff masthead. Particular thanks must go to our printer Rick (the last issue really looked very good), our typist Jim, and our circulation group, Bill, Ken, and Shorty, for without these guys, the paper would never appear. I know that all of you will continue to serve the new editor and will give him the help and co-operation afforded me. Finally, I wish to thank Bill and Sue Frambes for their over-the-years service--especially Bill's help in acquiring, operating, and maintaining our printing press. 73's de WA2NPD."

*****NEW MEMBERS!!*****

We welcome Rudy Jalbert, WA2UWU, and Herb Schuler, K2HPV, into the club fold. Rudy hails from Sicklerville and is a recent graduate of the Amateur Radio Class held in Washington Township HS.

Herb lives in Woodbury and he should help congest the airways with cur many other members up thattaway. Glad to have both of you guys aboard.

*****W2CDZ IN HOSPITAL*****

Bill will, no doubt, be home now following surgery at Salem County Hospital. We are thinking of you Bill, and hope for an eventual complete recovery. (Incidentally, Bills XYL, Rose Ellen, WA2FGS, seen striking a picturesque pose on p. 73 of Dec. QST at the AFCEA luncheon, where both attended last September).

*****CLUB NOW HAS 73 MAG*****

Thanks to Bill Conrad, WB2FIF, the club now has a years subscription to 73 magazine. Bill donated his NJ QSO Party winnings towards the magazine and this is certainly a most generous donation. Many thanks, Bill. To sign up, see Della, W2AFZ, who will be connoisseur of the magazine.

*****CLUB CODE CLASS*****

Still going strong with WA2AXJ and WN2OSQ bearing the teaching chores of late. Some of our students are approaching the magic 5 WPM level and we should be sending for exams soon. No class will be held on Dec. 27th (Christmas vacation) but will start up again on Jan 3rd.

*****CLUB NAME TAGS*****

By now all of you are aware we have fancy new good-looking name tags (TNX to Milt, K3WIL) which are available to all members (for a small fee). See Bill, WB2FJE, to order yours. Of course, all new in-coming members receive a name tag as part of their new member kit.

*****NOTE OF INTEREST DEPT.*****

Do you know that ALL members are expected to help decorate the club meeting room by attaching your personal QSL card to the bulletin board? OK, so you didn't know. But now you do know; so let's get YOUR card in place (help save\$; if we can plaster the entire room with QSL's, we won't have to buy any more paint).

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

To: All Amateur Radio Publications.
From: Andy Clark, W4IYT, Editor, FLORIDA SKIP, Inc.,
Box 501, Miami Springs 66, Fla.

To the ladies, God Bless 'em...where would we be without them?

They're expensive, exasperating and entertaining, especially when they don't mean to be. Fragile little things in two-inch heels bounce in, humming with excitement after a 10 mile hike through the stores--an afternoon at a sentimental movie exhausts them.

Armed with only twisted feminine logic they tackle anyone from a school principal to a highway patrolman and emerge triumphant and smiling--they burst into tears if the cake icing comes out the wrong shade of pink.

They're afraid of grasshoppers but very brave about their own driving. They give a party for twenty teen-agers without batting an eyelash but a crooked picture makes them nervous.

They join clubs to better the world and during the lectures they study each other's hats. They tell you all of your faults--and feel sorry for the girls who didn't get you.

They want to go out when you want to stay home, they're ready to go home when you are all set to make a night of it. They don't like to iron, they make faces when they brush their teeth and although they would like to own every electrical appliance invented, they're all afraid of electricity.

Which brings us to this: Don't try to understand them, just love 'em. One way to show your XYL that you harbor a tender feeling or two for her is to give her one of our FLORIDA SKIP XYL AWARDS. The certificate is a little something our "Dear Mabel" dreamed up so you know what to expect. Not only will it make a happy surprise for your deserving XYL, it will look impressive hanging in the shack or kitchen. This is an award for all wives, they don't need a license from the FCC, JUST A MARRIAGE LICENSE. Tell your friends. The certificate is free but beautiful!

All OM's are urged to get your nomination to Anne Pitcher, K4RDX, RFD 2, Stuart, Florida, today. Get a real surprise and make the little lady delightfully happy!

(TNX to Rose Ellen, WA2FGS, for bringing this to our attention).

*****CONTEST CORNER*****

The 1973 ARRL November Sweepstakes is history once again, and once again Doug, WA2NPD has come out on top. Looks like Doug really has the combination in this one. His winning effort was another record breaker, as was the club entry this year. He will receive the prize of his choice (probably some presidential pictures in green), and certificates from the club and ARRL. Bill, WB2FIF, and Gary, WA2OMY, will also receive club certificates for their fine entries. Though it was a good club score this year, it could have been better if all who participated had submitted their logs. We gave out about 20 or more sets and only got 8 back. Many thanks to all who helped, though, in setting a new club record.

RESULTS

	CW	'Fone	Total	Op. Time
WA2NPD	32,332	41,969	74,300	25 hrs.
WB2FIF	27,342	13,356	40,678	33 "
W2FBF	19,080	20,636	39,716	12 "
WB2BZY		15,322	15,322	18 "
WA2OMY		24,892	24,892	24 (late rept.)

VHF SWEEPSTAKES

January 5th and 6th is the big weekend for the 6 meters and up gang this year. Rules appear in December QST. Logs will be available at the January meeting, and this time you must mail your own log in to ARRL by Feb. 4th. Let W2FBB know your score for the club prize and certificates given for 50 or more contacts. A prize will go to the top scorer. How about giving Ray, WB2BZY, some help this time? He was last year's winner with a fine score.

NOVICE ROUNDUP

The dates are February 2-10 with only novices eligible for prizes and awards. We hope to have logs available at the Jan. meeting. Certificates for 100 contacts and a prize to the top novice scorer.

ARRL DX COMPETITION

The best DX operating of the year will be available in this one, and the very handsome W2SUA cup will be up for grabs once again, going to the top combined CW and 'Fone scorer. The dates are Feb. 2-3 and Mar. 2-3 for 'Fone, and Feb. 16-17 and Mar. 16-17 for CW. All times 0001 to 2359 GMT. Logs will be available at the Jan. meeting and will be collected at the April meeting. Club certificates go for 200 contacts.

Once again we urge you to get into these contests if you can, and to submit your log (however small) to help the club score and to let the sponsors know of your interest.

73's Ken, W2FBB

*****UP-COMING ATLANTIC DIVISION CONVENTION*****

GCARC was invited recently to actively participate in the planning and formulation of a huge wing-ding ARRL Convention to be held in Philadelphia as part of the bicentennial celebration. The plan is to have participants from all (or many) Atlantic Division clubs (headed up by the Mt. Airy Packrats) get together and set-up this extravaganza. GCARC agreed this is a fine idea and has appointed Bill, W2CDZ, and Rose Ellen, WA2FGS, (old hands at conventions) to investigate further.

*****EDITORIAL*****

For several years now, the X-TALK "Ghostwriter" (whoever he is) has faithfully adorned these pages with subject matter ranging from grids to nuts-from antenna masts to ground lugs. Many of his subjects and thoughts expressed are highly controversial and even irritating to some. But many times the reader could hardly agree with him more! Regardless of the final impression, we must admit the column exudes interest, flavor, and excitement. In fact, a private poll taken by your editor several months back revealed that 6 of 8 clubmembers asked claimed they read the Ghostwriter column with avid eagerness. Yet, I know the Ghostwriter

finds this hard to believe, for so few of you readers have ever offered a written rebuttal to any of his stuff. Nevertheless, it is obvious that the column is read and even the ARNS Bulletin has reprinted at least 2 of these Ghostwriter articles. We can only conclude that the Ghostwriter (with his never ending wealth of subjects) is in vigorous demand.

*****RAMBLINGS OF A GHOSTWRITER*****

In winter and at night, when Bruges^l lacemakers cannot work sitting in their doorways, they prefer to work by the soft light of kerosene lamps. A flask of water placed beside the lacemaker's lamp spotlights the rays on her bobbin. The help you give to our club is not itself a light for the world. But it does spotlight the rays from our club in a place that without your help would be in shadow. Do your share to spotlight the rays.

I personally feel that the contests being sponsored all over the world are starting to defeat their purpose. The zeal of the ham world is starting to diminish for there are too many of them too close together. A little bit of these goes a long way toward making the average ham tiresome. Don't get me wrong, for I am in favor of the major contests which are quite sufficient for one year.

Most hams are willing to give up the frequencies for the contest work if they are able to find other clear frequencies for their own purposes such as rag chewing etc. Recently I have heard many comments on the bands about this same topic. My thought is that emergency nets do more good than the contests. The old skill of working the "mostest with the leastest" is past and now the theme is that the one with the most power blasts through and works the most stations or DX. No matter how you feel about this subject, it does warrant consideration and is controversial. We belong to one of the largest fraternities in the world and, with the large number of people involved, the pros and cons must be listened to and the final judgement will effect many. I guess that is the reason for the FCC.

How does your shack look? Is it clean and neat? How does one get the time to clean up the shack? Somehow or other this seems to be one of the hazards of a ham. The average ham does not spend enough time on this important phase of the art. At least your shack should have enough clearance whereby a visitor can find a place to sit down without having his legs become entwined in your gear. Most hams think more of how far they are getting-out than the condition of their equipment. A ham's shack tells what kind of a person he is and how he lives. Let's get updated for '74.

Now would be a good time to pull those tubes out of your rig and receiver and get them tested. From constant use and deterioration, the performance of your equipment may be way below par, and you are unaware of it because your ear has become accustomed to what it is hearing. Sometimes new tubes are all that is needed to bring your

set back to new. Tubes become leaky and even shorted with age which can throw-out your alignment thereby decreasing efficiency. Many times one is surprised at the difference in performance after the new tubes have been installed.

Hey! heres something--have you ever thought that Hamming is a hobby whereby one doesn't have to get all dressed-up in order to enjoy it? You can sit around in old clothes, or night shirt, or almost anything at anytime and still have fun from your hobby. There aren't very many hobbies where you can work that way. The formality of visitors soon vanishes once they see the rig operating and they themselves do some ragchewing. Why I have seen some of my visitors take off their coats, loosen-up their neckties, and go to town.

When your sporting your call letters on your license plates, have you ever had cars go past you and call CQ or QRT via their car horns? If one looks for these license plates, it is surprising to see how many you will notice.

As I am running low on power, and my batteries need charging up, I am forced to sign off until next month. Like bubbles from Champagne, my bubbles from my batteries are starting to overcome me.

73's es CUL.....Ghostwriter

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Bruges--a city in Belgium long famous for fine handmade lace.

YOUR INVITED----

To join the Friendship Net between the West Side Radio Club of Toronto and the GCARC, on Sunday, Jan. 13th, at 1:00 PM local time. Be sure to check near 7.265 KHz on your dial and join in !

Hope to see as many of you as can make it----

Jack, WA2MEM