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Crosstalk

President's Message

By Art Strong KA2DOT

It is a real pleasure to write my message this month as there are so many great things going on in the club that I will probably get carried away with myself from enthusiasm.

We just wrapped up a terrific Field Day weekend that went according to plan which calls for; heat, humidity, a little bit of Murphy, little sleep, lots of socializing, and just plain fun. Tony, KG2MY, did his usually fine job of organizing the whole thing so that we knew where we were to set up and had our computer discs all set to go.

Wayne, WA2LET, and Chuck, WA2TML, had installed an auto-transformer at the trailer so that we could get 115 volts to run the important stuff like the coffee pots for coffee and the fridge to keep things cold for the sandwiches. All the people that came out to do the setting up and operating are the ones that make it all work and are the ones that work so hard to

get the contacts that give us our club score. But saving the best for last, our many thanks to Irma Colabrese, N2FNF, who put forth a great deal of work to feed us during Field Day. For those of you who don't know what B/C, H/C, or T/C means, well, you'll just have to come out to Field Day next year because I won't tell ya. It's a secret!

One thrill I had before Field Day started was answering a CQ. I know that to most that isn't a real big deal and normally I wouldn't find it a big deal, either. But I answered the call on 7.166 MHz, the Extra portion, with my own call because I had received my Extra class license in the mail the Tuesday prior to Field Day.

We got our 100 points for Field day publicity by being on channel 3 TV at 11:00 p.m. on Sunday night. I didn't see it as I was off into slumberland but several people in the club saw our 15 seconds of fame. A co-worker asked me if I had been involved with "that CB group from Gloucester County" that was on TV last night. Rest assured I set him straight about our "ham" activities. Our thanks to John, N2AWD, for ensuring that we would at least be interviewed



and hopefully make the broadcast. It was originally scheduled for the 6:30 p.m. airing but that was cut short due to an extended program prior to the newscast. I just hope that Doug, WA2NPD, doesn't get a swelled head, as he was our "TV" spokesman. I had the opportunity but I got too nervous so I dragged Doug in instead.

4H parking are coming up in the very near future. As a matter of fact, it's going to be on July 20, (my birthday), 21, 22, and 23rd. We need lots of people to come, as this is an all day affair on all four days. Darn, it usually occurred the weekend the YF and I started our vacation so I had a good reason not to be there. This year it starts a week before our vacation, so no excuse. Oh well, I knew it would catch up to me eventually.

The Hamfest is rolling along very smoothly according to Bob, KB2EAH. He needs people at various positions especially during the Hamfest so if you can come out, we do need your help. The flyers have been printed and are in process to be mailed, various arrangements that need to be made are being handled, so that things are moving along quite nicely. We got off to a late start with the Hamfest but Bob has been staying on top of it all and it's all falling into place just like it was planned that way. He does have

guidance through John, N2AWD, our 1999 Hamfest Chairman. John is "elmering" Bob along on the things that need to be done that for a Hamfest in the true tradition of a ham radio "elmer".

I could probably go on and on but I'm sure John, AA2BN, wants to wrap up Crosstalk for this month so he can go out and play with his new pop-up camper. He brought it out this weekend for its debut and he has done well. Both his and my campers are equipped with air-conditioners so Saturday I had the "medical cool-down facility" and on Sunday John had the "medical cool-down facility". Actually he was just trying out his new air-conditioner, I knew mine worked. But Tony had suggested that due to the heat and the fact that there were some older folks out there that might have a problem with the heat, to run our a/c's so someone could get some relief if need be. Despite the fact that 40 meter phone prospered immediately from that idea, it was a valid concept as it was hot out there and there was no air-conditioning in the club trailer for any relief.

With that, 73's and see you at the meeting. ART - KA2DOT

HAMS KEEP COOL IN WAKE OF AIR SHOW CRASH

TNX to the ARRL Letter

The words erupted over the radio just as Al Folsom, KY3T, was about to wrap up the Warminster Amateur Radio Club's support for the Willow Grove 2000 Sounds of Freedom air show: "Plane down!"

"It was repeated three times, really quickly," Folsom recalled. "We raced out the door and saw the cloud of smoke." Only minutes earlier, he'd been commenting to a Navy doctor on how smoothly things had gone at this year's event.

The crash of the Navy F-14 Tomcat had claimed the lives of the pilot and a radar intercept officer aboard the plane. No one on the ground was seriously hurt. The plane went down into a wooded area near Willow Grove Naval Air Station near Philadelphia.

The initial shock wore off quickly, and the two or three dozen hams on hand Sunday, June 18, didn't miss a beat in their assigned duties. "We had discussed what to do in such a situation," Folsom said, "and I was extremely proud of how well the hams responded."

The WARC has been handling medical communications

needs at the annual US Navy air show in Willow Grove for more than a decade, but this was the first time there had been a crash. For the most part, he said, the hams stayed at their original posts to handle any medical concerns among the 50,000 or more spectators on hand for the two-day event. In a normal year, Folsom said, the hams deal with nothing more serious than an occasional fainting spell, dehydration, heat cramps, and sunburn.

Two hams--Bill Strunk, K3ZMA, and Mark Kenpisty, N3GNW--were dispatched promptly to the crash site. Hugh Hart, N3SOQ, manned a supply van traveling around the base and back and forth to the crash site. George Brechmann, N3HBT, was net control. Al Konshak, WI3Z, was in the tower monitoring the crowd when the plane went down. Another amateur was sent to the operations center to assist with communications needs.

It turned out to be a good thing the hams were there. "The Navy had rented a large number of Motorola radios for communications, but the accident occurred at the end of the second day, and they all rapidly lost their charge and became useless," Folsom explained. As a result, many of the requests for materials and personnel needed to

respond to the crash were relayed via Amateur Radio.

Folsom said he was especially pleased and proud at the way his 16-year-old son, Tom, KB3CRZ, handled the flow of traffic in and out of the base clinic as requests were relayed from there to the crash site and back.

Folsom said all WARC members performed well and a few "really went above and beyond" after the crash occurred. Other participants included Bob Phillips, KA3VKU, Steve Larsen, KA3ZLY, and Don Schwarzkopf, N3OZO, who remained at the site for the entire operation.

It turned out to be a long day for the amateurs, many of whom had arrived that morning around 7:30. "At the end, five of us stayed at the base until about 11 PM," Folsom said. "Navy medical personnel were extremely grateful for our assistance."

LEAGUE CALLS HAM RADIO "FERTILE TESTING GROUND" FOR SDR

TNX to the ARRL Letter

The ARRL says that Amateur Radio "is a fertile testing ground" for software defined radio technology and that SDR would be especially valuable to facilitate disaster

communications. The League commented this week in response to FCC *Notice of Inquiry* ET Docket No 00-47 on SDR technology, released in March.

The League said its understanding of SDRs is that they are "in essence, digital computers connected to an antenna, controlled by software." True SDR functions, other than baseband DSP, are yet to be incorporated into commercial or even into sophisticated homemade amateur equipment, the ARRL noted.

The League said that because of its flexibility, utilization of multiple modes, and shared allocations, the Amateur Service provides the proper environment to develop, test and deploy SDR technology. Amateur Radio is not constrained by limitations imposed on other services and "serves as a reasonable paradigm for a regulatory structure that might be adapted to other services," the ARRL told the FCC. The League said it intends to give a "high profile" to SDR developments in the Amateur Service through its technical/experimental publication, *QEX*.

The ARRL said that SDR affords a level of flexibility and interoperability that could enhance Amateur Radio's

performance in emergency communications and disaster relief efforts with respect to served agencies. "Amateur SDR equipment could be rapidly reprogrammed to be interoperable with that of served agencies such as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, local civil defense offices, state OES offices, and public safety agencies," the League said. The result would be "an even more immediate and adaptable source of restored communications for disaster relief coordination" than previously available.

The ARRL told the FCC that SDRs would obviate the need for differing transmission standards in the future. SDRs automatically could shift transmission standards to overcome common communication roadblocks such as noise levels, propagation characteristics, QRM, and other factors. The League cautioned the FCC against imposing equipment authorization requirements on SDR hardware or software designed for amateur use that could inhibit experimentation.

A copy of the League's comment in response to FCC *Notice of Inquiry* ET Docket No 00-47 is available on [the web](#).

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring WA2NPD

Well, are Dxers dopes? Uh, maybe, but then according to the "1999 Annual Yearbook", which just arrived from the league, there are 14,593 entries on the various credit lists (international included) who participate in the program. Actually, there are more, because, unless you are on the Honor Roll, or unless you have made a submission within the designated time period (the one year period before Sept. 30th of the particular year) and unless you are an ARRL member, you will not automatically receive the annual Yearbook.

The Yearbook has a lot of other neat stuff included, not just DXCC callsign lists. There are always listed the 100 most needed entities, a brief write up regarding the top 20, and the prognosis for what the future may bring. The "Year in Review" summarizes all of the operations, etc. during the year; this is sort of sad as one sees all of the good ones missed! This year there is a good article on how all of the DXCC Country, awards program, etc. originated, back from about 1935. The book is replete with many good photographs, even a picture of BA1HAM perched atop one of the Scarborough reef rocks. Oh, one other thing, to get a

copy of the yearbook, you must first have a DXCC certificate, it can be any of the bands (15 meters has just been added) and any mode, mixed or single.

Finally, your scribe has been recently and internationally recognized as the very first USA ham to have been placed on VK0MM's "Hit List", or in the "Sin Bin". Fortunately, through the kindness of AA2WN and the Internet, WA2NPD was removed from this singularly degrading list, having properly repented. Thus, a visit from the "Penguinator" was avoided.

So, what's up for this month?
See the "Hot List" on page 5

TNX to K2JF, AA2WN, and the 59(9) report

DX Dope “Hot List”

Station	Dates	Freq./Mode	Rarity*	Country
VK0MM (1)	On going	20,15 m / CW,SSB	5	Macquarie Island
PY0--	7/9 to 7/16	Not given	4	St. Peter/St. Paul
SV9/K7BE	6/29 to 7/3	Not given	3	Crete
CY9/ H/C	7/6 to 7/10	All / CW,SSB	2	St. Paul Island
FR/T	7/31 to 8/15	All / RTTY,SSB,CW	5	Tromelin Island
KH6ND/KH5	All summer	All / Mostly CW	4	Palmyra Island
3DA0CF	7/4 to 7/7	All / Mostly SSB	3	Swaziland
V63--	6/28 to 7/12	All / Mostly SSB	3	Micronesia
4X6RD	7/2 to 7/20	80-10 / CW, SSB	2	Israel
VP2EREM	7/1 to 7/12	160-10 / CW, SSB	2	Anguilla
ZK1--	7/10 to 7/17	40-10 / RTTY, SSB	2	South Cook Islands

(1) – Follow his instructions, or else!

* 5 is rarest

Happy Birthday!

The GCARC congratulates the following members:

Paul Carr KB2TKV 7/20
 Ray Flanigan N2WHL 7/21
 Chris Kelly KC2PC 7/16
 Bob Krchnavek K2DAD 7/11
 John Logan KB2VSE 7/18
 Lou Miceli WB2THM 7/22
 Art Strong KA2DOT 7/20
 Al Trueblood N2FJQ 7/4

Committees

Advertising - Open
ARES/RACES -Chick WA2USI
Awards - Jack K2ZA
Banquet - Bob KR2U
Budget - Bob K2DAD
Clubhouse Site - Al KB2AYU
Constitution - Open
Crosstalk - John AA2BN
Database - John AA2BN
DX - Doug WA2NPD
Field Day - Tony KG2MY
Hamfest - Bob KB2EAH
Hospitality - Ray WB2NBJ
Membership - John AA2BN
Nominations - Bob KR2U
Publicity - John N2AWD
Repeaters - Chuck WA2TML
Scholarships - Greg WN2T
Special Services - Open
Sunshine - Open
Technical - Open
TVI - John AA2BN
VEC Testing - Chick WA2USI
4-H Parking - Bob KR2U

Crosstalk Submissions:

John Zaruba Jr. AA2BN
 491 Pennsylvania Avenue
 Franklinville, NJ 08322-2358

Email: aa2bn@amsat.org

Submission Deadline 7/21/2000

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BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
CITY, STATE
PERMIT NO. 000

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Subscriber Name
Number Street Address
City, State Postal Code
Country

The W2MMD Repeaters
147.78/18 Mhz - Pitman
223.06/224.66 Mhz - Sewell
447.1/442.1 Mhz - Pitman
(CTCSS 131.8 Hz)

Nets
**ARES/RACES -
Sundays 20:00 Hrs
(147.78/18 and
223.06/224.66
repeaters)**
**10 Meter - Sundays
following the
ARES/Races Net
(28.350 Mhz)**

GCARC Meetings
General Membership
8p.m. 1st Wednesday every
month, Pfeiffer Community
Center, Williamstown, NJ
Board of Directors
8 p.m. 3rd Wednesday every
month, GCARC Club
site, Harrison Twp. 4-H
Grounds
~1 mile south of Mullica Hill or
RT77