



Presidents Message

Our astute Crosstalk editor is vacationing this month, hence, this issue was sent out earlier than usual. Often wonder what it would be like to have to write everyday as do the professionals who work for daily newspapers?

We are most pleased to report that our Main Street Williamstown project was carried out with great success and with good Club participation. The following participated: AA2BN, N2AYK, WB2NBJ, W2TDS, WA2VOY, K2ATX, and WA2NPD. Ray, W2RM, and his lovely YL provided hoagies for lunch and Cory, WA3UVV, provided soft pretzels for all. Al, KB2AYU, assisted by providing a huge battery and checked out the Club's HF rig. The event chair and backbone was Harry, K2ATX, who did a magnificent job with the arrangements and with providing the tarp cover, tables, chairs, and handout documentation. Harry even arranged for us to locate our antennas on the roof of an adjacent building. John, AA2BN, ran the PSK-31 station and Ed, N2AYK, handled the APRS station. The Club's ICOM and WB2NBJ's Yaesu rigs were used for 20 meter contacts. Battery power was used throughout although we had a generator just in case. The day was not without some hurdles, primarily the weather, which was brutally hot! Without our overhead tarp cover, we could not have survived. Fortunately, the Police booth was just a couple of booths away and we did not have to go far for ice water and soft drinks. The weather kept the public from standing in front of our booth (in the sun) for very long as they kept moving along. Also, the HF band conditions were very poor (SFI was 65), and, if it were not for the Alabama QSO party, our contacts would have been very few and far between. Thanks to everyone who helped make this day a fun event for the Club, in spite of the 100 degree weather.

At our June Club meeting, following discussion, those present voted to support the Club's Board of Directors recommendation that we immediately proceed to purchase VHF, Satellite, and UHF antennas and mount them on our existing tower at the 4H Club Site. Then, proceed to look for a suitable VHF replacement tower which can be obtained gratis. We thank Ray, W2RM, who is willing to donate one of his towers to the Club and this will be investigated for suitability, base compatibility, etc.

Finally, I certainly hope to see everyone out for Field Day which is the weekend of June 28th and 29th. It appears at this writing, we have sufficient stations to qualify for 8A precedent (i.e. 8 transmitters). We will need much help in erecting our antennas, so even if you cannot operate, please come-out Saturday morning to help set-up and on Sunday afternoon to help take everything down. John, AA2BN, reports all other arrangements are either in place or will be finalized by June 28th. I also hope to see everyone out for our July 2nd Club meeting. We will be presenting this year's Milt Goldman Service Award. Many thanks to Charlie, K2PQD for last months mystery gift (a very nice 13.8 Volt supply). We hope you get the lucky number for this month.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

We've just gone through our first heat wave in southern New Jersey, but the bands aren't reciprocating with some "hot" DX and propagation. The sun has been completely blank of any sunspots for days on end since the last DJDXing offering.

There is an interesting article found on line at QRZ.com (the callsign lookup website) entitled, "Sun Goes Longer Than Normal Without Producing Sunspots". It relates what a grouping of over 100 scientists from all over the world feel is the sun's insistence on being constipated in this new cycle. Constipated is not a solar scientific term, but you get the picture! I think many of us have felt that is taking an excessively long time to rekindle groups of sunspots compared to previous cycles.

Response to our annual DXCC/Awards listings was a bit too sparse to justify inclusion this year. I'll try again next year to compile a larger sampling of our club members' progress when band conditions and QSLing are more fruitful. Thanks to those who took the time to submit their standings for 2008.

A QSLing reminder, it is 42 cents for cards both ways stateside now. Half-ounce foreign air mail has gone to 94 cents from 90 cents. And north of the border, it now costs 69 cents to mail an SASE to Canada.

Here are some possible "DX Goodies" for your long and short haul pleasure. Anymore, hearing them reminds me of my old SWL days when just reception of the signal was considered an accomplishment!

STATION	DATES	FREQS/MODES	RARITY	ENTITY
VK9X	July(?)	160/10M	3	CHRISTMAS IS.
FP	7/9-7/14	80-6M	1	ST. PIERRE IS.
VR2008O	7/15-8/31	MAINLY SSB/RTTY	3	HONG KONG(OLYMP)
C9	7/16-7/30	HF&EME	2	MOZAMBIQUE
OJ0	7/11-7/14	160-6M	2	MARKET REEF
YN	7/3-7/14	LOW BANDS/RTTY	1	NICARAGUA
PJ6	7/1-7/7	40-17 & FOCUS ON 6M	1	NETH. ANTILLES
5J0M	6/28-7/6	FOCUS ON 6M	1	SAN ANDRES IS.

(REPEAT POST

#5 - MOST DIFFICULT

CREDITS: NG3K ADXO, QRZ.com

July General Meeting Program

The July program is "Field Day: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" by John Zeruba, Jr., AA2BN. John was first licensed in 1977 as WB2VOH in the same year he joined GCARC. He was the Franklin Township ARES/RACES Officer from 1996 to 2004 and joined Gloucester County ARES/RACES in 2006. He is also our Club's ARES/RACES Chairman and Chairman of Field Day. When John is not pursuing his many radio interests in homebrewing, satellites, APRS, and Winlink, he works as a Control Systems Programmer at Rowan's Facilities Operations.

Whistle a Happy Tone

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Back in the 70's, when I had a flat stomach, knew everything (like most teenagers) and thought people in their 30's were "old", 2 meter FM was taking off like wildfire. It seemed like every month there were more transceivers introduced into the market. They were crystal controlled rigs with anywhere from 5 to 24 channels and 1 to 10 watts output. Plus, there were all sorts of conversions being done to commercial gear. There were even kits available.

It was a happy world, where you could find dozens to talk to on simplex frequencies and almost everyone on every repeater was welcoming. There was an evil in the land, however, the occasional closed repeater with it's "tone access".

Initially, the tones were in the 1,500 to 2,300 Hz range - a carry over from a common method used to "wake up" an AM repeater. (On most, you could just whistle to do the job.) This was known as Tone Burst, a method still used in Europe today. Soon after, in borrowing again from the commercial sector, sub audible tones were employed. Generically referred to as CTCSS, they also go by trademarked names such as Channel Guard, Quiet Channel and Private Line. The latter belonged to Motorola and was just called PL. The "batwing" folks, not satisfied with referring to each frequency, came up with a set of 2-character designators, such as 5Z, 4A, 3B, etc.

Whatever the method used, tone access on a repeater came to mean only one thing - members only. If you weren't part of the cadre, then stay out. Of course, nothing lasts forever.

While a handful of rocks in early rigs could allow you to talk on simplex or through a repeater just about anywhere, there was an explosive expansion going on. Everybody and every club, it seemed, wanted their own repeater. No longer would 94/94, 34/94, 16/76 and 34/76 (A 420 KHz split? Yeah, it was popular in Philly and DC) do the job. Synthesized rigs hit the market like gangbusters. Frequency coordination became a full-time job and these folks had their hands full. This would have been a great time for the League to get involved and create a national-clearing-house-sort-of-thingy to handle it, but that was not to happen. While the local/regional folks were usually doing a good job, they didn't communicate well with each other and didn't use enough care in determining a better idea of interference potentials. And that, Virginia, is why there's a machine in Reading on 78/18 with users that can regularly get into our machine. Hence, CTCSS became less and less evil and became a necessity in many parts of the country. (Oh, if you're reading this thinking to yourself "Cory left out a lot of history and spectrum details and didn't even mention Prose Walker", you're right - but that's a story for another time.)

So, with PL and it's friends here to stay, this became a standard feature of many radios. Today, we don't give it a second thought. But what about all those older rigs that never had an option socket for the encoder? Rigs like the IC-21A, IC-230, HR-2B, FM-28, SM-1402 and dozens of other mobiles and hand-helds? I'll bet you probably have one in a box or sitting on a shelf left unused for years or relegated to a TNC that fell silent years ago. Well, for about a cup of change in your coin jar and a few minutes with a soldering iron, you could put those old rigs back on the air. Communications Specialists sells a nice line of programmable encoders and decoders. Starting at less than \$30, they fit into just about any hand-held radio. They also have wiring diagrams and suggestions on their web site. (Basically, you just hook them up to power, ground and the deviation pot, AFTER the mike audio is processed.) If you just want a single-tone encoder, Ramsey Electronics has a kit for \$10 that uses a multi-turn pot to set the frequency. However these are susceptible to thermal drift, but they are cheap. There are also web sites with Please see "Happy Tone" on Page 4.

“Happy Tone” from Page 3.

schematics that can be built out of what most of us have in our junk boxes. Just search for “cheap tone encoder” and see what comes up.

Want more tones? Just wire in a switch and more multi-turn pots. Of course, there’s also Ebay. You can find a number of encoders, from time to time, with older designs that use frequency determining elements (still available, by the way). There are several different designs to give you some ideas.

Remember, many of these older rigs (especially the Inoue/ICOM models) have fantastic receivers and excellent audio characteristics. A few dollars and a few minutes invested can bring them back to life. Whether for your other car or on your desk, being put to use is a better fate than sitting on a shelf. Just like people...

Crystals Available

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Do you have a old crystal-controlled scanner with a 10.7 MHz IF? If so, I have a few extra 147.18 MHz rocks (\$6 ea.) that would allow you to listen to our 2 meter repeater. If interested, let me know at wa3uvv@arrl.net.

Club Awards

Thanks to Dave, W2YC, the Club Award data has now been computerized along with the Megapoint Contest Award information and both are now current and ready for action. The Megapoint Award pins are on order for those members who previously have qualified but have not yet received their award. Listed below are those current club members who have earned the Club Award and have the endorsements indicated. If there are any discrepancies, please see W2YC. Sonny, WB2DXB and Ray, W2RM are miles out in front and we wonder what color schemes were used for their endorsement stickers? Note that this program began in February, 1960, which seems like a very long time ago.

Cert. #	Call	Handle	Members Worked
12	K2PQD	Charlie	15
33	WA2NPD	Doug	80
71	N2CQ	Ken	15
88	AI2B	Ray	100
90	W2TDS	Steve	15
91	K1RO	Mark (Honorary)	30
93	W2RM	Ray	338
101	K2HPV	Herb	50
106	N2ASV	Russ	15
111	WA2IBZ	Howard	95
112	WB2DXB	Sonny	230

Calling All Lab Rats!

Here’s your opportunity to see just what’s really going on between your ears. This study was covered in an ARRL Letter <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/07/0803/> and the invitation appears below.

Please see “Lab Rats” on Page 5.

“Lab Rats” Continued from page 4.

Dear Morse Code User,

My name is Tanisha Hill-Jarrett, and I am the new student in charge of the Morse study at the University of Pittsburgh.

We are contacting you because we would like to invite you to participate in a research study involving Morse code. The study is split into two-three parts each of which takes approximately one hour to complete, and can be completed from the comfort of your own home.

Since you will complete the study from your home computer, we will send you all of the required materials. When you complete the study, you send the materials back to us at no cost to you. This is done through pre-paid postage stamped packages. Prior to the study, you will be contacted for a brief screening to make sure you are eligible to participate. If you are considered eligible, we will then talk about all aspects of the experiment, including directions. Also, we will be able to answer any questions that you might have.

The experiment consists of lists of speech letters and Morse letters that you will be asked to recall and can be completed at a time of your choosing, requiring only about an hour to complete. We are asking you to give us some of your time and knowledge in an effort to gain information about short-term (working memory). By participating, you will be helping the scientific research community through the use of your unique expertise with Morse. We hope to learn more about the distinct properties of Morse while the knowledge is still available. Your participation would be invaluable to gaining scientific knowledge about verbal working memory representations.

We are currently seeking people who are proficient in Morse code, meaning that they are able to send/receive Morse at a level of at least 15 words per minute. Also, participants must be at least 18 years of age, and have access to a personal computer. If you are interested in participating and feel that you fit the above criteria, please email us at morsestudy@hotmail.com to learn more.

Also, we ask that you inform other users of Morse of this important opportunity to increase knowledge of working memory. This will help to increase the number of participants who can provide valuable information to the study.

Thank you,
Tanisha



Happy Group of Participants
at the Williamstown Street Festival
June 2008

July Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in July:

Tony Gargano, N2SS
Christopher Kelly, KC2PC
Bob Krchnavek, K2DAD
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY
Frank Messick, W2FJM
Art Strong, KA2DOT
Don Vincent, KC2LRK



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 August issue:
7/28/2008

Club Web-Site

<http://users.tellurian.com/freddie/w2mmd/>

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

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

Cory, WA3UVV
Steve, W2TDS

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Corresponding Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU

Board of Directors

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

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-Dave, WB3JOY
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)

July Meeting

Field Day: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
John Zaruba, Jr., AA2BN

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

