



## *Presidents Message*

As I write this, it is a week before Field Day. I hope everyone has everything in order to make this an enjoyable and successful event. I know our Field Day Chairman, Vinnie, N4NYY, is working hard to maximize our score. I am preparing to work at least one satellite QSO which is worth 100 bonus points. I will be using my dual band HT along with a handheld dual band yagi antenna. Yes, you can actually work amateur satellites with an HT while standing in your yard. It will be more of a challenge during Field Day due to the large number of stations all trying to make a satellite QSO at the same time.

Summer officially begins on June 21. This is the summer solstice for the northern hemisphere. The sun will reach its highest elevation in the sky along with the most hours of daylight. The days are hot and hazy, the kids are out of school, and lots of people take vacations. I am going to try my best to find some time to finish up some of the projects at the Clubhouse. I will send out an email for those who might be able to help out.

I just checked out the Club website, [w2mmd.org](http://w2mmd.org). Thanks to Art, K2AWS, it is coming along nicely. Art is looking for content for the site. It could be a technical tidbit, a how-to article, a product review, your latest project, a photo of your antennas or shack, just about anything. It doesn't take much effort to come up with something for the website (or the Club newsletter, [Crosstalk](#), for that matter).

I will be taking on the title of Hamfest Chairman. It is not something that I really want to do, but we need to have someone in place as Chairman as the Hamfest date approaches. I can't do this alone so I am counting on the membership for help.

In closing, I should be getting some insurance money soon to cover my lightning damaged amateur radio equipment. So I hope to be back on the air in the near future.

73, Al KB2AYU

## Field Day

Hopefully this issue of Crosstalk will reach you before Field Day. Field Day is the weekend of June 26th and 27th. Our Field Day Chairman, Vinnie, still has a few bands that need to be staffed and is in need of some equipment such as spare rigs to use as back-up. So contact Vinnie ([Yankees\\_1996@hotmail.com](mailto:Yankees_1996@hotmail.com)) if you want to contribute to our Field Day effort and you are not yet signed up to help in any way. Come on down and join the group for the weekend. Even if you don't have much time over the weekend, it is worth a trip down to the 4H Fairgrounds just to see the ingenuity of some of the station set-ups.

## Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

It looks like we are not going to be blessed with DX propagation improving continuously during this new Sunspot Cycle. The last two months of DX production have slowed down to a crawl with a lack of solar flux despite increased sunspot activity. As of mid-June, 79% of days in calendar 2010 have had visible sunspots as compared to only 29% of all the days in 2009! Intensity of sunspots appears to be lacking and causing sparse DX qsos for us in SNJ lately.

Although I had to pleasure to work five different Europeans on 12M and three on 10M in late afternoon on the 14th of June, the HF bands seem quite unexciting. Sporadic E has made its annual appearance on 6 Meters, but so far "disappointment" is the best way to describe this VHF seasonal phenomenon. We have had some stateside openings, but not anything very substantial in the multi-hop DX mode. Keep in mind that June/July is primetime for Es and so don't neglect listening and checking clusters and VHF maps for openings! A number of DXpeditions will be active during this time frame as seen in last month's and this month's listed DX prospects. Don't "write-off" bands below 20 Meters either! Increased QRN sure doesn't make these frequencies easier in the summer, but 30 Meters has shown itself to be a very popular DX choice with more and more activity even in warmer months. QRN is a bit more suppressed on 30M compared to bands below too. Remember also, that our South American and South Pacific counterparts are in the opposite season of the year with less atmospherics hampering them than us here up North!

I hope you were successful with the E4X operation in Palestine. I know I missed them on some bands, but they definitely had one of the best ever signals from that area of the world. They also broke the all-time record for a major dxpedition for 6 Meter qsos. They made over 6,000 Qs on 6M with the USA actually coming up with a few contacts including as close as Heightstown! Yours truly was listening to 6M at the time, but never heard them with my modest set-up. Over 80,000 E4 QSOs has got to make the DX world a little happier!

It seems like we will have another "slow" month for DXpeditions in July. I have included some rarer activated IOTA's in my DX listings below for those that keep their DX appetite whetted with new island groups to pounce on if you can't find and any "goodies" for your DXCC totals. The mentioned IOTA Contest presents a good opportunity to work some needed places without as much "chaos" as the more formal and intensive well-known CQ and ARRL DX Contests.

Let's check the DX offerings for the usual "firecracker" weather Down Jersey in July:

STATION	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	PRIORITY	ENTITY
D44TOI	7/5-7/14	SWISS EFFORT/HF/AF-086	1	CAPE VERDE
FP	7/5-7/14	80-10M/CW,SSB/IOTA-032	1	MIQUELON IS
V31	7/12-7/19	EMPHASIS 6M & MAYBE 60M	1	BELIZE
FW5M	7/14-7/24	160-10M/CW,SSB,DIG/OC-118	3	WALLIS/FORTUNA
XT2EME	7/15-8/2	SWISS EFFORT/HF/CW,SSB,DIG	2	BURKINA FASO
S79BWW	7/17-7/31	80-6M/CW,SSB,DIGITAL	2	SEYCHELLES
TF	7/18-7/27	DL EFFORT/160-10M/ALL MOD	1	ICELAND
6V7W	7/21-7/31	6M+HF/ALL MODES/3 STNS	1	SENEGAL
RSGB IOTA CONTEST JULY 24-25				
WORLD-WIDE ACTIVITY				

## Welcome New Members

This month the Club welcomes three new members Bret Geiger, KB2YJE, Ed Hankin, KB2ODJ, and Sheldon Parker, K2MEN. Ed and Bret had previously been Club members and have recently rejoined. Bret lives in the Williamstown area while Ed lives in the Lindenwold area. Both hold Technician Class Licenses. Sheldon lives in Gibbstown and holds a General Class License. Please make Bret, Ed and Sheldon welcome when you meet them at club meetings and functions.

## A Day at the Races

By Cory Sickles. WA3UVV

Thank you to all who came out to ensure a smooth, safe and successful bike race in Uptown Pitman on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Lead by N2RO, the professional efforts of K2ZA, KB2YJE (and his soon-to-be-a-ham son), KE2ES, N2QED, N2QEE, N2TXV, WA2NPD and WA3SVW provided the racers with additional eyes on the track, supplementing the police officers, EMS personnel and other volunteers.

While the 147.18 MHz repeater was utilized initially, the communications team switched mid-race to 147.54 MHz simplex in a seamless exercise that gives everyone practice with “quick QSY’s” in circumstances where there is a potential power or equipment failure. Spread out along a 2.9 mile loop, this also provided a quick reminder as to the importance of antenna polarization while operating low power handhelds during the 17 lap race.

The efforts and professionalism were definitely noticed by the race organizer, the Greater Pitman Chamber of Commerce, local government officials and the Pitman Police Department. Several compliments and words of appreciation were conveyed after the race. With the overall positive results of the Bob Riccio Memorial Tour de Pitman, initial feedback is that this race is well on its way to becoming a recurring event. Certainly, the hams listed above did us all proud in providing a needed public service and boosting a positive perception of our club and amateur radio.

## July Club Meeting Program

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

There will be a critique session of our June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> annual Field Day operation. All Band Chairmen will be called upon to give a short report of their operation, the pluses and minuses, and any reports of unusual happenings including Murphy strikes and comical incidents. Doug, WA2NPD, will emcee this program and will also present some unusual happenings (stories) which occurred during GCARC Field Days of yesteryear. This year will be my 50<sup>th</sup> consecutive FD participation which includes 3 sessions from 1976 through 1978 with the Corpus Christi Radio Club in Texas.

## Pitman Water Tower Update

By Cory Sickles. WA3UVV

The new water tower has been sandblasted and painted a lovely shade of blue. At this point, the scaffolding is being deconstructed and soon a team will come up from the south to paint “Everybody Likes Pitman” near the top.

That means that hopefully, we will soon see the cell phone companies migrating back to Summit Avenue and the noise on 147.78 MHz will disappear. Let’s all hope for continued “nice painting weather”.

## New Stuff

By Cory Sickles. WA3UVV

Long known as the last domestic manufacturer of QRO HF transceivers, TEN-TEC has recently begun selling a version of the popular HB-1A QRP CW rig which is manufactured in China. Although the original is a tri-band affair, the TEN-TEC version is available in 2 dual-band models covering 20 & 40 or 30 & 40. From the initial specs, it looks like TEN-TEC went for better filtering than the original. Details are on their web site, [www.tentec.com](http://www.tentec.com).

Meanwhile, the folks in China have started marketing a new kit, the TJ6A SSB/CW transceiver. It covers 80, 40, 20 & 15 with up to 10W out. Available through Ebay, it currently sells for \$245 plus another \$40 for shipping across the Pacific. Details are at <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=270594251503&ssPageName=A> where you'll also find a link to the manual.

In "Column B", the Wouxun dual-band handheld is now shipping in the US. Versions covering ham bands are available for either 144/222 MHz or 144/430 MHz. Marketed originally as business band radios in China and throughout Asia, there are currently 2 dealers in the States – [www.wouxun.us](http://www.wouxun.us) and [www.totalradioservice.com](http://www.totalradioservice.com). Prices start just under \$110 (plus shipping) and include some accessories, while others are available as options. Programming is done through software, which is also available as an option. I'm ordering one of the 144/222 rigs with the software and cable. Stay tuned for a review, probably appearing on [www.w2mmd.org](http://www.w2mmd.org).

## The "Fun Mode" on Ten Meters

By Cory Sickles. WA3UVV

If you have an older 10 meter rig with FM capabilities like the HR-2600, HTX-10, PCS-2800 or haven't used that mode on your HF rig lately, there have been some recent openings on the band. While repeaters are heard at 29.62, 29.64, 29.66 and 29.68 MHz, there is also a good deal of simplex activity at 29.6 and all the way down to 29.3 – avoiding the satellite sub-band, of course.

Early morning and late night attempts with my FT-817ND with a whip antenna and wire counterpoise have rewarded me with some nice conversations with as little as 2.5 W. Although the '817 is small enough to be held in your hand for extended periods, it's not exactly a "hand-held". Clipped to a decent-sized battery in a case with a handle, it can be carried around like the Motorola PT-500 of years ago, or slung over your shoulder like the once-popular Drake TR-22C. Maybe I should see if the folks at Wouxun make a low-band rig?

## VEC Testing

Regular VEC testing sessions are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM and are held at the Franklin Township Public Library on Coles Mill Road in Franklinville. The cost of the exam is \$15. Candidates are required to have a photo ID and two copies of their current license if they have one. For further information on VEC testing or to sign-up for a session contact Gary Reed at [glreed@snip.net](mailto:glreed@snip.net).

## July Birthdays

Tony Gargano, N2SS  
Edward Hankin, KB2ODJ  
Christopher Kelly, KC2PC  
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY  
Phyllis Martin, W2PDB  
Frank Messick, W2FJM  
Art Strong, K2AWS



## 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 August issue:  
7/20/2010

## Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU  
Vice President-Harry Ewell, K2ATX  
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB  
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML  
Doug Gehring, WA2NP

Steve, W2TDS  
Cory, WA3UVV

### GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Harold Garron, AC2BK  
Corresponding Secretary-Vinnie, N4NYY

### Board of Directors

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

### Trustees

Ray, WB2NBJ  
Mike, 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-Harry, K2ATX  
Historian-Marty, W2ILT  
4H Liaison-K2ATX

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ  
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ  
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD  
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD  
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV  
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU  
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T  
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E  
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM  
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV  
VEC Testing-Harry, K2ATX  
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)

**July Meeting**

**Field Day Critique**

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

