



## *Presidents Message*

I hope to see everyone out for Field Day 2011 to help setup, operate, tear down, or even just visit. Our Field Day Chairman Vinnie, N4NYY, has everything lined up and ready to go. This year we will have the stations located farther apart, which should help with local interference issues. If we get some openings on 6 and/or 10 meters, we could end up with a record score this year. I am going to try and have WiFi available at the site, but it will only be a 1.5Mb DSL connection so no big file transfers or streaming media please.

Summer officially begins this week and I hope everyone is taking advantage of the longer days and the generally better weather. I know it can be a busy time but don't forget about the monthly General Membership Meetings. We had a disappointing turnout for the final Field Day preparations program last month. A lot of effort goes into these meeting programs, so please come out and support the Club. If there is a topic you would like to see covered at an upcoming meeting let me know and I'll try to make it happen.

OK, I'm going to go over this again. A Club can only be successful when it has an active involved membership. It takes a collection of people with different talents who are willing to spend some time using those talents for the good of the group. There are many longtime members who have invested a lot of their time to keep the GCARC alive. The one problem that I am seeing is a lack of newer members taking on some of the many positions that need to be filled in the Club. Look at the list of Committees in the back of this and every newsletter. See if there is one you might like to Chair. Also, consider running as a Club Officer or Director next year. If you would like to know more about what each position entails, let me know and I will get you that information. Right now we really need a Hamfest Chairman and a Field Day Chairman. Please consider helping out so some of the old timers can take a break.

73, Al KB2AYU

## July Club Meeting Program

Well, how did the Club do on Field Day? Come out to the July General Membership Meeting and find out. The theme for the July meeting will be a Field Day recap. How well did we score? How were conditions? And did Murphy strike as usual? These questions and more will be answered as the participants trade stories and maybe a few exaggerations about how things went this year. Come out and join in the fun even if you were unable to attend Field Day in person.

# Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

You have probably noticed a distinct lack of DX conditions on HF lately. A combination of a seasonal lull and a BIG tanking of sunspots to the Solar Flux level of 80 has taken its toll on DX openings. Keep in mind that Solar Flux is the GASOLINE of our DX engines!

Another study of the present solar cycle has surfaced with a group of scientists working out of New Mexico. It does not predict that this will be a cycle that DXers will want to recall in future days. It sums up the possibility that the present cycle may peak at about where it is now and just begin decaying. Prospects for the next cycle are seen to also be very poor. We are heading for some really uncharted propagation "waters" for this cycle according to various predictions. It is encouraging that we DO have more space weather information from some great new types of equipment geared to evaluating the sun's external and internal properties. It is amazing what access we have to the sun's behavior from satellites alone.

I guess, all we can do is make the best to what the sun offers us in the way of propagation and sharpen our equipment, antennas and techniques to keep up with the changes. I've have been monitoring beacons more often on the HF and 6 Meter bands. The Magic Band has been tentative so far this season but has produced some new grids and DXCC entities in Europe and to the South for club members and the SNJ area. Patterns are tough to find or plot, though, so far this season on 6 Meters. But isn't that one of the reasons why we're in the hobby? The excitement of beating the odds or making the tough QSO!

Let me give you some solid advice on coping with the above from our Field Day Chairman who wrote an email recently about complaints during our June outdoor exercise, "Put a sock in it!"

Remember also, that for most of us, the equipment and set-ups we have now are a far cry from what we had when we began in the hobby. Use technology and your brain to enjoy what we do have!

Before starting our July DX list, be aware of possible operations in July (dates still not finalized) for 3D2R, Rotuma, KH4, Midway, and the to be newly minted ST, Southern Sudan. ST's status is so precarious politically, we may not see it activated for months to come. Watch the clusters and DX scuttlebutt for more definite starting info on these three possibilities this month.

The following should be activated as stated:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	PRIORITY	ENTITY
7Q7MH	7/1-7/31	HF + 6M/CW+SSB	3	MALAWI
PY0FO	7/2-7/9	80-6M/FOCUS ON 6M	2	FERNANDO/NORANJA
JX5O	7/6-7/16	2-3 STNS/20,15M+ IF CNDX	2	JAN MAYEN
MD	7/7-7/15	80-6M/ALL MODES/7 DL OPS	2	ISLE OF MAN
V47JA	7/12-8/2	80-6M/SSB	1	ST. KITTS
VK9HR	7/23-8/2	HF/VK TEAM	3	LORD HOWE IS.
ZD8D	7/24-8/9	HF/DL TEAM	2	ASCENSION IS.
V63FAA	7/26-8/4	RTTY/I2DMI	3	MICRONESIA
KH8	7/30-8/14	160-6M/ALL MODES/LINEARS	2	AMER. SAMOA

CREDITS: ADXO NG3K

## New Members

The Club welcomes the following new Members: Milt Frantz, K2MXF; Mark Clark, N3QMJ, and Timothy Repas, KC2YZU. Milt holds a General Class License and lives in Berlin while Mark and Timothy both hold Extras Class Licenses and Mark lives in Carneys Point and Timothy lives in Woodbury. Please welcome these new members when you meet them at Club Meetings and functions. We hope all of our new members come out and participate in this years Field Day.

If I missed any new members during the last few months, please let me know and I will include you in a future issue of Crosstalk. During tax season things get a bit hectic for me and I do let a few things slip by. Send me a note at AA2YO@ARRL.NET.

Your Editor

## Field Day 2011

When you get this Field Day will be just days away. Our Chairman Vinnie, N4NYY, has everything organized and if band conditions and the weather cooperate this should be a great event with lots of ham radio, camaraderie, and good food. Even with bad weather and lousy band conditions everybody has fun and has lots of stories to tell about the event afterwards.

The event kicks off with the usual breakfast at the Harrison House in Mullica Hill at 8am on Saturday. Following that we start erecting antennas at the Club site to be ready for actual start of Field Day at 2pm on Saturday. The event wraps up at 2pm on Sunday when everything has to be torn down and put away.

There is still a bit of uncertainty at this writing whether we will be operating 6A or 7A depending on whether or not we find someone to Chair the 15 meter SSB station. But whatever we operate it will still be a great event. Hopefully all of you will make an effort to come out and participate or at least visit during the event. Even if you can't spend a lot of time out at the site help is always needed setting and tearing down.

## Monroe Township's Memorial Day Parade

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

As a sign of a continuing-to-improve relationship with the Township of Monroe, Tom Gorman, KE2ES, was contacted shortly before Memorial Day with an invitation for our club to participate in their parade. A flurry of emails and telephone calls ensued and it was quickly determined that while we could walk in the parade, it wasn't going to be anything fancy. Luckily, we already have some signs for such events and Hamfest banners which can be re-tasked for such things.

Given that the event is rather small, our appearance was that much more significant. The feedback Tom got after the event, expressed appreciation that we could take part in it.

Pictures of the event and those who participated will soon appear on our web site, [www.w2mmd.org](http://www.w2mmd.org) where you'll also find a short video and a smiling N2RO, waving a flag and bringing up the rear. It's "Must See TV".

# Uptown Pitman's Bike Race

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bob Riccio Memorial Tour de Pitman bike race was held and nearly a dozen members of the GCARC were there, too. The course runs about 3 miles around the borough, with Broadway being shut down and a rolling blockade lead by the Pitman Police Department utilized throughout the rest of the course.

This year, there were 2 events. The first was for Category 4 and 5 riders (Category 4 is for fairly new riders and Category 5 is for beginners and unlicensed riders) and the second was for Category 1, 2 and 3s (These are the really serious and experienced riders). As with a layout of this size, manpower is at a premium and Hams once again got to demonstrate their professionalism, communications expertise and public service while providing eyes and ears at various checkpoints along the route.

While we all hope for an "uneventful event", the speeds, closeness of the riders and the fact that you can't completely control the onlookers can make these events dangerous. This year there was an accident at one of the corners and one of our group was right there on the scene, allowing us to notify a police officer and get aid moving within a few seconds, instead of the minutes it could have taken. When there's a need for First Responders, every second counts.

Once again, Ham Radio showed its stuff and everyone concerned has had positive remarks about our presence and assistance. I've already had more than one person state that they hope we'll be back again for next year's event.

Pictures of those who participated and the accident will also be posted on the web site, with a more detailed account of the day. Many thanks again to our volunteers and the leadership that gets them there.

## 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 856-582-4365 or at [greed49@verizon.net](mailto:greed49@verizon.net).

## July Birthdays

Tony Gargano, N2SS  
Christopher Kelly, KC2PC  
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY  
Phyllis Martin, W2PDB  
Frank Messick, W2FJM  
Art Strong, K2AWS  
Ann White, KC2VEO



## 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](mailto:aa2yo@arrl.net).

Submission deadline for the August issue:  
7/26/2011

## Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU  
Vice President-Tom Gorman, KE2ES  
Treasurer-Lou Ranson, KC2FXK

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

Steve Blasko, W2TDS  
Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

### GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-John Zaruba, K2ZA  
Corresponding Secretary-Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY

### Board of Directors

Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY  
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO  
Bob Krukowski, KR2U

### Trustees

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ  
Mike Mollet, 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-Al, KB2AYU  
Historian-Art, K2AWS

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ  
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ  
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU  
Programs-Tom, KE2ES  
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)

### **July Meeting**

**Field Day Wrap-up**

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

