



Presidents Message

June is behind us and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those that came out and supported the Williamstown music festival, Pitman bike races and ARRL Field Day exercises. July is upon us and with it comes July 4th, Independence Day. Because the holiday falls on the first Wednesday there will not be a July General Membership Meeting.

New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool Effective July 1

The new Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool—released by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in January 2012 -- becomes effective on Sunday, July 1. The current Amateur Extra class pool expires on June 30, 2012 and cannot be used after that date. This new question pool—including graphics and diagrams—will remain valid until June 30, 2016. The new Amateur Extra pool contains 702 questions, from which 50 are selected for an Element 4 examination. As of June 13, three questions—E1D09, E2A14 and E6E10 -- have been removed from the new pool. The current Technician class question pool that became effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The current General class pool that became effective July 1, 2011 is valid until June 30, 2015.

New Jersey QSO Party (NJQP)

Please mark July 28 and 29 on your Calendars: The NJQP is back! After a one year vacation the NJQP returns in 2012 on a new date – July 28th and 29th, sponsored by the Burlington County Radio Club. Rules and additional information are available at <http://www.njqp.hamshack.info> or contact njqp@comcast.net with questions or comments.

13 Colonies Special Event

There will be at least three stations from New Jersey using the call K2I.

START: June 30th (Saturday Bonus Day) 9am eastern / 13:00 GMT / 09:00 military

END July 5th midnight 00:00 / 0400 (6th) GMT / 24:00 military

There is a +4 hour differential in July.

Please go to our website at <http://www.13colonies.info> to check out your personal information under your state flag. If any changes/additions or subtractions must be made, please email Dennis KG4RUL at kg4rul@comcast.net and tell him so he can update your information.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that Ray, W2RM and Doug, WA2NPD are recovering quite nicely and are both looking forward to be at or near 100% in the not so distant future.

Tnx and 73,
Tom, KE2ES

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

July gets a bit of a DX "firecracker" start with 1A0C, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta(SMOM) DXpedition starting July 1st through July 4th. This is a relatively rare one conveniently located in Italy for Down Jersey DXers to add to their DXCC totals. They will have a number of stations going simultaneously and at least 12 European operators dishing out qsos on 160-6M and your favorite modes. The organization responsible for this DXCC entity is primarily involved in providing emergency assistance to world-wide disasters. They are looking for donations to help them purchase communications equipment to assist in such catastrophies. Google SMOM or 1A0C for their DXpedition website and more information including on-line logs and qsling data.

With summer propagation predominating our propagation, 20,17, and 15M should be best bets to snag 1A0C for a new one. 15 and 17 Meters have been carrying much of the DX load in the past few weeks. We have endured some extremely bad propagation from some of the sun's coronal mass ejections excesses at this writing. 10 and 12 Meter openings have been spotty and over-the-pole long haul DX delicacies have been difficult to find on any band. Keep watching your favorite DX cluster for DX spots and nothing can beat some actual listening on a band and/or a short CQ to see if an opening is present.

There seemed to be some hope in early June that 6 Meters would be DX-productive here in FM-29. We just have not been blessed with many Sporadic E openings in SNJ, stateside or multi-hop into Europe and Latin America. Watching 6 Meter spots from Europe in the last couple of months seems that they live on another planet with tons of inter-continental and extra-continental qsos to their credit! Let's keep the faith and continue to monitor the Magic Band through summer for some VHF surprises.

Although we are once again a bit short listed on DXpedition activity for the month, the IOTA (Islands On The Air) Contest the last weekend in July could net you some new entities. The British IOTA Awards Program issues certificates and plaques for confirmations for working over 1,000 island groups that they have designated on all continents. Their criteria is different from DXCC and includes such possibilities as New Jersey's Long Beach Island (IOTA NA-111). European interest and participation in the contest is particularly high, but all continents activate especially rare island groups for the contest. The pile-ups are usually less intense than regular DXCC DXpeditions. For more info, Google "IOTA".

As you are in the DX hunt for July, see if any of the following picks might be worth chasing:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	PRIORITY (5=MOST RARE)	ENTITY
1A0C	7/1-7/4	HF+6M/MANY MODES	3	SMOM
E51AND	7/2-8/25	MOSTLY CW/14.050	2	SOUTH COOK IS.
YE0M	7/6-7/9	HF/CW,SSB,RTTY	2	INDONESIA
TK	7/7-7/21	80-10M/MAINLY CW	1	CORSICA
FP	7/9-7/17	160-6M/MULTI-MODE	1	ST. PIERRE IS.
V47JA	7/12-8/2	80-6M+60M/SSB	1	ST. KITTS
MU	7/16-7/20	HF/ 3 BELGIAN OPS	1	GUERNSEY IS.
MJ	7/20-7/27	(SAME AS ABOVE)	1	JERSEY IS.
CY9M	7/26-8/2	160-2 METERS 10 OPS/MULTI-MODES	1	ST. PAUL IS.
IOTA CONTEST - 7/28-7/29 - SEE NG3K ADXO FOR LIST OF OPERATIONS				

CREDITS: NG3K ADXO

Welcome New Members

This month the Club welcomes six new members and one returning member. Details of these members are given below:

Name	Call	License	Area	New or Returning
John Goheen	KB2ADL	General	Gloucester City	New
Ted Kiefer	N2EBB	Extra	Franklinville	New
Dave Paster	AC2IQ	Extra	Williamstown	New
Frank Simila	KC2SJ	Extra	West Deptford	New
Bill Szkromiuk	N2VIL	General	Glassboro	New
Keith Waltman	W2ERP	General	Westville	New
Wayne Welsh	WA2VOY	Extra	Williamstown	Returning

Please welcome these members when you meet them at Club meetings and functions.

Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Matt, KC2MVO for passing his Extra class exam in June. Matt has been real busy over the past six months starting out with his Technician Class License last Christmas, then moving to General class in March and now his Extra class in June. He also plans on studying for his FCC Commercial Class License.

Field Day 2012

Field Day 2012 was a great success. For a change everything including the weather cooperated to make this event the great success it was.

Thanks to all who contributed to the success by coming out and participating. Special thanks to those who took a leadership role such as the Co-chairs Vinnie and Bill and all the Band Chairmen and the folks who provided the fine food we all enjoyed during the event. Our Food Chairmen, Wayne, asked me to thank Pinky, Vickie, Frank, Jeff and Mike (and anyone else he or I may have forgotten) for all helping him with the food. Thanks also to Bill for bringing a bucket truck out to help erect and tear down the antennas and Joe for the fire-pit and Adan for the fire log chimney.

We operated 8A this year with eight separate stations. Some stations worked two bands like 80 meter cw and 15 meter cw but we operated on all of the following bands and modes: 80 meter phone and CW, 40 meter phone and cw, 20 meter phone and cw, 15 meter phone and cw and 10 meter phone. Although conditions were not great there were times when all the bands were open and a record number of contacts were made on many of the bands (the numbers for contacts will be available in next month's Crosstalk).

We had a contingent of almost 25 boy scouts plus their leaders from Troup 9 of West Deptford participate. They stayed over night both Friday and Saturday nights and also manned a 2 meter ssb station. The rain and lightning drove them from their tents for a while Friday night but all came through the storm without any serious problems.

Please see "Filed Day" on Page 4.

“Field Day” from Page 3.

The generator purred along as usual and mishaps were minimal. The worst problem occurred during the erection of the 15 meter phone and 6 meter antennas. Unfortunately the mast bent over during the lifting process and the station ended up using the bucket truck as an antenna support during the contest.

I was surprised to hear a very brief item on KYW radio when I got up on Saturday morning mentioning that an emergency training session by amateur radio operators would be taking place on Saturday and Sunday. I don't know which club was responsible for that particular bit of publicity but I was very glad to hear KYW air it. It is always great to get a little good publicity.

We were treated to a few special visual effects on Saturday night. First the International Space Station made a pass directly overhead just after dark and was visible for most of its path across the sky. We could see it from soon after it rose above the horizon in the northwest until the earth's shadow eclipsed it as it approached the horizon in the southeast. The second treat was three trees across the football practice field that were literally filed with lightning bugs. The trees looked like they had been decorated with twinkling Christmas tree lights and were really spectacular.

These are just a few thoughts and observations on this year's Field Day. Anyone else who would like to add a few their own comments on Field Day should send me an article for the August issue of Crosstalk at aa2yo@arrl.net.

2012 Continues to Show Growth in Amateur Radio Licensing

According to a recent article in the ARRL Letter, the first quarter of 2012 (January-March) saw a high level of Amateur Radio license exam sessions, producing an elevated influx of applications for new licensees. These applications outpaced the 2011 first quarter results by 30 percent. Besides the increase in new applications; there was a 6 percent increase in the number of upgrades, also. There are currently 704,236 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, which is an all time high. Broken down by license class, at the end of March there were 14,352 Novices, 343,597 Technicians, 161,220 Generals, 57,393 Advanced and 127,674 Amateur Extra licensees. It's an all-time high for Technician, General and Extra class licensees, as well.

Fortunately this growth trend also has been true with the GCARC membership. We've been fortunate to have a fairly steady flow of new members coming into the Club this year. At June's Board Meeting we approved 6! Please be sure to welcome them and remember to wear your name badge. It makes it easier for many of us to learn new names and calls. Also, be on the lookout for new visitors. Today's visitor might well be tomorrow's member.

Thanks to the ARRL Letter for the information on the growth in licensing.

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 glreed49@verizon.net.

Some “Real” Wayback Machines

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Along with liking to go “retro” once in a while and play with tubes, I also like to spend some time with older computers. While many may think “older” means something from just a few years ago, I’m talking about systems that were pre-PC (as in IBM PC), the kind of technology that goes back to the 70’s and beyond.

This was a world of kits, 8-bit systems with cassette or paper tape storage and single-digit-megahertz clock speeds. Noisy teletypes (ASCII and Baudot) were pressed into service as terminals, as most systems were upper case only. Video displays were limited, 32x16 character screens, usually presented on re-tasked black and white TV’s. I still have a few remnants from that era, including a small 6800-based computer that I wire-wrapped. It still works.

Through some odd path, I came across a PDP-8 retro kit the other day. The original “Straight 8” was a significant machine for its time. Manufactured by Digital Equipment Corporation of Maynard, MA – it featured a 12-bit CPU and core memory. The memory stack was several times taller than the computer! The PDP-8 was the first “affordable” system that small businesses or departments of larger ones could justify acquiring. It was a monument to simplicity – both in its programming and design. If you can find any version (there were several in the line) that’s in good cosmetic condition, complete and still operable today, you will pay an appropriately high sum for it. As a collector looking for one, you’ll gladly pay it, too.

As I perused the Infobahn for more information on this kit and looked for some parts for a PDP-11 I’m restoring, I came across a museum about 90 minutes from here, that’s dedicated to preserving technology. Located in Wall Township, the Info Age Science History Learning Center Museum is located on an old Marconi Wireless station site at the former Camp Evans. Housed within the walls of the buildings are a history of RADAR and radiolocation, a Museum of Broadcasting (radio and TV) run by the New Jersey Antique Radio Club and the Computer Museum that’s operated by the Mid Atlantic Retro Computing Hobbyists (MARCH).

They are currently open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday each week. I finally had a free afternoon last Wednesday and headed up. Everyone there was very friendly and informative. While most of the radio display is concerned with broadcast gear, there’s more than enough there to entertain the average ham. Most of the folks in that group are hams, themselves.

I wasn’t disappointed with the computer displays, either. The rooms are laid out somewhat by decade. Starting with the “big iron” of an IBM punch card sorter from 1948, you make your way through the years. A model 029 keypunch (something I used while in high school) various teletypes, IBM 3100 computer, (with lots of blinky lights – real bulbs, too, not LED’s) and a pair of PDP-8’s start you out. Moving through kits from companies like Motorola, IMSAI, Altair, MOS Technology and more, you’ll also see an Apple I, TRS-80, Commodore PET and a whole lot more. The more “modern” displays have a MAC-128, Amiga, Commodore 64, HP 85, IBM 5100 and yes, the classic PC.

Over at the beautifully-restored Marconi Hotel, hams of a certain age will notice the ARC-5 stations and may possibly take a moment to recall their Novice experiences. If you want to see how RADAR (and other technology breakthroughs) gave the Allies an advantage in World War II, then this is the place. Please see “Wayback” on page 6.

“Wayback” form page 5.

The museum isn't for everyone, but no museum is. However, for the more technically minded individuals, it could make a nice “field trip” for some of us. If you are interested in such a trip, let me know. In the meantime, here are a few web sites to give you some idea of what's there. You might even catch a glimpse of Sherman and Mr. Peabody...

www.marchclub.org www.infoage.org

Radio Shack Gets More Stuff

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Radio Shack continues to increase their inventory of DIY and microcontroller-related items. You can now find Schmartboard products (useful for working with surface-mount components) and more Arduino, PIC and BASIC Stamp items. They're even carrying solar panels.

Available in several voltages, you can use one or more to power your field radio – through a regulator – or charge your battery. The latter use is more common. By ganging together 3 4.5 volt panels, for instance, you can have an array that produces up to 13.5 V, with about 1.5 watts overall. Cost for the 3 panels is about \$54. By the time you factor in a simple regulator circuit, connectors and an inexpensive 3-panel picture frame, you're in the \$60 neighborhood.

As QRP rigs like the IC-703 and FT-817 are usable all the way down to 9.6 V, this isn't a bad setup, especially considering what some commercially-available products sell for. Of course, you may be able to do a bit better by shopping online, but when you factor in convenience, it's still a decent deal.

The best parts selection I seem to find in the area is at the store in the Cherrywood Shopping Center on Blackwood-Clementon Road in Blackwood. Not sure why, just is...



40 Meter CW station in full operation with N2CQ at the controls.

Thanks to AA2WN for the 2012 Field Day Pictures.



Murphy and gravity have their way with the 10 meter phone and 6 meter antenna mast at Filed Day 2012

Picture by AA2WN

The Boy Scouts successfully erect their 2 meter antenna at Field Day 2012

Picture by AA2WN



July Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in July.

Tony Gargano, N2SS
Chris 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.

Submission deadline for the August issue:
7/24/12

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Vice President-Jim Wright, N2GXJ
Treasurer-Al, KB2AYU

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

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ
Mike Mollet, N2SRO

ARES/RACES-Gary, N2QEE
Awards-Kenny, W2KRD
Budget-Al, KB2AYU
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E
Constitution-As needed
Contests-Ken, W2KRD
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ken, N2CQ
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-Vinnie/Bill, N4NYY/NJ2S
Hamfest-Vinnie/Bill, N4NYY/NJ2S
Historian-Art, K2AWS

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Sheldon Parker, K2MEN
Corresponding Secretary-Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY

Trustees

Cory Sickles, WA3UVV
Martin Wilt, W2ILT

Committees

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Tom, KE2ES
Programs-Jim, N2GXJ
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Tom, KE2ES
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
Website-Jeff, KC2WCS

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)

No Club Meeting in July

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