



Presidents Message

Memorial Day is this weekend. It is a day to honor the men and women of our armed forces, especially those who lost their lives defending our country.

It is also the unofficial start of summer. A time when we are all busy with yard work, BBQs, and vacations. Even so, I hope you will make some time for the GCARC. At the June meeting Vinnie, N4NYY, will be going over final preparations for Field Day 2011. We need a good turnout at this meeting to show the Pfeiffer Center that we require the main room for our group. Also, don't forget some of the public service events that are coming up soon. They will be announced in this newsletter and during the ARES/RACES net.

Work at the Clubhouse will have to wait until later this month, but it will be in good shape for the upcoming Field Day. Mike, N2SRO, is gathering equipment for the remote receiver for the W2MMD repeater. John, K2ZA, is in talks regarding a possible new location for the repeater on a water tower in Glassboro.

May the weather gods and the propagation gods send us good conditions for Field Day.

See you there. Al, KB2AYU

Stormy Weather

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

We may have to pay the highest property taxes in the country, but as far as weather goes, New Jersey isn't such a bad place to live. Looking at recent developments in states to the west and south of us shows us just how lucky we've been. However, in recent weeks, I've heard of 3 confirmed tornadoes in Pennsylvania. Granted, they haven't been EF4's, but the Keystone State isn't exactly "Hurricane Alley". On occasion, we have had small and short-lived tornadoes in South Jersey, but they are typically few and far between. This year – I don't know. With the La Niña pattern and continuing climate changes, we could see more activity soon. So, keep your batteries charged, your weather alert radio turned on and obscenely overpriced fuel in your car, just in case...

Dues are Past Due

If you have not paid your dues for 2011 and wish to remain a GCARC Member it is way past the time for you to send your dues to our Treasurer, Lou Ranson, KC2FXK. Dues can be send to Lou at the Club's address: PO Box 370, Pitman, NJ 08071 or given to him at a Club Meeting.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Overall, things have been better for DX this calendar year Down Jersey compared to the last few years of propagation. Although the HF bands have been waning of late due to lack of much solar flux and summer seasonal effects on conditions, openings from 10 Meters through 20 Meters have been encouraging. Signals from long distances over the North Pole have been quite consistent on 20M, 17M and 15M. DX "beacons" such as VR2XMT, YB0NFL, and E21EJC might show up on all three bands in one day! As 10M, 12M, and 15M become less DX-productive in summer time, I would still be watching 17M for some good DX! I think it will carry the DX "burden" nicely during these long summer days. And don't forget Sporadic-E on 6M! An early May qso with Argentina shows that the band still has DX potential. USA openings are happening right now, but you have to "catch the wave" by being alert to clusters, VHF maps and beacons to help you navigate the Magic Band.

As a quick reflection, I was unable to work the much heralded VU4PB DXpedition to the Andaman Islands earlier in March on any band. In the misery loves company category, I learned that their QSL Manager, Joe, W3HMK, across the river in Pennsylvania, not only failed to work them, but worked two "pirate" stations sporting the VU4PB call sign instead. Locally, W2YC was also the pirate's victim but did manage some valid qsos. Not all DXpeditions conclude with "happy" endings.

With 6 Meters hopefully coming alive, thoughts of Field Day also come to mind. How about an exercise to increase your proficiency for W2MMD and your own logging? Try setting up your computer with a clear field for typing text. Then, tune across your favorite band and see how quickly you can accurately type the call-sign that you hear. Computer logging is here to stay during Field Day even though we may still rely on pad and pencil to jot down calls at home, myself included. I am always trying to keystroke faster and more accurately during Field Day. This simple exercise at a more leisurely pace than the actual contest might get you to increase your skills for another great effort by our Club for this summer.

Finally, we always talk about increasing the number of bands we have to operate on or simply hold on to what we have. But, it was surprising to read a blurb from the ARRL Contest Update that Ukrainian hams have recently lost their ability to operate on 30 Meters entirely and have also lost the 14250 to 14350Khz segment of 20 Meter phone band! This is probably another reason to seriously consider donating to and/or supporting ARRL Amateur band preservation efforts.

Once again, we seem to be "light" on DXpedition operations for the month:

CALLS	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RARITY	ENTITY
5R8KS	5/31-6/6	HF/IOTA-057	3	MADAGASCAR
VK9CI	6/1-6/7	HF/MAINLY DIGITAL	4	COCOS/KEELING
VP2MRT	6/8-6/18	40-2M/JUNE VHF TEST	1	MONTERRAT
MU	6/17-6/21	MAINLY 6M/VHF TEST	1	GUERNSEY
FO/M	6/18/6/26	HF,SSB,DIGITAL	2	MARQUESAS
8Q7LR	6/21-7/2	40-10M/SSB	3	MALDIVES
PJ7	6/22-7/4	HF + 6&2METERS	1	SAINT MARTIN
PJ6	6/22-7/6	6 METERS	1	SABA
T88ZA	6/24-6/27	80-6M/ALL MODES	3	PALAU
PJ2	6/26-7/7	MAINLY 6M + HF	1	CURACAO

CREDITS: NG3K ADXO

June Club Meeting Program

At the June General Membership Meeting Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY, will go over planning for the upcoming Field Day. If you plan to participate this is a good meeting to attend.

If you are unable to attend and wish to operate at Field Day please contact the appropriate Band Chairman. The Band Chairmen are listed below:

6M SSB - Al Arrison
10M SSB - John Zaruba
15M SSB - Art Strong, Larry Mommicco
15M CW and 80M CW - Dave Strout, Bill Grim
20M SSB - Tom Gorman
20M CW - Chris Heller
40M SSB - Wayne Wilson
40M CW - Doug Gehring and Harry Bryant
80M SSB Stu Cleveland
Antenna Erecting Chairman - Bill Price

Art Strong, K2AWS, Receives Award

At the May General Membership Meeting the Club presented Art Strong, K2AWS, with 2011 Milt Goldman Award. The following is the text of the Citation accompanying the award:

The Milt Goldman Award Committee is proud to present the award for 2011 to Art Strong, K2AWS.

Art first joined GCARC in 1985 and, at that time, held a General Class License with call sign KA2DOT. Art took a brief hiatus from Amateur Radio, but soon rejoined the Club in 1995 where he has been a very active member ever since. In 1995, he served the Club as Field Day Chairman and also was Field Day Food Chairman during that same time period.

In 1999 Art was nominated and elected Club President and served with distinction for two years. In 2008, he teamed up with Larry, then WB2HTE, as Field Day Band Co-Chairman for 15 meter phone, and has held down that position since that time. In 2009, Art passed his Extra Class Ticket and received the new call K2AWS. He has been bitten by the DX Bug and currently is nearing the coveted DXCC Award plateau. Presently, Art is serving the Club as a 3 Year Director. Art has more recently, taken over the reins of the Club Web Page where he has spent untold hours bringing the page up to modern speed. This has included electronically cataloging all of the available Club Crosstalk Newsletters going back to the very beginning of the Club in 1959. He has accomplished much in this long term endeavor and is determined to complete this historical documentation of our Club within the next year or two.

For this effort and for his past accomplishments for the Club, the Awards Committee takes great pleasure in presenting the Milt Goldman Outstanding Service Award for 2011 to Art Strong, K2AWS.

Presented by Allan Arrison, KB2AYU, Club President

New Stuff from Dayton

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

While more details will continue to emerge from new product announcements, (or products that are finally shipping since being announced last year) here are a few highlights.

Elecraft showed off their new KX-3 transceiver. Capable of 160-6 meter all-mode operation, this “fits in your hand” rig is a significantly smaller update of the K-3. Power is rated at up to 10 watts out, with an attachable CW paddle and automatic antenna tuner as options. MSRP is reportedly \$799. Oh yeah, it’s SDR-based (though self-contained) – thus continuing an emerging trend. More information will be available soon at www.elecraft.com

MFJ announced a new multi-band QRP CW rig just before the Hamvention was getting underway. This 5 watt rig looks to be a built version of a Youkits.com product. The base price is \$250, which includes 1 band of your choice. I just checked while typing this and still can’t find a price list for the additional band modules. Considering the price of a single-band 90xx series transceiver is \$210, this may represent a bit of a bargain if you just want a few bands and don’t want to pony up the bucks for a FT-817ND. More info can be gleaned at www.mfjenterprises.com

Speaking of Youkits, they’ve announced a 4W handheld 2-band HF transceiver kit, the TJ2A. The “2-band” moniker may be a bit of an exaggeration, though. Because of small tuning ranges, you need 2 bands to cover the CW and phone portions of 20 meters. However, if you wanted to build one to cover 17 and the phone portion of 20, then that might not be a bad idea. MSRP is \$199 and more info is available at (wait for it) www.youkits.com

The 4 States QRP Club introduced a minimalist CW rig that fits on a tuna tin. Yes, it sounds like an idea from www.QRPme.com. All things considered, I still think Rex Harper’s Lil’ Squal transceiver is the most fun you can have on 40 Meters and still represents a better value with 3 crystals included for just under \$30 – shipped.

Not much is being reported about anything new from the big players in the Ham Radio market. It seems as though most of the innovation is from the simpler kits and small radio producers, plus some utility and software folks. It looks like QRP continues to be a hot growth market. If you haven’t tried low power operations recently, now is a great time to give it a try.

Get Your Filthy Hands off My Spectrum

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Well, after a heartwarming letter and email campaign to fight Peter King’s HR607, the Senate has drafted S1040, a “companion” bill to King’s, with the important difference that S1040 DOES NOT seek to take away a significant portion of our 70 cm allocation.

Thanks to everyone in the Club who responded to King’s proposed “grab” by objecting to the attempt! Whether motivated by greed, ignorance or something else, we may never fully know – but I am grateful that this particular threat appears to have been successfully fought. The Ham Radio community and the nation at large appear to have won a hard-fought battle – at least for now. I’m sure there will be other ill-conceived threats in the future, which we need to guard against.

MS Mud Run

The MS Mud Run is in serious need of Amateur radio operators to provide communications help with this event. The event is June 11 and 12, 2011 and will be held in Newtown Square, PA. If you are available to help out at this event even for only one day please contact Joe, KC2SFB at 215-463-5287.

Quid Pro Quo et Caveat Emptor

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

You may have noted that FCC Commissioner Meredith Atwell Baker is retiring. Not to worry, she's found employment at Comcast. Coincidentally, I'm sure; this is the same Comcast that she strongly advocated for in the NBC Universal merger/acquisition. Good to know she won't be out of work in this challenging employment market...

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.



Art Strong receives the 2011 Milt Goldman Award from Club President Al Arrison at May Meeting

June Birthdays

Joseph Arsenault, WA2KDV
Kenneth Denson, W2KRD
Ken Newman, N2CQ
Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ
Charles Sketchley, K2PQD
Kyle Townsend, W2KBT
James Wilson, N2SVN



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 June issue:
6/18/2011

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)

June Meeting

Field Day Planning
Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY

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

