

CROSSTALK

Issue #3

MARCH, 2002

Presidents Message

March is upon us and it is time to think toward summer. The plans for field day are in the making. A committee has been chosen along with most band chairpersons. We must have a Hamfest chairperson by the end of the next meeting. I know we didn't have one last year and it made things more difficult because many items had to be attended to at the last minute. So let's have someone step up to the plate!

Last meeting was a great meeting with many people attending. We witnessed a super demonstration of amateur TV by Ron, K3ZKO. Many thanks to Ron. We also had a new member join our club, Nick, AB2NQ, from Hammonton. Welcome aboard Nick. Also most members got to meet Tony's lovely XYL, Florence.

There will be another open house at the trailer. All are welcome to attend and bring a friend who might be interested in Ham Radio. The date is March 13th at 7:30 PM.

The date has been set for the Hamfest. It will be on August 18th which is the same weekend as the last two years. Remember we still need a Hamfest Chairperson. This is our only money making event and we really need it.

All members should try to make the March meeting to hear Jean Priestly, KA2YKN, our ARRL section manager. She will bring us up to date on what's happening at the ARRL.

Hope to see you on March 6th.

Best 73 and 88,
Ray WB2NBJ

2002 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2002 are due. The annual dues are \$15.00.

Please send your checks directly to the treasurer, Bob Krchnavek, (K2DAD) at 50 Eastwick Dr., Gibbsboro, NJ 08026.

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

The DX ether continues chugging along on all eight cylinders as the second SFI "hump" remains near 200, fluctuating between approximately 195 and 230. Amazing is the only word for it! Six meters and ten meters are especially very much alive and well.

Some notable accomplishments abound! Al, N2FJQ, has now worked and received the necessary QSLs to qualify for the DXCC Honor Roll! He has accomplished this exemplary feat using low power, mostly a vertical antenna and lots of perseverance. Many congratulations to Al. Also, having logged the recent VP8 operations and YA5T, Dave, W2YC, has now qualified for DXCC CW Honor Roll, another exceptional goal that comparatively few hams ever achieve. And, not to be outdone, Tony, N2SS, having been first in the Club to have worked the YA (after some 8 years hiatus), has now logged P5/4L4FN (North Korea) and is the second Club member (that we are aware of) to have done so.

We have learned that Dave, W2YC, and Harry, AA2WN, racked up some 4.5 million points during the annual ARRL DX Contest last week, a really first-rate effort. And this was in spite of an approximately six-hour interruption in order to toss down a few 807s and hurl keyboards at a fellow amateur who was being roasted at a dinner party.

Finally, congratulations to Neil, W2GTV, (formerly KB2GTV) who upgraded to General (we believe) and celebrated by working an ES station (Estonia), not exactly an everyday DX country. Congratulations to Neil on the upgrade and upon his successful baptism into the world of DX.

Well, let's see what's "up" this time.

Station	Dates	Freq./Mode	Rarity*	Country
VP6D?	~3/20-3/27	160-6; all	5+	Ducie Is.**
VP8CSA	2/24-3/16	NA	4	Falkland Is.
3W2LWS	Now-3/10	40-10; CW, SSB, RTTY	4	Vietnam
EA8/DL6KAC	3/8-3/24	80-10; CW, SSB	2	Balearic Is.
P29VMS	Now-3/23	80-6; SSB, RTTY, PSK	3	New Guinea
5R?	3/4-3/17	20-15; SSB, CW	3	Madagascar
5W0IR	3/28-4/3	40-6; CW, SSB	2	Samoa
7Q7HB	2/17-4/25	80-10; CW,SSB	3	Malawi
J3/DJ7RJ	2/23-3/14	160-6; CW, SSB	2	Grenada
R1ANC	Now-?	20-15; CW, SSB	3	Franz Joseph Land
MM0LEO	2/25-3/28	20-15; SSB	3	Scotland

* 5 is rarest

** Major DXpeditions

Thanks to [Weekly DX](#), [425 DX News](#), WA2LET, AA2WN, K2JF

Dim Light at the End of the Tunnel in Vanity Holdup

Despite a rising level of annoyance among those awaiting Amateur Radio vanity call signs, the FCC remains at a standstill in terms of resolving the current stalemate. No vanity call signs have been granted since February 1, when applications received at the FCC October 22, 23 and 24 were processed. The FCC subsequently realized that it needed further information for an October 23 application, and--at least for now--it has rescinded vanity grants for October 23 and 24.

Prior to late January, no vanity call signs had been issued since October 30. The ARRL estimates that some 1800 vanity applications now are in the FCC's processing pipeline--the majority of them filed electronically.

The current holdup stems from the fact that some mail destined for the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office last October was diverted to Washington, DC, with other FCC mail for anthrax decontamination. That mail, which included more than 100 vanity applications filed on paper, never got back to Gettysburg, where the FCC processes all vanity applications. Since the FCC's policy is to give equal priority to electronic and paper vanity applications, the whole process ground to a halt when the paper applications went missing.

Payment receipts were not lost, however, and using that information, FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau personnel in Gettysburg scrambled to contact known applicants via e-mail or telephone to have them resubmit copies of their vanity applications. That process was largely successful. Right now, it appears that only three vanity applications filed during the last couple of weeks of October remain outstanding. The FCC has been unable to reach the applicants via e-mail or telephone, however. Wireless Bureau staffers also have been dealing with similar issues involving date-sensitive applications in other radio services.

The FCC has been considering issuing a formal public notice with a cutoff date for outstanding applicants in the Amateur Vanity and in the other similarly affected FCC services to respond--a process that could take weeks. In the meantime, the ARRL has been assisting the FCC in efforts to contact the missing applicants, collect the necessary information and get it to the Commission as soon as possible. If that effort is successful, the vanity logjam could begin to break as early as next week.

Once vanity processing resumes, the FCC is not expected to process all of the remaining applications in a single batch. It's more likely that the processing would be spread out over a period of a few days.

Last week, the FCC said it was making arrangements to test for possible anthrax contamination at the off-site mailroom serving the Gettysburg office. The Gettysburg testing would be "a further precaution", the FCC said, and there was no indication that any anthrax was present at Gettysburg or that the testing would have any impact on the processing of any Amateur Service applications. Since October, the FCC has been urging all applicants to file electronically.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the [ARRL Letter](#)

FCC Redesigns Amateur Service Web Site

The FCC has redesigned its Amateur Radio Service Web site. The new layout makes it easier to find information on topics most requested by amateurs, including licensing, amateur exams, filing an application, changing an address or using the Universal Licensing System (ULS). The refurbished site also provides links to recent Amateur Radio-related news from the FCC.

"The new design is a part of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's continuing effort to meet the needs of the Amateur Radio Service operators as identified in focus groups, letters, phone calls, and e-mails", the FCC said in a news release.

The new design clusters FCC public notices, news releases, and other official documents affecting Amateur Radio operators on the right side of the page. On the left side of the page, the new navigation scheme displays information on the Amateur Radio Service, the sequential call sign system, licensing and vanity call signs as well as amateur-related communications policies such as reciprocal agreements. The site also offers links to information on the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1, the Part 97 Amateur Service rules and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and ULS sites.

The site, launched on February 20, includes a search engine for the entire FCC Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov>. Direct questions or comments concerning the FCC's Amateur Radio Service Web site to Bobby Brown, at babrown@fcc.gov or Jennifer Bush at jbush@fcc.gov. For information concerning the Amateur Radio Service, contact Bill Cross at bcross@fcc.gov.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the [ARRL Letter](#)

Amateur Radio Volunteers Support Olympics

Following months of planning and coordination, Amateur Radio played a big role in supporting the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Ham radio volunteers assisted with security and were available to provide back-up communication.

"The amateurs involved have assisted numerous local and federal agencies to develop a unique system that covers the entire Wasatch Front Area, providing communications to reach numerous Olympic venues 24 hours a day", said Utah ARRL Section Manager Mel Parkes, AC7CP.

According to Parkes, Utah Section Emergency Coordinator John Mabey, W7CWK, and Brent Thomas, AC7H, from the State of Utah Comprehensive Management Office began working on this effort over a year ago. A special public safety organization--Utah Olympic Public Safety Command (UOPSC)--was created by the various local and national public safety organizations that provided the security necessary for the international event.

More than 200 Amateur Radio volunteers in Utah supported this effort according to Parkes.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the [ARRL Letter](#)

Happy Birthday

The March birthdays are unavailable at press time but your editor wishes a very happy birthday to each and every club member with a birthday in March.



Crosstalk Submissions

All submissions, queries, comments, editorials, etc. should be directed to:

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
401 Westwood Drive
Woodbury, New Jersey 08096-3131

aa2yo@arrl.net

Submission deadline: 3/22/2002

Crosstalk is available on the web at:
www.gcarc-w2mmd.org

President-Ray Schnapp WB2NBJ
Vice President-Wayne Wilson WA2LET
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML
Lou Joseph W2LYL
Al Arrison KB2AYU

Advertising-Open
ARES/RACES-Chick WA2USI
Awards-Jack K2ZA
Banquet-Bob KR2U
Budget-Bob K2DAD
Clubhouse Site-Al KB2AYU
Constitution-Open
Crosstalk-Gene AA2YO
Database-John AA2BN
DX-Doug WA2NPD
Field Day-Lou W2LYL
Hamfest-Open

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Corresponding Secretary-Chris West WA2MVU

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Bob Krukowski KR2U
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

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Membership- John AA2BN
Nominations-Art Strong KA2DOT
Publicity-Open
Repeaters-Chuck WA2TML
Scholarships-Greg WN2T
Special Services-Gene N2IMK
Sunshine-Open
Technical-Bob KR2U
TVI-John AA2BN
VEC Testing-Chick WA2USI
4-H Parking-Bob KR2U

The W2MMD Repeaters

147.78/18 Mhz- Pitman
(CTCSS 131.8Hz)

223.06/224.66 Mhz-Sewell

447.1/442.1 Mhz - Pitman
(CTCSS 131.8Hz)

GCARC Meetings

General Membership

8 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)

March Meeting Program

Meet the ARRL South Jersey Section Manager
Jean Priestly, KA2YKN

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

www.gcarc-w2mmd.org

