



Presidents Message

As I write this column on the 17th February, many exciting things are happening. AA2WN, Harry, and W2YC, Dave, will have activated VP5Y for the ARRL CW Contest. They will be active before and after the contest with VP5/home calls. I heard them briefly on the evening of the 16th February so it appears all is going as planned. This would be a great time for you to finish out VP5 on any bands that you need it for DXCC, since they are active on all bands 160 to 10M. The long awaited DXPedition to Peter I Island, 3Y0X, has been postponed, after experiencing several delays and many problems including cancellation by the helicopter contractor (to land them on the island from the ship). However, the 600CW appears to be very successful, having given many new bands to DXers from a rare country. Since many of these expeditions focus on CW, it might be a good opportunity to dust off the key or keyer and make some QSOs on CW. We always need CW operators for Field Day. This would be a good chance for you to hone your skills for the club!

2005 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2005 are due. The annual dues are \$20.00.

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

Speaking of CW, there is an excellent training program (free) for those of you who might be interested in brushing up on CW. It is written by Alex, VE3NEA, and is available at <http://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner/>. This is a very sophisticated training simulator. It will simulate the pileups and conditions you would encounter (including band noise and static) while trying to work DX on the bands. It's a lot of fun to try. VE3NEA even maintains a High Score table where you can submit your results and see how you stack up against other CW operators. Another great tool is Alex's DXAtlas program, which is a set of beautiful ham radio maps for your PC.

Another CW training program which in my opinion remains fairly obscure and underrated is Morsecat created by Gerald, DK5CI. This is wonderful training program aimed at younger, new hams. It has a slick interface, and you can see a cat operating a hand key while listening to the CW. Any age person wishing to learn CW or improve their CW skills would benefit from this program. The program is free and may be downloaded at <http://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner/>. If anyone is interested in a demonstration of this program, e-mail me. I would be glad to demonstrate it at a monthly meeting.

Lots of great things are happening at the clubhouse in Mullica Hill. Jim, N2NRD, and Al, KB2AYU, have been busy fixing the place up. New blinds and drapes have been installed in the HF and VHF operating rooms. The leak in the roof over the kitchen from the recent snowstorms and heavy rains has been identified, and plans are to find and fix it shortly. This clubhouse is a fabulous resource, and many clubs are envious and would do anything to have such a wonderful place to operate. If anyone wishes to try their hand operating or become more familiar with what the clubhouse has to offer since many of the improvements see Al, KB2AYU, or me. Someone will be glad to help you if you are

interested in operating from the clubhouse, either HF or VHF. The improvements are ongoing, and will include a lot of new gear to protect the operating positions from the frequent lightning hits we experience during the summer months.

I would like to also congratulate Jim, N2NRD, and Al, KB2AYU, for piloting W2MMD to a great finish in the ARRL VHF Contest! Great job guys! Thanks to Jim and Al, GCARC is starting to become recognized by VHF contesters as a force to be reckoned with.

Darrell, AB2E

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Last month, we failed to include another prominent GCARC DXer in our mentioning of those in our Club who have hit the DXpedition trail on many an occasion. How could we possibly not mention our new Club President, Darrell, AB2E, who, resulting from his work (he is a college professor), has operated from such places as England, the Channel Isles, Ireland, and Paraguay. In fact, my only QSL card on 17m (if I remember correctly) from ZP land is from Darrell.

The major DX news for this month is, of course, the postponement of the Peter I Island DXpedition until about this time next year (i.e. 2006). This was due to the plethora of delays experienced. First it was the ship, then the helicopter, and finally, the second ship, scheduled to pick them up on February 18th, reported they would not arrive until the night of the 20th, and couldn't leave until the 21st. This, coupled with the previous delays, would have cut the operation short by a week. The members felt that the DX world would have been short-changed by only half an operation, hence, voted to postpone. Oh well, this gives us something to look forward to next year.

Another item I wanted to mention was a thought passed along a few years ago by Dave, W2YC, (incidentally, don't forget to welcome Dave and Harry back), was the idea of using a two (2) dollar bill green stamp for QSLing purposes. The 2 dollar bill takes up only half the room in the envelope as two ones; is, to some extent, in demand by green stamp collectors, and is novel. All of this to enhance getting your QSL back promptly. Most banks do not have many 2 dollar bills, some none at all. I have found that the Commerce Bank branches stock them in large quantities. Not sure why, but I have no problem getting them, 25 at a time, from Commerce Bank. No question, I have noted a faster turn-around time since using the 2 dollar green stamp. It's also less expensive than 2 IRCs, and works much better, in my opinion. Well, onto this month's line up:

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	COUNTRY
ZD8Z	3/27 - 4/1	160 - 10; CW, SSB	3	Ascension Is.
XV3BV	3/14 - 3/17	80 - 15 ; CW, SSB	4	Vietnam
FG/F5CWU	3/3 - 3/10	160 - 6 ; ALL	2	Guadeloupe
MU5RIC/p	3/24 - 3/28	160 - 10; SSB	3	Guernsey Is.
V31MD	3/2 - 3/9	80 - 6; SSB, CW	2	Belize
FT5X	3/20 - 4/4 (1)	ALL; ALL	5	Kerguelen Is.
V73--	3/8 - 3/28 (1)	160 - 10; CW, SSB	3	Marshall Is.
J75RZ	3/23 - 3/29	80 - 10; SSB, CW	2	Dominica
MJ/K8PT	3/9 - 3/16	160 - 6 ; ALL	3	Jersey Is.
FT5WJ	2/20 - 3/31	20; SSB only	5	Crozet Is.
SV5/DJ7RS	2/28 - 3/19	160 - 10; SSB, CW	3	Dodecanese Is.
V5/SP6IXF	2/25 - 3/11	160 - 10; SSB, CW	3	Namibia

Number 5 is rarest . (1) is a Major DXpedition

Thanks to The Weekly DX, 425 DX News, W2YC, AA2WN, K2JF, and WA2LET

Antennas for Battleships-Charlie Dieterich, N2CTW-March Meeting

Charlie Dietrich, N2CTW, will be the speaker for the March GCARC General Meeting. Charlie provided the following for his talk:

Say you are a ham radio operator and you have been given a battleship recently, how would you use it to communicate with the world? From collected photographs of the Battleship New Jersey, learn about the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station, how this club uses their antennas, and how they work.

Also learn what restoration work still needs to be done.

Club Member Profile

This month Crosstalk profiles long time member, Ray Martin, WB2LNR:

My first recollection of Ham Radio was when I was about 6 years old. My grandfather had a Philco table top radio in his garage and it had a knob that said Broadcast, SW1 and SW2. One day I got curious and turned the knob to SW1 and I was amazed to hear the Philadelphia Police talking. I was fascinated and had to see what was on SW2. Lo and behold I was listening to ham radio operators! Every day after school I would go out to the garage and tune in the hams on 80 and 40 meters. I became so interested in ham radio; I promised myself that one day I too would become one of those guys. I was first licensed in 1963 as WN2LNR with the help of my Elmer, Don Curtis, W3LR, and all of the members of The Woodbury High School Amateur Radio Club. I got my current call, WB2LNR, when I upgraded. Ham Radio still holds the same fascination for me today as it did when I was six years old.

I have enjoyed Ham Radio for 41 years, and I'm very active. I am a Life member of The American Radio Relay League, a Life member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Life member of The Society of Wireless Pioneers, former ARRL ARES RACES Officer for Gloucester County, and an International Amateur Radio Union member. I have my DXCC, 8 BAND WAS, 6 MTR WAS, and 160 MTR WAS. I am a member of SMIRK, which is The 6 MTR International Radio Klub, ARRL A-1 Operator Club, and last but not least I am 10-10 Member. I am a past President of The Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club and while I was in that job I started the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest in 1979. I am also past Vice President of The Vineland Repeater Club, and past President of The Cruiser Olympia A.R.C. on the Delaware River at Penns Landing.

Next to the Olympia is the World War II Balao class diesel electric Submarine, the U.S.S. Becuna SS-319. Twenty years ago I had the pleasure of restoring the radio room of the Becuna. It was a special treat because I sailed as a Radioman on the U.S.S. Becuna while stationed in New London Connecticut in the mid 60's. Every year I go to Philadelphia and participate in the Submarine's On The Air weekend, and Museum Ships on the Air Weekend, and I thoroughly enjoy making both CW & Voice QSO's with as many hams as possible. Thank you very much one and all for making that a great success.

I have Certificates of Coordination for repeaters on 443.450 MHz. & 146.4750 MHz. These are now a work in process and I look forward to having 2 good operating repeater systems.

I am 59 years old and retired from Verizon Communications in June 2002 after 34 years of service. My gear consists of a Kenwood TS-940SAT, Kenwood TS-50, Kenwood TS-60 on 6 meters, a Tempo 2020, and a Kenwood TS-440SAT. I have an Alpha 76PA amp, a "King Conversion" SB-220 and a 6 meter Kilowatt. For antennas I am using a Barker & Williamson folded dipole and an Alpha Delta DX-LB 160 thru 10 meter Dipole, and a Butternut Vertical. I hope to erect several towers with beams in the near future. I also have a receiving sight which is located a quarter mile from my home. It consists of 8 telephone poles with an 1850 foot horizontal wire run at the 25 foot mark and an underground feed line to the shack. This receiving system works very well.

Editors Note: As of this date I understand that the 443.450 repeater is up and running and open to all to use.

Some New Wrinkles in 2005 Field Day Rules

Field Day will be held June 25 and June 26 this year and the ARRL has changed some of the rules. The new rules will require more members to participate if we are to maintain our 9A status. According to the new rules, "You have to actually have individual people and sufficient equipment capable of operating simultaneously," for each band you claim.

There are also bonus points available for 100 percent emergency power, media publicity, message handling, making satellite contacts, using an alternative power source and copying the W1AW bulletins.

This is a fun event and there are lots of ways you can participate including both operating, support and bonus point activities. So reserve Field Day weekend on your calendar and come on out and join in the fun.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the ARRL Letter.

Morse Code a Thing of the Past?

The US Military no longer is using Morse Code for regular communications and the FCC is slowly phasing out Morse Code as a requirement for an amateur radio license. It now looks like the ARRL is joining the band wagon and has dropped Morse Code as a mode of operating. It has been confirmed that the ARRL has dropped Morse Code from its current Operating Manual other than a few brief mentions. Some time down the road it is going to be very hard to have a QSO using Morse Code as the current users of the mode fade away.

Thanks to Harry Bryant, AA2WN, and the Keynote for the above.

Battleship New Jersey

I wish a very Happy Anniversary to BNJARS. The Battleship New Jersey records show that on Jan 27, 2001 a small group of very dedicated people gathered at the ship for the first of what was to be many work parties. Since that first day the group of hams first boarded her to see the extent of the work needed, over 18,000 hours of time have been contributed to the Communication Center of the BB-62. With utmost respect to the ship, her former crews and their history, the hams have given the Battleship a voice heard not only by hundreds of thousands of visitors but also around the world. Thanks to the NJ2BB shack and all those who do whatever it takes to keep it up and running, people in nearly 200 countries have heard her voice. BNJARS now has its own web domain and would like to have you visit the BNJARS website at <http://www.nj2bb.org>.

The ship is on winter hours now but will soon be going to summer hours. New displays are being worked on and from time to time the old displays are changed a little. So come out for a visit. Clubs can also arrange to come out and operate the Battleship station.

Thanks to Jean Priestly, KA2YKN, for the above.

March Birthdays

N2IMH, Jim Casto
N2WUP, Stuart Cleveland
WA2NPD, Doug Gehring
N2HYS, Janice Gorman
K2DX, Paul Munzenmayer
WN2T, Greg Potter
KC2NLM, Robert Slippey
N2MR, Mark Smith
W2YC, Dave Strout
WA2LET, Wayne Wilson
AA2BN, John Zaruba, Jr.



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: 3/24/2005

President-Darrell Neron, AB2E
Vice President-Wayne Wilson WA2LET
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML
Bob Krukowski KR2U
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

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-Ray WB2LNR
DX-Doug WA2NPD
Field Day-Bob KC2NLM
Hamfest-Harry AA2WN

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Harry Bryant AA2WN
Corresponding Secretary-John Fisher K2JF

Board of Directors

Al Arrison KB2AYU
Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO
Steve Blasko, W2TDS

Committees

Hospitality-Ken N2CQ
Membership-Ray WB2LNR
Nominations-Art Strong KA2DOT
Publicity-Open
Repeaters-Chuck WA2TML
Scholarships-Greg WN2T
Special Services-Gene N2IMK
Sunshine-Open
Technical-Bob KR2U
TVI-Open
VEC Testing-Chick WA2USI

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

Antennas for Battleships
Charlie Dietrich-N2CTW

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

