



Presidents Message

Those who missed last month's meeting really missed a very fine program on the relatively new digital mode called Winlink, given by John Zaruba, AA2BN. John is a fine speaker and knows his subjects well. You would be wise not to miss John's next presentation, whenever that might be. Our March 5th meeting features Pizza Night with plenty to eat and drink and rag chews to get to know each other better. Hope to see everyone there. Also, don't miss the article in this month's issue concerning the resurrection of our Club's Awards program. Our new Awards Chairman, Dave, W2YC, is going full speed ahead with preparing the details. Who will be first in the Club to be awarded a certificate in the 21st Century?

We are pleased to announce that, except for our Field Day chairman, we now have committee chairmen for all of our active committees. We still have time before Field Day is upon us and hopefully someone will step forward and fill the position within the next month or so. Actually, this job is not all that difficult as several bands have traditionally had the same band chairmen for several years and these bands are virtually already in place. The same is true for equipment and antennas. Also, it is expected that the power department (WB2NBJ) and the food department (WA2LET) may already be dusting-off their respective gear and utensils for another crack at first place in 9A. And our Publicity Department is in good hands with WA3UVV, hence, the chairman simply has to put the pieces together. We were delighted to welcome three new members into our Club at the last meeting (see elsewhere in Crosstalk) especially Ed, N2AYK, who is our County Radio Officer. It is very nice to see Ed following a too long period of absence. And, for some of you that have a long way to drive to our meetings, note that Charlie, K2PQD, has driven to the last two meetings all the way from the Woodbury area. Also note that Charlie is, I believe, the only active remaining charter member in our club and that he is 88 years young! He surely is an inspiration to all who have a long way to drive. Finally, don't forget that this, and all future Club meetings, will now start at 7:30 PM, NOT 8:00 PM! Also, wear your name badge and avoid the 50 cent penalty. See you there.

Doug, WA2NPD

March General Meeting Program

As Doug mentioned in his President's message the March meeting will be Pizza Night with lots of pizza and drinks to set the atmosphere for all to sit around and chew the fat both literally and figuratively. Come on out, bring your appetite, enjoy yourself and have a good chat with some of your fellow Club members that you probably haven't seen a quite a while. Remember that the meeting time has been changed to 7:30 PM so don't show up late and end up with cold pizza.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Although we are not getting much help from the sun, there have been some significant pile-ups on the bands for your pleasure over the last month. Depending upon conditions and your DX luck, you might have worked TI9KK, assorted FJs, VP6DX and YU8's on various bands and modes.

At this writing, VP6DX, is still pumping out contacts with some exceptionally strong signals for those wanting Ducie Island. Their 4-Square antennas on 30-80 Meters seem to be particularly effective. You might want to do a little antenna research on what these increasingly popular low band antennas are all about. The Pacific antenna farm they are using even includes a beacon on 6 Meters, AI. A five element six meter beam is in operation with some attempts being made to work South America during schedules. For more info on the entire operation including pictures of this 100,000+ QSO effort, just go to Google and type in "Ducie 2008" to find their website.

Ah, but the future brings some cloudiness to the DX crystal ball! Kosovo (or Kosova) has declared its independence to the cheers and jeers of different countries. It seems to have the credentials for DXCC entity status, but has not been recognized as such by the DXCC powers. If you hear a YU8 stroke something on, just work it and worry about it later. We will have to wait for the DXCC dust to settle before we are informed as to when and whom you might have worked counts.

Here's a possible DX wish list for you in March. Note that some rarer, possibly confusing prefixes are being used:

STATION	DATES	FQ/MODES	RARITY	ENTITY
SV9	2/25-3/15	160-10/CW,SSB	2	Crete
HK0	3/1-3/6	ALL/ALL	1	San Andres
TX5C	3/7-3/17	160/6	3	Clipperton Is.
HQ8R	3/15-3/23	160-10/ALL	1	Honduras
9X0R	3/16-3/27	160-10/ALL	3	Rwanda
5T	3/16-3/30	Most Bands/Modes	2	Mauritania
3W3M	3/20-4/2	40-10/SSB,CW	4	Vietnam - 3 IOTAs

DX Brain Bruiser: You are the typical GCARC member: retired, wealthy and vacationing in Rio de Janeiro for Carnival. You have permission to operate in your hands from the government and want to get on the air ASAP! What common, official two letter, single digit, prefix would you properly use before your US call sign? The answer will be announced at the next GCARC meeting.

New Club Members

February saw three new members join the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club. The new members are W8HCL, Mark Townsend, of Mullica Hill, KC2SUA, Kyle Townsend, also of Mullica Hill and N2AYK, Ed Champion, of Franklinville. Mark and Ed are both returning members. Kyle Townsend is the eight year old son of Mark Townsend and Ed Champion is the leader of the RACES group at the Clayton EOC. Congratulations to Kyle for getting his license at eight years old. It is good to see some younger people taking an interest in our hobby. All the members should introduce themselves and make our new members feel welcome at Club meetings and functions.

GCARC Awards Program

We are very pleased to announce that Dave, W2YC, has assumed the GCARC Awards Chairmanship and has announced that he is ready for business. This program has been dormant for several years and, no doubt, there are many current Club members who are not familiar with what this is all about.

The Club Award program was initiated in the early 1960s as a means to encourage Club members to get to know each other better via on the air rag chews and also, to give an opportunity to new hams to gain on-the-air experience by chatting with a fellow Club member. The rationale being that working a fellow Club member and friend is less nerve-wracking than working a complete stranger. Hence, by presenting the Awards Chairman with evidence (copy of your log, QSL cards, etc) of having worked 15 different club members (5 of the QSOs must be on the HF bands); the member is presented with a handsome Club Certificate, a most handsome decoration for the ham shack wall. The certificate may be endorsed for the next 15 QSOs with a handsome sticker with a ribbon and then for each additional ten members worked on ad infinitum. As with the original, the endorsement QSOs must contain a number of HF contacts. Hence, you can see, by following this trail, one soon becomes a pretty good radio operator, gets to know some other great people, and has something on the shack wall to show their spouse, etc. And, by the way, the Club Station at the Club site may also be used to work towards this award. Any mode is acceptable. For Technician Class holders, the HF requirement may be earned via 10 meter phone QSOs. A good way to earn this is to check into the RACES Sunday night net, then, after the net, QSY to 28.350 and chat with whomever is there. Be advised, the hello/goodbye QSO really doesn't count, nor do contacts made as part of a formal net operation. We are encouraging the rag chew, the get-to-know-you kind of QSO. Hopefully, the experienced club hams will check into ten meters on occasion and offer a good chance for you to pick-his-brain. Also, very important, schedules may be arranged and are encouraged. Many of the older Club members already have their Club certificate. Let's see how long it takes for a newer member to earn the first one in the new era of the solid state rig. Incidentally, for the contesters in the Club, W2YC is also checking into resurrecting the Mega Point Award. For any additional questions, check with Dave, W2YC, who attends most club meetings. Who will be first?

ARES/RACES Ramblings

By John Zaruba, AA2BN

This month I'd like to respond to some memes* that I hear floating around that can have a negative impact on our abilities to provides services in the emergency communication aspect of amateur radio.

"Why do I have to learn about all this ICS stuff, anyway?" The incident command system started as a firefighting command structure in the Western US to help large groups of firefighters be effective in combating wildland fires. Over time it has evolved into a generic system that enables emergency service units with dissimilar operational methods and training become a cohesive and effective group. The agencies we serve, on both the RACES and ARES sides work within the ICS, and they expect us to be able to as well.

"Why do I need all this training?" Formal training performs two valuable functions. It provides a means for best practices to be disseminated to a group, and recurring training is a mechanism for members to stay in touch with an evolving environment. Secondly, when we all train the same way, with the same information, our served agencies get higher quality, more consistent service. As is the case in business, when the customer is happy, they keep coming back for more.

Please see "ARES/RACES on page 4.

“ARES/RACES” from Page 3.

"When Joe Snuffy set this program up 40 years ago, we did..." I'm sure that Joe Snuffy made decisions that made sense at the time, but to be held hostage by history risks our becoming irrelevant in emergency communications. Emcomm is a fluid environment, constantly being changed by circumstances, experience, and expectations. We need to keep our heads up, our vision forward, and remain flexible to keep up with ever changing needs of the emergency response community.

"ARES and RACES don't get along." This one is my personal pet peeves. Whether it's the Red Cross, a hospital, or the county road department we are assisting, the job is the same. Effective, timely communications performed in an efficient, professional manner. There are some very minor rules differences depending on which hat (ARES or RACES) that we are wearing, but if members of the two groups don't get along it's personalities getting in the way. If we all show some humility by recognizing that no one knows it all and be willing to learn something from the other guy, there is no limit to the good things that can be accomplished.

Club members who have heard me preach about training at the general membership meetings will know how much I value the ICS classes available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses (ARECC) offered by the ARRL. I realize that online learning isn't for everyone especially with the experiences I have had with online classes while completing my college degree. At the Gloucester County EOC, ARECC Level 1 and 2 are periodically offered as locally taught classes. If you're interested, please let me know so I can notify you the next time a class is being planned.

John AA2BN

*meme-noun, an element of a culture or system of behavior that may be considered to be passed from one individual to another by non-genetic means, esp. imitation.

Technical Information Exchange Reminder

Got a technical question you need an answer to? Got a pet project you'd like to show off? Want to engage in some nice, juicy, technical, radio talk? Come on out to the Club site on the Saturday following the general membership meeting for the Technical Information Exchange (TIE). The TIE is held from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, but we have been known to stay longer when the topics get really fun. We'd love to see you there.

John AA2BN

Dues Are Due

Remember that 2008 dues are due by March 31st. To keep your name on the Club Roster please send your dues to Ken Newman at the Club address, GCARC, PO Box 370, Pitman, NJ 08071, see Ken at a Club meeting or if you wish to pay via Pay Pal contact Ken and he will give you the e-mail address to use for paying via Pay Pal. Dues for Full members are \$20 per year and for Associate members are \$15 per year.



MARCH conducted by N2SS **2008**

WARC BANDS

<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
W2YC. 312	N2SS ...325	WØMHK310
N2SS.....295	WØMHK.. 322	N2SS.....303
WØMHK ..279	W2YC 316	W2YC.....280
WA2NPD ..216	WA2NPD . 221	N2CQ.....99
AA2WN....171	AA2WN ... 122	WA2NPD...96
AB2E147	AB2E..... 122	AB2E92
N2CQ..... 111	N2CQ 115	AA2WN.....20

When the same call heads all 3 WARC bands we will have that elusive, undisputed **KING OF WARC**

160 Meters

W2YC..... 208	N2SS 79
WØMHK 152	AA2WN 36
AB2E 100	N2CQ 9
WA2NPD..... 96	

W2YC continues as our undisputed **Top of Top Band.**

DIGITAL

W2YC..... 287	N2SS 53
AA2WN..... 187	WA2JSG 10
N2CQ..... 151	



MOBILE DX

W2YC276	WØMHK 141
N2SS.....234	AA2WN 131

Looks like Dave and I have spent entirely too much time behind the wheel!



1.5K Club

W2YC1598	AA2WN 1369
N2SS.....1543	AB2E 1185
WØMHK 1478	N2CQ..... 1135
WA2NPD ... 1453	



Islands On The Air

N2SS.....846	AB2E 205
W2YC.....674	N2CQ..... 159
WØMHK381	



6 METER DXCC

WØMHK..... 106	W2YC.....38
N2SS55	AA2WN.....15



GRID SQUARES

WØMHK.....540
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Rules for GCARC Honor Roll Listings

Provide me with your total IOTAs worked, or countries (including deleted) worked for: WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters or your total for 80,40,20, 15 and 10 for 1.5K Club. Final category is Grid Squares – just send me your total worked. Lastly, you do not have to participate in every category to be listed; just send me your totals for any of the categories listed.

CURRENT OFFICIAL ARRL DXCC STATISTICS

Active Count	338
Deleted Count.....	58
Last Addition.....	KH8/S
Last Deletion.....	STØ

March Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in March:

Stephen Blasko, W2TDS
James Casto, N2IMH
Ed Champion, N2AYK
Stuart Cleveland, N2WUP
Robert Doak, K2MA
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD
Janice Gorman, N2HYS
Paul Munzenmayer, K2DX
Mark Smith, N2MR
Dave Strout, W2YC
Mark Townsend, W8HCL
Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
John Zaruba, Jr., AA2BN



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 April issue:
3/21/2008

Club Web-Site

<http://users.tellurian.com/freddie/w2mmd/>

President-Doug, WA2NPD
Vice President-Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Darrell Neron, AB2E
Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB

Cory, WA3UVV
Steve, W2TDS

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Corresponding Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU

Board of Directors

Harry Bryant, AA2WN
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
William Grimm, W0MHK

Trustees

Ray, WB2NBJ
Mike, N2SRO

Committees

ARES/RACES-John, AA2BN
Awards-Dave, W2YC
Budget-Steve, W2TDS
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E
Constitution-As needed
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ray, W2RM
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-Open
Hamfest-Harry, K2ATX

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Ray, W2RM
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD
Programs-Dave, WB3JOY
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T
Special Services, Darrell, AB2N
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Ray, W2RM

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

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

Pizza Night
Meeting starts at 7:30 PM

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

