



Presidents Message

I hope everyone weathered the record breaking snowstorms of 2010 without too much damage. We were lucky that the electric power did not go out in our area. I know that ARES/RACES was activated for one of the storms, so I hope everyone has their radio equipment ready for operation in emergency situations. I went out and checked on the W2MMD Clubsite, and everything seems to be in order.

If you missed the February meeting, shame on you. We were honored to have Mr. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, give us an informative and inspirational talk regarding the years he worked at the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. To me, Mr. Hollingsworth came across as a very down to earth and humble gentleman. Thanks to Vinnie, N4NYY for the photos of the event in this issue.

We have another excellent program on hand for March. John Zaruba, K2ZA, will give a presentation on APRS. APRS stands for Automatic Packet Reporting System. Come out to learn about the many ways Hams use this system.

73, AI KB2AYU

Welcome New Members

This month the Club welcomes two new members Jeff Garth, KC2WCS, and Adan Maskery. They both live in the Williamstown area and Jeff holds a Technician license while Adan is still working on his license. Please welcome them both when you meet them at Club meetings and functions.

John, K2ZA, to Present March Program on APRS

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Our March program will feature John, K2ZA, who will talk on APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System), the popular digital mode which burst upon the amateur scene some 25 years ago. Data communication is telecommunications between computers. Packet switching is a form of data communications that transfers data by subdividing it into "packets". Packet radio is packet "switching" using the medium of radio to do the data transfer. Modifications and improvements to the system have been developed over the years, and there is no one better than John, K2ZA, to bring us up to date. The so-called "Packet Clusters" are now very popular. You will not want to miss this presentation.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

PY2XB reports he's made 500 qsos on 12 Meters from Brazil in the past two days with a few hours of operating at high qso rates. Among them 17 JA stations... His last big opening to JA on 12M was in 2004. He says, "Hopefully propagation is getting better for good!" Amen!

That was just plucked from QST DX Editor W3UR's Daily DX Newsletter, and it sums up the great conditions I hope you had the good fortune to enjoy especially from February 13-15 in Down Jersey Land! (Even heard a strong local station with some baseball call sign(N4NYY)knocking off a KP4 during the "feeding frenzy") Ten Meters opened its DX door just a bit for a few qsos, but nothing like 12 Meter phone, cw, and digital. Keep in mind that even internal antenna tuners on many HF rigs today will find a way to load a non-resonant antenna on 12 Meters with a reasonable amount of RF output.

In short, find a way to get on and watch 12 Meters or you'll be missing out on much of the "DX Lore" you've probably heard about from our club's old timers!

How is your HBPT doing? That's your personal High Band Propagation Test for 2010(leisurely DX qsos (no contest qsos!) for 17, 15, 12 and 10M starting in January this year). As short February concludes, my 12 Meter totals overcame the big lead my 17 Meter totals had. For me, 12 Meters leads now with 48 DXCC entities(all continents), 44 on 17 Meters, 36 on 15 Meters and 10 Meters trailing way behind with 6 DXCC countries. Strong activity by new sunspot cycle active regions could get 10 Meters "popping". With the advent of spring, conditions on that band should also be seasonally enhanced.

With CQ World Wide SSB and ARRL International Phone Contest in March, many DXpeditions will slant in the direction of contesting qths for the month. Given that, it is a good time to "pick off" some new ones as these contest stations work the non-contest WARC bands BEFORE and AFTER the contests. Do some listening and watch the DX clusters for random DX surprises and possibilities.

So here is our line-up of DX "plums" for March. Remember, a 5 rating is the toughest to qso.

STATION	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	PRIORITY	ENTITY
9U	2/22-3/6	HF/ALL MODES/4 STNS	3	BURUNDI
XR0ZN	3/1-4/30(?)	7 OPS, CW/SSB/RTTY/HF	3	JUAN FERNANDEZ
VK9C/NL8F	3/3-3/10	80-10M/VERTICAL	4	COCOS-KEELING
3B9	3/3-4/2	HF/ALL MODES	3	RODRIGUEZ IS.
YN2EA	3/4-3/9	160-10M/CW,SSB, RTTY	1	NICARAGUA
7P8A0	3/8-3/22	80-10M/CW,SSB, RTTY	2	LESOTHO
V7	3/9-3/22	160-10M+60M/CW,SSB	2	MARSHALL IS.
J38	3/11-3/25	HF/ALL MODES	1	GRENADA
OX3/K0KU	3/22-4/8	IOTA NA-018	2	GREENLAND
VY0V	3/26-3/31	IOTA NA-231/ RARE!	1	NUNAVUT,CANADA

SOURCES: N3GK ADXO/ THE DAILY DX

Calling All Rookies

This year the ARRL will be sponsoring a Rookie Roundup designed to help newly licensed amateurs build their operating skills on HF. It is a contest specifically for those new to Amateur Radio, similar to the ARRL Novice Roundup that ran from 1952 until 1995. Three Rookie Roundups will be held each calendar year: SSB in April, RTTY in August and CW in December.

The Rookie Roundup will be scored 100 percent in real time through the www.getscores.org scoring system. There are three ways to participate: by using your favorite logging software with the real time scoring support, by downloading a simple logging program from the www.getscores.org web site or by logging your contacts directly into a www.getscores.org web page. No separate logs are required -- it all happens online in real time and final scores will be available online within hours of the end of the contest! More information is available on all of these options at www.getscores.org. Of course, you can get on the air and make contacts without logging them, but you won't have as much fun!

Any ham licensed for 3 years or less qualifies as a Rookie. If you were licensed in 2008, 2009 or 2010, you can compete in the 2010 Rookie Roundup. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies, while Rookies may work everybody.

Certificates will be available for all participants to download. The top five high scores from each US call area, Canadian province and Mexican call area will be recognized on their certificate. No national winners will be recognized. Go to www.getscores.org for more information on how to participate. Check out the April 2010 issue of QST for complete rules and other information. The Rookie Roundup -- a fun event for all amateurs!

Thanks to the [ARRL Letter](#) for the above.

Pitman Bike Race

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

On Saturday June 12th, Pitman is holding a pro-level bike race. It is a short, fast-paced event where we can provide rider-safety communications services and gain some good visibility. I'm looking for 10 club members (so far, I have 2) to help out. The time you are needed is from 8:00 to 11:00. Within the total of 10 members I'm hoping will step forward are 1 or 2 that can man a small display in town to talk to folks about ham radio. (They're expecting a good turnout)

I know that June seems like a long time away, especially when you look at the thermometer and the snow still on the ground, but I'd like to know ASAP if we can commit to the race organizers. If we can't offer a sufficient number of ourselves by March 15th, I'm going to have to tell them they'll need to make other arrangements. This would be a shame, especially considering that this is the town that hosts 3 of our 4 repeaters.

The GCARC has a history of public service for many events that have taken place over the years. In recent times, we seem to have moved away from that. I know that there are many demands on a person's time these days, but here is a short family-friendly event (bring them along) that doesn't require that much from us. If you would like to help out for a few hours, show ham radio and the GCARC in a positive light and watch a bike race up close and personal, please let me know. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Hams in Haiti

After a magnitude 7.3 earthquake devastated Haiti on January 27, amateur radio operators are still hard at work there connecting rescuers within the country and to the outside world. But now they have switched gears from rescue mode to recovery mode as aid workers set up camps and distribute food, water, medical supplies, and other aid to survivors.

A spokesperson for the Salvation Army which embeds amateur radio operators with local Salvation Army recovery teams in disaster areas said that this operation has been extremely challenging. The problem has been the expected over loading of the remaining communications infrastructure and a lack of local amateur operators as Haiti is home to very few hams. Though there are around 100 to 120 ham licenses active for Haiti, only about seven or eight operators were actually in Haiti at the time the earthquake hit. Most of the operators who have Haitian licenses aren't even Haitian but rather missionaries and aid workers who travel in and out of the country.

Aid in communications has come from the hams brought in with the aid workers and from Hams from the neighboring Dominican Republic who have traveled into Haiti several times to set up equipment, despite being attacked by looters They set up a 2-meter repeater high on a mountain close to the Haiti–Dominican Republic border to help the hams working with the recovery operations. Dominican operators installed a second repeater near the airport in Port-au-Prince and were expecting a third to arrive from the ARRL, which they will put in the region southeast of the capital.

Thanks to the [IEEE Spectrum](#) for the above.

The Altoids Alternative

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

While many hams have discovered the versatility of the Altoids Tin for small projects – especially QRP related – others have raised the use of enclosures like this to an art form. Ever see a ½ watt transceiver inside a mouse? Recently, I discovered that Game Stop stores have small enclosures available, as well.

Originally designed to hold gift cards, they sell miniature replicas of the Wii, X-Box, DS, Playstation and more for just \$2.99 right now. The Wii cases are almost perfect for RockMites and similarly sized projects. Same goes with some of the others. I just put a FreqMite – a frequency counter that reads out in CW in one. While they don't include curiously strong mints, they might be just the thing to hold your next station accessory.

Riley Hollingsworth Visit Most Successful

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Our February Club Meeting featured a visit and presentation by retired FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief for the Amateur and Land Mobile Services, Riley Hollingsworth, who is very well known to all USA Hams. Riley has given many presentations and seminars to ham gatherings over the years, particularly at Dayton and at ARRL Conventions. He currently serves as an ARRL Atlantic Division Assistant Director and has been licensed since 1961. Riley lives in Gettysburg, PA and holds the call, K4ZDH. Riley's talk covered mostly his work at the FCC and his philosophical approach to the handling of Amateur enforcement problems. Fortunately, none of our Club Members have had any unfavorable involvements with Please see "Visit" on page 6.

Just how fast are Radio Waves?

Radio waves are pretty darn fast. In fact, they travel at the speed of light. That is 299,792,458 meters/sec or 186,000 miles /sec. In the little quiz below, pick an answer for how long it takes radio waves to travel the given distance. (Answers at the bottom of Page 6)

How long to travel a mile? (us= microsecond)

- (a) 2.2us (b) 5.4us (c) 10.8us

How long to travel around the earth?

- (a) .05sec (b) .13sec (c) .25sec

How long to travel to the moon?

- (a) .5sec (b) 1.3sec (c) 2.5sec

How long to travel to the sun?

- (a) 5.2min (b) 8.3min (c) 10.4min

How long to travel across the milky way?

- (a) 100yrs (b) 100,000yrs (c) 1,000,000yrs

Shot Rock from the Hammer on the Button

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Have you been watching any of the Winter Olympics from Vancouver? The downhill Skiing, Jumps and Half Pipe are favorites of many and I have watched some of those, but almost all my viewing time has been spent on one sport – Curling.

Laugh if you will – I did when I first saw it – but it quickly grew on me. A combination of chess, pool and a completely different way to use a broom – Curling can soon draw you in to it's strategy, plus (for the NASCAR fans) it's cool to watch 44-pound stones hit each other. BTW, to outfit a team, a set of the elite blue granite stones (direct from Scotland) list for about \$30,000 (US).

In one of the few areas where women's sports seems to have an edge, the female athletes appear to have more of a draw than the men, and display more passion and focus. Although around since the mid-1850's, Curling is certainly not the most popular sport. Having said that, there have been "crowd noise" complaints by some opposing teams whenever Canada or the US is playing! (At least no one is "cooking the PA system" to increase crowd sound like they apparently did in Indianapolis a while back during a certain NFL game...)

As with most other things, when you start watching Curling, you will be exposed to some new terms like House, Button, Hammer, Shot Rock, Ends and more. Plus you'll learn the meaning of commands like "Sweep", "Clean", "Whoa" and the ever-popular "Haaard!". Give it a chance the next time it's on, or watch some game clips at www.cbc.ca for more.

Just like Curling, Chess is another one of those things that doesn't seem all that interesting at first blush, but commands a passionate following. While many see it as a "geeky activity", there are competitions Please see "Rock" on Page 6.

“Rock” continued from Page 6

and a hierarchy of expertise levels, where Master or Grand Master status has it’s earned rewards.

While we all (should) know, amateur radio is an enjoyable interest, with many aspects that can grab our attention and provide us with a lifetime of enjoyment. Just like Chess and Curling, we need to get people past the initial “sounds boring” image that many have – if they even know about us at all. Both are actively recruiting every day, what about us?

What do you think we as individuals, a club or the ARRL should do to further promote amateur radio to kids of all ages? I’m not asking you to actually do something, just throw out some ideas. Let me know what you think would work.

“Visit” continued from Page 4.

Riley . Many pictures of the evening were taken thanks to Vinnie, N4NNY, who also was responsible for bringing Riley to our Club meeting. Vinnie had purchased a used rig from Riley some years ago and this led to his visit at this time. Many thanks to Vinnie for paving the way for Riley’s visit. We expect to have an article and picture in QST in the not too distant future. We had about 12 visitors present from the Cape May and SCARA Clubs and we also welcomed George Strayline, W2GSS, the ARRL SNJ Section Manager, who lives near Cape May. We had some 30 of our own Club members in attendance, which was a bit disappointing considering the visibility of our guest speaker. Nevertheless, a very FB evening was enjoyed by all.



Riley Hollingsworth with GCARC Members

Answers to speed of radio waqves quiz on Page 6-All answers are (b)

March Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in March:

James Casto, N2IMH
Ed Champion, N2RO
Stu Cleveland, N2WUP
Jeffery Garth, KC2WCS
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD
Paul Munzenmayer, K2DX
Greg Potter, WN2T
Bill Price, NJ2S
Mark Smith, N2MR
Dave Strout, W2YC
Mark Townsend, W2OCY
Dan Tremolini, N2TXG
Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
John Zaruba Jr., K2ZA



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: 3/26/2010

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.com>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Vice President-Harry Ewell, K2ATX
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Doug Gehring, WA2NP

Steve, W2TDS
Cory, WA3UVV

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Harold Garron, AC2BK
Corresponding Secretary-Vinnie, N4NYY

Board of Directors

William Grimm, W0MHK
Harry Bryant, AA2W
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO

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-Ken, N2CQ
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-Vinnie, N4NYY
Hamfest-Harry, K2ATX
Historian-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Harry, K2ATX
4H Liaison-K2ATX

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

Automatic Packet Reporting System
John Zaruba, K2ZA

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

