



President's Message

March is upon us and with it comes the following dates to remember:

March 2 & 3 – ARRL International DX Contest – SSB

March 6 – General membership meeting

March 10 – Daylight Savings Time begins; North American RTTY Sprint

March 30 & 31– CQWW WPX SSB Contest

New trailer update-*Master Welder*, Joe, KC2PHM, repaired the trailer hitch and both he and Frank, W2FJM, recently installed it. The trailer can now be safely moved into position once the foundation is in place. Bill, N2VIL is awaiting construction code requirements on the foundation from Harrison Township. Chuck, WA2TML, is working with our insurance company regarding providing adequate coverage.

Walk MS takes place on April 21, May 4 and May 5 at 14 sites across the Greater Delaware Valley. The Washington Lake Park walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 5. Parvin State Park has been cancelled this year. More details will follow.

Dues Reminder-For those who have not yet paid their club dues for 2013, now is the time! Full member's dues are \$20. Family Members living at the same address are \$10. See the Treasurer at the Club meeting or mail a check payable to "GCARC" to GCARC, PO Box 370, Pitman, NJ 08071

ARRL Membership

As a member of the ARRL, for as little as \$39.00 per year, here are some of the benefits you will enjoy:

- QST Magazine – your monthly membership journal
- Online Services –
 - QST online monthly digital edition
 - QST Archive and Periodical Search
 - Product Review Archive
 - Email forwarding
 - E-Newsletters – delivered to your inbox
- A voice in the affairs of ARRL and ham radio through locally appointed volunteers
- Publication Specials and on-line course discounts
- Emergency Communication Services
- Technical and Regulatory Information Services
- Operating Awards
- Ham Radio Equipment Insurance Plan Available
- Outgoing Foreign QSL Service

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Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Most of my February has been spent enjoying the dry and warm temps of the Valley of the Sun in Phoenix. Checking propagation and cluster lists on an I-Pad seemed to show mixed DX activity while I had no rig in W7-land.

The sun seems to be in a "remission" mode again with occasional flares. NASA has come out with information confirming our suspicions that this, indeed, is the lowest performing solar cycle since 1904! DX openings are occurring but with far less strength and duration that we have become accustomed to in previous solar cycles. There is still time for another solar peak before this cycle ends. Take what DX you can get (especially on 10 and 12 Meters) with our better than ever technology in our rigs, antennas, and internet capabilities!

March DX operations again emphasize the Pacific. Forty meters in the early morning and 10 Meters down to 20 Meters after that should provide propagation to many of the selections listed below. With longer days comes more time to work those needed ones on the higher bands after work as the sun sets. Spratly Islands, 9M4SLL, is probably the rarest operation scheduled in March. Their qth is a permanent installation so this can work to your advantage in bagging this one about 9,000 miles away from Down Jersey. Remember to consider Long Path if you are using a directional antenna in hunting this DX prize.

Closer to home, the TX5K "bash" from a large international team headed for Clipperton Island should start at the Feb/March border for about 10 days. No permanent population here, so you need to work this during a DXpedition visit. At less than 3000 miles away, this is a great time to add this entity to your DXCC totals with the geographic advantage in your favor instead of Europe or Japan in competition for a new one!

Finally, remember that a quick exchange of "5-9 New Jersey" during the ARRL DX Contest the final full weekend of March can be a quick way to work a new one. Judging by some excellent February ARRL CW Contest results, 10 METERS could be a really HOT BAND for this contest. The world is looking for the USA in this DX party, so it takes a bit of the edge off operating in this one if you are a bit "contest-shy". Let's hope for a successful DX March with the following DX mix:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	5=MOST RARE	ENTITY
TX5K	2/28-3/10	ALL BANDS/MODES	4	CLIPPERTON IS
3B9DX	3/1-3/10	80-10/CW,SB,DIG	3	RODRIGUEZ IS
PJ7AA	3/2-3/17	160-10/CW,SSB	1	ST. MARTIN
9X0NH	3/4-3/12	MAINLY CW	3	RWANDA
H44G	3/8-3/25	9OPS,4 STNS, SSTV TOO!	3	SOLOMAN IS.
9M4SLL	3/10-3/25	8 OPS/MULTI STNS	4	SPRATLY IS.
H40T	3/12-3/23	THE H44 TEAM ABOVE!	3	TEOMOTU IS.
T2GM	3/12-3/20	MAINLY SSB	3	TUVALU IS.
ZL7LC	3/14-3/20	PSK-31/UP 100-400KHZ	3	CHATHAM IS.
XR0YG	3/20-3/27	160-10M/CW-LOW BANDS	2	EASTER IS.
A3EAQ	3/26-4/16	80-10/SSB EMPHASIS	3	TONGA IS.
VK9C	3/30-4/13	SSB/CW/RTTY	4	COCOS/KEELING
ARRL DX CONTEST-PHONE	3/30-3/31	DON'T FORGET 10M!		

Wednesday, March 6, "Lightning Protection"

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

Lightning protection specialist Ron Block (NR2B) will be visiting GCARC as our guest speaker for the evening. Ron has over twenty years' experience in the lightning protection industry as a lightning protection consultant, newsletter editor, and PolyPhaser Corporation product distributor. He has been the moderator of the *Lightning Protection Forum* at Dayton on numerous occasions.

This program will discuss the characteristics of lightning and how it affects us as amateurs, review your chances of being struck depending upon location and tower height, and examine how lightning impulse current can be controlled to eliminate damage to equipment, how lightning strike magnetic fields from a nearby tower can destroy electronic equipment, proper exterior grounding for protection and RF grounding, and a useful approach toward establishing a single point ground system in the radio room. A software simulator will be used to demonstrate the effects of tower placement in relation to the radio equipment, coax/tower take-off height options, and single point ground connection options.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Brian Jones KD2BXD on the upgrade to General. Brian says he will be working on Extra in the near future. Good Luck from everybody at the GCARC, Brian.

Check your radio knowledge

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

Here's a few questions pulled from the General Class question pool, in the theme of the program topic for our March 6th meeting. Answers are listed after the questions in visual Morse code. For anyone looking to upgrade to General, or just looking for a refresher, the full question pool is available from the "Get Your Ham Ticket" tab on the left side of the main page of our web site (w2mmd.org). Good luck!

(G0B09) Why should soldered joints not be used with the wires that connect the base of a tower to a system of ground rods?

- A. The resistance of solder is too high
- B. Solder flux will prevent a low conductivity connection
- C. Solder has too high a dielectric constant to provide adequate lightning protection
- D. A soldered joint will likely be destroyed by the heat of a lightning strike

(G0B11) Which of the following is good engineering practice for lightning protection grounds?

- A. They must be bonded to all buried water and gas lines
- B. Bends in ground wires must be made as close as possible to a right angle
- C. Lightning grounds must be connected to all ungrounded wiring
- D. They must be bonded together with all other grounds

(G0B13) What must you do when powering your house from an emergency generator?

- A. Disconnect the incoming utility power feed
- B. Insure that the generator is not grounded
- C. Insure that all lightning grounds are disconnected
- D. All of these choices are correct

(answers: G0B09: -. G0B11: -. G0B13: .-)

Club Events

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

If you missed the February 6th Club meeting, I'm sorry, because you really missed out on a great presentation from our two guest speakers, George Heron (N2APB) and Joe Everhart (N2CX) from the NJQRP club. But all is not lost. You can see pictures from the meeting, and a copy of their presentation, posted on our web site (w2mmd.org) by following the "Club Programs and Events -> Past Programs / Events" tab on the left of the screen. You can also follow George and Joe online during their bi-weekly Internet radio program "Chat With the Designers". More details available from www.njqrp.org/.

Congratulations to Al Arrison KB2AYU for being first to find the transmitter during our "winter classic" radio direction finding hunt held Sunday afternoon, February 10. For photos from the event, including some close-ups of Al's all-electric battery powered truck that he used during the hunt, follow the "Club Programs and Events -> Past Programs / Events" tab on our Club web site, www.w2mmd.org/.

In addition to the programs planned for our regularly scheduled Club meetings (e.g. "Lightning Protection" on March 6), we have additional Club events scheduled for this spring, including a trip to be guest radio operators on board the Battleship New Jersey on April 21, and the GCARC family picnic and field day later in June. Announcements for these and other events will be made at our club meetings, with updates posted on our web site. Hope to see you there!

Welcome New Members

This month the Club welcomes the following new members:

Norman (Norm) Glenn, W2GAR, who holds an Extra Class License and is from Somerdale, NJ
James (Jim) Hannon, KC2SNI, who holds a General Class License and is from West Berlin, NJ
Mark Harris, KC2VEF, who holds a Technician Class License and is from the Williamstown, NJ area.
Dr. Clarence Rodgers, AA2QD, who holds an Extra Class License and is also from the Williamstown, NJ area.

Welcome to all of you. We are glad to have you as members. Hopefully we will see you at Club meetings and functions.

Old Club members, please introduce yourself to these new members and make them feel at home when you meet them at Club meetings and functions.

Payout

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

For those of you who noticed the radio callsign hunt puzzle in last month's Crosstalk, with the cash reward for finding your own callsign, and were curious about if I had to payout, well the answer is yes, I did. But that's OK! It could have been worse. A few people were kicking themselves, having read it, but having forgotten to follow the directions and bring in a printed copy. And a few made it a point to tell me they had read it, but were saving me a dollar. Thanks to Gene for publishing and thanks to you for reading! Maybe I'll slip something like that again into next month's issue.....

Meet Ray Martin, W2RM

Ray got his first initiation into short wave listening in 1953 when he was 8 years old and he discovered an old Philco radio in his grandfather's garage. He figured out what the BCST, SW1 and SW2 markings on the radio meant and immediately got hooked on coming home from school every day and going out to the garage and listening to the radio. He knew right away that someday he was going to become a ham radio operator.

When he got to Woodbury High School he joined the ham radio club. He was assigned an Elmer who lived in his town, Westville. His Elmer was Don Curtis and his call sign then was K2UWC. Now it is W3LR and he lives in Dallas, PA. Don lived about five blocks from Ray's home and they became close friends. He taught Ray the ropes of ham radio including how to be a considerate operator and CW and Ray's future in ham radio was set in motion.

In 1963 Ray took his Novice test and was assigned WN2LNR as a call. Within a month Ray took the test for a Technician Class License and was assigned the call of WB2LNR. He then got General Class License and started to cover his walls with all the certificates he could. His first piece of wallpaper was the coveted RCC award.

Next, he joined the Navy and of course they put him into communications. He wanted to become a radio electronics technician but the Navy had other plans for him, especially since by then he was copying CW at 35 words per minute. He traveled far and wide with the Navy and was on six submarines, two destroyers and one cruiser.

He says, "The hobby was wonderful to me; I made a lot of friends. My radio experiences both in the hobby and the Navy has given me a wealth of knowledge and most of the time I do have the proper answers for the questions".

Ray is now 67 years old now, retired from Verizon Communications after 34 years. Over the years he has enjoyed CW the most, then SSB, RTTY, PSK31, and a few other digital modes. His station consists of a Kenwood TS-940SAT with an ALPHA 87A automatic amplifier which gives him the legal limit on the bands from 10 to 160 meters. He has an Icom IC-7000 transceiver and uses this rig primarily on 6 meters with a KING converted Heathkit SB-220 amp. This gives him a full KW output on 6 meters. His other rig is an Icom IC706-MK2"G" transceiver with a Dentron Clipperton-V which he uses on 2 meters CW and SSB. He is currently using dipole antennas but when he gets his beams back up he will have a Cuschcraft A4S + 40 add on at 81ft, a 6 meter beam at 93 ft. and a 2 meter beam at 106 ft.

He says, "Out of all the hobbies I have, ham radio is by far, the best one of the bunch. No matter where I go or where I live I will always enjoy Amateur Radio". Ray is still an active ham and in 2011 got 1st Place, in SSB, High Power, for 10 meters in Southern New Jersey. See a picture of Ray's impressive shack on page 5.

Editor's Note: When I first took over Crosstalk over ten years ago the column meet your fellow Club member was a regular feature in Crosstalk. Over the years we got to meet many of our fellow Club members, but eventually we ran out of members willing to give me the information necessary to continue the column. Since it has been quite a few years since the column has appeared in Crosstalk, maybe some of the current members might be interested in starting the column back up on a regular basis. Send me some information on your background, how you got started in ham radio and your current interests and I will give it a try.



W2RM's Shack
Not too shabby.

The Shortwave Receiver You Probably Don't Use

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

I recently bought a Hallicrafters FPM-300, an HF transceiver that's just about as old as my interest in amateur radio. The rig is solid state, with the exception of the driver and final stages, which are tube-driven. By today's standards, it is big, heavy and subject to thermal drift, but I wanted it as a restoration project and to eventually put on the air and enjoy something from 40 years ago.

Interestingly, while so much of ham radio (and technology in general) have changed over the past century, you can still put a circa 1930 CW transmitter on the air and make contacts with someone who owns the latest in state of the art gear. AM still works fine, too. The SSB from a rig of the 1960's may be indistinguishable from today's enhancements to most ears. So while the FPM-300 isn't a good choice for PSK-31, it's still fine for RTTY and other modes

One thing that does stand out in equipment from this era is the receiver coverage. Rigs of this period were not synthesized and the tuning was limited to the hams bands in question, with some possible
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excursion above and below, for things like MARS operation. With the advent of inexpensive synthesizers and digital technology, general coverage (500 KHz to 30 MHz) became the norm.

Yet, how many of us ever use our HF rigs to listen to shortwave broadcasts? Yes, you’ll find a lot of religious content, commodities traders and some hate radio thrown in, but you’ll also find news sources that cover stories you won’t hear about from domestic sources. By the time the TV networks fill up their 30 minutes with advertising, (both commercials and content – ABC with Disney related material, etc.) other fluff pieces that are more relevant to “Entertainment Tonight” viewers than those seeking real news and the domestic top stories that everyone else is covering – there isn’t much time left for other news.

Radio is still the way to go for such things. Networks like NPR do a good job at in-depth coverage of stories you won’t hear elsewhere. Going outside our borders is a good idea, too. The BBC is still a great source for English language broadcasts and stories from all over the globe. The Chinese government also has a robust broadcast schedule and it’s interesting to listen closely to pick out some of the propaganda mixed in with the news.

Those of us with HF gear in our cars can listen to all of this (and more) while driving around. Although you can find time and frequency schedules on line, picking up a copy of magazines like “Monitoring Times” and “Popular Communications” will reward you with listings you can easily reference time and time again.

So important is shortwave radio to many in other countries, a charity, “Ears to Our World”, works to provide shortwave radios to small villages and communities as a lifeline for news, education, entertainment and other valuable content. Founded by Tom Witherspoon, K4SWL, of QRPER.com fame, its goal is to distribute as many of these radios as possible. You can learn more about these worthwhile efforts at www.EarsToOurWorld.org and pick up some of the latest on QRP announcements and news at www.QRPer.com. While you may not think that shortwave broadcasts are still important, Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe’s head of state thinks they are. In fact, starting February 21st, Mr. Mugabe – who’s name is synonymous with genocide, tyranny, corruption, fraud and other wonderful pursuits, instructed his minions to begin forcibly searching homes and confiscating shortwave receivers. Supposedly, it’s now illegal to own one. Even though the laws in place only extend to transmitters, he’s decided to interpret it to mean anything that’s connected to shortwave. (It’s good to be the king)

Whenever someone’s threatened by independent thought and opposing views, it says more about them than those with such thoughts. Think about that the next time you have some free time to listen to voices from the rest of the world. While you do, be thankful you live in a nation where intelligent discourse is allowed – in fact, it’s encouraged...

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For those joining the ARRL for the first time or for those members renewing their membership, please do so through the Club. The Club receives a \$15.00 commission on new members and \$2.00 on renewals. Please see A1, KB2AYU, for more information.

In closing, congratulations are in order for Jim Wright, N2GXJ, who recently became a Life Member of the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

Thanks and 73,
Tom, KE2ES

March Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in March:

Ed Champion, N2RO
Stuart Cleveland, N2WUP
Jeffery Garth, KC2WCS
Paul Munzenmayer, K2DX
Bill Price, NJ2S
Mark Smith, N2MR
Dave Strout, W2YC
Mark Townsend, W2OCY
Daniel Tremolini, N2TXG
Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
Jim Wright, N2GXJ
John Zaruba, 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 the April issue:
3/22/13

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Vice President-Jim Wright, N2GXJ
Treasurer-Al Arrison, KB2AYU

Art Strong, K2AWS
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Mark Townsend, W2OCY

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ
Bill Szkromiuk, N2VIL

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Sheldon Parker, K2MEN
Corresponding Secretary-Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Board of Directors

Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY
Jeffery Garth, KC2WCS

Trustees

Steve Blasko, W2TDS
Martin Wilt, W2ILT

Committees

ARES/RACES - Joe, KC2PHM
Awards-Kenny, W2KRD
Budget-Al, KB2AYU
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E
Constitution/By-Laws - Adan, KC2YJX
Contests-Ken, W2KRD
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ken, N2CQ
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day - Mark, W2OCY & Kyle, W2KBT
HamFest - Open Position
Historian-Art, K2AWS

Hospitality-Dave, WB3JOY
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Tom, KE2ES
Programs-Jim, N2GXJ
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Tom, KE2ES
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
Website-Jeff, KC2WCS

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

7 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)

March Meeting
Lightning Protection
Ron Block, NR2B

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