

CROSSTALK

Issue #5

MAY, 2003

Presidents Message

With field day and the hamfest coming up rapidly, I again have to appeal to the members for someone to come forward and become the hamfest chairperson. The hamfest is the only real money maker the club has. Dues do not bring in nearly enough money to support our programs alone. The job is not too bad as there are several current members who have previously been chairpersons and they and the membership will help out as they have in the past. Time is getting short for the paperwork to be put in to the league and for the raffle. We must have a volunteer by this months meeting.

Ray Martin is the Field Day chairman and I know he needs a 20 meter SSB chairman. Field Day is always lots of fun and a way to hone our operating skills. Let's get out there and come in first in our class again. I will be there to operate but my primary job will be to tend the generator. I promise not to fall asleep in my truck this year and let the generator run out of gas. HI HI.

All members who have not paid up their dues are urged to do so as soon as possible, preferably at this months meeting.

One other important item, the May meeting will be held in the senior center across the parking lot from the regular place. This change of location is for this month only.

With best 73 & 88,
Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ

Editor's Note: As Ray says above, the field day chairman does not have to do all the work himself but has to make sure all of those with assigned jobs follow through and has to be available the day before and the day of the hamfest to coordinate. A few meetings and a weekend are most of what is required.

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Band conditions this past 10 days have been generally poor as SF1 numbers dip below 100 and magnetic flux disturbance (K and A values) hover around 4 and 20, respectively. This is understandable at this time of the year as the 11 year solar cycle (No. 23) is on its predictable downward path and increased solar flares and auroral activity result in increased geomagnetic disturbances. In addition, local noise levels are generally rising often causing 160, 80, and 40 meters to be unworkable and the high static levels will only worsen as summer approaches. Also checking the gray-line map, one recognizes the ever increasing daylight in the Northern hemisphere thus effectively shortening the distances now possible especially on 160 and 80 meters. All of this combines to limit the heretofore more favorable wintertime HF DX conditions and serve to make very long DX paths especially more difficult.

Does this mean it is time to mothball the HF rig and antennas until say October? Of course it doesn't. It simply means that one will not hear stations in such places as Nepal, India, China and Mongolia with much regularity. And 10 meters will now be severely limited to mostly short skip communications. Nevertheless, this is a good time to work the not-so-far away DX, i.e. the multitude of Caribbean islands, Central and South America, Europe, Africa and the South Atlantic and the South Pacific ocean islands, etc. Did you know that there are about 30 DXCC entities in the Caribbean alone? As your scribe writes this column, the multinational DX operation to Western Sahara (S05X) is in full swing with strong signals on 40, 80, and 30 meters (it's now 10 PM local time). This group is located in the Western African desert using generators, linears, and a variety of first class antennas. Unfortunately, they will be gone as you are reading this; however, they were reported upon last month.

Regardless of the above, let's see what is out there for this month.

Station	Dates	Frequency/Mode	Rarity*	Country
4X55I (1)	Now until 5/10	All; All	3	Israel
FO/F8CFU	5/6-5/16	80-10; SSB,CW	3	Astral Island
S92UN	Now until Aug	20-10; SSB	4	Sao Tome
YI/ USA calls (2)	Now	40-10; CW, SSB	4	Iraq
SU9NC	Now	30; CW	3	Egypt
JT1Y	5/6-5/29	80-10; CW, SSB	3	Mongolia
N6NO/VP9	5/14-5/21	80-10; CW	2	Bermuda
C93CM	4/20-5/4	80-10; CW, SSB, RTTY	3	Mozambique
9N7DX	4/22-5/13	All; All	3	Nepal

(1) A special event station.

(2) With permission granted by Ham's superior officer.

* 5 is the rarest

Thanks to [Weekly DX](#); [425 DX News](#), W2YC, K2JF, WA2LET, and AA2WN.

Editor's Note: Hopefully you all noticed Doug's QSL card prominently displayed on page 21 of the May issue of [QST](#). It is a display of the VP8THU and VP8GEO DXpedition teams cards for WAS.

Membership Database

Bob Krchnavek, K2DAD, our Treasurer, is in the process of updating the club database and needs your help. He needs updated information for each member including name, home address, e-mail address, phone number, birth date, license class and call if applicable and if you are a current ARRL member.

Dues for 2003 are due so if you are mailing Bob a check for your dues please include the above information with the check or you can e-mail Bob with the information. Bob's e-mail address is krchnavek@rowan.edu and his mailing address is 50 Eastwick Drive, Gibbstboro, NJ 08026.

Field Day, June 28 and 29

By Ray Martin, WB2LNR

Well folks, it's been quite some time since I have been Field Day chairman - so be gentle with me. This year Field Day is on the weekend of June 28 & 29 at the 4H Fairground.

For those of you who will be using computer logging (and I do want you to) use CT 9.27 which is the latest version. Harry Bryant, AA2WN, will bring disks with this program for those of you who do not have it.

I will be in touch with our president Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ, to see what else will be needed. I don't know about food and drink as of yet, that is another question we will be looking into.

This year Art Strong, KA2DOT, will have his air conditioned trailer. So if anybody has any heat exhaustion symptoms, Art said you can sit in the air conditioning if needed. The following is a list of the band chairpersons:

6 CW & SSB	N2WUP	STUART CLEVELAND
15 CW	N2CQ	KEN NEWMAN
20 CW	W2YC	DAVE STROUT
40 CW	AA2WN	HARRY BRYANT
40 SSB	WA2LET	WAYNE WILSON
75 SSB	KA2DOT	ART STRONG

John Fisher, K2JF, will be helping Stuart, N2WUP, with 6 meters during the day. If no one wants 75 CW, John said they would take it at night time if they can get some help with CW. If someone else wants 75 CW, let me know.

ALL SETUP LOCATIONS WILL BE IDENTICAL TO LAST YEAR. LET'S NOT JUMP IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SPOT. IT WORKED OUT VERY WELL LAST YEAR IN REGARDS TO INTERFERENCE. START GETTING YOUR ITEMS TOGETHER SO YOU ARE NOT RUNNING AROUND LOOKING FOR THINGS AT THE LAST MINUTE. GET A CHECKLIST TOGETHER AND GET ALL YOUR ITEMS READY.

A copy of Field Day Rules can be obtained by going to arrl.org from your computer browser. I will have a copy of the rules, but it would be nice if you had a look see for yourself.

If you need to contact me on the phone call me

Please be advised, if you call me from a phone that does not show me a name on my caller ID, the call will not come through. You have been warned.

Best Regards and let's have a great Field Day 2003,

Ray Martin, WB2LNR
WB2LNR@ARRL.NET

Battleship New Jersey Operations

Harry Bryant passed on the following information on upcoming operations from the Battleship New Jersey:

60th Anniversary of the commissioning of BB62

The Battleship New Jersey station will operate from 1400Z May 24, 2003 until 0200Z May 25th. The actual commissioning of the ship was May 23, 1943. Here is the write up from the SNJ Section manager's web page at arrl.org.

"Battleship New Jersey announces a 60th Anniversary Station using the call sign NJ2BB on 24 May, 2003 from 1400 UTC to 0200 UTC 25 May, 2003. Those seeking the Certificate commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the commissioning will be sent a special certificate, signed by a member of the original radio room team! SASE's to KB2BRR, full size for unfolded certificate please! Check on the '62's +/- QRM for the station, or check www.qsl.net/bb62 for further details."

Museum Ships Event Weekend

Operations from 0000Z July 18 thru 2359Z July 20, 2003. This weekend long event typically draws upwards of 75 museum ships from around the world. In past years we have had as many as 4 stations on the HF bands simultaneously - three stations in the ham shack and one in Radio Central. Last year we operated SSB, CW, AM, PSK31 and Flashing Light.

Any questions e-mail Harry direct at aa2wn@arrl.net.

DXCC to Accept Iraq Portable Approved Operations

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the League will accept for DXCC credit YI/ operations from Iraq by US or British military personnel provided the operator has written permission from his or her commanding officer.

"There is precedent for this," Mills said, citing an operation during the 1991 Gulf War. "These operators will need written authorization to operate from their commanding officers until an interim Iraqi civilian government is in place," Mills said. After that point, operators would need documented permission from Iraqi authorities.

The Daily DX has reported that several hams with the US military in Iraq have been showing up on the air in recent days. Mark Smith, NG5L, has been active from near Nasiriya as YI/NG5L on SSB, usually around 0500 UTC near 14.195 MHz. He's also been spotted in Europe and North America on other 20-meter frequencies and at other times of the day. Smith is in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Jim Dunkerton, YI/KT4CK, has been active on 15-meter SSB between 1430 and 1600 UTC. Dunkerton is believed to be with the 101st Airborne. Bob Furzer, 9K2ZZ/K4CY, reportedly has been on the air from Iraq as K4CY/p or K4CY/m. Other hams are known to be in Iraq but have not yet been reported on the air.

Still not known is whether Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN--now in the Middle East after wrapping up his North Korean (P5) operation last fall--will be on a United Nations World Food Program assignment inside Iraq in the near future. That could depend in part on how big a role the UN plays in rebuilding Iraq.

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

Happy Birthday

The birthdays are unavailable this month.

Bob, K2DAD, is trying to redo the Club membership database from scratch. So if you pay your dues and forward your information to Bob, your birthday should appear here in the future.

Your Editor



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: 5/26/2003

GCARC Officers

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

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML
Lou Joseph W2LYL
Al Arrison KB2AYU

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

Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO
Bob Krukowski KR2U
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

Committees

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-Bob K2DAD
DX-Doug WA2NPD
Field Day-Ray WB2LNR
Hamfest-Open

Hospitality-Ken N2CQ
Membership- Bob K2DAD
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

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)

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)

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

May Meeting Program

Socializing

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

2003 Dues are due.