



Presidents Message

The weather is steadily improving and the first mowing of the year has already taken place at the Clubhouse. As I mentioned last month, there is a lot of work that needs to be done at the Clubhouse. I would like to tentatively set the dates of May 8 and May 15 for work parties. Please send an E-mail to kb2ayu@verizon.net with your availability on either of those dates. With enough help we should be able to complete the needed repairs in no time.

I would like to thank the following Club members for stepping up and filling important Club positions that were open due to Harry, K2ATX, going to Haiti.

Wayne, WA2LET, Vice-President
Gary, N2QEE, VEC Testing Chair
Cory, WA3UVV, 4H Radio Club Chair
Art, K2AWS, Club Website Chair

The only position not filled is Hamfest Chair. That is still a ways off and hopefully Harry, K2ATX, will be back by then.

The May General Membership meeting will be Pizza Night. Come on out for some good food and drink, and socializing. There will also be a table for swapping and selling your treasures at the meeting.

73, Al KB2AYU

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Yes, it does make a difference when sunspots subside for a length of time. As of this writing we have gone eight days without any cherished "blemishes" on the sun's surface. Bands above 20M have been far less productive than in previous weeks when the solar flux numbers got to the low 90's! Ten meters has been quite void of DX. We recorded no progress on working DXCC countries on 10M since January 15 this year and are stalled @10 worked. 17M slowed down also. We've reached 95 entities on 17, but 15M and 12M have lagged to a more summertime mode of fewer DX openings.

I've been DXing on 160M since the 1980's with some success and plenty of failures. You might have not put any or much effort into entities on 160M, but I found the following 160M tips from Charles (K5ZK), Please see DX on Page 2.

“DX” from Page 1.

a dedicated 160M DXer, to be amusing and informative:

1. Pay no attention to the juicy DX cluster spots from VE1ZZ. You won't be able to hear them, much less work them.
2. Staying up until 3AM is easier than getting out of bed at 3 AM.
3. "Walking a Beverage Antenna" in your pajamas at 1AM is a warning sign of mental illness.
4. The local power company can't even spell "line noise".
5. Ferrite is your friend.
6. Whoever invented the "plasma" TV should be buried alive.
7. Thunderstorms are still the indicators of outstanding Topband conditions. When a storm puts you off the air, you can be sure the band is in great shape.
8. "Searchlight" propagation always shines on the other guy.
9. A good sunrise peak is a near-religious experience.
10. If you "whale" on the base of a utility pole with a sledgehammer to "wink out" a noisy streetlight, your neighbors will call the cops.
11. If you can't deal with disappointment, stay off the Topband.

Before moving on to our DX "notables" for the month of May, let's not forget about the Palestine DXpedition at the end of May. E4X operations should run from May 28th until the June 6th. They plan to have a minimum of three stations operating simultaneously on multiple bands and modes. The team leader is from Spain, with a large Spanish contingent, as well as seasoned DXpedition experienced ops from France, Italy and Russia. There will be a total of 10 operators. They are listing the use of multiple linears, popular antennas, with the only disappointment to me being a sloping dipole for 160M.

Although Palestine has been activated a number of times since its inception as a DXCC entity, it seems to be often difficult to work for numerous reasons. I'd mark my calendar for the end of May for this one! Check DX Friends - E4X - 2010 for more details including propagation predictions on band openings between the Holy Land and ours in SNJ!

Be aware of the following May DX postings also:

STATION	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RARITY	ENTITY
S79	5/1-5/7	IOTA-AF033-CW/SSB/DIG	3	SEYCHELLES
ISOR	5/7-5/15	150-6M/3 HF STATIONS	1	SARDINIA
TL0	5/13-5/26	40-6M(MAYBE 80/160)CW/DIG	3	CENT. AF. REP.
5W0OX	5/18-5/19	160-6M/ALL MODES/6 OPS	2	SAMOA
VK9CLH	5/21-5/31	160,80M&WPX CONTEST	2	LORD HOWE IS.
T31X	5/22-6/1	(SAME AS 5W0OX GROUP)	2	CENT. KIRBATI IS.
TK9E	5/26-5/31	5 ITALIAN OPS	1	CORSICA
YN2GY	5/27-5/31	160-6M/WPX CONTEST	1	NICARAGUA
E4X	5/28-6-6	160-6M (SEE TEXT)	4	PALESTINE

CREDITS: K5ZK, NG3K ADXO

Blinking LED's for only \$400

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Henry "Ed" Roberts, who died on April 1st, never became a household name but he was a leader in a revolution that we all benefit from today. In 1970, he formed a company known as MITS and began selling calculators. This was back in the day when a 4 function LED display device sold for over \$100.

After a while, those prices began to plummet and MITS, like everyone else, was losing money with each sale. In order to come up with another profit center, Roberts designed a microcomputer. Named the Altair 8800 from the 8080 processor and a Star Trek episode. It quickly began to sell.

One of the problems with having a micro then was that programs needed to be loaded from the front panel with toggle switches. This was an exercise you could quickly tire from. In addition, you were probably doing little more than making lights blink. An inevitable and embarrassing question when you showed off your computer was "What can you do with it?"

High level compiler-based languages like Fortran and COBOL were impossible to run in just 4K of RAM. The interpretive language BASIC, held promise. As legend goes, Roberts was in communication with a number of programmers promising a version that would run on his system. While he waited for promise to become reality, a pair of young men approached him with their offer. Roberts took them more seriously, as they were the first to ask more probing questions such as "How do you want to handle I/O?".

Those 2, William Gates and Paul Allen, seized the opportunity and created a version of BASIC for the Altair. In fact, Allen was still working on the software while en-route on the plane to see Roberts.

After some time and a few last minute tweaks, the owners of Microsoft (originally Micro-Soft) achieved success and could add 2+2. This enabled MITS to sell even more kits, peripherals and accessories. Although other versions of BASIC would enter the market, Microsoft's version was the leader (and the most pirated).

Just a few years later, Roberts sold MITS at a nice profit and retired to a farm. Other companies like IMSAI were close competitors, but the Altairs (there would be several models) always hold a special place in the heart of someone involved in the early days of the microcomputer industry.

Gates and Allen dropped the hyphen from Microsoft and moved onto other languages. When IBM entered the market, the company moved into operating systems (an interesting story on its own) and became the behemoth it is today.

Two Decades of Post Cards from Space

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

The Hubble Space Telescope is celebrating its 20th anniversary in orbit. Over its life, it has captured and transmitted an incredible collection of images that have provided us with views of the universe that stretch through vast distances and time.

Please see "Posts Cards" on Page 4.

“Post Cards” from Page 3.

Of course, when it first was lit up, it was a disaster in space. Perkin-Elmer, the company tasked with much of the critical optics involved, ground the mirror incorrectly. Since they never performed an “end to end” test on the ground, the mistake wasn’t known until the satellite was well beyond an easy fix.

The value of software was once again demonstrated when an interim solution was devised that allowed computers down here to reverse the focus and warp problems. Some time later, astronauts would demonstrate their ability to repair and upgrade the optics and electronics and allow the HSC to provide us with even better and more stunning images that we still receive today.

Goggling Hubble images will bring up some spectacular images taken by the telescope over the years.

New Stuff from ARRL

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Recently, the League announced some new items on their newly spiffed up web site. Along with a backpack and travel mug, there is a book on PIC programming. While you may not know what a PIC is, I’m sure you are making use of several of these every day. Plus, they are showing up in all kinds of rigs and station accessories. For the low-low price of \$40, maybe now would be a good time to investigate the PIC and see what it could do for you.

Notice I didn’t tell you what a PIC is or what the abbreviation stands for. It’s like I’ve told the kids, go look it up.



Field Day 2009

VEC Testing

By Gary Reed, N2QEE

Regular VEC testing sessions are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM and are held at the Franklin Township Public Library on Coles Mill Road in Franklinville. The sessions scheduled this year are on May 13, June 10, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11 and December 9. The cost of the exam is \$15 and if a candidate successfully passes an exam they can take the next level exam at no additional cost. At the same session if they don't pass the exam they can pay an additional \$15 and retake the failed exam.

The candidates are required to have a photo ID and two copies of their current license if they have one. They are allowed calculators but the calculators must be inspected by the Volunteer Examiners before they take the exam to make sure any memories are erased.

The sessions are listed on the Club web site and on the ARRL web site. Both web sites list my contact information and the candidates usually contact me before coming to a session. I can be contacted at glreed@snip.net.

We had been averaging 5 candidates per session. The candidates have been local but also from Pennsylvania and Delaware.

If you are interested in helping out as a Volunteer Examiner or wish to take an exam contact me.

Field Day 2010

By Vinnie Sallustio

June is right around the corner, and that means another Field Day is coming up! Last year, was my first Field Day. We finished 2nd in the 9A group. However, we were only about 4,000 points away from an overall top 10 finish in United States. This year we are planning several improvements. The 15m SSB co-chairs Art Strong and Larry Mommico are upgrading their delta loop to a beam. Mark Townsend, our 10m Chair, will also be using a beam. (His son Kyle, our youngest Chair, is staying on with his 6m station.) In addition, we are expecting the use of a 100ft crane truck, which might be able to hold several antennas, including some of the upper band antennas that need height. If you are interested in participating on Field Day as an operator, contact the appropriate band chairmen listed below. If you are interested in working some other area like erecting antennas, assisting in food preparation or to help out with bonus points contact me at yankee_1996@hotmail.com.

80 meter SSB-Harry Elwell and Stu Cleveland
80 and 15 meter CW-Dave Strout and Bill Grim
40 meter SSB-Wayne Wilson
40 meter CW-Harry Bryant and Doug Gehring
20 meter SSB-Ray Schnapp
20 meter CW-Chris Heller
15 meter SSB-Art Strong and Larry Mommico
10 meter-Mark Townsend
6 meter SSB-Kyle Townsend
2 meter SSB-John Zaruba

May Birthdays

Walt Ashton, WB2OYQ
In Su Chon, AB2IT
Carmen Inverso, WA2TRS
Darrell Neron, AB2E
Virginia Wallace, KB2JCQ



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 June issue:
5/24/2010

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, AA2WN
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
4H Liaison-K2ATX

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
Website-Art, K2AWS

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)

May Meeting

Pizza Night and Swap Table

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

