

President's Message



WHILE FINISHING THIS 'President's Message', I am "painfully aware" of the sunburn my arms received today while helping out with the March of Dimes' Walk America event. This is just one of the public service events we, as a radio club, assist throughout the year. Last weekend, a handful of members helped out with the county's Association for Retarded Citizens' Bike-a-Thon. Both of these events serve not only to assist some worthy organizations, but are also opportunities for our organization to be seen in a positive, public way. We all have the members that regularly volunteer for such events to thank for this.

Admittedly, I get involved in only one or two "special projects" per year. That works well, so long as a number of others do the same. The idea of "many hands make light work" is a powerful statement toward the idea of 'teamwork'.

Teamwork, unfortunately, is not something that was treated very well in school. Individual achievement, recognition and responsibility were more important lessons. You were recognized for excellence if you had a high grade point average. It didn't matter as much if your class did. This attitude, of course, did not end with school. Individual excellence is still regarded as more precious than team excellence.

Yet, teamwork is one of (if not THE) most necessary elements for any organization to thrive and grow. Our club needs more teams and more team members. We have many of our own projects that can use your attention and

skills; Site Painting and Renovation, Field Day, Maintenance, 4HParking, Hamfest... the list goes on.

We have many good teams in our club already, and we require a few more. How about you? Remember, "many hands make light work".

On a different note, now that the earth has moved a bit further from the sun and the weather is getting warmer, we should be thinking seriously about FUN! As in: having FUN with amateur radio.

Have you ever wanted to go on a DXpedition? How about getting a few friends together and setting up a campsite in Delaware? It is one of the rarer states and you might enjoy being on the other end of a pileup. Live in a tent for the weekend. Leave the color TV and espresso machine at home. Promote the event on packet, in some magazines or just be impulsive and GO FOR IT!

How about those of you with antennas to erect? Get together with others of similar interest and take a "tower tour" of each other's homes throughout the summer. Whatever you do with this hobby and your friends (you do have friends, don't you?) that are in it, have fun.

Amateur Radio is a rewarding part of life. Life is an adventure. Enjoy the adventure!

Cory

IDEAS?

Do you have an idea to help improve our organization? Make your voice(s) heard. A suggestion box is at every meeting. Or, you can send a note to the PO Box. We are always looking for new ideas about fund-raising, social events, and more that can benefit the club.



AN ARTICLE ABOUT...

Sometime this month, "The Courier Post" will be publishing an article on the GCARC and Amateur Radio. Look for it!

Committee Chairs:

Don't forget to let everyone in the Club know what you and your committee are doing. Place your report(s) in the next issue of "Crosstalk".

FIELD DAY - 1993

JUNE 25-27

THE G.C.A.R.C. EXECUTIVE BOARD has proclaimed that as one of the largest Amateur Radio Clubs in the Northeast, this year the G.C.A.R.C. will make every effort to conduct the biggest and best Field Days in the club's history!! For those of you who have never participated in Field Day, and don't know what it is about, I will attempt to relate just some of the ideals to you.

Traditionally, the fourth weekend of June is set aside in the United States and Canada as Field Day weekend. It is an exercise where amateur radio operators get together and set up remote radio stations operating on 'emergency' power. During this 24 hour period, attempts are made to contact as many amateur stations as possible. This exercise is conducted to simulate a national emergency with amateur radio being used for emergency communications. Field Day operations are from 14:00 Saturday until 14:00 Sunday (Eastern Time). This period is preceded by set-up on Friday night and Saturday morning, and clean-up on Sunday afternoon. We are looking for a little help from a lot of volunteers.

The tentative outline for Field Day this year is as follows:

1: Appoint Chairperson to accept responsibility of organizing a successful Field Day, and to also...

2: Recruit volunteers to assist in various appointed committees (i.e. Set-up, Generator, Antennas, Take down, Logging, Food, etc..). And let's NOT forget lots of operators and clean-up crews!

We plead with you, 'The Silent Majority', and the 'Not So Silent' too, ... **PLEASE GET INVOLVED!** Help make this a successful Field Day! We are not asking for commitments involving long hours. The more people we can recruit, the easier it will be to have a successful Field Day.

This year, as in past years, the callsign used will be W2MMD. All G.C.A.R.C. Club Members who are Field Day operators will use this callsign, thereby giving us all Extra Class privileges regardless of the operator's license class.

An example of a typical contact would be as follows:

- 1) Tune your receiver through the particular band you are working. Listen for a station calling "CQ FIELD DAY".
- 2) Return your call as "W2MMD".
- 3) If the station hears you, he will respond with...

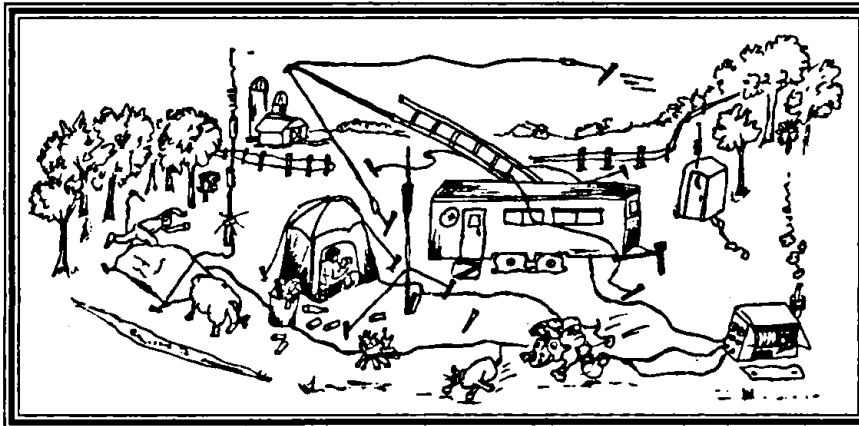
W2MMD, W5ABC. Your signal report is 59 from North Texas. QSL?

You respond with...

QSL 59, North Texas. Your report is 59, Southern New Jersey.

That is all there is to it. Upon completion, log the contact and the time. (There are usually two operators at each position with one operating and one logging.) When operating, instead of listening, you may decide to call "CQ Field Day" and wait for a station to answer your call. It is fun and satisfying!

But that is not all! Field Day is a lot more! We encourage CW operators since each CW contact is extra credit --- but everything counts.



One of the biggest problems in the past has been the lack of operators to help with the 'Graveyard Shift', from about 22:00 on Saturday until 07:00 Sunday morning. If you can help fill this gap for an hour or two, that would be great. Not operating when the band goes out is one thing, but it is a shame to hear all those stations call CQ, when

we don't have enough operators to keep the transmitters going.

We serve refreshments at Field Day for those who are participating. We encourage visitors to see what is going on, but we tend to discourage 'freeloaders' who come just for food and drink. Contribute a little of your time and you're welcome to eat and drink as much as you please until we run out!

We will continue to remind you about this event until June 25-27 (Friday-Sunday). Besides the physical help, we can use, and need, equipment for Field Day such as transceivers, antennas, coaxial cable, extension cords, ladders, antenna tuners, tools, etc.. We would appreciate any commitment you can make.

Please contact N2GVR, or any member of the G.C.A.R.C. Board of Directors, if you have any questions or if you can help. Let's make this the best and most successful Field Day exercise that the club has ever conducted!

Sincerely (73)

N2GVR, Steve



From the Editor's Desk:



FOR THE PAST 16 MONTHS, I have been the Crosstalk Editor. While the title may be editor, the job is much more than just that!

Articles are found in a number of places: magazines, packet and landline BBS's, as well as club members. Club members, while the most difficult to get articles from, sometimes come up with the best articles in Crosstalk. (At least in this Editors opinion!)

After the articles are located, they have to be placed in the Crosstalk, being sure to check spelling(sure!), the length of the article, and especially the type of article that is presented for publication. I have made it a point as the Editor, NOT to use anything that wasn't signed. If the author requests to remain anonymous, I honor that in the Crosstalk; however, I keep a record of where the article came from just in case it is needed.

Now we come to the printing of the Crosstalk. That takes about 2 hours on a machine I have at work. The length of time isn't so much the speed of the machine, but the fact that I have to let others use the machine for business purposes while I am trying to print the paper.

Then comes the hard part of the work... the assembly, stapling, labeling, stamping and mailing of the Crosstalk. For this part I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped me over the past 16 months;

Ken & Maria Bozarth and their 'Friday Night Bowling Partners'

Gene & Ginny Wallace, who are now in Ohio, and took over after the Friday night league finished up.

Beth & Jerry Barnish, who took over after Gene & Ginny left.

Thanks also to all those who have helped with articles and advice.

When I started this article, I was going to let everyone know that this was to be my last Crosstalk; However, the truth be known, I enjoy doing this newsletter very much. It has it's frustrations and problems, but thanks to a number of friends and the positive words from many of you, I will try to keep on going.

BUT YOU MUST HELP ME TOO! Articles about what is happening in the area in relation to amateur radio and club members are always welcome and WANTED. I am not a professional writer, so many errors can be, and have been found. So why not put in your two cents? I will dress it up if need be. As I am sitting here now writing this, I am listening to the ARC Bike-a-thon in Woodbury. What happened? How many came to help? Did you have enough people?

These are the types of articles we could/should be putting in the Crosstalk. While I do enjoy doing the Crosstalk very much, I hate to feel that I am doing all of it. Your Club, Your Paper, Your Choice of Articles! Come On!

73 de N2DUZHarry
Crosstalk Editor

NEW MEMBERS!

We are happy to announce that we have two new members for the month of May. They are:

John Todd N/C Woodbury, NJ
John Loyd KA2EZN Newfield, NJ

Welcome to the G.C.A.R.C., and we are looking forward to seeing you at the May meeting!

73... KB2ODJED

SORRY 'BOU THAT, HOWEVER...

Due to the MINIMAL participation with the CLUB jacket order, I will be discontinuing the order. Any member who has paid for their jacks already, please contact me so I may return your personal checks. Any unclaimed checks will be destroyed.

Thanks...

N2PKT, Lou

Telephone RFI Problems?

Reasons for Interference

The modern electronic telephone is potentially susceptible to radio-frequency interference (RFI) because of the large number of electronic components used in the phone. If the phone is not properly designed, these components will convert signals from nearby transmitters into energy that may be heard in the telephone earphone. The net effect is that people who live near an AM or FM radio station may hear music over their telephones. People who live near airports may hear pilots talking with the control tower. Those who live near an amateur radio station may hear garbled speech in their telephones.

Our research has shown that many of today's "telephones" actually function just as well as a radio receiver as they do as a phone. The poor design and engineering of these units causes them to receive many types of radio signals just like an old fashioned crystal set. In many cases, these phones will receive radio signals without being plugged into the phone line or without the telephone receiver being lifted. A properly engineered telephone will not allow RF-energy to enter the telephone circuits.

Regulatory Agency Action

Recent policy statements from the Federal Communications Commission, the federal agency that regulates the telephone industry in the U.S., squarely places the responsibility for resolving telephone RFI on the owner of the telephone being effected. The FCC's position on the telephone interference is that a telephone that receives RFI is improperly functioning as a radio receiver. In government terms, this is a non type accepted function. The owner of a telephone receiving RFI has three options...

1. Install the necessary electronic filtering to prevent the problem.
2. Replace the phone with a unit that has the necessary filtering already installed to prevent the RFI problem.
3. Live with the problem.

Solutions

If you recently purchased a highly RF-susceptible telephone, and you saved the receipt and all of the packing material, don't hesitate to return the telephone. Tell the store manager that telephones are not supposed to pick up radio signals - and ask for a full refund. If the store manager tells you that the interference is the fault of the radio station, tell him he needs to resolve this with the manufacturer and the FCC, that you are due a refund. This is the only way that the manufacturers will get the message that poor design and engineering is not acceptable to the American consumer. If you have an older phone, do not hesitate to contact the manufacturer. While they may deny responsibility or try to

blame the radio station involved, recent governmental action clearly places the responsibility for resolving this issue on the original equipment manufacturer. Don't let them pass the buck. They sold you a technically inferior piece of equipment and it is their obligation under the law to resolve this matter.

Recommended Products

We have found that an excellent RF resistant telephone with all the necessary circuitry to prevent interference is offered by Pro Distributors in Lubbock, Texas. They offer AT&T desk model and wall model touchtone phones that have been adapted to stop all types of RF interference and are sold on a 100% money back guarantee! If the phone doesn't stop the RFI problem, you may return it for a refund. We have found these phones to be the most effective phones in eliminating telephone interference of everything we have tested. In addition, each phone is supplied with a very helpful RFI information packet. The phones are priced at \$79.95 each, and they take Visa & MasterCard. You can order the phone on their Toll Free number, (800)658-2027.

Conclusions

To summarize, a properly designed telephone should not receive interference from a nearby radio station. It is the manufacturer's legal responsibility to provide the consumer a phone that has the technical ability to function without RFI interference. If your telephone has RFI interference, this problem needs to be resolved with the manufacturer of your present phone or by replacing your phone with a phone that is constructed so it will not receive RFI.

(This article is from the Telephone Interference Newsletter, a free publication of the...

*Consumer Assistance Group
Box 163
Bluffton, Texas 78607)*

Thanks to K2JFJohn for this article!

Advertising for the Crosstalk?

- OR -

Publicity for the G.C.A.R.C.?

Send the information to:

Jacob Freedman - N2MPN
517 Devon Rd.
Moorestown, NJ 08057

DX UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

DXER'S ARE GETTING A TASTE of what propagation will be like over the next few years. Solar flux levels dropped below 100 [minimum is near sixty] and a series of flares disrupted propagation. More severe flares near end of April, so disruption to earth's geomagnetic field will be more intense. Reduced MUF, increased fading and multi-pathing and disrupted polar communications. END PRODUCT: Lousy DX. Scrutinize index reports thoroughly and look for the windows. Advantage retirees.

OM - CZECHOSLOVAKIA... has been deleted from the DXCC country list. Calls made before 31 December, 1992, count for this country. Replacing Czechoslovakia are: OK-OL Czech Republic, OM-Slovak Republic. Do not submit cards to DXCC desk before 1 June 1993, they will be returned without action.

4N4-YU4 Bosnia-Hercegovina... I have a list of 31 suffix for these calls that go to one QSL manager. Call me after 4:30 PM if in doubt of your QSL route.

German postal rates... have increased as of 1 April 1993. You may get cards back via buro [if at all] especially DX cards if you send only one "Green Stamp". It cost DK-DL hams, DM3, or about 2 U.S. dollars, now for air mail return. Sad but true.

4N5-YU5 Macedonia... has been accepted unanimously by DXCC desk. Contacts made September, 1991, or later will be accepted, but not before 1 June 1993 for 4N5.

Documentation on P5SR7 is still delayed. N. Korea has expelled all foreigners, so WFWL.

5A-Libya and 3V-Tunisia DX-Pedition some time in May-June.

CURRENT DX-peditions

A92WH-Bahrain	15 April to 30 June
ZD9CQ-Gough Island	Now till May
T5YR-Somalia	Now till 19 May
H4-Solomon Islands	May 16-19
PA3CXC/ST0S. Sudan	now active
YJ-Vanuatu	May 21-26
5W1CW- W. Samoa	now active.

In the near future I will be in need of a Russian language interpreter for children's letters. All help accepted,

On space ship Earth, there are no passengers, only crew.

TNX to QRZ DX, DX Bulletin and others.
CU in the pile-ups

Cliff-N2PLE

Space... The Final Frontier!

The following item appeared on the AP newswire on Saturday evening April 10th...

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.- A Discovery astronaut chatted via ham radio with a cosmonaut on the MIR space station Saturday, marking the first ship-to-ship conversation in the shuttle program.

Astronaut Michale Foale KB5UAC said he was able to exchange only a few words of greeting with cosmonaut Alexander Poleshchuk R2MIR before losing contact.

The only other time Americans and Russians have talked ship-to-ship was during the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz mission. Regular on-board radios and not ham radios were used.

The contact occurred as the two spacecraft passed within 86 miles of one another high above Earth. Foale said neither he nor crewmate Kenneth Cockrell KB5UAH could see the Russian station which holds Poleshchuk and Gennady Manokov U9MIR.

Hope the above was of interest to the Membership

73..DE...JOHN...N2PKF

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RADIO AMATEURS

ATTENTION COLLEGE BOUND RADIO AMATEURS! The deadline for requesting applications for the 49 scholarships administered by the Washington, DC based FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO is May 1. Major sponsors include:

QCWA
10-10 International Net
Radio Club of America

Several awards sponsored by clubs are specifically designated for residents of DELAWARE, MARYLAND, NEW JERSEY and PENNSYLVANIA.

Application forms can be requested by letter or QSL card from...

FAR SCHOLARSHIPS
6903 Rhode Island Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

MORSE CODE

HOW I LEARNED & SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT IT

"MORSE CODE? NO PROBLEM!", say people like Cliff who seem to have a knack for it. If you are like me, however, it is really hard.

I never went through Bill's code class, but instead, learned it myself by copying off the air. So I am sure that I learned wrong and this has caused me problems later on. Once you have the code in your head, how do you go from 5 WPM to 10 or 15 WPM? Here are some ideas and things that I think helped me.

Even though I have been licensed for a long time, I only got back on the air again in September 1989, after a long absence from amateur radio. Prior to that I didn't operate much CW so I was basically starting from beginning, learning some letters again and starting to build my speed.

The first thing you need is a good reason for learning CW. Getting to 13 WPM so you can get your General is a good reason, I guess. But, you are only learning the code so you can forget it once you get your new license. My goal was to get good enough to copy the QSO in my head. After a while I had another reason. I began to see code as another language that very few people knew. I found this idea fascinating.

The next thing you need to do is put your microphone in the closet! We are all the same and want to take the easy way out, so we will make phone QSO's instead of the harder CW QSO's.

Once you are copying at 5 WPM or so, you should think about putting away your code tape and start making contacts. You can't rely on just copying to learn CW. CW works both ways. You have to be able to put out the code as well as take it in during a QSO. The information you are going to send is not going to be written down for you to send, so you are going to have to send the information off the top of your head.

Now we are under real pressure to perform! You can't say Oops, missed that one and go on to the next character on your code tape. And you don't have what you are going to send written down in front of you. Now you have to concentrate on copying and on keeping up your end by sending back information. I think the pressure to perform and not wanting to embarrass yourself helps you to learn.

A good place to start is the 40m Novice band. (I never tried the 80m Novice band, but it might be good too.) There are lots of operators of all speeds. You can even find Extra Class operators there. The terrible QRM/QRN will help you to learn

by forcing you to concentrate more.

You don't have to call CQ. Instead, just look for someone calling CQ at a speed you can copy or tail end a QSO just ending. Since many Novice calls are not listed in the callbook, for a while you can get good practice by asking for the address of the other amateur. Numbers and letter/number combinations have always been a problem for me.

Keep at it and don't get discouraged. Most of us are not like the guys in the 40m CW trailer on Field Day. A great many QSO's occur between 12 and 20 WPM, so you don't have to be superfast. After a short while, you will begin to recognize little words that appear over and over, like RST, QTH, NAME and WX. Later on, you will recognize less common words like BEST, CUL, THE and HERE and not have to write them down.

I still don't consider myself good at CW, and still make lots of mistakes. Sometimes if the speed and fist are right I can copy large parts of a QSO already in progress, but it has taken me 3 years to get to this point. Perhaps many of us quit too soon with CW figuring that if we haven't gotten proficient in 6 months that we are just not good at it. If you think about it, a baby doesn't learn to speak and get good at it in 6 months either! And they work at it every day!

CW is a nice, easy medium to work with. Copying is easier under adverse conditions, equipment can be simpler and easier to operate, and the CW bands are generally not crowded like the phone bands, even on 20 meters.

See you on 7000 to 7050 Mhz.

73... N2FZBill

PS: I just tuned across W1AW sending at 15 WPM, and I thought, "Boy this is slow!. I must be doing better than I thought!".

Articles for the Crosstalk?

Send them to:

Harry Jessen - N2DUZ
48 Prospect Ave.
Erial, NJ 08081-2107

Or via packet: (145.070 Mhz)
N2DUZ @KF2AW.#SNJ.NJ.USA

- or -

Connect to: N2DUZ-10



May 1993

G.C.A.R.C. & Amateur Radio Events



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>2</p> <p>8:00 PM ARES/ RACES Net 8:30 PM 10 Mtr Net</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p> 8:00 PM GCARC Gen. Mem. Mtg. Cinco de Mayo</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>* Hamfest - Owego, NY Hamfest - Kent Island, MD</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:00 PM ARES/ RACES Net 8:30 PM 10 Mtr Net</p> <p> Mother's Day</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Hamfest - Cherry Hill, NJ</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:00 PM ARES/ RACES Net 8:30 PM 10 Mtr Net</p> <p>* Hamfest - Hager- stown, MD * Hamfest - Wright- stown, PA</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 PM B.O.D. Mtg</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Ascension Day</p>	<p>21</p> <p>* Atl Div Conv / Hamfest - Roches- ter, NY</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Armed Forces Day</p> <p></p> <p>* Atl Div Conv / Hamfest - Roches- ter, NY * Hamfest - Ephrat- a, PA</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:00 PM ARES/ RACES Net 8:30 PM 10 Mtr Net</p> <p>* Atl Div Conv / Hamfest - Roches- ter, NY</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:00 PM ARES/ RACES Net 8:30 PM 10 Mtr Net</p> <p>Hamfest - West Friendship, MD Pentecost</p>	<p>31</p> <p> Memorial Day (Observed)</p>					

ARRL
Bulletins

QST DE W1AW
ARRL BULLETIN 36 ARLB036
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT.
APRIL 3, 1993
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS
SB QST ARL ARLB036 WIND PROFILER NPRM

The FCC on April 1, issued it's notice of proposed rule making and notice of inquiry on the subject of wind profiler radars (ET Docket 93-59).

The FCC proposes to allocate the 448-450 Mhz band on a primary basis to wind profiler radar system (wind profilers) and requests comment on whether wind profilers also should be accomodated on a secondary basic in the 915 Mhz band, as proposed by Radian Corporation, or in some other frequency band.

Based on a study by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the FCC calls for comments on whether potential interference between 449 Mhz amateur and wind profiler operations could be alleviated by using RF screens or by altering repeater antenna radiation patterns.

The FCC also says it will consider zones around wind profilers in which amateur transmitters would be prohibited. The FCC says that since 449 Mhz wind profilers are planned primarily for rural areas, it expects few amateur operations to be disrupted.

And the FCC says it is not proposing to change amateur's secondary status in the 448-450 Mhz range since amateurs already are required to protect against interference to government services with which it already shares that spectrum. As for the inquiry into 915 Mhz wind profilers, the FCC calls for technical information and says it will consider the proposal "with other existing and proposed uses."

COMMENT DATE IS JUNE 15, 1993.
REPLY COMMENT DATE IS JULY 15, 1993.

NNNN

It's The Law...

- It's illegal at Lake Charles, Louisiana, to let a rain puddle remain in your front yard for more than twelve hours.
- It's illegal in Walden, New York, to give a drink of water to anyone unless you have a permit.



The ARES Primary and Alternate Net Controls for the months of May and June will be:

	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
<u>May</u>	02	N2DWR	N2AYK
	09	N2FJQ	N2FKT
	16	N2DWK	N2HYS
	23	N2FNF	N2IMH
	30	N2KLD	N2NGQ
<u>June</u>	06	N2KLE	N2KLD
	13	N2PKJ	N2PKT
	20	N2QEE	N2QEB
	27	WA2HVV	WA2IBZ

Thanks.... Chick, WA2USI

For the month of MAY,
we wish the following a



Very Happy Birthday!

<u>CALL</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DAY</u>
N2KDU	KENNETH	07
KB2GH	HYMAN	12
N2TOI	DAVID	13
N2ITX	RICHARD	14
N2IZM	HERBERT	18
N2OPY	KOSTAS	21
WB2OYQ	WALTON	22
N2RHT	FRANK	24
WA2TRS	CARMEN	25
WA2PFC	EDWARD	27
KB2JCQ	VIRGINIA	28
N2TVV	RICHARD	28
KA2OSW	CRAIG	31

Chas Sketchley, K2PQD
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CONTEST CORNER

MARAC County Hunters CW Contest 1-2 May
 Volta RTTY DX Contest 8-9 May
 Danish SSTV Contest 8-9 May
 Mass., Mich., Nevada, Oregon, Texas,
 QSO party's, month of May

ARMED FORCES DAY 15 May
 This is a goodie. Secretary of Defense certificate
 for 25 WPM clean copy CW. Also RTTY certifi-
 cate for 60 WPM 170 Hz shift, 100 WPM 170z
 shift. SWL and SSB participation. Many
 military stations nationwide.

CQ WW WPX CW Contest 29-30 May
 World Telecommunications Day, CW and Fone...29-30 May

Something for everyone, so get in there and enjoy. all this
 info of course is in QST issues. Unless the dog ate your
 issues, or the kids used them for paper airplanes you should
 find info, but if anyone needs help, give me a call and I'll help
 get you involved. Contest's are great fun, even better than
 yard work or painting the house on a balmy May day. So
 crank up your AMP and get in there and howl.

CW Forever

Cliff-N2PLE

WalkAmerica Thank You

I'd like to thank the following people for the time that they put
 into making WalkAmerica 1993 a **HUGH** success !!!

N2KLE	N2DWK	KB2ODJ	N2AIV
GOLDIE (N2DWK'S XYL & MY MOM)			N2NLE
N2TXG	WA3UVV	N2UNG	N2SVN
N2SRO			

THANKS AGAIN, AND I'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU TO
 COME OUT AND HELP NEXT YEAR!!!! IT WAS NICE THAT
 WE HAD ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS, SO THAT WE ONLY
 HAD TO TAKE 3 HOUR SHIFTS, INSTEAD OF BEING OUT
 THERE THE WHOLE TIME!!!! THAT'S GREAT TEAM-
 WORK!!!!!!

73 MARLA

REPEATER NEWS

THE 440 REPEATER has a new Antenna! And, the mounts
 for the 2M and 440 repeater antennas on the Pitman water
 tower were also replaced.

In mid-March we were notified by the Borough of Pitman that
 our 440 antenna had sustained wind damage and we were
 requested to correct the problem as soon as possible.

On March 27, the antennas were inspected and it was found
 that the 440 antenna mount was damaged and bent beyond
 repair and had to be replaced. The mast of the 440 antenna
 was also bent due to the high winds. At the same time it was
 decided to replace the 2M antenna mount with one of equal
 quality and strength. The new 440 antenna, a "Diamond"
 F718J with 11 db gain, was mounted temporarily and the old
 440 antenna was lowered to the ground.

Rick Connor, WC2K, designed new mounts for both anten-
 nas and Chic, WA2USI, had them fabricated and painted.
 The new mounts were installed atop the Pitman water tower
 on Saturday April 10 (in the pouring rain).

Coverage on the 440 repeater is now greatly improved and
 we are already picking up more new users on the machine.
 Many previous "dead spots" are now "full quieting".

Thanks go to our "Tower Crew" Mike, N2FKS, and espe-
 cially to Rick Connor, WC2K, who has helped us before with
 antenna work and who is not a member of our Club. And to
 the "Ground Crew" Mike, WA2TOP, (with WA2TML assist-
 ing). Thanks also to Chic, WA2USI, for fabricating the
 antenna mounts and to Cory, WA3UVV, for dealing with
 Pitman. Further performance improvements to the 440
 Repeater are planned and will be reported here in this
 column.

73..... de WA2TML, Chuck

HAM RADIO FAIRY TALES



JACK'S SECOND BEANSTALK

STS-56 Sarex Worked!

Because of problems with STS-55, STS-56 and the space shuttle Discovery became the first Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) for 1993. This mission included packet, voice, SSTV and ATV capability.

I have followed the SAREX missions over the last couple of years and worked several during that time. As a matter of fact, I just received my QSL card for the STS-50 mission of July 1992. KB5SIX, Ellen Baker, was at the mike when I managed a brief voice contact. I also completed a "QSO" with the packet robot.

Unfortunately for individual amateurs, the crew of STS-56 was very busy with the mission payloads and had to conserve power. This limited SAREX operations to mainly prearranged contacts with schools.

The shuttle passes over our area were all from about 11 PM to 8 AM local time, not particularly good if you work 9 to 5. Signals were very good as I listened to the astronauts answer kids questions on passes that they were working schools.

The packet robot must have been on only briefly as I have seen a copy of the shuttle's final packet log and out of just 250 heard only 90 were worked.

As far as I can tell very few voice contacts were made. I was very lucky to talk briefly with KB5AWP, Ken Cameron, at about 11:30 PM on Friday, April 16. There didn't seem to be many people calling him as he headed northeast over New England and on over the Atlantic toward the U.K. When Ken said "KB5AWP listening" I gave my call once and he came right back! It was near the end of the mission and he sounded kind of tired.

As with most "DXing", working the shuttle is a combination of station capability, skill, and some luck. Get ready! The previously scrubbed STS-55 mission is due to lift off 4/26 and then STS-57 later in May. Watch for Amsat bulletins to keep informed of the latest details.

73... AI KB2AYU

I KERCHUNK, Therefore I Am...

Kerchunk: Either a verb or noun, but usually a verb. From the German, Kerchunken; to kerchunk a repeater. "I kerchunk, you kerchunk, he/she/it kerchunks."

Whenever I kerchunk, I always identify. This not only keeps many from being "rubbed the wrong way", but has resulted in many a nice QSO.

A good kerchunk tells you many things:

- 1: Your transmitter is working
- 2: Your receiver is working
- 3: Your antenna is working
- 4: The repeater is there
- 5: The repeater receiver is working
- 6: The repeater transmitter is working
- 7: The repeater antenna(s) is (are) working
- 8: The call of the repeater

Sometimes my kerchunk is answered by an anonymous kerchunk. But it seems my kerchunk is always a higher quality than his kerchunk.

"I love the smell of kerchunk in the morning." There is a local chapter of KA soon to form in this area. MFJ will soon market a kerchunk detector which will print out each month the date, time and call for each and every kerchunk. It will result in the FCC charging 25 cents per kerchunk. It will be added to your income tax. The new 1040-K forms are being printed even as I type.

National Kerchunk Day will be established by congress next year. On this day *only* kerchunking will be allowed on repeaters. Anyone actually engaging in a conversation will lose his kerchunking privileges for a period not to exceed 90 days.

Recently, kerchunkers have been heard on 20 and 25 meters. Is this a trend? When I operate 6 meters, I sometimes kerchunk my neighbor's TV. Have you kerchunked your repeaters today?

There will soon be an award, "KAS".

73 de K9CUN, Jack

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