



Presidents Message

Our Treasurer, Ken, N2CQ, just informed me that the net income from our Hamfest this year is the best he has on record. We will need to make a few changes next year so things run a little smoother. We will also need more help from Club members if we are to continue to put on a successful Hamfest.

As we wind down another year, I hope everyone has checked out their towers and antennas to make sure that they will withstand the rigors of winter. Another thing we do at the end of the year is elect Club officers for 2011. The following is a list of nominations taken at the October meeting:

Officers:

President	Al (KB2AYU)
Vice President	Tom (KE2ES)
Treasurer	Open
Recording Sec.	Harold (AC2BK)
Corresponding Sec.	Vinnie (N4NYY)

Board of Directors:

3 yr. Director	John (K2ZA)
3 yr. Director	Bob (KR2U)

Board of Trustees:

4 yr. Trustee	Open.
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Nominations will be taken again at the November meeting. Elections will be held at the December meeting for any contested positions. Note that many longtime Club members, including myself, have already held many offices and positions in the Club. We need some of the newer members to get involved in running the Club and guiding it into the future. No prior experience is necessary and there are plenty of mentors available if you have any questions. You do have to make it to most of the general and board meetings and be willing to work as a group. Please consider getting more involved in your Club. As you can see above, the important office of Treasurer is still open.

73, Al, KB2AYU

November Club Meeting Program

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

At our November 3rd Club meeting, our program will be a “This is my Ham Life” revelation with a pre-selected group of Club member speakers who will follow a pre-designed format outline. Yours truly will select the speakers ahead of time (probably about 5 guys, mostly our newer members) and each will present about a 5 –8 minute talk about their ham radio interests, what they think of our Club, their bio sketch, etc. Idea is to get to know some of our newer guys better and to give anyone who is a budding orator a chance to yak. I have to thank Cory, WA2UVV, for this rather unique, but great program suggestion. Since all Hams love to talk (that’s what a ham is), if you don’t hear from me (WA2NPD) in the next ten days, or so, please give me a call and tell me you would like to be one of the speakers (should I hold my breath?). This program should be of great interest to all and looking forward to hearing you.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Well, the "DX Smoke" has not completely cleared from all the Caribbean activity from the old PJ-2, 4 & 9 and PJ5-8 Netherlands Antilles DXCC entities that are now history (deleted in ARRL terms!). If you worked the above basically before October 10, 2010 you still get credit for them. But as of Oct 10 (0400Z, I believe) you have FOUR NEW DXCC ENTITIES to work that are right in our Down Jersey DX backyard! They consist of PJ2 (Curacao), PJ4 (Bonaire), PJ5 and PJ6 (St. Eustatius and Saba) and PJ7 (St. Martin - No, not named after our W2RM, as rumored!). All in all, a pretty good trade-off - lose two entities and GAIN FOUR! Who says the ARRL can't perform miracles!

Activity began with gusto from the five islands (remember PJ5 and PJ6 only count for one entity) early on Oct. 10. Conditions were fairly good with many qsos and huge pile-ups from 160-10 Meters. Special congrats to our own W2YC, Dave, who filled in all the new band country possibilities for these four new ones from 10 through 160 Meters in less than a week! All three modes too! Six Meter operations were promised by some up-coming DXpeditions in future months and especially in summer for the sporadic-E season in 2011 for these islands. Thoughtful efforts were often made by the NEW PJ's to listen for EU and especially JA's who have a tough propagation path to the Caribbean.

QRZ.COM should furnish you with info on qsl managers for the PJ operations. If you "Google" individual call signs, you might find some individual websites that contain on-line logs that will show if your qsos are confirmable. Looks like the DXCC Desk won't start accepting confirmations until January of next year, but at least you can start the QSLing process.

Most of these islands enjoy a busy tourist industry, so you might consider a DX trip to one of them to enjoy the experience of being DX. Stories of licensing being readily available as well as ham-friendly qths (hotels and rentals) add to the convenience of a possible visit. Most of these places are also "xyl" friendly with the typical vacation shopping and attractions.

The DX gods also bestowed an upward trend of DX activity on 12 Meters around the beginning of October in SNJ. Europe, Mid-East, and African DX suddenly became more plentiful and workable on the band, typically middle and late morning into the afternoon sometimes locally. Remember an antenna tuner will often get your TEN METER ANTENNA to load on 12 Meters! A simple dipole or even a CB vertical can also be very effective can be very effective antennas when this band is open.

No surprise that recent sunspot activity and seasonal propagation have opened 10 Meters from time to time for some DXing. I have a long way to go for 100 entities on 10 Meters this calendar year, but the last couple of weeks I have qsoed VP8, C91, 3B8, KH6 and 4O3 (yes, Europe on 10 Meters!). It was also interesting to hear some signals with the almost forgotten "booming audio" DX signals from the previous sunspot peaks. Let's hope this is a good omen for the near future on fabulous band that has been dormant DX-wise for so long!

While radio conditions continue to slowly improve with our solar flux nudging higher, here are some real possibilities to add to your log in November:

Please see "DX" on Page 3.

“DX” continued form Page 2.

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RARITY	ENTITY
YJ0HA	11/1-11/15	160-10M/CW - SSTV!	3	VANUATU
9U0A	11/3-11/9	HF/ALL MODES/700W.	3	BURUNDI
9L0A	11/4-11/18	160-6M/CW,SB,TY	2	SIERRA LEONE
5X1A	11/4-12/1	HF/CW,SB,TY/IOTA AF-037	3	UGANDA
PJ5	11/18-12/3	160-6M/CW,SB,TY	1	ST EUSTATIUS
ZK2A	11/19-12/5	160-40+WARC/MANY OPS!	2	NIUE
ZL8X	11/19-12/5	160-10M/CW,SB,TY/BIG EFFORT	4	KERMADEC
PJ7	11/20-11/23	80-10M/CW,SB,DIG	1	ST. MARTIN
XV4SP	11/26-12/06	HF/CW,SSB,DIG/9U0A GROUP	4	VIETNAM
-----	11/27-11/28	ASST. CW GEMS FROM CQWW DX CONTEST		

SOURCES: NG3K ADXO

Constitutional Amendment Proposal 2010-2

In the September issue of Crosstalk a Constitutional Amendment Proposal 2010-01 was published. After review by our legal counsel it was recommended that the language of the proposal be modified. The modified language is shown below and is designated Constitutional Amendment Proposal 2010-2. Article II Section 5 of the Club’s Constitution with the added language is shown in its entirety below. After presentation at two General Membership Meetings the Amendment Proposal will be voted on by the Club. The added wording is underlined.

ARTICLE II - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 5. Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to be the recipient of and handle all monies of the CLUB. The Treasurer shall deposit same in the name of the CLUB in any FDIC Insured account. The Treasurer shall make all such payments for the CLUB as are provided by the Constitution, or such as shall be ordered by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be a co-signer of all checks drawn upon the CLUB's accounts.

The Treasurer shall complete and file the necessary form(s) with the Internal Revenue Service to maintain the status of the CLUB as a section 501(c)(4) organization pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

The Treasurer shall issue a membership card to each member upon payment of his / her dues. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a written record of all transactions as dictated by good book-keeping practices. The Treasurer shall, at the conclusion of the term of office, deliver to the successor within two (2) weeks of the expiration of the outgoing Treasurer's term, all books, papers, and records in the Treasurer's possession which are the property of the CLUB.

Gurdon Cooper,AA4N, Silent Key

It is with great sadness that we that we report on the passing of Gurdon Cooper, AA4N. Gurdon was a long time member of the GCARC. He died September 29, 2010 in Cape Coral, Florida. Gurdon worked at DuPont in Gibbstown for 42 years. The Club sends its condolences out to Gurdon’s family.

On the Web

By Art Strong

As I have reported in earlier issues of Crosstalk, I plan to get as much of our club history together and start posting it up on the website for everyone, and anyone, to be able to read. Well, it's started. So far I have approximately eight years of back issues of Crosstalk on the website. They are catalogued by years, and each month that is available is highlighted in blue. If you click on any particular month you will be taken directly to that issue's PDF file where it will be displayed just like the current issue of Crosstalk. Yes, there are some months missing and I suspect that there will be many months missing by the time I collect all available back issues. But that's to be expected. However, there are also sections showing all past Presidents, the basis and recipients of the Milt Goldman award, and how we become to be known as W2MMD. I was even able to clean up and improve the "Leadership" page so that it didn't look like someone's youngster put it together and colored it for me. Why that page has caused me so much grief I have yet to understand but it is most uncooperative and shows no sign of improving.

In a few weeks I plan to start getting down to the Club site and digging in the file drawers for whatever of interest I can find. I hope to find many back issues of Crosstalk as they will have running accounts of what we were doing as a club at the time of their issue. Also, I have found that I can compress and "zip" years of Crosstalk together for downloading in case someone would like to do just that. If that facet of all this comes together then it will be brought up on the web page and here in Crosstalk.

So if you haven't already, take a tour of our website's fledgling history section and see what we were doing a few years ago. As time goes on, I hope this will only get bigger and better. In the meantime, see you on the web.

New Stuff

By Cory Sickles, WA3UAA

Occasionally, some new things on the market catch my eye. Some may be specific to Ham Radio, others have broader appeal.

The Stanley 3-in-1 LED Flashlight is a triple-head light that breaks down into 3 separate flashlights, each with a hinged light. When joined together, the case also acts as a stand. Resembling something from Werner Von Braun's notebook, the individual heads can illuminate a fairly good sized area. Each unit uses 2 AA cells, so it's very "rechargeable friendly".

The "Schmart Board" is a very convenient way to prototype with SMD components. They offer a number of boards to accommodate chips, discrete components, connectors, etc. What makes the boards unique is the solder-primed traces are countersunk in such a way that encourages the chips to stay in place while being soldered. If you've been working with SMD's (or would like to) but have found that keeping components in place is difficult, you may want to give these a try. Check out their web site at www.schmartboard.com to get more ideas.

As a low-tech finish to this installment, the Waterproof Logbooks from Andrew Kabasakalian, WB2WZC, are nice to keep around for recording mobile and portable contacts. While many are using LOTW for their logging requirements, there are still times when you have to write things down first. Spilled coffee, rain, and other things can ruin normal paper, but these stand up to much more abuse. You can find them at www.waterprooflogbooks.com or they're also sold at www.amazon.com.

HF Quiz

By Cory Sickles, WA3UAA

Due to an intense lack of feedback on the last quiz, I don't know if any of you are actually reading, let alone enjoying the challenge of these. However, at least one more time, here's this month's pop-quiz.

1. The WARC-79 HF bands were 30, 17 and 12 meters. When were they first proposed and when were we allowed access to the final one?
2. Which band was the first to be released to us?
3. Which band was the last?
4. Before WARC-79, what was the "newest" HF band? (Hint: early TV's had TVI problems because their IF section operated on the same frequency range.)
5. Which non-HF band also came along after WARC-79?
6. Which is our newest HF allocation?
7. Which HF band was broken into regional segments and assigned nighttime power restrictions after WW2?
8. Which HF band is often referred to by more than one number?
9. Which HF band was once referred to as "ultra-high frequency"?
10. Which HF band was entirely removed from amateur use?
11. BONUS: Of the following, which TV series has not featured ham radio in any of their episodes – Alf, The Munsters, The Simpsons, Three's Company?

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. First proposed in 1971. The last was released to us in 1989. It always takes longer to get something than to have it taken away.
2. 30 Meters. If you like CW and QRP, this is the band for you.
3. 17 Meters. It was a pleasant surprise, released slightly earlier than expected.
4. 15 Meters. It was provided as some compensation for LORAN stations being placed all over 160. Early TV used a 21 MHz IF – Ouch!
5. 902-928 MHz, also known as 33cm. It's a North American allocation only.
6. 60 Meters. We got the current 5 shared channels in 2002.
7. 160 Meters. Originally 1.75 to 2 MHz, the band was shortened and chopped up into regional allocations. IIRC, no area had access to the entire band. This and the power restrictions kind of made DX'ing a super challenge. Still, many persevered.
8. 80/75 Meters. Conventionally, it was referred to as 80 by CW and RTTY enthusiasts from 3.5 – 3.8 MHz and as 75 by phone ops on 3.8 to 4.0 MHz. Now that CW and all the digital modes got forced down to the lowest 100 KHz, who knows where the boundary actually is...
9. 10 Meters. We're taking "early days of radio" here. Later, some texts would classify it as VHF. It was hard enough to get a rig to work up to 14 MHz then, let alone the jump to 28.
10. 11 Meters. Our use ended on September 11, 1958 – Class D CB having been first proposed in early 1957. (see comment in #1, above) This allocation ran from 26.06 – 27.23 MHz and was shared with Industrial, Medical and Scientific (ISM) users. Hams in Canada got to hold onto a slice of their original allocation a bit longer.
11. Three's Company. The others either had ham radio as a recurring element or as a plot device in an episode. The representations were anything but realistic.

SDR Cube

By Cory Sickles, WA3UAA

Yes, more SDR stuff. If you haven't figured it out by now, this is an emerging technology that more and more hams are getting into. This time, it's the SDR Cube from the minds of George Heron, N2APB and Juha Niinkoski, OH2NLT.

What they've done is take the Softrock transceiver I've written about earlier and eliminated the need for an external computer. With just 8 controls and a flat panel display, you have a multimode QRP rig that's packaged in a 4" x 4" x 4" black powder-coat cabinet from Ten-Tec. One of the downsides of current SDR designs has been the awkwardness of portable operation. This eliminates that issue and sets the stage for many improvements and increased adoption of SDR-based rigs.

This is another project that will be sold through the NJQRP club in various kit levels, including the option of buying one already built – much in the same way that the very popular NUE-PSK terminal has been sold. You can find more information on the Cube at www.sdr-cube.com and more info on NJQRP at www.njqrp.org the next time you're surfing the 'net. More info will be appearing on our Club's web site, www.w2mmd.org in the future.

The Weather Outside Was Frightful

October 8, 2010 was one of those gorgeous early fall days in New England: Sunny, highs in the mid-70s and not a cloud in the sky. October 8, 2010 was also the date of the first VE session from Antarctica held by two examiners at ARRL Headquarters and one examiner at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. As it happens, the temperature outside at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station was also in the mid-70s but with the addition of a minus sign! A total of eight candidates took the Technician exam, and all eight are now licensed amateurs. Within a few weeks the new licensees started creating pileups while making their first contacts!

The crew members at the South Pole Station have been exposed to ham radio through the permanent ham stations at the Station and some had wanted to be hams for years, but just didn't know how to go about it. The South Pole winter crew is isolated at the station for long periods of time and wanted another way to fight the isolation and the boredom from being sequestered inside a steel cocoon for so long.

The exams were carried out through video conferencing. Everyone at the South Pole station had a laptop and was able to log onto the ARRL VEC examination Web site. The VEs were able to observe and communicate before, during and after the session through the video conference. Participating VEs filled in all forms related to the session via the Web. The results were reported to the candidates within a few minutes of electronic submission to the VEC and VE team. All eight had passed!

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

November Birthdays

Fr. Brian Burgess, KD4UTL
Robert Durham, KC2SGP
Russell Glans, N2ASV
Howard Marder, WA2IBZ
Ray Martin, W2RM
Lawrence Mommicco, AD2L
Cory Sickles, WA3UVV
Martin Wilt, W2ILT



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 December issue: 11/20/2010

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Acting Vice President-Wayne, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

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, K2ZA
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-Al, KB2AYU
Historian-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
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)

November Meeting

This is My Ham Life
Moderated by Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

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

