

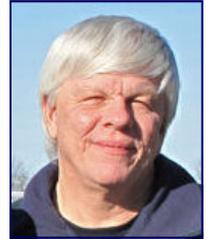
# CROSSTALK

Volume 54 Issue #11

November 2013



## President's Message



November is upon us and with it comes Election and Veterans Day, Hanukkah and Thanksgiving Day.

Field Day results should appear in December's issue of QST magazine.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new members to the club. *(See Page 4)*

As of this writing, the 2 meter repeater performance has been satisfactory and continues to be closely monitored.

Work is continuing on the new clubhouse. Bill, N2VIL has scheduled another work day for Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Ray Martin, W2RM has agreed to step up and assume the responsibilities of Bill as Clubhouse Project Manager when he moves away from the area next January. *(See Page 14)*

Nominations will again be submitted at the November general membership meetings with final voting taking place in December. The following positions will be nominated upon:

### 2014 Club Officers (1 year term)

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary (Total 5)

### Director (3 year term)

Replacement for both Art, K2AWS and Gary, WA3SVW (Total 2)

### Trustee (4 year term)

Replacement for Steve, W2TDS and Bill, N2VIL (Total 2)

Due to the New Year's Day holiday, Monroe Township has given us permission to hold our club meeting on Thursday, January 2, 2014 at the Pfeiffer Community Center.

In closing, November's program sounds real interesting. Cory, WA3UVV will be presenting Morse Code (CW) operating mode and Contesting. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there. *(See Pages 3, 17)*

Thanks and 73,  
Tom, KE2ES

## Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

At this writing, the "double peak" of the current sunspot cycle might be here! With so much DX activity on the calendar for this month, it seems more important to get on the bands now, rather than talk about the general DX picture.

Now is the time to load up any and all wires, non-resonant antennas and coat hangers on 10 and 12 Meters! These two bands have been exceptionally good lately. 15 Meters is also a great choice if you can't hear or get through to the DX you need on 10 or 12 Meters. Europe/West Africa in the morning and the Pacific in the late afternoon and early evening have been the rule on 10 and 12 in South Jersey recently. Solar flux is running in the 150 range and disturbances to our geomagnetic fields have been relatively minimal lately.

Here are two DX lists to check out. One titled "DX Light" (on page 3) includes 7 entities in North and South America, 4 in the Eastern Pacific, and 1 in Western Africa. The "DX Heavy" list below includes 5 Western Pacific countries, 3 Asian gems, and 4 African challenges. They may be tougher to work than the Light List, but with exceptional conditions, some FB DX operations, and your perseverance you can add some of these to your DXCC totals also.

Don't forget the CQ World Wide CW DX Contest November 23-24 before Thanksgiving this year. That's more activity packed into this DX dynamic month. Check your needs with the following lists:

### “DX-HEAVY LIST”

| CALL   | DATES         | HIGHLIGHTS                        | DIFFICULTY<br>(5=MOST RARE) | ENTITY           |
|--------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| XV2    | 11/02 - 11/09 | 160-6M/CW, SB, DIG-2 JA Stations! | 4                           | Vietnam          |
| YJ0ZS  | 11/01 - 11/11 | 160-6M/CW, SB, TY/JA Effort       | 3                           | Vanuatu          |
| FK     | 11/01 - 11/30 | 80-10M/CW, PSK                    | 3                           | New Caledonia    |
| E6     | 11/03 - 11/09 | 80-10M/CW, SB, DIG/HI Power       | 3                           | Niue (Old ZK2)   |
| JD1BLC | 11/07 - 11/15 | All Bands/Modes                   | 3                           | Ogasawara Island |
| Z81X   | 11/14 - 11/28 | All Bands/Modes/Super Effort!     | 4                           | South Sudan      |
| 3DA0ET | 11/18 - 11/27 | 160-6M/CW, SB, TY/12 OPS          | 3                           | Swaziland        |
| S2     | 11/19 - 11/29 | 160-6M/CW, SB, TY/20 OPS          | *5*                         | Bangladesh       |
| 9X     | 11/19 - 11/29 | Many Bands/Modes                  | 3                           | Rwanda           |
| TY     | 11/20 - 12/03 | 40-6M/CW, SB, RTTY                | 3                           | Benin            |
| 3D2R   | 11/22 - 11/29 | All Bands/Modes/FB OPS!           | 3                           | Rotuma           |
| V6     | 11/22 - 11/30 | Many Bands/Modes                  | 3                           | Micronesia       |

## “DX-LIGHT LIST”

| CALL   | DATES         | HIGHLIGHTS                    | DIFFICULTY<br>(5=MOST RARE) | ENTITY                |
|--------|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| CE0(Y) | 11/01 - 11/07 | 160-6M/CW, SB, DIG/3 Stations | 1                           | Easter Island         |
| HK0    | 11/01 - 11/10 | Many Band/Modes - 12 OPS      | 1                           | San Andres Island     |
| T33A   | 11/05 - 11/18 | 160-10M/CW, SB, TY/Many OPS   | 3                           | Banaba Island         |
| PJ6    | 11/07 - 11/17 | 80-10M/CW, SB, TY, DIG        | 1                           | Saba Island           |
| XR0ZR  | 11/08 - 11/20 | 160-6M/CW, SB, TY/4 Stations  | 2                           | Juan Fernández Island |
| W8A    | 11/12 - 11/24 | 160-10M/CW, SB/ZL's & JA's    | 2                           | American Samoa        |
| FJ     | 11/15 - 12/06 | 40-10M/CW, RTTY               | 1                           | Saint Barts           |
| J88HL  | 11/17 - 11/29 | 160-6M/CW, SB, TY             | 1                           | Saint Vincent Island  |
| TU     | 11/17 - 11/30 | 160-6M/SB,CW,TY               | 2                           | Ivory Coast           |
| V25A   | 11/21 - 12/01 | 160-10M/CW, SB                | 1                           | Antigua               |
| 5W8A   | 11/27 - 12/03 | Many Bands/Modes              | 2                           | Samoa                 |
| T32TM  | 11/28 - 12/03 | Many Bands/Modes              | 1                           | East Kiribati Island  |

Sources : NG3K ADXO



### Club Meeting Program - Wednesday, November 6, 2013: “Morse Code Night and Competition” By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

I would venture that a high percentage of our club members, and I include myself in that percentage, are not code literate. Are you? Either way, A1 operator, or non-operator, you may be interested in our planned November club meeting program. So you think you already know Morse Code? Then prove it!

Be prepared to “bring it” in a friendly competitive demonstration in front of your peers on November 6! Not that familiar with Morse code? Let those who know it best show why they find “CW”, the “original digital mode”, so special.

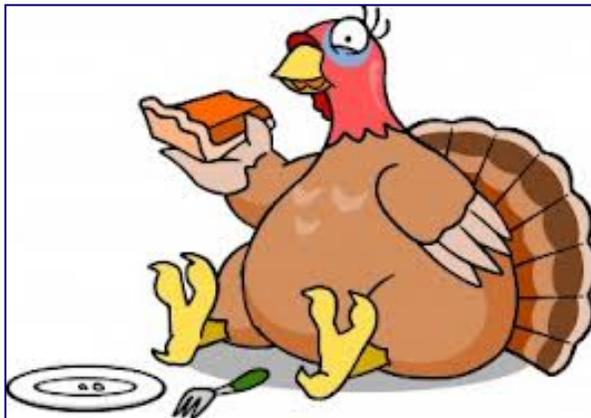


**Thank You!**  
By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

“Thank you” once again to all of the club members and their families who participated in this year’s MS-150. Between our hams and others they brought along, we had a total of 20 people helping to make a success of the two-day event. As I understand it, this represented the most people from any one amateur radio club that was represented there! That’s especially significant when groups such as this struggle to get volunteers.

Not just with ham radio, but too often we see volunteering as a burden. In reality, it’s an opportunity. The MS Society of Philadelphia is grateful to those of you who seized this opportunity. So, thanks once again to those participants:

**K2ATX, KC2WXQ, NJ2S, N2RO, WA3UVV, W2FJM, KC2IKD, KD2AFY, K2AEN, AC2BY, KE2WC, KD2EDH, KC2WVP, K2MEN and to WB3JOY for (once again) funding the club logo on the shirts.**



**Happy Thanksgiving  
November 28, 2013**

**Club leadership office terms that will expire on December 31, 2013:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| President : Tom Gorman, KE2ES<br>Vice President : Jim Wright, N2GXJ<br>Treasurer : Al Arrison, KB2AYU<br>Recording Secretary: Sheldon Parker, K2MEN<br>Corresponding Secretary : Cory Sickles, WA3UVV | Director : Art Strong, K2AWS<br>Director : Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW<br>Trustee : Steve Blasko, W2TDS<br>Trustee : Bill Szkromiuk, N2VIL |
|---|--|

**Welcome New Club Members:**

- Michael Andrescavage N2ICV, who holds a Technician class license and lives in Blackwood, NJ.
- Clinton Beckett WB3EHB, who holds an Advanced class license and lives in Vineland, NJ.
- Paul Dallard KM3W, who holds an Amateur Extra class license and lives in Chester, PA.
- Gary Triplo KD2EBX, who holds a Technician class license and lives in Blackwood, NJ.
- Brett Waller KC2UXQ, who holds a Technician class license and lives in Williamstown, NJ.

We are glad to have you as members of the Club and hope to see you regularly at Club functions and meetings.



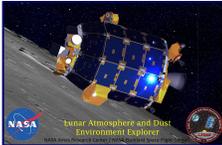
## Let's Have Launch

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV



While our manned space program is reorganizing, there are many unmanned flights still taking place. Where do you think the most launches are? Cape Canaveral? Vandenberg? Surprisingly to many, it's just south of us, at **Nasa's Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) and the Mid Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS)**.

With a fairly regular schedule of orbital and sub-orbital flights, rocket launches are smoothly executed with great frequency. While you can drive down to Virginia and see a launch, you can also get a good view of the business end of a rocket right in South Jersey – specifically, Cape May.



A short time ago, K2ZA and I traveled down for a nighttime launch of LADEE, a mission to the moon. (Remember when we actually sent people there?)

At the appropriate time, the sky to the south came aglow with the initial engine firing and within seconds, you could see the flawless liftoff as it rose into the heavens. Yes, at Cape May you are also close enough to hear the rocket motors burn through fuel – an unmistakable sound. In the case of LADEE, the trajectory brought it overhead as we watched 2 stage separations as it headed into a temporary orbit. My view was only obscured when a street light came in between the rocket and my eyes.



As a kid who marveled in the space program missions of the 60's and 70's , I have vivid memories of all those launches, the tragedies, the challenges and the triumphs. It saddens me when we lose one of those childhood heroes, such as **Scott Carpenter**, just a few weeks ago. All the same, I still get emotional when I see footage of a **Saturn V** slowing taking flight with an American flag and a bold red "U...S...A..." pass vertically through the screen.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAOagE4nnsk>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6REHeRExDUo>

Each time I watch it, I'm extra proud to be an American citizen and often reflect on what those moments represented in the achievement of creativity, hard work, focus and pursuit of a singular goal.

Launching a sub-orbital rocket for high atmosphere research, an re-supply mission to the International Space Station or a probe to the moon may not be quite the same, but it's still a thrill. To learn more about WFF and MARS, surf on over to <http://marsspaceport.com> and see what's scheduled. Cape May isn't all that far away to see something a little out of the ordinary.





## Special Guest Speaker for the Club Meeting : December 4, 2013

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

Following the officer elections at our December club meeting, it is our great honor to welcome Dean Sargent (W2CGZ) as our special guest speaker for the evening. An IEEE life member, Mr. Sargent serves as president of D. W. Sargent Broadcast Service; a company specialized in transmitter and antenna services and measurements primarily for the television industry.

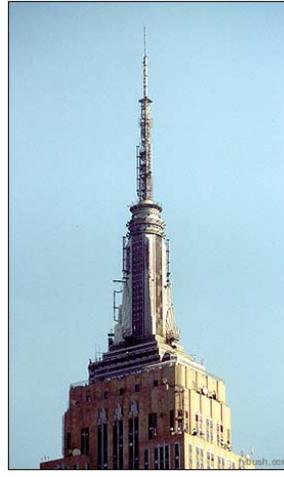
Examples of high interference areas where the company has operated from include the top of the Sears Tower in Chicago, Mount Sutro, the Empire State Building, and the top of the World Trade Center before 9/11. We hope you can make it out to this December's meeting for this most interesting presentation.



Sears Tower



Mount Sutro



Empire State Building



World Trade Center



This site is dedicated to the memory of Bill Hunsinger, KB2YJB-SK

## Gloucester City Amateur Radio Club NJ2GC



Dwell on the Beauty of the Journey through Amateur Radio rather than the Destination.....

Winner of the Gloucester City Silver Eagle Mike Award for Communications Excellence - 2012

The officers of the Gloucester City Amateur Radio Club are proud to announce that the Club will be conducting an ARRL approved Hamfest on Saturday, February 15, 2014 beginning at 6AM and closing at 3PM. Dealers may set up the evening prior to the event. Breakfast will available along with refreshments during the hamfest. The location is the Pine Grove Fire Association Fire Hall, 827-829 Jersey Avenue Gloucester City, NJ. The facility is well suited to limited ability access. Admission fee is \$5.00. Tables are free and there are many tables (full size) available. Plenty of parking including some off street. The event is entirely indoors so there is no tailgating. Talk in will be maintained on the NJ2GC repeater, 447.775 Mhz, 146.2 Hz. Further information can had via email: kb2adl@comcast.net, Cell phone: 856-397-3703. Potential dealers are cordially invited to contact Jay Goheen: kb2adl@comcast.net as to their table requirements and floor location. A flyer with more details will be available on the Club website: nj2gc.org. See you there. 73, Jay, KB2ADL, Secretary, G.C.A.R.C.

# Communicator for the MS City to Shore Bike Event - September 28, 2013

By Bart Conrad, KC2WVP

It behooves me to record what a significant experience was accorded me to serve as the Communicator for the 61.1 mile marker for the century loop on the bike path. The route frequency on the VHF band was the Egg Harbor repeater, 146.640 MHz. The use of ham radio operators along the route was crucial for net central to keep track of times and locations of SAG vans, Bike Repair trucks, bike breakdowns, injuries and many other incidents requiring response. No other media would have been able to track a big-picture event involving from 6000 to 9000 bicycles and dozens of vehicles over nearly a 100 mile course. The following is a rough accounting of events at the location Moss Mill Road (alt Rt. 561) and 5th avenue, Mullica Township [39.56419 N, 74.671872 W]. It of necessity does not report all sightings and reports automatically broadcast of SAG van #s, Bike Repair truck numbers, and assorted course tracking vehicle #s.

- | Times      | Incident Reports  |
|------------|---|
| • 6:35 am  | Report in to Net Control from 61.1 mile marker, century loop, KC2WVP.   |
| • 7:10 am  | Biker ran past travel N-not part of contest.  |
| • 7:40 am  | Mullica Twp. Police car parked at intersection with lights on.  |
| • 8:20 am  | First contest bike came past mile marker 61.1.  |
| • 8:50 am  | Bicycle 2130 stopped by to fix a flat – took about 10 minutes. Did not wait for bike repair truck.                      |
| • 9:00 am  | Reported about 70 bikes passed-some unusual horizontal and two-person bikes.  |
| • 9:05 am  | SAG #4 truck came by.   |
| • 9:25 am  | Made police report of biker down ½ mile back, around 60.5 miles.  |
| • 9:45 am  | Now 3 police cars at intersection - hundreds of cyclists passing each 10 minutes.                                       |
| • 9:55 am  | SAG #1 & Bike-to-Shore car cars passed-probably helped biker down.  |
| • 10:26 am | Bike 6902 stopped, has a bad flat, can't help her. Called, SAG#6 picked her up to carry to next rest stop in 3.7 miles. |
| • 10:35 am | Net control out of contact. Bike Repair #7 came past.   |
| • 10:45 am | 7805 & 7806 had a flat, assisted by Pace tricycle, got back on road to next rest stop.                                  |
| • 11:50 am | Male cycle #3880 p/u by SAG #8. His female partner #4772 continues riding on.   |
| • 12:50 pm | Released by Chase vehicle after last bike came through.   |

My biggest problem was lack of a bathroom. I'm glad I travelled relatively dry. My first stop after release was a service station down 5th Ave. on Route 30 for use of their facility. I then travelled by GPS on Atlantic City Expressway and Garden State Parkway down to 6th and Atlantic, Ocean City. This was the location of the Music Pier and Ocean City High School. I had to park at a paid meter at 7th and Central, about 7 blocks away. At 2:05 pm, I was in position to see the first of the bikes arriving, among a huge flock of friendly family pedestrians, cheering them on. I stood in line and ate dinner at a booth-hot dog, sauerkraut, chili beans, and blinski potato dumpling. Again, drank nothing as no bathrooms in sight. Chatted with some fellow communicators, who have done this event for many years, staying overnight. Headed back to my car, meter paid for two hours, left at 3:30 pm. Arrived back home in Blackwood around 5:20 pm to greet my patient wife.





## Fall Fox Hunt - Recap

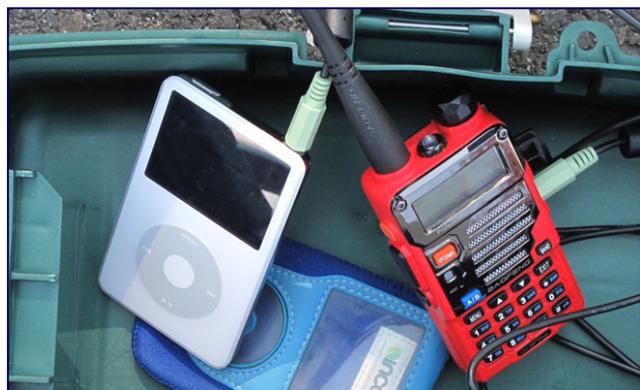
By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

The Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club was at it again with another mobile T-hunt driving, navigating, and radio direction finding activity all in one! The GCARC Fall Fox Hunt was conducted in the early afternoon of October 5, with a new twist – for this hunt; to find this fox, once the hunters found the park where the transmitter was hidden, they had to get out of their cars and finish the hunt on foot! Unlike in previous hunts, where the fox stayed in their car to transmit, in this hunt the transmitter was placed in a plastic tackle box with an old iPod used to send a periodically repeating pre-recorded voice message. The competition was heated for this hunt, in that two different teams were first to appear at the park at about the same time. Jeff (KC2WCS) and Dan (N2TXG) were first out of their car, and soon realized that they had competition when Harry (K2ATX), Kayla (KC2WXQ), and daughter appeared. Harry was using a novel home-brew shielded loop antenna that he had improvised the night before. Dan was using a hand-held beam, while Jeff used his HT with a “body fade” technique. They all quickly realized the transmitter was in a different direction from where they saw Jim (N2GXJ), the hunt coordinator, greeting them with a big smile from in the parking lot.

Each team took a slightly different path, pausing periodically to re-acquire the signal and get a new bearing, and to sneak a glance at what the other team was doing. Both teams did a great job of getting into the general area of where the transmitter was near the back of the park. Once they got this close, though, they had to improvise a bit to compensate for the signal being so strong. Tricks to knocking down the received signal strength a bit included tuning slightly off frequency, or up to the third harmonic (which was up in the 440 MHz band), and loosening or even removing the antenna completely.

In the end it was the team of Harry, Kayla, and daughter that grabbed first place honors, followed by the team of Dan and Jeff taking second place. Not long after that, two more fox hunters showed up at the park. This time, it was perennial fox hunter Al (KB2AYU) who arrived in his all electric truck, with first time hunter Chuck (KD2EIB) in close pursuit. Both were using a modified “body fade” technique, with Al having substituted some kind of attenuator adapter for his HT’s normal antenna as he got close. With the other teams that had already found the fox watching with amusement from a nearby shaded park bench, Chuck and Al battled it out to see who would be next to find the hidden transmitter. Watching each of them first dart this way, and then that to try and get a better bearing each time the transmitter would come on the air again, we all had a good laugh.

In the end it was Chuck who took the third place honors with a stealthy sprint while Al’s back was turned, with Al finally discovering the tackle box behind its pine tree hiding spot shortly after that. In the end we all exchanged hunt stories, posed for some pictures, and had a good laugh. If you’re interested, you can see some of the pictures online now at our [w2mmd.org](http://w2mmd.org) web site posted under the left side tab ‘GCARC Fox Hunts’->’Fox Hunt IV’.





## Why Morse Code?

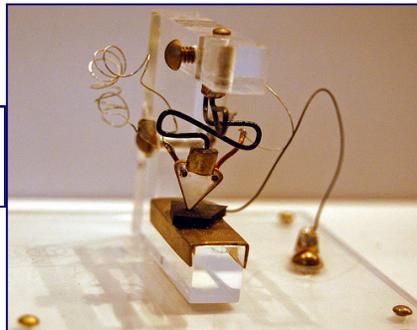
By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

Perhaps you can help me answer this. Why are more and more people who entered the ranks of Amateur Radio without learning code now starting to pick it up?

- Is it because International Morse was used to save the world in the movie “Independence Day”? Probably not, but that was cool.
- Is it because of singer Katy Perry, who in an interview with Entertainment Tonight, revealed that she had commandeered the light atop the famous Capitol Records building in Hollywood, a light that usually spelled out “Capitol”, to send out a personal message to promote her latest album? Not for me, as I did not even know that fact until I was writing this piece for Crosstalk.
- Is it because the Mars Rover is leaving tracks in Morse code in the dust wherever it drives on that other planet? Um, not likely. But that is kind of geeky funny.
- Is it because Morse code remains the simplest and most efficient way known to send messages via radio? Eh, maybe so. But what does that mean to me?
- Is it because you came out to our Field Day site this year and happened to notice how much fun our “CW” ops were having? I must admit, watching our CW ops in action at Field Day is inspiring. They are kind of amazing.
- Is it because you need more countries for DXCC, and it always seems that the really good expeditions to really exotic places all like to use Morse code? Seems like that might be motivation enough for some.
- Is it because it is possible to construct a working Amateur Radio set for only a few tens of dollars, including antenna and accessories, and use it to contact stations hundreds of miles away? Perhaps some of the QRP enthusiasts in our club might agree with this being part of the fun. Some of the things the NJ QRP club showed us when they presented to our club earlier this year were definitely interesting.
- Is it because there’s something special, and almost patriotic, about developing a personal skill that the majority of the population does not have; a skill that can help you and our country be prepared for “when all else fails, amateur radio gets through”. Actually, that’s not so over-the-top as I thought it was when I first wrote it. There actually might be something in there. Check out these quotes from the likes of Rudolph Giuliani, former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, and others at [www.nyc-arecs.org/quotes.html](http://www.nyc-arecs.org/quotes.html).

If you’re a CW op, what motivates you? If you are like me, and are just starting to learn (or re-learn) code now, why? Write back in the next Crosstalk. I’d like to hear from you.

**What is this?**





## A Gateway to HF By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Our 40 meter band remains the most popular, no matter what mode, but especially for CW. If you want to produce a transmitter or transceiver and be assured a profit, then you'll introduce it for 40M before any other band.

CW activity can readily be found at the lower edge of the band, from 7.000 MHz to 7.060 MHz. As a remnant of the old Novice sub-band, more activity can be found between 7.100 MHz and 7.125 MHz. The latter is also a great place for slower, straight key operation and there are groups like the Straight Key Century Club that encourage and Elmer slower operators to practice, plus increase their skills and speed, centered around 7.114 MHz.



If you already have a good short wave or communications receiver, then investing about \$30 for a "**None Simpler**" kit will reward you with a crystal-controlled transmitter. If you want to get a bit fancier and have more frequency excursion, then an MFJ Cub (\$100 kit / \$150 assembled) is an inexpensive way to go. Of course, if you (plan to) hold a General license or higher - then purchasing an "all-out" multi-band multimode HF rig may make more sense.

Whatever way you go, a simple wire dipole makes a good antenna. Since 40M has activity throughout the day and night, you can enjoy contacts whether the band is "short" or "long".

Take a look at [www.4sgrp.com](http://www.4sgrp.com) or [www.mfjenterprises.com](http://www.mfjenterprises.com) for more info.

## Hobbies other than ham radio? But of course! By Art Strong, K2AWS

While amateur radio, and its many variations, may be the topic of conversation at a club meeting, or any gathering of hams for that matter, there are a lot of licensees who pursue other interests that don't involve ham radio. As demonstrated in last month's program, Sheldon Parker, K2MEN, and I fly RC airplanes besides being involved in ham radio activities. Others may build models out of toothpicks, create stained glass windows, pursue model railroading, paint, charcoal sketch, etc. The list would go on and on, but the point is that the individual's hobby could be of interest to other GCARC members and would be a great topic for an after-meeting presentation. If you do have other hobby interests consider making a presentation of it and contact the Vice-President about scheduling it. He is always looking for new topics and ideas for a program and to be handed one by a member would really make his day. A great side benefit to the program would be other members wanting to take an active role in the topic now that they know of someone else already involved and who they can pose questions to. Try it as it can be fun.

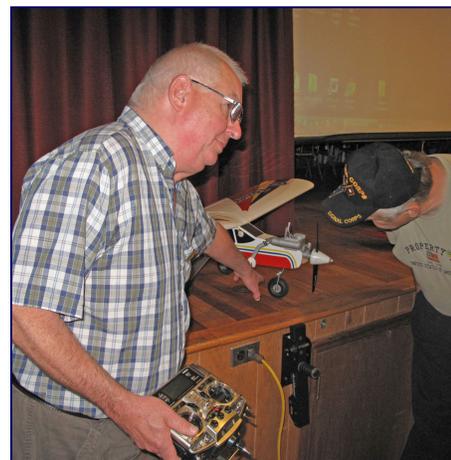
## Radio Control Program Recap By Sheldon Parker, K2MEN

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to share our radio control aircraft hobby with the club. The guys all asked interesting questions and seemed to enjoy the show. It was a lot of fun for us. I hope you can encourage other members who may have a special interest or focus on a particular aspect of ham radio to share their experiences. I know I am looking forward to program offerings in 2014. And, I know there are a bunch of guys in the club who have some very interesting experiences to share.

# Congratulations to Ken Newman, N2CQ



## Pictures from the October 2, 2013 Meeting Presentation - Radio Remote Control Presented by Sheldon Parker, K2MEN and Art Strong, K2AWS





## Visiting CQ HQ

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Earlier this month, I needed to head up to Hicksville, NY to interview someone. Noting that the location was only a couple of miles away from where CQ Publications is headquartered, I contacted Rich Moseson, W2VU, CQ's editor and we arranged to meet for lunch.



The “grand tour” isn't exactly what you'd get if you visited the League, but remember that one is an amateur radio organization that happens to publish a monthly magazine, while the other is a publisher that very deliberately publishes 3 monthly magazine and a quarterly one on top of that. Overall, CQ is a “lean mean printing machine” with a relatively small editorial, production and support staff. In fact, it is amazing the amount of work this dedicated team expends each and every month, plus the professional results of those efforts!

As you might imagine, the creative content is put together with a group of Mac's, while most of the accounting is handled with those “other” computers. Most of the writing is handled by individual contributors who write columns and articles all across North America – and then some. Having the effort somewhat decentralized helps with the lesser need for office space and keeps overhead down.

Interestingly, they don't have an official station there. While the idea presented itself many years ago, the general consensus was that if they had one, not much work would be done when “10 is open to Africa” or “rare DX from some atoll” was on the air. If you look closely, however, you may see some of Professor Heisseluft's stealth antenna farm on the roof, so perhaps a stealth station will show up one day, as well.

All in all, I had a nice experience and can now associate some smiling faces with a number of names that show on the publication mastheads.

CQ is running a holiday promotion, with discounts on subscriptions. If you want to (continue to) be a well-informed ham, then subscribing to all 4 is a good way to go. More details on the deals are at <http://store.cq-amateur-radio.com/Categories.bok?category=SPECIALS>.

In other publication news, Monitoring Times will soon publish the December 2013 issue – their last. I'm sure it will be filled with some “good bye” messages and recollections of the start of the magazines, but they'll probably also include the same good writing that they've been known for.

After the initial bad news of Bob Grove's retirement settled in my mind, I began to think about the staff and writers that had contributed to the past success of the magazine and thought it was unfortunate that all of them couldn't have just picked up the momentum and continued MT without the Groves. Bottom line is that Bob wasn't interested in selling the magazine to anyone. But he also didn't care if members of the team went off and created their own.

With that in mind, Ken Reitz, KS4ZR, who has served as editor and some other familiar names have started their own digital magazine – named “The Spectrum Monitor”. It will be published monthly and contain similar content to MT, plus a few more things along the way. The charter subscription rate is \$20, which is very reasonable. Digital publications (you're reading one right now) are the current trend in magazines. It's certainly easier to “net out in the black” if you don't have printing costs to deal with.

You can learn more and sign up for a subscription at <http://www.thespectrummonitor.com>. They're starting with a January 2014 issue, so as MT ends, TSM begins.

## **“Blast From The Past”**

### ***“November 1959 – By Jack Layton, K2JKA”***

It is of the utmost importance that you attend this month’s meeting as you probably already know the time has come for nominating our club officers for the coming year. We have made great strides forward over the past year and we will continue to grow only when our membership exercises’ it’s right under the by-laws in electing officers whom they feel are best fitted to direct and guide our club in the year ahead. The responsibility is yours, use it wisely and well. By all and any means come out!!!

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### ***“November 1973 – By Rose Ellen Bills, WA2FGS - Les Belles”***

We are in the middle of many holidays where our number one interest is the preparation of foods that are tasty. If you have been lucky to get some of the nice pumpkins that are grown right here in our area, as I have, you can prepare ahead for forthcoming dinners. The pies have a “down home” taste when prepared from scratch and some hints to do this are: Wash and cut your pumpkin in half and place cut side down in a pan in a warm oven. Roast until soft, but not mushy. Scrape out the flesh of the pumpkin with a spoon or fork. Place into colander and let drain overnight in a cool place. In the morning, put 2 cups of pumpkin in a bowl and whip thoroughly with a fork until all lumps disappear, but avoid mashing. Drain out as much liquid as possible, because the pumpkin should be dry, Add sugar, yolks of eggs, cinnamon and beat for 5 minutes. Quickly add cream, **whiskey** and butter and mix well. Sprinkle cornstarch over the stiffly beaten whites of eggs and put to the first mixture. Pour into a pan about 2½ inches deep which has been lined with pie pastry and bake for one hour in a moderate (375 deg. F) oven. Allow pie to become cold and firm before cutting.

Measurements for one pie:

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 cups cooked pumpkin       | 1 cup whiskey      |
| 4 eggs                      | ¼ cup butter       |
| 1 cup sugar (or substitute) | ⅓ cup cream        |
| ½ tsp. cinnamon             | 1 tbsp. cornstarch |

From a local farm in Pedricktown, I was fortunate to have one large pie pumpkin given to me which yielded 8 cups when cooked and would be glad to share this with anyone who was not so fortunate.

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### ***“November 1983 – By Harry Maxfield, WA2VXT – Repeater Update”***

The Technical Committee, continuing the improvements to the Repeater System, is in need of the following items:

- One metal lawn shed no larger than 6’ x 8’.
- 50 feet of 7/8” hardline.

If anyone has either of the above items and would like to donate them to the Club for use in the Repeater System, please see Harry-WA2VXT, Fred-KB2BF, or Chuck-WA2TML, at the November meeting.

### ***“November 1983 – 2M Repeater Noise Problem”***

By now most of you know that, due to some good detective work by Fred Munzenmayer, KB2BF and Joe DiNovi, WA2GFK, the noise problem was traced to a faulty clock radio in the home of a resident who lives nearby the repeater. Unfortunately diligent efforts by John Fisher, K2JF to rectify the problem have been hampered by the very uncooperative attitude of the resident and the usual foot-dragging by the FCC. During the week of October 17<sup>th</sup>, the FCC announced that they would get moving on the problem. Let’s hope they are successful in rectifying it soon. Regardless, continuing and increasing pressure will be applied to the FCC until corrective action has been taken.

*Editor Note: Do you think that this “Notorious Clock Radio” is back at work after 30 years.*

## Holiday Dinner Update

By Phyllis Martin, W2PDB

So far, over 30 people have signed up for the Holiday Dinner. We are still taking reservations. To review, see below.

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Location: **Venice of Pitman**  
**68 South Broadway**  
**Pitman, NJ**

Time: 6:30 PM

Price:\$20.00 Per person

BYOB, but Ray Martin(W2RM) is supplying a case of wine, mostly sweet and dry.

Club Members and a guest are welcome.

Dinner and short program from 7-9 PM

We are collecting the money in advance for convenience sake. Ray will have the sign up sheet and be available to collect at the next meeting.

Deadline for reservations is November 19, 2013.

Menu choices are:

- **Baked Stuffed Shells**
- **Chicken Parmigiana**
- **Sausage and Peppers**
- **Linguine Alfredo**
- **Vegetarian Dish (will confirm exactly tba)**
- **Checking on a dessert.**

Stay until the end for a surprise.

Contact Phyllis, W2PDB) (faith90@comcast.net), or Ray, W2RM 856-694-0005 or sign up at the next club meeting.

Looking forward to a nice evening of breaking bread, socializing with friends, and relaxing, before the holidays nip at our toes.



An advertisement for "The Pitman Room at Venice". At the top, it says "The Pitman Room at Venice" in yellow and red text, with "CATERING • BANQUETS • EVENTS" below it. The main headline is "Book Your Next Party In Our Brand New Pitman Room!". Below this are three photographs showing the interior of the room, which is set up with round tables and chairs. At the bottom, it says "CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR DATE!" in green text. The logo for "The Original Venice" is at the bottom left, and the address "68 S Broadway Pitman, NJ 08071" and phone number "(856) 582-0770" are at the bottom right.



## Club House Update

By Bill Szkromiuk, N2VIL

We are scheduling a work party for Wednesday, October 30, 2013. The items on the agenda are:

- Open up the floor in order to cap off the septic line from the demolished bathroom.
- Open up the floor and prepare for running and rerouting plumbing between kitchen and remaining bathroom.
- Identify existing wiring in the ceiling for future lighting, fixtures and switches.
- Remove left-over wiring and devices that were used by the Williamstown Fire Department.
- Other Sundry items to be determined.

We will have power and space heaters if necessary. Electric saws, hand tools and Volt/ohm meter or continuity tester, would all be helpful. Thanks and see y'all there.

### California QSO Party : October 5 - 6, 2013

Call: N2CQ  
Operator(s): N2CQ  
Station: N2CQ

Class: SOFixed LP  
QTH: SNJ  
Operating Time (hrs):

Summary:

| Band | CW | Qs | Ph | Qs |
|------|----|----|----|----|
|------|----|----|----|----|

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|      |    |  |   |  |
|------|----|--|---|--|
| 160: |    |  |   |  |
| 80:  |    |  |   |  |
| 40:  |    |  |   |  |
| 20:  | 75 |  | 0 |  |
| 15:  | 80 |  | 0 |  |
| 10:  | 33 |  | 0 |  |
| 6:   |    |  |   |  |
| 2:   |    |  |   |  |

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Total: 188 0 Mults = 45 Total Score = 25,380

Club: Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

### New York QSO Party : October 19 - 20, 2013

Call: W2KRD  
Operator(s): W2KRD  
Station: W2KRD

Class: SOSSB LP  
QTH: NJ  
Operating Time (hrs):  
Location: Out of State/Province

Summary:

| Band | CW | Qs | Ph | Qs |
|------|----|----|----|----|
|------|----|----|----|----|

---

|      |  |    |  |  |
|------|--|----|--|--|
| 160: |  |    |  |  |
| 80:  |  | 19 |  |  |
| 40:  |  | 87 |  |  |
| 20:  |  |    |  |  |
| 15:  |  |    |  |  |
| 10:  |  |    |  |  |
| 6:   |  |    |  |  |
| 2:   |  |    |  |  |

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Total: 106 Mults = 43 Total Score = 4,558

Club: Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

## Local News

Congratulations to Kenny Denson, W2KRD, for upgrading to Amateur Extra class license and receiving his ARRL Extra Class VE Accreditation.



Frostfest 2014 is approaching! It will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at the Richmond Raceway Complex, from 8:30AM until 3:30PM.

We are looking forward to a great hamfest with manufacturers' representatives, new radio dealers, accessory dealers, and many, many tables filled with amateur radio equipment of all descriptions. There will be VE Testing, forums and meetings, and much, much more.

Our Grand Prize is \$1,000 in Frostfest Buck\$. Also, Early Bird ticket holders will be able to enter at 8AM, 30 minutes before General Admission starts!

For more details, ticket and table online purchases, please go to : <http://www.frostfest.com>.

Plan on joining us for Frostfest 2014. Frostfest is sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society

**Pennsylvania QSO Party : October 12 - 13, 2013**

Call: N2CQ  
 Operator(s): N2CQ  
 Station: N2CQ

Class: Single Op CW LP  
 QTH: SNJ  
 Operating Time (hrs):

Summary:

Band CW Qs Ph Qs RTTY Qs PSK31 Qs

| Band | CW Qs | Ph Qs | RTTY Qs | PSK31 Qs |
|------|-------|-------|---------|----------|
| 160: |       |       |         |          |
| 80:  | 51    | 0     | 0       | 0        |
| 40:  | 79    | 0     | 0       | 0        |
| 20:  | 17    | 0     | 0       | 0        |
| 15:  |       |       |         |          |
| 10:  |       |       |         |          |
| 6:   |       |       |         |          |
| 2:   |       |       |         |          |

Total: 147 Mults = 47 Total Score = 14,418

Club: Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

Comments: 3 QSOs for W3ZGD = 600 points added to score. Seems low on CW and mobiles this year, but still a great QP!

**Pennsylvania QSO Party : October 12 - 13, 2013**

Call: W2KRD  
 Operator(s): W2KRD  
 Station: W2KRD

Class: Single Op LP  
 QTH: SNJ  
 Operating Time (hrs):

Summary:

Band CW Qs Ph Qs RTTY Qs PSK31 Qs

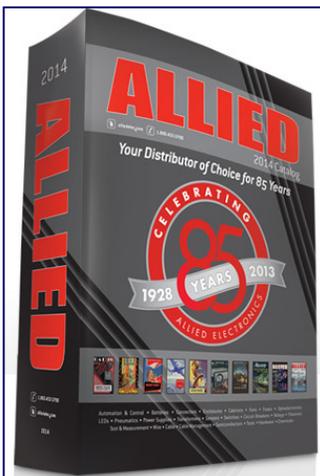
| Band | CW Qs | Ph Qs | RTTY Qs | PSK31 Qs |
|------|-------|-------|---------|----------|
| 160: |       |       |         |          |
| 80:  | 0     | 54    |         |          |
| 40:  | 0     | 129   |         |          |
| 20:  |       |       |         |          |
| 15:  |       |       |         |          |
| 10:  |       |       |         |          |
| 6:   |       |       |         |          |
| 2:   |       |       |         |          |

Total: 183 Mults = 59 Total Score = 11,197

Club: Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

Comments: Total score includes 400 bonus points. Could only operate the contest on Saturday. One of my favorite QSO parties.

**Election Day, November 5, 2013  
 Every Vote Counts**



**The New 2014 Allied Electronics Catalog**  
<https://www.alliedelec.com/customerservice/forms/literature.aspx>



## Cracking the Code

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Our November meeting's program is dedicated to CW – our most basic mode of communications. Along with some friendly competition by more-skilled CW ops than me, I'll be discussing a brief history of the mode and why it can be so much fun. Plus, as old as it is, it's still very relevant to today's ham radio.

One myth that I want to dispel in advance, is that CW is hard (or impossible) to learn. This idea has existed for some time. In fact, it has existed since Morse first proposed the concept.



**Samuel FB Morse** (read about his history and you'll discover the "FB" probably stood for "Frequently Broke") came up with the idea of the telegraph while on a ship – watching communications via a signal lamp. Morse himself was something of an artist, not an engineer. He was a good artist – certainly better than Mrs. Schicklgruber's son – but not good enough to be a commercial success.

Morse's idea for the telegraph incorporated the use of a pen and strip of paper tape. Basically, "key down" moved a pen and "key up" didn't. Instead of a code for each character, every word in the English language was to be assigned a number. The first message sent in the NJ lab (there's a museum in Morristown, if you feel like a road trip) was "215 36 2 58 112", which (of course) meant "Successful Experiments with Telegraph September".

So to send a message, you would have to look up the numeric codes for each word in the message, then send the numbers. On the receiving end, you'd cross reference the numbers with the words in your book, then write down the words. Not all that efficient, was it?

You see, Morse had little faith in the intelligence of the people he thought would be working on the telegraph, passing messages from city to city. In his mind, all this coding and decoding with paper as the foundation was because he didn't feel that anyone - make that ANYONE - would be able to copy characters in their heads and write down messages in real time. Thus, even the so-called inventor of Morse Code said it was too hard.



Thankfully, he had a friend (which he constantly took advantage of) who was willing to finance development of the telegraph and was smart enough to develop a character-based system that could easily be learned and allowed faster message passing. His name was **Alfred Vail**.

If you've never heard of Vail, that's his fault, not yours. While Vail was smart in a lot of areas, he was apparently "dumber than dirt" when it came to business and intellectual property. Because of a very uneven partnership, the primary place Vail's name appears in the history of the telegraph is on the invoices and cheques. Foolishly, he agreed to allow Morse to apply for the patents, take sole credit and get most of the profits. Vail died penniless and Morse's name is still recognizable today.

However, it is Alfred Vail we have to thank for having more faith in human intelligence and creating a method of simplistic elegance that we use today – one which is very easy to learn and enjoy. In any case, CW typically represents the least expensive way to get on HF and work some DX. As its cost is so low, it's also the easiest way in many countries for hams to be the DX...



Also at the meeting, I'll have the key display of **Dave Ingram, K4TWJ (SK)** and some additional items of history and curiosity. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

## Contest Calendar

For more information on the contests, please go to the WA7BNM Contest Calendar website:  
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

### November 2013

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| + NCCC Sprint                      | 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 1   |
| + Ukrainian DX Contest             | 1200Z, Nov 2 to 1200Z, Nov 3   |
| + ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW     | 2100Z, Nov 2 to 0300Z, Nov 4   |
| + High Speed Club CW Contest       | 0900Z-1100Z, Nov 3 and<br>1500Z-1700Z, Nov 3   |
| + DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest    | 1100Z-1700Z, Nov 3   |
| + ARS Spartan Sprint               | 0200Z-0400Z, Nov 5   |
| + NRAU 10m Activity Contest        | 1800Z-1900Z, Nov 7 (CW) and<br>1900Z-2000Z, Nov 7 (SSB) and<br>2000Z-2100Z, Nov 7 (FM) and<br>2100Z-2200Z, Nov 7 (Dig) |
| + NCCC Sprint                      | 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 8   |
| + WAE DX Contest, RTTY             | 0000Z, Nov 9 to 2359Z, Nov 10  |
| + 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital | 0001Z, Nov 9 to 2359Z, Nov 10  |
| + JIDX Phone Contest               | 0700Z, Nov 9 to 1300Z, Nov 10  |
| + OK/OM DX Contest, CW             | 1200Z, Nov 9 to 1200Z, Nov 10  |
| + SKCC Weekend Sprintathon         | 1200Z, Nov 9 to 2400Z, Nov 10  |
| + Kentucky QSO Party               | 1400Z, Nov 9 to 0200Z, Nov 10  |
| + CQ-WE Contest                    | 1900Z, Nov 9 to 0500Z, Nov 11  |
| + NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint          | 1800Z-2000Z, Nov 13  |
| + RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB        | 2000Z-2100Z, Nov 13  |
| + NCCC Sprint                      | 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 15  |
| + YO International PSK31 Contest   | 1600Z-2200Z, Nov 15  |
| + ARRL EME Contest                 | 0000Z, Nov 16 to 2359Z, Nov 17   |
| + SARL Field Day Contest           | 1000Z, Nov 16 to 1000Z, Nov 17   |
| + LZ DX Contest                    | 1200Z, Nov 16 to 1200Z, Nov 17   |
| + All Austrian 160-Meter Contest   | 1600Z, Nov 16 to 0700Z, Nov 17   |
| + Feld Hell Sprint                 | 1600Z-1800Z, Nov 16  |
| + ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB    | 2100Z, Nov 16 to 0300Z, Nov 18   |
| + EPC PSK63 QSO Party              | 0000Z-2400Z, Nov 17  |
| + Run for the Bacon QRP Contest    | 0200Z-0400Z, Nov 18  |
| + NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint    | 0130Z-0330Z, Nov 21  |
| + NCCC Sprint                      | 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 22  |
| + CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW      | 0000Z, Nov 23 to 2400Z, Nov 24   |
| + SKCC Sprint                      | 0000Z-0200Z, Nov 27  |
| + RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW         | 2000Z-2100Z, Nov 28  |
| + NCCC Sprint                      | 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 29  |
| + Feld Hell Sprint                 | 0000Z-2359Z, Nov 30  |

## November Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays this month :

**Clint Beckett WB3EHB**  
**Fr. Brian Burgess KD4UTL**  
**James Hannon KC2SNI**  
**Ted Kiefer N2EBB**  
**Ernest Kraus KD2EAV**  
**Chuck Lanard KD2EIB**  
**Howard Marder WA2IBZ**  
**Ray Martin W2RM**  
**Tony Otlowski KD2AFY**  
**Cory Sickles WA3UVV**  
**Marty Wilt W2ILT**

**Russ Glans N2ASV (SK)**  
**John Fisher K2JF (SK)**

## 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 Jeffrey Garth KC2WCS at [jeff.garth@comcast.net](mailto:jeff.garth@comcast.net).

**Submission deadline for the  
December issue: Saturday, November 23,  
2013**

### Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

### Club E-Mail Reflector:

[gcarc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:gcarc@mailman.qth.net)

#### **2013 Club Officers - 1 year term**

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

**Recording Secretary : Sheldon Parker, K2MEN**  
**Corresponding Secretary : Cory Sickles, WA3UVV**

#### **Board of Directors - 3 year term**

**Art Strong, K2AWS (2011-2014)**  
**Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML (2012-2015)**  
**Mark Townsend, W2OCY (2013-2016)**  
**Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW (2011-2014)**  
**Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY (2012-2015)**  
**Jeffrey Garth, KC2WCS (2013-2016)**

#### **Trustees - 4 year term**

**Steve Blasko, W2TDS (2010-2014)**  
**Martin Wilt, W2ILT (2012-2016)**  
**Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ (2011-2015)**  
**Bill Szkromiuk, N2VIL (2013-2017)**

### Committees

**ARES/RACES : Joe, KC2PHM**  
**Awards : Kenny, W2KRD**  
**Budget : Al, KB2AYU**  
**Club House Site : Al, KB2AYU**  
**Club License Trustee : Darrell, AB2E**  
**Constitution : Adan, KC2YJX**  
**Contests : Kenny, W2KRD**  
**Crosstalk Editor : Jeff, KC2WCS**  
**Database : Ken, N2CQ**  
**DX : Bill, W0MHK**  
**Field Day : Mark/Kyle, W2OCY/W2KBT**  
**Hamfest Contact : Cory, WA3UVV**  
**Historian : Art, K2AWS**

**Hospitality : Dave, WB3JOY**  
**Membership : Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ**  
**New Club Trailer Project : Bill, N2VIL**  
**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**  
**Webmaster : Jeff, KC2WCS**

### The W2MMD Repeaters

Output: 147.180 MHz  
Input: 147.780 MHz  
Offset: +600 KHz  
PL Tone: 131.8 Hz

Output: 442.100 MHz  
Input: 447.100 MHz  
Offset: +5.0 MHz  
PL Tone: 167.9 Hz

Output: 1284.400 MHz  
Input: 1272.400 MHz  
Offset: -12.0 MHz  
PL Tone: None

The above 3 repeaters are all  
located in Pitman, NJ  
GPS: 39.728481°, -75.131088°

Output: 224.660 MHz  
Input: 223.060 MHz  
Offset: -1.6 MHz  
PL Tone: 131.8  
Location: Sewell, NJ  
GPS: 39.781382°, -75.099963°

### Nets

**GCARC 2M Ragchew Net**  
Thursday, November 21, 2013  
20:00 Hrs  
147.180+ MHz (PL131.8Hz)

**ARES/RACES**  
Sunday 20:00 Hrs  
(147.180 and  
224.660  
repeaters)

### GCARC Meetings

#### **General Membership**

19:30 Hrs, Wednesday, November 6, 2013  
Pfeiffer Community Center  
Williamstown, NJ

#### **Board of Directors**

19:00 Hrs, Wednesday, November 20, 2013  
GCARC Club Palace  
Harrison Twp. 4H Fairgrounds  
1 mile south of Mullica Hill on RT77

### Club Meeting Program

**November 6, 2013**  
**Morse Code Night and**  
**Competition**

**Reservations deadline for the**  
**GCARC Holiday Dinner Party**  
**November 19, 2013**

**GCARC 11:00 AM Brunch**  
**Every Friday @**  
**The Seven Star Diner**  
**1890 Hurffville Road, Sewell, NJ**