



## *Presidents Message*

September was a great month for the Club in that we had a most successful and enjoyable Hamfest. Vinnie, N4NYY, and Bill, NJ2S, are to be again congratulated for their efforts along with all those that volunteered their time. Ticket sales covered this year's expenses. In addition, we were honored to have Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, FCC Enforcer (ret) and Bill Edgar, N3LLR, ARRL Atlantic Director in attendance.

Special thanks are to be extended to the leaders, parents and scouts of BSA Troop 9 in West Deptford. The food was great, the prices were reasonable and the service was excellent. I received several nice compliments from hams in attendance. Jeff, KC2WCS has already placed several Hamfest photographs on the Club's website.

October brings Columbus Day and Halloween. In addition, Gary, N2QEE, and John, K2ZA, will give a presentation on Emergency Amateur Radio communications at our October 3<sup>rd</sup> General Membership Meeting. Other ARRL scheduled events are:

Oct 6-7      ARRL International Earth Moon Earth (EME) Competition (2.3 GHz & up)  
Oct 15-19    School Club Roundup\*

\* Contest objective is to exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of elementary, middle, high school or colleges.

After many years of service to the club, Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ, has decided to take "early" retirement from his position as Hospitality Chairperson. Dave, WB3JOY, having served in that capacity before has agreed to take on that position again. Ray and Dave thanks for your service, it's very much appreciated!

Finally, the Club's Constitution specifies that a slate of officers for next year be compiled and presented to the general membership at the October and November General Membership Meetings with voting taking place in December. This effort is currently underway. Nominations from the floor will also be open at the October and November Meetings. If you are interested in becoming a Club officer contact me or another Club officer.

Tnx and 73,

Tom, KE2ES

# Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Let's hope that we have better WX and DX in the summer of 2013. This past hot weather season was quite disappointing even as we progressed further up the path to a Solar Cycle Peak! It's the first summer in at least a decade that I wasn't able to knock off at least one new 6 Meter band country. Even openings stateside for new grids were few and far between here in Down Jersey! Sure glad I put up a new yagi with two more elements! HF was also a "bust" for me too for bagging a new entity during our turbulent 2012 summer weather.

The NH8S Swains Island DXpedition came on the DX scene a bit later than anticipated in September and ended their operations a few days early. Extreme heat, mosquitoes, infections and daily heat of over 100 F degrees caused an early QRT for the group, but they certainly did an outstanding job! They compiled an impressive 105,000+ qsos. Sure hope you made it into their logs which were updated on-line for your needed DX band and mode from this rare one.

It looks like DXCC will soon be granted a new entity with the amateur radio activation of Kosovo on September 18th. This was certainly a welcome DX "surprise"! Kosovo has now been recognized by over 98 countries as a separate international state although there is still political controversy about the area becoming separate from Serbia. Intentional QRM and pirates abounded while the sanctioned amateur radio society station, Z60K, made thousands of qsos across 5 authorized amateur bands (40 through 15 Meters). No RTTY operation has been allowed as of this writing. Watch for more DX information on legitimate operations and official ARRL endorsement of entity status at your favorite DX news sites.

At least our favorite HF DX bands are now showing more activity and openings with the arrival of autumn. There is nothing like the seasonal equinox to perk-up a listless bunch of summer bands. Enough words! You need to be DXing! Our October list of good DX bets is longer than ever! The DJDX tip of the month is to check out 10 Meters during the CQ World Wide DX Phone Contest at the end of October. Preliminary propagation predictions for the contest look EXCEPTIONAL barring any last minute solar flares. Watch for the following on your favorite modes and bands during the month:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	5 = MOST RARE	DXCC
3A/G0VJG	10/110/5	HF/SSB	2	MONACO
PJ6	10/1-11/1	80-6M/SSB	1	SABA
JT1EV	10/2-10/8	HF/FROM JT CLUB STN	3	MONGOLIA
5H2DX	10/2-10/27	80-10M/SSB	2	TANZANIA
TT8TT	10/3-10/16	160-6M/3 MODES/BIG EFFORT	3	CHAD
7Z7AB	10/5-10/11	MANY OPS/IOTA AS-190	2	S. ARABIA
VK9XM	10/6-10/12	40-10M/SSB, CW	4	CHRISTMAS ISL
CY0	10/8-10/17	WA4DAN & AA4VK	1	SABLE ISL
V47JA	10/12-11/1	160-6M + 60 METERS	1	ST. KITTS
5X1NH	10/15-12/12	80-10M/CW, SSB, DIG.	2	UGANDA
3B9SP	10/16-10/23	160-6M/3 MODES/SWISS HAMS	3	RODRIGUEZ IS.
T30PY	10/16-10/25	PY OPS/160-6M/3 MODES	2	WEST KIRIBATI
P29VCX	10/20-10/24	IOTA OC-103, VY GUD OPS	3	PAPUA N. GUINEA
KH8	10/23-10/29	80-10M/3 MODES	2	AMER. SAMOA

CQ WW DX PHONE TEST A QUICK "5-9, ZONE 5" MAY EQUAL A NEW ENTITY!  
OCT. 27-28 BEGINNING 0000Z.....

## October Meeting Program

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

Do you know what to do in times of disaster? (After all, this is 2012!). It has been said that when all else fails, amateur radio can still get through. But are you prepared? Experienced club member Gary, N2QEE, with help from our Section Emergency Coordinator, John, K2ZA, will introduce the topic of emergency amateur radio communications, and the steps you need to take to take now to be able to provide useful assistance if called upon to do so in the future.

## Hamfest Thanks

By Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY

Bill and I would like to thank everyone who participated or helped at the Hamfest on both Saturday and Sunday. I cannot name individuals as some many people helped. We had a great turnout.

We sold upwards of 500 admission which was in line with last year, however, it appeared that the tailgaters and table vendors were way up. The tailgaters stretched into the third pavilions. Also, all the tables were essentially used with the exception of about 3. That was not the case last year.

On a final note, we had the honor of having both Bill Edgar and Riley Hollingsworth attend. Both of them seemed stunned at the size of this "local hamfest" and thought it was one of the biggest "local hamfests" they have seen. Bill said that he thought it was bigger than the Syracuse Hamfest. Riley writes for CQ magazine, and may write an article about our Hamfest for CQ in the future.

There were some questions from hams who expected Riley to speak. Riley himself said he would be glad to. But logistically, we did not have an adequate PA or venue seating, or noise-free area. Now, I realize that that was the absolute correct decision. It was so loud, that a speech would have been a disaster.

Lastly, the Boy Scouts food service was outstanding and got rave reviews on both quality and cost. I just hope they made money so they are interested in returning next year.

## Nick the New Ham Guy

By William Szkromiuk, N2VIL

Greetings from Glassboro, home of the noisiest QTH in New Jersey, or at least it seems that way. I recently joined GCARC and have attended 2 meetings and visited Field Day. I got my Technician ticket about 20 years ago and my General a couple of years ago. This year I decided to get serious and get on HF! It has been an upward battle. Noise from my burglar alarm, power supply and computer-radio interface cord; attic antennas (due to restrictions); ground issues; remote tuner issues etc. have all been problems. I won't go into all the details lest I bore you. But several people in the Club have been very helpful, namely Cory, WA3UVV, and Ray, W2RM.

Here is my point. I am wondering if there are any other members that are new to HF and want to learn more about it. If so, maybe we can create a little group of Nicky New Guys to help each other out and maybe con an Elmer or two to pour forth pearls of wisdom once in awhile. I think it would be useful to just get on the air, rag chew about mutual issues and interests, get some experience and share good information. The group could talk on the phone and go from there. Any thoughts or comments would be appreciated. Call me at 856-582-4162 if you are interested.

# Time for a License Upgrade?

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

Longing for some more HF operating privileges? Need a license upgrade to chase some more DX? With the change of seasons approaching, now just might be the right time to think about putting in a little effort towards that next class of radio license upgrade! To help get those neurons firing, here's a couple of questions cherry picked from the current General class question pool to get you started. A couple were chosen based on material covered in last month's club presentation on 'VHF and up'. One is related to this month's Club program on emergency communications. And, of course, how could I resist including a couple for the digital enthusiasts out there too?

As mentioned last month, you can get the full question pools, with answers, and free of charge, at the following official web site [www.ncvec.org/](http://www.ncvec.org/) (or from the "Get Your Ham Ticket" tab from our [w2mmd.org](http://w2mmd.org) web site). Ready? OK then. Good luck!

1) Which of the following is a good indicator of the possibility of sky-wave propagation on the 6 meter band? [G3B02]

- A. Short skip sky-wave propagation on the 10 meter band
- B. Long skip sky-wave propagation on the 10 meter band
- C. Severe attenuation of signals on the 10 meter band
- D. Long delayed echoes on the 10 meter band

2) What is the approximate maximum distance along the Earth's surface that is normally covered in one hop using the E region? [G3B10]

- A. 180 miles
- B. 1,200 miles
- C. 2,500 miles
- D. 12,000 miles

3) When is an amateur station allowed to use any means at its disposal to assist another station in distress? [97.405(b), G2B12]

- A. Only when transmitting in RACES
- B. At any time when transmitting in an organized net
- C. At any time during an actual emergency
- D. Only on authorized HF frequencies

4) Which of the following is one use for a Digital Signal Processor in an amateur station? [G4C11]

- A. To provide adequate grounding
- B. To remove noise from received signals
- C. To increase antenna gain
- D. To increase antenna bandwidth

5) What is meant by the term "software defined radio" (SDR)? [G7C11]

- A. A radio in which most major signal processing functions are performed by software
- B. A radio which provides computer interface for automatic logging of band and frequency
- C. A radio which uses crystal filters designed using software
- D. A computer model which can simulate performance of a radio to aid in the design process

Answers (in visual Morse code): /.-/.../-.-/.../-./

## Azores 9-Island Radio Hunt

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

What are you doing Friday night, Sept 28 and Saturday, Sept 29? Want to be entered into a drawing to win a free vacation to the Azores just for doing what you already like to do – make a few radio contacts? With details described at <http://azores-islands-hunt.com/>, in a promotion of Amateur Radio Emergency and Disaster Communications supported by the Azores Promotion Agency and Azorean Airlines, radio Amateurs making a QSO with at least 5 different designated island stations will have a corresponding number of tickets placed into a lottery for a free trip to the Azores. For example, if you have QSOs with 7 islands you will get 7 lottery tickets. Additionally, the first 25 operators that make QSOs with all 9 islands will be eligible for a second lottery draw. Each island counts only once. The two winning tickets will be drawn on October 15, 2012 and the winners will be announced both on <http://azores-islands-hunt.com> and <http://www.visitazores.com>.

Good luck!

## Asbury Park Repeater

From Bill Shockley, NJ2H, of the Garden State Amateur Radio Association

The Garden State Amateur Radio Association has acquired the repeater commonly known as the Asbury Park Repeater, 147.045 (Though, it is not in Asbury Park!). Once all the paperwork is done, it will be re-named the Garden State Repeater and its callsign will be W2GSA.

This repeater is used extensively in Monmouth County by our Club, and also Monmouth ARES on Monday evenings and QCWA on Tuesday evenings. It is also used by Skywarn for severe weather announcements, so I suggest programming it into your radios if you live or travel in the Ocean/Monmouth area.

W2GSA will be an open repeater +600 PL67.0. Feel free to make use of it or just to introduce yourself. It is normally monitored by several Club members during the day and evening.

## Crosstalk Feedback

I have been editing this newsletter for a number of years and never seem to get any feedback from the membership about what you would like to see in your Club's Newsletter. We have had a few faithful contributors over the years but most of the members seem to have no interest in what appears in Crosstalk each month. If I got a letter to the editor once and a while telling me what you think is good and bad about Crosstalk hopefully I can improve it to suit the majority of the member's tastes. I have a thick skin so don't worry about hurting my feelings. I would just like to know if anybody actually reads these articles once and a while. I think some of the regular contributors would also like some feedback.

## VEC Testing

Regular VEC testing sessions are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM and are held at the Franklin Township Public Library on Coles Mill Road in Franklinville. The cost of the exam is \$15. Candidates are required to have a photo ID and two copies of their current license if they have one. For further information on VEC testing or to sign-up for a session contact Gary Reed at 856-582-4365 or at [greed49@verizon.net](mailto:greed49@verizon.net).

## October Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in October.

Steve Blasko, W2TDS  
Rick Bleda, KC2SGR  
Harry Bryant, AA2WN  
James Clark, KA2OSV  
Harry Elwell, K2ATX  
Chris Heller, WK2W  
William Kardas, N2BK  
Dennis Sandole, K2SE



## 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](mailto:aa2yo@arrl.net).

Submission deadline for the November issue: 10/23/12

## Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

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

Doug Gehring, WA2NPD  
Art Strong, K2AWS  
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ  
Mike Mollet, N2SRO

ARES/RACES-Gary, N2QEE  
Awards-Kenny, W2KRD  
Budget-Al, KB2AYU  
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU  
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E  
Constitution-As needed  
Contests-Ken, W2KRD  
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO  
Database-Ken, N2CQ  
DX-Bill, W0MHK  
Field Day-Vinnie/Bill, N4NYY/NJ2S  
Hamfest-Vinnie/Bill, N4NYY/NJ2S  
Historian-Art, K2AWS

### GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Sheldon Parker, K2MEN  
Corresponding Secretary-Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

### Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO  
Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW  
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY

### Trustees

Cory Sickles, WA3UVV  
Martin Wilt, W2ILT

### Committees

Hospitality-Dave, WB3JOY  
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ  
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  
Website-Jeff, KC2WCS

### **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**

7 pm 3rd Wednesday every month  
GCARC Club site  
Harrison Twp. 4H Grounds  
1 mile south of Mullica Hill on RT77

### **Nets**

GCARC 2 Meter Net  
Third Thursday of the Month  
8:00PM  
147.78/18Mhz (PL131.8Hz)

ARES/RACES  
Sunday 20:00 Hrs  
(147.78/18 and  
223.06/224.66  
repeaters)

### **October Meeting**

Emergency Preparedness  
with Gary, N2QEE, and John, K2ZA

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

