

# CROSSTALK

Volume 55

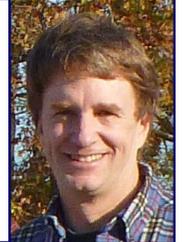
Issue #10

Celebrating Our 55<sup>th</sup> Year

October 2014



## *President's Message*



What a great day - what a great Hamfest! Our 36<sup>th</sup> annual Hamfest was held out at the Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds on Sunday, Sept 14, and the attendance and thanks given to us for hosting this Hamfest from attendees from all over the tri-state area, and beyond, was outstanding! To everyone who attended, and to everyone involved in making this such a great event this year, thank you! Thank you! Thank You!

Special thanks also to all club members who volunteered to provide radio support to the MS City to Shore 2014. This is a major communications support undertaking, and would not be possible without the volunteer support from members like you.

As we look forward to October, there are a number of radio events on the calendar to look forward to. As you may have read about in the September issue of QST, a nationwide ARRL-sponsored Simulated Emergency Test (SET), designed to test your preparedness, is being held on the weekend of October 4. There is also the local Pitman Cropwalk on October 19 that will need communications support. If you are interested in participating in events like these, and in being trained so that you can properly help out during a time of crisis or emergency, you are highly encouraged to join the ranks of your fellow club members who also volunteer their time to serve in NJ ARES/RACES. Think you might have the "right stuff" to serve your county, state, and country in this capacity? This group meets on our club repeater in a directed net each Sunday at 20:00 Hrs local time. Visitors are welcome to listen in. Please make it a point to contact club member Ed N2RO, or Tony KD2AFY direct if you want to get involved, or to learn more.

Also starting at noon on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> is the on-air NJ QSO party. It's being organized a little differently this year, with defined start/stop times each day, and different multipliers, including a QRP multiplier. Ken N2CQ rocked the NJ scoreboard last year. Who's up for a little NJ QSO party this year? Check out [www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp](http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp) for more details.

And don't forget our GCARC family-friendly Fall Foxhunt (Oct 19), and then the ARRL's School Club Roundup later in the month. Read on in this edition of your Crosstalk newsletter, and on our web site [w2mmd.org](http://w2mmd.org), for other radio events happening in October, as well as some good tips for this fall on "Down Jersey DXing"!

*(Continued on page 2)*

*President's Message - (Continued from page 1)*

Special thanks to our own Dan Tremolini N2TXG, a first time presenter, who introduced us to USB-stick Software Defined Radio receivers at the September meeting. Great job Dan! Other members are encouraged to get involved this way too. What would you like to see on the agenda for next year?

For our next meeting on October 1, our innovative programs chair is setting up for multiple simultaneous Q&A sessions and breakout presentations going on at the same time; you'll not want to miss it! Consider bringing a friend. Visitors welcome! Hope to see you there!

*Respectfully, Jim Wright, N2GXJ*



**Down Jersey DXing  
By Bill Grim, WØMHK**

Although the sun has caused a few problems in recent weeks, you should be hearing more DX on 20 through 10 Meters. The bands below 20 meters should be noticeably quieter from QRN with more DX being heard especially at nightfall. DX activity takes a big leap in October with many DXpeditions showing up and expanded activities from fixed DX club stations and individual stations.

That plays into the main DX thought of the day. Please consider carefully how active you will be on 10 and 12 Meters the next few months. If this solar cycle starts taking a big "dip" your chances for some excellent DX on those bands may not only come to an end, but might not appear again for many years to come!

Even if you are not thinking right now about DX totals and successes, you may be squandering a unique opportunity to score some major DX successes if you don't utilize 10 and 12 Meters in the near future. Let's face it. It's almost ALWAYS easier to work DX on 10 and 12 Meters compared to the other bands WHEN they are OPEN. But all the equipment, towers and antennas in the world can't recover the singular propagation we are having now on these bands and hopefully for the near future. This 10/12 Meter "edge" might not exist with the same magnitude in sunspot cycles to come.

At a high power, big antenna, high tower contest station Down Jersey, I have seen totals on 10 Meters as low as less than a hundred contacts. Close to 900 contacts on that one band in a weekend have been accomplished in the last two years. Note also that with those QSO weekends of those less than 100 contacts on 10 Meters in lean years, most of the contacts were ONLY in the Caribbean and a sprinkling in South America. Not ONE European QSO might be recorded in 48 hours of continuous operation and monitoring 10 Meters.

I guess it boils down to not procrastinating on operating 10 and 12 Meters in the near future. A word to the "DX wise" should be sufficient. There are a number of hams who are still "kicking themselves" for not being active on 6 Meters during the early 2000's. Don't make the same mistake in the present solar cycle with our two DX gems of 10 and 12 Meters.

*(Continued on page 3)*

*Down Jersey DXing - (Continued from page 2)*

Keep an ear out for ZD9XF from rare Tristan da Cunha Island in the South Atlantic Ocean. He has been coming in regularly on the WARC Bands into SNJ. Nigel, G3TXF, is an excellent operator and that should enhance your chances of working him. He is scheduled to QRT on October 3rd, after hitting the low bands in his final days of operation from this marginally accessible island.

Probably the biggest and rarest effort of the month is FT4TA. You can Google the call sign for all the specifics of this big French effort. As you might be noting in your DX quests, the "FT's" are a difficult group of entities to hear let alone work! Tromelin Island is no exception. As with other rare spots, let me highly recommend a decent world globe near the rig to visually help you understand where to "squirt" your signal to reach some of these exotic places. This operation will probably be another of those that are not repeated for a good number of years.

A busy DX October brings us to the final best bets. Lots of DX chances this month will include the following:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	DIFFICULTY (5=MOST RARE)	ENTITY
7Q7VW	10/01 - 10/21	160-6M/CW, SSB, RTTY	3	Malawi
T30D	10/02 - 10/15	160-6M/CW, SSB, RTTY - 4 STNS	2	West Kiribati
TX5Z	10/03 - 10/13	80-10M/CW, SSB, Digital	2	Austral Island
YJ0X	10/03 - 10/15	80-6M/CW, SSB, RTTY	3	Vanuatu
ZK3	10/08 - 10/29	80-10M/CW, SSB	3	Tokelau
VK9DLX	10/13 - 10/29	HF/CW, SSB	3	Lord Howe Island
TX7G	10/18 - 10/26	80-10M/CW, SSB, RTTY	2	Marquesas Island
ZA	10/18 - 10/27	40-10M/SSB	1	Albania
VK9XSP	10/18 - 10/31	160-6M/CW, SSB, RTTY	4	Christmas Island
4W	10/19 - 10/31	80-10M/CW, SSB	4	Timor Leste
5R8M	10/20 - 11/04	HF/CW, SSB, CW/4 STNS	3	Madagascar
FT4TA	10/30 - 11/10	Big HF Effort/Many Modes	5	Tromelin Island
	10/25 - 10/26	CQ World-Wide SSB DX Contest	Plenty of	DX Activity!!!

**Credits : NG3K ADXO**



The Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is an annual Scouting event that uses amateur radio to link Scouts around the world, around the nation, and in your own community.

For more information, check out the following links:

- <http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx>
- <http://www.gardenstatescouting.org/news/jamboree-air-2014#comments>



**WOW!**

**By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV**

At our September meeting, I asked for additional volunteers to help out with the MS-150. At the time, they were in need of an additional 15 communicators. At the end of the evening, I had 7 completed applications, with 4 more promised!

The generosity and volunteer service of many members of this club never cease to amaze me. When I told our MS contact what so many of you had done, he was without adequate words of gratitude.

When I got my package the other day, I scanned through for callsigns I recognized. There were many. Plus, some of us have a “+” indicated, noting that we are bringing an additional volunteer. In tallying it all up, it would appear that GCARC members are responsible to over 20 volunteers helping out during the MS-150 weekend.

Once again – WOW!

## **Club Elections**

**By Jim Wright, N2GXJ**

Per our club constitution, the Nominations Committee has now developed an initial slate of candidates for club officer, board of director, and trustee positions that are open for next year that will be presented at the October club meeting. Additional candidates can be nominated from the membership.

For those not familiar with the process, basically, at the general membership meeting in October, and at the general membership meeting in November, nominations for the open positions will be called for from the Nominations Committee and from the Club membership present at the meeting. At the November meeting, three club members who are not presently officers, nor who are running for office, will be appointed by the current president as the Elections Committee. At the December meeting, the Elections Committee conducts the voting, and then certifies the election results to the Recording Secretary, at which time the results become official. Appointments to committee chair positions for the next year can start being made by the newly elected president right after the December club meeting. Both the outgoing and newly elected officers and directors attend the December Board of Director’s meeting together, with the transition completing by the January general membership meeting.

For further details, please consult the club’s constitution and bylaws, copies of which are available via the “members only” link on our web site [www.w2mmd.org](http://www.w2mmd.org).

## **Welcome New Club Members:**

Henry Bunk, KD2HBO, who has a General class license and lives in Carneys Point, NJ.

Robert Harrison, WA3KOL, who has an Advanced class license and lives in Logan Township, NJ.

## **We also welcome back a returning member:**

James Alston, AC2BY, who has a Amateur Extra class license and lives on Pittsgrove, NJ.

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

## For These Vets, Amateur Radio Remains Alive

By JULIAN E. BARNES

*The Wall Street Journal - July 11, 2014*

Satellites killed the military radio star operator long ago, but military veterans keep the art alive in competitions testing their ability to bounce signals off the ionosphere and contact amateur radio stations a half world away.

In their minds, the contestants know technology has gone too far and the days of radio are past. Still, the intimate knowledge of the electromagnetic spectrum learned during a career in military and intelligence agencies offers some advantages. And the military's love for antiquated communications is well established - from their use of signal flags to messages sent, teletype-style, in all capital letters. Ham radio competitions elicit a similar passion - and knowledge of some dying skills.

Current and former military service members will anchor two of the top teams gathering in the Boston area this weekend for what amounts to the World Cup of ham radio, officially the World Radiosport Team Championship 2014.

Retired Vice Admiral Scott Redd, the former head of the National Counterterrorism Center, is on one of the teams expected to compete for top honors. Current Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Dave Mueller is on another top team with NetApp CEO Tom Georgens. Serving as the grand marshal of the event is Retired Admiral Edmund Giambastiani, the former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs, himself a ham radio buff.

The event, once every four years, requires teams of two people using identical equipment to contact as many radio operators in as many places as possible in 24 hours. In all, 59 teams from 38 countries are competing.

The basic technology of the radio and the technique of propagating signals has not changed radically. But ham radios, with station automation, computer connections and improved amplification take advantage of technological advances. "Layered on top is relatively cutting edge technology," said Mr. Georgens. "There is a massive application of technology to drive operator efficiency."

Winning strategies involve knowing when to try to make huge numbers of rapid contracts in countries that have hundreds of Ham radio stations, like Germany and Russia, and when to pursue contacts on obscure islands that have only one operator, like St. Pierre and Miquelon, a French territory off the coast of Newfoundland.

"The winner of this event will be the one who makes the least amount of mistakes, is able to best engineer a station and troubleshoot problems," said Chief Warrant Officer Mueller.

*(Continued on page 6)*



Vice Admiral Scott Redd operates a ham radio from Union, Maine, during a contest in which he set an American record for the highest number of contacts — 5,609 — in two days. (Photo provided by Scott Redd)

The winners also will have to stay awake, Admiral Giambastiani notes. The contest requires operators to making the most of every minute in a 24-hour competition. So contestants must chug enough caffeine to keep focused constantly.

“Fatigue will set in,” said Admiral Giambastiani. “The harder part for the older guys is their bodies aren’t as tough as the youngsters. By 4 in the morning on Sunday you are asking why am I doing this.”

At 69 years old, Admiral Redd, a member of the amateur radio hall of fame, is one of the oldest contestants. He acknowledges the young guys have some advantages, but notes he set a world record last year at age 68. “You can stay competitive in old age and there are not many sports where you do that,” he said.

The sea services’ love for antiquated communications is well established - from their use of signal flags to messages sent, teletype-style, in all capital letters. Ham radio competitions illicit a similar passion - and knowledge of some dying skills.

The amateur radio contests require mastery of Morse Code, something no longer routinely taught in the military, as well as the ability to bounce radio signals off the ionosphere to reach lonely outposts half a world away.

There are some real world military applications, participants note. Special operation forces still use long range radio signals as do Coast Guard cutters on occasion.

Chief Warrant Officer Mueller remembers being on a Coast Guard cutter a few years ago as a the radio operator struggled to establish communications. He stepped in with some recommendations for frequency changes gleaned from his years as a ham radio operator.

There is a strong dose of nostalgia in the competition - most the American competitors all have stories of tuning old ham radio sets in their attics in their youth or learning Morse code with the Boy Scouts. For some young people, building and operating radios in the ‘50s and ‘60s was like learning to code their own app today and send it out on the Internet.

Admiral Redd’s life-long love of ham radio was cemented in 1959 when he struck up a long-distance conversation with an airman he knew as “Butch” serving at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. Butch invited the young Scott Redd to visit him if he ever traveled from his home in Iowa to Offutt. When he, his uncle and cousins showed up at the gate one day, the guards at first snickered at them.

“There was a series of phone calls and the guard started standing more and more erect,” Admiral Redd recalled. “All of a sudden it was ‘Yes, sir.’”

The visitors were escorted in to meet Lieutenant General Francis “Butch” Griswold, the top deputy to the head of Strategic Air Command, General Curtis LeMay.

Over the years, Admiral Redd began competing with ham radio operators, and in 1971, won four out of the five major radio contests held at the time. He had to slow down when he made flag officer, but took it up with gusto again in 2007 when he stepped down from leading the National Counterterrorism Center. Two years later, he won all six major single-operator contests.

*(Continued on page 7)*

*For These Vets, Amateur Radio Remains Alive - (Continued from page 6)*

“I always wanted to win all the contests, but it took another 35 years before I could get back into it,” he said. “You couldn’t do that in boxing.”

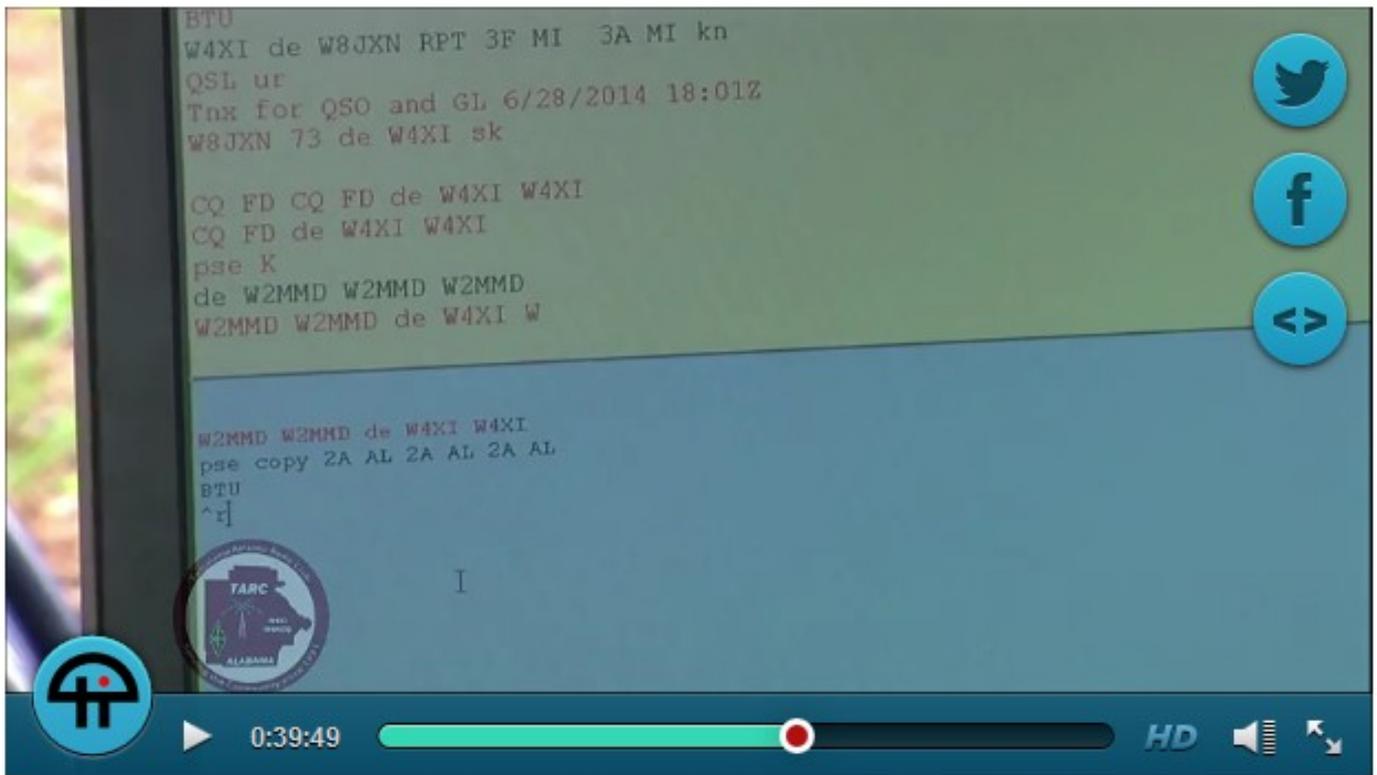
*Article Credit: The Wall Street Journal and Washington Wire*

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/07/11/for-these-vets-amateur-radio-is-hardly-dead/>

*Article contributed by Harry Bryant, AA2WN*

## Does one of these call signs look familiar?

The image below was captured from HamNation episode #156 featuring a Field Day video from the Tuscaloosa Amateur Radio Club. Also catch it on TARC YouTube video - <http://youtu.be/RbrgXVMfK8U>



Great turnout for our “Awesome” Hamfest on September 14, 2014.

More pictures on [www.w2mmd.org](http://www.w2mmd.org) on the Hamfest 2014 page.



## WIRES-X: Coming Soon It's Here!

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

As part of the expansion of Yaesu's System Fusion product line, the HRI-200 WIRES-X networking interface is now on the market. Already, area hams have purchased units and are having fun with them. I bought one, as well, but haven't had enough free time to set it up...



Interestingly, you can connect an FTM-400DR digital transceiver to it – or – an analog FM transceiver, such as an FT-8900R or FT-817ND. Essentially, anything with a data port will work for voice communications. Moving text, emails, files, pictures and news feeds requires you to do it digitally.

As with a DV Dongle, you also need a computer and connection to the Infobahn. As you're just passing compressed voice and low speed (9600 bps) data, I imagine a dial-up line could work, though I'm not sure who still offers that service.

I have had the opportunity to at least hear and use WIRES-X. The audio quality is still quite good. The list of nodes and (conference) rooms grows daily. While WIRES-X has been available in Japan for a while, it's relatively new to the rest of the world. As I type this, it appears there are over one hundred users in Japan, about three dozen in the States and a handful more in Europe and the rest of the world. You can keep up with the list at [http://yaesu.com/jp/en/wires-x/id/id\\_usa.php](http://yaesu.com/jp/en/wires-x/id/id_usa.php)

Much like the early days of D-STAR and its systematic growth of reflectors, WIRES-X has a way to go, but it is moving along steadily. This brings us to a topic we need to consider, as a club. Do we want to network the repeater we have? At some undisclosed point, we're going to be faced with a decision of whether to send the beta-testing DR-1 back, purchase it for a special price or acquire a new DR-1X.

If we want to network it, then should we subscribe to DSL service at the Laurel Ave water tower or find a networking alternative. The latter may cost more up front, but save us money in the long run, as a fixed expense. For the record, Yaesu has made no overtures toward getting the repeater back, as I've been sending regular reports along the way and our user base is increasing. It's just something to be aware of and consider what we want to do with the club's digital future.

## “Last Man Standing” Special Event Station, September 28, 2014

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

A recent mailing of the ARRL Letter made mention of a special event station K6H that will be on D-STAR reflector 12A, and HF on Sept 28, from 1400-2200 UTC. Host for this “Hollywood Hamnado” special event station will be Amateur Radio crew members of the ABC television series “Last Man Standing” that features actor Tim Allen playing Mike Baxter, KA0XTT.



There is mention of the PAPA website (<http://www.papasys.com>) streaming video directly from the operating stations. There is also mention of a limited-edition QSL card available to those who successfully make contact with K6H during the event.

## Upcoming Programs

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

First of all, “Thank You!” to Dan Tremolini, N2TXG, for presenting at the September meeting. I’m sure many of us learned more about inexpensive SDR’s and some non-ham uses they can have. This was the first time Dan presented!

In October, we’ll have many presenters, as we hold break-out sessions on a variety of topics. We are blessed with many members who have expertise in a variety of facets, when it comes to ham radio. We also have members who want to learn more about these special modes, operations, and more.

By matching everyone up this coming month, it gives our Elmers a chance to share with some “Elmees” and get to know each other a little better. Even if you know “just a little” about some particular area of amateur radio, it may be more than someone else knows. All a teacher really needs to know is just a little more than her students.

I’ll have some topic area tent signs made up for tables, but I need your help. The more of you that attend October’s meeting and stay to share your knowledge, the more successful this experiment will go. So, if you’re willing to share what you know about DX, Contests, Satellites, Digital Voice (D-STAR, System Fusion, DMR), Digital Modes (RTTY, PSK-31, JT-65), CW Proficiency, Antenna Design, Homebrewing, QRP, Weak Signal VHF/UHF, Public Service or something else - please let me know and I’ll make sure you have a sign. Otherwise, we’ll see what “elegant randomness” blesses us with.

In November, we’ll have nominations, but there’s still time for a short program. Right now, that’s open. If you’ve wanted to present a program, but didn’t think it would fill up a lot of time, then now may be the perfect opportunity. Just let me know.

Likewise, December brings us the election of those you want to lead us through 2015. Unless the evening turns out like a session of the Ukrainian Parliament, we should have enough room for another short presentation. I have that one covering with a “timely” topic. More on that, as we get closer to the end of the year – one that has gone all too quickly.



### **Ham Radio Operators Train National Guardsmen on the Communications Tool**

This article was suggested by Tom Gorman, KE2ES.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Ham-Radio-Operators-Train-National-Guardsmen.html>

### **CROP Walk – October 19, 2014**

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

As another of our community service outreaches in Gloucester County, members of our club provide support for the Pitman/Glassboro Area CROP – Hunger Walk. Please contact Ed Champion, N2RO if you’d like to help out or get more information.

## Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club Field Day 2014 Results

Call Used :		W2MMD		<b>Bonus Points</b>		
GOTA Station :		KC2SJ		<b>Description</b>		<b>Points</b>
ARRL/RAC Section :		SNJ		100% Emergency Power		1,200
Class: :		12A		Media Publicity		100
Participants :		29		Set-up in Public Place		100
Club/Group Name :		A		Information Booth		100
Power Source (s) :		Generator, Battery, Solar		W1AW Field Day Message		100
Power Multiplier :		2X		Satellite QSO Completed		100
<b>GOTA Bonus</b>				Natural Power QSOs Completed		100
Name	Call	Phone QSOs	Phone Power	Site visit by invited served agency official		100
Frank Simila	KC2SJ	55	100	Youth Participation		100
<b>QSO Score Summary</b>				Youth Operators = 7		
	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	Youth Participants = 7	
Total QSOs	1,476	248	850		GOTA Bonus	
Total Points	2,952	496	850	4,298	Submitted Via The Web	
Claimed Score				8,596	Educational Activity	
<b>Total Score : (QSOs Score + Bonus Points)</b>			<b>10,826</b>	Total Bonus Points		<b>2,230</b>

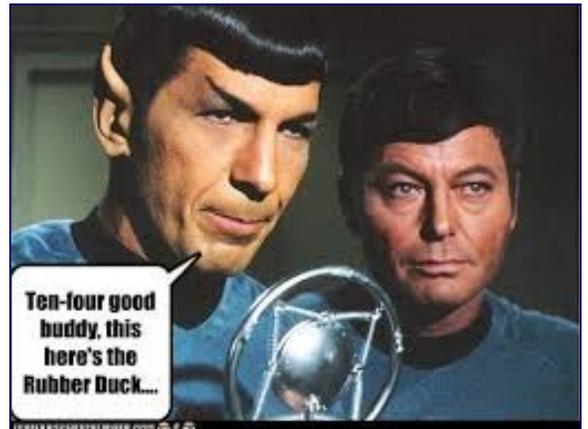
<b>Band/Mode QSO Breakdown</b>						
	CW QSOs	CW Power (watts)	Digital QSOs	Digital Power (watts)	Phone QSOs	Phone Power (watts)
160 Meters						
80 Meters	134	100			78	100
40 Meters	761	100	92	100	408	100
20 Meters	552	100	115	100	73	100
15 Meters	29	5	41	100	53	100
10 Meters					113	100
6 Meters					66	100
2 Meters					3	50
1.25 Meters						
Other						
Satellite					1	50

## If You Play in the Street, You're Going to Get Hit

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

This phrase is among the many I learned growing up – some imparted to me via my grandfather's wisdom and others from mentors I had along the way. This lesson is now being learned by CBer James Engle – an apparently disruptive individual who seems to have more money than brains. That, (at least the amount of money) may change soon, as a result of some poor decisions.

Mr. Engle was facing a \$14,000 fine from the FCC – for repeatedly ignoring warnings and continuing to operate illegally (high power) and interfere with others on 27MHz. He further complicated his situation (and kicked it up a notch) by refusing to allow inspectors to examine his station. Now, he's faced with an overall fine of \$22,000.



Way to go – nothing like ticking off the (radio) cops!

## Fall Fox Hunt, Sunday Afternoon, October 19, 2014

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

It's time to get your radios ready for the GCARC Fall Fox Hunt! The air's getting crisper, the leaves are changing, and what better excuse does one need than that to get out of the shack with some friends and family members to get in some outdoor Radiosport adventure at the same time?

This fall's hidden transmitter fox hunt will be from 1-3pm on the afternoon of Sunday, October 19. Using your 2 meter hand held radio, or other device of your choosing, you will try and find a hidden transmitter by homing in on the strength of its periodic transmissions. Part navigating, part radio treasure hunting, part teamwork, and just plain fun, this is a family friendly radio club event that all members and their families are encouraged to team up and try and to participate in together. If you've never done one before, and even if you have, come on out to try this one – it should be lots of fun!

Teams participating check-in with the hunt coordinator on our club's 2 meter repeater and will get various clues from the fox on that frequency as to where the transmitter might be hidden. If there are any teams still searching at the end of an hour, they'll be talked in to the finish where the other teams will be waiting to exchange hunt stories with them near where the hidden transmitter had already been found.

If you want to set up a channel on your radio in advance, the hidden transmitter will operate on the generally recognized fox hunt simplex frequency of 146.565 (FM). When you get close, you can probably also hear it on 439.695 (the third harmonic) as well.

We'll have the transmitter on display at the October club meeting if you want to check it out. Further details will be available via email and our web site as we get closer to the event date. Who are you going to team up to partner with for this event?

## A Ham Radio Poem

A little black box of jewels and rocks,  
with lanterns that flicker and glow,  
Make lighter the gloom in my little back room,  
where often I haste to go.

An anthem it peals of whistles and squeals  
and of voices so ghostly and dear  
that you'd never decry,  
should you chance to pass by,  
what a brotherhood foregathers here!

Each separate tone has a soul of its own;  
each voice is the voice of a friend,  
United through space in this gathering place  
at the radiant signals end.  
Reverberant sounds ride the wave that rebounds,  
like the waves of the sea from afar

Reporting the doings, the comings and goings  
of brothers, wherever they are.  
A curious band, spread over the land  
yet joined from equator to poles  
Disperses the gloom in each little back room  
by this magic communion of souls.

I could par with a lot of the things I've got  
but I'll carry my love to the tomb,  
Of that little black box and the joys it unlocks  
when I enter that little back room.

*Courtesy of Larry Bugeja, N5FAN*

*Contributed by Cory Sickles, WA3UVV*

### *Jour de l'Action de grace*

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Or, Thanksgiving Day. A little early? Not if you're in Canada. The second Monday of October is when our "neighbors to the north" celebrate the holiday – albeit a bit differently that we will in November. So this year, it's on the 13<sup>th</sup>, when we'll be celebrating Columbus Day – in honor of the man who brought smallpox to the Americas.

If you happen to chat with a VE or VA on the 13<sup>th</sup>, wish them a "happy holiday" and they can wish you one back.

## Glass Beach

**Absolutely beautiful and an almost unbelievable story.**

### **Recycled By The Ocean.**

In the early 1900s, Fort Bragg, California, residents threw their household garbage over the cliffs above what is now Glass Beach. It is hard to imagine this happening today. Back then people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Beginning in 1949, the area around Glass Beach became a public dump, and locals referred to it as The Dumps. Sometimes fires were lit to reduce the size of the trash pile (up to 30 feet high). However in 1967, the city leaders closed the area. Various cleanup programs were undertaken through the years to try to correct the damage, but without success.



Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass were created by the pounding surf. These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and so a magnificent beach was formed. The name was changed from, The Dumps to what we currently know as, the Glass Beach. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass, the name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water

long enough to frost and smooth its surface. Once it makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

In 1998, the private owner of the property determined that Glass Beach should belong to the public and in 2002 it became part of **MacKerricher State Park**, open to the public. Within a period of few years the Glass Beach won fame, attracting a large number of tourists every year. Way back in time, people wanted to dump their glass products on this shore; Now they would try to get one of these pieces to take home as a souvenir. It is ironic but true that where once it was illegal to dispose the glass on the shore, it now is a crime to remove it.

Visiting the Glass Beach today is a unique experience. What makes it even more remarkable, are the sounds produced by the glass pebbles as they are being washed away by the gentle waves.

*Article contributed by Thomas Cusack, KC2THO*



## New \$21.40 Vanity Call Sign Fee Now in Effect

The new Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$21.40 became effective on September 11, 2014. The FCC released a *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O)* on August 29, in which it recalculated the fee to \$21.40 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.30 increase represents the largest vanity fee hike in many years. In the past, new vanity fees did not become effective until 30 days after their publication in [\*The Federal Register\*](#), which occurred on September 11.



The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014, and that the vanity program generated an estimated \$230,230 in FY 2013 revenue. The Commission estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100 in FY 2014 vanity call sign fees.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable when applying for a new vanity call sign or when renewing any vanity call sign designated as "HV" in the FCC's ULS database.

As of October 1, 2013, the Commission no longer accepts checks -- including cashier's checks -- for the payment of regulatory fees. All payments must now be made by online ACH payment, online credit card, or via wire transfer. Any other form of payment will be rejected and returned to the applicant.

*Source : The ARRL Letter and The Amateur Radio Relay League*



Big turnout for Traffic Handling Class on September 18, 2014. The class was held at the Red Cross in Sewell, and focused on sending formal traffic in ARES/RACES operations. Mike, KD2FJS organized the space for the event, and the instructors were Steve, KB2RTZ and Ed, N2RO. The class included hands-on experience sending and receiving traffic over the air.

## W1AW Portable Centennial QSO Party Operations

CALL	DATES	LOCATION
W1AW/3	10/01 - 10/07	Washington DC
W1AW/6	10/01 - 10/07	California
W1AW/KL7	10/01 - 10/07	Alaska
W1AW/4	10/08 - 10/14	Virginia
W1AW/0	10/08 - 10/14	Missouri
W1AW/KH0	10/08 - 10/14	Tinian CNMI
W1AW/4	10/15 - 10/21	Alabama
W1AW/8	10/15 - 10/21	Michigan
W1AW/KH0	10/15 - 10/21	Tinian CNMI
W1AW/7	10/22 - 10/28	Nevada
W1AW/8	10/22 - 10/28	West Virginia

## ARRL Ham Radio License Exam Practice Website

<http://arrlexamreview.appspot.com/>

## October Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays

Stephen Blasko W2TDS  
 Richard Bleda KC2SGR  
 Harry Bryant AA2WN  
 Emil Busko WB2EOR  
 James Clark KA2OSV  
 Chris Heller WK2W  
 William Kardas N2BK  
 James Lamanteer WB2KNR  
 Neil Nickerson KD2DOO  
 Dennis Sandole K2SE

### Silent Keys:

Howard Hirst K2QGH  
 Preston Weil WA2TSZ  
 John Zaruba Sr. K2ZA



## New Tech Question Pool - July 1, 2014

The Technician class (Element 2) Pool is effective on July 1, 2014. It is valid until June 30, 2018. The exam is still 35 questions, but the pool was increased from 394 to 426 possible questions.

## 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 <at> comcast.net](mailto:jeff.garth@comcast.net).

**Submission deadline for the November issue: Wednesday, October 22, 2014**

**Club Website** <http://www.w2mmd.org>

**Club E-Mail Reflector:** [gcarc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:gcarc@mailman.qth.net)

**SCC RTTY Championship  
August 30, 2014**

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

Class: SOAB LP  
QTH: SNJ  
Operating Time (hrs): 2.7  
Location: USA

Summary: Compare Scores

Band	QSOs	Mults
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80:		
40:		
20:	64	38
15:	9	9
10:		

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Total: 73      47  
Total Score = 9,353

Club: Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

**Arkansas QSO Party  
September 13, 2014**

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

Class: SOCW LP  
QTH: SNJ  
Operating Time (hrs):  
Location: In State/Province

Summary: Compare Scores

Band	CW Qs	Mults
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80:	3	
40:	12	
20:	62	
15:		
10:		
2:		

---

Total: 77      Mults 49  
Total Score = 9,146

Club: Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

**Washington State Salmon Run  
September 20, 2014**

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

Class: SO Mixed LP  
QTH: SNJ  
Operating Time (hrs): 5

Summary: Compare Scores

Band	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults
------	-------	-------	--------	-------

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160:				
80:				
40:				
20:	31	6	4	
15:	16	1	0	
10:				
6:				
2:				

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Total: 47      7      4      Mults = 17  
Total Score = 3,839

Club: Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

QSO with W7DX on CW and RTTY = 1000 points

**Win A Ham At A Hamfest!**



**Timothy Carvis, WB9ULP (right) the grand prize winner of a ham with GCARC President Jim Wright, N2GXJ**

## Regional Hamfest and Events

**October 4, 2014** : New Jersey QSO Party, [www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp](http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp)

**October 4, 2014** : Red Rose Repeater Association - Tailgate Fest; West Earl Community Park, Route 772, Talmadge, PA. [www.w3rrr.org](http://www.w3rrr.org)

**October 4, 2014** : DELMARVA Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo & Delaware State Convention; Sussex Technical High School, 17099 County Seat Highway (Route 9), Georgetown, DE; Sussex Amateur Radio Association and Sussex Technical High School Amateur Radio Club.  
[www.radioelectronicsexpo.com](http://www.radioelectronicsexpo.com)

**October 4 - 5, 2014** : ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET).  
[www.arrl.org/news/arrl-simulated-emergency-test-set-for-october-4-5-weekend](http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-simulated-emergency-test-set-for-october-4-5-weekend)

**October 4 - 5, 11 - 12, 2014** : Bedford County Amateur Radio Society - 50<sup>th</sup> Fall Foliage Festival; 28.450, 14.250, 7.260, and 7.050 MHz; Bedford, PA. [www.bcars.org](http://www.bcars.org)

**October 5, 2014** : Columbia Amateur Radio Association - CARA Fest; Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship, MD. [www.carafest.org](http://www.carafest.org)

**October 11, 2014** : Bergen Amateur Radio Association - BARA Fall Hamfest; Westwood Regional Junior/Senior High School, 701 Ridgewood Road, Washington Township (Bergen County), NJ.  
[www.bara.org](http://www.bara.org)

**October 18, 2014** : US Coast Guard Auxiliary - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; 28.330, 21.330, 14.270, 7.270 MHz; Media, PA. <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=053-04-07&category=1338125685>

**October 18, 2014** : Berks Amateur Radio Club - 1<sup>st</sup> Annual HAM Fest; Bern Reformed United Church of Christ Grove, Route 183 and Plum Creek Road, Bernville, PA. [www.qsl.net/k3ti](http://www.qsl.net/k3ti)

**October 19, 2014** : RF Hill Amateur Radio Club Hamfest; Sellersville Fire House, 50 North Main Street (Bethlehem Pike), Sellersville, PA. [www.rfhillarc.org](http://www.rfhillarc.org)

**October 19, 2014** : Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club - Antique Radio Meet and Vintage Ham Fest; Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, 3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road, Davidsonville, MD.  
[www.maarc.org](http://www.maarc.org)

**October 20 - 24, 2014** : ARRL School Club Roundup, All bands except 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters, VHF and HF (Phone and CW). [www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup](http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup)

**October 25, 2014** : St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association - Southern Maryland Tailgate Fest; Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, 24801 Three Notch Road, Hollywood, MD. [www.k3nhk.org](http://www.k3nhk.org)

**October 26, 2014** : Carroll County Amateur Radio Club - Mason-Dixon Hamfest; Carroll County Agricultural Center, 706 Agricultural Center Drive, Westminster, MD. [www.qis.net/~k3pzn](http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn)

# Contest Calendar

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

## October 2014

+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Oct 1 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 1 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 2
+ NRAU 10m Activity Contest	1700Z-1800Z, Oct 2 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Oct 2 (SSB) and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 2 (FM) and 2000Z-2100Z, Oct 2 (Dig)
+ SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Oct 2
+ German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-1000Z, Oct 3
+ YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	1400Z, Oct 3 to 0200Z, Oct 5
+ TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 4
+ 15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest	0000Z, Oct 4 to 2359Z, Oct 5
+ Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 4 to 0800Z, Oct 5
+ WAB HF Phone	1200Z, Oct 4 to 1200Z, Oct 5
+ TRC DX Contest	1200Z, Oct 4 to 1200Z, Oct 5
+ GTC CW Cup	1200Z, Oct 4 to 1200Z, Oct 5
+ Russian WW Digital Contest	1200Z, Oct 4 to 1159Z, Oct 5
+ EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 4
+ International HELL-Contest	1600Z-1800Z, Oct 4 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Oct 5 (40m)
+ California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 4 to 2200Z, Oct 5
+ New Jersey QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 4 to 0359Z, Oct 5 and 1400Z-2000Z, Oct 5
+ 4 State 4x4 QRP Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 4
+ UBA ON Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 5
+ RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	0700Z-1900Z, Oct 5
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 7
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Oct 8 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 8 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 9
+ 432 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Oct 8
+ RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2000Z, Oct 8
+ 10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder	0145Z-0215Z, Oct 10
+ Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 11 to 1559Z, Oct 12
+ ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Oct 11 to 2359Z, Oct 12
+ Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 11 to 0800Z, Oct 12
+ Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 11 to 1200Z, Oct 12
+ Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 11 to 2200Z, Oct 12
+ Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 11 to 0600Z, Oct 12 and 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 12
+ EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 11
+ FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 11
+ North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 12
+ UBA ON Contest, CW	0600Z-0900Z, Oct 12
+ NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 15
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Oct 15 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 15 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 16
+ 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
+ Microwave Fall Sprint	0600 local - 1300 local, Oct 18
+ New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 18 to 0200Z, Oct 19
+ Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1459Z, Oct 19
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1500Z, Oct 19
+ South Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 18 to 1800Z, Oct 19
+ Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 19
+ UBA ON Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 19
+ Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 19 to 0100Z, Oct 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 20
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 20 to 2359Z, Oct 24
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Oct 22 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 22 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 23
+ RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2000Z, Oct 23
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 25 to 2400Z, Oct 26
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Oct 29 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 29 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 30

## 2014 Club Officers - 1 year term

<b>President :</b>	<b>Jim Wright, N2GXJ</b>
<b>Vice President :</b>	<b>Cory Sickles, WA3UVV</b>
<b>Treasurer :</b>	<b>Al Arrison, KB2AYU</b>
<b>Recording Secretary :</b>	<b>Sheldon Parker, K2MEN</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary :</b>	<b>Bart Conrad, KC2WVP</b>

### Board of Directors - 3 year term

<b>Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML</b>	<i>(2012-2014)</i>
<b>Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY</b>	<i>(2012-2014)</i>
<b>Jeffrey Garth, KC2WCS</b>	<i>(2013-2015)</i>
<b>Mark Townsend, W2OCY</b>	<i>(2013-2015)</i>
<b>Dan Tremolini, N2TXG</b>	<i>(2014-2016)</i>
<b>John Zaruba Jr, K2ZA</b>	<i>(2014-2016)</i>

### Trustees - 4 year term

<b>Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ</b>	<i>(2011-2014)</i>
<b>Martin Wilt, W2ILT</b>	<i>(2012-2015)</i>
<b>Ray Martin, W2RM</b>	<i>(2014-2016)</i>
<b>Brian Jones, KD2BXD</b>	<i>(2014-2017)</i>

## Committee Chairs

<b>Awards and Contests</b>	<b>Kenny Denson, WB2P</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>Al Arrison, KB2AYU</b>
<b>Clubhouse Replacement Project</b>	<b>Ray Martin, W2RM</b>
<b>Clubhouse Site</b>	<b>Al Arrison, KB2AYU</b>
<b>Club License Trustee</b>	<b>Darrell Neron, AB2E</b>
<b>Club Publications</b>	<b>Jeffrey Garth, KC2WCS</b>
<b>Community Outreach</b>	<b>Cory Sickles, WA3UVV</b>
- Scout Liaison	<b>Frank Simila, KC2SJ</b>
<b>Constitution and By-Laws</b>	<b>Ron Block, NR2B</b>
<b>Database</b>	<b>Ken Newman, N2CQ</b>
<b>DX</b>	<b>Bill Grim, W0MHK</b>
<b>Emergency and Public Service</b>	<b>Joe Shevlin, KC2PHM</b>
- ARES/RACES	<b>Joe Shevlin, KC2PHM</b>
- CERT	<b>Martin Wilt, W2ILT</b>
<b>Field Day Co-Chairs</b>	<b>Mark Townsend, W2OCY and Kyle Townsend, W2KBT</b>
<b>Hamfest</b>	<b>Tom Gorman, KE2ES</b>
- Hamfest Contact	<b>Cory Sickles, WA3UVV</b>
<b>Health and Welfare</b>	<b>Ray Martin, W2RM</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Jeffrey Garth, KC2WCS</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Cory Sickles, WA3UVV and Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ</b>
<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Jim Wright, N2GXJ</b>
<b>Programs</b>	<b>Cory Sickles, WA3UVV</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Cory Sickles, WA3UVV</b>
<b>Repeaters</b>	<b>Al Arrison, KB2AYU</b>
<b>Special Services</b>	<b>Darrell Neron, AB2E</b>
<b>Technical and TVI</b>	<b>Cory Sickles, WA3UVV</b>
<b>VEC Liaison and License Testing</b>	<b>Gary Reed, N2QEE</b>



### The W2MMD Repeaters

Output: 147.180 MHz  
Input: 147.780 MHz  
Offset: +600 kHz - PL: 131.8 Hz  
**(Conventional FM plus C4FM Capability)**

Output: 442.100 MHz  
Input: 447.100 MHz  
Offset: +5 MHz - PL: 131.8 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 Hz  
Location: Sewell, NJ  
GPS: 39.781382°, -75.099963°

### GCARC 2M Ragchew Net

Thursday, October 16, 2014 @ 20:00 Hrs

### SkyWarn Net

Sunday 19:45 Hrs

### ARES/RACES Net

Sunday 20:00 Hrs

*All Nets on 147.180 MHz Repeater*

### VE License Session

Thursday, October 9, 2014 @ 1900 Hrs  
Franklin Township Public Library  
Franklinville, NJ  
Gary Reed, N2QEE  
[glreed49 <at> verizon <dot> net](mailto:glreed49@verizon.net)

## Meeting Calendar

### *General Membership Meeting*

19:30 Hrs, Wednesday, October 1, 2014  
Pfeiffer Community Center  
301 Blue Bell Road  
(Main Street and Blue Bell Road)  
Williamstown, NJ

### *Board of Directors Meeting*

19:00 Hrs, Wednesday, October 15, 2014  
GCARC Clubhouse  
Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds  
235 Bridgeton Pike (Rt 77), Mullica Hill, NJ

## Club Meeting Program

**Wednesday, October 1, 2014**

**Break-out sessions with Q&A about  
a variety of ham radio related topics**

**October 19, 2014**

**Sunday : 1300 - 1500 Hours**

**Fall Fox Hunt**

**GCARC 11:00 am Brunch**

**Every Friday @  
The Seven Star Diner  
1890 Hurffville Road, Sewell, NJ**

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