



Presidents Message

It is time to write another president's message. The biggest and best item I have to talk about is the recent Hamfest. Harry, AA2WN, and his gang did a bang-up job, every thing went smoothly and the turnout was OK considering that rain was forecast. The weather gods smiled on us, by 7:00 AM the weather improved and by 8:00 AM the sun was out. We had good press coverage and the vendors were busy. One vendor from Connecticut was surprised we had such good attendance and wants to come back next year. Many thanks to Harry and all that helped.

2003 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2003 are due. The annual dues are \$15.00. Please send your checks directly to the treasurer, Bob Krchnavek, (K2DAD) at 50 Eastwick Dr., Gibbsboro, NJ 08026.

On a sad note, a former member has passed away. William Wyatt, N2WIB, became a "silent key" on August 9, 2003. I met William at the Franklinville VFW where he gave an interesting talk on how the 16" gun turrets were designed. Wooden mock-ups were made of the equipment that had to be placed in the turrets and then arranged to fit. William was involved in that part of the design of the Battleship New Jersey.

The next event for the club is the Lupus walk at Washington Lake Park on September 14 from 8:30 AM to noon. It is a nice affair and it is for a good cause. Everyone who has helped in the past enjoyed it. I will give more details about the event at the meeting. Please let me know if you are interested.

you can e-mail me at wb2nbj@att.net The Pitman crop walk is coming up in October. It is also a good event. Remember we need to do these things in order to maintain our status as a special service club.

Best '73
Ray, WB2NBJ

DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Following a brief respite last month, band propagation conditions continue to offer the DXer the choice of watching the Phillies or now the Eagles. The problem is not so much the solar flux (sunspot activity) as it is the geomagnetic field activity as measured by the K and A indices. As an example, on Aug. 18, the A index was a whopping 86 whereas the K values were reported as 8, 8, 7, and 6 over a 12 hour period. Recall from previous discussions in these pages that geomagnetic storm levels begin at a K of 4 whereas severe magnetic storms occur at numbers of 6 and above. The highest K value on the deflection scale is 9 which, if lasting all day, would yield an A value (previous 24 hr average) of 400. I have not checked the indices everyday lately, but would not be surprised to hear of numbers at these levels during the past 2 – 3 weeks, or so. Although the flux is heading downwards, there is no reason one should not be able to work, say TZ on 15 Meters; yet, when spotted by an Italian station on 15 M a few days ago, apparently no one in the US could hear him at all. The problem is that protracted solar eruptions with subsequent release of excessive amounts of electrons and protons, distort the earth's magnetic field to such an extent that we call this phenomenon a magnetic storm. This distortion of the usual north/south field thereby attenuates radio waves especially in the HF (DX) region of the spectrum. Severe magnetic storms (flares) can often totally blank-out a given band for hours at a time. And experience has shown that these magnetic disturbances generally peak about 3 years before and after the eleven (11) year cycle peaks. Hence, it appears that we are experiencing a more or less normal trend at this juncture.

Well, regardless, let's see what we might be able to hear this month.

STATION	DATES	FREQUENCY/MODE	RARITY*	COUNTRY
7Q7CE	9/4 – 9/21	80 – 15; SSB mostly	4	Malawi
3C0 ? (1)	9/28 – 10/10	All;All	4	Annobon Is.
4S7 H/C (1)	9/13 – 9/18	All;All	3	Sri Lanka
OJ0LA (1)	9/19 – 9/26	160 – 10; SSB, CW, RTTY	3	Market Reef
9Y4TBG	9/4 – 9/18	ARC; RTTY mostly, SSB	2	Tobago
P2 stations	9/13 – 9/14	Independence Day Contest	3	New Guinea
FG ? (1)	9/23 – 10/9	All; SSB,RTTY, PSK, SSTV	2	Guadeloupe
VK9XAB	8/30 – 9/6	40 -10; CW, SSB	3	Christmas Is.
C3 ? (1)	9/6 – 9/7	VHF; all (Reg. 1 FD)	3	Andorra
JW/DJ3KR	9/8 – 9/15	ARC; CW	3	Svalbard
9G1AA	8/30 – 9/12	80 – 10; SSB, CW	3	Ghana
EA6/DL8LAS	9/20 only	80 -10; CW, RTTY, PSK	3	Balearic Is.

(1) Major Dxpedition

* Number 5 is rarest

Thanks to [Weekly DX](#), [425 DX News](#), AA2WN, W2YC, WA2LET, K2JF

New Membership Committee Chairman

Ray Martin, WB2LNR, has volunteered to take over the Chairman's position for the membership committee. Bob, K2DAD, has been filling this roll on a temporary basis. If you need to update your personal data please send your info to Ray in the future. Ray's e-mail address is wb2lnr@arrl.net.

Thanks to both Ray and Bob for helping out with this vital job.

GCARC Hamfest

As Ray mentioned in the president's message this month, we had another successful Hamfest this year. But each year the Hamfest gets a little smaller as fewer buyers come which attracts less vendors and few vendors coming attracts less buyers. The Hamfest seems to be on a downward spiral. We need some new ideas as to how to get the Hamfest to grow rather than shrink. If you have any ideas as to how to revitalize the Hamfest, bring them up at a meeting or convey them to one of the Club officers as we will be doing some brainstorming as to how to improve the Hamfest before next summer.

The Hamfest is vital to the Club's financial health so we need to find a way to make it more profitable.

Upcoming Area Hamfests

DVRA/NJARC

The Delaware Valley Radio Association (DVRA) and the NJ Antique Radio Club (NJARC) are holding a Hamfest on Sunday, September 14, 2003 at the National Guard Armory, 151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ.

The New Jersey Antique Radio Club will be displaying some of their treasures and John Dilks, K2TQN, author of the Old Radio column in QST magazine, will have his mobile radio museum there for the event. Jim Millner, WB2REM, author of various articles dealing with ham radio and the internet, will be on hand to demonstrate and discuss ECHOLINK. This is your chance to get an up close and personal answer to your questions regarding this dynamic new branch of our hobby.

LARC

The Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (LARC) will hold their Hamfest on Saturday September 20, 2003 at the Schnecksville Fire Dept., in Schnecksville, PA. Schnecksville is located near Allentown, PA.

More information is available on both of the above Hamfests on page 96 of the September issue of QST.

More Countries Drop Morse Code Requirement

Two more countries have joined the small, but growing, list of administrations that no longer require amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test to have access to HF. Others have indicated they will do so soon. Affected countries also have granted HF privileges to their amateurs who hold "no-code" VHF/UHF licenses.

Joining Switzerland, Belgium, the UK and Germany are Norway and the Netherlands. Waiting in the wings are Austria and New Zealand.

The actions are in response to the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 decision to delete the requirement to prove Morse code ability from the international Radio Regulations, leaving individual administrations to decide if they want to retain it or not.

In the US, six unrelated petitioners have requested the FCC to delete the requirement that applicants pass the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code test to gain HF access and make related changes in the Amateur Service rules (Part 97). The FCC has not yet invited public comment on any of these petitions.

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the [ARRL Letter](#)

More Comments on BPL

The ARRL says Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proponents failed in their comments to the FCC to substantiate their claims that the technology will not cause widespread interference. In reply comments filed August 20, the FCC's deadline to receive comments in the BPL Notice of Inquiry, the League said that if the FCC is going to rely on industry statements in making decisions on BPL deployment, the industry should back up its assertions with technical studies and hard data and make these public.

"Unfounded assurances that BPL will not cause interference are no substitute for real-world measurements," the League declared, "and the FCC should rely on documented test results and an impact of interference potential based on scientific, not marketing, criteria."

A form of power line carrier, PLC, technology, BPL would use existing low and medium-voltage power lines to deliver broadband services to homes and businesses using frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz. Some BPL proponents, primarily electric power utilities, already are testing BPL systems in several markets and want the FCC to relax radiation limits.

In contrast to the BPL advocates' "blanket statements" of no interference from BPL field trial sites, the ARRL said its own field tests "lead inescapably to the conclusion that BPL will, if deployed, create widespread harmful interference." It predicted signal levels of up to 30 dB over S9 on a typical amateur transceiver, "well beyond what would preclude amateur HF communications entirely."

To dramatize its point, the League urged the Commission to view video <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#video>> shot during recent ARRL test-and-measurement forays to BPL field trial communities in four states. The ARRL said the type of degradation expected from BPL would transform 20 meters from a band with worldwide communication capabilities to one of limited regional communication capability.

"ARRL has, in fact, done what the BPL industry should have done, brought an amateur station to the trial area," the League said. "When it did so, the interference was manifest and widespread and would be so even to an untrained observer."

The League also noted that comments in the proceeding so far have been silent on the interference susceptibility of BPL to ham radio signal ingress. The League predicted that even as little as 250 mW of signal induced into overhead power lines some 100 feet from an amateur antenna could degrade a BPL system or render it inoperative.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has also weighed in on the FCC's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) initiative. While urging the FCC to "move forward expeditiously" with its inquiry into BPL, the NTIA expressed "broad concerns" about interference to government users. The NTIA also has launched an extensive modeling, analysis and measurement program for BPL. A Commerce Department branch, NTIA administers spectrum allocated to federal government users.

"Notwithstanding BPL's potential benefits, the Commission must ensure that other communications services, especially government operations, are adequately protected from unacceptable interference," the NTIA said in late-filed comments in the BPL Notice of Inquiry. "In tailoring its rules to promote BPL deployment, the Commission must be certain to provide all communications stakeholders with adequate protections against BPL emissions that may cause unacceptable radio frequency interference."

Thanks to the American Radio Relay League and the [ARRL Letter](#)

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following Club members:

William Blakeley, WA2ADB 9/3
Sonny Gutin, WB2DXB 9/7
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO 9/15
Harry Spiece, NJ2B 9/26
Edward Wargo, WA2ED 9/4



Crosstalk Submissions

All submissions, queries, comments, editorials, etc. should be directed to:

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
401 Westwood Drive
Woodbury, New Jersey 08096-3131

aa2yo@arrl.net

Submission deadline: 9/22/2003

President-Ray Schnapp WB2NBJ
Vice President-Wayne Wilson WA2LET
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML
Lou Joseph W2LYL
Al Arrison KB2AYU

Advertising-Open
ARES/RACES-Chick WA2USI
Awards-Jack K2ZA
Banquet-Bob KR2U
Budget-Bob K2DAD
Clubhouse Site-Al KB2AYU
Constitution-Open
Crosstalk-Gene AA2YO
Database-Bob K2DAD
DX-Doug WA2NPD
Field Day-Ray WB2LNR
Hamfest-Harry AA2WN

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Harry Bryant AA2WN
Corresponding Secretary-John Fisher K2JF

Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO
Bob Krukowski KR2U
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

Committees

Hospitality-Ken N2CQ
Membership- Ray WB2LNR
Nominations-Art Strong KA2DOT
Publicity-Open
Repeaters-Chuck WA2TML
Scholarships-Greg WN2T
Special Services-Gene N2IMK
Sunshine-Open
Technical-Bob KR2U
TVI-John AA2BN
VEC Testing-Chick WA2USI

The W2MMD Repeaters

147.78/18 Mhz- Pitman
(CTCSS 131.8Hz)

223.06/224.66 Mhz-Sewell

447.1/442.1 Mhz - Pitman
(CTCSS 131.8Hz)

GCARC Meetings

General Membership

8 pm 1st Wednesday every month
Pfeiffer Community Center
Williamstown, NJ

Board of Directors

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

Nets

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

10 Meter- Sunday
following the
ARES/RACES Net
(28.350 Mhz)

September Meeting Program

Club Business
Socializing

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

