

# CROSSTALK

ISSUE #9

SEPTEMBER, 2005

## *Presidents Message*

The 2005 GCARC Hamfest is now history. Although I was away still, I heard through the grapevine that a great time was had by the participants, and that everything ran smoothly. Hopefully, the 4H will have us back on track next year with our regular date. Under the circumstances, I think everything went well. Attendance may have been down just slightly overall, but this was likely due in part to the date change, and the fact there was another hamfest in NJ on the same day, which diluted the attendance.

### 2005 DUES

GCARC dues for the year 2005 are due. The annual dues are \$20.00. Please send your checks directly to the treasurer, Bob Krchnavek, (K2DAD) at 50 Eastwick Dr., Gibbsboro, NJ 08026.

The hot summer weather is mostly behind us. It's a great time to think about that antenna work and tower maintenance you've been putting off! Rumor has it that Dave W2YC is again improving his impressive station, and has one of the SteppIR antennas on the tower. I'm sure he's going to be really loud in the pileups with that world-class antenna.

From what I've seen today on the cluster (24 August), it looks like the P5 operation will not take place. The cluster postings claim KA2HTV's rig was confiscated by the P5 authorities. Hopefully, we will one day see another successful operation from there.

That's about it for this month. I want to remind all of you to submit your DXCC or Grid Square updates to Tony N2SS. He's doing a great job on the Honor Roll for GCARC. Please support his effort by sending him your totals.

## Repeater Maintenance

On Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, a crew consisting of Al, KB2AYU; John, K2JF; Mike, N2SRO; and Joe, WB2PJS got together at the repeater site to thoroughly check out the 2 meter repeater. Al and Joe did the work up on the tower and were supported by John and Mike on the ground.

The antenna and feed line were completely inspected and everything was disconnected, cleaned, reassembled and waterproofed. When they were done everything on the antenna checked out fine from the ground with their test instruments and the repeater was putting out a solid 40 watts. They also checked out the antenna with a spectrum analyzer and found some strong signals coming back down the line but at this time they did not think any of them were causing a problem for the repeater.

See MAINTENANCE on Page 3

# DX Dope

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

By now you have all heard of the North Korean fiasco involving KA2HTV. Dr. Borenstein, KA2HTV, had obtained permission to operate during his recent visit there, but the permission was granted by a government official who was not authorized to do so. The North Koreans confiscated his own personal gear (told him thanks for the donation) but gave him back donated equipment which was to have been donated in gratitude for the permission to operate. Maybe someday we will be able to work North Korea!

Darrell, AB2E, reports that Northern Cyprus is attempting to gain independence from Turkey. This could be the next new one on the list.

Harry, AA2WN, passed along the following cycle information from the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet Email: The first signs of solar cycle 24 were observed on Aug. 12 when a small bipolar region (polarities reversed compared to cycle 23 regions) was observed in the NE quadrant of the sun. Two tiny spots were observed during the early evening, but decayed to pores by midnight. This observation suggests a solar minimum sometime between April and October, 2006. Hope we can all live beyond that date (my comment).

Also, note that Dave, W2YC, has now installed his new SteppIR yagi at about 85 ft. This yagi is really the "Rolls Royce" of all yagis! It has 4 separate DC motors spaced on the boom which drive out and back copper bands housed inside fiberglass elements. The bands are adjusted to give monoband yagi configurations on 6 through 20 meters. The front to back orientation can be immediately reversed which eliminates need for 180 degree rotation. The SWR on each band is virtually one (as per the length adjustment). Incidentally, all of these operations are automated via computer control. You almost have to see this antenna to believe it! Don't even think of the cost.

Well, let's see what's up during this increasingly poor propagation period:

STATION	DATES	FREQ/MODE	RARITY*	COUNTRY
T88BG/BH	8/25 – 9/5	80 – 10; All	3	Palau
ZL5KX	Now – 10/31	40 – 20; SSB,CW	3	Antarctica
ST0RM	Now for 1 yr.	All ; CW, SSB, Dig.	3	Sudan
TI0SP	9/1 – 9/30	All ; All	2	Costa Rica
KH9/W9I	9/19 – 9/30	160, 10; CW, SSB	4	Wake Is.
K7C	9/24 – 10/8 (1)	160 – 6; All	4	Kure Is.
HB0/ON7TQ	9/17 – 9/24	All; All	3	Liechtenstein
HP1/WN6K	9/1 – 9/13	160 – 10; CW, SSB	2	Panama
VP9/WA4PGM	9/9 – 9/13	160 – 6; CW, SSB	2	Bermuda
5R8HS	Now till 9/8	20; SSB	3	Madagascar
ET3TK	Now	40, 17 ; CW	3	Ethiopia
EA2BXV/HI7	8/27 – 9/7	All ; SSB, SSTV, Dig.	2	Dom. Rep.

\* Nr. 5 is rarest; (1) is Major DXpedition

TNX to Weekly DX, 425 DX News, W2YC, AA2WN, K2JF, WA2LET

# Proposed Change to GCARC Constitution

To allow the Club Treasurer more flexibility and the ability to get the highest interest rate on the Club's money it is proposed that the first paragraph of Article II Section 5 of the GCARC Constitution be changed from the following:

Section 5. Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to be the recipient of and handle all monies of the CLUB. The Treasurer shall deposit same in the name of the CLUB in a bank located in the State of New Jersey. The Treasurer shall make all such payments for the CLUB as are provided by the Constitution, or such as shall be ordered by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be a co-signer of all checks drawn upon the CLUB's accounts. The Treasurer shall issue a membership card to each member upon payment of his / her dues.

To the following:

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

The above proposal was read at the August General Meeting and will be read again at the September General Meeting and voted upon. Please attend the September meeting and vote on the proposal.

## Preliminary Hamfest Report

First of all, thank all of you for your support and hard work getting things set up and taken down which made the 2005 Hamfest a success.

Here are the preliminary numbers:

General Admission	223	Tail Gate Spaces	17	Pavilion Tables	25
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The VEC testers had 8 candidates this year which is a big improvement over the zero candidates last year.

We had one new vendor, K1CRA.com, who came down from way up north in Erie County, NY, about an eight hour drive. Craig, K1CRA, was very happy about the turnout and the support we provided with directions, where to stay etc. He and his cute assistant promised to be back next year.

Another interesting table was that of Carl Stevenson, WK3C. Carl is running for the position of ARRL Director of the Atlantic Division and is interested in your vote if you are an ARRL member. If you did not get a chance to talk with Carl, you can find him on the web at <http://home.ptd.net/~wk3c>.

The Battleship New Jersey had their display up and running as well and had a table selling various pieces of gear that were being scrapped. They made enough money to pay for their table this year and still turn a tidy profit.

GCARC Hamfest Chairman-Harry, AA2WN

## Maintenance

continued from Page 1..

The crew has further plans to visit the site to do some cleaning, to relocate the repeater to an existing pad at a better location at the base of the tower, and to make a few improvements. For further information on their plans and what checks they ran on the system catch one of them at a Club Meeting.

Thanks to Al, John, Mike and Joe for devoting one of their Saturdays to getting our repeater in great shape. A special thanks to Joe, WB2PJS, as he is not even a member of the Club and he still volunteered to help.

## Member Profile

This month [Crosstalk](#) profiles Mike Mollet, N2SRO.

Mike has recently returned from his stint in the United States Air Force where he was an aircraft armament technician but I am sure that most of you remember Mike from before he entered the service when he was an active member of the Club in his teens. Mike became a ham back in 1992 and was very active on the repeater and Packet when in lived in the area before going in the service. He is a graduate of Pitman High School and Rowan University.

Before Mike left for the service in January of 2001 he was active with the 911 Center, was Deputy Radio Officer for the Gloucester County RACES Office and was a firefighter and EMT with the Pitman Fire Department and Ambulance Squad and had made many friends through his public safety and radio work.

Mike says that being a ham helped him make friends and meet people in new areas when he traveled in the service. He says that it really helped getting in touch with local people wherever he was and finding out what was going on locally and where to stay away from. He says he and his best friend and fellow ham Joe were always the first to know what was going on locally wherever they were deployed thanks to ham radio.

Mike is back in the area again and working for the STAT medical transport division at Kennedy Hospital. He is interested in getting all the Club's repeaters back in tip top condition and recently volunteered for the work crew that checked out and serviced the 2 meter repeater. He hopes to learn more about repeater maintenance, loves anything Motorola and wants to become active in APRS. It is good to have Mike back and his interest in our Club's repeaters could be the needed catalyst to get them back to their previous usefulness.

## Future Member Profiles

To date your editor has only been soliciting submissions for the Member Profiles section of [Crosstalk](#) via e-mail and face to face pleas. I have sent out e-mails just about every month to get members to send me information for this column and some months I get no responses and some months I get multiple responses. Well I have just about exhausted my supply of working e-mail addresses and I am hereby asking that any of you who wish to be profiled in a future column, take it upon yourself to send me data about you from which I can prepare an article. Come on don't be shy send me anything and I will try to whip it into shape for [Crosstalk](#). You can e-mail me at [aa2yo@arrl.net](mailto:aa2yo@arrl.net) or mail it to my home address on page 5 of this newsletter.

The information can be about your background, how you got into ham radio, your current interests in the hobby or anything that you think your fellow club members might be interested in. If you have a digital picture that you want to include send it along also. Here is your shot at your fifteen minutes of Club fame.

## Area VEC Testing

VEC testing is available locally each month. Details for the testing site are included below. Remember applicants must have two forms of identification and for upgrades they must have the original and a copy of their current license and CSCE's that they wish to use for credit.

- Location: Lewis and Browning Roads, Bellmawr, NJ
- Time: Third Thursday of each month at 18:30
- Contact: Diane Nafis



**SEPTEMBER**                      **CONDUCTED BY N2SS**                      **2005**

**WARC BANDS**

<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
<b>W2YC. 296</b>	<b>N2SS ...320</b>	<b>WØMHK309</b>
N2SS.....289	WØMHK.. 308	N2SS..... 302
WØMHK ..261	W2YC ..... 300	W2YC..... 273
AA2WN...171	K2JF..... 168	K2JF ..... 135
WA2NPD..166	WA2NPD . 142	N2CQ..... 99
AB2E .....132	AA2WN ... 116	AB2E ..... 92
K2JF.....112	N2CQ ..... 115	WA2NPD... 73
N2CQ.....111	AB2E..... 114	AA2WN..... 20

When the same call heads all 3 WARC bands we will have that elusive, undisputed **KING OF WARC**

**Digital**

<b>W2YC .....242</b>	K2JF..... 113
AA2WN.....187	N2SS ..... 53
N2CQ..... 151	

**6 METER DXCC**

<b>K2JF .....94</b>	W2YC.....19
<b>WØMHK.....94</b>	AA2WN.....15
N2SS ..... 55	

**MOBILE DX**

<b>W2YC .....276</b>	WØMHK .... 141
N2SS.....234	AA2WN..... 131
K2JF ..... 150	

Looks like Dave and I have spent entirely too much time behind the wheel!

**GRID SQUARES**

<b>WØMHK.....457</b>	K2JF .....285
.....	.....

**160 Meters**

<b>W2YC..... 171</b>	AA2WN ..... 36
WØMHK .... 119	K2JF..... 34
AB2E ..... 90	WA2NPD ..... 27
N2SS ..... 79	N2CQ ..... 9

W2YC continues as our undisputed Top of Top Band.

Have some totals to add or updates? You can reach me as follows:

email: [n2ss@n2ss.com](mailto:n2ss@n2ss.com)

**1.5K Club**

<b>W2YC .....1542</b>	AA2WN..... 1369
<b>N2SS.....1520</b>	K2JF..... 1350
WA2NPD ...1399	N2CQ..... 1135
WØMHK ....1395	AB2E ..... 1074

**Rules for GCARC Honor Roll Listings**  
Provide me with your total IOTAs worked, or countries (including deleted) worked for: WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters or your total for 80,40,20, 15 and 10 for 1.5K Club. Final category is Grid Squares – just send me your total worked. Lastly, you do not have to participate in every category to be listed; just send me your totals for any of the categories listed.

**Islands On The Air**

<b>N2SS.....818</b>	N2CQ..... 159
W2YC.....604	

## September Birthdays

Congratulations to the following members whose birthdays are in September:

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO  
Harry Spiece, NJ2B  
Dave Strout, W2YC  
Willie Ustaszeki, WA2DUV  
Wayne Welsh, WA2VOY



## 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: 9/26/2005

President-Darrell Neron AB2E  
Vice President-Wayne Wilson WA2LET  
Treasurer-Bob Krchnavek K2DAD

Chuck Colabrese WA2TML  
Bob Krukowski KR2U  
Bill Blakeley WA2ADB

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-Ray WB2LNR  
DX-Doug WA2NPD  
Field Day-Bob KC2NLM  
Hamfest-Harry AA2WN

## GCARC Officers

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

## Board of Directors

Al Arrison KB2AYU  
Gene Schoeberlein AA2YO  
Steve Blasko, W2TDS

## 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-Open  
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**

Vote on Constitutional Change Proposal

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

