



Presidents Message

First off, the Club would like to thank the following members who so generously helped-out the 4 H with their food service during their recent annual Fair: Wayne, WA2LET, and his XYL; Ken, N2CQ, and his XYL; Gene, AA2YO, and his XYL; Cory, WA3UVV; Stu, N2WUP; Chris, WK2W, and, of course, Harry, K2ATX, who organized the assistance. If I forgot to mention someone, please shoot me at the Sept. 3rd, meeting. Feedback from the 4 H folks was singularly and highly favorable and they thanked us profusely for our help.

We were delighted to welcome into our Club last month some six new members. And we have had several additional new members join within the past few months. In talking with one new member, the conversation triggered the rest of this months blurb. The question was: OK, now I am a ham, what do I do? What gear should I buy, what antennas should I erect, what is there to do, etc.? Unless you have already discussed this issue with some experienced hams, and pretty much know what you want to do, we would suggest you talk with a cross section of experienced hams to get their thoughts. The confusion is that, within the ham world, there are a host of different sub-interests, and, depending upon which sub-interest one pursues, this can determine what equipment investment you will make, how to start-out, etc. Some of the possible sub-interests and modes are : Ragchewing, DXing, Public Service (AREC, RACES, MARS, Message Handling, Brass Pounders League, Net Operations, etc.), Special Interest Nets (Missionary, Chess, Travel, etc.), RTTY, Digital (PSK-31, APRS, D-STAR, etc.), VHF/UHF, SSTV, Homebrewing, Satellite, Contesting, phone patching, Repeaters, VEC, and Morse Code. We mention Morse code because it is no longer required to obtain an amateur license, yet probably 75% of the world's amateurs still use it and will use it for a long time. If after reading the above list, you don't even know what some of the interests are, don't feel poorly. Find out by reading up, asking questions, and using your computers. And don't think you can learn all about these sub-interests in a matter of a few weeks. Most will agree it takes years to become familiar with all aspects of our hobby, and some aspects are not easy to grasp. Most new hams (your truly included) started out by purchasing a used receiver and transmitter (transceivers had not yet been invented), erecting a simple antenna (40 and/or 80 meter dipole), and getting on the air (HF bands) and talking with (working) other US and foreign stations. This approach can go a long ways towards enlightening one as to which sub-interests one wishes to pursue and is a lot of fun besides. I hope to see all of you at our Sept. 3rd Club Meeting.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

It looks like the sunspot "gas tank" is still running on empty. But the DX engine is still running! Can't remember the last time I have seen a spot on the sun's surface on any solar websites. You can bet that the world of DXers is hoping that we are seeing the absolute bottom! But still, DX is workable for those who use their time and stations wisely.

Even with sunspot number counts of 65-67 greater China is workable on 20 Meters many mornings. Ten meters has also been open to some Europe and West African prefixes (especially islands) during recent contests. Our autumnal propagation enrichment should start enhancing our DX efforts with October approaching. Low bands will be returning DX rewards again soon!

As mentioned at our last club meeting, the much anticipated operation from Marion Island, ZS8T, has not been forthcoming. Rumor has it that more time is needed for proper antenna installation. Don't miss this one if it becomes active, as it is extremely rare along with Glorioso Island, FR/G. The Glorioso operation is more or less scheduled for the end of September and has a big question mark in front of it for activation. The French team has stated it is more concerned about safety and success of the effort than of meeting a specific timetable. Keep your fingers crossed and ears open for this very difficult to work DXCC entity.

Let's look at some DX opportunities for September. Note that more DXpeditions are including 60 Meters in their "bag of bands" to increase QSO tallies. You might do a bit of listening at nightfall to the newest of our HF bands, albeit quite restricted. There are five USB channels between 5.332 Mhz and 5.405 Mhz on 60 Meters. The latter is most used for DXing as a general rule.

| STATION | DATES | FQ/MODES | RARITY * | ENTITY |
|------------|--------------|--------------|----------|------------|
| XU7YYY | 9/3-9/8 | HF-CW/PH | 4 | CAMBODIA |
| PJ2/LY4F | 9/3-9/12 | HF/MOST | 1 | NETH. ANT |
| ZP6/DL7VEE | 9/4-9/14 | HF/MOST | 2 | PARAGUAY |
| JW4LN | 9/12-9/20 | HF/60M/VHF | 2 | SVALBARD |
| KL7/K6UMO | 9/15-10/11 | HF-CW/PH | 1 | KL7 IOTA'S |
| JW7WCA | 9/19-9/26 | HF-CW/PH | 2 | SVALBARD |
| 5R8 | 9/20-9/25 | HF/EME-CW/PH | 3 | MADAGAS. |
| A25/DL7DF | 9/23 - 10/06 | HF-PH/CW | 2 | BOTSWANA |

RARITY* Stations rated 5 are the rarest. CREDITS: NG3K ADXO, THE DAILY DX

September General Meeting Program

The program at the September General Membership Meeting will be the "Harry Wolf Radio Show". Harry will be at the meeting and will be interviewing Club members about their interests in Amateur Radio for use on his radio show. Harry is on the air on WNJC, 1360AM.

2008 Hamfest September 21

Remember the Hamfest will be held on September 21 at the 4H Fairgrounds just south of Mullica Hill on Route 77. This our big money raising event of the year so we need to make it a big success. Our Chairman, Harry, K2ATX, will need a lot of help to make the event that big success. Please volunteer your time the evening before the Hamfest to get things set up, during the Hamfest and after the Hamfest to clean up. If you can please let Harry know when you can help out. Harry can be reached at k2atx@yahoo.com.

There will either be a copy of the Hamfest flyer attached to this issue of CrossTalk or it will be sent separately at the same time as Crosstalk. Please talk up the Hamfest with your ham friends, neighbors and anybody who might have an interest in ham radio or electronics, so we can have a really big turnout.

Wall Warts and All

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Once upon a time, electronic appliances and devices had their power supplies inside the device. Even if it was something that required an external supply (like older transceivers), you still could turn it completely off without having to unplug it from the outlet. Why, to build something that you had to unplug each time you wanted to turn it off and then plug back in to use was a ridiculous idea. Then, a not so funny thing happened.

Someone, probably a “Graphite Commando”, sitting somewhere at some desk took a good hard look at UL testing procedures. Whenever a company brings a new product to market, it wants that UL seal and has to send samples to Underwriters Laboratories to have them tortured and destroyed to make sure they are “safe” for us mere civilians to use. Every time you send in a product with an internal power supply, there are more stringent tests because of this.

Even if you send in 6 products with the exact same power supply assembly, because it’s inside, it’s like a totally new thing all over again. But, if the supply is outside, then it only needs to be tested once. Plus, if you are buying the supply from another vendor and simply including it with your product, it’s not your problem. See where the money starts to be saved?

Those external supplies are affectionately known as “wall warts” (not to be confused with the “Wal-Mart”, a disfiguring virus contracted at certain discount stores) and are included as power supplies and chargers for all sorts of electronic devices that make up our modern world. Everything from cell phones to powered speakers to external disk drives to ipod chargers and thousands of things in between are provided current by these things. The problem is you can’t turn them off..

While most hams should know that even when they aren’t doing anything useful they are still using electricity, most consumers have no idea or just think the drain is so small as to be insignificant. If there was only one, they would be right. However, just like rabbits, they seem to multiply like crazy.

Look around your house and/or office. How many do you have? Is it more than a dozen? I counted over 3 dozen before I left my home office. Granted, I have an obscene amount of drives, but still... Now maybe some of those, like the one(s) powering your home telephone need to be attached all the time. But what about your computer speakers, chargers, and others? Do you have a laser printer that “sleeps” or do you turn it off? What about your computer and display? You should have everything connected to a UPS, but even that doesn’t get turned off completely.

Hook up a meter and see how much power is being wasted. Now multiply what you have in your home by the homes in your neighborhood, your town, etc. and you’ll soon begin to get an idea of how much electricity (mostly coal) we are all wasting. How much extra pollution is that causing? How much higher is your electric bill? How much longer are you going to keep reading this before you start unplugging those wall warts when they aren’t being used?

While some need to be in different places, others can be grouped together into “charging stations” on a desk, table or countertop where everyone in your family can hook up all the portable devices we just can’t live without. Even if it’s just half of them, it’s still half!

Many of us watching the Olympics have noticed how awful looking the gray skies are over Beijing. Their incredible demand for coal and increased use of petroleum products makes the air over Los Angeles look pristine. Even if you don’t care about cleaner air, lowering the demand for electricity and whether you use LEDs or CFLs in lieu of tungsten lamps, you might care about saving money and after all, that’s how this whole “wall wart” thing started.

The New Frontier

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Yesterday, I was able to buy gasoline (“Now with more corn!”) for the low-low price of \$3.279. Yeah, seems cheap, right? It’s amazing how nice and pleasant life seems after the abuse and torture stops, isn’t it? Why, it makes you forget about the days when a gallon of refined dinosaur carcasses was well under \$2. Mission accomplished? You bet! At least everyone’s Exxon stock looks good.

Aside from the fact that the time it takes for increased crude prices to be reflected at the pump can be measured with a stopwatch and the effect of decreases can be measured with a calendar, it really isn’t going to get any better. Just ten short years ago, bicycles were the major mode of transportation in Beijing. Now, there are about 600 cars being sold in that part of the world per day. If you wondered why there was a sudden demand this year for diesel fuel, guess who was finishing up a little construction project and wanted to make sure they had enough stock to power a multitude of generators to ensure the “Games” went on. Just wait until earthquake reconstruction begins earnestly in and around Chengdu. They are going to need lots of diesel for that, too.

With all the jobs in this country being outsourced to India, our corporate leaders have raised the living standards in that country, too. Recently, a new “affordable” car was introduced with much fanfare. Now, a family can have a car, albeit a Spartan one, for less than \$3,000 and not have to rely on overcrowded mass transit or a moped to travel. More cars, more demand for fuel, higher prices, less inventory in the ground. Obviously, I didn’t share in the fanfare.

Huge SUV and truck sales in this country didn't help. I don't have a problem with folks who actually need that kind of vehicle for their business or because of family size, but when Navigators, F350's and Hummers are sold because of tax credits designed for farmers, just so folks can have some road monster to drive, while they only fantasize about driving on some desolate mountain trail, something is wrong. Why not just buy a school bus and paint it cherry apple red, put on some spinners, mount sub woofers under all the seats and now you have a cool ride, the ultimate crossover! (I'm going to pause a moment while I stop frothing at the mouth)

Prices in Europe have been uber-ridiculous for some time now. We've been getting off cheap. That's not going to last much longer. Obviously, alternatives need to be developed that don't erode our food supply and drive other prices sky high as well. Whoever got on the bandwagon to turn food into fuel was only thinking about profits, not the common good. (Just like BPL) Certain grasses and plants like mustard seed have a substantially higher yield. Bio-diesel is still a boutique business. What needs to happen needed to happen a decade ago. Our government needed to and still needs to move forward with funding and programs to ignite the imagination of Americans who have ideas to address these problems. Just like the benefits of the space program in the 60's, and DARPA initiatives like the internet, we needed and still need leadership that will get research and development moving. Didn't happen, but it still isn't too late.

Other than the obvious, what does this all mean to you? Well, as hams, we are supposed to be the tinkers and the innovators. Whether they are licensed or not, the kind of person that has the innate abilities and drive to create and grow the technologies needed should be encouraged.

Right now, our battery technology is further ahead than ever. Electric motor technology is more efficient than ever. Tires can be manufactured to have less drag. Lightweight alloys and sculpted body designs with lower coefficients of drag make for designs that cut through the air a lot better than a '73 Newport. Fender skirts might make a comeback, yet! Sometime in the early 90's - AL, KB2AYU began converting a Rabbit Pickup truck into an EV. It was/is an experimental vehicle to be sure, but it is/was certainly a worthwhile project. I know Al learned a lot about the process and design considerations along the way. Even though technology has changed considerably since he started, he has a very workable design and a means of getting to and from work without directly burning fossil fuels.

In garages and barns across this country, there are conversions going on to turn Honda's, various small pickups, Fiats and even the venerable VW "Bug" into fully electric cars. For under \$3,000 one can get an engine kit and a bunch of batteries and with some old-fashioned ingenuity, convert these and more into gasless wonders. I recently saw a converted Honda Del Sol, the two seater of 15 years ago, running as a plug-in electric. Very cool and very fast. While range is still an issue and you couldn't use one to drive to Pittsburgh on a single charge, we've known the basics of how to build one almost since the inception of the automobile, more than a hundred years ago. Forget the "Flying Cars of the 21st Century", where are the electrics? Where's the "glue" to put all of the critical elements together?

You can convert an existing diesel (VW, Mercedes, BMW) vehicle to run on little more than filtered cooking oil, by having conventional fuel in a separate tank available to start and stop the engine. The hardest part of that is running around obtaining used oil.

Not unlike early radio experimenters who made their own capacitors and resistors building equipment on boards and scrounging parts from discarded technologies, these experimenters and their ideas need to be focused and funded. Even those who think logarithms are the beat of jungle drums can come up with technologies that would improve on the basic design. While some of the breakthroughs will depend on

metallurgy, body designs and tires - most of what's needed will depend on chemistry and electronics. The latter certainly being something that hams should know about and be able to contribute.

I imagine most amateur radio clubs have or could have members with all the disciplines I've touched on. I know ours has at least one battery expert, a guy who knows his way around the periodic table (probably can explain covalent bonding in Chinese, too) and several that are handy in a machine shop and others that can design circuits. Even if you aren't expert in one of these disciplines, you can still make a difference. Remember experts built the Titanic, amateurs built the Ark.

It's time to exercise your brain. How would you improve on the design? Think small, what is the one component you could improve?



GCARC President, Doug Gehring, WA2NPD, gives Wayne Wilson, WA2LET, the 2008 Goldman Award at the June Meeting.



SEPTEMBER

CONDUCTED BY N2SS

2008

WARC BANDS

| <u>30 Meters</u> | <u>17 Meters</u> | <u>12 Meters</u> |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| W2YC. 312 | N2SS ...325 | WØMHK310 |
| N2SS297 | WØMHK.. 322 | N2SS.....303 |
| WØMHK ..279 | W2YC 316 | W2YC.....280 |
| WA2NPD ..216 | WA2NPD . 221 | N2CQ.....99 |
| AA2WN....171 | AA2WN ... 122 | WA2NPD...96 |
| AB2E147 | AB2E..... 122 | AB2E92 |
| N2CQ.....111 | N2CQ 115 | AA2WN.....20 |

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

160 Meters

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| W2YC..... 208 | N2SS 79 |
| WØMHK 152 | AA2WN 36 |
| AB2E 100 | N2CQ 9 |
| WA2NPD..... 96 | |

W2YC continues as our undisputed **Top of Top Band.**

DIGITAL

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| W2YC..... 287 | N2SS 53 |
| AA2WN..... 187 | WA2JSG 10 |
| N2CQ..... 151 | |



MOBILE DX

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| W2YC276 | WØMHK 141 |
| N2SS.....234 | AA2WN..... 131 |

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



1.5K Club

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| W2YC1598 | AA2WN..... 1369 |
| N2SS.....1543 | AB2E 1185 |
| WØMHK 1478 | N2CQ..... 1135 |
| WA2NPD ... 1453 | |



Islands On The Air

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| N2SS.....849 | AB2E 205 |
| W2YC.....674 | N2CQ..... 159 |
| WØMHK381 | |



6 METER DXCC

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| WØMHK..... 106 | W2YC.....38 |
| N2SS55 | AA2WN.....15 |



GRID SQUARES

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| WØMHK..... 540 | |
|-----------------------|-------|

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.

CURRENT OFFICIAL ARRL DXCC STATISTICS

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Active Count | 338 |
| Deleted Count..... | 58 |
| Last Addition..... | KH8/S |
| Last Deletion..... | STØ |



Sunday September 21st

Hamfest 2008

Open to the public 8:00am to 2:00pm Rain or Shine

(Gates open at 6:00am for Tailgaters & Sellers)

Plenty of Free Parking Available

Featuring Tailgaters and Sellers of New, Used
and Antique Radio, Computer and Electronic Equipment.

Admission is \$6.00

Non-Ham Spouses and Kids are **FREE**

Entry Ticket is good for Door Prize Drawings throughout the day.

(You must be present to win.)

DXCC-VUCC-WAS

Card Checking 11:30am

ARRL VEC License Testing

Testing begins at 9:00am

Please bring a copy of your
license and any CSE's



Tailgate Spaces are FREE

Pavilion Spaces are only \$10

(Some Pavilion Spaces Have Electric)

Space price does not include cost of admission

On-Site Food Services

Pork Roll, Doughnuts, Danish
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries
Italian Sausage, Steak Sandwiches
Hot & Cold Beverages and much more

Talk-in Repeater

147.180+ PL131.8

The GCARC 31st Annual Hamfest

Is being held in the **Pavilion area** of the
Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds

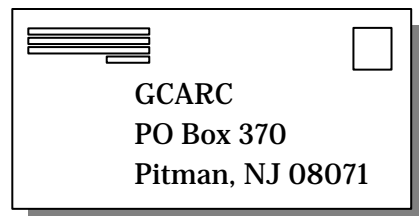
Located at 240 Bridgeton Pike (Rt 77)

In Mullica Hill, New Jersey 08062

Lat 39.715613 Lon -75.211955

Lat 39° 42' 56.21"N Lon 75° 12' 43.04"W

Also look for us on APRS



Contact: Harry, K2ATX

k2atx@yahoo.com or (856) 513-0407

Handicapped Parking and Large Item Pickup Available

September Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in September:

Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB
Rudy Ciancaglini, K2JLY
Sonny Gutin, WB2DXB



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.

Submission deadline for October issue:
9/23/2008

Club Web-Site

<http://users.tellurian.com/freddie/w2mmd/>

President-Doug, WA2NPD
Vice President-Wayne Wilson, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Darrell Neron, AB2E
Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB

Cory, WA3UVV
Steve, W2TDS

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Corresponding Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU

Board of Directors

Harry Bryant, AA2WN
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
William Grimm, W0MHK

Trustees

Ray, WB2NBJ
Mike, N2SRO

Committees

ARES/RACES-John, AA2BN
Awards-Dave, W2YC
Budget-Steve, W2TDS
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E
Constitution-As needed
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ray, W2RM
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-John, AA2BN
Hamfest-Harry, K2ATX

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Ray, W2RM
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD
Programs-Dave, WB3JOY
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Ray, W2RM

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

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
The Harry Wolf Radio Show
Harry Wolf, KC2THV

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

