



Presidents Message

It has been a sort of “lost month” for yours truly, as I had my first cataract removed on August 14th, which is really good news as all went well. Problem is they won’t let me do anything except sit around until it gets better. Then, about the time when I can assume normal activities again, they will do the other eye, and the boredom is repeated. Oh well, can’t complain, really, when considering the alternative! The XYL suffers the most as she has to do all of my chores, etc.

Those of you who missed last month’s Club meeting really missed a super program on the Enigma machine. Dave, WA2TVS, really is a great speaker and knows his subject from A to Z. This month, September 2nd, Vinnie, KC2NXV, our Field Day Chairman, will present a slide program featuring our 2009 Field Day and starring at least half of our Club members! So, come on out and see yourself up on the big screen and/or see your fellow hams in action! It isn’t everyday that one gets to see himself starring in a visual presentation.

I couldn’t help noticing in the July QST report on the 2008 SET drill that Gloucester County (that’s us) placed 4th in our SNJ Section which is a very respectable showing. Next time you rub shoulders with Ed, N2RO, and/or John, AA2BN, congratulate them on a FB showing for last year. This year’s drill is coming up in October and hopefully we can improve our position with last year’s experience under our belts.

This year’s Hamfest is fast approaching! It will be held September 20th, at the 4H Fairgrounds. Our Committee, headed by Harry, K2ATX, is hard at work planning this gala affair. As this is our Club’s 50th Anniversary year, we are having 3 extra events, namely a QLF contest, a 20 m Club station on the site with special event call, W2MMD/50, and a Club Table with club member contributions for sale. Together with ticket sales, set-up, take-down, our usual VEC testing sessions, QSL card checking, parking, etc., there is virtually something for every Club member to do to make this event our biggest and best yet. So, when Harry puts out the call for volunteers, please do your best to help out with the event. In addition to a day of fun and fellowship, this is our annual biggest fund raiser, so we need your support to make this part of the day also a success. Tickets should be available at the September Club Meeting.

Finally, I must report on one of the more pleasurable duties of the Club President, that of presenting Awards to Club members and other valuable contributors to our Club. At our August 5th Meeting, I had the pleasure of presenting a Club Certificate of Thanks to Mrs. Dorothy Arrison, mother of Al, KB2AYU, who modified our Club Banner and who painted the new VHF tower—every rung and support! It was our way of saying thanks to Dorothy and also thanks to Al who accepted the Award for his Mom.

Hope to see one and all at our September 2nd meeting.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

August is: heat wave, lack of DX and an early deadline for this column! Not a great combination, especially when the bands are still stuck in a summertime mode. Few openings, most notably on higher bands, and shorter days are making themselves apparent in our daily routines.

Of late, Six Meters is pretty much back to its non-DX pre-Sporadic-E quietness. Even 17 Meters has been muted of late along with the bands above. 20 Meters shoulders the DX load with a noisy, but possible, 40 Meters adding some activity especially either side of sunrise or sunset. 30 Meters has been relatively quiet, but bears watching with summer waning. No sunspots for a stretch of 38 days to date has not helped Mr. DXer! But some "DX Sunshine" has shone through this month with the ARRL DXCC Desk putting its blessing on DX qsos and qsls with Yemeni DXpedition 7O1 YGF which happened in the year 2000! Many DXers had this qsl tucked away for 9 years as a no credit "conversation piece."

It sure made GCARC member, W2YC, Dave Strout happy with his qsl overnight qualifying him for #1 DXCC Status. Dave has spent over 5 decades trying to confirm all DXCC entities and woke up the morning of August 13 to find that he had achieved one of his top DXing goals. Well done! And you join ranks with our President, WA2NPD, in this DX accomplishment. Now, if we could only get a legitimate operation going in P5, North Korea...

Those of you looking for a qso with Afghanistan should note that both T6AD and T6AF, Americans stationed there, are now active from that remote area of the world. They will also be using PSK to stir up some qsos with North America.

In a quick note, I have decided to suspend any publication of our club member's yearly DX totals. With conditions being so poor, let's hope that next year will bring enough successes to make this listing more relevant.

September needs our attention for near and far DX possibilities. Increased DXpedition activity, especially noted in the Pacific, should increase our chances for some new and rare ones:

STATION	DATES	FREQS/MODES	RARITY	ENTITY
FO/A	9/4-9/14	MOST	3	AUSTRAL IS.
JW1SYL	9/7-9/11	-	2	SVALBARD
T2G	9/8-9/14	CW ONLY	4	TUVALU
HL9QST	9/10-11/13	0-10-CW/SB	2	S. KOREA
T30G	9/17-9/23	CW ONLY	2	W. KIRIBATI
ZK2BJ	9/18-9/25	MOST	2	NIUE
ZL7	9/18-9/30	80-10M	3	CHATHAM
TO7RJ	9/22-10/21	160-10/CW/SB	3	MAYOTTE
3A	9/23-9/30	MOST	2	MONACO
3D2G	9/24-9/27	CW ONLY	3	FIJI
FP	9/24-10/07	CW/SSB	1	ST. PIERRE
TX5SPA	9/28-10/12	ESP. LOW BANDS	3	AUSTRAL

Thanks to NG3K, [ADXO](#) and [The Daily DX](#).

September General Membership Meeting

Vinnie Sallustio, KC2NXV, our 2009 Field Day Chairman will present a slide show on this year's Field Day. Several of our members took pictures at Field Day and Vinnie has put them all together for the show.

Welcome New Members

The Club welcomes new members John Czuba, K2AEN, and Keneth Denson, W2KRD. John lives in Woodbury Heights and Ken lives in Mantua and they both hold General Class licenses. We hope to see them out for Club functions and meetings. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to them when they get out to join us.

Hamfest 2009

By Harry Elwell, K2ATX

Well September is upon us and the GCARC Hamfest is only weeks away. This year is the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club's 50th Anniversary. In celebration, we have added several events to our Hamfest this year. Among the events added this year is the QLF competition, where contestants will need to combine their CW proficiency with some fancy footwork to compete for a top spot and a chance to go on to the nationals (only kidding about the nationals). We will also be running a Special Event Station right from the Hamfest. Participating stations will receive a special QSL card in commemoration of the Club's 50th Anniversary.

However, for our Hamfest to be a success we need your help. We need your help not only on September 20 but now! How can you help? Well I am glad you asked. It is time to get the word out about our Hamfest. We will have ads in some magazines and a mailing will go out to more than 500 addresses. However, we need to plan for the fact that many of our attendees will be coming from a lot closer to home.

You can begin right now by simply telling those you see everyday. Co-workers, neighbors and friends are a great place to start. For those internet savvy members, there are hundreds of forums, bulletin boards and blogs where you can let people know about our event.

In addition to word of mouth, we have a Hamfest flyer available for download on our website. Start looking now for places where you could display our Hamfest flyer. Libraries, community centers, grocery stores and schools are only a few of the possibilities. Many organizations welcome the opportunity to help promote events for groups involved in community service such as Amateur Radio. Some of you may have connections in other media outlets. Use your imagination. We will have some printed flyers available at the September club meeting. Also you will be receiving a flyer via email that could be printed or emailed to potential attendees.

In addition to promotion there are many other ways to volunteer to help out. There is parking, testing, set-up, break-down and so much more. With the additional activities in celebration of our club's 50th Anniversary, we will need additional volunteers. Many of you have helped in previous years. Some have never had the opportunity to help. There will be plenty of fun for everyone so contact me as soon as possible to find out how you can help make our 31st annual Hamfest a success.

Gloucester County 4-H Amateur Radio Club

By Harry Elwell, K2ATX

Things are moving right along with the 4-H Amateur Radio Club. For a few months now, the members of the 4-H ARC have been studying for the Technician License Exam. On August 7th and 8th, we held an exam study group for any of the club members that were able to attend. We met on Friday for several hours and then again on Saturday morning. After a break for lunch, we held an ARRL VEC exam session for those in attendance (as always walk-ins were welcome). Two members of our 4-H radio club passed the Technician exam. We plan to hold similar study and exam sessions for the remaining members of our club as schedules permit.

In September the county 4-H hosts “Back to 4-H Night”, an introduction/open house designed to offer new and existing 4-H members a chance to preview and sign-up for the programs offered in the county. Representatives from the Gloucester County 4-H Amateur Radio Club will be there to promote our club. In addition, we have received inquiries from others interested in joining our club.

A while back, I sent out an email soliciting donations of any items (surplus, used, new extra etc.) including parts, rigs, parts of rigs, test equipment, books or just about anything else that may be of use to our club as we endeavor to learn about Amateur Radio and electronics. So far, the response has been excellent with donations including numerous components, radio equipment, test equipment, books and other items. Several other individuals that also have items to donate have contacted me and I am in the process of arranging to receive the items. The members and leadership of the 4-H radio club would like to thank the numerous members of the GCARC that responded for their generous donations and continued support.

GCARC VEC Testing

By Harry Elwell, K2ATX

VEC Testing is alive and well in Gloucester County. This month we had the opportunity to hold two ARRL VEC exam sessions. Our regular session, held on the second Tuesday of each month, fell August 13. With five candidates sitting for exams, this was our largest session at the Clayton facility to date and resulted in two candidates receiving their Technician class license and two candidates upgrading to the General class license. This month, including yours truly we had six Volunteer Examiners to proctor the session.

In addition to the regular monthly session, we held a special session on August 8 to accommodate the members of the Gloucester County 4-H Amateur Radio Club seeking their first Amateur Radio license. The session was open to all candidates, however due to the short notice only members of the 4-H radio club attended. Two members of the radio club took the exam and both passed earning them their first Amateur Radio license. Although they have not received, their license documents from the FCC they are already excited about the prospect of upgrading to General sometime in the near future.

Each month I receive calls and emails from prospective candidates inquiring about our exam sessions and this month is no exception. With the upcoming GCARC Hamfest along with our regular monthly session, September promises to be another busy month for VEC Testing in Gloucester County.

Donating your time as a Volunteer Examiner is a great way to give a little something back to our great Please see “Testing” on Page 5.

”Testing” continued from Page 4.

hobby. In addition, it can provide opportunity for fellowship with area Hams. Becoming a VE is easy, relatively painless and best of all it’s free! If you are considering becoming a VE and would like more information or registration, materials contact me. Remember, there is not commitment beyond that which you choose. You do not actually ever have to serve at a session, but if you are already an accredited VE and the mood should strike, you will be ready.

Time Wasters

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

About 2 years ago, I received an invitation to join Facebook from a friend I knew in High School. We correspond on occasion via email and talk on the phone a few times a year, so I didn’t think much about it and put it on the stack of things to do “when I feel like it”. Frankly, the whole Myspace / Facebook / LInkedin / Twitter social networking environment never really attracted me. I’ve long been comfortable in the ways I normally use to communicate with people.

Then, 2 months ago, I got an email reminder that I now had 3 invitations pending and decided to give it a try. After setting up an account, answering a bunch of questions and having to compose some paragraphs describing myself with (hopefully) some balance of witty vs. pretentious, I was done. Or so I thought.

After telling my daughter of my new accomplishment, she said, “Now you need some friends”. How true. In searching for names of people I knew and then seeing what they were doing with this particular technology, I soon realized this could be an incredible time waster.

That has long been my opinion of all of this. My son spends way too much time on Myspace. Most of the exchanges with his friends are the most mundane thoughts you could imagine. Others are interesting only if you are a teenager.

Twitter? Oh yes, I want everyone to know I scored the last multigrain bagel at the shop down the street or that I just had my car washed. Puh-leese! It’s a time waster you can hold in your hand and use to waste the time of hundreds or even thousands of others in near-real time.

But then some events occurred that changed my mind. I good friend of mine had wanted to buy a motorcycle for some time. She took safety classes and shopped around. Despite many of us warning her about the dangers, she finally found a used bike she liked, bought it and wrecked within hours – having simply lost control of it. When she went off the road, her body slid across the guardrail and (without being too graphic) it functioned like a knife. Her heart stopped from the shock. When paramedics arrived on the scene, they were able to restart her heart, contain her organs and transport her to a nearby trauma center.

I received a phone call within a few hours and later found out that updates on her condition were being posted by a friend on her Facebook page. Several times a day, there were prayers, wishes of encouragement, status reports on her condition and the series of maintenance surgeries to swap out sponges, find and repair previously unseen internal tears and damages, and repositioning of numerous tubes. A section of her skull had to be removed to lessen pressure from cranial swelling (yes, she was wearing a helmet, but the cardiac arrest was taking its toll). Across several thousand messages, the addition of dozens of new friends each day and a prayer network that reached across the globe, we hoped and watched and waited. This “time waster” had become a “compelling application” on the turn of a dime.

Please see “Time Wasters” on Page 6.

“Time Wasters” continued from Page 5.

Unfortunately, her brain continued to swell and the damage had become too severe. So many of us lost our friend, a 28-year-old mother of twins, and a woman with a vibrant and enthusiastic personality about 2 weeks later.

Around the same time and far across the world, there was another event happening – a presidential election (or is that selection) in Iran. Instantly, the people of that nation smelled something foul in the numbers being posted for the results. A protest began and despite censorship and government control over the normal channels of mass media, the world started seeing images from cell phones and “tweets” from a legion of Twitter subscribers.

No longer the stuff of “I just bought the cutest hijab”, Twitter was now a tool to coordinate protests, avoid the areas of beatings and assaults (and government sanctioned murders) and let the greater world know what was going on.

BTW – if you don’t think that there is bravery in these people generating such traffic, contemplate that the existing government has been keeping track of all this communication and where it’s coming from. Make no mistake, we’ve only begun to see their efforts to round up and suppress (a polite word) those that have caused dissent and threatened the comfort of many of those in power.

While we were all paying attention to what was happening and many of us were rooting them on, American news gathering and what passes for journalism these days has the attention span and concentration of a dog when you say “squirrel”. All it took was the drug-induced death of an entertainer with (extremely) questionable life choices and our media outlets locked onto that story like white on rice. You want real news? Try the BBC and CBC my friends. So much of Twitter went back to the mundane and the political fires in Iran went back to a smolder – which I’m sure will return in some way.

The observation here about all the technology and applications involved is that the hardware and software are not the time wasters – it’s the content.

What about ham radio? It’s a time waster to be sure but also an invaluable toolset for education, understanding and expanding one’s horizons. As Americans, we are blessed with the privilege of free speech. How we use it, determines its value.

Through ham radio I have met many people in many countries. I have made business connections. I have learned so many non-radio related things that I’ve lost count. In short, it became a part of me so many years ago. I imagine I would be a different person without it. Many consider us to be introverts – hiding in our radio bunkers away from society. While some hams are shy, introverted people, I think that most of us are actually extroverts. We have simply found a different way to reach out to others in the world. Once you get past the “RST... my rig is... WX HR...” sorts of contacts and actually start talking to other hams, you discover there is a world of knowledge to share.

Are you an evangelist for ham radio or an “I got mine” kind of ham? Do you let others know how much fun you are having and the benefits you’ve received? Do you look for opportunities to share knowledge? Do you explain the value of the amateur radio service not just in times of emergencies but every day? Whatever you do, don’t take it for granted. Examined closely, ham radio is an indicator of a Please see “Time Wasters” on Page 7.

“Time Wasters” continued from Page 6.

nation’s government, economy and education. Don’t see much of ham radio in North Korea, do you? How about Iran? What other nations are ham radio challenged?

In this country we are blessed with the ability to earn a license to enjoy fairly unlimited access to the tools of communications, free exchange of ideas, the opportunity to build our own equipment and the privilege of serving our community and our nation in time of need. That’s not a time waster, that’s time well spent.

QR\$? (How Cheap Can You Get?)

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Ham Radio, like most other interests, is something you can easily invest thousands of dollars into. Normally, that’s done over time. Most of us kids who were licensed a few decades back started with used equipment. Usually, we were able to put together a Novice station with a transmitter, receiver, antenna system, straight key and basic accessories for less than \$200. That had more value than \$200 does today.

Brands like Drake, Heathkit, Hammarlund, Hallicrafters, Swan and others were most common in the days before the Japanese manufacturers entered the market. In time, many would start with a new transceiver starting in the \$600 range. That figure is still a good starting point today, although you get a lot more radio for your weakened dollar than you did back in the late 70s.

I was walking around a hamfest in PA the other day and started noticing just how inexpensive some perfectly good, though aged, HF transceivers were. Unlike older 2 Meter rigs that may be from pre-synthesizer or mandatory CTCSS days, older HF rigs are still quite useful.

If for no other reason than a mental exercise, the next time you are at a hamfest, see if you can find enough equipment, wire, coax and stuff to build a station for less than \$150. How about less than \$100? Do I hear \$75 or \$50, anyone? A CW only station may be the easiest, but try it with voice capabilities, as well. The more you know/remember about that older gear, the better.

You may be surprised to find that some of the QRP stuff is selling for a lot more than some of the QRO stuff. As an example, I can easily buy a single band 3 watt CW transceiver kit with case for less than \$100. Without too much trying, I can also find a 100 watt SSB/CW 5 bander for not too much more. It’s all about the technology and perceptions.

Ham Radio doesn’t have to be an expensive hobby to have fun. If you know someone who’s interested, but thinks it will cost too much to join in, take them to the next hamfest and show them how it’s done.

See you at the Hamfest September 20, 2009.

September Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in September:

Bill Blakely, WA2ADB
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 September issue:
9/22/2009

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.com>

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

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

Steve, W2TDS
Cory, WA3UVV

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Corresponding Secretary-Harry Ewell, K2ATX

Board of Directors

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

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-Ken, N2CQ
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-Vinney, KC2NXV
Hamfest-Harry, K2ATX
Historian-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Doug, WA2NPD
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
Scholarships-Greg, WN2T
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Harry, K2ATX
4H Liaison-K2ATX

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

Field Day Slide Show
Vinnie Sallustio, KC2NXV

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

