



Presidents Message

Well folks, it's that time of year again. Summer is winding down, school is back in session, and the weather is cooling a bit. More importantly, the GCARC will be holding its 32nd annual Hamfest on September 19th, 2010. As most of you know, the Hamfest is our big fundraiser for the year and we rely on a good turnout to replenish our treasury. Behind the scenes work for the Hamfest is already underway.

It's no secret that internet auction sites and the bad economy have hurt Hamfest attendance across the country. Thankfully, even in these difficult times, our Hamfest has managed to thrive. That says a lot about the quality of our event. It doesn't happen by accident, it takes planning and a good group of volunteers. The more volunteers we have, the less time any one person has to spend at their post. We will need volunteers to cover the following positions:

Saturday evening setup	Front gate/ticket sales
Parking lot	VEC testing
QSL card checking	Tailgater/pavilion sales/layout
Club table/PA system/Talk-in	Grounds keeping/trash collection

There are many Club members I know I can count on to show up every year and help out. I am asking some of the newer Club members to come out and lend a hand. It's a good way to get more involved with the Club and be a part of a group effort. Setup for the Hamfest will be Saturday evening, the 18th, around 6PM. It only takes an hour or so to get tables in place and everything in order.

Please e-mail me ASAP if you will be available to help out and whether you have any particular job you would like to do. You can also let me know at the September meeting where we will be discussing any last minute plans.

So start gathering up your unneeded items to sell on the Club table. Whether selling, buying, or catching up with friends, a good time is had by all at the GCARC Hamfest. See you there!

73, AI KB2AYU

MS-150 Needs Help

The annual MS 150 City to Shore charity bicycle ride which benefits the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society is in need of radio operators to provide communications for the event. The event is a two day ride to the shore and back and will be held on September 25th and 26th. They can use your help for either or both days of the event. If you can help out during this event please contact Carmen, KE3QB, at my3gumbas@verizon.net.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

And we thought our SNJ winter this year was bad! Summer's seven official heatwaves in our part of the DX world have not helped our propagation woes. DX doldrums still abound throughout the bands. Let's consider most of the poor DX prospects over with and look forward to the coming autumn equinox which will, thankfully, soon be here. Cooler weather and low band opportunities offer more DX hope. I still keep waiting for good old 10 Meters to wake up to all continents being heard and worked in a day on that "sleeping" band!

The solar statistics keep piling up despite mediocre conditions. Another month has gone by with sunspots being observed every day. We are certainly entering this fall season with much more help from the sun compared to last year's transition to fall and winter propagation. Watch the clusters and do some listening for early signs of improved conditions this coming month on HF!

QSL returns ebb and flow. This is an excellent time to catch up on your qsling, especially if you have other hams waiting for your card. Many of the most coveted awards still require that "postcard" we send to confirm a QSO! Don't disappoint those that have faith in receiving your "final courtesy of a qso." Times are tough, but U.S.A. postage is still pretty much a bargain for us as compared to many other countries. And, in my experience, many more hams now send S.A.S.E.'s with qsl requests, which sure makes the process much easier.

My apologies for the brevity of this month's column. I did not mark the deadline on my calendar for the month, and prepared this in haste. Not much selection for September's DX Goodies List, but next month promises more opportunities:

STATION	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	PRIORITY	ENTITY
9M6/JA2KOC	9/2-9/6	MOSTLY HF PHONE	3	E. MALAYSIA
5R8HT	9/5-11-28	80-10M(NO WARC)	3	MADAGASCAR
9H3UM	9/12-9/25	80-10M/SSB	1	MALTA
OX6YL	9/16-9/20	ALL YL TEAM/PSK,SSB	1	GREENLAND
SU/HA3JB	9/15-11/15	LONG STAY/SSB,PSK	2	EGYPT
T88NA	9/23-9/26	160-6M/CW,SSB,DIG	3	PALAU
FR	9/23-10/3	160-10M/CW,SSB	2	REUNION IS.

CQ WW RTTY CONTEST - SEPT. 25-26

NUMEROUS DIG. OPERATIONS

September Club Meeting Program

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

At the September General Membership Meeting the guest speaker will be Dennis R. Blanchard, K1YPP. Dennis is the author of the book "Three Hundred Zeros", which details his travels on the Appalachian Trail and his use of Ham Radio along the way. You can learn more about Dennis by reading his article in the March issue of QST. This should be a great program so if you haven't been to a meeting in awhile, here's a good opportunity, plus one to invite others to attend with you.

Friends and coworkers that are avid hikers or outdoor enthusiasts should enjoy the presentation as well. It's nice to have a subject with multiple areas of interest and it would be nice for us to have a "packed house" at the Pfeiffer Center.

For details, take a look at www.w2mmd.org - our new website. It's something you should be checking out on a regular basis.

Constitutional Amendment Proposal 2010-01

The Internal Revenue Service has changed the rules for 503c4 organizations (our Club's IRS designation) requiring them to submit an annual IRS Form 990-N. If this form is not filed annually our Club would lose it's 503c4 status and would be required to start all over again with the IRS registration process. This new requirement was brought to the Club's attention by the ARRL and they also suggested that because of the importance of this filing that we make it one of the designated duties of the Club Officers. The Board of Directors recommends that this duty be added to the duties of the Club Treasurer as spelled out in the Club's Constitution.

In light of the above the Board of Directors recommends that the following sentence be added to Article II Section 5 of the Club's Constitution (describing the duties of the Club Treasurer): The Treasurer shall file IRS Form 990-N by the fifteenth day of the fifth month following the close of the Fiscal Year (May 15th) each year.

This proposal will be presented at the September and October General Membership Meetings and will be voted on at the October Meeting. Included with this mailing of this month's issue of Crosstalk is a copy of the Club's Constitution in pdf format with the proposed sentence inserted.

On the Web

By Art Strong

Before I go too far along I want to advise any content contributors to send their articles to me either in a text file or pre-2007 WORD format. Over the past week I've learned that I can't open WORD 2007 documents even with the "converter" that Microsoft offers for antique versions of WORD. It was suggested that I upgrade but I doubt that will happen.

Since last month there has been a new column added to the Website called "The Elmer's Shack". It is a column that is to be written by any club member who feels they have some good "Elmering" type advice for new or less experienced hams. We have members who have vast experience at building antennas, Please see "Web" on Page 4.
"Web" continued from Page 3.

chasing DX, QSLing, improving CW speed, learning CW, repairing electronic gear, etc. Cory sent in a column on soldering and in the process of editing, I added my 3 cents. What I added was something I encountered many times in my career but never thought to pass along to other hams. It was fun and, hopefully, educational. I'm certain that if one thinks about it they would find that they have knowledge about a topic that a new ham might find very useful. If you do not feel comfortable at writing for a number of reasons, whether it is for grammar or spelling, remember, I get the final edit so I can clean things up for you before I release the page.

It was suggested that I archive a year's worth of Crosstalk on the web just in case someone wanted to look at a back issue. I decided to take it about a hundred steps farther by archiving every Crosstalk that I can get my hands, and scanner, on. I have already pilfered copies of Crosstalk from Gene going back to when he started editing in 2002. Cory says he has some from way back, also. In conversing with Al, I have found that there is a lot of history in the cabinets in the club trailer so when the weather cools down I will be getting with Al so as to learn how to get into the trailer and start scanning the archives. When I exhaust all readily available resources I will start to put out requests to all members of what I am looking for. The club has a very rich history but it's mostly the "old-timers" that have the history in their memories and I want to get the history on paper before it is lost. What have I gotten out of it so far? I looked through a July 2002 Crosstalk and found an article written by John Fisher, K2JF (SK). It was titled "Presidents of the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club". It listed every past President since the club was founded which means maybe now we can update the past President plaque in the trailer. I also suspect that that list will find its way onto the website in the very near future.

What will I do with all of the accumulated history? I'll leave that for October's Crosstalk. See you on the web.

It's Time for a Pop Quiz

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

If you had to answer these questions in order to keep your current license, how would you do?

1. What is the maximum permissible percentage of modulation of an amateur radiotelephone station?
2. What instrument is used to measure; electrical potential; electrical current; electrical power; electrical energy?
3. What is the purpose of; a radio-frequency choke; an audio-frequency choke; a filter choke?
4. What are the undesirable effects of overmodulation in radiotelephony?
5. What is a "parasitic" oscillation?
6. How are amateur signals propagated over great distances?
7. What two elements are most commonly used in the fabrication of transistors?
8. Why is impedance matching necessary?
9. What is "chirp" and how can it be remedied in a CW transmitter?
10. What class license manual did these questions come from?

Answers will appear on www.w2mmd.org.

QSLs, The Beginning

The following letter was published in the June 1916 edition of QST magazine. The editor's comments were by the then editor of QST, who is not identified, but is believed to be Hiram Percy Maxim. The letter appeared in an earlier edition of the NJDXA Newsletter and was published again in response to Jim Smith's (VK9NS) query in one of his stories about how this QSL business started.

QSL

The editor received a letter as follows from Mr. Edward C. Andrews of Philadelphia, Pa: I am enclosing a postal which I have received from Mr. W.T. Fraser of Buffalo, N.Y. (8VX) on which he states my signals were heard in Buffalo clear and strong. This is a distance of over 400 miles and I naturally felt somewhat elated as it was accomplished with 1-4 Kw. Chambers open core transformer.

But aside from the fact that this is a fairly good record, I wish to commend the spirit of unselfishness that is quite evident in Mr. Fraser and others who send cards which tell of receiving the signals of a fellow amateur. While these cards of 8VX (Mr. Fraser) may have come to your attention before, I have never seen a notice about it in your magazine. When one goes to the trouble and expense of having a postal printed in order to inform those of whose signals he hears, it seems to me that a long stride has been taken, toward aiding the perfection and inspiration to amateur work.

Until I received word from 8VX, I thought my maximum sending range was seventy-five miles. At Mauch Chunk and the Delaware Gap my signals were slightly stronger than NAI and quite similar to WHE.

I would urge upon the members of the A.R.R.L. and the readers of QST to notify by postal and by the very next mail the owner of the station whose signals they hear and to give such other information as they think of aid or inspiration to the recipient.

Respectfully,
(Sgd) Edward C. Andrews, 8TQ.

EDITORS COMMENT: The idea of notifying the amateurs is a fine one, and the Editor earnestly recommends that all of our readers adopt this plan. At small expense, a postal can be had and on it printed a short description of the receiving station and other data which bring the amateurs of our great organization in closer touch with each other.

Somewhere Between QRP and QRO

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

As QRP and QRO have found new uses as nouns, just like "Google" has become a verb, they have become parts of our daily ham-speak that we may not give much thought to. While QRP now refers to power levels of 5 watts and below (while QRPp further defines the concept to the milliwatt range) QRO doesn't seem to have the same clarity.

If you've been a ham for some time, you may recall that QRP was originally thought of as anything below 100 watts. Later, it was dropped to 1/20th of that and it would seem this was the era when the whole Please see "QRP and QRO" on Page 6.

“QRP and QRO” continued from Page 5.

“less is more” challenge took off. While an early home brew transmitter (6AQ5A) of mine ran just 5 watts, I didn’t really think of it as QRP, just a lot of fun to see what I could do with that power level.

If we go back to that original boundary, then I guess QRO would be considered 100 watts and up. Thus, just about any HF rig being manufactured today (with the exception of QRP-specific rigs) would be considered QRO.

What then, is the gray area between 5 and 100? Is it “Near-QRP” or “Near QRO”? Is the glass half full or half empty or is the glass just too big? In any case, there are some amplifiers on the market that help bridge that gap and take QRP up a notch, for when times we need just a bit more power.

From Tokyo Hy-Power (www.tokyohypower.com) comes the HL-45B. This 45 watt HF+6M product is designed specifically for the popular Yaesu FT-817(ND), although it will work with other rigs like the ICOM IC-703+ or many of the kits on the market. While you can select which band you want from the front panel’s push buttons, hooking up a cable to the FT-817 means the band selection is done automatically. It’s a solid performer in a compact package and makes a nice addition to any QRP station.

If you like the idea of building a kit, there are 2 nice offerings from the HF Pack group (www.hfprojectsyahoo.com) in the form of a 35 watt basic 160-10 amp known as the HF Packer Amp Deluxe and the 100 watt HF SuperPacker Pro. There’s also a 6 meter single-band version, too.

Speaking of single-band kits, check out Ramsey Electronics’ (www.ramseyelectronics.com) 20 watt amplifiers for 40, 30 and 20 meters. They’re linear and just \$45. I’m using one as the amplifier in a SDR rig I’m currently building (see previous Crosstalk issues and web site for more info) and planning to make it multi-band.

While there are other options available as well, such as rolling your own from a spare 6146 or 807, they make a nice gateway for those times when you’re feeling just a bit more QRO than QRP.

Club Table at Hamfest

By "Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY

At the Hamfest coming up in September, we are again having a Club table. The rules are simple. If you sell something at the club table, 10% of the sale will be a donation to the Club. Last year some people actually donated some smaller items and let the Club have the total amount of the sale. 10% is the minimum donation; the rest is up to you. Last year, we sold over \$2,600 of merchandise at the Club table. Most of the items sold were basically from about 6 members. This is a great deal and more Club members should take advantage of it. It is a lot better than selling the items on ebay.

So if you have some white elephants or stuff that has been sitting around for years, now is your chance. Please limit the items to things you would typically see at Hamfests. If you plan to sell something at the Hamfest contact me at yankees_1996@hotmail.com for more information.

September Birthdays

Robert Anderson, KC2JJU
William Blakeley, WA2ADB
Harold Garron, Jr., AC2BK
Bret Geiger, Jr.
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 the October issue:
9/25/2010

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU
Acting Vice President-Wayne, WA2LET
Treasurer-Ken Newman, N2CQ

Bill Blakeley, WA2ADB
Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
Doug Gehring, WA2NP

Steve, W2TDS
Cory, WA3UVV

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Harold Garron, AC2BK
Corresponding Secretary-Vinnie, N4NYY

Board of Directors

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

Trustees

Ray, WB2NBJ
Mike, N2SRO

Committees

ARES/RACES-John, K2ZA
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-Vinnie, N4NYY
Hamfest-Al, KB2AYU
Historian-Marty, W2ILT

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU
Programs-Doug, WA2NPD
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Al, KB2AYU
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
Website-Art, K2AWS

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

Dennis Blanchard, K1YPP
Appalachian Trail Travels

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

