



## *Presidents Message*

Since I wrote such a good September presidents message last year, and I don't feel like reinventing the wheel, I am going to reuse most of it this year.

It doesn't seem possible, but here we are in September once again. The sand seems to slip through the hourglass faster each year. Summer is winding down, school is back in session, and the weather is cooling a bit. More importantly, the GCARC will be holding its 33rd annual Hamfest on September 18th, 2011. 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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 – kb2ayu@verizon.net

# Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

So, what were you doing a few days after the earthquake and the day after the hurricane? Why looking for DX, of course! Hope your QTH endured the bad WX of late. We're finding out just how much water the topography of South Jersey can handle the hard way! Feeling a cool, dry breeze sweeping in the window just one day after "Irene" brings to mind the better HF conditions that should bless us in the near future. Long haul stations heard and sometimes worked in the months before summer are starting to come back with the equinox and shorter days returning. 12 and 10 Meters should be making more significant DX contributions to our logs in the weeks to come. Sunspot activity, although not spectacular, is holding up by pocking the sun's surface every day in 2011 so far. Be sure to check 10M and 12M with your ears and clusters for distant openings on these two super-efficient DX pipelines. It could result in some pleasant propagation surprises for you.

The Timor Leste (4W6A) DXpedition in mid-September might be a good indicator of what is possible on the bands this fall. It should be a well-manned and well-prepared effort from a rare and far away location in CQ Zone 28. If you don't work them at the beginning of their planned 10 day stay, jot down when you hear them best and on what bands. Try to bag them at the end of their visit when the pile-ups ease a bit and the number calling is not so daunting.

Now that the 6 Meter band is pretty much history for the 2011 Sporadic-E Season, what about the 60 Meter Band? Yes, SIXTY Meters! It's hard to say how many of you in Down Jersey have ever operated the band. You can work DX on it and stateside too. You are limited to 50 watts PEP ERP(Effective Radiated Power) and 5 SSB channels. Newer rigs have the capability and many older ones can be converted to add 60M to your choice of bands with varying amounts of circuit conversion (some easy; others not so). Verticals and the reliable dipole are quick skyhook answers, but with most antenna tuners (not necessarily in-board) you can tune a wire or vertical you have for another band to around 5.3Mhz. Generally, propagation on the band seems to be most similar to 80 Meters. It's like the first years of getting on to the WARC bands which we have come to accept and exploit.

There are at least 2 GCARC club members with over 20 DXCC entities confirmed on the band. Stateside qsos are more common. If you visit website [www.60meters.net](http://www.60meters.net) you'll learn more about the band, activity, and see details of a Worked All States Certificate being offered at the website. Although qsos on this band do not count for ARRL awards, there is talk of expanding the band and eliminating the "channel" format. There's nothing like a new band to "spark"(bad pun) new interest and personal effort into the hobby.

Finally, any input on our monthly DX "goodies list" would be appreciated. Any other comments, wishes or needs will be appreciated at [w0mhk7388@aol.com](mailto:w0mhk7388@aol.com). Here are the September's picks:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RARITY(5=MOST)	ENTITY
SU	9/1-11/30	HF/CW,SSB,DIG	2	EGYPT
IS0/IM0	9/3 9/17	8010/CW,SSB,DIG	1	SARDINIA
PJ6	9/4-9/9	HF/CW,SSB, HOLIDAY STYLE	1	SABA
ZB3M	9/5-9/11	HF	1	GIBRALTAR
A25	9/9-9/11	HF/MAINLYCW	2	BOTSWANA
SV9	9/15-9/24	HF/CW,SSB	1	CRETE
T88	9/16-9/19	80-10/CW,SSB	3	PALAU
4W6A	9/16-9/26	160-10/CW,SSB, DIG/4 STNS	4	TIMOR LESTE
3D2R	9/27-10/17	160-10CW,SSB,DIG	3	ROTUMA
YJO	9/30-10/12	160-10/WARC FOCUS	2	VANUATU

CREDITS: NG3K ADXO

## September Club Meeting Program

By Tom Gorman, KE2ES

Ms Elizabeth (Beth) Lillie, Library Director at the Free Public Library of Monroe Twp has graciously agreed to give our Club a special presentation on what services the Monroe Public Library has to offer the community. For example, researching technical resources that could benefit the amateur radio community and viewing the library's very large collection of feature films on DVD. Beth will also discuss LOGIN which equates to the "libraries of Gloucester/Salem Information Network" which comprises a consortium of 19 facilities throughout Gloucester and Salem counties. Basically LOGIN is a multitype consortium of public, school, and academic libraries in these counties that offer automated library services and reciprocal borrowing privileges. Finally, Beth will show an 8 minute DVD on the construction phase(s) of the Monroe Public Library that occurred in 2008 and 2009 after Verizon vacated its engineering department to another facility.

Please come out and support your Club by attending Beth' upcoming informative presentation.

## Welcome New Member

This month the Club welcomes new member Joseph Hogg, N2APD. Joseph lives in Pittsgrove and holds a General Class License. Please welcome Joseph when you meet him a Club meetings and functions.

## MS 150

This year's MS150 or City to Shore bicycle ride is scheduled for September 24th and 25th. For many years the ham community has supported this ride with effective emergency communications. If you have some time on the scheduled weekend, please volunteer your services to support this event. If you need more information contact Club member, Tom Gorman, or your editor and we can send you the information that we received from Carmen DiCicco, KE3QB, the Communications Coordinator for the event.

## Heathkit Returns to the Kit Business

A notice on the Heathkit website announces that the venerable kit manufacturer, well-known to all Amateur Radio operators of a certain age, will be reentering the kit business in late August. The notice states, in part: Heathkit will debut their new line of Do-it-Yourself kits for common around-the-house items. The first kit will be a Garage Parking Assistant (GPA). The Garage Parking Assistant kit uses ultrasonic sound waves to locate your car as it enters the garage. The system signals to the driver using LED lights mounted on the wall when the car is detected and in the perfect spot for parking.

Next on the market will be a Wireless Swimming Pool Monitor kit. Heathkit wants to continue to bring to its customers interesting, unique products. Although there's no indication that Heathkit Educational Systems is planning to reenter the Amateur Radio market, the St Joseph, Michigan-based company is actively looking for kit suggestions.

After several decades of successful kit manufacturing, Heathkit left the kit business in 1992. Heath sold Amateur Radio equipment, at first only kits and later its own line of non-kit products, from 1954 to 1992. The company has been sold a number of times since its founding back in 1912 as an aircraft company.

Taken from the ARRL Letter for August 25, 2011

# Earthquake

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

On Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 17:51Z, the east coast of the US experienced a significant event that we aren't all that used to – an earthquake. This 5.9 magnitude rumbling with an epicenter near Mineral, VA was felt throughout New Jersey and as far north as Ontario. While there are about 200 various movements of the earth beneath your feet every day, most are hardly noticeable.

This particular quake served as an impromptu exercise in stress testing communications systems. As you might imagine, cellular service was almost immediately overwhelmed in the DC area. However, it was also swamped here in the Delaware Valley as office buildings were temporarily evacuated and everyone was trying to get in touch with loved ones. Let me say that again – even though there was no damage to the telephone network or cell sites in this area, cell calls could not be made during this time. Also, long distance trunk lines were overwhelmed, too. This situation lasted about 30 minutes.

Text messaging was more reliable, resulting in slow, but effective communications. That's something, perhaps, to keep in mind for the future. At the time of the quake, I was driving and listening on our 224.66 MHz machine and soon found myself talking to another ham. I could also hear activity spinning up on the Wide Area Repeater Network.

For those of you unfamiliar with this collection of repeaters, the W3WAN WARN ([www.wanrepeater.com](http://www.wanrepeater.com)) runs throughout Pennsylvania with nodes in FL, TX, OH, DC, MD, WV, MO and ON. I'm not going to go into a lot of detail on this system, but suffice it to say it is a loose model for the kind of communications system that makes mobiling more fun and is a tremendous asset in times of need. The network is accessible in our area on 441.70+ with a tone of 74.4 Hz. Nothing digital required, no secret handshake, just a plain ol' analog rig with CTCSS...

(BTW - Nuclear reactors operated by Dominion Power were taken off-line in an orderly fashion. As I've written before about such things in the aftermath of the disaster in Japan, be thankful the protocols and procedures worked as expected. Although PSE&G, along with several other operators, reported an "Unusual Event", they were able to stay on-line with no serious concerns, so the iodine pills got to stay in their packs.)

As I've mentioned in the past, FEMA considers earthquakes to be an "ideal" situation where Ham Radio shines for emergency, plus health & welfare communications. Putting radio aside, how prepared were you when you felt the rumbling? Did you immediately remember what to do or where to go if you were in a building? Something to think about...

## VEC Testing

Regular VEC testing sessions are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM and are held at the Franklin Township Public Library on Coles Mill Road in Franklinville. The cost of the exam is \$15. Candidates are required to have a photo ID and two copies of their current license if they have one. For further information on VEC testing or to sign-up for a session contact Gary Reed at 856-582-4365 or at [glreed49@verizon.net](mailto:glreed49@verizon.net).

## September Birthdays

Robert Anderson, KC2JJU  
Harold Garron, AC2BK  
Bret Geiger  
Sonny Gutin, WB2DXB  
Brett Hoffman, KC2ZDY  
Mark Mastrogiacomo, KE2WC



## 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](mailto:aa2yo@arrl.net).

Submission deadline for the October issue:  
9/23/2011

## Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Al Arrison, KB2AYU  
Vice President-Tom Gorman, KE2ES  
Treasurer-Lou Ranson, KC2FXK

Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML  
Doug Gehring, WA2NPD  
Art Strong, K2AWS

Steve Blasko, W2TDS  
Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

### GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-John Zaruba, K2ZA  
Corresponding Secretary-Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY

### Board of Directors

Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY  
Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO  
Bob Krukowski, KR2U

### Trustees

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ  
Mike Mollet, 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-Art, K2AWS

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ  
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ  
Nominations-Al, KB2AYU  
Programs-Tom, KE2ES  
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**

GCARC 2 Meter Net  
Third Thursday of the Month  
8:00PM  
147.78/18Mhz (PL131.8Hz)

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

**September Meeting**

**Monroe Township Library  
Ms. Elizabeth Lillie**

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

