



Presidents Message

August is behind us and at our last General Membership Meeting Kenny, W2KRD, and I had the distinct pleasure of presenting Doug, WA2NPD, with a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Club for his many years of continued service to the GCARC.

Jim, N2GXJ, and Gary, WA3SVW, organized a fox hunt which was a fun filled Sunday afternoon and congratulations go out to Alan, KB2AYU for winning first place with Vinnie, N4NYY, Ken, N2CQ, and Wayne, WA2LET, bringing up the rear. Ed, N2RO, directed ARES participation in the Red Cross emergency drill within Monroe Township. John, K2ZA, gave a very informative technical presentation on upcoming digital technologies for EMCOMM at the Cooper University Hospital.

September brings Labor Day, Grandparents Day, Rosh Hashanah, 2012 Hamfest and Yom Kippur. Vinnie, N4NYY, and Bill, NJ2S, have been busy recruiting others within the Club to make this year's Hamfest the best ever. Please lend your full support to both of them. And we're especially honored this year that we will have our very good friend and colleague, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, in attendance.

The program for September will include a presentation by Alan, KB2AYU, on operating both VHF and the higher frequencies.

Finally, volunteers are still needed for Bike MS: City to Shore Ride (Sept 29-30). This event is sponsored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Delaware Valley Chapter and is designed to raise money for MS research and treatment programs for those affected within the Chapter. This event is the Chapter's largest and generally brings in \$5 million every year. Amateur Radio operators are needed to provide communications along the route at designated intersections, rest stops, and in certain support and staff vehicles. Usually about 100 hams are needed, but more is always better. For more information about the ham radio side of the event, contact Carmen DeCiccio, KE2QB at ms.eventcomunications@yahoo.com.

Tnx and 73,
Tom, KE2ES

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

As much as you probably "worked" your air conditioners at home last month, you probably did not "work" much DX! The sun was active but not in ways to help us to work rare or even semi-rare DX. The HF bands were tepid for DX. Solar storms kept the earth's geomagnetic fields distorted, and 6 Meters was not even a beneficiary of the increased flux and solar outbursts here stateside. Europe basked in tons of Sporadic-E openings and multi-hops even into Africa. I guess it's "Wait til next year" for 6 Meters. During September we should be seeing more openings on all the higher bands. I would definitely keep my eye on 12 Meters (probably not 10M until later this fall season) for some nice DX surprises. 17 Meters and 20 Meters should become more useful and consistent especially for long-haul openings over the poles. The lower bands will slowly improve with less daylight and annoying summer QRN.

If you are DX-shopping for some new DXCC feathers for your "all-time new ones" cap, two big DXpeditions are on tap for September. Early September will hopefully bring the Swains Island, NH8S, on the air with 20 operators. They will be manning multiple stations on multiple modes continuously until September 20th if all goes as planned. They are rated the 31st rarest DXCC entity worldwide. Logs will be uploaded daily. Check out their website at NH8S for additional details. The site includes propagation charts to help you succeed in contacting them on your most needed or favorite bands.

Planning to commence on September 26th is 3D2C on Conway Reef. It is a bit further away than Swains, but quite close to the same beam heading. Conway Reef will have 13 experienced ops on many bands and modes including SSTV! Multiple stations will also be the story at this locale with the operation staying until October 5th. Google 3D2C for more specific information.

Don't be discouraged if you are unable to QSO these rare ones initially. Weather and other circumstances permitting, if these stations make it to their proposed ending dates, there will be plenty of time to work them as the pile-ups wear down. Many of the ops at these locations are experts in pulling out weak signals and signals immersed in QRM. Watch times and modes when signals peak and try again in the next day or two.

Also, don't forget our upcoming GCARC Hamfest in September to help you with your ham-needs for the upcoming winter DX season. Antenna makings, second rigs, coaxial hardware and miscellaneous goodies will be easily available at our convenient Clubhouse site. DXCC card checking should also be available at our big Down Jersey Event.

Let's see what possibilities will be around to "clean up" with our mode and bands needs:

CALL	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RATING(5=RAREST)	ENTITY
8Q7OE	9/3-9/14	40-10M/SSB,PSK	3	MALDIVES
NH8S	9/5-9/18	ALL BANDS & MODES	5	SWAINS IS.
JW8DW	9/12-9/19	HF	2	SVALBARD
XP2I	9/13-9/17	MAINLY CW	2	GREENLAND
P49T	9/14-9/21	MULTI BANDS/MODES	1	ARUBA
T8XX	9/14-9/28	160-10M/CW,RTTY	3	PALAU
HB0	9/18-9/23	BIG EFFORT/CLEAN-UP!	1	LEICHTENSTEIN
3D2C	9/26-10/5	ALL BANDS & MODES	4	CONWAY REEF
VP2V	9/26-10/1	HF/CLEAN UP!	1	BR. VIRGIN IS.
FR	9/26-10/21	LOW BAND EMPHASIS	2	REUNION IS.

September Meeting Program

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

There's a whole world of amateur radio above HF enjoyed by radio enthusiasts the world over, available to all Technician class amateur license operators and above. For example, September 8-10 are the dates of the ARRL's VHF QSO party. Later in the month is the 10GHZ and up contest. In October comes the international 2.3 GHz and up Earth-Moon-Earth contest, where stations attempt to use the moon as a reflector to make their long distance contacts. Amateur radio satellites often are designed to communicate on VHF and above. Our W2MMD repeater system uses VHF and up frequencies. How do these systems work? What does it take to operate on these frequencies? What about antennas? Our guest speaker for the evening is our former Club president, and accomplished high band operator Al KB2AYU. A variety of topics will be covered this night. Come on out and find out what it takes to have some 'upper bands' fun. Stay tuned for more details!

Digital Quiz

By Jim Wright, N2GXJ

Back in May of this year, we had a club presentation on digital modes. So, are you up to a little test of your newly acquired digital mode knowledge? Here's a quick quiz, using referenced questions from the NEW Extra Class Pool of amateur radio license questions, to test your amateur radio digital mode knowledge.

Not that you will need them, but the correct answers for each question are encoded in visual Morse code at the end of the quiz. And for those interested, all of the official 2012-2016 Extra Pool questions (from which these questions were copied) are available, with answers, and free of charge, at the following official web site www.ncvec.org/.

Ready? Ok then. Good luck

Q1: Which of the following digital modes is especially designed for use for meteor scatter signals? (E2D01)

- a. WSPR
- b. FSK441
- c. Hellschreiber
- d. APRS

Q2: Which of the following digital modes is especially useful for Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communications? (E2D02)

- a. FSK441
- b. PACTOR III
- c. Olivia
- d. JT65

Q3: Which of the following digital protocols is used by APRS? (E2D07)

- a. PACTOR
- b. 802.11
- c. AX.25
- d. AMTOR

Please see "Quiz" on Page 4

“Quiz” from Page 3.

Q4: Under clear communications conditions, which of these digital communications modes has the fastest data throughput? (E2D09)

- a. AMTOR
- b. 170-Hz shift, 45 baud RTTY
- c. PSK31
- d. 300-baud packet

Q5: Which of the following HF digital modes can be used to transfer binary files? (E2E08)

- a. Hellschreiber
- b. PACTOR
- c. RTTY
- d. AMTOR

Q6: Which of the following HF digital modes uses variable-length coding for efficiency? (E2E09)

- a. RTTY
- b. PACTOR
- c. MT63
- d. PSK31

Q7: Which of these digital communications modes has the narrowest bandwidth? (E2E10)

- a. MFSK16
- b. 170-Hz shift, 45 baud RTTY
- c. PSK31
- d. 300-baud packet

Q8: Which type of digital communication does not support keyboard-to-keyboard operation? (E2E12)

- a. Winlink
- b. RTTY
- c. PSK31
- d. MFSK

Q9: What is one use for a pulse modulated signal? (E8A11)

- a. Linear amplification
- b. PSK31 data transmission
- c. Multiphase power transmission
- d. Digital data transmission

Q10: What technique is used to minimize the bandwidth requirements of a PSK31 signal? (E8C04)

- a. Zero-sum character encoding
- b. Reed-Solomon character encoding
- c. Use of sinusoidal data pulses
- d. Use of trapezoidal data pulses

So, how'd you do?

Answer key: / -... / -.. / -.-. / -.. / -... / -.. / -.-. / .- / -.. / -.-. /

Just take it a little at a time, and before you know it, you'll be ready for the Amateur Extra exam!

Hamfest 2012

This year's Hamfest is scheduled for September 16th and will take place at the Gloucester County Fairgrounds as in previous years. A separate file which contains this year's Hamfest flyer is attached to the email that brings you this issue of Crosstalk. Further information on the Hamfest is also available at the Club website www.w2mmd.org.

A special feature at this years Hamfest will be the attendance of Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. Mr. Hollingsworth, before his retirement, was the legal council for the FCC enforcement branch.

The Club will once again have a Club table where Club members can sell unneeded items. The Club will take a 10% commission on all items sold but this still a great deal for Club members. Here is your chance to clean out your closets, make the XYL happy and support the Club all at the same time.

In order to make this Hamfest a success it will be necessary to have the help of the whole membership. So please reserve this date and volunteer to help out at this event. Contact Vinnie, N4NYY to volunteer. Vinnie's email is yankees_1996@hotmail.com.

NJQRP "Chat with the Designers"

Every Tuesday evening at 8pm George Heron, N2APB, and Joe Everhart, N2CX, co-host a live audio conferencing session entitled "Chat with the Designers." These two well know designers and QRP enthusiasts and others discuss design topics and projects of interest to all hams. These sessions are of particular interest to those who like to build their own equipment. They use an Internet-based audio conferencing system called "Teamspeak 3" which is available for downloading for free and works with just about every computer operating system.

During these sessions they discuss topics as specific as working with different types of components and more general topics such as antennas and diagnosing problem circuits. There is something here for everyone.

For more information about these sessions visit the NJQRP website www.njqrp.org/.

Heathkit Declares Bankruptcy, Closes for Good (Again)

The July 19 edition of The Herald-Palladium, a newspaper serving the communities of Benton Harbor and St Joseph, Michigan, is reporting that Heathkit Education Company has declared bankruptcy and has officially closed its doors after defaulting on its lease. According to the paper, Heathkit employed more than 1800 people in its heyday after World War II; when it finally closed, its workforce totaled fewer than six people. This is the second time since 1992 that Heathkit has shuttered its doors.

In August 2011, Heathkit announced it was returning to the kit building business, and in September, that it would once again be manufacturing Amateur Radio kits. Heathkit owner Don Desrochers told the newspaper that he has filed for bankruptcy and a bank now owns what's left of Heathkit; the bank is disposing of some items via online auctions. "The situation was purely one of the economy," he explained in the article. "Heathkit was primarily dependent upon federal and state funding for schools. Spending in education continued to drop down, and it was economically unfeasible to continue operating. When we got back into the kit business, we were losing the education business faster than we were growing the kit business. It was not sustainable."

GCARC Sunday Fox Hunt August 5th

By Vinnie Sallustio, N4NYY

Thanks to Jim Wright, N2GXJ for organizing the fox hunt and to Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW, for being a great fox. In case you do not know what a fox hunt is, it is basically a person that plants himself at an undisclosed location within a bounded area and the hunters have to track him down. The fox transmits every couple minutes until the hunters find him.

This was my first ever fox hunt. I teamed with Wayne, WA2LET, and Ken, N2CQ. It was good thing I that I did or I would have been in trouble. We brought up the rear as the last group, but we were pretty close to Gary from our first instincts, and then we made a wrong turn. That was all she wrote. Al, KB2AYU was first to find Gary.

For you future hunters, it is clear that you need 3 tools for a good hunt. You need an HT or receiver, preferably with an S-meter; a 2M handheld beam antenna; and a signal attenuator. What Wayne, Ken, and I learned as a group was, trust your instincts. When you are close enough to the fox, the beam becomes useless unless you attenuate the signal to make the S-meter useful. That will point you into the right direction. When we got close, we did not use the attenuator, and it caused strong signals to appear to be wider as we got closer. The attenuator would have helped. But we were new and winged it.

I was originally not going to do this until Wayne called me on Saturday. I went along and I am glad I did. It was much more fun than I anticipated and it only took a couple of hours, and I think if you tried it, you would like it. I suggested we do this quarterly.

Use an Altoids Tin as an RFID-Blocking Wallet

Credit and debit cards with embedded RFID chips offer quick "swipe to pay" convenience; however they are also vulnerable to identity theft as they can be read at a fair distance. One way to avoid having the cards read when you don't want them to be read is to carry them in a closed metal container. A suggestion is to use a used Altoids tin to carry the cards to protect from RFID hijacking.

The above is from a NJQRP reflector posting by Ron McConnell, W2IOL.

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.

September Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in September.

Harrold Garron, AC2BK
Nynah Mason, KJ6SGO
Mark Mastrogiacono, KE2WC
Frank Simila, KC2SJ



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:
9/24/12

Club Website

<http://www.w2mmd.org>

President-Tom Gorman, KE2ES
Vice President-Jim Wright, N2GXJ
Treasurer-Al Arrison, KB2AYU

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

Ray Schnapp, WB2NBJ
Mike Mollet, N2SRO

GCARC Officers

Recording Secretary-Sheldon Parker, K2MEN
Corresponding Secretary-Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Board of Directors

Gene Schoeberlein, AA2YO
Gary Mirkin, WA3SVW
Dave MacDonald, WB3JOY

Trustees

Cory Sickles, WA3UVV
Martin Wilt, W2ILT

Committees

ARES/RACES-Gary, N2QEE
Awards-Kenny, W2KRD
Budget-Al, KB2AYU
Clubhouse Site-Al, KB2AYU
Club License Trustee-Darrell, AB2E
Constitution-As needed
Contests-Ken, W2KRD
Crosstalk-Gene, AA2YO
Database-Ken, N2CQ
DX-Bill, W0MHK
Field Day-Vinnie/Bill, N4NYY/NJ2S
Hamfest-Vinnie/Bill, N4NYY/NJ2S
Historian-Art, K2AWS

Hospitality-Ray, WB2NBJ
Membership-Cory/Ray, WA3UVV/WB2NBJ
Nominations-Tom, KE2ES
Programs-Jim, N2GXJ
Publicity-Cory, WA3UVV
Repeaters-Tom, KE2ES
4H Liaison-Cory, WA3UVV
Special Services, Darrell, AB2E
Sunshine-Ray, W2RM
Technical/TVI-Cory, WA3UVV
VEC Testing-Gary, N2QEE
Website-Jeff, KC2WCS

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

The Upper Bands
Al Arrison, KB2AYU

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

