

Crosstalk is published monthly by the  
GLOUCESTER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

THE CROSSTALK STAFF

EDITOR	Mark Wilson, WB2OSQ
HAM INTERVIEW:	Harry McCormick, WA2SEA
CONTEST CORNER	Ken Newman, W2FBF
LES BELLES:	Rose Ellen Bills, WA2FGS
DX:	Wayne Wood, W2SUA
WHATS UP DOAK?	Bob Doak, WA2ATH
ARRL BULLETINS, ETC.:	Della Parker, W2AFZ
TYPIST:	Jim Mauro, WA2DNL
PRINTER:	Gary Hitchner, WA2OMI
CIRCULATION:	Wayne Wood, W2SUA

GCARC OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT:	Jack White, WA2MEM
VICE PRESIDENT:	Joug Gehring, WA2NPL
RECORDING SECRETARY:	Harry McCormick, WA2SEA
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Della Parker, W2AFZ
TREASURER:	Jim Klubar, WB2OER

DIRECTORS:	Rick Carter, WA2OLS
	Bill Frambes, WB2FJE
	Ray Metzger, WB2BZY
	John Stull, WB2JZX
	Wayne Wood, W2SUA
	Ken Newman, W2FBF

TRUSTEES:	Rose Ellen Bills, WA2FGS
	Gordon Cooper, W2PAX
	Milt Goldman, K3WIL
	John Kull, WB2GKH

CLUB MEETS

6M AREC	No meetings during Summer.
LOM Rag Chew	28.8--Fridays, 9:30 PM Local Time.
Novice AREC	21.115--Mondays, 8:30 PM Local Time.
Friendship	7.265--Every 3rd Sunday of every 3rd Month-time and date subject to change with notice.

SEPTEMBER MEETING: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4th BEGINNING AT 8 PM.  
PROGRAM: QSL CARD CONTEST--SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE IS SUNDAY SEPT.  
15, 1974. PLEASE MAIL ANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO: MARK WILSON, WB2OSQ,

SEPT. MEETING: A QSL CARD CONTEST!

Well gang, here it is; the long awaited and eagerly looked-forward-to event for all club members-the 2nd, quatra (or quinta?) GCARC QSL card contest!!!! Judging will be done by a non-club member ham (or Hams), so don't get the idea that anybody has an inside track on the prizes. Prizes, incidentally, have not been determined as of this writing (Board meeting this up-coming week), but, YES! , there will be prizes! Here are the rules:

1. A display will consist of 12 cards mounted on a piece of cardboard, or displayed in some other similar manner (most displays will be placed flat on a table-but some will be placed upright).
2. The following categories will be judged:
  - a. Attractiveness (beauty)
  - b. Originatity (novelty)
  - c. Humor
  - d. Rare DX (based on distance and number of active stations at the location at the time of contact.)
3. You may enter a display or displays in any or all of the categories (for es., you may enter 2 displays in Humor and 1 in Rare DX, etc.)
4. Somewhere on your display, mark an A, O, H, or DX to indicate to the judges in which category your display is entered.
5. First, second and third prizes will be awarded to the winners in each category.

Best of luck to everyone, and may your selection come out on top. If additional info is desired please contact WA2NPD or WA2MEM. See you all on Sept. 4th! (If you are too tired to get your cards together, c'mon out and see what the rest of us have to show.)

de WA2NPD

\*\*\*\*\*

THE C.B.ER'S PRAYER

The FCC is my shepard, I shall watch out. They filleth my mail with pink tickets, they maketh me stand on full channels, they taketh away my 2KW\* linear with which I have many enemies, they reduce my modulation.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of Skip, I shall fear all breakers, for thou art with me. Their monitoring stations and staffs they watch me\*\*, my antenna height runneth over.

Surely Skip and inspection shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dqell in fear of the Federal Pen forever.

\* (ed. note: mercy sakes, that must be his driver!)

\*\* (ed. note: I doubt it!)

DX

Mt. Athos--Plans are still go for the DXpedition after Aug. 18, although we know that Greece is having its problems. Business is advertising tourism as usual and with luck this operation will provide a new one for a lot of boys.

NAURU-DXpedition by JAIQCA-C21DX appears to be ready for Aug. 30-Sept.3. All-band operation is planned. Lets hope that conditions permit the east coast gang to make it.

FRANZ JOSEPH LAND ~~WALKED~~ has been reported in Europe working the low end of 40 cw. ~~His name Yuri.~~  
(All of the above courtesy L1DXA).

No questions about it-band conditions don't enthuse the DX'er but there is still a lot of good stuff to work if you take a little time and snoop around. Try the low bands, 40 and 80 cw in particular. The bottom 100 kHz of 40 and 3500-3800 KHz are producing some great DX. Don't forget, listen a lot, read the other fellers' mail, check with others you hear working DX, check particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. Listen during during periods of known activity such as European DX contacts. In general, devise any scheme you can to keep abreast of what is going on.

Don't forget, the DX game is like the experience I had with an old man who lived deep in the Maine woods. I couldn't wait to ask him where to find a big buck. His answer to my question-"deer are right where you find 'em". THATS DX!!

It may seem a little early, but now is the time to plan for the CQ WW DX contests. These are single weekend affairs (more appealing to some) and are very popular world wide. Good place to catch some operating and a lot of goodies always show up. The dates are: Fone Oct. 26-27 & CW Nov. 23-24. Check CQ Mag. for details.

de Shorty, W2SUA

FIELD DAY RESULTS: NEW CLUB RECORD SET!

Thirty-five members turned out for the annual Field Day gala this year, and a good time was had by all in spite of Murphy and the hurricane-like weather.

A new record of 1455 contacts was set this year, with the ~~my~~ meter crew setting a new single band record of 612 contacts. meters also had an unusually fine performance with 455 contacts. Even 20 meters, with the sunspot problem outdid their performance of the last few years.

Congratulations and thanks to all who participated, and especially to Sue Frambes for her fine home cookin'.

1974-1455-6 Xmtrs.  
1973-1077-5 Xmtrs.  
1972-1084-8Xmtrs.  
1971-1265-5 Xmtrs.  
1970-1363-5 Xmtrs.  
1969-1079-4 Xmtrs.  
(1959-1968- less than 1000)

P.S.-Don't forget to bring in y9ur logs from the 1974 NJ QSO Party to the Sept. meeting, however small they may be !!

de Ken. W2FBF-Contest Chairman

FCC NEWS

Continuing the fees proceeding in Docket 19658, FCC last week issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making calling for considerably reduced fees in most all services. This action obviously is in response to the Supreme Court decision some time ago, declaring it improper for the Commission to attempt to recoup its entire budget through assessment of fees, and stating that "value to the recipient" should be the guiding factor.

Under the proposal, the basic amateur fee would drop to \$6 from the present \$9, and modifications without renewal would be \$5. Special call sign applications would continue at the \$25 level. Still no fee for Novices, military recreation stations, RACES. Comment date is September 20.

WHATS UP DOAK?

Here are the answers to last month's crossword puzzle.

W	/	/	V	/	E	/	/	/	/	G	A	T	E	
H	.	Y	S	T	E	R	I	S	I	S	/	/	U	/
E	/	/	R	/	P	/	/	N	/	/	/	/	B	/
A	M	P	/	/	/	/	/	D	A	M	P	E	R	
T	/	/	/	V	/	C	/	U	/	O	/	/	/	/
S	M	I	T	H	/	R	/	C	A	V	I	T	Y	
T	/	S	/	F	/	O	/	T	/	I	/	U	/	/
O	/	O	/	/	/	S	C	A	N	N	E	R	/	/
N	O	T	C	H	/	S	/	N	/	G	/	N	/	/
E	/	R	/	E	/	O	T	C	/	/	T	T	L	
/	/	O	/	A	/	V	/	E	/	G	/	A	/	/
/	/	P	A	D	D	E	R	/	/	P	R	O	B	E
/	/	I	/	/	/	R	/	/	/	I	/	L	/	/
/	/	C	R	T	/	/	/	B	R	I	D	G	E	/

\*\*\*\*\*SILENT KEY\*\*\*\*\*

It is my unpleasant duty to announce the passing of Steve Pakyz, W2PZX, on Thursday, August 8, 1974.

Steve was an Amateur Radio Operator since 1933, and a member of our club since 1960.

Steve's death comes as a suprise and great shock to all who knew him. His absence from our club and net activities will be noticed I'm sure.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Pakyz and children.

Harry McCormick, WA2SEA.

\*\*\*\*\*

LES BELLES

by Rose Ellen-WA2FGS

Here's one of my favorite recipes, and after you try it, it may well become one of your favorites, too. It's a quick, easy casserole that can serve double duty as a family meal and a company dish. It's also a good way to get rid of leftover chicken or turkey, although it's ~~an such demand~~ at our house, that I find myself cooking chicken specially for the casserole. You might want to use all white meat if you serve it as a company meal.

TEN MINUTE CHICKEN

- 2 cups cooked chicken, diced
- 2 cups celery, chopped
- 2 cups grated cheddar cheese (mild or sharp depending upon your preference)
- 3/4 cup real mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup toasted almonds (sliced or slivered)
- 1 can water chestnuts, sliced
- juice of 1/2 lemon
- salt to taste
- dash of tobasco
- cover with crushed potato chips or extra grated cheese.

Don't let the name fool you. Although this recipe doesn't require much preparation time, all of the chopping and dicing will run in excess of 10 minutes. Combine all of the ingredients, pour into an ungreased casserole (preferably a large shallow one), top with the potato chips or cheese, and bake at 325 deg. for 20 to 30 minutes (or at 400 deg. for 15 minutes). This is a good "make-ahead-of-time" dish that doesn't need to be cooked until you are ready to serve it. Serves 4-6.

PROPOGATION

Although this article is being written mainly for direction to the newcomer to Amateur Radio, as many of my past endeavours have been, it is hoped that the more experienced ham will find it informative.

In this article we are primarily concerned with propogation in the High Frequency range, roughly from 3 to 30 MHz. Propogation in the VHF and UHF ranges will not be covered at this time.

The subject to be covered here deals with ionospheric, or more commonly called, sky wave propogation.

When an R.F. signal leaves your antenna it travels in many directions according to the characteristics of your antenna installation, which we cannot cover in an article of this nature.

The subject we are concerned with here is the RF that is radiated toward the ionosphere, a layer of free electrons and protons floating at about 60 miles above the earth's surface.

When the RF reaches the ionosphere it is either absorbed or reflected off of the ionospheric layer, depending upon the frequency of your signal and also on the amount of free electrons and protons that are combined to form the ionospheric layer.

It is thought that the density of the ionospheric layer is directly related to the amount of ultraviolet light emitted from the sun, sometimes referred to as sun spot activity.

Through years of study and observation of sun spot activity it is now possible to predict the amount of solar activity at any given time.

Of course there are many factors involved in this prediction, among them is time of day or night and time of the year. Weather conditions on the earth are relatively unimportant in determining solar activity.

The U.S. Government, through the National Bureau of Standards, keeps records of solar activity and makes propogation forecasts.

It has been learned through close study of solar activity that the sun spot cycle lasts for a period of eleven years, that is from maximum through minimum back to maximum again.

At present we are nearing the end of the period of minimum sun spot activity, and the low point should be reached sometime in 1975 or 1976. For example, in going through records that I have at hand, I find that in June of 1973 the sun spot indice stood at 51. For the next twelve months the indices of solar activity will vary from 26 in July 1974 down to 14 in June of 1975.

So what does this mean to us when we try to operate amateur radio in the HF regions? It simply means that we are going to find conditions deteriorating until we have reached the period on minimym solar activity. Or as the popular saying goes, "Things are going to get worse before they get better."

de Harry McCormick, WA2SEA

MORE PUBLICITY FOR CITIZEN BAND RADIO

Last year the Citizen Band received much publicity in the news coverage given to the LOST child trapped in an overturned vehicle somewhere in New Mexico. Now with the truckers blocking the highways the band is getting more publicity. The following is extracted from a two column story in TIME MAGAZINE, dated December 3, 1973:

"Since last year, thousands of drivers have bought DB sets; the fad is most popular in the Midwest."

"They often use their radios to avoid inspectors and cops, relay messages home, and call for help in case of an accident. Mostly they use CB to gab away the lonely miles....CB, they say, helps them to stay alert, and is even replacing the pep pills ("road aspirin") frequently used on long hauls."

"Unlicensed ears, CB is safer and the price is right: the standard set is \$150.00...."

"Although the FCC requires CB licenses (20.00 per set) and call numbers, few truckers bother with such details. Their unlicensed EARS or antennas waggle from their cabs picking up signals about 15 miles away. In lieu of call numbers, truckers prefer more personal HANDLES. These nicknames rip through the air waves sounding like the cast of Looney Tunes; Woodpecker tears by in the night with his co-driver Stogie; Number One Nose Picker noses ahead of his good buddy Squirrel. Not to be outhandled, other truckers are known as Popper Stopper, Bootlegger, Mule Skinner and Silver Fox. Even the handful of women truckers enter the naming game. Granny Go Go, Lovey Dovey, and Truckin' Mama barrel on down the highway with the boys."

With all this type of publicity one wonders where the FCC is getting their reading material. Of if they do read such reports as this, what is their reaction....when will they take some action?

by Wilmer Morgan, KØHVN  
de Grid Leak, Pueblo, Colo.

IS YOUR EQUIPMENT INSURED?

What if lightning strikes your rig, your tower falls on your neighbor's home or you have a fire in the ham shack? With home owner's insurance, the contents of your home are insured at half the insured value of the home. If the home is insured at \$40,000, the contents will be insured up to \$20,000. If you have \$7,000 in gear, that leaves \$13,000 for the household goods; enough said. One solution is to add a rider to your present policy with a statement of value on the gear.

Adequate insurance coverage on your antenna system is very different and the explanation should come from your agent and the company. You will probably find the coverage you want is rather expensive so be prepared for a compromise. Don't depend on your basic policy. Obtain a separate floater just for the antenna system. The recent million-dollar TVI lawsuit against W20VC raises several interesting questions for all of us. Are you insured for this type of situation? I doubt it.

de Crawford Key

BEWARE

by WA6VSQ in RAMS NEWS

1. Beware the lightning that lurketh in the undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to bounce upon thy buttocks in a most un-technicianlike manner.  
  
Causeth thou the switch that supplieth amounts of juice to be open and thusly tagged, that thy days in this earthly vale of tears be long.
3. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiateth and upon which thou worketh are grounded and thusly tagged lest they lift thee to radio frequency potential and causeth thee to make a radiator too.
4. Tarry thee not amongst the fools that engageth in intentional shocks, for surely they are unbelievers and are not long for this world.
5. Take thee care that thou useth the proper method when thou taketh the measure of a high voltage circuit lest thou incinerate both thyself and thy meter, for verily, though thee hast no account number and can easily be surveyed, the meter doth have one, and as a consequence, bringeth much woe unto the supply department.
6. Take care that thou tampereth not with safeth devices and interlocks, for this incurreth the wrath of the supervisor and bringeth down the fury of the safety inspector about thy head and shoulders.
7. ~~Worketh~~ thou not on energized equipment, for if thou doest, surely thy fellow workers will buy beers for thy widow, and console her in other ways.
8. Service thou not equipment ~~alone~~, for electrical cooking slothful process, and thy maker might let thee sizzle in thine own fat for hours before he sees fit to end thy misery.
9. Trifle not with radioactive tubes and substances lest thou commence to glow in the dark like a lightning bug and thy wife have no further use for thee but thy wages.
10. Thou shalt not make unauthorized changes to equipment, but causeth thou to be recorded all field changes and authorized modifications made by thee, lest thy successor tear his hair and go slowly mad in his attempt to discover what manner of creature hath made a nest in such equipment

ADDRESS CHANGE

Ron, WA2EOB, has changed his address, dropping his P.O. box.  
The new address is: Ron Blakeslee, WA2EOB,