



Presidents Message

A bit of good news: I am happy to report that I can now see again like new! I got my new glasses today (one month following cataract surgery) and I can read like I was ten years old again! Hence, I no longer can use my bad eyes as an excuse for various blunders throughout the day, week, etc. It's really a miracle, and I will be the first to admit it. One has to wonder what life would be like if this were 50 years ago. I am an example of the miracles of modern medicine.

First, let me alert you to the fact that, at the November Club Meeting, your Nominations Committee must present a slate of officers for the following year, i.e. 2010. Hence, at the November 4th meeting, a slate will be presented and the Committee will accept any nominations from the floor for additional candidates. Further nominations will be accepted at the December meeting, at which time the voting will be held. Nominations will be open for Club President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, two (2) three year Directors, and one (1) 4 Year Trustee. Remember, any nominations must be seconded, and the candidates must agree to their nomination.

You will want to make the November meeting if for no other reason than we have a good program on the docket. Also, we have two nice gift certificates to auction off. And, for the Dxers, we are delighted to report that, at our December meeting, Bob Schenck, N2OO, one of the USA's more prolific Dxpeditors, will present a power point program on the recent Lord Howe Island Dxpedition of which Bob was a part. Bob was founder and is president of the SNJ DX Club, and also, currently, is president of the Old Barney ARC. Bob also is QSL manager for a number of Dxpeditors and individual Dxers. So, please reserve the December 2nd date. And, no doubt mentioned in W0MHK's FB column, it is most gratifying to see the SFI has risen in the past few days to 76, the highest reported number in many months.

At our October Club meeting, we had the pleasure of presenting Al, KB2AYU, a Club Certificate of Appreciation for the excellent work he did in bringing our replacement VHF tower/antennas to completion at the Club site. It didn't take long for mother nature to test Al's expertise, as it were, as the tower was soon hit with 70 mph wind gusts within a few days after erection. However, mother nature was defeated by Al's engineering skills and is expected to be a loser for many years to come.

At our November meeting, we hope to introduce at least one new Club member to the group and we will presenting perhaps the most coveted DX Award to one of our Club's most accomplished Dxers and contesters. Hope to see one and all at the meeting.

Down Jersey DXing

By Bill Grim, W0MHK

Successes and disappointments would probably sum up your DX QSO results from the flurry of dxpeditions (K4M, FT5GA, 3DA0CR, TO7RJ, to name a few) that challenged us this past month from some exceedingly rare worldwide locations. Propagation was not particularly helpful. Band utilization, weather, operation schedules, and transportation difficulties (K4M) were quite a few of the obstacles confronting these travelers for OUR DX BENEFIT! Hope you bagged a few all time new ones or new band countries during the past month's DXpeditionary possibilities. If these operations are any indication, it looks like we will have to be prepared to work many of these efforts on the lower bands. 10 and 12 Meters are still pretty much closed to much dxing from our perch in the world. 15 Meters surprises (as it did in the CQ WW Phone DX Contest at the end of October) from time to time, but is no "shoo-in" as experienced by myself chasing FT5GA for over a week on this band.

For the upcoming winter season, I'd place my DX bets on 20 and 17 Meters and the bands below for most likely success in working the elusive ones. Get outside before "long john weather" and make sure you have something up antenna-wise that will load up decently on these bands. If you are fortunate to have some trees on your property, get that 30, 40 or 80 meter dipole up in your defoliating vegetation! The tallest tree on my lot was planted by me and is only 25 feet high, so I often go the "vertical" antenna route on low bands. Remember that a tall tree can support a delta loop as well as a dipole often, with possibly better DX results. Verticals are often easier to service especially when temperatures fall and winds pick up in winter. Consider vertical polarization (for transmitting) and horizontal polarization (for receiving) on the lower bands. It's always nice to have a selection of antennas especially on your favorite band(s) for variations in propagation for receiving and transmitting.

Be aware that there is also more simplex DX operation on SSB on 40 and 75 Meters. Hunting DX on these two bands on SSB has taken on a somewhat new dimension compared to years past. With BC megawatt stations moving out of much of 40 Meter Phone territory and increased SSB USA operating space on 40 and 75 (upgrade to that Extra soon!), chasing SSB on those bands stateside is much improved. Take a listen to the segments even if you don't plan to transmit. You will notice a definite improvement in chasing DX now compared to past decades of almost exclusive "split" operation.

Hope these will be on your DX "plate" in November while you are waiting for that big Thanksgiving Dinner:

STATION	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS	RARITY	ENTITY
P29NI	11/2-11/9	60-15m/CW,SSB,RTTY	3	PAPUA
XV4D	1/4-11/17	3 STNS, ALL MODES, AS-128	4	VIETNAM
T30	11/10-11/16	60-6M/SSB/CW	2	W. KIRIBATI
5W0MR	11/11-11/18	ESP. LOW BANDS/RTTY	2	SAMOA
9G5TT	11/13-11/27	BIG "I" EFFORT/AF-084	2	GHANA
VP8BUH	11/14-11/21	WARC/LOW BANDS/SB&RTTY	2	FALKLANDS
FT5WO	11/15-11/23	20/17M--03Z-13Z 14260-280MHZ	5(!)	CROZET
A31A	11/19-12/1	ESP. LOW BANDS & WARC	3	TONGA
VK9XX	11/21-12/5	160-10M/ ALL MODES	3	CHRISTMAS I.
TX3A	11/23-12/6	POSSIBLY FK TOO!	4	CHESTERFIELD I.

RARITY - 5 = MOST DIFFICULT

CREDITS: NG3K ADXO

Welcome New Members

This month the Club welcomes new members Harold Garron, Jr. , AC2BK, and Dan Tremolini, N2TXG. Harold lives in Sewell and holds an Extra Class license and Dan lives in Mullica Hill and holds a Tech Class license. Dan is also a former G. C. A. R. C. member. Please say hello to Harold and Dan when you meet them at Club functions and meetings.

November Meeting Program

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

Our program for the November 4th Meeting is entitled, “Receiving RF, Then and Now,” and will be presented by our own Al, KB2AYU. Al, you will recall, presented a program about a year ago on SWR, which was very informative and stimulating. Not sure how far back Al plans to go in his discussion on receiving RF (perhaps a XTAL set?), but he plans on eventually leading us into the realm of SDR (Software Defined Radio), the newest field of which most of us know very little.

Al has been active in our Club for many years and his major interest recently has been in VHF/UHF and in Satellite communications. He is a past president of our Club and is currently serving as Recording Secretary, and chairman of our Clubhouse and Repeater Committees. Al also has much expertise in antenna fabrication and is second to none in tower maintenance technology. You will not want to miss this program.

Crop Walk Successful

By Doug Gehring, WA2NPD

On October 18th, the Pitman Crop Walk was held following a last minute command decision to go ahead in spite of threatening weather. It had rained most of the morning and the threat of rain was inherent throughout the day. Fortunately, the bad weathr held-off during the Walk and the event was successful. Ed, N2RO, did a very fine job of organizing the radio support and the organizers of the event were well-pleased with our presence. The weather did not seem put a damper on the event as it was reported that the number of walkers this year was about the same as last year with great weather. Manning the 2M slots this year were: K2ATX, N2QEE, N2QED, N2IMK, WA2KDV, AC2BK, W2FJM, WA2VOY, WA2NPD, and N2RO, Net Control. Many thanks to all who helped.

Let's See More Stuff

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

At last month's meeting, members were encouraged to bring in home brew gear, kits, exotic QSL cards and anything “special” to show and discuss. Quite a few of us took up that offer.

Members and guests were able to learn more about QRP (a big area of interest throughout ham radio), various kits, some works in progress, vintage antique gear (in very fine shape, too), cards and more. The general consensus is that we should make this a regular “feature” of our general membership meetings. So, lets!

One of the benefits of being a member of an amateur radio club like ours is the inherent knowledge we can share with each other. Plus, you'll get to know a little more about others' interests – while others get to know more about you...

The Ghost of Tesla?

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

In case you've missed this, wireless electricity has been getting some buzz this year. From induction pads that can charge your devices without a physical connection to something called WiTricity and WiPower.

These have been shown powering TVs, light bulbs, computers and more at reasonable distances using what they call 'magnetic resonance'. Given that the technique appears to use relatively small coils, it makes you wonder how 'magnetic' this actually is. Another company, Powercast, admits their system uses RF.

Wireless electricity delivery isn't something new; Nikola Tesla was conducting experiments with this near the end of the 19th century. Of course his methods were big and scary. This new stuff is small and may only be scary when we consider what frequencies are in use, plus the levels of spurious and harmonic radiation.

Right now, the companies involved are keeping the particulars of what they are doing a tightly guarded secret. Will this be some great thing we want to encourage or the next BPL?

It's certainly something that the amateur radio community should keep an eye on.

You Can Tune an Antenna, but You Can't Tuna Fish

By Cory Sickles, WA3UVV

Automatic antenna tuners have become extremely commonplace. I confess to having collected 4 of them, plus a few of the 'manual' versions, as well. When I was first licensed, I took great pains to measure, cut, hang and test (repeated several times) to get my 40 and 15 meter dipoles resonant in the Novice section of the bands. An inexpensive SWR and field strength meter were my only indicators. Of course, my transmitters were tube-based and could work with impedances from about 50 to 75 ohms. My dummy load (not the best) was a 60 watt light bulb. Try that on most solid state rigs and you won't be very happy.

When I later wanted to get on 80M, I built a simple Pi network tuner. While I achieved a match, the antenna's performance wasn't superior. There's a lesson in that 'low SWR' doesn't mean your antenna system is efficient. It just means your making your transmitter happy in a less than perfect world.

At least with a tuner you built yourself and some sort of metering, you had an idea what was going on. Things like efficiency, radiation, Q, etc. were more evident. Automatic tuners, on the other hand, are mostly sold as black boxes with just an LED to tell you if things are way too far out of field. If your rig has a SWR meter setting on the display, you can see what your transmitter thinks of the match, but not necessarily how efficient things are.

Many hams have embraced the black boxes as some sort of miracle device that can match anything, so they've stopped worrying about building (near) resonant antennas and 'just put up some wires'. While this method will get you some contacts, giving your tuner something better to work with will still reward you with better results.

GCARC Hamfest a Great Success

By Harry Elwell, K2ATX

On Sunday September 20, the GCARC held their 32nd annual Hamfest at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Mullica Hill. After much planning and preparation along with excellent weather, we were ready for a great Hamfest. This year is the GCARC 50th Anniversary and in celebration, the club added several events to the Hamfest. There was a Special Event station, a club table and a QLF contest. In addition, this year we purchased banners and signs to highlight the various events and promote our Hamfest.

The advertising for this year's event was also expanded to include email advertising bringing our total list to well over 1000 names. The effort paid off with our attendance for this year's Hamfest reaching just over 500. N2CQ worked numerous hours to add hundreds of email addresses to our database this year. WA3UVV handled the promotion for the event and did a fine job. Cory produced a promotional video for YouTube that was linked to our website. In addition, he ordered our signs and banners for the event.

N4NYY did a great job with the club table this year making it a huge success and W2RM was in charge of the Special Event station and provided the rotator for the beam.

N2QEE volunteered to run the VEC session this year. Gary along with N2RO, N3LIZ, N2CQ, K2AWS, AD2L, N3EKR, AC2BK, N2ADO, KC2UND and NJ2S did a great job with the session this year.

WK2W, AA2WN and K2HPV held the QLF contest, a popular and successful addition to our Hamfest this year while Dave, W2YC, provided DXCC Card Checking services this year.

N2IMK worked the overnight before the Hamfest to greet the vendors arriving throughout the night and early morning hours and NJ2S along with his bucket truck and electrical expertise helped repair the fairgrounds PA system in time for our Hamfest.

Bondie provided their excellent food services again this year and made a sizeable donation to the Club's treasury which is of course, very much appreciated.

The folks from Burlington County OEM and Burlington County RACES graciously allowed us to use their 75' crank-up, trailer-mounted tower for the Special Event station and Matt Call, N2TXV, brought the Camden County communications vehicle to support the operation. Our original plan was to put a beam on the tower to work 20M however, the plan seemed doomed when the original antenna turned out to be broken with no hope of repair in time for the event. WA2LET, N2CQ and WA2NPD saved the day by providing a tri-band Mosley for the event. The tower was visible from the road leading in to the fairgrounds and really was quite a spectacle.

All in all this Hamfest was a great success due in no small part to the excellent team effort by all involved. There were many more volunteers than those mentioned here in this article.

Thank you to all who helped to make Hamfest 2009 a HUGE success!

Editor's note: We all thank Harry for his efforts and the fine job he did in Chairing the Hamfest this year. The Hamfest is once again reaching the attendance it had back in the 1980s and a lot of this is do to Harry's hard work.

November Birthdays

Congratulations to these members celebrating birthdays in November:

Fr. Brian Burgess, KD4UTL
Robert Durham, KC2SGP
Russell Glans, N2ASV
Howard Marder, WA2IBZ
Ray Martin, W2RM
Lawrence Mommicco, AD2L
Cory Sickles, WA3UVV
Edward Smith, Sr., KC2IKE
Tom Watts, WB2AXI
Martin Wilt, W2ILT



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 October issue:
11/21/2009

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-Vinnie, N4NYY
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)

November Meeting

Receiving RF, Then and Now
Al Arrison, KB2AYU

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

