



# GNARC Bulletin On Line

Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

May 2004 F ounded in 1934 Issue Number Five



Club Repeaters: K1OF 147.390/ + 600 (no PL) & K1UHF 448.075/ - 500 (PL-114.8)

**Next Club Meeting will be Wednesday, May 12, 2004**

Program will be FIELD DAY 2004! Allan NN1H will run the meeting.

Regular Club Meetings start at 8:00 pm and are held in the Community Room at the [Shop Rite](#) on Connecticut Ave. (Rte-1) in Norwalk. Talk in: 147.390 no PL. [Bulletin News & Updates.](#)

**Please I Need Articles! John [WB1GRB](#). Article in Subject Line.**

To report and see any corrections go to this [page](#). Viewed in [HTML](#) 600x800.

**President:** "Ned" Bassick, KA1CVV / **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H (203) 762-9302

**Secretary:** John Sabini, WB1GRB (203) 348-3983 / **Treasurer:** "Zig" Fekete, N1ICL.

May 2004 GNARC on Line Bulletin: John Sabini WB1GRB. Questions (203) 353-8422.

## GNARC Membership Dues Are Due For 2004!

Senior Membership: Individuals over 65 years of age.....	\$15.00 per year
Standard Membership: Individuals under 65 years of age.....	\$20.00 per year
Student Membership: Individuals under 18 years of age.....	\$10.00 per year
Family Membership:.....	\$25.00 per year

**Send your dues to: "Zig" Fekete ~ 45 Stoehr Place ~ Bridgeport, CT. 06606**

Everyone on the GNARC Distribution [Mailing List](#) will receive this newsletter. Now that we are going to an all electronic Newsletter you will be informed by e-mail of the up and coming GNARC events. If you are not on the Membership Distribution List or if you have not been receiving the On Line Bulletin, please contact Ed K3EIN via [E-Mail](#), and he will update the Membership Page on the GNARC web site. To make sure you receive this Newsletter make sure the [Mailing List](#) e-mail address is not filtered or blocked on your computer!

**Next [SARA Meeting](#):** Thursday, May 6, 2004 at 8:00 PM. All are welcome. [Directions](#) / [Map](#)

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month in the Mural room of the Senior Center, at the Stamford Government Center, Tresser & Washington Blvds., Stamford, CT. Meetings start at 8:00 P.M.

The speaker for the May meeting will be Bill Baker, W1BKR, president of PBS Channel 13 in New Jersey. He will be talking about how they managed their transmitters on 911. Talk in, 146.655 PL-100 Hz. W1EE Repeater.

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## **GNARC Minutes of the Meeting 4/12/04**

Ned, KA1CVV started the May GNARC meeting at 8:00 pm. Officers then introduced themselves. **President:** "Ned" Bassick, KA1CVV / **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H / **Secretary & Newsletter:** John Sabini, WB1GRB / **Treasurer:** "Zig" Fekete, N1ICL.

Ned had forgotten to approve the minutes for the last two meetings. Members then approved the minutes.

**New Business:** Ned reminded members that there will be walkathons and bike marathons coming up soon and we will need volunteers for these events. Check the [GNARC](#) web site for the latest events and dates.

**Public Service:** Bloomin' 2004 Will Offer Riders Another Great Bike Tour.

Sound Cyclists Bicycle Club's 27th Annual Bloomin' Metric bicycle tour will once again be offering three great scenic rides in the Spring of 2004 - 25 miles, 75 kilometers and 100 kilometers.

As in the past, a portion of the proceeds from the entry fee for Bloomin' Metric 2004 will be donated to help support Fairfield County Safe Kids, a non-profit agency designed to reduce the incidences of unintentional childhood injuries and accidents - the number one killer of children.

May 23, 2004, Rain or Shine. Race Start Time: 7:00 am - 9:30 am (for all routes)

**We will need operators.** Contact, Toy [KA1WYQ](#). [www.soundcyclists.com/Bloomin](http://www.soundcyclists.com/Bloomin)

**Antenna Work Party.** Jay NE2Q needs help installing an antenna at Courtland Gardens Nursing Home in Stamford near exit 9 off interstate 95. Contact Jay [NE2Q](#).

Ned announced that [West Mountain Radio](#) is looking for a FT-1000 B. We would like to barrow this radio for some test for a few days. You will be rewarded for your time. Phone, (203) 853-8080.

Allan, [NN1H](#), reminded members to go to the club web site and download the ARES form. Then e-mail it to him. These forms must be filled out every year.

Ned asked members to continue to fill out the **Malicious Interference Report**. This is a form to report malicious interference to either of the [GNARC](#) Repeaters. This information is very important and will be forwarded to the appropriate repeater trustee.  
[www.gnarc.org/mirf.htm](http://www.gnarc.org/mirf.htm).

Ned reminded everyone to contribute to the club raffle. The money collected helps pay for refreshments.

Zig, N1ICL, gave a complete treasurers report. Report will be at the May club meeting.

Ned reminded everyone that the club newsletter is now on the GNARC web site. We are going to an all electronic newsletter. You will be informed by e-mail of the up and coming GNARC events. Make sure your e-mail information is on the [Member E-Mail Directory](#) and it is correct. Contact, Ed [k3ein@arrl.net](mailto:k3ein@arrl.net)

We also need articles for the newsletter. Write a article on the equipment you have or a radio that you rebuilt. So, please send your articles to John [WB1GRB](#). Check, [Ham Radio Reviews](#).

Tim, W1GIG, asked members to check the [GNARC](#) Equipment Inventory which has been updated. GNARC equipment that is currently available for purchase from the club.

### **April Program: Group Project.**

Jay explained the 2 Meter Portable Tape Measure Beam designed for Direction Finding and demonstrated the modeling program that he used. Three Element Beam Building Project. E-Mail [N1ICL](#) for more information if you would like to build one. The cost is \$10. 00.

Web Site of Tape Measure Beam Antenna, \_

[http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape\\_bm.htm](http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm)

[Photos](#) of Group Antenna Project and GNARC May meeting.

**Coffee Break, 8:30**

**Group Project started at 8:50**

**Group Project ended at 10:00 pm.**

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**From the Desktop of Zig Fekete N1iCL  
New or Renewed Members for 2004!!!**

Victor Politi W1NU From FARA  
John Kamon KA1WYR  
Walner Cadet N1YV  
Lou Artigas N1NQ  
Dick Williams (No Call Lets help him out there Elmers)  
Will Bennett AA1DP  
Irv Hook WA1PFS  
Mark Yantachka N1RII

We have a total of 134 Names on the roster and 80 Paid members.

Have you seen or heard of a past member recently? Ask them where they've been and invite them for coffee on the next meeting night, there's plenty of room. In fact feel free to invite anyone you think might be interested in our hobby.

73,s to all see you next Month at the meeting.

Zig N1iCL

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**Skywarn:** Advanced Skywarn Training Class, East Haven, Connecticut (New Haven County) Thursday May 20 - 7:00-10:00 pm. Hosted by: Shore Point Amateur Radio Club.

**Location:** East Haven High School, 35 Wheelbarrow Lane, East Haven, CT 06513. Mandatory Registration: Via Phone: (631) 924-0517 x412.

**Registration Information needed.** Name, current Skywarn ID number,

Amateur Radio Call Sign (if applicable) and your Phone Number.

**Amateur Radio Talk-In:** N1LFE Repeater (Shore Point Amateur Radio Club) 147.505 mHz, -1 mHz Offset, PL 77.0 Hz. [www.ctskywarn.com/](http://www.ctskywarn.com/) [www.fairfieldcountyskywarn.com/](http://www.fairfieldcountyskywarn.com/)



## ARES NEWS

Thanks this month go to Frenchy, W1AGU, for running April's ARES Net. We didn't get a huge turnout this month, but it's easily understood owing to the holidays and members busy schedules. We're going to miss the April time frame for revisiting the Call Tree for the Norwalk ARES Group. It's under study and it's taking more time than I originally hoped.

### What's up for May?

Well, the "Fox" is loose in Norwalk. On Saturday, May 22nd, "The Fox", will be hiding in plain sight somewhere in Norwalk starting at about 9:00 am until about 11:00 am. The premise is that a volunteer who was helping in a local disaster response is injured, disoriented and in need of your help. Find him before his batteries run down. The "Fox" will be monitoring 147.390R and will be talking and listening on 147.420 Simplex (expect some good natured taunts and comments as well.) This one should be easy because the Fox has 50 watts to a vertical gain antenna and a great location. No prizes will be awarded, however all available channels will announce the operators and the order in which they found the "Fox." NN1H issues this challenge, "Find the Fox and make use of the tools and techniques that you've seen demonstrated and built this year. Bragging rights rule!" And, if this one gets a good turnout, the next ones gonna' be a doozy!

**Our next ARES net will be Monday, May 3rd at 8:00 pm and KK2C will be the NCS.** I'm hoping to check-in via Echo-Link from Salt Lake City. Thank you all for being aware of your community and for staying involved in Emergency communications.

Allan, NN1H, EC Norwalk Ares Group

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## Computer Corner

### ROGER GILER W1AGU

Microsoft has been under extreme pressure from many sides. The European Community has voted a huge fine for anti-competitive actions. In other countries, including the U.S., there is extreme concern about the vulnerability to viruses and data theft of the system

compared to other operating systems. In an effort to hold market share, it has mailed out free copies of Microsoft Office to government employees, but at least two federal agencies are warning recipients to return the gifts or risk violating federal ethics policies. This product is worth several hundred dollars, but thousands of copies have been given away to users at some of the larger corporations. It appears that Microsoft is trying to act "nice" as its perception in the computer community is that of a big bully.

We have to be realistic. Microsoft may be the 800-lb gorilla that people love to hate, but unless you are technically inclined, they are the only real game in town. One reason is that some 90% of the people are using their products which represents quite a resource for solutions, or a large group with which to commiserate. I have tried Linux and it will be a great product, but I still consider it a "work in progress." This means that I lack the mental fortitude to play with it in order to bring out its hidden brilliance.

You may also want to share in Microsoft's largesse. A friend just bought locally an educational version of Microsoft Office which normally retails for \$370. Even before any rebates it came to only \$130 with the following restrictions: for "full or part-time students; home schooled students; full or part-time faculty or staff of an accredited educational institution; member of a household meeting any of the above criteria; noncommercial use only. Contains: Word 2003, Excel 2003, Outlook 2003, Power Point 2003. Licensed for noncommercial use on up to 3 home PCs." Enough said.

Computer Corner, [www.acorn-online.com/cc.htm](http://www.acorn-online.com/cc.htm)

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## Icom IC-736 / IC-738

By John Sabini WB1GRB



I would recommend the Icom IC-736 HF plus 6 meters and IC-738 HF only. These radios were a bit pricey \$1800 in 1996. I bought this radio used 3 years ago and never had a problem, excellent trouble free radio.

Money wise this is the rig to buy. They are very good values on the used market today.

[Additional Information](#) & options / [Photo](#)

Simple radio with all you need, without all of the menus. Radio has an internal 12V power supply and uses 24V for the mosfet finals. Good 100W output from 6 to 160 meters and easy to crank down for QRP. RF is very flat from band to band and from one edge of the band to the other. Works really well on PSK31. Modes SSB, AM, FM, CW and RTTY. The radio has a full die-cast aluminum frame/heat sink, with dual (push pull) cooling fans, that are very quiet, when they do come on. The case dimensions are such as not to take up half

my desk top. It is wider than deep. For me, the size is perfect. Radio has a very fast built in antenna tuner that will surprise you what it will match, even works on 6 meters. Dual antenna jacks that remember what antenna to select according to the band selected. The big analog meter is a dream. I love the large LCD display that can be viewed from anywhere in the room and under any light conditions, even direct sun light. The main tuning knob is weighted, with adjustable drag for smooth tuning. Works just fine in TX and very good general coverage RX too! The rig is very stable and receiver is sensitive, even without the pre-amp switched on. The dynamic range is as good as anything out there in a pre DSP rig. The notch filter works very well and helps to pull in weak stations in noisy conditions. All controls are fast and easy. The buttons are large enough and spaced for easy access for band switching, split, memory, tuning, etc. If you're not happy with the tuning rate, it is programmable from the front panel. I like the 2 kHz per knob revolution for easy ssb tuning. There is a tuning speed button for wide frequency movements. It will also select 1 Hz steps along with 1 Hz readout. It works split frequency. Radio has 99 memories or more. Has various scan modes.

I use the Icom SM - 8 Desk Top Microphone, which works great. I've received very good reports on audio. I also have the IC-SP3 External Speaker. The IC-SP3 External Speaker sounds howl and has terrible flat audio. I had to use a small communications speaker which sounds much better. Radio has a internal speaker which sounds descent.

If you see one used and need a HF rig, you should consider it. I'm going to hang onto my IC-736. I am very pleased with the performance, features, and styling of this rig, and highly recommend it.

Some of the options for the IC-736 and IC-736. UT-30 PROGRAMMABLE TONE ENCODER UNIT: Provides 38 programmable sub audible tones. FL-52A/FI-53A/FL-100/FL-101 CW NARROW FILTERS: 455 kHz: FL-52A (500 Hz/-6 dB); FL-53A (250 Hz/-6 dB) 9.0106 MHz: FL-100 (500 Hz/-6 dB); FL-101 (250 Hz/-6 dB) Check your Icom dealer for availability of options.

Send your review to, John [WB1GRB](mailto:WB1GRB).

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## For Sale / [Message Board](#)

To help battle junk e-mail use your telephone number. Questions, 203 - 353 - 8422. John WB1GRB.

Wanted tri-band beam antenna.10m 15m 20m a 14ft boom would be great. 73 Louis. n1nq.

[n1nq@yahoo.com](mailto:n1nq@yahoo.com)

One IBM Think pad 560X WIN98SE P233 96megs, 4 Gig HD very light weight 4pds with all

manuals, Restore CD's and license. \$200 call days 299-0233 ask for Ned.

ESTATE SALE (N1CML) Yaesu FT-980 HF Xcvr, \$475; Yaesu FT 726R 2M all mode Xcvr \$325; Yaesu YS-60 SWR-Pwr Mtr, \$50; Tram Reflect meter, \$15; Azden PCS3000 2M Mobile w/o Mic, \$25; HP5301 10 MHz Freq Ctr. \$25; Eldorado 1615 30 MHz Freq Ctr., \$25; AEA PK-88 Packet TNC, \$35 Call Marv, [N1AWJ](#), (203) 438-7889.

Mobile w/o Microphone, \$25; HP5301 10 MHz Freq Ctr. \$25; Eldorado 1615 30 MHz Freq Ctr., \$25; AEA PK-88 Packet TNC, \$35; Leader LAC 897 2M Trans match, \$20. Call Marv, [N1AWJ](#), Posted by: WB1GRB

SB 102, POWER SUPPLY/ SPEAKER, AND HAND MIKE IN VERY CLEAN CONDITION. 80-10M. \$150. (203) 531-9493. Andy [KA1SLG](#).

Icom 706mkII G, no box, in excellent condition, have all the small connectors it came with, asking 650\$ or Best offer. 203 748 7143.

ICOM T8A HT w/slow charger & 2 extra Batt's., \$119; Radio Shack HTX 242 2m 10/45W Mobile w/o mounting bkt., \$60 Call Chris, N1YNO at (203) 359-0570 evenings.

FT-8100B 2M/70cm Transceiver with factory CTCSS encode/decode, separation kit, and includes all schematics and manual. Recent o/haul at Yaesu - Installed new style transmitter board and complete alignment. Works and looks as new. \$200.00 plus shipping - 203-975-8014 eves.

Quad, rooftop tower, and ham desk for sale. Lighting Bolt 5 band, 2 element Quad \$40. Create 10' rooftop tower with thrust bearing and rotor plate. Make me an offer. Unique ham desk originally used in Heathkit store: Slight "U" shape. Desk is 25" deep x 7 feet (at widest part) , two adjustable 12" deep full length shelves, tan Formica, extremely sturdy and handsome!. It disassembles for moving. \$350. Gary K3OS 203-762-8972 evenings.

HD-73 ROTOR w/CONTROL & CABLE, \$50; Cushcraft 10-40M Vertical. Ant., \$15; Heathkit Station Monitor Mod. 614, \$50. 2 South Bend 7.5 HP Go-Cart Engines. Call for Info. Call Irv, N1ATS, 348-3425. Posted by: WB1GRB.

I have a HTX-202 with a cracked Case. I do not care if the radio works. I need the Plastic case. Jerry W1FHM, (203) 853-3969. Posted By John WB1GRB.

If any items above are sold or if you have any questions please contact me. John wb1grb. 203-353-8422.

Club Web Site: [www.gnarc.org/](http://www.gnarc.org/) A non-profit service oriented organization. [By Laws](#).

Mistakes are a part of being human. Appreciate your mistakes for what they are: precious

life lessons that can only be learned the hard way. Unless it's a fatal mistake, which, at least, others can learn from. Al Franken.

Articles must be in by the 25th of each month to be published in this newsletter. [Bulletin Newsletter Updates](#) can be made anytime.

**Join us before the meeting at John's Best Pizza on New Canaan Ave. at 6 pm.**

**[John's Best Pizza](#)**

85 New Canaan Avenue Norwalk, CT 06850

**GNARC POSTAL ADDRESS 304 Main Av. #115, Norwalk, CT.**

**Courtesy of. C/o. The UPS Store #315, Greg Bryson K1NGF.**

**304 Main Av. Perry Plaza Norwalk, CT. 06851. [Map](#) Phone (203) 847-6166**

**Archives, [Newsletters](#), [Photos](#)**

**Fairfield County's Only Live Scanner Site ! <http://scanstamford.com/>**

WEB BROWSERS: This web site has been validated to operate properly with the following browsers: MS-Internet Explorer 4.0 thru 6.0 and Netscape 6.2 thru 7.1 and has been checked for errors. If you are having trouble accessing any part of this site please contact Webmaster, John WB1GRB. (203) - 353 - 8422.

All *GNARC* Bulletin web pages which are published each month on the GNARC Club web page will be free of e-mail address to help battle junk mail. (Spam) . A link will be provided to the Membership page.

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J/S WB1GRB 05/01/2004

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