



GNARC on Line Bulletin

Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

October 2004 Founded 1934 Number Ten

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Official GNARC club web site located at: www.gnarc.org/

Check this newsletter for any [Updates or Corrections on this Link.](#) 9/30

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Club Repeaters: K1OF 147.390/ + 600 KHz (no PL) & K1UHF 448.075/ + 5 MHz (PL-114.8) [EchoLink®](#)

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 Connecticut. Talk in: 147.390 repeater no PL. tone.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday October 13.



Our Speaker for the October Meeting will be Father of the [EchoLink®](#) System. Our own K1RFD "Jonathan Taylor of Ridgefield, CT."

The next ARES Net is October 4th at 8:00 pm. K1CYW will be the Net Control Station. 147.390 repeater. Contact the Allan Valeo, [NN1H](#).



[Photos of GNARC picnic.](#) 9/26/04. Photos courtesy of Ned, K A 1 C V V.



Archives. August [Newsletter.](#) [September](#)

President: "Ned" Bassick, KA1CVV / **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H (203) 762-9302
Secretary: John Sabini, WB1GRB (203) 348-3983 / **Treasurer:** "Zig" Fekete, N1ICL.
October 2004 GNARC on Line Bulletin: John Sabini WB1GRB. Questions (203) 353-8422.

GNARC Membership Dues.

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. We have gone to an all electronic Newsletter. You will be informed by e-mail of the up and coming GNARC events and updates. 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 address is not filtered or blocked on your computer! You can go to the [Distribution List](#) and send a test message. Follow the instructions. You should receive your test e-mail message.

Send your photos to: hamphotos@mail.com Send your articles to: gnarc@usa.com

N1ZZ's Contest lookout

localendar.com/ New England Calendar Of Local Ham Radio Events / Add Your Own Calendar Event / Public Discussion Board'.

Minutes of the Meeting 9/8/04

"Zig" N1ICL, introduced himself. Then he started the GNARC meeting at 8:05 pm.

Officers present, Secretary: John Sabini, WB1GRB / Treasurer: "Zig" Fekete, N1ICL.

New members N1CHD Chet Piorkowski, N1FTT Stu Speer, W1LAG Larry Gross,

K2EGW Spencer Lane, AB2T Jordan Zarembo.

Announcements Toy, K1YQ then talked briefly about an upcoming public service event September 19, 2004. "We will need 12 to 15 volunteers." Sound Cyclists Bicycle Club's Annual Harvest Rides bicycle tour. Race starts at 8:00 am. Toy passed a sign up sheet for the event.

"Our last public service event will be the "American Diabetes Association walkathon . We need operators for the American Diabetes Association's annual walkathon on October 10th from the Penfield Pavilion at Fairfield beach in Fairfield. Walk time is 9 am. Distance is a choice between 3 and 6 miles."

The event usually finishes around 12 noon. Please contact Toy, KA1WYQ @ 853 2407 or cell 524 5541 for further details

Fred, K1FC made an announcement that [Al Goldberg, AG1B](#) of Stamford, an engineer and expert in the audio and magnetic recording fields, died Wednesday, Sept. 8, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport. He was 85. Mr. Goldberg was a registered professional engineer in Connecticut and an internationally recognized expert in audio and magnetic recording fields. He began his television engineering career in 1945 with CBS Laboratories in Stamford and was manager of the special products branch until he retired in 1986.

"Zig" then asked for a vote from members to approve the last two months minutes of the meeting. Minutes posted in the GNARC newsletter. Minutes were than voted on and approved by the members.

Treasures Report "Zig" made a brief Treasures Report for the previous month. "We took in \$900.65 dollars from Rochester NY."

We had a club excursion picking up some equipment for a friend of ours who got us in a space that we normally would not have got into. The equipment was transported and stored. We can some day sell the equipment and make our money back. We spent \$400.00 dollars.



< Left. Dan Gravereaux, N1ZZ. "Zig" then introduced our speaker speaker Dan Gravereaux, N1ZZ. Dan will speak about his two trips to The Island of Curacao, Netherlands Antilles in which he operated CW from the club station under the call of PJ2T.

After our program, we had a coffee break. Then Toy, K1YQ gave away some prizes.

Meeting ended at approximately 10.00 pm.



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Making a good ground in Connecticut soil

by Roger Giler - W1AGU.

Having had a few run-ins with lightning at other locations, one of my first consideration when setting up my 60-foot tower and tri-bander beam in Wilton was to make sure that I had a good ground. I started with a few solid ground rods and a sledge hammer only to discover after a dozen attempts with a 6-footer and even a 4-footer heavy duty rod from the local electric supply house, I rarely was able to get lower than a couple of feet before my ground rod developed miscellaneous exotic curvatures. My friend, Lenny Bastrup K1TAX had taken a more practical approach by hiring a well driller to do the deed. This exceeded the budget that my YL, Claire, W1AGU had already allowed me to stretch to the limit. A better solution was needed.

Relying on past experience with mining technologies, it appeared that the easiest way was to use hydraulics, namely water flow and pressure. Without having you panting wanting to learn more, the technique is simple and inexpensive. I took a ½ inch copper tubing, flattened one end with a hammer to restrict the opening and simply attached a water hose with a pipe clamp at the other end. I drove the pipe a few inches into the ground and turned on the water. The pipe could then be lowered without excessive pressure into the ground and it proceeded easily downwards. If a rock, was encountered, the pipe could be jiggled to find its way around obstructions, as long as they were not boulder size or part of a rock ledge. If I was down 4 feet and could go no deeper, I just cut off the tubing for a non-ideal (but better than nothing) ground and started in another close-by location. I was able to put several ground connection 6 feet into the ground. Going any deeper would require the use of a ladder to hold the tubing straight and electrical testing of the results seemed to provide no better conductivity.

One obvious way was to stay close to a building foundation since an excavation has been done previously which gives you a good running start. Just don't be too close as there often is a concrete ledge where the basement floor might be extended outward by an inch or two. Some hams tie their ground to the ground rods from the telephone company but I found that at my home it contributed to interference with the telephone as I was running a full KW. I also tried the ground rod put in by the electric company for the neutral connection for the 230 Volt circuit. On the older constructions

like mine, the voltage there was not always zero and that made me nervous. That problem happened during periods of drought and during the 38 years that I owned my home, the power company changed the ground system twice. So I stayed clear of that solution.

In preparing the tubing, I first tried to use a reducing fitting at the bottom end of the copper tubing, but found that while not as elegant, restricting the opening by just slightly pounding the tube end with a hammer would provide the same results. I did not hurt either that my good friend Joe Strolin K1REC, a plumber, had a plentiful supply of old tubing that he offered to many hams for various uses.

So before you get frustrated with the standard sledge hammer official ground rod technique, this may well be worth a try even if you have to buy the tubing. Your un-skinned knuckles will thank you, and you will feel good home brewing a solution for a change.

Check out Roger Giler's, [Computer Corner](#).

Skywarn

Phil Berkowitz WX1CT. Connecticut Skywarn D.E.C



Also check the Fairfield County Skywarn web page at:
www.fairfieldcountyskywarn.com/

This [interactive map](#) will automatically plot the location of **active** storms. This page uses Macromedia's Shockwave plug-in. If you don't have it, you can get it free [here](#).

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ARES NEWS



My thanks go out to Tom Kirmayer, for taking the Net last month. There were eight participants who made it a successful Net for a holiday.

The Fox was caught again. Top bragging rights this time go to Rich, K1OF and Cindy, N1EKD who zoomed in on the Fox. Four teams participated and I've listed the results below with many thanks again to those who came out.

K1OF and N1EKD, Rich and Cindy Roznoy, 43 minutes.

N1ICL and KB1JGL, Zig Fekete and Mark D'Andrea, 1 hour and 20 minutes.

N1RII, Mark Yantachka, didn't find the Fox but again, put in a fine effort.

W1GIG, Tim Walker, who got called off the hunt before he had a chance to draw a bead.

I've had fun with the hunt and I'll run another one this Fall, if I can get some people to sign-up for it. E-Mail me if you have an interest and let me know what kind of time frame would be good for you. I'll compile the results and make some suggestions for the next hunt. It's been suggested that we extend an invitation to the other clubs in the area next time.

The next ARES Net is October 4th at 8:00 pm. K1CYW will be the Net Control Station.

Allan Valeo, NN1H, EC Norwalk ARES Group.

Fox hunting as seen by the Fox

By Allan Valeo, NN1H, EC Norwalk ARES Group.

The Premise

The "Missing Man" is the basic premise for the Norwalk Amateur Radio Fox Hunts. In a real hunt the "Missing Man" would come with some basic credentials. He would have been given an assignment and that would be part of the known information in the real world. In the realm of the "Fox Hunt." Some basic gag or hint has been substituted to aid the "Hounds" in their search. The first time it was a direct hint. The second time the subtle hint was couched in the relationship that a fox has to barnyard animals. There will always be some connection for the Fox to play with.

It's the basic idea of helping, or even saving, a fellow emergency volunteer that prompts us to build these skills. So why don't we have some fun while we're at it. Just as it is in the English countryside, The "Fox" is likely to get caught here. It's a "Hunt" after all, isn't it?

OK, in order of importance and effectiveness, here are the basic ideas that the Fox most fears. They aren't the only topics, but they're some of the top items to consider.

Bearings

A bearing is nothing more than a known direction, and in context, a bearing is a direction that will, if followed, will lead to the “Fox.” Bearings are essential, but aren’t necessarily absolutes. Sometimes, it may be enough to look out from a good location and mentally see where the signal might originate. That has to do with intuition. Sometimes, bearings need to have numbers. That has to do with maps. Follow the topics below for more info about intuition and maps.

Bearings need definition to be used with maps. The “Fox” believes that a good compass is a requirement if the “Hound” expects to use maps. Otherwise, intuition is prime. Both together are the stuff that makes an effective hunter.

Intuition

So, what is intuition? Well, in respect to the hunt, it’s the ability to visualize a reality from small amounts of information. If I can see the direction to the “Fox,” and can see a ridge, can you visualize what lies beyond the ridge? If you’re on a beach with an antenna that gives only North or South, can you understand that it doesn’t pay to look toward the water? More than that can I use the beach or a border location to advantage in making a decision in my analysis? Intuition is a powerful tool when you’re hunting, even if you’re just looking for a lost sock. Applied to concepts like time, distance and gags (remember the hints and connections?) it becomes a heavy hammer to help break the problem.

Maps

Maps don’t need a lot of explanation. Maps on paper need some sort of navigating tools to plot bearings and that makes them difficult in the field. Maps on laptop computers can be very useful if they allow the user to plot bearings. Of course the “Fox” doesn’t need maps so there won’t be details about where to find them or how to use them here. The Internet is out there and I’ll bet you can find all sorts of useful stuff up there.

Technology

There are directional antennas and there are ways to make the antenna that you have directional. I’ve always been successful just holding a handheld close to my body and rotating through 360 degrees. This technique works best with a rubber ducky or other poorly tuned antenna. The signal disappears and the squelch closes when my body is directly between my handheld and the signal. This is easy to practice. Try it on K1OF/R one day.

Beams and other directional antennas have advantages if used properly. They often provide sharp peaks and nulls. This means that they are effective pointers. But, be careful with these types of antennas because the signal that produces the best bearing is a marginal signal. It’s a good idea to couple these types of antennas with a variable attenuator of some sort, especially if your receiver has a simple signal strength meter instead of a fully featured S-Meter “Time of Arrival” systems

also have sharp directional characteristics and are good pointers if they don't suffer interference from intermod or overload during use. Unfortunately, switching electronics have a tendency to be prone to just exactly these kinds of faults.

Process

Process is the most important concept. One bearing is not very good unless you can travel in that single direction until you see the "Fox." Two bearings are good if they're both dead on. Where the two cross is the location you seek. Too bad it almost never happens that way. Three bearings are great. That is if all three agree and cross at a single location. If they don't you'll need a fourth and good luck to find out which of the three is bad.

Each bearing has some value. Each reading helps to narrow the scope of the hunt if you know what it means. Even false bearings off of reflected surfaces can be understood with some care. It takes some practice to get really good, but, you can do well just being careful.

So, get a process going. Decide how each bit of information fits in and re-analyze your position as you go. When you have enough information together you'll have the "Fox" at bay. Good luck. But, remember the "Fox" will always try to make the hunt as tough as he can.

Check the [Norwalk ARES web site](#) for latest updates and bulletins on ARES activities for the area.

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Public Service Announcements

If you have any Public Service Announcements please contact me at: (203) 353-8422.

Check this newsletter for any [Updates or Corrections on this Link.](#)

October 10th. Our last public service event will be the "American Diabetes Association Walk a thon. We need operators for the American Diabetes Association's annual walkathon on October 10th from the Penfield Pavilion at Fairfield beach in Fairfield. Walk time is 9 am. Distance is a choice between 3 and 6 miles. The event usually finishes around 12 noon. Please contact Toy/KA1WYQ @ 853 2407 or cell 524 5541 for further details

10 Oct 2004. Connecticut State Convention. Nutmeg Hamfest Alliance. Wallingford, CT. <http://www.nutmeghamfest.com>. Contact: Andrew Purchia, N1XXU. 116 Kensington Avenue Meriden, CT. 06451. Phone: 203-235-8440. **More information check GNARC [Newsletter](#)**

Updates.

30 Oct 2004. Auction. Tri-City ARC. Waterford, CT. <http://www.qsl.net/tricityarc/>. Contact: Liston Harley, K1EQ. 6 Hemlock Circle. Gales Ferry, CT 06335. Phone: 860-464-2058.

10 Oct 2004. Hall of Science ARC. Queens, NY. <http://www.qsl.net/hosarc>. Contact: Stephen Greenbaum, WB2KDG. 85-10 34th Avenue, Apt. 323. Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Phone: 718-898-5599.

24 Oct 2004. Town of Babylon AR Emergency Services. Lindenhurst, NY. <http://www.tobares.org> Contact: Walter Wenzel, KA2RGI. 373 15th Street. West Babylon, NY 11704. Phone: 631-871-6633 (days) or 631-957-0218 (eves until 10 PM)

SARA SUNDAY NIGHT NET We encourage people to check into the SARA net. This is a informal net on the Stamford Repeater every Sunday night at 8 PM. After about a half hour of friendly discussion, we play the "Amateur Radio Newslines" with the latest happenings in amateur radio. Make yourself heard, join the net. Repeater: 146.655. PL-100 Hz.



[Message Board](#) **Classified Ads Service...** [Legal Notice](#)

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

Classified Ads

For sale **Icom 2AT** (2 Meter) Thumb wheel tuning with DTMF Key pad three dead Battery packs and drop in charger! \$40 bucks, **Astron RS-12** 12 Amp Power Supply (Great for Mobile Rig in House) \$40. **MFJ 1278T** multi Mode SSTV, RTTY, Packet, CW, Amtor & Fax TNC has 2400 Baud installed! \$100. **Tempo Packet TNC** w/built-in printer 1200 Baud \$80. **PC Electronics 430 Mhz ATV Down Converter** used for viewing video on your TV set. \$70. **Yaesu 2 Meter HT FT23R** Thumb wheel tuning with / DTMF Key pad Squelch not working great for AGW packet or APRS! \$30.

Contact Ned de KA1CVV. Days at 203-853-8080. Sincerely, 73 Ned Bassick, KA1CVV. West Mountain Radio <http://www.westmountainradio.com> fax: 203 - 299 - 0232.

Icom IC-735 HF 10 thru 160 meters. Great starter radio. \$200.00. Chris N1YNO. 203-359-

0570.

Texas Weather Instruments 1-wire Weather Station. Comes complete with Wind Vane, Anemometer, Temperature/Humidity sensor, Radiation Shield and Rain Gauge. Weather View 32 Software included. Note: This station does not use a console, all data is displayed on a computer monitor. \$250.00. Cushcraft 11 element 2 meter beam \$20 Contact Phil (203) 847- 0965.

[30 ft. Antenna tower](#) looking to donate to amateur radio club. just come get it! Posted. April 23, 2004

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

n1nq.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. o 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; Eduardo 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 706mkIIIG, 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 Batteries, \$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.

To add or remove your Classified Ads contact me at: gnarc@usa.com

I will have a copy of this list at the next meeting to cross off sold items or add new listings.

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

Remember this is your newsletter. I need articles desperately!

Bulletin Newsletter **Updates** can be made any time.

Check newsletter for any [Updates on this Link.](#)

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, Connecticut. 06850

GNARC POSTAL ADDRESS

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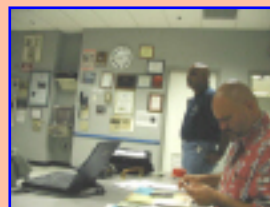
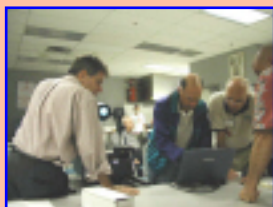
Contact me for corrections or updates. John WB1GRB.

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Photos of the September meeting. I will add more photos in next months GNARC Bulletin.

Send your photos to: hamphotos@mail.com Photos of Sept. Meeting.



L to R Toy K1YQ & "Zig" N1ICL



< Dan Gravereaux, N1ZZ



Treasurer: "Zig" Fekete, N1ICL winning prize in the club raffle.

J/S WB1GRB Thursday, September 30, 2004

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