G N A R C o n L i n e B u l l e t i n

Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

December 2004 Founded 1934 Number Twelve

Happy Holidays

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

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.

President: "Ned" Bassick, KA1CVV / **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H (203) 762-9302
Secretary: John Sabini, WB1GRB (203) 348-3983 / **Treasurer**: "Zig" Fekete, N1ICL.

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

The 2004 GNARC Annual Holiday Party

Will be held on Wednesday, December 8th, 2004 at the Sons of Italy, 162 New Canaan Ave. RTE 123, Norwalk, CT. Please mail this completed Form to attend. Directions & Map.

The next ARES Net will be December, 6th at 8:00 pm. Allan, NN1H will be the Net Control Station on the147.390 repeater. To volunteer as a Net Control Station contact Allan Valeo**,** NN1H**.**

The ARES Net will be held on the1st Monday of each month at 8.00 pm on the 147.39R.

Photos of the October Meeting. Photos of the November Meeting.

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Minutes of the Meeting 11/10/04

Ned, KA1CVV started the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Offices present: **President:** "Ned" Bassick, KA1CVV / **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H. **Treasurer:** "Zig" Fekete, N1ICL. **Secretary** and club newsletter, John, WB1GRB.

"Ned" mentioned our Speaker for the November meeting will be Steve Verbil NA1SV of Fairfield. The topic and demonstration will be APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System.) Ned talked about the meeting topic, APRS for several minutes.

Allan, NN1H then talked about ARES.

I can only think of two reasons for people not to register their name, call sign, address and capabilities for ARES so we know who you are. One reason is the privacy issue which I can not help you. You will need to resolve this in your own mind before you join ARES. The second is, what is the first thing you must do in an emergency? The first thing you must do is take care of your family, home and needs.

Each year we need people to sign up for ARES. This must be done to keep information up to date. You only have to sign your signature once and send in the application by mail. The following year you can sign by e-mail. You will not

need to sign your name a second time when you sign up on the net. If you are not registered you will slow down the hole process if we need you.

ARES application form in Word format and in Adobe PDF format. More info. contact, Allan, NN1H**.**

"Zeg" N1ICL then made a motion to accept last months minutes of the meeting. Minutes were accepted.

Treasurers Report. "Zig" reported we sold some items on E-Bay . We paid for the holiday raffle. We bought a new crystal for the repeater. We renewed our insurance for all of our equipment. For a complete report contacted "Zeg".

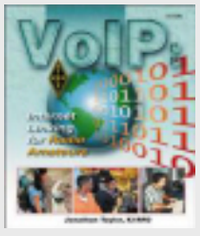
Ed, K3EIN reported that we had an error with our Field Day points this year. We have minus100 points.

Tim, W1GIG mentioned if you interested in any of the items the club has for sale to contact him as soon as possible or these items will be gone! Contact Don, KA1TZR at 966-2859 or Tim, W1GIG at 454-4376. Most of the items on the list are at their houses. GNARC Equipment Inventory

Minutes of the Meeting where short and ended at 8:20.

Ned then introduced our November speaker Steve Verbil NA1SV. 

We had a coffee break and a club raffle. The meeting ended at approximately 9:50 pm.



Order VoIP Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs. -- by Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD

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Skywarn

Phil Berkowitz WX1CT. Connecticut Skywarn D.E.C

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

Brent Hurlock N1RRD has been appointed as an assistant Skywarn Coordinator for Northern Fairfield County. Brent will help in maintaining active net controls for the northern part of the county.

December 4th will be the annual Skywarn Recognition Day. Most NWS offices across the country will be on the air, try and work as many as you can! If anyone is interested in operating from WX2OKX at NWS Upton, please contact me.

With the severe weather season winding down, its time to look forward to 2005. More net controls are needed. This is great training as net ops for Skywarn will carry over to any net you might run for ARES. If you'd like to help out, please contact me to discuss.

73 Phil WX1CT CT Skywarn D.E.C.

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. **Intellicast Loop Radar**

ARES NEWS

OK, so everyone should know now that ARES is secondary to the primary concerns of family, home, making a living, etc. So why sign up? At the November GNARC meeting I presented a couple of reasons I could think of for not signing up as an active member of ARES. Here's the flip side. ARES active member count is a tool that the ARRL can use to bolster its positions with the FCC to help protect our turf. We're one name shorter without your participation. The main reason though is that if we ever have a real emergency that everyone responds to, only those people that have registered themselves with some organization that is recognized by the local authorities will have and easy time finding a place to assist. The rest will may well be sent home. We'll always find a place for you, but it may not be as active as the registered members.

I know that the Amateur Radio fraternity here in the Norwalk area is very supportive of ARES since the monthly Nets get good turnouts. Put the other half of the equation in balance and complete an ARES application. I'll have them at the GNARC meetings and they're available in the ARES link on the web site.

Thank you all for your participation and time this past year and always feel free to participate at any level that you find

comfortable. Everyone is welcome on the Net and all efforts are appreciated.

The next ARES Net is December 6th at 8:00 pm. NN1H will be the Net Control Station.

Allan Valeo, NN1H, EC Norwalk ARES Group.

Check the Norwalk ARES web site for latest updates and bulletins on ARES activities for the area.

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The Small Wonder Labs “Rock Mite”

By John, N1OLO http://www.qsl.net/n1olo/

The Rock Mite is a complete QRP CW transceiver kit available in 20, 40 or 80m designed by Dave Benson K1SWL. It consists of a crystal control local oscillator for transmit and receive. The design includes a PIC processor programmed to operate as an iambic keyer as well as provides T-R offset. The T-R offset yields a second operating frequency by shifting the CW offset. By tapping the mode switch you switch the CW offset. Holding the mode switch down for one second permits the operator to adjust the keyer speed. The DITs raise the speed and the DAHs reduce the speed.

You will notice in the pictures that there are two crystals. The second crystal is used a filter for the receiver to increase shortwave broadcast rejection. There is an optional preplanned mod on the board to increase AM broadcast rejection (helpful if you live within a few miles of a AM station).

The kit itself is very well packed and organized. The Rock Mite kit consists of the board and all board level components. All the components are sealed in a compartmentalized plastic bag. If you have a well stocked junk box you can add you own connectors. There is a Control/Connector kit that includes all of the jacks, the potentiometer and knob, the power plug and hookup wire.

This is a very easy to build project that can be completed in an evening. Even though there are no toroids to wind (sealed inductors are used throughout) I would not recommend this as a first-timer’s kit. There is a 8 pin SMT IC in the design. Though the spacing of the leads is wide, care and some good soldering skills are required to install this component. Simple tools are required – needle nose pliers, flush cutters, a 15 -25 watt soldering iron and rosin core solder. Solder wick is a good thing to have around if you find that the 807’s interfered with construction. A VOM is handy if you have problems seeing the colors on resistors and I personally used a lighted magnifier.

Actual construction is quite simple; all you do is stuff the parts into place. You aren’t held by the hand ala the old Heath Kit manuals. You are given suggestions as to which components are best installed first to ease subsequent parts placement. I followed the suggestions and then placed the parts by type: resistors, caps, diodes, etc. The parts list has a convenient check box column so you can check off the parts as you place them.

The smoke test was rather confusing for me. I had my 817 set on 14.060 and as soon as I put power to the Rock Mite I was treated to a

howling sound on the 817. I had thought that I had the transmitter keyed up somehow. After I re-read the manual (pays to read the manual and the supplement) I realized that I was hearing the local oscillator. Power output from my particular unit was 700mW per my QRP watt meter.

My first verified QSO was with Pete K9OFU in Wisconsin. My reported RST was 237. The whole QSO was quite accidental. I was sitting out on my back deck with the Rock Mite hooked up to an end fed ½ wave antenna. I heard a surprising number of signals. When things quieted down I called CQ, mostly to get a feel for the keyer. Damned if someone didn't answer me! I was now stuck between a Rock Mite and a hard place. I was stuck copying in my head as I did not have a pen or paper. I survived. Thankfully Pete didn't mind plodding along at 10 wpm.

No enclosure is available from SWL but the board fits nicely into an Altoids case. These are not only easy to come by; your finished radio will smell nice! I opted for the "MityBox" ($20) from Americanmorse.com. The "MityBox" is a beautifully CNC machined box and comes with all the necessary hardware to install the Rock Mite.

Conclusions: All in all the Rock Mite is an easy to build, fun to operate kit. I would recommend this kit for someone with some kit building under their belt or for a newbie with an Elmer.

The Rock Mite is available from Small Wonder Labs: www.smallwonderlabs.com Parts & Board $27.00 Connector/Controls $12.50 Prices include shipping

The MityBox enclosure is available from American Morse Equipment: www.americanmorse.com

Photos and Specifications.

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

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I will add more photos in next months *GNARC* Bulletin.

Send your photos to: hamphotos@mail.com Photos on film bring them to the next meeting!

   

J/S WB1GRB Updated on Monday, November 29, 2004

November 2004 *GNARC* on Line Bulletin