



GNARC on Line Bulletin

Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club www.gnarc.info/

[Home](#)

August 2005

~ Founded 1934 ~

Number Eight

[Page1](#) >

Newsletter in [PDF Format](#). Get the [Acrobat Reader](#) Free / Official GNARC club web site located at: www.gnarc.org/

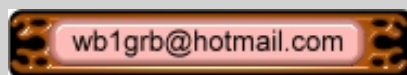
Club Repeaters: K1OF 147.390/ + 600 KHz PL of 110.9 Hz. & K1UHF 448.075/ + 5 MHz (PL-114.8) [EchoLink®](#)

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. The 147.390 repeater is now using a PL of 110.9 Hz.

GNARC Club Picnic & Tail Gate Wednesday August 10th, 2005. Time 5:00 pm. [Directions](#)

President: Toy Alladin, KA1WYQ / **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H (203) 762-9302
Secretary: John Sabini, WB1GRB (203) 348-3983 / **Treasurer:** Gary Schwartz, K3OS.
 August 2005 GNARC on Line Bulletin: John Sabini WB1GRB. Questions (203) 353-8422.

Please we need articles desperately. Send them to John, WB1GRB. **Subject:** Newsletter.



Club Calendar of Events	Classified Ads	Comments / Feedback ARTICLES
Membership / Dues	N1ZZ's Contest Lookout	Articles & Field Day PHOTOS
Updates / Corrections	Hamfest / Announcements	GNARC 2 / 440 Repeaters

[HURRICANE HEADQUARTERS](#) Sun - Sentinel South Florida. Tracking The Storm

Feedline Analysis Program, [SWR PLOT](#) UPDAT Test version as of 7/15/05

By Fred Cunningham, K1FC. This program was written to serve both as a tool for those that want to optimize their antenna/feedline system and those who just want better understand what effect the feedline can have.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Despite the sometimes intense heat and humidity, the thinking is, it's summertime and it is fun time, and so we are about to launch our 13th annual picnic and tailgate party at Dan's (n1zz) place, [9 Morehouse Lane](#) in West Norwalk. From 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

We are having an old fashioned picnic with hamburgers and hotdogs and the works which will be provided by the club. Members and friends are asked to bring along something to share, such as baked beans, 807s, cakes, sodas etc. even a water melon.

Not forgetting the tailgate aspect of the evening, bring along your stuff to sell and if possible provide a folding table to display your items for sale. Those of us who are familiar with Dan's place, will remember his lawn is quite spacious and there will be ample space for parking and for your display.

There is a standing 10% discount for all [Westmountain Radio](#) products available to all club members. So come on down to eat a little and spend a little.

What about the raffle. Of course there will be one. We will begin at 6:00 pm and have a half hourly raffle. Tickets will be on sale during the afternoon. Three (3) tickets for five \$(5) dollars. Winners guaranteed.

Talk in to Dan's will be on the repeater and driving directions will be on the web site.

See you there.

Toy/KA1WYQ

The Contester

I realized a long time ago that I'm not a Contester. In fact I'm not even competitive. I'm an inveterate listener and by nature just a supportive person who likes to see friends succeed. It's this spirit that has motivated me to work at getting Field Day set up and put away the past three years. This year however I had a unique experience that I'd like to share with everyone.

I had promised to help out operating this year and on Sunday morning I attempted to stretch myself into an unfamiliar role behind a microphone at the 80 Meter station. I originally had in mind taking over the 40 Meter CW station for a while and when 80 Meters went dead I wandered over to the other side of the site and checked to see what was happening. I found Jay Kolinsky, NE2Q, busy at the key and in need of someone to log for a while. So I sat down in front of the laptop and quickly found myself logging for an operator with the spirit of a real Contester.

I was soon swamped trying to enter call signs and information while Jay knocked out as many as 75 contacts an hour. That, by the way, is less than 50 seconds average between contacts. At times I could catch up as the pace cooled a little and at other times I was hard pressed to keep on task because things were moving so fast. Here are some of my observations from that morning session.

Jay's demeanor was always up. He never became negative about operating. When we seemed to run out of new stations to contact on CW he switched to Phone. We never strayed from 40 Meters during the session but Jay switched strategies if the current strategy cooled and some other strategy was likely to be hot. Contesters, it seems, don't like to waste time on ineffectual strategies and sometimes the target doesn't stay put.

My Contester didn't look for contacts he invited them. Jay called QRZ after each contact and if he didn't get a

reply he immediately started calling CQ Field day. No Trolling, no wasting time tuning, just a solid presence. Oh, we changed frequencies a couple of times, but not until it became clear that no one was answering the CQs.

Jay also used an authoritative tone during contacts leaving little doubt as to what he needed. I might call this attitude pushy or bullying at other times, but when it matters someone has to be in charge. Jay was clearly running the contacts while verifying call signs and message.

My last observation has to do with technical advantages. The past two years Jay and Hugo, AA1XV another Contester, have sponsored a 40 Meter wire beam antenna. There's no doubt that our larger than life signal was a more inviting target and that with the improved signal to noise ratio on receive made N1EV a real contender on the band.

The simple bottom line is that there is a Contester's spirit in some of us that leads to success in events like Field Day. There's still plenty of room for guys like me to pull ropes, set up tents, tighten beams, load trailers and unload trailers. However my hat is off to the Contesters like Jay who bring in the points. Thanks to them we all look good and it's always more fun to be associated with success. I look forward to logging for our Contesters and helping set up Field Day again next year knowing that unless I'm filling in operating at an otherwise idle station I'll get out of the way and let them bring in the points.

Allan, NN1H

[Back to top](#)

Computer Corner

by ROGER GILER, W1AGU

For more go to, <http://www.gnarc.info/ComputerCorner.htm>

Strange spelling, e-mail sounds, saving Office settings, Violent games, old programs turn off DSL, oversized font, Breached privacy, Magnifier, polyglot printer messages and script errors

Most of my serious e-mail deals with questions about computer problems. I find that an unusually large proportion can be traced back to USB (Universal Serial Bus) cables.

These cables come in variable length, diameter, jacket material, quality and shielding. Some are deluxe and "highest quality," even gold-plated. The bottom line is that they are very costly for what they are.

All the ones I have seen come from China and most of them work OK. Occasionally I try to analyze the queries to try to find common areas. Surprise! One trouble spot has been around for a long time. It deals with peripherals: printers, modems, external drives, scanners, PDAs, etc. They all have one thing in common: a cable. Frequently a printer problem could be traced to the parallel port or, with scanners, to the serial port. Nowadays, the USB ports have supplanted most of them.

It is always annoying to try to fix incorrectly diagnosed problems. I look at drivers and hardware defects while many times it is simply the USB cable. Now, when I make a service call, I carry a spare USB cable in my briefcase.

I have also discovered that the "superior" models that retail for \$30 plus, are no better than the bulk \$3 ones from computer shows or dollar stores. The defects are leads that are loose or shorted inside the molded cable jacket. The worst service situation is where the leads make intermittent contact.

A spare USB cable is a good item to have in your arsenal, so next time you come across a cheap one, buy it, test it, and then put it aside for an emergency.

For more go to, <http://www.gnarc.info/ComputerCorner.htm>

Hi John; Here are some files about a silly electronics project I found at the "Design News" magazine web site.

73, Jess Girard - ND1L. [062705gadgetfreak1\[1\]](#) [062705gadgetfreak2\[1\]](#) [Tea-Brew_Timer\[1\]](#)



GNARC ARES NEWS

In service to Norwalk and the nearby towns of

Darien, Easton, Fairfield, New Canaan, Weston, Westport and Wilton

Nets: The next Norwalk Net will be August 1st at 8:00 pm on 147.390R N1ICL will be the NCS

ARES News

The primary frequencies for the Norwalk ARES Group are listed below. These frequencies should be programmed into all radios that will be used to support ARES activities in Norwalk and the surrounding towns. Of course any Connecticut or Southeastern New York repeater might be used during a disaster or a wide area drill. During those times the ARES leaders responsible for planning our response will let participants know what frequencies are appropriate for their assignments. Don't lose the instructions for programming your rig. In fact a little practice from time to time is a good way to stay sharp. PL Codes are only necessary for transmit especially since not all repeaters send tones. On Simplex the PL may help to identify stations that are in the net and is not actually necessary for operation, it's just suggested.

Norwalk 147.390 MHz + .600 MHz PL 110.9 Hz Primary Frequency
448.075 MHz - 5.0 MHz PL 114.8 Hz Primary Frequency

New Canaan 146.475 MHz + 1.0 MHz PL 100 Hz
448.025 MHz -5.0 MHz PL 123 Hz

Stamford 146.655 MHz - .600 MHz PL 100 Hz
447.125 MHz - 5.0 MHz PL 114.8 Hz

Danbury 147.300 MHz + .600 MHz PL 100 Hz

Simplex 147.420 MHz PL 100 Hz Primary Frequency

This month I'd like to add a reminder that we're never relieved of our obligation to identify with our call signs. During Net operation you can use your call sign as an indication that you have nothing further for the Net Control Station at the end of an exchange. This satisfies the FCC Rule and is also a good operating practice.

The August Danbury Net has been cancelled and the Norwalk September Net has been cancelled. I'm still looking for a volunteer for October 3rd.

Ed Ashway, K3EIN has our November 7th schedule and I, as usual will be on for December 5th.

Allan, NN1H, Co-EC Norwalk ARES Group

Connecticut Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

ARRL Connecticut Section (CT)

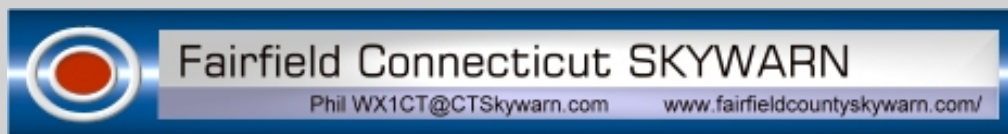
[Back to top](#)

Fairfield County Skywarn

Phil Berkowitz WX1CT. *Connecticut Skywarn* D.E.C. Check the Fairfield County Skywarn [web page](#).

Fairfield County Skywarn Nets will be held on an as needed basis on the following repeaters:

147.39/R for Southern Fairfield County and 147.30/R (PL 100.0) for Northern Fairfield County



Are you ready to use your skills to provide communications during a disaster or emergency?

- Do You Have Your "Grab And Go Kit" With You At All Times?
- Are All Of Your Batteries Charged?
- Do You Have Alkaline Battery Backup Packs?
- Do You Have A Cigarette Lighter Plug For Your Radio?
- Do You Have Vehicle-Mountable Antennas In Your Kit?
- Do You Know The Emergency Frequencies For Our Area?
- Do You Know What Our Local Emergency Nets Are?
- Have You Been Through Drills To Practice Your Skills?
- Are You Prepared To Help

We are in a very active and early hurricane season this year. Below are deadly New England hurricanes that caused heavy rains producing severe floods, strong damaging winds and coastal flooding. Be prepared!

1938 -- New England storm slams Long Island and Connecticut Known as the "[Long Island Express](#)," this powerful storm crashed into New York's Long Island and then went on to batter southern New England. This hurricane struck with little warning and was responsible for 600 deaths.

1944 -- Wartime shipping affected by deadly storm. A powerful early September storm that lashed much of the East Coast. While this hurricane caused 46 deaths in the United States, the worst effects occurred at sea, where it wreaked havoc on World War II shipping. Five ships, including a U.S. Navy destroyer and minesweeper, two U. S. Coast Guard cutters, and a light vessel, were sunk by the storm, causing 344 deaths.

1954 -- Carol and Edna swamp New England. Carol made landfall Aug. 31 over Long Island, N.Y. and Connecticut. Carol was responsible for 60 deaths and \$461 million in damage in the United States. The remarkably similar Hurricane Edna formed a few days later and followed a very similar path, making landfall Sept. 10 over Cape Cod. The storm was responsible for 20 deaths.

1954 -- Hazel brings heavy rains to Pennsylvania, New York. Hazel came ashore in the Carolinas on Oct. 15 and from there slogged north through Pennsylvania and New York and into Canada with heavy rains producing severe floods. Hazel was responsible for 95 deaths in the United States, 100 deaths in Canada and an estimated 400 fatalities in Haiti.

1955 -- Connie and Diane flood the Mid-Atlantic states. These two hurricanes struck the North Carolina coast only five days apart in early

August and rain from Connie set the stage for the devastating floods from North Carolina to Massachusetts caused by Diane. The floods were responsible were 184 deaths.

1960 -- Donna affects entire East Coast. Donna struck Florida Sept. 11 and then moved north, eventually reaching New England. Donna is the only storm to produce hurricane-force winds in Florida, the Mid-Atlantic states and New England. It was responsible for 50 deaths in the United States.

1972 -- Agnes hits Florida, floods the Mid-Atlantic. Agnes hit the Florida panhandle on Aug. 19, moved into Georgia and headed north, reaching New York on the 22nd. Rains produced widespread severe flooding from Virginia northward to New York and caused 122 deaths in the United States.

Also see, [500 years of hurricane history: South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#)

J/S WB1GRB

Minutes of the Meeting

Wednesday June 8, 2005

The Toy, KA1WYQ started the meeting at 8:05 pm. Club officers introduced themselves. **President:** Toy Alladin, KA1WYQ. **Secretary:** John Sabini, WB1GRB. **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H.

The minutes of the previous month's meeting were voted on and were approved.

Gary Schwartz, K3OS gave the Treasurer's Repot and compared our Field Day expenses from last year. If you would like a complete Treasurer's Repot or an updated membership list contact Gary. Go to, [Membership / Dues](#)

Fox hunt: Allan, NN1H congratulated Melissa, N1VSZ for finding the Fox on June 18. We had others out looking but she was the only one that found the fox.

On Saturday July 30 the ARRL is going to sponsor a Community Educational Program. It will start between 9:00 and noon. The ARRL asked me to get five or six people together and set up a demo net so people in the community can see a little what we are about. This will be held at the New Canaan Fire House. If you are interested contact Allan, NN1H.

Toy, KA1WYQ. We have been approached by the Multiple Sclerosis Society based in Norwalk to provide communications for their bike tour fund raiser September 24. This will be on a Saturday. I have not positively responded to them yet. We will need about 12 volunteers.

Next month is our annual picnic & tailgate. Dan, N1ZZ has kindly consented to use his home for the picnic and tailgate. Any one that has anything to sell please bring it along. We will also have our raffle. About every 15 minutes we will be giving away a prize. West Mountain products will be on display and for sale with a 10% discount. Bring something to share.

Club Picnic & Tail Gate Wednesday August 10th, 2005. Time 5:00 to 8:00 pm. [Directions](#)

We have a 440 antenna which has been sitting on the roof of the hospital for two years. We need to take this antenna down and see if it is any good. We then need to make a decision on what to do with this antenna. We will discuss this at our next meeting when we have both repeater trustees at the meeting. We need to set up a schedule to service the 440 repeater antenna and coax before the cold weather arrives!

Minutes ended at 8:20.

We then took a 15 minute break.

Ed, K3IEN, Hugo, AA1XV and Jay, NE2Q discussed this years Field Day results in detail with slides. Field Day results and improvements for next year. [Photos](#) of July meeting.

Meeting ended at approximately 9:50 pm.

Edited by Toy, KA1WYQ

[Back to top](#)

FCC Proposes to Drop Morse Code Requirement for All License Classes

NEWINGTON, CT, July 20, 2005--The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission recommended the change to its Part 97 Amateur Service rules in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235. Any rule changes proposed in the NPRM would not become final until the FCC gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any changes to its rules and concludes the proceeding by issuing a Report and Order (R&O) spelling out the changes and specifying an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months. The FCC declined in its NPRM to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges beyond elimination of the Morse requirement.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said in its NPRM, released July 19. This week's NPRM consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community--including one from the ARRL--that proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on the FCC's proposals in response to those petitions.

The Commission said it believes dropping Element 1--the 5 WPM Morse examination--would "encourage individuals who are interested in communications technology, or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become amateur radio operators." The FCC said it also would eliminate a requirement it believes "is now unnecessary and that may discourage" current licensees from advancing their skills, and that it would "promote more efficient use" of current Amateur Radio spectrum.

The FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radio communication Conference 2003 as the primary reason to go forward with eliminating Morse code as an Amateur Radio licensing requirement in the future. Among other changes, WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges, leaving it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised that the FCC proposed altogether scrapping the Morse code requirement. The League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors would closely study the 30-page NPRM and plan to comment further after they've had the opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the ARRL filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend Part 97 to complete the Amateur Service restructuring begun in 1999 but "left unfinished." The League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees already

can easily upgrade to General. "We also note that, if our proposal to eliminate telegraphy testing in the amateur service is adopted," the FCC continued, "a person who is not a licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing two written examinations, and that a person who is a Technician Class licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing one written examination." The FCC said it does not believe either path to be unreasonable.

The FCC also said that it's already addressed some of the other issues petitioners raised in its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140. In that proceeding, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice reframing proposal aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus sub bands to provide additional phone spectrum. Under the plan, Novice/Tech Plus licensees would be granted CW privileges in the current General CW sub bands.

A 60-day period for members of the public to comment on the FCC's NPRM in WT 05-235 will begin once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days of the NPRM's publication in the Federal Register.

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.

February 2005 [Newsletter](#). March 2005 [Newsletter](#) April [Newsletter](#) [May](#) [June](#) [July](#)

GNARC POSTAL ADDRESS



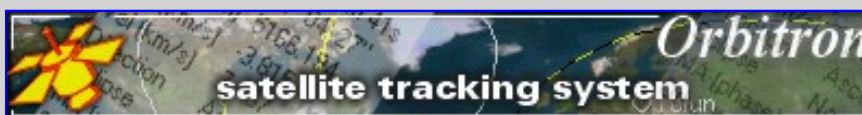
The UPS Store, 304 Main Av # 115. Perry Plaza ~ Norwalk, CT. 06850.

Courtesy of. C/o. The UPS Store. Greg Bryson, KA1NGF. Phone (203) 847-6166.



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-

J/S WB1GRB Wednesday, July 27, 2005

[Back to top](#)