



# GNARC on Line Newsletter

Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club <http://gnarc.info/> [gnarc.info@hotmail.com](mailto:gnarc.info@hotmail.com)

[Home](#)

September 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/](http://www.gnarc.org/)

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

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.

Next GNARC Club Meeting Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Time 8:00 pm.

**2005 Simulated Emergency Test is Saturday October 1st morning till early evening.**

**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.**

[gnarc.info@hotmail.com](mailto:gnarc.info@hotmail.com)

<a href="#">Club Calendar of Events</a>	<a href="#">Classified Ads</a>	<a href="#">Comments / Feedback</a> <a href="#">ARTICLES</a>
<a href="#">Membership / Dues</a>	<a href="#">N1ZZ's Contest Lookout</a>	<a href="#">GNARC PHOTOS</a>
<a href="#">Updates / Corrections</a>	<a href="#">Hamfest / Announcements</a>	<a href="#">GNARC 2 / 440 Repeaters</a>

**HURRICANE HEADQUARTERS** Sun - Sentinel South Florida. Tracking The Storm

[CL&P Outages \(Updated Hourly\)](#) [Intellicast Loop Rader.](#)

**From the President's corner:**

Our next meeting scheduled for September 14th we will be discussing the latest developments with CSMA regarding the denial of coordination of our repeater and what we propose to do next. Not too much can be said at this time, because this is a lengthy tale and preferably, I would like everyone to hear about this first hand from Rich/K1OF. There is much to tell.

We are nearing the end of the year and the election of officers for the 2006 term will be held in January 2006. The nominating committee will be activated at this forthcoming meeting.

We have two remaining public service events for the year:

September 24th we have the Harvest ride sponsored by the 'bloomin metric' organization. This ride is for the 'Make a wish' foundation of Connecticut. Surprise! Surprise! We have been asked by the Sag Wagon organizer to provide operators for the sags. Most of them will be operating SUVs. Also we should be able to provide a few owner driven sags of our own. This is exciting, we have been advocating this for many years as it would eventually make communication around the course better and eliminate the use of cell phones and two way Nextel's which are virtually non effective up in the boonies.

Once and for all, we would be able to effectively demonstrate what we can do. Further details on this will be provided at the meeting. The last is the American Diabetes Association's walkathon in early October. The exact date escapes me at this time. It is also a Sunday event and it is held at the Penfield Pavilion in Fairfield.

See you at the September meeting.

Toy/KA1WYQ

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[Back to top](#)

## Computer Corner

by ROGER GILER, W1AGU

Surfing, Spyware, barebone computer. Spoken text, thumbs galore, presentations, Virus cost, virtual memory, power management, WordPerfect crisis, Frugality, network, disable firewall, date problems

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

### PDF documents

I have run into a problem reading PDF documents. I could do it in the past, but when I try to open them in MS Word, I get many little box characters that don't make sense. Was I clobbered by a virus? What can I do? Thanks. Bev J.

Dear Bev: Noting to worry about. When you receive these documents, they are supposed to be associated with a program designed to read them. Possibly, your association has changed.

PDF (Portable Document Format) documents are created and read by Acrobat Reader and cannot be viewed by Word. It should be easy to reset the association to allow you to see all of them. Here is how: When you have the filename of the document that you are trying to read on screen, right click it. Then select "Open with" (NOT Open) | Choose program | checkmark "Always use the selected program to open this kind of file" | Acrobat Reader | OK.

The PDF documents are generated by a special program from Adobe (Acrobat Distiller), which is quite expensive. However, they can be read using the free Reader.

Their main feature is that they are not dependent on the type of computer used and carry in them all the information on fonts, formatting, colors and graphics. Most documents issued by the U.S. government and IRS use that format. This is very important because the form that you see on your screen and print out is an exact duplicate of the original.

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

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## **ATTENTION TECHNICIANS: - CODE REQUIREMENT MAY BE DEAD SOON. ATTENTION CODE STUDENTS: - THESE ARE GREAT TIMES.**

**By Hugo, AA1XV**

If you don't like, do, know, learned, or care about Morse code, this might interest you.

The FCC may be about to drop the code test requirement for all classes for good. Great!

Five words per minute is the worst enemy of the code. It is useless. You'll have an awfully hard time building up speed and accuracy to a practical level. It is so stressful and frustrating that you will hate the code for ever.

There is no question, if you don't learn it at a higher speed, trying to learn it visually will slow you down.

I was always looking for a method to teach the code as far as possible from the way I learned it way back when. Of course I learned the wrong way, (visually), and took me years to get to a decent speed plateau.

Seventy years ago, Dr. Koch, a psychologist, practiced a method for instant recognition. It was difficult to teach before the PC era.

Nowadays, there is at least one PC in more then 70% of the American households but the code is dying by a thousand wounds.....

Just now when the tools are becoming so powerful.

Back to the Koch method: The idea is to learn at a medium speed (15 to 20 WPM), just two letters. Let's say B and W. You copy 5 minutes at 20 WPM with separation at 12 WPM (Farnsworth). Groups of any length, lets say one to seven letters, e.g.: b wwb bwbwb bbwbw bbbw w wbb wwwwbbw wwb , and so forth. Practice in five minute blocks just these two letters. Pretty soon you'll be able to copy on paper with very few mistakes. According to Dr. Koch, when you reach 90% accuracy, (easy to achieve), you'll never forget these two letters and from this point forward every time you hear either letter, it will INSTANTLY come to your head. Not recreating dots and dashes because in your mind the letters are one indivisible piece of information.

You can laugh at 5 WPM... You are copying and instantly recognizing letters at 20 WPM!!

Once you passed this 90% accuracy, just pick any two other letters, numbers, punctuation or CW specific symbol; just two. The International Morse Code uses 43 symbols; do the math: Twenty two lessons or however you want to call them and you'll be copying 20 WPM!

Ok, let's not sound like an infomercial. I never used the method, but I became a believer in its value. The idea is in the beginning to use Farnsworth separation. That doesn't matter. You reached now a level at where you can go on the air and have meaningful QSOs without falling asleep neither you nor the Ham at the other end. You'll be working DX at a very reasonable speed as well. Now the good part: Speed increase comes by itself. 20 to 22 WPM is the comfortable handwriting limit. Some people can write faster. If you can type fast, there is no limit for solid hardcopy. At any rate, beyond 20 WPM you should be able to copy in your head more comfortably than on paper. There is no need to write down a rag chew QSO. Of course, unfamiliar call signs, and other important QSO data need to be written down at any speed the same as in a voice QSO. Eventually, with practice and if you keep yourself active, the speed will come to, let's say 30 to 35 WPM. You'll copy complete words. Beyond that, you will hear voices "talking" sweet code in your ear.

An excellent tool that uses the Koch method was developed by G4FON. It is called "G4FON Morse Trainer" and can be found at <http://www.g4fon.net> the version 8 is the most recent one and is Freeware.

One piece of advice if you don't know the code yet: NEVER LOOK AT ANY CHART WITH DOTS AND DASHES. THAT WILL ONLY SLOW YOU DOWN. You don't need to know how many dots are in the letter H, for example.

I'd like very much to know about progress, frustrations, successful and unsuccessful stories either with this or other methods. I am available to help anyone starting or wanting to improve copying.

Please e-mail comments/ideas/opinions to: aa1xv at ARRL dot net

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# GNARC ARES NEWS

In service to Norwalk and the nearby towns of

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

**2005 Simulated Emergency Test is Saturday October 1st morning till early evening.**

There's no September Net.

On July 30th the ARRL sponsored a Community Education Program meeting that was hosted by the New Canaan Office of Emergency Preparedness. There were Emergency Preparedness people present from many of the local towns. Bill Barrett, our Area EC presented his "When all else fails, Amateur Radio" program and we ran a short demonstration Net to show some of Amateur Radio's capability in the area. The whole program went well and the Net ran smoothly. All in all, we made a very favorable impression on the community.

My thanks go to these people for participating in the Net.

Tim Walker, W1GIG represented the Sherwood Island Marshalling Center  
Jack Callahan, N1RRF represented a local Marine Mobile  
Brent Hurlock, N1RRD represented the Danbury EOC  
Gary Schwartz, K3OS represented Wilton Center  
Tom Kirmeyer, KK2C represented Norwalk HF Liaison  
Don Hudson, KA1TZR represented New Canaan Red Cross  
Ben Millard, KB1GHD represented Darien Red Cross

Highlights of the net operation were K3OS passing a formal message and Tim Walker coming in from the field at the request of Net Control.

My thanks also go to Bill Barrett, W1WJB for very polished and well organized presentation.

There's no September Net again this year. The October net may exercise other repeaters in the area so check your rig's programming.

Allan Valeo, NN1H Co-EC Norwalk ARES Group

**Connecticut Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)**

**ARRL Connecticut Section (CT)**

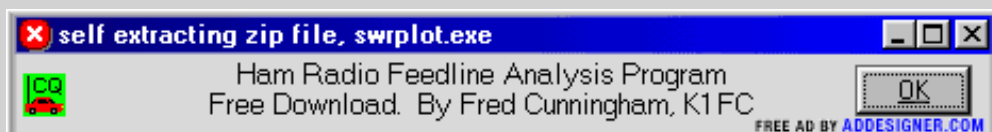
[Back to top](#)

## 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

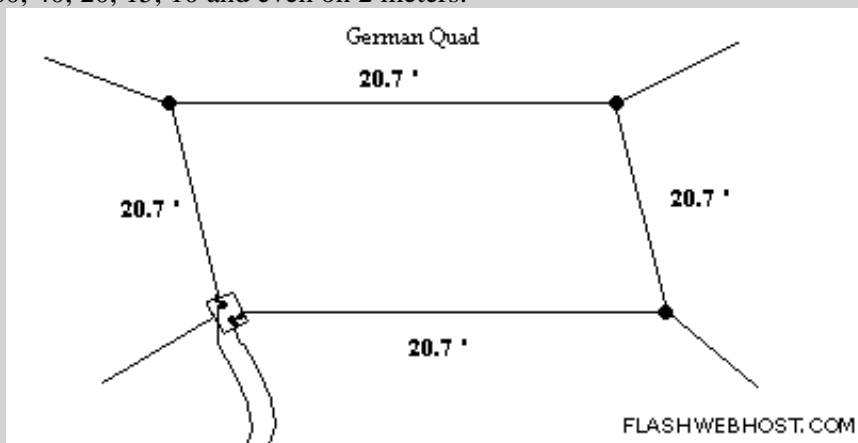


## GERMAN QUAD ANTENNA

Most city dwellers face the problem of limited space for putting up an antenna of their choice. But if one is lucky and owns a couple of acres of land in a quiet place and the neighbors are co-operative, one can try the 'GERMAN Quad Antenna' designed by a German ham DL3ISA. It is reported that it works well on six bands 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and even on 2 meters.

The construction is simple and straight forward. Take 83 meters of wire and mount it in the form of a big quad about 30 feet above the ground in a horizontal position. Each side will have a length 20.7 meters. For feed line, use a 75 Ohms co-axial cable. Antenna wire is 2.5 mm soft drawn copper wire. The four preferred directions are the extensions of the quad's diagonals. The ground serves as the reflector for 80 and 30 meters working.

The antenna offers a gain of 6 DB over a dipole mounted at the same height. On 80 meter, it has a high angle of radiation and distance of 600 miles has been covered. On 40 meters, the radiation pattern is at a lower angle than 80 meters and it has no directivity.



If one has enough space and time he can try this multi-band antenna and work all the six bands and it has no directivity.

From, [FlashWebHost.com](http://FlashWebHost.com)

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 [Newsletter](#) April [Newsletter](#) [May](#) [June](#) [July](#) [August](#)

## 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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**Note:** When composing your e mail you must use the 'Basic Editor' which is in plain text only. No HTML.



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**gnarc.info/ Account Upgrade.** As of July 1, 2005 we now have: Value Plus Hosting Package. \$7.99 a month.  
An excellent offer including CGI and database access, great space and bandwidth support and more!

- > 1000 MB Web Space. > 20 GB Bandwidth. > 500 MB File Size. > **CGI, PHP, Perl and MySQL**
- > 8 Stats/Reports. > E-mail/Phone Support. > Inexpensive Expert Consulting. > FTP Access
- > 500 POP/Webmail Accounts. All files on gnarc.info are being saved, articles, newsletters and photos.

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J/S WB1GRB Monday, August 29, 2005

[Back to top](#)