



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

January 2005

President's Corner By Toy Alladin KA1WYQ

Firstly, I want to wish all our members and their loved ones, A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR also this sincere wish extends to all our supporters and well wishers.

It is the month for election of officers for the new term and I am again running for the post of president. I do hope that I am worthy of your vote to retain the position.

John Sabini/WB1GRB will no longer be the publisher of the monthly newsletter and he has indicated that he has no desire to be the club's secretary anymore as he has a very busy schedule ahead of him for the rest of the year. I wish to thank John for all his past efforts to to publish the monthly newsletter and also be the club's secretary. The publisher of the newsletter will now be John Kalotai/N1OLO who has volunteered his services.

We do have unfinished business left over from 2005 and priority will be given to getting our repeater coordinated at its present site on the SBC tower. Emphasis is placed on this as we do have continuing problems with the Connecticut Spectrum Management Association (CSMA) and the likelihood of the involvement of the FCC. This is based on complaints from a complaint of interference from the trustee of the WA2ZPX repeater in Middletown NY. How quickly we get this settled is anyone's guess, so we do have to press on with defending the right to use our frequency at its present site.

We are also going to be busy with our annual quota for public schedules, monthly ARES and Skywarn nets and generally practicing to sharpen our communicating skills by being a participant in some or all of these schedules. Not forgetting Allan's/NN1H Fox Hunt which is coming up in Spring.

New ideas are also welcome as we sometimes have a tendency to wear out the routine. Looking forward to seeing all or most of you at our January meeting.

Quote: Don't let yesterdays use too much of today.

Toy/KA1WYQ

A Note from the Editor

As you can see the Newsletter has quite a bit that's different. There is a new look. There is a new name. There is a new editor.

In addition to the regular columns to which we have become accustomed I will be adding some new ones. One of the new columns will be "how I got started". A different ham will tell you how and why they got started in the hobby. I'll get the ball rolling and I will be asking (and I am not above arm twisting!) other members to relate their experiences.

I hope to provide a new construction article each month. I have contacted other editors. They are anxious for articles as well and are willing to trade for them. Have something you have built? Tip or trick you'd like to pass on? Send it my way.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2006
Shoprite Community Room
Connecticut Avenue Norwalk, CT
Speaker TBA

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Skywarn

Recently I attended the annual Skywarn Coordinators Meeting at the NWS in Upton NY. Our Skywarn Program leader Scott Reynolds has moved on to become Meteorologist In Charge at the Center Weather Service Unit in Nashua, NH. Many thanks to Scott for all his efforts leading the Skywarn program here in the tri state area. Brian Ciemnecki will be assuming the position of Skywarn Program Leader at NWS-OKX. He will be assisted by John Koch who some of you met at the Ridgefield Spotter Training Class in 2004.

Some other changes are being looked at for the program, more on that in a future update.

For those of you who would like to report snowfall amounts to NWS, please contact me (preferably via email) for more information.

Lastly we do need more volunteers to run Skywarn nets. Contact me for information.

For the updated information on Skywarn visit www.ctskywarn.com.

73 Phil
Fairfield County Skywarn Coordinator

ARES News

Many thanks to all who participated in ARES activities this past year and many thanks to the people who signed up to take a turn at Net Control this year. I have June 5th and July 3rd open. These are summer months, which are typically light and ideal for new comers to get “Wet Feet”. There’s no September Net again this year since it’s Labor Day. I’ll send reminders out the week before the Net date to the NCS for that month.

Please remember to get your applications in for renewal. The forms are available on the ARES page of the GNARC web site. If you’ve signed up in the past you don’t need to send me a signed paper copy. You can e-mail an update. If you’re new to ARES print out a form, make it out and get it to me either by mail or in person at a Club meeting.

Again, my thanks and best regards to all.

Allan Valeo, NN1H Co-EC Norwalk ARES Group

Norwalk ARES Net Control Stations for 2006

Date	Call Sign	Name
January 2 nd	W1GIG	Tim
February 6 th	K3OS	Gary
March 6 th	N1II	Paul
April 3 rd	ND1L	Jess
May 1 st	K1FC	Fred
June 5 th	_____	_____
July 3 rd	_____	_____
August 7 th	KC1FB	Jim
September 4 th	No Net	Labor Day
October 2 nd	KA1CVV	Ned
November 6 th	K3EIN	Ed
December 4 th	NN1H	Allan

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NEW MIXED MODE NETS SET TO DEBUT from Bill W1WJB

A series of new "Mixed Mode" nets will be launched in January on the CARA repeater, and on some other frequencies. The purpose of these nets is to help as many hams as possible to "get digital".

The nets will run immediately after the regular monthly ARES nets, which happen in our area the SECOND Monday of each month at 8:00 pm on the CARA repeater. Also, on the CARA repeater, a weekly session will be held at 8:30 pm on Sundays, after the weekly CARA net.

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Additionally, a similar series of nets will run over the Norwalk repeater immediately after the FIRST Monday monthly ARES net there.

Weekly nets there are not yet scheduled, but are possible if desired. Stay tuned. Bill Barrett, W1WJB, Connecticut ARES District Emergency Coordinator for Special Projects, will be organizing and sometimes net controlling these innovative nets.

The "Mixed Mode" R & D effort has the blessing of the Section Manager, Betsy, K1EIC, and the Section Emergency Coordinator, Rod, N1FNE, as well as the permission of the CARA club officers and repeater trustees; however, this effort is NOT limited to ARES members. All stations are cordially invited to join in and develop their stations' capabilities. It is intended as a mutual help and assistance resource, where we can all share our knowledge and opinions.

The nets are called "Mixed Mode" because VHF-FM voice and also various digital modes can be run over the same frequencies. This makes it much easier to get someone to work with, on-the-air in realtime, while one tests and adjusts for optimum results.

The nets will be opened in the conventional---voice---manner, and then various tests with multi-

ple receiving stations, and their helpful comments, can be run efficiently with quick and simple voice comments and feedback. RTTY at 45, 75, and 100 baud can be tested and fine-adjusted, along with SSTV, PSK31, Peer-To-Peer Packet, AMTOR, FACTOR, ASCII, and any other voice-channel capable digital modes desired. It's a Digital Village Green.

Testing has demonstrated that the vast majority of repeaters will pass most digital signal types quite well. The CARA repeater has been tested already with a variety of digital modes with excellent results.

Several operational guidelines have been widely agreed to, such as to NOT engage in digital modes during traditional "drive-time" periods, even if the repeater is quiet. In addition, either at the beginning or at the end of a series of tests or exchanges with another station, voice identification is required as a courtesy to all, and to assure listeners without digital modes on-line at that moment that operations are appropriate and proper. Also, if two stations are capable of working on a simplex channel, that they should make contact on the repeater, but are encouraged to then move to a simplex channel for working, especially if operations will be long in duration.

Obviously, checking that "it all still works" through the repeater after a series of simplex tests has been done is fine, to be sure nothing has changed for the worse. The ARRL Repeater Handbook shows that one excellent frequency for digital and voice operation is 145.51, a so-called "set-aside" for "digital and experimental modes". 145.53 is another such good simplex choice.

Two years ago, an HF net was run weekly on 3.600 MHz (dial-indicated LSB); but was perhaps not on the best night. If there is demand for it, it can be re-started anytime. 3.600 is a good choice for HF testing and working as well.

- *Mixed Mode Net - Monthly, SECOND Monday, right after the ARES net. Mixed Mode Net - Weekly, 8:30 pm Sunday, after the CARA weekly net.*

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From the Editor

The following is a letter forwarded to me by Jess, ND1L from a ARES mail list.

December 8, 2005

Guilty, Guilty!

Back on May 12 2005 I received a "cell phone in use" ticket while traveling on 23rd

Street and FDR Drive in Manhattan. The hearing was today and the judge found me guilty. Here's how it unfolded:

I am so angry I feel violated and I feel every Amateur Radio

Operator received a ticket today. The officer swore in and explained that he saw me using a cell phone, pulled me over and explained that I can not use a cell phone while driving.

The judge asked if I wanted to speak. I said "Your honor, after the officer stopped and explained that he was going to give me a ticket for "cell phone in use" I told the officer that this was not a cell phone it is an amateur radio".

I explained to the judge that I was a licensed amateur radio operator and handed him my original license and also pointed out that my license plate was an amateur radio license plate. I also presented a written letter from KC2CBA Tom Golerio which was notarized and explained that at the time of the incident I was talking to him on amateur radio like we do every morning.

The judge did not buy it and I told him, "your honor with all do respect NYC TRAFFIC LAW TITLE 7 ARTICLE 33 1225C (B) DEFINES A "MOBILE TELEPHONE AS ONE CONNECTED TO A PUBLIC SWITCH". Amateur radio is not connected to a public switch its Radio to Radio.

Then he opened his law book read it but still was in doubt. He asked me to describe the radio and how I was using it. I described the Mobile radio and made it clear that it was a microphone with a cord held in front of my mouth. THAT WAS

ENOUGH FOR HIM TO HEAR AND HE SAID I WAS GUILTY because I held it in close proximity to my ear.

We all got a ticket today. I will appeal. I contacted George Tranos ARRL Section Manager NYC/LI and informed him. Unfortunately he was not there so I left a message and my number. I might need all the help I can get for this, guys. Let's Make Noise!

Joe W2JLH

Editor's Note: I will follow up on this story and will have an update in a future edition.

- *Mixed Mode Net - Monthly, FIRST Monday, right after the Norwalk ARES net.*
- *2 meter simplex - 145.51, 145.53. Special set-aside frequencies.*
- *Anytime. HF - 3.600 mHz, Lower Sideband, "dial" indicated. A net may re-start soon.*
- *Local Packet - 145.05. KB1ILY, W1WJB, others. Access is usually CALLSIGN-1. "H" or "?" will usually get you a short help from these individual station mailboxes. The frequency is also one of those used by the Connecticut Packet Netowrk. There is a BBS at W1HAD-4.*

Secretary's Minutes

No December Meeting—No Minutes

Treasurer's Report

No December Meeting—No Minutes

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How I got licensed (or Elmers I have known)
By John Kalotai, N1OLO

I was originally licensed shortly after I met Pat Salvo, WA1TFA. The year was 1976 and we were both members of an Explorer Post in Norwalk that was affiliated with the OEM. (It was then known as Civil Preparedness). He helped me learn my code and theory and the two of us took the train into NYC. We went down to the FCC office on Houston St., Pat to take his Advanced and me to take my Tech. I passed the code but missed one question on the block diagram. I'll never forget what components make up a phase modulated transmitter. I returned a little dejected but my spirits were buoyed by, well, spirits. We hit the bar car and had a Fosters on the way back.

We went back a month later so I could retest and then we would go poke around in the electronics stores on Canal Street. I passed and left the office. I received my Novice License, WB1ALA a few weeks later. This time we had Fosters in celebration.

By the time my license came, it was summer's end. I really didn't have much time to spend on radio. More important, I had distracters of the female variety. College started in the fall and my time was eaten up by my studies. Radio fell by the wayside and my license fell into disuse. Late in 1979 my license expired practically unused.

Years passed and in 1981 I met my XYL. We had dated for some time before I realized that there was a ham plate on one of her parent's cars, WA1ALB. Remember my old call, WB1ALA? Apparently a match made in the FCC office. Her father, Howard, had been a ham since he was a teenager. We got to talking and he asked why I had let my license lapse? I told him that I was still interested but didn't have the time to invest to become a ham again. I married his daughter, Lenore, and for years he would bug me about getting licensed.

Just prior to Christmas in 1990 Howard was at the house to celebrate my son Andrew's birthday. After all the presents were opened I found one left and was about to give to Andrew. Howard stopped me

and said, "No, John. That one is for you." Curiously, I opened the box. Inside was a Heath HX-202, a 2 meter synthesized transmitter. "That radio is for you, now you have to get a license".

I took my Tech test in January of 1991 and was licensed as N1OLO, a call that I have kept to this day. Howard was my first QSO. Over the next few months I upgraded to General and Advanced. It took some time but I finally became an Extra before Howard became a Silent Key.

Since becoming a ham I've been involved in many facets of Amateur Radio. My favorite is operating HF portable and mobile. I've led a couple of DXpeditions to Sheffield Island and I always enjoy Field Day. I also work part-time for a company that builds Ham related products, West Mountain Radio.

I've come to learn and appreciate that Amateur Radio is a public service, not just a hobby. I thank my Elmers for taking the time to get me involved.

Editors Note: This is the first of a Monthly feature. Think about putting pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and given me your story.

Classified Ads

Notice something missing? Like ads maybe? That's because we are starting clean. Got something you want to sell? Get it to me by the last day of the month for the next month's edition. Ads will run for one month unless the seller sends me notice to renew.