



# Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

## Newsletter

### *"The Voice of GNARC"*

#### March 2006

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#### President's Corner

##### By Toy Alladin KA1WYQ

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#### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

It was long overdue. I finally kicked myself into action, went out shopping at the FCC and obtained a vanity call sign. Now the final phase is to find time to go to the DMV and order registration plates and then it would be over and done with. I am officially **K1WYQ** as of 2/18/06 and a hard copy of my license has since been mailed to me.

So much for bragging, now on to other things. By now you would have received information about the restarting of our repeater, **W1NLK** back on the hospital. Hopefully there will be little or no problems, however, we are on standby to rectify the unforeseen just in case.

Regarding the program for the March meeting. I am presently obtaining confirmation from the COO from the ARRL, courtesy Joel Hallas/W1ZR. As soon as this information is obtained, it will go up on the web site and also on the repeater. Keep listening and check with our website often. Please see and be there at our March meeting, there is much to tell and discuss, other than that, it is good to eyeball you folks once a month. Is that too much to ask?

**QUOTE: FRIENDSHIP DESERVES NO DISLOYALTY, ON THE OTHER HAND DISLOYALTY DESERVES NO FRIENDSHIP.**

Toy/K1WYQ

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**Next Month:** It will be April. Anything can happen!

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#### Next Meeting

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Wednesday, March 8, 2006  
Shoprite Community Room  
Connecticut Avenue Norwalk, CT

The Speaker for the meeting will be Harold Kramer/WJ1B the Chief Operating Officer of the ARRL.

Pizza at John's Best on New Canaan Ave,  
Norwalk from 6:00 to 7:30pm

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#### Secretary's Minutes

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GNARC Monthly Meeting, 8 Feb '06

Attendance: 34 members.

**Program:** Joel Hallas/W1ZR, QST Technical Editor, introduced the guest speaker – Joel Kleinman/N1BRE, Managing Editor of QST. Joel Kleinman presented an historical slide review of past editorial members of QST and their contributions to the publication. Following this, there was a discussion of QST, other ARRL publications and their circulation trends.

#### Business Meeting:

**Old Business:** Our Treasurer, Ed/K3EIN, indicated that the bank balance was \$5,774.80. Fred/K1FC noted that a VE session was scheduled for this Saturday, 11 Feb. Paul/N1II requested that a discussion of action voted upon and taken at the January meeting be held with the general membership, since so few had been in attendance in January. There was no motion made nor action taken on this request. Tim/W1GIG indicated that Allan/NN1H, as our new W1NLK/R trustee, had applied to CSMA for coordination.

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*(Minutes Continued)*

**New Business:** A discussion of the W1NLK/R repeater and its status took place. A motion was made to allow the GNARC Board of Directors to spend up to \$400 to replace the non-functioning Controller on the hospital repeater site, if necessary. In addition, the Board was also authorized to determine whether movement of the entire repeater with functioning controller from the SNET site to the hospital site was a better option. This motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 19 in favor.

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously that Rich/K1OF and Cindy/N1EKD be given lifetime memberships in GNARC as a sign of appreciation for their many years of service to the club.

The meeting was closed at approximately 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Tom Kirmayer/KK2C, Secretary.

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### **Treasurer's Report**

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Membership renewals continue to roll in. We now have 82 dues paid members for 2006

Current balance \$6349.80

Ed K3EIN GNARC Treasurer 2006

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### **Skywarn**

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Thanks to everyone who submitted timely snowfall reports during the last snowstorm. This is one of the many tasks that NWS relies upon Skywarn spotters and I along with the NWS thank you for your participation. Skywarn Training classes are being scheduled across Connecticut by the various NWS offices. If you haven't been trained in the last 3 years, this is your opportunity for a refresher course and to find about changes in the program. As classes are scheduled they will be

posted at [www.CTSkywarn.com](http://www.CTSkywarn.com) . Announcements will also be posted on the Fairfield County and Connecticut Skywarn mail lists.

Please contact either myself or John N1OLO if you can help out the Skywarn program by being Net Control. Spring will be here before we know it, and with that comes severe weather season!

73 Phil  
WX1CT  
Fairfield County Skywarn Coordinator

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### **ARES News**

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Please check the schedule for the ARES net. We still need net control ops for the June and July nets. Contact Alan NN1H or Tim W1GIG

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### **Technician Class Announced**

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Technician License Classes Start March 2, 2006  
Please pass the word to as many people as possible about Technician Classes beginning Thursday, March 2 at 6 pm in the Newington Senior Center at 120 Cedar Street CT (Route 175).

The class will meet Thursdays from 6 - 8 pm until April 27 when the FCC licensing exam will be given. There is no fee for the class, but students will need to purchase the license manual (\$19.95) which can be purchased at the first session. The exam fee, payable on April 27, is \$14.

Instructor is Mary Hobart K1MMH, Chief Development Officer at ARRL, the National association for Amateur Radio < <http://www.arrl.org>.> Classes are sponsored by NARL.

More information and enrollment application may be made by phone to 860-667-2864 or 594 -0397 or by E-mail to < [MHOBART@ARRL.ORG](mailto:MHOBART@ARRL.ORG)>

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**Classified Ads**

**For Sale**

**ICOM 2720** Dual Band 2M 70CM 2 years old asking \$275.00

**ICOM 718** HF I'm the second owner asking \$390.00 with power cord and Microphone (Stock)

**ICOM 706 Mark II G** with modification for 60 Meters asking \$625.00 with power cord and Microphone (Stock) looks a 7 out of 10 condition.

**High Sierra Sidekick** screwdriver HF-50 Mhz antenna \$250.00 in good condition

**Contact Zig N1ICL** Voipman1117@gmail.com

**For Sale**

**9 AMP 12 Volt** Switching Power Supplies. Brand New with Molex to PowerPole adapter and power cord included. \$35.00

**7 Ahr Gel Cells** Brand New \$15.00

**31 Foot Telescoping Portable Mast** \$50.00

**1000 ma Gel Cell Chargers** \$18.00

**Contact John N1OLO** n1olo@yahoo.com

**For Sale**

**MFJ-989c 3kw Antenna Tuner**



Asking \$225.00

**contact** Dee/N1ZD 203-846-1552

**Hamfests and Events**

**March 4, 2006**

**North Jersey Hamfest**, Splitrock ARA

<http://www.splitrockara.org>

**Talk-In:** 146.985 - (PL 131.8)

**Contact:** Mike Greenfeld, K8BQ, PO Box 610 Rockaway, NJ 07866

Phone: 866-457-6687

Fax: 866-457-6687

Email: [hamfest@splitrockara.org](mailto:hamfest@splitrockara.org)

**Location:** Parsippany PAL Building  
 33 Baldwin Road, Parsippany, NJ

**Norwalk ARES Net Control Stations for 2006**

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

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*(Hamfest Continued)*

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**March 18, 2006**

**Eastern Connecticut ARA**

<http://www.qsl.net/k1muj/>

**Talk-In:** 147.225 + (PL 156.7)

**Contact:** Paul Rollinson, KE1LI, 182 Wrights Crossing Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259  
Phone: 860-928-2456  
Fax: 860-928-3844  
Email: ke1li@arrl.net

**Location:** Pomfret Community School, 20 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT

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*Please send announcements to n1olo@yahoo.com before the last day of the month for the next month's newsletter. Ads will run for 2 months.*

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**President Praises Amateur Radio**

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*The following is an extract from the “The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned”, report issued by the White House. The complete report can be viewed on-line at :*  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned/>

“Other organizations worked tirelessly to assist emergency responders that, due to the storm, did not have the equipment and means to effectively carry out their duties. Amateur Radio Operators from both the **Amateur Radio Emergency Service** and the **American Radio Relay League**, monitored distress calls and rerouted emergency requests for assistance throughout the U.S. until messages were received by emergency response personnel. A distress call made from a cell phone on a rooftop in New Orleans to Baton Rouge was relayed, via ham radio, from Louisiana to Oregon, then Utah, and finally back to emergency personnel in Louisiana, who rescued the 15 stranded victims.11 Ham radio operators voluntarily manned the amateur radio stations at sites such as the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Watch Net, Waterway Net, Skywarn and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network.12”

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**How I Got Started**

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**My Elmer**  
**Zig Fekete N1ICL**

On a cold winter morning in 1977 I was waiting for my bus on the corner of County Street and Strawberry Hill Avenue in front of Norwalk High School. I could see my breath and as I looked up there passed a Station Wagon with an odd license plate WA1RXA I said to myself what is that? Twelve years later I started a new job at Pray Automobile in Greenwich working in the Parts Department; my Supervisor Boss was Bruce Balog WA1FVZ and a Stamford Club member.

Bruce and I hit it off immediately and on my first day of work drew from me my interest in the Hobby and unknown to me ordered the Novice study guide from AES. 5 days later he handed me the gift, the key to the Hobby at that point he became my Elmer.

Over the next five weeks there were many conversations about the Hobby. I shared my experience with the license plate WA1RXA and Bruce immediately said “Oh that’s Joe Beck, Joe and I are in Navy/Mars together”, so more questions were born. Bruce also took the time to work with me on my CW which I became pretty good at. Then one Friday afternoon a call came from Bruce he said “Zig the Southington Ham Fest is tomorrow, you’re ready! Do you want to go and get your ticket?” Without thinking I said sure and the next thing I knew I was in the pick up truck with Bruce on RT 84 at 7:30 AM.

I was very nervous but Bruce calmed me down and told me I would do just fine. I walked into the VE Session paid the fee and sat down ready to copy CW. Looking to the door I saw Bruce smile and make his way to the gear for sale. I took the 5 words per minute it was over before I knew and was soon told I passed the 5 words per minute test.

The VE came over to me and escorted me to

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another seat and gave me paper and pencil. I asked what is this? He said you're taking the 15 word exam now. Take them until you don't pass an element he said. Again the test started and was over before I knew it. 10 minutes later another thumbs up! I passed the 15 word CW test. Bruce was nowhere in sight and again I was pulled in to take the Novice written exam. "Take them until you don't pass an element", he said.

This exam was a little more nerve racking than the others. It took 20 minutes and I handed in my answer sheet. 25 minutes later Congratulations Zig you're a Novice! One more time I was seated with another exam. "Take them until you don't pass an element", he said. This guy is persistent. The Technician Exam looked Greek and it took longer than any other exam. Once again after waiting the thumb was up and now I was a Technician with 15 words under my belt.

"Take them until you don't pass an element", he said pointed to a chair and handed me the General exam. There was no way I was going to pass that I told him and he simply said, "Take it any way, it will be good practice". As it turns out I would have to wait another month for the General ticket which I passed at the Norwalk Club in the Firehouse basement.

Bruce met me at the door sensing it was time for me to emerge from the session and congratulated me whole heartedly. Bruce Balog is my Elmer, we kept in touch over the coming years sometimes with long lapses in time. Bruce passed away recently, an untimely death at that I will always remember him and try to pass on the feelings he had for the hobby. Bruce Balog is my Elmer.

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## **Contest Corral**

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**W1AW Qualifying Runs** are 10 PM EST Friday, March 3 (0300Z March 4) (10-40 QRL), and 7 PM Tuesday, March 21 (0000Z March 22). The K6YR West Coast Qualifying Run will be at 9 PM PST Wednesday, March 15 (0500Z March 16) (10-40 WPM).

Check the W1AW Schedule for details.

SO -- Single-Op, M2 -- Multiop -- 2 Transmitters, MO -- Multi-Op, MS -- Multi-Op, Single Transmitter, MM -- Multi-Op, Multiple Transmitters, AB -- All Band, SB -- Single Band, S/P/C -- State/Province/DXCC Entity, HP -- High Power (>100 W), LP -- Low Power, QRP (5 W or less), Entity -- DXCC Entity.

*No contest activity on 30, 17 and 12 meters. Refer to the contest Web sites for information about awards. Unless stated otherwise, regional contests only count QSOs with stations in the region. Publication deadline for Contest Corral listings is the first of the second month prior to publication. In order to publicize the maximum number of contests, readers will be referred to an earlier issue of QST if the rules have been published within the past year.*

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### **Mar 4**

**DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona"** -- RTTY/AMTOR/FACTOR/PSK31/Clover, sponsored by Deutscher Amateur Radio Club from 1100Z-1700Z Mar 4. (See Nov 2005 QST, p 103 or [www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdcc.htm](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/cqdlcont/fgdcc.htm).)

### **Mar 5**

**ARRL International DX Contest** -- Phone, 0000Z Mar 4-2400Z Mar 5 (see Dec 2005 QST, p 88.)

### **Mar 7**

**Spartan Sprint -- CW**, sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society from 0200Z-0400Z Mar 7 (Monday evening in the US--times will change during Daylight Saving Time; see Web site). Held first Monday of every month. Frequencies (MHz): 3.560, 7.040, 14.060, 21.060, 28.060 (QRP calling frequencies).

Categories: SO. Exchange: RST, S/P/C and power output. Score: "Skinny" division: total QSOs/total station weight, "Tubby" division: total QSOs. For more information: [www.ARSqrp.com](http://www.ARSqrp.com). Logs due Wednesday after the contest at noon via the ARS Web site.