



# Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

## Newsletter

### *"The Voice of GNARC"*

#### *April 2006*

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### President's Corner

#### By Toy Alladin KA1WYQ

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It is already the end of March, and also the second week of spring. If the current trend in the weather conditions is an indicator, then we are happily marching into better days ahead and this means one thing or the other. Either you get out on the lawn with your rake and do the necessary or you begin to do the inevitable antenna work that is long overdue. Whichever one you choose, is the one that will carry you well into good weather working conditions.

As of now we are committed to two public service events for the year:

The Down to the Sound bike club is having their annual 'Bloomin Metric' bike ride on **Sunday May 21st**. The starting point is from Shady Beach in Norwalk and it is an all day affair. as of now we are in need of operators to cover the event. All the sag Wagons will be carrying radio operators as we recommended and a few of us will be using our own vehicles on the road that day. As of now this a call for volunteers for this event. You need not commit yourself for the entire day. Half a day if you can.

Our second known public service event is the American Diabetes Association's annual walkathon on **Sun October 15th** at the Penfield pavilion in Fairfield. Somewhat far off but a good early reminder.

Between these two events we are also covering the annual Harvest Ride at a date to be announced in the month of September. This event is also under the auspices of the Down to the Sound Cycle Club.

The featured speaker for our next meeting will be Frank WS8B who will speak about the Wright Brother's flyer engine. Please check our web site

for further information about Frank, also announcements via the echostation soon.

**QUOTE: BY ALL MEANS LET US HAVE REFORM--BUT WHO WILL REFORM THE REFORMERS?**

**TOY/K1WYQ**

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### Next Meeting

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Wednesday April 12, 2006 2000 hrs at the Community Room, Shop-Rite, Norwalk, CT

Speaker—Frank WS8B, will talk about the Wright Flyers engine.

As always, pizza at John's Best, New Canaan Ave, Norwalk, CT at 1800 hrs.

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### Secretary's Minutes

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#### **GNARC Monthly Meeting, 8 Mar 06**

Attendance: 19 members, 1 guest.

Meeting began at 8 PM. Toy/K1WYQ introduced Harold Kramer/WJ1B, COO of the ARRL, as guest speaker. Harold gave an overview of the current activities of the League. He described four areas of current ARRL strategy and activity: (1) Advocacy, (2) Public Service, (3) Education and (4) Membership. Some of the highlights of his review included the expanding interest in Emergency Communications following 9/11 and Katrina and the large numbers of Hams who have completed the three Emergency Communications courses developed by the League. In the area of Advocacy, he noted the League's continued monitoring activity and its response to threats to the amateur bands.

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## **Business Meeting**

Treasurer's report indicated 88 paid members in 2006 and a total of \$6190.63 in the bank. An e-mail has been sent to old members who have not yet renewed.

Ed/K3EIN showed the membership a new RigBlaster product that is in development.

Toy indicated he will decline participation for the club in the April 30 Walkathon for March of Dimes since they have not indicated an interest in our communications services.

Ned/KA1CVV noted there would be a hamfest in Pomfret on 18 Mar.

Melissa/N1VSW announced she had upgraded to Extra, and was given a round of applause by everyone.

Allan/NN1H gave the members a review of the status of our 390 repeater. He indicated that it was operating from Norwalk Hospital with a new controller (which had been authorized earlier by the membership). Our letter responding to the FCC was mailed on 6 Mar. We have filed for coordination from CSMA who has placed our application on hold pending FCC response. We anticipate receiving coordination from CSMA once we have heard from the FCC. We now have 4 control operators for this repeater and anticipate having 4 to 5 people on our technical committee.

We will attempt to install a temporary antenna on our 70cm. repeater, which has been inoperative since loss of antenna and feedline.

The meeting was closed at approximately 10PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Kirmayer/KK2C,  
Secretary.

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## **Treasurer's Report**

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As of March 30, 2006 the GNARC Balance on hand is - \$5,840.73

2006 Membership stands at - 93

A Membership Roster should be available at the April meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Ed Ashway, K3EIN

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## **Skywarn**

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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) and [www.FairfieldCountySkywarn.com](http://www.FairfieldCountySkywarn.com).

A class is currently being scheduled for Northern Fairfield County. This will be the only Skywarn Training class in Fairfield County for 2006. 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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**Classified Ads**

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**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

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**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

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**For Sale**

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



Asking \$225.00

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

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**FOR SALE**

**HP Agilent HP5316B Universal Counter**

DC to 100Mhz - 2 Channels

\$ 75.00 - You can try it in my QTH before buying.

Contact Hugo aa1xv@arrl.net

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**Hamfests and Events**

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**April 8**

**Hamfest & Flea Market**

Interstate Repeater Society

Londonderry, NH

Londonderry Lion's Club

**Contact:** Gayle Willman, KB1LHA

Phone: 781-598-1442

Email: KB1LHA@verizon.net

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**Norwalk ARES Net Control Stations for 2006**

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Date	Call Sign	Name
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

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**April 23**

**Southington ARA**

Southington, CT

Southington High School

720 Pleasant Street

<http://www.chetbacon.com/sara.htm>

**Talk-In:** 145.49 (PL 77); 147.345 (PL 77)

**Contact:** Chet Bacon, KA1ILH

138 1/2 Summit Street

Plantsville, CT 06479-1125

Phone: 860-628-9346

Email: [ka1ilh@chetbacon.com](mailto:ka1ilh@chetbacon.com)

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*Please send announcements to [n1olo@yahoo.com](mailto: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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## **CSMA Runs Amok**

The Connecticut Spectrum Management Agency has announced the formation of a new investigative sub-group, Connecticut Repeater Users Division (CRUD). The purpose of CRUD is make sure that repeater users are using repeater systems that are properly coordinated. To this end CRUD will have an enforcement arm, General Enforcement of Repeater Members. (GERMS).

CRUD and GERMS will make sure that any repeater users that are supporting non-compliant repeaters in this state are properly chastised. Reports have come of harassment of operators using a machine that will go un-named in Southwestern Connecticut. CRUD and GERMS' enforcement agents have been reported to remind operators to ID, link repeaters to obnoxious EchoLink stations and make rude noises on the air.

To combat this harassment operators have banded together in Fairfield County to form a new club, “We are Against Stupid Harassment” (WASH) and in New Haven County a club called “Stop Obnoxious Arrogant Proctors” (SOAP). Their goal is to end this mindless and annoying snooping by CRUD and harassment by GERMS. The ARRL and FCC have weighed in to the fight. An unnamed source at the ARRL states, “CSMA and the goons from GERMS and CRUD have gone too far in their quest for a

perfect repeater state”. The FCC hopes that the action of WASH and SOAP will help rid hams in Connecticut of the problem of CRUD and GERMS.

Happy April 1, N1OLO

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## **How I Got Started** Steve Verbil NA1SV

Here is a short take on “how I became an amateur radio operator.”

I have always been interested in electronics. Perhaps it was genetic. My grandfather made his living in the 1950's and 60's repairing televisions. In those days, there were lots of broken televisions, and lots of repairs to do. Tubes dying, high voltage supplies blowing, it was great work, for a while. But I imagine that my grandfather would have starved if he tried to make a living repairing the televisions we have today!

My older brother, David, was the first to pick up the electronics bug from my grandfather. Back during the early days of the CB craze he had absolutely no interest in the “10-4 there, good buddy” routine, but did have a lot of fun building home-brewed pirate AM transmitters... single-tube 200 watt DC wonders. Ignorant of (or not caring about) the rules, we made believe we were big time disk jockeys, using several well-worn Beatles and Rolling Stones records. The last transmitter worked great until I decided to “adjust” it – I had no idea the plate in the final tube could get that red!

Another piece to our “radio DNA” the puzzle was my Dad, who had been a radioman in the Navy during WWII. He served on a hospital ship (the USS Comfort), which, in spite of the rather large Red Crosses painted on the very white ship, was the target of a kamikaze attack in the late months of 1944. My dad was on duty in the radio room at the time, and some of the equipment fell onto him and left a “dent” on his forehead. Years later, he would have to put up with his kids telling him that that was the closest he had ever come to having quality radio equipment.

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All of his Navy work was CW, of course. My dad could copy 50-60 words in his head, but he could not write it down. The only thing that worked for him was using a typewriter, or a “mill” as he and all the other radio guys called it. Though he was an excellent CW op, he never became a ham and neither my brother nor I could interest him in the hobby.

My brother David finally became “legit”, and was licensed as KA7BTB – a Tech – in the 70’s. He wasn’t able to convince me, though. I was happy playing around with CB radios, and getting real excited when I could actually communicate with someone in California --- that was a real long way from Scottsdale, AZ, where we lived.

I had several friends who were hams. They were constantly trying to convince me to learn the code and take the test. By now, I had a girl, I owned a home, and it was time to stop playing with CB. For a while, I would listen to HF at night at work – I was a firefighter at the time. I had found a Hallicrafters SX-101A receiver at a hamfest and set up a random wire on the roof of the Fire Station. I would listen in the evenings after dinner before the rest of the crew would “crash.” What finally convinced me to get my license, was my friends asking me to help them replace an antenna on a repeater site. Their radio club was a member of a repeater group that had many “linked” UHF repeaters spread throughout the states of Arizona, New Mexico and California. Many of these were located on mountaintops and provided excellent coverage over hundreds of miles of my state. They used wide band channels on 420-430 MHz to link the system together, and not only was the coverage good, the audio quality was excellent. The month was March, a nice warm month when you’re in Phoenix. But the repeater site we were going to work at was located on Green’s Peak, which is part of a rugged mountain range south-east of Show Low, Arizona. The altitude is about 8,000 feet, and we were replacing a Super Stationmaster – a heavy, 19-foot-long fiberglass UHF antenna. I have never been as cold in my life as the time I spent clipped and harnessed onto that tower, trying to bolt that antenna into place. I didn’t have it as bad as the guy taping the coax

jumper, though... he couldn’t use his gloves! I figured that if I was going to do all this work, I might as well be able to use the machines. With the help of my local Amateur Radio club – Scottsdale ARC - I took my Novice exam 1981, and was licensed as KA7RQC. As soon as my novice license arrived, I wanted my General ticket. In those days, testing was still available directly from the FCC. I had a trip coming up to New York City to see my family, and I thought I would be able to combine the family visit with an FCC visit. About one month of serious study and one big event took care of the 13 wpm code requirement. The “big event” was field day in 1982. Scottsdale ARC and a number of other hams participated in field day with a 4A setup up in the mountains, using the call K7TR. I was lucky enough to work second banana (logger) on 40 and 80 meter CW on the late night shift . There is nothing – and I mean nothing – like working a Field Day CW position to bring your code speed up! I used the ARRL book for the General theory test, but I didn’t really anticipate any problem with theory – it was the “high speed” CW that had me spooked, Field Day or not.

While visiting with my Aunt in Queens, I took the subway to Manhattan. The FCC offices were located in a dark and (to me) foreboding building at 210 Varick Street. The place was dark and musty, and reminded me of the wizard’s chamber in the “The Wizard of Oz.” I’m not sure if Hams had designated test days or not, but the day I showed up must have been the right one! I filled out the forms, waited to be called, and had absolutely no problem with the test. By that point in time, the CW test had been “liberalized” into a multiple-choice test, so perfect copy was not required, nor was a sending test used at all. The written test contained no surprises. I had prepared too well, I guess, since it seemed rather anti-climactic.

Three weeks later, back in sunny Arizona, my new ticket finally arrived. I was a full-fledged, general-class ham! - AA1SV

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## WA7BNM 12-Month Contest Calendar

For full details go to <http://www.contesting.com/>

Kids Roundup	1400Z, Apr 1 to 2200Z, Apr 2
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 1 to 1500Z, Apr 2
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 1 to 1600Z, Apr 2
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 1 to 1800Z, Apr 2
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 1 to 0500Z, Apr 2 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 2
Low Power Sprint	0000Z-0359Z, Apr 2
RSGB RoPoCo 1	0700Z-0900Z, Apr 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 3
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 4
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, CW	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 6 144 MHz
Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 4
SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 6
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 8 to 1300Z, Apr 9
ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 8 to 2400Z, Apr 9
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 8
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 8 to 0359Z, Apr 9 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 9
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 8 to 2100Z, Apr 9
Montana QSO Party	2300Z, Apr 8 to 2300Z, Apr 9
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 9
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Apr 9
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, SSB	1400Z, Apr 11 to 0200Z, Apr 13 NAQCC 80m
Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 12 and 0330Z-0530Z, Apr 12
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 12
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 12
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 15
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 15
ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party	0001Z, Apr 15 to 2359Z, Apr 23
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0559Z, Apr 15 and 0600Z-0659Z, Apr 15 and 0700Z-0759Z, Apr 15 and 0800Z-0859Z, Apr 15
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 15
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 15 to 0400Z, Apr 16
EA-QRP CW Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 15 (20-10m) and 2000Z-2300Z, Apr 15 (80m) and 0700Z-1000Z, Apr 16 (40m) and 1000Z-1300Z, Apr 16 (20-10m)
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 15 to 1800Z, Apr 16
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 15 to 0500Z, Apr 16 and 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 17
Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 17
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 20
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 20
DX Colombia International Contest	0000Z, Apr 22 to 2359Z, Apr 23
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 22 to 1200Z, Apr 23
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 22 to 0159Z, Apr 23 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 23
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 22 to 1700Z, Apr 23
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Spring Rally	0000Z, Apr 29 to 2359Z, May 7
SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest	0600 local, Apr 29 to 2400 local, Apr 30
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 29 to 1259Z, Apr 30