



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

May 2006

President's Corner **By Toy Alladin K1WYQ**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Our feature presentation at our forthcoming meeting on 5/10/06 will be a talk on antique radios by our own Tim Walker/W1GIG. An antique himself, Tim has been a long time member of the Antique Wireless Association (AWC) and has great interest in antique radios. Please come out and listen to what he has to say, he will also have a couple of antique radios to show.

Do not forget our first public service commitment for the year is on Sunday May 21st when we will be providing communication coverage for the Sound Cyclists Club with their annual "Bloomin Metric" bike ride from Shady beach in Norwalk. I am still in need of operators for the event and will be asking around at the meeting for some volunteers.

READY,SET,GO!.... We are beginning our count down to FIELD DAY (last weekend in June) and our Field Day joint chairpersons will again be Jay/NE2Q, and Hugo/AA1XV. See <http://www.gnarc.org> for a real-time countdown. These guys did a great job last year and they have already to promised to do better than last year. Of course they need our support, so let us come out in numbers and join them in the fun.

So long for now. See you at pizza and the meeting. Toy K1WYQ

FACT: ANTARTICA IS THE DRIEST, COLDEST, WINDIEST AND HIGHEST CONTINENT ON EARTH.

Toy/K1WYQ

Next Meeting

Wednesday May 10, 2006 2000 hrs at the Community Room, Shop-Rite, Norwalk, CT

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

Secretary's Minutes

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GNARC Monthly Meeting, 12 April 2006

Attendance: 29 Members, 5 Guests

Guests were: Frank Beafore WS8B (Our Speaker), John Colavito W1JON, Melissa Gluck N1VSZ, Mark D'Andrea & Del Schier K1UHF

Melissa & Mark later paid their dues and are now members. Welcome!

The meeting began at 8:00pm. Toy K1WYQ ask Ned KA1CVV to introduce the speaker Frank Beafore WS8B.

Frank spoke about his 13 years in Dayton where he acquired a keen interest in the Wright Brothers and their original Wright Flyer. He went on with a brief history of the Wrights, the story of their first flight, a little about the engine and then a description of how he built his 1/2 scale model of that engine. At 8:45 he took questions and finished by 9:00pm.

The business meeting started at 9:20pm

Toy introduced all the guests.

Allan NN1H gave an update on the "State of the Repeaters" by reading the Riley Hollingsworth's (FCC) reply to our response to the interference claim from WA2ZPX/R. This letter is posted to the ARRL web site and can be seen at

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http://www.arrl.org/news/enforcement_logs/2006/0417.html Basically his letter states that in view of the information GNARC supplied, no FCC action is necessary. Allan went on to say that with this reply, we would now press on toward the goal of once again having CSMA coordination.

The treasurer's report was next with an April 1st account balance of \$5,840.73 and 93 paid up members.

Allan NN1H presented a brief update on ARES activities. Toy then discussed the up-and-coming Public Service events to which we are committed.

Tim Walker announced the October ARES exercise in support of the town.

Toy ask Steve KF6AJ to read a letter from Paul Hurst G3PCT who requested honorary membership in GNARC based on his having family members already members of GNARC. Paul's honorary membership was passed by a unanimous vote of all members present.

An announcement was made of a VE session to be held on the 4th floor of the Stamford Government Center on May 13, 2006 at 9:30am.

Allan NN1H presented Melissa Gluck N1VSZ with the 2006 Fox Hunt Award for being the first to find the fox.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56

Submitted by Ed Ashway K3EIN (in Tom's absence)

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurers report: \$5,880.73
As of 5/1/06 there are 96 members.

Ed K3EIN

Skywarn

Its that time of year again! Time for Skywarn Training! 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. The class has been totally revamped for this year with plenty of new material. Mark your calendar for Thursday evening June 8th for a Basic Spotter class at the Ridgefield Fire Dept. This will be the only class in Fairfield County this year. Pre-registration is required. To register send an email to Brian. Ciemnecki@noaa.gov or call 631-924-0037 x412. Classes will be posted at www.CTSkywarn.com and www.FairfieldCountySkywarn.com .

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

ARES News

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

Hamfests and Events

Hosstraders

SPRING MAY 5,6 2006

Hopkinton State Fair Ground

off I-89, Exit 7, in Hopkinton NH.

Things get started at 8am on Friday and the fun runs all night long. Guys swap, trade and sell until they run out of steam or stuff. The fun ends on Saturday at 2pm.

Its worth the ride to go there and the weather for Friday looks great!

For more info <http://www.qsl.net/k1rqg/>

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Dayton

May 19, 20, & 21, 2006

Hara Arena

1001 Shiloh Springs Road

Trotwood, Ohio

If you have never gone, why not this year? This is the mother of them all! 500 Indoor vendors and 2500 Flea Market spaces. If you can't find it at Dayton you don't need it.

It is a long drive (roughly 12 hours) but there are still non-stop flights available from JFK on board US Airways. Tickets begin at \$253. From last reports there are still plenty of rooms available.

West Mountain Radio to be Principal Awards Sponsor for ARRL RTTY Roundup

(From the ARRL Newsletter)

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 28, 2006--West Mountain Radio, which manufactures the popular RIGblaster digital modes radio-to-sound card interfaces, has generously agreed to be Principal Awards Sponsor for the 2006 and 2007 runnings of the ARRL RTTY Round-Up. During the annual event,



which takes place the first full weekend in January, radio amateurs around the globe contact and exchange QSO information using Baudot RTTY, PSK31, ASCII, AMTOR and attended packet operation. ARRL COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, said West Mountain Radio's participation will provide the events' top scorers with plaques that might not otherwise be available.

"We are pleased that West Mountain Radio has agreed to be the Principal Awards Sponsor for the ARRL RTTY Round-Up," Kramer said.

"Participation in the ARRL RTTY Round-Up has been increasing every year, and we are grateful to West Mountain Radio for its support. It is particularly appropriate for West Mountain Radio to associate itself with this operating event because of its continuing commitment and technical contribution to digital communication and support of this interest group." West Mountain Radio will be Principal Awards Sponsor for all unsponsored plaques for the events.

West Mountain Radio's Dan Gravereaux, N1ZZ, said he hopes the cooperative arrangement will help to spur more interest in digital mode contesting and operating. "We are delighted to be the Principal Awards Sponsor," he commented. "We at West Mountain Radio have worked very hard to make RTTY and other digital modes more accessible to the Amateur Radio community."

Gravereaux says he believes the League, the various digital-mode software developers and his company have worked very hard to promote more exciting modes and "to keep ham radio really fun," and he sees West Mountain Radio's participation as Principal Awards Sponsor an extension of that activity.

RTTY Round-Up plaques will go to the top-scoring low and high-power entrants in each overall contest category within each ARRL Division and Canada. Entry categories include single-operator low power and high power and multioperator single-transmitter, low power and high power. Plaques that West Mountain Radio is underwriting will bear the company's logo, as will all contest

certificates sent to contest category winners. Other plaques already are underwritten by clubs, individuals or other organizations.

Based in Norwalk, Connecticut, West Mountain Radio produces several RIGblaster models for operating digital modes with a computer. It also makes the RIGrunner for distributing 12 V dc power, PWRgates for emergency backup, RIGtalk for rig control, and CBAs for battery testing. Gravereaux says the West Mountain Radio team plans to be on the air for the ARRL RTTY Round-Up next January using the company's K1WMR club station call sign.

Classified Ads

Please submit you classified ads for the June edition of the newsletters to n1olo@yahoo.com

Field Day is Coming and This Year Its:

B.Y.O.R. !

Spring is in full bloom and that is a reminder for the upcoming ARRL 2006 Field Day.

Last year's operation was very encouraging. A healthy score, not quite first place in New England 3A category but enough if anything to be a strong motivation for the future. Did we learn a thing or two? You bet!

One of the most important aspects of any operation of this kind is the familiarity with the hardware to be used. There is nothing like your own radio when it comes to a quick setup and full use of the resources. That is why NE2Q and myself agreed on encouraging a “B.Y.O.R.”, (bring your own radio), 2006 ARRL Field Day theme. No more scrambling for a user's manual when the radio is locked on MEM mode and you have no clue why you spin the VFO and the display stays frozen laughing at you. (It happened). No more “How do you pretend me to use the ATU when the SWR meter is disconnected”, and you don't know that the radio has its own. (It happened). Or a keyer that refuses to be

programmed since we are not familiar with it. It also happened.

Personally, I used my own rigs the last three Field Days and felt like at home. Others did the same and the scores showed the advantage.

Your own rig set up by you in a temporary situation is what Field Day is supposed to be. It is the most efficient use of your operating time. There is some standardization needed to be done. For instance: All the tables have RIGrunners and if your DC cable doesn't have PowerPoles, we will provide them for you. Other interface requirements can be accommodated easily by knowing, if possible beforehand, the rig or rigs you are bringing. Don't be shy; bring your key/keyer, headset, mike, tuner, comfort food or anything you think will make your operation more enjoyable and efficient.

This Field Day will be next to, (or at, according to some), the bottom of Solar Cycle 23. Openings on the higher bands will be brief. Summer QRN is generally a challenge for the lower bands, but father Sun is for the most part quiet during sunspot lows. Eighty and even 160 may give some interesting play.

Among other “innovations”, this year we'll try an end-fed wire suspended from a weather balloon filled with Helium. Multi-band in nature, (you can make the wire longer or shorter as needed), it is a resource we should embrace. Tests are planned for the next weeks for idiosyncrasies.

The De-Con truck that visited us last year, will be coming this year too. If you remember, it has a very useful built-in telescopic tower “begging” to “wear” our V/UHF antennas at a decent height and easy to accommodate operating position either inside the truck or next to it.

Next month, preparations will be in full force and cooperation from every one of us is fundamental. Tune-up, dust-off, wash-dry whatever piece of equipment you want to use so it is sharp and ready ahead of time and don't forget to sharpen the best of them all: You!

VY 73 DE Hugo AA1XV

WA7BNM 12-Month Contest Calendar

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

Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, May 5
MARAC County Hunter Contest, CW 0000Z, May 6 to 2400Z, May 7
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW 0001Z, May 6 to 2359Z, May 7
Microwave Spring Sprint 0600-1300 local, May 6
7th Call Area QSO Party 1300Z, May 6 to 0700Z, May 7
US IPARC Annual Contest, CW 1400Z-2000Z, May 6
Indiana QSO Party 1600Z, May 6 to 0400Z, May 7
ARI International DX Contest 2000Z, May 6 to 1959Z, May 7
New England QSO Party 2000Z, May 6 to 0500Z, May 7 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 7
US IPARC Annual Contest, SSB 1400Z-2000Z, May 7
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data 1900Z-2030Z, May 10
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, May 12
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone 0800Z-1400Z, May 13
FeldHell Spring Sprint 2006 1000 local to 1400 local, May 13
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party 1200Z, May 13 to 2400Z, May 14
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest 1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14
CQ-M International DX Contest 1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14
FISTS Spring Sprint 1700Z-2100Z, May 13
EACW International Contest
 1800Z-2100Z, May 13 (40m)
 and 2100Z-2400Z, May 13 (80m)
 and 0500Z-0800Z, May 14 (80m)
 and 0800Z-1100Z, May 14 (40m)

50 MHz Spring Sprint 2300Z, May 13 to 0300Z, May 14
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest 0100Z-0300Z, May 15
NAQCC 80m Straight Key/Bug Sprint
 0030Z-0230Z, May 18
 and 0330Z-0530Z, May 18

RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW 1900Z-2030Z, May 18
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder 0230Z-0300Z, May 19
US Counties QSO Party, SSB 0000Z, May 20 to 2400Z, May 21
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW 1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21
EU PSK DX Contest 1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, PSK31 1500Z-2100Z, May 20
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, CW/SSB 1500Z, May 20 to 1500Z, May 21
Manchester Mineira All America Contest 1500Z, May 20 to 2359Z, May 21
Baltic Contest 2100Z, May 20 to 0200Z, May 21
QRP Minimal Art Session 1900Z-2300Z, May 25
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 27 to 2359Z, May 28
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, CW 0800Z-1400Z, May 27
ARCI Hootowl Sprint 2000 local - 2400 local, May 28
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint 2300Z, May 28 to 0300Z, May 29