



# The Voice of GNARC

July 2006

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## Editor's Note:

Well, here is another format change. Until this month I have used MS Publisher. My computer suffered a hard drive failure and I lost not only the software but the templates I have been using. Sorry for the delay and hopefully this will all be sorted out for August.  
John N1OLO

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Congratulations to all. Yet again we had a very successful Field Day. We bettered last year's score by over 500 points and we are poised to maintain a decent position in all of New England for a 3A station.

We had heavy rain for set up and take down, but that never threw a damper on anyone's spirits as we were determined to make a go of it and that we did.

Of course Field Day would not be what it is if we did not have problems and glitches, but as a bunch of innovative ham operators, we had quick fixes for every problem that we encountered. And now, a word of praise for some stalwarts among many others who helped to make the weekend such a successful one; these guys really and truly worked their butts off just for the heck of it.

First, we have the venerable Tim/W1GIG, who gave the old tower a face lift and was there in all the rain to get it up and running, take it down, take command of the equipment and help to put everything in storage.

Then there is Duncan 'Dee'/N1ZD who is always there to help setup and pull down.

Of course we had the 'CW CAFE' operated by the one and only Mark/KB1JGL. Mark went all out with his culinary expertise to keep hungry bellies well filled for the full 24 hours. He even foiled a burglary in the wee hours of the second morning. EXQUISITE QUISINE MARK!

We had Dan/N1ZZ who operated unassisted all night on CW and tallied a score of 442 contacts. This included working all states including Hawaii and all but 2 Canadian Provinces. WAY TO GO DAN YOU GET THE CAKE!

*Ps: He did not even take a bathroom break to pee.*

Not forgetting Hugo/AA1XV who coordinated the effort. WELL DONE HUGO!

**FACT: CONNECTICUT WAS THE FIRSR STATE TO PASS A LEMON LAW IN 1982.**

73  
Toy/K1WYQ

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## Skywarn

It's July and that means we are well into severe weather season. So far things have been fairly quiet along the coastline but not too far to our north and west plenty of storms have rolled through. Trained Skywarn spotters should keep abreast of the potential for severe weather and if storms pop up, bring up a



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net on the repeater. When you see storms that meet reporting criteria as outlined in your Skywarn manual, pass that information along to net control or please make use of the 1-800 number in your manual (Trained spotters only). Additionally for non-life threatening reports you can make use of the Spotter report form at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/report.html>

73 Phil  
WX1CT  
Fairfield County Skywarn Coordinator

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## Minutes of June Meeting

GNARC Monthly Meeting, 14 Jun '06

Attendance: 19 members, 1 guest (AE5X).

The following announcements were made:

- 1) There will be no formal ARES meeting in July.
- 2) The 440 repeater needs a new amplifier and antenna. A motion was made that we ask Del if he would consider again being repeater trustee. Failing this, we will ID the repeater with W1NLK and Allan/NN1H will assume the trustee position.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to Field Day planning. It was noted that non Norwalk residents should identify themselves at the gate as Field Day participants to avoid being required to pay the \$5 entrance fee the town has made mandatory this year.

147.595 was established as the simplex frequency for use during the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Tom Kirmayer/KK2C, Secretary.

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## Treasurer's Report

The GNARC Checking Account Balance as of 7-1-06 is \$5,239.61.

Respectfully submitted Ed Ashway  
K3EIN Treasurer

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## Field Day Hugo Catta AA1XV

Field Day is not the same to everyone, but the main objective, above all, is to keep the hobby alive and healthy. The spice that brings up the flavor is competition. Many call Field Day "The contest for "non-contesters", and that is fine with me.

This was the first time we tried the Bring Your Own Radio operation and I believe that it was a success. See the preliminary results posted on [www.gnarc.org](http://www.gnarc.org) The night prior to Field day, was a difficult one for me. I slept very little thinking on the weather forecasts all over the tri-state area and what could be done in order for the day to go smoothly. I was expecting really heavy downpours and thunderstorms galore which could have slowed down and even crippled the setup and operation itself. Imagine a situation



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where you can't raise an antenna or even a tent on an open field without risking being stricken by lightning! Fortunately, they were wrong and the weather held up. Mother Nature knew that we had our Field Day commitment and did not fail us. It rained, yes but only real hard at the end and we heard only a few thunder-boomers and none above us.

The pop-up tents were rainproof to a point and we discovered the hard way that one of the models had a flawed design: The canvas rests on external pipes of a frame that allowed the water to get through during moderate to heavy rain.

I do not want to be unfair by only naming a few, but through the years we owe our success to consistency and reliability. Just let W1GIG and N1ZD who deploy the tower and power grid, K1RFD with his steely eye slingshot ability as well as making available the mobile packet node or the reassurance that we will not miss to copy the ARRL bulletin even if it means cut and run from a party to make it home before 11PM. (thanks, Jonathan... you made possible for me to enjoy "my" Friday night party, HI).

K3EIN always takes care of the logging and the number crunching, not to mention some creative improvisations in the field to give us unplanned extra points.

And I haven't even mentioned the top class operators with whom we can always count. I commend K3EIN for last year's detailed breakdown by

band/mode/operator and hope he will provide us with it this year as well. Again, I am just mentioning a few of *MANY* who make the largest activity of G.N.A.R.C. able to flirt with the top dozen in the country for 3A class.

This year, as three years ago, we had the superb cuisine of Mark, KB1JGL. If you have never set up against the clock or spent all night, or a long shift on Field Day tied to a chair operating, you don't know what a blessing that is. Proper sugar level, body temperature, and energy recharge comes from ingestion and Mark was there over thirty hours to make sure we were running on all cylinders.

One of the pleasant surprises, at least to me, (I am an absolute neophyte on 6M), was to see Six Meters so alive. I heard many times that when it is open you can communicate even with poor antennas. The homemade dipole put to rest last year five minutes into Field Day, revived this year atop of the Norwalk's Fire Dept. Mass De-Con truck tower. N1ICL and a visitor from Oregon, John N7JCF, put together the VHF antennas in record time with Fire Dept. Personnel breathing on the back of their necks. It yielded 196 QSOs.

Once the fray started, came a slow time for those not operating at the moment and along with KC1FB we makeshift a Forty meter 1/4L vertical supported by a fiberglass telescopic mast, (Attn: N1OLO: Place your AD here), with three radials fed a few feet above ground, with an IC-718 for G.O.T.A. It was as effective as it



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was ugly but put a fifth station in the fight and a fine signal without interference to/from the other four running. Little that I knew, the power supply belonged to N1ZZ who in a few hours would be taking over 40M from K1RFD and use it. We learned from that. As much fun as I had playing first banana, the moment you take your eyes off the ball, something happens: We ended one power supply short and by the time we could have solved the problem, there were no G.O.T.A. operators left to justify an heroic dash to somebody's QTH to bring one to the field. There was a 12v back up battery that could have easily powered the rig for the duration, but the rules say that you can have ONLY ONE source of electricity when in class 3A.

We are getting better indeed. All stations' scores improved compared to previous years, except unfortunately the G.O.T.A. Some operating times for the HF stations were filled on the spot without previous arrangement. Hopefully we will be able to do a proper "de-briefing". I am not going to make July meeting, but it will be very constructive to read impressions and opinions from this year's participants posted to the reflector or otherwise. There is no doubt in my mind that next year will be a better success yet. Now to wait and see the fruit of our effort published on QST this December.

Thanks to all who participate and had confidence in success.

73,  
Hugo  
AA1XV

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## Letter to the Editor

### Reflections on Field Day

With the best score in the history of GNARC I think we should reflect on why.

We used to have a very "loose" FD. By "loose", I mean there was no operator schedule. Whoever was around at the time would have a chance to operate. Unfortunately, there were many times in the early morning from 12am to 7am where nobody was around to operate. Some stations sat quiet.

In 2005 there was a distinct shift into scheduling of operator times. It seems that shift and a push for more CW operations with each CW contact counting for 2 points rather than the 1 point for a voice contact, has made the most significant improvement in scores.

Using the laptop as a memory keyer was terrific. I found the only time I had to touch the hand paddle was to send the call sign of the station that just called N1EV.

Hugo did a bang-up job this year and I think he should be installed as GNARC's permanent FD captain!!!

Jay NE2Q