



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

March 2007

President's Blog

By Toy Alladin K1WYQ

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG:

As you have noticed, I am making an attempt to modernize my usage of words by substituting the ever popular computer term 'BLOG'.

Today is the last day of February and I am at a loss in trying to determine an appropriate topic to write about. To say that I am a person of a few words at this moment is really right on target. I guess the winter blahs is right on top of everything in my thoughts these days. Well! So much for blogs and winter blahs.

Uppermost in my mind these days is trying to find an appropriate sight to have our field day this year. So far, what we have seen, is accessible but not very practical, and the search goes on. At this time, if anyone has a suggestion of a practical sight please bring it to our attention asap. We are looking forward to having another successful field day run again this year, and we should really try to have it in an area that is easily reached by all. Another area of concern is having programs of interest at our meetings. If you can suggest names of possible presenters or even get someone to come and talk on subjects of interest, please come forward, we need your input. If you can do a presentation please come forward with the idea.

We are also on the hunt for a skywarn coordinator for Fairfield County. Phil Berkowitz/WX1CT had this post for several years and has since given it up. Phil did an excellent job in this area and we are sorry to lose him. At this time we are trying to fill this vacant slot from our ranks again. If interested please contact me.

For those of you who were disappointed about missing the Feb program. We have it re-

scheduled for this month.
See you at the meeting on March 14th.

FACT: MONGOLIANS INVENTED LEMONADE AROUND 1299 A.D
Toy/K1WYQ

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on March 14, 2007 at the Shop Rite on Connecticut Avenue. Beginning at 8:00 pm.

Our guest speaker will be our own Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, who will present "Sound Cards and Digital Modes: Under the Hood".

Join us for pizza at John's Best on New Canaan Avenue at 6:00 pm.

Secretary's Minutes

There was no February Meeting.

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What’s Special about March

For those of you who wish to prevent conflicts with our meeting, here is what is being observed this month.

Women's History Month
National Nutrition Month
National Peanut Month
Music in Our Schools Month
Youth Art Month
National Caffeine Awareness Month
National Flour Month
National Sauce Month
National Noodle Month
National Noodle Month
American Red Cross Month
National Frozen Food Month
Foot Health Month
Mental Retardation Month
National Feminine Improvement Month

Hamfests

Hoss Traders

As you may or may not be aware, “Hosstraders” celebrated its last gathering in October 2006. Over the years it became “THE” hamfest to attend in New England. It will be missed by all. The following is a letter posted to the web by Joe K1RQG, Bob W1GWU, and Norm W1ITT, the guys behind “Hosstraders”

The October 2006 event was the last Hosstraders. After careful consideration, we have decided to discontinue hosting the event. A combination of factors have led to this difficult decision. We've been running Hosstraders for a third of a century, but we've always done it "our way" and we feel that the result has been an event unique in the Amateur Radio world, certainly in New England. A number of things have been taken into account, but foremost in our mind is that we want Hosstraders to be a quality experience in

every way, and not to slowly run it into the ground just for the ride. We want to take things out on a high note, while we can still be proud of our efforts.

Briefly, the factors that led us to this point are problems with site logistics, the changing face of flea marketing due to internet commerce, changes in directions of Amateur Radio, and just the fact that we have done it for a third of a century and we are getting old and tuckered out. It is not our intent to elaborate further on these matters. Nor do we intend to anoint or endorse any successors, or go into the business of Hamfest Consulting, so please don't ask. We are unaware of any person or group in the region with the experience to “take over”. Therefore, be very cautious of anyone who comes forward claiming to be the "new Hosstraders". Running an event of Hosstraders' size and impact is more challenging than it appears! What's the next step? Well, for us, we plan to relax and play radio. For the rest of the Amateur community in the Northeast, we'd suggest that you get off the internet and on the air. Support your local clubs, and their events. Put up an antenna for some ham who needs a bit of assistance, and help to maintain the fraternal aspects of our hobby.

We wish to thank you for your great support these many years. We often hear from hams who have been attending Hosstraders since those early days in Seabrook. Since that first event, where 61 of us met on a flat grassy field, we've had lots of fun, and made lots of memories. We've also donated over 1.3 million dollars to the Shriners' Hospitals for the care and support of severely burned and crippled kids. We are proud of that, and those who participated can share in that pride. The need still exists at the Hospitals, so if you wish to make someone happy, perhaps each year on the anniversary of Hosstraders, you could send a check along to Boston, Springfield or Montreal. They will not waste it!

We hope you'll remember the times we all had together at Seabrook, Deerfield, Kingston (!), Rochester and Hopkinton. You can be sure that we will never forget.

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Eastern Connecticut ARA
<http://www.qsl.net/k1muj/>
Talk-In: 147.225 (PL 156.7) & 146.520 simplex

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, CT
Pomfret Community School
20 Pomfret Road
Div: New England
Sect: Connecticut

31 Mar-1 Apr 2007

Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest
Baltimore Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.gbhc.org>
Talk-In: 146.67-
Contact: Doug Wittich, N3VEJ
PO Box 95
Timonium, MD 21094
Phone: 410-426-3378
Email: info2007@gbhc.org

Location:

Timonium, MD
Maryland State Fairgrounds
2200 York Road
Div: Atlantic
Sect: Maryland-DC

**ARRL PRESIDENT EMERITUS JIM HAYNIE,
W5JBP, NAMED "AMATEUR OF THE
YEAR"**

From the ARRL letter Vol. 26 No. 10

Dayton Hamvention® <<http://www.hamvention.org>> has named ARRL President Emeritus Jim Haynie, W5JBP, as its 2007 Amateur of the Year. Hamvention says Haynie's League leadership "helped define Amateur Radio's role in emergency communication."

"I was astonished, and I'm deeply honored," Haynie said after getting word that he'd be receiving Hamvention's top award in May. "It's quite a recognition -- and quite a surprise."

A ham for 34 years, Haynie, who lives in Dallas, was West Gulf Division Director for eight years and an ARRL vice president for two years. He then served three terms as the League's volunteer president, from 2000 until 2006, when he was succeeded by current ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

Haynie's award nomination cited his "energy, tenacity and attention to detail that has transformed the American Radio Relay League from the service organization it was prior to 9/11 into the proactive, vital emergency service clearing house and educational operation that it is today."

During his tenure as League president, Haynie's effort to define Amateur Radio's role in homeland security was among his top initiatives. In 2003, he signed a formal Statement of Affiliation between the Department of Homeland Security and ARRL. He has an abiding interest in emergency communication and has promoted Amateur Radio's emergency communication value and contributions on Capitol Hill and elsewhere.

Haynie also championed "The Big Project" -- now the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP) -- to bring ham radio and wireless technology into schools.

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Computer Tips from Paul N11I

March 2007

Have you Frozen Out Your Files? - How permanent are CDs? – the type that you burn yourself – has been a question for some time. Now there are some reports that leaving this type of CD in your car overnight, with temperatures falling well below freezing, has caused changes in the recorded information and loss of music and data. When you burn a CD-R you actually make changes in a dye layer and apparently very cold temperatures can destroy the 1's and 0's 'burnt' into the dye.

Amaze Your Friends - Look at your keyboard, just below the Esc key and just above the Tab key. The top mark in this key, to the left of the 1 key is a tilde. Did you know that the other symbol on this key is called a back tick? The back tick pressed with the control key in Excel changes the spread sheet from displaying data to displaying formulas and back again.

Screen Saver or Screen Killer? - It's a strange reversal, but if you have an LCD monitor (sometimes called a flat screen display) or a laptop computer your screen saver may actually be reducing the life of your monitor. In the early PC days, screen savers did just that– if you left your PC on, the constant text would – that's right, would, not could – burn into the front of the screen leaving a ghostly image on the screen forever. Thus the invention of the screen saver, which put a periodically changing picture on the screen, avoiding burn-in.

Today's laptops and LCD monitors work on a different principle. Burn-in is usually not a problem. Behind the screen is a florescent bulb or some type of illumination, and the display's life is set by the lifetime of the bulb. The longer the display is on, the shorter the lifespan.

Not to worry – by right-clicking on a blank area of the desktop, selecting Properties and then Screen Saver, a button on the bottom – Power – lets you set how long the monitor will stay on before it shuts off. If you are not using the PC, a clock watches this setting and shuts off the monitor. Touch the mouse or keyboard, and the clock is set back to zero and the screen either stays on if it was on or goes on if it was off.

Now comes the screen saver problem. Apparently, under certain conditions, the computer 'sees' the screen change due to the screensaver and thinks you are at the keyboard. It then resets the clock, and the LCD or laptop screen stays on forever.

The cure – disable the screen saver. Right-click on a blank area of the desktop, selecting Properties. Then under Screen Saver select (None). You won't see your favorite

collection of pictures any more, but you might extend the life of your laptop screen or LCD monitor by a good amount.

Explore Quickly - Many people prefer to use Window Explorer to find and select files, rather than use My Computer or My Documents. To quickly open Windows Explorer press the Windows key and the E key simultaneously. The Windows key is the one at the lower left with a Windows flag.

Goodies in Word 2007 - Soon – very soon – many of us will be using Office 2007. There are many changes and many things remain the same. But there are some quietly buried goodies. As an example typing \p i (without the spaces) results in a π (pi symbol) on the screen. It is going to be interesting!

Do You Use My Computer Very Often? - Pick the My Computer icon from your desktop and drag it of the left edge of the screen. It will now reappear as a tool bar, showing all of the elements in My Computer. You can position this new toolbar wherever you wish or get rid of it by right-clicking a blank area on the toolbar and then selecting Close Toolbar.

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WA7BNM Contest Calendar
March 2007

Contest Name	Time/Date/(Band)
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0429Z, Mar 3 and 0430Z-0459Z, Mar 3 and 0500Z-0529Z, Mar 3 and 0530Z-0600Z, Mar 3
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	2200Z-2359Z, Mar 3 (Low Band) and 0000Z-0159Z, Mar 4 (Low Band) and 0800Z-1159Z, Mar 4 (High Band)
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Mar 4
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 6
AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 6
Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase	0230Z-0400Z, Mar 8
RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 10 to 1000Z, Mar 11
Idaho QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 10 to 0100Z, Mar 11 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 11
AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 10
Oklahoma QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 10 to 0200Z, Mar 11 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 11
EA PSK31 Contest	1600Z, Mar 10 to 1600Z, Mar 11
SOC Marathon Sprint	1800Z-2400Z, Mar 10
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 11
UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 11
NSARA Contest	1100Z-1500Z, Mar 11 and 1700Z-2100Z, Mar 11
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 11 to 0100Z, Mar 12
CLARA and Family HF Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Mar 13 and 0000Z-2400Z, Mar 17
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 14
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 16
SARL VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z, Mar 16 to 1600Z, Mar 17 and 1600Z, Mar 17 to 1000Z, Mar 18
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 17
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 17 to 1200Z, Mar 18
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Mar 17 (144) and 1900Z-2100Z, Mar 17 (432)
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19
UBA Spring Contest, 6m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 18
9K 15-Meter Contest	1200Z-1600Z, Mar 18
ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Mar 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 19
Bucharest Contest	1500Z-1559Z, Mar 19 and 1600Z-1659Z, Mar 19
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 22
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 22
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 24 to 2359Z, Mar 25
UBA Spring Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Mar 25
QRP Homebrewer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 26
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 31 to 1800Z, Apr 1