



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

April 2007

President's Column

As longtime president and presiding officer of GNARC, I am privileged to announce the following changes in the club's operation:

1. Pre-meeting dinner will be moved Ptomaine Joe's Dinner on Bough Street. Talk-in will be provided for the first few dinners. There probably won't be any dinners after the first few.
2. The meeting location will be moved to the community room of Veteran's park, accessible though the door on the left side of the men's room in the center of the ball field.
3. We are finally going to give up trying to maintain a 2-meter repeater. Instead one of our more technically minded members has just wired two old, but functional CB radios back to back. This new HF repeater, AM only, will operate on CB Channel 12 input and Channel 15 output -assuming someone can find a replacement pilot lamp for the second CB radio. If no pilot lamp can be found, the new repeater will have an output somewhere between channel 1 and channel 27. To save money, the repeater and repeater antennas will mounted on the club secretary's car. He commutes daily, so the range of the repeater will be extended for all our good buddies - and just think of the repeater range when the sunspot cycle peaks!

We look forward to enjoying these new changes.

Your president. **(sorry, but you'll have to guess)**

Toy's column is on the next page, Happy April!

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on April 11, 2007 at the Shop Rite on Connecticut Avenue. Beginning at 8:00 pm.

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

Secretary's Minutes

Attendance: 42 Members & Guests

Toy kicked off the meeting at 8:00, welcoming members and guests.

Toy then turned the meeting over to Jonathan Taylor K1RFD, our featured speaker for the evening, Jonathan spoke for the next 45 minutes on his topic, "Sound Cards & Digital Modes: Under the Hood." He discussed soundcards, the logistics of doing digital modes, such as RTTY and PSK31 on a soundcard and ended by touching on the logistics of the "Software Defined Radio."

After a short break for coffee and donuts, the business portion of the meeting commenced.

Toy announced that Secretary Tom KK2C was in Puerto Rico and Vice President Allan NN1H was in Mexico.

The minutes from the January meeting were approved as posted on the WebSite at <http://www.gnarc.org/NewsLetters/2007/gnarc0207.pdf>

Toy announced that the club's Yaesu FT-901 was returned and is available if anyone needs to loan it for temporary use. He also mentioned that the club has two 2M HTs available as loaners.

Toy announced that Phil WX1CT, who was Skywarn coordinator, could not continue and that Ned, KA1CVV has agreed to take on the job. Phil is getting married in May.

Toy reminded everyone that the ARES net meets on the first Monday of the month at 8:00 in the evening. ARES members and those interested in

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becoming ARES members should go to the ARES web site and register or re-register. He reminded us that this is necessary every year to remain current.

The Ares Web Site is è <http://www.ctares.org/>

There are two Public Service fund raising events coming up in May, the Special Olympics on May 19 and the Blooming metric in support of Fairfield County Safe Kids on May 21. Volunteers should contact Toy to sign up. Unfortunately this is the same weekend as the Dayton Hamvention so those of us who will be in Dayton will not be able to help.

Toy mentioned that the hunt for a new Field Day location continues and that there are currently 3 or 4 sites being considered. He confirmed that the Norwalk Fire Department has agreed to once again make the DECON truck/generator available for our use during Field Day.

Announcements from the floor:

Tim announced that the club owns 10 300' pieces of 1 5/8 Hardline and that it is available for sale at \$500 a roll, a \$3500 value. He mentioned a 2M Repeater also available for sale. Contact Tim if you or someone you know might be interested in either of these items. A complete list of club property that is for sale can be seen on the club web page at è <http://www.gnarc.org/inventory/inventory.htm>

Fred K1FC announced a SARA VE Session on the 2nd Saturday in May. More on this as the date approaches.

Steve NA1SV announced that the Fairfield .625 repeater is back on the air with new equipment.

New Business: None

Old Business:

Jay NE2Q raised the issue of setting up a club station in an office at the Shop Rite store and that Zig N1ICL had obtained permission from Shop Rite to do so.

No conclusions were drawn from this discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Ashway, K3EIN, Treasurer

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG:

It might be a little too early to breathe a sigh of relief in saying that we have finally found ourselves a new Field Day site. However, that might be so, as we have scouted (Tim/W1GIG) a very good corner of Cranberry Park that is ideal for a setup and has also met the approval of the city's fire chief who accompanied Tim on the field trip. Now we have to make a formal application to the Park and Recreation Dept and plead our cause. Let us hope for the best. We have commenced doing the necessary. Hopefully, we might have something positive to say on our meeting day on April 11th.

While we are organizing our thoughts about settling ourselves in a new site, we also have to make some plans to determine what we want out of Field Day this year. Last year we outdid ourselves and had impressive scores in New England and nationwide, despite having lapses when radios were idle because of the absence of operators.

The challenge is, to maintain continuous on the air coverage for a 3A station for 24 hours. Can we do this? Of course we can, so how about making a serious attempt this time around. I am quite sure that we can better last year's performance. Getting ourselves up and running should be a cinch, as you well know that some of us are well experienced in getting things together for the occasion.

Let's get competitive guys and really put a serious effort into it this time around.

FYI: The only continent without native reptiles or snakes is Antarctica.

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TIPS FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT—Housatonic Community College

Accounting – Business – Business Office Technology

Computer Information Systems – Networks – Technical Web
Graphics – Repair Technology

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Summertime is Coming—And so are those digital camera vacation pictures, with file names such as DSQR234-5678.jpg. You can rename them all with just a few key clicks. Pull up the list of pictures in Windows Explorer and select those you want to rename. Right click, highlight rename and pick a group name such as “Zanzibar 2007”. Your selected pictures will now be renamed with your choice of names, and each individual picture will have a number after it – so in this case you will see “Zanzibar 2007(1)”, “Zanzibar 2007(2)” and so on.

Here Is A New problem—We have all been made aware of identity theft and problems with leaving data on old computers. But did you know that many FAX machines have memories and the some even have hard disks? In order to allow reception of a fax when the machine is out of paper, many faxes store the incoming fax in a local memory. For some fax machines, simply shutting off the power will clear the internal memory, but others may actually require destruction of the hard disk or other memory electronics to insure your old fax cannot be read by someone else.

Line Making Made Easy-The nice, uniform lines separating the sections of this email are made in Word by starting at the left side of the screen and then holding the dash key down till you have a set of six or more dashes. Release the dash key and hit Enter. If you do the same thing with the underline key the result will be a heavier line.

The Latest Non-Problem, or How To Spend Your Money on Nonsense -Taking a page from the suppliers of overpriced Monster Cables for connecting speakers – a dubious asset for listening but a good money maker for the store – now we are being offered Hi-Fi or Cryogenic power cords for high definition TVs and DVD players. Oxygen free or pure copper” are just some of the words being used. Your electric power arrives at your TV having traveled through several hundred or perhaps a thousand miles of ordinary copper or aluminum wire. Do you think making the last five feet of power cable pure copper will make any difference? Hey, I have a bridge for sale in Brooklyn! Interested?

“Curley Quotes” or “Straight Quotes” ?-It happens to everyone from time to time.
“Type this” and then make a correction. Somehow it ends up as “Type this” with an ending straight quote symbol.

Sorry, the only sane way to fix it seems to be to delete the

last letter and closing quote, retype the letter and quote symbol. The result will be “Type this” – back to what you wanted.

Desktop Too Crowded?-Do you have too many icons on the desktop, but you really don't want to delete any. There is an interesting solution. Highlight a program shortcut icon and drag it on top of the Start button at the lower left of your desktop. Now when you hit the Start button, the Start menu appears and includes this program.

More Ways to Spell Check- To spell check a single word, one popular method is to highlight the word and right click. Microsoft Word will then give you a set of suggested spellings. However if you highlight the word and press F7, the full spell checker opens up with more alternatives.

How Big is your Document?-At any time, press the control, shift and G keys at the same time. A window appears giving the number of words and other useful information about your document.

You Can Get There From Here- One of the more fun tools in Microsoft Excel is Goal Seek. It is under the Tools menu. Suppose you have done some sort of calculation, with your input in one cell and the result in another cell. Goal Seeking allows you to pick the result you want and it will change the input number to meet your goal.

As an example suppose you decide to save \$6 a month for 20 months. Excel will calculate that at the end of this time you will have saved \$120. Now you think you would really like to save a total of \$200 dollars. Goal Seek will run your calculation backwards and tell you how much per month you must save to meet your goal of 20 months. This is a simple example; but Goal Seek will handle any complex compounded situation.

Don't Give Away Personal Information On Your Web page -

You can construct a simple but attractive web page using Microsoft Word by typing your page and then saving it with the Save As function as a web page. Unfortunately, when you do this, embedded in the page may be all sorts of personal information about you and your PC that Microsoft decided some time ago should be included in the page coding. In addition, with this extra information, the file size for a web page may be quite large. However, if you save the page as a Web Page Filtered most of the personal information is eliminated and the file size reduced to a reasonable amount.

If you receive any of the following error messages it may be time to get a new computer:

- 1 Smash forehead on keyboard to continue.....
- 2 Enter any 11-digit prime number to continue...
- 3 E-mail returned to sender -- insufficient voltage

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WA7BNM Contest Calendar

April 2007

Contest Name

Time/Date/(Band)

YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, SSB	1400Z, Apr 10 to 0200Z, Apr 12
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 11
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 11
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Apr 11
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 13
Montana QSO Party	2300Z, Apr 13 to 2300Z, Apr 15
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 14 to 1300Z, Apr 15
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 14
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 14 to 0359Z, Apr 15 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 16
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 17
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Apr 19
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 21
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 21
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0559Z, Apr 21 and 0600Z-0659Z, Apr 21 and 0700Z-0759Z, Apr 21 and 0800Z-0859Z, Apr 21
Kids Roundup	1400Z, Apr 21 to 2200Z, Apr 22
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 21
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 21 to 0400Z, Apr 22
EA-QRP CW Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 21 (20-10m) and 2000Z-2300Z, Apr 21 (80m) and 0700Z-1100Z, Apr 22 (40m) and 1100Z-1300Z, Apr 22 (20-10m)
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 21 to 1800Z, Apr 22
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 21 to 0500Z, Apr 22 and 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 22
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 22
432 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 25
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 28 to 1200Z, Apr 29
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 28 to 1259Z, Apr 29
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 28 to 0159Z, Apr 29 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 29
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 28 to 1700Z, Apr 29