



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

August 2007

President's Blog

Toy K1WYQ

The summer is here and we are preparing for the hurricanes that will soon be brought to your notice. So far so good, nothing of concern for the eastern U.S. Here is hoping that we are in a state of preparedness for any Atlantic storm that might decide to veer towards the eastern U.S

On the home front, we are preparing to host our annual friends and family tailgate and picnic (see "Next Meeting, page 2"). There will be a raffle with attractive prizes. Come spend some time with us. Many of us have not eyeballed each other for quite some time.

In other news. Allan/NN1H and Curt/W1FSM have successfully refurbished the other 2m repeater on the hospital, it has been tested on the air and will remain as backup just in case. Also, more plans for the 440 machine. Do not forget the DXpedition to Sheffield Island Light House on August 18th and 19th. It is very near to home and lots of fun. See the article on page 2 for more details.

October 13th, the club is participating in an Emergency Preparedness Fair on the grounds of the Norwalk Community College. This is an all day affair, (8 to 4) and we are currently formulating plans for the event. More to come on this.

October 14h, the day after, is the annual American Diabetes Association's walkathon at the Penfield Pavilion in Fairfield. Also, more to come on this.

FYI: The largest fish is the whale shark-It can be over 50 feet long and weigh 2 tons.
Toy/K1WYQ

Next Meeting - Annual Picnic!

Our annual friends and family tailgate and picnic will be held on Wednesday August 8th at the scenic estate of Dan (N1ZZ) , 9 Morehouse Lane in Norwalk between the hours of 5 and 8pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity to sell, or purchase that piece of equipment that you need. West Mountain Radio Products are available to any club member at a 10% discount.

Talk in on the 146.775 repeater. Bring something to share.

Toy/K1WYQ

Secretary's Minutes

GNARC Monthly Meeting, 11 July 07.

Attendance: 18 members.

Program: Roger/W1AGU presented a review of the status of WiFi in Norwalk and Fairfield County. WiFi is a computer network using RF to connect all units. Roger's conclusion is that WiFi for general public use is not expanding in this area and that the prospects for the state of Connecticut launching and maintaining a WiFi system for public use are poor. Steve/NA1SV noted that high-powered WiFi (WiMAX) is being pursued by private interests. But, conventional WiFi faces a serious problem of inadequate capacity that can/would be quickly overloaded if put into broad usage.

Business:

- 1) A welcome was extended to George/N1LQT, a friend of Roger/W1AGU visiting from Florida. George, a former corporate pilot, has been a Ham for 20 years and keeps a schedule with Roger on the High Frequencies.
- 2) Field Day '07 results were reviewed. Ziggy/N1ICL provided a written report on the event which will appear on the website along with finalized scores when available. Mark/KB1JGL was commended by everyone for his food at the event.
- 3) Dan/N1ZZ made a power point presentation of the results. Total score for '07 is 6300 points.
- 4) Allan/NN1H noted that an ARES exercise is in preparation.
- 5) Toy/K1WYQ noted that the Club will participate in the Emergency Preparedness Fair to be held at Norwalk Community College on October 14. Volunteers are needed.
- 6) Toy/K1WYQ also announced that the Club is participating in a DXpedition to Sheffield Island on August 18 and 19 organized by John/N1OLO. Boat owners, CW operators and QSL managers will be needed for this event. The Club authorized up to \$500 in spending in support of this event.

Respectfully submitted, Tom/KK2C, Secretary.

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Sheffield island DXpedition

August 18-19 2007

Things are shaping up for the Dxpediton to Sheffield Island. The announcement I made here in the newsletter has been distributed far and wide showing up on many European DX lists.

We have two vessels lined up for the event but can always use backup. I still need one person (you don't even have to leave dry land!) to act as our QSL manager. This will entail sending out QSLs, purchasing postage and exchanging IRCs.

For those of you who don't want to go to a party until you know who else is going, here is a list of our ops in no particular order:

Dan N1ZZ	Chris W1CF
Hugo AA1XV	John N1OLO
Ned KA1CVV	Steve NA1SV
Tom WB2HTJ	Toy K1WYQ

We still need more CW and Phone operators especially as we will be operating through the night.

For those of you interested in operating one day Saturday will be the easiest day to arrange for transportation on and off the island. Please contact me via email if you want to join us.

73 John N1OLO
n1olo@yahoo.com

Repeater Status

By Allan Valeo, NN1H, Trustee of W1NLK

I've been looking forward to making some significant announcements for some time now. The GNARC Two Meter repeater efforts have finally matured and the club can feel secure that W1NLK is Coordinated and that it has backup machine one phone call away from taking over for the primary equipment. The two systems share the same frequency and PL tone, but have different locations. Both systems have emergency power provisions and are totally independent.

The backup system was tested briefly on July 16th and performs as well as our last efforts on 147.390 MHz. The antenna for the backup equipment has been reoriented to point due north which will improve its coverage to the north and east a little. It will be recognizable by its lack of voice ID and its slightly different audio characteristics as well as the

coverage differences. It was possible to get Coordination for this equipment because its coverage area is entirely within the coverage of the primary repeater.

Meanwhile our 70 cm repeater has an upgrade coming this summer. The current antenna is a step down from the earlier ill-fated antenna, but the coverage of the system is reasonable again and the equipment upgrade will give us a little more power on the air. Since it will still fall within the parameters of its Coordination there won't be any problem with the upgrade. All in all it's a decent 70 cm machine and it should serve the area well.

There are a large number of people who have helped to get the Club's repeater efforts stabilized. They all have my personal thanks and gratitude. Without their help we would likely have a much different and much more unpleasant situation today. For a Club effort, it all represents an excellent presence in the community and the Club can be proud of the accomplishments. It's time to relax and enjoy the repeaters. We're now in a maintenance mode and, as always, all reasonable suggestions are welcome for making things better.

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WA7BNM Contest Calendar
July 2007

Contest Name	Time/Date/(Band)
August, 2007	
TARA Grid Dip Shindig	0000Z-2400Z, Aug 4
10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 4 to 2359Z, Aug 5
National Lighthouse Weekend QSO Contest	0001Z, Aug 4 to 2359Z, Aug 5
European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 4
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 4 to 1800Z, Aug 5
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 4 to 0600Z, Aug 5
RSGB RoPoCo 2	0700Z-0900Z, Aug 5
SARL HF Phone Contest	1300Z-1630Z, Aug 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 7
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 11 to 2359Z, Aug 12
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 11 to 0400Z, Aug 12 and 1600Z-2359Z, Aug 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Aug 15
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z-0800Z, Aug 18 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 18 and 0800Z-1600Z, Aug 19
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Aug 18 to 2400 local, Aug 19
Keyman's Club of Japan Contest	1200Z, Aug 18 to 1200Z, Aug 19
Russian District Award Contest	1400Z, Aug 18 to 0800Z, Aug 19
ARCI Silent Key Memorial Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Aug 18
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 18 to 0600Z, Aug 19
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 18 to 0700Z, Aug 19 and 1300Z, Aug 19 to 0200Z, Aug 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 20
ALARA Contest	0600Z, Aug 25 to 1159Z, Aug 26
Hawaii QSO Party	0700Z, Aug 25 to 2200Z, Aug 26
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 25 to 1159Z, Aug 26
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 25 to 1200Z, Aug 26
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 25 to 0400Z, Aug 26
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Aug 26
SARL HF CW Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Aug 26