



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

December 2007

President's Blog

THE PRESIDENT' BLOG:

We are in the last few weeks in 2007 and the holiday festivities are well underway. Believe it or not, reports on holiday spending are dispelling the gloomy forecasts of most of the economic experts.

It has been a good year for the organization and not much can happen to put a hex on that. Even when we thought that we did badly with our field day scores, we surprised ourselves by leading the State in our 3A category.

Pretty soon we will be operating our 70 cm (440) repeater from the AT&T tower on a trial run for six months. We have since obtained permission from the CSMA to do so and time permitting we should become operational before the year ends. Many thanks to some of the movers and shakers within the club's managerial structure. Quite a few names come to mind at this stage, but I might be jumping ahead with compliments as these gents do not like being the center of attention at this time.

The nominating committee has been active in recruiting members who are interested in the stewardship of the club for 2008, also a reminder that nominations are open from the floor. Nominees for the 2008 term will be announced at the holiday party.

A reminder that our annual holiday party will be held on December 12th at the Laurel Athletic Club, 13 North Ave in Norwalk from 7 to 11pm. If you have not already made your reservations please do so at your earliest convenience. Detailed information can be had on the GNARC web site.

See you at the party.

Toy/K1WYQ

Quote: Silence is not always golden, it can be a sign of cowardice.

Next Meeting

In lieu of our regular meeting, the annual holiday party will be held at the Laurel AC. See the club website for details.

Secretary's Minutes

GNARC Monthly Meeting, 14 Nov 07

Attendance: 21 members

Business Meeting:

- 1) It was announced that the VE session held last week resulted in two new hams entering the hobby.
- 2) The ARES drill was successfully completed.
- 3) The Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday December 12 from 7 to 11 PM at the Laurel Athletic Club on North Avenue in Norwalk. Cost is \$30 singles or \$55 a couple and includes dinner and karaoke.
- 4) A dues increase was discussed and a motion was made and passed that dues be increased for the coming year to \$25 for either individual or family membership.
- 5) It was announced that West Mountain Radio is moving its headquarters to Smith Street in Norwalk.
- 6) Election of officers will take place at the January meeting with the Nomination Committee presenting candidates at the December party.

7)

Program: Steve/NA1SV made a Power Point presentation on mobile radio installation. Some of his helpful tips included: Removing all hand jewelry before working on circuits, connecting radio directly to battery using heavy gauge stranded copper wire, fitting fuses on both positive and negative leads close to battery, using an alternator noise filter. Steve went on to discuss the relative merits of various antenna types and recommended using an active noise canceling speaker when working SSB HF.

Respectfully submitted, Tom/KK2C, Secretary.

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New Ham

Bobby WP4YJ is pleased to announce the licensing of the latest ham in the Sambolin clan. Michael (KC9MOD) recently passed his Technician's test.

Congratulations Michael!



Hamfests

13 Jan 2008

NLI Section Convention / Ham Radio University
ARRL NLI Section and NLI Clubs
<http://www.HamRadioUniversity.org>
Talk-In: 146.850 (PL 136.5)
Contact: Neil Heft, KC2KY
27 Middy Drive, Centereach, NY 11720
Phone: 631-231-1700 Ext 32 (D) or 631-737-0019 (N)
Email: kc2ky@arrl.net

Ok, its not a hamfest. There is, however, a great deal of good information for free. There are seminars and demonstrations throughout the day. For a schedule of forums go to:

<http://www.hamradiouniversity.org/HRU2008.ForumSched.htm>

The keynote address, “**Spreading Ham Radio Knowledge and Know How**”, will be presented by Gordon West, WB6NOA. Gordon is a noted author of amateur radio study guides and frequent contributor to CQ magazine.

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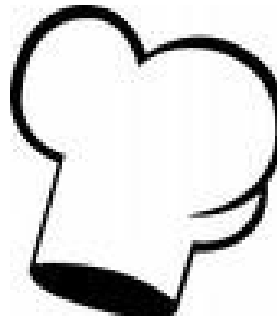
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Straight Key Night

From the ARRL Website

At the beginning of each year many operators around the US, and world-wide, declare a respite from the technological evolution. They turn back the pages of modern operation and look towards our roots in this hobby - ARRL Straight Key Night. Some consider CW antiquated while others view it an outdated technology. But for many - old-timer and newcomer alike - it is a reliable friend. (And if you think it is a technology that has been replaced by Blackberry and text-messaging technology, did you see the "Old Timers" - Chip Margelli, K7JA and Ken Miller, K6CTW - smoke the world champion fastest text messenger on the NBC Tonight Show with Jay Leno back on May 13th 2005?)

In this era of digital communication, keyboarding, FM and electronic keys, once a year many excellent operators bring the past to the present and participate in the annual ARRL Straight Key Night. The object of this friendly event is to enjoy some good, old fashioned QSO fun, using straight keys. The emphasis is on rag-chewing rather than fast contest-type exchanges. SKN 2007 begins at 7:00 p.m. EST December 31 and runs for 24 hours through 7:00 p.m. EST January 1 (0000 -2400 UTC January 1, 2007).

In many circles SKN has been expanded to encompass vintage radio equipment as well. Reminiscing about their

early days in our hobby, many operators use SKN as the "excuse" to refurbish their old Viking, Heathkit, or Scout. You will hear as many vintage radios on the air during SKN as you will variety of keys. And you will hear signals generated using old-fashioned bugs, a variation of the straight key. SKN is the time amateur radio recalls the past, transporting it to the present.

When participating in SKN 2007, instead of sending RST before sending the signal report send the letters SKN, to indicate your participation, and to clue in passers-by who may be listening that SKN is going strong. After SKN, send the Contest Branch a list of stations worked, plus your vote for the best fist you heard (it doesn't have to be one you worked). Also, include your vote for the most interesting QSO you had or monitored.

Don't forget to post your comments and interesting photographs from your SKN adventure to the ARRL Contest Online Soapbox at www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox Entries should be emailed to the Contest Branch at StraightKey@arrl.org or may be sent via regular mail to SKN, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The Soapbox becomes an on-line album of stores and photographs to share with others.

Entries for SKN 2007 must be received by January 31, 2007. Votes for "Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO" will be tabulated and included in the April 2007 issue of QST. If you have questions about SKN, please visit the Contest Branch Web Page at <http://www.arrl.org/contests> or contact contests@arrl.org

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

November 2007

Contest Name	Time/Date/(Band)
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 8 to 2400Z, Dec 9
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 9
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 12
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally	0000Z, Dec 13 to 0200Z, Dec 17
NCCC Sprint, CW	0330Z-0400Z, Dec 14
MDXA PSK DeathMatch	0000Z, Dec 15 to 2400Z, Dec 16
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 15
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 15 to 1400Z, Dec 16
Feld Hell Sprint	1500Z-1700Z, Dec 15
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 15 to 1559Z, Dec 16
ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, Dec 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 17
NCCC Sprint, CW	0330Z-0400Z, Dec 21
SKCC Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Dec 26
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
NCCC Sprint, CW	0330Z-0400Z, Dec 28
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 29
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Dec 29 to 1500Z, Dec 30
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 29 to 1500Z, Dec 30