



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

February 2008

President's Blog

By Toy K1WYQ

For those of us who have not heard the news, our 440 mghz (70CM) repeater is now transmitting from the at&t tower as the 2m repeater, and this is experimental for the next 6 months, pending final approval from the CSMA for permanent residence.

Additionally, Echolink has been approved for use on this (440) repeater and is now up and running with very good results, as users have been heard from the UK and elsewhere nationally and abroad. Local use has also increased.

It is controlled by Jonathan/ K1RFD from his home QTH. So far, the coverage offered has been extensive in lower Fairfield, as far as Greenwich and into Bridgeport on the opposite end, and beyond Wilton and Ridgefield on the northeastern side. Many thanks for the effort put in by Allan/ NN1H, our trustee, Curt/W1FSM and Tim/W1GIG. Election of officers for 2008 has been held over from January because we failed to muster a quorum (20 members) in order to hold elections.

The following members were nominated for election of officers:

President: Toy Alladin/K1WYQ incumbent

Vice President: Steve Verbil/NA1SV.

Outgoing: Allan Valeo/NN1H

Secretary: Jim Francoeur/KC1FB.

Outgoing: Tom Kirmayer/KK2C

Treasurer: Ed Ashway/K3EIN incumbent

Nominations are still open until before election on February 13th.

The ARRL has indicated that revised rules for field day has been completed and will be published soon. We will be operating field day from our old site at Veteran's Park this year. Until then, see you at our next meeting on Feb 13th.

Thought for today: Crank up your brain before you throw your jaw into gear.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 2-13-08 at 8:00 pm in the Community Room at the Shop Rite supermarket on Connecticut Avenue in Norwalk.

As always, pizza at John's Best on New Canaan Ave in Norwalk beginning at 6:00 pm.

Secretary's Minutes

GNARC Meeting 1/9/08

Toy, K1WYQ, opened the meeting shortly after 8 PM and turned it over to Allan, NN1H, for the presentation.

Allan gave a presentation on Nets. He broke them into three categories:

1)Casual 2) Practice and 3) Directed / Purposeful and broke Directed down into three types: 1) Tactical 2) Logistical and 3) Traffic.

He concentrated on the requirements and problems involved in running and participating in Directed nets. He stressed that we are Communicators, NOT police, first responders or members of the Red Cross and we should concentrate on doing just that.

Anyone wanting a copy of Allan's presentation can e-mail him for it.

Business Meeting:

There were 17 members in attendance including two new members: John Horan, AE6RA and Paul Block, WD5GEY. Toy gave a brief history of the club for the benefit of the new members.

Treasurers Report: Ed, K3EIN, said the club account was solvent and we broke even on the Holiday Party. \$25.00 dues are due for 2008 and a mass mailing went out on 1/9/08 to all present members.

Business: Repeaters - Allan, NN1H the repeater trustee, said 2 Meter tower and hospital back-up site are up and coordinated and the 440 repeater has been moved to the tower and is up and coordinated for a 6 Month trial period. He is planning on bringing up a back-up 440 repeater on West Rocks school. We have the repeater but would need a controller. He recommended purchasing another CAT 300 controller like we have for the other three sites. A motion was

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made and passed to allow spending up to \$600.00 for the purchase of a controller and other equipment necessary to bring up a repeater at the school back-up site.

New Business: Jay, NE2Q, asked the members if we had ever considered contacting Independent Living Centers to see if we could set up a station and maybe get residents interested in getting licensed as a way of promoting Ham Radio. He will look into it for the club.

General Election: Since there was not a quorum present at this meeting elections could not be held. They will be held next meeting, assuming a quorum is present.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Francoeur, KC1FB acting as secretary
for Tom,
KK2C.

Hamfests

16 Feb 2008

Event & Contact

Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
<http://www.n1em.org>
Talk-In: 147.27+ (PL 146.2)
Contact: David "Shack" Haralambou
427 Stearns Road
Marlborough, MA 01752
Phone: 508-357-2272 Ext. 1 (Before 9 PM)
Fax: 508-357-2273
Email: BRPShack@aol.com

Location

Marlborough, MA
Marlborough Intermediate Elementary School
Thresher Drive
Div: New England
Sect: Eastern Massachusetts

24 Feb 2008

Event & Contact

Long Island Indoor Hamfair & Electronics Show
Long Island Mobile ARC
<http://www.limarc.org>
Talk-In: 146.850 (PL 136.5)
Contact: Richie Cetron, K2KNB
198 Haypath Road
Old Bethpage, NY 11804
Phone: 516-694-4937
Fax: 516-694-4937

Email: hamfest@limarc.org

Location

Hicksville, NY
Levittown Hall
201 Levittown Parkway
Div: Hudson
Sect: New York City-Long Island

Editor's note: Usually more individuals trading than commercial vendors

1 Mar 2008

Event & Contact

North Jersey Hamfest
Splitrock ARA
<http://www.splitrockara.org/hamfest/>
Talk-In: 146.985 -600 (PL 131.8)
Contact: Michael Greenfeld, K8BQ
c/o Splitrock ARA
PO Box 610
Rockaway, NJ 07866
Phone: 866-457-6687
Fax: 866-457-6687
Email: hamfest@splitrockara.org

Location

Parsippany, NJ
Parsippany PALBuilding
33 Baldwin Road
Div: Hudson
Sect: Northern New Jersey

Editor's note: Quick trip down I-287. Nice smaller hamfest. Most of the good stuff is gone early.

8 Mar 2008

Event & Contact

Mount Tom Amateur Repeater Association
<http://www.mtara.org>
Talk-In: 146.940 (PL 127.3)
Contact: Cindy Loiero, K1ISS
27 Deepwoods Drive
Westfield, MA 01085
Phone: 413-568-1175
Email: k1iss-n1fi@comcast.net

Location

Feeding Hills, MA
Springfield Turnverein Club
176 Garden Street
Div: New England
Sect: Western Massachusetts

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ARRL Field Day Rules Available!

From the ARRL Letter

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for Field Day, ARRL's flagship operating event. Field Day, held the fourth full weekend in June, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun.

ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rules changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category. The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. A full 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site will be coming in the next few weeks.

GOTA (Get on the Air) stations are those stations set aside by Field Day teams designed to get non-hams or newly licensed hams on the air. Unlike in past years where GOTA stations were limited to only one band, the 2008 rules state that these stations may operate on any authorized HF or VHF Field Day band. Keep in mind that only one signal may be transmitted from the GOTA station at any time.

Henderson said the eligibility for operating the GOTA station has changed slightly: Anyone who has been licensed since Field Day 2007 is eligible to operate the GOTA station, regardless of license class.

For 2008, the Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. "This bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation," Henderson said. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus, Henderson said you should submit them via e-mail <fdinfo@arrl.org>.

Be sure to read the Field Day rules and FAQs in the 2008 Field Day Packet for details of these changes. There are also numerous small changes in the FAQs and support materials in the packet that should help groups and individuals as they plan their Field Day activities, Henderson said.

The 2008 Field Day Packet also includes an expanded Press Kit, thanks to the work of ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. Included in this expanded portion of the packet is a sample "Field Day Proclamation" for those groups who work with local city or town officials toward getting a Field Day Week declared in their location.

"We are excited that historic station K6KPH will once again

participate transmitting the W1AW special Field Day Bulletin on the West Coast," Henderson said. More details are available in the Field Day Packet.

Information concerning the popular Field Day pins and T shirts will be announced in the next few weeks.

Henderson said that those wishing to obtain a complete Field Day Packet via US mail need to send a 9 x 12 inch self-addressed, stamped manila envelope with 5 units of postage to Field Day Packet Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

If people wish to order display kits for their tables at Field Day, please contact Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, ARRL Education Manager, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, tel 860-594-0296. The cost for the display kit ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To ensure having the kits in time for Field Day, you are encouraged to order them no later than June 13.

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The UPS Store 304 Main Ave. Norwalk, CT 06851
PH 203 847-6166 Fax 203 849-1868
8-6:30 m-f 9-3 sat

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WA7BNM Contest Calendar
February 2008

| Contest Name | Time/Date/(Band) |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ARRL School Club Roundup | 1300Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 15 |
| NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint | 0130Z-0330Z, Feb 13 |
| RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data | 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 13 |
| NCCC Sprint | 0330Z-0400Z, Feb 15 |
| ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW | 0000Z, Feb 16 to 2400Z, Feb 17 |
| Feld Hell Sprint | 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 16 |
| Run for the Bacon QRP Contest | 0200Z-0400Z, Feb 18 |
| AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening | 1900Z-2030Z, Feb 20 |
| RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW | 2000Z-2130Z, Feb 21 |
| NCCC Sprint | 0330Z-0400Z, Feb 22 |
| Russian PSK WW Contest | 2100Z, Feb 22 to 2100Z, Feb 23 |
| CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB | 0000Z, Feb 23 to 2359Z, Feb 24 |
| REF Contest, SSB | 0600Z, Feb 23 to 1800Z, Feb 24 |
| UBA DX Contest, CW | 1300Z, Feb 23 to 1300Z, Feb 24 |
| Mississippi QSO Party | 1500Z, Feb 23 to 0300Z, Feb 24 |
| North American QSO Party, RTTY | 1800Z, Feb 23 to 0600Z, Feb 24 |
| High Speed Club CW Contest | 0900Z-1100Z, Feb 24 and 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 24 |
| North Carolina QSO Party | 1700Z, Feb 24 to 0300Z, Feb 25 |
| SKCC Sprint | 0100Z-0300Z, Feb 27 |
| NCCC Sprint | 0330Z-0400Z, Feb 29 |