



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

March 2008

President's Blog

The president's blog:

Not too long ago, everything surrounding this organization appeared to be at a standstill for want of a determined effort to go forward and accomplish what looked like a lost cause. Thankfully, a small group of members quietly went forward and accomplished feats that you and I never thought would happen.

I am happy and proud to report that we now have two repeaters that are coordinated on the at&t tower and from reports coming in, coverage and reception has been excellent. As you well know, the 440 repeater, our latest addition to this site, has been functioning beyond anyone's expectation. Thanks again to the concerted effort from Allan/NN1H our trustee, Curt/W1FSM, Tim/W1GIG and a few others among us. Things have been really happening and we have some happy faces among ourselves.

Now that we have done this, what else is there to do? The momentum is there and as some of us would like to say, 'we are on a roll'. We do have a number of planned activities for the rest of the year, such as public service, field day, our annual tailgate and picnic, and of course, our annual holiday get together, and not forgetting our monthly ARES drills. But, is this enough to carry us forward? How about giving thought to some ideas to stimulate further interest into this body of people. We do have some incredible talent among us, and I am quite sure that some of us can come forward with some brilliant or near brilliant ideas to adopt. Give it some thought guys. I am quite sure that you can come up with some genuine articles to present to the membership.

The program speaker for this month's meeting will be announced soon. Please continue checking the website for the announcement.

We do need to generate some additional interest into our monthly ARES drills. Let us try to have a record amount of check-ins this time around.

Toy/K1WYQ

FACT: FROGS NEVER DRINK.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4-9-08 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 2/13/08

Toy, K1WYQ, opened the meeting shortly after 8 PM and began with the election of new officers that was postponed from last meeting.

The following members were nominated for election of officers:

President: Toy Alladin/K1WYQ incumbent

Vice President: Steve Verbil/NA1SV.

Secretary: Jim Francoeur/KC1FB.

Treasurer: Ed Ashway/K3EIN incumbent

There were no nominations from the floor, and the slate of officers was approved.

Toy then turned the meeting over to Paul (N1II) who gave a presentation on Codes, Computers and their Design. He illustrated the working of the Central Processing Unit (CPU) and main memory in execution of simple programs. He also talked about the application, Visicalc, that launched the acceptance of the PC and presented some of the algorithms used in computing to simplify complex math operations.

Business Meeting:

There were 20 members in attendance including new member: W1HBR, Hugh Lupo, who does ICOM service at Norwalk Marine Electronics.

Treasurers Report: Ed, K3EIN, said we are in good shape and reminded everyone that dues are due for 2008.

Business:

Repeaters - Allan, NN1H, said both repeaters are working well with excellent coverage off the Tower. The 440 machine has an assigned Echolink Node Number of 1000.

ARES - Allan gave a brief update on recent ARES activities.

There was no New Business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Francoeur, KC1FB,
Secretary.

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Hamfests

March 30

Event and Contact

Southington Hamfest
Southington ARA
<http://www.chetbacon.com/sara.htm>
Talk-In: 147.345 (PL 77)
Contact: Chet Bacon, KA1ILH
138 1/2 Summit Street
Plantsville, CT 06479-1125
Phone: 860-628-9346
Email: chet@chetbacon.com

Location

Southington, CT
Southington High School
720 Pleasant Street
Div: New England
Sect: Connecticut

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6 Apr 2008

Event and Contact

FARA Flea Market
Framingham Amateur Radio Association
<http://fara.org>
Talk-In: 147.15 +
Contact: Beverly Lees, N1LOO
31 Ridgfield Drive
Framingham, MA 01701
Phone: 508-626-2012
Email: N1LOO@arrl.net

Location

Framingham, MA
Keefe Tech High School
750 Winter Street
Div: New England
Sect: Eastern Massach

FCC SLAMS PENNSYLVANIA HAM WITH FORFEITURE ORDER

On March 6, the FCC announced that it has issued a "Forfeiture Order" <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-498A1.pdf> in the amount of \$4300 to Ronald Mondgock, KA3OMZ, of Honeybrook, Pennsylvania, "for willfully and repeatedly violating Section 301 of the "Communications Act of 1934, as amended" (Act), by operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies 439.850 MHz and 147.560 MHz without a license." Section

301 states a federal license is required to "operate any apparatus for the transmission of energy or communications or signals by radio." Mondgock's Amateur Radio license expired in December 2005.

Mondgock, who held a Novice class license, first received an "Advisory Notice" in February 2001 warning that he had been heard operating on the 75 meter band. He was told that he was not authorized to use that portion of the band and to review the Commission's rules relating to Amateur Radio Service frequencies.

In July 2004, Mondgock, received a "Citation" from the FCC's Philadelphia Field Office "related to failure to identify, transmissions involving obscenity and indecency and operating on a frequency not authorized for your Novice Class license." He was issued a "Warning Notice" in November 2004 for not replying to the "Citation" within the 20-day period. In the Warning Notice, Mondgock was warned by the Commission that if "a reply is not received by December 15, 2004, a 'Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture' will be issued against you. We note also that your license expires December 14, 2005. No renewal or upgrade will be granted until this matter is resolved."

Also in July 2004, Mondgock received a letter from the FCC stating that the Commission "received an anonymous complaint alleging that several operators on the Amateur Radio Service frequency 146.55 MHz were using profane or obscene words or language and were failing to transmit their amateur license call signs. On June 2, 2004, between 7:30 p.m. and 8:45 p.m., an FCC agent with the Philadelphia Office investigated the complaint and monitored radio communications on the frequency 146.550 MHz allegedly between William Chapman (KB3IXS) and you. Based on your alleged radio communications that the FCC agent monitored, you may have violated the following FCC rules: Failing to transmit an amateur license call sign, in violation of Section 97.119(a) of the rules; Transmitting obscene and indecent words and language, in violation of Section 97.113(a) of the rules, and Operating on an unauthorized frequency, in violation of Section 97.301(e) of the rules. (A Novice class amateur licensee does not authorize operation on any frequency in the 2-meter Amateur Radio Service frequency band, 144-148 MHz, including 146.55 MHz." Mondgock was given 20 days to respond and told that his response "must address each alleged violation and include a statement of the specific actions taken to preclude a recurrence."

In February 2006, the Commission sent Mondgock a letter telling him that his application for renewal of his Amateur Radio license "cannot be routinely granted and has been referred to the Enforcement Bureau for review." He was advised that this was because he had never submitted responses to the Commission's correspondence or never

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claimed a letter sent via certified mail. Mondgock was given yet another 20 days to respond to this letter, and warned that if he chose not to do so that "your application for renewal will be dismissed and a 'Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture' will be issued against you."

In December 2006, the FCC's Field Office in Philadelphia sent Mondgock another "Letter of Inquiry" to "follow up on a recent investigation, of the operation of your Amateur Radio Service station, on the frequencies 147.560 MHz and 439.850 MHz. in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As discussed more fully below, agents determined the operation of your Amateur Radio Service station on the frequencies 147.560 MHz and 439.850 MHz violates Section 1.903(a) of the Rules and your operation on those frequencies must cease immediately. In addition, you are required to submit a detailed written response to the questions below regarding the operation of your station."

The FCC received information that Mondgock was operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies 147.560 MHz and 439.850 MHz. In response, the Philadelphia Field Office conducted an investigation between August-October 2006. "An agent used direction finding techniques to determine that you apparently operated radio transmitting equipment on the frequency 439.850 MHz from your residence on September 19, 2006, between 8:45 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and from your vehicle on October 24, 2006, between 5:30 p.m. and 6:02 p.m. In addition, on September 12, 2006, the agent used direction finding techniques to determine that you apparently operated a repeater station on the frequency 147.560 MHz from One Commerce Square in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania."

The FCC asked Mondgock 11 detailed questions concerning his operations, directing him to "provide a complete explanation to the following questions and should provide copies of any relevant documents." He was told that his answers must be accompanied by a signed, sworn statement attesting to the truth and accuracy of the response. He was given 20 days to respond with answers to the questions and provide the sworn statement.

On August 15, 2007, the Commission's Philadelphia Field Office issued a "Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture" (NAL) to Mondgock in the amount of \$10,000 for operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies 439.850 MHz and 147.560 MHz without a license. Mondgock responded to the NAL and did not dispute the findings of the Commission, but requested a cancellation of the Forfeiture based on his inability to pay.

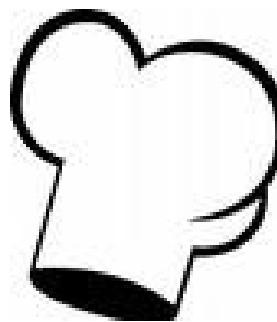
In examining Mondgock's response, Section 503(b) of the "Act" requires that the Commission take into account "the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation

and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other such matters as justice may require." When considering someone's inability to pay a fine, the FCC has determined that, in general, gross revenues are the best indicator of an ability to pay a forfeiture. The FCC examined Mondgock's financial documentation that he provided. The Commission declined to cancel the forfeiture but reduced the amount from the original \$10,000 to \$4300, based on Mondgock's demonstrated inability to pay the full forfeiture amount.

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The UPS Store 304 Main Ave. Norwalk, CT 06851
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8-6:30 m-f 9-3 sat

CHEF ON CALL LLC



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Chefcall@optonline.net

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WA7BNM Contest Calendar
March/April

Contest Name	Time/Date/(Band)
March	
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 15
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 15 to 1200Z, Mar 16
Feld Hell Sprint 1500Z-1700Z, Mar 15	
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Mar 15 (144) and 1900Z-2100Z, Mar 15 (432)
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 17
UBA Spring Contest, 6m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 16
9K 15-Meter Contest	1200Z-1600Z, Mar 16
ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Mar 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 17
Bucharest Contest	1500Z-1559Z, Mar 17 and 1600Z-1659Z, Mar 17
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 20
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 20
ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party	0001Z, Mar 21 to 2359Z, Mar 30
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 21
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 22 to 0200Z, Mar 24
UBA Spring Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Mar 23
BCC QSO Party	1800Z-2000Z, Mar 25
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 26
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 28
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 29 to 2359Z, Mar 30
April, 2008	
Montana QSO Party	0000Z, Apr 4 to 2400Z, Apr 5
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, CW	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 6
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 5 to 1500Z, Apr 6
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 5 to 1600Z, Apr 6
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 5 to 1800Z, Apr 6
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 5 to 0500Z, Apr 6 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 6
RSGB RoPoCo 1	0700Z-0900Z, Apr 6
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 7
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 9
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, SSB	1400Z, Apr 11 to 0200Z, Apr 13
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 12 to 1300Z, Apr 13
Radio Maritime Day	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1200Z, Apr 13
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 12
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 0359Z, Apr 13 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 13
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 12 to 2100Z, Apr 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 13
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 13