



# Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

## Newsletter

### *“The Voice of GNARC”*

#### July 2008

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## President's Blog

By Toy Alladin K1WYQ

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### THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG:

Field day has come and gone, and the talking point is, that we have established ourselves a club record this year. When all was said and done, equipment taken down and stored, tallying and editing of QSOs, our final tally is **10050 points**. Let me repeat, this is an all time club record for us. Many thanks to all of you who made this possible, the set up crew, the operators, the first timers, the food preparation, the camaraderie and best of all, those of us who spent the night at Veteran's Park, either fighting sleep or operating marathon spells. Of course, field day would not be the same if something did not go wrong. This time around, our folding tables were missing and not to be found and Hugo's (AA1XV) transceiver stopped working. These were minor casualties that were quickly overcome as we were able to find alternatives quickly.

Our balloon experiment with the 80m inverted dipole was a fair success, one would have thought that we would have made a record number of QSOs but that did not work out as there were problems with the wind and the feed line getting tangled.

Hugh's (W1HBR) RV proved to be a very convenient place of refuge for those of us who needed a quick nap.

Again, congratulations to all of you who put in that special effort to make this year's Field Day a resounding success. In a few months, we will learn whether we have full bragging rights in the state. I almost forgot Ed's (K3EIN) memorable contact with an operator in Australia. He was operating on the tri-band antenna and his signal report from Australia was something like 10 over 9.

We will soon have a session to critique our

performance and hopefully, the enthusiasm will carry forward to other club sponsored activities. The program for our July meeting will be presented by Jonathan Taylor (K1RFD). The topic will be IRLP.

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## Next Meeting

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The next scheduled meeting of GNARC is July 9 at 8 pm in the community room of the Shop Rite Supermarket, Connecticut Ave, Norwalk.

Jonathan Taylor (K1UHF) will present a program discussing IRLP.

As usual, pizza and beer at John's Best on New Canaan Avenue in Norwalk (6 pm) will precede the meeting.

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## Secretary's Minutes

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GNARC Minutes of the June 11, 2008 Meeting

Toy, K1WYQ opened the meeting at 8:03. There were 18 members and one visitor, Ron Cabral. We all introduced ourselves and there was a new member, Pierre Guimond, N1EZT.

Note: The August Picnic and Tail Gating Meeting will be held at Dan's, N1ZZ.

Treasurer's Report: Funds are down from last report by \$222.

ARES Report: We are now getting involved with the Greenwich Red Cross and more involved with Stamford.

Public Service: Three events were supported: 1) The CT Special Olympics by 6-7 members 2) The Bloomin' Metric Bike Ride by 11 members 3) A spur of the moment bike ride event for Stamford Hospital that required using three repeaters and

# **"The Voice of GNARC"**

**July 2008**

**Page 2**

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was put together in three days. The next event we are supporting is the MS Bike Tour starting at 10:00 AM on June 22.

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

New Business:

The rest of the meeting was conducted by the Field Day Committee and covered logistics for the event. Of note were the following:

Mark, KB1JGL will not be available as the chef due to a change in his medical treatment, so Ned, KA1CVV will take his place.

The Helium balloon for the 80 meter antenna has been purchased, but hasn't arrived yet. Need truck to pick up 5' Helium cylinder. There was a lengthy discussion of antennas and the height to raise the tri-bander for best coverage.

The 3A contest stations will use the call N1EV and the GOTA station will use W1NLK.

Mark, N1RII donated three laptops to the club for logging computers which will be networked by Ed, K3EIN.

Hugo, AA1XV asked members to be sure to sign up for operating slots on the club web page.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Francoeur, KC1FB, Secretary.

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## **Pod Cast for Hams**

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"Solder Smoke" (<http://www.soldersmoke.com/>) is a pod cast service with an associated web page and blog (<http://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/>). The site is of particular interest to hams who like to build and home-brew. The site is hosted by : Bill - M0HBR (<http://www.gadgeteer.us>) and Mike - KL7R' (<http://kl7r.ham-radio.ch>)

The pod casts are posted on monthly (more or

less) basis. With number 87 posted just this week you have a bit of catching up to do.

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## **Riley Hollingsworth Retires**

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*From the ARRL letter Vol. 27 Num. 26*

On Thursday, July 3, Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, the man who has come to embody Amateur Radio Enforcement -- said goodbye to the FCC as he retired and began his life as a private citizen. In May, Hollingsworth announced he would definitely retire; he had contemplated retiring in January 2008, but cited "several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community." While his successor has not yet been named, he was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth said that he has "loved" working for the FCC and has "always had great jobs, but this one involving the Amateur Radio Service has been the most fun and I have enjoyed every day of it. I've worked with the best group of licensees on earth, enjoyed your support and tremendous FCC support and looked forward every day to coming to work.

The Amateur Radio Enforcement program will continue without missing a beat, and after retirement I look forward to being involved with Amateur Radio every way I can. I thank all of you for being so dedicated and conscientious, and for the encouragement you give us every day."

Saying it has been a "privilege to work with and for the Amateur Radio licensees and the land mobile frequency coordinators," Hollingsworth said that he is "extremely fortunate to work for two wonderful groups of people: Those at headquarters in the Enforcement Bureau, and for the Amateur Radio operators."

Before joining the FCC, Hollingsworth, a South Carolina native, graduated from the University of

# "The Voice of GNARC"

July 2008

Page 3

South Carolina and Wake Forest University School of Law. While in high school, he worked as a disc jockey for WRHI, an AM station in Rock Hill, South Carolina. "It's a funny thing," Hollingsworth said. "They once held a beauty pageant in Rock Hill and nobody won!" In the mid-1970s, he was a "Nader's Raider" and worked on brown lung disease in the North and South Carolina textile mills.

"Basically I'm just an ordinary guy caught in the cross-hairs of radio history," Hollingsworth said. "But I am proud of the fact that the digital clock on my VCR has been blinking for 4 years."

Hollingsworth told the ARRL he was "so very impressed" with the young people who are involved with Amateur Radio: "To the very young Amateur Radio operators I have met who have dreams of being scientists and astronauts and communications engineers, we will be pulling for you; I have a strong feeling we won't be disappointed."

Calling the Amateur Radio Service a part of the American heritage, Hollingsworth explained that he is "going to stay as actively involved in it as I possibly can. Thank you all for working tirelessly to provide the only fail safe communications system on Earth and for helping this country keep its lead in science and technology. What an incredible gift it has been to work with you every day, and how fortunate we are to love the magic of radio! Every gift of lasting value comes with responsibility. We must never forget what we owe for our spectrum

privileges. I will continue working with you in every way I can to ensure that Amateur Radio lasts a thousand years. "

## Announcing the ARRL New England Division Convention

The 2008 edition of the ARRL New England Division Convention, fondly known as **Boxboro**, will be held August 22 - 24, 2008. Mark your calendars

now and plan to attend!

A great program is being planned. We are pleased to announce that the ARRL First Vice President **Kay Craigie**, N3KN will be in attendance. Here is your opportunity to meet Kay first hand at the ARRL Forums. She will be our guest of honor and keynote speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. Order your banquet tickets early as the seating is limited!

We are also pleased to announce the return of QCWA President, **John Johnston** W3BE. John brings his 27 years of regulatory work with the FCC to bear in his ever popular talk "What the Rules Say".

The EMCOMM folks have been hard at work putting together a great line up with the support of the ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, **Dennis Dura** K2DCD, Deputy Chief Army MARS **Jim Griffin** AAA9B and Chief of Army MARS Operations, **Grant Hays** AAA9O. We welcome their attendance.

The Special Event station **W1A** will be in operation. This is a good opportunity to operate the top shelf amateur radio equipment the industry has to offer and have fun while doing it!

**Wouff Hong** is back! We are glad to have them and you are not going to believe who they have tapped for the "Old Man". This is a must attend event!

New to our committee this year is Prize Chairman, Mike Crestohl, W1RC. He's already lined up the new **Elecraft K3** for the top prize for some lucky ham.

Flea Market pricing has been restructured with the goal of improving the Sunday turnout.

The latest updates, online ticketing and general information can be found at <http://www.boxboro.org>

The Boxboro Holiday Inn, located at the junction of Routes 111 and 495, has special room rates so ask for the "Boxboro Ham Radio Convention Rate" when making your reservations.



**“The Voice of GNARC”**  
**July 2008**  
**Page 4**

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**WA7BNM Contest Calendar**

**July 2008**

<b>Contest Name</b>	<b>Time/Date/(Band)</b>
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z, Jul 5 to 2359Z, Jul 6
WLOTA Contest	0600Z, Jul 5 to 1200Z, Jul 6
VK/Trans-Tasman 160m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jul 5
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 5 to 1059Z, Jul 6
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jul 5 to 1500Z, Jul 6
PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint	2000 local, Jul 5 to 0200 local, Jul 6
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Jul 6
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 7
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 11
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 12
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 12 to 1200Z, Jul 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Jul 13
ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Jul 13
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 16
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jul 17
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 18
Feld Hell Sprint	0200Z-0300Z, Jul 19 and 1000Z-1100Z, Jul 19 and 1800Z-1900Z, Jul 19
VK/Trans-Tasman 160m Contest, CW	0800Z-1300Z, Jul 19
DMC RTTY Contest	1200Z, Jul 19 to 1200Z, Jul 20
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 19 to 0600Z, Jul 20
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 19 to 2100Z, Jul 20
RSGB Low Power Field Day	0900Z-1200Z and 1300Z-1600Z, Jul 20
CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	2000Z-2159Z, Jul 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 21
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 23
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 24
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 25
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 26 to 1200Z, Jul 27

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8-6:30 m-f 9-3 sat