



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

September 2008

President's Blog

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG:

Even the Republicans' National Convention in Denver Colorado has taken a back seat to the priorities handed out in favor of hurricane Gustav that is beating on the Gulf Coast. So far the preparations for this hurricane are well in place. There was massive mandatory evacuation from the coastline and the emergency services were prepared for the hurricane's onslaught.

At this time the National Weather Bureau has downgraded Gustav to a category one and despite windblown damage, the flooding aspect which was feared, seems to be contained. On our end here, CT ARES and the ARC are still in a standby mode to go down there to render assistance if needed.

Our 2m repeater has been acting up again with some annoying intermod problems which we are unable to locate at this time despite using tracers. The output PL has been changed again to temporarily help with this problem. So far, so good. More trouble shooting is scheduled.

Our annual picnic and tailgate was a resounding success. We had a sizeable crowd, some giveaways, some things to sell, attractive raffle items and loads of picnic edibles and 807's galore. A good time was had by all. Our next social gathering will be our annual holiday party on December 10th. Word of advice, the hurricane season is not yet over, remain prepared, the other storm, Hannah is going to make a turn up the east coast, land fall is a few days away, but be vigilant, we might be in need your assistance in a hurry. A few other tropical depressions out in the Atlantic are also being observed at this time.

Toy/K1WYQ

Next Meeting

September 10th at the usual spot, The Community Room, ShopRite, Connecticut avenue at 8pm. Pizza at Johns Best on New Canaan Avenue starting at 6pm.

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes of the July 9, 2008 GNARC Meeting

Toy, K1WYQ opened the meeting by introducing Malcolm Benson, M3XOJ visiting

from England. There were a total of 23 in attendance.

Toy then turned the meeting over to Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD for the evenings presentation on the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). Jonathan outlined the project, discussing the fundamentals of the mode that has grown to over 1700 nodes worldwide since the release in 1998 of the original HW/SW package. For more information go to www.IRLP.net. GNARC has an EchoIRLP node #4579 on our W1NLK, 440 repeater. Jonathan is scheduled to release the Second Edition of his "VoIP: Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs" next year.

Business meeting:

Treasurer's Report: We spent approximately \$1200 on Field Day including the balloon project.

Events: Seven operators supported the MS Bike Ride on June 22.

ARES: There were only three check-ins to the monthly net. A Regional Meeting is being planned.

Repeaters: The 440 repeater is OK, but the 2 meter repeater has interference at least once a day and the source has not been traced. The back-up machine is being tuned up.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for last month's meeting were accepted.

Field Day Report: Ed, K3EIN gave a synopsis of this years 10,050 point effort based on statistics compiled from the three networked logging computers. One interesting statistic showed that we averaged 134 contacts per hour for the 24 hour contest period.

There will not be a regular meeting next month, but we will have the Annual Picnic and Tail Gate Party from 5 to 8 PM at Dan, N1ZZ's home, 9 Morehouse Lane in Norwalk.

New Business: Malcolm, M3XOJ was made an honorary member of GNARC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Francoeur, KC1FB, Secretary.

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Repeater News

This weekend (Aug 31-Sept 1), the repeater experienced a huge change in intermod interference. It locked itself on the air for hours at a time. To counter this problem I changed the transmit PL to 85.4 Hz to break the lockup cycle. The interference is still obvious and it will probably not go away unless we can identify its source and get fixed.

I'm asking everyone to join in an effort to find the source and identify the culprit. We need a committee of concerned people to listen on various frequencies, some are not easily accessible on our regular equipment. Times and locations where potential sources are detected are vital. This needs to be a club project or we'll continue to listen to the noise pollution on our primary club VHF resource.

Please contact Toy or myself to coordinate efforts to locate the sources. Times, locations, signal strengths are vital statistics in this kind of effort for both receiving station and input station are important. Whenever the buzzing background noise is obvious on the repeater, please note both your own location and the location of the station you're listening to as well as the time and weather conditions. I would much rather have too much data to wade through than too little, so start reporting what you observe.

Don't expect an answer back from me in the next two weeks or so, but as soon as I can correlate some real data, I'll start analyzing what you give me.

Best regards,

Allan Valeo, NN1H
Trustee of W1NLK

Hamfests

14 Sep 2008

Western Connecticut Hamfest

Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

<http://www.danbury.org/cara>

Talk-In: 147.300 (PL 100)

Contact: Joe de Groot, AB1DO

30 Sunnyview Drive

Redding, CT 06896

Phone: 203-938-4880

Email: ab1do@arrl.net

Newtown, CT

Edmond Town Hall

45 Main Street

Div: New England

Sect: Connecticut

10-11 Oct 2008

NEAR-Fest IV

New England Amateur Radio Festival

<http://www.NEAR-Fest.com>

Talk-In: 146.700

Contact: Michael Crestohl, W1RC

Email: info@near-fest.com

Deerfield, NH

Deerfield Fairgrounds

Route 43

Div: New England

Sect: New Hampshire

12 Oct 2008

Connecticut State Convention

Nutmeg Hamfest Alliance, Inc.

<http://www.nutmeghamfest.com>

Talk-In: 147.36/.96 (no PL)

Contact: John Bee, N1GNV

30 Tremont Street

Meriden, CT 06450

Phone: 203-440-4468

Email: info@nutmeghamfest.com

Wallingford, CT

MountainRidge Resort

300 High Hill Road

Div: New England

Sect: C

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

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WA7BNM Contest Calendar
September 2008

Contest Name	Time/Date/(Band)
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 5
International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	2300Z, Sep 5 to 2300Z, Sep 7
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 6 to 2400Z, Sep 7
Russian RTTY WW Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Sep 6
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 6
RSGB SSB Field Day	1300Z, Sep 6 to 1300Z, Sep 7
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 6
IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	1300Z, Sep 6 to 1259Z, Sep 7
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 7
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 7
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 11
FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend	0000Z, Sep 12 to 2400Z, Sep 14
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 12
PODXS 070 Club 80m Autumn Sprint	2000 local, Sep 12 to 0200 local, Sep 13
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 13 to 2359Z, Sep 14
Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	1300Z-1900Z, Sep 13
Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 13 to 0600Z, Sep 14 and 1500Z-2400Z, Sep 14
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 13 to 0300Z, Sep 15
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 14
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Sep 14
ARCI End of Summer Digital Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Sep 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 18
YLRL Howdy Days	1400Z, Sep 18 to 0200Z, Sep 20
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 19
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Sep 20 to 2359Z, Sep 21
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 20 to 2400 local, Sep 21
Colorado QSO Party	1000Z, Sep 20 to 0400Z, Sep 21
SARL VHF/UHF Contest	1000Z, Sep 20 to 1000Z, Sep 21
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 20 to 1200Z, Sep 21
CIS DX Contest	1200Z, Sep 20 to 1200Z, Sep 21
South Carolina QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 20 to 2100Z, Sep 21
QRP Afield	1500Z-2100Z, Sep 15
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 20 to 0700Z, Sep 21 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 21
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 20 to 1800Z, Sep 21
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Sep 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 22
144 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 24
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 24
BCC QSO Party	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 25
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 26
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 27 to 2400Z, Sep 28
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Sep 27 to 1200Z, Sep 28
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 27 to 0200Z, Sep 28 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 28
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Sep 27 (144) and 1900Z-2100Z, Sep 27 (432)
UBA ON Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Sep 28
222 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 30