



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

October 2008

President's Blog

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG:

The year, as it seems, is quickly drawing to a close. There is less than 100 days remaining. The Autumn weather is here and the hurricane season is still amiss. No golden leaves to admire at this time and of course, along with the leaves, the rakes and the leaf blowers will have to come out. Of particular importance at this time is that it is election year and pretty soon we will have a new president in office in Washington. No reason to dwell on the economic crisis on Wall St.

This is also a reminder that we ourselves will be having election of officers in January 2009. So put on your leadership hats, we might be asking you to take over the running of the organization in the future. What say you? We do have a fair amount of unresolved problems with our two repeaters and we need your assistance to do something positive about these problems a.s.a.p. I know that some of you have very good suggestions and we are willing to listen your input. Your willingness, I am sure would bring a satisfactory conclusion to some of these problems. And now, on to other things.

Our annual holiday get together is coming up. We have reserved the Laurel Athletic Club again and plans are currently underway to have another successful party. Music will be supplied by Diamond Entertainment again (KA1WBN) and a delicious dinner is being planned. We are having a grand raffle, as usual for the occasion. Reserve the day. It is Wednesday December 10th.

Toy/K1WYQ

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes for the September 11, 2008 GNARC Meeting

The meeting was held on Thursday at The First Apostolic Church of Norwalk because our regular meeting place is being renovated over the next three months. The meeting was opened by Toy, K1WYQ at 8:02 PM. There were 17 in attendance including Doug, N2RDF who heard of the meeting on the repeater and dropped by. The scheduled speaker was unable to attend due to the change in schedule.

Business meeting:

Repeaters: Alan, NN1H is on vacation and of course both

repeaters have problems. The 440 machine is dead and there is some interference on the 2 meter that might be intentional.

Treasurers Report: Ed, K3EIN was unable to attend but reported to Toy that we are still solvent.

Public Service: There were two requests for our services, but one was too late for us to respond and the other occurred on "Hanna" weekend. Support for the American Diabetes Organization is our next and last event for the year.

ARES: Frank, KB1IFX passed the EMCOM tests parts 1,2 and 3 top of the class.

VE Sessions: Stamford will have one on the second Saturday of the month.

New Business:

Tim, W1GIG has two club radios, and FT-890 and a TS-430s, that need to be used on-the-air to ensure that they still work. Also, there are three elements from a tri-band beam available. Tim announced that the annual trip to the AWA with Don, KA1TZR and Jim, KC1FB netted over \$1000.00 for the club treasury.

It was reported, but not confirmed, that Frenchy, W1AGU was in an auto accident but there was no other information available.

A group of members asked to borrow the balloon used for FD to use in a contest and to try new antenna configurations. They were authorized to use N1EV if they desired and agreed to replace or repair the balloon if it is damaged or lost.

We observed a moment of silence for the victims of 9-11.

The minutes of the July Meeting were accepted.

There was some discussion on how to determine the source of the interference on the 2 meter repeater and everyone was urged to try to triangulate the source by switching to listen on the input frequency when the interference occurs, especially those who have directional antennas.

Jay, NE2Q talked of his idea to get publicity for amateur radio by publishing a list of hams who could pass health and welfare messages. There was some discussion and Jay will attempt to formulate the concept for a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Francoeur, KC1FB, Secretary.

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Next Meeting

The October Meeting will be held at the Westport Fire Department, 515 Post Road East, Westport, CT at 8pm.

Pizza at Johns Best on New Canaan Avenue in Norwalk, CT starting at 6pm.

Amateur News

MONTANA HAM ASSISTS IN RESCUE OF FELLOW AMATEUR 600 MILES AWAY

On Sunday, September 21, Bob Williams, N7ODM, of Bozeman, Montana, was just tuning around on 40 meters, giving his rig a test just before a scheduled QSO with his brother Rich, K7URU, in Spokane, when he heard a faint CW signal around 1 PM (MDT): Glenn Russell Ruby Jr, W7AU, of Corvallis, Oregon had broken his leg and was using a portable radio and Morse code to send out a call for help. Williams said he was able to understand the injured man's code even when his signal became very weak.

"He called me. He must have heard me testing out the radio. When I finished, I signed off with my call, and then I heard, 'N7ODM, this is W7AU/7,' so I answered," Williams told the ARRL. "I told him to go ahead, I had solid copy. He told me that he was a hiker that had fallen and broken his leg. He identified himself as Russ, provided information as to his GPS coordinates, the shelter, food and water on hand, as well as his detailed physical condition. He told me exactly who I needed to contact for assistance."

According to Williams, Ruby had slipped on a wet rock and broken his leg while out hiking in the Buck Creek Pass area of the high Cascades in Western Washington, 600 miles away from Williams. "Russ really had his act together," Williams said. "Before he even called for help, he set up his tent. It was raining when he fell, so he climbed into his tent and got into some warm clothes and had a snack of sunflower seeds and dried apricots. After that, he strung up a wire antenna, fired up his Elecraft K1 and called me." Williams said that Ruby told him he had a "couple of weeks worth of battery power" for the radio.

Ruby asked Williams to notify the Snohomish County Search and Rescue in Washington State. "I didn't have their number, so I called my local 911 dispatcher. All they had was the info for King County in Washington, so I called them and they gave me the number for Snohomish. When I got a hold of Snohomish County Search and Rescue, they asked me to obtain additional info from Russ, such as the color of his tent and if he was in a clear or wooded area, and remain in contact with him as long as

possible," Williams said.

"Russ and I were able to maintain contact until about 8 PM on Sunday, during which time I was able to pass additional traffic between Russ and Search and Rescue, but then his signal got so weak where I couldn't copy it anymore. Before he faded, we had agreed to try and make contact in the morning. I tried, starting around 6:30, but he never heard me. I finally heard him calling me around 9 on 7.051 MHz. We kept in contact until he was evacuated from the site by Search and Rescue at about 10:35 AM," Williams told the ARRL.

On Sunday, rescue crews reached Ruby, who had set up camp on Buck Creek Pass, at about 6000 feet just west of the Chelan County line. He was taken to safety Monday on horseback. Williams said that bad weather Sunday prevented a helicopter rescue: "It was snowing all night; Russ told me that when he woke up Monday morning, his tent was all covered in snow."

"I just happened to be at the same frequency," Williams said. "It's just a stroke of luck that turned out great. It was quite an experience. I'm just glad that he was a ham radio operator and that I was able to talk to him. It made the difference for him. What I did was not anything special. I'd like to think that any ham in Montana would've done the same thing."

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Hamfests

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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WA7BNM Contest Calendar
October 2008

Contest Name	Time/Date/(Band)
Fall Classic Country Uncle DX Event	0000Z, Oct 1 to 2400Z, Dec 31
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 3
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-0959Z, Oct 3
YLRL Anniversary Party, CW	1400Z, Oct 3 to 0200Z, Oct 5
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 4
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 4
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 4 to 0800Z, Oct 5
International HELL-Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Oct 4 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Oct 5 (40m)
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 4
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 4 to 2159Z, Oct 5
UBA ON Contest, 6m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 5
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	0700Z-1900Z, Oct 5
432 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Oct 8
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Oct 9
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 10
YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB	1400Z, Oct 10 to 0200Z, Oct 12
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z-0759Z, Oct 11 and 1600Z-2359Z, Oct 11 and 0800Z-1559Z, Oct 12
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 11 to 0800Z, Oct 12
EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 11
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 11 to 0500Z, Oct 12 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 12
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 11
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 12
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 12
UBA ON Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 15
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 17
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 18 to 2400Z, Oct 19
ARCI Fall QSO Party	1200Z, Oct 18 to 2400Z, Oct 19
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1459Z, Oct 19
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1500Z, Oct 19
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
PODXS 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint	2000 local, Oct 18 to 0200 local, Oct 19
Feld Hell Sprint	2200Z-2400Z, Oct 18
50 MHz Fall Sprint	2300Z, Oct 18 to 0300Z, Oct 19
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 19
UBA ON Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 19
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 19 to 0100Z, Oct 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 20
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 20 to 2400Z, Oct 24
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 22
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Oct 22
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 24
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 25 to 2400Z, Oct 26
10-10 Int. Fall Contest	0001Z, Oct 25 to 2359Z, Oct 26
Microwave Fall Sprint	0600 local - 1200 local, Oct 25
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 31