



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

February 2009

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

So far, this winter has been colder than usual and there has been more than the usual amount of precipitation. Oh well! Its winter and one should not complain too much. If you remember, the past several years, we have had mild winters and we are somewhat spoiled.

If you have not already received the information, the 146.775 W1NLK/R is now on the air from the New Canaan site for a 6 month trial run. If all goes well, this swap will become permanent.

On the list for public service is, the annual Bloomin' Metric bike ride from Calf Pasture beach in Norwalk on May 17th and the annual MS bike ride from Sherwood Island in Westport on May 31st. Do not forget to reserve the last weekend in June for Field Day.

New club sweat and tee shirts will be ready for you to purchase by mid February. The brand name is Hanes and the sizes range from medium (M) to (3XL). Colors are grey and navy blue. The sweats are medium weight and the tees are heavyweight. Prices: Sweats: \$25 each: Tees: \$12 each.

We (GNARC) have nominated a youth member of the club, Max Spitzer/W1MOS for the annual Hiram Percy scholarship award that is sponsored by the ARRL.

As you know, we have had a scheduling snafu with shop rite and the Feb meeting has been shifted to the Westport Fire Department HQ at 515 Post Road East. Our Program speaker for the evening will be Brian Fernandez/K1BRF. Brian will be speaking about the role of amateur radio with the American Red Cross. Do not forget pizza at 6pm at John's Best.

Toy/K1WYQ

Next Meeting

The next meeting of GNARC will be held at the Westport Fire Department HQ at 515 Post Road East., Westport, CT on Wednesday February 11, 2009 at 2000 hrs.

Join the gang for pizza at John's Best , New Canaan Avenue, Norwalk, CT . The fun begins at 1800 hrs.

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes for the January 14, 2009 GNARC Meeting

Toy-K1WYQ opened the meeting at 8:03 PM. There were 25 in attendance.

Steve-NA1SV introduced John Gustafson the speaker for the evenings presentation. John spoke on the topic "A wake up call for Amateur Radio: Creating a focus of activity for the Amateur Radio community." He challenged us to take a critical look at our capabilities and determine where we fit in the new, complex E.M. world. For, though we are still critical in major communications outages as operators who come with our own equipment, we need to define where, when and how we can best provide our services in modern E.M. scenarios.

Business Meeting:

Repeaters: Toy announced that we have begun the six month trial of using the New Canaan repeater pair on the tower as our primary repeater. Alan-NN1H said the Norwalk repeater now on the Hospital was not working well and would be worked on when the weather allowed.

Treasurer's Report: We are in good shape and the treasury is growing with yearly dues that are now due.

ARES: Nothing new to report.

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Minutes: The November minutes were approved

New Business:

We cannot use the Shop-Rite meeting room next month due to a scheduling error. We will likely go back to the Westport Fire House.

Pictures from the Holiday Party will be put up on the web page.

Jay-NE1Q put forth a proposal to increase community awareness of Amateur Radio by offering to attempt to make contact with loved ones in the area where there has been an international disaster. After much discussion a motion was passed to pursue the idea with Jay chairing a committee that will compose an article suitable for publication and bring it before the club for approval.

Election of Officers for 2009: Don-KA1TZR a member of the nominating committee put forth the following nominees for 2009:

Toy-K1WYQ	President
Steve-NA1SV	Vice President
Ed-K3EIN	Treasurer
Jim-KC1FB	Secretary

The slate was elected unanimously.

Public Service: Our first event will be the “Bloomin’ Metric” on May 17.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Jim Francoeur, KC1FB,
Secretary.

Talk-In: 147.27+ (PL 146.2) & 449.925- (PL 88.5)
Contact: Tim Ikeda, KA1OS
c/o AARC
PO Box 258
Marlborough, MA 01752
Phone: 978-333-1715
Email: fleamarket@n1em.org

Location

Marlborough, MA
Marlborough Intermediate Elementary School
25 Union Street
(via Thresher Drive)
Div: New England
Sect: Eastern Massachusetts

Mar 7

21st Annual Hamfest
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 01085-1703
Phone: 413-568-1175
Fax: 413-568-3663
Email: k1iss-n1fi@comcast.net

Location

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

Hamfests

Feb 14

Ham Radio Flea Market
Algonquin Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.n1em.org>

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ARRL News

On January 30, at the instruction of the Board of Directors at its January 2009 meeting, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted a policy statement on mobile Amateur Radio operations. The statement addresses the growing number of proposed state and local laws and ordinances regulating the use of cellular telephone and text messaging, inadvertently affecting Amateur Radio mobile communications
<<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>>

In its statement, the Executive Committee urges state and municipal legislators to limit the scope of their proposals, limiting them to devices such as full duplex wireless telephones and related handheld or portable equipment. Alternately, it suggests that licensed Amateur Radio operation be listed specifically as an exclusion to the proposed regulations.

"At the start of each new session, you see a flurry of this type of proposal in state legislatures across the country," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. As of February 1, 2009, Henderson said that the ARRL is aware of proposals in 11 states: Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming, as well as several local city or town proposals.

"These proposals are usually intended to regulate cellular telephone and text messaging by drivers as a matter of safety but, when they are written in very broad terms, can include Amateur Radio mobile operations in the 'net' they cast," Henderson continued. "The Executive Committee's policy statement gives a good, concise background of the role the Amateur Service plays in public safety and service

communications. It also highlights the differences between communications conducted by cellular telephone and those using Amateur Radio. Finally, the statement offers some suggested statutory language for state motor vehicle codes which would protect Amateur Radio mobile operation."

The ARRL recognizes that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents. The policy statement raises the fact that cell phones utilize full duplex communications -- where the user is talking and listening simultaneously. The Executive Committee statement says "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile, private land mobile or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect."

The ARRL Policy Statement also recognizes the responsibility of the amateur community to conduct its activities in a manner that does not create unsafe operation of their motor vehicle. "Safety has to be a top concern at all times," Henderson concluded.

Contest

I had to throw this in just because of the name. February 7, 2009 for the "Freeze Your B___ Off" contest. Details are on the Arizona ScQRPions website. <http://www.azscqrpions.org/FYBO2009.htm>

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WA7BNM Contest Calendar
February 2009

Contest Name	Time/Date/(Band)
ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Feb 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 3
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 6
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 7 to 2400Z, Feb 8
YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW/RTTY	0000Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 7
Black Sea Cup International	1200Z-2400Z, Feb 7
WW PMC Contest	1200Z, Feb 7 to 1200Z, Feb 8
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 7
FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 7
British Columbia QSO Challenge	1600Z, Feb 7 to 0359Z, Feb 8
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 7
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 7 to 0500Z, Feb 8 and 1300Z, Feb 8 to 0100Z, Feb 9
New Mexico QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 7 to 1759Z, Feb 8
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 8
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 9 to 2400Z, Feb 13
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 11
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 11
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 13
YLRL YL-OM Contest	1400Z, Feb 13 to 0200Z, Feb 15
PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	2000 local, Feb 13 to 0200 local, Feb 14
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 14 to 2400Z, Feb 15
New Hampshire QSO Party	0001Z, Feb 14 to 0001Z, Feb 15
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 14
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 14
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 14 to 1200Z, Feb 15
KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 14 to 1200Z, Feb 15
Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 14 to 0300Z, Feb 15
OMISS QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 14 to 1500Z, Feb 15
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 14
RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Feb 14 to 0100Z, Feb 15
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 16
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 18
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 19
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 20
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 21 to 2400Z, Feb 22
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 21 to 1800Z, Feb 22
Feld Hell Sprint	1700Z-2000Z, Feb 21
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Feb 22 and 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 22
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 27
Russian PSK WW Contest	2100Z, Feb 27 to 2100Z, Feb 28
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 27 to 2159Z, Mar 1
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 28 to 1300Z, Mar 1
Mississippi QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 28 to 0300Z, Mar 1
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 28 to 0600Z, Mar 1