



# Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

## Newsletter

### "The Voice of GNARC"

#### March 2009

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### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

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The month of March is upon us. The winter season is almost over, and preparations are underway for another round of activities.

First, I need to announce again that we have club sweats and tees available for sale. The colors are navy and grey and the sizes range from **M** to **3XL**. Prices are: sweats \$25 each and tees are \$12 each. They are medium weight and they look good. See me, call me, or email me to get them now or see me at the next club meeting when they will also be available. Phone: 853 2407: email: toyalladin@yahoo.com.

I have recently been notified that the American Red Cross is holding a training session for their emergency communication vehicle from April 24th to April 26<sup>th</sup> (4/24 to 4/26) in Farmington, CT. I know that some of you expressed an interest in being trained to operate the emergency equipment in this vehicle, so here it is. Please contact Brian Fernandez, K1BRF at comlink8@gmail.com for further details.

The club has acquired the 2 antennas, 2m and 440, that were previously approved for purchase. They are currently in our possession and awaiting installation on the tower whenever work is being done on the tower. As you are aware, the 440 antenna is beginning to present problems and will eventually fail.

Preparations are now underway for us to participate in weekend on the air event on the last weekend in March at the Vets Park in Norwalk. This is going to involve the launching of the helium balloon with the 80m antenna. We are hoping for better stability with the antenna this time. More to be discussed at the next meeting. We have also filed for permission to use Vets. Park again for field day at the end (last weekend) of June.

Toy/K1WYQ

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### Next Meeting

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Our next meeting is on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 8pm at the Shop Rite community meeting room on Connecticut Ave., Norwalk, CT Wednesday March 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.

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### This Months Program

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Due to a scheduling conflict the program on Software Defined Radio (SDR) will not be presented at this meeting. It will be presented at a later date.

In its place, a Powerpoint presentation on Mobile HF will be given by our own Steve Verbil/NA1SV.

Club sweats and tees will be available for purchase. Walk with your check books (cash works, too).

Toy/K1WYQ

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### Secretary's Minutes

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Minutes of the February 11, 2009 GNARC Meeting

Toy-K1WYQ opened the meeting at 8:00 PM at the Westport Firehouse. There were 25 members in attendance, with one visitor, Stu-KB1RSY.

Toy introduced the evenings speaker, Brian Fernandes-K1BRF who spoke on The American Red Cross-How to Get Involved. Brian gave an interesting talk outlining a number of areas where Amateur Radio Operators can utilize their talents in the Red Cross organization. He encouraged all of us to get involved as Red Cross volunteers.

Business Meeting:

Treasurer's Report: We have received dues from over 55 members.

Repeaters: The W1NLK repeater on 146.775 is now in New Canaan with -.6 MHz split and 100 Hz PL. The W1FSN repeater on 146.475 is in Norwalk on the tower with a +1 MHz split and 100 Hz PL. We will switch ID's in five months if the trial is successful. There are still problems with interference, so please listen to the input when it occurs and try to pinpoint the source.

ARES: Still thinking of organizing a Fox Hunt, Radio Direction Finding event. This year you do not have to update your ARES membership information unless your data has changed. Remember that there is a monthly drill at 8:00 PM on the first Monday of the month.

Minutes: Toy proposed that the minutes be published earlier, by E-mail, to the address list on the reflector. We will begin to

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publish them that way this month. The January minutes were approved.

Public Service: Two events in May will be supported. The Bloomin' metric on May 17 from Calf Pasture Beach and the MS Bike Tour on May 31 from Sherwood Island. Volunteers are needed.

Old Business:

Holiday Party pictures will go up on the web site.

The balloon experiment: Hugo-AA1XV wants to iron out some kinks in the antenna deployment and plans to work the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest on March 28-29 from our FD site at Veterans Park. Toy will get permission for the use of the facility.

New Business:

New Club sweat shirts at \$25 and T-shirts at \$12 are on order and should be available at the next meeting.

We have nominated Max Spitzer-KB1PUQ for the ARRL Scholarship Award. He is organizing a Ham Radio Club at his school.

Dan-N1ZZ announced that he will be operating PJ2T from Curacao for the ARRL International CW DX Contest.

Tim-W1GIG announced that the AWA, AM contest is now open to all hams and runs from 6 PM Saturday March 21 to 6 PM Sunday March 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by Jim Francoeur, KC1FB,  
Secretary.

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## **ARRL News**

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### **FCC SPECIAL COUNSEL LAURA SMITH VISITS ARRL HQ**

Laura Smith visited ARRL Headquarters on March 5 and 6, her first official visit as Special Counsel. Smith was named to the position earlier this year, filling the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008; Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the Commission's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/03/10198>>.

While at Headquarters, Smith visited with various departments, such as the Lab, the Volunteer Examiner

Coordinator (VEC), the Regulatory Information Branch and Membership and Volunteer Programs (MVP).

Spending all Thursday afternoon with ARRL Lab staff, Smith discussed power line noise and how it can affect Amateur Radio. "Since Riley had retired last year, very little had been done at the FCC with regard to the power line noise enforcement," said ARRL Laboratory Engineer and power line noise expert Mike Gruber, W1MG. "The Lab staff discussed the status of the ARRL-FCC Cooperative Agreement on power line noise with Laura and how best to proceed forward

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/07/26/3/?nc=1>>. While the ARRL is not in the enforcement business, the Cooperative Agreement was an attempt to help the FCC focus its limited resources in the area where they are most needed -- enforcement. The ARRL's goal is to help resolve as many of these cases as possible with technical and other help before they ever get to the FCC."

Gruber also briefed Smith on some power line noise basics, including a demonstration of some professional grade locating equipment. Using a Model T spark coil as a noise source, Gruber was able to show Smith how a utility can locate power line noise - in many cases, without too much difficulty.

According to ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, the FCC committed to Smith visiting the ARRL once she accepted the position. "I think this visit has been a very productive two days. We are getting to know Laura, and she is getting to know our organization and what we, as the ARRL, can do to help her make her job easier to help the amateur community as a whole," Henderson said. "I just kind of played tour guide and facilitated the visit, introducing her to all the departments here at Headquarters."

Smith, a lawyer, is no stranger to the FCC or Amateur Radio. She began her legal career with the Commission, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), working with Senior System Analyst Bill Cross, W3TN; she also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith also knew Hollingsworth through her father-in-law Richard M. Smith, former Chief of the Field Operations Bureau, at the time responsible for all FCC field engineering and enforcement activities. Richard Smith led many investigations of illegal uses of the radio spectrum, including the successful apprehension of "Captain Midnight" who overrode a satellite television broadcast signal <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captain\\_Midnight\\_%28HBO%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captain_Midnight_%28HBO%29)>. Smith also served as Chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET).

"Riley worked for my father-in-law for years," Smith said. "My father-in-law was the Chief of the Field Operations Bureau at the FCC for 25 years. So enforcement is actually

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something that is a long-standing family tradition. A member of my family -- the Smith family -- has worked at the FCC continuously since 1964: Myself, my husband and my father-in-law."

Calling Hollingsworth "irreplaceable," Smith said what he did for the Commission and for the amateur community was "amazing . He volunteered for that job. He stood up and said, 'I'm an amateur. I love this community and I want to give back to it.' This position needs to be filled by somebody who is interested in doing it long-term. This [job] is not a stepping stone; it's not a short term process. This wouldn't work if I were trying to be Riley. I'm not going to be Riley. We're very different people. But we both have the same goal: To make the amateur community better."

Smith emphasized that an Amateur Radio license is "a privilege, not a right. When you come to the FCC and you sign up for a license and you get that license, you have agreed to abide by those Rules. That is inherent in the application process. As an applicant and a licensee, you have said, 'I will hereby comply with the Rules that have been enacted by the FCC.' So you have said, 'I will adhere to that.' And if you choose not to, then you are subject to losing that privilege."

Smith is not yet a licensed amateur. She said that she will get her license "someday," but that she did not want to get her license just because her job involves Amateur Radio: "I didn't want to come into this job and become a ham, saying, 'I'm getting this job so I'm going to be a ham -- not because I'm interested in being a ham, but because it looks better on paper.' So ultimately I will become a ham." Smith said that her father-in-law, when stationed in the FCC's Field Office in Los Angeles, used to administer the Morse code test to prospective licensees: "So he has challenged me that before I can become an amateur on any level, I must learn Morse code and I must pass the test with him administering the Morse code. So I have a challenge. I am going to begin learning Morse code this summer. He is going to start teaching me, so once I have sufficient proficiency, then he will let me take the [Technician] test."

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## Hamfests

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**21 Mar 2009** - Eastern Connecticut ARA  
<http://www.qsl.net/k1muj/>  
Talk-In: 147.225+ (PL 156.7)

**Contact** — Paul Rollinson, KE1LI  
182 Wrights Crossing Road  
Pomfret Center, CT 06259  
Phone: 860-928-2456  
Fax: 860-928-3844  
Email: KE1LI@arrl.net

**Location** — Pomfret Community School, 20 Pomfret Road, Pomfret, CT

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**22 Mar 2009** - 26th Annual Flea Market  
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: ka1ilh@chetbacon.com

**Location** - Southington High School, 720 Pleasant Street, Southington, CT

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**4 Apr 2009** - North Jersey Hamfest  
Splitrock ARA  
<http://www.splitrockara.org>  
Talk-In: 146.385/146.985 (PL 131.8)

**Contact** - Dan Gruber, N2AB  
c/o Splitrock ARA  
PO Box 610  
Rockaway, NJ 07866  
Phone: 866-457-6687  
Fax: 866-457-6687  
Email: hamfest@splitrockara.org

**Location** - Roxbury Senior Center (Horseshoe Lake Park)  
72 Eyland Avenue, Succasunna, NJ

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**WA7BNM Contest Calendar**  
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<b>Contest Name</b>	<b>Time/Date/(Band)</b>
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Mar 1
North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Mar 1 to 0300Z, Mar 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 3
AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 4
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 6
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0429Z, Mar 7 and 0430Z-0459Z, Mar 7 and 0500Z-0529Z, Mar 7 and 0530Z-0600Z, Mar 7
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	2200Z-2359Z, Mar 7 (Low Band) and 0000Z-0159Z, Mar 8 (Low Band) and 0800Z-1159Z, Mar 8 (High Band)
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Mar 8
UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 8
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Mar 8
NSARA Contest	1100Z-1500Z, Mar 8 and 1700Z-2100Z, Mar 8
CLARA HF Contest	1700Z, Mar 10 to 1700Z, Mar 11 and 1700Z, Mar 14 to 1700Z, Mar 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 11
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 13
HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest	1830Z-1900Z, Mar 13 (80m) and 1900Z-1930Z, Mar 13 (40m)
RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 14
ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Mar 14
EA PSK31 Contest	1600Z, Mar 14 to 1600Z, Mar 15
SOC Marathon Sprint	1800Z-2400Z, Mar 14
Elecraft QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 14 to 1800Z, Mar 15
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 15
UBA Spring Contest, 6m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 15
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 16
Bucharest Contest	1600Z-1729Z, Mar 16 and 1730Z-1859Z, Mar 16
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Mar 19
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 19
Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Mar 21
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 21
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 23
SARL VHF/UHF Contest	1000Z, Mar 21 to 1000Z, Mar 22
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22
Oklahoma QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 22 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 22
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Mar 21 (144) and 1900Z-2100Z, Mar 21 (432)
North Dakota QSO Party	1700Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 22
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 23
UBA Spring Contest, 2m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 22
9K 15-Meter Contest	1200Z-1600Z, Mar 22
QRP Homebrewer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 23