



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

November 2009

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

I am happy to say at this time that the long awaited D Star repeater is now up and running with the final phase of installation in place. The *gateway* is now open to the rest of the world and those of us who already have D Star radios in their possession will attest to this. Many thanks to the benefactors, and others who gave assistance that paved the way for this historic happening in our midst.

Special thanks to Curt Seaton/W1FSM for all the time and effort that was so generously given to this project, for, without his help this would have been far behind. A reminder to all, this repeater is privately owned, and its presence atop the Norwalk Hospital under the auspices of the GNARC, has been made possible through arrangements with the said owners and the club. The owners prefer to remain anonymous, and this should be respected by all. Also, the use of this repeater is not restricted, that is, it is open for use by anyone who has a D Star radio.

In other areas, there has been a flurry of activity with CT ARES and the Red Cross net. For those of us who benefit from getting updates through the ARES reflector, it appears that the Red Cross net is about to start again. This has come about from continuous discussions and recommendations from membership statewide. The starting date was announced and the trial period is going to be on 80m. Apparently NVIS antennas are going to be used.

The NY Yankees won the World Series for the 27th time in franchise history and there was another successful running of the NY marathon. As you well know, this is a major undertaking for the ham community in the northeast. There were several hams from our area and the rest of the state. Some of them for the first time and there were those who return year after year to help. I am sure that there are many interesting stories to be heard from many of you.

Our next meeting is carded for Wed. Nov 11th at the Shop Rite Community Room on Connecticut Ave. The meeting starts at 8pm. Program for the evening will be a talk on D Star technology followed by a live demonstration.

de K1WYQ

Next Meeting

The November meeting of GNARC will be held in the Community Room of the Shop Rite Supermarket on Connecticut Avenue in Norwalk, CT. The meeting begins at 8pm

This month's program will be a program for the evening will be a talk on D Star technology followed by a live demonstration.

Pizza is at the usual spot, John's Best Pizza, New Canaan Ave. in Norwalk beginning at 6pm

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes of the October 14, 2009 GNARC Meeting

Toy-K1WYQ opened the meeting at 8:09 PM. There were 19 Members and guests in attendance.

Toy turned the meeting over to Allan- NN1H who gave a talk on the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in Region 1 of Connecticut. Allan broke his talk into four main topics:

I. He spoke of our place in the overall ARES organization under the ARRL and detailed the leadership chain. He also pointed out that in an emergency members are responsible to their families and loved ones first, then to the aid of the general public.

II. There is training available to all ARES members at the individual level, supervisory level and leadership level. FEMA has web based courses and of course there is On The Job training when we participate in the Monthly First Monday night nets and work Public Service Events.

III. He indicated that we are there to provide Communications Support to the following organizations: First, The Department of Emergency Management, Homeland Security, second, the Red Cross and finally the local town E.O.C.'s.

IV. Dreams for the Future: Internet Access at our repeater sites. Getting Darien and Fairfield into the fold. Creating a Communication VAN/SUV/Trailer to be ready and available in an emergency. Allan finished with an exhortation to the attendees to join ARES by registering on-line at the CTARES.org site.

“The Voice of GNARC”

November 2009

Page 2

Business Meeting:

Treasurer's Report: We are very solvent.

Repeaters: All running OK, but we don't have an internet connection at the D-Star site.

Publicity: The Public Library Project was very successful and generated a lot of interest. Paul-N1II was awarded the QST Cover Plaque for his September Article.

Minutes: The minutes were accepted as published.

New Business:

Club Station: Some members have indicated an interest in providing a Club Station for members who don't have equipment or antennas to be able to operate. Toy indicated that if those interested could find a suitable site, the club would support the project.

VEC Sessions: The next session will be on Nov. 21 at the Government Center in Stamford.

Annual Holiday Party: Wednesday December 9 from 7:00 to 11:00 PM at the Laurel Athletic Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Francoeur-KC1FB, Secretary.

Hamfests

No local hamfests for November or December

Ham Radio Operators Assist in Catalina Island Rescue

From the ARRL Newsletter

Around 9:45 on the night of October 23, while attending an overnight event at the Boy Scouts' Camp Emerald Bay on Santa Catalina Island, Karl Tso, KI6PCW, and his wife, Deborah Ava, KJ6CRZ, of Topanga, California, decided to climb a hill to check out the view -- and to see if they could get into the repeater on the island with their handheld transceivers. As they climbed the hill, the two radio amateurs heard a sound; Tso turned his high-powered flashlight on the source, only to discover a man who had fallen 48 feet to the rocks below, bleeding and severely injured.

According to Los Angeles County Disaster Communications

Service (LADCS) Recruiting Officer Norm Goodkin, K6YXH, Tso and Ava were on Catalina for an overnight Cub Scout event. While on the 26 mile boat ride to the island, the



couple turned on their radios and got on the local repeater; a fellow ham passed them the frequency of the repeater on Catalina Island and they programmed it into their radios. "Just the weekend prior,

both Karl and Deborah attended one of our classes and in that class, we showed them how to program frequencies in their radio. They are members of the Topanga Disaster Radio Team (DRT), part of the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP)," Goodkin told the ARRL.

That evening on their walk up the hill, they discovered Peter Koll, 61, had fallen, crashing down to the rocks below. At the accident scene, Tso and Ava got on their radios and quickly made contact with Scott Bastian, KD6QZX, of Fullerton, who called emergency services. Joyce Wood, KD6HYO, of Costa Mesa, who stood by in case further assistance was required. Koll was evacuated by Bay Watch and airlifted to St Mary's Hospital in Long Beach. According to the LA County Sherriff's office, his current condition is unknown.

"It was a surreal experience that Deborah and I will never forget," Tso told the ARRL. "We were horrified, yet very happy that we were there for the gentleman that was injured. At the same time, we strangely felt empowered, knowing that the ham radio system works. As we hoped, the ham community is for the most part made up of people who want to be helpful to others in times of need. Deborah and I are new to the ham community, but we would encourage others to become involved."