



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

January 2010

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL.

Enough of all the financial turbulence and uncertainties of the past year and onto a positive 2010. At this time I am happy to state that we are solvent and looking forward to a very productive year ahead. Of course we have the settling process of getting the board of management into gear after our annual election this month.

One might say it is only business as usual, but we need to infuse some renewed thinking about how we should go about our business in the foreseeable future, and now is the time to step forward and verbalize some of your druthers about what you would like to see the organization do in an effort to move forward. I am very much aware that some of you have some exciting ideas. Do not be too shy about bringing those ideas forward. We will listen to them and determine their individual merits.

Looking back on 2009, one can say that we had a moderately successful year with a variety of club related activities, plus the addition of a privately sponsored D Star repeater. One would like to see this repeater put to more use. The technology used in this system gives us an open gateway to the rest of the world with a mere handy talkie. We urge you to obtain one of these digitally equipped radios and experience the excitement.

While on the subject of repeaters, we would like to see our repeaters put to some more usage than what is current. They are in fine working condition, with echolink working on 70cm another gateway to the rest of the world on UHF. We ended 2009 with another gala holiday get together at the local Laurel Athletic Club and a good time was had by all who attended. Here is hoping that 2010 will be another productive year for us.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wed Jan 13th in the Community room of the Shop Rite supermarket on CT Ave at 8pm. Do not forget our gathering for pizza at John's Best at 6pm before meeting time.

The program for this meeting will be a presentation by Dan (N1ZZ) Graveraux on his annual Dxpediton on the Island of Curacao.Ave.

Secretary's Minutes

Toy-K1WYQ opened the meeting at 8:00 PM there were 35 in attendance including four visitors.

Toy turned the meeting over for the talk on D-STAR to a team of presenters: Jess-ND1L, Steve-NA1SV and Curt-W1FSM with two UK hams, 2E0GEO and 2E0RJY, who were on the side for a live demo. They gave an interesting talk on Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio (D-STAR) with a live demo. The mode is presently only available on ICOM products, which limits its wide acceptance. It handles Voice and Low Speed data on VHF/UHF and High Speed Data on 1.2 GHz. In our area the only pairs are on 70 cm.

Some unique features:

- * On initial transmission your call is registered
- * Call sign and CQ message, if used, is in all transmissions
- * It uses Forward Error Correction (FEC)

A lot more information was presented and a number of web sites were mentioned, including: www.dstarusers.org for more info.

Business Meeting:

Treasurer's Report: We are in Very Good shape.

Repeaters: We are now fully coordinated and the D-Star repeater is up and running as was demonstrated the evening.

ARES: The SET was successful and our report was sent in.

Holiday Party: The December meeting is replaced by the Holiday Party at the Laurel Athletic Club in Norwalk.

Minutes: The minutes were accepted as published.

January Election of Officers: The nominating committee made their recommendations at the Holiday Party: President Toy-K1WYQ, Vice President Vlad-W1ZP, Treasurer Ed K3EIN and Secretary Jim-KC1FB.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Francoeur-KC1FB, Secretary.

“The Voice of GNARC”
January 2010
Page 2

How They Brought The Frequency From 2975 To 2125

Ed. Note: The following was submitted by Bill Hart, KC1TX. He “found this in the bottom of a box of old papers. It was apparently typed out on a teleprinter, so must be about thirty years old. Not sure if W1LLY is a real call, or a pseudonym.” That being said, I can not make any claims for the provenance of this particular piece of poetry.

What, purchase capacitors, Henry and me?
I had 'em, Dick had 'em, we had 'em all three.
“Good Luck!” cried the salesman; we walked through the door.

We each had a junk box; what need for a store?
So we hied to Dick's cellar with work to be done;
Hank brought his pliers and soldering gun.

Not a word to each other selecting the parts;
We stacked them up neatly, with loud-throbbing hearts.
I had a point ought two – one pigtail was lost,
so into the trashcan that item was tossed.
Richard drew forth from a box on the floor
A good-as-new mylar marked point oh one four.

We soldered it in, made a test for a lark:
Twenty six twenty the tentative mark.
An anonymous oil-filled next got a show,
But it shifted the signal an octave too low.
Henry removed it; we ventured top risk
A one thousand P.F.D. Circular disk

Twenty six hundred – is that all we gained?
Our faith in the principles seemed badly strained.
Dick's box of micas emphatically showed
How little we knew of the JAN color code.
A trip for my handbook; I drove past the mark
And noticed the hour.....day done, all was dark.

Red—violet--red in a shiny red mold –
But we picked up less shift than our hunches foretold.
I called for a huddle. “That reciprocal root
Is punching us right on the tip of the snoot –
We need bigger numbers.” My lecturing done,
Hank drew from his treasures a paper ought one.

He trembled, expectant, while gripping the gun.
His XYL phoned – he was off on the run.
Dick finished the soldering. Our goal now in view,
We worked on, more eager, at quarter to two.
Once more measure – now two two six six;
This trivial gap should be easy to fix!

Some dark green ceramics in sequence we tried,
But each one still left us down on the low side.

Dick then played his gambit: from the family TV
He sadly brought forth a double oh three.
Triumphantly hooking this gem in its place,
He smugly sat back with a smile on his face.

I hated my mission, to fail once again
Would mean that the now-blackened screen was in vain.
Biting my lip I proceeded to show
We had a full fifty cycles more yet to go.
Sobbing, he left – y second aide gone.
I worked all the faster, in a race against dawn.

Each unit I tried gave too bassy a tone –
Waxed paper and foil! I was rolling my own!
The first was too small, so I tripled the foil
And gradually victory courted my toil.
For the seventh time, scissors, I trimmed it once more –
The frequency perfect! A full bull's-eye score!

The object achieved, I let down my guard.
Let heroic deeds rate an heroic reward!
I sat and regarded our A.F.S.K.
And greedily guzzled Dick's last Beaujolais.
My brain recalled scenes from the previous night
When we fought so to fashion the mark signal right.

W1LLY

Special Bulletin 1 ARLX001

NCVEC Releases New Technician Class Question Pool

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool on Monday, January 4. This new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014.

The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010.

The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination; it will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element.

The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011.

The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

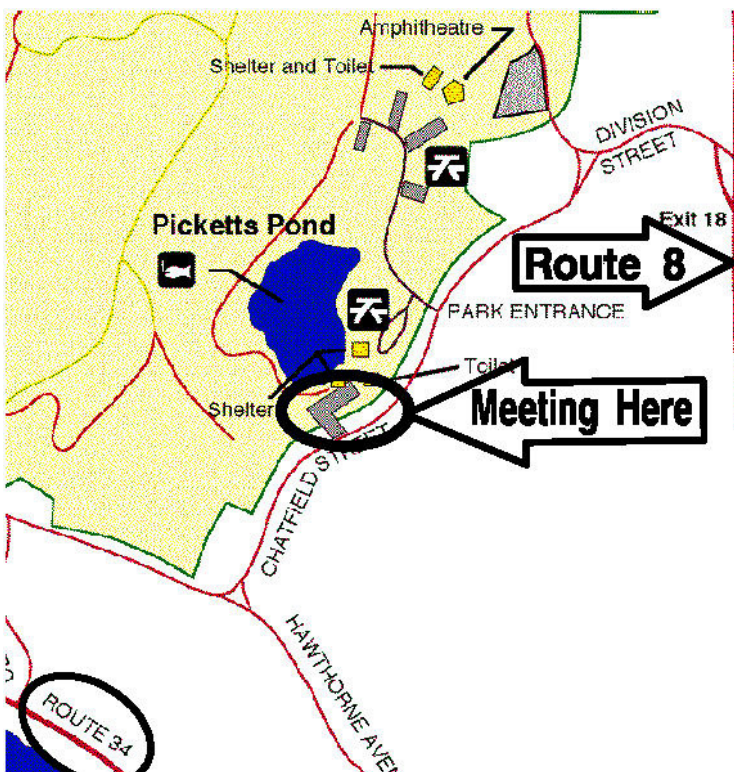
Winter Field Day 2010

From the SPAR website:

“Field Day is perhaps the most popular of the many activities enjoyed by Amateurs. Every June the bands come alive with improvised signals proving the ability to respond to emergencies. The event also offers an opportunity for camaraderie and a chance to test ourselves in less than ideal circumstances, however, emergencies and natural disasters don't always happen in the summer. Winter winds, icy limbs and bitter cold replace the thunderstorms and blistering heat of summer. To test our abilities to operate in the winter, in 2007 SPAR established a Winter Field Day event and invited all Amateur Radio operators to participate. In both 2007 and 2008 the event was enjoyed by many and considered a success and has been designated an annual event to be held the last full weekend each January. Therefore it is time to issue the invitation for the Third Annual SPAR Winter Field Day!”

The Greater Bridgeport Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be operating “Winter Field Day” again this year. Come and check out the happenings. Operations begin at 0800 at Osborndale State Park in Derby. Information is available at the following web sites:

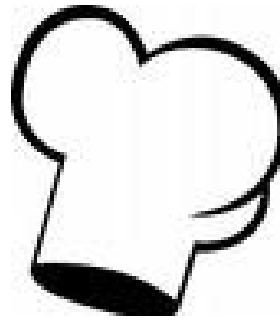
<http://www.gbarc.net/>
<http://www.spar-hams.org/contests/winterfd/index.php>



BIG or SMALL **We Ship it all**

Shipping Services, Packing Services, Freight Services, Moving Supplies, Copying Color Black & White, Faxing , Printing
Greg Bryson
The UPS Store 304 Main Ave. Norwalk, CT 06851
PH 203 847-6166 Fax 203 849-1868
8-6:30 m-f 9-3 sat

CHEF ON CALL LLC



Catering Services

Certified & Insured • References Available

203-866-1699
Chefcall@optonline.net