



Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter

"The Voice of GNARC"

April 2010

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

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Alas! The month of April is here, heralding Spring and other hated but necessary commitments, such as preparations for the dreaded tax returns on April 15th and the multitude of 'honey dos' that present themselves. However, we do have the urge to carry on and accomplish the virtual impossible, despite putting the majority of the undertakings on hold.

April 17th is an open house day at the Norwalk Public Library and Jay (NE2Q), on behalf of the club, has been officially invited to show and demonstrate the shortwave radio that is installed there. Jay has already been making preparations to do this and also wants to use a transceiver on the 17th. We need some additional help for the occasion.

In other news, we have the Bloomin Metric bike ride on May 23rd. Also, on June 13th, we have the MS bike ride from the Sherwood Island State Park in Westport. These are big public service events for us and we need radio operators with high powered 2m rigs for these events. More details for this at our next general meeting.

The program for our April 14th meeting will be presented by Jonathan Taylor(K1RFD). He will be speaking on the latest developments in IRLP and Echolink.

One final note, our club greatly depends on your membership dues to exist. Try and remember to submit your dues asap.

De K1WYQ

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wed April 14th 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.

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes of the March 10, 2010 GNARC Meeting

Vlad-W1ZP ran the meeting. There were 24 members in attendance, one guest Adam-W1ASB and Jon Perelstein-KB1QBZ who opened the meeting with an interesting talk on Packet for VHF Radio. Jon pointed out the relative advantages/disadvantages of packet modes and the use of

TNC's vs. PC-soundcard implementations especially as it pertains to EMCOMM.

Business Meeting:

Treasurer's Report: So far this year, we have 58 paid members. Last year we had over 100 by years end.

Minutes: Approved

New Business:

Dan-N1ZZ announced that the contest station PJ2T, set a new world record in the ARRL DX Contest (CW) last month. He handed out an award to Gus-W1BV for working them on all bands 160-10. Dan also offered the use of his station to anyone in the club every Wednesday evening. Just call him to set up an appointment.

Public Service: Toy-K1WYQ announced that we would be supporting the Bloomin' Metric on May 23 and the MS Bike Ride on June 13. He will need volunteers.

Repeaters: There were sensitivity problems reported, but equipment checks showed that the repeaters are working fine. There may be de-sensing issues, so keep reporting problems. We have three antennas ready to go up on the tower at the next tower climb.

Vlad-W1ZP gave a synopsis of the two recent Board Meetings, including:

- 1 Recruitment of new members
2. Appointment of a Webmaster
- 3 Appointment of an Associate Repeater Trustee
- 4.Appointment of a GNARC Historian to pull together the Club's history dating back to the 1930's
5. Appoint an exploratory committee to look for a permanent home for the Club to be used not only as a meeting place but to conduct ongoing activities including but not limited to a permanent Club station, testing and workbench for equipment of Club members, setting up an antenna farm..and other possible uses. There was discussion on how to get more input and participation from the club as a group.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Francoeur-KC1FB, Secretary.

ARRL & ARC Sign MOU

SB QST ARL ARLB012

ARLB012 ARRL, Red Cross Sign Memorandum of Understanding

On Thursday, March 25, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the American Red Cross (ARC) at ARC National Headquarters in Washington, DC. The MoU, which replaces an earlier Statement of Understanding that expired in 2007, provides a "broad framework for cooperation" between the ARRL and the ARC "in preparing for and responding to disaster relief situations at all levels in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial."

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the signing of the MoU at its January 2010 meeting following the completion of negotiations. The Red Cross requires the completion of a criminal background check to participate in Red Cross activities and provides a process by which a volunteer may have a criminal background check performed at no cost to the volunteer.

In the case of ARRL volunteers, the Red Cross has agreed to accept an alternative process: ARRL volunteers may arrange, at their own initiative and expense, to have the criminal background check performed by a state or local law enforcement agency.

The Red Cross also has agreed that ARRL volunteers shall not be asked or required to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports in order to provide a communications function.

The ARRL and the Red Cross encourage interested volunteers in their respective organizations to become members and to participate in the activities of the other organization. ARRL volunteers should be aware that if they wish to become Red Cross volunteers, they may be required to consent to additional background checks in accordance with Red Cross policy that may include credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports.

Per the MoU, "both ARRL volunteers and ARC workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, within the scope of their respective roles and duties as recommended."

During a Red Cross Disaster Relief Operation (DRO) and depending on their training and qualifications, ARRL volunteers may perform in one or more of several roles, including Amateur Radio Liaison, Communication

Equipment Operator, Communication Equipment Installation/Repair and Disaster Assessment. ARRL volunteers who are assigned roles by the Red Cross during a DRO will be provided with Red Cross credentials as required by the role, consistent with Red Cross policy.

"Because of the importance of emergency communications, we are happy to be able to continue the League's long-standing relationship with the American Red Cross," said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. "The ARC and other served agencies give Amateur Radio operators the worthwhile missions in our communities that allow us to thank America for the privilege of being hams."

NEAR-Fest

NEAR-fest is a New England tradition for hams. Starting out as Hoss Traders, NEAR-fest has been attracting hams from New England and Canada for over 25 years. The only place you'll see more stuff is at Dayton.

NEAR-fest Spring 2010 will run April 30 and May 1 at the Deerfield New Hampshire Fairgrounds. For more info check out the website.

<http://www.near-fest.com/>

ARRL Prepares to Launch New Website

According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer, Harold Kramer, WJ1B, we are currently finishing the final pre-launch adjustments and testing the new ARRL Web site and plan to launch it by April 12. "This launch has been a longer than anticipated process for all of us," Kramer said, "but we have learned a lot during the past two years as we conducted research about what people want from the ARRL Web site. We created a new architecture and navigation scheme to meet those needs and we implemented a contemporary new design. After that, we updated our current Web content and created lots of brand new content, including multimedia. We then began integrating the incredibly complicated functionality, e-commerce, advertising and database connections from the current Web to the new Web site. It has been a lot of work, and while it is disappointing that we are not out the door quite yet, we are now in the home stretch. When the new ARRL Web site debuts, we just want to be sure that it looks great, works well in meeting the needs of our members and that it is something that we can all be proud of."