



## SOME WORDS ABOUT THE GARDEN STATE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

The Garden State Amateur Radio Association, Inc. was founded on May 10, 1950, by persons interested in amateur radio for "furthering better cooperation among its members, developing individual efficiency, and furthering the interests of amateur radio in the general community."

The GSARA was the result of the merging of the Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Association, founded in 1932, and the Monmouth County Amateur Radio Association, founded in 1945. The two clubs jointly sponsored the 1947 Hudson Division Convention of radio amateurs held for three days at the Asbury Park Convention Hall and the grand Berkeley Carteret Hotel. The outstanding success of this Convention led to the merging of the two clubs and subsequent sponsorship of another convention in 1950.

The original holder of the **W2GSA** call sign was Bob Morris of Point Pleasant, NJ. Bob, an early member of the Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Association, subsequently became a Navy Aviator and Officer who lost his life during World War II. During the merging negotiations of the late 1940s, someone on the Constitution Committee thought of using Bob Morris' W2GSA call to represent Garden State Amateurs and the GSARA was born. The club was then reissued Bob Morris' amateur radio callsign which it holds to this day.

Like most other amateur radio clubs in the area, the GSARA operates a VHF repeater on 147.045 +600, PL=67 located near Asbury Park. GSARA also operates a packet node and BBS on 145.05 MHz as W2GSA-4. This is located on the UPS tower in Tinton Falls. The club promotes a wide ranges of amateur radio activity and supports the many specialized activities of other amateur radio organizations in the area, especially public service communications associated with ARES and RACES. The GSARA has been affiliated with the American Radio Relay League since its founding and maintains at least 51% of its licensed members as members of the ARRL.

The GSARA participates in Field Day every year in June where stations are set up at the Red Cross and operated for the weekend. The GSARA also provides communications as a Public Service for the annual CROP walk held in Red Bank every October. A 10-page newsletter, called *The Propagator* is sent to the members each month.

The Garden State Amateur Radio Association meets at 7:30 pm on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at the Red Cross on the corner of W. Park Avenue and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls.

Coffee and donuts are usually served at each meeting. Guests are always welcome. For more information call Bob Buus, W2OD, on 732-946-8615 or visit our web site at <http://www.gardenstateara.org>

