



THE PROPAGATOR

8 Donner St.
Holmdel, NJ 07733
Editor: Bob Buus, W2OD

APRIL 2006

NEXT MEETING APRIL 5

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, April 5 at 8:00 PM** at the MARS building in Fort Monmouth. Come early to participate in Field Day planning and enjoy the refreshments. We look forward to seeing YOU at the meeting!

FORT MONMOUTH PASSES

Please check the expiration date on your Fort Monmouth badges. Within two or three weeks before they expire, please contact W2XYZ or KB2RIS to get them updated. They CANNOT be renewed at the visitor control center on the spot.

OMARC TAILGATE APRIL 29

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 29 for the OMARC tailgate party from 7:30 AM to 1 PM at the Diana site of old Camp Evans off Marconi Road in Wall. Admission is FREE to buyers – sellers pay \$10 for a table. There will be a VE session at 10 AM.

Marconi Road intersects Brighton Ave. just east of exit 7 of Route 18. Talk-in is on the OMARC repeater on 145.11 (127.3). For more information, see www.omarc.org or contact Jeff Harshman, N2LXM at n2lxm@juno.com or 732-922-0816.

GSARA HOMEPAGE

http://home.comcast.net/~gsara_w2gsa

GSARA CALENDAR

http://home.comcast.net/~gsara_w2gsa/calendr.htm

FIELD DAY PLANNING

By **Marty Szumera, WN2DX**

For Field Day in June, it looks like we will have a powerful station, a great antenna, and lots of outstanding food. To keep the station going for 24 hours, we will need lots of operators and loggers. We want Field Day to be an enjoyable event to as many members as possible. Please consider the following and let me know what you think:

1. If you haven't been participating in GSARA Field Days, what can we change to get YOU to be a part with us?

2. How do you feel about our level of competition vs. just having fun? I feel we fall in the middle somewhere. Should we get more serious, or back off a notch?

3. If you are not familiar with HF operating, would you attend a workshop at one of our regular meetings, to get used to the gear and fast pace of contest operating?

4. Would you volunteer to be on the Field Day Committee?

My e-mail is wn2dx@arrl.net, or put your ideas in the snail mail to Marty Szumera, P.O. Box 146, Middletown, N.J. 07748.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Please welcome Steve Jackson, N2WLH into the GSARA. Steve, who is retired, lives in Jackson and has been licensed since 1993. He presently holds an Advanced Class license. An ARRL member, Steve is active on HF and 2-meter phone. His well-equipped station includes an IC-775DSP, TS-480, IC-751A, IC-706 and a 30L-1. Welcome to the GSARA, Steve.

GSARA OFFICERS

| | | | |
|------------|--------|------------------|----------|
| President | N2LXM | Jeff Harshman | 922-0816 |
| Vice Pres. | N2GT | Sterling Rodgers | 922-8299 |
| Secretary | W2OD | Bob Buus | 946-8615 |
| Treasurer | W2XYZ | Frank Wroblewski | 942-7705 |
| Engineer | WN2DX | Marty Szumera | |
| Trustees | KG2NV | Don Pingitore | 229-2925 |
| | W2OD | Bob Buus | 946-8615 |
| | WA2FVL | Jack Keating | 264-7670 |

PROPAGATOR AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL

Would you like to help the finances of GSARA and at the same time get your issue of *The Propagator* a few days earlier? You can get every issue e-mailed to your computer every month by simply giving your e-mail address to Bruce McLeod, K2QXW and request *The Propagator* electronically. Bruce's e-mail address is <brucekleod@comcast.net>

BADGES AND PATCHES

All new GSARA members get a name badge. However, you may order additional ones by getting a Badge Order Form from our Secretary, **Bob Buus, W2OD**, filling it out and turning it in to Bob with your \$5.00 payment.

We also now have patches available at all meetings and they cost \$3.

OUTGOING QSL CARDS

If any GSARA members wish to combine their QSL cards that are going through the outgoing ARRL Bureau, please bring them to the next GSARA meeting along with the label from a recent QST Magazine (you must be an ARRL member to participate in this program). We then send them as a group at no charge to GSARA members. It couldn't be much easier than that to QSL. You are registered at the W2 incoming bureau, aren't you?

PROPAGATOR NOW ON THE WEB

The *Propagator* is available as a PDF file at:

http://home.comcast.net/~gsara_w2gsa/prop.pdf

It is installed on the web about two weeks after the direct mailing to members.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Field Day is approaching and Marty, our Chief Engineer is looking for input from YOU. See his article on page 1 and please respond to it. The more participation in Field Day, the more fun it is for all. Please give Marty your input and come early to the April meeting to participate in the planning.

If you know anyone who might be interested in obtaining a ham license, please tell him or her about the classes on Monday nights at 6:30 PM starting March 27 for 11 weeks culminating in an exam on Wednesday, June 14. This class is sponsored by OMARC and is held at the Diana site off Marconi Road in Wall. Both code and theory will be offered but code is, of course, optional. The classes are free (except for the purchase of the book). What are YOU doing to get more people into this great hobby?

The response to the Sudoku puzzle last month was zip. Did everyone ignore it since it's not directly related to amateur radio? Or was it too easy and thus not a challenge? Or maybe it was too confusing and looked too difficult? As promised, the detailed solution is given this month on page 7. With no feedback, I thought long and hard about including another one this month. I finally decided to give you something a little more difficult than last month's but yet still easy by Sudoku standards. If I get no feedback, I will drop it after this month (although I'll give you the solution to the KB2RIS puzzle next month).

Saturday, April 1 is the official transfer of many of the Marconi Buildings at Camp Evans from the army to Wall Township who in turn will lease it to InfoAge Learning Center. The Marconi Hotel will be open for tours on Saturday afternoon and Marconi Chapter 138 of QCWA has their own room at the hotel set up with demonstrations and an operating amateur radio station. Come on down and visit.

Remember if you change your e-mail address, please be sure to inform Bruce McLeod, K2QXW.

As always, I appreciate feedback or material for *The Propagator*. The deadline for the May issue is April 15.

73 de Bob, w2od@arrrl.net

MINUTES OF MARCH 1 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at Fort Monmouth by President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM, at 8:08 PM. After the Pledge to the Flag, all members present introduced themselves. There were 15 members and 3 guests in attendance. The guests were Phil O'Donnell, W2LNB; Kevin Wagner, KC2NYQ; and Steve Jackson, N2WLH.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ was not present last month so his report covered both January and February. A motion was made by Margo Struening and seconded by Lorraine, KC2FDR to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Bob Buus, W2OD reported that no correspondence was received in February. A motion was made by Margo Struening and seconded by Jim, N2TCS to accept the minutes of the February meeting as published in the March Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Marty, WN2DX reported on the status of Field Day planning that took place just prior to the regular business meeting. Due to lack of enough operators, it was decided to run only one station this year and it will be W2GSA operating at the football stadium with the same antennas as last year. Instead of QRP, we will run high power and strive for lots of contacts. We would like to keep the station on continuously for the whole Field Day period so we need lots of participation by members for operating and logging. Jeff, N2LXM has volunteered to cook breakfast on Sunday morning.

New Business

Members are asked to participate in two upcoming Public Service events. The MS-170 Bike-a-thon is May 20-21. They are expecting 1500 cyclists. If you can help, contact Stan Olochwoszcz, N2AYJ. His e-mail is n2ayj@arrl.net.

The American Diabetes bike ride will start and end at Brookdale College in June and is being coordinated by Jeff, N2LXM

New Member

An application for membership was received from Steve Jackson, N2WLH with all necessary fees. He holds an Advanced Class license and is active on HF and 2 meters. A motion was made by Don, KG2NV and seconded by Rich, N3RB to accept Steve into the GSARA. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

Radio classes run by OMARC at the Diana site will resume on Monday, March 27 at 6:30 PM and run every Monday through June 3 with a VE exam session on June 14.

The Cherryville Hamfest is Sunday, March 11 in Clinton, NJ.

OMARC is again sponsoring a tailgate party at the Diana site on Saturday, April 29. Buyers are free, sellers are \$10.

Please notify Frank, W2XYZ if you Fort Monmouth pass is coming up for renewal so he can get the paperwork moving.

Program

In lieu of a program, Frank, W2XYZ gave highlights of his 8-day Caribbean cruise which sounded great. Then Lorraine, KC2FDR related some of her adventures on cruise ships including being stranded off Martha's Vineyard on the QE2.

Closing

The main door prize was won by Tom, KC2FRN who donated it back to the club. There being no further business, a motion was made by Marty, WN2DX and seconded by Lorraine, KC2FDR to adjourn. The meeting was closed at 8:47 PM.

DVRA HAMFEST APRIL 2

Sunday, April 2 is the DVRA Hamfest in Hamilton, NJ starting at 8 AM (sellers at 6 AM). Admission is \$6 for buyers, \$10 for sellers.

This Hamfest is at the Mercer County Park Skating Rink, 1638 Edinburg Rd., W. Windsor. For detailed directions, visit www.mercer-county.org/parks/rec.htm and select "Parks". Talk in is on 146.67 (131.8). For more information, see www.w2zq.com.

FCC ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The FCC has held up the license renewal of a New Jersey Novice ticket holder for failing to respond to a Commission field office Citation and a Warning Notice, both dating back several years. FCC Special Counsel in the Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth told Ronald A. Mondgoek, KA3OMZ, of Burlington, that if he did not submit a timely reply to his February 6, 2006, letter, the Commission would dismiss his renewal application and issue a Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture.

In February 2002, Hollingsworth wrote Mondgoek regarding allegations he'd transmitted in the 75-meter phone band, which is unavailable to Novice class licensees. In July 2004, the FCC's Philadelphia Field Office cited Mondgoek for allegedly failing to identify, making transmissions involving obscenity and indecency and operating on a frequency not authorized under his license.

On February 7, Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to Frank J. Fatigate, KB2YDO, of Hopewell Junction, New York, for allegedly failing to reply to a complaint the FCC forwarded to him nearly a year earlier. The FCC cited US Postal Service records indicating that Fatigate, a Technician licensee, refused delivery of the Commission correspondence. Subsequent attempts to reach Fatigate yielded no response. Noting that Fatigate had apparently changed his address, the FCC gave him additional time to reply or face a possible fine of up to \$4000.

Hollingsworth said this week that he has yet to hear from either Mondgoek or Fatigate.

In another enforcement matter, the FCC wrote Technician licensee Brandon M. Duke, KC0UWS (ex-KC0TKB), of Longmont, Colorado, January 9 advising him of a complaint alleging "deliberate interference and other rule violations on repeaters." Duke replied, pledging to change his ways.

In a January 26 e-mail, an apologetic Duke said he'd destroyed an audio CD containing apparently objectionable material he'd been accused of airing. He also said he'd "refrain from jamming, interfering, kerchunking and using any repeaters."

Hollingsworth cautioned Duke that the FCC expected him to abide by requests to steer clear of certain repeaters or face license revocation, a fine or

other sanctions. In his e-mail response, Duke said he would refrain from using Boulder Amateur Radio Club repeaters, per the club's written request.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 12, March 24, 2006

LOTW NOW SUPPORTS WAS

Users of the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/> now may apply their LoTW credits to applications for the League's Worked All States (WAS) award. Once registered and logged in, users may set up a WAS account on the Logbook Awards page, configuring the account to automatically select QSLs to use or selecting them manually via the Your QSOs page.

LoTW is a repository of logbook records submitted by users from around the world. When both participants in a contact submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is an electronic "QSL" that can be used for award credit.

As part of this addition, administration and maintenance of all WAS awards is now performed using a LoTW module. US Amateur Radio licensees must be ARRL members to apply for the WAS award. In addition to WAS, LoTW supports the ARRL DX Century Club (DXCC) award.

Since its inauguration in September 2005, LoTW has more than 95 million QSO records on file, with nearly 5.15 million QSL records resulting. The system boasts just over 12,000 registered users, and there are more than 18,100 certificates--each representing a particular user call sign--on file.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 12, March 24 2006

ROBERT DUERKES SR., W4PPG - SK

Bob Duerkes, W4PPG, formerly of Red Bank died Tuesday, March 14 at the age of 85. Born in Red Bank, he served in the Navy during World War II as a signal corpsman on a Liberty ship. Bob retired from the U.S. Post Office in 1986 and moved to Florida where he changed his call to W4PPG. In 2003, he was awarded a plaque as the "Ham of the Year" for his outstanding service to the community.

Surviving are his wife Dorothy Agnes; a son, Robert John Jr.; and eight grandchildren.

HAMVENTION AWARD WINNERS

Dayton Hamvention has announced the winners of its 2006 Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement and Technical Excellence awards. Being honored for their contributions to the Amateur Radio Service are Gordon West, WB6NOA—Amateur of the Year; Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH--Special Achievement Award, and Dick Illman, AH6EZ--Technical Excellence Award.

West, of Costa Mesa, California, was named Amateur of the Year for his efforts in recruiting and training many new amateurs, in addition to his nearly lifelong involvement in ham radio. A Radio Club of America fellow and a recipient of the ARRL Instructor of the Year Award, West volunteers with the American Red Cross communications team in Orange County and regularly offers free kids classes and classes for cities to support their Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

"It's my give-back to a hobby that gives me the satisfaction of offering free classes for kids and emergency responders," West said "and I thank all the ham operators who support our training program, and the ARRL for their continued support with the emergency communication Web-based classes."

Hollingsworth, who's Special Counsel in the FCC Enforcement Bureau at the Commission's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office, will receive Hamvention's Special Achievement Award. Hamvention is recognizing Hollingsworth's efforts, begun in 1998, to resurrect the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program. Radio amateurs across the US have credited Hollingsworth with reducing malicious interference and other problem behavior on the air.

First licensed in 1960 in his home state of South Carolina, Hollingsworth is a member ARRL, QCWA and F.I.S.T.S.

Illman, who lives in St Charles, Illinois, was picked to receive the 2006 Technical Excellence Award. The honor recognizes his work as principal staff engineer at Motorola in developing the company's patent-pending Powerline LV broadband over power line (BPL) system, which essentially eliminates HF interference.

Motorola and the ARRL have cooperated in deploying a test stand Powerline LV system between ARRL Headquarters and W1AW. Preliminary test results have shown the Powerline LV system to be Amateur Radio-friendly. Illman's idea to include a set of hardware notch filters to protect Amateur Radio beyond the traditional technique of turning off specific carriers is an industry first.

Hamvention Chairman Jim Nies, WX8F, praised the winners on behalf of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association and Hamvention. "Please join me in recognizing each of these gentlemen for their outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio and their many years of devotion to the Amateur Radio Service," he said.

Held this year from May 19 until May 21, Dayton Hamvention, the world's largest Amateur Radio gathering, annually attracts more than 25,000 people to the greater Dayton area. The event includes exhibits, a flea market, forums and educational sessions. More information is on the Hamvention Web site <<http://www.hamvention.org>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 12, March 24, 2006

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: YI/OM2DX, Iraq, operation commencing June 9, 2003; TS3A, Tunisia, March 24-28, 2005; T6X, Afghanistan, current operation effective March 8, 2005; TT8PK, Chad, December 27, 2005 through February 11, 2006; XW1A, XW1LLR5, XW1X and XW1M, Laos, current operation effective October 29, 2005; D2DX, Angola, current operation effective December 15, 2004 (a previous announcement accredited the D2DX operation effective December 15, 2005).

For more information, visit the DXCC Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>>. "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" can answer most questions about the DXCC program. ARRL DX bulletins are available on the W1AW DX Bulletins page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/dx/>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, Nos. 09 & 11, March 3 & 17, 2006

HAMS KATRINA EFFORT PRAISED

Addressing the FCC independent panel reviewing Hurricane Katrina's impact on communication networks, ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, praised Amateur Radio's ability to get the job done. Speaking before the panel March 7 in Jackson, Mississippi, Sarratt said Amateur Radio volunteers were tremendously effective in their ability to re-establish communication links using their own gear or by building systems from scratch.

"Amateur Radio operators themselves were part of the solution, providing experienced communications operators to replace and supplement local public service communications personnel in the devastated area," Sarratt said. The volunteer radio amateurs and their equipment proved "very effective" in supporting emergency management, the Red Cross, the Southern Baptist Convention, The Salvation Army and many other organizations, he told the panel.

For 37 days following Hurricane Katrina, Sarratt--working at an American Red Cross disaster relief staging area in Montgomery, Alabama--headed the volunteer effort to process Amateur Radio volunteers headed to the Gulf Coast to assist recovery operations. Sarratt told the FCC panel that his operation processed and deployed more than 200 ham radio volunteers from 35 states and Canada to devastated communities in Mississippi. Volunteers set up communication facilities at kitchens, shelters, emergency operations centers, distribution centers, warehouses and various command and control centers, he said.

"In each town we set up a high frequency (HF) Amateur Radio station to communicate out of the area to Montgomery and the outside world," Sarratt explained. "We also set up a communications network connecting every Red Cross facility in a town on a local short-range radio frequency. Our network included fixed and mobile disaster vehicle stations."

Sarratt told the FCC panel that interoperability is the most important thing Amateur Radio can bring to the table in emergency and disaster communications. "Amateurs demonstrated their adaptability by communicating successfully with a multitude of amateur, commercial, public service,

EMA, Salvation Army and Red Cross radio systems and personnel," he said.

"Radio amateurs bring a wealth of resources to the public service and emergency communications table," Sarratt summed up. "The ARRL and Amateur Radio will continue to prepare, train, practice and test ourselves for the next event," he told the FCC panel. "Public service is a large component of the charter of the Amateur Radio Service." He suggested installing permanent Amateur Radio stations in federal, state and local emergency operations centers as well as at selected public service, Red Cross chapters and other served agencies.

"The disasters of 2005 have proven the worth of Amateur Radio Service and its selfless cadre of operators; we were tested as never before," Sarratt concluded, adding "we must assume the next 'big one' is just around the corner."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 10, March 10, 2006

AREA AMATEUR EXAM SESSIONS

Amateur radio exam sessions that are given in the central New Jersey area are as follows but please contact the responsible person to be sure that the time and date are accurate.

Wall Township, Camp Evans Area on Marconi Road: Exams are held on the second Wednesday of the even numbered months (April 12, 2006) at 6:30 PM. The contact person is Larry Wilkins, KB2RIS at 732-922-6720 or e-mail to kb2ris@wmconnect.com.

Middletown, Croyden Hall on Leonardo Road: Exams are on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. The contact person is Rich Evans, KB2MUN at 732-471-0237 (evenings).

Toms River, Riverview Park Recreation Building: Exams are held on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM. The contact person is Ed Genoio, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or e-mail to wa2nda@aol.com.

In all cases, the fee is \$14 and you should bring the original and a copy of any amateur license presently held and original and one copy of any credit (CSCE) forms you have. Also bring 2 forms of ID with one being a picture ID.

HAM RADIO SUDOKU SOLUTION

Last month's puzzle is shown on the left. To solve the puzzle, look for a row, column, or 2X2 quadrant that has the fewest unknown blank cells. This would be the first row with only two blank cells. Since this row already contains an N and a T, each blank cell has to be either a 2 or a G. But the second cell of the first row can't be a G because the second column already has a G in the third cell down. Therefore, the second cell in the first row must be a 2. Then the third cell in the first row must be a G (it can't be a 2 because of the 2 at the bottom of the third column).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| N | | | T |
| | | | |
| | G | | |
| | | 2 | |

Now look at the upper left 2X2 quadrant. Since N and 2 are in the first row, the second row must contain G and T. But the second cell in the second row can't be a G because of the G in the third row. Therefore, it must be a T so the first cell of the second row must be a G.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| N | 2 | G | T |
| | | | |
| | G | | |
| | | 2 | |

Now examine the upper right 2X2 quadrant. The blank cells in the second row must contain an N or a 2. By noting the 2 at the bottom of the third column, you can see that the second cell of the third column must be an N. That forces the fourth cell of the second row to be a 2.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| N | 2 | G | T |
| G | T | | |
| | G | | |
| | | 2 | |

Note that the second column has only one blank cell and it must be an N. Similarly, the third column is only missing a T which must go in the third cell down in this column.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| N | 2 | G | T |
| G | T | N | 2 |
| | G | | |
| | | 2 | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| N | 2 | G | T |
| G | T | N | 2 |
| | G | T | |
| | N | 2 | |

Now look at the first column which already has an N and G so the blank cells must be either 2 or T. The third cell in the first column must be a 2 because there already is a T in the third cell of this third row. Similarly, the fourth cell of the first column must be a T.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| N | 2 | G | T |
| G | T | N | 2 |
| 2 | G | T | |
| T | N | 2 | |

Now there is only one blank cell in the third row and it must be a N. Similarly, the remaining blank cell in the fourth row must be a G. That completes the solution!

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| N | 2 | G | T |
| G | T | N | 2 |
| 2 | G | T | N |
| T | N | 2 | G |

ANOTHER SUDOKU PUZZLE

If you thought that the above puzzle was a little too easy, let's try one a little bit more difficult with a 6X6 matrix. We'll pick on Larry this time so each row, column, and 3X2 region outlined darker must each contain the call letters KB2RIS. To make the puzzle easy, one row will have the call letters in their proper order. Good luck. The solution will be given next month.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | 2 | | K | | |
| I | | | | R | |
| R | | | | | |
| | | | I | K | |
| | | | | | |
| S | | | B | | |

NASA HONORS WALTER CRONKITE

NASA has honored legendary CBS TV news anchor Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, for his coverage of the US space program. Cronkite, who has narrated two ARRL Amateur Radio videos, received the Ambassador of Exploration Award February 28. "His marathon, live coverage of the first moon landing brought the excitement and impact of the historic event into the homes of millions of Americans and observers around the world," NASA said in announcing the award. NASA is presenting the Ambassador of Exploration Award to the 38 astronauts and other key individuals who participated in the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space programs for realizing America's vision of space exploration from 1961 to 1972. Cronkite is the first non-astronaut and only NASA outsider to receive the award, which consists of a small, encased sample of lunar material mounted for public display. Cronkite is the best-remembered journalist for his commentary and enthusiastic coverage of the historic progression of missions from the early Mercury launches, through the ground-breaking Gemini missions, to the Apollo 11 and subsequent moon landings.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 11, March 17, 2006

"HUGHIE" SMITH, KC2HN - SK

Ulysses "Hughie" Smith, KC2HN of Neptune City died Tuesday, March 21 at the age of 87. A retired employee of Fort Monmouth, he served as an electronic technician for 35 years at Camp Evans, testing upper atmospheric instrumentation in the Meteorological Division. Besides being a general class amateur radio operator, he was a member of NARFE Chapter 411 and a passionate fisherman, bowler and golfer.

Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Margaret McLaren Smith of Neptune; a son, Richard and his wife Pat of Wall; two daughters, Bonnie Rockel of Neptune, and Marjorie Garforth of Florida; 7 grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Contributions to St. Barnabas Hospice, 300 Second Ave., Long Branch, NJ 07740, would be appreciated.

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

<http://www.hudson.arrl.org>

FCC VANITY FEE TO DROP SLIGHTLY

The FCC wants to reduce the Fiscal Year 2006 regulatory fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign to \$20.10 for the 10-year license term. The current vanity fee is \$21.90. The Commission proposed the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2006," in MD Docket 06-68, released March 27. If ordered as proposed, the new vanity fee would become effective in August or September. The FCC is obligated to collect nearly \$289 million in regulatory fees during FY 2006 to fund its operations.

Comments on the proposed fee schedule are due Friday, April 14. Reply comments are due Friday, April 21. The FCC has projected collecting \$171,188 in vanity call sign fee receipts from 8500 applications in FY 2006.

The vanity call sign fee has assumed somewhat greater significance this year as the renewal window is about to open for the first Amateur Radio licenses assigned vanity call signs in 1996. Applicants who wish to keep their post-1995 vanity call signs must pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee in effect at the time the renewal application reaches the FCC. Any Amateur Radio renewal application may only be filed within 90 days of the license expiration date.

Amateur Radio licensees holding vanity call signs granted prior to 1996 do not have to pay a regulatory fee when renewing. This is because Congress did not begin requiring the FCC to annually recover its regulatory costs until 1993. Additionally, such licensees are not specifically tagged as vanity call sign holders in the ULS.

From *The ARRL Bulletin*, No. 05, March 27, 2006

ROSTER ADDITION

Please add the following new member to your GSARA Roster:

N2WLH, Steve Jackson
202 South Shore Drive
Toms River, NJ 08753
732-255-7916
n2wlh@comcast.net

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see reverse side)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., **KB2BCL** on April 6. All times in EDST unless otherwise noted.

April 1 – **InfoAge Property Transfer** at Marconi Hotel in Wall from 1 PM to 4 PM. Open to public.

April 1-2 – **QCWA QSO Party** from 1 PM EST Saturday to 2 PM Sunday. See April QST, p. 100.

April 2 – **DVRA Hamfest** in Hamilton, NJ at Mercer County Park Skating Rink. Directions at www.mercer-county.org/parks/rec.htm and select “Parks”. More info at www.w2zq.com or April QST, p. 96.

April 3 and following 9 Mondays – **Amateur Radio Classes** at 6:30 PM at the Diana site on Marconi Road. Contact Larry Wilkins, KB2RIS at 732-922-6720 or e-mail to kb2ris@wmconnect.com.

April 3 – **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

April 4 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon in Middletown. Back room on left.

April 4 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See

April 4 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 PM.

April 5 – **GSARA Monthly Meeting** at the MARS Building at Fort Monmouth at 8:00 PM.

April 6 – **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

April 7 and every Friday – **Lunch at Blue Swan Diner**, Rt. 35 South, Ocean Township at noon.

April 7 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 9 AM (35-10 WPM). See April QST, pp. 99 and 100.

April 7 – **New Providence Auction/Hamfest**. See www.nparc.org/auction.htm or April QST, p. 96.

April 8 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at Seabreeze Deli, 111 State Route 71, Spring Lake, NJ (phone 732-449-8118) which is easily accessible from Routes 34, 35 and 138.

April 10 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

April 11 – **VE Test Session** at Croyden Hall, Leonardo section of Middletown at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Rich Evans, KB2MUN at 732-471-0237 (evenings). See page 6.

April 12 – **OMARC VE Test Session** at 6:30 PM at the Diana site off Marconi Road at Camp Evans. Contact Larry Wilkins, KB2RIS at 732-922-6720 or kb2ris@wmconnect.com. See page 6.

April 13 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 PM.

April 17 – **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

April 18 – **Middletown Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 8 PM in Croyden Hall off Leonardville Road.

April 20 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 4 PM (10-35 WPM). See April QST, pp. 99 and 100.

April 20 – **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:30 PM Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoino, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or wa2nda@comcast.net. See page 6.

April 22 – **Neptune ARC Meeting** at American Legion Post #346. 31 Gully Road in Neptune at 9 AM.

April 24 – **Buttonwood Manor Lunch** at noon. Raritan Bay Amateurs. All are welcome.

April 24 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only to participate.

April 24 – **JCDXA meeting** at 7:30 PM (6:30 for dining) at the Cobblestone Diner on Rt. 35 in Eatontown.

April 29 – **OMARC Tailgate Hamfest** at Diana site in Wall Township. See www.omarc.org or April QST, p. 96 or page 1.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 InfoAge OCWA QSO Pty |
| 2 DVRA Hmfst QCWA QSO Pty | 3 Ham Classes ARES/RACES 7:30 | 4 Mdiltwn Pnceke Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM | 5 GSARA Mtg. | 6 KB2BCL Hol. City Mtg. | 7 Blue Swan N. Prov. Auction CW Qual. Run | 8 OMARC Mtg. K2CPE |
| 9 | 10 Ham Classes RACES Net | 11 Perkins Lunch Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM | 12 OMARC VE | 13 JSARS Mtg. | 14 Blue Swan | 15 |
| 16 Easter | 17 Ham Classes ARES/RACES 7:30 | 18 WB2GBF MARC Mtg QCWA News 9 PM | 19 | 20 CW Qual. Run JSARS VE | 21 Blue Swan | 22 Neptune Mtg N2HGI |
| 23 | 24 Buttonwod Mnr Ham Classes JCDXA Mtg. RACES Net | 25 W2OD QCWA News 9 PM | 26 | 27 | 28 Blue Swan | 29 OMARC Tailgate |
| 30 | | | | | | |



G.S.A.R.A.
8 DONNER STREET
HOLMDEL, NJ 07733

FIRST CLASS