



THE PROPAGATOR

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

APRIL 2009

UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, April 1 at 7:30 PM** at the Fort Monmouth MARS building. The second meeting in April will be on **Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 PM** at the **American Red Cross** - Regional Office, 1540 West Park Avenue, Tinton Falls, New Jersey. The program will be a slide presentation of the recent DXpedition to Barbados. Don't miss it! Guests are always welcome.

FORT MONMOUTH PASSES

To get an updated yellow sheet good for the next 6 months, you must go to the visitor center at the east entrance on Oceanport Ave. Be sure to have your driver's license, car registration and record of insurance. The center is only open weekdays during business hours. If any club member did not have a pass in the past year, but would like to get a pass issued for the coming twelve months, contact Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ at w2xyz@arrl.net or call him at 732-942-7705. It is only after the data is in the computer that you can pick up the pass at the Oceanport visitor center.

FREE TRIP TO DAYTON 2009

A **\$10 donation** to the North America DX Association, Inc. (NADXA, Inc.) will allow each donating person an opportunity to earn an **all expense paid trip** to the **2009 Annual Bus Trip** to the **Dayton Hamvention in Dayton, OH** May 14-17, 2009. Send your donation to **NADXA, Inc., PO Box 357, Bradley Beach, NJ 07720**.

The odds of being selected will be restricted to one in 75 and the numbers will be drawn on March 29, 2009. For further information contact: nadxa@juno.com. Thank you.

WINLINK CLASS APRIL 9

We will have our 1st Winlink class of the year at the Jersey Coast Chapter Red Cross in Tinton Falls NJ April 9th 2009 at 7 pm.

We will cover:

Equipment and Programs

Using your sound card w/interface and AGW instead of a TNC

Airmail and Packlink MP

Hyperterminal or other dumb terminal and a TNC to connect to Winlink.

Please RSVP n2smv@arrl.net if you're coming to be sure we will have room. This is BYOC&D (Bring your own coffee & doughnut) event.

There will be another class in May in Freehold.

73 de N2SMV

OMARC TAILGATE HAMFEST APRIL 18

InfoAge Diana Site, Marconi Road, Wall, NJ

Off Route 18, Exit 7 northbound, 7A southbound

Saturday April 18, 2009 Rain or Shine

7:30am-1:00pm

7:30am Gates Open to Public

6:30am Gates Open to Seller's

Seller: Only \$10.00 per space

Buyer: Only \$5.00 per carload

Talk-In: 145.110 -600 (PL 127.3) and 443.000 +5 (PL 127.3)

VE Session starting 10:30 a.m. Contact N2BZD at n2bzd@arrl.net

Ample Parking, Bathroom facilities

Refreshments will be available at reasonable cost

For more information: <http://www.omarc.org> or Jeff, N2LXM, n2lxm@juno.com or 732-996-0637

GSARA OFFICERS

President	W2XYZ	Frank Wroblewski	942-7705
Vice Pres.	W2HTS	Howard Suffill	460-1885
Secretary	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
Treasurer	W2KQ	Joe Dreifuss	493-4236
Engineer	N2LXM	Jeff Harshman	922-0816
Webmaster	KC2TKK	Josh Gluck	
Publicity	NJ2H	Bill Shockley	207-4466
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 Josh Gluck, KC2TKK and request *The Propagator* electronically. Josh's e-mail address is <kc2tkk@gardenatateara.org>.

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://gardenstateara.files.wordpress.com/2008/11/ropfeb9.pdf>

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue is a bit on the late side because my wife and I took a trip to Indianapolis and didn't get back until Tuesday night, the 24th. Many thanks to Bruce, K2QXW who took notes of the March 18 meeting which I missed and then wrote up the minutes ready for publication. That good gesture keeps this issue from being even later than it is.

Hamfest season is here and we have two local ones coming up in April. The JSARS Hamfest in Toms River is Sunday, April 5 and the OMARC tailgate Hamfest is Saturday, April 18. Both are well worth going to.

The Spring QCWA QSO Party is on April 4-5. Even if you're not a QCWA member, you can give a member a contact point if you work him and give name, state, and year first licensed. If you're a QWCWA member, you also give your QCWA Chapter number. Member logs go to me.

If you are interested in obtaining a gardenstateara.org email address which will give you webmail and POP3/SMTP access, please send an email to Josh at kc2tkk@gardenstateara.org with your First Name, Last Name, and Call Sign. Your email address call_sign@gardenstateara.org will be created and the login information sent back to the email address your request came from.

Remember if you change your e-mail address; please be sure to inform Josh Gluck, KC2TKK.

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

GSARA HOMEPAGE

<http://www.monmouth.com/~gsara>

GSARA CALENDAR

<http://www.monmouth.com/~gsara/calendr.htm>

MIDDLETOWN ONE-DAY TECH CLASS

Middletown RACES is planning another one day amateur radio class on May 30, 2009. To register please call Theresa at the OEM office (732) 615-2129 Mon. to Fri. 9 Am to 2 PM.

MINUTES OF MARCH 4 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ called the meeting to order at the Fort Monmouth MARS building at 7:50 PM. There were 10 members present. After the pledge to the Flag, all members introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the February meetings were published in the March Propagator. A motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Sterling, N2GT to accept the minutes of the February meetings as published in the March Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joe Dreifuss, W2KQ presented his report for February. A motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Peggy Struening to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

Health and Welfare

Tony, KA2ZSI had a procedure done on his heart. He is back home recovering and feeling well.

Old Business

GSARA members Joe, W2KQ; Frank, W2XYZ; and Mike, KC2Q had a very enjoyable and successful trip to Barbados. The special event night at the MARS station on February 19 worked out OK. The hf paths were weak and a bit noisy but contact was made. They then switched over to IRLP and Lorraine, KC2FDR; Ray, W2NXG; Sam, W2SHS; and Howard, W2HTS had a nice chat with the folks in Barbados. Special thanks were extended to Howard, W2HTS who set all of this up.

The operations from Barbados were a lot of fun with pile-ups whenever they were on the air. The antennas for 40 and 80 were cut for the CW band so operation in the phone bands was compromised. Joe, W2KQ operated 8P9KP on CW. Mike, KC2Q operated 8P9MD on phone. Frank, W2XYZ operated 8P9FW primarily on CW with a few PKS-31 contacts. About 900 contacts were made altogether.

The local sponsor for this event was Peter Cross, 8P9NX who originally lived in Minnesota with the call WOSA. Peter helped in many ways including putting up the antennas and having rigs available

before our members arrived. His efforts made this operation an outstanding success. Peter had also helped reorganize the local radio club which has many young members.

Jim, K2EI and Joe, W2KQ had another meeting with the Fort Monmouth BRAC officials. Many issues are up in the air and if Donna leaves, our status in the MARS building will be in trouble. We should prepare to move out with little notice if it becomes necessary.

New Business

A membership application was received from Bob Tallman, KG2IK to renew his membership. A motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Lorraine, KC2FDR to accept this membership. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

OMARC will be running a tailgate Hamfest on Saturday, April 18 at the Diana site on Marconi Road in Wall. Flyers were available at the meeting.

The MS-170 is coming up on May 16-17 (same time as Dayton) and help is needed.

The speaker at the March 18 meeting at the Red Cross will be Bill Shockley, NJ2H reviewing a new radio he recently purchased.

The speakers at the April 15 meeting will be the crew from the DX-pedition to Barbados.

The May 20 meeting will feature Rich Krohn, N2SMV bringing us up to date on ARRL activities.

Closing

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Lorraine, KC2FDR to close the meeting which was adjourned at 9:08 PM.

W1AW QSYs ON 160 METERS

On Monday, March 9, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, began using a new 160 meter frequency for its CW transmissions. According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, there was "increasing activity" near the previous bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz. "In order to reduce the possibility of interference, W1AW has moved to 1802.5 kHz," Carcia said.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 11, March 20, 2009

MINUTES OF MARCH 18 MEETING

By Bruce McLeod, K2QXW

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, called the meeting to order at Red Cross Headquarters at 7:38 PM. There were 13 members present. Because of the informal nature of the meeting, there were no committee reports. Neither was there anything to report under Health and Welfare.

Announcements

Frank announced that the Red Cross has requested another amateur license class. It will be held on April 4th and it is estimated that there will be 10 to 25 students. Jeff Harshman, N2LXM, will conduct the class. Frank, will arrange for some photos to be taken and submitted to the ARRL.

Also on April 4th we expect to continue working in the Radio Room at the Red Cross. Help will be needed from the membership.

Donna Wilkins, KC2GKQ, (not present) was quoted as saying that our departure from the MARS building may come sooner rather than later. It could be as early as June 1. More information will follow, but meanwhile, plan to participate in the move when the time comes.

Special events are coming up for JSARS, QCWA and OMARC; see the calendar of events for dates and times.

Howard Suffill, W2HTS announced that there will be a Winlink 2000 demo at the Red Cross on April 9th.

For our next meeting, there will be a slide presentation of the recent DXpedition to Barbados.

The Program

Bill Shockley NJ2H, Howard Suffill W2HTS, and Frank Wroblewski W2XYZ each gave an interesting "show and tell" about their respective rigs and accessories. The talks were most interesting and much lively discussion ensued.

Closing

The meeting ended shortly after 9 pm.

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

JERRY LE CARDI, WB2OUL - SK

Former GSARA member Gerard J. "Jerry" Le Cardi, WB2OUL became a silent key on Monday, March 9, 2009 at the age of 77. Jerry was born in Richmond, Staten Island, N.Y. He resided in Concord, S.I. before moving to Fair Haven 37 years ago. He was employed as a teacher at McKee Vocational High School in New York City, retiring after 25 years of service. Jerry was a communicant of Church of the Nativity in Fair Haven. He was a volunteer member with the Fair Haven Fire Company #1 and a member of the GSARA until a few years ago. He was an avid fisherman, gardener and you could always find him working on a project around the house.

Jerry was predeceased by his wife of 44 years, Mary J. Caggiano LeCardi and his son, James LeCardi. Surviving are his son, Ronald LeCardi of Monmouth Beach, three sisters, three grandchildren and their mother, Donna LeCardi.

Interment was at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Middletown. Memorial donations can be made to the American Cancer Society, 801 Broad St., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702. Letters of condolence can be e-mailed to the funeral home's website www.sidun.com.

FD LOCATOR SERVICE RETURNING

First introduced in 2008, the ARRL's Field Day Station Locator Service was a popular addition to the Field Day toolbox. This service -- an interactive map that helps amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>> site near them -- is free to clubs or individuals who will be operating public Field Day stations. Stations can also be listed by state or province. If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started -- just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site and follow the instructions <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>>. ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On June 27-28, join tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators as they gather for a public demonstration of our Service.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 8, February 27, 2009

FCC NIXES QUES. POOL INCREASE

In April 2008, Michael Mancuso, KI4NGN, of Raleigh, North Carolina, filed a petition with the FCC, seeking to increase the size of the question pools that make up the Amateur Radio licensing exams. Mancuso sought to increase the question pool from 10 times the number of questions on an exam to 50 times more questions. On March 19, 2009, the Commission notified Mancuso that it was denying his petition.

In his 2008 petition, Mancuso claimed that the current question pool is too easy to memorize and "that there has been a significant increase in the number of Amateur Radio operators receiving their licenses over at least the last decade or more who do not appear to possess the knowledge indicated by the class of license that they have received. Most discussion about this topic, both on the air and on Internet forums, generally refers to these widespread observations as the 'dumbing down' of Amateur Radio. It has been widely assumed that the cause of this observed situation is based upon the subject material addressed by the license examinations, that the material requirements specified for the examinations does [sic] not meet some minimum level of knowledge expected by some or many in the Amateur Radio community."

The FCC pointed out to Mancuso that each applicant for a new or upgraded Amateur Radio operator license "is required to pass a written examination in order to prove that he or she possesses the operational and technical qualifications required to perform properly the duties of an amateur service operator licensee, i.e., that he or she is qualified to be an amateur service licensee."

The Commission summed up Mancuso's petition, saying, "You argue that the current question pool size is no longer adequate, because online practice examinations enable examinees to memorize a question pool without fully comprehending the subject matter being tested. Consequently, you propose to increase the size of the question pools, in order to hinder memorization."

The Commission concluded that Mancuso did not present grounds for the Commission to amend its rules: "As noted above, the purpose of the examinations is not to demonstrate an applicant's

comprehension of certain material, but rather to determine whether he or she can properly operate an amateur station. Moreover, your contention that there has been 'a significant increase in the number of Amateur Radio operators...who do not appear to possess the knowledge indicated by their class of license' is not supported by any data or facts."

The FCC pointed out to Mancuso that the Commission's Rules only dictate the minimum number of questions for each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes. This, the Commission told Mancuso, "does not prevent the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) from increasing the number of questions in a question pool should it decide that this is appropriate. We conclude, therefore, that the petition presents no evidence of an existing problem or other reason for a rule change."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that while he agreed with the Commission's decision, he disagrees with the rationale behind it. "The International Radio Regulations require that administrations verify the operational and technical qualifications of prospective amateur licensees, using Recommendation ITU-R M.1544 for guidance," he said. "The present examinations confirm to this requirement."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 11, March 20, 2009

HINTS AND KINKS

Do you have an idea or a simple project that has improved your operating? Maybe you've taken something commonly found around the home and developed a ham radio use for it? Why not share your hints with fellow hams in "Hints and Kinks," a monthly column in QST. If we publish your hint, you will receive \$20. Send your hints via e-mail to <h&k@arrl.org>; or to ARRL Headquarters, Attn: "Hints and Kinks," 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address. Items in "Hints and Kinks" have not been tested by QST or ARRL unless otherwise stated. Although we can't guarantee that hints published will work for every situation, QST makes every effort to screen for harmful information.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 11, March 20, 2009

USCG TO DISCONTINUE LORAN

Last month, the US Coast Guard <<http://www.uscg.mil/>> announced that due to economic conditions, they would be closing down the 24 LORAN-C (Long Range Aid to Navigation) <<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran/default.htm>> stations operated under the auspices of the USCG. LORAN stations provide navigation, location and timing services for both civil and military air, land and marine users. According to the USCG, LORAN-C is approved as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) and Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations. The LORAN-C system serves the 48 continental states and parts of Alaska.

LORAN-A stations were developed beginning in World War II, and signals were transmitted on frequencies in and around our present-day 160 meter band. LORAN-A was responsible for reduced amateur radio operations, including frequency and power limitations, on 160 meters in the United States. In 1979, the Coast Guard phased out the LORAN-A stations; they were replaced by LORAN-C stations. The newer stations operated on 100 kHz, enabling the restrictions on the 160 meter amateur band due to LORAN functions, to be dropped.

According to the Coast Guard, the nation's oldest continuous sea-going service will continue to operate the current LORAN-C system through the end of fiscal year 2009; it is in the process of preparing detailed plans for implementing the fiscal year 2010 budget. -- Some information provided by Cliff Appel, W7CGA

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 10, March 13, 2009

LABEL CHANGE FOR ARRL MAGS

A change in the postal regulations for flat mail processing takes effect March 29 that will require the addressing area on the front of any flat, bulk-processed mail (such as magazines) be positioned to new specifications. According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, QST, QEX and NCJ magazines will all have the delivery address imprinted upside down, but positioned in the same area on the front covers.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 11, March 20, 2009

GET YOUTH IN AMATEUR RADIO

The group at Radio Arcala, OH8X, in Finland, is challenging the world's amateur community to write an essay of no more than 250 words explaining Amateur Radio in young people's terms. For complete information click on "Young People Terms" at <<http://www.radioarcala.com>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 11, March 20, 2009

GSARA INVENTORY

In January, Jeff, N2LXM took this inventory of GSARA equipment at the MARS building:

Studio Two:

Kenwood PS-50 Power Supply S/N 8070092

Studio Five:

Icom 371A Two Meter All Mode, S/N 01023

Pyramid Power Supply PS-12

Studio Six:

Kenwood TR-7850 Two Meter FM, S/N 1110992

PSK232 TNC, S/N 0525

Power Samlex America 12 Volt Power Supply, S/N 03061-0D01-1018

Akigawa Watt Meter ATM-1H

Kenwood TS-450 Transceiver, S/N 30500154

Kenwood Speaker SP-430, S/N 8040076

Icom Microphone (in drawer)

MFJ 1702C Antenna Switch

Studio Seven:

Kenwood TS-440S Transceiver, S/N 8110580

Icom IC-229H Two Meter FM W/Mic, S/N 43097

Icom IC-721 Transceiver, S/N 01044

Icom IC-PS20 Power Supply, S/N 05354

National Radio Speaker

Signalink SL-1, S/N 0117302

Store Room:

Kenwood TS-820 Transceiver, S/N 510824

Galaxy Transceiver, S/N 9005BB1630

Galaxy SC-550 Power Supply, S/N 9009BD1806

Tokyo Hy-power HL-250V25 Two Meter All Mode Amplifier, S/N 6040062

Some of this equipment has been moved to the Red Cross and we may have to move the rest of it on short notice.

MIDWAY ATOLL TO BE ACTIVATED

Earlier this year, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that they would open Midway Atoll <<http://www.fws.gov/midway/>> to Amateur Radio operations for two weeks only, from October 5-19, 2009. Tom Harrell, N4XP, of Monroe, Georgia, and Dave Johnson, WB4JTT, of Aitkin, Minnesota, have put together a team of 19 operators from all over the world to activate Midway Atoll for a 10 day period as K4M <<http://www.midway2009.com/>>. This the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002.

"Midway ranks as Number 24 worldwide and Number 13 in Europe on DX Magazine's Most Wanted List <<http://www.dxpub.com/>>," Harrell and Johnson said. "Activity will be on 6-160 meters with 5 to 6 stations. At least one station will be active on 20 meters around the clock for those who need it for a new country. Major efforts will be made to meet the demand to the most needed geographical areas, the low bands and RTTY." The team has posted a list of planned frequencies on their Web site <<http://www.midway2009.com/kh4freqs.html>>.

The co-leaders said that travel to the atoll is only allowed by chartered aircraft: "Because of the size of the aircraft, the team is presented with unique challenges. As such, the aircraft will only be able to carry the team, requiring the equipment to be shipped by boat some months ahead."

In January, the USFWS started a program to encourage visitors to experience Midway's wildlife, history and culture, as well as non-wildlife-dependent activities -- including Amateur Radio. To ensure the safety of the wildlife on the Refuge, Midway Atoll Refuge Manager Matt D. Brown said that Amateur Radio operations will be permitted for two weeks only, and only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island. Brown also said that while portable generators will not be permitted, there is 120 V power available at the operation site; any modifications to the island power grid/infrastructure must be approved in advance and be paid for entirely by the radio operators.

Brown said that the K4M team will also be required to attend a refuge orientation shortly after their arrival designed to enhance visitor safety, wildlife protection and overall enjoyment of the

wildlife refuge. "Although determined to be a wildlife-compatible activity," Brown said, "this [Amateur Radio] opportunity is being conducted on a trial basis." Brown has the authority to discontinue the activity at any time, based on wildlife protection and conservation goals.

Midway is located in the North Pacific Ocean (near the northwestern end of the Hawaiian archipelago) -- approximately 1250 miles northwest of Honolulu -- about one-third of the way between Honolulu and Tokyo. At less than 150 miles east of the International Dateline, Midway Atoll is truly "midway" around the world from the Greenwich meridian. The atoll is an unincorporated territory of the United States and is the only atoll/island in the Hawaiian archipelago not part of the State of Hawaii. Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge is owned and administered by the USFWS on behalf of the American people and has international significance for both its historic and natural resources.

In 1988, Midway became a National Wildlife Refuge, at the time subject to the primary jurisdiction of the Navy. In 1993, the Navy decided to close the Naval Air Facility after more than 50 years of continuous operation. On May 20, 1996, custody and accountability for Midway Atoll transferred from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior. President Clinton signed Executive Order 13022 on October 31, 1996, effectively superseding earlier orders assigning responsibility for Midway to the Navy. A new code of regulations governing activities at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was published in the Federal Register on March 10, 1998.

When Midway became a national wildlife refuge, it joined a network of more than 500 separate units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, encompassing nearly 93 million acres, throughout all 50 states and several territories and possessions. Refuges represent the only Federal lands set aside and managed principally for the conservation of fish and wildlife.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 10, March 13, 2009

NEW GSARA HOMEPAGE

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

This is our new homepage under construction.

BSA UPDATES RADIO MERIT BADGE

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has updated the requirements needed to earn the Radio merit badge. The new requirements became effective with the publication of Boy Scout Requirements 2009. While no new content has been added to the program, the new merit badge pamphlet features lots of new information -- including color pictures and updated charts and text -- that reflects the changes in the Amateur Radio Service since the last pamphlet update in 2002. Approximately 4000 Radio merit badges are earned each year.

According to ARRL ad hoc Scouting Committee member Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, the new Radio Merit Badge pamphlet had been in the works for some time. "BSA has been replacing all merit badge pamphlets with new booklets using color graphics and more modern presentations," he said. "With attractive color photos and clear text explanations of the requirements, the new merit badge pamphlet is a pleasure for the Scouts to read. The new text is due in large part to the efforts of longtime Radio Merit Badge Counselor and K2BSA National Jamboree Staff member Mike Brown, WB2JWD. I am looking forward to using the new pamphlet to teach Radio merit badge at our Council's Merit-Badge-O-Ree this spring, and to having a supply of the new books available for Scouts during the 2009 summer camp season."

Wolfgang said that the requirements for the badge have been shifted around: "The old Part 4 of Requirement 7(b) Broadcast Radio was pulled out and placed in the main body of the requirements as Requirement 8. In addition, the old Requirement 8 (to visit a radio installation and discuss what types of equipment, how it was used, what types of licenses are required to operate and maintain the equipment, and the purpose of the station) was moved up to Requirement 7, so that now the three options appear as Requirement 9. The main result is one additional full requirement."

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director and Chairman of the League's ad hoc Scouting Committee Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, called the Radio Merit Badge "a perfect avenue to introduce Scouts and Scouters to the wonderful world of ham radio. Ham clubs across the nation should locate a local Boy Scout Troop, secure permission from their Scoutmaster and/or committee to teach the merit badge and deliver an exceptional Radio merit

badge class. What the boys -- and their leaders and parents -- will learn in the process is a fair amount of what is part of the Technician license exam, so the next logical step after a merit badge class is an all-out recruiting effort to get that Troop involved in Amateur Radio. They'll meet new friends and have a great way of communicating while in transit to and from the field, as well as additional peace of mind through an effective means of emergency communications while in the backcountry."

For a complete overview of the Boy Scout Radio merit badge, see the Radio merit badge page on the BSA [Web site](http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/advancement/ndawards/meritbadges/mb-RADO.aspx) <<http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/advancement/ndawards/meritbadges/mb-RADO.aspx>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 8, February 27, 2009

AREA AMATEUR EXAM SESSIONS

Amateur radio exam sessions in this 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 first Saturday of the even numbered months (April 4, 2009) at 10 AM. The contact person is Pat Brannick, N2BZD at 732-267-0308 or e-mail to pbrannick@aol.com.

Middletown, Croyden Hall on Leonardo Road: Exams are on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. The contact person is Mario Sellitti, N2PVP 732-787-7184 or e-mail to n2pvp@n2pvp.com.

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 Genoino, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or e-mail to wa2nda@aol.com.

Toms River, Holiday City South Clubhouse, Meeting Room #1, Mule Road at the corner of Santiago Drive on the second Saturday of the odd numbered months (May 9, 2009) at 10 AM and on the second Wednesday of the even numbered months (April 8, 2009) at 7 PM. The contact person is Larry Puccio, K2QDY, 732-349-2950 or lpuccio1@comcast.net.

In all cases, the fee is \$15 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.

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see reverse side)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., **KB2BCL** April 6. All times are EDST. Contests are listed in the April QST, p. 84.

April 1 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 PM at the MARS Building at Fort Monmouth.

April 2 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 9 AM (35-10 wpm). See April QST, p. 84 or www.arrl.org/wlaw

April 2 - **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

April 4 – **OMARC VE Session** at the Diana site on Marconi Road in Wall. For more information contact Pat Brannick, N2BZD at 732-267-0308 or e-mail to pbrannick@aol.com

April 4-5 – **QCWA QSO Party**, all modes from 2 PM Sat. to 2 PM Sun. See www.qcwa.org/qso-party.htm

April 5 – **JSARS Hamfest** at Riverwood Red. Center in Toms River at 8 AM, \$5. See www.jsars.org

April 5 and every Sunday – **InfoAge Marconi Hotel** open from 1 to 4 PM on Marconi Road in Wall. Exhibits by QCWA, OMARC, Antique Radio, Broadcaster's Hall of Fame, etc. \$5 donation requested.

April 6 – **2 Meter Spring Sprint**, SSB and CW from 7 to 11 PM. See www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprinrules.htm

April 6 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

April 7 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon at left rear table. All are welcome.

April 7 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

April 7 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 PM.

April 8 - **Holiday City VE Test Session** at 7 PM in Toms River. Pre-register with Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at lpuccio1@comcast.net.

April 9 – **Winlink Class** at Red Cross at 7:30 PM. Register with n2smv@arrl.net. See page 1 for more info.

April 9 – **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 11 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ.

April 11 – **Monmouth Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 10 AM in Union Beach Police Annex (Municipal Building) on Poole Avenue.

April 13 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

April 14 – **VE Test Session** at Croyden Hall, Leonardo section of Middletown at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mario Sellitti, N2PVP at 732-787-7184 or n2pvp@n2pvp.com

April 14 – **222 Spring Sprint**, SSB and CW from 7 to 11 PM. See www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprinrules.htm

April 15 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 at the Red Cross, West Park Ave. and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls. Program is a slide show of the Barbados DX-pedition.

April 16 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 4 PM (10-35 wpm). See April QST, p. 84 or www.arrl.org/wlaw

April 16 – **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:30 PM Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoio, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or wa2nda@comcast.net.

April 18 – **OMARC Tailgate Hamfest** at Diana Site in Wall. See p. 1 for more information.

April 20 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

April 22 – **432 Spring Sprint**, SSB and CW from 7 to 11 PM. See www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprinrules.htm

April 25 – **Neptune Amateur Radio Club Meeting** at 9 AM at the American Legion on Gully Road in Neptune.

April 27 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 GSARA Mtg	2 CW Qual. Run Hol. City Mtg.	3	4 OMARC VE QCWA QSO
5 JSARS Hmfst QCWA QSO InfoAge	6 2-Mtr Sprint ARES/RACES 7:30	7 Pancake House Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	8 Hol. City VE 7 PM	9 Winlink Class JSARS Mtg.	10	OMARC Mtg. 11 MARC Mtg
12 InfoAge	13 RACES Net 7:30	14 222 Sprint Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	15 GSARA Mtg	16 CW Qual. Run JSARS VE	17	18 OMARC Tailgate
19 InfoAge	20 ARES/RACES 7:30	21 W2SHS QCWA News 9 PM	22 N2HGI 432 Sprint	23	24	Neptune Mtg 25 W2OD
26 InfoAge	27 ARES/RACES 7:30	28 QCWA News 9 PM	29	30		



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FIRST CLASS