



THE PROPAGATOR

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

DECEMBER 2008

UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, December 3 at 7:30 PM** at the Fort Monmouth MARS building. This will be the election of officers for 2009. The second meeting in December will be on **Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 PM** at the **American Red Cross - Regional Office**, 1540 West Park Avenue, Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

Remember that we are starting 30 minutes earlier at 7:30 PM. 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.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Former GSARA member Bill Maier, N2UJJ was diagnosed with SMA (which is a form of Lou Gehrig's disease) in 1994. He had his first stroke in 1999 and has had several since then. He has slowly, over the past 7 years, gone from walking with a walker, to using a wheel chair and walking infrequently, to now being bedridden. He has been on hospice since August. His daughter-in-law, Eileen, wishes to dispose of the following equipment. She will accept any reasonable offer and can be reached on 732-842-0695.

Description	Manufacturer	Model
Oscilloscope	Bell & Howell	
Pwr Supply 13.8 V, 25 A	Astron	RS-35A
Pakratt TNC	AEA	PK-232
2M Transceiver	Fukuyama	KLM-Multi 2700
144 MHz Transceiver w/ speaker SP7	Icom	IC-2814
VCR	JVC	HR-VP46U
Dynamic Microphone 600 ohm/50K ohm	Yaesu	
Microphone	Astatic	G
Speaker	Monitor Radio	DRS-1
Trigger VCG	Wavetek	112
HF Transceiver	Heath	SS-9000
Power Supply	Heath	PS-9000
Oscilloscope	Tektronix	535A
Scopemobile	Tektronix	

ROSTER CORRECTION

W2NXG e-mail should be changed to rayw2nxg@optonline.net

GSARA OFFICERS

President	N2LXM	Jeff Harshman	922-0816
Vice Pres.	W2FA	Kevin Wagner	279-0532
Secretary	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
Treasurer	W2XYZ	Frank Wroblewski	942-7705
Engineer	W2HTS	Howard Suffill	460-1885
Webmaster	KC2TKK	Josh Gluck	
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@gardenateara.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://www.monmouth.com/~gsara/prop.pdf>

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

The next GSARA meeting on **December 3** will be at Fort Monmouth and it will start at **7:30 PM**. There will also be a meeting on Wednesday, **December 17** at the Red Cross at **7:30 PM**. Per our Constitution, we need a quorum of 10 members at a meeting in order to conduct any business. I look forward to seeing a great turnout at both meetings.

Hats off to our new webmaster, Josh, KC2TKK. He will be archiving past issues of *The Propagator* on the new web site at <www.gardenstateara.org>. Check it out!

If you are interested in obtaining a [gardenstateara.org](http://www.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.

I am disappointed in the poor response that our nominating committee has had in finding candidates to run for office in GSARA next year. I could understand the reluctance if these positions required significant investments in time and effort but they really do not. Just ask the few who have already served and I think that you will find that they all look upon it as a positive experience. I would like to especially thank Josh, KC2TKK for stepping up to the webmaster position and to Bill, NJ2H for volunteering to handle public relations.

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 January issue is December 15.

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

GSARA HOMEPAGE

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

GSARA CALENDAR

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

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

MINUTES OF NOV. 19 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM called the meeting to order at the Red Cross building at 7:45 PM. There were 13 members and one guest present. The guest was Hunter Suffill, the youngest son of W2HTS. After the pledge to the Flag, all members introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report

There were no minutes from the November 5 meeting since the secretary was absent and few were in attendance so no business was conducted. A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Howard, W2HTS to accept the minutes of the October meetings as published in the November Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ presented his report for October. A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Ed, KB2SZW to accept the report as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Head of the nominating committee, Joe, W2KQ reported that the slate of officers for next year now has Frank, W2XYZ as a candidate for president but that leaves openings for treasurer and for chief engineer. The election did not take place on November 5 due to lack of a quorum. In light of the incomplete slate, Joe asked that the election be postponed until the December 3 meeting.

Howard, W2HTS and Frank, W2XYZ met with Leo Platte at the Red Cross to assess the antenna needs of the Red Cross so an appropriate tower can be recommended. Since Tom, N2VFK could not be present at the meeting, it was felt that another meeting with the Red Cross will be needed before finalizing a recommendation. An inventory is needed of the equipment presently at the Red Cross.

Joe, W2KQ and Jim, K2EI will meet with Fort Monmouth in December to see if there is a way that GSARA can keep its presence if Donna gets transferred. It has been determined that Donna will remain at Fort Monmouth for another year so we should be OK for 2009.

New Business

The Red Cross will be conducting a Disaster Institute in January and has invited us to provide a 1-day amateur radio class that would include a VE session at the end of the day. Jeff, N2LXM will check with OMARC to see if they could help out with this. Ed, WB2KCV will check with Mario, N2PVP to see if the Middletown RACES could help in any way. They have been very successful with their one-day classes.

Announcements

The Asbury Park repeater has been acting up and was off the air for a few weeks but seems OK now.

World Radio has been sold to CQ magazine and will no longer be publishing a paper copy. It will be available electronically on the internet.

Closing

There being no further business, a motion was made by Howard, W2HTS and seconded by Joe, W2KQ to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

SKYWARN DAY DECEMBER 6

The 10th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 6, 2008 <<http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>>. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio/participating_offices.php>, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years and is mainly an SSB event, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink and Winlink."

2008 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be on Dec. 6 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. If you haven't joined in the fun, make 2008 your year to do so!

From *The ARRL Bulletin*, No. 43, October 31, 2008

DATES SET FOR DESECHEO ISLAND

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has notified a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that they will be able to mount a DXpedition to Desecheo Island (KP5, IOTA NA-095), February 12-26, 2009 <<http://www.kp5.us/>>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on the Most Wanted list, kept by "DX Magazine." Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the USFWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

Per USFWS rules, only 15 operators will be allowed on the island at one time. "We have arranged with USFWS to allow a shift change about half way through the DXpedition," Allphin told the ARRL. "This has allowed a number of hams on our waiting list an opportunity to participate in this DXpedition."

Johnson said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters. "We've had tremendous support from DX organizations all over the world and from numerous equipment and antenna manufacturers," he told the ARRL. "We are diligently working on the propagation studies to reach our hard to work areas of Asia and Europe. This and with our planned antennas, we should knock Desecheo off of the Most Wanted List for a long time to come." Desecheo is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe.

According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of amateur activity on Desecheo is due to the USFWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The USFWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island. It is always a good thing when an entity that had activation difficulties in the past gets on the air again."

On Friday, December 19, three DXpedition team members, USFWS personnel and an unexploded ordnance (UXO) expert will go out to Desecheo to sweep and clear the assigned area of unexploded ordnance and other hazards. "We are uniquely

fortunate for a 'sneak preview' of our operating site the week before Christmas," Johnson said. "We will spend a day on Desecheo clearing hazards from our operating sites. Rarely does such a most-wanted entity have an opportunity for a sneak peak to optimally plan logistics, stations and antennas." There will be no radio operations on this trip.

The KP5 DXpedition team will set out for Desecheo on February 12. Allphin said that as soon as they land on Desecheo, two stations will be "immediately activated. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26."

Allphin is an experienced DXer, having visited 80 DXCC entities and operated from 40, including Peter I Island, Howland Island, Kingman Reef, the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia Island. Allphin and Johnson have both participated in DXpeditions to Heard Island and Bhutan.

"For a team leader, the challenges are pretty much the same for Desecheo as they were for Peter I and other remote DXpeditions," Allphin told the ARRL. "Take logistics -- you still must make sure everything you need gets there. Although there is a Radio Shack 20 miles away, the boat trip is \$1000! The team must be selected on compatibility, experience and operating skills; that never changes. The difference this time is that Glenn and I have been inundated with requests to join the team. The close proximity makes it look like an easy DXpedition, I guess!"

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager and experienced DXpeditioner Dave Patton, NN1N, said that both Desecheo and Navassa Islands (currently third on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list) saw frequent operations in the late 1970s through late '80s, but operations from the islands have been very limited since then. With the islands under the control of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, combined with decaying "infrastructure" on Navassa, there are more issues that must be dealt with than there were 25 years ago.

"A well-organized and lengthy operation from Desecheo will be a nice treat for the world's DXers," Patton said. "With W0GJ and K4UEE leading the operation, I think we can all count on a first class effort that will give maximum exposure to Asia/Oceania and Europe where KP5 is most

needed. I also think that Glenn and Bob can demonstrate to the Fish and Wildlife Service that a DXpedition can take place and not damage the environment or cause big problems amongst other hams or for other agencies."

In 1979, upon the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee, Desecheo Island was added to the DXCC list for contacts made after March 1 of that year. KP4AM/D -- with operators N4EA, KP4Q, N4ZC, KP4DSD, KV4KV (now KP2A) and KP4AM (now W4DN) -- made the first DXpedition to Desecheo in March 1979. Various groups have made their way to Desecheo since the first trip, but other than a brief operation in December 2005, there has been no activity from the island since 1994. "It is so exciting that our DXpedition to Desecheo coincides almost exactly 30 years to the day of the first operation from Desecheo," Johnson told the ARRL.

In June of this year, CNWR invited written proposals from hams who had previously made inquiries about an Amateur Radio operation from Desecheo; CNWR indicated that they would allow one group to activate the island. After reviewing the proposals, CNWR would then select a group and prepare to issue a Special Permit to the successful party, limiting the group to no more than 15 people staying no longer than 14 days. Applicants had 45 days to prepare and submit their proposals. According to Allphin, seven groups submitted proposals.

"A panel of three Fish and Wildlife Service employees, from areas within the Service outside of the Caribbean refuge, spent September 24 and 25 reviewing and evaluating the [seven] proposals," Allphin said. "The selection criteria used were those outlined in the proposal invitation letter and points were awarded for how well criteria were addressed for thoroughness and documentation."

"It was truly an honor to have our proposal and team selected from the stiff competition," Johnson told the ARRL. "This has been a true team effort on our part from the start. We look forward to activating an entity in the Top 10 Most Wanted that is located in our own back yard! We are most grateful to the USFWS for giving us this opportunity to activate this rare entity."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 47, November 26, 2008

NEW ARRL BASIC ANTENNA BOOK

For something that is often so simple to make, an antenna is remarkably difficult for many people to understand. The antenna is one of your shack's most important elements and can make your radio system a success. Now available from ARRL, "Basic Antennas: Understanding Practical Antennas and Design" [<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9994>](http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9994) is a comprehensive introduction to antennas -- basic concepts, practical designs and details of easy-to-build antennas. You'll learn how to make antennas that really work. This book will provide a foundation in antenna theory and design necessary for anyone undertaking more advanced topics and projects such as those presented in "The ARRL Antenna Book" [<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9876>](http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9876).

Written by ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, this new book includes an introduction to antennas, as well as sections on dipole antennas, antenna impedance, transmission lines, practical two element arrays, wideband and multiband antennas, monopole antennas, reflector antennas, Yagis for HF and VHF loop antennas, antennas for microwave applications, vehicle antennas, antenna measurements and an introduction to antenna modeling.

"Most people involved in the radio arts come from a background in the circuitry required to define radio equipment," Hallas said, "and many have difficulty making the transition to the electromagnetic side of radio. 'Basic Antennas' is intended to assist those with a basic knowledge of radio technology in making that important leap from the circuit domain to the antenna domain." Hallas said the technology presented in the book is developed using the "minimum of mathematical concepts to allow introduction of basic principles in an easy to read manner." Upon completion of this book, readers should have enough understanding of the basic principles of antenna systems to be able to make decisions about selecting antennas for their applications or using more advanced antenna materials properly.

QST Technical Editor, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, is also the author of "Basic Radio -- Understanding the Key Building Blocks".

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 46, November 21, 2008

IBM TEAMS WITH BPL IN 7 STATES

On November 12, IBM announced that it has signed a \$9.6 million deal with International Broadband Electric Communications (IBEC) to install equipment and provide BPL service to almost 350,000 homes in Alabama, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. According to the Associated Press, IBEC Chief Executive Scott Lee said the network, which will be funded by \$70 million in low-interest federal loans from the Department of Agriculture, should be in place in about two years. IBEC currently provides broadband to only about 1400 customers, most of them beginning to receive service in the past 18 months.

"IBEC's equipment doesn't use the ham bands," said ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, "making it less likely that they will have any interference complaints from amateurs. Their equipment, however, does interfere with shortwave broadcast and other spectrum, but in the US, not many users have complained. IBM has been in the BPL business for a few years now, so this venture is nothing new for them." IBEC staff member Brent Zitting, KB4SL, serves as a member of ARRL's EMC Committee.

IBM is the first major systems integrator to enter the market. According to an IBEC press release announcing the joint venture, IBM will provide overall project management, oversight and training of the line crews who will be installing the BPL equipment. IBEC will provide the BPL technology and equipment and serve as the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to these rural residents.

A 2006 FCC study reported that fewer than 5000 homes receive their Internet connections via power lines. IBM and IBEC's joint plan, Lee said, will serve residents, of whom about 86 percent have no cable or DSL access, in the seven states.

According to reports, IBEC's strategy is to sign up electric cooperatives that provide power to sparsely populated areas across the eastern United States. Rather than compete toe-to-toe with large, entrenched cable or DSL providers, IBEC is looking for customers that have been largely left out of the move to high-speed Internet.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 45, November 14, 2008

NEW ARRL SATELLITE BOOK

"The ARRL Satellite Handbook" by QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, brings the thrill of satellite communications within your reach <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9857>>. Filled with understandable descriptions and illustrations, this book includes all the tools you need to participate in this exciting field. This very readable guide was designed to give a broad introduction to the subject of satellite communications, while providing the practical fundamentals you need to explore, track and operate ham radio satellites on your own. Since the pioneering days of satellite communications, ham radio operators have been along for the ride -- building, launching, and operating satellites. You can experience this technology firsthand using today's fleet of Earth-orbiting ham radio satellites. Including content by satellite expert Martin Davidoff, PhD, K2UBC, this book is sure to be a hit with both new and experienced satellite enthusiasts.

From *The ARRL Bulletin*, No. 43, October 31, 2008

CANADIANS ON LIMITED 500 KHZ

On November 10, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) announced that Industry Canada, which regulates Amateur Radio in that country, has accepted an RAC proposal for selected Canadian radio amateurs to operate in the vicinity of 500 kHz. The proposal states that RAC would recommend amateurs who would be licensed to operate in the 504-509 kHz band with a maximum power of 20 W ERP and bandwidth up to 1 kHz. Stations operating in this band would be technically operating under Special Developmental Licenses, although they would all be radio amateurs. Distinct call signs would be used and the licenses would be renewable on an annual basis, subject to the amateur demonstrating the research he has carried out. According to the RAC, these amateur operations would support Canada's efforts to place a proposal on the agenda of the 2011 World Radio Conference (WRC-11), which, if adopted, would create an amateur allocation in the 600 meter band. The US, under the auspices of the ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental Station, WD2XSH, is also conducting research in this band. More information on the Canadian proposal will be posted to the RAC Web site as it becomes available.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 46, November 21, 2008

AO-16 TO GO QRT BY YEAR END

Launched in January 1990, AMSAT-OSCAR 16 (AO-16) -- a digital satellite -- has been operating as a voice repeater since January 2008, using FM voice on the uplink and transmitting DSB voice on the downlink (best received on SSB) <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/23/100/>>. But according to the satellite's command team, the satellite's orbit might force this to end sometime before the end of the year.

According to Mark Hammond, N8MH, a member of the AO-16 command team, AO-16 has a hardware/watchdog timer that resets the satellite and shuts the transmitter down. This timer in AO-16 will fire -- and cannot be reset -- when the satellite's temperature is 15 degrees Celsius or cooler. When the timer "fires," it shuts down the transmitter. "When the bird's temperature is more than 15 degrees Celsius," Hammond said, "the hardware timer behaves and continuous operations are sustained."

The satellite's temperature depends upon solar illumination. Hammond said that the "magic number" is around 85 percent of the orbit in sunlight: If the orbit provides AO-16 with less than 85 percent illumination, the spacecraft's temperature falls below 15 degrees and the hardware timer fires. "Illumination projections, as well as subsequent temperature predictions, suggest that we might be able to sustain operations until sometime in the window of November 22 until December 4, 2008," Hammond predicted. "So if you want to make some AO-16 contacts, you had better get them as soon as possible!"

Hammond said that long term-orbital projections suggest that if the satellite hardware remains fundamentally unchanged -- such as no deterioration of on-board components -- "it will be nearly 10 years before AO-16 receives sufficient illumination to warm up the spacecraft enough to again support sustained operations."

It is possible that the transmitter on AO-16 will turn off sometime in the next few days or weeks, Hammond said. "This requires some commanding to get it running again, meaning a pass over the eastern coast of the United States is required for a change in operational status. We expect that as the spacecraft cools down, transmitter shutdowns will become more frequent. You can be sure that we'll

continue to probe the craft with commands, in hopes that we something will change in a good way that will allow us to use the bird for operations of some sort."

AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, said the satellite hears very well; the reduced bandwidth by using either USB or LSB on the ground station receiver "allows for a very robust downlink. Tuning the downlink is just like on a linear transponder, meaning it is tight and with fast Doppler. Uplink tuning is not required, just as with the FM mode V/U satellites. My personal observations include being able to access and hear the satellite within one degree of the horizon, much lower than any other current bird for my location [in Florida]. This should be an easy satellite with omni antennas and a 70 cm preamp."

AO-16's uplink is 145.9200 MHz FM; the downlink is 437.0260 MHz SSB. Users are asked to restrict their uplink power to a reasonable power level, and not to transmit without being able to hear the downlink; all general single-channel guidelines apply. "Enjoy this grand old bird while you can!" said Hammond.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 45, November 14, 2008

ARRL NEWSLETTERS & BULLETINS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just *The ARRL Letter*? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager, as well as WIAW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>>.

From *The ARRL Bulletin*, No. 43, October 31, 2008

ARRL VEC EXAM FEE INCREASE

On November 6, The ARRL VEC <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/>> announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE)-administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by \$1, from \$14 to \$15. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VE teams may retain up to \$7 of this fee to directly reimburse their teams' out-of-pocket examination expenses; currently, VE teams keep \$6. This is the first time in four years that the examination fee has been adjusted.

Somma said that the FCC allows VECs to collect an examination reimbursement fee from each candidate who takes one or more exam elements. "VEs and VECs may be reimbursed by examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering or coordinating an examination for an amateur operator license (FCC Rule 97.527)," she said. "These exam fees help the VEC recover its costs of providing its services."

"Any person sitting for an exam, or having a new license or upgrade processed at a test sessions, must pay the exam fee applicable for the calendar year," Somma explained. "The ARRL VEC's exam fee for calendar year 2009 is \$15. Each time a candidate pays one exam fee, they are entitled to take tests for Elements 2, 3 and 4 as needed, up to all three elements under the single exam fee. Each time an examinee retakes an exam element (assuming the VE Team has different exam design available), another exam fee is charged."

VE teams may elect to keep a prescribed portion of each exam fee collected exclusively to offset expenses that are directly incurred in administering the VE program. "All out-of-pocket reimbursable expenses shall be necessary and prudent, and must relate to the examination process in some way," Somma said. "VECs and VEs are expected to use good business judgment with respect to reimbursement amounts. The examination reimbursement fee cannot be used to offset non-session related costs and must be kept separate from other accounts."

Somma pointed out that business expenses such as postal, utility, fuel and printing charges, are increasing: "Our VE teams are feeling the effects of the current economy, too! Teams are retaining

reimbursement at amounts considerably larger than previous years. The amount of out-of-pocket costs that our VEs and the VEC are expending to provide authorized services in connection with Amateur Radio operator examinations continues to rise."

Recent ARRL VEC cost-cutting steps have included staff reduction, reduced printing charges of ARRL VE training material and exam software, renegotiating shipping and printing contracts and eliminating lesser-used services.

"Only so many cost-cutting measures can be justified without cutting back significantly on services essential to our VE teams, our customers and our program," Somma said. "As a result, an adjustment was needed in the 2009 exam reimbursement fee if we intended to maintain the basic levels of service that our VEs, VE teams and candidates have come to expect."

"We believe that the ARRL VEC's level of assistance and services are outstanding," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "Exam supplies, such as paperwork and software, shipping costs both to and from the VEC and ARRL VE accreditation, as well as credentials, are all free of charge for our VEs. We maintain a toll-free number for our VEs and we even offer reimbursement to the VE team for their expenses. We appreciate the dedication and volunteerism of all our VEs in the field. This is why we offer so many services free of charge. This is why we have that same level of duty and commitment here. Every test fee we collect goes right back into the VEC program and to serving the Amateur Radio community."

From The ARRL Letter, No. 44, November 7, 2008

WORLDRADIO TO CEASE PRINT COPY

In a joint statement, WorldRadio Publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, and CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, announced that WorldRadio magazine will no longer be published as a print magazine. According to the announcement, CQ Communications Inc has acquired WorldRadio and plans to continue it as an online publication on CQ's Web site. WorldRadio subscribers will have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

From The ARRL Letter, No. 45, November 14, 2008

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see reverse side)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., **N3RB** December 1. All times are in EST. Contests are listed in the December QST, p. 68.

December 1 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

December 2 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon at left rear table. All are welcome.

December 2 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

December 2 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 PM.

December 3 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 PM at the MARS Building at Fort Monmouth.

December 4 – **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

December 5 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 10 PM (10-40 wpm). See December QST, pp. 67 and 99.

Dec. 5-7 – **ARRL 160 Meter Contest**, CW from 5 PM Friday to 10:59 AM Sunday. See www.arrl.org/contest

Dec. 5-6 – **Skywarn Recognition Day** from 7 PM Fri. to 7 PM Sat. See page 3.

December 7 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.

December 8 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

December 9 – **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

December 11 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 PM.

Dec. 12-14 – **ARRL 10 Meter Contest, SSB & CW** from 7 PM Fri. to 6:59 PM Sun. See www.arrl.org/contest

Dec. 12-14 – **PKS Death Match** from 7 PM Fri. to 7 PM Sun. on HF. See www.mdxa1.org/deathmatch.html

December 13 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ.

December 13 – **Monmouth Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 10 AM in Union Beach Police Annex (Municipal Building) on Poole Avenue.

Dec. 13-15 – **WX3MAS Special Event**, SSB from 9 AM to 9 PM each day. See www.dlarc.org

December 15 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

December 16 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 9 AM (10-35 wpm). See December QST, pp. 67 and 99.

December 17 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 at the Red Cross, West Park Ave. and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls.

December 18 – **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.

December 22 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

December 25 – **Christmas Holiday**. Enjoy!

Dec. 26-27 – **RAC Winter Contest**, CW from 7 PM Fri. to 6:59 PM Sat. See www.ra.ca

December 27 – **Neptune Amateur Radio Club Meeting** at 9 AM at the American Legion on Gully Road in Neptune.

Dec. 27-28 – **070 Club QRP DX Scramble**, Digital from 7 PM Sat. to 7 PM Sun. See www.podxs070.com

December 29 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

Dec. 31-Jan. 1 – **Straight Key Night** from 7 PM Wed. to 7 PM Thursday.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 N3RB ARES/RACES 7:30	2 Pancake House Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	3 GSARA Mtg	4 Hol. City Mtg.	5 CW Qual. Run 160 CW Skywarn RD	6 160 CW Skywarn RD
7 160 CW InfoAge	8 RACES Net 7:30	9 Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	10	11 JSARS Mtg.	12 10 Mtr. Contest PSK Contest	13 OMARC Mtg. WX3MAS SE MARC Mtg 10 Mtr. Contest PSK Contest
14 WX3MAS SE 10 Mtr. Contest PSK Contest InfoAge	15 WX3MAS SE ARES/RACES 7:30	16 CW Qual. Run	17 GSARA Mtg	18 JSARS VE	19	20
21 InfoAge	22 ARES/RACES 7:30	23 QCWA News 9 PM	24	25 Merry Christmas	26 RAC CW	Neptune Mtg 27 RAC CW 070 QRP
28 070 QRP InfoAge	29 RACES Net 7:30	30 QCWA News 9 PM	31 SKN			



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

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