



# THE PROPAGATOR

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

**FEBRUARY 2006**

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## **NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 1**

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on Wednesday, February 1 at 8:00 PM at the MARS building in Fort Monmouth. Come early for some good eyeball QSOs and enjoy the refreshments. Guest speaker will be GSARA member Howard Suffill, W2HTS who will talk about his experiences as an amateur radio volunteer responding to Katrina. Howard drove down to Alabama after the hurricane and helped out in several ways. We've all heard about amateur radio's role after the disaster but this is an opportunity to hear a first-hand account. We look forward to seeing YOU at the meeting!

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## **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.

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## **BARA AUCTION MARCH 5**

The Bergen Amateur Radio Association will be holding its annual auction on Sunday March 5th, 2006 at the Westwood Regional High School at 701 Ridgewood Road, Washington Township, NJ. Auction starts at 1PM in the school cafeteria. (Open for sellers at Noon) Admission is FREE. For auction information contact: Jim Joyce-K2ZO at: k2zo@arrl.net or at: 201-664-6725. Talk-in on 146.19/79 PL 141.3. For more information see the BARA website at: [www.bara.org](http://www.bara.org)

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## **GSARA HOMEPAGE**

[http://home.comcast.net/~gsara\\_w2gsa](http://home.comcast.net/~gsara_w2gsa)

## **FIELD DAY PLANNING**

By **Marty Szumera, WN2DX**

As we start planning our Field Day a little at a time (starting in February), I would like to get plenty of feedback from our membership on this event, and your ideas for other events as well. For just FIELD DAY, please send your thoughts on the following:

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. Should we operate at the MARS Station, or set up in the Field, or make a combo type event like last year?

3. 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?

4. 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?

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

6. What would you think about reaching out to other local clubs (QCWA, NEPTUNE, DX CLUB, HAVERIM, or others) and run a "SUPER FIELD DAY"?

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

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## **GSARA CALENDAR**

[http://home.comcast.net/~gsara\\_w2gsa/calendr.htm](http://home.comcast.net/~gsara_w2gsa/calendr.htm)

## 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](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

Do you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a ham? There are two different types of classes coming up that you might spread the word about. The first is a one-day intensive class offered by the Middletown RACES on Saturday, February 25 at 9 AM at Croyden Hall on Leonardville Road. To register, call the Middletown OEM office at 732-615-2129. It is recommended that you study the "Now You're Talking" book prior to the class. An exam session will be given at the end of the day.

The other option is to enroll in the classes on Monday nights at 6:30 PM starting March 27 for 10 weeks culminating in an exam on Wednesday, June 7. This class is sponsored by OMARC and is held at the Diana site off Marconi Road in Wall. In either case, the classes are free (except for the purchase of the book). What are YOU doing to get more people into this great hobby?

Marty, our Chief Engineer is already thinking about Field Day and 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.

I'm really looking forward to hearing our guest speaker at the February 1 meeting. Our own Howard Suffill, W2HTS will talk about his experience in helping out after the hurricanes. Howard drove down to Alabama and helped in various capacities which he will describe. His call is listed on the Honor Roll in the February QST on page 54. As far as I know, Howard is the only GSARA member who helped out after the hurricanes. Thank you for your efforts.

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 March issue is February 15.

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

## HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

## MINUTES OF JANUARY 4 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at Fort Monmouth by President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM, at 8:01 PM. There were 19 members in attendance. After the Pledge to the Flag, all members present then introduced themselves.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ gave the treasurer's report for both the past month and for the year 2005. A motion was made by Larry, KB2RIS and seconded by Peggy Struening to accept the report. It was accepted unanimously.

### Secretary's Report

Secretary Bob Buus, W2OD reported that no correspondence was received in December. A motion was made by Peggy Struening and seconded by Ed, KB2SZW to accept the minutes of the December meeting as published in the January Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

### Health and Welfare

It was reported that Ray Lett, W2NXG lost his sister, Norma Bland on Monday, January 2 after a long illness. May she rest in peace.

It was reported that Shirley Holzberg is recovering at home.

### Old Business

The Holiday party at the American Legion was a success and there was lots of very good food. Plans are to do it again next year.

The GSARA was awarded a very nice plaque from the Red Bank area CROP walk for our many years of participation in providing communications for the walk.

### New Business

Tom Cosgrove, N2VFK has to scale back on his Public Service activities. He is looking for someone to help out in coordinating the activities in this area. No one volunteered at the meeting.

### Announcements

Radio classes run by OMARC at the Diana site will resume on March 27 and run through June 3 with a VE exam session on June 10.

Saturday, January 7, 2006 will be Diana Day marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first moonbounce (actually the first moonbounce was on January 10, 1946). Activities at the Diana site include N2MO operating 40, 20 and 15 on both SSB and CW. Look for them 235 kHz above the band edge on SSB and 35 kHz above the band edge on CW. Better yet, come visit the site. Hours are 9 AM to 7 PM.

Sunday, January 8 is Kids Day. All are encouraged to participate by inviting kids to their shacks and letting them talk to other kids on the air. Hours are from 1 PM to 7 PM. Complete details are in the December QST, p. 45.

Tony Colaguori, W2GUM has a collection of post-1945 QSTs all bundled by year. They are available FREE to anyone who can give them a good home.

Due to his wife's health, Rich, KB2MUN will no longer be able to participate in the VE exams at the Diana site. Effective immediately, the exams will be held on the second Wednesday of each even-numbered month rather than the second Saturday. The next session will be on February 8 at 6:30 PM.

The official transfer of the rest of Evans to Wall Township is planned for April 1, 2006. It is expected that Infoage Learning Center will take over the Marconi Hotel at this time. QCWA Marconi Chapter 138 is planning to set up a station at the Marconi Hotel on that day.

### Program

Former member Gary Palamara, AF1US had sent us a recording of a Jean Shepard radio talk show from the mid-60s on WOR which was played for the members. He discussed CW, the unique swing of different "fists" and freak propagation.

### Closing

The main door prize was won by Peggy Struening. There being no further business, a motion was made by Howard, W2HTS and seconded by Mike, KC2Q to adjourn. The meeting was closed at 9:15 PM.

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Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

## W5ZN NEW PRESIDENT OF ARRL

ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, of Judsonia, Arkansas, will be the League's president for the next two years. He'll succeed Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who chose not to run for a fourth term in the uncompensated, volunteer post. Gathering in Windsor, Connecticut, for its annual meeting, the Board voted 10 to 5 to choose Harrison over ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, the only other nominee. Harrison, 47, said he believes Amateur Radio is looking at a different society--and pool of potential licensees--in the 21st century than in the past.

"One of the things we need to do over the next few years is realize that Main Street USA is not the Main Street USA it was years ago," Harrison commented after the vote. "We all remember those days when we became interested in radio and the magic that it provided to us. The magic is still there, but Main Street has changed." Harrison says this means focusing on doing a better job of attracting the average person on the new Main Street of today "into the magic of Amateur Radio."

First licensed in 1972 as WN5IGF, Harrison says he's interested in virtually all aspects of Amateur Radio, from HF DXing and contesting to VHF/UHF/microwave and moonbounce. He's an ARRL Life Member. His wife, daughter and son all are Amateur Radio licensees. He'll become the League's 14th president since its founding in 1914.

Harrison said the ARRL's initiative to create an improved entry-level license also will be among his top priorities as he assumes office. "It is imperative for the Amateur Radio Service that we have an entry-level license that provides a wide variety of privileges for an individual to get into radio and learn a little bit about all of it," Harrison said, adding that the League believes this approach will keep new licensees interested.

Saying that the Technician ticket "is not attracting or keeping newcomers in its present configuration," the ARRL has asked the FCC to consider modifying the Technician license to provide limited HF phone, data and CW privileges.

Harrison also says he will promote the League's Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) to have the FCC regulate Amateur Radio allocations by bandwidth. "Right now we do that by mode, and we're one of the few countries in the world that

does that," he pointed out. "We need to change that and move forward with this initiative of regulation by bandwidth instead of mode."

Related to that issue, the Board was expected to discuss the process of developing effective band plans to support the rule changes it's requesting in RM-11306. The Commission will accept public comments on the petition until February 6.

Harrison said he will continue and build upon the League's emphasis on Amateur Radio's emergency communication role--especially in improving its response to catastrophic disasters like Hurricane Katrina--and on Haynie's "The Big Project" initiative to get ham radio into schools, known formally as the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP).

"Whether or not it generates a large number of radio amateurs, it provides an introduction to Amateur Radio to kids," Harrison said of the ETP. "Having that awareness of Amateur Radio and what it provides is vital," because it imparts a broad-based knowledge of the service to tomorrow's citizens and policymakers.

The ARRL Board also elected Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, as First Vice President, succeeding Harrison, and Delta Division Director Rick Roderick, K5UR, to Vice President, succeeding Craigie. Both were unopposed.

ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, will become Division Director. A new Delta Division Vice Director will be appointed.

In addition, the Board re-elected ARRL CEO and Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, Treasurer Jim McCobb, K1LU, Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, and International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD.

All those elected will officially begin their new terms when the Board of Directors adjourns its current session.

The Board of Directors annual meeting was expected to conclude January 21. The Board will meet again in July.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 03, January 20, 2006

## "SUITSAT" TARGET FEBRUARY 3

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has announced another change in the "SuitSat" deployment date, which has been a bit of a moving target. The latest target date is late Friday, February 3 (UTC). That's when the International Space Station crew is set to perform its next space walk. According to informed sources, the crew is scheduled to open the hatch for its excursion around 2200 UTC, and SuitSat should be put into orbit within the first hour.

Possibly the most unusual Earth satellite ever, SuitSat consists of a surplus Russian Orlan space suit converted into a transmit-only satellite with an FM downlink frequency of 145.990 MHz. Using the call sign RS0RS, it will transmit voice messages, telemetry and an SSTV image on a nine-minute cycle as it orbits Earth.

The batteries powering the satellite are expected to last about a week after deployment, and SuitSat's free-floating, decaying orbit should cause it to re-enter Earth's atmosphere after some six weeks in space. The SuitSat signal should be strong enough to hear using a VHF transceiver or scanner and a simple antenna--thus making it an ideal project for students to monitor and track.

SuitSat's payload also includes a CD containing hundreds of school pictures, artwork, poems, and student signatures. For more information, see article "This is SuitSat-1 RS0RS" by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, on the AMSAT Web site <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/articles/BauerSuitsat/index.php>

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 03, January 20 2006

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## MINING SURVIVOR IMPROVING

There's encouraging news this week on the medical condition of Randy McCloy, KC8VKZ, the sole survivor of the January 2 Sago mining disaster in West Virginia. Rick Robinson, W8ZT, reports he spoke with McCloy's brother-in-law, Rick McGee January 18, and received an upbeat report on the 26-year-old miner's progress.

"He was sitting up in bed and eating ice chips," he said. "His dialysis treatments have been reduced to every other day as his kidney function [is returning]." Other reports say McCloy's heart and liver functions have improved, his muscle deterioration has abated, his neurological condition

is stable and he's been breathing on his own. His doctors say McCloy exhibits "purposeful movements" and appears to be responding to his family.

Robinson says McGee told him that McCloy's wife, Anna, expressed appreciation from the outpouring of good wishes from the Amateur Radio community and elsewhere. "His family wants to thank everyone for the cards and letters that arrive daily in the large plastic postal bins," he said. "The mail keeps his wife occupied and gives her consolation that so many think of her and her husband and family." Randy and Anna McCloy live in Simpson, West Virginia, and have two young children. A Technician class licensee, McCloy is a relatively new radio amateur, according to Robinson. Well-wishers have been sending cards and QSLs to McCloy at PO Box 223, Philippi, WV 26435.

The Charleston Gazette reported January 19 that McCloy was out of intensive care and likely will be able to leave West Virginia University's Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown within a week or two for a rehabilitation facility. His physicians say it's difficult to predict how fully McCloy will recover over the long haul, however, because his case is unusual. McCoy was the only miner among 13 men trapped for more than 40 hours in an Upshur County coal mine that filled with deadly carbon monoxide following a January 2 explosion.

McCloy reportedly is eligible for immediate medical and wage-replacement benefits based on the extent of his injuries. In addition, a fund has been set up to accept donations for his benefit: the Randal McCloy Jr Fund, c/o Clear Mountain Bank, 1889 Earl Core Rd, Morgantown, WV 26505.

According to "The Checkout" column <http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thecheckout/> of The Washington Post, federal and state authorities have warned consumers about a bogus e-mail seeking donations to aid McCloy. "The Checkout" reports that e-mails claiming to be from Dr Lawrence Roberts, McCloy's primary physician, describe the young miner's condition and seek monetary donations for his treatment. "The Checkout" editor Caroline Mayer advises those who have received such e-mails to consider contacting the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) <http://www.ic3.gov/>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 03, January 20 2006



## COMMENTS DUE ON ARRL PETITION

Comments are due by Monday, February 6, on the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making that asks the FCC to regulate the amateur bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by mode. The petition, designated as RM-11306, recommends what the ARRL calls "a shift in regulatory philosophy" to encourage and enable development and refinement of digital techniques and advanced technologies.

"This petition seeks for the Amateur Radio Service the flexibility to experiment with new digital transmission methods and types to be developed in the future while permitting present operating modes to continue to be used for as long as there are radio amateurs who wish to use them," the League said in its petition, filed November 14. The ARRL says the changes it suggests also will update the FCC's rules and eliminate the need for "cumbersome procedures" to determine whether a new digital mode is legal under Part 97.

The next step in this proceeding would be either a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) or a dismissal of the League's petition. An NPRM would kick off a further round of formal comments. For the rules to take effect, the FCC would have to issue a Report and Order putting the changes into place and setting an effective date.

The ARRL is asking the FCC to replace the table at §97.305(c) with a new one that segments bands by necessary bandwidths ranging from 200 Hz to 100 kHz. Unaffected by the ARRL's recommendations, if they're adopted, would be 160 and 60 meters. Other bands below 29 MHz would be segmented into subbands allowing maximum emission bandwidths of 200 or 500 Hz or 3.5 kHz, with an exception for AM phone.

\* 200 Hz would permit CW "at all speeds that human operators can decode" as well as PSK31.

\* 500-Hz bandwidth would accommodate RTTY and data modes and possibly some new image modes.

\* 2.8 kHz would remain the bandwidth for 60-meter operation on USB.

\* 3.5 kHz would accommodate SSB and digital telephony, image, high-speed data and multimedia.

\* 9 kHz is the ARRL's recommendation for double-sideband AM.

\* 16 kHz is "a reasonable compromise bandwidth" to continue to permit analog FM voice, data, digital voice and multimedia at 29.0 to 29.7 MHz.

\* 100 kHz, now permitted for RTTY and data in bands above 420 MHz, should be allowed starting at 50 MHz, with the exception of 50.0-50.3 MHz and 144.0-144.3 MHz to allow digital multimedia and high-speed meteor scatter work.

The ARRL says the Part 97 changes it's proposing constitute a balance "between the need to encourage wider bandwidth, faster digital communications and the need to reasonably accommodate all users in crowded bands." Conceding that its regulation-by-bandwidth regime would place increased responsibility on the amateur community to establish workable, accepted band plans, the League has expressed confidence that such an effort would be successful.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, has discussed the subject of regulating by bandwidth in three "It Seems to Us . . ." QST editorials: "Regulation by Bandwidth" in September 2004, "Narrowing the Bandwidth Issues" in April 2005 and "Self Regulation" in October 2005.

"This petition does not favor one mode at the expense of another," the ARRL concluded in urging FCC adoption. "It merely allows expansion of the repertoire of options that amateurs may pursue compatibly."

A copy of the ARRL petition is on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/bandwidth/Bandwidth-Minute-64-Petition-FINAL.pdf>

Comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Under "ECFS Main Links" on the right-hand side of the screen, click on "Submit a Filing" to file comments. To view others' comments, click on "Search for Filed Comments." In either case, type "RM-11306" in the "Proceeding" field using capital letters and including the hyphen (but not the quotation marks).

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 02, January 13, 2006

## ARMY MARS GETS NEW CHIEF

Maj Gregory Harris has assumed the reins of the army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) <http://www.asc.army.mil/mars/> program from Bob Sutton, N7UZY, who is recuperating from an illness. Harris, who inherits the AAA9A MARS call sign, has been assistant chief of Army Mars and executive agent of the MARS program. "I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Sutton for his long service as Chief, Army MARS," Harris said January 10 in an announcement to all Army MARS members and stations. "At this point it is more important that his health take precedence for a speedy recovery." Harris also expressed his gratitude to "all the dedicated volunteers" who make the Army MARS program a success. "I look forward to continuing in this proud tradition and working with as many of you as possible over the coming year as Army MARS continues to be 'proud, professional and ready,'" he said. Harris said he will "continue to fill in" upon Sutton's return and to "begin reconstructing the MARS program that will better support our members."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 03, January 20, 2006

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## FOR SALE

**Alpha 374** 2 KW HF Linear Amplifier for 80 through 10 meters with 3 new 8874 ceramic Eimac tubes. 110 or 220 volts. Plate load or broadband tune. Looks like an 8 or 9. \$1785 or best offer.

Mike DiPersio, KC2Q  
732-927-0171  
kc2q@arrl.net

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## CANADIAN HAMS TO LOSE 220-222

Barring an outpouring of "compelling arguments to the contrary," Industry Canada will reallocate the 220-222 MHz portion of 220-225 MHz from the Canadian amateur service to the mobile and fixed services. Under the provisional reallocation, which will take effect January 25, the amateur service will be allocated the 219-220 MHz subband on a secondary basis. Additionally, the amateur service may be permitted use of 220-222 MHz "in exceptional circumstances on a secondary basis to assist in disaster relief efforts."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 01, January 6, 2006

## OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: D2DX (Angola), current operation as of December 15, 2004; KH9/W0CN (Wake Island) September 17-28, 2005. For more information, visit the DXCC Web page <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>. "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/faq/> 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*, No. 02, January 13, 2006

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## YI9DXX INTERNET REMOTE BASE ON

Keith Lamonica, W7DXX, has announced that the YI9DXX Internet remote base (IRB) station is on the air from Baghdad, Iraq, controllable via the Internet from the US and elsewhere. Lamonica says he made the first contact by talking with himself to and from YI9DXX. The YI9DXX gateway is a closed system. "The Baghdad remote is available only to those who have contributed toward the equipment and/or sent equipment," Lamonica says. He has no plans to charge dues or membership fees but does ask participants to help defray expenses. Live streaming audio from both W7DXX and YI9DXX remotes may be available from the W7DXX Internet Remote Base Web site <http://www.w7dxx.com/>. Lamonica holds the license for YI9DXX, issued by Iraqi authorities. "This is truly amazing," raved Jim Brookmon, WA4PXP, after using the IRB. ARRL DXCC Branch Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, points out that DXCC Rule 9 stipulates that while the location of the transmitter defines a station's location, for award purposes, "remote operating points must be located within the same DXCC entity as the transmitter and receiver." In practice, this means a contact with YI9DXX counts toward DXCC only if a properly licensed control op is operating the YI9DXX IRB from within Iraq. Articles in the November 2001 and 2002 issues of QST detail the concept and technical aspects of an IRB.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 02, January 13, 2006

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I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

## VANITY BACKLOG RELIEVED

Once the FCC resumed processing Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications earlier this month, its Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) blazed through the backlog.

A total of 990 vanity applications piled up in the queue after the FCC suspended vanity processing September 23. The WTB dispatched them in fairly short order. An initial batch of 121 grants Friday, January 6, was followed by 195 more the next day. Apparently confident by then that the system was working okay, the FCC let loose the remaining 674 vanity grants Tuesday, January 10.

During the vanity hiatus, applications appeared with a "Y--application has problems" flag in the Universal Licensing System (ULS) <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>, prompting some concern on the part of those who checked their applications' status. The WTB reportedly applied the "Y" status to prevent the system from running the entire backlog at once.

The WTB halted vanity processing last fall after realizing that filing deadline extensions for licensees in certain states affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita applied to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period" and could impact the vanity system.

FCC spokesman Tracy Simmons told ARRL this week that the WTB now is processing current vanity call sign receipts. It typically takes approximately three weeks from the time a vanity application is submitted until a call sign is issued. The current vanity call sign fee is \$21.90 for the ten-year license term.--some information from Fred Maia, W5YI

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 02, January 13, 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 (the Diana site with the big dish): Please note that the exam sessions have been moved from Saturday mornings to Wednesday evenings. They are now held on the second Wednesday of the even numbered months (February 8, 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 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 (March 11, 2006) at 10:00 AM. The contact person is Bill Haldane AC2F, 732-240-7064 or [ac2f@earthlink.net](mailto:ac2f@earthlink.net)

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. Hats off to all of the volunteers who make these exam sessions possible.

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## DUES ARE DUE FEBRUARY 1!

It's time to pay your dues for 2006 (if the label on page 10 does not show you paid) to our treasurer **Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ**. Regular membership is \$15, family membership is \$25, students are \$7.50 and active Military personnel pay no fee (but submit form to show continued interest in belonging). If you wish to have a paper copy of *The Propagator* mailed to you, add \$5 and check this box:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

wishes to continue membership in GSARA for 2006. Payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Make checks payable to GSARA and mail or give to:

**Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ**  
28 Lake Drive  
Howell, NJ 07731



## NOTES ON CALENDAR (see reverse side)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., **N2ZZP** on February 5. All times in EST

February 1 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 7 PM (10-35 WPM). See February QST, pp. 95 and 99.

February 1 – **GSARA Monthly Meeting** at the MARS Building at Fort Monmouth at 8:00 PM.

February 2 – **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

February 2 and every Thursday – **MCRA Net** at 7:30 PM on 147.045 repeater.

February 3 and every Friday – **Lunch at Blue Swan Diner**, Rt. 35 South, Ocean Township at noon.

Feb. 3-5 – **Ten-Ten Phone QSO Party** on 10 meters from 7:01 PM Friday to 6:59 PM Sunday. See [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org) or Feb. QST, p. 99.

February 4 – **OMARC VE Session** at 10 AM at old Camp Evans on Marconi Road. See p. 8.

February 4 – **North American Sprint, SSB** from 7 PM to 11 PM on 75, 40 and 20. See [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com) or Feb. QST, p. 99.

February 5 and every following Sunday – **QCWA News Net** on W2NJR Linked Repeater System at 8:30 PM.

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

February 7 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon in Middletown. Back room on left.

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

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

February 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.

Feb. 10-12 – **CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest** from 7 PM Friday to 7 PM Sunday. See [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com) or Feb. QST, p. 99.

February 11 – **OMARC Meeting**, 8:30 AM at Bedrock Diner, 10 Main St., Bradley Beach.

February 11 – **FISTS CW Sprint** from noon to 4 PM. See [www.FISTS.org](http://www.FISTS.org) or Feb. QST, p. 99.

February 11 – **North American Sprint, CW** from 7 PM to 11 PM on 80, 40 and 20. See [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com) or Feb. QST, p. 99.

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

February 14 – **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 8.

February 16 – **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](mailto:wa2nda@comcast.net).

February 16 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 4 PM (10-35 WPM). See February QST, pp. 95 and 99.

Feb. 17-19 – **ARRL International DX CW Contest** from 7 PM Friday to 7 PM Sunday. See Dec. QST, p. 88 or [www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/intldx.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/intldx.html).

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

February 21 – **Middletown Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 8 PM in Croyden Hall off Leonardville Road.

Feb. 24-26 – **CQ WW 160 Meter SSB Contest** from 7 PM Friday to 7 PM Sunday. See Jan. QST, p. 102.

February 25 – **Neptune ARC Meeting** at American Legion Post #346. 31 Gully Road in Neptune at 9 AM.

February 25 – **Amateur Radio One-Day Class** at Croyden Hall in Middletown. To register, call 732-615-2129.

February 26 – **Hicksville, Long Island, NY Hamfest** from 9 AM to 1 PM. See [www.limarc.org/fest.htm](http://www.limarc.org/fest.htm) or Feb. QST, p. 96.

February 27 – **Buttonwood Manor Lunch** at noon. Raritan Bay Amateurs. All are welcome.

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

February 27 – **JCDXA meeting** at 7:30 PM (6:30 for dining) at the Cobblestone Diner on Rt. 35 in Eatontown.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 CW Qual. Run GSARA Mtg.	2 Hol. City Mtg. MCRA Net 8:00	3 Blue Swan 10-10 SSB	4 Evans VE 10-10 SSB N.A. SSB Sprint
5 N2ZZP 10-10 SSB QCWA News 8:30	6 ARES/RACES 7:30	7 WA2NDA Mdiltwn Pncke Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	8	9 JSARS Mtg. MCRA Net 8:00	10 Blue Swan CQWW RTTY	11 OMARC Mtg. FISTS CW CQWW RTTY N.A. CW Sprint
12 CQWW RTTY QCWA News 8:30	13 RACES Net	14 AA2ZL Perkins Lunch Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	15	16 CW Qual. Run JSARS VE MCRA Net 8:00	17 Blue Swan ARRL CW DX	18 ARRL CW DX
19 ARRL CW DX QCWA News 8:30	20 ARES/RACES 7:30	21 MARC Mtg QCWA News 9 PM	22	23 MCRA Net 8:00	24 KG2IK Blue Swan CQWW 160 SSB	25 Neptune Mtg 1-day Ham Class CQWW 160 SSB
26 LINY Hmfst CQWW 160 SSB QCWA News 8:30	27 WA2FVL Buttonwod Mnr JCDXA Mtg. RACES Net	28 QCWA News 9 PM				



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FIRST CLASS