



THE PROPAGATOR

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

JANUARY 2017

UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next GSARA meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 4 at 7:30 PM** at the Red Cross. The program will describe the design and construction of a digital turns counter for rotary inductors. Light refreshments will be served and guests are welcome.

The second meeting in January will be held on **Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 PM** at the Red Cross. This will be a regular business meeting. Refreshments will be served.

GSARA NET 8:30 PM TUESDAYS

GSARA members meet on the Asbury Park repeater every Tuesday at 8:30 pm. In the 4 sessions in December we had 23 check-ins for an average of 5.75 per session. The following 11 members checked into this net (number of check-ins in parenthesis):

KD2LLJ (4), W2OD (4), N2HGI (3), KC2YNL (3), N2BMK (2), KD2MGE (2), KD2EPA (1), KA2F (1), W2HTS (1), W2NAZ (1) and K2REM (1).

Mark your calendar so you remember to participate. The more participation, the more fun!

VE TEST SESSION JANUARY 28

The GSARA monthly test session will be held at the Red Cross on Saturday, January 28 at 11 am. The fee is \$15 and you should bring the original and a copy of any amateur license presently held and the original and one copy of any credit (CSCE) forms that you have (copies will be sent in with your test results). Also bring 2 forms of ID with one being a photo ID. For more information, contact Rich Bilon, N3RB at 732-972-1397 or n3rb@arrl.net.

MEMBER LICENSING UPDATES

Ken DeGroat, K2KDC upgraded to Extra.
John Paulson, KD2LLJ upgraded to Extra.
Congratulations to both!

MEMBER OF YEAR LUNCHEON

Save **Saturday, January 14, 2017, 2 P.M.** for our **Luncheon** to honor **Rem, K2REM** as **GSARA's 2016 Member of the Year!**

The affair will take place at Tuzzio's Restaurant, 224 Westwood Ave., Long Branch. The cost per person is \$25 and the menu includes: Caesar Salad
Choice of Chicken Parmesan, Eggplant Rolatini, Shrimp Francese, Tilapia Oreganata with pasta.
Bread and Dessert
Beverages (Cash Bar Available)

Send your check with a note of the number of persons attending OR bring your check/cash to a club meeting. Sign up **DEADLINE is January 11.**

John King, KA2F
18 Carmel Way
Eatontown, N.J. 07724

2017 DUES ARE NOW DUE

GSARA membership dues of **\$15** (\$20 for Family or if you want paper copy of Propagator mailed to you) may be paid to the Treasurer at any time. Make checks out to "Garden State ARA" and mail to John King at the above address.

Dues may also be paid at club meetings, either in cash or check. Membership cards signed by the President are available upon request.

The coupon on the bottom of page 9 can be used for renewing your dues.

GSARA OFFICERS

President	W2HTS	Howard Suffill	460-1885
Vice Pres.	K2REM	Rem Hunnewell	889-6692
Secretary	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
Treasurer	KA2F	John King	942-7705
Engineer	AC2FC	Arek Tarniowy	370-2537
Webmaster	K2CYS	Cy Stanway	768-7773
Publicity	Open		
Repeater	N2LXM	Jeff Harshman	922-0816
Radio Room Phone		732-493-9100, X1252	
Trustees	W2KQ	Joe Dreifuss	493-4236
	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
	W2HAM	Lou Russo	842-6431

FRIDAY BLUE SWAN LUNCHEONS

A number of local radio amateurs meet each Friday at the Blue Swan Diner on Highway 35 south in Ocean Township at noon. Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to join us in the back left corner of the diner.

PATCHES

We have GSARA 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). Either John, KA2F or Len, WA1PCY will then send them on to ARRL 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.gardenstateara.org>

Click on "The Propagator" and then select the month you want.

GSARA HOMEPAGE

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

I wish you all a most happy and prosperous New Year. I hope that you enjoyed the holidays.

It's a shame that the Parity Act did not get through the Senate thanks to a stubborn Senator from Florida (see page 5). Hopefully, the ARRL will see fit to try again with the next Congress and have better luck. I know Mike Lisenco, N2YBB really put his heart into this. I hope that he has the strength and will to do it again for the next Congress.

Kids Day is approaching on Sunday, January 7 (see page 5) and it is a good time to invite your children or grandchildren into your shack and get them on the air with other youngsters. Who knows, you might spark an interest in amateur radio.

The National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) has been very successful with over a million contacts logged (see page 6). Did you participate?

For those of you using Joe Taylor's digital modes such as JT65, please note the update described on page 6. The new software should better decode the very weak signals so you will probably want to upgrade and enjoy the enhanced performance.

If you've experienced any interference on 40 or 30 meters, you might want to note some possible causes in the Chinese Radar article on page 7.

There will be a good opportunity to work some fairly slow CW during Straight Key Night (see page 8). Dust off your J-38 or Vibroplex bug and get on the air. It's a lot of fun!

Finally, I would like to remind you that if you haven't done so already, it is time to renew your membership in GSARA for another year. While you're at it, you might also reserve your ticket for the GSARA Annual Amateur of the Year Award luncheon (see page 1 for both). I look forward to a good turnout and a good time.

I hope to see many of you at the January 4 meeting where I will share how I designed a turns counter for a rotary inductor.

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

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD

President Howard Suffill, W2HTS called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. There were 19 members present. After the pledge to the flag, we observed a moment of silence to remember those who died at Pearl Harbor 75 years ago. Then all members present introduced themselves and gave a few words about what they are up to. John, KA2F is collecting 2017 dues and payment for the Awards Luncheon in January. Jake, KD2MGE has an antenna erected thanks to the efforts of GSARA members. He plans to sit for the General exam on December 24. Bob, W2OD played songs from WW II prior to the meeting.

Health and Welfare

Len, WA1PCY is having a heart cauterization. Pray for a speedy recovery.

Harold Gordon, W2RLG formerly of Matawan became a silent key on November 12 at the age of 88. At the onset of WWII, he obtained his commercial radiotelegraph license and sailed as one of the youngest officers in the U.S. Merchant Marine between his junior and senior year at Samuel Gompers Technical HS, Bronx and then sailed again after graduation. After a short stint at Bell Labs, he worked as the station engineer at a number of radio and TV stations in NJ. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during the Korean War. He still held an Extra Class license and was still W2RLG at his death in NC where he died. A moment of silence was observed for Harold Gordon, W2RLG. May he rest in peace.

New Business

Joe, W2KQ suggested that we start thinking about 2017 Field Day. He suggested that we go back to the baseball field at the old Fort Monmouth and again put up a giant loop antenna on the light poles.

Program

Blair, KD2EPA presented two WWII movies that he obtained from You Tube. The first was produced by Hallicrafters and was called "Voice of Victory. It showed how Hallicrafters manufactured the SCR-299 transmitter and how it was deployed in the field during the War. The second, produced by RCA was titled "Radio at War" and followed two young hams as they

enlisted in the Navy and Army and became radio operators in the service.

Announcements

To commemorate the 95th anniversary of the transatlantic listening tests of 1921, station N1BCG will be on the air in Connecticut on many of the HF bands from 7 am to 10 pm on Sunday, December 11.

Ken Hampton, KY2S has a 40-foot EZ-Way tower with a Mosley tri-band beam free for anyone willing to take it down.

Close

The door prize of \$20 was won by Jake, KD2MGE. A second door prize of an ARRL Calendar donated by Bob, W2OD was won by Phil, N2EDX. There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting which was closed at 8:55 pm.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Howard Suffill, W2HTS was absent due to illness so the meeting was called to order by VP Rem Hunnewell, K2REM at 7:33 PM at the Red Cross. There were 11 members present. After the pledge to the flag, all present introduced themselves and briefly described their recent amateur radio activities. John, KA2F worked Delaware on 10 meter CW so only has to work Alaska on 80 meters to qualify for 5BWAS. Art, W2NAZ is playing with APRS. Rem, K2REM has his tower up but then his rig died so he sent it to Yaesu for repair. Art, N2AJO is building a BitX 40 meter QRP rig. Matthew, N2UG is playing with a Raspberry Pie for APRS.

Health and Welfare

Joe, W2KQ reported that Tony, KA2ZSI is under the weather and can't travel from home. Calls might be appreciated and Cy will be asked to send him a card from the GSARA.

Laura, N2HGI is also having trouble getting around.

Len, WA1PCY is out of the hospital after his double bypass and is in rehab at Health South on Hope Road.

Ralph, KC2YNL is feeling better but has a couple of Doctor visits this week.

Secretary's Report

Bob, W2OD reported that he received an e-mail from ARRL notifying us that our Logbook of the World Call sign Certificate for W2GSA expires on January 9, 2017 and must be renewed. Since Howard, W2HTS was absent, Bob will forward the e-mail to him.

A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Art, W2NAZ to accept the minutes of the December 7 meeting as will be published in the January 2017 Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John King, KA2F reported that about 25 members have already renewed their dues for 2017. Our current Treasurer's balance is \$8260.39.

Field Day

Joe, W2KQ again reminded us to start thinking about Field Day in June. If we operate at the baseball field at Fort Monmouth, we will need to rent a Port-A-Potty and obtain a generator. He wondered if the GSARA should purchase a generator. Although several members have generators which could be used, Joe was concerned that the regulation might not be good enough and could potentially destroy amateur equipment connected to it. Others thought that the danger is not so great since the generator would drive a power supply which would then provide the regulated 13 volts for the radio equipment.

There were questions that the antennas would interact but that was not a big problem in past operations.

Before committing to operate at Fort Monmouth, some thought that the idea should be run by the Red Cross to be sure that they would be OK with it.

New Business

John, KA2F made a motion to authorize up to \$200 to be used for expenses associated with the Member of the Year luncheon coming up on Saturday, January 14. The motion was seconded by John, KC2YWL and passed unanimously.

Announcements

Members are asked to mark their calendars for Saturday, January 14, at 2 pm when we will hold the GSARA annual awards luncheon at Tuzzio's in Long Branch and honor Rem, K2REM as member of the year. The cost will be \$25 per person.

Jeff, N2JFL has changed his call to NJ2AL'

Close

The door prize of \$12 was won by Art, W2NAZ. There being no further business, a motion was made by Jeff, NJ2AL and seconded by John, KC2YWL to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

HAROLD GORDON, W2RLG - SK

Harold David Gordon, W2RLG of Matawan, NJ and New Bern, NC died unexpectedly Nov. 12, 2016 at home in New Bern, NC. He was born in Bronx, NY 88 years ago.

Since there was a need for radio operators during **WWII**, and because Hal already had an Amateur Ham Radio license (W2RLG) and mastered Morse code, he obtained a commercial radiotelegraph license and sailed as one of the youngest officers in the U.S. Merchant Marine between his junior and senior year at Samuel Gompers Technical HS, Bronx, and then sailed again after graduation. After a short stint at Bell Labs, he went on to work as the station engineer at a number of radio and TV stations, and went on air as a DJ known as 'Uncle Hal' at radio station WXNJ Plainfield, NJ where he met his future wife, Carole. He next served two years in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during the **Korean War**, followed by 30 years employed by the American Broadcasting Co. (ABC) in New York City, developing the first hand held broadcast TV camera, then later managing a technical development department. He was always an active Ham Radio operator, an avid boatman, and traveled with his young family in their RV to many national parks. On Sunday mornings, he could always be found with his cat Max sitting on his lap, completing the entire NY Times crossword puzzle.

Surviving are his sons Eric of Ashland, OR; Stuart of Washington, DC; and Clifford and his wife Linda of Eatontown, NJ. The cremation was handled by Cotten Funeral of New Bern, NC.

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT DIES

The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, suffered an unbecoming demise on December 9 as the 114th Congress drew to a close. After passing the House of Representatives on a unanimous vote earlier this fall, the bill stalled in the Senate due to the intervention of only one member, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL). The measure would have directed the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions, such as covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) imposed by homeowners associations

"[During 2016] Nelson received thousands of e-mails, letters, and phone calls from concerned constituents asking for his support of H.R. 1301. Numerous meetings were held with his senior staff in an effort to move the legislation forward," ARRL said in a [news release](#). In a final meeting with Nelson's staff as the 114th Congress neared adjournment, it became clear that no matter what was said or done, the Senator would oppose the bill and refuse to allow it to move forward. Because the measure had not been put on the floor schedule, the only way it could have passed the Senate would have been through a process called "unanimous consent." A Senate member may request unanimous consent on the floor to set aside rules and expedite proceedings. If any single Senator objects, though, the request is rejected.

The unhappy ending followed nearly 2 years of intense effort on the part of ARRL and thousands of its members, who contacted their Congressional representatives to urge their support of the measure on Capitol Hill. The ARRL Board of Directors is expected to discuss the future of the initiative at its January meeting.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 15, 2016

KID'S DAY SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

The first Saturday in January is Kids Day -- the time to get youngsters on the air to share in the joy and fun that Amateur Radio can provide. Kids Day gets under way on Saturday, January 7, at 1800 UTC and concludes at 2359 UTC. Sponsored by the Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club, this event has a simple exchange, suitable for younger operators: First name, age, location, and favorite color. After that, the contact can be

as long or as short as each participant prefers. Kids Day is the perfect opportunity to open your shack door and invite kids over to see what Amateur Radio has to offer. [Details](#) are on the ARRL website.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 15, 2016

ARRL HAS NEW DIGITAL PLATFORM

ARRL is moving to a new digital publishing platform! The January 2017 digital edition of *QST* will be the first produced using *PageSuite*. ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY, said the transition from the current *Nxtbook* platform to *PageSuite* not only will improve members' reading experience, it will be more convenient.

"*PageSuite* provides a sleek, modern design that runs on desktop browsers, mobile browsers, and within apps for mobile devices," Ford said. "*PageSuite* does not require *Flash* but uses *HTML5* instead. This alleviates many security concerns and makes the magazine more broadly compatible."

New *QST* issues, beginning with the January 2017 edition, will take up less space on mobile devices, speeding up download time. The new application is compatible with Android devices, iOS devices -- including iPhones, iPod touches, and iPads -- and will be newly available to Kindle Fire. These apps will receive regular, quick updates in order to keep the application running smoothly.

Ford said the link to the digital edition of the monthly journal will remain in the same spot on the *QST* website, and members will continue to be notified of its release via e-mail.

ARRL has compiled a "how-to" guide to help members navigate *PageSuite*, which will be available on the [QST web page](#) on the day the January digital edition is announced. The announcement concerning the availability of the January issue of *QST* in the new desktop/laptop version, the how-to guide, and the new digital *QST* apps, will be forthcoming.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 8, 2016

If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. -- **Mark Twain**

NPOTA TOPS A MILLION CONTACTS

Participants in ARRL's National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program have completed more than 1 million contacts! Activators operating from National Park Service units across the US and Chasers around the world pushed the contact tally over its goal this week. ARRL sponsored NPOTA to help the National Park Service celebrate its centennial.

"National Parks on the Air has become one of the most popular events in the history of the League," NPOTA Administrator Sean Kutzko, KX9X, said. "It's been fun seeing so many hams take part."

Those taking part in NPOTA made nearly 20,000 visits to 460 of the 489 NPS units eligible for NPOTA credit, including portions of the National Trails System and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Nearly 150 Chasers completed contacts with more than 400 of the 489 NPOTA units this year, while one Activator transmitted from more than 250 different NPS units in 2016.

NPOTA ends on December 31 at 2359 UTC!

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 22, 2016

WSJT RELEASES VERSION 1.7.0

The WSJT Development Group has released [WSJT-X version 1.7.0](#). The *WSJT-X* software suite is designed to facilitate basic Amateur Radio communication using very weak signals (WSJT stands for Weak Signal communication by K1JT). Joe Taylor, K1JT, recommends reading the extensively updated *WSJT-X* version 1.7 [User Guide](#), which describes [new features and capabilities](#) (relative to version 1.6). *WSJT-X* version 1.7.0 includes new modes ISCAT, MSK144, and QRA64; newly implemented submodes JT65B-C and JT9B-H; a new Franke-Taylor decoder to replace the Koetter-Vardy decoder previously used for JT65; improvements to the *JT4*, *JT9*, and *JT65* decoders; multi-pass decoding for JT65 and WSPR, and improved convenience features for EME Doppler tracking.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 22, 2016

GERMAN HAMS GAIN 60-METERS

On December 21, Amateur Radio operators in Germany gained access to the band 5.351.5 to 5.366.5 MHz with 15 W EIRP, and a maximum bandwidth of 2.7 kHz. Access applies to Class A licensees. Amateur Radio is secondary on 60 meters.

The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) called users' attention to the IARU Region 1 band plan for 60 meters, which recommends CW and digital modes, maximum bandwidth of 200 Hz, from 5.351.5 to 5.354.0 MHz; all modes, maximum bandwidth of 2.7 kHz (use USB for SSB), from 5.354.0 to 5.366.0 MHz, and all modes, maximum bandwidth of 20 Hz "with the least power," from 5.366.0 to 5.366.5 MHz.

Other countries are expected to grant access to the new, 15 kHz 60-meter band when the [Final Acts](#) of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015, which made the allocation available to Amateur Radio, go into effect on January 1, but the US will not be among them; the FCC has yet to allow Amateur Radio access to 60 meters beyond the five discrete channels already available.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 22, 2016

UK NIGHTMARE NEIGHBOR EPISODE

UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom has declined to act on formal complaints about an October 27 episode of the Channel 5 television program *Nightmare Neighbour Next Door*. That episode focused on 75-year-old Armando Martins, MOPAM, of Kent, whose neighbors had made unsubstantiated claims that RF radiating from his 30-foot vertical antenna was detrimental to their health. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) [weighed in](#) following the airing of the show. Radio amateurs across the UK also complained that the program episode was replete with false claims and pointed out that Ofcom had never found any problems with Martins' station. A radio amateur for more than 60 years, Martins was first licensed as CR6IL in Portuguese West Africa (Angola). Complainants contended that the show was "materially misleading," and thus a breach of the [Ofcom Broadcast Code](#).

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 8, 2016

THE MORSE CODE

By Bob Buus, W2OD

In his original telegraph idea, Samuel Morse sent the digits 1 through 9 by sending a string of short pulses (which we not call “dots”) representing each of the nine digits. Since zero dots for a zero would be no signal, he came up with the idea to represent a zero with an inverted “1”. His spacing between digits was the width of 3 dots, so the resulting inverted “1” was a long pulse 3 times as wide as a dot followed by a dot-wide space followed by another 3-dot long pulse. Thus his zero was what today would be called two dashes (the letter “M”).

Using a dictionary that associated each possible message with a number, the sending station could then look up and send the number representing the desired message to be sent. At the receiving end, an inverse dictionary could translate the received number to the appropriate message.

By 1837, the numbered message dictionary exceeded 30,000 different messages and growing, so it became obvious that a different system of coding was necessary. Morse charged Vail with coming up with a code to represent the letters, numbers and punctuation marks of the English language. Since the first 26 numbers represented the letters of the alphabet, C (code 1) was one dot, A (code 3) was three dots, R (code 11) was dot-small space-dot, B (code 22) was dot-dot-small space-dot dot, etc. The small space was two units long instead of the three unit length of a regular space between characters.

Next, Vail introduced dashes to replace some of the longer strings of dots. He also used a long dash (5 units) to represent the letter “L” and a still longer dash (7 units) to represent the number zero. The letters representing Vail’s various code combinations were changing between 1838 and the early 1840s. The resulting confusion was finally resolved sometime between 1840 and 1843 when Vail and another Morse assistant visited a printer’s shop in Morristown and noted the number of lead type-faces for each letter of the alphabet. The most frequently used letter (E) was given the shortest code and the less frequently used letters given longer dot-dash patterns. This Vail code was used for 150 years by the American railroads and telegraph companies. It is known as the American Morse Code.

The Europeans quickly adopted the Morse telegraph system but they didn’t like the variable length of spaces and the variable length of dashes in the code. At a conference in 1852, the Europeans adopted a code proposed by the Germans that consisted only of dots, 3-unit dashes and 3-unit spaces. Although less efficient than the American Morse Code, this Continental Morse Code became widely popular in Europe. When the first transatlantic cables were put into service, the distortion of the pulse length traversing such a long cable forced the use of Continental Morse instead of American Morse.

As a young boy in 1887, Guglielmo Marconi learned the Continental Morse code from a blind telegrapher in Italy. This he used in all of his radio experiments and Continental Morse became the standard code used for all wireless transmission. At an International conference in 1912, the Continental Morse code was officially renamed the International Radiotelegraph Code and is the code used to this day by radio amateurs. So now you know.

CHINESE RADAR ON 40 METERS

The IARU Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) Monitoring System [newsletter](#) reports that one of China's HF Over-the-Horizon radars (OTH-R) has been transmitting on 6.999 MHz, impinging on the very low end of the 40-meter band.

As the newsletter reported: "A jumping Chinese OTH radar covered the CW DX-edge of our exclusive 7 MHz band on November 17 at about 1500 UTC and later (long lasting)." The signal was 67 sweeps per second with a 10 kHz bandwidth.

Elsewhere on 40 meters, military ALE transmissions have been heard from Kyrgyzstan on 7050.0 kHz. IARUMS also reports that the Australian Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) has been heard on 10.131 MHz in the amateur 30-meter band; Amateur Radio is secondary on 30 meters.

Radio Eritrea appeared in November on 7180 kHz together with white noise from Ethiopia. The frequencies 7146.5, 7175, and 7185 kHz were reported to be still in use as well.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 22, 2016

NEW YEAR STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

Every day is a good day to operate on CW, but set some time aside on New Year's Eve and Day to enjoy [Straight Key Night](#) (SKN). The annual event begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2017 (New Year's Eve in US time zones). The 24-hour event is not a contest, but a day dedicated to celebrating Amateur Radio's CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply enjoy conversational CW contacts, preferably using a straight (hand) key or a semi-automatic key (bug). Activity traditionally centers on CW segments in the HF bands. There are no points or obligatory exchange. The only requirement is to have fun! [Send](#) a SKN list of stations worked and your vote for "Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO" by January 31.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 22, 2016

FOREIGN HAMS BANNED IN MEXICO

Broad changes in Mexico's radiocommunication regulatory environment 2 years ago continue to hinder Amateur Radio licensing there and still do not provide reciprocal permission for non-Mexican radio amateurs to operate south of the border. Mexico's International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) member society, the Federation of Mexican Radio Amateurs ([FMRE](#)), has been working with the new regulator, the Federal Telecommunications Institute (IFT) to craft more Amateur Radio-friendly licensing procedures and regulations, and there has been a little positive movement. The new regulatory regime considers the radio spectrum as an exploitable resource, and all former Amateur Radio regulations have been deemed null and void.

While the IFT has not yet determined what to do about foreign radio amateurs wishing to operate in Mexico, the agency has received 45 petitions to do so and is considering how it can issue permits; a foreigner cannot obtain a license under the new law, but may be given permission to operate as XE#/*<home call sign>*. Further, no regulations are in place regarding power output, license classes, licensing zones, interference, and other regulatory aspects. Read [more](#).

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 15, 2016

FIVE YEARS AGO

From the January 2012 Propagator: John King, KA2F will talk on January 18 about how radio was used by prohibition bootleggers in the area. President Frank, W2XYZ reviewed GSARA accomplishments in 2011 which included installing our radio room at the Red Cross and painting and erecting the trailer tower with HF/VHF/UHF antennas.

TEN YEARS AGO

From the January 2007 Propagator: The FCC announced the elimination of Morse code knowledge for ALL classes of amateur license. Middletown OEM is sponsoring a one-day amateur radio class followed by an exam session on January 13.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the January 2002 Propagator: GSARA went back to meeting at Bicentennial Hall in Fair Haven because of enhanced security at Fort Monmouth. We will only meet once a month.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the January, 1997 Propagator: Roy Edwards, KB2LUO (now KB2RE) is running for Section Manager of NNJ. Jack Keating, WA2FVL (SK) made 384 contacts on 10 meters during the ARRL 10 meter contest. Conditions were weird and unstable.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From the January 1992 Propagator: Rusty Schmid, K2LL remembered the "Day of Infamy" as it affected his RADAR work at Sandy Hook at that time. Dom Cafro, KB2CMF (now N2DOM) upgraded to Advanced Class. New member Rich DiFiore, KB2NXA-SK became a member.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the January 1987 Propagator: The program for the first meeting in 1987 will be by Jerry Havel, W2RRX-SK on traffic handling. The second meeting will feature Nick Conigliaro, N2FWL on his trip to Arizona and the Grand Canyon.

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see next page)

Large Call letters denote birthdays e.g. **KD2KGN** January 1. All times are EST. Contests are listed in the January QST, p. 95.

January 1 – **Straight Key Night**, CW from 8 pm Sat. to 8 pm Sun. See page 8.

January 2 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm

January 3 – **Old Barney VE Session** at 6:30 pm in Manahawkin. Contact Urb Le Jeune, W1UL at 609-296-5856 or urb@w2dec.com

January 3 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting** at 7:30 pm in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

January 3 and every following Tuesday – **GSARA Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 8:30 pm.

January 3 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 pm.

January 4 – **GSARA Program Meeting** at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross. Program is by W2OD on design and construction of a digital turns counter for rotary inductors. Refreshments will be served.

January 5 - **HCARC Holiday Meeting** 7 pm at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

January 6 and every Friday – **Lunch at the Blue Swan Diner** in Ocean at noon. Table at back left.

January 6 - **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 10 pm (40-10 wpm). See January 2017 QST page 102 and www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule

Jan. 7-8 – **ARRL RTTY Roundup** from 2 pm Sat. to 7:59 pm Sun. See <http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>

January 7 – **Kids Day Contest**, Phone from 2 pm to 7:59 pm. See <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

January 9 - **Monmouth County RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

January 11– **Holiday City VE Session** at 7 pm in Toms River. Contact is Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at lpuccio1@comcast.net

January 12 – **JSARS meeting** in Riverwood Park Rec. Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive at 7:30 pm.

January 14 – **OMARC Meeting** at 9:00 am at the Diana Site on Marconi Road in Wall. Guests welcome.

Jan. 14-15 – **North American CW QSO Party** from 2 pm Sat. to 1:59 am Sun. See <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

January 16 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm

January 18 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls. Regular business meeting.

January 19– **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 9 am (40-10 wpm). See January 2017 QST page 102 and <http://www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule>

January 19– **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:00 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.

Jan. 21-22 – **North American SSB QSO Party** from 2 pm Sat. to 1:59 am Sun. See <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

January 23 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm

January 28 – **GSARA VE Test Session** at 11 am at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls. See page 1.

Jan. 28-29 – **Winter Field Day**, all modes from 3 pm Sat. to 3 pm Sun. See <http://winterfieldday.com/rules.html>

January 30 – **Monmouth County RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

2017 DUES PAYMENT

Your dues for 2017 may be paid at any meeting or mail this coupon with payment to our treasurer **John King, KA2F**. Regular membership is \$15, Family membership is \$20. If you wish to have a paper copy of *The Propagator* mailed to you, add \$5 and check this box: Membership card issued on request.

NAME _____ CALL _____

wishes to continue membership in GSARA for 2017. Payment of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Make checks payable to GSARA and mail or give to:

**John King, KA2F,
18 Carmel Way
Eatontown, NJ 07724**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SKN KD2KGN	2 ARES/RACES 7:30	3 OBARC GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	4 GSARA Mtg	5 HCARC Mtg	6 WA1PCY Blue Swan lunch CW Qual. Run	7 RTTY Rndup Kid's Day
8 RTTY Rndup	9 RACES Net 7:30	10 KC2TKK KB2ZVR GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	11 W2XYZ Hol. City VE	12 JSARS Mtg	13 Blue Swan lunch	14 OMARC Mtg NA CW QSO Pty
15 NA CW QSO Pty	16 ARES/RACES 7:30	17 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	18 KA2VXA GSARA Mtg	19 CW Qual. Run JSARS VE.	20 Blue Swan lunch	21 NA SSB QSO Pty
22 NA SSB QSO Pty	23 ARES/RACES 7:30	24 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	25	26	27 Blue Swan lunch	28 GSARA VE Winter Field Day
29 W2LAF Winter Field Day	30 RACES Net 7:30	31 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	.			



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

FIRST CLASS