



THE PROPAGATOR

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

JANUARY 2006

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 4

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on Wednesday, January 4 at 8:00 PM at the MARS building in Fort Monmouth. Come early for some good eyeball QSOs and enjoy the refreshments. We will play a mid-1960s recording of a Jean Shepherd program from WOR where he talks about CW, nets, and freak propagation. For you younger folks, Jean Shepherd, K2ORS was a local radio personality on WOR who often talked about some of his amateur radio experiences. This early talk radio was a bit more civilized and a bit more technical than today's. We look forward to seeing YOU at the meeting!

FORT MONMOUTH PASSES

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

HOLIDAY PARTY A SUCCESS

The Neptune Amateur Radio Club, the GSARA, and QCWA had a combined holiday party on Sunday afternoon, December 11 at the American Legion Post on Gully Road. About 50 people attended and all had a very enjoyable time. The food was plentiful and outstanding, the socializing was lively, and the ambience was comfortable. Many participants exchanged gifts.

Hopefully, we'll do it again next year.

GSARA HOMEPAGE

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

VANITY PROCESSING STARTS JAN. 4

The FCC has announced that routine processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications will resume Wednesday, January 4, 2006. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) suspended vanity processing in September as an indirect result of its hurricane-related extensions of certain regulatory and filing deadlines. The Commission said licensees or applicants needing relief beyond the initial extension periods should follow the process for submitting waiver requests provided in §1.925 of the Commission's rules.

"The Bureau will consider additional relief related to the hurricanes on a case-by-case basis," the FCC said December 19 in a public notice.

Earlier this year, the FCC announced it would extend filing and regulatory deadlines for licensees in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Florida directly affected by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. During the extension periods, the WTB temporarily suspended certain automated licensing functions. These included dismissing applications that are returned and not amended on a timely basis, changing the status of a call sign from active to expired if a license is not renewed within the two-year grace period for Amateur Radio licensees, and issuing vanity call signs.

In September, the FCC said it had to suspend routine vanity call sign processing because the extensions included the two-year grace period and could conceivably affect the vanity program.

From The ARRL Letter, No. 50, December 23, 2005

GSARA CALENDAR

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

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

A new year is starting and that means that it is again time to renew your dues for continued membership in GSARA. You are encouraged to pay at the January 4th meeting or, if you can't get to the meeting, you may pay by mail by sending in the form on the bottom of page 8 to Frank Wroblewski. If you wish to receive the *Propagator* by US mail, please add \$5.00 to your payment.

Also, plan to participate in Straight Key Night which runs for 24 hours on January 1, UTC (that's 7 PM Saturday to 7 PM Sunday). The rules are simple and are in the December 2005 issue of QST, p. 89. Basically, you just get on the air with a straight key and make CW contacts. If you're rusty on the code, this is a good time to get on for some practice since everyone will be going slower with straight keys. It's no contest and you are encouraged to just rag chew on CW. Instead of sending an RST report, you send the same report as an SKN report. It's that simple!

Then a week later on January 8 is Kids Day. The details are on page 5 but basically you are encouraged to invite youngsters into your shack and get them on the air giving them a chance to talk to other kids. It's a great way to introduce kids to amateur radio. Give it a try at least with your own children or grandchildren.

Marty, our Chief Engineer, is already thinking about Field Day and is looking for input from YOU. See his article on page 7 and please respond to it.

I wish you and yours a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing many of you at our January 4th meeting.

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 February issue is January 15.

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM, and Vice President Sterling Rodgers, N2GT were both absent so the GSARA was called to order at Fort Monmouth at 8:00 PM by Secretary Bob Buus, W2OD. There were 15 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 the past month. A motion was made by Lou, W2HAM and seconded by Larry, KB2RIS to accept the report. It was accepted unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Bob Buus, W2OD reported that Newsletters from neighboring amateur radio clubs are being received electronically and we are doing likewise for the Propagator to them to save postage. A motion was made by Peggy Struening and seconded by Lou, W2HAM to accept the minutes of the November meeting as published in the December Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

Officers for the Coming Year

Officers for the coming year were elected at the November meeting but at that time, the position of Chief Engineer was open. Since that time, Marty Szumera, WN2DX agreed to serve that position for another year. Secretary Bob, W2OD called for a vote from the members present to make Marty, WN2DX Chief Engineer for another year. The vote was unanimous for his election.

Health and Welfare

It was reported that Shirley Holzberg, N2KQ has been in and out of the hospital. We pray that she makes a speedy recovery.

Announcements

Classes run by OMARC at the Diana site were completed and two people passed the General exam with the code. Next classes are planned for March, 2006.

Saturday, January 7, 2006 will be Diana Day marking the 60th anniversary of the first

moonbounce. All are invited to the Diana site to participate in this event.

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.

Closing

The main door prize was won by Lou Russo, W2HAM. There being no further business, a motion was made by Peggy Struening and seconded by Lou, W2HAM to adjourn. The meeting was closed at 8:40 PM.

Guest Speaker

Bob Buus, W2OD gave a talk about the advances in television technology with particular emphasis on high definition TV. A glossary was handed out to try to make sense of the many new terms used in describing modern television reception.

ARRL WEB HAS WINLINK 2000 PAGE

The ARRL now has a Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/winlink.html>> devoted to Winlink 2000 <<http://www.winlink.org>>, the software and hardware system that links Amateur Radio to the Internet and allows sending and receiving e-mail messages via Amateur Radio. The League's new Winlink 2000 resource page contains general information about Winlink 2000, including articles, reprints, links and other useful information. A worldwide radio digital messaging system, Winlink 2000 also offers position reporting, weather bulletins and graphics, and emergency communication capabilities. It's already being used extensively by radio amateurs in the sailing and cruising communities as well as by recreational vehicle travelers, missionaries, scientists and explorers. The ARRL Board of Directors in 2004 encouraged the deployment within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) of e-mail via Amateur Radio "as exemplified by Winlink 2000" to meet the needs of served agencies and others involved in providing disaster communications. Amateur Radio volunteers responding to help in the wake of Hurricane Katrina utilized Winlink 2000 with great success.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 48, December 9, 2005

ISS COMMANDER ON THE AIR

ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, has proven to be one of the more active Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) operators among ham radio operators who have occupied the space station. Early in his ISS duty tour, McArthur got on the air from NA1SS for Scouting's Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) event in October, but he's also been available during his off hours to make some quick, casual QSOs on 2 meters as well. In fact, McArthur's having so much fun operating from space that he's hoping to complete Worked All Continents (WAC), Worked All States (WAS) and maybe even DXCC from space.

"Bill McArthur continues to be active on voice and now has a couple of personal goals he is trying to achieve," says ARISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO. "He is trying to talk to someone in every state in the United States. According to his log, he has managed to work 37 states so far." In addition, Ransom says, McArthur wants to work as many countries as he can.

"He's off to a good start with 28 DXCC entities in his log as of December 12," he said. "These contacts have been with amateur stations on every continent with the exception of Antarctica." That contact could happen this weekend, however. Although the IARU does not require WAC applicants to have worked Antarctica, Ransom says that ARISS tradition calls for an Antarctica QSO to achieve WAC from space "since the astronauts seem to have an unfair advantage."

Expedition 9 astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, became the first ISS crew member to contact all seven of the world's continents via Amateur Radio from NA1SS. Fincke worked KC4AAC at Antarctica's Palmer Research Station for his last contact.

States on McArthur's most-needed list are Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

"The list of DXCC entities is just starting to grow, so he needs a lot right now," Ransom conceded this week. "I figure he can get it if we are able to add a handful of smaller entities." Ransom

says he hasn't included ARISS school group contacts in his counts and hopes McArthur will achieve his goals without them. "We won't know the official results for months after the mission," he added.

McArthur is about halfway through his approximately six-month duty tour aboard the ISS. He and crewmate Valery Tokarev will return to Earth in April.

During Thanksgiving week, McArthur reportedly made some three dozen casual contacts, most of them over North America and a few over Europe and New Zealand. Nine-year-old Mattie Clausen, AE7MC, of Oregon recently enjoyed her third QSO with McArthur, and the two now are on a first-name basis. McArthur made contacts with stations in the US on December 6. He also had QSOs with Australia, New Zealand and the US on December 11.

The NA1SS worldwide voice and packet downlink frequency is 145.800 MHz. In Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas, and the Pacific), the voice uplink is 144.49 MHz. In Region 1 (Europe, Central Asia and Africa), the voice uplink is 145.20 MHz. The worldwide packet uplink is 145.99 MHz. All frequencies are subject to Doppler shift. The Science@NASA Web site provides location information for the ISS <<http://science.nasa.gov/temp/StationLoc.html>>.

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> program is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 49, December 16 2005

QST DECEMBER 2005 ERROR

An error appears in the article "What's the Deal About 'NVIS'?" by Dean Straw, N6BV (page 39 of the December 2005 issue of QST): Figures 1 and 9 depict the same graphic. The corrected article is available in PDF format on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/files/qst-binaries/Straw1205.pdf>>. This file is nearly 10 MB in size, and a high-speed Internet connection is highly recommended. We regret any confusion this error may have caused QST readers.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 47, December 2, 2005

KIDS DAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

The second Sunday in January is the day to turn your shack over to the kids for some ham radio fun with a purpose. The first running of Kids Day 2006 begins Sunday, January 8, at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC with no limit on operating time (the second Kids Day will be Saturday, June 17). Kids Day provides a terrific opportunity to show youngsters what Amateur Radio is all about--and that includes its role in emergency communication. ARRL Education and Technology Program ("The Big Project") Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, says Kids Day can be a great opportunity to spark change and get kids and families thinking about emergency preparedness.

"While you are coaching the youngsters who visit your shack--and their parents too--on how to make contacts and new friends via ham radio during Kids Day, why not take a few moments to ask them about their family's plans to deal with emergency challenges?" he says in December 2005 QST (see "Kids Day 2006" on p 45). "Why not use the opportunities offered by Kids Day to show the youth in your neighborhood that ham radio can be loads of fun, and that ham radio is a way that they can contribute something very valuable to their communities?"

Call "CQ Kids Day." The suggested exchange for Kids Day contacts is first name, age, location and favorite color. It's okay to work the same station more than once if the operator has changed. Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.380-21.400 and 28.350-28.400 MHz. Contacts via VHF repeaters are okay too, with permission from the repeater owner. Observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html>>.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate, which becomes the youngster's personalized "sales brochure" for ham radio, Spencer says. The League asks everyone taking part in Kids Day to complete a short survey and post comments afterward <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html>>. Doing this provides access to download the certificate page, or participants can send a 9x12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to

Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Spencer notes that this year's hurricane season highlighted one of the real values that ham radio brings to the community--a spirit of resilience. "By their very nature, ham radio operators are interested in personal preparedness and community service...this is resilience," he says. Spencer suggests that Kids Day sponsors take advantage of the opportunity to show how ham radio offers a way for participants to contribute something very valuable to their communities.

"A very effective advertising strategy is to get kids hooked on an idea," he says. "The kids in turn go home and 'bug' their parents about the idea. You plant the seed in a young mind, and they will take care of the rest!"

Spencer believes Kids Day activities can result in a family emergency plan campaign that could save lives, and future community planners who know communication and how to communicate.

"Make that personal connection that may result in a new licensee and, perhaps, more resilient individuals by opening your station and inviting kids and neighbors to share in your hobby," Spencer urges. "You just might find yourself re-infected with that enthusiasm that you once had."

Visit the ARRL Web site for full information on Kids Day <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 50, Dec. 23, 2005

E-MAIL CHANGE

The e-mail address given in the last issue for Dave Ottenberg, WA2DJN wa incorrect. It should be wa2djn3@verizon.net (note the added "3" after the call).

FOR SALE

Kenwood TS-430 100 Watt HF Transceiver for 160 through 10 meters with manual. Includes Tripple 25A power supply and an external antenna tuner. Excellent condition. \$300.

Dave Ottenberg, WA2DJN
732-505-5953
wa2djn3@verizon.net

ARRL TOY DRIVE SUCCESSFUL

"Mission accomplished!" That was the word on the 2005 Holiday Toy Drive from ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, and assistant warehouse volunteer coordinator Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, on the US Gulf Coast after they'd completed unloading some 5000 toys contributed by generous Amateur Radio clubs and individual radio amateurs from all over. In addition, the second ARRL Holiday Toy Drive benefited from more than \$8000 in cash donations, which permitted the purchase of gifts for older recipients and helped defray the costs of transporting the toys.

"The 2005 ARRL/Salvation Holiday Toy Drive is about completed with the exception of the cleanup," Leggette reported this week. The toys headed to Mississippi following a December 15 sendoff ceremony in Memphis.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP--who spearheaded the drive from the League Headquarters side--says Lowenthal, a former FedEx employee, did such a professional packing job that he only needed one truck--instead of the anticipated three--to transport the toys to coastal Mississippi from Memphis, saving even more money to purchase additional toys. "The overwhelming response of hams around the country was clear as thousands of toys, games, bikes and stuffed animals headed south," he added.

Impressed by an electronics experimenter's kit that one radio amateur contributed, coordinator Allen Pitts, W1AGP, purchased 150 more. "The kits not only are appropriate for older children, but they may well spark a greater interest in electronics," he remarked.

The ARRL Toy Drive partnered with The Salvation Army, whose distribution network throughout the Gulf Coast remains intact. "The Salvation Army has the ability to screen recipients and will assure that the toys are used where they are truly needed most," Pitts explained. A big rental moving van took the full load directly to Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi.

Representatives of The Salvation Army and the League were on hand in Memphis December 15 to see the truckload of toys southward. Holiday Toy Drive national chairperson and country music singer Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, joined Amateur

Radio volunteers, the news media, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus for the occasion.

"For those who couldn't be here, I'm sure they're here in spirit and giving from their hearts, and I just want to thank them--from all around--for collecting," Loveless told ARRL.

Bill Feist, WB8BZH, The Salvation Army's disaster services director for the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi division, represented his organization for the occasion. "We are certainly very appreciative of what all the Amateur Radio operators around the country and the ARRL have done for the people of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi," he said.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, summed it up simply in thanking Pitts for his role: "It was a great, great project."

The ARRL thanks everyone who contributed to--and who volunteered to assist--in making the 2005 Holiday Toy Drive a success.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 49, December 16 2005

LEAP SECOND TO BE ADDED

The International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) has announced the introduction of a "time step" at the end of December to add a "leap second" as 2006 arrives. Leap seconds are needed to keep clocks in step with Earth's rotation, which varies by several thousandths of a second per day. Slowing down the clocks every year or two keeps them in sync. As 2005 transitions to 2006, Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) will be retarded by 1.0 second. This essentially means that the last minute in 2005 will be 61 seconds long: December 31, 2005, 23:59:59; December 31, 2005, 23:59:60; January 1, 2006, 00:00:00. This adjustment will affect UTC and all time scales based on UTC. Loran-C and GPS will not be adjusted physically, however. Times of Coincidence for LORAN-C are available on the Time Service Web Page. For GPS, the leap second correction, contained within the UTC data of the navigation message transmitted by satellites, will change. After the leap second GPS will be ahead of UTC by 14 seconds.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 50, December 23, 2005

FIELD DAY PLANNING

By **Marty Szumera, WN2DX**

Thanks to all who have voted me back in as the Club Engineer for 2006. Although Field Day seems to be the major function of this position, I hope to expand this to include other activities during the year. My problem has always been (and still is) that I work on weekends. If we can put together some other events (maybe jointly with other clubs), I will be active in putting these events together, and will participate on the air after work. For Field Day, I take my vacation that week so there is never a problem on that weekend.

Before 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"?

These are just a few thoughts to kick around well in advance but, as you know, "before you know itIT'S That Time Again"!

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

EMERGENCY POWER BOOK AVAIL.

When all else fails, how will you power your communication equipment? The ARRL's new Emergency Power for Radio Communications by Michael Bryce, WB8VGE, can provide the answer, with information on emergency or back-up power, energy independence, portable power and more. Emergency Power for Radio Communications explores the various means of electric power generation and shows you how to plan ahead to stay on the air when weather or other circumstances knock out conventional power--short-term or longer. It also examines how to go "off the grid" by employing alternative power-generation methods such as solar, wind and water power. There's a selection of emergency power projects and information from the pages of QST too. Emergency Power for Radio Communications is \$19.95 plus shipping and handling. Order from the ARRL on-line catalog <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=&words=Emergency+9531>> or call toll-free 888-277-5289.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 48, December 9, 2005

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 first Saturday of the even numbered months (February 4, 2006) at 10 AM. Contact person is Larry Wilkins, KB2RIS at 732-922-6720 or e-mail to kb2ris@wmconnect.com.

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

Toms River, Riverview Park Recreation Building: The third Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM. 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 (January 14, 2006) at 10:00 AM.

Contact person is Bill Haldane AC2F, 732-240-7064 or 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.

DAYTON HAMVENTION PLANNING

Well in advance of the 55th Dayton Hamvention next spring, event organizers report they're implementing strategies to improve communication and provide more and better information about the show. Part of the plan is a complete makeover of the Dayton Hamvention Web site <<http://www.hamvention.org>>, still a work in progress. Hamvention 2006 takes place May 19-21 at Hara Arena in Trotwood, Ohio. Dayton Hamvention volunteers this past spring asked many vendors and visitors alike what they could do to improve the world's largest Amateur Radio gathering, and "better communication" was the most common response.

"People told us what they wanted, and we are going to do our best to deliver," says Dayton Hamvention 2006 General Chairman Jim Nies, WX8F. "We have set several goals for this year, and one of the most important is to respond to requests more quickly than we did during the 2005 show." Nies took over the reins from Gary Des Combes, N8EMO, who headed up the 2004 and 2005 events and brought back an all-volunteer staff. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) has sponsored Hamvention since the early 1950s.

The goal of the 2006 Dayton Hamvention staff will be to at least acknowledge all requests within 24 hours and, if possible, provide the information or assistance needed within the same time frame, Nies

said. "I know that we won't be able to answer every question or deal with every problem immediately, but we will definitely make every effort to do it as soon as possible," he added.

Hamvention organizers say that while feedback from those who attended the 2005 show generally was very positive, a number indicated that more advance information would be helpful. For example, Hamvention will post information on traffic patterns and access points on its Web site well in advance of the 2006 show, said Assistant General Chairman Carl Rose, K8CPR, who served as security chair for Dayton Hamvention 2004 and 2005.

"We tried some things with traffic flow and vendor access in 2005, and some worked very well and others need improvement," Rose said. "We will use the feedback we received, particularly about vendor access, to see if we can make it quicker and easier to get into the arena for setup."

Rose urged Dayton Hamvention visitors to check the Web site before leaving to see if there are any last minute changes due to construction or other unforeseen events. Hamvention also will continue golf cart shuttles and benches in the flea market for the convenience of attendees, Rose said.

Some things won't change for the 55th Hamvention. Tickets prices will remain the same as the 2005 show, and so will show hours. Dayton Hamvention 2006 is expected to draw some 25,000 visitors from all over the US and around the world. The Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau has estimated Dayton Hamvention's annual economic impact at close to \$4 million for Montgomery County and nearly \$10 million regionally.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 47, December 2, 2005

DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1!

It's time to pay your dues for 2006 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., **KC2HAW** on January 6. All times in EST

Dec. 31-Jan. 1 – **Straight Key Night** from 7 PM Saturday to 6:59 PM Sunday. See Dec. 2005 QST, p. 89 or www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/skn.html

January 1 and every following Sunday – **QCWA News Net** on W2NJR Linked Repeater System at 8:30 PM.

January 2 – **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

January 3 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon in Middletown. Back room on left.

January 3 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See

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

January 4 – **GSARA Monthly Meeting** at the MARS Building at Fort Monmouth at 8:00 PM.

January 5 – **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

January 5 and every Thursday – **MCRA Net** at 7:30 PM on 147.045 repeater.

January 6 and every Friday – **Lunch at Blue Swan Diner**, Rt. 35 South, Ocean Township at noon.

January 6 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 10 PM (10-35 WPM). See January QST, pp. 98 and 101.

January 8 – **Kids Day** from 1 PM to 7 PM. See Dec. 2005 QST p. 45 or www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html.

January 9 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

January 10 – **Perkins Luncheon** in Colts Neck at noon. All amateurs and guests welcome.

January 10 – **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 7.

January 12 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 PM.

January 14 – **OMARC Meeting**, 8:30 AM at Bedrock Diner, 10 Main St., Bradley Beach.

January 14 – **Holiday City VE Exam Session** in Toms River at 10 AM. See p. 7.

Jan. 14-15 – **North American QSO Party, CW** from 1 PM Saturday to 1 AM Sunday. See Jan. QST, p. 101 or www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

January 16 – **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

January 17 – **Middletown Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 8 PM in Croyden Hall off Leonardville Road.

January 19 – **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. See page 7.

January 19 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 9 AM (35-10 WPM). See January QST, pp. 98 and 101.

Jan. 21-22 – **North American QSO Party, Phone** from 1 PM Saturday to 1 AM Sunday. See Jan. QST, p. 101 or www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php.

Jan 21-22 – **ARRL VHF Sweepstakes** from 2 PM Saturday to 11 PM Sunday. See Dec. 2005 QST, p. 89 or www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/jan-vhf-ss.html.

January 23 – **Buttonwood Manor Lunch** at noon. Raritan Bay Amateurs. All are welcome.

January 23 – **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

Jan. 27-29 – **CQ WW 160-Meter Contest, CW** from 7 PM Friday to 6:59 PM Sunday. See Jan. QST, p. 102 or www.cq-amateur-radio.com/index.html.

January 28 – **Neptune ARC Meeting** at American Legion Post #346. 31 Gully Road in Neptune at 9 AM.

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

January 30 – **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 SKN QCWA News 8:30	2 ARES/RACES 7:30	3 Mdtltwn Pncke Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	4 GSARA Mtg.	5 Hol. City Mtg. MCRA Net 8:00	6 KC2HAW Blue Swan CW Qual. Run	7
8 Kids Day QCWA News 8:30	9 RACES Net	10 Perkins Lunch Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	11 KE2DT WA2RIM W2XYZ	12 JSARS Mtg. MCRA Net 8:00	13 W2QFQ Blue Swan	OMARC Mtg. 14 Hol. City VE NA QSO CW
15 NA QSO CW QCWA News 8:30	16 KB2RIS ARES/RACES 7:30	17 MARC Mtg QCWA News 9 PM	18	19 CW Qual. Run JSARS VE MCRA Net 8:00	20 Blue Swan	21 NA QSO SSB VHF SS
22 NA QSO SSB VHF SS QCWA News 8:30	23 Buttonwod Mnr ARES/RACES 7:30	24 QCWA News 9 PM	25	26 MCRA Net 8:00	27 Blue Swan CQ WW 160 CW	Neptune Mtg 28 CQ WW 160 CW
29 KC2FRN CQ WW 160 CW QCWA News 8:30	30 JCDXA Mtg. RACES Net	31 QCWA News 9 PM				



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FIRST CLASS