



THE PROPAGATOR

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

JULY 2008

GSARA MEETING WED. JULY 2

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, July 2 at 8:00 PM** at the MARS building in Fort Monmouth. We will have an interesting recap of Field Day.

You are encouraged to come early to enjoy the refreshments and the informal eyeball conversations. We look forward to seeing YOU at the meeting!

FORT MONMOUTH PASSES

If you have not yet renewed your Fort Monmouth pass, send Frank, W2XYZ the required data which will have to be entered into the Ft. Monmouth computer. It is only after the data is in the computer that you can pick up the pass at the Oceanport visitor center. The passes are good for six months.

THE GSARA WEBSITE NEEDS YOU

Bruce McLeod is getting tired after being the GSARA webmaster for ten years. He says he wants to let someone else have that pleasure. Just think – you can be your own boss and at the same time you can have the freedom to put your own creativity into action. You don't have to know HTML nor do you need sophisticated web page creation software. You can create pages in Microsoft Word and save them as HTML files. We already have an Internet Service Provider who gives us free space for our pages. Then you will need an FTP program to ship the pages off to the site; for this function Bruce uses a shareware program called WS_FTP. If you are interested in grabbing this opportunity or learning more about it, email Bruce at k2qwx@yahoo.com.

GSARA CALENDAR

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

NENA PURYEAR, N2WAY AILING

Please remember GSARA member Marlena (Nena) Puryear, N2WAY in your prayers. She suffered a heart attack early in June and underwent open heart surgery at Jersey Shore Medical Center. While recovering at the Brick Rehabilitation Institute, she had to have her Gall Bladder removed at Brick Medical Center. All went well but she faces an arduous recovery. We pray for to successfully get back on her feet.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER KC2TKK

Please welcome **Josh Gluck, KC2TKK** from Middletown as the latest member of GSARA. Licensed this year, Josh holds a Technician license but soon plans to upgrade to General. He is currently active on 2-meters with his Icom IC-2100H but is interested in pursuing EmCom, MARS, ARES, RACES, Packet, and CW. His occupation is IT Infrastructure, Networks & Communications.

Welcome to the GSARA, Josh. We hope to see you at our meetings and as a participant in our activities.

INTRODUCTION TO CW CLASS

OMARC will be conducting an introductory four-week class about Morse code at the Diana site on Marconi Road in Wall. The free classes will start at 7 PM each of the four Wednesdays starting on July 2. If you would like to learn the Morse code, these classes will get you off to a good start. For more information, or if you are planning to attend, contact Ron Olender, WA2HZT at 732-367-3179 or wa2hzt@aol.com.

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

GSARA OFFICERS

President	N2LXM	Jeff Harshman	922-0816
Vice Pres.	W2FA	Kevin Wagner	279-0532
Secretary	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
Treasurer	W2XYZ	Frank Wroblewski	942-7705
Engineer	W2HTS	Howard Suffill	460-1885
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 <k2qxw@yahoo.com>

BADGES AND PATCHES

All new GSARA members get a name badge. However, you may order additional ones by getting a Badge Order Form from our Secretary, **Bob Buus, W2OD**, filling it out and turning it in to Bob with your \$5.00 payment.

We also now have patches available at all meetings and they cost \$3.

OUTGOING QSL CARDS

If any GSARA members wish to combine their QSL cards that are going through the outgoing ARRL Bureau, please bring them to the next GSARA meeting along with the label from a recent QST Magazine (you must be an ARRL member to participate in this program). We then send them as a group at no charge to GSARA members. It couldn't be much easier than that to QSL. You are registered at the W2 incoming bureau, aren't you?

PROPAGATOR NOW ON THE WEB

The *Propagator* is available as a PDF file at:

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

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

As you read this, Field Day is right on top of us. Some rain is forecast but let's hope that it is not a washout and we still get in most of our 24 hours of operating. If there's thunder and lightning, we must shut down and seek shelter in our automobiles – safety trumps points.

I thought of holding this issue until after Field Day but then it would probably not get to you until after our July meeting. So, Field Day coverage will be in the next issue – hopefully with some good pictures. If you take any Field Days pictures that might be suitable for inclusion in the next issue, please send them to me via an e-mail attachment. Thanks.

Our trip to Indianapolis went well. Although there was a lot of rain while we were out there, the area we were in did not suffer from any flooding. The drive was easy with turnpikes and interstates the whole 700-mile length except for a few miles on each end. Gas was \$4.10 per gallon but we did average over 27 miles per gallon so it could have been worse with poorer gas mileage.

Please keep Nena, N2WAY in your prayers. She has sure been through a lot this past month and I hope that she makes a complete recovery. We'll miss her on Field Day but she will be in our thoughts.

Finally, if you do not know Morse code but would like to, I remind you of the FREE classes being held by OMARC at the Diana site on Marconi Road in Wall on the first four Wednesdays in July at 7:30 PM. See the details on page 1.

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 August issue is July 15. Field Day pictures would be much appreciated!

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

GSARA HOMEPAGE

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

MINUTES OF MAY 7 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM called the meeting to order at Fort Monmouth at 8:08 PM. After the pledge to the flag, all members present introduced themselves. There were 16 members and one guest present. The guest was Phyllis Torrance from Neptune.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ presented his report for May. A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Donna, KC2GKQ to accept the report as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the May 2008 meeting had been published in the June Propagator. A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Peggy Struening to accept the minutes as published. The motion passed unanimously.

A letter was received from World Radio Magazine reminding us to renew our membership for another year (which includes our ad and 8 gift subscriptions) at a cost of \$70. A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Bill, NJ2H to spend the \$70 on our renewal. The motion passed unanimously.

New Member

A membership application was received for Josh Gluck, KC2TKK. Josh holds a Technician license and is active on 2 meters with his IC-2100H. He is interested in Emcom, MARS, ARES, Races, Packet, and CW. He works in IT Infrastructure, Network & Communications. A motion was made by Donna, KC2GKQ and seconded by Joe, W2KQ to accept Josh as a new member. The motion passed unanimously.

Health and Welfare

Tony, KA2ZSI had been in the hospital but was now home recovering. He is doing well and was at the meeting.

Nena, N2WAY is in the hospital at Jersey Shore. Please keep her in your prayers.

Field Day

Field Day will be held on June 28-29 at Dean Field where we plan to operate 1A with the K2USA call and use our successful loop antenna. We plan to set up separate transceivers for SSB and CW but only one will be selected at a time to maintain our 1A status. We will log with the easy-to-use SQL program. Refreshments will be at the MARS station.

Jeff, N2LXM had ordered T-shirts for those participating but got a note back from the ARRL stating that they had run out of stock. He asked if he should get shirts printed and the unanimously consensus was to forget about T-shirts. Subsequent to the meeting, Jeff received our order from the ARRL for T-shirts.

Bob, W2OD offered to bring a laptop with Digipan and try PSK-31 if things get quiet on the SSB and CW front. Frank, W2XYZ offered to try solar power contacts for extra points.

A list was circulated for members to sign up for special admission to Fort Monmouth on Field Day weekend. Bruce, K2QXW is coordinating that list and will send it to Donna, KC2GKQ by June 15.

We plan to start setting up on Friday afternoon at 2 PM and continue Saturday morning starting at 10 AM.

Although we will not be using the clubs PE-95 generator, Jeff, N2LXM has been working on it and has determined that the Magneto is defective. He is looking into low-cost fixes.

Public Service

The Sheehan Run in Red Bank is on June 14. We need 4 more volunteers for this relatively short event. See Jeff, N2LXM to volunteer.

New Business

It was pointed out that the coffee pots in the MARS building are not working properly. A motion was made by Peggy Struening and seconded by Laura, N2HGI to buy two new coffee makers. Cost is not expected to exceed about \$20 each. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Announcements

OMARC is planning on running another 6-week radio school for one night a week. Anyone interested should contact Pat, N2BZD. OMARC is

also considering running a one-day crash course similar to what Middletown has successfully done several times. If interested, contact Pat, N2BZD.

Closing

The door prize was won by Don, KG2NV. A subscription to World Radio was won by Josh, KC2TKK. There being no further business, a motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Donna, KC2GKQ to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

QST TO ALL AMATEURS

By Mike DiPersio, KC2Q

A \$10 donation to the North America DX Association, Inc. (NADXA, Inc.) will allow each donating person an opportunity to earn a (\$525.00 value) all expense paid trip to the 2009 Annual Bus Trip to the Dayton Hamvention in Dayton, OH. (A four-day trip from the NY, NJ, PA area) May 14, 15, 16, 17, 2009.

The trip includes: All transportation, to and from NJ to Ohio, plus all local transportation while in Dayton, OH via the NADXA Chartered Bus.

Three nights, four day stay at the Baymont Inn & Suites in Huber Heights, OH. (12 minutes from the Hara Arena). Your own room alone (or with spouse), includes breakfast each morning and use of Jacuzzi and pool. Tickets to the Hamvention at Haras Arena for three days.

Your donation can be paid by Pay-Pal, check or money order made out to NADXA, Inc., PO Box 357, Bradley Beach, NJ 07720.

The odds of being selected will be restricted to one (1) in seventy five (75); no more, perhaps less. Each person donating will be issued a number from A-1 to A-75; if more donations are received, B-1 to B-75, or C-1 to C-75, etc. Parties will be notified via e-mail of their number when donation is received.

The numbers will be drawn on March 29, 2009.

For further information contact: nadxa@juno.com, wr2dx@yahoo.com.

We thank you for your generous donation.

North America DX Assoc., Inc. (a non-profit 501(C)(3) corp.)

NEW RUSSIAN SATELLITE IN ORBIT

A Russian rocket launched from Plesetsk on May 23 carried a number of payloads to orbit, including a new Amateur Radio satellite named Yubileiny -- Russian for jubilee -- since christened Radio Sputnik 30 (RS-30). Operational details are vague at this time. Amateurs throughout the world report receiving signals at 435.315 and 435.215 MHz; some report reception of CW telemetry while others report what appear to be image transmissions from the satellite. RS-30 is orbiting at a maximum altitude of 1500 km, creating a substantial communications footprint below. The satellite will broadcast audio and video about the history of the Soviet and Russian space programs, as well as signals imitating those broadcast by Sputnik I in 1957. According to the satellite's launch team, "The motive for development of the Yubileiny small spacecraft was the 50th anniversary of the first space satellite. With the help of that satellite, the new space systems and equipment are expected to get flight qualification, and radio-amateurs all over the world will be able to receive information on the history of space development and domestic cosmonautics achievements."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 21, May 30, 2008

BE CAREFUL ON 10 METERS

With recent band openings beginning on 10 meters, ARRL has received word that a number of US amateurs have been heard using SSB below 28.300. "We urge everyone to remember that 28.000 to 28.300 MHz is reserved for RTTY and data, including CW," said ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG. "Phone is permitted from 28.300 to 28.500 for Novice and Technician class licensees with a maximum power of 200 W. Phone and image are allowed from 28.300 up to 29.700 for General, Advanced and Extra class license holders." Skolaut, who manages the Official Observer and Intruder Watch programs, said that people have called and e-mailed ARRL HQ inquiring about hearing IDs repeated in code on various 10 meter frequencies. "What they are hearing are beacons," Skolaut said; he suggests checking out the Web sites for more information on beacons you might hear on 10 meters <<http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=1114>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 22, June 6, 2008

ROSTER CHANGE

Please add a new member to the Roster as follows:

KC2TKK, Josh Gluck
141 Clubhouse Drive
Middletown, NJ 07748
201-940-2835
joshgluck@gmail.com

“WE DO THAT” WITH AMATEUR RADIO

The third ARRL Public Relations campaign -- "We Do That - with Amateur Radio" -- celebrates the technology side of ham radio <<http://www.hello-radio.org/wedothat/>>. According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio means many things to many people. "What is it about Amateur Radio that arouses the interest of people?" Pitts asked. "You have the fun, friendship and hobby side. We showcased this side in 2006 with our 'Hello' campaign <<http://www.hello-radio.org/hello/>>. You have the emergency service side. We brought this valuable part of Amateur Radio to the public's eye in 2007 with 'Emergency Radio -- Getting the Message through for Your Family and Community' <<http://emergency-radio.org/>>. And now you have the technology and creative side. In 2008, we are capitalizing on this third prong, getting word out to the public that there is tons of stuff you can do with Amateur Radio."

Unveiled at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention this past May, this new coordinated public relations effort shows the world the technological activities and creative imaginations that Amateur Radio's people love. Like the previous public relations campaigns, Pitts said, this is a campaign with several interlocking parts.

* *Public Service Announcements* - There are Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that commercial radio stations can utilize, getting word out to the public about the benefits that ham radio operators can provide. Check these out on the ARRL Public Information Officer Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/>>; more will be coming out as the year unfolds. These mp3 files are easily downloaded and can be taken to local radio stations. "Many radio stations have a public service obligation they need to fulfill, and these PSAs are a

great way for them to do so, while showcasing the neat things we do as hams," Pitts said.

* *Brochures* - ARRL has created an attractive brochure that celebrates ham technology <<http://www.arrl.org/brochures/>>. This brochure shows hams doing many exciting activities, from Green Radio -- Amateur Radio using renewable energy sources -- to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) through time and space itself. These brochures, in packs of 25, are available at no cost except for a small shipping fee.

* *WeDoThat-Radio.org* - A new special Web site has been created just for this campaign. "Maximizing the strong points of the Hello-Radio and Emergency-Radio Web sites before it, WeDoThat-Radio.org <<http://www.wedothat-radio.org/>> uses some of the newer technologies similar to the blog format, allowing for easy topic additions and changes, even providing a place for visitors to ask questions," Pitts said.

* *Stickers* - Let's admit it, hams and kids like free things and stickers are fun. So we made up a bunch to share. If you happen to have a presentation to students, it's a nice touch. These are "free while the supply lasts," Pitts said.

* *"Talk on a Disk"* - What began as an experiment in 2007 has since become a major success. The ARRL's "Talk on a Disk" was quickly snatched up and used by people making presentations to groups. This CD contains all the materials you need to make a good PowerPoint presentation before a non-ham group, including slides and supportive audio and video. "For 2008, we created a brand new 'Talk on a Disk' highlighting the technology campaign and coordinated with the brochures. It can make almost anyone look good in front of a group. Just follow the script! Or, you can modify it to meet local needs," said Pitts. If you have a presentation to make and want to talk about the technology of ham radio, please e-mail Pitts about it <apitts@arrl.org>.

* *"Swiss Army Knife for PIOs"* - The 2008 "Knife," Pitts said, is actually a CD with all the basic forms and information a Public Information Officer (PIO) should need -- all in one place. "Last year, we produced more than 1000 of these and they were all snatched up," Pitts said. With audio and video files, documents in computer forms that PIOs can modify to meet local needs, as well as hundreds of pointers

and ideas, the "Swiss Army Knife for PIOs" has become a mainstay for public relations work. Disks are available for PIOs by sending Pitts an e-mail <apitts@arrl.org>.

* *Every Ham is a PIO* - "There is a saying," Pitts said, "that all news is local -- and it is true. If there is not a local or personal 'hook' to a story, it does not make it into the news. Because of this, the Public Information Officers in your area are critical to the local perception of Amateur Radio." When PIOs take these materials and modify them for local use, it affects everything from antenna regulations to club membership levels. But it is not just up to the PIOs to achieve positive publicity for hams, Pitts said. "There is another saying, 'Every ham is a PIO.' When people become curious about Amateur Radio they turn to the first ham operator they find and that conversation is crucial to the future. All the brochures, TV ads, radio and news stories are of no benefit if that initial conversation with a potential recruit is not positive. PIOs can only 'bring the fish to the boat.' It is up to every ham to be ready to bring them in by taking the time and effort to make the initial one-on-one contact a positive experience. In the end, 'It takes a ham to make a ham.'"

* *Need Help?* - There is a wealth of materials available on the ARRL PIO Web site for anyone to use <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/>>. Here you can find background information handouts for media, as well as all sorts of helpful files and tips. Each month, Pitts puts out "CONTACT!," an e-zine for ARRL PIOs that contains ideas, information and timely materials. The ARRL Public Relations Committee is also able to aid groups facing unusual problems or situations. These PR veterans have a wealth of knowledge you can draw upon. There is a public relations email reflector where PIOs from around the country share their problems, ideas and successes with other PIOs.

* *It's Up to You* - The energies that your club -- and you as an individual -- put into positive PR work will pay off for your radio future in many ways, Pitts said. "Go show the world that 'It's not just your grandfather's radio anymore.'"

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 23, June 13, 2008

MOTHER-IN-LAW:
When you rearrange the letters:
WOMAN HITLER

FIREDRAKE JAMMER FROM ASIA

Amateur Radio operators throughout the United States have reported hearing an intruder signal -- dubbed Firedrake -- on 20 meters. ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, said he has received reports from Intruder Watch monitors in Texas, Montana, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Colorado, Washington, Nevada and Pennsylvania hearing the jammer on 14.010 and 14.070 MHz. Hams in IARU Region 1 have heard the jammer on 14.000, 14.005, 14.010, 14.030, 14.050, 14.050 and 14.090; Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, Assistant Monitoring Coordinator for Region 1 (IARUMS) <<http://www.iarums-r1.org/>> said he has had reports of hearing the jammer on three frequencies at the same time. Skolaut said he heard it on 14.070 at 1500 EDT on June 6 from ARRL HQ, but has not confirmed Firedrake on any other frequencies. "We have reported the jammer to the FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) facility in Columbia, Maryland. They have also heard the jammer and have sent a harmful interference report to the Chinese government," Skolaut said. The FCC has no authority to make intruder stations outside the US stop transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies; such situations typically are dealt with through diplomatic channels. "All three IARU regions are coordinating efforts to collect observations and forward them to the proper authorities to follow up on this," Skolaut said. "As you probably remember, this jamming occurred almost two years ago <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/08/17/2/>> and was primarily heard on 14.260 and 18.160 MHz." According to Bihlmayer, the jammer (whom Region 1 monitors have dubbed Firedrake) plays oriental-type music and originates from the Chinese government in an attempt to block out the Sound of Hope short wave broadcasts. The Sound of Hope refers to itself as "a Chinese language media network providing an alternative to China's state controlled media with news and cultural programming. Radio Free China (RFC) is Sound of Hope's project to reach listeners in Mainland China with programming beyond the control of China's omnipresent blockade of free information." Information on the Intruder Watch program can be found in the June 2007 issue of QST.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 23, June 13, 2008

FIRST DXCC ON 432 MHZ

The world of Amateur Radio DXing has passed a new milestone: On Friday, June 6, Jan Bruinier, DL9KR, of Niedernhausen, Germany, worked his 100th country on 432 MHz (70 cm) via moonbounce (EME) and CW.

Samek Zdenek, OK1DFC, and Hofbauer Zdenek, OK3RM, were getting ready to go on an EME DXpedition to Macedonia. Before they left, Samek asked Bruinier to help test out the equipment; Bruinier gave him a beacon, aiming a signal off the moon. According to VHF guru and conductor of QST's "World Above 50 MHz" column Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, this is done by transmitting a series of CW dashes and then stopping to listen for the signal to return a little more than a second later. The moon averages 384,000 km from the Earth; radio waves travel at ~300,000 km/sec.

After one of these transmissions, Bruinier was excited to hear Samek appear on frequency with a 549 signal. Thus, after an exchange of calls and reports, Bruinier's 100th country on 432 MHz was in the log. Once his QSL cards are confirmed in the near future, he will become DXCC #1 on 70 cm.

Bruinier's 70 cm EME operations began in 1977. He had followed the exploits of the early EME pioneers in QST, operators like KH6UK, W4HHK, W3GKP and W1FZJ who was conductor of the "World Above 50 Mc" during much of the 1960s. Jan and his family moved to a semirural location in Germany in 1976 where he could put up decent VHF antennas. Working initially on his own, he built an array of 16 ten-element quagis (antennas with single quad loop driven elements and reflectors and 8 Yagi directors) following the design described in QST by Wayne Overbeck, K6YNB (now N6NB). After a few false starts with other tubes, he obtained an Eimac 8938 and built a near-legal limit amplifier. The station exciter was a set of Drake twins as an IF strip using homebrew transverters with an increasingly sensitive group of GaAsFET preamplifiers, always working at the state-of-the-art.

As time progressed, Bruinier built a bigger amplifier capable of running 1500 W continuously to deal with the high duty cycle found in EME operation -- long, slow CW with two minute transmissions at a time -- and receiver systems that

yielded noise temperatures of 60 kelvins that could detect 7 dB of noise when he pointed his array into the ground. He eventually transitioned from the quagis to an array of DL6WU design Yagis fed with 1-5/8 inch Heliac, currently having a gain of 28.4 dBd. For comparison, this is slightly more gain than the 28 foot Kennedy parabolic dish has at 432 MHz.

According to Zimmerman, the range of contacts covered by the 70 cm band is less than 1000 km; even under the most enhanced conditions, it is less than double that. "To work the 100 entities needed for DXCC, EME communications are essential. EME is the most demanding form of operation there is in Amateur Radio," he said. "Every single aspect of the station must be optimized: The equipment, the antennas, the feed lines and most particularly, the talent of the operator. Even 1 dB may make the difference between a contact and no contact. Bruinier's achievement was accomplished the old fashioned way -- by dint of hard work, excellent equipment, big antennas and many, many hours on the air looking for new countries and not missing many, if any, DXpeditions to the many countries where there is no 432 MHz EME activity."

If you would like to read more details about Bruinier's career as an EMEer, please look for his story in his own words in the "World Above 50 MHz" column in the September 2008 issue of QST.

From The ARRL Letter, No. 24, June 20, 2008

MORE FIELD DAY T SHIRTS

More Field Day T Shirts On the Way! During the last couple of weeks, a surge of demand for 2008 ARRL Field Day T shirts had exhausted the supply much earlier than previous years. "It's clear that this year's Field Day logo and slogan -- Ride the Waves -- is a big hit!" said ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "We want to assure our valued members and clubs that more shirts are on the way. Until today, we weren't certain we could restock the shirts in time for delivery before Field Day. But our manufacturer has promised to re-supply the shirts as early as next week." The ARRL regrets any inconvenience with order delays. Inderbitzen added, "Since February, we've encouraged clubs to place their orders early.

From The ARRL Letter, No. 22, June 6, 2008

NEW EXTRA CLASS LICENSE MANUAL

The "ARRL Extra Class License Manual" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1352#top>> and "ARRL's Extra Q&A" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1379>> are your tickets to every privilege granted to Amateur Radio operators. Expert instruction leads you through all of the knowledge you need to pass the exam, including rules, specific operating skills and more advanced electronics theory. Everything you need to know to pass the 50 question Extra class exam is right at your fingertips -- both books contain the latest Extra class question pool and answer key. Study the "ARRL Extra Class License Manual" to understand the theory and applications needed to upgrade your license. With more than 700 questions included in the question pool -- valid from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2012 -- reading the "ARRL's Extra Q&A" is the best way to review for the exam with confidence. The Extra class license is the highest of all three US Amateur Radio licenses. To upgrade to Extra class you must already hold a General class license (or have recently passed all of the exams required for a General class license). Upgrading to an Extra license only requires passing a written examination. As an Extra class licensee, you will have full privileges on all frequencies authorized by the FCC for Amateur Radio.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 23, June 13, 2008

AREA AMATEUR EXAM SESSIONS

Amateur radio exam sessions in this area are as follows but please contact the responsible person to be sure that the time and date are accurate.

Wall Township, Camp Evans Area on Marconi Road: Exams are held on the first Saturday of the even numbered months (August 2, 2008) at 10 AM. The contact person is Pat Brannick, N2BZD at 732-267-0308 or e-mail to pbrannick@aol.com.

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

Toms River, Riverview Park Recreation Building: Exams are held on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM. The contact person is Ed Genoino, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or e-mail to wa2nda@aol.com.

Toms River, Holiday City South Clubhouse, Meeting Room #1, Mule Road at the corner of Santiago Drive on the second Saturday of the odd numbered months (July 12, 2008) at 10:00 AM. Pre-registration is required (no walk ins). The 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.

MORSE CODE RETURNING TO MARS

After more than a dozen years, Morse code will soon be returning to Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) nets. In the mid-1990s, the Department of Defense (DoD) did away with CW operation across the board -- including MARS nets -- as automatic systems such as the Internet, SATCOM, cell phones and e-mail became available and the payroll cost of manual operators escalated. Army MARS launched a limited test of CW nets in four Midwestern states in late 2007. During a DoD interoperability test this past March, a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) station used it to communicate with Fort Huachuca. In announcing the return of CW to MARS nets, Navy-Marine Corps MARS Chief Bo Lindfors cited an emergency where CW was sorely missed: "I remember the [1998] Northeast Ice Storm shortly after I became [Navy-Marine Corps MARS] Chief and the unnecessarily lengthy effort by all of southern New England to receive one voice EEI [Essential Elements of Information Report] from a northern New England member whose antenna was covered in ice and lying on the ground. It took more than an hour when CW could have handled it in a few minutes. As more and more of our members enter MARS with no Morse code experience, I am afraid that we will soon lose that skill set if we don't do something." Army MARS Chief Carter said the imminent return of CW will not replace modes such as WinLink, Pactor 3 and MT63. "Our CW nets will focus on maintenance of skills and will necessarily be limited by the shortage of available frequencies and trained members," he said. "But if members want to add CW to their skills, the nets will be available for training."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 22, June 6, 2008

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see reverse side)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., K2YWI July 1. All times are in EDST. Contests are listed in the July QST, p. 78.

June 30-July 1 – **Canada Day Contest**, all modes from 8 PM Monday to 7:59 PM Tuesday. See www.rac.ca/service/contesting

July 1 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon at left rear table. All are welcome.

July 1 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

July 1 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 PM.

July 2 – **GSARA Monthly Meeting** at Ft. Monmouth MARS station at 8 PM.

July 3 – **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

July 4 – **Independence Day Holiday**. Enjoy!

July 6 and every Sunday – **InfoAge Marconi Hotel** open from 1 to 4 PM on Marconi Road in Wall. Exhibits by QCWA, OMARC, Antique Radio, Broadcaster's Hall of Fame, etc. \$5 donation requested.

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

July 8 – **VE Test Session** at Croyden Hall, Leonardo section of Middletown at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mario Sellitti, N2PVP at 732-787-7184 or n2pvp@n2pvp.com

July 9 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 10 PM (10-35 wpm). See July QST, pp. 78 and 102.

July 10 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 PM.

July 11 – **FISTS Summer Sprint**, HF CW from 4 to 8 PM. See www.fists.org

July 12-13 – **IARU HF World Championship**, SSB & CW from 8 AM Saturday to 8 AM Sunday. See www.arrrl.org/contests

July 12 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ.

July 12 – **Middletown Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 10 AM in Union Beach Police Annex (Municipal Building) on Poole Avenue.

July 12 – **Holiday City VE Test Session** at 10 AM in Toms River. Pre-register with Bill Haldane, AC2F at 732-240-7064 or ac2f@earthlink.net. No walk-ins.

July 14 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

July 17 – **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.

July 19-20 – **NA RTTY QSO Party** from 2 PM Saturday to 2 AM Sunday. See www.ncjweb.com

July 19-20 – **CQ WW VHF Contest** from 2 PM Saturday to 5 PM Sunday. See www.cqww-vhf.com

July 21 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

July 25 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 9 AM (35-10 wpm). See July QST, pp. 78 and 102.

July 26 – **Neptune Amateur Radio Club Meeting** at 9 AM at Casey's Restaurant, Sylvania Ave. & Rte. 35, Neptune City.

July 26-27 – **IOTA Contest**, HF SSB and CW from 8 AM Saturday to 8 AM Sunday. See www.rsgbhfcc.org

July 28 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		K2YWI 1 Canada Day Pancake House Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	2 GSARA Mtg	3 Hol. City Mtg.	4 Independence Day	5
6 InfoAge	7 ARES/RACES 7:30	8 K2QXW Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	9 CW Qual. Run	10 JSARS Mtg.	11 FISTS	12 OMARC Mtg. IARU Champnshp MARC Mtg Hol. City VE
13 IARU Champnshp VHF QSO InfoAge	14 RACES Net 7:30	15 QCWA News 9 PM	16	17 JSARS VE	18	19 NA RTTY CQ WW VHF
20 InfoAge NA RTTY CQ WW VHF	21 ARES/RACES 7:30	22 QCWA News 9 PM	23	24	25 CW Qual. Run	26 Neptune Mtg IOTA
27 IOTA InfoAge	28 RACES Net 7:30	29	30	31		



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FIRST CLASS