



THE PROPAGATOR

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

OCTOBER 2006

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 4

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, October 4** at **8:00 PM** at the MARS building in Fort Monmouth. Come early to enjoy the refreshments. 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, notify Larry, KB2RIS or Frank, W2XYZ. You then must check with visitor control on Oceanport Ave. to retire your old badges and get a new placard. Note that you CANNOT renew your old badges.

POST-2001 IRCs EXPIRE

Many DXers still use International Reply Coupons (IRCs) <<http://www.upu.int/irc/en/>> issued by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to cover return postage for QSL cards. As of January 1, 2002, UPU-issued IRCs bear expiration dates, after which the coupon has no value. The so-called "Beijing model 1" IRC expires December 31, 2006. The newest IRC, the "Beijing model 2," expires December 31, 2009. Check any IRCs you've got on hand for an expiration date! Curiously, the United States Postal Service International Mail Manual states that the period of exchange for IRCs issued by the UPU on or after January 1, 1975, is unlimited. The UPU says IRCs are exchangeable in all member countries for the minimum postage of a priority item or an unregistered air mail letter sent to a foreign country. An IRC costs \$1.85 in the US. Although US post offices are not obliged to sell IRCs, it is mandatory for post offices in UPU member countries to exchange the coupons.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 39, September 29, 2006

OMARC TAILGATE OCTOBER 7

Mark you calendar for Saturday, October 7 to attend the OMARC tailgate hamfest at the Diana Site off Marconi Road in Wall. This is open to buyers at 7:30 AM and runs until noon. Tailgate slots for sellers are \$10 but buyers are FREE! VE exams will be given at 10:00 AM.

The Diana site is on the east side of Marconi Road about ½ mile south of northbound Rt. 18 Exit 7. If coming from the north, take Route 18 Exit 7A (Brighton Ave.), turn right onto Marconi Road at the stop sign and proceed ½ mile. The Diana dish is on the left.



The newest two members of GSARA flanking our Veep and President. Left to right, they are Cliff Jordan, N2TQG; Vice President Tom Cosgrove, N2VFK; President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM; and Samuel Suffill, W2SHS (Tnx to Ray Lett, W2NXG for taking the Pic).

GSARA HOMEPAGE

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

GSARA CALENDAR

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

GSARA OFFICERS

President	N2LXM	Jeff Harshman	922-0816
Vice Pres.	N2VFK	Tom Cosgrove	747-8896
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

I apologize for this edition of *The Propagator* getting out a little later than I normally like to have it. The reason is that QST didn't arrive until Friday, September 29, and I rely on it to provide some of the event information (CW qualifying runs, contests, etc.). So, this won't be in the mail until Saturday and most of the local members won't get their copy until Monday, just two days before the monthly meeting. Of course, those of you who get *The Propagator* on the web should have it on Saturday. Hopefully it will be earlier next month.

Don't forget the OMARC tailgate Hamfest on Saturday, October 7. Buyers are FREE so why don't you drive on over to the Diana site that morning and see what is available. There is also VE testing on the site at 10 AM that morning so it is a good opportunity to upgrade.

The last two public service events for the year are coming up on the 8th (Juvenile Diabetes in Avon) and the 15th (CROP Walk in Red Bank) and more help is needed at both. If you have a two-meter HT or mobile, please contact Tom Cosgrove, N2VFK and offer to help. It would be much appreciated.

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 November issue is October 15.

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

REMINDER – VANITY FEE NOW \$20.80

The regulatory fee to obtain or renew a post-1995 Amateur Radio vanity call sign is \$20.80 for applications received by the FCC on or after Wednesday, September 6. The new fee covers the 10-year license term. For more information, see <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/08/01/3/>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 36, September 8, 2006

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at Fort Monmouth by President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM, at 8:10 PM. After the Pledge to the Flag, all members present introduced themselves. There were 23 members and one guest in attendance. The guest was Samuel Suffill, KC2QBL, son of Howard, W2HTS from Eatontown. Jeff, N2LXM extended a warm welcome to new member Cliff Jordan, N2TQG.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ made a report for August. A motion was made by Peg Struening and seconded by Nena, N2WAY to accept the report. The report was unanimously accepted.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Mike, KC2Q and seconded by Lorraine, KC2FDR to accept the minutes of the August meeting as published in the September Propagator. The motion passed unanimously. The secretary also reported that we received a donation request from the Monmouth County Park system. No action was taken.

New Member Application

A membership application was received from Samuel Suffill, KC2QBL who recently received his Technician license. He is the son of member Howard Suffill, W2HTS and a family membership was requested. Samuel is a student and is active on 2 meters and 440 with a Yaesu FT-60R. A member of the ARRL, he is also interested in EMS and First Aid. A motion was made by Mike, KC2Q and seconded by Nena, N2WAY to accept his membership. The motion passed unanimously. After the meeting, he was issued the vanity call of W2SHS.

Old Business

The Field Day antenna was modeled and analyzed. It showed significant gain on all bands and good high angle radiation on the lower bands. Congratulations to Jim Griffith, K2IE for this excellent design and implementation!

The joint effort of NADXA and the Neptune club operating at the Sea Girt lighthouse got some good publicity in both the Star Ledger and the

Coast Star of Manasquan. 271 QSOs were made. Congratulations to all who made it happen!

New Business

Per our Constitution and By-laws, President Jeff, N2LXM appointed Ray Lett, W2NXG to head a nominating committee charged with producing a list of candidates for GSARA officers for 2007. Ray subsequently asked Frank, W2XYZ; Bob, W2OD; Lorraine, KC2FDR; Nena, N2WAY; Larry, KB2RIS; and Bruce, K2QXW to serve on the committee. A report will be submitted at the October meeting of GSARA.

It was suggested that we have a talk about MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) on one of our upcoming meetings. Jeff, N2LXM agreed to make the arrangements.

Announcements

Glenn, WA2TPL lost his tower during the recent storm and suffered some damage to his house.

JSARS will be holding a Hamfest at Seaside Park on September 16.

OMARC will hold their tailgate fest on Saturday, October 7. Buyers are free.

DVRA will hold a Hamfest on Sunday, October 8.

The Juvenile Diabetes Walk in Avon will be on Sunday, October 8. Please see Jeff, N2LXM or Tom, N2VFK if you can help out with communications.

The CROP walk in Red Bank will be Sunday, October 15 in the afternoon. Please see Jeff, N2LXM or Tom, N2VFK if you can help out with communications.

The Broadcasters Hall of Fame at the Infoage Learning center will have an induction ceremony on Saturday, September 16. Admission is \$65 per person.

Closing

A drawing was held for the main door prize which was won by Joe Padalino, KC2HWK. One-year subscriptions to World Radio magazine were won by Bruce, K2QXW and Lena, N2WAY.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mike, KC2Q and seconded by Howard, W2HTS to close the meeting. The meeting was closed at 9:08 PM.

JAMMER GETS SEVEN YEARS, FINES

It was a day many radio amateurs in Southern California had been anticipating for a long time. On September 18, US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner sentenced convicted radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, now 70, to seven years imprisonment and imposed \$15,225 in fines on six counts -- one a felony -- that included willful and malicious interference with radio communications and transmitting without a license. Before sentencing, Gerritsen apologized to the federal government, the FCC and the local Amateur Radio community, which had endured the brunt of Gerritsen's on-air tirades and outright jamming. "I'm sorry, and I apologize to everyone here," Gerritsen told those in the courtroom, which included more than a dozen radio amateurs and Gerritsen's family members. Gerritsen's contrition did nothing to convince Klausner toward leniency.

"How many times have you said you would not do this again?" Klausner reportedly asked Gerritsen, a repeat offender who served as his own attorney during his trial. "But based on your history, you come back again and again for this. I believe you will continue to do it, and it would send the wrong message to others, that five years is not long enough either!"

The judge also tacked on two years' supervised probation following Gerritsen's prison term, but he recommended Gerritsen remain in custody during that period. Klausner further ordered Gerritsen to participate in a substance-abuse program. He told Gerritsen he could not identify himself by using any other means -- including his previously held Amateur Radio call sign KG6IRO -- than his real name, and he prohibited Gerritsen from owning, possessing or using any radio transmitting equipment.

The FCC fielded complaints of illegal radio transmissions linked to Gerritsen for four years. According to court documents, the Commission's investigation and signal tracking revealed that Gerritsen transmitted both prerecorded messages and real-time harassment and profanity for hours at a time. He often targeted local Amateur Radio repeater systems, precluding their use by licensed operators, and hams were among the most vocal complainants.

In May 2005 FBI agents, accompanied by FCC staff, arrested Gerritsen without incident and seized his radio equipment. Released on \$250,000 bond while awaiting trial, Gerritsen remained in home detention, barred from possessing any radio equipment.

The FCC already had fined Gerritsen \$10,000 for violating its rules and the Communications Act during his reign of radio terror. Just days before his December 2005 trial, the Commission affirmed \$42,000 in additional fines -- two \$21,000 forfeitures. In doing so, the FCC rebuffed every argument Gerritsen offered in response to each Notice of Apparent Liability, including insistent "freedom of speech" claims. The government has yet to collect anything from Gerritsen.

Following his nearly four-day trial, Gerritsen, was found guilty on a felony count of causing malicious interference to a communications system operated by the United States -- the US Coast Guard Auxiliary -- during a 2004 search-and-rescue operation. He was convicted of misdemeanors for interfering with American Red Cross radio transmissions in early 2005 while the agency was preparing for disaster relief operations, and for causing the cancellation of a US Army Reserve homeland security training exercise in 2005 by interfering with US Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) communications. He also was convicted of transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies without a valid license on three separate occasions in 2003 and 2004, all misdemeanors. The jury deliberated for less than an hour before returning its verdict December 9. Gerritsen has been in custody ever since.

In 2000, a state court convicted Gerritsen of interfering with a California Highway Patrol radio system and sentenced him to a year in prison. After his release, Gerritsen in 2001 successfully passed the Amateur Radio Technician class examination, filed an application and received the call sign KG6IRO. Just days later, however, the Commission realized its error and set aside the license. Claiming the FCC could not revoke his operating privileges without a hearing, Gerritsen continued to identify as KG6IRO in some of his transmissions.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 38, September 22, 2006

PA CLUB DROPS FUTURE HAMFESTS

Just two days after hosting the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention September 10, the Butler County Amateur Radio Association (BCARA) <<http://www.w3udx.org/>> voted to throw in the towel and get out of the hamfest business. The main reason, cited in the September issue of the club's Tell-A-Ham newsletter, is a lack of member involvement.

"The few, dependable workers have burned out," wrote BCARA Treasurer Kevin Berry, KF4RMA, who edits the newsletter and took on tasks this year as hamfest vendor chairman, parking chairman, treasurer and flyer preparation, among others. According to the newsletter, fewer than one-quarter of the club's 80 members pitched in to make the hamfest happen this year, and nearly all handled multiple duties during the event.

The September 10 gathering at the Butler County Farm Show Fairgrounds was the club's 29th annual hamfest. Whether it's also the last, BCARA President Jim Love, W1JHL, told ARRL, is in the hands of the membership.

"If we can get the manpower that is required to support the hamfest we will continue the tradition," he said. "However, this year, as in the recent past, we have not received the needed help."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 38, September 22, 2006

FIELD DAY LOG LIST NOW AVAILABLE

The complete list of logs received for ARRL Field Day 2006 has been posted on the Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/claimed/repynbAQ.html>. (Editor's note – K2USA is listed as received from GSARA. This site does not include the final scores.) It includes all electronic, paper and Web applet submissions. Report any errors or omissions to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Tom Hogerty, KC1J <contests@arrl.org>. If you submitted electronically, have your receipt available. The Contest Soapbox <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/>> includes comments and photographs posted by Field Day 2006 participants (and other operating events). You may post stories and photos from your operation too!

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 38, September 22, 2006

SUITSAT-1 RE-ENTERS & BURNS

SuitSat-1 (AO-54) is history. The surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit turned satellite, which became one of the greatest public relations vehicles for Amateur Radio in years, re-entered and burned up in Earth's atmosphere Thursday, September 7, at 1600 UTC some 1400 km south-southwest of Western Australia. The announcement came September 8 from Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. Bauer expressed thanks to "all who made SuitSat-1 the phenomenal event that it was." Launched February 3 during a spacewalk from the ISS, SuitSat-1's 2-meter signal was heard around the world, although at a much weaker signal strength than anticipated.

"Your hard work and dedication paid off," Bauer continued. "In just three weeks the SuitSat team developed and delivered a safe satellite system that has gained the confidence of the international space agencies." Bauer also noted the "unprecedented press coverage" that included more than 9 million hits on the SuitSat-1 Web site <<http://www.suitsat.org>> during February alone as well as several prominent mentions in the general news media.

"Students around the world had the opportunity to participate in a seven-month 'school spacewalk' with the artwork, pictures, signatures and voices onboard," Bauer pointed out. "And the 'super-sleuth' ham radio operator extraordinaires were able to pull a significant amount of data from the satellite, despite its low signal strength."

After SuitSat-1's VHF ham radio payload stopped transmitting earlier this year, AMSAT initiated a "Chicken Little Contest," for participants to guess when SuitSat-1 would deorbit. Winners and more information are on the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/suitsatContest.php>>.

Bauer said plans for a potential SuitSat-2 will be a discussion topic at the AMSAT/ARISS joint meeting in October.

Commented ARRL ARISS Liaison Rosalie White, K1STO: "This unique satellite lasted longer than anyone ever expected, making the ARISS team proud."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 36, September 8, 2006

BROADCAST BATTLE ON HAM BANDS

As the so-called "Firedragon" jammer continues to transmit in one or more Amateur Radio bands, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and three of its Region 3 member-societies so far have appealed to the jammer's target to move elsewhere. The Firedragon's all-music transmissions from the People's Republic of China (PRC) appear aimed at blocking the much-weaker broadcasts of the clandestine "Sound of Hope" (SOH), located outside the PRC. Responding via e-mail September 5 to an inquiry from IARU Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) Vice Coordinator Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, the SOH said its supporters use various avenues "including Amateur Radio frequencies" to get their message into the PRC.

"Through our investigation, we learned that the transmissions of SOH programs through Amateur Radio frequencies come from areas around China, and they each only target a local area of China with very low power, only for the intended audience and would interfere with nobody else," said SOH's Yue Chen.

Yue addressed the reply to "All Amateur Radio Community Members" and indicated it was copied to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), although no ITU addressee was displayed. Yue encouraged the Amateur Radio community to "openly urge the Chinese government to stop this outrageous act of radio jamming" and to urge the ITU to take action as well.

Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) Director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU, told the Sound of Hope via e-mail this week that if it wants the support of the international community, it should move its transmissions into legitimate broadcasting spectrum. "There is more than enough radio spectrum for you to use outside of the Amateur Radio bands," Dunstan said September 5. "You are in breach of international radio regulations."

A similar reaction came September 6 from Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) Monitoring System Coordinator B.L. Manohar Arasu, VU2UR, who pointed the finger at both the Sound of Hope and the Firedragon music jammer.

"We, the Indian Amateur Radio operators, condemn both of you for using Amateur Radio frequencies," he said. "Please leave the frequencies clear at the earliest." Arasu suggested the jamming

not only was bothersome to everyday hamming but could cause problems for emergency communication by radio amateurs.

New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) Monitoring Service Coordinator Len Martinson, ZL1BYA, e-mailed the Sound of Hope September 6 to say its "illegal broadcast transmissions" were causing unlawful and harmful interference to the legal occupants of the Amateur Radio bands in question. "Your transmissions are also attracting the attention of jamming stations, which is increasing the interference to unacceptable levels," he said. "Please cease transmissions in the exclusive amateur bands immediately."

Writing SOH on behalf of the IARU, Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, asked the clandestine broadcaster to be more careful in its selection of transmitting frequencies. "Your operations in the 14 and 18 MHz bands have caused serious interference to the amateur radio service, which is allocated these bands (14.000-14.350 and 18.068-18.168 MHz) for two-way amateur radio communication," Sumner wrote. "Please do not operate in these or any other amateur radio bands."

Bihlmayer said September 6 that the Firedragon was back on 14.050 MHz after spending two days on 14.400 MHz. Over the past several months, the jammer also has been heard on 10.135 MHz, 14.260 MHz, 18.080 MHz and 18.160 MHz.

The music jammer takes apparent monitoring breaks on the hour. When the jammer's carrier is off, Bihlmayer, who lives in Southern Germany, says he's heard a weak carrier on 14.050 MHz broadcasting a Chinese program that included speech.

ARRL Monitoring System/Intruder Watch Liaison Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, says he's been able to hear the jammer from W1AW. In July, when the same jammer also was appearing on 18.160 MHz, Bihlmayer alerted telecom authorities in Germany and Hong Kong, as well as IARU Region 3 and the PRC embassy in Berlin to the situation. The 17-meter band also is a worldwide exclusive Amateur Radio allocation. Skolaut says he's received reports about the music jammer from all over the US, including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 36, September 8, 2006

BACKWARD SUNSPOTS - CYCLE 24?

The recent appearance on the sun of two so-called "backward sunspots" may mean solar Cycle 23 is drawing to a close and Cycle 24 now is under way or soon will be. "We've been waiting for this," said Solar Physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, after the first backward spot showed up. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

The term "backward" refers to the sunspots' magnetic polarity. One such sunspot appeared briefly July 31, then disappeared, but its significance was that its magnetic polarity was just the opposite of current Cycle 23 spots.

Another more robust backward spot, Sunspot 905, appeared in late August -- although it subsequently began to dissipate -- and some sun gazers are saying Cycle 24 already has begun. ARRL propagation guru Tad Cook, K7RA, this week called it "the second sunspot of the new Solar Cycle 24."

"Eventually there will be more of the new reversed sunspots than old ones from Cycle 23, and that occurrence is one way to mark the beginning of the next sunspot cycle," he said. Radio conditions will not improve any time soon but over a period of several years of the course of the 11-year cycle, perhaps peaking around 2010.

From The ARRL Letter, No. 35, September 1, 2006

AREA AMATEUR EXAM SESSIONS

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

Wall Township, Camp Evans Area on Marconi Road: Exams are held on the second Wednesday of the even numbered months (Oct. 11, 2006) at 6:30 PM. The contact person is Larry Wilkins, KB2RIS at 732-922-6720 or e-mail to kb2ris@verizon.net.

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 (November 11, 2006) at 10:00 AM. 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.

EXPERIMENTAL 500 KHZ LICENSE

The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology on September 13 granted Part 5 experimental license WD2XSH to the ARRL on behalf of a group of radio amateurs interested in investigating spectrum in the vicinity of 500 kHz. The two-year authorization permits experimentation and research between 505 and 510 kHz (600 meters) using narrowband modes at power levels of up to 20 W effective radiated power (ERP). ARRL Member Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Vermont, will serve as experimental project manager for "The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio" <<http://www.500kc.com/>>

"I'm kind of excited to see how we can apply modern technology to a 'classic part' of the radio spectrum," Raab told ARRL this week. He pointed out that 500 kHz - the traditional maritime emergency frequency - is roughly geometrically halfway between the 136 kHz experimental band and the 160 meter amateur allocation.

"In contrast to 160 meters, 500 kHz is low enough to offer good groundwave propagation, but in contrast to 137 kHz it is high enough to allow us to engage in real communication with realistic equipment." Raab eventually would like to see at least a secondary 600-meter amateur allocation from 495 to 510 kHz.

"Besides the opportunities for experimenting at low frequencies, that frequency is well suited to regional groundwave communication," Raab said. He envisions eventual use of the spectrum to provide Amateur Radio emergency communication via groundwave, without having to deal with the

vagaries of the ionosphere or causing interference to other services.

For about a century, the 500 kHz region was an important band for maritime communication, emergency and otherwise. The band is occasionally used by "heritage" commercial maritime stations, such as the Maritime Radio Historical Society's KPH on the West Coast, on special occasions. 500 kHz remains designated as an official maritime emergency CW frequency, although the vast majority of maritime users have shifted to satellite-based systems.

In addition to experimentation and regional emergency work, Raab says he believes that the 505-510 kHz spectrum could serve as "an historic band" that could support various commemorative special event-type operations. Proposals are under consideration in the UK and Ireland to establish an experimental Amateur Radio allocation in the vicinity of 500 kHz.

The WD2XSH project calls for operation from 21 discrete fixed sites spread throughout the US. Participants all are electrical professionals, many with maritime radio backgrounds, Raab said, adding that operation already has begun. The group eventually will be seeking reports from non-participants, he said.

Raab says the gear participants will use represents "every kind of antenna and equipment you can imagine," including surplus vacuum-tube maritime units. At his Colchester, Vermont, location he's using a 42-foot vertical, but others are employing inverted Ls, loops and Marconis, among others.

The FCC turned down a 1998 petition from the ARRL to create an Amateur Radio "sliver band" in the vicinity of 136 kHz, but some US amateur licensees have obtained FCC Part 5 Experimental licenses to research the possibilities of LF, including transatlantic and transpacific propagation. Amateur Radio licensees in Europe and elsewhere already have access to 135.7 to 137.8 kHz, and several hams in Canada have authorization to operate there using Amateur Radio call signs.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 37, September 15, 2006

EXPERIMENTAL 500 KHZ RESULTS

The project manager for the ARRL 500-kHz experiment, Fritz Raab, W1FR, says The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio has already recorded its first two-way contact. "It will probably be a free for all through October as guys get their stations on the air," Raab told ARRL Headquarters. "The Midwest stations will be limited to 505 to 508 kHz for the time being, and the rest can use 505 to 510 kHz." He said a couple of the WD2XSH participants got on the air the day after the license was issued, and several others activated the first week, generating a number of reception reports.

"Many are for distances of about 300 miles, of course, but some are much longer," Raab told ARRL Headquarters. He reports that W0RPK in Iowa copied the WD2XSH/20 station in Oregon early on September 26 - a distance of 1500 miles. The first QSO took place September 21 between the stations in Tennessee and North Carolina - a distance of some 300 miles.

Announcement of the license grant earlier this month brought a few requests from radio amateurs interested in joining the experimental group. Raab says there are no plans to expand the group's membership, however. He does invite reception reports of transmissions made by group members <<http://w5jgv.com/500kcreportform.htm>>.

For the time being, the WD2XSH group is only using CW. The ARRL Part 5 application had requested permission to use both CW and PSK31, but the license grant omitted the latter mode. Raab says he's working to secure permission to add PSK31 to the grant.

During October, the 21-station experimental group will develop a band plan that assigns frequencies for QRSS -- very slow speed CW -- as well as for CW beacons and for two-way communication, Raab said. WD2XSH participant Conrad Murray, WS4S (WD2XSH/11) reports he's transmitting a QRSS beacon on an irregular basis on 505.505 kHz from his Tennessee QTH.

More information is on the 500 kc Experimental Group for Amateur Radio Web site <<http://www.500kc.com/>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 39, September 29, 2006

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see reverse side)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., **Peggy Struening** October 1. All times in EDST unless otherwise noted.

Oct. 1-2 – **Classic Exchange**, CW from 9 AM Sunday to 3 AM Monday. See October QST, p. 101 or www.qsl.asti.com/CX

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

October 2 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 10 PM (10-40 WPM). See October QST, pp. 94 and 101.

October 3 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon in back room to left. All are invited.

October 3 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

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

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

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

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

Oct. 6-7 – **PSK Rumble** 160-6 meters from 8 PM Friday to 8 PM Saturday. See October QST, p. 101 or www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_rumble_rules.html

October 7 – **OMARC Tailgate Hamfest** on Marconi Road in Wall. Buyers FREE. See article on page 1.

October 8 – **Juvenile Diabetes Walk** in Avon from 8 AM to noon. See Tom Cosgrove, N2VFK at 732-778-4372 or n2vfk@comcast.net to volunteer.

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

Oct. 9-10 – **10-10 Day Sprint** all modes from 8:01 PM Monday to 7:59 PM Tuesday. See Aug. QST, p. 88 or www.ten-ten.org

October 10 – **Amateur Radio Luncheon** at Perkins in Colts Neck Inn at noon. All amateurs invited.

October 10 – **VE Test Session** at Croydon Hall, Leonardo section of Middletown at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mario Sellitti, N2PVP at 732-787-7184 or n2pvp@n2pvp.com

October 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.

October 14 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ. Note the change in meeting place.

October 14 – **FISTS Fall Sprint**, CW from 1 to 5 PM. See October QST, p. 101 or www.fists.org

October 15 – **QCWA Picnic** from 11 AM to 5 PM at Oakhurst Pavilion (Fireman's Park). Guests are welcome. See Bob Buus at 732-946-8615 or w2od@arrl.net for details.

October 15 – **CROP Walk**, Red Bank and Fair Haven from 1 to 5 PM. See Tom Cosgrove, N2VFK at 732-778-4372 or n2vfk@comcast.net to volunteer.

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

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

October 18 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 4 PM (10-35 WPM). See October QST, pp. 94 and 101.

October 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.

October 21 – **Delaware Valley VHF FM Simplex Contest** from 10 AM to 2 PM on 144, 222, 440 simplex frequencies. See Oct. QST, p. 102 or www.harcnet.org

Oct. 21-22 – **QRP ARCI CW QSO Party** from 8 AM Saturday to 8 PM Sunday. See Oct. QST, p. 102 or www.qrparci.org

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

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

Oct. 27-29 – **CQ World Wide DX Contest**, SSB from 8 PM Friday to 8 PM Sunday. See Oct. QST, p. 102 or www.cqww.com

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

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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Peg Struening CW Classic Ex.	2 ARES/RACES 7:30 CW Qual. Run	3 Pancake House Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	4 N2KQ WB2QMP GSARA Mtg.	5 Hol. City Mtg.	6 N2WAY Blue Swan PSK Rumble	7 OMARC Tailgat PSK Rumble
8 Juv. Diabetes	9 RACES Net 7:30 10-10 Sprint	10 10-10 Sprint Perkins Lunch Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	11	12 JSARS Mtg.	13 Blue Swan	14 OMARC Mtg. FISTS Sprint
15 QCWA Picnic CROP Walk	16 ARES/RACES 7:30	17 MARC Mtg QCWA News 9 PM	18 CW Qual. Run	19 WB2KNS JSARS VE	20 Blue Swan	21 QRP CW QSO VHF FM Contest
22 QRP CW QSO	23 Buttonwod Mnr ARES/RACES 7:30	24 QCWA News 9 PM	25	26	27 Blue Swan CQ WW SSB DX	28 Neptune Mtg CQ WW SSB DX
29 CQ WW SSB DX	30 JCDXA Mtg. RACES Net 7:30	31 QCWA News 9 PM				



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

FIRST CLASS