

Holiday Issue!

THE Propagator

Garden State Amateur Radio Association



W2GSA

DECEMBER 2018

8 Donner St.,
Holmdel, NJ 07733



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www.gsara.club
www.w2gsa.org

Please visit the club website
and feel free to use our open
repeater.



73 From Outgoing GSARA President, Howard Suffill, W2HTS

I am looking back on the past 4 years as president of the GSARA and I am so happy to have been part of the growth of the club. I am proud to have led to the club to where we are now: decades high in membership, a new Fusion repeater, excellent Field Days, excellent Hamfests and project builds and a good sense of friendship in our shared interest of ham radio. In addition, the website and the Propagator reflect a new-found energy and modernity to the club. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Bob, W2OD and Cy, K2CYS, we have a public face that reflects who we are and the direction we are moving to

I could not have done any of this alone and so the people I worked with really deserve my thanks especially the executive committee and the individuals who took on projects and saw them to the end. There are so many of you and I am reluctant to mention names because I might forget someone. But please know that I am really grateful for all you have done.

Like all things, the presidency has had its ups and downs but I am happy that I am leaving the club to new leadership in a healthy way. I am turning over the reins to a new president, Art, N2AJ0 who not only has great leadership qualities but is

FYI: Some layout changes: The front page will have a featured GSARA story. Meeting and VE information will follow after that and Editor's notes will follow after that. Other information will be found throughout the Propagator.

also an excellent teacher, technician and model ham.

Thank you for the privilege of leading the club. I look forward to participating in club events as a member of a truly remarkable ham radio club.

From Incoming President, Art Olson, N2AJO



I am extremely honored to be the next President of GSARA and I would like to thank all those members who supported my candidacy. I am also grateful to the other newly elected officers who have agreed to serve the next term; they bring a comprehensive blend of talents to the group and will be a tremendous resource for the Club going forward.

GSARA owes a great deal of gratitude to Howard and his staff of officers. Howard, as the President, has served selflessly in this position for many years and has positioned the club to be in excellent shape both technically and financially as well as the membership being at an all time high. Howard has dedicated a great deal of his personal time to projects which reflect very favorably on the Club and we hope he will continue to do so in the future. Our leadership team will continue to work closely with the past officers and draw on their experience and expertise as the club transitions into the next era. Our special thanks to Bob, Rem and Arek whose contributions have had a very positive and beneficial effect on the club.

I am a firm believer that the club is best served by establishing a direct line of communication between the officers and the membership. A well-informed membership is an effective and involved membership. Toward that end, allow me to introduce myself.

My story starts as a young teen living with relatives. I used to hang out in my uncle's basement while he "repaired" AM tube radios. His techniques were rather crude but fun to watch and learn as he would tap each tube with the handle end of a screwdriver to see if he could tell which tube(s) needed replacing. Then off to Radio Shack with all the tubes to test and purchase the ones needing replacement. Not the best approach but I was intrigued by the concept that radio waves were everywhere, yet we could not see them. Later, at age 20, I joined the Army and entered the field of electronic maintenance. My 20 years of service gave me the foundation to transition to the civilian workforce where I was able to expand my skills into internet networking and eventually project management overseeing millions of dollars to fund the upgrade of IT infrastructures at Army bases worldwide. All of this experience culminated in my becoming a licensed ham radio operator and joining GSARA in 2014. Those of you who have met me know that I love technology; the technology that I have mastered through 43 years of industry experience, while at the same time, I look forward with excitement to the new digital technology that is taking Ham Radio by storm. For this great hobby to progress and prosper and to include a younger generation, we must embrace the old and blend it with the new. This our charge!

(Continued on next page)

Our goals for the Club are to:

- Increase active participation by club members at meetings and activity events.
- Incorporate innovation that expands the club's offerings and capabilities.
- Identify opportunities to increase community awareness.

I and the leadership team look forward to this coming year working hand-in-hand with the membership. Again, communications and transparency with everyone will ensure GSARA will continue to be an energetic club serving the entire membership.

MEETING TIMES



The next GSARA meeting will be on Wednesday, December 5 at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross. This will be a program meeting and the program will be a summary of GSARA activities since moving to the Red Cross about ten years ago. The summary will be provided by our outgoing President, Howard Suffill, W2HTS. Since most of our members have joined in the past ten years, they should find some of this history to be new to them. For the old-timers, it will be a trip down a nostalgic lane. Guests are welcome and refreshments will be served.

The second meeting in December will be held on Wednesday, December 19 at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross. This will be a regular business meeting and will include the installation of officers for 2019. Be there! Guests are always welcome and refreshments will be served.

VE SESSION



The GSARA monthly test session will be held at the Red Cross Regional Headquarters in Tinton Falls on Saturday, December 22 at 11 am. The fee is \$15 and you should bring the original and a copy of any amateur license presently held and the original and one copy of any credit (CSCE) forms that you have (copies will be sent in with your test results). Also bring 2 forms of ID with one being a photo ID. For more information, contact Rich Bilon, N3RB at 732-972-1397 or n3rb@arrl.net.



Ham Radio Trivia: Hiram Percy Maxim (the fine looking gentleman on the leaf) was the founder of the American Radio Relay League. But did you know he also invented a silencer for a pistol called the Maxim Silencer?



From the Editor



Bob Buus, W2OD

It's getting to that time of the year when we can start worrying about paying our GSARA dues for 2019. Remember that we voted at the October 17 meeting to increase the dues from \$15 to \$20 per year so you're going to have to cough up \$20 to pay for 2019. John, KC2YWL will be happy to take your \$20 at any of the upcoming meetings. If you can't come to a meeting, you can also mail your dues to him with check payable to GSARA at:

John Chunga, KC2YWL
109 S. Station Ave.
Avon, NJ 07717

Speaking of dues, if you have any old membership application forms laying around, please either destroy them or correct the dues amounts to \$20 for members and \$25 for family. We still get applications showing the \$2 initiation fee which was eliminated a year ago so I fear we will get applications with only \$15 instead of the current \$20. Our web site has the latest membership application form showing the correct amount of dues. Feel free to download it and print it if you wish to give a form to a prospective member. Thanks.

The results of the latest ARRL elections for Directors in five Divisions are interesting insofar as the incumbents lost in four of the five elections. Usu-

ally, the incumbents have a significant advantage but it didn't happen this time. As you probably know for the Hudson Division, Ria Jairam, N2RJ upset incumbent Mike Lisenco, N2YBB with 1292 (51%) against Mike's 1239 (49%). In the Central Division, the incumbent W9XA received 1898 votes (52%) to beat NV9L who got 1755 (48%). Although the incumbent won, it was not a landslide. In the New England Division, K1VR beat incumbent K1KI 1432 (51%) to 1383 (49%). In the Northwestern Division, the incumbent Director chose not to run but the Vice Director, AB7ZQ lost the Director election to challenger W7VO with 1308 (38%) versus 1589 (47%) and a third candidate, N7DRW, getting only 495 (15%) of the votes. In the Roanoke Division, challenger W2RU beat the incumbent N2ZZ with 1891 (58%) versus 1365 (42%).

What does all of this mean? To me, it reflects an alarming degree of dissatisfaction with the League activities. I hope that the ARRL Board interprets these results to mean that some changes must be made. We'll watch to see what happens.

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

73 de Bob, w2od@arrrl.net



Now You Know!

By Bob Buus, W2OD

WW ONE AND AMATEUR RADIO

Although amateur radio transmissions were restricted in 1912 to 200 meters and down (1.5 MHz and up), the amateur experimenters made the best of it and the hobby grew. After formation of the ARRL in 1914, the handling of radio telegrams (traffic handling) became an important part of the hobby. On February 6, 1917, a new record was set when a message originated by station 2PM in New York was sent to 8JZ in Cleveland, relayed on to 9ABD in Jefferson City, to 9ZF in Denver, on to 6EA in Los Angeles with a reply sent back in reverse order to New York with a total elapsed time of 1 hour and 20 minutes. It was predicted by QST that the time might be cut to 20 minutes by summer. But this was not to be.

When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, the following letter was sent by the Department of Commerce to all 5425 licensed radio amateurs:

**To all Radio Experimenters,
Sirs:**

By virtue of the authority given the President of the United States by an Act of Congress, approved August 13, 1912, enti-

led, "An Act to Regulate Radio Communication, and of all other authority vested in him, and in pursuance of an order issued by the President of the United States, I hereby direct the immediate closing of all stations for radio communications, both transmitting and receiving, owned or operated by you. In order fully to carry this order into effect, I direct that the antennae and all aerial wires be immediately lowered to the ground, and that all radio apparatus both for transmitting and receiving be disconnected from both the antennae and ground circuits and that it otherwise be rendered inoperative both for transmitting and receiving any radio messages or signals, and that it so remain until this order is revoked. Immediate compliance with this order is insisted upon and will be strictly enforced. Please report on the enclosed blank your compliance with this order; a failure to return such blanks promptly will lead to a rigid investigation.

**Lieutenant, U. S. Navy,
District Communication Superintendent.**

At the same time, the Navy contacted the ARRL and



asked if it could provide 500 radio operators within the next ten days. The Navy had their 500 volunteers within that time frame. A little later, a second call went out, this time for 2000 radio amateurs to serve as operators, teachers, and technicians. That call was also successfully filled. It is estimated that between 3500 and 4000 amateurs served in the armed forces during the war.

The war ended with the Armistice on November 11, 1918 and the amateurs were ready to get back on the air. But it was not to be for another year. In the fall of 1918, a bill was introduced in Congress to give the Secretary of the Navy control of all radio in the United States. Hearings were held and H. P. Maxim of the ARRL presented a detailed brief in opposition to this bill. Also, the ARRL sent postcards to the families of all amateurs licensed when the war began asking them to write to their congressmen in opposition to the bill. It worked! The bill died in committee. Still, the Navy wanted to hold on to their wartime powers in controlling all U. S. radio communication. After much pressure (some from amateurs returning from their Navy duty), the Navy Department lifted the ban on receiving on April 12, 1919 – five months after the Armistice. The ban on transmitting continued until September 26, 1919 where control of licensing was returned to the Department of Commerce.

But all amateur licenses issued before the war had expired and the Department of Commerce did not have enough clerical help to process the flood of license applications. To expedite matters, the Department granted temporary authorizations of tentative calls in rotation with licenses to follow later. By this means, amateurs were able to get back on the air in November 1919 – a full year after the Armistice.

The ARRL suffered financially during the war with no dues coming in and the few issues of QST produced during the war depleted the treasury. The League borrowed money to print the first post-war issue of QST

dated June 1919. In it, 2-year bonds were offered to members at 5% per year and they were quickly bought up so the ARRL could continue operating.

New licensees grew rapidly in 1920 and by June 30, 1921, the Department of Commerce reported that there were 10,809 licensed radio amateurs in the United States – nearly double the number that existed when the war broke out.

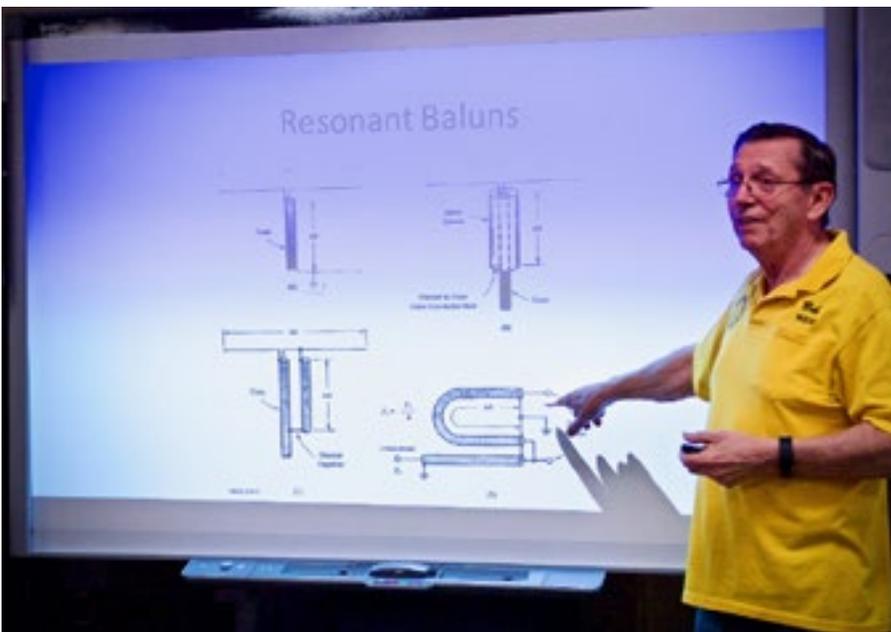
Most of the stations on the air were spark and most operated at lower frequencies than 200 meters (1.5 MHz). The most popular wavelength was around 250 meters (1.2 MHz) but some were at even lower frequencies with special stations authorized to operate at 310 meters (968 kHz). Although the licenses granted by the Department of Commerce were for 200 meters, the Commerce Department was lax about enforcing the frequencies used as long as there were no complaints.

Distance records were set almost daily. The new record for sending a message from New York to California and getting a return was now down to 6 ½ minutes with a single relay point in the middle of the country. The increased distances were primarily due to better receivers since spark transmitter power was limited to a kilowatt and many were at that level.

There were also a few vacuum tube transmitters on CW and AM built by those who had access to power tubes produced by Western Electric and General Electric. In February 1921, RCA announced the availability of the UV-202, a 5-watt transmitting tube for \$8. A month later, RCA announced the UV-203 50-watt transmitting tube for \$30. In April, GE offered their Pliotron, a 250-watt tube for \$110. Now amateurs had access to transmitting tubes but the majority still stuck with spark. Spark was King!

So now you know!

At The Club Meeting



Bob, W2OD, gave a very informative presentation at the November 7th meeting of the GSARA. The subject of baluns is very confusing for many hams and Bob cleared up all sorts of misconceptions. Thanks, Bob!

Season's Greetings, GSARA!



PROJECTS

By our members



One project I'm working on is to put the packet processing of a conventional TNC onto an Arduino UNO hardware platform. The main goals are for the device to function as a KISS TNC as well as a Digipeater (conventional digipeater and APRS digipeater). The Bell 202 modem would be provided by a single-chip solution on a daughter card.

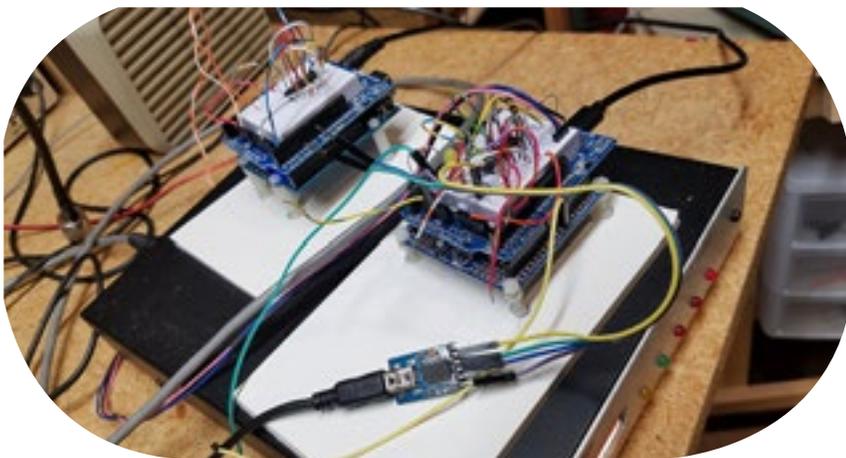
I've attached a photo of my software development prototype as it now stands. The back side Arduino board is generating ASCII text strings every 3 seconds that are sent over the RS232 port to the back of the MFJ TNC. The MFJ TNC is operating as a packet encoder and sending

HDLC AX25 UI packets to the near side Arduino that's running my packet test code. The demodulated AX25 packets from the near side Arduino are output to the small nearside board that functions as a TTL Serial to USB converter, so I can monitor the decoded packets on a PC using a serial terminal program like PUTTY.

There's a little bit more info on my website at <http://ad7i.net/main/projects/>



73, Paul, AD7I



Working on a project you want to share with the club?
Send it to k2cys@arrl.net with a description and picture and we will get it into the Propagator.
Share the joy! Share the pride!



Canadian National Parks On The Air

Well hello hams from all over the world. Welcome to the Canadian version of working Parks and Historic Sites managed by Parks Canada. This is the brainchild of a small dedicated group of Hams in the Halifax, Nova Scotia area. We are all volunteers and we have a \$0.00 budget to make all this happen.



We needed and received moral support from Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) and Parks Canada to welcome hams to come and operate at Historic Sites and Parks as listed elsewhere on this site. It is also very important to have Hams from all over the world chasing these adventurous operators while operating in these Parks & Historic Sites.

We encourage you to consider vacationing in one of Canada's beautiful Parks and visiting an Historic Site as Canada is blessed with a magnificent diversity of units managed by Parks Canada.

Check out all info at <https://cnpota.ca/>





When it's cold outside....
It's time for HF!

CW Youth Academy

CW ops popular CW Academy now has a track for young hams! The CW Academy program is an 8 week (16 session) program designed to teach students Morse code and get them proficient enough to enjoy it on the air. CWYA is sponsored by CW Ops and runs the same curriculum as CW Academy. They fast track young people between the ages of 11 and 19 so that they don't have to endure the sometimes long waiting list for the normal CW Academy. It also gives young people a chance to meet and create their own network. The sessions are conducted using Skype, and students are typically either in the same time zone or want classes at the same time. For more information about CWops and CW Academy go to their website: <https://cwops.org/cw-academy-2/>



GSARA Elections

The elections for the new officers took place on November 21. Congratulations to the new officers of GSARA who have generously devoted their time as volunteers to lead the club. They are, Art N2AJ0 (president), Denis K2NPT (vice president), John KA2F (secretary), Phil N2EDX (engineer) and John KC2YWL (treasurer).

So many thanks and expressions of appreciation must also go to the out-going slate of officers. Howard W2HTS (president), Rem K2REM (vice president), Bob W2OD (secretary), and Arek K2KP (engineer). John KC2YWL is continuing in his role as treasurer.



Howard W2HTS enjoying his last meeting as president



L-R: Denis K2NPT (vice president), Art N2AJ0 (president), John KA2F (secretary). Not present: Phil N2EDX (engineer) and John KC2YWL

2019 Officers



**President -
Art Olson
N2AJ0**



**Vice President -
Denis Commette
K2NPT**



**Secretary -
John King
KA2F**



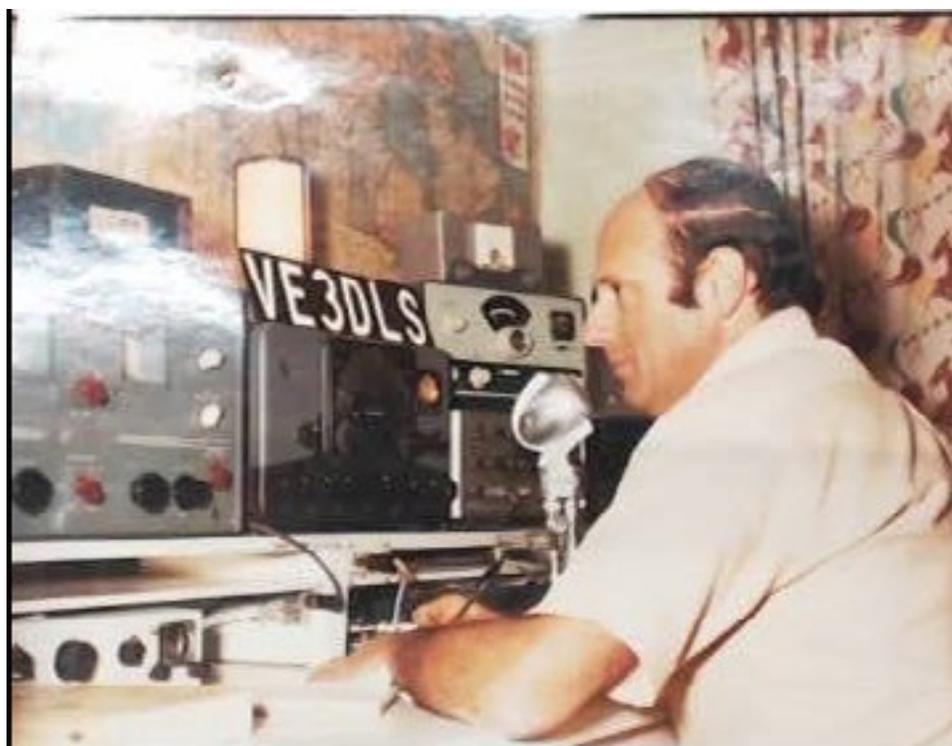
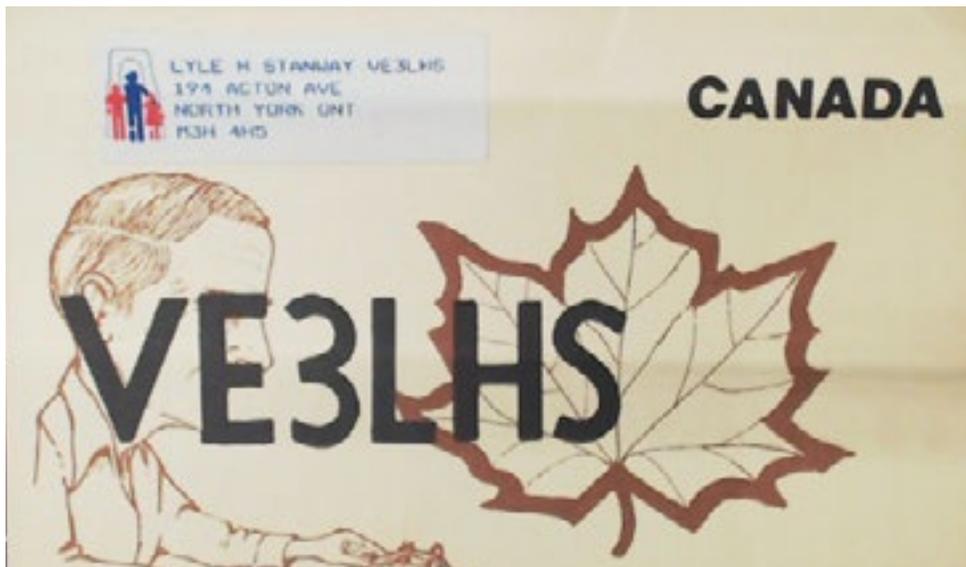
**Treasurer -
John Chunga
KC2YWL**



**Engineer -
Phil Festa
N2EDX**

My Favourite QSL Card

Cy Stanway, K2CYS



*Dad as VE3DLS in his shack around 1965.
I was a mere 6 year old at the time!*

It is strange to say, but this is my favourite QSL card. It was not from some great DX spot, nor it is the final card from an award I chased. Rather it is the QSL card I grew up with. It is my father's QSL card. He changed his callsign many years ago from VE3DLS and that is a card which, sadly, I don't have in my collection. This one, VE3LHS, is his 'new' card from when he changed his call in the mid 70's. This particular card was salvaged from my dad's home when he had been moved into an assisted living centre in Toronto and my sister and her children were up with my wife emptying his house and, especially, his shack. Everything had to be dismantled and disposed of. But my nephew had the insight to take this QSL card off the bulletin board that hung in my dad's shack for decades. Whenever I came down to the shack, there it was and now is one of the only things I have left from his shack.

He was my Elmer, of course, having taught me CW when I was 8 or 9 years old and helped me prepare for my exams. He be-

came and SK in November 2016, as you may know, but he still very much influences who I am, what I do, and how I operate (he was a respectful, always-polite, and proficient operator). This image of the card means a great deal to me as it is a visible anchor to my dad, our shared hobby, and thousands and thousands of hours spent in the shack with him and by myself on the radio.

Straight Key Night



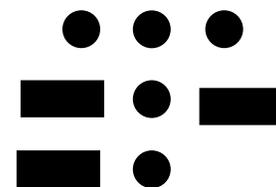
I ♥ CW

Did you know there is a 'contest' - which is really not a contest in the usual sense - on New Year's Day? That's right: break out your old gear and

your straight key to operate on the ARRL's Straight Key Night on January 1st. QSOs are leisurely and fun and there is no reason to rush through. For all the info, go to this link: <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>. Mark your calendar.



**Straight
Key Night
in *Action!***



**Straight Key Night is held every January 1
from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC**



From the Archives

FIVE YEARS AGO

From the December 2013 Propagator: Syd Le-kach, KG2CM joined GSARA. The GSARA Net averaged 5 check-ins per session in October. Of-ficers elected to serve GSARA for 2014 were: John King, KA2F for President (replacing Frank, W2XYZ); Howard Suffill, W2HTS as incumbent Vice President; Bob Buus, W2OD as incumbent Secretary; Bruce McLeod, K2QXW (SK) as incum-bent Treasurer; and George Graulich, W2EPD as Chief Engineer (replacing Steve, N2WLH). The ARRL Centennial QSO Party will start on January 1 with W1AW operating from every state at least twice during the year.

TEN YEARS AGO

From the December 2008 Propagator: Josh Gluck, KC2TKK has volunteered to be GSARA webmaster. The election committee could not find a slate of officers for 2009 so the election was postponed until the December 3 GSARA meeting. The VE exam fee is increasing from \$14 to \$15. World Radio was acquired by CQ Communications and will no longer be available as a print magazine.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the December 2003 Propagator: The GSARA Holiday party was held on December 10 at the MARS station with each attendee bringing food. Joan Gudicello, the wife of Frank, K2TVY suffered a stroke and is in rehab. Charlie Puryear,

KB2PUI became a silent key on November 5 at the age of 52. Frank Fallon, N2FF was re-elected as Hudson Di- vision Director. Mike DiPersio, KC2Q moved to Florida.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the December 1998 Propagator: The GSARA Hol- iday party is December 16 at Bicentennial Hall in Fair Haven. Bring food or a \$10 donation. Exam fees are going up from \$6.35 to \$6.45 in 1999. GSARA officers for 1999 are Mario Sellitti, N2PVP, President; Bob Curci, N2XR, Vice President; Jack Petro, KB2GJU, Secretary; Lou Russo, W2HAM; Treasurer, and Bob Roman, N2DR, Chief Engineer. The program for the November 18 meeting featured Tony Colaguori, W2GUM (SK) show- ing a replica he built of his first transmitter – a one-tube “TNT” and how he got it on 40 meters. A 4-page roster was included and showed 150 members of GSARA!

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From the December 1993 Propagator: GSARA officers for 1994 are Bob Buus, W2OD, President; Rich DiFiore, KB2NXA (SK), Vice President; Bruce McLeod, K2QXW, Secretary; Rich Cardwell, AA2BY, Treasurer; and Dave Worrall, N2IRO, Chief Engineer. Dick Turrin, W2IMU became a silent key on November 10, 1993. Fred Wein- er, WA2RIM ran the New York Marathon. Marv Bern- stein, W2PAT gave a talk at the November 17 meeting about the TF digipeater node at the UPS tower.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the December 1988 Propagator: The VE Fee for 1989 is increasing to \$4.75. There was a long article about NiCad batteries. Another article speculated that the lead in our solder might be dangerous to our health but no alternatives were yet available.

Tuesday Net Report

The Tuesday night net meets every Tuesday on W2GSA repeater at 8:30 PM. Everyone is most welcome and you don't need to be a member of the club.

In the 4 sessions in November, we had 64 check-ins for an average of 16 per session. The following 24 members checked into this net (number of check-ins in parenthesis):

KA2F (4), W2OD (4), KD2EJW (4), KD2PYO (4), K2RLF (4), KC2YNL (4), N2FSB (3), KZ2G (3), N2HGI (3), AC2MB (3), N2MEP (3), K2MFS (3), W2NAZ (3), K2NPT (3), WB2RPW (3), N2AJO (2), N2BMK (2), AD7I (2), KD2OXR (2), N2BCS (1), KG2CM (1), NF3E (1), KD2KOA (1) and W2MJP (1).

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

WELCOME TO GSARA

GSARA welcomes Stephen Gonzalez KC2LKC as a new member. Stephen's address is

52 Eagle Rd.
Marlboro, NJ 07746

Congratulations, Stephen!

ARES/RACES NET

Did you know that there is an ARES/RACES net on the W2GSA repeater on the first and third Mondays of each month at 8 PM local time? You don't have to be a member of ARES or RACES to check into the net. We all should be comfortable with checking into a formal net as we never know when we might be called upon to help with communications in an emergency. All are welcome. Check it out!



Home of the W2GSA open repeater
FM and Fusion
(WIRES-X)

(Analog FM) 147.045
+.600 - (C4FM) Node
43360 PL 67 Hz



JEFF LAMBERT NOW KZ2G

Jeff Lambert, formerly N2JFL, has changed his call sign to KZ2G. Please note the change on your Roster.



DUES FOR 2019

Your 2019 dues of \$20 may be paid anytime to our Treasurer, John Chunga, KC2YWL. Although not due until January 1, 2019, payment before then is appreciated and avoids the rush after the New Year. You may pay at any meeting where John is present or mail your \$20 payment to John at:

John Chunga, KD2YWL
109 S. Station Ave.
Avon, NJ 07717

Checks should be payable to GSARA. Thank you for taking care of this.

BOMBSHELL ON NETFLIX

If you have access to Netflix streaming service, check out the documentary called "Bombshell," which is the fascinating story about screen actress Hedy Lamarr. Six years ago, in the December 2012 Propagator, we had a two-page article outlining the fascinating life of screen actress Hedy Lamarr who escaped from fascist Europe prior to World War II and invented a means of preventing jamming of the radio control signals for torpedoes by the use of frequency hopping (which today is called spread spectrum).



The movie "*Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*" was released about a year ago and was shown on PBS last May. It is now available on Netflix streaming video and is well worth watching. You can also buy the DVD on Amazon or PBS for under \$20. It is about an hour and a half long and covers her long and tragic life (she died as a recluse in 2000 at the age of 85).

JOHN GAZZARA NOW KD2QQO

John Gazzara, who joined GSARA last month, has now passed his Technician exam and holds the call KD2QQO. Congratulations, John!

Lamarr's patent, which was given to the U.S. Navy for free, was ignored by the Navy until after the War so Hedy never received any money for her ground breaking idea but the patent, which has now expired, is now estimated to have been worth \$30 billion in today's dollars.

If you do not have access to the December 2012 Propagator and wish to read more about Hedy Lamarr, you can find quite a bit about her on Wikipedia. However, watching the video is much more fun and includes some beautiful movie footage of her. It's well worth your time.

GSARA Officers

Officers

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olson339@comcast.net

Denis, K2NPT - Vice President

capt_calyx@comcast.net

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ka2fwb2hdj@gmail.com

John, KC2YWL - Treasurer

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Phil, N2EDX - Chief Engineer

n2edx@mac.com

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k2cys@arrl.net

Radio Room Phone, 732-493-9100, X1252

GSARA Swag

GSARA Patches

We have GSARA patches available at all meetings and they are \$3. Show your GSARA pride!

GSARA News

Keep up with GSARA news at the GSARA website:

www.gsara.club

www.w2gsa.org

Blue Swan Diner Eye-ball QSO!

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



The GSARA Propagator is designed in
InDesign CC 2019

Editor: Bob Buus, W2OD

Layout: Cy Stanway, K2CYS

Photos: Harry Zuzuro, KD2EJW

You are invited to submit articles and ideas

Club Benefits



W2GSA CLUB NET

The GSARA weekly net meets each Tuesday evening at 8:30 on the GSARA repeater. Everyone is welcome to hear news of upcoming club events and activities, reports of the latest club news and everyone can share what they have been up to. Please join us. The more participation, the more fun!

QSL BUREAU

If any GSARA members wish to combine their QSL cards that are going through the outgoing ARRL Bureau, please bring them to the next GSARA meeting along with the label from a recent QST Magazine (you must be an ARRL member to participate in this program). Either John, KA2F or Len, WA1PCY will then send them on to ARRL at no charge to GSARA members. It couldn't be much easier than that to QSL. You



are registered at the W2 incoming bureau, aren't you?

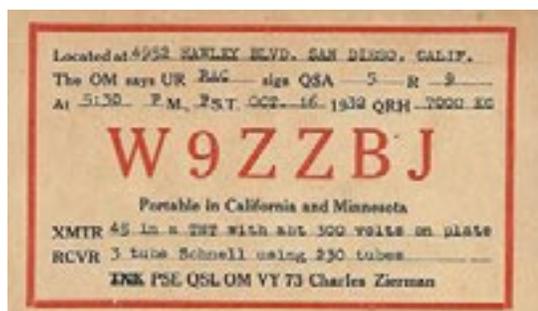
GSARA.CLUB W2GSA.ORG

Have you seen the GSARA website lately at <https://www.gsara.club/>? Check it out often for updates, news, announcements and general club information. If you have

not yet done so, send us a picture of your shack and a selfie for the Members; Shacks and Our Members page. There is a Members Only Page which will contain important links viewable by GSARA members only including the most current roster and the previous month's minutes from the meeting. Send your selfies to Cy, K2CYS at k2cys@arrl.org. Do you have any other great ideas for the site? Let Cy know.

W2GSA Garden State Amateur Radio Association			
		Founded May 10, 1950 ARRL Affiliated January 22, 1951 Monmouth County/Grid Square FN20 W2GSA Repeater 147.045 PL 67 More Info on QRZ.com & GSARA Website at www.gardenstateara.org 8 Donner St Holmdel, NJ USA 07733	
CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR

A 1 X 4 QSL Card?



No, the 1932 QSL card shown above was not a printer's error. Between 1927 and 1934, the Federal Radio Commission (predecessor to the FCC) issued a limited number of one by four call signs to be used for portable operations with "ZZ" being the first two of the four letters. As you probably know, your amateur radio license is really two licenses – a primary station license and an operator license (see part 97.5(b) of the FCC regulations).

Back in the early days of amateur radio, your primary station license was for your fixed station located in your home. If you wanted to operate portable or mobile, you had to apply for a secondary station license and were issued a separate call for that station. By this means, some amateurs held two different calls in the 1920s and 30s. (You are not allowed to hold more than one call today.)

Back in the 1920's having more than one station was unusual, and the Department of Commerce issued secondary station call signs from among the entire regular call sign block.

However, when the Federal Radio Commission was formed in 1927, they started to issue special "ZZ" 1 by 4 call signs, such as W9ZZBJ for portable calls. In the Radio Amateur Callbook, the "ZZ" block was usually denoted as a footnote. In 1932 the "ZZ" block was denoted as a portable station in the listing and not as a footnote. Some of the portable licenses were secondary stations, with the "home" station listed. Some portables appear to be the only license for that individual.

In 1934 the Federal Communications Commission took over amateur licensing, and there was no longer a "ZZ" 1 x 4 call sign block.

Don Murray, W4WJ of Fredericksburg, Texas sent the W9ZZBJ QSL card from 1932 to the Old Old Timers Club (OOTC). It was published in the Summer, 2018 issue of the Spark-Gap Times (the OOTC newsletter) and is excerpted here.



Congratulations to GSARA member Greg Lyp KD2PYO who upgraded to General during the VE session at the end of October. Greg now has expanded HF privileges on all bands. See you in the pileups, Greg!



NOTES ON CALENDAR (see next page)

Large Call letters denote birthdays e.g. **N3RB** December 1. All times are in EST. Contests are listed in the December QST, p. 70.

Dec. 1-2 – **Ten-Meter RTTY Contest** from 7 pm Friday to 6:59 pm Sunday. See <http://www.rttycontesting.com>

December 3 - **Monmouth County ARES/RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 8:00 pm

December 4 – **Old Barney VE Test Session** at 6:30 pm in Manahawkin. Contact Urb Le Jeune, W1UL at 609-296-5856 or urb@w2dec.com

December 4 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting** at 7:30 pm in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

December 4 and every following Tuesday – **GSARA Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 8:30 pm.

December 4 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 pm.

December 5 – **GSARA Program Meeting**. The program will feature outgoing President Howard, W2HTS reviewing GSARA activities over the past ten years since moving to the Red Cross. Refreshments will be served. Don't miss it!

December 6 - **HCARC Meeting** 7 pm at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

December 6- **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 10 pm (10-40 wpm). See December 2018 QST page 96 and www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule

December 7 and every Friday – **Lunch at the Blue Swan Diner** in Ocean at noon. Table at back left.

December 7-9 – **ARRL 10 Meter Contest**, CW and Phone from 7 pm Friday to 6:69 pm Sunday. See <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

December 8 – **OMARC Meeting** at 9:00 am at the Firehouse on 600 Sixth Ave. in Spring Lake Heights. Guests are always welcome.

December 12– **Holiday City VE Session** at 7 pm in Toms River. Contact is Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at lpuccio1@comcast.net

December 13 – **JSARS meeting** in Riverwood Park Rec. Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive at 7:30 pm.

December 16 – **ARRL Rookie Roundup**, CW from 1 pm to 6:59 pm. See <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

December 17- **Monmouth County ARES/RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 8:00 pm

December 18 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 9 am (10-40 wpm). See December 2018 QST page 96 and <http://www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule>

December 19 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls. Regular business meeting with election of officers for 2019. Refreshments will be served.

December 20 – **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:00 pm Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoio, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or wa2nda@comcast.net.

December 22 – **GSARA VE Test Session** at 11 am at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls. See page 1.

December 25 – **Christmas Holiday. Enjoy!**

Dec. 28-29 – **RAC Winter Contest, CW and Phone** from 7 pm Friday to 6:59 pm Saturday. See <http://wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-rules>

December 31-January 1 – **Straight Key Night, CW** from 7 pm Monday to 6:59 pm Tuesday See <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 N3RB 10 Mtr RTTY
2 10 Mtr RTTY	3 ARES/RACES 8 pm	4 Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	5 N2SMV GSARA Mtg	6 HCARC Mtg CW Qual. Run	7 Blue Swan lunch ARRL 10 Mtr	8 OMARC Mtg. ARRL 10 Mtr
9 ARRL 10 Mtr	10	11 Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	12 Hol. City VE	13 AC2A JSARS Mtg	14 Blue Swan lunch	15
16 KD2MGE Rookie Rndup	17 ARES/RACES 8 pm	18 KC2YNL CW Qual. Run Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	19 KD2GPO GSARA Mtg	20 JSARS VE	21 Blue Swan lunch	22 KD2PYO GSARA VE
23	24 KD2OJI	25 Christmas No Nets	26	27	28 Blue Swan lunch RAC Contest	29 RAC Contest QRP Contest
30 QRP Contest	31 AA2SA SKN	1 New Years SKN				



8 DONNER STREET
HOLMDEL, NJ 07733

First Class