

THE Propagator

Garden State Amateur Radio Association

**W2GSA
DECEMBER
2019**

8 Donner St.,
Holmdel, NJ 07733



Please visit the
club site **www.
gsara.club**
www.w2gsa.org
You are welcome
to use our open
repeater.
(Analog FM)
147.045 +.600
PL 67 Hz
(C4FM) Node
43360



Happy Hannukah!



**Merry
Christmas!**

With the winter holidays now rapidly approaching, it's probably a good time to clean up the shack and make room for the copious amount of hot chocolate, coffee and tea that we will probably be drinking as we prepare to settle in for the winter and hibernate in front of our radios. Since we can't go outside to do any antenna work, we should enjoy the antennas that are up and try to finish off our missing WAS or DXCC or WAZ entities that we have been chasing for too long. At least, that is the way we might fantasize about operating this winter.

The reality may be different: between frenzied family members - especially grandchildren and young kids - running through the house and all the accompanying laughter and noise that fills the holidays, we will be lucky to get in any QSO of any kind!

Still, no matter how much operating you do this winter, make sure you enjoy getting on the air. You may end up making the best contact of your life!

From all of us at the GSARA, we wish you a joyous holiday season.



*Make sure to check out the club website
often: www.gsara.club*

Check out the





FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Denis Commette



By any measure, 2019 has been a year of great success for the club. We will finish the year with 108 members on the roster, our planned activities were well attended and executed, substantial improvements have been made to the radio shack and member participation in at meetings, the Tuesday night net and planned events has been outstanding.

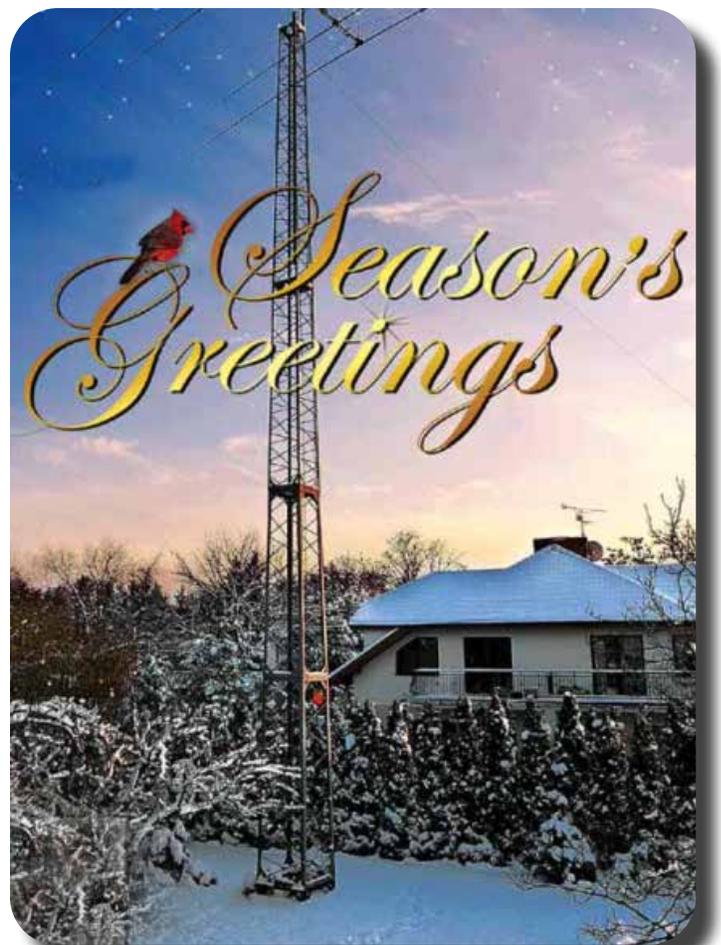
Congratulations to all who participated in Field Day 2019. GSARA placed 2nd in NJ and 48th overall for class 3A. This is a fine accomplishment and is the culmination of some detailed planning and hard work by the volunteers. We can all share in a sense of pride for the performance of GSARA.

So, with that, let's drop 2019 into the silent limbo of the past and look ahead to 2020. In addition to the traditional club activities, we have a few new ideas including an open house where the club can showcase its radio capabilities as well as enjoying a social environment. To assist with the planning of 2020, we always encourage the membership to weigh in with your thoughts and guidance to help us develop programs that will serve the entire membership. For your planning purposes, please periodically check the activities calendar posted on the club web site.

Phase 1 of the Remote Hams project has been completed and we are confident that this capability will be a welcome addition to the club membership, particularly for those members who may reside in restricted communities. Give it a try and when you see the club engineer, give him a pat on the back for his expertise and selfless dedication to this project.

Ham Radio is a technology driven hobby and our engineering department has been tasked to keep abreast of the first vibrations of the new and determine where emerging technology might benefit the Club membership.

On behalf of the GSARA Officers and Trustees, we would like to wish you all Happy Holidays and a very prosperous New Year.





The next GSARA meeting will be on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross. The program will feature a continuation of how to use Remote Ham to remotely operate the Red Cross station from your home. Emphasis will be on CW and the digital modes. All are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

The next meeting in December will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross. This will be a regular business meeting and will include the installation of officers for 2020. Be there! Guests are always welcome and refreshments will be served.

GSARA FIELD DAY RESULTS

The 2019 Field Day results are in the December issue of QST which will soon arrive in your mailbox (the electronic edition is available now). GSARA did very well and scored 4,736 points with 1,117 QSOs. We ranked 50th out of 309 entries for category 3A and were 2nd out of 4 NNJ entries in 3A.

The top NNJ entry in 3A was the Sussex County Amateur Radio Club with more than twice as many contacts with half as many people. Obviously, we could have done better with more operating and less socializing but our emphasis was on participation so we had a big turn-out and everyone had a good time. That's more important than a big score. Pat yourselves on the back. We did right well and had a lot of fun doing it!



The GSARA monthly test session will be held at the Red Cross Regional Headquarters in Tinton Falls on Saturday, December 28 at 11 am. The fee is \$15 and you should bring the original and a copy of any amateur license presently held and the original and one copy of any credit (CSCE) forms that you have (copies will be sent in with your test results). Also bring 2 forms of ID with one being a photo ID. For more information, contact Rich Bilon, N3RB at 732-567-4396 or n3rb@arrl.net.

GSARA 2020 OFFICER NOMINATIONS

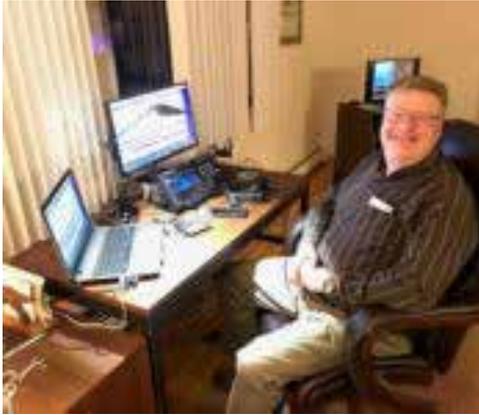
President Art Olson, N2AJO appointed a nominating committee to present a list of candidates to serve as officers for GSARA in 2020. The committee consisted of Blair Hearth, KD2EPA; Rich Fennessy, K2RLF and chaired by Bob Buus, W2OD. At the October 16 GSARA meeting, the committee presented the following list of candidates for each office of the GSARA:

- President – Art Olson, N2AJO
- Vice President – Denis Commette, K2NPT
- Secretary – John King, KA2F
- Treasurer – Art Goldberg, W2NAZ
- Chief Engineer – Phil Festa, N2EDX

Note that all are incumbents and all have agreed to serve another year. Art then asked for any additional nominations from the floor and there were none so he declared nominations closed.

At the November 20 GSARA meeting, Secretary John King, KA2F presented the slate of candidates. Since there was only one candidate for each office, per our Constitution, the Secretary cast the single vote making the above candidates officially elected to serve during 2020. Congratulations!

GARY, WB2RPW IN SPRINTATHON



Our own Gary Metzger, WB2RPW participated in the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Sprintathon on November 9 and 10 and did very well. He scored 11,770 points which

placed him 7th in the nation. He made 232 CW QSOs in the 36 hour sprint on 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters. When asked about his technique for racking up such an impressive score, he said "I spent the first 16.5 hours of the contest in the chair oper-

ating." After taking a 6.5 hour nap, he was back in the chair continuing to operate. The Sprintathon rules limit operation to a maximum of 24 hours out of the 36.

Gary's biggest problem that slowed him down was doing his own logging. Since he's legally blind, entering the contact information on his computer is a slow operation and limits his rate of contacts.

Gary lives in a small apartment in Eatontown and operates a remote Flex radio in Ohio via the internet with a Flex Maestro control unit. The Ohio antenna farm is very impressive. On 80 meters, the antenna consists of four phased quarter-wave verticals. On 40 meters there are stacked 4-element beams on a 67-foot tower. 20 meters has stacked 5-element beams on a 95-foot tower. On 15 meters, the stacked beams are 6 elements each.

Although there is a distinct advantage of having access to such a super antenna system, Gary still had to spend the hours operating to rack up the QSOs and multipliers. Congratulations to Gary for his impressive accomplishment!

NEW GSARA MEMBER

Please welcome our newest member to return to GSARA. He is Dom Cafro, N2DOM from Union Beach, NJ. Licensed in 1986, Dom holds an Extra class license. He was a very active member of GSARA in the late 1980s and 1990s. Dom is active on SSB and the digital modes on most of the amateur bands. His other interests include fishing and camping.

Please add to your Roster:

Dom Cafro, N2DOM
100 Central Ave.
Union Beach, NJ 07735
732-264-0174
n2domdc@gmail.com

He is also on the latest Roster posted on the GSARA web site. Welcome back, Dom!

CHANGE IN CW QUALIFYING RUNS

Starting in December, ARRL is increasing the number of CW Code Proficiency Qualifying Runs from two per month to about 16 per month. See the details on page 92 of the December 2019 QST. This significantly increased the clutter on the calendar on the last page and increased

the number of entries on the "Notes on Calendar" on the second to last page. If anyone has any ideas for a better way to handle this, please let me know. There should be a better way than what I used in this issue.

PIRATES ON OUR FREQUENCIES



By Phil Festa, N2EDX

Operators, I have a story to share of radio pirates. I remember a time when AM automotive radios were equipped with analog tuners and the driver (operator) could easily tweak the dial to just above the AM Broadcast Band to either 1616 kHz or 1620 kHz and on occasion hear radio broadcast pirates. They were entertaining and amusing to listen too. I still remember the call, WDX, as well as the DJ's name, RF Burns. I had managed to get a QSL Card from WDX by sending in a listeners report. WDX had been operating just above the AM BCB on 1620kHz. Note: In those days the AM Broadcast band was 550 - 1600 kHz.

Pirates can still be heard today although most are not entertaining as RF Burns and WDX had been. Pirates are often heard in and around the amateur bands. Some can be heard in the "Free Band" between CB Channel 40 and the 10m amateur band. Others just below the 40m amateur band and most recently on the GSARA Repeater. Yes, the GSARA Repeater!

Earlier this year I would hear DTMF tones coming through the repeater with no identifying callsigns. Next, I would hear an exchange of communication in a foreign language. I had heard this pattern before of DTMF tones followed by a exchange of communication in a foreign language. I investigated and discovered the GSARA Echolink server had been hi-jacked by a local pirate radio operator. In reviewing the Echolink logs I had learned the pirate had been using the GSARA repeater to call several European countries. Some of the destination Echolink Nodes did not have valid Amateur Radio Callsigns. I responded by enabling security features preventing international communications from originating from the GSARA Echolink Node. The last time I heard this pattern had been on October 6th. Again, I had heard the now familiar pattern of DTMF tones and foreign language communications. The pirate tried and tried again attempting to access a dozen different European destinations but this time without success. He then finally spoke in English and with an accent, "OK, You Win Amigo". That was the end of the GSARA Pirate.

My advice to GSARA Operators, stay alert and keep listening...Phil, N2EDX

GSARA Tuesday Net Report

In the last two sessions in October and the first two sessions in November, we had 59 check-ins for an average of 14.75 per session. The following 25 members checked into this net (number of check-ins in parenthesis):

N2BCS (4), N2FSB (4), KZ2G (4), W2NAZ (4), W2OD (4), AD7I (3), KA2IRQ (3), NA2J (3), N2MEP (3), W2MJP (3), N2AJO (2), KA2F (2), AC2MB (2), K2MFS (2), K2NPT (2), KG2NV (2), KD2OXR (2), KD2PYO (2), KC2YNL (2), N2BMK (1), AC2F (1), N2HGI (1), W2KQ (1), KD2NAD (1), and WB2RPW (1).

Remember, the more participation, the more fun!



FROM THE EDITOR

BOB BUUS, W2OD

The memorial service for John Chunga, KC2YWL was a very elegant affair enjoyed by several GSARA members. It was a joyful occasion honoring John and very well-done. It's too bad more members couldn't attend.

At the November 20 meeting, I'm looking forward to hearing about how we all will be able to access the club station through the internet using Remote Ham software on your computer or tablet. This should be a godsend to those living in restricted communities and unable to put up a decent HF antenna. From what I understand, members will have access to all of the HF bands using SSB, CW or digital. It will be interesting to see how popular it becomes. Many members have worked very hard at making this a reality. Special thanks to Phil, N2EDX for coordinating all of this activity.

I was surprised to see the obituary for Art Eschelbach WA2GQI in a recent Asbury Park Press. He had been reported as a Silent Key in a 1986 issue of QST. Obviously, he must have been mistaken for his father, Joe, who died around that time. In his youth, Art was very active with the GSARA and never hesitated to step up and help wherever needed. I think he won the NJ QSO party the first year it was sponsored by GSARA. He also wrote the only documentation that I know of regarding the inactive period of GSARA and how it was resuscitated. We should all be grateful for his efforts. May he rest in peace.

The holidays are coming up fast. I'm looking forward to getting together with my youngest daughter's family for Thanksgiving and plan to be with both daughters and five grandchildren for Christmas. Four of the grandchildren have graduated from college and are scattering about the country to new jobs so this might be the last Christmas that we will all be together. It sure beats last Christmas when my late wife couldn't leave the house and didn't want any visitors so the two of us stayed home alone – not much fun. I wish you all a joyous holiday season surrounded by your loved ones, as well.

As always, I appreciate feedback or material for The Propagator. The deadline for the January issue is December 15.
73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net



IF YOU ARE LATE FOR THE MEETINGS

The Red Cross has increased the security for the building so the front door is always locked on meeting nights. Someone is posted at the door prior to the start of our meeting to let in attendees. However, the door-watcher attends the meeting when it starts at 7:30 so no one is at the door after that. If you come in late for the meeting, there is a door bell button on the handle of the door which, when pushed, rings a bell inside the building. Hopefully, someone at the meeting will hear it and come let you in. If no one comes in a short time, ring the bell again and again until someone comes. Thank you.



WELCOME RIA JAIRAM N2RJ

GSARA welcomed Ria Jairam, N2RJ, the ARRL representative for our region, to the first November meeting. It was an honor welcoming her to the club once again. She spoke about the 2019 State of the SDR. It was a fascinating and informative meeting.

If you want to add an entirely new layer to your operating, check out some of the new SDR radios. To check out the presentation, go to the club YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=iZv-BeKVBRI&feature=emb_logo



**Radio Amateurs
of
du Canada**

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Winter Contest

Cy, K2CYS is going to be participating in the RAC Winter Contest from 0000 Z to 2359 Z on December 28. Though the contest is 24 hours, work obligations on Friday event prevent him from operating. However he will operate in the evening hours till about 1 am and resume at about 5 am.

If you would like to do some contest operating - your choice in CW or phone - you are invited to his home in Ocean Township. This is a fun and relatively low-key contest.

If you are interested, simply give him a call on the repeater or on the cell at 732-768-7773 to find a good time to come.



LOOKING BACK

FIVE YEARS AGO

From the December 2014 Propagator: The first Amateur of the Year Luncheon will be held at Schneider's in Avon on December 6. Cy, K2CYS announced the formation of a CW Improvement Group. The GSARA Tuesday Net averaged 6.5 check-ins in November.

TEN YEARS AGO

From the December 2009 Propagator: Marty Torbet, N2BMK joined GSARA. GSARA members are invited to the Neptune ARC Christmas Party being held at the Neptune American Legion. GSARA agreed to sponsor the Packet Radio FlexNet node at the UPS site for passing NTS traffic. There was a short history of the W1AW station which went on the air September, 1938.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the December 2004 Propagator: Starting in 2005, members must pay an additional \$5 per year if they wish to have a paper copy of The Propagator mailed to them. Past GSARA President Jerry Havel, W2RRX became a silent key on November 1. The annual holiday party was held at the MARS station on December 1. Frank Gudicello, K2TVY moved to Florida.

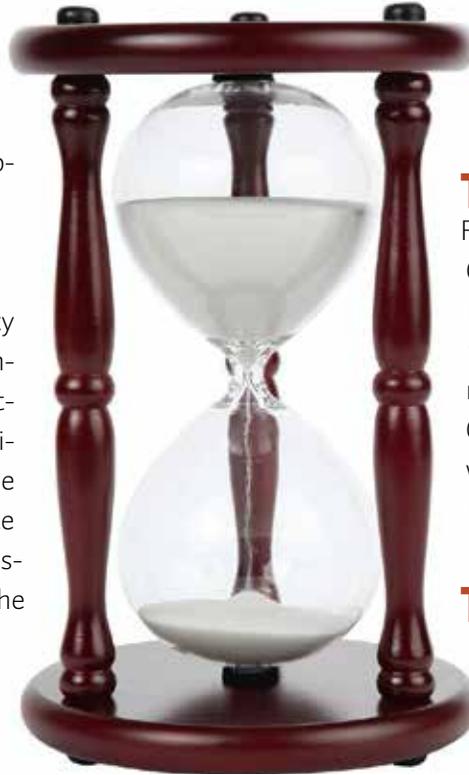
TWENTY YEARS AGO

There was no Propagator for December 1999 but a holiday party was planned for Lane Hall on December 15.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From the December, 1994 Propagator: CBS Newscaster Bill Leonard, W2SKE became a silent key on October 23. He retired in 1982 as President of CBS News. Bill was a member of GSARA in the mid-1950s and was an avid DXer.

Tom Junta, N2CUI became a silent key on November 26. There were articles of GSARA 10 years ago (now 35 years) and GSARA 20 years ago (now 45). The fee for taking an amateur exam increases to \$5.90 in 1995 (it is now \$15).



THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the December 1989 Propagator: On November 28, the FCC took 220-222 MHz from amateur service and gave it to the Land Mobile Service. A letter was received from Jane Schlidge thanking GSARA for helping with the 9th CROP walk. The GSARA Christmas party will be at Bicentennial Hall on December 20.

THIRTY FIVE YEARS AGO

From the December 1984 Propagator: The Christmas party is planned for December 19 at Bicentennial Hall. QST published Field Day 1984 results showing GSARA number 1 in the 5A category with 9994 points, almost 1000 points ahead of the number two spot. Outgoing President John King, KA2F and Jerry Havel, W2RRX (now SK) gave a talk about traffic handling.

FORTY FIVE YEARS AGO

From the December 1974 Propagator: Secretary Lowell Bellingham, W2HXJ (now SK) held a tailgate flea-market on his property in Holmdel on September 15, 1974. New officers for 1975 were President Dave Henderson, W2QND (later W2QS, now SK); VP Dave Ottenberg, WA2DJN; Treasurer Len Kline, WA1PCY; Secretary John Hampton and Chief Engineer Mike Begala, K2CTJ (now SK).

CW FOR THE NEW RADIO AMATEUR

Steve Greffe, VE3SGV

REPRINTED FROM THE NOVEMBER 2019 CANADIAN AMATEUR MAGAZINE

Some say that CW and its companion Morse code is an outdated and obsolete form of communication. After all, it's been several years since aspiring Amateur Radio operators in Canada have needed to be examined in their proficiency in the mode in order to obtain an Amateur Radio operator's licence. However, the mode persists – flourishes even, in today's Amateur Radio bands. One need only take a listen on, say 7.040 or 7.115 MHz, on an average weekday evening. Or practically anywhere in the CW portion of the HF bands. Although I've been an Amateur for less than a year I've quickly come to appreciate CW as a valuable and thoroughly enjoyable mode of communication.



First, a little background on Morse code is in order. Its development can be traced to around 1837 with Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail's efforts. Originally intended for the newfangled landline telegraph, Morse's idea was to send groups of numerals and then look up the groups of numerals in a codebook to form words. Vail's idea was to send numerals and also letters that make up individual words directly, eliminating the clumsy codebook. An argument can be made that the correct name should really be Vail Code.

The US railroads used a form of code on their landline telegraphs called American Morse Code. It consisted of four

elements, the "dit", the "dah", a long "dahh" that was the character "L" and a very long "dahhh" that represented a 0 (zero). Combinations of "dits", "dahs", "dahhs" and "dahhhs" were used to form letters and words. Initially, the code was punched into a spool of paper at the receiving end and converted to words by looking at the holes punched into the paper. The operators soon noticed that the paper punching machine made a distinctive sound and started to understand the code as it was being punched into the paper. The Code had taken a very important turn from a visual means of communication to an audible one, perfect for the early radio that would come decades later.

The code we use today over the air is called International Morse Code. It no longer features the difficult long "dahh" and very long "dahhh". The basic unit is the "dit" and it is one unit of time on in duration, or length. The "dah" is three units of time on in duration. The length of time between individual "dits" or "dahs" within a character is one unit of time off in . The length of time between individual characters is 3 units of time off. The length of time between individual words is 7 units of time off.

For a very long time, up until 2004, operators were tested for proficiency in Morse code in Canada before being issued their call sign. You can still be tested today for proficiency if you wish to use your rig in a foreign country that still requires operators to have passed a Morse code test. However, testing and passing a Morse code test is not required to use the mode from your home station here in Canada.

So why would we want to use the mode today? Simplicity of equipment, for starters. It's far easier for an average Amateur to homebrew a good working CW transmitter than an SSB or even an AM transmitter. Solid state or vacuum tube, there are many proven designs out there on the Internet, free of charge.

Another positive point of CW is that Watt for Watt, far less power is needed for a CW signal to get through to the receiving end than an SSB signal. We are encouraged to use as little power as possible to carry on a QSO. In addition, the intelligibility of CW is higher than that of SSB in times of heavy QRM. CW uses considerably less of our precious bandwidth than SSB, meaning many more operators can occupy a given slice of a band than a phone mode.

But I think the biggest reason to use CW is the sheer enjoyment of the mode. There is a certain sense of accomplishment in having a successful CW contact. You've gone through the effort of learning the code, and that takes time and persistence. CW seems to be enjoying a period of renaissance of late. People are learning Morse code and using CW not because they have to, but because they want to.

How do we go about learning Morse code then? I for one have been using the Koch Method. It's been working for me, maybe it will work for you too. This method starts out with just one letter, maybe two. The character itself is sent at a fairly high rate of speed, say 20 words per minute. The letter is heard at the same rate as in a real QSO with an operator that sends at 20 wpm. This is to reinforce the idea that Morse code is audible, and should never be visual.

You won't have time to count the individual "dits" and "dahs", and you certainly won't have time to look at any visual charts either. However a key point of the Koch Method is that the space between characters is greatly exaggerated, making the total speed only 5 words per minute. These exaggerated spaces give your brain time to process the 24 all-important total sound of a character before moving on to the next character.

After you are successfully hearing those first one or two characters at a success rate of 80%, you simply add an-

other character. Five-minute sessions, 5 or 6 times a day is usually enough to be able to move on to your next character. Before long your growing pot of characters is enough for you to start copying most of a 5 wpm QSO that you might hear around 7.115 MHz. Before long you can start decreasing the space between the characters.

I downloaded my Koch Method audio files from the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club's website (<https://www.ovmrc.on.ca>). The good folks there have provided us with some great resources for learning the code. Stored on my cellphone, I can listen to the audio files any time that is convenient.

Listen to QSOs over the air. This will give you a taste of how things are done and you'll hear all the Q codes and abbreviations that are used by seasoned operators. Try to find a buddy that wants to learn Morse code too. You can practise sending to each other using a simple code practice oscillator that you can build or buy. Look for ways to use Morse code in your day-to-day life.

Tap out the letters of road signs you pass, menus at the restaurant, a paragraph or two of your evening newspaper. Join an Amateur Radio club and you'll find a lot of operators who use CW and will be eager to help you along. Then pay it forward and encourage and help the newcomers to learn and use Morse code.

You may not need a code practice oscillator (CPO). Most modern HF transceivers have built in tone generators that you can employ as a CPO without transmitting over the air. My own transceiver requires that the expensive power amplifier tubes have their heaters lit for this so it was a stand-alone CPO for me. You'll obviously need a key. A straight key is the best bet for a first key and you need not spend a small fortune on one.

A trip to a hamfest should provide you with plenty to choose from at reasonable prices.

When you start learning Morse code, some say to just listen to the recordings for two weeks, not writing anything down, not attempting to send code on a CPO. There is some merit to this idea, for it enables an operator to not be "tied to a pencil". After this, spend about 75% of your

practise time listening and copying code and the remaining 25% sending on your CPO.

Make a recording of your sending and play it back to yourself a week later. If you can copy it, congratulate yourself on well sent code. If you can't, your "fist" needs work. Most Amateurs find it much easier to send than to receive because we already know what we are going to say when sending.

Perseverance pays off because anyone can learn Morse code. If you tell yourself it's difficult, it will be. If you tell yourself it's fun and enjoyable, it will be.

Steve Greffe, VE3SGV

**Don't keep it to yourself...
Share the Propagator
with your friends and
get them involved in ham
radio and GSARA**

THE RED BANK CROP WALK

As he has done for the past many years, Tom Cosgrove, N2VFK asked GSARA for volunteers to provide communications for the annual Red Bank Crop walk on Sunday, October 20. Only three GSARA members volunteered: Paul, AD7I, staffed Rest Stop #1 and went on to staff Rest Stop #5 when #1 closed; Blair, KD2EPA was at Rest Stop #2; and Bob, W2OD was at Rest Stop #4.

Tom then asked for help from the Ocean County ARES and they provided three well-trained volunteers: Matt, K3MR acted as Net Control; Paul N2QXB worked at Rest Stop #3; and Tim, NJ2N manned SAG 1, busing tired, soggy walkers back to the Start/Finish Line.

There was a great turnout despite the rain, and all the walkers seemed in good spirits. The vast majority completed the 5 mile course on foot, with only around two dozen needing SAG assistance.

Tom thanked all of the volunteers for cheerfully coming out in the rain and supporting this CROP Walk.

All food donated at the walk will be distributed to food banks in Monmouth County.

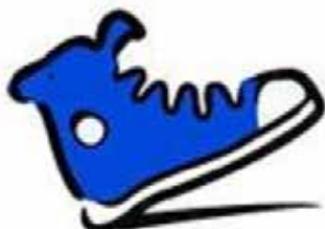


**ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME**
Red Bank CROP Walk

2019 GOALS

- * \$109,000
- * 900 walkers
- * 16,000 lbs. peanut butter rice & beans

STEPPING UP TO END HUNGER
Sunday Oct. 20, 2019



CONGRATULATIONS TO GSARA MEMBER OF THE YEAR, PHIL FESTA, N2EDX



This year members made a total of 37 nominations, an indication of how prestigious this honor is considered. Phil received overwhelmingly the greatest number of these votes. He has helped many individual club members with advice regarding the technical aspects of amateur radio and used his knowledge and mechanical skills to revamp our club station W2GSA and to select and install a practical and reliable member-remotely-controlled station for operation 80 through 6 meters.

Members later will receive information regarding time, place and cost for the award luncheon to honor Phil.

SOMETHING NEW AT THE GSARA SHACK: REMOTE OPERATION OF IC-7300

Some time ago, GSARA purchased an Icom IC-7300 with the thought of being able to control the radio through the internet. At that time, the software required to operate the radio would cost each user about \$100 – a small price to pay to have access to a sophisticated HF rig and antenna.

Since that time, members have found downloadable software that is FREE which, when installed on your Windows computer, laptop or tablet, permits you to access the station at the Red Cross from anywhere in the world with internet access. Android devices are also supported.



This system has been installed at our IC-7300 station at the Red Cross and is ready to use by members of GSARA. Denis, K2NPT gave a presentation at the November 20 GSARA meeting outlining how to download the client software to your own computer and then use that software to control the radio at the Red Cross. The PowerPoint slides used by Denis should soon be available at the www.gsara.club web site for you to review and enable you to download the necessary software.

Basically, you go to the www.remotehams.com web site and sign up using your call as a user name and providing your own password. Next you download the RCForb client software and log in. You then select the GSARA radio from the list of remotes (we're a ways down the list). Once you select the GSARA radio, you can make it a priority which will put it at the top of the list.

Now you will be able to listen to the radio but cannot operate it until you get permission from the GSARA administrator who is Phil, N2EDX. You must send him an e-mail requesting access with your name and call. You must have a General or higher class license to operate this radio in the HF bands. Note that several people can be connected to the radio but only one is the control operator who will be shown on the bottom of the screen.

If you want to take control of the radio, common courtesy is to ask the control operator for permission to take control. If granted, you have full control of the radio and can operate on all bands from 80 through 10 meters. Denis's talk focused on operating SSB but CW and digital modes are supported as well and will be discussed at the December 4 meeting. The December 4 meeting will also be a forum for those who have downloaded the software and operated (or tried to operate) the radio. So give it a try and plan to come to the December 4 meeting to clear up any questions you may have.

This operation is particularly appealing to those living in restricted communities which do not allow antennas. Try it, you'll like it!

PATRICIA PINGITORE, MOTHER OF DON, KG2NV

The mother of Don Pingitore, KG2NV passed away on November 18 at the age of 87. Those listening on the W2GSA repeater have probably heard Don on the air as he daily visited his mother and father at the Care One Nursing Home in Wall.

Surviving are Don's Father, Joseph Anthony Pingitore, Sr (married to Don's Mother for 71 years); Don and his brother Joseph Pingitore, Jr.; Don's sister, Beth Pingitore LaMarca; 9 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's NJ, 426 Eagle Rock Ave., Suite 203, Roseland, NJ 07068. Letters of condolence may be sent through the web at www.damianofuneralhome.com.

May Patricia rest in peace.

THIS 'N THAT

- DID YOU WANT YOUR PICTURE ON THE GALLERY OF GSARA MEMBERS ON THE CLUB WEBSITE? IF SO, SEND CY, K2CYS, A .JPG AND HE WILL UPLOAD IT. K2CYS@ARRL.NET
- CHECK OUT THE CLUB WEBSITE FOR VIDEOS OF PAST MEETING PRESENTATIONS. JUST GO TO THE TOP MENU BAR AND DROP-DOWN VIDEOS.
- ANY MEMBER OF THE GSARA IS WELCOME TO COME TO THE SHACK AT THE RED CROSS TO OPERATE OR JUST HANG AROUND A WHILE ON SATURDAYS WHEN THE SHACK IS OPEN. EVERY WEEK, AN EMAIL IS SENT TO THE CLUB MEMBERSHIP TO INFORM THEM OF THE HOURS. YOU ARE MOST WELCOME
- THERE ARE SOME PLANS FOR THE WEBSITE FOR 2020 INCLUDING A PAYPAL LINK FOR DUES, ETC. AS THE WEBSITE CONTINUES TO EVOLVE, YOU WILL BE MADE AWARE OF ALL THE CHANGES. HAVE AN IDEA FOR THE SITE? LET CY KNOW AT K2CYS@ARRL.NET

BULLETIN BOARD

Tuesday Net Report

GSARA NET 8:30 PM TUESDAYS

In the first three sessions in October, we had 46 check-ins for an average of 15.3 per session. The following 24 members checked into this net (number of check-ins in parenthesis):

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

GSARA Swag

GSARA Patches

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



GSARA Hats and Shirts

Cost is \$21 for Hats and \$25 for Shirts, in your choice of Blue or Stone color.

To place your order, send Art artgold@verizon.net an email with your name, call sign, size (for shirts) and color. Payment will be due when hats and shirts are delivered.

Blue Swan Lunches

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.

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? All are welcome. Check it out!

Do you have a picture of your much younger self (25+ years ago) in your shack.
Send it to Cy, K2CYS at k2cys@arrl.net and share that picture with the club!

If anyone is looking for help with getting operational with digital modes (FT-8, PSK-31, Olivia, RTTY, etc.) please feel free to call on Paul, AD7I, if you would like some assistance. The best way to reach Paul is via email, ad7i@ad7i.net

The GSARA Propagator is designed in
InDesign CC 2019
Editor: Bob Buus, W2OD
Layout and Publishing: Cy Stanway, K2CYS
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.

GSARA Officers

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SILENT KEYS - GSARA REMEMBERS



Charles Ames "Bud" White Sr., N2NAU of Little Silver passed away peacefully on October 28th in Red Bank at the age of 96.

Bud was born in Long Branch and attended Red Bank High School and went on to graduate from Mount Hermon college-preparatory school in 1941. He proudly served aboard the Patrol Rescue Escort Whitehall in the Pacific as Electronics Technician 1st Class in WWII. Bud graduated from Cornell University in 1949 with his Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering.

Bud began a long career in television engineering starting at Allen B. DuMont Laboratories in Paterson. During that time, he was particularly proud to have helped design the first generation of consumer television sets. Bud went on to work for Westinghouse where he served in various managerial roles in quality control of consumer electronics and air conditioning.

Bud was a former New Brunswick Lions Club member, and he served as the Parks & Recreation Commissioner of Little Silver. After retiring, Bud volunteered at Riverview Hospital in Red Bank. He was also an avid fisherman, sailor, ice boater and skier, as well as a ham radio operator with the call N2NAU. He was an active member of GSARA during the 1990s.

Interment was at Fair View Cemetery in Middletown. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, online at <http://giftfunds.stjude.org/cawhite> or via phone or mail referencing Memorial ID 11784081.

Please visit Bud's memorial page at www.johndayfuneralhome.com



Arthur Francis Eschelbach, WA2GQI, died peacefully November 10, 2019 at Crystal Lake in Bayville. Born September 11, 1943, Art graduated from St. James Grammar School '58 and Red Bank Catholic High School '62. He attended Newark

College of Engineering. As a youth he was involved with The Boy Scouts, and enjoyed playing pool. Art was an amateur Ham Radio Operator (WA2GQI) along with his Dad, Joe Eschelbach (WA2GQZ) who died in the 1980s. Both were active in GSARA in the 1960s and Joe, WA2GQZ served as President of GSARA in 1961. Art, WA2GQI was Vice President in 1964 when GSARA became inactive and was instrumental in reactivating the club in 1970. He served as Editor of "The Scope" which was the GSARA newsletter in the 1960s and 70s.

He is survived by two sisters and two brothers. As a family, we are comforted that he is reunited with our parents and siblings free of disability, fear and cradled in the arms of God.

Funeral services were private. We will gather in Celebration of Arthur's final journey. Join us in prayer and acts of kindness as we remember our brother with love.

KC2YWL – SK MEMORIAL SERVICE



A memorial service was held Saturday, October 26th at Oyster Point in Red Bank. The following GSARA members attended and enjoyed a lavish reception in honor of John: Bob, W2OD; Joe, KB2FSH; Don, KG2NV; Jeff, KZ2G; Ralph, KC2YNL; Blair, KD2EPA; John, KA2F; Howard, W2HTS; Robin Suffill; and Hunter Suffill.

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see next page)

Large Call letters denote birthdays e.g. **N3RB** on December 1. All times are in EST. Contests are listed in the December QST, p. 63. For all of the W1AW CW Qualifying runs, see December 2019 QST page 92 and www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule

December 2 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 4 pm (10-35 wpm).

December 2 - **Monmouth County ARES/RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 8:00 pm

December 3 – **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 3 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 7 pm (35-10 wpm).

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

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

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

December 4 – **GSARA Program Meeting** at the Red Cross at 7:30 pm. The program will feature a continuation of how to use Remote Ham software to operate the station at the Red Cross from home. This will include operating CW and digital modes. Refreshments will be served.

December 5 – **Holiday City ARC Meeting** at 7 pm at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

December 5 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 10 pm (10-40 wpm).

December 6 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 9 am (10-35 wpm).

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

Dec. 6-8 – **ARRL 160-Meter CW Contest** from 5 pm Fri. to 11 am Sun. See <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>.

Dec. 7-8 – **FT8 Roundup**, all hf bands from 1 pm Sat. to 6:59 pm Sun. See <http://www.rttycontesting.com>

December 10 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 4 pm (10-35 wpm).

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

December 11 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 7 pm (10-40 wpm).

December 12 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 9 am (35-10 wpm).

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

December 13 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 10 pm (10-35 wpm).

December 14 – **OMARC Meeting** at 9:00 am at the Firehouse on 600 Sixth Ave. in Spring Lake Heights. Guests are always welcome.

December 16 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 4 pm (10-40 wpm).

December 16 - **Monmouth County ARES/RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 8:00 pm

December 17 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 9 am (10-35 wpm).

December 18 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls. This will be a regular business meeting with the swearing in of the new officers for 2020. Don't miss it. Refreshments will be served.

December 18 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 10 pm (35-10 wpm).

December 19 – **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:00 pm Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoio, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or wa2nda@comcast.net.

December 19 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 7 pm (10-35 wpm).

December 22 – **ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW** from 1 pm to 6:59 pm. See <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

December 23 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 10 pm (10-40 wpm).

December 26 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 4 pm (35-10 wpm).

December 27 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run** at 7 pm (10-35 wpm).

Dec. 27-28 – **RAC Winter Contest, CW and SSB** all bands. See <http://wp.rac.ca>

December 28– **GSARA VE Test Session** at 11 am at the Red Cross Regional Headquarters in Tinton Falls.

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 N3RB	2 CW Run 4 pm ARES/RACES 8 pm	3 CW Run 7 pm Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	4 GSARA Mtg	5 HCARC Mtg CW Run 10 pm	6 CW Run 9 am Blue Swan Lunch 160 meter CW	7 160 meter CW FT8 Rndup
8 160 meter CW FT8 Rndup	9	10 CW Run 4pm Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	11 CW Run 7 pm Hol. City VE	12 CW Run 9 am JSARS Mtg	13 AC2A Blue Swan lunch CW Run 10 pm	14 OMARC Mtg.
15	16 KD2MGE CW Run 4 pm ARES/RACES 8 pm	17 KC2RRJ CW Run 9am Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	18 KC2YNL GSARA Mtg CW Run 10 pm	19 JSARS VE CW Run 7 pm	20 Blue Swan lunch	21
22 KD2PYO CW Rookie Rndp	23 CW Run 10 pm	24 KD2OJI Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	25 Christmas	26 CW Run 4 pm	27 Blue Swan lunch CW Run 7 pm RAC Cntst	28 RAC Cntst GSARA VE
29	30	31 Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM				



8 DONNER STREET
HOLMDEL, NJ 07733

First Class