



THE PROPAGATOR

W2GSA

GARDEN STATE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
TINTON FALLS, NJ

AUGUST 2020

As things seem to change every hour, it hard to keep up. Thank goodness for ham radio and all the 'round tuit' projects we can now complete. Not only that, but visibly activity has picked up. Have you listened to the repeater during the past couple of months? It is busier than it ever has been. Have you been on the air lately? There are stations at all hours of the day and it's not just propagation. There are plenty of people still in semi-quarantine and spending at least some of their time on the air. Just last month was Field Day and did you notice how many more stations there seemed to be? Maybe it was my imagination but it sure seemed that the bands were more packed - not surprisingly with 1D and 2D stations all over the place.

**...sometimes
it's good to
change the
look**

Since the pandemic has brought about so many changes, the format and look of the Propagator changes, too. I figure that now is the time. Though there will still be the usual content and announcements, the layout will be different and, I hope, even more visually pleasing. Everything changes: even what works! Enjoy!

Cy Stanway, K2CYS





FROM THE PRESIDENT

ART OLSON, N2AJO

Welcome to August, 2020

The latter part of July was very hot

and August looks like it will follow the same track. As the heat continues now may be a good time to clean out your shack and list the items you no longer have a need for on our swap and sell page.

Another alternative is to donate to the club. As you have probably heard by now our September Hamfest has been cancelled. However, the club leadership is working on a way to offer club items for sale in lieu of an actually Hamfest so stay tuned for details.

The club continues to upgrade of equipment with the addition of Hex Beam installation. We also had a computer fail that hosted our Remote Access capability. A replacement has been purchased and a request has been submitted to the Red Cross to enable the new computer to connect to the Internet. Hopefully service can be restored soon.

You may have noticed the article “The New CW” written by Marlo Montanaro, KA2IRQ on our web site (it is also in

this issue, ed.) If this is something that you are interested in learning or improving your CW skills there is several places listed in the article. Reach out to Marlo if you have questions.

Participation in our weekly nets and coffee klatches continue to be strong and I want to encourage everyone to join us for these activities. It is a way for club members to share experiences with each other while practicing their operator skills.

Don’t forget to check-out the Propagator for a listing of contests and member birthdays.

Lastly, I would like to hear from the membership on your thoughts and ideas. The leadership team works for you the members and together we can continue to move our hobby forward.

Respectfully,
Art, N2AJO



WELCOME TO GSARA



W2GSA

**GARDEN STATE
AMATEUR
RADIO
ASSOCIATION**

8 Donner St.,
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Please visit the club site

www.gsara.club
www.w2gsa.org

Everyone welcome to all
meetings!
Friendliest ham radio
club around!
Join today!

You are welcome to use
our
open repeater.
(Analog FM)
147.045 +.600
PL 67 Hz
(C4FM) Node 43360

GSARA OFFICERS

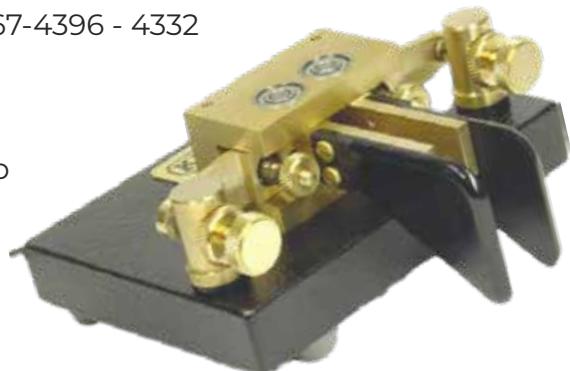
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FIELD DAY 2021

JUNE 26-27



FROM THE EDITOR BOB BUUS, W2OD

Looking at GSARA members' participation in Field Day this year, it looks like there has been a quantum shift from SSB to the digital modes (primarily FT8). When band conditions are bad (as they were for much of Saturday), FT8 has a huge advantage over SSB plus you get two points per contact on digital and only one on SSB.

modes (primarily FT8). When band conditions are bad (as they were for much of Saturday), FT8 has a huge advantage over SSB plus you get two points per contact on digital and only one on SSB.

it easier to improve your CW. It sure is a far cry from my renting an Instrucograph machine with punched paper tape back in the early 1950s.

Thanks also to Chief Engineer, Phil, N2EDX for his informative article about the WinLink gateway run by GSARA. Unfortunately, I am too far from the Red Cross to get good direct

***...the handwriting is on the wall...
digital modes are the wave of the
future***

Of course, a good CW operator like Cy, K2CYS can outperform both modes but the handwriting is on the wall - digital modes are the wave of the future. I guess I'll have to bite the bullet and try getting on FT8.

Not that CW is dead. Thanks to Marlo, KA2I-RQ for the article about new ways to enhance your CW skills. The new technology has made

40-meter communication and too close to use 40-meter skip. Perhaps I should try a low NVIS antenna.

Due to the corona virus, VE exams are being conducted a little differently than they were in the past. John, KA2F found a good outdoor venue for conducting the exams at

the pavilion in Fireman's Park in Oakhurst.

Rather than change all of the notices regarding the place of the exam, the test takers will still meet at the Red Cross at 10 am (an hour earlier than in the past) and then be led in a caravan down West Park Avenue to the Fireman's Park venue. This will accommodate a lot more people than can be accommodated at the Red Cross and the pavilion will provide protection if we should get rain. Thanks to John for arranging this.

Another book I read this month (besides the "Countdown 1945" by Chris Wallace reviewed in this issue of The Propagator) was "Too much and Not Enough" by Mary L Trump, the niece of President Trump. The Trump organization tried unsuccessfully to stop publication of this book which encouraged me to read it. Trump supporters will say (correctly) that Mary

Trump was out to destroy her uncle Donald because she and her brother were cut out of any inheritance when their grandfather (Trump's father) died. Trump haters will say that the book merely confirms that President Trump is incompetent. I doubt if any minds will change.

How are you coping with the COVID-19 with amateur radio? I'd love to hear from you!

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

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

MEANWHILE....ALSO ON FIELD DAY..... CONGRATULATIONS!

On Field Day in June, fellow members Greg Tchilinguirian KD2TYT upgraded to General and Steve Goldwasser N2BCS upgraded to Extra.

Congratulations to both!

Special appreciation goes to VEs Phil N2EDX, Marlo KA2IRQ, and Roberto AC2PD.

Special out-of doors testing arrangements were made because the weather was good and because of their membership in GSARA.



MEETINGS

Because of the current NJ proclamations with regard to the Corona Virus, the regularly scheduled meetings of the GSARA at the Red Cross have been canceled until further notice. We will conduct the August 5 program meeting live via video conferencing using the Zoom App.

Simply go to <https://zoom.us/> download and download the Zoom App. Prior to the meeting, you will get an e-mail invitation to the meeting. When you wish to join the meeting, simply double click on the location link in the e-mail and when the Launch Application shows, click on "open link" and you should be in the meeting room.

The Wednesday, August 5 program meeting at 7:30 will feature our own Paul Newland, AD7I who will talk about a two-zone clock controlled by a microcontroller. A clock that can show both UTC and local time is very useful in the shack. We look for a good turnout on Zoom.

GSARA will also have a business meeting on the third Wednesday in August, the 19th at 7:30 pm and this will also be via Zoom. Don't miss it!

VE SESSION

VE TEST SESSION AUGUST 22

The GSARA monthly test session will be held outside at the pavilion at Fireman's Park in Oakhurst. Candidates are asked to meet at the Red Cross Regional Headquarters in Tinton Falls on Saturday, August 22 at 10 am and will be escorted to the test site.

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.

When I became a ham in 1980, the primary method to learning Morse Code (or CW as we hams like to call it) was through audio cassettes or listening on the air. You could purchase tapes (and even some vinyl records!) from the ARRL and various other organizations that would take you through learning individual characters, random groups of five characters at a time, or maybe random words or a complete QSO.

While memories of “the good ‘ol days” may give us a warm and fuzzy feeling, those days are behind us. The tapes were too easily memorized before you had a cold hard understanding of what you were learning. Plus, they often wore out and did not sound that good. But it was what we had, and we made do. If you were lucky, you had a re-

THE NEW CW

MARLO MONTANARO KA2IRQ

ONLINE ARTICLE

ceiver and could listen to live CW sent from hams, ships at sea, shore stations, or other commercial entities.

After a few weeks, you were usually up to 5 or 10 Words Per Minute (WPM) and were ready for your Novice test.

When the FCC eliminated the code requirement on February 23, 2007, everyone thought that would be the death knell for Morse Code. The commercial world eliminated it as a requirement for ships and shore stations in 1999 and the military stopped using it several years before.

Well, as many had hoped, there is a resurgence of interest in CW! New hams are discovering what us “old timers” knew all along- CW gets through! And if you are a contester, often, CW contacts are worth more points than phone. Even though the FCC eliminated the requirement to know Morse Code for a license, they did not eliminate the CW-only portion of the bands. If you are on HF, CW is half your spectrum and if you don’t know code, it’s more or less off limits.

So how do you learn it in 2020? Let me count the ways!

Of course, you know the Internet will be involved... we have apps for your

phone, software for your computer, YouTube videos, websites... a plethora of dits and dahs! The ARRL web site even has audio files of their on-air code practice (which has also been around for decades) that you can download and listen to on your computer. At least we have eliminated the cassette tapes and records!

But the new thing that has burst onto

the scene are CW clubs! These are on-air and Internet based groups of CW enthusiasts. Some dedicated to beginners who are just learning, and others to high-speed advanced operators. Follows is an unscientific list of some of the more popular clubs, with a link to their web site and a brief description. I have also listed their entry requirements. So, in no particular order...

***“So how do you
learn in 2020?
Let me count the
ways!***

FISTS - The International Morse Code Preservation Society. This club is an on-air club that got started in the UK. Today they also have a North American branch. Lifetime membership is now free. They have mini on-air contests and encourage members to contact each other. You can even get a free club patch by contacting another member and holding a QSO for 10 minutes or longer. <https://fistsna.org>.

CWOps - This club is not free to join. In fact, you even need to be nominated and sponsored by four current members and have several on-air QSO's with them at over 25WPM. However, their claim to fame is an excellent series of Zoom or Skype-based classes that are 8 weeks in

duration. The classes are free to join and go from beginner to intermediate to advanced. Get in early- the classes are great so there is a waiting list. Again, membership is not free, but joining the classes is. <https://cwops.org>

SKCC - the Straight Key Century Club. Free lifetime membership. Keyers and anything else that electronically forms dits and dahs are frowned upon by these folks- but if you have a straight key, cootie, or bug, they would love to have you! <https://skccgroup.com>

The Long Island CW Club - another excellent club but not free. Annual dues are \$30 but lifetime membership is just \$90.

Based out of Long Island, our friends to the northeast have grown quite a community! Now numbering around 700 members from all states and 59 countries, they hold 31 Zoom classes per week from beginner to advanced. They also hold special classes for getting over specific plateaus, breaking down the structure of a QSO, DXing and contesting, etc. Once you are a member, you can "attend" as many classes per

week as you like since they are ongoing. They also have an on-line Dropbox repository of files and a groups.io email list where you can post questions. They even have kids-only and YL-only classes for those who might be a little intimidated in a mixed group. They have Sunday sprints and their own club callsign (W2LCW). I cannot say enough about this group! <https://longislandcwclub.org>

FOC - The First Class CW Operators Club. This is another club that requires high speed ability and member nomination to join. Based in the UK... <https://www.g4foc.org>

Each club has recommended "club" frequencies where you can often find other club members. There is even a Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) page dedicated to the CW groups and providing spotting information for club members. You can find it at: <https://rbn.telegraphy.de> and you can even customize the page to look for the club of choice, operator speed,

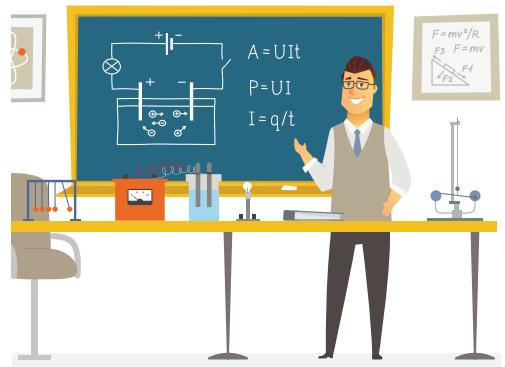
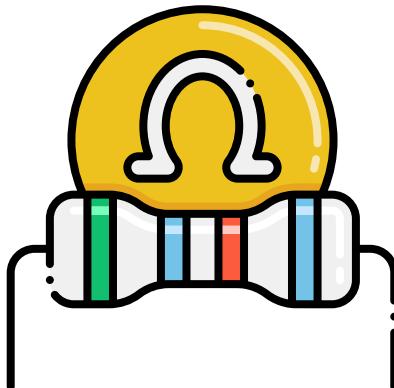
band, etc.

There are numerous other clubs, but that should get you started if you are interested in learning, fostering, preserving, and using Morse Code on the air. And there is something for everyone from complete beginner to advance operators... enjoy!

73

Marlo, KA2IRQ





Have you sent in your picture for the Members page of the club website? Let everyone know what you look like! Just send a picture in any format to k2cys@arrl.net and don't forget to include your name - how you like to be called - and your callsign.

Have a new project or item you would like to share with the club? New rig? New antenna? New super accessory for the shack? New breadboard project? People in the club are doing great things. Let us know what you're up to!

Ready to upgrade? Even with COVID-19 still around the GSARA is still testing in a modified manner. Check out the announcement in this issue of the Propagator and upgrade to General or Extra this month. You will be glad you did!

If you are late for the meetings (when we get back inside)



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.



FIELD DAY: THE FINAL PIECE

Field Day 2020 has come and gone and, by all measures, it was a successful event at GSARA. Even though we were unable to be together outside at Palaia Park because of the COVID-19 viral pandemic, we still co-operated as a club by operating our own stations and aggregating our scores together for submission to the ARRL. It was also fun watching the online scoreboard for updates on the progress of those club members that set up the posting capabilities. And, by the way, for a first time experiment with online score-sharing, it was very successful and definitely a do-again if we need to since everything is now set up correctly.

As of this moment we don't have a number yet for our aggregate score but Denis, K2NPT our FD coordinator, guesses it will be in the ballpark of about 10,000 points. However, there is no way to know quite yet since not everyone who participated was online or had even submitted their scores.

From experience, the FD scores will be available in QST usually in October or November. It will be broken down into individual scores and club scores this year because of the strange circumstances of this year's contest.

Congratulations to GSARA on creating and Field Day in the middle of a pandemic!

stances. By the way, when the scores do come out, be sure to take a look at the huge number of Delta stations that will appear this year. There will be more Deltas than any other class, for sure.

Obviously, we don't have any details about Field Day 2021. We certainly hope we will be able to operate in

the park together and have the classic Field Day experience. We have an existing plan that is outstanding and we hope to use it.

In the meantime, congratulations to all the GSARA participants for your participation. Stay healthy and safe.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were voted into the GSARA at the July 15 Zoom meeting:

John Karpus, W2IWW from Long Branch holds a General class license and has been licensed since 1999. He is a Pharmacist in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology. John first joined GSARA in 2016 but renewed this month. He is active in amateur radio on VHF/UHF and also on HF with digital and CW.



Bill Shockley, NJ2H from Tinton Falls holds an Extra Class license and has been licensed since 1961. He was previously a member of GSARA from 2009 through 2016. Hi is a Volunteer Examiner. Although not currently active, Bill is planning to get back on 40 and 20 this fall, sunspots permitting. He does have 2 meter capability. An ARRL member, he would like to learn more about the new digital modes.

Details of both of these new members (address, phone number, e-mail address, etc. are available on the official Roster on the members portal of the GSARA website (www.gsara.club). Please extend a hearty WELCOME BACK to these newest members of GSARA!

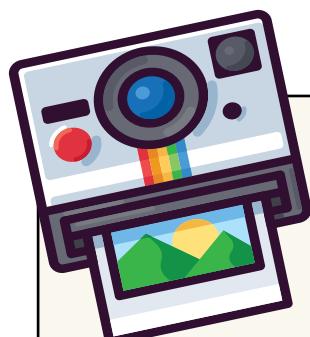
TUESDAY NIGHT NET



In the last session in June and the four sessions in July, we had 88 check-ins for an average of 17.6 per session. The following 32 members checked into this net (number of check-ins in parenthesis):

N2BCS (5), K2MFS (5), KG2NV (5), W2OD (5), KA2F (4), W2MCJ (4), W2MJP (4), W2NAZ (4), KD2OXR (4), WB2RPW (4), N2AJO (3), N2BMK (3), K2CYS (3), KZ2G (3), NJ2GL (3), AD7I (3), K2NPT (3), KC2NGH (3), N2FSB (2), KA2IRQ (2), AC2MB (2), N2MEP (2), N3SIQ (2), KD2TOU (2), NJ2H (1), W2IWW (1), W2KQ (1), W2PSK (1), K2RLF (1), KD-2TYT (1), N2VEH (1), and KC2YNL (1).

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



Is your picture on the GSARA Club Members page on the website? If not and you want it to be, send a .jpg to Cy, K2CYS at k2cys@arrl.net. Don't forget to include your name how you like to be known by and your callsign.

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. (Please be sure to see if the diner is open during COVID-19)

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!

WHAT IS WINLINK AND WHO USES IT?

BY PHIL FESTA, N2EDX

Winlink Global Radio Email®

Winlink is a product of the all volunteer non-profit, Amateur Radio Safety Foundation and has become a favorite tool of the EmComm Community. It can be found on the HF/VHF/UHF bands. Its purpose is to provide inexpensive off-grid Radio Mail Server and is used frequently to assist operators in disaster areas which have been deprived of local infrastructure, electric & internet alike.

In recent years, Winlink had been used by the “Force of Fifty” to support recovery efforts in Puerto Rico after hurricane Maria, as well as Katrina, Wilma, Sandy, and many others. In addition to hurricane disaster response had been the many US Western wildfires of 2018 where Winlink also played a role with recovery efforts there as well. In addition to the EmComm community, seafaring yachters will also sometimes make use of Winlink to send e-mail to the mainland.

band which services an area spanning roughly from east of the Mississippi River, as far north as Canada and south to the Gulf Region, extending to the east coast as well as the coastal waters of the eastern seaboard. The GSARA RMS Gateway station passes over 200 messages a month making it by far the busiest server in our Radio Room, easily exceeding WiRES-X and Echolink services in combined activity.

The GSARA Winlink RMS Gateway is our contribution to the disaster relief agencies such as the ARC, The Salvation Army, and those preparedness minded operators among us who wish to be ready for the next weather induced disaster.

Winlink Wednesday is a popular activity for those operators who wish to maintain their Winlink Operator Skills. You can learn more about Winlink Wednesday at this <http://winlink-wednesday.net>

GSARA proudly supports a Winlink RMS Gateway Station on the 40m

BOOK REVIEW

BOB BUUS, W2OD

I recently finished reading an interesting book (to me) about the drama leading up to the use of the atomic bomb to force the Japanese to surrender and end World War II. The book is called “Countdown 1945” and is written by Fox News anchor Chris Wallace (with unacknowledged help from Mitch Weiss). It covers, day by day, the time from when President Truman was sworn in (April 12, 1945) to when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima (August 6, 1945).

I’m old enough to remember the dropping of the bomb and avidly reading everything that was published afterward regarding how the bomb worked. In fact, this event probably precipitated my interest in science which led to my getting into amateur radio.

My family was directly affected by the bomb. My father was drafted into the army in 1943 and shipped to England after training for the infantry. He landed in Normandy a few days after the invasion and caught up with the 5th infantry division in western France. He fought his way across France and into Germany (including the Battle of the Bulge) and by VE day (May 8, 1945) was near Frankfort, Germany. And there he waited for six months for orders to either come home or be shipped on to Japan for



the upcoming invasion. Fortunately for us, the atomic bombs led to Japan’s surrender and my father came home alive in November 1945. Had he gone on to Japan and lived (highly unlikely), he would not have come back home for another year. The bomb was good for our family.

All my life, I have had heated arguments with people who think we should not have used the atomic bomb and some of the arguments are compelling. However, I recommend that these critics read this book to find that all of their arguments were carefully reviewed by Truman before he made the decision to use the bomb to save 250,000 American lives (even more Japanese lives) and end the war a year earlier.

Things I learned by reading this book: Truman did not learn of the existence

of the Manhattan Project and the atomic bomb until after he was sworn in as President.

Truman carefully considered a wide range of opinions before making his decision.

General Eisenhower was against using the bomb.

The Enola Gay pilot (Tibbets) and co-pilot (Lewis) did not get along with each other.

The Hiroshima bombing went almost exactly as planned but Murphy plagued the Nagasaki bombing to barely make it a success.

If you are interested in the history leading up to the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan, you will find this book interesting. I will be glad to lend it to anyone wishing to read it.

VE TESTING NEWS



We have secured a new testing site which is out-of-doors and sheltered.

However, we will continue to meet test candidates outside the American Red Cross at 10:00 a.m. on testing dates where maps and verbal directions will be given to the new site.

The dates for testing are

August 22 10:00 a.m.
September 26 10:00 a.m.
October 24 10:00 a.m.



A GSARA REMINDER: WEAR YOUR MASKS! QSL?

CONGRATULATIONS GARY METZGER, WB2RPW

ONLINE ARTICLE



Gary Metzger WB2RPW took second place in the country in the QRO category in the FISTS CW Club Unlimited Spring Sprint with a score of 1408 points.

Gary shares his background in ham radio:

"I got interested in contesting when my Elmer became concerned that I couldn't get on the air because I moved into an apartment in May of 2015. He began to research how I might be able to get on the air. This became a joint effort between the two of us and culminated, after three years of research, with the purchase of a Flex Radio 6300 transceiver and the purchase of a Flex Radio Maestro to use in my apartment to operate the Flex 6300 at my Elmers QTH. The Maestro controls the 6300 at his QTH near Cleveland, Ohio. In July of 2000 he moved to Ohio with a new employer and bought 3 acres of land. He wanted to build a contest station and now had the means to do it. After researching with me about Flex, he agreed to share

the station with me and it has been an excellent relationship for more than 20 years. I have been able to use the Maestro and Flex to operate a remote station near Cleveland for the past three years. The Maestro is connected via the internet to the Flex 6300 and antennas for 160 through 10 meters.

With help from my Elmer I have learned a few CW contesting techniques including how to send CQ properly in a contest, and more importantly to rest what is between my ears and get the appropriate rest during a contest. His lessons have served me well.



I met my Elmer Jack in summer of 1974. We became friends and he did all of my antenna and tower installations and was a member of GSARA back in the 1970's His original call was WA2EDD and lived in Eatontown back then. We have been personal friends for 46 years.

I cannot overestimate the importance of an Elmer, either having one or being one. And because of his help, I have been inspired to success.

GSARA HEX BEAM

ONLINE ARTICLE



weight (25 pounds) and low wind load characteristics further benefit us with reduced tower stresses and should serve the club for years to come.

My Thanks for their direct participation in this effort: Art N2AJO, Denis K2NPT, Roberto AC2PD, Vladimir AC2F, Matt N2UG – Special Thanks for his efforts fitting the vhf/uhf vertical in its new tower location, and other customizations performed off-site.

73 to all, Phil, N2EDX



The new Hex beam is up at the GSARA shack! Thanks to Phil, N2EDX and a volunteer group of club members, we now have a beautiful Hex beam. This will be a wonderful addition to our already amazing shack. Well done!

From Phil: I wish to thank everybody who has participated and supported our efforts with the purchase, assembly, and installation of the new 5 band DXE Hex Beam antenna. This antenna augments our radio room capabilities and antenna farm. The Hex Beam replaces the previous conventional Tri-Band directional antenna and provides GSARA with two additional radio bands over its predecessor. Its low-



ONE-TENTH OF A WATT ...AND I FEEL FINE!

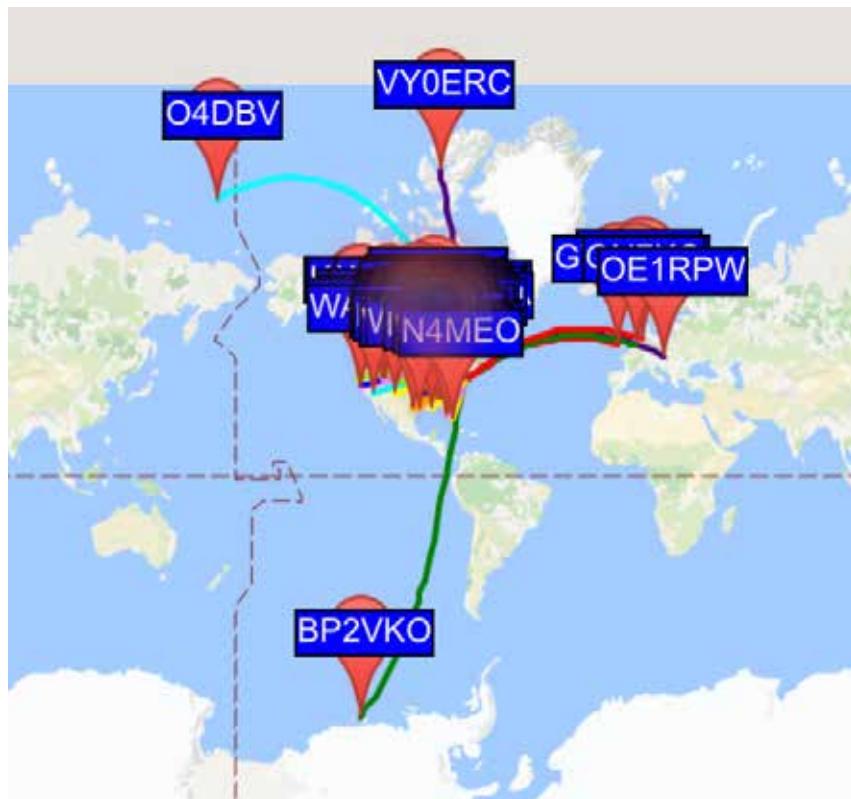
The Thursday Night Fusion is an informative net which is also a ton of fun. Denis, K2NPT starts off with some trivia most of which almost no one knows. It is then followed by a discussion or a ham radio adventure of some kind or another.

In mid July, we spoke about our ‘greatest ham radio achievement.’ Blair Hearth, KD2EPA shared this and shows what one-tenth of a watt can do. Amazing.

From Blair: “I built a 0.1 Watt WSPR transmitter from a RaspberryPi, a chip I saw advertised in QEX, a mini-G5RV in my attic, and some Python code. The effective output was probably more like 0.01 watt. I was amazed at how far away my little gizmo could be heard. WSPR “contacts”, as you probably know, are reported on wispernet.org.

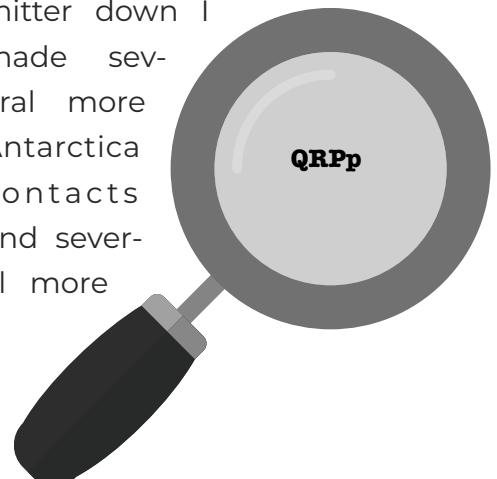
On August 20, 2017 I logged onto the wispernet to see who had reported hearing me over the previous 24 hours. The 30 or so reports for the USA were clumped together, there were a couple of contacts in Europe and a station in the far north of Canada operated by an intrepid radio club up there. To my surprise, I noted that I’d been received by what I later confirmed was a European radio amateur operating in Antarctica who was there doing scientific research. The same 24 hour period I was also picked up by equipment on a Japanese high altitude balloon over the Arctic. Before taking the transmitter down I

made several more Antarctica contacts and several more



Japanese balloons; but never again on the same day.

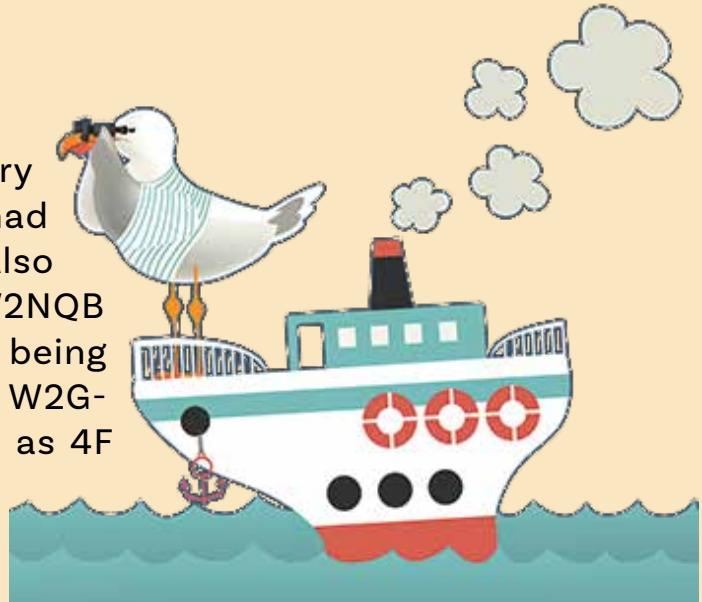
Blair, KD2EPA



LOOKING BACK ON GSARA

FIVE YEARS AGO

From the August 2015 Propagator: Gary Metzger, WB2RPW joined GSARA. He had been a member about 20 years before. Also joining GSARA was Chris Wantuck, W2NQB who became a silent key shortly after being named GSARA Ham of the Year for 2018. W2GSA operated Field Day at the Red Cross as 4F and scored 5650 points, most of which were from CW operation by Cy, K2CYS, John, KA2F, Frank, W2XYZ and Joe, W2KQ. There were two pages of photos of GSARA members operating FD. Thanks to the efforts of John, KA2F, the ARRL awarded W2GSA the WAS award.



TEN YEARS AGO

From the August 2010 Propagator: Ralph Ciappa, KC2YNL joined GSARA. The remaining GSARA equipment still in the MARS building at Fort Monmouth will be moved to the Red Cross on July 24. Our last Field Day at Fort Monmouth scored about the same as our 2009 Field Day. There were 18,270 new amateur licenses issued by the FCC for the first half of 2010 – up significantly from previous years.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the August 2005 Propagator: GSARA operated two different Field Days. K2USA was operated at the MARS station as 1F and racked up a total score of 1466. W2GSA was operated at the Fort Monmouth football stadium as 1AB (QRP and battery power) and racked up 2680 points using only 5 watts but with a giant horizontal loop antenna designed by Jim, K2EI. The Radio Club of America's quarterly "Aerogram" Newsletter mentioned the GSARA QRP Field Day. The Neptune Amateur Radio Club moved their meeting place from the

Bedrock Café to the American Legion on Gully Road. The FCC has proposed dropping the Morse code requirement for all classes of amateur license.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the August 2000 Propagator: Field Day at Tatum Park resulted in 1046 CW contacts and 1636 on SSB. The final total score was 8656. Several Field Day pictures were published. Fort Monmouth is 75 years old so GSARA is putting the MARS station K2USA on the air August 5 and 6. Frank, W2XYZ wrote a short history of Fort Monmouth. A GSARA Hamfest is planned for October 14 at Croydon Hall in Leonardo.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From the August, 1995 Propagator: Bob Dobbins, WD2AHT became a silent key on July 19 at 90 years old. The trip to the Edison home and Museum was successful with 18 participants. Field Day at Tatum Park with 3 transmitters achieved 419 CW contacts and 1395 Phone contacts. There were 31 participants. A Dinner Dance is scheduled for October 20 at the Town and Country Inn in Keyport.

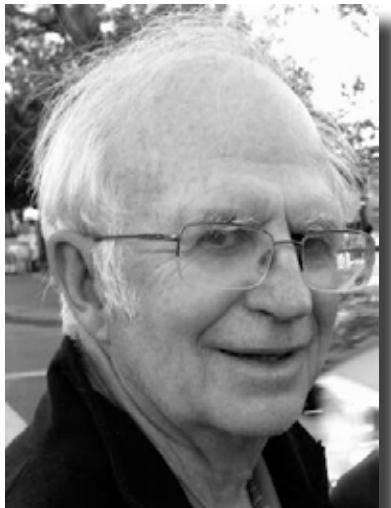
THIRTY YEARS AGO

There was no Propagator for August 1990.



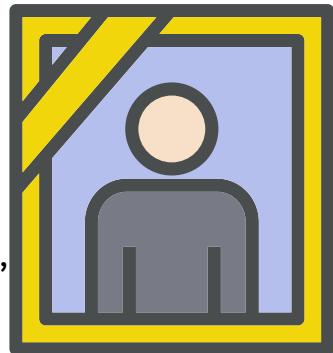
GSARA has branded shirts, light winter jackets and baseball caps that you can personalize with your name and callsign. The jackets are S-XL and are \$60, 2-XL \$62 and 3-XL \$63. Caps are in blue or stone and are \$21 and golf shirts in blue or stone are \$25. Email Art Goldberg to order one today at agold42@gmail.com - and don't forget to tell him how good a model he is!

SILENT KEYS



JOHN LAWSER, WA2SZQ - SK

Red Bank - On Tuesday July 14, 2020, John Jutten Lawser, loving and kind husband, father, and grandfather, passed away peacefully from complications of Parkinson's Disease at age 79.



Born July 4, 1941, John enjoyed numerous birthday celebrations with family, friends, and fireworks in Red Bank, NJ. John was born in Bryn Mawr, Pa, moved to Dearborn, MI during high school, and received his BS, MS, and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan.

John is survived by his loving wife Sarah; his daughter Susan Voss



JOHN ARMATA JR., KB2VNV - SK

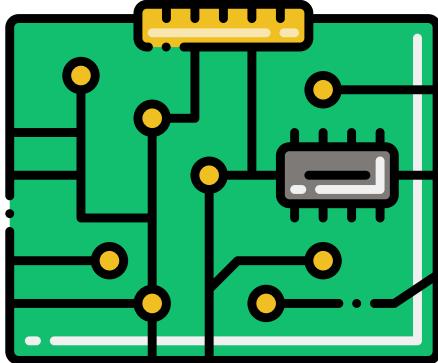
John F. Armata, Jr., KB2VNV, of Tinton Falls, NJ, passed peacefully at home on Friday, July 17, 2020. He was 83.

John received degrees from Norwich University (Vermont), Worcester Polytechnic University (Massachusetts), and New York University. John obtained two Masters degrees and a PhD degree in Engineering and Computer Science.

John obtained his Technician Class amateur radio license in 1995 and joined GSARA in January of 2020. He was active on 2 meters and 70 cm.

John is survived by his loving partner of 35 years, Anne Silverman of Tinton Falls, NJ, many members of his step family in Massachusetts, many members of Anne's family who loved him dearly, and too many caring friends and colleagues to count. John was a friend and mentor to many and everyone and will be missed.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to our new hams who took the VE test on July 25 at Fireman's Field in Oakhurst! The test went off without a hitch with full COVID-19 precautions. There were 8 candidates and there were a lot of happy faces! Many thanks to the several VEs that proctored the exams. Another successful VE session! Photos by Don, KG2NV



Did you know you can join the club or renew your membership from the club website at www.gsara.club? Just use the PayPal buttons on the bottom of the column.



CLUB PERKS

W2GSA CLUB NETS

Each Tuesday evening at 8:30 on the GSARA repeater.
Each Thursday evening at 8 on C4FM.

QSL BUREAU

If any GSARA members wish to combine their QSL cards that are going through the outgoing ARRL Bureau, please be in touch with John, KA2F.

GSARA.CLUB/W2GSA.ORG

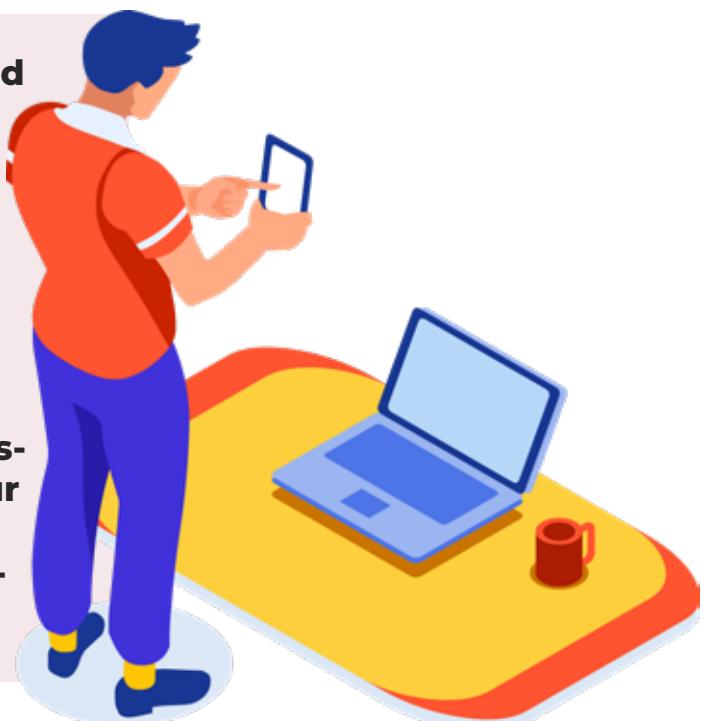
Have you seen the GSARA website lately at <https://www.gsara.club>? Check it out often for updates, news, announcements and general club information.

**The GSARA Propagator is designed
in InDesign CC 2020**

**Editor: Bob Buus, W2OD
Layout: Cy Stanway, K2CYS**

**You are invited to submit articles
and ideas**

**The Propagator is the official news-
letter of the Garden State Amateur
Radio Association. For questions
about the Propagator, please con-
tact k2cys@arrl.net.**



NOTES ON CALENDAR (see next page)

Large Call letters denote birthdays e.g. **KD2KOA** on August 7. All times are EDST. Contests are listed in the August QST, p. 69. The W1AW CW Qualifying runs are shown each day as "CW" followed by the time and followed by either "35" for 10-35 WPM or "40" for 10-40 WPM and the optional letter "R" at the end denoting that the speed decreases rather than increases. For complete Qualifying Run information, see August 2020 QST page 82 and www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule

August 1-2 – **North American CW QSO Party** from 2 pm Saturday to 1:59 am Sunday. See <http://www.ncjweb.com>

August 3 – **W1AW CW Qualifying Run (CW 4 pm 35)** at 4 pm (10-35 wpm).

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

August 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 (probably cancelled).

August 4 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run (CW 7 pm 35R)** at 7 pm (35-10 wpm).

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

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

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

August 5 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm via Zoom teleconferencing. This will be a program meeting featuring our own Paul Newland, AD7I who will talk about a two-zone digital clock that he designed using a microcontroller.

August 6 – **Holiday City ARC Meeting** at 7 pm at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River. (probably cancelled)

August 6 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run (CW 10 pm 40)** at 10 pm (10-40 wpm).

August 7 and every Friday – **Lunch at the Blue Swan Diner** is cancelled until restaurants are again open to the public.

August 8 – **OMARC Meeting** at 9:00 am at the Firehouse on 600 Sixth Ave. in Spring Lake Heights (probably cancelled).

August 12 – **Holiday City VE Session** at 7 pm in Toms River. Contact is Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at lpucciol@comcast.net (probably cancelled).

August 13 – **JSARS meeting** in Riverwood Park Rec. Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive at 7:30 pm (probably cancelled).

August 15-16 – **North American SSB QSO Party** from 2 pm Sat. to 1:59 am Sun. See <http://www.ncjweb.com>

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

August 19 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm via Zoom teleconferencing. This will be a business meeting.

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

August 22-23 – **Hawaii QSO Party**, all modes from midnight Friday to midnight Sunday. See <http://www.hawaiiqsoparty.org>

August 22 – **GSARA VE Test Session** at 10 am at the Red Cross Regional Headquarters in Tinton Falls.

August 29-30 – **World Wide Digi DX Contest** from 8 am Saturday to 8 am Sunday. See <http://www.ww-digi.com>

GSARA CALENDAR

AUGUST 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 NA CW QSO
2 NA CW QSO	3 CW 4 pm 35 ARES/RACES 8 pm	4 CW 7 pm 35R GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	5 GSARA Mtg	6 HCARC Mtg CW 10 pm 40	7 CW 9 am 35 KD2KOA	8 OMARC Mtg. NJ2H
9 WA2DJN WA2JOE	10	11 CW 4 pm 35 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM5	12 CW 7 pm 40 Hol. City VE	13 CW 9 am 35R JSARS Mtg	14 CW 10 pm 35	15 NA SSB QSO
16 NA SSB QSO	17 K2EI ARES/RACES 8 pm	18 CW 9 am 35 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	19 KD2LPN GSARA Mtg CW 10 pm 35R	20 CW 7 pm 35 JSARS VE	21 CW 4 pm 40 Hawaii QSO	22 GSARA VE AC2MB Hawaii QSO
23 NA2J Hawaii QSO	24 K2CYS CW 10 pm 40	25 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	26 W2PSK CW 9am 35R	27 CW 4 pm 35R	28 CW 7 pm 35	29 WW Digi DX
K2RH 30 KC2SSU WW Digi DX	31					

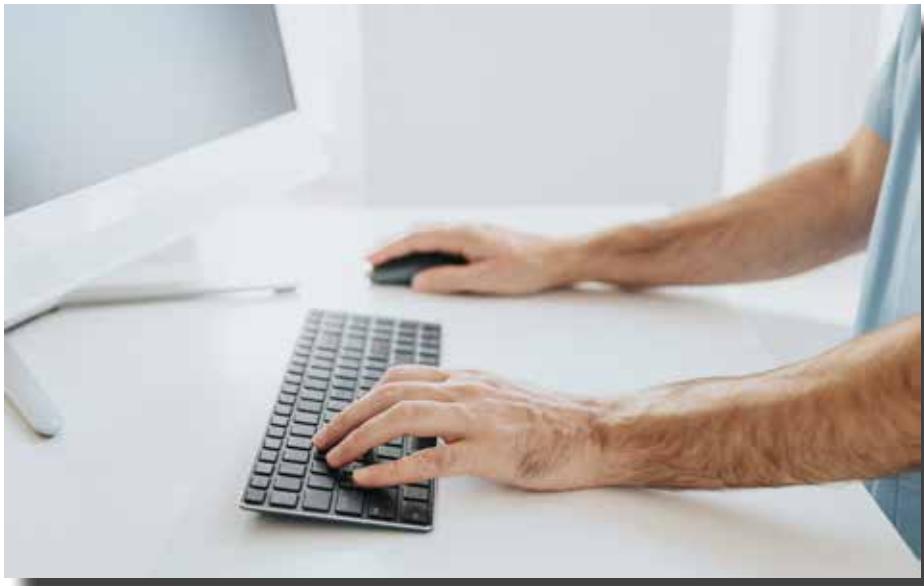


The GSARA website is your go-to place for all things Garden State Amateur Radio Association.

Now that Field Day is over, all the front-page Field Day articles and notices are off the page. We are now focussing on club events, individual achievements and general news. Be a part of it

So, as a reminder, you can and should take a .jpg of your latest project and an article on something you saw, did, or plan to do with ham radio and we will feature it on the site. Just send anything you wish to Cy, K2CYS at k2cys@arrl.net.





DON'T FORGET: YOU CAN RENEW OR JOIN GSARA ONLINE FROM THE CLUB WEBSITE



8 DONNER STREET
HOLMDEL, NJ 07733

First Class