

THE

PROPAGATOR

W2GSA 147.045 + PL67

JANUARY 2021



Jf you could think of a more challenging year than 2020 you might have to go to the darkest days of WWII. There were so many of them 70 years ago. But in this hyperconnected world of ours, we saw new horrors every day because of the pandemic. Yet, thanks to the doctors and scientists, nurses and care workers throughout the country, we may very well be seeing the end of this scourge.

In the ham radio world, just listening to the bands you get a sense that everyone has been dealing with this. Everyone on HF and D*Star and Fusion (i.e., the DX stations and local stations) seem to be talking about it one way or the other. It is on everyone's mind, of course. I think it might be time to create another Q-code: How about QCV - "Keep safe from CoVid"? It is the wish that goes beyond 73 and 88.

This new year will, we all hope, bring the vaccine so that we can come together at the GSARA meetings at the Red Cross, enjoy outdoor activities like Field Day, and

celebrate the end of this pandemic with non-Zoom face-to-face get-togethers and meetings. (Actually, the only good thing about this pandemic for the GSARA is that we got to know people pretty well on Zoom and we don't have to plan Field Day from scratch!)

That moment in time is coming. Every day brings us one day closer to the end of the pandemic and one day closer to the time when our ham radio lives get back to normal, when we can have people over to help us put up that antenna or show us that new trick they learned with their radio. One way or the other, we will be getting together.

This new year will also see our GSARA club grow as it has throughout the year. Now is the time to engage these new members. Say hi when they check into the repeater and answer them on Discord. We are headed for a great 2021 and we will be a stronger and better club than ever.

Cy, K2CYS -
Propagator Publisher



GARDEN STATE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

MEETINGS



Because of the the pandemic the regularly scheduled meetings of the GSARA at the Red Cross have been canceled until further notice. We will conduct the January 7 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 **Thursday, January 7** program meeting at 7:30 will feature Bob, W2OD talking about how to set up your rig for hands-free operating through use of a foot-switch for push-to-talk operation and a headset or desk mike for a hands-free microphone. This leaves your hands free to operate your computer keyboard for logging and operating the rig. The presentation will be via Zoom. We look for a good turnout.

GSARA will also have a business meeting on the third Thursday in January, the 21st at 7:30 pm and this will also be via Zoom. Don't miss it!

VE SESSION

A special testing session may be possible for GSARA members only using automobiles parked at the Red Cross building. We have done this once before with success.



Such a testing session would be only for a very limited number of examinees and might

have to be rescheduled due to adverse conditions (including torrential rains, blizzards, thunder storms and total solar eclipses).

Please let me know about your upgrade testing needs, when you might be prepared for a General or Extra test, etc. I can be reached at 732-206-6692 or ka2fwb2hdj@gmail.com.

In the meantime (and our times have been mean this year), keep studying. Regards. John, KA2F

for Richard N3RB and the GSARA testing team



FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT DENIS, K2NPT

I

sincerely hope that you and your family enjoyed the Holidays and were able to relax and usher in the New Year with some degree of hope.

2020 was a doozy of a year with many challenges and 2021 looks to hold more of the same. But while it is customary to look back at the end of each year and reflect on lessons learned; the danger of doing so with 2020 is that it was a traumatic year. So, we must guard against our 2020 reflections impairing our judgement while we navigate the challenges of 2021.

Let's look a snippet of the bright side of 2020:

- The club added 30 new members in 2020 which brings our membership total to 131. This is a phenomenal 30% increase, and the officers and trustees will do all we can to reach out to each member. With your help, the club will be focused and ready to take on the new year.
- Our VE testing program, led by John King and supported by a host of dedicated VEs, was very innovative in providing a venue and a format and was remarkably successful.
- Field Day, such as it was, provided an opportunity for the club to operate individually while racking up a very respectable cumulative score for the club.

So, with that, let's drop 2020 into the silent limbo of the past.

The signature event of each year is Field Day. The committee is being formed and will be tasked to design an event with several contingencies:

- Assertive public event, tentatively in Joe Palaia Park, should conditions allow.
- A scaled down event for members only in the park should social distancing be required.
- A club event with the members operating as individuals with recognition for the club.



If you have any innovative ideas for a 2021 Field Day under any of these conditions, we would love to entertain them and they would be most welcome. Also, as a reminder to everyone to please pay your dues, if you have not already done so, as this is especially important this year given, we did not have a HamFest or any other activities to generate revenue in 2020. Here is wishing everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. Stay safe and embrace the COVID-19 regulations.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD



The officers and trustees of the Garden State Amateur Radio Association have authorized a special award to be designated the President's Award. This award shall be given by the President periodically to that member which the President deems has stepped forward to make an extraordinary and valuable contribution to the Club and its members through the giving of their time, talents and resources. This award is open to any member in good standing and shall be awarded at the sole discretion of the President.

The objective of this award is to recognize those members who achieve notable accomplishments, to motivate others to excel in contributing to the GSARA community and to publicize the contribution of award recipi-

ents.

This award is accompanied by a plaque presented to the recipient in recognition and attesting to the award having been granted.

I am pleased to announce that the first recipient of the President's Award will be introduced at the next business meeting on Thurs. Jan. 21. Please plan to attend and remember that the meeting is on a Thursday night.

Officers

Art, N2AJ0 – President
 olson339@comcast.net
 Denis, K2NPT – VP
 captcalyx@comcast.net
 John, KA2F – Secretary
 ka2fwb2hdj@gmail.com
 Paul, AD7I - Chief Engineer
 732-309-7807
 Diana Noble KD2NAD – Treasurer
 diananoble@aol.com
 Bob Buus W2OD - Trustee
 w2od@arrl.net
 Marlo Montanaro, KA2IRQ
 732- 207-7343

Support Team

Richard Bilon, N3RB, - VE Coordinator
 732-567-4396 - 4332
 lee@gmail.com



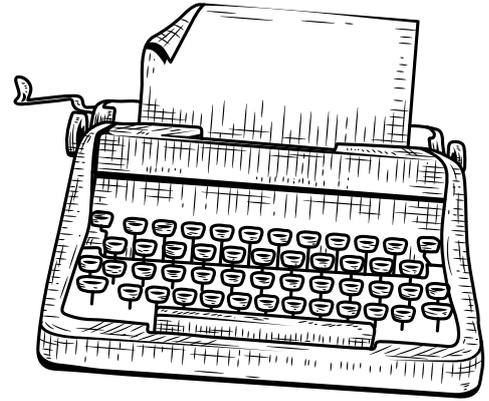
Propagator
 Editor: Bob Buus
 w2od@aol.com
 Webmaster & Propagator Designer/Publisher
 Cy Stanway, K2CYS
 732-768-7773
 k2cys@arrl.net

FROM THE EDITOR BOB BUUS, W2OD



My interaction with the medical community and my pain experience remains the same from last month except I have now seen more doctors and have had more tests performed – all without any abatement of the pain.

It's all very frustrating. It appears the pain is a little less severe than it was a few month ago so maybe I'm healing myself. It makes me wonder what I am paying all of doctors and medical tests for.



I'm looking forward to giving the program at the January 7 meeting (note that it is a Thursday) to relate some of the work I have been doing on designing foot-switches and interfacing electret microphones to amateur rigs. I have been using this system while running the Tuesday evening nets for the past year or so and it has been working out quite well.

Holger Skurbe, K2HES will be running a Hamcram session in Hightstown on Saturday, February 27. If you're looking for a Technician class, this is an excellent way to get your license in one day. If you're sufficiently prepared so you don't need the class, you can still register to take the Technician exam at 2:00 pm in the afternoon.

Our Chief Engineer, Paul, AD7I has shared some of the work he has done using a very low power microprocessor of the Arduino family which is published in this edition with pictures showing how he utilized this cheap microprocessor.

Former NNJ SM Steve Ostrove's widow is interested in finding a new home for Steve's impressive tower with beam and rotator. I was at Steve's house and inspected the tower and can verify that it is in very good shape.

If you haven't done so already, please pay your membership dues for 2021. You can mail your \$20 check or cash to our new Treasurer Diana Noble, KD2NAD, 66 West Concourse, Cliffwood Beach, NJ 07735 or pay through Pay Pal.

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

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

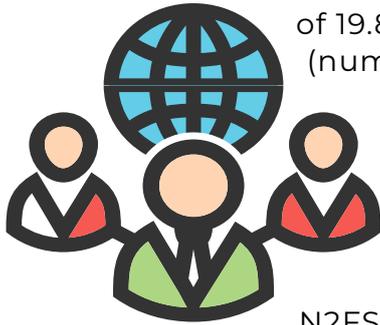
GSARA MEETING CHANGE

As voted at the December 16 meeting, the members voted to change the Constitution so that GSARA meetings will now be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month instead of the first and third Wednesdays.

TUESDAY NIGHT NET



In the five sessions in December, we had 99 check-ins for an average of 19.8 per session. The following 35 members checked into this net (number of check-ins in parenthesis):



N2BCS (5), N2MEP (5), K2MFS (5), W2NAZ (5), K2NPT (5), W2OD (5), WB2RPW (5), N2BMK (4), KA2IRQ (4), KC2LKC (4), KG2NV (4), KD2SFF (4), N2AJO (3), KA2F (3), KZ2G (3), KD2OXR (3), W2PSK (3), K2RLF (3), KD2ROF (3), KC2YNL (3), NJ2GL (2), AC2MB (2), W2MJP (2), KD2NAD (2), KC2NGH (2), KG2CM (1), KD2EPA (1), N2FSB (1), AD7I (1), NA2J (1), WA2JOE (1), K2KDC (1), W2MCJ (1), K2RAK (1) and KD2TOU (1).

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

CONSTITUTION CHANGES

GSARA Constitution ARTICLE II – MEETINGS

SECTION I

GSARA Club meetings will be held on the first and third Wednesday [change to Thursday] of each month.

Membership Meeting – The Membership Meeting shall be held once each month and fall on the first Wednesday [change to Thursday] of the month.

Business Meeting – The Business Meeting shall be held once each month and fall on the third Wednesday [change to Thursday] of the month.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Business Meeting may be moved to the first Wednesday [change to Thursday] of the month....





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome **RANDY AUSTIN, KD2VAL** from Union Beach has been licensed since 1993 and holds a General class license. He is active on 20 and 40 meters SSB with his Icom 7200. He is an FAA licensed Drone pilot. A member of ARRL, his occupation is a

Safety Supervisor.

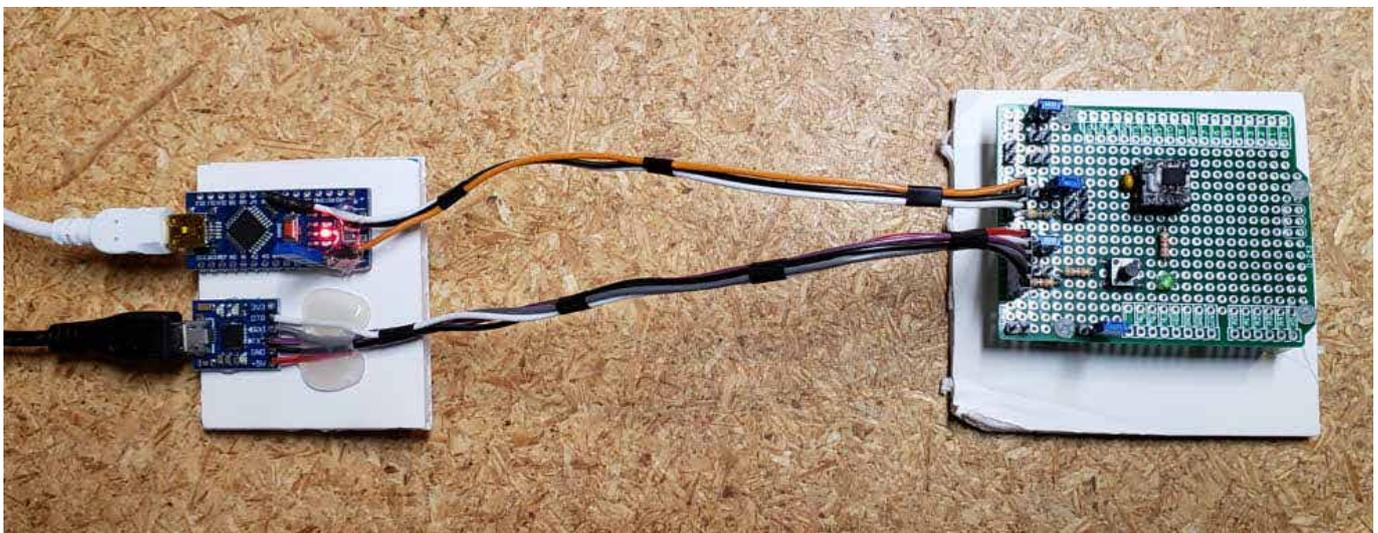
Details of this new member (address, phone number, e-mail address, etc. are available on the official Roster on the members portal of the GSARA website (www.gsara.club). Please extend a hearty WELCOME to Randy as he joins the GSARA!

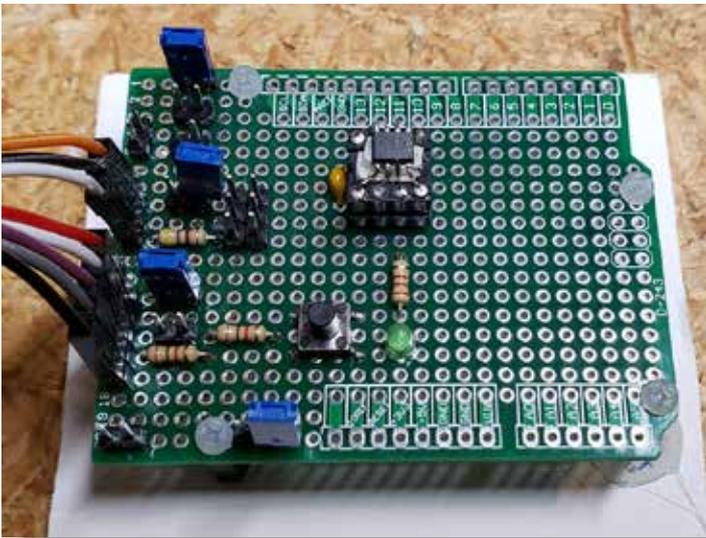
NANO-AMP ARDUINO PROJECT PAUL, AD7I

Description of the project: This is part of a long term background project to make an APRS telemetry transmitter. A 2nd generation Arduino (AVR128DB48) would be used to collect data from analog and digital inputs and then transmit that data via APRS to be collected by a remote iGate. Key to all this is having a microcomputer be able to sit idle and draw virtually no current from the battery. And then when an event occurs (change in digital input, or a timer expires) wake up the microcontroller, then the radio, send the message, turn off the radio, and have the microcontroller go back to sleep drawing virtually no power while it is sleeping.

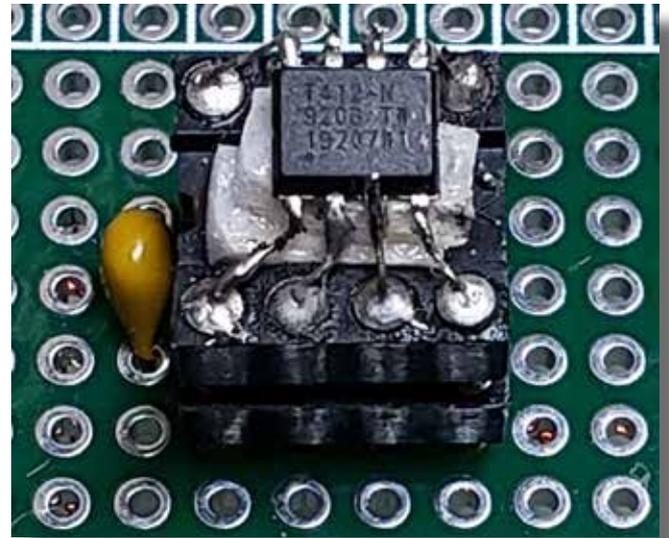
One of the things I had wanted to learn about for some time is how to get AVR processors (which are the basis of the Arduino system) into very low current mode, have them wake up based on a timer, do something useful, and then go back into low current mode. To keep it very simple I chose to do this on an 8 pin AVR microcontroller, the ATtiny412. It costs 44 cents and has 4K of flash and 256 bytes of SRAM. The downside is that it's in an SOIC-8 package, with pins on 0.05 inch centers. As you can see from the third photo my soldering skills were modest. I've subsequently found nice breakout boards to make this job easier.

For my project I decided to simulate a lighthouse that was in view from a place I lived in the Seattle area. Three flashes and then a six second dark period. An LED serves as my





Picture 2



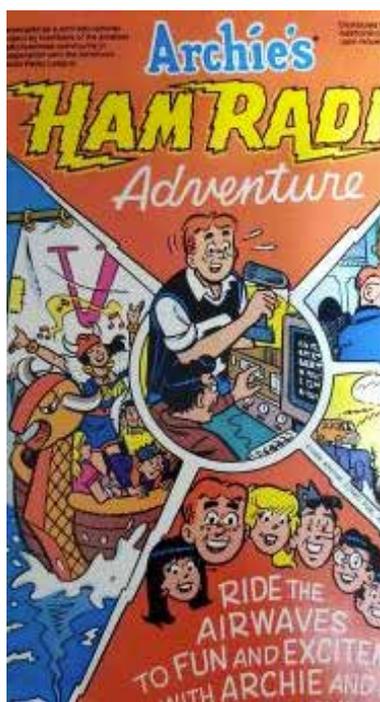
Picture 3

“lighthouse light” and whenever the LED is off the microcomputer is in a “sleep” state that draws only 600nA (1/6 of a micro-ampere). I did the original development in Studio 7, one of Microchip’s IDEs, then migrated the code to the Arduino IDE to make it easier for others to modify my code for their own use.

Photo 1 below shows the “lighthouse” breadboard on the right. There are two modules on the left that are used for development. The left-top module is a conventional Arduino Nano that’s been programmed to function as a UPDI programmer, the programming format for most new AVR microcontrollers. The

left-lower module is a USB to serial converter so that diagnostic Arduino Serial.print messages can be sent from the microcontroller to my PC via USB. In normal lighthouse run mode these left side modules are disconnected from the breadboard and the breadboard is powered by two AA battery cells.

I’ll eventually post the code to GitHub. But if anyone would like a copy of the code before that happens please let me know and I’ll make it available sooner by an alternate means.



HAS ANYONE EVER WORKED ARCHIE ON HF?

Stan Goldberg, the artist who, with Mike Esposito, drew the “Archie’s Ham Radio Adventure” comic for ARRL in the 1990s, died August 31, 2014. He was 82. A New York City native, Goldberg was Marvel Comics’ chief colorist during the 1960s, when most of the characters now associated with Marvel were created.

“He’s the reason Spider Man’s costume is red and dark blue, the reason the Incredible Hulk’s skin is green,” said Jim Mas-

sara, N2EST, who penned QST cartoons in the 1980s and also once worked for Marvel. “Goldberg was a giant in our industry.”

He went on to work for DC Comics and, finally, for Archie Comics starting in the early 1970s. In 1994, he was honored with an Inkpot Award at Comic-Con International in San Diego, and in 2012 he was inducted into the National Cartoonist Society’s Hall of Fame.

HAMCRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The New Jersey Emergency Communications Team (<http://NJECT.us>) will be hosting a "HAMCRAM" at 8AM to be held at Hightstown Firehouse on Saturday February 27th 2021.

What is a "HAMCRAM?"

It's a class where you will be instructed on the particulars to pass the Technician Class Amateur Radio License test. We will go over the entire question and answer pool (Element 2). From that question pool, you will be given 35 questions on the test. Morse code is no longer required or part of the test.

The test will be given immediately after the course. Cost: \$15 for processing and \$5 for the venue and door prize. Everyone will receive one free ticket.

If you are involved with radio communications at any level, we strongly recommend this class, as it will help you understand many facets of radio and open a whole new world of radio communications. This entry level license will allow you to work portions of many bands available to amateur radio operators.

The real learning begins AFTER you obtain your license and get on the air!

IMPORTANT CLASS PARTICULARS:

Date: Saturday February 27, 2021
Class Start time 0900 hours Sharp (08:00 am) (come early! Doors will open by 0830)
Location: Hightstown Firehouse 140 N Main St Hightstown, NJ

Cost to take the Test-\$15.00 for processing the application to the FCC (+\$5 for venue and door prize). We are volunteer examiners certified by the ARRL. There is no age limit!

Lunch NOT INCLUDED.

Bring: A pencil, pen and paper and PHOTO ID and your PAYPAL Receipt! Students bring birth certificate.

Testing: Starts about 1400 hours (2:00 pm)
Please do not park in Fire Fighter's areas.
The entrance will be marked with a "HAMCRAM this way" sign.

PLEASE REGISTER YOURSELF NOW TO GUARANTEE A SEAT:

Email me that you will attend with your Full Name, email and Phone number to info@nject.us as seating will be limited to 30 people, first come first served!

If you would like to skip the class and come and take the test only, you may, by arriving no later than 1400 hours (2:00 pm). We will allow additional people to attend who wish to take the test only after the class and will allow class upgrades too. So the General and Extra tests can be taken after the HAMCRAM has completed. But please register, as space is limited.

HINT: I have provided some links for studying and practice tests. If you can pass an on-line test 3 times in a row, you may want to skip the class and just come and take the test!

ARRL Technician license test information:
<http://www.arrl.org/getting-your-technician-license>

Practice Test Sites:

<http://aa9pw.com/radio/>

<http://www.eham.net/exams/>

<http://www.arrl.org/exam-practice>

Please reply to register or for questions:

Holger Skurbe, K2HES

Retired Sergeant E. Orange PD, Pres. NJECT
info@nject.us

732-269-0138 x101

WEATHER WATCH:

Check here for class updates and status in case of bad weather: <http://www.hamcram.net>

Fusion Net

GSARA FUSION NETS ON THURSDAY
Since the GSARA meetings have been changed from the first and third Wednesdays to the first and third Thursdays of each month, the digital Fusion nets have been changed from Thursdays to Wednesdays at 8 pm. The digital net will be resumed on January 6 on the W2GSA repeater on Wednesday evenings at 8 pm with Cy, K2CYS serving as Net Control. Simply set your radio to the Digital Narrow (DN) mode and check in. It's fun and educational.

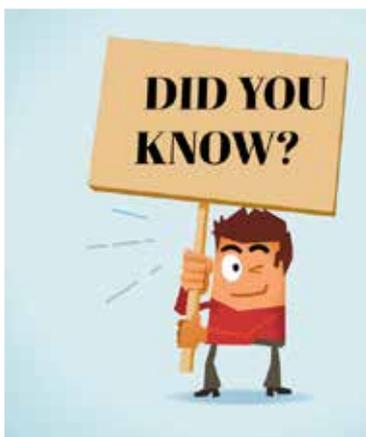


CLUB WEBSITE WWW.GSARA.CLUB



The GSARA club website at www.gsara.club is frequently updated. Whenever there is club news or updates of any kind, the site usually reflects the change within 24 hours, often less. On the site you can find club news, meeting updates, meeting minutes, up to date roster, members pictures, pay your dues, join the club, and so much more. It really is a your go-to place for all things GSARA.

You are also warmly invited to contribute to the site. If you have a great story to tell in your ham radio adventures, have been working on a project and want to share pictures and a description of it, or even have a video, send it to k2cys@arrl.net, Cy, and he will put it up online. Don't be shy. Share your projects and stories



The Propagator is being sent to you after it has been published in two ways. The usual is the link to the Adobe site where you can view and download the issue as you would any .PDF. But, if you want a more fun experience, you will also receive a link to be able to view the issue on a flip-book. This is a more immersive experience with an easy to use user interface. When Bob sends the links (which will also be on the club website) check out both and enjoy (remember, some of the animations may not work on the flipbook edition).

JANUARY 7 MEETING FEATURING BOB BUUS

The program at the Thursday, January 7 meeting will feature Bob Buus, W2OD who will talk about hands-free operating which is often advantageous during contests and field day where it is often necessary to log and operate at the same time. By using a foot switch to control the push-to-talk and using a headset or desk mike so as not to have to hold a hand mike, your hands can be free to control the computer keyboard for logging and controlling the rig.



Bob has evaluated many different foot switches, both commercial and home brewed, and will give his evaluation of the various types. He has also compared many different headsets and will show how to get acceptable performance from relatively cheap gamer headsets available for a fraction of the cost of traditional amateur radio headsets.

Finally, Bob will show how to make a simple adapter to connect between the microphone jack on your rig and the foot switch and headset you might want to use for hands-free operation. Once you are set up for hands-free operation on phone, you will wonder how you ever operated with a hand-held microphone with push-to-talk.

PROPAGATION SUMMIT AT CONTEST UNIVERSITY

Several radio propagation experts will share their knowledge during a Propagation Summit via Zoom, sponsored by Contest University (CTU). The event is scheduled for January 23, 2021. The presentation schedule includes: "Update on the Personal Space Weather Station Project and HamSCI Activities for 2021" with Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, at 11 AM EST (1600 UTC); "Solar Cycle 25 Predictions and Progress" with Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, at noon (1700 UTC); "Maximizing Performance of HF Antennas with Irregular Terrain" with Jim Breakall, WA3FET, at 1 PM EST (1800 UTC), and "HF Ionospheric Propagation" with Frank Donovan, W3LPL, at 2 PM EST (1900 UTC). Registration is free. An Icom IC-705 will be raffled off as a door prize. The winner must be present on Zoom to win. -- Thanks to CTU Chair Tim Duffy, K3LR

From the ARRL Letter, December 17, 2020

RADIO SHACK BACK AS RETAILER

RadioShack® is offering some parts in its inventory that largely consists of radios, batteries, telephone gear, drones, computer accessories, and even cameras. The iconic company was recently purchased from General Wireless by Retail Ecommerce Ventures (REV). No plans are in place to reopen RadioShack-owned stores, although some 400 brick-and-mortar outlets are operated by franchisees.

From the ARRL Letter, December 3, 2020

"THE GATHERING" THEME FOR 2021 HAMVENTION

Hamvention General Chair Rick Allnut, WS8G, said the theme reflects what has been missing from our lives most of this year. "We have spent the last 6 months being bound to our houses and small groups," he said. "We are very optimistic that when May arrives, we will be allowed to get together." Allnut, a medical doctor with a master's degree in public health, said Hamvention management is closely following the coronavirus situation and believes it will improve enough by May that government restrictions on travel and large groups will be relaxed. The Hamvention team will continue to follow developments. Hamvention 2021 will be held May 21 - 23 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

From the ARRL Letter, December 3, 2020

ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP JAN. 2-3

The 2021 ARRL RTTY Roundup on January 2 - 3 features two new multioperator categories: Multi-two (M2) and multi-multi (MM). Because M2 and MM are new categories, there are no existing records, so the high scores for these categories will, by default, become the new records. High scores are kept by US call area, ARRL Division, ARRL Section, Canadian Province, and DX entity. Visit the ARRL Contest web page to see the current ARRL RTTY Roundup all-time records.

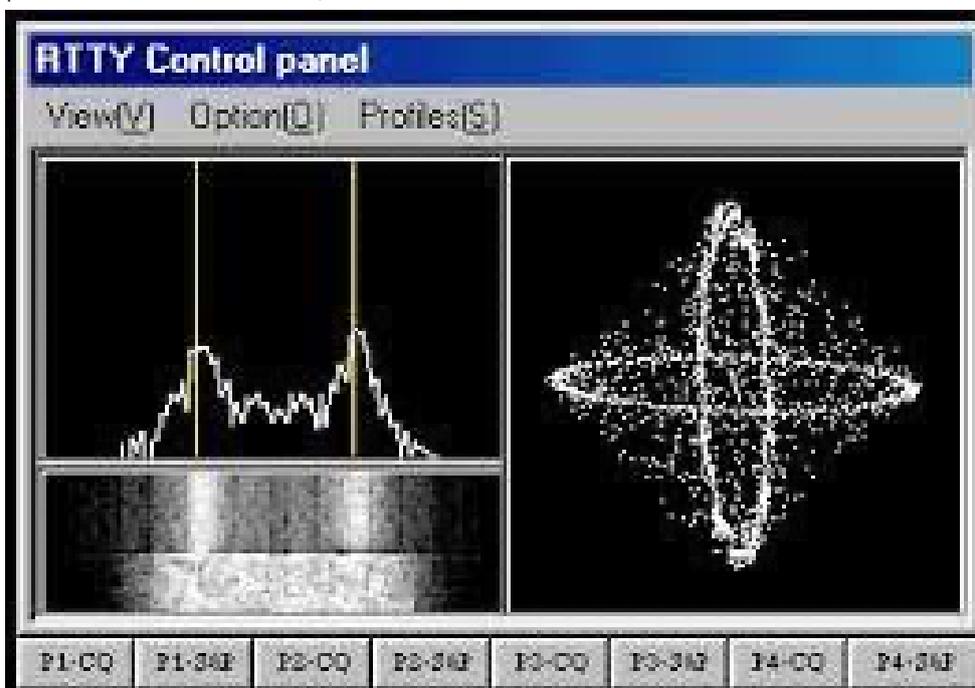
If you're new to RTTY or digital modes, in the RTTY Roundup, operators worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using Baudot RTTY, PSK, FT8/FT4, ASCII, AMTOR, and Packet. Automated operation is not permitted; each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact.

If you have to look outside your immediate household for M2 or MM operators and you're already set up for RTTY or FT8/FT4, consider staying safe and letting other team members access your station remotely via AnyDesk or another sharing technology. The key to making this easy and frustration-free for all involved is that all aspects of your station's operation be controllable from your logging computer's desktop, and that the RTTY audio be audible to the remote operator (if using RTTY) via the sharing software.

It is possible to do RTTY without listening to the receiver and just by watching the decode and X - Y or waterfall, but it's not recommended. Many, if not most, RTTY operators prefer low-level audio to signal when other stations are transmitting. For those using FTX modes, all you really need is the screen display.

Contacts must be made on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Any station may work any other station. Stations may be worked once per band, regardless of mode. The ARRL RTTY Roundup begins at 1800 UTC on January 2 and wraps at 2359 UTC on January --

Thanks to Brian Moran, N9ADG, and Paul Bourque, N1SFE
From the ARRL Letter, December 17, 2020



FCC TO REQUIRE E-MAIL ON APPLICATIONS

Amateur radio licensees and candidates will have to provide the FCC with an email address on applications, effective in mid-2021. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as defective. The FCC is fully transitioning to electronic correspondence and will no longer print or provide wireless licensees with hard-copy authorizations or registrations by mail. A Report and Order (R&O) on “Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services” in WT Docket 19-212 was adopted on September 16. The new rules will go into effect 6 months after publication in the Federal Register, which hasn’t happened yet, but the FCC is already strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. When an email address is provided, licensees will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses when the application is granted.



Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur station license “must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name.” For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, each license will have to show the grantee’s correct name, mailing address, and email address. “The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence,” the amended rule will state. “Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.”

From the ARRL Letter, December 3, 2020

GSARA Swag

GSARA Patches

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



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.



ARECIBO OBSERVATORY - SK



The instrument platform of the 305-meter telescope at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico collapsed overnight, according to the National Science Foundation.

It's a final blow to one of the most powerful telescopes on Earth that has aided astronomical discoveries for 57 years and withstood hurricanes, earthquakes and tropical storms.

Engineers assessed the damage and determined that all three of the telescope's support towers broke off, sending the 900-ton instrument platform plummeting down to the dish below. The

telescope's support cables also dropped. The observatory's learning center was significantly damaged by the falling cables as well.

TOWER AVAILABLE

Former NNJ SM, Steve Ostrove K2SO, passed away in October. Those of you who knew him will remember how involved he was with ham radio organizations and participated in emergency management events such as 911.

His widow, Karen Ostrove, has a 54 foot crank-up radio tower in her yard that needs a new home. Are you or do you know of anyone who knows how to take it down, would move it and enjoy years of communicating with the world. The tower is located in Elizabeth, NJ. The tower is in excellent condition and is a SKY-354 tilt-over, crank up tower consisting of three 20-foot sections. It includes a tri-band beam and a Yaesu rotator.

If you are interested in the tower or want more information, please contact Karen Ostrove as kareno249@verizon.net.



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 FEATURES

W2GSA CLUB NETS

Tuesdays at 8:30 pm: Analog FM, 147.045+ PL 67

Tuesdays at 9:00 pm: Analog FM, 147.045+ PL 67

Wednesdays at 8:00 pm: C4FM Digital Narrow (DN) 145.045+

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 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 newsletter of the Garden State Amateur Radio Association. For questions about the Propagator, please contact k2cys@arrl.net.



NED MEYER, KC2HGY IN HOSPITAL

Ned Meyer's wife, Fran, reports that Ned is in the hospital at RWJ for major abdominal cancer surgery. He has been there since 12/3/20.

Ned hopes to be well enough to be able to renew his membership for next year. The ham radio information always lifts his spirits. Please keep him in your prayers for a full recovery as he goes through this difficult operation.

LOOKING BACK ON GSARA

FIVE YEARS AGO

From the January 2016 Propagator: Cy Stanway.K2CYS was made GSARA Member of the Year. The banquet honoring Cy was held at Ninette's restaurant on December 5 with 27 attendees. Ralph Clappa is recovering from heart surgery. There was an article about early amateur call signs between 1912 and 1920. North Korea was on the air briefly.

TEN YEARS AGO

From the January 2011 Propagator: The January program was presented by Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ who talked about operating a remote station by remote control through the internet. Arek Tarniow, AC2FC (now K2KP) upgraded to Extra. There was a month by month review of GSARA activities during 2010. For the first time, GSARA operated during the ARRL Sweepstakes phone contest and scored 6162 points. Participants were K2EI, KC2YNL, N2LXM, W2HTS and W2XYZ.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the January 2006 Propagator: OMARC is having Diana Day on January 7 to mark the 60th anniversary of the first moonbounce. A successful holiday party with the Neptune Amateur Radio Club and GSARA was held at the American Legion on Gully Road in Neptune in December. The ARRL has a web page devoted to Winlink 2000.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the January 2001 Propagator: A Roster was included showing a record 152 members of GSARA. Ron Parham, K2SST moved to North Carolina. Laura Clanton, N2HGI became a great-grandmother for

the first time with the birth of a great-grandson.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From the January, 1996 Propagator: GSARA member Joe Wilkes, WA2SFF has written a book "Wireless and Personal Communications Systems" published by Prentice-Hall. A photo taken by Seymour Krevsky, W2JBI (SK) showed Rich Cardwell, AA2BY; Rich DiFiore, KB2NXA (SK); Frank Wroblewski, WS2Y (now W2XYZ); Bill Zeisler, W2DLP; Tony Colaguori, W2GUM (SK) and Bob Buus, W2OD at ARRL headquarters in Newington, CT.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the January 1991 Propagator: Annual GSARA dues increased from \$10 to \$15 per year. Fort Monmouth MARS station AA-R2USI is looking for operators to help run phone patches for "Desert Shield". The FCC is eliminating the need for a Morse code test for Technician licenses. Al Allen, K2LG (SK) had an article about linear amplifiers. Harry Landau, W2IX (SK) had an article about feeding antennas.

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see next page)

Large Call letters denote birthdays e.g. **WA1PCY** on January 6. All times are EST. Contests are listed in the January QST, p. 75. 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 January 2021 QST page 82 and www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule

Dec. 31–Jan. 1 – **Straight Kay Night** from 7 pm Thursday to 7 pm Friday. See: <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>. See also December 2020 QST, p. 65.

January 2 – **Kids Day**, HF and 2 Mtr. Repeater, Phone from 1 pm to 6:59 pm. See: <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

January 2-3 – **ARRL RTTY Roundup**, RTTY and Digital from 1 pm Saturday to 7 pm Sunday. See: <http://www.arrl.org/rty-roundup>

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

January 5 - **W1AW CW Qualifying Run (CW 7 pm 35R)** at 7 pm (35-10 wpm).

January 5 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting** at 7:30 pm in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org> (probably cancelled or on Zoom).

January 5 and every following Tuesday – **GSARA Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 8:30 pm.

January 5 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 pm.

January 6 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm via Zoom teleconferencing. This will be a program meeting featuring Bob Buus, W2OD who will talk about how to operate hands free through the use of foot switches, headsets and desk mics.

January 6 – **Holiday City ARC Meeting** at 7 pm at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River on Zoom.

January 6 and every following Thursday – **GSARA Digital Fusion Net** on 147.045 DN at 8:00 pm.

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

January 8 – **W1AW CW Qualifying Run (CW 9 am 35)** at 4 pm (10-35 wpm).

January 9-10 – **North American QSO Party, CW** from 1 pm Saturday to 12:59 am Sunday. See: <http://www.ncjweb.com>

January 12 – **OMARC Meeting** at 9:00 am at the Firehouse on 600 Sixth Ave. in Spring Lake Heights.

January 13 **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.

January 14 – **JSARS meeting** in Riverwood Park Rec. Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive at 7:30 pm.

January 16-17 – **North American QSO Party, Phone** from 1 pm Saturday to 12:59 am Sunday. See: <http://www.ncjweb.com>

January 16-17 – **ARRL January VHF Contest**, all modes 6 Meters and up from 2 pm Saturday to 10:59 pm Sunday. See: <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf.org>

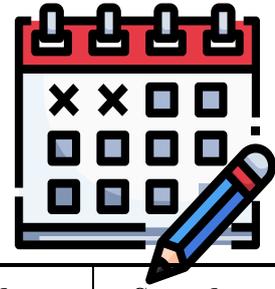
January 20 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm via Zoom teleconferencing. This will be a business meeting.

January 21 – **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.

January 29-31 – **CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW** from 5 pm Friday to 5 pm Sunday. See: <http://www.cq160.com>

January 30-31 – **Winter Field Day**, all bands & modes except FT4/8 from 2 pm Saturday to 2 pm Sunday. See <http://www.winterfieldday.com>

JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Kids Day RTTY Rndup
				SKN	SKN	
3 RTTY Rndup	4 CW 4 pm 35	5 CW 7 pm 35R GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	6 WA1PCY GSARA Mtg	7 HCARC Mtg GSARA Dig. Net CW 10 pm 40	8 CW 9 am 35	9 OMARC Mtg. NA QSO CW
10 KB2ZVR NA QSO CW	11 W2XYZ	12 CW 4 pm 35 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	13 Hol. City VE CW 7 pm 40	14 CW 9 am 35R JSARS Mtg GSARA Dig. Net	15 CW 10 pm 35	16 NA QSO SSB ARRL VHF
17 W2CET NA QSO SSB ARRL VHF	18 KA2VXA	19 CW 9 am 35 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	20 K2NPT CW10 pm 35R GSARA Mtg	21 N2LAL CW 7 PM 35 JSARS VE GSARA Dig. Net	22 CW 4 pm 40	23
24	25 CW 10 pm 40	26 W2TRI GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM5	27 CW 9 am 35R	28 CW 4 PM 35R GSARA Dig. Net	29 CQ 160 CW	30 CQ 160 CW Winter Field Day
31 Winter Field Day CQ 160 CW						



8 DONNER STREET
HOLMDEL, NJ 07733

First Class