



THE PROPAGATOR

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

JANUARY 2009

UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, January 7 at 7:30 PM** at the Fort Monmouth MARS building. The second meeting in January will be on **Wednesday, January 21 at 7:30 PM** at the **American Red Cross - Regional Office**, 1540 West Park Avenue, Tinton Falls, New Jersey. The guest speaker will be Kurt Weirich, K2URT talking about the role of amateur radio in the Red Cross. Don't miss it!

Remember that we are starting 30 minutes earlier at 7:30 PM. Guests are always welcome.

FORT MONMOUTH PASSES

To get an updated yellow sheet good for the next 6 months, you must go to the visitor center at the east entrance on Oceanport Ave. Be sure to have your driver's license, car registration and record of insurance. The center is only open weekdays during business hours. If any club member did not have a pass in the past year, but would like to get a pass issued for the coming twelve months, contact Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ at w2xyz@arrl.net or call him at 732-942-7705. It is only after the data is in the computer that you can pick up the pass at the Oceanport visitor center.

FREE TRIP TO DAYTON 2009

A **\$10 donation** to the North America DX Association, Inc. (NADXA, Inc.) will allow each donating person an opportunity to earn an **all expense paid trip** to the **2009 Annual Bus Trip** to the **Dayton Hamvention** in **Dayton, OH** May 14-17, 2009. Send your donation to **NADXA, Inc., PO Box 357, Bradley Beach, NJ 07720**.

The odds of being selected will be restricted to one in 75 and the numbers will be drawn on March 29, 2009. For further information contact: nadxa@juno.com. Thank you.

AREA AMATEUR EXAM SESSIONS

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

Wall Township, Camp Evans Area on Marconi Road: Exams are held on the first Saturday of the even numbered months (February 7, 2009) at 10 AM. The contact person is Pat Brannick, N2BZD at 732-267-0308 or e-mail to pbrannick@aol.com.

Middletown, Croyden Hall on Leonardo Road: Exams are on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. The contact person is Mario Sellitti, N2PVP 732-787-7184 or e-mail to n2pvp@n2pvp.com.

Toms River, Riverview Park Recreation Building: Exams are held on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM. The contact person is Ed Genoio, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or e-mail to wa2nda@aol.com.

Toms River, Holiday City South Clubhouse, Meeting Room #1, Mule Road at the corner of Santiago Drive on the second Saturday of the odd numbered months (January 10, 2009) at 10:00 AM. Pre-registration is required (no walk ins). The contact person is Bill Haldane, AC2F, 732-240-7064 or ac2f@earthlink.net.

In all cases, the fee is \$15 and you should bring the original and a copy of any amateur license presently held and original and one copy of any credit (CSCE) forms you have. Also bring 2 forms of ID with one being a picture ID.

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining, and wants it back the minute it begins to rain. (Mark Twain)

An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today.

GSARA OFFICERS

President	W2XYZ	Frank Wroblewski	942-7705
Vice Pres.	W2HTS	Howard Suffill	460-1885
Secretary	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
Treasurer	W2KQ	Joe Dreifuss	493-4236
Engineer	N2LXM	Jeff Harshman	922-0816
Webmaster	KC2TKK	Josh Gluck	
Trustees	KG2NV	Don Pingitore	229-2925
	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
	WA2FVL	Jack Keating	264-7670

PROPAGATOR AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL

Would you like to help the finances of GSARA and at the same time get your issue of *The Propagator* a few days earlier? You can get every issue e-mailed to your computer every month by simply giving your e-mail address to Josh Gluck, KC2TKK and request *The Propagator* electronically. Josh's e-mail address is <kc2tkk@gardenatateara.org>.

BADGES AND PATCHES

All new GSARA members get a name badge. However, you may order additional ones by getting a Badge Order Form from our Secretary, **Bob Buus, W2OD**, filling it out and turning it in to Bob with your \$5.00 payment.

We also now have patches available at all meetings and they cost \$3.

OUTGOING QSL CARDS

If any GSARA members wish to combine their QSL cards that are going through the outgoing ARRL Bureau, please bring them to the next GSARA meeting along with the label from a recent QST Magazine (you must be an ARRL member to participate in this program). We then send them as a group at no charge to GSARA members. It couldn't be much easier than that to QSL. You are registered at the W2 incoming bureau, aren't you?

PROPAGATOR NOW ON THE WEB

The *Propagator* is available as a PDF file at:

<http://www.monmouth.com/~gsara/prop.pdf>

It is installed on the web about two weeks after the direct mailing to members.

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hope that you all had a very pleasant and memorable holiday season. For me, it was particularly enjoyable because we had the entire family (my wife and I, our three children, their spouses, and our six grandchildren) all together on two occasions – our youngest granddaughter's first birthday on the 21st and Christmas day on the 25th. As the years go by, I find these get togethers becoming more important and more enjoyable each time. It has become an important part of my life.

Hats off to our new slate of officers. I look forward to a fun and active new year. I'm particularly excited about our new meeting place at the Red Cross which will again permit us to have interesting guest speakers each month at that meeting. Kicking off the new year will be Kurt Weirich, K2URT speaking on the 21st about the role of amateur radio with the Red Cross. I'm impressed with Kurt's knowledge and look forward to an interesting talk. If you have any ideas for future programs, please let one of the club officers know about it.

If you are interested in obtaining a [gardenstateara.org](mailto:gc2tkk@gardenstateara.org) email address which will give you webmail and POP3/SMTP access, please send an email to Josh at kc2tkk@gardenstateara.org with your First Name, Last Name, and Call Sign. Your email address call_sign@gardenstateara.org will be created and the login information sent back to the email address your request came from.

Remember if you change your e-mail address; please be sure to inform Josh Gluck, KC2TKK.

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 HOMEPAGE

<http://www.monmouth.com/~gsara>

GSARA CALENDAR

<http://www.monmouth.com/~gsara/calendr.htm>

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

MINUTES OF DEC. 3 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM called the meeting to order at the Fort Monmouth MARS building at 8:05 PM. There were 12 members and one guest present. The guest was Andy Bodnar, KA2VXA of Middletown. After the pledge to the Flag, all members introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the November 19 meeting were published in the December Propagator. A motion was made by Howard, W2HTS and seconded by Lou, W2HAM to accept the minutes of the November 19 meeting as published in the December Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ presented his report for November. Our opening balance on November 1 was \$3285.22. In November we spent \$18.34 on refreshments and \$74.80 for five months of the Propagator. Income was \$8 from a hat sale. This leaves a closing balance of \$3200.08. A motion was made by Lou, W2HAM and seconded by Peg Struening to accept the report as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Head of the nominating committee, Joe, W2KQ reported the following slate of officers for next year:

Frank, W2XYZ, President
Howard, W2HTS, Vice President
Joe, W2KQ, Treasurer
Bob, W2OD, Secretary
Jeff, N2LXM, Chief Engineer

A motion was made by Peg Struening and seconded by Ed, KB2SZW to have the Secretary cast the vote for the above candidates. The motion passed unanimously. The officers will be sworn in at the December 17 meeting.

An inventory of the radio equipment at the Red Cross was taken by Frank, W2XY and Howard, W2HTS. There are four desks in the new radio room and a 4" conduit goes outside for bringing in cables. There is ample room and power for several stations. Antennas have to be erected.

The Red Cross will be conducting a Disaster Institute on January 19 to 24. GSARA has agreed to conduct a 1-day amateur radio class that would include a VE session at the end of the day. Jeff, N2LXM will check with OMARC to see if they could help out with this. The Red Cross will order the necessary books for this class.

Joe, W2KQ and Jim, K2EI are still trying to meet with Fort Monmouth officials to see if there is a way that GSARA can keep its presence if Donna gets transferred. It looks like Donna will remain at Fort Monmouth at least until September, 2009 but the situation is volatile. In any case, we should catalog and inventory all GSARA equipment at Fort Monmouth. Frank, W2XYZ agreed to help with that inventory.

Announcements

Jeff, N2LZM brought several copies of the antique radio calendar for 2009 and made them available to any who wanted one.

John Calise, W2LKS became a silent key on Thanksgiving Day. On behalf of several clubs that John belonged to, donations are being asked for so a \$250 brick can be purchased at ARRL Headquarters in memory of John. Russ, K1LRB is coordinating the effort.

The Neptune Amateur Radio Club is having a Christmas Brunch at Gibbs Hall on Sunday, December 7 from 10 AM to 1 PM. All are invited and the cost is \$20 per person.

World Radio has been sold to CQ magazine and will no longer be publishing a paper copy. It will be available electronically on the internet. Those who have current subscriptions will receive an equal dollar value subscription to CQ magazine.

Closing

A door prize of \$10 was won by Ed, KB2SZW. There being no further business, a motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Peg Struening to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

ROSTER CORRECTION

W2HAM e-mail should be changed to russo62@verizon.net

MINUTES OF DEC. 17 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM called the meeting to order at the Red Cross building at 7:45 PM. There were 10 members present. After the pledge to the Flag, all members introduced themselves. Jeff thanked all the members for their support over the past 4 years of his presidency.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Howard, W2HTS to postpone reading of the minutes of the December 3 meeting which will be published in the January Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

The following slate of officers for 2009 were sworn in:

Frank, W2XYZ, President
Howard, W2HTS, Vice President
Joe, W2KQ, Treasurer
Bob, W2OD, Secretary
Jeff, N2LXM, Chief Engineer

The gavel was then passed by Jeff, N2LXM to Frank, W2XYZ who then presided over the rest of the meeting.

There was a discussion of what we might do to fix up the radio room at the Red Cross. There is a total budget of \$7000 to purchase anything needed. One suggestion was to use the four desks in the room as operating positions. This would require some sort of sound-proof partition between each desk. Once the hole is in the wall for the antenna feeds, we can start fixing the room.

The Red Cross will be conducting a Disaster Institute between January 19 and 24. GSARA has agreed to conduct a 1-day amateur radio class on Saturday, January 24 that would include a VE session at the end of the day. The Red Cross is ordering the books and will pay the examination fee for Red Cross volunteers who take the course. GSARA is responsible for running the course and providing VEs and a VEC for the examination.

Joe, W2KQ and Jim, K2EI will meet with Fort Monmouth officials in December to see if there is a way that GSARA can keep its presence if Donna gets transferred. In any case, we should take an

inventory of our equipment at the MARS building and be prepared to move it out on short notice. It was proposed that those members who can get to the January 7 meeting at Fort Monmouth early could take a quick inventory prior to the meeting.

Announcements

OMARC will be on the air on January 10 for Project Diana Day. Amateurs may stop by to operate and all are invited to listen for N2MO and work them from home.

Infoage has a Holiday Train display on weekends through Sunday, December 21. Admission is \$5 per person with children free. It is highly recommended.

The Neptune Amateur Radio Club Christmas Brunch at Gibbs Hall was successful and all who attended had a good time.

Our program for the January 21 meeting at the Red Cross will be Kurt Weirich, K2URT talking about the role of amateur radio with the Red Cross.

Closing

There being no further business, a motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Jeff, N2LXM to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

NEED TOWER WORK?

Ray Higgins, W2RE, a very competitive contester and member of HVCDXC has a web page at www.hudsonvalleytowers.com Even if you are not interested in having his firm do your tower work it merits a look just for the video from the top of some of his towers.

Others who do tower work in the area include Mike Crawford, WA2VUN, whose website is <http://www.wa2vunantennasplus.com/index.html> Also Jeff Briggs, K2ZM (no web reference known) and Matt Strelow, KC1XX at <http://www.kc1xx.com/antennas/antennas.htm>

Sensor-Tech is expanding in the amateur market by offering antenna/tower installation services, maintenance work for your antenna farm as well as handle insurance claim work due to storm damage. Plenty of references are available. Cold weather work is okay. Competitive rates are assured. Contact Mark Pride, K1RX for more information.

From *The Hudson Div. Beacon*, #91, December, 2008

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bob,

I just read the November Propagator (*p. 3, Minutes – Ed.*) and am a little confused. I'm sorry that Jim had a bad experience with a Red Cross worker. I wonder if this was a paid or volunteer staff member, but then, it really has no bearing on the story.

By National rules & reg's (and yes, ARC reg's are thick and voluminous, just like military reg's!) and by policy of all chapters, Red Cross is not "in charge" of anything. The ARC is a support organization.

The only thing that ARC claims primacy on is sheltering. Red Cross has more experience, both in duration of time and breadth of types of events. In NJ (I can't speak to any such thing in any other state, near or far!) the state requirement is that shelters must meet Red Cross standards. They don't have to be Red Cross shelters, they don't have to have Red Cross managers, or Red Cross signs. But they must meet minimum standards. And NJ has chosen ARC standards as that minimum.

Red Cross personnel can make all kinds of mistakes. I can tell stories of Red Cross shelter managers that would curl your hair. But that's only to be expected in an organization this big, working into its second century. Our own late, lamented, Silent Key Charlie Puryear made a few mistakes as a Shelter Manager. But that's why I try to stay in the Radio Room.

No organization made up of people is ever going to be perfect. Go to your favorite house of worship and sit in on a business meeting some day. It can be frightening. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't support our chosen place of worship. Nor should we write off the American Red Cross, or more importantly, The Jersey Coast Chapter, because Jim had an unfortunate experience.

My opinion, experience and two cents plain, only!

--

Tom Cosgrove, N2VFK
NREMT-B
SKYWARN Spotter LME002

A lawyer is a person who writes a 10,000 word document and calls it a "brief."

DANIEL BERTOLETTE, KC2OQY - SK

Daniel Kent Bertollette, KC2OQY of Ocean, NJ died Wednesday, December 24 at his home. He was born in Rahway 50 years ago, lived in Middletown and Long Branch for 30 years before moving to Ocean.

He was a member of the Monmouth Amateur Radio Club and the Ocean-Monmouth Amateur Radio Club. An avid Entrepreneur, he was trustee of the Monastery of St. Barbara, Middletown.

Surviving are a son, Daniel, a brother Metropolitan Ephraem Holy Monastery of Saint Barbara, a sister, Madeline Bertollette and her husband Bernard J. Aiken of Ocean.

Memorial donations can be made to The Holy Monastery of Saint Barbara, PO Box 582, Middletown, NJ 07748. Letters of condolence may be e-mailed to condolences@pfliegerfuneralhome.com

SOS FROM HOSARC – PLEASE HELP

Dear Fellow Amateur,

The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club-WB2JSM is putting out an SOS (save our station) call for your help. The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club has been demonstrating amateur radio to the visiting public for over 35 years as an independent exhibit at the New York Hall of Science Children's Museum located in Queens, New York. The museum is undergoing a major renovation project and wants us out for good. We have started a petition which we want you to sign and circulate for us in order to help preserve a great ham radio asset by showing officials at the museum that you value what we do. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/6ljost> to read more about our plight and sign our petition. We have logged over 10,000 contacts from the station and even if you're not in our log your help will let us continue to talk up amateur radio and create the next generation of ham radio operators.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Golero KC2CBA - Club Liaison Officer
www.hosarc.org (the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club) www.nyhallsci.org (the Hall of Science museum)

From *The Hudson Div. Beacon*, #91, December, 2008

FREQ. CHANGE FOR STATION CHU

After 70 years of broadcasting Canada's official time, the National Research Council's shortwave station CHU <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/shortwave_broadcasts_e.html> will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change goes into effect at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2009.

Broadcasting 24 hours a day, CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, a voice to announce the time in French and English and digital data to set computers. The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories at the National Research Council Canada in Ottawa. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). Time transmissions on 3330 and 14670 kHz are not affected and will continue as before.

In April 2007, the ITU reallocated the 7300-7350 kHz band from the fixed service to the broadcasting service. Since then, the NRC said there has been a lot of interference on the 7335 kHz frequency from many information broadcasters around the world. "CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 kHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference," said Raymond Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility. "We have heard from Amateur Radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers and navigators who use the tones and voice signals. We also received comments from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment."

Pelletier noted that a leap second <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/faq_time_e.html> will be added at the end of December 2008; this will be indicated in the digital code until the time of the leap second. DUT1 will go from -0.6 to +0.4 seconds and will be indicated by double tones near the start of the minute and in the broadcast code <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/chu_e.html>

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 50, December 19, 2008

FCC CHAIRMAN LAMBASTED

On Tuesday, December 9, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce -- the congressional committee that oversees the Federal Communications Commission -- released its majority staff report "on the bipartisan investigation of the FCC's regulatory processes and management practices." The report -- "Deception and Distrust: The Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Kevin J. Martin" -- stated that the investigation was prompted "by allegations to the effect that [FCC] Chairman Kevin J. Martin has abused FCC procedures by manipulating or suppressing reports, data and information" <http://www.arrrl.org/news/files/FCC_Report120908.pdf>.

"Our investigation confirmed a number of troubling allegations raised by individuals in and outside the FCC," said Representative Bart Stupak (D-MI), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. "The Committee staff report details some of the most egregious abuses of power, suppression of information and manipulation of data under Chairman Martin's leadership. It is my hope that this report will serve as a roadmap for a fair, open and efficient FCC under new leadership in the next administration."

Representative John D. Dingell (D-MI), Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce echoed Stupak's concerns: "Any of these findings, individually, are cause for concern. Together, the findings suggest that, in recent years, the FCC has operated in a dysfunctional manner and Commission business has suffered as a result. It is my hope that the new FCC Chairman will find this report instructive and that it will prove useful in helping the Commission avoid making the same mistakes."

The report said that "in an investigation of this nature," the Committee would usually hold hearings "to receive testimony from witnesses and to further examine the issues." But due to what the Committee called "the climate of fear that currently pervades the FCC," the report said the Committee found that key witnesses "were unwilling to testify or even have their names become known." For that reason, they issued a report in place of a hearing "to protect the many honest people who came forward under a promise of protection or anonymity." Chairman Martin was invited to meet with the

Committee to discuss matters addressed by the investigation, but the report said he "ignored [the Committee's] invitation," as did his Chief of Staff Daniel Gonzalez and Chief of Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Derek Poarch.

In its 110-page report, the Committee described 12 allegations, ranging from retaliation against FCC employees who differed with the Chairman's policies to enhanced 911 wireless services to broadband over power lines (BPL). To go along with the 12 allegations, 22 exhibits were attached to the report, such as internal e-mails, e-mails from FCC commissioners to their staff, statements made by FCC commissioners and letters to and from commissioners (including Chairman Martin). Not all 12 allegations were substantiated by the Committee.

* Broadband over Power Lines

Concerning BPL, the report alleges that FCC officials "ignored complaints of radio frequency interference caused by BPL high-speed Internet technology, delayed an enforcement investigation for two years and improperly withheld engineering data regarding BPL from the public."

The report found that in October 2004, as then-Chairman Michael Powell issued his final rule "defining BPL access and setting technical and administrative requirements to protect licensed radio operators from harmful interference," the FCC "withheld from the public certain engineering reports on which it relied in promulgating the rule" from the final rule and order.

Even though the BPL rules were adopted during Powell's tenure, the report found that "it was under Chairman Martin that the Enforcement Bureau and the General Counsel continued to withhold the redacted engineering reports and insisted on doing so in the course of the ensuing litigation [with the ARRL]"

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>.

The report goes on to say that on April 25, 2008, the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit found that the FCC, in the case filed by the ARRL, "violated the Administrative Procedure Act when it played 'hide and seek' with engineering data used in its support of the order and 'cherry-picked' a study on which it had relied"

<http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200804/06-1343-1112979.pdf>.

"The fact that the FCC withheld the required engineering reports in this matter," the report concluded, "indicates poor judgment and an attempt to hide critical weaknesses in its decision. Ironically, the FCC's attempts to hide this information only served to provoke suspicion and its handmaiden, litigation. This case [filed by the ARRL] illustrates the extent to which a culture of secrecy has developed at the FCC that is as counterproductive as it is unnecessary." The report states that this "particular situation" has been corrected by the courts and technological issues arising from BPL have been "rendered largely moot over time due to improvements" in BPL technology.

"It is distressing, but unfortunately not surprising," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, "to read that the FCC's mishandling of the BPL issue was simply a part of a broad pattern of dysfunction at the Commission. This is a relatively recent development and is unprecedented in the ARRL's long experience with the FCC – an association that dates back to the very creation of the agency, 20 years after the founding of the ARRL. While the marketplace failure of BPL and the steps taken voluntarily by the few companies that have deployed BPL systems have combined to minimize interference, the regulatory issue is by no means moot. The rules remain inadequate."

Sumner continued: "More than seven months after the Court remand, the FCC has done nothing to correct its errors, nor has it complied with the very specific instructions from the United States Court of Appeals. These instructions included the disclosure of the studies that it intentionally withheld from the public, but upon which it relied in adopting its rules. Indeed, the only step the Commission has taken since the Court's remand order is to mount an unsuccessful effort to oppose our claim for reimbursement of the printing costs for the briefs in the case -- a small fraction of the expenses incurred by the ARRL in our appeal -- expenses that would not have been necessary had the Commission followed the law in the first place" <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8338>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 49, December 12, 2008

NEW ARRL TRIPLE PLAY WAS AWARD

As of January 1, 2009, the ARRL will offer another award: The Triple Play Worked All States Award <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/#tripleplay>>. This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the starting date and must be confirmed via Logbook of the World (LoTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

In their July 2008 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to implement this new award. Based on a suggestion by former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Hans Brakob, KOHB, the League's Programs and Services Committee referred the award's parameters to the Board where it received enthusiastic approval.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Triple Play Award is a one-time award -- once you have made the required 150 confirmed contacts via LoTW, you're done. "Even so," Sumner writes in "It Seems to Us" in the January issue of QST, "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

The Triple Play Award is not a contest, but Sumner points out that the ARRL RTTY Roundup <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/rtty.html>> takes place the first weekend in 2009, with the North American QSO Party (CW and Phone) <<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>> following soon after. "Contesters are among the most loyal devotees of LoTW," Sumner writes, "so participating in these three events should take care of all of the easy states, as well as some of the more difficult ones."

The rules for the Triple Play Award state that two-way communication must be established on the amateur bands with each state on each mode (the

District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland). There is no minimum signal report required. Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants must include their club name and call sign of the club station or trustee on their application. The Triple Play Award will be issued on sequentially numbered certificates, starting with #1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application as submitted via LoTW. There are no endorsements for this award.

Contacts made through repeater devices or any other power relay method may not be used for WAS confirmation (a separate WAS award is available for satellite contacts). All stations contacted must be land stations; contacts with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted. The only exception to this rule is permanently docked exhibition ships (such as the Queen Mary) and other historic ships will be considered land based.

Triple Play Award applicants who reside in the US must be ARRL members to be eligible to receive the award.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 48, December 5, 2008

ARRL APPROVES THREE OPERATIONS

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the following operations have been approved for DXCC credit: Wake Island -- WA2YUN/KH9 (for operations commencing 2007); Willis Island -- VK9DWX (2008), and Andaman and Nicobar Island -- VU4RG (2008). "If you had cards rejected for the Wake Island operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 48, December 5, 2008

A LITTLE RADIO NOSTALGIA

Remember the Russian woodpecker? Would you like to see it now? Photos of the antenna are at <http://www.artificialowl.net/2008/12/abandoned-giant-duga-3-system-antenna.html>

From *The Hudson Div. Beacon*, #91, December, 2008

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see reverse side)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., **KC2HAW** January 8. All times are in EST. Contests are listed in the January QST, p. 82.

Dec. 31-Jan. 1 – **Straight Key Night** from 7 PM Wed. to 7 PM Thursday.

January 3 and every Sunday – **InfoAge Marconi Hotel** open from 1 to 4 PM on Marconi Road in Wall. Exhibits by QCWA, OMARC, Antique Radio, Broadcaster's Hall of Fame, etc. \$5 donation requested.

Jan. 3-4 – **ARRL RTTY Roundup** from 1 PM Saturday to 7 PM Sunday. See www.arrl.org/contests

January 4 – **Kids Day** from 1 PM to 7 PM. See www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html

January 5 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

January 6 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon at left rear table. All are welcome.

January 6 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

January 6 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 PM.

January 7 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 PM at the MARS Building at Fort Monmouth.

January 8 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 PM.

January 9 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 10 PM (35-10 wpm). See January QST, pp. 82 and 100.

January 10 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ.

January 10 – **Holiday City VE Test Session** at 10 AM in Toms River. Pre-register with Bill Haldane, AC2F at 732-240-7064 or ac2f@earthlink.net. No walk-ins.

January 10 – **Monmouth Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 10 AM in Union Beach Police Annex (Municipal Building) on Poole Avenue.

Jan. 10-11 – **North American QSO Party**, CW from 1 PM Sat. to 1 AM Sun. See www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php

January 11 – **NYC/LI Section Convention** at Briarcliffe College in Bethpage from 8 AM to 4 PM. See www.hamradiouniversity.org

January 12 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

January 13 – **VE Test Session** at Croyden Hall, Leonardo section of Middletown at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mario Sellitti, N2PVP at 732-787-7184 or n2pvp@n2pvp.com

January 15 – **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:30 PM Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoio, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or wa2nda@comcast.net.

Jan. 17-18 – **North American QSO Party**, SSB from 1 PM Sat. to 1 AM Sun. See www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php

Jan. 17-18 – **ARRL VHF Sweepstakes** from 2 PM Sat. to 11 PM Sun. See www.arrl.org/contests

January 19 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

January 20 – **K0MIK Special Event** station for inauguration of Obama from 9 to 11 AM and 1 to 5 PM on 14.295 or 7.265. See www.omikradio.org

January 21 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 at the Red Cross, West Park Ave. and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls. Guest speaker is Kurt Weirich, K2URT on the role of amateur radio in the Red Cross.

January 22 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 9 AM (10-35 wpm). See January QST, pp. 82 and 100.

Jan 23-25 – **CW WW 160 Meter CW Contest** from 5 PM Friday to 5 PM Sun. See www.cq160.com

January 24 – **Neptune Amateur Radio Club Meeting** at 9 AM at the American Legion on Gully Road in Neptune.

January 26 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 SKN	2	3 RTTY Rndup
4 RTTY Rndup Kids Day	5 ARES/RACES 7:30	6 Pancake House Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	7 GSARA Mtg	8 KC2HAW JSARS Mtg.	9 CW Qual. Run	10 OMARC Mtg. KC2TKK Hol. City VE MARC Mtg NA QSO CW
11 KE2DT W2XYZ NYC/LI Conv. InfoAge	12 RACES Net 7:30	13 W2QFQ Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	14	15 JSARS VE	16	17 NA QSO SSB VHF SS
18 VHF SS InfoAge	19 ARES/RACES 7:30	20 K0MIK S.E. QCWA News 9 PM	21 GSARA Mtg	22 CW Qual. Run	23 CQ WW 160 CW	24 Neptune Mtg CQ WW 160 CW
25 CQ WW 160 CW InfoAge	26 RACES Net 7:30	27 QCWA News 9 PM	28	29 KC2FRN	30	31



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

FIRST CLASS