



# THE PROPAGATOR

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

**MARCH 2009**

## UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 PM** at the Fort Monmouth MARS building. The gang from Barbados should have an interesting story to tell. The second meeting in March will be on **Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30 PM** at the **American Red Cross - Regional Office**, 1540 West Park Avenue, Tinton Falls, New Jersey. Don't miss it! 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](mailto: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](mailto:nadxa@juno.com). Thank you.

## BARBADOS CALLING



*Lorraine, KC2FDR chatting with our members in Barbados while VP Howard, W2HTS and Ray, W2NXG make sure everything is working OK. – Photo courtesy Ray, W2NXG*

## OMARC TAILGATE HAMFEST APRIL 18

**InfoAge Diana Site, Marconi Road, Wall, NJ**

Off Route 18, Exit 7 northbound, 7A southbound

**Saturday April 18, 2009** Rain or Shine

7:30am-1:00pm

7:30am Gates Open to Public

6:30am Gates Open to Seller's

**Seller:** Only \$10.00 per space

**Buyer:** Only \$5.00 per carload

Talk-In: 145.110 -600 (PL 127.3) and 443.000 +5 (PL 127.3)

VE Session starting 10:30 a.m. Contact N2BZD at [n2bzd@arrl.net](mailto:n2bzd@arrl.net)

Ample Parking, Bathroom facilities

Refreshments will be available at reasonable cost

For more information: <http://www.omarc.org> or Jeff, N2LXM, [n2lxm@juno.com](mailto:n2lxm@juno.com) or 732-996-0637

## 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	
Publicity	NJ2H	Bill Shockley	207-4466
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://gardenstateara.files.wordpress.com/2008/11/ropfeb9.pdf>

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

## EDITOR'S NOTES

For those of you getting paper copies of *The Propagator*, you may have noticed that it is no longer stapled together. The Post Office informed me that the use of staples is illegal and has been since the anthrax scare of several years ago. There was concern that a partially opened staple could cut a postal employee. So, I am trying to use tape to hold the folded issue together. If you have any other ideas, please let me know.

I was impressed with the quality of the talk given at the last meeting by Randy Kulzer, N2CUG. It was very nicely and professionally done. The laptop-projector system at the Red Cross works very well. I look forward to many more talks given this way.

Rich Krohn has agreed to speak on the second meeting in May. We should think about what we want him to discuss and pass it along to him so that he might have time to prepare it.

Dues for 2009 are past due. Check the label on the last page to see your status. If dues are not paid by March 18, this is your last issue of *The Propagator*.

If you are interested in obtaining a [gardenstateara.org](http://gardenstateara.org) email address which will give you webmail and POP3/SMTP access, please send an email to Josh at [kc2tkk@gardenstateara.org](mailto:kc2tkk@gardenstateara.org) with your First Name, Last Name, and Call Sign. Your email address [call\\_sign@gardenstateara.org](mailto: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 April issue is March 18.

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

## GSARA HOMEPAGE

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

## GSARA CALENDAR

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

## MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ called the meeting to order at the Fort Monmouth MARS building at 7:39 PM. There were 11 members present. After the pledge to the Flag, all members introduced themselves and were asked to say a few words about their amateur radio activities.

### Secretary's Report

The minutes from the January meetings were published in the February Propagator. A motion was made by Tom, N2VFK and seconded by Jeff, N2LXM to accept the minutes of the January meetings as published in the February Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joe Dreifuss, W2KQ presented his report for January. The report was accepted unanimously.

### Health and Welfare

Mike, W2EXQ was reported to be back home and recovering.

Ray, W2NXG is also back home and feeling much better.

### Old Business

The Red Cross Disaster Institute on January 19 to 24 was successful. GSARA through Jeff, N2LXM conducted a 1-day amateur radio class on Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> with 14 people participating. Thanks to VEC Ed, WA2NDA, we had a VE session at the end of the day at which 10 people passed their Technician exam. The article announcing this session written by Bill, NJ2H was published in several area newspapers.

On January 24, Frank, W2XYZ and Joe, W2KQ removed the GSARA equipment from studio 6 of the MARS building and moved it to the Red Cross radio room.

Jim, K2EI and Joe, W2KQ had another meeting with Fort Monmouth officials on January 9 and they now have the responsibility to maintain the building. Still unresolved is the status of the equipment in the various studios. Jim, K2EI; Joe, W2KQ, and MARS members will meet with BRAC next week to resolve the issue.

### New Business

GSARA members Joe, W2KQ; Frank, W2XYZ; and Mike, KC2Q will be going to Barbados to operate a DX-pedition from February 15 to the 21<sup>st</sup>. They will be operating 8P9KP, 8P9FW, and 8P9MD on CW, SSB, and PSK31. To help members work them, we will have a "special event" at the MARS station on Thursday, February 19 to work them. To get on the base that night, you must submit your name, driver's license number, and vehicle license to Howard, W2HTS by Monday, February 9. An e-mail will be sent out to members so advising them.

Jim, K2EI, Joe, W2KQ, Jeff, N2LXM and Frank, W2XYZ put up a Carolina window at the MARS station aimed at Barbados which will be used for the "special event" on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Tom, N2VFK made a motion to eliminate the free name badge to new members and instead charge \$7.50 to anyone who wants a badge. This was seconded by Jeff, N2LXM. The discussion pointed out that many new members do not bother picking up their badge and the cost has climbed to over \$7. The motion passed unanimously.

### Announcements

OMARC will be running a tailgate Hamfest on Saturday, April 18 at the Diana site on Marconi Road in Wall.

### Closing

A door prize of \$9 was won by Howard, W2HTS. An ARRL Travel Plus CD donated by SM Rich, N2SMV was won by Joe, KC2HWK. There being no further business, a motion was made by Peg Struening and seconded by Jeff, N2LXM to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

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## HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

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## SITE ABOUT MODEL T FORD

Check out this interesting site showing the assembly of the Model T Ford:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4KrIMZpwCY>

Thanks to Ray, W2NXG

## MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ absent so the meeting was called to order by Vice President Howard Suffill, W2HTS at the Red Cross building at 7:39 PM. There were 13 members and 1 guest present. The guest was Matt Bregoff, W2AOJ from Oakhurst. After the pledge to the Flag, all members introduced themselves.

### Old Business

GSARA members Joe, W2KQ; Frank, W2XYZ; and Mike, KC2Q are operating in Barbados until February 21<sup>st</sup>. They are operating 8P9KP, 8P9FW, and 8P9MD on CW, SSB, and PSK31. Members are encouraged to work them by coming to the Fort Monmouth MARS station on Thursday, February 19 at 7:30 PM.

Progress is being made in moving some equipment into the Red Cross radio room. We will move the antennas when the weather gets a bit nicer. Once we get network and phone connections in the radio room, we will be ready to go operational.

### Public Service

The next public service event is the MS-170 on May 16 and 17, 2009.

### Guest Speaker

GSARA member Randy Kulzer, N2CUG gave a very interesting talk about how he built an APRS tracker. He started by setting up a list of requirements his system had to meet (including buy-in from his XYL), then surveying various options, and then integrating the various parts into a complete system. The result was a very compact but economical unit that works to his satisfaction.

Kurt also pointed out that background checks for volunteers are not going to go away. A criminal background check and social security number are required of all volunteers. The GSARA interaction with the Red Cross does not require all members to submit to a background check, however.

### Closing

There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom, N2VFK and seconded by Jeff, N2LXM to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:36 PM.



*Guest Speaker Randy Kulzer, N2CUG explaining a subtle point to VP Howard, W2HTS – Photo courtesy Ray, W2NXG*

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## 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 (April 4, 2009) at 10 AM. The contact person is Pat Brannick, N2BZD at 732-267-0308 or e-mail to [pbrannick@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 Genoino, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or e-mail to [wa2nda@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## HAMS CAN HELP WITH DIGITAL TV

Even though the mandatory conversion date for television stations to switch from analog signals to digital has been delayed by four months <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-9A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-9A1.pdf)>, hams are still assisting the FCC and their communities by providing technical support to those who need assistance <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/10/10499/>>. Although many TV stations won't turn off their analog signals until the new deadline, the law allows stations to apply to switch on the original date – February 17 -- or any time before June 12.

According to the FCC, there are nearly 1800 full-power television stations in the US. Of these, the FCC said that "220 will have terminated their analog signals before Tuesday [February 17] and another 421 will terminate their analog signals on Tuesday [February 17] before 11:59 PM, for a total of 641 stations, or about 36 percent of all full-power stations nationwide." The FCC has posted a list of stations making the conversion on or before February 17 on their Web site <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-288530A2.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-288530A2.pdf)>.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said he has been getting e-mails and phone calls from Amateur Radio operators concerning the digital TV conversion, now set to take place on Friday, June 12. "People are asking what's happening with the DTV conversion -- especially now that it's been delayed - - and wondering what we as hams can do to help," he said. "There has been considerable confusion concerning the extension of the date, but the role of Amateur Radio is simply to be helpful to the people in our communities."

Pitts advises those hams that are helping to provide technical educational assistance keep in mind the following troubleshooting pointers, provided by the FCC:

\* **Check Your Connections:** Check that your digital-to-analog converter box (or digital television) is connected properly. Make sure that your antenna is connected to the antenna input of your digital-to-analog converter box (or digital television). If you are using a digital-to-analog converter box, ensure that the antenna output of the converter box is connected to the antenna input of

your analog TV. If you are unsure of the proper connections, refer to your owner's manual.

Make sure that your components are plugged in and turned on. If using a digital-to-analog converter box, tune your analog TV to channel 3. You should see a set-up menu or picture on your screen. If you do not see this, re-check your connections.

\* **Perform a Channel Scan:** Digital-to-analog converter boxes (and digital televisions) have a button -- usually on the remote control -- that is labeled "Set-up" or "Menu" or some similar term. Press that button to access the set-up menu. Using the directional arrow buttons on your remote, scroll to the option that allows you to perform a "channel scan." The channel scan will search for digital broadcast channels that are available in your area. If you are unsure how to do a channel scan, please refer to the owner's manual for your converter box or digital television (whichever applies).

Once the channel scan is complete, you will be able to tune to the digital channels received by your antenna.

\* **Adjust Your Antenna:** As many hams know, small adjustments to an antenna can make a big difference; digital TV is no exception. If you have an indoor antenna, try elevating it and moving it closer to an exterior wall of your home. After adjusting your antenna, perform another channel scan to see if your reception has improved.

While adjusting your antenna, it may be helpful to access the "Signal strength meter" on your converter box or digital television set to determine whether your adjustments are improving the signals' strength. You can probably find your signal strength meter via the "Menu" function on your remote control, and your owner's manual will provide detailed information on how to perform this function. Remember to do another channel scan after you have adjusted your antenna.

Make sure that you are using an antenna that covers both the UHF and VHF bands and that is connected properly (depending on what channels are in use in your area).

Late last year, the FCC requested assistance from the ARRL in providing educational support to local communities regarding the digital TV conversion.

"I really appreciate the willingness of the ARRL to actively participate in helping Americans with the transition to DTV and your helpful suggestions," said George Dillon, FCC Deputy Bureau Chief for Field Operations (now retired). "The DTV transition will be an historic moment in the evolution of TV. Broadcast television stations can offer viewers improved picture and sound quality and new programming choices. All-digital broadcasting also will allow [the FCC] to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broadband. Our goal is to engage the amateur community on a cooperative basis to help with the DTV outreach and to educate consumers."

The FCC said that it is seeking to ensure that even where all or most stations in a market are terminating analog service, consumers who are unprepared for the switch will continue to have access to critical local news and emergency information. In a statement released by the FCC, the Commission "examined each market in which stations planned to end analog service to try to ensure that at least one affiliate of the four major networks -- ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC -- would continue broadcasting in analog after February 17. Many had such a station, but in those instances in which there would be no top-four affiliate remaining in a market, the FCC attempted to ensure that analog local news and emergency information would remain available -- generally through what is being called 'enhanced analog nightlight' service. Under 'enhanced analog nightlight,' the top-four affiliates must keep at least one analog signal on the air to provide programming that includes, at a minimum, local news and emergency information" <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-288530A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-288530A1.pdf)>.

FCC Acting Chairman Michael Copps said that the Commission is "trying to make the best of a difficult situation. While this staggered transition is confusing and disruptive for some consumers, the confusion and disruption would have been far worse had we gone ahead with a nationwide transition on [February 17]."

For more information on the conversion to digital television, please see the DTV Conversion Web site <<http://www.dtv.gov/>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 7, February 20, 2009

## QST ARCHIVE AVAILABLE

ARRL is pleased to announce that online access to the QST archive <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qnsearch.html>> will be expanded. Beginning February 1, 2009, ARRL members will be able to search and view QST -- from December 1915 through December 2005 right from their computer. With an additional year -- 2005 -- added to the viewable archive, this valuable benefit is available to all ARRL members. As an added benefit, ARRL Diamond Club members at the Brass level and above -- as well as ARRL Maxim Society members -- will be able to get images from the entire QST archive, right up through December 2008, an additional three years <<http://www.arrl.org/diamondclub>>. According to ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, this is the first new benefit that has been added to the Diamond Club since the Diamond Terrace opened in 2007. "Given the popularity of the QST online archive," Hobart said, "I hope that Diamond Club members and the Maxim Society members will enjoy exclusive access to the most recent four years of QST with our appreciation for their generosity. Perhaps the expanded QST viewable archive will inspire other ARRL members to participate in the Diamond Club and enjoy the other benefits available to Diamond Club members, as well." The online archive was first introduced to members in fall 2008, providing PDF copies of articles from the huge QST archive, from December 1915 through December 2004. Since then, thousands of members have enjoyed searching, viewing and printing their favorite articles, projects and more. The membership benefit is a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/>>. Access to the archive is free for ARRL members. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is \$39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/join>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 4, January 30, 2009

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## NEW GSARA HOMEPAGE

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

This is our new homepage under construction.

## ARRL NATIONAL CONV. AT DAYTON

The ARRL National Convention will be held at the Dayton Hamvention May 15-17 at Hara Arena <<http://www.hamvention.org/>>. According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, the ARRL National Convention will be filled with activities and exhibits. "Our host organization, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, has three big days planned, chock-full of every bit of Amateur Radio you can think of," Inderbitzen said. "ARRL volunteers from across its 15 National Divisions will be present, alongside thousands of out-of-towners who will make Dayton their home-away-from-home during the event. The centerpiece of ARRL's convention planning is ARRL EXPO -- a huge showcase of ARRL program representatives and activities. Many new exhibits are being planned, with special focus on operating and project-building." A preview of what is planned for ARRL EXPO can be found at the ARRL EXPO Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/expo>>.

The ARRL EXPO, located in the large exhibit area in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400-numbered booths), will showcase exhibits and activities to enhance the ham radio experience. Open to both ARRL members and nonmembers, ARRL EXPO is packed with official ARRL program representatives, activities and forums. Visit the ARRL bookstore for popular publications and products, join the ARRL or renew your membership, and pick up official ARRL merchandise. All who join the ARRL or renew their membership at the Dayton Hamvention will receive a free gift.

Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check DX cards and applications. All cards will be eligible for checking -- including old cards, cards for deleted countries and cards for 160 meters. Applications will be limited to 120 cards. Check out the ARRL Awards Web site for the latest program information and current forms <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>>.

Inderbitzen said that a special event operating station is planned, so be sure to have a copy of your license on hand -- get in the hot seat of W1AW/8 and get on the air! You can also meet W1AW Station Manager Joe Garcia, NJ1Q, part of the team that supports the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters.

The ARRL Youth Lounge in the ARRL EXPO is the place to meet and socialize with other young hams. If you are looking for other young people at Hamvention, check out the youth calling frequencies at 145.540 MHz (107.2 Hz CTCSS) primary and 146.430 (233.6 Hz CTCSS) secondary.

If you enjoy waxing-nostalgic over the gear of yesteryear, then drop by the exhibit area to meet vintage equipment photographer Joe Veras, K9OCO. He will be autographing of his new book, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0228>>, recently published by ARRL. There are some other "vintage" surprises planned, as well, Inderbitzen said.

"If you can't make it to Dayton," Inderbitzen said, "you can still catch all the latest news on the Convention's Weblog <<http://www.arrl.org/blog>>. QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will once again be blogging about Hamvention. Proving you can indeed go home again, Steve will regale readers with the adventures of staying with his mother at his childhood home in Dayton." For the past few years, thousands of readers have been entertained as Steve has related stories about new gear making its debut at Hamvention, the weather in Dayton and the overall feel of the event -- as well as the ever-popular antics at "Casa de Mi Madre."

The ARRL will introduce a new blog at this year's National Convention: ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, will blog from a young ham's perspective. MacLachlan, who will be assisting former Youth Editor Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, and her father Scott, KF4PWI, in the ARRL Youth Lounge, will explore the Hamvention exhibits, forums and events, giving his first-time take on the Hamvention experience. "Duncan's youth perspective is a welcome addition to the ARRL National Convention team," Inderbitzen said. "We hope you'll explore all of Dayton's nooks and crannies through his reporting."

ARRL staff are getting ready for all the excitement that a National Convention brings. Teaming up with the Dayton Hamvention is sure to bring everything to a fever pitch, so why not make plans to join in on the fun? Travel and lodging information is available on the Hamvention Web site <<http://www.hamvention.org/travel.php>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 5, February 6, 2009

## MOBILE OPERATION POLICY

On January 30, at the instruction of the Board of Directors at its January 2009 meeting, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted a policy statement on mobile Amateur Radio operations. The statement addresses the growing number of proposed state and local laws and ordinances regulating the use of cellular telephone and text messaging, inadvertently affecting Amateur Radio mobile communications <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>>.

In its statement, the Executive Committee urges state and municipal legislators to limit the scope of their proposals, limiting them to devices such as full duplex wireless telephones and related handheld or portable equipment. Alternately, it suggests that licensed Amateur Radio operation be listed specifically as an exclusion to the proposed regulations.

"At the start of each new session, you see a flurry of this type of proposal in state legislatures across the country," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. As of February 1, 2009, Henderson said that the ARRL is aware of proposals in 11 states: Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming, as well as several local city or town proposals.

"These proposals are usually intended to regulate cellular telephone and text messaging by drivers as a matter of safety but, when they are written in very broad terms, can include Amateur Radio mobile operations in the 'net' they cast,"

Henderson continued. "The Executive Committee's policy statement gives a good, concise background of the role the Amateur Service plays in public safety and service communications. It also highlights the differences between communications conducted by cellular telephone and those using Amateur Radio. Finally, the statement offers some suggested statutory language for state motor vehicle codes which would protect Amateur Radio mobile operation."

The ARRL recognizes that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents. The policy statement raises the fact that cell phones utilize full duplex communications -- where the user is talking and listening simultaneously. The Executive Committee statement says "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile, private land mobile or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect."

The ARRL Policy Statement also recognizes the responsibility of the amateur community to conduct its activities in a manner that does not create unsafe operation of their motor vehicle. "Safety has to be a top concern at all times," Henderson concluded.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 5, February 6, 2009

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## NOTES ON CALENDAR (see last page)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., **W2FA** March 21. All times before March 8 are in EST, all times after are EDST. Contests are listed in the March QST, p. 78.

Feb. 28-Mar. 1 – **CQ WW 160 Meter SSB Contest** from 5 PM Friday to 5 PM Sunday. See [www.cq160.com](http://www.cq160.com)

March 1 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.

March 2 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

March 3 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon at left rear table. All are welcome.

March 3 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

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

March 4 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 PM at the MARS Building at Fort Monmouth.

- March 5 - **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.
- March 6 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 10 PM (10-35 wpm). See March QST, pp. 94 and 102 or [www.arrl.org/wlaw](http://www.arrl.org/wlaw)
- March 6-8 – **ARRL International DX, SSB** from 7 PM Friday to 8 PM Sunday. See [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)
- March 9 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.
- March 10 – **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
- March 12 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 PM.
- March 14 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ.
- March 14 – **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.
- March 14 – **Monmouth Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 10 AM in Union Beach Police Annex (Municipal Building) on Poole Avenue.
- March 14-15 – **Idaho QSO Party**, all modes from 4 PM Saturday to 4 PM Sunday. See [www.nx7tt.com](http://www.nx7tt.com)
- March 15 – **Wisconsin QSO Party**, all modes from 2 PM to 9 PM Sunday. See [www.warac.org](http://www.warac.org)
- March 16 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.
- March 18 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 at the Red Cross, West Park Ave. and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls.
- March 19 – **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](mailto:wa2nda@comcast.net).
- March 21-22 – **Virginia QSO Party**, all modes from 2 PM Saturday to 9 PM Sunday. See [www.qsl.net/sterling/VA\\_QSO\\_Party/](http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/)
- March 21-22 – **Oklahoma QSO Party**, all modes from 10 AM Saturday to 4 PM Sunday. See [www.okdxa.org](http://www.okdxa.org)
- March 23 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.
- March 24 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 7 PM (10-40 wpm). See March QST, pp. 94 and 102 or [www.arrl.org/wlaw](http://www.arrl.org/wlaw)
- March 27-29 – **CQ WPX SSB Contest** from 8 PM Friday to 8 PM Sunday. See [www.cqwpvx.com](http://www.cqwpvx.com)
- March 28 – **Neptune Amateur Radio Club Meeting** at 9 AM at the American Legion on Gully Road in Neptune.

### DUES ARE DUE!

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2009 (see mailing label on last page), they are now **past due**. *This is your last issue of The Propagator unless you dues are paid by March 18.* Please pay our treasurer **Joe Dreifuss, W2KQ**. Regular membership is \$15, family membership is \$25, students are \$7.50 and active Military personnel pay no fee (but submit form to show continued interest in belonging). If you wish to have a paper copy of *The Propagator* mailed to you, add \$5 and check this box:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

wishes to continue membership in GSARA for 2009. Payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Make checks payable to GSARA and mail or give to:

**Joe Dreifuss, W2KQ**  
**6 Fredric Drive**  
**Ocean, NJ 07712**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CQ WW 160 InfoAge	2 ARES/RACES 7:30	3 Pancake House Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	4 GSARA Mtg	5 Hol. City Mtg.	6 Int. DX SSB CW Qual. Run	7 Int. DX SSB
8 Int. DX SSB InfoAge	9 RACES Net 7:30	10 Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	11	12 JSARS Mtg.	13	14 OMARC Mtg. Hol. City VE MARC Mtg Idaho QSO
15 Idaho QSO Wisc. QSO InfoAge	16 ARES/RACES 7:30	17 QCWA News 9 PM	18 GSARA Mtg	19 JSARS VE	20	21 W2FA Virginia QSO Okla QSO
22 Virginia QSO Okla QSO InfoAge	23 ARES/RACES 7:30	24 CW Qual. Run QCWA News 9 PM	25	26	27 CQ WPX SSB	28 Neptune Mtg CQ WPX SSB
29 CQ WPX SSB Info Age	30 RACES Net 7:30	31 QCWA News 9 PM				



G.S.A.R.A.  
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FIRST CLASS