

# THE Propagator

Garden State Amateur Radio Association

MARCH 2020

## W2GSA

GARDEN STATE AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION

8 Donner St.,  
Holmdel, NJ 07733



Please visit the club site  
[www.gsara.club](http://www.gsara.club)  
[www.w2gsa.org](http://www.w2gsa.org)

You are welcome to use our  
open repeater.  
(Analog FM)  
147.045 +.600  
PL67 Hz  
(C4FM) Node 43360



**T**he GSARA Ham-of-the-Year Luncheon was a big success. Congratulations to Phil Festa, N2EDX on

being the very deserving recipient of this award for all of his hard work reorganizing the shack, making better antennas at GSARA, creating the Remote Hams system and the establishment of the Fusion repeater. Each one of these jobs was deserving of our thanks but to do all four over the course of the year is astonishing.

The members of the club and many of their significant others joined Phil and Susan for lunch at Huddy's in Colt's Neck. The food was excellent and there were lots of laughs all around. A wonderful Saturday afternoon.

Special thanks to John, KA2F who organized the event.





# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## ART OLSON, N2AJO

Here we are at the beginning of March already. Hopefully everyone managed to make it through the winter weather during January and February and our focus now is looking forward to the spring arrival. With the arrival of spring, activities and events will begin to pick up through the remainder of this year.

Antenna farm rehab. The focus this coming year will be to rehabilitate our antenna farm. Our engineer, Phil Festa, is in the planning stages and once the plan is set will be seeking assistance from the members to accomplish the tasks.

Our newly formed activities committee presented an outline of activities being considered at the last club meeting. I think a fox hunt may be in our future. Stay tuned for details.

I sent out a separate email earlier this month to explain the change in opening the shack of Saturdays. After reviewing the sign-in logs for the past year and a discussion with the officers last week the decision was made that the shack will not be open on Saturdays except for VE testing day and any pre-announced special event. The change is effective March 1, 2020. Given that the shack now offers remote access that provides a viable alternative to opening the shack on a regular basis, everyone is encouraged to participate in using this capability.

Denis Commette continues to get the plans and location finalized for Field Day. More on that will be covered at the March business meeting. I am asking everyone to get involved whether as a committee member and/or a participant in June.

Upcoming events are listed below. I am asking folks to get involved and help the club maintain its great community reputation. Also, don't forget to check out the last page of the Propagator for a listing of contests and member birthdays.

- New Jersey Marathon Support - April
- Field Day - June
- Ham Fest – September
- Twin Light Bike Tour - September
- Red Bank CROP Walk – October
- JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes) – October
- Boy Scout JOTA – October

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

Respectfully Art – N2AJO



**T**

he GSARA Member of the Year Award Luncheon held at Huddy's in Colts Neck on February 1 was a great success by any count. We had an outstanding turnout which reflected how much Phil, N2EDX is liked and respected by other club members. The food was excellent and the portions more than ample. If you missed it, you missed a very enjoyable event. Congratulations to Phil for receiving this well-earned award.

The Activities committee, headed by Marlo, KA2IRQ, is planning some very fun and interesting activities for GSARA members this year. We have the 70th anniversary of the founding of GSARA on May 10 followed by Field Day in June. The committee is also looking at a club building project, perhaps related to fox-hunting (hidden transmitter hunts) which should be a lot of fun building and even more fun using to find a hidden transmitter. There is also the GSARA Hamfest in the fall. The success of all of these activities is dependent on participation by many club members. Please try to participate as much as you can.

Dues renewal for 2020 has gone very well this year with only about 10 of our 114 members not yet renewed. Therefore, after we drop the non-

paying members from our Roster in March, we will still have over 100 members in good standing. This strong position is only due to most of you members promptly renewing your dues for 2020. Thank you all.

I'm having a medical procedure done on my left eye whereby it will be taped closed for a week starting on February 28. This means that I will be unable to drive for that week and will miss the March 4 meeting unless someone can give me a ride. I've had this procedure done before a few years ago and as I recall, it is a very long (and boring) week. Hopefully, it will improve my vision.

Then I leave on March 12 for Phoenix, AZ for a family reunion. All three of my kids will be there as will untold numbers of nieces and nephews of my late wife. It should be a fun time (and the WX will be better than in NJ). I plan to return on March 23 to get the April Propagator out.

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

73 de Bob, w2od@aol.com



**Everyone always welcome to the meetings**

**Get your license this month!**

The next GSARA meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross. The program will feature John King, KA2F talking about NJ Radio Inventors--Two Centuries of Innovation and Discovery. Guests are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

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

The second meeting in March will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross. This will be a regular business meeting. Be there! Guests are always welcome and refreshments will be served.



s welcome and refreshments will be served.



Did you want your picture and callsign to be on the club website? If you do and you have not sent a .jpg with your callsign to Cy, K2CYS at k2cys@arrl.net, please do it today. We want to get the club members listing as accurate as we can. Thanks!





Please welcome our newest member to GSARA who was voted in at our February 195 meeting.

Mark Howe, W2XT from Jackson was first licensed in 2017 and holds an Extra class license. He is active on HF phone with his Kenwood TS-590 feeding an OCF dipole. A member of the ARRL, he is an engineer interested in contesting.



Please add to your Roster:

Mark Howe, W2XT  
14vGreen Tree Drive  
Jackson, NJ 08527  
732-996-4288  
Mfhowe6@gmail.com  
Welcome to GSARA, Mark!



In the four sessions in February, we had 68 check-ins for an average of 17 per session. The following 26 members checked into this net (number of check-ins in parenthesis):

N2AJO (4), N2BCS (4), NA2J (4), N2MEP (4), K2MFS (4), W2OD (4), WB2RPW (4), KZ2G (3), AD7I (3), AC2MB (3), KD2NAD (3), W2NAZ (3), KD2OXR (3), KD2PYO (3), KC2YNL (3), K2CYS (2), N2DOM (2), KD2EPA (2), N2FSB (2), K2NPT (2), KA2F (1), N2HGI (1), KA2IRQ (1), W2MJP (1), KC2NGH (1), and K2RYU (1).

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



Mark your calendars! The 2020 DELMARVA Hamfest and Electronics EXPO is Saturday, April 18, 2020 in Georgetown, Delaware. Plan now to attend this great Hamfest and ARRL Delaware State Convention. Don't miss the opportunity to visit with Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM and Vice Director Bob Famiglio, K3RF. PLUS meet featured speaker Dan Henderson, N1ND from ARRL Headquar-

ters. Commercial vendors include Ham Radio Outlet, The RF Connection, Direct Tools, and MANY others. Tailgating, FREE license testing, guest speakers, great door prizes (ARRL Gift Certificates, Ham Radio Deluxe Software, and MFJ gear are just a few examples). QSL Card Checking, super raffle, silent auction, delicious food, and MORE. Contact Jamie, W3UC at ashton@mchsi.com or 410-202-7690 for more information. An inside table is \$15, with additional tables \$12 each. Tailgating \$10 per space. Admission is only \$6. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to enjoy our hobby!



## GARY, WB2RPW DOES IT AGAIN

Our own Gary Metzger, WB2RPW participated in the ARL International CW DX Contest on February 14-16. He spent 31 hours operating on 160 through 15 meters with the remote station in Ohio. He made 610 contacts with 270 countries for a final score of 493,290 points.

At the end of the contest, he had 49 states confirmed in his LoTW (he picked up the missing Hawaii a few days later) and, as of this writing, had 98 DXCC countries confirmed on LoTW. Congratulations to Gary for a job well done!





## ***PEGGY STRUENING***

Longtime GSARA member Margo “Peggy” Struening, 77, of Middletown, NJ, passed away peacefully on February 18, 2020 at Arbor Terrace in Middletown. She was born in Washington, DC. She lived most of her life in New Jersey. Peggy worked in the food service department at Bell Labs for many years. It is there that she met her husband, GSARA member Richard Struening, KB2USF. For many years, she provided snacks (often homemade) at our meetings

Peggy enjoyed travel especially a trip to Hawaii with her husband. She was involved in the Woman’s Auxillary of the American Legion while living in Neptune, she then lived over 20 years in Manasquan before moving to Arbor Terrace.

Surviving are her loving husband, Richard Struening, KB2USF; beloved sister, Susan Wilson, and brother-in-law, Ralph Struening.

All services are private and under the direction of John F. Pflieger Funeral Home.

For more information, or to send condolences, please visit [www.pflegerfuneralhome.com](http://www.pflegerfuneralhome.com).

## ***DON PATTERSON, WB2FBC - SK***

Donald R. Patterson, Sr., WB2FBC of Red Bank, NJ died on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, having lived a beautiful life in a town he loved. He was 91

He served in the US Navy for four years as a Radioman 2nd Class aboard the USS Corregidor and the USS Tappahannock. A lifelong public servant, he retired from the Red Bank Police Department after 34 years of service, attaining the rank of Sergeant and served as Past President of PBA Local 39. Donald was also a member of the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department, as a member of Independent Engine Company for 67 years, where he served as Captain and was also a member of the Red Bank Volunteer First Aid Squad. He was an FCC licensed amateur radio operator with the call sign WB2FBC and enjoyed this lifetime hobby.

# GSARA Winter Jackets!

**GSARA is happy to offer very comfortable light winter jackets to all its members. The jacket is lined for warmth and perfect for Winter Field Day! For the price listed below, you will get the club logo and your name and call sign embroidered on the jacket.**

**Make your choice in size and color and email your order to Art Goldberg at [agold42@gmail.com](mailto:agold42@gmail.com).**

## Prices

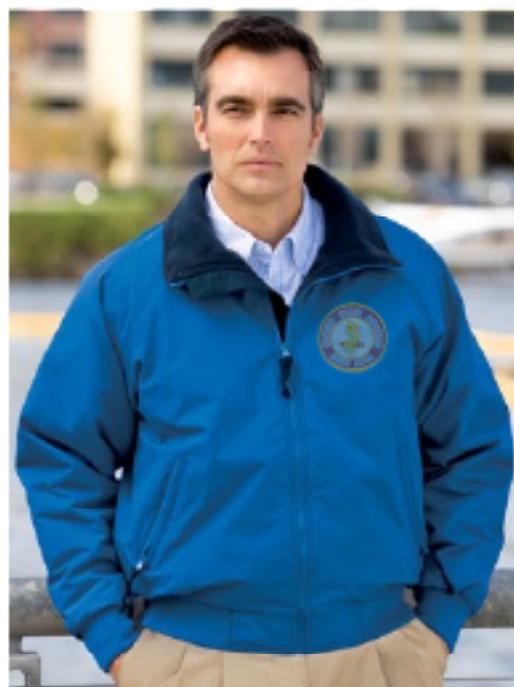
**Size S-XL - \$60**

**2 XL - \$62**

**3 XL - \$63**

**Sizes 2-3XL**

**[agold42@gmail.com](mailto:agold42@gmail.com)**



-  Maroon/True Black
-  True Navy/Grey Heather
-  True Navy/True Navy
-  True Black/Grey Heather
-  True Black/True Black
-  Steel Grey/True Black
-  Khaki/True Black
-  True Hunter/True Navy
-  True Red/True Navy

**NOW AVAILABLE**  
**HATS \$21**  
**(BLUE OR STONE)**  
**GOLF SHIRTS \$25**  
**(BLUE OR STONE)**



A short stroll through the history of GSARA in the pages of past Propagators

## FIVE YEARS AGO

From the March 2015 Propagator: The GSARA repeater blew its power amplifier. George, K2EPD found that the three spare amplifiers owned by GSARA were all bad. By combining parts from the 3 amplifiers, George got a working amplifier to fix the repeater but it is only running 40 watts. Blair, KD2EPA gave a talk about using SDR radios for amateur radio astronomy. John Cardillo, KB2MAB joined GSARA. Lorraine Heine, KC2FDR became a silent key. As of the February 18 meeting, only 60% of GSARA members have paid their dues for 2015. The FCC went to paperless licensing.

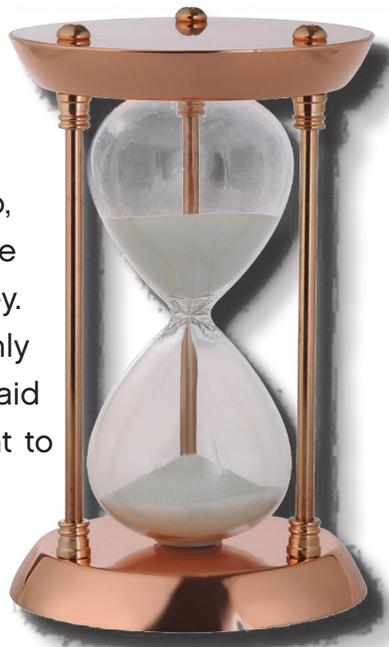
## TEN YEARS AGO

From the March 2010 Propagator: Mike Reason, W2EXQ became a silent key on February 10. Matt Bregoff, W2AOJ (SK) joined GSARA. Bob, W2OD gave a talk at the February 17 meeting about Marconi's first trans-Atlantic radio transmission. Instructions were given as to how the access Winlink 2000 via the W2GSA-2 packet node at the exit 105 tower.

## FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the March 2005 Propagator: GSARA welcomed new member Howard Suffill, W2HTS.

Sid Weisberger, W2JFV became a silent key. Most wanted DXCC entities for 2005 were 1. North Korea; 2. Andaman and Nicobar Islands; 3. Scarborough Reef; 4. Lakshadweep; 5. Yemen; 6. Peter Island; 7. Navassa Island; 8. Descheo Island; 9. Bouvet and 10. Kure Island.



## TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the March 2000 Propagator: GSARA member Ted Malinowski, W2GLF became a silent key. New members joining GSARA included Mike Tottorella, W2IY; Bob Busch, WD4BKD; and Rich Ardolino, KB2CPE. The FCC is replacing Form 610 with ULS forms 605 and 606.

The March QST featured a picture on page 57 of Lou Russo, W2HAM; Bob Curci, N2XR and Mario Selitti, N2PVP presenting a \$1000 donation to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. The ARRL-VEC will start charging \$6.65 to take the Element 1 (5 WPM code test) which previously was free.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

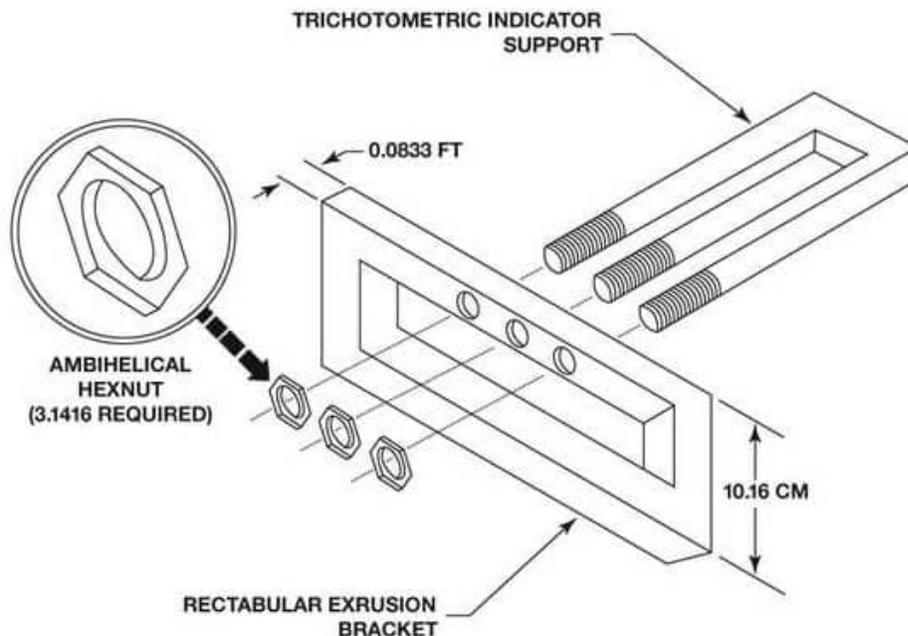
From the March, 1995 Propagator: Marge Ferry, KA2YWQ (companion of Ed Kracum, WB2COP) became a silent key on January 26. Marv Bernstein, W2PAT has established a packet node on

145.54 MHz on the UPS tower in Tinton Falls. Fort Monmouth is celebrating the 70th anniversary of their amateur radio station. It was established in March, 1925 as 2XBB. It received K2USA in 1950. The FCC released the Report and Order regarding vanity call signs which will be opened through four “starting gates.” The fee will be \$70 for the first 10 years.

## THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the March, 1990 Propagator: The GSARA Constitution is being modified to require the Secretary to be an active member and to take on the duties of Agent for the club (the Agent was previously an appointed Trustee). The number of appointed Trustees was increased from two to three. Hudson Division Director Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF (SK) will speak at the March 21 meeting. Al Allen, K2LG (SK) had a 2-page article about open wire feed lines. ■ ● ■

# Having trouble with setting up your new rig menus? This drawing might help



The GSARA website now has the functionality to be able to pay your GSARA dues through a PayPal link. Just choose your membership (individual or family) and press the button. You will be taken the PayPal page and all you have to do is enter your info if you have an account, create a new account if you wish or pay by credit card. No more worrying about stamps.

# BULLETIN BOARD

## *GSARA Swag*

### *GSARA Patches*

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

### *GSARA Hats and Shirts*

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

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



(for

### *Blue Swan Lunches*

A number of local radio amateurs meet each Friday at the Blue Swan Diner on Highway 35 south in Ocean Township at noon. Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to join us in the back left corner of the diner.

## *ARES/RACES Net*

Did you know that there is an ARES/RACES net on the W2GSA repeater on the first and third Mondays of each month at 8 PM local time? All are welcome. Check it out!

## *IF YOU ARE LATE FOR THE MEETINGS*

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

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

The GSARA Propagator is designed in  
InDesign CC 2020  
Editor: Bob Buus, W2OD  
Layout and Publishing: Cy Stanway, K2CYS  
You are invited to submit articles and ideas

# Club Perks



## ***W2GSA CLUB NET***

The GSARA weekly net meets each Tuesday evening at 8:30 on the GSARA repeater. Everyone is welcome to hear news of upcoming club events and activities, reports of the latest club news and everyone can share what they have been up to. Please join us. The more participation, the more fun!

## ***QSL BUREAU***

If any GSARA members wish to combine their QSL cards that are going through the outgoing ARRL Bureau, please bring them to the next GSARA meeting along with the label from a recent QST Magazine (you must be an ARRL member to participate in this program). Either John, KA2F or Len, WA1PCY will then send them on to ARRL at no charge to GSARA members. It couldn't be much easier than that to QSL. You are registered at the W2 incoming bureau, aren't you?

## ***GSARA.CLUB/W2GSA.ORG***

Have you seen the GSARA website lately at <https://www.gsara.club>? Check it out often for updates, news, announcements and general club information. If you have not yet done so, send us a picture of your shack and a selfie for the Members; Shacks and Our Members page. There is a Members Only Page which will contain important links viewable by GSARA members only including the most current roster and the previous month's minutes from the meeting. Send your selfies to Cy, K2CYS at [k2cys@arrl.org](mailto:k2cys@arrl.org). Do you have any other great ideas for the site? Let Cy know.

## ***GSARA Officers***

### **Officers**

Art, N2AJ0 - President  
[olson339@comcast.net](mailto:olson339@comcast.net)  
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[capt\\_calyx@comcast.net](mailto:capt_calyx@comcast.net)  
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[ka2fwb2hdj@gmail.com](mailto:ka2fwb2hdj@gmail.com)  
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Webmaster &  
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Stanway,  
K2CYS 732-768-7773



## NOTES ON CALENDAR (see next page)

Large Call letters denote birthdays e.g. **N2EDX** on March 5. All times until March 8 are EST and times for the month are EDST. Contests are listed in the March QST, p. 79. The W1AW CW Qualifying runs are each day as “CW” followed by the time and followed by either “35” for 10-35 WPM or “40” for 10-40 WPM. The optional letter “R” at the end denoting that the speed decreases rather than increases. For complete QSO Run information, see March 2020 QST page 91 and [www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule](http://www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule)

Feb. 29-March 1 – **North American QSO Party, RTTY** from 1 pm Saturday to 12:59 am Sunday  
<http://www.ncjweb.com>

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

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

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

March 3 – **Old Barney VE Test Session** at 6:30 pm in Manahawkin. Contact Urb Le Jeune, W1UL at 609-291-1234 or [urb@w2dec.com](mailto:urb@w2dec.com)

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

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

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 Red Cross in Tinton Falls. This program meeting will feature King, KA2F who will talk about **NJ Radio Inventors--Two Centuries of Innovation and Discovery**. Refreshments will be served.

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

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

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

March 6-8 – **ARRL International SSB DX Contest**, non-WARC HF bands from 7 pm Friday to 7:59 pm Sunday  
See <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

March 11 – **Holiday City VE Session** at 7 pm in Toms River. Contact is Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-1234 e-mail at [lpuccio1@comcast.net](mailto:lpuccio1@comcast.net)

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

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

March 14-15 – **QCWA QSO Party**, all modes from 1.8 to 50 MHz. See <http://www.qcwa.org/W2020-qso-rules.pdf>

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

March 18 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls. This will be a regular business meeting. Don't miss it. Refreshments will be served.

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

March 27-29 – **CQ WW WPX SSB Contest**, non-WARC HF bands from 8 pm Friday to 7:59 pm Sunday  
<http://www.cqwp.com>

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

# MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 CW 4 pm 35 ARES/RACES 8 pm	3 CW 7 pm 35R Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	4 GSARA Mtg	5 N2EDX HCARC Mtg CW 10 pm 40	6 CW 9 am 35 Blue Swan lunch ARRL SSB DX	7 ARRL SSB DX
8 ARRL SSB DX	9	10 CW 4 pm 35 Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	11 CW 7 pm 40 Hol. City VE	12 CW 9 am 35R JSARS Mtg	13 Blue Swan lunch ARRL CW DX CW 10 pm 35	14 OMARC Mtg. QCWA QSO
15 QCWA QSO	16 ARES/RACES 8 pm	17 CW 9 am 35 Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM5	18 GSARA Mtg CW 10 pm 35R	19 KC2LKC CW 7 pm 35 JSARS VE	20 KD2PTB Blue Swan lunch CW 4 pm 40	21
22	23 CW 10 pm 40	24 AC2PD Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	25 CW 9 am 35R	26 W2MJP AB2N CW 4 pm 35R	27 N2VEH Blue Swan Lunch CW 7 pm 35 CQ WW WPX	28 GSARA VE CQ WW WPX
29 CQ WW WPX	30	31 N2DOM Old Barney GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM				



8 DONNER STREET  
HOLMDEL, NJ 07733

First Class