

THE Propagator

Garden State Amateur Radio Association

MAY 2020

W2GSA

GARDEN STATE AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION

8 Donner St.,
Holmdel, NJ 07733



Please visit the club site
www.gsara.club
www.w2gsa.org

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



Social Distancing

**Keep one wavelength
apart at 146.52 MHz**

STAY HEALTHY! That is the clarion call these days. Actually, in all seriousness, I think we need to make up a Q-code for staying healthy: how about something along the lines of QTW which already means ‘what is the condition of the survivors?’ Maybe QVW which we could make to mean ‘Stay and Home and Survive.’

From what I am reading, too many of our fellow hams have succumbed to the virus through no fault of their own. The bands are quieter because of their deaths. GSARA mourns with their families and continues to hope that all of our members and their families are healthy.

Remember, our club has a priest, a minister and a rabbi should you want to vent and share. We are all in this together.





STAY HOME  STAY SAFE

We started 2020 full speed ahead with great enthusiasm for the many activities planned. But then we were struck by SOCIAL DISTANCING. It seems we have been practicing this for the better part of 8 weeks or more and as we adapt to this new environment, a different life style is emerging for a great many of us.

As Hams we are very fortunate to be able to enjoy a hobby that we can do from a distance and to be able to occupy ourselves with more air time and other radio related projects. Since the entire world is in the same situation, there is no shortage of Hams to communicate with or radio projects to get involved in. A silver lining to social distancing, some might say.

The Tuesday night net, our first Wednesday night coffee klatch on video and the following night's digital net were all very well attended and very upbeat. These social activities are designed to keep our members in touch during this time of isolation and to pass along relevant information regarding the crisis and its impact on our daily activities.

Just a reminder that GSARA will only have one meeting a month, until further notice, and this will be a Business Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. This meeting will take place via the Zoom APP and each member will receive an email invite. Just click on the link provided to join in. It is also possible to join via phone for those who are so inclined; the phone number to join is also listed on the invite.

**STAY SAFE!
Radio Is Contagious
And It Won't Make You
Sick.**



FROM THE EDITOR

BOB BUUS, W2OD

I don't know about you, but this Corona Virus Pandemic is driving me crazy. It's bad enough to be cooped up in the house alone for weeks on end. I thought it couldn't get any worse but it did when Governor Murphy closed all of the state and county parks. I live across the street from the Holmdel Park which is a Monmouth County Park. I usually go over there every day to walk or exercise on the fitness trail. I've been doing it for over 33 years so I felt like a fish out of water when the park closed for the first time in my memory.

Since I am a fanatic about regular exercise, I did put a chin-up bar in the basement and figured out how to do push-ups, jumping jacks and sit-ups (with my feet under an end table) in my living room but it is not the same.

Similarly, an hour's walk on the local sidewalks seems like an eternity and is incredibly boring whereas a similar length walk in the woods and hills of Holmdel Park goes by too fast and is fun. Oh well, this can't last forever (although it seems like it is) and I'm looking forward to things getting back a little closer to normal in the near future.

I did enjoy participating in the 5 Watt Challenge on April 18 even though my results were terrible (see article elsewhere in this issue). Like most contests, I usually finish with disappointing results and plan to do better next year.

I don't usually put state QSO parties on the calendar but two coming up on May 2-3 might be interesting for those working on WAS. The 7th call area includes Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming - sometimes difficult states to get. Similarly, Delaware is elusive for NJ because it is so close that we skip over it on the higher HF bands.

I encourage you to download the Zoom App on your computer so that you can participate in the virtual coffee meetings on the non-meeting Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. This is a great way to break the boredom of being housebound by informally socializing with fellow amateurs. I'm looking forward to it.

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

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

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net





MEETINGS

VE SESSION

Everyone always welcome to the meetings

In lieu of the current NJ proclamations with regard to the Corona Virus, the regularly scheduled meetings of the GSARA at the Red Cross have been canceled until further notice. We will conduct the May 6 general business meeting live via video conferencing using the Zoom App.

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

Get your license this month!

If the NJ Social Isolation is still in effect, there will be no May 23 VE session. Otherwise, the GSARA monthly test session will be held at the Red Cross Regional Headquarters in Tinton Falls on Saturday, May 23 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.



TUESDAY NIGHT GSARA NET REPORT

In the last session in March and the first three sessions in April, we had 90 check-ins for an average of 22.5 per session – a new record! The following 30 members checked into this net (number of check-ins in parenthesis):

N2BCS (4), N2FSB (4), KZ2G (4), KA2IRQ (4), K2MFS (4), W2MJP (4), KD2NAD (4), W2NAZ (4), K2NPT (4), KG2NV (4), W2OD (4), WB2RPW (4), KC2YNL (4), N2AJO (3), N2BMK (3), KG2CM (3), KD2EPA (3), KA2F (3), N2MEP (3), KD2PYO (3), KD2ROF (3), AC2F (2), WA2JOE (2), AC2MB (2), KC2NGH (2), KD2OXR (2), W2CET (1), AD7I (1), NA2J (1), and W2KQ (1).

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



RemoteHams CW Ops

CW Configuration RCForb Client v0.8

In order to operate RemoteHams in CW mode, you will need to connect a paddle to the PC via the serial port.

If the PC is not equipped with serial ports you may use a USB to DB9 Serial Converter.

Note: No straight key support with this version of RCForb Client, v0.8

CW Paddle Connection:

Wiring of the DB9 serial connector to the 3.5mm stereo receptacle:

Pin 6 > Tip/Left	= DSR {DIT}
Pin 8 > Ring/Right	= CTS {DAH}
Pin 7 > Shield	= RTS

CW Configuration:

Client Software - Options > Control Device Setup > External CW Tab

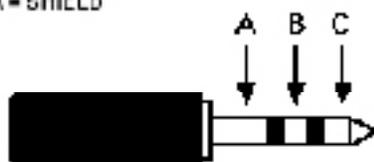
- 1.) Select Correct USB to Serial Converter Com Port number
- 2.) Set DIT Pin to DSR
- 3.) Set DAH Pin to CTS
- 4.) Check Both Box's: Use RTS as Power & Enable PAD Detection
- 5.) Restart RCForb Client

Operation:

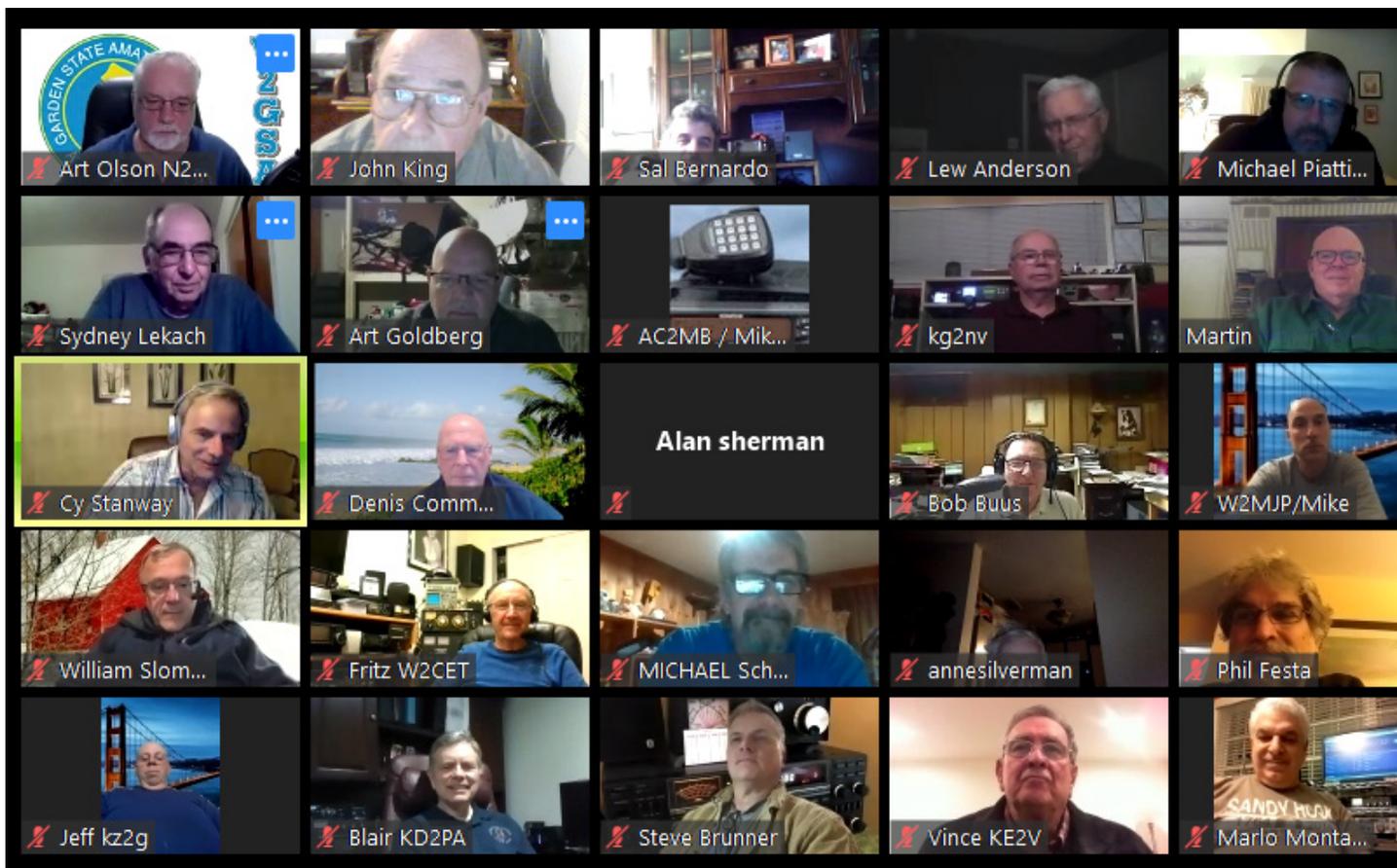
- Change Mode to "CW" using the radio mode drop down selection
- Click on the CW Tab at the bottom left hand corner of the RH window. Then click on the "pin" in the upper right corner of the newly opened CW field to keep the selection open.
- You may also transmit CW by typing into the bottom CW text entry field and then press the "Enter" key to send.

CW Paddle Plug Wiring Offered Below for Ref.

O = TIP/LEFT DIT
E = RING/RIGHT DAH
A = SHIELD



HOW WE MEET - JOIN US



TQSL UPDATE TO LoTW

The recently released TQSL version 2.5.2 application for uploading logs to Logbook of The World (LoTW) tightens requirements for data consistency, with the goal of improving the integrity of the LoTW database. Starting with TQSL version 2.5.2, discrepancies in submitted logs are now flagged, especially when it comes to the Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) files frequently uploaded to LoTW. This has prompted questions and concerns, however, when the system fails to accept a user's uploaded contact or log.

ADIF exists precisely to help ensure the accuracy of "data interchange" among amateur radio applications -- different logging programs, for example. TQSL uses ADIF file data for cross-checks that help to keep inaccurate or incomplete information from contaminating the LoTW database, and that's where some user issues have arisen. For example, the OPERATOR field, which should be a call sign, sometimes shows up as a name. Occasionally, operators have reversed their ITU and CQ zones. Another issue is in the MY_STATE field, which should show a US Postal Service two-letter state abbreviation. Anything else is a problem.

"The value of the checks added to TQSL is that it lets operators know when the data they're handling in their computer-based logs is correct," said TQSL Developer Rick Murphy, K1MU. "It's important to make sure that when a ham submits a log to LoTW that the content of that log accurately captures the details."

From the ARRL Letter, April 16, 2020

ASSORTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF YOU ARE LATE FOR OUR MEETINGS

As you may know, 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 as they arrive. However, the door-watcher attends the meeting when it starts at 7:30 so no one is at the door after that. If you should happen to 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.



JOHN KING, KA2F RECOVERED

Our own John King, KA2F spent a few days in the hospital recovering from a minor stroke. He and his wife, Helen, were in our thoughts and prayers during this stressful time.

John is now out of the hospital and says, "Thanks to all who offered prayers and help to my wife during my three days in hospital. What a dedicated job the medical workers do there. They are our blessing. I feel fine and will work on a regimen for better health."

We all wish John a speedy recovery and good health.

Congratulations to Marlo KA2IRQ who just received his DXCC mixed award from ARRL for 144 DX Countries, all of which were from old fashioned QSL cards.



NEW ARRL MEMBER BENEFITS

ARRL members will now receive digital access to four ARRL magazines beginning with their May/June issues. Joining QST and On the Air magazines on a digital platform will be the bimonthly editions of QEX -- The Forum for Communications Experimenters and NCJ -- National Contest Journal. QEX includes articles, columns, and other features ranging from construction projects to more advanced technical information in radio theory and practice. NCJ, published since 1973, targets radio amateurs active in radiosport. NCJ includes scores, technical articles, contributions from top contesters, and advice for beginners and seasoned radiosport enthusiasts alike.

“Feedback from ARRL members and our readership surveys has shown that our magazines are one of the most valued member benefits,” said ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY. “Our investment in digital access provides another channel through which we can deliver content to our members across the expanse of interests and activities in amateur radio. All members can enjoy specialized content and a high-quality reading experience whether at their desk or on the go. Offering

this suite of digital magazines is an opportunity for us to give members more of what they want while adding value to ARRL membership.”

ARRL’s digital magazine editions provide replicas of the printed editions with added functionality, allowing users to fully search issues, enlarge pages, share articles, and more. The free ARRL Magazines app also supports downloading complete issues onto your mobile device or tablet for offline reading.

Members who have elected to receive a printed QST or On the Air as part of their membership benefits will continue to have this service. Members may not substitute a print subscription of QEX or NCJ as their delivered magazine member benefit. Print subscriptions of QEX and NCJ will continue to be available at additional cost for those who want to receive them.

All four magazines are easily accessed through any web browser from members-only links. The free ARRL Magazines app is available for iOS and Android in the Apple App Store and Google Play. If you’re already an ARRL member and previously created an arrl.org website account,

your username and password will provide you access to the digital editions, whether online or in the app. Members who have not previously registered will need to create a new account. If you’ve forgotten your password, visit www.arrl.org/forgot-password, or email circulation@arrl.org for assistance.

Previous and prospective members can join ARRL and take advantage of this and other membership benefits.

From the ARRL Letter, April 16, 2020



5 WATT CHALLENGE FUN

By Bob Buus, W2OD

A number of GSARA members participated in the 5 Watt Challenge from noon to midnight on Saturday, April 18 (see page 1 of the April Propagator). I was one of them, although my results were quite dismal. I started out listening on 146.58 FM with the power turned down to 5 watts and the squelch opened so I could hear all of the noise on the



results I was getting at the bottom of the hill.

Mike, N2MN was also on Crawford Hill setting up a 6-meter antenna. We agreed

channel. After a few CQs with no luck, I switched to 50.130 SSB on six meters. Not having a six-meter antenna, I tried loading my tri-band beam even though the SWR was not very good and the beam was pointed west with the rotator broken. After a few CQs, I raised K2LAV very weakly and got his grid square of FN20vn. There were other stations on six but they were lost in the noise and I couldn't make any more contacts. Back to two meters and found Bob, KD2TFS booming in loud from Crawford Hill in Holmdel (about a mile from me). Bob passed his Tech exam at our December VE session and this was his first "contest" activity. Bob was working all kinds of stations on two using an HT with a rubber duck antenna and running 5 watts! But I could hear none of the sta-

tions he was working! I know height makes a difference, but that great a difference? I dug out my analyzer and checked the SWR on my two-meter antenna and it looked normal. A little later, I heard Joe, WA2JOE on 146.58 and worked him too. Again, he was working all kinds of stations that I couldn't hear. Is my receiver front end blown? I fired up another two meter rig and tied that with the same result!

Joe, WA2JOE invited me to come up to Crawford Hill and see their operation. Since it was a short drive and there is enough room on the Hill to observe social distancing, I went up there and saw for myself that it was an ideal radio location. Strong signals were coming in on two meters from all directions - totally unlike the

that when I got back home, we would try a contact on 6 (as well as 2) which we did.

My conclusion is that height makes all of the difference in the world. The guys operating on top of Crawford Hill in Holmdel are hearing stations that are buried in noise at my location at the bottom of the hill a mile away. If I could put my two-meter antenna on a 1000 foot tower, I would probably have better luck in this contest. Something to think about for next year!

Anyway, in spite of my poor showing, the 5 watt challenge was a lot of fun and I learned first-hand that height makes a big difference in VHF radio performance. Maybe next year I'll try operating from on top of a hill.

REMOTE EXAM SESSIONS

Facing a growing demand for amateur radio exam sessions in a time of social distancing and stay-at-home orders, sponsors of some Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams have risen to the challenge and are developing systems to remotely proctor test sessions.

“Many of our VEs and VE Teams have been working on remotely proctored exam session ideas, employing both video and in-person components -- following social distancing protocols,” ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said. “We have been receiving interesting and innovative suggestions, and we appreciate the dedication and ingenuity our examiners have shown.”

The Spalding County Amateur Radio Club in Georgia is among those that have come up with plans to remotely administer amateur exams while complying with ARRL VEC testing standards during COVID-19 stay-home mandates and social distancing guidelines. Current systems leverage Zoom video-teleconferencing technology, the “Fill & Sign” feature of Adobe PDFs, reliable email, appropriate computer equipment and internet connection, and no volunteer

examiners (VEs) present at individual remote test sites. The Georgia club collaborated and shared ideas with the Emergency Amateur Radio Club (EARC) in Hawaii, which has successfully conducted sessions since 2011 with its own remote testing system, initially with paper exams with a proctor on site and now with fillable PDFs, with no on-site proctor.

The Georgia club obtained ARRL VEC approval to administer video-supervised exams. “We have started with testing just one candidate at a time, but are planning to ramp up to multiple candidates -- probably two or three -- simultaneously,” club member David Robinson, K4WVZ, told ARRL. “Before we do that, we want a few more single sessions under our belt and a few more Video VEs trained.”

The club’s procedures entail a pre-exam video interview with candidates to ensure they understand all the requirements and procedures. Following the exam, the VEs score the test and sign off on the paperwork, with the VE Team Leader submitting the application online and by mail, per ARRL VEC instructions. New England Amateur Radio Inc (NE1AR), an affiliate of New England Sci-Tech, (NESciTech), has

taken it one step further, Somma said. It got the approval of ARRL VEC to begin trials of what it describes as “completely online testing with strict rules and protocols for maintaining the integrity of the testing environment.” NE1AR is limiting candidates to one exam per session, due to the current candidate backlog and the “difficulty of administering exams online.” Candidates must agree to a list of protocols, which include a cell-phone camera scan of the entire room and exam area “to show that there are no materials or people [in the room] that could aid in taking the exam.”

“We began a series of trials on April 1 under ARRL VEC review and have now been asked to help train more VE teams on the process,” NE1AR President Bob Phinney, K5TEC, told ARRL. “We have now tested 12 applicants and are still working on streamlining the process. We are working with the software developer of the exam delivery system to help them adapt the system for video-supervised testing.”

With pressure continuing to build to provide testing compatible with COVID-19 guidelines and stay-home orders, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma has asked the amateur radio community to be patient. “Please

remember that with the introduction of significant new processes such as these, that there should be proof of concept, establishment of protocols and procedures, and beta testing, before expanding to a larger audience,” she said this week. Somma said video-supervised exam sessions require a different skillset than in-person exam administration, and not all teams will be equipped to deliver video exams right away.

“ARRL is pleased to be one of the leaders in providing an opportunity, although limited initially, for video-supervised exams in this time of social distancing and isolation required by the current health situation,” Somma said. Read more.

From the ARRL Letter, April 16, 2020

Northeast HamXposition @Boxboro! 2019

4. The convention is subject to penalties for cancellation. The penalties increase as we get

HAMXPOSITION POSTPONED

Hello All,

I hope this messages finds you safe and healthy. After long consideration, the convention committee has decided to postpone the 2020 convention to the week of November 6 through 8. There are several reasons for this, the first and foremost is the health and well-being of our attendees. In addition, there are many logistical problems with holding the convention in July, even under the most favorable conditions of the pandemic emergency being over by then.

1. We believe it is unlikely that the state’s ban on large gatherings will be completely lifted by the end of July.

2. Even if it were, we believe attendance will be severely impacted due to lingering (and quite appropriate caution).

3. Almost all of our exhibitors are unwilling to commit to anything prior to June.

closer to the convention date. By moving to November, we move out the schedule on these penalties. This will allow us to reassess the viability of the convention in early August. By then we will have further insight into prevailing conditions.

5. The November weekend was the only one available to us - and could be lost to another group if we did not act on it.

We know that many look forward to attending each year, and have probably grown weary of all the cancellations of events like these. However, given the reality of the situation, we believe it is in everyone’s best interest to postpone.

Stay safe & 73, Bob - K1IW

Chairman, Northeast HamXposition 2020

THE RF GAIN CONTROL

By Phil Festa, N2EDX



Hello Operators:

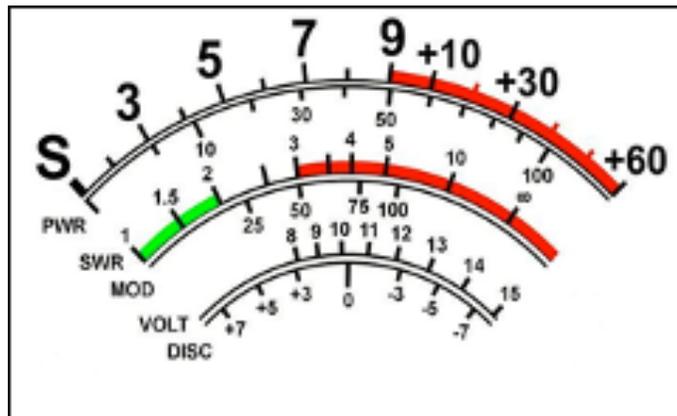
The often unappreciated RF Gain control is frequently left in the maximum gain position. If you're one of those unappreciative operators guilty of neglecting the RF Gain control then this article is for you. When properly adjusted, the RF Gain control helps to reduce operator listening fatigue and simultaneously improves upon the dynamic range of the receiver. The dynamic range simply stated is the receiver's ability to discern between a strong and a weak signal.

A few simple steps:

If using the GSARA Remote Ham (RH), this may be difficult for the inexperienced operator as the RH displays the S-Meter without the RF Gain damping effects but can be accomplished with a trained ear. First step, activate the ATU to prepare (match) the antenna for the desired operating frequency. Second step, set the AGC to FAST.

The AGC (Automatic Gain Control) purpose is to prevent a loud station from blasting through the receiver while also permitting a soft station to be heard.

Third step, watch the S-meter. Example; if the noise floor is indicating S-5 then reduce the RF Gain control until the meter reads a steady S-5. This method will provide you with a good starting point for your operating condition. Afterwards, you may leave the AGC set to FAST, MEDIUM or SLOW to suit your operating needs. Once



adjusted, I often use the RF Gain control in lieu of the AF Gain while operating.

In summary:

By adjusting the RF Gain control below the noise threshold, the AGC is no longer attempting to boost the noise to the level of the stronger signals. The operator will experience less fatigue and enjoy an improved overall operating experience.

73, Phil, N2EDX

JAPAN EXPANDS 160 METERS

Japan is set to expand access to 160 meters. Yoshi Shoji, JG7AMD, reports that Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications that the expansion will permit SSB on that band.



The current 160-meter band in Japan consists of 1810 - 1825 kHz (CW) plus 1907.5 - 1912.5 for CW and data. Japan will allocate 1800 - 1810 kHz and 1825 - 1875 kHz for all amateur radio modes. An effective date has not yet been announced.

From the ARRL Letter
April 9, 2020

RED CROSS DRILL MAY 30



Amateur radio operators affiliated with the American Red Cross will conduct a nationwide communication drill on May 30. The drill will simulate the types of message traffic that are typical of a national disaster response, such as a hurricane or wildfire. Hams will utilize digital modes to move a variety of Red Cross data, with special focus given to methods that do not require infrastructure, such as a repeater or the internet. The drill features a local option where ARES organizations can work with local Red Cross chapters to drill local and regional functionality. For more information, contact ARRL Rhode Island Section Emergency Coordinator Paul Silverzweig, W1PJS. --

Thanks to Brian S. McDaniel, N4AE, executive director, American Red Cross of the Illinois River Valley

From the ARRL Letter, April 16, 2020

ARRL HQ. VISITS SUSPENDED



As part of efforts under way to help protect the health and safety of ARRL Headquarters employees and volunteers from the impacts of the coronavirus, ARRL suspended all tours and guest visits to Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW and ARRL Headquarters, effective Monday, March 16.

Out of an abundance of caution, this suspension will be in effect until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience this

may cause to our members and their guests who had been planning to visit us in Newington, Connecticut. We feel, however, that this is a necessary precaution and is in keeping with the guidance being provided by federal and local health professionals. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we all endeavor to deal with this difficult public health situation.

From the ARRL Letter, March 19, 2020

LOOKING BACK

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



FIVE YEARS AGO

From the May 2015 Propagator:

GSARA held a Hamfest on May 23 at our regular site in the MOESC parking lot. The program for the April 1 meeting was about operating on the HF bands and was presented by Bruce, K2QXW (SK). Tom, N2VFK was looking for volunteers to help with communications for the MS-170 two-day bike-a-thon. An article from ARRL warned of RF noise generated by switching wall-wart power supplies. ARRL announced that a new book on Oscilloscopes is now available.

TEN YEARS AGO

From the May 2010 Propagator:

The May 19 meeting was devoted to building a 3-element 2-meter yagi antenna for \$10. Middletown RACES held a one-day Tech Radio Class on May 15. Mike, KC2Q ran a NADXA Hamfest at MAECOM on May 23. A White Elephant sale arranged by Joe, W2KQ, replaced the second meeting in April.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the May 2005 Propagator:

Plans are to operate Field Day with one transmitter as K2USA operating from the MARS station and a QRP station operating as W2GSA from the Fort Monmouth football stadium. Tom, N2VFK made a plea for operators to help with the MS bike-a-thon from Sandy Hook to Cape May.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the May 2000 Propagator:

Mike DiPersio, KC2Q was forming a Central New Jersey DX Association. Phil Petersen, W2DME became a silent key on April 14 at the age of 84. The MARS station participated in International Marconi Day and made 624 contacts. Don Pingitore, KG2NV was “top gun” with 227 contacts. Sterling Rodgers, N2GT and Lorraine Heine, KC2FDR (SK) joined GSARA. Doug Cuomo, WA2EWK became a silent key on April 16 at the age of 45. The movie “Frequency” was reviewed.

(continued on next page)



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From the May, 1995 Propagator:

GSARA is planning a tour of the Edison Museum on July 8. We received a thank-you letter from the Monmouth County Library for our donation of 24 amateur radio books. Bob, W2OD became a grandfather with the birth of his first grandson on April 23.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the May, 1990 Propagator:

Elena Worrall, N2ITL reported on her and Dave's first trip to Dayton that year. Phil Petersen, W2DME (SK) had an article about Tommy Thomas, W2UK (SK). John Breza, WR2Z (SK) had an article about the decibel. Al Rauch, W2EYW (SK) finally got his Extra ticket after 57 years.



ARMED FORCES CROSSBAND POSTPONED

The annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test has been postponed, due to the ongoing COVID-19 response and mitigation actions. The 2020 Armed Forces Day Crossband Test was scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 9. Because it's uncertain just when stay-at-home orders will be lifted across the US, AFD planners chose to postpone this year's event, because the government stations that typically support this event may not be available. Armed Forces Day Crossband

Test planners are considering scheduling a November event in honor of Veteran's Day, depending on COVID-19 mitigation actions. During the AFD Crossband Test, military stations in various locations transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ham frequencies they are monitoring to work radio amateurs.

Thanks to US Army MARS Program Chief Paul English, WD8DBY

From the ARRL Letter, April 9, 2020

GSARA DIGITAL FUSION NET



Join us each Thursday evening at 8 pm for the GSARA digital net in our room 43360. Or, come straight through to the repeater on DV narrow. For a summary of digital operation, go here: <https://www.gsara.club/new-wires-x-fusion-repeater>. Everyone is most welcome.

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 an email with your name, call sign, size (for shirts) and color. Payment will be due when hats and shirts are delivered.



Blue Swan Lunches

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

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

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

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

and come let you in. If no one comes in a short time, ring the bell again and again until someone comes. Thank you.

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. Do you have any other great ideas for the site? Let Cy know.

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NOTES ON CALENDAR (see next page)

Large Call letters denote birthdays e.g. KD2PFY on May 3. All times are EDT. Contests are listed in the May QST, p. 69. The WIAW CW Qualifying runs are shown each day as "CW" followed by the time and followed by either "35" for 10-35 WPM or "40" for 10-40 WPM and the optional letter "R" at the end denoting that the speed decreases rather than increases. For complete Qualifying Run information, see May 2020 QST page 75 and www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule

May 1 and every Friday – Lunch at the Blue Swan Diner is cancelled until restaurants are again open to the public.

May 2-3 – 7th Call Area QSO Party, CW and Phone from 9 am Saturday to 3 am Sunday. See <http://www.7cp.org>

May 2-3 – Delaware QSO Party, CW and Phone from 9 am Saturday to 7:59 pm Sunday. See <http://www.fsarc.org/qsoparty>

May 4 – WIAW CW Qualifying Run (CW 4 pm 35) at 4 pm (10-35 wpm).

May 4 – Monmouth County ARES/RACES Net meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 8:00 pm

May 5 – Old Barnay VE Test Session at 6:30 pm in Manahawkin. Contact Urb Le Jeune, WIUL at 609-296-5856 or mb@w2dec.com (probably cancelled).

May 5 – Old Barnay ARC Meeting at 7:30 pm in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org> (probably cancelled).

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

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

May 5 – WIAW CW Qualifying Run (CW 7 pm 35R) at 7 pm (35-10 wpm).

May 6 – GSARA Meeting at 7:30 pm via Zoom teleconferencing. This will be a business meeting.

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

May 7 – WIAW CW Qualifying Run (CW 10 pm 40) at 10 pm (10-40 wpm).

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

May 13 – Holiday City VE Session at 7 pm in Toms River. Contact is Larry Puccin, KXQDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at lpucciol@comcast.net (probably cancelled).

May 14 – JSARS meeting in Riverwood Park Rec. Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive at 7:30 pm (probably cancelled).

May 18 – Monmouth County ARES/RACES Net meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 8:00 pm

May 20 – GSARA Meeting at 7:30 pm via Zoom teleconferencing if held at all.

May 21 – JSARS VE Test Session at 7:00 pm Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoio, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or wa2nda@comcast.net (probably cancelled).

May 23 – GSARA VE Test Session at 11 am at the Red Cross Regional Headquarters in Tinton Falls (probably cancelled).

May 25 – Memorial Day Holiday

May 29-31 – CQ WW WPX CW Contest from 8 pm Friday to 7:59 pm Sunday. See <http://www.cqwpw.com>

May 30 – Red Cross Drill – See story elsewhere in this issue.

MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7 Area QSO Delaware QSO
3 KDZPFY 7 Area QSO Delaware QSO	4 CW 4 pm-35 ARRIVAL @ 8 pm	5 KZTC NZUC CW 7 pm-21K GRARA Net 8:30 JCTWA Net 9 PM	6 GRARA Mtg	7 RCARC Mtg CW 11 pm-01	8	9 CIMARC Mtg
10	11	12 CW 4 pm-35 GRARA Net 8:30 JCTWA Net 9 PM	13 Holl. City VE CW 7 pm-40	14 NZBCS JEANS Mtg	15 CW 11 pm-35	16 KZKDC NREEM
17	18 ARRIVAL @ 8 pm	19 GRARA Net 8:30 JCTWA Net 9 PM	20 Port Noble GRARA Mtg CW 10 pm-35K	21 CW 7 pm-35 JEANS VE	22 NZBME CW 4 pm-40	23
24 ACZF	25 Mem. Day	26 GRARA Net 8:30 JCTWA Net 9 PM	27	28 CW 4 pm-21K	29 CW 7 pm-35 CQ WW WEX CW	30 GRARA VE Holl. City Net CQ WW WEX CW
31 KCZCM CQ WW WEX CW						



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First Class