



THE PROPAGATOR

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

DECEMBER 2010

UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, December 1** at **7:30 PM** at the **American Red Cross** in Tinton Falls. This will be a regular business meeting and we will have the election of officers for 2011. Guests are welcome and refreshments will be served. Please try to attend.

The second meeting in December, also at the Red Cross, will be on **Wednesday, December 15** at **7:30 PM** and will feature a review of GSARA activities for 2010 as well as discussion of what we should plan for 2011 activities. This is YOUR club and we are looking for YOUR suggestions as to what we should plan to do next year. So please come out and let us know what YOU like (or don't like) about GSARA. As always, refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there.

GSARA OFFICERS FOR 2011

The following have agreed to run for GSARA office for 2011:

President: Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ
V. President: Howard Suffill, W2HTS
Secretary: Bob Buus, W2OD
Treasurer: Joe Dreifuss, W2KQ
Chief Engineer: Jeff Harshman, N2LXM

Nominations will be open from the floor at the December 1 meeting. Note that all nominees must agree to serve if elected. At the close of nominations, the election for officers for 2011 will be held. It is important that you attend the meeting and vote.

GSARA HOMEPAGE

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

NEPTUNE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Neptune Amateur Radio Club is having a Christmas party at the American legion Post 346, 21 Gully Road, Neptune, NJ on December 12, 2010 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. All area amateurs are invited. As in past years, this is a Covered Dish party so admission is a covered dish. If you wish to just come without a covered dish, admission is just 10.00 dollars per adult and children under 12 are only \$5.00.

A 50/50 and other gift drawings are planned. Chances to win a Dual Band hand held (great for emergency work) will be available for 10.00 dollars each. The bar lounge will be open for those wishing to have a cocktail.

We must have a head count one week before the party. ALL food covered dishes will be coordinated by Pam. Please let her know if you plan on attending by email, norad124@optonline.net, home phone, # 732-922-3169, or Cell phone # 732-801-8233. For additional information, contact Joe at kc2lff@aol.com

E-MAIL CORRECTION

In the October 27 Roster sent with last month's Propagator, we had the e-mail address incorrect for Bill Shickley, NJ2H. His correct address is bshockley123@verizon.net or you can use nj2h@arrl.net. In any case, the comcast address on the roster is incorrect. Our apologies to Bill for this mix-up.

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

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@gardenateara.org>.

BADGES AND PATCHES

If you would like a GSARA name badge, you may order one by getting a Badge Order Form from our Secretary, **Bob Buus, W2OD**, filling it out and turning it in to Bob with your \$7.00 payment.

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

OUTGOING QSL CARDS

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

PROPAGATOR NOW ON THE WEB

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

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

Click on "The Propagator" and then select the month you want.

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Holiday season is upon us! I hope you all had a pleasant and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Although GSARA is not having its own Christmas party, we are all invited to participate in the Neptune Amateur Radio Club's party (see details on page 1) on Sunday afternoon, December 12. This is always a very enjoyable event. Plan to attend and bring the family.

I have come upon a large collection of old amateur radio club newsletters from California with a wealth of quizzes, puzzles, crosswords, and cryptograms all related to amateur radio. One of the quizzes is on page 8 and I'm curious as to what you think of it. If you solve it, please let me know and I will acknowledge your cleverness in the next Propagator. Some of the quizzes that I might use in the future are easier and some are more difficult to solve. What level of difficulty would you like to see? Also, would you be interested in crosswords or cryptograms? Please let me know

The December 15 meeting should be interesting with a review of GSARA activities, membership, financing, and programs for this past year. I think we've had a good year and have the potential to make the next one even better. You can help by attending the meeting and let your preferences be heard by the officers.

Don't forget straight key night starting at 7 pm New Year's eve and running for 24 hours. There is lots of nice, slow CW banged out on a straight key.

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

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

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

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ called the meeting to order at the Red Cross at 7:32 PM. There were 12 members present. After the pledge to the flag, all members introduced themselves.

Silent Keys

It was reported by Frank, W2XYZ that Vinnie Confuti from Freehold passed away. Vinnie was a friend of Ralph, KC2YNL and came to some GSARA meetings with him. He did not have a license but was interested in amateur radio.

John Provan, N2KZL from Wanamassa became a silent key on October 29 at the age of 85. He volunteered to operate the Ft. Monmouth MARS station during Desert Shield and Desert Storm running phone patches from Iraq. He was predeceased by his wife Kitty and his son John Provan, N2LQA. He served in the Navy during and after WW II and witnessed the atomic tests at Bikini Atoll in the south pacific.

A moment of silence was observed for these two silent keys.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Marty, N2BMK and seconded by Lou, W2HAM to accept the minutes of the October meetings as published in the November Propagator. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joe, W2KQ was absent so the treasurer's report was given by Frank, W2XYZ. A motion was made by Andy, KA2VXA and seconded by Annie, N2LAL to accept the report. It was accepted unanimously.

Old Business

Frank, W2XYZ announced that we will be operating W2GSA during the phone Sweepstakes weekend on November 20-21. Jim, K2EI has offered to conduct a seminar on Saturday, November 13 at the Red Cross at 2 PM to pass along some tips for optimizing our Sweepstakes score. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Public Service

The only remaining Public Service event for the year is a run in December in Middletown.

New Business

Frank, W2XYZ named Lou, W2HAM to head a Nominating Committee to come up with a slate of officers for 2011. We will hold the election at the December 1 meeting.

We are planning to have another white elephant sale in March, 2011. We are asked to set aside potential donations for this sale.

President Frank, W2XYZ appointed Lou, W2HAM as a trustee replacing Jack, WA2FVL.

Announcements

The November 17 program will feature an introduction to Skywarn. If you know anyone who might be interested, encourage them to attend.

Kevin, W2FA donated a Gap Voyager antenna to GSARA and it is now at the Red Cross. This should work well for 160, 80, and 40 meters.

Jeff, N2LXM will be conducting a one-day Technician class at the Red Cross on Saturday, November 13 starting at 9 am and concluding that afternoon with a VE exam session.

Program

The second half of the DVD of the GSARA 1992 Field Day at Tatum Park in Middletown was shown.

Closing

The door prize of \$11 was won by Howard, W2HTS. A second door prize of a Field Day coffee cup was won by Andy, KA2VXA. There being no further business, a motion was made by Ralph, KC2YNL and seconded by Howard, W2HTS to close the meeting. The motion was accepted unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

To better get a feeling for the "parts per million" (ppm) expression, Dr. Dale Jenkins of the Smithsonian set forth this example of one part per million: "One ounce of vermouth in 7800 gallons of gin."

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ called the meeting to order at the Red Cross at 7:30 PM. There were 12 members and 19 guests present. Guests included Joyce Birmingham, KA2ANF, ARRL Hudson Division Vice Director; Rich Krohn, N2SMV, ARRL NNJ Section Manager; George Sabbi, KC2GLG, Guest Speaker; Steve Jackson, N2WLH from Toms River; Kevin Wagner, W2FA from Toms River; Skip Gracon, K3GNZ from Manalapan; Marian Gracon, N2NQW from Manalapan; Lance Andrew, N2UUS from Manalapan; and 11 members of the Civil Air Patrol who do not yet hold amateur licenses. After the pledge to the flag, all members introduced themselves. Due to the overflow crowd, the meeting was moved to a larger conference room.

Old Business

Lou, W2HAM presented a slate of candidates for GSARA officers for 2011. All existing officers have agreed to run for another term. At the December 1 meeting, nominations can be made from the floor followed by a vote of all present.

On Saturday, November 13, Jim, K2EI will be at the Red Cross at 2 pm to give some operating tips and techniques for the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest. GSARA plans to participate in the November 20-21 Phone Sweepstakes from the Red Cross.

Program

George Sabbi, KC2GLG, ARRL NNJ Section Emergency Coordinator, gave an introductory talk about the Skywarn program run by the National Weather Service. Although you need not be licensed to participate in Skywarn, many amateurs do participate as part of emergency preparedness as well as a public service. At the end of the talk, interest seemed high enough to ask the National Weather Service to run a Skywarn class in the area.

Closing

The door prize of \$18 was won by Marion, N2NQW who donated \$10 back to GSARA. There being no further business, a motion was made to close the meeting and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

WENDELL KLINKER, W2CER - SK

Wendell E. Klinker, 84, of Neptune, formerly of Lakewood, died Thursday, Nov. 4, 2010 at home. He was born in Floyd, Iowa, son of Esther and Evan Klinker. He graduated high school in Orchard, Iowa at the age of 17 and 6 days later he was sworn into the navy. He made the navy a career lasting 23 years attaining a rank of Lt. Commander piloting both airplanes and blimps. As a sailor, he attained the rate of aviation ordnance man 1st class, was accepted for pilot training and upon completion was commissioned in 1951 and married Norma Jean Zeisig. He graduated Officer's Electronics School and Target Drone School, was Officer in Charge of a target unit providing target services for USS Canberra on a world cruise in 1960. He ended his navy career in 1966 as project officer responsible for development and deployment of attack aircraft simulators. Retiring from the Navy, he settled in Lakewood and flew air taxi for about 18 months, then found employment in 2-way radio, which evolved into his own 1-man 2-way radio business, L/M Mobile Radio Service, which provided 2-way radio installation and service for numerous local police, fire departments and First Aid Squads in Monmouth & Ocean counties. Upon retiring at age 65, he devoted more of his time to his hobbies: amateur radio, model airplanes, gardening, beekeeping, and woodworking.

Wendell is predeceased by his wife of 34 years, Norma Jean. He is survived by his son, Fredrick Lee and wife, Marilyn of Staten Island; son, Leonard Klinker and wife, Cherilyn of Neptune; son, Richard Alan of Lakehurst; son, Albert John and significant other, Holly Bonham of Berkeley; three grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, PO Box 27106, New York, NY 10087-7106.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

From the Propagator for December 1985: New officers elected for 1986 were Ken Hampton, KY2S, President; Jerry Havel, W2RRX (SK), VP; Gerry Kersus, W1GD, Secretary; Clarence Kastner, KA2OZA (SK), Treasurer; and Bob Roman, N2DR, Chief Engineer. The second meeting in December was the Holiday Party at Bi-centennial Hall in Fair Haven.

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY DEC. 4

The 12th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 4, 2010. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service as a way



to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According

to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to SSB, CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink, Winlink and the use of e-mail reflectors." In keeping with the NWS setting, stations are asked to include a weather report for their location in their exchange. The 2010 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 4 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Read more here.

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 18, 2010

CROFT TAYLOR, VE3CT - SK

Croft Taylor-VE3CT, while en route to his winter home in Nokomis, Florida suffered a heart attack in Jacksonville and passed away on 17 November. Croft was president of the Quarter Century Wireless Association from 2002 to 2004. More recently, the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame appointed Croft to the Radio Amateurs of Canada Hall of Fame for 2009. At the May 2010 meeting of the QCWA board, Croft was awarded the 2009 QCWA "Hall of Fame." Croft was a staunch supporter of amateur radio and QCWA in particular. May he rest in peace.

ANYONE YOU KNOW?

Often in error, but never in doubt.

NEW ARRL KITS COMING SOON

Two new ARRL kits are in the final throes of production. The first is a Morse code oscillator, produced for ARRL by MFJ Enterprises. The project is a good "beginners" electronics kit. We expect the kit will be popular with members, particularly newcomers, and with clubs, instructors and teachers seeking a classroom kit-building experience. A supplementary resource guide for students and educators will be made available by the ARRL Education and Technology Program. The guide helps cover the fundamentals of the working circuit and its components.

A second kit is a PIC programming lab and project, produced for ARRL by Cana Kit (Canada). This more substantial kit is intended to be used with [ARRL's PIC Programming for Beginners](#) book (revised first edition). The kit includes all the necessary components, parts and boards, and follows the book's step-by-step exercises and tutorial. The kit also includes all the necessary parts to build a microprocessor-controlled CW keyer, which is the book's culminating project.

"We're excited about these new projects, which help emphasize kit construction, basic electronics, and the extraordinary potential of microcontrollers," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "There's no better way to advance the radio art than by introducing more hams to project building and homebrewing." Order your [ARRL Morse Code Oscillator](#) and [ARRL PIC Programming Kit](#) today in the [ARRL Online Store](#).

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 28, 2010

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the December 1995 Propagator: New officers elected for 1996 were Joe Dreifuss, WA2GSY (now W2KQ), President; Laurie Korkowski, N2XWA, VP; Frank Wroblewski, WS2Y (now W2XYZ), Secretary; Dave Worrell, N2IRO (now WD2DW), Treasurer; and Rich Rohloff, KG2CN, Chief Engineer. Effective January 1, 1996, the examination fee was going up from \$5.90 to \$6.07 (it's now \$15). The membership roster showed 144 members as of November 2, 1995! Will we ever get to such a large membership again?

SEALING PL-259 CONNECTORS

Don Dorward, VA3DDN, of Pickering, Ontario, sent us this idea for seals for PL-259/SO-239 connectors. Contact Don via e-mail for more information.

The popular and low-cost PL-259 UHF plug and its mating SO-239 UHF connector were never designed to be waterproof. In spite of this, many of us find ourselves having to use these connectors out-of-doors for an antenna or cable connection and then have the experience of trying to apply some form of weatherproofing.

If this is not done, and done well, then intermittent connections soon result, especially with wet freezing and thawing conditions, resulting in moisture and corrosion getting into the connectors and even into the coax itself.



Place the O-ring(s) at the base of the SO-239 barrel and use the PL-259 coupling ring to compress them into a weather-tight seal.

One well-known solution is to use a bondable rubber tape wrapping. That often seems to work using one of the soft, moldable, stretchable tapes that are available for the purpose. In practice, I have found that the hardest area to seal effectively using this method is the area from the rim of the male PL-259 shell to the mating SO-239 socket face. This is especially true when the SO-239 socket is located partially inside the cowl of the antenna mount (such as the Solarcon/Antron vertical or other similar types) and it is impossible to get sealing tape up into this tight location.

To overcome this problem, simply slip as many tight fitting O-ring(s) over the SO-239 barrel (see Figure) as needed to fill the space between the base of the SO-239 and the coupling ring. Lubricate the

O-rings with a generous amount of silicone grease, often sold in the automotive part stores as "dielectric tune-up grease."

Important: Check that when the mating PL-259 plug is installed and tightened down, the outer rim of the PL-259 shell butts up against and slightly compresses the "O"-ring(s). The "O"-rings I used were ones I had on hand, about 9/16 inch ID \times 0.10 inch thick. I am sure anything that's a snug fit will work. Of course, you will still need to wrap the lower half of the PL-259 shell and the spot where the coax exits the connector with tape to seal that part.

Do you have an idea or a simple project that has improved your operating? Why not share your hints with fellow hams in "Hints and Kinks," a monthly column in QST. If we publish your hint, you will receive \$20. Send your hints via e-mail to h&k@arrl.org or to ARRL Headquarters, Attn: "Hints and Kinks," 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address.

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 18, 2010

ELEPHANTS AND BILLIARD BALLS

In 1869, the need for billiard balls, coupled with a ban on the shooting of elephants, led to the invention of celluloid and the birth of the multi billion dollar plastic industry.

A predecessor to celluloid was invented in 1855 by Alexander Parkes of England who named it Parkesine and tried unsuccessfully to market it for 13 years without success.

It seems the predecessor to the present Brunswick Corp. offered a prize in 1869 for the invention of something to take the place of ivory, the billiard ball material of the day. An Albany, NY printer, John Wesley Hyatt, with knowledge of Parkes work, mixed pyroxylin, made from cotton and nitric acid, with solid camphor to produce a new material. He named the resulting plastic "celluloid" and it was successfully marketed. After a long court battle with Parkes, the court ruled that Parkes rather than Hyatt was the original inventor.

To heighten further his claim as a genuine scientist, Mr. Hyatt went on to invent the ball bearing.

PACEMAKERS AND RF

Schley Cox, W4AMW, of Owensboro, Kentucky, told the Doctor at ARRL that he's headed to see the cardiologist next week about a pacemaker. He's already started researching their use around RF and says he is happy to go all low power (QRP), if that's what's called for. Schley mentioned that he might also be able to operate his rig remotely -- perhaps 20 feet away, but he needs to know how to measure stray RF in the shack itself.

Here's what the Doctor had to say:

I haven't received actual reports of any pacemaker problems and that seems to go along with the info on the ARRL Web site. Note that there are no power levels (or field strength) limits noted there, nor have I found any on manufacturers' Web sites. Thus knowing the actual field strength level in the station may not help. If it were me, I would start by talking to my physician. She won't be able to give you power limits, but perhaps could indicate symptoms to watch for while on the air so you could take appropriate action quickly if called for.

I would start with a careful RF safety evaluation, as required by the FCC anyway. While the FCC guidelines were not based on pacemaker interference, they should result in a reasonably safe environment. If your station is properly set up -- without common mode feed line current, for example -- most radiation should surround the antenna and there should not be much RF within the shack.

Calibrated RF field strength meters are available, but are quite expensive. Relative measurement is pretty easy -- look at any recent ARRL Handbook. If you had a simple field strength meter running at all times in the station (I'm thinking the diode and microampmeter type that doesn't require power), you could see if anything changed, and diagnose and repair as needed.

Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST.

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 11, 2010

LAYERS OF THE IONOSPHERE

For many years, the layers of the ionosphere were known as the "Kennelly-Heaviside Layers", named for Arthur Kennelly, of the United States, and Sir Oliver Heaviside, of England. These two fellows discovered the existence of the layers independently in 1902. Heaviside retired as a telegrapher at the age of 24 and never held a job for the rest of his life. Kennelly had previously invented the AC electric chair for Edison and later became a professor at Harvard and MIT.

As you probably know, the layers are labeled "D", "E", and "F". What became of the A, B, and C layers? Well, Kennelly remarked that, "Someday, someone smarter than I will discover other layers, so I'll leave A, B, and C for him."

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 (December 4, 2010) at 10 AM. The contact person is Pat Brannick, N2BZD at 732-267-0308 or e-mail to pbrannick@aol.com.

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

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

Toms River, Holiday City South Clubhouse, Meeting Room #1, Mule Road at the corner of Santiago Drive on the second Saturday of the odd numbered months (January 8, 2011) at 10 AM and on the second Wednesday of the even numbered months (December 8, 2010) at 7 PM. The contact person is Larry Puccio, K2QDY, 732-349-2950 or lpuccio1@comcast.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.

DIGGING A GARDEN

An old, Italian man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig his tomato garden, but it was very hard work as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me.

Love, Dad

A few days later, he received a letter from his son.

Dear Dad,

Don't dig up that garden! That's where I buried the BODIES.

Love, Vinnie

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Dad,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love, Vinnie

SAFETY FIRST

Do you have the proper fire extinguisher handy to stop a small fire before it becomes a disaster? There are three classes of small fires:

Class A is wood, paper, cloth, etc. and can be put out with either water or a foam extinguisher.

Class B is flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, etc. These can be put out with Foam, Carbon Dioxide, or Dry Chemical extinguishers.

Class C is an electrical fire and can be put out with Carbon Dioxide or Dry Chemical extinguishers.

Before buying a fire extinguisher, some thought should be given to the clean-up problem after its use. Dry chemical leaves a mess; carbon dioxide leaves nothing. Consider the operating time. A \$30 unit will last only 10 seconds. A \$100 extinguisher lasts twice as long. Get some catalogs and compare before buying. A few minutes spent in planning how to fight a fire in a given location, the radio shack or the kitchen for example, could be time well spent.

A QUIZ

You go to a Hamfest looking for a 5-volt, 5 amp power supply. A seller at the Hamfest has a bunch of small supplies at a very attractive price and he tells you how to hook them up in a series-parallel arrangement to get 5 volts at 5 amps. So you buy the following seven supplies:

- 1 volt at 2 amps
- 1 volt at 3 amps
- 2 volts at 1 amp
- 2 volts at 2 amps
- 3 volts at 1 amp
- Another 3 volts at 1 amp
- 4 volts at 2 amps.

When you get them home, you forgot how the seller said to hook them up. Can you figure out how to hook these up to give 5 volts at 5 amps? Send your diagram to Bob Buus, 8 Donner Street, Holmdel, NJ 07733, w2od@aol.com. Winners will be announced in the next Propagator as well as the solution. Hint: One way to solve this is graphically with volts on the x-axis and amps on the y-axis. Each supply is a rectangle with width equal to voltage rating and height equal to amp rating. Then you merely fit the seven rectangles into a 5 by 5 square. Have I confused you enough?

If ants are so industrious, how come they always seem to find time to come to picnics?

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see last page)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g. **N3RB** December 1. All times are EST. Contests are listed in the December QST, p. 66.

December 1 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross, West Park Ave. and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls.

December 2 - **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 pm at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

December 3-5 – **ARRL 160 Meter Contest, CW** from 5 pm Friday to 11 am Sunday. See <http://www.arrl.org/contests>

December 3 - **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 10 pm (10-35 wpm). See December. QST, p. 66 or www.arrl.org/wlaw

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

December 6 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

December 7 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon at left rear table. All are welcome.

December 7 – **Monmouth Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 7 pm in Union Beach Police Annex (Municipal Building) on Poole Avenue.

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

December 7 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 pm.

December 8 – **Holiday City VE Session** at 7 pm in Toms River. Pre-register with Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at lpuccio1@comcast.net

December 9 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 pm.

December 10-12 – **ARRL 10 Meter Contest, Phone and CW** from 7 pm Friday to 7 pm Sunday. See <http://www.arrl.org/contests>

December 11 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 am at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ.

December 13 - **Monmouth County RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

December 14 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 9 am (10-40 wpm). See December QST, p. 66 or www.arrl.org/wlaw

December 14 – **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

December 15 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls. Review of the year 2010 and discussion of plans for 2011.

December 16 – **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:30 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.

December 17-18 – **RAC Winter Contest, Phone and CW** from 7 pm Friday to 6:59 pm Saturday. See <http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests>

December 19 – **ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW** from 1 to 6:59 pm. See <http://www.arrl.org/contests>

December 20 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

December 25 – **Christmas Holiday**

December 27 -. **Monmouth County RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

December 31-January 1 – **ARRL Straight Key Night** from 7 pm Friday to 7 pm Saturday. See <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

THE PROPAGATOR

DECEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 N3RB GSARA Mtg	2 Hol. City Mtg.	3 160 CW CW Qual. Run	4 160 CW
5 160 CW InfoAge	6 ARES/RACES 7:30	7 Pancake House MARC Mtg 7 PM Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	8 Hol. City VE	9 JSARS Mtg.	10 10 Mtr	11 OMARC Mtg KC2YKT 10 Mtr
12 10 Mtr InfoAge	13 RACES Net 7:30	14 CW Qual. Run Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	15 GSARA Mtg	16 JSARS VE	17 RAC Contest	18 KC2YNL RAC Contest
19 Rookie Roundup InfoAge	20 ARES/RACES 7:30	21 QCWA News 9 PM	22	23	24	25 Christmas
26 InfoAge	27 RACES Net 7:30	28 QCWA News 9 PM	29	30	31 SKN	SKN



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FIRST CLASS