



THE PROPAGATOR

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

NOVEMBER 2008

UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next regular meeting of the GSARA will be held on **Wednesday, November 5 at 7:30 PM** at the Fort Monmouth MARS building. This will be the election of officers for 2009. The second meeting in November will be on **Wednesday, November 19 at 7:30 PM** at the **American Red Cross - Regional Office**, 1540 West Park Avenue, Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

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

FORT MONMOUTH PASSES

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

FREE TRIP TO DAYTON 2009

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

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

HUDSON DIV. AWARDS LUNCHEON

This year's event will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 12:00 Noon thru 4:00 PM at Biagio's Restaurant, 299 Paramus Road, Paramus NJ. Tickets are \$50 each and order forms are available on line at <http://www.hudson.arrl.org/#HudsonAwards>. The event is graciously hosted by the Metroplex ARC of Ft. Lee, NJ.

If you are unable to attend please help support the event by having your club or business take an ad in the Awards Journal which help defray the expenses of the dinner and award plaques. That information is also available on the division site.

We having a luncheon this year as costs have risen for an evening event. We also hope that this day time event may enable more members to attend.

Being honored as 2008 Amateur of the Year is President of the Monmouth Amateur Radio Club, David Mutterer, KC2H of Belford, NJ who was nominated by Chris Esser, KC2RGW.

From The Hudson Division Beacon, September, 2008

ROSTER CORRECTIONS

Since publishing the September 22 Roster last month, the following changes should be noted. The electronic version was corrected but the printed version was not.

W2HAM e-mail should be russo26@verizon.net

NJ2H phone number should be 732-226-4053

W2HTS e-mail should be w2hts@arrl.net.

K2QXW e-mail is brucemcleod@verizon.net.

GSARA HOMEPAGE

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

GSARA OFFICERS

President	N2LXM	Jeff Harshman	922-0816
Vice Pres.	W2FA	Kevin Wagner	279-0532
Secretary	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
Treasurer	W2XYZ	Frank Wroblewski	942-7705
Engineer	W2HTS	Howard Suffill	460-1885
Webmaster	KC2TKK	Josh Gluck	
Trustees	KG2NV	Don Pingitore	229-2925
	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
	WA2FVL	Jack Keating	264-7670

PROPAGATOR AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL

Would you like to help the finances of GSARA and at the same time get your issue of *The Propagator* a few days earlier? You can get every issue e-mailed to your computer every month by simply giving your e-mail address to Bruce McLeod, K2QXW and request *The Propagator* electronically. Bruce's e-mail address is <k2qxw@yahoo.com>

BADGES AND PATCHES

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

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

OUTGOING QSL CARDS

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

PROPAGATOR NOW ON THE WEB

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

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

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

Don't forget that the next GSARA meeting on November 5 will be at Fort Monmouth and it will start at **7:30 PM** instead of 8 PM. There will also be a meeting on Wednesday, November 19 at the Red Cross at 7:30 PM. See page 1 for more information. I look forward to seeing a great turnout at both meetings.

Hats off to our new webmaster, Josh, KC2TKK. He has started a new home page for GSARA at www.gardenstateara.org and it's starting to look good. It is a work in progress so you may see improvements and additions each time that you check in. We will continue to maintain the old web pages at www.monmouth.com/~gsara until Josh has completed the transfer and added his own personal touches.

On a similar note, 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.

I was pleased to see former GSARA member Dave Mutterer, KC2H be named Amateur of the Year by the Hudson Division. He will receive the award at the Annual Hudson Division Awards luncheon on Saturday, November 8 at Biagio's Restaurant in Paramus. More information about the luncheon is on page 1.

I'm sure most of you need Desecheo Island so don't miss the opportunity to work it when it comes on the air. It should be an easy one but the pile-ups will be terrific. See page 6.

Remember if you change your e-mail address; please be sure to inform Bruce McLeod, K2QXW.

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

73 de Bob, w2od@arrrl.net

GSARA CALENDAR

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

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM called the meeting to order at the Fort Monmouth MARS building at 7:39 PM. There were 14 members and one guest present. The guest was Andy Bodnar, KA2VXA from Middletown. After the pledge to the Flag, all members introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the September 2008 meeting had been published in the October Propagator. A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Howard, W2HTS to accept the minutes as published. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ presented his report for September. A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Ray, W2NXG to accept the report as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Health and Welfare

GSARA member Nena Puryear, N2WAY passed away on September 11, 2008. Ray, W2NXG gave a brief eulogy and reviewed the memorial service given for Nena. May this outstanding volunteer rest in peace.

Old Business

Head of the nominating committee, Joe, W2KQ reported that Frank, W2XYZ has agreed to again run for Treasurer and Bob, W2OD agreed to again run for Secretary. Two candidates were presented for the Vice President slot; Kevin, W2FA and Howard, W2HTS. Upon hearing this, Kevin asked to withdraw and leave Howard unopposed. The committee could not find a candidate for President so Jeff, N2LXM offered to take it for another term (his fourth) even though he is extremely busy at work. The committee also could not find a candidate for Chief Engineer. Since the election is not until the first meeting in November, the committee was asked to continue to work to fill the empty slots.

Public Service

Sunday October 12 is the Juvenile Diabetes walk in Avon from 9 AM to noon.

Sunday, October 19 is the CROP Walk in Red Bank from noon to 5 PM.

If you can help with either of these events, contact Tom, N2VFK.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was GSARA member Jim Griffiths, K2EI who spoke about his experiences with the Red Cross and FEMA during a fire emergency in Los Alamos, NM. A controlled burn got out of control and burned 230 houses. The county took control of the situation and Jim was responsible for running the EOC. The Red Cross came barging in and didn't want to share responsibility with the county or FEMA. This left a bad impression with Jim.

He warned us not to get too involved with the Red Cross and recommended that we continue our affiliation with the Fort Monmouth MARS. This might be a problem when Donna, KA2GKQ gets transferred. Jim, K2EI and Joe, W2KQ agreed to try to retain our access to the MARS building but by being retired, they don't have a lot of clout.

Announcements

The ARRL SET is Saturday, October 4. For instructions, monitor the Asbury Park 2-meter repeater starting at 9:00 AM.

The Infoage Learning center will again run the Haunted Hotel on the last three Fridays and Saturdays in October. Admission is \$10 per person.

GSARA has club caps for sale at \$8 each.

OMARC is planning a one-day Technician class sometime in January.

The OMARC tailgate Hamfest is Saturday, October 4 starting at 7:30 at the Diana site on Marconi Road in Wall. Buyers are \$5 per car load and sellers are \$10.

Closing

The drawing for the door prize was won by Bernie, W2QFQ. There being no further business, a motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Laura, N2HGI to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

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

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Jeff Harshman, N2LXM called the meeting to order at the Red Cross building at 7:35 PM. There were 14 members and two guests present. The guests were Joe Basket, KC2LFF from Highlands and Vince Rosati, KE2V from Ocean. After the pledge to the Flag, all members introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Tom, N2VFK to postpone the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes will be published in the next Propagator.

Health and Welfare

Keith Sproul, WU2Z was involved in a hot air balloon accident in New Mexico. Keith was the pilot of a balloon that hit a power line and burst into flames. He jumped 60 feet to the ground and suffered severe injuries. His co-pilot was killed. We pray for Keith's recovery.

Old Business

Head of the nominating committee, Joe, W2KQ reported that the slate of officers for next year does not yet have a candidate for president or for chief engineer. He asked for nominations from the floor and there were none. The actual election will be held at the November 5 meeting.

The subject of programs or guest speakers for the meetings came up. The Red Cross meeting place is well-suited for such speakers. However, we need someone to coordinate a schedule for guest speakers. No one volunteered. It was suggested that perhaps the secretary or the vice-president could take on this extra responsibility. Since the vice president was not present, the issue was not resolved so will be brought up at the next meeting.

New Business

The Red Cross would like our help in specifying a tower and antennas to be erected at the Red Cross building. A committee was formed to study the problem. Named to the committee were Tom, N2VFK, Howard, W2HTS, Jeff, N2LXM, Joe, W2KQ, and Josh, KC2TKK. Howard, W2HTS and

Jeff, N2LXM will meet with Leo Platte of the Red Cross and then with the rest of the committee.

Our webmaster Josh, KC2TKK has taken out a domain name for the GSARA. It is gardenstateara.org and cost Josh \$55 to register. A motion was made and seconded to reimburse Josh for this \$55 expense. The motion passed unanimously. All GSARA members who wish can have an e-mail account whose address would be <call>@gardenstateara.org. Josh offered to demonstrate the use of this site but his laptop has DVI output and the projector needs VGA input. Lacking an adapter, Josh gave a brief demonstration to those who could huddle around his laptop.

Public Service

Sunday October 12 is the Juvenile Diabetes walk in Avon from 9 AM to noon.

Sunday, October 19 is the CROP Walk in Red Bank from noon to 5 PM.

If you can help with either of these events, contact Tom, N2VFK.

Announcements

The Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air is this weekend, October 18-19.

Bernie, W2QFQ reported that U.S. Army will hold a band concert on Thursday, October 16 at 1:30 PM at Fort Monmouth. Admission is free and it is open to the public.

The Infoage Learning center will again run the Haunted Hotel on the last three Fridays and Saturdays in October. Admission is \$10 per person.

Closing

There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom, N2VFK and seconded by Howard, W2HTS to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

A jury ordered a Philadelphia restaurant to pay Amber Carson of Lancaster, PA \$113,500 after she slipped on a spilled soft drink and broke her tailbone. The reason the soft drink was on the floor: Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument. What ever happened to people being responsible for their own actions?

TOM GAGEN, KC2CGZ - SK

James T. (Tom) Gagen, KC2CGZ of Avon died Monday, Oct. 20 at the age of 78. He was the brother of John Gagen, W2YR. Born in Spring Lake, Tom spent his career in the U.S. Army and was a commissioned chief warrant officer CW4. After his discharge, he ran the family business Gagen Printing Co. He also worked for Brookdale Community College at Camp Evans.

Tom was a life member of the Avon Fire Department, having served as chief in 1960. He was a life member of Avon First Aid Squad having served as sergeant and vice president in 1959. He was a life member of the American Legion, the NJ State Firemen's Association, the NJ State Exempt Firemen's Association, serving as Legislative Committee member and Monmouth County executive committeeman from 2005 to present. He was also a member of South Monmouth County Fire Chiefs Association and a life member of Monmouth County Firemen's Association, the Monmouth County Exempt Firemen's Association, and a charter life member 29 of the Association of the United States Army Warrant Officers.

Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Yvonne Valle Gagen; a son, Thomas S. Gagen of Howell; a daughter, Venisse T. Gagen Delle Monache of Fairfield; a brother, John P. Gagen, W2YR of Avon; a sister, Betty Anne Moak of Bridgeton; and two grandchildren.

A Memorial Mass will be offered at 11 AM Saturday, Nov. 1, at St. Elizabeth's Church, Avon. Interment will be at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Avon Fire Department, Main St., Avon; the Avon First Aid, P.O. Box 3, Avon; or the American Lung Association, 1600 Route 22 East, Union, NJ 07083.

BEWARE OF PHISHING ON ARRL.NET

We have received several reports from ARRL members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information, such as user names and passwords. Please be assured that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL. According to ARRL Information Technology Manager Don Durand, "This is a very crude attempt at phishing, using an

easily determined spoof of the originating/return address. There is never a time when we would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users. There is simply no need to ever do so." If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from ARRL, please do not respond, just delete it.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 41, October 17, 2008

AMATEUR RADIO GOLDEN AGE BOOK

Many consider 1930 to 1980 as the "golden age" of American radio technology. A time of extraordinary innovation driven by pioneering engineers and entrepreneurs, this 50 year span saw the introduction of rigs that would become famous throughout the world. The newest addition to the ARRL Library, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation -- Transceivers, Receivers and Transmitters: 1930-1980," highlights these treasured favorites in a way that has never been seen before. This book takes you on a guided tour of more than 400 of these legendary radios, lovingly restored by their owners and gorgeously photographed by Joe Veras, K9OCO, a professional photographer and Amateur Extra class ham. The images presented in the book represent more than 200 photo sessions and nearly 500,000 miles of travel. "You find yourself leafing through the pages and blurting out, 'I owned one of those!' at regular intervals. I had to laugh out loud when I saw the photo of the Gonset Communicator II transceiver, complete with its cyclops 'eye tube.' That was my first 2 meter rig," said ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY. Whether you've been licensed for many years or are just starting out in Amateur Radio, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation" offers a fascinating visual travelogue of Amateur Radio technology. Each photo includes a brief description of the radio, model number, manufacturer, as well as the year it was introduced and its selling price at the time. "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation -- Transceivers, Receivers and Transmitters: 1930-1980" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0228> is hardcover and 128 pages. It is available from the ARRL Web site and dealers for \$39.95. If you order before November 30, 2008, you will receive a free 2009 ARRL Calendar featuring the vintage radio photography of Joe Veras, K9OCO.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 40, October 10, 2008

2009 DXPEDITION TO DESECHEO IS.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has selected a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, to lead a DXpedition to Desecheo Island, KP5 (IOTA NA-095), in early 2009 <<http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/Refuges/Desecheo/default.htm>>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list <<http://hamgallery.com/countries/>>.

Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the FWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR) <<http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/>>.

Johnson told the ARRL that about eight years ago, a group of DXers wanting to activate Navassa and Desecheo Islands formed an organization, the KP1-5 Project <<http://www.kp1-5.com/>>. According to its Web site, "The purpose of the KP1-5 Project is to work toward a solution to the closure of Desecheo and Navassa Islands to Amateur Radio operators by achieving lawful, periodic access to these islands pursuant to US Fish and Wildlife Service authorization. While operating from these islands is a worthwhile goal, the KP1-5 Project is dedicated to a long term partnership that jointly benefits the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Amateur Radio operators worldwide."

In 2005, H.R. 1183 was introduced in the US House of Representatives <<http://bulk.resource.org/gpo.gov/bills/109/h1183rh.txt.pdf>>. This bill, while not specifically mentioning Amateur Radio operations, would require "limited public access to the Desecheo and Navassa national wildlife refuges." While this bill did not become law, the KP1-5 Project continued to negotiate with the FWS, seeking permission to mount a DXpedition and activate Desecheo Island. Through these negotiations, the FWS, by way of the CNWR, invited written proposals from groups interested in activating the island.

In June 2008, CNWR invited written proposals from hams who had previously made inquiries about an Amateur Radio operation from Desecheo; CNWR indicated that they would allow one group to activate the island. After reviewing the

proposals, CNWR would then select a group and prepare to issue a Special Permit to the successful party, limiting the group to no more than 15 people staying no longer than 14 days. Applicants had 45 days to prepare and submit their proposals. According to Allphin, seven groups submitted proposals.

The CNWR also stated certain conditions that would have to met to be considered for selection, such as completing unexploded ordnance awareness training (Desecheo has been used in the past by the US Air Force as a bombing range and for survival training), prior experience conducting a DXpedition from a natural resource area and other sites, removing all refuse from the island and locating all transmission equipment and camping facilities within 200 feet of the cement helipad on the island. According to the solicitation letter, CNWR personnel will make periodic compliance checks during the stay.

"A panel of three Fish and Wildlife Service employees, from areas within the Service outside of the Caribbean refuge, spent September 24 & 25 reviewing and evaluating the [seven] proposals," Allphin said. "The selection criteria used were those outlined in the proposal invitation letter. Points were awarded for how well criteria were addressed for thoroughness and documentation. USFWS has not announced the actual dates of the operation yet, but the DXpedition is expected to take place between January 15 and March 30, 2009. A Special Use Permit will be issued as per USFWS regulations." Allphin said he expects that the DXpedition team and DXers worldwide will have a minimum of 30 days' notice prior to the start of the trip to Desecheo.

"It was truly an honor to have our proposal and team selected from the stiff competition," Johnson told the ARRL. "This has been a true team effort on our part from the start. We look forward to activating an entity in the Top 10 Most Wanted that is located in our own back yard!"

According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager and experienced DXpeditioner Dave Patton, NN1N, both Desecheo and Navassa Islands (currently third on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list) saw frequent operations in the late 1970s through late '80s, but operations from the islands have been very limited since then. With the islands under the control of the US Fish and

Wildlife Service, combined with decaying "infrastructure" on Navassa, there are more issues that must be dealt with than there were 25 years ago.

"A well-organized and lengthy operation from Desecheo will be a nice treat for the world's DXers," Patton said. "With W0GJ and K4UEE leading the operation, I think we can all count on a first class effort that will give maximum exposure to Asia/Oceania and Europe where KP5 is most needed. I also think that Glenn and Bob can demonstrate to the Fish and Wildlife Service that a DXpedition can take place and not damage the environment or cause big problems amongst other hams or for other agencies. I hope hams will be invited back to Desecheo more frequently in the future and expand the places where hams may operate."

Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV (ex-KZ5M), fondly recalled his part in the Texas DX Society's 1985 DXpedition to Desecheo, telling the ARRL what made his time there so special: "KP5 -- what incredible memories for me. It was my first 'classic' DXpedition; meaning putting a tiny island on the air after landing on the beach in a small boat and hauling all the gear up the rocks. This one took 24 hours of manual labor to get everything from the small beach, over the rocks, and to the operating area -- quite a task for a bunch of guys that spent more time behind a desk than they did at the gym! To this day, I have never had the pleasure and excitement of working down huge pileups like we experienced on KP5 -- I can still hear them in my ears. I know that Bob, Glenn and their crew will do a fantastic job lowering this Top 10 rare one down the needed list. I am so happy for each and every operator going in 2009. I know in my heart this will be a trip that even the most well-traveled of them will remember for the rest of their lives.

In 1979, upon the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC), Desecheo Island was added to the DXCC list for contacts made after March 1 of that year. KP4AM/D -- with operators N4EA, KP4Q, N4ZC, KP4DSD, KV4KV (now KP2A), KP4AM (now W4DN) -- made the first DXpedition Desecheo in March 1979. Various groups have made their way to Desecheo since the first trip, but other than a brief operation in December 2005, there has been no activity from the island since 1994.

According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of activity is due to the FWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The FWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island. It is always a good thing when an entity that had activation difficulties in the past gets on the air again."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 40, October 10, 2008

500 KHZ WANTS YOUR HELP

Fritz Raab, W1FR, coordinator for ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental Station, WD2XSH <<http://www.500kc.com/>>, reports that fall has brought lower static and good propagation, making excellent conditions for the 500 kHz experimenters. The experimental license, issued in September 2006 <<http://www.arll.org/news/stories/2006/09/15/104/>>, has more than 20 active stations. Raab said that last year, a second US experimental license -- WE2XGR, with five participants -- joined the project, as well as experimenters in the UK, Germany, Sweden and the Czech Republic. These stations' operating modes include CW, QRSS, PSK-31 and others. Contacts have been achieved at distances up to 1234 miles, with signals received from all over North America, Alaska and Hawaii; trans-Atlantic reports are not uncommon. "The 500 kHz experimenters are experiencing excellent propagation conditions," Raab said. "The best time to listen is between sunset and sunrise." The operating frequencies are: WD2XSH -- 505.2-510 kHz; WE2XGR -- 505-515 kHz; UK -- 501-504 kHz, and SM, DL, OK -- 505.0-505.2 kHz. Raab requests that listeners file reception reports at the experiment's Web site so that they become part of the station's data base. Additional information can be found at the experiment's Web site and also in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <<http://www.arll.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 42, October 24, 2008

Carl Truman, 19, of Los Angeles, California won \$74,000 plus medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbor's hubcaps.

HAMS INVITED TO HELP STUDY BIRDS

For the second year, scientists are asking ham radio operators and VHF monitoring enthusiasts to assist in scientific studies of Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes <<http://www.shrike.ca/index.html>>. If you live in an eastern state and can tune away from the ham bands for a few minutes a day, you could help scientists study this endangered bird species. Every year, these birds leave their captive breeding program in Ontario, Canada, but fewer and fewer are returning in the spring. Researchers at the University of Guelph in Ontario have placed radio tags on 20 young shrikes. Although the primary purpose of the tags is to determine dispersal patterns -- the movements the birds make immediately after leaving their nests -- scientists also hope that more may be learned about the birds' fall migration journey. Scientists think the birds will fly south to Florida, but they might also overwinter in Tennessee, North Carolina and states just south of there. You can help by tuning in regularly to the tag frequencies, which are between 172-173 MHz. The complete frequency list is published here <<http://www.homingin.com/>>, along with articles to help you distinguish the pulsed tags from other signals you may hear. Please listen now, as migration is under way; the radio tag batteries will only function until the end of November.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 41, October 17, 2008

DX ENGINEERING ACQUIRES COMTEK

On September 24, DX Engineering <<http://www.dxengineering.com/>> announced it had acquired North Carolina-based Comtek Systems <<http://www.comteksystems.com/>>. Comtek's manufacturing and customer service operations will move to DX Engineering's Akron, Ohio facility. "Comtek's products are highly regarded among Amateur Radio operators," said DX Engineering president Paul Sergi, NO8D. "The addition of these products to our popular line of antennas enhances our ability to supply complete, high quality, directional antenna systems. It's a win-win for DX Engineering and Comtek Systems customers." DX Engineering and Comtek Systems have complementary product lines and the synergy created by combining the two companies will bring many benefits to the Amateur Radio fraternity."

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 38, September 26, 2008

ARRL ON-LINE AUCTION BEGINS

The Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction kicked off Thursday, October 23 <<http://www.arrl.org/auction>>. With almost 200 items up for bid, this event promises to have something for just about everyone. This year's auction will again include many transceivers and other items, including items that have appeared in the QST Product Review column, and have thus been thoroughly tested by the ARRL Lab. According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's online auction - - our second -- proved to be a successful and enjoyable event for both hams and ARRL staff members alike. When the bidding ended, we realized that we had sold 162 items and sold just over \$50,000 worth of merchandise." Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as create instructional materials. The auction runs through Friday, October 31 on the ARRL Web site.

From *The ARRL Letter*, No. 42, October 24, 2008

PA BECOMES 27TH STATE WITH PRB-1

On Wednesday, October 8, Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell (D) signed into law a bill that guarantees radio amateurs the right to erect antenna support structures up to 65 feet without the need for a Special Use Permit. The bill passed in the House with a vote of 196-1; it passed in the Senate with a vote of 49-1. The new law is scheduled to go into effect December 8, 60 days after signing.

The bill requires local municipalities to "reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications, and to impose only the minimum regulations necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the municipality" and says that "no ordinance, regulation, plan or any other action shall restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 65 feet above ground level, but a municipality may impose necessary regulations to ensure the safety of amateur radio antenna structures, but must reasonably accommodate amateur service communications."

From *The ARRL Bulletin*, No. 13, October 19, 2008

NOTES ON CALENDAR (see reverse side)

Large call letters denote birthdays e.g., N2CUG November 7. All times are in EST unless otherwise noted. Contests are listed in the November QST, p. 86.

November 1-2 – **Radio Club of America QSO Party**, SSB from 1 PM EDST Sat. to 1 AM EDST Sun. See www.radioclubofamerica.org

November 1-2 – **ARRL Sweepstakes**, CW from 5 PM EDST Sat. to 10 PM Sunday. See www.arrl.org/contests

November 2 and every Sunday – **InfoAge Marconi Hotel** open from 1 to 4 PM on Marconi Road in Wall. Exhibits by QCWA, OMARC, Antique Radio, Broadcaster's Hall of Fame, etc. \$5 donation requested.

November 3 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

November 4 – **Middletown Pancake House Luncheon** at noon at left rear table. All are welcome.

November 4 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting**, 7:30 PM at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

November 4 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 PM.

November 5 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 9 AM (10-35 wpm). See November QST, pp. 85 and 100.

November 5 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 PM at the MARS Building at Fort Monmouth.

November 6 – **Holiday City ARC meeting** at 7 PM at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

November 8 – **OMARC Meeting**, 9:00 AM at the Diana Site on Marconi Road, Wall, NJ.

November 8 – **Holiday City VE Test Session** at 10 AM in Toms River. Pre-register with Bill Haldane, AC2F at 732-240-7064 or ac2f@earthlink.net. No walk-ins.

November 8 – **Monmouth Amateur Radio Club meeting** at 10 AM in Union Beach Police Annex (Municipal Building) on Poole Avenue.

November 8-9 – **Japan International DX Contest**, SSB from 2 AM Saturday to 8 AM Sunday. See www.jidx.org

November 8-9 – **CQ Western Electric**, all modes from 2 PM Sat. to midnight Sunday. See www.cqwe.cboh.org

November 10 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

November 11 – **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

November 13 – **Jersey Shore Amateur Radio Society (JSARS)** meeting in Riverview Park Recreation Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River at 7:30 PM.

November 15 – **RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest**, CW from 4 PM to 8 PM. See www.rsgbhfcc.org

November 15-16 – **ARRL Sweepstakes**, SSB from 4 PM Sat. to 10 PM Sunday. See www.arrl.org/contests

November 15-16 – **PSK63 QSO Party** from 7 PM Friday to 7 PM Sunday. See www.eu.srars.org

November 17 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM.

November 18 – **W1AW Qualifying Run** at 7 PM (10-35 wpm). See November QST, pp. 85 and 100.

November 19 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 at the Red Cross, West Park Ave. and Shafto Road in Tinton Falls.

November 20 – **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.

November 21-23 – **CQ WW DX CW** from 7 PM Friday to 7 PM Sunday. See www.cqww.com

November 22 – **Neptune Amateur Radio Club Meeting** at 9 AM at the American Legion on Gully Road in Neptune.

November 24 – **Monmouth County RACES** on 147.045 +600 at 7:30 PM. RACES members only.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 RCA QSO CW SS
2 RCA QSO CW SS InfoAge	3 ARES/RACES 7:30	4 Pancake House Old Barney ARC QCWA News 9 PM	5 CW Qual. Run GSARA Mtg	6 Hol. City Mtg.	7 N2CUG	8 OMARC Mtg. Hol. City VE MARC Mtg KG2NV Japan DX CQ WE
9 Japan DX CQ WE InfoAge	10 RACES Net 7:30	11 Croyden VE 7 PM QCWA News 9 PM	12 W2NXG	13 JSARS Mtg.	14	15 RSGB 1.8 MHz. SSB SS PSK63 QSO
16 KB2USF SSB SS PSK63 QSO InfoAge	17 ARES/RACES 7:30	18 KB2SZW CW Qual. Run QCWA News 9 PM	19 GSARA Mtg	20 JSARS VE	21 WA2DND CQ WW DX CW	22 Neptune Mtg CQ WW DX CW
23 CQ WW DX CW InfoAge	24 RACES Net 7:30	25 QCWA News 9 PM	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30 InfoAge						



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FIRST CLASS