

# ***The Propagator***



GARDEN STATE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

W2GSA TINTON FALLS, NJ

APRIL 2023

**SOME FIELD DAY THOUGHTS**

**CHANGES IN THE GSARA  
CONSTITUTION**

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**DAYTON CONVENTION CHAIR  
KD8ENJ, SK**

## EDITOR'S NOTES

I recently read with great interest that the Internet is coming to the moon! Yes, it is true, Nokia is going to provide 4G Internet Access to outer space by years end for the new Nasa Artemis 1 moon project. Elon Musk and SpaceX will provide the launch vehicle(s) to achieve this first! The idea is to allow astronauts to communicate with each other, mission control, control moon based devices and send live video. Also, I am told by anonymous sources, able to order from Amazon. Amazon spokesperson said "we are working on modifying our delivery trucks for outer space travel" by end of 2023 – up oh!

As I have previously discussed, it is a little bit disappointing in that we have not discovered anything strange in outer space. Our electronics seem to work very well and physical observations here on earth seem to be the same in outer space, even on Mars. Well, I guess that means that the universe is made up of the same stuff and probably, almost certainly, of life itself.

As Ham operators I think we can take some kudos for transmitting our signals into outer space and beyond, perhaps a fellow operator on Gamma Sigma Delta may one day respond to us – if we are still here, based on radio wave propagation it may be our great,

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*Each issue contains GSARA news and updates as well as some general ham radio articles of interest.*

*All previous issues can be found on [www.gsara.club](http://www.gsara.club) as well as current news from the club. We encourage you to check the club website often which includes recent news, past issues of The Propagator, and general club news, updates and announcements.*

*The Propagator is sent electronically to each member's e-mail.*

*EDITOR: Ulric Lewis  
KC2VWB  
[ulriclewis@yahoo.com](mailto:ulriclewis@yahoo.com)*

*WEBMASTER &  
PROPAGATOR DESIGN:  
Cy Stanway K2CYS  
[k2cys@arrl.net](mailto:k2cys@arrl.net)*



## Officer's Row

Art, N2AJ0 – President  
olson339@comcast.net

Ed Christensen NN2D  
KD2WOZ@arrl.net

John, KA2F – Secretary  
Ka2fwb2hd@gmail.com

Paul, AD7I – Chief Engineer  
ad7i@ad7i.net  
732-309-7807

Diana Noble, KD2NAD – Treasurer  
diananoble@aol.com

### Trustees

Bob Buus, W2OD  
W2od@arrl.net

Marlo Montanaro, KA2IRQ  
ka2irq@coastradionet.com  
732-207-7343

Denis Commette, K2NPT

### Support team

Jay, W2FLK, VE Coordinator  
jay.h.berkowitz@gmail.com  
Propagator Editor: Ulric Lewis,  
KC2VWB ulriclewis@yahoo.  
com

### Propagator Publisher/Website

Cy Stanway, K2CYS  
k2cys@arrl.net

great, great grandchildren who get the response.

Looking out my window I see my flower beds are starting push up towards the warming skies. This is a good signal to dust off my telescopic stealth (so my neighbors do not know) antenna out and do a few practice runs under the cover of darkness – everything must be stowed before my extremely eagle eyed neighbor catches even the tiniest glimpse of a vertical pole above 3 feet high lol.

Hope everyone is getting ready for the summer and hopefully another stella 24 hour Field Day event.

73's to all.

Ulric  
KC2VWB



## SOME FIELD DAY THOUGHTS



As Field Day 2023 approaches, I have reflected on how I have learned about amateur radio after licensure. While studying for your license, perusing the vast musings of those publishing their experiences on the internet, or watching the thousands of YouTube videos are fine, the single best way to learn about this hobby is to simply get a radio and antenna and do it. That begs questions of which radio(s), what mode, which antenna, what coax, and so on. Our club members have experiences spanning decades for every facet of the hobby so get on the GSARA Discord or come to a meeting and ask them to start with.

But the single best thing you can do, in my opinion, to improve radio knowledge and operations is to come to Field Day. There you can learn about antennas (and interference), modes (not all may be considered equal), propagation (“giveth and taketh away”), the art of operation (“CQ CQ”), logging (you want a QSL), and so much more that will accelerate your abilities and enjoyment of the hobby. Indeed, my level of enjoyment and ability as a Ham is a direct result of just these things. Get engaged (sign up to help set up) and come to Field Day where you can maybe make your first HF contacts on CW, SSB or FT8 and learn about Satellite (“we got the ISS!”), enjoy good food, conversation and so much more.

Ed Christensen NN2D



# CHANGES IN THE GSARA CONSTITUTION

Here are the changes to the GSARA Constitution, adopted at the March 2023 meeting:

## ARTICLE VI - DUES

### SECTION I

- A. The membership year shall commence each year on the first day of January.
- B. Membership dues are payable on or before the first day of January.
- C. Dues notices will be sent to the membership using the email address on the published roster during the first week in October, November, and December.
- D. Members who have not paid their dues by the first club meeting in January will be removed from the roster and so informed by the Treasurer.
- E. New members enrolled after October 1 will be assessed the yearly rate which will be carried over to include the following year.

## 2 METER NET

In the last session in February and the four sessions in March, we had 78 check-ins for an average of 15.6 per session. The following 26 members checked into this net this period (number of check-ins in parenthesis):

KG2CM (5), KA2IRQ (5), W2OD (5), W2QMI (5), WA2SFF (5), N2BCS (4), NN2D (4), AC2MB (4), W2NAZ (4), KD2SFF (4), N2AJO (3), KZ2G (3), K2MFS (3), KG2NV (3), WB2RPW (3), KD2YAN (3), KE2ASA (2), N2BMK (2), W2CET (2), KD2NAD (2), KC2NGH (2), KD2EPA (1), KA2F (1), WA2JOE (1), N2MEP (1), and KB2RTI (1).

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



## PEOPLE BEFORE PROPAGATION

I'm an outdoors guy – too many rainy days and I get a bit stir-crazy. Looking at the forecast, I seized upon the prospect for sunny and 60 after a string of cold rainy days and planned a quick Sunday afternoon POTA activation at Monmouth Battlefield State Park (K-1625). I posted the outing to the GSARA club Discord server, hoping I would have some company.

It was a challenge to find a few empty kilohertz on 20 meters because of the SSB contest going on that day. This was a perfect time to test out the frequency agility of the 17-foot vertical whip antenna. Dave (N2MXX) came by and assisted by shortening the antenna until I had a good SWR on 17 meters (which was disallowed for the contest). While there was some traffic on the band there was plenty of room to park and bark, calling CQ POTA.

Next thing I know there's a young man standing a bit behind me looking on. He was maybe 12 or 14 years old. I invited him to come closer (not too close – too many weirdos out there these days) and explained what I was doing. Next thing I know four of his friends were in the bunch, all young women. They came around and were very interested in what I was doing. One especially interested young lady got to talk to one of my park contacts.

Next thing I know I'm drawing sine waves to explain about frequency and wavelength and resonance. I brought them over to the antenna to make it real. I showed them the 17-foot vertical, and then brought out the coil, and explained how the two were actually the same length – electrically speaking.

They all seemed interested and some asked insightful questions (“How much does this stuff cost?”). I loved explaining the different facets of the hobby. They seemed especially interested in the digital modes.

It was a great day at the park. Shout out to Dave N2MXX, Kymm KY2MMM, and Jeff NJ5R who made the effort to come out. We all spent far more time talking with each other than we did on the air (yes, I got the mandatory 10 contacts to





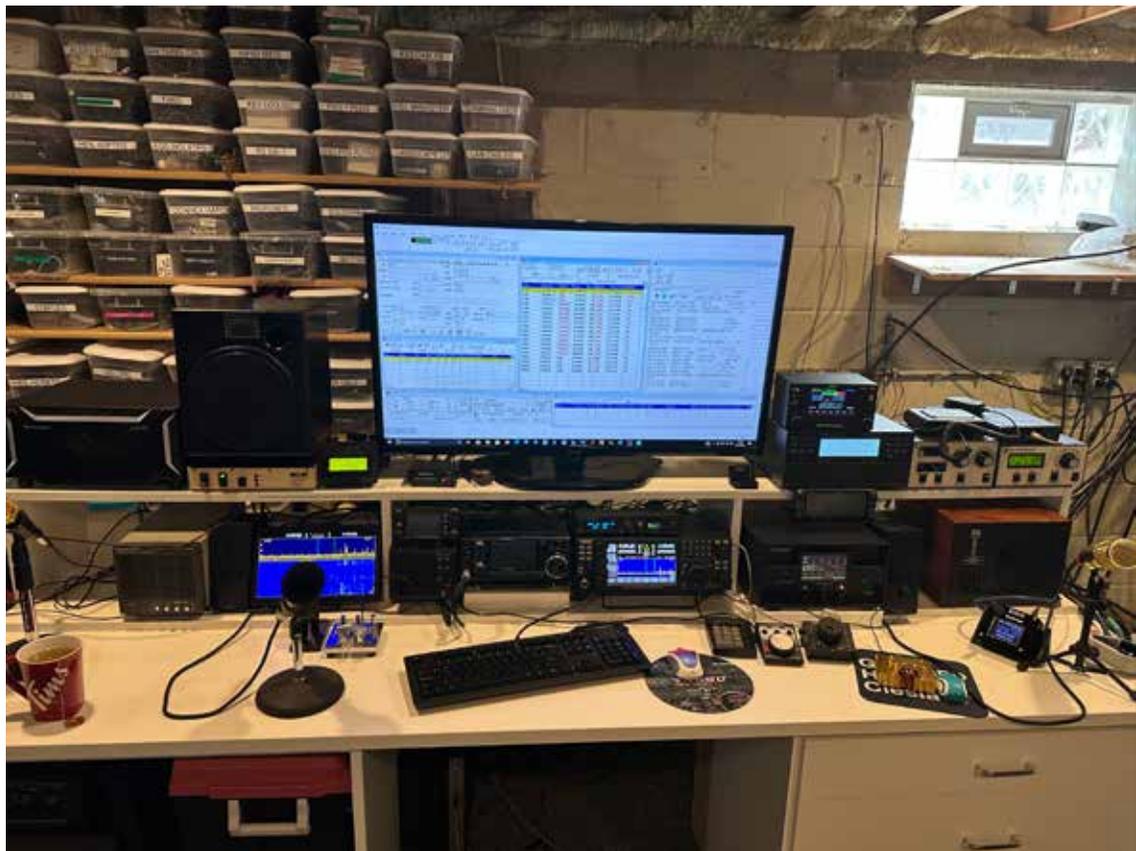
make it an official POTA activation). The two best parts of the day were talking to the kids and talking with my ham friends. People before propagation, I say.

As better weather is ahead on a consistent basis, look for more of these pop-up events (I try to give three days or so notice). If you are not there already, connect with the club Discord server. It's easy and much more focused than social media sites such as Facebook or Twitter. No ads, no algorithms, just us. I encourage others interested in field operations to do these events also. No pressure, you don't have to serve a meal, just set up and let us know where you will be.



73,  
WA2JOE  
Joe



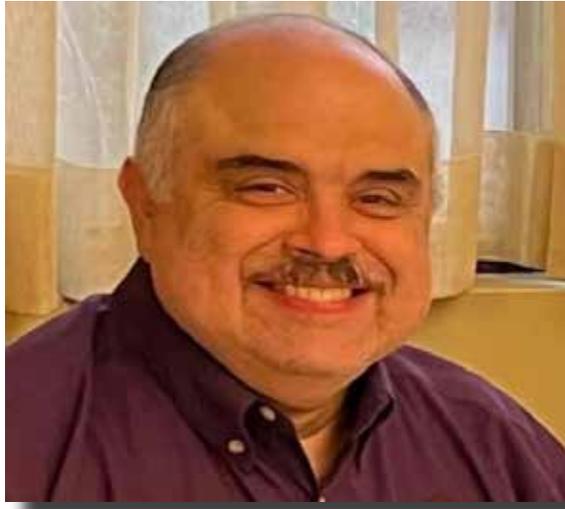


Shack of Cy, K2CYS



## LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN THE HUDSON DIVISION

ARRL Director Ria Jairam, N2RJ, who has represented the Hudson Division since 2019, has stepped down, effective March 31, 2023, at 5 PM Eastern.



Vice Director Nomar Vizcarrondo, NP4H, of Englewood, New Jersey, will accede to the Director's chair. Vizcarrondo, who earned his amateur radio license in 1978 at the age of 11, will serve as Director for the remainder of a 3-year term ending December 31, 2024. He was appointed as Vice Director of the Hudson Division in February 2022, following the retirement of previous Vice Director William Hudzik, W2UDT, who held the position from 2011 to 2022.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, will announce a successor to Vizcarrondo to fill the vacant Vice Director's seat. The ARRL Hudson Division is comprised of the ARRL Sections of Eastern New York, New York City – Long Island, and Northern New Jersey.

## Swag n' more

Light winter jacket

S\_XL \$60 2XL \$62 3XL \$63

Cap Blue or Stone \$21

Golf Shirt Blue or Stone \$25

Pullover Hoodie

Patches \$3

Interested?

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



*GSARA Fusion Net*

*APRIL 26, 7 PM*

*AMS off*

*DN on*

*Everyone welcome*



## DAYTON CONVENTION CHAIR RON CRAMER, KD8ENJ, SILENT KEY

Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, of Dayton, Ohio, passed away on Saturday, March 11, 2023. He was Vice President of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) and previously served as its President.

Cramer was General Chairman of Dayton Hamvention®, the world's largest annual gathering of radio amateurs, from 2017 to 2018. In 2017, he was among the Hamvention leadership and team who helped successfully relocate the event to its current venue at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio, after 52 years at Hara Arena. In 2019, the event would go on to host the ARRL National Convention in Xenia.

“Ron was one of the most active members of DARA and Hamvention and was extremely well liked and respected,” included a message from the DARA Board. “Please keep him and his family in your prayers.” Cramer is survived by his wife of 49 years, Liz (Ann Mergler).

“I was the Assistant General Chair of Hamvention (Ron's assistant) the year we moved we moved it to Xenia,” shared DARA President Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT. “It was a stressful time, but it was also a very exciting time [for] the team. There is no way Ron can ever be replaced. He was a hardworking, dedicated, wonderful person who had a positive impact on everyone he encountered. His only fault was, he would never say no. I am looking forward to catching up [to] Ron in that great shack in Heaven! Rest in peace, my friend!”

“Ron was a good friend of ARRL, and one of the kindest and most committed member-volunteers I've known throughout my years in amateur radio,” said ARRL Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. “Ron supported many years of ARRL's participation at Hamvention. Most recently, he coordinated Hamvention's interest in hosting the 2024 ARRL National Convention. He'll be close in the hearts and minds of many of us as the convention is planned. I'll miss him dearly.”

An obituary is available from Baker-Hazel & Snider Funeral Home in Dayton, Ohio.



# Looking Back

## FIVE YEARS AGO

From the April 2018 Propagator: Both meetings in March were cancelled due to bad weather. NNJ ARES sponsored a 5 watt challenge on April 7 using no commercial power and a 5 watt power limit. John, KA2F had an article about the history of the W2GSA call sign. There will be a uBitX build at the home of Cy, K2CYS on May 27. Bob, W2OD had an article about Marconi's activities in Belmar (now the InfoAge Learning Center). There was a picture of Mike, K2MFS with his new Tech license.

## TEN YEARS AGO

From the April 2013 Propagator: Cy Stanway, whose Canadian call is VE2IFS, got his General Class U.S. license with an assigned call of KD2D-NV. He promptly got his vanity call of K2CYS and six weeks later, the Extra. As in 2018, the first meeting in March 2013 was cancelled due to bad weather.

## FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the April 2008 Propagator: Middletown RACES gave a one-day Technician class which resulted in 23 Techs who passed the exam at the end of the class. Frank, W2XYZ returned from a DX-pedition to Anguilla operating as VP2EFW (with Mike, KC2Q operating VP2MED). It was a lot of fun and quite easy.

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the April 2003 Propagator: Marconi Chapter 138 of the QCWA is holding a dinner-dance at the Waterview Pavilion in Belmar on April 27. Music is by Joey Arminio & the Family consisting of Joe, K1SAX; Doreen,



K2HLO; and Nick, KC2FAL. Frequencies were given for those wishing to monitor the Iraq war communications. Ray, W2NXG (now SK) invited kids to his shack for Kid's Day in January and all had a good time.

## **TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO**

From the April 1998 Propagator: 16 members have volunteered to receive The Propagator by e-mail only, thus saving GSARA some printing and postage costs. Don Pingitore, formerly KC2BTF upgraded to Advanced and changed his call to KG2NV. Chapter 138 of the QCWA will hold their annual awards banquet on May 3 at the Fort Monmouth Officers Club. There was an article giving the history of why the code speed for an amateur license was increased from 10 wpm to 13 WPM on June 3, 1936. Lowell Bellingham, W2HXJ became a silent key.

## **THIRTY YEARS AGO**

From the April 1993 Propagator: Jack Keating, WA2FVL (SK) wrote an interesting article called "Born-Again Ham" about how he got back into amateur radio after a 10-year absence. All NJ automobile call letter license plates must be redone by filling out form PI-119 and submitting \$10. The QCWA annual banquet will be held on May 2 at the Fort Monmouth officers club. A Perkins restaurant was opened in Hazlet at Airport Plaza by Darryl Harven, WA2AYF (SK). Saturday luncheons are being held at Burger King in Middletown and at Roy Rogers in Shrewsbury. About 10 amateurs show up for each luncheon.

## **THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO**

From the April 1988 Propagator: There was quite a bit of coverage of the Transpolar Ski trek project. This was a privately organized expedition in March 1988 to ski from the top of the Soviet Union to the top of Canada crossing the North Pole. All communication was via amateur radio and the skier's position was relayed via Oscar 11 on 145.825 MHz. Many GSARA members monitored the satellite as did schools throughout the country.

