



GNARC on Line Bulletin

Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club

July 2004 Founded 1934 Number Seven

Club Repeaters: K1OF 147.390/ - 600 KHz (no PL) & K1UHF 448.075/ + 5 MHz (PL-114.8)

Viewed In PDF Format, www.qsl.net/w1ee/GNARCJulyBulletin2004.pdf [Reader® 6.0](#).

Viewed In HTML, www.qsl.net/w1ee/GNARCJulyBulletin2004.htm This version will be updated!

Next Club Meeting will be Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Program: check the www.gnarc.org/ web site.

Regular Club Meetings start at 8:00 pm and are held in the Community Room at the [Shop Rite](#) on Connecticut Ave. (Rte-1) in Norwalk. Talk in: 147.390 no PL.

Updated on 06/24/2004 -----

President: "Ned" Bassick, KA1CVV / **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H (203) 762-9302

Secretary: John Sabini, WB1GRB (203) 348-3983 / **Treasurer:** "Zig" Fekete, N1ICL.

July 2004 GNARC on Line Bulletin: John Sabini WB1GRB. Questions (203) 353-8422.

GNARC Membership Dues Are Due For 2004!

- Senior Membership: Individuals over 65 years of age.....\$15.00 per year
- Standard Membership: Individuals under 65 years of age.....\$20.00 per year
- Student Membership: Individuals under 18 years of age.....\$10.00 per year
- Family Membership:.....\$25.00 per year

Send your dues to: "Zig" Fekete ~ 45 Stoehr Place ~ Bridgeport, CT. 06606

Everyone on the GNARC Distribution [Mailing List](#) will receive this newsletter. Now that we are going to an all electronic Newsletter you will be informed by e-mail of the up and coming GNARC events. If you are not on the Membership Distribution List or if you have not been

receiving the On Line Bulletin, please contact Ed K3EIN via [E-Mail](#), and he will update the Membership Page on the GNARC web site. To make sure you receive this Newsletter make sure the [Mailing List](#) e-mail address is not filtered or blocked on your computer!



Send your photos to:

hamphotos@mail.com

10 MB mailbox!

Send your articles to:

gnarc@usa.com



localendar.com/ New England Calendar Of Local Ham Radio Events /

'NEW' 'Add Your Own Calendar Event / Public Discussion Board'.

[Message Board](#) **Classified Ads Service.** Amplifiers, Antennas, Rotators, Computers, Coax, Power Supplies, Parts, Radios , HF, VHF, UHF, HT's, Receivers, Test Equipment, Towers, Tubes, Tuners.

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[Photos](#) of the June Meeting.

GNARC Minutes of the Meeting 6/9/04

Ned, N1CVV started the GNARC meeting at 8:05 pm.

Officers then introduced themselves. **President:** Ned, N1CVV / **Vice President:** Allan Valeo, NN1H / **Secretary & Newsletter:** John Sabini, WB1GRB / **Treasurer:** "Zig" Fekete, N1ICL.

We then went around the room so people could introduce themselves.

"Zig" N1ICL than gave a brief treasurer's report.



Allan, NN1H then mentioned that the July 5 ARES Net has been **CANCELED**. August 2 will be the next ARES Net. More below in: **(ARES NEWS)**

We had our Fox Hunt on May 22. It was not a great success based on the amount of people that showed up. The next Fox Hunt we are going to sweeten it up with a prize for the first one to find the Fox. It will probably be sometime in August. We are looking forward for more people to turn out. **(Photo Left)** Rich K1OF and Cindy N1EKD won a \$50.00 gift certificate for the first non-officers to find the fox.

Ned then mentioned that our Editor / Secretary is looking for articles to print in the club newsletter. If you have bought a new radio or if you would like to share something with the club write a article.

We need these articles to help keep the newsletter going. **Send your articles to:**

gnarc@usa.com

Rich K1OF talked about the repeater. Any questions talk to Rich direct or give him a landline. **Do not talk about the repeater on the air!** Contact Rich.



Old Business: Ned then thanked Toy KA1WYQ and all who where in the room on the success of the Annual Bloomin' Metric bicycle tour. Jay KD1LY did a great job as net control. We all had a good time and learned many things we could fix next time. Event officials depended on their cell phones to dispatch needed assistance. They were having problems on the northern area of the course. We probably need operators in these vans in the future. [More Photos](#) of the

Bloomin' Metric bicycle tour. **Future events will be published in the newsletter.**

More on the Annual Bloomin' Metric bicycle tour (Below)

Coffee Break 8:35. Toy raffled some prizes. Money helps pay for refreshments.

Meeting continued at: 9:05.

Gary N1DKB then talked about Field Day Planning and setup. If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer contact Gary [N1DKB](#). Also check the updated [Field Day Planning](#) on the GNARC web site.

Date and Time Period: Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. **Field Day 2004 will be held June 26-27, 2004.**

Follow the link to the Field Day [Rules](#).

Ned proposed that the club buy three or four new folding tables and chairs. I would also like the club to buy two E-Z Up tents. \$99.00 dollars each. These tents have flaps that fold down and have large screens for plenty of air circulation. Tents are 10ft X 10ft.

Meeting ended at: 10:45 pm.

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Skywarn

Phil Berkowitz WX1CT. Connecticut Skywarn D.E.C



On June 1, 2004, a new phase of Weather and Skywarn net operation for Hartford and Tolland Counties began in CT. The primary repeater will be the Vernon repeater on 146.79, with a minus Offset and PL of 82.5. Weekly Weather nets will be held each Thursday at 9 PM, except for the Second Thursday, when the net will be on the Soapstone Repeater, 147.00 with a Plus Offset and no PL. The Soapstone 147.000 repeater will now become our back up repeater, should the 146.79 become unavailable. The main reason for this change is better coverage for Southern Hartford and Tolland Counties, and the availability of IRLP, which will allow severe weather reports to reach Taunton NWS via their amateur station, WX1BOX, or to Rob, KD1CY, the Regional Skywarn Coordinator, for Taunton NWS. We will need your help getting the word out about this change as it takes a while for people to re-learn old habits.

I would like to briefly go over how we handle Weather and Skywarn nets here in CT. This goes for all the Skywarn nets wherever they are in CT.

We must remember that we are all volunteers, and that we will devote as much time as possible to the Skywarn Program. Weather nets will be a training medium, where our volunteer spotters will practice submitting their local weather reports to the net control, and also receive training on severe weather criteria, like that covered in a NWS Weather Spotter Class. In addition, this type of net will also be used to train our appointed alternate NCS volunteers in becoming efficient net controls. Severe weather may hit our area at any time, especially when many are at work. We have appointed alternate net controllers because WE need more than just one or two individuals on our NCS list.

The following comes from Albany Skywarn Program leader John Quinlan and though it relates to Litchfield County, this is applicable to all counties:

1. Absolutely no one but appointed net controls should be running Skywarn nets.
2. All net controls must be current with their Skywarn training.
3. No one from another county, state or NWS office interrupts nets or requests that a net be run.

Again related to Litchfield County but applicable to all Connecticut counties, Activation will only be requested by the NWS, or the appointed Skywarn personnel will self activate. At NO TIME is

anyone from anywhere else to request activation, nor are they authorized to request information during an active net. If they want to stand by and listen or get it through another repeater, that's fine.

Anyone wishing to become an alternate net controller for a Skywarn net in CT should contact Phil Berkowitz, who leads the Skywarn program in the state. He will be happy to talk to you. You can find his contact information on the web.

All Our Weather and Skywarn nets will be directed, that is, all matters must go through net control. If there are no NCS stations available, one of the designated alternates should pick it up. CT Skywarn should never be activated by persons not designated by Phil Berkowitz, DEC Skywarn. For the northern counties, WE expect the IRLP link to be open to receive severe weather reports, and for the Taunton Coordinator to give specifics of what NWS is looking for in each weather event. Albany and Upton (Brookhaven) may or may not have this option. If a net is not active in your county, please use the 1-800 number provided in your Skywarn Training handout.

We will not be contacting Fire, Police, or other local agencies during a severe storm to ask for confirmation of damage, as this would keep them from doing their job and has led to complaints from them in the past. If possible we will try to use local hams to confirm such reports internally.

Local NCS stations will not be able to give NWS reports from outside their county. However, if a spotter can't reach their local net due to conditions, local NCS operators should take the report, pass it on and NWS will distribute it to the proper office.

Because these are directed and time sensitive nets, any person (including Coordinators) needing to engage in lengthy conversations should move to another frequency or working IRLP link to keep the net cleared.

As we enter the summer season, perhaps with many storms, we look forward to serving the NWS, in achieving the goal of getting reports to them in a timely and accurate manor.

Sincerely,
Phil Berkowitz WX1CT
Connecticut Skywarn D.E.C.

www.fairfieldcountyskywarn.com/

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ARES NEWS

Thanks this month go to Rich, K1OF, for taking the June Net. It was our first opportunity to see how much better the new receive site really is. There won't be an ARES Net on July 5. There is plenty enough activity at Field Day and there's an overlap with the July 4th Holiday. The Next ARES Net will be on August 2 at 8:00 PM on 147.390R.Net. Control Station will be N1ICI.

Allan Valeo, NN1H, EC Norwalk ARES Group.

Bloomin Metric Bikathon

May 23rd 2004. **updated 6/24/04**

The Down to the Sound Bike Club recently concluded their 27th annual Bloomin' Metric Bikathon from Shady Beach in Norwalk and once again the boys from GNARC demonstrated their worth as radio operators for public service events. In so many words, we saved the day for a very thankful organization that that virtually centered the road activities on the expertise of our communication specialists.

We effectively combined a not so good Nextel setup with our own high powered mobile radios that were able to access the remote areas of the ride and provide information continuously on and about the condition of the several hundred riders that were on the road that day.

There was a fair amount of breakdowns, exhausted riders and accidents that we covered with our (Rovers) on the road mobile communications, rest stops coverage and directions given to the various 'sag wagons' provided by the bike club. We even had our remote stations double as sags and ferried urgent supplies from one rest stop to another a few times.

Congratulations on a job well done to the following radio operators:

Jay/KD1LY excellent job of net control for the event

Tom/KK2C rest stop coverage,

Matt/KB1IRW rest stop coverage,

Ned/KA1CVV for his tent supplies and APRS equipment that was aptly demonstrated and is an invaluable resource for such an event.

Bill/WG1HM always dependable and provided coverage is very sensitive area on the bike route.

Caron/WA1OMJ remote rest stop coverage and doubling as transport for supplies.

Walner/N1YV rest stop coverage,

John/WB1GRB rover,

Gary/NIDKB, rover and rest stop coverage,

Mark/N1RH rover, rest stop and sag wagon.

ED/K3E IN rover

Toy/KA1WY Q/net control and rover

Toy/KA1WY Q/Public Service Coordinator

Computer Corner

by ROGER GILER "W1AGU"

"Firewall"

The term "firewall" has been bandied around a great deal lately. And we hear all types of comments about what it is, and do I need one? While it may be a complicated affair, the description of its purpose and function does not have to remain a mystery. It is a system that keeps the bad guys from the outside world out of your computer, and lets the good data get in. I should add that it obviously implies that you are connected to the rest of the world, usually through the Internet. These days, most of the information of interest comes through the Internet, be it news or even email. At one time it was used to protect a network of computers that needed to communicate in a business environment. But now there is even a personal firewall to protect a single computer. A firewall is not very different from a customs agent whose sole function is to control what comes in and goes out. It does not provide or store data. A more technical definition is that a firewall examines electronic data entering or leaving a (network) or computer according to rules that it has been given.

Since you already have an Antivirus program (I hope), do you also need a firewall? If you have a broadband connection to the Internet (cable or DSL) then it is a must. The main reason is that there are people in the world who are continuously trying to try to get into various computers, looking for something that might be useful to them. A firewall need not be expensive. The most widely used one is named ZoneAlarm, free for personal use. The Internet Security package from Norton is often provided by computer vendors but requires purchase after the initial test period. There is one built into Windows XP but little data is available because it was probably added by Microsoft as an afterthought. If you are thrifty, it is certainly worth investigating since you already have it. However, it is not automatically turned on.

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Computer Corner: <http://www.acorn-online.com/cc.htm>

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illegal Amplifiers for CB

By: Jess Girard ND1L

I reported on one prohibited electronics item I found on eBay, namely an amplifier which is clearly designed for CB use. The use of amplifiers for CB user is clearly prohibited by the FCC as is referenced in eBay's policy statements.

However, upon looking further in the Amateur Radio section of eBay I was able to find at least a dozen more illegal amplifiers, obviously designed expressly for 11-meter (CB) use.

There are easily-noticed signs:

No frequency of "ham band" is mentioned. Not necessary since the seller and potential buyers know clearly that the devices are designed for only a single use, CB, which is on 27MHz or "11 Meter" band.

All such amplifiers are for single-band use; thus they're quite small and show no means of band-switching. Also almost all are for use in vehicles... unusual for amateur radio amplifiers.

Most listings discuss how much output power is available with 5-15 watt input. That input power level is what CB transceivers produce. It's quite rare to find actual amateur radio gear which provides that power level. CW gear is legally allowed 5 watts for AM and 15 watts PEP for SSB... thus the "5-15" watt levels mentioned in the listings.

The listings for these units mention few if any technical specifications beyond simple power level. That's because their target audience has no knowledge of other criteria... they only know about power level.

Some listings state "**illegal for use with CB**". Nice try, but FCC regulations forbid even amateur radio amplifiers capable of operation in the portion of the spectrum where CB service is permitted.

One listing says "Amateur/CB Amplifier". Interesting, but illegal according to FCC rules and eBay's stated policy.

I've written about this before but eBay staff doesn't answer nor pursue the people creating these listings. Why not? eBay policy forbids listing this equipment; please enforce your policies.

There are abundant amateur radio operators who would make themselves available to eBay to review such listings as a free service to eBay to protect eBay from inadvertently permitting the listing of prohibited radio equipment. Our club, GNARC (Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club) could certainly be enlisted to provide such assistance, and I'm sure that almost any amateur organization in our country would be delighted to assist.

I look forward to your thoughts in this matter.

73

Jess Girard
A.R.S. ND1L

Thank you for writing eBay.

We understand your concern about the these items. eBay actively searches the site for these types of prohibited CB amplifiers and other prohibited electronics equipment and we do review all items that are reported to us and take the appropriate action under our Electronics Equipment guidelines. eBay also actively works with the FCC in these matters.

While there may be items of this nature that have been or are posted on the site, this does not always mean that they are allowed to be listed. Appropriate action will be taken when such items are brought to our attention.

eBay relies on members to report potential offenses if they are seen. If you have seen prohibited electronics equipment auctions listed on our site, it may be that they were never reported to us or that we are not aware of them as of yet. For possible violations of our policies, the most effective way for members to report them is individually through the use of our web form at:

http://pages.ebay.com/help/contact_inline/report_listing.html

This method will help to expedite matters, ensuring that appropriate action will be taken swiftly. We respect the anonymity of the members who report potential violations to us, and would never reveal this information.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts to keep eBay a safe and fun place to trade. Thank you for your participation in the eBay community.

Regards, Jens

This article was taken out of the archives on: [Bulletin News & Updates.](#)

Public Service Announcements

If you have any Public Service Announcements please contact me at: (203) 353-8422.

Stamford Amateur Radio Association Field Day.....

FIELD DAY- June 26th. And 27th. Stamford Museum and Nature Center- Observatory in Stamford. CW operators needed. We will be in same category as last year-QRP.

Stamford Museum web site: www.stamfordmuseum.org/astronomy.html [DRIVING DIRECTIONS](#)

SARA SUNDAY NIGHT NET We encourage people to check into the SARA net. This is a informal net on the Stamford Repeater every Sunday night at 8 PM. After about a half hour of friendly discussion, we play the "Amateur Radio Newsline" with the latest happenings in amateur radio. Make yourself heard, join the net. Repeater: 146.655. PL-100 Hz.

For Sale / [Message Board](#) (updated)

To help battle junk e-mail use your telephone number. Questions, 203 - 353 - 8422. John WB1GRB.

Texas Weather Instruments 1-wire Weather Station. Comes complete with Wind Vane, Anemometer, Temperature/Humidity sensor, Radiation Shield and Rain Gauge. WeatherView 32 Software included. Note: This station does not use a console, all data is displayed on a computer monitor. \$250.00. Contact Phil 203-847-0965.

[30 ft. Antenna tower](#) looking to donate to amateur radio club. just come get it! Posted. April 23, 2004

Wanted tri-band beam antenna.10m 15m 20m a 14ft boom would be great. 73 Louis. n1nq.

n1nq@yahoo.com

One IBM Think pad 560X WIN98SE P233 96megs, 4 Gig HD very light weight 4pds with all manuals, Restore CD's and license. \$200 call days 299-0233 ask for Ned. o 1615 30 MHz Freq Ctr., \$25; AEA PK-88 Packet TNC, \$35 Call Marv, [N1AWJ](#), (203) 438-7889.

Mobile w/o Microphone, \$25; HP5301 10 MHz Freq Ctr. \$25; Eldorado 1615 30 MHz Freq Ctr., \$25; AEA PK-88 Packet TNC, \$35; Leader LAC 897 2M Trans match, \$20. Call Marv, [N1AWJ](#),
Posted by: WB1GRB

SB 102, POWER SUPPLY/ SPEAKER, AND HAND MIKE IN VERY CLEAN CONDITION. 80-10M. \$150. (203) 531-9493. Andy [KA1SLG](#).

Icom 706mkIIG, no box, in excellent condition, have all the small connectors it came with, asking 650\$ or Best offer. 203 748 7143.

ICOM T8A HT w/slow charger & 2 extra Batt's., \$119; Radio Shack HTX 242 2m 10/45W Mobile w/o mounting bkt., \$60 Call Chris, N1YNO at (203) 359-0570 evenings.

FT-8100B 2M/70cm Transceiver with factory CTCSS encode/decode, separation kit, and includes all schematics and manual. Recent o/haul at Yaesu - Installed new style transmitter board and complete alignment. Works and looks as new. \$200.00 plus shipping - 203-975-8014 eves.

Quad, rooftop tower, and ham desk for sale. Lighting Bolt 5 band, 2 element Quad \$40. Create 10' rooftop tower with thrust bearing and rotor plate. Make me an offer. Unique ham desk originally used in Heathkit store: Slight "U" shape. Desk is 25" deep x 7 feet (at widest part) , two adjustable 12" deep full length shelves, tan Formica, extremely sturdy and handsome!. It disassembles for moving. \$350. Gary K3OS 203-762-8972 evenings.

HD-73 ROTOR w/CONTROL & CABLE, \$50; Cushcraft 10-40M Vertical. Ant., \$15; Heathkit Station Monitor Mod. 614, \$50. 2 South Bend 7.5 HP Go-Cart Engines. Call for Info. Call Irv, N1ATS, 348-3425. Posted by: WB1GRB.

I have a HTX-202 with a cracked Case. I do not care if the radio works. I need the Plastic case. Jerry W1FHM, (203) 853-3969. Posted By John WB1GRB.

If any items above are sold or if you have any questions please contact me. John wb1grb. 203-353-8422.

Club Web Site: www.gnarc.org/ A non-profit service oriented organization. [By Laws](#).

Articles must be in by the 25th of each month to be published in this

newsletter.

[Bulletin Newsletter Updates](#) can be made anytime.

Join us before the meeting at John's Best Pizza on New Canaan Ave. at 6 pm.

[John's Best Pizza](#)

85 New Canaan Avenue Norwalk, CT 06850

GNARC POSTAL ADDRESS 304 Main Av. #115, Norwalk, CT.

Courtesy of. C/o. The UPS Store #315, Greg Bryson K1NGF.

304 Main Av. Perry Plaza Norwalk, CT. 06851. [Map](#) Phone (203) 847-6166

Archives, [Newsletters](#), [Photos](#)

Fairfield County's Only Live Scanner Site!

<http://scanstamford.com/>

Famous Quotes: "What this power is I cannot say; all I know is that it exists and it becomes available only when a man is in that state of mind in which he knows exactly what he wants and is fully determined not to quit until he finds it."

Alexander Graham Bell ~

WEB BROWSERS: This web site has been validated to operate properly with the following browsers: MS-Internet Explorer 6.0 and Netscape 6.2 thru 7.1 and has been checked for errors. If you are having trouble accessing any part of this site please contact Webmaster, John WB1GRB. (203) - 353 - 8422.

All GNARC Bulletin web pages which are published each month on the GNARC Club web page will be free of e-mail address to help battle junk mail. (Spam) . A link will be provided to the Membership page.

Contact me for corrections: John WB1GRB.

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J/S WB1GRB Thursday, June 24, 2004
