

UP-LiNK



W2CRA

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER ASSOCIATION II, INC.

"Community Service Through Communication"



July 2001

BOARD MEETING July 11 8:00 PM

CLUB MEETING July 13 7:30 PM



Climbing for Field Day 2001

See our website at <http://www.qsl.net/w2cra> for more pictures

THANK YOU, CRAII

On behalf of my son, Michael, and his family I wish to express our appreciation for his being recognized recently by the CRA membership for academic achievement. The scholarship award is certainly appreciated and will be put to very good use. It is so great to see our youth recognized in such a fitting way to cap off the many years of Elementary education and spring board into the next years of higher education.

Once again, my compliments to the scholarship committee and all our CRA friends....

Thank you,
Thomas K. Lanieri

Wanted.....

A few good people!

Races members, need not to reply!!

Do you enjoy doing public service events? Do you enjoy setting up stations in remote areas, such as field day? Do you want to something beneficial to your community? Do you want to have some fun?

If you answered 'Yes' to any of the above questions, then you may consider giving me some help. I know most of you have checked into the local traffic net that runs on Thursday nights, and very little traffic is passed. Well, I volunteered to be the clubs ARES liaison and I need people that can put their 'ham' radio skills and knowledge to good use. I need you to consider joining me in a local ARES group.

Now ARES stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Service and it was set up by the ARRL to assist with storms and other disasters. And it's very different from RACES.

What I would like to do is have a small group of people that can put their ham radio skills to good use. I want to let you know that we are also going to have a little bit of fun doing this. I got a few ideas on some projects that we can do, such as making low cost antennas, and a grab box - a basic ham radio 'first aid kit'. In addition I want to set up some outdoor 'emergency' stations-just like 'Field Day', and maybe a contest as well.

But we will be doing some serious stuff as well, like assisting our communities in the event of an emergency. And, learning how to pass formal messages a.k.a. 'Traffic'.

If you are interested in joining, then contact me by voice or e-mail

David Kanitra WB2AZE
e-mail WB2AZE@yahoo.com

CRA PROGRAM SCHEDULE

de Denis KA2YYB

JUL 13, "New Things in Mobile Radio Trunking, Part 1"

Frank Brickle AB2KT

AUG 10 open

SEP 14 " Amateur Radio In The Future"

Mendelsohn W2MF

OCT 12 " Mobile Radio Trunking, Part 2"

Frank Brickle AB2KT

HAMFEST CALENDAR

de George N2VWL

Here is a list of ARRL sanctioned Hamfests in New Jersey, for the current year:

12 Aug. Jersey Shore ARS Bayville

6 Oct. Bergen ARA Hackensack

The following are those in nearby PA:

15 July Mid-Atlantic ARC Kimberton

15 Sept. Del. Lehigh Schnecksville

Public Service

de WB2NQV

It's AFD. That's "after Field Day" and we are all winding down from a very successful weekend. As you read this the 54th Lebanon July 4th Parade will be history so I'll take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help, especially Justin N2QOR for securing the County's command bus and operating the net. The confirmed dates for the rest of the year are; Bucks County Horse Park August 12, October 7 and November 10 and 11, N2VWL Coordinator N2VWL@epix.net, If you can help with any of these events contact the event coordinator or myself at WB2NQV@arrl.net.

For the latest Public Service dates log on the CRA web site <http://www.qsl.net/w2cra>

EXTREME HOME BREW

Part 2

Creating the capacitor. The problem building the set, of course, was the need to build components, so until we could build some components there was nothing much we could do. A look at the circuit diagram of a regenerative receiver indicates a number of capacitors_- about two or three are required - low capacitors to make the oscillating part of the system work, and in fact from memory we needed in the grid circuit at least one .01 microfarad capacitor and there was no

chance we could get this anywhere, or any other components. So we hit upon the idea of taking some tin foil or aluminium foil from the tea chest which the Japanese supplied with the rice rations, then by the well known equations for calculating capacity and the relationship of the distance between the plates and the area of the plates we built a capacitor or, at least, I built a capacitor which according to calculations should have been about .01 microfarad. If I could put an aside here, I built a replica of this capacitor some years ago, and it went out to Simpson barracks where we had some friends in the testing laboratory, and with great excitement the Warrant Officer concerned said "We will see how good your calculations were"; so he put it on his equipment which was accurate to many decimal points and read on his display unit .009 microfarad, so we thought we were pretty good. I said "Touché" to him because he didn't think we could do it. I made two or three of these, and I still have one of them that would work if I built the receiver again, which I have been thinking about doing but there's always something else, like a lot of other projects which one has as one gets older. We had to insulate the layers of [the capacitors] which we did by putting a layer of newspaper (a few people had newspaper and various things, for other reasons than newspaper of course, but then we had no other toilet requisites in the party) and by soaking this in some coconut oil we could insulate each layer after we wound it, and with a piece of this bee wire - we had something like fifty feet of it - wound round this part of the fish plate, we made a fairly good choke coil. And then a bigger capacitor, which was no trouble, having had success with the small one, to just wrap as much tin foil as we could round another sheet of newspaper which finished up about 18 inches long by about three quarters of an inch in diameter. We didn't even try to measure the capacitance of it, because we couldn't do anything about it anyway, except put more wire on. And that in effect was a fairly good rectifier, a very dangerous one because we had the 110 all right but we had a bit over that by the time we had rectified it, and we don't know because we had no means of measuring it.

Next month: The cinnamon resistor

THANK YOU CHERRYVILLE

Pete,

Thank you so much for sending the sympathy card on behalf of the club. The past few days have been difficult for me and the card was most welcomed.

Each day seems to get better than the last. Today was the private burial and then a memorial service at the church. Her old friends were out in force.

She now rests in peace. Please pass along my feelings of gratitude to everyone.

John, W2GD

FOR SALE

Several GE Master II low band mobile rigs
One GE Master II base rig and one for spare parts
Two Mitrek low band mobile rigs
One Mitrek VHF mobile rig
Two GE Master II VHF mobile rigs
Two GE Master II UHF mobile rigs

Make Offer to Robert, KC8GPD



The Novice Gals Racking Up The Points- FD 2001
See our website at <http://www.qsl.net/w2cra> for more pictures

“Rules of the Road”

de W2CGX

All members should bear in mind that there are two timers associated with the primary machine, 147.375/975. The most critical one is the 90-second timer used during morning and evening drive times. The reduction from three minutes to 90 seconds has a very important purpose: Those are the two times of the day that see the highest number of users, and the primary information exchanged during those times are road reports.

There are many members who drive into New Jersey from Pennsylvania and other distant spots. Routes 78 and 287 often are the routes of choice, but both are prone to tieups. It's critical to members to get information quickly when tieups occur. Specifically, our repeater usage rules specifically prohibit the use of “hold it” and “let me drop it” to reset the timer and continue with a monologue. Not only does no one have a chance to get into the repeater during the 90-second monologue, but it stretches to 1.5 minutes or longer with the infraction just mentioned.

The “375” machine also doesn't have a “beep” such as you might find on some other repeaters. That's why it's important to leave a space between a station dropping the carrier and you picking it up. Leave the space in case some has an emergency or just wants to check in.

In all cases, remember to keep all transmissions as short as possible, but especially at drive time!

License Classes Scheduled

Barry Campbell, W2CGX
Education Committee Chairman

License classes for new amateur operators are scheduled for the fall at the Somerset County Technical Institute in Bridgewater.

This year only the Technician class license will be presented, along with the Morse code. Also, instead of two nights a week, classes this year will be held on Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 until 9:30. In mid November a VE session will be held, and hopefully at that time we'll have several new Technician licensees with the code element. Classes start on September 11, 2001.

By passing Elements one and two the new licensees will be able to operate on VHF/UHF frequencies, as well as 10 meter phone and 80, 40 and 15 meter CW. They will be well on the way to a General class license.

If you know people who might be interested in becoming a ham (like a spouse, perhaps?) encourage them to sign up. The cost is only \$15 (goes to the school) and the cost of the Now You're Talking book, \$14.

A flyer is available from the club's website, <http://www.qsl.net/w2cra>. They are also available at meetings, and directly from me at bcampbell@scettc.org. SCTI is located on Vogt Drive in Bridgewater, just east of the Commons Mall. Directions can be obtained from the school's website, <http://www.scti.org/directions>. As always, George, W2RIJ and Roberto, K2PA will be teaching the code, and several club members will be offering the lectures. Anyone interested in teaching is welcome to contact W2CGX at bcampbell@scettc.org.

AMATEUR MORSE TESTING CHANGES EFFECTIVE 7/1/01

New Morse code exam standards go into effect Sunday, July 1, for all Volunteer Examiner Coordinators. The new standards call for Farnsworth character speed in the 13-to-15 WPM range and the end of multiple-choice questions for routine Morse code exams.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators voted last July to set up the revised standards for the administration of Morse code examinations in the US after amateur restructuring established 5 WPM as the sole Amateur Radio Morse code requirement.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, points out the required change to the Farnsworth protocol replaces the 18-WPM character speed ARRL VEC has used since 1989.

"Standard 5 WPM messages with 5 WPM characters are available as an accommodation," he said. "Standard (non-Farnsworth) speed messages are available upon special request from the ARRL VEC for ARRL VE teams." In addition, the Morse exam audio frequency range should be between 700 and 1000 Hz for routine exams.

Consistent with the revised standards, Jahnke said, ARRL VEC has set 15-WPM characters as its Farnsworth setting and 750 Hz as its audio-frequency standard.

Code practice transmissions from Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will reflect the new Farnsworth standard. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says transmissions using the new protocol will begin Monday, July 2. "Any of our code transmissions at speeds below 18 WPM will drop from 18 WPM to 15 WPM character speed," he said. "We will maintain the standard method at speeds above 18 WPM—20 WPM at 20, 25 WPM at 25, etc."

Carcia said the W1AW Web code practice files <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html> also will be changed to mirror the W1AW transmission protocol. ARRL's Your Introduction to Morse Code cassette tapes and audio CDs also have adopted the new standards.

The new Morse examination standards also affect test administration. After July 1, Morse examinees will have to supply fill-in-the-blank answers for the 10-question Element 1 quiz. Multiple-choice type examinations no longer will be acceptable. Under the new testing regime, Morse code examinees must either correctly answer seven of the ten fill-in-the-blank questions or correctly copy 25 consecutive characters.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

de WB2AZE

This is directed to some of the hams that just got their tickets. Although it doesn't look it, I've been a ham now for 25 years and I would like to pass some of my experience around. Today I am going to talk about some of the tools that a ham should (or might want) to have in their shack. Before going out and buying a whole tool box full of neat stuff, most of it you will never use, check to see what you can afford to purchase, and remember, you don't have to buy everything at once.

A basic tool kit should have the following:

1. Wire cutters.
2. Wire strippers.
3. Needle nosed pliers.
4. Screw drivers, both flat and phillips head, at least one of 2 different sizes of each.
5. Soldering Iron, at least 30 watts.
6. Solder, rosin core.
7. Holder for soldering iron, so you don't burn yourself!
8. Multi meter- AC/DC volts, current and Ohms.

9. Electrical tape
10. Safety knife or Swiss Army type knife.
11. Adjustable wrench (6 inches minimum)
12. A C-clamp.
13. A small container of nuts, bolts, washers, tie wraps.

A more advanced kit could substitute a Soldering Gun for the iron. It should include the items from the basic kit, plus.... more screwdrivers, sockets and ratchet, small vise (instead of the c clamp), metal file, drill with bits, flashlight, magnifying glass, jewelers screwdriver set, Tweezers, allen wrenches, Vise Grips, wrenches (7/16 in, 9/16 in, 1/2 in, 3/4 in,) Hammer, a bigger Hammer, can of WD-40, Leatherman tool, and some heat sinks too.

As far as buying ready-made tool kits, I've found that you only ever use one or two items and the rest is just junk. And for a soldering iron holder, get the coiled spring type, as it has a sponge to keep the tip clean and you cannot accidentally touch the hot iron as you can with the cheaper ones (especially true for the Radio Shack models, get their model 64-2078 to be safe!!)



*Wait, it's not ISS—It's a moth on the screen! FD 2001
See our website at <http://www.qsl.net/w2cra> for more pictures*

Deja Vous All Over Again

de Barry Campbell, W2CGX

Not long ago, a couple of us were talking with Al, N2DUG on the repeater. He started getting a little concerned because someone was trying to flag him down while they were doing 65 on Route 78! A woman driving the other car had her window down, and kept motioning him to stop.

Al said he was the curious type anyway, thought she looked familiar but couldn't place her, so he pulled over.

The repeater was silent for quite a few minutes. Finally Al came back on the air, and relayed to us that this was the woman who was stuck on Route 78 just behind Al's car along with several hundred others one winter day a year or so back. Traffic didn't move on the snow and ice covered road for some three hours, or more, and Al said he and the woman

in the other car had made a snowman in the median that day. It seems she had recognized his car and him as they traveled on Route 78, and wanted to say hello.

What a reunion! I guess no one minds *that* kind of stop on an interstate!

Kerchunk!

de N2OCW

Kerchunk: Either a verb or a noun, but usually a verb. From the German *kerchunken* ; to kerchunk a repeater.

A good kerchunk tells you many things:

1. Your transmitter is working.
2. Your receiver is working.
3. Your antenna is working.
4. The repeater is there.
5. The repeater Receiver is working.
6. The repeater transmitter is working.
7. The repeater antenna(s) is/are working.
8. The call of the repeater.

"I love the smell of kerchunk in the morning.

Sometimes my kerchunk is answered by an anonymous kerchunk. But it seems my kerchunk is always of a higher quality than his kerchunk.

MFJ will soon market a Kerchunk Detector which will printout each month the date, time and call for each and every kerchunk. This will result in the FCC charging 25 cents per kerchunk.

National Kerchunk Day will be established by congress next year. On this day **ONLY** kerchunking will be allowed on repeaters. Anyone actually engaging in a conversation will lose his kerchunking privileges for a period not to exceed 90 days.

When I operate on six meters, I sometimes kerchunk my neighbor's TV.

Recently, kerchunkers have been heard on 20 and 75 meters. Is this a trend?

The ARRL will soon issue a new award, KAS.

Have you kerchunked YOUR repeater today?

ACHTUNG! Kerchunken ist verboten am .375 und .015! – ed.

CRA II CLUB INFORMATION

The Cherryville Repeater Association II, Inc. is a non-profit New Jersey Corporation dedicated to Community Service Through Communication. **Meetings** are held on the second Friday of each month at **7:30 PM** at the **Flemington Baptist Church** unless otherwise announced. Visitors are always welcome! Also, everyone is welcome on the Thursday Night Traffic Net, at 8 PM every Thursday, followed at 9:30 by the Swap-Net, and the ARES-RACES net at 8:30 PM on the first Thursday each month (immediately following the traffic net), all on the 147.375 repeater.

UPLiNK

A CRA II Publication

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Many thanks to all those who have contributed articles or information for this publication, including: WB2NQV, N2VWL, NU2W, KA2YYB, N5RA, N2OCW, WB2AZE, W2CGX, W2CG, the ARRL, The Center for the History of Defense Electronics Museum, Ham Radio Online and all not mentioned for their help.

This newsletter is an open forum for the Cherryville Repeater Association, II Inc. and its members, of general interest Club and ham radio related interest items. The opinions contained herein are those of the authors who have contributed their work. The officers and members of the CRA II Inc. are not liable for its contents.

Articles and information are always welcome, and may sometimes be edited for content, punctuation, grammar, and newsletter space.

Deadline for submission for all issues is two weeks prior to the Board meetings.

"Imagination is the only weapon in the war against reality."

Jules de Gautier

THE CHERRYVILLE REPEATER ASSOCIATION II

CLUB INFO:

Club Info Line	Website	Packet
(908) 788-4080	www.qsl.net/w2cra	W2CRA 145.51

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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VE Testing	W2CG	(908) 788-2644	mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Field Day	N3QDC	(215) 766-8066	n3qdc@worldnet.att.net
Holiday Party	KB2RWY	(908) 253-8783	
Merchandise	N2VWL	(908) 475-4716	n2vwl@epix.com
Traffic net	N2MIF	(908) 638-6172	
Programs	KA2YYB	(908) 537-2501	ka2yyb@arrl.net
Refreshment	KB2YJX	(908) 725-0478	
Roster	W2CG	(908) 788-2644	mjgrozi@postoffice.ptd.net
Scholarship	N2ZVY	(908) 479-6346	n2zvy@att.net
SkyWarn	N2VWL	(908) 475-4716	n2vwl@epix.com

NET SCHEDULE:

Hunterdon County Traffic and Emergency Net	Thursday, 8:00 PM	147.375
Races Net	1st Thursday, 8:30 PM	147.375
SkyWarn Net	Thursday 9:00 PM	147.015
Swap Net	Thursday, 9:30 PM	147.375
Complex Repeater Net	Sunday, 7:30 PM	147.015

MAJOR EVENTS:

W2CRA Hamfest	March 16, 2002	Talk-in 147.375
W2CRA Field Day	June 29, 2002	147.375

UP-LINK
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