

The NewsFuse

The NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

April 2003

Next meeting Tuesday April 8th 8pm

Club News:

Bernie Bretton AB2GG is planning a trip to the Dayton Hamvention this spring. The dates for the Hamvention are May 16-18 2003. If you are interested in going this year contact Bernie at (718) 526-2340.

We will be assembling the "Rock-Mite" kits at the meeting this month. Please see the "Rock-Mite" kit building project section for a list of items to bring with you to the meeting this month.

The dates of the spring and fall HOSARC Hamfests will be Sunday June 1st and Sunday October 5th. If you are reading this newsletter on the club web site then please also download the new hamfest flyer at www.qsl.net/hosarc/hfest2003.pdf

The HOSARC Constitution and By-Laws have been posted on the club web site at www.qsl.net/hosarc/constitution.html

A family event is being planned for the month of May. Details will be provided in the next NewsFuse.

Field day is rapidly approaching! Please contact Tom Golero KC2CBA if you are interested in participating in the field day event this year. We will be using a portable generator for power this year instead of the batteries.

Thanks to Richard Mattner WA2NCT for his submission this month on a possible antenna for the "Rock-Mite". If you have something that you would like to contribute to the NewsFuse, please drop me a note or an e-mail.

If you are receiving this newsletter by regular mail and you have an e-mail address, please send me your e-mail address. It is very time consuming and expensive for the club to send out printed newsletters. Thank You!

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Chairman's Report:

Stephen Greenbaum WB2KDG
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The upcoming April meeting will be on kit building. Steve Mendelsohn W2ML will be coming in May and will be talking about how ABC sets up for special event. KJI the NJ premiere ham dealer who attends our hamfest will also be coming to a future meeting.

I thank Peter Dougherty W2IRT for hooking up our Yaesu FT-847 HF rig at the station. We now have a switch box, which will transfer the antennas to the two HF transceivers and a dummy load. He has also added new software to the left computer, which will computer interface to the Yaesu rig. Contest program N1MM, is one of them which is free is at the website pages.cthome.net/n1mm/

We have hamfest flyers to give out. Please contact me if you have a place or hamfest to give them out. The hamfest dates are Sunday June 1, and October 5. Also let me know if you would like to volunteer for this event. We will be assigning members to specific time slots so they to can also enjoy the hamfest. Lunch will be provided.

73 to all Steve Greenbaum WB2KDG

President's Corner:

Tom Golero KC2CBA
e-mail: tomflushing3@aol.com
phone: 718.886.3175 (Evenings Please)

As I do each month, I would like to thank all those members and guests that attend our general meetings. Our March meeting was well attended despite the cold weather. Neil Heft KC2KY from the radio central amateur radio club gave the club an informative talk on kit building and he showed us some of the kits he has built. Neil told us that he builds kits for the fun of building rather than using them for day to radio operations. Neil prepared a handout on kit building for the club and if anyone wants one, I have a few left to give out. One our members, Arthur Breen WA2YQV was kind enough to bring an early morse code tutoring device called an instructograph to the March meeting. Art acquired the machine from the widow of a silent key who as we later learned built all of his equipment and was experimenting with two meters in the 1940's. If anyone has a piece of equipment you would like to demonstrate to the club, please feel free to bring it to one of our meetings.

Also at the March meeting the following new members were accepted for membership unanimously: Charles Gallo KC2IXE, Bernard Stein K2ZIR, Taso Mirisis KC2KSE and Andrew Jackson KC2KSG. On behalf of the club I want to extend a warm welcome to all of you and I hope that you will enjoy your membership in HOSARC.

In past newsletters I've asked for input from members on planning club events and I'm happy to report that Richard Mattner, WA2NCT has answered the call. Rich has been very active in researching material on an upcoming island activation project the club is considering.

Our April general meeting will be devoted to kit building so please try to arrive by 7:30 so we can get the most out of our meeting. No additional activities have been scheduled for April as of this writing.

Volunteers are still needed for the field day committee. As the weather improves we will start on some of the work that needs to be done on the roof.

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting and please don't hesitate to email, call or pull me aside at our meetings to share your ideas, concerns and gripes.

73's Tom Golero KC2CBA

At the February 11 2002 club meeting, a number of the members commented that they were unable to build the upcoming "Rock Mite" kit, which Allan, AE2J was leading because they had no way to operate 40 Meters from their apartment. I have always been interested in the subject of difficult antenna or operating situations and recalled that the long time Ham Radio products company Barker & Williamson had an antenna available which could help the members.

The antenna is Model AP-10A. It is a mobile (collapsible whip) fitted with coil and mounting bracket and clamp made for the bottom of a window jam. It operates 7 through 30MHz, which covers the 10 to 40 ham bands and is rated at 300 Watts and sells for \$89.00. B&W also claims that it will operate on 6 and 2 meters. See the B&W Web site www.bwantennas.com

While we are discussing difficult operating situations, a great read, which will get the creative and operating juices of all apartment dwelling HAMs going is Stealth Amateur Radio; Operate From Anywhere by Kirk A. Kleinschmidt, NT0Z. See www.arrl.org/catalog

OK OMs, no excuses; lets start building the kits!"

Richard Mattner, WA2NCT

Member Submissions:

"Rock-Mite" kit building project:

If you are building a kit at the meeting please have the following tools with you:

soldering iron ~25 Watts
old sponge (for cleaning the iron tip)
60/40 rosin core solder (small diameter)
diagonal cutters (to cut leads after soldering)

The following tools would also be helpful:

needle nose pliers
desoldering wick/braid
circuit board holder
multi-meter (for verifying resistor values)
coin envelopes (to store small parts)

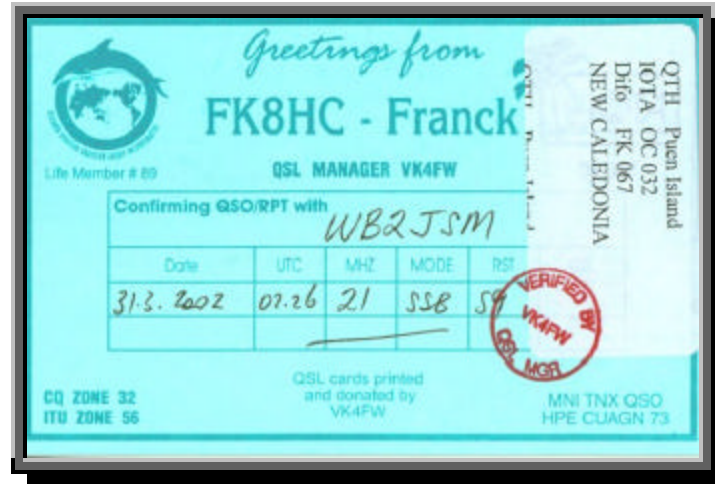
and for those of us over the age of 40...
a small desk lamp and a magnifying glass

The club will supply building boards and power strips. Come early to the meeting if you want help soldering the surface mount part to the board. Please mark or label your tools so they go home with you! We may also have some test equipment at the meeting to verify that your "Rock-Mite" is operating correctly. Do you need paddles for that new rig of yours? Come to the meeting and learn how to build the "MooseKeyer" from an old 2 or 3 button computer mouse!

Some miscellaneous components that you will need to complete and operate the "Rock-Mite" transceiver:

2 3.5mm stereo jacks (for paddles and headphones)
1 normally open momentary pushbutton switch
1 panel mount BNC connector
1 power connector
1 enclosure to mount the pc board and connectors
1 1M potentiometer (optional: volume control)

DX at the shack:



This months QSL card is from a contact made during last years CQ WW WPX Contest. The contact to station FK8HC was made on 15 meters. New Caledonia is 8,694 miles from WB2JSM

New Caledonia consists of the main island of New Caledonia, the Loyalty Islands, the Belep Islands, the Isle of Pines and a few uninhabited islands. The islands are located in the South Pacific Ocean, 1,200 miles northeast of Sidney, Australia. The Melanesians first colonized New Caledonia over 4000 years ago. In 1774, Captain Cook became the first European to land on the main island. He called it New Caledonia because it resembled Scotland (Caledonia in Latin). France took possession in 1853 and for over forty years it served as a penal colony. The US had a large military base on the main island from 1942 to 1945. During the 1980s many Melanesians demanded independence from France however a 1987 referendum was passed by voters reaffirming French control. New Caledonia is the source of 25% of the worlds known nickel resources. For more information visit www.cia.gov/publications/factbook

By Tom Golero KC2CBA