

The NewsFuse

The NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

March 2003

Next meeting Tuesday March 11th 8pm

Club News:

2003 dues are past due! If you have not yet paid your 2003 dues you will be dropped from the HOSARC roster.

Membership applications are available at our monthly meetings or you can download them at our website (www.qsl.net/hosarc) Mail the applications along with your \$20 dues to:

HOSARC
PO BOX 150131
Kew Gardens, NY 11415-0131

Senior Citizens \$15, Students under the age of 18 \$10,
Additional Family Member \$10

John Neugebauer N2STX was appointed the official HOSARC Youth Chairman at the February General club meeting.

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 are making progress with the kit-building project. The deadline to order the rock-mite kit is this months meeting. The kits will be ordered after this months meeting. If you are interested in ordering a kit and participating in the kit-building project contact Allan Koenigsburg at or before the meeting. You can reach Allen via e-mail at ae2j@earthlink.net The club kit price is \$23. The kits will be built at the April club meeting on April 8th. Radio Shack has to tool-kit special sale for \$29.95 until March 7th.

The repeater input PL tone problem has been fixed. The repeater should only transmit now when a valid input sub tone of 136.5 Hz is being received. This should make the repeater much more usable for all

The dates of the spring and fall HOSARC Hamfests will be Sunday June 1st and Sunday October 5th.

Howard Weissman WB2HLW has been appointed to the HOSARC board of directors.

Chairman's Report:

Stephen Greenbaum WB2KDG
e-mail: WB2KDG@arrl.net
phone: 718.898.5599 (Evenings Please)

We have had several new members sign up for ARES at our last meeting when Charles Gallo KC2IXE was our guest speaker. I was at the Queens ARES meeting at Elmhurst Hospital and was pleasantly surprised that over one half of the Queens members are from HOSARC.

Please keep HOSARC's hamfest dates open. They will be on Sunday June 1, and October 5, 2003 from 9AM to 2 PM. If anyone would like to hand out flyers let me know. Last please note that this will be your last newsletter for those who have not paid their dues. The dues are only \$20.00 a year and it's a small price to pay for all the benefits of the club. Send them to the post office box or hand them to Harvey at the next meeting. Cut off for membership will be at this meeting and if you want to be on the club roster please have it in by then.

73 to all Steve Greenbaum WB2KDG

President's Corner:

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

As always I want to thank all members, who attend our general meeting and especially all those who came out in the snow to our February meeting. At our February meeting our guest speaker was Charles Gallo KC2IXE, the new E.C. of the Queens County chapter of ARES. Charlie gave the club an overview of what ARES functions are and he put out the call for more participation from the amateur radio community in ARES. If anyone is interested in learning, more about ARES please visit: www.nyc-ares.org or check into the ARES net on Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. on 147.000 with a (-) offset and a PL of 136.5.

At our March meeting we will kick off our kit-building project with Neil Heft KC2KY, Director of the Radio Central Amateur Radio Club. Neil will explain how to approach kit building. Allan AE2J, our vice president is in the process of ordering the rock-mite kits for our April meeting.

Field day is only four months away and we need to start our preparations now. I have commitments from four club members for the use of their radios and antennas however what the club needs are electrical generators. This year we will not be using batteries due to the poor condition of our batteries. If you own a generator and you would like to bring it down to field day please let me know in advance. A field day meeting will be held in March, the date will be announced at the March general meeting and if you are interested in volunteering to be on the field day committee please contact me.

Volunteers are also needed in helping the club plan the activation of an IOTA station. IOTA stand for islands on the air and briefly it's a program in which amateurs operate from "islands" which are recognized and given a designation by the program administrators (RSGB). In our case the designation would be NA-036 and these island contacts are collected by amateurs for various awards. The islands that have been activated range from Kairuru Island off the north coast of Papua New Guinea to a Lighthouse off the shores of Martha's Vineyard. Visit www.rsgbiota.org and the link to US island awards program for more information on this exciting program.

I am still looking for operators to work the 2003 ARRL DX CONTEST .The contest begins 0000Z March 1st and ends 2400Z March 2nd. I hope everyone received my email on the contest, if not please let know so I can update my records.

I hope to see more of you at our March general meeting and remember that a club functions best when its member actively participate in it.

73's Tom Golero KC2CBA

Meet the Members:



AB2GG Bernie Bretton

Unlike many hams I am not embarrassed to say that I got my start in CB radio. In the golden days of CB, I

was one of the millions that got on the air on those crowded CB channels and had a blast. We experimented, and learned about radio. But deep in my heart, I yearned to be a ham operator. In the mid 70's I took a course at the Hall of Science and got my novice license. WB2JXV was my call. Unfortunately, I never got on the air and the license expired. Time passed, I left CB behind but I always had radio on my mind. Four year ago, the ham bug got the better of me. I decided that it was time to seriously get into ham radio. I set my goal at no less than extra. This would mean passing a CW exam at 20 WPM and passing all the theory exams. I set some incentives for myself. No radio until I had passed the general class CW exam that was then 13WPM. The code turned to be lots of fun and the theory was not that bad. I was a general in about 3 months and 4 months later, I was an extra. I come from a long line of hams and love experimenting with different modes. Among other modes, I've worked Packet, RTTY, SSTV, SSB, FM satellite and – of course – CW. Interestingly, my favorite mode is by far CW. I remember when I was studying for my license; I got my hand on an old Panasonic radio with SW capability. I tuned around 20m and found a strong CW signal. I remember being instantly mesmerized. I had a rough time understanding what was being sent but I was hooked. With help from the little MFJ code tutor device, I've gotten my CW up to as high as 30WPM. Lately I'm a bit rusty and my speed is at a more down to earth speed!

Besides CW, I've had a lot of fun experimenting with amateur radio satellites. Even before I was a ham, I was fascinated the OSCARS. When I got my ticket, I asked around to see what people knew about working the birds. Unfortunately, I could not find anyone who had ever had a successful satellite contact. So, I had a challenge in front of me. It took me about one and a half months of trial and error before I managed to work OSCAR 27. My first satellite contact was certainly a high point in my amateur radio adventure.

These days, I spend most of my time rag chewing on the HOSARC repeater or working casual contact on HF CW. You can also find we working most major contest. I participated in the ARRL CW DX contest a few weeks ago. I will also be on the air for ARRL voice contest. If you are looking for me on HF, check out the low end of 30 meters. It's a very nice band to work. There is no QRM and there is lots of QRP activity. When I'm not on the air or experimenting with electronics and radio, you can find me doing different sports. I am an avid orienteer and a former member of the US orienteering team. I also mountain bike, cross-country and down hill ski. I once worked a station in New Hampshire while down hill skiing on Killington Peak in Vermont. It was my first Downhill Ski Portable QSO! The station sent me a QSL card!

73 Bernie

By Bernie Bretton AB2GG

This is the second in a series of reports I will be writing the featured series "Hands on radio" which began in the January issue of QST magazine. After having spent a few hours experimenting with the CE amplifier, I was ready for the next installment in the series, the emitter follower amplifier. When the new QST arrived in the mail, I quickly found the article and looked it over. The first thing that I noticed was that the picture of a scope showing the input and output signals of the circuit we would be building was exactly. "Strange", I thought, "the scope does not show any amplification". So I started to read. The second circuit we will be building indeed does not provide any amplification. Instead, it provided several important circuit characteristics. – It has high input impedance. This allows it to be driven by sensitive circuits without affecting them. It has low output impedance and high power gain that can be used to drive big loads.

At this point I must admit that I am writing this article without actually having finished the experiment in the article. I am still digesting the theory behind the circuit. One thing that I have noticed is that the circuit has a familiar look. It looks a lot like the CE amp with the big difference being that its output is on the transistors emitter instead of its collector. Also, the theory is becoming easier to understand since we can leverage from what we learned in the previous article. I will continue with my results from experimenting with the EF amplifier in the next issue of the NewsFuse.

DX at the shack:



Usually we display QSL cards from DX stations in this column but this month I received a special card. One designed and printed by Tasso Mirisic KC2KSE, a twelve year old Boy Scout from Whitestone Queens. Tasso is a newly licensed ham and soon to be a HOSARC club member. Presently he operates with VX-5R HT and you can find him on our repeater.

By Tom Golero KC2CBA

WB2JSM STATION PROCEDURES

- 1) Please have your membership card or museum badge with you at all times.
- 2) Only members with door codes may operate the station or supervise other operators.
- 3) YOU MAY ONLY OPERATE WITHIN THE PRIVILEGES OF YOUR LICENSE.
- 4) Sign in and out of the Station Control Operator Sign In Sheet
- 5) You must record all contacts into the Logbook.
- 6) If you leave the station, for not matter how briefly, lock the door.
- 7) No eating or drinking is allowed in the station (except for medical reasons). No smoking is allowed in the station.
- 8) If you discover any problems, please make a notation in the Control Operator's Sign In Sheet immediately below where you have signed in. You may use as many lines as needed.
- 9) Please be sure to turn off every piece of equipment that was used. This includes the antenna switch, printer, computers and their monitors, rotor control as well as all radios. Make sure to turn off the lights.

Leave the station in proper and clean order.

This station is a showcase for the museum and our club. Appearances count!!! Please maintain an atmosphere that will make all of us attractive to the general public. This includes a warm and welcoming attitude to all visitors, station and personal neatness and pride in our hobby.