

The NewsFuse

The NY Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

October 2003

Next meeting Tuesday October 14th 8pm

Club News:

The second annual HOSARC hamfest is coming up on Sunday October 5th. Pray for good weather this Sunday!

On Wednesday October 1st the HOSARC repeater receiver will be upgraded. Marc Eidelberg WR2I and Ted Bicking KC2HEV will install a pre-amp and cavity filter. The repeater upgrade will enhance the receiver sensitivity by 10-15 dB. HT's, mobile radios, and those of you on the current fringe areas of the repeaters reception should notice a significant improvement! Please stand by and give us a signal report on Wednesday afternoon. The repeater may be down for several hours on Wednesday morning.

Pictures from the HOSARC summer fishing trip have been posted on the club website www.qsl.net/hosarc

We are looking for club project ideas. If you have an idea for a club project please bring it to the meeting or contact Tom Golero. Some suggestions have been antenna building, radio direction finding in Flushing Meadow Park, and more kit building.

Congratulations to Tery McCague KC2JOJ on passing your code test!

We will be conducting code practice sessions on the repeater. The sessions will commence 30 minutes before the Wednesday evening net. If you have suggestions on the format of the code practice session please contact Ted Bicking KC2HEV (718) 460-1733.

A "Rock-Mite" display night is being planned for the holiday party in December. If you built a "Rock-Mite" please plan on bringing it to the holiday party to display your creation. Troubleshooting will also be available to get your "Rock-Mite" working if it is not yet on-the-air...

We are cleaning up the club station. If you have personal belongings at the club shack, please take them home!

The education committee is prepared to offer a license upgrade class. If we receive enough interest from members the class will be held. Please contact Ted

Bicking KC2HEV if you would be interested in an upgrade class.

Chairman's Report:

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

Hope you all had a relaxing summer, even with all the rain. It seems now that the rain is gone we will have good weather for our upcoming hamfest on Sunday October 5th. So far I have 25 volunteers. We still need some more to free up others who can then enjoy the hamfest. All who help will be fed. We have gotten a donation of a RIGBlaster Nomic from KJI and a 2 Meter Bandpass Filter from DCI for the hamfest. I thank Tom Tumino N2YTF for acquiring the second prize. I will email the assignments out in a few days.

On September 14 ARES used our repeater and station WB2JSM for the Queens Juvenile Diabetes walk in Flushing Meadow Corona Park. Out of 7 operators, 5 were HOSARC members! It went very professionally and I hope this becomes an annual event. Lets have ARES use our station more often. See the operators list in Tom's article.

Our repeater soon will be upgraded with a preamp, which will improve the repeater receiver's reception. There was a hum a few weeks ago, which has been fixed.

I just heard that the rockets will be coming back to the Hall next week. It will be some sight getting them through the NYC highways and streets. I have found out that there is a café at ground level at the Terrace on the Park open 7 days a week 11AM to 5 PM. It's entrance is about 200 feet from the hamfest lot.

73 to all Steve Greenbaum WB2KDG

President's Corner:

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

I hope everyone had a great summer this year. I know I did. The club also had a full schedule this past summer with field day, the club barbecue, the fishing trip, support for an ARES event and the air show trip. I'll just briefly touch on each event to let you know how they turned out. First field day, what can I say this is my favorite event of all year. I stayed awake for 28 hours during field day, a personal best for me. The club scored 1800 points about the same as we did last year. We also had a guest operator this year, Mark WR2I, who made a bunch of cw contacts for the club with a delta loop that he and Allan AE2J put up. I hope he returns next year and stays a little longer. I want to thank all the club members who came down and helped out. I know that for quite a few it was their first field day and I hope that more of you will participate next year. Remember it's never too early to begin planning next year's field day.

The club barbecue turned out great, with I hope everyone getting enough to eat. I'm sorry that I couldn't stick around for the presentation of the wonderful certificate of appreciation that John N2STX and Bob W2RFA made for me, but I've hung it up and it looks great in my shack.

In August we had a small, but fun turnout for our half day fishing trip for fluke. We fished on a party boat (Super Spray 2) out of Freeport. The morning of the trip started out with light rain, but by the time we got on the boat it had cleared up. I think the anticipation of rain all day kept members from coming out. Plenty of fluke were caught, but only Mark WR2I caught a keeper. Our next trip will be a night trip for blue fish, so stay tuned for more info.

The club, if you didn't know is well represented in the Queens' chapter of ARES and during a walk-a-thon in September at Flushing Meadows Park, Bernie K2ZIR, Charlie KC2IXE, Harvey N2EOI, Steve WB2KGD and Jacob N2ZWV lent their support to the event and ARES. Our station was also used with Bernie K2ZIR acting as net controller for the event.

Lastly, this summer another small but a fun-filled group of club members met at the air show held out at Grumman's former testing facility on the North Shore of Long Island. This year's show had a small program, but I bet with the huge turnout that next years show will be even better.

I look forward to a full schedule also this fall, but I'll need your help to organize the events. Whenever you find out about upcoming events, regardless if they are

radio related or not, please bring them up to my attention.

It was great to see the large turnout for our September meeting. Our guest speaker was Len Signoretti, N2LEN, who gave the club an informative talk on the basics of Echo Link and on the 911 Commemorative Net he was hosting. I listened to the net and heard our very own John N2STX and Elmar K2EL check into the net. A few clubs had some prepared words for the net and maybe we can get a volunteer to do the same for our club next year.

I am pleased to announce that two club members answered my call for members to serve as guest speakers at our general meeting. John N2STX will be our October speaker and his topic will be home brew antennas and Peter W2IRT has volunteered for our November meeting and his topic will be scanning and monitoring. There is still room on our calendar for more of you to step up to the plate.

As you all should be aware of by now, the nomination committee are canvassing all eligible members for the upcoming club elections. The committee consists of Elmar K2EL, Bernie K2ZIR and Nelson N2CKK and if they don't contact you, please contact them. All positions on the board, from President to Board members and including the Chairman of the Board (you have to be a board member first), are open for you to run for. I know that there are members with great ideas out there and there are those who I have heard personally make great suggestions as well as those who complain that the present board is not "progressive" enough. Well now is the time for you to make your voices heard. Place yourself on the ballot, make a change, and don't just talk about it. Nothing will change if club members don't take a more active role in club affairs and not place the burden on one or two individuals. Additionally, those of you with ideas who don't want to run, need to write your ideas out and formulate a proposal that includes the scope of work, cost, benefits to the club, and anything else that would inform and persuade the board to adopt your ideas.

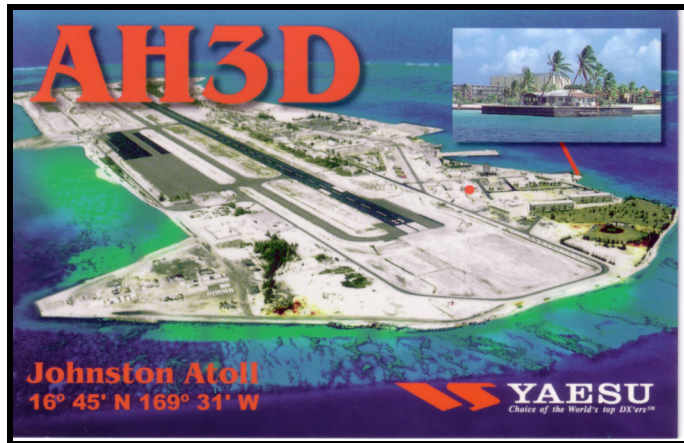
During October, I will be asking for volunteers for work parties and I'm happy to report that some club members have already volunteered before I've even asked. Dates and times will be announced as soon as I gather the necessary supplies. I hope to see a large turnout at our October Hamfest as well as at our next meeting.

73's Tom Golero KC2CBA

DX at the shack:

This month's selection is AH3D Johnston Atoll. QSO's to AH3D were made on 12, 15, and 10 meters by Peter Dougherty W2IRT. Usually I put together some facts pertaining to the country or entity but this card contains a lot of information. If you want more information on The Johnston Atoll, please visit: www.cia.gov/ciapublications/factbook

By Tom Golero KC2CBA



HF-EXCITEMENT
The New FT857
From YAESU

"The pileup is a mirror of the DXpedition operator. There is no such thing as an unruly pileup alone, rather an unruly expeditonier that cannot control the crowds." OH2BH

"The best mode of the waiting pileup is the feeling that one's turn will come in due course in orderly fashion. It is called DX relaxation mode." OH2PM

"Working by numbers can be a satisfying experience to all - allowing the weaker ones to surface in no time at all, against working no-number Big Guns day-in and day-out." W3UR

Logos for OHDXE Zilbase and the Southern California DX Foundation, Inc.

With the respect to
Colonel
Timothy K. Bridges
by
the World Amateur
Radio Community

SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS PROVIDE MYSTERIOUS VARIETY - A CLOSE LOOK AT JOHNSTON ATOLL

Once upon a time, this small DXCC country measured only sixty (60) acres of land and probably went unnoticed in regard of any minimum size rules. Adding to its original size was a project that had probably created the most expensive piece of real estate in the United States. The current man-made land of some 670 acres with a paved runway of almost two miles makes Johnston one of the most exotic atolls in the whole world. Until very recently, entry was heavily restricted, and those arriving were assigned a protective gas mask.

The property where Uncle Sam had originally mined guano deposits right up to the early 1900's was turned over to the U.S. Navy in 1934, with the U.S. Air Force ultimately assuming control in 1948. The atoll

was used for high altitude nuclear tests in the Fifties and Sixties, and in late 2000 it maintained a storage and disposal site for Southeast Asia originated chemical weapons from WWII. Munitions destruction is now complete, with cleanup and closure of the facility presently underway. The AH3D operation coincided with these cleanup activities.

It was the building No. 30 that housed the Amateur Radio and MARS club station KJ6BZ (the red dot on the cover) from where each and every Johnston Atoll QSO had been handed out. At this time, AH3D was the last one, just days before the building's demolition. The station not only provided multiple operating facilities but also three tall wooden antenna poles with large beam antennas.

With the help of many individuals, including Base Commander Colonel Bridges and others, a three-man tag team was there to put AH3D on the air, write the closing chapter and take those final pictures before the entire land was handed over to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Soon boobies, monk seals and a variety of other species will reside permanently on Johnston. Industrial noise will be gone along with some 1,000 personnel, leaving behind only sounds of the wildlife while turning Johnston back to Mother Nature.

The AH3D team had to move there light and fast, report in Honolulu, Hawaii for the final 720 mile flight, put three stations on for six days and clean up the bands. A total of 28,804 QSOs included 11,596 individual hams from all parts of the world as part of the farewell activities. Low bands were partially wiped out by heavy industrial noise - no wonder since AH3D was located next to a huge power source of six 25,000 kW diesel generators, making this the most powerful DXpedition of all time. We are glad you were among those contacting Johnston Atoll before the last bulldozer was loaded off the island. Another great experience under our belts!

Insert on the front: The Point House - the Base Commander's Residence

To Radio: WB2JSM

We are happy to confirm the following 2-way Qso(s):

| Date | UTC | MHz | Mode | RST |
|------------|-------|-----|------|-----|
| 2003-02-01 | 20:58 | 12m | SSB | 59 |
| 2003-02-01 | 22:11 | 15m | SSB | 59 |
| 2003-02-04 | 20:05 | 10m | SSB | 59 |

Pileup's behaviour is a mirror of the DXpedition operator!

Operators: Martti Laine, OH2BH
Pertti Simovaara, OH2PM
Bernie McClenny, W3UR

Equipment: Yaesu FT1000MP, FT897 and FT857
Alpha 76, FinnFet FF1001, Amertron 811
Mosley tri-bander, 3-L 6m-beam
WARC-beam and slopers @ 90 feet

QSL printed by OH2JTE

Text from the inside of the AH3D QSL card:

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