

THE ECDXA PILEUP

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Some Upcoming Con- tests, DXpeditions And Special Events, etc:

BARA Spring Hamfest

May 26 2007

www.bara.org

CQ WPX Contest

CW—May 26-27 2007

www.cqwp.com

ARRL June VHF Contest

June 9-10 2007

www.arrl.org/contests

ARRL Field Day 2007

June 23-24 2007

www.arrl.org/contests

IARU HF World

Championship

July 14-15 2007

www.arrl.org/contests

ECDXA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KA2ANF UPDATES US ON THE MANY AMATEUR RADIO HAPPENINGS AROUND THE AREA—AT LEARNING DAYS, AT HAMFESTS, AT CLUB MEETINGS, AT EQUIPMENT AUCTIONS—ATTENDANCE IS BOOMING!!!

During the past few months, there have been quite a few club activities in the area. In January, there was Ham Radio University in Long Island. This is not a Hamfest, it's a day of learning. Many hams throughout the Division took advantage of the many forums offered that day. The Keynote Speaker was ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF. Frank spoke to a packed standing room only audience about many items facing Amateurs today, one of the most pressing being the removal of the Morse Code requirement for licensing. More Info on Ham University is here: www.hamradiouniversity.org

At the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in January, concentration was on Mentoring of the new Generals when the Code requirement was removed for licensing. We held a discussion on Thursday evening, outlining ways to help mentor these folks and also to bring new people into the hobby.

February in the Hudson Division, brought some operating events and Hamfests. Also, the announcement of the date for the end of the Code requirement was, February 23, 2007. Clubs and VE teams rushed to put together VE testing sessions to accommodate those upgrading to General. A few clubs also held operating events, hoping to get those who upgrade on the air for the very first time with their new privileges. Attendance at VE Sessions, after February 23rd swelled to new records, not seen since the early 1990's. The ARRL, in answer to the new influx of upgrades and new hams, hired a new Manager of Education, Debra Johnson, K1DMJ. The ARRL VEC department added staff to be able to keep up with the processing of all the paperwork. On the weekend of February 24th, W1AW held an "open house" in order to encourage everyone to get on the air and work the newly upgraded Generals. It was a great weekend at HQ, complete with VE Sessions and many on the staff upgrading, as well as operating. Congratulations to all!

In our own backyard, several clubs held some special activities, as well. Our Club, East Coast DX Association, along with the Ramsey OEM, held a special VE test session on February 24th! We had 24 candidates! We also had a HF station setup to get the new hams upgrading on the air! Thanks to a wonderful team of VE's from many clubs that participated in this event! (see Page 3 for more info!)

The Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club had a

record turnout at it's February Hamfest. Their VE Session at the Hamfest saw record numbers too!



The New Providence ARC (NPARC) in Berkley Heights, NJ had it's annual Auction, again, a record turnout with over 100 people!

The Bergen Amateur Radio Association (BARA) held an auction in March, and here again, another great turnout for an event, with over 100 eager to buy people in attendance (incidentally, there was not only a lot of great gear available, bargains abounded at both of these auctions!)



The Split Rock Club held its Hamfest in March. It too was very well attended from opening to finish. They also had a record attendance at their VE Session and according to the members of Split Rock, this year's Hamfest recorded one of the largest attendances in a long time.

Also, several local Club Meetings I visited in the last few months were the sites of large gathering of involved and excited Members and Guests. Clubs such as BARA in Bergen County NJ are attracting over 50 people to their Monthly Meetings' by having informative Programs, presented by knowledgeable outside speakers, recently covered subjects included SKYWARN and Software Defined Radio.

With such a swell in activity and participation in all things Amateur Radio in the area, and hopefully across the nation and the world...Amateur Radio IS Alive And Well...And YOU Are A Part Of It!

73, Joyce—KA2ANF

AMATEUR RADIO
is there to

Get The Message Through
for your Family and your
Community whenever and
wherever disaster strikes

Amateur Radio operators set up and operate organized communication networks locally for governmental and emergency officials, as well as non-commercial communication for private citizens affected by the disaster. Amateur Radio operators are most likely to be active after disasters that damage regular lines of communications due to power outages and destruction of telephone, cellular and other infrastructure-dependent systems.

Amateur Radio operates at the national level through the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), which is coordinated through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), which is coordinated through the American Radio Relay League and its field volunteers.



www.emergency-radio.org

See The Article On
Page 3 For More In-
formation On ARES
Activities in Bergen
County NJ As Well
As In Northern NJ

Remember The Goals Of ECDXA:

ECDXA's Goals:

- To introduce new people to ECDXA and to Amateur Radio
- To keep communications open and frequent among Club Members
- To support, promote and participate in as many operating events as possible
- To plan to get together in person at least once every couple of months
- To share thoughts, operating successes, new contacts, etc with each other.
- To submit our contest scores — using East Coast DX Assn as our Club affiliation
- To keep up to date with events in the world of Amateur Radio via the ECDXA webpage
- To take part in ARRL Field Day every year
- To HAVE FUN! and to make a commitment to do something radio-related everyday!

Some Thoughts From the Field On The Recent Elimination Of The Amateur Radio Licensing Morse Code Testing Requirement By The FCC

"An artist does not stop painting because cameras can more accurately capture an image. Nor does a fly fisherman stop fishing because there are fish in the store or a sailor scrap his sailboat because a power cruiser can go faster."

Paul Christensen—W9AC

"Lift that chin up and let's see if we can't actually make a compelling story out of Morse on the airwaves. I can say for sure that we won't convince a single person to take it up by loudly claiming that the hobby is all "dumbed down." When a prospective customer hears that sort of talk, the chances are pretty good that they'll just keep their money in their pocket as they walk on down the street"

Ward Silver—N0AX

"CW is as Active as YOU make it!"

Joyce Birmingham—KA2ANF

Joyce—KA2ANF Mentors Several NNJ Amateur Radio Operators On HF

Including Introductions to Operating Activities Such As Contesting With SSB, RTTY & PSK31

Operating events are always fun! But sharing them with friends is the best!

The weekend of February 10th and 11th, the Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) sponsored its annual YL-OM contest. So, Heidi, KC2LEQ, Barbara, KC2KLF and I Joyce KA2ANF (even though we were missing Katie, W1KRB) (AKA the BARA Babes) decided to take advantage of the weekend contest and get together at the QTH of KA2ANF and KC2GLG; also known as the ECDXA-K2VK Club Station.

With two, networked for logging., HF operating stations setup, we worked into the Caribbean and South America. Conditions were not great on SSB, so we decided to operate some Digital Modes in the CQ Worldwide RTTY Contest.

I know I always enjoy RTTY and PSK31, but nothing could compare to the enjoyment of sharing these modes with friends, especially for their first time. Working within my favorite logging program, N1MM, was a highlight for the girls too and it was great to see their excitement with each contact they added to the log! It was a fun-filled day, complete with homemade Sausage and Meatball sandwiches prepared for us by George, KC2GLG—good contacts, good friends and good food always makes for great Contesting!

ECDXA And The Ramsey NJ OEM Co-sponsor A VE Session

February 24 2007—Upgrades, New Licensees And A Special Operating Event

As soon as the FCC announced that on February 23 2007 the latest changes to the Amateur Radio Part 97 Rules, would take effect the East Coast DX Association (www.ecdxa.org) along with the Ramsey NJ Office of Emergency Management, met to plan how to offer to all interested parties a quick and accessible means to upgrade their Ham license.

As there was more than likely going to be a larger than normal Testing crowd expected and the desire to offer to those gaining their new operating privileges, an operating event to mark the day on which they gained use of expanded band privileges, the Ramsey NJ Ambulance Squad was approached to see if their meeting facilities might be available. Thanks to the work of Mike Adams (WA2MWT) the Ramsey NJ OEM Director and Life Member of the Ramsey NJ Ambulance Squad, the 2nd floor of the Ambulance Squad was made available for the session.



Ramsey OEM and the Town Council of Ramsey have a history of supporting Amateur Radio and East Coast DX Association as well as local amateur radio operators thank them for their past and ongoing support.

Saturday February 24th saw a crowd of VE's on site, along with many (more than 20) applicants looking to upgrade or take their first Amateur Radio test.

By noon, there was 1 new Technician, 18 new Generals, and 2 new Extra Class operators added to the ranks. Many of whom also took advantage of the on-site special event station to use their /AG or /AE calls for the first time on HF.

HF Contacts were made with local stations (thanks to Lou, N2CYY and Dick, K2ZB for being on the air to greet the new HF operators) and several DX contacts were also made using an IC-7000 into a 20m Hamstick on KC2GLG's car. ECDXA congratulates all those who upgraded and welcomes all new operators to our hobby!



Where's The DX?

DX In April 2007

ST2R Sudan by S57DX

H44MS Solomon Islands by DL2GAC

6W2SC Senegal by HA3AUI

HF40PAZ special callsign (Poland)

FK/FO5RK Noumea, New Caledonia

J5UAP Guinea-Bissau by HA3AUI

OD5/IV3YIM Lebanon

XV9SW Vietnam by SM5MX

V31JP Belize by K8JP

This is just a sample of some of the upcoming DXpeditions in the next month. If you need to improve your country count, visit the following for current updates:

The 425 DX Page:

www.425dxn.org/

The OPDX Bulletin:

www.papays.com/opdx.html

The Daily DX:

www.dailydx.com

AMATEUR RADIO AND PUBLIC SERVICE ATTENTION — CALLING ALL AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS RESIDING IN BERGEN COUNTY NJ

More Info At: www.ecdxa.org/BergenCountyARESmeetingFlyer042007.pdf

QST, QST, QST

**Calling All Amateur Radio Operators
Residing In Bergen County NJ!**

Saturday, April 7th 2007, 12:00 Noon, all current and prospective Bergen County NJ ARES Members are asked to assemble for an important and informative Meeting at the Paramus Congregational Church, 205 Spring Valley Road, Paramus NJ.



Bergen County ARES District Emergency Coordinator, Matthew Ryffel, K2NUD, requests that all Amateur Radio Operators

residing in Bergen County NJ who are interested in Emergency Communications attend this Meeting.

All licensed Amateur Radio Operators are eligible to be a member of ARES, with the only requirement being a sincere desire to serve and to voluntarily register your available equipment and yourself with ARES. In Bergen County NJ, contact Matthew at K2NUD@arrl.net for more information

For those interested in ARES, who reside in NNJ, but are outside of Bergen County NJ, more information on NNJ ARES is available here:

www.hudson.arrl.org/nnj/ares



ECDXA — Dedicated To The Art Of Amateur Radio

East Coast DX Association

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ECDXA Website:
www.ecdxa.org

Articles For Consideration
Or Comments On
The ECDXA Pileup
Can Be Sent via Email To:
newsletter@ecdxa.org

ECDXA Is Proud To Be
An ARRL Affiliated
And Special Service
Amateur Radio Club



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NEWS FROM THE
ARRL—ARRL VEC
CONTINUES TO
PROCESS THE DELUGE

ARRL VEC still "busy, busy, busy!" (Mar 15, 2007) -- The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) reports business continues to be brisk following the FCC's deletion of Morse code as a ham radio licensing requirement. "Busy, busy, busy!" is how ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, described the situation in her department. She says nearly 800 exam sessions are on the schedule for March with another 600 for April, "and it doesn't look like test session activity will be slowing down any time soon," she added. ARRL VEC hosts 450 exam sessions in a typical month.



To check the status of your upgrade go to:
www.arrl.org/fcc/fcclook.php3

2007 SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING TO START SOON IN THE GREATER NNJ AREA— STAY TUNED!



All NNJ and greater NYC Metropolitan area National Weather Service Forecast Offices are now in the process of scheduling a series of SKYWARN Spotter Training Classes for 2007!

SKYWARN activities are prevalent throughout the United States with more than 45% of the 250,000 trained SKYWARN Spotters in the country also being licensed Amateur Radio Operators. Even though many SKYWARN Spotters are Amateur Radio operators, it is NOT a requirement that a Spotter be an Amateur Radio operator and it can be a family activity for all. Not only are the Classes informative, they are important for anyone who spends time outdoors to attend so they can be aware of how and when Severe Weather develops.

Current and up-to-date information on SKYWARN and SKYWARN Spotter Training Classes throughout the NNJ area is available here:

www.bergenskywarn.org

!!! Attention All ECDXA Members !!!
Do We Have Your Current Email Address And Updated County Count?
Send Your Current Info To: info@ecdxa.org

Remember ECDXA's VE Team Can Process Your FCC License And Vanity Callsign Renewals

With the FCC's Vanity Callsign program reaching its 10 year anniversary, many will need to not only renew their Amateur Radio License but also their FCC issued Vanity Callsign.

The ECDXA VE Team is now not only able to help you through this process but they are also able to file your paperwork and payments via the ARRL VEC. Complete information is available from links on the ECDXA VE Webpage at:

www.ecdxa.org/ecdxaVE.htm

If you have any questions about renewing your FCC Amateur Radio License or Vanity Callsign be sure to contact the ECDXA VE Team via Email at:

ve@ecdxa.org



ECDXA Sponsored VE Session
Saturday, April 7 2007
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

ECDXA VE Sessions are held at the
Paramus Congregational Church
205 Spring Street, Paramus NJ
GPS Info: N 40.93140—W 74.05530

Visit the ECDXA VE Webpage for the latest information on upcoming VE Sessions.

www.ecdxa.org/ecdxaVE.htm