



GRAM NEWS



Volume 42, No. 7

W2RCX

March 2004

March Meeting

The March meeting of GRAM will be held on Thursday, March 18th, 2004 at 7:30 PM. The meeting location will be at the Salvation Army in Batavia, 529 E. Main St.

This month's program will be a tribute to recent silent keys.

The Board of Directors meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Thursday March 18th.

Field Day 2004

The Club has decided to participate in Field Day this year. Joe Ogozaly, KC2IQT & Terry Cook, KC2JKU will be the chairpersons for this years Field Day activities. The club has also decided that this will be a for fun event. We need to help out Joe and Terry as much as we can to make this a successful event for GRAM. With that in mind the planning should begin now. So that we can decide where to hold Field Day, how are we going to get the equipment to the Field Day site? Help will be needed for set up, operating, and tear down. As well as food for the participants. If you would be interested in helping out on Field Day in any way, please let Joe and Terry know or a GRAM Board Member or Officer.

Club Repeater Update

The 147.285 repeater is not working. This is because the power has been cut off. As you know the building is under construction and the room the repeater is in is not accessible to anyone. I have talked to the contractor and as soon as they can get in to the room they will run a extension cord to the repeater. This building is under lock-down to all personal until the asbestos is removed. I am sorry about this problem and I will keep on top of the matter. Please go to 146.52 until the Repeater is back up.

Harold Hay, W2ABQ



Club Officers

President: Theodore Karpenko, KB2LXD

Vice-President: Brian Stricker, N2XNY

Secretary: Joan Brundage, KB2ZCE

Treasurer: Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Directors

2005: Jim Cochrane, KC2EZL

2005: Joe DeFazio, W2DIG

2004: Howard Flint, KC2EZJ

2004: Peter Brundage, WB2CGF

2004: Tom Rosica, W2GIR

Committee Chairs

Membership:	Howard Flint, KC2EZJ
Program:	Open
Newsletter:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Website:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Publicity:	Tom Rosica W2GIR
Education:	Brian Stricker N2XNY
Christmas Party:	Don & Cheryl Yaxley KB2QKE & KB2RFI
Field Day:	Joe Ogozaly KC2IQT Terry Cook KC2JKU
Picnic:	Howard KC2EZJ & Carol Flint
Historian:	Open
Ways & Means	Harold Hay, W2ABQ

Committee Chairs (cont'd)

Hamfest:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
RFI:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
Equipment:	John Maha K2ZUT
Benevolence:	Joan Brundage KB2ZCE
Repeater:	Harold Hay W2ABQ
ARRL:	Dr. David Bell W2YCS
ARES/RACES:	Les Wilcox WA2GUP

Club Repeater

The club operates a 2m repeater, W2RCX, on 147.285 MHz with a + offset. The repeater control persons are:

Harold Hay W2ABQ
Howard Flint KC2EZJ
John Maha K2ZUT
Joe Defazio W2DIG

The GRAM Net is held on the club's repeater, W2RCX, on Thursday nights at 9:00PM. All amateurs with a technician class or higher license are invited to check in. This is an informal net. So come on and join in on the fun !

If the repeater is off the air, please tune to 147.285 MHz simplex and attempt to contact a repeater control person.

Name Badges

New members in good standing who have joined the club since 1999 and have not received a name badge from the club will be eligible to receive a name badge from the club at no cost to the member. If you meet these requirements please contact Howard Flint, KC2EZJ, Membership Chairperson, to request your name badge. The deadline to request your badge will be the GRAM meeting on March 18th.

The name badge will have your name, call, ARRL logo and will identify you as a member of GRAM. The badge will also keep in the tradition of a white badge with blue lettering.

Computer Corner

If you have been looking for hard drives lately you may have come across the term Serial ATA. This is a new drive interface that is faster than the current technology. Current technology uses a parallel connection. Serial ATA uses a serial connection. Recent advances in serial technology have allowed it to become the technology of choice when connecting items to PC's (USB).

If you have the correct serial ata controller you can take advantage of a technology called RAID (redundant array of inexpensive disks). There are different levels of RAID. Level 0 offers a technology called striping which writes data to two or more drives. In other words, part of a file is one drive and the rest of it on another. This allows data to be written and read quicker. The downside to this set up is, if one of your drives crashes, you loose all of your data as it is spread across both drives. Thus it is not recommended nor is it needed for everyday or business critical use. Typically, people who are into online gaming (not solitaire or black jack) will use this type of configuration

Enter RAID Level 1, this uses a technology called mirroring. Mirroring uses two drives, with one drive the mirror image of the other. So if you have 2 120 GB drives in a RAID level 1 configuration, your PC sees the drives as one 120 GB drive. The upside to this configuration is that if one drive fails the other can take over. Once the failed drive is replaced, the mirror will rebuild itself and you are back mirroring without data loss. This is used in a business critical situation. Most home users will not need to use this. Of course, the best way to prevent data loss is to back your data up.

Don't run out and buy a serial ata drive as you will need to update your hard drive controller first. Many new higher end PC's have the option for a serial ata drive as they already have the updated interface.

Editors Note

If you have an article that you would like to submit to GRAM NEWS, please submit them via e-mail. My e-mail address is: N2XNY@yahoo.com. I understand that not everyone has e-mail, so you can also send submissions to:

GRAM Radio Club
PO Box 572
Batavia, NY 14021-0572

Program Chairperson Needed

After many, many years, Tom Rosica is stepping down as the Program Chairperson. Many thanks go out to Tom for a job well done. As such, the Program Chairperson position is open to any member of the club. If you are interested in this important position, please let the club officers and board members know.

Activities

Is there a Ham Radio activity (Fox hunt, contest, satellite, SSTV, Road Trip to Dayton, etc.) that you would be interested in ? Chances are that others in the club share the same interest. Please let a board member or club officer know. They can let the rest of the club know about the activity, recruit participants, and select a date.

Membership Chairperson Needed

The club is in need of a Membership Chairperson. As of 11/30/03 Harold Hay, W2ABQ, will relinquish his Membership Chairperson duties. If you are interested in this Chair, please contact a Club Officer or Board Member.

The club thanks Harold for his tenure as Membership Chairperson.

Upcoming Events

3/18	GRAM Meeting
4/15	GRAM Meeting
6/26&27	Field Day
8/7	Club Picnic

GRAM Treasurer

Previously, it was reported that Harold Hay was resigning his post as GRAM Treasurer, effective 1/4/04. Harold has agreed to stay on as Treasurer until his replacement can be found.

With that said, any full member of GRAM wishing to complete Harold's term as GRAM Treasurer should contact a GRAM Board member or Officer.

ARRL Launches On-Line Technician Class

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 12, 2004--Thanks to the new on-line Technician Class Course for Ham Radio Licensing (EC-010), prospective hams can study for their ticket wherever they can connect to the Internet and on their own schedule. The course is offered through the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) program. Two new classes will open each month, and students may sign up anytime via the ARRL Web site or by calling the New Ham Hotline, 800-326-3942. Registration begins Monday, March 15. Class sessions will start April 6 and April 20. ARRL On-line Course Development Coordinator Howard Robins, WIHSR, says the new on-line Technician course will include everything needed to successfully pass the examination plus help getting a foothold in ham radio.

"The on-line approach to learning provides students a way to prepare for the exam at their own pace over an eight-week period with 24/7 access to the material," Robins said. The assignment of a very experienced "Elmer" or mentor to all students is but one benefit of the on-line learning method, he said. Another is the post-graduation on-line support group that's only available to course graduates. .

"This group will provide Elmering as the new ham gets started, as well as help with equipment and antenna questions or anything pertaining to Amateur Radio," Robins explained.

Three well-known and respected amateurs--Steve Ford, WB8IMY, Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, and Larry Wolfgang, WR1B--collaborated to author the class material. There are no course prerequisites. The Technician course has 35 learning units and takes 20 to 25 hours to complete. Those completing the course will take their tests through volunteer examiners, who regularly offer examination sessions at hundreds of convenient locations.

Believed to be the first on-line Technician licensing class of its kind in the US, the course will closely follow the popular ARRL license manual *Now You're Talking!* The course fee--\$99 for ARRL members and \$139 non-members--includes a copy of the book. (Regular ARRL membership is \$39 per year, which includes QST, the official journal of ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio.)

Students taking the class will be introduced to the diverse world of ham radio activities, from casual operating to emergency and public service communication, as well as to radio technology. Those taking the class also will learn about the role of radio clubs and of the ARRL Field Organization.

There's much more information, including a course syllabus and a list of student activities on the ARRL Web site.

The Technician Class Course for Ham Radio Licensing and the virtual ham radio campus are available through ARRL's partnership with the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium, a nonprofit organization that specializes in developing on-line courses for Connecticut colleges and universities.

For additional details, e-mail ARRL's C-CE program office.

