

GMRA News

Green Mountain Repeater Association

Fall 2013/Winter 2014

2013 President's Letter

There is supposedly an ancient Chinese curse which goes, "May you live in interesting times".

This has been an interesting year.

It has long been the strength of GMRA that when there was a need for something to be done someone has always stepped up to do the job and once again our Association has exhibited that strength. We have two new replacement members of your Board who have contributed mightily to the Association in terms of many, many man hours of work and in at least one case, many thousands of dollars of equipment bought and donated to the Association and even more test equipment bought personally but dedicated to the use of GMRA.

It has been brought up that our repeaters are old and passé. Right, they certainly are. They are Motorola Micors which must be at least 30 years old and more. They have also continued to be "bullet proof" as witnessed by the 100% operation for the past several years. Last year we investigated the cost of new repeaters and controllers. After recovering from seeing the prices of new equipment your Board agreed unanimously that there is no point, at this time, in spending GMRA's funds to cure a problem which doesn't exist. We have enough spare equipment to repair any problem which should crop up with our existing repeaters and a spare controller as well. There are digital repeaters on the horizon but there are different systems being tried out so after due deliberation by the Board, we have decided to wait and see just which system will become the standard before taking any action in that regard.

Have you noticed better coverage from the 146.88 repeater? Thanks to an incredible amount of equipment and man-hours donated by Bruce Crabill, N3ZUY, we now have a new Diamond antenna at .88 and Bruce managed to get the antenna up 20 feet above the top of the tank on a sturdy mast. We also have a standby Diamond antenna with feedline next to the existing antenna ready to go if there should become a problem with the primary antenna.

A thorough test of the new antenna with Bruce's antenna analyzer shows a VSWR of about 1.1:1 at the new antenna and the Bird wattmeter shows a reflected power of less than 1 watt. The tank at our Bladensburg site was being painted and renovated for months and was completely unavailable. It is slowly coming back into service and as time and Bruce's contractor friend become available improvements will be made to the antenna system at .61.

I worked with Bruce twice at the .88 site recently. I was also there about a year ago when Teltronic Towers went up the tank to straighten up the then existing antenna which was leaning because of the big storm last June, I can truthfully tell you that the array of safety equipment laid out and donned by Bruce AND his climbing technique far exceeded that shown by the "professionals". He is always accompanied by his friend who is a contractor and an experienced climber in his own right and we have a written agreement with WSSC which not only gives us use of the tanks for our antennae but also authorizes us to climb the tanks as long as appropriate safety procedures are observed, which is done and carry appropriate liability insurance which we not only meet but have recently doubled coverage.

After an abortive start by others, and amid the stress of buying and moving his family to a new home, Spence Spencer, NX3SS, engineered and installed Echo Link on the .61 repeater. After due deliberation the Board decided that echo link was fine and would continue on .61 and that .88 would be reserved for local ragchewing. One of the nice features in the Echo Link on .61 is an inactivity timer. If someone connects and there is no activity for ten minutes the Echo Link controller automatically disconnects which will prevent one of the problems which was associated with a previous system.

Our new home for the GMRA monthly luncheon at TJ's of Calverton seems to be very satisfactory to all. We have been having a minimum of 15 attendees with peaks as high as 26. The industrious wait-staff at TJ's works well. At the last luncheon everybody's order arrived at the same time and there were 15 of us. The food is good and the prices reasonable so it looks as though we've found ourselves a home.

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon will once again be at the College Park Knights of Columbus hall. There were a couple of complaints last year, primarily about the lack of decaf coffee and hot water for tea as well as another minor point or two. Enrique, the

manager there, has been made aware of the complaints and has promised us that they will all be taken care of this year. Look for a separate meeting notice in this newsletter but just for a quickie, it will be at noon on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at the College Park Knights of Columbus Hall as in the past. There will be an array of door prizes. As yet we have not arranged for a guest speaker, there will be email announcements later.

During the year the 145.23 repeater located at Doctor's Hospital in Lanham ran into financial difficulty as its membership declined. It was donated to a new 501(c)(3) corporation set up for the benefit of Prince Georges County ARES/RACES which has moved its weekly net from 146.61 to that repeater. We wish them well.

All in all, we've survived another year, made some improvements, a friend of a member whose apartment is on the SOUTH side of a building in Alexandria, the side away from the repeater, could never get into .88 from there, now he can work the repeater with a HT. (I'd say that's a heck of an improvement) and with your continuing support the Association will continue to move into the future.

73

Paul Freirich W3HFA
President

Election Notice

When Ex-Board member Ev Bollin, WA3DVO resigned from the Board earlier this year, in keeping with appropriate sections of the By Laws, the Board appointed Spence Spencer, NX3SS to fill the unexpired term.

That term expires at the end of this year and Spence has agreed to run for reelection to the seat on the Board which he currently holds.

Article Submitted by Tom Brew, K3WS

Author: Kevin Custer WJ8G Core Member & Co-Founder The Wide Area Network Repeater System

Co-Author: Tom Brew K3WS GMRA Member & Core Member The Wide Area Network Repeater System

The WAN Repeater System - an introduction and invitation to try the latest technology in multiple repeater linking.

What is it?

The WAN repeater system (W3WAN) is a network of linked repeaters using the AllStar Link technology. AllStar is similar to the all familiar EchoLink and IRLP using the Internet to connect multiple repeaters together however AllStar has many advantages over these other systems. By using wider bandwidth and higher dynamic range the audio throughput is better than any other popular technology. The system is fully programmable making it easy to connect and disconnect repeaters from the system using easy to remember codes. WAN is comprised of many repeaters located mainly in Pennsylvania however we have a strong presence in Maryland and Washington DC as well. Each repeater is represented as an individual node on the AllStar system. A current listing of connections to WAN can be found anytime at WANRepeater.net Here you will also find additional technical information on the system and how it all began.

Who's responsible for it?

The WAN repeater system is run by a team of thirteen 'core' members. These are the folks who represent to majority of the full time connections. Along with the core members there are other individual owners and clubs who participate in the system. These auxiliary nodes may be connected occasionally or full time depending on their own preference. The system is comprised of mostly 2 meter and 440 MHz repeaters but it isn't uncommon for 222 MHz and 6 meter repeaters to also be connected. Some of these auxiliary nodes are located in distant parts of the US like Texas and Florida and it's not uncommon to have repeaters in the UK or other distant countries.

What is used to connect to it?

AllStar is a linking technology that takes analog audio and immediately converts it to digital. As a digital signal it can be transported over great distances without degradation and can be relayed over the Internet or other Ethernet network. Each repeater uses a computer with a free LINUX software distribution and a radio interface which together takes the place of a conventional repeater controller.

The computers we use are a mix of new computers and discarded (donated) desktops.

Why not give it a try?

The WAN system is like any other publicly available AllStar system - open for you to try. You don't even need a radio! You can sign up for your own AllStar account and connect using the "WebTransceiver" or you can connect through one of many conventional repeaters. We invite you to connect in and give it a try. More information on AllStar and WAN are available at the following websites:

www.wanrepeater.net
www.allstarlink.org

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The Core Members of the WAN Repeater System. W3WAN

Feel free to contact Tom Brew K3WS Tom@K3WS.com for current information on Maryland and DC repeater node you may be able to reach and give WAN a try.

<http://www.WANRS.com>
<http://www.K3WS.com>
<http://www.cambriaradio.com><http://www.WPRCinfo.org>

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

The 2013 Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held at the Knights of Columbus, 9450 Cherry Hill Rd., College Park, MD 20740 on Saturday, Dec 7, 2013 at noon. The cost of the lunch is \$21.00 (cash only) including Tax. Tips are not included.

Our lunch will include Roast Beef; Mashed Potatoes/Gravy; Mixed Veggies: Carrots, Cauliflower, Broccoli; Vegetable Lasagna (for Vegetarians); Salad; Salad Dressing; Rolls; Butter; Cream Puffs; Brownies; Soda; Hot Water for Tea; Tea Bags; Coffee and Decaf Coffee.

RSVP by December 3, 2013 to gmra@live.com

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P.O. Box 572
Bladensburg, MD 20710-0572

Please send inquiries to: gmra@live.com

GMRA operates two repeaters in the National Capitol area:

146.610 (-) K3GMR in Bladensburg, MD
146.880 (-) W3GMR in Greenbelt, MD

Web site: www.gmra-md.org

GMRA Membership List

October 25, 2013 243 Members

AJ3A	Benjamin	W3FUO	Hugh	W5KIM	John	N3QEQ	Brenda	N3UUP	Jesse
KZ3AB	Allen	KJ4FUU	Thomas	N3KTW	Stephen	W3QF	John	N3UXY	Rita
N3ADF	Jim	N3FV	David	W3KVC	Clarence	KK4QFS	Lane	WA8UYD	James
N3ADY	Gerald	K3FZ	Albert	KD4KWY	Charles	KB3QGI	Daniel	W1VCU	Nelson
N3AIL	Stuart	NG3G	Freddie	WB3KXL	David	KB3QMP	Adan	KA3VNF	Debbie
K3AIN	Anthony	W3GB	Grant	AB3LD	Joseph	N3QPG	Rey	KC3VO	Robert
KF4AJZ	Philip	KJ4GDL	Michele	N3LES	Les	K3QX	Ed	KD3VR	Joseph
WB3AOA	Alice	K3GDM	Gary	N3LFM	Debbie	AK3R	John	W3VY	Mary Ellen
KC3APZ	Alex	N3GE	Anthony	N3LHD	Thomas	W3RBR	Richard	KB3WDV	Philip
KC3AQX	Steven	WA3GJD	William	KB3LIB	Kato	K3RD	Donald	W3WFM	Bill
KC3AUI	Kathy	W3GN	Mark	WB5LPN	Randy	K3RFI	Mike	W4WHE	William
W3BCB	Fred	KA3GSV	Myer	KB3LVE	Alan	W3RFQ	Ken	KD4WME	Donald
W3BCW	Brooks	AA3GV	Ernest	KB3LXP	Kenneth	KB4RGC	Robert	KB3WMH	Charles
W3BE	John	WA3GWS	George	KB3LXQ	Amber	KG6RJW	Robert	KB3WMI	David
W3BEJ	Betty	K3GXF	C.T.	KK4LYY	Conrad	KJ4RNQ	Shrikant	KB3WMJ	James
K3BEQ	Murray	WB3GXW	John	NB5M	James	KD2RO	Joseph	AA3WS	Charles
KC3BIP	Thomas	N3HBO	Kathy	N3MBW	Judith	KB3RSY	Albert	K3WS	Thomas
N3BTN	Vincent	N3HBS	Tom	W3MBZ	Tom	W3RTA	Bob	N3WSG	Jerrold
WP4BXS	Wilfredo	KA3HDO	Frank	KK4MMJ	Samuel	WA3RTH	Richard	KB3WTV	Jeff
K0BYJ	Jay	AB3HE	Mat	W2MPD	Michael	KB3RUZ	Katherine	KG4WVD	Ron
K0BYM	Myles	W3HFA	Paul	KE6MVA	Tom	WB3RVS	Robert	K3XIT	Will
NI3C	Johan	N3HFO	Charles	WX0N	Henry	N3RWG	Dorothy	N3XKJ	Jim
W3CAF	Neil	N3HFT	Ed	W13N	Jim	N3RWI	Sue	N3XL	Bill
W3CAT	Ken	N3HG	Gene	AB3NA	Charles	WA3RWP	Walter	NG4Y	Carrol
KC2CAX	Kenneth	KB3HGT	Chris	KI4NBS	Chris	KB3SBF	Michael	WN3Y	LaReintz
W3CB	Clifford	N3HI	Peter	K3NCO	Marc	KB3SEL	Gloria	KB3YEC	John
KB3CCI	Rebecca	K3HMX	Brian	N3NGA	Roy	AA3SG	Walter	W4YEH	Howard
K3CCS	Paul	WA3HSC	David	KA3NJF	Warren	K3SGA	Lois	KB3YFQ	John
N3CK	Nick	WB3IFS	Jesse	KB3NJK	Pete	K3SGB	John	WA3YTK	Richard
K3CON	Gerald	N3IH	Rod	KB3NJP	Thomas	KA3SKN	Kurt	KB3YZI	Charlotte
WA3CSX	Tony	KB3IIE	Kenneth	KA3NJW	Patrick	KB3SOR	Jon	KB3YZJ	Mark
N3CUO	Robert	KB3IJF	Clifford	N3NKW	Pamela	NX3SS	Spence	KX3Z	Fred
WV3D	Kevin	K3IMJ	Melvin	AA3NN	Kenneth	N3STA	Alan	KB3ZCO	Walter
N3DC	William	AD6IU	Richard	WA3NSI	Jim	N3TBZ	Dolores	K4ZDH	Riley
K3DMN	Darius	K3IVR	Michael	KA3NXW	Barry	K3TC	Thomas	KB3ZFL	Joseph
KM3DR	Lee	K4IWF	Joe	KB3NZC	Donald	N3TFS	Edgar	KB3ZKV	Linda
WA3DVO	Everett	K4IWG	Patricia	KB3OBQ	Eugene	KB3THJ	Zachary	KB3ZKW	Christian
W0DXS	Robert	KO3J	Warren	KA3OHF	James	KB3TIN	Jakob	N3ZMU	Mary
W4EE	Jim	N3JAA	Phyllis	W3OJ	John	K3TK	Thomas	KA3ZPE	Morris
WA3EEM	Mike	WA3JAL	John	WA3OLQ	George	KA4TMB	Steven	N3ZQU	Gina
K9EIS	Dennis	N3JBX	William	KC7OVS	David	WB2TNC	William	W3ZRW	Joel
W3EQ	Ken	N3JDY	John	KB3PBZ	Kevin	K3TND	Richard	KB3ZTE	Jeanne
N5EV	Richard	KB3JHD	Karen	N3PGI	Rex	W3TOM	Tom	N3ZUY	Bruce
KI4EY	Victor	KB3JKO	David	KB3PJG	Holli	KA4TZC	David		
KB3EZQ	Jenny	WB3JOT	Ted	KB3POU	Bruce	KD0U	John		
WR3F	Richard	K3JQ	Frank	KB3PQY	Adrian	K3UAL	Joe		
N3FCA	Holly	W2JWP	Jack	KB3PQZ	Eneida	K3UBI	Roy		
N4FKH	Richard	KA4KEL	Ray	KB3PRB	Gerda	N3UEZ	Mike		
KB3FNV	Joseph	KB3KHL	James	KB3PRP	Dorson	WA3ULX	Francis		
N3FPO	Duane	KB3KIF	Sarah	N3QEP	Greg	N3USZ	Galen		

Board of Directors

President: Paul Freirich, W3HFA
 1st Vice President: Spence Spencer, NX3SS
 2nd Vice President: Bruce Crabill, N3ZUY
 Secretary: C. T. David, K3GXF
 Treasurer: Roy Ashlin, Jr., N3NGA

Repeater Trustees

146.610 Bladensburg: Bruce Crabill, N3ZUY
 146.880 Greenbelt: Paul Freirich, W3HFA

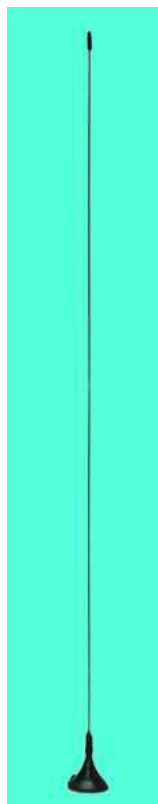
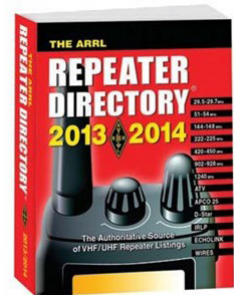
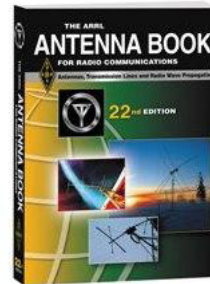
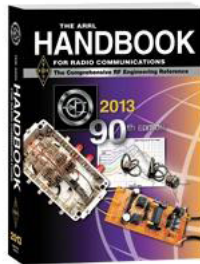
Technical Committee

Head: Bruce Crabill, N3ZUY
 Control Operator: Roy Ashlin, N3NGA
 Control Operator: Bill Pimble, N3JBX
 Control Operator: Spence Spencer, NX3SS

Raffle Prizes

Listed below are some of the raffle prizes that will be given away at this years Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon. Please remember that you must be present to win, and you must be a member and a licensed Amateur Radio operator holding at least a Technician license.

Yaesu FT1900R Mobile Radios
Baofeng Handheld Radios
ARRL 2013 Handbook
ARRL Antenna Book
ARRL Pocket Repeater Directories
Diamond X510 Antenna
MFJ-1721 Mag Mount Antenna
LCD Digital Volt Meter
LED Flashlights
Tape Measures



Pictures From Last Year

