

# GMRA News

Green Mountain Repeater Association

Fall 2011 / Winter 2012

## This Year's Guest Speaker

GMRA Member Ken Greenhouse, KB3IIE, will be the featured Guest Speaker at the GMRA Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon on Saturday December 3. Ken is a long-time member and has been a ham since 2001. A veteran of Military Communications, Ken was motivated to get his ham license by the tragic events of September 11th and proceeded to do so.

With one of his primary motivations to get his ticket being emergency communications Ken was formerly the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Prince Georges County and now holds the position of Prince Georges County Office Of Emergency Management Radio Officer.



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## Congratulations

by Murray Green, K3BEQ

This October marks the 40th anniversary of GMRA. Through it's membership, past and present, it has sustained it's reputation as one of the largest/friendliest repeater club in the State of Maryland and the largest and arguably the friendliest in Prince George's County. Shortly after activating the 146.610 repeater in October 1971 and the 146.880 repeater a year later, membership peaked at 300. Forty years later, when many clubs have diminished membership or have closed their doors, GMRA can boast a membership of 245. It is also noteworthy to mention the support to ARES first responders, community events and repeater reliability that is virtually unflinching. No small feats.

Congratulations GMRA; straight ahead to the next 40 years.

73, Murray Green, K3BEQ, A Founding Father

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## President's Letter

by Paul Freirich, K3HFA

Garrison Keillor always starts his monologues, "It's been a quiet week at Lake Wobegone." Well we're not at Lake Wobegone and it hasn't been such a quiet year.

Our record of almost 100% up time on our repeaters was ruined when we had a failure up at the Greenbelt site (146.88). The repeater was off the air, Roy wasn't available and I was out of town. C.T. David, K3GXF, went up to the site and did some testing which enabled me to make a long-distance diagnosis that it was the controller, not the repeater which was at fault. I went up to the site the next day and confirmed that fact. That night I went over to Chuck Glenn's, KV3G, since he had our spare controller. He very graciously sat with me well into the night getting a program into our spare controller and the following day went up to the site with me and helped me replace the controller. EUREKA, it worked and we were back on the air!

I turned the failed controller over to Roy to return to Link but before doing so he talked with a technician at Link who suggested a possible local fix, a master processor reset. Roy took the controller back over to Chuck's, they did the master reset and the controller came back to life. Chuck and Roy have programmed the spare controller with data for both the .88 and .61 sites and those programs are now field-selectable so the spare controller need not be re-programmed before being pressed into service at either location. Many thanks are due to Chuck and Roy for expenditure of many hours of work in this fix.

Equipment-wise we are in excellent shape right now. Our repeaters are both at least 20 years old and we investigated the cost of new equipment. WOW! Our treasury is very healthy now but purchasing even one new commercial grade repeater would have punched a serious hole in it. Fortunately, judicious purchases at various hamfests and a nice contribution to the group from Grady Ball have given us enough spare equipment for two repeaters. We have a spare controller and in inspecting the repeater that Grady donated to us Roy found another Link controller of the same type we already have. Over time, in his copious spare time Roy will tune up and adjust the spare repeaters and he just informed me that longtime GMRA member and good friend Joe Nunemaker KD3VR has volunteered to come up from Florida and help with that project. I can't say for sure but I would hazard a guess that we are the only repeater group in the area with a) two 2 meter repeaters on the air and b) 100% redundancy in terms of spares.

The year has also had its sad moments. GMRA members Manny Kramer, KD3BU, and Dennis Fitzgerald, KT3D, became Silent Keys this year and GMRA's Mr. Everything (and he does everything for this group) Roy Ashlin, N3NGA, lost his mother. Our sympathy, our thoughts and our prayers go out to Roy's, Manny's and Dennis's families. On an upbeat note, Manny's son, who is not yet a ham, started coming to our informal luncheons with his dad and enjoyed himself. I appointed John Hite, K3SGB, a committee of one to contact Manny's widow, give her our condolences and to invite Manny's son to continue joining us at the luncheons. John got very positive feedback and hopefully we'll soon be helping Manny's son to get his own ticket and then, through the FCC Vanity Licensing program, possibly getting his father's call sign.

In case you haven't come to any of our luncheons, they're usually on the first Saturday of each month at Cheeburger Cheeburger which is located in the Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center at the intersection of Route 198 and Old Columbia Pike in Burtonsville. In those months where the first Saturday would be on a Holiday Weekend such as New Years, the Fourth of July or Labor Day, we push the luncheon back to the second weekend for people who may go away for the holiday.

# HurriQuake 2011

by Spence Spencer NX3SS

The week of August 22, 2011 may go down in history as one of the stranger weather weeks in DC area history. On Tuesday August 23, our area was hit with a magnitude 5.8 earthquake. I'm sure the quake took everyone by surprise. It sure surprised me. Damage was light, but widespread, including what looks like about 25 million dollars done to the National Cathedral, and an as-yet undetermined amount of damage to the Washington Monument. There was significant damage to the building housing the ham shack at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in the District. That is not good news for the Marine Corps Marathon operators.

Immediately after the earthquake, many cell-phone systems buckled under the load of everyone trying to call everyone else. In College Park, where I work, even the wire line phones had some problems.

PG ARES activated a resource net on the .61 repeater to marshal radio resources in case of need. We stood by for about 6 hours, but as the evening wore on, we ended the net as it became clear that normal communications were working.

The following Saturday night, Hurricane IRENE passed just east of the area. PG County Government activated the EOC at 4 PM Saturday and called for RACES communications support for storm shelters in the Southern end of the county. RACES operators under the leadership of RACES Radio Officer Ken Greenhouse KB3IIE and ARES Emergency Coordinator Jim Montgomery WB3KAS deployed to two shelters, one at the Baden VFD and one at the Bunker Hill VFD. As the evening wore on, power failed at the Baden shelter and the generator there failed to start. We provided communications as the Red Cross redeployed the shelter to Brandywine VFD during the storm.

RACES operators established HF and VHF radio communications with the State and adjacent county ARES/RACES groups. As the peak of the storm passed at about 2 AM, a large tree fell across the utility lines at the entrance to the EOC property cutting of electric power, internet and land-line phones as well as the cable TV to the facility. It took the county more than one hour to get the generator at the EOC to stay on-line. Of course no one could come into or leave the EOC complex because the tree was blocking the entrance.

Once the generator did come on-line, we discovered that the generator does not provide power to the EOC radio room. All of the radios there were useless without AC or DC power. Meanwhile, I maintained contact with the shelters thanks to my trusty Yaesu HT and the 146.61 repeater. The repeater worked flawlessly through the night and we maintained communications for the Red Cross personnel at the EOC and in the shelters until the shelters were secured late Sunday morning.

The county fire personnel started calling it "HurriQuake 2011." Not many ARES/RACES groups can say that they had to contend with an earthquake and a hurricane in one week.

Special thanks to the Green Mountain Repeater Association for the continued great support and the use of the .61 repeater. We literally could not have done it without the .61 repeater.

73, Spence NX3SS

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## MERT

by Paul Freirich, K3HFA

MERT is not a girl's name, instead it stands for MERION EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM.

Merion County Florida includes the City of Ocala. Florida regulations now require all emergency facilities in the State to have a backup means of communications which is independent of the regular infrastructure. The Sheriff of Merion County, in cooperation with a group of local Amateurs has established the above named MERT.

He then got a grant from Department of Homeland Security for MERT which is now housed in the Merion County EOC (emergency operations center). They have their own 18 by 18 foot room in the EOC but with their own exterior door with computer card reader access and an interior door which connects directly into the main EOC room. They have multiple HF, VHF and UHF rigs, multiple computers, a 90 foot tower with multiple vhf and uhf antennae, an Alpha Delta Multi Band HF Dipole and a large screwdriver type mobile HF antenna mounted on the generator fence as a backup. Of course all of their equipment is covered by the EOC generator in case of power outage.

Besides all the communications and computer gear in their own room they have a seat at the big horseshoe table in the main EOC and provide direct communications with all hospitals, fire stations, shelters and other emergency facilities in the county and also provide communications directly with State facilities, all of this paid for by the Sheriff with the Homeland Security Grant. All of the MERT members have “go kits” which include two meter and 44 rigs, HTs portable antennae and spare batteries. They also have photo ID cards issued by the Merion County Sheriff’s office. Merion County is now building a bunkhouse with all sanitary facilities as well as kitchen and food service directly connected to the building in case the EOC has to be manned for extended emergencies.

Former GMRA member and old friend Harold “Woody” Wood, W3HII, is an active member of MERT and it is from him that I got this information. This shows what can be accomplished when industrious Hams can get together with forward-looking Emergency personnel.

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## Strictly From Memory

by Adrian J. Martinez, KB3PQY

A job that required the precision of a Rolex. What has it got to do with anything? I forgot what I was going to say about it but let me start at the beginning. Somebody mentioned to me that Ham Radio “is what it’s at” so after a few lessons I found myself “a ham” with a “call sign” assigned to me. A bit later I was a “general”. Very impressive. I was elated! Nobody had called me a general before. Not only that, shortly afterwards I received a recorded phone message welcoming me to the “ham family”.

Now what? Well I did what any “red blooded American ham” would do, consult the professionals. That’s when I went to Virginia and threw myself at the mercy of a “professional”. I bought, or shall I say, he sold me a bundle. The bundle consisted of an FT-450 transceiver, a 25 foot vertical antenna, a microphone and other paraphernalia. At the end of the shopping spree he was so good to me that when, exhausted from all my buying effort, I said to him, “wrap it up”, he insisted on mailing everything to me. “That way you save the taxes”, he said.

I forgot to mention that by now I was a member, I think, in good standing of the Greenbelt Radio Ham Club. (Editor’s note: in reality Green Mountain Repeater Association) So, in one of our meetings I mentioned that I was planning something I knew nothing about. It surprised me that, right away, two members volunteered to help me; Jim and John. Doesn’t it seem strange that both names started with a “J”? I should mention that Chicky also volunteered as a supervisor. (Editor’s note: those folks were N3ADF, K3SGA and K3SGB)

At the appointed time, they showed up ready, willing and able. One could sense the vibrations. In no time at all the two “Js” figured out where the vertical antenna should be and how the coaxial cable was going to be connected to the radio. It was a hard, all day and I am grateful to all of them for doing something I could see gave them satisfaction of helping someone in need. I just remember that which required the most precision was the job assigned to me. As John and Jim were burying the coax cable, and with the precision of a Rolex watch, I was to kick the dirt to cover it, which I did. A perfect job was had by all. Thanks again John, Jim and Chicky. And a good 73 to you all.

## Morse Code at Fenway Park

by Don Schmidt, K3RD

As long as historic Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox remains a ball park, Morse Code will live on. What, you say, could Morse Code and Fenway Park possibly have in common? Those of you who are baseball fans will probably already know the answer.

One of the unique features of Fenway Park is the famous Green Monster in left field. The manually operated scoreboard forms a part of this wall. Different sections of this scoreboard are outlined with vertical white stripes. A series of dots and dashes run vertically down two of these white stripes and spell the initials of former team owners Thomas Austin Yawkey and Jean Remington Yawkey who owned the Red Sox from 1933 to 1993.

You can see a picture of this part of the scoreboard as well as other interesting facts about this historic ball park, the oldest still in active use in Major League Baseball, on the website [http://sonsofsamhorn.net/wiki/index.php/Fenway\\_Park](http://sonsofsamhorn.net/wiki/index.php/Fenway_Park). In the 'Contents' section scroll down and click on item '6 Trivia' for the photo.

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## Annual Meeting and Luncheon

The 2011 Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held at Knights of Columbus, 9450 Cherry Hill Rd., College Park, MD 20740 on Saturday, Dec 3, 2011 at noon. The Cost of the Lunch is \$20.00 (cash only) including Tax Tips are not included.

Our lunch will include Boneless Chicken Breast; Roast Beef; Rice; Steamed Mixed Vegetables; Green Beans with Almonds; Ceasar Salad; Rolls and Butter; Small Pastries; Vegetable Lasagna; Soft Drinks, Iced and Hot Tea, Coffee.

RSVP by November 29, 2011 to [gmra@live.com](mailto:gmra@live.com)

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## Open Election for Board of Directors

The term of office for Paul Freirich, W3HFA and Roy Ashlin, N3NGA expire at the end of this year and both of them have agreed to run again for office.

You must be present at the Annual Meeting in order to vote! So please plan on attending.

Of course, nominations are open per our by-laws. So if you know of a GMRA member you think would make a good board member, send us a nomination. Send nomination requests, as specified by Article VII of our by-laws prior to the Annual Meeting.

Mail nominations to:

GMRA Secretary  
P.O. Box 572  
Bladensburg, MD 20710



## Fall 2011 Membership Roster

KZ3AB	E. Allen	KB3FNV	Joseph	KA4KEL	Ray	KB3POU	Bruce	K3UAL	Joe
K3ACT	Arthur	KB8FOX	Darian	KB3KHL	James	KB3PQY	Adrian	K3UBI	Roy
N3ADF	Jim	N3FPO	Duane	KB3KIF	Sarah	KB3PQZ	Eneida	N3UEZ	Mike
N3ADY	Gerald	W3FUO	Hugh	W5KIM	John	W3PRB	John	W3ULS	John
K3AIN	Anthony	KJ4FUU	Thomas	W3KVC	Clarence	KB3PRP	Dorson	N3USZ	Galen
KF4AJZ	Philip	N3FV	David	KB3KWA	Anthony	KB3PXL	Stephen	WA3UTY	William
WB3AOA	Alice	K3FZ	Albert	WB3KXL	David	N3QDR	Leonard	N3UUP	Jesse
K3ARC	Ramon	KV3G	Chuck	AB3LD	Joseph	N3QEP	Greg	N3UXY	Rita
W3BCB	Fred	NG3G	Freddie	KB3LDU	William	N3QEQ	Brenda	WA8UYD	James
W3BCW	Brooks	KJ4GDL	Michele	N3LES	Les	W3QF	John	KF4VCA	David
W3BE	John	N3GE	Anthony	N3LFM	Debbie	KB3QGI	Daniel	W1VCU	Nelson
K3BEQ	Murray	W3GFY	John	N3LHD	Thomas	KB3QJR	Sarah	KB3VEX	Melissa
KB3BTB	Patricia	WA3GJD	William	KB3LLA	Kenneth	KB3QMP	Adan	KA3VNF	Debbie
N3BTN	Vincent	KB3GJP	Henry	WB5LPN	Randy	K3QX	Ed	KC3VO	Robert
KD3BU	Manuel	KA3GSV	Myer	KB3LVE	Alan	AK3R	John	KB3VQH	Johan
W3CAF	Neil	AA3GV	Ernest	WG4M	Paul	W1RAI	Ray	KD3VR	Joseph
W3CAT	Ken	WA3GWS	George	NB5M	James	W3RBR	Richard	KB3VWL	Nicholas
KC2CAX	Kenneth	K3GXF	C.T.	N3MBW	Judith	K3RD	Donald	W3VY	Mary Ellen
W3CB	Clifford	WB3GXW	John	W3MBZ	Tom	K3REM	Bob	KB3WCG	Richard
K3CCS	Paul	N3HBO	Kathy	KB3MCV	Peter	K3RFI	Mike	KB3WDV	Philip
N3CK	Nick	N3HBS	Tom	W2MPD	Michael	W3RFQ	Ken	KR4WE	Michael
K3CKT	Jim	KA3HDO	Frank	KL2MU	William	N4RPI	Patrick	W3WFM	Bill
N3CKX	Reginald	AB3HE	Mat	KE6MVA	Tom	KB3RSY	Albert	W4WHE	William
W3CL	Carl	W3HFA	Paul	K3MVM	Marvin	W3RTA	Bob	KB3WJI	Bill
K3CON	Gerald	N3HFO	Charles	WX0N	Henry	WA3RTH	Richard	KB3WMH	Charles
N3CPK	Ronald	N3HFT	Ed	WI3N	Jim	N3RWG	Dorothy	KB3WMI	David
N3CUO	Robert	N3HG	Gene	AB3NA	Charles	N3RWI	Sue	KB3WMJ	James
KT3D	Dennis	KB3HGT	Chris	K3NCO	Marc	WA3RWP	Walter	AA3WS	Charles
WV3D	Kevin	N3HI	Peter	N3NGA	Roy	W3RYQ	Don	K3WS	Thomas
N3DC	William	K3HMX	Brian	AB3NI	Benjamin	KB3SBF	Michael	N3WSG	Jerry
N7DH	Dennis	WA3HSC	David	KA3NJF	Warren	KB3SEL	Gloria	KR3X	Robert
KM3DR	Lee	WB3IFS	Jesse	KB3NJK	Pete	AA3SG	Walter	N3XFL	Pamela
WA3DVO	Everett	KB3IIE	Kenneth	KB3NJP	Thomas	K3SGA	Lois	N3XKJ	Jim
KB3DX	Jeffrey	KB3IJF	Clifford	N3NKW	Pamela	K3SGB	John	N3XL	Bill
W0DXS	Robert	K3IMJ	Melvin	AA3NN	Kenneth	KA3SKN	Kurt	NG4Y	Carrol
N5DXZ	Alice	AD6IU	Richard	WA3NSI	Jim	N3SNU	William	WN3Y	LaReintz
W4EE	Jim	K4IWF	Joe	KA3NXW	Barry	KB3SOR	Jon	W4YEH	Howard
WA3EEM	Mike	K4IWG	Patricia	KB3NZC	Donald	NX3SS	Spence	KJ4YFH	Thomas
K3EEZ	Gary	KO3J	Warren	KI3O	Robert	N3STA	Alan	N3YOF	Robert
KG6EFT	James	N3JAA	Phyllis	KB3OBQ	Eugene	N3TBZ	Dolores	N3YSA	George
K9EIS	Dennis	WA3JAL	John	KA3OHF	James	K3TC	Thomas	WA3YTK	Richard
N3EMP	Gene	N3JBX	William	W3OJ	John	N3TFS	Edgar	AJ4YZ	Mitch
KD5ENP	Larry	N3JDY	John	WA3OLQ	George	KB3THJ	Zachary	KX3Z	Fred
W3EQ	Ken	KB3JHD	Karen	KB3OQZ	James	KB3TIN	Jakob	K4ZDH	Riley
N5EV	Richard	KB3JKO	David	KC7OVS	David	WA2TIU	Terence	AA3ZK	Paul
KI4EY	Victor	WB3JOT	Ted	KB3PBZ	Kevin	WB2TNC	William	N3ZMU	Mary
KB3EZQ	Jenny	WB3JPB	Bruce	N3PGI	Rex	K3TND	Richard	N3ZQU	Gina
WR3F	Richard	K3JQ	Frank	KB3PJG	Holli	W3TOM	Tom	W3ZRW	Joel
N3FCA	Holly	WA3JR	Jean	N3PKX	Betty	KA4TZC	David	N3ZVJ	Harvey

### Board of Directors

President: Paul Freirich, W3HFA  
 1st Vice President: Everett Bollin, WA3DVO  
 2nd Vice President: Richard Hartnett, WA3RTH  
 Secretary: C.T. David, K3GXF  
 Treasurer: Roy Ashlin, Jr., N3NGA

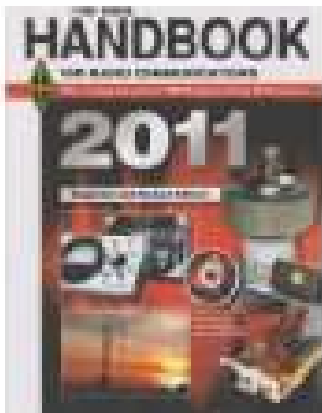
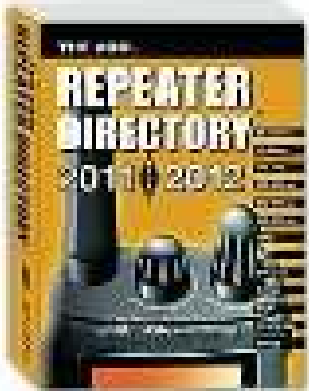
### Repeater Trustees

146.610 Bladensburg: Everett Bollin, WA3DVO  
 146.880 Greenbelt: Paul Freirich, W3HFA

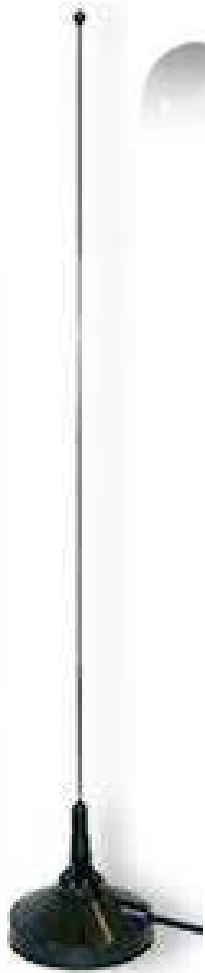
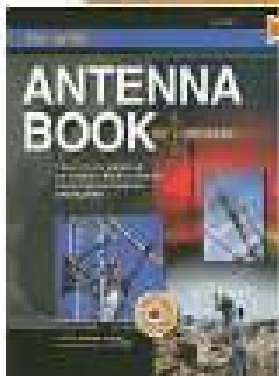
## Raffle Prizes

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 that you must be a member and a licensed Amateur Radio operator holding at least a Technician license.

- 4 Yaesu FT1900R Mobile Radios
- 10 Puxing Px-777 Handheld Radios
- 2 MFJ1721 Mag mount Antennas
- 10 ARRL Pocket Repeater Directory
- 1 ARRL 2011 Handbook
- 1 ARRL Antenna Book
- 6 9 LED Flashlights
- 2 25ft Tape Measures



LOOK INSIDE!



## Meet Ev

by Ev Bollin, WA3DVO

Hi My name is Everett, but I use Ev, when on the 2 meter repeaters or chasing DX on the H.F. bands. I have been a ham operator for almost 50 years. I built my first receiver when I was still in the 6th grade, and it worked. This is what got me interested in reaching out and listening and talking to the world. My main love is chasing DX. I do operate on Single Side Band, Morse Code, Teletype, and FM operations on the 2 meter bands.

I have archived 5 band DXCC, DXCC Honor Roll, DXCC #1, WAZ, WAC, and most important the Work all state award. In between all of this, I work with the Prince George's County Boys & Girls club as a Football Field Supervisor. Its a



great feeling to see our youth progress during the years from the Flag Foot ball league up to the 150 pound unlimited league. During the football season, I usually officiate from 95 to 120 games. So you see I do get my fill of foot ball. So when you hear me on Thursday nights on the 148.88 MHz repeater looking for check ins, and having fun all at the same time, please drop in and say hello. Oh, by the way, Paul, C.T., Roy, and Rich keep me busy by serving on the Board of Directors as the 1st Vice President

Ev...

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Please send inquiries to: [gmra@live.com](mailto: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](http://www.gmra-md.org)