



The Old Barney Beacon

Old Barney Receives Grant to Help Support Southern Regional HS Radio Club

The Old Barney Amateur Radio Club was recently awarded a \$ grant from the ARRL which will be used to further the Southern Regional HS Amateur Radio Club’s activities in promoting amateur radio to their students.

In 2022 the ARRL Foundation announced it would be accepting applications for grants. The Foundation recognized that “Clubs historically have recruited, licensed and trained new radio amateurs and have provided the community setting for radio amateurs to continue their education and training.”

The purpose of these grants was to provide money “enabling them [clubs] to more easily provide and expand on these important services.”

After this program was announced Tom Preiser, N2XW saw the opportunity to use such a grant towards the Southern Regional HS club, which Old Barney has been supporting through the generosity of our members, to teach the students what amateur radio is all about.

The grant application process required a narrative, milestones to be met if the grant was awarded and a proposed budget.

Working with Ira Hosid, N2WAA who is the liaison to the HS club on behalf of Old Barney they developed a plan on how a grant could be used for this purpose.

Ira put together a learning plan for the club with specific objectives to be accomplished during their after school meetings.

Continued on page 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- VE & Meeting Schedule.....2
- VE Corner.....2
- President’s Message.....3
- 2023 Contests.....4
- A Special Thank You4
- Our Members..... 5
- Old Barney Gear.....5
- Join Us On The Air.....5
- Volunteers On the Air.....7
- Ocean County ARES News.....8
- Share Your KnowledgeBack

Annual Dinner

February 19, 2023—2pm

@

Lefty's Tavern

547 N. Main Street

Barnegat, NJ 08005



Cost \$35/person, \$15/student

Choice of dinner available

We'd love to see you there!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 1st, at the Ocean Acres Community Center.

VE CORNER

We had three candidates in February. Two who both earned their Technician licenses and one who upgraded to General class. Congratulations!

VE sessions are held Wed nights before the meeting at the community center at 6pm.

If you are looking to upgrade your license or you know someone who needs a session please contact Rick at n2rpq@arrl.net.

2023 VE & Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Ocean Acres Community Center on Nautilus Drive in Manahawkin. VE Sessions are scheduled on the same nights at 6pm if we have interested candidates. For further information reach out to Rick at n2rpq@arrl.net.

Here is the list of this year's meeting nights. Mark your calendars!

March 1st	August 2nd
April 5th	September 6th
May 3rd	October 4th
June 7th	November 1st
July 5th	December 6th

Presentations on various subjects are made after the business part of the meeting. Hope to see you all there!

Grant—Continued

Once the plan was completed specific milestones were created and the application process was started. The milestones included (but not limited):

- Teaching students the basics of amateur radio operation
- Teaching the importance of serving the community with amateur radio
- Teaching the FCC rules and regulations pertaining to amateur radio
- Preparing students to pass the FCC license exam
- Expanding on the various modes of operation amateur radio offers
- Getting students involved in amateur radio events
- Teaching students basics of electronics
- Responsibility of representing the amateur radio community at all levels
- Use of amateur radio for emergency communications

The proposal expands on these goals and includes a lot more information on how they will be accomplished, how the grant will further STEM education, estimates of students involved, benefits of performing such a program and much more. To read the entire proposal that was submitted to the ARRL Foundation by Tom on the behalf of the Old Barney Amateur Radio Club, [click here](#).

After the application was submitted it was reviewed by the ARRL Foundation team and in December we were advised that we were receiving the grant. The grant and the funds associated with it were awarded to the Old Barney Amateur Radio Club. We will provide the equipment and personnel needed to carry out the goals we proposed.

Just prior to our January monthly meeting, Tom along with Rick Kennard, N2RPQ and Ira met with Cheryl Conley, W1CLC the SRHS teacher who heads the club program and Cassidy DeMasi the current SRHSARC president. At that time we informed them of the grant we received and together we formed a committee to follow out the implementation of the proposals. The committee, headed by Tom, will provide oversight to make sure all the grant rules are adhered to and proper documentation is maintained.

The HS club was very excited to learn about the grant and the opportunities it will afford them. Both the school's principal and superintendent have visited the club during its last meeting and also expressed their support for the club and their appreciation to Old Barney for helping to foster such a great learning environment for their students to get to know amateur radio.

The Old Barney Amateur Radio Club deeply appreciates the ARRL Foundation for making these grants available and truly believes this type of program will go a long way to keep amateur radio alive for years to come.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone has gotten off to a good start this year! February is a great month because it kicks off our year's events with the annual dinner and before you know it we will be outdoors with those events!

Over the last two years I came up with an unofficial theme for the year. In 2021 it was mentoring and everyone excelled! In 2022 it was bring a friend which we did have several visitors and gained some new members.

This year I'm thinking teach someone something new. Even our experienced hams may not have tried a particular mode or some other aspect during their amateur time. Take a moment to tell others about the modes you like, the things that interested you and maybe they will want to give it a try. After all we tend to do it anyway so this year let's make it our goal!

No matter what I know this group will always shine! I thank you all so much for that!

Until next month...

N2RPQ

2023 ARRL CONTESTS

- ◇ School Club Roundup—2/13-2/17
- ◇ International DX-CW—2/18 & 2/19
- ◇ International DX-Phone—3/4 & 3/5
- ◇ Rookie Roundup-Phone—4/16
- ◇ International Digital Contest—6/3 & 6/4
- ◇ June VHF—6/10—6/12
- ◇ Kids Day—6/17
- ◇ Field Day—6/24 & 6/25
- ◇ IARU HF World Championship—7/8 & 7/9
- ◇ 222MHz and Up Distance Contest—8/5 & 8/6
- ◇ 10GHz and UP-Round 1—8/19 & 8/20
- ◇ Rookie Roundup-RTTY --8/20
- ◇ EME-2.3GHz & Up—8/12 & 8/13
- ◇ September VHF—9/9—9/11
- ◇ 10GHz & Up-Round 2—9/16 & 9/17
- ◇ EME-2.3GHz & Up—9/9 & 9/10
- ◇ Collegiate QSO Party—10/1 & 10/2
- ◇ School Club Roundup—10/16—10/20
- ◇ EME-50 to 1296MHz—10/28 & 10/29
- ◇ Nov Sweepstakes-CW—11/4—11/6
- ◇ Nov Sweepstakes-Phone—11/18—11/20
- ◇ EME-50 to 1296MHz 11/25 & 11/26
- ◇ 160 Meter—12/1—12/3
- ◇ 10 Meter—12/9—12/10
- ◇ Rookie Roundup-CW—12/17

A Special Thank You From Beth Schenck

A couple of weeks ago Beth reached out to me to not only thank me again for the lifetime achievement award that the club bestowed on her but she also included a story of her history at Old Barney for me.

I was surprised to learn some things I didn't even know about Beth's time here. For instance, how many of you knew that Beth and Bob met at Old Barney?

I asked Beth if it was ok to share her story with all of you and she instantly agreed. So here is Beth's letter to all of us:

January 24, 2023

To my dear friends in the Old Barney Amateur Radio Club,

It is with the greatest appreciation that I have accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award which was presented to me for outstanding lifetime dedication and commitment to the Old Barney Amateur Radio Club. I cannot be content with accepting this award unless I recognize those who have had an impact on my life and involvement with OBARC. Many of these Hams have become silent keys but they will never be forgotten. Their willingness to help my Dad N2IRM, who had always dreamed of being a Ham operator, ended up impacting my interest in learning CW and getting a Ham license. It was the kind words and actions of others that made it possible for my Dad N2IRM and Mom KB2EVF to become Hams and therefore allowed me to find a home here within the OBARC community. First I must recognize these past, present and silent key OBARC members: Norman Bolton N2IRM, Joan Bolton KB2EVF, Dave Burgess WA2TVS, Margaret Burgess KB2BRR, Bob Wick N2HM, Steve McGarry WS2C, Tom Sokol N2LDE, Joe Justy KE2BO, Jack Trautvetter K2IGH, Joe Fleishinger NU2F, Frank Feist call ??, and Bob Schenck N2OO. You must know that I really hesitated to list any names/calls because there were many many others who welcomed me and my family into the OBARC world. It is always a blessing to look back upon one's life travels and realize that you have been gifted with awesome folks that were happy to include you as you ventured into an exciting hobby. OBARC was a safe place to be a "newbie".

I've been a member of OBARC since 1989, that would make me a member for 34 years. That is a long time and many of the current members do not know me since I have taken a back seat in the club for the last ten years. And yes if you were wondering, I met Bob Schenck N2OO in OBARC and married him in 1991. Bob's Asia Pacific overseas

Continued on page 6

FOR OUR MEMBERS...

OLD BARNEY GEAR

You can find Old Barney Gear at all these places:

We have a new vendor who has our logo set up. It is

NJLogowear www.njlogowear.com

100 McKinley Ave #10, Stafford, NJ 08050

They have all types of gear. Hats have to be ordered in bulk so we will do an order soon. See Rick or Tom for a sample of the shirts.

Café Press (All types of logoed items available)

New Logo Items: <https://www.cafepress.com/oldbarneyarcnewlogo>

Old Logo Items: <https://www.cafepress.com/obarc>

Gold Medal Ideas (Personalized Old Barney Items)

1160 Thompson Blvd, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

https://stores.goldmedalideas.com/ygs/Old_Barney-Products/10000170

"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

— **Eleanor Roosevelt**

OUR MEMBERS

January Birthdays:

2/5—Robert Tomkovich

2/12—Frank Piccolo

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ashley Furlong

Robert Goldenberg

Both are awaiting their new callsigns!

JOIN US ON THE AIR

Join us for our club net. The net is held every Thursday night at 7:30pm (except holidays and special occasions) on the WU2E repeater.

Every week we host a random topic of discussion.

Find us at: 146.835 (-600)
PL 127.3

We look forward to sharing time with you!

For any comments or questions regarding the weekly net please contact Tom Preiser, N2XW at n2xw@arrl.net.

Old Barney would like to thank the 835 users group for allowing us to use the WU2E repeater to host our club nets.

Ham friends reached out to him once they learned he was getting married to another Ham and they hosted us to a magnificent Honeymoon. We spent 5 weeks in the Asia Pacific area visiting and traveling around Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong. We traveled through the rainforest, spent an entire day on a Junk in Victoria Harbor, hosted to dinner on the famed JUMBO restaurant, toured Singapore, and swam in the South China Sea! There were so many wonderful experiences, and our new marriage was celebrated by many wonderful people. Well needless to say, Bob's Ham friends were beyond kind to the new OM & XYL and we are forever grateful for the unforgettable experience.

I was a teacher at Stafford Township School District for many years. I always did my best to include Ham radio in my classroom because it simply opens the world to others in a way that no other communication avenue provides. Throughout those years, I had a Ham radio in my classroom thanks to Tom Sokol N2LDE. Our school call was KC2AHK i.e.... Kilo Charlie 2 All Happy Kids. Fortunately, I had the support of very experienced radio ops (N2OO, Urb LeJeune W1UL, WA2TVS, KB2BRR etc.) to help work the radio. The students enjoyed all the aspects of the Ham radio experience. It was very exciting to see the students separate into their own areas of interest just like adults do within OBARC. Some loved the morse code keys and tried to learn to send CW messages, others were driven to the maps and the QSL cards – looking up countries and discovering where they were located, and then there were the “talkers” who were thrilled to talk to folks in other states and countries. In addition, my class had a “Tuesday 2 meters weekly check-in” with a teacher in Tuckerton Elementary School. The students were mostly interested in things like ... what did you have for lunch, homework, play at recess etc. It was a learning experience to talk to other kiddos about common interests.

Georgian Court College hosted an event for educators to highlight exciting ways to foster learning using unique formats. I was honored to be invited to participate in this gathering of innovative educators where we were able to present unique and creative ideas to use in the classroom. I was asked to present and provide a display about how to use Amateur Radio in the classroom. I must say it was very exciting.

I completed my master's degree at Georgian Court. My main interest lies in teaching reading to struggling elementary students. I truly wanted that topic to be the focus of my thesis, but my master's advisor said, “Think outside of the box” and asked me to tell her what kind of unique things I'd done over the years in my classroom. I piped up, “Well I've always included amateur radio in almost all of my classes.” She said, “Now that's exciting! I would be thrilled to approve your research and project on amateur radio. It sounds like a wonderful experience for students.” And so for my Masters thesis I wrote “Voices in the Classroom”. I created amateur radio activities that teachers could use in the classroom and researched the value of utilizing amateur radio in schools.

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Now moving on to the present. I had to work hard to earn my Extra Class license. I also had to work hard to learn to copy CW at 13 words per minute in order to pass the previous Advanced class license.

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In case you don't know me ... I'm more of a talker than a technically attuned radio op. I'm not an electronics connoisseur. However, and I should say fortunately there is a place for me in the amateur radio world. I like following the greyline, discovering and searching for new dx stations, trying to make contacts, and collecting QSL cards. For instance, right now I'm enjoying FT8. It's fun and I do not find it as stressful as dx pileups. I still like to see where in the world the stations are located. I'm learning new things every day. At this time I have 314 DXCC entities, WAS and WAC. This is all because some very friendly OBARC members were kind to my Dad N2IRM back in 1988. I would like to close this heartfelt thank you with a reminder to OBARC members. You make a difference each day. It is difficult to imagine the impact you can have on future generations of Ham radio ops. Being kind matters, smiling matters, and welcoming newbies to the club matters. So to my OBARC friends keep up the good work! There is a place for all of us in this hobby!

Thank you ... 73 & 88,

Beth Schenck KF2BQ

The ARRL Volunteers On the Air Operating Event

The following excerpts about VOTA are from QSL Magazine—January 2023 pages 77 & 78

“2023 is the ARRL Year of the Volunteers. With that, ARRL will be holding Volunteers On the Air (VOTA), a year-long on-air celebration that recognizes the organizations’ abundant volunteer support and contributions. By using ARRL’s Logbook of The World (LoTW, www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world), participants making contacts in 2023 will accumulate points, as well as contact new stations and make new friends all over the world.

From January 1 (0000 UTC) to December 31, 2023 (2359 UTC), hams can participate in the VOTA event, which will include special week-long activations by W1AW portable stations from all 50 states and most US territories. Each W1AW portable activation will begin on Wednesday at 0000 UTC and end the following Tuesday at 2359 UTC, and each state will be activated twice.”

The event is designed to be fun. It is an event in which you can build up points. There are several ways to accumulate them. To see the entire article that was published in the January QST magazine [click here](#).

This is just another fun way for some friendly competition using your amateur radio skills on all the bands and modes of operation. Hopefully everyone will join in.

NEWS FROM AROUND OUR SECTION...



OCEAN COUNTY ARES® FEBRUARY 2023

The next meeting of Ocean County ARES will be on February 15th at 7:00 PM. This will be a Zoom meeting for several reasons. With all the various viruses the general public is carrying, I would rather play it safe and not have anyone exposed because of a meeting. We can meet via computer just as easy.

Also, this time of year, the weather is always very unpredictable and I don't want to put anyone in harms way of ice or snow on the roadways.

Instructions for the meeting will be released via email on groups.io a day or two before the event.

I recently ran into an issue with VARA FM in release 4.2.8. The new release is not compatible with all previous versions of VARA FM. Digipeater WA2RES-15 has the oldest version and will not connect properly with version 4.2.8 so it is best to stay with 4.2.7 until all sites are upgraded.

One of the drawbacks of VARA FM digipeaters at repeater sites is the lack of remote control to upgrade the PC with a newer version of VARA FM. We cannot use the Internet at county sites and others have no Internet at all. We are working on a scheme to obtain remote control via a private WiFi network without having to access the building. I realize that this is not important to a user of the system, but is a real burden to those who manage it.

Tom, WB2ALJ, has been pushing very hard to try and get VARA FM and Winlink as the preferred mode of communication between SNJ counties for ARES. Tom is getting a lot of pushback from some counties and Ocean is working hard to get some solid working experience with Winlink and VARA FM, which will benefit all others.

I've been notified by Amazon that Amazon Smile will be suspended on February 20, 2023. Ocean County ARES has been receiving donations in the order of approximately \$100 each year from Amazon Smile. I thank everyone who selected Ocean County ARES as the charity to donate to via Amazon Smile. In the future, Amazon will be investing in areas where their employees live and work and not general charities.

Our VE Team Lead, John – N2LD, is concerned because we have had no test takers for the last four sessions. The following is the 2023 schedule for VE Testing at the Ocean County EOC:

- March 21, 2023
- May 16, 2023
- July 18, 2023
- September 19, 2023
- November 21, 2023

All are at 7:00 PM and you need to contact N2LD for a reservation. Please pass this information along to anyone you know interested in testing.

WHO IS OLD BARNEY?

The Old Barney Amateur Radio Club (OBARC) was established in 1975 by a diverse group of individuals with a common goal of promoting Amateur Radio.

Today the group continues towards making the amateur radio hobby rewarding through participation in several events throughout the year, training sessions, VE testing and monthly meetings.

Our meetings are held at the [Ocean Acres Community Center](#), 489 Nautilus Blvd, Manahawkin, NJ 08050*, beginning at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except holidays). We welcome anyone (licensed or not) to come and meet with us to learn more about amateur radio.

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SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The newsletter is open to anyone who would like to submit articles. Please join me in contributing to content and share the knowledge you have about our hobby with all our readers.

Presentations are also welcomed. We try to host a presentation at each monthly meeting covering different topics. We would even welcome “special” sessions via Zoom for presentations that are too long to host at a meeting.

Please contact me at n2rpg@arrl.net with any articles or to arrange a presentation.

THE OLD BARNEY RADIO CLUB IS ARRL AFFILIATED



Old Barney Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 117
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

E-mail: n2ob@arrl.net

Visit the ARRL at www.arrl.org

