

Green Mountain News

The newsletter of the Green Mountain Repeater Association

Winter 2008/2009

John Creel to Speak at Annual Luncheon

John Creel, WB3GXW, will speak at our 2008 Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon. We asked John to speak, because we know his stories will delight, amuse, and even enlighten you, and will likely spark a lengthy Q & A period after. And hams love to rag-chew. So here's another good opportunity! John will be speaking about Amateur radio, of course, and his career at the Office of Consumer Protection.



John Creel was named the 1998 Atlantic Division Amateur of The year. First licensed in 1977, John has been very active in the Laurel Amateur Radio Club VEC program for over 19 years. Now the third largest VEC in the Amateur Radio service, the Laurel VEC remains committed to providing the most efficient testing at no charge to the Amateur Radio Service. His team has tested such notables as YLRL founder Ethel Smith, K4LMB, now a silent key. The VE team also tested for Extra class Michael Braun, N3CA, the 2005 Jeopardy Teen Tournament Champion. The VE team he leads has tested over 4000 applicants at no charge in the last 19 years. Most of the Volunteer Examiners have been with the team for over 15 years.

In July 2001 at the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner coordinators meeting in Gettysburg, PA. he was elected the Chairman of the NCVEC. He was elected again in July 2002. After the July 25th 2003 NCVEC meeting he turned over the position to the next Chairman. John and his all-ham family live in Silver Spring

MD. As an ARRL Official Bulletin Station he owns and operates the only repeater in the Washington area that retransmits Newsline, ARRL audio news, The Rain Report and This Week in Amateur Radio. They air on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights starting at 8:00PM on the WB3GXW 147.225 repeater and the *WASH_DC* Echolink Conference server, node 6154. His mom is N3LFN and Father a WWII CW operator have been married for 60 years. His wife of 30 years, Debbie, holds the call N3LFM. His oldest daughter Carolyn, N3UXZ won Foundation for Amateur Radio Scholarships four years in a row. His youngest daughter Gina is N3ZQU and in June of 2004 she graduated Phi Theta Kappa with Honors from Montgomery College in Takoma Park, MD.

For over 27 years John has been an Investigator with the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection. He is an ASE Master Certified Technician. He was featured on the ABC network show Prime Time Live with Chris Wallace in March 1997. John is also quoted in a October 2000 Readers Digest article on buying used cars. He does many TV and radio interviews about Consumer Protection issues.

In December 2003 John was nominated by his Supervisor for the Montgomery County Maryland Exceptional Service Award. On February 19, 2004 Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan presented that award to John.

He was interviewed for a story on Dateline NBC with Lee Thompson. It aired on September 3, 2004. On June 11th 2006 he received his 25 year service pin from Montgomery County, Maryland.

We look forward to being entertained and educated by John!

Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

This year's annual Business meeting and Luncheon is gearing up to be as fun as ever! Our President Paul Freirich has made similar arrangements to last year.

We'll meet at the Knights of Columbus hall in College Park, MD (handicap accessible), at 11:30 on December 6. We hope to see you there!

The KoC hall is just east of I-95; 10142 Cherry Hill Rd, College Park, MD - (301) 220-1029. If you need a talk in, we will be listening on the nearest repeater to the KoC, 146.88(-). As always, we do not use PL on our repeaters, and standard 2-meter offsets (600K). So just dial us in if you get lost.

The agenda:

- Lunch!
- President's Opening Remarks and Introductions (Paul Freirich, W3HFA)
- Introduction of Guest Speaker (Paul Freirich, W3HFA)
- Guest Speaker (John Creel, WB3GXW)
- Presentation of Award (Paul Freirich, W3HFA)
- Secretary's Reading of the Minutes (C.T. David, K3GXF)
- Treasurer's Report (Roy Ashlin Jr., N3NGA)
- Membership Report (Roy Ashlin Jr., N3NGA)
- Technical Committee Report (Roy Ashlin Jr., N3NGA)
- Elections (Paul Freirich, W3HFA)
- Presentation of Prizes (Chuck Glenn, KV3G)

The cost will be the same, too, just \$17.75 for adults, whether members or not, and \$9 for children 12 and under. All funds will be collected at the door. Cash is preferred. We will also have a membership sign-up table. You can join at the meeting and be eligible for the prizes.

The menu will include:

- Boneless Chicken Breast
- Roast Beef
- Rice
- Steamed Mixed Vegetables
- Salad and Dressings
- Garlic and Assorted Breads
- Small Pastries
- Soft Drinks, Iced and Hot Tea, Coffee

Please RSVP if you plan to attend, so we can get an accurate head count for the caterers. This helps us pay the right amount, and helps the caterers know how much food to prepare. Send your RSVP to Paul Freirich at w3hfa@hotmail.com, or call at 301-593-7205. Email is preferred.

So, although the venue and food are similar, it's a new guest speaker, and another year has gone by. Winter is approaching, and our business meeting and luncheon is a perfect reminder that you've procrastinated too long getting your holiday gifts. So mark it on your calendar! It might also be an opportunity for you to win a transceiver, and give that as a gift to someone (if you can part with the idea of keeping it for yourself, that is).

For those members that we seem to only run across once per year, we'd like to see you again, make sure you are okay, and hear any ideas you might have about club activities, operation of the repeaters, or... anything you would like to talk about.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we look forward to seeing you there!

-- Chuck Glenn, KV3G

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GMRA President's Letter



Rip Van Who? Tell me, did you ever take a quick nap only to find you'd lost an entire year? Well it may not be really that bad but I'm sure it was only a little while ago that I was writing the last President's letter and suddenly it's time for the next one.

First of all, a reminder that you'll also see elsewhere in your GMRA Newsletter about our Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon. They have done an outstanding job for us several years in a row so we are happily going back to the Knights of Columbus Hall on Cherry Hill Road in College Park again. The luncheon, as in the past, will be on the first Saturday in December, 12/6/08.

It has been a busy year for GMRA. Because of a new professional commitment Alice Nunemaker, WB3AOA had to resign from the Board and her office as Secretary. Good friend C. T. David, K3GXF was kind enough to step into the breach and fill the vacant position. Since C.T. had previously been Secretary there was no learning curve to wait out. Allie, you will be greatly missed and we wish you every success in your new position but it is also very comforting to know that we have been blessed with a highly competent and industrious replacement.

As we do every year, we need to re-elect some officials on the board of directors. This year, two seats, currently held by Roy Ashlin, Jr. N3NGA and my own (Paul Freirich W3HFA) need to be re-filled. Both Roy and I are willing to continue to serve if you will have us. As per our bylaws, to refresh your memory: Other candidates may be nominated by any active member, and the membership votes at the Annual Business Meeting to decide who fills the positions. See page 4 for the fine print.

Now for a bit of very unsettling news. We are going to have to move the 146.61 repeater. We have received notification from WSSC that the water tank on which the .61 machine has been for about 30 years now will be demolished this coming May. We are now searching for a new site. It turns out that a possible site on a new tower will not be available until 2010 so the hunt for a new home for .61 is on. If you have any ideas or possible locations for us please feel free to call any member of the Board or email us at GMRA's home email address which is gmra@live.com.

We are still having our monthly, informal, lunch get-together at Tubby's diner on Rte 198 in Laurel, about noon on the first Saturday of the month, the only exception to that being if the first Saturday falls on a holiday weekend in which case we push it back to the second Saturday. If you haven't attended one of our luncheons, you might give it a try. It's an ideal meeting to attend because it ain't really a meeting. There are no minutes or Treasurer's report, no agenda to sleep through, just a bunch of hams sitting around lying about what great amateur operators they are. Family and friends are always welcome and if you bring them along we always make sure the non-hams are made to feel very welcome and the conversations are not always about electrons.

See you on the Sixth of December.

Rip Van Freirich
W3HFA

Open Election for Board of Directors

The seats currently held by Paul Freirich W3HFA and Roy Ashlin, Jr. N3NGA expire this year (December 31, 2008). Both Roy and Paul have graciously accepted to remain on the board, but as always, must be re-elected in by the membership at our Annual Meeting. So be sure to attend in order to cast your vote!

Other GMRA members who wish to apply for any open seat must submit a nomination request, 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.

Editor's Letter

Hello again, GMRA! The older I get, the more time flies, and the more shocked I am when another newsletter needs to be put together. The newsletter is my annual opportunity to contribute to the GMRA efforts, since most of the other Board members do more than me all year long.

So let me fill you in on a minor change we decided on a few months ago, based on membership response. We noticed that the phone bills on the repeaters showed minimal to no outgoing calls. Roy can tell this quite easily, since he's been paying the bills for years now, and he knows what the base amount is, and how much we get charged per minute. The bottom line there is, we saw no outgoing calls. So not many people were using auto-patch.

This is no big surprise, as cell phones are cheap and plentiful these days. Auto-patch is no longer the magical trick it once was. Such is the nature of many things Amateur-Radio-wise.

Another feature we have stopped supporting is private mailboxes. Again, it was because it was not being used, and (cough) was creating work for me -- all with no real benefit for the membership. With the wide-spread use of email and voice-mail, voice mailboxes on Amateur Radio repeaters are another example of a great idea that was once exclusively ours, but has been provided for to non-licensees.

But what's the moral of this story? Not that our hobby is in decline, but that our hobby has pointed the way to unique features and functions that non-hams eventually also got. It's a shame how technology tends to make us take things for granted. So don't forget where these ideas, or at least the patterns for them, came from.

Thanks for reading, and I hope to see you at the annual meeting!

-- Chuck Glenn, KV3G

Why No Prize Pictures this year?

We always like to whet your appetite with pictures, descriptions, and technical details of the prizes. We wish we could do the same again this year, but we can't! We've been given the opportunity to haggle for prizes, and we'll be doing that until the last minute, which means we will not have the final list until after the newsletter goes out.

So, in order to get the most out of the prize budget, it will have to be a surprise this time. But rest assured, we intend to have about the same mix of prizes as last time -- since we are spending about the same amount of money for them.

We intend to focus on HTs and mobile rigs, as we did last year, in order to get people on the air, and keep them on the air. Of course, since our repeaters operate in the 2M band, we will probably choose single-band transceivers.

This year, we will all have to show up to see what the prizes are, so RSVP now, and let us know to expect you!

-- Chuck Glenn, KV3G

Your GMRA Membership

NI3A	Charles	WR3F	Richard	WB3JVC	William	KA3OHF	James	WA2TIU	Terence
KZ3AB	E. Allen	N3FCA	Holly	KB3JWM	Jonathan	WA3OLQ	George	N3TJV	Ulysses
W3ABC	Hugh	KB3FFU	David	KB3KFZ	Cynthia	W3ONA	Patrick	KA4TMB	Steven
N3ADF	Jim	N3FPO	Duane	KB3KGC	Evonne	KB3ONR	Curtis	WB2TNC	William
N3ADY	Gerald	W3FUO	Hugh	KB3KHL	James	KK3OQ	Tom	K3TND	Richard
N4AGB	Allen	KJ4FUU	Thomas	KA3KID	Lawrence	KB3OQZ	James	W3TOM	Tom
KF4AJZ	Philip	K3FZ	Albert	KB3KIF	Sarah	KC7OVS	David	N3TTX	Cape
WB3AOA	Alice	KV3G	Chuck	W5KIM	John	NY7P	Mona	K3UAL	Joe
W3BCW	Brooks	KE3GD	JP	W3KVC	Clarence	KB3PBZ	Kevin	K3UBI	Roy
W3BE	John	N3GE	Anthony	WB3KXL	David	KB3PFF	Steve	N3UEZ	Mike
N3BEN	Ben	WA3GJD	William	KA3KYW	Richard	N3PGI	Rex	N3USZ	Galen
K3BEQ	Murray	KB3GJP	Henry	N3LHD	Thomas	N3PKX	Betty	N3UUP	Jesse
KA3BOZ	Jim	KA3GOB	Gene	N3LES	Les	KB3POU	Bruce	N3UXY	Rita
KB3BTB	Patricia	KB3GSO	Robert	N3LFM	Debbie	KB3PQY	Adrian	WA8UYD	James
N3BTN	Vincent	KA3GSV	Myer	KB3LHL	Chuck	KB3PQZ	Eneida	KF4VCA	David
KD3BU	Manuel	AA3GV	Ernest	KB3LLA	Kenneth	W3PRB	John	W1VCU	Nelson
KB3BWR	Stacey	K3GXF	C.T.	WB5LPN	Randy	KB3PRP	Dorson	N3VKW	Richard
W3CAF	Neil	WB3GXW	John	KB3LVE	Alan	KB3PXL	Stephen	KA4VNF	Debbie
W3CAT	Ken	KB3HAM	Doug	NB5M	James	WC3Q	John	KC3VO	Robert
KC2CAX	Kenneth	N3HBO	Kathy	WG4M	Paul	KB3QAE	Ricky	N3VQM	Tilden
W3CB	Clifford	KA3HDO	Frank	N3MBW	Judith	KB3QCL	Patrick	KD3VR	Joseph
K3CCS	Paul	KB3HER	Douglas	W3MBZ	Tom	N3QDR	Leonard	W3VY	Mary Ellen
K3CKT	Jim	W3HFA	Paul	K3MHZ	Bill	N3QEP	Greg	KR4WE	Mike
N3CKX	Reginald	N3HFT	Ed	N3MIN	Lee	N3QEQ	Brenda	W4WHE	William
W3CL	Carl	N3HG	Gene	N3MIO	Antonio	W3QF	John	N3WKK	Clarence
W3CNC	William	KB3HGT	Chris	KB3MLL	John	KB3QGK	George	N3WKP	Edward
K3CON	Gerald	N3HHA	Dolores	W4MLR	Lou sk	KB3QKJ	Bill	W3WON	Bill
KA3COT	Charles	N3HI	Peter	N3MNA	Elaine	KB3QMP	Adan	K3WS	Thomas
K3CPK	Ronald	W3HII	Harold	KB3MOS	Winston	KB3QOT	Maria	N3WSG	Jerry
WB3CQI	Douglas	N3HLY	Kenneth	W2MPD	Stephen	K3QX	Ed	KG4WVD	Ronald
N3CUO	Robert	KB3IIE	Kenneth	KE6MVA	Thomas	W1RAI	Ray	KR3X	Robert
KB3CWN	Edmund	KB3IJF	Clifford	KB3MVM	Matt	W3RBR	Richard	N3XFL	Pamela
KT3D	Dennis	KH6ILR	Allan	WI3N	Jim	K3RD	Donald	N3XKJ	Jim
N3DC	William	K3IMJ	Melvin	KB3NAX	Jeff	K3REM	Bob	NG4Y	Carrol
WD9DFJ	Steve	K3IWE	Kenneth	K3NCO	Marc	K3RFI	Mike	W4YEH	Howard
N7DH	Dennis	K4IWF	Joseph	N3NGA	Roy	W3RFQ	Ken	WA3YLO	Tony
KM3DR	Robert	KB3IYD	Bobby	KB3NHE	Marcia	W3RTA	Bob	N3YOF	Robert
WA3DVO	Everett	KO3J	Warren	KB3NIN	Matthew	KE4RWF	James	N3YRX	John
W0DXS	Robert	N3JAA	Phyllis	KB3NJK	Pete	N3RWG	Dorothy	N3YSA	George
KB3EBN	John	WA3JAL	John	KB3NJP	Thomas	N3RWI	Sue	W3YTS	Marshall
W3EEF	Robert	N3JBX	William	N3NKW	Pamela	WA3RWP	Walter	KX3Z	Fred
WA3EEM	Mike	N3JFX	Donald	AA3NN	Kenneth	W3RYQ	Don	K4ZDH	Riley
KG6EFT	James	KB3JHD	Karen	N3NPF	Tanya	AA3SG	Walter	N3ZDN	Tami
KB3EGL	Keith	WB3JIR	Eugene	N3NPJ	John	K3SGA	Lois	AA3ZK	Paul
K9EIS	Dennis	KB3JKO	David	WA3NSI	Jim	K3SGB	John	N3ZQU	Gina
N3EMP	Gene	WB3JOT	Ted	KA3NXW	Barry	KA3SKN	Kurt	WA3ZQZ	Hugh
WB3ENI	Eugene	WB3JPB	Bruce	KB3NZC	Donald	N3SNU	William	W3ZRW	Joel
W3EQ	Ken	K3JQ	Frank	KI3O	Bob	N3STA	Alan	N3ZVJ	Harvey
N5EV	Richard	WA3JR	Jean	KB3OBQ	Eugene	N3TBZ	Dolores		
KI4EY	Victor	KB3JRM	Michael	KB3OCM	Doris	K3TC	Thomas		
KB3EZQ	Jenny	KB3JTE	Robert	W3OEP	Eugene	N3TFS	Edgar		

Your GMRA Officers and Representatives

Board of Directors (all are also Control Operators)

President	Paul Freirich	W3HFA	w3hfa@hotmail.com
1st Vice President	[vacant]		
2nd Vice President	Charles Glenn	KV3G	kv3g@arrl.net
Secretary	C.T. David	K3GXF	k3gxf@aol.com
Treasurer	Roy Ashlin Jr	N3NGA	n3ngaraajr@verizon.net

Repeater Trustees / Control Operators

146.610 Cheverly	Chuck Glenn	K3BEQ	mgreen@erols.com
146.880 Greenbelt	Paul Freirich	W3HFA	w3hfa@hotmail.com
Control Operator	Everett Bollin	WA3DVO	wa3dvo@msn.com

Technical Committee

Director	Roy Ashlin Jr	N3NGA	n3ngaraajr@verizon.net
Member	Charles Glenn	KV3G	kv3g@arrl.net

Affiliate Representatives

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FAR	Charles Glenn	KV3G	kv3g@arrl.net

Information System Representatives

Membership	Roy Ashlin Jr	N3NGA	n3ngaraajr@verizon.net
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GMRA operates two repeaters in the National
Capitol area:

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

Web site: www.gmra-md.org