



The Minuteman



Volume 29 Issue 5

May 2000

President's Corner

Clark Conti, N1NVK

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ELMER

Ham radio does not grow by itself. People do not arise one day and decide to become a ham, without any prior exposure to the hobby. Every ham I know has had some introduction to the realm of amateur radio from another ham, who was willing to show off a little of the hobby and encourage interest by us. These people are known as "Elmers". I can think of at least five hams that had some influence on my early years who let me watch them play with HF rigs, talk to some distant country, or just say "Hi" on the repeater, and I am sure you can all think of a few yourself. They were probably unaware that they were doing me a big favor. By introducing me to amateur radio they were showing me a world of electronics which would someday provide for my livelihood as well as a fun hobby. They had no way of knowing if I would ever get my license, but they offered to help anyway.

I have tried to be an "Elmer" to a couple of nephews. I gave one an old scanner and told him he could listen to the repeaters, I gave another one a portable short-wave radio that I hardly use - his dad (my OTHER UGLY brother) took it to work with him. I told my nephew to assert himself and get it back. I'm not trying to corrupt them, just let them listen. If

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Repeater Upgrades - 2 Meter machines PL'd

Bryan Cerqua, W1BRI

Early in March I started working on the software part of the MMRA network by getting familiar with the repeater scripts and compiler tools created by Walter (N1HBR). These software tools that Walter created really eased the task since it only uses a few files to create all the code for all of the 5K and 7k controllers.

The goal was to reduce some of the synthesized voice messages that periodically get transmitted over the repeaters. One of the first things that was changed was to prevent the initial ID message on 449.925 and 146.61 from stomping on each other when linked. One of the nice features of the SCOM 7K controllers is the gating of the PL on the repeater output. The PL on 449.925 is momentarily turned off when the polite ID is sent. This prevents the link radio at the 146.61 site from re-transmitting the 440 ID over two meters. If a user happens to key up during the 440 polite ID then the PL will be turned on so that the user's transmission will be heard on both repeaters.

Another nice thing about gating the PL on the 440 output is that users running tone squelch will not hear the annoying squelch tail crash since the PL is dropped one second before the transmitter turns off. Some of the timing parameters were changed to allow the courtesy beep to be heard on radios that are slow in transmit to receive recovery when the user's radio is

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How would you like to get your newsletter via email? If there is enough interest, we can send an Adobe Acrobat (.PDF) file to you, and save on printing costs. Let us know if you would like to do that - just send an email to mmra@mmra.org And let us know if you like the idea.

May MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, May 10, 2000 - 1930 Hrs
Campion Center, Weston MA

Program:
Elections
Raffle

The next issue of the Minuteman will be Volume 30 - 30 years of MMRA Newsletters!

2 Meter System Changes...

(Continued from page 1)

operated in tone squelch mode. It is nice to hear your own courtesy beep when you unkey.

Repeater PL Changes:

So far the 146.61, 146.67 and 146.82 two meter repeaters require a 146.2 PL tone to access the repeaters.

Users that don't have PL capability but do have a touch tone microphone can turn the PL OFF by sending a "750" command. This will keep the PL requirement off during the QSO, once the repeaters are quiet for 9 minutes the PL will be restored to previous setting.

The Stoneham 146.715 repeater does not have PL at this time because the PL detect wire is not connected to the controller. Plans are to visit the site soon to correct this. Also the bad power supply (hum) on the 446.725 repeater will be replaced.

Messaging:

The MMRA bulletin messages will only be transmitted six times per day. The code is structured to prevent the messages from clobbering any users by waiting until the users are done with their QSO.

The repeater time is no longer transmitted since most hams

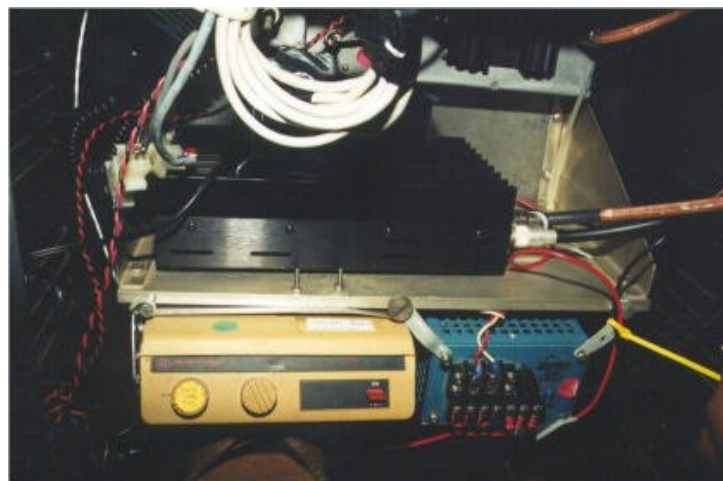
can afford a wrist watch. The time is really not too accurate due to drift in the Dallas clock modules.

The 7K repeater code is about 99% complete but some small timing changes may be required to allow smoother operation when all the repeaters are linked up.

Other repeater stuff.

The 224.40 and 223.94 repeaters are being upgraded and hopefully will be back on the air by the time you read this newsletter. Special thanks to Eddy N1NOM for lending us a 220 power amp for the 223.94 repeater.

Editor's Insert: We got to the 223.94 machine Saturday, April 22. We put Ed's amplifier in place, installed the duplexers



The picture above shows the amp that Ed (N1NOM) has loaned to the club...he even took the picture.

Left: Bryan and Andy, 223.94 between them. It's a really nice site – even has nice high-back desk chairs.

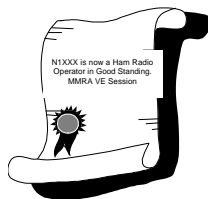
N1NOM Photo

and got the system running. It performs well; the transmit coverage is excellent – you can hear the machine pretty well in Providence. Receive coverage is also good...I could not reach the machine from down there, but that attempt was with about 25 watts and a triband antenna.

If you have any 220 gear lying around collecting dust, dig it out and try 94. It has coverage to the south where none of the 2 meter machines work well, and works out in Worcestor better than 61 or 82.

Since it is full-time linked it gives another path into the network from some poor 2 meter coverage areas. It's PL is 103.5.

So far the 146.61 and 146.82 sites have an RJ-11 jack installed that allows updating the repeaters via the RX3/COR3 port when at the site with a laptop computer. This will allow the controllers to be updated if some of the phone lines go away. I will be adding this feature to the 146.67 and 146.715



MMRA VE Sessions

3rd Saturday of Each Month
Marlboro Public Library, 9AM
Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJ

617 699.3670 Evenings 6 to 10 PM,
Weekends 8 AM to 10 PM.

Accredited - ARRL VE Program

<http://people.ne.mediaone.net/wades/exam.htm>

President's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

they want I'll be happy to help them pursue it. I might never get a response, but that's OK. I'm not going to force anyone. My wife said she would like to get on the air, if only so she can call me in the car - probably to remind me of things, or to ask me to bring home milk or something.

Every once in a while we get a chance to spread the ham radio word so to speak. We should all take that chance. I'm not talking about getting pushy, just be nice. We might be doing someone else a favor.

Some of the events where we may encounter would-be hams are field day, flea markets, public service events, and charity fund-raisers. By participating in events we can show ham radio's best face, helping others. Also remember the opportunities to pro-actively talk it up like Scouting's Jamboree On The Air, or even being a guest speaker for your kid's scout troop. We should all try to be helpful and friendly to anyone who asks "Can you talk to China on that walkie-talkie?" or "Wow that looks like a BIG OLD fashion cell phone"

I am grateful to the guys who let me know enough about ham radio early on.

Thanks Peter, Dave, Reg, Wes, & Don.

System Changes....

(Continued from page 2)

sites as well.

The 146.61 site was cleaned up while the code was loading (it takes about 1.5 hours to upload all the code) by removing some prehistoric junk.

Future plans are to add a radio controlled clock (WWVB) to the 449.925 7K controller to synchronize the repeater times via a macro that will be sent out each night to all the two meter sites. This will better align the time set points used for bringing up the links and sending out messages. and for those that like to hear the correct time when using the "35" DTMF command.

Special thanks to all that helped out and supported me while making these changes.

Bill (N1QPR) and his XYL Shelly (N1VJE), Berlin Bill (WA1NLR), Wayne (N1XXI), Andy (N1BHI).

Also thanks to Walter (N1HBR) for the tremendous amount of work he did creating the compiler programs and original script files.

Editors Note: *Bryan, being a modest fellow, has not given you a really full picture of what he went through to do this stuff... He's a night-owl, but for this job he extended his time awake into the wee hours on quite a few nights. One night, while Bryan was working, Walter and I hooked up...we conferred with Bryan until about*

0200. We thought he went away, but then he called us at about 0330 to talk some more about what he was doing. Bryan finally signed for the last time, and we kept on with our conversation...Walter and I are bad - when next we looked over to the east, the sun was rising.

So Bryan and Bill (N1QPR) really put a whole lot of time into this, learning the code and modifying it...Walter and I were glad to see that now some others were getting an appreciation of what we went through on some earlier iterations.

We owe both of them a lot of gratitude. The effort they put into this job will make the system work better, and take care of some of the things we've wanted to change for a while. If you hear them on the repeaters, let them know how much we appreciate what they have done.



Above: Kevin (K1KWP) and Rob Macedo (KD1CY). Rob gave the talk on Skywarn at the March Meeting.

N1NOM

Have You Ever Driven in Boston?

Have you ever driven in Boston? It is said that they have some of the worst drivers in the world. I didn't really appreciate the truth of this until, when I rented my car at Logan, I was handed the following local driving rules...

1. A right lane construction closure is just a game to see how many people can cut in line by passing you on the right as you sit in the left lane waiting for the same drivers to squeeze their way back in before hitting the orange construction barrels.
2. Turn signals will give away your next move. A real Massachusetts driver never uses them. Use of them in Boston may be illegal.
3. Under no circumstances should you leave a safe distance between you and the car in front of you, or the space will be filled in by somebody else putting you in an even more dangerous situation.
4. Crossing two or more lanes in a single lane-change is considered "going with the flow."
5. The faster you drive through a red light, the smaller the chance you have of getting hit.
6. Never get in the way of an older car that needs extensive bodywork. Massachusetts is a no-fault insurance state and the other driver has nothing to lose.
7. Braking is to be done as hard and late as possible to ensure that your ABS kicks in, giving a nice, relaxing foot massage as the brake pedal pulsates. For those of you without ABS it's a chance to stretch your legs.
8. Construction signs warn you about road closures immediately after you pass the last exit before the backup.
9. The new electronic traffic warning system signs are not there to provide useful information. They are only there to make Massachusetts look high-tech and to distract you from seeing the State Police Radar car parked on the median.
10. Never pass on the left when you can pass on the right.
11. Speed limits are arbitrary figures, given only as suggestions and are apparently not enforceable during rush hour.
12. Just because you're in the left lane and have no room to speed up or move over doesn't mean that a Mass driver flashing his high beams behind you doesn't think he can go faster in your spot.
13. Always slow down and rubberneck when you see an accident or even if someone is just changing a tire.
14. Throwing litter on the roads adds variety to the landscape and gives Adopt-a-Highway Crews something to clean up.
15. It is traditional in Massachusetts to honk your horn at cars that don't move the instant the light changes.
16. Real Massachusetts female drivers can put on pantyhose, apply eye makeup and balance the checkbook at seventy-five miles per hour during a snowstorm in bumper-to-bumper traffic.
17. Real Massachusetts male drivers can remove pantyhose and a bra at seventy-five miles per hour in bumper-to-bumper traffic during daylight hours.

Editorial....Andy Morrison, N1BHI

Have you ever heard of House Bill HR 783, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act.? The bill is now under consideration by a House Committee. It would require the FCC to allocate comparable radio spectrum to the Amateur Radio Service to replace spectrum that is taken from us and auctioned off or otherwise allocated to other services.

US Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-Clearwater, Florida) is the sponsor of the bill. This bill could save us from loss of spectrum – if the FCC wants to give up some of our bands or portions thereof, they would be required to replace them – and that could stop them from taking it in the first place. If the “comparable” spectrum is not available, then effectively the FCC may be stopped from re-allocating.

If nothing else, the bill if passed would give us some real leverage in protecting our turf.

Since it looks like a lot of hams, through upgrading, are going to have access to new bands, we want to protect what we have – especially in the environment where spectrum can get sold to the highest bidder.

So write letters or send email to your congressional representative. Mention the bill and your support for it. Remind them of examples of public service hams have performed. Remind them that we cannot do that effectively if our spectrum is eroded by commercial interests.

On another note; I am really disappointed. We put out a little call for help with a brochure for the MMRA...we got one email response – some helpful advice. But no one stepped up and offered to *do* anything.

We thrive on the willingness of people to give of their time to help get things done. If we cannot get that kind of commitment from members, we will surely wither and blow away.

Consider this a plea from me – please get involved in any way you can. Check into our nets on Tuesday nights...just let us know you are out there. Come to meetings whenever you can. Interesting stuff happens at them, and we have some fun.

I know I am not alone in making that plea.

Give the MMRA World Wide Web Home Page a try.... let us know what you think.... any ideas are welcome. There is a lot of new stuff there, so check it out!

WWW Address:

<http://www.mmra.org/~mmra>

Webmaster: Andy Morrison, N1BHI

MMRA Information - Repeaters, Officers and Board Members

Marlboro	146.61	N1BHI/R	FTL	P	PL - 146.2 out, none in
Marlboro	449.925	N1HBR/	FTL	P	PL - 88.5 in and out
Quincy	146.67	K1ML/R	PTL	P	PL - 146.2 out, none in.
Quincy	224.40	N1KUG/	FTL	L	PL - 103.5 in, none out
Weston	146.82	KA1AL/R	PTL	P	PL - 146.2 out, none in
Weston	224.70	N1HBR/	FTL	L	
Hopkinton	223.94	N1BHI/R	FTL	L	PL - 103.5 in, out
Stoneham	146.715	N1NVL/R	PTL	P	PL - 146.2 out, none in.
Stoneham	446.725	N1NVK/	PTL	L	PL - 88.5 in, none out
Marlboro	449.575	N1NVL/R	FTL	L	PL - 88.5 in, none out
Marlboro	53.81	W1BRI/R	PTL	L	PL - 71.9 in, none out

MMRA Officers:

President:	Clark Conti, N1NVK
Vice President:	Kevin Paetzold, K1KWP
Secretary:	Bill Thorpe, WA1NLR
Treasurer:	Ian MacLennan, AF1R
Clerk:	Ed Mulhern, N1NOM
Director:	Bryan Cerqua, W1BRI
Director:	Al Kunian, KA1AL
Director:	Paul Cabral, N1ZCB
Director:	Wayne Foley, N1XXI
Director	Andy Morrison, N1BHI
Newsletter Editor:	Andy Morrison, N1BHI
Technical Directors	Chris Conti, N1NVL

•Email: mmra@mmra.org

•Web Page:

www.ultranet.com/~mmra

Minuteman Articles — Solicitation

If you have ever built anything, fixed something, or have an experience that you want to share, then you should submit an article to the MMRA Minuteman. Contact Andy Morrison, N1BHI, if you want to talk about it. We can scan artwork and schematics to make an article more interesting and useful. Give it a try!

Important MMRA Club Information:

Membership Meetings: 3rd Wed of Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, May at Campion Center, Weston at 7:30 PM

Meeting Dates for 1999-2000 Season: September 15, November 17, January 19, March 15, & May 10.

Board Meetings: 3rd Wed of Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr. Meetings are open and members are welcome. If a visiting member wants to be on the agenda, please contact Clark Conti beforehand.

Newsletters are mailed one week before each meeting; article submissions are due one month before each meeting.

The MMRA is dedicated to Amateur Radio and the public service. The MMRA is a registered non-profit Massachusetts corporation. Membership is open to all amateurs. Annual dues are \$25.00 individual, \$35.00 family.

ARRL Website Hacked

Anyone who does not believe that it's easy to hack a website should have seen www.arrl.org late nite on April 25. During the day, the site appeared to be down...several attempts to access it resulted in a message saying that the site was unreachable.

When I made an access attempt later that night, the website was there – but it was not the usual ARRL banner, etc. Hackers had changed the IP address for www.arrl.org to point to this – across the page was....

THE SYSTEM IS #####

Pirate radio 4 life baybee@#^#@

brought to you by the Coffe #####, werd up

The pound signs were used to replace some nasty language...you can make your own guess as to what the replaced words were. It looks sort of like some pirate radio enthusiasts did this little piece of cyber vandalism.

Pirate radio is a big thing – if you want to learn more about it, just search the web for “pirate radio” and you will find all sorts of links. There are sites that instruct on the construction and operation of a pirate radio station.

It's too bad this issue is not going out tomorrow – ‘cuz this would have been a scoop!

Minuteman Repeater Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 1127
Berlin, MA 01503

A Non-Profit Communications Organization Serving the Public in Time of Emergency.

-Application for Membership-

- ☐ *New* or ☐ *Renewal*
☐ *Individual Membership (Dues \$25 per year)* ☐ *Family Membership (Dues: \$35 per year)*
☐ *Novice Membership (1st year dues: \$10)*

I hereby apply for Membership in the MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association as stated in the by-laws, and understand that acceptance of this application entitles me to all rights and privileges of membership as provided under the by-laws.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class of License: _____

Home Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Work Phone #: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Member of: ARRL? _____ Other Clubs? _____

I can and am willing to assist/serve the Association and/or help maintain the Repeaters in the following ways (check all appropriate boxes)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelters | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flea Market | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater Control Operator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Receiver | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Association Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Set-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transmitters | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Logic | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Documentation | <input type="checkbox"/> CW Operation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshment | Other-Specify: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone | <input type="checkbox"/> Schematic Drawing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Library | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education: | <input type="checkbox"/> Teach Code | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Documentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Teach Theory | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater Tech Committee | |

Send this form with your Dues to:
MMRA, P.O. Box 1127, Berlin, MA 01503

Items of Interest

From the ARRL Letter

AMATEUR RADIO SURVIVES TRANSITION TO RESTRUCTURING

Despite dire predictions from some quarters, the "Big Day"--Saturday, April 15, 2000--dawned with nary a "10-4," a "roger beep" or "echo box" to be heard on the Amateur Bands. During the first weekend of restructuring, fledgling Generals and Extras were out in force on the HF bands, trying out their upgraded privileges and proudly appending the required "interim AG" or "interim AE" to each ID.

Amateur Radio has passed another milestone in its long history without incident. For the first time in more than 60 years, applicants for an Amateur Radio license seeking full HF privileges didn't need to take a 13 WPM or higher Morse code exam.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, was among those urging veteran hams to put out the welcome mat to all newcomers. "They will need to learn things that have never been part of any FCC test," he said in an open message published in the division newsletter, The Hudson Loop. Fallon advised experienced hams to be generous with their help, to be tolerant of mistakes and to be "friendly and tactful when you offer suggestions for improvement."

Meanwhile, the ARRL-VEC team doesn't need any restructuring reminders. It's been dealing with an increased influx of applications for the past three months.

"You're a little early. It's taking about a month," Assistant to the ARRL-VEC Manager Wayne Irwin, W1KI, tells a newly upgraded caller whose new privileges have yet to show up in the FCC database or in his mailbox despite having tested March 22.

Irwin points out that VE teams have 10 days to get their paperwork into the mail or shipped to the ARRL-VEC. The 10 days does not include transit time to ARRL, which can be a week or more. The ARRL-VEC has an FCC-imposed 10-day deadline to check over the paperwork and send the files electronically to the FCC. But the volume of activity as a result of upgrade fever has put things behind the dime. Although it's hired on extra help, ARRL-VEC is still struggling to keep up. "The phones ring relentlessly with inquiries, and the e-mail runneth over," says ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ.

Over the weekend, thousands of hams took advantage of strategically scheduled upgrade and paperwork processing VE sessions, including some held at the stroke of midnight. Jahnke says he's gotten word of individual sessions with as many as 135 attendees. ARRL-VEC alone had nearly 250 separate sessions registered for April 15, so he's expecting an additional paperwork avalanche this week.

Nearly 90 applicants turned out for the Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association's effort to be the first to offer amateur exams under the new rules. The club began administering tests at the stroke of midnight during its special VE session in Mt Clemens, Michigan. Club spokesperson Paul Valko, W8KC, says the first one in the door was William "Captain Bill" Heaver, KB8QMP, who directs the Mt. Clemens Salvation Army center where the upgrades took place.

Among ARRL Headquarters staff members caught up in the restructuring upgrade wave are Penny Harts, N1NAG, Carole Dimock, N1NAM, and Mary Lau, N7IAL, who upgraded to General, and Mike Tracy, KC1SX, and John Bee, N1GNV who upgraded to Extra.

Perhaps as a point of pride, more than a few hams hustled in the weeks remaining before April 15 in an effort to upgrade under the old rules. One was ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO. Another was Don Wenger, WD8OTT--now "interim AE"--who wrote ARRL HQ to say the League's code tapes did the trick for him after years of struggling with the code. "I hold nothing against a 5 WPM Extra, but for my own personal satisfaction I did it the 'old way.'" he wrote.

FREQUENCY PROMOTION TO REUNITE RESCUE PARTICIPANTS

In the movie Frequency, a father and son are reunited across time via Amateur Radio. On Monday, April 24, three of those involved in helping to rescue young pirate attack victim Willem van Tuijl and bringing him to the US for medical treatment will be brought together for the first time at the Dallas screening of the new film. Willem remains hospitalized in stable condition.

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New Members – Welcome!

The following is a list of new members since last March. We extracted it from our database...and since to err is human, but to really screw up takes a computer, there is a good chance that we might have missed someone. If so, apologies.

At any rate, welcome to the MMRA!

KC1US	Bruce Pigott
K1RJZ	Rick Zach
KB1CSB	Charles Scrufutis
KA1PPG	Neil Grossman
N1MLP	Diane Grossman

Public Service Etc...

by K1KWP (Kevin Paetzold)

This article is my first submission to "The Minuteman." As reported in the previous newsletter I was in March appointed by the board to the positions of "interim Vice-President" and "MMRA representative to ARES and RACES". I would like to thank the board for appointing me to these positions.

Public service is an important activity for Amateur Radio and for the MMRA. There are different ways MMRA members can and do perform public service. The existence of this linked system of repeaters and the support/maintenance of this network is probably this organization's most important public service contribution. Although I would perhaps classify this activity as "behind the scenes" it represents a great deal of effort by the MMRA in general and the technical team in particular. The MMRA network has been receiving what seems to be renewed interest in ARES/RACES circles as a resource to be used in time of disasters. A example is the reactivation of the monthly EMA ARES nets discussed in more detail below.

There are opportunities to participate directly in events such as the Boston Marathon, The Walk for Hunger, and the Jimmy Fund Walkathon. I expect that helping to resolve real issues at a real event in real time will prove to be invaluable experience for assisting in real disaster scenarios. I have participated in several of these "direct" public service events. In every event that I have participated I objectively believe that in addition to improving my skills as a communicator I provided a service which directly helped the event itself or helped some participant at the event in a significant way,. A personal example from this years Boston Marathon was that I was involved in a first aid situation and as a result I received some first hand operating experience which required me to exercise control my excitement/emotions. Working with your equipment in a field situation, on batteries, with RF dead spots has been excellent practice for me and I recommend this experience to anyone interested in preparing for operating in a disaster scenario. As the Boy Scouts of America say, "Be Prepared".

There is a public service events web page for New England maintained by KD1SM. The URL for this page is: <http://www.ziplink.net/users/kd1sm/pslist.html>. Some upcoming events in Massachusetts (complete with contact information) are:

- | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| May 7 | Boston, MA | Walk for Hunger | Bob K1IW | 413-647-3060 |
| | | | http://cpsg.amateur-radio.net | cpsg@demattia.net |
| May 21 | Devens, MA | Parker Classic Road Race | Stan KD1LE | 978-433-5090 |
| | | | kd1le@amsat.org | |
| May 21 | Needham, MA | ADA Tour de Cure | Bruce KC1US | 781-275-3740 |
| | | | http://cpsg.amateur-radio.net | kc1us@qsl.net |
| Jun 11 | Cape Ann, MA | ADA Tour de Cure Bike Tour | Keith N1HLK | 781-631-2877 |
| | | | n1hlk@nsradio.org | |
| Jun 29-
Jul 2 | Fitchburg, MA | Fitchburg Longsjo Classic | Ralph KD1SM | 978-582-7351 |
| | | | kd1sm@arrl.net | |
| Jul 16 | Harvard, MA | Harvard Classic (bike race) | Stan KD1LE | 978-433-5090 |
| | | | kd1le@amsat.org | |

***This is important stuff...
this is what we are supposed
to be all about, and having
Kevin coordinate public
service matters will be a big
help. Give him your support,
and get involved!***

Editor

Another way to provide public service is through participation in the SKYWARN program. Rob Macedo, KD1CY is the SKY-WARN coordinator for region covered by the National Weather Service's Taunton office and was our guest speaker at the March general meeting. Rob maintains informational webpages for SKYWARN. The URL for the Eastern Massachusetts ARES, RACES, and SKYWARN homepage is <http://www.ultranet.com/~rmacedo/>. Training information for SKYWARN is announced periodically on the NWS continuous weather broadcasts on 162.550 and 162.475. The schedule is also available at <http://www.ultranet.com/~rmacedo/train.htm>. Some upcoming SKYWARN training dates for Massachusetts are

05/02/2000 7-10PM Gateway Regional High School
Tues. Littleville Road (Rte 112)
Huntington, MA

Public Service...

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05/10/2000 7-10PM Central MA Safety Council
Wed. Wachusett Plaza
186 West Boylston Street (Rt 12)
West Boylston, MA 01583

05/16/2000 7-10PM (Site and Date Tentative)
Tues. Lexington, MA

In other news and as indicated above the Eastern Mass ARES organization has reactivated the monthly ARES net on the fourth Sunday of each month at 9:30PM on the MMRA linked repeaters. All ARES members are specifically encouraged to participate in this net and all amateurs and all MMRA members are welcome to check into this net. Upcoming dates for this net are: May 28, June 25, July 23, and August 27.

Please feel free to ask me or give me (or work through me) any Public Service ideas, concerns, feedback, requests, etc... that come to mind that you believe I could help with.

My email address is K1KWP@ARRL.NET. 73.

Items of Interest....

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The media event--staged by the film's distributors, New Line Cinema--will unite three members of the rescue effort with the van Tuijl family at the AMC Glen Lakes movie theater (at 9450 N Central Expressway, Dallas) April 24 at 7:15 PM. On hand will be Willem's parents, Jacco and Jannie van Tuijl, KH2TD and KH2TE, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, US Rep Pete Sessions of Texas, and rescue coordinator Ed Petzolt, K1LNC.

After efforts to bring Willem to the US from a hospital in Honduras faltered, Haynie contacted Sessions' office for assistance. Subsequently, a team from Children's Medical Center in Dallas flew to Honduras and returned with the youth. Petzolt was among the several amateurs who helped to coordinate the rescue of the van Tuijls and their sailboat via the 20-meter Maritime Mobile Service Net. He appeared recently on an ABC 20/20 news magazine segment on the episode along with physician Dr Jim Hirschman, K4TCV, who provided medical advice as the family was headed for Honduras with their injured son. A story on the family's saga also appears in the April 24 issue of People magazine. NBC's Dateline also is said to be considering a TV segment.

On Monday morning, Haynie is scheduled to be a guest on

The Merge 93.3 FM (KKZN-FM) morning radio program in Dallas between 8 and 9 AM. He'll be joined on the telephone by Jacco van Tuijl, who will be at his son's hospital bedside.

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club already has taken advantage of the movie's pending opening for its public relations value. The DARC van was set up April 18 for an advance showing at the Cinemark 17 theatre in Dallas. The movie was so popular with the largely Amateur Radio audience that it reportedly got a standing ovation. The movie opens nationwide on April 28, and the DARC van is expected to return for that occasion as well.

Amateur Radio manufacturers and distributors recently pledged a transceiver and other prizes for the club that does the best job of promoting Amateur Radio at a local theater screening Frequency. In addition, the ARRL will donate the choice of a 2000 edition of The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs or Handbook CD-ROM to each participating club.

For more information on "Frequency," visit <http://www.frequencymovie.com>.

FCC TO GENERALS: ADVANCED SUBBANDS ARE OFF LIMITS

The FCC says a lot of newly upgraded General class licensees have begun asking if they may operate in the current Advanced class subbands now that the new amateur rules are in place. "The answer is: Absolutely not," said the Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. "No privileges changed for any license class."

Cross pointed out that the Advanced class license did not cease to exist under restructuring, which went into effect April 15, although the FCC no longer accepts applications for Novice or Advanced class licenses. He said current Generals do not earn Advanced class privileges until they upgrade to Amateur Extra class, at which point they earn both Advanced and Extra privileges.

The FCC also says General class operators may hold only Group C (1x3) or Group D (2x3) call signs, as it was under the old rules. Generals are not entitled to apply for or hold Group B (2x2) call signs under the new rules.

Cross cautioned newly upgraded licensees to check the revised Part 97 rules carefully to make sure they're not operating beyond their privileges. "Now that they've gotten the license, it's time to look at the real rules," he said.

Amateurs further are reminded that in order to apply for upgraded volunteer examiner privileges or for a vanity call sign reflecting new license status, a licensee first must have been issued an upgraded license grant by the FCC. Interim privileges conveyed by a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination--or CSCE--are insufficient for these purposes.

Revised FCC Part 97 rules are available on the ARRL Web site.

The FCC this week released the Errata to its December 30, 1999, Report and Order on restructuring. The Errata incorporate minor errors contained in the original R&O and already made in the version of the new rules that appeared in The Federal Register earlier this year.



The Minuteman



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Meeting Program:
Elections
Program to be announced

Election Slate - May, 2000

President: Clark Conti, N1NVK Incumbent
Vice-Pres: Kevin Paetzold, K1KWP
Secretary: Bill Thorpe, WA1NLR, Incumbent
Treasurer: Ian MacLennan, AF1R
Incumbent
Clerk: Ed Mulhern, N1NOM
Incumbent
Board: Al Kunian, KA1AL, Incumbent
Board: Chris Conti, N1NVK
Replacing Paul Cabral

If you would like to be an officer or board member, let us know-send email to mmra@mmra.org!

Return Address:

MMRA
P.O. Box 1127
Berlin, MA 01503