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# ❖ The Minuteman ❖

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Volume 26 Issue 4

March 1997



## *Dear Member.....Thanks for Renewing!*

*We sure do appreciate the response we've had to our membership renewal drive. Now we need to find new members. If you know a good prospect, bring him or her into the fold. New hams, old hams...whoever. If 50 members can bring in one member, we will have increased our size by nearly 20 percent. In this time of threats to our hobby, we need solidarity...make our voice louder.*

To Renew, just cut this last page out...on the back is the standard renewal or new membership form. If any of your information has changed, fill in the appropriate blanks; if not, the mailing label identifies you -so send the form with your dues to the return address just below - Thanks!

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### Return Address:

MMRA

P.O. Box 2282

Lexington, MA 02173



# ♦ The Minuteman ♦

Volume 26 Issue 5

May 1997



## President's Corner

While I was browsing around looking for material for this issue of the newsletter, I came across an article in a South Dakota newspaper that talked about Hams working during the flood situations. I could not reproduce it because of copyright limitations, but I thought you might be interested in a point that it made.

While Hams were a significant force in the relief efforts, they were "outgunned" by non-hams using cellular phones. The local cell system was overloaded with emergency communications done by non-amateur volunteers. If you think back to the articles we have put in the newsletter about the forces that diminish the Amateur Radio Service, you might conclude that this represents a good example. When you add communications capabilities inherent in systems like Nextel, it will be possible for anyone to duplicate the interservice communications support that hams have traditionally provided.

For those of you not familiar with that system....the user has a combination cell phone and hand-held radio. It uses digital communications, and allows the user to "alert" a specific user, and then talk to him just as we do over our repeaters....with one key exception: while those two users are talking, many other conversations can be going on at the same time, over the same system, including phone calls. The system includes alpha paging as well.

As communications capabilities like this become more widespread, the "magic" of what we can do will be less significant, and if we are to continue to be a major force in emergency communications, we need to focus on the organizational and management aspects of providing those kind of volunteer services. We have lots of people with experience; we have a couple of organizations - RACES and ARES - that have the platforms needed to offer public authorities assistance in putting together and managing an emergency communications effort.

If Amateur Radio cannot do this, then soon we will be superfluous to emergency communications. If that should happen, then the arguments we mount to preserve our access to spectra will no longer hold water...and commercial interests will find it easy to grab part or all of our bands.

What the MMRA can do about this is significant...if we can put together a *formal* emergency communications management program that supports local, state and federal authorities, maintains liaison with them, and can help to rapidly deploy and organize amateur and non-amateur resources, then we remain useful.

I guess this is kind of a "wake-up call"...is there someone in our group who can spearhead this effort? Think about this; if you agree with this evaluation of the situation, and are willing to take

(Continued on page 3)

## Repeater Report - By Chris Conti, N1NVL

### The Repeater Report - by Chris Conti, N1NVL

"New news is good news, and sometimes bad news makes good things happen."

Or....

"Wind Wind go away, come again another day  
(after things are fixed)"

#### 146.610 Mhz N1BHI/R Marlborough, MA

During the ever popular fox hunt on Saturday morning, April 12, a call came in from Bryan (W1BRI) interrupting the festivities with an announcement that the '61 antenna was leaning over and only held by one bolt. Upon arrival we found the top bolt going through the telephone pole with no nut, and the bottom one loose. Well after a bit of logistics, reorganization and stuff-getting the crew swung into action. This included Bryan W1BRI, Andy N1BHI, Ed N1NOM, Reed KD1LV, me and my son Matthew, (age 6). The Team performed flawlessly (Yeah, right). Ed always has the important job of insuring we have enough stuff like rope et cetera; Andy supplied the coffee, and Bryan was the point-man (On the point of the pole).

Andy, Reed, Matthew and I did the ground work. Andy and

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## MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1997 - 1930 HRS  
CAMPION CENTER, WESTON MA  
PROGRAM:

To be announced  
HT Clinic  
Raffle  
Elections

## Repeater Report - By Chris Conti, N1NVL

Reed kept everything running by finding/selecting the right hardware, and I kept giving Bryan the wrong wrenches with the right nuts, or the wrong nuts with the wrenches that fit the right nuts but not at the same time, so I wasn't much help except for the idea and procurement of a Ratchet strap like Trucks use as hold-downs for big loads. The strap was used to wrap around the Telephone pole and pull the mast back into place for reattaching. Matthew helped by playing with the ropes and other neat stuff and asking lots of questions. We did consider sending Matthew up the pole, as he was the only one who could have fit up there with Bryan.

We were lucky that the through-bolt was not broken or damaged; so all Bryan had to do once the ratchet-strap had the mast in place, was to stick a new nut and washer on it. We think that some of the crunchies we've heard on '61 were caused as the mast was loosening; it does seem quieter.

We managed to get it all done just as the rain started (Yea). Good Work Team!

**146.715Mhz N1NVL/R Stoneham, MA**

A songwriter once said "does anybody really know what time it is?" Well, the Repeater didn't....After all the upgrades and new software/firmware for the repeater controllers we found one of the clock modules was "interval-challenged" (that's politically correct for couldn't keep time) and a new one was requested from Scom. They were happy to send one under warrantee; then it took some time to get up there to replace it. This would not be so bad except for the fact that Walter (N1HBR), our official keeper/writer of the software, had to also reload the entire program. Remember, this is all done by sending DTMF command strings over the telephone...it's not like downloading your favorite game on the 'net at 19.2KB. We are talking 1 hour and 20 minutes of connection to the controller, sending strings of touch-tones up the line, listening for "OK" in cw to confirm each command. So needless to say Walter was ready at a moments notice, and I kept missing the appointments to get it done.

Finally on Wednesday, April 23, it did happen. As of this writing it has been keeping good time. On that visit I also noticed the 2 meter antenna leaning over at about a 10-15 degree tilt from straight up. I was unable to get to it then but on Tuesday, April 29, I was able to get it straightened upright by tightening the mount and pulling the mast over some. The work crew, consisting of Larry (N1DYJ), Clark (N1NVK) and I, then did some roof surveying for replacement of the existing mount along with some

## MMRA VE Session Schedule Change

MMRA hosts regular VE sessions at the Marlborough Public Library. The schedule for the first half of 1997 is as follows:

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

Exams are held at 9:00 AM. Please contact Bill Wade, K1IJZ, at 617-891-9079 for reservations and the latest exam session information.

This is an ARRL/VEC coordinated program.

rework of the 2 meter and 440 Antennas. Both need replacement badly.

We then were able to install the KBITE Anti-Kerchunk Filter on the new receiver after having to modify everything for the new GE Master II Receiver. Larry says it works a lot better in the Andover area than ever before. So expect Stoneham to be a bit quieter between QSO's with those pesky noise spikes. Also remember that you must be keyed for at least 0.3 seconds to get the repeater to come up.

This also reminds me to remind you to get in the habit of giving a little more time for repeaters to come up before starting to talk. With the Links and the CTCSS (Tone Squelch) on the output, waiting gives the repeaters down the line the time they need to key when the link comes up. Also, those running CTCSS decoders need a little time to have the radio open the speaker. I was listening on 224.700 in Weston the other day and 2 gents were talking about some neat 160 meter antenna stuff they had been doing on 146.610 (I think), but I kept missing the first words of each transmission because of the delays in linking (it's only about a second).

**146.820 KA1AL/R Weston, MA**

On March 24 we noted low power output from Weston, but could not find the reason; it corrected itself right after we began using it. The next Saturday, March 29, during the Foxhunt it showed again. After hunting and eating, Ed (N1NOM) and I went to the site and found the problem to be that pesky bridge between the final output and the harmonic filter. We fixed it, but later, on about Saturday, April 26, it began acting up again. This time Bryan (W1BRI) went up and found that the fan on the Exciter had died. This exciter is very heat sensitive; when it heats up it shuts down rapidly and hard. A short period of inactivity allows it to cool enough to come back. A lot of messing around with it never

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## MMRA VE Sessions

(See Revised Schedule)

Marlboro Public Library, 9AM

Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJZ

617-891-9079 Evenings 6 to 10 PM,

Weekends 8 AM to 10 PM.

Accredited - ARRL VE Program

### The President's Corner

### Repeater Report - By Chris Conti, N1NVL

a shot at doing this, step forward. The MMRA will support you.

On another technology note...not really related directly to ham radio, Gary Kasparov, World Chess Champion, was beaten by a computer in a 6 game series. The computer, a multiprocessor RISC-6000, was built and programmed by IBM. Called "Deep Blue", the computer looks and 200,000,000 board positions *every second!*

I followed the games, because I am sort of a chess buff and a hacker from way back. The most interesting aspect of this encounter between man and machine was the reaction of the people following the match. On the internet were many conferences among grandmaster chess players, and as the games progressed, they commented on the progress.

Thier reactions varied from awe for the computer to insistence that Kasparov had "thrown" the match. Many of them attempted to imbue the computer with a chess playing personality. Kasparov himself accused the programmers of coding the system to play chess specifically against his style of play.

It was inevitable that man would build a machine that could beat the best chess player in the world. And Kasparov and his followers should take pride in the fact that the margin was only one game. That Kasparov came close to beating a machine that in 10 minutes can look at more board positions than have been played by humans in the last 20 years is an astounding achievement.

But there is a real message here...this is one more proof that technology has outstripped human ability to adjust to its effects. That those who were involved saw this as a threat to their humanity, and the ways they expressed that was the most interesting aspect of the match.

For the last 5 years or so, the MMRA has sponsored a Field Day operation. This year, because of other commitments and, unfortunately, because the number of participants is too small to spread the work around enough to allow people to have fun, we are not doing Field Day.

Those of us who have participated over the years have had a lot of fun. It's a unique way to spend a weekend, and when you are with good friends, doing something you all enjoy, there are good memories. We hope that we will be able to put together a field day next year; and a few of us have talked about perhaps doing something this year on a small scale.

As of this writing, the content of our meeting program has not been finalized. There are a couple of possibilities, and Clark (N1NVK) is working on it. We apologize for not being able to announce it in the newsletter, but rest assured that Clark will put something interesting together...he always has.

This meeting is also our annual election meeting; the slate of officers and board members is in this issue. Once again, it is an uncontested slate...and everyone on it would love to see the resurrection of competition for management and board positions. It used to be quite a scene on election meeting night to see people standing up to make campaign speeches....ah well, the Good Old Days...

(Continued from page 2)

produced a real fix but the fan kept it alive for at least the last 3 years.

#### All 2 Meter Repeaters - Everywhere

Buzzzz, cracklecrack crackle, putputputputput, burrrrrrrrr... The happy sounds of Paging rang through all of the MMRA machines, and most of the others around the area during the weekend of April 26. This was cured by a little investigative work by Bryan (W1BRI) and Ed (N1NOM) in finding the right carrier. I know some Repeater trustees on other machines had decoded the CW ID and looked up the company, calling their customer service number on a Saturday. This is like talking to a wall because their telephone reps have no technical savvy, and get all sorts of complaints all day long from unhappy paging customers saying everything from "My husband isn't answering my pages, so your satellite must be down" to "I am being paged by some stranger because your wires are crossed." So needless to say the customer service people would not have a clue as to what to do with an interference complaint. I had to wait till Monday to get a hold of the RF Systems Manager. I know the guy, and have worked with in the past, and was able to get a field tech sent out first thing Tuesday to track it down.

Please remember to have all the facts and figures when dealing with this kind of problem. Many of these companies get unfounded complaints all the time from misinformed individuals. Obviously if the problem is on an MMRA repeater call it into our Hot Line 508-489-2282 so we can investigate and take appropriate action. Also if you are having these problems on your home station try checking into the MMRA Net on Tuesday Nights at 7PM with your questions.

Below: The youngest member of the MMRA Tech Crew, Matthew, N1NVL's son is ready to go to work...even has his work glove on. He also has that same mischievous grin his



old man sports much of the time...during the time we were at the site, Matt displayed all the curiosity that is typical for one his age.

At one point, we had him convinced that we were going to send him up the pole. What's even funnier is that he was totally ready to go!

N1NOM Photo

**Items of Interest**  
**From the ARRL Letter****FCC Proposes, ARRL Opposes Vanity  
License Fee Hike**  
(ARLB022)

Last month, the FCC proposed effectively raising the fee for a vanity call sign from 30 dollars to 50 dollars for the 10-year license term. Now, the ARRL has asked the Commission to postpone the higher fee until after all four vanity call sign gates have been opened. In comments filed April 23, the ARRL told the FCC that it does not object to the fee increase per se but said that it wants all hams to have an opportunity to request a specific call sign under the current fee schedule.

The fee increase was among those included for all FCC-regulated services--including broadcasters and commercial satellite services--in the NPRM in MD Docket No. 96-186. Under the proposal, the FCC "rounded up" all FCC-imposed 3 dollar annual fees to 5 dollars per year--the lowest fee in the new schedule. The ARRL noted in its comments to the Commission that because projected revenue from the vanity fee increase "significantly exceeds" the revenue needed to cover the costs of administering the program, a delay would be reasonable. The ARRL also asked the FCC to limit the vanity call sign fee to the minimum it needs to recoup its costs to administer the vanity program but "without rounding to a significantly higher fee." The FCC adjusts its fee schedule every year.

**Hams scaling back flood relief operations**  
(ARLX011)

As flood waters along the Red River continue to recede in Minnesota and North Dakota, hams in the flood-stricken area are taking a breather. Some hams are taking advantage of the lull in the action (and a reported overabundance of willing ham radio volunteers) to be with their families and to check on their own flood-damaged homes and property, although roads in and out of a few areas remain impassable.

Reports from the Grand Forks, North Dakota-East Grand Forks, Minnesota area this week said the Salvation Army ham radio operation at Grand Forks Air Force Base had been shut down and moved to a Kmart parking lot in Grand Forks. Even as the need for emergency communication abated along with the flood waters, operators from other areas have continued to arrive in the area or to volunteer their services if needed. North Dakota Section Manager Bill Kurtti, WCOM, reports the Salvation Army is making heavy use of HF and 2 meters for its communication needs--especially at its canteens and relief stations. But the need for additional emergency and backup communication has subsided as telephone service has been restored in many areas.

Harold McConnell, WA0YSF, of Cavalier, North Dakota, says "the worst seems to be over." McConnell reports that he and Don

Thomson, KB0YKD, also of Cavalier, were taking turns working in the emergency operations center in the city of Pembina, where floodwaters crested just below dikes. "We have been told to cease 24-hour operation by the Pembina County EOC and have scaled back to an 8 AM to 8 PM operation now," he said in a report to Kurtti. "That should help give people a rest as we are getting a bit stressed out."

According to Minnesota Section Manager Randy Wendel, N0FKU, the impact of the devastation has not been lost on the hams who've been volunteering in the flooded areas. Wendel said he'd heard a ham on a North Dakota HF net talk about his two days of helping out in the flood zone. "The one thing that stuck in his mind was seeing people crying and wiping tears while trying to eat their meals provided to them while in the shelters," Wendel said.

**W2AX Attempts To Fill Shipboard CW  
Gap From The ARRL Letter**

While aboard the Queen Elizabeth II for an around-the-world cruise earlier this year, Larry Amodeo, W2AX, of Manhasset, New York, found his CW ability suddenly in demand. On February 5, while operating /mm from the ship's ham radio shack--which is located in the QE2's radio room--the ship's radio operator called him over to see if Amodeo could copy what he thought was a distress call on 500 kHz--the old maritime emergency frequency. Amodeo said the ship's operator told him he did not copy CW much above 10 WPM, and there was not a telegraph key in sight (although Amodeo said he later found out there's one hidden away in case it's needed).

"We were about two days out of Fiji," Amodeo said. "At the time, I was working JAs on 20--a pileup." By the time he got to the ship's radio, the signal was gone. Amodeo went back to 20 meters, but the ship's operator called him over again after a few minutes when the distress signal reappeared. "It quit by the time I got there," he said. But the third time around, Amodeo managed to copy "4X" out of the noise. He surmised the vessel might be of Israeli registry, but he was not able to copy anything further. The next day, however, he learned his hunch was correct. An Israeli freighter had run aground off Fiji. Another ship intercepted the call and, fortunately, there were no casualties.

Amodeo has been a ham for 45 years and was a merchant marine shipboard radio operator himself in the late 1940s and early 1950s, but he'd never heard a distress call before. "When I sat down at that receiver, I was hit by a wave of nostalgia," he said.

**Editor's Note:** I thought this might warm the hearts of some of the CW lovers. Recently, the radio rooms of old WWII submarine were reactivated. Subs on museum display came on the air in April, using both CW and phone.

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## MMRA Information - Repeaters, Officers and Board Members

### MMRA Repeaters:

Marlboro	146.61	N1BHI/R	FTL	P	
Marlboro	449.925	N1HBR/R	FTL	P	PL - 88.5 in and out
Quincy	146.67	KA1HKP/R	PTL	P	
Quincy	224.40	NIKUG/R	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/R	FTL	L	
Hopkinton	223.94	N1BHI/R	FTL	L	PL - 103.5 in and out
Stoneham	146.715	N1NVL/R	PTL	P	PL - 146.2 out, none in.
Stoneham	446.725	N1NVK/R	PTL	L	PL - 88.5 in, none out
Taunton	449.575	N1NVL/R	FTL	L	PL - 88.5 in, none out
Marlboro	53.81	W1BHI/R	PTL	L	PL - 71.9 in, none out

[FTL = Full Time Linked PTL = Part Time Linked]

[L = Patch available via link] P = Local Autopatch]

### MMRA Officers:

President:	Andy Morrison, N1BHI	To Contact Officers or Board Members
Vice President:	Clark Conti, N1NVK	
Secretary:	David Croll, KT1X	
	Lynne Ausman, KA1NLD	Call MMRA Voice Mail Line:
Treasurer:	Ian MacLennan, AF1R	508 - 489 - 2282
Clerk:	Ed Mulhern, N1NOM	Toll Free from 508 and 617 Areas
Directors:	Tom Qualtieri, WB1GMA	
	Al Kunian, KA1AL	
	Chris Conti, N1NVL	
	Bob Feltmate, WA1ZJE	
Newsletter Editor:	Andy Morrison, N1BHI	MMRA E-Mail mmra@mmra.org

### 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 1996-97 Season: September 18, November 20, January 15, March 19, & May 21.				
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 Andy Morrison beforehand.				
MMRA Voice Mailbox	(508) 489-2282. -- This is a local call from any 508 exchange phone, and is a free call from both 617 and 508 areas.				
Newsletter Information	<u>September issue</u>	<u>November issue</u>	<u>January Issue</u>	<u>March Issue</u>	<u>May issue</u>
Mailing Date	Sept 11, 1996	Nov 13, 1996	Jan 8, 1997	Mar 12, 1997	May 14, 1997
Submission Deadline	Sept 1, 1996	Oct 26, 1996	Dec 28, 1996	Feb 22, 1997	Apr 26, 1997
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					

## 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!

## MMRA SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1997-1998

Andy Morrison N1BHI - President  
Clark Conti N1NVK - Vice President  
Ian MacLennan AF1R - Treasurer  
Ed Mulhern N1NOM - Clerk

Bob Feltmate WA1ZJE - Board of Directors  
Chris Conti N1NVL - Board of Directors

*Election at the next meeting, Wednesday,*

*May 21, 7:30 PM*

*Campion Center, Weston*



## Items of Interest...Continued

(Continued from page 4)

### Rumors of Death of Kenwood Service Highly Exaggerated

•Kenwood Service still in business: Despite rumors and reports to the contrary, Kenwood Service Corporation is still very much in business on both coasts, according to Kenwood's Paul Middleton, KD6NUH. Kenwood Service Center West held an open house April 25 at its new location at 13030 Alondra Blvd. -- No. 104, Cerritos, CA 90703-2257; tel 562-483-8740. The service center moved from Long Beach, California, earlier this year. Middleton said Kenwood Service Corporation is separate from Kenwood Communications Corporation, and the two service centers are "independently operated but chartered and regulated by Kenwood." Middleton, who's Kenwood's national sales manager for amateur and marine products, said the new West Coast center employs the same staff that formerly worked for Kenwood at the Long Beach location. No jobs were lost in the transition, he said. Kenwood Service Center East is at 829 Lynnhaven Pkwy -- Suite 130, Virginia Beach, VA 23452; tel 757-340-1702.

### Militias and ham radio

You might be interested to know that just before he surrendered, the leader of the Republic of Texas militia put out a call for help from militia members allegedly using an Amateur Radio HF band. It has also been alleged that other militias around the country are using our spectrum illegally. It has been said that McLaren's transmissions were monitored by N5YNE, and that local hams say that he used 2 meters as well. Apparently, militia users of Ham frequencies also made coded transmissions, not permitted under our rules.

It also appears that other militia groups are using our spectrum; during the Freeman standoff in Montana, spectrum analyzers found frequencies being put to use, and when they tuned in, they found packet transmissions.

Militia groups are not the only users of our spectrum; cases of use by drug smuggling operations have been documented as well. So if you are scanning around on HF or VHF, and you hear something that just doesn't sound kosher, take some notes, or turn on a recorder. The information you gather might come in handy.

By the way...we are not alone in the area of intruders in our bands...Indonesia has a large group of radio users encroaching on 10 meters. They are apparently using high power transmitters, directional antennas, operating both AM and FM. They can be found every 10Khz or so up the band, all the way into the 29 Mhz portion. Their operation is interfering Hams on 10 both in Australia and New Zealand. Hams down under say that sometimes, these Indonesian pirates are the only thing one can hear on 10.

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Above: Bryan and Bill (N1QPR) work on the final installation of the six meter antenna, located on a pole attached to the Slygo Hill Shelter. This installation is hopefully temporary; Bryan is working on getting permission to locate it up on the rocket tower. It hears well at this location, but up on the tower, it will hear a mouse break wind at 40 miles.

The transmit site is over at '61, with a 430 Mhz link from the receiver located here at Slygo. It too has an antenna that is on a mast attached to the shelter, and Bryan and Andy have been thinking about ways to get it higher as well.

All in all, the repeater works well. It can be worked from Boston and works well to the north and west. Receive coverage to the southwest is shadowed by one of the tanks on the hill, but that will be one of the biggest improvements if we can get the antenna on the rocket.

We all owe Bryan a debt of gratitude for his efforts in getting this machine on the air, as well as for all the stuff he has done on other repeaters in the system. We think he represents the best spirit of Ham radio. Let him know you think so too.....

**Are You An E-Mail Addict?**

Here's a Test...Courtesy of Bill Dunn, N1KUG

1. You wake up at 3 a.m. to go to the bathroom and stop to check your e-mail on the way back to bed.
2. You get a tattoo that reads "This body best viewed with Netscape Navigator 1.1 or higher."
3. You name your children Eudora, Mozillia and Dotcom.
4. You turn off your modem and get this awful empty feeling, like you just pulled the plug on a loved one.
5. You spend half of the plane trip with your laptop on your lap...and your child in the overhead compartment.
6. You decide to stay in college for an additional year or two, just for the free Internet access.
7. You laugh at people with 9600-baud modems.
8. You start using smileys in your snail mail.
9. Your hard drive crashes. You haven't logged in for two hours. You start to twitch. You pick up the phone and manually dial your ISP's access number. You try to hum to communicate with the modem...And you succeed.
10. You find yourself typing "com" after every period when using a word processor.com
11. You refer to going to the bathroom as downloading.
12. You start introducing yourself as "JohnDoe at AOL dot com."
13. All of your friends have an @ in their names.
14. Your cat has its own home page.
15. You can't call your mother...she doesn't have a modem.
16. You check your mail. It says "no new messages." So you check it again.
17. Your phone bill comes to your doorstep in a box.
18. You don't know what sex three of your closest friends are, because they have neutral nicknames and you never bothered to ask.
19. You move into a new house and decide to Netscape before you landscape.
20. You tell the cab driver you live at "http://1000.edison.garden/house/brick.html."
21. You start tilting your head sideways to smile.

**Items of Interest...Continued**

*(Continued from page 6)*

**Skywarn controversy**

Down in Huntsville, Alabama there is a brewing controversy that could end up getting further clarification of what Hams can and cannot do with communications support. A TV station down there has announced that it will start a severe weather spotter network using Hams. There are those that consider this a violation of FCC rules.

The station has solicited participation from local Hams; an Amateur is an employee at the station and is doing the solicitation. Opponents consider this commercial use of amateur frequencies. Those favoring the program believe that the public safety benefits cover such use of amateur radio. The outcome will be interesting; if the FCC has to step in and make a decision, it will provide us with further information on how we should conduct communications support. It will be interesting to follow this one; and we'll continue to report on it.

***MMRA on the Web***

[www.ultranet.com/~mmra](http://www.ultranet.com/~mmra)

The MMRA Website has news about the organization and lots of Amateur Radio links. It is kept up by Walter, N1HBR, our Webmaster and Software Guru. Stop in...Take a look!



Here's a closer look...through the branches, you can see the pole, and the mast leaning out at about a 15 degree angle. Just below the top of the pole is the through-bolt that was the problem. The lower bolt, not in this view, had to carry the entire load of the antenna and mast through heavy winds. We were lucky it held. Bryan put a ratchet strap around the pole and mast just below the bolt and pulled the mast in. When the bolt appeared on the other side of the pole, undamaged, Bryan let out a yell of relief...he was not looking forward to replacing that bolt!

N1NOM Photo

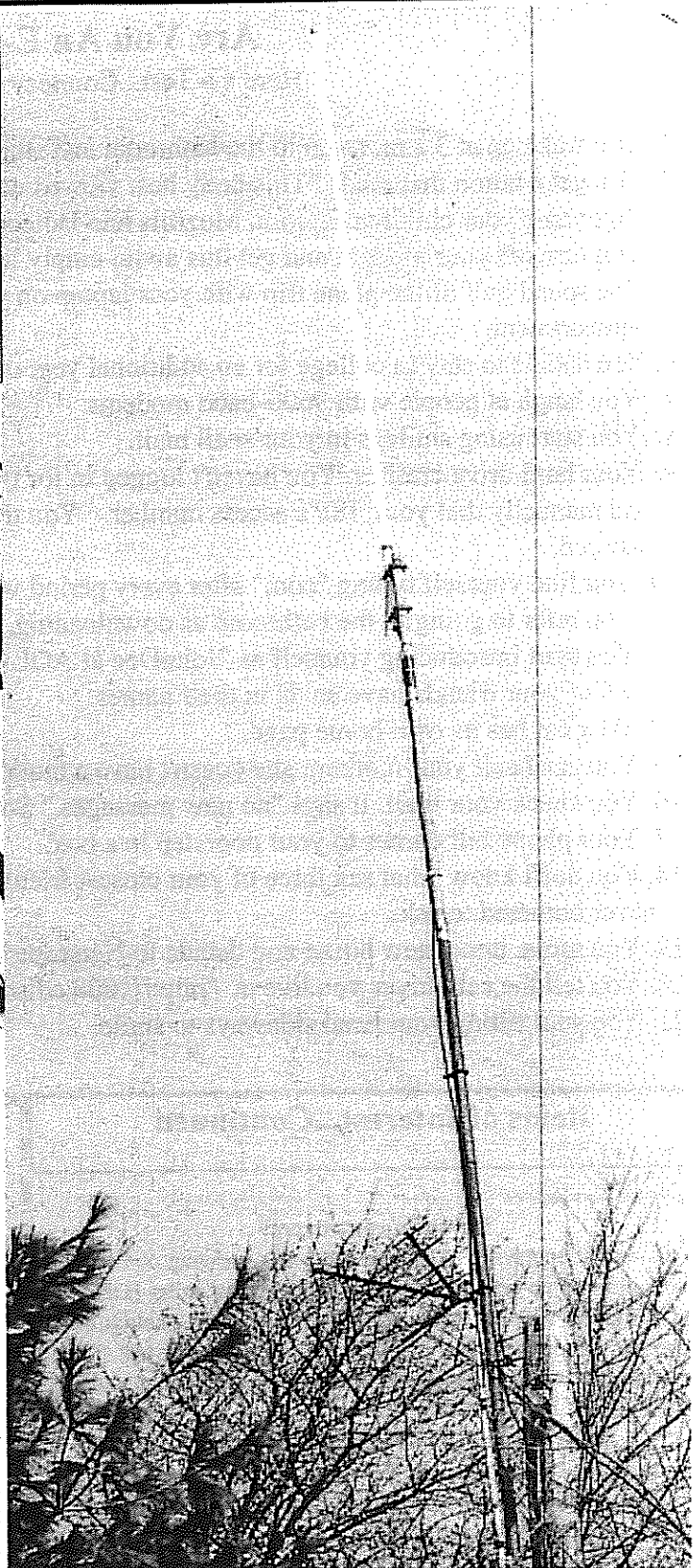


### Stratobeacon One to Fly June 7

Last year we published an article about the impending launch of a balloon that will rise to 100,000 feet, carrying 2 transmitters and a camera. Clark (N1NVK) was very involved in the preparations for the launch then, and still is.

Clark tells us that preparations are close to complete, and barring unexpected problems such as bad weather, the balloon will go up on June 7 at 10:00 AM. The instrument package will be carrying both 10 and 2 meter transmitters, along with a camera that Clark prepared for the flight. The camera will take pictures during both the ascent and descent.

The balloon will go up 5 miles and land about 20 to 30 miles downrange, which hopefully will be east-northeast of the launch point. The key to total success will be to find the instrument package after it lands. Clark characterizes the effort to do that as a "three dimensional fox hunt." Team members will employ all the tricks of the fox hunting trade to predict the direction of the landing zone, and to find the package once on the ground. If you have ever done any DFing, come on out and join the fun. You'll hear more details on the repeaters.



Look closely at the bottom of the mast, next to the phone pole...you can see how it leans out, away from the pole. Over time, the nut on the long bolt worked loose, and the constant wind movement finally made it come off.

N1NOM Photo

**Minuteman Repeater Association, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 2282**  
**Lexington, MA 02173**  
**Voice Mailbox: (508) 489-2282**

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? \_\_\_\_\_

**Equipment Available for Your Use:**

Type	No.	Mobile	Port.	Fixed	DTMF	FM	SSB	Packet	CW	Patch	Rtty
HF	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VHF	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UHF	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

**Send this form with your Dues to:**

**MMRA, P.O. Box 2282, Lexington, MA 02173**



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# ❖ The Minuteman ❖

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Volume 26 Issue 5

May 1997



## *This is the Last Issue for This Year...*

*We hope you enjoy your summer, and have plenty of time for Amateur Radio. We'll be doing a lot of infrastructure maintenance this summer, so if you hear a work party forming up, come on out and help. We usually have a few laughs, get a lot done, and get to meet new people face to face. Hope to see you this summer, and look forward to your continued support during the next membership year.*

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### Return Address:

MMRA

P.O. Box 2282

Lexington, MA 02173