



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



April, 2004

Volume 8, Number 4

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings to all,

Spring is finally here?! Seems like the "true" Minnesota winter arrived a bit late and departed shortly thereafter here in southern Minnesota. With the change in weather comes the annual resetting of the clocks, garden catalogs, and unfortunately the severe weather season. One more reminder, don't forget, Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 19-23, 2004. Severe Weather Awareness Day is Thursday, April 22, 2002, don't worry the statewide activation of the outdoor warning systems will serve as a reminder. For further information, have a look at the National Weather Service web site for the Chanhassen NWS office at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mpx/skywarn.html>. Thursday, April 22, may be a good day to practice passing EEI reports. Make up your own practice EEI and pass it on the net.

NNN0DVD has been on the air now for one full year. Over the past year we have transitioned from NNN0DWD to DVD, made changes to the routing files to handle the reorganization, implemented remote administration and endured some minor hardware issues. Not a bad record for one year of operations.

Now we need to consider the on-going maintenance of the switch – annual checks of the antennas and their support structure, rig, power supply and computer maintenance. Also under consideration is examining the possibility of a VHF link to the switch to move the remote administration from HF to VHF.

Congrats to Curt Dahleen for his appointed as Assistant to the Area Director for Training (NNN0ASG FOUR). Curt has done an excellent job as the Minnesota Training Officer, the Region Five Training Officer and I am sure will continue to do so as the Central Area Training Officer.

Ed note: Another important staff position was filled during March when Region Five Director Roger F. Greenfield appointed Tim, NNN0XEE, to the Region Five staff as Assistant To The Director Region Five (NNN0AS5 ONE). Congratulations Tim!

In March I missed the promised material about routing indicators and revisions to the administrative and third party message schematics. I apologize for missing this item in the March issue, you will find them

in this issue. (See pg.2.)

Mark your calendar now, save the date, the Minnesota Area Conference is scheduled for Saturday, June 12, in Waite Park. I have received word from Dave Ouellette, Deputy Director Central Area, he is planning on attending the Minnesota Area Conference. We have also invited Chief Michael Jeffries, our new Central Area Director to attend. Let's show Dave and Chief Jeffries our support, I encourage all Minnesota Area MARS members to plan on attending.

Enjoy this issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM. BTOVER



Happy Easter!

The MINNESOTA MARSGRAM is published for the benefit of Amateur Radio Operators in Minnesota and other interested individuals. The contents DO NOT reflect official Navy positions.

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Content Contributions Welcomed and Encouraged

MINNESOTA TRAFFIC NETS

Designator	Frequency	Local Times
5G1B	Pri. NCE Sec. NBG Ter. NAR	18:30 Daily

MINNESOTA ADMIN. NET

5G4A	Pri. NCE	19:00 2nd Sunday
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MARS DATA SYSTEM

NNN0DVD	Dial Frequency NCO AFSK/USB
Intranet site	http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars

Message Routing Designators

So you've decided to send that message. To assist you in writing your routing line, the following is a listing of the Areas and states within each area. Note, Chief Navy-Marine Corps MARS is his/her own mailbox as are each of the Area Directors.

Don't worry, the switch software files will take care of getting your message to the correct state provided you have constructed your routing line correctly.

NOASA

Chief Navy-Marine Corps MARS

NOASE

Alaska - GAB

Arizona - GAC

California

-Northern (NCA) - GAE

-Southern (SCA) - GAF

Colorado/Wyoming - GAG

Hawaii - GAN

Idaho - GAO

Montana - GBC

Nevada - GBE

Oregon - GBP

South Dakota/North Dakota (SND) - GBT

Utah - GBZ

Washington - GCC

Diego Garcia - GCN

Guam - GCM

Japan - GCJ

Okinawa - GCO

NOASF

Arkansas - GAD

Iowa - GAR

Missouri - GBB

Nebraska/Kansas - GBD

New Mexico/West Texas (NMW) - GBI

Oklahoma - GBO

Texas

-East (ETX) - GBW

-South (STX) - GBY

NOASG

Alabama - GAA

Florida - GAL

Georgia - GAM

Illinois - GAP

Indiana - GAQ

Kentucky - GAT

Louisiana - GAU

Michigan - GAY

Minnesota - GAZ

Mississippi - GBA

North Carolina - GBL

Ohio - GAB

Puerto Rico - GCR

South Carolina - GBS

Tennessee - GBU

Wisconsin - GCE

NOASI

Maine/New Hampshire/Vermont - GAV

Maryland/DC/Delaware - GAW

Massachusetts/Rhode Island - GAX

New Jersey - GBG

New York

Northern (NNY)- GBJ

Southern (SNY)- GBK

Pennsylvania - GCP

Virginia - GCB

West Virginia - GCD

Iceland - GCY

BTOVER

Additional information will be
printed in upcoming issues of
the MN MARSGRAM.

ASG & AS5 will be there!

Assemble at 11AM
Lunch at Noon
Meeting to follow

American Legion Club
Waite Park, MN

June 12, 2004
Saturday

Minnesota
Area Conference

April Fools!

FCC CHAIRMAN ASSURES CONGRESSMAN ON BPL STUDIES

Courtesy of the ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League

FCC Chairman Michael Powell has assured US Representative Greg Walden, WB7OCE, that the Commission will give “thorough consideration” to all Broadband over Power Line (BPL) studies before it takes final action on BPL. Powell responded February 3 to Walden’s January 15 letter requesting that the FCC defer any further action in its BPL proceeding until the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) releases the results of its BPL study and the public has had a chance to comment. On February 12 the FCC took the proceeding to the next level, unanimously approving the issuance of a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM). Among other provisions, the NPRM would require BPL providers to employ “adaptive interference-mitigation techniques.”

“Please be assured that we have already begun coordination of this action with NTIA,” Powell told Walden, “and that the Commission will give all studies, including the forthcoming NTIA study, thorough consideration prior to any final action or rules on the subject.” The FCC has not yet released the BPL NPRM nor invited public comments. An Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) briefing at the FCC’s February 12 open meeting indicated that the Commission would make no changes in Part 15 rules governing emissions from unlicensed devices. To date, the FCC has released only a public notice on its BPL proposals.

Walden, a member of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, had told the FCC chairman that, in view of the importance of avoiding interference to federal government HF communications, the FCC should give the pending NTIA study a thorough airing before proposing any rules to govern BPL systems. The Oregon Republican is one of two Amateur Radio licensees in the US House.

Commenting on last April’s FCC BPL Notice of Inquiry in ET Docket 03-104, the NTIA had expressed “broad concern” about the technology’s potential to cause interference to federal government users. The NTIA said the Commission “must ensure that other communications services, especially government operations, are adequately protected from unacceptable interference.”

An arm of the US Department of Commerce, the NTIA subsequently undertook evaluations of BPL field test sites, in part to gauge the technology’s interference potential. The NTIA was supposed to conclude its field work last month, and release its observations and conclusions during the first quarter of this year. The ARRL’s own BPL study, which is assessing the potential of interference both from and to BPL

systems, also is set to wrap up early this year.

Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce Michael Gallagher and NTIA head Michael Gallagher told a December meeting of BPL proponent the Power Line Communications Association that the NTIA was “studying interference risks and potential means for making risks more tolerable.” He indicated that the first phase of NTIA’s pending BPL study would recommend radiated emission limits, compliance measurement procedures and other conditions in its report to the FCC.

At the FCC’s February 12 open meeting, Powell pledged that the FCC would continue to be vigilant in the area of BPL’s interference potential. And Wride of the OET staff, who provided the broad strokes of the pending NPRM, said the FCC recognizes the concerns of licensed radio service users regarding BPL’s interference potential. Wride said “licensed operations must be protected,” but added that the OET staff believes that “these interference concerns can be adequately addressed.”

BTOVER



This Day in Naval History - April 01

From the Navy News Service

- 1893 - Navy General Order 409 of Feb. 25, 1893, establishes the rate of “chief petty officer”.
- 1942 - The first Naval Air Transportation Service (NATS) squadron for Pacific operations is commissioned.
- 1945 - More than 1,200 Navy ships and Army troops begin invasion of Okinawa.
- 1966 - U.S. Naval Forces Vietnam established as a command.
- 1967 - Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron 3 is activated at Vung Tau.

PSK NET
TUESDAY EVENING
FOLLOWING THE 5G1B NET

Daylight Savings Time

Set your clocks
Saturday April 3rd.



Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

Across

4. A phased communications readiness condition to prepare stations for an emergency condition
5. A station appointed as back-up to the appointed net control station
8. This station
9. A condition wherein normal message and telephone traffic is drastically reduced in order that messages connected with an actual or simulated emergency shall not be delayed
10. Indicating a message is not classified
12. Combination of characters or pronounceable words that identifies a communication facility, a command, an authority, or a unit.

March Crossword Solution

Across

2. ROLLINGTHUNDER—EEI identifier for Earthquake
6. IMPLEMENTATION—First message to be sent during an ecom situation
9. PROWORDS—Word equivalents of PROSIGNS
14. NNNOGAZ—Minnesota State Director Callsign
15. CONUS—Continental United States
16. IMMEDIATE—Message precedence reserved for very important messages
18. GREATLAKES—Location of Central Area headquarters
19. BOOKMESSAGE—A message which is destined for two or more addressees and is of such a nature that the originator considers no addressee need be informed of any other addressees

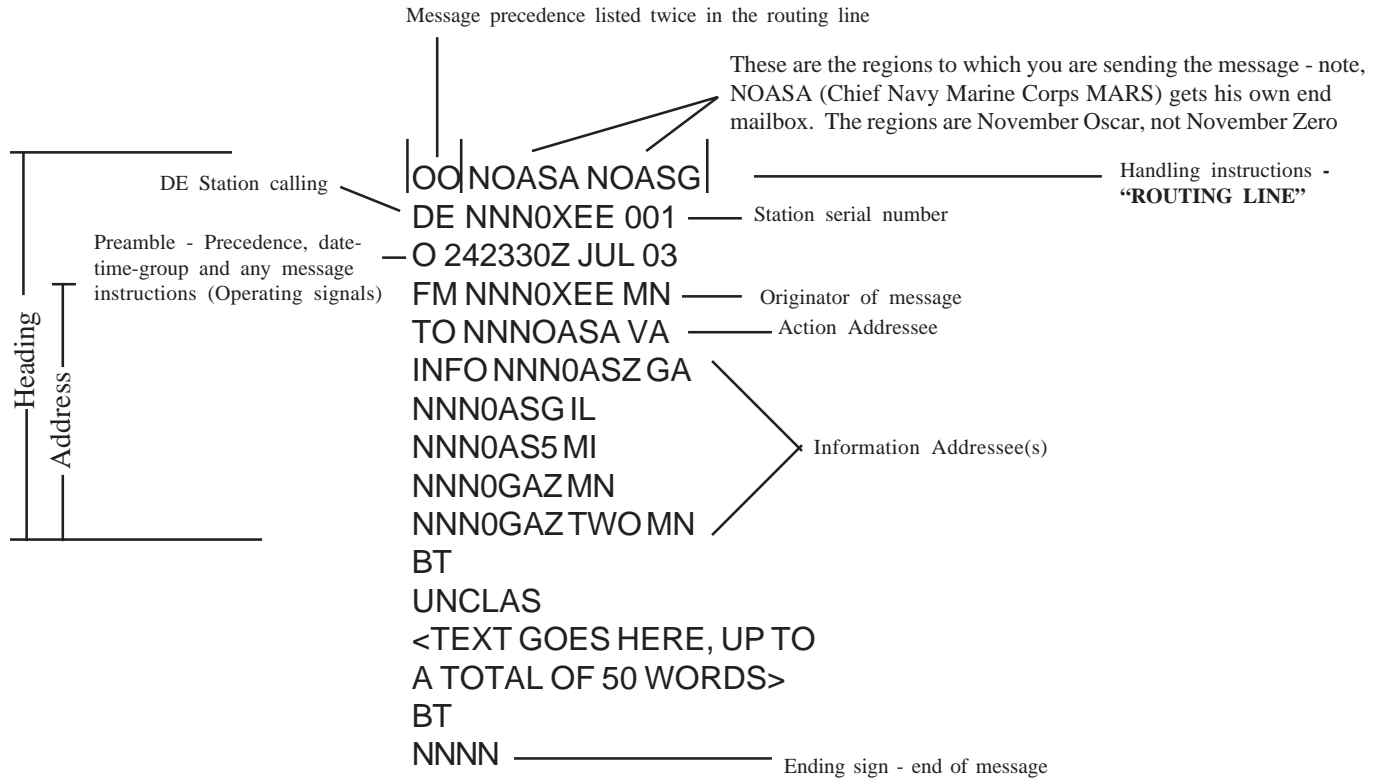
Down

1. Reply via Navy-Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System
2. Any callsign that represents two or more facilities, commands, authorities or units
3. A designation assigned to a message by the originator to indicate to communication personnel the relative order of handling
6. Arrived safely Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego CA
7. Contains the following elements of a message:Precedence, date-time-group, message instructions
11. An identifying date and time , expressed in digits and zone suffix assigned to the message when prepared for transmission

Down

1. SITREP—Situation Report
3. COMCONONE—An emergency or disaster situation is imminent
4. BO—First name of Chief Navy Marine Corps MARS
5. DAVEOUELLETTE—Region Five Director
7. MARSREPSYS—VHF Repeater System
8. QUEBEC—Phonetic for Q
10. RELAY—Transmit this message to all addresses or to the address designations immediately following
11. WILLIAMSBURG—City closest to where NAV is located
12. BOBREID—Minnesota MARSGRAM editor
13. RDN—Region Data Network
14. NORTHFIELD—Location of MN MDS station
17. WILCO—Proword for I have received your message, understand it, and will comply

Administrative Message Schematic



Important notes -

Handling Instructions/Routing Line

- The regions are November Oscar **NOT** November "Zero"
- If you are sending a message to Chief Navy-Marine Corps MARS, the Chief is his/her own "region" - NOASA

Call Line

- This is the station calling the switch, so precede the MARS call with DE followed by the station call sign. The station serial number is the number of the message at the station calling the switch.

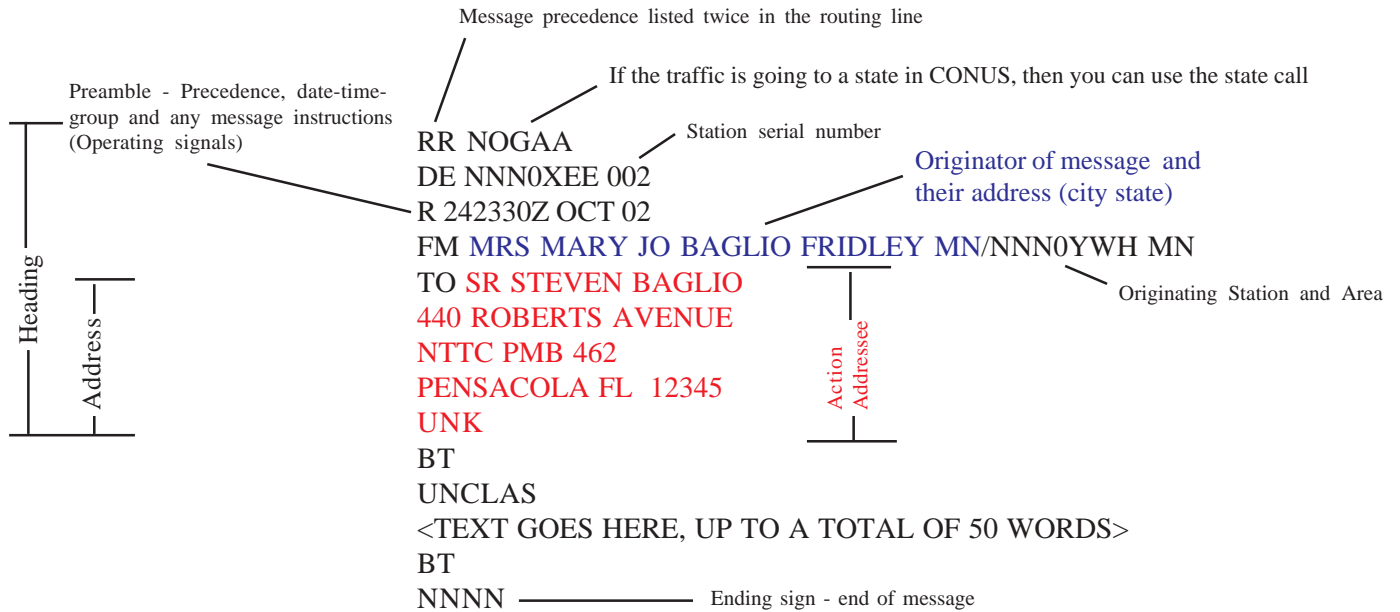
FROM (FM), TO and INFO lines

- note there is NO punctuation (colons ":"), if you put a colon in, the switch will not accept the message.

Dates to remember

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| April 3 | Reset your clocks – "spring forward" |
| April 19-23 | Severe Weather Awareness Week |
| April 22 | 1:45 PM Statewide test of outdoor warning systems |
| April 24 | FCC deadline for comments on Amateur Radio restructuring |
| May 3 | FCC deadline for comments related to BPL |
| May 8 / 15 | Armed Forces Day Crossband test – watch for a broadcast from the chief |
| June 12 | Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps MARS conference – Waite Park |

Third Party Message Schematic



Important notes -

From line (FM) - Third party messages need to include the following

- Title of the originator - only one, Mr., Ms., Miss, etc. Mr. & Mrs. is **not** acceptable
- First and Last Name of the originator
- City/Town where the third party lives
- State where the City/Town is located
- Separating slant sign (/)
- Callsign of the originating MARS station
- Originating station location

To Line - Third party message need to include the following

- Rank/Rating of the service person or Civil Service designator (GS-xx)
- First and Last Name (or initials and last name)
- Social Security Number - if unknown, show "SSN UNK"
- Branch of Service -
 - USN - Navy
 - USMC - Marine Corps
 - USAF - Air Force
 - USA - Army
 - USCG - Coast Guard

If the action addee is aboard ship, the following must also be included

- Afloat Area (AA - Atlantic, AP- Pacific) if applicable
- Call sign of Ship - if applicable

- Afloat Area (AA - Atlantic, AP- Pacific) if applicable

Address Line -

CONUS Location - include the following

- Military Activity, State and Zipcode
- Example: Camp Pendleton CA 92055

Overseas Location - include the following

- FPO or APO followed by world area designator (AA, AE, AP) and Zipcode
- Example FPO AP 96602-5432

Shipboard Addresses (if you ever get the chance to send a message to an afloat unit)

First - remember the ship must be a participant in the electronic mailbox portion of the MDS. During "at sea" periods, the ship is then authorized by a Chief MARS broadcast. *(Editor - most ships now have email or satphones, meaning MARS messages to ships are rare. This information is provided as reference should MARSGRAMS to afloat units become necessary.)*

Crew Members

- the address line contains just one item the Division or the Department

Passenger Members

- Unit and necessary sub-unit information

5G1B Net Schedule

6:30PM 4007 kHz USB

Day	NECOS	Tfc Rep
Sun.	XYA	XEE
Mon.	KZC	KZC
Tue.	XEE	XEE
Wed.	BQH	BQH
Thu.	???	???
Fri.	ACY	OCF
Sat.	Rotating Duty (see below)	
Mar 6	XEE	XEE
Mar 13	BQH	BQH
Mar 20	???	???
Mar 27	ACY	OCF



NNN0XYA	Bob Reid	4/18
NNN0KWS	Bill Strong	4/25
NNN0KZC	Al Doree	4/27

Service Recognition

NNN0YLC	Weston Ingram	39 years
NNN0PNV	Albert Ringate	24 years
NNN0XYA	Robert Reid	23 years
NNN0YWH	Robert Olson	20 years
NNN0AFU	Michael Cherney	1 year

Don't forget your paperwork!

Don't be bashful, if the net has not been called by the net control station within 2 minutes, jump in and start things rolling.

MN MARS Intranet site

<http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars>

USS McFaul Transits Suez

Suez Canal (Mar. 16, 2004) – The guided missile destroyer USS McFaul (DDG 74) leads the dock landing ship USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) through the daylong transit of the Suez Canal. McFaul and Whidbey Island are currently on deployment as part of Expeditionary Strike Group Two (ESG 2), led by the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1). ESG 2 is the first ESG to deploy from the East Coast and is currently on its way to the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR). U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class D. Keith Simmons (RELEASED)

April Fools!



Test Your Analytical Skills Across The Bridge

-Joe Eldridge, South Yarmouth, Mass.

Courtesy of Parade, Ask Marilyn

There are 4 men who want to cross a bridge. All begin on the same side. You have 17 minutes to get all of them to the other side. It is night, and there is only one flashlight. A maximum of 2 people can cross at one time, and they must have the flashlight with them. Each man walks at a different speed, but a pair must walk together at the slower man's pace. Here are the speeds: Man No. 1 takes 1 minute to cross. Man No. 2 takes 2 minutes. Man No. 3 takes 5 minutes. Man No. 4 takes 10 minutes. (For example, if Man No. 1 and Man No. 4 walk across the bridge first, 10 minutes elapse by the time they get to the other side. If Man No. 4 returns with the flashlight, a total of 20 minutes has elapsed, and your mission has failed.) Can you solve this?

Answer in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM

March Solution : Three switches and three bulbs

In a closed room are three light bulbs, and in the hall outside are three switches to these bulbs. Your task is to find which switch controls which bulb.

You can enter the closed room once. There are no other restrictions.

Each switch operates in the usual way...
up = on, down = off.

Answer: Switch **A** you never turn on, switch **B** you turn on for five minutes then off right before entering, switch **C** you turn on and leave on. Get it?

Switch **C** controls the "on" bulb when you enter, switch **B** controls the bulb that is off but still warm to the touch, switch **A** of course goes to the remaining bulb.