



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

March / April, 2006

Volume10, Number 4

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings to all. To those of you who missed/wondered what happened to the March issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM – well time got away from me, priorities changed and before I realized it the deadline for the March issue had passed and the deadline for the April issue was fast approaching. Our editor, Bob was gracious enough to agree to a March-April issue. My apologies to all.

Normally the April issue would include the announcement for the Minnesota Area Conference. This year Region Five hosts the Central Area Conference at Great Lakes on June 17th. At this time we are in the planning stage for a Minnesota Area Conference to be held later this summer. If you have a strong preference for dates, please feel free to contact AI, NNN0GAZ ONE with your suggestions.

Armed Forces Day is fast approaching – the annual military to amateur cross band test is scheduled for May 13-14, 2006. As usual, Region Five members staffing NAV4 will be making every attempt to break last year's contact record as well as out-do all the other military participants. I've learned that Craig Stundahl, former director of Region Four, will be in attendance at

NAV 4 to motivate the troops and make an attempt to fill in for Dave Ouellette, NNN0ASG ONE, who will be lounging on an Alaskan Cruise during Armed Forces Day. So lets see if we can get Senior Chief Stundahl those 1,000 contacts he has been trying to reach for all these years.

Severe Weather Awareness week in Minnesota is scheduled for April 17-21 with Tornado Awareness Day on April 20. If you are a Skywarn member, make sure to attend classes in your area. Now is the time to check that backup generator, flashlight, and the emergency supplies you keep in your home.

I encourage all of you to participate in the Thursday evening nets over the next few weeks. Bob King, NNN0GAZ FOUR/SXU, will be reviewing NTP8D (Draft) and the changes and updates made since the release of NTP8C. There are some subtle yet important changes throughout the document and some significant changes in Emergency Communications procedures. I urge all members to participate.

Over the past few months I have used

this commentary to encourage members to take the FEMA independent study courses available free and on-line. Within the past month the new requirements from the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA for those in emergency response organizations have been released. There are significant training requirements now for emergency management, emergency medical service, fire, law enforcement, and local government workers who are involved in emergency response. I cannot overstate the importance of taking the time to learn the Incident Command System (ICS), the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as well as other aspects of emergency response if you expect to be involved in any aspect of responding to an emergency – even as a volunteer. Please visit the FEMA site and go to Education and Training. The courses are available on-line and free.

As always, thank you for your participation and support of MARS program in Minnesota. Enjoy this issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM.

BT OVER

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

	Frequency
NN0DVD	NCO AFSK/USB
Intranet site	http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars

Minnesota Area Conference

This year Great Lakes plays host to the Central Area Conference the weekend of June 16-18. Normally we would assemble for our Minnesota Area conference on this weekend. To allow members to attend the Central Area Conference the Minnesota Area Conference will be held later in the summer. We are currently working on dates for the conference, if you have a strong preference for a date for the MN Area Conference, please feel free to contact Al, NNN0GAZ ONE.

This delay will allow Central Area Conference attendees to bring back information from the conference to share with other members from Minnesota. At this time it is unclear if Chief Jeffries will make the trip to Minnesota for our conference.

BT OVER

April Fools Day

Although the origin of playing practical jokes and pranks on this day is hazy, many folklorists believe that it may go back to 16th-century France. At that time, New Year's Day was March 25, with a full week of partying and exchanging gifts lasting until April 1. In 1582, the Gregorian calendar moved New Year's Day back to January 1. Those who forgot or refused to honor the new calendar were the butts of jokes and ridicule. Weather folklore states, if it thunders on All Fools' Day, it brings good crops of corn and hay.

BT OVER

April Fools!

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Central Area Conference

This year's Central Area Conference will be held at Great Lakes on June 17, 2006.

Chief Jeffries has made arrangements to have the meeting and banquet held on the Naval Base at the Port "O" Call Conference and Banquet center.

Lodging arrangements have been made at the Navy Lodge. Rooms have been blocked for members under the name "Mars Central Area Conference".

To reserve a room, please call the Navy Lodge at 847-689-1485. The price of the rooms is \$61.00 per night and Chief Jeffries has blocked the rooms from the 16th to the 18th of June.

Since the conference will be held on the Naval Base it is a must that Chief Jeffries receive an accurate head count of members and their families that will be coming to the conference for security purposes. This list will be given to the gate guard at the entrance gate so that members and their families will receive access to the Naval Base for the conference.

For those who are familiar with the Naval Base the main gate is under construction right now so you will have to enter through the hospital gate which is gate#3.

Chief Jeffries is making arrangements for a map to be posted to the Central Area website (<http://navymars.org/central/area/>) for members who are not familiar with the base and the Navy Lodge so everyone will have accurate directions.

For the Saturday morning conference meeting, there will be fresh coffee, doughnuts, and chilled fruit juices available. The morning meeting will start at approximately 8:30am on the June 17th.

The banquet dinner will feature a dinner buffet consisting of herb roasted country chicken with au jus, along with a vegetable, one starch, salad, a bread selection, regular and decaf coffee, water and iced tea, and a dessert. The price of the buffet is \$20.95 per person.

Chief Jeffries will need an accurate count of members who are staying for the banquet so the Port "O" Call will know how much food to prepare.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Central Area conference, please feel free to call or email Chief Jeffries or Dave Ouellette, NNN0ASG ONE.

Additional information about the conference will be forthcoming in later broadcasts.

BT OVER

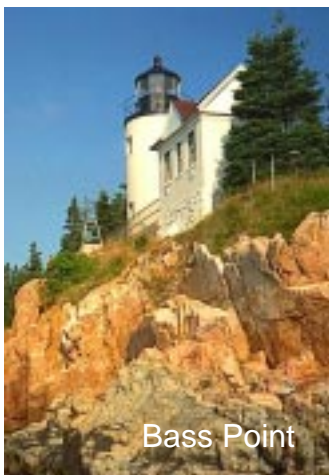




Chatham Light

Lighthouse Knowledge

A crossword puzzle grid with 13 numbered starting points for clues. The grid consists of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space.



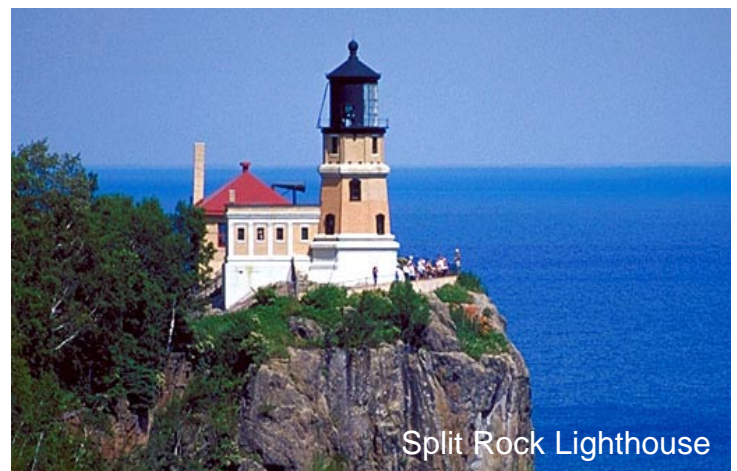
Bass Point

Across

- 2. Tallest lighthouse in the United States at 191 feet.
- 6. Newest shoreside lighthouse as the second most powerful lighthouse in the world and most powerful in the Western Hemisphere.
- 8. Which American lighthouse has the largest lens?
- 11. In 1719 the first fog signal was installed at Little Brewsters Island lighthouse, what was it?
- 12. First American-built West Coast lighthouse.
- 13. Most expensive lighthouse, adjusted cost, in the United States.

Down

- 1. One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World was a lighthouse, it is the first one that is recorded in history and was built about 280 BC.
- 3. Which was the first American Lighthouse to use electricity?
- 4. The flashes (1-4-3) from which lighthouse do romantics interpret to signal "I Love You"?
- 5. First lighthouse in the United States, built in 1716.



Split Rock Lighthouse

- 7. Highest lighthouse above sea level in the United States at 515 feet above sea level.
- 9. Oldest original lighthouse in service in the United States, located in New Jersey.
- 10. Which U. S. State has the most lighthouses?

Test Your MARS Skills

Your Region Director has sent NNN0ALL (your State) a message setting COMCON I. As a MARS operator, what are your responsibilities under CONCOM I?

- A. MARS members should effect all measures necessary to activate (to ECOM operations) on short notice. Members should curtail their daily routine as necessary to ensure readiness.
- B. MARS members should suspend all normal operations, as required, activate emergency (ECOM) networks and the ECOM plan, as necessary, and take appropriate precautions to ensure their own safety as well as that of their families or others for whom they share responsibility.
- C. You have no responsibilities, as COMCON I only means that a disaster may occur within the next 48 hours.
- D. MARS members in the affected State(s) should take preliminary precautions, test emergency power sources, locate essential items such as flashlights, ECOM plans, etc. MARS nets continue to meet on normal schedules.

- BT OVER -

Test Your MARS skills February 2006 Solution

For the purposes of complying with the maximum word limit in MARSGRAMS, how many words are in the following text: 'MY NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 618-555-2314 AND MY NEW ADDRESS IS P. O. BOX 123, ANYTOWN, IL 62254?'

Answer: 12. The telephone number and address are counted as one word, resulting in a total count of 12.

- BT OVER -

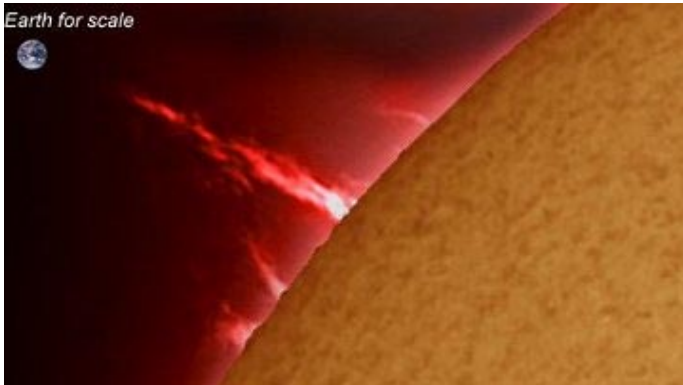
February Facts Solution



Happy
Easter!!

Solar Activity

Space Weather News (<http://spaceweather.com>) reported that “Solar activity is suddenly increasing. The biggest sunspots of the year are crossing the solar disk; one group is longer than 10 Earth diameters and poses a threat for



solar flares. Meanwhile, astronomers are monitoring a large and delightfully complex prominence dancing long the sun’s limb. Whether all this will translate into magnetic storms and auroras remains to be seen.

The aurora borealis made a surprise appearance over Michigan on April 5th, turning the sky—and the landscape—vivid green. Shawn Malone of Marquette, MI, was awake at 2 a.m. and took this picture from a beach on Lake Superior:



There was no solar flare or CME. So where did these auroras come from? Answer: The interplanetary magnetic field near Earth tilted south on April 5th, opening a crack in Earth’s magnetic defenses. Solar wind flowed in and sparked the unexpected display.

Please visit <http://spaceweather.com> for pictures and updates.

BT OVER

Navy Reserve Centers Now Navy Operational Support Centers

By Journalist 1st Class (SW/AW) Rob Kerns, Commander, Naval Reserve Force Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS (NNS) — As of March 22, all Navy Reserve Centers will now be called Navy Operational Support Centers (NOSCs).

According to OPNAV NOTICE 5450, the name was a result of the Navy’s vision for the center’s name to more accurately describe the integrated role Reserve forces play in the day-to-day planning and operational requirements of the Navy.

According to Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command Rear Adm. Craig O. McDonald, the NOSCs provide ready and fully integrated Sailors to the fleet on a daily basis.

“The name change is to show what the NOSCs actually do for the Navy. The mission will stay the same,” said McDonald.

The change does not affect Marine Corps Reserve Centers.

Naval Air Reserve commands are also renamed NOSCs and placed under appropriate Reserve Readiness Commands as Echelon V commands.

BT OVER

Homecoming



Norfolk, Va. (March 9, 2006) – A tug boat assists the guided-missile destroyer USS Donald Cook (DDG 75) pier-side at Naval Station Norfolk. Donald Cook is returning to its homeport after a six-month deployment in support of the global war on terrorism. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer’s Mate 2nd Class Gabriela Hurtado

5G1B Net Schedule

6:30PM 4007 kHz USB

Day	NECOS	Tfc Rep
Sun.	XYA	XEE
Mon.	XEE	XEE
Tue.	BQH	BQH
Wed.	KZC	KZC
Thu.	SXU	SXU
Fri.	ACY	OCF

Sat. Rotating Duty (see below)

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.

Saturday NECOS / TREP Schedule

	NECOS	TREP
Apr 01	BQH	BQH
Apr 08	SXU	SXU
Apr 15	ACY	OCF
Apr 22	XYA	XEE
Apr 29	XEE	XEE
May 01	KZC	KZC



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

Service Recognition

March

NNN0BJJ	Curtis Dahleen	33 yrs
NNN0VEU	Neil McMillin	23 yrs
NNN0VIN	Newell Thomas	20 yrs
NNN0ACY	Michael Warren	3 yrs

April

NNN0XYA	Robert Reid	25 yrs
NNN0YWH	Robert Olson	22 yrs
NNN0AFU	Michael Cherney	3 yrs

Don't forget your paperwork!

Test Your Analytical Skills Trees – How Far Apart

- Armond T. ringer, Norman, Okla.
Courtesy of Parade, Ask Marilyn

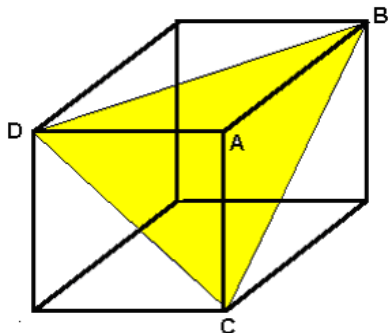
A math teacher on vacation was driving along a country road to visit an ancient castle when she noticed that the passing trees had been planted an equal distance apart. So she glanced down at her clock when the car was midway between trees and counted the number that she passed in a minute. "How interesting!" she said to herself afterward. "When I multiply the number of trees by 10, the result equals the speed of my car in miles per hour." Assuming that the speed of the car was constant and that the minute ended midway between trees, how far apart were they?

Answer in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM

February Test Solution Tetrahedron Height

Contributed by: Bruce Meyer, NNN0BQH

Answer: The distance from corner A to center of base is 0.578 times the length of one edge of the cube. (If each cube edge is 10 inches, the distance becomes 5.78 inches).



Tomcats Retired



Atlantic Ocean (March 10, 2006) - F-14D Tomcats assigned to the "Tomcatters" of Fighter Squadron Three One (VF-31) and the "Black Lions" of Fighter Squadron Two One Three (VF-213) perform a fly-by in formation over the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). VF-213 and VF-31 are completing the final deployment flying the F-14 Tomcat. For the past 30 years, the F-14 Tomcat has assured U.S. air superiority, playing a key role in ensuring victory and preserving peace around the world. The F-14 Tomcat will be removed from service and officially stricken from the inventory in September of 2006. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Michael Cole