



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

August, 2004

Volume 8, Number 8

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings to All,

I recently returned from a week of training at the National Emergency Training Center. Located in the Catoctin Mountain range. The former St. Joseph College campus was purchased by FEMA in 1979 to serve as a training facility. Today the campus is home to the United States Fire Administration (USFA) - which includes the National Fire Academy (NFA)) and the Emergency Management Institute (EMI).

The training I participated in was Integrated Emergency Management-Preparedness and Response. Quite an interesting course with instruction in fire, law enforcement, public works, EMS, community organizations, state and federal service response to emergencies and disasters. The instructors came from across the nation – our fire service instructor was the Fire Chief from Lake Havasu City; the law enforcement instructor was a Lieutenant from the Philadelphia Police Department and our public works instructor was from the Carson City, just to give you some example.

The class learned about the role of each service in response to emergencies and disasters – both big and small. To

put our classroom experience to the test we had three days of disaster simulations ranging in length from two to six hours. Each simulation built on the scenario from the previous day – culminating in a full day exercise on our final day in class. Did we get to use police cars, fire trucks and ambulances? No – these simulations were functional exercises, but believe me the phone calls, faxes, radio traffic, and TV news bulletins had you believing that you were working in a full blown emergency operations center handling various situations involving local, county and state agencies and resources. The class learned how to work with policy; planning and operations groups in order to manage the various incidents, call for the resources needed, and ask for state and federal assistance when appropriate.

What I found interesting in relation to amateur radio was that every instructor and even the classroom materials viewed amateur radio as an important part of community preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters. Instructors

were able to give an example of how amateur radio had been of assistance to their department or organization during an emergency. Running short of dispatchers – find an amateur radio operator with good communication, listening and net operation skills. While MARS was not mentioned by name – neither was ARES or RACES, the instructors and material referenced amateur radio operators as trained communicators able to handle difficult conditions with professionalism.

So you see, we do provide a valuable service and while we don't always hear a thank you, or it seems like we are invisible, we are not. There are people within the emergency response agencies that are well aware of the resource, know how to use it, and have come to count on it. For these reason it is important that we continue to plan and execute communication exercises – from the simple relay of training messages to multi-area/multi-region exercises with real life scenarios. Sometimes these exercises may seem mundane or a nuisance, but they are important and

GAZ cont'd page 2

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.

EDITOR: Bob Reid NNN0XYA / NNN0GAZ3

Snail Mail: 13600 Princeton Circle

Savage, MN. 55378-2625

E-Mail: n0bhc@aol.com

Minnesota State Coordinator:

Tim Isom NNN0XEE / NNN0GAZ

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
------	----------	---------------------

MARS DATA SYSTEM

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

So what happened to the Minnesota Switch?



On Tuesday, July 27, the sysop for NN0DVD was alerted to the fact that while the switch was answering calls, it was not greeting users with the usual logon message. A quick trip to the switch revealed that the computer's hard drive had failed and hardware replacement was necessary.

The sysop had on hand a Pentium class machine with two internal drives. Operating system software was installed followed by the installation and configuration of the AA4RE program. Unfortunately the Pentium class machine and the TNCs were not able to communicate well and continuous critical errors with responses between the TNCs and computer rendered this option useless. We continue to investigate the issue with hopes that the Pentium class machine can serve as a backup switch in the future.

NNN0ASG ONE sent a 540 MB hard drive preinstalled with an operating system and AA4RE. While this drive was in transit to MN, an 840 MB hard drive was located and installed. The AA4RE program was configured on this larger drive and it serves as the primary drive in the switch computer. The smaller drive is also installed and contains a mirror image of the primary drive – so if the primary fails it will be a short interruption to remove the primary and move the backup drive into the operating position.

cont'd col. 2

GAZ *Cont'd from page 1*

they keep us ready when the call does come.

Do I plan to use my training from the NETC for MARS purposes? Yes. I learned some valuable lessons in how to assess, plan, train for, and administer exercises. I hope to impart this to other members of the area staff. I hope that all of you will benefit from future exercises and training.

Now for some housekeeping...at this time we are still waiting for details and final arrangements to be announced concerning the Region Five Conference. Please keep in mind that with the announcement of conference details comes the time to submit nominations for Communicator of the Year and Member of the Year from Region Five. If you have someone you would like to nominate, please contact me so I can begin to gather the necessary materials for the nomination. Nominations from State Directors are due to the Region in September.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer and this issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM. We look forward to hearing each of you on one of our evening nets.

BT OVER

At this time the sysop for NN0MDH is sending message files containing Chief MAR Broadcasts, Chief MARS info Broadcasts and Region Five Broadcasts for import into the switch. These files will assist us in restoring some of the historical data that was lost with the hard drive crash.

In addition the sysop has some additional work to restore remote system management to the switch. Thank you for your continued patience as we work through the restoration.

To date Minnesota MARS members have had very little cost associated with this switch. At this time assistance is needed in building a spare/backup parts stock for the switch.

The current computer is a 486 DX66 with eight ISA card slots and 8 30-pin memory slots. We are running the machine using 8 – 4MB 30 pin SIMMs.

Here is a list of things to be on the lookout for:

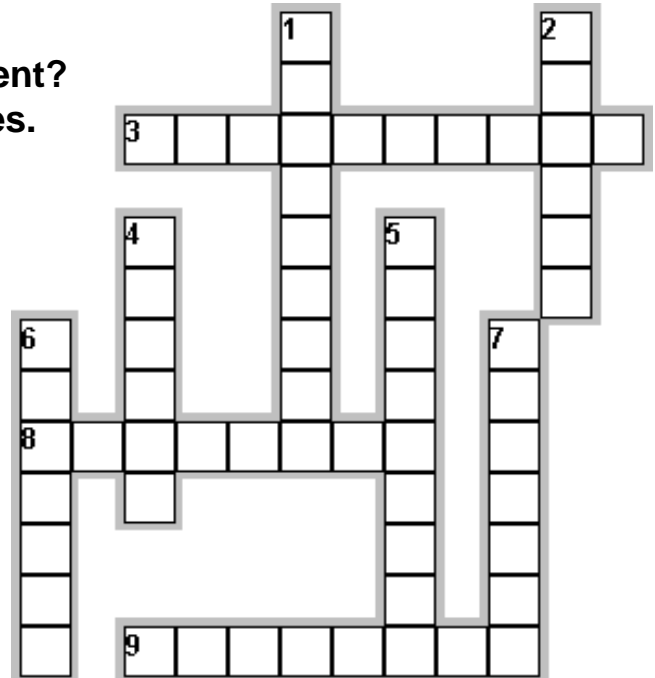
- VGA monitor - we have replaced one monitor already.
- VGA card – ISA or VLB (that's right the current machine is using a VLB vga card). If you have documentation for the card or can locate and print documentation for the card that is a big help.
- Hard drive controller card – ISA or VLB (again the current machine is using a VLB card), if you have documentation for the card, or can locate and print documentation from the manufacturer that would be a great help. Trying to figure out jumper settings without documentation is a pain.
- Hard drive – got a small hard drive 540 MB or above? We could use it. Remember most of these hard drives have been in previous installations so their life expectancy is shorter.
- 486 motherboard with processor – the faster the better. Documentation is also a big plus.
- 486 processor.
- 30 pin SIMMs.
- A storage box to keep the parts in - any cards will need to be packaged in static bags.

If we are able to get the Pentium class machine to work successfully with the TNCs and function in an acceptable manner, the list of spare/backup parts will change. We are continuing to experiment with the Pentium class machines and the AA4RE package. We'll keep you posted on any progress.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the NN0DVD sysop.

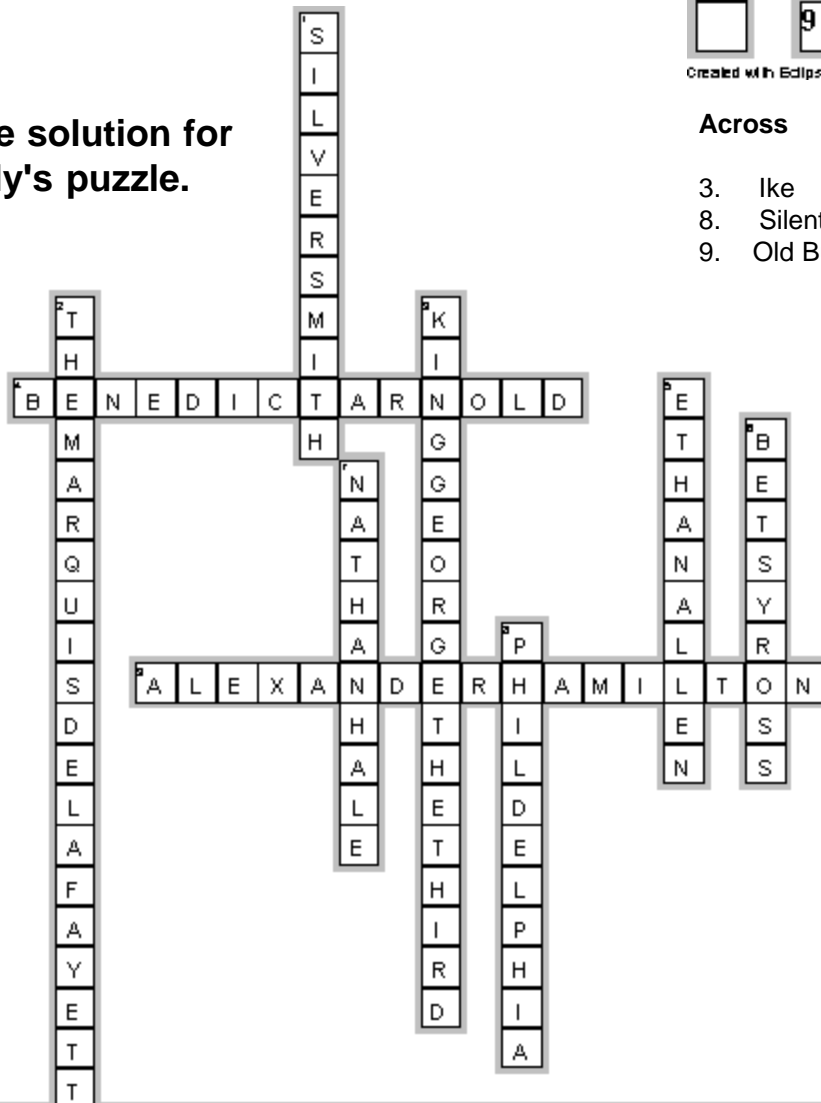
BT OVER

Who Was That President? Presidential Nicknames.



Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

The solution for July's puzzle.



Across

- 3. Ike
- 8. Silent Cal
- 9. Old Buck

Down

- 1. Grover the Good
- 2. Handsome Frank
- 4. Old Rough and Ready
- 5. Long Tom
- 6. Old Hickory
- 7. Jemmy

10 W H E N I N T H E C O U R S E O F H U M A N E V E N T S

Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

Q and Z signals used on PSK-31

By: AI NNN0KZC

The following Q and Z signals may be used on the PSK net. This is a quick reference for your use. If you know of others that may shorten communications, please let me know.

Again, the PSK net is on Tuesday evening following the 5G1B traffic net. Until they (Chief Mars frequency coordinator) change the time of that other region's traffic net that starts at 0001Z, I will try to end the PSK net so as not to interfere with that net.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to become active on PSK. You need not worry about making mistakes because this is a training exercise. PSK may become important for traffic handling in the event voice doesn't work, PSK can get through when conditions are such that voice is hard to copy.

I welcome all comments or suggestions on ways to improve the net and use of Q and Z signals.

QCX Use your full call sign until further notice.

INT QRH Des my frequency vary?

QRH Your frequency varies.

QRM I am being interfered with

QRN I am troubled by static

QRU I have nothing for you

INT QRZ Who is calling me?

QRZ You are being called by....

INT QSB Are my signals fading?

QSB Your signals are fading

INT ZBO Of what precedence(s) and for whom is (are) your message(s)?

ZBO I have (or...has)...(numeral followed by precedence prosing for each message(s))

ZEU Exercise (drill) message

ZGN Nothing heard from you (or...) (since...)

ZKA I am (or...is) controlling station (NECOS) on this frequency

ZKB It is necessary to obtain the permission of the controlling station (NECOS) before transmitting messages

ZKD Take control of net (for...) Until...)?

ZKE I (or...) report(s) into circuit (net)

ZKJ ...1) close down (until...); 2) I am closing down (until...)

ZRC Tune your transmitter to ...1) proper frequency; 2) zero beat with my (or...) transmitter

ZSO Send tapes (or messages)...1) once; 2) twice

ZUJ Stand by

BT OVER

Monthly Participation Reports

(From CMBI2904)

Quarterly reports - each quarter I receive reports from each state via region and area directors. I use the data from these reports when presenting the NAVMARCORMARS program to others. Here is the data I extracted from the just received second quarter 2004 activity reports:

AREA	MBRS	MSGS	HOURS	HRS/MBR	MSGS/MBR
NORTHEAST	430	2712	17209	40.0	6.3
SOUTH	279	3182	11814	42.3	11.4
CENTRAL	602	4463	23886	39.7	7.4
PACIFIC	375	8444	20851	55.6	22.5

the over 73,000 hours of reported participation (how much goes unreported?) Is my strongest selling point when selling NAVMARCORMARS to other agencies. Your hard work is much appreciated and people to whom I present this data are amazed. Keep up the good work.

Here is the format for the monthly activity report for Minnesota.

R _____ Z ____ 0__

FM NNN0_ __ /MN

TO NNN0GAZ THREE MN

BT

UNCLAS

SUBJECT: Participation Report ____ 0__

1. {Hours participation in other than the 5G1B MINNESOTA net. Be sure and include MDS log-ins.}

FREQ.	MODE	HRS.
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2. {Monitor}

FREQ.	MODE	HRS.
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3. {Hours Admin, Construction, Repair, Study, Meetings, etc}

_____ Hrs.

Section #1

- Report frequency using designators from the matrix. Plus or minus frequency notes are not needed.
- When reporting frequencies not in the matrix, VHF Repeaters, etc, show the actual frequency i.e. 148.01/143.99

Reports cont'd page 5

REWARD OFFERED

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for the information leading to the arrest of hop-a-long capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named milli henry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving dc motor over a wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.

If encountered, he may offer series of resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned ohm via a short circuit

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend eddy current who was playing a harmonic.

A bit of humor written by Mr. Mark Bushnell, Director of Engineering at CCA Electronics, the transmitter people.

Reports *cont'd from page 4*

- Modes do not need to be more specific than USB, Pactor, PSK31, FM, etc.

Section # 2

- Report frequencies you monitor such as area, region, or CONUS emergency frequencies, afloat net, etc.

Section # 3

- Report total hour for the month in off-air administrative activity. Examples of activities could include; downloading, reading, and filing internet broadcasts, updating NTP8-C from broadcasts, NTP8-C study time, etc. Don't forget the time to complete the monthly report! (Everyone submitting a report could log at least one hour.)

Training Opportunities

From WorldRadio Search & Rescue Communications by Jerry Wellman, W7SAR

WorldRadio March 2004

It seems like the "hurrier I go" the "behinder I get." Years ago I foolishly thought that once my kids were on their own, I could settle down and just enjoy a must slower-paced life. 'Taint so, McGoo. It's an urban legend! For some reason, I seem to be busier than ever with even less time to call "spare."

Let's talk training. Before I tell you about exciting things at FEMA, I must again plug the ARRL's ARECC (Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course) on-line classes. Please give some serious thought to taking these three courses! They're top notch. I love the way the "mentor" program works. The course costs you \$45 if you're an ARRL member, you get your bucks back when you complete the course! This means you get the education for free. (Not to mention the nifty wallet card and certificate.)

The ARECC courses are not overly complicated. They're challenging and cause you to think, but that's a good thing! The mentors I've had for the three courses I took have been just GREAT! They've shared ideas, allowed me to bounce my crazy thoughts with them and get their feedback. By all means, SIGN UP! Go to www.arrl.org and get with the program. (By the time you're reading this I should have completed mentor training and may show up as your mentor!)

What is happening with FEMA independent study? There are courses appearing almost every month (or so it seems). Go to www.fema.org, click on the "education and training" link, and see what's there. Best of all, it's free! At last glance there are more than 25 courses and they're all topnotch. If you don't want to take the course (and why you wouldn't, I can't imagine) you can download the materials. If you sign up for the course, FEMA sends you the materials in printed form, gives you a year to complete the course, and then gives you a nice certificate when you're done. What a deal! (And you get educated.)

Some years ago FEMA offered a nice program called the "Professional Development Series" which then required you to attend classes sponsored by your state emergency services or to attend classes at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute. Guess what? You can now complete the PDS courses at home - independent study! Some of the in-person courses required several days or a week to complete. My vacation time was often taken up with Scout camps and the like, so this is great news.

Training cont'd page 6

Training *cont'd from page 5*

To get your certificate of completion in the professional series, you need to complete seven courses. These seven are: Principles of Emergency Management, Emergency Planning, Effective Communication, Decision Making and Problem Solving, Leadership and Influence, Developing and Managing Volunteers, and Exercise Design. I had completed a couple of these but had not been able to schedule time for the others. Now, I can take them as "independent study" and finish my PDS certificate. What a great thing!

There some other great courses available and new ones coming along all the time. There are some general courses such as "Emergency Preparedness, USA" and some specifics like "Engineering Principles and Practices for Retrofitting FloodProne Residential Structures." There is a new course for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and several concerning hazardous materials.

Let's be frank. You have no excuse not to get with some sort of training. You can take the ARRL's ARECC courses on line or take the FEMA courses in the comfort of your easy chair. If you're reading this column and have an interest in emergency communication (emcomm), you need to get involved in continual education. Not only does this stimulate your brain, it causes you to become more valuable as a volunteer. You can't just make the excuse that you have a radio and are therefore qualified for emcomm. Things are changing, often daily. Keeping current is critical if you want to be taken seriously as an emergency communications asset. *(GAZ Note: We have an active ARRL ARERCC mentor in our MN MARS ranks- Bob Reid, NNN0XYA)* BT OVER



The Fouled Anchor

The Fouled Anchor is the emblem of the Rate of Chief Petty Officer of the United States Navy. Attached to the Anchor is a length of chain and the letters U.S.N. To the novice, the anchor, chain and letters only identify a Chief Petty Officer of the United

States Navy, but, to a Chief, these have a more noble and glorious meaning.

The "U" stands for Unity, which reminds us of cooperation, maintaining harmony and continuity of purpose and action. The "S" stands for Service, which reminds us of service to our God, our fellow man and our Navy. The "N"

cont'd col. 2

CPO Indoctrination and Training



Millington, Tenn. (Aug. 2, 2004) - Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Selectees assigned to Naval Support Activity Mid-South start their first week of training by building "Egg Divisions," during a six-week odyssey in order to don a set of fouled anchors and become CPOs at the conclusion of their Chief Petty Officer Indoctrination and Training. The selectees use eggs to simulate a division of Sailors that they will one day lead. The egg division will be used to simulate a variety of personnel issues they will encounter as Navy CPOs, such as disciplinary, administrative, medical and personal problems they may face. U.S. Navy Sailors who are selected for promotion from E-6 to E-7 voluntarily submit to six weeks of arduous physical training, practical team building and leadership exercises that will prepare them for their new duties and responsibilities as CPOs. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Chris Desmond (RELEASED)

BT OVER

stands for Navigation, which reminds us to keep ourselves on a true course so that we may walk upright before God and man in our transactions with all mankind, but especially with our fellow Chiefs.

The Chain is symbolic of flexibility and reminds us of the chain of life that we forge day by day, link by link and may it be forged with Honor, Morality and Virtue.

The Anchor is emblematic of the hope and glory of the fulfillment of all God's promises to our souls. The golden or precious Anchor by which we must be kept steadfast in faith and encouraged to abide in our proper station amidst the storm of temptation, affliction and persecution.

BT OVER

