



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

February, 2005

Volume 9, Number 2

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings to all. After our brown Christmas and just as I thought the snow drought here in southern Minnesota would continue, we got a little visit from old man winter. While clearing snow is not one of my favorite activities, I do like the view now that everything is covered in white – it feels like winter in Minnesota, finally. I wonder what the groundhog will predict on February 2.

This month you'll find a new feature, Test Your MARS skills. We will try, on a monthly basis, to find unique and challenging questions about the MARS program or procedures that will have most of us looking at NTP8(C) to find the answer. Those of you involved in training may find these questions familiar. From the message handling exercise message that I copied recently, it appears that this exercise has probably run its course. For the station holding the most recent message, please consult the November MARSGRAM for instructions on concluding the exercise. I am looking for input from members on a new message exercise, if you have ideas on an exercise, please feel free to share them with me and we will develop a new exercise.

As all of you are aware, MARS underwent reorganization last year – but how many of us really understand the organizational structure and who's who in the new structure. We've been working on a detailed organizational chart that will hopefully give you the information you need to know as a MARS member in Minnesota. The chart is probably larger than we want to print here, so look for this chart to be placed on the Intranet site at www.communityzero.com/mnmars. We will let you know where the chart is located.

Remember, we are in need of a NECOS/TREP substitute for Thursday evenings through March. This is not a permanent assignment, so if you want to try your hand at the NECOS, TREP or both let Bob Reid, NNN0GAZ THREE know and we will put you on the schedule. You can take one week, two, or the whole assignment.

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

MARS email account

All Navy-Marine Corps MARS members are eligible to participate in the email program established at navymars.org. Basic information about the email program was provided by NNN0AST in the message dated R 301544Z DEC 04.

If you had previously enrolled in the Navy-Marine Corps MARS email program, your email address was transferred to this new email program. To establish a new e-mail account go to <http://navymars.org>, click on navymars.org e-mail accounts which will take you to the gateway for the password protected site with the instructions on setting up a new account. Detailed instructions on using the new e-mail program are posted at <http://navymars.org/safeplace/e-mail-instructions.htm>.

Email cont'd pg. 2

Remember our Presidents

Presidents' Day Feb 21, 2005

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 |

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 Switch Operations

The recent “misbehavior” of the switch is not the result of failing HF equipment, TNCs or computer hardware. There are a couple of issues at work.



First, and probably insignificant, was the discovery of an editing problem in one of the files that operates the AA4RE software – this coding problem would let the software initiate properly but always send messages that the program was not properly installed. Thorough proofreading of all the underlying files finally solved the coding mystery.

The other factor affecting switch operations has been the stability or should we say instability of electrical power at the EOC. In November the generator for the station underwent routine maintenance. Unfortunately, we found that the fail-over equipment to take the EOC from commercial to generator power was not functioning properly. As luck would have it, since November the station has sustained a number of electrical service interruptions – all of them beyond our control. While we have UPS systems in place, these units are not designed to allow continuous use of the connected equipment. You guessed it, the most recent interruptions caused some problems for our digital equipment.

Within the past week, the fail-over equipment has been repaired and we are in the process of replacing UPS batteries. In addition, within the next month the electrical service within the EOC will be placed on a large UPS capable of supporting all the computer, weather and digital equipment in the EOC. This solution will hopefully prevent future problems and allow us to control our equipment better. Bear with us as there may be some interruptions to allow for installation and testing of our new system.

BT OVER



Email *cont'd from pg. 1*

Members should only establish their personal callsign accounts. Minnesota Area staff member accounts have not yet been established, this process will be handled by NNN0GAZ.

At this time the Minnesota Area has not staffed the NNN0GAZ Five position, questions regarding the email program, username and password to access the password protected site are to be directed to NNN0GAZ.

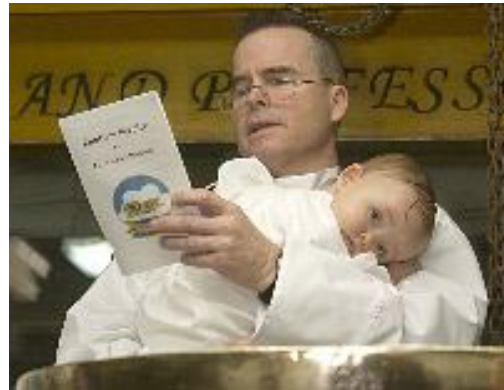
BT OVER

Test Your MARS Skills

The NECOS of a MARS voice net issues the following instructions to his members: ‘NNN0OBT, THIS IS NNN0ACL. CALL NNN0AS5 TWO, NNN0BUX and NNN0GAP. NNN0BUX RELAY TO NNN0AS5, NNN0GAP RELAY TO NNN0ASG, AND PASS YOUR MESSAGE’. What are NNN0BUX’s responsibilities with regard to this transmission?

- A. He is to copy and receipt for the message transmitted by NNN0OBT and either relay or deliver the message to NNN0AS5.
- B. He is to copy and receipt for the message transmitted by NNN0OBT and relay the message to NNN0AS5 TWO.
- C. He is to copy the message in case someone else loses it.
- D. He is to copy the message as it is transmitted by NNN0OBT and relay the message to NNN0ASG.

BT OVER



Yokosuka, Japan (Dec. 19, 2004) - Command Chaplain Cmdr. Michael L. Schutz baptizes a young child on the flight deck of the conventionally powered aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63). The parents of the young child chose to observe the time-honored naval tradition of baptizing their daughter using the ship’s bell. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer’s Mate Airman Raul Quinones



Income Tax Information

Possible MARS Deductions

For most of us this is the time of year that income tax forms, W2s, 1099s and everything else related to filing our tax statements for the past year begins arriving in the mail. As you prepare your taxes, you may wish to review Chief Navy-Marine Corps MARS Info broadcast DTG 061200Z FEB 04 (CHNAVMARCORMARS INFO BCST 05-04). The Chief of Navy-Marine Corps MARS provided the following list as a guide to MARS related items are deductible.

(GAZ note: We typically see a broadcast for the current calendar year in early February. Some of you may have already begun preparations so use this list as a reference and watch for a new broadcast. As always, for definitive answers, consult your tax preparer or contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or via the internet at www.irs.gov)

Income Tax deductions for MARS

Basically, you can deduct non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses incurred solely for the purpose of participating in MARS operations.

Allowable Deductions include:

- Cost of equipment, maintenance and repair, provided the equipment is used **EXCLUSIVELY**, repeat, **EXCLUSIVELY** for MARS operations.
- Cost of electric power used to perform or support MARS operations. A prorated portion of your total home bill is allowable. You can include power consumption for primary equipment, as well as station lighting and test or ancillary/auxiliary equipment. Ensure you keep supporting records/logs.
- Mileage, tolls, meals and lodging required for participating or attendance at MARS meetings or events. *(GAZ note – did you attend the area or region conference?)*
- Consumable items used **EXCLUSIVELY** for MARS operations.
- Telephone costs necessary to coordinate and/or perform MARS operations.

The following are **NOT allowable deductions**:

- Contribution of services (ie., you **CANNOT** deduct for your time).
- Cost of equipment, maintenance and repair, if the equipment is also used for any other purpose besides MARS.

The Chief goes on to state in this broadcast that “this is a very brief and non-authoritative summary. If you have specific questions, you should consult your tax preparer or call the IRS toll-free number

BT OVER

Collective Callsigns

Collective callsigns can be confusing when encountered in the address and info addree sections of a message. Listed below are some of the more common collective callsigns and PLADs you are likely to see in routine administrative traffic. This information should help the NECOS in routing the traffic for delivery to the proper individual(s). See the latest version of NTP8C Annex K for more complete information.

NNNØAFL: All members and staff of the Afloat and Overseas Operations Specialty Network

NNNØALC: All Navy-Marine Corps MARS Area Coordinators

NNNØALD: All Navy-Marine Corps MARS Region Directors

NNNØALL: All Navy-Marine Corps MARS Radio Stations

The size of a predetermined group identified by a collective call sign may be limited by the use of region, state or specialty network designator.

NNNØALL CENTRAL AREA - All Navy-Marine Corps MARS Radio Stations Central Area

NNNØALL REGION FIVE - All Navy-Marine Corps MARS Radio Station Region Five

NNNØALL MINNESOTA or NNNØALL MN - All Navy-Marine Corps MARS Radio Stations in Minnesota

Plain Language Address Designator (PLAD)

PLAD's generally are not used in everyday MARS operations, but they are the established way of identifying addressees in a standard military message. Deviations from the PLAD in spelling, spacing or formatting cannot be tolerated by automated equipment in the Naval Telecommunications System. Therefore, changes or deviations are not authorized. The use of PLAD's as addresses in messages is limited to Chief MARS, directors, area coordinators, and their assistants. PLAD's and call signs in message headings shall

Collective Calls cont'd pg. 5

Now can I go
back to bed?



I'm a Groundhog,
not a Weatherman!

Emergency Exercises

Jim Wades, WB8SIW

WorldRadio, February 2005

Recent Federal Homeland Security grant funding has resulted in a significant increase in the number of emergency management exercises conducted throughout the United States. In many cases local Amateur Radio organizations are participating in such activities. Therefore, it may be helpful to provide a brief overview of the types of exercises typically conducted by emergency management organizations.

The most basic emergency management exercise is the Orientation. An Orientation is designed to familiarize personnel with the emergency management process and their particular role in emergency response. For example, an individual newly assigned to the EOC may be invited to tour the facility and related areas. His role may be explained in some detail, and specific instructions are provided on how things should be done within the EOC environment.

Next in the list of exercises is the Drill. A Drill tests a single emergency management function (i.e. Alert and Notification; Law Enforcement; Fire Service; Communications, etc.). Drills often involve a specific team, which may be deployed to the field to conduct a specialized operation, such as fire-fighting, a simulated hazardous materials response, or to establish communications between a remote location and a control center. Drills are typically conducted on a periodic basis throughout the year, and are design to insure that rank and file personnel are comfortable with their assigned roles and responsibilities. Drills permit personnel to develop a high level of expertise in their specific job duties.

The Tabletop exercise typically tests key decision makers by presenting a scenario and seeking input and discussion on the best methods for response. In many cases, the table-top exercise will involve EOC staff as well as key personnel from related public and private sector agencies. During a Tabletop exercise, a moderator presents scenario. As the scenario evolves, participants engage in problem solving and discussion. This type of exercise lacks a time-line and message flow. Therefore, there is minimum "time pressure" on participants, the purpose being to generate ideas, insights, and greater familiarity with the organization's emergency operations plan (EOPs) and capabilities. This works best when the moderator "steers" the progress of the exercise to keep things interesting and challenging for participants.

The Functional exercise is of significantly greater complexity. In this evolution, the scenario is developed against a time line and message flow. For example, the EOC may be activated, and key decision makers are presented with simulated messages and information flow representing those

emergency management operations, which would typically -be occurring in the field. However, in the case of a Functional exercise, the only physical activity taking place is within the EOC itself. No "troops" are actually deployed to the outside world.

The Functional exercise offers many of the advantages of both the Tabletop and Full-Scale exercises without the cost of the later. The ability to add the increased pressure of an evolving scenario, time-line, and message flow adds greatly to the realism of the event.

The most complex, and most realistic exercise is the Full-Scale exercise. Full-Scale exercises simulate an entire disaster scenario. Not only do we have an EOC activation, time-line, and message flow, we may add simulated disaster victims and a full "troop deployment" to the field. In a sense, one might say that a Full-Scale exercise is a functional exercise combined with numerous integrated drills occurring at the same time.

Full-Scale exercises may be quite realistic, but they are also the most labor intensive and expensive for a unit of government to conduct, due to overtime considerations, material usage, and so forth. Therefore, most emergency-management programs conduct a Full-Scale exercise every four years or so.

Ideally, a local emergency management program should be conducting a cycle of emergency management exercises. Orientations should be conducted throughout a typical year, as new personnel become involved in the emergency planning process. Specialized functions, such as law enforcement, tactical units, fire service, the HAZMAT team, and others should be well drilled in their assigned area of responsibility.

A Tabletop exercise offers an excellent prelude to more complex exercises. It also provides an excellent return on investment by forcing key decision makers to problem solve while being educated about the emergency management process with minimal time demands and expense. Tabletop exercises can then be followed by Functional and then Full-Scale events in succeeding years, thereby allowing staff and personnel to be brought "up-to-speed" in an efficient manner at reasonable cost.

Applying exercises to Amateur Radio

Most ARES and RACES groups conduct a weekly or monthly "net." Unfortunately, such nets often do little to "drill" personnel. Rather, they often devolve into a simple

Exercise cont'd pg. 5

Exercise *cont'd from pg. 4*

“round table” discussion with a few announcements about upcoming meetings and activities.

Instead of conducting another “round table,” emergency communications organizations are encouraged to make use of this time by conducting a few drills. For example, one net per month could involve a drill testing a specific communications procedure, such as application and use of the proper phonetic alphabet. Operators can be called upon to spell difficult chemical names or similar data using the ITU phonetic alphabet. Another evening could involve the formatting and transmission of a standard NTS radiogram. Still others could involve a brief training topic on some aspect of emergency communications.

During pleasant weather conditions, teams or individuals could deploy to a nearby park (or even their backyard) to set up a portable station as part of the weekly net process. This insures that emergency power systems and portable equipment is always ready in time of emergency.

A Tabletop Exercise makes an excellent subject for a regular ARES business meeting. The EC can develop a basic scenario and evolution. The members can then discuss how best to respond to the scenario as it evolves, utilizing the tools and capabilities available within the Amateur Radio community. Lessons learned may include information on the types of capabilities and modes, which need to be developed, areas in which additional training needs to be applied, and potential shortcomings, which may, require mutual aid or cooperation with surrounding jurisdictions.

Because Amateur Radio falls under the category of a specific emergency management function (communications), our personnel typically do not deal with the “big picture” of emergency response. Therefore, it is difficult to develop a true Functional or Full Scale exercise for an ARES or RACES group. However, variations on the theme are certainly possible.

Key station staff can be tested in a manner similar to a functional exercise. Operators in the field at both the local and State/Section level can be provided with pre-formatted messages for transmission to a control point. Operators then process the messages (i.e. copy, log, transmit/deliver them) under the pressure of net conditions and a timeline. Such an activity provides some of the pressures of a disaster situation while testing key skills, such as the ability to keep a radio log (activity log), transcribe messages onto the necessary EOC or radiogram message forms, and so forth. This activity may also expose such overlooked issues as a need for headphones at the operating position, poor antenna efficiency, or potential problems with software and computer equipment.

As is often done with the Simulated Emergency Test (“SET”), an ARES group can conduct a rough equivalent of a full scale exercise by deploying operators to key locations, such as hospitals, fire stations, mass care facilities and so forth. They can then be provided with some time-stamped, sealed messages to originate at specific times during the exercise. This provides many of the characteristics of a full-scale event, but can be conducted at a time convenient for volunteers. While it lacks critical interaction with first-responders, it does nonetheless provide many key elements of a full-scale event.

Why conduct exercises and training?

Simply getting on the air and chatting does not prepare one for emergency communications. It is necessary to develop a unique set of skills specific to emergency communications through drills, exercises, and on-air activities, such as traffic nets and related programs. Amateur Radio emergency programs -are encouraged to exercise their personnel on the fundamental components of emergency response. If we are to be effective and relevant in today’s homeland security environment, this is not an option; it’s a necessity. *(GAZ note: While this article discusses the role of ARES and RACES groups, many of the same topics are applicable to MARS. It is not out of the realm of possibilities for MARS to be called to participate in Tabletop, Functional and Full Scale exercises)*

- BT OVER



Collective Calls *cont'd from pg. 3*

not be mixed. The size of a predetermined group identified by a collective PLAD may be limited by the addition of a geographical region or area.

ALNAVMARCORMARSSTADIR

ALL NAVMARCORMARS STATE DIRECTORS

ALNAVMARCORMARSTADIR REGION FIVE

ALNAVMARCORMARSREGDIR

ALL NAVMARCORMARS REGION DIRECTORS

ALNAVMARCORMARS REGION FIVE

ALNAVMARCORMARSARDIR

ALL NAVMARCORMARS AREA DIRECTORS

ALNAVMARCORMARS CENTRAL

ALNAVMARCORMARS

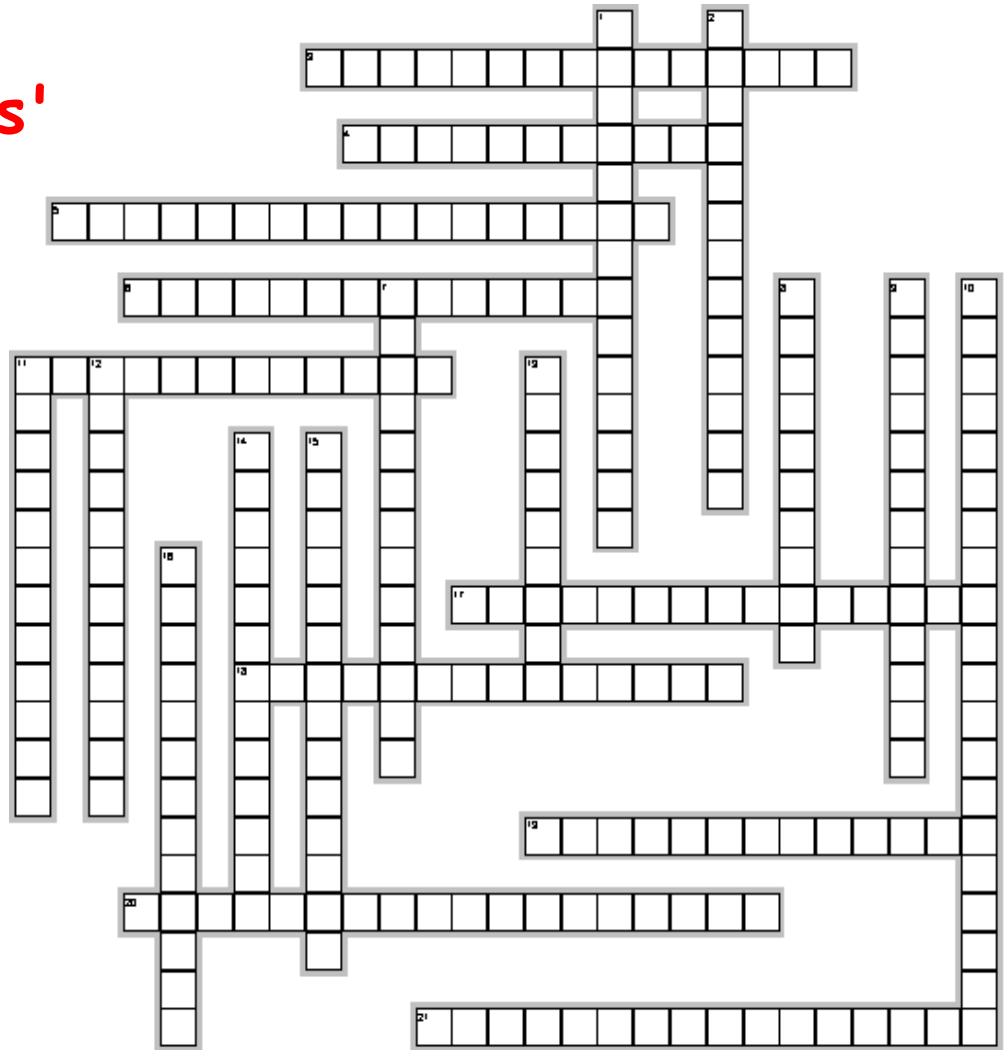
All NAVMARCORMARS Radio Stations

ALNAVMARCORMARS MINNESOTA

Expanded information will be posted on the Intranet site during February.

BT OVER

Presidents' Day Trivia



Created with EdgeCrossword - www.edgecrossword.com

Across

3. This President had the first telephone installed in the White House.
4. In the election of 1820, he received every electoral vote except one.
5. This Spanish-American War hero was the youngest man to become President of the United States.
6. First President who was born a U.S. citizen.
11. In the war, this future President led his fellow sailors to safety after their PT-boat was sunk by a Japanese destroyer.
17. When the Library of Congress burned, he and his cabinet helped fight the blaze.
18. Only man in U.S. history who was a congressman, senator-elect, and president-elect at the same time.
19. Voted for the first time when he was 62 years old.
20. This four-term President introduced the "New Deal," which helped the United States recover from the Great Depression.
21. He didn't take the oath of office in Washington, D.C. He took it while standing on the balcony of Federal Hall on Wall Street in New York.

Down

1. First President to have a Christmas tree in the White House.
2. Queen Victoria sent this President greetings over the first Atlantic cable.
7. This defender of the common man was born in poverty and was the first President to be impeached.
8. First President in office to have his photo taken.
9. He was President when the stock market crashed, one of the events that caused the Great Depression.
10. First President to die in office (not assassinated).
11. His last words were "I always talk better lying down."
12. The United Nations was organized under this President, who was born and died in Independence, Missouri.
13. First President to marry while in office.
14. Only President to serve in both the Revolutionary and the War of 1812.
15. This President, who freed the slaves by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, was assassinated in a theater on Good Friday.
16. The picture of this President is on the fifty dollar bill.

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 right)

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 |
|--------|-------|------|
| Feb 5 | BQH | BQH |
| Feb 12 | ??? | ??? |
| Feb 19 | ACY | OCF |
| Feb 26 | XYA | XEE |
| Mar 5 | KZC | KZC |
| Mar 12 | XEE | XEE |

How Smart is Your Right Foot?

Go ahead. Take the test. You will probably keep trying a couple more times to see if you can out-smart your foot, but you can't.

1. While sitting at your desk, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.

2. Now, while doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction.

I told you soAnd there's nothing you can do about it! (Well, there is always one exception.)

Test Your Analytical Skills

Related Numbers

Find the pattern in each line of three numbers (horizontal).

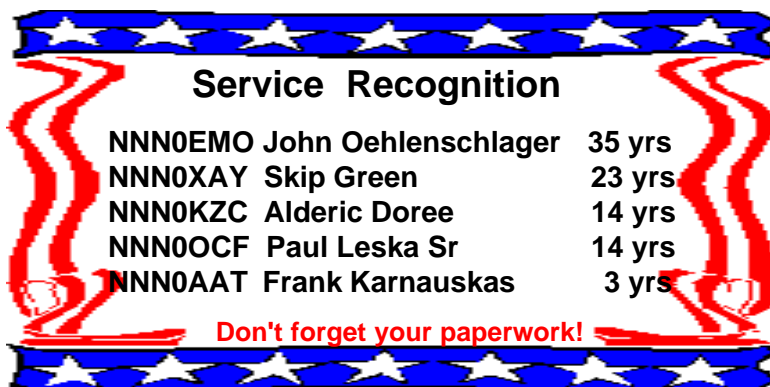
What goes in the blank?

| | | |
|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 9 |
| 3 | 4 | 20 |
| 5 | 6 | 12 |
| 17 | 12 | ? |

Watch for the solution in the next issue of the MN MARSGRAM.



NNN0XEE Tim Isom 2/18
NNN0APD Bob Ross 2/28



Net Control Openings

There will be a opening for NECOS duty over the next couple months as some of our members head to snow-less areas of the country during the up coming cooler season here in Minnesota. Let NNN0XYA know which dates you can fill in as NECOS.

Thursday evenings during February.

Memorable Advertising

There are some advertisements that stick with you. A catchy tag line can instantly bring a brand, and what it represents to mind. Here's a quick test to prove the point. Name the brand associated with the tag line or slogan.

- 1."All the news that's fit to print."
2. "Good to the last drop."
3. "Breakfast of champions."
4. "Where's the beef?"
5. "Just do it."
6. "We try harder."
7. "Have it your way."
8. "Fly the friendly skies."
9. "Finger-lickin' good."
10. "Reach out and touch" someone.
11. "The ultimate driving machine."
12. "The quicker picker-upper."

Fill in the blanks on these:

1. "Got _?"
2. "A - is forever."
3. "Nothing runs like a _"
4. "You're in good hands with _"
5. "Please don't squeeze the _"
6. "I'd walk a mile for a _"
7. "Which twin has the _?"

Check next month for the answers!

BT OVER



January Solution: Value of Each Resistor

We have 4 series connected resistors. R2 is twice as large as R1, R3 is 1.5 ohms greater than R2, and R4 is 0.5 ohms greater than R2, and the total resistance is 11 ohms. Find the value of each resistor.

Answer: Algebra showed R1 = 1ohm, R2 = 2 ohms, R3 = 3.5 ohms and R4 = 4.5 ohms for a total resistance of 11 ohms.