



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

January, 2007

Volume 11, Number 1

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings,

Happy New Year to members of Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps MARS and their families. I have to ask myself every year, where did the last year go. Seems as though time moves faster every year.

Each New Year arrives with many resolutions and goals to be accomplished. Over the years I've written out some pretty ambitious goals for the Navy-Marine Corps MARS program as well as for myself. This year I've decided to focus on a few that I consider important building blocks to any future endeavors.

MEMBERSHIP - For the Navy-Marine Corps MARS program to survive, we need to recruit, train and transition to full membership more of our fellow amateur radio operators. I'm looking for input on how can we best do this. In the past we had numerous hamfests, but these events are dwindling in number. We get some interest through the Navy-Marine Corps National webpage but this does not appear to be enough. Perhaps the best tool is word of mouth – at club meetings, when you do attend hamfests, or even when going to coffee

with a group of ham friends. We have pamphlets and information sheets available.

TRAINING - Member training in National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses. Whether you want the DoD Disaster card or not these courses are applicable to more than just emergency communications. They explain and form the basis of the Incident Command System – which can be used for communications during bike races, walk-a-thons, parades and even during emergencies. The courses are available on-line, are self-paced and best of all they are free. Set aside some time to complete IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700 in 2007.

ECOMM - Continue to conduct a minimum of one emergency communication exercise per quarter. If you haven't participated in an ecomm exercise, you've missed interesting messages, training opportunities, and message handling practice. For the most part we've moved exercises to coincide with evening nets – we found that this works – more participation and we're using our net time. No

member need be afraid to participate, no one expects an error free implementation, EEI, or SITREP message, heck even those of us that have been participating continue to find and make errors. Don't like the drills we've had – make some suggestions, we're all ears. In the next year, if you are not already participating, take the time, put in some effort and get on the air during an exercise.

TECHNOLOGY - Actively work on new technologies – PSK, MT63 and other means of moving information. Integrate these technologies into our ecomm drills and message handling exercises. Voice nets are nice, however, some of these methods will allow us to move traffic under the worst conditions.

EXERCISES - Conduct at least one message handling exercise per quarter. We've become accustomed to receiving our message traffic via email. While convenient, this doesn't help us with our traffic handling skills. In 2007, we will move to handling more of the "short" traffic – i.e. Chief MARS info broad-

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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

NN0DVD	Freq. NCO AFSK/USB
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Website <http://www.mnmars.org>

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

Ecom Drill Follow-up

by: AI, NNN0GAZ TWO

Thanks to everyone that participated in the last Ecom/Training exercise.

A total of nine members participated. The exercise started out great, then propagation went to heck and that ended that. We tried NCE, NBG and NAR to no avail. We did manage to pass a total of 17 messages. I think several other members would have participated had propagation been better. Now lets see if I can predict the next solar storm so that I schedule the next exercise. Again Thanks to everyone that tried.

BT OVER



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casts, Region Five Broadcasts, NECOS net reports and personal participation reports over the air. Long and/or important messages will be broadcast at reading speed during the traffic net with the backup being an email copy of the message. As communicators we need to be able to format, pass and receive traffic – not just read it off our computer screen.

MEETINGS - Continue to meet on an annual basis at the Minnesota Area Conference with as many members as possible present to review and enhance our state program. This is another opportunity for us to have those face-to-face meetings – seeing the faces that go with the voices, perhaps even invite potential members to attend.

Over the past year our roster has stabilized but that doesn't mean that any of us can rest on our laurels. As State Director, I take member participation seriously. I realize, as I hope all members do, that personal or professional commitments come first, sometimes participation will suffer but I need to know that a member continues to be committed to the program. Perhaps the member can't make every nightly net but given the opportunity to participate in an exercise, fill in as a TREP or NECOS, the member takes on these responsibilities and commits to some level of participation. We're all busy and I have no intention of penalizing someone when the job or family comes first. However, after an extended period of time with no presence on the evening net, participation of any form, or even a note letting me know you are still interested, there is little choice but to move towards termination from the program. We need everyone on the roster to participate – don't just be a placeholder on the roster. If you haven't been on a net for a while, join us – we need to know that you're still there and committed to the program.

I look forward to a working with you throughout 2007 to accomplish these goals. Enjoy this issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM.

BT OVER



**Q: HOW DID THE VIKING ARMY SEND
SECRET MESSAGES?**

A: NORSE CODE!!!



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Bumper sticker of the year:

**"If you can read this, thank a teacher -
and, since it's in English, thank a soldier"**

Training Corner

Prowords and Voice Traffic

by: Bob, NNN0GAZ FOUR

Proword I SPELL

Consider the following message text: “GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU TOO. IT’S TOO NICE HERE TO LEAVE.”

When using the prowords I SPELL, first say the word, then use the proword I SPELL, then spell the word using the International Phonetic Alphabet, then say the word again. Thus, the sample text (above) would sound like this if it was communicated on a voice MARS net:

“GLAD TO I SPELL TANGO OSCAR TO HEAR I SPELL HOTEL ECHO ALPHA ROMEO HEAR FROM YOU TOO I SPELL TANGO OSCAR OSCAR TOO PERIOD IT’S TOO I SPELL TANGO OSCAR OSCAR TOO NICE HERE I SPELL HOTEL ECHO ROMEO ECHO HERE TO I SPELL TANGO OSCAR TO LEAVE PERIOD”

Another time to use the prowords I SPELL is when the word you’re trying to communicate can’t (or, can’t easily) be pronounced, such as is often the case with unusual names. Note that the prowords I SPELL precede each word that is being communicated. That’s how the receiving station knows that the letters which follow the I SPELL begin a new word.

Finally, another case in which the prowords I SPELL will be used is in the case of abbreviations. For example: “I AM AT HOME. CALL ME ASAP” This would be communicated as follows: “I AM AT HOME PERIOD CALL ME I SPELL ALPHA SIERRA ALPHA PAPA PERIOD”

So, to recap, use the prowords I SPELL when:

1. There are several forms of the spoken word (to, too, two, here, hear, etc.)
2. You don’t know how to pronounce the word or words
3. Communicating abbreviations
4. Communications is difficult requiring words to be spelled out for the sake of communication reliability and efficiency

In the first and last cases, remember: SAY the word, SPELL the word phonetically, then SAY the word again. Note however, that abbreviations are not words, and are transmitted exactly as received. Thus, in the illustration above, the letters ASAP are spelled phonetically and not translated to “as soon as possible”.

FIGURES

Just as the prowords I SPELL are utilized to communicate words, the proword FIGURES is used to communicate numbers or groups of numbers. Precede each number with the proword FIGURES.

MIXED GROUPS

Messages often contain mixed groups, i.e., a combination of numbers and letters in the same ‘word’.

The simple rule to apply when communicating these mixed groups by voice is to use the appropriate proword(s) according to the first character of the mixed group. If the mixed group starts with a letter, use the prowords I SPELL. If the group begins with a number, use the proword FIGURES.

For example: “123A 2nd Street” Transmitted by voice: “FIGURES ONE TWO THREE ALPHA FIGURES TWO NOVEMBER DELTA STREET” INITIAL

The proword INITIAL is used to communicate a person’s initial(s) when communicating by voice. The use of this proword indicates two things. First, that the character that follows is part of an individual’s name, and second, that the character is to be, automatically, written with a period following it. An example message: “SAMUAL C. EDISON” As transmitted by voice: “SAMUEL INITIAL CHARLIE EDISON”

This should not be confused with the occasion where it’s necessary to use the prowords I SPELL when communicating paragraph designators or single letters encountered in a message. Remember that the proword INITIAL is used only for names. FIGURES ROMAN

Occasionally, you’ll handle a message where Roman numerals are encountered. Lineage designators, e.g., “John Smith, III” are communicated in this manner. And, in MARS emergency communications, you’ll encounter different COMMUNICATION CONDITION designators (III, II, and I) that utilize Roman numerals. When you encounter Roman numerals, you use the proword FIGURES ROMAN. Here’s an example: “JOHN T. SMITH III” As transmitted by voice: “JOHN INITIAL TANGO SMITH FIGURES ROMAN THREE”

PUNCTUATION IN TEXT

The simple rule to follow when transmitting punctuation by voice is to say the word. Use the words period, comma, colon, semi-colon, exclamation mark, etc. Occasionally, you will also encounter parentheses and quotation marks. The left parentheses is pronounced: PAREN”, while the right

FCC Drops Morse Code Requirements

The FCC has decided to drop all Morse code testing requirements for the Amateur Radio Service in the United States. This means that Technician and Technician Plus will have identical privileges, and there will be no code exam required for General and Extra Class. Presumably, those who now have General Class theory CSCE's will be allowed to upgrade to General. This change brings the United States into line with many other countries worldwide that have eliminated a Morse requirement. In addition, the FCC affirmed its



recent expansion of phone privileges on the 75 meter band.

The current amateur service operator license structure contains three classes of amateur radio operator licenses: Technician Class, General Class, and Amateur Extra Class. General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees are permitted to operate in Amateur bands below 30 MHz, while the introductory Technician Class licensees are only permitted to operate in bands above 30 MHz. Prior to this action, the FCC, in accordance with international radio regulations, required applicants for General Class and Amateur Extra Class operator licenses to pass a five words-per-minute Morse code examination.

The FCC's action eliminates that requirement for General and Amateur Extra licensees. This change reflects revisions to international radio regulations made at the International Telecommunication Union's 2003 World Radio Conference (WRC-03), which authorized each country to determine whether to require that individuals demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an amateur radio license with transmitting privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz.

This action also revises the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees by eliminating a disparity in the operating privileges for the Technician Class and Technician Plus Class licensees. Technician Class licensees are authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. The Technician Plus Class license, which is an operator license class that existed prior the FCC's simplification of the amateur license structure in 1999 and was grandfathered after that time, authorized operating privileges on all amateur frequencies above 30 MHz, as well as frequency segments in four HF bands (below 30 MHz) after the successful completion of a Morse code examination. With today's elimination of the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained.

BT OVER

Test Your NIMS Knowledge

Which of the following would you expect to see in an Incident Action Plan?

- A. Detailed cost estimates for implementing the proposed activities.
- B. Listing of all staff members currently deployed to the incident.
- C. Measurable strategic operations to be achieved within the specified period.
- D. A schematic showing all communication equipment in use at the incident.

December NIMS Knowledge Solution

The ability to communicate within ICS is absolutely critical. To ensure efficient, clear communications, ICS requires the use of:

B. Common terminology.

Get Your NIMS Answers Here

Training requirement for emergency communications volunteers are constantly changing. The following FEMA on-line courses are required for MARS members working with any government served agency.

The four on-line self-study courses are;
 IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System,
 IS-200.FW Basic Incident Command System
 IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS)
 IS-800.A National Response Plan (NRP)

The address for the FEMA courses is: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslst.asp>. When you complete the course, send the documentation to NNN0GAZ.



Training *cont'd from pg.3*

parentheses is pronounced, "UNPAREN". Likewise, the first quotation mark encountered in a text is pronounced a "QUOTE", and the second is transmitted as "UNQUOTE". The hyphen is pronounced (always) as "DASH". And, the symbol "/" is pronounced as "SLANT".

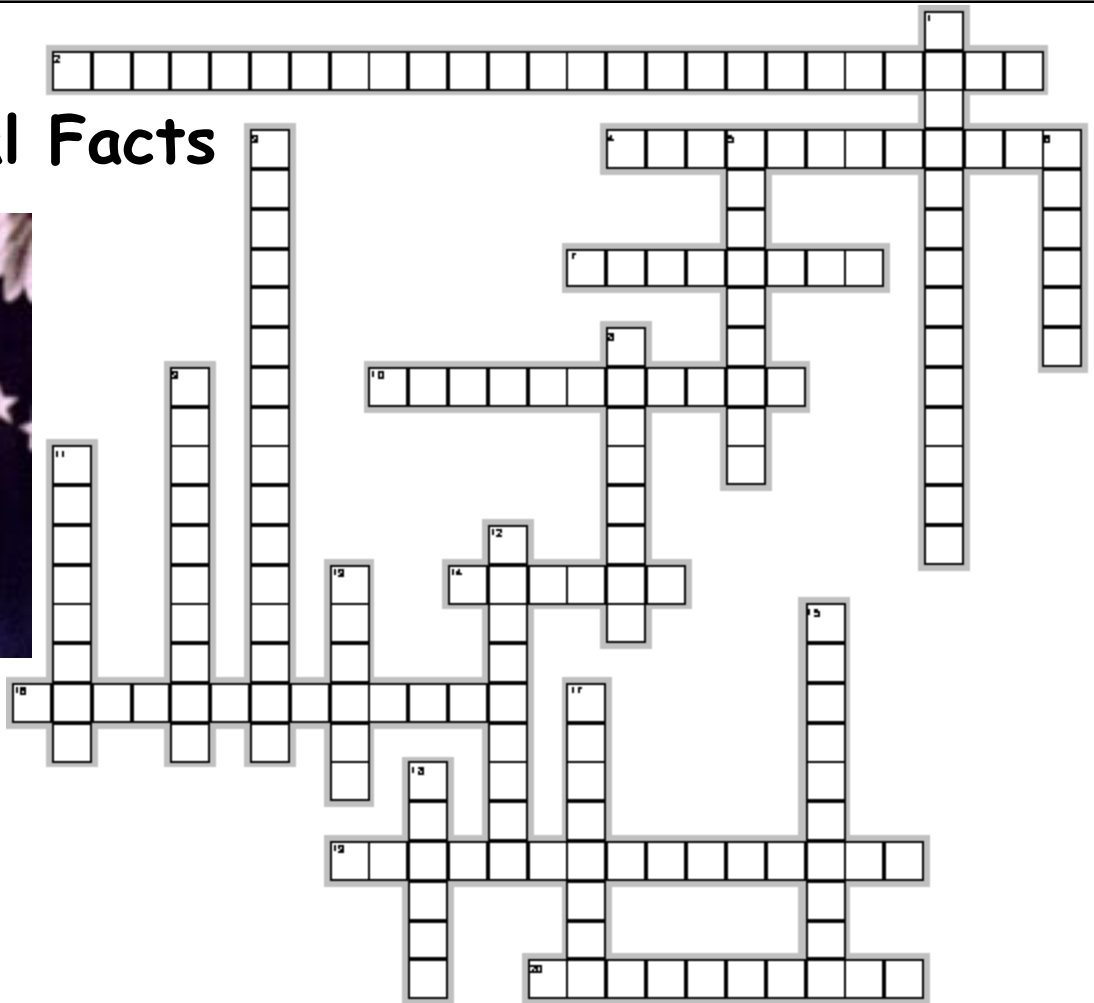
Punctuation shall be used. It is essential for clarity. Punctuation marks used in naval messages shall be limited to the symbols listed in NTP8(D) and appear on standard typewriter, teletypewriter, and computer keyboards. NTP8(D) Par. 641, 742. New Member Notebook Par. 2-2 to 2-8.

BT OVER

Presidential Facts



Gerald R. Ford
1913 - 2006
38th President



Across

- 2. Held these two offices without ever having been elected.
- 4. Had this facility rebuilt at the White House, because Richard Nixon had it removed.
- 7. Ford was assigned to this light aircraft carrier during World War II.
- 10. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is located in this city.
- 14. What position, on the University of Michigan football team, did Gerald Ford play?
- 16. Ford appeared on the cover of this magazine in 1942 along with the woman he was dating at the time.
- 19. Ford was offered professional football tryouts with the Chicago Bears and this team.
- 20. First President to earn this Boy Scout rank.

- 8. In May 1975 Ford ordered US forces to rescue the crew of this US merchant ship after it was seized.
- 9. His daughter, Susan, hosted this event at the White House.
- 11. The Gerald R. Ford Library is located in this city
- 12. Sara Jane Moore attempted to assassinate Ford how many days after the attempt by Lynette Fromme?
- 13. Was head coach of this team at Yale University.
- 15. "Squeaky" Fromme attempted to assassinate President Ford in this city on September 5, 1975.
- 17. In what state was Gerald Ford born?
- 18. Portrays Andy Richards on the soap opera Young and Restless, and is related to Gerald Ford.

Down

- 1. Scored a hole-in-one in 1977 at this golf tournament.
- 3. Studied the assassination of President Kennedy as a member of this group.
- 5. Gerald Ford was employed part-time as a ?
- 6. Gerald Ford's last name by birth was King, before he was adopted by his mother's second husband, Gerald Ford Sr. What was Ford's original first name?



The East-West Shrine Game is All About Kids!

Jan. 20, 2007 11:00 am kickoff

The East-West Shrine Game has never been “just another football game”. The Shrine Game is the Premier All-Star Game in America, and has a long history of distinguished players and coaches in the Game.

But that’s not what makes it “Football’s Finest Hour.” What makes the Shrine

Game so special is its true purpose - helping to support Shriners Hospitals for Children. Every year since 1925, the Shrine Game has been played to raise money and to help make the public aware of the expert orthopedic and burn care available, at NO cost, at all 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children.

The Shriners hospital serving the upper Midwest is located in the Twin Cities. You can contact the hospital at Shriners Hospitals for Children-Twin Cities, 2025 East River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55414, Telephone 612-596-6100

To date, the game has raised more than \$14 million for Shriners Hospitals and has helped inform millions of people about the mission of this extraordinary philanthropy. The Shrine represents many things: good times, camaraderie, and tradition. But what really binds together the more than 500,000 Shriners nationwide is an attitude of caring. The late President Gerald R. Ford was a Shriner and a Mason.

President Ford’s personal opinions about Freemasonry can be found preserved in a speech he gave at the Unveiling Ceremony at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria, Virginia, February 17th, 1975: “When I took my obligation as a master mason—incidentally, with my three younger brothers—I recalled the value my own father attached to that order. But I had no idea that I would ever be added to the company of the Father of our Country and 12 other members of the order who also served as Presidents of the United States. Masonic principles—internal, not external—and our order’s vision of duty to country and acceptance of God as a Supreme Being and guiding light have sustained me during my years of Government service. Today especially, the guidelines by which I strive to become an upright man in Masonry give me great personal strength. Masonic precepts can help America retain our inspiring aspirations while adapting to a new age. It is apparent to me that the Supreme Architect has set out the duties each of us has to perform, and I have trusted in His will with the knowledge that my trust is well-founded”



You will see some of the premier college players, many playing their last game as amateurs. Here are some facts about the East-West Shrine Game Alumni in the NFL;

- Over 50 alumni in the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, OH
- 55 of 103 players from the 81st Game were drafted in the 2006 April draft, 40 players were signed as free agents
- 41 players from the 81st Game made 2006 opening day 53-man rosters, 24 more were signed to practice squads and 5 were put on injured reserve
- 16 players in the XL Super Bowl on the rosters of Pittsburgh and Seattle
- 17 players on the 2006 Pro Bowl rosters
- The Minnesota Vikings have 9 alumni on the team.

BT OVER

December Facts

Crossword solution

Across

8. JOHNLENNON—Who was assassinated on December 8th, 1980?
11. ACHRISTMASCAROL—In December of 1843, what famous Christmas story was first published?
12. GEORGEWASHINGTON—Who crossed the Delaware on December 25, 1776?

Down

1. BILLOFRIGHTS—December 15th, 1791 is the date WHAT was ratified?
2. THENOBELPRIZE—Which prize was first awarded in December of 1901?
3. MASONDIXONLINE—In December of 1782, a certain line was drawn on the map of the United States. What is the name of this line?
4. JUNE—December in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to what month in the Southern Hemisphere?
5. SEPTEMBER—December always begins with the same day of the week as what month?
6. JIMMYBUFFETT—What singer was born on Christmas Day, December 25th, 1946?
7. PILGRIMS—On December 21, 1620, who landed in Plymouth?
9. GREGORIAN—December is the twelfth and last month of the year in what calendar?
10. TENTH—December was originally which month in the early Roman calendar?

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.	AVS	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.



No January Birthdays
Time to recruit
a new member!



Service Recognition

NNN0SXU Robert King 8 yrs

Don't forget your paperwork!

Saturday NECOS / TREP Schedule

	NECOS	TREP
Jan 6	XEE	XEE
Jan 13	BQH	BQH
Jan 20	KZC	KZC
Jan 27	SXU	SXU
Feb 3	AVS	OCF
Feb 10	XYA	XEE

Gerald R. Ford

Former President and Sailor



DOD File Photo: Lt. Cmdr. Gerald Ford in uniform 1945, who later became the 38th President of the United States (1974-1977). Ford received his commission as an Ensign in the U.S Naval Reserve on April 13, 1942 and later participated in many actions in the Pacific aboard the fast aircraft carrier USS Monterey (CVL 26). He was

eventually released from active duty under honorable conditions in Feb. 1946. President Ford, 93, passed away on Dec. 26, 2006 at his home in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Test Your Analytical Skills

Time Zones

Courtesy of QST

According to a gray-line program, sunset for the DXpedition to the Isles of Langerhan occurs at 7:44 PM local time and sunrise at 6:22 AM. Your sunset occurs at 8:15PM local time and sunrise at 5:50 AM. The expedition is 6 time zones behind you. How long is the period of mutual darkness in which you can try to work them on Top Band?

Answer in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM

ARRL Kids Day

Sunday, January 7, 2007

ARRL Kids Day gives amateur operators a chance to provide youngsters with a fun, hands-on radio experience. The first ARRL Kids Day of the new year takes place is Sunday, January 7, 2007. ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, offers some Kids Day 2007 thoughts and suggestions on p 45 of December QST. Kids Day begins at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC. There's no limit on operating time. Suggested exchanges are first name, age, location and favorite color. Suggested frequencies are 14.270 to 14.300 MHz, 21.380 to 21.400 MHz and 28.350 to 28.400 MHz, plus local VHF repeaters with the sponsor's permission. You can find more information about the event on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>. Licensees should observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts. These apply when unlicensed individuals communicate via ham radio.

December Solution Buried RG-21

There's a problem in your buried run of RG-2113 coax. At the cable input, the antenna analyzer shows a short circuit at 1.62 MHz and 3.24 MHz – none lower in frequency. How far away is the problem? Is it Likely a short circuit or an open circuit?

Answer: Because the frequencies at which the short circuits occur are an octave apart, the fault is also a short circuit, located one-half wavelength away at 3.24 MHz. If the fault were an open-circuit, the higher of the two lowest short-circuit frequencies would be three times the lower. An open is seen as a short circuit at one-quarter and three-quarters wavelength distance. (810 kHz and 2.43 MHz, respectively). The actual distance to the fault is $(300/1.62) \times 0.68 = 122.2$ meters or 401 feet, including the 66% velocity of propagation factor in cable with a solid polyethylene center insulator.