



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

July, 2005

Volume 9, Number 7

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings to All Thank you to Al, KZC, for assuming the duties of Master of Ceremonies and organizer of the sixth annual Minnesota Area conference. Al made all the necessary arrangements and developed the agenda for the conference. My hope is that all of you in attendance enjoyed the discussion and fellowship. Included in this issue of the MARSGRAM is a recap of the matters discussed at the conference.

The past two months have been particularly difficult in terms of accessing the switch. As the sysop, I take members' ability to access NNN0DVD seriously. I have spent a great deal of time checking equipment, antennas and everything else that support the operation of this component of our communications system. To date, I have not found anything particularly out of the ordinary. Having spent time doing this I felt it was appropriate to contact the sysop for our Region switch, Dave Ouellette. Dave indicated that we're not unique; almost every state with an in-state MDS is having some level of difficulty accessing their equipment. Having eliminated program and equipment issues as causes, that leaves

us with propagation – a natural phenomenon that none of us have the ability to control. That means that those of you further away from the switch will have to practice patience. We have enjoyed almost 2 years of good access to the switch from throughout the state. While frustrating and hard to admit that something in nature can possibly be so disruptive, the fact is, propagation can cause these problems. Moving the switch is not the answer – it is not going to change propagation, what it would do is clearly send the wrong message to our host, a message that I refuse to support. During this time I will continue to monitor our equipment and we will perform some much-needed maintenance on the antennas and support structure. Your patience and understanding is appreciated.

Future events, the Central Area Conference will be held in Paducah KY on July 23. Details can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM. The awards for Communicator of the Year and Member of the Year will be

awarded at the Area level.

Do you have a digital camera, know someone with a digital camera? How about taking a picture of your station and sending it to our Editor, Bob Reid for inclusion in the MARSGRAM. We published one photo a number of months ago and are waiting to see what other member stations look like. If you have ideas or an article you would like to submit, contact Bob, we're always looking for material to publish.

With summer here, we are in need of members willing to take on Net Control Station (NECOS) and Traffic Representative (TREP) duties as substitutes. What would be very helpful is if members, not currently performing these NECOS or TREP duties, would be willing to step in as substitutes and assist the regular NECOS and TREP stations. Operators currently working as NECOS and TREPS would appreciate your willingness to substitute, providing them with some relief.

Finally, with summer in full swing and

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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

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

Minnesota Area Conference 2005 Attendees



Front - Chief Michael Jeffries, Director Central Area, NNN0ASG
 2nd row - left to right - Robert Olson (NNN0YWH), Tim Isom (NNN0XEE), Bob Ross (NNN0APD), Al Doree (NNN0ZC), John Oehlenschlager (NNN0EMO)
 3rd row - left to right - Curt Dahleen (NNN0BJJ), Lyle Nelson (NNN0APL), Bruce Meyer (NNN0BQH), Robert King (NNN0SXU)

MN Navy-Marine Corps MARS Staff

Minnesota State Director
 NNN0GAZ - Tim Isom - NNN0XEE

Assistant to the State Director
 NNN0GAZ ONE
 Al Doree - NNN0KZC

Assistant to the State Director:
 Emergency Communications
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Assistant to the State Director:
 Net Operations/Reports
 NNN0GAZ THREE
 Bob Reid - NNN0XYA

Assistant to the State Director:
 Training
 NNN0GAZ FOUR
 Robert King - NNN0SXU

K2BSA Boy Scout National Jamboree

Amateur Radio information.

21 July - 2 August 2005

K2BSA HF Frequencies

80 Meters: Phone: 3.940 MHz CW: 3.590 MHz

40 Meters: Phone: 7.290 MHz CW: 7.030 MHz

20 Meters: Phone: 14.290 MHz CW: 14.070 MHz

15 Meters: Phone: 21.360 MHz CW: 21.140 MHz

10 Meters: Phone: 28.360 & 28.990 MHz CW: 28.190 MHz

QSL Information: (SASE, please) K2BSA c/o Ray Moyer
 S219, Boy Scout National Headquarters, 1325 Walnut Hill
 Lane, Irving Texas 75062-2079



GAZ *cont'd from pg. 1*

the opportunities to spend more hours away from the radio shack, please don't forget our evening nets. We would like to hear for you during the spring and summer months. Don't miss the opportunity to participate in an evening net, an ecom exercise, or just fellowship with your fellow MARS members.

Enjoy this issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM.

BT OVER

MN Navy-Marine Corps MARS Conference Recap

On June 11 nine members of Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps MARS met at the American Legion Hall in Waite Park. They were joined by Chief Michael Jeffries, Director Central Area, from Great Lakes.

The Agenda and comments from the conference are below
MN State/Region Five Director – Tim

Switch operations

Tim spoke about the current switch operations and difficulties members are having accessing the MN switch. The present problems appear to be more related to propagation conditions than problems with the equipment or antennas. This has been verified by talking with Dave Ouellette, NNN0ASG and sysop for the Region Data switch. Almost all states are reporting some difficulties in accessing their in-state switch, so MN is not unique.

State staffing

Most state positions are filled, however, we are in need of a librarian – someone to keep records of Chief MARS, Region Director, State Director and other messages of note. We haven't had a librarian since Wes (NNN0YLC) was in the position. Not all messages are archived at the switch, so a librarian is the keeper of these records. If someone would like assume this position at the state level, we would be most appreciative.

Reporting/Newsletter

In the absence of Bob Reid, NNN0XYA/ NNN0GAZ THREE, Tim covered material that Bob provided.

NNN0GAZ THREE (Network and logistics) items

Net Control Station responsibilities (NECOS)

Everyone should be able to step in as a NECOS. When we ask for volunteers to fill in for an evening, any member should be able to fill the position for at least one evening. We do have a group of members that are filling the roles of NECOS/TREPs, sometimes these "regulars" need a substitute due to an absence, other commitment, etc, any member should be able to take the NECOS duties, at least, for one evening. If you have digital capabilities and want to serve as both NECOS and TREP during your net that is fine. If you are only comfortable with the NECOS position, then a station that has digital capabilities can step up to handle the REP responsibilities.

Monthly reporting

Everyone should be submitting a monthly activity report with at least one hour of participation. This report should be submitted during a net so that members get on-air practice in formatting and transmitting a message. Examples

of the monthly report message can be found at the Community Zero Intranet site.

Newsletter items

Articles - Always looking for contributions from the membership.

Shack of the Month- -A feature we tried starting last year.

With most of the members having a camera or a digital camera, feel free to submit a picture of your shack.

Comments about the newsletter

Training – Bob King, NNN0GAZ FOUR/SXU

Digital modes - Bob distributed handouts and talked about the various digital modes available for our use in MARS.

Emergency Communications – Al Doree, NNN0GAZ TWO/KZC

ECOM drill - Al talked about ECOM drills in the planning stages at both the state and region level.

ART team Al talked about the desire to include an ART team deployment in the next drill for the state.

Central Area Director, ITC(SW/AW) Michael Jeffries

Chief Jeffries answered questions from the members

NE/KS use of NCE frequency and conflicts with MN. Chief Jeffries has spoken with Chief Teeter, NNN0ASF, from the South Area to resolve the problem. He indicated that the problem is resolved and Chief Teeter has informed NE/KS to not use the frequency during MN net time. We should not have any further conflicts with them during our assigned net time and on the NCE frequency.

NTP8D - Currently working its way through the chain of command for approval.

Frequency Matrix - Members talked about frustration with the current matrix that it does not reflect the current structure and there is a need to at least update it to the new structure rather than wait years to get a completely new matrix. Chief Jeffries indicated he would pass along our concerns.

Chief Jeffries presented Certificates of Recognition to those assembled.

BT OVER

**Married
Man's
Chopper**



Central Area Conference 2005

From NNN0ASG ONE DTG 202040Z JUN 05

The date of the First Central Area Conference, combining Region 4 and Region 5 of Navy-Marine Corps MARS is July 23, 2005. The conference will be held in Paducah, Kentucky. Below are the details regarding hotel accommodations, directions and some conference details.

Hotel accommodations

Marriott Motel.

3835 Technology Drive, Paducah, KY 42001

For reservations call 1-800-321-2211, please mention being with the MARS group when making reservations. The cost per room will be \$80.00 per room per night plus tax. Directions to the motel are: Exit 4 off I-24 and go east to the 2nd traffic light about 3/4 mile (Shell station) turn right and go up the hill to just past the fire station, Technology Drive is on the right and is well lit. The motel is on a hill behind O'Charlies.

Talk in will be on two meters 147.060 "plus".

Transportation: If someone needs transportation from the airport call NNN0LSO, Bob Wentworth at 270-898-6650 home or cell 270-331-0293.

List of events: (all MARS events are in the Marriott meeting room)

Friday night: Social Hour at 7:00 pm.

Saturday morning: MARS meeting at 8:00 am.(agenda to be announced) coffee break 10:00 am, lunch break 12:00 noon, meeting will close at 2:00 pm or until needed.

Awards Banquet Dinner:

Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm, awards following dinner. Menu will be "working buffet" choices of one: pulled bbq pork sandwiches, bbq chicken, or club sandwiches on white, wheat, or bun. Cole slaw and potato salad, chocolate cake and assorted beverages of coffee, tea, iced tea, and water. The cost of the meal is \$13.00 per person gratuities included. NNN0EPY MI needs a head count of how many will be eating if you have not sent him a message or an E-mail (nnn0epy at cablespeed.com) please do it asap.

Alternative lodging: (other motels nearby within 1 mile or less and a little less in cost) PEAR TREE INNS - 270-444-7200, HOLIDAY INNS EXPRESS - 270-442-8874, DAYS INN - 270-442-7500, DRURY INN - 800-325-0402 ASK FOR HWY 60 SITE.

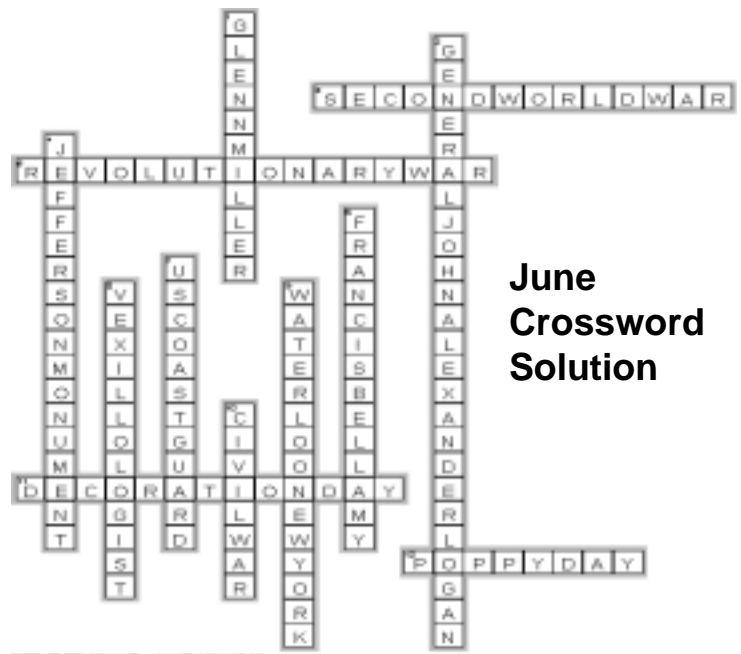
Eating places nearby: O'Charlies, Rafferty's, Applebee's, Outback Steak House, Texas Road House, El Chico, Red Lobster, Olive Garden (italian), and Whalers Catch (excellent seafood).

Sites for wives and others events: This weekend is the

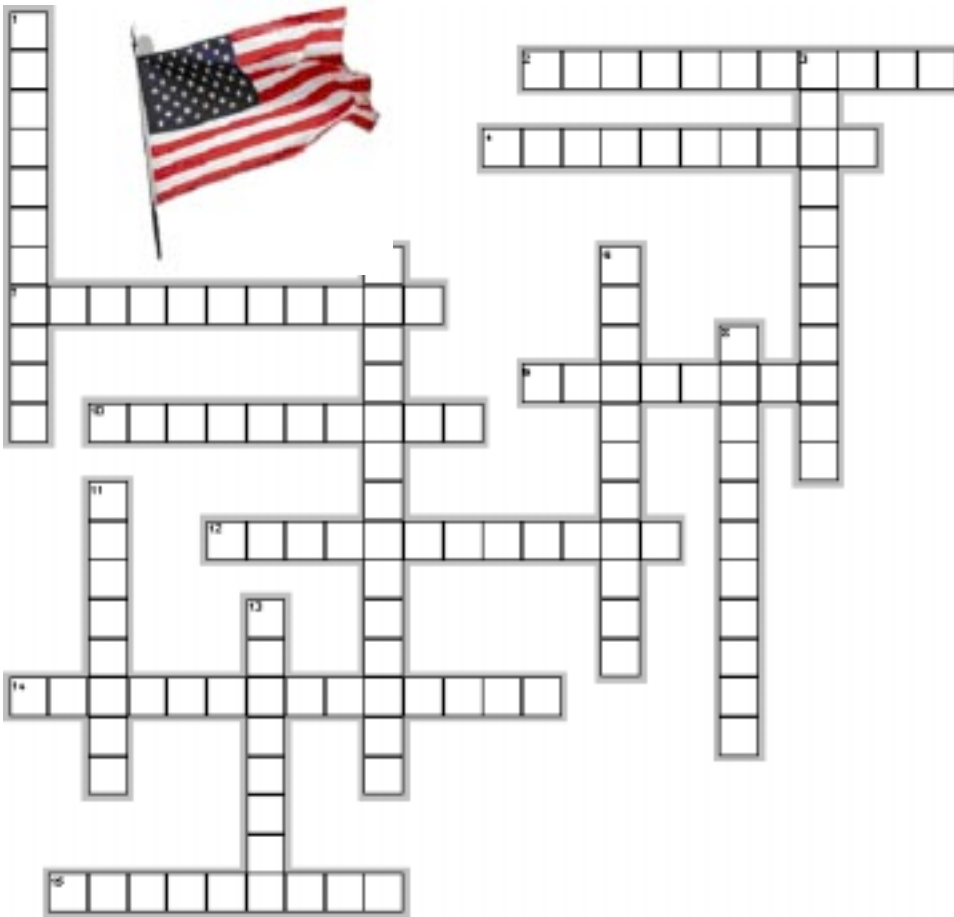
summer festival and downtown at the riverfront there will be activities all day. The Quilt Museum is a favorite, River Heritage museum and another is within walking distance from Quilt Museum. About 1 1/2 miles away is a large mall for the ladies and a new Gander mountain. Just west of Hwy 60.

Bob (NNN0LSO) is trying to set up a ride to the downtown area of Quilters museum with a very short walk to 2 museums. We will also be having a summer festival that starts on Friday. They have entertainment each night all thru the weekend and it is almost free. A \$1.00 donation is collected from those wanting to watch the entertainment from a sitting area on the river side of the floodwall. We have a stage that is permanently set up and allweekend they will have singing and bands. The antique shops and small eateries are everywhere. Police patrol all over on bikes and everyone has a great time just walking around. The Quilters Society will have an open tour or they can arrange a special tour, if they know how many want to take advantage of it. Although it is just as easy to walk and go at your own pace and stroll the area. Murals are on the floodwall sections that was built by prisoners of the war from germany. We will try to have brochures available Friday night at check in. If anyone is interested in any of the above contact Bob NNN0LSO.

BT OVER



**June
Crossword
Solution**



United States Flag

Across

2. Official banner authorized by the Department of Defense for display by families who have members serving in the Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities the United States may be engaged in for the duration of such hostilities
4. Betsy Ross owned this kind of business
7. Represented by stars on a field of blue of the United States Flag
9. Number of folds when the United States flag is folded properly
10. Flag raised over George Washington's headquarters on January 1, 1776
12. A new star for a new state admitted to the union is added on this national holiday.
14. Author of the Pledge of Allegiance
15. Flag flown over the 13 colonies from 1707 until the Revolution.

Down

1. This flag was raised by Captain John Paul Jones on the British frigate Serapis during the most famous Revolutionary naval battle
3. By presidential proclamation there are 2 sites in the world over which the US flag can be displayed at all times. One is the Capitol Building in Washington DC the other is?
5. Used in the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777, by Vermont militia. This flag is the first to lead American armed forces on land
6. Study of flags
8. The national holiday when the flag is displayed at half staff until noon and full staff from noon to sunset
11. American ships used this flag, or one of its variations, throughout the Revolutionary War. This powerful American symbol was used by the Continental Navy in 1776 and is being used again by the U.S. Navy in the War on Terrorism
13. The flag of the United States of American is flown upside down only as a signal of?

Test Your MARS skills

You are active in a State ECOM net and are not located at the scene of the disaster. To whom must you address your SITREPs?

- A. Region Director, Region ECOM Assistant and State Director.
- B. Chief, MARS, Region Director and State Director.
- C. State Director and State ECOM Assistant.
- D. Region ECOM Assistant and State ECOM Assistant.

Check for the answer next month.

June Solution

You are monitoring one of the national MARS frequencies and hear another MARS station who announces that he is holding immediate precedence traffic. What should you do?

- B. Establish contact with the station and accept the traffic, then as soon as possible, relay it to another station or deliver the message.

BT OVER

The Topoff 3 Terrorist Drill

Bill Sexton, NIIN
World Radio July 2005

Interestingly, HF radio wasn't a significant player in the highly publicized Topoff 3 terrorist drills in Connecticut and New Jersey during April. It wasn't because of poor propagation in the depth of the sunspot cycle, although that's a problem for e-comm everywhere. The focus of these drills was local response, and this was by all accounts spectacular, with command and control by VHF and telephone. Still, the near-universal experience is in the first minutes of a real catastrophe, phone systems stagger or fail from overload, if not from direct damage -and VHF goes only so far.

Topoff 3's, director-in-chief seemed to acknowledge such risks of the unexpected even in a set-piece drill. Michael Chertoff, the Secretary of Homeland Security, told the New York Times, "We expect failure because we are actually going to be seeking to push to failure." He directed the exercise from Washington, well out of range of the VHF communications available in Newark and New London had POTS (plain old telephone service) failed.

None of the federal systems responsible for backing up long-distance communication -the Radio Amateur Communications Emergency Service (FEMA), Army, Navy-Marine Corps and Air Force MARS, (the Defense Department) or SHARES (National Communications System) - were included in the massive Topoff 3 scenario of 04 April. If commercial communications failed, Connecticut and New Jersey as well as nearby Philadelphia, New York, Providence, Hartford, and Boston could have found themselves coping on their own.

Why were the backup HF communications systems not involved? "We did not participate in the Topoff exercise at all," said Navy-Marine Corps MARS Chief Bo Lindgren. "The Topoff exercise is for the VERY high level (like department secretary, even the President) participation."

Lack of Ham participation wasn't for lack of interest on the HF side. In early February, to cite just one example, Ted Jansen AFAISX (K1YON) of Connecticut Air Force MARS messaged his Amateur Radio Emergency Service contact: I am the Air Force MARS State Emergency Coordinator (SEC) for Connecticut. Possibly our groups could work together to provide the State with the best possible Emergency Comm. Please consider our group when developing plans and when Emergency Comm meetings are held.

On 17 Feb. the answer came back: e-mail k1yo>2@junno.com. I'll give you a call soon to discuss. I certainly want to have liaison with everyone possible.

That was the last Ted heard on Topoff 3.

To be fair, however, it needs to be added that the Hams in the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (including several who are also MARS and RACES members) performed yeoman service handling VHF communications within New London, a major U.S. Navy headquarters and Navy-MC MARS regional hub. The most surprising absentee from the Chertoff scenario was SHARES, the SHARED RESources network linking federal offices across the U.S. via HF. It comes directly under Chertoff's Department of Homeland Security. SHARES has been involved in national communications scenarios from Super Bowl and President Inaugurations to hurricanes and earthquakes and routinely involved its nets available 24/7 on an instant call-up basis. Selected, specially-trained MARS members, are key participants in the SHARES coast-to-coast infrastructure of FAA, FBI, DOT and other federal offices.

Already alerted, Army MARS was particularly well poised to assist. Eastern Area Coordinator Bob Hollister AAA9E (N71NK) months before had scheduled a weeklong Hidden Shadow (terrorist) exercise the week of Topoff 3. MARS management became aware of the supposedly clandestine operation via an Associated Press-story from Connecticut in July 2004.

NJ state Army MARS director, Bill Fitzsimmons, AAA2NJ (N2LMU) reported: "NJ MARS had no part in the Topoff exercise in New Jersey. Neither did ARES or RACES. Apparently this was at the direction of the exercise controllers. We were told last October and again on the state RACES net on 29 March there is no plan for radio communication.

"However, with the MARS Hidden Shadow exercise taking place at the same time as Topoff, we used the scenario for our exercise. New Jersey MARS used our semi-annual meeting at Fort Monmouth to mobilize our 19 members at the post MARS station. A review of our exercise was conducted and member participation was urged.

"New Jersey conducted exercise nets each morning at 11012 on April 05-08," he continued. "Two evening nets were held at 22012 during the week. Participating members brought EEI, Net Activation/Deactivation, support and info messages that were passed using both voice and digital means. Although propagation was not the best, digital modes were quite successful."

Fitzsimmons had one positive note to report: "New Jersey

THE MARINE

(This is a poem being sent from a Marine to his Dad.)

We all came together,
Both young and old
To fight for our freedom,
To stand and be bold.

In the midst of all evil,
We stand our ground,
And we protect our country
From all terror around.

Peace and not war,
Is what some people say.
But I'll give my life,
So you can live the American way.

I give you the right
To talk of your peace.
To stand in your groups,
and protest in our streets.

But still I fight on,
I don't bitch, I don't whine.
I'm just one of the people
Who is doing your time.

I'm harder than nails,
Stronger than any machine.
I'm the immortal soldier,
I'm a U.S. MARINE!



So stand in my shoes,
And leave from your home.
Fight for the people who hate you,
With the protests they've shown.

Fight for the stranger,
Fight for the young.
So they all may have,
The greatest freedom you've won.

Fight for the sick,
Fight for the poor
Fight for the cripple,
Who lives next door.

But when your time comes,
Do what I've done.
For if you stand up for freedom,
You'll stand when the fight's done.

*By: Corporal Aaron M. Gilbert, US Marine Corps
USS SAIPAN, PERSIAN GULF*



San Pedro, Calif. (May 24, 2005) - Coast Guard Boarding Team shows their capability to board and inspect merchant vessels by fast roping unto the ship during the Lead Shield III/Roguex V exercise, an exercise to test port facility anti-terrorism readiness. The Coast Guard and Navy conducted the two exercises around the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The combined exercise involved 24 local, state and federal agencies in an effort to disrupt a simulated terrorist attack, respond to the consequences and maintain port operations. U.S. Navy Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Johansen Laurel (RELEASED)

TOPOFF *cont'd from pg. 7*

MARS has not had a relationship, with any agency in the state. However we got the NJ State OEM a MARS license. On 29 March 05 the OEM was issued the call AAN2ENJ/T. Maybe we have our foot in the door."

That's a grand idea, positive and forward-looking. Here is another in that vein, addressed to Secretary Chertoff: Let the public help in communications emergencies by establishing a systems of notifications based on those used by the National Weather Service. "COMM ALERT" would ask people to cut down on all but essential phone and e-mail business. "COMM WARNING," would bar all but emergency traffic. The military equivalents "minimize" and "radio silence" have worked for years.

This article represents the views of its author and not necessarily the views of MARS or its Defense Department sponsors.

BT OVER

5G1B Net Schedule

6:30PM 4007 kHz USB

Day	NECOS	Tfc Rep
Sun.	XYA	XEE
Mon.	XEE	XEE
Tue.	KZC	KZC
Wed.	BQH	BQH
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.



NNN0VEU Neil McMillin 7/8
NNN0XAY Skip Green 7/15
NNN0YWH Robert Olson 7/17



High and Tight

Annapolis, Md. (June 29, 2005) - Adam Bueltel, from Omaha, Neb., receives his first military haircut during Induction day at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Approximately 1200 prospective Midshipmen 4th Class, "Plebes," reported to the Academy for Induction into the class of 2009 and the first day of "Plebe" summer. The "Plebes" are cycled through a series of stations to establish medical and dental records, receive uniforms, complete paperwork and receive their military haircut. U.S. Navy photo by Mr. Damon J. Moritz

Saturday NECOS / TREP Schedule

	NECOS	TREP
July 2	XYA	XEE
July 9	XEE	XEE
July 16	KZC	KZC
July 23	BQH	BQH
July 30	SXU	SXU
Aug 6	ACY	OCF

Test Your Analytical Skills

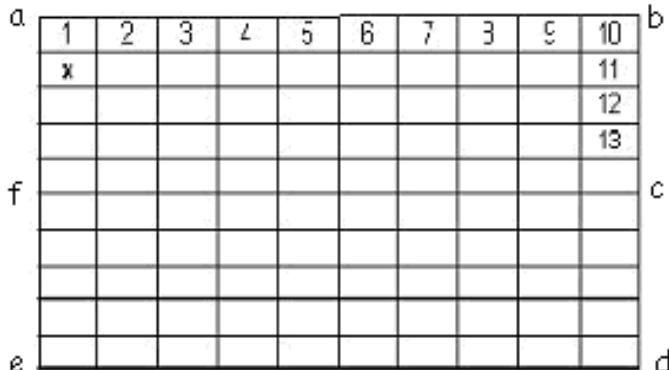
By John Timar Jr

Courtesy of The Electron, Cleveland Institute of Electronics

We want to make a box from the figure at the left (yes, it looks familiar, it is the same diagram used in the May problem and the June problem. The original has been reassembled after the June issue) by doing the following: we cut a square out of each corner and bend up the remaining edges. If for example we were to cut a 1 cm square at a, b, d, and e and bend the edges up, we would end up with a tray that is 8 x 8 x 1 thus giving us a volume of 64 cm³. If we cut a 2 cm square, this would leave an area of 6 x 6. But since the edge is now 2 cm, the volume would be 6 x 6 x 2 = 72 cm³. If we cut the corners at 3 cm, the net volume would be 4 x 4 x 3 = 48 cm³.

To get the maximum volume, what size square should we cut from each corner? Give the answer to 3 significant digits.

Answer in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM.



Test Your Analytical Skills - June Solution

We cut this sheet in half (shown above), from f to c. Now we have 50 sq. cm on each piece. We fold the bottom into a cylinder as shown in Figure 2, which results in a short-fat tank, whereas the top is folded a-f and b-c, yielding a skinny-tall tank. Keeping in mind that both were rolled from identical 50 sq. cm sheets, which has the larger volume?

Answer : Though we have the same area the short fat tank has twice the volume of the tall skinny one. Good argument for more round things.

Volume of a Cylinder is $V=3.14 \text{ times Radius Squared times height. } (V=\pi \times r^2 \times h)$

Small cylinder = 3.14 times 2.5 squared times 5 = 98.15 cubic cm

Tall Cylinder = 3.14 times 1.25 squared times 10 = 49.1 cubic cm

