



# MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



June, 2004

Volume 8, Number 6

## NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings to All,

Hard to believe that June and time for the area conference are here already. I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference. Don't forget, Dave Ouellette, Deputy Director for the Central Area will be in attendance as well. And we hope to be joined by our new Central Area Director Chief Jeffries.

Once again the Central Area dominated the airwaves for the Armed Forces Day celebration. The preliminary count shows that our new Area Director along with Craig Stundahl and crew made over 600 contacts despite poor band conditions. Thanks to all members from Minnesota who made time to participate in the celebration.

If you are a member of the ARRL, Randy "Max" Wendel, ARRL MN Section Manager is stepping down from this post. Currently there are two candidates for this office, Skip Jackson, KS0J and Chuck Gysi, N2DUP. Each has their own web site Skip Jackson, <http://www.skipforhams.com> and Chuck Gysi, <http://www.RadioHams.net> where you can read about each of these candidates. Take the time to read about how each plans to meet the requirements of the

position and expectations of the members if elected. Ballots for the election will be distributed in June.

I spent some time looking over my columns from the past year. I found one year ago, that we began publishing material about Broadband over PowerLine. Now a year later Broadband over Power Line or BPL is almost a sure thing. Most of us have submitted our comments, read those of other amateurs and even spent time reading comments submitted by the ARRL, Boeing, FEMA, and a host of others with a vested interest in keeping the air waves "clean".

What bothers me most about the actions of the FCC concerning BPL is, why must we Americans be so arrogant? Japan and Germany as well as other countries, have conducted tests and found that BPL so negatively impacted the spectrum that they have ended their tests and in some

cases completely abandoned and banned the technology. Yet we move ahead with this worthless technology, our FCC commissioners proclaiming BPL to be "broadband nirvana." Will someone kindly explain to me how this concept is going to magically work in the USA? Have we found some "silver bullet" that will keep this technology from interfering with the HF spectrum? There

are other issues with BPL as well, including the costs involved in infrastructure, distribution, and maintenance. BPL is a money pit, touted early on as an economical way of distributing broadband to rural areas, we are now finding out the equipment required to keep the signal viable will render this mode too expensive for the rural computer user – while broadband is nice, given the costs

*GAZ Cont'd page 2*

### Annual Minnesota State Conference

Saturday June 12th  
American Legion Club  
Waite Park, MN  
Noon - 4 PM

**All Members Welcome**  
*more info on pg. 2*

### 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	NCO AFSK/USB
NN0DVD	
Intranet site	<a href="http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars">http://www.communityzero.com/mnmars</a>

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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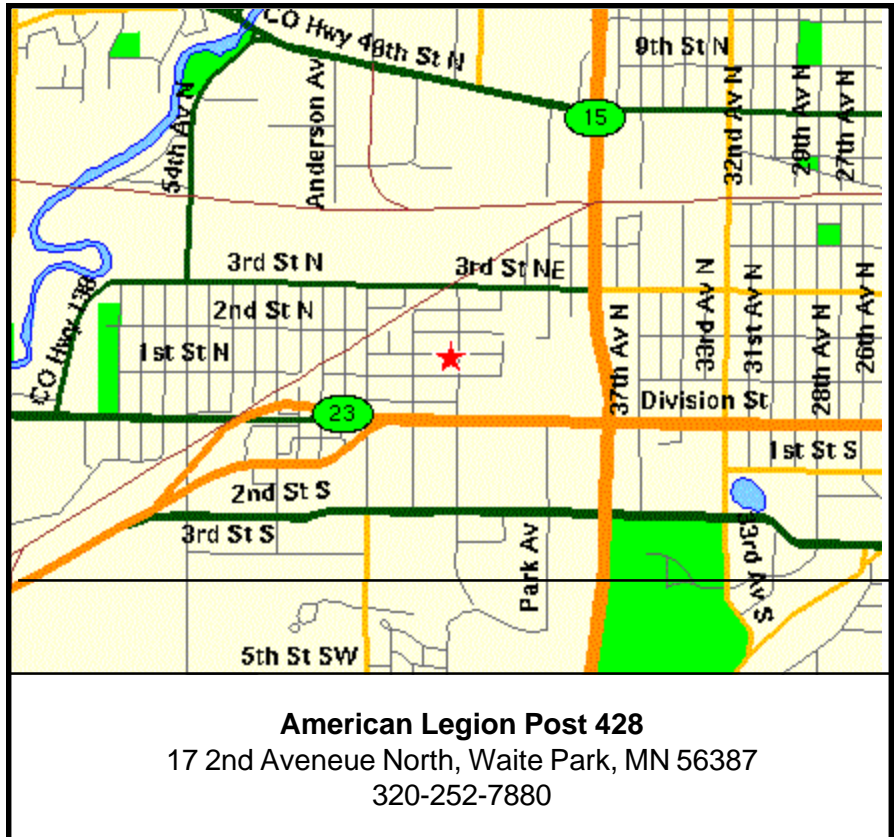
Tim Isom NNN0XEE / NNN0GAZ

Content Contributions Welcomed and Encouraged

## MN MARS Conference Saturday June 12th

### Agenda

- 1100 - 1200 Assemble at Legion Hall  
 1200 - 1300 Introductions - Al,  
 NNNØKZC/NNNØGAZ ONE –  
 Lunch (Dutch treat)  
 1300 - 1330 MN Director Tim Isom,  
 NNNØXEE/NNNØGAZ/NNNØAS5  
 ONE  
 1330 - 1400 Reporting, Newsletter  
 1430 - 1445 ECOM, PSK 31 net - Al,  
 NNNØKZC/NNNØGAZ TWO  
 1445 - 1500 Training - Curt, NNNØBJJ/  
 NNNØGAZ FOUR/NNNØASG FOUR  
 1500 - 1530 Region Five - Dave,  
 NNNØEPY/NNNØAS5  
 1530 - 1600 Region Five Director - ITC  
 Michael A. Jefries, NNNØASG  
 Discussion Items  
 1. Handling traffic via internet  
 2. PSK traffic on voice net  
 3. How do you roger multi part messages  
 4. 5G1B net time (IL net @ 0100z)  
 5. MARS brochures for hamfests etc  
 6. Other  
 Adjourn



### GAZ *cont'd from page 1*

I guess I would keep my dialup connection. Also consider who is distributing BPL...when did power companies become “experts” at distributing broadband? Okay, so the power company can distribute a message, over power lines between plants to signal a turbine to start or to cycle your air conditioner on and off during peak power periods – those signals are low power, their ability to interfere with radio spectrum is limited. Have you ever had to deal with a “big” power company regarding cracked insulators, poor grounds, and other equipment issues that cause interference? First getting their attention requires persistence. Getting them to take corrective action requires an act of Congress or a letter from Riley Hollingsworth – whichever comes first. My point in all of this, take the time to write your representatives in Washington letting them hear your views on this issue and urging them to take an interest in the matter before the FCC. You can even e-mail your congressman and senator, which may be easier and certainly will get a more rapid response. (Mail seems to be quarantined until certified anthrax free.)

Sending email to members of congress is pretty easy at <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/>. You indicate your zip code and follow the prompts to send your comments.

Finally, with warmer weather and the opportunities to spend time on other activities, 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.

*BTOVER*



**Monday  
June 14, 2004**

## Field Day- If it's not a contest, then what is it?

Ward Silver, N0AX, From 02 July 2003, Contest Rate Sheet ARRL  
Courtesy of WorldRadio, December 2003

Ah, Field Day. It isn't supposed to be a contest, but how many of us got launched into this great sub-species of ham radio called "contesting" by learning at the elbow of a somewhat intimidating master operator in the (pick a band)-meter tent working. (pick a mode)? Remember that feeling of terror and exhilaration when after hours of watching he handed you the mike, key, or keyboard and said, "Here, take it for a while?" You ...an instant band master!

Field Day was originally envisioned as an emergency test and training opportunity. That aspect lives on in the sheer process, of collecting, hauling, installing, and activating tons of radio equipment and antenna hardware. Recent years have seen more and more class "E" emergency power stations and this year we have the new class "F" EOC stations. I took the opportunity to get our local EOC station (W7VMI) on the air for the first time. It was as much work as a "real" Field Day, pulling cables through conduit, putting up antennas, installing connectors, wondering why the radio that worked well before didn't work now (and figuring it out), and making a few QSOs in the bargain.

What I like best, though, is that we're all equals at Field Day. Do you remember that first feeling of actually belonging and getting the hang of ham radio, even if just a little? There's nothing like that first late night bull session with the unshaven older guys drinking that muddy coffee and telling the most amazing stories while the generators putter and throb in the night and the lights in the radio tents dim in sync with each dot, dash, and syllable. In our sweaty work duds through the day and then gathered around at night under the kitchen fly lantern wearing old camp jackets, the distinctions between OT and newcomer fray and dissolve.

This year I had a pleasant surprise that jogged me into this little reverie. While experiencing "the innate cussedness of inanimate objects" late in the afternoon, rassing yet another connector onto an obstinate cable, a young voice burst through the 2-meter rig's squelch calling, "CQ Field Day" on 146.52. I was only too happy, to put the connector down and called him back. The contact was a little stiff, with some coaching audible in the background. At the end, the young man added, "And you're my first contact!" Really, I said, your very first? And so it was, my connector forgotten, as we chatted a little while. What a treat for both of us! Those are rare moments.

As I look back through my own checkered ham career of thirty-two years, starting with the high school club tearing around in my back yard, the Field Day memories are strong

and numerous. I remember having to pound that vertical mounting pipe all the way into the ground because we couldn't pull it out and hoping my dad wouldn't catch us. Then there was freezing in the back of a buddy's VW bug all night and working unexpected DX on 40-meters. Watching the tide come in farther - a whole lot farther - than I expected and slowly covering, up the bases of that fine 40 meter vertical array. Running a phone pileup with Mt. Rainier looming across the water in the evening sunset. I'm sure you have yours, too.

Yes, the very best thing about Field Day, useful intentions aside, is connecting with each other. To let new hams join our tribe and for the warriors to grow reacquainted once again. Life moves at such a fast pace these days, it's too easy to forget that we need to make contact, so to speak. Suddenly, six months have passed and we've only chatted with the same dozen guys on the repeater or at the meetings. I really enjoy seeing a new face join in and pull on that guy 'rope or a familiar old face pop through the tent flap.

Sharing the work and the rewards does wonders for the ham spirit. A successful Field Day recharges our enthusiasm, widens our circle of friends, and enriches ham radio for us. It's not just about QSOs. Given the pastoral nature of the event's name, it seems appropriate to end this ramble with a quote from Thoreau, "Some men fish their entire lives without realizing it's not fish they're after." Field Day, at least, gives us a hint.

BTOVER



PSK NET  
TUESDAY EVENING  
FOLLOWING THE 5G1B NET

## Putting members of MARS to work In the realm of Homeland Security

Bill Sexton, NIIN/AAA9PC

Courtesy of WorldRadio, April 2004

There wasn't any doubt after 11 September 2001, what would be the primary mission of radio amateurs belonging to MARS, the Military Affiliate Radio System: supporting the nation's response to terrorism. The only question was where best to plug in that support. A couple of years later this is still an appropriate concern, especially considering how the traditional geography of government has been uprooted since creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The Coast Guard, for instance, no longer reports to the Treasury Department, nor the Border Patrol to Justice, nor the National Communications System to Commerce. All belong to DHS now. Even DOMS, the Director of Military Support so familiar to MARS members, has had a change of address. As of 16 May 2003, by order of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the function of coordinating Pentagon assistance to civil government - during hurricanes, forest fires, other civil emergencies - moved from the Department of the Army, its historical home, to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The new address for MARS members' emergency incident reports ("EEIs") is JDOMS -- the Joint Director of Military Support.

So where precisely is MARS to fit into the emerging cosmos of disaster response? The short answer is probably that it makes little real difference to MARS members. Whether belonging to Army, Navy or Air Force MARS, they have all along worked with a broad assortment of agencies, from local military reserve units and the Red Cross to state emergency operations centers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency - and DONIS, of course. Give us the message and the address, and we'll deliver it. Nothing altered there.

A case in point: The SHARES (SHARED RESOURCES) program of the National Communications System officially moved into the Department of Homeland Security 24 Jan. 2003. For the designated MARS members who participate in SHARES nets and exercises, there has been no visible change since. Or another: Members of the three MARS organizations still check in with FEMA's periodic exercises. Station call, zip code. No change. In the longer run, however, new organizational relationships are probably

inevitable. Such predictable evolution may be of direct, immediate concern only at the very top of the three MARS services, but it makes sense for the membership to be aware.

Apart from the more familiar Director of Military Support in the Pentagon, there are two new and very significant entities to track: the Department of Homeland Security - obviously - and a new military headquarters called the U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM). Needless to say, MARS management has been fully engaged introducing the affiliate system's capabilities to both.

To understand the developing roles of DHS and NORTHCOM, you start by distinguishing between Homeland Security (the defense against domestic terrorist attack that is the chief concern of DHS) and Homeland Defense (the bulwark against military aggression from abroad that is the chief concern of NORTHCOM.) The distinctions are

somewhat fuzzy, and that may be why the organizational sorting-out process hasn't been a quick and simple one. To quote the official NORTHCOM web page:



**“Homeland Security (HLS) is not the same as Homeland Defense (HLD).”**

*“Homeland security is the prevention, preemption, and deterrence of, and defense against, aggression targeted at U.S. territory, sovereignty, domestic population, and infrastructure as well as the management of the consequences of such aggression and other domestic emergencies. Homeland security is a national team effort that begins with local, state and federal organizations. DoD (Department of Defense) and NORTHCOM's HLS roles include homeland defense and civil support.*

*“Homeland defense is the protection of U.S. territory, domestic population and critical infrastructure against military attacks emanating from outside the United States.”*

Note that phrase “civil support,” in the NORTHCOM mission. Heretofore this was the assigned function of DOMS/ JDOMS. Clearly, these new definitions offer a potential, for overlap.

OK, it's complicated, maybe even confusing. Time will tell how such overlaps are resolved. There is documentation now

*Homeland Security Cont'd pg. 5*

## D-Day Special Event Stations

From Daily DX with permission

La Gazette du DX reports that, commemorating the war events of 60 years ago, the following special stations will be activated from France:

- TM6JUN 31 May-13 June  
Utah Beach Museum QSL via F5RJM
- TM6OGM 3-7 June  
Sarthe QSL via F5NLX
- TM6BMC 5-6 June  
Mont Canisy
- TM6OVS 6 June  
Vassieu en Vercors QSL via F5RPB
- TM6SME 6-20 June  
Sainte Mere Eglise QSL via F6IPS
- TM6OCH 19 June - 2 July  
QSL via F6KFW

The United Kingdom has a number of special events callsigns planned to commemorate the war 60 years ago:

- GB6DD (D-Day) 1-28 June
- GB60OL (Operation Overlord) 1-7 June
- GB4OL (Operation Overlord) 3-7 June
- GB6OL (Operation Overlord)  
from 6 June for four weeks
- GB4OL (Operation Overlord) 1-28 July
- GB6LOG (Liberation of Guam)  
from 21 July for four weeks
- GB6LOP (Liberation of Paris)  
from 25 August for four weeks

More information is available on the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society web site: <http://www.rsars.org.uk/specevts.htm>

Check out the Daily DX homepage for information about this great DX publication <http://www.dailydx.com>. BTOVER

## D - Day



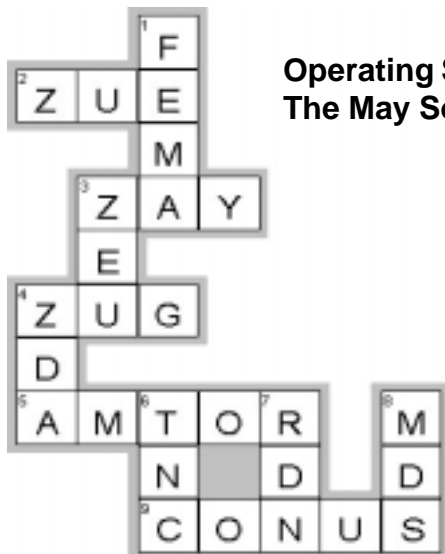
## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Homeland Security *cont'd from pg. 4*

working its way through the chain of command that should help spell out the MARS role. Of the major players, the Department of Homeland Security has gotten plenty of public exposure. Here's some background on the less-well-known NORTHCOM:

The "unified command" - that is, joint Air Force, Navy and Army headquarters - took over the responsibility 1 Oct. 2002, "to deter and defeat threats against the United States." The Northern Command is based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado and commanded by an Air Force officer, General Ralph E. Eberhart, who is concurrently chief of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). NORTHCOM is one of nine unified commands under the Pentagon, each with a unique geographical or functional "Area of Responsibility." A familiar one lately is Central Command (under an Army general), which directs combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here at home, a significant one is the U.S. Joint Forces Command (under a Navy admiral), which controls the pool of combat units - ships, aircraft, troop units -available for commitment at home or abroad -for example, to NORTHCOM, which does not possess forces of its own.

If Army, Navy and Air Force officers are working together at General Eberhart's headquarters in Colorado Springs, it's not a long reach to imagine Army, Navy and Air Force MARS members working together in, say, a unified region gateway station one day down the road. Stay tuned.  
- Bill Sexton, NIINLAAA9PC can be reached by sending shall maid to: 105 West Rd., Richmond, VII 01254; or by e-mail to: [sextonw@juno.com](mailto:sextonw@juno.com)



### Operating Signals The May Solution

## A BPL tale of two cities

WorldRadio Newsfront  
WorldRadio March 2004

A Virginia community is preparing to go forward with plans to deploy a city-owned BPL network, while California city has decided against BPL for its own municipal broadband system.

The city council in Lompoc, CA (<http://www.cityoflomdoc.com>) – a community of some 42,000 – opted 16 December to go with a wireless and fiber optic cable-based broadband network, rejecting BPL and other possible options. ARRL Santa Barbara Section Technical Coordinator Paul Andreasen, K1JAN, said he and other members of the local Amateur Radio community lobbied hard to ensure that Lompoc would not pick BPL.

After contacting Lompoc Mayor Dick DeWesse to spell out the downside of BPL, Andreasen said he subsequently

**FEMA (has) “grave concerns” that BPL could interfere with HF communications systems critical to national security and public safety.**

received assurances from City Manager Gary Keefe that Lompoc’s consultants would not entertain technology that would radiate in the HF/low-VHF spectrum. The report from McKibben Consulting noted the “ongoing controversy” about BPL and cited a 2003 British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) study that, McKibben said, “made it clear that there is a very good reason to be concerned about RF interference.” The consultant concluded that BPL’s advantages failed to outweigh its disadvantages.

The Washington, DC, suburb of Manassas, Virginia, meanwhile indicates it will go ahead this month with plans to inaugurate BPL service in four subdivisions – a total of some 2100 homes. Manassas – with a population of nearly 35,000- hopes to be the first community in the US to deploy BPL citywide.

Amateurs in the Manassas vicinity have pointed to FEMA’s “grave concerns” that BPL could interfere with HF communications systems critical to national security and public safety. They’ve also cited Japan’s banning of BPL deployment in the wake of Amateur Radio pressure as well as the BBC study, where the BPL system used the same Main.net technology Manassas plans to employ.

City officials seem unimpressed, “Nobody has proven it’s a problem,” City Councilman Ulysses X. White told Potomac News (<http://www.potomacnews.com/>). “If it

is a problem, then we re-evaluate it. There’s no reason not to go forward with it.” The same article quotes City Utilities Director Allen Todd, W4VUB, as saying that the city will

**“Nobody has proven it’s a problem,”**  
City Councilman Ulysses X. White Manassas, VA.

monitor the system and rectify any problems that crop up. No field testing for RF interference took place during the system’s pilot program.

Potomac News also quoted ARRL CEO, David Sumner, K1ZZ, saying that the risk of disrupting worldwide communications for BPL is shortsighted and, as FEMA already has noted, carries potential national security implications.

*BTOVER*

## Prowlers on Watch



Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash. (May 18, 2004) - Two EA-6B Prowlers assigned to the “Cougars” of Electronic Attack Squadron One Three Nine (VAQ-139) fly in formation during a routine training mission. VAQ-139 is homeported at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash. and will soon be deploying to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. The EA-6B’s primary mission is to protect fleet surface units and other aircraft by jamming hostile radars and communications. With its jamming capabilities together with AGM-88 High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missiles (HARM), the Prowler a unique national asset that can be deployed from land bases and aircraft carriers. Its ability to monitor the electromagnetic spectrum and actively deny an adversary’s use of radar and communications is unmatched by any airborne platform worldwide. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer’s Mate 2nd Class Michael Watkins

## 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.	SXU	SXU
Fri.	ACY	OCF
Sat.	Rotating Duty (see below)	
	Jun 5 BQH	BQH
	Jun 12 SXU	SXU
	Jun 19 ACY	OCF
	Jun 26 XYA	XEE

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.

### MN MARS Intranet site

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

### MN MARS Homepage

[www.mnmars.org](http://www.mnmars.org)



Sonora Dodd, of Washington, was one of the first people who had the idea of a

“father’s day.” She thought of the idea for Father’s Day while listening to a Mother’s Day sermon in 1909.

Sonora wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart. Smart, who was a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife died while giving birth to their sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn and his other five children by himself on a rural farm in eastern Washington state.

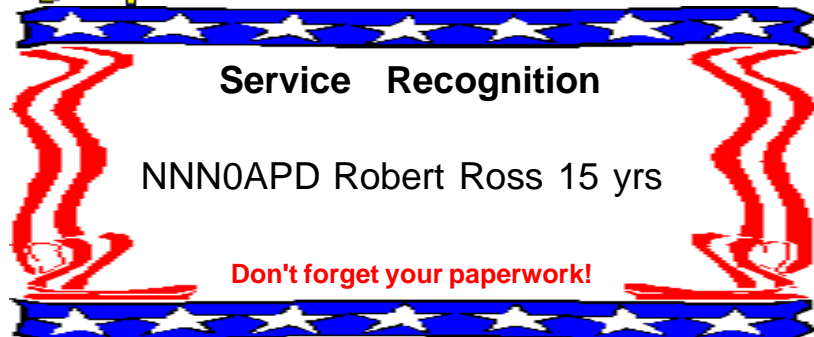
After Sonora became an adult she realized the selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent. It was her father that made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Sonora’s father was born in June, so she chose to hold the first Father’s Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910.

Even before Dodd, however, the idea of observing a day in honor of fathers was promoted. Dr. Robert Webb conducted what is believed as the first Father’s Day service at the Central Church of Fairmont, West Virginia in 1908. It was Dodd’s efforts, however, that eventually led to a national observance.

President Calvin Coolidge, in 1924, supported the idea of a national Father’s Day. Then in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father’s Day.



NNNOVIN	Newell Thomas	6/5
NNNOACY	Mike Warren	6/20
NNNOJAY	Cal Fuhrman	6/21



## PCU Pickney Commissioned



Coronado, Calif. (May 5, 2004) - The Navy’s newest guided missile destroyer PCU Pinckney (DDG 91) sailed past downtown San Diego for the first time on the way to its homeport Naval Base San Diego. Pinckney’s commissioning ceremony will be held May 29, 2004 at Port Hueneme, Calif., when it will officially become a United States Ship (USS). The ship is named in honor of Navy Cook 1st Class William Pinckney, who received the Navy Cross for his courageous rescue of a fellow crew member aboard USS Enterprise (CV 6) during the Battle of Santa Cruz Island October 26, 1942. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer’s Mate 1st Class Daniel N. Woods. (RELEASED)

## Test Your Analytical Skills: Pies

Rob Jarvik, New York, NY.

Courtesy of Ask Marilyn, Parade Magazine

Dennis can eat a pie in 6 minutes.

David can eat a pie in 12 minutes.

Robert can eat a pie in 14.63914507 minutes.

If they share the same pie, how long will it take the three guys to scarf down the whole thing?

*Answer in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM*

## Solution for May Skill Test : Twelve Gauge Wire

**Answer:** NO! Do not confuse diameter with area. The 80 mils diameter wire has twice the circular area of two 40 mil wires.