



# MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



Information for Minnesota Navy-Marine Corps. MARS Members

June, 2005

Volume 9, Number 6

## NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings,

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. As AI, NNN0KZC and Master of Ceremonies for the conference, has pointed out there will be three Directors in attendance at this year's MN Area Conference, Chief Jeffries, Director Central Area, Dave Ouellette, Deputy Director Central Area, and myself, Region Five Director. With Chief Jeffries in attendance we will have an opportunity to meet him in person and get information on Central Area activities. Don't forget to bring questions and comments for him, all the Area Directors as well as the Chiefs of Navy-Marine, Air Force, and Army MARS met at Dayton – so perhaps we will have some news on Interagency activities.

If you have agenda items for the conference – please make sure to let AI and I know of your topic. We will also need to know if you and perhaps a guest will be attending the conference. Two reasons – one to make sure we have adequate table space and second so we can prepare your MARS service certificate.

Once again the Central Area domi-

nated the airwaves for the Armed Forces Day celebration. The preliminary count shows that the MARS members staffing NAV 4 for the Armed Forces Day celebration made over 580 contacts despite poor band conditions. Thanks to all members from Minnesota who made time to participate in the celebration.

A year ago here in my monthly comments I was urging you to write your congressional representatives to take an interest in BPL. Over the past year we've seen a host of BPL trials ended – mainly due to interference, there has been some acknowledgement, by some power companies that BPL is not the "broad-band nirvana" once expressed by the FCC, the FCC Commissioners have seen a change in their leadership, and now Motorola has indicated their interest to develop BPL – along with the ARRL proclaiming that this new vendor may be just the ticket to successful BPL – only time will tell. I still remain skeptical of this technology and its impact on the spectrum we use to communicate.

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 and I'll see you at the conference.

BT OVER



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 Information

**Saturday, June 11, 2005  
American Legion Post 428  
Waite Park, MN**

If you are planning on attending the Minnesota Area Conference, please make sure that you inform Al Doree, NNN0KZC and Tim Isom, NNN0XEE. If you are bringing a guest, which you are welcome to do, please let Al know that as well.

To date GAZ has received the following information on who will be attending: Al Doree – KZC, party of two, Tim Isom – XEE, party of four. Unless otherwise noted those attending are a party of one.

Chief Michael Jeffries, Director Central Area and Dave Ouellette, Deputy Director, Central Area will be attending the conference. We will also be presenting service certificates, that's why we need to know who is attending in advance so we can have the correct certificates on hand.

Lunch is from the menu at the American Legion and the food is good. The agenda is being developed and is shown below. If you have suggestions for additional topics, please contact Al, NNN0KZC, as soon as possible.

*BT OVER*



### MN Area Conference Agenda

Saturday, June 11, 2005  
Waite Park, MN

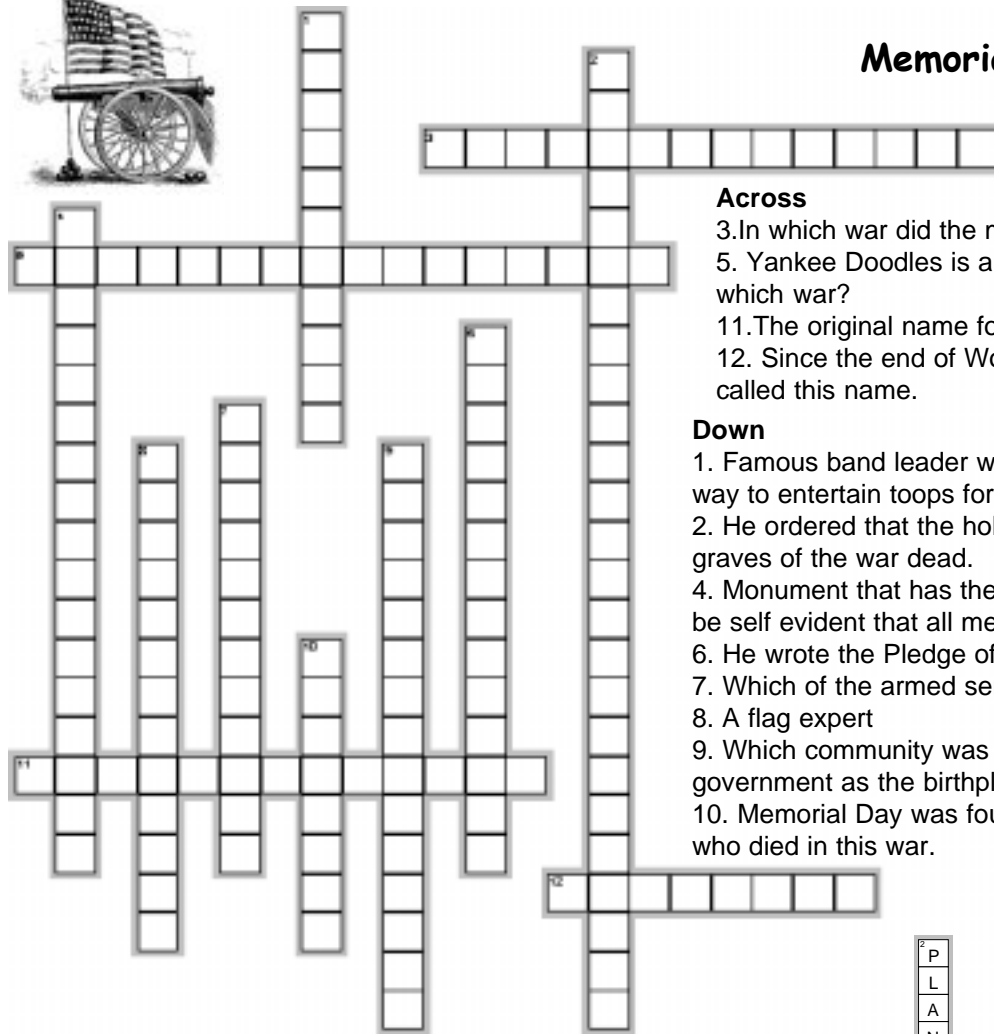
- 1100 - 1200 Assemble at Legion Hall
  - 1200 - 1300 Introductions and Lunch, Al NNN0KZC
  - 1300 - 1330 State/Area Director, Tim NNN0XEE
  - 1330 - 1400 Newsletter
  - 1400 - 1430 Training, Bob NNN0SXU
  - 1430 - 1500 ECOMM, Al NNN0KZC
  - 1500 - 1530 Dave, NNN0EPY
  - 1530 - 1600 Central Area Director Chief Jeffries  
NNN0ASG
- Questions/discussion items.  
Adjourn.



*D - Day June 6, 1944  
National D-Day Memorial*



## Memorial Day Trivia



### Across

- 3. In which war did the most U.S. service people die?
- 5. Yankee Doodles is a song popular with troops during which war?
- 11. The original name for Memorial Day.
- 12. Since the end of World War I, Memorial Day is also called this name.

### Down

- 1. Famous band leader who died in a 1944 plane crash on his way to entertain troops for a Christmas concert.
- 2. He ordered that the holiday be observed by decorating the graves of the war dead.
- 4. Monument that has the inscription, "We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal."
- 6. He wrote the Pledge of Allegiance
- 7. Which of the armed services is the oldest?
- 8. A flag expert
- 9. Which community was proclaimed in 1966 by the U.S. government as the birthplace of Memorial Day?
- 10. Memorial Day was founded to honor military personnel who died in this war.

Created with EdjoeCrossword - www.edjoe crossword.com

Dont't forget Dad on  
Sunday June 19th

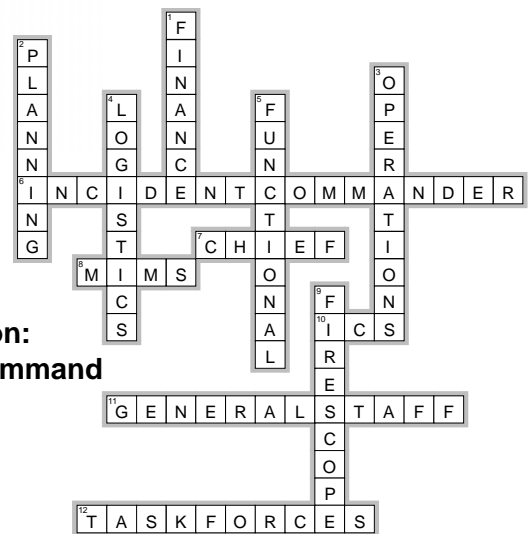


Happy  
Father's  
Day

## Test Your MARS Skills

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?

- A. Call your State Director on the telephone and ask him for directions.
- B. Establish contact with the station and accept the traffic, then as soon as possible, relay it to another station or deliver the message.
- C. Ignore the other station as he is probably not in your Region.
- D. Establish contact with the station, tell him to WAIT while you find someone who can handle his message.



### May Solution: Incident Command System

## Answer for the May Skills Test

Question; You are operating as the State traffic net's traffic representative (T-REP). You download an administrative message that has the operating signal ZEN/ preceding several call signs in the addressee list. How do you transmit these operating signals by voice?

- A. You don't. The operating signal ZEN/ is ignored when transmitting MARS messages by voice.

*Check next month's MARSGRAM for the MARS Skill solution*

## Public Relations

Jerry Wellman, W7SAR  
World Radio April 2005

Let's talk about public relations. And, let me begin with a true story. It will relate to Amateur Radio, so read on!

In today's newspaper there is a full-page advertisement for "AARP" and what they claim is a great deal on automobile insurance. I noticed this ad because two weeks ago I received a letter in the mail inviting me to join "AARP" and receive great, "benefits of membership." But nowhere in the materials I received in the mail did it tell me what AARP stood for. Not even in the fine print!

I was in a teasing mood, so I called the toll-free number and a very pleasant person greeted me. She asked if I was interested in joining "AARP." I asked her what the letters stood for. She said, it is just a group that represents members with common interests. OK, but what do the letters stand for? She said there were great benefits for joining. So, I asked, since I can't know what the letters stand for, is there a secret handshake? Or if I'm in a crowd, do I utter "aarp, aarp, aarp" and a fellow member will come to my assistance? She chuckled. So then I asked if I get a car decal if I join. She thought I would get one, and "a membership card." What if, I asked, someone asks me what "AARP" stands for, will the membership card tell me? She said it might.

I thanked her and said never mind. I know what the initials "AARP" used to be, but now they must be the "Anonymous American Rich People." This whole thing reminded me of a discussion about how companies and organizations have become acronyms. CNN reminds us from time to time they're the "Cable News Network," but do you ever hear ESPN tell you they're the "Entertainment and Sports Programming Network?" Or when GEICO calls, do they let you know they're the "Government Employees Insurance Company?"

So when I call a government agency and tell them I'm affiliated with RACES, ARES, CAP, REACT, ALERT, CERT, BSA, ERC, and sometimes MARA do they really understand what I'm saying?

Another true story. I called a fellow about a communications organization. They're well-known, but I'm not going to tell you the name of the group, as I don't want to embarrass them. (Although I think that shining the public spotlight on some strange behaviors is often the only way to get some groups and agencies to wake up and make changes!) I asked him to tell me a little about what his group was doing. He told me about their involvement in a recent major emergency. I was impressed at their involvement and the equipment they were asked to use. I said: "I didn't know 'GROUP' was involved with things like this." He answered:

"It's too bad more people don't know about 'GROUP' because we are always looking for new members and we have a lot going on." We then talked about the "GROUP" involvement in this specific emergency; and about the communications they offered. He said, things were going fine, until the media got in the way. He said Fox News was a real pain in the neck. "They showed up with a camera crew and came right up to our command post and asked what our involvement was." This fellow then explained to me how he summarily dismissed the news crew and told them to get out "of his face" and let him "do his job" without the "media interference."

He then chuckled, saying, "I set them straight about getting in our way." At this point, I wrapped up our telephone call and sat in amazement, shaking my head.

What part of "it's a shame no one knows about us" and "I told them to get out of my face" didn't this member of "GROUP" understand? So then I got to wondering if this wasn't outlined in the "GROUP's" national by-laws or by policy. I called and was referred to their public information person, who basically said they don't have a formal policy, but discourage members of "GROUP" from talking with the media. (We who work in the media are obviously bad people.)

I can't count the number of times I've been in various volunteer meetings over many years where someone (usually the person in charge) reminds all in attendance they're not to talk to the media. The statement usually includes: "Refer all inquiries to me [the leader] or to the agency's public affairs officer."

So here's a volunteer group member, doing laudable public service work, in the field, surrounded by radios and other stuff that would look good in print or on TV, and the policy is to not talk? (In other words, "to play dumb")

Let's play this out from the media perspective. Who are you and what are you doing to help? I can't tell you. (Media perception: this person is really dumb and is playing no part in this emergency.)

Is your GROUP helping in this emergency effort? You will have to talk to my leader. (Media perception: This person can't make any decisions without approval, and he/she is obviously working in a command center? Those poor victims, this person probably can't decide what to eat for lunch without permission.)

Can you tell me about this equipment you're using? No. (Media perception: Untrained people fiddling with expensive equipment. Those victims are in trouble if they're depending

**PR** *cont'd from pg 4*

on this "GROUP.") I heard on my scanner that "GROUP" is involved. I see by your nametag that you are a member of "GROUP." What can you tell me about "GROUP?"

Nothing. (Media perception: This person is so dumb; he/she doesn't even know what they're doing here. Those victims are sure in trouble.) Are you catching my drift?

Rather than some idiotic policy or nonpolicy of media avoidance, why not do your "GROUP" some good and actually sound like you know what you're doing and why you're there? (You're intelligent, you have impressive skills. You're educated. You provide a needed skill. Don't sell yourselves short!) Rather than chase the TV crew out, why not say: "We're a little busy for a minute, let me get some of this radio traffic handled and I can answer your questions about "GROUP."

And then, you begin to explain what your group is, why you're there, and tell about your resources and how they are used to reduce suffering and help others. Are you disclosing "secret" information? NO. Are you releasing "confidential" data? NO. And that's not what the media are asking. You're telling, possibly the world, readers and viewers that your GROUP is a viable, needed, and contributing part of this response. Be glad you got a moment of fame and be excited your GROUP got a little recognition. You right even get a new member or two who saw the report and said to themselves: "Gee, that group sounds neat! Maybe I'd like to be a part of that organization."

Back to this fellow I talked with on the phone. It's no wonder few people know about "GROUP."

Educate your people. Members of your ARES or communications group need to know about the organization. If they're members of RACES, they also need to know about RACES. Do your members need to know from memory every job and title? No. But they should be informed enough to know what the group's mission is, what role they play in the event, what radio services they use (Amateur, FRS, CB, GMRS, etc.) and should be able to brag about the group. By all means, tell people you're involved. Get the word out. Sing your own praises. Communications volunteers are wonderful people! You're integral to the response. It's no wonder so many community leaders don't know about some of these volunteer groups "it's our policy not to talk to the media." And where do you think many elected officials and agency people hear about, volunteers? In the media.

Sure once in a while you'll get some bozo in your group who will decide to embellish and try to make your group sound like they're running the whole show, but that usually

happens when you create an informational void. I wrote this months ago: In the absence of information, people will create information to fill the void. So fill it for them! Educate your people. Talk about your group's heritage. Talk about your past glory days. Talk about memorable events. Give your members a sense of your purpose and history.

Your members should know enough about "Amateur Radio" to at least tell someone what it is and how it works. A reporter is not usually going to ask you about antenna theory, propagation, or how the universe was created. They're just looking for the basics and something interesting to put on the evening news or fill a few inches of newspaper space. So help your members tell your story. Tell people about the good work you're doing! And, if all else fails, teach your members how to yell at the media to get out of their faces so they can get the job done. (Just kidding.)

Some years ago, and I don't remember when, there was a fellow who was featured on CNN during a hurricane. He had an impressive shack, and did very well in the interview. He was handling health and welfare traffic for the Red Cross. I actually bumped into him during a meeting on the East Coast. I was surprised to learn he was not a member of any group, "just a volunteer" he said. As we chatted, he was very complimentary to his local Amateur Radio groups, but said he found their rules and regulations too restrictive to just offering public service. Be careful that your group's policies are not hurting what you're trying to do.

BT OVER



Hampton, Va. (May 14, 2005) - An F/A-18F Super Hornet, assigned to the "Jolly Rogers" of Strike Fighter Squadron One Zero Three (VFA-103), and a Korean War-vintage F4U Corsair fly in formation during the Navy Legacy Flight at the 2005 Air Power over Hampton Roads air show held on board Langley Air Force Base, Va. This year's air show showcased civilian and military aircraft from the Nation's armed forces, which provided many flight demonstrations and static displays. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Daniel J. McLain (RELEASED)

## CW Ops Whip Whippersnapper Text Messengers On National TV

It may have been Friday the Thirteenth, but it was a lucky day for Morse code—and particularly for veteran CW contest ops Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller, K6CTW. During a May 13 appearance on NBC's *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, the pair was able to pass a message using good old fashioned Morse code more rapidly than a pair of teenaged text messengers equipped with modern cell phones. The victory, which replicated a similar challenge that took place recently in Australia, has provided immense encouragement to Amateur Radio's community of CW operators, who been ballyhooed the achievement all over the Internet. The text messaging team consisted of world text-messaging champ Ben Cook of Utah and his friend Jason. Miller said afterward in a reflector posting that the CW team won fairly handily.

"Ben was just getting ready to start entering the last two words when I was done," he said on the Elecraft reflector in response to various questions he's received following the TV appearance. "I already knew that 28-30 WPM would easily keep us in front of even the current world [text messaging] record holder, and also it is the fastest speed that I can make nice readable copy on paper with a 'stick' [pencil]." Miller said it was decided he'd be on the receiving end because he wasn't distracted by the noise in the studio.

Margelli recalls that he was sending at 29 WPM. "I believe the goods were suitably delivered," he told ARRL. "CW and old guys rule!"

What the viewing public didn't know was that Margelli and Miller had, in Miller's words, "smoked 'em every time" during three pre-program rehearsals. Even so, during the real thing, when Miller raised his hand to signal he'd copied the CW message successfully, Jason's jaw dropped. None of the players had any idea of the text they'd be sending, Miller noted. The message? "I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance."

As with many *Tonight Show* bits, this one involved a member of the audience, a young woman named Jennifer who predicted—incorrectly as it turned out—that text messaging definitely would top 170-year-old Morse code. She walked away with a gift of restaurant tickets anyway.

Margelli says the CW team used Yaesu FT-817 transceivers—one of his own and another owned by Dan Dankert, N6PEQ. Backup units—not needed—were provided by HRO; Margelli's wife Janet, KL7MF, manages an HRO store. They ended up using 432.200 MHz as an operating frequency in order to avoid RFI from the plethora of TV equipment in the studio and to avoid interfering with NBC's gear. They ran the little transceivers at their lowest power level and with the antennas disconnected—although they

were mounted on the back of each unit—no problem given the close proximity involved. Margelli sent with a Bencher paddle.

To add a little atmosphere to the affair, NBC producers attired Margelli and Miller to look like 19th-century-era Western Union or railroad Morse telegraphers. The costumes came complete with green visors, white shirts, sleeve garters, vests and bow ties. The teenaged SMSers wore T-shirts and jeans.

Cook told Leno that he'd managed to send a 160-letter message to his friend using his cell phone's short message system (SMS)—the formal term for text messaging—in 57 seconds.

A member of the Morse Telegraph Club and a QRP enthusiast, Miller said he'd been using CW for 38 years. Margelli told Leno he'd been using Morse "for 43 years in ham radio," a phrase Leno echoed. That was the only plug Amateur Radio got during the appearance on the show's "Dinner for 4" segment. Miller says that during rehearsal, the pair had come up with a few lines to promote ham radio and telegraphy, but they were cut during the final dress rehearsal in the interest of making the segment fit its allotted time slot.

During the Australian competition in April, a Morse team consisting of 93-year-old former post office telegrapher Gordon Hill—the sender—and 82-year-old Jack Gibson—the receiver—topped 13-year-old SMSer Brittany Devlin. In that event, Hill spelled out the message in full, while Devlin used text-messaging shorthand. In that competition, held at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Hill took 90 seconds to send the message, 18 seconds faster than Devlin's message took to reach her friend's cell phone.

Miller encouraged all who enjoyed the CW-vs-text messaging segment on NBC to contact *The Tonight Show* to let the producers know about it—with an eye toward having the network schedule a more elaborate segment "next time."

"Thanks for the kind comments from all," Miller concluded, advising "let's keep on having fun!—It is a hobby after all."

Commented Margelli to ARRL: "I completely agree with my fantastic teammate, Ken Miller. It was a lot of fun, just like ham radio, and the show also delivered an important, if subtle, message about the benefits of the 'basic' communication infrastructure that Amateur Radio provides."

BT OVER



June 25 - 26

## 5G1B Net Schedule

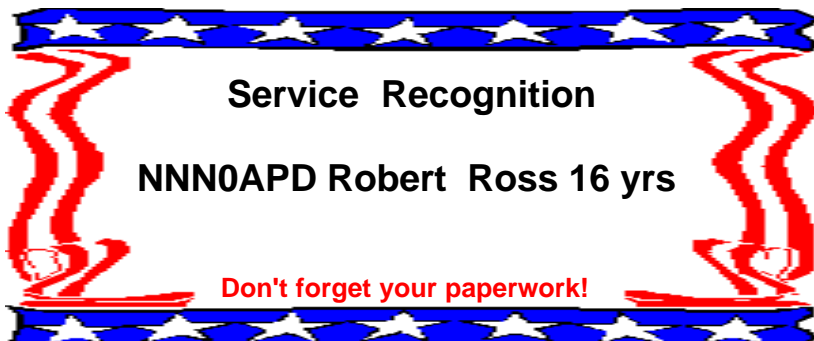
6:30PM 4007 kHz USB

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.



NNN0ACY Mike Warren 6/20  
 NNN0JAY Cal Fuhrman 6/21



## Saturday NECOS / TREP Schedule

	NECOS	TREP
Jun 4	KZC	KZC
Jun 11	BQH	BQH
Jun 18	SXU	SXU
Jun 25	ACY	OCF
July 2	XYA	XEE
July 9	XEE	XEE

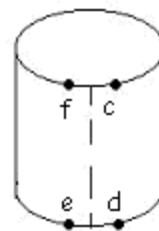
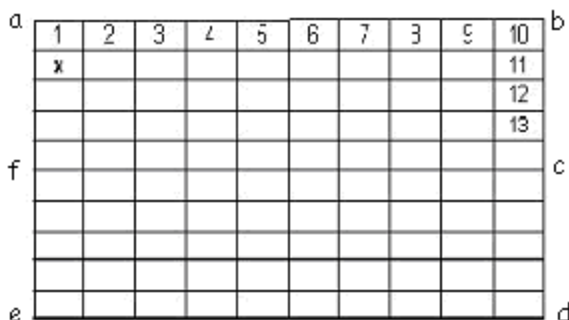
First Day  
of  
Summer!

June 21st



## Test Your Analytical Skills

We cut this sheet in half (shown at the left), 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 in the next issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM

## Solution for the May Test

What number would go into the spot marked x?

Answer: 36 – did you get the right answer without counting?

From a to b = 10; from b to d = 10 - 1 = 9 total to this point = 19; from d to e = 10 - 1 = 9 total to this point = 28; from e to a = 10 - 2 = 8, total to this point = 36

I think some of you actually counted the squares, shame, shame.

