



MINNESOTA MARSGRAM



March, 2004

Volume 8, Number 3

NNN0ALL Minnesota

by NNN0GAZ Tim

Greetings to all.

Well winter finally did arrive, we've just made it through the fourth snowiest February on record, or so the weather broadcasters like to tell us. By the way, does anyone remember what the groundhog did tell us about winter this year? Who knows how March will enter this year, as I write this a few days before the end of February.

Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota is scheduled for April 19-23, 2004, with Tornado Awareness Day scheduled for Thursday, April 22, 2004. On this day there will be a statewide test of outdoor warning systems scheduled for 1:45 PM. For further information, check out the National Weather Service web site for the Chanhassen station at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mpx/skywarn.html> or the Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at <http://www.hsem.state.mn.us/>. Remember our season for severe weather can start as early as March and extend into the late fall.

Speaking of preparedness, now is the time to review the Implementation message and Essential Elements of Information formats, no telling when one might need them. All of us should be prepared for an emergency or perhaps a drill. Make sure you are familiar with Implementation and EEI

formats in addition to proper ECOM net procedures.

Thanks to all who were patient throughout the recent switch downtime. Bruce, NNN0BQH, brought my attention to something amiss with the switch. Luckily the necessary spare parts were on hand to remedy the situation.

To Bob Reid, this issue marks the two-year anniversary of distribution of the Minnesota MARSGRAM by email. Thanks Bob for your continued work on this publication. As always, we are open to content submitted by other members. You can also let us know what you want in the MARSGRAM by emailing your comments and ideas to Bob Reid, NNN0XYA or me, NNN0XEE.

Thanks for your contribution to Minnesota MARS and enjoy this issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM.

Minnesota Area Conference

June 12, 2004
Saturday

American Legion Club
Waite Park, MN

Assemble at 11AM
Lunch at Noon
Meeting to follow

ASG & AS5 will be there!

Additional information will be printed in upcoming issues of the MN MARSGRAM.



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

BPL Buzz Close to Home!

Broadband over powerline hits Rochester, MN

Contained in a recent edition of the HandiHam E-newsletter was this sobering article.

“ROCHESTER, Minnesota: It may not be long before surfing the internet in Rochester becomes as easy as plugging in your computer. Rochester Public Utilities (RPU), in association with Hiawatha Broadband Communications, Inc. (HBC) of Winona, will begin studying broadband power line technology, or BPL, this spring.”

Yes, that is the rosy prediction from the RPU press release announcing that a BPL trial will soon be underway in Rochester, MN, the birthplace of the Handiham System. I was alerted to this news item by Handiham volunteer Chris Peterson, KG0BP, who told me that the amateur radio operators in the area are quite upset about it. Chris told me that he thought the BPL system would be a “free trial”, open to anyone in the test area wishing to try it without charge. He agreed to try it himself, and we will be hearing much more about the results later on this year. Meanwhile, the Rochester Amateur Radio Club, <http://www.rarchams.org/>, is planning to respond with some pointed questions at a scheduled public forum.”

The potential nightmare of a Broadband Over Powerlines (BPL) system is occurring right here in Minnesota. If you haven't taken the time to educate yourself on this issue you need to make time right now. One very good source of information is the American Radio Relay League website at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>. This site will give you a concise summary of the problem as well as provide numerous links to current information about BPL and it's proposed implementation.

The ARRL website provides the following explanation of BPL. Access BPL uses electrical distribution lines, overhead or underground, to provide broadband Internet access to homes and businesses. Because their wiring is physically large, often overhead and extends across entire communities, access BPL systems pose a significant interference potential to over-the-air radio services. Amateur Radio is *not* the only potentially affected service from these types of systems. There are a number of different techniques used in access BPL, from spread spectrum to OFDM (multi-carrier signals). Studies done by amateurs in Europe, Japan and the US leave little

doubt that access BPL that uses overhead electrical distribution wiring poses an interference risk to HF. Depending on the specific BPL protocol being used the interference extends into the VHF frequencies as well.

Still not convinced this may be a problem? Are you thinking that it could never happen in my town? Well, wake up! These are high frequency signals we are talking about. These signals are subject to the same laws of propagation that we take advantage of in our amateur communications. Now think about how a two or three S-unit increase in the noise level would affect your

communications effectiveness.

Ready to do something? You can start by mailing a QSL card to our two U.S. Senators and your U.S. Congressman. Tell them you are opposed to the implementation of BPL technology and ask for their support.

BT OVER



USS Duluth Underway



040211-N-8629M-094 San Diego, Calif. (Feb. 11, 2004) – The Austin-class amphibious transport dock ship USS Duluth (LPD 6), underway off the coast of San Diego, Calif. The versatile Austin-class LPDs provide substantial amphibious lift for Marine troops and their vehicles and cargo. Additionally, they serve as the secondary aviation platform for amphibious ready groups. The Duluth is home ported at Naval Station San Diego, Calif. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Rebecca J. Moat. (RELEASED)



AN IRISH WISH

May there always be work for your hands to do;
 May your purse always hold a coin or two;
 May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
 May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
 May the hand of a friend always be near you;
 May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Snowy Crete



040213-N-0780F-057 Souda Bay Crete, Greece (Feb. 13, 2004) – Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Four Zero (VRC-40) maintenance personnel prepare to move one of their C-2A Greyhound aircraft, currently assigned to USS George Washington (CVN 73), into the protection of a hangar as a large snow storm hits the largest Greek Island. VRC-40 is tasked with providing Carrier Onboard Delivery (COD) services to the Navy's Atlantic and Sixth Fleets. VRC-40, homeported at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., operates the C-2A "Greyhound" and reports to Commander, Airborne Early Warning Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. U.S. Navy photo by Paul Farley. (RELEASED)

PSK NET
TUESDAY EVENING
FOLLOWING THE 5G1B NET

The Missing Q signals

by John Queen, KA0SEY & Mike Colyar, K7ITL

Some Q signals have never made it to the ARRL's official list. Here are some that many agree would be useful in appropriate situations. As with regular Q signals, each can be a statement or a question, depending on whether a question mark follows it.

QBA - My antenna is BIG!

QBA? - How big is your antenna?

QBO - Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.

QBO? - Buddy, can you spare some soap?

QBS - It's getting deep in here.

QBS? - Did I tell you about the one that got away?

QBS - Clean the bird sh*t off your antenna so you can hear me

QBS? - Should I clean the bird sh*t off my antenna so I can hear you

QCW - I am going to whistle Morse Code on FM (or SSB)

QCW? - Why are you whistling Morse?

QDR - Damn Right the frequency is busy!} In response to QRL

QDR? - Do you have a Receiver?} In response to QRL

QET - Phone home.

QET? - Has anyone called me from another planet?

QEW - Copy is difficult due to Ear Wax.

QEW? - Is copy difficult due to Ear Wax?

QFH - This frequency is MINE! - go elsewhere.

QFH? - Is this frequency hogged?

QHI - I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.

QHI? - Are you leaving after only one transmission?

QLF - I am sending with my left foot.

QLF? - Are you sending with your left foot?

QLK - I am sending with my left foot and keyboard.

QLK? - Are you sending with your left foot and keyboard?

QNO - I am sending through a non-standard orifice.

QNO? - Are you sending through a non-standard orifice?

QOK - Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.

QOK? - Was my last transmission OK?

QRC - Warning, rag chewer on frequency.

QRC? - Are you a rag chewer?

QRW - Means Qrp - Really Weak

QRW? - Qrp, you are Really Weak?

QWC? - Who cares?

QWC - I don't care

QWC - I have to go to the bathroom

QWC? - Do you have to go to the bathroom?

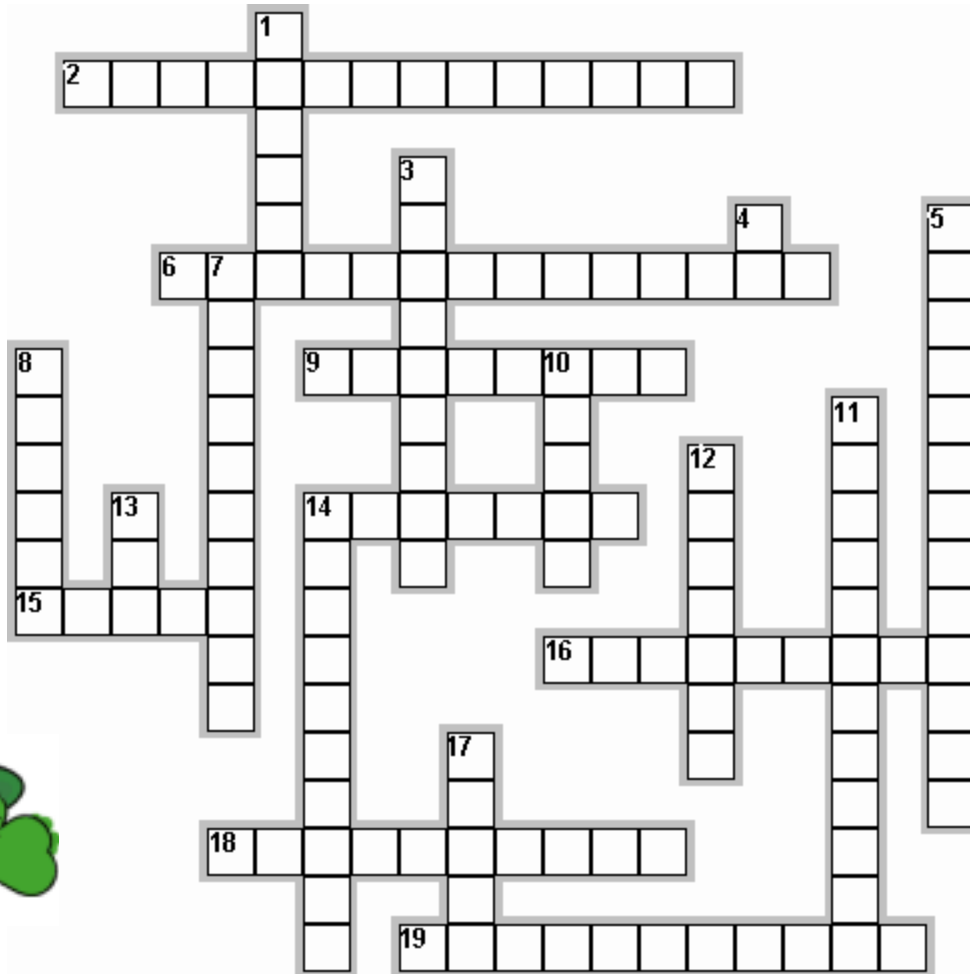
QZZ - I fell asleep at the mike.

QZZ? - Is that a 60Hz hum, or are you snoring?

BTOVER

MARS Crossword Time!

It's time to break out that copy of NTP8-C and the Ecom Plan and work out the across and down!



Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com



Across

2. EEI identifier for Earthquake
6. First message to be sent during an ecom situation
9. Word equivalents of PROSIGNS
14. Minnesota State Director Callsign
15. Continental United States
16. Message precedence reserved for very important messages
18. Location of Central Area headquarters
19. A message which is destined for two or more addressees and is of such a nature that the originator considers no addressee need be informed of any other addressees

Down

1. Situation Report
3. An emergency or disaster situation is imminent
4. First name of Chief Navy Marine Corps MARS
5. Region Five Director
7. VHF Repeater System
8. Phonetic for Q
10. Transmit this message to all addresses or to the address designations immediately following
11. City closest to where NAV is located
12. Minnesota MARSGRAM editor
13. Region Data Network
14. Location of MN MDS station
17. Proword for I have received your message, understand it, and will comply

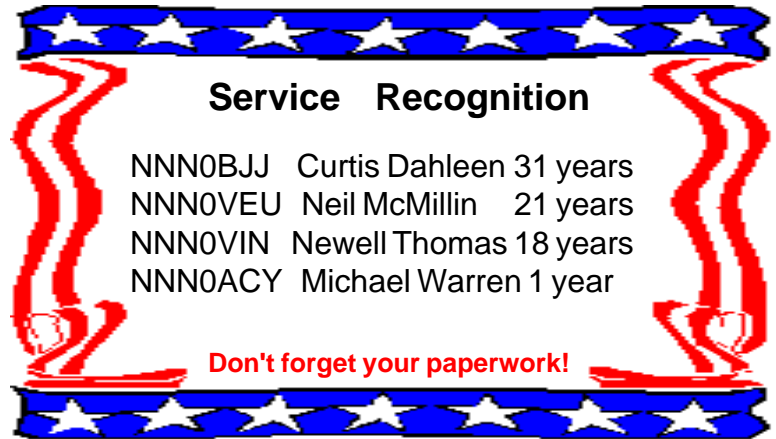
5G1B Net Schedule

6:30PM 4007 kHz USB

Day	NECOS	Tfc Rep
Sun.	XYA	XEE
Mon.	KZC	KZC
Tue.	XEE	XEE
Wed.	BQH	BQH
Thu.	???	???
Fri.	ACY	OCF
Sat.	Rotating Duty (see below)	
Mar 6	XEE	XEE
Mar 13	BQH	BQH
Mar 20	???	???
Mar 27	ACY	OCF



NNN0APH John Kaplan 3/8



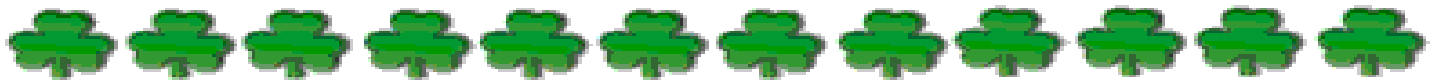
Don't be bashful, if the net has not been called by the net control station within 2 minutes, jump in and start things rolling.

MN MARS Intranet site

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

10 Laws of Computing

1. When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.
2. When you get to the point where you really understand your computer it'll be obsolete.
3. The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you least expect to find it.
4. When the going gets tough, upgrade.
5. To err is human ... to blame your computer for your mistakes is even more human, it is downright natural.
6. He who laughs last, probably made a back-up.
7. If at first you do not succeed, blame your computer.
8. A complex system that does not work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.
9. The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.
10. A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want to do.



Test Your Analytical Skills

Three switches and three bulbs

In a closed room are three light bulbs, and in the hall outside are three switches to these bulbs. Your task is to find which switch controls which bulb.

You can enter the closed room once. There are no other restrictions.

Each switch operates in the usual way...

up = on, down = off.

Answer in the April issue of the Minnesota MARSGRAM.

Answer to the February Test

"I spent \$3.00 at the surplus store. The transistor was twice as much as the inductor, which was twice as much as the capacitor, which was twice as much as the resistor.

What did the capacitor cost?"

Answer:

Resistor =	X
Capacitor =	2X
Inductor =	4X
Transistor =	8X

Total 15X

$\$3.00 / 15 = X$

$X = \$0.20$

Capacitor = $2 \times X = 2 \times \$0.20 = \0.40