

CVFMA newsletter

SPRING 1992

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The third annual "Beat-The Cabin-Fever-Blues" dinner was held on January 18th at the Homestead Inn, Walpole, NH. There were 46 members and guests present. It gets bigger every year! I did not hear any complaints, therefore I assume everyone had enough to eat and had a good time visiting with old friends and meeting new ones.

A tribute of thanks was given to Darrel/KL7DN, the founder of this social event. Only he could come up with a name like "Beat-The-Cabin-Fever-Blues". Many thanks to Polly/KA1III for all her work in making the arrangements and talking it up on the 76 machine. Thanks to all those who braved the elements and came. Without you it would not have been a success. Thanks to all!!

Mid-Winter Social Gathering

This was a pot luck social held on February 15th with 24 members and guests present. Music and entertainment were provided by members of the "Woody and the Ramblers" group (Due to illness, Woody was unable to attend). As usual, there was plenty of food and a FUN TIME was had by all. Thanks again to Polly for all her efforts.

Proposed Amendment to the CVFMA Constitution

The constitution currently requires board meetings to be held on the second Tuesday of odd numbered months. The proposed change would eliminate the second Tuesday requirement, as some board members have schedule problems with that day.

Article 4 Section 1 presently reads:

The board of directors shall meet at a minimum of bimonthly to discuss and resolve the business of the Association. The Board of Directors meetings shall be open to the membership: meetings shall be held on the second (2nd) Tuesday of odd number months (Ex. January, March, May, etc.).

The proposed change would delete the words "the second (2nd) Tuesday of". The phrase would then read: "meetings shall be held on odd number months".

The Board recommends that this amendment, as presented, be adopted at the April 26th 1992 meeting.

Spring Meeting

Our General Spring Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Sunday, April 26th at 12:30pm in the Community Room of the Sugar River Savings Bank, Newport, NH.

Warren Rothberg/ WB1HBB, ARRL Section Manager, will show a video tape entitled "Your HQ at Work". The tape includes a tour of the ARRL HQ facilities which should be of interest to those of us who have not been there since the recent renovations. I hope to see many of you there.

Annual Spring Trip

Here it is again, that time of year when yours truly and XYL Diane head south to get some relief from this crazy New England weather, hi hi. By the time you read this letter we will be (hopefully) enjoying the Florida warmth and sunshine. Before we head north we will spend a week in New Orleans, the site of the Mardi Gras and the birthplace of Jazz!

See you at the April Pot Luck! 73/88s Ham

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President: Hamilton H. Webb, KA1PVS; Vice President: Rudolf A. Adler, W1GUA; Secretary: Pauline R. Ellis, KA1III; Treasurer: Darrel L. Daley, KL7DN; ~~Member At Large: Wayland Scott, N1HMS~~; Trustee: Rudolf A. Adler, W1GUA; Editor: Reade Williams, N1GEP; Program Chairman: Pauline R. Ellis, KA1III

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: MARLON WOOD KA1SMC

IMPORTANT DATES

See Announcements for Details

Ham Fest	Apr 25
Pot Luck Meeting	Apr 26
VE Session	June 6

ARES IN ACTION

The Sullivan County Region ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) group was alerted by DEC WA1WOK of the New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management and was asked to assist in providing tactical communications for Operation Iceout on the Connecticut River.

Directed by the Cold Regions Research Laboratory in Hanover and involving many New Hampshire state agencies, Operation Iceout seeks to discover methods to reduce the danger of uncontrolled spring ice flows and damage to structures along the river.

Sullivan County ARES members participating were: NR1N, NG1O, KA1MDT, NS1O, N1CIR, N1EFK, N1GEP, and W1GUA. (Also participating were W1GUX, N1KDV, WA1O and N1FSR). The Mount Ascutney repeater was used for the exercise and provided excellent coverage from the Wilder dam to the Ascutney bridge. Incident manager was Dave, NG1O, and Net Control was Lindsey, NR1N assisted by Cal, WA1WOK. Thanks to all the CVFMA membership and 146.76 users for their patience and cooperation.

On April 25 an ARES communications team has been requested to assist the Boy Scouts of America Family Fun Walk (formerly the Hike-A-Thon) in Charlestown, NH. Operators, ARES registered or not, wishing to participate should contact W1GUA or KA1NYP.

An NH ARES staff meeting for EOs and Assistant EOs will be held on April 11th. Any news from this meeting will be relayed to the membership on the Tuesday evening Twin State Emergency Net.

ARES registration forms are available to licensed Amateurs of any class with an interest in emergency communications and public service. Contact WB1EAE, KA1NYP, N1HAC, or W1GUA for information.

Rudolf A. Adler, W1GUA
Emergency Coordinator
Sullivan Co. NH Region

CVFMA HAMFEST & FLEAMARKET

Hear ye! Hear ye! Be sure not to miss the annual CVFMA Hamfest and Fleamarket to be held on April 25th at the Goshen Lempster School from 7am to 2pm. Both indoor and outdoor locations will be available. There will be plenty of table space both inside and outside. Trade in your old junk for a brand new bunch of goodies!! Win fabulous door prizes!!

Admission:

Buyers: \$2.00 per person (under 16 free)
Inside Sellers: \$5.00 per 4x8 table
Outside Sellers: \$3.00 per space

Directions:

Route 10 in East Lempster, NH
10 Miles south of Newport, NH
25 miles north of Keene, NH

Volunteers needed!! Help out your club by giving a few hours of your time.

Contact Hamilton Webb/KA1PVS

73 Maple Ave.
Claremont, NH 03743
(603) 542-4658

VE NEWS

The CVFMA's next test session is Saturday, June 6, 1991. It will be at the Sugar River Savings Bank's Community Room, Main Street, Newport, NH. Doors open at 8:00 AM. They close at 8:45 AM. Testing will start at 9:00 AM. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Please remember to bring the following with you when taking exams:

- Original FCC-issued license (if already licensed)
- Copy of current license (if already licensed).
- Original of all CSCEs you are claiming.
- Two (2) forms of ID (one with photo)
- \$5.25 (correct change appreciated)

If you are a Voluntary Examiner and can assist at a test session, please contact me.

For more information contact Conrad Ekstrom, WB1GXM, VE Contact Person, P.O.Box 1076, Claremont, NH 03743. You can also contact me by packet at WB1GXM-1 off of VNH, or on the E-net on Tuesdays, 7:30 PM local on 146.76 MHz.

Don't forget that since 1984 the VEs of the CVFMA VE Group have been giving their valuable time and effort to make the VE program a success and Amateur Radio more enjoyable for all.

Looking at the rest of 1992, the tentative VE session dates are September 12 and December 5, 1992.

As a reminder, license manuals will be available at the test sessions, with the proceeds going to the GEARS school group. Hope to see you there!

73. Conrad, WB1GXM, VE Contact Person.

G.E.A.R.S. WEATHER PROJECT

The Goshen-Lemster Educational Amateur Radio Society and the fourth grade science class are doing a science unit on weather. Both licensed and unlicensed kids will be participating. Besides integrating Amateur Radio into the science class, I'll be showing what Amateur Radio can do and trying to interest other students in becoming licensed.

Part of the science unit includes the collection of weather data from as many local and distant points as possible. Amateur Radio can help with this part very nicely. I would like to ask the members of CVFMA if they could assist by reporting their daily weather to us by packet.

If possible, we would like one daily report at a regular time of day: morning, noon, or afternoon, depending on your individual circumstances. The project will run from January 27 to March 27, 1992. All data will be greatly appreciated.

The primary collection point is WB1GXM-1, Claremont NH, MBX via VNH (144.93) which will be on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You may also forward data via your local PBBS to WB1GXM @ WA1YTW.NH.USA.NA.

Please use the following format:

Callsign, Community/State, Temperature,
Skycover, Wind speed/direction,
Precipitation, Barometric Pressure, Time of
Day Collected, Comments.

It's that easy. Again, your assistance will be greatly appreciated by the science class as a whole and the potential new amateurs in particular.

73. Butch, WB1GXM

NO CODE CLASS

Rudy, W1GUA and Darrel, KL7DN are teaching a 15 session, CVFMA sponsored Novice/Technician class (no code) at Steven's High School. The last session will be exams administered by the VE program. There are 16 dedicated students enrolled in the class and we hear that both students and teachers are sharing a stimulating and rewarding experience.

A DAY ON THE RIVER

At about 8:00 am I arrived at my post at the west end of the Ascutney bridge, dressed to the hilt with thermal underwear and extra socks, and with extra HT batteries all charged up. Rudy/W1GUA was already parked on the bridge with his "Amateur Radio Public Service" magnetic sign in full view. Soon afterwards a two man NH-DOT survey crew arrived and we clambered down the hill north of the bridge to the river bank. Members of the crew were John Webber, a veteran of many years with the DOT, and Scott Lebrun, a relative youngster in his mid twenties. Despite the age difference, the two worked together like a well oiled machine.

While the survey crew set up their gear I checked in with Net Control Lindsey/NR1N.

The surveyors were to take measurements of water level and ice temperature throughout the day. On the bank well above the water they set up a sighting level consisting of a small telescope mounted on a level platform. Several holes were dug through the ice for water level measurements and the temperature probe was buried part way into the ice. To take a reading one of the surveyors held up a graduated pole with the bottom just touching the water while the other surveyor sighted the pole through the telescope and read off the height. Water height measurements were taken at 5 minute intervals during most of the day except for a period when the water was rising rapidly and the intervals were reduced to 1 minute.

At about 8:35 am the gates at the Wilder Dam were opened and the operation was underway. A surge of water, measuring up to 9 feet, began to move down the river. Survey and video crews were stationed at strategic points along the river between the Wilder dam and the Ascutney bridge to record the passage of the surge and the breakup of the ice. Although the surge did not begin to arrive at our location until early afternoon, we were able to monitor its progress and the breakup of the ice over the radio net.

Except for the measurement routine, things were very quiet at our post all day. Occasionally one of the other stations would request some of our data, or ask how fast the water was rising. Unfortunately, the area of ice breakup remained well up river from our location, and the most excitement we had was when an otter decided to run across the ice just down the river from our site.

After about 5:00pm the water level started to drop, signaling that the surge had moved past our location. At about 5:20 I was released and was able to proceed home, where it took me a couple of hours to get fully warmed up.

Would I volunteer next year if the event takes place again? Absolutely! I wouldn't miss it for the world.

Reade Williams/N1GEP

FOR SALE

Atlas 210X, 80-10 Meters SSB only,
Solid state, noise blanker, improved final,
AC console with VOX, DC power cord, manual.
Contact Jack /N1HOS (802) 463-4975

WANTED

11 Element 2 Meter Beam
Contact Tom /KB2ALP (603) 863-7991

36MC6 Tube
Contact Tom /K1VNE (802) 869-2777

User Receiver with VFO
Contact Larry Sarvar (603) 745-2427

BIRTHDAYS

Apr 3 Marie H. Stewartson /KA1BRF
Apr 5 Walter G. Congdon /W1ZPB
Apr 10 Erich A. Adler /KA1VCX
Apr 11 Richard Adams /KA1TYP
Apr 11 Laurier W. Bissonette /W1USB
Apr 11 Graham Brusie /KA1NUH
Apr 12 Ronald Kobylenski /WC1S
Apr 19 Leo-Paul A. Chauvin /KA1PQ
Apr 22 Marlon Wood /KA1SMC
Apr 25 Martin Pachomski /N1KIL
Apr 26 Peter Buttner /WA1FEU
Apr 30 Lemeul R. Cummings /K1IOJ

May 4 Warren P. Richie/N1EFK
May 9 Eugene M. Chicoine/WO1W
May 9 Robert J. Ravlin, Jr./KA1WZB
May 17 Susan Thompson/KA1KVA
May 20 Ted Emerson/
May 22 Edward D. Ellis/KA1IJ
May 25 Teresa H. Marvin/ ~~KA1IHY~~
May 26 Hamilton H. Webb/KA1PVS
May 30 Roger L. Campbell/N1FVG

Jun 1 Cary J. Stratford/N1HZM
Jun 3 Gerald W. Benedict/W1NDL
Jun 6 David C. Belisle/KA1AH
Jun 7 John F. Heden/N1HMC
Jun 12 Roger E. Prior/NS1O-~~AK~~
Jun 14 John F. Rushmore/KA3SYI
Jun 17 John G. Rooney/WA1SDJ
Jun 20 Pauline R. Ellis/KA1III
Jun 24 Rudolf A. Adler/W1GUA
Jun 24 Roland W. (Lanny) Aldrich, JR/K1LEC
Jun 24 Darrel L. Daley/KL7DN
Jun 24 Reade Williams/N1GEP
Jun 26 David C. Schaller/W1S

ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 1 Edward /KA1IJ & Pauline /KA1III Ellis
Apr 14 Carl /N1JRA & Barbara Snyder
Apr 21 John /W1AXL & Olwyn Stoughton
Apr 21 John /W1ORE & Virginia McKinnon
Apr 29 Frank /WB2IJZ & Charlotte Theetge
May 9 Roger /KA1YUT & Lori Parent
May 12 Robert & Frances Emory
May 13 Arthur /K4BSX & Evelyn
May 30 Leo-Paul / KA1QP & Gabrielle Chauvan
Jun 3 Howard /KB1JT & Carroll Baxter
Jun 9 Ken /W1RPK & Evelyn Pollard
Jun 14 Walton /W1ZPB & Betty Congdon
Jun 17 Gerald /W1NDL & Ann Benedict
Jun 23 Jack /N1HGG Bacon
Jun 26 Henry /W1ATC & Rose McCarthy
Jun 29 George /K2RGY & Mildred Bond
Jun 30 Arthur /KA1BRG & Marie /KA1BRF Stewartson

COMPLAINTS OR SUGGESTIONS?

Do you have any gripes, complaints, or bright ideas for a better CVFMA? Your board is anxious for feedback from the membership. Come to any board meeting or pass your suggestions or complaints along to ~~member at large~~ ~~Stacy~~

~~Stacy~~ DIRECTOR AT LARGE: MARLON WOOD
KA1SMC

WEATHER OR KNOT?

Everyone talks about the weather and nobody does anything about it! In that respect the CVFMA weather nets do a good job of reporting the weather. It is most interesting over here in New Hampshire as we find out what weather we will have two or three hours later. I thought that a short discussion of the items of the weather reports would be of interest to some of our listeners and possibly to some of our weather reporters.

(The CVFMA weather net meets weekdays at 6:30am, 5:30pm and 10:00pm on 146.76. The NH Net meets weekdays at 9:55pm on 146.94. All Hams are invited to participate.)

I start out my report with the name of the city or town where I am located. Then I report the temperature. Some of us have digital thermometers that read out to tenths of a degree. For the life of me I can't tell what difference a tenth of a degree makes to anyone so I report it to the nearest degree.

Radio Shack sells a nice little indoor-outdoor thermometer. The case is 3 1/2 by 5 inches and 1/2 inch thick. It has a little probe on the end of a thin white cord that is about 6 feet long. The cord runs under my window sash and out through a crack in the storm window frame and the probe mounts on the edge of the window sill. It is on the easterly side of the house so I have it covered with a piece of thick Styrofoam and a piece of aluminum foil to reflect the sun's heat in the morning. The air reaches the probe through a hole in the bottom. This arrangement seems to work very well. Inside the house the readout displays the current outdoor temperature plus the high and low for the day. I must remember to reset it before going to bed so the max. and min. readings will be correct. Sounds a little fancy but it sure is nice to read the outdoor temperatures from the comfort of a nice warm room!

The second item of the report is the sky condition. I go outside and look up at the sky and try to judge just how much of the sky is covered with clouds. The weather bureau has a system. If there is one tenth or less of the sky covered with clouds it is called **CLEAR**. If more than one tenth of the sky is covered but less than four tenths then it is called **SCATTERED**. If more than four tenths but less than eight tenths of the sky is covered by clouds it is called **BROKEN**, and anything greater than eight tenths is called **OVERCAST**. With Overcast it is possible to have occasional holes in the clouds. The degree of coverage is a judgment call and no

one will argue with you when you make your decision.

Some reporters occasionally report Broken Overcast. There is no such condition! It should be reported either Broken or Overcast. You may then add a comment such as "breaks in the overcast" in the remarks section of the report. Way to go!!

Next is the wind direction and speed. The direction is the direction from which the wind is coming. The speed can be reported as miles per hour or as calm, light, moderate, or gale. Either way is certainly OK.

Now I state the precipitation, if any, at the present time.

Next is the barometer reading. If you don't have a barometer just leave it out. Barometer changes are of interest as a falling barometer usually means that inclement weather is on the way and if it is falling fast then it will probably be quite windy very soon. A rising barometer usually means good weather with clearing skies to come.

Now is the place for remarks which may include the high and low temperatures for the day, the amount of total rainfall or snowfall and any other information that may be of interest such as "breaks in the overcast".

Weather reporting is a fun project and while it is nice to conform to the above definitions it is not all that important and we love to have your reports in whatever form you desire to give them.

Join us in reporting the weather. You will find it great fun and we will all profit from your reports. Try it - maybe you'll like it!

(By law Amateur Radio operators cannot gather weather information over the air for the benefit of or with the *intention* that the information will be used by commercial radio or TV stations. However, commercial broadcast stations can and frequently do monitor Amateur weather net communications and are free to use the information in their weather broadcasts.)

Frank Finger /NU1A

VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS NEEDED

The following item by Mitch Stern, WB2JSJ, VT SM, is reprinted from the ARRL Vermont Section News.

Amateur Auxiliary / Official Observer Program:
There is no good news to report here. Our OO coordinator stepped down in mid-year. The remainder of the OOs, with one exception, have been totally inactive in the program. OO complaints about conditions on 14.313 and 28.325 MHz have not been resolved by the FCC. Morale is, quite understandably, low. I see one of the most important functions of the OO staff is to educate Amateurs about the rules and technical standards so that the rule violations don't happen in the first place. Right now we don't really have a program. If you feel you have the desire to help out, please call!

HOME BREW RADIO GEAR

Calling all Hams with operational home brew transmitters, receivers, amplifiers, tuners, etc. High power or QRP. Send us details of your equipment and we will feature it in a future newsletter.

FOR ARRL MEMBERS ONLY

When renewing your ARRL Membership, make a contribution to CVFMA! Here's how:

Make out your check for the renewal amount, but make it out to CVFMA and send it to the Treasurer: Darrel L. Daley, P.O.Box 445, Putney, VT 05346. Darrel will renew your membership according to your wishes, but he will be able to keep some of your renewal money for the CVFMA. It is that easy!

BREAKFAST GATHERINGS

SAMRATS meets for breakfast and chit chat the last Saturday of each month at Mr. G's Restaurant off of I91 at Exit 8.

An informal Ham Radio breakfast gathering takes place every Saturday morning at MacKenna's Restaurant, New London, at 8:00 AM. All area Hams, XYLs and guests are welcome to drop in and have a cup of coffee with the group. Recent regulars are Roger Prior /NS10, Bill Eachus /KB1DL, Bob Buckley /W1GUX, Frank Finger /NU1A, Howard Baxter /KB1JT, and Reade Williams /N1GEP. They're not the McLaughlan Group but they have fun anyway!!