

The CVFMA Newsletter



Volume 2 Issue 4

August 1997

July Activities - No Free Weekends!

No time for honeydo's during the month of July! The Upper Valley area found itself fully charged with amateur-supported events. In addition, we sponsored an event ourselves; just in case there were one or two operators with time available.

July 12 : Audrey Prouty Bike Ride

Members of CVFMA and TSAR (Twin State Amateur Radio) joined together to support the various walking and biking loops of this event held annually to raise money for the Norris Cotton Cancer Center at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Memorial Hospital. Typically some 600 walkers and riders solicit sponsorship and participate in this event.

With Net Control at the Thompson Arena, the bike loop went North in New Hampshire to Lyme, Orford, Warren, Pike, North Haverhill then crossed over into Vermont and travelled South through Wells River, Bradford, Thetford and finally back into New Hampshire for the return leg to the Arena.

Mobile and fixed stations along the route tracked riders, reported needed bike repairs and requested supplies where needed. Exhausted riders could, through radio operators at the various checkpoints, request a ride back to the start/finish.

This year, the event was quite uneventful except for the absence of thunder-

storms and many disabled bikes (or riders). Of note was the one individual who persevered through six (6!) flat tires only to call it a day when her seventh tube blew.

The amateur radio community provided tremendous support and had an enjoyable time visiting at the various stations.

July 19-20: 100 Mile Endurance Run

Have trouble walking around the block? Try 100 miles, at a time.

For the third year in a row, the local amateur radio community provided support to this endurance event that raises money for the Vermont Adaptive Sport & Ski Association. With the start/finish at the Smoke Rise Farm in South Woodstock, the course travels North through Taftsville, South Pomfret, Woodstock and then South to Reading, Cavendish, and Brownsville to turn North again back to Smoke Rise Farm. The event began Saturday morning at 4 a.m. (yes, NINCT was awake at that time of the day!) and concluded with a cookout following the 10 a.m. (Sunday) finish.

The Net Control station was located at Smoke Rise Farm. Radio support was provided at approximately 20 of the 36 stations (each station provided food and water, many stations were manned for support and some had medical checkpoints). The event utilized the newly-

refurbished 147.24 repeater on Moose Mountain.

During the course of the event, it was observed that performance of the repeater became marginal at best. Dave, WA1ZCN, happened to be on Moose Mountain conducting maintenance on the TSAR repeater (145.27 (now 145.33)). Dave observed that mice had already been active in the 147.24 repeater (PVC tastes good, apparently) and that wind tended to generate noise on the transmissions. To think that CVFMA had just re-installed this repeater after it had been checked over at the manufacturer's shop!

This year, temperatures during the day were superb for running. As evening began, it became cold enough for warm clothing. At Station 25, the temperature at 7 p.m. was 51 °F (and this was July!)! Eventually, the cloud cover blew over and offered everyone a spectacular view of the full moon.

Throughout the night, the Glowsticks lit the trail and radio operators tracked the last runner through the various stations.

This year, 31 amateur radio operators, with friends and family, supported this event.

The event was well coordinated and radio operators successfully tracked runners through the various stations and closed down each station as the last

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runner passed through. No runners were lost and none was invented along the way.

Plans are already under way for next year (in the mode of: next year has to be better than this year); now that the maps to each station are completed (and ready for comments and revisions), we can focus on some technical issues. The owner of Smoke Rise Farm has agreed to install a tower (permanent) for the antennae and will also install a coaxial cable feedthrough to bring the antenna coax into the building rather than the conventional means of draping the coax around the main door in the barn. If possible, permanent coax could be installed. When this installation becomes real, we have Gary, N1PKP, to thank for his long standing acquaintance with the owner of the property.

In addition, efforts will be put into improving the propagation from each manned station. There were some difficulties with reception during the early part of Saturday.

Finally, reliability of the repeater will be improved. It seems that the local mouse population discovered the repeater fresh from its visit to its maker. §§§

July 19-20: MS150 Bike Ride

Several members of CVFMA supported the Multiple Sclerosis 150 mile fundraising bicycle ride in Western Vermont over the weekend.

The bike ride began at either end of the 150 mile course; some riders travel North from Bennington to Vergennes while others start in Vergennes and travel South to Bennington. All riders met in Poultney on Saturday for an evening of camaraderie and rest.

July 25-27: Seige at Fort No. 4

Once again, the French and Indians attacked the northern outpost of British civilization in Charlestown, NH. Fortunately for all, they were held off just as they were 250 years ago. Not without plenty of musket fire, warpaint and pseudo-scalping.

From Norm, N1SJK, the event coordinator, comes the following:

The Siege at Fort No. 4 in Charlestown, NH, on July 25-27 was a smashing success, thanks in part to ham radio involvement! We handled everything from finding lost parents of a child who had no problem finding us, to call for a fire at the Net Control Station's location (no comments were offered by Bob, N1NCT, over *that* incident!). I don't know how the Fort did on its finances but we did a very good job in being able to handle every situation that arose. For our efforts, we received an event T-shirt and free admission to the Fort.

We had a total of 29 volunteers who worked at least a 4-hour shift. Seventeen volunteers were worked each day of the three

day event. Demographics are as follows: 18 volunteers from NH, 9 from VT, 1 from MA and 1 volunteer from Sanford, ME. Nine of the volunteers worked all three days and deserve a special "thank you"!

Volunteers for this event include: N1NCT (Bob), N1SJK (Norm), N1RSY (John), KB2FF (Dick), N1TJN (Ed), N1ZCO (Pete), N1PKP (Gary), N1WZR (Ethan), N1NGF (Jack), K1LES (Les), N1FQS (Clarence), N1WVO (Evan), N1ZCM (Bill), N1WEG (Gary), N1XZE (Gregory), N1WTZ (Jeffrey), W1ZS (Burt), WB1GXM (Conrad), KA1SMC (Marlon), KB1BMB (Gary), N1CIR (Bob), AA1PK (Laura), N1JRA (Carl), N1YTA (Justin), N1YTW (Kurth), N1TBB (Roy), N1TGB (Cliff), N1WYW (Cindy) and K1ZS (Dave).

William Mitchell, W1WOL, is a trustee of the Fort and, with Charlie, N1MSB, participated in the amateur radio support and in the re-enactment. You never know where a good ham will show up!

A total of 6,700 spectators visited the Fort to see if the outcome of the Seige was the same as in 1747 (only N1NCT had any first-hand eyewitness data from the initial seige).

I extend my thanks to all who participated and to Bob, N1NCT, for allowing my lead and for his support.

de Norm, N1SJK §§§

CRITICAL THINKING

A letter from the Smithsonian Institution:

The story behind this... Apparently, there is a nutball who digs things out of his back yard and sends his "discoveries" to the Smithsonian Institution labelling them with scientific names and insisting they are actual archeological finds. The bizarre truth is this guy really exists and does this in his spare time! Anyway, what follows is a letter from the Smithsonian Institution in response to his submission of a recently discovered specimen.

Paleoanthropology Division
Smithsonian Institute
207 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20078

Dear Sir:

Thank you for you latest submission to the Institute, labelled "211-D, layer seven, next to the clothesline post. Hominid skull." We have given this specimen a careful and detailed examination, and regret to inform you that we disagree with your theory that it represents "conclusive proof of the presence of Early Man in Charleston County two million years ago." Rather,

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SOUTH STRAFFORD SEARCH

(A Joint Effort)

On Saturday morning, August 9, several CVFMA and Twin State Radio Club (TSRC) members received a request to go to South Strafford, Vt. to assist with a search for an elderly man who had walked away from his house Thursday evening and had not been found since.

The details presented were:

The man is: Doug Ballin, age 81, apparently suffering with acute Alzheimer's Disease.

Mr. Ballin lives in South Strafford and had been known to walk from his home to the general store in South Strafford. On Thursday, August 7, Ballin left his home at approximately 3:30 pm. Forty-five minutes after his departure, his family went looking for him and was unsuccessful.

Based on these, and other, data, the two radio clubs joined with the Vermont State Police, Civil Air Patrol, Northeast Wilderness Search and Rescue, Vermont National Guard, several canine search teams, and countless other volunteers to search the South Strafford and surrounding areas for Ballin.

Much of the details can be found in the Valley News (Saturday, August 9 through Tuesday, August 12). Included with the details is a picture of Doug Ballin.

The amateur radio team set up the Net Control Station (NCS) in the Newton School in South Strafford adjacent to the CAP and Vermont State Police control centers. On Saturday, the team used a J-pole and an all-mode radio to communicate via the TSRC 145.33 repeater on Moose Mountain. Radio teams searched the roads West of South

Strafford and concentrated on the roads that paralleled and crossed Downers State Forest. In addition, radio teams manned the Vermont State Police mobile command post to act as a relay for the State vehicles.

Saturday closed without finding Ballin.

On Sunday, approximately 15-20 radio operators showed up to support the ongoing search and were instructed to concentrate to the North and West of South Strafford. By late morning, all roads, including many that required four wheel drive vehicles, had been searched several times to no avail. At that point radio operators were assigned to canine teams and manned search teams to provide coordination and communication with the NCS. Several operators hiked with search teams and at least one operator rode his mountain bike on dirt roads to assist with the search.

Sunday was a hot, humid day and, by mid-afternoon, was taking its toll on searchers (human and canine). The focus of the search was from Ballin's home into South Strafford and then South on Route 132 toward Union Village.

By 6 p.m., the search teams called it a day without having found Ballin.

On Monday, with a smaller contingent of searchers, areas were revisited. Again, the day ended without having found Doug Ballin. As the articles in the Valley News state, it was then assumed that Ballin had received a ride to some other location. At that point, the massive search effort was transferred to a detective and the search terminated.

Starting Saturday morning with calls from the Presidents of both radio clubs, many radio operators gave willingly of their time and resources to assist with the search for a man that nobody knows personally. Several operators know of

Doug Ballin and recognized the nature of acute Alzheimer's Disease.

Radio communication coordination was superb! Both clubs joined together to ensure that amateur radio was perceived as an asset to this search. Search management indicated that they were very pleased with the turnout and with the quantity and quality of support provided by amateur radio; we were assured that we would be invited to participate in future searches.

Communications in the hilly areas around South Strafford proved difficult at times; the radio activity started on 146.97 (Tunbridge) and switched to Moose Mountain, 145.33 when access to Tunbridge became difficult from the NCS location and from many of the vehicles. Most radio operators were then able to access the repeater with handheld radios from almost all search locations.

As always, this event was a learning exercise for all participants. Those that tracked the progress of the search in The Valley News never saw any mention of amateur radio except as "other volunteers". In reality, this oversight is acceptable; amateur radio participated to help locate a missing person and egos were put in check. However, such publicity is also where amateur radio gets a free promotion; this is, in part, where other groups learn of amateur radio's abilities and availability. In hindsight, the Association learned that it needs a Public Relations coordinator to ensure that a good word is inserted into the public record wherever appropriate.

In addition, both clubs learned that it would be beneficial for amateur radio to have a more formal presence. To this end, the use of a club command center that identifies the organization and allows radio operators a place to gather outside of the search command center would be of great benefit. §§§

Space Executive's Weekly News Digest

July 28, 1997

Vol. 1 - No. 9

THE ORBITAL REPORT ON-LINE

Space Executive's Weekly News Digest

This issue of Takyon International's latest on-line newsletter was published in cooperation with New Space (www.newspace.com).

OReOL covers space industry news, market trends, and provides the necessary background information for immediate analysis. Please feel free to contact us for any comment.

* A Lockheed Martin ATLAS 2AS vehicle successfully launched the SUPERBIRD C communication satellite (24Ku) to a supersynchronous transfer orbit on July 28. The US\$100-million HUGHES-built HS-601 satellite, owned by SPACE COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION OF JAPAN (SCC), of Tokyo, Japan, is due to circularize its orbit in the coming days. It will be located at 144°E to provide communications and broadcasting services to Japan and the Asia-Pacific region, including digital broadcasting for Hughes' DIRECTV JAPAN. The footprint of previous SUPERBIRD satellites was limited to Japan.

* A McDonnell Douglas DELTA 2 vehicle lofted the second US\$43-million NAVSTAR positioning satellite of the BLOCK 2R series on July 22 to replenish the US AIR FORCE's GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) constellation. The first of the LOCKHEED MARTIN-built GPS-2R satellite was lost in the failure of a DELTA 2 vehicle on January 17.

* Shareholders of BOEING and McDONNELL DOUGLAS approved the merger of the two companies on July 25. The transaction received clearance from the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on July 1 and from the European

Commission on July 23. The new company, still to be known as BOEING will enter operations on August 4.

* CD RADIO INC., of Washington, DC, has signed a contract with ARIANESPACE, of Evry, France, for the launch of two digital audio radio services (DARS) satellites on ARIANE 5 vehicles in 1999. The 2,500-kg satellites, built by SPACE SYSTEMS/LOREAL, of Palo Alto, California, will each broadcast 50 radio channels.

* PT MULTIMEDIA ASIA, of Jakarta, Indonesia, a joint venture of PT PASIFIK SATELIT NUSANTARA (PSN) and PT INDOSAT, has awarded a contract worth US\$105 million to an industrial team led by ALCATEL, of Paris, France, to build the ground segment for the MULTIMEDIA ASIA (M2A) interactive multimedia satellite system.

* SPACEHAB INC., of Arlington, Virginia, has negotiated new credit agreements worth US\$25 million to develop and build new systems for future SPACE SHUTTLE missions and support of operations onboard the INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

* Contact was lost with one of the five IRIDIUM satellites (SV21) launched by a McDONNELL DOUGLAS DELTA 2 vehicle on July 9. According to IRIDIUM LLC, of Washington, DC, this loss will not affect the initial operation capability of the full 66-satellite constellation still planned for September 1998.

* The French-Russian PEGASE mission to space station MIR, initially planned for early August, was postponed to February 1998. The Russian crew intended to fly with French cosmonaut Leopold Eyharts will fly alone to the station onboard the SOYUZ TM26 spacecraft on August 5 and perform a series of spacewalks. An intra vehicular activity is planned on August

20, to restore the electrical power supply in the damaged MIR complex. An extra vehicular activity is scheduled for September 3 to evaluate the possibility to repair the depressurized Spektr module. The current MIR crew is still maintaining the station. The two Russian cosmonauts currently onboard the station will return to Earth on August 14 whilst US astronaut Michael Foale will wait for space shuttle Atlantis to dock in September.

* August 1 An Orbital Sciences PEGASUS XL air-launched vehicle will loft the ORBVIEW 2 (formerly SEASTAR) ocean color observation satellite from Vandenberg AFB, California.

* August 4 The merger of BOEING and McDONNELL DOUGLAS is due to be completed.

* August 5 Launch of the SOYUZ TM26 spacecraft with a two-man crew to Mir on a SOYUZ U vehicle from Baykonur, Kazakhstan.

* August 7 Lockheed Martin's LMLV-1 small launch vehicle is expected to return to flight, lofting the TRW-built LEWIS experimental remote sensing satellite for NASA from Vandenberg AFB, California.

* August 7 Space Shuttle DISCOVERY is set for lift-off from Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Florida, for the 11-day STS-85 mission to release and retrieve the US/German CRISTA-SPAS 2 platform to study the atmosphere.

Special thanks to Bill Burden, WB1BRE, for keeping the editor plied with information on the space program, satellite tracking information and such articles as appear on this and the next page. -ed

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER MASSIVE JET STREAMS FLOWING INSIDE

Scientists using the joint European Space Agency (ESA)/NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft have discovered "jet streams" or "rivers" of hot, electrically charged gas called plasma flowing beneath the surface of the Sun. They also found features similar to trade winds that transport gas beneath the Sun's fiery surface.

These new findings will help them understand the famous sunspot cycle and associated increases in solar activity that can affect the Earth with power and communications disruptions. The observations are the latest made by the Solar Oscillations Investigation (SOI) group at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, and they build on discoveries by the SOHO science team over the past year.

"We have detected motion similar to the weather patterns in the Earth's atmosphere," said Dr. Jesper Schou of Stanford. "Moreover, in what is a completely new discovery, we have found a jet-like flow near the poles. This flow is totally inside the Sun. It is completely unexpected, and cannot be seen at the surface."

"These polar streams are on a small scale, compared to the whole Sun, but they are still immense compared to atmospheric jet streams on the Earth," added Dr. Philip Scherrer, the SOI principal investigator at Stanford. "Ringing the Sun at about 75 degrees latitude, they consist of flattened oval regions about 17,000 miles across where material moves about 10 percent (about 80 mph) faster than its surroundings. Although these are the smallest structures yet observed inside the Sun, each is still large enough to engulf two Earths."

Additionally, there are features similar to the Earth's trade winds on the surface of the Sun. The Sun rotates much faster at the equator than at the poles. However, Stanford researchers Schou and Dr. Alexander G. Kosovichev have found that there are belts in the northern and southern hemispheres where currents flow at different speeds relative to each other. Six of these gaseous bands move slightly faster than the material surrounding them. The solar belts are more than 40 thousand miles across and they contain "winds" that move about ten miles per hour relative to their surroundings.

The first evidence of these belts was found more than a decade ago by Dr. Robert Howard of the Mount Wilson Observatory. The Stanford researchers have now shown that, rather than being superficial surface motion, the belts extend down to a depth of at least 12,000 miles below the Sun's surface.

"We speculate that the differences in speed of the plasma at the edge of these bands may be connected with the generation of the solar magnetic cycle which, in turn, generates periodic increases in solar activity, but we'll need more observations to see if this is correct," said DeForest.

Finally, the solar physicists have determined that the entire outer layer of the Sun, to a depth of at least 15,000 miles, is slowly but steadily flowing from the equator to the poles. The polar flow rate is relatively slow, about 50 miles per hour, compared to its rotation speed, about 4,000 miles per hour; however, this is fast enough to transport an object from the equator to the pole in a bit more than a year.

Evidence for polar flow previously had been observed at the Sun's surface but scientists did not know how deep the motion extended. With a volume equal to about 4 percent of the total Sun, this feature probably has an important impact on the Sun's activity, argue Stanford researchers Scherrer, with Dr.

Thomas L. Duvall Jr., Dr. Richard S. Bogart, and graduate student Peter M. Giles.

For the last year, the SOHO spacecraft has been aiming its battery of 12 scientific instruments at the Sun from a position 930,000 miles sunward from the Earth. The Stanford research team has been viewing the Sun's surface with one of these instruments called a Michelson Doppler Imager that can measure the vertical motion of the Sun's surface at one million different points once per minute. The measurements show the effects of sound waves that permeate the interior. The researchers then apply techniques similar to Earth-based seismology and computer-aided tomography to infer and map the flow patterns and temperature beneath the Sun's roiling surface.

"These techniques allow us to peer inside the Sun using sound waves, much like a doctor can look inside a pregnant woman with a sonogram," said Dr. Schou.

Currently, the Stanford scientists have both identified new structures in the interior of the Sun and clarified the form of previously discovered ones. Understanding their relationship to solar activity will require more observations and time for analysis.

"At this point, we do not know whether the plasma streams snake around like the jet stream on Earth, or whether it is a less dynamic feature," said Dr. Douglas Gough, of Cambridge University, UK. "It is intriguing to speculate that these streams may affect solar weather like the terrestrial jetstream impacts weather patterns on Earth but this is completely unclear right now. The same speculation may apply to the other flows we've observed, or they may act in concert. It will be especially helpful to make observations as the Sun enters its next active cycle, expected to peak around the year 2001."

Check out: <http://pao.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsf/newsroom/flash/flash.htm>

MEMORIAL

Subject: PASSAGE OF WIIXA
Date: Sun, 24 Aug 1997 21:07:45
From: Jeanne Wood
To: jcdean@sover.net

Dear James,

Long time member and Wxnet Control, Roger Sweetser died suddenly Friday evening. Article from Valley News Sunday August 24 is as follows:

Sharon, Vt. - A 78 year old man suffered a fatal heart attack as he ran to help fight a fire that destroyed his neighbor's home on Bancroft Hill Road on Friday night.

Family members said last night that Roger Sweetser collapsed at the scene of the fire and was taken to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

"Helping out neighbors was something he did his whole life," said Loraine Kelley of Marlboro, Mass., Sweetser's daughter.

"He was always helping someone out," said Sweetser's wife, Marion.

Vermont State Police said the log cabin vacation home, owned by Clyde Stickney of West Lebanon, was destroyed in the blaze. The Stickneys were not at the home at the time.

Authorities from the State Police arson unit suspect the fire was caused by a lightning strike. Firefighters were alerted when a resident reported seeing a glow on top of the hill.

When they arrived at the scene, the second floor of the hilltop home was engulfed in flames, according to the news release.

Kelley said her father noticed something burning up the road from his home and went to investigate. He walked up the steep dirt road from his home to the Stickneys, travelled back to his home to call the fire department and then was headed back to the fire scene

when he collapsed, Kelly said.

Rescue workers from South Royalton took Sweetser to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, where he died.

Strong thunderstorms rolled through the valley as firefighters worked to extinguish the fire.

Firefighters remained at the scene until about 1:30 A.M. yesterday morning.

Jeanne, KA1BGT

PROPAGATION TESTS FOR MT. SUNAPEE REPEATER SITE

Most CVFMA members have heard that the Association is in the process of requesting permission to install a repeater near the summit of Mt. Sunapee. Band preferences for this new repeater were discussed at the April General Meeting. The status of the proposal to the State of New Hampshire will be presented at the October General Meeting (see the announcement for this meeting elsewhere in this newsletter).

In preparation for a site permit, the Association has been conducting propagation tests from the summit of Mt. Sunapee and from an adjacent mountain. These tests determine whether a signal generated on Mt. Sunapee will interfere with other repeaters that have been coordinated properly. By placing repeaters on the tops of mountains, line-of-sight propagation can have very far-reaching effects and care must be taken to not interfere with other established repeaters.

Examination of local frequency pairs and conduct of propagation tests indicate that several frequencies are possible candidates. A trip up Mt. Sunapee and at least one adjacent mountain will confirm the use of these frequencies.

More in October.

CVFMA MEMBERS FIND LOST PLANE

On Saturday, August 23, two CVFMA members were in Colchester, VT to participate in locating a missing airplane. Gary, N1PKP, and James, N0JSR, were the first team to locate the downed aircraft and report the location to the search coordinator for aircraft extraction.

In reality, searching for the lost airplane was part of an all-day training exercise in land navigation. The course, taught by Master Sergeant Hall of the Vermont National Guard, provided instruction on map reading, identification of topographic features, determination of distance to objects, familiarity with grid coordinates so as to facilitate communication of found objects and use of map information to identify magnetic and grid azimuth headings.

Following a morning of instruction, the class was taken outdoors at the Camp Johnson facility in Colchester. After measuring one's pace count (number of steps for 100 meters of distance), the class was given a series of headings and distances to fixed points. Heading off into the woods, the group soon found the first fixed point with some help from the instructor. The second and third fixed points came more easily as students became familiar with the process of finding the azimuth heading, identifying a structure to walk to and counting paces along the way.

At the final fixed point, the teams were informed that an aircraft was observed on a heading shortly before it crashed. No distance information was available.

Gary and James found the airplane (a model one at that; almost crushed by Gary), in near record time, some 350 meters from the fixed point.

Gary and James will be offering a course in land navigation to local amateur radio operators interested in participating in search and rescue efforts.

1997 Fall Classic (& Homebrew)

The Classic Radio Exchange ("CX") is a contest celebrating the older commercial and homebrew equipment that was the pride of our ham shacks and our bands just a few short decades ago. Our object is to encourage restoration, operation and enjoyment of this older equipment. A "Classic" radio is at least ten years old (age figured from first year of manufacture), but NOT required to participate in the Classic Exchange. YOU MAY USE ANYTHING in the contest, although new gear is a distinct scoring liability. You can still work the great ones with your new equipment!

The Classic Exchange will run from 1900 UTC September 28 to 0400 UTC September 29, 1997. Exchange your name, RST, QTH (state/province for US/Canada; country for DX), receiver and transmitter type (homebrew send final amp tube or transistor), and other interesting conversation. The same station may be worked with different equipment combinations on each band and on each mode. CW call "CQ CX"; phone call "CQ Classic Exchange". Non-participants may be worked for credit.

Suggested frequencies:

CW: 3.56, 7.6⁻, 14.120, 21.180, 28.240

Novice/Tech Plus: 3.695, 7.12⁻, 21.18⁻, 28.24⁻

Phone: 3.88⁻, 7.29⁻, 14.28⁻, 21.38⁻, 28.32⁻

7.060 and 3.560 tend to be the most popular CX frequencies.

Scoring: Multiply total QSOs (all bands) by total number of different receivers plus transmitters (transceivers count as both xmtr and rcvr) plus states/provinces/countries worked on each band and mode. Multiply that total by your CX Multiplier, the total years old of all receivers and transmitters used,

three QSOs minimum per unit. For transceiver, multiply age by two. If equipment is homebrew, count it as a minimum of 25 years old unless actual construction date or date of its construction article (in the case of a "reproduction") is older:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Total QSOs all bands} \\ & \text{times} \\ & \text{RCVRs} + \text{XMTRs} + \text{states/} \\ & \text{provinces/countries} \\ & \text{(total each band and mode separately; add totals together)} \\ & \text{times} \\ & \text{CX Multiplier:} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{SCORE} = \text{QSOs} \times (\text{Rx} + \text{Tx} + \text{QTHs}) \times \text{CX Mult}$$

Certificates and appropriate memorabilia are awarded every now and then for the highest score, the longest DX, exotic equipment, best excuses and other unusual achievements. Send logs, comments, anecdotes, pictures to Jim Hanlon, P.O. Box 581, Sandia Park, NM, or to Marty Reynolds, AA4RM, POB 13354, Atlanta, GA 30324. Include TWO-stamp SASE for next CX Newsletter and announcement of next CX.

§§§

(Continued from page 2)

it appears that what you have found is the head of a Barbie doll, of the variety one of our staff, who has small children, believes to be the "Malibu Barbie". It is evident that you have given a great deal of thought to the analysis of this specimen and you may be quite certain that those of us familiar with your prior work in the field were loath to come to contradiction with your findings.

However, we do feel that there are a number of physical attributes of the specimen which might have tipped you off to its modern origin:

1) The material is molded plastic. Ancient hominid remains are typically fossilized bone.

2) The cranial capacity of the specimen is approximately 9 cubic centimeters, well below the threshold of even the earliest identified proto-hominids.

3) The dentition pattern evident on the "skull" is more consistent with the common domesticated canine (dog) than it is with the "ravenous man-eating Pliocene clams" you speculate roamed the wetlands during that time. This latter finding is certainly one of the most intriguing hypotheses you have submitted in your history with this institution, but the evidence seems to weigh heavily against it.

Without going into too much detail, let us say that:

A. The specimen looks like to head of a Barbie doll that a dog has chewed on.

B. Clams don't have teeth.

It is with feelings of melancholy that we must deny your request to have the specimen carbon dated. To our best knowledge, no Barbie dolls were produced prior to 1956 AD and carbon dating is likely to produce wildly inaccurate results.

Sadly, we must also deny your request that we approach the National Science Foundation's Phylogeny Department with the concept of assigning your specimen with the scientific name "Australopithecus spiff-arino". Speaking personally, I, for one, fought tenaciously for the acceptance of your proposed taxonomy but was ultimately voted down because the species name you selected was hyphenated and didn't sound like it might be Latin.

We are particularly interested in hearing your theories surrounding the "trans-positating fillifitation of ferrous ions in a structural matrix" that makes the excellent juvenile Tyrannosaurus rex femur you recently discovered take on the deceptive appearance of a rusty 9-mm Sears Craftsman automotive crescent wrench.

Yours in Science, Harvey Rowe
Curator, Antiquities

UPCOMING EVENTS

50 MILE RUN

This year the 50 mile run in Vermont will take place on October 5. I can use all the operators that would like to help. There is always a job for anyone any time during the run. If someone has already worked this event I need to know if they would like a certain station, day and time this year. If you are interested in helping with communications for this event please contact Bob, N1NCT.

Please feel free to contact any of the Board Members of CVFMA or any of the individuals named above if you would like more information on any event, would like to volunteer for any (or all) activity (ies), need instructions on how to reach the location, etc.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SAMRATS Breakfast | Last Saturday of each month at 10 am at B.J. Brickers Restaurant on Washington Road in Claremont, NH (contact KA1III) |
| Weather Net | Monday-Friday at 6:30 am, 5:30 pm and 10 pm on 146.760 MHz |
| CVFMA Test Session | September 13 at Sugar River Savings Bank, Newport, NH (see article in this Newsletter) |
| Fall Foliage Picnic | October 4 at Sunapee State Park in Sunapee, NH |
| Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports 50 mi. Endurance Run | October 5 across Windsor County, VT (Contact N1NCT for additional information on this event or to volunteer to support this run.) |
| Claremont First Night | December 31 in Claremont, NH |
| CVFMA General Meeting | October (date to be announced) (Elections are held during this meeting!) |
| Cabin Fever Blues Dinner | January at the Homestead Inn in Walpole, NH (Contact KA1III for additional information on this event.) |

As always, your attendance and participation is welcome and wanted!

RECOVERING

Bob Moore, KA1CZO, is recovering from replacement knee surgery. At last report, Bob has been transferred to the Farnum Center in Keene for physical therapy. Those requesting additional information can check on the 146.805 repeater in Keene, NH. Our best wishes to Bob for a speedy and long-lasting recovery.

HARDWARE STATUS

Those that use the Moose Mountain repeater, 147.240 MHz, and those that have heard the bulletin on the Mt. Ascutney repeater know now that the Moose Mt. repeater has been removed, again, from the mountain for repair. The repeater had been exhibiting front end oscillation and was returned to the manufacturer for repair. On return, mice on Moose (Moose mice?) attacked virtually all of the wiring to the front panel. Therefore, the repeater will have its wiring replaced and should be back in service soon.

The Mt. Ascutney repeater (146.76) has been removed to have a new crystal and oven installed. The repeater had been experiencing some drift and the new crystal and oven should mitigate that problem. The repeater has been returned to service.

As announced in the last newsletter, the CVFMA has various equipment that is available to Association members. In addition to a 2m handheld and various batteries for same, the Association has one or more antennas, coaxial cable, etc. Members desiring to borrow this equipment are encouraged to contact Bob, N1NCT.

Any Association member (in fact, anyone in the amateur radio community) that has spare equipment, components, hardware, etc. and would like to donate it to the Association is encouraged to contact Bob, N1NCT, with a listing of the equipment, its condition, and its availability. The Association has several members that can check the equipment for operation, etc.

Donation of excess equipment to the Association is an excellent way to get equipment from those that have plenty to those that could benefit from new capabilities.

PRESS RELEASE

From: Joe Armstrong, KA1YLN
Official Observer - Vermont

REPEATER INTERFERENCE

BRATTLEBORO, VT, July 13 —

I would like to take this opportunity to again state what a GREAT job was done by all concerned in stopping the recent Repeater Interference.

This was a good example of how Clubs can and should work together.

Through the efforts of CVFMA President Bob Stewart, this interference was tracked down very quickly and removed from the frequencies in a very short time. What was accomplished by CVFMA and TSRC usually takes as long as six months to do. Your efforts led to results in four days.

Again let me say JOB WELL DONE! You all deserve a pat on the back for your cooperative efforts.

Help Wanted

The CVFMA has two, newly created positions open to anyone interested in contributing his/her time to the Association:

MEMBERSHIP

Seeking an individual with an interest in communicating the benefits and aspects of CVFMA to new and current membership. Individual would be responsible for maintaining general communications with the membership, tracking birthdays and other significant events in members' lives. Access to and familiarity with a computer and data base software is a strong asset.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Seeking an individual interested in representing the Association and amateur radio to local media and officials. In advance of and during local events, this individual would be the primary contact with media. This individual should have good writing and verbal skills.

Interests in the welfare of the Association and amateur radio are a necessity.

In addition, CVFMA is always looking for individuals interested in acting as Elmers to new and yet-to-be amateur radio operators. Elmers are those individuals who mentor and nurture others so as to interest and improve the radio skills of others.

Please contact Bob, N1NCT, with your interests and/or recommendations.

As always, the CVFMA is an equal opportunity, all volunteer organization dedicated to providing amateur radio services to its members, the amateur radio community and to the public at large.

It's the little things that count...

Anon

CVFMA TEST SESSION de WB1GXM (contact: 603.543.1389)

The Association will be sponsoring a test session on Saturday, September 13, in the Sugar River Savings Bank Community Room (on Main Street, Newport, NH). Doors open at 8 a.m. and close at 8:45 a.m. when testing for all levels starts. Please remember to bring the following items with you:

- a) original FCC-issued license (if already licensed)
- b) Copy of original license (if already licensed)
- c) Original CSCEs you are claiming
- d) Copies of original CSCEs you are claiming
- e) one photo ID, or two non-photo IDs (one with an address)
- f) at least one pen, two pencils and a non-programmable calculator
- g) \$6.25 for the 1997 license fee for all test above Novice

The 5 wpm Novice (element 1A) Morse Code and theory tests (element 2) are free. The present test fee is \$6.25 covering all tests from Technician through Extra. To re-take a particular exam will cost an additional \$6.25.

Re-takes are encouraged but will be allowed based on time of day and availability of test materials.

There is no preregistration.

All applicants are expected to have materials that they need and have all paperwork organized; this will help all concerned.

If you are licensed and you upgrade, you may begin using your new privileges immediately. If you are not licensed, it will take about two weeks for your license to arrive in the mail. If you inquire on the FCC license information line, you will probably find it busy. PLEASE WAIT AT LEAST TEN (10) DAYS AND THEN CALL THE ARRL AT: 860.594.0300 (a toll call).

Another way: check in the World Wide Web at: <http://www.uair.edu/doc/hamuar1/callsign.him/>

CVFMA

A quarterly publication of the Connecticut Valley FM Association

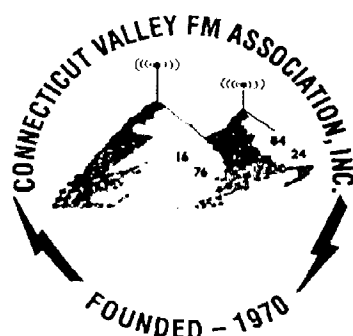
August 1997

An ARRL Affiliated Club

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CONNECTICUT VALLEY FM ASSOCIATION



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