

The CVFMA Newsletter



THE CVFMA NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3

No. 1

MARCH 1998

AREA HAMS HELP OUT IN AFTERMATH OF MASSIVE ICE STORM

Dozens of amateur radio operators from Vermont and New Hampshire flocked to emergency command centers in New London and Springfield, NH to assist with emergency communications in the wake of a devastating ice storm January 7-10. The same storm that brought Montreal to a standstill and led to disaster area declarations in Upper New York State and in Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties in Vermont also caused widespread power outages in Newport, New London and Enfield among other towns in the twin-state region. New London was the hardest hit in New Hampshire, and area hams helped out with emergency traffic, scouted areas for downed power lines and cars off the road and helped coordinate relief efforts. In areas of Northern Vermont and Upper New York State, hams called in flooding and other road conditions to weather officials.

(See related story, **Ice Storm Relief Effort Continues**, on page 3.)

SPACE NEWS UPDATE **NOW, VOYAGER!**

More than 6.5 billion miles from home, a U.S. spacecraft carrying the sounds of a human kiss and the best wishes from a former president has become the most distant man-made object in the universe.

(See **Voyager**, page 3)

CVFMA POTLUCK LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING APRIL 19

The CVFMA spring general meeting and potluck luncheon will be held Sunday, April 19, 1998 at 12 noon in the Community Room of the Sugar River Savings Bank in Newport, NH. Please bring a hot dish, salad, bread or dessert -- and your appetites. Contact Polly, KA1III for more details.

The business meeting will follow the lunch. Items for the agenda include committee reports, remarks from the board of directors, and any new business. See you there!!!

A BRIEF PRIMER ON PL TONES

(The following is excerpted from an article on PL Tones that was found on the Internet, courtesy James, NOJSR.)

Long ago and not so far away, Motorola came up with a way to get more than one Land Mobile customer on the same frequency at almost the same time. They figured that different customers could coexist on the same frequency if they did not have to listen to each other routinely. They invented Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System, or CTCSS for short, and patented it as "PL" short for "Private Line."

(See **PL TONES**, Page 4)

VE TEST SESSION MARCH 7

(For more details see page 2)

SAMRATS BREAKFAST

The Saturday A.M. Radio Amateur Technical Society meets for breakfast the last Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at B.J. Brickers in Claremont. Contact KA1III if you plan to attend or for further information.

CVFMA TEST SESSION

The Association will be sponsoring a test session on **Saturday, March 7, 1998** at the Sugar River Savings Bank, Community Room, 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 with you:

- a) Original FCC-issued license (if already licensed)
- b) Copy of original license (if already licensed)
- c) Original CSCEs (certificate of successful completion of element) you are claiming
- d) Copies of original CSCEs you are claiming
- e) One photo ID, or two non-photo ID's, one with an address
- f) Bring a pen, at least two pencils, and a non-programmable calculator.
- g) The 1997 test fee is \$6.25 for all tests above Novice.

The 5 wpm Novice (element 1a) Morse Code and theory tests, (element 2) are free.

The present test fee is \$6.35 covering all tests from Technician through Extra. To re-take a particular exam will cost an additional \$6.35. No preregistration is required.

To help all concerned, all applicants are expected to have all materials they need plus have all paperwork organized.

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's license info line, chances are you will find it busy. PLEASE WAIT AT LEAST 10 DAYS AND THEN CALL THE ARRL at 860-594-0300. This is a toll call.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It was reported on the February 24 "net" that the FCC computer "crashed" on February 10. As we go to press it may still be off-line. We suggest checking before trying to transmit anything electronically to the FCC.

Once the FCC computer system is back on line, you may check out the status of your license via the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.qrz.com>

This is how the ARRL does it. Calling after only two or three days only delays the needed data from being dispersed quickly. For more information, you can contact Leigh, WB1EAE, our VE Group Contact person at 1-603-543-4906, or me, WB1GXM at 1-603-543-1389.

From the VEs in your CVFMA VE group, study hard, and see you at the next test session! 73!

de Conrad Ekstrom, WB1GXM
CVFMA VE Team Liaison

Inside this Issue:

- * Notes From The Membership
- * More on the Ice Storm
- * ARRL Bulletins of Interest
- * Rescue Do's and Don'ts
- * A Brief Primer on PL Tones
- * Silent Keys

**ICE STORM RELIEF EFFORT
CONTINUES**

(Bulletin From ARRL Headquarters, Newington, CT, 1-23-98)

Some ham radio emergency communications operations across the Northeast wound down this week as the ice storm disaster moved from the response to the recovery phase. Telephone service and electricity are being slowly restored, but in many cases ham radio remains a primary --- and in some cases the only --- means of communication. And barely more than two weeks after the initial disaster, New Yorkers were bracing for the possibility of additional ice storms. The story to date is one of a great ham radio response peppered with small acts of heroism and dedication.

Hams -- in many cases working as ARES and RACES volunteers -- continue to operate from emergency operation centers, shelters, meals centers, and government offices throughout the region. In New York alone, more than 1000 people are still living in shelters. ARES and RACES groups were cooperating with the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and government agencies, including the National Guard.

In some areas of New England, new snowfall hampered recovery efforts. That was the case in Vermont, where six northern counties were declared disaster areas and more than a foot of additional snow fell in the ice storm's wake.

(article courtesy WB1GXM)

VOYAGER OUTDISTANCES PIONEER

(continued from Page One)

Voyager 1 -- so far away after more than 20 years hurtling through space that its signals take more than 9 1/2 hours to reach Earth -- surpassed the distance of the older Pioneer 10 spacecraft by midday Tuesday (February 17).

"Now the baton is being passed," Edward Stone, director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Voyager project director, said in a statement.

Voyager 1 and the elderly Pioneer 10 are headed away from the sun in nearly opposite directions. Both are powered by nuclear batteries that keep them functioning in the freezing blackness of space.

On the edge of the solar system, Voyager 1 still returns data, although the power of the signal reaching NASA antennas is 20 billion times weaker than the power of a digital watch battery.

Voyager 1 was launched from Cape Canaveral, FL, on September 5, 1977, carrying scientific instruments for planetary exploration and a message to the universe.

(Continued on Page 6)

SILENT KEYS

The following ham radio enthusiasts died recently:

K2RGY, Dr. George Bond, Grantham, NH.

N1ZES, Raymond Holmes, South Woodstock, VT.

Those interested may make contributions to the Silent Key Memorial Fund, c/o CVFMA Treasurer, P.O. Box 1628, Claremont, NH 03743. Funds are used to buy books for the library in the city or town of residence.

**SEARCH AND RESCUE TIPS
DO'S AND DON'TS IN THE FIELD**

de Steve Marshall, KA1NYP

1. Don't go out and "do your own thing." When volunteers are requested, go to the command center and take part in the official effort. Those that go off on their own create more problems, run a high risk, and do not provide for the most efficient use of resources.

2. Consider your health and physical condition. Don't try to be a hero and hike up hillsides if you can't get up the stairs without losing your breath. If you don't think it would be safe for you or the other rescuers for you to be an active search participant, still answer the call for volunteers. People are still needed as messengers, for transportation, communications, etc. Make sure you bring any medications with you in case you are unable to get back home to take them. Things that are time-sensitive such as nitroglycerin, insulin, etc., should be readily available. If during the activity you reach your maximum stamina level, decrease your efforts, stop and rest, and call for help if you are unable to regain your energy.

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CORRECTION

The contribution of \$198.00 to the CVFMA Scholarship Fund referred to in the report of the Fall General Meeting (Dec. 1997 issue) was donated by the Sugar River Festival Committee, not the Newport Chamber of Commerce. Bob Boyd, N1CIR is chairman of the Sugar River Festival Committee.

MORE ON PL TONES

(Continued from page One)

The manufacturers of amateur equipment seem to have settled on "tone" for encode only and "tone squelch" for encode/decode. Most of the amateur VHF and UHF equipment manufactured in the last ten years has at least encode capability (standard or optional) and may have decode capability (standard or optional). The system is based on a "subaudible" tone injected after the audio stages into the transmitter during encode and the tone is detected before the audio circuits in the receiver. The decoder switch is then used to perform some function, usually to unmute the receiver when the tone is decoded.

The system is designed around a set of relatively low frequency tones (32 or 38 depending on which "standard" you use) ranging from 67.0 Hz to 250.3 Hz. The tones are a perfect sine wave and the frequency tolerance is very tight, typically +/- 0.5 Hz. The tone is encoded and injected into the transmitter after the audio shaping circuits. The frequency deviation (level) is typically 0.4 to 0.8 kHz which is rather insignificant when compared to the typical 5 kHz voice deviation.

In the receiver, the tone is detected right off the discriminator before any audio processing and decoded allowing the receiver to unmute.

Commercial radios filter out the tone, but our amateur radios do not so the tone is usually noticeable. It is sometimes mistaken for a power supply hum.

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Introducing....

From The Membership

(Editors' Note: We invite new and renewing members to send a few lines about their interests and activities. Upgraded your operating privileges? Let us know. Don't forget your e-mail address.)

Greetings To All...

Just a little note to go along with my 1998 CVFMA dues ... Things changed drastically after the decease of my wife, Harriette, in '93 after 34 years of marriage. I first came to Windsor, VT in 1959 and became a part-time resident there from then on. Currently, I have no material ties up there having disposed of the house and cottage in the past year ... we do seem to slow down and harbor the thoughts of less responsibilities as we grow older? However, my thoughts will always remain there and I expect to make frequent visits to the area in the future ... and of course my dues to the association will be kept right up to date!

I have been in ham radio since 1959 with the old call sign of WA2KCP (Kilo Cycle Pete), no less! In 1976 (the bicentennial year) I was lucky to get the call sign WA1WVS (We are One Windsor Vermont Station) or (Working Very Seldom). A high spot was tuning in on the Ascutney Repeater from Schenectady to Windsor and listening to Carl, Sheryl, Butch, Don Harlow, Don Cruikshank, Jerry, etc., etc.,...and always be assured that our good friend Leigh was there to give us help and encouragement. Yes, all of our lives change and we

must put our memories in a secure, cherished place and always look out to the future.. as I was once told ... good or bad, things never stay the same ... they are but fleeting moments. Best 73's and a Happy Holiday Season to All

de Bill Stemples WA1WVS
e-mail: wstemples@aol.com

Why Not Introduce Elementary School Students to Ham Radio?

With an eye to the next generation of Ham Radio Operators, you may want to pass along this idea to our members. At my grandchildren's request, I have put on a few little "Show and Tell" demonstrations of Ham Radio for their (elementary) classes at Maple Avenue School. I used my world wall map with its "contact" pins to show how far and wide this hobby could take you. Then with my 2-meter radio, I called out locally and each time picked up a willing "brother" who responded so the class could hear him. The students were fascinated by all of this, and hopefully some got "bitten" and will go for their own ticket someday. I feel sure there are many, or probably most of the members in our local club who are more knowledgeable and talented than I am, and would be welcomed by the faculty of some nearby school for a similar presentation. They are always looking for some diversion and/or broadening session such as this for their students. It does not have to be long, maybe 20-30 minutes, and not very technical or you will lose them. Anyone who tries this will find it very gratifying.

de John F. Rushmore, KA3SYI
Claremont, NH

(PL TONES, continued from page 4)

Use of CTCSS does not alleviate RF interference. If two FM signals are on the same frequency at the same time, there will still be interference (unless one is 6 dB stronger than the other.) But if CTCSS is being utilized and both systems use different tones, they will not have to listen to the other system's traffic.

Some repeaters use CTCSS decode to keep from being keyed up by distant stations using other co-channel repeaters. Others use a PL tone to keep all but subscribing members off the repeater. If the intent of the repeater operator is to restrict the access to members only, it is called a closed repeater. There are many repeaters that require tones to activate them regardless of membership status. They have CTCSS access for some other reason, usually to cut down the needless traffic and static caused when a distant station working another repeater keys up two or three repeaters at the same time. These usually list the tone frequency in the remarks section of the Repeater Directory.

(Thanks to Robbie, WA3QLS)

Preview: Next issue, look for an article on linking repeaters.

NOTE:

CVFMA is considering the use of PL tones for at least one reason: unwanted interference from the 146.76 repeater in Scituate, RI. There is a price to pay, however: Those of us with older radios or with radios for which the decode feature is optional will find that we cannot utilize the PL

tone feature. In fact, if we cannot encode (transmit a tone) then we will not have access to the repeater(s). However the ability to employ PL tones when necessary or desired may be of real benefit to radio operators in our community.

-- James Dean, NOJSR

VOYAGER

(continued from page 3)

The latter is a 12-inch gold plated phonograph record containing a variety of sounds, 115 analog images, spoken greetings in 55 languages, printed messages from former President Jimmy Carter and then-U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and a selection of music.

The sounds include wind, rain, surf, a chimpanzee, a Saturn 5 rocket, footsteps, a heartbeat, laughter, a mother's kiss and a blacksmith, among others. The images range from the structure of DNA to a diagram of continental drift and a violin with sheet music.

The music was assembled by a committee that was headed by the late Carl Sagan.

ANNUAL CVFMA ACTIVITIES

♦ ARRL Field Day ♦ Cabin Fever Blues Dinner ♦ Weather Nets 3x day, Monday-Friday ♦ SAMRATS Breakfast Last Saturday of the month ♦ License Test Sessions: March 7, June 20, September 19, December 5 ♦ Annual CVFMA Flea Market (tentative) June 20
 ♦ Semi-Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck Dinner, April and October ♦ ARES Emergency Net Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. ♦
 ♦ Repeater Autopatch ♦ NH ARES-RACES; Annual S.E.T.; VT ARES
 ♦ NOAA Skywarn ♦ Quarterly Newsletter ♦ Please Join Us!

DO'S AND DON'TS OF RESCUES

(Continued from Page 4)

3. Proper Clothing. Know the terrain and weather conditions you are headed for and dress/pack appropriately. Remember, 50° at the bottom of Mt. Ascutney could be 38° with a wind at the top. Dress in layers so that clothing can be added or removed as needed. The goal is to keep yourself at a routine and constant body temperature without major change or fluctuations. Footwear is extremely important. Most professional rescue organizations (Fish & Game, AMC, State Police) will not let you volunteer without proper footwear, i.e., no sandals for rough or wet searches, low cut sneakers or boat shoes for scrub and brush.

4. Nourishment. During a prolonged search the organizer will have meals ready for the crews coming in. They will not have shuttles into the field to bring supplies. Carry water (no matter the weather) all the time. Keeping yourself properly hydrated will help you to maintain the proper body core temperature. High calorie/protein snacks are important to maintain energy levels. Candy bars, high energy bars, gatorade and such will help you maintain your stamina.

5. If unsure about a situation do nothing. Many searches are potential crime scenes. The wrong action, or lack of action could either contaminate the scene and evidence, destroy it completely, or cause it to be overlooked and not processed. All searches will be conducted with a radio operator and/or professional with a group of

civilian searchers. When in doubt about what you see, where to go, or your ability to continue because of the conditions (i.e., water, cliffs, dense thicket) call for the professional and get a decision from a supervisor about how to proceed.

6. Common Sense. The most important tool in any search. Remember, if you get into a situation where you need rescuing, not only do you take away resources of the task at hand, you create additional hazard for those coming to assist you.

(Steve KA1NYP can be reached by e-mail at steve@srnet.com)

**CABIN FEVER BLUES DINNER
HELD IN NORTH WALPOLE**

Hams and SWLs enjoyed the annual Cabin Fever Blues Dinner at the Homestead Inn in North Walpole on January 24. KA1III, Polly, was in charge of the event and of the entertainment. Dinner choices included choice of Broiled Scallops, Baked Chicken, Baked Scrod or Roast Beef and the usual delicious dessert. The following members attended:

Gregg Stephenson, W1DGC; Betty Stephenson, K2DGW; Bob "Doc" Kelemen, W1US, and Elizabeth Kelemen; Leigh Damren, WB1EAE; Eunice Damren, KA1QCH; Kenneth Bascom, N1KCA, and Laura Paige Bascom; Ken Mastro, N1TIA, and Margo Howland Mastro; Ray Kimberly, AA1NC; Sandy Kimberly, KA1TLP; Dick Whynall, W4PAS; Butch Exstrom, WB1GXM; Carolyn Exstrom, KA1OR; Polly Ellis, KA1III; Ed Ellis, KA1IIJ.

Deadline for the June issue is May 15. Items for the newsletter may be sent via e-mail to mhowland@sover.net.

CVFMA

A quarterly publication of the Connecticut Valley FM Association

An ARRL Affiliated Club

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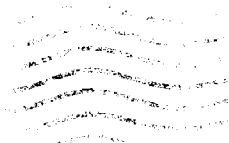


05142-3706

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N1JRA
RFD#1 BOX 57
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CONNECTICUT VALLEY FM ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1628
Claremont, NH
03743-1628



YEAR: 1998
CONNECTICUT VALLEY FM ASSOC. APPLICATION-MEMBERSHIP+RENEWAL v98

W1UWS

146.760 (-600) est. 1970 147.240 (+600)
MAIL APPLICATION TO: CVFMA, POB 1628, CLAREMONT, NH 03743-1628
Attention: Treasurer

Callsign _____ Name _____

Address _____

Community _____ State _____ Zip _____

phone # (____) _____ ARRL member (circle one) Y N

Internet address _____

The CVFMA, ARRL affiliated, receives \$5 for each new member or \$2 for each member renewing via the CVFMA. (At no extra charge.)
Please check those that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	COMPLIMENTARY-HONORARY MEMBERSHIP		FREE
<input type="checkbox"/>	FULL MEMEBERSHIP (One member)	\$15.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	FULL MEMBERSHIP (Senior 65+)	\$10.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	FULLTIME STUDENT (Under 18 at home)	\$ 7.50	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Each additional family member	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
	Name _____	Callsign _____	
	Name _____	Callsign _____	

<input type="checkbox"/>	Scholarship Contribution	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeater Maintenance/expansion fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	On account or past due AUTOPATCH dues	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	A.R.E.S. Fund Contribution	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Silent Key Memorial Fund	\$ _____

Please pay by check or money order only. TOTAL \$ _____

CHECK # _____	DATE _____	AMOUNT \$ _____
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For a copy of Constitution/Bylaws please include a return SASE.
The Board wants to hear from you, the membership. Please add your suggestions or concerns on the back of application. Thanks.

----- Attention CVFMA Newsletter Staff -----
Optional:

Name- _____ Call sign _____

Birthday(ies)/Anniversary(ies)- _____

