

The CVFMA Newsletter



CVFMA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3

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SUMMER 1998

HAMS HELP OUT AT 100-MILE RUN

This year's tenth annual 100-mile "ultramarathon" was held Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19, starting and ending at Smokerise Farm in Woodstock. For the fourth year in a row, CVFMA coordinated communications among the race organizers, relayed messages and requests for medical assistance or refreshments, and kept things running smoothly. An estimated 45 "hams" participated in amateur radio communications for the event and 252 runners started the race and 172 completed it. First place finisher was Joe Hildebrand; first place in the women's division and fifth-place overall winner was Ann Trason. The event generated a nice writeup in the Windsor Chronicle, which featured a front-page picture of Marlon Wood, KA1SMC, testing his rig, in the preview story.

CVFMA FALL MEETING AND POTLUCK LUNCHEON TO BE HELD OCTOBER 18

The fall general meeting and potluck luncheon of the CVFMA will be held Sunday, October 18, 1998 at 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. See you there!

NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

This issue of The CVFMA Newsletter is late, due to production problems. CVFMA President Bob Stewart, N1NCT, has determined that at our current level of paying members there is not enough money in the budget to put out a newsletter of this size four times a year without additional support from the membership. That can come in several forms: members can send in a few extra bucks with their dues (or anytime) and specify that it is for newsletter expenses. We can do fundraising (i.e., bake sales, raffles, etc.) if people are willing to volunteer their time and effort. And if you have e-mail, we can cut down on the production costs and postage by e-mailing the newsletter and sending hard (paper) copies only to those who don't have e-mail. Twin-State does this now, and puts out their (smaller) newsletter more frequently because all but five or six copies go out electronically. E-mailing the newsletter was also discussed at the Spring general meeting. So, if you can help, let's hear from you! (See **Newsletter**, page 2)

Inside this Issue:

- * Notes From The Membership
- * New London Says Thank You
- * FCC Bulletins of Interest
- * Items For Sale
- * Transmitter Hunt Results
- * Membership Cards

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.

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NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOUR HELP

(Continued from page 1)
To send an e-mail for the newsletter, the address is: mhowland@sover.net. (Disregard punctuation at the end.)
Donations for defraying the cost of production and postage should be sent to the CVFMA Treasurer, WB1GXM, at P.O. Box 1628, Claremont, NH 03743-1628 and earmarked for the newsletter expenses. We're trying an experiment so if you received this newsletter by e-mail, and like it that way, tell us!

CVFMA TEST SESSION

The Association will be sponsoring a test session on **Saturday, September 19, 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.

(See **Test Session**, page 3)

ARRL VANITY FEES TO DROP

(Bulletin from ARRL Headquarters, Newington, CT.)

The fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign would drop drastically under the FCC's proposed fiscal year 1998 fee schedule. If adopted, the new fee will be \$12.90 for the ten-year term, payable at the time of application for a new, renewal or reinstated license.

The new fee is contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MD Docket 98-36, Assessment and Collection of Regulating Fees for Fiscal Year 1998, released March 25.

The current vanity call sign fee is \$50 for the ten-year term. The FCC says it has no plans to refund the difference between the current fee and the new fee for applicants who submit applications before implementation of the FY 1998 fee schedule.

The FCC has calculated the new fee based on an expected 10,000 applications during FY 1998.

The FCC says it will announce the effective date for the new fee either in the Report and Order that terminates the fee schedule rulemaking proposal or by a public notice.

(article courtesy WG1BXM)

HAM RADIO MAKES THE NY TIMES

Amateur radio received some nice publicity in a feature story in the NEW YORK TIMES earlier this spring. AMSAT, the ham radio satellite news service, was included in the article which examined the links between the amateur radio hobby and the Internet. The AMSAT Web Site was included, with others, as a source of information on the amateur (see **AMSAT**, page 3)

AMSAT

(Continued from page 2)
radio satellite. AMSAT-NA Executive Vice President Keith Baker, KB1SF, was featured in the article which was written by John Verity. To see a copy, access the following URL:
<http://www.nytimes.com/library/tech/98/03/circuits/articles/05ham-radio.html>
(article via AMSAT courtesy James, NOJSR)

VE Test Session

(continued from page 2)

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.

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

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The spring general membership meeting was held Sunday, April 19, 1998 at 12 noon at the Community Room of the Sugar River Savings Bank in Newport, NH. Following the usual delicious potluck luncheon, N1NCT, Bob Stewart, opened the meeting at 1 p.m. Board members present were President, N1NCT, Bob Stewart; Vice President, N1PZP, James Geschwinder; Secretary, N1SJK, Norman Cobb; Treasurer, WB1GXM, Conrad "Butch" Exstrom, also Repeater Trustee NOJSR, James Dean. Members/guests present were: N1JRA and wife, N1FQS and wife, KA1SMC and wife, W1ZPB, N1TIA and wife, N1CIR, W1US and friend, N1RX, N1HAC, N1QCG, WA1ZCN, KA1OAR, W4PAS, W1DGC, K2DGW, KA1III and KA1IIIJ.

Secretary's Report -- N1SJK read the secretary's report. N1CIR made the motion to accept the report as read. W4PAS seconded. Report was accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report -- WB1GXM read the Treasurer's report. N1RX made the motion to accept the report as read. W4PAS seconded. Report was accepted as read.

Director-at-Large Report -- N1SCV was absent; no report was given.

Repeater Trustee Report -- NOJSR said he's aware of reduced performance of the Ascutney repeater and we'll get to it when it becomes accessible. Moose Mtn. repeater hasn't been done yet for the same reason.

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**FCC PROPOSES CHANGES
TO IMPLEMENT UNIVERSAL
LICENSING SYSTEM**

(Bulletin from ARRL Headquarters, Newington, CT)

In a sweeping Notice of Proposed Rulemaking the FCC has suggested several rules changes that could affect Amateur Radio, including replacement of the venerable FCC Form 610. NPRM Docket WT 98-20, "To Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services," seeks comments on proposals to replace Form 610 with FCC Form 605, to permit automatic reciprocal licensing of foreign hams wishing to operate in the US; to privatize the issuance of club station licenses; and to require applicants and licensees to supply a taxpayer identification number (TIN) and to file electronically. The FCC also plans to consolidate the application procedures for all Wireless Telecommunications Services into a single set of rules. All of these proposals are part of the FCC's efforts to implement the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System (ULS).

The new Form 605 would apply for Amateur Radio and other services "not presently required to submit extensive technical data to receive a license." The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is trying to drastically cut down the number of forms for the various services it administers, and to include all of its services under the ULS. The FCC last November began initial collection of licensee data to populate the ULS. Using the ULS, applicants and licensees will

be able to file, modify, and renew electronically. Ultimately, the FCC intends to require all applicants, as appropriate, to file all applications and notifications electronically.

The FCC says it's tentatively concluded that there is "little or no need to continue issuing the reciprocal permit" (FCC Form 610-AL) for alien amateur licensees because the license from any foreign country with which the US has a reciprocal agreement would "stand as the proof that the foreign operator is qualified for the reciprocal operating authority. Reciprocal operation under the new regime would be "by rule" which means that no special action is necessary on the applicant's part, and the elimination of Form 610-A.

(See **FCC RULE CHANGES**, page 6)

N1SJK HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNT

During the April general meeting Norm Cobb N1SJK issued a general invitation to participate in the 1998 Hidden Transmitter Hunt on May 31 at 12 noon in Keene, NH. The object of the hunt (somewhat different from a fox hunt) was to find a hidden transmitter that broadcast clues about its identity and location in CW. After a certain amount of time, the transmitter would broadcast for only five minutes every hour. Teams could ask that the transmitter be turned on if they wanted but they would lose "points" by doing so, so strategies developed to take advantage of another team's request to hear the transmitter. The clue was: "I am black and white and tall. Where am I?"

(See **HUNT RESULTS**, page 6)

... 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.)

NEW LONDON SAYS THANK YOU

The following letter was sent out on March 23, 1998 by the Town of New London Director of Emergency Management to all ham radio operators who participated in emergency communications assistance during the ice storm. (Ed.)

For many, JANICE, the ice storm of January 1998 is now just a memory. Many of us involved in that incident are still trying to clear up unfinished business. One item I have not attended to until now is writing to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service members. You HAMS did a wonderful job here in New London and provided a crucial service -- communications.

During the incident I had no idea how many of you came to our assistance or where you came from. I asked Dave Colter to provide me with a list. This he has done.

There were approximately sixty of you who did duty here in New London. We are forever in your debt. I hope you were adequately fed and supplied with beverages and that you were kept informed of the progress toward some form of normalcy as it was being accomplished.

As I made my rounds of the town during the day and night, there you were manning your stations at the Command Center, and at the various checkpoints.

The services you provided were essential to the smoothness of our operation and the control of the town. There were no deaths and no serious injuries.

Again, many thanks for a job well done.

Sincerely yours,
Robert M. Nelson
Director of Emergency
Management
Town of New London

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FOR SALE: ICOM HF TRANSCEIVER

ic-735 with new PYRAMID Gold Series Regulated Power Supply output 12-15V 30 Amp. DC Current meter DC voltage meter Input-115V AC60Hz 600W, Overload precaution devices and protection, over-voltage protection. New Bencher Keyer (Paddle type) plus dipole and many extras available. All have manuals. Also a Alinco 2-meter rig used only twice. Contact KA1BGT, Jeanne on the 5:30 Wx net or land line of (603) 542-6175 after 6:00 p.m.

FCARC WEB PAGE

Norm Cobb, N1SJK reports the FCARC Web Page can be accessed at the following:
<http://equinox.shaysnet.com/~fcarc/>
and possibly they can give us advice on how to set up a web page, too.

6-METER REPEATER ESTABLISHED

(The following came from Norm, N1SJK, via e-mail.)

Hello to all my fellow Hams,

This is to announce the activation of a new repeater on top of Carpenter Hill in Walpole, NH. It is on 53.43 MHz with a negative input at 52.43.

(See **REPEATER**, page 6)

CW TRAINING AVAILABLE ON THE TUESDAY NIGHT 'NET

For the past several weeks No-Code Techs and other hams or prospective hams have had a golden opportunity to brush up on their CW (Morse Code) -- or start from scratch if they didn't know any CW. Thanks to the efforts of N1JRA, Carl Snyder, CW practice drills are run every Tuesday night immediately following the ARES Emergency Net. Carl has broadcast letters, groups of letters, punctuation, groups of words and sentences. Listeners are invited to copy them down and identify them the following week. Keep up the good work Carl!

HUNT RESULTS

(Continued from page 4)

The transmitter was made to fit into a newspaper tube. It was an HT and batteries as well as a CW ID board and a 6 meter radio control receiver with a servo for on/off control. N1SJK hung it behind a seven-foot high street sign at the end of Marguerite Street in Keene. He reports the hunt was "a smashing success even under the threat of bad storms." One team was sure they'd found it after getting the clue and finding a black and white silo nearby.

Results are as follows:

1. Team #9, N1YXJ Randy and N1ZOI Eric 37 minutes, 3 miles and total of 850 points. Lowest mileage.

2. Team #7, N1WTY Roberta, N1WTZ Gregory, and N1XZE Jeffrey, second place, 30 minutes, 5 miles, total of 800 points. (They found it first but had more mileage.)

3. Team #5, WB9RRT Larry, N1KWM Mark and N1ZM Bob, third place, 1 hr, 5 minutes, 6

miles and a total of 725 points.

4. Team #8, N1EXZ Glenn, finished in 4th place with just an HT and a rubber ducky! 39 minutes with 7 miles and a total of 700 points.

5. Team #3, N1XPS Dan and K1ZS Dave, finished in fifth place with 1 hr 7 minutes, 9 miles and 510 points.

6. Team #1, N1PZC Jason, N1NGB Chris and SWL Heather finished in 6th place, 1 hour 11 minutes, 22 miles and 645 points.

7. Team #2, N1NCI Dale and N1BAC Arnie finished in 7th place, 1 hour 33 minutes, 7 miles and 510 points.

8. N1YTA Justin and N1ZXR Ariel finished in 8th place, 1 hour 44 minutes with 13 miles and 455 points.

9. Team #6, N1RSY John and N1XOQ George finished last and N1SJK forgot to get their data at the end. Participants enjoyed a picnic at the end of the hunt.

(information from N1SJK)

FCC RULES

(Continued from page 4)

For club station licenses, the FCC proposes to accept the services of VEC-like organizations as volunteer club station call sign administrators. Prospective organizations would have to complete a pilot auto-grant batch filing project before being authorized as call sign administrators.

Under the ULS, applicants or licensees would have to supply a TIN, usually a Social Security number, or "its functional equivalent." The FCC says this is "consistent with the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996."

(Continued on page 7)

NEW REPEATER OPERATING

(Continued from page 5)

The N1SJK 6-meter repeater has a pl of 88.5. It also encodes the same pl on its transmit signal. Those of you with 6-meter capability -- I will be very interested in your feedback. Please try it any time but I may at times have it turned off at first, primarily when I'm not around and until I'm comfortable with its performance. It is also a simplex repeater which means you talk to it to record a message then it plays the message back after you've recorded one. It'll take a bit of getting used to. Also, I'd be interested from all of you who can and can't hear it at your QTH, etc. Thanks in advance for your feedback.

de Norm, N1SJK.

(Ed. Note: Since this was submitted the repeater frequency was changed so as not to conflict with one in Albany, NY. The frequency printed is the right one.)

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

(Continued from page 3)

Under club business, N1NCT mentioned the creation of a committee to review the CVFMA's monetary issues to create a sound budget for the CVFMA. N1SJK gave a brief rundown of his upcoming Transmitter Hunt [see related article on p. 5] N1NCT said we have several applications for the CVFMA scholarship money. N1NCT said the CVFMA is proud to support Steve N1NPP as EC for Sullivan County. Also we have requested 6 meter, 2 meter and 440 repeaters on Sunapee Mountain which are currently on hold.

Margo asked that items for the newsletter be sent to her by e-mail. There was also a discussion about sending out the newsletter by e-mail [see related article, page 1]. NOJSR brought up changing the fiscal year from Jan 1-Dec 31 to some other dates; the general consensus was that it wouldn't make any real improvement for the club in the long run. We also mentioned sending letters to regular users of our repeaters to encourage becoming a member. N1FQS mentioned that he had read one of the letters sent out years ago to regular users of our repeaters and stated it wasn't a very good letter. N1NCT then promptly appointed N1FQS to rewrite the letter sent to regular users. We were invited to participate in the TwinState fox hunt. N1SJK mentioned the attenuator project in the May 98 issue of QST. Polly thanked everyone for bringing the food making the potluck dinner possible. KA1III made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by K2DGW. Motion was accepted unanimously. N1NCT adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norm Cobb, Jr. N1SJK
Secretary CVFMA

FCC RULE CHANGES PROPOSED

(Continued from page 6)

To allay fears of misuse of TINS, the FCC says that the ULS system would be designed so that TINS will not be available to the public.

A text version of the entire rulemaking proposal is at: <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98025.txt> (or see the link from the FCC home page.)

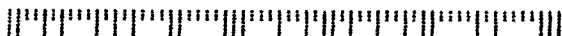
CVFMA

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An ARRL Affiliated Club

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