

Section News for March 2003

Atlantic Division

Delaware

Delaware Section Monthly Update Randall K. Carlson, WB0JJX, Section Manager Field Day is quickly approaching. I know several clubs already have planning for this event well underway. If your group or organization is planning to participate, please send me a note with the location, as well as instructions on how to get there. Over the 2 day period I try to visit as many sites as I can get around to. This is a great opportunity to get out and show how creative we can be. Sure there are points involved, but this should take second place to the exercise of putting stations on the air. For those that think they don't have the man-power to keep a station on the air the full length of the contest. Consider just putting a station on the air for a few hours. It can be a lot of fun and a learning experience for all. The Delaware section traffic nets need your help, especially if you are from New Castle or Kent County. More check-ins are needed from these counties on a regular basis to ensure that if traffic is received for these counties that it is handled quickly. The Delaware Traffic Net meets every M-F at 18:30 local time on the freq of 3905 KHz. The Delaware Emergency Phone Net meets Sat at 18:00 local time of the freq of 3905 KHz. For more information on the NTS and traffic handling, check out the Public service communication manual section on NTS at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec2-ch1.html>. While we are on the subject of the ARRL web site, one of the lesser know sections is the technical information service page. It contains a host of information on a variety of technical information from antenna's to morse code. A significant amount of this information include some reprints of articles in QST, QEX is available to members only as is presented as a benefit to members. The main page for this is <http://www.arrl.org/tis/> but I often find the menu page easier to use. It is located at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/tismenu.html> The Atlantic Division Cabinet meeting will be held on April 26. This meeting is where the Atlantic Division Director and Vice director, meets with the Section Managers from the Division to discuss items of concern within the division. If there are any topics that you wish to have brought to the attention of the director at this meeting please drop me an email. 73 until next month. Randall WB0JJX

Southern New Jersey

APRIL 2003 Jean Priestley KA2YKN Southern New Jersey Before I write word one of this column, I want to thank all the troops in the Middle East who are fighting to keep our land and our people free. They are helping keep other people's land free so they can be able to enjoy the things we enjoy. We welcome our hero's home and say 'well done'. Our land will be a lot safer for their dedication. I have been asked to put out the word that The Battleship New Jersey does not accept email QSL cards from stations working NJ2BB. NJ2BB also asks that before a card is sent out to us, that the person sending the card checks the outgoing card for correct and complete information. The QSL manager, Margaret, KB2BRR, receives these cards and it is a lot of extra work for her to figure out the missing info and to interrupt the wrong information. She is a volunteer and her time is better used if she can spend it making the New Jersey a better place for everyone to visit. On a lighter note for NJ2BB, the club has worked hard for and received WAS. Also, look for NJ2BB on the last weekend of April when she will be looking for contacts for "SUBS ON THE AIR" It was brought to my attention that the cards for the license plates that say "AMATEUR RADIO" should have the amount of \$15.00 but have the amount of \$10.00. DO NOT send \$10. You will need to cross out \$10. and put in \$15. Someone did and had to resubmit. On April 5, 2003 at Mercer County Park, amateur volunteers helped pass traffic to overseas servicemen from the general public. DVRA members were at the park for the Rally to Support Our Troops. DVRA has been a club since 1931 and currently has about 100 members. Amateur radio has a long history of helping families stay in touch. It is now time to think Field Day and Field Day T-shirts and pins are now available. While on the subject of Field Day, there is a new entry class for 2003. This new class is "class F" for stations that operate at an emergency operation center or EOC. Given the increased emphasis on emergency communications since Sept 11.01, the ARRL Board

Membership Services Committee ask that the Contest Branch reflect on it. Thus the "class F". They will be eligible for the same bonus points as class A. Traffic report for March 2003 is as follows. Section Traffic Manager is K2UL. There is a daily net at 10:30 pm on 147.345. There is also a new at 8PM on 147.15 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sunday evenings. SNJ/NNJ Section New report.. QNI rpt NJM 48 N2GJ NJPN 192 W2CC NJSN 204 K2PB NJN(E) 190 AG2R NJN(L) 160 AG2R SNJ Local Nets JSARS 623 WJ2F SJTN 61 KB2RTZ SAR report K2UL 100 WA2CUW 81 KB2RTZ 59 WJ2F 43 KC2IYC 28 N2VQA 26 W2QOB 20 WA2NDA 18 N2WFN 16 AB2LF 9 N2ZMI 1 Public Service Honor Roll N2HQL 230 KB2RTZ 195 KA2YKN 115 K2UL 110 WJ2F 100 KC2IYC 93 AA2SV 90 WA2CUW 90 AB2LF 83 N2VQA 76 W2QOB 62 N2WFN 56 KB2YJD 22. If you work traffic, you are entitled to be an ORS. There are 3 ways you can do this. Let me know, fill out the form on the ARRL website or just call and let them know if you are not on internet. Also, you can let K2UL know when you check into the nets. If Dan is not on the net that particular night, let Net Control know. You will then be a staff member. As a staff member you are entitled to 10 points per appointment on the PSHR section of the traffic report you send in each month. As you are planning some of your summer activities (yes, it is just around the corner), don't forget to mark "Hamfest by the Shore" on your calendar. This year the date is August 10, 2003 Sunday. It is held at the Bayville Fire House 445 Route 9 in Bayville, New Jersey. The Gloucester Hamfest is traditionally in August also but I do not have a date on that yet. Jean

Western Pennsylvania

Well Spring is finally upon us and with it many opportunities for severe weather. I encourage each of you to contact your local emergency coordinator to determine if there is a Skywarn training class being offered in your area. I attended a class last year with the BVARA club in which Rich Kane of the National Weather Service was the instructor. This class was highly informative and provided a good foundation for individuals to become Skywarn observers. I also would like to remind everyone that with the assistance of several grants individuals may take the Emergency communications classes the ARRL is offering and upon successful completion be reimbursed the cost of the class. These classes are normally \$45 for members and the member will get that money back when completed. This is actually more than the cost of membership in the ARRL and also shows support for the league. If you know someone that does not belong to the ARRL encourage them to join. For those of you participating in the various courses and need assistance with any aspect contact your emergency coordinator for help and if you do not get a response then contact either myself at n3mse@arrl.org or Section Emergency Coordinator Rich Beaver at shay@verizon.net for assistance. Rich also has a need for individuals in several counties that would be interested in the position of emergency coordinator for the county. If you are interested in any of these functions contact Rich for additional information. On April 26 I will be attending the Atlantic Division cabinet meeting with Director Fuller, Vice Director Edgar and the other section managers of our division. This is an opportunity we take each year to discuss ways in which we can better serve the members we represent in our individual sections. Any member here in Western Pennsylvania that has an area of concern they would like to see addressed at the meeting is asked to contact me no later than April 24. On Monday April 28 the Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Eric Olena and myself will be attending a VOAD meeting with PEMA in Harrisburg. Eric and I represent the amateur radio services of the ARRL in Pennsylvania. If there is any item in that venue you would like to have answered please let me know. In just two short months field day will once again be upon us. Many clubs will be planning their activities in the next few weeks. I will once again make an effort to visit with several clubs during the field day operations so please contact me with an invitation and directions if you would like me to try to stop by during the weekend. Also remember that you receive bonus points for sending a piece of formal traffic to me with appropriate information. Check the rules for the content of the message. The traffic can best be sent with the WPA Phone and Traffic net, our section net, on 3983 Hz every evening at 6 P.M. local time. They will accept the messages for me if I am not on the net. Also remember to order early your field day pins and shirts as they always sell out and this years are very attractive. I also have available some dates for speaking at club events. This year once again I plan on attending every hamfest in the section. I have several club speaking engagements on my calendar and will try to fill all requests. Education Assistant section manager Bruce Watson, AA3LX, has been preparing several PowerPoint presentations on various subjects for club talks. These can be made available by one of us to present at a club meeting. We can also provide a copy to others for use. Currently there are programs

available for traffic handling, the scout radio merit badge, qsling and a few others. Anyone with topics of interest for consideration is asked to contact me directly. Join us nightly at 6 PM on the section Western Pennsylvania Phone and Traffic net at 3983 Hz. Help us to provide the service to the people of our communities. If you are interested in any field organization positions please get in touch with me and I will forward your request to the proper section level leader. Any problem questions or concerns can be sent to me for assistance and I will again get with the proper leader to attempt to resolve. 73 John Rodgers N3MSE W. Pa. Section Manager n3mse@arrl.org

Central Division

Illinois

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the newest member of the Section Cabinet. He is Eric Rademacher, KC9AVP. Eric has agreed to take on the responsibility of being the Affiliated Club Coordinator. Eric is a second generation ham, licensed in 2002 and now is enjoying general class privileges. He is also lucky to have most of his family as licensed amateurs. His wife, Sharon, is KC9BFB, and his two daughters Aerial and Stephanie are KV9BKU and KC9BKV. His two sons Daniel and Samuel need to learn to read first. Eric is looking forward to working with all the clubs in the section to improve their visibility in their areas, and if the club is interested in becoming affiliated with ARRL he will help in that process. He will also help a club achieve Special Service Club status. Eric and his wife will be on a fishing trip to Lake of Egypt and he would like to take this opportunity to meet with the hams in that area on May 3rd. If you can meet with him on that date send him an email at kc9avp@arrl.net. If you are around the northern Illinois area you can find Eric on the KB9I repeater 145.41. Welcome aboard, Eric! I know that you will be a valuable member to the section. We also have a new DEC for northeastern Illinois. He is Rob Sobkoviak, K9NYO. Rob is also the Will County EC. He has been busy coordinating hams in the area with the National Weather Service so that we will have dependable communications when severe weather comes. Recently Rob appointed Wyant "Woody" Niswonger, KB9YBK, and Phil Rittenhouse, NW9V, as SKYWARN Coordinators for the northeast district of the Illinois ARES. Woody and Phil will be acting as liaisons between ARES and the National Weather Service forecasting office in Romeoville (which serves the northeast district of Illinois ARES and then some). They have been enlisted by the NWS to be available to operate the amateur radio station in Romeoville as well as coordinate additional volunteers. Congratulations goes out to Maurice Schietecarte, W9CEO, on his appointment as HF Awards Manager for the Fox River Radio League, an ARRL Special Service Club. As such, he will be responsible for validating WAS and 5-band WAS applications for his area. He has accepted a heavy responsibility in maintaining the integrity of this prestigious award. Good luck, Maurice, and thank you for taking on this important task. Woody Hester, WD9F, is the net manager of the Illinois Training Net (ITN). It is a CW traffic net and they train operators for ILN, 9RN and other independent nets. He reports that they have holes in the coverage of Illinois and he would like to do some serious recruiting. Are you interested? Contact Woody, WD9F via email at Fghester@aol.com During the coming months our ASM will be attending several hamfests in the section. Some of the ones he will attend are Godfrey on April 26, Springfield on May 31, and Quincy on August 8. The Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club Hamfest will be May 4th at the Sandwich Fairgrounds, Suydam Road, Sandwich, Illinois. Contact person for tickets and information is W9ICU, Bob Yurs. His email address is w9icu@attbi.com March traffic, ND9T-33, WD9F-32, PSHR 92, WA9APQ-2, PSHR 55, WB9NII-1, WB9TVD-34, W9HLX-51, NC9T-16, W9FIF-14. ISN report for March: QNI-231, QTC--138 in 29 sessions. Daytime in the region net report for March, net sessions-62, QNI-514, average of 8.29 per session, QTC-250, average of 4.03 per session. Illinois represented at 56 nets or 90.32% by NS9F, W9HLX, N9NL, NN9M and AG9Y.

Indiana

Indiana Section News for March 2003 Condolances to the Family and Friends of these amateurs who became a Silent Key during March: Ralph Reed K9WHA, 3/7; Robert Henn WB9QAW, Emergency Coordinator for Vanderburgh County, 3/25; and Clifford Riley K9CR, 3/26. They will be missed. There aren't enough words of

gratitude for me to express my thanks to the many Indiana Amateurs who have sent letters, e-mails, and made phone calls to our Indiana Representatives about Senate Bill 109. Your support and urging to our legislators has turned some heads, and made them realize that Amateur Radio is an important part of the communications infrastructure of Indiana. As this Indiana Section News column goes to press, I am still waiting to hear the results of this week's Indiana House activity on Senate Bill 109, the Amateur Radio Antenna Regulation bill. As of Monday, April 7, the bill was voted out of the Indiana House Rules and Procedures by a unanimous vote. The Bill was to be heard before the full House floor later in the week. As soon as I have information, it will be posted on the ARRL, and Indiana ARRL websites. Those Indiana ARRL members who have signed up at the League's website can receive E-mail Alerts, and the latest ARRL bulletins. If you haven't signed up for this service and want to, please go to the Members Only portion of the ARRL website, and sign up. After sending out a bulletin last month to all Indiana amateurs about the lack of net activity reporting by Hoosier VHF Net Managers, there was a 266% increase in the number of reports: (6 Reports in Feb.vs.16 Reports in Mar)! To those Net Managers who sent a Net Report to Frank WA9JWL, Indiana STM, a BIG THANK YOU!. Please keep it up! And, any other VHF/UHF Net Managers, please take note of this appreciation for reporting VHF/UHF net activities. Our Section Emergency Coordinator, David Pifer N9YNF, reports that a number of ECs are reporting using the incorrect forms. All ECs need to report their ARES activities on the E.C. Report Form (FSD-212). The ARRL Net Activity Report form (FSD-125) is to be used for on-the-air net activity. Some of the information on both of these forms overlaps, but this information needs to be kept separate, and be reported correctly. Please contact Dave Pifer N9YNF at n9ynf@arrl.net if you have any questions about how to report Net Activity, or ARES activity. James S. Sellers K9ZBM Indiana Section Manager

Wisconsin

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG, SEC: WB9RQR, STM: K9LGU, ACC: Open, SGL: AD9X, OOC: N9VE, PIC: W9UQ. TC: K9GDF, BM: WB9NRK, ASM: K9UTQ, W9RCW, W9CBE, N9VE. With regret, I pass the sad news that Melvin Brueckner, WB9RKO, 80, passed away on February 3. Melvin was a member of RRRC. On November 6, 2002 at 9:45 PM EST, W1AW sent a series of tones (and Morse Code) on four (4) amateur bands. The event, while publicized, did not give out the exact frequencies on which W1AW was transmitting; rather close approximations. The purpose of this "test" was for amateurs to measure as close as possible the transmitted frequencies. We congratulate Richard Polivka, N6NKO, to be recognized as one of the few amateurs to have measured the 40 and 80 Meter frequencies to within 30 ppm! Leon Rediske, K9GCF, was voted the Ozaukee Radio Club Ham of the Year! Governor Jim Doyle has proclaimed June 28, 2003, as Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Day. A special thank you to the RRRC members for coming to the assistance of the Fox Lake St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade committee put out a call for help at the last minute. In the true spirit of a Special Services Club, the members responded with communications support for the event. It was nice to meet many of you at the Jefferson hamfest. Hope to see you soon at other events. My schedule is posted on the ARRL Wisconsin section site: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WI> MRAC member, KC9AYO, is conducting code practice on the 145.39 repeater every Monday and Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Thanks, D.J.! The Wisconsin Valley Radio Association held a Technician level amateur radio license weekend class and Myron, KB9STB, reports that 11 out of 12 passed their license exams! They used the ARRL Technician video tapes, Now You're Talking, and 5 instructors. Congratulations to the team and students! 9RN report: Wisconsin Represented at 62 or 100% of net section by W9CBE K9FHI WD9FLJ KB9IME KB9KEG K9LGU W9PVD K9PVD K9RTB W9SWL K9WVM. 73, Don, W9IXG (608)274-1886 w9ixg@arrl.org From Denny, K9LGU, our STM: FAQ #5 – How are weather nets related to traffic handling? Handling weather-related messages during an alert is a special kind of traffic and needs special care. It's a good idea to practice with local ARES, RACES, or Skywarn groups well in advance of when services are needed. Plenty of good sites on the Internet can help. My favorite is www.sulcom.org/. The need for accuracy and efficiency is high on weather circuits and good traffic-handlers welcome the pressure. 73 Denny

Dakota Division

South Dakota

SM Rich Beebe, N0PV Aberdeen-The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 Monday April 7th at the Hub Area Technical School, 640 9th Ave. SW in Aberdeen, SD. Please enter the building using the south doors. The Aberdeen Amateur Radio Club hosts a radio net every Wednesday night at 9:30 Brookings-Skywarn classes coming up on Thursday April 17th at 7:00pm. Auction to be held on Sunday April 27th at 2:30pm in Volga. We will be having it again in the back of the Renolds Printing building. Pierre-Over the last month the LOGO committee has worked to update PARC's logo. At March's meeting that the emblem can be voted on. The Lewis & Clark Special Event Station in June or July should be perfect for operating outdoors in and around Pierre. Start thinking about Field Day. We are having a weather spotter organizational meeting at 7 pm on April 15. Northern Hills-The Northern Hills Amateur Radio Club assisted in the area of Communications during a major HazMat fire at a local post and pole treatment plant. NHARC Staff was in charge of a Radio Cache that was brought in by the state to provide additional communications for the Firefighters and Support staff. PDARC-Two H.F. 440 rigs were to be obtained by Yankton County for our use. A trailer planned for the club, instead of the CAP Van. The club talked about what the trailer should have. Also the Storm Spotters Meeting and Training will be held in Vermillion the day before the PDARC meeting. It will start at 7:00 pm. April 7th. SEARC-Discussions on the two special event stations; Space Days at the Washington Pavillion, and the South Dakota Battleship Memorial were some of the topics discussed at the last meeting. Also covered was the MS Walk and the MS 150 Bike Ride. Weather Spotter training will be April 15th in Sioux Falls. CLEAR LAKE-Deuel County Amateur Radio Club Of Clear Lake, South Dakota Presents Hamfest 2003, Saturday, July 26th and Sunday, July 27th, 2003. The new digital voice card for the repeater is in and working, thanks to Kurt and Rob. For Field Day this year, we will be operating out of the courthouse. NET SESSIONS QNI QTC MANAGER NJQ NET 31 869 90 WN0Y AM WX NET 21 693 88 KC0AF NEO NET 31 2515 107 WA0ZWZ ABRN 2MTR 4 49 1 WN0Y SD NOVICE 5 70 5 N0MEA NE SD 2MTR 4 55 0 N0MEA SUN AM EMERGCY 5 75 0 WA0CUL SAR WN0Y O/52 R/78 S/42 D/3 TOTAL 175 PSHR 1/60 2/24 4/3 5/52 6/20 TOTAL 159 SAR W6IVV RECD 328 SENT 357 TOTAL 685 PSHR 1/40 2/40 3/30 6A/10 TOTAL 120

Delta Division

Arkansas

In my first Section News summary, the main order of business is to thank Bob Ideker, WB5VUH, for his dedicated service as Arkansas Section Manager. Bob worked tirelessly with one goal in mind - helping amateurs and clubs in Arkansas to achieve their full potential. Many great things were accomplished through Bob's leadership, and I hope we can keep that momentum going. Bob has been extremely helpful in the transition and I appreciate the many phone calls and e-mail messages, and a Saturday spent helping me get accustomed to the responsibilities. I also appreciate his accepting the PIC and SGL positions, and he has already recruited several new PIO's. Under Bob's leadership, ARRL membership in Arkansas was increasing, and we want to continue that trend. These are the section cabinet members: ACC: K5BKT, ASM;s: N5TKG, W5WPN, N5RN, N5XFW, W5JAY, K1ARK, K5UZ, N5QH, KB5FJX. PIC/SGL: WB5VUH SEC: W5ARS STM: WB5HIL TC: AC5DK. ASM's will keep in regular contact with clubs in their area. I will be furnishing contact information to each club soon. Please call on your ASM for any ARRL- related needs or questions. We will make sure you get what you need. The Arkansas web site had to change hosts and is undergoing some renovation. KB5FJX is the new webmaster. Let me or Carl know if you have any suggestions for the site. On Tuesday, April 1st, the Garland County ARES/RACES team was activated to assist with two large wildfires. Part of the response was the communications van built by WA5LUY, W5LVB, KD5RVC, N5XFU, KD5RQN, and N5XFW. Communications between the Hot Springs Police Department, Hot Springs Fire Department, United States Forest Service, National Park Service, Arkansas Forestry Commission, and three Volunteer Fire Departments were routed through the van. The operators were: N5XFU, W5LVB, and N5XFW. The incident commander for the Hot Springs Fire Department was highly impressed with the way the van fit seamlessly into the Incident Command System. Congratulations to Kenny Thompson KG5KS,

for completing the ARECC Level I course. I enjoyed seeing everyone at the Fort Smith hamfest. This was an excellent, well attended hamfest. The ArkieCon QRP forums were world-class, with distinguished guests from coast to coast. We're all looking forward to the Little Rock Hamfest on April 25 and 26 at the Little Rock Expo Center. Stop by the ARRL table and visit, and be sure and attend the ARRL forum and other activities. This will be the last Arkansas hamfest for several months - don't miss it! Jim Kieffer KD5NDJ, is working with several students at Subiaco Academy. One has already passed the Technician test. Young people are the future of amateur radio, and N5QH is the ASM for School and youth activities. Let E.J. know what you are doing in your town and we will give you any support we can. Congratulations to Martin C. Worster, Jr. KD5LJT, or Harrison, for his nomination for the ARRL Technical Service Award and the ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. Martin graduated as Valedictorian from his high school class and is an Extra Class licensee. There are five hams in the Worster family. Martin's sister, Rebecca, KD5LJS is a senior journalism major and is helping to promote amateur radio at community activities. The Pine Bluff Amateur Radio Club recently set up a special event station at Railroad-arama last weekend. They made lots of HF contacts from inside a caboose. These events are a great way to tell the public about ham radio. Field Day plans are being made now, and I hope you will participate. There is a new class, for operation from your local EOC, and I hope some groups take advantage to get to know their emergency management officials better. Traffic for March: W5RIP 195, K5BOC 30, AB5AU 20, WB5HIL 21, AD5AM 13, KB5ILY 9, N4OWB 6, N5NDO 5, WA5EVW 3, KC5RDU 3.

Louisiana

LOUISIANA SECTION NEWS – MARCH 2003 LOUISIANA: SM, Mickey Cox, K5MC – ASM: W5PY, K5DPG, AC5VN. ACC: KM5YL. OOC: WB5CXJ. PIC: K5IQ. SEC: WA5LQZ. SGL: KD5KNZ. STM/LCW NM: W4DLZ. LTN NM: NF5B. The following amateurs were recognized during the ARRL Forum at the Rayne Hamfest for their work last fall during Hurricane Lili: KA5BSE, KD5JCT, KB5RKO, KD5TMJ, KD5TCJ, WA5TWL, WA5CHX, K5EGW, KD5JSM, KD5NVC, KI5XP, KD4VBV, K5MGA, KC5QDZ, WD5FDD, K5LFT, KD5TJZ, KD5SZN, KB5EKD, KD5KSX, KD5QYV, W5TJZ, KD5TGY, N5YCS, N5RLM, N5OA, KD5QZG, KC5Z, WA5PJT, KN5GRK, KB0TYJ, KA5SUR, K5IQZ, KM5QB, WA5LQZ, KB5YLG, KC5WLA, AA5UY, KC5YUV, KD5JZT, and AD5DP. Almost 150 hams in our section have now received ARRL Emergency Communications Commendation certificates for their service in 2002! NF5B is our new Louisiana Traffic Net (LTN) Manager. Richard is a past STM for Iowa and is also currently the Central Area Net (CAN) Manager for cycles 1 and 2. I want to thank Dan K5IQZ for stepping in quickly to serve as the interim manager for LTN these past three months. Just as Richard was agreeing to be our permanent manager for LTN, Dan decided to be the new assistant manager for the 7290 Traffic Net! Charles K5CFJ has been appointed to serve as the Southeast LA DEC. In last month's report I failed to point out that Ray N5YEE has been appointed an Official Emergency Station. Congratulations to all and thanks very much for your service to our section. Field Day is not far away! Be sure to read the complete FD rules at www.arrl.org/contests/forms or request the full packet by sending an SASE to ARRL HQ as described on page 101 in the May issue of QST. This year our section will expand its FD awards program by presenting a plaque to both the outstanding small club and the outstanding large club. The ARRL-affiliated club in the 1A/2A category having the highest average score per transmitter will be recognized as the top "small" club; in a similar fashion, the ARRL-affiliated club in the 3A or above category having the highest average score per transmitter will win the plaque as the top "large" club. A club's total score (including bonus points) will be divided by the number of transmitters as determined by its category (1A, 4A, etc.) to determine the average score made by the club. It now appears that our section will join up with the MS and STX Sections for this year's Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Details remain to be worked out, but the three sections have tentatively agreed to conduct a joint SET exercise later this year. Stay tuned for further details! Scott W5WZ reports that the 2003 Louisiana QSO Party will be on September 13 and 14. Read the complete rules on this year's contest at www.tchams.org/users/contest/laqp Unlike last year, this year's LA QSO Party will not fall on the same weekend as the Texas QSO Party. It is thought that more participation will be generated by moving our QSO Party to this new date. With the LA Purchase celebrations going on this year, it would be great if each of our parishes could be activated during the event. (The county hunters would definitely appreciate this degree of effort very much!) Traffic totals: K5IQZ 135, K5MC 104, W4DLZ 41, NF5B 25, N5KWB 14, W5PY 14, K5DPG 13, W5NK 11.

Public Service Honor Roll: K5MC 110, K5IQZ 100, AC5VN 98, W4DLZ 97, K5DPG 93, WA5LQZ 87, W5PY 84, KD5ITA 82, NF5B 75, K5ER 74, N5KWB 74, W5NK 51, KB5UHH 26. Section net reports: sessions/QNI/QTC. LTN: 31/404/58. LCW: 31/174/40.

Mississippi

SM: Malcolm Keown, W5XX. Section Web Site: www.arrlmiss.org. Web Master: K5IBM at billscott@storereport.net. DEC: KD5CKP, AB5WF, N5ZNT. EC: NN5AF, W0CIR, KD5CKP, W5DJW, K5DMC, AD5DO, KB5DZJ, KD5FUO, KD5GWM, KA5ICO, KB5JN, WD5IMP, AD5IS, N5JGK, KD5JXL, KD5KXJ, AC5MR, N5NQ, KA5PMK, AC5SU, WA5TMC, KC5TYL, KM5WX, AC5Y, KB5ZEA, N5ZNT. FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell has named K5XU as one of 35 members of the FCC Consumer Advisory Committee. Mike's job will be to represent the interests of blind or visually impaired persons, licensed amateur radio operators, and management of audio information services for the blind. The Committee's first meeting will be in Washington on April 25. Congratulations Mike and watch out for the hams! The Olive Branch ARC recognized W4STI for his efforts in promoting ham radio on the occasion of his 82nd birthday. Mel was founder and first President of the Olive Branch Club in addition to heading the VE Team for many years and having served as Field Day and Dixiefest Chairman. Mel has also been a stalwart check-in on the CW Net for many years. President N5FG reports that the Magnolia DX Association had a great Spring Picnic at the Brooklyn Community Center with 45 in attendance. Floyd notes that N5WI, AE5RM, W5EFK, N5PA, and N5FG/XYL made it all happen. W5ACS and KD5CQT put Mississippi on the map with articles in QST and The DX Magazine. Be sure to catch Clay's article entitled "Mississippi Club Loads Up Brooklyn Bridge" on page 49 of the April QST and Darryl's write-up on "Cat Island Adventure - The saga of K5C" on page 30 of the March/April edition of the DX Magazine. Brad, K5GPA, operating from Keesler AFB supported the "Rally for America" held in Fort Wayne Indiana. With 20,000 in attendance, the Fort Wayne ARC set up a station and invited visitors to QSO with a military installation. Brad, a USAF Meteorologist, was on the other end of the QSO and gave many visitors their first exposure to ham radio resulting in some favorable PR for ham radio on CNN and ABC. Clay County EC W0CIR has started a hybrid ARRL Level 1 Communications Course in Tupelo. A hybrid course is a combination of in-person classes and Internet tutoring. Keep up the good work, Bill! Welcome to new Mississippi Hams: Jeremy, KD5VBR - Aberdeen, Candice, KD5VDV - Wiggins, Steven, KD5VDW - Wiggins, Umesh, KD5VDX - Madison, Justin, KD5VDY, Meridian, Alan, KD5VDZ - Florence, William, KD5VEA - Pelahatchie, Olivia, KD5VEB - Collinsville, George, KD5VED - Gulfport, Jeremy, KD5VFG - Byhalia, Wesley, KD5VFH - New Albany, Bruce, KD5VFK - Columbus, Donna, KD5VFL - West Point, Gregory, KD5VGI- Aberdeen, Jim, KD5VHU - Olive Branch, Ben, KD5VHV - Walls, Earl, KD5VHW- Walls, Matt, KD5VHX, Senatobia, Tim, KD5VMV - Olive Branch, Jeff, KD5VMW - Blue Springs, and Cathy, KD5VUA, Walls. Regret to report the passing of N5BX of Jackson, WB5D of Jackson, WB5MFK of Tishomingo, W5JJW of Summit, KC5HIY of Jackson, and W9CWT of Madison. PIO Report: W5KWB, OO Report: K5XQ, DEC/EC Report: NN5AF, KD5CKP, KD5FUO, KD5GWM, N5JGK, N5NQ, AC5SU, KC5TYL, AB5WF, AC5Y, N5ZNT. Net Reports: sessions/QNI/QTC. MSPN 31/3962/44, MSN 31/1553/8, PBRA 31/677/10, Jackson Co Em Net 30/299/3, MSSN 25/44/1, West Coast MS ARES 12/88/1, MLEN 7/62/0, LARC and, Jones Co ARES EN 7/86/0, MAEN 6/104/0, MBHN 5/53/1, Lowndes Co ARC QSO Net, 5/45/0, MCARA 4/54/0, SW MS ARES 4/59/0, Metro Jackson ARES 4/67/0, JARC EN 4/79/0, HAEN 4/77/0, PSHR: KJ5YY 76, W5XX 70, Traffic: KJ5YY 16, W5LEW 13, W5KWB 9, W5XX 7. Compilation of traffic statistics provided by KJ5YY, Mississippi Section Traffic Manager.

Great Lakes Division

Michigan

Don't forget the Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z April 19th until 0400Z April 20th. Stations may operate the full 12 hours.(12 noon to 12 midnight local Michigan time on April 19) see this URL for more details <http://www.concentric.net/~ka8ykk/qso.htm> My favorite time of year is quickly

approaching...Yes I am not only talking about summer, camping and just being out doors without freezing to death, but FIELD DAY. I thought it would be great if we could post links on the Michigan site as to where your group is going to be for field day. If you have a Website up and running and have a link please send me an email and we will post a new box with field day site links in it. If you don't have a Website and want to include your field day site, please send me the address and I will post it to the site with a link. If you haven't checked out the 3 links to the State Convention, Division Convention and the Family outing on the ARRL Michigan Website you may want to do that now. All the details for these 3 events are now posted at the site <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=MI> Please check to be sure your swap is listed in the coming events section of the Website. If you find yourself not listed please send me an email and we will be sure to post it. We have been trying to keep it updated, but sometimes we miss a few here and there. Warmer weather also brings me to my second favorite things to do when it warms up, Dayton is quickly approaching. My plans are to attend, so if you will be in Dayton and happen to run into me, please be sure to stop me and say hi ! Last on my list for this month is training. I see many counties are now offering skywarn training (remember you should renew your skywarn training at least every 2 years) as well as other forms of training. No matter how many training sessions you can attend this year, please consider this as part of your training. It's easy and something every one can do any time of the day. Ask yourself right now, if you entered a scene in another county and offered to help out and were told to go to a repeater not in your memory and put a tone of 100 Hz could you do this immediately? Could you then take that repeater and put it in your memory with the tone on and add a second repeater to the memory. If not, please, go find your book on your radio and learn how to program your radio. It is very important that we all learn how to program our radio's on the fly or at least keep a book in our cars on how to do this. If you have an HT it also important that you understand how to program them as well. My sincere apologies to the Milford Amateur Radio Club on my not attending their swap. It was in my calendar to do so, but an accumulation of 3/4 of an inch of ice with 2 inches of snow on top of the ice, prevented me from attending. Let's just hope the weather stays nice as it is today and only improves. I don't know that I am ready to do field day in the snow, but then again, this is Michigan 73, Debbie KA8YKK Traffic Totals for March 2003: KC8LBZ 805; K8GA 373; KB8ZYY 337; N8FPN 257; K8LJG 204; N8EIZ 203; K8AE 146; W8XKW 121; WR8F 96; WX8Y 93; AA8SN 92; K8JN 91; AA8PI 49; W8RNQ 45; VE3EUI 42; WA8DHB 41; K8AMR 39; WB8RCR 39; K3UWO 38; KC8TLJ 30; K8UPE 29; N8JAT 23; KA8DDQ 23; WB8YPG 23; K8RDN 18; KI8GR 16; K8ZJU 13; N8UN 13; K8FE 13; KB8GOY 7. All reports are to be in no later than the 5th of the month.

Hudson Division

Northern New Jersey

SM Bill Hudzik-W2UDT, ASM-K2WJ, ASM-N2WZB, STM-WB2FTX, ACC-N3RB, SEC-K2SO, OOC-K2ZD, PIO-WB2CRD, TC-NR2H webpage:www.hudson.arrl.org/nnj If you have not do so yet please write to the Assemblymen named in the Section Alert message to show your support for A3065. The response from NJ hams has been positive and will certainly help our effort to get an antenna support Bill passed in the state. My thanks, also, to the many NNJ clubs who passed the word out to their members. Some held letter writing nights at their meetings. We need everyone's help on this important issue! Check our webpage for the latest updates on A3065. Also, try to sign up for one of the Skywarn classes being offered during the next few months. Becoming a Skywarn spotter is one way to contribute to the Amateur Radio service. By the way, the Skywarn program is an excellent example of how a government agency (National Weather Service) recognizes that a pool of volunteers can supply vital information on a timely basis. As many know Newton, NJ was the site of a propane explosion on March 14th. NNJ hams responded to the request for communications to assist various agencies. Some 27 volunteers from several NNJ counties operated over the weekend to help with relief efforts. Thanks to County DEC Bob Stepanek, N2TTT and NNJ SEC, Steve Ostrove K2SO for coordinating the amateur radio response. Once again, we have shown to other county and state agencies what amateur radio can do in an emergency! Thank you all for helping out. The NNJ Liaison with the Salvation Army, Bob Montgomery, N3DV has started a Metro area SATERN(Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) net via the W2NJR repeater system. In NNJ, the net

meets every Tuesday night at 8:30PM on the Tri-County Radio Club W2LI 440mhz repeater (449.975mhz down 5mhz with a PL of 141.3hz). By the way, you do not have to be a member of SATERN to participate. Please show Bob your support by checking into the net. Congratulations to CLARA member NJ2YL for upgrading to Extra Class. Ashley, NJ2YL is 10 years old and got her first license when she was Six! Her proud father is Mike, NJ2OM. Let's make it our job to encourage more young people to enter the Amateur Radio service. At the other end of the age groups I was happy to check a Satellite VUCC for an old friend, WA2MIS. Gary is a new retiree who recently hiked the Appalachian Trail. Whew! If your tired of watching Iraq updates on CNN visit the Garden State ARA webpage. Its recent newsletter listed some government and short wave broadcast frequencies for the region. Please use the club link available on the NNJ webpage which is listed at the top of column. As well, webmaster N2WZB will appreciate any club events or news for the section. Please use the webpage for any NNJ news. It's the best way to get the "word" out. 73, Bill Hudzik W2UDT NNJ SECTION TRAFFIC NETS MARCH 2003 NET MGR. SESS. QNI QTC QSP QTR NJ MORNING (NJM) N2GJ 48 25 22 95 NJ PHONE(NJPN) W2CC 36 192 55 48 230 NJ SLOW (NJSN) K2PS 31 204 15 13 419 NJ NET (NJN/E) AG2R 31 198 64 52 299 NJ NET (NJN/L) AG2R 31 168 69 58 302 CEN.JER (CJTN) KB2VRO 31 199 57 52 242 NJ VHF (NJVN/E) N2RPI 31 433 54 53 378 NJ VHF (NJVN/L) N2OPJ 31 474 40 38 296 UCTN KY2MMM 21 293 31 26 229

Midwest Division

Kansas

Kansas Section News Summary-March SM, Ron Cowan, KB0DTI—ASM/ACC/OCC:Robert Summers,K0BXF ASM:Orlan Cook,W0OYH SEC:Joseph Plankinton,WD0DMV PIC:Scott Slocum,KC0DYA SGL:Steve Hamilton,KB0JYL Silent Keys: Karl Gordon-WA0RCZ of Salina was a regular on the Section Nets. Jerry O Smith-N0SWY. Jerry's Parents are Wilbur-W0DEL and Doris-N0OVY. Jerry, from Lenexa, was a member of Shawnee Radio club and Johnson county RACES. Winton Webb-W8HXE, Olathe, born in Ohio. ARRL Mid-West Division Convention is May 2 & 3 at Lebanon, Missouri. Find details at: <http://members.socket.net/~wb9m/Publish/> Kansas State Convention August 17 Th in Salina. Contact Ron WA0PSF or <http://www.qsl.net/ckarc/> for details and information on your state convention. Welcome NW0I-John Bauerly as Technical Specialist and AB0UY Debbie Britain as Official Relay Station. Matt-KC4WCG is keeping Douglass Co. ARES rolling along. They are working Packet into their program and taking time to work on their "Grab and Go Kits". New EOC category for Field Day this year. Good opportunity to work with your county. When doing public Service activities remember to keep track of your time and events so you can turn it in for PSHR credit. Received Newsletters from: Pilot Knob, Douglass Co. , Central Kansas and Trojan ARC. February Nets/Sessions/QNI/QTC/Mgr: KSBN/28/1128/83/N0KFS KPN/20/323/41/N0KFS KMWN/28//633/515/WB0YWZ KWN/28/857 /629/WB0YWZ CSTN/24/2316/96/AB5PA QKS/56/359/109/K0PY QKS-SS/7/22/3 KB0DTI. SEC: 63 sessions QNI 683 QTC messages 39, Ks participants KB0AMY N0BTH KC0CIG WD0DDG WD0DMV KC0GDV AA0IQ AA0OM WA0SRR K0UO N0UZ KB0WEQ . Joseph WD0DMV SEC. TEN: 56 sessions, QTC 339, Ks 85% with K0PY W0WWR NB0Z WB0ZNY Dave W0SS/Mgr. Traffic: W0WWR 829 NB0Z 51 W0OYH 33 KB0DTI 28 N0RZ 21 AB0WR 20 KC0JCQ 19 WA0LYK 14 KI0BK 4 N0ZIZ 4 W0FCL 3 Please put me on your newsletter list, e-mail is fine too. 73- Ron To receive Kansas Amateur Radio News E-mail News Letter contact Orlan-W0OYH See KSN on ARRL Website for detailed PSHR and more Kansas news: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/KS.html>

Missouri

SECTION NEWS APRIL 2003 HAMFESTS April 19th the Ararat Amateur Radio Shrine Club will host HAMBASH 2003 in the Ararat Shrine on 5100 Ararat Dr. Kansas City, MO This is always a great Hamfest. There will be VE exams, Forums, and lots of traders and commercial vendors. Contact Ray Pautz, NØRP at rpautz@charter.net MIDWEST DIVISION CONVENTION Plan to attend the ARRL Midwest Division Convention in Lebanon,MO on May 2 & 3 ,2003. The Lebanon ARC's goal for their Hamfest is to be "The Little

Dayton-Just West of the Mississippi". Contact Bill Wheeler, KØDEW, 417-532-4642 or Mike Edwards, WB9M 417-532-9111 or <http://www.member.socket.net/~wb9m/Publish> LETHA DANGERFIELD, WØOUD, HONORED AT JOPLIN HAMFEST Kent Trimble, K9ZTV, Net Manager of the MTN CW, recognized 92 year old Letha Dangerfield, WØOUD, for her 66 years as a CW operator and as an active member of the MO CW Net. Kent read a poem that Leatha had written titled dit dit dit dah She has been blind since she was 4 years old. Besides being a great operator (She holds a code certificate for 45 wpm) she is also a published poet. She received a merit award for her efforts on the traffic nets and as a official relay station from Dale Bagley, KØKY, the MO Section Manager. Kent Trimble, K9ZTV, presented a Certificate for net membership and another for her efforts as Net Assistant. The Joplin Amateur Radio presented Letha, an honorary life JARC member, with a plaque inscribed in braille so that she could read about their respect for her accomplishments. MISSOURI ARES Don Moore KMØR SEC Missouri Section Emergency Coordinator Don Moore, KMØR, has appointed Gerald Sherwood, KCØIUC of Neosho, MO is the new EC for Newton County; Richard Hunt, KCØFDF, of Wheatland, MO is the new EC for Hickory County; Wilford King, WØCKK of Everton, MO is the new EC for Dade County, Bill Tull, KB9YSA of Lake Ozark is the new Camden County EC, and David Hannigan, KNØD, of Eminence, MO the new EC for Shannon County. Don has appointed Roger Volk, KØGOB (former MO SM) to work on the MO Emergency Packet Network. For more information go to <http://www.ares-mo.org/currentsec.asp> CLUB NEWS MO SECTION Keith Haye, WEØG ACC The Suburban Radio Club has upgraded its 146.850 repeater system recently. Ed, NØWDI, Mike, WEØEFP, Jim, NØMSW, Mike, NØQBF, and Joe, NØUHI literally crawled all over the repeater, inside and out. They cleaned ground connections, antenna connections for the entire antenna system. The "pigeon roost" designed years ago by Harry, WØZGL, will support the three antenna for the clubs three repeaters on a single mount. Tweaking the repeater, new duplexers and antennas has made a real improvement in the repeater operation. The new duplexers replaced a lightning damaged unit and their \$1000.00 cost was the anonymous gift of a longtime supporter of the Suburban Radio Club. Dennis Gedion, KBØNHV, instructor and member of the Heart of America Radio Club began working with Dan Miller, K3UFG, the ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager to develop a Hybrid ARECC course that combined classroom instruction and interaction online. The course had the participation of 17 amateur radio communicators from the Kansas City Area and included five from the HARC. Dennis received a Certificate of appreciation from MO SEC Don Moore, KMØR to the applause of the entire class. Mike McCrann, WDØGSY, reports that echolink has been installed at the U.S. Weather Service in St. Louis. The callsign is WXØSTL. The echolink will extend the coverage to areas beyond the limited vhf / uhf range .

New England Division

Connecticut

Section Leadership. SM: K1EIC; assistants: KZ1Z, NK1J, K1STM, KY1F, W1FAI; bulletin manager KD1YV; official observer coordinator W1GC; public information coordinator W1FXQ; Section emergency coordinator W1AGP; Section traffic manager K1HEJ; State government liaison W1UTQ; technical coordinator N1KHB. Congrats to the Eastern CT ARA and the Southington Amateur Radio Club on their ham fests! The annual ARES meeting was held at the Southington ham fest at which over 40 people attended. One topic discussed was the upcoming Recon Rally that will be held in Area 5 to test communications capabilities at various locations within the area. DEC Dave, K1DAV, k1dav@arrl.net, is in charge. Hams are needed April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Troop L Litchfield State Police (OEM Area 5) on Route 202. Talk-in 145.370 (-) PL 77 Hz. This location will be our HQ for the day. Teams of two or more hams per Vehicle will be sent on missions to check Out towns in the area, meet OEM personnel, who will be waiting for you, And report back in to HQ via radio. The more towns and contacts your team makes, the more points you win! @ HQ there will be 8 Radio Operators taking your messages. The system of linked repeaters will be operational to track your travels. This Drill will be a Fun Day as well as a practice after taking the Level 1, 2 or 3 ARRL ECOMM courses. The goal is to travel to assigned town or towns and to communicate among a selected list of towns in AREA 5. There are a Total of 35 towns in the area and communications are more difficult in Some locations than others. You will drive to an assigned selected town, be

given special messages and then Set up some type of station at the OEM site. You will get to meet the OEM and pass on your info back to HQ in message format. This will be added to your score. The total points at the end of the Day Will be added up for final score, and the teams that have the highest Score will receive a Prize. The Goal is to make contact with HQ on HF & UHF/VHF Simplex, while the Use of the Link system will be used to direct the teams to there Locations. Your Team must come to Troop L to receive its Starting Packet, which wil Have 10 to 15 Towns & a Map. You will also get a Recon Number. You will choose your own sequence and travel to the Towns to meet the Local OEM & to do a Recon of the Towns: Info such as Elevation, Temp, Location of Towns OEM View location for possible antenna set up & Shelter will be needed. It is a unique exercise folks so come out and have some fun! Surely by then, the weather will be more appropriate.--K1DAV The ARES membership of ECARA was involved in their first of many exercises Saturday March 29, 2003. We were asked to provide communications for the NDDH (Northeast District Department of Health) for their first of several Smallpox epidemic training drills. The NDDH covers the Northeast portion of Windham County, which includes the towns of Thompson, Union, Woodstock, Putnam, Pomfret, Plainfield, Sterling, Canterbury, Hampton, Ashford, Eastford, Brooklyn and Killingly. The NDDH has set up a series of three clinic sites with a total of 19 triage sites reporting to the clinic sites. Our charge was to provide communications throughout the district. Our concern was whether or not the repeater could provide the coverage needed. The exercise was to assemble the volunteers (approximately 100) at the Plainfield clinic site and then via 2 buses take the group to the Sterling triage site. After an informative talk and description of the scenario by Pat Beckenhaupt, director of the NDDH, busses were loaded and communication was successfully maintained between the busses back to Headquarters and from the triage site back to Hq. About eight volunteers participated-congrats!--Thanks K1UQE Thanks to so many of you who helped out at the CPTV Science Fair. The four day exhibit went well thanks to the fine organizational effort by Bob Stanwood of NARL.

Eastern Massachusetts

Happy spring to all! Of course, spring time brings up a myriad number of public service events that involve Amateur Radio communications. As I write this, the annual BAA "Boston" Marathon is almost upon us. The Boston Marathon is one of the premiere public service events involving over a hundred amateurs who will give of their time to ensure the safety of the runners and the general public. While many will be stationed at the starting line, the finish line and along the course route, a number of hams will also be operating at the Unified Command Center at the State Emergency Operations Center. Still others will be standing by, ready to active emergency ARES and RACES nets in the event that any related natural disaster or terrorist event occurs. I'd like to publicly acknowledge these dedicated men and women who will be working behind the scenes to make this a safe and enjoyable event for the public. Speaking of public acknowledgement—did everyone catch the item in Paul Harvey's national radio show on March 19, 2003? "America's quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies--amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes. After the nine-one-one attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the Space Shuttle Columbia, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security..." As reported last month on <http://ema.arrrl.org>, a proposed Massachusetts law that would ban the use of hand-held cellular handsets while driving is back on Beacon Hill. It's known as Senate Bill number 1390. Please see details on Senate, No. 1390 at the Massachusetts State Government web site at <http://sgl.ema.arrrl.org>. You'll notice that Section 1 of the bill grants an exception to citizens band radio, but none for other radio services, including amateur radio. If this bill is to become law, we will want to see that it is amended to accommodate hams and other services. SGL Shawn O'Donnell, K3HI is keeping a very close eye as this bill heads into committee. EMRI Net Manager K1MGY has been working of late with the EMA field organization and ARRL Headquarters in an attempt to resolve harmful interference on the net frequency of 3658 kHz. The QRM appears to emanate from one or more stations in Russia. The EMA field organization staff met in late March for a quarterly coordination meeting in Burlington. Section Manager Phil Temples, K9HI heard a number of reports from his staff, who exchanged valuable information during the course of the dinner meeting. Looking for a great club presentation? Tom Kinahan, N1CPE offers a talk on formatting and sending radiograms, and how formal radiogram traffic fits

into the RACES program in MA. The presentation includes some fun audience participation. Contact Tom at: n1cpe@amsat.org for the details. N1PMB reports that an SSTV Net has recently begun on the Bristol County RA repeater on 145.15 on Sunday evenings at 1930 ET. He invites all to join in on the fun. If you're not sure how to operate SSTV, it's easy—all you need is a computer, a sound card, and the software. One such software program in use is MMSSTV. It can be obtained at <http://www.qsl.net/mmhamsoft/>.

Rhode Island

Greetings to all RI Amateurs, including those who are not ARRL members. Only 1 out of 4 RI hams supports the League and that's a shame. Please members, try to influence those non-members to join you in supporting the positive initiatives ARRL have presented for everyone. The American Diabetes Association is looking for communications help in the Ocean State 150 Bicycle Race on May 31 and June 1. PVARC is leading the drive to secure a sufficient number of volunteers. Please contact PVARC President Ken Carr, KB1AWV if you can help. Much progress has been made but more help is needed. Contact Ken at kb1awv@arrl.net if you can lend a hand. Ken and PVARC are looking for help to support the major Scouting "Camporee" coming up on May 3rd at Camp Yawgoo. They need equipment, use of a truck, manpower to help set up and take down the station. Look at it as a warm-up for Field Day. Lots of Scouts will be there and will see Amateur Radio for the very first time. Contact Ken ASAP at kb1awv@arrl.net and offer to help. SATERN EMA building progress is continuing. In last month's report, I stated that WITKO had donated building materials to the cause. My information was a little overstated in that Tom delivered the material, BUT it was purchased by the Fidelity ARC. Regardless guys, we tip our collective hats. You are all very generous and are helping a very worthwhile program. SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) is a program of the Salvation Army in which Hams support Salvation Army Emergency/Disaster Services response. Speaking of support, are you looking for a method to create a tax deduction for your 2003 return? Consider donating your extra equipment and accessory items to SATERN, which is qualified as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. RI SATERN (RISAT) is looking for ham volunteers and Amateur Radio equipment donations to equip the amateur radio communications center at the Salvation Army Emergency Operations Center. Anyone who donates equipment to RI Salvation Army/SATERN will be given a receipt for the fair market value of the donated item(s). This receipt may then be used as a qualified deduction for your 2003 income tax return. Hams interested in joining RI SATERN or donating equipment may contact our DEC for SATERN, Denis Feerick N2NCL, n2ncl@arrl.net to make arrangements. Mostly needed are HF and VHF radios but accessories such as coax, coax switches, mikes, power strips, ground braid, etc. are all needed and appreciated. If you haven't already done so, circle Saturday, May 11th. That's the date of the nearest thing we have(so far)to a RI hamfest. The biannual '76 Auction and Flea Market will be held at its usual spot at the VFW Post parking lot in Forestdale, just off Rt. 146. Your RI ARRL team will donate a large collection of new ARRL publications to be auctioned off, guaranteed at well below cover prices. Come get a bargain. RI ARES is undergoing some reorganization. With the resignation of your former SEC and ASM-EC, I've had to adopt a mode of operation that will mark time and preserve our relationships within the state. This means that we'll be suspending our Monday night two-meter net drills until further notice as well as having to enact some personnel adjustments. The purpose of all this is to develop a more robust, useful, well trained and comprehensively organized ARES in the future. Sixteen RIers have taken advantage of the 100% reimbursed on-line EC-001 Em Comm course, two have graduated from the Level II and one from the Level III course. Good job all but we need more of our folks to sign up and become prepared. Traffic count: N1YKH handled 27 pieces of traffic this month. Low for Mike, but he's had lots of other tasks this month. Watch May for a record with the traffic originating at Camporee!

Western Massachusetts

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS: SM: William C. Voedisch, W1UD, w1ud@juno.com - ASM: N1MAP, ASM (digital) KD1SM, STM: NZ1D, SEC: K1VSG, OOC: N1FL- Field day is rapidly approaching. Each organization has only a couple of months to get everything organized. I have been informed that the Leominster Emergency Management will be taking advantage of this new category and have a FD operation from their headquarters. It

should be interesting. With a little PR through the mayors office, I know there will be newspaper coverage and possibly the TV media. Leominster's Emergency Management team is a well oiled machine. Dennis Zonia, K1VSG, EC for WMA has been in Contact with the Ecs for Rhode Island, Eastern Massachusetts, and Connecticut. We have a common Call in frequency of 3943khz (remember that Frequency) for any large area emergency. Within the next couple of months they plan to hold an emergency drill for the four section area. The scenario will be an explosion at a brewery in Pa and a vaporized (beer) cloud will be passing over the four section area. All modes of operation will be utilized ranging from HF radiotelephone to digital. Local repeaters will be interfaced with key stations that will receive the traffic and relay it from section to section.- The 146.67 repeater has been off the air due to power supply failure. MTRA plans to replace the unit with a Micor (r) repeater instead of repairing the old unit. They did this with the 147.00 machine and everything work out well. Jonathen Taylor, K1RDF, presented and demonstrated at the MTRA meeting the software that is used for EchoLink. The IP technology used to transmit audio over the internet. 73 Bill W1UD

Northwestern Division

Eastern Washington

WRITTEN MESSAGE TRAFFIC REPORT FOR MARCH: W7GB 185, K7BFL 86, K7GXZ 39, KA7EKL 25, KK7T 12. PSHR: W7GB 110, K7GXZ 100.

NTS NET ACTIVITY REPORT FOR MARCH: WSN: QNI 798, Traffic 221, 93 Sessions. Noontime Net: QNI 1-139, Traffic 293, 62 Sessions. WARTS: QNI 3789, Traffic 181, 31 Sessions.

Official Observer Report for March -- 7 out of 9 monitoring stations reported 611 hours of monitoring activity.

SILENT KEYS:

HARVEY J. CORNELL, WA7KJY, of Spokane is now a Silent Key as of Thursday 3-27-2003. EDWIN R DAHL, K7FEZ, of Spokane became a Silent Key on March 24, 2003. Ed died suddenly the night before he and XYL Harriet were to drive back to Spokane from Yuma, AZ, where they spend their winters. Ed was a very active ham in public service including helping with the Spokane Lilac Parade and Bloomsday. Ed had many friends and he will be missed greatly.

EASTERN WA ARES Meeting in Ellensburg - Saturday 26 April 2003. The semi-annual Eastern WA SEC (Section Emergency Coordinators) Conference will be hosted by Kittitas County ARES this spring. The meeting will be held in the "Little Theater" in Ellensburg High School beginning at 0900. Eastern WA SEC Gordon Grove, WA7LNC, will chair the meeting, which will have representatives from many of the counties in the eastern part of our state. On Saturday 8 February between 10:00 and noon the Latah County (Idaho) ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) group participated in a "mini-SET" (Simulated Emergency Test) in conjunction with the Whitman County ARES organization as well as hams from Lewiston and Clarkston. Participants included: Latah County: KC7QCS, KD7JBX, KD7OAB, WB7FDQ, N7SIF, W7EKB, AB7YB. Whitman County: W1MOM, KC7CXR, KD7GUX, KD7HGG, W7HFI. Nez Perce County: W7VJD, W7NCP, KD7XD. Asotin County: AC7ZA, JD7OYV, K7LWC. These stations were located in Moscow, Princeton, Pullman, Colfax, Lewiston, Lewiston Orchards, Clarkston and Clarkston Heights. Our goals were to give operators an opportunity to pass traffic and to attempt to use simplex frequencies to communicate between communities (rather than using repeaters that might not be available). We were able to communicate between Lewiston and Pullman; a later try between Lewiston and Moscow was unsuccessful although we had some other ideas we didn't try. We were successful in communicating between Princeton and Moscow, Moscow and Pullman, then Pullman and Colfax using VHF frequencies. -- Geoff Billin, KC7QCS Some amateurs have been wondering if the FCC will shut down the Amateur Radio Service with the war event in Iraq. The answer is "no!". While the Amateur Radio Service will not automatically be shut down if the president invokes the War

Powers Act, amateur radio licensees must continue to observe any directives the FCC may issue in the interest of national security and of making spectrum available for government use.

Idaho

NET REPORTS NET SESS QNI QTC MGR FARM 31 3139 70 W7WJH NWTN 31 1543 86 KC7RNT IDACD
21 461 9 WB7VYH IMN 13 738 122 W6ZOH STATION TRAFFIC REPORTS STATION ORIG RCVD SENT
DEL TOTAL W7GHT - 116 74 2 192 W6ZOH - 10 25 4 39 WB7VYH - 13 17 - 30 KB7GZU - 33 35 - 68
PUBLIC SAFETY HONOR ROLE STATION 1 2 3 4 5 6 TOTAL W7GHT 40 40 20 - - - 100 WB7VYH 24 30 10
- - - 64

Montana

A great Emcomm job done by the Helena club during local heavy flooding during March. The crisis occurred quickly and was handled with professional demeanor by the Helena group. A boost for all Montana Hams. Use and coverage of APRS is increasing in our state. Lots of effort on the part of Hams in the SE, with more and better systems to offer. The meeting in Forsythe last month was great and lots of information offered. My thanks to all who worked to make it happen. Next year's will no doubt be better yet. Attendance on most of our nets is increasing. Thanks to all who participate and make our nets work as well as they do. Consider registering for one of the CED courses via the League. They are informative and will increase your knowledge of Emcomm in today's world. Look at www.arrl.org for the latest information. Keep in mind the Hamfest at Idaho Falls on April 26. It will be at the Army Reserve Armory in the SE part of town. Hope to see a contingent from MT. These folks also support our Glacier gathering in July, would be nice to offer ours for their efforts. We still have several ARRL Section appointments to fill. If there is any special slot you may be interested in, please email or call so we can find the right one for you. Thanks for your support Doug Dunn, K7YD SM Montana Section

Western Washington

Communications Academy Over 200 people attended the highly successful 5th annual Communications Academy 2003. Congratulations to all who contributed to its success. Many of the presentations will be available in the near future as downloads at www.commacademy.org. Legislative Report SB 5201 which would establish a workgroup to study Amateur Radio issues did not make it out of committee. An effort will be made again next year. District 1 DEC John Rollman, KJ7SI Email: kj7si@fidalgo.net Whatcom Co. EC Matt Montague, KC7UHN Email: kc7uhn@cs.com ARES assisted with radio comms for the MS Walk a Thon of Washington. Operators included KB7PKL, W7GLC, WA7HL, KK7LK, KD7OFC, KC7IJH, AC7UM, & KC7UHN. Also included are Youth Operators of Whatcom Co. KD7TAX, KD7TAW, KD7SBA, & KD7SBB. District 4 DEC Ken Dahl, K7TAG Email: k7tag@arrl.net Thurston Co. EC Dan Crane, KB7DFL Email: kb7dfl@aol.com Thurston County ARES provided a demonstration of Amateur Radio Communications support to the Regional Clinic for Region 3 Department of Health. Participating were KB7DFL, KA4VVA, KC7FEE, KD7CZN, KD7KHE and at the State EOC, KA7UKN. District 5 DEC Randy Greeley, NU7D Email: nu7d@pacifier.com Cowlitz Co. NU7D responded to a report of a possible downed aircraft on Cottonwood Island in the Columbia River. Frank, N7CEN was on standby to call other ELT Teams if needed. Further investigation revealed no evidence of a distressed aircraft. Clark Co., EC Bob Goodale, K7YFJ Email: rwgoodale@attbi.com The March ARES/RACES meeting was an excellent presentation on planning for an HF Mobile Station by Don, NX7J. Starting May 19 meetings will be at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Vancouver. SEC Comments Jim Pace K7CEX Email: k7cex@arrl.net Emergency Management (EM) in WA is organizing into Regional Homeland Security Coordination Districts (RHSCD). The region boundaries coincide with the Health District Regions for Bioterrorism Planning & Coordination. A region map can be found at the WWA Section News page (www.arrl.org/sect/wwa). Since ARES works very closely with emergency management, the ARES districts will be redefined to match the RHSCDs effective 1 Aug. DEC's will need to add the EM region coordinator to their list of contacts. Work commitments have caused King Co. EC Ron

Zuber KC7RWT to step down. We are looking for 2 new appointees in King Co., an EC for unincorporated King Co. and a DEC for the entire county. STM Report Pati Urie W7ZIW Email: w7ziw@arrl.net QNIs: Noontime net=10139, WARTS=3789, CCAIN=130, WSN=798, WCN=215, NWSSB=710: New WSN members W7ARC and N7EIE Individual traffic totals: W7ARC 129, N7AJ 156, K7BDU 885, W7DPW 22, N7EIE 2, W7LG 86, W7QM 469, KJ7SI 26, W7TVA 524, N7YSS 153, W7ZIW 88. Official Observer Report John Burk W7BO Email: w7bo@adelphia.net HOURS MONITORED: W7BO=45, N7QHC=10, KG7U=8, KK7JA=10, W7XC=4, W7POE=15, W7DO No Report. One advisory sent. Up to date news can be found on the WWA Section News web page at <http://www.arrl.org/sect/wwa>.

Pacific Division

Nevada

Greetings to everyone in the Nevada Section! As many of you know I was appointed to fill out the remainder of Janet Welsh's term as Nevada Section Manager, ending June 30, 2003. Two weeks ago I received a letter from Rosalie White K1STO and Steve Ewald WV1X at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT. Their letter was notification that as the sole nominee, I have been elected to the next two-year term as Nevada Section Manager, starting July 1, 2003. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Joe Giraudo N7JEH of Elko, Nevada, as Assistant Section Manager (ASM) for the Nevada Section. Joe currently holds Net Manager, Emergency Coordinator and Public Information Officer section field appointments. He has previously served as Section Emergency Coordinator for many years and was recently nominated for the prestigious ARRL Excellence in Recruiting Award. Joe is an ARRL Volunteer Examiner, Red Cross trainer and mainstay of the Elko Amateur Radio Club. Congratulations to Vice-Principal Patrick Peters KD7QDI, Harry Bryant KC7HVM, Jack Ruckman AC6FU and everyone involved in the effort to qualify Silver Stage High School in Silver Springs for the ARRL Amateur Radio Education and Technology Program (aka "The Big Project"). With Silver Springs (pop. 7800) leading the way as host of Nevada's first ETP pilot school, can small towns like Reno and Las Vegas be far behind?? The Sierra Intermountain Emergency Radio Association (SIERA) just started their Spring Technician licensing class and is preparing for their annual support of the Pony Express Reride across Nevada. Several clubs in Southern Nevada are preparing to support the annual Baker To Vegas Challenge Cub Relay Race. The Nellis Radio Amateur Club (NRAC) will be dedicating both of their club repeaters for the race and the Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club (LVRAC) will also be providing a great deal of support for the race. LVRAC also obtained a 21-foot communications trailer from a source in Utah where it was last used at the Salt Lake City Olympics in 2000. The club is looking forward to refurbishing it and making it available for public service and ARES/RACES operations. Speaking of NRAC, they will be joining the Elko Amateur Radio Club (EARC) holding free Morse code classes for anyone interested in upgrading their licenses. The NRAC training will be held on one of their repeaters and the EARC will be holding formal classes. The daily Western Nevada Noon Net continues to receive healthy participation. This Washoe County VHF net is providing an outlet for announcements of both general interest items as well as emergency related meetings, events and training sessions. Net Manager Matt Parker N7TOD reports the net continues to be available as a channel for local traffic into and out of the NTS on a daily basis. Bill Cornelius K8XC has been working overtime—as he does every year—to organize the amateur radio activities at this year's National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) convention April 5-10. Along with ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JBP, if you drop by the ARRL booth you will have a chance to chat with ARRL Vice-President Fried Heyn WA6WZO, Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio W6RGG, Pacific Division Vice-Director Andy Oppel N6AJO and yours truly. Please send me your concerns, opinions, questions and newsletters. Until next month, 73, Dick W6OLD Newsletters: CVRC, LVRAC, NRAC, SNARS Traffic Totals: N7TOD 4 Public Service Honor Role: N7TOD 94

Sacramento Valley

COMMENTS: As April begins many are planning for Field Day, in June. This is an event the whole family can

enjoy - out in the woods, in a park, or where ever you can set up a station or two. I am starting to receive more newsletters and email giving information on clubs, ARES groups, Hamfests, etc. Keep the information coming. I want to fill this space with useful information. YUBA SUTTER ARC: Ron, W6KJ, and Herb, W6HBU, taught a Tech class and had the following graduates, Pat KG6PNC, Len KG6PND, Manna KG6PNE, Mark KG6PNF, Mike KG6PNG, Chris KG6PNH, Paul KG6PNI, Teddy KG6PNJ. Congratulations to all and their instructors! Lee K6MCI made a presentation on PSK31 operation. A free CD was given out, containing information and programs for PSK31 mode. Rob WW6G put the CD together. The club's ARES group is working closely with the Red Cross. Their group will help out with a MS walk and Bike Around the Buttes. They will be attending a training course on Standard Emergency Management System. MOTHER LODGE DXCC: W6RFF spoke to the club on ARRL and how it relates to MLDXCC - DX and Contesting. Jim, WX6V is firming up plans for a serious effort in Field Day - Contest Style. MLDXCC, again, won the club competition in NCCC's CQP contest, by a large margin. Members will help out at the International DX Convention, in Visalia. SIERRA FOOTHILLS ARC: Their latest VE session had a good turn out in Folsom. There is interest in holding an EMCOMM Level 1 hybrid course locally. Al, W6GER, spoke about the USS Hornet and its amateur radio club and its activities. Their monthly breakfast, in Roseville, has a large attendance. Steve, KF6OCE made QST pages with a picture of himself and his radio equipped jeep. He explained how it is set up for participating with ARES in emergencies. Members will provide communication for the Western States Endurance Run and the Tevis Cup Endurance Ride. Both are 100 mile horse race through the rugged Sierra Nevada Mountains. ARC of ANDERSON: Dick, N6FF, spoke and showed slides of the DXpedition to the Island of Trinidad, of which he was a participant. A collection of newly developed T-Hunt equipment will be featured in April. Their next VE test will be April 12, 8:30am at CDF in Redding. Sue, W6SUE, is finalizing their FD plans with concerns on logging - they may try computers. NORTH HILLS RC: "What is Amateur Radio?", is a presentation by NHRC on April 15 at 7:30pm, at the North County Corporation Yard, 5026 Don Julio Blvd. Sacramento. There will be demonstrations of HF radio, Morse Code, Packet radio, FM repeaters, Satellite radio, ARRL and others -Public is invited. RIVER CITY ARCS: Ken WO6J reports the VE session had 9 candidates. Results were, 1 Tech, 2 General, 1 Extra. Next session is April 19, 8:45am at Carmichael Elks Lodge. The next planned Fox Hunt (T-Hunt) is April 27 at 10am. Check www.n6ns.org for more club information. NEVADA COUNTY ARC: Their new web site is www.ncarc.org. Check it out. WX6RST gave a presentation on Antennas that are relatively cheap and easy to build, that can be designed by using an Excel program. SUN CITY ROSEVILLE ARG: Bob, K6JWR, the spearhead of the group, has put his home up for sale and will be moving back to the San Jose area. The club meets for lunch on the fourth Thursday of the month at 11:30am - join them. AMADOR COUNTY ARC: Through the clubs efforts, the Sutter Amador Hospital, in Jackson, has purchased a dual band radio, power supply and antenna with grant moneys received for emergency equipment. Kay, K6KO, said "Finally, after all these years of practically beating people over the head with the services we offer and receiving, if not resistance, then indifference, There's suddenly a big interest in ARES emergency support". It seems that the word is getting around that radio amateurs are good to have during emergencies. Your SM was a guest at their annual Dinner - nice food and good conversation! MEETINGS: In April I will attend the North Hills RC meeting and have an ARRL table. I also will attend the Mt. Shasta RC meeting on April 16 and El Dorado County ARC on the 22nd. Hope to see some of you there. 73, take care.

San Francisco

The April news is a bit thin this time. A check of various club web sites and the few newsletters I have received don't give me allot for this month. The Valley of the Moon-Sonoma swapmeet is April 26. There is a swap area, displays, VE sessions, breakfast (REALLY GOOD!!), and a beginners foxhunt. This all starts at 0800 and is over at noon, thus giving you time to enjoy historic downtown Sonoma. Check 145.350, minus offset, with a PL of 88.5. There is a swapmeet in Reno on May 10 from 7 am to 1 pm. The talkin is 147.060, plus 600, with a PL of 123. Check the web site-- <http://k7xc.tripod.com/hamswap/> -- for additional details. There is also the EMCOMMWEST meet to be held in Reno on May 31. This is a premier emergency forum and is really great for all folks. Please see www.cvrc.net/emcommwest/ for additional detail. The Livermore and Foothill swapmeets are also back in action. Check bayarea repeaters to ask for additional information as to dates and times. I know the Foothill swap starts REAL early in the morning!! The San Francisco Section Convention will again be held in Ferndale, south of

Eureka. This will be June 20 (setup), and the 21 and 22. Rosalie White, K1STO, head of the ARRL Field and Education Services Unit will be coming out to join us and see the beautiful Ferndale area. This is the weekend PRIOR to field day and with its B &B's, camping/RV sites at the fairgrounds, it would make a nice family getaway. Motels are also available in the area (Eureka and Fortuna). There will be swap tables, vendors, food, forums, displays, and a GOOD banquet Saturday night (limited seating), so get your reservations in early. There will also be a foxhunt Sunday morning. It is understood that a Level I Emergency Course will be taught with half of it on Saturday and half on Sunday. See -- www.humboldt-arc.org -- for detail. A MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been signed between Sonoma County ACS and the San Francisco Section of the ARRL. This lays out the basic plans and procedures for working together. Several others are in the mill for signing to formalize the agreements of working together. I wish to thank ALL those that have been working on these. There have been many hf contests going lately and from what I have been told and heard on the air, the section folks have been very active and doing very well. Congratulations to all of you. Speaking of contests, the ARRL VHF/UHF contest is coming up the second weekend of June. FM is also used and the common frequencies are 52.525, 146.55, 223.5, 446.0, and 1294.5. Get on with those FM rigs and get in on the fun. You may find a station near you or a group near you that is running ssb/cw, and it would be nice to visit. Besides the San Francisco Section website on the ARRL web, you can also check the San Francisco Section website on the Pacific Division website-- www.pdarrrl.org/sfsec/index.html --. This site will normally contain the same section news BUT may be updated more regularly with information on a local basis. Photos may also be posted here for viewing. So, if you have some photos of a club activity, club emergency vehicle, etc, send them up and I will try to get a few of them onto this website. Please put some captions with them so we will know who/what is going on and can place that with the picture. Also send short time notices and I will try to get them on to keep some information out to the group. I do NOT have the url's for all the club websites, so please send them to me for the data base. It is also time to start thinking about Field Day, summer emergencies, and enjoying yourselves. Have a good time!! 73 K6KPH ON THE AIR FOR INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY by Richard Dillman, "RD" The Maritime Radio Historical Society is pleased to announce that K6KPH will be on the air on 26 April 2003 to participate in the annual International Marconi Day commemorative event. International Marconi Day takes place each year on a weekend close to the birthday of the great radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi. The event is organized by the Cornish Amateur Radio Club which offers awards to stations in various classes. See their Web site at for details. <http://radiomarine.org/KMI/>

San Joaquin Valley

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for the month of March 2003: SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASM K6YK, ACC W6DPD, SEC K6IN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC W7WN, TC W6TE. The following became silent keys in March, KB6GFB, KH6HQ, N6LSW, and W6KOE. They will be missed. Thanks to the Amateurs for participating in the SKYWARN program. The weather spotters help keep the local weather bureau office apprised changes in the weather conditions. Thanks to KE6ZOC for maintaining the SJV web page at www.pdarrrl.org. Check out this site for news of the Division and of the Sections. The Fresno Hamfest is April 26, 2003, at Riverland Resort located at Highway 99 and the Kings River, 25 miles south of Fresno. Admission is \$1 with sellers at \$5. There is a swap meet with food prizes, tech demonstrations and card checking for WAS, WAC, DXCC, VUCC, and WAZ. Vice Director Andy Oppel, N6AJO, will have an ARRL Forum. KA6Y will have a tech talk. Contact w6to@arrl.net for information. See www.qsl.net.w6to for information too. The 2003 International DX Convention will be May 2-4, 2003 at the Holiday Inn at Visalia. Contact w6yd@aol.com for information and go to www.ncdxc.org and click on the dx convention link for information and a registration form. EMCOMM West is Saturday May 31 in Reno NV. Check www.cvrn.net/emcommwest for information. Pacificon 2003 will be October 17 -19, 2003 at the San Ramon Marriott in San Ramon CA. This is a new location for this convention. Check www.pacificon.org for information. KF6FIR is the new EC for Stanislaus County. Officers for 2003 for the Mountain Amateur Radio Club are Pres K6IX, VP KK6XO, Sec K6BWO, and Treas WA6ONA. The club meets the 4th Thursday at the Sierra Senior Citizens Center at 7 PM in Oakhurst. The web page is located at www.w6bw.org The Madera County ARC is celebrating its 46th anniversary this year. W6DPD completed the

ARECC Level 1 course. Only 19 members in the SJV have completed the Level 1 course. Tuolumne County recently passed an ordinance for wireless communications towers. Amateur towers up to 60 feet are excluded from the provisions of the ordinance. Thanks to LGLs NI6Z and WB6GGY for keeping watch on this process. Thanks to Lloyd Brubaker. WA6KZV for 40 years of service as the EC for Eastern Kern County. KK6PA is the new EC for Eastern Kern County. K6YK operated on UO 14 on the train and portable from the vacation site in New Mexico. K6SSN qualified for WAS. Congrats to N6AJ on 40+ years as an ARRL member. Traffic for March: KB6QIB 29. PSHR for March: K6RAU 49.

Roanoke Division

North Carolina

NORTH CAROLINA: SM, John Covington, W4CC - SEC: WA4MOK. STM: K4HA. TC: K4ITL. BM: KD4YTU. PIC: KN4AQ. OOC: W4ZRA. SGL: AB4W. ACC: N4JCK. This month I'm pleased to announce we have two new NC Section appointments. Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, of Winterville is our new Section Emergency Coordinator. Bob Lucaszewski, K4HA, of Raleigh is our new Section Traffic Manager. Bernie has served us well as the Eastern Branch Assistant SEC for four years, and served as a District EC for four years before that. He will do an outstanding job as SEC. Bob has been active on our nets as both a net control station and liaison station for quite a few years. He's well-liked and will be a fine STM. Bernie replaces Dave Fleming, KE4JHJ of Winston-Salem. Dave is stepping down after four years of service as SEC. Dave served as SEC during two challenging disasters for ARES – Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and the December 2002 ice storms, and has been involved in development of the recently completed NC RACES Guidelines (now available on www.ncarrl.org) . Dave is now the Area 9 District EC. Bob replaces Don Negus N0SU, of Bryson City. Don is stepping down after three years as STM and serving as Net Manager of the North Carolina Evening Net since 1998. Don also serves as Swain County Emergency Coordinator and has been very active in putting a 440 repeater on the air to cover Bryson City and Swain County. Many thanks to the Cary ARC for sponsoring recent SKYWARN training given by Jeff Orrock of the NWS. There were 46 persons who signed the register to receive certificates later by mail. Most were hams, some were public service folks (police, fire, rescue) and interested members of the general public. This involved some expense to the Cary ARC in securing a facility, and I commend them for taking on this responsibility to make sure that the training was available to such a large group. The CEOs of the Coastal Carolinas Hospital Alliance (CCHA) voted recently to fund a ham radio emergency based communications system for southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina using voice and digital repeaters. This is the most geographically expansive amateur radio hospital communications system in the Americas, and the third such system undertaken in the United States. The amateur operators serving on the task force have adopted the name of CARES – Carolinas Amateur Radio Emergency Services. Many thanks to TC Danny Hampton, K4ITL for providing technical assistance to this project, and to Bill Morine, N2COP, chairman of the CCHA CARES Organization subcommittee, for keeping me informed. Many other hams in Wilmington, Whiteville, Clinton and other locations have been working very hard at this, and their efforts are paying off. Upcoming Hamfests: I'll be attending the Catawba Valley Hamfest in Morganton on Saturday, April 19, and the Durhamfest on Saturday, May 10. Hope to see you at one of these events. March Traffic: W4EAT 824 (BPL), W4UEF 404, K4IWW 340, AA4YW 217, K4RLD 175, KE4JHJ 82, KF4OCU 71, WA4OBR 68, W4CC 59, AD4XV 53, KG4OQA 43, W3HL 39, KE4AHC 37, WD4LSS 32, N4TAB 27, W4FAL 25, W4EHF 21, WA4SRD 21, N0SU 18, N4FHM 14, N4NTO 14, K4RSG 13, W4LN 11, W4IRE 10, WA2EDN 10. February Traffic: W4IRE 7. March Public Service Honor Roll: N4TAB 127, K4RLD 125, W4EAT 120, K4IWW 120, KE4JHJ 110, W4CC 106, KG4OQA 105, WD4LSS 97, N0SU 88, AA4YW 80, W4FAL 71, KF4OCU 70.

South Carolina

Greetings to all Amateur Radio Operators! This is Dr. Jim, N2ZZ with the April Section Manager's Report. As I sit here composing my report this month, I'm coming off of a "high" with the events over the last few days! On

Saturday April 5th, the ARRL-SC team showed up in force at the Union Hamfest on its new date! December was much too cold! I had mentioned to our SGL, Dennis KG4JIA, that we were in need of a banner for our hamfest table. He surprised me by coming with a huge 4x6 foot ARRL-SC banner that was fantastic! He has been working on an ARRL prototype license plate for SC, and he had a poster board made up with all the designs. Our PIC, Dan KF4VIS had a CD/TV combo that continuously played the new ARRL CD, "Amateur Radio Today" narrated by Walter Cronkite. Most of the ARRL-SC team was there, working the ARRL Table and meeting with the hamfest crowd! On Monday, April 7th, the South Carolina Sideband net celebrated its 45th anniversary. The net had an unprecedented 140 check-ins! I was very pleased that Dave Sumner, K1ZZ and Dan Miller K3UFG from ARRL HQ found time to check-in to show their appreciation for the net. The ARRL has given special recognition to the net in the form of a certificate. This certificate will be part of the SC SSB net roster and I will be officially presenting it to the net at the State ARRL Convention at the Upstate Hamfest in Spartanburg on May 3rd. There will also be a sidebar article about the SC SSB net in an upcoming issue of QST by Steve Ewald, WV1X. If that wasn't excitement enough, I watched my Alma Mater win the NCAA Basketball Final Four in New Orleans-GO SYRACUSE! Emergency Services has had a busy month! Many SC Amateur Radio Operators have taken the Emergency Courses given by the ARRL. Mary Favaro AE4BX, Sue Chism N4ENX, Charlie AE4UX and myself, N2ZZ completed the Level II course this past month. Many others have completed the Level I course, including Adam AF4QZ. Ties continue to strengthen between amateur radio and the state/county Emergency Management Departments. Charlie AE4UX, SEC reports that this month's two emergency operations were in response to ice storms in northern South Carolina. WB4BLI, W8CGQ and various amateur radio operators who were out and about during the storm assisted the Cherokee County Emergency Management Director by handling communications during the response. Laurie KV4C, ASM Area 4 has suggested another EC, which will just about fill the EC spots for all counties in his area. Great news for the I-95 corridor-The Dillon Repeater (146.745-) is now back on the air and operational! South Carolina QSO Party-Ray W8CNL, Paul KB4GYT and myself have been working on a SC QSO party. The preliminary information is up on the www.qsl.net/arrl-sc website. The Sumter club has come forward and has agreed to sponsor the first annual event. The event is planned for September 20th and 21st. Please check out the website above for more information! Don't forget the Anderson hamfest on April 26th and the SC State ARRL convention at the Upstate (Greenville/Spartanburg) hamfest on May 3rd. I hope to see everyone there! Information is available on the section website: www.qsl.net/arrl-sc/. Again, if you have not signed up for section bulletins, please go to the members only area of www.arrl.org and select "section bulletins". Thank you! March Reports: Station Activity Reports: KA4UIV 192, AF4QZ 181, K4NJJ 20, K4JIF 17, WB4PCS 14, K4RKC 5 PSHR Reports: AF4QZ 100, KA4UIV 100, N4VVX 70 Net Reports: (Net Name, Traffic, Check-ins, Sessions, Reported By) Blue Ridge 2 meter net, 60, 2069, 31, K4SUG // Carolina's Slow Net-CSN, 41/40, 151, 31, W4EAT//Carolina's Traffic Net-CN, 213/200, 517, 62, K4IWW//Columbia ARC 2 meter net, 12, 178, 8, K4RKC//Greater Pee Dee 2 meter net, 7, 183, 6, K4DTT//Laurens County Emergency 2 meter net, 1, 151, 5, KF4YKT//MultiState 2 meter SSB Net, 0, 39, 4, WB4PCS//PALS, 49, 1464, 31, KG4KOE//SC SSB Net, 86, 1460, 31, WA4VYS// SEE SECTION NEWS ON WWW.QSL.NET/ARRL-SC for more info! To ALL listed above, THANK YOU for your service to Amateur Radio! '73 de Dr. Jim N2ZZ ARRL Section Manager, South Carolina Section

Virginia

Section News Summary for March SM, Carl Clements, W4CAC, ASM; W4PW, SEC; N4NW, STM; W3BBBQ, PIC; W4PW, ACC; W4IM, OOC; W4NEZ TC; KD3PC. Web page; www.arrlva.org. Section News web page; www.arrl.org/sections/VA.html. ARES web page; www.aresva.org. Section Traffic web page; w4cac.tripod.com/vastm/. These Section News summaries and the information on the Section News web pages comes from information sent to me by the membership. If you have a news item or an event that you would like to see featured here, please send an email to me at w4cac@arrl.org with "Section News" in the subject line. On March 8th, the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service, the Chesapeake Center for Science and Technology and the Mariner's Museum celebrated the historic battle of the ironclads that took place on the Elizabeth River not far from the CARS radio station. Twenty-two operators got on the air. Despite poor band conditions, roughly 140 contacts on 40, 15, 10 and 2-meter bands were made. SSB, AM and FM modes were used. Contacts from as far away as

Germany were logged. Many of the contacts recanted tales of Civil War reenactment and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to commemorate the battle and talk about history. For those who send in a QSL card, a beautiful full-page color certificate designed by Bill, WF4R awaits them. The Rappahannock Valley ARC reports that its General Class graduated 7 new Generals. In addition, 2 students passed the written and are working on their code, and one will soon pass the written. Each week the class viewed two modules from the ARRL videotape series divided by a "show and tell" demonstration. A short Morse code review session ended each evening. The excellent technical presentation in the ARRL tapes combined with practical demonstrations kept the class enthused. At the conclusion of the course, students were matched with Elmer's giving them an opportunity to visit and operate an HF station. A big round of applause for all the club members who participated in this important project. On March 13th I was invited to speak at the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club meeting. During the presentation on the ARRL and the Va Section, I learned that only two people attending the meeting were not ARRL members, and I signed one of them up before leaving that evening. The Shamrock Marathon (a qualifier for the Boston Marathon) was held in Virginia Beach on March 15th. Sixty amateur radio operators from the Tidewater area provided communications support for the event. I also attended the Annual Banquet for the Eastern Shore Amateur Radio Club the evening of March 15th. I met many fine amateurs from the Eastern Shore and had a wonderful meal. I am already looking forward to my next trip to the area! On a sad note, as this was going to press we received the news that "Bus" Etheridge, K4IX, became a silent key on April 10th. Bus was the recipient of the 2003 Roanoke Division Service Award. The service was held on Sunday April 13th. Bus will be missed by all. Don't forget that June 1st is the Manassas Hamfest sponsored by the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club. Remember, keep the news coming, and YOU are the ARRL. 73 de Carl, W4CAC. Net/NM/QTC/QNI; VNE/KV4AN/40/138, VSN/KG4OTL/11/25, VNL/K3SS/98/158, VLN/K0IBS/63/158, NVTN/KB4TNU, N8LE/131/1136, PARES/K5SFM/1/73, VSBN/W3BBQ/149/192, VTN/W3BBQ/10/40; SARs, W3BBQ/410, K3CN/143, KG4OTL/127, WA4DOX/120, KA0YEB/93, K2VX/91, K4YVX/90, K3SS/67, KV4AN/58, K0IBS/58, WB4UHC/31, W4CAC/25, K4DND/19, K5SFM/17, K2VQ/13, N4ABM/11, K4JM/3, N4FNT/2; PSHR, W4CAC/139, K4DND/121, W3BBQ/120, WA4DOX/120, K0IBS/115, K4YVX/115, KG4OTL/110, KV4AN/100, K3SS/100, K3CN/90, K2VX/90, WB4UHC/87, K5SFM/53, N4FNT/22

Southeastern Division

Georgia

SM: Susan Swiderski, AF4FO; ASM/South GA: Marshall Thigpen, W4IS; ASM/Legal: Jim Altman, W4UCK; ASM/Web and SEC: Mike Boatright, KO4WX; SM: Jim Hanna, AF4NS; SGL: Charles Griffin, WB4UVW; BM: Eddy Kosobucki, K4JNL; ACC: Mary Ahls, W4NZJ; OOC: Mike Swiderski, K4HBI; TC: Fred Runkle, K4KAZ; PIC: Kevin Martin, W4SJR*** Websites: and *** Greetings, everyone. Hope a bunch of you were able to participate in the GA QSO party this past weekend, and had a lot of fun with it. Many thanks to the Southeastern DX Club and the Southeast Contest Club, who sponsor this fun activity every year. Listen out this week for SO5X, in Western Sahara. Georgia's own JOE OWENS, KO4RR, will be a part of this DXpedition, so try to make a contact with this crew and QSL to EA4URE. It'll be great to hear from Joe about this latest adventure when he returns home to Columbus. Still coming up this month: April 18- Amateur Radio Day (remember? your excuse to buy a new rig!) April 25-26- Southeastern VHF Society's annual convention in Huntsville (www.svhfs.org) and April 26- Cherokee Capital ARC's hamfest in Calhoun at the Sugar Valley Community Center. (www.qsl.net/k4woc) Congratulations to the officers and members of the Clayton ARES radio club, who recently became the newest ARRL affiliated club in the state of Georgia. As their club name signifies, these folks put a strong emphasis on emergency communications and public service. So, welcome aboard, CARES.... hope it's a long and enjoyable ride. Congratulations also to recently elected officers of the Statesboro ARS: President- BRIAN KOEHLER, KE4YYQ; VP- MARK AULICK, KF4MLT; Treasurer- KEN DAVIS, N4RGX; and Secretary/ Newsletter Editor: CASEY BROWN, KF4BSC. May you guys have an enjoyable and successful term in leading the club. A great big WOW! goes to JOSEPH GOOD, W4HHR, who will be receiving a beautiful plaque in recognition of 60 years as a member of the ARRL.(That's a LOT of memories....!) NORM SCHKLAR, WA4ZXV,

will also be receiving a 25 year certificate, even though he's been a member of the League since 1969.... (it just never occurred to him to ask about it before!!) If you haven't yet visited your local tag office to handle the paperwork to get your ham tag next year when the new tags are issued, the MV-9X form is now available for download on our www.qsl.net/arrrl-ga website. (Thanks, Mike!) On a sad note, condolences to the family and many friends of JACK VAN HUTTON, W4SHP, who recently became a silent key. Jack was a longtime member of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League, and I know he'll be missed by a lot of folks. That's about it for now. Don't forget to send any info about where your club will be for Field Day this year, so I can include you in the June newsletter. (A little extra publicity never hurts!) Hope to see a bunch of you at the Calhoun hamfest, and looking forward to meeting with the clubs in Macon and Columbus in May. Until next time, this is AF4FO, signing clear. Take care of yourselves. And each other. Happy Easter.... Happy Passover.... Peace. 73, Susan

Puerto Rico

QST-P.R. Section News Date: 04/01/2003 PUERTO RICO: SM, Víctor Madera, KP4PQ – Este ha sido un mes de mucho trabajo. Las clases en toda la isla siguen adelante. Felicitamos a KP4ARN, KP4RZ, WP4MJP y WP3HM quienes trabajaron en la última ronda de clases. El grupo de la Guardia Nacional de Fort Allen completó sus clases y se preparan para el examen a fin de mes. Sabemos que hay varios radioaficionados en el conflicto en Iraq, nuestros buenos deseos y pronto regreso. El nuevo examen de práctica para “Technician” en el Internet ha sido exitoso. Esperamos que más candidatos le den uso para prepararse. El nuevo banco de preguntas ha crecido de forma vertiginosa. Ya no es fácil prepararse para el examen aprendiendo las preguntas de memoria. Estamos trabajando en material de estudio mas comprensivo dirigido a aprender los principios y reglas en vez de memorizarlos. Agradeceremos cualquier comentario o idea que nos envíen. Esperamos tener todo listo para el fin de mayo o principios de junio. Recientemente el astronauta Carl Walz, KC5TIE visitó la isla. Los estudiantes de una escuela de San Juan que un año atrás tuvieron la oportunidad de comunicar con el desde el espacio esta vez conversaron personalmente durante su vista donde le regaló a la escuela un montaje que incluye una bandera de Puerto Rico que voló con el al espacio junto a fotografías del vuelo espacial. Fotos en <http://prarl.org/noticias.html#Walz> El PR/VI VFC sometió las coordinaciones revisadas para el 2004. Hay varios "trustees" que no sometieron sus documentos por lo que aparecen marcados con "#". Todavía hay tiempo de ponerse al día enviando sus documentos al PR/VI. Seguimos reclutando nuevos candidatos para el staff del SM. Necesitamos voluntarios que puedan dedicar tiempo a la radioafición. Los interesados deben comunicarse con su SM por kp4pq@arrrl.org o escribiéndole al PO Box 191917, San Juan, PR 00919-1917.

Southern Florida

Assistant Section Managers –WA4AW, KD4GR, KA4FZI, W4WYR, N4LEM, K9SHT; Section Traffic Manager – WA2YL; Affiliated Club Coordinator and Technical Coordinator – WA4AW; Bulletin Manager – KC4ZHF; Section Emergency Coordinator –KD4GR; Official Observer Coordinator – W4WLR; District Emergency Coordinators – N4LEM, K9SHT, AA4BN, N4QPM, KG5QD, W4SS -----SECTION SET April 22 through May 4.----- ---April is National Volunteer Month. Thank you to all who volunteer on behalf of amateur radio and other worthwhile organizations. Wynmoor Amateur Radio Club in Coconut Creek is our newest affiliated club. The number of grant-sponsored ARECC grads tops 1000. Here's the Southern Florida folks that are ARECC grads: Level 1 : WA4ASJ, AA4BK, N8CEK, K9DBP, KF4DQY, N3HOE, KG4HWC, K2JRU, WA4MYI, KC4NCD, WB9NOE, P43P, N3PYQ, W4RCL, W4STB, KC4UCN, W4UM, AF4VE, KT4XK, WA2YL, KG4YLD, AF4YS, N1XC, W4TAT, K9DPK. Level 2: KE4KTZ, KF4OWV, K4FSS Level 3: KD4GR, KG4KCB, AF4NR ----ARES: The following ECs submitted reports for March: KT4XK, KA4HLO, AA4BN, KC4UCN, AD4RZ, KE4DUJ, N4QPM. Addison KC4UCN, Lee County EC reports an increase of 2 ARES members, making the total 100. Osceola also reports an increase of 2 members and Palm Beach reports an increase of 3 members. ---The Florida QSO Party is 4/26 and 27. Florida stations will be on the receiving side of the pileup. For details visit the FCG site: www.floridacontestgroup.org. Another good DX and contest web site. www.ng3k.com ---Silent Keys: from Naples – W0MR, Richard St Amant and from Titusville, Walt Fanton, W2TRX. Condolences go to their families and

friends. ---Around the Section: Brevard – Amateurs are working with the county Planing department and the Commissioners to revise the tower regulations. ASM/DEC Ray, N4LEM spoke at Indian River ARC in March. VOAD showcase in Melbourne on 5/17 (same location as hamfest). A spot on CNN featured Ham Radio MARS and Nelson Guadalupe, K4FGV of Satellite Beach. His MARS call is AGA2PA. Broward - Harold, KT4XK reports an excellent class on RDF at the monthly ARES meeting. Members helped out at the MS walkathon. Osceola - conducted Skywarn Training seminar on March 20th with Dennis Decker of the NWS in Melbourne. Attendance was near capacity, and included members of the Osceola County Law Enforcement, Firefighters and dispatchers according to ARES PIO Scott Clark, KG4URK. St. Lucie – Jeff, WA4AW our ACC and TC and I attended the Ft Pierce ARC meeting. Jeff had films comparing visits to ARRL HQ in 1935 and 1992. Indian River – Jeff attended the Vero Beach ARC meeting and his films of HQ were enjoyed by all. Monroe - Florida Keys ARC held their annual Foxhunt-Triple Fest at Blue Heron Park on Big Pine Key March 8. Jeff, WA4AW and Jim, KD4GR SEC joined them. Miami-Dade ARES, Red Cross and Skywarn nets were activated for the tornado that touched down in Liberty City with almost 50 check-ins. Lee - Jim-KD4GR, SFL SEC, will be the speaker at the FMARC meeting in Fort Myers, Tuesday, April 29. Palm Beach – Jupiter Farms CERT has 20 amateurs and a new Echolink service. Shelter kits for ARES members will have a county 800 MHz radio for additional back-up communications. Many ARES members met with shelter managers recently and a county wide shelter drill will be held May 3. Okeechobee – Al, AD4RZ reports assisting with a March of Dimes Walkathon on March 15 and a block party for students in grades 9 – 12, held in the parking lot of a old K-Mart the same evening. More news and photos at <http://www.arrrl.org/sections/SFL.html> in a few days. MARCH SAR TOTALS: WA9VND 402, KA4FZI 367, WA2YL 189, KD4GR 180, KC4ZHF 170, K4FQU 86, WA4EIC 77, KG4CHW 58, KG4MLD 48, KG4EQY 47, AA4BN 46, KE4UOF 43, WB4PAM 41, K4VMC 41, KG4MLC 39, W6VIF 39, K4PG 38, KG4QIP 38, KT4XK 37, KG4ILJ 33, K4ENA 19, AF4NR 18, KN4JN 13, KF4OMB 9, K4OVC 8, W4WYR 6, W3JI 5, W4PPG 5, KØTIW 4, KE4WBI Ø. MARCH PSHR TOTALS: KG4CHW 150, KA4FZI 120, KD4GR 120, WA2YL 110, KC4ZHF 110, K4FQU 101, WA4EIC 100, WA9VND 100, AA4BN 91, WB4PAM 90, KG4MLD 80, K34UOF 80, KG4MLC 79, KG4QIP 78.

West Gulf Division

Oklahoma

Hello OK Section! I am excited to be your SM and hope you are staying current on Section activities. Mooreland Hamfest of April 5 was enjoyable, festive and a great time. Sure enjoyed it. Thanks to NW5OK, W5AOK and entire crew. The same weekend was the Tulsa Health Department (K5THD) and OK Section special event honoring World Health Day. Made well over 200 contacts including many states and countries. Neat event as those sub sandwiches sure hit the spot. Recognition to NB5N for hosting the activity and the "meet and greet" time with yours truly. Tuesday, April 8 was test night for the Amateur Radio licensing class held at the OKC Fire Training Center. The class was sponsored by the OKC office of emergency management, OKC CRT, Aeronautical Center ARC, and the OK Section. Students were fireman, policeman, military personnel, first responders, and the general public. 45 students got their technician license with several more passing the general theory and code test. Tremendous opportunity to blend public service entities while enhancing Amateur Radio capabilities to provide emergency communication. Students viewed the video Amateur Radio video early on in the course to provide the proper foundation for the class. The students returned on April 10 for a discussion of practical Amateur Radio suggestions, sources of equipment and many "how to's". The most enjoyable evening culminated with the consumption of 14 large pizzas. A very special thanks to KA8NBG, K5FOZ and WA7WNM for a job very well done with the class. Quickly upcoming events include three section events during the weekend of April 26. On April 26 the South Canadian ARS will be having a special event in Norman commemorating the Land Run of 1889. Contact person N5UMH. The South Canadian ARC is working on some exciting projects and hopes to have some exciting news soon. The OKC Marathon Memorial and the Mayes County ARC special event will be on April 27. Approximately 60 Amateur Radio operators are expected to provide on scene communication. The event is to pay tribute to the victims of the April 19, 1995 Murrah Building Bombing. The Marathon Memorial is a

significant event for OK and Amateur Radio. WA9AFM is the contact person. KD5AFE is the person in the know on the Mayes County ARC event. We are working on PRB-1 State Legislation and hope to make some progress in that setting as well as Congressional legislation soon. Thanks to all the Section field staff who work vigorously on behalf of public service. Keep up the great effort and enjoy Amateur Radio! 73, John Thomason-WB5SYT OK
Section Manager WB5SYT@ARRL.ORG

West Texas

WEST TEXAS MONTHLY SECTION NEWS Mesquites are out, birds are chirping, bluebonnets are blooming.....it must be hamfest time in West Texas. El Paso ARC kicked off the year with a swap meet that drew good attendance from Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico. Each year the big event in West Texas is the Midland ARC's annual St. Patrick Day Hamfest. This year was certainly no exception. Saturday morning found bargain hunters elbow-to-elbow around the tables. Like all hamfests, the crowd began to thin out as the day went on but the Midland club has a secret weapon. MARC saves the best bargain for the end of their hamfest. They wrapped up the weekend with a BBQ to end all BBQ's. This year's hamfest also served as the Texas State ARRL Convention. We were pleased to have our West Gulf Director Coy Day, N5OK, and his wife, Judy, as guests at the Midland Hamfest. The ARRL forum was held at the W5QGG clubhouse and Coy gave an update on the upcoming WARC meeting. Washington politics seem to be hampering our hope for a new 60-meter ham band and for a foreign broadcast free 40-meter band. Our thanks to Hamfest Chairman Joe, KK5ZG and all the MARC members that made the ARRL Texas State Convention a great success. Belton is not in the West Texas Section but I saw enough West Texas hams at the Belton Hamfest to have organized a pretty good parade through the parking lot. Lots of goodies. Belton is another hamfest that you better not take time to drink a second cup of coffee after breakfast or you will be late for the bargains. Roy Rabey, AD5KZ, the newly elected NTX Section Manager and Director Coy Day, N5OK, were set up in the parking lot greeting hams. Carla and I got to visit with Roy and several of his new Section Appointees. Their enthusiasm was like a breath of fresh air. What does this have to do with our section? Some of us (your SM pleads guilty) have been doing the same old thing in ham radio year after year. Is it still fun? If a new ham followed you in your amateur radio activities for a week, would he say "That was fun, lets do it again." My grandchildren are older then the ham radio licenses of some of Roy's appointees but in a couple of hours of hanging out with those guys in Belton, they taught me some things about where amateur radio is today and where it is going. It is going to be a fun ride....and you and I already have a ticket. The Key City ARC will have their hamfest on May 3rd and 4th at the Civic Center in downtown Abilene. The Abilene hamfest will host the ARRL West Texas Section convention and will feature an ARRL Forum, a Mars Forum, and ARRL/VE testing. Card checking for WAS and VUCC will be available. The Panhandle ARC will sponsor their 3rd Annual Picnic/Swapfest on May 17th in Thompson Park in Amarillo. Hours are from 9AM to 2PM with a catered BBQ at noon. Reservations for the BBQ need to be made in advance. Carla, K5RLA, and I are planning on attending the swap fest and look forward to visiting with the hams from the Panhandle area. More information at <http://www.qsl.net/w5wx/>. Your SM is an ARRL WAS/VUCC card checker and I will be glad to help you with your cards for those awards. I will have PARC Swapfest flyers on my table in Abilene The West Texas ARC has moved their hamfest from the fall to the spring. This year's event will be held at the CAP hanger in Schleimeyer Field in Odessa on May 24. A BBQ and other festivities are being planned. More info at <http://wt5arc.com/fest.htm>. Don't forget the ARRL National Convention at Hamcom in Arlington, June20-22. Information at www.hamcom.org. In my haste to get last month's news out before the Midland Hamfest I neglected to include a planned tribute to Noble Stidham, W5NMS of Lubbock who became a SK in February. Noble was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Lubbock Amateur Contest Club. Prior to his untimely death, Noble and his wife Rosemary W5RBS donated property and a building to the LACC for a clubhouse. Work continues on the clubhouse and the towers are going up. I look forward to a joint meeting with the LACC and the Lubbock Amateur Radio Club next month at the LACC's Noble Stidham Memorial Clubhouse. One of his fellow hams paid tribute to Noble when he wrote," Although Noble had not been a ham very long, the contributions he made to the hobby run deep, and will continue to leave a mark for years to come." New WTX ARRL Emergency Communications Course graduates since the last update are WA5MOT, K5RLA, K5VQN, and KD5TEB. Please advise the SM when you graduate from the course so I can update my list and pass your name

along to the SEC/DEC/EC. The HQ list that I am able to access apparently has some errors. On the topic of the HQ database, I hope to soon have a clean Field Service appointment list for distribution. My present WTX appointment database still has a lot of errors including at least one SK. I don't want to release it until it is more accurate. The ARRL Membership database is in much better shape and by doing a manual search, I can verify your club's ARRL membership percentage if there is a question concerning your clubs eligibility for Affiliated Club Status. The filing deadline for WTX SM passed without anyone else besides me filing for the next term. Since I was unopposed, I will begin a new 2 year term on July 1, 2003. I appreciate the vote of confidence that you as members of the ARRL in West Texas have given me and look forward to serving you as your SM for the next two years. Carla and I have logged over 2500 miles visiting clubs and hamfests since October and we still haven't completed the circle. Now that winter is over, the Texas Panhandle is on our list. Drop me a note and let's set up a time for a visit to your club. Section Manager's May Schedule May 3-4 ARRL West Texas Convention/ KCARC Hamfest, Abilene May 14 LACC/LARC joint meeting Lubbock May 17 Amarillo Picnic/Swap fest, Thompson Park May 24 Odessa Swapfest. Schleimeyer Field John Dyer AE5B ARRL WTX Section Manager