

Section News for January 2004

Atlantic Division

Southern New Jersey

SECTION NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2004 SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY JEAN PRIESTLEY KA2YKN If you don't already know, the FCC has voted to allow the BPL to happen in spite of great efforts of the ARRL and the ham community. The FCC will require that BPL systems be able to modify their operation to mitigate any interference that might occur. The FCC has not yet released the actual NPRM and a presentation by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology revealed only its broad outlines. Dave Sumner said the League would not take a formal position until it reviews the full NPRM. I want to thank everyone who wrote letters or tried in other ways to fight this thing. For the full details, go to the ARRL web pages. In these cold, dark, snowy days of winter, we contemplate many things. Like where is spring???. Well, here are just a few ideas to keep the cabin fever away. You could go through all those QSL cards and see if you qualify for WORKED ALL STATES or DXCC. You could plan how you will update your antennas when that first day of spring does arrive and the hotdogs and hamburgers are on the grill after the work is completed. You could just go all out and completely redo the shack for (no, not that Shaq) the ARRL DX phone and CW contests coming up. But get through these next 6 weeks you must. It is never too early to plan for Field Day in June. Are you going to be a band captain or just work a shift? Coming up in August 2004 will be the N2OB Lighthouse Day and the W2T Lighthouse Day. My goodness, where did the summer go. Did I have you going? Good. Why not get a few friends together and plan a FOX HUNT for May? Now would be a great time to get into traffic handling or public service. There are just so many things to do indoors that once you get started you may find you don't have enough time to finish everything before the days get longer and the temperatures are above 70. I feel warmer already. Don't you! South Jersey Radio Association mourns the loss of a long time member and good friend, Michael Berezewski, WA2ABF became a silent key Jan 1 2004. He was 81 yrs old. His wife Estelle, 4 children, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandbabies survive Mike. Among his jobs, Mike was in the Army Air Corp during WW2. He was one of the Founders of the American Legion Post #372 in Cherry Hill. He had many hobbies including HO model railroad trains, carving wooden ducks, photography and gardening. Dear friend, you gave us so much. Also lost was Tony Buczko N2FGF NNJ and SNJ are currently regrouping in the New Jersey BRP-1 antenna structure bill. When we know more, we will let everyone know. As with the New Jersey license plate endeavor, we will not give up until it passes. Also, be sure to check into the ARRL WebPages for updates on the BPL situation and other activities. JUST IN. NOW VISIT THE BNJARS PAGE AT WWW.NJ2BB.ORG Note the new address. Send this address along to friends and let them know. Traffic report Feb. 2004 QNI reports. NJM 61 N2GJ NJPN224 W2CC NJSN 196 K2PB NJN(E) 200 AG2R NJN(L) 147 AG2R (above are dual section nets of both SNJ and NNJ) Local nets JSARS not available KC2JBZ SJTN 70

KB2RTZ SJVN 381 WB2UVB SJVN training net 5 WB2UVB SAR WA2CUW 98 K2UL 75
KC2LWR 70 WB2UVB 60 AA2SV 42 W2QOB 31 KC2IYC 25 KB2RTZ 22 N2VQA 18
WA2NDA 7 AB2LF 4 N2ZMI 1 PSHR KB2RTZ 482 WB2UVB 140 K2UL 110 WA2CUW 90
W2QOB 91 KC2IYC 75 N2VQA 57 KA2YKN 50 WA2NDA 45 N2HQL 38...

Congratulations to John Pugh, W2QOB on achieving the W2UEZ Memorial Award as rookie of the year among NJ traffic net participants.

Western Pennsylvania

We all know the results of our friend in Punxsutawney by now. Six more weeks of winter, or for us in the western pa section 6 more weeks of bad hockey? Either way "Phil" seems to be correct so far. With spring just around the corner Hamfest season is upon us. Up this month is the annual Wireless Assoc. Of South Hills Hamfest on Feb 29. I look forward to seeing all there and to see exactly how well the winter treated us all. Information for this event can be had at there website <http://www.washarc.org> . Once again a reminder to all clubs hamfest requests can still be sent into League Headquarters. Many have already scheduled for the year and there is always room for more. It can be done in minutes on line and you can't beat the goodies you get when you have your Hamfest sanctioned through the League. I realize that it has been a few years since we have had section wide meetings for ARES and Clubs. This year we are going to have something which I hope will help attendance to these meetings and also to make them a little closer driving wise. We are going to have "District" meetings. This will start with S-1 in the spring, S-2 early summer, N-2 late summer and N-1 to finish the year. Your DEC's for each district are working on locations and dates. All will be announced when everything is arranged. In keeping with the "Spring" theme so far in this months news I guess its not to early to start thinking about field day. I'm looking forward to visiting as many sites as I can this year. I enjoyed visiting area Field day sites as SEC for many years and I'm looking forward to it even more as your SM. If you would like myself along with available section staff to visit your site please email me with your location early so that I can get a travel plan together to visit as many sites as we can. Once again a reminder to all. If you have and photo's you would like to see here and or our WPASEC.com website please send them off to me. they can be a club activity, ARES activity, Public service event or anything relating to your radio club or group. We have the webspace available. Also Club newsletter editors. I have room as well for you monthly newsletters on wpasec.com if you would like to share them with the district. Speaking of clubs. If you have any questions concerning how your club can become a "special services club" please feel free to gibe Pete Highlands N3LRJ our Section club coordinator an email at N3LRJ@ARRL.NET. He will be more than happy to assit you with your questions or with Club help in general. Larry KA3HUK our SEC still has some openings in some our counties. Feel free to contact him ka3huk@nauticom.net if you are interested in any of the opening or any ARES items or questions. Till next month! 73 Rich N3SRJ SM WPA

Central Division

Illinois

On Saturday, January 31st, the Big Thunder Amateur Radio Club participated in the annual Boone County Expo Event. The event was held at the Belvidere Community Building as a way to get information on local businesses and agencies to the public at large. The club provided information on amateur radio in general and local club information. The following club members supported the effort: Diane Larsen, Paul Larsen, KB9MCX, Robert Giesecke, N9KUX, Lesa Bergeron, KB9KCJ, and Doug Bergeron, KO2R. The DuPage Amateur Radio Club membership elected the following officers for a new term: President, John, N9HRT; Vice-President, Bob, WB9HNS; Secretary, Brian, WB9UGX; Sargeant at Arms, Maureen, KB9WVJ. These officers are serving a re-elected term. In November the Plainfield Radio League elected new club officers for 2004. They are: President Roger Bonuch, WB9JXE; Vice-President, Rob Sobkoviak, K9NYO; Secretary-Treasurer, Woody Niswonger, KB9YBK. The club now has 25 members. Congratulations to Dick Illman, AH6EZ, who was named Ham of the Year at the Fox River Radio League's banquet. Also Betty Erickson N9YFC, received the President's Award for her years of service and her dedication to the club. Congratulations Betty! The President of the Little Egypt Amateur Radio Society group informed ASM Brad Pioveson, W9FX, that the group will be holding monthly fox hunts, coordinated on the 146.805 MHz West frankfort, IL repeater system, on the fourth Saturday of every month. The hunts begin with all participants convening at the West frankfort City Park at 1530 local time. You can help the ARRL document our many public service activities: In a January 27, 2004 article on the ARRL web page, the League requests a Public Service Activity Report with FSD-157 form for public service events, or use the on-line report at the ARRL web page. Our EC's are encouraged to submit any ARES operations or emergency response with this PSAR form and specific mention the Section News is always possible, and even QST. Also our growing list of Level III EmComm certified operators are encouraged to apply as Section OES to serve their communities as net liaisons, and assist the Section ECPC. All EmComm levels are encouraged to assist local ECs, served agencies and area clubs to form ECPC for area local EmComm planning. Contact the SM or SEC for more information, especially when you have passed Level III. You will be welcome! Traffic for January: WB9TVD-35; NC9T-16; W9HLX-12; KA9IMX-Dec/Jan-20; WD9F-29, PSHR 81; ISN Report for January, QNI 162, QTC 45, Sessions 31.

Indiana

Indiana Section News for January 2004. Condolances to the Family and Friends of Charles Franklin Willer WB9ULN, of Fort Wayne. He was a local radio personality and entertainer. Charles arranged the advertising and publicity for the Fort Wayne Hamfest. He will be missed. The Michigan City ARC took part in the BSA's Klondike Derby on January 10. Participants were N9RG, K9ET, N9ZIP, N9RKY, K9RQ, and WD9BDW. An HF station was set up in a cabin at the BSA Campground south of Michigan City. There was an APRS station and a CW demonstration table, also. 17 groups of scouts each spent 30 minutes in the cabin. When possible, contacts were made on 40 meters with the scouts watching and listening. The scouts

were shown how APRS works. They were given a demonstration of how Morse code is used in radio communication, and a "name exchange" using code practice oscillators demonstrated that information using CW really works. Congratulations to the members of the MCARC for their efforts in demonstrating Amateur Radio to the Boy Scouts of their area. If your amateur radio group is doing Public Service, please let me, David Pifer N9YNF, and our Bulletin Manager Brian Murrey KB9BVN, know about what is happening in your area. Our SEC, Dave Pifer N9YNF, reports that many local groups are getting started with meetings with local officials and agencies. With the recent flurry of activity in the Homeland Security arena, we can anticipate more meetings and changes in how things are done. There are many new plans within the Homeland Security effort that are redefining how our clients do their business. All EC's and DEC's should be aware of the new Indiana Legislation, IC 10-14-3 which redefines portions of the EMA offices of each county. In particular it now includes statewide Mutual Aid Network (IC 10-14-3-10.6 and 10.7). In addition to this change there is now a public record law IC 5-14-3-4(b)(19) that contains specific wording that gives the right to withhold information from the public if it is deemed as a risk that could be used in a terrorist attack. Item (H) "The emergency contact information of emergency responders and volunteers" come to mind as information that we should guard. From time to time, the subject of a police radio in your car, or on your person, comes up. Every amateur should be aware of IC 35-44-3-12, "Unlawful use of a police radio," and its exemptions. I encourage you to look at the wording closely and see if you can spot the FCC and state law inconsistency. Also, remember that even though you are exempt with a "police radio" receiver in your car, what about your spouse, the auto mechanic, or anyone else who might happen to be driving your car, and isn't a licensed amateur? All EC's and DEC's should be aware that there is a new Public Service Activity Report Form (FSD-212) available on the ARRL's website: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/> The most significant change is the person-hours vs. man-hours. Please take a look at the forms on the website compared to what you send, and get them up to date. Are you planning to attend a SKYWARN spotter seminar in your area during February or March. I hope so! January Section Net Activity: NET
FREQ DAILY TIMES (UTC) QNI QTC QTR SESS ITN 3910 KHZ 1330/2130 2344 133 1239
62 QIN 3656 KHZ 1430/0000 287 191 1140 62 ARES 3910 KHZ 4TH SUN/MO @1300 15 0
25 1 HOOSIER VHF NETS 8 REPORTING 435 13 568 30 HOOSIER DIGITAL NETS (2) 27
22 ?? 62 JANUARY ORS Traffic Reports: KO9D 285, K9PUI 156, WA9JWL 68, KB9TUI 40,
K9GBR 37, AB9AA 13, KC9UU 10, N9KNJ 9, W3GQJ 7, WB9NCE 6.

Wisconsin

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG, SEC: KB9ENO, STM: K9LGU, ACC: K9XB, SGL: W9DGI, OOC: N9VE, PIC: W9UQ. TC: K9GDF, BM: WB9NRK ASM: K9UTQ, W9RCW, W9CBE, W9DGI. ** With regret, I inform you of the passing of the following amateurs: Leo Beckman, N9FLP, 80. Frank Burt, WB9EJE, 85. Frank was a member of WVRA and RMRA. Joe Miller, W9WYG, 65, passed away. Joe was a member of RRRC and Chapter 55 of QCWA. ** Ed Long, WA4SWJ, wa4swj@hotmail.com, has accepted the editor position of AMSAT Journal and now lives in Williams Bay. He invites amateur satellite articles for the

AMSAT Journal. Congratulations and welcome to Wisconsin, Ed! ** Dan, AB9TS, and Scott, KA9FOX, and Roger, KA9BKK, put on a Ham Radio demonstration at Hintgen School, La Crosse, for 45 cub scouts. They showed the ARRL video Amateur Radio Today, explained how Ham Radio works, and made some contacts on the 2 and 20 meters. The boys were all held spellbound by the demonstration! Great job guys! ** The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Radio Club FM Simplex Contest will be on February 8, 2004. Rules and entry sheets will be available at the MRAC site <http://www.qsl.net/mrac/index.html>. Remember this is an effort to get folks to operate without repeaters and learn to enhance and perfect their stations for point to point communications. ** Need ideas for speakers for local club meeting? Type "speakers bureau" followed by Wisconsin into a search engine, e.g., Google, or just type the city instead of state. Most counties, large cities, universities, and bar associations offer free speakers. ** The entire M&M ARC Technician class of six were successful in passing the Technician license exam. This included a 10 year old! Our congratulations to the club for a job well done and, also, to the new amateurs! ** Welcome and congratulations to the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club who held their first meeting this past month in Chippewa Falls. Their website is <http://webpages.charter.net/ronald/cvarc/> ** From STM, Denny, K9LGU: What's a "break" in a message? Between the addressee's info and the text, an operator will say "Break" (or send BT on CW) to indicate that there's a space. After the text, the sender says "Break" (sends BT) again to indicate there's a space between the text and the signature. When counting the check, it's the words between the breaks that are counted. ---- Why do some stations take traffic for delivery if it's not a local call? You might hear stations on our section nets pick up traffic for hard-to-get-to places and make those deliveries. Their decision to invest their time and some telephone expense to help the National Traffic System keeps the traffic flowing and often encourages ham recipients to join the ranks of traffic handlers as well. Special thanks are due to those who help in this special way. ---- Any ARRL member who handles traffic can be an Official Relay Station. Contact K9LGU, k9lgu@arrl.net, or W9IXG, w9ixg@arrl.org, to apply. ** Get ready!! The Wisconsin QSO Party is Sunday, March 14! You may get the updated program from www.n3fjp.com. Get it now and become familiar with the program before the Party! Contest rules are available at this site: <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>. We hope many clubs will take part in this fun event. ** We enjoyed all the folks at the WARAC Swapfest. Another large turnout at this popular swapfest and many had the opportunity to meet Dick Isely, W9GIG, Central Division Director. We look forward to seeing you at future hamfests that are listed on the Wisconsin web site: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WI> 73, Don, W9IXG

Dakota Division

North Dakota

NORTH DAKOTA: SM, Kent Olson, KAØLDG - Please extend your condolences to Patti Walth, KCØPGC, of Max, ND who passed away recently. She will be missed by friends and family. Please extend a big thank you to Morgan James, KFØEN, of Grand Forks, who was the District 4 DEC. He's moving to a different location for his career, and will be greatly missed in

the state. He was instrumental in the ARES organization in the northern valley. I'd also like to welcome aboard his replacement - Larry Holm, KIØW, of Grand Forks. Speaking of ARES, if you haven't been involved in the past, it may be time for you to give it a try. Get together with your local ARES representative or get a hold of me, and get involved in a great part of amateur radio. Congratulations to Bill Bosch, KØUB, who takes over as the new president of the Theodore Roosevelt ARC in Dickinson. A few more hamfests coming up: Bismarck on February 28th, and Fargo on March 13th. The Dakota Division Convention in Fargo on Sept 9-11, 2005. Section's web site at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~qtipf16/>. HF NM KØHDA net reports for Nov: Goose River Net, 4/53/0; WX Net 51/987/10; Data Net 28/815/10.

South Dakota

We now have a WEB Site for ARES activity in South Dakota. The site contains a list of other ARES WEB Sites, a list of South Dakota EC's and even an online form for the EC's to send in their Monthly Report. <http://members.mato.com/kg0gg/> Mobridge: The Mobridge Area ARC is planning a special event station in October for the Lewis & Clark celebration in Mobridge. Huron: Huron club discussed the VHF/UHF contest, and upcoming testing dates. New officers were elected for 2004: President, Bill, KM0F; Vice-president, Sam, N00TB; Secretary/Treasurer, Lloyd, WB0ULX and Activities Manager, Chuck, WA0NHJ. Pierre: Hughes County Table Top Exercise was held the morning of 2/10/04 with over 40 participants to include the Pierre Amateur Radio Club. The 3 hour exercise involved an explosion of a make believe Ag Chemical company that occupied land on the East edge of Pierre on Hwy 34 just East of the Women's Prison which also co-locates the Pierre Police Department and the Hughes Co. Sheriffs Office. The wind at the time of the explosion was out of the east south east which caused the chemical plume from the explosion to drift over the above listed buildings. Some of the materials involved included LPG, Ammonia Nitrate and other hazardous agriculture commodities. The exercise involved participants from the City of Pierre (to include the Mayor), State of SD, St. Mary's Hospital, Pierre Volunteer Fire Department, Hughes County officials, Hughes County, Stanley County officials, AMR Ambulance Service, Pierre Amateur Radio Club, and The American Red Cross just to name a few. It was a learning experience for all and was held preparatory to help all prepare for the exercise planned for May 22nd. Prairie Dogs (Yankton/Vermillion): Plans to work on the State Link are being discussed and planned for this spring. Also the paperwork for the HF 440 rigs needed for the clubs new stations are being filled out. These radios are to be given to the Yankton County Emergency Management for emergency use. SEARC: The 146.895 repeater continues in its testing phase and seems to have been performing well. The business meeting time has been changed to 7:30pm now on the 1st Tuesday of the month. This is 30 minutes earlier than it has been in the past. In addition the ARES meeting has been moved to the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm as well. At the March business meeting we will have a program on the operation of the club Kenwood TS-850SAT HF rig. The SEARC Technican Licensing Class continues with approximatly 13 student. Black Hills AREA: Eric, KOEWS put on a demonstration of amateur radio for local school kids and was a huge hit so much so that they ran out of time. Kudos Eric and all the folks that helped out

with this! Lead, SD has a new UHF repeater on 444.800 PL 146.2 located on Crusher Hill - this will be moving to a 125 foot tower in the spring. Dr. Mike Batchelder, a professor in the Electrical Engineering department at the SD School of Mines, will be the speaker at the February meeting. Members from the BHARC are assisting our sister club at the School of Mines with the installation of a tower and 20 meter monoband beam antenna on the roof of the Electrical Engineering building. BHARC members will be hosting a CW class at the School of Mines beginning in February. A junior/senior level RF class is offered in the EE department, and the class project is the assembly, analysis, and test of a QRP 40 meter transceiver. Several students usually take our CW class and receive their ham licenses to allow use of their transceivers on the air. The annual auction and flea market will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2004. The Auction will be held at the Canyon Lake Senior Citizens Center in Rapid City. Frank Shaw is organizing the QCWA Dakota Chapter annual special event which will be held on 28 February.

Delta Division

Arkansas

We regret to inform you that Leland Smith, W5KL, recently became a Silent Key. Leland was a superb CW operator, a retired Marine General, and was involved in community activities. He was a true Elmer to many, and an example for all CW operators. His good fist and booming CW signal will be missed. The Nashville hamfest will be held on March 27. See www.arkansashams.org for more information about this and the other hamfests coming up. A new 2-meter simplex net is being started. KD5RUJ is the manager and the net will be on 146.58 Mhz on Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. starting with the first Saturday in March. The purpose of the net is to handle traffic and promote the use of 2 meter simplex and prove how good the coverage can be without repeaters. KB5IRC, a teacher in Bismarck, reports that he got school administration approval for his "Introduction to Amateur Radio" class for the fall. Stony has applied for a Big Project grant from the ARRL and it is being considered. He says the kids are excited about amateur radio! Several Arkansas operators participated in an ADEM CSEPP exercise on February 3. KB5WBH and KC5NPU activated W5AUU at ADEM in Conway, and a 40 meter net was opened. Stations from all over Arkansas checked in even though band conditions were not ideal. There was also 2 meter activity in Pulaski County, Jefferson County, and at ADEM. The new president of the Fort Smith Area Amateur Radio Club is Jimmie Lowery, W5JNL. The Fort Smith club is getting ready for their hamfest on April 3. The 146.97 repeater in Fort Smith is now connected to Echolink. Webmaster KB5FJX has added a new chat room for Arkansas hams to the www.arkansashams.org web site. You can find a link to the chat room at the top of each page. The ARKAN club has added a monthly "hands-on workshop". The workshops will be used for elmering, training, and fellowship on a variety of electronics related topics. The first session featured club president KD5NFX conducting a soldering demonstration. The meetings are held at the Arkansas Air Museum in Fayetteville, where the permanent HF station is expected to be ready soon. Several ARKAN members have taken a

renewed interest in packet radio and the club is working on getting stations up and running. Arkansas has a good packet network, and packet is still one of our best tools for emergencies. Net reports for January: Arkansas Mockingbird Net: QNI 607, Traffic 26. Manager WB5YLI. Arkansas Razorback Net: QNI 2406, Traffic 89. Manager K5BOC. Arkansas Phone Net: QNI 479, Traffic 22. Manager W5SXV. OZK CW Net: QNI 109, Traffic 5. December Traffic: AB5AU 58, K5BOC 30, W9YCE 20, WA5KQU 18, WB5HIL 16, K7ZQR 14, KA6VAN 7, KA5RRK 6, KB5ILY 5.. Public Service Honor Roll: KB5ILY 155.

Louisiana

LOUISIANA SECTION NEWS – JANUARY 2004 Burt AF5AA is the new Emergency Coordinator for Cameron Parish. ARES groups and ham clubs are encouraged to pursue Citizen Corps funding opportunities by contacting their local office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. As mentioned in last month's report, we want to strengthen the ties between the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the National Traffic System (NTS). Along these lines, our section conducted a joint ARES/NTS net on HF during the Sugar Bowl on January 4. Participating stations included W4DLZ (NCS), NF5B (NCS), WA5LQZ, K5OEP, W5KB, WA5RT, AC5TM, AC5VN, WB5ZED, N5CFL, and KN5GRK. I understand there were also a number of stations active on VHF nets in the New Orleans area during the Sugar Bowl. Fortunately, there were no incidents during the event. Thanks to all who donated their time and efforts for this public service event! Emergency Coordinators should now be aware of the new ARES award program announced in late January. Details of this program are spelled out on the section's website at www.laarrl.org Some of the scoring criteria recognize activities that each local ARES group should already be doing (submitting monthly reports, participating in local drills and public service events, participating in the annual SET, etc.). However, the last two categories (liaison of local nets with either LTN or LCW and handling formal messages on local nets) have been specifically included not only to encourage stronger ties between ARES and NTS, but also to provide training opportunities in formal message handling. ARES representatives should indicate their (weekly) liaison function when checking into LTN/LCW. Regarding message handling, one obvious source of formal messages for local nets is for each EC to send his monthly report via radiogram to the SEC. (However, WA5LQZ may want ECs to use a consistent format when sending their monthly reports by radiograms!) If anyone has any questions about this new award program, please let me know. The ARRL Board of Directors approved a proposal on license restructuring during the Board's January meeting. This proposal has now been submitted to the FCC for consideration. Although there's no way to know for sure, I believe the FCC will issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) reasonably soon (for a government bureaucracy!) and we may very well have a new license structure in place by the end of this year. In any event, we will all have a chance to submit our thoughts, pro or con, on the ARRL's proposal once the FCC issues the NPRM. On another front, the FCC, unfortunately, has decided to go forward with a NPRM on Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The FCC is expected to issue its NPRM on BPL within the next few days. Traffic totals: K5MC 147, AE5V 95, W4DLZ 89, K5IQZ 60, AC5VN 54, K5DPG 52, W5NK

32, NF5B 28, W5PY 16, N5KWB 14. Public Service Honor Roll: NF5B 143, K5DPG 120, K5MC 110, W5PY 106, AC5VN 104, K5IQZ 100, W4DLZ 90, N5KWB 74, W5NK 72, K5ER 70. Section net reports: sessions/check-ins/messages handled. Louisiana Traffic Net: 31/511/87. Louisiana CW Net: 31/196/111. Louisiana ARES Net: 3/58/0. Local/district net reports: sessions/check-ins/messages handled. Ouachita Parish ARES Net: 4/74/2. Northeast LA ARES Net: 3/39/0. 73, Mickey Cox K5MC LA Section Manager Email: k5mc@arrl.org LA Section Website: www.laarrrl.org

Mississippi

Jackson ARC Record Keeper KM5GE reports that the preliminary attendance count for the Capitol City Hamfest exceeded 1200. This may be a record. With sold out fleamarket table space and continuous forums going on, it was hard to find time to visit with everybody. Thanks to Hamfest Chairman AB5WF and his assistants KC5FUY, N3HUP, KC5FAD, KC5WYY, W5KWB, W5PFR, KA5SBK, KB5KKI, KM5GE, W5GEJ, and AC5SU for their efforts in planning and conducting this first-class event. Clearly, the Capitol City Hamfest has become the best Hamfest in the Mid-South! The next big event on the calendar is the Mississippi QSO Party on February 28 (the first since 1965!). Hams from all over will be hunting for Mississippi Stations to collect wall paper, finish up WAS or Five Band WAS, or search for those illusive rare counties. If conditions remain as they are now most of the activity is anticipated to be SSB - 3862, 7238, and 14275 and CW - 3545, 7045, and 14045. Complete rules are on page 103 of the February QST or on the Section Web Site at www.arrlmiss.org under Whats Up. AC5MR reports that Starkville/Columbus hams assisted the Frostbite Half-Marathon Race Director with APRS location information on the lead, first female, and last runner in the race. Hams also provided other general voice information to family members regarding the beacons runners, race pace, etc. The hams had a monitor showing the course map and mile markers and a jogger icon for the runners. It was impressive to the onlookers. They would ask what it was, then how do the hams do that, and then say Aneat.@ Hams that helped make this a successful venture were AC5MR, KE4LWT, KD5UBL, KD5RSA, and KC5HPU. Also thanks to KC5OXI for lending equipment. This was definitely a fun experience for all and gave the hams a chance to use their expensive GPS units with the Kenwood TMD700A radios. The Jackson ARC again provided communications support for the 2004 Mississippi Marathon. The Marathon is a USATF certified and sanctioned race with 5K and 10K races for those who chose not to run the 42K Race. Net Control was handled by KD5QQG, and KD5JPB handed the important rover/tail end position. Those assisting in this effort were AB5WF, KD5FUY, KD5HDZ, KC5WYY, AC5SU, W5AUB, KD5QQF with KM5GE and N3HUP also experimenting with amateur TV. W5AUB reports 11 operators worked 7 hours for a total of 77 hours of service to the public. We had a great SET in October; however the scoring paperwork that has to be filed with the ARRL after the event is the necessary, but not so fun part. Thanks to all the DEC/ECs who filed their reports. Congratulations to KD5CQT on having his article AGOPACK Heads South - PZ5A@ being published in the DX Magazine. Further congratulations to Karolina, KD5SDQ, who was awarded the Breland Award during the ARRL Forum at the Capitol City Hamfest. Kudos are

also in order for AB5SU on earning the Public Service Honor Roll Commendation Certificate, to N9OKV for completing Level 1 of the ARRL Emergency Communications Course, and to W4WLF, who not only completed ECC-003, but is now a registered mentor and examiner for the EC courses. Thanks to K5IBM for serving as the www.arrl.org webmaster for the past five years and to W5KWB for taking over the job. Also welcome to AD5IT as EC for Grenada County. New officers of the Jackson County ARA are: WA5KNR, President; KB5FHX, VP; KB5ZIB, Secretary; N5RPV, Treasurer; AC5GX, Equipment Custodian; and NN5AF, License Trustee. In Laurel the new officers are AA5SG, President; WV5D, VP; KB5PZF, Secretary; and KB5RQL, Treasurer, and in Vicksburg KJ5RC, President; K5NRK, VP; and KC5QZW S/T. Good luck for the coming administrative year! Net Reports: sessions/QNI/QTC: MSPN 31/3863/88 MTN 31/186/46 MSN 31/1326/9 PBRA 31/682/1 Jackson Co ARES 30/320/6 MSSN 22/71/2 WCMS ARES 8/59/0 MAEN 5/46/0 SW MS ARES 5/88/0 Lo Co ARC 4/56/0 JARCEN 4/76/0 HAEN 4/55/0 MLEN 4/51/1 NE MS ARES 4/64/0 MBHN 4/45/1 Tishimingo Co ARES Net 4/12/0 Itawamba Co ARES 4/58/1 Monroe ARC ARES 4/32/0 South Central WX Net 4/43/0 Metro Jackson ARES 3/21/1 PSHR: WB5ZED 170, AD5IS 110, AC5SU 89, W5XX 75 Traffic: WB5ZED 2397 (BPL), AD5IS 101, W5LEW 22, KM5WN 7, W5XX 5
Compilation of traffic statistics provided by AD5IS, Mississippi Section Traffic Manager.

Great Lakes Division

Michigan

2-13-04 It has been my pleasure to travel the state and meet with radio clubs and ARPSC organizations. These opportunities to gather input from the membership are always one of my favorite pastimes. Your Section Staff strives to use your input to improve our processes and make amateur radio better for all of us. Recent comments have resulted in changes to our web page, making tools more accessible to team leaders, and revising policies to make them more useable (and understandable) Perhaps most importantly, these changes have furthered our goal to provide more of the bi-directional information flow between the staff and those we serve. One recent idea contributed along this line is for a representative of each local club to attend a meeting of the ECs of the District at least once yearly to exchange information and ideas in the public service arena. We will encourage our DEC's to extend meeting invitations to the clubs in their vicinity. Our updated web page: arrl.org/sections/MI.htm now includes commentary from each of the Section's Leaders, reports from our NTS and ARES/RACES Teams, resources for plans, forms and useful tools, collected and categorized. More changes will follow. Take some time to look the page over and please feel free to comment on what you find. Section appointees will want to carefully review the material and information in their respective web page sections. Our reporting of activities in the field has improved considerably. Our efforts in our nets, public service operations and similar efforts are now included. The person-hours contributed by all of us in service to the public illustrate to our served agencies and public officials the nature and extent by which amateur radio volunteers provide valued services to the community. Each person-hour is allocated at a \$10 rate to allow the agency officials to easily relate to the work

force contributions. We are attempting to keep these based upon accurate information at the local level so each organization can use the material with their county or city officials. Our records at the Section will show our level of progress and how well we are meeting our goals and objectives. Trends for growth or the lack thereof, will allow us to focus our resources to assist where they are most needed. My personal thanks go to each and everyone who has made a vital contribution to this effort. NMs, ORSs, DECs, ECs all work to develop these reports. New officers for the Garden City Amateur Radio Club are: Pres KA8SPW, VP KC8URH, Sec KC8VPV, and Treas K8YAZ. Congratulations to all, and thanks for serving. January Traffic Totals: KB8ZYY 385, N8EIZ 384, VE3EUI 215, K8AE 205, K8JLG 161, WR8F 157, AA8SN 85, WB8RCR 58, KC8TLJ 56, WI8K 41, KA8LAR 35, WB8USA 34, K8ZJU 29, N8UN 19, K8AMR 18, W8RNQ 6, WA8EFK 5.

Hudson Division

Northern New Jersey

SM Bill Hudzik-W2UDT,ASM-K2WJ,ASM-N2WZB,STM-WB2FTX,ACC-N3RB,SEC-K2SO,OOO-K2ZD, PIO-WB2CRD,TC-NR2H NNJ Section Web Page:

www.hudson.arrl.org/nnj January was a busy month in the Section with several clubs taking part in either Kid's Day activities or Special Event operations. Both the New Providence ARC and Garden State ARA ran successful Kid's Day activities. Kid's Day is an operating activity sponsored by the ARRL to encourage young people to enjoy Amateur Radio. It gives them a first hand look at ham radio and maybe ignites interest in becoming licensed. The Ocean-Monmouth ARA celebrated its first year at the Info Age Site by running a Special Event station and Open House to commemorate the first successful moon bounce experiment run by the U.S. Army. In other club news The Metroplex ARC officers for 2004 are: N2IMG- President,KC2VVO- Vice President and WA2SHA as Secretary/Treasurer. Visit the club web site for meeting info (link is on the NNJ page). New 10-70 Repeater Association officers are:KC2CJW-President, KA2ANF-Vice President,K2DBK- Secretary and W2NLX- Treasurer. The club also has web site listing its activities and meeting times. The Bergen ARA continues to run its very success kit nights as well as 10M and 2M local nets. This month I had the opportunity to visit the newly affiliated Cedar Crest Village ARC. Cedar Crest is a senior citizen community with a multitude of activities including ham radio! President W2ZF has been the focal point on attracting new members even donating equipment to get a club station started. By this time they should be on the air as W2CCV. As you read this hamfest time is just around the corner believe it or not! Please support our section hamfests as these are often the only fund raisers clubs hold. Event though we have lost our original sponsors in last year's elections the State's PRB-1 committee is continuing to meet with legislators. We are hoping that out of our meetings someone will step forward to sponsor the Bill. A major part of our presentation is the stress on Public Safety and how amateur radio operators support various agencies. We need to stay active in our communities through public service events and RACES/ARES activities. By doing so, we display our value to elected officials. The monthly ARES NET is the Second

Monday of each on WS2Q Morris County RACES repeater(146.895 Mhz). Check the Section web page for monthly PRB-1 updates. Also, thanks to Matt Ahearn- KB2PNN for acting as the Bill's Primary Sponsor. He saved the group many months of work by introducing the Bill into committee. Finally, I'm sad to report that two NNJ hams have joined the Silent Key ranks. WA2UDV, Fred Greenbaum was very active on the HF bands and a long time GSARA member. Fellow Raritan Valley ARC member WB2MNE, Lew Bimble passed away at age 94. Please make use of our Section Web Page. N2WZB has put many good links up and post your club activities there as well. 73, Bill Hudzik, W2UDT Compiled by STM WB2FTX: Station Activity Reports (January 2004) W2MTO 106, KB2VRO 97, N1JX 75, N2GJ 69, WB2KNS, N3RB 26, W2CC 22, K2PB 21. Net/Mgr/Sess/QNI/QTC/QNI (January 2004): NJM/N2GJ/14/61/36/11 NJPN/W2CC/35/224/19 NJSN/K2PB/31/196/12/15 NJN-E/AG2R/31/200/118/19 NJN-L/AG2R/31/147/57/13 CJTN/31/226/57/19 NJVN-E/31/336/86/42 NJVN-E/31/277/26/49 UCTN/KY2MMM/28/579/34/64

Midwest Division

Kansas

Kansas Section News Summary-January 2004 SM, Ron Cowan, KB0DTI-- SEC/OOC: Robert Summers, K0BXF ASM: Orlan Cook, W0OYH PIC: Scott Slocum, KC0DYA SGL: Steve Hamilton, KB0JYL Silent Keys: W0LOW "Doc" Ralph Jain of Colby and K0PUX- John Campbell of Independence. Shawnee County hams operated a National Guard Special Event station. Pete Sias-WB0DRL held an open house New Years Day at his station West of Salina. A few weeks later Pete and some of the CKARC members launched a balloon from Pete's that came down in Nevada, MO. Wichita has a 1.2GHz repeater on 1288 MHz with an input of 1276 MHz. Up in Marshall County(Marysville)Packet has been resurrected. The node on 145.05 is BRK . K0BYK, N0PGE, N0LS, KC0MLS and N0NB are set up and on the air. Johnson Co. ARES held their annual awards nite. Ken Shubert-K0KS received "Top Dog" honors for 2003. At Douglas County ARC several radio amateurs received recognition. Jim-N6YR, Bob-N0TFU and Earl-N0KYS for putting on license classes the last 8 years. EC Matt-KC4WCG received the foxhunt award. In Leavenworth, Pilot Knob ARC presented Paul Backs-KC0JQC with Leavenworth County Amateur of the Year award for 2003. Rick Reichert-KF4LM, received the annual "Buffalo Chip" award. KANSAS VHF-UHF SSB QSO PARTY MARCH 27, 2004 at 1800 GMT through March 28, 2004 at 1800 GMT(Saturday noon through Sunday noon CST) Bands 6m, 2m, 220, 432, 902, 1296. Sponsored by Dave Powers - KA0KCI ---- email --- ks_vhf-uhf_qso_party@att.net KSN page on ARRL web has details. Santa Fe Trail is conducting an entry level class, Johnson Co., Douglas Co., and Pilot Knob will be offering classes soon. December Nets/Sessions/QNI/QTC/Mgr: KSBN/31/1137 /96/N0KFS KPN/22/243/29/N0KFS KMWN/31/628/513/WB0YWZ KWN/31/964 /738/WB0YWZ CSTN/27/2435/107/ AB5PA QKS/61/338/194/K0PY QKS-SS 7/27/5 KB0DTI SEC: 35 sessions QNI 443 QTC (messages) 18. Reporting Zones: KC4WCG 1B, KC0GDV 1E, AA0IQ 2B, KB0WEQ 4A, K0BXF 4B, KC0JQC 4C, KC0CFL 5A. Still need Emergency Coordinators for Zones 5H, Rice county; 5C,

Cowley county; 4K, Anderson county; 4J, Allen and Woodson county; 4 G, Neosho and Labette county; 3F, Russell, Ellis, Trego and Gove counties; 3E, Smith and Osborne county; 2G, Chase and Marion county. There are several other Zones not reporting on any regular basis, so we have no idea if there is activity present or not. Annual Reports are due. Bob K0BXF SEC. TEN: 62 sessions, QTC 488, KS 87 % with WA0LYK K0PY AB0WR W0WWR NB0Z . Dave W0SS/Mgr. (CW Net) Traffic: AB0WR 547 W0WWR 467 WA0LYK 440 NB0Z 82 KB0DTI 33 AB0UY 21 W0OYH 19 N0ZIZ 19 N0ENO 10 WA0YXK 10 KC0MRJ 6 73- Ron To receive Kansas Amateur Radio News E-mail News Letter contact Orlan-W0OYH-Editor. See KSN on ARRL Website for detailed PSHR and more Kansas news: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/KS.html>

Missouri

FEBRUARY 2004 SECTION NEWS Several of the e-mail addresses on the Legislative Alert System were no longer valid so I am also including the basic information here in the February Section news. Since the Alert was sounded many Amateurs have contacted me indicating that they had contacted the legislators urging them to support the bill. John C. Baremore, KC0CRO provided the the following information. Please send a letter or e-mail your state representative and those on the Committee expressing your support for HB822. The Antenna BILL has reach the Communications, Energy & Technology Committee and it is up to them if it to pass or let sit and die. If you need to get the e-mail address of your representative or that of the committee you can use the link below. Follow the directions given.

http://www.senate.state.mo.us/zipcode/leg_lookup.htm Should you want to look at a copy of HB822 go to the next link and type in its number. <http://www.house.state.mo.us/jointsearch/> Rep. Rex Rector, Chairman Communications, Energy & Technology Committee Missouri House of Representatives Jefferson City, MO 65101 The following Representatives are also on the committee. Ed Emery, Randy Angst, Walter Bivins, Jerry Bough, Richard Byrd, Margaret Donnelly, Gary Dusenberg, Thomas George, Chuck Graham, Thomas Green, Robert Hilgemann, Steve Hunter, Paul LeVota, Jenee Lowe, Ronnie Miller, Charles Schlottach, Jim Viebrock, Gina Walsh, Philip Willoughby, Kevin Wilson AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS KEITH HAYE, WE0G, ACC Members of the Bootheel ARC have joined with officials of Dunklin County to set up a Community Emergency Response Team or CERT. Taking part are Josh, KC0QYA, Shawn, W0SIM, Larry, N0RIC and Bill, N0JHW. CERT groups will be springing up all over the State of Missouri as part of the Homeland Defense program developed by the Federal Government. Hannibal ARC elected Howard, WD0DFW President, Oral, KB0ECF V-P, Fred, KB0WIL Secretary, Tony, W0PGL, Treasurer and Cliff, K0CA is the Trustee. The HARC is planning an FCC exam session for Wed. Apr. 14, 2004 at 8:30 at the Beth Haven Nursing Home Cafeteria. Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club hosted its annual Chilli Dinner and Big show and tell at their January Club meeting. Phil, N0EY will be presenting a program on Antenna Theory at the SMARC Feb 15th meeting. Many of the Mississippi Valley DX and Contest Club have been enjoying operating on 440 mhz . There are so many operating they will have to limit speaking to 30 seconds or switch to CW. the dot-six group have their

own award, Worked All Dot-Six or WAD, created by Jim, WØFF. WAD # 1 was Don, WØYPM, with several others close behind. The Callaway County ARC elected their 2004 officers and they are, President: Gene, WBØHKN Vice President: Pam, KCØMKW Sec./Treas. Dick, KSØM. KCØMV was officially made the CARL Club Call by the FCC on January 13, 2004. They will continue to use KCØMV to ID the repeater in memory of Emery, KCØMV, who put a lot of time and money into their repeater. SECTION ARES REPORT DON MOORE, KMØR SEC To view this and other Monthly Section ARES report 2003 & 2004, go to <http://www.ares-mo.org/currentsec.asp> SECTION TRAFFIC REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2004 DALE HUFFINGTON, AEØS, STM MON - CW Sessions 31 QNI 53 QTC 23 NM K9ZTV MO Phone Sessions 31 QNI 682 QTC 62 NM KØDAT MESN Sessions 4 QNI 151 QTC 3 NM NØXG 10th Reg Sessions 62 MO 40% with K9ZTV QNI 423 NM WØSS

New England Division

Connecticut

Your SM held a cabinet meeting by conference call last week to discuss the state of the Section as it relates to the Board's recommendations for the field organization. A separate letter from me complete with statistics will arrive in your e-mail soon which will detail the degree to which we are meeting the guidelines for field appointees. Recommendations were approved at the January Board meeting so it is important for all of us to know where we stand initially. Preliminary results indicate that we're in very good shape thanks to this Section's commitment to work together as a team. Leaders at all levels are very committed to their programs and their enthusiasm has obviously motivated many of you. I know this to be true because in many cases, volunteers have surpassed the recommendations even before we have been asked to comply. This is not to suggest that we have more work to do but we are in very good shape—details to follow soon. Welcome to Mike, K1MK who has joined the Section cabinet as the State Government Liaison. Many thanks to Steve, W1UTQ for serving in this capacity for several years. Steve is real busy these days in his second term as president of NARL. The SGL is a volunteer who keeps us current on legislation that relates to our hobby and leads efforts writing bills and getting them to the legislature. Of course, these efforts involve all of us. Our focus will be to get a PRB-1 bill enacted in Connecticut. Mike and I will soon be meeting with our Division Vice Director Mike, K1TWF to start the ball rolling. K1TWF has had quite a bit of experience in this area; he has guided other New England Sections on PRB-1 bills which have been successful! So watch for further word and be ready to give a hand when we come to you with specifics. We are all being asked to assist with two important bills: HR 713 (S 537 in the Senate), The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 and HR 1478, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003. The current ARRL Letter indicates that additional information--including the bills' texts, sample letters and information on how to write members of Congress--is on the ARRL "The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003" Web page and on the "HR 1478, "The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003" Web page . It is important that we all take the time

to study the details of these bills and write! "Those writing their lawmakers on behalf of the Spectrum Protection Act are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail . Those writing their House member on behalf of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478, are asked to copy their correspondence to ."—(The ARRL Letter). Thanks in advance. The first month of the New Year is the time when many clubs have their annual election of officers. Congrats to Steve, W1UTQ on his re-election to president of The Newington Amateur Radio League. And congrats to Ned, KA1CVV on taking the helm as president of The Greater Norwalk ARC. Many thanks to Jay NE2Q on his 3-year tenure in that office—fantastic job! NARL is planning a two-day ham fest June 5-6 this year—watch for details! NARL has a terrific idea for classes. They are holding three extra sessions that will follow the exam session: the first will cover the operations & use of HT's & other radios. The second will be an antenna workshop to build J-pole antennas. On the final week this course will provide not only what a new Ham needs to get a license, but on hands practice & knowledge to put that new ticket on the air. All clubs are reminded to be sure and update their club record on the club data page on the ARRL Web Site. Accurate information is THE ONLY WAY we can get current information and services to you so please do it today and be sure you update the info whenever your officers change. ARES members are asked to go to <http://www.ctares.orgg>, download and complete the renewal form posted both as a Word and PDF file. If you are renewing, you can e-mail that form to your EC who will pass them on to your DEC for collection. DEC's will send all changes to the SEC. This is more important than ever before folks because it is essential that we keep track of your current level of training—agencies we serve require it today.

Eastern Massachusetts

I WANT TO PUBLICLY THANK TECHNICAL COORDINATOR Greg Richardson, N1QLS for his fine efforts. Greg is stepping down due to increased work responsibilities. LARRY COYLE, K1QW of Needham, MA is the author of, "An Automatic Audio Volume Leveler" appearing in the February, 2004 issue of QST. Coyle's article addresses the sub-par performance of automatic gain controls of receivers and suggests practical solutions. THE USS CASSIN YOUNG ARC (WW2DD) held their first official meeting recently. Those attending the Saturday, February 7, 2004 meeting were: W1QWT, KB6YNO, Bob Quinn, NS1N, K1WCC, KC1HO. The USS Cassin Young ARC's next meeting is April 10; the club plans to hold meetings every other month. Further information can be found at . THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT on proposed Massachusetts legislation that would restrict the use of cell phones while driving. While the bill refers only to the use of a mobile phones, its definition of "mobile telephone" is a bit vague. An exemption is already on the books for operators of CB radios, but none for operators of other radio services. Originally proposed in June, 2003, the bill is still hung up in committee. See for further updates. THE EASTERN MA ARRL STAFF MET February 12, 2004 in Burlington for a quarterly meeting. Details can be found at . MARLBOROUGH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY has purchased a new dual-band 2-meter/440 MHz transceiver, power supply, coax and portable antenna, according to the

Algonquin Amateur Radio Club. The Icom IC-208H is also capable of receiving the 800 MHz local police and fire frequencies. The equipment gives Marlborough EMA 440 MHz capability as well as the ability to operate from portable locations. The Algonquin ARC works closely with Marlborough Emergency Management. A RECENT BOSTON GLOBE ARTICLE highlights Bill Ricker, N1VUX and his SKYWARN activities. Entitled "Low-tech spotter scans the skies, alert to danger" the article talks about Bill's involvement with the SKYWARN program and how Amateur Radio plays a pivotal role in confirming severe weather. Glenn Field (KB1GHX) of the National Weather Service is also interviewed. For the full story, see . THE NEW ENGLAND DX CENTURY CLUB (formerly Patriot DX Association) are sponsoring a "QSO Party" 2/14-2/20 and 2/27-3/5. "The activity was set up to stimulate on-the-air operating activity among NEDXCC members and potential members to contact as many DXCC countries as possible during the prescribed activity periods," according to NEDXCC's George Johnson, W1ZT. THE FALMOUTH ARA WILL HOLD A "LICENSE IN A WEEKEND" class for the general public on April 16-18, 2004 at the Barnstable County Fairgrounds. The course will utilize the ARRL "Technician Q&A, 3rd Edition." For additional information and on-line registration, please visit . MOUNT WASHINGTON IS EXPERIMENTING WITH SIGNAL LIGHTS, according to Mark Duff, KB1EKN. "They asked people in the valley with high power spot lights to send them a signal." Duff says a staff member at the observatory requested that folks around the Berlin, Conway, Whitfield areas "flash them" at around 7:45 pm ET on February 16. "Whatever lights you have, just starting flashing them. We would love to see the valley twinkle." 73 de K9HI

Rhode Island

Greetings Fellow RI Amateurs, On January 19th, ARRL released news of its license restructuring proposal to the FCC. This is a major event and it attracted comment from a wide spread of Amateurs. Its main feature is the elimination of a code requirement for any license except the Extra class. As anyone familiar with Amateur Radio could predict, reaction across all Amateurs was mixed. Since the World Radio Conference's agreement last summer stating that it will no longer be mandatory worldwide that an Amateur will be required to demonstrate proficiency of Morse Code in order to operate a transmitter on HF bands, i.e., below 30 MHz, more than a dozen countries, including the UK, Germany, Australia and others have eliminated code from their own testing syllabus. Further, there's every indication that more countries will join this group and further broaden and strengthen consensus support. No one I know likes change but the ARRL has taken a bold and daring move to prepare the greatest number of US Amateurs for the best and widest use of our spectrum in the next decade. I believe ARRL felt they had to submit this proposal in view of the broad initial actions of its IARU partners and with regard to its own leadership role in IARU. This new ARRL initiative will allow Technicians into the HF bands with very attractive operating limitations. Technicians when grouped with the existing Novice population make up 52% of all US licensees and this entry segment of our licensee base is growing rapidly. In 2003, more than three quarters of all new licenses issued were to Technicians. We must quickly seize the opportunity and encourage

growth in this new group of Amateurs if we hope to see a future for our hobby. They are our future! From the hour the news broke, I heard the usual anti-ARRL elements complaining. I heard complaining that they just don't like change or that we old timers did it the right way. My reply is "Get over it". Most of us don't use manual shifts in cars, nor do our kids walk three miles to school any more. The world has changed and we must change with it or be left behind. Helen Keller, famous advocate for the blind in the last century was quoted as saying that "None are so blind as those who will not see." The nay-sayers are being quite wrong in failing to see the timeliness of this effort and offer their support to the ARRL proposal. They will benefit from it and still they won't support the ARRL. They are truly the ones who fail to see. Some of us will still use and love CW long into the future. Whether required or not in a test, I absolutely know that many avid DXers and contesters will be as proficient in CW 25 years from now as they are today, even if they only passed a 5 wpm test to receive their license. CW is efficient and a very thrifty user of spectrum space, a fact that all informed Amateurs realize. When the FCC officially receives this petition and files a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for it, all your comments will be invited and welcomed. Until that time comes, it is premature to file comments, whether pro or con since the FCC will not be ready to post and evaluate them. The statewide CERT program is rolling along very nicely. Instructor W1VH has graduated his Bristol group and is presently nearing completion of the Tiverton class. I've heard that four or five graduates have already bought radios and are on the air. THAT'S TERRIFIC! Following Tiverton will be a CERT class in East Providence, Newport and eventually, the rest of RI. Conservatively, this program should produce a hundred or more new hams in RI. MANY thanks to our club VE teams for providing testing services to these CERT classes around RI. On a related item, our CERT group instructor, W1VH completed his Level II ARECC training at the head of his class, scoring 100% in the final evaluation. Congratulations, Bill! You're a natural leader. 73, Bob Beudet, W1YRC Section Manager

Vermont

The Northern Vermont Winter Hamfest and ARRL State Convention will take place on Saturday, February 28, 2004 at the Milton High School. I hope to see you there, if you can make it. I will be in attendance at one of the many educational Forums. There will be the usual Flea Market with vintage radios, radio/computer parts, antennas, tubes, etc. The best part of a great local Hamfest like this is meeting and socializing with the people. You can actually put a face to that voice on the repeater. Will the Ham look like you had envisioned? Admission is \$5 and under 18 is free. The hours are 8 AM to 1 PM and the exam session is at Noon. All the details can be found from a link at www.ranv.org. Please tell all your friends. As you know, I have been very busy this past month trying to enlist your help with the Vermont PRB-1 Legislation, known as H.602. I still need your help. If you have not contacted your local Legislator and asked them to support H.602, please do so this week. Time is of the essence. I really need you to get the word out. Please see my previous e-mails for instructions. If you no longer have those letters, please e-mail me right away, and I will resend them to you. There have been two hearings on the Legislation, and Hams have testified on the Bill's behalf. It is now in the hands

of the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY. Our next step is to contact the 11 members of this committee, and ask them to support this important Bill. To find the members of the committee, your Legislator, or your Senator, please visit www.vermont.gov. Click on "How do I contact my Legislator?". I will send the names of the committee members in a separate mailing. Our efforts have not gone unnoticed by the League. The ARRL Web News ran a feature on us 20 February 5th. It was a nice write up. It was then repeated in the recent ARRL Letter. Here is a link to the news article:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/02/05/1/?nc=1> . Be sure to check it out. Thanks to a local Ham, the ARRL Membership Certificate has a bold new look. At the ARRL Forum in the Hamfest last year, Clair Dunn W1CQD of Fletcher, VT expressed her disappointment with the design of the certificate to League officials. Thanks to her input, it has just been redesigned by the League, and you can print your own copy for your Hamshack wall. Just click on www.arrl.org/members-only/memcert.html to access the document. The page will also print your membership card. Finally, the Vermont Section Manager position is up for election. Most Hams don't know how to run for this office, but instructions are in the middle of the January & February QST Magazine. All you need to do is get five signatures on a simple petition and submit it by the deadline. My petition has been submitted, but competition is welcomed and encouraged. JANUARY TRAFFIC REPORT Submitted by Bert Morton W1DFU Section Traffic Manager NAME/SESSIONS/QNI/QTC/MINUTES/MANAGER Vermont Phone Emergency Net (VPEN) 4/32/0/134 KC1YW Green Mountain Net (GMN) 27/750/20/2187 N1HXC Vermont-New Hampshire Net (VTNH) 31/152/105/420 WA1JVV Bennington County ARES Net 4/17/0/46 N1SP Central Vermont ARES Net 4/27/4/148 WA1LIE

Northwestern Division

Montana

We can always use new members on the Montana Traffic Net. Check in with us on 3910 khz and give it a try! Traffic handling is rewarding and increases our ability to pass messages during an Emergency. Also, if you are interested in CW traffic handling, consider IMN on 3647 khz at 2000 MST. 73 Doug, K7YD

Oregon

Oregon SM: Randy Stimson KZ7T-ASM: WA7VTD. SEC: KK7TT. SCC: W7WZ. ACC: K7SQ. STM: W7IZ. OOC: AB7OC. PIC: W6ABM=I received three reports involving the ARES. At 1800 on 1/07/2004 the Clackamas County ARES (Better known as CARES) was activated by the Emergency Manager. It involved 30 hours. Much of it was transporting people through very bad weather. Anyone that lives in this area knows that the East County is always hit the hardest because of the east winds that come through the Columbia Gorge. They had over a foot of snow and inches of ice on top on the snow. There were 38 transports one emergency medicine pick up and one emergency food delivery. David KA7OZO, (EC Clackamas County)

John, K7AAY, John, KB7TUL, Jeff, NS7J, Cheryl, KD7PAO, Daryl, KD7HWK, Ken, KD7KIO, Mike, KC7WKO, Bob, KD7OFU, Kevin, WA7VTD, Jon KD7HCP, Al, N7FGI, Sandy, N7GFT, George, N7DTI and mike KD7VVF were the intrepid driver radio operators. Steve KD7BTB and Gary, KD7ELU were Hospital Coordinators and Drivers. Larry, KD7GVX, was the EOC operator. Vern W7GRN and Helen W7OLF were NCS support. Linda KB7JQP and Ray, KD7TFZ were net controls. Megan Kidd radio logger and support volunteer and Kathie McNamee NCS Support volunteer. I am going to quote David Kidd, KA7OZO, he said it pretty well "These are impressive figures considering the extreme road & weather conditions and the length of time that our driver/operators worked. The best part is that CARES has never supported any function like this before, but we were able to identify & implement operational procedures to meet the needs of the mission. This was due in part to the training, the dedication, and the willingness to provide the needed & requested services by the CARES personnel who volunteered their time, vehicles, & equipment". Martin, KC7ILK (EC for Columbia) was notified of a problem with the 911 system via a scanner. They went to the 911 center and offered assistance. They found out the Columbia 911 Communication District suffered phone outage of it's 911 lines. They activated the calling tree. N7DBK, WA7WIM, W7OR, W7CBN, KD7LGW, K1YKZ, WA7SL, KD7JDS, N7VZD, KB7CD, KR7KAR and KD7BJO responded. They were dispatched to all of the fire stations in the county to man the installed amateur stations and the CFR&R St Helens Station and the 911 center. This all started at 01/18/2004 22:00 local ended 01/19/2004 03:00 local. At 0750 on 02/07/2004 CARES was activated in support of Clackamas County Sheriff Office SAR mission involving a lost hiker above Ripplebrook Ranger Station on Mt Hood. There were aircraft, ground teams, a dog team and snow mobiles. CARES personal provided a key radio relay point. They had a very difficult time getting there because of very bad weather. Unfortunately the hiker didn't make it, because of hypothermia & weather conditions. David, KA7OZO, Helen, W7OLF, Gary, KD7ELU, Curtis, KC7ZPO, Paul, KD7UWO, Larry, KD7GVX, Linda, KB7JQP and John, KB7TUL did a great job in spite of the weather. Vivian Hagood, N7VH has completed all three ARECC courses and is a mentor also Edward Ewell, KD7DXV, Jim Humphrey, NO7T has completed all three ARECC courses. Kevin, NB7O and Michelle KD7IEP Hedgepeth, Lee Stumpe K7AZW have completed ARECC level one. Gene Davies AA6NP has completed level 3 of ARECC. One thing I should mention more often is the OO (Official Observer) reports. They put in literally hundreds of hours in a month listening to mostly HF. FEMA had a drill Called Fire and Ice on Mt Bachelor. I will have all the info for next month. Ham radio was there. Traffic= W7IZ 188, N7CM 110, N7YSS 109, KS7O 76, KC7SGM 51, KC7SRL 75, W7VSE 39 and N7APE 9. PSHR= KZ7T 155, K7EAJ 116, N7DRP 115, N7CM 110, KW7DSP 110, N7YSS 110, W7RRC 100, W7VSE 95, KC7SGM 90, KD5ONS 88, KL7OR 85 and KK7TN 79.

Western Washington

SEC K7CEX reports lots of WWa Section Activity, this month, including two important exercises: The first was an unannounced "call up" drill that tested our quick response capabilities; the second was a Statewide EOC to ECC exercise that tested our communication

paths from the State EOC at Camp Murray to the various County ECCs. Both exercises were filled with lots of learning and experience factors. District 4 DEC NU7D reports that January 8 to January 11 - Cowlitz County DEM called Randy NU7D to see if the hams could help transport Dialysis Patients to the hospitals for their treatments due to the snowy and icy weather conditions. Over the several days Randy NU7D and Connie KB7AYY transported a number of patients to the hospitals, some twice because of the medical condition. Clark County ARES/RACES folks are now in the process of finishing up the river sensor for the Washougal River and should have that up and running soon. Chip, WB7TFD, continues to refine the Web Site for the River Monitoring program. It reports every 15 minutes and upgrades the information on the site. www.microchipswebs.com/river/index.php District 6 DEC N7UK reports that in the planning stage is a May joint exercise with Bellevue, Redmond, Mercer Island, and Kirkland in planning stages. FNPack packet training meeting planned for 2/10/04 at Kirkland City Hall, 1900 hours. Kirkland Packet drill from ECC and fire stations planned for 3/9/04. District 4 DEC K7TAG reports that Thurston County has been working to improve liason with their DEM and other served agencies to improve visibility. They have also redone their weekly net procedure to make one net per month a purely training net. SEC K7CEX continues to announce and encourage all hams to attend the 2004 Communications Academy. Academy will be held Mar. 20-21 in Shoreline. Info. available at www.commacademy.org. Online registration will open Feb. 15. STM W7ARC reports: With the New Year comes the promise of more good things in Public Service and traffic handling by Ham stations. We are off to a good start as the numbers show. Congratulations to George Thomas, K7BDU and Allen Rivers, W7QM for qualifying for the Brass Pounders League (BPL) Award for January. We also want to welcome back Larry Brucker, K7MQF as a traffic handler. Larry handled 200 messages in January for the Western Washington Section. Keep up the good work. Thanks to all the traffic handlers that turned in reports. If you are a traffic handler in the Western Washington Section, I would like to have your monthly traffic figures. You can send them to me by email at w7arc@arrl.net or via radiogram on any of the traffic nets. NET REPORTS: NOON TIME NET QNI 10861 QTC 203 Sessions 62; WSN QNI 916 QTC 235 Sessions 93; WCN QNI 237 QTC 48 Sessions 31; CCAIN QNI 129 QTC 0 Sessions 5; NWSSB QNI 634 QTC 36 Sessions 31; PSTS QNI 28 QTC 0 Sessions 28.

Pacific Division

East Bay

ASM: KE6QJV, K6HEW, K6USW; SEC: KO6JR; STM: W6DOB; STC: K6USW WA6BLG, SK. John Rucker, John was A member of the Hayward ARC and San Leandro ARC.. K6PXT, SK. Leland W. Kiff jr. Congratulations to Allen Perrins, WB6PHE; Dee Perrins, N6WHI on upgrading to Extra Class, Silverado ARS Members Ralph Volpo, AE6PK on upgrading to Extra Class; Kevin Kennedy, KG6LJO, to General; New Tech licensees are Ken Keyworth, KG6TIW; Tara Keyworth, KG6TIX; Antoinette Perry, KG6TJA; Chris Richards, KG6TJC; Ernest Richards, KG6TJB; Paul West, KG6TIY and Rex Williams, KG6TIZ. Mt Diablo ARC annual

awards. John Schulze, KR6CR, won the Kilroy Key for his busy year as PACIFICON chair and Auction chair. Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, won the Ham Of The Year for his many years of coordinating service events. Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q, won an Outstanding Service award for two years as membership chair.. Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, won a Pitch In award for his assistance in a smooth transfer of presidential responsibilities. Keith Lattin, N6PMF, and Howard Burk, KE6PTT, won two appreciation awards for their •ne work on EchoLink. Livermore AR Klub had 9 stations on the air for the ARRL 10 meter contest for a score of 500,00 points. LARK also plans on holding quarterly VE sessions after their monthly meeting starting in March. SABARA members elected Al Rendon WT6K, President; Sam Severs, WS6S, VP; and Jim Wood, KE6IVA, Treasurer for 2004. Alameda County Sheriff's Comm Team reported that members contributed 3166 man hours and 15821 miles during the 2003 calendar year for public service. NTS Report W6DOB R/196 S/ 297 D/ 21 TOTAL 514 AK6DV R/350 S/ 331 D/ 15 TOTAL 696 KE6QR 8/ 8 S/ 1 D/ 7 TOTAL 16 WB6UZX O/5 S/ 31 R/55 D/ 32 TOTAL 123 BPL: W6DOB, AK6DV. PSHR WB6UZX 1/28 2/40 3/10 4/10 TOTAL 88

Sacramento Valley

JANUARY was an interesting start for the New Year 2004! The ARRL Board of Directors met for their annual meeting and passed several motions and approved a proposal for changes to the amateur license classes. A brief outline of the proposal is as follows; A new Novice license class – no code but HF, CW and SSB on select HF frequencies; Current Tech and Tech plus licenses would be upgraded to General; Current Advanced would upgrade to Extra. Only code requirement would be for Extra class, at 5 wpm. There would be “re-farming” of present Novice frequencies and changes in frequencies for most classes of licenses. Much more information can be found at www.arrl.org. This proposal has been sent to the FCC. Comments can be made to myself, Division Director and ARRL HQ, also the FCC after is made a official proposal. The Board also approved a four-tier set of Amateur Radio mentoring programs. Read more on the ARRL web. Also the full minutes of the Board meeting are available. SILENT KEYS: The following SK were reported to me; Joe Bryant, KB6SNU, a North Hills RC member and long time Sierra Foothills ARC member, Bob Greenslade, W3PMP. Both were very active in local clubs and events. They will be missed. EMCOMM: Several changes in Emergency Coordinators in the section. Al Pena, KQ6YW, of Redding is now EC of the combined Tahama County and Shasta County ARES groups. Much credit must be given to the SEC, DEC, ECs and AECs for the many hours they spend in training, drills and nets as well as keeping a ready kit for emergencies. The ARRL is requiring more information on the actions being taken by ARES groups in the sections and setting up more guide lines. See Dave, K6SOJ, k6soj@arrl.net, for more info. CLUB AFFILIATION: Each club should update the clubs information and renew their affiliation. This can be done on the ARRL web pages. There will be new programs for the affiliated clubs, in the near future, including a Club Mentoring program. Hopefully this will help clubs get new members and the clubs need to promote ARRL membership. Club Newsletters should list club officers and give a phone number or email

address for at least one officer and the clubs web address, so contact can be made if needed. I am receiving more newsletters and emails telling me their newsletter is on their web page. Please send me an email when your monthly newsletter appears on the club's web page. Now is the time to volunteer for one of your clubs committees. The more people that help out, the easier it is for everyone – and easier to get volunteers for club offices! Do your share. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: Speakers from the NWS in Sacramento, have been visiting clubs and presenting a basic weather spotting information program and signing up volunteers as spotters. This program is just beginning at the Sacramento NWS office. It is very active in Northern part of CA and Southern OR and Reno area. YUBA SUTTER ARC: The club is planning communications for a MS Walk, contact Paul, N6XVL for info, and the annual Bike Around the Buttes – need 20 operators – contact Herb, W6HBU. Their Technician class has 7 students and they are doing well. There is a Potluck and Board meeting on Feb 10 – Lindhurst High School. NEVADA COUNTY ARC: Plans are being made to provide communications during a 3 day Horse Run. NCAARC coordinator is Mike, WD6EVG – mikie@onemain.com for info. Many hams needed for this event. VE exams on Feb. 21 – contact George, KQ6SQ at ve@ncarc.org. RIVER CITY ARCS: Armand Nobel, WR6WR, of World Radio magazine spoke to the club in January. Their March meeting will be on Monday, March 8 – due to the Primary election on Tuesday March 2. MISC: Be sure to check the SV section web page for any latest section information and the ARRL home page for the latest Ham and FCC news. More next month. 73, Jettie, W6RFF

San Francisco

San Francisco Section News - February 2004 The section clubs are gearing up for what appears to be a busy year. The Valley of the Moon ARC is starting an Amateur Radio class on Feb 24th which will be held at the Sonoma Fire Station. Be sure to put VOMARC's annual Hamfest on April 24th from 7 AM to Noon on your calendar. (Too bad it is the same weekend as the Visalia DX convention). For more information on these items, check their website at www.vomarc.org. VOMARC member Joan Brady W6WXU is one happy grandma! Her 7 year old granddaughter Mattie Clauson (ex-KD7TYN) in Oregon passed her Extra exams with a 92% and now is AD7BL. Also starting a class on February 21st is the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club. It will be a one day session that they call Ham Cram. For more information on this class, please e-mail w6pw@arrl.net And another one - The Humboldt ARC is starting an evening class on Feb 23rd at the local fire hall. For information on that class, please visit HARC's website at www.humboldt-arc.org The Lake County Amateur Radio Society has a class already in session in conjunction with the local 4-H group. The class is being run by Dave Perata WN6LOO. Looks like just about everyone is running a class! Must be trying to generate more operators for Field Day! In the honorable mention department, the Redwood Empire DX Association gave Mike Polkinghorn K6PUD its annual Spirit award at their holiday party in December. The Spirit award is given to the club member who has demonstrated interest, activity and enthusiasm for the hobby by their work in the club and in contesting and DX. Mike was REDXA's Field Day Chairman for 2003. Back up north, the Humboldt ARC is continuing work on their two mobile

comm vans. Modifications and refinements are being made to ECV-1. VHF and UHF radios have been installed on ECV-2. The Lambda ARC/Golden Gate in San Francisco has changed the primary purpose of their club to focus on repeater operations. They plan on one formal meeting a year on October. I have heard a variety of comments on the ARRL's proposal for license restructuring. Pacific Division Director Andy Oppel N6AJO visited the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs club in Santa Rosa and the Marin Amateur Radio Society in Mill Valley to discuss the proposal. ARRL's proposal has been submitted to the FCC. Any comments you may have should be directed to the FCC when they publish a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) sometime in the future. But, I'm told not to hold our breath; it might take some time as the FCC is busy with other matters. Want to see your club's news in this column? Be sure that I get your newsletter, electronic or snail mail is fine. Most clubs are looking for program suggestions. We all try to recreate the wheel in this area. Send me a list of your club's programs held in 2003 and 2004 and I will get them up in a listing of programs on the pdarrl.org San Francisco Section website. Please send the program title, presenter, a brief description of the program and who to contact about the material. This could help everyone. Speaking of programs, I can provide a photo tour of ARRL headquarters, a presentation on the proposed license restructuring and one on the current status/future of Amateur Radio. Several clubs have seen the programs. Let me know if you want me to bring it to your group. 73, Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV

San Joaquin Valley

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for the month of January 2004: SM Charles McConnell, W6DPD- ASM K6YK, ACC W6DPD, SEC K6IN, OOC N1VM, STM K6RAU, PIC KE6IGJ, TC W6TE. Greetings from the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section. The 2004 Fresno Hamfest will also be the San Joaquin Valley Section Convention. The dates are April 30 to May 2. Dan Miller, K3UFG, is scheduled to conduct an ARECC workshop in the afternoon on Friday April 30. The Hamfest/Convention will be held at the Ramada Inn University as Shaw and 41 in Fresno. Check www.qsl.net/w6to/hamfest for information. If you have a technical problem and need help, please contact the SJV Technical Coordinator, Dave Smith, W6TE, for assistance. He can help or refer you to a Technical Specialist in your area. Contact Dave at w6te@pacbell.net. Affiliated Clubs must remember to update their records with ARRL each year. A good time is when the officers are elected. Check the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 06, Feb. 6, 2004 for information. Go to www.arrl.org in the new/bulletin section. If your club would like news of their activities and events listed here, please send the information to your SM, w6dpd@arrl.org. Emergency Coordinators are needed in Mono and Calaveras Counties. Contact K6IN (k6in@mercednet.com) or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help. Please write your congressional representative and urge support and co-sponsorship of HR 713, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act and HR 1478, which would apply PRB-1 to CC&Rs. Also contact your Senators and urge support and co-sponsorship of S 537, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. The International DX Convention will be April 23-25, 2004 at the Holiday Inn at Visalia. Check sdcxc.org/visalia2004 for information. The Turlock ARC

provided communications assistance for the "Fun Run" and the Christmas Parade. Correction to last months news: N5VWN won the SJV Section in the 2003 International DX contest operating 10 m QRP with a FT817 and a Buddypole antenna. K6IXA headed home from Israel in January. W6UBK became a Silent Key in January. WA7MSD and KG6MXV completed the ARECC Level one course. Sierra ARC 2004 officers are pres WA6QYR, first vp N6VGW, second vp W6DWF, sec WB6EPD, and treas KC6UUS. The club meets in Ridgecrest. TCARES 2004 officers are pres KG6FEY, vp WB6WFF, sec KE6RGP, treas WA7MOB. The club meets in Sonora. KCCVARC 2004 officers are pres N6ZFN, first vp KC6ZRF, second vp KG6OPR, sec KD6UQZ, and treas KG6PTF. The club meets in Bakersfield. CARP 2004 officers are pres AE6GE, vp NI6M, sec, AE6GF, and treas KD6WAW. The club meets in Clovis. W6FRH finally got his second tower raised. K6IN and W6FRH have FT1000Ds. WA6YEE has a FT1000MKV Field and has over 1000 points in the DXCC Challenge. The Fresno Chapter of QCWA was formed in January. Traffic for January was zero. PSHR K6RAU 33.

Roanoke Division

North Carolina

NORTH CAROLINA: SM, John Covington, W4CC - SEC: WA4MOK. STM: K4HA. TC: K4ITL. BM: KD4YTU. PIC: N2COP. OOC: W4ZRA. SGL: AB4W. ACC: N4JCK. The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) issue. I'll have more information on this topic next month, as the NPRM has not appeared in the Federal Register yet, but this is an issue worth watching. Both Duke Power and Progress Energy have expressed an interest in BPL and will be conducting trials during the early part of the year. Both companies have expressed a willingness to work with hams to make sure our concerns are considered. If you are identified as being within a test area, you may be contacted and asked to report your observations and measurements - if so, try to be as accurate as possible in measuring and describing any interference you observe. Anecdotes, heresay and exaggeration will not make our case, accurate data and observations will. I am sad to report that Joe Henderson, WD4MRD became a silent key on February 14. Joe was active for many years on our SSB traffic nets, including service as Net Manager and Net Control Station, and was still active on NCEN right up to the night before he passed away. I think Joe's biggest contribution was the friendly, courteous manner in which he operated his station. Newcomers always were welcomed on Joe's nets. Joe received an ARRL Public Service Commendation recognizing his efforts in 2001. The North Carolina QSO Party is sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club and will take place between 1700 UTC February 29th and 0300 UTC March 1st (10 hours total). More information is available on the FARC web site, www.w4nc.com. The Elkin Hamfest will take place Sunday February 22nd at the Elkin recreation center gym located on Hwy 268 west. Talk-in is on the 145.37 repeater. The Charlotte Hamfest and Computerfair will be the ARRL NC Section Convention, and will take place Saturday and Sunday March 13th-14th. There will be both ARRL Division and Section forums, in addition to forums on many interesting topics; and DX QSL checking on Saturday morning. The Down East Hamfest will be held in Kinston on

Sunday, March 21st. I will be attending all three hamfests - hope to see you at one of them. I attend as many NC hamfests as I can each year, usually only missing one or two due to scheduling conflicts. When I do miss one, it's often because I did not know the date of a hamfest until it was too late to change my schedule. One way to get the word out about your hamfest is to make sure it is listed in the SERA Repeater Journal - they reach a substantial portion of your target audience. Also, make sure your hamfest is ARRL-sanctioned. The process is very easy - fill out some forms and send them to our Roanoke Division Director. Sanctioning guarantees you a detailed listing in QST, a listing on ARRLweb and provides some ARRL ham radio books for your event to give away as prizes. All you have to do in return is make some table space available for display of ARRL literature. Most NC hamfests are ARRL-sanctioned, I'd like to see 100% of them sanctioned this year. If you would like more information, please contact me. January Traffic: W4EAT 1138 (BPL), W4UEF 394, W4DAC 382, K4IWW 207, AA4YW 164, K4RLD 142, N4AF 138, W0UCE 124, K7UGT 111, KF4OCU 95, WD4LSS 85, AB4E 77, AD4XV 64, KE4JHJ 62, W3HL 61, KD4WAX 50, N4FHM 40, KG4OQA 39, KE4AHC 36, WA4OBR 35, W4LN 22, K4BMH 14, N4NTO 11, W4IRE 11, AG4ZB 7, WA4SRD 6. January PSHR: K4RLD 130, W4EAT 120, K4IWW 120, AD4XV 120, KE4JHJ 110, WD4LSS 107, N4JBP 102, KG4OQA 99, K7UGT 95, W0UCE 94, KF4OCU 85, AA4YW 80, W4LN 72.

South Carolina

Greetings to all Amateur Radio Operators. This is Dr. Jim, N2ZZZ with the February 2004 South Carolina Section Manager's Report! Please remember that the SC Section website can be found at www.qsl.net/arrl-sc/ where my full SM report will be listed as well as up-to-the-date information on Amateur Radio in South Carolina!***As I write this report on February 13th, we have had a very busy month, both nationally and locally. I discussed in my last report that the January 2004 ARRL Board Meeting was being held, and one of the topics was to be one of their most controversial actions-a Code-Free HF license. I realize that a monthly report does not have enough space to do this subject justice, so I hope to write up a few opinions in the near future.***I reported previously that Marc Tarplee N4UFP, TC went on a site visit to the SC State EOC with Charlie AE4UX, SEC and Tony N4ADM to formulate a redesign of the HF antenna system. Drills made it clear that although the antenna SWR was acceptable, the antennas did not radiate well. Marc has completed his final draft, with the recommendation of dropping the number of antennas from five to three, offering higher efficiency on HF RACES/ARES frequencies. Marc thanks all of his Technical Specialist appointees who had the opportunity to comment on his recommendations and offered valuable input.***The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the State SCEMD and ARRL-SC ARES/RACES is almost complete, with only one item needing clarification.***I had the pleasure of attending the Charleston Hamfest in Ladson, SC on February 7th. It was apparent that the Hamfest was going to be a success by 7:30am! Thanks to all the CARS hamfest committee for their hard work! I would also like to thank those members of the ARRL-SC team who attended: Marc Tarplee N4UFP TC (and gave a great forum!), Bob Bacharach WA2EMF

ASM2, Adam Hoffman STM AF4QZ, and Mike Duff KG4SLH Asst. PIC. I gave the ARRL forum, and I appreciated all the attention and audience participation! Please check out the "Picture Gallery and Hamfest Memories" for pictures of the hamfest!***Congratulations to Charlie Hall K4AOT, (EC Charleston County) of the Charleston Amateur Radio Society! During his Charleston visit on Thursday February 5th, President George W. Bush shook hands with Charlie and thanked him for his volunteer efforts! Thanks to Riley Stone K4HYY (EC Dorchester county) for providing this information to me, as well as the CARS members that gave me the "Heads Up" during the Charleston Hamfest! I sent the information above to ARRL HQ, and the news item is now on the national ARRL website www.arrl.org!***I was informed by both Mike KG4SLH Asst. PIC and Mac K4AVR that Laurie Sansbury Jr. KV4C ASM4 is in the hospital. I'm sure that Laurie would be pleased to receive a note or a card. Address: Laurie Sansbury, Jr., Room 234, Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center, 1304 Bobo Newsom Highway, Hartsville, SC 29550. We all wish Laurie a speedy recovery!***Reports from Adam AF4QZ, STM:January 2004-- Traffic Reports-Station Activity Reports (CALL/SENT/RECEIVED/DELIVERED/ORIGINATED/TOTAL): KA4UIV/124/130/6/1/261; WA4MIY/20/20/1/0/41; WA4UGD/35/0/1/0/36; KA4LRM/12/16/2/0/30; K4NJV/9/9/2/0/20; KB3L/5/2/2/2/11; WB4PCS/2/3/3/2/10***Public Service Honor Roll Reports-KA4UIV 100; KA4LRM 90***Net Reports CHECKINS/TRAFFIC/SESSIONS/REPORTED BY): Anderson RC 2 Meter Net/902/48/31/KG4HEY; Blue Ridge ARS 2 Meter Net/2090/50/31/K4SUG; Carolina's Net (CN)/524/172/62/K4IWW; Carolina Slow Net/117/25/31/W4EAT; Columbia ARS 2 Meter Net/156/10/8/K4RKC; Greater Pee Dee 2 Meter Net/828/39/31/K4DTT; Lancaster County 2 Meter Net/181/23/12/N4WMB; SC 6 Meter Sandlapper Net/64/0/4/K4IRT; SC SSB Net/1492/142/31/WA4UGD***Thanks to everyone! Have a great month!***'73 de Dr. JIM N2ZZ,ARRL Section Manager SC Section

Rocky Mountain Division

New Mexico

Section News For The Month of January, 2004 New Mexico Bill Weatherford, KM5FT ASM: K5BIS, N5ART, W5PDY; SEC, W5YEJ; STM, N7IOM. NM's: WA5UNO & W5UWY; TC, W8GY; ACC, N5ART. The annual Winter Tailgate on January 24th was a big success, with a great turnout. The weather even cooperated this year, sort of. It might have been cold and a bit windy, but at least there was no snow. A big Thank You! to everyone involved in setting it up. Next up, the April Tailgate in Albuquerque and the Bean Feed in Las Cruces. Check them out and it's not too early to start thinking about the Duke City Hamfest coming up in August. As almost everyone knows by now, the ARRL Board of Directors, at their recently concluded meeting at League Headquarters in Newington, proposed a number of changes in the U.S. Amateur Radio licensing structure. Once the proposal has been accepted by the FCC, it will be assigned a Rule Making number and opened for comment. Make sure to watch for the opening and make your views known. Registration for the next Level III Emergency Communications (EC-003) on-line course opens Monday, February 16, at 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time

(0501 UTC) and will remain open through the February 21-22 weekend or until all available seats have been filled. There are approximately 50 seats being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. Class begins March 2. Thanks to the grant sponsors, the Corporation for National and Community Service and United Technologies Corporation, the \$45.00 registration fee will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) web page at <http://www.arrl.org/cce> and follow the C-CE links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, dmiller@arrl.org, or 860-594-0340. Newsletters from around the state keep getting better. Thanks to the Gila Amateur Radio Society, Pecos Valley Amateur Radio Club, Albuquerque DX Association, Valencia County Amateur Radio Association, Mesilla Valley Radio Club, Deming Amateur Radio Club, and the Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club. Keep them coming. Net counts: Breakfast Club, 1079/191; Roadrunner Net, 1372/86; Rusty's Raiders, 749/84; SCAT Net, 328/7; Caravan Club, 49/5; Yucca Net, 437/39; Valencia County ARA, 65/15; Deming ARC, 131/16; Four Corners, 448/16; Gila ATS, 40/8. If you're not checking into a local net, or one of the 3939 HF nets, why not? They're useful, informative, and fun. And, they help us demonstrate that we are using the frequencies. Are you a member of a local club, or maybe more than one? Do you attend the meetings? If not, why not? Check out the local clubs. You might find an activity that interests you, or perhaps get one started. How about bringing packet back? It's good for moving data and could come in handy in emergencies. On a sad note, we mark the passing of WA5USU, KD5TQF, and KM5GR. Each was unique and each will be missed. 73, de KM5FT

Southeastern Division

Georgia

SM: Susan Swiderski, AF4FO; ASM/South GA: Marshall Thigpen, W4IS; ASM/Legal: Jim Altman, W4UCK; ASM/Webmaster: Robert Tyler, KF4VBR; SEC: Mike Boatright, KO4WX; STM: Jim Hanna, AF4NS; BM: Eddy Kosobucki, K4JNL; OOC: Mike Swiderski, K4HBI; TC: Fred Runkle, K4KAZ; PIC: Kevin Marting, W4SJR; SGL: Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN; ACC: Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC. www.arrl-ga.org www.gaares.org Greetings. First off, an apology. My mama done told me. Told me more than thirty years ago about making assumptions... y'know that old "what ASSUME makes out of U and ME" bit. Still didn't prevent me from making a foolish assumption and then compounding the error by passing on that "information" to you guys in the February newsletter. JEFF HARRISON, KD4GPI, was, indeed, instrumental in helping to establish a Skywarn program for Gwinnett ARES some years back. However, the Gwinnett Skywarn group mentioned in the newsletter is NOT headed up by Jeff; it is headed up by someone named A.J. HARRISON, who is NOT a ham and is NOT connected with ARES in any way. I withdraw any recommendation that any of our ARES groups look to this group for assistance in setting up their Skywarn programs. My apologies to Jeff and to anyone else who may have been inconvenienced by this incorrect information. Sorry about that. Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the Gwinnett ARS: President- DAVID ADCOCK, KA4KKF;

VP- EARL WHATLEY, AF4FG; Treasurer- DAN KEOHAN, KF4YSU; Secretary- KEN DALTON, KI4BQS; and Activities Chairman- JOHN DAVIS, WB4QDX. Best wished for a successful and enjoyable year leading the club. Congratulations are also in order for several new ECs: for Bartow county, DENISE LORREN, KG4SRX; for Floyd, ED BYARS, WB4FGM; and for Murray, CECIL CLEMENTS, KG4RSU. Thanks to all three for their willingness to serve. Thanks, also, to DREW MCCARSKY, KB2SEO, who has ably served as Murray county EC, and had to step down at this time. We appreciate you, Drewski, and are glad that PINKIE can still serve as our official section mascot. SID "HUTCH" HUTCHINSON, WB4GGS, has once again earned the Brass Pounder Award, for an amazing third time in the past six months. His QTC for the month of January was 538. His key must be smokin'! Kudos on this continued dedication to traffic handling. He sure does set the bar up high! Are you ready for the first GA hamfest of the year? Grab your gloves and earmuffs and let's head for the hills! For the hills of Dalton, that is, on February 28th, to the fairgrounds, where the gates will swing open at 8 AM. Talk in 145.230 (-) And come by the ARRL booth to say HI. (FREE repeater directories to new members who sign up with us at the 'fest, too!) Have you checked out the www.arrl-ga.org website lately? If not, why not take a look-see? You can even post your comments on the ARRL's re-structuring proposals. (consider it "practice" for when the FCC asks for your comments) And please check to see if the info listed on YOUR club is accurate. New hams are always looking for a club near them. Help us help them. Sadly, some SKs to report: JIM THOMPSON, AKA "POSSUM", W3LAP; WILLIAM HAYES, N4RWH; and GEORGE MURRAY, WB4DYQ. George's many longtime ham friends are invited to join his family for a special memorial celebration at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in Forest Park on Saturday, February 21st at 2 PM. That's about it for now. Please keep sending your news my way. Until next time, this is AF4FO signing clear. Take care of yourselves. And each other. See ya at Dalton! 73, Susan QTC January: WB4GGS-538; K4FUM-312; AF4NS-130; W4WXA-112; W4WKT-61; K4BEH-58; W9NXC-54; K4GA-30; WB4BIK-29; K4BG-26; K1FP-20; KR4JI-24; KG4FXG-5

Southern Florida

Summary for Jan 04 January has been a busy month for many of us. Clubs have new officers (I hope you sent that information to your local newspapers and updated the information with or Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC) and the ARRL database). Many clubs are already making plans for Field Day, contests, hurricane expos, and other activities. If your New Year's resolutions did not include anything about amateur radio it's not too late to make a few additions. Why not resolve to get on the air more, to participate in more club events, bring a newcomer to a club function, to take an online course sponsored by ARRL of FEMA, to try your hand at contesting or digital modes or chasing DX, or offer to provide a program for a club meeting? The ARRL is developing a new Mentoring program. Clubs and individuals will be recognized for their efforts and headquarters will provide extra mentoring information. Jeff, WA4AW our ACC and I will be visiting clubs later this year to sign up mentors and provide certificates to clubs and individual mentors. Are you and your club planning to get involved? Or

more involved? If you know anyone who is not currently an ARRL member bring him or her to a hamfest or club event that I am attending. For new ARRL members I can provide a free repeater directory, on the spot, with payment of their dues. Please e-mail (w4stb@arrl.org) with the number of licensed amateurs in your CERT group. Include the name of the group and the county or municipality it serves. Visit www.sflarrl.org for the latest information on local ARRL contacts, ARES information, local clubs to join, VE exams, etc. In a few days the news will be updated at www.arrl.org/sections/SFL.html with photos of new appointees, classified ads for volunteers, news from affiliated clubs in the section, licensing classes being offered in your area for interested family and friends, and much more. Jeff, WA4AW our technical Coordinator received reports from the following TSs: WB2QLP, N4GKI, KF4DQY, W4REN, KR4GQ, W4KPG, K2UGH & KF4KDO. ARES monthly report: 1848 members, an increase of 4. There were 6 counties reporting - ECs: N4LEM, N5KFR, WA4ASJ, KC4UCN, N3PYQ, and AD4RZ. There were 23 Nets, 12 with NTS liaison, 164 tests, drills and nets. The 75-meter and 2 meter SSB nets both had good participation this month with an average of 4 SFL ECs on frequency for each of the 75 meter nets. Good improvement. Emergency communications training continues to show steady progress. Classes, both on the air, and hybrid, are planned in several counties around the section. 73, Jim KD4GR, SEC SFL SAR, BPL, and PSHR REPORT - January 2004 SAR - WA9VND 456, KA4FZI 353, K4PG 159, KE4UOF 147, K4FQU 146, KD4GR 139, WA4EIC 83, AA4BN 62, KN4JN 50, KG4MLD 46, KG4MLC 40, WA2YL 38, KG4ILJ 33, AF4NR 29, KT4XK 27, KG4EQY 20, KG4CHW 19, W4WYR 17, KF4OMB 12, WY4F 7, W3JI 4 No BPL this month. PSHR - KE4UOF 140, K4FQU 125, KD4GR 125, KA4FZI 120, WA2YL 108, WA4EIC 100, KG4MLC 100, KG4MLD 100, AA4BN 92, KG4CHW 89, WY4F 14

Southwestern Division

Arizona

The complete article is lengthy because of the PIMA County antenna ordinance issue. Please see the ARRL Arizona Section Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/sections/AZ.html> for the full article. First I need to report that Arlene Ellis, WD6ASB, passed away this last month on the 27th. Arlene was the wife of Charles Ellis, W6PNM, who is very active in the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA) and is my District Emergency Coordinator for Mohave county. Arlene was very supportive of amateur radio in the Kingman area and throughout the state. They opened their home to me on various occasions when I needed a place to stay while visiting the clubs and Hamfest in Northwest Arizona. Many people within our amateur radio community will miss Arlene. As was reported last month, PIMA County is in the process of revising the amateur radio tower regulation. Bill Jordan K7KI, Ken Hirschberg, K6HPX, and myself, Clifford Hauser, KD6XH, have been part of the civilian committee and have been trying to fight this issue. If this ordinance passes, amateur radio emergency communications within PIMA County will be heavily curtailed. On February 25th, the county planning and zoning board will meet at 201 N. Stone Ave. to propose that the county supervisors approve the ordinance. There

are two (2)-unresolved issues in this proposed ordinance. The amateur radio members say a minimum height of 75 feet with a minimum of two (2) towers per property is required for adequate communications. The homeowners association (Gates Pass residence) contends that a maximum of 34 feet and only one (1) tower per property is acceptable. As you can see, 34 feet is unacceptable even for VHF/UHF operation. One (1) tower per property will not even allow a person to install a dipole antenna. I have attached a copy of my cover to all amateur radio operators and the proposed ordinance change. It is on the ARRL Arizona Section Web page. Please review these documents and write your supervisor on why this should not pass. My position as your ARRL representative is that no change is necessary. The present ordinance has no history of safety violations or any other valid complaints except for this one (1) group of people who are part of a small portion of PIMA County. Why should the county supervisors impose such restrictions on the rest of the county because of a complaint about "An unsightly tower" in a small portion of the county. Due to the seriousness of this issue we are going to engage the services of a lawyer who is an extra class license holder and who is will to help us a minimal expense. As you know, lawyers are expensive and a fund has been set up for you to help us with the expense. You can send your donations to myself or PACE engineering on Prince Road. All money collected will be used for this purpose only. This is a political fight that will effect our ability to communicate with PIMA County, the state of Arizona, the United States of America, and the world. Once in place, any ordinance is hard to remove. The Arizona State Hamfest, normally located at Fort Tuthill in Flagstaff, is now going to be at the Williams, Arizona Rodeo Grounds, and the date will be the first weekend in July the 2nd through the 4th. The RV part is located next door to the ground and has full hook-ups and there are several motels close by (Fairfield, Holiday Inn, etc). The 2004 ARRL Southwestern Convention that will take place at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort located near Chandler on 27-29 august 2004. The Central Arizona DX Club is putting on this event and they do everything first class. The convention web site is "www.hamradio2004.com/swdc2004". The next Hamfest will be at the at the Scottsdale Community College on the 13th of March. The Cochise Amateur Radio Association will hold its Hamfest on 01 May 2004 in Sierra Vista, and Kachina ARC will have its Hamfest on 5-6 June 2004 in Show Low. The State Hamfest in Williams on the 2-4 July 2004.

West Gulf Division

Oklahoma

Greetings OK Section: The Emergency Communication seminar is this Saturday February 21. Location is the Salvation Army Citadel, 2808 SE 44th in Oklahoma City. Come if you can and attend all or part. If possible send an email or call. But the main thing is to come join in the activity. Thanks to the Salvation Army and the OKC Autopatch Association for their host and support. Presenters will be Dan Miller-K3UFG (CT) and Andrew McGregor-N7XQY(CO). Section traffic report by Arlyn Seidel- KK5GY: Public Service Honor Roll: Tom -N5IKN, Arlyn -KK5GY, Sam -W5CU and O.C.-WA5OUV. Station Activity Reports: Arley-WB5NKD

1422, Pat-WB5NKD 553, Arlyn-KK5GY, 406, O.C.-WA5OUV 139, Cecil-KI5LQ 137, Tom-N5IKN 132, and Sam-W5CU 84. The following from Tom Webb-WA9AFM, OK Assistant Manager: The 4th Annual Oklahoma City Marathon will be held on 25 April, 2004. This event stands as a living memorial to those who lost their lives in the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building. Over 330 Amateur Radio operators worked the better part of two weeks straight providing communications for rescue /recovery operations. Amateur Radio operators are also deeply involved with the Marathon, providing public safety communications throughout the 26 mile course around Oklahoma City. If you would like to volunteer to assist in this event, contact Tom at his email of tmwebb@cox.net for further information. This is truly a run to remember! The Bartlesville ARC new club officers are: Al-N5XPX, Bob-W5RAB, Pat-KE5S and Duane-KF5B. They hold the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Speaking of Bartlesville, Washington County emergency manager Kary-KC5YCB has recently taught bio-terrorism and incident command classes and will soon teach a CERT class. The Tulsa Repeater Organization (TRO) and the Tulsa ARC are vibrant groups providing opportunities for public service and fellowship. TRO will be having their next club meeting on Tuesday Feb 24. The program will feature a discussion on Homeland Security and Terrorism. The Tulsa ARC will have their next Saturday morning gathering on February 28 at 8 am. It will be held at the Red Basket Restaurant on 41st just east of Hwy 169. Jerry-K5YAA wants to get the word out on the 2004 OK QSO Party (OKQP). The event is sponsored by the OK DX Association. It will be held on March 13 from 0800 to 2000 CST and on March 14 from 0800 till 1400 CST. Rules, operating categories, and awards can be viewed on the OKDXA web site at www.okdxa.org Thanks all who put on a great Ada Hamfest this past weekend. Had a great time and enjoyed the beautiful snow that day in Pontotoc County. About 30 Section members attended the League forum. Discussed were the exciting activities of clubs in Ada, Ardmore and Choctaw. Captain Daniel, President of the Ada ARC advised of the neat public service being provided by his club. Kevin-N0IRW, of the SOARES group in Ardmore, shared the excitement of his club. Their effort in licensing classes continues in a very positive manner. And, their rapport with local served agencies is paying huge dividends in benefit to the club. Thanks to Kevin for composing a made for television public service announcement promoting licensing classes. The League forum attendees recognized Zachary-KE5AAL for his becoming licensed at the youthful, but in his instance mature age of 11. Great job Zachary! Upcoming Hamfests: March 6-Elk City Hamfest. Contact n5new@dobsonteleco.com March 19-20 Green Country Hamfest-State Convention in Claremore Contact info@greencountryhamfest.org 73, John-WB5SYT 405 844 1800