

Section News for February 2004

Atlantic Division

Northern New York

Winter Carnival here in Saranac Lake was quite a success this year as was the W2C Special Event Station which was worked out of the American Red Cross in Saranac Lake. We want to thank all the Amateur Radio Operators that helped make this years Events so successful. Also, W2WIZ and KB2E who organized and set up a great station for us all to work. If you haven't sent in your SASE for QSL card please do so soon as you will receive a great W2C QSL Card with the 2004 Ice Castle on it really pretty color card. Nice wallpaper for the shack! Hope to see all of you at the NNYARA Hamfest this fall again for the Fall Classic! Those of you who were there last year remember the beautiful color and please pencil us in on your calendar for Oct. 9th 2004 cul Tom - KF2GC NNY-SM.

Southern New Jersey

Southern New Jersey Section News for March 2004 Jean Priestley, KA2YKN, SM for SNJ
Three years ago a small group of volunteers went onboard the Battleship New Jersey for the first time. In the following months, thousands of volunteers filed aboard to do everything from put the radio rooms back together to scraping paint. Because of thousands of hours of love and dedication given to the Battleship New Jersey, it became the fine museum she is today. It is time to say a big thanks to all the volunteers and especially those who volunteer in the radio room doing whatever it takes to keep the equipment and all that goes into making the NJ2BB SHACK and radio rooms what they are today. There are also many who work behinds the scenes that we never physically see but they have made a great difference. But lets remember that you don't just do a project like this and sit back and pat yourself on the back. Our people know this and are in it for the long haul. We also need to salute the docents who come aboard 7 days a week to guide the people who have come aboard the ship and enjoyed the tour. Many return for more visits. There is always something new to see. We hear that soon the anchor windless room will be ready and open. (No opening date yet) I was honored this week to watch a few of the brass polishers (the unsung heroes) at work. To get more information about joining BNJARS, go to WWW.NJ2BB.ORG and have some fun cruising. For those looking to work, Dave Burgess has planned many new projects. The Radio room is done but your talents are needed for other types of jobs. You can contact him at WA2TVS@arrl.net and he will answer all questions. Congratulations go out to two of Gloucester County ARC's finest on their years of membership in the ARRL. Ken Newman, N2CQ, received a beautiful tile plaque for 50 years and Dave Strout; W2YC received a very nice certificate for 40 years. Dave is close to his 50-year mark. Each also received a nice pin. If you are a member of Gloucester County ARC or any of the other fine clubs and would like me to check your status, please let me know. Certificates are

received for 25 and 40 years and a plaque is awarded for 50 and 60 years. If you think you may have 70 years, also let me know. To see pictures of Ken and Dave receiving their awards, go to the SNJ section manager's page on the ARRL website. Also check out the articles the ARRL has posted to keep you informed about the BPL and many other issues. On a sad note, John V. Conover, K2JOT has become a silent key. Also Al Widner, N5FOB from Brigantine is a silent key now. Al worked at the FAA Center. Many counties are preparing for their local March of Dimes WALKAMERICA. We are organizing radio operators in Camden County and I would ask that as many as possible check with your local county. I know that there are walks in most of the 9 counties. If you want to walk in the event, walk with you HT and let your coordinator know. There will also be other walks during the spring and summer months and even into the fall but more on that later. Southern New Jersey traffic report QNI reports NJM 66 N2GJ NJPN 202 W2CC NJSN 175 K2PB NJN(E) 144 AG2R NJN(L) 158 AG2R above nets dual nets of both SNJ an NNJ Liaisons with 2RN JSARS 265 KC2JBZ SJTN 53 KB2RTZ SJVN 319 WB2UVB SJVN training net QNI 2 WB2UVB Late report for January JSARS QNI 327 INDIVIDUAL SAR.WA2CUW 151 K2UL 88 AA2SV 61 WB2UVB 53 KC2IYC 25 W2QOB 21 KB2RTZ 20 WA2NDA 13 N2VQA 9 AB2LF 2 KA2YKN 2 N2ZMI 1 Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) WB2UVB 120 K2UL 120 WA2CUW 90 N2HQL 80 W2QOB 76 KC2IYC 75 KB2RTZ 70 WA2NDA 65 N2VQA 58 KA2YKN 54 AB2LF 20

Central Division

Illinois

The ham station at Bradley Bourbonnais High School is a fully functioning reality! Jim, K9BIG, has been introducing his science students to the world of amateur radio. The students are anxiously awaiting their turn to talk to the space station. Jim even convinced another teacher to be come licensed. Thanks go out to Howard, AK9F, and Ken, W9YNI for their help in making the ham station a reality. KC9DEP has revived the Marquette University Ham Club. Jamie met with some of the engineering faculty at Marquette and they are assembling the long-time dormant Radio Amateurs of Marquette University (MU RAMS) after a 6 or 7 year sabbatical. KC9DEP, the president, has been charged with the duties of designing membership materials, organizing meetings and recruiting new members, and so forth. According to the faculty at MU there is a big battle getting the "closet hams" to come out. They have already discussed having a GOTA station at the school's next organization fair and some other activities to get some people interested. Good job Jamie, and good luck with your club. Congratulations to the Kankakee Area Radio Society. This club has been officially designated as an ARRL Special Service Club. Through the work of its members, this club is recognized for its continued efforts on behalf of amateur radio and its services to their community. Congratulations are also extended to the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs and to the Rockford Amateur Radio Association for renewing their SSC commitments. The Central Illinois Radio Club of Bloomington announced officers for 2004. They are: President, Larry Mays, KB9NPH; Vice President, Jerry Comer, KB9ZDY; Secretary, Earla Shaffer, N9VXY; Treasurer, Jim Shaffer, WB9UWA. Their

meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Red Cross building in Bloomington. The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club will celebrate its 85th birthday this year. Originally chartered as the Peoria Radio Club in May of 1919, it has grown and merged with other clubs over the years. Weather activity in the central Illinois area has kept the nets alive with Allison Gillespie, N9ZBE, working as net control for Tazwell County with Jim Williams, N9HHU. Dave Pearsall, KA9YSE, runs the Sunday night net on 146.850 with 92 check-ins during February and an average of 18 participants each night. Steve Craig, WD9CIR, manages the Peoria City weather net on Tuesday evenings. A total of 15 hams met at the NWS office in Romeoville on Monday March 8th to discuss plans for the up-coming severe weather season. When you see a storm training class in your area, be sure to attend if at all possible. On Saturday March 20th there will be a class in Rockford at the Rockford Airport beginning at 8 A.M. This class is going to be expanded a bit over what it has been in the past. On March 16 there will be a class at Illinois Valley Community College, Room 316, in Oglesby. This class begins at 7 P.M. For further information call the LaSalle Co. EMA. Also on March 23, is the Whiteside County weather spotter course at Odell Public Library, 307 S. Madison, Morrison. Upcoming hamfests are Sterling Rock Falls on March 14 and the North Shore Radio Club Hamfest on March 28 at the Lake County Fairgrounds. February traffic: WB9TVD-36; KA9MZJ-15; WA9APQ-2 W9VEY Memorial Net report is 6 pieces of traffic and 187 check-ins. ISN REPORT FOR February, QNI- 149, QTC 46 sessions 29.

Indiana

Condolances to the Family and Friends of these amateurs who became a Silent Key during February: Gary Reece WB9UYT of Fort Wayne, Feb 16; Charles Cook W9TDU of Fort Wayne, Feb 21; Granville Foster KB9JJD of Richmond, Feb 29. They will be missed. From David Pifer N9YNF, Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator: Thanks to all the reporting stations this month. I believe this is a record turn out on reports. A number of SKYWARN spotter classes have already happened in the state. Check with your local NWS office to see when the next is available near you. Indiana's Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 14-20, 2004. A series of Test Watches and Warnings will be issued on Wednesday March 17, unless there is real threatening weather. Then, they will be rescheduled for the following day. As before, there are 2 events scheduled for that day. Each will begin with a Watch issued at or near the designated time, and a Warning issued shortly afterwards. The first event will be about 2:00pm until 2:30pm and the second event from 7:00pm to 7:30pm. This allows schools to test their systems and for families to check out their home preparedness. All SKYWARN groups are encouraged to participate. For the full story, go to: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ind/svrwx2004.pdf>. An exercise designed by the ARMY and the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) of an earthquake centered on the New Madrid (pronounced Mad-Rid) fault. The over-all exercise is to test how all states involved, TN, MS, AR, IL, IN, KY, MO, and AL will respond to the event. The CUSEC in conjunction with the TN Section has requested a preliminary test net to be run March 21, at 2:00pm CST on or about 3980 KHz and/or 7238 KHz. They are requesting SECs, DECs, and ECs, MARS members and others who are able to participate to please check into this

net. The net is tentatively slated to run 1 hour. It appears that this will be primarily a "Table-top" type of exercise beginning on Saturday March 20, and continuing on until March 23. It will be a good time to check in with your local Emergency Management Office. While this would probably be effecting the Southwest region of the Indiana Section, it is a good preparedness exercise for everyone involved. Check out: <http://www.cusec.org/> Several new forms have been placed on the INARRL.ORG website. Neither of these forms are meant as replacements, but are convenience tools available through the power of the Internet to help gather information. Both forms are very simple in design, and if you see any thing that needs improvement, let me know. The first form is FSD-98 for ARES station registration. Right now, it collects data and sends it to me based on which county is registered. I forward it to the appropriate EC/DEC. The URL for the FSD-98 is presently available only below. Once perfected, it will be a regular link on the website. http://www.inarrl.org/inares_fsd98.html . The second form is FSD-212 for EC/DEC reports. This, as with the other form, is a convenience tool for reporting. If the EC or DEC already has a template they are using, either electronically or the physical cards, or using NTS to send the reports, that is perfectly fine. The URL for the FSD-212 is presently available only below. Once perfected, it will also be a regular link on the INARRL website: http://www.inarrl.org/inares_fsd212.html. One final note on the website, the EC and DEC appointments are now listed for each area with the Name and Callsign of the appointee. You can look it up at: http://www.inarrl.org/inares_index.html. Thanks again to all the EC's, DEC's, and other stations reporting this month. As always, please give me your feedback with anything you find on the INARRL.ORG/ARES pages, and general comments on the Section ARES operation are always welcome, too. I always operate on the premise: " I can't fix it if I don't know it is broke." 73, David L. Pifer - N9YNF, Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator, n9ynf@arrl.net
FEBRUARY Section Net Activity: NET/FREQ/DAILY TIMES (UTC) QNI/QTC/QTR/SESS:
ITN/3910 KHZ 1330/2130 2092 124 1106 55; QIN 3656 KHZ 1430/0000 241 116 961 57;
ARES 3910 KHZ 4TH SUN/MO @1300 15 0 20 1; HOOSIER VHF NETS 9 REPORTING 474
15 633 37; HOOSIER DIGITAL NETS (2) 23 4 ?? 58; FEBRUARY ORS Traffic Reports:
K9PUI 166, K9GBR 96, KB9TUI 61, WA9JWL 52, AB9AA 11, WB9NCE 6. FEBRUARY
Public Service Honor Roll Reports: WA9JWL 110.

Wisconsin

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG. BWN 3985 0500-0715 W9IXG. BEN 3985 1200
KE9VU. WSNB 3985 1715-1800 K9FHI. WNN 3723 1800 KB9ROB. WSSN 3645 1830
WA9ZTY. WIN-E 3662 1900 WB9ICH. WIN-L 3662 2200 W9UW. (All times are Central) **
With regret, I am informing you of the following Silent Keys: Alberta Fowler, KA9EFS, 78.
Alberta was an active member of Pinery Road ARC and Adams County ARES. Herschel
Haunfelder, W9VTZ, 84, passed away. ** A recent M&M ARC Sunday net had Mike Anuta,
W8HKY, age 103, and Tyler Lehman, KC9FKE, age 10, on the same net! That might qualify as
a record for widest age spread on one net! ** The Ozaukee Radio Club 'Ham of the Year' award
went to a very deserving Gary Sharbuno, WI9M! Congratulations, Gary! ** A reminder that the
WIQP is coming up on March 14- noon to 7 p.m., Central time. Rules and entry sheets will be

available at the WARAC site: <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm> ** Hope to see you at the Tri-County ARC hamfest on March 21! Details are given at <http://www.cmdline.com/tcarc/>. And, don't forget the AES Superfest April 2, 3. Meet Dick Isely, W9GIG, Central Division Director and other ARRL dignitaries coming in from Newington.

<http://www.aesham.com/superfest/sf.html> On Friday (April 2nd) from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. there will be a special two-hour forum and fully operational demonstration on the Icom D-STAR System by Matthew F. Yellen, KB7TSE - Icom Technical Sales Specialist - D-STAR. The D-STAR system is an off the shelf, 128K open protocol DATA system that combines the analog and digital worlds into a seamless communications network at 1.2 and 10 GHz! Just picture being in your vehicle, helping with emergency communications with the 128K DATA - you can visually communicate what is happening simply by e-mailing a photo or live video. Local area clubs should get as many of their membership to AES on Friday night to help fill up the expanded forum area. As an incentive, there will be a \$100 AES Gift Certificate presented to the Club with the largest contingent. Icom is bringing their new IC-7800 HF/50MHz transceiver to Superfest. It's your chance to see this phenomenal new radio in operation. Stop by the ARRL table! ** Congratulations to Daniel, W9DGI, for measuring the ARRL test frequency in the 2003 W1AW Frequency Measuring Test to within +/- 1 ppm! Also, kudos to George, WN8VIX, for being within +/- 10 ppm and Frederick, W9GOC, to within +/- 20 ppm. Full results are posted on this site: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/2003/fmtresults03.html> ** The Four Lakes ARC is planning on having a HF and Echolink station at the Madison Swapfest

<http://www.qsl.net/mara/swap04/swap04.html> on April 18. To entice youngsters to attend and make contacts, N9VWH has generously given 24 free tickets to area students! We'd like to thank Paul, N9VWH, and MARA for their contribution and hope that other clubs will consider putting on similar demonstrations! ** From STM, Denny, K9LGU: FAQ # 22 How does a net control station count traffic on the net? When a piece of traffic is offered on a net, it is counted as "listed." When that message is sent, it is counted as one piece cleared. The total of those cleared are sent to the net manager. If the total of pieces offered is included, the NM can determine a bit about the efficiency of the net. If a message must be relayed, it is counted twice – just as if it is listed again and cleared. When the NCS sends a net report to the Net Manager at the end of a net, that message counts as one listed and one cleared. If a station checks in with a book of 5 messages going "thru," it counts as five offered – even though the texts are identical. When those messages are sent, it counts as 5 passed. If all five had to be relayed, they'd be counted again. We count the activity on a net to measure its effectiveness even though there are a number of variables that should be considered when we look at a net's statistics – conditions, liaison to other nets, time of day, mode, urgency of traffic, and locations of those checking in. It's good to know that traffic is being passed efficiently, so we get the training we need. We count because folks are counting on us. – 73, K9LGU/ STM ** Keep me posted on your club and area news!! 73, Don, W9IXG w9ixg@arrl.org

Dakota Division

North Dakota

NORTH DAKOTA: SM, Kent Olson, KAØLDG -A lot has happened since my last column. I made it out to the Bismarck hamfest a couple of weeks ago and had a real good time. It was fun to chat with folks from the rest of the state. Yesterday the weather didn't stop a lot of folks from attending the Fargo hamfest either. Lots of hams from all over were present and having a good time buying, selling, and chewing the rag. It was great to see you all, and see all the radio gear for sale (not just old computer junk). If you missed my ARRL Forum, I talked about the new League license proposal, BPL, and current events. Please get involved in the BPL fight by writing your Congressman, and making your comments to the FCC, as the NPRM is out. Congratulations to Jody Krufft, KCØHIG, who takes over as the new president of the Red River Radio Amateurs in Fargo. 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 Feb: Goose River Net, 5/66/0; WX Net 29/868/9; Data Net 29/450/16.

South Dakota

Hamfest 2005 is now underway. We have folks for the prize committee and people working on forums and speakers. The date we have chosen is April 16th it is away from contests and other fests in the area, later in the spring as to have a much better chance at good weather. If you want to be part of the planning or have ideas or suggestions - please email me at n0pv@arrl.org and I will see that you get all the updates. MORE GOOD PRESS: On Tuesday March 16th SDPB is airing the Best of Dakota Life. The Amateur Radio was selected to be a part of that airing. The show will begin at 7:00PM CT and will include 6 of the best segments this season! I thought you might be interested in knowing. Well looks like the FCC is going to move forward on the PBL issue and it is being rolled out in Cincinnati, OH so we will watch this with great interest. Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site. Mobridge: The Mobridge Area ARC is planning a special event station in October for the Lewis & Clark celebration in Mobridge. LARK: Every Saturday (Except Holidays) Members, guests, friends, and any interested persons are invited to Hy-Vee on HWY 212 in Watertown at 9:30am for a casual gathering. Huron: Election of officers was held and the following officers were elected for 2004: President, Bill, KM0F; Vice-president, Sam, N00TB; Secretary/Treasurer, Lloyd, WB0ULX and Activities Manager, Chuck, WA0NHJ. Weather Spotter Training April 29, 2003 at 7:00PM Public Service Building on Market Road, Huron, SD. 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. It was a learning experience for all and was held preparatory to help all prepare for the exercise planned for May 22nd. Hughes County has purchased an enclosed van type trailer for PARC. The intent is to outfit the trailer with a crank up tower and the necessary radio equipment to be used during any emergency or for field day activities. Prairie Dogs: PDARC was asked by the Boy Scouts to assist in communications support during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in conjunction with a large Boy Scout event at the same place. Please contact one of the PD members for further information on this. Yankton Meetings will continue to be at the UCC in Yankton. Members and friends of the Prairie Dog Amateur Radio Club get together some Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. for breakfast/coffee at Yankton's Fryn' Pan restaurant for

fellowship and to prepare for various club projects. 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. The program for April will be APRS (Automatic Position and Reporting System) and everyone is invited to stop in for this. The SEARC Technician Licensing Class finished up Saturday with 12 new technicians and an upgrade to Extra at the test session that afternoon. Congrats to all and please make sure that you invite the new hams to the clubs and events! Black Hills AREA: At the January 2004 the NHARC held election of officers, Jerry Hawley, KGØGG was elected President and John Burch was elected Secretary/Treasurer. 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. We are pleased to report that the Black Hills ARC has been officially renewed as a Special Service Club.

Delta Division

Arkansas

I enjoyed seeing everyone at the Russellville Hamfest. There are several more coming up soon: Nashville: March 27th, www.southarkie.com/swapfest.htm Fort Smith: April 3 www.HangingJudgeHamfest.com Little Rock: April 23 and 24 www.aristotle.net/~hamfest Hams in the Russellville and Hot Springs areas recently participated in WMD exercises. Public service agencies, hospitals, and the National Guard were involved. Hams were commended by agencies involved and helped fill gaps in communications. Voice, packet, and ATV were used. Some of those participating were K5NRC, N5UNM, W5RZ, N5HX, N2WV, KB5TNZ, W5VUB, KA5TTG, KC5AHO, WD5CVG, WA5LUY, W5LVB, WA5VRQ, WB5BTZ, AB5N, N5DSJ, KD5LEE, AC5WG, N5XFU, KD5RQN, KC5MYL, and N5XFW. KD5RTQ of the University of Arkansas club gave a presentation about amateur radio for a group of middle school students who were at the University for a day of science and technology experiences called "University Day." KB5IRC is a teacher at Bismarck Middle School and his application for a Big Project grant has been submitted. We hope this will result in a grant from the ARRL for equipment for a school club station. At the Fort Smith club meeting, I enjoyed a presentation by W5SJ about his DX-pedition to Fernando de Noronha, where he used the call PR0F. Captain Swyer of the Salvation Army gave the February program for the Cross County Amateur Radio Club. The ARKAN club enjoyed a program on PSK31 presented by K1ARK. Congratulations to the ARKAN club - their application to be a Special Service Club has been approved. At the OWS club meeting, Jim Haynes gave a program on a book called "Signor Marconi's Magic Box". The ARVARF club is helping in the Russellville railroad depot restoration. The club will help obtain vintage telegraphy equipment and help with demonstrations. The subject for discussion on the February Section Net was the proposed license structure. Although there is some opposition, most feel the FCC is determined to have a code-free HF license, and we should make the most of it and try to recruit and help new hams as much as possible. WB5VUH, our

PIC, has been busy. He spoke about ham radio at the NCTR/Pine Bluff Arsenal and also at the Kiwanis club. Be sure and check into the Worked-All-Arkansas Net every Saturday at 7:00 p.m. on 3987.5 Khz. The net was scheduled to operate only during the winter months, but popular demand resulted in the net continuing on past March 30. Jason, KB3ICC, recently graduated from the Lions World Services for the Blind in Little Rock. The LWSB has a new amateur radio club, in partnership with the UALR club. Jason is the founder and current president of the club. Plans are to have a station set up on the LWSB campus soon. Technician classes are currently ongoing at the school. February Net Reports: Arkansas Mockingbird Net - QNI 525, Traffic 12. Razorback Net - QNI 2016, Traffic 132. OZK - QNI 98, Traffic 6. February Traffic: AB5AU 75, W9YCE 40, K7ZQR 33, K5BOC 31, WB5HIL 15, KB5ILY 8. Public Service Honor Roll: KB5ILY 168.

Louisiana

LOUISIANA SECTION NEWS – FEBRUARY 2004 New club officers for the Jefferson ARC are AC5TM, President; W5KB, Vice President; W5AFD, Secretary; and W5RMX, Treasurer. Officers for the Baton Rouge ARC are WA5IMF, President; KD5KNZ, Vice President; KD5UDB, Secretary; and K5VMI, Treasurer. The 2004 officers for the Twin City Ham Club are KC5LFB, President; KB5YEN, Vice President; and W5WZ, Secretary/Treasurer. It's not too early for clubs and ARES groups to be planning for Field Day! The rules and entry packets for FD 2004 are now available at www.arrl.org/contests/forms/ There are no changes in the rules from last year. Local ARES groups should remember that participating in FD this year as a class F station will be worth 10 points toward the new LA Section ARES Award. Our 2004 FD Awards Program will follow the same rules as last year. Clubs operating as either 1A or 2A entries are considered "small" clubs for the purpose of this awards program. The ARRL-affiliated club in the 1A or 2A class having the highest average score per transmitter will be recognized as the top small club; similarly, the affiliated club in the 3A or above class with the highest average score per transmitter will win the plaque as the top large club. A club's average score per transmitter will be found by dividing the club's total score (including all bonus points) by the number of transmitters as determined by the category (1A, 4A, etc.). AD5AQ (Lincoln Parish EC) reports that the 444.875 MHz repeater in Ruston now has EchoLink. The West Central LA ARC in Leesville also has recently added EchoLink to its club repeater on 145.310 MHz. The upcoming BRARC Hamfest on April 30 and May 1 will be the sixty-seventh annual fest sponsored by the Baton Rouge ARC! In addition to being the section's oldest hamfest, this year's BRARC Hamfest is the 2004 LA State ARRL Convention. Among the many activities planned is a special forum on traffic handling by NF5B, the Central Area Net Manager for Cycles 1 and 2. Anyone interested in emergency communications, particularly those ARES members who have little or no experience in sending and receiving formal messages, will enjoy Richard's forum very much. I am sorry to report that W5VUY and KD5SZN are now Silent Keys. Traffic totals: K5MC 430 (BPL), W4DLZ 172, AC5VN 108, K5DPG 96, W5NK 65, NF5B 57, N5KWB 30, W5PY 8, WB5LBR 2. Public Service Honor Roll: K5DPG 120, AC5VN 119, NF5B 110, K5MC 110, W4DLZ 90, N5KWB 90, W5PY 83, W5NK 80, K5ER 64,

KB5UHH 28, WB5LBR 12. Section net reports: sessions/check-ins/messages handled. Louisiana Traffic Net: 29/438/171. Louisiana CW Net: 29/178/125. Louisiana ARES Net: 5/87/1. Local/district net reports: sessions/check-ins/messages handled. Ouachita Parish ARES Net: 4/92/1. Northeast LA ARES Net: 4/38/0. 73, Mickey Cox K5MC LA Section Manager Email: k5mc@arrl.org LA Section Website: www.laarrl.org

Mississippi

Mississippi SM: Malcolm Keown, W5XX. Section Web Page: www.arrlmiss.org. Web Master: w5kwb@arrl.net. ASM: NN5AF, W5KWB, W5EPW; ACC: N5JGK, SGL: AB5WF, STM: AD5IS. Mississippi had its first known QSO Party since 1965 on the February 28. Since the 1965 event the other 49 states have had QSO Parties. K5MAT in Albuquerque collects QSO Party Certificates and found a way to “motivate” the Vicksburg ARC into sponsoring the 2004 QSO Party. Initial reports indicate that the QSO Party was a real success. Everybody seemed to have a lot of fun. Out of state reports indicates that they had never heard so many Mississippi Stations on the air at one time. Special thanks to the following clubs and individuals that went to rare counties to “spice up” the QSO Party: K5MDX (MDXA), NO5W, W5WMU, N5QLZ, AB5WF, KM5WN, KD5FUY, W5PFR, K5GVR, AD5LH, K5VVA, W5BJM, and W5XX. Plenty of “war stories” resulted from these operations. More wrap up comments next month. Remember logs need to be in by April 27. The Tupelo ARC was on the air again ... the WTVA air that is. Club President, KD5NSP, and Red Cross Communications Officer, KJ5JR, were interviewed for 30 minutes without commercial interruption on the Saturday afternoon “Focus” Program. Bobby and Ron had an opportunity to discuss how to get into ham radio, emergency communications training, operations, and equipment, assistance to the Red Cross, and participation in Skywarn. The third annual Vicksburg Mardi Gras parade was held on Saturday Feb. 21st. The Vicksburg ARC provided communications for the lineup and monitoring of the parade’s progress and for the safety of the participants and visitors. Approximately 45 floats and groups of individuals participated in the parade with some 8000 visitors lining the parade route. The parade organizers were very complimentary of the VARC's participation and are looking forward to VARC help next year. The following VARC members helped with this event: KJ5RC, KC5DOC, K5NRK, K5VXV, KD5WYJ, W5WAF, KC5QZW, KD5WCR, KD5WCT, KD5ZIP, and N5JGK. Lowndes County ARC Chief Instructor K5VVA reports 11 new technicians as the result of the just completed class. And on a related topic, AC5SU, Chief VE Tester at the Jackson Hamfest, reports 14 new Technicians, five upgrades to General, and one to Extra. Ben commends KK5EQ and W5BJM for their able assistance in conducting this exam. At a recent Jackson ARC Meeting Metro EC AC5SU presented ARRL Emergency Communications Commendation Certificates to the following: KD5HDZ, KD5JPB, KD5KHI, KD5QQF, AB5WF, KB5HAV, N5XXX, W5AUB, KD5KXJ, W5GEJ, KD5QQF, and KM5GE. These presentations were made in recognition of 2003 Skywarn and Red Cross communications support operations. Welcome to the following new Mississippi Hams: KD5ZER, David - Moselle; KD5ZIO, David - Vicksburg; KD5ZIP, Chris - Vicksburg; KD5ZIQ, Gerald - Brandon; KD5ZJI, Roger - Southaven; KD5ZJZ, Taylor - Starkville; KD5ZKS, Dusty -

Natchez; KD5ZLJ, Thomas - Hattiesburg; KD5ZLNQ, Charles - Gulfport; KD5ZSM, Charles - Gulfport; KD5ZXX, Randy - Richland; KD5ZXL, Harold - Natchez; KD5ZTN, Cecilia - Corinth; KD5ZYW - George, Pachuta; KE5ADZ, Jared - Stonewall; and Josh, KE5AFC -Petal. Welcome to W5KWB as Asst. SM, W4HOZ as EC for George County, AE5RM as EC for Stone County, and K5RWB as PIO for the Jackson area. Regret to report the passing of Joe, K5IKB, in Amory. PIO Report: W5KWB. DEC/EC Reports: NN5AF, WB5CON, KD5GWM, AC5SU, KU5W, WA5TMC, W4WLF, N5ZNT. Net Reports: Sessions/QNI/QTC: MS Section Phone Net 29/3526/97; MS Traffic Net 29/150/52; Magnolia Section Phone Net 29/1291/5; Pine Belt Repeater Assc 29/716/5; Jackson Co EN 29/254/8; MS Slow Net 20/70/2; West Coastal MS ARES 8/54/0; Meridian Area EN 6/83/0; Metro Jackson ARES 5/60/0; MS-LA EN 5/68/1; Hattiesburg Area EN 5/63/0; MS Baptist Hams Net 5/78/1; Itawamba Co ARES 4/66/2; SW MS ARES 4/64/3; Monroe Co ARES 4/37/1; Tishomingo Co ARES 4/14/0; NE MS ARES 4/53/0; South Central WX Net 4/36/0; Jackson ARC EN 3/60/0; PSHR: WB5ZED 130, AD5IS 105, W5XX 73. Traffic: WB5ZED (BPL) 2638, AD5IS 142, KM5WN 25, W5LEW 9, W5XX 5. Compilation of traffic statistics provided by AD5IS, Mississippi STM

Great Lakes Division

Michigan

3-12-04 Words of congratulations go out this month to Ray DeVlieg KB8VNI our Michigan SEC who received the appointment as RACES Radio Officer from the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division in early March. This welcome news keeps our valuable ARES/RACES program fully integrated. This single- organization concept, implemented in the state several years ago by then SEC WB8BGY, eliminates duplicate effort, improves our personnel resource base and elevates the quality of service to our served agencies. Congratulations continue as we recognize the service of Hal Venie N8MFY for his untiring efforts in conjunction with MICON, the amateur radio network serving the National Weather Service Office in White Lake, MI. Hal has maintained the statistics, done the event coordination and filing, filed the annual report, and never missed filing the monthly FSD 212 Report in ELEVEN years! For this work, to supporting applause of those at the spring MICON Meeting, Hal was presented with the ARRL Michigan Section Certificate of Merit. There is more: The Great Lakes Emergency and Traffic Net presented their first annual Gold Key Award to Harold "Joe" Southward of Ingersoll, Ontario VE3SCY. Joe is a former NM and is presently a traffic handler extraordinaire. This will become an annual event following the revitalization of the award, first presented to GLETN founder Casey Cole K8BMU in 1973. Our thanks to Ray KB8ZYY for locating the original plaque and compiling the history of the award. We'll get that GLETN history posted soon. There is still more: We received reports from every ARES/RACES district for the month of February. HOT DAWG! This is outstanding. Our efforts are showing rapid improvement in the quality of our database and we should see similar changes to our other targeted goals. Our sincere thanks to every EC and DEC who contributes to this effort. More yet: The Michigan NTS continues to exhibit their traditional mastery of the world of traffic

handling, as they contribute so much in dollar value to the citizens of Michigan. This month's contribution is listed in the STM's portion of the Michigan Section's Web Page and deserves a close look by everyone. This state network of networks is doing a wonderful job and by the way, if your local net is not affiliated, now is the time to contact STM Joe Turner K8CQF and become part of this program. You are doing the work, by all means you should collect the credit. Wow, a lot of words of recognition for outstanding accomplishments, but isn't this what it is all about? 73, Dale January Traffic Totals: KB8ZYY 348, N8EIZ 319, VE3SCY 231, K8LJG 211, K8AE 203, WR8F 154, WD8USA 120, AA8SN 65, WB8RCR 53, W8RNQ 53, KC8TLJ 45, K8FE 31, K8UPE 29, K8AMR 27, N8UN 18, WA8EFK 12, WB8YPG 9, K8YB 8, NX8S 6, KC8MLD 5. Delayed Feb. Report: K8KHZ 32.

Hudson Division

Northern New Jersey

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

www.hudson.arrl.org/nnj Congratulations to Andy Furlong, WA2FGK who was nominated as Teacher of The Year at Watchung Hills Regional High School. Andy, along with others, will be feted by the State later this year. The ARRL Web Page had a great article on Andy and how he has used amateur radio as part of his industrial education/technology classes. Keep up the good work Andy! The Garden State ARA is helping to reactivate K2USA, the Fort Monmouth MARS station and is looking for volunteers to help with various projects such as the station antennas. Also needed are helpers who have knowledge of the Collins gear still in use. Since passes are required to get on the base please contact WN2DX if you would like to lend a hand. K2USA, during the Cold War era and Vietnam, was one of the premier MARS stations in the country handling phone patch traffic for our service personnel. It's nice to see an effort being made to keep it on the air. During February I was able to visit the Nutley ARS and learn about its many activities including its partnership with the local Red Cross chapter. This is another example of providing a positive image of the amateur service and what it can do. Clubs have always been the life blood of amateur radio and are as important in ever in educating new hams as well as being a local focus point for trained emergency communicators. The job of partnering with local agencies often leads to a better understanding of what amateur radio operators are capable of and can dispel preconceived notions of amateurs as volunteers. Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF held a Hudson Division Cabinet meeting earlier in the month. Aside from updating club officers on ARRL happenings a part of the meeting is devoted to what clubs throughout the Division are doing. The exchanges and ensuing discussions are an education in themselves. Meeting notices are sent out to every affiliated club so, there's no reason to miss a good learning experience! Speaking of news, if you have not done so, sign yourself up to receive section and division e-mails. This is easily done by going to your membership data page when logging on to the ARRL web page. Just follow the menu items and check off the appropriate boxes. As an example, I've used the Section Manager E-mail capability to send notices of special events,

public service operations and Skywarn training classes. Finally, as I've said in the past please make use of our Section Web Page. N2WZB has put many good links up and it's the place to post your club activities. 73, Bill Hudzik, W2UDT

Midwest Division

Kansas

Kansas Section News Summary-February 2004 SM, Ron Cowan, KB0DTI-- SEC/OOC: Robert Summers, K0BXF ASM: Orlan Cook, W0OYH PIC: Scott Slocum, KC0DYA SGL: Steve Hamilton, KB0JYL Silent Keys: WBØYEN-Chub, Earl Radenz, Topeka. KCØEOJ-Jack Drenik, Pittsburg. Allen Heck-KCØCFL received Air Capitol Amateur Award. Created by Wichita ARC years ago to honor members that have made outstanding contributions to the club and Amateur Radio. Allen is an EC, secretary of WARC and President of Air Capitol/ Tec-Ni-Chat ARC and a member of Kansas Sideband Net He also puts together the Grounded Grid Newsletter. Mine Creek ARC's Winterfest was well attended even with the large snow that fell days before. The Colby gang continues to work with APRS for WX gathering. KG5QD, KØFJ and NØQE are working with servers and gateways that can put info out on a local APRS frequency. ACØJ-Jeff recently worked TG9NX in Guatemala on 6 meters from Colby. WAØCBW-Bill Brinker presented a 2 part program on station/house grounding for Johnson Co. RAC. I read in the Shawnee Mission Medical Center ARC newsletter that Barry Roseman WØLHK, Stillwell, has Worked All States on the new 60 meter band. Independence ARC has a fox hunt planned for March 27th. KBØRWI has taken on the task of coordinating the 30+ Hams needed for the Kansas Sampler Festival to be held in Newton the first weekend in May. If you can help out please contact Kent. There is Packet activity in Miami County. Several stations are on the air and the node is Paola on 145.05 for the time being. Ottawa club is doing major overhaul on their 30 year old repeater. Their finding out some of the parts are not available. KE0WI and N0ETR are doing the heavy lifting on the project. 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. 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. Bob K0BXF SEC. Our state convention will be August 15th at Salina. Storm season is here so please be prepared with back-up power and an extra antenna in case your main antenna is a casualty. Stay in contact with K0BXF or Me when you have emergency communications taking place. And Please keep Bob and Joseph updated on your groups activities by reporting your nets and activities to them. January Sessions/QNI/QTC/Mgr: KSBN/31/1124 /106/N0KFS KPN/22/245/22/N0KFS KMWN/31/624/524/WB0YWZ KWN/31/1023 /784/WB0YWZ CSTN/27/2606/107/ AB5PA QKS/60/334/184/K0PY QKS-SS

7/22/3 KB0DTI TEN: 62 sessions, QTC 423, KS 87 % with WA0LYK K0PY AB0WR
W0WWR NB0Z & WB0ZNY . Dave W0SS/Mgr. (CW Net) Traffic: AB0WR 711 WA0LYK
441 W0WWR 147 NB0Z 107 KI0BK 37 KB0DTI 27 AB0UY 20 W0ME 15 W0OYH 11
KC0MRJ 9 N0ZIZ 8 N0ENO 5 KC0HHO 5 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

MARCH 2004 MO SECTION NEWS The State Emergency Communications Agency's Crisis Communications Conference was excellent this year. There was a large contingent of Amateur Radio operators at the conference. The program on the Missouri Emergency Packet Network (MEPN) by Don Moore, KMØR, Roger Volk, KØGOB, and George Schindler, WBØIIS was very interesting. The plan is to build a series of 6 meter nodes to form a backbone across the entire State of Missouri. The 6meter backbone would be accessed via 2 meter nodes located in all areas of the state. HOUSE BILL 822 HEARING Section Manager Dale Bagley, KØKY and Section Traffic Manager Dale Huffington, AEØS testified before the Communications, Energy and Technology Committee of the Missouri House of Representatives on February 24, 2004. John Baremore, KCØCRO attended the hearing and spoke with Rep. Luetkenmeyer before the Hearing. HB 822 would put into MO Statutes the language of the FCC Preemptive language of PRB-1. The Bill has been introduced by Blaine Luetkemeyer 115 District Representative and has several co-sponsors including Harold Selby, KAØWXX, the only Amateur Radio Operator in the House of Representatives. The Committee in general was receptive to the bill and after a few questions testimony ended. On March 9, 2004 the committee voted do pass consent. So far so good. CONVENTIONS AND HAMFESTS There will not be any Hamfests during the month of March, but on April 9th and 10th, you can attend the Joplin Hamfest. An additional attraction at this year's Joplin Hamfest is the OzarkCon QRP Convention. To take part in the OzarkCon QRP Convention that will be held at the Ramada Inn in Joplin, check out the information on their website <http://www.ozarkcon.com>. You might want to also look at the JARC website <http://joplin-arc.org> for more info on the Hamfest. AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS KEITH HAYE, WEØG, ACC Eighteen St.Charles Radio Club members assisted in providing communications for an exciting Road Rally held near Salem, MO. Mike McCann, WDØGSY, helped organize the effort and wrote an interesting account of the event in the St. Charles Radio Club newsletter. The operation helped each of the Amateurs participating to improve their ability to communicate under pretty harsh conditions, handle traffic and check out their equipment for the upcoming storm season. Steve Schmitz, WØSJS, of the St. Louis Suburban Radio Club reports that their 30th annual Tornado drill will be held on March 16, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. on the 146.94 repeater. The SLSRC gave its final "Spirit of Suburban" award to Joe, KØBX. Joe is an outstanding Amateur Radio operator and a great asset to any organization. It is interesting to note that Joe's first radio contact was with WBØCEU, for which the award was named. There will be a new SLSRC award named for Win, KBØKK (SK). 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> Total # of ARES members: 819 Change since last month: +65 Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month: 123 Man hours: 607.6 Number of public service events this month: 6 Man hours: 16 Number of emergency operations this month: 0 Man hours: 0 Total number of ARES operations this month: 129 Total Man hours: 655.6 Comments: 8 of 9 districts reporting this time. SECTION TRAFFIC REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2004 DALE HUFFINGTON, AEØS, STM MON - CW Sessions 18 QNI 26 QTC 12 NM K9ZTV MO Phone Sessions 29 QNI 561 QTC 72 NM KØDAT MESN Sessions 5 QNI 175 QTC 1 NM NØXG 10th Reg Sessions 58 MO 24% with K9ZTV QTC 500 NM WØSS

New England Division

Connecticut

Come to the ECARA Flea Market Saturday, March 20 at the Pomfret Community School at the cross roads of Rte 101 and Rte 169, in Pomfret Connecticut. This is their annual money raiser for ARES/SKYWARN and Club activities. It is a small but really good flea market for Ham and Electronics. NOT MUCH JUNK, BUT LOTS OF GOOD STUFF. Your Section Manager will be attending a meeting on that same day of the flea market. The meeting organized by director K1KI and vice director K1TWF will involve our SGL K1MK along with several ops from Vermont to discuss ways in which this Section might proceed in drafting a PRB-1 bill. Stay tuned for more details as we make progress because I am sure we will be calling on you for help. Check out the newly-organized CT ARES Web Page <http://www.ctares.org> organized by SEC allen, W1AGP. I think you will like the layout and find needed information easily. Once again, it's time to think about volunteering to help out with the CPTV annual family science expo April 1 through 4 at the CT EXPO CENTER (off -I-91), Hartford. Children, parents, students & teachers will again be thrilled by live science-oriented entertainment and captivated by hands-on activities, finding out that science is just plain fun! HAM RADIO WILL AGAIN BE THERE ! An ad hoc committee of radio hams from NARL has again seized the chance to participate. We will get major help from NARL, ARRL & from YOU, we hope. WE URGENTLY NEED HELP FROM ALL CLUBS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM TEACHERS, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND KIDS! THIS IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO MAKE A GOOD SHOWING FOR HAM RADIO. The CPTV's theme of this 14th science fair is SCIENCE: MAKING LIFE EASIER IN THE 21ST CENTURY. One of our goals will be to publicize & get recruits for Ham Radio Classes being run by clubs throughout CT. Open TO THE PUBLIC Sat. & Sun., April 3 & 4, ADULT admission is \$5, children \$4 Special marking is on booths suitable for younger children. PARKING IS FREE Advance reservations are FREE to school groups Thu. & Fri.. Activity Guides of follow-up classroom activities are given to 450 teachers attending. PLEASE COME HELP IN THIS WORTHY PROJECT! EXHIBITS April 1 & 2 (Thu & Fri 9AM- 4PM) Also April 3 and 4 (Sat & Sun 10 AM -4PM) Contact any one of the following people if interested: * Bob Stanwood, KB1EYZ@ARRL.net 860-242-2784 * Dan Miller, K3UFG@ARRL.net 860-206-3379 * Al Cohen, W1FXQ@ARRL.net 860-667-2864 For More Info click <http://www.cpbi.org/EducExpo.asp> At the February meeting of CARA, Club

President Frank Etzler and other club officers recognized Pete, KZ1Z, for his many years of service to ham radio and to CARA, and particularly for his work on behalf of amateur radio education. The award included a framed certificate of appreciation and a presentation-grade CW paddle engraved "KZ1Z 73 de CARA". Don't miss the SARA Flea Market in Southington April 25-the CT ARES annual meeting will take place at 11:00 a.m. so mark your calendars now! And NARL is planning a weekend ham fest this year in June so watch for more details to come!

Eastern Massachusetts

THE NEEDHAM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) held an open house at the town emergency shelter recently. RACES operators were present to discuss and demonstrate ham radio communications to the public. KB1JNJ WINS IN COMPETITION: Alan Costa, KB1JNJ finished with top honors at the annual Diman Regional Vocational Tech High School Trades Fair show. His winning project was an operational APRS station. KB1JNJ is a senior at Diman and is also vice president of the Bristol County RA. THE POLICE AMATEUR RADIO TEAM OF WESTFORD has been officially renewed as a Special Service Club. "Through the work of its members, the club is recognized for its continued efforts on behalf of Amateur Radio and services to its community," wrote ARRL's Linda Mullally, KB1HSV in the renewal letter. Extraordinary clubs like PART actively pursue all aspects of Amateur Radio: new ham development and training; public relations; emergency communications; school club support; technical advancement; operating activities, etc. SPRING IS ARRIVING (albeit slowly!) to New England and Eastern Massachusetts, and with it—Amateur Radio public service events! Various activities in future require your support, ranging from the Run of the Charles, the March of Dimes Walkathon, the Walk for Hunger, and the BAA Marathon, to name just a few. You'll find the latest NE Public Service list at <http://ema.arrl.org> or at <http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>. NORTHEASTERN U.: HOW COPY? W1EUJ reports that repairs have been made to the Northeastern Univ. Wireless Club's 2-meter repeater, W1KBN on 145.31 (123.0 Hz). Dave would like to hear signal reports, via wireless@ece.neu.edu. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP: The EMA ARES staff will conduct an emergency communications workshop on April 3, 2004 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in Hingham. "This Emergency Communications Workshop will provide the background and information to serve Amateur Radio Operators when they need to respond to a communications emergency," commented Mark Duff, KB1EKN, Boston Metro District Emergency Coordinator. The training will consist of five 1-hour training sessions on topics including: Overview of Eastern Massachusetts ARES-RACES-SKYWARN Programs, Basic Overview of ICS, Net Operations, NTS Traffic Message Handling, Go Kits, and Interactive Exercises on Field Operations. Additional details and directions can be found at <http://ares.ema.arrl.org/article.php?sid=174>. WBZ TALK SHOW FEATURING HAM RADIO: In an earlier bulletin we reported that Bill McIninch, Jr., KA1MOM had arranged for an appearance on a late-night WBZ talk show to discuss ham radio. There's finally a scheduled date. According to McIninch, "I will be going to the studio at 23:45 on Friday, April 16 and should be on the air by about 00:30. How long I'm there depends on how long the subject stays

interesting." KA1MOM will have ARRL literature as well as all the handouts he's created. He'll also have show-and-tell items, including a VX-150, a twin lead J-pole, and an 80M PSK-31 'warbler.' KA1MOM adds, "There's plenty of lead time, so I'm open to suggestions." You can contact Bill at ka1mom@aol.com. NEW SURVEY, QUIZ AND COMMENTARY: I'd like to invite all EMA ARRL Amateurs to visit our section web site at <http://ema.arrl.org> and participate in the latest survey, "The biggest threat to Amateur Radio is. . ." You'll find the survey at the upper right-hand corner of the page. Below the survey is a new quiz designed to test your knowledge of the League's new license restructuring proposal. It's a fun exercise that let's you view the results and compare your score with others. Finally, your SM has written an editorial, "Adapting Testing Techniques for the Disabled" for your thoughtful consideration. 73, K9HI

Rhode Island

Greetings Fellow RI Amateurs, Is spring here yet? Golly, it must be. I'm so tired of cold weather and all that comes with it! Those two years I spent in Texas spoiled me, I guess. Well, it won't be long. We'll be complaining about the heat pretty soon. The recent ARRL proposal to the FCC concerning elimination of Morse code from all but Extra class exams hasn't yet been assigned an NPRM number. Once it has received one, your comments will be solicited and from all I've heard, there are plenty of opinions out there. Now, this isn't the time to hold back and let someone else do it. Nor is it the best practice to sign a petition at your club with 20-30 names on it. Comments are much more effective when filed individually. There will be simple instructions provided to help you file your comments, whether they are pro or con. I'll be happy to help anyone who wishes assistance in filing comments, whatever they are. I only ask that they are well thought out and written in good business format. I've heard several of our RI Amateurs telling friends on the air that "it's a done deal" and "it's already the law." THAT IS NOT TRUE! A Notice of Proposed Rule Making or NPRM is exactly what it says. It is proposed! There are many NPRM's that never become enacted, certainly not in its original form. THAT'S WHY YOUR COMMENTS ARE SO IMPORTANT. Give the FCC your thoughts why the proposal should be adopted, modified, rejected, or some combination of actions. Be sure to write logically, quoting facts and not unsupportable "hear-say". In an attempt to increase club attendance, I'm resorting to incentives. As Bill WA1RI announced, he and/or I will drop in entirely unannounced on one of your club meetings in the next few months. No, that isn't an incentive to bring in members but a little incentive might. Bill or I will bring a brand new 8th Edition ARRL Operating Manual and hold a drawing of all members present to determine who will take it home. This \$25 book is filled from cover to cover with loads of reference material on modern operating from FM to DX, Contesting to Emergency Comm, Satellites to Awards. Whether a new ham or an old timer like me, you'll learn plenty from reading this book. Don't miss your next few club meetings. It may be worth \$25 to you. The CERT program is continuing with increased steam. Chief Instructor and CERT Elmer, Bill Ewan W1VH is currently teaching his third group of CERT recruits into becoming Technician class Amateurs. This class is taking place in Pawtucket. We've gained more than a dozen new hams from the

first two sessions in Bristol and Tiverton. After Pawtucket, more classes will be conducted, eventually in each of RI's 39 cities and towns. The program will be expanding soon and Bill will be seeking some help. If any of you are skilled in instructing Technician level material (no code) and care to lend a hand, please contact me and I'll ask Bill to fill you in and see if we can work something out. The program may need three or four instructors to carry it forward this year and next. It's a lot of work but the rewards can be great. Attention clubs: These new CERT hams are all potential club members. Each VE team will be offering club and ARRL information at the time of their exams. We still have no active ARES program. But the special e mail messages I sent out recently on the Official Observer and Technical Coordinator/Specialist services available were successful in recruiting one new OO and two new Technical Coordinators. Thank you so very sincerely for offering your help. Attend your club meetings. Bill or I will be seeing you soon. At the meetings, we'll provide an over view of the latest status of the codeless HF proposal as well as the latest on Broadcast over Power Lines. I assure you that we will welcome open and candid discussion. Some of you are preparing to attend Dayton Hamvention. Have a great time! Remember, this is an even numbered year so the Boxboro NE Division Convention will take place in August. See you there. 73, Bob Beaudet W1YRC Section Manager

Vermont

Greetings Vermont Radio Amateurs: This has been a busy month for me and my Section Cabinet with various ham Radio projects. The biggest of which is our PRB-1 Legislation known as Vermont House Bill H.602. Dave Cain W1DEC our State Government Liaison (SGL) has been hard at work behind the scenes trying to get this Legislation passed. Here is an update from Dave: "Our proposed Statute, H-602 presently lies in the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee. It was first Heard by that Committee at a Public Hearing in early February. Over this past weekend, the Vice Chair of the Committee informed me that the Committee would like to schedule a second Hearing in the very near future, as they need additional information prior to taking action on the Bill. She also said that the Committee very much wants to take action on the Bill soon. This is very positive news. So, there is still a chance that the Bill could be referred to the full House for action during the current session. We are very encouraged by this new activity and hopeful that the Bill will precede. I will continue to report the progress of H-602 as it develops." Meanwhile, Carl Phillips KC1WH our Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) has been hard at work with Bob Brown W4YFJ developing "The Vermont ARES Communication Plan". Bob is the District Emergency Coordinator for District One. You can see a breakdown of the Vermont Districts by going to the ARRL Vermont Web Page. Once finalized, this plan will provide a basis for training and call out procedures for Vermont Hams in times of emergency. Carl has also been working with Matt Atwood WE1H to develop a Vermont ARES web page. The web page will have a calendar of events, club meeting dates, net schedules, and other important information available for the Vermont Radio Amateur! The new official Vermont ARES web site is www.vtares.org. Please check it often as new information is being added to it weekly. I notice the currently, it is under construction. Matt is our Assistant Section Manager (ASM). The Vermont City Marathon is the largest Ham Radio Event in the State, and one of the

biggest in New England. The event takes place on Sunday, May 30, 2004. The organizer for the past 15 years is Carl KC1WH. Carl is once again looking for communicators to staff the race. Hams are needed for a variety of positions, the most common of which is a rest stop. Hams interested in helping with this event are to contact Carl at KC1WH@arrl.net as soon as possible. He will need about 50 Hams for the event, and that is a very tall order for him to fill. Bert Morton W1DFU our Section Traffic Manager (STM) has taken on an additional role as Net Manager for the popular Vermont New Hampshire Net. I want to personally thank Bert for stepping into this important role. Net schedules can be seen on the ARRL Vermont web page. The Northern Vermont Winter Hamfest was held on Saturday, February 28th. From all accounts, it was a great success. I got to see a lot of you there. Thanks to all of you that helped support it.

FEBRUARY NET REPORTS Submitted by Bert Morton W1DFU

NAME/SESSIONS/QNI/QTC/MINUTES/MGR VPEN 5/36/1/187 KC1YW GMN

24/599/18/1787 N1HXC VTNH 29/126/92/376 WA1JVV KWN 19/112/0/438 (Kingdom

Weather Net) KB1HWB Bennington County ARES 24/?/1/50 N1SP CVAN (Central Vt. ARES NET) 4/29/4/130 WA1LIE

Western Massachusetts

Received a complimentary copy of World Radio. It looks like there will be a number of dxpeditions next month that will be active from various exotic places all over the world. It should be interesting now that our bands are beginning to show improvement. I went to the MARA meeting and was greeted like a long lost brother. We're well on the way to an active Field Day. Gordon, N1MGO, our digital 'garu' and also a club member, entertained us with a program on contesting. Right in line with FD. One of the logging software programs he presented was the freeware 'N1MM Logger'. I've downloaded it and it does just about everything you would want to keep your log even if you are not into contesting. Put your browser on www.n1mm.com and be amazed at the documentation. If you don't like something the op code is available for modification and customization. No programs that I have run into offer that feature. Congratulations to Carolyn, N1SKM. She received her DXCC Certificate and has already sent out more cards for a potential endorsement. Put this down on your calendar, the radio room of the USS Massachusetts will be activated on May 31st at Battleship Cove in Fall River MA. Imagine, those rigs only operate CW. Do you remember that ancient mode of communication that managed us to communicate through a World War. No SSB, PSK31, Satellites, oh how did we ever manage. Sheree, K1SQ, is looking for operators. Don't worry, there is a SSB rig in the guest reception area for the non CW aficionados. Look for N1EPL. Interested, commit at kb1hgk@mindspring.com. Derek, N1HIO, a former member of Explorer Post 73, has returned from eight months in the desert of Iraq. Glad to have you back safe and sound! Job well done. Franny, W1SPG, received a letter from Dave, V73UX, and the home made underwater ATV camera managed to stay dry. He's going to put some of the photos on his web page. Now we will see what it looks like under water in the Marshall Islands. The BSA Venture Crew 510, sponsored by HCRA, will be operating in the CQWW WPX SSB contest on the 27th from K1TTT in Peru, Ma. Last year they took 3rd place USA working under the

multi/multi category. TRAFFIC: W1UD 389, WB1CHU 139, K1MTA 66, W1ZPB 96. As I promised, this is a three part series of the adventure of a fellow nobody would want to bring to FD.

Northwestern Division

Eastern Washington

WRITTEN MESSAGE TRAFFIC REPORT FOR FEBRUARY: W7GB 185, K7BFL 87, KA7EKL 66, KK7T 21, K7GXZ 15 Public Service Honor Roll: W7GB 110, K7GXZ 100, K7BFL 170. Total Traffic count: 374 NTS NET ACTIVITY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY: WA State Net (WSN): QNI, 867 Traffic, 218 Sessions, 87 Noontime Net: QNI, 11107 Traffic, 493 Sessions, 58 WA Amateur Radio Traffic System (WARTS): QNI 3448, Traffic 179, Sessions, 29. Hamfest season is well underway. I am looking forward to seeing old friends, and meeting new ones during the upcoming events. If you, or your group would like to get the information out for your event, please drop me a line, and I can look at posting it to our EWA webpage, and/or sending an email about it to the section. 73.. Mark J. Tharp KB7HDX

Montana

Attended a fine Hamfest in Stevensville, 2/21. Good attendance, but could have used some more gear to sell. Think we all waited for the "other guy" to bring the good stuff....HI. Next year, load the pickup! Emergency test in Billings 3/21-3/22. All amateurs welcome to join in the exercise. This will involve interaction with Yellowstone County EMS folks and a lengthy plan covering 24 hours or so. Starts at 1300 local, talk in freqs at 147.300 and 147.360. Hope to see you there. The Butte club is having their annual Installation Banquet at the War Bonnet Inn, Butte, MT on the 18th at 1900 hours. Attendees will order off the menu and there will be an installation of newly elected officers. Net participation: IMN/QNI-651, QTC-144 MTN/QNI 2427, QTC-70 MSN/190 73 Doug, K7YD

Oregon

Oregon SM: Randy Stimson KZ7T. SEC: KK7TT. SCC: W7WZ. ACC: K7SQ. STM: W7IZ. OOC: AB7OC. PIC: W6ABM= What is DMAT? It is Disaster Medical Assistance Team. These teams are all over the United States. When there is a disaster these teams are dispatched to the area. When Iran had the earth quake there were two DMAT teams sent from here to Iran. FEMA is the organization that trains these DMAT teams. FEMA had a training drill, called Fire and Ice in January on Mt Bachelor, in the ski parking lot. There were over 70 participants, Doctors, Nurses and other medical people. They came from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Northern California and Hawaii. They do this training in all different types of weather. Mt Bachelor was 9 to 12 degrees snowing and wind. They were housed in heated tents. We were invited to demonstrate ham radio. I heard that FEMA had taken the ham gear out of the cache, feeling that

it wasn't useable. We were asked to contact hospitals. Send a message and get an answer. On Saturday at 1400 Hours the officials, FEMA and Homeland Security from Washington DC, Homeland Security from the State of Washington and many other Medical officials came to our tent. We contacted, direct or by relay Oregon Health Science University in Portland, Shriners Hospital in Portland. Mercy Hospital in Roseburg, Three Rivers Hospital in Grants Pass, Bay Area Hospital in Coos Bay, Merle West Hospital in Klamath falls, Peace Harbor Hospital in Florence, St Charles in Bend and St Charles in Redmond. The officials couldn't believe that we could contact so many hospitals and get a return message. It was great to see all of the thumbs up, smiles from everyone. At the debriefing, FEMA said that they would reconsider having ham radio back in the cache. We did all of this on 40 Meters. We also made contacts on Packet, Pactor and 2 meter. We even had slow scan TV. Every thing was simplex Leighton K7AZW, David N2RSN, John W9CZ, Brian KK7BF, Dennis KD7KSW, Glen W7WVF, Elizabeth KK7VO, Bruce K7BHB, Phil K7FIL, Thomas K6TC and DeRel KB7WOR were the hams on relay and at the hospitals John KC7RHY, Bill N7RGB, Ron KD7AUW, Joe K7SQ, Dave N7TYO, Kevin NB7O, Michelle KD7IEP, Drew W7GER, Dave W7PDQ, Jim K9TKR, Ames N7NPD, Cindy KC7UJD and Jerry KB7INR. Wayne Jack KK7TT (SEC) was the organizer. Now for another MAT, ARES MAT is ARES Mutual Assistance Team. This MAT has been brewing for some time and became very evident last year during the Sister Fires. I believe they were called the B&B fires. The hams worked way too many hours without relief. They couldn't get enough hams over the long haul. I will give you a short version and there will be more next month For ARES purposes the State has 6 Districts. Each district has a number of counties. There will be 6 ARESMAT teams. There will be some qualifications that will have to be met to participate. There will be some training so that every one will be on the same page. That way if a ARESMAT team is called in they will able to take over. There will be much more information next month Bruce Bjerke, K7BHB has been appointed to make this operation work. He is the man that can do it. Next month if every ting is in place, I will have him write an article and I will put it in my report. There some changes in the ARES staff. Bruce Bjerke K7BHB was DEC for District #4 and now is State wide ARESMAT organizer. C.E "Bud" Smith N7BUD is the new DEC District #4. Jack Nelson W7JNX is new EC for Marion County. Chris Portal KD7BCV is the new EC for Polk County. Bill Morris W7IH is the new DEC for District #1. Bob Howard W5TFS has resigned because of illness and Rob Thornton KE7QP has agreed to take on the EC job for Lake County If you remember that contest sending radio grams well have the results. First place Washington County 240 Points, 2nd place Morrow County 221 points and 3rd place Columbia County 213 points The highest points for an individual Dennis KD7KSW with 221. The highest participation were three Counties, Klamath, Polk and Washington all with 6 participants District #1 had a Packet SET. It is 10 pages long so I can't give you any results. Here is what the objectives were. To provide practice in packet radio skills in a communications emergency. This specific SET is focused on developing familiarity with the tools needed to navigate the packet system Retrieving messages from a packet BBS Locating individual packet TNC mailboxes Navigating the packet network Retrieving and sending mail direct to individual TNC mailboxes Retrieving and sending mail via the store and forward BBS system Phil WA6ZLV, David KD7VLP, Don KK7TN, Herbert K4DBV, Ernie K7EAJ, John K7AAY have completed AREC-001 Bren W7EN and Claire N7CM have completed AREC-002

Congratulations to Dutch Nydam N7YB for becoming an Official Observer. Traffic; W7IZ 223, N7YSS 202, KS7O 182, W7RRC 166, N7CM 147, N7DRP 145, KC7SGM 95, KC7SRL 54, W7VSE 38, KK1A 24 and N7APE 13 PSHR; K7EAJ 178, KD5ONS 135, KK7TN 115, N7CM 110, N7YSS 110, N7DRP 100, KZ7T 92, KC7SGM 90, KL7OR 85, W7RRC 85, KK1A 84 and W7VSE 38

Western Washington

SEC K7CEX comments that March is going to be a good training month. Various teams are planning drills and the 2004 Communications Academy is March 20 and 21; What a great opportunity to learn and meet fellow Emergency Workers. The Clarke County ARES/RACES team leaders and/or assistants continue to meet regularly on the second Tuesday of each month for lunch. At their February meeting we chose a training committee to evaluate our training activities and to come up with a program to fulfill all our training. Don Unruh, NX7J, will head the committee. Four ARES members provided help with the classroom of Ron Wright, W7ERY, at Maple Grove Middle School as they participated in the 2004 School Roundup on the Air from February 9-13. They have a high background noise at the school on all bands below 15m, and given the difficult band conditions, they were happy to make the 53 contacts, 9 schools, and one club in all. 35 students made their first amateur radio call, and 17 made their first qso during this contest. The highlight contact had to be when K3FBI answered our CQ from the FBI school in Quantico Virginia. District 4 DEC Randy, NU7D announces that Cowlitz County will have an all Agency mock search on March 13. Feb. 18 – Randy NU7D and Ray NB7Y attended a Weapons of Mass Destruction workshop, and reports that the training was very good with a great tabletop exercise at the end. District 3 DEC Ken, K7TAG reports that On February 13, the Lewis County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) requested activation of the Lewis County ARES group to provide communication for Centralia Providence Hospital which suffered an interruption of their telephone service. On Saturday, February 28, Thurston County ARES provided demonstrations and Communications support for a Neighborhood Preparedness Meeting at the EOC. As a result one of the attending County Commissioners was so impressed that she brought the subject up at the next commission meeting. District 1 DEC John, KJ7SI reports that Snohomish County is in process of formalizing MOU's between Snohomish County ARES and American Red Cross Chapter. Also between Snohomish County ARES and major medical facilities in the county (Providence and Everett Clinics) The Skagit County team is now preparing to attend classes in basic first aid and other required training. Drills are being coordinated and scheduled by EC/RO N7IPB, WB7WOW and W6NIM. February Western Washington Traffic Report provided by STM Bill W7ARC. NET QNI QTC SESSION Net Manger Call NOON TIME NET 11107 493 58 W7TVA WARTS 3340 179 29 KJ7SI WSN 867 218 87 W7QM WCN 250 49 29 K7WCN CCARES 115 0 4 ND7P NWSSB 571 35 29 N7YMY OARS 4 0 4 N7EIE PSTS 26 0 26 KA7TTY FEB. TOTALS 16280 974 266

Pacific Division

East Bay

March Section News ASM: KE6QJV, K6HEW, K6USW; SEC: KO6JR; STM: W6DOB; STC: K6USW; ACC: KG6ATH, Congratulations New Hams: Michael Schuler, KG6TXY; Romy Barrera, KG6TYA; Dinah Cordova, KG6TWA; Richard Fusek, KG6TTU; George Saba, KG6TVC; Stephanie Long, KG6TWE; Daniel Long, KG6TWD; Stephen Maher, KG6TXX; Ruben Zelwer, KG6UAK; Jordon Hayes, KG6UAE. Silverado ARC had a number of members turn out to provide logistic and safety support for the Napa Valley Marathon. SBARA The February edition of the SBARA GroundPlane had a very well written article entitled "Antennas-A rule of thumb for Beginners" Look on their web page for it. <http://www.qsl.net/sbara/>. Red Oak Victory ARC held their February meeting outside on the deck port side next to # 4 hold, a historic first for the club. The Club continues to upgrade the ROV radio room. They promise that after the next work party there will be a pizza feast. The ROV ARC web page is <http://www.qsl.net/redoakarc/>. Mt Diablo ARC The speaker for February was Steve Overacker, WA6HAM, who talked about improvements in the county communications system. Steve gave a great illustrated presentation explaining the past, present, and future of the county system. Thank you, Steve, for a great presentation. Pete Harris is busy arranging service events for 2004. Our first scheduled event is the Primavera Bike Ride on April 18th in Sunol. Livermore Amateur Radio Klub announced upcoming events they are going to support Cinderella Bicycle Classic Saturday, March 27, 2004. Greenbelt Alliance - Bay Area Bike Tour Tuesday, April 20, 2004. Devil Mountain Double Century Saturday, April 24, 2004. Wente Brute Road Race Saturday, April 24, 2004 March of Dimes - Walk America Saturday, April 24, 2004 North Bay Area ARA sadly reports that Paul Waxman, W6CLI became a SK February 26th. Paul was active in the NBARA for many years and had served as one of the past Vice Presidents of the Association. Alameda County Sheriff's Comm Team will provide logistic and safety communications support for the March of Dimes -Walk America April 24th . February 2004 Traffic (National Traffic System): Joe Lee, W6DOB-Org/2, Rec/138, Sent/320, Del/47, Total 507 Chuck Bridges, AK6DV-Org/0, Rec/617, Sent/498, Del/8 Total 1123 Steve Hawes, WB6UZX - Org/2 Rec/60, Sent/29, Del/20 Total 111 Gary Gross, KE6QR - Org/0, Rec/8, Sent/1, Del/8 Total 17 Brass Pounders League (BPL): W6DOB, AK6DV PSHR Steve Hawes, WB6UZX :1/26 2/40 3/10 4/10 Total 86 Traffic Nets: NCN1: 3630 7PM NCN2-SLOW SESSION: 3705 9PM NCN-VHF: 145.21 7:30PM RN6: 3655 7:45pm & 9:30PM PAN: 3651 7052 8:30PM. Your check-ins are always welcome.

Nevada

Greetings to everyone in the Nevada Section! February is another typically slow month for a lot of us as a lot of us work to dig out from winter's peak! Also a lot of New Year planning meetings that will bear fruit in the months to come. This year's expanded two-day emergency communications symposium EMCOMMWEST 2004 is being combined with the Reno Spring Ham Swap for a full weekend May 22-23. A half-dozen northern clubs are all pulling together under the coordination of Frank Nance W6MN to make EMCOMMWEST 2004 a very

successful regional event. Check <http://www.emcommwest.org> for on-line registration and the latest information. Section Traffic Manager Matt Parker N7TOD reports that congratulations are in order for the Western Nevada Noon Net, which reached a new milestone of 30 check-ins for a single day on Saturday, February 28. The statistics for this net also show an average of 17.5 check-ins per day, a healthy amount for a local area mid-day net. Matt sends a "Job Well Done" to Net Manager Doug Abramson KA7FOO . The Carson Valley Radio Club (CVRC) inaugurated their new Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) connection on their Carson Valley 147.270(+) repeater system. IRLP users can bring up Node 3875 at any time to work into the Carson Valley. Thanks to Section Technical Coordinator Kent Johnson W7AOR and Bob Evans N6YMA for making this possible. The annual National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) conference will be held in Las Vegas the week of April 12-16 and ARRL will have a booth right in the thick of things near the main entrance. In addition to ARRL President Jim Haney W5JBP and ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio W6RGG , I will be spending a few days meeting and visiting with as many of you as I can. Southern District Emergency Coordinator Glenn Hale KB7REO reports that effort continues on putting together a Section-wide SKYWARN net on the Echolink conference node NV-GATE. Participants use either the IRLP Western Reflector Channel 7 (9257) or the Echolink conference node NV-GATE (152566). They are looking to have a weekly SKYWARN net on Wednesday nights at 1900 local time. The Sierra Intermountain Emergency Radio Association (SIERA) has recently implemented an e-mail reflector to help distribute information to SIERA members and others within the amateur community. According to SIERA President Dick Young KD7JMR , the credit and thanks for the reflector go to Terry Philbin KG0DU . I have just heard that Lee Welsh KI7EY, husband of previous Nevada Section Manager Jan Welsh NK7N, is seriously ill. Please keep Lee and Jan in your thoughts and prayers. For a current list of all ARRL Nevada Section Field Appointments, you can always check <http://www.pdarrrl.org/nevsec/officers.html>. Please send me your concerns, opinions, questions and newsletters. Until next month, 73, Dick K7VC Nevada Section Manager

Sacramento Valley

The FCC has decided to go with the Broadband over the Power Lines. Check on the League's web pages to see when and how you can send comments to the FCC on this possible noise making system. It also has been shown that a ham antenna with a few watts can disrupt the broadband internet signal on the power line. The ARRL needs more funds to fight this proposal. Several clubs have donated funds to this cause. As of yet the FCC has not made any comments on the ARRL's license structure proposal, but keep your eye out for information on this at www.arrl.org. If you have pro or con comments on this proposal, send them to the Division Director, Bob Vallio, W6RGG at w6rgg@arrl.org. SILENT KEYS: Two long-time members of the Amador County ARC have become SKs. Betty Haley, KC6MFH was an active member of the club and was at times the President of the club. Dr. Macey "Ted" Casebeer, AD6RB, was active in the MARS program as well as on the ham bands. His previous call was KR6EO, North Hills RC's member Curt Tillman, KG6MNM passed away on 27th of January. They will all be

missed. We need some younger people to become hams! CQP: Northern Calif. Contest Club has announced that the Mother Lode DX/Contest Club has again won the CQP club competition with three times the number of points as the closest competitor. They have been urging other clubs to give them more competition. So – on the first full weekend of October get your club organized and give them a run for their money. SM: During February I was able to visit the following club meetings. River City ARCS in North Highlands, Nevada County ARC in Grass Valley, El Dorado ARC in Placerville and Mother Lode DXCC in Martell. In March I will attend the Amador County ARC's annual Dinner in Jackson. In April I will be at the Mt. Shasta RC, in Mt. Shasta. In between those date I will visit other clubs. There are about 25 clubs in the section to visit. NORTH HILLS RC: The Annual Hamswap will be held on Sunday May 16 at the Bella Vista High School in Fair Oaks, on Madison Ave. The club has been sponsoring a hamswap for many years and has a good turn-out each year. It is the largest swap in the Sacramento area. Lots of good stuff as well as many "Boat Anchors" for sale or swap, and as always food and drink. At their April meeting (20th) they will hold a "Bring a Friend" night. They will demonstrate several modes and systems used by ham and hope to have many visitors and maybe sign up some for license classes. GOLDEN EMPIRE ARS: The club meeting times have been changed to 6:30-7 pm eyeball QSOs, 7-8 pm Program, 8-8:15 pm Drawing and refreshments, 8:15-9 pm Business meeting. The GEARS VEC test session produced 3 new Techs, KG6TSM, KG6TSN and KG6TSO. WB6VWS upgraded to General class. The next VE test will be Sunday April 4 at the Butte County Library. Call Gene, WA6ZRT, 530-345-3515 for more info. ARC of ANDERSON: The club holds VE exams on the second Saturday of each month at the VFW Hall in Anderson. Time is 8 AM. Contact Mac, W6MAC, at 530-244-6456 for more info. The club has been looking for a new meeting place as they are very restricted in time at the VFW Hall. Good meeting places, and reasonable in cost, are hard to find. The days of free meeting halls has long passed us by. FIELD DAY: Many of the clubs have picked out a FD chairman and a site to hold it at. It is never too early to plan and get organized for the event. This can be the one big Family outing of the year. The ARRL has a FD packet with all of the necessary forms and information. FD is more than a weekend outing for operation, but is a chance to check out your gear for the possible emergency that may happen one of these days. So be prepared. FD is always the 4th full weekend in June – so mark your calendars. MISC: Thanks to all those that sent me emails or bent my ear on the licensing proposal. I am glad that so many of you show interest in what is going on in the amateur world! 73, Jettie Hill, W6RFF

San Joaquin Valley

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTION Report for the month of February 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. Emergency Coordinators are needed in Mono and Calaveras Counties. Contact K6IN (k6in@mercednet.com) or W6DPD (w6dpd@arrl.org) if you can help. The 2004 Fresno Hamfest will also be the San Joaquin Valley Section Convention. The dates are April 30 to May 2. - The ARRL will offer a free Amateur Radio Emergency Communications seminar on Friday,

April 30, in conjunction with the San Joaquin Valley Section Convention in CA. The seminar will not include the Level I course itself. This program is designed to explain in greater detail the duties of all Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course participants and how their volunteer efforts are essential to the ARES Field Organization. This seminar will explain the importance of every team player with emphasis on using lessons learned to effectively move Amateur Radio emergency communications to the next level." All ARES/RACES volunteers, ARECC course participants, and Field Organization leadership are invited. Course participants at every ARECC level -- Mentors, Certification Instructors, Certification Examiners and current students -- will be encouraged to come and share with everyone their experiences with the ARECC Program. Field Organization Leadership -- SMs, SECs, DECs and ECs -- are also invited to join in the brainstorming with ideas for motivating volunteers and coordinating activities. We will focus on coordination between ARECC volunteers and students, and their integration into the Field Organization, helping us to provide the community impact stressed by CNCS for year 2. Attendees will receive handouts and be eligible for a prize drawing at the end of the seminar. The seminar will be held at the Ramada Inn University, (Shaw/Fwy 41), Fresno, CA from 1:00 to 5:00 PM on Friday, April 30 and is open to all interested hams. Seating may be limited. Contact Dan Miller, K3UFG, k3ufg@arrl.org , (860-594-0340; FAX 860-594-0259) at ARRL HQ if you plan to attend. For more information on the SJV Section Convention, visit the sponsoring organization web site at <http://www.qsl.net/w6to/ota.html>. You can download the registration form from the web page. There will be a technical program on Saturday, and the Hamfest luncheon is at 11:45 AM. The Hamfest/Convention will be held at the Ramada Inn University as Shaw and 41 in Fresno. QSL cards for DXCC, WAS, VUCC, and WAZ may be checked on Saturday. Have all forms completed and bring the award fees, check or credit card. Amateur Exams will be given on Sunday May 2 at 1:00 P.M. Check at the ARRL Booth for information on the exams. The International DX Convention will be April 23-25, 2004 at the Holiday Inn at Visalia. Check sdcxc.org/visalia2004 for information. EMCOMM West 2004 will be May 22-23, 2004 in Reno NV. Check www.emcomwest.org for schedules and 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. If your club would like news of their activities and events listed here, please send the information to your SM, w6dpd@arrl.org. K6IXA returned to the U.S. after a 2+ year adventure on the high seas. Congrats to K6VZT on completing ARECC Level One course and to KC5LUB on completing ARECC Level Three course. The following Radio Amateurs became Silent Keys in February: N6GPA, KD6HPS (ex WB6TDW), and KD6TY (ex WB6KHR). Tulare County ARC officers for 2004 are pres W6SLT, VP N6YMM, sec KF6PCV, and treas WB6MUD. The club meets the fourth Thursday in Visalia. Stanislaus ARA 2004 officers are pres W6UHF, vp KF6NPG, sec KD6YUO, and treas KC6TVE. The club meets the third Tuesday in Modesto. The Fresno Chapter 213 of the QCWA has now formed in Fresno. The meetings are the fourth Tuesday as Noon at Carrow's Restaurant on Blackstone Ave in Fresno. All QCWA members are welcome to attend the meetings. Officers are pres W6PSQ, vp W6YDE, s/t W6DPD, and directors W6RUJ and K6XJ. The Sierra ARC provided communications for the 20 mule team horse ride in the desert around Ridgecrest. W6VPS has a FT 8800. Traffic for February was Zero. PSHR K6RAU 62.

Roanoke Division

South Carolina

Greetings to all Amateur Radio Operators. This is Dr. Jim, N2ZZ with the March 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!***Good news for South Carolina! One of our own, Roger Gregory W4RWG from Union, has become President of the South Eastern Repeater Association (SERA). SERA is the largest Amateur Radio Repeater coordinating body in the United States. Roger, congratulations!***Interested in public service events? There is an organization for you! SCARS is an organization dedicated to working public service events. Kevin Wilhide KE4ALL from Lexington is your contact, and you can e-mail him at ke4all@earthlink.net or call him at (803)951-3154.***For those of you in Chapter 89 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), you know that I currently hold the office of 1st Vice President. For those hams that have been licensed 25 years or more, please e-mail Jenny Myers WA4NGV at brycemyers@aol.com for membership information!***Brian KR4SP, ACC reports that the Greer club will be holding a Foxhunt on Saturday March 20th beginning at 2 pm from the Piedmont Plaza (Old K-Mart) on Highway 29 in Greer. Enjoy!***Looking at the March issue of QST, I see that Mike KG4SLH, Asst PIC has his library display pictured in Dave Hassler's ARRL in ACTION column on Page 12! Great job, and the display is wonderful! Additionally, I was surprised to hear that a Middle School class in Summerville had the opportunity to speak with the International Space Station via Amateur Radio. My congratulations to their teacher, Alene Wilkins KG4NKD, Glen Little WA4UIV, ham radio coordinator and Will KC6ROL, event coordinator. ***This past Saturday was the Charlotte Hamfest and Computer Show. The ARRL forum was given by our Director Dennis Bodson W4PWF. The highlight of the forum was the presentation of the Roanoke Division Service Award to our Vice Director and South Carolina resident Les K4NK. The Award honors Roanoke Division amateurs who have devoted their time and effort over many years to the improvement of Amateur Radio and the ARRL. Congratulations, Les!***Finally, I am pleased and proud to announce that the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of South Carolina and the South Carolina Emergency Service has now been signed and is in force as of March 15th, 2004. This document represents months of hard work by Charlie, ARRL HQ and the SC Emergency Management Division personnel. This is a great step forward for the recognition of Amateur Radio as a valuable resource in South Carolina! My congratulations and gratitude to all involved!***South Carolina Traffic Reports for February 2004-From Adam AF4QZ, STM:(Note: This is a partial report-Adam's other information is at his home in Bamberg)***Station Activity Report (Call, Received, Sent, Delivered, Originated, Total): KA4UIV, 157, 151, 9, 0, 317; KG4VDR, 13, 15, 22, 0, 50; WA4UGD, 33, 0, 2, 0, 35; K4RKC, 10, 12, 0, 0, 22; WB4PCS, 5, 2, 4, 0, 11; W4NVO, 4, 2, 2, 2, 10; N4VVX, 3, 4, 1, 0, 8 ***Public Service Honor Roll: KA4UIV 100; N4VVX 73 ***Net Reports (Check Ins, Traffic,

Sessions, Reported By):Blue Ridge 2 Meter Net, 2095, 52, 29, K4SUG; Carolina's Net, 457, 192, 58, K4IWW; Carolina Slow Net, 133, 21, 29, W4EAT; Columbia ARC 2 Meter Net, 156, 9, 9, K4RKC; Greater Pee Dee 2 Meter Net, 1869, 52, 29, K4DTT; Greenwood 2 Meter Friendly Net, 670, 27, 29, W4JAK; PALS Net for January, 1085, 79, 31, KG4KOE; PALS Net for February, 1240, 57, 29, KG4KOE; SC 6 Meter Sandlapper Net, 63, 0, 4, K4RKC; SC SSB Net, 1342, 126, 29, WA4UGD***Thanks to everyone for a great month!***'73 de Dr. Jim N2ZZ, ARRL Section Manager, South Carolina Section

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 Martin, W4SJR; SGL: Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN; ACC: Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC. www.arrl-ga.org www.gaares.org Greetings. It's time for a little March mid-month memo. First, let's make mention of that master of the message, the maestro of Morse, that man of the month: once again, it's SID "HUTCH" HUTCHINSON, WB4GGS, who has racked up a February QTC of 605 (323 messages sent, and 277 received) to earn Brass Pounder status for an amazing third month in a row (and four times in the past seven months!) Smokin'!!! (Ya must need asbestos gloves to touch his Bencher!) On Sunday, March 21, at 3PM EST, at or around 3.980 and/or 7.238 MHz, will be the first exercise net held from the Central US Earthquake Center in TN. Roll call for check-ins will be by state, with emphasis on CUSEC's 8 member states and 10 associate states. GA is an associate member state, and a special request has been made that our SEC, DEC's, EC's, and MARS members participate, if possible, but ALL are encouraged to check in. This is anticipated to become a bi-annual drill, with different reporting criteria each time. This time: operators from the center will be operating on battery power and request info on your location and a signal report. Looking to upgrade? The W5YI VE session that has long been held at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Lilburn on the 4th Friday of the month is changing to the 3rd Sunday at 3PM in an effort to better meet the needs of the ham community. This means their next session will be on MARCH 21st. The contact person will still be HOWIE GOULD, W9HG. This is a terrific team, and I'm sorry that Mike and I will no longer be able to be a part of it, due to another commitment to be at SciTrek. Congratulations to PHIL FAULKNER, K4PCF, who has accepted the appointment as DEC for NE Georgia, and to JOHN ADAMS, WA4NEE, who will be replacing Phil as EC for Forsyth county. Thanks to both of them for their willingness to serve. Another hamfest right around the corner! That's the Kennehoochee 'fest, March 20, at Life University in Marietta. They'll also offer a one day "boot camp" training for technician class, 8:30AM- 5PM, followed by a VE test. (\$40 fee, covers instruction, materials, and test)Talk-in: 146.880 For more info: <http://www.w4bti.org> (Se ya there!) On March 22, following the GA Traffic and Emergency Net, (7:15PM on 3.983 Mhz)TOM HASKINS, W4WXA, will be giving an on-the-air tutorial on

traffic handling. If you can, tune in and get some tips from one of the best. This may sound strange, but believe me, I have a good reason to ask: do any of you know of an online chat room for hams? If so, please let me know about it so I can pass that info on to a semi-shut-in YL ham with no antenna. She sure would appreciate it. Thanks. Sadly, some SKs to report: HERMAN "TEX" FRIEDSAM, WA4OPY, and HILDA ZEARS, WB4KWQ. Sincere condolences to their families and friends. Well, that's it for now. Hope to see you at the Kennehoochee hamfest. Until then, this is AF4FO, signing clear. Take care of yourselves. And each other. 73, Susan QTC
Feb: WB4GGS-605; K4FUM-316; AF4NS-233; W4WXA-168; W9NXC-48; K4WKT-30; WB4BIK-29; K1FP-28; K4BEH-25; KR4JI-24; KG4FXG-10; K4BG-10

Southern Florida

Spring is just around the corner. It's a good time to check batteries, hurricane supplies, and the like. And it is a good time to work on publicity for your public display at hurricane expos, involvement with Kid's Day, upcoming licensing classes, and other events. Notice I did not mention Field Day. When it comes to publicity Field Day is Not Enough. February was a busy month in Southern Florida. Many groups participated in exercises – Severe WX Preparedness, Strategic National Stockpile deployment, and a nuclear power plant. Several clubs had special event stations and public displays. Many folks are planning for Field Day, hurricane preparedness expos, and licensing classes. Titusville ARC has been reactivated as affiliated club. And, speaking of affiliated clubs, has your club liaison or an officer updated the information for your club? All of this news and more, with photos can be found at www.arrl.org/sections/SFL.html. This site will be updated in a few days, please keep checking the page. Another site to visit is www.sflarrl.org. I've asked the webmaster, Miss Evelyn, W4WYR to post an article called Netiquette. It's not about how to send a proper e-mail message. Please check it out. While you are there surf through the information on the site and let the webmaster know if any corrections need to be made. (Our crystal ball gets a bit foggy at times so we need your help to keep things current.) Please be sure that our Section Affiliated Club Coordinator and I are on the mailing list for your club newsletters. We prefer electronic letters if they are available, and that saves postage that comes from member's dues. I use the newsletters to write the sections news. Jeff Wa4AW, our ACC gathers good ideas to share with other clubs. Help us to help you. Due to K4PG's computer crash I can't share the SAR and PSHR reports with you at this time. I will post them in the summary next month so they will be archived and I'll add them to the section page as soon as possible. A big Thank You to all who handle traffic and participate in public service events. If you handle traffic, hold an ARRL appointment, attend training, and provide communications for public service events you should be submitting an SAR and/or a PSHR. The information in these reports is taken to Washington and used to show the FCC and Congress what we do. (It's difficult to convince someone to protect your frequencies without numbers to back up the words.) So, let's keep Kevin, K4PG busy with lots of reports. The following Tech Specs reported for February: N4BG, N4TZH, N4GKI, WB0ATS, W4KPG, K2UGH, W4REN, WB2QLP and KF4KDO. ECs reporting: KA4HLO, N5KFR, WA4ASJ, WA4GUK, AD4RZ, and AA4PN. ECs please include the calls of

OESs that report each month since many of them do not send me a copy – thanks. PIOs reporting: WB2FAU, K4MVO, K4SWF, and K3PGH. See you on the nets or in the pileups! 73 to all de Sherri, W4STB

Southwestern Division

Arizona

The results of the first battle with Pima County over the amateur radio antenna ordinance is history. Amateur radio "1", Gates pass Home owners Association "0". The Pima county Planning and Zoning Board voted to "Recommend" to the county supervisors that the present amateur radio antenna ordinance not be changed". Thanks to the effort of Mike Zonnefeld, W0LTL, Kenneth Hirschberg, K6HPX, Bill Jorden, K7KI, Eric Gustafson, N7CL, and a host of others we were able to persuade the planning and zoning board members that our service to the county, state, and nation, for public service outweighed the desire for changes due to "suppose loss of property value" and "eye-sore". I also want to thank Terry Hashman, KC5EGC, and the members of the 146.52 NET that went all out to spread the word and help gather over \$4500 for the cost of the lawyer I hired to help us fight this case. Several other people that also supported our position were the communications director from the Pima County Red Cross, the Salvation Army communications support director, and the Pima County Office of Emergency management. The battle is not over. The next step is with the County Board of supervisors. The plan is to visit each one on an individual basis and show them what we do for our community and why the large antenna systems are necessary. This is a necessary step so each supervisor can ask questions and get answers in a non-threatening environment. Our success or failure with the county board of supervisors will depend on these behind-the-scene meetings. The actual meeting will be a formality. We still need you to send letters (e-mails) to your county board member to let them know that any changes are not acceptable. Don't forget the Hamfest at the Scottsdale Community College on the 13th of March. This is a big event so bring flashlights for those early risers. I plan to be there about 0700 hrs (o-dark thirty) so if you want to get more details about ARRL activity I will gladly give you all the information I can. Art Goddard, W6XD, the Southwestern Director, will also be in attendance. 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 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 city of Williams is located 33 miles west of Flagstaff on Highway 40. The city of Williams has offered ARCA the use of their Rodeo Grounds at a lower cost and is willing to give other incentives to the people who attend the Hamfest. This means that ARCA will be able to maintain the present cost of selling spaces (maybe lower the cost) and each selling space will be larger in size because there is more room available. ARCA is presently talking with the city officials about discount cost for motel rooms, RV parking spots, and Grand Canyon Railroad tickets. 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 next order of business is 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. There will be many presentations on almost every subject of amateur radio plus many top companies showing you their new products. The convention web site is "www.hamradio2004.com/swdc2004". I have made plans to take a non-amateur radio vacation (7 day cruise to Alaska) during the later part of June. My wife has informed me that she needs a rest. 73's from Clifford Hauser, KD6XH; E-mail is kd6xh@arrl.org or kd6xh@comcast.net.

West Gulf Division

Oklahoma

Green Country Hamfest Begins Today! The OK Section Convention 2004 will ring its opening bell in just a few hours. Opportunities for fellowship and fun are abundantly available for Amateur Radio operators and their families. The event starts today at 5 pm and goes on Saturday from 8 am –5 pm. The Section Convention is being held at the Claremore Expo Center, 400 Veterans Parkway (20 minutes northeast of Tulsa on Historic Route 66) Talk is on 147.09+ or 444.350+no PL tone. Every attendee to the Oklahoma Section Convention (Green Country Hamfest) will have the opportunity to add \$1 to the ticket price and that \$1 will go directly to the ARRL's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Defense Fund. Also throughout the event there will be collections points and other opportunities to contribute to the fund. Flyers will be distributed to everyone attending the hamfest as well as posters with information about the harmful interference BPL will cause to communication in times of emergency and the threat to the hobby. Information on the BPL threat and (BPL) Defense Fund can be found at www.arrl.org/bpl Programs include an Amateur Radio study session and a test session on Friday at 6 and 7 pm, respectively. On Saturday morning at 9 am a Weather seminar will be held by National Weather Service of Tulsa staff Steve-KA9MLL and George-KD5JWH. The League seminar conducted by Coy -N5OK and John-WB5SYT, West Gulf Division Director and OK Section Manager respectively, will begin at 10. At 11 the State ARES conference will be held by KA7GLA & Callen-AB5JY. AMSAT's Keith-W5IU will have their seminar at 12 noon. At 1 PM the Oklahoma DX Association will have their gathering with club president Bruce-K5PX at the helm. Then at 2 pm Merlin-WB5OSM will head up the ARRL VE session Kudos to the Ada ARC for reactivating its League affiliation. Have just received word of the Southern OK ARES(Ardmore) group becoming League affiliated, as well. Central OK Radio Amateurs (CORA) is moving rapidly toward the same affiliation. Great job crew as your effort to have a strong connection to the League is greatly appreciated with substantial benefits to accrue. Great community outreach by the Choctaw ARC. The group donated the League library set of books to the community's new library and a Now You're Talking licensing textbook to the city fire chief. Appreciate the club allowing the SM to participate in the activity. The Elk City Hamfest of March 6 was very enjoyable with good interaction, a well attended League forum and vendors to meet attendees purchase ideas quite well. Thanks to Earl-N5NEB, and many others for the

effort and hospitality. On Tuesday March 23 at 7:30 the two National Weather Service staff, as above, will make a presentation at the The Tulsa Repeater Organization club meeting. Contact Mark-N7XYO Section PIO n7xyo@arrl.net Looks like a great evening to join in the fun. The Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club/OK-1 DMAT will have a Joint Readiness Exercise at 0000Z-2400Z on Apr 3. www.tulsa-health.org/k5thd. Contact Dave-NB5N at davercox@cox.net. This is a superb event which will be very well handled by Dave and company. GL Dave! The OU Amateur Radio club will have an Antenna day on Saturday April 10. The event will be held at Norman's Westheimer's Airport from 9 am to 12 noon. For additional information on this exciting and League sanctioned event contact Marilyn-KD5JQM with email of mwoodruff@ou.edu. Planned to be in attendance are Coy-N5OK and Jim-N5OHL Section Affiliated Club Coordinator. On Saturday May 1, the Tri-State ARG will host a hamfest in Woodward. Contact Jay-k5gud@arrl.net for more information. 73, John Thomason-WB5SYT
OK Section Manager