

KEY CLICKS

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SUCCESSFUL RED CROSS EMERGENCY DRILL

By Albert WIAJP

On Saturday 26 October, 2002 the Central Vermont/New Hampshire Chapter of the American Red Cross, headquartered in Rutland, VT, had a simulated disaster drill. Twelve amateur radio operators took part in this drill. The Red Cross requested communications assistance with the simulated emergency and eleven members of the Green Mountain Wireless Society responded. In addition, Steve KB1IVE who lives in Middlebury heard some of the GMWS members talking about the drill on the Killington repeater Thursday and decided to come down on Saturday and help out.

The other operators were, John N1HLG, John N1YSD, Rich WB2RUM, Cody KB1HOY, Dave KD6RA, Christine N6EUP, Bert KA2HTY, Bob N1PBP and myself.

There were also three operators that did double duty. Janet KB1DSR, Wendell KB1HZD and Mary KB1EYJ were part of the drill. Janet and Mary were part of the RADART Animal team and Wendell is a Red Cross volunteer who served many functions during the day.

The drill went very smoothly and we were able to keep all members of the Red Cross team in constant contact with each other. We used the GMWS repeater 147.045 and two different simplex frequencies to accomplish this task. We also used the Red Cross radios to communicate from our EOC to the Red Cross command center which was located in the lower level of the Red Cross building.

With John N1HLG controlling the net from our EOC we were in contact with the three remote shelter areas and passed traffic for a period of about four hours. We had at least two operators at each of the remote shelters and the EOC. Bob N1PBP rode in the transport van and kept those people in touch with all other locations.

At the end of the drill there was an hour-long debriefing session that all participated in. Many of the Red Cross volunteers expressed thanks for a job well done by the radio operators. "We couldn't have done it without you" was heard over and over again.

We all had a great and rewarding time. It was a good way to spend a cold and rainy Saturday in October.

Many thanks to all who gave up their Saturday to help out.

Some Editor's Housekeeping Items....

For those of you looking for the minutes of last month's meeting, the Octoberfeast replaced the meeting in October and no meeting minutes are kept at that festive gathering. An excellent turkey dinner was enjoyed by 35 folks including GMWS members and their families and guests. The site of these festivities was the Rotary Building in Wallingford. A fine time was had by all. For those of you who missed this annual event, please make plans now to participate next October. Good food, good company and a reasonable price for a night out with dinner - what more could you ask for?

Again this month Key Clicks includes a sign-up form on page 9 to have your contact information included in the GMWS call-up database for emergency communications duty. Please see the above article for a hint of how much of a difference your participation might make.

The Prez Says

by Albert WIAJP

Greetings. Just typing that word makes me nervous. That's how my draft notice read in 1967 and a year later I ended up in Vietnam celebrating the Tet holiday with a lot of people I didn't know.

Well this article will not be as bad as that was for sure. I hope all who attended enjoyed the Octoberfeast I know I did. Now it is time to get back to Club business.

One of my goals for myself this year was to get the club membership more involved in emergency communications. Well we have made some progress in that area. We have managed to get 25 or so people to sign up for an emergency phone tree (soon to be published). We have a number of members who are now card carrying members of ARES. We have established a notification link with the American Red Cross which will be used to trigger the new Phone Tree. We had a successful involvement with the 26th of October Red Cross Disaster Drill in Rutland. This has all been accomplished through the help of many club members.

Now to help further this goal of Emergency Communication involvement we need to get more club members to check in to the Monday evening ARES net on 147.045 at 7:30 PM. This net is held every Monday and is an ARES and GMWS function. The purpose of the net is to practice emergency net procedures and to educate ARES and club members in the area of Emergency Communications and preparedness. We are presently trying to enlist the help of club members to help run the weekly net. We would like to find 6-8 people who could run the net for one Monday every 6-8 weeks. This would involve about 8 Mondays in a one year period per operator. The net runs for about a half hour. Anyone that would be interested please contact me at w1ajp@arrl.net.

See you at the November meeting 7 PM on 12 Nov.

Jamboree on the Air 2002

by John N1HLG

Boy Scouts are big on camporees and the larger Jamborees which often involve setting up camps, cooking meals in camp, and participating in planned events.

Jamboree On The Air is international in scope, around the world, easily found by searching on JOTA on the internet, and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland (CH).

A bit of background includes first a mailing to everyone in cub scouting or boy scouting from a computer print out supplied by the District Office in year 2000. There was a zero response to this mailing and zero showed up for a lonely JOTA session at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). How to get into the "system"? The suggestions included attending a monthly Scout and Cub Round Table or big coordinating meeting at the Currier School in Danby in August 2002, and getting to know some of the local people in cubbing and scouting. The trip to Danby enabled making the acquaintance of Carriann Wolcott who later came to our September GMWS meeting. I am not sure who did what but we set up for operations at 10 AM on that cold and rainy Saturday, October 19, and several parents and cubs including Carriann's husband, A. J., with two sons.

When JOTA gets going, one person cannot do all that needs to be done. Persons operating need to work closely with shy youngsters who, when they first press to TX switch might say, "HI!" and duck back to parent. But gradually they loosened up a bit. We had John N1YSD and John N1HLG operating, Albert WIAJP chatting with parents, and Jeff N1YTY doing the paper work. Rich WB2RUM stopped by and chatted by IRLP link to a ham in England just north of Cambridge. Wendell Tilden observed.

We had JOTA contacts in South Carolina, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, and Maine. If you look up K1BSA on QRZ.com you can see that radio scouting is big in the Katahdin area in Maine!

Given our tight quarters in the EOC our future planning should include setting up a station for JOTA in a more spacious place. This event at one time took place a Camp Sunrise in Benson during a camporee. Perhaps we can have a set up and team that could go "on the road" like a small Field Day outfit.

It would be nice to increase our contacts with area scout troops as interested observers on scouting in action and as hams willing to help scouts work through their Radio merit badge. The January licensing class is ideal for this. Experience and advancement in ham radio and in scouting as well. By the time a youngster has reached the Eagle award, he has worked with between 80 to 100 different people along the way of a wide range of ages. This is one of the finest one-on-one teaching and learning setups going. Thanks Carriann and GMWS people.

Reminders

THE GMWS URL IS NOW:

<http://users.adelphia.net/~gmws/>

Please change your browser links to this new address since many of the files at the old VTel URL are not updated (including Key Clicks).

NEW TONE ON THE KILLINGTON REPEATER:

Please use 110.9 to access 146.88 (this is the PL tone used by all NFMRA repeaters using tone)

Good Amateur Practice

from the ARRL Letter

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth has endorsed a list of several points that he feels help to define the concept of "good amateur practice." Section 97.101(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules refers to "good engineering and good amateur practice"--considered to refer to maintaining the highest standards of engineering and on-the-air comportment. But the rule lacks specifics.

"Good amateur practice is a hard thing to define," Hollingsworth conceded. "I'd have to say it's operating with the realization that frequencies are shared, that there's going to be occasional interference and that's no reason to become hateful and paranoid."

Hollingsworth says amateurs have to realize that more people than ever are listening in, especially since September 11, 2001, and that amateurs always need to remember that "our rights end where another person's begin."

A Michigan Amateur Radio club has been credited with distributing a list of "Riley-isms" culled from Hollingsworth's various talks at conventions and hamfests and club meetings around the US. Hollingsworth--who verified that he had been cited accurately--says his various comments represent an effort to flesh out what "good amateur practice" consists of for considerate the Amateur Radio operator. According to Hollingsworth, good amateur practice means:

- * giving a little ground--even if you have a right not to--in order to help preserve Amateur Radio and not cause it to get a bad name or hasten the day when it becomes obsolete.
- * respecting band plans, because they make it possible for every mode to have a chance.
- * being aware that we all love Amateur Radio, and there's no need to damage or disgrace it just to save face.
- * keeping personal conflicts off the air. Settle your arguments on the telephone, the Internet or in person. Just keep them off the air.
- * cutting a net or a contester a break, even if you don't have to and even if you have no interest whatsoever in nets or contesting.
- * realizing that every right carries responsibilities, and just because you may have a right to do certain things doesn't mean it's right to do them in every circumstance.
- * you don't "own" or get preference to use any frequency.
- * not operating so that whoever hears you becomes sorry they ever got into (or tuned in on) Amateur Radio in the first place.

Hollingsworth notes that the list "doesn't touch on a lot of other technical issues, such as using 1500 W when your signal report received is 40 over 9." Good amateur practice, he said, "just means a lot of things that can't always be quantified."--thanks to Riley Hollingsworth.

MEETING NOTICE

The next business meeting of the Green Mountain Wireless Society will be held on

Tuesday, December 10, 2002
Red Cross Building
Howe Center, 117 Strongs Ave.
Rutland VT
TALK-IN 147.045 {+/-}
(100 Hz PL-optional on minus side)

Go Back to GMWS Home Page: [Green Mountain Wireless Society](#)

