

# KEY CLICKS

A Publication of the **Green Mountain Wireless Society**

Editor--Deb Clark, NNIC

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## VT QSO PARTY - FEBRUARY 1-2, 2003

The 45<sup>th</sup> annual Vermont QSO Party will take place during the first weekend of February, 2003. It will begin at 0000Z Saturday 2-1-03 (7 PM Friday Eastern time on 1/31/03) and end at 2400Z Sunday 2-2-03 (7 PM Eastern time Sunday). All licensed amateur radio operators are invited to participate. All Vermont Amateur Radio Club Stations operating in the contest will be multipliers for this event.

Suggested frequencies:

Phone: 160 - 15 meters in the first 25 kHz of the General portion of each band.

CW: 160 - 15 meters 40 kHz up from the bottom edge of each band.

VHF: 50.2 MHz SSb, 144.2 MHz SSB, 146.49 FM, 146.55 MHz FM

Exchange:

Vermont stations send RS(T) and county. CW two letter designators are as follows: AD, BN, CL, CH, ES, FR, GI, LM, OG, OL, RT, WA, WM, and WR. Vermont Club Stations should indicate their status as a multiplier during the contest. Other stations send RS(T), state, province or DXCC entity.

Scoring:

All participating stations count one point per phone contact, two points for CW, RTTY or other digital modes.

Vermont participants multiply by number of contacted counties in Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire, plus states, provinces, countries and Vermont Club Stations.

All participating stations outside of Vermont count all contacted counties in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine and Vermont Club Stations.

Multipliers count only once regardless of the number of bands worked. A station may be worked up to four times (different modes) per band.

Awards:

Certificates will be awarded to all stations in Vermont submitting a log. In addition, certificates for participants submitting a log from each state, province and country will also be awarded.

Send logs with name, address, call sign and what class (single-op, multi-op, club, rover) postmarked no later than March 1, 2003 to:

Chris Knox, N1GBB, Vermont QSO Party Coordinator, Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club, 1339 Aseltine Rd, Northfield, VT 05663

## THE PREZ SAYS

Well we made it to another new year.

As a club the Green Mountain Wireless Society remains committed to advancing the hobby of Ham radio. There are many areas of ham radio that the club members have interest in. Bringing new people to the hobby, helping members advance, furthering the use of amateur radio, DX'ing, contesting, experimenting and public service. As a club we do very well in all of these areas. We have an active membership.

I believe that as a club we are on the verge of becoming a great public service club. Our association with the American Red Cross is our link to that end. The Red Cross will be the Organization that will be first on scene after the "first responders"

I do understand that not all of the members are interested in this area of amateur radio, but a great many are. This was demonstrated quite well at the October Red Cross disaster drill. I notified 23 members of the drill and 14 showed up and made it a success.

Having said that I will have to say that not many of our members are certified in Emergency Communications or disaster assessment. There are a few who have now received ARES identification cards. These cards will allow us to show up at a disaster site and be identified as "radio operators". **This does not mean that these people have been trained in emergency communications, radio traffic handling or how to operate in an incident command situation.**

I believe that all members who intend to be involved in emergency communications should be trained. A good place to start would be by taking a beginning course titled Introduction to Disaster Services offered by the Red Cross. It also will be very important to take the Level 1 Emergency Communications course offered by the ARRL and subsidized by funds available under the Homeland Security Act. Certification indicating a passing grade from this course will be a requirement for any participation by any ham in an emergency under the regulations of the new Homeland Security Department. For those that wish to become more proficient there are advanced Level 2 and Level 3 classes.

This course is offered in many forms. The easiest way is to take the course on-line but for those who wish an in-person interactive relationship with an "instructor/mentor" the opportunity exists to take advantage of a so-called "hybrid" class which will involve some on-line participation as well as some classroom time. I have just received word that Deb NNIC is in the process of getting certification as an instructor. Deb has stepped up and is willing to help all that are interested in getting this certification. What we need to do is show our commitment and plan a way that we can get together for classes and get this done.

Please contact any of the club officers or Deb NNIC if you are interested in this course. In any case, any Level 1 Emergency Communications Classes will not start until after the annual GMWS license class which will run every Monday from January 6 through March 3.

73, Albert W1AJP

## GMWS TEN YEARS AGO Compiled by Jeff, N1YTY

January 1993 Key Clicks has another announcement in which Walt WW1Q states that he is done as editor of Key Clicks. He had said so previously. He was still president of GMWS as well as editor. Committee Chairs were Field Day, John WW1R; Packet, Frank N1AGY (now WIAD); and Program, Kelly W1LJA (now SK).

There is the announcement of the Winter Hamfest in Milton, 27 February 1998. (This year's Milton Hamfest will be Saturday, February 22.)

There was a piece on Locations of Dry cell Battery Collection Sites showing 14 towns in Vermont, mostly CVPS (Central Vermont Public Service) locations but also the Environmental Depot on Pine St. in Burlington and Community Center for Recycling in Hartford (these two not tested). The state recycling Hotline 1-800-932-7100 (tested 12/26/02, JVF) is available but our Rutland County Solid Waste District is at 775-7209. RCSWD refers one to the transfer station off of Gleason Rd. People from member towns are free, others pay a fee to dispose of their batteries there. Nowadays there is a website for the Portable Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA). The idea, of course, is to keep batteries of any kind out of the regular (burnable) waste stream and away from ground water.

## INTERFERENCE PROBLEM ELIMINATED

By Frank WIAD

For many of you traveling or living in the area of Rutland Hospital, there has been an ongoing problem with an RF signal on or near the output of the W1GMW 147.045 MHz repeater. The source of the problem was identified as a Glen-Air transmitter belonging to Central Vermont Communication. This transmitter, operating on 157.740 MHz is part of a statewide commercial paging network.

Originally located on the roof at Rutland Hospital, the transmitter was moved to a building at Wilcox Pharmacy on Stratton Road. The reason for the move was to have the paging signal reach the interior of the hospital more reliably. However, it was found that the transmitter had a spurious signal on the same frequency as our local repeater. This resulted in a very strong carrier on our local channel which could be heard over a mile away.

After discussing the problem with Steve Suker of CVC, a technician added some filtering and reduced the power output of the transmitter to 50 watts. The problem signal, while still not completely gone, is now so weak that it is, for all practical purposes eliminated. Thanks Steve for your cooperation in solving the situation.

Regular Meeting of the GMWS held at Red Cross Building, 117 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT, December 10, 2002

1A. Meeting called to order by Albert Poirier W1AJP, president, at 7:10 PM with 15 members present. Soon our ARRL, SM Mgr. Paul Gayet AA1SU and Carl Phillips KC1WH Section EC Coordinator arrived as well.

1B. Minutes of meeting of Nov. 12, 2002 were approved as printed in December Key Clicks.

1C. Treasurer's report was accepted by voice vote as presented by Bob Lucas W1HGQ.

1D. John Gladding N1HLG reported on EOC about UHF vertical antenna and amateur and commercial VHF antennas. Possible weather problems with rotor on beam to be addressed.

1E. Field Day Committee. Gary Foskett W1ECH was out of town so no report.

1F. President Albert passed out a printed sheet with proposed programs for 2003. January, Mitch Stern W1SJ on contesting & QSO Party.; February, Antennas with Gary W1ECH.; March RF Safety with Deb Clark NNIC and Art K2IIR (SOVARC); April, Fox Hunt Preparation; others in planning stages.

**Old Business**

2A. November 16 sweepstakes was the exciting follow up to Gary's W1ECH November presentation in which he explained how the "sweeps" work. There were 7 amateurs operating at EOC as W1GMW and several went home to continue with contacts from their own shacks. We were to get our logs to Gary and letter to ARRL. There was some discussion about negative ideas concerning contesting but the intense activity of contesting helps keep hams in practice for relaying radio traffic and setting up for emergency communications. Such is why the FCC provides amateur radio frequencies FREE to licensed hams when other frequencies are bought and sold for big bucks.

2B. January Technician Licensing Class. Paul AA1SU as ARRL section manager will assist in getting some copies of "Now You Are Talking," the text for the Tech class, through his ARRL connections.

2C. Hometown Heroes. Nominations still open for HH in categories: Fire, Law Enforcement, Med/Rescue, Emergency Dispatch, Good Samaritan-Adult, same-Youth, Military/Veteran, Animal Rescue, Community Impact, Education/Training. Dec. 31 is the deadline. HH Nominations, ARC, Russell Building, 117 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT 05701.

**New Business**

3A. Motion to pay \$40 for GMWS advertisement in Vermont Amateur Radio Directory 2003 passed by voice vote.

3B. Motion to authorized special lettering to identify GMWS on Emergency Communicator vests passed by voice vote.

3C. Motion to authorize up to \$100 for paying for "Now Your Are Talking" texts (@ \$19) to be sure to have some for class in January passed by voice vote. Other arrangements to obtain texts may be pending.

4A. Program. Paul Gayet AA1SU as our ARRL Section Manager along with Vermont Section Emergency Communications Coordinator Carl Phillips KC1WH each made presentations. Paul mentioned the ARRL program called "The Big Project" which is the ARRL Amateur Radio Education & Technology Program. Resources for teachers are in the ARRL website. See ARRL website. Paul reviewed some of the many things ARRL can do for hams like news of the typhoon hitting Guam, sweepstakes, awards like WAS on various bands, news articles about ham radio in U. S. and world, how you can renew membership in ARRL through Paul as SM. One can use a point system toward a public service honor roll. Above all, ARRL serves as our liaison among local, state and federal government entities, especially the FCC. Paul always urges people to step up and try some different ARRL-related service. There is much to be done.

Carl KC1WH noted that there was no existing data base for ARES, no organizer, no lists, and no previous recent emphasis on ARES (since 1997). Carl is the SEC or Section Emergency Coordinator. Ben Tredwell N1UUK is the District 6 DEC or District Emergency Coordinator. To be activated within any town the ARES set up must be named in the Town Emergency Plan and ARES members should be known by local emergency people through drills or special events and meetings. ARES people should seek appropriate training both from Red Cross and from ARRL. ARES is local while RACES responds at State or VEMA/FEMA level. Carl is reorganizing the emergency communication effort in Vermont.

4B. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Freeman N1YTY, Secretary

## A MEMORABLE QSO

By Ben Alabastro, W1VM

I became interested in Amateur Radio back in 1955 AD. At that time Single Side Band was the rage. Manufacturers such as Hallicrafters, Johnson, National and many others offered many varieties of transmitters, receivers and a host of other related ham goodies.

My interest in Amateur Radio would come and go over the years. There was high school, girls, college, military service and "working for the man." In 1977 I gave myself the ultimatum: either get into the hobby for sure or leave it for good and pursue my other passion at the time, model railroading.

I chose Amateur Radio. One reason was that I always heard of a story of some ham communicating with someone else to perform some kind of rescue mission. A second reason was that Amateur Radio sounded very exciting. Just imagine, you could talk to just about anyone in the world! I passed the 5-word-per-minute code test and the Novice Exam and I received the call WA2XPR (I held the call WN2UAU in 1974, but I let my license expire).

Other incidents, such as the death of Mom in 1979, put Amateur Radio on hold. Finally, in 1980 I got on the air using a Ten-Tec Century Twenty-One transceiver. This was CW-only. Remember, at that time Novice class licensees were restricted to operating CW only and limited to 75 watts.

My Technician Class upgrade came in 1981. The astonishment of working the local repeater with one watt was exciting. But in 1983 I graduated to the "big time" and was awarded a General Class license. I could now operate both CW and phone, which was exciting. I made QSOs left and right! I now had an Icom IC-730 which was doing a fabulous job.

But a truly memorable QSO took place on Saturday, June 1, 1985. Earlier that day I had made a nice QSO with a ham from Boston, MA. After doing some domestic duties I decided to try 15 meters to see what would happen. Dialing to 21.135 MHz I heard someone calling "CQ." The signal was very weak but audible. I went back to the caller. We then engaged in a nice QSO. The code speed was decent for both parties. But the best surprise was that the ham was OA1AAW from Chiclayo, Peru! That was quite a shock. And yes, we did exchange QSL cards. I treasure that card today. Also, according to the propagation reports 15 meters was not supposed to be open at that time.

That's what makes Amateur Radio so fascinating - you just don't know what you're going to find!

## RED CROSS TO OFFER TWO INTRODUCTORY COURSES

As Director of Emergency Services for the Central VT/NH Chapter of the Red Cross, Cindy Hahn, KB1EYN has announced that two Introduction to Disaster Services Classes will be offered in the first quarter of 2003.

The first class will be Wednesday, February 19, from 6:30 - 9:30 pm and the second will be Saturday, March 15, from 9am - noon. The classes will be held at the Red Cross Building, 117 Strongs Ave., Rutland. The class is free and pre-registration is requested. Anyone interested may contact Cindy by phone at the Red Cross in Rutland at 802-773-9159 or via e-mail at <charcrut@sover.net>.

This class presents an overview of the Red Cross services and is a prerequisite for all other Red Cross classes. Hams participating in emergency communications, especially with the Red Cross, are strongly urged to take the classes. This class will give you an excellent overview of the Red Cross and may give you some ideas of further training you would like to take, such as Damage Assessment. Please register early for either of these class sessions.

If you have any further questions you can probably reach Cindy at either the January or February GMWS meeting since she likely will be there wearing her other hat as GMWS Vice President

## MEETING NOTICE

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

Tuesday, January 14, 2003  
Red Cross Building  
Howe Center, 117 Strongs Ave.  
Rutland VT  
TALK-IN 147.045 (+/-)  
(100 Hz PL--optional on minus side)

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