

# KEY CLICKS

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

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Published monthly about the 1st of each month. Submit all articles to [Deb.Clark](mailto:Deb.Clark@sover.net)

**WebMaster W1AD**

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## YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

GREEN MOUNTAIN WIRELESS IS LOOKING FOR SOME HAMS WHO WILL HELP THE CLUB. THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS YOU CAN HELP OUT, IN PARTICULAR A CLUB SECRETARY WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE NEXT SLATE OF CLUB OFFICERS TO BE PRESENTED IN APRIL. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ALBERT W1AJP [AJP545@SOVER.NET](mailto:AJP545@SOVER.NET)

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COURSES

By Carl Phillips, KC1WH, VT Section Emergency Coordinator

The EC-01 course is excellent. It provides a broad overview of Emergency Communications as applied to Amateur Radio and ARES. I registered for the course online, and paid my \$45. I received a welcoming e-mail from my course mentor, a ham who is an EC-01 graduate. It was recommended that I take a one-hour introductory tutorial on how to use the online learning system. I never had time to take the tutorial, yet I had no difficulty navigating around the online learning system - it depends on your computer experience.

Most people find that the course material is not particularly difficult, and much of it is common knowledge among hams. There are 20 Learning Units, or chapters, in the course. Each Unit focuses on a unique Emergency Communications topic, and contains 4-8 pages of new material. After reading each Unit the student answers five multiple-choice questions. To finish the Unit the student completes a few "Student Activities". These activities vary widely. Some activities are in-depth questions on the material, requiring written-out answers. Some activities require the student to read information on another web site and answer some questions. Others involve thinking about how you would participate in various ARES activities. For each Unit, the student sends an e-mail to his mentor with his answers to the activities. The mentor reviews your answers and sends a reply e-mail with his comments and suggestions.

Most students invest 30-40 hours to complete the course. After completing all 20 Units, you take an online final exam of multiple-choice questions. If you pass the final exam, you pass the course. Each student is expected to finish the Units and final exam in six weeks - although if there are extenuating circumstances, it is possible to negotiate additional time. You'll then receive a \$45 rebate check from ARRL, along with information on how to become a mentor/teacher. To be eligible for the \$45 rebate, you must be an ARRL member.

The ARRL ARECC Level-1 Manual has exactly the same Units, written material, and questions as in the online course. If you prefer to read the material in book-form (rather than reading it on your computer monitor or printing each unit on your printer), you can order the manual from ARRL for \$10. The manual is NOT included as part of the online course.

Here are some details regarding each course:

### EC-01

Online registration for EC-01, Introduction To Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, opens on the first Monday of every month, at 12:01 AM. So, registration for the next upcoming EC-01 course starts on April 7, at 12:01 AM. The March 3 course roster is full. Course registration is on a first come, first served basis. Approximately 200 seats are available per class. Enrollment is limited by the number of online mentors available. In recent months, EC-01 registration has filled and closed in about 12 hours - so don't be slow of foot! Everyone who registers successfully is eligible for the rebate.

### EC-02

This course is for those who wish to further develop net management skills. Online registration for EC-02, Intermediate Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, opens on the second Monday of every month, at 12:01 AM. So, registration for the next upcoming EC-02 course starts on March 10, at 12:01 AM. Approximately 50 seats are available per class. In recent months, EC-02 registration has filled and closed in 24-36 hours. Everyone who registers successfully is eligible for the rebate.

### EC-03

This course is for emergency communication managers at all levels, including AEC/EC/DEC/SEC. Online registration for EC-03, Advanced Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, opens on the third Monday of every month, at 12:01 AM. So, registration for the next upcoming EC-03 course starts on March 17, at 12:01 AM. Approximately 30 seats are available per class. In recent months, EC-03 registration has filled and closed in about 24 hours. Everyone who registers successfully is eligible for the rebate.

There are currently twelve EC-01 course graduates from Vermont. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of them: Robert Brown/W4YFJ, Deb Clark/NN1C, Clair Dunn/KA1YSX, Randall Horn/AA1UN, Robert Lencke/KB1GLL, Brad Murray/KD1BL, Carl Phillips/KC1WH, William Sharp/N1PCC, Ed Shipley/N1PEA, Mitch Stern/W1SJ, Arnold Utin/K1BVT, and Karl Zuege/KB1DSB.

I strongly encourage everyone in Vermont ARES take EC-01. The rebates effectively make the courses free of charge. I urge you to take advantage of this educational opportunity, and raise your personal skill level in emergency communications.

## Amateur Exam Session Announced

By Frank, W1AD, VE Liaison

The Green Mountain Wireless Society of Rutland, VT will sponsor FCC licensing examinations for all amateur (ham) radio license classes on Saturday, March 8, 2003 at 9 AM. The exams (written and Morse Code) will be offered at the Rutland office of the American Red Cross, 117 Strongs Avenue, Rutland, Vermont. Candidates should arrive no later than 8:45 am.

Each candidate is required to provide two forms of identification. Previously licensed hams should bring a copy of their current license as well as any CSCE forms issued at other exam sessions. The test fee is \$12. One retake of a failed element is permitted with an additional \$12 fee. Pre-registration, while not required, is preferred. Pre-register at <http://users.adelphia.net/~gmws/vetes/>.

The local contact is Deb Clark at 438-5457 or Frank D'Auria, [w1ad@arrl.net](mailto:w1ad@arrl.net).

## Introduction To Disaster Services Course - Sat., March 15

The second of two scheduled Introduction to Disaster Services classes will be Saturday, March 15, from 9am - noon. The class 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 [charrut@sover.net](mailto:charrut@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 for further training you would like to take such as Damage Assessment. Please register early for this class session.

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

## Field Day 2003

By Gary, W1ECH

Some of this may sound familiar because I said some of it last fall, but spring is coming (I hope), so it's time for us to start planning for Field Day.

After Field Day 2002, our president sent out a questionnaire asking how we did and what ideas people might have for next year. He only back a few replies, and we also discussed this at the July meeting. Because I opened my mouth so much, I ended up volunteering to chair the 2003 FD! That being the case, here are some observations on 2002 FD and a request for help as we aim for 2003.

It can be very difficult for everybody when a couple of people end up trying to scurry around handling all the loose ends. They end up frustrated and so does everyone else. Let's talk about Field Day a little at the March meeting, to give ourselves time to make changes beforehand, and then finalize things at the June meeting.

### 2002 Observations

Setup: Went well, probably because it's been done the same way for several years.

Tent: Large, cool, and comfy, even if it did leak.

Startup: N1VT was on the air at 2:00!

Operator Coverage: Fine during the day, but apparently a bit low during the night.

Logging: Computer logging worked well, despite some confusion. (Same was true of the paper logs.)

Food: Snacks, burgers, soda, etc., but obviously a bit "catch as catch can".

Cleanup: Went VERY well. People helped and generally knew who did what.

What Can We Do Better In 2003? What Should We Change?

Let's start by deciding what we may want to do differently.

Some problems people mentioned last year include operation out of band or on wrong frequencies (license limits), lack of ground on GOTA station, computer startup/logging problems, leaky tent, and food. What should we improve or change this year?

Do we want to change from 2A to 3A? There was talk about that last year, to encourage more participation. However, with the GOTA station and VHF station also on the air, maybe that would be too much. What do you think?

There is also a new choice: operating from the EOC. How does the club feel about that?

### Coordinators Needed

We need coordinators for some key functions to be sure major things get done, without the need for one or two people trying to do it all. I don't think we need a "military-type" operation, but a little organization can go a long way.

Is anyone willing to head up the following? Please let me know if you are!

### Tent:

I understand there may be a chance of securing a tent we can OWN and then make sure it's in decent shape. Anybody have info on that? Let's line that up asap.

### Antennas:

I think Bob, WA1ONT, has most of the wires, but I believe Jeff has the 40M wire beam. Is someone willing to oversee all of the antennas, ropes, string, etc., to make sure they're there Friday, and make sure they all get up in time?

### Operating:

Does the club want operation around the clock? If so, at the April meeting, I hope we can start to fill out signup sheets (to be printed in Key Clicks and also posted at the site) to help us see where we need help.

### Paper Logs vs Computer Logs:

What does the club want to do? Either one works, but we need to be sure people know how to use either one beforehand. If we use computer logging, can we have a training session BEFORE Field Day, perhaps at the May or June meeting, so people know how to change hands, fix mistakes, etc.? Who will oversee all of this?

### Food:

Bonnie Lucas has come forward, but she will need help. (Thanks, Bonnie!)

### Publicity:

This can be done before or after FD, but we need it. Who will handle this?

### W1AW Message:

Let's not miss this bonus! Who will be sure we copy this?

### SM Message:

This should be written ahead of time, so only the number of people can be plugged in on FD. Then it must be sent during FD. Who will handle this?

### Other Bonuses:

Optional, but nice. Anyone want to oversee these?

IF I've forgotten anything, please say so. See you March 11!

## The Prez Says

Hello to all. I still believe that spring is coming, but then I believed in Santa Claus till I was 13 years old too.

Time to review my goals for the club.

1. Improve Emergency Communication Preparedness.
2. Involve more club members in club activities.
3. Assist in anyway possible to get more people licensed and upgraded.

Number one: We have made great progress toward this goal. We have a working link with the Red Cross. We have 25 or so members signed up for a "phone tree" for call up in emergencies. And we have members who have completed or are signed up for the ARRL Level 1 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course.

We have also participated in a test radio net from the EOC with Red Cross Chapter offices and ARES groups in northern VT, Southern VT, Eastern VT, NH ARES, Manchester NH, Concord NH, Keen NH, and two groups from Eastern NY. The District 6 ARES people are also conducting training nets on Monday night at 7:30 on 147.045. This Monday night net is open to all licensed hams (you don't need to be a member of ARES) and it would be great if more people participated in this 2 meter net.

Number two: Our meeting attendance is up, even in the winter months. We are also getting more people involved in Programs at the monthly meetings. We have some interesting programs planned for the spring and summer that I am sure will boost participation and involvement. Field Day is coming and I already can see our member's enthusiasm in making this a great fun event for all club members.

Number three: A new class of Tech students will be "graduating" next week from the GMWS course (thanks Deb & Frank). I hope that they all do well at the March 8th VE exam session. I am looking forward to having them come to the Club meetings and participating in all of our activities. I plan to attend the final class meeting to personally invite the class members to our club meeting in April and also let them know that the members of GMWS are there to help them "ease" into the world of Ham radio.

73, Albert W1AJP

## GMWS Ten Years Ago

### Compiled by Jeff Freeman, N1YTY

The file shows that transition was clearly under way in March, 1993. The editor of Key Clicks, Walter Deinzer WW1Q, then also president of GMWS, set a date and got done as editor. Frank now W1AD worked on the translation and a new Key Clicks was about to emerge. People serve but others step forward to learn and take on a new job in a club such as Green Mountain Wireless Society.

We are at that point once again. Our Key Clicks editor, Deb NN1C, has let it be known that she will be done come December 31, 2003. It is always useful to learn to use a new piece of software to get a job done. Further, it adds a lot to the life of our Club to have members write a piece now and then about what they have done and can share with those who read Key Clicks.

## Regular Meeting of the Green Mountain Wireless Society, Red Cross Building, 117 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT. February 11, 2003.

1A. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by president Albert W1AJP with 17 people present. Everyone identified by name and call sign all around.

1B. January 14, 2003 minutes accepted as printed in Key Clicks by vote.

1C. Treasurer Bob W1HGO made his report. Again, use of the repeater has costs and donations are what pay the bill.

1D. EOC report. John N1HLG reported operating Monday night for regular net and as an opportunity for those in ham licensing class to see the operation. If it is frozen, John notes that we must wait for warmer weather to free up the antenna rotor. Adding radios to match the new ERV (Emergency Response Vehicle). The Vermont QSO party had 5 people operating from EOC.

1E. Field Day. Bonnie reported plans for Saturday nite pot luck dinner at the FD site. Gary notes that come March serious planning for FD should move forward. The tables borrowed by GMWS were damaged by water at Field Day 2002. Red Cross will now be very reluctant to loan tables in future.

1F. LEPC. Local Emergency Planning Committee involving such groups as the Rutland Airport, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Health Department, Emergency Responders, Red Cross and some others met. The FCC form has been downloaded and now need signatures. A letter will go out to Bernie thanking him for his service as trustee for WG1Q.

2A. Old Business. The need to establish a new trustee for WG1Q was discussed and Frank W1AD agreed to take over the duties and responsibilities. Frank will succeed Bernie AA1MG who had relocated to Florida. The FCC form has been downloaded and now need signatures. A letter will go out to Bernie thanking him for his service as trustee for WG1Q.

3A. New Business. ARES net on Monday has low number of check-ins. The net topics alternate between traffic handling one week to rag chewing the other and Bert KA2HTY continues to serve as net control on this regularly scheduled net on 147.045. There is also a regularly scheduled Vermont Phone Traffic Net (National Traffic Net) with Mike AA1PR on the Killington repeater, 146.880, at 9:00 pm nightly.

3B. Red Cross. As a major provider of disaster services Red Cross offers classes with Introduction to Disaster Services as the first course. This course is prerequisite to others.

Those interested in participating in September 6 emergency exercises in the Mt. Ascutney area hospitals may prepare with such courses, available free. Call Cindy 773-9159.

3C. Saturday, February 15 is test of HF radio communications with Red Cross headquarters up and down Vermont, from Bennington to Burlington on 80 and 40 meters.

3D. Antenna Party will be planned for Phil Bates W3SOH to take down a 28 foot tower with rotor and control.

3E. Packet of explanatory materials handed out by Cindy KB1EYN as guide to what is expected at different color levels of threat: Green for Low up to Red for Severe. This is from Homeland Security with what is appropriate for Individual, Family, Schools, Businesses, Neighborhood, and All.

3F. Readiness information packets were also distributed with emphasis on developing an emergency response plan useful to you or your group.

4A. Program. Gary W1ECH spoke on antennas. He used examples of very simple and basic home brew antennas and discussed basic dipoles. He reviewed radiation patterns and propagation and displayed a home brew low cost PVC yagi. He concluded by describing and diagramming his favorite home brew antenna tuner. He stressed simplicity and with his many operating successes using such simple equipment the results speak for themselves.

We left with his 12 page printed hand out. Thanks, Gary, for your enthusiasm and sharing your experience with the Club.

4B. Adjournment at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Freeman N1YTY, secretary GMWS.

NEXT GMWS MEETING TUESDAY MARCH 11, 7:00PM

## MEETING NOTICE

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

Tuesday, March 11, 2003  
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](http://www.gmws.org)