



THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION of the GREEN MOUNTAIN WIRELESS SOCIETY
AN ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

KEY KLICK'S

VOLUME # 35 ISSUE #04

MARCH 2020

Congratulations New Hams GMWS 2020 TECHNICIAN CLASS A SUCCESS

VE SESSION RESULTS IN NEW GRANTS AND UPGRADES

The annual GMWS Technician Class that began in early January ended with a fabulous VE Session on March 16th. The course was held every Monday evening for 10 weeks. Members Forest, N1BBQ, Rick, N1UF, Bob, KD1YC, Calvin, W1CLG and Frank, W1AD taught several folks new to the Amateur Radio hobby. Over the course of the 10 weeks, students were presented the material needed to pass the Technician test. In addition, there were several demonstrations of radio fundamentals as well as on-the-air demonstrations.

Bob, KD1YC, demonstrated his wooden/rope wave generator which provides students with a visual reference of a standing wave. He demonstrates how a generated wave behaves when the antenna length matches the wave and how the wave behaves when the length is not optimized.

Rick, N1UF was able to demonstrate live reception of a satellite pass with a hand-held radio and home-brewed UHF beam.

Calvin, W1CLG participated in the weekly ARES net from the class site and students were given an opportunity to hear how a directed net operates. Frank, W1AD used various antennas and equipment to demonstrate operation in VHF as well as HF.

By the end of the class the students successfully pass the Tech test. There were eleven candidates at the test. Three of the eleven came for upgrades and we congratulate our members Forest, N1BBQ and Scott, W1SBW, who upgraded to Extra. Of the eight testing for technician, seven were successful. The four members from the class all passed the Tech test easily. Congratulations to Abigail, Nathan and Forest (N1BBQ's) parents Chris and Margaret. Three other candidates from around the area were able to pass with lots of dedicated self-study. As of this writing, the grants have not been issued because of delays in VEC processing due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

GMWS congratulates all the new licensees and upgrades. Your hard work has paid off and we hope you will participate in the hobby by getting on-the-air and also by getting involved in club activities.

Club meetings are the second Tuesday of the month ([SEE SPECIAL NOTE PAGE #8](#)) and we hold a net on the local repeater (see Pg#2 for details) Monday evening at 7:30 . The next major event is the ARRL Field Day. This event takes place at the end of June. Watch this newsletter in May and June for updates.

Sadly as we go to print the ARRL and FCC have not been able to assign or publish the call signs which will be awarded to our new operators. This delay is the results of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated stay at home safety orders. Our apologies and shared frustration is extended to all effected operators. Waiting for that award took a lot of work and waiting for a callsign is not fun.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2020 CLASS SUCCESS	1
PREZ SEZ	2
GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY	2
APR/MAY NET SCHEDULE ...	2
GMWS TEN YEARS AGO	3
NET IN'S N OUTS.	3
FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES 4	
NC REPORTING, EASY WAY	4
COMING SOON TO GMWS	4
RACES MEMBERSHIP INFO	4
PANDEMIC IMPACTS WEATHER 6	
SOS LOST CW MESSAGE	6
LOBSTERCOM 2020	6
VT GREEN-UP DAY MAY 30 ..	7
SMILING MOON	8
SPECIAL MEETNG NOTE:	8
APR14 DUE TO VIRUS WE WILL ATTEMPT A	

BEFORE THE HAM LICENSE!!



AFTER THE HAM LICENSE!!



PREZ-SEZ



FOREST N1BBQ

MARCH 2020

Wow what a month March has been! I'm not sure how much will change from the time I write this, but I wanted to let everyone know now that our April meeting will NOT be in person. with the COVID-19 stuff going on, I think that's a safe plan. We will get together for a round table net at 7pm that Tuesday (the 14th) I hope that is OK with everyone. This also means our foxhunt will be postponed to a date TBD. Now that i have the sad news out of the way, some good news! Congrats to our 2020 class of new hams! I'm a bit biased since 2 of them were my parents, but they all did great! Was really fun assisting Frank with the class as well. Also a huge shout-out to Neighbor Works for letting us use their space.

That's what I have for this month, Catch everyone on the air!

73

N1BBQ

Highlights of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity and Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

<http://SunSpotWatch.com>
<https://Facebook.com/spacewx.hfradio>
 Twitter: @NW7US
 Twitter: @hfradiospacewx

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to reach active levels on 30-31 Mar due to CH HSS influence. Generally quiet or quiet to unsettled conditions are expected to prevail throughout the remainder of the outlook period.

Don't forget to visit our live space weather and radio propagation web site, at: <http://SunSpotWatch.com/>

Live Aurora mapping is at <http://aurora.sunspotwatch.com/>

If you are on Twitter, please follow these two users: 1. <https://Twitter.com/NW7US> 2. <https://Twitter.com/hfradiospacewx>

Be sure to subscribe to our space weather and propagation email group, on Groups.io <https://groups.io/g/propagation-and-space-weather>

Spread the word!



APRIL/MAY 2020 GMWS ARES NET CONTROL SCHEDULE:

The GMWS ARES Net is held Monday evenings starting at 7:30 PM on the 147.045 repeater (+/- 600 kHz, PL=100Hz). Please check the schedule to see if a given net is for training, or "rag chew." Note you can also find the *complete* ARES Net Control Schedule on the GMWS web site at www.gmws.net, use the ARES link in the "Upcoming Events and Amateur News" section of the home page. It is possible that the schedule will change, so check the web site often for updates.

APR 06	Ann Mary AB1CH	TR
APR 13	Calvin W1CLG	TR
APR 20	Zach K1ZK	RC
APR 27	Steve w1SFR	TR

MAY 04	Ann Mary AB1CH	RC
MAY 11	Calvin W1CLG	TR
MAY 18	Zach K1ZK	RC
MAY 25	Steve w1SFR	TR
JUN 01	Ann Mary AB1CH	TR

ATT ALL NC OPERATORS: Please email a list of your check in's Callsign & Name to: Prez Forest N1BBQ - TechieForest@gmail.com (SEE Pg #4)

TEN YEARS AGO AT GREEN MOUNTAIN WIRELESS

In 2010 we were approaching that time known as “9/11” which gave so many a feeling in the gut like no other feeling. Now we hear orders based on best advice of public health scientists and epidemiologists. Stay at home. Wash your hands.



In 2010 the ARRL was working on a new web site. This is a place to go to stay abreast of so many ham radio needs, even for non-members. It was to be launched in April 2010.

There was concern about our repeater equipment and the site. There was need for a work party later that spring. John N1HLG – SK was in touch with the property owners. Frank W1AD was assessing the situation.

GMWS was meeting upstairs in the Red Cross building. Life was more regular there and then, but hams are adaptable.

Truly we will know more in a month or two about putting our county’s economy back to working. We probably will have learned some new ways to communicate without being together, even GMWS meetings. It takes some time to learn how new kinds of wireless things might work on my own equipment, including correct passwords and codes.

Compiled by Jeff Freeman N1YTY

NET CONTROL OPERATOR- IN’S N OUT’S

We have a new group of hams in the area now. The other NC operators and I will surely welcome them to check into the net every Monday night at 7:30 on the GMWS repeater. As we say in the preamble of the net, You do not need to be a member of Green Mountain Wireless Society or ARES to participate in the net but you must have a valid Ham Radio license. (or meet other rules for valid operation)

It is hoped that you have had a chance to listen a little nets during your class meetings. Most nets across the country will follow much the same order or routine. Listen carefully to Net Control for instruction and direction then carefully follow what they say. Try keeping notes as you go too. Most NC’s will traditionally ask for check-in’s to come with their Call sign/ Name/ & Location. (Ed Note: see pg #4) Listen and try to follow that format. Under regular conditions it is not critical; but following the format set could be crucial and really matter in a time of emergency or less than optimal operating conditions. This is because the NC Op is recording what you say and has a note paper (or message form) set up with columns that correspond to that order. When you check in and give your information in the correct order things go well. If you come in with your information in another order the NC Op really has to pause and think about which piece of information goes in which column. Yeah, it is just a little inconvenience or blip but if the NC has four or five people checking in at a time and maybe do not recognize some of the callers your notes quickly become a mess. Granted on the Monday night net in Rutland VT with a very small foot-print this is not critical; but, our little nets are good for practicing proper procedural process which when you get out of the area or into an emergency situation somebody could suffer. I am of the opinion, as were my Elmers through the years that it is better to mess up on the little local repeater than to mess up when you get into the real world. So our little repeater is a good place to learn. You are among friends who care about your operating experiences and want to help you get the most out of the hobby. Some of our repeaters, even some local ones are linked all over the state or have a very large coverage area. My brother, KE2SD did not put it that politely but I got the picture. Being a ham radio operator is a privilege and as such needs to be handled with respect and in a responsible manor.

Our little repeater/net is a great way to learn about your radio and if you are mobile you can observe where it will or won’t work. Sometimes the club holds what is called a Fox Hunt which is fun to practice directional signal finding. The ‘fox’ hides within a given boundary and transmits at various times and durations. The ‘hunter’ then moves about and discerns the direction of the signal narrowing in closer and closer. The first person to find the ‘fox’ wins. Sometimes the competition is fierce!

If you want to learn more about our net and follow along you can get a copy of our preamble by emailing me at AnnMaryR802@gmail.org. You are also invited to try your hand at being Net Control. As noted, we have the Pre-Amble and we can instruct you or answer any questions. Complete training is offered.



MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2020

- 16 Present
- Sec Report Approved
- Treasurer Report Approved - Solvent
- VP - reported still working on updating new website gmws.net
- Field Day
 - a. Ben has a portable tower to bring to field day.
 - b. Starting to plan, Forest looking for leads for key areas (antenna setup, food, bonus points, PR, etc)
 - c. Still planning on RHS for location.
- Mike Meehan talked about RACES
 - a. Talked about their setup and how they function
 - b. Equipment locations
 - c. NFMRA Repeater system
 - d. Looking to recruit more hams
 - e. COVID-19 possibly going to look for help from hams (ARES/RACES)
 - f. Mike will send Forest (N1BBQ) an email to send to club telling us how to get involved
- Repeater Shack
 - a. Ben working on setting up a time, He will let us know
 - b. We are looking for pole to replace the existing one
 - c. Motion made and passed to spend up to \$100 for supplies on building
- Foxhunt
 - a. Start prep for one next month
 - b. Meet at 6:30 to form teams, then have quick meeting after
 - c. Forest (N1BBQ) will layout rules / boundaries etc.
- Adjourn
Submitted by Forest N1BBQ (edited by Ann Mary AB1CH)

AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO RECORD & SUBMIT A NET ATTENDANCE REPORT

This is how I submit my net report to Forest after my nets. Before I start I write the name and date. Then I head my columns and numbers. Rather than typing it over I just snap a picture and email it to Forest.

GMWS Net Report 03 MAR 2020 TR

CALL	Name	Location
1 W1UKKp	Ben	Pauliney
2 W1SFR	Sara	Sudbury Auto Morse Key
3 KE1DKO	Tom	Dewell
4 N1M1TS	Mike	Mt Holly
5 K1ZK	Zach	RC
6 AB1CH	Ann Mary	Chippewah VEC's Exchange in VT send coming

COMING SOON!!!! TO GMWS!!!!





Recently there has been a resurgence of interest in RACES (related to Vermont Emergency Management) and ARES. There is also much confusion and people are asking how to get involved. Please see: <https://vem.vermont.gov/programs/races> for a link to the complete **Field Operation Guides for RACES members** outline of practices and procedures. Below is a brief section about membership. Next month I hope to cover ARES. Ed: Ann Mary AB1CH

RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICES (RACES)

RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICES (RACES) IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OF AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS WHO ARE LICENSED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN TIME OF EMERGENCY. CREATED IN 1952 TO SERVE IN CIVIL DEFENSE EMERGENCIES, RACES PROVIDES ESSENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND WARNING LINKS TO SUPPLEMENT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DURING EMERGENCIES.

As a secondary function, RACES is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide emergency communications for civil preparedness purposes. RACES members use their primary stations or designated RACES stations to conduct emergency communications on specific frequencies.

RACES Membership Eligibility

Any United States citizen who possesses a valid FCC Amateur Radio Operator License, Technician Class or higher, is eligible to apply for membership in the State RACES program. All RACES operators are required to operate within the restrictions of their license class, as per FCC part 97.

It is recognized that RACES members who have attained an amateur radio license may be under 18 years of age or younger. For such members, the following conditions must be met:

Any RACES member under the age of 18 must have the written consent of the member's parent or guardian shown on the RACES application.

RACES members under the age of 18 are not permitted to conduct emergency RACES activities in hazardous or potentially hazardous environments. A hazardous or potentially hazardous environment is one in which there are circumstances where life safety may be in jeopardy.

RACES members under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a member 18 years of age or older during RACES operations.

RACES Membership Application

Licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in RACES membership shall request an Application Form from Vermont Emergency Management in Waterbury, Vt.

Membership in RACES is on a State level. Individual members that are approved by the VEM RACES program and issued identification cards. Vermont Emergency Management in Waterbury, Vt., maintains the membership list.

Vermont RACES members may be registered in Vermont only. This is because if a member is registered in more than one state, and there is a need for RACES volunteers in multiple states, it would be impossible for individual state emergency managers to know the number of volunteers available.

RACES Member Identification

Each member will have been issued a VEM RACES Identification Card. This is the ONLY identification that will be accepted by state or local Emergency Management Directors and personnel for entry into secure areas. The RACES Identification Card shall display: the member's Name, FCC Amateur Call Sign and Operator Class, County of Residence, a photograph, Issuance and Expiration Dates, and Signature of VEM RACES Radio Officer.

Contact Information: **Headquarters**

45 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-1300

(800) 347-0488

(802) 244-8721

(888) 545-7598 (TTY)

COVID-19 PANDEMIC COULD IMPACT WEATHER FORECASTS

24 March 2020

One aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a reduction in the aircraft-based observations available to weather prediction centres at the start of forecasts. The observations are used together with many others to help estimate the state of the Earth system at the start of forecasts. At ECMWF, aircraft reports are second only to satellite data in their impact on forecasts. However, recently added satellite wind observations will help to mitigate the drop in the number of aircraft-based observations.

The reduction

The images which follow in the article shows how the number of aircraft-based observations over Europe received and used at ECMWF has evolved since the start of March.

<https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/media-centre/news/2020/drop-aircraft-observations-could-have-impact-weather-forecasts>



SOS FOR LOST MORSE CODE MESSAGE

The North Wales Chronicle reports a Holyhead man has put out an SOS for a lost morse code message which played an important role in heralding the end of the First World War.

Trevor Williams is appealing for help to find the treasured Armistice message his father "Billy" William Evan Williams transcribed 100 years ago when he worked as a Wireless Telegraphist, morse code operator, in the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserves.

Trevor's father was the sub-postmaster of Church Terrace Post Office in Holyhead.

Back in 1916, he joined the RNVF aged 18, and after training was posted to the Mersey U-boat-hunting flotilla under the command of Captain, Gordon Campbell VC, DSO x 3.

In 1917/18, they were posted to Holyhead to stop the sinking of ships in the Irish sea.

On the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918 he was Wireless Telegraphist of the Watch, on Captain Campbell's ship HMS Patrol, in Holyhead Breakwater Harbour

At 0630 hrs, he received a Morse Code message from the Eiffel Tower, saying war was to end at 11am.

He transcribed the message and the captain sent him ashore to inform the Holyhead Town Hall.

Trevor said: "As a local lad and sailor, our dad was thrilled, especially as Holyhead may have been one of the first places to hear the good news that the terrible war was over.

"He went back to his ship and was over the moon to be given the message as a memento. Another message, from King George V, at 0200 hrs on November 12, 1918, was also given to him.

Trevor's father died aged 63 in 1960. Trevor, who is now 87, and his twin brother John looked after the items until their 80th birthdays.

"Then we decided that we should take it to the Holyhead Maritime Museum but to be retrieved by us, framed with photos, on the 11th of the 11th this year, " said Trevor, who taught at the County School.

"We hoped to retrace our Dad's footsteps to the Town Hall and present it to the Mayor, a proud day for us." But his brother died before they could carry out their plan and the treasured message was lost.

Read the full story at: <https://www.northwaleschronicle.co.uk/news/16971655.holyhead-mans-sos-to-find-war-is-over-lost-morse-code-message/>

STARTING 2020 RIGHT! PLANNING LOBSTERCOM ... MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

countdown timer <https://www.timeanddate.com/countdown/generic?>

April 2, 2020 QRPme INFO: LATEST NEWS!

UPDATE!!!
Lobstercom2020! is now on the horizon! Link is upBUT it really depends what is happening in the world of viruses... 'Some people say' it will be die off by summertime but other more science oriented people say it will still be with us. By mid-July, everybody will certainly need a refreshing break, and if it is at all possible, the lobsters will go in the pots! Keep in touch. I will post updates as things become clearer... QRPME.com

GREEN UP VERMONT POSTPONES GREEN UP DAY TO MAY 30

Now to be held the last Saturday in May, instead of the first.

Green Up Vermont has been closely monitoring coronavirus (COVID-19) communications and guidance from the Vermont Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports, and daily news from Governor Scott and our federal government. The situation is fluid and our greatest priority is the health and well-being of our Green Up family of volunteers and event participants.

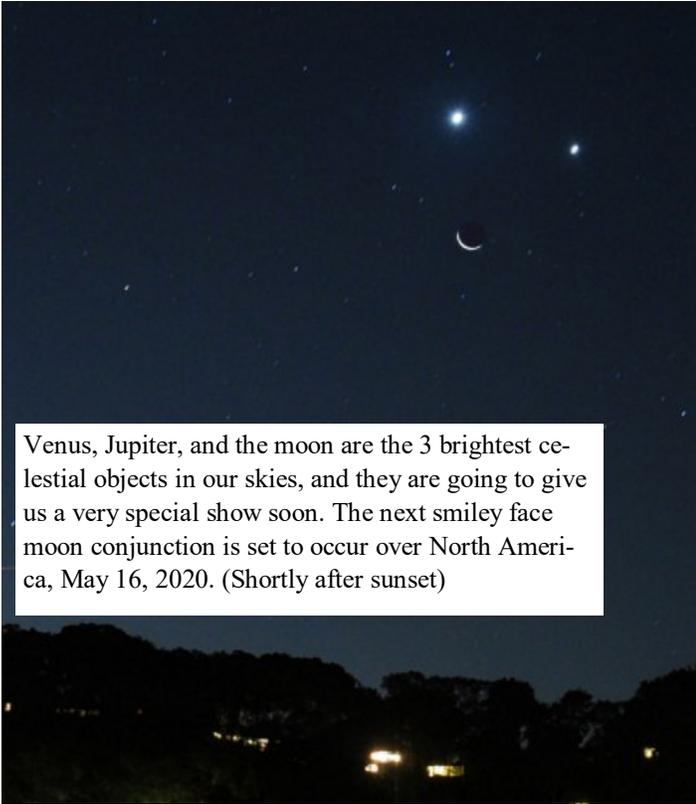
Effective March 30th, Green Up Vermont's plan is to postpone Green Up Day from May 2 to May 30. The distribution of Green Up Day supplies will happen the first week in May. Although Green Up is shifting its planning toward May 30, they will still look for final guidance from the Vermont Department of Health and Governor Scott.

- We will be ramping up our communications around coronavirus safety, wearing gloves, protection from ticks and sharp objects, and other things for the next eight weeks.
- We will be getting information out to the VPA so that school personnel can communicate with students virtually about Green Up Day and their participation in this community service.
- We will also be launching an updated App that will aid in building virtual teams, instant communication, and tracking routes/bags all over Vermont to help grow participation.
- Communication will be an imperative component to handling this community service safely while keeping everyone connected to giving back by Greening Up.

Green Up Day, by nature, is an activity of social distancing as citizens of all ages get outside and clean up miles of Vermont roads. Trash drop off locations can be managed with little to no close contact in keeping with CDC guidelines. Standing the test of 50 year, the essence of Green Up Day, however, is far more than that. It is a sense of commitment to where we live and each other, it is about healthy surroundings, and it is about connecting our communities with a goal for common greatness.

Green Up is a well-loved event that will bring some normalcy to our communities and will help contribute to the physical, social and mental health of Vermonters as much as their Green Up activities will help beautify our state. We look forward to Greening Up safely on May 30.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit that relies on the contributions from corporate partners including Casella, Subaru of New England, CCV, National Life Group, Northfield Savings Bank, Co-op Insurance Co., Cabot Creamery, Spruce Mortgage, UVM Health Network, Eternity Web, and Hagan Associates, along with others and individuals to ensure programs such as the poster contest and Green Up Day happen. Individuals can choose to donate to Green Up Vermont on line 23, Charitable Tax Contribution, on the Vermont State Income Tax return or donate online. To learn more about how to get involved with Green Up Vermont go to www.greenupvermont.org. Green Up supplies will be distributed to towns in early May. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 50th Green Up Day, May 30th.



Venus, Jupiter, and the moon are the 3 brightest celestial objects in our skies, and they are going to give us a very special show soon. The next smiley face moon conjunction is set to occur over North America, May 16, 2020. (Shortly after sunset)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ~NETS:

EVERY MONDAY:

ZONE #3 VT RACES NET, 444.550 (+PL 110.9) 6:30 PM

GMWS/ARES NET, 147.045, 7:30 PM

W1AD GMWS 10M NET 28.333 8PM (BANDS PERMITTING)

EVERY DAY:

VERMONT PHONE TRAFFIC NET, 3857 MHz, 7:30 PM

VT/NH TRAFFIC NET, 3539, 7:00 PM

NEW ENGLAND PHONE NET, 3955 6:30 AM

EVERY SUNDAY:

VERMONT PHONE EMERGENCY NET, 3976, 8:00 AM

ACARA ROUNDTABLE 147.36 (100 Hz) 8:00 PM (ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HAMCON FEB SEE PG #7

FIELD DAY 2020 JUN 21-28

LOBSTERCON JUL 11-12 SEE PAGE #2

UPCOMING VE SESSIONS:

GMWS CONTACT TIM WA1VT ... TIMABRAHAM@GMAIL.COM

BURLINGTON AREA VE RALPH KD1R 802-878-6454

NEXT GMWS MEETING: SPECIAL NOTE!!!

**DUE TO VIRUS WE WILL ATTEMPT A ROUND
TABLE SESSION ON 147.045 REPEATER**

TUESDAY APRIL 14 @ 7:00PM TALK-IN

147.045 (T - 100)

<https://m.facebook.com/W1GMW-Green-Mountain-Wireless-Society-741253585940162/>



PO BOX 84
Rutland VT 05702

MANY THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!!
FRANK W1AD; JEFF WY2Y; FOREST N1BBQ; BRAD N1VWD; REX WIREX;