

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership: ASMs: N1FNE, K1STM, NK1J, W1FXQ; Bulletin Manager KD1YV; OOC W1GC; PIC K1SFA; SEC K1BRF; SGL K1MK; STM K1HEJ; T N1KHB.

Did you know that Ted, K1BV publishes the K1BV DX Awards Directory. Here's the scoop : This is a collection of ham radio awards and certificates. 2007 is the 20th Anniversary of this specialized publication. He is always looking for rules for any kind of award, you might know about. So if your club has an award or certificate for working members, Ted is willing to give this effort publicity by adding your award immediately to his listing in his online directory at <http://www.dxawards.com/> and in the next printed version of the Directory, now containing over 3,200 awards. For more information and details contact Ted at k1bv@sbcglobal.net.

Another list that might be of interest is Craig's List <http://www.craigslist.com> features free classified advertisements and forums sorted by various topics. The pages of this centralized network of online communities are viewed over 5 billion times per month, making Craigslist the 8th most viewed website in America. If you are looking to reach people in your town and tell them about your club and ham radio then craigslist is a great way to reach hundreds or thousands of potential hams in your community.--ARRL Club News

Why not reward a new ham with a certificate for their first contact! Do you remember how excited you were making your first contact? Why not award a new ham, especially someone you have mentored, with a certificate! Go to <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/award/certificate/> for more information.

Don't forget The Eastern VHF Society Conference weekend sponsored by The Northeast Weak Signal Group April 20-22 <http://www.newsvhf.com/vh-fconf.html> at the Crown Plaza Hotel 1 Bright Meadow Blvd. Enfield. There will be a workshop on microwave antennas and operation by Paul W1GHZ patterned after the UK Microwave groups suitable for newcomers.

Mark your calendars now--April 29 -- the Southington Ham Fest and ARES Annual Meeting! SEC Brian K1BRF and the DECs are really looking forward to seeing you all and give you some good information so don't miss it!

The Northville Amateur Radio Association will be having a technical program on oscilloscopes. Members are invited to bring one along and learn more about how to use it.

NARL is participating in the CPTV Expo again this year, a special event station at The Boy Scout Camporee May 19, the 90th anniversary Newington Fire Department parade, planning the ham fest for June and much more.

The Meriden ARC will be celebrating its 60th anniversary as a club in October!

Your Section Manager updated members of the Middlesex Amateur Radio Society about Section happenings and plans to give a similar talk at the Meriden Amateur Radio Club and RASON in the near future. It's always fun to visit clubs and learn firsthand about what you're doing and talk with you about Amateur radio in CT.

Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC, k1eic@arrl.org

Donation!

I recently received excellent news from Randy-N1PTB that Joe-K1IKE has donated a 100 foot spool of brand new high-quality hard line to help us replace our aging feedline. On behalf of the club I would like to extend a huge "thank you" to Joe.

--Chip-N1MIE

Contacts:



President:
Chip Griffin—N1MIE

n1mie@arrl.net
(860) 376-0888



Vice President:
Chuck Wehner—W1FJW

w1fjw@arrl.net
(860) 448-1458



Recording Secretary:
Tom Dean—KB1JJJ

kb1jjj@arrl.net



Treasurer:
Lou Herman—KB1DED

kb1ded@arrl.net



Tech Committee Chairman:
Mike Martell—N1HFX

(860) 546-9498



Newsletter Editor:
Chip Griffin—N1MIE

n1mie@arrl.net
(860) 376-0888



Norwich Civil Prep. Liaison:
WebMaster:
Scott Moore—W1SSN

w1ssn@arrl.net

Public Info. Officer (PIO):
Wayne Rosenfield—KB1NKK

kb1nkk@arrl.net

Coming Soon

Recognitions of Recent Activities

I would like to acknowledge at this time two hams, that recently managed to successfully get their General Class License Upgrades:

* W1WML, George on March 27, 2007

* KB1NHX, Jeff on March 27, 2007

W1WML and KB1NAL visited the League on March 27th, and made their first overseas international contact on the W1AW radio station using the 20 meter band operating SSB phone. George made a contact into Yugoslavia, and Lee made a contact into Macedonia. Both hams walked away with grins from ear to ear, which made that long trip back to the Norwich area worth while. KB1NAL's advice to all hams with HF privileges, if you have the time, take a tour of the League and enjoy their great ham radio station, which is part of your membership privileges.

KB1NHX is still working on the configuration detail of his ham station antenna for working the HF bands. By this coming weekend Jeff should be making his long distance overseas contacts with that nice 160 thru 10 meter multi-band dipole antenna in the inverted V design he hopes to put up soon. Good Luck Jeff !! Hihih!

Liz, KB1OUX (Chip's wife) needs to be congratulated on her new ham ticket as a Technician Class operator, which was granted on April 5, 2007. Wishing you the best in the hobby of Amateur Radio

May every ham's journey be fun, exciting, and interesting, and we strive to continue to make contacts with Amateur Radio operators from around the globe, who share a similar desire to connect with people through the "MAGIC OF RADIO".

PEACE and 73 de KB1NAL, APIO

Monthly PIO Report

1. Lee, KB1NAL, has publicized meetings through the usual media.

2. Wayne, KB1NKK, has received two separate telephone inquiries regarding membership, apparently referred through the club's listing on the ARRL website. The telephone contact number has since been edited but, clearly, the listing has visibility and is being consulted.

3. Contact with Mohegan Sun Casino revealed that the starting date for Hot Sum-

Repeaters

RASON

146.730	PL=156.7	Norwich, CT
449.725	PL=156.7	Norwich, CT

SCRAMS

146.670	PL=156.7	Groton, CT
448.975	PL=156.7	Groton, CT
146.970	PL=156.7	Waterford, CT

Others

145.390	PL=156.7	Ledyard, CT
146.060	PL=156.7	Salem, CT
146.865	PL=156.7	Subbase, CT
147.240	PL=100.0	Westerly, RI

Packet

RASON

N1NW	145.030	PBBS/Node
------	---------	-----------

Glastonbury

W1EDF	145.030	FlexNet Node
-------	---------	--------------

Local Nets

Traffic

E.C.T.N.	146.730	Daily	2100
----------	---------	-------	------

ARES

S.E.C.T	146.970	Mon	2000
N.E.C.T	147.225	Wed	2000
K1ARC	3.915	1st Wed	2000
ARES HF	3.965	Thu	1900

Weather

NL Co WN	147.060	Wed	2000
	146.970	1st Wed	2000
Skywarn	146.970	<i>on demand</i>	

Fun

TIPS Net	146.730	Tue	1930
VHF/UHF	146.730	Sun	2000
10m Phone	28.443±	Thu	2000
Picnic Table	3.988±	Fri	2030
alt	1.935±	Fri	2100
Ragchew	53.29- p82.5	Sun	1900

mer Nights has not yet been scheduled.

PIO To-Do List for May, 2007:

1. Publicize Field Day, when RASON's location is finalized.
2. Invite public officials to appear at the RASON Field Day site.
3. Invite news media to cover the RASON Field Day activities, as a local connection to a national and international event.
4. Implement ARRL's advice to distribute Emergency-Radio brochures to RASON members, for each person to leave a copy in a strategic location.
5. Determine the starting date for Hot Summer Nights at Mohegan Sun Casino, which in the past has been Wednesdays from 1800 to 2130. Confirm RASON's participation with the Red Cross.
6. Submit information regarding the September 29, 2007 RASON Hamfest to QST.
7. Determine other appropriate media to publicize the RASON Hamfest.
Wayne-KB1NKK, PIO
Lee-KB1NAL, APIO

President Recognizes Radio Amateur's Dedication to Volunteer Service

President George W. Bush has honored ARRL member Randy Hatfield, AG6RH, of Victorville, California, with the President's Volunteer Service Award. A volunteer with the City of Victorville Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Emergency Communication Service, Hatfield met briefly with the president April 4 to receive the award. President Bush honors local volunteers as he travels throughout the United States. When a call came from the White House, Hatfield at first thought he was the victim of an April Fool's Day prank by ECS Coordinator Robert Barton, W7OES, who nominated Hatfield for the award a few days earlier.

"Friday, March 30, I was contacted by a woman saying she was calling from the White House, and I was interviewed over the phone," Hatfield recounted. "I thought Robert was pulling a very elaborate joke!"

A year earlier, Hatfield had volunteered to help Barton rebuild the ham radio communication group

Upcoming Events

April

- 5 SCRAMS Meeting
- 10 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 19 RASON Meeting
- 29 Southington ARA Fleamarket

May

- 3 SCRAMS Meeting
- 8 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 17 RASON Meeting
- 26 Hartford Hamfest

June

- 3 Newington ARL Hamfest
- 7 SCRAMS Meeting
- 9-11 **ARRL June VHF QSO Party**
- 12 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 16 Goshen Hamfest
- 21 RASON Meeting
- 23-24 **ARRL Field Day**

July

- 5 SCRAMS Meeting
- 10 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 14-15 IARU HF World Championships
- 19 RASON Meeting

August

- 2 SCRAMS Meeting
- 4-5 ARRL UHF Contest
- 14 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 16 RASON Meeting
- 18-19 ARRL 10GHz+ Contest

September

- 6 SCRAMS Meeting
- 11 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 20 RASON Meeting

October

- 4 SCRAMS Meeting
- 7 CT State Convention in Wallingford
- 9 Tri-City ARC Meeting

for ECS. "He didn't really know me that well but decided to give me a shot," Hatfield said of Barton. "I told him I would do everything I could to assist him in getting ECS going. My condition was that I not be made a leader of anything. I was to remain in the background." Barton, in turn, believed Hatfield should be recognized for his successful efforts.

On April 1, Hatfield got another call from the same White House staff member telling him he'd won a Presidential Service Award. "I was nice to her and played along but knew this was a prank," he says. Nonetheless, he went to the airport meeting place at the appointed hour on April 4 and learned it was for real.

Hatfield greeted the president as he disembarked from Air Force One. President Bush shook Hatfield's hand and presented him with an award pin. Then, they chatted for a few minutes while photos were taken. He'll receive the official award document and a signed photo of their meeting in a couple of weeks.

"I'm supposed to be the behind-the-scenes guy," protested Hatfield, who has logged more than 500 hours of volunteer service over the past 12 months.

The award recognizes his volunteer work with CERT, a Citizen Corps program that trains volunteers in basic response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue and disaster preparedness. In his volunteer work with ECS, which uses Amateur Radio volunteers to assist city and county personnel in the event of a disaster or emergency, Hatfield has taught ham radio classes to community members. Over the years, Hatfield estimates, he's helped some 350 individuals to get their ham radio tickets.

Hatfield says he and his wife have been active with the Victorville CERT and ECS for a little more than a year. The couple had been involved in CERT previously when they lived in Marysville, Washington.

In his nomination letter, Barton praised Hatfield for inspiring others by example to also volunteer their time and receive CERT and Amateur Radio training.

"His classes provide hands on and practical applications to the materials taught," Barton said. "Randy has made service to his community a priority in life by volunteering his time and talents," Barton concluded. "He is always

there when needed to provide support and resources to accomplish any task requested.”

ARRL, National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Ink Pact

ARRL and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) <<http://www.npstc.org/>> have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). The League is an NPSTC member organization, and the MoA culminates efforts begun in 2003 to formalize the relationship between the two organizations.

“This agreement promotes the concept of strength in unity,” the MoA says. “Speaking with one unified voice provides a clear and strong message from the public safety community.” The MoA also aims “to promote a consensus input decision-making process.” The NPSTC has been among the organizations that have asked the FCC to thoroughly explore the potential of broadband over power line (BPL) technology to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio systems.

A federation of public safety organizations, NPSTC serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information for effective public safety telecommunications in the US and abroad.

Under the ARRL-NPSTC pact the ARRL designated Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, to be its primary representative to the Council (ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, is the alternate representative). Rinaldo will participate in NPSTC meetings and serve on committees and working groups. The League also has agreed to provide “other expertise, advice and resources” to further the goals of the MoA and in support of the NPSTC Charter and to promote NPSTC as “the collective voice of public safety telecommunications.”

NPSTC agrees to provide a National Support Office that will, among other things, coordinate its outreach activities and provide “national level technical assistance to the public safety telecommunications community.”

In addition to the ARRL, the Council’s 13 member organizations include the American Red Cross, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials -- International (APCO), the International

Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors.

NPSTC celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. The Council will mark “10 Years of Progress” during its Committee & Governing Board Meetings June 11-13 in Denver, Colorado.

Important Warning about Email Threat (validated)

The ARRL is alerting members -- and especially users of the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/emailfwd.html>> -- about bogus e-mails that claim to be from the “arrl.net user support team.” There is no such entity, and the messages do not originate with ARRL but appear to be coming from outside the US.

Recipients should not follow the instructions in the e-mail, which reads, “*We have received reports that your e-mail account has been used to send a large amount of unsolicited commercial email messages during this week. We suspect that your computer had been infected by a recent virus and now contains a hidden proxy server. We recommend you to follow our instructions in order to keep your computer safe.*”

Following the instructions will have the opposite effect, however, infecting your computer with the MyDoom Trojan worm and making it part of a spamming network. The League urges all members to invest in and use anti-virus software.

Minutes for 15 Mar. 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1947 by President Chip Griffin-N1MIE. A quorum was present. Members introduced themselves and Mike-KB1HHN President of SCRAMS was acknowledged. One new application from Don-K7UGO was received. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted without change. Lou-KB1DED was absent and therefore no Treasurer's Report was submitted.

Committee Reports

Repeaters: Per Chip-N1MIE both repeaters are working OK but the site visit for "tweaking" on the weekend of March 12/13 had to be postponed to the weekend of March 17/18 due to the unavailability of Norwich Utilities Dept. personnel. Gary-WT1SND requested that all RASON control operators monitor each Tuesday night at approximately 1925 hours to ensure that the 220 MHz link is brought up to tie our repeaters into the TIPS Net.

Packet/BBS: This will also be checked during the next site visit per Chip. Mike-KB1HHN stated that the power on the 145.030 digipeater may be low. Concerns that the hardline, which has been in service over 20 years, plus two old coaxial cables, need to be evaluated for possible replacement. The logical time for such a replacement would be when the RASON equipment is moved to a new building on the present site. This move will allow Tech Committee members access to our equipment without the need for support from Norwich Utilities. Also, the cleaning of all antennas, including drain holes and grounding, etc., will be evaluated as a "project for warmer weather". Anyone needing help or information on packet or digital operations can contact either Wayne-N1CLV or Bill-W1GTT.

VOSEC: Chip-N1MIE asked the membership to consider forming a RASON VEC Group for the purpose of administering Amateur Licensing Exams, possibly twice a year, in Norwich.

Fox-Hunting: The Fox Hunt which was planned for Sunday 25 Feb. was cancelled because the 146.73 Repeater was "acting up". We hope to have one in the near future.

Upcoming Events: Field Day, Sat./Sun. 23/24 June may be at the State For-

est in Voluntown. (See Old Business.)

Hamfest: RASON's Second Annual Hamfest will be the last Saturday in Sept. which is 29 September 2007 at the Gales Ferry Fire Dept. on Rt. 12 in Gales Ferry. Anyone interested in helping in any of the planning efforts prior to the Hamfest can contact Dave-WA1IKN.

Public Information: RASON's PIO Wayne-KB1NKK reported that a very positive article on RASON and Amateur Radio was presented by the Norwich Bulletin in their Sunday 18 Feb. edition.

Wayne acknowledged the reporter Amy Lawson and her photographer did a fine job. He is hoping to get more exposure of the ARRL Thrust for 2007 which focuses on Emergency Radio. RASON has verbal permission to participate with the Red Cross in the "Hot Summer Nights" exhibits at the Mohegan Sun Casino. These events begin each Wednesday at 6 PM during the warm months atop one of the parking garages and conclude at 9 PM with a fireworks display. The Red Cross has agreed to allow RASON to be present when they demonstrate their Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV).

Don-K7UGO explained a "50/50 Raffle Ticket". This is a fund raising effort designed to promote the club by awarding half of the proceeds to the winning ticket holder and the other half used to purchase gifts for victims displaced by disasters, such as teddy bears for children of house fires.

Lee-KB1NAL (Asst. PIO) is working on two new initiatives in which hams will appear on WICH-AM and/or WCTY-FM to promote ham radio, Field Day, our Hamfest as well as the club. Also, Lee is looking into Comcast's Tuesday and Wednesday interview shows.

Old Business

Field Day: A letter from CT-DEP was received confirming RASON's use of the Pachaug State Forest site for Field Day. Chip is also the RASON Field Day Coordinator and Bruce-KA1ZMZ will coordinate the cookout for that event. Chip will investigate a second Field Day site within the City of Norwich (example: Chelsea Parade, NFA, Norwich Tech.). This site could become the primary site in



lieu of Pachaug and, even if only used on a part-time basis, would provide a much greater awareness/exposure for city employees and the public.

Repeater Codes: Codes, such as Autopatch access and disconnect codes, but not Control Operator Codes, need to be published for membership usage.

Rick-KB1NQQ has developed new RASON ID Badges but did not attend the meeting. Jeff-KB1NHX announced that after the meeting he was ready to have interested members complete a brief info sheet and have his photo taken for the badging project.

New Business

Don-K7UGO submitted his membership application. A motion to accept Don into RASON was unanimously approved. Don is returning to the area from Arizona after about 8 years. Welcome back Don and CONGRATS!

Chip-N1MIE contacted the Norfolk Country Radio Club in Norwich, England. He Emailed their three top officials and received responses from two of them, one of which had his photograph taken about one week earlier at the Norwich, CT City Hall. (Yes - it's a small world!).

Lee-KB1NAL put forth a suggestion to form a RASON Awards Committee for the purpose of recognizing club members contributions, ham radio knowledge, and club effort. It is hoped that these special recognition awards could be presented during our social gatherings (such as the annual Christmas Dinner) rather than during our business meetings.

Gary-WT1SND reminded everyone that on the second Saturday of each month members meet at Old Tymes Restaurant in Norwich at 9AM for breakfast.

Betsy Doane-K1EIC the ARRL Section Manager offered to give us a presentation on "Digital Communications" possibly after the April or May business meeting. The membership indicated they would welcome such a presentation.

Chuck-W1FJW noted that it is RASON's turn to host the annual Tri-club Christmas Party.

Dave-WA1IKN, Coordinator for the Hamfest, is looking for help. Chip-N1MIE and Gary-WT1SND offered to handle the door prizes. Dave will handle the refreshments and VE Examiners.

Also, Dave will contact Scott-W1SSN and Chuck-KA1CQR for support on getting Vendors to come.

Advertisements for the Hamfest will be via the Wayne our PIO and the ARRL will need to be informed by 1 June 2007 so that notification appears in QST for the August and September issues.

Health & Welfare: It was mentioned that Darryl-WA1DD's mother had passed away. Chip-N1MIE said that he did send him a sympathy card from the membership.

It was reported that three of our members have upgraded their Amateur Class Licenses as follows: Chip-N1MIE and Mike- KB1HHN to Extra and Lee-KB1NAL to General Class. Great work guys!!

The next monthly RASON meeting will be at 1945 on Thurs. 19 April 2007 at Norwich Fire Headquarters.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2123.

Post Meeting Notes

Immediately following the regular business meeting Jeff-KB1NHX took photos of about a dozen club members in support of the new ID badges. Those badges should be ready for issue at the next club meeting. Also on Saturday 17 March Jeff upgraded at the ECARA Hamfest to Amateur General Class. Congratulations Jeff!!

On Saturday 17 March Bill Carmack, Asst. Chief at Gales Ferry Vol. Fire Dept. passed away at L&M Hospital. I knew Bill and worked with him many times during my 27 years of EMT service with Ledyard Ambulance. He was very active, dedicated, and was my neighbor. What does this have to do with RASON you might ask? The answer is that in the past Bill sponsored RASON through me, without me ever asking to do so. This is why we pay \$25 rather than the \$135 and up for hall rental fee at the Gales Ferry Fire Dept. If you hear his name you'll know the type of person we had in our corner.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Carberry - WA1IKN
acting Recording Secretary