

From the President:

I trust the new year has been good to all of you so far. I am looking forward to this year. There will be challenges and fun. In the coming months we should have a fun filled Field Day in June. We also are planning another auction this fall, which will be even better than last years.

I would like to open my tenure with some changes to the way we are doing business. I think they are relatively minor and well within my authority as President, but I'm sure someone will let me know if they feel otherwise. One of the first orders of business is to pare down the length of the business meeting. While it is essential that we conduct club business at each meeting, it is not necessary for it to take as much time as it has historically. Toward that goal I would like to immediately implement two changes. The first is that I would like committee reports published in the newsletter, like we have done with the minutes for some time. This way the committees can provide the bulk of their information in the newsletter. At the meeting we can limit committee time to questions or motions as necessary. The one exception I would like to make is the Treasurers report since I don't feel it is appropriate to publish our financial information openly on the internet. Interested parties can contact myself or Lou for that information. The second change is that I would like to implement time limits for comments from the floor. Our by-laws specify Roberts Rules of order. I've noted that we are extremely casual in our application of them. This is not in itself bad or wrong, but I would like us to be a little more formal in the control of comments from the floor so as to allow a more timely proceeding of the meeting. Anyone seeking an opportunity to comment will be granted appropriate time, but I think the should seek acknowledgment of the chair prior to commenting. Aside from speediness this should allow a little more decorum and respect for a speaker who already has the floor.

I am a firm believer in delegation. Toward that regard I will be counting on the membership to be active in leading activities of interest. For example, Dave-WA1IKN has agreed to be chairman of the hamfest. I don't expect he will carry the entire burden of planning and support activities, but he will be my central contact for this important club function. I trust members will help him in carrying it to fruition. Likewise I will be seeking a Field Day chairman for the 2007 event. We still need to confirm our siting and work out the details of one of our other major events which is only 4 months away (which will pass very quickly).

Thank you for your support and understanding. Feel free to call or write anytime with questions, comments, suggestions, or other input.
Chip-N1MIE, n1mie@arrl.net, (860) 376-0888

Public Information Officer (PIO) Report:

Activities during the past month:

1. Lee (KB1NAL) has tweaked the database for contact information.
2. Lee (KB1NAL) has distributed the meeting announcement to the contacts, to notify the membership but also to continue to announce the presence of RASON.
3. Wayne (KB1NKK) has received two big mailings from the ARRL, including brochures for the upcoming Emergency Radio campaign.
4. Wayne (KB1NKK) has set up an email address (rason@snet.net) that can be used to receive information requests.

RASON is planning to reinstitute the breakfast meetings. A question for the mem-

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Coming Soon

bership is whether these occasions are purely social events. If RASON would like some low-level publicity, this may be an opportunity for casually interested people to ask us any questions they may have about ham radio.

73,
Wayne, KB1NKK
Lee, KB1NAL

CT Section News Summary

A very Happy and healthy New Year to you all.

Some of you have seen this on the local news. We in the Ct Section send our profound sympathy to Don Moore K1QPN of Bloomfield and his family on the loss of their sawmill and other valuables from fire. The mill has operated in the family for many generations; this is a significant loss. Don was active for many years in ARES as an EC. Don, please know that the CT Section ARRL wishes you and your family all the best in dealing with this very unfortunate incident.

Several of us operated W1AW during the operating event commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first voice transmission over radio. What fun! Many thanks to Media and Public Information Manager Allen Pitts W1AGP and to Joe Carcia, NJ1Q Chief Op at W1AW for their wonderful accommodations. Your SM K1EIC, K1EIR, N1BDF, K1SFA, W1KRB, K1RfD, KB1KIX, WV1X and others whose calls I do not have at this writing operated the event. This event officially closed the Hello Radio campaign focused at new hams, although the Hello-Radio Web Site will still be up. The next focus for the recruiting of new hams will be to explain our emergency communications capability in a crisis. New brochures are ready--go to <http://www.arrl.org/pio>. I will personally see to it that all club presidents, DECs and ECs will receive a few brochures which can be used to facilitate your communicating with town officials. Let's get the word out, welcome newcomers and either participate as an elmer or refer one to an elmer. I will be in contact with clubs asking for elmers on various operating specialties with the goal of putting a list together which can be shared. So please begin thinking about the possibility of your participating in this important work. Remember, we all need to be doing something new.

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
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Glastonbury

W1EDF	145.030	FlexNet Node
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Local Nets

Traffic

E.C.T.N.	146.730	Daily	2100
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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

Another goal for us this year is the training of more operators on digital modes. Here are some words that should clarify this Section's position on the use of various modes in emcomm from DEC Chuck, Rexroad, AB1CR and CLIDE: CT Leaders in Digital Emcomm. Packet radio is a vital communication technique for digital communication. While CLIDE continues to evolve the technologies available to Connecticut served agencies, we recognize that packet radio will be one of the user links into any digital data radio system for many years to come. The current Flexnet/FBB system is the only 100% RF system we have today. It provides coverage of much of Connecticut and its coverage is expanding. The Flexnet/FBB system can handle text-only messages, NTS traffic, and bulletins. The Winlink2k system is more e-mail based, allowing for attachments of status reports and other small attachments. Today, all state Regional offices can access the Winlink2k server on Box Mountain through 100%

RF links. This means they can exchange messages with each other, even if all Internet connections are down. We plan to provide more 100% RF links into the Winlink system during 2007. This means that all the State offices will have two 100% RF systems for exchanging digital messages, each system providing digital communications support and serving as a backup to the other. If a user station is configured for Flexnet/FBB that station can use Winlink2k. If a user station is configured for Winlink2k that station can use Flexnet/FBB. While the two systems work somewhat differently, the underlying user technology is the same. We encourage users to become familiar with both. As CLIDE continues to work towards a goal of providing one megabit or higher data speeds for state regional offices and key Red Cross offices, we realize that even if that were in place today there will still be many people who have 1200 baud packet as their user station. Our long-term plan includes 1200 baud packet as one way of entering any digital data system. We have also been experimenting with 9600 baud packet and that mode shows promise as another technology for state regional offices, EOCs and anyone who wants to buy 9600 compatible packet equipment. In short, the Flexnet/FBB system is vital to the plans for digital data communication in Connecticut today, and for many years to come. Newer,

Upcoming Events

February

- 13 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 15 RASON Meeting
- 17-18 ARRL Int. DX Contest (CW)
- 23 CW no longer a licensing requirement

March

- 1 SCRAMS Meeting
- 3-4 ARRL Int. DX Contest (Phone)
- 13 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 15 RASON Meeting

April

- 5 SCRAMS Meeting
- 10 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 19 RASON Meeting

May

- 3 SCRAMS Meeting
- 8 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 17 RASON Meeting

June

- 7 SCRAMS Meeting
- 9-11 ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- 12 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 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

faster technologies such as Winlink2k are being developed to provide additional capabilities for our served agencies. Both systems will be used for many, many years. Please see <http://www.ctares.org/clide>.

And now, on a personal note, your SM had the pleasure of attending the club meeting of The Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association while in Florida recently. It was a wonderful meeting but very different! You see, the person who was to open the meeting place was not there and so it was decided to move the cars relatively close to each other and sit on tailgates and a few chairs that were available and have the meeting outside anyway! We were in a lighted parking lot. This is one thing that in CT, we would not be able to do! It was a privilege for me to be there; I was invited by Rose WA1VOP formerly a very active member of The Candlewood ARA. Many thanks to all at DBARA for their hospitality and welcome.

I also had the happy occasion to attend the holiday and recognition dinner for members of The Newington Amateur Radio League. At the NARL Dinner, the club recognized the following: NARL Ham of the Year (2006) -- Paul Gibson, N1TUP two NARL "Decade" Awards: Charles Griffen, W1GYR, and Steve Ewald, WV1X; special Recognition to John Di Sarro, KA1HQK, for his service as the NARL Club Historian; 25 Year Club Member Recognitions to John Di Sarro, KA1HQK, and to Al Cohen, W1FXQ; life Achievement Award was presented to Al Cohen, W1FXQ. NARL Certificates of Merit were presented to Al Gerke, N1JWF, and Steve Ewald, WV1X.

N1TUP was specially recognized for participating in several activities and for his many hours teaching and mentoring new hams. The life achievement award was the first of its kind given to Al W1FXQ for his continuing efforts to help others, coordinate speakers, recruit volunteers, share his experience gained from Amateur Radio and other personal experience. He is currently president of QCWA. Warm and hearty congratulations to you all--I'm proud to be among you.

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

It's official! Morse Code Require-

ment Ends Friday, February 23.

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement - still a matter of controversy within the amateur community - is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" R&O that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the Federal Register constitutes the official version of the new rules. It is on the web in PDF format at, <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privi-

leges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) test session, pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, and receive an instant upgrade.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 - the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz, so that there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>.

ARRL Board Accepts National Emergency Response Planning Committee Report

The ARRL Board of Directors accepted the Report of the National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC) when it met January 19 and 20 in Windsor, Connecticut. Upon dissolving the committee with its thanks, the Board set in motion a process to identify and implement action items in the report as soon as possible. ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, chaired the 13-member NERPC, charged with developing comprehensive recommendations to improve the League's response to regional, national and international disasters. Among other things, panel members evaluated the responses and actions of ARRL and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

during Hurricane Katrina as well as lessons learned.

“If ‘lessons learned’ are not followed by ‘behaviors changed,’ then the lessons have not been learned at all,” the report concludes. The report describes disaster preparedness as “a moving target, moving faster all the time.” No recommendations, plans or systems should be considered “the permanent answers for all circumstances and hazards,” the report asserts.

The unprecedented scope of the Katrina response placed ARRL Headquarters into a leadership coordination role through national-level requests for help from served agencies such as the American Red Cross. While the level of expertise in emergency communications and emergency management among US radio amateurs is growing, the report noted, so is the expectation that the ARRL provide first-rate leadership and guidance.

Among the report’s wide-ranging recommendations and suggestions:

- * enhance ARRL and ARES training in basic message handling.
- * develop a continuing education course covering installation, configuration, and use of Winlink 2000 for e-mail.
- * formally establish a national ARES volunteer database for use during major disasters and establish training criteria.
- * institute a Major Disaster Emergency Coordinator (MDEC) function to coordinate responses to large-scale national or regional disasters or emergencies.
- * become better acquainted with the emergency response needs of distant ARRL sections, such as Pacific, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Alaska.
- * improve working relationships with national-level served agencies.
- * ensure ARRL staff training in the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) and, as necessary, adapt ARRL’s emergency response structure to the Unified Command model.

In addition, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has appointed an ad hoc committee to study issues relating to background investigations as they apply to ARRL Amateur Radio volunteers and to recommend a background investigation policy.

Thank you the ARRL Letter for non-local content.

Meeting Minutes for 18 Jan. 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1950 by Vice President - Chuck Wehner-W1FJW. A quorum was present.

Members introduced themselves and the President of SCRAMS (Mike Tucker-KB1HHN) was recognized.

One new member application was received from George Dennis-W1WML of Baltic, CT. George was voted into membership unanimously. CONGRATULATIONS!

No minutes for our last meeting on Thurs. 16 Nov. 2006 were available to be read and there was no meeting held in December.

Lou-KB1DED was absent and therefore no Treasurer’s Report was submitted.

Committee reports

Repeaters: the 146.730 Repeater is up and running. Mike-KB1HHN will be making some additional measurements. Gary-WT1SND reported that the 449.725 Repeater is “full strength” going into Colchester.

Also, Gary has completed the “Application for an Amateur Club, Races or Military Recreation Station License” (i.e. ARRL/VEC Form 605-C May 2002) to change the Trustee for N1NW to his call. Once the Coordinator receives the application it should be approved in two to three weeks.

Operating: As most of you know the FCC expanded the phone bands in the 80, 40, 15 and 10 meter bands effective 15 Dec. 2006 as well as other changes in the 2 meter and 222 to 225 MHz. Refer to Dec. 2006, “QST”, page 39 or visit the ARRL’s website.

In addition the FCC has eliminated the requirement to hold Element One (Morse Code) Proficiency in order to obtain an amateur license. The elimination of the code will become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register on 24 Jan. 2007. Thus, the effective date the FCC’s no code action could be effective around the 24th of Feb.

Upcoming Events

Breakfast: There will be a RASON Breakfast 0900 on Sat. 10 Feb. at Olde Tymes Restaurant, 360 West Main St. (Rt. 82) in Nor-

wich. This is a revival of what used to be a fun get together. Hopes are that we can make this a monthly event once again. If interested, please contact Scott-W1SSN or Chip-N1MIE.

Hamfest: The Gales Ferry Fire Dept. has approved RASON's request for use of their banquet hall for our annual auction. We are "inked in" for the last Sat. In Sept, which will be September 29th, 2007.

Old Business

Field Day: Our application for Field Day 2007 was submitted Sept. 2006 to the CT - DEP for use of the CCC Area at Patchaug State Forest. As of the meeting no response has been received from the state. Bruce-K1ZMZ indicated the reason for this is that the DEP does not begin to review these requests until after the first of the year.

Mail: Scott-W1SSN has agreed to pick up RASON's mail and Chuck-W1FJW provided the mail box key to Scott.

Tech Committee: Randy-N1PTB requested 10 minutes to address the membership in an open forum discussion. He explained the work that Mike-N1HFX had done for RASON in the past and some events and misunderstandings that have caused Mike to resign from the Technical Committee. Everyone agreed that we do not want to lose any good, productive ham and would encourage Mike to return. Randy handed out a two page overview on Mike's "easy to build projects" and articles on circuit design. These can be found at www.rason.org/Projects/projects.htm.

New Business

Special Election: A Special Election was necessary as a result of Matt's-KB1LCS resignation as President. Matt has moved back to Ohio with his family. Randy-N1PTB nominated Kevin-KA6PDG and Scott-W1SSN nominated Chip-N1MIE for President. Both accepted their nominations and nominations were closed.

Each candidate then addressed the membership for approximately three minutes. A secret written ballot was conducted with 17 members being eligible to vote. Chip was elected the new President of RASON by the narrowest of margins. GUD LUK CHIP!!

Closing

Public Information: Wayne-KB1NNK RASON's Public Information Officer (PIO) will be contacting the media with club information for the purpose of letting the public know that there is an active amateur radio group in Norwich, CT. (With the FCC's dropping of Morse Code, we may be in a good position to attract more members to the hobby and turn them into active, qualified and proficient radio operators). Also, Wayne to be the ARRL Section PIO.

The next monthly RASON meeting will be at 1945 on Thurs. 15 Feb. 2007 at Norwich Fire Headquarters. A post meeting program lasting approx. 40 minutes by Paul-N1ZYB is planned. The subject will be Paul's development of an underwater camera which will use a UHF five watt Amateur Television (ATV) transmitter to relay real time signals of lobsters to shore. (Unfortunately, no samples of those tasty critters will be served.)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2052.

Post Meeting Note

An Amateur Radio Technician License Class is scheduled from 0900 to noon Sat. 24 Feb. thru 26 May. The course will be held at the American Red Cross building, at the Waterford Public Safety Complex, Boston Post Rd., Waterford, CT.

It is recommended that attendees purchase a copy of "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" (\$24.95 plus CT sales tax, shipping and handling). The Technician test will be given on the final class day, at which time upgrade testing will also be offered. Amateurs holding Technician licenses granted prior to 1987 will automatically be eligible to be "grandfathered" to General Class for which the \$14.00 fee is still required.

Please contact Darryl-WA1DD between 5 to 9:30 PM at 860-443-7799 or Tom Scott-WA2RYV at 464-6555 if interested in attending the course or planning to attend the upgrade session.

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