

The RASON Monitor

The newsletter of the Radio Amateur Society of Norwich



October 2004

Section Manager's Net

The month has gone by so quickly that I neglected to get this to you. I have decided to resume the SM Net because many of you have asked for it. So we'll do it starting this Sunday at 1900 hours on the linked repeater system and run it each month on the last Sunday. The purpose of the net is to update the Section on the latest Section news and to give the cabinet and clubs the chance to promote their activities and programs. Hope to see many of you Sunday!

Congrats to ASM and assistant SEC Allen, W1AGP on his recent position as manager of public relations at ARRL. Don't miss the nice article on the main page of the ARRL Web site.

Don't forget the simulated emergency test Saturday, October 2. Contact your EC, DEC or SEC Chuck, AB1CR for details. Check out the CT ARES Web site <http://www.ctares.org>.

A big thank you to the miraculous work done by Bruce, N1XG, Dana, KB1AEV, Rod N1FNE and many others to restore the Naugatuck repeater in record time after the collapse of the tower and the antennas which occurred during last Saturday's storm. None of us understands how all that work got done so quickly. This effort by so many represents a serious commitment to our hobby and the Section's commitment to emergency preparedness. There is much more work to be done; Bruce is looking for help. Please contact him if you can give a hand.

And congrats to Mark Mocosky, WA1ZEK on his marriage to Karen; the wedding will take place tomorrow Saturday, September 25! The best of luck to you both!

See you in Wallingford at the Nutmeg Ham Fest (Nutfest) Sunday, October 10--don't miss it!

Enjoy this wonderful weather; if you get the chance, stop in at the Amateur Radio booth at the Big E New England building.

Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC

This Month's Presentation Topic:
Packet Radio Introduction
by Chip-N1MIE

My call is N1ANY.

I became a member of RASON in the very early 80's. After reaching the age of 65, I, and a few others, were voted to become honorary members. I had been receiving news letters up until 1998. Evidently, I have been dropped from the mailing list. That is okay. I still consider myself as a member even though I am not active on the air, although I maintain my operators license. Now that I have reached the age of 87, and not active in amateur radio, I have my transceiver and amplifier for sale. If anyone is interested:

Kenwood TS 830S with microphone.

Dentron amplifier - GLA 1000B.

Documentation for all.

Who ever buys the equipment is welcome to take down and keep the Wilson tower and Cushcraft 20-15-10 beam antenna at no charge.

Peter Sawitsky (N1ANY)

24 Gardner Lake Hts

Salem, CT 06420

On October 24 there is a need for Amateur Radio Operators to provide communication in Niantic for the Mystic Race and East Lyme Festival between 10 and 3. If you are interested in providing your communications expertise please contact Tom Walsh at 739-2793.

Tri-City ARC will be holding its annual Hamfest on October 30th. Setup 9 AM Auction starts at 10 AM at the Senior Citizens Center, Waterford Municipal Complex. Rte 85, S of exit 77 off I-395 or N of exit 82 off I-95.

Admission is Free (Bid cards \$1.00 each)
Contact Liston Harley, K1EQ, 860-464-2058.
email; sparrow43@comcast.net.

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FCC Poised to Act on BPL Order in mid-October

The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) will present a draft broadband over power line (BPL) Report and Order to the full Commission when it meets October 14, the ARRL has learned. More than 6100 comments have been filed on the topic since the FCC released its initial Notice of Inquiry in the proceeding, ET Docket 03-104, in April 2003 and a subsequent Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket 04-37, in February of this year. The ARRL so far on this round has taken its concerns regarding Amateur Radio and BPL to three of the Commission's five members. In a meeting this week with FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, an ARRL delegation again asserted that the FCC is pushing the proceeding to a predetermined conclusion with little regard for technical issues.

"Because the FCC has been unwilling to release for public review the results of its own tests and observations of BPL systems, the ARRL has no confidence that the draft Report and Order will be based on sound engineering and believes the rush to adoption is unwarranted and premature," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said in a follow-up letter to Adelstein. The letter reiterated the League's key points that, it said, "represent the minimum protection" that should be incorporated into the BPL Report and Order prior to Commission adoption.

"Without adequate safeguards, the deployment of BPL systems will result in the pollution and degradation of the unique natural resource of the high-frequency radio spectrum," Sumner said.

The League argued that a reduction in the radiated emission limit for BPL systems be included in the R&O. The ARRL wants the limit set 30 dB below current Part 15 requirements, which, it says, were established with narrowband point-source radiators in mind. "The record in this proceeding clearly establishes that BPL is not a point-source radiator," the ARRL's letter asserted.

The ARRL pointed out that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has concluded that at the current Part 15 limit, interference is "likely" to receivers in land vehicles 75 meters from BPL-connected power lines and to fixed stations 460 meters from such power lines.

"Given the number of amateur stations and the fact that they almost invariably are located near power lines, the areas of potential interference at the existing Part 15 limit are clearly too large to permit case-by-case resolution of interference issues," Sumner said. Based on past experience with BPL field trials, the ARRL told Adelstein, "widespread BPL deployment at the existing Part 15 radiated emission limit will result in an unmanageable incidence of interference."

Arguing for a reduction in the radiated emission limit, the ARRL said mandatory "notching" of the amateur bands by 30 dB would reduce the probability of interference to amateur stations sufficiently that the remaining interference cases might be resolved on a case-by-case basis.

Continued on page 4.

RASON Repeaters

146.730-PL=156.7

449.725-PL=156.7

(linked 1900—2200L)

Other Repeaters

2m

Groton-146.670, PL=156.7

Ledyard-145.390, PL=156.7

Salem-146.060, PL=156.7

SubBase-146.865, PL=156.7

Waterford-146.970, PL=156.7

Westerly-147.240, PL=100.0

1.25m

Gales Ferry-224.540

Groton-223.960, PL=156.7

Ledyard-224.380, PL=103.5

Montville-224.820, PL=110.9

New London-224.260, PL=156.7

Salem-224.140, PL=103.5

70cm

Groton-448.975, PL=156.7

Salem-449.975, PL=156.7

Westerly-449.675, PL=127.3

Packet Nodes

1200 Baud-145.730-Linked to DX Cluster

Local Area Nets

Eastern CT Traffic Net, daily, 2100L, 146.730

Horizontal Engineers, daily, 1900L, 146.970

S.E. CT ARES Net, every Mon, 2000L, 146.970

T.I.P.S. Net, every Tue, 1930L, 146.730

New London Co. Weather Net,

every Wed, 2000L, 146.060

1st Wed, 2000L, 146.970

RASON 10m Phone Net, every Thur, 2000L,

28.440 +/-

RASON VHF/UHF Net, every Sun, 2000L,

146.730

Skywarn Net, on demand, 146.970 (or

146.730)

K1ARC Red Cross Training Net, 1st Wed,

2000L, 3.915 LSB

ARES HF Net, every Thur, 1900L, 3.965

Section News

Date: September 19, 2004 12:33:18 EDT

Section Leadership: ASMs: K1STM, KY1F, NK1J, W1AGP, N1FNE, K1BRF N1YAE; Bulletin Manager KD1YV; Official Observer Coordinator W1GC; Public Information Coordinator W1FXQ; Section Emergency Coordinator AB1CR; State Government Liaison K1MK; Section Traffic Manager K1HEJ; Technical Coordinator N1KHB. Don't miss the twelfth CT State Convention sponsored by The Meriden Amateur Radio Club on Sunday, October 10 at Mountain Side Resort Wallingford.

Recently, NARL had as their guest Ted Hart, inventor, retired engineer, radio 'ham', who came from Eatonton, Georgia to speak and to demonstrate how to construct radio antennas of a type that the world has never heard of before, at the Senior Center, Newington. Hart presented the new EH concept in antenna theory that allows antennas less than 1% of conventional length to out-perform present antennas. The EH Antenna is designed to be more efficient, have wider bandwidth and to minimize unwanted interference. This antenna is based on theories developed by a Russian physicist. Its AM Broadcast version eliminates the need for radials, thus saving both real estate and construction costs. For radio hams it is a 'dream come true' Mr. Hart was a featured guest speaker at the National Association of Broadcasters Convention last April in Las Vegas. Members of NARL participated in staffing an Amateur Radio booth at the Hebron Fair.

Mark your calendar early! June 11-12 is the date of the NARL Ham Fest. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH has agreed to be a speaker on the program so don't miss out--mark your calendar now!

NARL held their large picnic at Churchill Park in Newington--yes, even in the rain!

John, KB1KIX held a home brew session at ARRL Hq and plans to run an antenna class in October. Speaking of classes, TC N1KHB is hoping to run a "how to" course after the holidays somewhere in the center of the State. If you have any ideas about place or content, please contact Joe n1khh@arrl.net.

Congrats to Public Information Coordinator Al, W1FXQ, who has received a George F. Hixson Fellowship from the Kiwanis International Foundation Board of Trustees. The award, in honor of George F. Hixson the first President of Kiwanis, is made in recognition of significant contributions to Kiwanis.

Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC



Volunteer Examiners of Southeastern Connecticut (VEOSEC)

CHAIRMEN:

TBD

Announcing Upcoming VEOSEC Amateur Radio License Examinations

Further Dates to be announced...

All elements from Technician to Extra will be administered at these sessions.

Go online at www.rason.org for further details.

Upcoming Events:

Remember the new meeting location.

Oct. 10	Connecticut State Convention http://www.nutmeghamfest.com/
Oct. 21	Monthly Meeting
Oct. 30	Tri-City ARC Auction/Hamfest
Oct. 30-31	10-10 Fall CW Contest
Nov. 6-8	ARRL Nov. Sweepstakes (CW)
Nov. 13	Ham Breakfast (Old Tymes)
Nov. 18	Monthly Meeting
Nov. 20-22	ARRL Nov. Sweepstakes (Phone)
Dec. 3-5	ARRL 160m Contest
Dec. 11	Ham Breakfast (Old Tymes)
Dec. 11-12	ARRL 10m Contest
Dec. ?	Christmas Party
2005	
Jan. 1	Straight Key Night Contest
Jan. 8-9	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan. 20	Monthly Meeting
Jan. 29-31	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
Feb. 17	Monthly Meeting
Feb. 19-20	ARRL Internat. DX Contest (CW)
Mar. 5-6	ARRL Internat. DX Contest (Phone)
Mar. 17	Monthly Meeting
Apr. 21	Monthly Meeting
May 19	Monthly Meeting
Jun. 11-13	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
Jun. 16	Monthly Meeting
Jun. 25-26	Field Day
Jul. 9-10	IARU HF World Championships
Jul. 21	Monthly Meeting

Continued from page 2.

“However,” the League added, “such notching would not solve the problem for other radio services.”

Other points the ARRL has stressed in its meetings with Commission members include:

- * consider including the NTIA’s recommendations to standardize measurement procedures and to require that Access BPL systems be certificated, not merely verified.

- * requiring independent confirmation of rules compliance before a BPL system is placed in operation.

- * the need for advance public notification of BPL system locations and characteristics, something not included in the NPRM.

- * performance standards for interference mitigation that would require that interference be terminated immediately upon notification to the operator; and meaningful penalties for non-compliance, including fines.

- * require BPL marketers to “give clear notice to potential customers that licensed radio services have priority and that the delivery of broadband service via BPL cannot be guaranteed.”

In addition to Adelstein, ARRL representatives have met so far with Commissioners Kevin J. Martin, and Michael J. Copps. The League hopes to meet with the principal advisors to Chairman Michael K. Powell and Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy before the October 7 cutoff for ex parte communications in the proceeding.

NTIA'S BPL Position Still a Moving Target

The position of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) with respect to BPL appears to be a moving target. From expressing "broad concerns" about BPL in August 2003 to claiming BPL could help alleviate power line noise this past June, the NTIA now has aligned its position even more closely with that of the FCC--already an unapologetic BPL proponent. At the same time, the agency's recently amended recommendations recognize the reality of BPL's interference potential and suggest a "not-in-my-backyard" attitude toward BPL deployment near government radio systems.

In a cover letter to one of two separate filings last month, NTIA Office of Spectrum Management Associate Administrator Fredrick R. Wentland says the agency believes its "less burdensome proposals" will "adequately protect federal radio communication systems from locally generated BPL emissions while minimizing restrictions on BPL."

An agency of the US Department of Commerce, the NTIA now says it "fully supports" the FCC's proposed method to extrapolate the level of BPL emissions from power lines. It's also dropped its call for a "height correction" for measurements below 30 MHz. Based on the NTIA's own earlier studies, the method the agency now supports could result in measurements that fail to accurately reflect actual emission levels by as much as 20 dB.

Additionally, the NTIA says it now prefers the FCC's proposal to measure BPL field strength "at various specific locations along a power line" instead of along the length of the line. "NTIA's extensive further analysis shows that the overall peak field strength that would be found in an exhaustive search along the power line would not significantly exceed the peak level measured using the streamlined approach proposed in the NPRM [Notice of Proposed Rule Making]," the agency said. In its earlier comments, however, the NTIA had advised determining field strength by tracking the entire line because its modeling demonstrated that interval measurements "may not consistently reveal the peak level of radiated emissions."

The NTIA also has reconsidered its earlier proposals to exclude certain frequency bands and geographical zones and to provide for voluntary coordination to prevent BPL interference to critical government radio systems. Since filing its comments on the BPL Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) last June, Wentland said, the NTIA has narrowed the scope of specific bands and areas where "special protection mechanisms" regarding BPL should apply.

"Federal radio communications not specifically addressed in the proposed restrictions should be, for the most part, adequately protected in the near term by the base-

line interference prevention mechanisms specified in the NPRM (eg, field strength limits, compliance measurement guidelines, and the prohibition of harmful interference)," Wentland concluded in a cover letter.

The NTIA says its revised recommendations would exclude Access BPL operation nationwide from some 2.2 percent of the HF and low-VHF spectrum and from a minuscule portion--0.0007 percent--of the HF spectrum "in limited geographic areas." That's less than half the spectrum the NTIA initially suggested protecting from BPL interference.

The NTIA says excluded bands primarily should be those used for safety communications "in situations where co-channel emissions from numerous BPL devices may be received via line of sight and ionospheric interfering signal paths." Exclusion zones would include "sensitive radio astronomy sites," generally located in remote, sparsely populated areas where there would be "little or no actual constraint on Access BPL market penetration," NTIA said.

Coordination areas, the NTIA says, should apply to receivers "at known locations that must operate with very weak desired signals and where harmful interference must be prevented" beforehand with a high degree of certainty rather than "after discovery."

Prior coordination of BPL deployment using certain frequencies, the NTIA now says, should apply "in limited geographic areas wherein BPL deployment will not necessarily be constrained, depending on details of the planned BPL deployment." The NTIA also said it could no longer support a requirement for BPL systems to transmit identification codes.

The agency does not appear to have backed away from its recommendation that the FCC apply its more stringent certification, rather than verification, procedures, to authorize BPL systems that, NTIA's comments said, "pose relatively high interference risks."

The ARRL also supports certification, which would require independent testing or review of test results, as opposed to having a BPL operator merely attest that its system complies with FCC rules. The League asserts that certification offers a higher degree of confidence that deployed BPL systems will not continue to exceed Part 15 limits.

The FCC is expected to consider a Report and Order in the BPL Proceeding, ET Docket 04-37, when it meets Thursday, October 14.

For additional information, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl/>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

Storm-weary Amateur Radio Volunteers Confront Hurricane's Aftermath

Amateur Radio this past week once again was part of a storm relief and recovery effort in the wake of Hurricane Jeanne--the fourth storm in six weeks to hit Florida. Jeanne made landfall September 25 some 5 miles southeast of Stuart--not far from where Hurricane Frances struck September 5. Authorities blamed the storm--a Category 3 hurricane with 120 MPH winds--for at least six deaths, and the state was declared a major disaster area. The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <<http://www.hwn.org>>--whose members tracked the storm up through the Caribbean--wrapped up three full days of communication support September 26.

"Since the wind field was much larger than Frances', Jeanne knocked out recently restored power to much of east and central Florida quite early and easily," said HWN Assistant Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV. He noted that since debris cleaned up after Hurricane Frances had not yet been picked up, Hurricane Jeanne had an "abundance of projectiles" at her disposal.

Other reports indicated that after Frances denuded much of the region's vegetation, Jeanne came along and tore off roofs, then dumped heavy rain into the vulnerable houses and buildings. The storm disrupted conventional telecommunications and left some 2.5 million homes without electrical power.

Over the storm's course, HWN members received reports throughout the northwestern Bahamas and eastern and central Florida. Many areas of the Bahamas also were still recovering from Hurricane Frances. As Marti Brown, KF4TRG/C6A, reported to the HWN: "Let me tell you that this storm was virtual hell."

During severe storms, the HWN works hand-in-hand with WX4NHC <<http://www.wx4nhc.org>> at the National Hurricane Center in Miami to gather ground-level weather data and damage reports from Amateur Radio volunteers in a storm's path. The net relays these to forecasters via WX4NHC, which regularly checks into the net and also disseminates weather updates.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers were at the ready before Hurricane Jeanne arrived, supplementing communication at emergency operations centers and shelters set up for evacuees. ARRL Southern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator Jim Goldsberry, KD4GR, said Indian River County appeared to be the hardest hit. ARES teams in Palm Beach, Martin, St Lucie, Brevard and Indian River counties also assisted American Red Cross and Salvation Army relief and damage assess-

ment efforts.

Northern Florida SEC Nils Millergren, WA4NDA, reported that operators handled shelter duty in Flagler, Orange, Seminole, Lake and Volusia counties.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) on 14.265 MHz handled health-and-welfare traffic in the aftermath of the storm on the air and via its Web site. Special sessions of the Southern Florida ARES Net were called up on 7242 kHz.

August and September have seen unprecedented activity, said the HWN's Graves, who thanked all stations that participated in the recent activation. Noting that four major tropical storms have not struck the same state in the same year since 1886, Grave said, "Let us hope and pray that record is not broken this year."

JOTA 2004 is October 16-17

The 47th Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) takes place October 16-17. Details on JOTA also appear in September QST, page 104. JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other via Amateur Radio to share experiences and ideas. Since 1958, when the first Jamboree On The Air was held, millions of Scouts have become acquainted through this event.

Amateur Radio clubs and individual licensees make it possible for Scouts to get on the air, and your club is invited to be a part of JOTA 2004. If your club is planning a JOTA activity, register it on the ARRL Youth Skeds Database page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/youthskeds/>>. There, youngsters and parents can search for scheduled on-the-air activities in which to participate. You also can contact your local Boy Scouts of America Council <<http://www.scouting.org/nav/enter.jsp?s=xx&c=lc>> and let it know that you're planning a JOTA activity.

With assistance from ARRL HQ staff members, Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, will operate Maxim Memorial Station W1AW on Saturday, October 16, for JOTA. "This year the focus will be on achieving the radio merit badge," he noted. Spencer has set up a program that should allow Scouts participating at W1AW to walk away from the JOTA experience with the merit badge, "with some preparation and a little homework on the Scout's part," he added.

ARRL staffer Larry Wolfgang, WR1B--a veteran Scout leader--will be setting up a station at the Mohegan District Fall Camporee at Waterford Beach in Connecticut. "We will be operating WA1BSA," Wolfgang said, adding that he's expecting some 400 to 500 Scouts to turn out for the campout.

The ARRL New Hampshire Section, the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Service Club (WB1BSA) and the Lawrence L. Lee Scouting Museum <<http://www.scoutingmuseum.org/>> have announced that the Max I. Silber Memorial Station will be on the air during JOTA 2004 using special event call sign N1S--primarily using SSB and SSTV on 20 and 40 meters.

Scouts and scouters worldwide also can participate in JOTA via Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) Reflector 9205. There's more information on the IRLP Web site <<http://www.irlp.net>>.

If you hear any participating JOTA stations on the air, be sure to make a contact--and don't forget to QSL. There's more information about JOTA on the Web <<http://www.scouting.org/international/jota.html>> and <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html>>.

Be
sure to visit
the **RASON** website
often for all the latest
news and information.
www.rason.org

FCC Warns Additional Trucking Firms About Unlicensed 10-meter Operation

The FCC has issued warning notices to five more trucking companies asking them to respond to allegations that their drivers may have transmitted illegally on the 10-meter amateur band. The alleged violations, based on "information before the Commission" as opposed to FCC monitoring, are said to have occurred in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and California.

"While many truckers use Citizens Band radio equipment, please be advised that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934," FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote the five firms in late August. The letters were made public September 18. Hollingsworth warned that violators, if caught and convicted, are subject to fines or prison time as well as seizure of their equipment.

In three of the cases, the frequency involved was 28.085 MHz--in the CW band--while the other two cases cited transmissions on 28.215 MHz and 28.315 MHz. Hollingsworth asked Teaberry Trucking LLC, United Van Lines, Dowell Express Inc, Con-Way (CWX) Trucking and K&K Cartage to contact him to discuss the matter.

In general, trucking company and courier services have responded promptly and positively to similar FCC warnings, indicating that they would warn drivers to refrain from unlicensed use of amateur frequencies.

"UPS does not condone using any radio equipment that violates FCC rules," said a statement that went out to its drivers earlier this year after the FCC issued a Warning Notice to the package delivery service alleging unlicensed 10-meter operation. "Employees continuing to use radio equipment that violates FCC rules and UPS policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action along with fines or penalties owed to the FCC."

UPS also admonished its drivers regarding the use of CB power amplifiers and transceivers capable of operation on both 10 and 11 meters. UPS said violating FCC rules also ignores the terms of its collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters Union.

A New Jersey trucking firm that received an FCC Warning Notice last spring promised to look into the allegations and "immediately remove all illegal equipment" from the truck in question. Gaffney, South Carolina, trucking company J Grady Randolph Inc wrote Hollingsworth earlier this year to say it had also received an anonymous report citing allegations similar to those in an FCC Warning Notice to the firm. Director of Human Resources and Safety W. O. Brown said Grady Randolph immediately advised all of its drivers that it is against the law to operate Amateur Radio equipment without a license.

"We feel the problem with 10-meter radios is very widespread in this industry, since most truck stops have them for sale," Brown added. "We will continue to police our trucks in an attempt to prevent future incidents of such violations."

While it's uncertain that these and similar admonitions have translated into fewer instances of alleged unlicensed operation on 10 meters by truckers, no further allegations have been raised involving operators of firms, such as UPS, that already have received FCC warning notices.

ARRL Headquarters Welcomes New Media And Public Relations Manager

Allen Pitts, W1AGP, is the newest member of the ARRL Headquarters staff. An Amateur Extra class licensee who lives in New Britain, Connecticut, Pitts came aboard September 20 as the League's new Media and Public Relations Manager, succeeding Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, who was a member of the HQ staff for 10 years. As Pitts sees it, he's arriving at the League at a critical juncture for Amateur Radio.

"I know of no time in history that our service has been under greater threats, nor any other time in which we have so many opportunities to shine," he said. Pitts emphasizes that while he takes his public relations role most seriously, he also wants it understood that he's an active radio amateur and "not just a PR person."

Pitts comes to the ARRL after a three-year stint as executive director of The Box Project Inc--a national, member-based charity that matches volunteers with families needing help. For eight years prior to that, he directed a multi-program human services agency that, among other things, was responsible for emergency shelters, transitional living, a court alternative sanctions program, emergency food services and an AIDS respite program.

A radio amateur for five years, he's no stranger to the ARRL Field Organization, having served as an ARES District Emergency Coordinator and later as Connecticut's Section Emergency Coordinator. He's also an ARRL Assistant Section Manager.

Pitts holds a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina and a master's degree from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (he served congregations in Kansas and Connecticut in the 1970s and 1980s).

He and his wife, Donna, have three grown children and six grandchildren. They're currently "raising" an English mastiff named Dozer, who, Pitts says, "believes the radio room couch belongs to her."

Pitts is active on HF, VHF and UHF. Although primarily a phone operator, he says he tries to keep up at a "basic level" on CW whenever he can. He holds DXCC.

In addition to his interest in Amateur Radio, Pitts is an active member of the Society for Creative Anachronism and has gained "notoriety"--as he put it--as an expert with medieval crossbows, holding top state and national rankings.

ARRL Hosts 2004 Section Managers Workshop

Ten ARRL Section Managers visited ARRL Headquarters over the September 17-19 weekend for a Section Managers training workshop. The annual event, sponsored by ARRL Field and Educational Services, is designed to offer new SMs a chance to get better acquainted with ARRL programs and services, share ideas, explore common problems and learn more about their responsibilities as ARRL Field Organization leaders.

"This was also a good opportunity for the Section Managers to meet with ARRL Headquarters Staff and see the facilities and to operate W1AW," said ARRL Field Organization/Public Service Team Leader Steve Ewald, WV1X.

Discussions covered a variety of topics ranging from leadership to administrative details and emergency communication. Several ARRL Headquarters staff members pitched in to present portions of the workshop program.

Amateur Radio Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, outlined the scope of "The Big Project" and how it relates to a Section Manager's activities. ARRL Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, discussed the emergency communication training classes and the grants that have subsidized tuition reimbursements for those taking the courses.

Additionally, ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist John Hennessee, N1KB, discussed issues surrounding FCC rules and regulations and the services that ARRL provides. Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, focused on the Amateur Auxiliary/Official Observer program. The new SMs also heard from Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, and ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R.

Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager, Phil Temples, K9HI, lent his perspective and experience as a veteran SM. "Steve and the staff have once again, performed a splendid job in bringing us together and equipping us with the skills necessary to perform our Section Manager roles," Temples said afterward. "My hat is off to all the staffers who took precious weekend time from their families to instruct us."

Some attendees already had SM experience under their belts. Among them was Sacramento Valley SM Jettie Hill, W6RFF, who had not been able to attend the workshop until this year. Also on hand was San Diego Section Manager Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, who was returned to office earlier this year after serving as an SM for two terms in the mid 1990s.

Skip Jackson, KS0J, who begins his term as Minnesota Section Manager October 1, expressed enthusiasm about his workshop experience. "The highlight for me was sharing the time and experience with so many fine people; both the League folks and the other SMs," he said.

Maxim Memorial Station W1AW was open for operating after the workshop sessions, and several attendees took advantage of the opportunity. Section Managers were among those operating W1AW on September 18 in conjunction with ARRL's Amateur Radio Awareness Day.

Let's Make A Deal: FCC Agrees To Trade Amateur's License For Big Fine

The FCC has agreed to write off a \$12,000 fine it levied against an Iowa man in exchange for his giving up his Amateur Radio license for five years. The FCC last year affirmed a \$12,000 fine against Technician licensee Scott E. Kamm, N0UGN, of Sioux City. Kamm later filed a Petition for Reconsideration that proposed the license-for-fine quid pro quo. The Commission formally granted his petition in a September 7 Memorandum and Order (M&O).

"In support of his petition, Mr. Kamm offers to immediately withdraw his pending application for renewal of his license for amateur radio station N0UGN, and to refrain from applying for any other license for a period of five years," the M&O said. "Accordingly, we conclude that cancellation of the \$12,000 forfeiture is warranted."

The FCC said its Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) would process the withdrawal of Kamm's license renewal application concurrently with its order. FCC Enforcement Chief David Solomon signed the M&O, which was released September 9.

Following up on Amateur Radio complaints in the fall of 2002, agents from the FCC's Kansas City field office tracked interfering signals to Kamm's station--which was in Waterbury, Nebraska, at the time. Several months earlier, however, the FCC had granted Kamm's application to change his mailing address to a location in Sioux City. In January 2003, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability to Kamm alleging willful and repeated interference to ongoing amateur communications, broadcasting of music, and failure to identify by call sign while operating on a 2-meter repeater.

During 2002, Kamm was the target of several letters and an FCC Warning Notice from FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. In the fall of that year, the WTB set aside Kamm's renewal application based upon complaints about the operation of his station and questions regarding his qualifications to be a licensee. Kamm's license expired September 29, 2002, and his renewal application reverted to pending status while the matter was referred to the Enforcement Bureau.

Heard ID'ing the Repeater:

09/12 Tom-WA2RYV

09/19 Victor-W1SSN

09/26 Randy-N1PTB & Carol

10/03 Dave-K1DCT

Meeting Minutes:

RASON Meeting Minutes for
September 16, 2004

Location: Franklin Congregational
Church

The meeting was called to order
at 7:53 PM by Gary Divan,
WT1SND.

Gabe, W1GAP, was recognized
as the recording secretary of
SCRAMS.

Members in attendance introduced
themselves.

The minutes from the previous
meeting were accepted.

The treasure's report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters: No report

PBBS: The system is running at
N1NW/7 on 145.07 MHz. The
node is at N1NW/4, the cross link
is at N1NW/6, and the digipeater is
at N1NW/2; all are running well.

Contests: No report

New members: None

Old Business: The SCRAMS work
party has been cancelled.

The current slate of officers has been
reelected for the 2004-2005 fiscal
year.

They are: Gary Divan, WT1SND,
President; Bob Munro, W1AMF,
Vice President; Lou Herman,
KB1DED, Treasurer; and Tom
Dean, KB1JIJ, Secretary

Chip, N1MIE asked for program
ideas.

Dave, WA1IKN, commented on the
Connecticut Frequency Guide and
public safety frequencies.

Health and Welfare: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25
PM. There was no program.

The next meeting will be held on
at 7:30 PM on Thursday, October
21 at the Franklin Congregational
Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Dean, KB1JIJ, Recording
Secretary, RASON