# Big E 2004

Once again Ham Radio has been invited to have a booth at the Eastern States Exposition. In West Springfield Mass. This year dates are Sept. 12 - 28th. The Big E as those who have been there call it, is the 9th largest Fair in the northern hemisphere - typically over a million members of the Public. Every day this event has over 22,000 vendors, volunteers and employees on the grounds plus the public! Our booth is located in the New England Center, one of more then two dozen germinate large buildings on the fairgrounds. The Booth Committee will make arrangements for the HF and VHF stations, antennas as well as set up and tear down. The Booth must be manned each and every day from 10 AM until 10 PM. For those who schedule to work the booth in advance the fair gives us a ticket and a parking pass good for the whole day.

With Ham Radio now having been placed in support of Homeland Security, the booth is a functioning Emergency Operations Center. (EOC).

This is an opportunity for your club or ARES group to gain experience in one of the longest running annual Ham Radio booth demonstrations without having to arrange for staffing except for a day or even a half-day. The event provides volunteers with experience in working in one of the largest Public events in the US, gaining experience in volunteering in an ongoing event much as hams from out of the area had to do in the Western fires and after 911 - but without the stress of the emergency. That’s right get experience in shift operation in strange surroundings without have to deal with stressed public.

The Committee will obtain handouts. The Committee will handle display posters and booth compliance with Fair standards. Your club may display its banner.

It has been our scheduling goal each year to have 2 volunteers a shift in the booth. This allows time during lulls for one person to wander for a bit to excursive and get to see some of the fair.

The NTS messages send by yourselves or the public will be relayed by you to normal apportioning NTS voice Nets and via the events packet station.

ARRL Emergency Communications course registration: Registration opens Monday, April 5, 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time (0401 UTC), for the on-line Level I Emergency Communications course (EC-001). Registration remains open through the April 10-11 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first. Class begins Tuesday, April 20. Thanks to our grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the $45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 175 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. Senior amateurs are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <http://www.arrl.org/cee/> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, <dmiller@arrl.org>; 860-594-0340.

Thanks to everyone who came to the auction. The terrific work of all the volunteers, the sellers who brought a wide array of items, and the buyers who bought nearly everything offered, all contributed to a highly successful event. Thanks all. We look forward to seeing you at next years auction.

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Coastal Ocean Dynamics Applications Radar

Recently, Linda (N1ZYC) and I (N1ZYB) went to a lecture at the University of Connecticut where a professor of Marine Sciences gave a talk on the application of HF radio frequencies to measure ocean currents. Like most amateur radio people, we think of HF as a communications medium and we were surprised to learn about the unique nature of HF Radar for ocean current mapping.

Coastal Ocean Dynamics Applications Radar (CODAR) uses RF transmissions in the 3 to 30 MHz range to measure the Doppler shift of RF waves that are traveling radially towards or away from the transmitter. When HF radar waves impact on ocean waves that are 9 to 150 feet long the signal scatters in many directions. It was discovered that the radar signal will return directly to the transmitter site only when the radar signal scatters off a sea wave that is exactly half the transmitted signal wavelength and traveling in a radial path. The scattered radar waves add coherently resulting in a strong return of energy at a very precise wavelength. This is known as the Bragg scattering principle. To put it another way, think of the Resonant Bragg Scattering as an amplifier that sends back a strong signal at an HF wavelength related to the sea wave wavelength.

CODAR can analyze the return signal and measure the Doppler shift which results from the fact that the sea waves (the target) are moving. The faster the surface wave moves the more frequency shift will be noticed. Since we know the wavelength of the sea wave we can predict what its speed should be using deep water wave theory. If the measured sea wave speed is different from the theoretical wave the only explanation is speed added or subtracted by underlying ocean current. Put it another way, unexpected Doppler frequency shift is the result of ocean current. By looking at the same patch of water using radars at two or more sites, the surface current radial velocity components can be summed to determine the total surface current velocity vector. CODAR can monitor ports and small bays as well as open ocean up to 120 miles from shore. The sea current being measured is in the upper three feet of the water column which is the current that determines the drift of spills or people. The Coast Guard is looking closely at this modern HF Radar technology. There are CODAR stations on all three coasts of the US. For more technical details on this subject you can go to any of the web search engines and search on CODAR. If you live near the coast and tune around 25 MHz, 12 MHz or 5 MHz, you may even hear some HF Radar. (Note that CODAR uses swept frequency FM. That’s why I say may.)

[For information visit: <http://www.codaros.com/>]
**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

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**FCC invites comments on Amateur Radio restructuring plans**

The FCC is seeking comments on three plans, one from the ARRL, that would reshape the Amateur Service licensing structure. Each petition for rule making responds to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 actions last summer that made changes to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. While differing substantially in some other aspects, the three petitions call for modifications at Amateur Radio’s entry level and for a three-tiered license system. One petition goes beyond licensing structure to recommend additional changes to amateur testing and HF digital privileges. A fourth petition focuses solely on the Morse requirement. Comments are due by April 24 on all four petitions.

Designated RM-10867, ARRL’s petition asks the FCC to create a new entry-level license class—being called “Novice” for now. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus certain VHF and UHF privileges. The League plan also would consolidate Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General licensees into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technicians automatically would gain General privileges without additional testing. Applicants for Amateur Extra would still have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the General and Extra written exams would stay the same.


An “unincorporated grassroots organization,” the Radio Amateur Foundation (RAF), has filed a petition designated as RM-10868. Its wide-ranging filing asks the FCC to modify the Technician ticket to allow restricted HF phone, data, image and CW privileges. The group also proposes retaining the 5 WPM Morse requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants, upgrading Advanced class holders to Extra and all Novices to Technician. The Radio Amateur Foundation said it sees no need to change licensing requirements for General or Amateur Extra applicants.

The RAF also wants to scrap existing Amateur Radio question pools and start over from scratch, keeping the question pools out of the public domain and requiring a 10-day waiting period before retesting. In addition, it would permit only General and Amateur Extras or Technicians licensed more than two years to request vanity call signs.

The RAF has further asked the FCC to permit digital experimentation from 29.0 to 29.3 MHz at bandwidths of up to 15 kHz.

In his two-page petition designated RM-10869, Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, calls on the FCC to retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for General class applicants and to raise the Morse requirement to 13 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants. He called Morse code “the most reliable mode of communication” in an emergency. Lowrance would make no change in Technician licensing requirements.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) wants the FCC to establish a new entry-level license called the Communicator class. Its petition, designated RM-10870, reiterates its call—first made last fall in RM-10787—to altogether eliminate the Morse code testing requirement.

The NCVEC’s petition would upgrade all current Novices to Communicator class. The NCVEC would further upgrade all existing Technician and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to General and all Advanced class licensees to Amateur Extra without further testing. Once the Morse requirement goes away, NCVEC said in its filing, “there will be no effective difference between the Technician and General class licenses.”

The new Communicator ticket would permit a power limit of 100 W on bands below 24 MHz and 50 W on all frequencies above 24 MHz. Communicator licensees would have to use commercially manufactured equipment (or gear built from a commercial kit). They could operate both voice and digital modes on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus VHF and UHF up to 70 cm.

All three license restructuring plans call for changes to the present HF subbands.

Interested parties may view and comment on these petitions via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System, [http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html](http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html). When entering the RM number in the ECFS “Proceeding” field, RM must be in capital letters and the hyphen must be included.
# Volunteer Examiners of Southeastern Connecticut (VEOSEC)

**CHAIRMEN:**

**TBD**

*Announcing Upcoming VEOSEC Amateur Radio License Examinations*

Further Dates to be announced...

All exam sessions will be held in the Community Room at the Norwichtown Mall in Norwich, CT.

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

Go online at [www.rason.org](http://www.rason.org) for further details.

### Upcoming Events:

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Visit [www.rason.org](http://www.rason.org) for further details.

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**Basic Skywarn Training Class**

Franklin, Connecticut (New London County)

**Thursday April 15 - 7:30-9:30 pm**

**Hosted by:**

Radio Amateur Society of Norwich (R.A.S.O.N)

**Location:**

Franklin Congregational Church
Pound Hill Road
Franklin, CT 06254

**Registration (recommended):**

Via E-Mail: register.okxskywarn@noaa.gov
Via Phone: (631) 924-0517 x412

**For Directions:**

[Click Here](http://www.99main.com/~w1amf/Meeting.htm)

**For a Map:**

[http://www.99main.com/~w1amf/Meeting.htm](http://www.99main.com/~w1amf/Meeting.htm)

**Amateur Radio Talk-In:**

N1NW Repeater (RASON)
146.730 Mhz, -600 Khz Offset, PL 156.7 Hz
Southington Amateur Radio Assoc.
Fleamarket

Ham Radio Equipment, Electronics, Computers, and more..

Sunday April 25th, 2004
9:00 AM to 1 PM
Southington High School
720 Pleasant Street, Southington, CT

Over 20 years of Fleamarkets!!

Admission $5.00

- 6 foot of linear table space is $12 in advance, checks must be received before the day of the Fleamarket. Day of the Fleamarket tables are $18
- Special - bring your own table take 50% off!
- Additional persons helping pay $5.00 as general admission. (be fair!)
- Children under 12 free!
- Doors open for all vendors unloading - 6:30am.
- For further info contact - Alex Joyce @ 860-214-3013
- Web site info www.chetbacon.com/sara.htm

Early Bird SPECIAL
Doors open at 8:30am and admission is $10.00 til 9:00am

Talk-in
145.49
224.80
444.25
147.345
Pl - 77hz

Exams of all classes given
All classes of Amateur Radio Exams will be given at the Fleamarket on a Pre-Registration basis only!
Send a SASE for a confirmation letter and instructions. PSE NO-Walk-ins

Portions of our gate go toward a Scholarship remembering our Club's SKs.

Food Catering
Great Food and Drink

Don't forget about the annual spring ARES meeting - It's free!

Please reserve #_____________ Regular tables and/or # ______________ Tables at 50%

For Reservations
Send a SASE to
SARA
PO Box 873
Southington, CT 06489

Name ________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________
Town __________________________________________________ State _______ Zip ______________
Phone Number ____________________________ Checks made out to SARA Inc.
Email address ____________________________________________ Please print clearly

Hartford
Intersate 84
Southington High
Pleasant St
Flanders St
Southington High School
720 Pleasant St
Southington, CT

Approx.
N41° 37.134'
W72° 51.614'

1 mile South - Left on Flanders

Interstate
84

Exits 32 Route 10 South

Waterbury

Portionso f our
gate go toward a
Scholarship
remembering our
Club's SKs.

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Address ________________________________________________
Town __________________________________________________ State _______ Zip ______________
Phone Number ____________________________ Checks made out to SARA Inc.
Email address ____________________________________________ Please print clearly
Upcoming TIPSnet Topics

Here is the schedule of upcoming topics for the TIPSnet.

April 6 - How to learn CW
April 13 - Besides amateur radio, what are your other hobbies
April 20 - Is it appropriate to use “Q” signal on phone, or is it limited to CW?
April 27 - If you make a contact via Echolink is it a legitimate ham radio contact?
May 4 - YL’s night
May 11 - Traffic handling
May 18 - Why did you get involved in amateur radio?
May 25 - Foxhunting, does it really serve a purpose besides a fun day out?

Hope all of you can check in. As always, anyone with ideas for topics, please feel free to contact me. I am always looking for suggestions.

73
Dorrie, KB1IRR
co-manager TipsNet
kb1irr@arrl.net

W1AW/90 Operates Through 2004

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial station at ARRL Headquarters, W1AW, will sign with a special designator - /90 - through the rest of 2004. The call sign reflects the 90th anniversary of the League’s founding by Maxim and Clarence Tuska in 1914. Operation as W1AW/90 will begin April 3.

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, said he will encourage guest operators to use as many modes as possible, including RTTY, PSK31, Satellite and Hellschreiber. “Plus, we’re going to try for SSTV WAS,” he added. “It’ll be tough, but we can do it.”

Special QSL cards will be available for W1AW/90 contacts, and Carcia noted that self-addressed, stamped return envelopes should accompany all QSL requests. All contacts with W1AW/90 will also be uploaded to Logbook of The World.

BPL Handout Available From ARRL

ARRL has posted a two-page document <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/BPL-leave-behind.pdf> that discusses Broadband over Power Line (BPL) in lay terms. “Broadband over Power Line: Why Amateur Radio is Concerned about its Deployment” is available for reprinting and use as a handout when, for example, dealing with members of Congress, municipal officials, power utilities and the news media.

While emphasizing that hams do not oppose broadband services per se and tend to be “early adopters” of new technology, the information sheet outlines Amateur Radio’s concern about BPL’s potential to create interference. Other broadband delivery methods “do not pollute the radio spectrum as BPL does,” the paper states.

It also defines BPL, outlines its current deployment status, discusses FCC regulations already in place and explains that BPL’s interference potential is real, not just theoretical. Finally, it lists “Others at risk,” including short-wave listeners, public safety agencies and federal government radio systems.

heard ID’ing the repeater:
03/06/04 Evan-NIZHD
03/14/04 Ed-KAIRMV
03/21/04 Jason-KBIIMD
03/28/04 Mark-KEI1U
04/04/04 John-W1AN

KB1FPB SK

East Lyme — April Lynn Lowell [KB1FPB] of Niantic died on March 14, 2004, at the Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London.

She was born on Sept. 16, 1963, in Bristol, the daughter of Melvin and Joann Johnson Plummer of Litchfield.


Mrs. Lowell served in the U.S. Air Force from 1981 to 1989. More recently she was a substitute school teacher for the Waterford School system.

In addition to her husband and parents, she is survived by her son, Daniel F. Lowell II, and her daughter, Alexandrea Lowell; sisters, Lecanne Pinsonneault of Torrington, Susan Plummer of Winsted and Sally Berglund and Joann Joray, both of Torrington.

The funeral service [was] be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Niantic Baptist Church, 443 Main St., Niantic. Calling hours [were] from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Fulton-Theroux Funeral Home, 13 Lake Ave., Niantic. Burial [was] at a later date in Northfield Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Niantic Center School PTA, 7 West Main St., Niantic, CT 06357.

Be sure to visit the rason website often for all the latest news and information.
www.rason.org
**New England QSO Party**

We’d like to invite you and your club members to join us in the New England QSO Party this year. The 3rd running of the NEQP will be taking place on May 1st and 2nd this year. Last year we had more than 250 entries from all across New England, most states and a number of foreign countries. This is a nice low pressure operating event where New England stations are the center of attention!

Please pass this message along to club members in your newsletter or at your next meeting!

The full rules and other information is located here --> [http://www.neqp.org/](http://www.neqp.org/)

Certificates are awarded to anyone making more than 25 QSOs, and there are (so far) 26 very nice plaques to be awarded. The plaques include one for the top New England club score, as well as the top school club score. A listing of all plaques and special awards is located here --> [http://www.neqp.org/plaques.html](http://www.neqp.org/plaques.html) Let us know if your club would like to sponsor a plaque.

We also hope to field a lot of mobiles so we can cover all 67 New England counties during the contest. Last year we had ten mobiles out across New England. Whether you plan to be on from home or while mobile, please let us know so we can update the Reserve Your County section and work to make sure all counties are covered -- > [http://www.neqp.org/ryc.html](http://www.neqp.org/ryc.html)

Very 73!!
Tom Frenaye/K1KI and Bob Hess/W1RH

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**Number Of Logbook Of The World Users Climbs**

Logbook of The World (LoTW), ARRL’s electronic awards credit system, is closing in on 40 million separate Amateur Radio contacts in its secure database, said ARRL Special Assistant to the CEO David Patton, NN1N.

“Right now there are 39.6 million QSOs entered into Logbook, with 1.18 million matched contacts,” he said. There are 7000 distinct registered users of the system, holding 9000 authenticated certificates, Patton added. Users may have more than one registered certificate, reflecting operation from home, changing call signs, operations during DXpeditions, or portable station operation each sporting a separate call sign.

Patton, who helped create the concept for LoTW, noted that the number of LoTW users continues to swell. Some 600 US hams have begun the registration process, along with an additional 600 amateurs in other countries, from whom ARRL is awaiting authentication documents. “The learning curve for getting on the system has remained pretty steady,” he said. “It’s pretty straightforward after you’ve been using it a while. The key is taking your time and following the instructions.”

One reason numbers are continuing to grow is that more and more computer logging programs are incorporating various levels of support for LoTW. “Most of the major logging programs have it, with more developers working to integrate support,” Patton said. “These software developers have worked really hard to make this happen.”

Also hard at work is ARRL Web and Software Development Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, who is working on programming the much-anticipated “DXCC awards module” for the QSO matching system. No rollout date had been set for the DXCC module, Patton said, but it is currently being tested.

The DXCC module will offer the user the ability to incorporate his/her DXCC records straight from the DXCC desk into an LoTW account. LoTW will be able to find needed credits automatically by comparing what’s in the database against the DXCC records on hand at ARRL.

“This application for DXCC is what we envisioned for LoTW years ago,” Patton said. “It will be really worth the users’ wait and the time and effort that Jon has put into the system.”
The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a national, voluntary organization of FCC licensed Hams (shortwave) radio operators who provide emergency communications in an emergency. Organized through the American Radio Relay League. This group has provided emergency communications services for everything from shipwrecks to the disaster of 9-11. It is a specialized field requiring training and federal licensing.

- ARES’ Skywarm program provides critical ground observations to the National Weather Services.
- The National Traffic Service has provided long distance emergency communication and free radiograms for families for decades.
- The Red Cross uses ARES to provide emergency communications in a disaster. So does the Salvation Army, OEM, FEMA, and hundreds of county and municipal governments.

When the World Trade Center was destroyed and cell phones were useless, who provided critical communications? **ARES** When an ice storm knocked out power and communications to thousands of people in Northwest Connecticut, who was on the scene allowing different agencies to talk to one another when other systems failed? **ARES**

Because each radio station operator is independent but still can talk to each other, it works….

- Even when the phones are down
- When there is no fax machine
- The internet is gone
- The “trunk line” is jammed
- And the cell phone is dead

You can learn more about the ARRL and ARES at:

- [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)
- [www.CTAres.org](http://www.CTAres.org)

ARES is not another club—it is a service. While some clubs are affiliated with ARES, appointments are made through the section management and active members are expected to participate in continued training, education and events. There is a command structure with formal plans for action. We are especially looking for people who can form teams and go to a disaster site in a crisis and set up mobile communications.

**TO JOIN OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**

The form on the other side of this paper is used for both initial application and annual updates. Members MUST update their contact information annually. (You are of no use if we can’t contact you in an emergency!) Fill out the form and give it to your local EC or DEC.

**Contacts in RASON are:**

Bruce KA1ZMZ    Hank KA1WTS    Chip N1MIE
Name: ____________________________ Call: __________________

CT AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE
Initial Application and Annual Update Form

Address: ____________________________ City: _______________________

State: __________ Zip: __________ County: _______________________

Home Phone: __________ Work Phone: __________ Cell: __________

E-mail Address: __________ Pager: __________

License Class: __________ Primary Radio Interest: __________

IF OPERATING PACKET, THE CALLSIGN OF YOUR HOME PBBS IS: __________

Indicate bands/modes you can operate: H = Home, M = Mobile, P = Portable, A = All Three

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Can your home station operate without commercial power [ ] Yes [ ] No
If yes, what bands? ____________________________

ARRL EMCOMM CLASSES COMPLETED [ ] LEVEL 1 [ ] LEVEL 2 [ ] LEVEL 3
OTHER Emergency Communications Training in the past year ____________________________

Activities in the past year ____________________________

Signed: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Signature of your EC or DEC or STM ____________________________ Registration is for one year.

ACTIVE members are required to participate in 1 training and/or 1 event or ARES meeting per year.
(Simply checking into a net does not count as participation in an event for this purpose)
RESERVE members are encouraged, but not required, to have continuing education or participate in events/meetings.

All registrations should be returned to and signed by the EC or DEC for your locality or unit or the STM. The EC, DEC or STM will verify and send copy to SEC for inclusion in the database listings. Listings can be seen at www.CTares.org website