

## **Repeater Updates**

There is mixed news on the repeater and shack front. On the up side, work has continued on the building and it is in tremendous shape. Dave-WA1IKN and Paul-N1ZYB have made a number of additional trips to the site and have continued to work on the insulation, sealing, electrical, and miscellaneous other aspects. Dave purchased flooring material for the building that was on sale and it will be installed in the near future. The repeater building is in tremendous shape and much of the thanks should go to Dave for his work and coordination efforts.

On the down side is news that NDPU is planning on to refurbish the water tower. While this is good news from the standpoint of it's long-term viability and dependability, it is bad news for us in the short-term. This will mean that we will have to remove our antennas from the water tower for some period of time while it is sand blasted and painted. It sounds like the work time frame will be approximately a month long. There is some chance that the repeater will either be off the air or at reduced power from a temporary antenna during that time. Folks will just have to be patient while this work is in progress.

Mike-N1HFX has continued to work on the spare repeater parts to put them in tip-top shape. He has also been putting together plans for the repeater transfer to the new building. In the near future we will be assembling the work bench and shelving for the new building.

## **Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary**

January 16, 2008 was a special day: it was the ninetieth birthday of Alexander Cohen, W1FXQ of Newington! This issue of the Section News honors Al and all ops in CT who have reached this age; we all benefit from their wisdom and unique perspective on life.

Al was born in Hartford and has always lived in this area. In 1932, he and several classmates decided to study for the Amateur license. They practiced CW chatting with each other (in CW of course) going to and from school! At the age of 14, he and other school friends took the FCC exam in Hartford. At that time, the operator's license and station license were two different documents. Now all of his other friends received both licenses together in December of that year but poor Al only got the operator's license. It was not until March when he got his station license showing the call W1FXQ! You can imagine how he must have felt, anxiously waiting for that magic piece of paper! Of course, he was able to operate from other stations which he did often when visiting his friends! Just think of it: one document received at age 14 and the final license at age 15.

Al operated CW using a transmitter and receiver that he built. His first transmitter was a 171A Hartley oscillator; the receiver was a regenerative receiver which used UX199 tubes; Al built it on an inverted pie pan. He remembers cutting socket holes with a sharp knife and having ruined tubes when a screw driver slipped! Tubes were a dime apiece but tough to come by for a boy his age. But he was successful and spent many hours operating CW during those first few years. He had to wait until he could afford to upgrade his station and operate phone!

Al currently holds an Amateur Extra Class license; he was mentored by Fred W1CKV. Al and Phil W1KSC (SK) studied together! He operates an Icom 757 transceiver as well as 2 meter mobile and handheld transceivers.

Al enjoys public relations. He continually disseminates the news about Section activities both within and outside the Amateur radio community. His most recent article about the NARL Holiday Party was published in the *Newington Town Crier*. He has served on my cabinet continuously since 1991 as PIC and currently ASM. He said "he

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wanted to slow down” a few years ago so he resigned his post as PIC and presently is one of our public information officers. I continue to enjoy his unique perspective on various issues and activities. It’s great to have Al on board!

Believe me, Al has not slowed down at all. He is presently president of the Nutmeg Chapter of QCWA, handles the PR for NARL, is a member of NARL, GNARC, Middlesex Amateur Radio Society, and the Insurance City Repeater Club. He has served in several community organizations: The Newington Kiwanis Club, American Legion and The Jewish War Veterans to name a few. Mary K1MMH president of NARL, presented Al with a plaque for 75 years as a licensed radio amateur at NARL’s holiday party in January. At this writing, I am inquiring about Al’s ARRL membership; your SM will surely celebrate his many years as a loyal, contributing ARRL member at some occasion in the near future.

Al credits Amateur radio for his diverse skills which led to an interesting and varied career. Today, with so many different technologies offered by our service, young people have a terrific opportunity to use their new skills offered by this many-faceted service we know as Amateur radio to motivate and enhance careers.

While in high school, Al, like many others, had a paper route. Ah, but his was unique: he repaired radios for his customers! Before finishing high school, he worked part time at *The Hartford Times* radio station whose call was WTHT. He really wanted a job there fulltime but he needed the first class radiotelephone license. Again, he studied and was successful! After high school, he worked at Hub Stores on State Street. Hub stores was one of the bigger radio stores after the flood of 1936. People traded radios and it was al’s job to make one good radio out of a few, challenging to say the least. He later worked at WTHT as an engineer and really enjoyed that experience. Radio stations at that time typically had live programs with mayors, governors, poets, philosophers, educators and the like. Al delighted in telling me about the days he worked at the FM transmitter site where he put up a 20 meter dipole and worked 20 meters whenever he could while monitoring the station equipment.

Intermixed with his career, Al served in the Air Force as a communicator where he trav-

# 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

## 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 *on demand*

## 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

eled to the Arctic, Okinawa and Africa.

Al later worked in sales at WTHH where he became regional sales manager where he learned to write commercials and work with people to solve conflicts. Al said, "the key to solving conflicts is to always look for the good in the other." Some years later, he and a partner formed a very successful electronic supply company called "Signal Electronic Supply."

I haven't included every detail of his career but I'm sure you get the idea--W1FXQ took advantage of opportunities that were afforded him because of his skills he gained as an Amateur Radio operator.

Have you met Al's wife Myra? Well, she's also amazing--she's been elected to her eighth term on the Newington Town Council. Congratulations Myra!

Al, this really comes from the heart. From all of us in CT, happy birthday and best wishes for many years to come. You can email Al by writing [w1fxq@arrl.net](mailto:w1fxq@arrl.net).

Next month, I'll tell you about the NARL Holiday Party at which Mary K1MMH was installed as NARL president, where we heard from George Hart, W1NJM by telephone, we enjoyed a fine talk by ARRL CEO Dave Sumner about the latest state-of-the-art computer-related technologies being applied by radio amateurs worldwide, and where several exciting awards were presented.

And now, I'll close with an invitation that was distributed by our SEC Brian, K1BRF and comes from Mario Bruno, Senior Director, Preparedness and Response & Information Technology Connecticut State Relations Disaster Liaison: The Charter Oak Chapter of the American Red Cross received a national Emergency Communications Response Vehicle (ECRV) in January. This vehicle is the only one with these capabilities in the Northeast at this point, greatly increasing The Red Cross capacity and readiness to respond to large disasters in the area. Two of these vehicles were in Farmington for a few days to train twenty responders who will be ready to deploy it during large disasters.

Connecticut Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC [k1eic@arrl.org](mailto:k1eic@arrl.org)



# Upcoming Events

## February

- 16 Flea Market (Marlborough, MA)
- 16-17 ARRL Int'l DX Contest (CW)
- 21 RASON Meeting
- 23-24 CQWW 160m Contest (SSB)

## March

- 1-2 ARRL Int'l DX Contest (Phone)
- 6 SCRAMS Meeting
- 11 Tri-City Meeting
- 20 RASON Meeting
- 29-30 CQWW WPX Contest (SSB)

## April

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

## May

- 1 SCRAMS Meeting
- 13 Tri-City Meeting
- 15 RASON Meeting
- 24-25 CQWW WPX Contest (CW)

## June

- 5 SCRAMS Meeting
- 10 Tri-City Meeting
- 14-16 ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- 19 RASON Meeting
- 21-22 CQWW VHF Contest
- 28-29 *ARRL Field Day*

## July

- 3 SCRAMS Meeting
- 8 Tri-City Meeting
- 12-13 IARU HF World Championships
- 17 RASON Meeting

## August

- 2-3 ARRL UHF Contest
- 7 SCRAMS Meeting
- 12 Tri-City Meeting
- 16-17 ARRL 10GHz+ Contest

## Bon Appétit sur Field Day!

You may recall the Field Day Cookbook that appeared in the June 2007 issue of QST. Well, we're doing it again in 2008. In addition to the technical tips, readers greatly enjoyed the Field Day recipes. Send us your culinary concoction and you'll have a shot at QST stardom. Keep in mind that it has to be something that can be prepared at a "normal" Field Day site (one without access to stainless steel ovens, etc). The shorter the recipe, the better; we'd like to fit several onto one page. If you have a digital photo of your masterpiece, send it along too. E-mail your recipe to Steve Ford, WB8IMY, QST Editor at [sford@arrl.org](mailto:sford@arrl.org) by no later than February 29.

## Any Day Can Be Field Day

Paul Milward, AB4PM tells us that the Daytona Beach ARA uses a mini field day type operation to attract people to Amateur Radio. Paul says that the club visits various parks on alternating weekends and sets up a HF station and starts calling CQ. Curious parkgoers are treated to an informative demonstration on ham radio and receive some club information and how to get their own Amateur Radio license.

## First Contact Award

Do you want to recognize someone who just made their first two-way radio communications by Amateur radio? Perhaps you just made your first CW contact or first HF contact and want to have a certificate to remember that exciting time.

Whether you are presenting the award to someone or creating a landmark of your own Amateur Radio journey, use the on-line form to fill in the QSO information and the operator who is being presented with this certificate and ARRL will mail a beautiful First Contact Award.

The award can be mailed directly to the recipient or it can be presented in person or at a club meeting.

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/award/certificate/1contact.html>

## New ARRL Award Products Available

The ARRL now offers custom awards for clubs, groups and individuals for recognition and achievement, offering a wide range of

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styles and price levels. Each award is customized with your text and the ARRL logo.

Products offered include a tan leather rectangular key fob with a call sign on one side and the ARRL diamond on the other; a rosewood pen and pencil set with personalization available on the pen and pencil, as well as the presentation box; an 8x10 inch wood plaque with blue plate engraved with up to 14 lines of gold text; a swiveling wood desk clock that holds a photo or an insert --- personalize this with up to 25 characters on two lines, and a beautiful crystal 3-inch etched globe on a crystal base, presented in a velvet-lined gift box.

Do you have that one ham in your group who comes out every Field Day, rain or shine, who stays from beginning to end, helping out in any way possible? Acknowledge their involvement with a beautiful gift that shows how much you value their service? What about the ham in your club that has been a member for 25 years and has yet to miss a meeting? Show them how much you appreciate their contribution with a small personalized token. Do you have an Elmer you would like to thank with more than words? A personalized gift with their name and call sign on it would remind them of you every time they used it.

Each item features the ARRL diamond logo. Award orders will be processed and delivered within 20 working days. View the entire award product line, as well as ARRL clothing items, at the Barker Specialties Web site <<http://www.barkerstores.com/arrl>>.

## **Field Day 2008 Rules & Forms Now Available**

It's that time of year again—time to start gearing up for Field Day, ARRL's flagship operating event. Field Day, held the fourth full weekend in June, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rule changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category. The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>>. A full 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site will be coming in the next few weeks.

GOTA (Get on the Air) stations are those stations set aside by Field Day teams designed to get non-hams or newly licensed hams on the air. Unlike in past years where GOTA stations were limited to only one band, the 2008 rules state that these stations may operate on any authorized HF or VHF Field Day band. Keep in mind that only one signal may be transmitted from the GOTA station at any time.

Henderson said the eligibility for operating the GOTA station has changed slightly: Anyone who has been licensed since Field Day 2007 is eligible to operate the GOTA station, regardless of license class.

For 2008, the Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. "This bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation," Henderson said. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus, Henderson said you should submit them via e-mail <[fdinfo@arrl.org](mailto:fdinfo@arrl.org)>.

Be sure to read the Field Day rules and FAQs in the 2008 Field Day Packet for details of these changes. There are also numerous small changes in the FAQs and support materials in the packet that should help groups and individuals as they plan their Field Day activities, Henderson said.

The 2008 Field Day Packet also includes an expanded Press Kit, thanks to the work of ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. Included in this expanded portion of the packet is a sample "Field Day Proclamation" for those groups who work with local city or town officials toward getting a Field Day Week declared in their location.

"We are excited that historic station K6KPH will once again participate transmitting the W1AW special Field Day Bulletin on the West Coast," Henderson said. More details are available in the Field Day Packet.

Information concerning the popular Field Day pins and T shirts will be announced in the next few weeks.

Henderson said that those wishing to obtain a complete Field Day Packet via US mail need to send a 9 x 12 inch self-addressed, stamped manila envelope with 5 units of postage to Field Day Packet Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington,

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CT 06111. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

If people wish to order display kits for their tables at Field Day, please contact Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, ARRL Education Manager, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, tel 860-594-0296. The cost for the display kit ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To ensure having the kits in time for Field Day, you are encouraged to order them no later than June 13.

## ***Get Ready to Go The Distance with the ARRL International DX Contests***

Are you ready to work some DX? The ARRL International DX Contest is coming up! This is one of the ARRL's oldest operating events, going back to the days of the International Relay Party in 1928.

The objective is simple: US and Canadian stations work only DX & DX stations work only US and Canadians. See how many different stations you can contact in as many different geographical entities as possible. US & Canadian stations try to work different DX countries, while DX stations try and work US states & Canadian provinces. For this contest, Alaska, Hawaii and all US possessions and territories are considered DX. US/Canadians send a signal report and their state or province; DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power.

You don't need a big station to compete. You can work many stations in this contest with 100w and a simple dipole or vertical antenna. This event is also a good way to improve your DXCC Award totals with a small investment of time. Many contesters will be traveling to foreign locales to participate, so listen for lots of good DX countries on the bands. The ARRL will once again be offering participation pins for those who make more than 100 QSOs in the event. Pins are \$7 (including shipping) and are a nice memento of your achievement in the contest.

The CW portion of the ARRL DX Contest begins at 0000 UTC on Feb 16 and goes until 2400 UTC Feb 17. The Phone portion runs from 0000 UTC Mar 1 until 2400 UTC Mar 2. Complete rules can be found online <<http://www.arrl.org/contests>>. If you are new to the ARRL DX Contests, look for a primer on the event by ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, in the Radiosport area of the March issue of QST.

## ***Minutes for 17 January 2008***

The meeting was called to order at 1942 by President Chip-N1MIE (who was dressed to the 9's wearing a tuxedo because he came straight to the meeting from a funeral). A quorum was present. Chip introduced Wayne-N1CLV (District Emergency Coordinator, CT ARES Region 4), Ron-K1VSC (ARES Region 4 ADEC Agency Liaison), and Bill-W1GTT (ARES Region 4 Digital Coordinator who was presenting a post meeting program on "APRS"). Members then introduced themselves.

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted without change.

No Treasurer's report was available.

## ***Committee Reports***

Chip-N1MIE provided a status on the new RASON site building. The insulated (R-19) floor as been installed and the electrical work, which includes three overhead lights, a pair of outside floodlights, and four quad AC 20 amp outlets, has been completed. The north and south louvers as well as several small areas of missing wall insulation have also been installed.

Repeaters: Mike-N1HFX reported that there was a power supply in November in which the emergency power supply did not kick in because the Astron power supply did not go to zero volts. A new, small power unit has been installed and is performing well. The Astron PS has been repaired. Also, the Henry Power Amp. went out and has been repaired. An intermittent T/R relay was found to have dirty contacts. On 17 January Mike reported that the UHF Repeater was down possibly due to a Power Amp. Problem. Mike will attempt to correct this early in the following week, pending availability of Norwich Utility Dept. personnel. Plans for moving all our equipment racks from the old to the new building early next spring will require a work party of about six people. The minimum/primary objective on "moving day" will be to get the 146.730 Repeater up and running.

VE Committee: No report.

New N1NW Building: Dave-WA1IKN reported that donations of about \$180 for new materials by Chip-N1MIE, Paul-N1ZYB, Mike-

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N1HFX and himself, and used building materials by Bruce-KA1ZMZ has resulted in no expense to RASON. This is a fine testament to the spirit of RASON and Amateur Radio! Dave's son-in-law Gregg Sajkowicz, who is not an amateur, has also provided RASON with materials (wood, insulation, etc.), 12 hours of on-site labor, and most importantly his construction experience all at no cost. Therefore, a motion to provide Gregg a "thank you check" for \$100 was passed by the membership.

Fox-Hunt: Ron-K1VSC is planning a Fox-Hunt in the Plainfield area on Sat. 22 March. Details to follow.

Public Information: RASON's PIO Wayne-KB1NKK reported that the UK- Norfolk Radio Club is still interested in setting up some future on-the-air contacts with RASON members. Also, Wayne will resume efforts to assist Backus Hospital in incorporating amateur support as part of their Emergency Communications Plan. Dave-WA1IKN also wants to include L & M Hospital via a SCRAMS liaison. This action could result in four hospitals in the Eastern CT area all having the same amateur equipments, which would be a huge benefit for operators and procedural methods.

## ***Old Business***

Chip-N1MIE stated he is still working towards having RASON conduct a Wouff Hong Ceremony at the New England Division Convention 22 thru 24 August, 2008 at Boxboro, MA.

Hamfest: Scott-W1SSN agreed to act as the Vendor Coordinator for our upcoming Hamfest which is scheduled for Sat. 9 August at the Gales Ferry Firehouse.

## ***New Business***

Per Scott-W1SSN the USS Nautilus (SSN571) will participate in the 2008 Museum Ships event which is scheduled for Fri. thru Sun., June 6 thru 8, 2008. A 16 hour period of amateur activity is planned but no on-boat operation will be permitted. K1SSN (Sub Base ARC/MARS station) will be active for this event. Also, on Sat. & Sun., August 2 & 3, 2008, the 50th anniversary of the USS Nautilus's historic North Pole under-ice transit across the Arctic will be observed. A "Special

Event" call sign of N9N (Nautilus 90 North) has been assigned). More details on both events will be forthcoming as planning moves forward.

Chip-N1MIE will contact the CT DEP to reserve a Field Day 2008 site at Pachaug State Forest.

Health and Welfare: Nothing reported.

## ***Adjournment***

The next meeting will be at 19:30 (19:45 if the Boy Scouts meet prior to us) Thursday 21 February, 2008 at Norwich Fire Headquarters. The meeting adjourned at 20:11. A post meeting slide presentation on "Automatic Position Reporting System" (APRS) was given by Bill-W1GTT.

Respectfully submitted,  
David F. Carberry - WA1IKN  
Recording Secretary