

Monthly Connecticut Section News Summary

Section Leadership: ASMs: N1FNE, K1STM, NK1J, W1FXQ; Bulletin Manager KD1YV; OOC W1GC; PIC K1SFA; SEC K1BRF; SGL K1MK; STM K1HEJ; TC N1KHB. Two exciting training opportunities are coming up next weekend—February 24 and February 25.

Congrats on N1MIE now president of RASON. Wish Matt KB1LCS the best of luck; he has unfortunately moved out of Section. Chip has lots of ideas for the club and is looking forward to a productive year. Have fun!

CARA enjoyed a program on antique radio given by a real collector and enthusiast Marty-K1CVF. You know, if your club is looking for a good program, contact Marty because he does enjoy giving his talk and showing some of the collection.

The club has their new 6 meter repeater operational: input/output 52.130/53.130, PL 100. Look for W1QI/r on the air; send signal reports to Joe, AB1DO, ab1do@arrl.net. It is presently located in his basement in Redding for testing. The repeater is a GE Master II Station, modified for the ham bands, which is connected to a set of four 7ft tall cavity resonators (also known as cans) which together act as a duplexer. These “cans” had to be moved from Hamden to Redding, not an easy feat! Thanks to Bill, N1PJG, the job got done. Ah but much more to the story—it truly is an incredible one—nothing good comes easy! AB1DO, KD1DD, N1PJG, N2FEX, and KF6AJ with his lab for retuning the duplexers worked very hard to make the repeater operational. Watch for pictures of the duplexers on the Section news page at <http://www.arrl.org>. Click on CT Section. Congrats on the operation!

Section Manager: Elizabeth M. Doane, K1EIC

Hosstraders Tailgate Swapfest

The October 2006 event was the last Hosstraders. After careful consideration, we have decided to discontinue hosting the event. A combination of factors have led to this difficult decision. We’ve been running Hosstraders for a third of a century, but we’ve always done it “our way” and we feel that the result has been an event unique in the Amateur Radio world, certainly in New England. A number of things have been taken into account, but foremost in our mind is that we want Hosstraders to be a quality experience in every way, and not to slowly run it into the ground just for the ride. We want to take things out on a high note, while we can still be proud of our efforts.

Briefly, the factors that led us to this point are problems with site logistics, the changing face of flea marketing due to internet commerce, changes in directions of Amateur Radio, and just the fact that we have done it for a third of a century and we are getting old and tuckered out. It is not our intent to elaborate further on these matters. Nor do we intend to anoint or endorse any successors, or go into the business of Hamfest Consulting, so please don’t ask. We are unaware of any person or group in the region with the experience to “take over”. Therefore, be very cautious of anyone who comes forward claiming to be the “new Hosstraders”. Running an event of Hosstraders’ size and impact is more challenging than it appears! What’s the next step? Well, for us, we plan to relax and play radio. For the rest of the Amateur community in the Northeast, we’d suggest that you get off the internet and on the air. Support your local clubs, and their events. Put up an antenna for some ham who needs a bit of assistance, and help to maintain the fraternal aspects of our hobby.

We wish to thank you for your great support these many years. We often hear from

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Coming Soon

hams who have been attending Hosstraders since those early days in Seabrook. Since that first event, where 61 of us met on a flat grassy field, we've had lots of fun, and made lots of memories. We've also donated over 1.3 million dollars to the Shriners' Hospitals for the care and support of severely burned and crippled kids. We are proud of that, and those who participated can share in that pride. The need still exists at the Hospitals, so if you wish to make someone happy, perhaps each year on the anniversary of Hosstraders, you could send a check along to Boston, Springfield or Montreal. They will not waste it!

We hope you'll remember the times we all had together at Seabrook, Deerfield, Kingstont (!), Rochester and Hopkinton.

You can be sure that we will never forget.

FCC Now Processing Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Backlog

The FCC has resumed processing new Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. An initial stab at whittling down the backlog began February 8 - five weeks to the day after the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) issued the last vanity call sign prior to the resumption. The Commission stopped processing new vanity call sign applications received on or after December 18 while it readied the Universal Licensing System (ULS) vanity application software to accommodate a December 15 rule change to discourage the filing of multiple applications for the same call sign. The FCC has continued to accept new vanity applications and to process vanity renewals. A WTB staff member, speaking on background, told ARRL the Commission could be back on track by next week.

"We've resumed processing, and by next week we'll be caught up," said the staffer, who conceded that the FCC's ULS software had not been fully tested to ensure it could deal with the multiple-applications issue when the new rule's December 15 effective date rolled around. "We knew the date was coming, but the software wasn't quite ready." The Commission could complete processing of applications that have been sitting in the queue as early as February 12.

As of February 9, the WTB appeared to have granted some 125 vanity call sign applications submitted between December 18 and December 22.

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 500 or so applications remain in the queue.

The FCC this week also issued a public notice to announce the formal implementation of the multiple applications rule, 97.19(a)(1), effective February 8. The notice said the ULS would limit individuals to filing only one vanity call sign application on the same day.

“In the case where an applicant files multiple vanity call sign applications on the same day, only the first-filed application will be considered for the process, and the additional applications will be dismissed,” the FCC said. “This new process will eliminate the possibility of an applicant having more than one application for the same call sign being considered on any one day.”

The Commission is likely to receive an avalanche of new vanity call sign applications after February 23, when elimination of the Morse code examination requirement is expected to spur a massive influx of license upgrades.

The FCC is processing new vanity call sign applications now in the queue in the order they were received. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued - or the application is denied. The current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.

Lee Visits the ARRL Open House

I had attended the League's Open House on February 25, 2007 (Sunday), which was held at ARRL's Radio Station, W1AW. While there, I took my test to upgrade and passed. As of February 26, 2007, the FCC has officially issued my new Amateur Radio License granting my General Class License privileges on the HF Bands. While schmoozing with all the major staff from the League, I was able to meet Dave (K1ZZ), the CEO of ARRL, who had congratulated me on my progress. Attached is an e-pic with Dave shaking my hand after the exam.

Here is a cool short video put on by Katie (W1KRB) at the League's Open House: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EgvmWIXQog>

Here is the League's Open House Weblog: <http://www2.arrl.org/blog/W1AW%20HF%20Open%20House?ofst=0>

Upcoming Events

March

- 13 Tri-City ARC Meeting
- 15 RASON Meeting

April

- 5 SCRAMS Meeting
- 7-8 Nubble Lighthouse activation
- 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

September

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

October

- 4 SCRAMS Meeting

I was honored to have also met at the League's Open House:
WJ1B, Harold Kramer, Chief Operating Officer
K1MMH, Mary Hobart, Chief Development Officer
W1KRB, Katie Breen, Membership Manager
N1ND, Dan Henderson, Regulatory Information Specialist

It certainly was a good time had by all. I recommend to every ARRL member to at least attend one ARRL OPEN HOUSE in your lifetime.. They have three wonderful studios inside with two transceivers in each studio to operate with the best antenna system in the world.. < Hi hi !! >
73 de Lee / KB1NAL (APIO)



Diamond Terrace Invites Members To Engrave Their Call Signs In Stone

The ARRL Diamond Club is offering members the opportunity to make their call signs a permanent part of ARRL Headquarters by contributing an engraved brick to The Diamond Terrace at ARRL. A project of the ARRL Diamond Club, The Diamond Terrace will be constructed of personalized, 4x8-inch laser-engraved bricks. Gracing the soon-to-be renovated entrance to ARRL Headquarters, The Diamond Terrace will recognize donors wishing to venerate their own call signs or to honor or memorialize the call sign of a family member, club or "Elmer" (mentor).

"We already had plans to refurbish the Headquarters entrance area, so this was an ideal op-

portunity to invite our members to participate in the project and supporting League programs at the same time,” said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. “We want to grow the Diamond Club, which enables the ARRL to continue programs that require revenue above and beyond what annual dues provide, ensuring their long-term health and enabling the League to do more on behalf of Amateur Radio.”

Diamond Club enrollment (\$75-\$249 per year for regular members; \$50 annually for Life Members) covers ARRL full-membership benefits, including QST.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, was the first in line to buy a Diamond Terrace brick, and another 20 bricks already are spoken for. Others can join them with a \$250 annual Diamond Club membership contribution. The Diamond Club now has more than 2000 members, and the unrestricted funds it takes in support such ARRL activities as spectrum defense, educational initiatives, field services, DXCC, publications, contesting and the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator among others, Hobart points out.

Donors may request up to three lines of 16 characters (including spaces and punctuation) per line. Legends may consist of a call sign or a name - or both - or a club name and call sign and even a year. Diamond Club members contributing \$250 or more each year may add a new brick, or bricks, to the terrace. Especially generous donors may wish to donate a garden bench to The Diamond Terrace at ARRL for an initial donation of \$10,000.

The Diamond Terrace project will get under way this spring, and new bricks will be put into place 50 bricks at a time each year during May and June. Bricks will be set in sand and treated to withstand harsh New England winters.

Hobart says the terrace ultimately will consist of 5000 bricks. “We hope it will be a catalyst for growth, and that many members will support this effort,” she said.

Contact Hobart 860-594-0397; <mhobart@arrl.org> or visit the Diamond Club Web page <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/diamondclub/index.html>> to learn more or to sign up for your Diamond Club membership and Diamond Terrace brick.

Visit The Diamond Terrace at ARRL page for additional information <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/diamondclub/terrace.html>>.

FCC Lops Fine, Admonishes Amateur Radio Licensee

The FCC has reduced from \$11,000 to \$2500 the fine it imposed in 2004 on Daniel Granda, KA6VHC, of Whittier, California. In a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) released March 1, the FCC said Granda intentionally interfered with Amateur Radio communications and failed to respond to FCC correspondence. Granda petitioned for reconsideration of the \$11,000 fine in 2004.

“In his petition, Mr Granda does not dispute our finding that he caused deliberate interference to Amateur Radio communications nor does he deny his failure to respond to official Commission correspondence,” recounted Assistant FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief George R. Dillon, who signed the MO&O. “He does contend, however, that imposition of the full forfeiture amount would impose a financial hardship on him and his spouse.”

The FCC agreed to reduce the fine to \$2500 after reviewing Granda’s federal tax returns. “The reduction of the forfeiture amount, however, does not lessen the severity of the violations cited in this proceeding, specifically Mr Granda’s intentional interference to radio communications,” Dillon cautioned. “For that reason, we will further admonish Mr Granda for his violations.”

Granda’s license renewal has been in limbo since 2003, when the FCC’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) set aside his renewal application. As the MO&O noted, the Enforcement Bureau had asked the WTB to “consider this violation in processing Mr Granda’s pending license renewal application for KA6VHC.” Apparently it did. This week, the WTB renewed Granda’s license for just one year.

Next Civilian Space Traveler Is Amateur Radio-ready

The next civilian space traveler is Amateur Radio ready. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>> reports that software pioneer and aviator Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, plans to talk with students at three schools

during his stay in space. He also may make casual contacts. Simonyi, 58, is set to head into space April 7 on a Soyuz "taxi mission" to the ISS. He'll accompany Expedition 15 Russian cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin, RN3FI, and Oleg Kotov. They'll join US astronaut Sunita Williams, KD5PLB. As a client of Vienna, Virginia-based Space Adventures Ltd <<http://www.spaceadventures.com>>, Simonyi will pay \$25 million for the privilege. He's been undergoing pre-flight training at Star City, Russia. During his eight-day stay aboard the ISS, he will conduct experiments on behalf of several international space agencies.

"I am fascinated by the technologies utilized by the American and Russian space programs," Simonyi said. "As an engineer, I look forward to studying the different engineering approaches." Simonyi obtained his Technician ticket in December.

Space Adventures says Simonyi's mission goals are to advance civilian space travel, assist with space station research and involve youth in the science of space travel. He established his space flight Web site <<http://www.charlesinspace.com/>> to chronicle his training experiences.

A native of Hungary, Simonyi earned a bachelor's degree in engineering and mathematics from the University of California at Berkeley and a doctorate in computer science from Stanford University. Over the years, he's been associated with Xerox and with Microsoft, where he oversaw the teams that developed the company's Excel, Multiplan, Word and other applications.

After leaving Microsoft in 2002, Simonyi founded Intentional Software Corporation, a software engineering company. The following year, he founded the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences to support arts organizations, science programs and educational institutions.

Simonyi began his cosmonaut training in September. As part of his multi-faceted training at Star City, he has learned how to use the ARISS gear aboard the ISS.

Space Adventures organized the flights for the world's first private space explorers, Dennis Tito, KG6FZX, Mark Shuttleworth, Greg Olsen, KC2ONX, and Anousheh Ansari. "We wish Charles well and we look forward with great anticipation to his launch," said Space Adventures President and CEO Eric Anderson.

Meeting Minutes for 15 Feb. 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1950 by President Chip Griffin-K1MIE. A quorum was present and a staff reporter from the Norwich Bulletin was present. Members introduced themselves. No visiting officers were present and no new applications were received.

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted without change.

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

Committee Reports

Repeaters: Both repeaters are working but a site visit for "tweaking" is planned within the next two weeks. (It was reported that the 449.725 Repeater is not tracking in frequency.)

Mike-KB1HHN agreed to relinquish his position as Tech Committee Chairman to Mike-N1HFX.

Gary-WT1SND has received the approved Station License from the ARRL which changed the Trustee for N1NW to his call. Because Gary holds an Amateur Extra Class License, those privileges are also available any time the N1NW call sign is being utilized for an event (e.g. a contest, Field Day, etc).

BBS: N1WW-2 appears to be running normally per Chuck-W1FJW.

Fox-Hunting: Per Chip-N1MIE he said he could run a Fox Hunt on Sunday 25 Feb. but proposed to do it a bit more realistically. There would be no maps and no central meeting location at the start of the hunt. This would parallel the way hams would respond for a real hunt or event.

Hamfest: RASONS Second Annual Hamfest will be the last Saturday in Sept. which is 29 September 2007 at the Gales Ferry Fire Dept. on Rt. 12 in Ledyard. During our March meeting Dave (WA1IKN) will be looking for input and help from members to ensure that key events for a successful Hamfest will occur and in a timely fashion.

ECARA: On Sat. 17 March a benefit for the Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Assn. will be held from 8 AM til noon. There will be a VE Test Session but space is limited, therefore, pre-registration is required. The location is the Pomfret Community School at the intersection of Rt. 169 and 101 (i.e. on Rt.101 appx. 4 to 5 miles west of Rt. 395

- exit 93). Talk-ins will be available on the 147.225 K1MUJ Repeater (PL = 156.7) and 146.520 simplex. Admission is \$2.00. Contact KB1JDY for details.

Contests: Various upcoming contests were mentioned.

PIO: RASONS PIO Wayne-KB1NKK stated that Lee-KB1NAL has "tweaked the Database". Also, Wayne has brochures from the ARRL that depict the Leagues new campaign for public awareness of amateur radio for 2007. He has numerous copies and encouraged us all to take some and pass them around.

Old Business

Field Day: Sat./Sun.23/24 June Pachaug State Forest site in Voluntown. A letter from CT-DEP may have been received confirming RASON use of the Pachaug State Forest site for Field Day.

Norwich Free Academy: Lee-KB1NAL reported that the amateur station license held by NFA expired during 2006. They have taken down the antennas and boxed up their radio equipment. Kevin-KA6PDG stated that it is important to maintain contact with NFA but is tough especially with the present school threat environment.

NFA did offer RASON the use of their radio equipment on a loan basis (i.e. it would be subject to recall if needed).

Lee reported that only two students may be interested in pursuing amateur radio at this time, in other words there is just not enough interest at NFA.

New Business

Rick-KB1NQQ showed copies of a RASON Identification Badge that he developed. A motion (Scott-W1SSN/Bruce-KIZZM) passed authorizing Rick to spend up to \$32.00 for materials needed to complete the ID Badge project.

Lee-KB1NAL is considering forming a committee for fund raising to support the club. Chuck-W1WFJ suggested that a good time for fund raising might be immediately after the MS Walk-A-Thon this April which RASON supports annually. Lee will follow up and expand his ideas.

Lee also indicated that the Tuesday prior to the meeting the 146.730 repeater was not linked into the TIPS Net. Chip-N1MIE will look into providing "Control Operator Codes" to those who need

them. Gary-WT1SND will ensure that the TIPS Net will be tied in until this situation is resolved.

The next monthly RASON meeting will be at 1945 on Thurs. 15 MARCH. 2007 at Norwich Fire Headquarters.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2028 upon a motion from Chuck-W1WFJ/Gary-WT1SND.

Post Meeting Presentation

Immediately following the business meeting a presentation on "Underwater Real Time Amateur Television (ATV)" was given by Paul-N1ZYB.

Post Meeting Note

An Email dated Sun 18 Feb. 2007 was sent out by Cory-N1URA announcing a "Lighthouse Activation" on Sat./Sun. April 7th/8th for the Nubble Light in York, ME "using lighthouse ARLHS #130 and Cory's callsign, and ARLHS #1440 for the Spring Lights QSO Party." Operations will be on 160-10, 6, 2 and 1.25 meters, 70 cm, 1.2GHz and 2.4GHz. There will be operations for -Voice, CW, PSK31, SSTV, ATV and APRS.

If interested contact Cory at cglob@verizon.net.

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