

Annual Meeting

September is the month where we have our "Annual Meeting." This is when we elect our new officers for the upcoming. It is also when members renew for the upcoming year. I strongly encourage everyone to come to the meeting and let your voice be heard on the subject of who you want to lead the club in 2009. It is also important that you bring your cash (or check) to the meeting so that we can add those funds to the coffers. There will be some steep expenditures in the coming months to enable us to get the repeaters on the air. Every dollar counts.

**Elections This Month!—Come vote on your leadership team.
Renewal time—bring annual renewal fee to the meeting**

Wouff Hong

RASON, with the help of a number of Amateurs from MARA in Maine, put on a Wouff Hong performance at the biennial New England Division Convention in Boxboro MA last month. Participants included: Tim Smith-WA1HLR (The Old Man), Harry (Crystal), Steve Kerchel-AA4AK (QRM), Marjorie Turner-KX1I (QRN), Al Corderman-WB1EFN (The Spirit), Charlie Chapman-W1WTG (Guard), Chip-N1MIE (Guard), Gary-WT1SND (crew), Larry-KB1QQM (crew), and Liz-N1MLG (crew). We received a lot of positive feedback on the performance and were immediately invited back for the 2010 convention. I hope we will be able to provide an all RASON event next time (although part of the attraction was the guest performance of Tim-WA1HLR, a radio personality in his own right.



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Monthly CT Section News

Aloha! Yes, your SM and her twin K1EIR were in Hawaii a few weeks ago! I tried to schedule a meeting with the Pacific Section SM but those plans didn't work out. Ah, but there must be a next time--KH6-land is a wonderful place and I mean to go back there to visit!

In my travels, I had the pleasure of spending the day with John Ronan, K3ZJJ, formerly SM of CT. He lived in Weston; I was STM at the time. John is well and is as energetic as ever! In fact, he's in charge of the program for Pacifcon, a large Convention which will be held on October 19. Barb and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit with him.

While I was gone, as you know, many CT ops participated in the N9N Special Event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Nautilus reaching the North Pole. Thanks to the ham community, it was a very successful effort--they operated from 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 2 through 1:00 a.m. Monday, August 4 and made 2,008 (like the year 2008) contacts! Thanks to John, WA5MLF, a friend of the overall event coordinator and author Don N4KC. You can listen to some of the audio by going to <http://www.krupsky.com/N9N/N9N.html>. Congrats to Chuck Motes, K1DFS the CT coordinator for the Amateur radio operation, and his team for a terrific tribute. Here's his initial report: We held out for 2,008 contacts because of the year. We talked to 48 states (we think), Europe, South America, Central America, Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. We had pileups as much as 30 or so deep. We haven't analyzed the data yet, but it's going to be a hummer!!! Lots of pictures, video of the contact between Don Keith and Harold AC3Q, the radioman who received the message from the Nautilus in August 1958 when she surfaced from under the pack!

Now folks, Don Keith's report of the Special Event is a must-read. Go to <http://n4kc.blogspot.com/2008/08/back-from-big-boat-on-real-rf-high.html>. I can't tell you how really proud I am of this effort. The report is fantastic. Here are some highlights directly from N4KC's blog:

- N9N went on the air at 0900 EDST Saturday from the Submarine Force Museum and Historic Ship Nautilus in Groton, Connecticut, with stations on 40 and 20 SSB. Chuck Motes and his crew from

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

Navy/Marine Corps MARS had done a fabulous job of setting up the stations, including a comfortable camper trailer, a G5RV Sr., and a trailer with a portable crank-up tower and 4-element beam--plus air conditioning and some fantastic vittles. It was a great setup! They also had gone to a lot of work to schedule volunteer op and logger shifts. I can't say enough about all the folks who participated, including non-MARS volunteers and a group of Army MARS members. One highlight was the sausage stew.

• Only glitches were a support rod for the G5RV that decided to break Saturday morning, requiring the lowering of the tower so it could be climbed and the rod replaced, and a nasty Alabama-like thunderstorm that rolled in Saturday afternoon. By the way, all I had to do was walk in, sit down, and operate. And when the storm hit, I was nice and dry inside the museum, doing my little presentation

• Besides N9N, I was there to do a talk and book signing at the museum and library, in support of my new book, THE ICE DIARIES. Several members of the crew who took Nautilus to the North Pole in 1958 were there for the anniversary celebration, and I was a little nervous, hoping I would get it right when I talked about it. They all came up and assured me I did fine, and that means a lot to me. Thanks to all who came by. We must have sold 75 books. Thanks to the museum staff, and especially Lt. Cmdr. Caskey, the commander of the museum and ship, for their hospitality.

• Sunday was a little cooler and less humid, and we were back on the air about 0900. 20 rocked all weekend, 40 was not quite so good, especially around mid-day. We also did some 75 meters and I got a chance to do about an hour on 20 CW. A contest was underway and it was difficult to find an open frequency there. One highlight of the weekend was working AC3Q Harold Dennin, first on SSB, and then switching to CW. Harold was one of the Navy radio ops in Pearl Harbor who received and confirmed the first signals from Nautilus when she emerged from beneath the ice pack after successfully transiting from Pacific to Atlantic via the North Pole. That transmission -- "Nautilus 90 North" -- was the basis for our special event call sign N9N. Wow! Recreating that "QSO" was special! It was also a thrill to work several other former Nautilus crewmembers, folks who worked

Upcoming Events

September

- 18 RASON Meeting
- 20-21 ARRL 10GHz+ Contest
- 27-28 CQWW RTTY DX Contest

October

- 2 SCRAMS Meeting
- 14 Tri-City Meeting
- 16 RASON Meeting

November

- 1-3 ARRL Nov. Sweeps (CW)
- 6 SCRAMS Meeting
- 11 Tri-City Meeting
- 15-17 ARRL Nov. Sweeps (Phone)
- 20 RASON Meeting

December

- 5-7 ARRL 160m Contest
- 13-14 ARRL 10m Contest
- tbd Christmas Gathering

2009

January

- 3-4 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 15 RASON Meeting
- 17-18 North American QSO Party, SSB

February

- 19 RASON Meeting
- 28-1 North American QSO Party, RTTY

March

- 7-8 ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB
- 19 RASON Meeting

April

- 16 RASON Meeting

May

- 2-3 New England QSO Party
- 21 RASON Meeting

on constructing the ship, and other submarine and military vets. (After Don left) Chuck reported the "Magic Minute" was wild and wooly...and wonderful! It was his idea and I loved it! Nautilus reached the North Pole at 11:15 PM EDST on August 3, 1958. At that precise time in 2008, N9N took as many "check-ins" in one minute as the ops could capture call signs, then went back and worked each one for a valid contact. Chuck reports 18 stations were confirmed. If they send QSLs, we'll include a special certificate with their N9N return card. I understand it was recorded and I'm looking forward to hearing it. Don continues to talk about his quick interview on NY Channel 11 and a one hour interview on Joey Reynolds's national radio show that originates from WOR 710 in New York. He even got a ticket to the taping of the Monday David Letterman Show in which Ham Radio was mentioned in one of his "how old is John McCain" jokes!

The New England Division Convention Holiday Inn Boxboro, MA [occured recently]! It's a great Hamfest folks—it only comes to us once every two years. Members of RASON [were] back with their famous Wouff Hong Ceremony—they're pros!

A sincere note of thanks to Chris Soulias, NK1J for having served on the Section cabinet since 1991. He was Affiliated Club Coordinator and then ASM for many years. But due to time constraints, he's had to leave the cabinet but will certainly be as active as he can and is continuing as an ORS. Chris was also NM for CPN for many years--thanks Chris for your continuing support and encouragement.

Congrats to ASM Jim KD1YV, our Section Webmaster, on his new home in Bethel. I'm sure he won't waste any time getting on the air!

Talking about moving, I have the sad duty to tell you that John Ahle, W1JMA is leaving the Section. Ah, but he's not far away--he'll be in Eastern MA, not far from Boxboro! We are losing one very fine Amateur op. John, among other things, has been an EC, has been very active in CARA, has been a significant contributing member of the CT Spectrum Management Association, participated in talks with UI when we had BPL in Shelton and has been thoroughly helpful wherever needed. He's offered rides, helped with antenna work, elmered people and is just a model volunteer. John is taking a new job and of course, we all wish you well John, but we'll sure miss

you here. We'll look for you on our HF nets though!

Fall is approaching and already there are lots of events scheduled: Special Event Station at the Goshen Fair by the Berkshire ARC over Labor Day weekend; The Western CT Hamfest September 14 Edmond Town Hall Newtown; Emcomm East September 20 St. John Fisher College Rochester, NY; SET October 5; Nutmeg State Convention October 12.

ARES members [participated recently] in a contest which has to do with listening to and operating on various public service nets. For details, write to Bill KW1B kw1b@arrl.net or to your DEC. Have fun and get involved!

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ARRL Presents New Membership Benefit

With just a mouse click or two, ARRL members can now access the online QST magazine archive <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html>. This new benefit -- a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) -- provides PDF copies of all QST articles from December 1915 through December 2004, enabling members to view and print their favorite article, project and more. For many years, the TIS has provided members with assistance researching ARRL periodicals and publications, as well as providing members and non-members with article reprints for a small fee. Access to the new online digital QST archive is free for ARRL members, and is for their personal use only -- material in the archive may not be freely distributed or copied.

"Having access to every issue of QST through 2004 is absolutely incredible!" said ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. "The best of the best of QST from every era is now at the fingertips of every ARRL member with a keyboard and an Internet connection. Members can research articles on any subject that interests them, or just browse the past issues. This will be a popular membership benefit that will be of special value to new and long-time hams alike. This valuable content will help radio amateurs who use QST as a technical resource -- for projects, equipment 'hints and kinks' -- and

for other research contributing to the advancement of the radio art. We know many hams will simply enjoy perusing these pages of history, too."

The ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search lists every article for QST from 1915 to the present, QEX from 1981 to the present, Ham Radio from 1968 to 1990 and NCJ from 1973 to the present (please note that beginning in 1998, each issue of QEX covers two months). Only ARRL members will be able to download and print copies of the QST articles.

QST magazine is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is \$39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership Web page.

Tropical Storm Hanna Made Presence on Known Eastern Seaboard

Tropical Storm Hanna made its way up the East Coast of the United States, making landfall on the North/South Carolina border at 3:15 AM (EDT) Saturday, September 6. The storm produced tropical storm-force winds gusts, with some locations experiencing sustained tropical storm-force winds. Amateur Radio operators in the Carolinas and northward were prepared for the storm.

According to ARRL North Carolina Section Manager Tim Slay, N4IB, hams in his state were ready for Hanna, with personnel in place at the Amateur Radio Station at the State Emergency Operations Center. Slay said plans called for the hams to start operating from there Friday evening, going until about mid-day on Saturday when the EOC was secured at 12:30 PM.

The Tarheel Emergency Net, North Carolina's HF ARES Net that meets on 3.923 MHz, was on stand-by status Friday night, going active at 6 AM Saturday. North Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator Bernard Nobles, WA4MOK, said the Net remained active "until Emergency Management [officials] release Amateur Radio. The Tarheel Net received reports from across the state, mostly about the amounts of rainfall, which are anywhere from 1 to 5 inches."

Nobles said that the Amateur Radio station at the North Carolina Eastern Branch Emergency Operations Center in Kinston began operations at 6 AM Saturday. Later that morning, the EOC lost commercial power and the amateur station went on battery power until power was restored, about an hour later. Operations at the Eastern Branch were secured around noon.

According to Nobles, Hanna has not been as bad as expected, but there were several thousand people without power in North Carolina's coastal region. "We have been incredibly fortunate," North Carolina Emergency Management spokeswoman Jill Lucas said. "We have had no significant damage. We have had some trees down and local flooding, but nothing significant."

ARRL South Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator Charlie Miller, AE4UX, reported that on Friday evening, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division had the State Emergency Operations Center at Operations Condition 1 (OPCON 1) -- the highest level of alert -- with the SEOC manned 24 hours a day. "All normal communications modes are functioning," he said. At 9:30 AM on Saturday, the SEOC closed and all county EOCs returned to normal operations. "During Hanna, no communications outages -- beyond normal day-to-day outages -- were reported," he said.

On Saturday, "Port buoys are being inspected by the Coast Guard, and all three South Carolina ports are anticipated to be opened this morning," Miller said. "During Hanna, 22 Red Cross shelters received 650 people; eight people sought shelter in a shelter designated for 'special medical needs.'"

Miller said that there were no reports of injuries or "significant damage" in South Carolina.

ARRL Sections up the coast to Maine were notified on Friday on reporting protocols if ARES was activated in response to Hanna. From Friday evening throughout Saturday, status reports were received from the Eastern Massachusetts, Eastern New York, New York-Long Island, Northern New Jersey, Southern New Jersey and Virginia Sections.

Sign up your ARES group now for National Preparedness Month. Groups and individuals can register to become members by visiting <http://www.ready.gov>, and clicking on the National Preparedness Month banner.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said that more than 1,200 national, regional, state and local businesses and organizations have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition. Sponsored by the department's Ready Campaign, National Preparedness Month helps to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses, and communities on emergency preparedness.

The Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps <http://www.citizencorps.gov> are specifically encouraging individuals across the nation to take important preparedness steps. These steps include: getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, as well as taking the necessary steps to get trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts.

Allen G. Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Media and PR Manager stated: "Linking up with the Ready.gov people and participating in September's National Preparedness Month is an easy win. All you have to do is sign up. Most ARES groups are already engaged in activities that fit into their structure, so why not get credit for your actions? Of course if you do something more with this opportunity, so much the better. Go to <http://www.ready.gov>, and click on the National Preparedness Month banner."

September is National Preparedness Month

RASON Meeting Minutes

Thursday 21 August 2008

The meeting was called-to-order at 19:49 by President Chip Griffin-N1MIE. A quorum was present. Members introduced themselves. Minutes from the 17 July meeting do not exist due to a lack of quorum (only 4 members were present). Two new applications were received. Bill Lacy-KB1ICA of Gales Ferry and John Johnson-KB1RAZ of Norwich, who passed his amateur examination at the RASON Hamfest on 9 August, were both accepted into membership. Congrats and welcome to Bill and John.

A Treasurer's report as of 7/31/2008 was provided from Lou-KB1DED and was read at the meeting.

Committee Reports

Repeaters: Rick-N1DWM and Christina-KB1FQW completed the installation of a workbench at the new building. Chip-N1MIE has talked with Chris LaRose – Operations Integration Manager of Norwich Dept. of Public Utilities (NDPU). Chris gave permission for RASON to reinstall our antennas atop the water tank. Dave-WA1IKN will put together a technical plan and cost estimate to meet this objective. Chip will contact Chris about painting the new building. The Executive Committee will research the purchase of a new antenna, which could be used a "ready spare".

Upcoming Events: Boxboro is this weekend and RASON will conduct the Wouff Hong Ceremony on Saturday at midnight. Also, this weekend is the Hawaii QSO Party.

VE Committee: The Hamfest VE session resulted in 2 new ham licenses and 2 upgrades to General Class, one of which was Bill ex-KB1PZO now W1ICH. Congratulations to all.

Public Information: Wayne-K1WDR (RASON PIO) was absent and there was no report.

Nominating Committee: Per Article 2, Section 2 of our By-Laws, a ballot election of officers will take place at the September monthly meeting. In support of that Scott-W1SSN proposed the following slate of officers for the 2008/2009 year: President: Chip-N1MIE, Vice-President: Chuck-W1FJW, Treasurer: Wayne-K1WDR, and Secretary: Dave-WA1IKN.

Old Business

The results for Field Day, which was held on June 28 and 29 at Pachaug Forest State Park, were not submitted to the ARRL since the due date had past. Chip reported that N1NW had 114 contacts, in 29 states, 2 countries (USA, and Canada), which included 3 zones.

New Business

Hamfest: RASON Hamfest 2008 resulted in a intake of \$690 (not all profit). Thanks to all who supported the event with their time, purchases and especially their efforts. Next year Rich-N1DWM and Dave-WA1IKN will co-chair RASON Hamfest 2009 planned for Saturday 8 August at the Gales Ferry Firehouse (pending approval of our application to be submitted by Dave).

New England Division ARRL Convention: Chip reported that five to six amateurs from Maine offered to assist RASON with the Wouff Hong Ceremony (last presented by RASON in 2002). Also, the ARRL was now paying for lodging on both Friday and Saturday nights for the cast. It was voted by RASON to charge \$2.00 for attendance.

Health and Welfare: Lou's wife is expected to undergo an operation around 18 August, Chip will send a card to them from the club. Our best wishes go out to both Lou and his wife.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be at 19:30 Thursday 18 September 2008 at Norwich Fire Headquarters. The meeting adjourned at 20:55.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Carberry - WA1IKN
Recording Secretary