



ARES COMMUNICATOR

Information for Scott County Amateurs



April, 2010

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 10, Number 4

ARRL - Red Cross Sign M o U

The ARRL Letter

On Thursday, March 25, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the American Red Cross (ARC) at ARC National Headquarters in Washington, DC. The MoU, which replaces an earlier Statement of Understanding that expired in 2007, provides a “broad framework for cooperation” between the ARRL and the ARC “in preparing for and responding to disaster relief situations at all levels in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial.”



The Red Cross requires the completion of a criminal background check to participate in Red Cross activities and provides a process by which a volunteer may have a criminal background check performed at no cost to the volunteer.

In the case of ARRL volunteers, the Red Cross has agreed to accept an alternative process: ARRL volunteers may arrange, at their own initiative and expense, to have the criminal background check performed by a state or local law enforcement agency.

The Red Cross also has agreed that ARRL volunteers shall not be asked or required to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports in order to provide a communications function.

Per the MoU, “both ARRL volunteers and ARC workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, within the scope of their respective roles and duties as recommended.”

ARRL/RC MoU *cont'd on page 2*

The ARES COMMUNICATOR is published for the benefit of Amateur Radio Operators in Scott County and other interested individuals.
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Training

Why Bother?

The following comments were recently posted on a digital Ecom reflector. The author is a Lieutenant with a County Fire – Rescue organization and a ham radio operator. His views on drills and exercises spell out why all types of training are important. Remember, Emergency Communications is NOT a spectator sport. The only way to improve your skills is to practice regularly – ON THE AIR!

The Lieutenant writes: “When the space shuttle exploded over Texas and came down in pieces in the piney woods of east Texas, the only radios that worked with the search parties was HAM Radio. Tooooo many trees and thick over-growth, sat phones were very spotty at best and cell phones were down for the count unless you were near town

Ever wonder if they had drill for a space shuttle coming apart over them? Maybe a puddle-jumper airplane but not something like that.

Has anyone ever been in a tornado and rode thru it losing your home? My family has. When the tornado hit the DeSoto - Lancaster area, it was 8 months to rebuild our home from the ground up.

Training *cont'd on page 2*

ARES Activities

Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)

Breakfast Saturday, April 10th

Digital Monday April 12th

SELECTED TRAFFIC NETS

Designator	Freq.	Local Times	
MN Phone	3.860Mhz	Noon, 5:30pm	Daily
MN CW	3.605Mhz	6:30pm, 9:50pm	Daily

ARES

Scott ARES	146.535 S	7:00pm	Monday
Carver ARES	147.165+	8:30pm	Sunday
Bloomington	147.090+	9:00pm	Sunday

Neighboring Nets

North Dakota	3.937Mhz	6:30pm	Daily
South Dakota	3.870Mhz	6:00pm	Daily
Wisconsin	3.985Mhz	5:30pm	Daily

ARRL - Red Cross M o U *cont'd from pg 1,*

During a Red Cross Disaster Relief Operation (DRO) and depending on their training and qualifications, ARRL volunteers may perform in one or more of several roles, including Amateur Radio Liaison, Communication Equipment Operator, Communication Equipment Installation/Repair and Disaster Assessment. ARRL volunteers who are assigned roles by the Red Cross during a DRO will be provided with Red Cross credentials as required by the role, consistent with Red Cross policy.

“Because of the importance of emergency communications, we are happy to be able to continue the League’s long-standing relationship with the American Red Cross,” said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. “The ARC and other served agencies give Amateur Radio operators the worthwhile missions in our communities that allow us to thank America for the privilege of being hams.”

BREAK - OVER

“Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.”

John Wooden

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Test Your NIMS Knowledge

ARES members are familiar with the Incident Command System from their study of the FEMA Institute courses. Now it is time to see how much you remember from those courses! Each month you will have the opportunity to test your ICS knowledge on a questions dealing with one ICS area.

This month we will take a look at some of the concepts from the IS-100 course, Introduction to Incident Command System. This is the first of the FEMA courses all ARES members must complete before participating in any response activities. You can find the course materials at this site: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100.asp>. Now, test your knowledge of the ICS.

Here is the question for this month:

Expansion of incidents may require the delegation of authority for the performance of Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration functions. The people who perform these four management functions are designated as the:

- A. Director Staff
- B. Deputy Staff
- C. Command Staff
- D. General Staff

March NIMS Knowledge Solution

Which Command Staff position serves as the primary contact for supporting agencies assigned to an incident?
B. Liaison Officer

BREAK - OVER



Training - *cont'd from page 1*

It was approximately 5-6 hours before the 1st crews (fire/ems/police) got onto my street. We had great neighbors. ALL worked to account for each other and worked to take care of each other and get the street open.

Those first hrs of gaining control are critical and drills help us with that. Just as NO two Fires or Hazmats are alike, NEITHER will this disaster be like the last one. We need drills, they help us learn and become proficient with our equipment.

Practice as if its real and the real will work as it was practiced. “

The training net meets every Monday evening at 7:00 pm. on 146.535 (s). Maybe you should check-in if you have been absent for a while.

BREAK - OVER

Gov't Disaster Drills and Amateur Radio

Make Your Views Known on a Major Change

The ARRL Letter

On March 24, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* proposing to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules "with respect to Amateur Radio operations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster readiness drills and tests." While current rules provide for Amateur Radio use during emergencies, the rules prohibit communications where the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. In October 2009, the FCC released a *Public Notice* clarifying the Commission's rules relating to the use of Amateur Radio by licensed amateurs participating in drills and exercises on behalf of their employers. To date, the FCC has granted several dozen waivers under this new policy.

The FCC notes that while there are some exceptions to this prohibition, "there is none that would permit amateur station control operators who are employees of public safety agencies and other entities, such as hospitals, to participate in drills and tests in preparation for such emergency situations and transmit messages on behalf of their employers during such drills and tests." Based on that, the Commission proposes to amend the rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

Background (A PDF of the part 97 rules governing Amateur Radio may be found at: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.1.pdf) - Per Part 97.1(a), one of the fundamental principles underlying the Amateur Radio Service is the "[r]ecognition and enhancement of the value of the Amateur Service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." The rules, in Section 97.403, also state that "[n]o provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available."

In the *NPRM*, the FCC recognized that Amateur Radio operators provide essential communications links and facilitate relief actions in disaster situations: "While land mobile radio services are the primary means of conducting

emergency communications, Amateur Radio plays a unique and critical role when these primary facilities are damaged, overloaded, or destroyed." The FCC gave Amateur Radio operations during 2006's Hurricane Katrina as an example, saying that Amateur Radio operators "volunteered to support many agencies [and]...provided urgently needed wireless communications in many locations where there was no other means of communicating and also provided other technical aid to the communities affected by Hurricane Katrina."

The FCC acknowledged that since Amateur Radio is often an essential element of emergency preparedness and response, many state and local governments and public safety agencies incorporate Amateur Radio operators and the communication capabilities of the Amateur Service into their emergency planning. In this regard, some entities, such as hospitals, emergency operations centers and police, fire, and emergency medical service stations have encouraged the participation of their employees who are Amateur Radio operators in emergency and disaster drills and tests.

The FCC said that its rules "expressly permit operation of amateur stations for public service communications during emergencies, as well as on a voluntary basis during drills and exercises in preparation for such emergencies." But since the Amateur Radio Service is primarily designated for "amateurs, that is, duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest," and rules expressly prohibit amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer," the FCC has mandated that public safety entities seeking to have employees operate amateur stations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills presently must request a waiver.

Discussion - The FCC is seeking comments on whether to amend the rules to permit Amateur Radio operators to participate in government-sponsored emergency and disaster preparedness drills and tests, regardless of whether the operators are employees of the entities participating in the drill or test. The Commission's rules already recognize the importance of Amateur Radio in emergencies, and permit participation in such drills and tests by volunteers (defined by the FCC as "non-employees of participating entities").

The FCC recognizes that based on experience, it knows that amateur operations "can and have played an essential role in protecting the safety of life and property during

Government Drills *cont'd from pg.3*

emergency situations and disasters. And as evidenced by recent waiver requests, state and local government public safety agencies and other entities often conduct disaster and emergency preparedness drills to be best-prepared for such eventualities.”

The proposed rule would preclude the need for a waiver in such instances by allowing employees of public safety agencies and other entities to operate amateur stations for testing and drilling of emergency communications preparedness. The FCC “tentatively conclude[s] that employee status should not preclude or prevent participation in government-sponsored emergency and disaster tests and drills. Further, we tentatively conclude that extending authority to operate amateur stations during such drills will enhance emergency preparedness and thus serve the public interest.”

In reaching these “tentative conclusions,” the Commission asserts that it agrees with the core principle of the Amateur Radio Service as a “voluntary, non-commercial communication service carried out by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.” Per the NPRM, the FCC believes that the public interest will be served by “a narrow exception to the prohibition on transmitting amateur communications in which the station control operator has a pecuniary interest or employment relationship, and that such an exception is consistent with the intent of the Amateur Radio Service rules.” As such, the FCC proposes that amateur operations in connection with emergency drills “be limited to the duration and scope of the drill, test or exercise being conducted, and operational testing immediately prior to the drill, test or exercise.”

The FCC also proposes that the emergency tests and drills must be sponsored by federal, state, or local governments or agencies “in order to limit the narrow exception to ensure that drills further public safety.” The Commission does understand, however, that there may be circumstances where conducting emergency drills for disaster planning purposes, even if not government-sponsored, would serve the public interest. Accordingly, the FCC seeks comment on whether it should permit employee operation of amateur stations during non-government-sponsored emergency drills “if the purpose of the drill is to assess communications capabilities, including Amateur Radio, in order to improve emergency preparedness and response.”

According to the FCC, a large number of agencies and organizations at the state and local levels coordinate with their local volunteer Amateur Radio operators to conduct drills and exercises in concert with other modes of commu-

nication: “This joint activity is essential to allow for a practiced response on the part of the first responder community. Because some of those drills and exercises include transmission of amateur communications by employees of participating entities, we believe the proposed rule changes would be in the public interest, consistent with ongoing national emergency preparedness and response priorities. We therefore seek comment on the tentative conclusions contained herein.”

Proposed Rules - Part 97 of Chapter 1 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

1. Section 97.113 is amended by revising paragraph (a)(3), adding new paragraphs (a)(3)(i) and (a)(3)(ii), redesignating paragraphs (c) and (d) as new paragraphs (a)(3)(iii) and (a)(3)(iv) respectively, and redesignating paragraphs (e) and (f) as (c) and (d) respectively, to read as follows:

§ 97.113 Prohibited transmissions.

(a) ***

(3) Communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer, with the following exceptions:

(i) A control station operator may participate on behalf of an employer in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness or disaster readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill.

(ii) An amateur operator may notify other amateur operators of the availability for sale or trade of apparatus normally used in an amateur station, provided that such activity is not conducted on a regular basis.

How to File Comments - Information on how to file comments via e-mail or by other means can be found on pages 4-6 in the *NPRM*. The deadline for comments is 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. The deadline for reply comments is 45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

BREAK - OVER

Happy
Easter!!

Happy Birthday Samuel F.B. Morse

April 27th

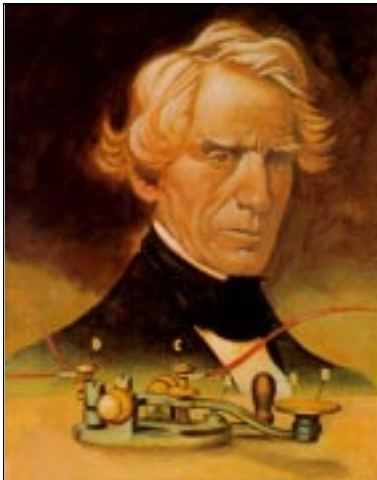
It was the American painter and inventor Samuel Morse who began the technological/communications revolution that lets people today sit in front of a computer screen and scratch their heads about what they're seeing. Computers, the internet, cell phones, iPhones, telephones ... it all began with the telegraph.

The code that is credited to Morse is not a dead language. The Morse code is in use by ham radio operators around the world — in addition to other means of communication including voice, keyboard modes - the original text-messaging!, television, two-way satellite communication and even bouncing signals off of meteor trails and the moon. A group of hams in Germany recently succeeded in bouncing radio signals off of Venus, in preparation for sending a ham radio satellite to Mars!

Knowing Morse code is no longer required in order to get a ham radio license, however its use is enjoying a resurgence today on ham radio. Many people who resisted learning the code when it was on the license exam now want to learn it for a wide variety of reasons; such as maintaining ham radio's oldest tradition, the fact that it gets through when other types of transmissions don't, the fact that it's easier to build your own code transmitter than one for voice - helping with operations from remote locations - the fact that you can often get through to remote locations more easily with Morse code than with voice and the fact that it is the only non-voice communications mode that can be decoded using only the computer between your ears.

The original Morse code was a numerical code with numbers corresponding to words in a code book at each telegraph station. The dot-dash code we know today as Morse code was actually developed by Morse's assistant, Alfred Vail.

from Rich Moseon W2VU



Samuel Finley Breese Morse
April 27, 1791 – April 2, 1872

BREAK - OVER

Hunting Down Hum & Buzz

Jim Brown, K9YC, posted some interesting information to the TowerTalk forum at Contesting .com regarding shack wiring and station noise.

Several years ago, he was asked to fix severe hum and buzz at a 6-transmitter super station just east of San Francisco. He explains some techniques we can all put to good use at our own radio shacks.

The super station had been wired years ago by person(s) unknown, and that wiring job was excellent, with steel conduit from a local breaker panel in the shack to quad boxes and 240V outlets for each station.

Over the years, a half dozen multi-outlet strips had been added, rather than use outlets at the quad boxes. Jim measured something on the order of 30mV between each computer chassis and the associated radio chassis. That's what was causing the buzz. The very simple power wiring and chassis bonding detailed in <http://audiosystemsgroup.com/HamInterfacing.pdf> is the result of that work. (The Ham Interfacing document provides a detailed picture of the causes and prevention of noise generated within the radio shack. It is an interesting read.)

In about two hours, that station was buzz free. The executive summary is; He got rid of all of the strips, plugged everything directly into the original good outlets, bonded the outlet boxes together with copper braid, and bonded the gear in each station together with copper braid. The only material used was about 20 feet of copper braid stripped from some old RG8.

When it comes to station grounding, once we drive a ground rod, the details often don't get much thought as the station is modified and expanded. This is a great reminder.

BREAK - OVER

**Severe Weather
Awareness Week**

April 19 - 23
Tornado Drills Apr. 22

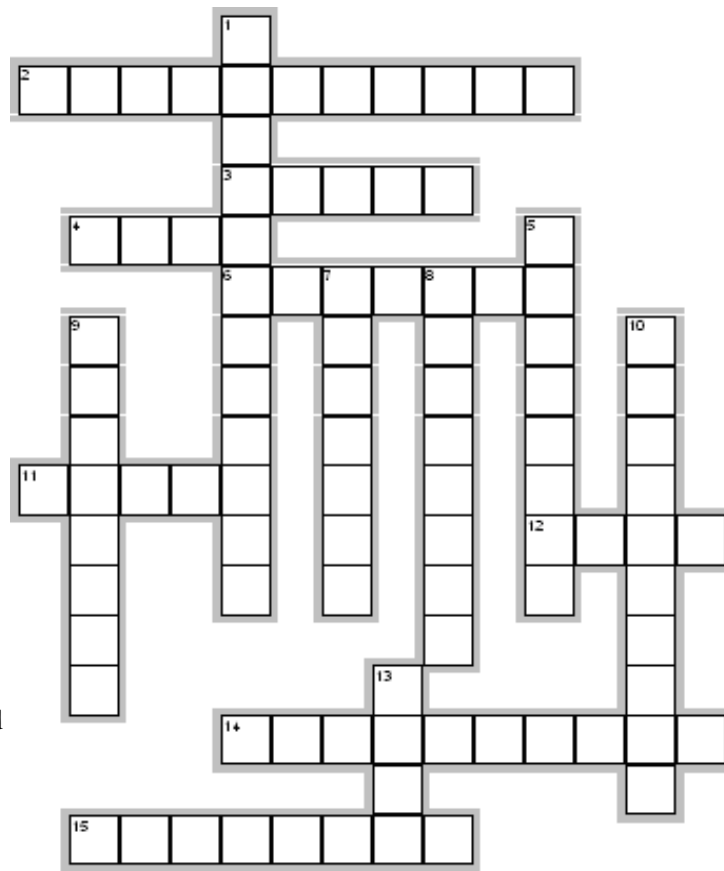


Across

2. Similar in texture to farmer's cheese, this is a fresh white Mexican cheese that has a tangy, salty flavor. It is available in Mexican markets and most well stocked supermarkets.
3. This cheese is a type of cow's milk cheese, and the generic name given to a class of white colored cheese produced mainly in the French Alps and in Switzerland.
4. Made from cow's, sheep's or goat's milk, that have had Penicillium cultures added during the cheese making process, resulting in a strong aroma and colored veins running throughout the final product.
6. A fresh unaged cheese with a creamy yet grainy texture and a slightly sweet flavor. You'll find it in tubs in the cheese aisle, often near the cottage cheese.
11. This cheese is named after a Dutch town just outside Rotterdam, and accounts for more than 60 percent of the cheese produced in Holland.
12. This cheese is white in color and earthy in flavor. This cheese is made from milk and is often called chevre. Bold in aroma and taste, the majority of these cheeses are made in France.
14. This contains twice the fat of cow's milk, which is why it makes such excellent cheese. Though not as readily available as other cheeses, this cheese is a safe choice for those allergic to cow's milk.
15. Beyond the dry textured crumbs found in (green) cans, this cheese is a fabulously flavored hard cheese named after an area of Italy.

Down

1. Developed in the late 1800s, this cheese was developed by dairyman and landowner David Jacks in California. It has a mild taste and can range in texture from semi-soft to hard enough to grate, depending on its maturity.
5. Considered Spain's most famous cheese, this cheese is a rich yet mellow flavored, semi-firm cheese. Traditional this cheese is made of sheep's milk from a breed of sheep residing in Spain's La Mancha plains.



7. Ranging from mild to extra sharp flavor, depending on how long it is aged, this cheese is a well-known, highly versatile cow's milk cheese. A hard, smooth-textured cheese, it varies in color from white to a dark yellow.
8. This is a semisoft cow's milk cheese hailing from Italy's Lombardy region, ranging in flavor from mild to pungent, depending on its age
9. A hard, grateable light-colored cheese with a lovely nutty flavor, and is made of sheep's milk. It can be used in place of Parmesan or Parmigiano-Reggiano in most recipes.
10. An unaged white cheese traditionally made from the milk of water buffalo in Italy. In the US it is typically made with cow's milk and is readily available in the dairy aisle.
13. This cheese is available in small bricks or crumbled. It is a famous Greek cheese originally made of sheep's or goat's milk.



COMPUTER GEEPS

March Crossword Solution

Across

3. ZOMBIE—Another name for a hijacked computer that is a member of a botnet.
8. FIREWALL—Either a program or a feature built into hardware and which sits between a computer and the internet. Its job is to filter incoming and outbound traffic. Supposed to stop net-borne attacks such as worms reaching your PC.
10. CARDER—Someone who steals or trades exclusively in stolen credit card numbers and their associated information.
14. TROJAN—Like the wooden horse of legend this is a type of program or message that looks benign but conceals a malicious payload.
15. ADWARE—Unwanted programs that, once installed, bombard users with unwanted adverts. Sometimes pose as fake computer security software.
16. BOTNET—A large number of hijacked computers under the remote control of a single person via net-based command and control system.
17. WHITEHAT—A hacker that uses his or her skills for positive ends and often to thwart malicious hackers.
18. SCRIPTKIDDIE—An unskilled hacker who originates nothing but simply steals code, techniques and attack methods from others.

Down

1. PHISHING—The practice of sending out e-mail messages that look as if they come from a financial institution and which seek to trick people into handing over confidential details.
2. WORM—Self-propelled malicious program that scours the web seeking new victims - in the past this has been used to distinguish it from a virus that requires user action to compromise a machine.
4. SPYWARE—Malicious program that, once installed on a target machine, steals personal and confidential information. Distinct from adware.
5. CHANNEL—A virtual “room” on the IRC text chat system. Most are usually dedicated to a single topic.
6. KEYLOGGER—Program installed on a victim’s machine that records every keystroke that a user makes. These tools can obviously be very useful for stealing login and password details.
7. BLACKHAT—A hacker that uses his or her skills for explicitly criminal or malicious ends. Has been used to mean the writers of destructive viruses or those that use attacks to knock websites offline.
9. VIRUS—A malicious program - usually one that requires action to successfully infect a victim. For instance - the malicious programs inside e-mail attachments usually only strike if you open them.
11. HONEYPOT—An individual computer or a network of machines set up to look like a poorly protected system but which records every attempt, successful or otherwise, to compromise it.
12. IPADDRESS—The numerical identifier that every machine attached to the internet needs to ensure the data it requests returns to the right place.
13. MALWARE—A term for all malicious software covers any unwanted program that makes its way on to a computer.

BREAK - OVER

Digital Modes on a Pocket PC

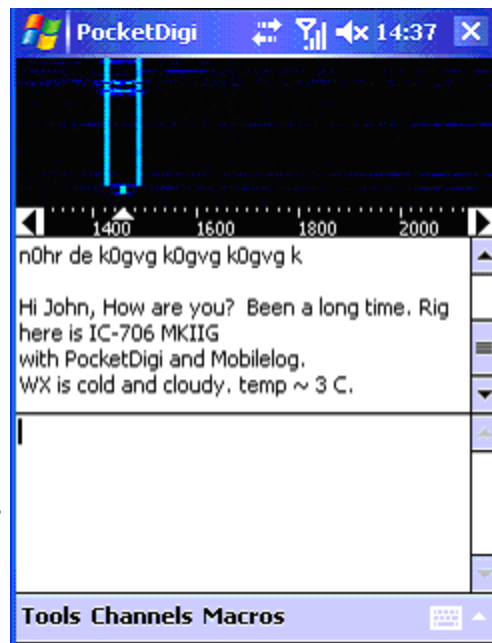
The latest cool thing in PDA ham radio is PocketDigi. Using PocketDigi you can combine a pocket PC/PDA with a transceiver to achieve the ultimate in portable operation! Since the advent of mobile computing, radio amateurs have been exploring creative ways to utilize laptop computers and PDAs for portable ham radio operations and mini-DXpeditions.

PocketDigi is an open source utility developed by OK1IAK to provide ham radio operators with PocketPC PDAs with the ability to use digital modes such as RTTY, PSK, and CW.

PocketDigi was created by Vojtech OK1IAK who built the utility using Microsoft's Embedded Visual C. He used (and improved)

portions of a Linux GNU open source application called gMFSK to do encoding and decoding. Currently, PocketDigi is still in early development stages and has not been fully tested on every PocketPC platform. However, many hams have reported good results on PocketPC /PDAs using at least a 206 MHz processor. Fortunately, Vojtech has made PocketDigi freely available, along with source code, via the SourceForge website. This will undoubtedly lead to future development and improvement of this application for the ham community.

You can find more information about PocketDigi at <http://www.n0hr.com>. You can download the free software from SourceForge at <http://sourceforge.net> and search for PocketDigi.



BREAK - OVER

APRIL SHOWERS?



25 yrs of .coms

On March 15, 1985, a Massachusetts computer systems firm registered the first .com Internet domain name. Although Symbolics.com didn't spark an instant gold rush, the event planted the first seed of a transformation that has changed the world into a Web-fueled digital river of news, commerce and social interaction.

After twenty five years, life B.C - Before .Com - is already a distant memory. "Can you remember what it was like before the Internet, before .com?" said Mark McLaughlin, president and chief executive officer of VeriSign Inc. of Mountain View, CA. VeriSign, the Internet security vendor that administers the .com registry, is hosting an event in Washington celebrating the milestone. And on May 26 in San Francisco City Hall, VeriSign will honor Internet innovators at a "25 Years of .com Gala" hosted by comedian Dana Carvey.

In a relatively short time, the dot-com revolution has "woven itself into every nook and cranny of the commercial world," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, a Washington think tank that studies the social impacts of the Internet. "It usually takes technologies a lot longer to insinuate themselves into the basic rhythms of people's lives."

But there was hardly a ripple when Symbolics Inc., a Cambridge, Mass., maker of computer systems and software based on research done at MIT, signed up the first .com with Network Solutions, the domain registration firm that was acquired by VeriSign in 2000. Symbolics founders were contacted and didn't even remember the event. The assets and intellectual property of the original publicly traded Symbolics Inc. have been taken over by a privately held firm of the same name. The Symbolics.com Web site still exists, but was purchased in 2009 by XF.com, an Internet domain investment firm.

In 1985, only six entities registered a .com, one of six top-level domain names created a year earlier in a reorganization of the early Internet's naming bureaucracy. At the time, .cor (short for corporate) almost beat .com as the designation for commercial Internet addresses.

Internet historians believe the Internet would have evolved "very differently if commercial interests had not asserted themselves, particularly at the dawn of the Web, but even in

the pre-Web period," Rainie said. By 1992, fewer than 15,000 .com domains were registered, but the number would flourish after Web browsers brought mainstream consumers into the World Wide Web and "made it so convenient to navigate," McLaughlin said.

Since then, .coms have defined the Internet. Now there are 84 million domain names, including 11.9 million e-commerce and online business sites, 4.3 million entertainment sites, 3.1 million finance-related sites and 1.8 million sports sites.

"One can rightly describe the commercial Internet as a general-purpose technology, one whose significance to society should be viewed as on par with the advent of inexpensive steel, the telephone, the internal combustion engine or electricity," according to the report, "The Internet Economy 25 Years After .Com."

VeriSign logs 53 billion Web site lookups every day, about the same number handled for all of 1995, McLaughlin said. "We expect that to grow in 2020 to somewhere between 3 and 4 quadrillion," he said.

BREAK - OVER

First 10 .com domains

Symbolics.com - March 15, 1985
BBN.com - April 24, 1985
Think.com - May 24, 1985
MCC.com - July 11, 1985
DEC.com - Sept. 30, 1985
Northrop.com - Nov. 7, 1985
Xerox.com - Jan. 9, 1986
SRI.com - Jan. 17, 1986
HP.com - March 3, 1986
Bellcore.com - March 5, 1986

Pirates Ahoy!



INDIAN OCEAN (Mar. 31, 2010) The Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Farragut (DDG 99) passes by the smoke from a suspected pirate skiff it had just disabled. USS Farragut is part of Combined Task Force 151, a multinational task force established to conduct anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden.

Digital Contest Calendar PODXS 070 Club

<http://www.podxs070.com>

PSK 31 Flavors Contest Apr 11th

Saturday, 10 April 2010 from 12:00-18:00 your local time [not Universal Time]. This is a rolling start across the globe that should give opportunity to all who play. Use the following 5 PSK mode variants - BPSK 31, QPSK 31, BPSK 63, QPSK 63, BPSK 125. Activity limited to 20 Meters only in the normal PSK sub-band for narrow mode variants, and the sub-band 14072.5 - 14080 kHz suggested for wide bandwidth mode variants.

Some of the contest mode variants are relatively wide. Please allow sufficient room between your signals and those of your fellow PSK explorers. Certainly give plenty of room to civilians in the accepted PSK and RTTY sub-bands.

Contest call: 'CQ CQ PSK 31 Flavors de Your Call k' It may be useful to call CQ in BPSK 31, indicating which mode variant will follow. Scoring is based on the number of contacts and number of PSK variants used. More information available at: <http://www.podxs070.com/31-flavors>

State QSO Parties

State QSO parties give you the opportunity to fill in the blanks in your Worked-All-States totals. Have you tried to get a WAS on PSK31? Time to get started!

- Georgia QSO Party - Apr 11/12
- Michigan QSO Party - Apr 18/19
- Ontario QSO Party - Apr 18/19
- Florida QSO Party - Apr 25/26
- Nebraska QSO Party - Apr 25/26

"A good sense of humor is essential to deal with the world's reality."

Ella Quince

PIO - Public Information Officer
SOP - standard operating procedure
IAP - Incident Action Plan
JIC - Joint Information Center

Abbreviation Secret Decoder

Quick Training Tips

Abbreviations in Messages

We all know that using plain language in emergency communications results in fewer errors and increases the speed of communications. Accuracy and speed are the twin objectives of our training. Shortcuts are an opportunity for error.

Served agencies each have their own culture and language peculiar to their mission. Abbreviations and shortcuts may be routinely included in message traffic. Lets take a look at an example. You are handed a message that contains the following line: *The PIO will coordinate information according to the SOP in the IAP and hold briefings in the JIC.*

Whew! How do you send this message rapidly with maximum accuracy? If you recall that a PIO is a Public Information Officer you could send: *"The Public Information Officer, I SPELL, Papa India Oscar, will coordinate information according to the, I SPELL Sierra Oscar Papa, in the, I SPELL India Alpha Papa, and hold briefings in the I SPELL Juliet India Charlie."*

Read that sentence again. Do you see how to arrive at a CHECK of eighteen? If you know the plain language definition of an abbreviation, use it, then spell the abbreviation for the receiving station. If you do not know the plain language definition, don't guess. Use the proword I SPELL and spell the abbreviation phonetically.

Using the I SPELL option is always the most accurate method of sending unfamiliar information.

BREAK - OVER



ARES Breakfast

Saturday April 10th
7:30AM
Perkins Restaurant
Savage, MN

NECOS Schedule April 2010

- 5 Apr N0PI Dan
- 12 Apr W0NFE Bob
- 19 Apr KB0FH Bob
- 26 Apr KC0YHH Tony
- 3 May N0PI Dan
- 10 May W0NFE Bob