



# ARES COMMUNICATOR

## Information for Scott County Amateurs

Happy  Easter!



March, 2008

Accurate, Reliable Emergency Communications

Volume 8, Number 3

### Metro Skywarn Training

Spotter training classes, using a training program jointly developed by the National Weather Service and Metro Skywarn, are offered from March to May every year. The NWS brings its weather knowledge and access to exciting and instructive video footage and slides. The local ARES/RACES organizations bring their expertise in emergency communications. The result is a four hour video and slide presentation.



Skywarn net operations rely upon a high degree of independence from spotters. Spotters are trained about basic storm structure and the sequence of events of an approaching severe storm, to place themselves safely near severe weather and how to report into the net. Special emphasis is placed on training the spotter how to differentiate severe weather from weather easily confused with severe weather with a specially prepared video and slide presentation. Many useful weather terms are learned to facilitate communication on the net.

To qualify, radio amateurs must pass a multiple choice test every two years. Spotters are expected to monitor severe weather potential and activate themselves as needed and available and place themselves at useful locations. Reports are requested from anyone seeing severe weather. Updates from the NWS about current conditions are repeated or updated every ten minutes. Occasionally, the NWS will request information from a specific location or regarding specific conditions.

*Skywarn cont'd col. 2*

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

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### Field Day 08 Logo Announced: Ride the Waves

Field Day 08 June 28-29

ARRL member Mary Von Lintig, KV2M, suggested the slogan for Field Day 2008: "Ride the Waves." A member of the South Jersey Radio Association, Von Lintig, inspired by the 2007 Field Day "bug" in last year's logo, enjoys



VHF contesting and ARRL Sweepstakes and recently joined the Frankford Radio Club. This year's logo was designed by ARRL Graphic Arts Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, and Senior Technical Illustrator David Pingree, N1NAS. Contest details are available on the ARRL Field Day website: [www.arrl.org/FieldDay](http://www.arrl.org/FieldDay)

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### ARES Activities

**Weekly Net Monday 7 PM 146.535 mhz (s)  
 Breakfast Saturday, March 8th**

#### SELECTED TRAFFIC NETS

Designator	Freq.	Local Times	
MN Phone	3.860Mhz	Noon, 5:30pm	Daily
MN CW	3.605Mhz	6:30pm, 9:50pm	Daily
<b>ARES</b>			
Scott ARES	146.535 S	7:00pm	Monday
Carver ARES	147.165+	8:30pm	Sunday
Bloomington	147.090+	9:00pm	Sunday
<b>Neighboring Nets</b>			
North Dakota	3.937Mhz	6:30pm	Daily
South Dakota	3.870Mhz	6:00pm	Daily
Wisconsin	3.985Mhz	5:30pm	Daily

**Skywarn** - cont'd from page 1

## South Metro Area Skywarn Training Sessions



Complete 2008 training schedule at <http://www.metro.skywarn.org/sked.html>

**March 1<sup>st</sup>** Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM

Twin Cities Repeater Club

Open Circle Church

2400 Highland Drive

Burnsville, MN

Jeff Goodnuff, WØKF at [tcr.org](http://tcr.org)

952-927-0201

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

Twin Cities FM Club

Golden Valley Safety Center

7800 Golden Valley Road

Mike Sigelman 763-542-8450

KØBUD at [arrrl.net](http://arrrl.net)

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** Wednesday 6 PM - 10 PM

SMARTS

Carver County Government Center

Chaska, MN

Audrey Zellman 952-466-5852

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** Saturday 8 AM - Noon

Bloomington Emergency Communications

Fire Station #1

10 West 95th Street

Bloomington, MN.

Gene Clemens 952-831-3089

scoutgc at [earthlink.net](http://earthlink.net)

**June 14<sup>th</sup>** Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM

Twin Cities Repeater Club

Open Circle Church

2400 Highland Drive

Burnsville, MN

Jeff Goodnuff 952-927-0201

WØKF At [tcr.org](http://tcr.org)

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 **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

### Scott County ARES Contacts

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### March Events 2008

1-2 ARRL International DX Contest—  
Phone

8 North American RTTY Sprint

9 Daylight Saving Time Begins

16 Palm Sunday

17 St Patrick's Day

18 Pres. Grover Cleveland B'day

20 1st Day of Spring

21 Good Friday

22-23 CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

23 Easter

## Fighting Identity Theft

Identity theft is a serious crime. It occurs when your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes. Identity theft can cost you time and money. It can destroy your credit and ruin your good name.

### **Deter** thieves

- Shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information before you discard them.
- Protect your Social Security number. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet or write your Social Security number on a check. Give it out only if absolutely necessary or ask to use another identifier.
- Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you know who you are dealing with.
- Never click on links sent in unsolicited emails; instead, type in a web address you know. Use firewalls, anti-spyware, and anti-virus software to protect your home computer; keep them up-to-date. Visit OnGuardOnline.gov for more information.
- Don't use an obvious password like your birth date, your mother's maiden name, or the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Keep your personal information in a secure place at home, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having work done in your house.

**Detect** suspicious activity by routinely monitoring your financial accounts and billing statements.

Be alert to signs that require immediate attention:

- Bills that do not arrive as expected
- Unexpected credit cards or account statements
- Denials of credit for no apparent reason
- Calls or letters about purchases you did not make

### **Inspect:**

- Your credit report. Credit reports contain information about you, including what accounts you have and your bill paying history. The law requires the major nationwide consumer reporting companies—Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion—to give you a free copy of your credit report each year if you ask for it.

- Visit [www.AnnualCreditReport.com](http://www.AnnualCreditReport.com) or call 1-877-322-8228, a service created by these three companies, to order your free credit reports each year. You also can write: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

- Your financial statements. Review financial accounts and billing statements regularly, looking for charges you did not make.

**Defend** against ID theft as soon as you suspect it.

- Place a "Fraud Alert" on your credit reports, and review the reports carefully. The alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures before they open new accounts in your name or make changes to your existing accounts. The three nationwide consumer reporting companies have toll-free numbers for placing an initial 90-day fraud alert; a call to one company is sufficient:

- Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

- Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742)

- TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289

Placing a fraud alert entitles you to free copies of your credit reports.

Look for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted, accounts you didn't open, and debts on your accounts that you can't explain.

- Close accounts. Close any accounts that have been tampered with or established fraudulently.
- Call the security or fraud departments of each company where an account was opened or changed without your okay. Follow up in writing, with copies of supporting documents.
- Use the ID Theft Affidavit at [ftc.gov/idtheft](http://ftc.gov/idtheft) to support your written statement.
- Ask for verification that the disputed account has been closed and the fraudulent debts discharged.
- Keep copies of documents and records of your conversations about the theft.
- File a police report. File a report with law enforcement officials to help you with creditors who may want proof of the crime.
- Report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission. Your report helps law enforcement officials across the country in their investigations.
- Online: [ftc.gov/idtheft](http://ftc.gov/idtheft)
- By phone: 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338) or TTY, 1-866-653-4261
- By mail: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580

**Common Ways ID Theft Happens:** Skilled identity thieves use a variety of methods to steal your personal information, including:

1. **Dumpster Diving.** They rummage through trash looking for bills or other paper with your personal information on it.
2. **Skimming.** They steal credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.
3. **Phishing.** They pretend to be financial institutions or companies and send spam or pop-up messages to get you to reveal your personal information.
4. **Changing Your Address.** They divert your billing statements to another location by completing a "change of address" form.
5. **"Old-Fashioned" Stealing.** They steal wallets and purses; mail, including bank and credit card statements; pre-approved credit offers; and new checks or tax information. They steal personnel records from their employers, or bribe employees who have access.

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*"Associate yourself with men of good quality  
if you esteem your own reputation . . . for 'tis  
better to be alone than in bad company."*

President George Washington

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**Daylight Savings Time**  
**Spring Ahead**  
**Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup>**



## February Crossword Solution Vacuum Tube Terms

### Across

3. INTERELECTRODE—The capacitance between one electron-tube electrode and the next electrode toward the anode.
4. GRIDBIAS—A constant potential applied between the grid and cathode of a vacuum tube to establish an operating point.
6. QUIESCENCE—The operating condition of a circuit when no input signal is being applied to the circuit.
9. SCREENGRID—A grid placed between a control grid and the plate and usually maintained at a positive potential.
11. SATURATION—The point in a tube where a further increase in plate voltage no longer produces an increase in plate current.
12. TETRODE—A four-electrode electron tube containing a plate, a cathode, a control grid, and a screen grid.
14. PENTODE—A five-electrode electron tube containing a plate, a cathode, a control grid, and two grids.
16. KLYSTRON—An electron tube that makes use of velocity modulation in order to amplify or create ultra high frequency waves. As well as being instrumental in the advent of Doppler radar. This tube was instrumental in the development of high frequency broadcasting.
17. DISTORTION—An undesired change in the waveform of the original signal, resulting in an unfaithful reproduction of audio or video signals.
19. DIODE—An electron tube containing two electrodes, a cathode, and a plate
20. DIRECTLYHEATEDCATHODE—An element designed to emit electrons that flow from cathode to plate. This is done by passing a current through the filament; the current heats the filament to the point where electrons are emitted.
21. CONTROLGRID—The electrode of a vacuum tube, other than a diode, upon which a signal voltage is impressed to regulate the plate current.
22. LINEAR—Having an output that varies in direct proportion to the input

### Down

1. FLEMINGVALVE—An earlier name for a diode, or a two-electrode vacuum tube used as a detector.
2. GRIDCURRENT—The current that flows in the grid-to-cathode circuit of a vacuum tube
5. TRANSCONDUCTANCE—A measure of the change in plate current to a change in grid voltage with the plate voltage held constant. Usually expressed in micromhos
7. CATHODERAY—Tube that is the picture tube used in all television and monitor sets that require a scanning tube.
8. ICONOSCOPE—One of the first television “cameras” developed by Russian inventor Vladimir Zworykin in the early days of television.
10. GETTER—An alkali metal introduced into a vacuum tube during manufacture. It is fired after the tube has been evacuated to react chemically with (and eliminate) any remaining gases.

## Test Your ICS Knowledge

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.

At which incident facility are resources kept to support incident operations if a Base is not accessible to all resources?

- a. Incident Command Post
- b. Camp
- c. Helibase
- d. Staging Area

## Answers for the February ICS Quiz

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

- b. Liaison Officer

After check-in, you should:

- a. Locate your incident supervisor and obtain your initial briefing.

Designers of the system recognized early that ICS must:

- Meet the needs of incidents of any kind or size.
  - Provide logistical and administrative support to ensure that operational staff can meet tactical objectives.
  - Be cost effective by avoiding duplication of efforts.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Allow personnel from a variety of agencies to meld rapidly into a common management structure.



13. EDISONEFFECT—The phenomenon wherein electrons emitted from a heated element within a vacuum tube will flow to a second element that is connected to a positive potential.

15. FILAMENT—The cathode of a thermionic tube, usually a wire or ribbon, which is heated by passing current through it.

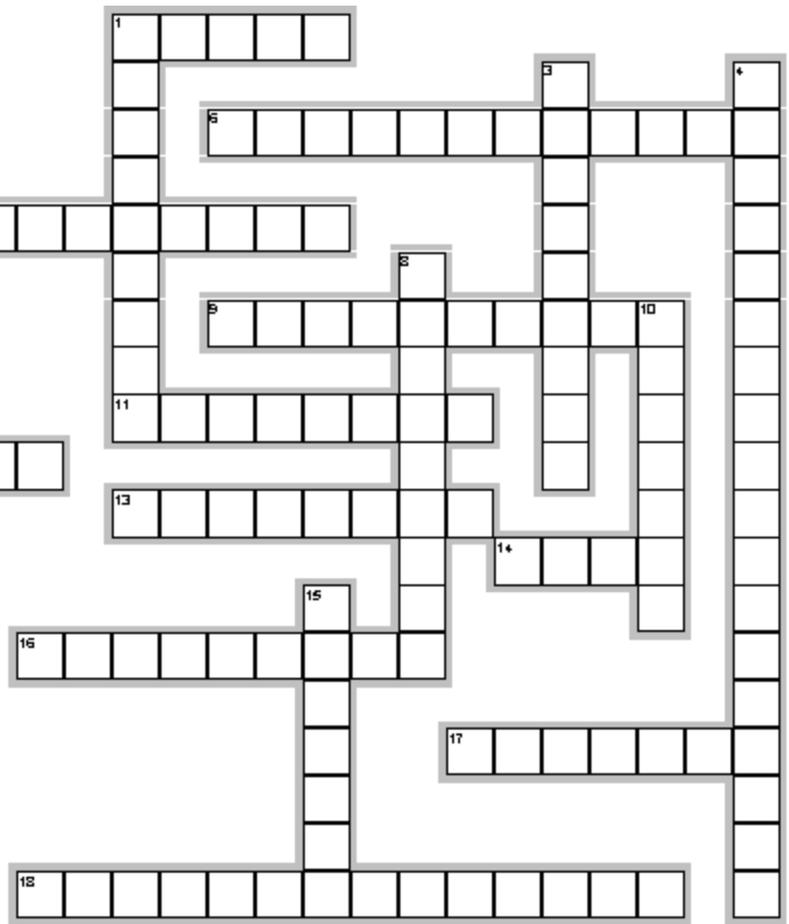
18. MAGNETRON—A diode-type electron tube which is used to produce the required 2450 MHz of microwave energy. It is classed as a diode because it has no grid as does an ordinary electron tube.

# SKYWARN SPOTTER BASICS



## Across

1. An NWS product indicating that a particular hazard is possible, i.e., that conditions are more favorable than usual for its occurrence. This is a recommendation for planning, preparation, and increased awareness
6. A dark, horizontal cloud base with no visible precipitation beneath it. It typically marks the location of the thunderstorm updraft. Tornadoes may develop from wall clouds attached to this area.
7. A low, horizontal tube-shaped arcus cloud associated with a thunderstorm gust front (or sometimes with a cold front). These clouds are relatively rare; they are completely detached from the thunderstorm base or other cloud features, thus differentiating them from the more familiar shelf clouds.
9. A small, concentrated downburst affecting an area less than 4 kilometers (about 2.5 miles) across. These are rather short-lived (5 minutes or so), but on rare occasions they have been known to last up to 6 times that long.
11. A measure of atmospheric moisture. It is the temperature to which air must be cooled in order to reach saturation (assuming air pressure and moisture content are constant).
12. A boundary or transition zone between two air masses of different density, and thus (usually) of different temperature.
13. Rounded, smooth, sack-like protrusions hanging from the underside of a cloud (usually a thunderstorm anvil). These clouds often accompany severe thunderstorms, but do not produce severe weather
14. Small, ragged, low cloud fragments that are unattached to a larger cloud base and often seen with and behind cold fronts and thunderstorm gust fronts. Such clouds generally are associated with cool moist air, such as thunderstorm outflow.
16. The leading edge of gusty surface winds from thunderstorm downdrafts; sometimes associated with a shelf cloud or roll cloud.
17. A small-scale current of rising air. If the air is sufficiently moist, then the moisture condenses to become a cumulus cloud or an individual tower of a towering cumulus.
18. A cloud which is dependent on a larger cloud system for development and continuance. Roll clouds, shelf clouds, and wall clouds are examples.



## Down

1. A localized, persistent, often abrupt lowering from a rain-free base. These clouds can range from a fraction of a mile the ground, often appearing beneath a condensation funnel and surrounding the base of a tornado.
3. Relatively strong winds concentrated in a narrow stream in the atmosphere, normally referring to horizontal, high-altitude winds. The position and orientation of jet streams vary from day to day.
4. A thunderstorm which produces tornadoes, hail 0.75 inches or more in diameter, or winds of 50 knots (58 mph) or more. Structural wind damage may imply the occurrence of this storm.
5. A funnel cloud or (rarely) a small, relatively weak tornado that can develop from a small shower or thunderstorm when the air aloft is unusually cold. They are much less violent than other types of tornadoes.
8. A strong downdraft resulting in an outward burst of damaging winds on or near the ground. These winds can produce damage similar to a strong tornado.
10. A violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground and extending from the base of a thunderstorm.
15. A radar echo which is linear but bent outward. Damaging straight-line winds often occur near the "crest" or center of a this echo. Areas of circulation also can develop at either end of this echo, which sometimes can lead to tornado formation.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Skywarn Workshop

April 5, 2008

Hurry! Registration will be closing soon as seats fill fast! Registration for the Minnesota Skywarn Workshop is now open!

The third annual Minnesota Skywarn Workshop is set for April 5, 2008 at the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center on the campus of the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, MN. John Wetter, coordinator of Skywarn operations at the NWS Chanhassen office is again putting together a program where storm spotters can come together to train, equip, and connect with other area Skywarn organizations.

This year's keynote speaker will be Tim Marshall. Tim is an internationally known building damage assessment engineer and is employed by Haag Engineering of Dallas, Texas. Tim is most well known in the weather community for his research into severe storm damage, including the La Plata, Maryland F-4 tornado, and the recent Greensburg, Kansas EF-5 tornado of May 4, 2007.

Tim also served as the Publisher for StormTrack Magazine for a number of years and has contributed much to the storm spotter and storm chaser community. Tim is an avid storm chaser and has produced many movies and written works on severe storms. Tim's great sense of humor and his known experience are sure to make for a very fun and educational experience for everyone!

Other presentations will include a look at the climatology of tornadoes in urban areas, how to be a spotter in the north woods of Minnesota, and a look at one of the largest flooding events in state history along with a look at some of the new technology coming to the weather service in the next few years to help better warn the public and get information to spotters. This year we also will be continuing the recognition award for a volunteer who has gone above and beyond in supporting Skywarn operations in the Minnesota and Western Wisconsin areas. Do you know someone deserving of this award? Be sure to visit our website ([www.mnskywarnworkshop.org](http://www.mnskywarnworkshop.org)) to nominate an Outstanding Skywarn Volunteer of the Year!

There is a \$10 pre-conference registration fee. This fee, along with our sponsors will help defray the ever-increasing cost of putting on the workshop. Your \$10 pre-registration will help the workshop to be self-sustaining and keep it available for years to come for spotters to learn advanced information about severe storms. Can't register on-line? Contact us through the website and we can try to make arrangements.

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## MOU Updates ARC & BSA

There is no Statement of Understanding with the American Red Cross (ARC) at this time, since the previous SOU expired in September 2007, reported ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, for the Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee. The Committee has communicated to ARC that there are still conflicts with the ARC's background investigation policy as compared to the published statements of its online background investigation contractor. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZLN, has written to ARC, but as yet there has been no formal response. The remaining issues related to credentialing and to renewal of the expired SOU with the Red Cross were referred to the Programs and Services Committee and to staff.

The ARRL Board decided to seek a Memorandum of Understanding with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The ARRL and the BSA have mutually supportive goals, such as education, development of skills, leadership, emergency preparedness and awareness.

BREAK - OVER



Happy Easter!

## Skywarn Workshop cont'd

If you, your company, or your organization would like to help by sponsoring the workshop, please visit our website to learn how you can help keep this workshop at a fair, low price and available to the spotters in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin.

*(Please note that this is not a Metro Skywarn class and certification for Metro Skywarn will not be given. The workshop is independent of Metro Skywarn, though Metro Skywarn is a sponsor. The workshop is a great place to connect with other spotters and learn some advanced spotter techniques.)*

BREAK - OVER

## A New DX Country?

### Kosovo and DXCC

Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia on February 17, setting off new speculations on what this means to Amateur Radio and specifically, to the DXCC program. ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, said he understands that there are many questions about the DXCC status of Kosovo, especially concerning whether or not the new state will be added to the DXCC list.

Moore said the DXCC rules, modified in 2000 to better handle inclusion to DXCC, are clear on how additions can be made.

According to Moore, adding Kosovo to the DXCC List would be considered under the "Political Entity" DXCC guidelines. The DXCC rules state that "Political Entities are those areas which are separated by reason of government or political division. They generally contain an indigenous population which is not predominantly composed of military or scientific personnel."

Kosovo, according to the DXCC rules, would then be added to the DXCC List as a Political Entity if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- \* The entity is a UN Member State.
- \* The entity has been assigned a call sign prefix block by the ITU. A provisional prefix bloc assignment may be made by the Secretary General of ITU. Should such provisional assignments not be ratified later by the full ITU, the Entity will be removed from the DXCC List.
- \* The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the "permanent population" and "administered by a local government" criteria of this sub-section, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the US Department of State's list of "Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" as having a local "Administrative Center," or (b) the United Nations list of "Non-Self-Governing Territories."

"New Entities satisfying one or more of the conditions above will be added to the DXCC List by administrative action as of their 'Event Date.' Kosovo will be added to the DXCC list if it becomes a member of the UN, or if it receives a prefix bloc from the ITU. The third condition does not apply," Moore said. "The 'Event Date' will be either the date Kosovo became a UN member or it receives its prefix from the ITU. Contacts made before the Event Date will be counted as Serbia."

## Emergency Email & Wireless Network

The Emergency Email and Wireless Network is a free public service that will provide local information to your cellphone, pager, or email account. The organization's mission is to "Provide notification to citizens of local, regional, national and international emergencies utilizing the Internet and electronic mail (email) in a secure and expedient manner".

You can sign up for the service by going to the website, <http://www.emergencyemail.org>. Scroll down the list of states in the left margin until you find your area. After you click on the state you will be presented with a list of counties. Select the county of your choice and indicate the type of notification you want to receive. That's all there is to it.

The notifications are up to the minute and right to the point with no advertising. Give this service a try to keep on top of severe weather in the area during the coming Skywarn season.

*BREAK - OVER*

## Ready for Severe Weather Season?

- o Spotter training up to date?
- o Inventory and test Go-kit gear?
- o Survey your favorite spotter location?
- o Check your exit routes?
- o Make sure family / friends know your spotter locations?
- o TEST your mobile radio gear – on both primary and secondary frequencies?
- o Sign up for weather alert updates?
- o Resolve to operate in a professional manner on the Skywarn net.

*BREAK - OVER*



### ARES Breakfast

Saturday March 8th  
7:30AM  
Perkins Restaurant  
Savage, MN

## NECOS Schedule - March 2008

<b>3 Mar</b>	<b>WONFE Bob</b>
<b>10 Mar</b>	<b>KB0FH Bob</b>
<b>17 Mar</b>	<b>KC0YHH Tony</b>
<b>24 Mar</b>	<b>N0PI Dan</b>
<b>31 Mar</b>	<b>WONFE Bob</b>
<b>7 Apr</b>	<b>KB0FH Bob</b>