



# The CCDX Aerial

[www.ccdx.org](http://www.ccdx.org)



CCDX Amateur Radio Club  
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## February 2003 Issue

### ARES ACTIVITIES

By the time you read this, Cheshire County will have had its first ARES meeting in a long time. I can only say at this time that I will have discussed the goals for the group and how to obtain those goals. As a reminder, every Wednesday night at 7:30 pm is the local ARES NET. You do not have to be a member to check into the NET, but it is a directed NET and as such please follow the NET Controllers procedure. If you wish to try your hand at being Net Control, come on down to the Red Cross Building in Keene on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and Dave (K1ZS) can help you with being NET Control. Other activities include the first of three VT Yankee drills (Jan 28th) with the next one on Feb 27th. Those people that attended the training with Cal from NHOEM can participate (and should) in this next test, to become familiar with the operations. The local participating towns are Chesterfield, Swanzey, Keene, Winchester, Richmond and Hinsdale. Let me know if you wish to help out. The drill lasts about 4 hours in day and night operations. I do not have the list of when each town is going to operate but some do provide food for working with them. Larry KA1VGM has also been conducting tests with the statewide ARES group on HF. If anyone is interested in this let me know so it can be scheduled. This is a directed NET with a set of goals for each test.

Tom N1SKZ was down last month to our local meeting and handed out the current ARES badge to members. If you need a badge or need to update your current one let me know so we can get you one. Later this month, a few of us are going to Sullivan County to see if we can jump start their ARES group. Also, Larry KA1VGM, has become a MARS operator and is currently in training for this position.

### SPRING IS COMING

With spring not far away, we'll look at antennas this month. Wayne KC5WXC, has made a PVC & tape measure antenna which we will evaluate. We will attempt to construct the Dual Band J-pole antenna so people can have some extra transmit range to their portable. If you have a home brewed antenna you want to check out or adjust, bring it on in and I'll have the analyzer there to test it. We can also start discussions as to the antennas we would like for Field Day.

### SATURDAY MORNINGS



The Saturday morning get together at Campys, by the airport have been GROWING!!! This last week, we had a dozen plus show up. If you have the time, stop on by, we meet about 10:30am, some have a brunch while others just have a coffee. We gab about any topic that comes up for about an hour then continue on with the day. Hope to see ya!

## CROTCHED MOUNTAIN

The K1TQY remote receiver at Crotched Mountain is off the air temporarily due to a malfunction of one of the radios. Hopefully it will be back in operation next month. We are not sure why it stopped working, but it maybe as simple as reprogramming it or having to send it back to the factory for repairs. We'll keep you posted.

## NEW AREA HAMS

As of late there has been several new call signs on the air with Henry. KB1JCM, (Eric) and KB1JHF, (John), both from the Claremont area. KB1IIX (Bruce), has checked in from Windsor VT as well as KA1AFX (Reed) from Westfield MA. There are probably more in the woodworks, so if you hear them, introduce yourselves and welcome them to the airwaves.

Dale N1NCI

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

Now that the Homeland Security as been approved by the Congress it's time to see what has to be done in the local area. Fortunately, outside of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant there isn't much to be concerned about except for natural disasters. That is, if you can consider a disaster normal. A large group attended the NHOEM PERP training given by Cal, WA1WOK, and signed up for ARES and state certification. Tom Matisko, NHEC, came down from Hillsborough at the last club meeting and most of the members received new ARES ID cards. If you haven't an ID card, arrangements can be made so you can get one. In most cases you will need an ARES ID picture card in order to get into some of the local EOC's. There will be two Vermont Yankee training drills coming up, one of which will have taken place by the time this newsletter goes out. The graded exercise will happen in April and will be evaluated by inspectors from the NRC, NHOEM and state officials from Concord. Several operators will be needed in order to work the Red Cross and Keene EOC radios. Unfortunately, they always have these in the middle of the working week. Some of the surrounding towns hold their drills during the evening hours so it is sometimes easier for people to operate and take part in the drills. Keene and some towns hold theirs during the daytime and if anyone can help it would be greatly appreciated. You can't be expected to give up a day's pay to participate and I wouldn't want you to put a dent in the paycheck for a drill. The plan calls for Red Cross shelters during the graded exercise to be setup and these will require communications to the Chapter House on Court St. The station at the RC has been under utilized and there is a need for more people to operate and get familiar with the equipment, especially the portable unit if has to be relocated to another location (such as Keene State which has been designated a shelter receiving location in case of a problem at the Vermont Yankee plant). The station can be operated anytime, the Chapter House is open during the day to licensed amateur operators. Just let Arnie, N1BAC, know when you do. A lot of money and planning went into getting the equipment and we should be getting it on the air more. Plans were being discussed on running a monthly net for all stations doing emergency communications whether from RC chapters, NHOEC, town EOC's and any ham station that would like to participate. As more info comes down it will be passed on when and if it happens.

And that brings me to the second part of this article. While we all have stations setup at home how many have the capability to set up an emergency radio station with backup power and antennas and be able to work from shelters, schools, fire stations, town halls, churches, etc., especially for people that live in the outlying areas? Where would you setup in your town if you were needed? An article for a dual band j-pole made with 300 ohm TV feed line appeared in this month's QST. Material to build one is being gathered and Dale is thinking of a meeting night for constructing them. Some of us already have the 2 meter version and they are real handy for traveling as they can be rolled up and carried in luggage, briefcases and portable stations. They're better in performance than the rubber duck that came with the handhelds. You can hang them anywhere and the higher up you can get them the better they perform, especially in emergencies.

Jack N1NGF

## JANUARY 15 MEETING

22 members attending were, Dale N1NCI, Bruce KA1TWX, Lisa KB1IVX, Dan W1NAC, Jack N1NGF, Mike N1MJX, Wayne KC5WXC, Jeffery K1JWM, Larry KA1VGM, Randy N1KWF, Joel WA1ZYZX, Dale KB1XU, Chuck KA1MTM, Arnie N1BAC, Dave K1ZS, George N1XOQ, Tom W1SKZ, Wayne KB1CYM, Derek W1WWW, Cliff N1TGB, Mark N1UOR, Bernard KB1FVO



The packet radio demonstration was well received. Thanks to Larry KA1VGM for providing the packet station, information sheets and program discs. I know a few hams were trying to get their equipment setups running and hope they succeeded. Dale also brought in two packet stations for all to set up.

I want to thank our superb tour guide, Dale N1NCI for the opportunity to tour the inner workings of SWNH dispatch center. It was quite an experience.

Jack N1NGF has obtained permission for the club to use the American Legion shelter for Field Day. June 28 & 29. Mark your calendars. Thanks Jack.

And speaking of Field Day this is from the ARRL:

## FIELD DAY GETS A NEW ENTRY CLASS FOR 2003

Field Day will gain another entry class for the 2003 running of this highly popular operating event June 28-29. "Class F" stations will operate at emergency operations centers--or EOCs. The change renews the emphasis of Field Day's 1933 origins as an emergency preparedness exercise as opposed to a routine contest--what former ARRL Communications Manager F. E. Handy, W1BDI, called "a test of the emergency availability of portable stations and equipment." In Handy's view, Field Day would focus attention "on the subject of 'preparedness' for communications emergencies."

More information, updated rules and a list of frequently asked questions can be found in the new 2003 Field Day Packet at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms>.

## February 19

CCDX Meeting 7 PM – 9 PM  
Red Cross Chapter House  
83 Court Street, Keene, NH

## Contests

(Now also listed on the CCDX website for the upcoming year)  
ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) March 1-2  
CQ WW WPX Contest (SSB) March 29 - 30

## "805" Update

Go to the CCDX Website for an article from Joel WA1ZYZX. It has a lot of information about the UHF remote base.

## Deadline for March Newsletter

Thursday March 14

Bruce KA1TWX