

# NFARL

## squelch tales



APRIL 1989

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Editor Lew Cason (N4HRA)

### FOND FAREWELL

It with sadness that we must say farewell to Max Blood, N4NVV. Max has accepted a transfer to serve as Meteorologist in Charge of the NWS Station in El Paso Texas. He has a reporting date of 23 April. Good Luck!

The El Paso Station is scheduled to upgrade to a WSRBBB (NEXRAD), next generation weather station of the next few years.

Max has served as the Warnings and Preparedness Meteorologist in Atlanta since October, 1984. We know Max through his frequent and facinating SKYWARN training sessions and "weather film on demand" club programs.

We'll miss you, Max. By the way, VHF DX is great in the desert...

### HOME BREW CONTEST

There is still time to tune up those homebrew projects for the May meeting. Several VERY INTERESTING PROJECTS have been promised, from a large hunk to soft iron which acts as a base for mag mount antennas, to an 8 kw amplifier (de-rated to 2 kw PEP)

So dust them off guys and lets see what you've got. Remember, the winners will go on display in the NFARL booth at the ATL hamfest.

73 KG6TW Jim

### COMMENTS ON RADIO SHACK 10 METER RIG

I'm sorry, but I just don't see what everyone is so upset about with the Radio Shack 10M rig. It's a fine piece of equipment -- for what it is. And what it is is a Novice rig. CW an USB only. Generic fittings and connectors. Good con struction and easy operation. But these are the same things that will keep it off of 11 M. It doesn't have AM or FM, and doesn't have LSB (which is the predominant sideband on 11M). It doesn't have any appeal to the average American CB'er. So what's all the heartburn? Besides, why do you folks pick now to get upset over the Radio Shack and Uniden rigs? None of you were saying anything when these CB'ers were buying your FT-757's, or TS-430's and TS-440's. Is the fact that they can now buy ham rigs at CB prices what upsets you? Think about this: Yaesu sold 10,000 more FT-101's in the United States than we had licensed Amateurs at the time -- just where to YOU think they went?

Personally, I am more than happy to see a rig on the market that a young Novice can (maybe) afford; check the used gear price lists lately? It's pretty tough for an Old Timer with a good job, much less for a young Novice with a paper route for income. My only real complaint is that I'm sorely disappointed that the Radio Shack rig didn't come from the United States.

73 to all, K16PR @ K6RAU-1

## The Amateur Radio Emergency Service

### HAMS PARTICIPATE IN SEVERE WEATHER NET

On Sunday, March 5, amateurs from all over the state of Georgia, and some from out of the state, participated in a severe weather net, dubbed "Wetnet" by many operators. The net provided, with voice and packet, severe weather reports to the National Weather Service during a period of extremely turbulent weather, which is not unusual during this time of year in Georgia. Several tornadoes resulted from this severe weather system, including one which devastated parts of Newnan. It was later revealed that the tornado which hit Newnan went over downtown Atlanta. Fortunately, Atlanta was covered by a pocket of warm air which the funnel didn't penetrate.

The net, which consisted of 3 HF nets and an estimated 17 VHF local nets was cited by ARES leaders and amateurs across the country as a model of amateur cooperation and discipline. The Weather Service people were very pleased with the assistance they received from amateurs in that they were able to more confidently give warnings to the public. The hams, with their abilities to be on the spot of weather occurrences, were able to track storms up to 30 minutes ahead of the Weather Service. The packet radio system, especially the 146.13/73 LAN was extremely busy during the severe weather situation. A roundtable was set up on the NC4E PBBS to funnel (no pun intended) information to the Weather Service. This was a change from the previously stated procedure to connect directly to N4NVV-5 at the Weather Service. It paid off in that several stations, which needed to see all of the traffic going to NWS, were able to do so. It worked very well, despite the sudden procedural change, and the Weather Service was very pleased with the information they received.

The 3975 kHz net was characterized by a lack of QRM such as tune-ups, catcalls, and other problems which sometimes beset emergency nets. The discipline and

cooperation among individual amateurs on the net was called exemplary, and 3975 kHz nets around the country in such places as California and Virginia suspended operations to yield the frequency to the Georgia net. There was a band opening which allowed the Georgia net to be heard as far away as Bolivia in South America. Jack Sanders, NC4E, Georgia Section Emergency Coordinator, called the "Wetnet" one of the best emergency operations he had seen in his experience in amateur radio, and he said that it was a job well done. Most importantly, the agency served by the "Wetnet", the National Weather Service, was very pleased with the amateur response to the severe weather. Hams monitoring the net in other parts of the country were astonished at the high level of cooperation between amateurs and the Weather Service.

### WHAT TO REPORT TO THE WEATHER SERVICE

While the "Wetnet" went very well, there remains some confusion among amateurs as to what to report to the National Weather Service during such severe weather occasions. Dan St. Andre', KI4MQ, the Georgia Section Planning DEC, spelled out in a recent 3975 net, what the Weather Service is looking for. Some hams, unfortunately, are taking up net time with extraneous details that the Weather Service is not interested in hearing. The following is a set of guidelines for weather reporting to NWS.

REPORT: Funnel Clouds Wall Clouds Tornadoes Hail (larger than 1/2") Wind (over 40 MPH) Heavy Rain (over 2" per hour or 1/4" in 5 minutes)

When reporting hail, you can report the size numerically (1/2", 3/4" etc.), or you can report it in reference to common objects, i.e., pea, marble, golfball, baseball, grapefruit, or even basketball! Do not use an object of reference which is unknown to most people or that will result in an ambiguous report. During "Wetnet", we received reports of "goose egg" and "wastebasket" sized hail. Few people are familiar with the size of goose eggs and a wastebasket

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could be anything from a large coffee can to a 55 gallon oil barrel! PLEASE stick to the commonly recognized objects named above!

While most people do not have the capability to measure wind speed directly, there are certain signs of winds in excess of 40 miles per hour. In particular, the wind moves and shakes entire (large) trees, and it is difficult to walk against the wind. Also, small branches of trees break off.

Other things to include in your report to the Weather Service are: your name and spotter number (callsign if you have no spotter number), location (e.g., three miles north of Sweet Mountain. There is no NWS grid square system.) Report the time of OBSERVATION, NOT the time you are making the report. If you are relaying information from another source, name that source. (e.g., police radio, fire department.) Do not repeat reports of local commercial radio and TV stations to the Weather Service, and don't send reports from NOAA Weather Radio to the Weather Service, either! They already have this information. It's OK to transmit such information for the benefit of the amateur community, but not to the Weather Service!

Be cautious about what you report over the air. Many commercial radio and TV stations, as well as individual scanner enthusiasts, are listening to amateur frequencies during these emergencies. Be certain that what you report is accurate and above all, refrain from speculation or passing rumors. If you are unsure of definitions of some of the weather terms I just listed, the SPOTTER'S GUIDE, a Weather Service pamphlet, covers all these terms with illustrations and complete descriptions.

#### "WETNET" PARTICIPATION INFORMATION NEEDED

Jack Sanders, NC4E, Georgia Section Emergency Coordinator, is seeking information from participants of any of the weather related nets on March 5. He would like to know the following:

What nets were operational? What frequency? Times of operation? Who were the net control stations?

How many check ins to the net? Who were the check ins? (Name & Call) Also, if possible, give an estimate of the number of amateurs listening to the net that did not check in. This information will be used to report the activity of March 5 to the ARRL for use in documenting ham radio emergency communications. Please send these reports to Jack either on packet on the NC4E PBBS which is on WestLAN, or by mailing it to him.

#### ARES Nets operating in the Atlanta area

North Metro: 145.47 MHz, Monday at 9:00 PM and Saturday at 10:00 AM

DeKalb: 145.45 MHz, Monday at 8:00 PM

Gwinnett: 147.075 MHz, Tuesday at 9:00 PM

Rockdale: 147.21 MHz, Monday at 8:00 PM

Clayton: 145.17 MHz, Monday at 8:00 PM

Forsyth: 147.15 MHz, Sunday at 8:00 PM

Bartow: 145.27 MHz, Wednesday at 9:00 PM

Statewide ARES Coordination Net: 3975 kHz, Sunday at 5:00 PM

All interested hams are invited to check into any or all of these nets. Membership in the ARRL, the repeater club or ARES is not required to participate in any of these nets.

Metro Atlanta District ARES BBS: 434-8523 ARES Conference, File Area 60. Gwinnett ARES BBS: 925-5487 (Scientific Atlanta ARC BBS) Conf. & File Area 1. Packet: NC4E PBBS (WestLAN)

Richard Black

WA4MPW

EC Newsletter Liason

ARES Metro Atlanta District

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
National Weather Service Forecast Office  
1001 International Blvd.  
Atlanta, GA 30354

March 21, 1989

President,  
American Radio Relay League  
225 Main Street  
Newington, CT 06111

Dear Sir:

I wish to bring to your attention the tremendous job that amateur radio operators performed during the severe weather events in Georgia on the night of March 5, 1989.

The information that the amateur radio operators provided was contained in warnings and statements that were widely disseminated that informed the public of the very dangerous weather events taking place.

Especially noteworthy were the efforts of members of the Bill Greenlith Radio Club of Newnan, Coweta County, Georgia. Of most importance was the initial report from Steve Hill, K4ATH, of damage and injuries from the tornado that struck the western part of Coweta County.

Many amateur reports during the two hours following Steve's initial report were instrumental in providing crucial information that warned the public of the destruction taking place in Coweta County as a second, and more devastating tornado tracked across the county.

I believe that these reports were partly, if not greatly, responsible for the relatively low number of deaths and injuries from the storm. It was truly remarkable that only one person was killed and 23 hospitalized from the strongest tornado to strike Georgia since 1977.

I wish to thank all amateurs who helped provide emergency information during this event. I even understand that amateurs from other states assisted by clearing frequencies that were being used for the emergency traffic in Georgia.

This was truly a public service job well done!

Sincerely yours,

*Max Blood*

Max Blood,  
Warnings and Preparedness  
Meteorologist for Georgia



# SGL Unveils 1990's Amateur Tags

Charles Griffin, W84UVW, Applications will be accepted 1 May through 31 July. The fee is \$25.00.

the ARRL Section Government Liason presented the 1990 tag to the D.A.R.E.S. club on

Thursday, 23 March, to the sound of loud shaking applause.

The picture is a photocopy of a physical tag. Even though only five digits are shown, there is room for Charles' call that contains the 'W' twice. The words 'Amateur Radio' are silk screened onto the tag blank. Charles is trying to add the word 'Service' to the final sample.



J6

## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League will be held on Wednesday APRIL 12th, at 7:30 PM at St. David's Church on Old Roswell Rd.

### Directions are as follows:

From Highway 9 and Holcomb Bridge road take Holcomb Bridge East toward Ga. 400. Take a left at the first traffic light which will be Old Roswell Road. The church will be 3/4 of a mile on your right. Talk in on 145.47 or 147.06.

### Program for April:

Dr. Harvey, a consultant to the state Disaster Action Team will be the speaker for the April meeting. Dr. Harvey provides training local public service agencies and medical personnel in how to respond in disaster situations. His talk will include actual dispatch transmissions from the Air Florida disaster which happened a few years ago in Washington, DC. This program is a must for all hams interested in public service and emergency response

## DATES TO REMEMBER

April 8: KENNEHOOCHEE HAMFEST  
WHERE: COBB COUNTY CENTRAL PARK  
TIME: 9 AM TO 5 PM SATURDAY  
TALK IN: 146.28/88 MHZ

CONTACT: MARGARET (KB4QKW) OR JANE (KB4QKX)  
AT 404-977-4405 TO RESERVE FLEA  
MARKET SPACE

MAY 10: HOMEBREW CONTEST JUGING AT MEETING

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NORTH FULTON AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE  
POST OFFICE BOX 1741  
ROSWELL, GEORGIA 30077

KB6TW  
WILLIS, JIM,  
1060 MARKA LA.  
ALPHARETTA, GA 30201

### From The Editor

Due to timing problems I have to move the cut off date from the 27th of the month to the 20 th. This will help to ensure that the newsletter is mailed in time for the up coming meeting. I am glad that you all like the new format. WE are working on getting it improved with each issue. Any articles for the newsletter that have pictures or drawings, it will take about 30 days before they are in the newsletter, because I have to get them scan by a friend so I can work them into the text.

DO NOT forget send articals via one of the following

1. WA4VMV PBBS
2. LARC BBS (493 LARC)
3. US MAIL TO:  
Lew Cason (N4HRA)  
749 Barnsmill Trace  
Marietta, Ga. 30062  
73's Lew (N4HRA)

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MOVED AND SECONDED  
Minuets of the March Meeting  
Dan St. Andre', KI4MQ, Secretary

### Call To Order:

#### Old Business:

1. Harold, WA4PZY, provided a Treasurer's Report. [Our by-laws only require that this report be prepared quarterly so it is not repeated here. Sec.]
2. The February minutes were approved as published by voice vote.
3. There are now three people who will help with a club NOVICE CLASS, but we have no committee chairman. We would like to hold the class in the May time frame. Allan, N4QXH, contacted local scout troops and will provide scouting details to the novice class team. Someone in attendance mentioned that WA4CQZ at IBM is starting a novice class soon.
4. There was an extensive discussion of scouting and amateur radio.

### New Business:

5. The June meeting will be devoted to Field Day and Contesting. Our event will be held at Woodstock Park in Roswell. [beneath the 147.06/R water tower. Sec.] All of our supplies are held by Allan, N4QXH. Allan, N4QXH, will contact the city authorities about the park. Harold, WA4PZY, was volunteered to cook again this year. He stated that he was planning a different menu... [Yumm]
6. A motion to purchase computer software for use to "prepare the newsletter" and to "operate our database and mailing list" was approved by voice vote. The exact selection was left to the descretion of the officers. The purchase was limited to "not more than \$100.00 for each of two packages.
7. A motion to spend "not more than \$50.00" to convert a Shakespear VHF Marine radio to 2M for use at the N. Fulton Regional Hospital was approved by voice vote.
8. Jack, NC4E, expressed his thanks to all those who participated in the WET- NET NWS has asked that we provide expanded training for those amateurs sent into NWS.
9. Hearty thanks to Doug, KD4NC, and <sup>Schul</sup> ~~W4NUE~~ <sup>W4NUE</sup> for the midnight repair of 146.73/R.

### End Of Business Meeting:

#### Program:

Steve Dean, WD4KDB, "Safety and Construction Concerns For Amateur Radio Antenna Towers"

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ARES NOTE: Check the expiration date of your ARES cards. If they have expired new cards will be issued at the April meeting of the NFRAL.

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