

NewsLetter

Its that time of the month again! Time for another issue of the NewsLetter. Let me appologise for the gremlins that go into last months letter. It would seem that the editorial bit seemed to have been the same as the February one. I'm sure I wrote a new one. Maybe I just thought I had. I dunno really, I've slept since then ☺

You'll have noticed that all of the things in the 'Know Your Stuff' section are the same month on month. This is intended to be viewed as a source of information, which will obviously be updated every time there's a change.

Many thanks to Rob for this months review. I'm sure you'll find it as interesting as I did. I'm very tempted to buy one.

Anyway, enough of my ramblings - one with the show ... Mark, G7LTT

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Man-Portable APRS

OK, so you've seen APRS and know what it's all about if you had a mind to try you'd have done it already. You've seen it on bicycles, in cars, on boats and planes; you've even worked it by satellite. But have you tied it onto a man and looked at it?

I'm putting together a 'proof of concept' (I love my new jargon dictionary) 'Man-Portable' prototype APRS kit for use at the Bike Ride in May. Basically it'll be a tracker. I have almost all of the kit already; I'm just lacking a few parts.

I'm gonna use one of those headsets that you see advertised in the back of QRZ every month. You know the one; it's got a new price written onto a printed ad. I'm gonna add to that a Rand-McNally RX only GPS device which has nothing but the antenna and a data feed (no display) and fix it to the head band with a few tie-wraps.

All the cables are gonna connect into a small plastic box which will be hiding one of those APRS-MIM modules that can be used for just this purpose. The box will have the PTT button on it too. From the box it's on to the HT.

What does all this stuff do apart from make me look silly? The GPS bit is obviously to acquire my position. Its on my head as that's the highest point in my local vicinity and well out of the way of shadows etc. It's mounted to the headband of the headset for stability. Why a headset? For communication of course! I'll have to send traffic by voice and so will need a headset. In a noisy environment a 'closed' headset is better than an 'open' one as it prevents background noise from entering your ears.

The APRS-MIM will collect the position data and inject it into the Mic line so that it can be transmitted when I finish my over. This will sound like a short roger beep.

The whole thing then plugs into my HT so that we can all hear what I have to prattle about.

I'm confident that the whole thing can be very comfortably worn on the belt/headset. The APRS-MIM module can fit into a box the size of a cigarette packet and so can be worn on the belt beside the HT. Those of you who have been out with me on ARES events will have seen me wearing my 'hat-tenna'. I'll put my HT's antenna on the headset too. Where else can one get a 6foot portable mast for free?

OK, so why the Bike Ride? I've been working to install an APRS node in my office and its been successfully running now for about 3 months. From its position on the 42nd floor of 17 State Street it can see a very large part of both the Bike Ride and Marathon courses. We could use this facility in such an event to monitor the whereabouts of the busses etc. The Bike Ride would be an ideal opportunity to follow a person around the course.

I would need other stuff of course. There would need to be a base station setup so that I could be followed. This could be one or a number. Windows CE seems to be the most obvious candidate for this job as its devices show an average of 8hrs battery life!

You'll notice I have only spoken of one radio. I plan to do the whole event on one radio rather than have one for APRS and one for the net. The single direction of traffic from the tracker to the monitor means that it'll pass through repeaters etc and would get tagged onto the end of my transmissions. The down side would of course be that the net controller and other listeners would get a burst of data every time I talked.

If you'd be interesting in taking part in my little experiment then drop me a line to <mailto:g7litt@g7litt.com>

I'll produce some pictures and a web page when I get the parts together.

Mark, G7LTT. Resident loony!

SAME codes for WX-alert radios

Use these SAME codes in the newer weather radios to be notified for only the counties that you are interested in.

TRI-STATE / S.A.M.E. CODES

NY

ST. AREA SAME # NWR TRANSMITTER FREQ MHz CALL WATTS

NY Bronx 036005 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500

NY Kings 036047 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500

NY Nassau 036059 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500

NY New York 036061 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NY Queens 036081 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NY Richmond 036085 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NY Rockland 036087 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NY Suffolk 036103 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NY Westchester 036119 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500

CT

ST. COUNTY SAME # NWR TRANSMITTER FREQ. CALL WATTS
CT Fairfield 009001 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500

NJ

ST. COUNTY SAME # NWR TRANSMITTER FREQ. CALL WATTS
NJ Bergen 034003 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Essex 034013 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Hudson 034017 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Hunterdon 034019 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Mercer 034021 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Middlesex 034023 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Monmouth 034025 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Morris 034027 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Ocean 034029 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Passaic 034031 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Somerset 034035 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Sussex 034037 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Union 034039 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500
NJ Warren 034041 New York City NY 162.550 KWO35 500

KNOW YOUR STUFF!

Monday Night ARES Net Schedule

Below is the REVISED schedule for the year 2000. Since there have been some changes to the various boro rosters, it required the change. I would like to welcome back Andy Borrok (N2TZX) after his illness. All are reminded that it is the sole responsibility of the scheduled NCS and alternate to keep each other posted as to their availability and replacement. This means that if you are unable to fulfill your scheduled assignment, YOU are responsible to find a replacement. If this involves swapping for another night with the scheduled NCS/ALT, then by all means do so (and fulfill your end of the bargain)! This schedule is being forwarded to N2VLT for hard copy printing and to OEM for advanced notice of who is expected for that night. I would like to see either the NCS or alternate at the OEM office. Any other operator intending on showing up at OEM must notify and obtain the OK of myself, as per OEM officials until further notice. There are changes going on at OEM that dictate caution. The Director of OEM (Jerry Hauer) is due to leave soon and his replacement has not been officially named yet. Until the program is thoroughly explained and accepted by the new leadership, we have to tread softly.

If there are any questions with this policy or the schedule, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

NCS Schedule for 2000

1/3 N2NOV/W2JER	5/8 KE2UN/KC2AYG	9/11 KE2UN/KC2AYG
1/10 KE2UN/KC2AYG	5/15 N2VLT/N2ZRC	9/18 N2VLT/N2ZRC
1/17 N2VLT/N2ZRC	5/22 N2ZRC/KB2PSM	9/25 N2FWR/KE2UN
1/24 N2SHQ/KB2OQX	5/29 N2FWR/KE2UN	10/2 KB2PSM/N2CKK

1/31 N2FWR/KE2UN	6/5 KB2PSM/N2CKK	10/9 W2JER/KB2KWI
2/7 KB2PSM/N2CKK	6/12 W2JER/KB2KWI	10/16 N2SHQ/KB2OQX
2/14 W2JER/KB2KWI	6/19 N2TZX/N2VLT	10/23 N2TZX/N2VLT
2/21 N2TZX/N2VLT	6/26 N2SHQ/KB2OQX	10/30 N2NOV/W2JER
2/28 N2SHP/KB2PSM	7/3 N2NOV/W2JER	11/6 KE2UN/KC2AYG
3/6 N2NOV/W2JER	7/10 KE2UN/KC2AYG	11/13 N2VLT/N2ZRC
3/13 KE2UN/KC2AYG	7/17 N2VLT/N2ZRC	11/20 KB2KWI/KB2PSM
3/20 N2VLT/N2ZRC	7/24 N2SHQ/KB2OQX	11/27 N2FWR/KE2UN
3/27 N2FWR/KE2UN	7/31 N2FWR/KE2UN	12/4 KB2PSM/N2CKK
4/3 KB2PSM/N2CKK	8/7 KB2PSM/N2CKK	12/11 W2JER/KB2KWI
4/10 W2JER/KB2KWI	8/14 W2JER/KB2KWI	12/18 N2SHP/N2VLT
4/17 N2SHQ/KB2OQX	8/21 N2ZRC/N2VLT	12/25 N2SHQ/KB2OQX
4/24 N2ZRC/N2VLT	8/28 N2SHP/KB2PSM	
5/1 N2NOV/W2JER	9/4 N2NOV/W2JER	

Monday Night Net Sked Script

Calling all ARES stations, calling all ARES stations!....Good Evening!

This is the New York City ARES Net, which is conducted on the repeater of the Broadcast Employees Amateur Radio Society, and meets Monday nights at 8pm local time. Tonight your Net Control Station is _____
(your call,name,loc.)

This is a directed net, and all communication must go through the Net Control Station at all times. Is the alternate Net Control Station on frequency, and are you prepared to follow along? (drop) I will now pause for five seconds to allow for any emergency or priority traffic for the Net. (drop..pause 5 seconds).

The purpose of this Net is to call together the volunteers enrolled in the New York City District Amateur Radio Emergency Service, for disseminating information regarding emergency communications, preparedness, and related topics of interest. ARES is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League.

[At this time...the NCS may insert "PRE-CALLUP TRAFFIC" if necessary.]

Check-ins

At this time I will take check-ins for the Net in the following manner: Net Control will conduct a "Roll Call" by Borough. Each station will be called twice. If there is no response, Net Control will move on to the next station. Please respond ONLY with your callsign, OR your callsign and the word TRAFFIC, if you have traffic for the Net. When you are acknowledged, Net Control will respond with the PROWORD "Roger". An "Open Call" will be issued for each Borough, for all stations not listed on the Callup Roster. We will now begin callup for tonight's New York City ARES Net. (drop.....proceed with callup roster)

Callup Roster

UPDATED: MARCH, 2000

--BRONX-- KB2WUS FRANK KC2AYG GUY KC2BEF FRANK	--BROOKLYN-- KA2KDQ RICHARD KB2IQX BILL KB2NQT JOHN	--STATEN ISLAND-- G7LTT MARK KA2VAU STEVE KC2CYE MIKE
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N2ZRC ARTIE WB2SEB EUSEBIO	KB2OQX DARRYLE KB2PSM ROB KC2DKD PHYLLIS W2JER JERROLD	KC2DPP ALLEN KF2EO MIKE N2BGR BILL N2NOV CHARLIE N2QXB PAUL N2UMC FRANK N2VLT CHARLIE N2ZWT RAY N2ZYF KAREN W2KMA JANO WA2IAF CARL WA2RF RON
--MANHATTAN-- KA2WCB WALLY KC2COP CHARLIE KE2UN JOHN N3IMU ALLAN N9SAT SCOTT W2BH BILL	--QUEENS-- K2JRC JERRY KB2KWI JOHN KB2NGZ MANNY KB2NLL GAIL N2CKK NELSON N2EOI HARVEY N2FWR JOHN N2LDV LENNY N2QHS RICHARD N2SHP BARRY N2SHQ TEDDY N2TZX ANDY WA2USJ JOE WB2DWC MARC WB2KDG STEVE	

Traffic

We will now proceed with traffic for the Net. (Call stations with traffic).

(After traffic, proceed with your topic. If you do not have one, call for late check-ins, out of area check-ins, and non-ARES stations supporting the Net)

Closing

New York City ARES wishes to thank the Broadcast Employees Amateur Radio Society for the use of its' W2ABC repeater, and all those who checked in this evening. Next weeks Net is Scheduled to be conducted by:

_____ with _____ as alternate.
(callsign) (callsign)

This is _____ saying SEVEN THREE to all, and THANK YOU
(callsign)

for joining us on this weeks' Amateur Radio Emergency Service NET!

(first Monday)

All RACES members please standby for the New York City Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Net!

I am now returning this repeater to regular Amateur use at _____ local time.

This is _____ OUT!!
(callsign)

REMEMBER!! (Check-in procedures)

"Each station will be called twice".

Call ONCE then DROP....if no response call 2nd time....still nothing..move on!

"An open call will be issued for each Borough, for all stations not listed".

Do this at the end of EACH Borough callup, NOT at the end of the entire Roster!

Don't forget LATE CHECK-INS, OUT OF AREA CHECK-INS, and NON-ARES check-ins.

NYC RACES NCS SKED 2000

1/3 N2NOV/W2JER	7/3 N9SAT/N2TZX
2/7 KB2PSM/N2CKK (same as ARES, so switch w/each other)	8/7 N2FWR/KE2UN
3/6 N2TZX/N3IMU	9/4 N3IMU/N2SHP
4/3 N2SHP/KB2PSM	10/2 N2VLT/N2CKK
5/1 KC2AYG/N2NOV	11/6 KE2UN/N9SAT
6/5 N2NDU/N2VLT	12/4 KB2IQX/N2ZRC

Red Cross March/April Training Schedule

The following schedule is the courses that are suggested to take as an ARES member. The best way to be able to work in an emergency with the Red Cross or any other agency is to know what they need and how they operate. It is too late to learn when there is an emergency.

Introduction to Disaster

March 7 2000	6 to 9 PM	Queens chapter
March 25	9 AM to 12 PM	Manhattan Red Cross HQ
March 27	2 to 5 PM	Manhattan Red Cross HQ
March 30	6 to 9 PM	Manhattan Red Cross HQ
April 04	6 to 9 PM	Manhattan Red Cross HQ
April 17	2 to 5 PM	Brooklyn Chapter
April 24	2 to 5 PM	Manhattan Red Cross HQ

Mass Care

March 16	6 to 9 PM	Manhattan Red Cross HQ
April 18	6 to 9 PM	Manhattan Red Cross HQ

Shelter Operations

March 14	6 to 9 PM	Queens Chapter
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NEW YORK CITY-LONG ISLAND (NLI) SECTION
NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT PERSONELL

Position	Name	Call Sign	Section	Email
SEC	Tom Carubba	KA2D	NYC-LI	ka2d@qsl.net
DEC	Charles Hargrove	N2NOV	NYC-Citywide	n2nov@lsa.net
EC-Ops	Jerrold Loewenthal	W2JER	NYC-Citywide	jloewe@worldnet.att.net
EC	John Kiernan	KE2UN	Bronx (act.) see Manhattan	
EC	Rob Robinson	KB2PSM	Brooklyn	rob@excelonline.com
EC	John Kiernan	KE2UN	Manhattan	102414.646@compuserve.com
EC	Andy Borrok	N2TZX	Queens	n2tzx@webspan.net
EC	Charles Hargrove	N2NOV	Staten Island	n2nov@lsa.net
AEC.	John LaSala	N2FWR	Port. Auth	fm1483@aol.com
AEC	Bill Hindin	W2BH	Manhattan	bildin@ix.netcom.com
AEC	Alan Dove	N3IMU	Manhattan	alanwdove@earthlink.net
OES	Arte Booten	N2ZRC	Bronx	n2zrc@webspan.net
OES	Jerrold Loewenthal	W2JER	Brooklyn	jloewe@worldnet.att.net
OES	Darryle Mabe	KB2OQX	Brooklyn	kb2oqx@aol.com
OES	Vincent Mattera	WB2AAP	Brooklyn	wb2aap@juno.com
OES	Theda Roy	N2SHQ	Queens	n2shq@gte.net
OES	Nelson Sidman	N2CKK	Queens	n2ckk@juno.com
OES	John Sullivan	KB2KWI	Queens	john9265@aol.com
OES	Charles Nagy	N2VLT	Staten Island	(No E-mail)



FEMA Independent Study Course List

To view a course description, download course materials, enroll in courses, or take the final exam, select the course you are interested in from the list below.

The course materials are provided in Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format files. These files are not zipped.

Once you download the files you want into the desired directory, open the Acrobat Reader program and then open the files you want to view or print.

Download directions are also available with each course.

It is recommended that the user download the course material files and view them off-line at their convenience, saving time and money for Internet connect charges.

[IS-1 Emergency Program Manager: An Orientation to the Position](#)

[IS-2 Emergency Preparedness, USA](#)

[IS-3 Radiological Emergency Management](#)

[IS-5 Hazardous Materials: A Citizen's Orientation](#)

[IS-7 A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance](#)

[IS-8 Building for the Earthquakes of Tomorrow: Complying with Executive Order 12699](#)

[IS-10 Animals in Disaster - Module A Awareness and Preparedness](#)

[IS-11 Animals in Disaster - Module B Community Planning](#)

[IS-120, An Orientation to Community Disaster Exercises](#)

[IS-195 Basic Incident Command System](#)

[IS-275 The EOC's Role in Community Preparedness, Response and Recovery Activities](#)

[IS-279 Engineering Principles and Practices for Retrofitting Flood-Prone Residential Structures](#)

[IS-288 The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management](#)

[IS-301 Radiological Emergency Response](#)

[IS-324 Community Hurricane Preparedness](#)

[IS-346 An Orientation to Hazardous Materials for Medical Personnel](#)

[IS-393 Introduction to Mitigation](#)

[IS-394 Mitigation for Homeowners](#)

[IS-513 The Professional in Emergency Management](#)

[SS-534: Emergency Response to Terrorism](#) (presented by the National Fire Academy-12 hours)



Product Review

Maha MH-C888 FLEX

Smart Universal Drop-In Charger and Conditioner

Rob Robinson KB2PSM EC ARES/RO RACES Kings County, NYC

It is often inconvenient to wait for HT batteries to be charged with the slow-charger that comes as a standard item with an HT. If you have several batteries, it can take days to charge them all. This inconvenience often leads to less than charged or even dead batteries. When you need to put your HT into service, especially if you are an ARES or RACES volunteer, there is often too little time to put all of your batteries to work. Many HT manufacturers offer quick chargers but they are expensive and may be limited to stock or older NiCd batteries. If you have an after market, higher capacity or NiMH battery, these quick-chargers may not work. In spite of their expense, these quick-chargers may not recondition or re-cycle your batteries. These problems are compounded when you have more than one HT that requires its own quick-charger.

When my fiancée Phyllis KC2DKD birthday approached, it was an opportunity to purchase her a quick charger. As mentioned above, her batteries were often depleted or not fully charged when the occasion arose to use her HT. Nothing is more frustrating than trying to maintain radio contact while your batteries give out. If you don't believe me, just ask her!

The ICOM quick charger for her IC-W32A was not inexpensive. I was also concerned that it might balk at her newer NiMH battery. My Kenwood BC-15A quick charger which I use for my TH-78a does not seem to like the higher capacity NiCd batteries or the NiMH battery that I recently purchased. Because of this, some of my better batteries must again be slow charged. For my own use, I wished that I was able to quick charge these newer batteries.

For about \$80, the Maha MH-C888 seemed economical. It claimed to do all sorts of fancy stuff, but I knew that the price was not only substantially less than the ICOM charger, but definitely could handle Phyllis NiMH battery. Being universal, I figured that for the same purchase, I could rapid charge my newer batteries. If we ever invested in any other HT's we would be prepared. The MH-C888 offers an LCD readout which is handy. On my BC-15A I was only able to tell when the battery was being charged and when it finished charging. Knowing how much or how far of a charge a battery received is useful information. As a universal charger, different drop-in cups could be purchased for under \$8 a piece. Each of these cups are designed to handle several types of batteries, so if you are lucky, one of these pre-drilled cups may serve more than one of your radios. The unit comes with an un-drilled cup that can easily be designed to fit any HT battery. If you have only one type of battery, then you can save \$8 and drill it yourself.



In use, I was amazed. The LCD display not only shows the condition of the battery and the percentage charged, but it will also indicate when a battery is being discharged, cycled, shorted or has a diode protection circuit built in. Batteries did not get as warm when they were charged. This is good. I quickly charged all of my batteries, including the ones that the BC-15A would not handle. Hey, things were going too well. I found the original battery that came with my TH-78a which I purchased in 1993. I don't know why I saved the battery. It would not hold a fast or slow charge for years and sat unused for about four of them. Unbelievable...the MH-C888 reconditioned the battery. Now this battery is back in my rotation. Another battery that failed on me...near dead according to a VOM and would not even be recognized by my BC-15A (the charger sat idly as if no battery was inserted) was also saved by the MH-C888. The Negative Pulse charging reduces the crystallization and build up of whiskers that cause batteries to short and lose capacity.

I guess that no one would be shocked that I unequivocally recommend this charger/conditioner. It is half the price of my BC-15A purchased in 1993. It is much cheaper than the chargers that HT manufacturers offer. I have included some specifications from Maha.

If you have several HTs, tired of slow-charging, have a charger that cannot handle newer and higher capacity batteries, or need to keep all of your batteries at the ready for public service use, the Maha MH-C888 FLEX would be a worthwhile investment.

Some manufacturer s specifications:

Pulse charge and condition your battery packs. Special built-in mode allows single cycle and three full charge / discharge conditioning cycles.

Detect and display any internal battery fault, short, reverse polarity, and diode protection.

External charging connector for other special charging requirements.

- Rapid Charge Current:** 650mA
 - Trickle Charge Current:** 40mA
 - Microprocessor:** Negative Delta V
 - Voltage Range Supported:** 4.8V to 12V
 - Power Supply:** Built-in Switching Type
 - Max Charger Banking:** 12 Units
 - Discharge Current:** Aprox. 400mA
 - Conditioning Method:** FLEX Negative Pulse
 - Conditioning Type:** 1 or 3 Cycle
 - External Power Source** DC In Jack 12-18VDC
- (At 12V input, MH-C888 will only support battery packs up to 9.6V)



Interchangeable Drop-In Cups