



DRUMLIN'S RUMBLINS

DARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2005

NEXT MEETING

August 17, 2005

Doors open at 7:00pm Meeting 7:30pm

New York State

EMO

Route 31 Newark, NY

or try 146.745

RACES-ARES AUGUST 2005

August already! It won't be long after you read this that summer will be "officially" over. At least the vacation summer we all have come to know. Yes it will be September 20-21 officially in actuality, but when that Labor Day arrives it seems like it is all over for summer. Speaking of Labor Day, there will be no RACES-ARES net the Sunday of the Labor Day weekend. Have a safe holiday weekend and no worry about a net.

This is going to be one of those goofy articles as far as timing. When you receive the "Drumlins Rumblins" just before our August meeting, the XYL and I will be just arriving back from the big summer campout in the Adirondacks. Seeing the back surgery of ole KB2KBY has kept him from starting the camping in April as usual, the big campout is truly going to be a "big" event. As a result of the timing being up there, I am typing this article before I left camping for Irv.

Since the FEMA drill for Ginna is the day before we leave for the Adirondacks, what I have to relate here of the July 19 event is all beforehand stuff. So you can see the dilemma this is causing in doing the article. Since I was just home from the back surgery for the state Ginna drill, I was of little use as far

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MINUTES

**THE DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, LTD.
MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: July 16, 2005 **CALL TO ORDER:** 0908

Members: KC2OBM, N2MLD, N5THV, KE4VHA, AB2F, N2RUS, Brenda Bruzee, K2MPE, W2CDW, W2TRW, KB2KBY, WA2SOK, KB2ROP, NN2H, N2ODM, N2MKR.
Guests: Elizabeth Reid

Minutes: Accepted as printed in newsletter, 1st Al K2MPE 2nd Steve, N2MKR

TREASURERS REPORT: Approved as reported, 1st KE4VHA, 2nd N2MKR

PUBLIC SERVICE: Ginna/Fema Drill, 7/19/05, Al K2MPE, Bruce WB2QKO, Dave KB2KBY will work the drill. Could use another person. They do serve a nice lunch..

REPEATERS:

146.745 Ok, **146.685** Still needs work, Bruce was waiting till after drill before he did anything. **144.95:** Due to a problem at Auburn location W2QYT asked that it be put back to 1200 baud as a temporary fix but has since been returned to its original state. **444.95:** Still down due to lightening hit at N2mkt site.

ACTIVITIES & CONTESTS:

Upcoming Events Light House August 20-21.
Boy Scouts Jamboree October 15-16

RACES/ARES: No RACES net Labor Day..

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Canal Town Days Sep. 17th-18th.

REMEMBRANCE: W2GIV's xyl Ann is in hospital fighting off a bout with cancer. Also had a letter from Tom Grice KC2MBU,

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The Drumlins Leaders 04- 05

President	Doug Peeso, KB2ROP	315-587-2889
V-President	Jim Collinsworth, N2JC	315-483-8136
Secretary	Irv Walter, WA2SOK	315-597-2192
Treasurer	Dave Taylor, KB2KBY	315-597-4293
Program	Charles Escriva, KB2SOZ	315-986-5779
Director 3 yr	Russ Millspaw, N2RUS	315-483-8024
Director 2 yr	Bob Wilkin, W2GIV	315-923-2620
Director 1 yr	Steve Elliott, N2COJ	315-789-2701
Sysop .745	Jeff Jenson, N2MKT	315-483-1537
Sysop .685	Bruce Blair, WB2QKO	315-597-9731
News Letter	Irv Walter, WA2SOK	315-597-2192
Club Trustee	Dave Taylor, KB2KBY	315-597-4293
Web Master	Doug Wakeman, KC2BMI	315-331-2980

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as help. So I am looking with pride that I can be there for the FEMA drill. I realize that all this drill stuff is not everyone's "bag." Obviously since I am the RACES officer and the ARES emergency coordinator this IS my "bag." So I am looking forward to helping and using my expertise for the day. Of course the lovely breakfast goodies and wonderful lunch sure helps the morale and the hunger pains. Hi! The XYL was amused by the comments of the food in the last newsletter. Hi! Of course she thinks I do it all for the food alone. But you can be rest assured that is not the case. That is a pretty good statement for me to say that food is not first. Hi! The reality is that I cannot critique the FEMA Ginna drill at this time. It will have to wait as a September article and some enlightenment at the August meeting. Sorry about that! Were you thinking of helping? That is good.

I have been pleased with the number of check-ins for the Sunday night net for the summer. Even "myself" has not been there for a check-in when camping in the Adirondacks. It is a time for all of us to enjoy the warmer time of the year. The warmer part always seems to go too fast. I will admit it has been a little too warm for me. My son-in-law's English parents visited for two and a half weeks the longest they have stayed from "across the pond." They hit that very humid-hot spell in June-July! They commented that our nighttime temps were higher than their normal daytime temps. Hi! But they enjoyed themselves and had a good time. Despite all of this weather the check-ins have been good for this time of year. I have managed to get in there for the nets even after moving the whole shack downstairs with my operation. You have to be flexible at times. Even though the "sofa shack" is no longer from the back surgery recuperation the XYL didn't want be back up in the cupola shack. So she kindly let me keep the equipment on one side of the dining room. The move really tuned my ability to compensate in the antenna and power source category. It was a good experience. By the way, NN2H, Kay, is back on the air on HF and 2m from her far away "big city" QTH. I hope to hear her on the 685 repeater for the net. So talk about flexibility! Have we heard you lately?

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fellow Amateur Radio Operators:

OH Boy, has it been hot! I believe that we are on our way to breaking a record for number of days in the 90s. When you hear the term AC you no longer think if electric circuits or multimeters but the cool breeze of chilled air. With this weather it is difficult to justify going out of the house. I have, I think, just the excuse to leave the comforts of home, the Drumlins ARC summer picnic! You are all welcome to join the fun on August 20th at the Marble Town Fire Hall (Check the newsletter for details). Bring a dish to pass, the family and friends. I have submitted all the forms requesting a sunny day in the 70s. It was a little more expense, but I opted for the occasional fluffy cloud package. I hope to see you all there!

Ye ol' ham proverb: You can lead a scout to radio, but then you can't seem to get the mic out of his hand.

Doug Peeso KB2ROP

FCC Proposes to Drop Morse Code Requirement for All License Classes

NEWINGTON, CT, July 20, 2005--The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission recommended the change to its Part 97 Amateur Service rules in a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 05-235. Any rule changes proposed in the *NPRM* would *not* become final until the FCC gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any changes to its rules and concludes the proceeding by issuing a *Report and Order (R&O)* spelling out the changes and specifying an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months. The FCC declined in its *NPRM* to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges beyond elimination of the Morse requirement. "Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said in its *NPRM*, released July 19. This week's *NPRM* consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community--including one from the ARRL--that proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on the FCC's proposals in response to those petitions.

The Commission said it believes dropping Element 1--the 5 WPM Morse examination--would "encourage individuals

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will be leaving the Army soon due to physical problems (knees).

NEW BUSINESS: Picnic, Marble Town Firehall August 20th Noon- 4pm. Club will furnish meat, drinks, condiments. Bring dish to pass.

Check our storage room and make a list of things that can be disposed of. Right after breakfast (place of choice) Saturday July 23rd. **9am** at State EMO for store room maintenance and inventory. Doug W2CDW, Russ N2RUS, Doug KB2ROP, and anybody interested please join in.

Next Saturday meeting to be Oct.15,2005. Goal is to have 4 Saturday or Week night meetings a year to be determined at regular meetings

50/50 DRAWING: Winner N2MKR

PROGRAM: Sorry No Program.

ADJOURNMENT: 1000 hrs.

Respectfully submitted.
Irv Walter WA2SOK

News Letter Stuff Send To: Irv Walter, WA2SOK
2881 Macedon Ctr. Rd. Lot #57 Palmyra. NY. 14522
Packet: DARC thru Newark 144.95
E-mail: wa2sok@rochester.rr.com

CLUB ADDRESS:

Dave Taylor KB2KBY Club Trustee
228 W. Jackson St. Palmyra, NY 14522
Packet: Kb2kby-1 thru Newark Node
Email: kb2kby@juno.com

Various 2 meters Nets

Auburn Radio Assoc. on-air Meeting 40/00 7 p.m. Sun.
Central District Emer. Net 7 p.m 2nd Tues. . 40/00
Onon. County Radio Emergency Net 7:30 p.m. 1st/3rd Mon. 90/30
Oswego RACES Net Wed. 7 p.m. 147.15 1st/3rd Sun. 8 pm
40/00 Swap Net 7 p.m. Wednesdays 40/00
Cent. N. V. Traffic Net 9:15 nightly 90/30; except Thurs. on 40/00
Monroe County FM Net Sunday 9pm Alternating between 79 and 88 repeaters
Hilltop Bulletons before FM net
Also CW Practice Wed. 8:30 – 8:45 146.40/147.00..pl 71.9

If anyone has some suggestion maybe some HF nets send me info.

Thanks Irv wa2sok

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In this time of year we get a few surprises. On the July 10 net KB2XI, Bob or "Foxy" as he is better known, checked in from Piney Woods Campsite near North Rose. It was ironic that KB2XI and I were camping at the same time. As "Foxy" said on the net we could have used the ole fashion string and two tin cans easily to communicate with each other. I had a good chat with "Foxy" on the way back from one of my "walk-about." He is one of our charter members of DARC! I am sorry to say I didn't know that. Don't ask why I never entered it the brain calls until this time. But it sure is now. Believe me it is nice to see an ole "newcomer" report into the net. If "Foxy" can do it just on his visits from North Carolina just think how welcomed you would be too if you were not a regular check-in? And most of us can hit the 685 repeater any time. Thanks, "Foxy," for reporting into the net. I look forward to the next eyeball QSO with you at Piney.

You see I can make it relate somehow to RACES-ARES. Hi! Be flexible! Surprise the net! Surprise us with help on a Ginna drill! We like surprises like this. This would be a "good" surprise.

73 Dave KB2KBY

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who are interested in communications technology, or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become amateur radio operators." The FCC said it also would eliminate a requirement it believes "is now unnecessary and that may discourage" current licensees from advancing their skills, and that it would "promote more efficient use" of current Amateur Radio spectrum.

The FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international *Radio Regulations* adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 as the primary reason to go forward with eliminating Morse code as an Amateur Radio licensing requirement in the future. Among other changes, WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges, leaving it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised that the FCC proposed altogether scrapping the Morse code requirement. The League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class. "We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors would closely study the 30-page *NPRM* and plan to comment further after they've had the opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

Web Page: <http://www.drumlinsarc.com>

Amateur Radio

Digital radio is the way to go

By Lee Badman
Contributing writer

I recently upgraded my amateur-radio license to General Class and was amazed at the digital-mode options available in the HF bands.

With Sci-Fi sounding names such as P ACTOR, AMTOR and PSK31, digital might seem a bit daunting to the uninitiated. In reality, digital is easy and can be done for practically no additional investment in hardware assuming you own a radio and a PC.

MY initial foray into the digital modes started with some advice from other hams experienced in the craft and the download of several free programs from the Internet. I settled on one, called DigiPan, which acts as a graphical-control framework for several digital modes.

Digital is all about letting a PC control the radio, either directly or through a Terminal Node Controller (TNC) device. Since my secondhand HF rig I came with a TNC, I chose to go that route for my digital hookup.

After making three connections between the radio, the TNC and my PC's sound card, I was in the digital game. Once tuning the sound card's input and output is accomplished, DigiPan and other programs like it show you all the activity in a given band in different views.

I got quickly hooked on waferfall views," which span a frequency range and scroll down as they refresh.

Signal traces against the blue background make for a cool effect, and each trace signals a distant station that can be listened to or contacted. Click on a trace, and you're on frequency. Because digital modes tend to be narrow-band and work in the side bands, I found that a little power goes a long way. For example, on around 15 watts, I was talking PSK with stations as far south as Florida.

Digital is worth trying. Send news or questions about amateur radio to Lee Badman, KC2IYK, by e-mail at features@syracuse.com or regular mail at Stars, P.O. Box 4915, Syracuse, NY 13221.

Sent to me by Frankie Everhart

RACES NET SUNDAY 8:45 PM 146.685

HAMFESTS 2005

Sep 17.....RAGs Pompey Hills
www.ragsinreview.com/ragham.html

Sep 24.....Horseheads, NY
<http://hamfest@arast.org>

Oct.8th.....Lake Placid, NY
<http://www.nnyara.org>

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In 2004, the ARRL filed a *Petition for Rule Making* asking the FCC to amend Part 97 to complete the Amateur Service restructuring begun in 1999 but "left unfinished." The League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's *NPRM*, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees already can easily upgrade to General. "We also note that, if our proposal to eliminate telegraphy testing in the amateur service is adopted," the FCC continued, "a person who is not a licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing two written examinations, and that a person who is a Technician Class licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing one written examination." The FCC said it does not believe either path to be unreasonable. The FCC also said that it's already addressed some of the other issues petitioners raised in its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") *NPRM* in WT Docket 04-140. In that proceeding, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming proposal aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional phone spectrum. Under the plan, Novice/Tech Plus licensees would be granted CW privileges in the current General CW subbands. A 60-day period for members of the public to comment on the FCC's *NPRM* in WT 05-235 will begin once the *NPRM* appears in the *Federal Register*. Reply comments will be due within 75 days of the *NPRM*'s publication in the *Federal Register*.

From the ARRL Newsletter on Line

ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday August 20th, 05. Time 12:00 to 4pm

Our annual picnic will again be held at the Marbletown Pavillion. Hots, burgers and pop + condiments will be furnished by club. Bring a dish to pass and necessary utensils.. Chairs if you wish.. Hope to see you there always a fun time!!

Next Saturday Meeting

It was decided to have four (4) meetings a year on at a time and day other than Wednesday evening. The next one will be 9am on October 15th at the State EMO as usual. Nobody could come together on where to have breakfast so it a place of choice I guess. It will probably be either the Coffee Cup in Alton or Cross Park in Newark. Either way the meeting will be at 9am. Oct 15th Hopefully we will see some new faces. See you there

August 07 - September 17, 2005

Weekly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Aug 7</i> WARECS 8:45 pm	<i>Aug 8</i>	<i>Aug 9</i>	<i>Aug 10</i>	<i>Aug 11</i>	<i>Aug 12</i>	<i>Aug 13</i>
<i>Aug 14</i> WARECS 8:45 pm	<i>Aug 15</i>	<i>Aug 16</i>	<i>Aug 17</i> DARC Mting 7:30pm	<i>Aug 18</i>	<i>Aug 19</i>	<i>Aug 20</i> DARC PICNIC 12-4PM
<i>Aug 21</i> WARECS 8:45 pm	<i>Aug 22</i> W2NPC B'day	<i>Aug 23</i>	<i>Aug 24</i>	<i>Aug 25</i>	<i>Aug 26</i>	<i>Aug 27</i>
<i>Aug 28</i> WARECS 8:45 pm	<i>Aug 29</i>	<i>Aug 30</i>	<i>Aug 31</i>	<i>Sep 1</i>	<i>Sep 2</i>	<i>Sep 3</i>
<i>Sep 4</i> <u>NO NET</u> WARECS 8:45 pm	<i>Sep 5</i>	<i>Sep 6</i>	<i>Sep 7</i>	<i>Sep 8</i>	<i>Sep 9</i>	<i>Sep 10</i>
<i>Sep 11</i> WARECS 8:45 pm	<i>Sep 12</i>	<i>Sep 13</i>	<i>Sep 14</i>	<i>Sep 15</i>	<i>Sep 16</i>	<i>Sep 17</i>

Picnic August 20, 2005
Marbletown Fire Hall
Noon to 4pm

Breakfast at Alton Coffe Shop, Rte.14
Saturday Mornings 7:00 am.
Check in on 146.685

Lunch at Cross Park
Rte. 31 Newark
Friday Noon