



# The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club



## September, 2012 Newsletter

Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month at 7:00 P.M. at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 300 N. Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio



### Local Ham Community

**K8EEN Repeater: 146.790 Mhz (-600 Khz With PL of 71.9 Hz)**  
**KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 Mhz (+5Mhz With PL of 71.9 Hz)**



**Sunday Night ARES Net at 9:00 P.M. on The K8EEN Repeater**

**Ham Radio Rock!**

## INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND Part 2

By Barry Butz, N8PPF

Last month I wrote about our plans to activate the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. Well, the weekend has come and gone and we had a great time. With permission from the National Park, we erected our tent adjacent to the lighthouse and went on the air with special event call W4H.



I used my 20/40 meter crossed inverted V and we had another 80 meter dipole nearby. They sure looked small next to the 200-foot lighthouse.

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, September 10, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Please remember to check into the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M. on the K8EEN 2-meter Repeater.

Every Wednesday at 5:00 PM, MVARC club members meet at Wendy's, 522 South Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Dinner Coordinator Dick Huggins, N8RDH, reports good turnouts for this event. Come share dinner with friends, or make new friends, by attending one or all of these events.

Join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, reports good turnouts for this event.

\*\*\*The next Breakfast will be Saturday, September 8, 2012 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio\*\*\*



Operating two stations, we sometimes called CQ and also searched around for other lighthouses on the air. In all, we contacted one lightship and 18 lighthouses, including Lorain Harbor in Ohio and West Quoddy Head, Maine, which is the easternmost point in the United States. In addition, we talked to 58 other stations, some notable ones being the Battleship New Jersey, the Indianapolis Speedway, and the London Olympic station.



When lighthouses were contacted, we wrote their names on a whiteboard for visitors to see. Speaking of visitors, we talked to 200-300 of them and they really were interested in our activity. They were in a lighthouse frame of mind and thought it was cool that we were talking to other ones. There were also a couple inactive hams who said they were inspired to get back on the air.

## The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

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 Phone 397-0249

Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to Amateur Radio, with an emphasis on local activity, equipment reviews, and personal experiences to the Newsletter Editor. Articles are due on the Sunday before the first Monday of the month.

Newsletter Editor: Don Russell, W8PEN  
[w8pen@arrl.net](mailto:w8pen@arrl.net)  
 Phone: 740-397-0249



Although rain was expected all weekend, it held off. On Sunday afternoon, though, we had to shut down early because of a waterspout in the area and an approaching thunderstorm. We tore down in a record half hour. By then the storm had bypassed us but we were satisfied with our results and pleased with our experience.

## Is Amateur Radio Too Focused on EmComm?



By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup, a Yahoo Group mailing list for anyone looking for help with anything related to amateur radio, one ham asked "Over lunch today I read the September issue of QST, which is heavily EmComm oriented. The articles were interesting, but the op-ed piece on page 98 seemed a little over the top to me...Has this focus of this intensity always been a part of ham radio and I just wasn't expecting it? How has it evolved over the years?"

To answer the question, another replied by posting Section 97.1, namely the principles behind the amateur radio service:

Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

He went on to say, "I think that 97.1(a) addresses your question."

I like that reply a lot. First, it shows that providing emergency and public-service communications has been a part of amateur radio since its beginnings. Some hams are extremely focused on this, and I applaud them. In my opinion, the piece referred to in the latest QST was not over the top.

I think, however, that some hams do sometimes go overboard on emcomm, and act as if it's the only reason that ham radio exists. It's not. As you can see, the rules describe five different "purposes" for amateur radio. Emcomm might be the first, but it's only one of five. We need to keep in mind the other four as well. I personally like (e), and would like to see amateur radio actually do more to promote international good will.

What do you think?

=====

When he's not pondering the place of emergency communications in amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU,

writes books about ham radio. He is currently feverishly trying to finish the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Guide. You can read excerpts from this upcoming book on his website, <http://www.kb6nu.com/>. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## The Ultimate Video Game



By Mark Bisenius, AC8FV

Did you know the best video game out there is made for ham radio? And it's free.

It's Morse Runner, a CW contest simulator.

It's so realistic; you forget it's just a game. And you feel like a "lid" if you can't copy the exchange, just like you would with a real operator.

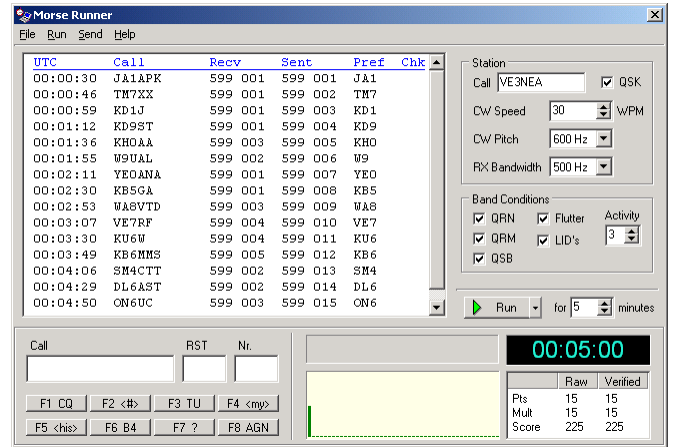
The CW speed can be set as low as 10 WPM (words per minute). QRN, QRM, QSB, and flutter sound just like they do on the real bands.

You can even select "Lids," and the other "operators" will try to steal your frequency, interrupt you, make copying and sending errors, and give you signal reports other than 599. Just like a real contest!

Macro buttons are used for calling CQ and sending exchanges.

"Activity" is the number of "operators" replying to your CQ in pileups.

There's even RIT (Receiver Incremental Tuning), using your keyboard's up and down arrows.



Morse Runner CW Contest Simulator

I just started playing, and my "Personal Record" so far is 3x3 = 9. (Contacts times prefixes.)

This is not easy for beginners. There's a WPX Competition mode, which simulates CQ Magazine's World Wide WPX (Worked All Prefixes).

You can post your WPX score string with your call sign on Morse Runner's DXAtlas.com website if you dare. Top score is 414 x 252 = 104,328 by IT9RYH, so I have a ways to go.

Morse Runner's HST Competition mode is used for the Pileup Trainer Test at the IARU High Speed Telegraphy Competition every year.

It's much easier to copy call signs and send using macros during a contest, than it is to learn by copying sentences and sending by hand during a rag chew.

You really don't want to enter a live contest until you can copy call signs at 25 WPM.

But this is so much fun, why enter a real contest, ever?

## Hams Heed the Call to Help As Isaac Makes Landfall, Downgraded to Tropical Storm

From the ARRL Letter, August 30, 2012

Seven years to the day that Hurricane Katrina smashed into New Orleans, Hurricane Isaac came calling. But instead of making landfall right at New Orleans like Katrina (a Category 3 storm) did on August 28, 2005, Isaac veered slightly to the west of the city. Through it all, hams at [WX4NHC](http://www.wx4nhc.com) -- the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center ([NHC](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)) in Miami, Florida -- and those

supporting the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) and the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#), along with various nets within the ARRL's Delta Division, relayed reports to their served agencies on Isaac's progress and the damage the storm created in its wake.

"Even though Isaac has made landfall and is currently tracking slowly up Central Louisiana to Arkansas, hams in the Delta Division are not done," explained ARRL Delta Division Director David Norris, K5UZ. "We had quite a few nets running as Isaac came ashore, and some are still going on, relaying damage reports and assisting with health-and-welfare traffic. As the American Red Cross and other served agencies venture out in the field within the next few days to assess the damage created by Isaac, hams in the Delta Division are ready to assist these teams with whatever communications support is necessary. Just because Isaac itself is over, we know that storms like this can bring tornadoes, power outages and other weather events in their wake, and we are prepared to continue to provide any support that is needed."

The HWN ceased its operation on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 29. According to Stan Broadway, N8BHL, the HWN received numerous reports of heavy winds and flooding from hams in the affected areas, and in turn, relayed these reports to the NHC. "We were in contact with several Emergency Operation Centers and other safety service locations," he told the ARRL. "The majority of our reports were from ham operators who were weathering the storm, yet who took the time to keep us informed. In the ham radio spirit of readiness, many of the stations we contacted were on stand-by generator power, some with temporary or storm-related antennas and most with quality weather measuring instruments. Many more stations stood by silently, waiting to relay if needed, and listening for the reports."

Broadway said that the HWN was activated a total of 47 hours for Isaac, including a 31 hour continuous activation during the storm's path toward landfall: "We are extremely grateful for those operators who provided reports and for those who showed us great courtesy by moving off frequency, or just allowed a clear slot for us to use. Thanks also to the nets that regularly used these frequencies for accommodating us."

Isaac continues to weaken as it tracks to the northwest over Louisiana, and could be downgraded to a tropical depression on Thursday, August 30. Since Isaac is moving very slowly, the

storm will continue to produce floods, rainfall, isolated tornadoes -- especially in Mississippi, Eastern Louisiana, Southeastern Arkansas, Southern Alabama and the far Western Florida Panhandle -- and gusty winds.

According to the NHC, Isaac should steadily weaken over the next 48 hours as it continues to move over land, and should become a tropical depression by Thursday night. At 8 AM (EDT) on Thursday, August 30, Isaac's center was located about 35 miles southeast of Alexandria, Louisiana and about 125 miles northwest of New Orleans. According to the NHC, Isaac is a slow moving storm with a speed of about 8 miles per hour. Isaac should make a turn to the north-northwest, moving over Louisiana later on Thursday, followed by a turn to the north toward Arkansas on Friday, August 31 and then move over Southern Mississippi that night. Even though Isaac and Katrina landed approximately in the same place and at the same time, though seven years apart, [according to the Associated Press](#) (as reported in The Miami Herald), the storms are quite different:

- **Maximum Sustained Winds**
  - Katrina: Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 28, 2005 as a Category 3 storm with maximum sustained winds near 125 miles per hour.
  - Isaac: A Category 1 storm, Isaac had maximum sustained winds near 80 miles per hour as it came ashore in Southeast Louisiana on August 28, 2012.
- **Size**
  - Katrina: Katrina was a large storm with hurricane force winds extending outward up to 125 miles from its center.
  - Isaac: Isaac has been much less organized with a less-defined eye. As it neared Louisiana's coast, Isaac's hurricane-force winds extended outward only about 60 miles from its center.
- **Storm Surge**
  - Katrina: The 2005 storm brought devastating storm surge of 15-20 feet as it came onto land.
  - Isaac: The worst of Isaac's storm surge was about 6-12 feet.

- **Evacuations**

- Katrina: Evacuation orders were issued for millions around the region - including the city of New Orleans -- ahead of Hurricane Katrina. Many did not heed the evacuation order and later had to be rescued from flooded homes.
- Isaac: As the storm closed in, tens of thousands were told to evacuate. Some decided to leave, while others have decided to hunker down and ride out the relatively weaker storm.

Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)) Administrator Craig Fugate said weather conditions continue to worsen in the Northern Louisiana, delaying storm damage assessments, power restoration and relief efforts. The Red Cross-- already housing 5000 evacuees in 80 Louisiana shelters -- is preparing a prolonged recovery. "Were going to be there for weeks," said Red Cross Vice President Charles Shimanski. "We need to know what we're recovering from before we know what recovery looks like."

## **Worth Repeating Regarding Antenna Structures**

**This article was taken from "Weavers Words", a monthly Newsletter written by Jim Weaver, K8JE, Great Lakes Division Director. Publication date: August 31, 2012**

The following was copied from a mailing to the Ohio Section by Ohio State Government Liaison (SGL) Nick Pittner, K8NAP. Nick is the person who headed the recent drive to enact an Ohio "PRB-like" bill into state law. Although his words are specifically related to the new Ohio law, they contain information that is highly relevant to how any amateur should interface with neighbors and government authorities when asking permission to erect an antenna support structure. It is for this reason that I am quoting Nick, below. If I may take the liberty, I will summarize Nick's article by emphasizing that obtaining permission to put up an antenna structure cannot be approached with a cavalier viewpoint even when there is a law on the books that supports putting it up. It is imperative that one attempts to maintain good personal relations with neighbors and government officials throughout the process.

Nick's message follows:

"August 15 was the 'effective date' for H.B. 158, the day it became law in Ohio. Some of you have had antenna projects on hold, waiting for the new law to become effective. Before you start digging the foundation for that new tower, let's review the basics. First, H.B. 158 (the Bill) does not affect other types of land use restrictions, such as those imposed by deed restrictions, condominium agreements and neighborhood agreements. Those types of restrictions arose by agreement when you purchased your home. Second, the Bill does not exempt you from the local application and approval process if it would otherwise have applied to your antenna project. In short, if a construction permit would have been necessary before the Bill, it is still necessary. If a zoning variance would have been necessary before the Bill, it is still necessary, and you are still required to go through the application and approval process.

"What has changed is the degree of deference that you, as an amateur radio operator, are entitled to receive when your application is considered by the local zoning authorities. The Bill states, in part, that the local zoning authority " . . . shall not restrict the height or location of amateur station antenna structures in such a way as to prevent effective amateur radio service communications . . ." Other provisions similarly require that local authorities provide "reasonable accommodation" to applications for antenna structures.

"With that in mind, here are ten things to consider as you begin using the new legislation:

"1. Good relations with your neighbors, including their support for your antenna application, is the best asset you can have,

"2. Make sure that your paperwork included all of the requested information, is in the proper format and filed properly – don't provide an excuse to reject your application,

"3. Evidence that your tower is designed to withstand the most likely weather events and that it will be properly erected is very important,

"4. Structure your plan to observe setback lines and existing zoning restrictions to the greatest extent possible. We may be allowed to have antennas, but not in the front yard,

"5. If you can legitimately do so, note in your

application that one of the reasons you need the tower is to permit your station to participate in emergency communications if the need arises,

"6. Locate your tower as far away from adjacent houses as reasonably possible,

"7. Don't accept the notion that a "fall-down" limit applies to you. A "fall-down" limit is a provision that requires that no structure can so high that it could fall onto the adjacent property. Keep in mind that a well-constructed tower will still be standing long after all of the nearby trees have fallen over.

"8. The 'antennas are ugly' objection is not, in most cases, a proper zoning consideration,

"9. If your application is rejected and you plan to appeal to the board of zoning appeals or similar agency, keep in mind that there are precise time limits for doing so, and failure to appeal within those time limits will bar your appeal,

"10. Don't ask for more than you really need!" (K8JE note: And, stay within the limits of any approval that was given. For example, permission to erect one structure means one structure; permission to erect a 60 ft. structure is not a license to go higher.)

Nick, thanks to you and your team for the great work you did with Ohio H.B. 158.

As a final comment, Michigan Section Manager Larry Camp, WB8R has begun the effort to have a PRB-1-like law enacted in Michigan. I am sure he will appreciate having anyone with experience in the Michigan legislative arena contact him ([wb8r@larrl.org](mailto:wb8r@larrl.org)).

Jim Weaver, K8JE  
Director, Great Lakes Division  
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Mason, OH 45040  
Tel. 513-459-1661; e-mail [K8JE@arrl.org](mailto:K8JE@arrl.org)

**ARRL: The reason Amateur Radio Is**  
**Members: The reason ARRL is**

## MVARC Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Minutes for the August 13, 2012 Meeting.



**By Jeff Butz, N8SMT**

### Attendees:

1. Matt Ware	KD8PSK
2. Larry Helzer DVM	AA8WP
3. Tom Evans	KD8HSA
4. Emery Bennett	W8TW
5. David Byrd	KD8RST
6. Mike McCardel	KC8YLD
7. Frank Counts	KC8EVS
8. Carl Payne	AC8LQ
9. Jeff Butz	N8SMT

Vice President Ware opened the meeting at 7:14 P.M.

The Minutes of last month's meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

### Old Business:

There was a general discussion about the Pelotonia bike event that the club didn't participate in. There seemed to be a lack of general organization for the event.

### New Business:

No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

## Dick Sowler, W8FEM

Dick Sowler, W8FEM, is alive and well. Last February I wrote an article about the MVARC club being published in the August 1958 QST. In reporting the story I mentioned "club member Dick Sowler, W8FEM (SK)..." Well that certainly got Dick's attention. He wrote recently to set the record straight. My apologies for my mistake. It was great to get the following correspondence from Dick along with his QSL card. We glad you are still with us Dick!

EMike McCardel, KC8YLD  
ARRL Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator

28 August 2012

Hi Mike,

Several weeks ago, much to my surprise and delight, an on-line "google" search led me to the February 2012 issue of The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club Newsletter and your article, **Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club featured in CQ Magazine**. The last line of the first paragraph of your article - "club member Dick Sowler, W8FEM (SK)" - got my attention. After I regained my composure I read the remainder of your article then dug out and dusted off my complimentary copy (given to me by W2NSD, the mag editor) of the August 1958 CQ magazine and once again read The "Ohio 24" National Sports Car Rally Communications Report. Too bad that in May of 1958 you were only 6 years old and probably had little or no interest in ham radio, sports cars or writing articles. If we both had been MVARC members in 1958 I would have nominated you to be the author of that CQ mag article. By the way, in the seventh paragraph of your article **W8CPU**, Tim White should be **W8CPU**, Jim White.

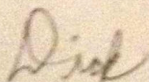
In mid February of 1950, while a freshman at Mount Vernon Academy where my dad taught, I received a Class B ham license and the W8FEM call sign. In 1952 I upgraded to a Class A license. By the time I finally graduated from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI and became a permanent Berrien Springs resident it was 1966 and I had a job at the Heath Co. (Heathkits) located about 15 miles from my home. One of my employee benefits was a Heathkit ham rig to use. My ham activity has varied from time to time since 1950, but most of the time I have had an operational station.

The ham population and MVARC membership was quite small in Mt. Vernon and Knox County during the 1950s. I have pleasant memories of those Mt. Vernon "hamming years" and the ham friends I acquired during them. As was the case with several Mt. Vernon hams, Woody Woodward became a close friend and mentor of mine. Thanks to Woody, radio and electronics became my career field.

My parents (SK) lived on Mansfield Ave. in the house directly across the street from the Dan Emmett Elementary School. By 1974 my dad got a Novice Class license - call WN8SVF, later changed to WB8SVF. During the 70s and early 80s dad was able to operate his simple Novice station. Just for kicks, he and I kept in touch via skeds on 40 or 80 meter cw. He undoubtedly attended some MVARC meetings during those years.

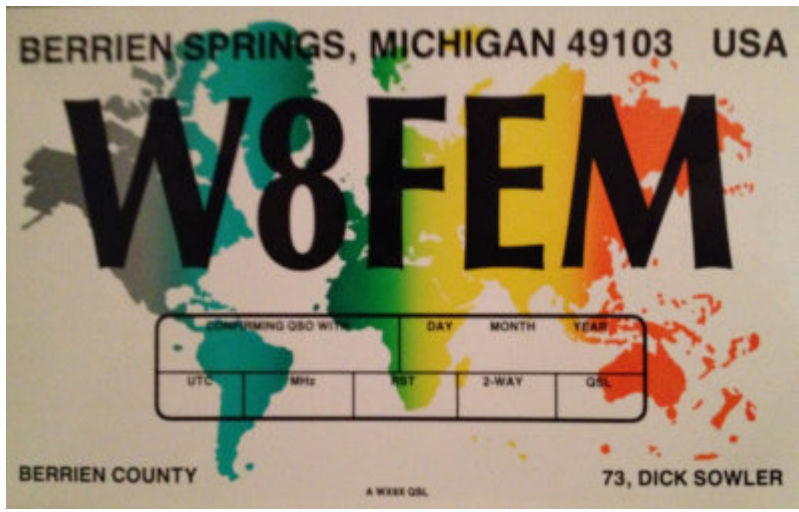
Incidentally, The MVARC Newsletter is a first rate publication. I'm glad to see that ham radio is alive and well in the Mount Vernon area.

Best Regards,



Dick Sowler - W8FEM  
8869 George Avenue  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103-1407  
e-mail: [w8fam@arrl.net](mailto:w8fam@arrl.net)  
Tel: 269-471-2241





**Membership Form**

Club dues run from Jan. 1 until Dec. 31 and are collected during the last quarter of the year. You can mail in the dues to the address below or bring them to a meeting. Dues are prorated for new members at the time of application. Visit our Web Page at [www.mvarc.net](http://www.mvarc.net)

Dues Schedule: \$12 regular

\$10 for second member in the same family, for those over 65 yrs. of age, and for those living outside Knox County

**Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 372, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call-Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Donation (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Members are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail address. Would you like one?  
 No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_

If yes please enter password \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments:



The American Radio Relay League  
RADIOGRAM  
Via Amateur Radio

Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date
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To:

This Radio Message was received at:

Amateur Station \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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REC'D	From	Date	Time	SENT	To	Date	Time
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A licensed Amateur Radio Operator, whose address is shown above, handled this message free of charge. As such messages are handled solely for the pleasure of operating, a "Ham" Operator can accept no compensation. A return message may be filed with the "Ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from ARRL Headquarters, 225, Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is the National Membership Society of licensed radio amateurs and the publisher of QST Magazine. One of its functions is promotion of public service communication among Amateur Operators. To that end, The League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.



The American Radio Relay League  
RADIOGRAM  
Via Amateur Radio

Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date
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To:

This Radio Message was received at:

Amateur Station \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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REC'D	From	Date	Time	SENT	To	Date	Time
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