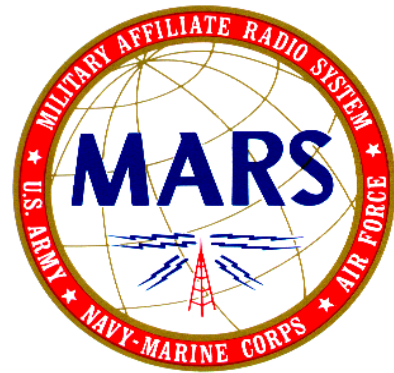


NAVMARCORMARS

Central Area

NewsLetter



March 2005

"Proudly Serving Those Who Serve"

Volume II, Issue 2

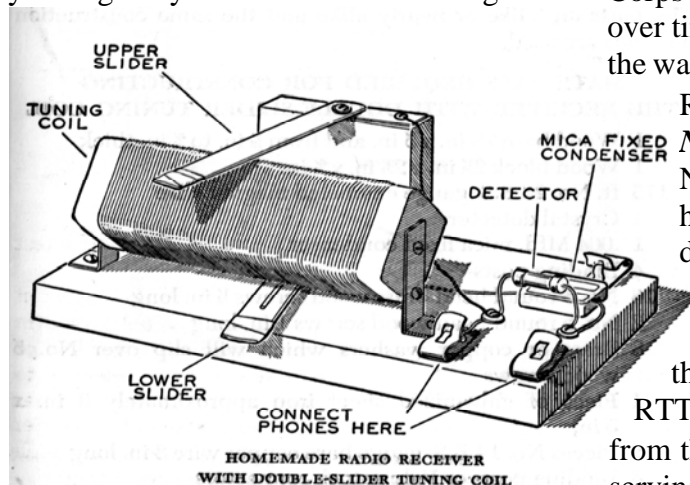
The schematic you see on this page comes from the book "The Boys' First Book Of RADIO and ELECTRONICS."

The author is **Alfred Morgan**. It was published by Charles Scribner's Sons, and this printing (the eleventh) was in Aug. 1964. This drawing is found on page 139. Mr. Morgan has written a number of books on chemistry, motors, aquariums and tropical fish as well as other books on electricity and electrochemistry.

This book, from which this drawing was taken, is very well written and richly illustrated. If you can find this book in your local library, I feel sure you would enjoy reading through it. Mr. Morgan has a writing style that makes for easy reading. And, in this book you won't find any fat or gristle; it's all lean meat. This is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to learn basic radio. Plus, it would be fun to build some of these receivers.

We've Come A Long Way!

From signal fires to smoke signals, from flags to lanterns, from courier on foot and on horse-back to carrier pigeons to spark gap radio, we have come a long way in the way we communicate over distance! Many years ago boys used to build receiving sets



similar to the one pictured above and were thrilled when they would hear radio broadcasts coming in over their headphones. It was so rewarding to wind a coil of wire over a suitable form, very carefully sand the insulation off in a straight line, hook a long wire to the antenna terminal, and with headphones in place start tuning up by moving the slider back and forth until a station could be heard. What joy there was in this achievement! On Guam, in 1945, some enterprising men took a length of wire, a used razor blade, the lead from a pencil,

and made for themselves a receiver that picked up music from an Armed Forces Radio Station at a nearby Army base. Oh, yes, we've come a long way in how we communicate today. Our Navy-Marine Corps MARS has seen phenomenal progress over time in the way we communicate and in the way we handle message traffic. You may

Remember reading in the Feb 2004 *Newsletter* articles by NNN0PSX and NNN0LHR describing how we handled message traffic back in the days of radio MARSTELSYS (radiotele

Typewriter), Southern Tier Station and Relay Center East. Then, when this station came aboard in March 1991, RTTY was the way we picked up traffic from the two Marine Corps MARS stations serving Region Two. Progress in electronics and in systems management has grown steadily over the years. From RTTY we began using a new system called AMTOR. Not far behind came PACTOR, and in both of these we discovered a great improvement in our on air traffic handling. We still use RTTY on occasion when time is a factor and the traffic rep needs to deliver time-sensitive messages. And now we are into another new system called MT63, which has been around for a while, and ALE is on the horizon and available! So, we press on into new adventures and new ways of communicating. The best is yet to be! So, let's spark on!

COMMENTS FROM NNN0AS4 THREE

By Wally, NNN0LHR/NNN0AS4 Three

Since 10 April 2004, I have enjoyed working as NNN0AS4 Three. To start off with, it was a great challenge. All of the reporting is done in Microsoft "Excell." I have used this program just enough to say that I have it. It was a big challenge to get all this stuff down pat. There is a lot more here than what meets the eye. Now I can stroll around pretty good in "Excell."

So that I may serve you better, I need a list of all the current "Threes" in Region Four. It has been almost a year since I started as NNN0AS4-3, and there have probably been some staff changes or address changes that I may not be aware of. Also, I would very much like to have all the "Three" e-mail addresses as well. I know personal e-mail addresses have changed in the past year. I'm sure you can understand that I need current e-mail addresses so I can communicate with all the state "Threes."

Now about reporting: I need to receive your reports no later than 042359Z each month. All the state "Threes" should be gathering their reports daily during the month so that by the end of the month you can track down the stragglers and have your report ready to go. I understand there will be exceptions, but my report goes to NNN0ASG Three and NNN0AS4 by 052300Z each month, and, if I don't have your report on time, it doesn't get included in that month's report, but will be included in the Quarterly Report. E-Mail is OK for a back-up message if the time starts to get short, but be sure to get it in the system so it can be counted. I usually check into both Region Nets so you can have easy access to me for your reports.

If a State has any problems with frequencies, I would love to hear from you so I can try to resolve any problem you might be having. NNN0AS4 and I have updated the Frequency Matrix that is on the website, and it is current unless there is some change that I am unaware of. I am sure that the summer time will bring on some changes due to longer daylight hours, and your state may have to move to alternate frequencies because of changing propagation.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ben, NNN0JQC, for all the work he does for

Our *Central Area Newsletter*. This is a time-consuming endeavor, and I just want to say, "Thank you, Ben!"

Wisdom Of A Sort

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; he decided it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down. A few shovel loads later the farmer finally looked down into the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake the dirt off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and step up. Before long the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off! Life is going to shovel dirt all over you now and then, all kinds of dirt. The secret of getting out of the well of despair and disappointment is to shake off whatever dirt falls upon you and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping-stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not giving in to anger, despair, disappointment and never giving up. Shake the dirt off and step up! From "*The Bridge*," June 2004 issue.

Noted In Passing: Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever. Why is it our children can't read the Bible in school, but they can in prison? If raising children was going to be easy, it never would have started out with something called labor!

The **Central Area Newsletter** is published for the enjoyment and edification of Navy-Marine Corps MARS members. The contents **do not** reflect official Navy positions. EDITOR: Ben NNN0JQC/NNN0ASG EIGHT. 3301 Shannon Rd, Albany, GA 31721-1541. E-Mail: nnn0jqc@navymars.org. Central Area Director NNN0ASG IL: ITC (SW/AW) Michael Jeffries, USN. Assistant to the Central Area Director: Dave NNN0ASG ONE MI. Director Region Four: Curtis NNN0AS4 GA. Director Region Five: Tim NNN0AS5 MN. **This is your Newsletter.** In order to keep it going, your input is encouraged.

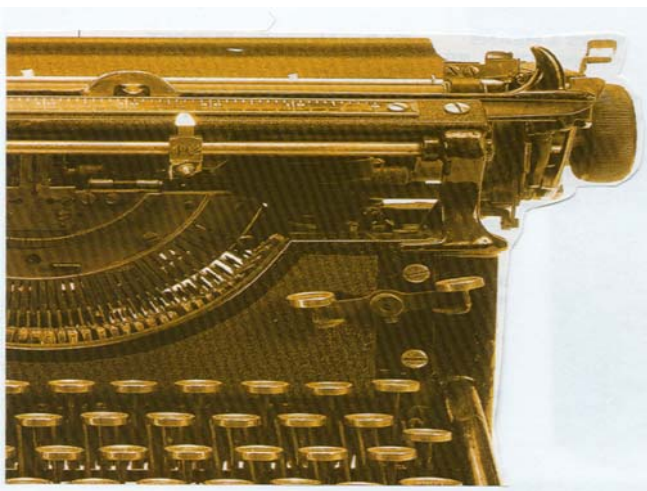
Hurricane Concerns

Few of us can forget what the hurricane season did last year to several areas of Region Four. In the Oct 2004 issue of the *Central Area Newsletter*, beginning on page 9, is a graphic and touching article by NNN0AS4 TWO about **A VISIT FROM IVAN**. It is well worth reading again, for Jim gives us quite an insight into the gut-churning feelings he felt as this hurricane came ashore between Mobile, AL and Pensacola, FL. His home is in Pensacola.

On June 1, we officially enter into the hurricane season which lasts through November 30. Some weather experts are predicting that in the coming years we can expect more destructive hurricanes coming our way due to the way deep ocean currents move cold water out of the Atlantic Ocean.

Hurricanes that affect our eastern seaboard are birthed as tropical storms off the coast in West Africa. While traveling west toward our eastern shores they sometimes fizzle out, but more often they gather speed and as they near the Caribbean and have winds that reach 74 MPH, they become full-blown hurricanes.

There are two other places that give birth to tropical storms that can affect us; one is in the western part of the Caribbean, the other, in the Gulf of Mexico. Tropical storms may on occasion spawn in the eastern Caribbean, but this area is not as favorable for development into full-blown hurricanes as is the western Caribbean. In the Gulf of Mexico, the favorable breeding ground for tropical storms is in the southwestern corner of the gulf.



However, more often than not, tropical disturbances that become tropical storms that become hurricanes occur off the coast of West Africa in the area of Cape Verde. Then again they can develop in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Some of these storms head due west and usually affect the Leeward and Windward Islands. They may slow down over land, but quickly pick up speed once they are over water.

Those storms that fizzle out and never reach our shores still exert a great influence on coastal and inland weather because these storms are so large and possess so much energy. When they do hit our shores the damage they do can be catastrophic. You should never take lightly the possibility of a hurricane hitting your area. This means being prepared by ensuring in advance the safety of you and your family, your home, and then how well you will be able to provide emergency communications when our Region goes to COMCON ZERO.

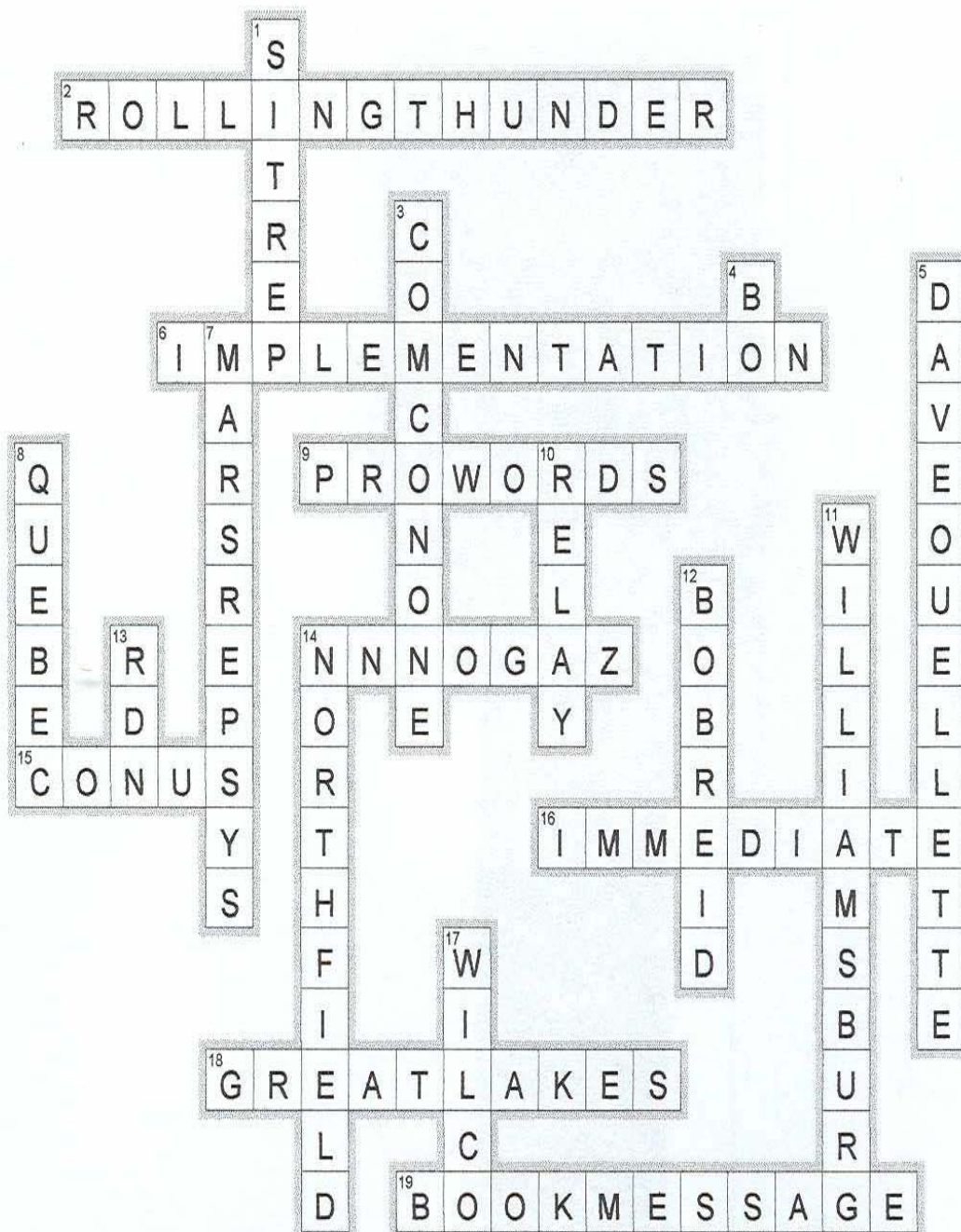
You cannot wait until the possibility of a hurricane hovers nearby. Now is the time to think about what precautions you need to take, and do now what needs to be done, i.e., plywood for your windows, five gallon jugs of water, fresh batteries for flashlights and radios, a good supply of fuel for your emergency generator if you have one and/or a good battery back-up for your transceiver.

Those of you who have been in the path of hurricanes in the past know all this already. The rest of us---well, all of us actually, can be hit by tornadoes spawned by hurricanes and can be affected by floods as hurricanes make their erratic way inland. They may be dying as they proceed inland and lose wind speed but they can still be deadly by the tornadoes and flooding they leave behind.

Weathers experts are saying that, "The danger we all face this year is not so much from there being more hurricanes, but more intense, major hurricanes packing winds in excess of 111 mph. Such storms represent only about 20 percent to 25 percent of the hurricanes that make landfall in the United States in a given year, but they account for about 80 percent of hurricane destruction when they make landfall." Take warning!

This is the answer to last month's Crossword Puzzle

How did you do last month with this puzzle?



Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

Once again, sincere thanks and appreciation to Tim, NNN0GAX MN, and to Bob, NNN0XYA MN for this crossword puzzle solution. This is the solution to last month's crossword puzzle.