

# The Central Area Newsletter

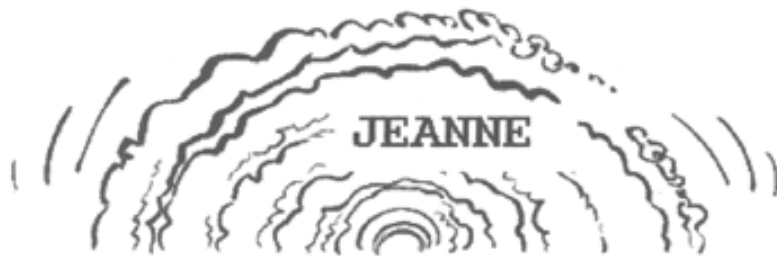


## Navy-Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)

October 2004

Proudly Serving Those Who Serve

Volume I, Issue 1



caglecartoons.com

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## Curtis: NNN0AS4

Vince Lombardi said: “The quality of a person’s life is measured in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.”

Commitment to excellence: This is a distinct characteristic of the achievements of our current Directors of Regions Four and Five: Curtis, NNN0AS4, in Region Four, and Roger, NNN0AS5, in Region Five

There are times when achievements of the past confer on an individual the title, “A Man Of Renown.” The dictionary defines this as “Fame; high distinction.”

Curtis, NNN0AS4 has achieved fame and distinction throughout Region Four and in the hierarchy of Navy-Marine Corps MARS through his commitment to excellence and the achievements that have accrued from this commitment.

You’ve heard the expression, “As the twig is bent, so grows the tree.” Curtis, one of six children, was born and raised in a christian home. His father was a devout christian and Curtis never ever heard his father curse or hear him talk about other people, nor did his father drink. As his dad was the strength of the home, his christian mother was the heart of the home.

Though children will be children, especially in a large family, Curtis and his brothers and sisters were close-knit and have remained so throughout their lives. Growing up on a farm there were always chores to be done and this became a great training ground for Curtis and his siblings to learn responsibility and accountability. Anyone knowing Curtis know that he learned well responsibility and accountability. The confluence of these and the strength and heart of his homelife bred into his character commitment to excellence.

Curtis does not tolerate incompetence easily. When he was NNN0GAM FOUR, he paid close attention to how well GA members hewed to the guidelines of NTP-8 (C). When any of us strayed from the straight and narrow of NTP-8 © and the Region Two Ops Guide (and I was one who strayed now and again!) Curtis would come down on us so as to bring us back on course and maintain proper operating procedures; otherwise we might have ended up as sloppy operators a la CB operators. He was trying (and continues to do so) to instill in us commitment to excellence.

Curtis became interested in amateur radio as a teenager. He thought it was the greatest thing in the world and available only to the rich and very smart people. Even though he thought it was an exclusive hobby, he always wanted to get into it. His early entry into radio was via the Citizen Band (CB). However, due to the foul language and lack of courtesy, Curtis and a friend determined to study for and take the exam to become a licensed amateur radio operator. His determination and application to study paid off and he achieved his ambition in 1972.

His first radio was a used *Eldico 720* for which he paid \$70.00. It covered 80-40-20 meters. A Swann 350 was his next purchase. It was a rig that tended to drift, as did most tube rigs. Then the day came when he bought a Kenwood 520 and back then that was a top of the line rig. Now that he had achieved his goal of becoming an amateur radio operator, and had a first class transceiver, he began using his new-found hobby to run phone patches for missionaries in Central and South America, a form of ministry he enjoyed for many years.

Curtis came into Navy-Marine Corps MARS in 1976, and early on began taking on added

responsibilities, managing the Relay Center East and running phone patches for Navy and Coast Guard ships. In short order he was asked to take on leadership roles, which he readily accepted and for which he did an outstanding job.

Curtis has served as Area Three and Area Four, GA Area. He was Area Coordinator, GA Area. He ran the Southern Tier Relay for several years, and was appointed Assistant Director, Region Two in the late 80s. He has served, with distinction, as Acting Director on four different occasions, and was appointed Director, Region Four, the first part of this year.

It has been said, behind every successful man is a good woman. Curtis is blessed with a wonderful helpmate! She is Virginia, his wife of 52 years. She has been his best friend and a tower of strength for him. Like many of our Navy-Marine Corps wives, she has always stood by him and supported him during all these years he has devoted to Navy-Marine Corps MARS.. They have known each other since they were teenagers. Her brother and Curtis were very good friends. Curtis and Virginia were married on 10 May 1952. They have two children, a son and a daughter and two grandsons.

Curtis is a veteran. He served four years in the U. S. Navy and served out his tour on the USS Bennington, an aircraft carrier.

Curtis is a man of strong Christian faith and a devout Baptist. He's a man of principles; he can always be counted on to do what he says he'll do. He has made his mark in Navy-Marine Corps MARS. Truly, it can be said of him, he is a man of renown, whose life is measured in direct proportion to his commitment to excellence in all his endeavors.

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## =Comments=

With this issue of the now **Central Area Newsletter**, We begin with the cartoon on page 1. that was contributed by Mr. Jeff Parker, Editorial Cartoonist of Florida Today. He was so gracious in granting us permission to reprint it. It does grab your attention, and he appears to have captured in a dramatic way the feelings of a great many Floridians. Thank you, Mr. Parker!

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Two leading articles deal with the two Region Directors of our Central Area. These are men of great stature, and we are privileged to have them at the helm of our two Regions.

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Jim, NNN0AS4 TWO, shares with us, in a dramatic and touching way, what he and his dear wife went through when visited by Ivan last month. It's a great reminder on preparing for stormy visits. It also says a lot about the trust Jim's wife has in him and the strength of her faith. Since the Lord's going to be up all night anyway, go to bed and let the Lord worry about and deal with this storm! Many thanks, Jim, for this well-written article.

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Sam, NNN0SYR, captured in a succinct way the essence of what went on during our Fourth Region Conference in his excellent report. Thank you, Sam. Thanks to our Tennessee friends for providing us with a wonderful meeting place at reasonable prices!

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Two articles deal with stealth antennas; one from Dennis, NNN0FAE, the other from Alice, NNN0HXX/GAL EIGHT. Your input dealing with satisfying solutions you have made would be most appreciated. May we hear from you? Thank you Dennis and Alice, for sharing these articles!

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EI REPORTING: One can almost hear the pleading from Jim, NNN0AS4 TWO, as we read this urgent appeal to **Please** conform to the proper format of an EEI message. Since we have the exact format before us, let us use it in every reporting situation. Great presentation, Jim.

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In his article, **The Case For MT-63** on page 6 of the Feb 2004 issue, Bill, NNN0TJC, gave us an outstanding presentation of the best choice for net/FEC traffic. He brings, in this issue, an update gleaned from BO's presentation at this year's Region Four Conference. It is short but pithy. Read it, please! Bill always presents us with well-written articles on technical matters with which we deal.

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Thanks to all of you who contributed these articles. Without your input, we wouldn't have a newsletter. Let us hear from you right away for articles for our next edition!

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## Roger: NNN0AS5

If you take QST, you have seen this ad time and time again:

TENNADYNE  
Worldwide Leader In  
Log-Periodic Communications Antennas.

The man who owns this company, Roger, is NNN0AS5, Director of Region Five. Furthermore, in all probability you have used some of the software he has written during the past thirty-some years.

This man of many talents, Roger, was born on 17 July 1947, in Wacousta, MI, just outside of Lansing, MI. He was the oldest of three children. During the 1950s the family moved to Grand Rapids and after graduating from Caledonia High School he joined the Navy in 1965, signing up for a three year tour.

He served almost all of his three years in Hawaii as a Radioman at a NAVCOMSTA near the city of Wahiwa, high up above the Dole pineapple fields. This NAVCOMSTA was responsible for all communications for the Pacific Area.

At the end of his three years, Roger went off active duty and joined the Reserves. In 1973, while doing his active duty training in the Reserves, Roger met some amateur radio operators who were also doing their Reserve training. He was approached by a local ham club and was invited to consider taking the test and becoming a member. He was doing 20 wpm cw at the time, and since he enjoyed communicating so much he readily agreed. He took the test, passed and was issued the call WB8NDC.

In the MARS station nearby at the Reserve training Center there was a lot going on.

Lots of traffic being moved, and teletype was a big thing back then. Roger applied for membership in Navy-Marine Corps MARS and became a full-fledged MARS member in 1973.

Roger married his childhood sweetheart, Nancy, in 1968. She was the farmer's daughter from whom he bought a parcel of land in Alto, MI. on which they built their home in 1973, and where they have lived ever since. She and Roger have two sons, one of whom is a Baptist minister, and nine perfect grandchildren! When Roger said that, you could tell how much he loved his grandchildren and how proud he was of them.

After leaving the Navy Roger got into the data processing world. He worked for IBM for a while as a Systems Engineer. Then he established his own business as a consultant, going into businesses and setting up software and hardware systems and installing new programs.

In addition to writing programs, Roger does web work. When asked how he learned to write programs his reply was, "I learned by self-motivation. Seriously, I learned it on my own."

The company he joined right out of the Navy had some personal instruction courses from IBM and he took one and began working with the company programmers, and by sheer dint of will, learned how to do programming.

Roger left the consultant world and went to the Senior Data Processing Management with the IT Director for about fourteen

years. Then he went into business for himself.

As stated in the second paragraph of this article, Roger owns a log periodic manufacturing company called TENNADYNE. He manufactures world class log periodic antennas and ships them all over the world, and is a supplier to our military forces. The huge log periodic antenna that used to be at NNNOMAL Albany could very well have come from his plant.

For relaxation Roger loves to dabble in web work. He does a lot of web mastering and volunteers his services managing web sites for missionaries and some churches. He is Chairman of the Board of Deacons in the Baptist Church of which he and his wife are members. His wife, Nancy, is the church secretary.

In addition to being Director of Region Five Roger is NNNOGAY, Michigan State Director, and is NNNOAS5 FIVE (the web guy for Region 5), and he runs a switch.

Two men, two Region Directors, both coming from small towns and farming communities, both with a strong Christian background, both married to childhood sweethearts, men of great talent who are committed to excellence and both who have achieved the distinction of being MEN OF RENOWN. We of Region Four and Region Five are blessed to have this high caliber of leadership in Navy-Marine Corps MARS! Curtis and Roger, we salute you!

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.  
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Articles for the **Newsletter** always welcome!

## REWARD OFFERED

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of hop-a-long capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named milli henry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a dc motor over a wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.

If encountered, he may offer series of resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend eddy current who was playing a harmonic.

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=Gleanings=

We have too many people who live without working, and altogether too many who work without living.

We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something good and worthwhile to be enthusiastic about.

In times like these it helps to recall that there have always been times like these.

With the World Series now over and the Boston Red Sox the winner, it calls to mind a former ball player who became an umpire. During a game he was umpiring he called a strike on a batter. The batter said, "How do you spell your name?" The umpire replied, "M-O-R-I-A-R-T-Y." "I thought so," the batter said. "One eye."

# EEI REPORTING

From NNN0AS4 TWO

EEI Reports submitted during recent ECOM exercises and for actual events have generally been incorrect in one or several parts. This despite repeated emphasis on our Region ECOM Admin net and the NNN0DVG messages sent to all state directors and their ECOM Assistants. The proper format and instructions are set forth in NTP 8(C), paragraph D900.

From the top of the message down some of the sections that need the attention of all hands follows:

ADDRESSING - The TO addressee is NNN0DOM VA; all others are INFO addressees. Addressees are as specified in NTP 8(C) and the Director, Central Area and his staff. A properly addressed EEI Report from a Region FOUR station should look like this:

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DE NNN0xxx nnn (originator's call sign and serial number)
O DTG
FM NNN0xxx ss (originator's call sign and state)
TO NNN0DOM VA
INFO NNN0ASA VA
NNN0ASZ GA
NNN0ASG IL
NNN0ASG ONE MI
NNN0ASG TWO AL
NNN0AS4 GA
NNN0AS4 ONE GA
NNN0AS4 TWO AL
NNN0__ (originator's state director)
NNN0__ (originator's state ECOM Assistant)
```

EEI Reports are time sensitive. If you have e-mail capability, you should immediately send the report by e-mail as described next. Do not wait to send the EEI Report on a traffic net or put it into the MDS. E-mail first, then worry about entering it into the MARS traffic system. If you do not have e-mail capability make every attempt to get your EEI Report to some MARS member who can e-mail it for you.

E-MAILING - As noted above EEI Reports are time sensitive and should be e-mailed as soon as possible. If the originator has not indicated by a "ZEN/" in front of the NNN0DOM VA addressee, the first station to handle the Report that does have e-mail capability should e-mail the Report. Any station relaying the message may forward the Report by e-mail. To e-mail the Report these procedures as set forth in CHNAV MARCORMARS BCST 14-03 should be followed:

1. Address the e-mail as follows:  
TO: [foxhole@doms.army.mil](mailto:foxhole@doms.army.mil)  
[jdoms@js.pentagon.mil](mailto:jdoms@js.pentagon.mil)  
CC: [nnn0asa@navymars.org](mailto:nnn0asa@navymars.org)
2. Mark the e-mail as URGENT (if you have this capability)
3. Enter the e-mail subject as:  
ACTUAL EVENT/EEI CITY/STATE  
(Example: ACTUAL EVENT/EEI MOBILE/AL)
4. AFTER sending the message by e-mail mark the TO addressee with “ZEN/”  
(Example: TO ZEN/NNN0DOM VA)
5. Enter the Report into the MDS.

CLASSIFICATION LINE - There are only TWO possibilities for the classification line! One is for an actual incident and the other is for an exercise. I don't understand why this seems to be so hard and why I see so many variations, but here are the two choices:

UNCLAS ACTUAL INCIDENT or  
UNCLAS MARS EXERCISE

THAT'S IT! There are no other possibilities. Your classification line should be one of these two. NOTE the word “INCIDENT”; this is the correct term...NOT “EVENT.”

As an aside, I've noticed that some members are marking exercise messages other than EEI Reports with “MARS EXERCISE.” That is incorrect. The ONLY exercise messages they should include “MARS” before the word “EXERCISE” are EEI Reports...all others are to be marked just plain “EXERCISE” both after “UNCLAS” on the classification line or at the end of the message.

SUBJECT LINE - Here again you only have TWO choices

SUBJ: EEI REPORT or  
SUBJ: EEI REPORT UPDATE NR \_\_\_\_ (insert number 1, 2... as appropriate)

Again, THAT'S IT! There are no other possibilities for the subject line. Do not add any other information to the subject line.

PARAGRAPH LINE NUMBER 1 - This line too is very limited in the possibilities for correct format and is clearly laid out in NTP 8(C), paragraph D901. To correctly draft this line you only need TWO pieces of information: first, the EVENT IDENTIFIER; and, second, the STATE in which the event occurred (normally where you live; and I sure hope you know the state in which you live). Event Identifiers are listed in NTP 8(C), paragraph D902, and cover nearly any event

worth reporting...hurricanes, tornados, ice storms, etc. Nothing else should appear on this line. No cities or counties, no times, no nothing else...just follow the format.

Starting out on this line is the numeral "1" followed by a period, a space, the three-letter "REF" abbreviation for 'reference', another space, and the event identifier, a "/", and the state. Here is what line 1 should look like for a snow storm in Memphis, TN:

1. REF WHITE BLANKET/TN

THAT'S ALL! Note there is NO ":" (colon) between "REF" and the event identifier.

SUBPARAGRAPH A - Now here is your chance to wax eloquent. In this subparagraph you enter the specifics of "what, where, and when." Describe the event, give the precise location (include state), and give a time in DTG format (ddhhmmZ month and year). For time ALWAYS use "Z" time and be sure to include the day and year...again I say just like the DTG of a message.

SUBPARAGRAPHS B THRU F - just follow the outline in NTP 8(C) and be sure to keep it short and simple, avoid uncommon abbreviations, and wherever possible use the terms "N/A", "UNKNOWN", or "OPERATIONAL."

SUBPARAGRAPH G - This subparagraph provides DOM the source(s) of information so they may contact the source(s) to follow up on the EEI Report. Make your sources complete. Read NTP 8(C) for desired information to report. For radio/TV stations be sure to provide call sign (no one gives a hoot about the channel number), city, and state.

LAST LINE (just above the final BT) - Once again, only two choices:

ACTUAL INCIDENT    or  
MARS EXERCISE

Again note the correct word is "INCIDENT" and not "EVENT."

The EEI Report is not difficult and is clearly laid out in NTP 8(C), paragraph 901. That there are so few correctly submitted can mean only two things. First, our members are not reading this section of the NTP; and, second, our members are poorly trained. If the state directors and their ECOM Assistants will meet their training responsibilities, Region FOUR should easily achieve ZERO defects in EEI reporting.

# A VISIT FROM IVAN

Jim NNN0AS4 TWO

Along with many others along the Gulf Coast Betty and I had been watching hurricane Ivan for days as it marched through the Caribbean then past Cuba and into the Gulf of Mexico. In the Gulf the forecasters were not sure where Ivan was going; first, near Pensacola, then near New Orleans, then the Alabama/Mississippi border, and finally Mobile Bay. By Monday September 13<sup>th</sup> it seemed Ivan was going to come close enough for us to make full preparations. Monday and Tuesday we put up the storm panels on all windows and doors, filled all gas tanks and gas cans, checked the generator, laid in bags of ice and froze bottles of water in the freezer, and laid in canned food supplies. My beam antenna and inverted 'V' on the Hazer were lowered and a back-up G5RV rigged. Wednesday we finished preparations with water in the bath tub and several garbage cans, and rigged the strong back on the garage door. We were as ready as we knew how to be. With Ivan a category four and forecast to come ashore as a four or maybe a strong three I began to wonder if we had made the right decision to "ride it out." Too late now to change our mind...the roads were jammed even though interstate I-65 between Mobile and Montgomery had been made four lanes north bound. So with great anxiety and a knot in my stomach we "hunkered down" and waited.

The weather started to pick up about 18-1900 local time Wednesday as feeder bands came across the area. At 2000 just as I was going on the 4X9B net the power went out and I switched radios to the battery back-up rig. Can't use the generator until tomorrow after the weather clears enough to run it on a covered porch. The rig would only put out about 40 watts without tripping off...darn, thought I'd cured that problem. Thank goodness I had put out the COMCON ZERO/C-and-C net message earlier in the day to start the Region 4X2E net at 2030 (160130Z SEP 04). Did manage to pass a SITREP on the 4X2E net at about 2055. Seems 40 watts is doing the trick. Shifted to the Alabama state net at 2100 with 40 watts again doing the job and told the traffic reps to hold all my traffic until tomorrow. Signed off and went into the "hunker down" mode in a big easy chair with flashlight and battery lantern and listening to the radio simulcast of the local TV station. Betty went to bed! I couldn't imagine even trying to sleep. Knot in stomach growing larger. A couple of Tums helped.

Uh, Oh! Radio/TV weather guy says western eye wall of Ivan is breaking up and he's just seen a slight jog to the east. It's now about 2200 and seems Ivan will come ashore to the east of Mobile Bay with a 20 mile or so center. That means the eastern eye wall will move inland and north along the Alabama/Florida line. Not only will Pensacola be in the northeast quadrant, it will be in the eye wall for an extended period of time as Ivan tracks north. Stomach knot now BIG. Winds now constant about 40/50 mph with stronger gusts. Betty sleeping!

It's now about 2400 and wind noise is constant with obvious gusts. Debris hitting storm panels like bullets. BANG..POW. Have no idea what wind speed is. Not keeping

notes...wish I had. Radio says Ivan still on track for eastern shore of Mobile Bay. Stomach knot gone; resigned to fate.

Now about 0130 and radio/TV guy says eye has touched shore between Mobile Bay and Pensacola and will track north thru eastern Alabama. People in southern Escambia county who were going to “ride it out” are calling in on 911 for help. Emergency personnel cannot respond due to severe weather...wind now steady above 100 mph, gusts 120 plus. Noise is wild, shrieking, moaning, banging, steady then gusts even louder. I’m a little scared (h—, a lot scared).

About 0230 it has become worse...south eye wall is now on the coast in eastern Alabama, north eye wall about 20 miles inland, eastern eye wall along Alabama/Florida on top of us; noise level is wild; gusts worse. In all my years at sea I’ve never heard wind like this; house shakes, noise on storm panels constant like machine gun fire. Radio/TV off the air. We’re alone! Betty still asleep!

About 0330 I do believe it’s slacking off. Still frightening gusts, but noise between gusts is for sure less. Have made several checks around the house; see no water leaks, all windows & doors intact; garage door in place with water and leaves on the wall 2 feet either side of the door. Might survive. Betty still asleep!

About 0430 things have slowed down for sure. Feel safe enough to leave the lounge chair and lay down in our bedroom on second floor of split level. No sooner do that than parting gust shakes the house...Ivan says ‘goodby.’ I say ‘good riddance.’ Betty still asleep.

Next morning about 0630 open the hurricane shutter door and look out. What a mess! Trees down everywhere...two in my driveway. Roads all blocked with trees every 50 yards or so. Some trees uprooted, some snapped in middle, some twisted off. Trees are all bare...stripped of leaves...looks like winter. All power lines down...not a line between any two poles in my neighborhood. Some poles broken. Take a quick check of my house...can’t believe lack of damage. A few shingle tabs gone and that’s it. What a blessing! Betty awake...says “How’s things?” Oh. boy!

Set up generator, works fine; radio back on the air at full power on G5RV. Take down a few storm panels to let light in the house. Gonna live on the generator for 11 days... 3-4 hrs three times per day. Have a little bit of water out of the faucets (can’t drink it)...get more as the days pass...works for a cold shower...BURRR! Have phone for about four hours Thursday morning and then that’s gone, too...get it back on Monday. We don’t leave the house for two days...watch TV from Mobile stations...Pensacola stations all off the air, do some tree clean up, and eat light meals with some warmed in the microwave. Take a quick tour around the block on Saturday. Roads are single lane in many places and still blocked in others; power lines and guy cables across the road or hanging just above the road in others. Find out that the Interstate I-10 bridges across Pensacola Bay have multiple sections lifted out and dumped into the bay. Estimate is they were hit with

30-40 foot waves on top of a 16 foot storm surge. Drive half-way to Mobile on Sunday to get gas for generator. Areas to the west that were in the eye of the hurricane and under the western eye wall suffered much less damage than those areas where the eastern eye wall traveled over the top of us.

Electricity is the driving force. As it is restored block by block more services return. Hospitals were first by Friday. Some grocery stores on their own generators by Saturday but with few items to sell...can't get trucks in to restock. Major thoroughfares with stop lights and gas stations by Monday...long gas lines until Wednesday. We go to the grocery on Monday for some nice-to-have items...shelves are getting restocked...not many chilled items - no milk. Betty makes a quart of powdered milk...not too bad. Also on Monday some Pensacola TV and radio stations coming back on the air...pictures of damage are beyond belief - whole neighborhoods gone into a heap of rubble...this can't be real...looks like a Hollywood movie set.

So many have lost it all. Only a slab where once there was a house; houses completely gutted with only the shell still standing; roofs torn off and everything inside flooded beyond use...on and on beyond description.

Betty and I were fortunate beyond words. We suffered little house damage. We were prepared with food, water and a generator. The weather after the storm was quite nice...days in the mid 80's and nights in mid 60's with low humidity. We could work and sleep with little stress.

## **STEALTH ANTENNAS**

**Alice – NNN0HXK/GAL EIGHT**

So many hams find themselves living, or wanting to live, in lovely areas that (unfortunately for us) have a feeling against “ugly poles sticking up into our lovely view”. This can make the pleasure of recruiting new members to our MARS organizations a real chore. However, the ingenuity of the Ham operator is boundless.

Here, we are going to look at a few of the many different configurations that have been tried and found to work. Some of them are available commercially and most of them can be fabricated from materials easily available to the average ham.

Are you allowed a flagpole? One of our Florida Mars members recently put up a new one with a VERTICLE antenna within it and a flag on top. This is probably one of the simplest antennas to hide.

Many have installed the traditional G5RV as it may have many configurations and is not very expensive to purchase. Did you know its name comes from the call sign of the ham who first devised it? You may hang it between two trees. Locate it in the back yard and

on the side of the trees away from the street. Using a black feed line and black paint makes it almost invisible. This antenna may also be arranged along the top of a wooden fence although it may be a bit more difficult to tune because of its proximity to the ground. One manufacturer even suggests you may lay it on your roof. That would really be stealthy!

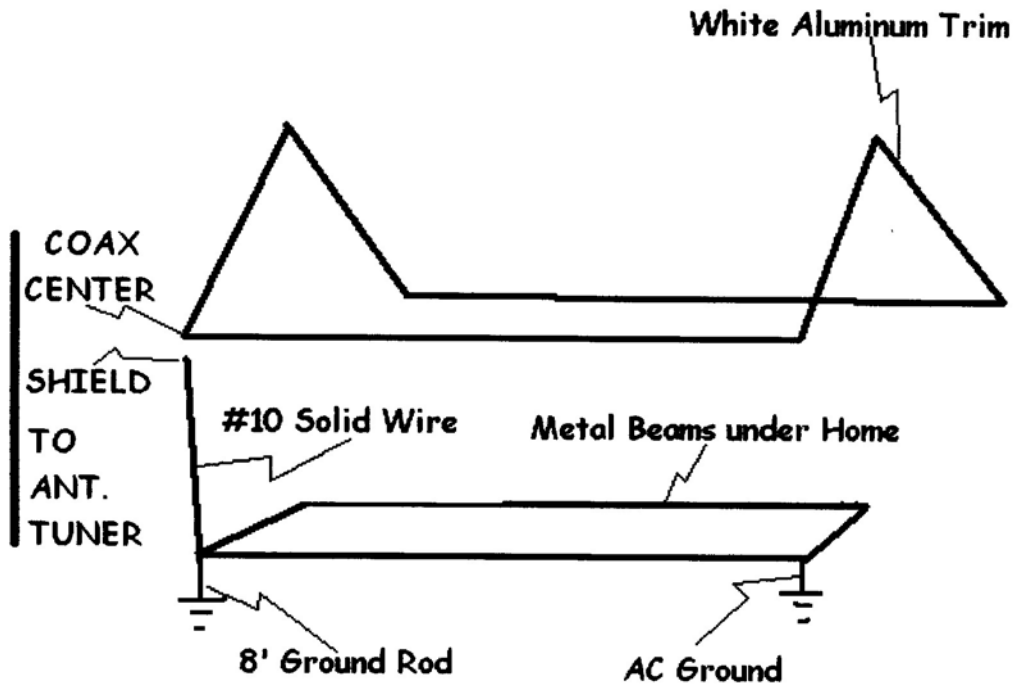
Do you remember playing with a “SLINKY”? It takes only two (remember the current toy is plastic so find some metal ones) to make a “HELITRIX”. For 10 to 40 meters, use a full coil on each side of the feed line and stretch it to 15 feet. Add one more coil on each end, stretch to ~30 feet and you have an 80M dipole. You can hang it between two trees, suspend it in your attic, or even fold it up to put in your suitcase when traveling. In a motel room, it can be spread around the edge of the ceiling or (if you are up a floor or two) hang it from a windowsill. If you install it outside, one manufacturer reminds you to carefully solder all connections well and paint with a good enamel spray paint

The “HUSTLER” can be much more than a mobile antenna. Use a clamp to attach the post to the gutter of a manufactured home. Add the bracket for holding several resonators and you have a fairly efficient multi-band antenna for HF. The use of a tuner is very helpful here although, if you tune each resonator to the frequency you usually use on that band, you may not find it necessary. A nice tree between you and your neighbors can be helpful here for concealing.

If you have lots of room, a WINDOM can be used. Its drawback is that it needs the two trees to be at least 66 feet apart and 35 feet high. However, if you can meet those criteria, you are provided with an all-band, no-tune antenna for great HF operating.

Do you have a garage? Are you interested in specific frequencies (for instance certain Mars nets)? A simple tuned dipole hung from the rafters of your garage may be just what you need.

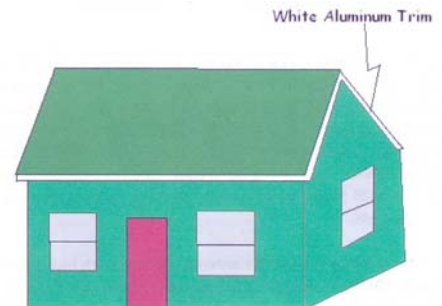
Lets take another look at your manufactured home. It probably has white aluminum trim going completely around at the roof edge. Connecting a wire from this trim to the receiver gives nice reception. Your home also will probably be supported by metal beams the entire length, which can be used as the counterpoise needed by an end fed antenna. W4FOR has provided us with a diagram of his setup. Note that both ends of the base are grounded. He also ran some quarter wave wires to his tuner to prevent HF feedback on the higher frequencies. He strongly suggests that the output power be limited to not more than 100 watts. After all, we don't want an arc to burn the house down.



**STEALTH ANTENNA BY W4FOR**

Some of this information is readily available on the web while the rest has come from many who were willing to assist me with this project. One of the latter closed with a note to all.

“Remember to be very supportive of your neighbors. If you hear a complaint about TV interference, jump up and help resolve the problem. Trying to hide will most certainly catch up with you eventually. I like having my neighbors’ support in my hobby instead of being the enemy.”



**HIS HOUSE**

Alice/ NNN0HXK/ GAL EIGHT

# **PROBLEM: Placing A Usable HF Antenna On A CC&R Restricted Property**

**BACKGROUND:** When I moved to my home in 1994, I was not a licensed Ham. Since receiving my Technician Licenses on 02/25/02, I had been urged by several Navy/Marine Corps operators to join up. This culminated with my being accepted as a full MARS member approximately 18 months ago.

After some quick mods to my Kenwood TS2000, I was ready to transmit but, where to put the antenna. In our CC&Rs, antennas are not specifically named but, are considered to fall under the provision requiring any 'structures' to be approved by the Homeowners Association Board. Of course, that approval was not forthcoming.

**PROBLEMS:** In researching possible 'stealthy' antenna configurations, I came up against several constraints (see Figure 1):

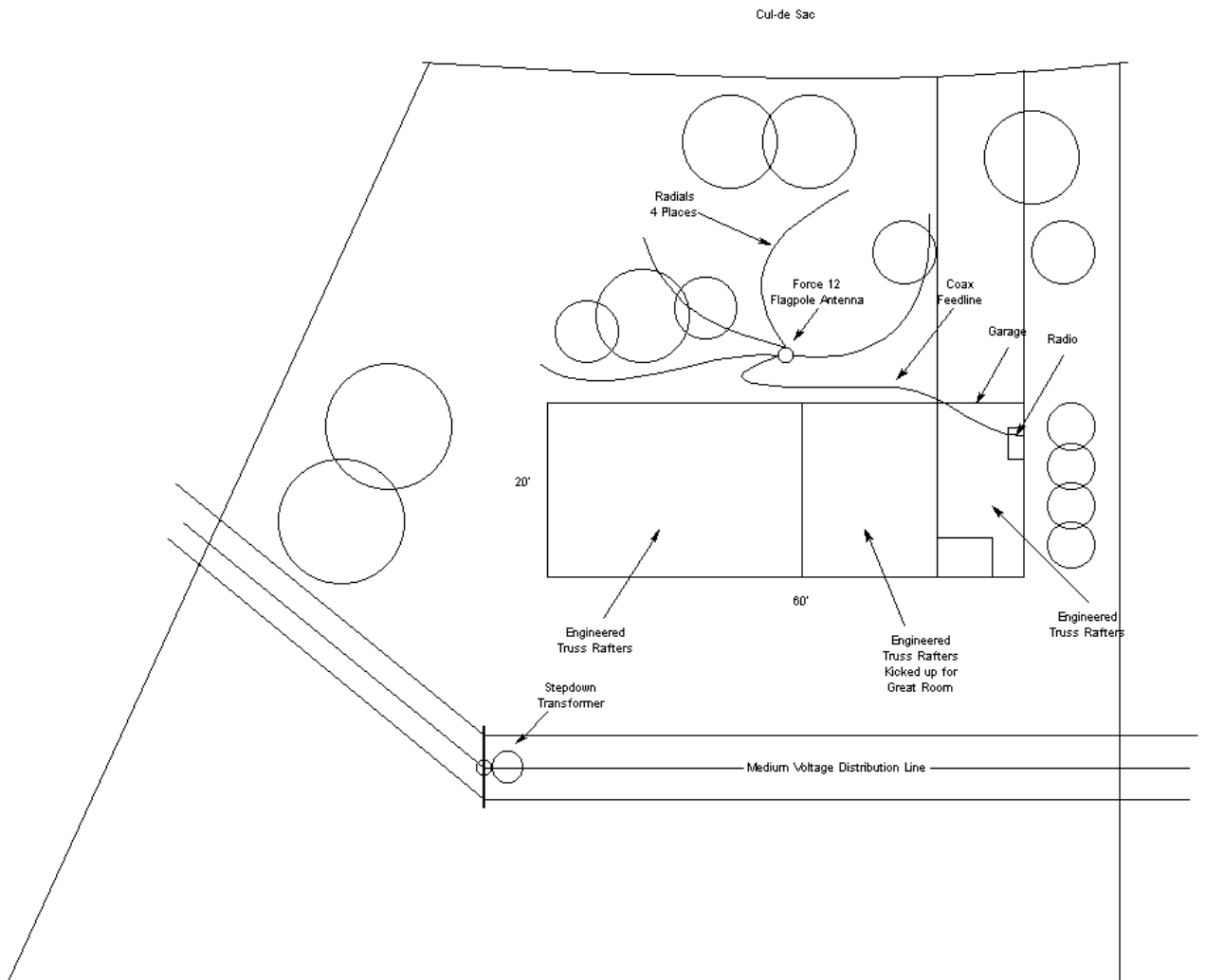
1. I have a medium voltage power distribution line running through my backyard. In the interests of safety, this ruled out any antennas in that location.
2. While I have suitable trees in the front and side yards, their visibility from the street rules out and wire or other dipole configurations.
3. My roof system is supported by engineered trusses. While they allow sufficient clearances for a dipole in the attic, the great room trusses block off access in the middle of the house.
4. My house has no gutters that could be loaded up for antennas.

**SOLUTION:** I have installed a Force 12 Flagpole antenna. With an extra 4 foot section (23 feet total height) in the front yard. The antenna has four, thirty foot, buried radials and a coax choke in the feedline and a four foot ground rod. Using this antenna with a manual tuner, I can get a signal out and can, most of the time, check in to a net on the first callup.

**IMPROVEMENTS:** After adding a capacity top hat to my mobile screwdriver antenna, and noting the significant increase in performance, I am planning to add the same to the flagpole. This will be a DX Engineering 'HotRodz' with six foot radials on a 22" mast added to the top of the flagpole. In addition, I will add a 102" whip for a 'stinger'. I also plan to add 8 more buried radials for a total of 12 along with another four foot ground rod.

**CONCLUSION:** When faced with CC&R restrictions, a Ham/MARS Operator must resort to subterfuge. My solution is my flagpole antenna installation. What would your

solution be?



**Figure 1 - Lot Plan**

# MT63 Update:

Bill NNN0TJC AL

Here is a tip (from NNN0ASA) brought back from the Region Four conference;

It seems that, especially during summer evening static crashes, MT63 at 1000Hz bandwidth gets through much better than the 2000Hz mode. It has something to do with the redundancy of MT63 and the longer transmission time interval of the 1000Hz mode giving characters a higher chance to make it through the static. Don't ask me any more about the theory...I've already told you more than I know and may have that wrong. But we have tried it, and sure enough it does do much better under static conditions. The speed advantage of 2000Hz is lost, but it is still as fast as Amtor FEC.

What I'm picking up from the various digital email groups is that MT63 is replacing Amtor more and more for net traffic, especially in Navy Marine Corps. Army, from what I hear, is using mostly Amtor, and some Army and Air Force MARS stations (especially, I believe, those involved with Shares) seem to be experimenting with Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) more than we do. ALE is designed to automatically find the best frequency to establish contact with a given station under varying distance and changing propagation conditions. ALE uses channel or frequency hopping to determine the best frequency for the link, so it requires radio/tuner equipment capable of multi-channel operation. It appears to have some advantage for Shares operation, but I'm not sure I see any advantage for State or Regional traffic.

The new website for the IZ8BLY MT63 terminal is;

<http://www.geocities.com/iz8bly/MT63/>

An unofficial email group has been established for the discussion of MARS digital topics and is available to all MARS members. If you are interested you may join at;

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MARS\\_Digital/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MARS_Digital/)

de Bill – NNN0TJC

## **FOURTH REGION CONFERENCE**

**SAM - NNN0SYR NC**

The Tennessee NAVMARCORMARS volunteered to host the 2004 Fourth Region Conference. They invited us to come-up on July 17th and 18th for the big meeting. They selected the Holiday Inn Hotel at Chattanooga, for the event. They also selected the perfect propagation, because when we arrived we had no problem communicating with anyone. There were members from every state in the Fourth Region save one. The facilities were great. Even though it was in middle of tourist season, there were plenty of restaurants within walking distance. Can you believe fast food restaurants, Italian Style? But they were all great!

The meetings were led by Curtis, AS4 (PSX). Sessions were started on time and seemed to end just at the right time. We met our new Area Director, Chief Jeffries, ASG. The Chief gave us a brief history of his Naval career and brought us up to date on his so far short tour as Central Director. He also told us of the other half of the Central Area, known as the "North" Central Area. Also there from the North Central Area was Dave, ASG ONE (EPY) from Michigan. So, from now on, the Central Area Admin nets on the third weekend of each month will be led by people we now know.

And of course "BO," Chief NAVMARCORMARS, started off the meeting with his presentation, bringing us up to date on NAVY MARS. His presentation, though brief, touched on every phase, including how NAVY MARS fits into the big picture of Homeland Security. Also, were things we could expect in the future in the way of operability with our two other MARS systems.

As always there were plenty of great comments put out by the state Directors and members. There were many questions thrown out for discussion. Between BO, Curtis, the Chief and Dave, and whoever wanted to join in, they all got answered. Jim, AS4 Two, hit hard on ECOMS, especially the reports needed, from the Planning Report to the Implementation Report, and finally the After Action Report. Never too often to hear.

The conference came to the climax at the banquet held at the Country Place Restaurant.

The presentation of Awards by Chief Jeffries to dozens was topped off by the announcement of the Green "C" Award going to Alabama, and then The Member Of The Year Award to Jim, SYH of Alabama. It was the conclusion of a great evening and a great Conference. When the Green "C" figures were passed out, several state Directors were heard so say, "we'll do better next year."

A final personal comment to our Tennessee hosts. Gentlemen, "It was a job well done!"

### **Addendum:**

[Region Four Conference pictures are available here](#)