



# NOVEMBER EXTRA..EXTRA JOTA SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

## Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary TAC Group



The Group: (Seated L to R) Neal KB1LXL, Don KB1LXH, Greg W1VFB, Carlos WP4US, (Standing L to R) George KB1KZV, Winn KB1OHV, Vinnie KB1KXT, Skip K1WMN, John N1UMJ, Paul W1EZY, Dave W1DFS, and Bruce NI1X.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the Taunton Area Communications Group turned one year old. With a strong showing from the membership along with special guest speaker Senator Marc Pacheco, we celebrated with presentations of certificates, an anniversary video, food, and camaraderie. Senator Pacheco congratulated us on our accomplishments, wished us many more, and explained how he and his committee in the Senate will strengthen homeland security here in the Bay State.

The evening was opened up by our President Don BurkeKB1LXH with the following:

Good evening and Welcome to the Taunton Area Communications Group First Anniversary Party.

It's hard to believe one year has past already.

First let me begin by thanking everyone for coming to our celebration tonight.

I'd really like to thanks the members of Taunton Area Communications Group. It's the members that make TACGroup what it is today.

Let me try to recap this past year. Just over a year ago Carlos Wharton WP4US, Greg Glynn W1VFB and I got together in Greg's home. The Taunton Area had many new ham radio operators thanks in part to Carlos's Technician Classes, but closest **active** clubs were in Attleboro, Bridgewater or Whitman. Why not Taunton? Why not the **Taunton Area**? Thus TACGroup was born. Emails were sent, Letters written, friends talked too and invited to attend.

Morton Hospital gave us a home and allows us to meet here the 3rd Monday of every month. Our first meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> we had 16 Local Amateur Radio Operators. Acushnet, Easton, Norton, Rehoboth, Raynham, Swansea and Taunton were all represented. Many of those who gathered were already active each month in ARES and RACES drills and some with NTS service and Packet Radio. Many of us already served as individual volunteers on the local, state and national levels.

However we now began as the TACGroup. A special event station at Boyden Refuse was recapped. Carlos WP4US was starting a new technician class Oct 23rd. Norton EMA was looking for help with a CERT class. Anawan Council BSA wanted us to put on a special event station for Tulpe Lodge of the OA in November at Camp Norse in Kingston.

A General class was planned for January, Four new Technician Class hams were voted in as members and TACGroup's Call sign was issued KC1TAC.

The Boston Marathon needed hams to help in April and many of us signed on.

The National Weather Service with the Hurricane Hunter Tour for 2007 was looking for an Amateur Radio Club to show off Ham Radio. So we stepped up. 9 TACGroup members spent the day at Quonset Point RI making contacts and explaining Amateur Radio to Grade school children. We showed off Amateur Radio and explained what is meant by "**When All Else Fails**"

By now we were feeling pretty proud of ourselves. The TACGroup had patches made, some bought vests and in July we held the first annual cookout.

September began with National Weather Service Sky Warn training. 35 people showed up right here in Morton Hospital to become trained weather spotters and how Amateur Radio had a roll a play

Finally TACGroup planned a trip to ARRL HQ in Connecticut to operate the W1AW station.

And today we celebrate one year. Our calendar is filling up.

This Saturday we are going back to Camp Norse BSA and operating during JOTA we will be showing Cub Scout what Ham radio is. A week later is EM-ARRL SET Drill.

In November many of us will again take part in RACES and ARES monthly drills

We have come a long way in one year and our members are the reason why.



Don KB1LXH, Morton Hospital President Mr. Thomas C. Porter and Carlos WP4US

Don introduced Thomas Porter, President of Morton Hospital and Medical Center. Mr. Porter congratulated the Group and extended his hope that our relationship with the hospital would Don then introduced Carlos Wharton WP4US who introduced Senator Pacheco. Senator Pacheco extended his congratulations and went on to explain how the state's Post Audit and Oversight Committee study on the Commonwealth's Homeland Security shows how the state is lagging in its preparedness and that our efforts with communications will pay off in the future.

Presentations were then made by Carlos and Don. The first was to Skip Newall K1WMN for his determination and accomplishment in going from Technician to General class in one exam session and then going several months later and getting his Extra class license. Skip is now testing for the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator so that he can help others attain their higher class licenses.

Also presented with a certificate was John Miller N1UMJ for his continuing efforts in RACES, ARES, and NTS. John became the ARRL's "First Region Net, Cycle Two Net Manager" in June. Congratulations to John.

And Don presented the President' Award to Greg Glynn W1VFB for his contribution to the Groups successful special events, like the Arts and Air Festival at Boyden Bird Sanctuary, the Tulpe Lodge, Order of the Arrow event at Camp Norse in Kingston, Mass, the "Hurricane Awareness Tour" event at Quonset Point Airport in Rhode Island, and the very successful SkyWarn training session this fall. Also for his homebrew projects, his preparation of the monthly newsletter, and his continued efforts on behalf of the TAC Group. Congratulations Greg on a job well done.

During the evening a video played, that was produced by Greg W1VFB, with pictures and video of the Group along with two clips from the ARRL. Refreshments were served with a cake decorated by Don KB1LXH. (One of his many talents.)



Senator Marc Pacheco



John N1UMJ receiving his certificate from Carlos WP4US and Don KB1LXH.

**A brief business meeting was held before the festivities. The minutes submitted by our Secretary George Pereira are as follows:**

Minutes of the October 15, 2007 Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Don Burke at 6:30PM.

Members present were:

George KB1KZV	John N1UMJ	Vinnie KB1KZT	Skip K1WMN
Paul KB1EZY	Carlos WP4US	Greg W1VFB	Dave W1DFS
Neal KB1LXL	Don KB1LXH	Bruce NI1X	

A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted and approved as read in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasure's report was accepted and approved.

Committee Reports:

The next Races/Ares drill will be 11/05/2007.

New Business:

Sky Warn training was held 9/18/2007. It was extremely gratifying to see 35 people on the 18<sup>th</sup>. (Speaking personally this was the best public attendance I've seen at a SkyWarn training session since my involvement with SkyWarn started in 2003.)

The visit to ARRL HQ on October 10<sup>th</sup> was finally held. "Lots of cubicles" was one comment. The group operated the W1AW stations while at the HQ.

The TACG one year anniversary will be held immediately after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next meeting of TACG will be November 19, 2007 at 7:00 at the Stone Conference Room, Morton Hospital.

Respectfully submitted by  
George Pereira KB1KZV  
Secretary



## **RACES Training.**

The regular RACES training drill was held on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Taunton EOC. Greg W1VFB was control operator for the evening with seven members of TACG present. Two messages were received from Net Controller John N1UMJ from the MEMA Bunker in Bridgewater, MA.



**Present were seated L to R: Rudy KB1LXI, Carlos WP4US, Neal KB1LXL. Standing L to R: Bruce NI1X, Bob K1BAR, Don KB1LXH, Greg W1VFB.**

## ***A Report from the ARRL Newsletter by Walt Heeney N8LJM*** **New EmComm Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, Speaks at Great Lakes Division Convention**

On September 22, the ARRL's new Emergency Preparedness & Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, spoke at the Great Lakes Division Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The following summary of Dura's remarks is based on the notes of attendee Walt Heeney, N8LJM.

Dura announced that the Statement of Understanding with the American Red Cross is currently in negotiation, with staff members from ARRL and ARC having already met once for discussion. A major issue is the Red Cross background check requirement. The ARC has said it values ARES contributions, and ARRL certainly wants to continue to support the ARC. The Red Cross has suggested that ARRL conduct its own criminal background checks, but that is not a mission the League will take on. Additionally, becoming an ARES member does not require League membership which would complicate this further. ARRL recognizes background checks are necessities, but feels that only a criminal check is warranted.

A new ARRL EmComm course on-line will focus on digital modes, starting about the first of the year.

Turning to the issue of resource typing, Dura said that using the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) NIMS, the ARRL will be defining types of radio assets needed for EmComm activity. Also to assist the field, "best practices" utilized by various ARES groups will be highlighted and applied across the Nation as appropriate. There is no reason he said, to reinvent the wheel.

Dura explained the difference between "IDs" and "Credentials": IDs show who you are, while credentials provide your capabilities, training, education and authorizations. Emergency response agencies are looking for both. Ultimately, IDs will include credentials, which will determine who can serve where in and around the disaster area.

Integration of various EmComm entities is a goal. Mutual aid will improve with closer ties among ARES, RACES, SKYWARN, and with counties, states and other levels of emergency management, Dura said.

DHS has formed a new unit devoted to EmComm functions. This unit should be stood up with staffing before the end of the year according to sources.

Watch for more spontaneous ARES drills. Dura activated one over the Labor Day weekend to test responses. There will be more top down spontaneous drills to test readiness and participation.

The staff at ARRL is considering moving the dates of the venerable Simulated Emergency Test (SET) with the likelihood of having regional and potentially national SETS. These regional SETS will be based upon the hazards and risks inherent to the locale.

For his presentation, Dura was wearing a Blackberry (telephone, e-mail, SMS, IM) and a Skytel 2 way pager, and an H-T. He said that ARES members should not rely on ham radio alone to maintain a heightened level of situational awareness. Emergency communicators must be able to use multiple tools so they can use what works best at a particular scene.

Dura's final comment was that the days are almost over when ARES will accept volunteers who say "call me if you need me," but fail to be trained, attend meetings and participate in drills. [Thanks to Walt Heeney, N8LJM, for this report]



# KC1TAC

## TAUNTON AREA

### COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

### EVENT CALENDAR

# November 2007

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				<b>1</b> TADARC St. Augustine School Taunton, UK	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> TADARC St. Augustine School Taunton, UK	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Massasoit ARC 7:30p.m. Bridgewater EOC StrudyARC 8:00p.m. Rice/Web Conf. Sturdy Mem Hosp	<b>14</b> Whitman ARC 6:30pm. Whitman Public Library	<b>15</b> TADARC St. Augustine School Taunton, UK	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> TACG Meeting 7:00p.m. Stone Conf. Morton Hosp.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Thanksgiving  TADARC St. Augustine School Taunton, UK	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> TADARC St. Augustine School Taunton, UK	<b>30</b>	

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT THAT SHOULD BE ON THE CALEDAR PLEASE SEND IT TO GREG AT [gglyn@comcast.net](mailto:gglyn@comcast.net). We need more information for the calendar.!!!

# Jamboree on the Air--Camp Norse Style



The participants: L to R seated: Neal KB1LXL, Brandon SWL, John N1UMJ, Paul Moss KB1MTW from the 'Whitman Club. Standing L to R: Don KB1LXH, Mike Supple KB1OEP from the Whitman Club, Bruce NI1X, and Carlos WP4US.

## As Don KB1LXH reports—

We recorded about 130 Cub Scouts on the air. Amazing!!! Just over 200 came to the event.

I really wanted to get the boys on air and I was not really concerned about HF contacts. Most of the other JOTA stations via HF were a one shot; name/call/ next! No chance to get a scout on air.

It meant more to the boys to talk to someone, than to listen to a bunch of static, and not get a chance to play.

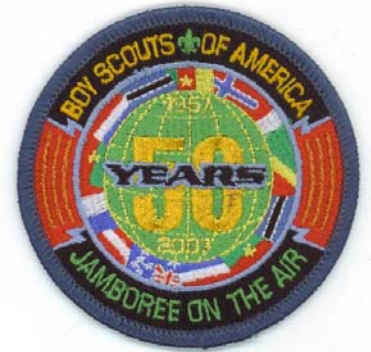
Once we got set-up we really began to move the boys through the station. I spoke for a minute or two about call signs and antennas. Neal worked the 2M. John and Carlos tried the HF. Of course, no one wanted to talk only add to their log books.

Brandon (Neal's Grandson) wrote all the boys names down who got on the air (Great idea!) as Neal worked the radio. Meanwhile Paul Moss KB1MTW was trying the HF Bands too. Mike Supple KB1OEP was trying to work another 2M repeater as well as Greg Noyes KB1OAW each with home brew 2M antennas. Daniel Noyes KB1OAY, Bill Hayden N1FRE and Bruce Hayden NI1X were also on hand.

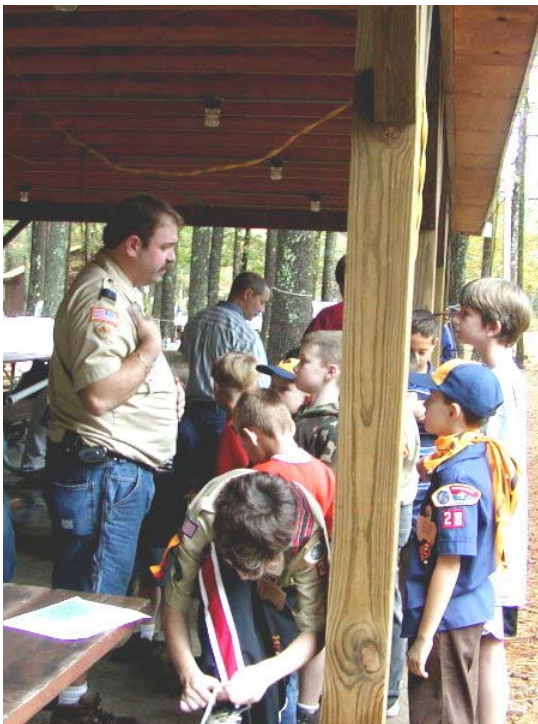
50th Jamboree-on-the-Air  
October 19-21, 2007



Boy Scouts of America  
International Division



Contacts were made to the UK via Echolink and the Bridgewater repeater and several local JOTA sites. Mike Tunney M0TOA in Taunton, England was working the GB0THW site at Huish Wood Scout Camp. Other contacts were with WC1EOC the Brockton Emergency Management RACES Club and W1MV the Massasoit Radio Club from the Bridgewater EOC later in the afternoon. Other contacts were from Greg W1VFB from his QTH and while mobile, also Kevin O'Donnell K1KOD and Joe Machado K1JOE while they were mobile.



# **Taunton Area Communications Group**

## **2007 Group Officers**



**President Don Burke KB1LXH**  
**Vice President Greg Glynn W1VFB**  
**Secretary George Perreira KB1KZV**  
**Treasurer Neal Harrington KB1LXL**  
**Trustee Carlos Wharton WP4US**

**The Taunton Area Communciations Group meets every third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.  
at Morton Hospital, 55 Washinton Street, Taunton, Mass. in the Margaret Stone Conference Room.**

