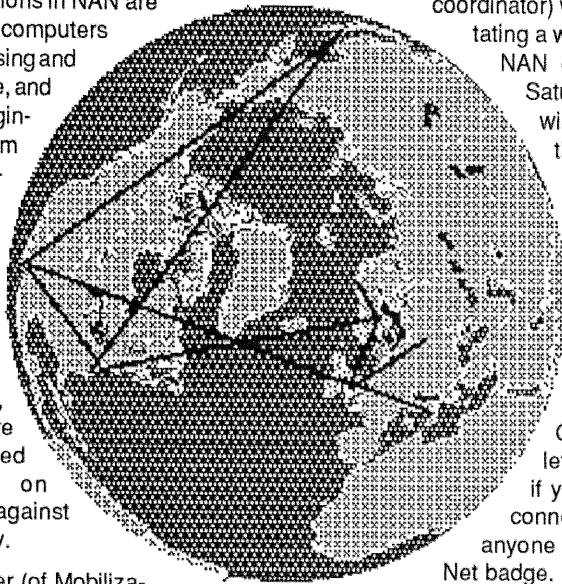


# North Atlantic Network Computer Communications

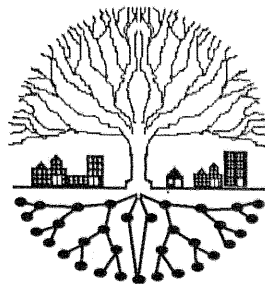
Many organizations in NAN are already using computers for word processing and list maintenance, and some are beginning to use them for communication. We would like to use them to improve the ease, speed, and consistency of communications within the NAN, and to get more people involved and informed on campaigning against naval weaponry.

Charlie Scheiner (of Mobilization for Survival) and Mitra (GreenNet's



coordinator) will be co-facilitating a workshop at the NAN conference on Saturday. There will be a stand in the foyer with a computer that can connect to the network - look there for a notice with the time of the next demonstration. Pick up a GreenNet leaflet from this stand if you want to get connected, or ask anyone with a GreenNet badge.

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## NAN - Computer Communications Workshop

Most of the discussion will be specifically about how we can use electronic communications, but the workshop will include an introduction to fundamental concepts. Once workshop participants have a common understanding of the possibilities, means, and costs of this technology, we will discuss ways that NAN might use it.

1. What is a computer, a modem, a communications link, a network?
2. How can networks be used: conferencing, electronic mail, bulletin boards?
3. Existing GreenNet/PeaceNet (APC) network: what it does, who uses it, how has it been useful?
4. Costs: financial, security, reliability, political.

Once workshop participants have a common understanding of the possibilities, means, and costs of this technology, we will discuss several present and future ways that NAN can use it:

1. New conferences on APC:
  - nan.general - background information.
  - nan.ships - Will contain basic data on every nuclear capable warship: what weapons do they carry, where they are based, together with current, updated reports on protests or other newsworthy events they have provoked.
2. Use of person-to-person electronic mail for communications (cheaper than telephone, time-zone independent, more reliable than the (UK) post, and fast). Examples of how this has been used, and future possibilities.
3. Using mail to groups, or private conferences: carrying out NAN Working Group discussions without airfares, sharing information, drafting documents and proposals for action, and coordinating Spring Actions to Disarm the Seas.

4. Using public conferencing: this can, at least in part, make up for the problems with the NAN newsletter (or lack thereof). Responsibility for supplying material can be decentralized, and editing and production will be much easier and faster. A NAN contact in each region or country could print the newsletter (or selected articles) for distribution to non-computerized subscribers in their region.
5. Improving inter-regional communication. There are APC subscribers all around the globe, and the networks interface with other (commercial) networks in common use. Many groups working on naval issues in the Pacific, Indian, Mediterranean, Caribbean, and other seas are already using computer networking; even more might decide to if NAN encourages them. Since the superpowers' navies plan and communicate globally, so must we.
6. Crisis response/action alerts. This technology offers the possibility for rapid, widespread dissemination of calls to action. Other workshops during the NAN Conference will discuss the specifics of Ports Alert and Crisis Response networks; this workshop will explore the advantages and disadvantages of using APC as part of these networks.
7. Anything else people want to suggest. This workshop is intended as a preliminary discussion on how NAN can use computerized communication, and is open to all possibilities.

Hopefully, the workshop will come up with some proposals to the NAN working group, or at least agreement among participants to begin to implement some of the ideas discussed above. While we will spend some time discussing the theory and applications of computerized communication in the abstract, we would like to put the discussion into practice.

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