

Thinking Day On The Air

A rewarding club outreach
and public service activity

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Background

- World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides
- Thinking Day On The Air
 - An Amateur Radio Special Event
 - Originated in the UK
 - Like the Boy Scouts' Jamboree On The Air
 - The weekend closest to 22 February



NVARC – TDOTA 2015 & 2016



One Room, 80 Girls: Bedlam!



2016 – Ample Facilities



TDOTA-2016 Participation

Troop	Age Group	Hometown	Scouts	Adults
12416	4-5 grade	Raymond NH	4	5
10664 12842	K-1 grade 4-5 grade	Candia NH	3 3	2 2
20971 22281 22367	K-1 grade 2-3 grade 6-8 grade	Deerfield NH	6 7 4	2 2 2
20604	2-3 grade 4-5 grade 11-12 grade	Epsom NH	2 7 2	2
11043 11142	4-5 grade 6-8 grade	Northwood NH	3 7	3 2
10449	2-3 grade	Nottingham NH	3 7	3 2
18780	2-3 grade	Brookline NH	1	1
12326	6-8 grade	Georgetown MA	2	2
75237	2-3 grade	Groton MA	5	2

**66 Girl Scouts and 32 Girl Scout leaders,
representing 13 troops, 9 towns, and 2 states
--and 7 Radio Amateur volunteers**



Set-up and Operations

- Tower
- Rig
- Morse code oscillators
- FRS handi-talkies
- Departed home <0800
- Arrived
- Set up tower, Yagi, dipoles.
Set up IC-756PRO, grayline demo.
- Set up code room
- 0900-1500: ops
- Tear-down, departure
- Home again ~1800



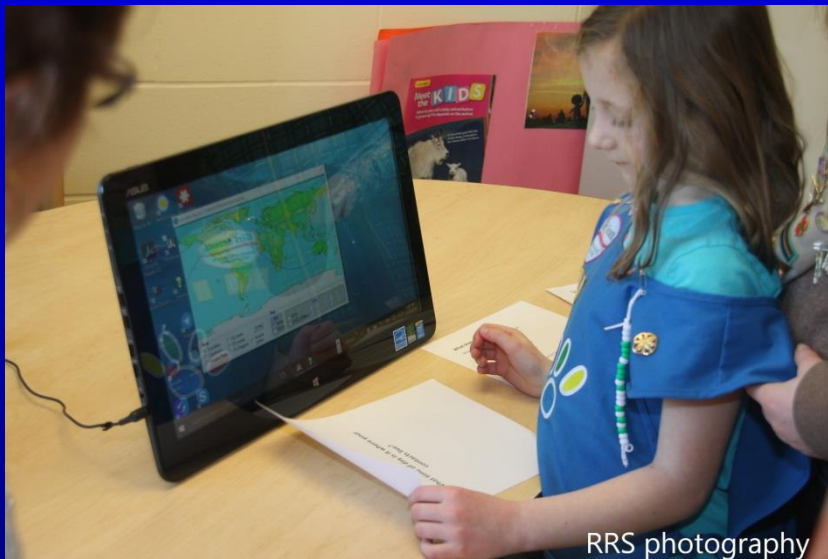
Activities and Organization

- Three rooms
 - Auditorium-cafeteria: communications
 - Classroom 1: crafts and Morse code
 - Classroom 2: world map, grayline demo, and station
- “Net Control” FRS handi-talkies for room-to-room reporting



Recognizing a Larger World

- World map
- “Grayline” display of day/night



Learning About Communication

- Sound
- Messages
- Technology



RRS photography



Related Craft Activities



Learning Morse Code

- Our most popular activity
- Many returnees throughout the day



Contacting Radio Amateurs



Planning and Organizing

- Hams, it's a Girl Scout activity. We're here for support. Planning is part of their personal growth.
 - Troop goals
 - Size and venue
 - Invitations to other troops
 - Infrastructure and hospitality
 - Thinking Day activities
 - Experiences
 - Experiments
 - Getting on the air

Connecting Club-to-Troop

- Youth organizations tend to receive unsolicited proposals with caution.
- Establish person-to-person contacts within your community—early and often!
- Keep it simple. The girls' ages are 5-17.
 - ...but varied. *The girls' ages are 5-17.*



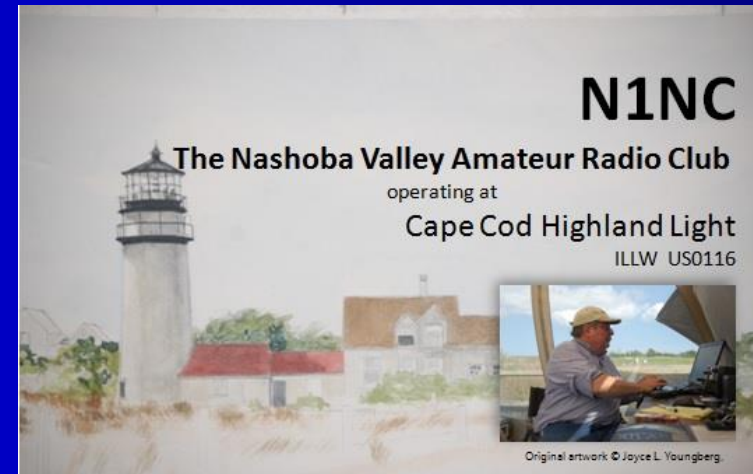
What's the Club Do?

- **Equipment**
 - A 100w rig is probably enough
 - Prepare for failures and forgotten items
- **Antennas**
 - Fan dipole (80/40, 10/15/20)
- **Site survey**
- **Operators**
- **Time (and enjoyment!)**



Simplicity

- It doesn't take lots of gear or a tower.
- Think Field Day (or less)
 - Hilltopping
 - NPOTA
 - SOTA
- But fixed.
Not a mobile rig and extension cables.



One rig, two dipoles, coax, rope.



Spot yourself if you can.



Then Let the Magic Happen!



The Follow-up

- QSLs
- Interest Patch support
- Next year



TDOTA Resources

<http://www.girlguides-on-the-air.co.uk/>

WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding
Guides on the Air

ON THE AIR

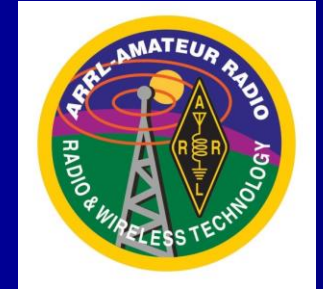
HOME NEWS TAKING PART ACTIVITIES STATION LIST DOWNLOADS CONTACT

TDOTA 2016
will be the 3rd full weekend in February 20 & 21

TDOTA is an opportunity for the members of Girlguiding from the youngest Rainbow to the oldest Trefoil Guild member to talk to other members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world via Amateur Radio.

The 22nd February is Thinking Day because it was the birthday of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout and Guide movements, and his wife Olave, who was the first World Chief Guide.

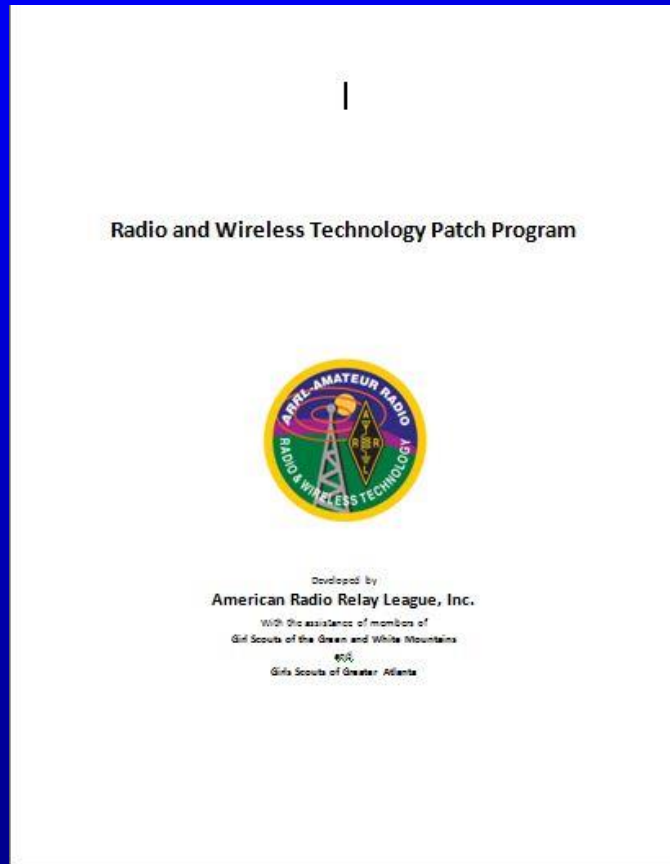
Patch Program



- *New Radio and Wireless Technology Patch program*
- *Led by American Radio Relay League*
 - *The National Association for Amateur Radio*
- *Authored by Radio Amateurs who are members of*
 - *ARRL*
 - *Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta*
 - *Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains*
 - *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers*
 - *St Thomas Aquinas College (New Jersey)*



Patch Resources



- Debuted in April 2016
- Pamphlet available soon
 - On line
<http://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/>
 - At GSGWM store
1 Commerce Drive,
Bedford, NH
- Pamphlet and completion patches from ARRL

<http://www.arrl.org/girl-scouts-radio-patch>



Thanks to

- **Stan Pozerski, KD1LE Pepperell MA**
- **Anita Kemmerer, AB1QB Hollis NH**
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- **Bruce Blain, K1BG Harvard MA**
- **Greg Cote, WY1X Groton MA**
- **Jill Galus, KB1SWV Raymond NH**
- **Skip Youngberg, K1NKR Tyngsboro MA**
- **Troop 12416 Raymond NH**
- **The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club**



