

SIGNAL

October 1992 Volume 1 Number 4

This month's speaker

The Candy Store Comes to Us...

*Breathes there a ham with soul so dead
Who never jumped in their car to head
to Salem New Hampshire to visit HRO?*

Most of you probably have been to HRO in Salem and know Paul, NW1U. Seeing him dart back and forth behind the counter in the Saturday hustle and bustle, you've probably thought to yourself how nice it would be to corner him and ask those Telling Questions.

This month Paul is coming to NVARC and bringing some new equipment to demonstrate. He's ready for questions. It's after hours. Should be a good time for all, and just in time to make out your holiday shopping list....

Ham class report card

by Ben, KB1FJ

The enrollment in the current class is nothing short of spectacular. We have Northeastern University, North Middlesex Regional High School, Turkey Hill Middle School, Hawthorn Brook Middle School, Groton-Dunstable Middle School, Varnum Brook Middle School and Prescott School represented in the ham classes which started on October 30th. There are 24 students enrolled. About half of them are young folk as you can see by the schools the represent.

I am very pleased to see whole families working to get their ham tickets. What is very interesting also is that most people taking the class this time indicate that they want to learn Morse code also. This class just may set some sort of record that will be hard to top in the future.

Good luck to all of you! Don't hesitate to use your Elmer.

Can you hear us?

On October 10th, the KB1FJ repeater on 447.9 MHz changed its antenna and made a few minor improvements. Initial results seem to indicate better coverage, though still not as good as we'd like. Give it a try. Word has it that dual-band radios are outselling single-banders, so 440 is destined to be a hot band.

How I spend my Sundays...

By Bruce, K1BG

Several Sundays ago, I stopped by the Hollis (NH.) Flea Market. The flea market happens every Sunday morning through mid October, and you can find all sorts of junk there, both new and old. It's a great place to pick up tools, electrical tape, and lots of things you don't need. My wife especially likes to go there.

One of the things in great abundance there is old books and magazines. I happened to find an old box of ham related stuff that was really interesting. For 25 cents each (5 for a buck) was a load of old QSTs, 73s, and CQ magazines. Being a big spender, I took 5 items. I got three QSTs, an old copy of "How to Become a Radio Amateur" and a copy of "A Course In Radio Fundamentals (just like the ones I studied before I got my novice).

The QSTs were the June, November, and December 1951 issues. (Field Day is in June, and the scores are usually in November or December!!). The June issue looked the most interesting, because it had a cartoon of the fictional Podunk Hollow ARC on the cover, preparing for Field Day. Funny how many of their members look like some of our

members.... I decided to read the June issue from cover to cover.

Boy has QST changed over the years! The cover price was only 40 cents (ARRL membership was \$4.00)! Those of you who were licensed more than 15 years or so ago remember the smaller QST format. Even though QST is a better magazine today (my personal opinion), I still can't get used to the new size. Seeing the smaller size brought back some good memories.

In June, 1951, virtually all the US ham calls began with "W". Locals were known by their final two or three. Thus, W1XYZ was locally known as XYZ. Over larger distances (as in within the US) he was 1XYZ. The "Section News" of modern QST was called "Station Activities", and all the hams mentioned in the EMa section went by their last three. While it looks really weird (by today's standards), it did the job. "ALP" was still the EMa SCM back then. No mention was made of Pepperell or Groton, though.....

Some of the ARRL Divisions and Sections were quite different. Canada was still part of the ARRL (pre CRRL), with five divisions and eight sections. Cuba was part of the West Indies section (pre Castro), with Puerto Rico and the US Virgins. New England and EMa have not changed since then, however.

WWII was recently over and the cold war was just heating up, and this was reflected in regular QST columns such as "Military Amateur Radio System" (MARS) and "United States Naval Reserve". Another regular column was "On The Air With Single Sideband". AM was still the rage, and SSB was considered Donald Duck quackery. Many of today's columns were there back then, including "Silent Keys", "How's DX?", "It Seems To Us", and "In QST 25 Years Ago This Month" (which was re-run as "50 Years Ago Today" in June, 1976!!). One big difference was that all the advertisements were from US equipment manufacturers. Boy, has that changed!

Most of the articles were really great. One in particular, "The Dallas Plan for TVI" was near and dear to my heart. It is as relevant today as it was then. Seems that there was about as

much attention paid to good TV design back then as there is now. There was also an article about novice stations, as the novice and technician licenses were about to go into effect during the summer of 1951. Best of all was the Field Day announcement and rules. The contest began at 4PM local time (no matter which time zone you were in), and since there was no 15 meter band back then, you couldn't use it. You could, however, use 26.96 MHz to 27.23 MHz band. I wonder what happened to that band?

All in all, it was a lot of fun going through the old mags, and I recommend it to old buzzards and newcomers alike. The November and December QSTs were equally entertaining. See if you can pick up any oldies at a flea market. And give the Hollis flea market a try. It's also a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Nashoba Valley Training Net

By KB1FJ, Net Manager

When the NVTN first started operating back in July 1992, I quite frankly was not expecting much participation. I thought that if I was lucky, maybe two or three guys would show up for a few weeks and then it would probably die out after those guys got their CW speed up. That is nothing like what has happened. To date, we have had 11 club members check in. Most do so fairly regularly. We have even had some local hams who are not in the club stop by. We have also had check-ins from Stow, MA and Keene, NH.

The net is run on a formal basis until everyone has had a chance to check in and pass whatever traffic they may have. We then close the net and just rag chew. I have seen some astonishing changes in the abilities to copy and send CW. By using a formal net structure, we are learning how to pass messages and, most importantly, we are learning net discipline. Discipline is absolutely required in order to facilitate the orderly operation of traffic handling.

Everyone is asked to try and check in at the beginning of the net and be patient. When

there are several check-ins it takes a little time to welcome each and determine if they have traffic. I encourage everyone to originate as many messages as you can. You should have at least one per week. Send something to someone in the net. It doesn't have to be much, as a matter of fact you should try and keep each message in the range of 20 to 30 words.

Get yourself an ARRL Operating Manual, a Net Directory or whatever has the message formatting and QN/QS/QR signals and check in. I know you will have fun and probably learn something in the process.

I plan to have a regular monthly column about the net. We will attempt to highlight our goals and accomplishments. I am thinking of beginning some sort of awards program for participation. Any thoughts you may have in this regard will certainly be welcomed.

Come and join us on 28.166 at 8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. [*Excepting club meeting Thursdays, of course -- ed.*]

The Business Section

Treasurer's Report

Ben Akins, KB1FJ, Treasurer

As of 6 October 1992 we have \$105 in the bank and \$40.19 in cash.

We purchased liability insurance and some postage stamps.

We have outstanding receivables for a few books from the training class, however we ourselves still have to pay for the books.

Don't forget to join or renew your ARRL membership through the club. We get a nice little rebate on each. (Someone has to get the money -- it might as well be your club, right?)

The 50/50 drawing is adding a little money each month, but we need more income. Any suggestions?

There are still quite a few badges waiting to be picked up. Cost is \$2.00 - see me at the next meeting to pick up your badge.

SO, HOW COPY?

NVARC members should be receiving this copy of *NVARC Signal* in the mail just prior to the Thursday meeting. This is our first try at mass mailing and we've had a couple of snags, but you should be noticing a continuing trend of improvement.

We are also sending out copies to the ham population at large to try and raise NVARC's profile. If you are one of the people who receive a complimentary copy, please consider joining us at our next meeting -- we meet the third Thursday of every month at the Pepperell VFW hall. In October that would be the 15th and in November it's the 19th. Please make an effort to come by, we're a great bunch of people.

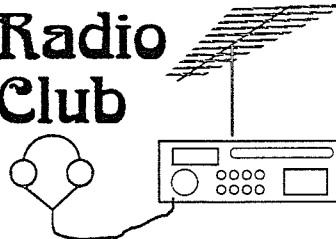
I'm pleased to note that we have several member-generated articles in this issue. If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, please do so. Generally, the ideal submission would be a text file on an IBM PC formatted disk, though I can work with anything from handwritten copy to Word for Windows formatted articles (the article will be coerced into the newsletter's format du jour though.)

-- KC1TD

Frequencies to remember

- The local 440 repeater is KB1FJ -- 447.9 / 442.9
- The "local frequency" on two meters is 146.49 FM simplex.
- The local CW net meets at 0000 UTC (8:00pm EDT) on 28.166MHz on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club



President: Earl Russell, WR1Y
Vice President: Bruce Blain, K1BG
Secretary: Duane Long, KD1JY
Treasurer: Ben Akins, KB1FJ

Membership \$12 January to December,
not pro-rated for 1992.

Meetings are on the third Thursday of the
Month and 7:30 p.m. in the Pepperell VFW
hall off route 113 in Pepperell.

The newsletter is published monthly and
distributed at the meeting. Submissions,
corrections and inquiries should be
directed to the newsletter editor Patrick
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