



SIGNAL

July 1994 Volume 3 Number 07

The President's Column

This has certainly been a month packed with activities. Field Day, the Harvard Bike Race, the Pepperell Road Race, and the 4th of July Parade. I think we did a good job at all of them which is tough when they come so fast and close together.

Field Day is covered in detail elsewhere, but here are some of my observations. It was the the most stations that we have run since I've been around. The location made it easy to get to and we had a few visitors. The location also made for a comfortable setup (no poison ivy this year). We had four screen tents this year and it helped reduce the congestion at the operating positions. It can be difficult picking up that weak CW contact when the person next to you is yelling "CQ field day" into the microphone at the SSB station. The other thing more space does is make it easier to protect things from the rain that inevitably falls sometime during the Field Day event.

Not many of the new Hams attended Field Day. Here's some information that might encourage them next year.

Some might be scared off by the thought that this is some high pressure contest that's only for the experienced.----Not so or not necessarily so, when you take one of the operating positions its up to you just how fast or serious it is. If I had a picture I'd put it here, but someone was sleeping at one of them this year. He wasn't fast or serious, not at that point.

Some might have felt restricted by their license class (or lack thereof) or their experience.----Not to worry, no matter what your license class we were running under an Extra call on all but the Novice station. And what better opportunity to learn than with someone at your side who's done this before (even if it was only 10 minutes before). Normally there were two at each station, one logging and one operating, although there were times with one or three. But there was always help available.

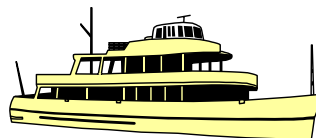
It's a 24 hour deal.----Well the contest is, that doesn't mean you have to make a 24 hour commitment to participate. There were a few that did the 24 hours. But most did only a portion. This ranged from only breezing through at some point to only leaving for a few hours sleep. Some just helped to set up or take down. Some operated for a few hours when it was convenient for them.

The nice aspect is that you can observe or do some things that you couldn't at home. Whether your limit is because of knowledge, equipment, or privilege. With so many people around to help or answer questions, just about everyone is going to learn something. and you'll get a taste of that "other" aspect you always wondered about. So with that I'll wrap up my notes on the 1994 Field Day. I hope 1995 Field Day goes off as well and I hope to see you all there.

We have had a flurry of publicity lately. What with Earls work with local media high lighting Field Day, Field Day itself, contact at local VE sessions, and our newsletter mailings. And it wasn't wasted. In the last few weeks there has been at least one new member who learned of NVARC from each of these activities.

Stan KD1LE

At The Last Meeting



Towne Conover spoke about a research expedition to the Alacran Reef off the Yucatan

Peninsula (XE land). While primarily business, they operated HF and attracted the attention of many DXers. He covered many aspects of coral reefs and atolls; how they are formed and grow, the animals, birds, and fish that inhabit them, and comparisons between those in the different oceans.

The ARRL Library Book Set that was purchased for the Pepperell Library was on display. It now resides at the library. It is a 23 book set of familiar ARRL publications like; The ARRL Handbook, Antenna Book, Satellite Book, the adventure series

of books, etc. I don't know if they are ready to be borrowed yet, but I have a few titles in mind myself.

From the Video Library

The Video Library now has six titles available to loan.

The Last Voice From Kuwait

The all China DF Competition

Your League at Work

Signal to Noise Story

Gonzaga Prep HS Radio Club Satellite communications

The New World of Amateur Radio

You can get them anytime you can catch me at home, and I will bring the available tapes to each meeting.
Stan

The Treasurer's Report

We had 5 new members join us this past month, two of them as a result of the Field Day exercise. A hearty welcome to the following:

N1ABY Craig Kalley Pepperell

KA1TUA George Gogas, Jr. & family Groton

N1NWE Don Campbell Pepperell

WA1DKH John Dundas Littleton

KA1VOU Wolfgang Seidlich Townsend

The Gogas family was previously represented by George III KA1TTZ and Peter KB1BGL as student members. We are happy to have all three of you as family members now (and we'd love to see the others!). John WA1DKH and Wolfgang KA1VOU were the first to use the new club flyer designed by Bruce K1BG. These flyers are a fine piece of work. It consists of a single sheet folded in thirds with information about the club, including meeting data and contact telephone numbers and a membership application. Copies have been distributed to the ham radio stores in the area and were on-hand at Field Day. Thanks very much, Bruce, for initiating this. Copies will be available at the meetings for everyone to share with the public at appropriate events. Be sure to pick up a couple and spread the word about the club!

The first disbursement from our new Education Fund was made this past month. The Board approved the purchase of a complete set of ARRL publications as a donation to the Pepperell Public Library. The cost of this purchase was \$120.00. An anonymous donor contributed \$10.00 to the Education Fund, so the cash flow was not entirely unidirectional this month. Thank you, Mr/Ms Anonymous! New memberships and a split the-pot net of \$13.50 from June more than offset the newsletter and flyer production expenses for the month and the small (tiny, in fact!) Field Day expenses.

As of the July Board meeting the fund balances were:

General Fund:861.54

Education Fund:240.00

The membership rolls now have 72 names. Unfortunately, we still have a large number of overdue renewals. We have begun removing the longest overdue members from the rolls. The Board of Directors agreed upon a 3-month grace period for continuing the newsletter mailing to overdue members. Please check the mailing label on your newsletter if you don't remember what your renewal date is! And if you don't have this newsletter, you now know the reason (HI).

I hope to see you all at the July meeting. But, if it isn't convenient for you to come and if your mailing label shows a date in the past, *please* mail your check for \$15 individual or \$20 family to NVARC, PO Box 95, Pepperell MA 01463 and keep that newsletter coming!

73 de Ralph KD1SM

Foreign Operations (kind of)

I went on a business trip to Toronto Canada in June. I took my Handheld and operated some of the local repeaters. Canada is the only country we have automatic reciprocal arrangements with. You just sign with your CALL slant VE3 or the proper number for the province your in. I was in Toronto and the number of repeaters there is incredible. But then again so is the intermod. It was often difficult to use some of them. They have also standardized their PL's. All the repeaters in any city were on the same tone. Makes it easy for the users. Stopped in at the only "Candy Store" I could locate. They were very friendly and had a printed list of all the clubs in the area, a contact person and phone number. I was trying to get to a local club meeting to get the local flavor. Of course the week I was there Field Day might have been the only subject discussed. I also picked up an equipment price list. The prices don't seem to be much different than here, once you adjust for the exchange rate.

Board Meeting Notes

Following up on the mailing to area Hams...The June newsletter and a cover letter were sent to all the licensed Hams in Groton, Pepperell, Townsend, and Dunstable that are not currently club members(about 140). This newsletter (July) has been sent to Hams in Shirley, Ayer, Lunenburg and Brookline NH (about 100). We will continue until we have covered a reasonable area with Groton Pepperell as the center.

The Constitution had to be retyped since we lost track of the digital version. Lynda N1PBL did

the work. Now I need a third party to proof read it against the original. We also settled the field Day and newsletter expenses.

Stan KD1LE

National Traffic System

I haven't mentioned the National Traffic System lately. If anyone wants to send an NTS Radiogram to a friend or relative in the US or some select foreign countries, see myself KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, or Ed N1OTR. You need their name, address, and phone number. I always have message blanks in the club file box.

When it Becomes More than a Hobby

PETER ISLAND OPERATOR PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD

Robert Wilber, N4GCK, one of



the operators on last February's Dxpediton to Peter I Island (3Y0PI), has pleaded guilty to bank fraud and mail theft, according to a report in the Ann Arbor News.

Under a plea agreement he will receive 24 to 37 months in federal prison and be subject to three to five years of federal supervision following his release.

The paper said Wilber took checks totaling some \$113,000 from the mailbox of a University of Michigan professor and cashed them. He was photographed at an automatic teller machine and his photo appeared in the paper on December 20, 1993. At that time he knew he was caught, the News said.

Wilber, 35, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, avoided arrest long enough to join the expedition to Peter I. He surrendered upon his return, having spent all the stolen money, the News said.

Another participant in the expedition was astounded at the news. "We had no idea", he said. "But Bob was very quiet under close quarters and it was obvious to all of us that something was troubling him".

By the way, the book on the Peter I Dxpediton is out and according to an article in The ARRL Letter of June 15, highly recommended. -Ed.

Trivia

We use callsigns in our Ham communications without thinking much about it.

But there are callsigns issued for all ships and planes (Navy and otherwise) and many other facilities using the internationally allocated callsign groups assigned to the United States. Since the USS Constitution IX-21 is a commissioned navy vessel it has a callsign. Anyone know it?

Amateurs have a number of Bands...but how many does the Post Office have? Trick question. Of the approximately 80 billion rubber bands produced each year the US Post Office uses about 8 billion.

This Months Speaker

For July, we're looking into Amateur TV. There are several other opportunities, but it's not settled, perhaps you have a suggestion.

Our own Bob Reif, W1XP, will be speaking at the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain) HF convention later this year about high frequency antennas. Bob has kindly volunteered to be the guest speaker at our September meeting and give us a sneak preview.

Thanks Bob! It sure is cheaper than the plane ticker...

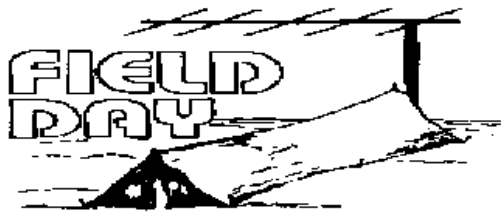
Dues and Stuff

Over the past few months we have been getting our membership books in order. We had a number of people who had expired memberships that ranged from a few months to more than a year. It was a little scary when we started looking at this. We had 50+ total members at the time and about one third fell into the expired category. We allowed a couple of months for everyone to be informed about the expiration dates being added to the newsletter label. We also settled on a 90 day grace period, after membership expires, before dropping anyone's club membership. Well, some of those people were lost and a few more have recently moved out of the area. But total membership has continued to climb. We have the same four or five honorary members, but total membership has climbed to over 70. Our various publicity activities have attracted new members and we will continue to pursue those approaches that attract new members.

Field Day 94 Followup

June 25 and 26 marked the Nashoba Valley ARC's second Field Day. Sponsored by the ARRL, Field Day is a contest, an emergency preparedness test, and a club outing.

As a contest, the club did well. During the 24 hour period, we made 2 way contacts with 713 other stations, with 276 coming on CW and 437 on phone. Included are contacts made by satellite, VHF, and packet.



In all my years participating in Field Day, I have never seen a group capture as many bonus points as we did. We received points for running emergency power, publicity, holding Field Day in a public place (the Groton Middle School), providing public information, a message origination to the ARRL Section Manager, satellite communications, natural power contacts, copying the W1AW message, packet contacts, and VHF/UHF contacts. In fact, the only points we missed were for general traffic handling. Thanks to those who spent the extra effort to get these points.

In total, we amassed a total of 3,078 points (437 phone qso's, 1pt each. 276 CW qso's, 2pts each. X 2 multiplier for 150 watts or less, a total of 1978 qso points. 1,100 bonus points.)

As for emergency preparedness, we should all congratulate ourselves! Everything worked, and we were on the air in no time! And since a good time was had by all, Field Day was a success as a club outing as well. Those doughnuts and coffee sure went down well on Sunday morning.

But really, how did we do? Well, according to last years results, we are in the middle of the pack, which is probably exactly where we should be. Our operators got a lot of good experience, and we all spent a lot of time learning, getting to know each other, and becoming better operators. For the newer hams, it was their first Field Day, and their first try at contesting. Several people showed up from the great signs Dave N1MNX put up on the main road in front of the school, and we even got several new club members. Keep an eye out for the November or December QST which will have the score results.

Thanks to all of you who volunteered and who participated for making this Field Day a success! C U next year!!

A special thanks to the following: Scott, WX1J (HF station 1), Jim KD1PI and Randy KB1AQM (HF station 2), Bob W1XP (Satellite, VHF/UHF, and natural power stations), Stan, KD1LE (packet station), Ben KB1FJ (generator), Dave N1MNX (tables and chairs, public information signs), Russ WR1Y (publicity, both pre and post Field Day in the Groton Herald), and John KA1ZTU and Jeremy KB1AWE for the novice station.

ARRL Notes

July 21st the ARRL/VEC will celebrate its 10 year anniversary. A lot has happened over that time.

Over 30,000 VE's have been accredited.

There have been over 29,000 VE sessions.

Over 355,000 persons have attended test sessions.

More than 400,000 exam elements have been administered.

For those who will be upgrading to General, the question pool changes July 1, 1994. The Extra Class syllabus will be updated and is scheduled to change on or before February 1, 1995. After which the question pool will be updated.

Again the reminder that only the new form 610 can be used. It is marked on the bottom right "November 1993".

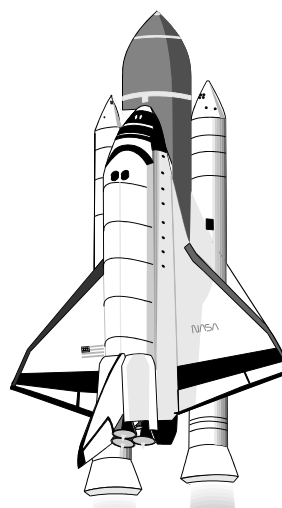
Technician Plus licenses will now be issued by the FCC. In the past these licenses only indicated Technician. The proof of Tech Plus was in carrying a CSCE for 5 WPM code.

Expirations of the first 10 year amateur licenses, issued in 1984, continue to take their toll. In March the FCC "deleted" 3744 station licenses, while adding 3010. From The ARRL Letter June 15, 1994

After June 8, 1994 only first licenses and specific renewals will have a full 10 year term. Upgrades, changes of address, call sign or name will be processed with the original expiration date. ARLB056



SAREX



Space shuttle mission STS-65 is on schedule for a July 8 launch with Mission Specialist Donald A. Thomas, KC5FVF, in charge of SAREX activity. This will be a 14 day mission. Astronaut Robert Cabana awaits his amateur license.

As on all SAREX missions, the crew will use separate receive and transmit frequencies. Please do not transmit on the shuttle downlink

frequencies.

Voice downlink (worldwide): 145.55 Mhz.

Voice uplink: 144.91, 144.93, 144.95, 144.97, and 144.99 Mhz.

Packet downlink: 145.55 Mhz.
Packet uplink: 144.49 MHz.
From The ARRL Letter June 15, 1994

NVARC QSL Bureau

No activity this month at the NVARC outgoing QSL Bureau. Stan NVARC QSL Mgr.

Info from the ARRL Incoming QSL Bureau

Two clarifications about the ARRL Incoming QSL Bureaus from Don Haney, KA1T, manager of the First Call Area bureau. Keep our bureau stocked with envelopes addressed to you but only attach one unit of first class postage to each; paper-clip more stamps so the bureau can use them as needed.

Some bureaus accept money, from which they provide envelopes and postage back to you. Check with your bureau or individual sorter to see what their policy is.

Joshua James

Captain Joshua James, USLSS,(1850-1902)

Special Event Amateur Radio Station Hull, Massachusetts, USA, celebrates its beloved and most well known hero, Captain Joshua James of the United States Life Saving Service and Massachusetts Humane Society. For more than 40 winters, the keeper led his men under sail and oar.

"They had to go out,
but did not have to come back."

The Special Event Station will be operating from one of Captain James' stations, at the Hull Lifesaving Museum, 1117 Nantasket Ave, Hull Ma. Volunteer operators welcome, please bring your license. Contact Bill N1IPQ@KA1RCI for more info.

July 30, 1994, Saturday
1500 to 2100 UTC

July 31, 1994, Sunday 1600 to
2100 hours UTC

Frequencies +/- QRM:
28.350, 14.270, 7.125 (CW), 2M, 220, 440 contingent on staffing and QRM: 160M, 80M, 17M, 6M and all mode 2M, 440

QSL: photo depicting Captain James and Hull Lifesaving Museum Box 221, Hull, MA, USA
The Museum is open weekends, Monday Holidays, and school vacations.

Mark Your Calendar

There will be SkyWarn training for those interested in July or August. Since the National Weather Service has combined offices and move to Taunton it has been delayed

- Joshua James special event station July 30 11-5:00, July 31 12-5:00
- The Eastern States Exposition Sept. 16 - Oct. 2
- Framingham Flea Market Sept. 25
- Boxboro Convention -- Oct. 1,2

Public Service Log

Harvard Bicycle Race

For the third consecutive year local Hams provided communications for this event, even though it occurs on the second day of Field Day. My thanks to the following public spirited Hams; Dan KB1BGI, Lynda N1PBL, Karen KA1JVU, Ed N1OTR.

Duane KD1JY

Pepperell Road Race/4th July Parade

Thanks to Dave N1MNX, Earl WR1Y, Ben BK1FJ and Stan KD1LE for providing communications at the road race on July 1st. Also thanks to Scott WX1J, Duane KD1JU, John KA1ZTU, Den KD2S and Stan KD1LE for providing communications for the parade on July 2nd. Both events ran smoothly and everyone seemed to have a good time. By the way if I can write an article for this newsletter ANYBODY can.

Lynda N1PBL



The local Navy Marine Corps MARS member (KD1LE) participated in a Coast Guard (CG) drill last month. The CG staged a mock oil spill/fire at an oil terminal in Providence RI. It was a detailed exercise involving several CG ships, CG offices in Providence and

Woods Hole, A spill clean up company, the terminal owner, CG Reserve, Providence Fire Dept. The MARS group provided backup communications between all of the sites using VHF and HF for voice, packet RTTY and Amtor.

The exercise was very detailed and in addition to the the basic problem it included such things as fatalities, injuries, phone and radio outages. It was a lot of work and a lot of fun.

One thing that is becoming prevalent is the use of cellular phones by everyone. The problem is that if the cell goes down they lose everything. They even get in a crunch in a big disaster since all the media come in and they also use cellular phones. The cell gets bogged down with all the calls.

It was a lot like setting up for Field Day, but we did not have 24 hours to do it. Everything at the four sites was set up in less than two hours. Wire antenna's for the HF work and small Yagi's and verticals for VHF. We also had to provide tactical communications at the terminal using 2 meter handhelds.
Stan

Code Ode

(Author unknown. This poem was passed along by VE7DWG)

*It's more than dots and dashes,
It's a place.
A sanctuary for those who've learned
To love the mysterious magic of
Thoughts arriving in mile-long strings
On roads of ether or wire.*

*Even more, it's peace,
A shield from the disordered sounds
Of traffic, angry people
And industrial clutter clatter,
Within its warm mantle
We find soothing respite.*

*And the patter of bright ideas it is,
The sharp focusing of others' thoughts
From miles beyond our vision's range,
As in a Dream we sit so still,
It floats in our ears and stirs our minds
With concern, remembrance, speculation
And mirth.
And code is music,*

*From sounders and speakers it dances
In the shack to each sender's inner clock.
And comes butter-smooth, deliciously swinging,
Or choppy stacatto from a "fist" praising definition,
Or perfectly metered, flowing exquisitely
From the gentle hand of an artist.*

*A place,
And peace,
Intelligence and
Music.
Code is more than dots and dashes.*

Direction Finding

We will be doing a beginners Fox Hunt July 17 at 1:00 PM at my house. The format will be on foot. The area is a pine grove. The Fox will transmit about 15 seconds out of every minute on two meters. If there is enough interest I'd like to work up to some longer distance auto style hunts.

July 31 at 1 PM there will be a Fox Hunt in Leominster. They will meet at the Water Tower

Plaza at Rt 2 and 12, south end of plaza. Talk in 145.45-.
Stan

Field Trip

We're still planning to make a trip to the League. I have heard from a few people and if that's all that are interested we can go ahead and set a date that will be best for us. If your interested and haven't told us, speak up so the schedule date won't exclude you.

Stan

Resource List

NTS, MARS Stan Pozerski	433-5090
Races Ben Akins	433-9227
DX Bruce Blain	448-9438
Construction Earl Russel	4485822



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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Secretary: Duane Long, KD1JY
Treasurer: Ralph Swick, KD1SM
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
PIO: Earl Russell WR1Y

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month
- 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell VFW hall. Talk-in 146.490
simplex

This newsletter is published monthly. Submissions, corrections and inquiries should be directed to the newsletter editor. Articles and graphics in most IBM-PC formats are acceptable.

Packet address: PEPMBX (145.09 MHz)