



SIGNAL



April 1997 Volume 6 Number 4

March 1997 Presidents Letter

With the coming of Spring there are lots of activities in which to participate. The Groton Road Race needs additional volunteers, and there are other activities listed in the Public Service List (the PSL is carried on most BBS's and is partially carried in the newsletter.) Field Day is coming up. Bruce will be looking for "organizers" and "crew" to make Field Day come off smoothly and enjoyably for everyone (see other articles on Field Day and how you can help.) Of course April is election month, and we are still looking to fill one or two open spots on the slate of officers. So we hope to see you at some of the activities and meetings before we break for the summer. Erik KA1RV

Club Call N1NC

N1NC

This Months Meeting

At the time of printing I was unable to find out the speaker for the monthly meeting.

At The Last Meeting

At last months meeting Dennis Marandos K1LGQ spoke about operating QRP. He brought a large assortment of QRP rigs and related equipment, most of which he built himself. It was obvious from Dennis' excitement that he really enjoyed QRP and building his equipment. He had a couple of unassembled kits with him. He referred to them as "bag-o-parts kits" and that was just what they

were. A Ziploc bag of parts including a circuit board.

Field Day

Springtime is here again, and as it is each and every year, Field Day is just around the corner. I'd like to reflect on last years Field Day, and make some comments on our 1997 effort.

Nine months after the 1996 effort, its effects on the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club are still readily visible. Last years Field Day energized the club, it brought us together. New hams who had not participated in club activities before found themselves immersed in a team effort. Longer term club members, who had only been somewhat interested in the club, became regulars at club meetings and Saturday morning breakfasts. Key members of the club stepped forward and provided the leadership and guidance required to be successful. We set up, competed well, and most of all, had a lot of fun. My personal excitement concerning the upcoming Field Day is really hard to contain.

Craig, N1ABY, has volunteered to co-chair Field Day with me this year, and I am looking forward to working with Craig. Other club members have approached me at meetings, breakfasts, or by landline, asking "What can I do to help?" "When is the Field Day meeting" is constantly asked. "What is the Nashoba club doing this year" was asked of me by a Norwood Club member at the Framingham Flea Market last weekend (They were the only club to beat us in the 2A category in New England last year). I know Field Day is three months away, but this excitement seems to be contagious!

Compare this to our 1995 effort, or lack thereof. In a nutshell, we had no volunteers for the chairman's position and no coming together of the general membership at the

last minute. Field Day failed because of a lack of interest and a lack of leadership (and I share part of the blame for this). Field Day can be a disastrous experience for a club, or it can give a club inertia and experience to apply to other endeavors. Field Day sets the pace for the rest of the year.

Our Field Day meeting will take place during the May meeting. As a club, we will have to make decisions as to what category (# of transmitters) we want to be in and what kind of Field Day we want to have. Craig and I will look for volunteers for equipment, antennas, set-up, take-down, cooking, etc. We'll be looking for "captains" to organize some of these activities. In effect, we will look for the same kind of group participation that made last year such a success.

Between now and then, you can do a little planning. Did you learn anything from last years Field Day that the club could benefit from? Did you get that computer to radio interface working? Are you interested in being captain of the VHF or novice-tech+ station (which we didn't do last year) or any one of a number of other positions? Think about overall questions, like "How do we arrange the stations?" "What kind of antennas do we want?" "How can we improve our score over last year?" "What can I do better this year?" "What kind of Field Day would I like the club to have"? Having fun will be at the top of my list. Your thoughts and participation will be sought at the May meeting. Given last years experience and this years enthusiasm, I'm sure the upcoming Field Day will be a successful, fun event.

1997 Field Day is June 28th and 29th, and barring any unforeseen circumstances, we will again be operating behind the Groton Middle School. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Bruce K1BG

How Many Area Hams Are There?

Did you ever wonder how many hams there are in the area? I know that sometimes I do. When I'm driving from place to place I am often looking at or for antennas. I have been collecting some information so that I can send out a copy of our newsletter to area hams. If They are new hams or new to the area they may not know we are here. So I went off and collected lists for the area towns. Just when you think you have completed the

task you find a glitch. A callsign I expected to find in Townsend wasn't there. It turns out that there is a West Townsend Post Office and Zip code. Then there is Groton/West Groton, Shirley/Shirley Center, Ayer/Devens. Now that I have sorted all that out here are the numbers.

Ayer	26
Dunstable	9
Groton	78
Harvard	66
Littleton	42
Lunenburg	39
Pepperell	75
Shirley	29
Townsend	50
Westford	137

	551

Each month I will be sending out a complimentary newsletters to some of these Hams that are not members. It will take some time to work through this list. Last month I sent newsletters to hams from all of these towns that had renewed their license in either 1996 or 1997. That covers people who had to renew as well as any newly licensed hams.

Stan

Getting Ready for?

I was puttering about this weekend doing some cleaning and straightening out around the house and garage. In the process I came across several unfinished projects that were part of the mess. They were left over field day projects. That means they were nine months old and still not finished. So, not to avoid work, and in the name of cleaning up, I dove in. Today I finished a second set of antenna's for 80 and 40 meters. I repaired an extension cord and organized some of my equipment cases. I also straightened out my string and throwing gear for putting up antenna's and a few other odds and ends. The whole point of this is that next field day is only three months off. If you were there last year and remember something we needed and had to go get, something we should have had but couldn't get, or something you would like to have done but we didn't. Now is the time to put all those pieces together. Whether it is field day or an emergency situation such as a storm, it is too late to prepare when it happens. Granted, if you have the parts and the

knowledge you can put something together in a hurry as we did the field day antenna's for last year. But why leave it all till the last minute? A couple of old suitcases or a trunk can organize a lot of equipment so it is easy to move and easy to find. Then you will have it for whenever you need it. Stan

Equipment Readiness

The Groton Road Race is coming up and for those of us who will participate it is time to look at our equipment and power sources. For this and numerous other such activities coming up during the Spring and Summer having reliable battery power will be the difference between success and failure. So now is the time to check those batteries and power packs. If your hand held can run off an external source why not build a power cable that has a connector for your rig on one end and the ARRL standard connector on the other. Many of us carry battery packs that have the standard connector and that would make it easy for us to help you out should your battery run out of juice. Stan

Upcoming Public Service Events

Apr 27 The Groton Road Race. Erik KA1RV is the contact for this event.

May 21 Boston Assistive Technology Conf. Contact Bob WA1IDA

Other public service events are listed in the KD1SM/KD1LE Public Service List as they are submitted.

E-mail Addresses

If you have a regular E-mail address please give it to Ralph or myself and we will add it to the club roster.

Packet Nodes in Massachusetts

This list is dated 31 March 1997.

Please let me know of any proposed changes or corrections so the list remains current at either W1EO@W1ON.fn42jm.ma.usa.noam or w1eo@switch.bedford.ampr.org. These data have been uploaded to TAPR's NADSD

#A '*' means the server is temporarily off-the-air.

#A '@' means not sure of the frequency.

#A '!' means not part of the ARRL band plan

Board Meeting Minutes



The Board meeting will be reported at the regular meeting since the meeting had not taken place when the newsletter

went to print.

Stan

NVARC QSL BUREAU

Bring your cards and a QST label to the meeting or to breakfast and the club will take care of the shipping and bureau fee.

Stan

Things to Ponder

Police in Wichita, Kansas arrested a 22 year old man at an airport hotel after he tried to pass two (counterfeit) \$16 dollar bills.

The Chico, California, City Council enacted a ban on nuclear weapons, setting a \$500 fine for anyone detonating one within city limits.

\$The Treasurer's Report \$

March Treasurer's Report

Income for the month of March was \$14.00 Expenses were \$19.20 for newsletter postage. Current balances are:

General Fund	\$439.04
Education Fund	\$448.34

73, Ralph KD1SM

#

Servers in Massachusetts

144.99 CHSTRnode (K1MEA-2)Chester{W}MA [fn32mh]
144.99 SEMARAnode SDartmouth{E}MA [fn41lm]
144.99 SHADnode (KD1KU-2)SHadley{W}MA [fn32qf]
145.01 FALnode (WA1GPO-7)WFalmouth{CC}MA [fn41rp]
145.01 IPFOXnode (WB1EMT-1)Foxboro{S}MA [fn42ib](MFNOS)
145.01 IPIBCnode (N1IBC)Swansea{E}MA [fn41jr]
145.01 MBOS1node (N1CSI-1)Wakefield{E}MA [fn42km]{25/400}
145.01 WALPnode (W1ZSA-7)Walpole{S}MA [fn42jc]
145.03 BROCKnode (N1EDM)Brockton{S}MA [fn42lb]*
145.03 IP1Pnode (NZ1P)So.Attleboro{S}MA [fn41hv]{50/55}
145.03 IPIBCnode (N1IBC)Swansea{S}MA [fn41jr]
145.03 MMRA3node (KA1OUI)Marlboro{C}MA [fn42ej]
145.03 NEWBEDnode (KA1YYQ)NewBedford{S}MA [fn41mp]
145.03 SWANnode (N1GYU)Swansea{S}MA [fn41jr]
145.03 WORCnode (N1MPY)Worcester{C}MA [fn42cg]
145.05 PTOWNnode (W3KI-7)Provincetown{CC}MA [fn42vb](TheNet)
145.05 SHADnode (KD1KU-2)SHadley{W}MA [fn32qf]
145.05 WMANode (K1PFK)Adams{W}MA [fn32il]
145.07 ANDOVRnode (W1UU-2)NoAndover{E}MA [fn42lq](TheNet)
145.07 ARLNG1node (K1CF-1)Arlington{E}MA [fn42jl]
145.07 CAPCODnode (WA1YKN)Osterville{CC}MA [fn41tp]
145.07 CDCN2Bnode (N1HMJ)Plymouth{E}MA [fn41qw]
145.07 MEDFD3node (WG1I-4)Medford{E}MA [fn42kk]
145.07 MELROZnode (WB1F)Melrose{E}MA [fn42lk]
145.09 HOLOKEnode (N1VHB-7)Holyoke{W}MA [fn32rm]
145.09 MBOS9node (N1CSI-9)Wakefield{E}MA [fn42km]{25/400}(BPQ)
145.09 MILLnode (W1OW)Millis{E}MA [fn42hd]
145.09 MILVILnode (N1REL)Millville{C}MA [fn42fb]
145.09 PEPPnode (KB1FJ-4)Pepperell{N}MA [FN42gp]
145.09 WHALEnode (AA1FS-7)NewBedford{S}MA [fn41mo](BPQ)
145.09 WHITnode (WA1GDJ-7)Whitman{E}MA [fn42mb]
145.09 WIGnode (WA1WIG)Bellingham{S}MA [fn42fc]
145.09 YAR-1node (N1SGL)SouthYarmouth{CC}MA [fn41vp]
145.51 IPANDnode (W1UU-5)NoAndover{E}MA [fn42lq](JNOS)
145.51 IPBEDnode (W1ON-6)Bedford{E}MA [FN42jm]{20/300}(JNOS)
145.63 CPEAN1node (W1RK)Gloucester{E}MA [fn42qo]
145.71 HARWCHnode (KC1KM-7)Harwich{CC}MA [fn41xq](BPQ)
145.75 BEDnode (W1ON-3)Bedford{E}MA [FN42jm]{30/300}(BPQ)
145.75 REANode (N1JS)Reading{E}MA [fn42km](KANode)
145.77 IPANDnode (W1UU)NoAndover{E}MA [fn42lq]9600(JNOS)
145.77 PILGRMnode Plymouth{E}MA [fn41qw]
145.79 GATENode (W1ON-3)<APRS>Bedford{E}MA [FN42jm]{20/230}(W1EO)
145.79 RELAYnode (KD1SM)<APRS>Lunenburg{C}MA [fn42do]
145.79 RELAYnode (N1AGV-15)<APRS>Agawam{W}MA [fn32pc]
145.79 RELAYnode (W1TKZ)<APRS>Wellesly{E}MA [fn42ih]
145.79 RELAYnode (WA1YKN)<APRS>Osterville{CC}MA [fn41tp]

**SB DX ARL
ARLD016
ARLD016 DX news**

This week's bulletin was made possible with info provided by The 599Rpt, Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, 425DXnews, The DXNS and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

TUNISIA, 3V. Tunisia is going to commemorate its 40 years of independence during the period of April 10 to May 10. Look for special event station TS40A to be QRV during this celebration. QSL information to be announced.

QATAR, A7. Jean Jacques, ex J28JJ, is now in Qatar and has permission to operate club station, A71A. He will try to be QRV on Saturdays using RTTY.

FRENCH GUIANA, FY. Dave, DJ0PJ, will be QRV from April 2 to May 6 as FY/DJ0PJ. Look for his QRP activity on 10116, 14060, 18080 and 21060 kHz. QSL to DJ0PJ.

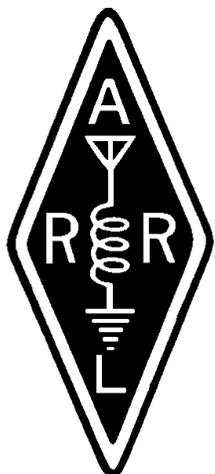
ENGLAND, G. The Torbay ARC is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with the call GB50TR on all bands and modes through the end of the year. QSL via the RSGB bureau.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ/JD1, will be QRV until April 23. He prefers CW on 7012, 10104 and 14028 kHz. He works at the meteorological observatory on the island so his activity depends on his work schedule. QSL via JA8CJY.

TUVALU, T2. Bernhard, DL2GAC, is still QRV from here as T22MS. QSL to DL2GAC. Please note his correct address can be found in the 1997 Callbook.

CAMBODIA, XU. Mike, XU6WV, has been active on 3512, 7004 and 7007 kHz. His sunrise is currently around 2304z, and his sunset is currently 1100z. QSL via K0TLM.

NICARAGUA, YN. Hiro, JA6WFM, has been active on 40 meter CW with the call-sign YN6WFM. He expects to be here until December. QSL to Hirofumi Nakamura, 1311 11 Miyahara Machi, Yatsushiro Gun, Kumamoto 869 46, Japan.



MARION ISLAND, ZS8. Chris, ZS8IR, is active on 1822 kHz from 0300z until after his sunrise. QSL via ZS6EZ.

CALL CORRECTION. It was mistakenly reported in ARRL DX Bulletin ARLD015 that KF8UN was operating portable from the US Virgin Islands in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest. The correct call sign was KF8UM.

CW Practice Nets

The NVARC Slow Speed Net meets Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 P.M. on 28.123 MHz. Except the third Thursday of the month, that being the club meeting night.

There is now a CW practice session running on the Nashua Repeater (147.045) Wednesdays at 8:00 PM. It will be ARRL Style and the text will be taken from the Nashua Area Radio Club Newsletter. You don't need the newsletter to be able to take advantage of the broadcast.

FCC Rule Making

ARRL Bulletin 17 & 18
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT April 2, 1997

In response to three petitions for rulemaking, the FCC has adopted changes to the Amateur Service rules that—among other changes—will make it easier to obtain 1x1 call signs for special event stations and harder to get a club station license. Other amendments to the rules included in a Report and Order released April 1, 1997, will allow hams to append special designators either before or after their call signs--or both, and will recognize, but not require, the use of a session manager at Volunteer Examiner testing sessions.

The FCC declined to give examination credit for formerly held licenses, and turned down an ARRL request for a lifetime operator's license.

Under the new amendments, the FCC will allow a licensee to substitute a self-selected call sign from the block of 1x1 call signs for temporary use during a special event operation. The station must announce its regularly assigned call sign at least once an hour. The special event call signs will be coordinated and issued by outside volunteer entities, not by the FCC. The Commission will announce later when and

how volunteer entities may volunteer their services. The chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau then would certify volunteer entities to serve as amateur station special event call sign coordinators, who would issue 1x1 calls from a common, online special event call sign database. By definition, a 1x1 call sign consists of a single prefix letter, K, N or W; the region number, 0 to 9; and a single suffix letter, A to W, Y and Z--750 call signs in all. The FCC turned down a suggestion that would have limited special event call signs to stations licensed to Amateur Extra class operators.

In proposing to increase the eligibility requirements for a club station license, the FCC said it was "important to determine that the applicant for a club station license is a legitimate radio club and not just a person seeking to acquire additional call signs." Under the rules changes, the FCC has raised the eligibility requirement from at least two members to a minimum of four. Applicants for a club station license must have a club name, a document of organization, management, and a primary ham radio purpose that's consistent with FCC rules.

Responding to a petition by the National Conference of Volunteer-Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), the FCC said VECs could elect to designate a session manager if they wanted to, but they would not be required to do so. The Commission's new rules recognize the VE session manager function but emphasize that the three Volunteer Examiners at a test session would still be held "jointly and severally responsible for the proper conduct of each examination administered."

Another change will allow hams to include a self-assigned indicator before, after or both before and after the assigned call sign when identifying. Current rules only permit using such indicators after the station's regular call sign. Self-assigned indicators include those used to indicate location or type of operation, such as /KP2 when operating in the US Virgin Islands or /m when operating in a vehicle. They also can denote participation in an unusual event or other atypical station operation, according to the FCC.

Citing mostly negative comments, the FCC decided against allowing exam credit for formerly held amateur operator licenses. The Commission also said "no' to

the ARRL's suggestion that the operator license be valid for the lifetime of the holder. The FCC said operators would still have to renew their station licenses every ten years and that it did not want to maintain a separate database to keep track of station license expirations.

The FCC announced all of the rules changes in a Report and Order, FCC 97-99, adopted March 20 and issued April 1. The amendments become effective 30 days after the Report and Order is published in The Federal Register.



**Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

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Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month - 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr. Talk-in 146.490 simplex
442.90 + 100Hz Repeater

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 OK.

You can leave items on PEPMBX or at Packet address: KD1LE@N1FT.NH