



SIGNAL



de N1NC

June 2000 Volume 9 Number 6

This Month's Meeting

This month meeting program was not know at the time of publication.

With the Summer coming, and no regular meetings in July and August, many of us will still be gathering at Tiny's for breakfast Saturday mornings at 8:00 AM. We sit in the back dining area. Below are some of the faces you might see there.



Last Month's Meeting

Last months meeting was held at the Pepperell Lawrence Library since the library was holding a book sale at the Community Center. The presentation was by Les KA1DZV on UHF and VHF contesting and the considerable effort that it takes to compete in these contests. Les had a detailed presentation with many pictures from the W2SZ/1 group that operates from Mt Greylock every year.



Board of Directors Meeting

The Board meeting was held on 6/8/2000 at 7.30PM. Present: Stan, KD1LE, Ian, NZ1B, Erik, KA1RV.

Though Ralph was not able to attend he submitted the annual report which was discussed. There is also a summary in the Treasurers report later in this issue.

A Thank You card was received from the coordinator of the Parker Road Race thanking us for our help.

Elections were discussed with respect to the fact we have two open positions that need to be filled. There are still vacancies for the Vice President and one Board Member position, so we need to fill these positions. If someone wants to help shape the club here's your opportunity.

Repeater Activity

There has been a lot of work going on at the repeater lately. One set of guys was moved to solve a problem of uneven tension being applied to the tower. Then guy tensions were adjusted and cables replaced in the turnbuckles to prevent things from changing.



In order to set up the 220 machine equipment was moved out of the building. The antenna was temporarily mounted at about twenty-five feet and cable run to the new equipment in the shack so that the repeater would be back on the air while we work on the final arrangement. See the pictures below of the equipment and antenna installation.



When all the technical stuff was completed they brought in the grounds crew to clean up and make

the place pretty again. See the grounds crew in action below.



Public Service

We supported the Parker Classic Road Race 2000 on May 21st. We received a nice Thank You card from the race organizer Judy Gibson with the additional note "You guys are great! Thanks for coming back year after year. It makes a huge difference to our race having you all there."

The following people helped at this event; K1YTS Gary, W1DEA Jesse, KA1RV Erik, NZ1D Bill, KE1EC Herm, WA1RHP Tom, W1ZBT Erik, N1JGA Jon, KD1LE Stan.

June 18th is the next road cleanup. With the race at Devens and the cleanup the same day we did a quick job last month. So we need a full crew this month to get us back on track. See Stan if you can help out this month.

The Longsjö Bike Race is coming up the Fourth of July weekend in Fitchburg. There are four days of racing ending with a day of road racing which includes a finish run up Mt Wachusset and a day of racing in downtown Fitchburg. If you can help please contact Ralph KD1SM.

The Harvard Bike Race is coming up July 16th. If you can help out please contact Stan KD1LE at 978-433-5090 or pozerski@net1plus.com

The Public Service List

Listing public events at which Amateur Radio communications is providing a public service and

for which additional volunteers from the Amateur Community are needed and welcome. Please contact the person listed to identify how you may serve and what equipment you may need to bring. Every event listed is looking for additional volunteers.

Date	Location	Event
Contact	Tel/Email	

Jun 25 Biddeford ME Tour de Cure
Bryce K1GAX 207-799-1116 k1gax@arrl.net

Jun 29-Jul 2 Fitchburg MA Fitchburg Longsjö Classic
Ralph KD1SM 978-582-7351
kd1sm@arrl.net

Jul 4 Freeport ME L.L. Bean 10k Run
Bryce K1GAX 207-799-1116

July 16 Harvard MA Harvard Classic (bike race)
Stan KD1LE 978-433-5090 kd1le@amsat.org

Jul 28-30 Portland ME OpSail 2000
Dale W9WBA 207-797-5292 w9wba@juno.com

Oct 7 S.PortlandME Walktoberfest
Bryce K1GAX 207-799-1116 k1gax@arrl.net

Oct 8 S.PortlandME Maine Truckin for Kids
Bryce K1GAX 207-799-1116 k1gax@arrl.net

World Wide Web users: this list is maintained at <http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>.

\$June Treasurer Report\$

Income for May was \$15 in membership dues. Expenses were \$19.80 for newsletter postage.

Current balances are:

General Fund	\$818.14
Community Fund	\$1467.55

Here is a summary of the Annual Report for the General Fund as prepared for the Board of Directors:



Year ending March 31, 2000	March 31, 1999
Income	
Dues	
573.00	495.00

ARRL rebates	6.00	6.00
Bank interest	26.62	12.27
Donation	11.03	0.50
FoxFinder	159.66	
Total Income	776.31	513.77

Expenses		
Insurance	255.00	255.00
Signal copying	21.28	19.20
Signal postage	139.20	157.00
PO Box	14.00	16.00
QSL Bureau	29.60	38.95
Field Day		37.29
Miscellaneous	26.76	9.44
Badges	28.47	
Total Expenses	514.31	532.88
Net Income	262.00	-19.11

Several members paid membership dues in advance; removing the advance dues from the totals leaves the following figures for net income:

Net income less advance dues		
	187.00	-34.11

Note that while we appear to have done very well this past fiscal year, the surplus in income is entirely accounted for by the FoxFinder project and the absence of Field Day expenses. Membership revenue is holding essentially steady. Continued attention to newsletter mailing costs and donation of newsletter copying has been the key to maintaining a balanced budget.

73,Ralph KD1SM

Y2K Fleamarkets

18 June Flea at MIT Nick 617 253 3776

15 July Nashua NH NE Antique RC
@ Res Ctr Church 617 923 2665

16 July Flea at MIT Nick 617 253 3776

20 Aug Flea at MIT Nick 617 253 3776
26-27 Aug Boxboro MA ARRL NE DivConv \$8+
\$14/T/day@8 Dave W1TQ 978 649 3907

9 Sept Hamfest 2000 Saratoga County Fair-
grounds, Ballston Spa, NY

17 Sept Flea at MIT Nick 617 253 3776

6,7 Oct Rochester NH Hoss Traders
Joe K1RQG 207 469 3492

15 Oct Flea at MIT Nick 617 253 3776

21 Oct Nashua NH NE Antique RC \$5@8 \$1@9
@ Res Ctr Church 617 923 2665

18 Nov Newton MA WARA/1200RC Auction
@Masonic \$2@11 Eliot W1MJ 617 484 1089

From the ARRL Letter

ARRL-VEC Picks Up Personnel, Processing Pace

The ARRL-VEC now has seven fulltime, three temporary, and eight just-added volunteer staff members chipping away at the mountain of applications resulting from the April 15 license restructuring. ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, reports his staff now is wrapping up April 24 receipts from VE sessions. The ARRL-VEC received nearly 23,000 applications between April 15 and May 26.

ARRL-VEC staff was able to submit some 5000 applications to the FCC this week, up significantly from previous weeks. On May 25 alone, 1453 applications were filed with the FCC. Jahnke still estimates it will take approximately six weeks from exam session to the time the paperwork is filed electronically with the FCC, although some grants have been showing up sooner than that. The key is when the session paperwork arrived at ARRL-VEC. The FCC typically grants applications overnight.

Jahnke says there were approximately 4000 applications in the April 24 receipts alone that include sessions as long ago as March 25 and as recent as April 18. ARRL-VEC processes applications according to the date the package arrives in the mail. "We have staff working over the weekend, and we will have staff working over the holiday weekend," he said.

Inquiries concerning the status of applications continue to impair the staff's ability to rapidly process the incoming stacks of applications. "You can't blame people for wanting to know what their status is, but when everyone wants to know, progress slows," Jahnke said. Another thing that slows progress is having to follow up on missing or incomplete information on the NCVFC Form 605 application from a test session.

Jahnke has estimated that the first 30 days of the restructuring surge—April 15 through May 15—will yield 17,200 new Generals and 13,100 new Extras.

The ARRL-VEC is now posting the status of test session processing at

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/status.html>.

Dayton 2000: Hamvention-Convention 2000 A Hit!

Amateur Radio's upbeat mood spilled over into Dayton Hamvention 2000, which hosted the ARRL National Convention. Early indications were that the three-day event, which ended Sunday, attracted more than 30,000 visitors for the first time in its history.

"This appears to be the largest Hamvention in history," Great Lakes ARRL Director George Race, WB8BGY, announced last Saturday. Hamvention General Chairman Jim Graver, KB8PSO, said this week that the official Hamvention attendance had not yet been determined. Hamvention weather cooperated for the most part with partly sunny to overcast skies and generally cool temperatures.

Sales counters were busy. Several dealers reported running out of popular items well before the end of Hamvention.

Hamvention banquet speaker Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, exhorted his audience to work toward making the Amateur Radio Service the finest radio service ever. Hollingsworth, who's the FCC's special counsel for amateur radio enforcement, reiterated that the Commission is in the enforcement business to stay.

"To work with you in restoring the Amateur Radio Service to its rightful place in the American communications infrastructure is the greatest privilege of my professional and personal life," Hollingsworth told the banquet audience.

Jim Haynie, W5JBP, attended Dayton Hamvention for the first time in his role as the League's new president. "These are extremely exciting times for Amateur Radio," he told those attending the ARRL Forum Saturday. "I hope y'all are as excited about our future as much as I am, because if you are, we can do nothing but win."

Haynie discussed the broad parameters of "The Big Project"—his ham radio in the schools initiative that would offer a turnkey curriculum in Amateur Radio as well as equipment for use in middle school classrooms. Haynie said he plans to have

the program, funded by corporate and foundation grants, in place by the end of 2001.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, flew in from Istanbul, Turkey, just to attend the League's National Convention. Sumner has been on the International Amateur Radio Union team representing Amateur Radio interests at the World Radiocommunication Conference 2000.

During his "Vision for Amateur Radio's Future" on Saturday, Sumner noted that Amateur Radio's demographic peaks in the late 40s or early 50s. "This is the 'baby boom' moving through the system," he said. "The point of entry for Amateur Radio today is not principally teenage, as it perhaps was 30 or 35 years ago." Sumner said today's technology has opened Amateur Radio's once "unique window on the world" to many outside the hobby, especially those on the Internet. That trend will continue, he predicted, as telecommunication costs drop. In the future, the population that got into ham radio as a cheap personal communication service will no longer be attracted to the hobby, he said. "The effect of that is that the licensing figures likely will go down."

He predicted a precipitous drop in the number of Amateur Radio licensees in the US starting in 2001, when many licenses of those who had entered the hobby a decade earlier as a part of the initial flurry of code-free Technicians expire. But he doesn't see that as a major negative for ham radio—just indicative of a shift in focus of the participants.

Sumner said he's seen a higher regard for disaster communications capabilities of Amateur radio at WRC-2000 than he'd seen at other recent conferences. "A low-technology solution to disaster communications is not a bad thing, it's a good thing," he said. "All you need is two hams and it will work." Sumner said if a proposed "harmonized" worldwide allocation at 7 MHz ever is approved at a future World Radiocommunication Conference, it will not be because of DXing or contesting but because of disaster communications capability.

Sumner said Amateur Radio will continue to have a role in scientific investigations. And he said personal achievement and accomplishment will continue to provide an incentive to be a part of Amateur Radio in the future. "Lest we forget," he said, "it's supposed to be fun."

At Dayton Hamvention, Yaesu introduced its Model V FT-1000MP HF transceiver, which features 200 W output and several improvements over the original MP platform. The radio could be on the market by month's end. Kenwood also had a developmental all-band, all-mode transceiver on display. Elecraft debuted its K1 transceiver kit, a two-band, low-power unit aimed at backpackers and travelers. Ten Tec introduced its Pegasus FP (for "front panel") HF transceiver, a desktop version of its popular PC-controlled Pegasus. A new player, Mobat Communication—a partnership of Motorola and Bartal—introduced its MICOM H transceiver, a computer-programmable DSP-based HF radio.

Dayton 2000: FCC Feeling Restructuring's Impact

The impact of restructuring is being felt at the FCC. During the well-attended Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau announced that the Commission already had processed nearly 9200 license upgrades as of May 19—six times the normal flow of applications.

"It appears Advanced class licensees are upgrading in significant numbers," he said. "So are the Technician Plus class licensees." He recommended that experienced amateurs help newcomers to bridge the gap between their new license classes and their sometimes less-than-fully developed operating skills.

"Just like you, newly minted Generals and Extras want to comply with the rules," Cross said. "Just like you, they have invested a lot in getting that signal on the air, although it may be on the wrong frequency. And just like you, a correction that starts with 'you idiot' isn't going to get the result you want."

Cross defended the FCC's action lowering the Morse code requirement to 5 WPM. He also credited the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' Question Pool Committee with "an amazing job" of revising the question pools in very short order. "They aren't easy questions," he said. "These exams are not 'dumbed down' by any stretch of the imagination. If anything, they're more difficult because the easy questions are gone."

Cross also said the FCC has a copy of its pre-April 15 database to keep track of which Techni-

cians have HF privileges as a result of having taken a Morse code exam in the past.

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth also addressed the FCC Forum. "Nothing about restructuring bothers me from an enforcement standpoint," he said. "We have a basically good set of rules" that the FCC is willing to enforce. While insisting he did not want to trample on anyone's First Amendment rights, Hollingsworth urged amateurs to present a good face to the nonamateur community by maintaining a high level of on-the-air decorum. "We're being listened to all the time," he said. "So we have to think about what kind of impression we're making."

Dayton 2000: Public Service Role, Leadership Cited

Speaking at the ARRL "Public Service Wants You!" forum at Dayton Hamvention, ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie, WT3P, challenged Amateur Radio's public service leaders to "be the kind of leaders whom we would want to follow." Craigie also told those attending that amateurs who participate in public service are "helping to earn the frequencies we have the privilege of using."

Craigie said that while hams have a responsibility under Part 97 to get involved in public service, personal time often is in short supply these days. "Often both parents in a family are working very long hours," she said. "That impacts how much time you have to do anything outside of work including Amateur Radio." Because of this, she said, public service leaders need to rethink their recruiting methods.

Fellowship is "a powerful motivation" to get involved in public service, Craigie said. Beyond that, she said, public service can be interesting, exciting, and challenging. "It's a challenge and a feeling of satisfaction, and you know that something you've done made a difference in the survival of your community," she said. "It feels good to help other people." And, she pointed out, it's good public relations for Amateur Radio.

Craigie advised a positive attitude and recommended patience with beginners who volunteer. "We weren't born knowing all this stuff," she said. "Somebody had to teach us. We had to be willing to learn." Among other things, she said, public service leaders have to spell out duties and their expectations.

ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, cited the potential for involving younger amateurs in public service activity. One suggestion she offered was to get youth organizations—such as Scout groups and their leaders—involved.

White shared the observations of Kansas Section Manager Orlan Cook, W0OYH, who noted that restructuring has generated a bonanza of new HF operators. “With restructuring, we have many, many new HF operators, and we need to welcome them into our nets and into our ARES groups,” Cook said in remarks read at the forum by White. “Go after the new HFers, become their Elmers, and make them more skilled communicators—share your vision.”

Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG, agreed. “Get the new hams that are coming out of the chute prepared for public service,” he said. Michalski cited SKYWARN as a worthy public service activity that has mutual benefits. SKYWARN offers “a reason to have to use the radio—besides having a good time,” he said. “They’re actually providing a service.”

All agreed that recognition in terms of certificates or even such things as coffee mugs and T-shirts were motivators to participate. Michalski said hams need to know they are “needed, wanted, and appreciated” for taking part in public service.

Former Western New York Section Manager and National Traffic System veteran Bill Thompson, W2MTA, told the forum that the NTS is “a great place for training for message-handling activities.”

WRC-2000 Reaches Tentative Agreement On Galileo

Tentative agreement was reached this week at World Radiocommunication Conference 2000 on a frequency plan for the proposed Galileo radionavigation-satellite system. Galileo is a multinational European project that is intended to meet civilian sector needs for radionavigation-satellite applications, including civil aviation. It has been proposed as a supplement to GPS and the Russian GLONASS system, both designed principally for military applications. The target date for Galileo is 2008.

The tentative agreement has been accomplished at the working group and committee levels. Ple-

nary level approval is required before it becomes a conference decision.

The agreement would expand the radionavigation-satellite allocation in the vicinity of 1.2 GHz from the existing band, 1215 to 1260 MHz, to 1164 to 1350 MHz. The bands 1164 to 1215, 1215 to 1240, 1240 to 1260, and 1260 to 1300 MHz would be for space-to-Earth and space-to-space transmissions, with varying constraints to protect the other primary services to which these bands are already allocated. The 1300 to 1350 MHz band would be for Earth-to-space transmissions, subject to neither causing harmful interference nor constraining the development of the aeronautical-radionavigation service that operates in this band.

The status of the Amateur Service, which is secondary at 1240 to 1260 and 1260 to 1300 MHz, would be unchanged. Similarly, the footnote that permits the Amateur-Satellite Service to operate in the Earth-to-space direction at 1260 to 1270 MHz also is unchanged at this time. However, the introduction into a band of new primary services always raises issues for existing secondary services, which must protect the primary services from interference.

As a part of the package, urgent studies of the appropriate limits on the Radionavigation-Satellite Service (space-to-Earth) to protect the Radionavigation and Radiolocation services from harmful interference are to be requested. Reports will be made prior to the next WRC.

WRC-2000, now in its third of four weeks, is scheduled to conclude on June 2.

ULS Registration Can Protect Your License Record

Registering now on the FCC’s Universal Licensing System can be a big benefit even if you don’t have any plans to file an application anytime soon. The FCC’s Steve Linn, N4CAK, told those on hand for the Dayton FCC Forum that ULS registration “protects your call sign within the system” and could prevent it from inadvertently being deleted or reissued due to a filing error. He also pointed out that amateurs wishing to make a change of address should file an “administrative update” (AU) and not request a “modification.” The ULS will not renew an amateur’s license unless it is within the 90-day window of expiration (or within the two-year grace period after expira-

tion). The same applies for those upgrading their tickets under restructuring. Linn said the FCC continues to work out the bugs in the ULS. He said that support for the Mac platform and other browsers, such as Internet Explorer, would be coming along soon. The FCC in late April opened the ULS to Web filing. Linn advised filers to use the on-line system whenever possible, since it helps users to avoid errors that will not get trapped when filing on paper and could lead to delays or errors in your FCC record. Visit <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> for more information or to access the ULS.

Willem Van Tuijl Released From Hospital

Willem van Tuijl, the 13-year-old from the Netherlands wounded by gunfire during an attack by pirates off the coast of Honduras last March, has been released from a Dallas hospital. The Dallas Morning News reports Willem “did wheelies in his wheelchair to celebrate” as he left Our Children’s House at Baylor University Medical Center on May 24. The son of Jacco and Jannie van Tuijl, KH2TD and KH2TE, Willem faces another two to three weeks of outpatient care. He is expected to be paralyzed from the waist down as a result of his injuries. After the pirate attack, the family was aided by Amateur Radio operators who called the Coast Guard and provided medical advice during the family’s trip to shore. With the help of a friend, Jacco van Tuijl recently sailed his boat from where it had been moored in Honduras to a slip in Southern Florida. While there, van Tuijl spent a few days with Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, one of the hams who had aided him on the air after the pirate attack. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, was instrumental in getting Willem and his parents transported to Dallas, where the youth could get specialized medical care.

Ham radio helps rescue Pacific boaters

According to a May 14 report in The Honolulu Advertiser, ham radio operators in Hawaii and on Fanning Island in the Republic of Kiribati worked together to help the US Coast Guard rescue a group of teachers adrift in the Pacific. Five Fanning Island teachers were aboard a 36-foot outrigger canoe on a day-long fishing trip May 10 when the canoe’s engine failed, said Lt Michael Wessel of the Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center in Hawaii. A relative reported the missing boat to a ham radio operator on Fanning Island who, in turn, reported it to a ham operator in Hawaii. The Hawaii operator reported the missing

canoe to the Coast Guard. After coordinating with the US embassy in the Republic of Kiribati (to assure fuel would be available on Easter Island) the Coast Guard dispatched a C-130 from Oahu early May 12. The airplane found the boat at noon. The aircraft crew dropped food and water to the teachers, as well as a radio and beacon. They then contacted the coastal freighter Matangare on Washington Island in Kiribati. The freighter rescued the crew and salvaged the boat May 13.—thanks to Russell Houlton for sharing this report

Mir Mission To End In June

According to news reports, Russia will evacuate the Mir space station in June but will keep the aging spacecraft in orbit in case money becomes available for future missions. Mir was designed to stay in orbit for five years, but it’s been in space nearly three times as long. Russian space officials insist that the Mir is funded by private money and has no impact on the International Space Station—already behind schedule in part because of Russian delays. The two cosmonauts aboard Mir, Sergei Zalyotin and Alexander Kaleri, are due to abandon the craft in mid-June after preparing it for months of hibernation. Russian space officials still have not ruled out the possibility that they’ll jettison Mir by late summer if no new money becomes available. There has been some Amateur Radio operation from aboard Mir since it was brought back to life in April and a leak repaired by the current crew.

Spectrum Protection Bill Update

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act bill, HR 783, now has 151 cosponsors. The House Commerce Committee and the Telecommunications Subcommittee have not yet acted on the legislation, however, and it appears that those committees may not act on much more this session. In the Senate, a companion bill—S 2183—seems to have slightly more favorable prospects. With nine cosponsors, it has drawn the interest of some members of the Senate Commerce Committee.

Australian 75-Meter Band To Expand

The Australian Communications Authority has announced that the band 3776 to 3800 kHz will be reallocated to the Amateur Service there as of January 1, 2004.—WIA QNews

One-Year Extension Granted In UK For 73 Khz

The Radiocommunications Agency in the UK agreed May 4 to an RSGB request for continued use of the 73 kHz band. This UK-only amateur band was due to be withdrawn at the end of last year, but the deadline later now has been extended to June 30, 2001--and the RA has not ruled out discussions on an extension beyond that date. Experiments have resulted in several UK stations, running less than 100 mW ERP, being received in Europe at distances of more than 1000 km.—RSGB

France Finally Aboard 136 Khz

A 136 kHz allocation for France now is official. As of April 21, the 135.7 to 137.8 kHz band was made available to French amateurs with a maximum ERP of 1 W. The new ruling includes French territories such as Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique and Saint Pierre et Miquelon, thus making it the first LF allocation in IARU Region 2.—RSGB

NVARC Trading Post

Does anyone work with kids groups (or know someone that does) that might use plastic beads in craft type projects? A large quantity are available to anyone that can put them to good use. If you wondered what a large quantity was, see below.



Each one of those containers is a one gallon milk bottle containing approximately seven thousand plastic beads. Each of the five rows in the picture is a different color. If you know of a group that might have use for these contact Stan



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OPEN 2000

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
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater

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