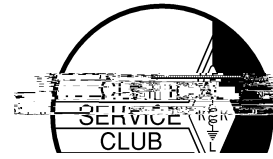




# SIGMA



de NINC

September 2004 Volume 13 Number 9

## This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be September 16<sup>th</sup> and will be a presentation by Bob W1XP "How Radio Works".

## From the President

Plans are coming together for the resumption of meetings this fall.

Bob leads off in September with How Radio Works.

The October meeting program will be a QSL sort for the W1QSL Bureau. Which reminds me, NVARC received a certificate of appreciation at the Boxboro Convention from the ARRL for our participation in the QSL Bureau program.

In September or October we also have support for the Rail Trail Walk and the Fall Soccer Tournament.

November will be the Members Short Topics night and we need four or five presentations in the five to ten minute range for that.

December is Homebrew Night so it is not too early to get going on your latest project.

Our club is known area wide for its activity and skills and it starts with each of you. Together we bring a diverse set of skills, knowledge, and interests that help some advance and keep others challenged. Keep up the great work.

Stan KD1LE

## Adopt A Highway

Participating in the August cleanup were Bob W1XP, Ralph KD1SM, Earl WR1Y, Jim AA1PO, Stan KD1LE, and Ken K1KEY. Thanks to everyone who participated. It would be beneficial to have two more participants for a total of eight. That allows us to work in pairs and have each pair cover one quarter of the distance.

The next cleanup is Sunday September 19th. We meet at the traffic island on the east side of the Nashua River at 9:00 AM.

## Board Meeting Notes

The September Board Meeting was held the 9<sup>th</sup> of September at the KD1LE QTH and in attendance were Larry KB1ESR, Bob W1XP, Ralph KD1SM, and Stan KD1LE.

We discussed the following items;

Grotonfest is Saturday September 18th. Update by Ron W1PLW via Ralph. Ron could still use some additional staff to man the booth.

Update on Pepperell Soccer Tournament by Ralph who covered for John KB1HDO at the organizational meeting.

Rail Trail Walk update. Waiting on Ken K1KEY who is trying to contact organizers.

Approved the payment of the annual insurance premium. To be put to members at the regular meeting.

Approved cookout expenses of \$23.85.

Remember to give your outgoing QSL cards to Bob W1XP to be sent out.

## This Weekend On The Air

If you have the time this weekend and the desire to get make some VHF and above QSOs then don't miss the ARRL VHF QSO Party. This contest allows VHF enthusiasts to test their skills trying to work as many other stations in as many different grid squares as possible on each of the various bands above 30 MHz from 1800z Saturday through 0300z Monday. For more information go to <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/sepvhf.html>

If you have an HT or mobile rig (even if just FM) then you have everything that is needed to get involved. While you may be able to work folks from your own QTH you can greatly increase your odds by making the short trip to a higher location. Some of my favorite locations include Mt. Wachusett, Pack Monadnock in NH, and the parking lot of the Groton / Dunstable School on 119. For those with FM only radios try 50.525, 146.55 & 58 (146.52 is not used as its the national simplex frequency), 223.5 and 446.000 MHz.

I will be operating again from MT. Greylock with the Multi-OP unlimited group W2SZ/1 (ref: <http://www.mgef.org/>). We will be on all bands 6m through light and would appreciate working you on as many bands as possible so point your antennas NW. If you have a problem working us at the beginning of the contest try again toward the end when activity is lower.

Les Peters N1SV

## Boxboro ARRL Convention

Many NVARC members took in the convention and flea market. By my count there were 18 as follows.

Bruce K1BG, Bob W1XP, Stan KD1LE, Dave N1MNX, Ralph KD1SM, John KB1HDO, Ken K1JKR, Don N1HVA, Nancy KB1KEF, Gary K1YTS, Les N1SV, Ron W1PLW, Phil KB1JKL, Peter N1ZRG, Steve WA4LDL, Dennis K1LGQ, Bob AB1CW, Rod WA1TAC. It is good to see so many people active.

Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM gave a presentation on Radio Direction Finding.

Winners at the drawing were Stan KD1LE who came away with a MAHA Fast Battery Charger and Bruce K1BG who walked away with the big prize, an Icom 756 Pro HF Transceiver and power supply.

## NVARC Club Net

The NVARC Information Net has been running three months now. We started just after the April club meeting.

The net on August 23rd was called by Ken K1KEY. Participating were Bob W1XP and Stan KD1LE.

Nets continue to be called and are a good place to bring information for the club and questions or discussions. The net meets at 8:00 PM Monday evenings on the 442.900 N1MNX repeater.

## Signals From The Past

*(I recently received this email from a former Pepperell resident – ed)*

A Pepperell Ham out of the Past

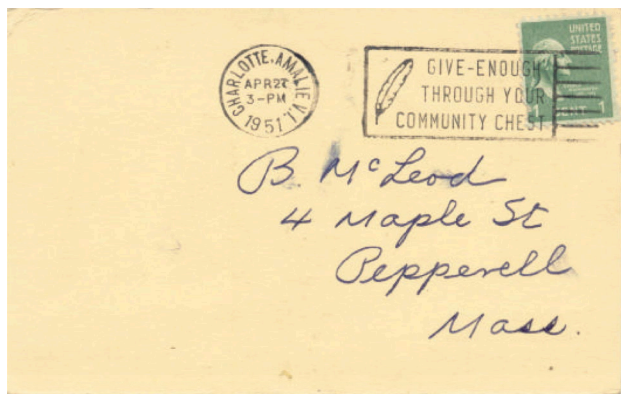
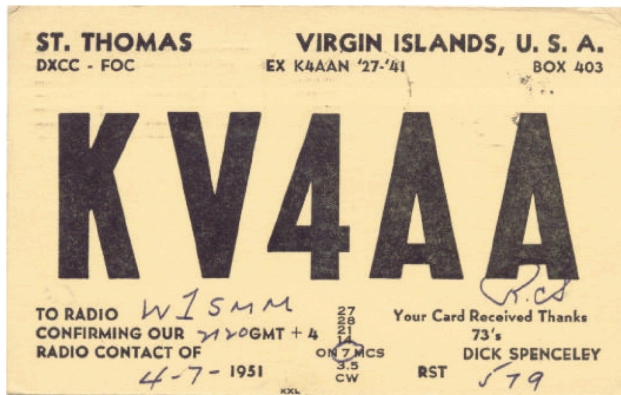
Back in September, 1946, at age 18 I left my Pepperell MA home on Oak Hill and joined the Army Air Corp. I soon found myself spending eight hours a day learning Morse code and learning how to type. In September, 1949, I got out of the Air Force with the ability to handle code easily at 30 wpm, but not knowing a resistor from a capacitor. By the end of that year, I was a freshman EE at Northeastern and was the proud holder of a Class B license and call letters W1SMM. [Back then that was the only class license a newbie could get – then after a year one could take another test and get Class A.] It took me a little over a year to gather the smarts, the money, an army surplus receiver, a long wire antenna, a homebrew one tube (6L6) rig and a single crystal at 7062 kc (not KHz) but I finally got on the air from Maple Street in Pepperell in April 1951. What a thrill it was to have KV4AA as my first contact – and he answered me on the first call! My parents were amazed and probably worried that I was willing to spend all of those hours operating when I should have been sleeping or studying.

I am reasonably certain that there were no other hams in Pepperell at that time – I sometimes think I was the first, but it really doesn't matter who came first. After college I moved to New Jersey (1954) and when it came time to renew, I made the mandatory change of call letters and became K2QXW. I'm still living in New Jersey, and I'm still banging away at the Morse. Recently I was looking up some repeaters on the web, and as I clicked from one page to the next I was pleasantly surprised to discover that there was an NVARC and that hams are all over the town. I'll be reading the on-line newsletter from now

on, and if I'm ever around there again on the third Thursday, I'll be sure to drop in.

73 to all,  
Bruce McLeod, K2QXW (ex W1SMM)

My first QSL card can be viewed at:  
<http://www.monmouth.com/~mcleod/gsl.pdf>  
Note the value of the postage stamp!



The above QSL has a postmark of April 22 1951 and has a one cent stamp for postage.

**NARC Cookout**

The NVARC Cookout was postponed from Saturday due to weather but it was worth it. Saturday was heavy rain and T-storms all of the day. Sunday was beautiful with sun and blue skies. The cookout was hosted by Jim N8VIN.



Courtesy N1PBL  
Above (clockwise from left) Gary K1YTS, Bruce K1BG, Ralph KD1SM, Dennis K1LGQ, Bob W1XP, Stan KD1LE, Jim N8VIM



Courtesy KD1SM

The cookout out was well attended and we saw some new faces. In attendance were Don AB1DS, Bruce K1BG and Jane, Larry KB1ESR and Beverly, Ralph KD1SM, Stan KD1LE and Lynda N1PBL, Gary K1YTS and Nancy KB1KEF, Dennis K1LGQ, Bob W1XP and Karen KA1JVU

I don't know what it means but the ladies sat in the sun on the deck and the guys sat in the shade on the lawn?

**PSLIST August 15**

Public Service Volunteer Opportunities in the New England Division

\*\*\*\* Every event listed is looking for communications volunteers \*\*\*\*

Date Location Event  
Contact Tel/Email

Sep 17 Plymouth to Sandwich ALA Autumn Escape  
Bicycle Tour Bruce KC1US 781-275-3740  
kc1us04@amateur-radio.net

Sep 18 Madison to Modus CT MS Tour 150  
Sep 19 Modus to Madison CT MS Tour 150  
Scott AA1WM 203-676-1016  
[sbicycles@comcast.net](mailto:sbicycles@comcast.net)

Sep 19 Brewster to Provincetown MA ALA Autumn  
Escape Bicycle Tour Bruce KC1US 781-275-3740  
[kc1us04@amateur-radio.net](mailto:kc1us04@amateur-radio.net)

Sep 19 Hopkinton to Boston Jimmy Fund Walk  
Steve W3EVE 508-384-7697 [w3eve@arrl.net](mailto:w3eve@arrl.net)

Oct 9-11 Pepperell MA Fall Classic Soccer  
John KB1HDO 978-772-5406 [kb1dho@verizon.net](mailto:kb1dho@verizon.net)

Oct 22-24 Cambridge Head of the Charles Regatta  
Jeff N1FWV 978-536-2842 [N1FWV@comcast.com](mailto:N1FWV@comcast.com)

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.

The most up-to-date copy of this list is maintained as <http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>

## ARRL Letter

### ARRL TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

During September, the ARRL will be among dozens of organizations and agencies participating in National Preparedness Month. "The Ready Campaign," produced by the Ad Council in partnership with the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is aimed at making citizen preparedness "a priority for every city, every neighborhood and every home" in the US. The League is an official affiliate of Citizen Corps, a DHS initiative to enhance public preparedness and safety. ARRL will combine its role in National Preparedness Month--which starts September 9--with its own "Amateur Radio Awareness Day" on September 18.

"The two events offer great opportunities for Amateur Radio to showcase its valued service to the nation," said ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. She encouraged ARRL-affiliated clubs and Field Organization volunteers to use the occasion to set up public demonstrations of Amateur Radio and to present or even demonstrate--under the banner of National Preparedness Month--

the free services Amateur Radio provides to communities.

ARRL Club/Mentor Program Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, suggests that while displays should be informative, they also need to be neat and simple. "This is also an excellent opportunity to recruit prospective hams for licensing classes that clubs may be forming for the fall," he added. In addition, ARRL encourages all Amateur Radio operators to have a family emergency communication plan in place in case of an emergency, such as a severe weather event. "Get Ready Now" brochures are available. Visit the Ready.gov Web site <http://www.ready.gov> for more information.

On Amateur Radio Awareness Day, September 18, W1AW/90 will be on the air from 10 AM until 10 PM Eastern Time with ARRL staff members, new Section Managers in town for the annual Section Managers' Workshop and volunteers from the Newington Amateur Radio League as operators. White encourages amateur groups to invite public officials, representatives of served agencies and first responders to visit their public displays to discuss plans for their Simulated Emergency Test (SET), typically in early October, or other drills.

Some clubs already have jumped on the National Preparedness Month/Amateur Radio Awareness Day bandwagon, Fusaro notes--in some cases by taking advantage of already scheduled events during September.

The Middletown Amateur Radio Club--W2MAR--in New Jersey will take part in Middletown Day activities September 18 with a public ham radio display, information table, traffic handling and ARES/RACES displays. The club expects some 3000 visitors in town, including state and local officials.

In Illinois, Amateur Radio Awareness Day falls on the same weekend as the three-day Peoria Superfest 2004 Amateur Radio and computer show. The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club will have an all-day demonstration at the Exposition Garden Fairgrounds on September.

The Space Park Employees Association Amateur Radio Club (W6TRW) in Redondo Beach, California, will have its emergency communications team (ECT) van at the Northrop Grumman Space Technology open house September 18.

The ARRL has printed materials available for ARRL-affiliated clubs, ARES groups and others to use for public exhibits and ham radio demonstrations. Brochures may be downloaded free of charge from the

ARRL Web site  
<<http://www.arrl.org/htdig/?method+and&words=brochure>>. For a small shipping fee, exhibit kits also are available. Contact Linda Mullally, KB1HSV, <[lmullally@arrl.org](mailto:lmullally@arrl.org)> to order.

The League also offers a sample news release <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/handbook/sample-news-release.html>> that clubs and groups can customize to help spread the word. More information about National Preparedness Month or Amateur Radio demonstrations in general is available from ARRL <[clubs@arrl.org](mailto:clubs@arrl.org)>.

### **AMATEUR COMMUNITY INVITED TO CELEBRATE MAXIM BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY**

Members of the amateur community are invited to help celebrate the 135<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of the League's co-founder and first president Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, who was born September 2, 1869. ARRL Life Members and the League's extended family of elected and appointed volunteers and officials are eligible to identify by appending /135 to their call signs. The complete eligibility list <<http://www.arrl.org/qst/2004/09/field-positions-135.html>>(or see Sep QST, p 40) also includes ARRL Headquarters staff members as well as past and present ARRL directors, presidents, vice presidents and honorary vice presidents.

Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be on the air for the 135th birthday anniversary event. While W1AW has been appending "/90" to its call sign to mark the ARRL's 90th anniversary, it will go with the /135 identifier during the birthday celebration period.

The object of the 10-day event is to work as many HPM/135 stations as you can. Putting at least 25 in the log will make you eligible for an attractive certificate, designed especially for this occasion and endorsable in increments of 25 contacts up to a maximum of 100 (but don't stop there).

The HPM/135 event begins at 0000 UTC on Thursday, September 2, and concludes at 2400 UTC on Sunday, September 12. Stations may be contacted for credit on any band or mode--including repeaters. HPM/135 stations transmit signal report, appointment (or position) and name. All others transmit signal report and name.

To obtain a certificate, submit a log extract including date, time, band, call sign worked and exchange for each /135 contact. HPM/135 stations are eligible for certificates too. Include your name, call sign and address and indicate how many HPM/135 stations you worked.

Entries go to HPM/135 Celebration, c/o W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. Entries may be submitted on a floppy disk or CD in text format. Include a check or money order for US\$5, payable to ARRL. Entries must be postmarked by October 16, 2004.

### **NEW "BIG PROJECT" ACTIVITY BOARD A TREASURE TROVE OF TEACHING POSSIBILITIES**

The ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP--also known as "The Big Project") will offer a new activity board to schools this fall. ETP Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, says the "L/C/Resonance" or L/C/R activity board will allow students to explore many facets of alternating current and RF theory. The board will help students to unravel the mysteries of capacitive and inductive reactance, verify reactance formulas using actual data taken from the activity board, measure the resonant frequency of either series or parallel L/C circuits and then put it all together to explore the relationship between capacitive and inductive reactance and resonance. And there's more, Spencer points out.

"Because the board uses a microcontroller and a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) to generate the ac waveform used to explore L/C circuits, there is an additional learning opportunity: digital signal processing (DSP) fundamentals," he notes. "This facet of the board leads to exploration of root mean square (rms) voltage and current and the mathematical derivation of rms."

Given the level of mathematics involved, Spencer says the activity board is intended primarily for high school physics or second-year algebra students. But, he adds, anyone studying for the General or Amateur Extra license examination could benefit from the learning opportunities the L/C/R activity board affords.

"In other words," Spencer says, "there is a whole lot of activity packed into this little board."

Students use mathematical, graphing, graphing calculator, spreadsheet and critical-thinking skills to make sense of the data collected during the various board activities. For example, students use graphing calculator curve-fitting techniques to verify the reactance formulas. Drawing on the premise that one picture is worth a thousand words, Spencer says, spreadsheet software helps students visualize the raw voltage and current data measurements.

During the DSP activities, students use the OptaScope digital oscilloscope to see the stair-step waveform generated by the computer and the DAC on one channel, and the smoothed waveform exiting a simple filter on the other. "Visualizing a waveform in discrete slices helps students understand what happens during DSP," Spencer explains.

The L/C/R activity board kit includes the circuit board, the parts to populate it, plus documentation to support the board's construction and use. As with previous activity boards, this one is designed to be constructed by students under adult supervision.

Activity board kits are available to interested and qualified schools through generous donations to the Education and Technology Program Fund. To qualify for one of these kits, interested schools need to write Spencer on school letterhead and verify that (1) the lead teacher has reviewed the curriculum that supports the L/C/R activity board, (2) the curriculum and the board fit into the school's curriculum and the school intends to use the board as an instructional activity, and (3) the school has the capability to build the activity board (preferably, students will do the actual construction). For schools wishing to roll their own, all documentation, diagrams, a parts list, and software in hard copy are available simply for the asking. Send requests to Mark Spencer, WA8SME, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Another new activity board kit, to be available in January 2005, is a simple and inexpensive direct-conversion receiver kit, produced by the American QRP Club. For more information about these boards and the ARRL Education and Technology Program, contact Mark Spencer, WA8SME, 860-594-0396; mspencer@arrl.org. To learn more about how to support the ARRL Education and Technology Program, contact ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, 860-594-0397; mhobart@arrl.org.

### **ARRL GOES TO BAT FOR ARIZONA AMATEURS, SEEKS BPL FIELD TRIAL SHUTDOWN**

The ARRL has asked the FCC to immediately shut down a broadband over power line (BPL) field trial in the Cottonwood, Arizona, area because it's causing "severe interference" to Amateur Radio communication. Electric Broadband LLC and utility APS have been operating the BPL experiment at two Yavapai County sites since June under a Special Temporary Authorization (STA) the FCC granted Electric Broadband in March. Michael Kinney, KU7W, filed the first Amateur Radio complaint in June. It cited testing by the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association

(VVARA) <<http://www.vvara.org>> in the 1.8-30 MHz range to show that BPL interference made attempts at ham radio communication useless.

"The interference on typical Amateur Radio equipment shows received undesired signal levels in excess of 60 dB over S9 on the receiver's signal strength meter," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told FCC officials on the League's behalf. "The utility and Electric Broadband were contacted, and no response was received." The ARRL asserted that both companies are aware that the BPL field trial has been causing harmful interference and "neither has taken any steps to either resolve it or terminate the test."

The League said VVARA and ARRL testing indicates "extremely high" levels of radiated RF energy on amateur HF allocations--well in excess of the FCC Part 15 levels with which Electric Broadband told the FCC it would comply. VVARA testing revealed "actual harmful interference" from the BPL system to mobile stations in the vicinity and to a fixed station.

The League's shutdown request went out August 16 to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David Solomon and Deputy Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Bruce Franca. ARRL called on the FCC to instruct Electric Broadband and APS to shut down the BPL trial immediately and not resume operation until it can demonstrate that all interference issues have been resolved. It also insisted that the FCC immediately revoke any STAs granted for the Cottonwood or nearby operations, and that it institute forfeiture proceedings against the two companies for knowingly causing harmful interference.

VVARA submitted a lengthy and comprehensive report to the two companies and to the Commission in late July detailing the interference issues. The club took baseline measurements in January, before the BPL trial began, and it's continued taking measurements since the system's startup. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, conducted independent tests of the Cottonwood BPL system in July, and the League attached a summary of his findings to its letter.

The VVARA and ARRL measurements, the League said, indicate widespread interference to Amateur Radio communication in an area within a mile of the BPL field trial, and radiated emissions from BPL modems at levels "several orders of magnitude higher" than the FCC Part 15 limits. One ARRL measurement cited was more than 32 dB higher than Part 15 allows. The League further accused Electric Broadband of misrepresenting facts to the Commission by saying it would comply with §15.109 of the FCC's

rules. The ARRL said continued operation of the system while violating the conditions under which the STA was granted constitutes "willful and repeated interference," and both the utility and the BPL provider should be subject to fines as a result.

"ARRL requests that this test station be shut down immediately and that the appropriate monetary forfeitures be imposed against both Electric Broadband and APS," the League concluded.

### **HAM RADIO "ONLY RELIABLE COMMUNICATION" AT HURRICANE CHARLEY GROUND ZERO**

Once again, Amateur Radio has proven its value in an emergency. With conventional telecommunication systems unreliable and power still out after the Category 4 Hurricane Charley blasted across the Florida Peninsula August 13, Amateur Radio has proven to be a communication mainstay.

"The only reliable communication we have here is Amateur Radio," ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager Dave Armbrust, AE4MR, told ARRL earlier this week. He was one of the three dozen ARES volunteers at the Charlotte County command post. "We're out in the field trying to handle so many different things that it's almost overwhelming," he said five days into the activation.

By week's end, the need for additional ARES volunteers in the Hurricane Charley relief and recovery effort had stabilized. Communications and Warning Officer John Fleming, WD4FFX, of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) told ARRL that ham radio volunteers already on duty in the five most severely affected counties were holding their own in maintaining necessary emergency communication. But he advised Amateur Radio volunteers to remain at the ready, just in case, and recommended that ARES teams, clubs and individuals work through their ARES Section Emergency Coordinator.

The FDEM says Hurricane Charley caused two dozen deaths and nearly 4000 injuries, and almost a quarter-million residents were still without power at week's end. Other reports indicate that as many as 10,000 homes were badly damaged or destroyed.

The most severely stricken communities are in largely rural areas of western and central Florida made up of smaller towns. Among other storm relief duties, hams have been part of an effort to check on residents and determine what they need and to "make sure everyone's okay," Armbrust said.

Amateur Radio operators have been handling emergency traffic and assisting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in setting up HF communication to the state emergency operations center in the capital of Tallahassee. ARES also has provided communication for search-and-rescue teams and supported American Red Cross and The Salvation Army humanitarian relief efforts.

In addition, ARES operators handled outgoing health-and-welfare traffic from storm victims now taking refuge in shelters, provided or supplemented public safety communication and even took on some dispatching duties. Amateur Radio volunteers also deployed to hospitals, some of which have experienced spotty communication. Several VHF and UHF repeaters have been buzzing with emergency traffic all week.

Armbrust emphasized that Hurricane Charley cut a broad swath across Florida, and the devastation was widespread. "This looks like a war zone," he remarked. Hot, humid weather has aggravated the relief effort, especially for emergency medical service personnel who not only are dealing with storm-related health issues but with those resulting from the heat.

ARES teams from Florida Miami-Dade, Martin, St Lucie, Broward, Okeechobee and Palm Beach counties deployed to relieve or assist the amateur operators on duty in the affected communities.

In Sarasota County, Ron Wetjen, WD4AHZ, has been working at the county EOC and assigning volunteers to assist in neighboring Charlotte County, where Armbrust has been holding down the fort. "We've had offers of help from guys in Montana, Ohio, and New York!" Wetjen said August 19. "We have a couple from Tennessee here now, with two more on the way for the weekend."

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) on 14.265 MHz spent nearly five days in continuous operation. It's also used Amateur Radio for its logistical communications. The Salvation Army has been providing meals, household necessities and other assistance to residents displaced by the storm and has been relying on its own Amateur Radio resources. SATERN also has taken on responsibility for health-and-welfare inquiries, both via Amateur Radio and through its Web site <<http://www.satarn.net>>.

In advance of the storm, SKYWARN teams were active the Hurricane Watch Net and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center cooperated to gather ground-level weather data and damage reports.

"It seems as if the Amateur Radio world is listening and waiting to help when an event such as this occurs," observed SATERN National Director Pat McPherson, WW9E, "and it's edifying to realize the positive impact of their dedication to the task of helping others."

### **ARRL MEMBER NAMED TO KEY FCC WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU POST**

The FCC has named Michael J. Wilhelm, WS6BR, of Washington, DC, as chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division. The division deals with Amateur Radio Service issues, and the appointment makes Wilhelm--a League member--the first amateur licensee in several years to hold such a position within the FCC.

Wilhelm replaces D'wana Terry, whom WTB Chief John Muleta named to be his chief of staff and associate bureau chief. Terry headed the Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division and its predecessor, the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, for six years.

Wilhelm most recently served as the division's deputy chief (legal). In his new post, he will oversee all policy, regulatory and licensing matters related to public safety entities, critical infrastructure industries and private wireless radio services. Among Wilhelm's staffers is Bill Cross, W3TN, an ARRL member and FCC figure well-known within the amateur community.

Wilhelm holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit, a master's from the University of Michigan and a juris doctor degree with high honors from the University of Florida Law School.--FCC

### **FCC EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DECLARATION POLICY PREFERS VHF-UHF**

The FCC has formalized its policy for issuing an emergency communications declaration (ECD) on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. The policy, which became effective August 2, states that ECDs will be issued for VHF or UHF repeaters--if the licensee consents--or on simplex channels in the 60-meter band. The FCC will not entertain requests to specifically sequester frequencies in other HF bands for emergency traffic only. Past emergency communications declarations--typically issued during weather-related emergencies--have put frequencies on 75 and 40 meters off limits to general use in an affected region.

"ECDs may only be issued after a disaster disrupts normal communication systems in a geographic area subject to FCC regulation," the FCC said, citing §97.401(b). Under its provisions, when a disaster disrupts normal telecommunications systems in a given area, the FCC may declare a temporary communication emergency that sets forth any special conditions and special rules stations must observe while it's in effect. The policy clarifies that the FCC has authority to issue ECDs only for communication emergencies and not on the basis of anticipated emergencies. It also tightens up the requirements to request an ECD.

The policy calls for VHF and UHF Amateur Service channels to receive preference for ECDs. Requests may indicate a specific repeater system, subject to permission from the repeater's licensee or trustee. On HF, the FCC says, an ECD may authorize the use of one or two 60-meter channels, centered on 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz, subject to §97.303(s). See ARRL's Frequently Asked Questions regarding 60-meter operation <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq-60.html>> for details.

The FCC said frequencies in other amateur bands--where emergency nets already have been established--may be used during emergencies under the provisions of §97.101(c). That rule section stipulates that amateur operators give priority to stations providing emergency communications "at all times and on all frequencies."

The FCC policy, Emergency Communications Declarations in the Amateur Radio Service, is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/emcom-declarations.html>>.

### **Contest Calendar and DXpeditions**

The information for a DXpedition can be quite detailed and may include bands, dates, number of stations, and times of day they plan to work certain continents so I can not list it all here. But if a country or prefix is of interest you can get more information at [www.425dxn.org](http://www.425dxn.org).

#### **DXpeditions**

5H	Tanzania	1 year
5V	Togo	current
8Q7WP	Maldives	till 09/05
VK0DX	Antartica	till December
VQ9LA	Diego Garcia	till December



5H3HK	Tanzania	till March 2006
ZD8I	Ascension Is	till March 2006
HS0ZCW	Thailand	till August 25

**Advertisements**

Tell them you saw it in the Signal. Advertisers should contact the NVARC Treasurer for information.



BERNIE PEABODY N1IMO  
DICK WILBORG W1ZC

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603-889-7905	19 PROCTOR HILL RD.
800-323-5876	HOLLIS, NH 03049
FAX 603-465-3320	

**\$August Treasurers Report\$**

Income for August was \$74 in membership dues, \$28.93 in savings interest, \$60 from Now You're Talking distribution, and \$15 from PowerPole connector distribution. Expenses were \$14.80 for newsletter postage, \$23.85 for the cookout, and \$12.59 for a Field Day reimbursement, leaving a net income of \$126.69 for the month.

Current balances:

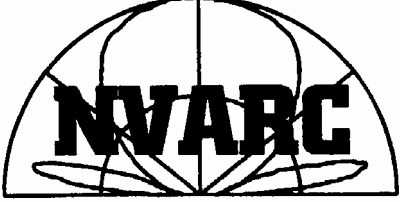
General fund	\$4677.35
Community fund	\$1722.95

Welcome to new member Leo Hunter WA1ULK from Pepperell.



As of 9 September we have 56 current members and six renewals outstanding.

73,  
Ralph KD1SM



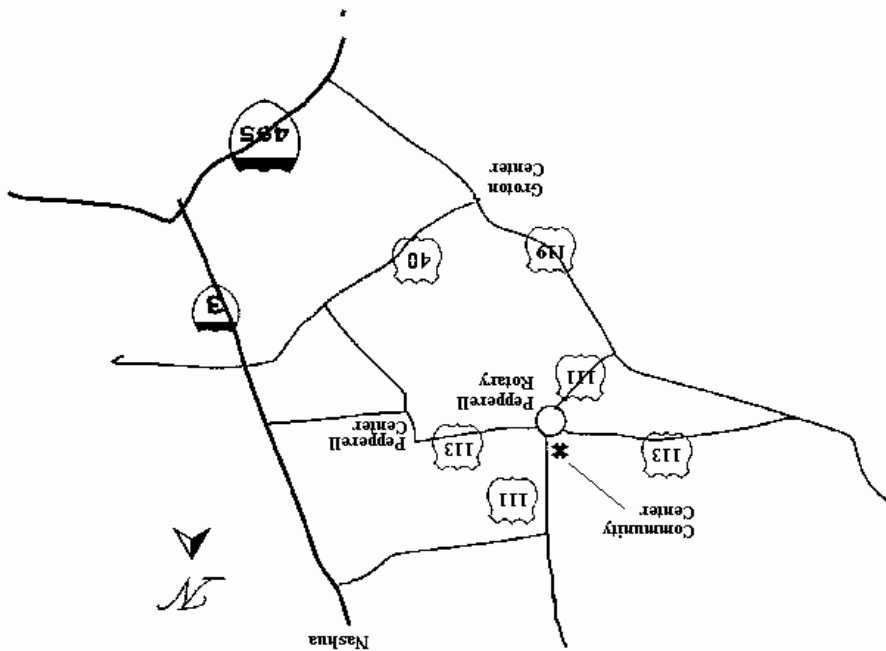
**Nashoba Valley  
Amateur Radio Club**  
PO Box # 900  
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

<http://www.n1nc.org/>

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 Property Master: John Griswold KB1HDO  
 N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month  
 - 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr. Talk-in  
 146.490 simplex  
 442.900 + 100Hz Repeater  
 147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater  
 53.890 - 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 send items to [pozerski@net1plus.com](mailto:pozerski@net1plus.com)  
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