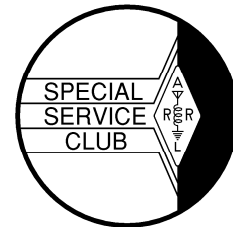




SIGNAL



de NINC

February 2011 Volume 20 Number 02

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting is Thursday February 17th at 7:30 at the Pepperell Community Center. The meeting program RF Exposure by Mal Crawford K1MC.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting program was Members Short Subjects.

Bob W1XP displayed a possible transmitter and receiver that could be built for a future Lantern Battery Challenge.

Skip K1NKR did a presentation on the History of Ham Spectrum.

Rod WA1TAC presented on the Groton Electric wireless meter reading system.

Bruce did tour of Extreme Ham Antennas.

In attendance were KB1JKL Phil, KK1X John, WA1TAC Rod, W1XP Bob, WR1Y Earl, KB1ESR Larry, K1BG Bruce, KD1SM Ralph, N8VIM Jim, K1LK Leo, N1ZRG Peter, KD1LE Stan, K1NNJ Tom, K1YTS Gary, W1PCQ Drew, NW1U Paul, K1NKR Skip, KB1UVP Ken, N1HVA Don, K1JKR Ken.

Groton Road Race

Groton Road Race - April 10

The Groton Road Race is nearing its 20th year. It brings about a thousand runners to the town of Groton on a Sunday afternoon in April. There are two events; a 5k race and a 10k race. Both depend on Amateur Radio to provide logistics and safety communications. The Squannacook River Runners -- the event organizers -- have turned to Amateur Radio since the second year of the event.

The Groton Police Chiefs have said over and over again that the Amateur Radio operators are critical to their ability to handle this large event.

In previous years the Groton Road Race has been at the end of April. This year due to the Easter holiday the Race is being held earlier in the month.

Please talk with Ralph KD1SM and hold Sunday April 10 in your calendars. This is one of the premier events at which we show to the community the value of our skills, our licenses, and the precious radio spectrum that is made available to us. There is no better feeling that to receive some of the many expressions of thanks from a runner as they pass your station.

Ralph KD1SM

NVARC Net

The NVARC net meets on 442.900 N1MNX repeater Mondays at 8:00 PM. The net is for sharing information and asking questions. Recent topics were a quiz on snow records, meeting programs, antenna suggestions for new hams

Bring your questions and topics for discussion so that we can all learn something.

Recent checkins Jim N8VIM/NCS, N1MNX, Stan KD1LE, Gary K1YTS, Skip K1NKR, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP and Roland NR1G, KB1ESR .Larry.

PSLIST

No events currently listed.

See www.n1nc.org/Events for the latest information

Board Meeting

Ralph gave the treasurers report which is reported in its own section. Membership renewals were received.

There was a discussion on ways to improve the Monday night net in terms of content. If someone would bring a subject and some prepared answers in T/F or multiple choice it would be good.

Meeting programs were discussed. Skip K1NKR is working to schedule programs. We are always looking for a short subject or show-and-tell to add to each meeting. Skip discussed the calendar of programs as far as it was known.

Possible participation in Groton's Octoberfest for public awareness. Looking for someone to lead this.

John reviewed the club survey sent out by Bo Budinger WA1QYM ACC for EMA.

The March Club meeting will be at the Pepperell Lawrence Library and is already in their calendar.

In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Skip K1NKR, John KK1X, Ralph KD1SM, Bob W1XP.

Adopt A Highway

Next clean up will be in April 2011.

Treasurers Report

Income for January was \$30 in membership renewals, \$2 in ARRL membership renewals, and \$4.02 in bank interest. Expenses were \$17.60 for Newsletter postage and \$70 for the Post Office Box renewal leaving a net expense of \$51.58.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,803.88
Community fund	\$4,336.41

As of 3 February we have 43 members who are current with their dues and 24 renewals outstanding. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If you are not yet an ARRL member and are interested in joining, please consider letting Ralph send in the paperwork for you. The Club will buy the stamp and will get a commission from ARRL. If your

ARRL membership is ready for renewal, you can let Ralph mail it in for you and the Club will still get a (smaller) commission. ARRL membership checks should be made payable to NVARC; we deduct our commission before we forward your paperwork to Newington.

Ralph KD1SM

ARRL New England Cabinet Meeting

The ARRL Board of Directors meets twice a year; in January and July. One or two weeks before the Board meeting, New England Division Director Tom Frenaye K1KI invites all Club Presidents and ARRL Section Managers and their senior appointees to a "cabinet meeting" to discuss matters that might come before the Board and get the pulse of the Amateur Radio operators in New England.

The January New England Division Cabinet Meeting was held on Saturday, January 15 in Springfield MA. Over thirty Section Managers, Assistant Section Managers, Club Presidents, Vice Presidents, and a couple of ARRL staff participated.

Among the topics discussed were the new ARRL Web site; how well it is meeting the needs of the long-time Hams in finding the information they need and how well it is attracting new people into Amateur Radio. There were many comments from those who found the old site more to their liking but several noted that the new look was likely to be more attractive to newcomers.

Also discussed in the context of the Web site was asking ARRL do to more digital publishing. K1KI noted that there is an ongoing consideration within the ARRL publications bureau on when to publish a digital version of a printed publication. Concerns about illegal duplication as well as consideration of the audience to which a given publication is attractive are all being evaluated.

K1KI gave a brief update on FCC activities. He noted that the BPL issue is not quite dead yet; the FCC has still not replied to the court order issued two years ago to respond to ARRL's formal complaint that certain technical data on which the FCC based its unfavorable BPL ruling was not made available for public examination.

Mike Raisbeck K1TWF, New England Division Vice Director, observed that the FCC is looking "all over the place" for spectrum to satisfy the National Broadband goals to add 500 Mhz of spectrum for broadband use. Mike and Tom believe this is the

biggest current threat to Amateur radio spectrum. The 2.3GHz and 3.4 GHz bands are most at risk.

Mentioning other legislative matters, K1TWF also reported that the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act" has been re-introduced into Congress. The objective of this bill is to direct is the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations. For more information, see the ARRL news item

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2011-01-13#toc01>

It will help if we let our Representatives and Senators know of our desire that they support this legislation. Tom K1KI reported that planning is starting for an ARRL national convention in New England to celebrate the 100th anniversary of ARRL in 2014. That year is also the 'on' year for the Boxboro convention and there is discussion underway about the possibility of having a combined event. If that were to happen, a different location needs to be found as the Boxboro site cannot handle the number of attendees that would be expected at a national convention.

Two club representatives from Connecticut briefed the meeting on a new FEMA course that is being released by the FEMA Telecommunications Section covering the role of Amateur Radio in emergency communication. This course coins a new term, "Auxiliary Emergency Communicator", to avoid the misunderstandings associated with the name "Amateur Radio Operator".

The beta version of the course appeared to be targeted primarily at Hams, to recommend how to fit into a FEMA emergency operation. It was stated that the course will be required of all Emergency Managers, however.

Tom K1KI concluded the discussion with a status report of licensing activity in the Division. He indicated that the total number of licensees continues to rise and that nationwide we are near to an all-time high for the number of licensed Amateur Radio operators. ARRL membership is holding approximately steady according to Tom.

Tom also reported that ARRL is considering a move to electronic ballots for elections. This is in part a cost saving initiative but the hope is also to increase participation. It turns out that another reason for the

move is that the ballots used in the Director and Vice Director elections are counted by a 1950's era machine whose various belts are wearing out -- and these belts are made from Unobtainium.

Reported by Ralph KD1SM

ARRL Letter

Amateur Radio and the Law : Mixed Decision from the California Court of Appeals in Palmdale, California Antenna Case

On January 27, the California Court of Appeals, Second Appellate District, issued its Opinion in the antenna case of Alec Zubarau, WB6X. In several respects, it is a win for Amateur Radio in California; however, the Court decreed that Zubarau was not entitled to his HF antenna, and said that his vertical antenna would suffice as a substitute for it.

The California Court of Appeals handed down a mixed decision in the Palmdale antenna case. In one of its three decisions, the Court said Palmdale followed the law when they made Alec Zubarau, WB6X, take down his permitted tower but allowed him to keep a VHF/UHF vertical on his roof. The Court said they thought this was a reasonable accommodation because it allowed him to be active in some part of Amateur Radio.

The Court found that the Palmdale antenna ordinance, as it pertained to the height limit for vertical antennas, was "unenforceable" because it allowed a radio amateur to have a vertical antenna up to 75 feet high when measured from the ground but limited the "active element of the antenna array" to 30 feet. The ordinance did not define "array" or "active element" and did not specify from where the 30 permitted feet for such "array" was to be measured. The Court found that if even one reasonable interpretation of the ordinance could be found, the ordinance could be upheld, but that in this case, no one could understand what the limitations were and how they could be applied. That portion of the City's ordinance was therefore unconstitutional and unenforceable.

On the Air: The ARRL International DX CW Contest Is Just One Week Away!

Gabriel Cornejo, LU3DAT -- a member of the Radio Club Almirante Brown, LU3DY Team in Argentina -- competes in the 2010 ARRL International DX CW Contest.

The weekend of February 19-20 is prime time for CW DXing as the 2011 ARRL International DX CW

Contest takes to the airwaves. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, stations in the US and Canada work only DX stations -- Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX for this contest -- and DX stations only work the US and Canada. DX stations will be trying to make QSOs with all US states and Canadian provinces. The contest exchange is simple: US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and the amount of power they are transmitting with. Read more here.

Amateur Radio in Space: ARISSat-1 to Be Deployed from ISS Next Week; Watch Live on NASA TV

Expedition 26 Flight Engineers Dmitry Kondratyev and Oleg Skripochka, RN3FU, will step outside the International Space Station (ISS) on Wednesday, February 16. While in space, they will install and retrieve experiments on the Russian segment of the complex and deploy ARISSat-1, a small ham radio satellite. NASA TV coverage will begin at 6:45 AM (CST), while the extra-vehicular activity -- commonly called a spacewalk -- will begin about 30 minutes later. The spacewalk will be the second for Kondratyev, who will wear the spacesuit marked with red stripes, and the third for Skripochka, who will wear the suit with blue stripes.

Members of the ARISSat-1 team prepare the satellite for vibration testing at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. For more on ARISSat-1, check out the February 2011 issue of QST.

During the nearly six hour spacewalk, Kondratyev and Skripochka will deploy an experiment called ARISSat-1, a boxy 57-pound nanosatellite that houses congratulatory messages commemorating the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's launch to become the first human in space. The ham radio transmitter will enable communications with Amateur Radio operators around the world for three to six months. It is the first of a series of educational satellites being developed in a partnership with the Radio Amateur Satellite Corp, the NASA Office of Education International Space Station National Lab Project, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program and RSC-Energia.

The two cosmonauts will also install two experiments: One will collect information useful in seismic forecasts and earthquake predictions, and the second will look at gamma splashes and optical radiation during terrestrial lightning and thunderstorms. The spacewalkers also will retrieve a pair of panels exposed to space as part of an experiment to identify

the best materials for building long-duration spacecraft.

You can watch live online on the NASA TV Public and Media channels, or on your television set. Contact your local provider for the NASA TV channel in your area. -- Thanks to NASA for the information

FCC: FCC Adds New Country to CEPT Reciprocal Agreement for Amateurs

On Monday, February 7, the FCC released a Public Notice, adding a new country to the CEPT reciprocal operating arrangements for US citizens who hold an FCC-issued General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio licenses. US hams may now operate in Montenegro, as well as the other countries covered by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), subject to the regulations in force in the country visited, to operate in those countries. CEPT has also set up Web sites that list all countries covered by reciprocal agreements. Read more here.

Happy Valentine's Day: Love Is On-the-Air

Every once in a while, we will feature a story written that has been sent to us by a ham. This is one of those times. We hope you enjoy it.

Life can be funny at times. In high school, I was one of those kids who kept to themselves. I was so into the academic side of things that I only went out with a few girls. But there was one girl in school who every time she walked by, my heart would skip a beat. I never saw her with a boyfriend; she was one of the prettiest girls in school and all the guys were too afraid to ask her out. In our senior year, we had a math and English class together, and when we graduated, I joined the Navy.

I saw the world in the Navy. I spent some time overseas and from time to time, I wondered about that beautiful girl who I never asked out in high school. I was too busy with my naval career to settle down, always on the move with Special Ops. I spent 25 years in the Navy and when I retired, I was ready for my next career. I had some radioman experience in the Navy, so I got my Amateur Radio license and started work at a major communications company.

Years later, I found myself at a hamfest, looking for some new radio gear. I saw this radio I wanted back when I was a kid. I saw a guy pick it up and start to look at it. I ran over to the booth and waited for him to put it back on the table. He finally walked away so I asked how much the radio was and if it worked.

The lady behind the table looked at me, told me the price and that the rig worked the last time she used it. Then we locked eyes. It was her! The girl from high school! I would know her face anywhere.

After the shock wore off, I asked her if this was her gear for sale. She told me that it was hers and her late husband's. She got her license back in high school and met him at a local club meeting. She told me that they had been married for 23 wonderful years and had one child who was now in the Navy. We talked for hours. She told me that she had had a crush on me back in high school, but was too afraid to ask me out; I told her I felt the same. After the hamfest, I helped her pack up the table and we went to get a bite to eat.

We talked all night, getting caught up on everyone we went to school with. Then she asked me if I had ever thought of her over the years and if I still had feelings for her. Of course I said yes! After a few dates, I asked her to marry me and she said yes.

We have now been married 10 years and I can honestly say that I married my high school sweetheart. I looked over my station logs and found that years ago I had worked her in a contest, but I never knew it was her. Oh, about the radio that started the whole thing -- yes, it works! -- Paul Rios, KC6QLS, kc6qls@arri.net

Scouting: Boy Scouts of America and ARRL Team Up to Help Scouts Learn Communications Skills

After working together for nearly a century to provide Scouts with the ability to learn radio communication skills, Boy Scouts of America and the ARRL have officially teamed up by signing a memorandum of understanding. This MOU designates the ARRL as a key resource for K2BSA and Radio Merit Badge training at the BSA National Scout Jamboree and establishes the ARRL as the go-to source for Scouts interested in learning about and becoming involved in radio communication.

The ARRL and the Boy Scouts of America signed a Memorandum of Understanding on January 31.

BSA Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, launched the partnership January 31 by holding a unique communications meeting. Mazzuca joined Craigie virtually during an Internet video conference and document-signing ceremony. From separate locations, the pair took the opportunity to talk about the importance of each organization to the ongoing development of the other.

"Throughout the years, going all the way back to the Wireless Merit Badge in 1918, the ARRL has worked hand-in-hand with Boy Scouts of America to help teach Scouts the skills and joys of radio communication," said Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca. "Today, we are making official a relationship that has been beneficial for both of our organizations for nearly a century."

Amateur Radio in Space: NASA's Nanosatellite Heard by Hams

When a NASA nanosatellite -- NanoSail-D -- ejected unexpectedly on January 17 from the Fast Affordable Scientific and Technology Satellite (FASTSAT), the agency called upon Amateur Radio operators to help track it. NASA asked radio amateurs to listen on 437.270 MHz for the signal and verify that NanoSail-D was operating. NASA received almost 470 telemetry packets from 11 countries.

The NanoSail-D beacon sent an AX.25 packet every 10 seconds; the packet contained data about the spacecraft's systems operation. Listen here for a recording of the nanosatellite's beacon, made by Hank Hamoen, PA3GUO, on January 21.

Once the NanoSail-D team received confirmation that the nanosatellite did indeed eject, NanoSail-D principal investigator Dean Alhorn quickly enlisted Alan Sieg, WB5RMG, and Stan Sims, N4PMF, to try to pick up NanoSail-D's radio beacon. Both hams work at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

"The timing could not have been better," Sieg said. "NanoSail-D was going to track right over Huntsville, and the chance to be the first ones to hear and decode the signal was irresistible." Right before 2300 UTC on January 17, they heard a faint signal. As the spacecraft soared overhead, the signal grew stronger and the operators were able to decode the first packet: NanoSail-D was alive and well. "You could have scraped Dean off the ceiling. He was bouncing around like a new father," Sieg recalled.

According to NASA, the nanosatellite was last heard at 1354 UTC on January 21. Telemetry indicates that the sail deployed on schedule and the satellite is now believed to be out of power, which NASA said was to be expected. NASA is now asking for visual tracking and sighting reports of NanoSail-D, which is about 650 km above the Earth. According to the agency, when the nanosatellite's sail reflects off the Sun, it could be up to 10 times as bright as the planet Venus -- especially later in the mission when the sail descends to lower orbits. You can track NanoSail-D

on the web or on your smart phone. NASA estimates that NanoSail-D will remain in low Earth orbit (LEO) between 70 and 120 days, depending on atmospheric conditions.

BPL: IEEE EMC Society Standards Development Committee Withdraws as Cosponsor of IEEE BPL EMC Standard

Citing concerns about parts of its technical content, the IEEE EMC Society Standards Development Committee (SDCom) has voted to withdraw as the cosponsor of IEEE Standard for Power Line Communication Equipment -- Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Requirements -- Testing and Measurement Methods (IEEE Standard 1775-2010). According to ARRL Laboratory Manager and BPL guru Ed Hare, W1RFI, this decision came about soon after the IEEE Standards Board approved publication of the standard over the technical concerns of the SDCom. Hare is an SDCom member and is a member of the IEEE Working Group that developed the standard.

On the Air: Logbook of the World Now Supports VUCC

ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) -- an online system for amateurs to confirm two-way contacts that can be used for various ARRL awards -- has been upgraded to support awards based on Maidenhead grid squares, such as VUCC and the Fred Fish Memorial Award. To take advantage of the new features, you need to log in to your LoTW account. VUCC is an open-ended award in that hams can work on throughout their lifetime, just like DXCC. But, like the Worked All States award, the VUCC rules require all the contacts to be made from a defined area. For VHF and UHF QSOs on 1296 MHz and below, this distance must be within 200 km. For SHF awards, contacts must be made from a single location, defined as within a 300 meter diameter circle. As such, the VUCC support in LoTW allows you to make the rule -- or rules -- necessary to find the QSLs in LoTW that satisfy the VUCC rules. Don't have an LoTW account? It's easy to sign up.

Amateur Radio in Space: NASA Seeks Amateur Radio Operators' Aid to Listen for Nanosatellite's Beacon Signal

On Wednesday, January 19 at 1630 UTC, engineers at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama confirmed that the NanoSail-D nanosatellite ejected from Fast Affordable Scientific and Technology Satellite (FASTSAT). According to NASA, the ejection event occurred spontaneously; the ejection

of NanoSail-D also has been confirmed by ground-based satellite tracking assets. NASA is asking radio amateurs to listen on 437.270 MHz for the signal and verify NanoSail-D is operating. Hams should send information to the NanoSail-D dashboard. As of Thursday, January 20, the NanoSail-D dashboard website is reporting that beacon data has been received, but NASA still wants amateurs to track and report the signals.

Focus on Youth: ARRL Seeks New Youth Editor

The three former ARRL Youth Editors (left to right): Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT (now ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director), Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM (now ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director), and Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.]

The ARRL has a proud tradition of promoting youth involvement in Amateur Radio. One of the ways we involve young people in our hobby is through our Youth Editor. This person is responsible for writing a monthly column for the ARRL website about youth and youth activities within the Amateur Radio Service. We are looking for a new Youth Editor. Do you know of someone who would be a good fit for this position? Maybe they hold leadership positions either in their Section or in their local club. The candidate must be an ARRL member and must keep their membership current throughout their tenure in the position. He or she will be required to write a monthly column of at least 1000 words and provide a minimum of three pictures (with captions) for each. For this, they will receive a small stipend for each column.

ARRL Foundation Scholarship Applications and Transcripts Due February 1

Students planning to apply for the more than 60 scholarships administered by the ARRL Foundation should be aware that the deadline is fast approaching. All materials -- including transcripts -- are due February 1. Beginning this year, applicants must submit all material electronically. No paper forms will be accepted.

Upcoming Contests

Here are some upcoming contests. In addition are many other contests from other countries - these are mainly North American in nature. See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html> for more info and more contests.

Feb 12-18

FISTS Winter Sprint
North American Sprint, SSB
SKCC Weekend Sprint
ARRL School Club Roundup
QRP Fox Hunt
NCCC Sprint Ladder

Feb 19-25
ARRL International DX, CW
FeldHell Sprint
AWA AM QSO Party
Run for the Bacon QRP
SKCC Sprint
QRP Fox Hunt
NCCC Sprint Ladder

Feb 26-Mar 4
Mississippi QSO Party
NA QSO Party, RTTY
High Speed Club CW
North Carolina QSO Party
QRP Fox Hunt

March 5 - 11
ARRL International DX, SSB
Wake-up QRP Sprint
ARS Spartan Sprint
QRP Fox Hunt
CWops Mini-CWT Test

73 de KK1X

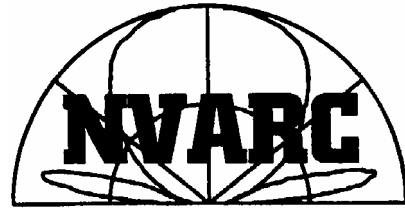
2011 Flea Markets/Conventions

February 26 -- ARRL Vermont State Convention,
Colchester, Vermont

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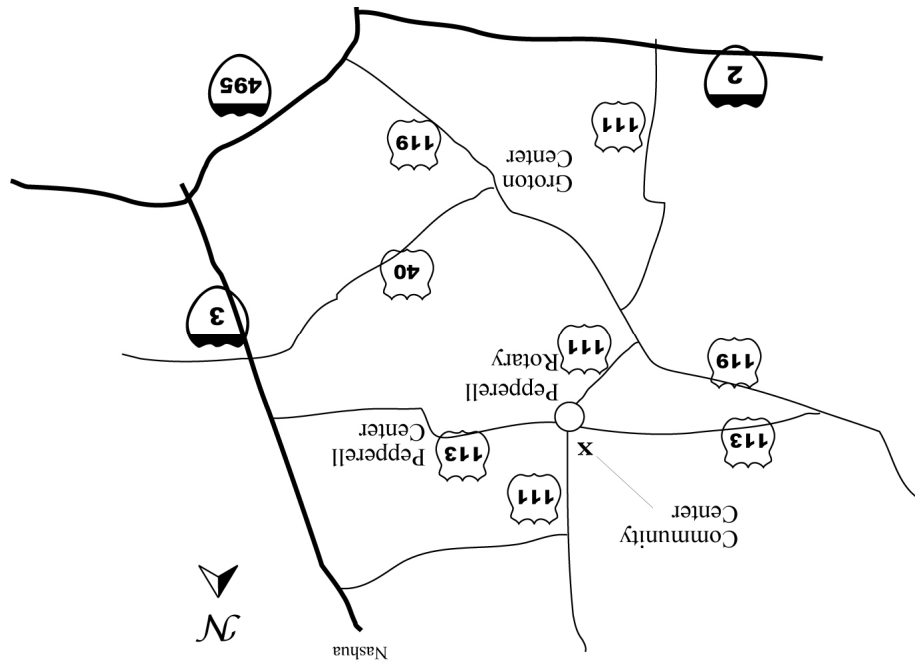
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Vice President: Bruce Blain K1BG
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Joel Magid W1JMM 2009-2012
Bob Reif: W1XP 2010-2013

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Annual membership dues are \$15; \$20 for a family
Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month
7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr.
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147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater battery power
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