

SIGNAL

May 1995 Volume 4 Number 5

From The President's Desk



Now that elections are behind us we're set for another year. Thanks to those who volunteered to "run" for the open positions. We now have a full roster of officers and board members.

In May or June we are going to trek down to Newington to visit the League. If anyone has a particular

date in mind let us know. June 4th might be interesting if we wanted to combine it with the Newington ARL flea market. Otherwise we will just set a date between those who have expressed interest and do it. Last year we tried to get comments on "when" and now its a year later but we still haven't gone.

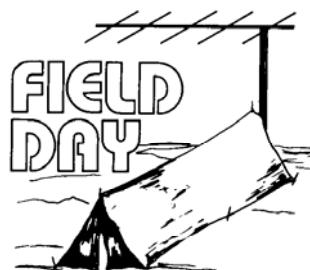
For those interested in a challenge, Armed Forces Day is coming up. Many military radio stations operate in a split mode so that you can receive them in the military band and transmit in the amateur band. There are certificates for participation. See page 138 of the May QST. KD1LE

This Month IT'S F-F-F-FIELD DAY

It's spring again, and every ham knows what that means. Field Day! For the newer members of the amateur fraternity, Field Day (FD) is an annual event sponsored by the ARRL. Disguised as a test of our emergency preparedness, FD is contest, a gathering, a picnic, an event, or any other group activity a ham club or group of hams wants to make it. Most of all, of all the ham activi-

ties I have personally been part of, it is the most fun.

The object of FD is "To work as many stations as possible on any or all amateur bands and in doing so, to learn to operate in abnormal situations under less-than optimum conditions. A premium is placed on skills and equipment developed to meet the challenge of emergency preparedness and to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio."



The operating part of FD is an on the air contest. Clubs and groups set up stations under "emergency" conditions (emergency power, portable location). Different categories are determined by the number of transmitters on the air simultaneously. Numbers of contacts are added up for a total score, with a number of bonuses for things like 100% emergency power and publicity. A novice station, a packet radio station, and a VHF/UHF station are all encouraged, and do not alter the category you are entered in. (For complete rules, see May QST, pg. 133). Some clubs are very competitive, others use the "contest" as an excuse to get out and have a good time.

Last year, we ran in the 2A category (two transmitters, emergency power). We were on HF, VHF, packet, and satellite. I personally think we should really focus on a novice station this year.

As for other "good time" activities, it is up to us to decide on what we want. A cook-out barbecue with friends? Try "natural power"? Focus on "public relations"? Relax and get to know your fellow club members? These and other activities are all part of field day.

Field Day this year is on June 24 and 25. There will be plenty of work to do, depending on what we as a club decide on what we want. Come to the meeting Thursday night and find out more! We should have some slides and pictures of field days past. If you can't make it, make sure you make the June meeting or get the June newsletter to find out more information.

PS. If you have slides, tapes, pictures, etc. of past field days, PLEASE BRING THEM ON THURSDAY!

Bruce K1BG

At The Last Meeting

Last month our speakers discussed purchasing used equipment in anticipation of flea market season. They gave tips and guidelines on the process. Hope everyone has a successful buying season. See you at the fleas...Stan

MARA Fox Hunt

I was the lone NVARC member at the MARA fox hunt on April 23rd. It was a tough hunt as the fox (KD1SM) was both sly and well hidden. This was the second try at this fox and location since no one found him during the previous hunt. There's so much to do and think about when hunting (not to mention driving the vehicle.) I made a few errors at the start that threw me off later, like not compensating for magnetic deviation when plotting the bearings I was taking with my Yagi. Fortunately the distance was not great and the bearings were otherwise pretty accurate. That got me close enough to use the Doppler system. Once that was in working range a loop through downtown Fitchburg indicated his possible location. One more loop to verify it and it was time to pursue on foot. I almost gave up since the city parking garage looked pretty empty, but there was more garage around a corner and there was also a fox.

Stan KD1LE

\$The Treasurer's Report\$

Income for April was \$78.50 from membership renewals, ARRL membership renewals, and the split-the-pot at the meeting. Expenses were \$28.45 for newsletter postage and checking account fee.

The current fund balances are:

General fund	\$638.75
Education fund	\$197.84



Remember; if you have your ARRL renewal notice, make your check out to NVARC and give it to me at a club meeting. Saves you a

stamp and puts \$2.00 into the club treasury. 73 de Ralph KD1SM

Tour de Shack

The April shack tour left Pa's Restaurant and headed first to the Pozerski residence. Stan has been building walls, cabinets, and desks for the past year or so in the corner near the front door and near the kitchen. He and Lynda have a nice large area that they share as a radio, crafts, and computer room. Very accessible from the dining table, everyone observed! In preparation for the arrival of the shack tour, Stan had rearranged his "wallpaper" and every member of the family was represented in some way or another. Well, Peter's space was a little "under construction" but we got the idea anyway! We admired Stan's recently-completed colored WAS map as well as the various East Mass maps that are the tools in trade of a dedicated traffic handler. The breakfast discussion had included the subject of the MEMA Packet node in Tewksbury and the tour was curious about that node, so Stan fired up his computer and TNC, swung the 13 element 2 meter beam around to the East and we logged on to the Mass Emergency Management Agency/Tewksbury node. Having satisfied ourselves about the packet node questions and admired the artfully mounted display of "hollow-state electronics" history that Stan had made as a station accessory, the tour set off through the woods to find the Bisbo shack. After hiking through deep woods, skirting deep ravines, and fighting off.... we arrived at the Bisbo antenna farm. We toured the antenna farm and got an explanation of the equipment as it was tracking AO-10. With antennas, cables, amplifiers, switches and rotators (az and el) there is a lot to a complete satellite setup. Then we saw the HF antennas and the two meter antennas that support the voice, packet, and TCP/IP communications. We then toured the shack and watched as the equipment tracked the satellite. Roger pointed out the bundle of cables feeding the rotators and those carrying signals to and from the amplifiers. While he tuned up he showed the time delay in your signal as it travels up to the satellite and back down. We listened in on a few conversations. They even passed out a drawing of the cabling and the equipment setup. Many thanks to the host stations for their hospitality.

Stan

Maia Petition

SB QST ARL ARLB051
ARLB051 MAIA PETITION REBUTTED

The deadline for comments has passed on a petition for rule making to the FCC that would

prohibit all one-way transmissions (below 30 MHz), such as code practice and information bulletins from W1AW.

The petition, RM-8626, was filed by Frederick O. Maia, W5YI, in March. The ARRL urged the FCC "in the strongest possible terms" to deny or dismiss the petition without further consideration.

The ARRL said that Maia's arguments were overstated and inflammatory, in their use of words such as "chaos" and "crisis proportions" to describe what he sees as on-the-air disagreements among amateurs related to one-way transmissions.

The league cited W1AW's 65 years of free service to amateurs other countries whose amateur societies also conduct informational bulletins on the air the absence of any allegations that W1AW creates any significant interference to ongoing amateur communications and the value of W1AW's bulletins in alerting amateurs to disaster situations.

The ARRL also said that since W1AW bulletins are not intended for the general public, they hence are not "broadcasting," according to definitions in the communications act, the ITU radio regulations, and the amateur service rules. They are, rather, amateur communication that has no more potential for undue interference than two-way communication.

The league said that "any on-air anger perceived by Maia" ought to be the subject of FCC enforcement action, not rules changes, saying such situations were the direct result of the commission "allowing abuses to continue for months and years rather than timely addressing them in the context of the existing rules."

DX Bulletin

FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT MAY 11, 1995
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, The OPDX Bulletin, Tom, AL7EL, Mauro, IK1CJO, Murray, WA4DAN, Glenn, KB1GW, and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

MALAWI, 7Q. Peter, ON6TT, will serve as a Red Cross telecom consultant for a month starting May 11. He holds the call 7Q7XT. With family in tow this time around, his operating time will be limited. Listen for him on 40 through 10 meters. QSL via ON5NT.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. Tom, AL7EL, should be active May 17 through 24 on 80 through 6 meters. QSL via AL7EL or the KL7 bureau.

ZAIRE, 9Q. Alex, PA3DZN, aka 9X5EE, should be active on 160 and 80 meters. As a telecom crew member in Goma, his stay in Zaire will be

for about a year. No call sign has been announced as of bulletin time. QSL via PA3DLM.

RWANDA, 9X. Mark, ON4WW, is now signing 9X/ON4WW. Two inverted L antennas for 160 and 80 meters radiate his primarily CW barefoot signal. Try 0030Z on 1827 kHz. He has been worked on 14020 kHz at 1845Z. QSL via ON5NT.

NAURU, C21. Ron, ZL1AMO, is active signing C21/. Reports indicate he has canceled his trip to ZK3. He is mostly on between 0900 and 1330Z with 80 and 40 meter CW.

KERMADEC ISLAND, ZL8.

Barry, ZS1FJ/G4MFW, should be active as ZL8/G4MFW until May 15, with SSB only on 75 through 10 meters. Antennas will be a tribander for 10/15/20 meters and wire dipoles for 75 and 40 meters. QSL via KA1JC only.

FAROE ISLAND, OY. Claus, DK9FE, will activate OY/DK9FE from IOTA EU-018 July 10 to 27. He will operate mainly CW on 80 through 10 meters. Check 15 MHz up from the band edge. QSL via CBA.

SAINT PAUL ISLAND, CY9. Ron, AA4VK, Murray, WA4DAN, Bob, KW2P, and Vance, W5IJU, will sign their calls /CY9 July 27 through August 2 on 160 through 6 meter SSB, CW and RTTY. QSL via WA4DAN.

Nominating Committee Report

Our club faces many interesting challenges throughout the year. Most of them are related to the public services that we perform; acting as liaisons between event organizers and communications volunteers, organizing equipment for Field Day, etc.

Every year from February to April three club members face the challenge of finding enough members who are willing to make the commitment to lead the club for the following year. This, too, is an interesting experience. In the course of telephoning every member the Nominating Committee learns much more about the other interests and activities of those in the club. This year's nominating committee; Bob W1XP, Bruce K1BG, and Ralph KD1SM learned that we have members involved in church youth groups, scout groups, investment clubs, and many other things. We were gratified to hear that there is a strong commitment to the Club among all the members. We were also not surprised to hear that everyone has many demands on their time. Prioritizing those demands is a tough challenge that everyone faces as individuals.

By the time we reached the end of the list, we still did not have enough volunteer hands to fill all the open positions; 4 officers and 2 Members of the Board. Some of the incumbents were willing to continue in office but the majority of the incumbents had already given multiple terms to the Club and

were well-entitled to have their request to be relieved honored. Unfortunately, the Committee found itself unable to get volunteers to relieve all of the incumbents who wanted a 'break' and when it came to serious arm-twisting time, those already holding a position found it harder to resist the torsion forces.

At the April meeting the Nominating Committee presented the members with the following slate of candidates:

President	Stan KD1LE
Vice President	Bruce K1BG
Secretary	Jeremy KB1AWE
Treasurer	Ralph KD1SM
Member of the Board	Craig N1ABY
Member of the Board	Dwight AA1MT

There were no opposed positions. Normally there would be only one 3-year Board slot to be filled at each election. One of our Directors resigned this past year, leaving two slots to be filled.

The Nominating Committee thanks everyone who answered their phone and especially thanks the members in the slate above who were willing to volunteer their time to the Club.

We also ask every member to think seriously about what the Club means to you and ask yourselves whether those who have already contributed several years to leading the club should really be held to any stronger obligation to continue to do so when they've expressly asked to be relieved.

When next year's Nominating Committee calls, let's all think seriously about doing our part for the rest of the Club.

Flea Markets

MIT	May 21
Newington, CT.	June 4
Goshen, CT.	June 10

ARRL Bulletins

QST de W1AW
DX Bulletin 19 ARLD019
Minimum-Size Rule Adopted for DXCC

The ARRL Awards Committee voted 5 to 2 to accept a modified ARRL DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) recommendation to add a minimum-size rule to Point 2 (Separation by water) of the Countries List Criteria in the DXCC rules. This change adds the following paragraphs to the existing rules under Point 2:

"(c) An island is defined as a naturally formed area of land surrounded by water, the surface of which is above water at high tide. Rocks which cannot sustain human habitation shall not be considered for DXCC country status.

(d) An island must meet or exceed size standards. To be eligible for consideration, the island must be visible, and named, on a chart with a scale of not less than 1:1,000,000. Charts used must be from recognized national mapping agencies. The island must consist of a single unbroken piece of land not less than 10,000 square feet in area, which is above water at high tide. The area requirements shall be demonstrated by the chart."

ARRL Bulletin 44 ARLB044
From ARRL Headquarters
New band available



On April 26, 1995, amateurs will gain secondary status access to 219 to 220 MHz. Amateur operation is limited to forwarding stations in point-to-point fixed digital message forwarding systems--including intercity packet backbone networks--only.

All amateur stations are required to notify ARRL (in its FCC-designated role as contact point) at least 30 days before operating in this band, and amateur stations within 80 km of an Automated Maritime Telecommunications Systems coast station must obtain written permission from the AMTS licensee before operating.

Amateur stations between 80 km and 640 km of an AMTS coast station notify the AMTS licensee.

A Form 219A kit, available from ARRL Headquarters, includes a cover of explanation, a Form 219A for the required notification to ARRL (one is required for each transmitter planned), and a copy of the 219 to 220 MHz band plan.

May 1993 QST (page 9) and May 1995 QST (pages 9 and 93) have more information.

Groton Road Race

On the last Sunday of April, the 4th Annual Groton Road Race was held. The event hosted over 1400 runners, ranging from little children in the Tots Trot, through the 2 Km and the main 10 Km event. The times this year were a few minutes slower than last year.

All the various organizing team captains and the Groton Police expressed their thanks for a job well done. There were 32 hams helping out during all phases of the event. Calls and names of those that helped are: KA1EEC Eric, KA1JVU Karen, KA1RV Erik, KB1ATH Ben, KB1AXF William, KB1BGL Peter, KB1FJ Ben, KD1JY Duane, KD1LE Stan, KD1RO Don, KD1SM Ralph, KD1TD Patrick, N1DDE Steve, N1DKZ Mike, N1DVC Bob, N1HTS Jim, N1LDL Chuck, N1LLG Daniel, N1MOR phil, N1MXO AI, N1NXQ Rayna, N1OJP Verell, N1OTO Peter, N1PBL Lynda, N1PUI Scottie, N1QDZ Joseph, N1QIT Jeanine, NZ1B Ian, W1XP Bob, WA1TAC Rodney, WQ1E Donald, WX1J Scott. Erik KA1RV



Oklahoma City

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 46 ARLB046
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT April 27, 1995

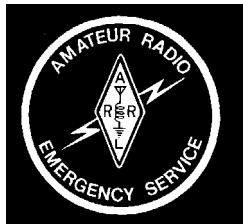
To all radio amateurs

Hams provide emergency communication at Oklahoma blast site

Within minutes of the deadly explosion at the Oklahoma City federal office building, Amateur Radio operators set up an emergency coordination network that has been in non-stop operation since April 19.

According to updates from Thomas Webb, WA9AFM/5, during the first few hours after the blast, telephone circuits were jammed and often inoperative. Amateur Radio provided vital emergency communications to rescue and relief organizations until regular telephone service was restored. Located at the Salvation Army Emergency Coordination Center, a net control station coordinated the efforts of more than 20 Amateur Radio stations in downtown Oklahoma City.

Volunteer operators were assigned to the five Salvation Army canteens, the Salvation Army Area Headquarters, the Red Cross Command Post, and the primary search and rescue command post. Using hand-held and mobile radio equipment, hams provided relief workers with reliable, mobile emergency communication for more than 190 continuous hours. Besides coordinating the distribution of supplies, food, water and equipment, the volunteer hams also drove vital supplies to locations in the disaster area. During early relief efforts, technical skills of volunteer hams were put to the test when it was determined the buildings in the downtown area were blocking radio signals. A mobile repeater station was established at a Salvation Army canteen,



allowing for communications to be sent and received easily.

In addition to providing communications to rescue workers, hams at the Salvation Army Emergency Coordination Center continue to process health and welfare inquiries from friends and relatives outside the Oklahoma City area.

More than 100 hams have participated in relief efforts, with between 60 and 80 hams working at any one time. Most of the ham volunteers are from the Oklahoma City area, but offers of assistance have come from all over Oklahoma as well as Texas, Arkansas and Kansas.

Club Callsigns

ARRL Bulletin 37 ARLB037

From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT April 11, 1995
To all radio amateurs

ARLB037 New club licenses surface

New club licenses surface The FCC's Gettysburg license processing facility has begun issuing new Amateur Radio club station licenses. The first ones appear to have been issued on April 4. These licenses come with systematically issued Group D call signs. Obtaining such a license and call sign is a necessary first step toward later obtaining a vanity call sign for a club.

For more information, see QST for April 1995, page 41, and for May 1995, page 95.

Board Meeting Notes

At this months board meeting we discussed the upcoming events and some activities we might want to participate in. We still plan to trek down to the League so if anyone else wants to be in on the plans let me know. We also have request for communications help for the Groton Memorial Day parade, Pepperell 4th of July parade, and the Peperell Road Race.

With good weather upon us we were looking for any other activities that members would like. If you have an idea let us know.

We still need someone to do some preliminary coordination for field day. This is to see that enough screen tents or generators or ... get there.

Field Day Article

Remember, its not too far off. Also, have you read about the Pepper Hill ARC field day in the May issue of QST? The author, Pat KC1TD was a member of NVARC till he moved to Acton. I wonder if there a connection between Pepper Hill and Pepperell?

Stan

VHF/UHF DX

To: VHF@USBBS
Subject: Yaesu DX Caribbean Cruise goes VHF

The Yaesu DX Caribbean cruise scheduled for June 18th thru June 25th will be operating on 50, 144 and 432 MHz SSB this year. They will be in the following rare grids on the indicated dates:

FK42...Aruba June 16, 17, 18

FK53, FK63, FK74, FK84, FK85, FK95 Dominica June 19, 20

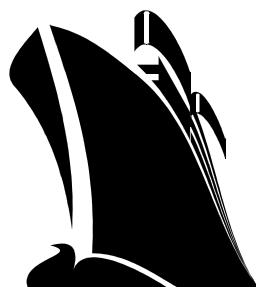
FK95, FK94, FK93...Barbados June 21

GK03, FK93. Martinique June 22

FK94, FK84, FK83, FK73, FK63, FK62, FK52 Curacao June 23, 24

FK52, FK42 June 25

They are willing to make schedules with interested VHFers. Contact Gordon West, WB6NOA for scheduling info. They will be operating on the VHF/UHF bands both at sea and on land throughout their tour of the Caribbean.



NVARC QSL BUREAU

No cards were sent out from the club this month. I hope to be making a shipment in the upcoming month. So, bring your cards to the meeting or to breakfast.
Stan

FCC Database/WWW

The University of Arkansas Amateur Radio Club has as part of their WWW page a call sign look up function. Their database is updated daily from the FCC database. Its not likely you'll talk to someone who is not listed there.

<HTTP://WWW.ULAR.EDU/DOC/HAMUALR/CALLSIGN.HTML>

From the Video Library

The Video Library now has seven titles available to loan.

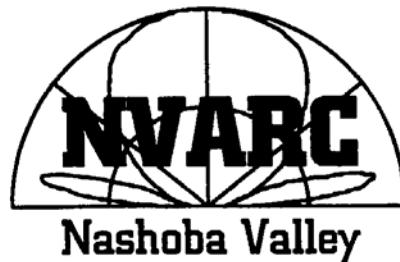
- **The Last Voice From Kuwait**
- **The all China DF Competition**
- **Your League at Work**
- **Signal to Noise Story**
- **Gonzaga Prep HS Radio Club Satellite Communications**

• The New World of Amateur Radio

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

Resource List

Construction Earl Russell	448-5822
DX Bruce Blain	772-4138
NTS, MARS Stan Pozerski	433-5090
RACES Ben Akins	433-9227
TCP/IP Ralph Swick	582-7351



PO Box # 900

Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

Pres.: Stan Pozerski, KD1LE

V Pres.: Bruce Blain K1BG

Secretary: Jeremy Bisbo KB1AWE

Treasurer: Ralph Swick, KD1SM

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE

PIO: Earl Russell WR1Y

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

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

Packet address: PEPMBX (145.09 MHz)