

SIGNAL

February 1996 Volume 5 Number 2

From The President's Desk

I continue to see articles and letters to magazines (even QST) questioning the idea that Amateur Radio has any place left in emergency communications. Some of the articles compare our knowledge and skills to those of an Internet browser or cellular phone user. I would have to agree that the mere fact of getting a license



doesn't make you much different than someone from one of those groups, except, you are willing to learn something new. The amount of knowledge required to pass a current FCC exam is limited. It is only in the continued pursuit of knowledge

and skills that can make Hams more valuable (a strong argument for incentive licensing). If you pick up a handheld after you get your license and never learn anything else you are much like the cell phone user. You are just a user. You depend on others to bring you the services you need to communicate. Whether it is the repeater, or the Packet Bulletin Board, or the HF digital link. To be more valuable you need to be able to bring with you the knowledge and skill to provide your own services. You also have to be able to work with other organizations and do it "their" way. This relates to radio discipline and procedures. It means things like knowing the International Phonetic Alphabet. It also means working with those you intend to support in advance of the disaster.

This all leads up to how I spent my day a few weeks ago. Over the past few years the MARS (Navy-Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System) group I belong to (Massachusetts / Rhode Island) has worked with a number of or-

ganizations to develop cooperation and an understanding of what we can bring to a situation. Sometimes it has been like field day where we provided all of our own equipment, as the exercise in Providence two years ago with the Coast Guard. We used our own frequencies and modes to supplement the Coast Guard channels. Sometimes, like this past month at the oil spill in Rhode Island, its being a good operator and being able to keep accurate logs. We used all Coast Guard equipment and became the operators for the Command Center at Galilee, Rhode Island. We operated VHF, HF and telephones. We kept computer logs of each transmission so that someone could come in and get an update on what was going on or what went on (past). We also kept a Postem tactical board of the ships and aircraft that were operating at the time.



This opportunity didn't come out of a clear blue sky. Like I said, you must develop the relationship with these organizations in advance. It is more difficult with professional groups (Navy/Marines, Coast Guard, the

local Police) that may already provide this type of service from within. They have very strong ideas about procedures, professional attitude and performance. There's no place for ambulance chasers here. But it can be done and Hams who have taken the time to develop the skills and associations can find satisfaction and a sense of achievement in being called to help these groups. This is the emergency communications spoken on in Part 97. This is where the

rubber meets the road. Are you a Ham or a cell phone user?
Stan

A Letter From Bob

About a year ago, I got this flyer in the mail. The Pepperell Parks and Recreation Commission was going to have ham radio classes. They would be at the Varnum Brook School, one night a week. I figured this is a good way to help pass the winter. So I signed up and Stan KD1LE was the teacher. Well, the first class I knew I was in trouble, I had no idea what they were talking about, things like waves and hertz, propagation, etc. But being of Scotch decent, I had \$20 invested in the book and wasn't about to throw that away, so I stuck it out. Stan has more patience than any man I know. I would ask so many questions, and he would try his hardest to make me understand his answers, and a few times I did.

Then he started with Morse code! Well, I tell you, that \$20 didn't sound like much money to throw away at that point. How could anyone possibly learn to do that. It sure was different than anything else I had to learn.

Did you ever try to drive down Route 3 in the morning traffic and try to listen to cassette tapes of Gordon West Morse Code Practice? Many times I said that's it! A technician ticket will be just fine. You don't need all those dit's and dah's anyway.

Well, I did pass the Tech written exam. But I still didn't figure I was a ham till I knew the code. So I studied and passed 5 w.p.m., man that was tough. But there are few feelings, that compare with that first Morse code QSO. That was unbelievable. The only thing that compares with it now is when I talk with someone, and it's their first contact. I know how nervous they are.

Since then I have become a General Class operator and have recently passed 20 wpm. Now I am studying for my advanced class exam. I just thought I would write this to motivate the new and some of the other hams in the club. To follow up on the code, and give it a try. I would like to help anyone in any way I can in the hobby. There are so many nice people in ham radio, everyone is very helpful. Ask Stan KD1LE or Russ WR1Y or any of the other members of NVARC for help if you need it. They would be glad to help you.

Anyone that would like some help feel free to contact me, you are welcome to use my rig to try code, or to come and watch and learn the procedure. Feel free to contact me.

This is a great hobby and there is so much enjoyment out there. You should give it a try. And thanks again to guys like Stan KD1LE and Russ WR1Y and the others who have helped me.
Bob N1UPQ

Special Service Club



I just received notification from the ARRL in the mail that our application for Special Service Club status has been approved. We should all take satisfaction in the fact that the things we have been doing as a matter of course are recognized as being indicative of a well rounded club meeting the needs of our members and providing service to the community. Congratulations to all, I think we deserve it!

Stan

This Month and Beyond

This month's speaker is Len Kay KB2R who will talk about his Dxpedition to 4U1ITU, the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva.
Stan

FCC

With the government shutdown and the bad weather that followed along the east coast the FCC was well behind in the issuance of licenses. As of the last I heard the backlog was down to a few thousand licenses. Things may be caught up by now which is good news for those seeking licenses.
Stan

Ham Classes

The classes in Groton have wrapped up now with good results. Russ is following up on a couple of students individually. The Pepperell class is in the fifth week now and moving along.

I am looking to collect unused copies of Now Your Talking and CW tapes for use in our classes.

We are also looking for instructors for the ongoing class in Pepperell. See me at the meeting to look over the class schedule and pick a session to share your knowledge.

Stan

Advancements

Congratulations to the following members.

Bob	N1UPQ	Advanced & 20 WPM
Herm	N1TVC	Advanced
Jim	N1TVD	Extra
Ralph	KD1SM	Extra

Meeting notes from January 18th

The January meeting was highlighted by our speaker Jim K1UGM and his wife Rhoda. Jim spoke about how devastating a lightning strike could be to your home and equipment. Starting out with a spread sheet of the equipment and appliances he lost when it happened to him. He covered some of the history and early science relating to the study of lightning. He then covered some of the techniques and equipment you can use to protect yourself as well as sources of information and articles.

We discussed the status of the classes in Groton and Pepperell. Some of the items covered at the Cabinet meeting held by Bill Burden last month including what future licensing might be for the HF bands. We also found out that Boxboro and Rochester are on the same weekend.

The ARRL has published a new ARES Field Resources Manual. This manual is a combination of pre-printed information and spaces to record information in advance so it will be in one place when you need it. It has information on Traffic Nets, ARRL message format, and BBS commands.



Elections in April

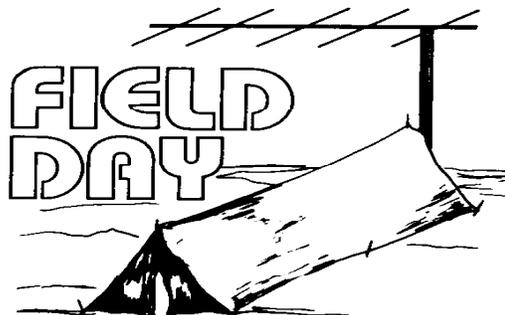
The time is coming up again to elect new officers to direct the club for the next year. We need candidates for the four officer positions and one board of directors spot. Think about being a candidate. The current staff will available to help anyone who want to try a position. So don't feel you have to learn it all by yourself.

Field Day

HF CW STATION
Bruce K1BG, Stan KD1LE

HF PHONE
Herm N1TVC, Bob N1UPQ

POWER
Craig N1ABY, Ben KB1FJ



NOVICE STATION
John KA1ZTU, Wolfgang WA1VOU

SITE PERMISSIONS/PUBLICITY / SIGNS
Earl WR1Y, Dave N1MNX

ARRL Bulletin

SPECIAL BULLETIN 5 ARLX005
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT FEBRUARY 7, 1996
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

HAMS ARE HELPING A BOSNIA-BOUND US ARMY MOBILE AM RADIO STATION IN FORT MEADE, MARYLAND, TEST ITS BROADCASTING CAPABILITIES. THE STATION, ASSISTED BY A GROUP OF AMATEUR RADIO AM ENTHUSIASTS IN THE WASHINGTON, DC, AREA, SEEKS

RECEPTION REPORTS. FRED CRESCE, KC4MOP BUTCH ICKES, WB3HUZ AND PAUL COURSON, WA3VJB, ARE STAFFING THE NEW ARMY BROADCAST SERVICE STATION ON 1670 KHZ AND USING THE CALL LETTERS KTRK. THE FREQUENCY IS IN THE NEWLY EXPANDED STANDARD BROADCAST BAND.

COURSON, A BROADCASTER WITH DOW JONES, SAYS THE STATION BEGAN BROADCASTING AROUND THE CLOCK FEBRUARY 5 AND SO FAR HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM AS FAR AWAY AS COLORADO. HE SAID HE AND THE OTHER HAMS WERE BROUGHT IN TO HELP SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE OF THEIR AM ACTIVITY ON THE AMATEUR BANDS. THE 5000-W TRANSMITTER IS WORKING INTO A 140-FOOT VERTICAL ANTENNA THE HAMS HELPED SET UP AND TUNE. KTRK WILL CONTINUE BROADCASTING FROM FORT MEADE UNTIL FEBRUARY 9. THEN, THE PORTABLE STATION WILL BE PACKED UP FOR TRANSPORT TO BOSNIA, WHERE IT WILL BE SET UP TO ENTERTAIN AND INFORM US TROOPS STATIONED THERE.

RECEPTION REPORTS GO TO THE ARMY BROADCAST SERVICE, 601 NORTH FAIRFAX ST, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314. WRITE DX ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE.

DX

SB DX ARL ARLD009
ARLD009 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with info provided by Joe, NJ1Q, Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, and Contest Corral from QST.
Thanks to all.

KERMADEC DXPEDITION UPDATE.
Permits, licenses and equipment have been obtained. At news time, 18 out of the expected 20 possible operator positions have been filled. The vessel to be used will make brief stops at Crozet and Kerguelen and the team might be able to operate from these islands.

HEARD ISLAND, VK0. A major development in this operation is that a suitable vessel has been secured, the Marion Dufrenoy. This is a no-nonsense vessel which can sail and work under weather conditions in the polar regions.

VIETNAM, XV. Listen for 3W6YL by JA3UB, JR3MVF and JH3GRE starting February 9 and be active to the 16th. QSL via JH3GRE.

CHATHAM ISLAND, ZL7. Besides the upcoming operation by Barry, G4MFW, mentioned in last week's bulletin, Antti, OH2BTB/OH5TB should be active February 9 to 16. QSL via OH5TB.

COCOS KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLAND, VK9CR/VK9XY. DL8WPX, DK7YY, DL3DXX and DL7UFN are active from Christmas Island signing VK9XY until February 12 and again February 23 and 24. Operations from Cocos Keeling Island will run from February 13 to 22. They will operate CW and SSB, on 160 through 6 meters and some satellite activity. QSL via DK7NP.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, PJ9. Jack, W1WEF, and John, W1BIH/PJ9JT, will be operating the ARRL DX Contest as multi-single, using the call PJ9C. QSLs for this operation go to K1CPJ.

ANGUILLA, VP2E. Will, AA4NC, will sign VP2EN February 12 to 20. He and K14HN will be in the ARRL DX CW Contest. QSL via AA4NC direct w/SASE. Bob, W5EUQ, and Bill, W5SJ, will operate as VP2EEU and VP2ESJ, respectively, February 6 to 13, concentrating on 160 through 20 meters. QSL via home calls. Stewart, KC0ZC as VP2ES, Glenn, WA0PUJ as VP2EZ, and Loring, N0ZSU as VP2E, will operate February 28 to March 5. QSL via home calls.

MONTSERRAT, VP2M. Art, WA2UJH, has had a change of plans and will now operate February 14 to 21. He will be on 160 through 10 meters. QSL via NW8F.

KUWAIT, 9K2. Hamad, 9K2HN, requests all to only QSL via Hamad J. Al-Nusif, PO Box 29174, 13152, Safat, Kuwait or via the bureau. HH2HM/F no longer handles cards for 9K2HN.

QSL INFO. W6JOX is NOT manager for HP2CWB or CO2JA. QSL HP2CWB via WT3B. QSL CO2JA direct.

VHF Contest

During the weekend of January 20 - 21, two members of NVARC participated in the ARRL January VHF contest. Jeremy, KB1AWE in Pepperell, put in a serious effort on 2-meters and 440 . He made 109 contacts in 6 states. His best DX was into Southern Pennsylvania. Craig, N1ABY, also from Pepperell, put in a casual effort on both 6 and 2 meter SSB. In 5 hours of operating, he made 69 contacts in 11 grid squares for a total score of 759 points. His best DX (on 6 meters) in the contest was in grid FN53, on the Maine coast. Many stations from the surrounding area were heard on the bands and more would always be welcome!!

73 de N1ABY

NVARC Slow Speed Net

The net meets Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 P.M. on 28.123 MHz.

Except the third Thursday of the month. that being the club meeting night.



Public Service

The 19th of January a fire aboard the Tug Scandia forced the crew to abandon the ship and its tow, the barge North Cape. The tug and barge grounded in heavy surf near Mantunuch Beach Rhode Island. In the next few days over eight hundred thousand gallons of oil were discharged into the water. The Coast Guard set up an Incident Command Post at Galilee Rhode Island. Soon after establishing the Command Post the Massachusetts / Rhode Island MARS group was contacted to provide watchstanders for the Command Post Communications Center. During that week MARS operators provided over eighty hours of communications support. They stood radio watch on the Coast Guard radios, maintained logs, and delivered messages and Faxes to personnel at the command center.

MARS is the Military Affiliate Radio System. There are three MARS branches. Navy-Marine Corp, Air Force, and Army. They are



composed of licensed amateurs who affiliate themselves with one branch and train on a regular basis to provide auxiliary communications in support of regular military communications. These branches are supported through the Department of Defense.

Stan

\$The Treasurer's Report \$

Income for January was \$32.00.

Expenses were \$28.10.

Current balances:

General Fund \$366.07

Educational Fund: \$207.34.



If your ARRL membership is up for renewal, save yourself a stamp by giving it to me to send in for you.
73 /Ralph

Board Meeting Notes



The February Board Meeting was held on the 8th. We discussed how the plans for Field Day were coming along. At the next club meeting there will be a hand out listing some ideas on the equipment needed for Field Day. If people who are doing the planning can record and feed back additions and changes we can begin to create some permanent documents to help plan future Field Days.

We also discussed the need to start planning for the April election of officers. We need a slate of officers and one board member.

NVARC QSL BUREAU

With the cards people brought to the last meeting I had accumulated a pound of cards for the QSL Bureau. So those were shipped out shortly after. As always, we will ship them out as soon as we get enough to make it worth while. I already have about a half pound collected so if anyone has some to go out we can make another shipment this month.

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

Stan

AMSAT News

HR AMSAT NEWS SERVICE BULLETIN 035-01
FROM AMSAT HQ
SILVER SPRING, MD February 4, 1996
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

A series of Qualification Shock Tests have just been successfully completed for the Phase 3-D Specific Bearing Structure (SBS). The SBS is the structure that will be used to carry the Phase 3D spacecraft to orbit during launch. These tests were conducted in cooperation with the personnel at the US Air Force's LMSIL Survivability and Vulnerability Integration Center, at Little Mountain, Utah.

The tests exposed our P3D-SBS structure to the shock environment that is expected to be encountered on the Ariane 5 vehicle during launch. Following the shock exposure tests the performance of the spacecraft's separation system (in full-up, flight configuration) was also demonstrated.

The success of both of these tests has confirmed that our Phase 3D SBS design will withstand both the launch environment as well as to insure the P3D spacecraft will separate cleanly from the SBS after launch.

The Phase 3D Project is indebted to the Little Mountain Test Facility personnel for their help in completing these important tests.

ANS thanks Dick Jansson WD4FAB for the information.

From the Video Library

The Video Library has seven titles 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



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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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 Community Center
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 OK.
Packet address: PEPMBX (145.09 MHz)