



SIGNAL



de N1NC

September 2002 Volume 11 Number 7

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be held at the Pepperell Library due to a town government meeting.

The program will be by Craig Clark W1JCC discussing operation on the 160 meter band arranged by Les.

Put it on your calendar, October will be a QSL sort. Bring a friend to help sort and introduce them to the club. The club will provide pizza and soft drinks to munch on after the sorting is done. We will also be passing out the update to the NVARC Yearbook. See separate article for details.

Earl WR1Y will have a laminator for people who need their license or other card-sized items protected. Bring your outgoing QSL's to the meeting and have the club send them out. See Bob W1XP. Bring your short Shows-and-Tell to the meetings. They are always welcome. Its always interesting to see the variety of things people are working on.

Last Month's Meeting

The presentation at the June meeting was by Lauri Kopmann Johnson from the Nashua River Watershed Association. The presentation was on the history of the condition of the Nashua River and the work and accomplishments that have been made in restoring it. She also covered their goals for the future. After her presentation we talked about how we might be of service during river cleanups and other activities.

NVARC Annual Cookout

Saturday July 20th the annual club cookout took place at the QTH of Den KD2S and Rosemary. Many members and families attended to cook a few burgers, watch the skydivers, and chat. With Dens nice gyro

stabilized binoculars you could tell the difference between the single and the tandem (in training) jumpers. The crew started arriving around 6:00 PM and the party ended around 9:00 PM when the attack of the killer mosquitoes started.

NVARC Yearbook

The yearbook has been updated and a complete set of pages will be distributed at the October meeting. You will find the club history has been expanded with research from the Signal archives and input from members. It now has about twice the information of the previous version. The member's list, Constitution, and Activities sections have been updated. An addition to the members section is the Past Members listing. See Stan KD1LE at the meeting for your new insert.

NVARC Field Day 2002



The NVARC Field Day site had two antenna farms, one for the CW station and one for the SSB station. The above picture shows the antennas used for the

SSB station. The mast on the left supported dipoles for 40M, 20M, and 15M. On the right is the two element 10M Yagi. Besides accommodating the separation of the two stations the separation is an attempt to minimize the intra-station interference, which even at five watts can be a problem.



Above Bruce K1BG in control of the CW station. Looking at the trees in the distance you can see this is near the height of land. Below is Bruce logging another contact with John GM3TCW an Honorary NVARC member looking on.



The CW station used Wolf's Elecraft K1 QRP transceiver that is on the left. On the right is an MFJ keyer and behind that is a three channel head-phone amplifier so multiple people use headphones and can adjust their sound level independently. We also used Bob's Ten Tec Scout to cover several other bands.



Above under the awning is the screen house for the CW station and the crew lounge area. This location was close to high ground in the orchard with the apple trees in the background. Here some of the crew has lunch and a break after most of the set up was complete. Lunch was provided by Lynda N1PBL.



Above is Larry's tin tent that housed the SSB station. Below Larry KB1ESR and Wolf KA1VOU put a few SSB contacts in the log. Wolf did a great job of organizing the event and participants.



ARRL EC-001 Study Group Completed

NVARC ran a study group in July to assist people who wanted to be certified in Emergency Communications at Level I and wished to pursue it via self-study of the ARRL materials. The activity was facilitated by Ralph KD1SM, Den KD2S, and Stan KD1LE.

The group met four Thursday evenings starting July 11th at the Pepperell Community Center from 7 to 9 PM. The purpose of the group was to answer questions that arose while studying the written materials. We added specific local information and ran exercises to help develop related practical skills. The sessions were attended by Bill NZ1D, Gary K1YTS, and Peter N1ZRG. An exam session took place after the sessions ended.

Repeater Maintenance

September 7th the repeater support crew of Wolf KA1VOU, Dave N1MNX, Bob W1XP, Ralph KD1SM, and Stan KD1LE make general improvements to equipment at the repeater site. A new two-meter antenna was installed at the top of the tower for packet replacing the original tri-bander that was about 30 feet lower. The tri-bander was mounted low on the tower as a spare and for use by the low power two-meter repeater.

Other Public Service by NVARC Members

Fitchburg Longsjo Classic Bike Race

Below is the ham crew that provided communications for the Red Cross on the Princeton/Mt. Wachusett day of the Fitchburg Longsjo Classic Bike Race. Back row Warren KA1JL/OH2HZF, Bruce KC1US, Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM, John KB1HDO, Ben N1XYT/OH1HZE, Barry W1HFN, Tom K1JHC. In the front row Stan KD1LE and Bill NZ1D. Notice the nice orange vests with the NVARC logo on all the volunteers thanks to the work of NVARC members. KD1SM coordinated this event. The Red Cross Coordinator sent a nice letter thanking us for the communications support.



Pepperell 4th of July Parade Support

In another one of our annual public service activities we supported the staging of the Pepperell 4th of July Parade on July 6th. Den KD2S and Scott WX1J provided bicycle mobile stations to the parade staging area on Main St and the finish at the VFW where there was parking for marchers. Marchers were bused to the staging area from the VFW prior to the parade. Stan KD1LE worked the front end of the staging area and

Lynda N1PBL held down the Town Hall intersection where the parade organizers were located.

We used the N1MNX 440 repeater for our communications to organize the parade. This enabled us to cover the entire parade route with hand held radios



Since none of the bridges are accessible from a road everything had to be carried to the work site. Since the smallest lumber is the 4X6X8 landscape timbers that make up the deck moving materials and equipment were no small chore.

Above is a twenty-four foot bridge on a trail in Pearl Hill State Park in Townsend. Stan KD1LE and Ralph KD1SM along with Mary Marsh (a friend from the Central Mass Search and Rescue Team) rebuilt the bridge the weekend of July 13-14. The top left picture is the “before” with the old handrail in the water on the left. After the missing decking was replaced (so there was somewhere left to stand) more of the rotten decking was removed. The top right picture is the conditions after the second day without the new handrails installed. And the final version after replacing much of the decking and adding handrails.

Three bridges were “repaired” in the project. This one had decking and railings replaced, one had decking replaced and the railings repaired and the last was completely rebuilt including the rocks it sat on in the streambed.



NVARC Coffee Club

Les N1SV and Bob W1XP are taking over the Coffee Club for our regular meetings.

Adopt-A-Highway

On July 7th we performed our third road clean up of 2002 which covers June and July. It was delayed because of Field Day the end of June and the next weekend key personnel were unavailable since they were supporting the Red Cross at the two days of the Fitchburg Longsjo Classic bike race in Princeton and Fitchburg. Thanks to everyone who came out on 4th of July weekend to help us catch up on this activity.

July's cleanup crew included.

Pat	N1VAW
Jim	AA1PO
John	KB1HDO
Stan	KD1LE

Next road cleanup Sunday September 22nd.

September Board of Directors Meeting

The September Board of Directors Meeting was held Thursday September 12th at the KA1RV QTH.

Members of the Groton-Pepperell Rotary presented on the First Annual Charity Walk and their requirements. We will support the activity and asked for clarification on the response to emergency situations.

Approved pizza and soft drinks for the Oct. meeting.

Approved re-ordering Anderson Powerpole connectors since the club supply has been exhausted.

The board voted to accept equipment donated by Arnold Kelly equipment and thanks him for the donation. There will be a discussion at the regular meeting on what to do with the equipment.

Ian reported Pepperell Soccer Tournament asked for our support October 12-14 and board approved.

Discussed Email for club business and further discussion will be required. A club email reflector will be set up.

Erik renewed the n1nc.org domain name. There was a discussion about a club web page. Les and Stan will make a proposal on content and design.

Treasurers Report details reported later in this issue.

Discussed having a club membership drive and possible activities to support it.

We will be looking into club insignia coffee cups to be used for awards, speakers gifts, etc.

Looking for ideas for monthly speakers.

PS List and other opportunities

We have been asked to support a fund raising walk for the Pepperell Senior Center. The walk will be along the Nashua River on the Rail Trail from Pepperell to Groton. Bicycle mobiles as well as mobile stations will be required. Contact Stan KD1LE if you are interested in helping.

Public Service Volunteer Opportunities in the New England Division

Date	Event	Location
Event Contact		Tel/Email

Sep 22 Ride for Hunger Grafton to Stow MA
Bob K1IW 413-647-3060 cpsg@amateur-radio.net

Oct 13 BAA Half Marathon Boston MA
Bob WA1IDA 508-650-9440 wa1ida@arrl.net

This list is published periodically as demand warrants by Stan KD1LE and Ralph KD1SM. Our usual distribution is via packet to NEBBS, via Internet mail to the arrl-nediv-list and ema-arrl distribution lists, and on the World Wide Web (see URL below). If other mailing list owners wish us to distribute via their lists we will be happy to oblige. Permission is herewith granted to republish this list in its entirety provided credit is given to the authors and the URL below is included. Send comments, corrections, and updates to:
(via packet) KD1SM@K1UGM.#EMA.MA.USA,
(via Internet) KD1SM@ARRL.NET.

We make an attempt to confirm entries with the coordinator unless the information is from another published source. We very much appreciate the assistance we have been receiving from our 'scouts'; everyone is welcome to send us postings.

World Wide Web users: the most recent copy of this list is maintained as <http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>.

From The ARRL Letter

INDIANA YOUNGSTERS ENJOY BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOOST FROM ARISS

Students at the Stanley Clark School in South Bend, Indiana, started out their school year on a high note on September 4. As an audience of about 200 fellow students and 50 adults looked on, 13 fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students at the school spoke via Amateur Radio for about 10 minutes with US astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, operating NA1SS aboard the International Space Station. Whitson had visited the school in 1999. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact was the first with a US school since last spring.

"The Earth is incredibly beautiful, but I think the most interesting thing is seeing how thin the atmosphere is," Whitson told the youngsters in response to one question. "It looks very fragile and like something we should take care of." Whitson said there are several windows in the ISS Service Module so the crew can observe Earth from there.

Replying to a question about the debris shields on the ISS, Whitson said that at a speed of 17,000 MPH, any debris is a threat. "We see damage by things as small as paint chips," she explained.

Students always seem to be interested in the food aboard the ISS, and the South Bend youngsters were no exception. "I think the food on the ISS is pretty good, but I tell ya what, after several months up here, I am a little bored with it." Her favorites are the rehydrated strawberries and cookies, she said.

So far, she told the Stanley Clark students, she has not experienced cabin fever, "maybe because I got to go on a space walk." She didn't think her two Russian crewmates were having problems with cabin fever either.

Whitson, an Iowa native, said that when she was very young, she saw the first astronauts on TV when they walked on the moon, "and I think that had a big effect on me," she said.

Students spoke with NA1SS via W9AB, with Mary Nimitz, N9YHI, at the controls. W9AB is the club station call sign of the Michiana Amateur Radio Club in South Bend. The contact was marred at points by QRM from a local paging system, but 15 questions were asked and answered.

Crews from two South Bend TV stations were on hand to provide media coverage. Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, was

the ARISS mentor for the Stanley Clark School contact.

Earlier this month, Whitson spoke with youngsters in Israel, where 2002 has been declared "Space Year" in honor of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, who will be aboard shuttle mission STS 107. Youngsters from several Israeli schools gathered September 2 in the Givatayim Observatory for the QSO. Using an earth station set up by AMSAT-Israel President Shlomo enuhin, 4X1AS, 15 students got to put 20 questions to Whitson as the ISS passed overhead. The participating students--ranging from 10 to 15 years old--were selected for their high scores in space-related activities and study projects.

On August 29, Whitson also spoke with students at Kursk High School No. 55 in Russia got to chat with the ISS during two passes. In all, 10 questions were asked. "Now we have experience, so we are ready anytime for new radio communications with the ISS," said Valery Pikkiev, RW3WW. Students used the school's RK3WXZ club station call sign.

ARISS is an international project, with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.--thanks to Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, Gene Chapline, K5YFL, and Gaston Bertels, ON4WF

AMATEURS CONVERGE TO HELP TORNADO-STRICKEN TOWN

An Amateur Radio Emergency Service team is on the scene in the northwestern Wisconsin community of Ladysmith, which was devastated by a tornado on Labor Day. ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG, reports that the first wave of ARES volunteers arrived in the Rusk County town of nearly 4000 inhabitants at 10 PM Monday, within hours of the tornado.

Reports indicated that the tornado arrived with little or no warning. "We were lucky that this hit on a holiday, when the business district was closed," Michalski remarked. The Ladysmith tornado was one of four that touched down in the Badger State on Labor Day, but it was by far the most damaging. Gov Scott McCallum has declared a state of emergency in Rusk County. Gov McCallum toured Ladysmith on September 3.

Jim Staatz, KG9RA, reports that members of the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club and the Tri County Repeater Association have been providing communication support for the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. In addition, Paul Brooten, KB9TYC, of the Tri County Repeater Association reports that the Barron County American Red Cross Amateur Radio Club

and the NORWESCO ARES/RACES team from Washburn County also have been involved in assisting the relief organizations. Eau Claire County Emergency Coordinator Rob Indrebo, KB9SDF, also has been among those assisting.

The Red Cross and The Salvation Army opened a shelter at a high school in Bruce. A toll-free number for people inquiring about family members has been set up. It's 800-837-6313.

The Salvation Army reports that its emergency disaster relief personnel immediately went into action following the tornado that also left hundreds without shelter and thousands without electricity. "Two Salvation Army canteens have been roving the area offering aid, including meals and crisis counseling, to residents and relief workers," a Salvation Army news release stated. The Salvation Army said it also was providing residents with vouchers to replace prescriptions, clothing and other necessary items lost in the tornado.

The severe weather that moved across Wisconsin also spawned two tornadoes in Marathon County--one in Brokaw, near Wausau, and one near Athens--as well as in the Fond du Lac County town of Brandon. Wind damage was reported in several other communities.

Wisconsin Emergency Management reports that the tornado that hit Ladysmith cut a swath some 14 to 16 blocks long and 2 to 4 blocks wide, destroying numerous businesses and homes. There were no reports of fatalities, but some 60 people were injured. Most were treated and released. Search and rescue operations continued throughout the evening of Labor Day. Crews this week worked to restore power, and all roads were reported open.



**PENDING CITEL
RESOLUTION IS A STEP
TOWARD GLOBAL HAM
TICKET**

Ham radio has moved another step closer to an internationally recognized license. Delegates to the Third Regular Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) this month approved a resolution that would extend

reciprocal recognition of the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) Convention to member states of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT).

The resolution includes as a goal "to promote the development of a global Radio Amateur Permit working with other regional organizations within the framework of the International Telecommunication Union."

ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, attended the CITEL Assembly August 12-16 in Washington, DC, as a member of the US delegation. "In an ideal world, we'll one day have an international Amateur Radio permit that's like an international driver's license—good around the world," Siverling said. He conceded that CITEL-CEPT reciprocity will not benefit US amateurs, however. Only licensees elsewhere in the Americas would be affected, since US licensees already enjoy automatic or nearly automatic reciprocal licensing in many countries throughout Europe and the Americas.

Since the resolution requires modification of an existing agreement, the next step is approval by the Organization of American States General Assembly, which meets next June, Siverling explained.

The resolution builds on existing CITEL and CEPT arrangements. A CITEL convention already provides for temporary amateur station operations in one member state by individuals holding an IARP and licensed by another member state "without further review." A similar CEPT mutual-recognition arrangement in many European signatory countries--Recommendation T/R 61-01--makes possible operation by amateurs from CEPT countries during short visits to other CEPT member countries or to non-CEPT participating countries--including the US--without having to obtain a temporary license.

Among other things, the CITEL proposal, called Resolution 32, would encourage CITEL member states to adhere to the IARP convention. It further calls upon those member states to approve the draft protocol to the IARP convention to extend to CEPT license holders from countries that have implemented CEPT Recommendation T/R61-01 the same privileges IARP holders enjoy.

International Amateur Radio Union <<http://www.iau.org>> Region 2 President Pedro Seideman, YV5BPG, represented the IARU at the CITEL assembly.

**ARRL RECEIVES HOMELAND SECURITY
TRAINING GRANT**

The ARRL will receive a \$181,900 homeland security grant from the US government to train Amateur Radio operators in emergency communication. The League

was among several dozen nonprofit organizations designated to receive some \$10.3 million in federal money to boost homeland defense volunteer programs. The grant, from the Corporation for National and Community Service special volunteer program, will provide free ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training to 5200 volunteers nationwide, starting in 2003.

"ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio and is the national leader in emergency communications by volunteers who operate their own equipment on their time at no cost to any government, organization, or corporation," said the July 19 announcement from Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge. The ARRL plans to revise and update the emergency communications curriculum to incorporate additional elements of emergency preparedness and homeland security.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was extremely pleased by the news. "This adds legitimacy to the public service work Amateur Radio has been doing for years," he said.

ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, applied for the funding in May, inviting the Corporation for National and Community Service to become "a partner with the nation's oldest volunteer radio communications organization."

"I think this is an extraordinarily exciting day for Amateur Radio that the role of Amateur Radio in homeland security is recognized at the highest levels of government," Hobart said upon learning of the grant. The League's grant application characterized Amateur Radio as "the bedrock of communications when other outlets fail."

Citing Amateur Radio's response in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Hobart said the federal grant "will help continue our work in providing public service and to protect lives, homes, businesses and our frequencies, as we have for decades."

The League had sought a three-year grant of \$541,750. The \$181,900 grant covers the first year's direct program costs. The proposed budget includes the cost of a project coordinator who would be responsible for overall fiscal management of the grant.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was pleased that the League would be able to extend its Amateur Radio Emergency Communications program to thousands of amateurs who might otherwise not be able to afford the program. "We hope all who are interested will get on board," he said.

The grant announcement said that "expanding the opportunities for Americans to participate in meaningful volunteer service" is at the heart of President George Bush's USA Freedom Corps, of which the Corporation for National and Community Service is a part.

"We are deeply grateful to Tom Ridge and to the Corporation for National and Community Service for providing Amateur Radio with a unique opportunity to serve our country," Hobart said.

In June, the ARRL and United Technologies Corporation announced a partnership to provide free ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training for up to 250 Connecticut amateurs.

UK FOUNDATION TICKET A HIT, RSGB PRESIDENT SAYS

Radio Society of Great Britain President Bob Whelan, G3PJT, says the new Foundation class entry-level amateur ticket in the UK has proven to be a grand success, especially among youth. Since the Foundation license went into effect January 1, it's attracted some 700 brand-new amateurs in the UK, 250 of them under the age of 21, Whelan said. The balance of the 2500 Foundation licensees are those who upgraded their VHF-only privileges to gain the limited HF access the Foundation ticket offers.

"The interesting thing is that we're getting a very good response from schools, from Scouts, from Guides, from all those young people's organizations," Whelan told ARRL, "and it looks to us like, for the first time, it's going to change around the fortunes of Amateur Radio in the UK."

The Foundation license has made the HF bands much more accessible to newcomers as well as to Class B VHF-only "no code" licensees. To comply with the current international Radio Regulations, applicants demonstrate Morse proficiency by completing what's called a "Morse assessment." Class B licensees need only complete the Morse assessment to qualify for the Foundation license. Applicants work with a Morse tutor for the assessment, and there is no Morse speed requirement. The RSGB says the entire Morse assessment takes about 30 minutes. Applicants also must pass a 20-question written examination that covers a wide range of radio and electronics basics.

Holders of the Foundation ticket gain access to most amateur bands from 136 kHz through 440 MHz—with the notable exception of 10 meters—using CW, SSB, or digital modes. Foundation licensees may operate with 10 W output using only commercially manufac-

tured equipment or "properly designed" commercial kits. Licensees are issued call signs from the M3AAA-M3ZZZ series.

The Foundation ticket also has proven to be a big boost to the RSGB—the national Amateur Radio organization in the UK. "The membership of the RSGB is starting to creep up again," Whelan said. "All indications are that it was a very radical step we've taken, but it was evidently the right thing to do." There are approximately 60,000 amateurs in the UK.

Some Morse code purists have been less than enthusiastic regarding the administration of the CW portion of the examination. But Whelan said he was pleasantly surprised to learn that, in the wake of the introduction of a license that tends to de-emphasize Morse code, "there's been a tremendous upsurge in interest as people want to know more about the code." He said Amateur Radio retailers in the UK report their sales are up following the introduction of the Foundation ticket, and one supplier Whelan spoke with was completely out of Morse keys and practice sets.

Gibraltar recently announced that it was instituting a Foundation license based on the UK example. Gibraltar Foundation licensees will be issued ZB3 call sign prefixes. More information on the new UK license is available on the RSGB Web site <<http://www.rsgb.org>>.

\$August Treasurer Report\$

Income for June, July, and August was \$105 in membership dues, \$116.95 net from the FoxFinder project, \$35.55 in bank interest, \$15.00 from PowerPole connector sales and \$0.15 difference in CE session fees retained versus CE session expenses. We did not hold the book raffle at the June meeting.

Expenses for May through August were \$29.60 for newsletter postage. Net income for the period was \$243.05.



We also received a donation of \$125 from the Squannacook River Runners thanking us for our assistance with the Groton Road Race. This donation, following past custom, was placed in the Community Fund.

Current balances: General fund: \$5248.28

Community fund: \$1842.55
73, -Ralph KD1SM

Fleamarket Calendar

4-5 Oct Hostraders, Hopkinton NH
13 Oct CT State Convention, Wallingford CT
20 OCT MIT
24-27 Oct VHF/UHF Conference, Enfield CT
16 Nov Waltham ARA, Newtonville, MA



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

PO Box # 900
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

mailto:nvarc_n1nc@arrl.net
<http://purl.org/hamradio/club/nvarc/>

Pres.: Erik Piip KA1RV
V Pres.: Earl Russell WR1Y
Secretary: Ian Norrish NZ1B
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

Board Members:

Den Connors 2000-2003

Bob Reif 2001-2004

Les Peters 2002-2005

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE

Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

PIO Ron Wood KB1GID

Librarian Peter Nordberg N1ZRG

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

442.90 + 100Hz 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

Copyright 2002 NVARC

