



SIGNAL



de N1NC

October 2002 Volume 11 Number 8

This Month's Meeting

The October program 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.



The above picture is from the year 2000 card sort.

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

Last months meeting program was by Craig Clark W1JCC discussing operation on the 160 and 80 meter bands. Craig talked about the kind of equipment and antennas he uses. He donated ON4UN's "Low Band DX" book for the book raffle.

Due to a Pepperell town meeting taking place at the Community Center we met at the Library. We usually put a sign at the Community Center but everyone should remember that the Library is the normal alternate site when we are forced to move.

Foxbox Hunts

The NVARC Foxbox has been deployed on a regular basis. The only hunters that have been found in the Foxbox log lately are Mike WZ0C and Barry W1HFN. In recent weeks the foxbox has been hidden on conservation land on Boynton St. in Pepperell, the Shepley Hill conservation land in Groton, and along the Nashua River Rail Trail in Groton. If you have any questions about Fox Hunting or need a hand getting started see Ralph KD1SM or Stan KD1LE.

2002 NVARC Yearbook

I received the last changes for the yearbook at the September meeting. The yearbook has been updated and printed. A complete set of pages will be distributed at the October meeting to all members in good standing. 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 Constitution and Activities sections have been updated and more pictures added. We have added to the member's section a Past Members listing. See Stan KD1LE at the meeting for your new insert.

Stan KD1LE

NVARC Public Service Communications for the Rotary Rail Trail Charity Walk

On October 6th we provided safety communications for the Groton-Pepperell Rotary Rail Trail Charity Walk in Pepperell and Groton. This was the first walk of a planned annual event. It was a beautiful crisp fall day that was great for the walkers and workers alike.

The portion of the Rail Trail used for the walk runs along the east side of the Nashua River as it heads south out of Pepperell. After crossing into Groton it runs along the east side of the J. Harry Rich State Forest and then the west side of the Shepley Hill Conservation Land so there is plenty of scenery. The full trail runs from Main St. in Ayer through Groton, Pepperell, and Dunstable and ends at Hollis Depot in Dunstable on the Hollis, NH line. There is parking at the ends in Ayer and Dunstable and at the end of Station Ave. in Groton. In Pepperell there is parking along the trail in East Pepperell and additional parking is to be paved on the east side of Rt. 113. It is great for bicycling, walking, and in-line skating. Alongside the paved and striped part is an unpaved path for horseback riding.



Above is the Net Control vehicle with (L-R) Herm WW1HR, Earl WR1Y, Larry KB1ESR, Stan KD1LE, and cleverly hidden behind the camera Ralph KD1SM.

The four mile walk was held on the Nashua River Rail Trail between Pepperell and Groton that was completed this year. We set up four fixed stations and fielded four bicycle mobile stations to cover the course. Communications for the entire course were done on the N1MNX 440 repeater, which enabled us to use handhelds. We also supported two meter simplex operation. We set up a net control station at Sand Hill Rd that was approximately mid way on the walk.



Above is Earl WR1Y on station with his homebrew bike mounted sleeve dipole two meter antenna. Stopping by on his patrol is Stan KD1LE. This time Ralph KD1SM left evidence of his presence lying about in the bicycle in the background.



Above is Bob W1XP manning the anchor position at Station Ave. in Groton. Bob is standing behind one of the NVARC signs. Erik KA1RV generated the artwork and Earl WR1Y mounted it on foam board and wire frames.



Above (L-R) is Dwight AA1MT, Stan KD1LE, and Ralph KD1SM at the registration table in Pepperell.

Thanks to the following members for supporting this event

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Larry KB1ESR | Net Control |
| Karen KA1JVU | Net Control |
| Herm WW1HR | Net Control |
| Bob W1XP | Portable |
| Ben KB1FJ | Portable |
| John KB1HDO | Bicycle Mobile |
| Earl WR1Y | Bicycle Mobile |
| Ralph KD1SM | Bicycle Mobile |
| Stan KD1LE | Bicycle Mobile |
| Dwight AA1MT | Portable |

Equipment Donation

Arnold Kelly N1VQI made an equipment donation to the club of a Kenwood TS-450 transceiver, a Cushcraft R-7 antenna, and some miscellaneous items. We thank Arnold for the contribution and are working on a plan to use the equipment.



Above Arnold holds the antenna after Erik and Ralph removed it and lowered it from the roof.



Above Erik KA1RV removing the R-7 antenna from the roof tripod.

Pepperell Soccer Tournament

The weekend following Signal press time we were supporting the Pepperell Fall Classic Soccer Tournament. Ian NZ1B organized the support for this event. Activity and pictures will follow next month.

NVARC Member Email List

An NVARC email distribution list has been set up to enable members to send mail to the Club. It is a closed list so you must be a list subscriber to submit a message to it. This is to prevent it from becoming a source of spam. Only NVARC members will be permitted to subscribe. Membership to the list is voluntary. To subscribe to the list, ask Treasurer Ralph KD1SM (keeper of the membership list) to be added. The list membership is only available to members of the club.

Acceptable uses of the list are items relevant to the Club or to Amateur Radio. For example: asking questions that can not be specifically addressed to an individual, personal equipment for sale, or reminders of Club meetings and events.

Thanks to Erik KA1RV for setting up and maintaining the list and for providing the system that hosts it.

NVARC Power Distribution Boxes

When trying to estimate how many power distribution box kits we needed to build we surveyed the members and found only one person who said they were interested. So the FoxFinder volunteers got together and produced ten kits. Based on the response we had we thought they might last a year. Two weeks later all of the kits were gone. We have made a second run to accommodate anyone who still wanted one.



They will be available at the October meeting. Since we can't seem to get a reasonable estimate of demand and we don't want to be making a few every weekend or get stuck with a large quantity we don't plan on making any more when these are gone without a commitment from people as to how many they want. The FoxFinder crew welcomes any input.

Adopt-A-Highway

On September 22nd we performed our clean up. Due to the minimum summer cleanups there was quite a bit to pick up.

The September cleanup crew included Earl WR1Y, Bob W1XP, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, Pat N1VAW, Dwight AA1MT, and Scott W1XJ. Thanks to everyone who helped out.

We have been a little short on bodies the last couple of times so please put the next cleanup in your schedule and help us out there are only the October and November sessions left to close out a successful 2002.

Next road cleanup Sunday October 20th.

October Board of Directors Meeting

The October Board meeting was held October 10th at the KA1RV QTH. As a reminder board meetings are open to all members.

The board decided to recommend to the membership that the following donated items be given to the Manchester School of Technology where Dennis Marandos is a teacher.

Kenwood TS-430
Yaesu Ft-480R 2 meter all mode transceiver
FT-208R 2 meter hand held

The equipment was from a donation several years ago and was left over after being offered for sale to members and later at Hopkinton.

The board discussed the method of subscribing to the new NVARC mail list and appropriate uses of it. Info elsewhere in the newsletter.

The board is open to proposals for the use of the Equipment donated by Arnold Kelly.

The Board is working on a proposal for a Property Manager to maintain an inventory of club property. Ralph presented a proposed job description modeled after the Librarians position.

Earl reported the Groton-Pepperell Rotary was very pleased with the support we gave them for the charity walk.

Stan reminded everyone that a road cleanup was coming up October 20th and was the next to last one for this year.

The Board approved expenses for Pizza and drinks for the October meeting.

PS List and other opportunities

Public Service Volunteer Opportunities in the New England Division

Date	Event	Location
Event Contact		Tel/Email

Oct 12-14 Pepperell Fall Classic Soccer Tournament
lan NZ1B 978-448-5681 nz1b@charter.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

COSPONSOR LIST FOR CC&R BILL, HR 4720, CONTINUES TO GROW

Four new cosponsors have signed aboard HR 4720, the bill in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas. The latest additions make a total of nine new cosponsors in the last month alone. HR 4720 has been referred to the House Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee.

To date, 27 members of the US House of Representatives have agreed to cosponsor the measure. The list includes two amateurs--Oregon Republican Greg Walden, WB7OCE--one of the two original cosponsors of HR 4720 with Texas Republican Pete Sessions--and Arkansas Democrat Mike Ross, WD5DVR. Walden and Ross are believed to be the only Amateur Radio licensees in the US House of Representatives.

Arkansas Section Manager Bob Ideker, WB5VUH, credits the Fort Smith Amateur Radio Club with influencing one of the most recent cosponsors--Arkansas Republican John Boozman--to sign onto the bill as a cosponsor. A third Arkansas congressman, Democrat Marion Berry, also is new to the list. "Three congressmen from Arkansas down, one to go!" exclaimed Ideker.

Other recent arrivals include representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Constance Morella (R-MD), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Michael McNulty (D-NY), and Neil Abercrombie (D-OH).

On Capitol Hill for a visit September 19, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said his meetings with members of Congress and their staff in general and with House Internet and Telecommunications Subcommittee members in particular were very favorable. "All my work on The Hill on HR 4720 was extremely encouraging," Haynie said. "I felt real good about it."



New York Democrat Steve Israel introduced HR 4720--the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act"--on May 14. The measure would require private land-use regulators--such as homeowners' associations--to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

For more information, visit the HR 4720, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2002 page on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr4720. The ARRL requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress--whether or not they are supporting this legislation--to copy ARRL on their correspondence--via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Correspondents should include the bill number, HR 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

HAM-CONGRESSMAN APPOINTED TO KEY HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Oregon Republican Congressman Greg Walden, WB7OCE, has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Walden is one of two amateurs in the US House of Representatives, and his appointment to the key House panel is considered good news for the amateur community. Walden's appointment was announced by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin, a Republican from Louisiana.

"With his extensive background in broadcasting, Greg has a world of experience and expertise in telecommunications issues," Tauzin said. "His knowledge of the issues will help the Subcommittee address digital television, spectrum management, broadband deployment and other telecommunications matters."

For his part, Walden said he was elated to become a subcommittee member. "I intend to work diligently to help invigorate the economic engine in Oregon and across the country," he said. "I am anxious to roll up my sleeves for Chairman Tauzin and Chairman Upton and work hard under their very effective leadership." Walden, who represents Oregon's second congressional district, was elected to Congress in 1998.

Within the amateur community, he's best known as one of the original cosponsors--with Texas Republican Pete Sessions--of HR 4720. That's the bill pending in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas.

NIECES QUESTION "AUNT PEGGY" DURING ARISS SCHOOL CONTACT

Two of astronaut Peggy Whitson's young nieces were among the youngsters at St Mary's School in Martensdale, Iowa, who got to ask questions of their Aunt Peggy via Amateur Radio on September 19. Kelsey and Megan Whitson each got a chance to ask two questions apiece during the contact, arranged via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

At one point, Megan Whitson asked her aunt if she would return to space again if she had the chance. "Yes, Megan, in a heartbeat. I would go again," came back the reply from Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD, who--as part of the Expedition 5 ISS crew--has been in space since early June. Whitson said she's most looking forward upon her return to seeing her husband and taking

a shower. The reply drew laughter from the youngsters at the kindergarten through grade 6 school.

Kelsey Whitson wanted to know how her aunt was going to get back to Earth. "Kelsey, I'm gonna come down on a shuttle in November, so I'll see you then," said Whitson, who that same week was named by NASA as the first International Space Station science officer. Whitson holds a doctorate in biochemistry from Rice University.

Another youngster, Michaela McIlravy, asked about doing laundry and bathing aboard the ISS. "Once our clothes smell bad, we throw them in the trash," Whitson said. Blasts from the onboard Amateur Radio packet system punctuated the contact and covered an occasional word.

Whitson saved what was perhaps her most eloquent reply for Dustin Loyd's question about what it was like to take a space walk.

"As much it is absolutely phenomenal to be on the space station, going outside was even more impressive," Whitson responded. "Being in the spacesuit is like being in your own little space ship, and it's just around you and your body, and being outside made me feel like I was flying over the Earth like a bird. It made me feel like I had wings."

The contact with St Mary's was handled via Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, in Hawaii. Two-way audio for the contact was provided courtesy of a WorldCom teleconferencing circuit.

Earlier in the month, Whitson completed a successful ARISS contact with students at Glen Waverley Secondary College in Melbourne, Australia. Despite the evening hour of the September 12 QSO, more than 130 people turned out for the occasion.

ARISS mentor Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, noted "a few antenna problems" in the hour before the contact, but Whitson managed to answer 13 questions put to her by the students. Their questions reflected concerns over the cost of the space program as well as curiosity about the physical effects of living in space and the prospects of space tourism.

"The event was well followed by Amateur Radio operators in several states of Australia," said Joe Magee VK3BKI, of the Eastern and Mountain Districts Radio Club, which assisted with the contact. "Many were listening to the downlink, and the contact was the major point of discussion on the Melbourne VHF/UHF repeaters for many hours after the event and the next day."

ARISS is an international project, with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

AMATEURS ASSIST IN ISIDORE RESPONSE

Amateurs in Mississippi rallied to help deal with the effects of former tropical storm Isidore, which came ashore September 26. According to Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX, Isidore dumped at least nine inches of rain on the state and caused power outages, tree damage and lowland flooding.

Keown said Louisiana, Mississippi and South Texas joined forces according to a previous agreement and, earlier this week, activated the West Gulf Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net (7285 kHz in the daytime and 3873 kHz at night) in preparation for the storm's arrival. The net remained in operation all week.

Jackson Metro Emergency Coordinator Ben Jones, AC5SU, organized an Amateur Radio Red Cross net, and all five Red Cross shelters in the area were equipped with ham radio communication and prepared to keep in touch with one another as well as with the Red Cross Emergency Operations Center in Jackson. "Red Cross officials were very excited about this" Keown said.

At week's end, the FCC rescinded a general communications emergency that had included Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. "Amateurs may resume using the frequencies 3873, 3965, 7247 and 7285 kHz (plus or minus 3 kHz)," said Joe Casey, deputy chief of the FCC Enforcement Bureau. "The Federal Communications Commission wishes to thank everyone for their cooperation and dedicated amateur service."

On September 25, Jackson County Civil Defense/Emergency Management Director Todd Adams, KD5POK, requested activation of the local ARES/RACES team to support the American Red Cross and Jackson County government agencies. Jackson County EC and RACES Officer Ira Groff, NN5AF, says the Jackson County Emergency Net was called up on a local VHF repeater, and 24 ARES/RACES members and 11 other operators checked in to provide support.

Meanwhile, Sheryl Mathieu, KB5ZIB, Groff, and his wife, Evelyn, KB5ZIA, staffed the emergency operations center in Pascagoula. "We were in direct communications with the National Hurricane Center in Miami and the National Weather Service in Slidell, Louisiana, on HF," Groff said. Thanks to the fact that Adams is a certified meteorologist, Groff added, the Mis-

Mississippi amateurs were able to provide vital weather data to the NHC and the NWS.

The Red Cross opened four shelters in the county, and some 180 people took refuge during the emergency. Seven amateurs were deployed to support shelter communications, while two others maintained contact from at the American Red Cross building in Pasca-goula, Groff said. The emergency activation wrapped up around 7:30 AM on September 26.

Northern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator Nils Millergren, WA4NDA, reported this week that ARES members were activated in three counties and on standby in another. ARES members staffed both the EOC and two shelters in Okaloosa County and one shelter in Walton County. ARES was active in the EOC in Escambia County and remained on standby in Santa Rosa County.

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <<http://www.hwn.org>> and W4EHW <<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>> at the National Hurricane Center in Miami secured September 26 after eight hours effort in support of tropical storms Isidore and Lili, neither of which developed into hurricane status as had been predicted but did produce heavy rains and serious flood threats.

NEWEST ARRL HANDBOOK EDITION SPORTS A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT NAME

Sharp-eyed QST readers will notice a slight difference in the title on the cover of the 80th edition of The ARRL Handbook. The 2003 edition of the famous reference book, dubbed "the most respected communications resource for hams, engineers and technicians since 1926," is advertised for the first time on page 7 of the October issue of QST and is now available for ordering. Starting with the 2003 edition, it's now officially called The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications.

"The name change from The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs epitomizes the Handbook's known appeal in non-amateur circles," says ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "The book remains largely written by radio amateurs for radio amateurs."

Inderbitzen notes that for many years, the Handbook has enjoyed broad appeal among electronic technicians and engineers, instructors and students, and even government and private researchers, whether or not they also happened to be Amateur Radio licensees. "We hope the small name change will make it easier for users in our non-traditional markets to locate this excellent ARRL resource," Inderbitzen said.

The cover of the 2003 Handbook sports a photograph of the high-power, automatic "EZ-Tuner" project by Jim Garland, W8ZR. The project, which also won the QST Cover Plaque Award for the April 2002 issue, is among those included in the 2003 edition.

Among other things, the 2003 edition of the Handbook includes updated and comprehensive chapters on modulation sources—including digital voice—and on digital signal processing (DSP) technology. Other changes include a revised chapter on safety practices.

The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications (2003) now is available for ordering via the ARRL Web catalog <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>>. The softcover edition <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1921>> is \$34.95; the hardcover edition <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1948>> is \$49.95 and available in limited supply. Orders are expected to ship in mid-October.

The Handbook CD for Radio Communications (2003) Version 7.0 <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1956>> is \$39.95 and includes the entire 2003 edition of The ARRL Handbook as a fully searchable, easy-to-use CD-ROM. It will ship in November.

ARRL REQUESTING JOTA ACTIVITY REGISTRATION

Scouting's annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) takes place Saturday October 19 through Sunday October 20 (local time and always the third weekend of October). For the first time, ARRL is requesting that any club or individual planning to be active during the 2002 JOTA activity register on the "Youth Skeds" page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/youthskeds/>>. (Set the expiration for the day after JOTA, October 21.) The idea is to provide a database of scheduled JOTA activity in advance of the event to help more scouting groups to participate in JOTA 2002. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies and Venture Scouts soon will take to the airwaves in an effort to communicate with each other via Amateur Radio. As many as 400,000 Scouts, scouters and other youth have participated in JOTA in the past, and it's become the world's largest scouting event! JOTA provides another way to expose youth to Amateur Radio by showing them a great time as well as helping them to meet new friends, share stories of past scout experiences, and, ultimately, to light the spark that inspires them to pursue their own Amateur Radio licenses. For more information, visit the JOTA page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html>>.

\$September Treasurer Report\$

Income for September was \$100 in membership dues, \$17.07 net from the FoxFinder project, \$75 from PowerPole connector distribution, and \$.05 found during the road cleanup by Scott WX1J and donated to the Club.

The September meeting speaker donated a copy "Low Band DX" by ON4UN for the book raffle, which collected \$20.

Expenses for September were \$51.50 for newsletter postage and QSL bureau, \$255 for the annual liability insurance premium, and \$169.10 for PowerPole connectors. Net expense for the period was \$263.48.



Current balances:

General fund: \$4984.80
Community fund: \$1842.55

73,
-Ralph KD1SM

Fleamarket Calendar

20 OCT MIT
24-27 Oct VHF/UHF Conference, Enfield CT
16 Nov Waltham ARA, Newtonville, MA



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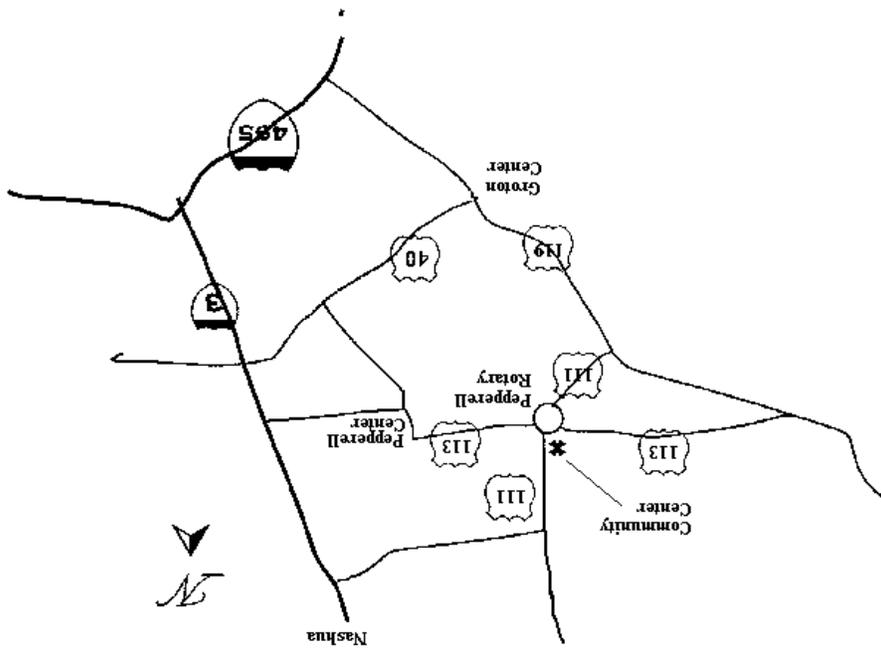
Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month -
7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr. Talk-in 146.490
simplex

442.90 + 100Hz Repeater
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater

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corrections and inquiries should be directed to the
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PC formats are OK. You can send items to

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