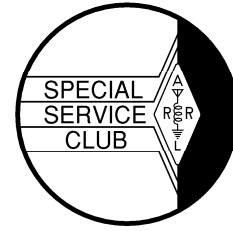




SIGNAL



de N1NC

March 2003 Volume 12 Number 3

This Month's Meeting



Our speaker for this month's meeting will be Ann Santos, WA1S. Ann participated in the 8N1OGA DXpedition to Ogasawara Islands this past October and has put together an interesting video presentation for us.

Ann is an accomplished contester as well as an avid DXer and has had the opportunity to operate from many rare locations. Some of these include Micronesia (V63HO), Kingman Reef (K5K), Christmas Island (T32R), and Palmyra Atoll (KH5K/WA1S). (Thanks to Les N1SV for the write up—ed)

We will also show the new ARRL video on ham radio narrated by Walter Cronkite KB2GSD. It is only six minutes long.

Earl WR1Y will have a laminator for people who need their license or other card-sized items protected.

Bring your short Shows-and-Tell to the meetings. They are always welcome. It's always interesting to see the variety of things people are working on.

Member Short Presentations

The Board believes that every member has something interesting to share with the general membership. It may not be the kind of thing that warrants an hour and

a fancy presentation, but that doesn't mean it can't be interesting. We believe that what makes our club particularly interesting is the large number of presentations generated from within. In fact very few of our programs come from outside. Visitors often comment that we always have great meeting programs and we think they are right.

Along these lines we are still trying to schedule a meeting night of members' short presentations. It is always interesting to find out the kinds of things people are working on and they don't have to be radio related. If you have a short subject of ten or fifteen minutes that you would like to present contact a Board member. If you need help putting together the slides, need hand-outs copied, or need equipment we can probably help.

Old Signals

The archive is missing a few old Signals for which there was no complete electronic version. If anyone has a copy of the following issues we'd like to get them.

1993 #1, 3, 6 and up (don't know how many there were)
1994 #4

Stan KD1LE

New Member

Welcome to new member Gary Mauser KB1IYX from Chelmsford.

March Board Meeting

The March Board of Directors Meeting was held March 13th at the KA1RV QTH. Erik KA1RV, Ralph

KD1SM, Les N1SV, Stan KD1LE, Ron KB1GID, Earl WR1Y and Den KD2S were in attendance.

Ralph presented the Treasurers report to the Board and the details are published later in the newsletter.

The Board discussed the need for candidates for the upcoming April elections. Members are encouraged to run. The positions that are up for election are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Board member.

The Board discussed Field Day, which is now only three months away. Les N1SV and Bruce K1BG have come forward to coordinate the Field Day effort. There will be a short discussion at the meeting.

Ralph reported that the Groton Road Race organizing committee is picking up the pace on race planning for the April 27 date. Ralph has not yet sent reminders to last year's volunteers who have not yet contacted him.

Den is still collecting data on customized mugs.

The new web page should be online soon.

A proposal will be brought to the March meeting to purchase an ARRL Library Book Set for donation to the Townsend Public Library.

Ron KB1GID reported the Townsend Cable Access interview has been postponed again. We will try to provide video of the Groton RR or other event that they can use when making the program.

There will be a yearbook addendum to the members listing available at the March meeting.

The Board discussed having more member presentations and is soliciting three or four members to do a ten or fifteen minute presentation on a "Special Short Subjects Nite" in April.

Ian has updated the Club information and our Special Service Club status has been extended through February 2005.

Last Month's Meeting

Ralph KD1SM reported on participation with Larry KB1ESR at the Groton Road Race planning meetings. He also asked for volunteers.

Ron KB1GID reported that the League had a new video/mpeg clip to be used for recruiting. He wanted to show it at a future meeting. Ron had also gotten the

meeting notice published by the local paper. Dave N1MNX brought a copy of the newspaper.

Last month's meeting presentation was on the WSJT weak signal software. Bob W1XP presented with Ralph KD1SM and Stan KD1LE assisting. It was a multi-media event. There were two computers talking via the WSJT tones and software. Bob demonstrated the working of the software by progressively reducing the signal strength while keeping the noise level constant. The signals eventually disappeared in the noise – undetectable by ear to those listening while Ralph raised and lowered his hand as the transmissions started and stopped -- while the program continued to decode the transmissions though it had to work harder to do it.



Above: The new Groton Emergency Management Director, Leroy Johnson, stopped in and was introduced by Larry KB1ESR. Leroy wanted to meet some of the people he had only known by name and was pleased by the involvement of members in emergency management activities.

Below center: The WSJT set up with a laptop for the sending "station" to generate the WSJT signal and an attenuator to control the signal level. There is an HF rig receiving noise that is summed with the sending

station signal. The receiving station" is the PC under the table.



Special Service Club Renewal

After Ian supplied the required information to the ARRL he received this message.

----- Original Message ---addresses removed
From: "Frank Murphy"
To: nz1b
Cc: "Phil Temples"
Sent: Saturday, March 01, 2003 2:08 PM
Subject: SSC Renewal

Ian--This is to inform you that your application for renewal of the Nashoba Valley ARC Special Service Club status has been approved.

Through the work of its members, this club is recognized for its continued efforts on behalf of Amateur Radio and services to its community. Take pride in your SSC status, since so few clubs in EMass. have achieved this position. Please inform your officer's and members that the entire Emass Section staff salute your efforts.

Good Luck and continued success to all of you.

The next SSC renewal for the club will be in two years.

Frank Murphy - N1DHW
EMass. Affiliated Club Coordinator

NVARC Members Email List

The members email list is now operating. Remember only those who subscribe to the list may post to it; this is to keep spam off the list. Contact Ralph if you want to be added. To post to the list send mail to nvarc@n1nc.org



Bob W1XP presenting on WSJT. The left screen is the projected image of the receiving station showing the spectrum display, controls, and received data. The right screen is the presentation material.

Groton Road Race Coming Up

Ralph KD1SM and Larry KB1ESR have been attending race planning meetings. Race Day is Sunday, April 27. The races start and finish at the Groton public school complex. Three races will be held; a kid's trot, a 5k race, and a 10k race. Two to three operators are needed for the kids trot, about 20 for the 5k, and 35 for the 10k. Before the 10k race starts we also provide radio operators for the parking team. About 40 volunteers are needed in total to staff the race. 2-meter handhelds are adequate for most operators, though a few stations with higher ERP will be needed. Pre-race operations consist of the parking team plus 'shadows' for the Race Directors and several of the Race organizers to provide communications during the setup. Once the races start our focus switches to providing medical safety communications along the course and passing road closing instructions from the Groton Police to the out-of-town police officers at the major road intersections.

This is our largest and most visible event of the year. The Groton Police Department and the Groton Race committee depend heavily on our assistance to make this event a safe one for the public.

If you are able to participate, contact Ralph.

NVARC Library

The NVARC Library has quite a few items. Peter N1VRG, the Librarian, has created an inventory so members will know what is available. Below is the list of available items as of Thursday 20 Feb 2003

EQUIPMENT

Code Practice Oscillator MFJ 557 Quantity (4)

BOOKS

TUNE IN THE WORLD 8th Edition Preface dated Aug 1989

ARRL 1995-1996 Club Presidents Handbook FSD – 600 (8-95)

ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course

Level 1	Quantity (6)
Level 2	Quantity (6)
Level 3	Quantity (6)

MEMBERSHIP LISTS

March 30, 1992 August 6, 1996 September 11, 1996
November 11, 2000

NVARC SIGNAL

1992 Nos. 2, 4, 5
1993 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
1994 Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
1995 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
1996 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7,
1997 To date...none

VARIOUS MATERIALS

Soccer Tournament Checklist de 1996
Nutmeg Hamfest 1996
Kenwood Reports 1996 and on
Squelch Tail 07-08-1996
The Communicator 07-1996
FCC Spectrum Letter re: WRC-97
Over 50 Repeater Society (no date)
By Laws NVARC draft Rev 1 April 1993
Membership Survey August 1993
NVARC Minutes 1992
Communications / Letters

VIDEOS

ARRL Friends For Life 7 min
Adopt A Highway – Training Mass Dept Highways
Signal To Noise Story
GPHRC Satellite Comm
Your League At Work
All China DF Competition
ARRL Audio Visual Library Vol 5 Educational
(1) Everything You Always Wanted To Know
About Antennas 1 hour 8 min
(2) Spark Gap 1 hour
ARRL Audio Visual Library Vol 3 Educational
(1) When Disaster Strikes 10 min
(2) At Any Moment 14 min
(3) Field Day Fever 25 min
(4) Disaster Drill: The Big One 12 min
(5) Last Voice From Kuwait 25 min

CASSETTE TAPES

Receive Simulated QSO from Super Morse
Ameco: Learn Code with the Ameco Code Course
NOVICE Code Course Cat # 100-T AGC-100
CW LESSON Quantity (2)
CW PRIMER “ (2)

COMPUTER DISCS (3 1/2" FLOPPY)

Super Morse Quantity (4)

QRZ CD-ROM Discount

The QRZ CD-ROM version 20 is shipping. It contains a complete US callbook database as of 24-Oct 2002

plus many DX stations; over 1.2 million calls. The database contains e-mail addresses. The QRZ search program that permits searching for a license record in a variety of ways and also prints QSL cards. Version 20 runs on MS-Windows, MS-DOS, Unix, and Linux. The Macintosh software apparently no longer fits on the CD but is available for download. For more details on the version 20 CD see http://www.qrz.com/store/qrz_cd.html

QRZ offers a very attractive quantity purchase discount. If we purchase the CDs in groups of 10 we get them for \$10 each; that is half the single unit price and includes shipping.

The first purchase of ten CD's has been distributed. Another purchase will only be made if we collect names for ten units. Ralph KD1SM is coordinating the buy. If you want to get on the list, contact Ralph. It's first come, first served and orders will be placed as soon as 10 members have spoken for CDs.

Ralph

From The ARRL Letter and Bulletins

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT NOW IN BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 now has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. Idaho Sen Michael Crapo introduced the Senate version of the bill, S 537, on March 6. Original cosponsors were Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID). Florida Rep Michael Bilirakis put the latest House version of the bill, HR 713, into the legislative hopper on February 12. The measures, an ARRL initiative, have been introduced twice before in Congress. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, believes this third time could be the proverbial charm.

"Actually, this is the best opportunity that we've ever had to get this bill through, because more members of Congress than ever before are paying attention to ham radio now," said Haynie, who's been in Washington this week to talk Amateur Radio with lawmakers and regulators. In addition, Haynie pointed out, the House and Senate will be considering major spectrum reform bills, and the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act could serve as an amendment to that sort of legislation.

HR 713 and S 537 are aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The legislation would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services

unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere.

Haynie encouraged members of the Amateur Radio community to contact their senators and representatives to urge their cosponsorship, which lends support to legislation while it's in committee. The House bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; the Senate bill will be considered by the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. In addition, although more members of Congress than ever understand and appreciate the benefits of Amateur Radio, some may remain reluctant to sign onto a technical piece of legislation without some indication of support from their own constituents.

"The League is doing all it can, but we know the success or failure will be in the hands of the amateur community," said Haynie, who pledged the ARRL's continuing efforts to get the bill enacted. "Letters and e-mails are the key to getting legislation passed."

A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>>. Those writing their lawmakers are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail <specbill03@arrl.org>.

The measures would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur-Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands" that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

The text of HR 713 and S 537 is available (or will soon be available) via the Thomas Web site <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>.

SUPPORT GROWING FOR FAVORABLE 40-METER REALIGNMENT PLANS

With World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) getting under way in about three months in Geneva, support is growing for two favorable proposals to create a 300-kHz worldwide 40-meter allocation. ARRL and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) seek a return to the 300-kHz allocation that existed worldwide prior to World War II but that now exists only in the Americas. Delegates to WRC-03 will attempt to address--and possibly eliminate--the overlap on 40 meters between amateurs in the Americas (Region 2) and broadcasters elsewhere (Regions 1 and 3).

"There is encouraging news," says ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, in his "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial set to appear in April QST. He reports that, thanks to the efforts of IARU volunteers and others, more than 30 countries now have gone on record to support either one or the other of two favorable 40-meter realignment formulas. Sumner said more support is needed, but he called the interim head count "a good start."

Most popular among the half dozen realignment schemes outlined by participants at last November's WRC-03 Conference Preparatory Meeting is so-called Method B. This approach calls for a three-stage transition that would begin by allowing Region 1 and 3 amateurs on 7100-7200 kHz on a secondary basis starting in 2005 and end with all ITU regions gaining access to 7000-7300 kHz by the end of 2009--with the top 100 kHz shared with fixed and mobile stations in Regions 1 and 3. Broadcasters would shift upward to 7300-7550 kHz worldwide.

For US and other Region 2 stations, such a change would mean an end to deafening nighttime phone band QRM from broadcasters and the necessity to operate split-frequency to work stations in Regions 1 and 3 on SSB.

Sumner says Method B is now a European Common Proposal with initial support from 17 CEPT administrations. At least three other countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific have also expressed support for Method B, he said. The IARU team now is working to gain the support of additional administrations in Regions 1 and 3 either for Method B or for the similar Method A, Sumner reports. Otherwise identical to Method B, Method A does not include any sharing with fixed and mobile services.

In the Americas, a dozen ITU Region 2 countries last month agreed to support an Inter-American Proposal that's virtually the same as the so-called Method D. Proposed by Canada, Method D would provide 300 kHz worldwide for amateurs by shifting broadcasters in Regions 1 and 3 upward by 200 kHz. Region 2's broadcasting allocation would remain unchanged. IARU Region 2 is now working to expand the list of Region 2 countries supporting that plan.

The US so far has taken no position on the 40-meter realignment issue, although it has long supported a 300-kHz worldwide, exclusive allocation for Amateur Radio. The FCC WRC-03 Advisory Committee has recommended that Method A be a US proposal, but the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has not yet agreed.

"Acting on behalf of the federal government users of the radio spectrum, the NTIA has been advocating 'no proposal' from the US, a position that the ARRL is working hard to overcome," Sumner points out. "A small number of federal agencies claim to be concerned that their backup circuits on HF would be affected by an upward shift of broadcasters."

Sumner also calls it "unfortunate" that some broadcasters persist in efforts to link the 7 MHz WRC-03 agenda item with another that deals with the adequacy of broadcasting spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz. Sumner said the broadcasting spectrum item is "a separate issue with an entirely different genesis."

AMATEURS RESPOND TO PENNSYLVANIA "BIG CHILL"

Amateur Radio Emergency Service/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (ARES/RACES) team members in southern York County, Pennsylvania, activated March 3 after a natural gas shutdown forced residents to evacuate their homes to escape winter's chill. Some two dozen amateurs took shifts to assist the American Red Cross, staff the local emergency operations center and provide other necessary communication. ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL, reports that Amateur Radio involvement in the gas emergency ended around midday on March 5.

York County ARRL Emergency Coordinator Kerry Smeltzer, KA3KAR, says the problem, reportedly the result of a regulator failure, cut off the main natural gas supply serving the communities of Red Lion and Dallastown. Estimates vary as to the number of residents directly impacted by the gas failure, but they ran anywhere from 5000 to 10,000. Red Cross "mass care" facilities in two local schools let residents take advantage of heated facilities and hot meals. Smeltzer and his family were among those taking refuge.

In addition to the ARES/RACES teams activated in York County, Smeltzer said, ARES teams in surrounding counties and from nearby Maryland were on standby for the duration in case needed. ARES/RACES used two local VHF repeaters for most communications. Smeltzer said that the Baptist Men's Kitchen was on site to provide meals. The Civil Air Patrol also responded.

UK TO AK ON 136 kHz

Reaching Alaska from the United Kingdom using just 1 W ERP is quite a feat for any band, but the Radio Society of Great Britain reports that Laurie Mayhead, G3AQC, was heard in Alaska on 136 kHz. In the early

hours of February 15, he transmitted to Laurence Howell, GM4DMA/KL1X in Anchorage, and just before UK dawn at 0615 his call sign was clearly identified using software to read the signal.

G3AQC was using QRSS--very slow CW--with a 60-second-long dit. The 7278-km distance is a transmission record for 1 W ERP on 136 kHz.

Two years ago, Mayhead and Larry Kayser, VA3LK, made ham radio history when they completed the first two-way transatlantic exchange on 136 kHz, also using very slow speed CW. Last year G3AQC became the first person to span the Atlantic on 73 kHz.

Howell expressed surprise that the path involved in the latest accomplishment is "notoriously poor" between southeastern Alaska, on the east coast of the Pacific, and Europe. "The signal would theoretically go on a Great Circle route to nearly 80 degrees north, over the northern Canadian Arctic, northern Greenland, east of Iceland, Glasgow, then over the UK to the South Coast--across and through the auroral oval."

He said there's speculation that the actual path might have been around or even under the auroral zone, since there was no auroral Doppler seen on the received signal. Howell and Mayhead credited research and preparation carried out by G3NYK, G3LDO, W3EEE and W4DEX, for helping to set the new LF record.--RSGB

ISS CREW TO RETURN TO EARTH VIA RUSSIAN SOYUZ CAPSULE

The all-ham crew aboard the International Space Station will return to Earth in early May via the Russian Soyuz escape vehicle. Appearing before the US House Science Committee February 27, NASA Chief Sean O'Keefe said that the 16 ISS partner countries have agreed to use the Russian capsule to ferry a new two-person crew to the station--one American and one Russian--and to bring the current three-man crew home. The shuttle fleet remains grounded in the wake of the Columbia tragedy.

"There are no threats to the ISS or its crew in the near term, and we are working options to be able to sustain both over the long term," O'Keefe said in remarks prepared for delivery to the lawmakers. O'Keefe noted that the ISS would run short of potable water by June and that the Soyuz 5S vehicle now attached to the ISS will reach its lifetime limit in late April or early May and need to be returned. The fresh crew would remain in space until October, when a new crew would be sent up.

Additional unmanned Russian Progress cargo rocket flights will be scheduled to keep the ISS supplied--the next arriving shortly after the new crew in June. That Russian Progress supply mission will carry enough food, water, fuel and other provisions to sustain the two-person crew in space at least through October.

The implications of a two-person crew on the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program are not yet fully clear. A successful ARISS school contact with Hochwald Gymnasium in Wadern, Germany, was completed via DL0WR on February 27.

"Things continue to be very dynamic as the Columbia accident investigation unfolds," ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said February 27 in reaction to O'Keefe's announcement. "Despite the reduction in crew size, the ARISS team has been told that we will continue to perform one to two ARISS school group contacts a week." Bauer said since less scientific work will happen while the shuttle program is on hold, opportunities for school contacts will remain the same.

Crew member Don Pettit, KD5MDT, also was reported on the air this week seeking random contacts from NA1SS. Stan Vandiver, W4SV, in Indiana, reports he worked NA1SS February 27, but added that he'd heard that Pettit has been on the air on other occasions as well. The ISS downlink frequency is 145.800 MHz.

But the substitution of the Russian Progress rockets for the shuttle as a transportation system between Earth and the ISS will strictly limit the amount and type of supplies and equipment carried to the space station. The priorities will be food and water. This means that the ARISS hardware--including SSTV and all-mode HF/VHF/UHF gear that was planned to be flown this year--probably will be delayed, Bauer said.

O'Keefe meanwhile said that the ISS partnership was "committed to maintaining crew on-orbit." He told the House Science Committee that the new, two-person crew was training on Soyuz systems at Russia's Star City cosmonaut training center.

Now onboard the ISS are Expedition 6 Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, NASA ISS Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, and Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB. The crew this week resumed a full schedule of maintenance and research work on the space outpost. The Expedition 6 team will mark 100 days in orbit on March 3.

NASA has not yet revealed who the two new ISS crew members will be. Originally set to replace the current crew next month was the Expedition 7 team of Com-

mander Yuri Malenchenko, ISS Science Officer Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, and Flight Engineer Alexander Kaleri, U8MIR. The back-up Expedition 7 crew member is Mike Foale, KB5UAC. All four are now training in Russia.

Bauer said he considers the option to fly Lu and Malenchenko on Expedition 7 "the highest probable scenario, in my opinion. But is not definite yet." Pedro Duque, KC5RGG, who planned to use the ARISS equipment on the upcoming Soyuz flight, will probably fly in the fall, Bauer speculated.

Malenchenko and Lu have worked together in space before. During a shuttle Atlantis mission in 2000, the Russian and the American conducted a more-than-six-hour space walk to install equipment on the then-unoccupied ISS. That same shuttle flight also delivered the initial ARISS VHF and UHF hand-held transceivers, a packet TNC and other ham gear.

HAMS AID COLUMBIA DEBRIS SEARCH IN WESTERN STATES

Amateur Radio operators continued their involvement with efforts to locate space shuttle Columbia debris, as NASA's search shifted focus to include points west of Texas. According to NASA, the search for parts is running along the shuttle's re-entry path--basically 60 miles north or south of a line from San Francisco, California, to Lafayette, Louisiana.

New Mexico amateurs were among those helping to check in the Albuquerque area. "Based on a number of sources and analysis, NASA had reason to believe that debris from the shuttle Columbia may have impacted in Embudito Canyon," read a statement on the New Mexico Search and Rescue Support Team Web site <<http://www.nmsarsupport.org/>>. The team includes a number of hams in its ranks.

NASA wanted to follow up on both radar and eyewitness reports of possible shuttle debris in Embudito Canyon--in the Sandia Mountains east of Albuquerque. Authorities asked the NM SAR Support Team to provide communication and incident base support February 15 for a massive search involving more than 150 searchers. Although several small objects were found in the rugged terrain, none were attributed to the Columbia.

Keith Hayes, KC5KH, of the NM SAR Support Team estimates that more than 40 Amateur Radio operators participated in the effort, serving as incident command staff, providing communications for tactical and logistics support, and as members of field search teams.

"In addition to providing tactical and logistical support with its specialized communications trailer, 14 ham radio members of the New Mexico SAR Support Team provided additional APRS tracker and field team GPS track data collection," Hayes said. "Bernalillo County ARES Search and Rescue provided additional off-site logistical communications."

On February 24 near Caliente, Nevada, investigators continued to look for possible debris from Columbia that was tracked by air traffic control radar. Materials have been found in the area, but so far none have been confirmed to be from Columbia, NASA said.

NASA has asked anyone in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah for help in locating any material that may have fallen from Columbia as it was re-entering Earth's atmosphere. "Everyone is asked to be on the lookout for possible shuttle material 60 miles north or south of the re-entry track," NASA said in a news release.

AMATEUR RADIO HURRICANE CONFERENCE LOOKS AHEAD TO STORMY WEATHER

The upcoming 2003 hurricane season was the focus earlier this month as Amateur Radio volunteers, the National Hurricane Center's W4EHW Amateur Radio Group, representatives of the Hurricane Watch Net and emergency officials gathered for the eighth annual Amateur Radio Hurricane Conference. Among the approximately 50 attendees February 1 at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>> in Miami were representatives from the US as well as from throughout the Caribbean.

"The presentations, post-season analysis and discussions are very helpful in preparing for the coming hurricane season," said Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, the NHC's assistant Amateur Radio coordinator.

ARRL Public Service Team Leader Steve Ewald, WV1X, highlighted the latest news in emergency communication training from ARRL through the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>>. He also explained how the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant was expanding opportunities for hams nationwide to take the Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course. Ewald also discussed how the ARRL Field Organization serves as a ready resource during emergencies.

National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, KU4GY, and Ripoll organized and led the annual event. Among other things, they brought attendees up to date on the latest news and activities

of the 36-member team of Amateur Radio Station W4EHW. The station will adopt a new call sign, WX4NHC, on June 1 at the start of the new hurricane season. Ripoll said the new call sign would give "better on-the-air recognition, as WX is understood to mean weather, and NHC is well-known for National Hurricane Center."

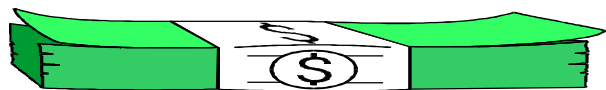
W4EHW celebrates its 23rd year of continuous service this year. Calling upon a staff of trained volunteers, the NHC's amateur station activates during tropical storms or hurricanes and gathers and disseminates real-time, surface-level weather data from hams and other volunteer observers. NHC forecasters use the data and information to develop their forecasts. During the 2002 hurricane season, W4EHW was on the air for more than 140 total hours, gathering over 300 reports via 20 meters (14.325 MHz) and, for the first time, via the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) VHF/UHF repeater network. Hurricane Watch Net Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, told the conference that he expects the HWN to explore the possibility of accepting hurricane reports via EchoLink in the coming season.

Hurricane Hunter aircraft pilot Capt Dave Tennesen, NL7MT, told the conference that he's never without ham radio onboard, and he's been known to occasionally check into the Hurricane Watch Net during his Hurricane Hunter flights. "Ham radio serves as a vital backup link to NHC if other means of communications fail," he said.--information from Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, and Steve Ewald, WV1X

\$March Treasurers Report\$

Welcome to new member Gary KB1IYX.

Income for February was \$65 from memberships.



Expenses for February were \$14.80 for newsletter postage and \$34.97 for paper supplies for the Yearbook, leaving a net income of \$15.23 for the month.

Current balances:
General fund: \$5047.72

Community fund: \$1842.55

73,
-Ralph KD1SM



**Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

PO Box # 900
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

mailto:nvarc_n1nc@arrl.net
http://www.n1nc.org/

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

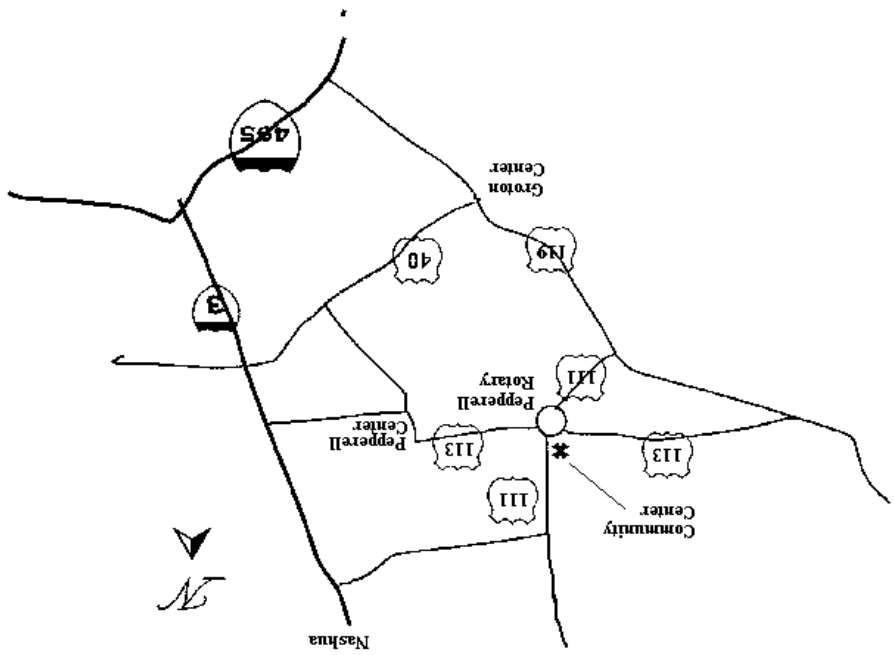
Librarian Peter Nordberg N1ZRG
Property Master John Griswold KB1HDO
N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG

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 2003 NVARC



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 900
Pepperell, MA 01463-0900