NVARC Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

SIGNAL

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB ARRL

de N1NC

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This Month's Meeting

The meeting will begin with elections. At a minimum we need to fill one Board position. All other interested candidates are welcome.

This months meeting program will be a presentation on Marconi by Ray Minichiello. Ray is one of the founders of the Marconi Museum in Bedford NH.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's program was **AN INTRODUCTION TO CONTESTING** presented by Les N1SV. Les discussed the competitive aspect of our hobby and discuss easy ways to become involved. In conjunction with this he held a "Contest University" for interested parties giving them the opportunity to learn contesting skills during a real contest. The Contest University was held Saturday March 27th at his house during the CQ WPX SSB Contest.

Present for Les' presentation were Phil KB1JKL, John KB1HDO, Dennis K1LGQ, Hank KB1JLA, Rod WA1TAC, Earl WR1Y, Larry KB1ESR, Bob KB1JZU, Ralph KD1SM, Peter N1ZRG, Dave N1MNX, Stan KD1LE, Gary K1YTS, Dwight AA1MT, Les N1SV, and Nancy KB1KEF.

From the President

The morning darkness and recent temperatures hide the fact that spring is here. But it is, and with it many opportunities to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the public. April has the Groton Road Race and the Townsend Canoe Race, May the Parker Classic, and July the Longsjo Classic Bike Race. These four events demonstrate respectively to a local police department, two civic organizations, and the American Red Cross the usefulness of Amateur Radio. I hope everyone considers supporting one or more of these events.

If you are working at one of these, or any other event, remember that operating in a professional and courteous manner and solving problems rather than creating them will set us apart from other radio services and organizations.

In a related matter and as kind of a continuation of the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) I mentioned last month. In the ARRL Letter section, is a segment on the TSARC (Tri-State ARC) which received a Points of Light Award and a grant from the ARRL for emergency communications equipment and facilities they were assembling. I don't propose we go grant or award hunting or get involved in vehicle acquisition. But I encourage you to take a look at the web site and associated sites which include the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, FEMA, etc. We need to be careful not to become over committed since we already have ARES, RACES, MARS and some other loose connections with organizations like the Red Cross. But anything we can do which prepares us so we can respond in an emergency is nothing but goodness. We prepare for some unknown emergency each in our own way or with a small group as in the above organizations. If an emergency were to happen we have a short lived opportunity to respond and show we can be useful. How we prepare in the preceding vacuum will determine if that will be successful. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on actions we should take please contact me or another officer or Den our Emergency Coordinator.

While I have your attention remember our road cleanup season starts the Sunday after the April meeting. We will meet at the traffic island on the

Groton side of the river on Route 119 at 9:00 AM. The first cleanup of the year is usually a bit of effort so a good turn out would be appreciated. Stan

Contest University

Les Peters, N1SV

I held a mini Contest University on March 27th in conjunction with last month's presentation on contesting. Both Ken K1KEY and Peter N1ZRG took part. This event was held during the CQ WPX SSB contest. Ken and Peter learned some of the rules, gained some operating experience and became more familiar with Writelog contest logging software. Both operated my station making contacts with both domestic and foreign stations on the 15m band.

Peter had such a good time that when he got home, he got back on the air and made some more contacts! As a side note Peter enjoyed the experience enough that he accompanied me to a recent Yankee Clipper Contest Club meeting, and while there joined the club.

Ham Radio History 101

Beginning Amateur Radio History
By Bob Reif W1XP

Almost a year ago when I outlined the series I decided to add the topic of this month's article. Although it is outside the time period of the rest of the articles I believe it is an event that any History of Amateur Radio must cover. So I am including it in the last of this series. We will give the articles a break, but maybe pick it up again later. I have enjoyed doing it and hope you have found the articles interesting and informative. At this months club meeting I plan a special conclusion to the series of articles.

The 1927 Washington Radio Conference

It had been recognized in the earlier part of the last century that the ability of radio waves to cross borders would lead to the requirement for international agreements to regulate, coordinate, and administer radio. In 1912 a conference was held in London and the result of this was the "London Convention of 1912". This international treaty was the international radio law. It did not recognize the existence of or make any provision for Amateur Radio. The treaty was to be brought up for revision at a conference to be held in Washington D.C. in 1917. World War I delayed the conference until 1927. A full 15 years since the 1912 conference. This was also a period of very rapid development in radio. The development of CW, the broadcasting industry, and the development of short-waves to name a few important ones. It had also been a period of rapid growth in amateur radio. All this development had taken place in an international vacuum. The short-wave development was only several years old, and yet the conference had the task of working out an allocation of the short-wave spectrum. There was a lot of work to be done and the conference had only eight weeks to do it in.

The conference was attended by over 350 delegates from 74 countries, and 50 associations. Their job was to rewrite the international radio regulations. The implications to amateur radio were obvious. In fact preliminary documents submitted by some large European nations indicated the solution to the Amateur question was simple. OUTLAW IT! There are lots of reasons given for this attitude. A poor understanding of just what amateur radio was is probably the largest reason. Most of the European countries had state run monopolies that provided both wire and wireless communication. These countries certainly saw a threat to state revenues from the amateur. (Recall that in 1927 the major portion of amateur operating activity was the transmitting of third party messages. This is something the European countries would never allow.) There was also a fear of how a large group of radio stations/operators could be controlled, particularly with regards to interference to other services from so many stations. The unwillingness to give up valuable frequency spectrum is another reason. What little was known about short-wave propagation in 1927 indicated that the useful part of the spectrum was limited and it was not clear what all the demands would be for frequencies so the surrendering of irreplaceable spectrum for amateurs to play with did not make sense to many. Most of the problem was centered in the frequency allocation area. The countries that opposed amateur radio could care less about licensing, call sign, and operating issues if they never intended to allow amateur radio in their country. What a country did or did not do about allowing amateur radio within its own country was still its own business. But if frequencies were assigned to amateur use the country was obliged to follow the allocation guide lines of the treaty. This meant that the use of the frequencies assigned to amateurs would be lost. So this is where they dug in their heels.

The U.S. position became clear to the conference when early in the conference the Japanese delegation proposed that all amateurs be required to use "Phantom Antennas". (Phantom antennas was the

1927 term for dummy loads.) At this point the U.S. delegation stated its position that the amateur would be protected by the resulting treaty. There would be a transmitting amateur radio. With out this strong position by the U.S. and a few other countries there would not be any international amateur radio today. It's that simple. The U.S. delegation stood strongly behind the amateur. Not only the Department of Commerce but the Army and Navy delegates were strong supporters of the amateur. This is a real turn around in the position of the government since the amateur was shoved below 200 meters in 1912. A position that the American amateur had earned. Something we should always keep in mind. In 1927 we were considered an asset and not a liability and that is why we had the support that kept amateur radio alive.

As a result of the strong position by the U.S. delegation a special 11 member sub-sub-committee was formed on the amateur issues. Its members represented the U.S., Australia, Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, and Italy among others. The U.S. supported and obtained the inclusion of Mr.K.B. Warner on the committee to represent the Amateur. Kenneth B. Warner was general manager of the ARRL and editor of QST. (Note it is the writings of K.B Warner and Clinton B. DeSoto that provided most of my research for this article.) The ARRL delegates to the conference were Mr. Maxim, Pres. of the ARRL, Mr. Stewart, Vice Pres. ARRL and Mr. Warner. Mr. Maxim also represented the IARU as its International Pres. and Mr. Warner as the Secretary/treasure. The U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand all spoke strongly supporting amateur radio at the opening of the first meeting of this committee. The delegate from Great Britain also spoke supporting the amateur. He said, "After all there were 1200 amateurs in Great Briton." (There were 14,000 in the U.S. at the time). The British made an offer showing support for amateur radio by proposing experimental licenses limited to 10 watts in six narrow harmonically related bands. The first band was to be in the 150 meter area. There was much discussion about what narrow meant. The comment was that it was certainly no more that 100 kHz. (The comment would have been in kilo-cycles, the accepted term at the time). This is a total of only 600 kHz compared to 12 MHz that the U.S. amateur currently had assigned to his use by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce. A loss of 95%! It was a knife in the heart of amateur radio. It was going to be a hard fight. The US and ARRL position was similar to the British position in one regard. They wanted harmonically related bands starting at the present 200 to 150 meter band. The main point of difference was on the size of the bands. There was clearly an attempt to not give the amateurs any more spectrum than necessary and the European view of necessary was much different than that of the amateur community. On the power issue it was decided to leave that up to the country. In the end by a vote of 6 to 5 the committee recommend that the amateur be assigned six narrow harmonically related bands. The exact assignment was up to the frequency allocation committee. The details to be worked out in the allocations meeting later. This did not give any of the supporters of amateur radio a good feeling. It was clear the fight was not over.

Let's take a few minutes to describe how the conference is supposed to work and how it did. There is a plenary meeting at the start and here the work is divided up and the various parts assigned to committees where the tasks are further divided and delegated to sub committees and in some cases sub-sub-committees. Then the committees, subcommittees, etc. complete the task and report back to the committee which reports back to the plenary meeting where the results are presented and approved. Simple enough! Well on many of the issues there were deadlocks in the committees so the procedure was to assign the task to smaller and smaller groups till there was finally a consensus. Many times these groups were working very informally. This was what finally happened with the amateur frequency allocation problem. In addition there was much discussion and persuasion that took place outside the formal meetings. This was the one on one, or small group informal discussions that lead to an understanding of one another's position. At the Washington conference these discussions were held over tea. At least that is what was supposed to be in the tea cups in prohibition era Washington. These groups became know as "tea cuppers" and were used by all sides of an issue. It was used successfully to change or reduce the protest against amateur radio. Even to soften some of the attitudes against giving the amateurs "valuable" frequencies. But the battle was far from won.

One other issue that was directed at amateur radio was that of message content. It was the fear of competition from the amateur over communications revenues that lead an effort to restrict the content of amateur exchanges. It was recognized that any government had the right to restrict its own amateurs from contacting other amateurs, but there was a strong movement to limit all amateur communications to only that information necessary for experimental purposes. One proposal was to prohibit the exchange of ANY information. In reality the real problem came down to the prohibition against third party traffic between countries. It was agreed that two countries could enter in an agreement to allow third party traffic

between their two respective countries if they so wished otherwise it was prohibited. This was the compromise that was finally worked out and remains in effect to this day.

Now back to the frequency allocation issue. The feeling of most delegates when the frequency allocation meeting started was that the amateurs were going to get six 100 kHz wide bands. And they should consider themselves lucky getting that. The committee meetings were held in a room that was crowded so it was decided to only seat one representative of amateur radio. That honor fell to K. B Warner. In his own words he hoped he was up to the task. The meetings went on and on with much debate and discussion between the mobile and fixed point interests. The amateur question had not even come up. Finally on the eighth day the amateur issue was finally brought to the table. The British had now shifted it proposal to a series of shared bands with the mobile service scattered through out the spectrum. This was unacceptable to the amateurs and the U. S. delegates said so. The U.S. had circulated its proposed plan for bands centered on 160, 80, 40, and 20 meters. These bands to have variable width that could be determined by the country depending hopefully on its amateur population and needs. This plan was not looked on with favor by any but the U.S. Italy made a proposal for a similar plan with fixed limits on the bands but that was defeated also. Great Britain was back to insisting that the amateurs be restricted to shared bands with the mobile service, and with a total width of no more that 800 kHz. They considered this a big concession from 600 kHz. Germany supported this plan. But the mobile service people rallied to the amateur cause as they didn't want to share their hard won frequencies. The 160 meter band was settled by giving the amateurs 1715 to 2000 kHz. This was a start. The group finally accepted the 80, 40, 20 locations. This was good, news because the amateur operation in these frequency regions had worked to keep other users out. As a result it was hoped there would be less protest. Britain then made another major concession and agreed to grant 400, 200 and 100 kHz bands but at frequencies near 18, 37 and 75 meters. But this was also voted down. Some said because it was too generous. So it was decided the group was too large to come to an agreement. The amateur problem was handed to another informal group that was going to work out some short-wave broadcast issues that afternoon.

The group to try and resolve the issue consisted of just seven members. Only one was an amateur, Mr. Warner. There were two US Navy officers who were part of the official US delegation. They were strong supporters of the amateurs in the fight for adequate frequencies. The other members of the group were Dr. Van der Pol of the Netherlands representing broadcasters which was the other topic of the group. The rest of the group was made up of Major W Steel of Canada, Capt. Abraham of Germany representing Telefunken and a Mr. Richard, representing Marconi. During the break between the meetings it was decided between the two U.S. delegates and Mr. Warner to try to address each band as a separate issue. This seemed to work better, for when the meeting got to the amateur question the 80 meter assignment was quickly decided on as 3.500 to 4.000 MHz which was no change from the then existing US assignment. This was felt to be a reasonable domestic service band that could spawn activity to the other bands. Next they took up 20 meters. This was proposed at 400 kHz. A large reduction from the 2 MHz it was at present. But the case was made strongly by all sides that more was not possible and it was considerably wider than the 100 kHz first offered. It was also felt by Mr. Warner and the U.S. delegates that since this was a daytime international band there probably would not be the pressure on it that the night time bands would have. And anyway the feeling was save the fight for 40 meters which was going to be the problem and being a night time band more useful to the amateur. (I am not so sure how this reasoning would go over today). The British offered 100 kHz and Mr. Warner asked for 800 kHz. The British offered 200 and that is where it stood. They tried moving the band, here and there, but there was always an objection from someone. Finally the German agreed to move a station and free up an additional 25 kHz. So the 40 meter assignment was 7000 to 7225 kHz. The 10 meter assignment was quickly decided at 28,000 to 30,000 and the five meter assignment 56,000 to 60,000 kHz. And that is where it stood when this group of "tea cuppers" reported back to the larger group of "tea cuppers" the next morning. The only voice of decent was from Mr. Warner the amateur representative. He said he supported everything except the 40 meter band where he felt 400 kHz was really required. To his surprise the German said he could move his station another 75 kHz and extend the limit to 7300 kHz if the British could go along. So the British were pressured into this. But they were not through. The British were now objecting to the exclusive assignment of the amateur ten and five meter band and insisted that these bands be listed as amateur and experimental. This was changed and the results reported back to the original technical committee where the results were rubber stamped and it then moved on to final approval. There was some decent from countries that had not taken part in the discussions but France, Germany and Great Britain all now strongly supported the fre-

quency allocation plan. The final treaty was approved by the Washington Conference on Nov. 25, 1927. Its effective date was Jan. 1, 1929.

There were some other things from the Washington Conference that had an effect on amateur radio. The call sign system used was defined. The amateur call sign consisting of a one or two character prefix followed by a number and then no more than three letters was defined by the treaty. The CW calling procedure of station called call sign followed by "de" followed by calling station call sign is also defined by the treaty.

But the most important issue the Washington conference settled was the radio amateurs international right to exist! Amateur Radio was now officially part of the radio art. We had rights and privileges in the international community. And along with that comes responsibilities. We were given birth by a stroke of the pen and we can die the same way. We are always judged by our actions. It was the good will the US amateurs had earned with their government and the Army and Navy radio services that caused these agencies to take up our fight at the 1927 conference. Without that support it would certainly be a different amateur radio if at all. I suspect not at all.

In the 15 years that amateur radio had grown and developed since 1912 it had completely changed the opinion of both the government and the military services toward the hobby. The ARRL had led the way in developing good relations with the government and also deserves a lot of credit in the securing of the privileges we have today. You might think of this the next time you get a request to support the league by becoming a member or a contributor.

The 1927 Radio Treaty, like all treaties, requires approval of the U. S. Senate. Not all amateurs in 1927 were happy with the results of the 1927 Washington Conference. Primarily because of the loss of frequencies. There was some organized opposition to the treaty, but the treaty was approved by the senate and went into effect on schedule Jan 1, 1929.

The radio art has continued to develop and conferences have been held regularly through the years. The amateur community has continued to have to justify its existence and shake off one threat after another over the years. We've won some and lost some but in general done well. So we need to continue to have the support of our friends, for without them it can get very lonely.

One more interesting note. Some of the countries that were outspoken against amateur radio in 1927, today have strong and vigorous amateur communities and the full support of their government for amateur radio.

I hope you enjoyed the article and series.
73 Bob W1XP

April Board Meeting

The April Board meeting took place on April 8th at the KD1LE QTH. In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, Bob W1XP, Les N1SV, John KB1HDO, and Dave N1MNX.

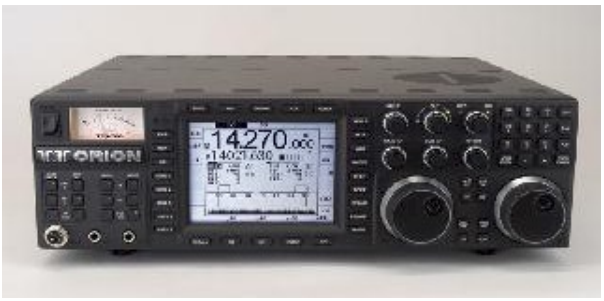
Field Day planning started. Les and John have volunteered to take the coordinator spot. Dave N1MNX is arranging for the apple orchard again. Bob is checking with Larry KB1ESR for availability of the RV.

Club Net discussed and need for a preamble, fixed starting frequency, NCS stations. Theme to be RACES on the 1st Monday. The following three Monday's each with a different NCS will have a theme or activity determined by the NCS. Ralph will write a preamble. We need some NCS volunteers.

The club callsign was discussed because of QSL requests for which we know of no operation. It was decided (pending discussion with Bruce K1BG the trustee) that any use of the callsign should be preapproved by the board for a specific period and require submission of a log to John KB1HDO who is taking care of QSL and eQSL requests.

Tentec Orion 565 Review

Les Peters, N1SV



The Tentec Orion is a high performance HF transceiver designed with contesters and DXers in mind. This past December after digesting all the reviews and talking with some owners, I decided to take the plunge and order one myself. What follows is an in-

formal review and comparisons to my 2 ½ year old Yaesu FT-1000MP.

The Orion comes standard with 20, 6, 2.4, and 1 KHz roofing filters but can optionally accommodate 1.8 KHz, 500 & 250 Hz filters as well. In addition the transceiver is available with an optional automatic antenna tuner and a cooling fan for the PA. Tentec suggests the cooling fan if you intend to run the transmitter at full output for extended periods of time. My Orion was ordered with the automatic antenna tuner, optional roofing filters, and cooling fan.

My first impression when the radio arrived was, wow this is big but seems lighter then it should be, what did they forget to put in it? Unlike my FT-1000MP the Orion does not have an internal AC power supply reducing its weight by 13 lbs but requiring a 13.8V DC power supply.

Unlike many of the popular Japanese manufacturers the Orion's front panel doesn't have a lot of those small closely spaced controls. Tentec instead took a different approach deciding to have only the most heavily used controls on the front panel while making those less used adjustments accessible via menus. Knobs are large logically labeled and for the most part well laid out. The use of optical shaft encoders for all concentric controls does take a little getting used to. All controls are located on the front panel so you don't have to pull the radio out to access adjustments. This was a welcome change from my FT-1000MP with its little removable top panel.

By tapping either "MAIN AF" or "SUB AF" controls on the Orion's front panel the appropriate audio output is either muted or unmuted, a handy feature. A 16-button keypad above the right VFO knob is used for changing bands, direct frequency input, and VFO assignments. Some functions that were single keystrokes on my FT-1000MP have unfortunately now become multiple keystrokes. I found the placement of the "MAIN AF" and "SUB AF" controls directly above the left VFO control a bit clumsy. The large monochrome display is nice though a color one would have been nicer! Twenty-six buttons surrounding the display control a myriad of functions including navigating through the seven different menus. Some of the buttons change functionality depending on the active mode. For example the "SP" button in CW adjusts the CW speed while in SSB the same button adjusts the speech processor. I found the seven menus quite logical and easy to navigate.

I tried to compare the sensitivity between the FT-1000MP and the Orion using weak signals on an inactive band. This was rather difficult since the FT-1000MP has a digital signal strength meter and the Orion has a traditional analog one. By ear I couldn't really tell any difference between the two.

Up until now all the transceivers I've owned have used 15-20 KHz roofing filters in their receiver front ends. If a strong signal was within this pass band the receiver performance could be compromised. The Orion uses a series of interchangeable mode specific roofing filters designed to reject strong adjacent signals without compromising receiver performance. In the 2004 CQ 160 SSB contest I found the tight roofing filters allowed me to be able to operate within 2 KHz of strong local stations and still be able to work the weak stations. In comparison my FT-1000MP suffered from a severe case of front end overload when placed in this same situation.

The Orion's DSP filtering has 590 possible bandwidth combinations to choose from. The "HI-CUT / LO-CUT" control adjusts the upper or lower skirt of the DSP filter. Tapping this knob toggles between the two modes. The "PBT / BW" functions in the same manner except that it controls the overall filter bandwidth and pass band. I compared both radios on the crowed 40m band at night with typical heavy QRM. The Orion consistently was able to pull out stations the FT-1000MP couldn't hear or where I had to strain to hear them. When I tried to narrow up the FT-1000MP bandwidth to 1.8 KHz stations tended to sound distorted like Donald Duck. With the Orion I could narrow up the bandwidth to less than 1.7 KHz with only a slight loss in intelligibility.

The noise reduction system in the Orion also works extremely well. When activated it almost acts as a squelch reducing the noise floor and increasing the signal to noise ratio. The receiver has two notch filters. The first is an auto-notch filter with adjustable attack and second a manual notch filter. Both the frequency and width of the manual notch filter are adjustable making it very adaptable.

I found you can really tailor the SSB transmit audio to your own liking quite easily. The transmit filter bandwidth can be set to as wide as 3900 Hz with a low filter roll off as low as 50 Hz. I found the speech processor works very well. Not surprisingly in side-by-side blind comparisons, I got consistently better reports with the Orion than with the FT-1000MP. There is also a digital voice recorder on the Orion with three memories, two non-volatile and the third volatile. The two non-volatile ones have a maximum length of 4.5 seconds / each limiting its usefulness. The third memory can accommodate messages up to

28 seconds in length but gets cleared when the radio is shut off.

Admittedly I'm partial to SSB but I did find operating CW with the Orion enjoyable. The "SPOT" feature makes it quick and easy to zero beat stations. A CW memory keyer is also included with three non-volatile memories. I'm not sure what the capacity of each is but they appear plenty large enough to store typical length messages without a problem. While Tentec is known for having excellent QSK in their radios I found its operation distracting and choose not to use it.

The automatic antenna tuner while a bit noisy works great. Everything I have tried to load so far seems to work fine. While I haven't tried to load the rain gutter or bed springs, I have loaded my 75m inverted-V on 60m and my 40m yagi on 30,17 and 12m without a problem.

One of the features I like the most about the Orion is the ability to upgrade its firmware without having to return the radio to the manufacturer. When a new software upgrade becomes available I simply download it from the Tentec website onto my PC. I then connect a serial cable from my PC to the radio and run the upgrade utility to load it into my radio. Gone are the days of sending your radio back to the manufacturer for a firmware upgrade or worse having to buy a new radio! Tentec also has appeared responsive to user feedback and has implemented some user suggested changes.

When I received my Orion I had 30 days to return it if I was not satisfied for any reason. Well it's been about two months now and my old FT-1000MP is long gone. I have had no problems with the new radio since day one and have upgraded the firmware once. The bottom line is there is a lot of performance under the hood of the Orion but beware the learning curve is quite steep. Even with its quirks the Orion is a real winner.

www.tentec.com Price $3300, w/ internal antenna tuner $3599, Optional filters $108 / each, #963 power supply $168, #310 cooling fan $39.95.

Club Net

Monday April 5th saw the first session of a weekly club net. There have been several proposals for a net with a variety of purposes and formats. Dave N1MNX called the net informally and in attendance were Eric W1ZBT, Stan KD1LE, Ken K1KEY, Ralph KD1SM, .and Bob W1XP.

The net was called up on the 147.345 repeater and subsequently moved to the 442.900 repeater. After several rounds of comments Dave moved the net to 146.490 simplex. The idea was to familiarize everyone with the coverage of the repeaters and in the last case test communications without the help of the repeaters.

We are still in the experimental stage so if anyone has any suggestions this is a good time to speak up.

One option might be to have an assigned net control station (NCS) for each Monday of the month (4). To give it some variety the NCS may determine the theme for their night and choose whether the net is directed or not depending on the number of people checking in.

ARRL Letter

IOWA HAM CLUB DESIGNATED A "DAILY POINT OF LIGHT"

The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network <http://www.pointsoflight.org> has designated The Tri-State Amateur Radio Club (TSARC) <http://www.qsl.net/w0cvj/> of Cresco, Iowa, as the Daily Point of Light for Monday, March 29. The Foundation recognized the ARRL-affiliated club for voluntarily providing communication during emergencies and for supporting Red Cross and The Salvation Army relief efforts. President George W. Bush and former President George H. W. Bush, have endorsed the Daily Points of Light Award, and each will send a congratulatory letter to the club.

"Through your service you join the ranks of America's true unsung heroes--volunteers," said Points of Light Foundation President and CEO Bob Goodwin. "The spirit and energy of America's volunteers inspire us all," he said. "Your work is a shining example of this spirit."

TSARC's designation as a Daily Point of Light did not escape the notice of ABC Radio Networks' commentator Paul Harvey <http://www.paulharvey.com>, who mentioned it during his noontime broadcast on March 12. Harvey said the nation still relies on Amateur Radio operators to get the message through in an emergency or disaster.

"For all of our sophisticated technology, in any real disaster, our country still relies heavily on its hams--Amateur Radio hobbyists," Harvey said in the approximately one-minute spot. Among citizen volun-

teers in the US, he concluded, there are "none more unsung and certainly none more unpaid, than the hams--standing by around the clock."

TSARC's Ernie Martin, WA0AUU, said it marked the first Point of Light Award to an Amateur Radio club. TSARC serves as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) <http://www.citizencorps.gov/programs/cert.shtm>--a Citizen Corps program. A small club with just over a dozen members, TSARC still has managed to equip itself with two mobile emergency communication units and even a couple of parasail units--used in search-and-rescue work.

While the club is in Iowa, its "tri-state" label derives from the fact that it serves parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin as well. The TSARC communications van--which the club resurrected from an aged auto junkyard candidate--contains equipment for both Amateur Radio and public safety frequencies. The unit can even beam a UHF Amateur TV signal from a disaster scene to a remote post--giving incident command personnel a firsthand look at what's happening.

In 2002, TSARC was the beneficiary of a $1500 ARRL Foundation <http://www.arrl.org/arrlf> grant to assist its emergency communication efforts. The money helped to supplement the club's own fundraising efforts toward covering the approximately $6500 cost of a 16-foot equipment trailer. Martin says TSARC's communications trailer is packed with everything the participating amateurs will need when they get to a disaster site. "We take everything five people will need for five days," he said.

The Daily Point of Light Award is given by The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network in partnership with the Knights of Columbus and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) <http://www.cns.gov/>, which currently subsidizes ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course <http://www.arrl.org/cce> training. The Award honors individuals and organizations "who have made a commitment to connect Americans through service to help meet critical needs in their communities and in the nation."

Contest Calendar and DXpeditions

I started this column with the hope it would help some members log a new country or even try contesting. I'm not a contester myself, but I enjoy getting on the air for a while during a contest and giving out a few contacts and maybe logging a rare country. Another bit of information I thought might be of value to members is a list of upcoming DXpeditions. They usually activate countries, or in some cases islands (as in the case of IOTA (Islands On The Air) that are rare. This might give you a chance to log a missing country or island. The information for a DXpedition can be quite detailed and may include bands, dates, number of stations, and times of day they plan to work certain continents so I can not list it all here. But if a country or prefix is of interest you can get more information at www.425dxn.org.

CONTESTS (APRIL)

April 10-18 Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party
April 17-18
QSO Party Michigan
YU DX CW/SSB
GACW DX Contest
Holyland DX Contest CW/SSB
ES Open HF Championship
EA QRP Contest CW

April 24-25
QSO Parties
Florida, Nebraska, Kentucky
Helvetia Contest

DXpeditions

5H	Tanzania	1 year
5V	Togo	current
7Q	Malawi	April 18-May 1
9M & V8	IOTA Pulau Muara Besar, Brunei, Pulau Satang Besar	April 21-
KH4	Midway Island	April 23-25
F0/M	Marquesas Island	April 28-May 2
JA/1	Hachijo Is	April 23-26
GM	Lunga	Apr 30-May3

PSLIST MARCH

Listing public events at which Amateur Radio communications is providing a public service and for which additional volunteers from the Amateur Community are needed and welcome. Please contact the person listed to identify how you may serve and what equipment you may need to bring. The most up-to-date copy of this list is maintained as http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv.

**** Every event listed is looking for communications volunteers ****

Date Location Event
Contact Tel/Email

Apr 25 Groton MA Groton Road Race
Ralph KD1SM 978-582-7351 kd1sm@arrl.net

May 2 Boston MA Walk for Hunger
Bob K1IW 413-647-3111 wfh2004@amateur-radio.net

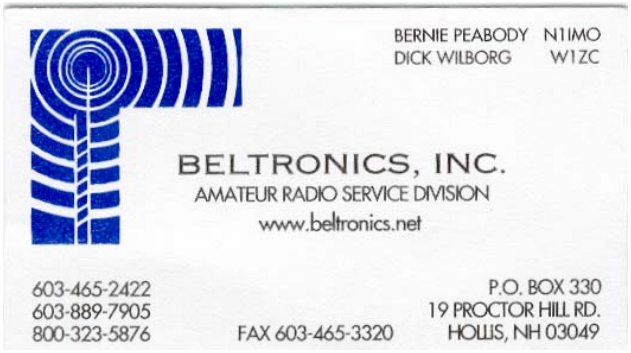
May 15-16 NH-ME Lung Assoc bike trek
David KA1VJU 603-581-2602 ka1vju@dmegin.com

May 16 Devens MA Parker Classic Road Race
Stan KD1LE 978-433-5090 kd1le@arrl.net

Jul 4-5 Longsjo Classic
Ralph KD1SM 978-582-7351 kd1sm@arrl.net

See http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv

Advertisements



Tell them you saw it in the Signal. Advertisers should contact the NVARC Treasurer for information.

$March Treasurers Report$

Income for March was $80 in membership dues, $36 from the March meeting book raffle, and $10 from PowerPole connector distribution.a Expenses were $14.80 for newsletter postage leaving a net income of $111.20 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	$4812.82
Community fund	$1842.55

We have 50 current members, with April 1 being the renewal date for many.

73, Ralph KD1SM

NVARC
Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club
PO Box # 900
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

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

President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
Vice President: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG
Secretary: John Griswold KB1HDO
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Board Members:
Bob Reif 2001-2004
Les Peters 2002-2005
Dave Peabody 2003-2006
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
Emergency Coordinator: Den Connors KD2S
Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
PIO: Ron Wood W1PLW
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
147.345 + 100 Hz 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

NVARC

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