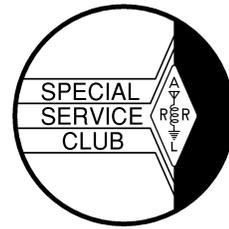




# SIGNAL



de N1NC

December 2004 Volume 13 Number 12

## This Month's Meeting

This month's program is Homebrew Night. Members should bring along their projects to share with everyone.

## Last Month's Meeting

The meeting opened with reports by various board members with the bulk of the time spent on the annual financial statement by Ralph KD1SM. Stan passed around the Certificate we received from W1QSL Bureau which is for our years of sorting QSL cards. Stan mentioned that Bruce K1BG had volunteered to run Field Day 2005 with Jim N8VIM. Since neither was in attendance Stan asked if there were any thoughts that he could pass along to Bruce and Jim. There were several suggestions on location and whether to organize around band or mode. There is also interest in having a station that can run the digital modes.

The program was Members Short Subject Night. The first presentation was by Dennis K1LGQ on Operating QRP. The presentation was a picture show on the many events QRPers do on an annual and year round basis. The particular events also highlight operating in a light weight fashion. The many groups shown were from across the US and from other countries and depicted operations from tents, mountaintops, and Kayaks to name a few. The events which are local in nature (that is not organized national events) often have a theme such as operating from some mountaintop, operating outdoors in the winter, or having a lobster fest.



Dennis K1LGQ giving his QRP presentation.



Skip K1NKR did a presentation on UHF/VHF Mountain Topping. Skip showed the various equipment and locations he has used while operating in the bands up to 10 GHz.



Bob W1XP showed his project to put his HF mobile CW operation into the glove compartment of his car.



Larry KB1ESR did a presentation on his effort to use APRS to track Search and Rescue Dogs.



Larry and Ken K1KEY also did a demo of APRS.

In attendance were Nancy KB1KEF, John KB1HDO, Dennis K1LGQ, Hank KB1JLA, Rod WA1TAC, Bob W1XP, Earl WR1Y, Larry KB1ESR, Ralph KD1SM, Leo WA1ULK, Peter N1ZRG, Dave N1MNX, Stan KD1LE, Erik W1ZBT, Ken K1KEY, Ben KB1FJ, Wolf KA1VOU, Gary K1YTS, Les N1SV, Skip K1NKR,

Thanks to everyone who put in the effort to give us these interesting presentations.

### October Meeting Pictures

The October meeting was a QSL Card Sort. We sorted 115 pounds or approximately 20,000 cards for the W1QSL Bureau.



Skip K1NKR and Chris KB1KUZ

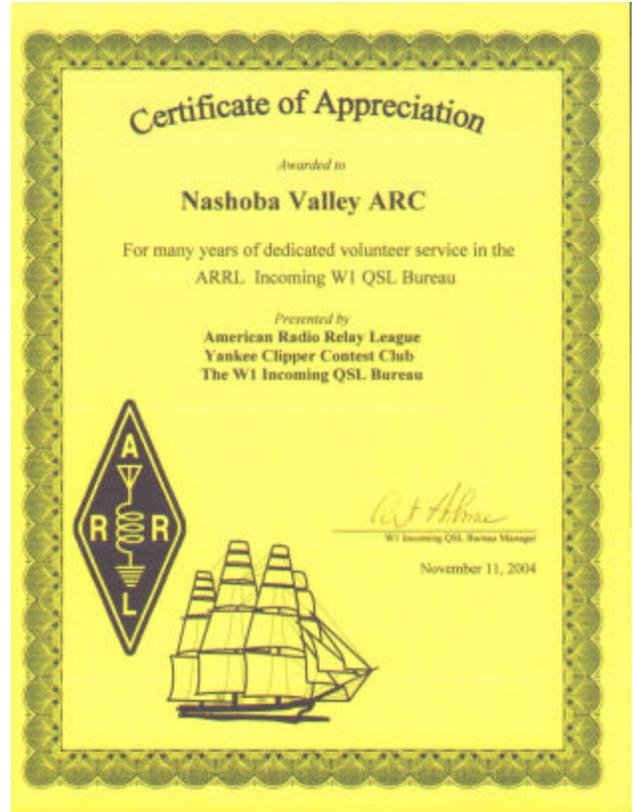


As the members started arriving we went right to the challenge at hand. Six boxes of QSL cards in need of sorting.



Nancy KB1KEF and Larry KB1ESR

In attendance were Nancy KB1KEF, John KB1HDO, Dennis K1LGQ, Rod WA1TAC, Chris KB1KUZ, Larry KB1ESR, Don N1HVA, Ralph KD1SM, Leo WA1ULK, Stan KD1LE, Ken K1KEY, Wolf KA1VOU, Gary K1YTS, Les N1SV, Skip K1NKR and guest K1IE Bill from Milford.



Above is the certificate we received at Boxboro for our QSL card sorting.

### From the President

Over the past few years I have acquired many components from a variety of sources. I have spent considerable time and effort sorting them into parts cabinets so that they could be useful which at a minimum means grouped by type and in order. Last week Les N1SV came over to get parts for a project he was building. In a short time we were able to populate the board with most of the parts (resistors, capacitors and diodes) he needed. Now he needed to order only a few parts to complete it. Getting one or two of anything is such a pain and if you need to order everything for a project it is difficult and expensive. So if you are building a project and need some parts give me a call. The easiest way is to stuff the board directly since you only have to find and identify the parts once. If you don't have a circuit board then we can work from a parts list but then you end up with a bag-o-parts that you have to re-identify.



A past homebrew project contains transistors, switches, terminals, and connectors.



The cabinet set above contains resistors on the back-side cabinets and capacitors and diodes on the front side cabinets.

I also have a reasonable selection of transistors, cooling fans, heatsinks, switches, knobs, terminal strips, and 7000 series IC's.

If you have parts left over from some project that you would like to donate to the cause see me. I'm not interested in sorting a paint can of miscellaneous parts but if you have a package of one value of resistor, capacitor, transistor, or diode that you think might be useful to others and is just going to get lost in the bottom of some drawer or tool box why not put them in the collection.

Stan KD1LE

### Adopt A Highway

Participating in the November cleanup were Jim AA1PO, Earl WR1Y, Leo WA1ULK, Peter N1ZRG, and Stan KD1LE. Thanks to everyone who participated this year. Next cleanup April 2005.

### Board Meeting Notes

The NVARC Board met December 9<sup>th</sup> at the KD1LE QTH. In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, Les N1SV, John KB1HDO, Dave N1MNX, and Larry KB1ESR.

Items discussed

Ralph gave the monthly Treasurers report which is later in this newsletter. Also published here is the Annual Report which was passed out and discussed at the November meeting.

Ralph has ordered books for raffle. We will also have several non book items in the drawings.

John read a letter from we received from John Kelley GM3TCW our honorary member from Scotland.

There was some discussion about a bandpass filter project to build filters for use at Field Day.

Larry brought a general schedule of planned events for Groton's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary events that will take place next year. He will be attending their meetings to try to establish what help they want or need.

## Getting Ready for Winter

After breakfast on November 27<sup>th</sup> some of us headed over to help Bruce K1BG to do some necessary tower and antenna work.



Courtesy K1BG

Ralph KD1SM made the ascent checking hardware and once at the top replaced the rotator. He also replaced two dipoles that are mounted near the top which were attached to lines thrown with a surfcaster or bow and arrow to various trees.



What started out in the morning naturally didn't get finished till the sun was on the decline.

Besides Bruce K1BG the team included Ralph KD1SM, Bob AB1CV, Les N1SV, and Stan KD1LE.

## NVARC Club Net

The September 27<sup>th</sup> net was called by Stan KD1LE. Participating were Skip K1NKR, Ken K1KEY, Bob W1XP, Larry KB1ESR, and Ralph KD1SM. The net program was a quiz on hurricane facts and history.

The December 6<sup>th</sup> net was called by Stan and after some general club announcements the theme was a quiz on subjects relating to snow cold and ice. Do you know how many pounds of snow you shovel for the average sidewalk or why does ice float? If you were there you do.

Nets continue to be called and are a good place to bring information for the club and questions or discussions. The net meets at 8:00 PM Monday evenings on the 442.900 N1MNX repeater.

## Advertisements

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

BERNIE PEABODY N1MO  
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## NVARC Annual Report

	4/1/03 to 3/31/04	4/1/02 to 3/31/03	4/1/01 to 3/31/02	4/1/00 to 3/31/01
Starting balance	5124.49	4820.36	2659.28	682.57
<b>Income</b>				
Dues	845.00	620.00	550.00	701.33
ARRL memberships			22.00	13.00
Bank interest	106.10	116.97	173.83	50.48
Donation	1.33	.05	1.11	10.05
FoxFinder		329.05	2863.50	1795.94
Book Raffle		63.00		
Patches	2.00	6.00		
PowerPole	70.00			
Total Income	954.43	1135.07	3610.44	2570.80
<b>Expenses</b>				
Insurance	(255.00)	(255.00)	(255.00)	(255.00)
Newsletter printing				
Newsletter postage	(161.00)	(133.20)	(186.25)	(173.40)
PO Box	(44.00)	(44.00)	(20.00)	(20.00)
QSL Bureau	(37.45)	(54.18)	(62.07)	(36.29)
E-Comms books			(190.00)	
Miscellaneous		(133.74)	(105.40)	
Food	(73.61)			
Badges				
Book raffle	(164.00)		(67.00)	(66.00)
Mileage	(25.00)			(43.40)
Field Day	(214.93)		(128.56)	
Yearbook		(38.47)	(169.36)	
Mugs	(325.95)			
PowerPole		(172.35)	(56.15)	
Patches			(209.57)	
Total Expenses	(1230.94)	(830.94)	(1449.36)	(594.09)
Net Income	(276.51)	304.13	2161.08	1976.71
Ending Balance	4847.98	5124.49	4820.36	2659.28
<b>Community</b>				
Starting balance	1842.55	1717.55	1192.55	1467.55
Donations received	0.00	125.00	525.00	125.00
Paid out	0.00	0.00	0.00	(400.00)
Ending balance	1842.55	1842.55	1717.55	1192.55

## \$December Treasurers Report\$

Income for November was \$30 in membership dues and \$4 from one mug sale. Expenses were \$14.80 for newsletter postage, leaving a net income of \$19.20 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$4529.58
Community fund	\$1782.95

As of 9 December we have 55 current members and six renewals outstanding.

The ARRL has reinstated its dues rebate program for affiliated clubs. When you need to renew your ARRL membership, you can save yourself the cost of a stamp and add to the Club treasury by handing me a check in the amount of your ARRL dues. If you are not yet an ARRL member, let me send in your new membership application and the Club receives a \$15 rebate.

Please check your Club membership anniversary and renewal date on your newsletter mailing label. If you get your newsletter electronically, feel free to ask me for your renewal date. I circulate a member roster at the monthly meeting. This roster also contains renewal dates for everyone.

73,  
Ralph KD1SM

## ARRL Letter

### ISS EXPEDITION 10 COMMANDER BREAKS IN NEW TICKET FROM SPACE

Astronaut Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, used his recently minted ham radio license for the first time November 19 to speak with students in southeastern Italy from NA1SS aboard the International Space Station. Arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, the QSO also kicked off a series of educational contacts for the Expedition 10 crew, which arrived aboard the ISS in October.

"It's a great pleasure to be addressing you from the International Space Station," Chiao told the youngsters as the contact got under way. "This is my first ham radio contact, so I'm honored to be sharing this experience with you." Chiao got his license in June while training for his ISS mission.

Posing questions from Earth were youngsters from two elementary schools and a comprehensive school in Polignano-a-Mare, ranging in age from 6 to 14. Members of a local Amateur Radio Club set up a satellite Earth station at one elementary school and a backup station at the other elementary school. They also established audio and video links from the station to monitors in the other two schools' auditoriums. Michele Mallardi, IZ7EVR, was the control operator.

Responding to a question about the crew's exercise regimen, Chiao stressed how important it is that he and Expedition 10 Flight Engineer and cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov exercise daily during their six-month duty tour. "We have two hours of exercise scheduled every day," he said. The space travelers work out using either a treadmill or stationary bicycle, Chiao explained. There's also a piece of equipment that "mimics the effects of weightlifting," he said.

One youngster asked the now-standard "food question," and Chiao managed to regionalize his answer. "We have a variety of items we can choose from, including some Italian dishes," he said. "Some of my favorites include classics like spaghetti and also tortellini."

Others wanted to know if the crew sometimes felt alone, how they talked to their families, what they did when they were not working and whether it was easy to acclimate to weightlessness. In all, Chiao managed 18 questions during the approximately eight-minute contact. Just before the ISS went out of range, Mallardi aired the students' farewells and the audience's applause.

Onlookers at the Earth station included not only pupils and teachers but several high-level local, regional and national government officials as well as representatives of the military. The event generated news accounts via several radio and TV outlets and attracted reporting teams from print media that included the Amateur Radio publications Radio Rivista and Radio Kit Elettronica.

ARRISS <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>> is an educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

## HAM RADIO DELIVERS THE TOYS

With time still to spare and with the help of key “relay” service by local radio amateurs the ARRL holiday toy drive has collected truckloads of toys--1650 and counting. The drive, which is folding into the United Way's White Doves Holiday Project <<http://www.martinvolunteers.org/whitedoves/>>, aims to brighten the holidays for children displaced or left homeless by the hurricanes that ravaged Florida earlier this year.

“The toy drive has snowballed and taken on a life of its own,” says ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, who spearheaded the ham radio effort. “Hundreds of groups, clubs and individuals have responded with such energy and cheer that it's already a great holiday season. People just kept going past Thanksgiving and provided more help for the kids than initially imagined for such a simple enterprise.” Pitts says the effort generated a lot of goodwill for the Amateur Radio community as well.

Boxes full of toys from radio amateurs nationwide have been pouring in to the United Way of Martin County office in Stuart, Florida. As of November 23, more than 190 clubs, groups and individuals had contributed either toys or checks. Cash donations total nearly \$5000, and even more toys and contributions continue arriving daily.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) members have helped transport toys from the United Way office to a storage area at the Martin County Fairgrounds. There, volunteers will sort the toys for distribution to needy families on December 20 and 21.

“We continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of the ham radio operators,” said Carol Hodnett, director of the United Way Volunteer & Community Resource Center, which coordinates the White Doves Holiday Project. “We cannot thank ARRL and its members enough for choosing to support White Doves and the children it serves.”

Bill and Nancy Deacon, KD4HST and KD4HSS, are not only ham radio operators but longtime White Doves Holiday Project volunteers and, this year, hurricane victims as well. The Deacons will help to sort toys and assist families on distribution days. Bill Deacon also will hand out turkeys and hams (the White Doves Project also has collected some 20,000 pounds of food). The Deacons' house was flooded during the storms, and they have been living in a FEMA-provided mobile home while repairs are made.

## ENHANCED COOPERATION FOCUS OF ARES-RACES-MARS MEETING

Enhancing cooperation among Amateur Radio's emergency service organizations was the subject of a groundbreaking conference November 20 in Castle Point, New York. On hand were Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Army, Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) leaders.

While informal cooperation is nothing new to ARES, RACES and MARS members—many of whom participate in all three organizations—the focus of the Castle Point gathering was on launching more formal regional and national collaboration. ARRL Field Organization/Public Service Team Leader Steve Ewald, WV1X, said he was pleased to be able to participate.

“I thought it was an excellent meeting, and it should lay a foundation for further cooperation between ARRL and our Field Organization and MARS,” he said afterward. Ewald also used the occasion to call attention to the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses and the tuition grants available for radio amateurs completing them. Joining him under the League banner were ARRL Field Organization appointees Pete Cecere, N2YJZ, the Eastern New York Section Manager, and Tom Carrubba, KA2D, the New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator.

Newly designated New York Army MARS-ARRL Liaison Officer Richard Meirowitz, WA2ELE, organized the session, and New York MARS Director Steve Pertgen, W2FXJ, chaired the meeting at the Castle Point Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Keynote speaker was Army MARS Eastern Area Coordinator Robert Hollister, AAA9E/N7INK, from Ft Huachuca, Arizona (and the author of “A Portable NVIS Antenna,” which will appear in the January 2005 QST). He expressed the hope that MARS management and ARRL would join forces to pursue the goal of interoperability. To jump start that initiative, Hollister provided an overview of the US Department of Defense (DoD) MARS program and its emphasis on providing emergency communication support to a wide variety of military and government response agencies.

In September, Hollister asked MARS stations and nets to coordinate with ARES/RACES and local ham radio operators to assist in handling hurricane-related health-and-welfare traffic. Amateur Radio and the military already collaborate informally each May during the Armed Forces Day communications tests, when hams and military stations engage in crossband contacts. Several pilot operations also have employed ARES/RACES members in past Army Reserve exercises at the local level.

Among proposals was a suggestion to seek FCC permission to conduct year-round interoperability training and emergency operation. It also was proposed that the amateur community assist MARS in providing early warning notification of emergency situations—so-called “Essential Elements of Information” messages—for relay to the DoD and the Department of Homeland Security.

Following Hollister’s briefing, MARS Eastern Area Emergency Operations Chief John Scoggin, W3JKS, of Wilmington, Delaware, discussed last summer’s nationwide Grecian Firebolt 2004 (GF-04) Army Signal communication exercise—the biggest MARS drill ever. At Pertgen’s suggestion, Meiorowitz tested the feasibility of MARS-ARES-RACES collaboration during GF-04, and ARES volunteers from eastern New York took part in the exercise, which involved a homeland defense/homeland security scenario. Meiorowitz called it “a small but successful joint effort.” Ewald noted that the Grecian Firebolt exercises were similar in nature to the ARRL’s Simulated Emergency Test each fall.

Hollister suggested that ARES/RACES participation in the next annual Army Signal exercise be worked out on a state-by-state basis. Also proposed was the designation of additional MARS-ARRL liaison officers at the state level.—Bill Sexton N1IN

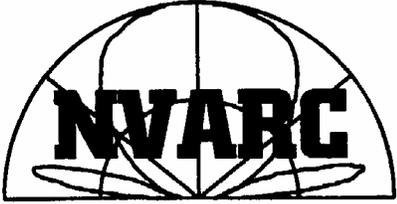
**Contest Calendar and DXpeditions**

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](http://www.425dxn.org).

**DXpeditions**

Call                      Location                      Until

8Q7WP    Maldives                      09/05  
 HA200CVM: special station (Hungary)    Jan  
 9U6PM: Burundi \* by HB9DTM                      Feb  
 T98AQL: Bosnia-Herzegovina \* by IZ4AQL Mar  
 5H3HK    Tanzania                      till March 2006  
 ZD8I      Ascension Is                      till March 2006



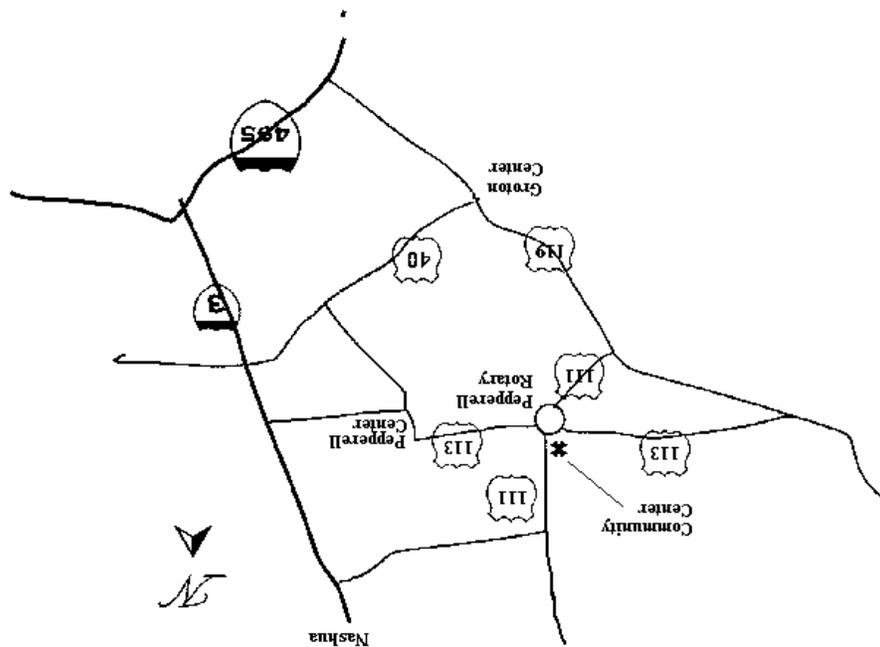
**Nashoba Valley  
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Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month -  
 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr. Talk-in 146.490  
 simplex  
 442.900 + 100Hz Repeater  
 147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater  
 53.890 – 100Hz Repeater

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