



SIGNAL



de NINC

August 2007 Volume 16 Number 8

This Month's Meeting

No meeting this month. We have renewed our reservation at the Pepperell Community Center for the coming meeting year. The next regular meeting will be September 20th at the Pepperell Community Center.

The October meeting is our annual QSL card sort. We will be inviting PART and MARA to participate. Bring a friend. NVARC will provide pizza and soft drinks after the sort.

Last Month's Meeting

There was no July meeting. The NVARC Cookout was July 28th.

Cookout pictures later in this issue.

Field Day (cont)

We had a great Field Day event with great attendance. Field Day starts with planning and testing long before they open the gates to move onto the site at 2:00 PM Friday. Larry KB1ESR and Dale AB1GA did a great job as the Field Day Coordinators with all the planning such as site, food staff, station captains, bonus point responsibilities set up coordination and power.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve our Field Day activity please send or give them to a board member so they may be added to the Field Day Log Book.



Courtesy KD1SM

Above Bob W1XP Co-Captain of the CW station with the complete CW station assembled in his basement. Field Day planning and preparing takes place on many levels. This was to collect all the equipment and test everything out in one place prior to the big day.



Courtesy KD1SM

Friday afternoon Ralph KD1SM and Bob W1XP delivered the tower to the site and set up began in earnest. Dale AB1GA is on the right. Once the tower was in place and the vehicle removed assembly of

the 20 meter yagi and the 40 meter moxon antennas began.

At the same time people were setting up tents, unloading equipment, and putting up the antennas required by the SSB, GOTA, and U/VHF stations.



Courtesy KD1SM

Larry KB1ESR arranged for, delivered and ran the Town of Groton light tower and generator. We never tried the lights but the generator supplied power for all the stations except the U/VHF station which ran on solar charged batteries and solar panels.



Courtesy KD1SM

After the tower for the CW station and the ladder mounted tri-bander for the SSB station were up the feed lines to the operating positions came next. Bob AB1CV and Stan KD1LE unroll coax for the 4 element 20 meter yagi on the tower. Open wire transmission line on the right fed the 160 meter dipole. Likewise the SSB station tri-bander was fed with coax and its 80 meter dipole was fed with open wire feed line.

The use of open wire feed line has caused a problem when it comes to adjusting the length. We have

had to quickly find a soldering iron and additional feed line to complete a run. Post Field Day we have solved this problem by making 10 foot, 20 foot, 30 foot, and longer lengths of additional feed line with quick connect devices to easily add additional wire to fit any needed length.



Courtesy KD1SM

Field Day isn't all done on the ground. Doing his pre-flight checks is Jim N8VIM at the controls and Ralph KD1SM prior to take off from Nashua to take pictures like below.



Courtesy KD1SM

With Jim N8VIM at the flight controls Ralph KD1SM took aerial photos of the Field Day site. Above bottom center the tower trailer with a four element 20 meter monoband antenna. Along the main road, from L-R the GOTA station in the RV (white), the food tent (white), the SSB and SSTV demo tent (blue) and the CW tent (blue). Top right near the stand of trees on the small knoll is the U/VHF station.



Above Jeanine N1QIT and James KB2UIH operate the GOTA station. This was our most successful GOTA operation ever with ten operators thanks to Larry and Dale.



Above (L-R) John WW1Z, Warner K1KG, Ben KB1FJ, and Tom K1NNJ eat Saturday lunch under the food tent.



After supper with the stations running some participants even got in a little kayaking on the pond at the edge of the Field Day site. L-R James, Jim N8VIM, Jeanine N1QIT, Joel W1JMM, Peg, Dale AB1GA, Karen KA1JVU, Sarah, John KK1X, and Stan KD1LE

Field Day participants; Ed W1ZZ, James KB2UIH (GOTA op), Les N1SV and Sarah (GOTA op), John WW1Z, Leo K1LK, Ben KB1FJ, Bob W1XP, Karen KA1JVU, John KK1X and Peg, Warner K1KG, Ralph KD1SM, Jeanine N1QIT, Larry KB1ESR and Cindy, Jim N8VIM, Richard W1LTN, Bob AB1CV, Dale AB1GA and Sarah, Stan KD1LE, Lynda N1PBL, Tom K1NNJ and Linda, Joel W1JMM, Skip K1NKR, WA1TAC Rod, Jim W1TRC.

We also had many visitors to the site. Some on Horse back, some ATVs like the Pepperell Police on patrol, many walkers who frequent the orchard and some from in town and out who saw the Field Day direction signs John KK1X put up around town leading to the site.

NVARC Cookout



Although it threatened rain with thunder in the distance most of the afternoon we generally had sunny skies for the cookout. Above Larry KB1ESR our host, John KK1X, Karen KA1VOU, Gary K1YTS, Peg, and Lynda N1PBL relax in the shade before the cooking and eating began.



The NVARC cookout took place July 28th at Cindy and Larry's. Although the weather all morning looked threatening we only had a few sprinkles during the party. Field Day pins were passed out to participants. Also special certificates were given to Jim, John, Karen, Peg, Sarah, and Lynda for their support during Field Day.

In attendance were Sarah, Dale AB1GA, Larry KB1ESR, Cindy, Gary K1YTS, Lynda N1PBL, Stan KD1LE, Karen KA1JVU, Bob W1XP, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Peg, Jim N8VIM.

Breakfast at Tinys



Courtesy W1JMM

Since we are always working on something each meeting whether formal or informal is an opportunity to discuss options. Here (L-R) Dave N1MNX, Larry KB1ESR, and Erik W1ZBT discuss the options for a new two meter antenna for the repeater.

We meet at Tiny's in Ayer at 8:00 Saturday mornings for breakfast.

Board Meeting

This month's board meeting discussion topics.

We have updated Club Brochures and we have a supply on hand. We regularly attract members by people seeing the brochure or meeting us at breakfast. If you know of a location that would be suitable to leave a few see Stan or Ralph. Some ideas are local businesses that have public bulletin boards, restaurants, electronics stores, libraries, community centers, senior centers, and meeting places.

We are working on meeting presentations for the fall. September is set and we have requested the QSL cards for the October meeting from the W1QSL Bureau. We will be inviting PART and MARA to the meeting. Pizza and drink budget approved.

Discussed Field Day budget and costs. To be discussed at the September meeting.

We also thought that having some short presentations in pocket would be good to add to another presentation that might be slightly short. We are always looking for member input to find suitable speakers or subjects.

In attendance Ralph KD1SM, Bob W1XP, Joel W1JMM, Stan KD1LE and Les N1SV.

Adopt A Highway

The July road cleanup was Sunday 22nd.



Courtesy KD1SM

Thanks to the following participants for helping out at the cleanup; (L-R) Bob W1XP, Stan KD1LE, John KK1X, Les N1SV, Callie K1ZAK, Larry KB1ESR, Cindy and Ralph KD1SM behind the camera.

Next cleanup Sunday August 19th.

Groton Civil War Reenactment



Courtesy N1QIT

In July Club members Larry KB1ESR, Cindy, Ralph KD1SM, and Jeanine N1QIT acted as official photographers for the two day reenactment that took place at the Hillside Orchard in Groton. There were between 300 and 400 re-enactors and an estimated 1500 spectators for the event. Additional photo's are at www.shutr.net/2007/07/Groton.

ARRL NE Div Cabinet Meeting

Saturday July 8th Ralph KD1SM and Stan KD1LE attended the ARRL New England Directors Cabinet Meeting. The Director holds a meeting one or two weekends before the ARRL Board of Directors Meeting. In attendance are the New England Section Managers, various appointees and Presidents of affiliated clubs. The purpose is the exchange of information about current ARRL activities and to find out what people think needs to be done.



There was a lengthy discussion about the problems on the 70 cm band relating to the PAVE PAWS radars on the Cape and West Coast. The League is actively trying to work the issue. They are doing Longley-Rice coverage/signal level studies for each repeater in question. They are also trying to sort out some discrepancies in the repeaters identified. Some are significantly out of the area while others in the area are not identified. Possibly a mix of repeaters that are actually off the air and some that have incorrect FCC information.

Report on VE activity since dropping the CW requirement. Basically 9000 general upgrades, 2500 extra upgrades in the last four months. In the north-east the number of new hams stands unchanged for the past year at about 100 per month so the elimination of the Morse Code requirement hasn't impacted new licenses.

The League website has a place to list license classes clubs are running but not many are listed. It is up to the group running the class to supply the information for the website.

As with previous license changes there was concern that undesirable people may find their way into amateur radio. After some discussion it seemed the organizations having problems with individual were of long time licensed individuals. The feeling was in any case the solution is local training or elmering.

The total U.S. ham population is dropping by approximately 5000 licenses a year.

There was a suggestion that the League do more general publicity to interest potential candidates to amateur radio. Tom passed out copies of a CD of promotional materials that can be used.

20 New England schools are in the Big Project.

Boxboro will continue on the every other year schedule. The next Boxboro is scheduled for 2008.

NEARfest in Deerfield will have a fall event in October and probably in the spring.

There was some discussion about the variety of Field Day themes that Tom and Art visited. Noted was the PART Field Day which was more a training and informational event than an operating event. Their Field Day Book was also mentioned and passed around. There was some talk of the complexity of the Field Day rules particularly as pertained to the GOTA station.

ARRL Letter

The 2007 ARRL Public Relations Campaign - Where Are We Now?

The ARRL has two Public Relations (PR) thrusts for 2007. The first one concerns ARES and Public Relations. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said, "We lose many good media opportunities because ARES operations are not being covered by Public Information Officers (PIO). Far too often, anything provided to media about

ARES activities in a crisis is not shared until long after the event, if at all. To correct this, encouragement is being given for PIOs not only to be media active during any ARES deployment, but also for Section Managers to appoint specific PIOs whose singular job is to work with the ARES Section Emergency Coordinator to talk with media during a crisis."

The second thrust of the PR campaign is the 2007 EmComm Campaign. There was a short delay on this campaign, due to the FCC eliminating the Morse code license requirement. Pitts and the ARRL Public Relations Committee immediately launched the "30 Day Code Blitz" with custom made audio Public Service Announcements and news releases (including a wire release); many interviews were given for radio and newspapers, and special materials were sent to PIOs and clubs for publication. Most of these materials pointed the public to the new PR Web page <<http://www.emergency-radio.org>>, which saw a spike of more than 857,000 hits in February alone.

Pitts said after the "code blitz," the planned implementation of the 2007 EmComm campaign got underway. A collection of integrated PR materials was created and provided for PIOs and others to promote Amateur Radio's EmComm capabilities. "The value of the materials is presenting the non-ham with the benefits of Amateur Radio in providing communications for themselves and their families in a crisis," Pitts said.

The EmComm campaign materials include: The 2007 EmComm brochure ("Getting the Message Through"); the 2007 edition of the Swiss Army Knife for PIOs reference CD; a Web site <http://www.emergency-radio.org> based on emergency communications; Katrina - The Untold Story, a 5 minute DVD about hams providing assistance during and after Hurricane Katrina; a 30 second audio PSA; a 30 second video PSA, and the Talk on a Disk CD.

The 2007 EmComm brochure was partially made possible by a \$15,000 donation from Dayton Amateur Radio Association. Pitts said that the brochure has proved so successful that the initial printing of 100,000 copies was quickly used, and a second (unexpected) printing of an additional 60,000 copies was needed prior to Field Day last month. A third printing may even be needed before the end of the year. ARRL PR Committee Chairman Sherri Brower, W4STB, said, "These professional-looking brochures are even more popular with representatives of our served agencies than last year's "Hello" brochure. It gives a favorable and professional image to our Emergency Communications via Amateur Radio and says the only thing amateur is our name."

The Swiss Army Knife CD for PIOs remains a highly desired reference. It provides basic computerized files and information, how-to hints and quick references for PIOs.

Richard Lubash, N1VXW, produced the 5 minute video "Katrina - The Untold Story." "With his permission, we edited down the dramatic opening sequence, added in enhanced sound and created an excellent 30 second PSA. This video has shown great acceptance by television stations and has been aired thousands of times already in 2007," said Pitts. In addition, Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW, completed "Hello - The Movie," a 5 minute general video introduction to Amateur Radio. Unlike "Amateur Radio Today," both of these videos can be broadcast.

The newest item in the ARRL PR arsenal is "Talk on a Disk," created as a suite of presentation materials keyed to go with the EmComm brochure.

Designed to be used in live speaking presentations to groups, Pitts said it gives the potential speaker all they need to do a first class presentation on Amateur Radio and EmComm work. "The 'Talk on a Disk' was definitely the hot item in the PR booth at Dayton Hamvention," according to Jim McDonald, KB9LEI, one of the booth volunteers. "We spent maybe three or four minutes explaining the concept to folks and their eyes lit up. Many told us it was something they had wished for to help them do presentations."

North Carolina Section Public Information Coordinator Bill Morine, N2COP, commented: "We used both the EmComm brochure and the new EmComm Web site as tools to show North Carolina legislators the benefits of Amateur Radio in emergency situations. This approach helped with the unanimous passage of a PRB-1 type antenna bill in the North Carolina General Assembly which became law June 29 this year."

Information on how to order PR materials can be found at the ARRL's PIO Web site <www.arrl.org/pio>.

FCC Releases Post-Katrina Order, "Final Rule"

On July 11, the FCC released their Order regarding the recommendations of the independent panel reviewing the impact of Hurricane Katrina on communications networks (the Katrina Panel). It contained their conclusions following a review of the comments filed in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). The Commission asked for comments a week after the release of the report and recommendations of the Katrina Panel and directed the Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau

(PSHSB) to implement several of the recommendations. The FCC also adopted rules requiring some communications providers to have emergency/back-up power and to conduct analyses and submit reports on the redundancy and resiliency of their 911 and E911 networks. The FCC's actions are to go into effect August 10.

The Commission noted that "the amateur radio community played an important role in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other disasters," and instructed the PSHSB to "include the amateur radio community in its outreach efforts."

The FCC invited comments on the Katrina Panel's recommendation that the FCC "act to enhance the public safety community's awareness of non-traditional emergency alternative technologies that might be of value as back-up communications systems in a crisis." Several commenters suggested that the public safety community be educated about the applicability of Amateur Radio in a crisis. The FCC agreed with these comments, saying that improving the public safety community's knowledge of, and training in, alternative technologies would improve preparedness for future crises. They directed the PSHSB to "develop and implement an awareness program to educate public safety agencies about alternative technologies and to encourage agencies to provide regular training on any alternative technologies to be used," including educating public safety agencies about alternative technologies.

The recommendations said that several Amateur Radio operators recommended changes to Part 97 of the FCC's rules; Part 97 is the section that covers Amateur Radio. Many of the suggestions, the report said, have already been implemented, and as such, require no further action. For example, "the Commission recently eliminated Morse Code proficiency as a license qualification requirement, an action supported by several commenters in this proceeding."

The FCC once again made clear that Part 97 "does not prohibit Amateur Radio operators who are emergency personnel engaged in disaster relief from using their amateur radio bands while in a paid duty status." This changed this past December in WT Docket 04-140, the "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order (R&O).

The Commission also previously decided to phase out RACES station licenses, "making proposed changes to rules relevant to these licenses moot." ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, notes that the FCC "is not phasing out the RACES program, just the RACES station licenses."

In his comments to the Katrina Panel, W. Lee McVey requested that the FCC initiate a rulemaking to create a new radio service in the 148-150 MHz band "to facilitate interoperability between different first responders during and following a national emergency." The FCC noted that the 148-149.9 MHz band is allocated on a primary basis for the federal mixed, mobile and mobile satellite (Earth-to-space) service, and the 149-150.05 MHz segment is allocated on a co-primary basis for federal and non-federal mobile satellite (Earth-to-space) and radio navigation.

The FCC's report said "[This] petition does not address this use nor does it explain what rules would be necessary to govern access to this spectrum. Given the potential impact of McVey's proposal to spectrum allocated for federal use, we direct PSHSB, together with the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), to seek feedback from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on this petition."

The FCC said that when it receives the feedback, they will direct PSHSB and OET to make a determination on the appropriate action to be taken on McVey's petition.

Treasurers Report

Income for July was \$75 from member dues, \$0.01 found at the road cleanup, and \$1.16 from bank interest. Expenses were \$16.40 for newsletter postage and \$440.08 for (part 2 of) Field Day leaving a net expense of \$380.31 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$4,351.68
Community fund	\$2,136.83

As of 9 August we have 63 members who are current with their dues and 1 renewal outstanding. Please check the member roster that is circulated at the monthly meeting if you do not remember your renewal date. Your membership date also appears on your newsletter mailing label.

If you have not been receiving the monthly notices when the Signal is posted in the Web then we do not have your current email address. These notices are usually sent the weekend after the Board meeting.

If you are not yet an ARRL member then you're missing a lot. Please consider joining. If you let me

send in your membership then the Club pays for the stamp and receives a portion of your ARRL dues.

Ralph KD1SM

PSLIST

Aug

18 Mt Washngtn NH Mt. Wash. Bicycle Hill Climb
Cliff N1RCQ n1rcq@amsat.org or Dave KA1VJU
ka1vju@cnharc.org

19 Mt Washngtn NH Mt. Washington Century Ride
Cliff N1RCQ n1rcq@amsat.org or Dave KA1VJU
ka1vju@cnharc.org

19 Oxford MA New England Ride for Kids
Wayne NH6XW wayne.anderson@verizon.net
508.735.0807

26 Lakeville MA Cranberry Triathlon
Tony N1XRS tdduarte@comcast.net 508.889.1174

Sept

16 Boston MA Jimmy Fund Walk
Steve W3EVE 508.922.9688 w3eve@arrl.net

29 Bristol NH NH Marathon Cliff N1RCQ
n1rcq@amsat.org or Dave KA1VJU
ka1vju@cnharc.org

Oct

6 Hollis NH Applefest Half Marathon Jim WD4JZO
wd4jzo@arrl.net

Oct 19-20 Cambridge MA Head of the Charles Re-
gatta1Jeff K1EMS RWJeffA@comcast.net

NVARC Club Net

The club net meets on the 442.900 repeater. Subjects discussed recently; Field Day wrap up, Cookout planning and post party comments, Winchendon triathlon from participants, repeater projects such as battery and antenna replacements.

Recent participants include Dave N1MNX, Bob W1XP, Bob AB1CV, Joel W1JMM, Larry KB1ESR, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM, Stan KD1LE, Les N1SV, Richard W1LTN, Ken K1JKR, Den KD2S.

The net is 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.

Flea Markets

August

19 MIT
19 Northern Berkshire ARC Adams MA

September

15 Forestdale RI
15 St Croix Valley ARC Alexander ME
16 Western CT Hamfest Newtown CT
16 MIT
16 Western CT Hamfest Newtown CT

October

6 Mt Tom Amateur Radio and Electronics Feeding Hills Ma
7 CT State Convention Wallingford CT
12-13 NEAR-Fest (Deerfield) Deerfield NH
21 MIT

November

3 IRS Flea Market

2008

August
22-24 NE Division Convention Boxboro

Advertisements



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JOHN ROSE WW1Z

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

Contest, DXpeditions and Special Events

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 2007

September

8-10 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
 CQWW RTTY DX 4th full weekend
 30-October 1 RSGB 21/28 MHZ Contest
 30-October 1 FISTS Coast to Coast Contest
 October

7-8 California QSO Party
 7-8 Oceania DX Contest
 7 PSK Rumble

Oct 14 ARRL EME Contest
 Oct 15 North American RTTY Sprint
 Oct 16 School Club Roundup
 21-23 USI W/VE Islands QSO Party
 21-24 QRP ARC Fall QSO Party
 28-29 CQ WWDX SSB
 28-29 10-10 International CW/Digital Contest

November

ARRL November Sweepstakes CW
 17-19 November Sweepstakes Phone
 30-Dec 2 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

DXpeditions

Call	Location	Until
TU2/F5LDY	Ivory Coast	31 August 07
9V1CW	Singapore	2008
8Q7IM	Maldives	Nov 2007

See www.425dxn.org for more listings



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

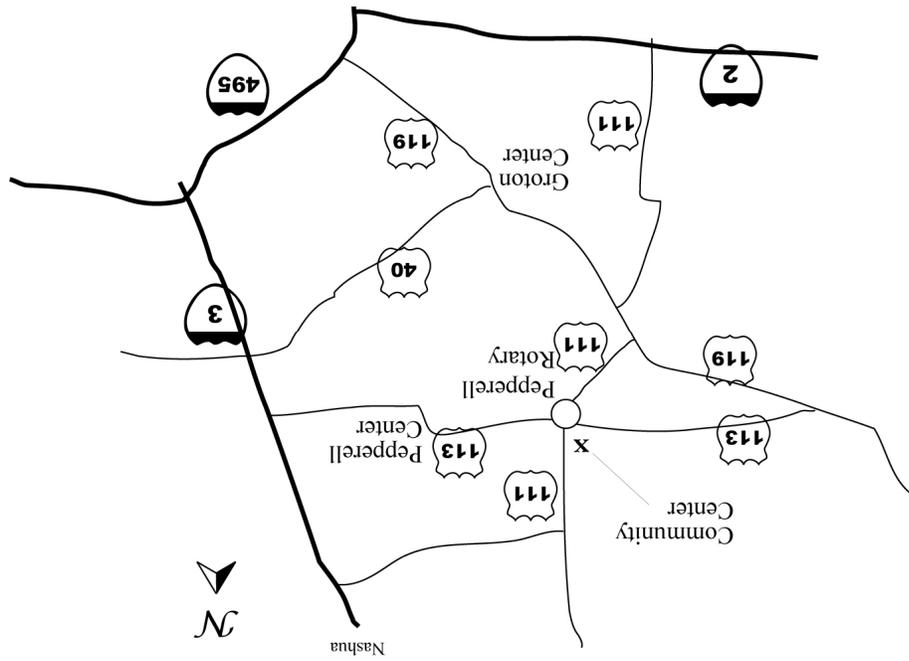
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 Les Peters: N1SV 2005-2008
 Joel Magid W1JMM 2006-2009
 Bob Reif: W1XP 2007-2010

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
 Emergency Coordinator: Den Connors KD2S
 Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
 PIO: Dave Peabody N1MNX
 Librarian: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG
 Property Master: John Griswold KK1X
 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
 442.900 + 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.
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