



SIGNAL



de NINC

November 2010 Volume 19 Number 11

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting is Thursday October 18th at 7:30 at the Pepperell Community Center.

The meeting program will be repeaters. Dave N1MNX will talk about the N1MNX Repeaters. John KK1X will talk about his experiences with D-Star repeaters.

Road Cleanup Sunday November 18th at 9:00

The December homebrew and January short subjects meetings are local content. We need your participation to make them a success.

From The President

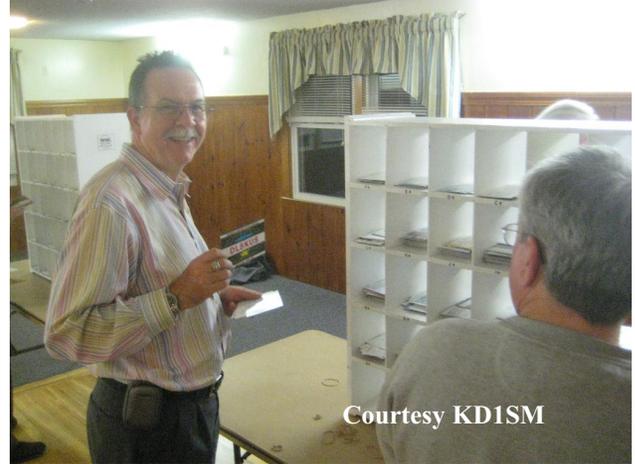
We started the CW net after the last meeting but as far as I know there have been no checkins. Should we continue the net?

Those who ventured down to the Steam and Wireless Museum had a good time. If you can think of other field trip type activities we could take let us know.

Stan KD1LE

Last Month's Meeting

Last months' meeting program was the annual QSL Card sort. This is the 14th year we have sorted for the W1QSL Bureau. We started setting up just after 6:30 and were all set up by 7:00 PM with about 8 members present. As members and guests arrived maximum attendance of 25 or more were sorting by 7:30 PM.



Courtesy KD1SM

Above left Phil Temples K9HI helps sort. Phil came up from Watertown to attend the sort. At right is Ed K1ZZ.



Courtesy KD1SM

Above Dennis K1LGQ, Skip K1NKR, and Rod WA1TAC moving cards to the final collection table.

After the cards had all been sorted into the sorting boxed everyone took a break and we had pizza and

soft drinks. After the break the cards were collected by letter to a center row of tables. Then people looked for cards coming to them. Afterwards the cards were boxed.



Courtesy KD1SM

Above left to right Rod WA1TAC, Ed K1ZZ, and Les N1SV work on collected cards.

The rescan and packaging took place at the KD1LE QTH. The rescan pulled out miss sorted cards, grouped the cards by size and repacked them in boxes.

NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge

The second annual NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge is off and running. We have a few more stations signed up this year. There are eleven stations that have their batteries and should be looking for contacts in this year's event. So if you hear any of us on give us a call and a contact.

Several stations are new to the event and some are new to QRP operating. So we need to give these stations as much encouragement as we can. Several are building little crystal controlled one watt transmitters to enter into the crystal controlled entry class. I have a beta version of a design that may be

part of a future Lantern Battery Challenge transmitter and receiver pair. The thought is that a future mode may be for operator built equipment that will be purchased in kit form. I am also working on a small direct conversion receiver that would be the other half of what I am calling the Lantern Battery Challenge Special. At the moment the thought is these would be crystal controlled transmitter and receiver operating on the normal QRP frequencies on 80, 40, and 20 meters. Variable Crystal Oscillator (VXO) circuits would provide a reasonable tuning range around the standard QRP crystal frequencies. Any thoughts on this that anyone has are welcome. Send me an E mail or when you see me. If someone is still looking for something to use in this year's event, we can come up with another kit or two for the beta units. If you are interested, get in touch with me.

One last thought. Many of the modern radios draw a small amount of current when off. This continuous load will reduce the battery life so I suggest that the battery be turned off with a separate in line switch or one battery lead disconnected when not in use. You want to save every milliamp of capacity for making QSO's. HI HI

73 Bob W1XP

NVARC Field Day Results

The ARRL Field Day results are out. The listed results show NVARC scoring 5802 points. We had a great Field day and here is how we placed in the various areas.

Overall we placed 38 of 339 in the 3A Class which puts us in the top ten percent.

In New England we were 4th of 18

1	W1OP	9748	Providence Radio Assoc
2	N1EV	9492	Greater Norwalk ARC
3	W1EE	8018	Stamford ARA
4	N1NC	5802	NVARC
5	K1SV	5380	Southern VT ARC
11	NA1RL	1784	Newington ARL
14	W1GZ	1394	Montachusset ARA

In Eastern Massachusetts 1st of 6

1	N1NC	5802	NVARC
2	N1UI	5094	Barnstable ARA
3	W1ACT	4310	Bristol Cty ARA
4	W1GLO	2934	Cape Ann ARA
5	N1ZIZ	1494	Genesis ARS
6	N1MV	636	Mystic Valley ARG



Courtesy KD1SM

Above Bruce K1BG operating the CW Station.



Courtesy KB1HFT

Above from left to right the antennas for the CW and SSB stations. The SSB station left center behind the bushes and the CW on the right.

NVARC Net

The NVARC net meets on 442.900 N1MNX repeater Mondays at 8:00 PM. The net is for sharing information and asking questions. Recent topics were meeting programs, antenna suggestions for new hams (Girl Scouts that attended FD), Les' Bermuda DXpedition.

Recent checkins Jim N8VIM, Stan KD1LE, Gary K1YTS, Skip K1NKR, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP and Roland NR1G, KB1ESR .Larry NCS.

PSLIST

No events currently listed.

See www.n1nc.org/Events for the latest information

Board Meeting

There was a lengthy discussion about the QSL Card Sort and how we could improve the accuracy or what might be the causes of miss sorts. This year the percentage of miss sorted cards doubled. We usually run a three to four percent error rate. At this error rate in a 22,000 card sort 1100 or 1200 cards would go to the wrong letter sorter.

Stan KD1LE and Lynda N1PBL screened the cards after the sorts and pack them for shipping to the letter sorters. This gets the errors down closer to zero. Probably less than 0.1 percent. The higher base error rate has made this much more work.

Bob submitted LBC battery receipt.

Bob submitted outgoing QSL card bills for postage and the cost to the outgoing bureau. This is a member benefit but has significant cost. There was a brief discussion as to whether we should continue it.

Meeting programs were discussed. Skip K1NKR is working to schedule programs. We are always looking for a short subject or show-and-tell to add to each meeting. Skip discussed the calendar of programs as far as it was known. The December program will be Homebrew Night. January is Members Short Subjects. Please contact one of the officers if you have a presentation for January so that the meeting can be planned.

The Card Sort refreshment bills were settled at the time of the QSL Sort meeting.

In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Bob W1XP, Skip K1NKR, John KK1X

The next road Clean up will be Sunday November 24th at 9:00.

Adopt A Highway

The October road clean up took place Sunday October 24th

Thanks to Gary K1YTS, Nancy KB1KEF and Stan KD1LE who made the cleanup. We picked up 8 bags of trash

The next road clean up will be Sunday October 24th at 9:00 AM. This is our last clean up for the year so it would be nice to have a good turn out.

Treasurers Report

Income for October was \$90 in membership renewals, and \$30 from Lantern Battery Challenge entry fees. Expenses were \$17.60 for newsletter postage, \$73.15 for pizza and soda for the October QSL card sort leaving a net income of \$46.85 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,866.49
Community fund	\$4,336.41

As of 4 November we have 44 members who are current with their dues and 23 renewals outstanding. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If your ARRL membership is ready for renewal, you can let Ralph mail it in for you and the Club will get a commission. If you're interested in joining the ARRL and do so through Ralph the Club will get a bigger commission. ARRL membership checks should be made payable to NVARC so that our commission can be deducted before we forward your membership to Newington.

Ralph KD1SM

ARRL Letter

FCC News: ARRL Responds in 2304 MHz Band Interference Debate

On October 28, the ARRL filed a Reply to a Wireless Services Opposition filing, the latest in an ongoing series of exchanges regarding the FCC's proposal to allow mobile broadband services, in addition to fixed services, to operate in parts of the 2.3 GHz band. The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation at 2300-2310 MHz.

Public Service: Thai Hams Provide Pivotal Role During Monsoon

Heavy monsoon rains in Thailand have devastated parts of that country, with almost 60 dead and 100,000 homes in 32 provinces damaged or gone.

According to the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- amateurs in the Nakhon Ratchasima and Chaiyaphum provinces have been helping authorities coordinate the rescue and relief efforts. Nakhon Ratchasima is Thailand's biggest province, with a population of 2.7 million in 32 districts with 3700 villages.

Under the guidance of National Disaster Warning Center Advisor Manas Songsaeng, HS1DE, the Nakhon Ratchasima Amateur Radio Association's (NRARA) club station HS3AN has been coordinating relief work with the help of other Amateur Radio communications centers based in Khao Yai, Phimai and Chaiyaphum that were also providing information to people traveling to and from Nakhon Ratchasima. Located at the provincial hall, the club has been working closely with government agencies, relaying details about the emergency situation to officials and relief workers

Public Service: Hams Help Provide Communication Support for Dual Disasters in Indonesia

Following two natural disasters, an earthquake triggered tsunami, and separately an erupting volcano, radio amateurs are providing their help as the enormous response effort continues. ORARI (Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia) International Affairs Coordinator Wisnu Widjaja, YB0AZ, provided initial information about the involvement of ham radio operators in the dual disasters -- a 7.7 earthquake and an exploding volcano -- that hit the Indonesian archipelago last week.

The December Issue of QST Is on Its Way to You!

The December issue of QST is jam-packed with all sorts of things that today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting -- including an expanded holiday advertising guide and the 2010 ARRL Field Day results -- the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

If you put 100 hams in a room, you would have at least 100 ways to put up a stealth antenna. As Geoff Haines, N1GY, discovered, neighborhoods that might be averse to a stacked array of 6-element 20 meter Yagis usually don't have a problem with flagpoles. In his article "Constructing a Flagpole Antenna," Haines tells readers that due to restrictions in his neighborhood, he built a flagpole antenna. With this and 100 W, he is able to work most of the stations he hears on 80-10 meters.

If you are a new ham -- or you have one in your life -- a good handheld transceiver is usually the first go-to radio. But with so many out there on the market -- and all of them with tons of features -- how can a new ham -- or even an experienced one -- choose the best one for their purposes? Never fear! ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, comes to the rescue with "Selecting Your First VHF Handheld Transceiver." Hallas takes into account single band vs multi-band modes, access codes, keypads, memory management, connectivity options and more. He reminds hams that any handheld transceiver you select will provide all the basic communication needs, as well as features you want now and some that you may need in the future.

Be sure to check out this video describing the Yaesu FTDX5000D HF and 6 meter transceiver, featured in the December product review.

NCJ Managing Editor Rick Lindquist, WW3DE, takes a look at the Yaesu FTdx5000D HF and 6 meter transceiver in this month's Product Review. He calls it "an extraordinary transceiver for the discerning contesteer or DXer. This one will become the gold standard for operators seeking the best receive performance and best value in its class. Yaesu is to be commended for combining top tier receiver performance and a Class A transmitter with the features and functions users expect, all in a competitively priced package."

Many hams spend all year gearing up for ARRL Field Day, the most popular on-the-air operating event in all of Amateur Radio. For those hard-core Field Day aficionados, the December issue of QST is one of the most anticipated issues all year -- this is the issue with the Field Day results! This year, ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, channels his inner-Jimmy Buffett to bring readers the annual Field Day results article. You will also find official announcements for upcoming contests and operating events: the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes, the ARRL International DX Contest (both SSB and CW), the ARRL Rookie Roundup (CW), Kids Day, the ARRL RTTY Roundup and the ARRL Straight Key Night. The results from the 2010 ARRL June VHF QSO Party are also in the December issue.

Of course, there are the usual columns you know and expect in the December QST: Happenings, Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Vintage Radio, Hamspeak and more. Look for your December issue of QST in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page.

International Spotlight: ARRL President Makes Final QSO with Australia's WIA Centenary Station

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, made the final QSO to VK100WIA, the special event station call sign that celebrated the Wireless Institute of Australia's centenary. WIA President Michael Owen, VK3KI, was at the other end of the mic.

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) marked the conclusion of their VK100WIA centennial special event operation on October 31 with a QSO between WIA President Michael Owen, VK3KI, and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. Logged at 1255 UTC - five minutes before midnight in Australia -- the QSO between N3KN and VK100WIA, with VK3KI at the microphone, was the last contact recorded in the Australian special event's log.

The contact was made using EchoLink, with VK100WIA using the VK3ANT node in Melbourne, Victoria. Craigie used the K4IJ 440 MHz repeater in Roanoke, Virginia to access the EchoLink node of the linked North Carolina Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio System repeaters (NCHEARS); the NCHEARS system was also linked to the South Carolina Healthcare Emergency Amateur Radio Team repeaters. Repeater users across three states were able to hear the historic conversation between two continents.

ARRL in Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?

Compiled by ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane K1SFA

This feature is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment -- which covers the month of October -- includes seeking protection of amateur frequencies with the FCC; representing the ARRL at the local, regional, national and international level; encouraging hams to build their own equipment; administering ARRL awards programs, and more.

MARS: US Air Force MARS Gets New Leadership

Richard Jenson -- a Program Manager at the Air Force Network Integration Center at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois -- has been selected as the new Chief of Air Force MARS (USAF MARS). Jensen replaces Technical Sergeant Jason E. Sandifer, who served as Interim Chief since May when USAF MARS Chief Allen Eiermann, K3LSR, retired. "I am honored to have been selected to lead this organization of dedicated volunteer radio communicators and am enthu-

siastic about my new responsibilities," Jenson said. "The members of Air Force MARS can be rightly proud of their service to the nation, and I am eager to work with all of them as we enhance our ability to serve those who serve us."

This Week on the Radio

This week:

- * November 5 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- * November 6-7 -- Ukrainian DX Contest
- * November 6-8 -- ARRL CW Sweepstakes
- * November 7 -- High Speed Club CW Contest
- * November 10 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- * November 10-11 -- CWops Mini-CWT Test

Next week:

- * November 13-14 -- Kentucky QSO Party; WAE DX Contest (RTTY); OK/OM DX Contest (CW)
- * November 13-15 -- CQ-WE Contest
- * November 14 -- SKCC Weekend Sprint
- * November 17 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- * November 18 -- NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint

All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page, the ARRL Contest Update and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Events Station Web page.

Amateur Radio in Space: ARISSat-1 "Suits Up" for February 2011 Launch

ARISSat-1/RadioSkaf-V is a six-sided, cube-shaped satellite with solar panels on all six sides. A 70 cm quarter-wave whip will be mounted on the bottom and a 2 meter quarter wave whip on the top. All of the hardware and software will go inside, with the cameras on the outside.

Earlier this year, astronauts living on the International Space Station had to discard two surplus Orlan space suits. With the loss of the suits, those involved with AMSAT and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station were at a loss. One of these suits was to be used to house the electronics for the upcoming SuitSat-2 mission: the batteries were to be mounted inside the suit, solar panels attached to the extremities with the electronics, with video cameras and an antenna mounted on the helmet. But even though the removal of the space suits took away the "Suit" component of the deployment, AMSAT and ARISS forged ahead, changing the configuration of the sat-

ellite and Amateur Radio experiment and giving it a new name: ARISSat-1/RadioSkaf-V.

Public Service: The 2010 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference

The 2010 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC) Conference was held October 10-12 in Curaçao (PJ2). At the time most conference attendees arrived in Curaçao, it was a part of the Netherlands Antilles along with Bonaire, St Maarten, Saba, and St Eustatius. By the time the attendees headed home, independence had been declared and Curaçao was its own nation within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

In the Shack: Two New ARRL Kits Coming Soon

Two new ARRL kits are in the final throes of production. The first is a Morse code oscillator, produced for ARRL by MFJ Enterprises. The project is a good "beginners" electronics kit. We expect the kit will be popular with members, particularly newcomers, and with clubs, instructors and teachers seeking a classroom kit-building experience. A supplementary resource guide for students and educators will be made available by the ARRL Education and Technology Program. The guide helps cover the fundamentals of the working circuit and its components.

The ARRL Morse code oscillator kit -- produced by MFJ -- is a great way to introduce kit building and CW skills to hams.

A second kit is a PIC programming lab and project, produced for ARRL by Cana Kit (Canada). This more substantial kit is intended to be used with ARRL's PIC Programming for Beginners book (revised first edition). The kit includes all the necessary components, parts and boards, and follows the book's step-by-step exercises and tutorial. The kit also includes all the necessary parts to build a microprocessor-controlled CW keyer, which is the book's culminating project.

"We're excited about these new projects, which help emphasize kit construction, basic electronics, and the extraordinary potential of microcontrollers," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "There's no better way to advance the radio art than by introducing more hams to project building and homebrewing." Order your ARRL Morse Code Oscillator and ARRL PIC Programming Kit today in the ARRL Online Store.

International Spotlight: ARRL Visits British Hams, RSGB at National Hamfest

The organizers of the National Hamfest posted this world map, inviting international visitors to place a pushpin in their home QTH. ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R -- who represented the ARRL at the event -- tagged ARRL Headquarters.

Earlier this month, ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, represented the League at the National Hamfest in the United Kingdom. Billed as the biggest convention in the UK, the National Hamfest "kicked off" Ham Week UK, October 1-10. Now in its second year, the hamfest is sponsored by both the Lincoln Short Wave Club and the Radio Society of Great Britain. Ham Week concluded with the RSGB Convention -- formerly the HF Convention -- held October 8-10. According to Inderbitzen, the RSGB Convention is a smaller event than the National Hamfest, and includes lectures and presentations for HF and VHF interests, but no exhibits.

DX News: ARRL DXCC Desk Approves Six 2010 Operations

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that six 2010 operations -- Afghanistan (T6MB), Bhutan (A51A) and Burundi (9U1RSI, 9U4T, 9U1KI and 9U1VO) have been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards that were recently rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk," Moore said. "Results will appear in Logbook of The World (LoTW) accounts, as well as online on the daily listings."

2010 Flea Markets/Conventions

November
6 Interstate Repeater Society Londonderry NH
13 FARAfest Bourne MA

Advertisements

Your advertisement could be here.

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



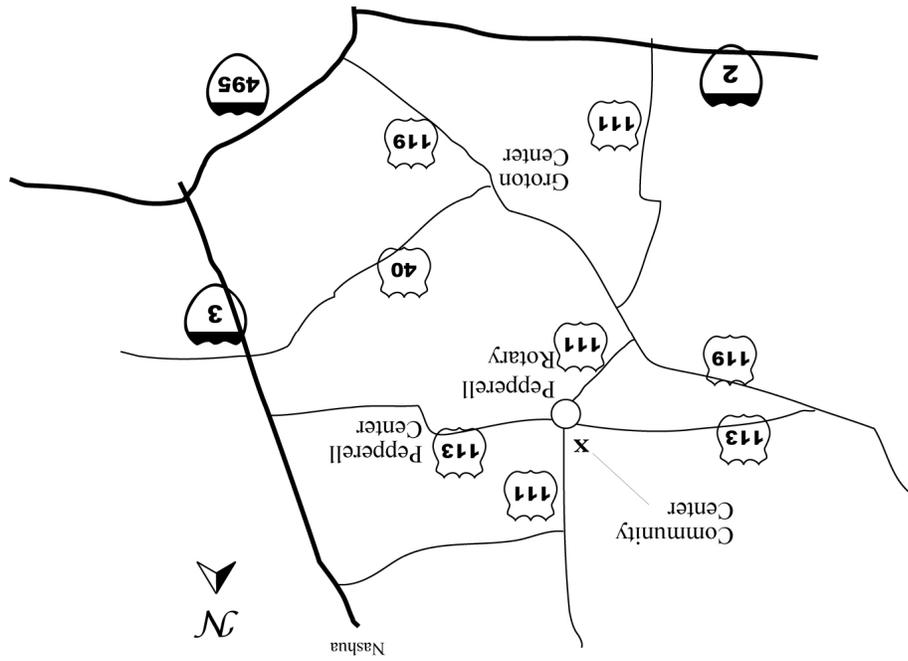
Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

PO Box # 900
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

<http://www.n1nc.org/>

President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
Vice President: Bruce Blain K1BG
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Board Members:
Skip Youngberg K1NKR 2008-2011
Joel Magid W1JMM 2009-2012
Bob Reif: W1XP 2010-2013

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
Emergency Coordinator: Larry Swezey KB1ESR
Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
PIO: Dave Peabody N1MNX
Librarian: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG
Property Master: John Griswold KK1X
N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG
Annual membership dues are \$15; \$20 for a family
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 battery power
147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater battery power
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.
Copyright 2010 NVARC



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 900

Pepperell, MA 01463-0900

