NVARC
Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club

SIGNAL

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB
ARRL

de N1NC

April 2014 Volume 23 Number 4

This Month's Meeting

April's meeting will feature Dennis, W1UE, speaking on "RTTY Operation for the Newbie." Dennis has been the top scoring station in the RTTY Roundup three times, top scoring US Station in the CQWW RTTY contest two times. When explaining RTTY, Dennis' approach is that you have to have an understanding of what a RTTY signal is, how to tune it, and how to quickly make contacts with the mode. So expect this to be both a practical and an illuminating talk.

In April we conclude the year's Lantern Battery Challenge with awards and a celebration.

And April always brings NVARC elections. (You thought it always brought April fools, right?) In addition to elections we'll have a discussion of the Constitution and By-laws updates recommended by the Board's Summer Study. Voting on that topic is scheduled for May.

This months meeting is April 17th back at the Pepperell Community Center at 7:30 PM.

Last Month's Meeting

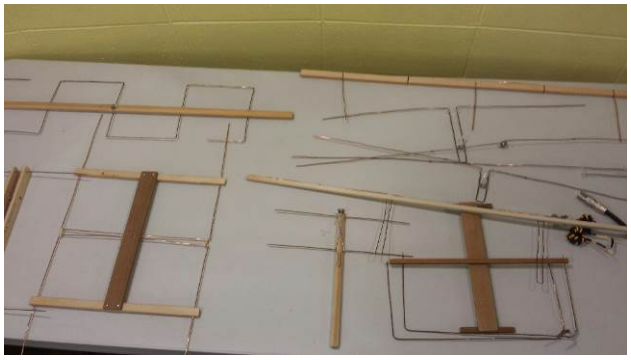
At the March meeting Dale, AF1T, and Mickey, W1MKY came down from the Contoocook (NH) Valley Radio Club and gave us one of Dale's famous show-and-tells. The presentation was about phasing and stacking antennas. As different or crazy as some of the examples seem to be they are all functioning antennas. Dale has actually make contacts over many miles with some of the examples.

Dale AF1T and his Double-Dill Dipole

Dale AF1T and his (?Boston Baked Bean Pole?)

Photos de KD1SM

Dale AF1T and Double-Dill Dipole and Double-Dog Dipole.



Dale AF1T brought a variety of 70cm antenna designs to
demonstrate how antennas work.

Note end of 70cm director in left of photos 101-103 and lit LED at the dipole feedpoints.

There was a report by W1XP on the Board assignment to review the club's Constitution and Bylaws. Bob summarized the review which was done by himself, Roland WR1G, and Rod WA1TAC and the few suggested real changes proposed. There were also some grammatical, spelling and punctuation corrections suggested. He handed out information on the proposed changes with the hope that he would receive any comments quickly or by the April meeting and that a vote could be taken at the May meeting.

March meeting attendees

Dale AF1T, Jean K1AVM, Bruce K1BG, Dennis K1LGQ, Skip K1NKR, Bill K1NS, Gary K1YTS, Wolf KA1VOU, Ken KB1UVP, Jesse KB1YNK, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Dan KW2T, Don N1HVA, Les N1SV, Peter N1ZRG, Jim N8VIM, Larry W1ESR, Micky W1MKY, Rod W1TAC, Bob W1XP.

February's Meeting

Jim N8VIM the VP ran the February meeting.

Dan, KW2T, has been studying the history and use of low-voltage filament tubes and has prepared an informative talk. These tubes saw a lot of service during World War II and found their way into post-war portable radios like the famous Zenith TransOceanic. His talk covered both the what's and the why's of these tubes, and he's amassed quite a collection of example radios.

Dan KW2T presenting on low voltage tube radios

Dan showing a Zenith Transoceanic Radio

February meeting attendees

Jean K1AVM, Bruce K1BG, John K1JEB, Ken K1JKR, Dennis K1LGQ, Leo K1LK, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, Phil KB1JKL, Peter KB1LZH, Ken KB1UVP, Dan KB1YGB, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Dan KW2T, Don N1NWE, Les N1SV, Ed N1YFK, Peter N1ZRG, Jim N8VIM, Larry W1ESR, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC.

President's Corner

de Skip, K1NKR

Earworms. Ever heard of them? An earworm is a catchy piece of music that continually repeats through a person's mind after it is no longer playing.

One of my 2012 New Year's resolutions was to get on the air more often. I made some progress in 2013 and have been doing OK in 2014—if you count chasing the W1AW/n stations. But what's this got to do with earworms?

Well, I heard my most un-favorite earworm back in high school during a trip to the 1964 World's Fair. It was Disney's "It's a Small World After All." It was cute the first time I heard it, annoying about halfway through the exhibit, and downright agonizing by the time the ride was over. Years later, the Air Force planted me and my family in California and between kids, visitors, and annual passes, we spent a lot of time at Disneyland. Unfortunately, they had moved the World's Fair exhibit there. I couldn't get away from "It's a Small World After All!" Even though I wouldn't go near that part of the park it still wormed its way in. "It's a Small World After All! It's a Small World After All! It's a Small, Small World. La dee dah, dah. Dah, dah, dah. La dee dahh, dahh. Dahh, dahh, dahh. La dee dahhhhh, dahhhhh. Dahhhhh, dahhhhh, dahhhhh. La dee dah, dah, dah, dah, dah." Are you sick, yet? I am just thinking of it—and it's wormed its way back in.

Fortunately—(or maybe unfortunately. No, fortunately.), DXing has shown me that it is indeed a small world. I call it the Lowell Thomas effect. Thomas, a well-known traveling journalist from more than a generation before my time, was the inventor of radio and movie travelogues—stories about faraway places. (Yes, there had been Marco Polo, but poor Marco didn't have radio and movies.) The start of Thomas' career happened to coincide with First World War, an awakening awareness of Americans that there really was a world out there, and the burgeoning of the radio age. He produced travelogues until the 1970s and by showing America how big the world is he also showed us how small it is. I'm convinced that Amateur Radio's interest in DXing is firmly rooted in the Lowell Thomas effect. There are interesting people and places out there.

My concern in all this is that nowadays a typical QSO is "59, 73. QRZ?" Longer QSOs run "59, you're in the log, 73. QRZ?" Whatever happened to names and QTHs? Whatever happened to rag-chewing? Whatever happened to Part 97.1(e) *Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill*?

My most memorable QSOs were those in which I actually met somebody and learned a little about him or his locale. The taxi driver in Glascow. The postmaster on Guernsey Island. The nursing professor from Yale who was on sabbatical studying "non-traditional medicine" in Haiti. In other QSOs I've run into the same Amateur again and again, cementing a long-distance friendship. I'm sure it's the same with you. Right?

Now I'm not slamming digital QSOs. They're short, they're formatted, and—most importantly—they're still pretty much experimental modes. But enough of these "59, 73" QSOs on voice. Let's rejuvenate the Rag Chewers Club.

March Treasurers Report

Income for March was $60 in membership renewals, $8.47 in bank interest, and $3 in donations from the March coffee service. Expenses were $19.60 for newsletter postage, $4 additional for the annual Post Office box fee, and $25 for meeting speaker travel reimbursement, leaving a net income for March of $22.87.

Current balances:

General fund	$2,668.15
Community fund	$4,836.41

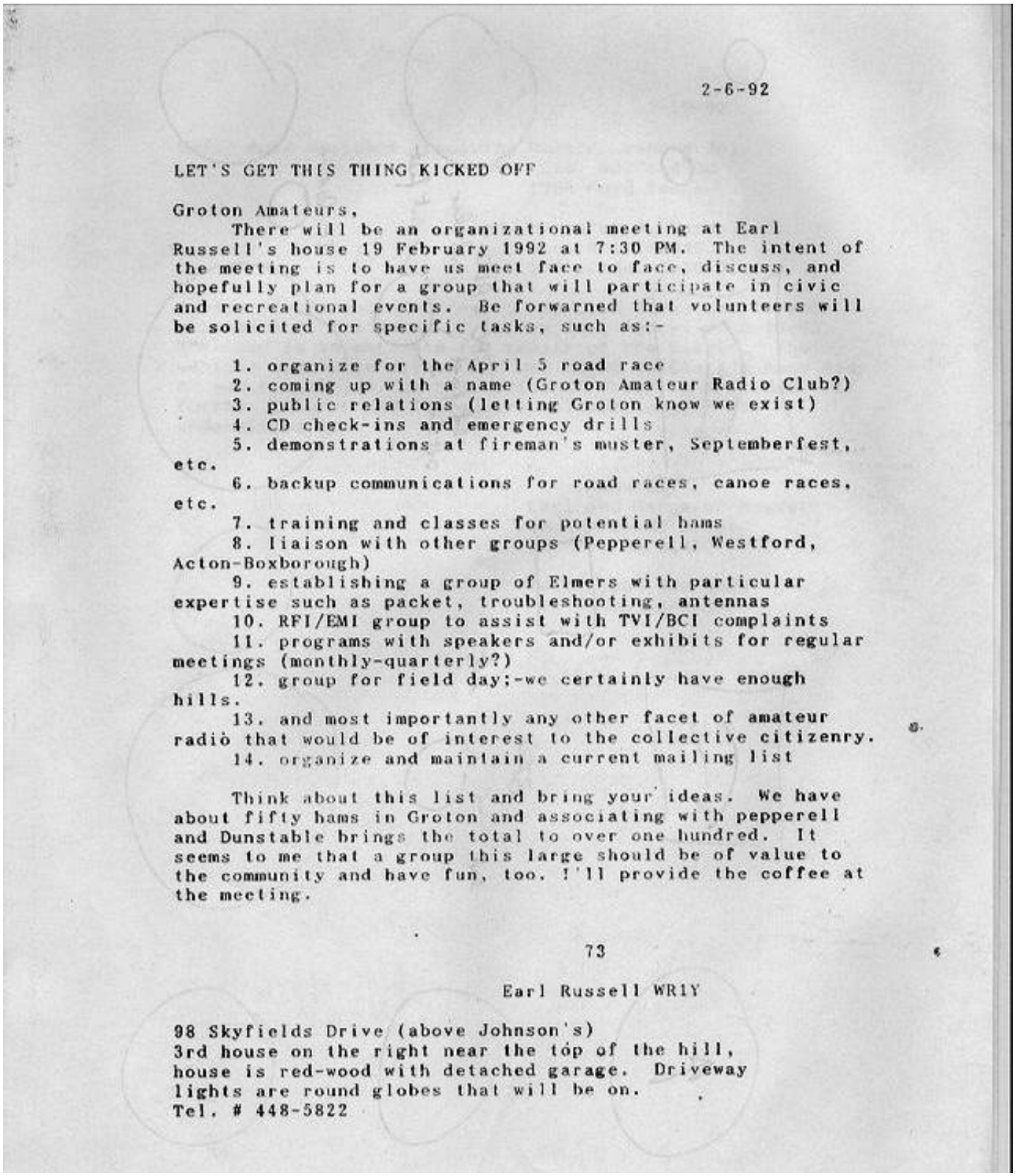
As of 3 April we have 40 members who are current with their dues and 32 renewals outstanding. Many members have a renewal date of 1 April as that was the first month the Club collected dues. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If you are joining ARRL or renewing your membership please consider letting Ralph send in the paperwork for you. The Club will buy the stamp and will get a commission from ARRL. ARRL membership checks should be made payable to NVARC; Ralph deducts the Club commission before forwarding your paperwork to Newington. As an Special Service Club, the ARRL expects a majority of Club members to also be ARRL members.

Ralph KD1SM

Anniversary of NVARC Founding

As we celebrate another anniversary of the club's founding, we owe our appreciation to Earl Russell, WR1Y(SK), September 10, 1928 – March 24, 2014.



2-6-92

LET'S GET THIS THING KICKED OFF

Groton Amateurs,

There will be an organizational meeting at Earl Russell's house 19 February 1992 at 7:30 PM. The intent of the meeting is to have us meet face to face, discuss, and hopefully plan for a group that will participate in civic and recreational events. Be forwarned that volunteers will be solicited for specific tasks, such as:-

1. organize for the April 5 road race
2. coming up with a name (Groton Amateur Radio Club?)
3. public relations (letting Groton know we exist)
4. CD check-ins and emergency drills
5. demonstrations at fireman's muster, Septemberfest, etc.
6. backup communications for road races, canoe races, etc.
7. training and classes for potential hams
8. liaison with other groups (Pepperell, Westford, Acton-Boxborough)
9. establishing a group of Elmers with particular expertise such as packet, troubleshooting, antennas
10. RFI/EMI group to assist with TVI/BCI complaints
11. programs with speakers and/or exhibits for regular meetings (monthly-quarterly?)
12. group for field day;-we certainly have enough hills.
13. and most importantly any other facet of amateur radio that would be of interest to the collective citizenry.
14. organize and maintain a current mailing list

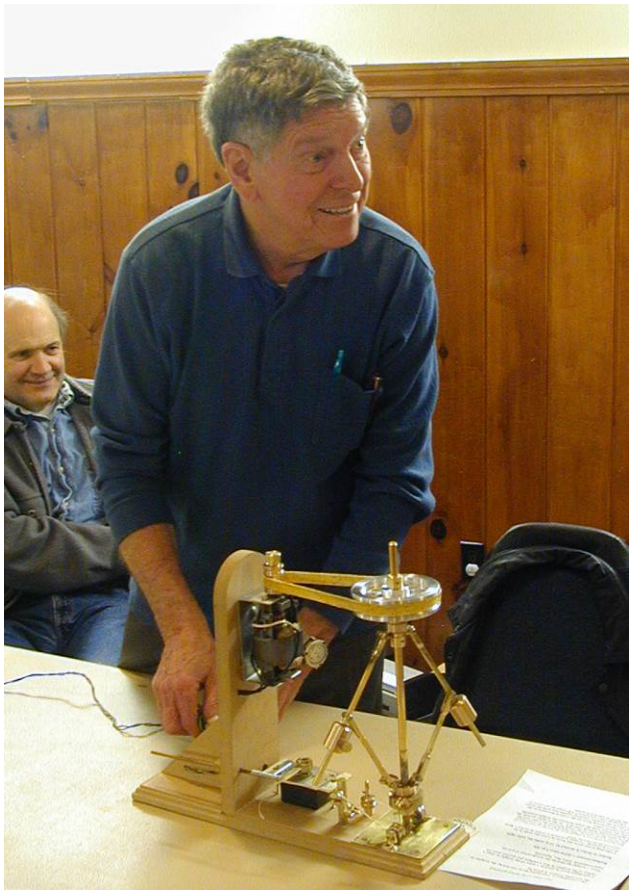
Think about this list and bring your ideas. We have about fifty hams in Groton and associating with pepperell and Dunstable brings the total to over one hundred. It seems to me that a group this large should be of value to the community and have fun, too. I'll provide the coffee at the meeting.

73

Earl Russell WR1Y

98 Skyfields Drive (above Johnson's)
3rd house on the right near the top of the hill, house is red-wood with detached garage. Driveway lights are round globes that will be on.
Tel. # 448-5822

Besides being the driving force for the founding of NVARC and its first President Earl was active in most of its activities.

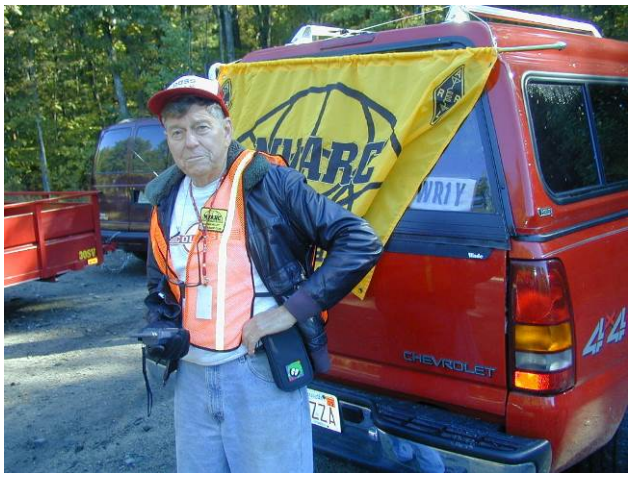


Earl was always machining and building items from old blueprints and drawings. Above is a mechanical governor he built.

Earl “on station” bicycle mobile for the Groton Road Race.

Earl heading out from NVARC Road Cleanup

At the NVARC table at Grotonfest Earl teaches a Scout how to send his name in Morse Code.



Another of Earl's creations

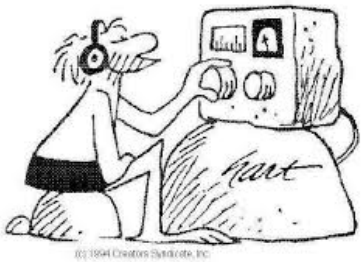
Earl (L) at NVARC Road Cleanup on Rt 119 near the Nashua River

All photos courtesy KD1SM

DXing–Tips & Strategies for working DX

There are currently a total of 340 DXCC entities (countries as defined by the ARRL), http://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/2013_Current_Deleted.txt. Some of these are easier to work than others due to the fact that there is a greater population of hams in them. Others have a smaller ham population or are uninhabited remote islands. Working some of these rarer entities can be challenging. But it can also be a lot of fun once you learn some of the different operating techniques stations use.

I learned how to chase DX many years ago mostly from trial and error but also from reading books like "The Complete DX'er" by Bob Locher, W9KNI. In recent years I have gained a new understanding for pileups through operating from Bermuda. Experiencing the challenges of trying to pick out call sign from a seemingly wall of noise or trying to maintain control of an unruly European pileup has taught me a lot.



Listening !!!

I know it may sound a little simplistic but listening is the single most important skill to learn in Dxing. As I tune across a band stopping at each QSO I'm playing detective trying to quickly determine if there is a DX station on frequency and if so what entity it Is and whether I need it for a new country or not. If the stations are in a casual conversation it may take me a bit longer to tell but I'm still listening for clues and waiting for the stations call signs so that I can check it against my DXCC list. After a while you get pretty good at associating most prefixes with their associated country. If one station is handing out signal reports in rapid succession then I may have stumbled upon a rare or semi-rare DX station.

The easiest way to work a new country is to be the only one calling the DX. As the number of stations calling the DX station grows, the chances of quickly getting through to them begins to diminish.

Simplex Operation

The simplest way to work a DX station is when they are both transmitting and receiving on the same frequency. Whether you're operating CW or phone make sure you have the DX station tuned in properly before you ever call them. Being off frequency is only going to make it more difficult for the DX station to understand your call sign. The caveat however to this is that on CW sometimes it's good to be slightly off frequency (50-100 Hz?) so that the DX station can differentiate your signal from others.

If there are a number of stations trying to call the DX station at the same time it can become difficult for them to copy you and for you to know who they came back to? Because the tendency is to give your call immediately after the DX finishes the current QSO, you are likely to have the most competition trying to be heard then. Try waiting 1-2 seconds and then giving your call so that when the first callers finish transmitting you stand out more. Practice your timing, if you call too early it may be ineffective and if you call too late the DX may have already identified another caller. Pileups can be very chaotic so look for brief opportunities to slide your call in.

It also helps to be opportunistic. In 1994 shortly after moving to Townsend I put up a 75m dipole and used to get up early many mornings and try to work DX out in the Pacific and Asia. At that time my call was KA1DZV which was a real tongue twister in a pileup. By the time I gave my call once phonetically the DX had already worked two more stations. One morning I was listening to ZL7AMO (Chatham Islands) and I didn't think I had a prayers chance in hell of working them. As I'm listening to W6 stations working them with ease I hear the DX station say," The Delta Zulu Victor station go ahead". Well I knew that it wasn't meant for me because I hadn't even transmitted yet that morning but I dumped my call in anyway and worked them for a new country on that band.

Basic Split Operation

When a number of stations are all calling the DX on his transmit frequency things can spin out of control in a hurry. When this occurs, the DX has a hard time picking out a call as everyone is calling over top of each other and the callers can't hear which station the DX is coming back to for the same reason, it becomes a real mess. In this situation the DX may opt to listen on a different frequency than the one they are transmitting on (working split). The DX station will indicate if they are listening up or down and sometimes where. On phone you may hear the DX say "Listening up 5" or "Up 5" (meaning that they are listening 5 KHz above their transmit frequency) or on CW they may send "UP5". The DX may also listen down and say "Listening down 5" on phone or on CW send "DN5".

If the pileup becomes quite large the DX station may indicate a range of frequencies that they are listening on for example by saying "Listening up 5-10" (indicating that they are listening 5-10 KHz above their transmit frequency). And the bigger the pileup the bigger the frequency range that they will specify in order to try and spread callers out to make it easier for them to pick out callers. It is not uncommon for large DXpeditions to announce that they are listening in a window 20-30 KHz wide on SSB. The most common split on phone is up 5 and the most common split on CW is up 1 so if a DX station just says "UP" start there depending on the mode.

Advanced Split Operation

When a DX station is operating split and not listening on a fixed frequency it becomes harder to find out where they are listening. In this situation you want to be able to hear both sides of the contact in order to know what frequency the DX station is listening on. To do this effectively it's very helpful to have a transceiver that has two independent receivers. While you can do this with a transceiver with a single receiver and two VFOs it is much more difficult because you end up having to switch between the VFOs a lot which can waste time. I find it helpful to route the audio from one receiver into the left ear of my headphones and the other receiver into the right ear to keep things straight. The technique is to leave one receiver on the DX transmit frequency. When the DX station picks out a caller and finishes their transmission, tune the second receiver quickly to where you think the caller might be in order to hear the tail end of the QSO. It may take you a number of contacts before you find the caller. The larger the DX listening window the more difficult this becomes as you have to cover more ground in a short period of time.

Sometimes it's easy to find the caller that the DX has come back to because the DX is repeatedly picking callers out on the same receive frequency. But more often the not the DX will be moving around trying to find a frequency where they can more easily pick out a call sign from. Try to identify a pattern that the DX station is using when they come back to the next caller. They may be tuning up (or down) incrementally after each contact. Once you realize the direction and increment you position your transmit VFO to the next spot the DX will be listening. Then when the DX finishes give your call in and here

the DX coming back to you! Sometimes the DX station maybe moving their receive frequency back and forth. Again identify the pattern and then try to guess where they will be next and then call them there. This can be challenging and time consuming until you've figured out the pattern. If you've spent a long time and there appears to be no identifiable pattern try to find a clear frequency in the general area where you think they may be listening and call the DX trying to get noticed. And if all else fails take a break for 20 minutes and then come back. You may find that the pileup has gotten smaller and you may more easily get through.

One technique that some people use to work a DX station in a pileup is called "tail-ending". When a caller is finishing their contact (with the rest of the callers standing by) another station may slip their call in toward the very end of the contact hoping to get noticed (it helps to have a short call to do this). Sometimes this works and sometimes it just annoys the DX station but it is another method.

Having operated for a few years now from Bermuda I have gained a new appreciation for what it's like to be on the other side of a pileup. It's like a cat and mouse game where I'm changing my receive frequency in order to try to pick callers out more easily. And callers are trying to figure out where I'm listening so they can get through faster. When I'm in Bermuda I typically work split listening up 5 KHz on SSB. But when the pileup gets large I'll announce that I am listening up 5-10 to spread callers out so I can more easily pick them out. I find that on average the European stations are the least behaved in a pileup with the Italians at the bottom. At the opposite end of the scale on average the Japanese stations are the best behaved in a pileup.

Finding the DX!

When I first started DXing there was no internet and no computers so there were only two ways to find DX. You either spent a lot of time tuning around or you called CQ DX and hoped that the DX would find me. With the advent of packet clusters it's become much easier than ever to find DX but it's also created new problems. With so many stations worldwide monitoring packet clusters in real time all it takes is someone to spot a DX station and almost immediately a packet pileup ensues regardless of if the DX station is really there or not! Sometimes a station will either copy the DX call they've heard incorrectly or make a typing mistake spotting it. In either case other stations seeing a spot for an apparent rare DX station like W1AW/P5 (I actually saw this recently) converge and you have a real mess until stations begin to figure out what happened. And I'm sure there are a few early callers who might have actually thought they worked North Korea! The bottom line is you can't believe everything you see on the cluster; make sure you confirm the call sign before you call the DX.

Keeping Dxing fun for everyone

We all make on air mistakes in the heat of the battle but hopefully we learn from them and try not to repeat them. But too many times I witness terrible operating behavior in pileups. Whether it's the person that decided that the DX stations transmit frequency was a good place to tune up their amplifier or the station who apparently feels the need to deliberately jam the DX so that no one can hear them. In either case it's the other DXers who have to suffer. In March of 2010 QST published an article on DX Etiquette and since then there has been a worldwide effort to encourage a DX Code of Conduct both for the stations trying to work the DX as well as the DX stations themselves. Rather than to restate the information here, I suggest everyone visit the website and review it http://www.dx-code.org/index.html.

Les Peters, N1SV

March Board Meeting Notes

The only business at the March Board meeting was the decision to bring the proposals of the committee reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws to the March general meeting.—ed

April Board Meeting Notes

NVARC Board meeting, 3 April 2014
Present: Skip, Jim, Ralph, Dan, Rod. Guest: Bruce.

- Awaiting discussion of Constitution and By-Laws edits at April Meeting. Voting in May.
- General interest continues regarding EMCON and licensing training (probably in Fall).
- PIO opening and all other appointments on hold pending April election.
- Approved $35 for Lantern Battery Challenge cake at April meeting. Dan will supply.
- Talk up WRTC volunteering at meeting.
- Board in general approval of: 1. Club donation through NEARFest matching grant to ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund, and 2. Club donation in memory of "SK Founders and Alumni Members" to ARRL Education Fund. Will be presented to membership.
- Bruce reported on Nominating Committee.

April Tech Night

Thursday April 10 was the 4th NVARC Tech Night, held at the Pepperell Community Center. This time no one showed up upstairs so we used that. Dennis K1LGQ brought in a trap dipole that he had scrounged but didn't know much about, we measured it to have quite good match on 10-15-20 meter bands, with two people holding the ends. Some old tube signal generators were measured for accuracy and output power, and the good signal generator was used to verigy the performance of a multimode VHF radio (frequency accuracy, SSB and FM sensitivity).

Several discussion were going on independently about who knows what.

WRTC 2014 Volunteer Update #1

From: Randy Thompson <k5zd@wrtc2014.org>

April 6, 2014

Welcome to the WRTC2014 Volunteer Update. This email newsletter is being sent to everyone who has registered to help with WRTC2014. We appreciate your support and will be sending out periodic updates to keep you informed about WRTC2014 preparations. If your email address changes, please send a note to k5zd@wrtc2014.org.

Key Dates
May 31 Volunteer Training Session, Milford, MA
July 9–11 Station Setup
July 12-13 WRTC2014 Competition
July 13 Station Takedown
July 14 Closing Ceremony/Announcement of Winners
July 17-19 ARRL Centennial Convention, Hartford CT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - SATURDAY, MAY 31 - TRAINING SESSION at MILARA, 49 MAPLE ST., MILFORD MA

Know someone who wants to volunteer to help with WRTC2014? Send them to our sign up page at http://www.wrtc2014.org/volunteer/

Not sure what you want to do? Check out the help wanted page. http://www.wrtc2014.org/help-wanted/

From the Chairman – Doug Grant K1DG

Thank you for stepping up to volunteer. Your role, whether as a Beam Team member, airport pickup driver, Site Manager, photographer/videographer, or anything else, is very important. I was at a meeting the other day and thinking about the parallels to the Olympics and the Boston Marathon. Of course, the competitors will take home memories of the event that will stay with them forever. But the volunteers who make the event run smoothly will be able to look back and say with pride, "I helped make that World Championship event happen." It promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

We will have 59 two-operator teams representing 35 countries coming to compete. Each of the teams has worked hard to earn the right to represent their region, and they truly are among the best operators in the world. In addition, each team is assigned a referee who will sit in the tent watching over the competitors' shoulders and listening to every QSO to verify compliance with the rules. The 59 referees and 6 alternates were chosen from a pool of over 150 applicants, and all are experienced contest operators capable of enforcing the rules.

Review the schedule below and mark your calendars. You are going to be part of making WRTC2014 a success. Thanks again to all of your for volunteering to help and please let us know if there is anything we can do to make the event even better.

WRTC2014 Event Schedule

The current draft of the event schedule looks like this (we will update as things change):

Tuesday, July 8

Competitors and referees begin to arrive. Volunteers meet and greet at airport and transport to Doubletree Hotel in Westborough.

Wednesday, July 9

Competitors and referees continue to arrive. Volunteers meet and greet at airport and transport to Doubletree Hotel in Westborough.

Volunteers begin delivery and installation of equipment to operating sites. Some sites may be built if security can be managed for the extra night.

Evening: informal dinner, some entertainment, including a reception for non-ham spouses and family members.

Thursday, July 10

ALL DAY: Volunteers build the operating sites…all 65 of them!

Morning – Competitor and referee Q & A meetings

Tours or other social excursions during the day for competitors, referees, and visitors

Evening – Opening Ceremonies, Olympic-style. Volunteers are welcome to attend in person or watch on streaming Web video.

Friday, July 11

Competitors will meet and draw their station locations. Volunteers will transport teams, referees, and their equipment to station sites to begin set up of operating equipment. Lunch boxes will be provided, and teams may want to stop at a grocery store to procure snacks, drinks of choice, etc.

After setting up and testing their stations, teams and referees will have the option of staying at the site overnight, staying at a local nearby ham's house overnight, or going back to the hotel.

Saturday, July 12

Volunteers transport any teams that have spent the night at the hotel back to their site, to arrive no later than 7 a.m. Contest begins at 8 a.m. EDST (1200 UTC).

Site teams provide security, monitor the generator fuel, attend to the teams' needs for food and water, receive visitors, and watch weather conditions (stations will shut down in the event of lightning in the area).

Sunday, July 13

Contest ends at 8 a.m. EDST (1200 UTC). Competitors and referees are transported back to hotel. Site Teams supervise the disassembly of stations. Station kit buyers pick up their equipment by mid-afternoon.

Monday, July 14

Touring or other social events during the day, closing ceremony and awards banquet in the evening. Volunteers are welcome to participate.

Tuesday, July 15

Competitors and referees are bused to airport for departure, or transfer to Hartford for ARRL convention.

Beam Team News – Mark Pride K1RX

To the Beam Teams that are supporting the deployment of 65 sites this July:

Pass the word to your teammates that we are going to do a training day on Saturday, May 31 in Milford, MA - mark it on your calendar now!

I am really looking forward to safe and successful tower/antenna raisings this July. You are a critical success component to WRTC 2014 and I just want to go on record here that your support is truly appreciated. When the competitors arrive here in New England, be sure to extend a warm hand of congratulations and a wish of good luck during this event, knowing you put up a quality set of antennas that really play well. Two years of testing has certainly proven this point.

We are fielding 16 Beam Teams to support 65 sites, all to be done over the course of 2 days prior to the event (Wednesday and Thursday, with some exceptions of some earlier installs). That is like Field Day on steroids! Continue to enlist help and have them go to our web site and hit the volunteer link to get registered. Many of your members will be doing double duty by supporting Tom, K1KI and provide security and support at different sites during the competition - added thanks here too!

See you all on Saturday, May 31. BT Captains, remember to bring your Tool Kit for the inventory review.

Mark, K1RX

The Sites - Tom Frenaye K1KI

We have 59 teams coming to compete, and have decided that we will deploy 65 sites. This gives us a few spares in case any of the sites becomes unusable due to line noise, flooding, or other unforeseen circumstances and the spare sites will be scattered around the area so any team that needs to move can do so quickly.

The 65 sites are located on 15 properties; the larger properties have been subdivided into several smaller areas. Each property has an assigned Site Area Manager (often with the support of a club) and a Beam Team.

We are still matching volunteers with site locations, and can use some additional Site Captains and Site Team volunteers. We're trying to build 3-4 person Site Teams, several clubs have stepped up and adopted one or more sites.

Although there are 15 sites and some 65 stations to be set up for the purposes of the newsletter I have reduced the list to sites NVARC members would most likely support if they wanted to volunteer.--ed

Property Town(s) Sites Site Area Mgr BT Cpt

Hollis HS Hollis, NH 1 AE1P/CVARC K2TE

Kimball Farm Pepperell, MA 2 AE1P/CVARC K2TE

Keyes/Parker Pepperell 1 K1NKR/NVARC K1BG

Heald Orchard Pepperell 2 K1NKR/NVARC K1BG

Twin Valley Farm Pepperell 2 AE1P/CVARC K2TE

Devens Devens 4 NJ1F WA1JG

Devens Devens 4 K1QI K0TV

Devens Devens 4 W1GD N1SV

Sholan Farms Leominster 2 KB1LRL/MARA KB1LRL/MARA

(subject to minor changes and revisions)

All of the sites are within about an hour's drive of the headquarters hotel in Westborough, MA at Exit 23 on Route 495.

Who is in charge of what?

WRTC2014 is a complicated project. The organization has been divided into several functional departments. Here is a handy chart of who is in charge of each area. Each of them can be reached at (callsign) @wrtc2014.org if you have questions.

Sites Site selection, testing, permitting, site team recruitment and training Tom Frenaye, K1KI

Antenna Design of antenna system, Beam Team recruiting and training Mark Pride, K1RX

Competition Rules, judging, station approval, everything in the tent Andy Blank, N2NT

Hospitality Lodging for teams/referees, meals, transportation, opening/closing ceremonies John Dorr, K1AR

IT Internet service, communications, scoreboard, video, club presentations Dave Pascoe, KM3T

Marketing Webmaster, social media, publicity, communications Randy Thompson, K5ZD

Team Selection Team qualification and Referee selection Dan Street, K1TO

Log checking Log checking and review, final scoring Tree Tyree, N6TR

Finance Budgeting, purchasing, asset tracking Dick Green, WC1M

General Management Planning, scheduling, fund raising Doug Grant, K1DG

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - SATURDAY, MAY 31 - TRAINING SESSION at MILARA, 49 MAPLE ST., MILFORD MA WRTC

Videos

Want to get a sense of what WRTC has meant to participants and volunteers in the past? Check out these videos.

"Passport to Friendship"? - about the very first WRTC, held in Seattle in 1990 http://bit.ly/1rCb7Nt

"WRTC 1996 San Francisco"? http://bit.ly/1m7bPhG

"24 Hours in Brazil"? about WRTC2006 http://bit.ly/1mvHOeh

A photo montage from WRTC2010 in Russia, nicely set to music by IK1HJS http://bit.ly/1grAk8R (If you only watch one video, make it this one!)

There are also a couple of short videos related to WRTC2014...

WRTC2014 Promotional video http://bit.ly/1dP14eR

Quadcopter-cam view of WB1Z Station in WRTC Test Run (2013) by KK1W http://bit.ly/1eRY4lz

W1UJ and K1ZE test stations in WRTC Test Run (2013) by K1RAX - watch it to the end and ride the tower up! http://bit.ly/1dwMCgZ

Meeting Coffee "Bar"

Many thanks to Ed Snapp, N1YFK, for his rejuvenating the coffee "bar" at the last two meetings. There's been an incremental increase in socializing, and that's what we meet for.

Don't forget to leave a donation if you partake.

Strays

Famously unknown famous hams department. February QST (p. 52) mentioned Dr Sara Seager, KB1WTW, of MIT. Sara is a world renowned astronomer and has her own page on Wikipedia. She is a planet seeker and has been referred to as the "Indiana Jones" of astronomy. (K1JT has a Wikipedia page, too. And his mentions Amateur Radio. And he's a famous astrophysicist. But we all know of Joe. He's a famously known famous ham.)

This summer is going to be bigger that we were first aware of. There's the World Radiosport Team Championships (WRTC-2014) and the ARRL Centennial Convention. Did you also know that USA's national Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) championships will return to the northeast this year? In preparation for the 2014 ARDF World Championships inBurabay, Kazakhstan, September 6 - 13, 2014,the Fourteenth USA ARDF Championships will be in Boston, , June 5-8. See http://www.homingin.com/farsnews.html.

NVARC Club Net

The NVARC Club Net meet's every Monday evening at 8 PM on the 442.900 Pepperell repeater.

Stop in and bring your input and questions.

The net is in need of a regular Net Control Station (NCS).

Recent activity on the net included Last Call for SK (WR1Y)

Recently participants talked about the upcoming Groton Road Race, hopes for

Spring weather, antenna work, antenna switches. Also, various SDR dongle projects by members for aircraft radar, signal analysis and interference identification.

Recent attendees were

Jim N8VIM, Stan KD1LE, Skip K1NKR, Larry W1ESR, Les N1SV, Bruce K1BG, George KB1HFT, Dave N1MNX

Upcoming Contests

Apr
20 Rookie Roundup Phone
Jun
14-16 VHF Contest
21 Kids Day
28-29 Field Day
Jul
12-13 IARU HF World Championship & WRTC2014
Aug
2-3 UHF Contest
16-17 10 GHZ & Up Round 1
17 Rookie Roundup RTTY
Sep
13-15 Sep VHF
20-21 10 GHz & Up Round 2

Flea Markets/Hamfests

APR
19 Portland AWA (S Portland ME)
20 MIT Flea (Cambridge)
26 Rason Auction Gales Ferry CT
May
2-3 NEAR Fest (Deerfield NH)
31 23rd Annual Hamfest (Goshen CT)
Jun
15 MIT Flea (Cambridge)
21 NARL Fest Newington CT
Jul
17 ARRL National Convention (Hartford CT)
20 MIT Flea (Cambridge)
Aug
9 Three Rivers Hamfest (Milo ME)
17 MIT Flea (Cambridge)
Sep
12 CT State Convention (Nutmeg Hamfest)
21 MIT Flea (Cambridge)

Your Article

Your article could have been here which would have eliminated this blank space.

NVARC

Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club

PO Box # 900
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

http://www.n1nc.org/

President: Skip Youngberg K1NKR
Vice President: Jim Hein N8VIM
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Board Members:
Dan Pedtke 2011-2014
Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2012-2015
Bob Reif: W1XP 2013-2016

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
Emergency Coordinator: Larry Swezey W1ESR
Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
PIO: Roland Guilmet NR1G
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.

Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 900

Pepperell, MA 01463-0900