

NVARC

Newsletter of the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club August 1992 Volume 1 Number 2

Next Meeting: 17 September 1992

Ham Class Scheduled

Arrangements have been made for the ham radio class discussed last meeting. The start date is 25 September 1992, details of time and place will be announced at the meeting. Talk it up!

NVARC is now ARRL affiliated



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club is now an official ARRL-affiliated club. If you're planning to join ARRL or have an ARRL renewal coming up, please make your check out to the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club and process the application through the club treasurer, Ben Akins, KB1FJ. The cost for you is the same, but for each new ARRL member NVARC gets to keep \$5 of the dues and for each renewal we keep \$2. Sounds like small money, but it builds up.

Ben promises that applications received at the monthly meeting will be forwarded to League headquarters by the following weekend, so delays should be minimal. If you don't want to wait for a meeting, I'm sure you can mail it to Ben and it will get equally fast handling.

Nashoba Valley Training Net

NR 1 R KB1FJ 25 PEPPERELL MA JUL 21

WELCOME TO THE NVTN X
WE MEET EVERY TUESDAY AND
THURSDAY AT 0000 UTC ON
28166 MHZ X THANK YOU
ALL FOR CHECKING IN X
BEN

The above message sent by Ben, KB1FJ, was the first exercise of the NVTN. Charter check-ins on the net were Patrick, KC1TD, Bob, KC1WC, Clint, N1KGW and although he didn't check in, Fred, WA1TNY was on hand.

Now, perhaps I was the only one who was caught off-guard on the subject of formal traffic net protocol. But just in case anyone else was scratching their heads saying, "Q-what?!?" I've abstracted a brief cheat sheet and appended it to the end of the newsletter.

This is the first month of net operation, so it's hard to characterize it. The trend, though, is to do traffic at the beginning and then break into chit-chat after the formal traffic is passed -- a good mix, and Clint is living proof that it works; he has had a dramatic increase in the speed he can copy in just this one month.

Ideally, everyone who checks in should have one message to send to the group. If you're not sure of what to do, check in anyway and listen. We're all friends.

In later issues, we plan to have a more complete tutorial on traffic handling and net protocol.

Septemberfest Planning Underway

At the August 13th board of directors meeting the NVARC booth for the Groton Septemberfest was discussed. The current plan calls for a booth with a message center (traffic handling,) a packet radio demonstration and a Morse code demonstration. In the area of the booth there will be panels with placards explaining ham radio topics and advertising our upcoming ham radio class. ARRL literature will be passed out.

Physical plans for the construction of the panels and layout of the booth were submitted by Karen, KAIJVU, and the board approved the allocation of up to \$120 for construction. The panels are reusable for future events.

At the August meeting we will be soliciting for volunteers to staff the booth. The Septemberfest is 11 am to 5 pm on September 19th. (Rain date is the 20th.) We are looking for people to volunteer for two-hour shifts over the course of the day. Please see Ian, NZ1B for details.

Move over Megabucks...

You've heard of Megabucks, you've heard of MegaHertz, but have you heard of NVARC's 50/50 raffle?

Here's the deal: at each of the monthly general meetings, tickets will be sold and the money from sales put into a "pot." At the end of the meeting, one ticket will be drawn at random and the winner will get half the pot with the other half going to the NVARC treasury.

Let's be honest -- You ain't gonna buy that yacht and cruise the Caribbean on the proceeds, but it's fun and over the course of a year NVARC's half could be a significant fraction of our funding, enabling us to be more effective and more fun as a club.

Upgrades

Join us in congratulating:

- Peter Clinton <awaiting call> for passing the Technician exam.
- Jim Ford, NIKSI for passing his 5 wpm code test to enhance his Technician license.
- Bud Bramer, <awaiting call> for upgrading to General.



- Duane, KD1JY (formerly WB1GUO) for upgrading to Advanced.

Public Service Log



Public service events are the most visible activity that hams undertake, and those who take time out of their schedules deserve our deepest thanks, not just for the service they provide to the public but for the service they provide to the amateur radio community.

PLEASE -- if you coordinate an event, send/phone in a list of the participants and a brief description of the event for the newsletter. Help us give the people who helped you the recognition they deserve.

If you participate in an event that is not coordinated by the club, please send the details to the newsletter yourself. Don't think of it as blowing your own horn -- think of it as letting club members know about other events they may participate in next time.

The Badges are Here

Everyone who signed up for a callsign badge; your badge is in. We went with encapsulated offset badges rather than engraved badges.

Before you say "We don't need no steenking badges" have a look -- these suckers are good-looking and can be seen a mile away. Pick yours up at the meeting. Cost is \$2. They're easy to make, so if you didn't order one before but want one after seeing the results, contact Earl, WR1Y and he'll make one ASAP.

Coming Attractions...

September 17th

Ken, K1EA -- CT and PacketCluster

Classified Ads

Classified ad deadline is the second Thursday of the month. Until the newsletter committee gets its act together and establishes an advertising policy, NVARC member ads will be published free subject to space available and reasonability guidelines which are set at the whim of the editor.

For Sale: Kenwood TS520S w/MC50 desk mic. \$350 firm. Clint Talmadge, 433-9640

The Business Section

Treasurer's Report

Ben Akins, KB1FJ, Treasurer

- We now have a bank account at the People's Bank.
- Expenses of up to \$120 have been authorized for construction of display panels to be used at the Groton Septemberfest and subsequent events.
- We have authorized the running of a 50/50 raffle at meetings. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter.

Paid-up Members as of 13 August 1992: 31
Current Bank Balance is \$331.50

SO, HOW COPY?

This month we seem to have an unspoken theme of money. We're plugging the 50/50 raffle, we're soliciting you to do your ARRL renewals through us, we're even going to tag you \$2 for a callsign badge -- it all seems so crass and commercial. It bothers me and, since I'm a regular kind of guy, I figure it might bother you a little bit too. It's so easy to turn cynical about organizations when money comes up.

So let's examine this financial fixation: why does a club need money? Next month, we're going to be doing a public display at the Groton Septemberfest. We'll also be starting a class for prospective new hams. In October, we're talking about having a presence of some kind at the ARRL convention in Boxboro. At a future point we'd like to start mailing the newsletter so you'll get it a couple of days before the meeting. We'd also like to mail

complimentary copies to hams in our area as a recruiting tool. We'd like to establish ties to the schools. These are good things to do, but they cost the club money.

How do we know the money will be put to good use? All expenditures are open to membership revue, both through the treasurer's report and through the board of directors' meetings *which are open to any member who wants to sit in*. So, if you're like me and you get nervous when money gets mentioned -- relax.

Don't forget

The deadline for the "name the newsletter" competition is coming up (as soon as I have a design I like.) Don't kick yourself later saying "I had a better name than that!"

Mea Culpa

The local simplex frequency on two meters is 146.49 (it's correct in this issue.)

Keith Akins' name isn't spelt "Akins." Sorry about that.

-- KCITD

Exit Poll

Sometimes we just have to ask questions. Today we have to ask two:

1. Are you a Volunteer Examiner?

We need to know who is a VE, what class you are, when your credentials expire and which VEC(s) you're accredited with.

If you're at the meeting, please identify yourself to **Duane, KDLJY**. If you miss the meeting, please send a QSL card to the newsletter or to Duane so we can keep a record.

(This is an area of on-going interest. If you get accredited at some later date, please let us know.)

2. Should NVARC have a holiday party?

You know the kind -- music and dancing, pot luck eats, good cheer, cash bar.

If we want to do it, we have to reserve space now. Funding for the party would have to come from ticket sales, not the NVARC general fund, so we have to have some good idea of how many people would attend.

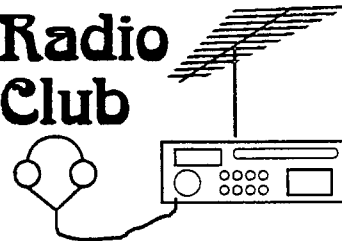
Please contact our treasurer and VFW sponsor Ben, KB1FJ if you think it's a good idea and specify how many tickets you represent.



Frequencies to remember

- The local 440 repeater is KB1FJ -- 447.9 / 442.9
- The "local frequency" on two meters is 146.49 FM simplex.
- The local CW net meets at 0000 UTC (8:00pm EDT) on 28.166MHz on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Rashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club



President: Earl Russell, WR1Y
Vice President: Bruce Blain, K1BG
Secretary: Duane Long, KD1JY
Treasurer: Ben Akhs, KB1FJ

Membership \$12 January to December,
not pro-rated for 1992.

Meetings are on the third Thursday of the
Month and 7:30 p.m. in the Pepperell VFW
hall off route 113 in Pepperell.

The newsletter is published monthly and
distributed at the meeting. Submissions,
corrections and inquiries should be
directed to the newsletter editor Patrick
Taber, KC1TD.

Mail address: 42 Brookline St. Pepperell MA
01463-1127.

Usenet address: taber@clmfe.dec.com

Easynet address: CIMRE::TABER.

Telephone: (508)433-2521 (before 9:30 p.m.
please.)

Nashoba Valley Training Net Cheat-Sheet

Traffic net Q-signals

*Signals marked with * are only sent by net control station*

QNA*	Answer in prearranged order
QNB*	Act as relay between ----- and -----
QNC	All Stations on net copy
QND*	Net is directed (i.e. by a net control station)
QNE*	Entire net stand by
QNF	Net is free (i.e. no net control station)
QNG	Take over as net control
QNH	Your net frequency is high
QNI	Net stations report in
QNJ	Can you copy me?
QNK*	Transmit messages for ----- to -----
QNL	Your net frequency is Low
QNM*	You are QRming the net. Please stand by.
QNN	Net control station is -----
QNO	Station is leaving the net
QNP	Unable to copy you (or to copy ----)

QNQ*	Move to frequency ----- and wait for ----- to finish traffic in progress. Then send traffic for ----
QNR*	Answer ----- and receive traffic
QNS	The following stations are in the net:
QNT	I request permission to leave the net
QNU*	Net has traffic for you. Stand by.
QNV*	Contact ----- on this frequency. If successful, move to ----- and send traffic for -----
QNW	How do I route message for ----- ?
QNX	You are excused from the net
QNY*	Shift to another frequency to clear traffic with ----
QNZ	Zero beat your signal with mine.

Traffic-related Q-signals

QRU	I have no messages for you
QSL	I acknowledge receipt
QSM	Repeat last message
QTB	I don't agree with your word count
QTC	I have ----- messages to send

Preamble Format

(always sent in this order. Optional fields are in brackets.)

Number

An arbitrary number for your records. Convention is to start with 1 on January first of any given year

Precedence

R = Routine. All NVTN messages are routine

W = Health and Welfare traffic from a disaster area

P = Priority - non-emergency but important traffic from a disaster area

EMERGENCY (always spelt out) = Emergency traffic from a disaster area

[Handling Instructions]

Special handling instructions in the form HX and one letter. Not sent if not needed. NVTN traffic doesn't use HX instructions

Station of Origin

Your call if you are originating the message. Someone else's call if you're receiving or passing the message on.

Check

The number of words in the text of the message. Letter X used instead of Period and "QUERY" (used instead of question mark) count as one word each. Preamble, address and signature are not counted for the check.

Place of Origin

Your town and state if the message is from you. The town and state of the place the message came from if you are passing or receiving.

[Time Filed]

Optional time in UTC format. Usually not sent

Date Filed

UTC Month and day. Year not used.

Typical Message

what you'd copy:

```
NR 1 R KB1FJ 26 PEPPERELL MA JUL 21 TO ALL
NVTN BT WELCOME TO THE NVTN X WE MEET
EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AT 0000 UTC ON
28166 MHZ X THANK YOU ALL FOR CHECKING IN
X SINCERELY BT BEN AR
```

what it means:

Preamble (see key)

```
NR 1 R KB1FJ 26 PEPPERELL MA JUL 21
```

Address

```
TO ALL NVTN
```

Text

```
WELCOME TO THE NVTN X WE MEET EVERY
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AT 0000 UTC ON 28166
MHZ X THANK YOU ALL FOR CHECKING IN X
SINCERELY
```

Signature

```
BEN
```

Note that "BEN" is the signature, but "SINCERELY" is part of the text. The rule is everything between the BT's is message text and is counted for the check. Anything after the BT is signature.

Resources

For more information on traffic handling and message format see:

ARRL Net Directory

ARRL Operating Handbook

ARRL Public Service Communications Manual

Local traffic nets:

Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Slow Speed Net
(EMRISS)

3.715 MHz 0100 UTC daily

Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Net (EMRI)

3.658 MHz 0000 UTC daily

Eastern Mass/Rhode Island Phone Net
(EMRIPN)

3.915 MHz 2230 UTC daily

Novice Technician Enhancement Net

28.480 MHz 0100 UTC Thursdays

Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (2M phone traffic)

146.64/146.04 0330 UTC daily

Nashoba Valley Training Net (NVTN)

28.166MHz 0000 UTC Tues & Thurs

Message Format

```
NR Preamble
TO Address line 1 AA
Address line 2 AA (etc.)
BT
BT Text
BT Signature
AR
```

AA, BT and AR are procedural signs (prosigns) separating sections of a message. AA separates address lines, BT delimits the text of the message AR means "end of message."