

This month's speaker

Westford's Police Amateur Radio Team (PART) President

This month's speaker is Terry Stader, KA8SCP, president of the Police Amateur Radio Team of Westford. PART answered the question, "Why is there never a cop around when you need one?" by putting WB1GOF on the air and posting the familiar blue highway signs telling motoring hams to push the "*" key for emergency assistance. And of course, in Volume 1, Issue 3 of the newsletter, we plugged their new 440 repeater [a great repeater, by the way] which takes the concept even further. Come join us in our usual rollicking fun-filled meeting and hear what Terry has to say. Thursday, (yes, this Thursday, 19 November,) 7:30 p.m. at the Pepperell VFW.



NVARC Takes 2nd Place in EMA Division!

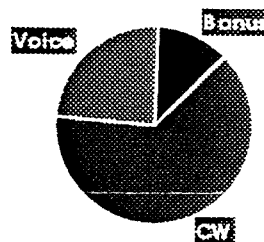
(... if you look at it right.)

For those of you who are not satisfied with lies or damn lies, here are the results of NVARC's Field Day efforts as reported in QST and analyzed in the data cooking kitchen of KC1TD.

First a fast recap of the operation: We competed in category 2A, meaning we fielded two transmitters running under simulated emergency conditions (i.e. in a tent.) We had 795 contacts on CW and 589 contacts on voice and got 600 bonus points (Emergency Power, Publicity, Message Origination, copying the

WIAW Field Day Message and Packet Contact) yielding a grand total of 4,958 points. (There's a one-QSO discrepancy in the numbers, as reported in newsletter Volume 1 Number 1.)

The point breakdown looks like this:



When the results get reported in QST, however, they get broken out a little differently. 2A battery-powered stations, 2A stations that use emergency power and 2A stations that used commercial power are all reported separately. Of the 2A "emergency power" stations, we came in 62nd out of 446 which puts us in the 85th percentile. Not bad. But of the 61 stations with larger totals, only one, K1AK, was from the Eastern Massachusetts Division. (And by the way, they came in 10th with a total of 7,894 points from 2259 QSO's.)

So we took second! Even better, since there were no entries ahead of us from the Western Mass. Division, we took second in the entire state!

What happens if you add the other 2A stations back in? Our position doesn't change a lot -- 70th out of 484 by score, still 85th percentile, still 2nd in EMA.

What would happen if we had run all CW? If all the voice contacts were made on CW, our

score would have been 6136 -- still second place in EMA, but 34th of 446 -- 99th percentile. This ignores the fact that voice contacts count as a separate "band" and many of our contacts were probably the same station on both voice and CW.

Should we try an all CW operation? Nah. Along with the points you have to have fun.

It's not too early to start thinking of next June's operation! Next year we can take first place! (in EMA.)

Back Scatter

by Russ, WR1Y

The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club officially begins its second year in January. The momentum of the first six months has created a base-line for a vibrant, civic-oriented organization. We should be very proud of what has been accomplished at the same time striving to maintain the momentum. Interesting activities and public service functions will be sufficient for survival, but survival is not enough. The continued strength of the club will depend on its ability to attract new members. Each of us is an emissary of our club and should be proud enough of this affiliation to actively solicit new members. The Groton Septemberfest was a recruiting bonanza as evidenced by membership in our current ham class. There must be continual activity in events like that if the club is to prosper.

At the December meeting the club will elect a new slate of officers. The new officers will work with the outgoing people for as long as required to accomplish an orderly transfer of responsibility and authority. The requirements for holding one of the club officer positions are liberal:

An applicant must

1. Be a full member of the club (i.e. hold any class of amateur radio license)
2. Be willing to serve (and have the time)
3. Be a little crazy (it helps)

The toughest requirement is number 2. It does take some time and effort but the rewards are

legion. Don't assume someone else is going to jump forward -- we need everyone involved.

We've done a great job, folks, but you ain't seen nothin yet.

-- Russ



Vote!

How I Spend My Saturdays...

by Bruce, K1BG

Well, now that you all know how I spend my Sundays, I thought I might tell you how I spend my Saturdays. Going to flea markets looking for old Quests isn't something I do every day!

In the course of my work, I do a fair amount of traveling, mostly to the western half of the USA. I missed our last meeting because I was on one of these trips. Fortunately, the Saturday after the meeting was the date of the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, Pacificon 92, which was held in Concord California on October 17. I got up early, had breakfast at the hotel in San Jose (about 45 minutes away), installed my mobile 2 meter radio (which I took with me) into my rental car, attached the mag mount whip to the roof, and sped off. Wx was good, and the air was very clear for the Silicon Valley area. You could actually see the hills around the valley very clearly. I expected a cross between Boxboro and Deerfield, California style! (Whatever that is supposed to be).

Arriving at the Concord Hilton at about 10AM, I parked and clipped on my now nationally famous fluorescent NVARC name badge. I figured I'd check out the flea market first, which was in a shopping center parking lot across the street. There were maybe 25 vendors in total, and none were of the semi professional variety. Just a lot of junk that looked like it had made several trips to and from flea markets over the years. Several people said it had been better the night before,

but it didn't look like there was much. 10 minutes later, I was headed to the Hilton.

Registration was easy, and only 5 bucks. I thought I was getting a bargain over Boxboro. Then I looked at the program. What, no presentation by the Northern California DX Association? No talk by the local contest club? No DXCC hospitality suite? I was stunned!!

There were some interesting talks, but not half as many as at Boxboro. Pat, WA6UBE gave an interesting talk on Near Vertical Incident Skywave operations, and Ghery, N6TPT, who is an electromagnetic engineer with Tandem Computers, gave a super presentation on EMI (including RFI, TVI, Radio Interference, etc.). California, being justifiably earthquake paranoid, has a much heavier focus on disaster communications. Several excellent presentations by ARES/RACES on disaster readiness were made.

The vendor exhibition area was maybe 1/3 the size of the area in Boxboro, with many of the same large equipment vendors. Since K1EA and our own NX1P have Boston area based ham related businesses attending Boxboro, some of the local Californian businesses were in attendance. Of note was Tennadyne (log periodic arrays), HamPute (digital signal processing boards for HF work), and Ham Pro Antennas.

Ham radio is somewhat different in California than it is locally, and I'd like to share some of my observations and feelings concerning this. Because the vast majority of new and recent development has protective (I.E. *restrictive*) covenants, HF operation is difficult or impossible for many (I think this is bad, but there may not be much that can be done about it. Unfortunately, while California desperately needs ham operators manning earthquake related C.D. communications positions, developers are restricting (*protecting?*) their community involvement). This puts a much larger focus on hand held VHF/UHF repeater operations. Also, because of the many hills (more like small mountains to us), there are many, many packet repeaters. Not digipeaters, but FM repeaters dedicated to packet use.

(This helps eliminate collisions caused by the hills, but that is subject matter for another article). There seem to be many more women on the repeaters out there, and a larger percentage of younger people and no code licenses. It is often said that California leads the rest of the country when it comes to new trends. Perhaps this is an indication as to which way ham radio is headed.

Getting back to the convention, when the flea market, exhibits, and presentations are over, what is left? Well, at Concord there was a whole outdoor area for C.D., ARES, RACES, and other public service groups to exhibit their emergency communication vehicles. They ranged from salvaged surplus military vehicles to custom designed communications vehicles built in the shell of a 40 FT mobile home. The

best bang for the buck I saw was built out of an old school bus. It had communications capability on every band from 160 meters through 432 MHz, packet, CB (hiss!), RTTY, Red Cross, police, fire, etc. You name it, this could communicate with it. These vehicles had been designed with earthquake communications in mind, but were immediately put into service during the Oakland fires and some of the larger brush fires that occurred in California last year. Hams, being trained in *communications*, have become a vital part of California's emergency plans.

If you are thinking of going to California to attend the Pacific Division Convention, save your money. I found it disappointing compared to Boxboro. Perhaps having some of the locals would have helped. It was, however, worthwhile stopping by while I was in the neighborhood, and I learned a lot about how our hobby is done in another part of the country.

If you do business in other parts of the country, or go on vacation, make ham radio a part of it. It's fun, you meet some great people that you have something in common with, and it's a great way to spend some time. Keep your eye on the upcoming events sections in CQ, 73, and QST magazines. CU there!



"It's Just This Kind of Spontaneous Publicity..."

From an informal survey, I gather that I'm the only person on the planet who reads the Section News in QST. So I thought I'd mention that NVARC got a favorable mention from the Section Manager for our glitzy newsletter. (November, p.182)

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.

The Pepperell Fall Classic

by Allen, W7RCP, Pepperell EC

The Pepperell Fall Classic Soccer Tournament was held over the Columbus-day weekend. The club supported the tournament by providing radio communications between the playing fields and the Varnum Brook school. This year there were 300 teams (over 3000 persons) that played on 26 fields, and for much of the time all 26 fields were in use at the same time.

Club members provided two types of radio communications.

1. Radio links between the fields and an ambulance at the school. Several injuries occurred, and our radios were used to alert the EMTs. In one case, **WX1J** rode in the ambulance from the school to the Kennedy field to talk-in the EMTs to the proper location. In other cases, **N1NIX**, who is a "first responder" fireman in Pepperell, rode his

motorcycle from the school to the field to give a quick response.

We used 146.49 simplex linked to the Pepperell 440 repeater.

2. Radio links between the fields and the soccer command post for the transmission of logistics. Because the radio operators at the fields were soccer personnel acting as Field Marshals, we used CB rather than ham radio. This also avoided us using ham radio for the "business" of the soccer organization.

Two hams per shift operated the CB and ham base stations, and in addition to the transmission of soccer traffic, they trained the soccer personnel in proper use of the radios and operating procedures.

In addition to the injuries that occurred, there was one case of a lost child. Both ham radio and CB were used to give a description of the child to the hams and Field Marshals at the fields and to have an appropriate person notify the police officer who was directing traffic at the corner of the access road and Hollis street (the child was found).

This was the most successful year we've had in supporting the tournament. We had twice as many people participate as in past years, and they came from Pepperell, Groton, Townsend, and Ayer, rather than from just Pepperell. The head referee said this was the best year he has seen for radio communications.

The following hams participated, and I thank them for their help!



AAGDF	KA1PEU	KA1RV
KA1ZTU	KB1FJ	KD1JY
KD2S	N1KSI	N1KTY
N1LHT	N1MAE	N1MWO
N1NAA	N1NFX	N1NDX
N1NMX	NZ1B	W7RCP
WA1MGQ	WR1Y	WX1J

If I've missed any calls, I apologize, and please call me (433-2108) so you can be listed next month. All hams that helped should have received a red soccer hat; if not, please call me.

During the past five years, our support of the tournament was under the direction of the Pepperell ARES. Beginning with this year, the support is be under the direction of the club; I fully support this change in leadership!

35th Scouting JOTA

by Stan, KD1LE

The weekend of October 17,18 Scouts (Boy, Girl, and Explorer) around the world participated in *Jamboree-On-The-Air*. The local troops (13 and 26) were on a district camporee at the fair grounds in Bolton. Friday, Den Connors (KD2S) and myself (KD1LE) set up an HF wire antenna and mast for two meter operations. Saturday morning Den and I set up HF., Two meter, and Packet operations in a pole barn near our temporary antenna farm. Later Karen Reif, KA1JVU, and Robert Reif, W1XT, joined us to support the operation.

As the boys checked through our station, they were able to try a straight key, paddle, packet operations were explained and other aspects of ham radio. The boys were also able to talk to other Scouts. We contacted a number of other JOTA stations but the distance was not important. What was most important to the boys was that they were talking to someone via radio. In the course of the afternoon the boys talked to Camp Resolute in Bolton, Hill Reservation in Wrentham, NJ., Webster Camp, Ashford, Conn. Other stations were heard from MI, PA, NJ, WI, NY and Venezuela.

Some boys brought formal written messages which we put into the Eastern Mass 2 Meter Net out of Boston.

Letters

A Question or Two for 440 MHz Folk

As you know, or should, Ben, KB1FJ owns, runs, supports and funds the local 440 repeater. While some of us in the past have helped with a few repairs to the tower and the installation of a new antenna, Ben has never asked for any monetary help. The repeater machine itself has to be sent to New York to have its input and output frequencies reversed to comply with the local coordination plan and there is some work that needs to be done to the output to get it back up to full power. Ben has also considered adding the autopatch feature. However, all these things cost money.

I propose we put together a fund to help Ben (and ultimately ourselves) do the improvements and upgrades to the repeater. So the questions I have are:

1. Would we be able to start such a fund?
2. How should we go about administering it if we decide to do so?

If you have some possible answers or comments please contact me (*not* Ben.) I discussed this with Ben but it was my idea, not his. I hope to be able to do these things to the repeater without subverting and of the authority of the repeater owner (i.e. I don't want to be "in charge" of the repeater.) So any comments, good, bad or indifferent, please call me or drop me a line.

Thanks,
Clint Talmadge, N1KGW
63 Lowell Rd.
Pepperell, MA 01463
433-9640

Note: if you use Ben's repeater, the reversal of the input and output frequencies has happened since this letter was written. That doesn't lessen the message of the letter, but it's an important operating note. --KCITD

An open letter to other Newsletter readers.

For several months now, several members of the NVARC have produced this excellent

newsletter. Patrick, KC1TD, should be congratulated on the fine work he is doing for the membership and readers.

I would like to solicit your contributions to the newsletter. For the second month in a row I have written an article which many of you have found interesting. Each and every one of you have experiences worth sharing with other members. Putting them down on paper is not difficult at all! It's really easy, even if you've never written anything before. My contributions are proof of that!

Did you meet another ham when you were on vacation last year? Did you have an interesting QSO lately? Do you have an opinion that you feel needs to be discussed (perhaps prior to the next meeting)? Write an article!!

I'm looking forward to seeing contributions from many of you (and more from me) in the near future.

Bruce Blain, K1BG

Classified Ads

Classified ad deadline is the first Thursday of the month. Member ads are published free subject to space available and reasonability guidelines which are set at the whim of the editor.

WANTED: 2M or 440 HT or mobile station. Looking in the \$100 - \$150 price range. This will be my first rig. Nothing fancy -- just something I can chat on and learn with.
Peter, N1NIX (508)433-9731

Nashoba Valley Training Net

By KB1FJ, Net Manager

What does this mean to you? "Q DE THW FHNE GHTI KAN HTAY ON 37 SK" This was sent to me the other night on the net. Now I am sure that it had a perfect meaning to the person sending it. But this is what happens, especially when you are new at this game, when you get in too much of a hurry. I know that we all want to sent fast. It is supposed to impress those around us and make them think that we have come a long way and are gooooood. But, what happens is a whole lot of confusion and wasted

time of getting repeats, etc. Slow down!!! Make everything you send count the first time. Practice -- and only practice -- will increase your speed. Sending gibberish fast is not sending fast Morse code.

Some Abbreviations for CW Work:

AA	All after	AB	All before
ABT	About	ADR	Address
AGN	Again	Bug	Semi-automatic key
B4	Before	C	Yes
CFM	Confirm; I confirm	CK	Check
CLG	Calling	CQ	Calling any station
CUD	Could	CUL	See you later
CW	Continuous wave	DX	Distance, foreign countries
ES	And, &	FB	Fine business
FM	Frequency Modulation	GA	Go ahead (or resume sending)
GB	Good-by	GE	Good evening
GG	Going	GM	Good morning
GN	Good night	GUD	Good
HR	Hear	HV	HAVE
HW	How	LID	Poor operator
MSG	Message	NCS	Net control operator
PBL	Preamble	PSE	Please
PWR	Power	Rig	Station equipment
SKED	Schedule	SRI	Sorry
T	Zero (Cut numbers)	TFC	Traffic
TMW	Tomorrow	TNX	Thanks
TU	Thank you	TKS	
VY	Very	UR-	Your; you're;
WUD	Would	URS	yours
XYL	Wife	WL	Well; will
73	Best regards	WX	Weather
		YL	Young lady
		88	Love and kisses

Did You Know?

That the Morse code custom of sending "ES" for "and"...



...comes from the land-line telegraph character for ampersand?

"Dit-long space-di-di-dit"

The Business Section

Treasurer's Report

Ben Akins, KB1FJ, Treasurer

As of 10 Oct 92 we have \$691.46 in the Bank and \$49.78 in cash. We still have money outstanding for two books from the training

class. We had very successful table sales at Deerfield. The Club made \$309.47. Thanks to all who participated and contributed.

I still have unclaimed badges. See me at the Meeting to get your badge. We still need suggestions for projects to generate funds for the Club. We still have not paid for the Class books or the Booth material. Maybe next month. Dues will be a subject at this month's meeting. I urge you to attend and express your views.

Ham class report card

by Ben, KB1FJ

The Club now officially has a VE Team. Currently the Team Liaison is Ken Atkins, **K1JKR** and the Team Contact Person is Ben Akins, **KB1FJ**. The first test that this team will give is primarily for the current class being conducted by NVARC We will not accept any walk-ins.

This being our first effort, we don't want to confuse it too much with walk-ins. However, if you want to be tested for Novice or Technician contact **KB1FJ**, tel. 508-433-9227. *You must pre-register*. We will only accept 25 examinees at this sitting. Sorry.

- The Time is: **6:30 p.m.**
- The Date is: **9 December 1992**
- The Place is: The meeting room, upstairs in the **Groton Fire House**.
- Cost is: **\$5.40** for Technician, Free for Novices

NEXT MONTH:

December 17th should be a busy meeting. We have **Elections** - a whole new slate of club officers need to be elected. We need volunteers. We need people to elect them. Please join us.

Because we can't ask a speaker to sit through electioneering, Bruce has scheduled a **Home-brew Night**. This is a ham version of show-and-tell where members bring in things they have built and tell (lie?) about what it is and how or if it works. Should be a lot of fun -- details to be worked out at the November meeting.

SO, HOW COPY?

I hope that you're finding the newsletter is getting better with each issue. This issue is especially good since there are a number of new authors. Thanks to everyone for your work. Keep writing!

Don't forget!!! Elections next month! We need candidates, we need an elections committee and we need voters. At least two of our current slate of officers want to step down.

Club elections are not like government elections -- you don't have to desperately want it and stage a grim campaign like the recent presidential elections, you just have to say you have the time and don't mind doing it if the voters would like you to. If you have the time please step forward.

-- **KC1TD**

Frequencies to remember

NOTE THAT THE KB1FJ REPEATER HAS REVERSED ITS INPUT AND OUTPUT FREQUENCIES!!

- The local 440 repeater is KB1FJ -- 442.9(out) / 447.9 (in)
- The PART 440 repeater is WB1GOF -- 442.45(out)/ 447.45(in)
- 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.

EMERGENCY - Direct Dial

By Ben, KB1FJ

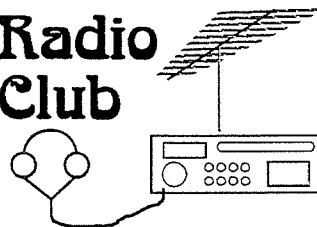
Connect to the PART repeater **WB1GOF** on **442.450 +5 MHz**. To bring up the autopatch just press the * (star) button the one of the following 3 digit numbers to access a direct line to the Police. Identify yourself by name and Callsign, give your location (as exactly as possibly) and explain the reason for the call. When you are finished, you only need to press the # (pound sign) to hang-up the patch. Of course when pressing the * or # keys you must also have the push-to-talk key pressed as well.

Ma State	911
Groton	916
Westford	910
Littleton	912
Tyngsboro	915
Acton	913
Chelmsford	917

Carlisle	918
Lowell	914

If you need Police or Emergency Vehicles and are not in one of these listed towns, just call the town you think is closest to you. They can all talk to each other. The main thing is, to get your call made as soon as possible.

Rashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club



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

Membership \$12 January to December.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Pepperell VFW hall.

The newsletter is published monthly. Submissions, corrections and inquiries should be directed to the newsletter editor Patrick Taber, KC1TD. Text files on IBM-PC formatted disk preferred, but not required.

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