



# SIGNAL

June 1994 Volume 3 Number 06

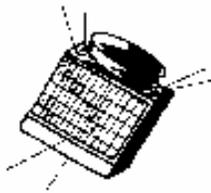
## The President's Column

I didn't cover much of the CEMARC meeting in the last issue since I was short of space. But I wanted to mention a few more points. I was impressed at the amount of Public Service work put in by area Hams. Each club had two or three events in the recent past. Whether they be; VE sessions, classes, helping with a parade, a charity fund raiser or a local race. I have always impressed by the amount of time Hams give to their communities. Another subject was Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day in Sept. Many clubs set up displays that weekend at Malls or other public places to show off Ham Radio to the public. We may choose to do ours at the Septemberfest in Groton. It may not be the same date but it is so close that we probably can't do two events.

We still need a board member to round out the Officers...Stan

## At The Last Meeting

The Speaker for the May meeting was Warren Rothberg WB1HBB Vice Director, New England Division ARRL. He was accompanied by his wife Donna KA1RWZ.



Warren showed a video and talked about the various Amateur Satellites and Modes of operation. He emphasized that, while you can have very specialized and expensive equipment, you can also make satellite contacts with regular type equipment, even a hand-held transceiver.

Kevin Malloy from the Groton Road Race thanked us for our support and presented the Club with a check for \$250. This donation is to be used for the support of our school activities and will help pay for books or equipment as we develop these programs. We have supported the Groton Road Race for several years now. The race has continued to grow over the years and now at about 900 runners is quite an event and a challenge for communications.

This year we even got some of the newly licensed Hams from the Groton Middle School to help out on the race course with radios. With the help of Earl WR1Y they upgraded to Tech the week before the race.

We also had a few words from one of our newest members, Sergei UA3AGS (Moscow). Sergei presented the club with a check for \$100 to be used for children's activities. He was impressed by the number of youth in our club. He said that the Moscow Club has few youth or women. Sergei Has visited the area often over the last few years and, when in town, can often be found at the Saturday breakfast meetings.

Bruce K1BG talked about Field Day and people signed up to organize designated parts of the event. There are still plenty of openings. There is a place at Field Day for everyone whether you want to organize a station, operate, watch, or run the BBQ. Two years ago at my first Field Day I helped set up and then logged contacts for the CW operators. This year I will be one (CW op that is).

Stan KD1LE

## From the Video Library

The Video Library now has four titles available to loan. Unless the demand increases I will loan them from meeting to meeting. The titles are;

- The Last Voice From Kuwait**
- The all China DF Competition**
- Your League at Work**
- Signal to Noise Story**

You can get them anytime you can catch me at home, and I will bring the available tapes to each meeting.

Stan

### The Treasurer's Report

Greetings again. I'm pleased (and relieved!) to say that I survived the onslaught of folk handing me membership renewals at the May meeting. Thank you all! However, don't feel you have to wait for a meeting to send things in; mail to the club's PO Box is also welcomed. Two members sent their ARRL renewals through this office, too; thank you both.

The May meeting brought us a nice surprise; two very generous donations were made to start an Education Fund targeted especially at our young members. The first contribution to the Fund was made by the Squannacook River Runners on behalf of the Groton Road Race. This donation was made in recognition of the club's assistance with the race this past April. The Squannacook River Runners pushed our fund out of the block with an opening balance of \$250. The second contribution to the Education Fund came from a good friend of the club, Sergei Chikutov UA3AGS. Sergei hails from Moscow and is frequently in the US on business, where he occasionally shows up to join the Saturday morning breakfast gang. In a presentation to the club, Sergei said he was very impressed by the number of young members we had and to encourage programs especially for them, he made a most generous contribution of \$100 to add to the Education Fund.

Thank you both very much, Squannacook River Runners and Sergei, UA3AGS. The Education Fund balance now stands at \$350.00.

Prior to the June Board meeting the club coffers held \$850.54. We still have a number of overdue memberships; please check the mailing label on your newsletter to be sure yours is not one of them.



Education Fund	\$350.00.
General Club Coffers	\$850.54
Total	\$1200.54

### A Call For More Articles

Have you read an interesting amateur radio magazine or book lately? Attended the monthly meeting of another radio club? Having trouble getting people interested in Civil Defense or ARES activities?

I would be interested in hearing more about these activities, and I'm willing to bet that I'm not alone. Instead of saving it for Saturday morning breakfast (which usually draws no more than a dozen or so people), why not share your experiences here on the pages of the Signal with the rest of us. Writing an article for the newsletter is really easy.

I took creative writing during my senior year in high school, and my teacher must be rolling (with laughter) in his grave (I'm not really sure if he is dead yet). On the second day of class, he read my first assignment out loud to the class as a perfect example of how not to write a paper. My complete humiliation was only rescued by the teacher's stepdaughter, who was also taking the class. She took the opportunity to get into a heated argument with her stepfather, with the rest of the class watching in amazement, as to why my paper was worthy (of what I'll never know). By the third day she was gone, and I had to suffer for the rest of the semester. And now you've had to suffer, too!

My point is this. This newsletter needs contributions from our members, and our members want to read about almost anything you want to contribute. A club's newsletter is important if the club is to grow, and the newsletter should have more in it than announcements and reminders. I know that if I can write an article, then you can too.

Did you teach one of the novice classes (as I did)? Did you go to an interesting hamfest or flea market (or Dayton perhaps)? Have you had an interesting conversation on the air lately (or not lately)? WRITE ABOUT IT! PLEASE!

### Board Meeting Notes

The June Board meeting was a busy one. Here are a few of the issues/actions that were addressed:

Earl Russell was appointed Public Information Officer. He will be handling press releases and other types of publicity as needed for our activities, classes, etc.

We will be sending out a copy of the newsletter with a cover letter to area Hams who are not yet members of NVARC. There are sev-

eral hundred in the area covered by the club. We will try 25 or 30 a month using the current newsletter.

We will have another Novice/Tech class in Groton next Fall and believe there are already more than enough interested students. We would like to know if there is interest in having a General Class session scheduled. Possibly run after the Novice/Tech.

Bruce K1BG reported that Field Day will be at the Groton Middle School and we went over the plans for it.

We have been asked to provide communications for the Pepperell Road Race on July 1. We are awaiting more information on that.

The purchase of an ARRL Library book set was approved. It will be donated to the Lawrence Library (Pepperell). The set includes about 20 ARRL publications. It includes a variety of books like; mysteries and adventure stories, the ARRL Handbook, the licensing series, the Antenna books. The library had already been approached and approved the donation.

### Found on Packet

"From: callsign deleted  
To:GIMME@USBBS  
Subject: Give me a radio

I want a free radio. Send me one today."

Some nerve huh!

### About Our Meeting Place

The VFW has been generous enough to allow us to use the hall for two years now and I have scheduled us in for the coming Year. Since we are not paying for the space we shouldn't leave it for them to clean up. All your glasses, papers, etc. should be properly taken care of before you leave...Thanks Stan

### Trivia

Last months Trivia question was: What year was the first Amateur Satellite launched and what message did it transfer? Answer: December 12, 1961 at 20:42 GMT, Discoverer 36 was launched with Oscar 1 on-board as the first amateur satellite. It transmitted a Morse code message "HI" ( .... .. ). HI was selected because it was the most energy conservative word. All dot's meant lower duty cycle.

The Trivia question for July: Actually, there are several; Answer the following True or False.

T F The U.S. has always had 10 Call Areas 1-0 in Amateur Call-Signs.

T F Before 1912 Call-Signs Weren't Issued To Amateurs.

T F ARRL First President Hiram Percy Maxim's Call Sign in 1911 was SNY.

T F Washington Conference of 1927 assigned first International Prefixes.

T F Amateur's were not allowed to transmit during World War II.

Now it's your turn. Send trivia questions for August Issue to Scott Pyles, WX1J. Callbook address or via NVARC Post Box, or Bring them to the meeting.

### This Months Speaker

With Field Day immediately following the June Meeting, what better topics to discuss than an ultimate field-day. Towne, W1QLT of Acton, MA will be the featured guest speaker this month.

Towne's topic will include a fascinating tale of DXpeditioning to a small atoll just off the coast of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. Besides the great ham operating and scenery, Towne will reveal a closer look at the biology and environment of this unusual place.

Then, the Field Day committee will be revealing NVARC's plans for **Field Day 94**. Our own DXpedition. This year's field site has been chosen, it's accessible to all and there is room for everyone to enjoy watching, doing, being, listening or even operating if you want to.

For July, we're looking into Amateur TV. There are several other opportunities, but it's not settled, perhaps you have a suggestion.

See you at the meeting, 73 Scott.

We will also be putting the final touches on the Field Day planning.

### Dues and Stuff

This is a restatement of last months column. In trying to make a simpler and more accurate database of the members we have standardized on one software package to keep track of member information and print mail labels with the membership expiration date on them. This means I can not customize the mail labels the way they were when the labels were printed from a separate text file. But with two files it was impossible to keep them accurate. So with the

new system everyone will know when their membership is up. I also wanted to mention that you can renew by mail to our PO Box which will keep Ralph from being overwhelmed at the meetings. After the June meeting we will drop those that have not renewed from the club rolls.. That will have given everyone two meetings to catch up.

Stan

### Field Day 94 Update



As most of you gathered from our last meeting, Field Day is fast approaching. This year, Field Day will be on Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26. We have applied for a site located to the right and behind the Groton Middle School. Confirmation of this site is expected before our next meeting.

Our planned operation currently looks like this: Two high frequency stations, one novice station, and a VHF/UHF station. Plenty for hams of all license classes and all experience levels.

Additionally, we will have both packet radio and satellite capabilities. If you want to learn something new, here is your chance!

While many of you volunteered last meeting, there is still a lot of work to be done, and I'm still looking for volunteers to help.

Setup will begin on Saturday morning around 9 AM. The local 2 meter frequency of 146.49 MHZ will be monitored. CU there!

PS. I would like to thank the following individuals for volunteering to co-ordinate the following activities:

Scott, WX1J	HF station 1
Jeremy, KB1AWE	Novice station
Bob, W1XP	VHF/UHF station, satellite station
Stan, KD1LE	Packet station, computer network
Ben, KB1FJ	Generator

We could still use more help with another HF station, site preparation, tables and chairs, etc., publicity, and

whatever else you are interested in. All of you volunteers should rush forward and call me at 448-9438 just as soon as you read this!

### ARRL Notes



There have been some recent FCC rulings on responsibility for message content relating to BBS. I have the Full text if someone is interested.

Bill HR 2623 in Congress would protect Amateur Radio Operators under a "Good Samaritan" blanket. There are similar laws protecting other specific volunteer groups when operating in good faith during public service events. All Hams are encouraged to support this legislation.

There have been several articles written on communications in follow up to the San Francisco and Northridge, Ca. earthquakes. The reason this may affect you is that you may be asked to send a Health and Welfare (H & W) message into such an area after a disaster. First the answer is no. The standard procedure is no incoming traffic for at least 48 hours. Often it stretches to the first week. There are many reasons for this and I will list a few. The Hams in the affected area are most likely involved in; their own emergency recovery, Providing communications for area emergency services (i.e. Police, Fire, Red Cross, etc.), organizing outgoing H & W traffic. It is more important for them to handle the emergency by the priorities at their end. If we send messages into the area we are setting their priorities. It is more efficient for them to handle messages that are concentrated from shelters and the Red Cross than to be chasing around, under possibly dangerous conditions, to deliver a message. It may not be possible at their end to pick up the phone to deliver a message. And, even if they can, they may be tying up phone lines that are already overburdened with real emergency business. If for example we look at Northridge, there are 361 Hams listed there. If the other half million or so of us each sent one message they would still be digging out. Another way to look at it is; a person in the affected area can send out one message that could be spread to 10 people outside the problem area without impacting important local traffic as opposed to 10 people sending messages into the congested all needing to be handled by the few Hams there. I

heard messages taken to go into Northridge that did not leave this area for a week. If you give someone the impression that your going to get a message in there quickly they may be disappointed. That will leave a bad impression of Amateur Radio. So the procedure is no messages in for at least 48 hours and then check with the Section Traffic Manager or one of the regular NTS nets before accepting messages. The decision to accept incoming traffic should be made by those in the affected area.

Stan (the traffic handler)

### NVARC QSL Bureau

The NVARC QSL Bureau made a card shipment right after the last meeting. This is becoming a regular affair. We shipped five pounds of cards to the Bureau. Now were QSLing!

The Deal is hard to beat, it's free, if you are an ARRL and NVARC member. The club picks up the per pound and shipping costs. Some negotiation required for you contesters. If you need info or have some cards to send ,bring them (cards or questions) to the next meeting. If we do trek to the ARRL I will drop all the cards we have accumulated off directly as the next shipment.

Stan NVARC QSL Mgr.

### Joshua James

Captain Joshua James, USLSS,(1850-1902)

Special Event Amateur Radio Station Hull, Massachusetts, USA, celebrates its beloved and most well known hero, Captain Joshua James of the United States Life Saving Service and Massachusetts Humane Society. For more than 40 winters, the keeper led his men under sail and oar.

"They had to go out,  
but did not have to come back."

The Special Event Station will be operating from one of Captain James' stations, at the Hull Life-saving Museum, 1117 Nantasket Ave, Hull Ma. Volunteer operators welcome, please bring your license. Contact Bill N1IPQ@KA1RCI for more info.

July 30, 1994, Saturday  
1500 to 2100 UTC

July 31, 1994, Sunday 1600 to  
2100 hours UTC

Frequencies +/- QRM:

28.350, 14.270, 7.125 (CW), 2M, 220, 440 contingent on staffing and QRM: 160M, 80M, 17M, 6M and all mode 2M, 440

QSL: photo depicting Captain James and Hull Lifesaving Museum Box 221, Hull, MA, USA

The Museum is open weekends, Monday Holidays, and school vacations.

### Mark Your Calendar



The Harvard Bike Race Sunday June 26th. Contact Duane KD1JY for info.

There will be SkyWarn training for those interested in July or August. Since the National Weather Service has combined offices and move to Taunton it has been delayed

Joshua James special event station at the Joshua James Museum in Hull. July 30 11-5:00, July 31 12-5:00

The Eastern States Exposition Sept. 16 - Oct. 2

Framingham Flea Market Sept. 25

Boxboro Convention -- Oct. 1,2

### Public Service Log



The Harvard Bike Race is going to be (run) wheeled June 26th.

This falls at the end of Field Day as usual. As

Duane has stated, there isn't anything that can be done about the schedule conflict. Like Field Day their schedule is part of a larger plan. Duane is coordinating the effort and needs 10 or 12 volunteers for the event. This is an opportunity, for those who are not into Field Day or only want to put in a few hours there, to help out. Because of its size, this is not as intense as the Groton Road Race. So it is a good place to get practice working in a net.

Stan

### Happenings

The Waltham repeaters went through some tough times lately when vandals burned the building part on the fire tower that supports the antennas. Several of the pigtails that connected the hardline to the antennas needed to be replaced and one of the sections of hardline needed to be cut back since it was shorted.

Bob, W1XP and myself were among eight volunteers who spent five hours doing various maintenance. The activity was organized by Andy WA1GEP, the trustee of the 146.640 Waltham machine. Bob took one of the exciting jobs, working high on the tower with four other brave souls. It was a beautiful day, and I could only imagine the great view from up there. Maybe I'll see it next time. Myself, I gave the blockhouse below a fresh coat of paint and supported the crew aloft.

How groups work together always interests me, and this one was a good example. Many things were going on simultaneously cleaning up debris, painting, building cables, and work on the tower. Everyone just did something and it all got done. Great job! For more information about the repeater association contact:

Waltham Amateur Radio Association  
PO Box 411  
Waltham, Ma. 02154

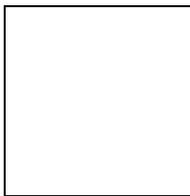
Stan KD1LE

### The Swap Shoppe

IBM PC std power supply, Monochrome monitor, Heathkit H8 computer/terminal, Serial printer printer buffer, Modems, daisy wheel printers, Hallicrafters receiver, Radio Shack receiver

....call Stan KD1LE

### Field Trip?



Can you identify this antenna farm? Probably not. Its just a diagram out of the ARRL Handbook (I tried to use a picture of the actual

League antenna's and ran into some snags). But what if it were the real League antenna farm. Would you have recognized it? Have you ever been there? League headquarters in Newington CT. is only a few hours away. It would make a good summer field trip for the club. If there is enough interest we can arrange a July or August trip (we have to give advanced notice if the group is large). There are guided tours of the departments, a museum, and of course W1AW itself. The tours are at 9, 10, 11 AM and 1, 2, 3 PM. Also, the station is available to be run by

licensed amateurs during certain hours. You must bring your license for this. Sounds like fun to me...any interest?

Stan

### Elmers

We have quite a list of Elmers willing to help others with almost any subject relating to Ham Radio. The problem is that they are not being asked for help. Maybe no one needs help. More likely people don't know how to get in touch with the right person. Should we publish the "duty Elmers for the month" in the newsletter? We just need to know how they can best help you. Helping along a new Ham is part of the fun of Amateur Radio. So, let us have some fun. Call or ask at a meeting if you need some help.



### Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box # 900  
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

Pres.: Stan Pozerski, KD1LE  
V Pres.: Scott Pyles, WX1J  
Secretary: Duane Long, KD1JY  
Treasurer: Ralph Swick, KD1SM  
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
PIO: Earl Russell WR1Y

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month - 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell VFW hall. Talk-in 146.490 simplex

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 acceptable.

Packet address: PEPMBX (145.09 MHz)