



# SIGNAL

September 1995 Volume 4 Number 9

## Notice!! This Months Meeting at the Pepperell Community Center.

### From The President's Desk

I would like to encourage members to submit articles to the newsletter. They can either be current for one of the next few newsletters or of a continuing kind like a column in the newspaper. If you have a single article that is long we can spread it across a couple of issues.



I could also use articles that show up in other newsletters or on packet, they often indicate that they may be reprinted

if credit is given to the source. Anything of general interest is a candidate. I monitor the regular BBS and Cluster traffic. But there are other sources I probably don't have access to or time to read.

Remember, the next meeting is at the Pepperell Community Center.

Also, since the one rain storm of the summer hit Sunday, the Groton Septemberfest was postponed till next weekend. Hope to see some of you there.  
Stan KD1LE

### This Month and Beyond

This months meeting will be held at the Pepperell Community Center. Just off the Rt. 111/Rt. 113 Rotary.

The speaker for this month is Ed Weiss W1NXC. The subject of Ed's talk will be "electrical safety at home, at work, and in the radio shack".

If you know anyone looking for a Novice/Tech class the one in Groton is starting September 26th. It will be held at the Groton Center Fire Station at 7:00 PM



Next months speaker will be Phil Temples K9HI the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager.  
See you there Stan

### ARRL Convention (Manchester)

I'll wrap up the convention VE session that I reported on last month with what I think are some pretty impressive statistics for a VE session. On Saturday July 29th We processed 140 candidates and administered 243 exam elements (40 CW, 203 written). With the help of the automation and the work of some on Sunday, the paperwork was finished. It was hand carried to the ARRL on Monday. The package was processed in record time and data sent to the FCC. Licenses were issued on Wednesday! They showed up on the FCC database Thursday.

The result of this effort is 50 new amateurs and 21 additional upgrades.

The next VE session at Nashua is Dec. 2 at 9:00 AM.  
Stan

## At The Last Meeting

Secretary notes for August;

Stan opened the meeting and then passed it to Ralph.

Ralph then passed out copies of the QRZ database to the people who had signed up for them.

Stan brought up the idea of moving our meetings to the Community Center at the 111-113 rotary in Pepperell. He is going to apply for it but we might not get it. The advantages at the Community Center are that there is a kitchen and it is more "family" like unlike the VFW with the sometimes wild bar!!

WA1TAC won the 50/50 raffle. He received \$6.00. N1VAV won the classy junk first followed by N1PIP and then KD1SM.

- Next the meeting was passed over to the speaker, Bill, N1AU, the YCCC (Yankee Clipper Contest Club) representative for Eastern Massachusetts.

Bill has been contesting for about 20 years and has been a ham for 40+ years. He spoke about contest operating in general and the rules of some of the bigger contests. He also discussed the many ways you could enter a contest. On your own, as multiple operators, or as a club. Here he added his plug for the YCCC.

He gave an excellent demonstration on K1EA's CT software version 9.24.

Bill also told us a lot of helpful things to do before and during a contest.

73's and see you at the next meeting!!

Jeremy KB1AWE

## MIR

From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington, CT August 23, 1995  
To all radio amateurs  
SB SPACE ARL ARLS012  
ARLS012 Amateur radio on MIR

German Cosmonaut Thomas Reiter, DF4TR, will join the Russian space station MIR, and operate signing DP0MIR, during the European Space Agency's "EUROMIR 95" mission beginning September 2, 1995.

Reiter will use the 2-meter FM rig aboard MIR during the 135 days planned for his flight. Primary frequencies to be used (preferably in split mode) are 145.800, 145.550, and perhaps 145.200 MHz.

QSLs for DP0MIR should be sent to DARC QSL bureau.

## Sun Spots

From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT August 23, 1995  
To all radio amateurs  
SB SPCL ARL ARLX046  
ARLX046 Sunspot hints new cycle

Astronomers at the California Institute of Technology say they have identified the first new sunspot in the next sunspot cycle. Scientists at Caltech's Big Bear Solar Observatory in Big Bear City, California, photographed the spot on August 12.

"This makes us happy," said Hal Zirin, professor of astrophysics at Caltech and director of the Big Bear facility. "The sun is a lot more interesting to study when things are going on." Early in the 11-year sunspot cycle, sunspots appear rarely and at relatively high solar latitudes around 30 to 35 degrees, then increase in frequency and appear at lower latitudes until they reach sunspot maximum, Caltech said. After this peak in activity, the number of sunspots slowly declines, and they appear ever closer to the sun's equator until they reach a relatively quiet phase called sunspot minimum.

The sun has been in a quiet period through much of 1994 and this year, with a few spots showing up near the equator. The new sunspot found on August 12 appeared at a solar latitude of 21 degrees, and its magnetic polarity is opposite to that seen over the last decade, a key to identifying it as "the manifestation" of the start of a new cycle, Caltech said.

Scientists at Caltech said they expected an early beginning to Cycle 23, but not this early. "Sunspots in the new cycle should rapidly become more common and reach a high level of activity in 1998 or 1999," Caltech said.

## Former Member Info

For those who remember Clint KD1OL, I received a packet message from him recently. He's slowly getting set up down in Texas. His BBS is N5AUX. He says Hi to all.

Stan

## \$The Treasurer's Report\$

Income for August was \$21.00. Big expenses this month as the annual liability insur-

ance premium comes due. Total expenses were \$369.46.

Current fund balances are

General Fund: 400.54

Education Fund: \$207.34

QRZ! Special Club price; You'll not find a better price on the QRZ! Ham Radio CDROM at any flea market. I'm hoping that this can be a regular feature for club members. If you are interested in placing a standing order for each new issue of QRZ!, please let me know.



73 de Ralph KD1SM

### Public Service

From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT August 15, 1995  
To all radio amateurs  
SB SPCL ARL ARLX043  
ARLX043 Oklahoma hams lauded

Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles has entered into the Congressional Record a tribute to volunteers who helped in the aftermath of the April bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, including Amateur Radio operators.



Citing an "outpouring of love, selfless effort, and resources," Nickles said the community is "indebted to those volunteers who created (a) silver lining" to the dark cloud of the tragedy.

"Specifically," Nickles said, "Amateur Radio operators provided an essential service to rescue operations. Within minutes of the attack, operators were on the scene providing an emergency communication network that allowed for the organization of supplies as well as firemen, policemen, and rescue crews from countless communities. "Their contribution of 360 hours of service was made possible by donations from electronics companies such as the Oklahoma Community (Communications) Center," Nickles said.

Sen. Nickles's remarks were published in the August 11, 1995, Congressional Record, thanks in part to the efforts of ARRL Oklahoma Public Information Coordinator Thomas M. Webb, WA9AFM. An article by Webb about Amateur Radio's role in this matter appears in September QST. Also helping, in Washington, was George Stephens, WB3DAC, who is the staff of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, of which Sen. Nickles is chairman. (Stephens also is president of the Capital Hill Amateur Radio Society, W3USS.)

### FCC Plans

SB QST ARL ARLB080  
ARLB080 FCC plan considers RFI

The FCC is considering "privatizing" the resolution of radio frequency interference to consumer electronics devices. Under the plan, private repair shops would be used to fix problems "in the field."

FCC representatives spelled out the Commission's concept at a meeting in Tampa, saying "Since it is not feasible for the Commission to attempt to resolve these complaints" (the most of which come from Citizens Band operation), "it is our policy not to investigate interference to home electronic equipment. Likewise, we do not offer any protection from interference."

Over past several years, the FCC has been "unofficially" out of the "retail" RFI business, and parties who contact the FCC about an interference problem are asked to work together toward a solution.

Depending on what the local repair shop found, either the shop would fix the equipment or, in the case of a violation of FCC rules, the service shop would refer the case back to the FCC for possible FCC action. The question of who would pay was not addressed.

The ARRL, which had responded to an FCC request for input before the meeting, was represented at the meeting by several local volunteer officials, in consultation with ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, KA1CV.

### Monserrat

From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT August 30, 1995  
To all radio amateurs  
SB SPCL ARL ARLX048  
ARLX048 Accident on Monserrat

Bobby Martin, VP2MO, has been seriously injured, and his wife, "Mae" Martin, VP2MN, has died in an accident on the island of Montserrat.

The two had temporarily relocated to Antigua following volcanic activity that began on the island in late July. They were back on Montserrat where the accident, involving an automobile and a British military vehicle, took place on Sunday, August 27.

Bobby Martin has been hospitalized at Hoberton Hospital on Antigua and, although seriously injured, is expected to recover, according to those who have spoken to attending physicians there.

Most residents south of Montserrat's volcano (Soufriere, 3000 feet high) have been relocated to the north side of the tiny island, farther away from danger. The volcano continues to "rumble and spew ash," according to Perry Brittain, VP2MR/W5STI.

Bobby Martin has been well known for many years as one of the Caribbean's most active amateurs. In 1990 he received a British knighthood for his work following Hurricane Hugo, which devastated Montserrat in September 1989.

Stories about Montserrat appeared in QST for March 1990 and February 1991.

A funeral for Mae Martin was expected to be held sometime this week, on Montserrat.

## DX Report

DX Bulletin 46 ARLD046  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT August 31, 1995  
To all radio amateurs

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Joe, K8JP, Tedd, KB8NW, Joe, NJ1Q, the OPDX Bulletin, and Contest Corral column from QST. Thanks to all.

SRI LANKA, 4S. HB9BRM, will be active September 14 to October 3 as 4S/HB9BRM on 80 through 15 meters. QSL to home call.

NEPAL, 9N. Roger, G3SXW, should be active as either 9N1SXW or 9N1/G3SXW September 12 to 21. This will be an all band CW only effort. Try 1827, 3507, 7007, 10107, 14023, 18073, 21023, 24893 and 28023 KHz, QSX up 2 to 5 KHz. QSL direct to G3SXW or via the bureau.

ZAIRE, 9Q. Joe, G3MRC, is on as 9Q5MRC. He has been on 18081 KHz around 1845z. Joe also has plans to operate from Bu-

rundi, 9U. 9Q5TR can sometimes be found on the 14226 DX Net at 2230z.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Nob, JA7AYE, is signing VP5/JA7AYE. He has been heard on 14010 and 14195 KHz throughout the day. Also check 7016 KHz at around 0315z. QSL via JA7ZF.

SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON ISLANDS, FP. K9GS, ND9O, N9AU and W9OP will be active October 25 to 31. They will sign TO5M during the CQ WW SSB Contest. Outside of contest hours they will sign FP/home calls. QSL to K9GS for all calls via CBA.

MADAGASCAR, 5R. JF1MGI has re-scheduled his DXpedition. It is now to take place during October and November.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF8. Tosy, JA6VZB, and Seiji, JH6RTO, will be on from Little Cayman signing ZF2TY/8 and ZF2SF/8, respectively, September 24 to 28. CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV is planned for this all band effort. On September 28 and 29 they may be active from Grand Cayman. QSL ZF2TY via JA6BSM and ZF2SF via JH6RTO. Buzz, N5FTR, will be active on 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meter SSB September 3 to 9. QSL via his CBA or the W5 bureau.

SAINT MAARTEN, PJ7. Mike, K6URI, will be on as PJ7/K6URI September 9 to 23. Listen for his CW and SSB on 40, 20 and 15 meters. QSL via K6URI.

ANTIGUA, V2. Stephen, WF2S, will be active as V26Z September 17 to 30 on CW and RTTY. He will be in the CQ WW RTTY Contest. QSL via WF2S. Bob, W2KKZ, will be signing V26Y September 24 to 30, mostly on CW. QSL via W2KKZ. Some Frankford Radio Club members will activate V26B in the CQ WW SSB Contest October 28 and 29. Outside contest hours, listen for N3BNA as V26A, WT3Q as V26B, N3ADL as V26DX, AB2E as V26E, KA2AEV as V26R, K3MQH as V26T, WA2UDT as V26U, KF3P and WB2P. QSL via home calls except V26A via WB3DNA.

CALL SIGN NEWS. SM7HCI reports new novice licenses will be issued in Sweden. Listen for SH, SI and 7S calls on 3.5, 7, 21 and 28 MHz.

## Board Meeting Notes

This month's board meeting was held September 14. We discussed or acted on the following subjects;

Bills, club financial status, and approval of payment of the club liability insurance.

Since we received approval to use the Pepperell Community Center, we agreed to move the September meeting there. At this point the intent is that the move is permanent. We lose a couple of benefits that the VFW had. But what we hope to gain is a quieter location that is more suitable for kids and families.

We decided to again offer to run a General Class license class. We have enough volunteers to run it, we just need students. We'll try for sign ups at the meeting to determine the interest level.

It was suggested, and again we're offering to run a slow speed 10M net. In the past the net ran Tuesday and Thursdays at 8:00 and lasted 30 to 60 minutes. It would be an opportunity to improve your code speed in a relaxed environment. After everyone gets comfortable we could also work on net procedures that would be used in regular traffic type nets. Like the class, we will be checking for interest at the meeting.

More donations to the NMRHS radio activity were listed at the meeting. Several books were donated by W1LUG and an Isopole 2 meter antenna was donated by W1KIM via KA4FRH.

We decided to add the licensed students at the to the Newsletter mailing list.

We discussed how we might support JOTA (the Scouting Jamboree on the Air) which takes place Oct 21,22. No much information was available and no decision was reached on this.

The Groton Novice/Tech class will begin September 26 at the Groton Center Fire Station. Notices were placed around Groton and Pepperell.

We also discussed Field Day and The plans we should be making now for it to happen next June. We will be looking for some people to take responsibility for one aspect/station (ie. HF, Novice) If we start now it won't be so much work and we won't ve disappointed next year. We will discuss it at the next meeting.

We went over the plans and equipment to support the Groton Septemberfest. More members are needed to mix with the crowd and answer questions.

## **NVARC QSL BUREAU**

Last month we sent a half pound of cards to the bureau. Some new call signs have showed up in the stack. Its nice to see some HF activity.

Any time the stack gets up near a pound, out they go. This varies between monthly to every other month. But I try to make a shipment at least every other month no matter how many there are.

Anyway, bring your cards and QST label to the meeting or to breakfast and the club will take care of the shipping and bureau fee.

Stan

## **NMRHS Radio**

Things continue to move along slowly. With the start of school the antenna work will start. They will be building antennas to get on the Novice bands with several other schools.

They are mounting a mast to support one end of their dipole, the other end will tie to the existing structure.

I have gotten together donations of a straight key, a paddle, and a microphone to be used with the Scout. They will have to wire these to connectors provided with the radio. I also received a donation of some coax length's which should give them enough for several runs to the roof.

If they have (or get) someone with a Technician Class licensee, a packet station would be a great addition. Anyone interested in collecting parts for one? They have several computers there so they only need the radio stuff.

Stan

## **Buy/Sell/Trade**

For sale or trade Epson, Equity I computer (IBM XT Compatible) with, 40 Mb HD, 5-1/4 floppy 360 K floppy, 640 K RAM, CGA monitor, plus some AT clone parts.

Johnson Viking Challenger transmitter, less crystals, and VFO. Condition unknown.

Would like to buy or trade for a 2 meter mobile or handheld in working condition (preferred).

Call Bob, KA1ZAQ, 597-6608 after 5:00 PM.

## **Reciprocal Agreements**

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT September 8, 1995

To all radio amateurs

ARLB085 3rd-party, reciprocal news

The Federal Communications Commission has added three countries to the list of those with which the United States has an Amateur Radio reciprocal operating arrangement.

They are Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The FCC also has added the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the list of countries with which the US has a third-party traffic agreement. A visitor to the US from a "reciprocal country" may obtain a permit valid for one year by sending a completed FCC Form 610-A application and a copy of his license to the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania office.

Complete lists of US third-party traffic countries and reciprocal operating arrangement countries are available by sending an SASE to ARRL Headquarters, or electronically through the sources listed in "How to Contact the ARRL" in each QST.

### Postcards

Hope everyone got their postcard with the Septemberfest info. Since a few people were unable to attend the last meeting we had some info to get out before the next regular meeting. It was also something we should be able to do for just this reason. I was pleased to see that it didn't take much work to laser print them all. It's a good means of reaching everyone. Stan

### Flea Markets

September:  
24 Framingham

October:  
6,7 Hosstraders, Rochester, NH.  
8, 9 AM-3 PM Nutmeg Hamfest/ARRL  
CT. State Convention, Durham, CT.  
15 MIT Cambridge, Ma.  
28 NE Antique RC Flea, Plymouth, Ma.  
29 HCRA Flea Southwick, Ma.

November:  
12, 9 AM-4 PM Northeastern CT. Hamfest,  
Putnam CT.

### From the Video Library

The Video Library has seven titles to loan.

- **The Last Voice From Kuwait**
- **The all China DF Competition**
- **Your League at Work**
- **Signal to Noise Story**
- **Gonzaga Prep HS Radio Club Satellite Communications**

- **The New World of Amateur Radio**

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

### Resource List

Construction	Earl Russell	448-5822
DX	Bruce Blain	772-4138
NTS, MARS	Stan Pozerski	433-5090
RACES	Ben Akins	433-9227
TCP/IP	Ralph Swick	582-7351



**Nashoba Valley  
Amateur Radio Club**

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Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month - 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Center  
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)