



# SIGNAL



July 1996 Volume 5 Number 7

## Presidents Report

With the summer recess we have an opportunity to step back from the frenzied activity of the past year. We have a lot to feel good about, a growing, active club. During the previous month, the club participated in the Pepperell 4<sup>th</sup> July Parade, Field Day and Pepperell Road Race.



With all this activity we should not become complacent. Each of us have made a commitment to the hobby by putting in the effort of studying and passing exams.. We should continually strive to improved our skills, technical ability and involvement in some capacity with the club.. The rewards come not only from better understanding of the hobby, but in unexpected areas like work, community and personal satisfaction.

In August I hope to see many of you for our annual cook-out.

Erik KA1RV

## Please Note No July Meeting

Last months calendar incorrectly shows a meeting in July. We have no July meeting. The next "meeting" is the cookout in August.

I have reprinted the mailing labels to show the current membership expiration. If

there are any discrepancies please let the treasurer (Ralph KD1SM) know.

The E-mail address for the WRC-97 correspondence was truncated from the article last month. It is; [wrc@fcc.gov](mailto:wrc@fcc.gov)

The snail mail address is;  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

## This Month and Beyond

This month we have no regular meeting. That will let us catch our breath after field day. Next month is the cookout. Details will be in the next newsletter. The cookout will be on the regular club meeting night. It is a bring your own burgers or whatever type of thing at the KD1LE estate. We will provide the water (in the pool, bring bathing suits), the grill for cooking, the condiments and the drinks (soft ones). Just bring yourself, the family, some chairs, and your food.

## 2M/440 Band Info

During the cabinet meeting there was lengthy discussion on the history and current status of the proposals by the Little LEO group. The bottom line is that your letters and e-mail are still needed. The feeling was that even though the request is to "share" the subject band, that would not be possible since the satellite usage is not low power density and that the real intent is band ownership.

Below are the addresses to use depending on the media you are using. For those so inclined, the feeling is that a letter has more impact.

E-mail: [wrc97@fcc.gov](mailto:wrc97@fcc.gov)

U.S. Mail:

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

### Harvard Bike Race

We are looking for volunteers for the Harvard Bike Race on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The event is from about noon to 4 PM. I don't know the actual course route, but 2M handhelds are generally sufficient. We need to provide communications for several race officials and approximately 5 road intersections. Once the race starts the primary issue is rider safety. The roads are closed to traffic for the race. Please contact me if you are interested. Stan KD1LE 433-5090.

### Unofficial Field Day Report

Well, Field Day has come and gone but we had a great time. I hope the enthusiasm from this year carries over to next year. I was impressed by how quickly we set up and wrapped up afterwards. This can be a chore if it takes too long or if not enough people are around to help. We even built our dipoles on site since we found we were without any. See Bruce's article elsewhere for all the details.

Stan

### Help!

My name is Bob McArthur (KE1ED). I have been a ham for about 18 months (thanks to NVARC). I have had a great deal of fun in those 18 months, with the people I have met on the radio and through the membership of NVARC. I was recently elected to the Board of Directors of NVARC for two reasons. 1 Because of my interest in ham radio and 2 to promote interest and activity for our membership.

I look forward to the third Thursday of the month (meeting night). But sometimes I get very frustrated when some of the topics that are discussed at the meeting or in the general conversation is way over my head. I have been a machinist for 30 years and understand my trade fine, but when a member starts talking about *resonance of an antenna* or *RF chokes* or *impedance* I am lost. Most of our senior members have a tremendous knowledge of electronics and Amateur Radio's. And they love to share with us. But I have trouble pulling them down to earth to the entry level people like me. So I need help. That's why I'm writing this letter to

you. I think there are a lot of new and older members that would like to be active in NVARC but are intimidated by the knowledge of some of the members.

Some of the changes I would like to see are; a part of the monthly meeting structured to the people in the club who would like to learn - Amateur Radio practices, basic electricity, what really does a resistor or capacitor do?, what is an RF choke?, etc. An open discussion about what some of the less active members would like to do. These are just some of my ideas, I hope you will share yours with me.

I think NVARC is a great Amateur Radio Club, and without the club I would never have become a ham (I took the club sponsored classes at Varnum Brook School) and without the help of fellow members I would not have been able to upgrade my license class. But I think there are inactive members out there that I would like to see become active in the club.

The club can be whatever we want it to be. So please help. Please call me at 433-9512 before 8:30 (I get up at 4 AM). Or write to me at P.O. Box 582, Pepperell Ma, 01463 and share your thoughts with me. Together we can make NVARC an even more active club in ham radio. Remember the principles for ham radio from part 97 are;

"Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both communications and technical phases of the art.

Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

Thank you very much  
I hope to hear from you soon  
Bob McArthur

### Big "E"

They are looking for clubs and individuals to staff the Eastern States Exposition traffic booth this fall.

## Field Day Report

Oh, what a weekend! Field Day 96 was by all accounts a huge success for the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Field Day is held the fourth full weekend in June. We started our setup after leaving Pa's Place in Pepperell on Saturday morning. First we gathered parts and pieces at different QTHs around Pepperell and Groton, and showed up on site at the Groton/Dunstable Middle School at around between 10 and 11 AM. The weather was cloudy and rain was in the forecast.

Our setup consisted of dipoles on 80 and 40 meters, a 3 element tribander on a 30 ft tower, and two high frequency stations. The stations were networked together by two Pentium computers running CT logging software. These two stations put us into the 2 transmitter category.

Additionally, the rules allowed us "free" stations. We ran packet, VHF (a 2 meter/440 FM transceiver) and a satellite station.

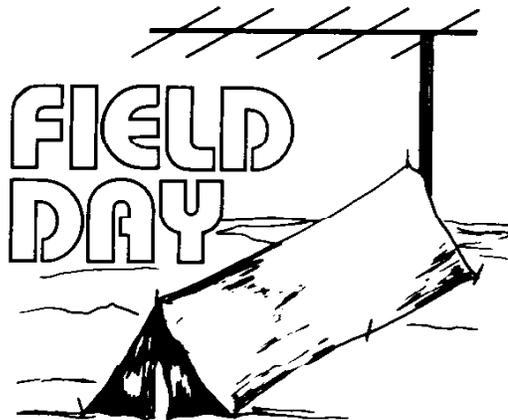
While the tribander and tower were being assembled, two screened rooms were set up for the stations. Stan, KD1LE, figured out how to get the ends of the dipoles up at least 50 ft into the trees, and we used a 40ft ladder to hold one end of the 40 meter dipole. Once we had tether lines over the trees and the top of the ladder, we had to put the dipoles up. Guess what? NO DIPOLES! I had a spool of #14 copper wire in the car, and with bits and pieces here and there, Joe, WA1VMG, and I put together two dipoles in no time. Talk about being prepared for an emergency!

The dipoles played fantastically over the weekend. So well that we were able to hold frequencies for long periods of time while "running" stations. There was no one we couldn't work. When tuning the band, we were working stations (usually) on the first call. I had several European stations call me early Saturday evening on 40 meters. It was magic!

Russ, WR1Y, brought along a light-weight aluminum tower to hold the tribander. This antenna also worked well, and the tower went up (and came down) very easily.

Craig, N1ABY, handled the generators with some help from Ben, KB1FJ. We had reliable power all weekend, and Craig graciously donated the gasoline for the cause.

We started operating at 2PM on Saturday, and the rain held back just long enough for



us to begin operating. Once setup was finished, we could stay under cover. The rain didn't last long and didn't get too heavy, but it's still easier not having to set up (or take down) in the rain.

Bob, W1XP, spent a great deal of time and effort getting the satellite station working. Making a QSO via satellite gets us 100 bonus points, and Bob put in a lot of hours just to get that one contact! Worse than this, we misplaced the log sheet with the one contact on it, and Stan had to pick through his trash after field day in order to find it!

Joe, WA1VMG, cooked burgers on the grill for all participants and guests on Saturday night. My son Myles liked this part the best.

And best of all, everyone got to operate and participate.

Sunday morning was beautiful. It was bright and sunny and everything (and everyone!) got a chance to dry out. We continued to operate right up until the 2 o'clock finish time. Best of all, because we kept things relatively simple, it took us less than an hour to completely pack up.

How did we do? We made 1613 contacts, with 882 on CW and 731 on Phone. We

also had 1000 bonus points. We got points for running 100% emergency power, publicity, operating from a public place, setting up an information table, VHF, satellite, packet, copying the ARRL message, and originating a message to our ARRL Section Manager. In fact, the only bonus points we missed were for relaying message traffic and natural power.

There's more to "how we did" than just looking at the score. The real bottom line is that as a club, we had a lot of fun. Everyone was encouraged to participate, and I hope no-one felt left out. We had operators from Novice to Extra, newcomers and old buzzards alike. We had participation from a lot of people. Everyone has told me that they had a lot of fun! So much fun, that participants are already talking about next year!

P.S. When writing an article like this, you want to mention everyone who participated (and thank everyone at the same time). Besides those I've mentioned above, we had a lot of additional contributors. Dave, N1MNX, prepared signs directing visitors again this year. Russ, WR1Y, who had important family commitments this year, participated in set-up and break down, got an article printed in the Groton paper for us, and coordinated getting the permit to use the town field. Russ' wife Peg, brought us coffee and doughnuts during Saturday morning setup. Stu, K1YET, who set up and operated and learned a lot about CT. Ben, KB1ATH, who played with packet and VHF. Wolfgang, KA1VOU, who did not get to set up a novice station, but did get to operate the main station for almost as much time as he wanted! And relative newcomers Bob, KE1ED, and Herm, KE1EC, who spent a number of hours manning the HF stations, operating and learning at the same time.

Unfortunately, I'm sure I've left someone out, either someone who participated when I wasn't there, made a key contribution when I was busy, or just through an omission on my part. I apologize, it's hard to remember everyone who was there. I just want to thank everyone who participated, encourage you to get more involved in club activities in general, and volunteer and participate in Field Day again next year. It was REALLY great seeing the club come together for an activity like this.

Again, THANKS! Bruce K1BG

### Upcoming Public Service Events

Harvard Bike Race	July 28
Groton Septemberfest	Sept
Eastern States Exposition	Oct
Pepperell Soccer Tournament	Oct

### Public Service Participants

Thanks to the following members for their support in the listed events which were organized by N1PBL Lynda.

Pepperell Road Race; N1VAV Greg, N1VAW Pat, N1QIT Jeanine, N1QDZ Joseph, KD1SM Ralph, KD1LE Stan, and WX1J Scott.

Pepperell 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade; N1VAV Greg, N1VAW Pat, KB1FJ Ben, KD1LE Stan, and WX1J Scott. Also checking in for support were; KA1ZTU John, KD2S Den, and N1MNX Dave.

### Meeting notes from June 20th

The guest speaker for June was Jacque Patry from Groton Electronics. He talked about the options for getting your equipment serviced. He covered some of the pitfalls and do's and do nots. He covered the expenses required to run such a business, such as the \$7,000 piece he used to check out our handhelds after the meeting. He talked about different types of equipment that were not reasonable to have "repaired". These fell more in the realm of restoration, which is very expensive in terms of return on investment.

### NVARC Slow Speed Net

The net meets Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 P.M. on 28.123 MHz. Except the third Thursday of the month. that being the club meeting night.

### Board Meeting Notes



The June Board Meeting was held at the Pepperell Community Center prior to the Field Day Meeting. We discussed requests by the Pepperell Fourth of July Committee for support for

the parade on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Also discussed was a request by Charter Communications for support of the Pepperell Road Race on July 5<sup>th</sup>. We also discussed events relating to WRC-97 as noted elsewhere in the newsletter. The meeting then turned to field day.

### **\$The Treasurer's Report \$**

Date: Sun, 14 Jul 96 01:42:12 UTC  
Subject: NVARC July Report

July Treasurer's Report:

During the month of June we had income of \$35.00 in dues and \$2.00 in ARRL membership renewals less expenses of \$6.00 for the QSL Bureau and \$55.00 for Field Day. Current balances are:

General Fund  
\$619.56  
Education Fund  
\$188.34

-Ralph KD1SM

### **ARRL N.E. Div. Cabinet Meeting**

The following are notes from the cabinet meeting. This meeting lasted all day, so these notes are an extremely shortened version.

This meeting was held July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Marriot in Andover. Ralph KD1SM and Stan KD1LE attended.

Awards were presented to Warren Rothberg, WB1HBB ARRL Vice Director, for his service to the League and the Amateur Service. Warren is moving to Florida for job reasons.

Bill Burden WB1BRE, has appointed Don Haney KA1T to fill the opening as Vice Director until the elections in the fall. Don is currently the W1 QSL Bureau Manager

Club presidents and newsletter editors who have E-mail can receive the Division Directors newsletter which is sent out about twice a month and covers matters of interest.

There were presentations by various advisory committee representatives such as PSAC, DXAC CAC, etc. Some of the topics were Mt. Athos as a DXCC country, size or number of contact requirements for DXCC country recognition,. There is a proposal to change the "time in band" requirement for contests to a number of band changes per clock hour ( i.e. 6).

The Public Relations Committee reported on the proposed Silver Antenna Award

nominee. This award is for someone doing exceptional public relations on behalf of Amateur Radio.

There was a proposal to run an E-mail redirector for members. This would be "call-sign@arrl.org" and direct mail to the actual e-mail address. This proposal is planned to be implemented, but is on hold pending the resources to automate it.

Proposal from the Affiliated Club Coordinator to survey all clubs to collect information on the feelings around the benefits of being an Affiliated Club or Special Club. This is related to a Field Services survey of Affiliated Clubs.

Ralph KD1SM was recognized for his work filling in as WMA Section Manager during the gap between the expiration of the previous managers term and scheduling of elections.

Rick Palm discussed areas under review by Field Services. Things discussed were MOU's with various national organizations, review of ARES, and RACES, and the possibility of Affiliated Clubs having web pages on the ARRL server. There is also a review of the 12 volt connector standard. This is to accommodate the power requirements of typical mobile radios.

Bill Burden discussed section field volunteer awards and how they are organized. Awards were presented to Walt KA1ODT from the Maine Section and Tom WA1NVS from WMA for outstanding work for the ham community.

Chris Imlay N3AKD, General Council spoke about the current scheduling of the WARC Conferences. He then discussed the 2 Meter problem giving the complete history. This relates to the IWG2A group proposals relating to the LEO satellite spectrum requests. He expressed concern that the current method of the industry working groups proposals are not as open and the opportunity for public comment reduced. He also talked about some upcoming federal pre-emptions relating to satellite and other antenna installations.

Rosalie WA1STO, was commended for her work with the ARRL SAREX Program. She will be receiving a national award in Boston this summer from the American Society of Association Executives for her work in education relating to SAREX. She talked about the programs run from the ARRL Educational Activities Department. These include things like publicity in magazines, pamphlets for information requests, information for instructors. There are new Boy Scouts of America requirements for radio merit badge requirements. They will be looking for funds to make another run of the ham radio

comic book. She talked about working with teachers and the materials available to them. She mentioned a new licensing book for those people who don't need the detail of the "Now Your Talking" book.

There were reports from the section managers.

There was a discussion about the six meter band. There seems to be new interest in that band. There were questions as to whether this was the Technician Class group looking for longer range communications and whether this might be an opportunity to interest them in the world of HF DX and upgrading.

There was a discussion about programs for the Boxboro Convention. There will be a weekend license course and exams.

### NVARC QSL BUREAU

The NVARC Buro sent out one pound of cards since the last meeting. We have several pounds of outgoing cards on hand now. I will hold these till after the newsletter goes out so those who have cards should try to get them to me. Then I can collate them together and send them out.

Bring your cards and a QST label to the meeting or to breakfast and the club will take care of the shipping and bureau fee.

### Predictions From The Past

"Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?"  
H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers 1927

I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper."

Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in Gone With the Wind.

### 440 Machine/Autopatch

The 440 machine now has an autopatch covering Pepperell, Groton, Dunstable, and Tyngsboro. Dave N1MNX has been working on this for some time. Dave is looking for "subscribers" to sign up to support the monthly phone charges for the autopatch. Dave estimates that it will cost about \$250.00 per year to cover the phone costs. The more people that subscribe the lower the per person cost will be. For more information please contact Dave at 508-433-2577. Or David K Peabody  
P.O. Box 1309  
Pepperell, Ma. 01463-1309

### From the Video Library

The Video Library has eight titles to loan.

- \*Disaster Preparedness/Public Service
- \*Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Antennas
- \*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



### Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

PO Box # 900  
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

Pres.: Erik Piip KA1RV  
V Pres.: Bruce Blain K1BG  
Secretary: Stewart Jackson K1YET  
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 Community Ctr.

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 OK.

Packet address: PEPMBX (145.09 MHz)