



SIGNAL



May 1999 Volume 8 Number 5

This Months Meeting

Notice Notice Notice

This month's meeting will be a tour of a Radio Telescope at the Haystack Observatory. We will meet at 7:15 on Thursday (regular meeting night) at the site. The entrance to Haystack is on Route 40 in Groton near the Groton-Westford line. The site is at the top of the hill. We can use the repeater 442.900 or 146.490 MHz simplex if anyone needs help getting there.

Happenings at the April Meeting

The April meeting covered a lot of ground. First we held "elections". At the last board meeting everyone agreed they would run if no one else wanted the positions. So with the newsletter call for candidates and a 'last call' at the meeting there was only one new volunteer. Bob W1XP volunteered for the open board position, which Craig N1ABL had volunteered to re-up for. But with Bob stepping forward Craig withdrew. A motion to accept the slate of officers was made, seconded, and accepted.

The officers for the next year are:

President Erik KA1RV
Vice President Den KD2S
Treasurer Ralph KD1SM
Secretary Ian NZ1B

Board members are:

Wolf KA1VOU 1997
Russ WR1Y 1998
Bob W1XP 1999

Other announcements

Groton Road Race pre race meeting time and date was announced to be April 18th. The Club committed to another year of Adopt-A-Highway with all the paperwork completed with the State. The first road cleanup was scheduled for April 18th. Communication help was requested for the May Madness Road Race at NMRHS May 2nd.

The meeting speaker was Chief Ranger Curt Rudge from the Massachusetts Bureau of Ranger Services. Curt manages Search and Rescue activities and conducts training for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. He talked about what goes on when organizing or participating in a SAR situation. There were many surprising situations and considerations spanning the range from runaways and others that may actually hide from the searchers to victims of a crime in which case the search area has to be treated as a crime scene and evidence preserved. Curt explained how important it was to correctly understand the situation and the missing person to have the best chance for a successful search. He also talked about the various volunteer organizations in the state that provide search and rescue services.

Parker Classic Road Race May 23

We will be supporting the Parker Classic Road Race at Devens on May 23rd again this year. We need about ten people for the course and at least a few need to be mobile stations. The terrain is deceiving on Devens and there are significant hills and embankments



between the different areas of the base. So a combination of mobile and HT's will take care of it. Contact Stan KD1LE If you can help out.

Adopt A Highway

April 18th we held our first road clean up of the year. We picked up 15 bags which isn't unusual for the first clean up after the Winter.

This month's clean up is May 23rd. Even though we will also be supporting the Parker Road Race that day I would prefer not to change the schedule. So I would encourage people who may not be working the road race to come out for the clean up.
Stan

Field Day



We are planning to run Field Day from the Groton schools and letter for permission to use the school grounds has been submitted to the Superintendent. If you have questions or want to help out contact Craig Kalley N1ABY who is coordinating.

Show And Tell (SAT)

We would like to encourage members to "show off" what they are doing at the meetings. There's room in the agenda for one or two five minute talks. These aren't supposed to be polished presentations or involve a lot of work. They could be the; coil I wound, the country I worked, the QSL card I received, or something interesting you heard about. Since our next meeting is "off site" we won't be able to do any this month but that gives you a whole month to think about it!

Ham License Classes

We haven't run a class in several years now. I have been trying to organize one through the Pepperell Parks and Recreation Department. The only advantage to this is they do a whole town

mailing and arrange for a space to hold the class. I had a last minute chance to schedule one starting in May but besides the short notice we had limited options for a meeting spot because the schools are closed for the summer. So I opted for the fall classes which will be listed in a flyer next October and a notice in the current flyer that we would be having one in the Fall. When we run the class I would like to see lots of participation. I thought some of the classes we ran in Groton were particularly good with good club support at every meeting to help out. We also had many people take on one week of teaching in a subject of their choice based on the course we laid out. This summer we should get a new set of books to set up a week by week class schedule so that when the time comes those who are interested can pick a week with a topic they are interested in. Give it some thought.
Stan

Public Service (PSLIST)

Listing public events at which Amateur Radio communications is providing a public service and for which additional volunteers from the Amateur Community are needed and welcome. Please contact the person listed to identify how you may serve and what equipment you may need to bring.

May 22 Beverly MA BSA Surf Side Tour Eric KA1NCF 617-559-0466 ka1ncf@nsradio.org

May 23 Devens MA Parker Classic Road Race Stan KD1LE 978-433-5090 kd1le@amsat.org

May 23 Needham MA ADA Tour de Cure Bruce KC1US 781-275-3740 kc1us@qsl.net

Jun 6 Boston MA AIDS Walk Boston Bruce KC1US 781-275-3740 kc1us@qsl.net

Jun 6 Beverly MA ADA Seabreeze Ride Eric KA1NCF 617-559-0466 ka1ncf@nsradio.org

Jun 13 Waltham MA St Jude 20/40/60 Bike Tour Charlie N1TPY 978-251-7246 creed@netway.com

Jun 26-27 Boston MA Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour John N1PYN 508-588-3250 n1pyn@aol.com

Jul 1-4 Fitchburg MA Fitchburg Longsjo Classic Ralph KD1SM 978-582-7351 kd1sm@arrl.net

Jul 24 Gloucester MA Blackburn Challengr Keith N1HLK 781-631-2877 n1h1k@nsradio.org

Sep 06 Gloucestr MA YMCA Run Eric KA1NCF
617-559-0466 ka1ncf@nsradio.org

Sep 18 Marblehed MA Cycle 4 Life Keith N1HLK
781-631-2877 n1hlk@nsradio.org

Public Service and Other Activities

On April 19 several NVARC members trekked down to Boston to help support the 103rd Boston Marathon. Jeanine N1QIT was the shadow for the person running the medical teams that staff the medical tents and the sweep

teams at the finish line. Ralph KD1SM shadowed the person who managed the logistics for the finish line area. Stan KD1SM shadowed the doctors and medical team that were exactly at the finish line.

It is a long day for the people that work the finish line jobs. Because of the problems with traffic and the fact that many positions need to be set up before the race starts at noon out in Hopkinton, we had to be there for 6 A.M. We first had to meet for everyone to get their assignments, marathon jackets, and identification cards. Security is an issue and access most areas is tightly controlled. After the formalities the net control needed to be set up so we hauled equipment to the trailer on Copley Plaza where everything is run from. There were trailers or mobile command posts for the Boston Police, State Police, and others. After getting the equipment to the trailer we went off to meet up with the medical people and the individuals we were to shadow.

It was a long and tiring day but everyone had a good time and a sense of satisfaction for helping out. The race area closes down at 6:00 P.M. which got us out of Boston by 7:00 P.M. After stopping to get some supper we got back in the area around 8:00 P.M. Fourteen hours of public service under our belts.

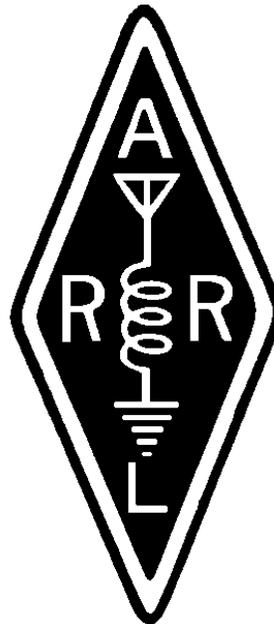
On April 25th 35 hams supported the Groton Road Race. NVARC members who contributed to the effort were

The following weekend NVARC supported the first annual May Madness Road Race in Townsend. This was a fund raiser for the North Middlesex Regional Scholarship Fund and was a five mile race. The following members helped out; Ralph

KD1SM, Don N1NWE, Dave N1MNX, Pat N1VAW, Greg N1VAV, Bob W1XP, and Stan KD1LE.

On May KD1SM and KD1LE participated in a search and rescue exercise that took place in Gardner. The exercise involved the Gardner Police and Fire Departments and Gardner Emergency Management. There were also three search dogs and their handlers. After the exercise there was a detailed evaluation of the exercise and a demonstration in a large field of an air scent dog finding a person. They plan to have another exercise so if anyone is interested we could make some car pooling arrangement. Stan

From the ARRL Newsletter



CINCINNATI
HAMS RESPOND
AS TORNADO
STRIKES

The Cincinnati Section SKYWARN Weather Amateur Radio Net was in operation April 9 when a killer tornado struck the Blue Ash/Montgomery area of the city around 6 AM. Six people died as a result of the storm, which caused

heavy damage and power outages. WARN, with its W8NWS net control site at WLW radio, quickly reported weather conditions and damage as it occurred and alerted police and emergency crews.

As a result, WARN Public Information Officer and ARRL PIO Michael Nie, KB8VMX, ended up as the live lead story on the 6 o'clock news on April 15 on Cincinnati's WKRC-TV Channel 12. The station's Chief Meteorologist, Tim Hedrick, interviewed Nie live on the value of severe weather spotters and especially ham radio spotters.

"I was shocked," said Nie. "All the press releases and business cards finally paid off." During the interview, Nie told how two local spotters used

Amateur Radio to relay the first reports of a tornado on the ground, as they dove for cover in a ditch. Despite the close call, the spotters were not injured. (For more information on this event and on WARN operations, visit the WARN Web site, <http://www.warn.org>.)

The Queen City Emergency Net provided communication support on VHF with operators at various emergency operating centers, command posts, shelters, and disaster relief agency headquarters. QCEN is affiliated with the Cincinnati Red Cross and typically provides damage assessment and communication support for the agency. The storm also affected parts of Indiana and Kentucky.—Fred Stone, W8LLY; Mike Nie, KB8VMX

EMERGENCY EFFORT GETS NATIONAL TV COVERAGE

An effort to obtain health-and-welfare information via Amateur Radio from Yugoslavia war zone got some national media attention recently. Thanks to efforts by the ARRL, Diane Ortiz, K2DO, and Stephan Anderman, K2SMA, a TV news crew from Fox News Channel spent about two hours April 10 at the Long Island home of Mid-Island Amateur Radio Club President Mike Christopher KG2M, where this operation is taking place. A three-minute feature aired the following day on FNC.

On April 9, Christopher, who's also ARRL New York-Long Island Section Bulletin Manager, activated MIARC's International Emergency Assistance Unit for the purpose of passing health-and-welfare traffic from refugees in the Yugoslavia war zone to family and loved ones in the United States. This is being accomplished with the help of Drago, T94GB, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the only country in the Balkans with which the US has a third-party traffic agreement.

T94GB will be QRV daily on 80 meters with the war zone and refugee areas, gathering health and welfare traffic, then passing that to the IEAU on 15 meter SSB for forwarding to the National Traffic System.—The Hudson Loop via Mike Grant, N2OX

FCC DENIES EXTENSION IN MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE CASE

The FCC has denied Extra licensee Kornwell Chan, W3CI, of Dresher, Pennsylvania, an extension of time to reply to a March 10, 1999, Notice of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture. Chan sent his request for extension via the office of US Sen Richard Santorum. FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth noted April 6 that Chan was visited by FCC personnel February 21 and did not request an extension until March 29.

Chan and Technician licensee Michael E. Gallagher, KB1DTA (ex-KB3DHX), of W Concord, Massachusetts, each received \$7500 fines from the FCC in connection with malicious interference to the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club VHF and UHF repeaters. Following up on complaints from the Phil-Mont club, FCC personnel monitored interfering signals which included transmissions of classical music and a person talking with a disguised voice. In February, FCC personnel tracked the signal to a vehicle in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, occupied by Chan and Gallagher, and equipped with amateur gear.

The FCC cited both licensees for failing to operate "in accordance with good amateur practice," failing to identify as required, transmitting music on amateur frequencies, and willfully impeding legitimate amateur communications. Chan and Gallagher reportedly told FCC officials that Chan used Gallagher's station to transmit music on amateur frequencies. The FCC said Gallagher "is equally responsible" for transmissions made using his station.

Ham contact with Kosovo? Have you or someone you know recently been in contact via Amateur Radio with an amateur in Kosovo? If so, ARRL's PR department wants to hear from you. Please contact Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, at 860-594-0328 or send e-mail to jhagy@arrrl.org.

OH2BH BRIEFLY ACTIVATES NORTH KOREA

Renowned DXer Martti Laine, OH2BH, who first activated North Korea in 1995, briefly appeared on the air early April 21 from North Korea signing P51BH. According to the ARRL DXCC Desk, Laine showed up on 20-meter CW around 0530 UTC, then shifted to 14.195 SSB at around 0640 UTC and later to 21.295 on SSB. The short operation ended just before 0800 UTC. "Countless

DXers have been eagerly waiting for activation of North Korea,” said Laine in a press statement. “This country is the rarest of them all—for good reason.” North Korea remains isolated from the rest of the world, and visits are allowed only for special purposes. Transmitting by radio from North Korea has been, and still is, a highly sensitive issue, he added.

Laine’s visit—his sixth to North Korea—was not intended to be a full-blown DXpedition, however, but another in a series of what he calls “DX missionary efforts.” The objective was introduce the concept of Amateur Radio to those who have the power to decide its future in North Korea. “It was a preliminary exercise,” said DX Advisory Committee Chairman Wayne Mills, N7NG. “The on-air operation was a bonus.” Mills said the trip was intended primarily to pave the way for future amateur operation from North Korea, and things went as well or even better than expected. “It fulfilled all expectations,” Mills said.

The ham gear Laine used will remain in North Korea. “The antennas were left right there together with the Yaesu FT-847 equipment,” Laine said in a posting to DX reflectors after he’d returned to Beijing. “It is just a matter of switching the power on—when the time is ripe—to allow North Korea to join the ranks of Amateur Radio.”

During his brief stint from P5, Laine made 263 contacts, working mostly Europe and Japan, as well as 9K2HN and some West Coast US stations. He made only a handful of P5 contacts in 1995.

The DXCC Desk advises those who might have missed this short opportunity to not worry. “Intermediate steps of this kind are always needed, and, at best, they may lead to more activations,” said ARRL Membership Services Manager Bill Kenamer, K5FUV.

Several minutes of audio from the P51BH operation may be heard on 9K2HN’s home page, <http://www.qsl.net/9k2hn>.

Laine says documentation for the P51BH operation will be sent to the ARRL shortly, and QSL cards will be released from his OH2BH Finland address “as soon as possible.”

1999 FIELD DAY BRINGS RULE CHANGE, NEW PIN

Participants in ARRL Field Day—the most popular annual operating event in the US and Canada—

will encounter one significant change in rules for this year’s event, June 26-27. Those using batteries to power their equipment now will be able to charge them while in use. The change affects all entry classes except Class D (home stations using commercial power; home stations using emergency power, including rechargeable batteries, should enter in Class E). In the past, only Class C (mobile) stations could charge batteries while in use. As previously, batteries must be charged from a power source independent of the commercial mains.

For the first time, the ARRL is making available annual Field Day pins to show your participation in the 1999 event. You don’t have to make a minimum number of contacts or achieve a particular score level. You just have to participate!

Pins are \$5 each. Field Day groups are advised to collect the money for the pins and send a single order stating the number of pins needed to ARRL Contest Branch, ATTN: Field Day Pins, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. The League will ship the pins back to the club for distribution. The first “International Field Day” was held June 10-11, 1933, billed as “just a test of portable equipment” for US and Canadian amateurs, according to former ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM. Hart says then-Communications Manager Ed Handy, W1BDI, came up with the idea of Field Day, which now is in its 66th year. It was not until the second annual Field Day, in 1934, that Handy’s Field Day writeup in QST raised the aspect of emergency preparedness.

Entries for Field Day 1999 must be postmarked by July 27, 1999. No late entries can be accepted. Participants should read the General Rules for ALL ARRL Contests (see <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-all.html>), which include submission guidelines. All Field Day should include a Summary Sheet and Dupe Sheet as well as supporting information for publicity, bonus point, and other information the rules require.

Field Day groups and participants are invited to submit their entries electronically via e-mail. As the rules state, the subject line should include the call sign used, the contest name and entry class. Send electronic entries to FieldDay@arrl.org. Paper entries go to Field Day Entries, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

For the complete 1999 Field Day rules, visit <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-fd.html> or see the May 1999 issue of QST.

UoSAT-12 LAUNCHED AND FUNCTIONING

The latest Amateur Radio satellite, UoSAT-12, was successfully launched April 21 just before 0500 UTC from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan aboard a converted Soviet SS-18 ICBM. This marked the first time a Russian missile designed for war had been converted to peaceful purposes to carry a commercial satellite into space. Under the terms of the START arms reduction treaty, the former Soviet Union's entire arsenal of SS-18 Satans must be destroyed or used for peaceful purposes. The satellite was successfully switched on at around 1800 UTC and copied on the 2230 UTC pass in Japan by Kazu Sakamoto, JJ1WTK. The downlink is 9600 baud FSK and can be copied on 437.400MHz.

The satellite is considerably larger than UO-22 or TO-31, and carries a propulsion system for orbital housekeeping experiments. UoSAT-12 carries a number of imaging payloads (with an up to 10-meter image resolution) along with digital store-and-forward communications on VHF and UHF. Mode L/S transponders will also be supported with a high-speed digital downlink.—Bruce Paige, KK5DO, with thanks to the University of Surrey and Chris Jackson, G7UPN

RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH PUTS IN SURPRISE NAB APPEARANCE

Amateur Radio rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, got thunderous applause from those attending an Amateur Radio reception April 21 at the National Association of Broadcasters convention in Las Vegas. The annual get-together for hams drew upwards of 1000 people. Hollingsworth's boss, FCC Compliance and Information Bureau Chief Richard D. Lee, was introduced by Ed Williams, W8APE, after Lee said he wanted to talk to the group. He, in turn, introduced FCC Compliance Division Chief Pamela Hairston and two staffers from the FCC's Los Angeles Field Office. Lee then sprang the surprise. Last year, Lee said, he'd promised the FCC would do Amateur Radio enforcement. This year, the FCC had Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, doing a great job.

"When I turned Riley loose, I said, 'look, you're going to be going all over the place. How can I get in touch with you?'" Lee recalled. "And he said, 'Boss, I'm like Batman, it's real simple. All you have to do is call out K4ZDH, Riley, are you around. and I'll show up, I'll be there.'" So Lee gave it a try. "K4ZDH, Riley, are you around?" After a pause, from the back of the room

Hollingsworth piped up, "Here I am," and came forward to address the gathering.

And the crowd, as they say, went wild.

Hollingsworth credited both Lee and Hairston for setting the events in motion to secure better Amateur Radio enforcement. "Pam and Rich went to the chairman [William Kennard] last October and asked for amateur enforcement," he said. "At the time they went and asked for it, they were totally loaded up with pirate broadcaster cases, and the last thing they needed was more work."

But Hollingsworth said Lee, a former Marine, was serious about enforcement and, like the Marines, wants it done right. "They not only want all fronts covered, but they want them at the same time," he said. As Hollingsworth prepared to leave the podium, Lee got the last laugh by quipping, "So, are we going to take this opportunity to retest everybody?"

The NAB convention wrapped up April 22.—thanks to Brad Wyatt, K6WR, and Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF

FCC's Riley Hollingsworth QRV on HF:

The FCC's top amateur enforcer, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, reports he's got a new HF rig and an auto-tune amplifier plus some new antennas at his Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, QTH and he's already been making the rounds of the HF bands, primarily on SSB. (He says he still has his old reliable Drake gear, too.) Hollingsworth said he expects to soon have HF receiving capability at his office to keep tabs on amateur activity directly. He's also been making the rounds of amateur clubs in various parts of the US as his schedule permits. He recently challenged ham club members in his native South Carolina to each get one new person into the hobby.

HAMS HELP IN TRAGEDY'S WAKE

Ham radio operators have had a role in the aftermath of two recent incidents of random violence—the Columbine High School killings in Littleton, Colorado, and the shootings in a Salt Lake City, Utah, library where three people died a few days earlier.

Since the mayhem that left 15 people dead April 20 at Columbine High School, Amateur Radio op-

erators have supported Salvation Army canteens set up for law enforcement, the media, and the thousands of other visitors. East Slope Emergency Coordinator Larry Cerney, K0ANI, said Amateur operators provided communication between facilities around Columbine High School, adjacent Clement Park, and the site of a makeshift memorial for the victims. Other operators supported the American Red Cross. Cerney says he felt a personal involvement in the tragedy. He lives two miles from Columbine High, and many of his fellow workers have children that attend there. "It's still hard to look back over the last week or so," Cerney said. "This tragedy really has broken the hearts of this enlarged community."

Cerney said the support continued throughout last weekend's memorial services attended by Vice President Gore and other VIPs. "It seems that the local hams just had to help," he said. He said 25 to 30 operators worked three six-hour shifts from 6 AM until midnight, providing what Cerney described as mostly routine, logistical communication. "I know all disasters are devastating to those involved," he said. Hurricanes and tornadoes may kill people and destroy homes and property, but the killing of kids by kids is something that I just cannot comprehend, no matter how far away or close to home."

Colorado Section Manager Tim Armagost, WBOTUB, expressed similar sentiments. "We Amateur Radio communicators like to believe we are prepared, but no one could be prepared for the tragic events at Columbine High School on April 20," Armagost said. "The Colorado Section Amateur Radio operators join the community in expressing our shock, sorrow, and sympathy for those affected by this tragedy."

In Salt Lake City on April 15, a gunman walked into the Family History Library and started shooting, killing two and wounding five before police shot and killed the gunman. Two building employees and hams—Utah Amateur Radio Club member Spencer Wood, KB7KGE, and Davis County resident Dave Oswald, KD7DHO—put ham radio to use to help evacuate the building. Wood, the assistant emergency coordinator for the library says he and Oswald—a floor emergency captain—spread the call to clear the building and used an amateur simplex channel to exchange information on the evacuation. After Wood had to leave the building, Wood relayed to police what he was hearing from Oswald inside the building. Wood credits ham radio with helping ensure an orderly evacuation.

FCC SAYS NO TO EXPANDING SPECIAL EVENT CALL SIGN PROGRAM

The FCC has denied the ARRL's petition that sought to expand the Amateur Radio special event call sign program. The League had asked the FCC to amend its rules to permit the use of special event call sign formats that go beyond the current one-by-one (1x1) format now authorized. The petition also had asked the Commission to include within the special event program call signs denoting US territories and possessions having no mailing address. In an April 21 letter to League, D'Wana Terry, chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division within the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau said the FCC was "not persuaded that the requested changes to the system are warranted at this time." The League's petition was submitted May 18, 1998, but it was never assigned a rulemaking number or put out for public comment. ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, called Terry's decision "somewhat disappointing."

The special event call sign program is administered by several private sector coordinators, including the ARRL. Those wanting a special event call sign for a limited period are able to reserve one via the Internet. Under current rules, 750 combinations of 1x1 format call signs are available for limited periods. Stations operating with special event call signs still must identify with the station's regularly assigned call sign at one-hour intervals.

In its petition, the League said there has been significant demand for special event call signs outside of the 1x1 format and for DXpeditions to locations under US jurisdiction that lack US Postal Service addresses. The League also said that there has been "a great deal of interest" in additional special event call sign formats that would let the call sign symbolize a particular event or type of event.

Terry said the FCC has not received any indication from the Amateur Radio community that demand for special event call signs exceeded the number available. She also said the need to create additional formats was outweighed by the complexity of creating them. She advised more experience with the current system before deciding to change it, and she urged the League to continue to monitor demand for special event call signs. Sumner said he was encouraged that the FCC, while denying the petition, had invited the League to revisit the issue later.

OKLAHOMA, KANSAS TORNADOES: HAM RADIO IS THERE--BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER

Hams in Oklahoma and Kansas were ready and waiting in the hours before severe tornadoes devastated entire communities south of Oklahoma City and in the Wichita, Kansas, area. The storm system developed in southwestern Oklahoma and moved to the northeast, spawning numerous tornadoes. The storms have left at least 46 people dead, hundreds injured, and thousands homeless.

Peter Laws, N5UWY, at the National Severe Storms Lab in Norman, Oklahoma, reports that the National Weather Service office there was in contact--mostly via 2 meters--with various weather-spotting nets to the south and west of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. "SKYWARN is a regular, everyday occurrence here, and hams are a vital part of the warning process," Laws said.

The storms wiped out thousands of houses. Meteorologists said the worst tornadoes appeared to be F5 storms packing winds of 260 mph.

Oklahoma Public Information Coordinator Thomas Webb, WA9AFM, reports he's monitored health-and-welfare traffic on both 2 meters and 75 meters coordinating Salvation Army canteen support. "Based on the excellent warning, most of the victims appear to have left the disaster area prior to the strike and were in contact with friends or family or were in shelters with adequate communications," he said. Oklahoma Section Emergency Coordinator Bennett Basore, W5ZTN, has been running emergency nets and radio amateurs have been handling "tons of health and welfare traffic."

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) has established an Amateur Radio link with Oklahoma City. SATERN is accepting requests via the Internet for information about the health and welfare of loved ones in the Oklahoma City area. Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/il/satern411/emailfrm.html> for more information. (A "Family Finder" site also is being operated by Unibuilt Technology at <http://www.unibuilt.com/okcsupport/>.)

On May 6, both the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross put out calls for additional Amateur Radio assistance. Oklahoma Section Manager Charlie Calhoun, K5TTT, reports the Salvation Army requested additional amateur operators starting May 7 and probably for the rest of the week. "They need hams to act as shadows and transport units in addition to manning the canteens," he said.

No vehicles were being allowed in the field, and officials were shuttling hams in and out. Calhoun said it appeared that Amateur Radio communication would be required at least through May 8. Hams from the Tulsa area were planning to head for the Oklahoma City area to assist. The Red Cross has requested at least 50 hams to begin damage assessment May 7.

Amateurs in the affected communities used operating VHF and UHF repeaters plus HF to coordinate health-and-welfare traffic inquiries, mobile canteens, shelters, and other emergency response activities. At Calhoun's request, the FCC on May 4 declared a communications emergency in the Oklahoma area. The FCC declared 3900 kHz and 7285 kHz (plus or minus 3 kHz) off limits until 5 PM Central Time on May 7.

Jim Leist, KB5W, who chairs the Central Area Staff of the National Traffic System, said the storms hit telephone services hard, and officials were asking that cellular telephone usage be restricted to emergency services personnel. "Amateur radio resources in the area are heavily involved with support to those agencies," Leist said. "On-site support is the first priority for hams in the affected areas."

Leist said the only real backlog was in the area of health-and-welfare requests coming from outside. He said it's likely that health-and-welfare traffic will remain backed up for several days, due to a lack of outlets to handle the messages on the receiving end. "Anyone accepting H&W messages should inform the senders of this unavoidable delay and the reasons for it," he said. For more Oklahoma tornado information and photos, visit http://www.hamsnet.net/kc5trr/oklahoma_disaster.htm

In the Wichita, Kansas, area, ARES District 5 EC Bob Harder, W0BH, reports his ARES group was called up by the Red Cross shortly after the storm. "ARES members and other area hams worked all night and all next day providing communication for the Red Cross headquarters and later between three shelters set up in the south Wichita area," he said. Harder cited Red Cross Coordinator, John Sullivan, KG0MZ, and Assistant Red Cross Coordinator, Greg Mitchell, N0WHC, for helping to make operations run smoothly.

The Salvation Army has established a shelter in an elementary school in the Wichita area, and four mobile canteens are serving food and beverages for residents and emergency workers.

Kansas Section Manager Orlan Cook, W00YH, in Shawnee, reported that Kansas nets were operating on their normal schedules.

\$The May Treasurer's Report \$

Lots of dues income arrives during the month of April since that is the Club's birthmonth. Happy Birthday, NVARC -- we're seven years old.



Income was \$115 in dues, including new member N1RKB who has so much confidence in us he's starting off with two years. Add to that \$4 in ARRL membership rebates plus 4.02 in quarterly bank interest. Less \$19.80 for postage leaves us with a General Fund balance of \$553.78. Also this month we received a donation from the Squannacook Runners' Association of \$125 in appreciation for our help with the 1998 Groton Road Race. This donation plus \$300 from the sale of the donated equipment was placed into the Community Fund, bringing the balance in that fund to \$865.92. We're expecting further receipts from the equipment sale; this is just the first.

Remember the newsletter address label always contains your next membership renewal date. If you're ever in doubt, check there or double-check with me at any club meeting.

73, -Ralph KD1SM

ed note – At the last board meeting we received a card with an additional check of \$348.51 from the equipment sale.

Flea Markets

- MIT Fleas May 16 June 20 July 18
- 22 May Londonderry NH IRS @Lions
- 29 May Vernon CT NARC@TollandAgC
- 30 May Sorel-Tracy PQ HamfestduQuebec
- 4-6 June Rochester NY ARRL Atlantic Conv
- 6 Newington ARL Flea Market



**Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

PO Box # 900
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

Pres.: Erik Piip KA1RV
V Pres.: Den Connors KD2S
Secretary: Ian Norrish NZ1B
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
PIO: Jon Kinney N1JGA

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month - 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr.
Talk-in 146.490 simplex
442.90 + 100Hz Repeater

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. You can leave items on PEPMBX, at Packet address:
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