



# SIGNAL



de N1NC

September 2000 Volume 9 Number 7

## This Month's Meeting

This month meeting program will be Simple Low Frequency Antennas by Bob Reif W1XP. Short Show-and-Tells always welcome.

We continue to gather at Tiny's for breakfast Saturday mornings at 8:00 AM. We sit in the back dining area.

## Technician License Class

There is a Technical Class license class starting at Monty Tech Thursday September 28th. Most classes are Thursday nights though a few are scheduled for Saturdays. The contact is Paul Topolski W1SEX (ptopolski@net1plus.com). Paul is seeking instructors for one night stints teaching the class. If you want information on the schedule contact Ralph or Stan.

## Road Cleanup

Due to a tight schedule, a couple of business trips and some poorly scheduled rain storms we did not have the July and August road cleanups. So we need to put in a good effort on the next one which is Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>. That is the Sunday after the meeting.

## Last Month's Meeting

The last meeting was held way back in June prior to our summer break. It was a low key meeting with no speaker where we chatted about whatever anyone had on their mind. We also had visit from the soccer tournament organizers and communications for the upcoming fall tournament were discussed. Several of those present accepted the task of determining the suitability of FRS radios for

possible use by the marshals instead of CB radios this fall. The study was organized by Dave N1MNX.

## Board of Directors Meeting

The club received a donation of \$125 from the Squannacook River Runners thanking us for support at the Groton Road Race this Spring. That donation will be placed in the community fund.

The Board discussed the two open positions that remain to be filled from the last election. There are still vacancies for the Vice President and one Board Member position, so we need to fill these positions. If someone wants to help shape the club here's your opportunity. It is important to keep all the positions filled to distribute the work that needs to be done and to ensure continuity when future vacancies occur. None of the jobs require a lot of work by themselves (except newsletter editor) but open positions unfairly add burden to those currently serving the club. Even more important than sharing the work is sharing ideas and perspectives on what the club should be doing in the future.

At the board meeting a proposal was submitted with the goal of encouraging more members to develop presentations to give at NVARC and other clubs. It was recognized that there are already a number of members who give of their own time and talent to make presentations at NVARC and other area radio clubs. The Board and Officers of NVARC believe this is a good thing for everyone involved, the members, the club, and the hobby. Therefore the board will propose to the Members to promote this activity more widely, hoping to encourage other members to share what they know or have done. At the last meeting the board discussed a reimbursement policy for members who put together a presentation for an NVARC meeting and who would, if asked, present it at other area clubs. The proposal is that if a member requests reimbursement and has supporting receipts,

NVARC will reimburse a member up to \$25.00 for materials or props used in a presentation relating to Amateur Radio or of general interest to the Amateur Radio community. NVARC will also reimburse travel at a rate of \$0.30 per mile to and from a local club at which the presentation is given. This matter will be brought to the September meeting for approval.

Another proposal brought to the meeting was to donate something to the Pepperell Community Center where we have met without cost for the past six or more years. The last time we considered a donation they were replacing the tables and by the time we were ready to act they had purchased all they needed. They are beginning to replace the metal folding chairs with padded stacking chairs. They are much more comfortable and won't freeze your bottom in the winter. The Town Secretary purchased the first six chairs and the Pepperell Garden Club has donated \$200 towards chairs. The proposal to the board is to donate \$400 to the Pepperell Parks and Recreation Committee for the purchase of additional chairs. This matter will be brought before the regular meeting for approval.

### **Presentation Preparation Help**

If you would like assistance preparing a presentation, several members have volunteered to help. They can review a draft presentation and/or help produce the presentation materials. See Stan, Erik or Ralph if you would like some assistance.

### **Repeater Activity**

Over the summer much work was done to maintain and improve the repeaters. A lot of the work related to antenna systems. The 220 antenna was moved up the tower from its temporary location just above the repeater building to a position near the top of the tower. The six meter repeater had been sharing one of the two tri-band antennas on the tower. Mid-summer a lightning event damaged the tri-bander on the top of the tower. A new six meter antenna, that was designed by Bob W1XP and built by Bob and Stan KD1LE, was installed on the side of the tower. This has improved the six meter coverage considerably. The beginning of September a new single band 440 antenna was mounted at the top of the tower where the damaged antenna had been. Thanks to everyone who helped out, particularly Ralph KD1SM who did all of the tower work.

### **Field Day Fullerton CA**

Field Day is over for another year. Knowing that I was going to be out of town for the weekend I thought I would try to hook up with a club near where I would be in California. The ARRL web site has a function for looking up clubs within a specified number of miles from a city or a Zip Code. So I found about a dozen clubs near Cypress California where I was going to be. Some only had mail addresses so with time short they were eliminated. The best bet seemed to be the Fullerton Radio Club (FRC) which was about ten miles from my hotel. So I exchanged a couple of emails to find out if and where they would be setting up. Arriving Friday afternoon I got directions from the hotel to prepare for the trip up to Fullerton in the morning. Arriving at the site in Hillcrest Park about eight AM things were slowly starting to develop. Boxes of equipment were stacked near a modern log cabin that was going to be the operating shelter. The cabin was on a hillside and had a full length porch looking toward Fullerton. After the normal bit of confusion about who was going to do what the antennas, masts, and ropes got laid out and people picked a task and got to it. After about an hour of work the vertical and ground plane type antennas and the mast to hold one end of the G5RV were assembled, mounted and erected. Tables were set up on the front porch where the rigs would eventually be set up. Unfortunately I had to leave then just a couple of hours short of the time for going on the air. I had planned to return overnight to operate but the schedule of events for the business trip was too tightly packed. The accompanying pictures show what Field Day looks like in W6 land.

Stan KD1LE

### **Summer Wrap up**

Summer is waning and Fall is just around the corner. It was a busy Summer and the weather was great for most of the events that were scheduled. With a few business trips and vacation thrown in to just to spice up the schedule. The club provided communications for the Pepperell Fourth of July Parade, The Groton Road Race, and The Parker Classic on Devens. A few members participated in more distant events like the Boston Marathon and the Walk for Hunger.

Stan KD1LE

## The Public Service List (September)

Public Service Volunteer Opportunities in the New England Division 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.

Date Location Event Contact Tel/Email

Sep 24 Hopkinton MA Jimmy Fund Marathon Walk to Boston [wa1ida@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.net) Bob WA1IDA 508-650-9440

Oct 7 Boston MA ADA Walk for Diabetes Bruce KC1US 781-275-3740 [kc1us@qsl.net](mailto:kc1us@qsl.net) <http://cpsg.amateur-radio.net>

Oct 7-9 Pepperell MA Fall Classic Soccer Ian NZ1B 978-448-5681 [inorrish@usa.net](mailto:inorrish@usa.net)

Oct 7 S.Portland ME Walktoberfest Bryce K1GAX 207-799-1116 [k1gax@arrl.net](mailto:k1gax@arrl.net)

Oct 8 S.PortlandME Maine Truckin for Kids Bryce K1GAX 207-799-1116 [k1gax@arrl.net](mailto:k1gax@arrl.net)

Oct 8 Boston MA Chancellor Challenge 100K Bob WA1IDA 508-650-9440 [wa1ida@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ida@arrl.net)

Oct 22 Duxbury MA Black Cat Classic Road Race John N2YHK 508-752-2433 [n2yhk@wpi.edu](mailto:n2yhk@wpi.edu)

This list is published periodically as demand warrants by Stan KD1LE and Ralph KD1SM. Our usual distribution is via packet to NEBBS, via Internet mail to the [arrl-nediv-list](mailto:arrl-nediv-list) and [ema-arrl](mailto:ema-arrl) distribution lists, and on the World Wide Web (see URL below). If other mailing list owners wish us to distribute via their lists we will be happy to oblige. Permission is herewith granted to republish this list in its entirety provided credit is given to the authors and the URL below is included. Send comments, corrections, and updates to:

(via packet) [KD1SM@K1UGM.#EMA.MA.USA](mailto:KD1SM@K1UGM.#EMA.MA.USA), (via Internet) [KD1SM@ARRL.NET](mailto:KD1SM@ARRL.NET). We make an attempt to confirm entries with the coordinator unless the information is from another published source. We very much appreciate the assistance we have been receiving from our 'scouts'; everyone is welcome to send us postings. World Wide Web users: the most recent copy of this list is maintained as

<http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>.

## \$September Treasurer Report\$

Since the June meeting, we have received \$165 in membership dues, \$5.33 in donations, and \$2 from ARRL membership renewals. Stan and I did a Fox Hunting presentation at Boxboro and as a by-product we got orders for several FoxFinders, bringing an additional \$136.61 income. Expenses since June were \$34.52 in postage for newsletters and cards to the outgoing QSL Bureau. The insurance premium of \$255 was also paid this month, leaving a net income of \$19.42 since the June report. We thank the Squannacook River Runners Association for a generous donation to our Community Fund of \$125. This donation is by way of appreciation for our communications assistance with the Groton Road Race in April.

Balances as of September 14 are:

General fund:	\$837.56
Community fund:	\$1592.55

73,-Ralph KD1SM



## Y2K Fleamarkets

6,7 Oct Rochester NH Hoss Traders  
Joe K1RQG 207 469 3492

8 Oct Wallingford CT Nutmeg Hamfest  
Gordon K1BIY 860-342 3258  
[www.qsl.net/nutmeghamfest](http://www.qsl.net/nutmeghamfest)  
email [nutmeghamfest@qsl.net](mailto:nutmeghamfest@qsl.net)

15 Oct Flea at MIT Nick 617 253 3776  
21 Oct Nashua NH NE Antique RC \$5@8 \$1@9 @  
Res Ctr Church 617 923 2665

18 Nov Newton MA WARA/1200RC Auction  
@Masonic \$2@11 Eliot W1MJ 617 484 1089

## From the ARRL Letter

**HAM TRACKS TAUNTING TEENS**

According to news accounts, a group of Ohio teenagers have a local ham to thank for helping to land them in juvenile detention. Authorities report the youths used a pilfered police radio to taunt police over the air June 17, then bragged that they'd never be caught.

With help from a local amateur, however, police in Amherst and Vermillion, Ohio, tracked down the young miscreants. The towns share a public safety communications network. The interference came while the two departments were dealing with a fish festival crowd in Amherst and a search for a burglary suspect in Vermillion.

Authorities report that one of the youths—all between 14 and 16 years old—had stolen three hand-held radios from the public works department, where he had a summer job. Using two of the transceivers, the teens reportedly commenced to badger the police over the air with obscenities and threats, at times calling the officers by name. The cops tried to enlist the aid of the FCC's Detroit field office, but Commission personnel reportedly said they couldn't get direction-finding gear out there until the next day.

Enter Todd Dunlap, KC8EDS, of Amherst, who was able to track the signals to a basement recreation room in his own neighborhood, a police spokesperson said. Within a few minutes, police were knocking on the door of the house, awakening the sleeping grandmother of the teenager who lived there and getting permission to search. According to news reports, authorities found the youths and two of the stolen radios. They later recovered the third at the home of the teenager who had allegedly stolen it. In addition to theft and harassment, the teenagers also were charged with possession of marijuana and disruption of public services.—from news reports

### **YOUNGSTERS HAILED IN RADIO RESCUE**

Two young Oregon brothers are being credited with quick thinking after they intercepted a plea for help transmitted via a Family Radio Service UHF transceiver by some injured mountaineers more than 80 miles away. Fletcher and Parker Wold, ages 7 and 5 respectively, of McMinnville, heard the call for help put out by climbers Iain Morris, 23, and Jim Clark, 38. Morris and Clark had been caught in a rock slide on Mount Hood June 20, and Morris was seriously injured. The brothers immediately alerted their dad, Mike Wold, who contacted authorities, triggering a full-scale mountain rescue. Mike Wold

says he gave the boys the hand-held transceivers to use when playing in the woods, so he could keep in touch with them. The hikers had tried their more-powerful VHF transceiver before giving up and using the FRS set they used to keep in touch with one another along the trail. In a related story, REACT International is suggesting adoption of FRS channel 1 (462.5625 MHz) with the CTCSS tone disabled as a national call channel. REACT says it came up with the idea after lost hikers in Southern California spent 40 minutes calling on 14 different FRS channels using 38 different tones. In that case, an 11-year-old boy, Kristofer Moore, heard the distress call on his FRS H-T while camping with his family.—thanks to Cindy Wall, KA7ITT; REACT

### **HAMS FILL IN DURING TELEPHONE OUTAGES**

Hams in three states have been able to fill the communication gap during recent unexpected telephone outages.

In Texas, telephone communication in the New Braunfels area was disrupted June 30 due to major problems in the telephone switching network. The cause and extent of the problem were not clear, but, according to ARRL Official Relay Station Dan Whelchel, K5IQZ, the only telephone services left working were cellular-to-cellular and cellular-to-911. He said hams filled in during the early hours of the outage, handling messages between New Braunfels and San Antonio.

In southern Oregon, telephone service was interrupted June 26 when fire severely damaged a central telephone switching facility in Medford. Sacramento Valley (North) SEC David Thorne, K6SOJ, reported widespread interruption of telephone, Internet, and other services in Jackson County. Thorne says the telephone system's emergency generator was shut down at the request of the fire department, and the battery back-up system was depleted within hours due to high usage.

Thorne says Jackson County ARES was activated, and the Douglas County ARES/RACES team was on duty at the EOC in Roseburg. Hams were able to handle at least one piece of emergency traffic involving blood from the Red Cross Blood Center in Portland to a hospital in Klamath Falls. He said the landline message from Portland was received at the Roseburg EOC and relayed via ARES operators to Bill Mason, KA7RAM, in Klamath Falls. Mason delivered the traffic via landline (local service was operational in Klamath Falls), then promptly relayed the reply back to Roseburg. The EOC delivered the

message to Portland via telephone. Telephone service was largely restored by late the next day.

In Oklahoma, a power failure early on the morning of June 20 took out almost all land-based telephone systems in the 918 area code around Tulsa for several hours. Although some pagers and cellular phones still had limited capabilities, most of the calling public could not even call 911.

ARRL PIO Mark Conklin, N7XYO, reports that, with the phones out, hams initially were out of the notification loop. Conklin says a few members of the Tulsa Repeater Organization overheard the radio traffic on scanners, however, and, before long, an ARES net was established on a local repeater with Ron Lancaster, KB5VDB, and Merlin Griffin, WB5OSM, at the Tulsa EOC.

A hospital net followed suit, and hams were dispatched to emergency rooms as they checked in. By 7 AM, Conklin reports, nearly 20 hams were helping out with the emergency, and hospitals 50 miles north and south of Tulsa were staffed by ham volunteers. All telephone service was restored by around 7:30 AM.—thanks to Dan Whelchel, K5IQZ, and David Thorne, K6SOJ, and Mark Conklin, N7XYO

## **ULS CONTINUES TO CONFOUND SOME USERS**

At the Dayton Hamvention, the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, referred to his agency's Universal Licensing System as "the licensing system you love to hate." That might have been a bit of an overstatement, but questions about ULS to ARRL do suggest that not everyone in the Amateur Radio community has a handle on the system.

The FCC deployed the ULS for the Amateur Service last August 16, and most initial wrinkles were worked out by year's end—including a huge backlog of vanity applications. The ULS recently added filing capability via the Internet. Access to the ULS is at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>.

Some confusion remains between ULS registration and ULS filing. All Wireless Telecommunications Bureau licensees, including amateurs, first must register with the ULS before filing any applications—and that includes license renewal. Registration requires providing a "Taxpayer Identification Number" or TIN to the FCC—a Social Security Number for individuals. The FCC maintains it must collect SSNs under provisions of the Debt Collection Improvement Act.

Registration provides each licensee with a Licensee Identification Number—which may be used in place of the SSN/TIN in future applications. Registrants also select a password so they can access the system.

Amateur applicants who appear at a volunteer examiner session are automatically registered in the ULS when upgrading or qualifying for a new license. These individuals then must contact the FCC's Technical Support Hotline (202-414-1250) in order to obtain a temporary ULS password. Registered amateurs may change their passwords online via the ULS.

The ULS site permits you to update your registration information, but doing so does not change your FCC licensee record. That requires filing an application. Filing includes such things as applying for a vanity call sign, renewing a license, or changing a mailing address. The ULS home page has instructions to accomplish these and other application functions.

The "SGIN" has been another point of confusion. Amateurs registering on the ULS should ignore references to the SGIN (which stands for "Sub Group Identification Number"). The SGIN does not apply to amateur applicants. Creating an SGIN when registering causes problems. Amateurs who inadvertently completed the SGIN section during ULS registration should go back and eliminate it. Otherwise, future ULS transactions could run afoul of the ULS' built-in error-checking system.

It's still not possible to apply for a club station license via the ULS. That requires using the paper FCC Form 610B. An FCC Order designating a system of club station license administrators is expected later this year. It is possible to register an existing club station on the ULS in order to make later changes to the license record, however.

To apply for a new license or to register, the club trustee first must obtain an Assigned TIN from the FCC by calling the Technical Support Hotline (202-414-1250). For a new club station application, the ATIN should appear on the upper righthand corner of the Form 610B. Doing this automatically registers the club station in the ULS. A current club station licensee must register on ULS as "A business entity," completing the "Licensee Information" and "Contact Information" sections, listing the call sign, and providing a "Personal/Corporate Identifier" (the club station call sign will suffice). Club station reg-

istrants also must select a ULS password. Club station registrants should not complete the SGIN section.

For more information, call the FCC's Technical Support Hotline, 202-414-1250, visit the ULS site, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>, or see <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/uls-qa.html> on the ARRL Web site.

## **TWO DECADES OF W4EHW HURRICANE SUPPORT**

National Hurricane Center Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, says this hurricane season marks 20 years of activity for the operators at the National Hurricane Center's W4EHW. Formal Amateur Radio activity at the National Hurricane Center was initiated by Andy Clark, W4IYT (now a Silent Key) and NHC Director Neil Frank in 1980. At the time, Ripoll—then a college student—used to carry in his own transceiver to the Center or borrow one from his college club station, as needed. During the station's first Hurricane Season, about five volunteers sometimes operated up to 12 hours per shift. The first ham radio operation at the NHC was Hurricane Allen. The station spent some 120 hours on the air, filled 20 log pages and sent more than 90 radiograms. Ripoll served as Amateur Radio Coordinator from 1980 until 1986. Today, Ripoll says, more than 30 operators at W4EHW provide hurricane weather communication for the Caribbean, the Gulf Coast and the Atlantic coastal states as well as emergency communications for the Center and local agencies. W4EHW works in conjunction with the Hurricane Watch Net, which activates on 14.325 MHz whenever a hurricane is within 300 miles of land fall in the western Atlantic, the Caribbean or the eastern Pacific. The station is sponsored by the Dade County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps and assembled from donated equipment. W4EHW's informative Web site is at <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>.

## **CYPRUS OKAYS ANNIVERSARY PREFIXES**

Amateurs on Cyprus have been granted permission use the special prefix 5B40 ("Five Bravo Forty") until November 30, 2000, to celebrate the 40 years of the Republic of Cyprus. Use of the special prefix is optional.—Spyros Stavrinides, 5B4MF/CARS

## **FCC TURNS DOWN CB DX PETITION**

The FCC has denied a petition that would have amended the FCC's Part 95 rules to permit DXing

on the 11-meter Citizens Band. The petition sought to amend 95.413 of the rules that prohibits communications or attempts to communicate with CB stations more than 250 km away and to contact stations in other countries.

Designated RM-9807, the petition was filed by Popular Communications Contributing Editor Alan Dixon, N3HOE.

"Dixon's request is inconsistent with the purpose of the CB Radio Service and could fundamentally alter the nature of the service," the FCC said in turning down the petition.

The FCC action was adopted August 18. The Order was released August 21.

The FCC said CB operators generally supported the proposal and stated that the present rule was unenforceable. The ARRL commented in opposition to the petition. "The Amateur Radio Service is the proper forum for the desired long-distance communications sought by the Dixon petition," the League told the FCC.

The National Association of Broadcasters also opposed Dixon's petition. The NAB said that the restriction was necessary to deter CBers from operating at excessive power levels and that consumers must be protected from illegal CB transmissions that interfere with radio, TV and other consumer electronics.

The FCC agreed with the ARRL and said it did not intend to create a service paralleling the Amateur Service when it authorized the Citizens Radio Service. "Amending the rules to permit long-distance and international communications would undermine the purpose of the CB Radio Service rules and compromise one of the core distinctions between the CB Radio Service and the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC concluded.

## **ATLANTIS FERRYING INITIAL ARISS HAM GEAR INTO SPACE**

The space shuttle Atlantis blasted off on schedule September 8, bringing Amateur Radio operation from the International Space Station a giant leap closer to reality. On board Atlantis is the initial Amateur Radio on the International Space Station equipment as well as other supplies needed by the Expedition 1 ISS crew members.

As part of the multinational ARISS project, the gear will be stowed aboard the ISS until the Expedition 1 crew comes aboard in late October. The Expedition 1 crew will consist of US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian Cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gaidzenko, whose call sign was not available.

Although astronaut Dan Burbank, KC5ZSX, is aboard Atlantis, there will be no Amateur Radio operation from the shuttle or the ISS during this mission, STS-106. Atlantis will deliver the ARISS VHF and UHF hand-held transceivers as well as a TNC for packet, a specially developed headset and signal adapter module plus power adapters and interconnecting cables.

The ARISS initial station gear will be installed temporarily aboard the Functional Cargo Block module and use an existing antenna that's being adapted to support FM voice and packet on 2 meters but not on 70 cm. The ARISS gear will get a more-permanent home aboard the Service Module next year, once VHF and UHF antennas can be installed.

During the nearly two-week STS-106 shuttle mission, the seven-member crew will unload space station supplies from both the shuttle and from a Russian Progress cargo ship that's now docked at the ISS.

NASA and the Russian space organization Energia have signed agreements that spell out the place of Amateur Radio aboard the ISS. A technical team, called ISS Ham, has been officially set up to serve as the interface to support hardware development, crew training and operations from space.

A Russian call sign, RZ3DZR, has been issued for the ISS ham radio station. A German call sign, DLOISS, also has been issued, and a US call sign will be applied for.

The \$60-billion International Space Station is being built jointly by the US, Russia, the European Space Agency, Canada and Japan. NASA this week extended the deadline to complete the ISS to 2006. The ISS partners have agreed to spread out the assembly missions.

For more information about Amateur Radio on the ISS and SAREX, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

## **CROATIAN UN WORKER KILLED IN WEST TIMOR WAS AMATEUR**

One of the three United Nations workers killed by a mob this week in West Timor was an Amateur Radio operator. Pero Simundza, 9A4SP, of Split, Croatia, had been in West Timor for nearly one year and had been active as 4W/9A4SP and as 4W6SP. He was 29.

Simundza, Samson Aregahegn of Ethiopia, and Carlos Caseras of the US died September 6 when thousands of armed pro-Indonesian militiamen and their supporters stormed a UN office in West Timor, killing the three and injuring several others. Witnesses say the mob beat the three UN workers to death then burned their bodies in the street while Indonesian security forces stood by and did nothing to stop the violence.

The UN staffers, who all worked for the UN High Commission for Refugees, had been involved in helping refugees from the conflict with East Timor, which voted last year to break away from Indonesia and is now administered by the UN. West Timor remains under Indonesian control.

Prior to his service in West Timor, Simundza had been working for the UNHCR in his native Croatia and in Bosnia-Herzegovina. According to Teijo Nurmi, OH7NRW, of the UNHCR Telecommunications Unit in Geneva, Simundza had an opportunity late last year to join UNHCR's international staff and was selected to serve in Atambua, West Timor. Nurmi says Simundza managed communications for the Atambua UNHCR office.

Nurmi says that Simundza recently returned to West Timor after a holiday, had just purchased a new transceiver to upgrade his station in West Timor and was eager to get it set up. 9A4SP had operated portable from other countries including a stint from Albania last summer as ZA/9A4SP. He also had operated as T98P from Bosnia.

Amateurs are being invited to sign a guest book or send condolences to Simundza's family at <http://www.qsl.net/9a4sp/>.

## **SEVERE WEATHER BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN HAMS**

Hams in Northern New Jersey and just up the Hudson River in Dutchess County, New York, rallied to provide assistance as severe weather and flash flooding struck the region last month.

Dutchess County Emergency Coordinator Adam Nowik Jr, KC2DAA, reports that in the early morning hours of August 10, a severe thunderstorm rolled into the area. Substantial damage occurred in areas of Poughkeepsie and LaGrange. The Dutchess County Red Cross was called upon to provide relief to families in the affected areas. Red Cross officials, in turn, put out the call for Amateur Radio assistance in the relief effort. Nowik says that he, SEC Ken Akasofu, KL7JCQ, Red Cross Communications Officer and AEC Ed Hahn, WC2J, located 21 amateurs available for service.

“Our first stations were on the air within 45 minutes of the initial call up,” Nowik said. Hams assisted the Red Cross at the Chapter House, at a fire station that was being used as a feeding site and at a staging area for disaster workers, and the Red Cross ERV—the emergency response vehicle—plus two outreach vehicles.

The situation was even worse the weekend of August 12-13 in Northern New Jersey, where parts of Morris and Sussex counties got anywhere from eight to 14 inches of rain in less than 24 hours, flooding local highways and homes. The National Weather Service issued a severe flood warning on the morning of Saturday, August 12.

“A dam failed on one of the lakes in that region, and things only got worse,” reports Northern New Jersey SEC Mike Hoeft, K2MPH. “Hams were called on originally to supplement, and—at one point—replace failed landline communications in Sparta and Jefferson townships,” he said. That involved a combined effort between Sussex County RACES and local ARES operators. After lightning knocked out town communications in Hardyston, hams filled that gap—and others.

Amateur Radio operators also handled communications stations at several Red Cross shelters set up in those areas as well as the Metropolitan Red Cross Chapter—the lead office for Northern New Jersey. Four Red Cross shelters were established, and, with the help of Amateur Radio communication, the Salvation Army and Red Cross assisted those who had to be evacuated from the area. The effort continued through the weekend and into the following week, when FEMA personnel arrived and requested ham radio shadows to help with damage assessment, Hoeft said.

As the weather raged, Amateur Radio SKYWARN volunteers monitored local conditions as they went

from bad to worse. Sussex County SKYWARN Coordinator Deb McKay, N2TTP, says weather watchers reported rain falling at more than an inch per hour. A possible dam breach at Tamarack Lake, near McKay’s home, upped the tension and the ante for amateurs and local emergency officials.

RACES was called in the afternoon of August 12 after an emergency was declared. The Sussex County emergency van was deployed first near Tamarack Lake and later in Sparta, where it was staffed 24 hours a day until August 16.

McKay, who’s also a RACES volunteer, reported that hams in surrounding counties in New Jersey as well as in parts of New York and Pennsylvania joined the growing network. “It was something that I was very proud to be a part of,” she said.

### **IARU PICKS THEME FOR WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY**

The IARU Administrative Council has selected “Providing Disaster Communications: Amateur Radio in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” as the theme for World Amateur Radio Day 2001. The occasion will be marked next April 18. The selection was designed to help dispel the notion that technological changes have bypassed and diminished the future role of the amateur services. The IARU also wants to reaffirm the importance of Amateur Radio as a resource to help mitigate the effects of disasters by providing communications to aid humanitarian efforts.

### **CARIBBEAN TOUR 2000 ENDS WITH 64,000+ QSOs**

The Low Land DX-pedition Team wrapped up its Caribbean Tour 2000 this past weekend after logging a total of 64,374 contacts from Anguilla (V2), Montserrat (VP2M), and Barbados (8P). During the nearly four-week tour, August 11 to September 4, the team from the Netherlands racked up 31,915 QSOs from Anguilla, 1351 during a brief, unplanned stopover in Montserrat, and 31,108 from Barbados. Operators were active 24 hours a day with two stations—no mean feat for just four operators. The Tour Web site contains the on-line logs, photos, and other information, including RealAudio files of pileups. Visit

[http://www.qs1.net/1ldxt/v2\\_8p\\_2000/index.html](http://www.qs1.net/1ldxt/v2_8p_2000/index.html)

QSL V26EA, V26ET, V26FM, V26WP, VP2MPA, 8P9JR, 8P9JS, 8P9JT and 8P9JU all via Rob Snieder, PA5ET, Van Leeuwenstraat 137, 2273 VS Voorburg, the Netherlands.

## NEW EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS WEB PAGE

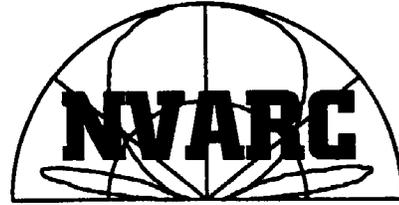
An "Emergency Communications" Web Site now is available at <http://www.arrl.org/field/emergency/>. The page provides a ready-reference Web Site with links to the latest ARRL bulletins, The ARRL Letter, and weather reports as well as to other Amateur Radio organizations active in emergency operations, such as the Hurricane Watch Net, The Salvation Army Team Emergency Net (SATERN), and SKYWARN. There's also an Emergency Communications "Q&A" section, and a link to contact various ARRL Headquarters personnel during an emergency. Other linked resources include The Net Directory, IARU member societies, ARRL field leadership and club-search.

### NVARC Trading Post

I have dispensed a considerable volume of beads over the Summer but continue to seek anyone who might have a use for them. Those who work with kids groups (or know someone that does) that might use plastic beads in craft type projects? A large but diminishing quantity are available to anyone that can put them to good use. If you wondered what a large quantity was, see below.



Each one of those containers is a one gallon milk bottle containing approximately seven thousand plastic beads. Each of the five rows in the picture is a different color. If you know of a group that might have use for these contact Stan



## Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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V Pres.: OPEN

Secretary: Ian Norrish NZ1B

Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

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Photographer Ralph Swick KD1SM

PIO: Jon Kinney N1JGA

Board Members

Earl Russell 1998

Bob Reif 1999

OPEN 2000

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

53.890 - 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 send items

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