



# SIGNAL



de NINC

July 2005 Volume 14 Number 7

## This Month's Meeting

The June meeting was the last before the summer break. The NVARC cookout is confirmed for August 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at the KD2S QTH. Talk-in will be on 442.900 if you need directions. The next meeting will be September 15th when we resume in the fall.

## Last Month's Meeting

The meeting opened with a backdrop of pictures from Field Days past. After general introductions Ralph introduced Sue Podolski (below left) who has been the Race Co-Director for the Groton Road Race for many years. Sue spoke a few words thanking us for the many years of support for the race and how she depended on us to know what to do.



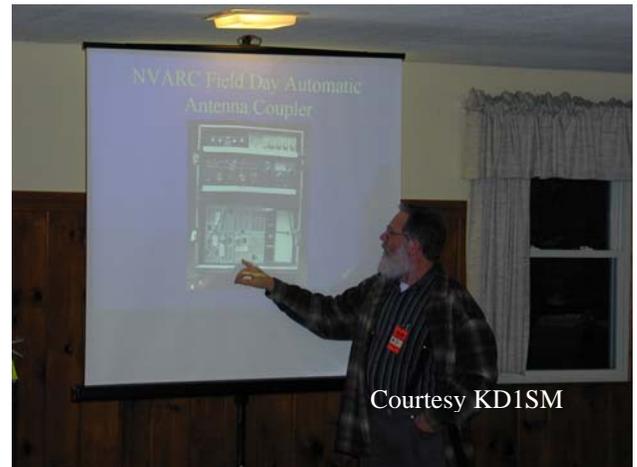
Courtesy KD1SM

Lt. Jack Rooney (above center) from the Groton Police Department was the second guest present. Lt Rooney spoke for a few minutes again thanking us for our support of communications for the road race. He mentioned how in coming from a larger commu-

nity where everything was done with full police support he had concerns when he found he would have to depend on volunteers that included auxiliary police and us to support the race. But he has been very pleased with the cooperation and support and there have been very few problems.

Dave N1MNX reported the Field Day news release had been delivered to six local papers. He passed around a copy of the Messenger which had printed the release. Dave also stated that he had delivered invitations to the police, fire, and Emergency Management Directors of Pepperell, Groton, and the surrounding communities.

Bob AB1CV delivered a thank you letter from the Groton American Legion for our support of the Groton Memorial Day Parade.



Courtesy KD1SM

The first presentation was by Bob W1XP (shown above). Bob had a presentation on the antenna switching, tuner, and filter system being built for the CW station by himself and Stan KD1LE. The purpose of the system is to simplify the selection of the desired antenna with the appropriate tuner and bandpass filter. This involves several layers of

switching since some antennas are used on multiple bands. This system reduces the clutter at the operating position by removing the pile of RF switches and tuners and replacing them with an eight position switch from which you select the antenna and band combination you want to use and the system puts the right combination of bandpass filter and antenna match (if needed) in service. Also since the system is self contained and preassembled it is ready to go when moved to the site. The antenna feed lines are connected to the box and a single coax is run to the transceiver. The remote control box is placed on the operating table and a quick tune up of the antennas is done.

Stan had a brief presentation aimed at people who had not operated at Field Day or contested to explain the basic operating modes such as "running stations" and "search and pounce" strategies, and some basic rules.

The primary presentation was by Les N1SV on the Field Day logging system. The five logging computers were set up and networked. Les covered the general screen layout, how to enter data, correct data, send messages, startup and shutdown of the system. People practiced entering contacts into the log and sending station to station messages.

Present at the June meeting were Nancy KB1KEF, John KB1HDO, Dennis K1LGQ, Bob AB1CV, Joel W1JMM, Bob W1XP, Ralph KD1SM, Jim N8VIM, Leo WA1ULK, Peter N1ZRG, Dave N1MNX, Stan KD1LE, Ben KB1FJ, Wolf KA1VOU, Gary K1YTS, and Les N1SV. Guests were WL7CBJ Robert Reif from Neets Bay AK and Trevor Veale from Burlington VT.

### From the President

I hope everyone had a great Field Day experience. I particularly want to thank Larry KB1ESR and Bob AB1CV for their efforts in providing food and beverage to the crew for the event. Besides the food my estimate is we used at least 25 gallons of water and lemonade just at the RV which does not count the many gallons of liquids that all of the members brought. With the extreme conditions it was necessary everyone took drink and rest breaks.

The second group that made things more pleasant is the people who came for setup and particularly for teardown. By Sunday morning the crew is getting tired and taking down and packing all the equipment that was set up Friday and Saturday in a few hours on Sunday afternoon can be a daunting chore even

without the extreme heat issue. But it all went well due to the many hands. Stan KD1LE

### Adopt A Highway

The June cleanup was abbreviated since I forgot to mention it at the meeting and forgot to show up. Thanks to John KB1HDO and Jim AA1PO who did show up and deposit a small amount of trash for MassHighways to pick up. The July cleanup is therefore more important now to catch up.

The next road cleanup will be Sunday July 24th.

We meet at the traffic island on the east side of the Nashua River at 9:00 AM. The normal clean up day is the Sunday after the club meeting.

### Antenna Preparations

At a secret antenna test range somewhere in the Nashoba Valley the CW crew tests the assembly and performance of the "new" 20 meter antenna prior to Field Day.



Since the antenna boom of the 20 meter antenna is too long to be put on the mast when the tower is horizontal it had to be mounted in two pieces. The

purpose of these tests was to confirm the assembly procedure and antenna performance. The motto heard there was "If it hasn't been tested it doesn't work." It worked fine at Field Day so the test was successful.

### Groton Road Race

We received the following letter from the Groton Road Race Committee.

June 2005

To the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Association:

Another successful Groton Road Race is now just another chapter in the town's history and the Squannacook River Runners would like to express our appreciation to all the radio operators for their superior level of support.

Despite the soggy conditions, you were there when needed and professional in every way. Without the participation of the NVARC we truly could not even consider allowing a single runner across the starting line. Your skills are always greatly appreciated and vital to the future of the Groton Road Race.

We look forward to the support your fine group of volunteers provides on April 30, 2006...and promise to have another great t-shirt to reward your efforts and a timely post-race "bash" to help re-hydrate everyone!

Thank you sincerely,  
(Sue)

Race Directors Sue Podolske, Sue Hoxie and Gordon Row and all the members of the Squannacook River Runners

Sue did apologize at the meeting for converting us from a club to an association. -ed

### Field Day

2005 Field Day took place June 25-26<sup>th</sup>. We started several weeks in advance by doing some mowing each week. The weekend before Field Day we did a final mowing to catch anything we missed. Helping out on this project were Leo KA1ULK, Dave N1MNX,

Stan KD1LE, Bob W1XP, Larry KB1ESR, and Bruce K1BG.

Besides cutting grass, the Site Preparation Crew laid out the antenna sites for the CW, Digital, and SSB stations to minimize interference. They were located on a NW-SE line so the directional antennas, that were pointing SW, would be broadside to each other with the overall goal being to keep the stations as close together and the antennas as far apart as possible. The bandpass filters providing additional isolation.

Friday afternoon at approximately 3:00 PM we started setting up primarily by bringing equipment onto the site. Larry KB1ESR brought the RV, Stan KD1LE the tower trailer and antennas, and Dave N1MNX the U/VHF station. Les N1SV and Peter N1ZRG put up ropes for the SSB 80 meter dipole. Peter N1ZRG, Ralph KD1SM and Leo WA1ULK rounded out the Friday crew. The 20 meter four element yagi for the CW station was assembled and mounted on the trailer tower and moved into the vertical position at 25 feet.

Saturday morning after breakfast everyone headed to the site as set up went into high gear.

The CW Station "secret weapon", the all-in-one antenna, filter and matching system was set up in public for the first time.



Courtesy KD1LE

Tri-banders for the CW and SSB stations were assembled, mounted on extension ladders, and erected and the digital station loop was set up.

After several hours of hard work and the necessary broken and non-functional equipment, guaranteed by Murphy's Law, we were off and running.



Above Peter N1ZRG and Les N1SV operate the SSB station. The two six port switches on the tuner (center top) were to select the antennas and filters. Whoever thought to bring the fans was a genius.



The crew relaxes at suppertime.

By supper time everyone was ready for a break so the generator was shutdown to let it cool for gas and oil checks and everyone sat down to eat supper.

Larry and Bob prepared a great supper of chicken, burgers, beans, with cookies for desert and of course plenty of liquids.

Stations operated through the night logging hundreds of contacts. As night turned to morning the all important food crew cranked up breakfast. Eggs,

French toast, bacon, toast, orange juice and coffee made the breakfast complete.



Sunday morning the hazy sunrise promised more of the hot and humid weather.

Sunday morning as band conditions and usage changed, antennas and equipment that was no longer needed was taken down and packed. By mid morning it was clear that it was going to be another extremely hot and humid day. Each station decided when they had enough fun and by 11:00 the last station, the CW hardliners, had shutdown. Tear-down was now in full swing though the heat meant frequent pauses for liquid and some shade. By 2:00 PM the caravan of vehicles was leaving the site.



This is the FD site from the air. Thanks to Jim N8VIM at the controls and Ralph KD1SM snapping the pictures on Sunday morning. In the lower left is the ladder and tribander for the CW station. Then the tower with the 4 element 20 meter beam. Hung between the ladder and tower was the ZL Special for 40 meters and from the top of the tower hung the 80/160 meter antenna. At the lower right is the UHF/VHF/Satellite station. Near the top of the center road is the RV with the GOTA and digital stations. The opening to the right of the RV is the site of the 40 meter loop antenna. The last object up the road is the SSB station. The opening in the upper right corner is the clearing for the SSB ladder and tri-bander.

## Public Service

### Pepperell 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

Recently NVARC members Den KD2S, Greg N1VAV and Lynda N1PBL supported the Pepperell 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. They coordinated the bus transporting parade participants from the finish to the start before the parade and on bicycle mobile helped set up the participants in the proper order.

### Fitchburg Longsjo Classic Bicycle Race

The weekend after Field Day was another active one for 16 dedicated Hams. These volunteers were out in beautiful sunny weather -- though fortunately not nearly as hot as Field Day -- to help with the Fitchburg Longsjo Classic Bicycle Race.

The Fitchburg Longsjo Classic draws over 800 pro and semi-pro racers to the area for four days of stage racing. 2005 was the 46th running of this race, named in honor of Arthur Longsjo, an Olympic cyclist from Fitchburg.

After time trials on Thursday and a 16 to 78 mile circuit race in Fitchburg on Friday, the racers and their support crews all go to Princeton on Saturday for 35 to 104 miles of road racing. The racers start at the Wachusett Ski Lodge at the base of Mt. Wachusett and after making several loops around an 11-mile course through downtown Princeton, the racers turn into the Mt. Wachusett Reservation and ride up the hill to the summit of Wachusett to finish.

The total length of the race varies by race category. The Longsjo Classic is a relatively large race and is able to hold 8 rider categories; 5 men's categories and 3 women's categories. On Saturday there are

four separate categories of racers out on the course at once, so despite the length of the course the hams and spectators are treated to frequent views of the racers.

After the grueling road race stage, the racers return to downtown Fitchburg on Sunday for a criterium race. This race is on a .9 mile loop through downtown Fitchburg. The racers make 17 to 55 laps around this course before an always-exciting finish in front of City Hall.

The Hams are there to provide vital communications for the emergency medical personnel and to assist with spectator and traffic control. We provide logistics communication support to the Race Directors from the Fitchburg Cycling Club, passing along information about status of marshals at various locations and tracking the race status. The USCF race officials who referee the race have also come to count on us as an important additional source of status information. All of this contributes, said several riders who thanked us individually, to one of the best-run races in the country.

The Hams who participated this year were: Bob AB1CV (Sat & Sun), Tom K1JHC (Sat), Gary K1YTS (Sat), Warren KA1JL (Sun), John KB1HDO (Sat & Sun), Ray KB1LRL (Sun), Stan KD1LE (Sat & Sun), Ralph KD1SM (Sat & Sun), Charlie KT1I (Sat), Tom N1KKY (Sat), Gordon N1MGO (Sat), Bill N1UZ (Sun), Chick N1WVE (Sat), Ben N1XYT (Sun), Barry W1HFN (Sat), and Paul W1SEX (Sat).

The Longsjo Committee and the USCF extend their thanks to all these operators. We were mentioned several times on the live media coverage on Saturday and Sunday. This is great publicity for Amateur Radio as well as providing an important community service.

## Board Meeting Notes

The Board meeting was July 14<sup>th</sup> at the KD1LE QTH. On the agenda were Field Day wrap up for expenses and a discussion on the overall event.

Larry and submitted bills related to Field Day.

Stan reported that the Community Center has been reserved for the next town fiscal year (July – June).

The cookout is confirmed to be August 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at the KD2S QTH.

Road Cleanup July 24<sup>th</sup>

Stan did a Ham Radio presentation at the Pepperell Senior Center July 8<sup>th</sup>.

There was a discussion on Field Day and the feeling that there needed to be more and regular meetings specifically to plan the details.

It was noted that the awards sections of the July CQ magazine has an article about the NVARC Worked all Massachusetts Counties Award.

In attendance Larry KB1ESR, John KB1HDO, Peter N1ZRG, Les N1SV, Ralph KD1SM, Dave N1NMX, Bob W1XP, Stan KD1LE.

### Flea Markets and Such

July 17 MIT  
Aug 21 NoBARC Adams MA  
Aug 21 MIT

### Advertisements

Tell them you saw it in the Signal. Advertisers should contact the NVARC Treasurer for information.

BERNIE PEABODY N1IMO  
DICK WILBORG W1ZC

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### \$July Treasurers Report\$

Income for June was \$130 in membership dues, and \$34 from the book raffle. Expenses were \$14.80 for newsletter postage and \$137.72 for Field Day leaving a net income of \$11.48 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$4585.16
Community fund	\$2079.95

Welcome to new members Daniel Rajczyk N1KJN of Haverhill, Doug Perry KB1JCY also of Haverhill, and Stephen Farley KB1MGG of Lowell.

As of 14 July we have 58 current members and five renewals outstanding. Please check your newsletter mailing label for your expiration date or look for the email reminder I send you if you are overdue.



Remember, if you renew your ARRL membership through the Club the ARRL rebates a portion back to the Club. And you can save yourself a stamp.

### NVARC Club Net

The NVARC Club Net met Monday July 11<sup>th</sup>. Running the net was Dave N1MNX and checkins were Bob W1XP, Larry KB1ESR, Stan KD1LE, and Richard KB1MBR.

Discussions included Field Day issues, the August NVARC Cookout, and the upcoming Board meeting.

There was also a discussion about a possible group project and purchase of parts for an RF Switch. One use could be to select the filters we designed and built when placed in use such as for Field Day. But there seemed to be some general interest in them for use in people's shack as in regular antenna switching. There was a construction article in April QST with testing data and there is a PCB available that would make construction easier. Bulk purchase of relays and boards may have some cost benefit.

The net is a good place to bring information for the club and questions or discussions. The net meets at 8:00 PM Monday evenings on the 442.900 N1MNX repeater.

### ARRL Letter

#### PRESIDENT BUSH SENDS GREETINGS TO FIELD DAY 2005 PARTICIPANTS

President George W. Bush has sent greetings from the White House to everyone participating in ARRL Field Day 2005.

"I send greetings to those celebrating the annual Field Day for Amateur Radio, hosted by the American Radio Relay League. Across our country, radio plays a vital role in relaying important information to the public and emergency service personnel in times of need," the president said.

"By providing emergency communications at the federal, state, and local level, licensed Amateur Radio operators help first responders and law enforcement officials save lives and make our country safer. Your efforts help ensure the right assistance gets to the right people at the right time. I appreciate all ham operators who give their time and energy to help make our citizens more secure. Your good work reflects the spirit of America and contributes to a culture of responsibility and citizenship that strengthens our nation. Laura and I send our best wishes."

An annual exercise aimed at developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio, ARRL Field Day takes place this year on Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. Stations throughout the Americas may participate.

### **AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION FOCUS OF WORLD CONFERENCE**

Tampere, Finland, played host June 13-14 to the first Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC 2005). Participants from 17 countries and representatives of all three International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) regions gathered to discuss and exchange information on the role of Amateur Radio in emergency communication. A conference statement summarized the value of Amateur Radio to emergency communication worldwide.

"The Amateur Radio Service has the proven capabilities and capacities to serve the international community through its global network of infrastructure-independent stations," the statement concluded. "Such stations are not only most likely to withstand the physical impact of disasters, but their flexibility furthermore avoids the overload all public networks inevitably experience in the aftermath of disasters."

The statement also pointed to the Amateur Service as "an invaluable resource of skilled operators, trained and experienced in maintaining communications under the most adverse conditions." It further concluded that it's essential "to ensure that this resource can be fully utilized in the service of emergency and disaster response providers." Conferees agreed as well that the Amateur Service needs access to "appropriate portions of the shared and limited resource of the radio frequency spectrum."

The IARU has submitted the summary as an input document to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), set to take place in Tunisia this November.

Representing the IARU and chairing GAREC 2005 was Hans Zimmermann, HB9AQS, the IARU's International Coordinator for Emergency Communications. Past ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, represented IARU in his capacity as Region 2 President and the League in his capacity as International Affairs Vice President.

Major topics included cooperation between radio amateurs and institutional emergency response providers on the national level, and an exchange of experiences from recent events. Presentations showed how hams support emergency responders as skilled volunteer telecommunication operators as well as via their own global networks.

Conferees also talked over ways to improve and facilitate the work of emergency communication networks. Participants agreed on the desirability of establishing a "Center of Activity Frequency" for emergency traffic on 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters. SRAL, the IARU member-society for Finland and the host of GAREC 2005 will forward a proposal to that effect to the IARU for its consideration. This could happen during the IARU Region 1 Conference this September. GAREC-2005 did not put forth specific center-of-activity frequencies, but the proposal did recommend calling them "The Tampere Frequencies."

Because of Tampere's association with the history of emergency and disaster communication, the city's name has become nearly synonymous with emergency telecommunication. Among signal events, an experts' conference there in 1991 adopted the Tampere Declaration on Disaster Communications. In 1998, the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98) adopted the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations. Effective as of January 8, 2005, the convention largely eliminates roadblocks to moving telecommunications personnel and equipment across international borders into and within disaster-stricken areas. Tampere has hosted several related conferences on emergency telecommunication as well. To maintain the momentum, plans already are being discussed for a second global conference in 2006.

A GAREC 2005 summary is available on the IARU Web site <<http://www.iaru.org/emergency/summary.html>>.--

## NVARC Annual Report

	4/1/04 to 3/31/05	4/1/03 to 3/31/04	4/1/02 to 3/31/03	4/1/01 to 3/31/02
Starting balance	4847.98	5124.49	4820.36	2659.28
<b>Income</b>				
Dues	784.00 <sup>1</sup>	845.00 <sup>2</sup>	620.00	550.00
ARRL memberships	6.00			22.00
Bank interest	77.68	106.10	116.97	173.83
Donation	10.01	1.33	.05	1.11
FoxFinder			329.05	2863.50
Book Raffle	126.00	36.00 <sup>3</sup>	63.00 <sup>3</sup>	133.00 <sup>3</sup>
Mugs	4.00	100.00 <sup>3</sup>		
Patches	24.00	2.00 <sup>3</sup>	6.00 <sup>3</sup>	46.00 <sup>3</sup>
PowerPole	105.00	70.00 <sup>3</sup>	305.00 <sup>3</sup>	90.00 <sup>3</sup>
Signal Advertising	24.00	24.00 <sup>4</sup>		
Total Income	1001.69	1090.43	1440.07	3879.44
<b>Expenses</b>				
Insurance	(255.00)	(255.00)	(255.00)	(255.00)
Newsletter printing				
Newsletter postage	(177.60)	(185.00) <sup>4</sup>	(133.20)	(186.25)
PO Box	(44.00)	(44.00)	(44.00)	(20.00)
QSL Bureau	(48.61)	(37.45)	(54.18)	(62.07)
E-Comms books				(190.00)
Miscellaneous			(26.39) <sup>5,6</sup>	(23.67) <sup>5</sup>
Food	(74.37)	(73.61)	(52.25) <sup>5</sup>	(51.03) <sup>5</sup>
Badges				
Book raffle	(200.00)	(200.00) <sup>3</sup>		(200.00) <sup>3</sup>
Brochures	(10.48)			
Domain Registration			(47.75) <sup>6</sup>	
Speaker Mileage		(25.00)		
Field Day	(225.57)	(214.93)		(128.56)
Yearbook	(107.20)		(38.47)	(169.36)
Mugs		(425.95) <sup>1</sup>		
Patches				(255.57) <sup>3</sup>
Postage	(8.40)		(7.35) <sup>5</sup>	(30.70) <sup>5</sup>
PowerPole	(159.39)		(477.35) <sup>3</sup>	(146.15) <sup>3</sup>
Total Expenses	(1141.82)	(1366.94)	(1135.94)	(1718.36)
Net Income	(149.93)	(276.51)	304.13	2161.08
Ending Balance	4698.05	4847.98	5124.49	4820.36
<b>Community</b>				
Starting balance	1842.55	1842.55	1717.55	1192.55
Donations received	215.00	0.00	125.00	525.00
Paid out	(149.60)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ending balance	1907.95	1842.55	1842.55	1717.55

## Notes to 2005 Annual Report

- 1) Includes a 3-year renewal.
- 2) Includes a 3-year renewal and a 4-year renewal.
- 3) Certain line items that generate both expense and income were restated for prior years to separate the income and expense lines. In prior year reports these were consolidated into a single figure and reported under either income or expense. The affected items are Book Raffle, Mugs, Patches, and the PowerPole program.
- 4) FY03 Signal advertising income line item has been separated from the Newsletter postage line item reported in 2004 Annual Report.
- 5) FY01 and FY02 Food and Postage line items have been separated from the Miscellaneous line item reported in prior annual reports.
- 6) N1NC.ORG domain registration fee has been separated from FY02 Miscellaneous line item reported in prior annual reports.

## Contest Calendar and DXpeditions

The information for a DXpedition can be quite detailed and may include bands, dates, number of stations, and times of day they plan to work certain continents so I can not list it all here. But if a country or prefix is of interest you can get more information at [www.425dxn.org](http://www.425dxn.org).

### Contests July-Sep

- August 6-7  
ARRL UHF  
National Lighthouse Weekend QSO
- Aug 20  
ARRL 10 GHz
- Sep 3-4  
RSGB SSB Field Day
- Sep 10-12  
ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party

## DXpeditions

Call	Location	Until
9V1CW	Singapore	2008
8Q7WP	Maldives	09/05
5H3HK	Tanzania	March 2006
ZD8I	Ascension Is	March 2006



## Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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<http://www.n1nc.org/>

President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
Vice President: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG  
Secretary: John Griswold KB1HDO  
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
Board Members:  
Dave Peabody: N1MNX 2003-2006  
Bob Reif: W1XP 2004-2007  
Les Peters: N1SV 2005-2008  
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
Emergency Coordinator: Den Connors KD2S  
Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
PIO: Dave Peabody N1MNX  
Librarian: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG  
Property Master: John Griswold KB1HDO  
Webmaster: Les Peters N1SV  
N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG  
Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month  
- 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr. Talk-in  
146.490 simplex  
442.900 + 100Hz Repeater  
147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater  
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater  
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