



SIGNAL



de NINC

January 2010 Volume 19 Number 1

This Month's Meeting

The January meeting is Thursday January 21st.

The January program is Members Short Subjects. We have a few members who have said they had presentations but we could always use more. A computer and LCD projector will be available.

Remember the Lantern Battery Challenge logs are due by/at March meeting.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting program was Homebrew. Members brought in a variety of projects to show. Due to the weather it looked like we would have only one table of members present but by starting time the single table had turned in to a circle of reasonable size which worked out well so that everyone could see each presenter.



WA1TAC Rod with an LED light bar he was going to install in his shack.

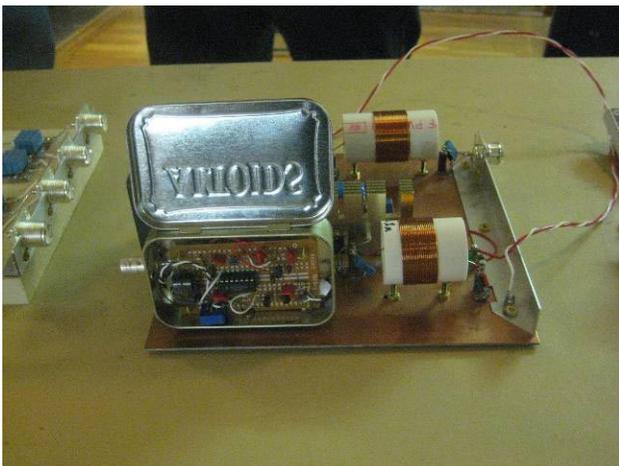


Bob W1XP displays the 600 Meter Low Pass Filter he designed and built. Looks like the Big Brother to the Ugly Field Day Filters. Instead of using a PC

power supply case this big boy took the entire PC case.



Bruce K1BG with QRP dummy load he built for testing QRP rigs as a result of the NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge. It's a miniature Heathkit Antenna for those who remember.



A 600 Meter class E Power amplifier Bob W1XP designed and built for the 600 meter experimental band.

In attendance were Mark AB1X, Bruce K1BG, Dennis K1LGQ, Skip, K1NKR, Tom K1NNJ, Jim K1PTF, Phil KB1JKL, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Tony KX1G, Les N1SV, Peter N1ZRG, Jim N8VIM, Paul NW1U, Dick W1LTN, W1PCQ Drew, W1RLG Roland, Bob W1XP, Erik W1ZBT, Greg WA1JXR, Rod WA1TAC

MassCon QRP Convention

The Massachusetts QRP Convention is being held at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center. March 12-13.

See <http://www.masscon.org/> for more information.

PART is hosting the event.

Upcoming Club Activities

April
First Road Cleanup
25th Groton Road Race
April Club Meeting Elections

May
23rd Parker Road Race

June
Field Day

PSLIST

Every event needs communications volunteers

Nothing currently scheduled.

See www.n1nc.org/Events for the latest information

Board Meeting

John Kelly GM3TCW responded to his renewal as an NVARC Honorary member after reading it in the December newsletter. John emailed thanks and hello to all.

Discussion of upcoming meeting presentations. The January will be Members Short Subjects so we need member participation. Computer and projector will be available for presentations.

Ralph submitted the Treasurers report for the newsletter. Discussed members who have not renewed that we have been carrying on the members list. Decided we should drop them from the members and newsletter list.

The Board reviewed the policy that sending email to the club list was limited to members. This was stimulated by a request from a non-member. The board decided the email policy was appropriate and should be continued.

Bob submitted a list of suggested books for the meeting book raffle.

In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Peter N1ZRG, Bob W1XP, Larry, Ralph KD1SM, Skip K1NKR and John KK1X.

Adopt A Highway

At the Board Meeting there was a discussion about whether we should continue in the MassHighway Adopt A Highway Program. It was felt that we get good publicity and recognition from this activity and though it is not a radio activity it is still a public service and should continue.

Treasurers Report

Income for December was \$65 from membership dues, \$2 from ARRL renewals, \$26.02 in bank interest, and \$10 from PowerPole connector sales.

Expenses were \$17.60 for newsletter postage leaving a net income of \$85.42 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$4,235.07
Community fund	\$3,771.41

Welcome to new member Mark Hald AB1X of Pepperell. Mark is an ARRL member and says his interests are HF, CW, and RTTY.

As of 2 January we have 44 members who are current with their dues and 21 renewals outstanding. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If your ARRL membership is ready for renewal, you can let Ralph mail it in for you and the Club will get a commission. If you're interested in joining the ARRL and do so through Ralph the Club will get a bigger commission. ARRL membership checks should be

made payable to NVARC so that our commission can be deducted before we forward your membership to Newington.

Ralph KD1SM

ARRL Letter

Hams in the News: White House Names Ham as New Cybersecurity Coordinator

President Barack Obama greets his new White House Cyber Security Chief Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, in the Cross Hall of the White House. December 17, 2009.

On December 22, President Barack Obama named Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, as the new White House Cybersecurity Coordinator. According to the White House, Schmidt -- an ARRL member -- is one of the world's leading authorities on computer security, with some 40 years of experience in government, business and law enforcement and "will have regular access to the President and serve as a key member of his National Security Staff. He will also work closely with his economic team to ensure that our cybersecurity efforts keep the Nation secure and prosperous."

In an exclusive interview with the ARRL, Schmidt said that he credits Amateur Radio with getting him involved with technology: "In high school, one of my friends was a ham and he got me interested in shortwave radio, which in turn got me into building shortwave radios and equipment, many from Heathkit. As I got older, I took courses from NRI and Bell and Howell in electronics and built a number of projects, preparing me for my first ham radio ticket. I love technology, and it was Amateur Radio that caused me to build my first computer -- a Sinclair ZX-80 to use for EME calculations. I studied all about the OSCAR systems and would build equipment to monitor when they would pass within range of Arizona. Building these computers to support my ham radio hobby gave me the technical skills that I needed to start doing computer crime investigations and work on the early stages of computer forensics, in turn enabling me to start working on cybersecurity issues."

Spotlight on Amateur Radio: 2009 Sees Surge of New Amateur Radio Licensees

In 2009, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new Amateur Radio licenses -- an almost 3 percent increase in the number of new licenses issued in 2008. At the end of 2009, there were 17,084 Nov-

ices, 334,245 Technicians, 150,970 Generals and 119,403 Amateur Extra class licensees.

This past year was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. "In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007," Somma said. "This high level of exam session activity has produced an elevated influx of new applications, far outpacing recent years." A total of 30,144 new licenses were granted in 2009 -- an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks; just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000 -- a whopping 84 percent!

Public Service: MARS Gets New Name As It Fine Tunes Mission

On Wednesday, December 23, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued an Instruction concerning MARS, effective immediately. This Instruction gives the three MARS services -- Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps -- a new focus on homeland security and a new name: Military Auxiliary Radio System. The Instruction is the first major revision to MARS since January 26, 1988 -- as such, the first revision since the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina, two major events that changed the way Amateur Radio dealt with emergency communications. In the past, MARS had focused primarily on emergency communications and health and welfare support. The DoD's Instruction now directs the three MARS services to provide "contingency radio communications" to support US government operations, DoD components and "civil authorities at all levels," providing for national security and emergency preparedness events. MARS units will still continue to provide health and welfare communications support "to military members, civilian employees and contractors of DoD Components, and civil agency employees and contractors, when in remote or isolated areas, in contingencies or whenever appropriate." MARS must also be capable of operation in "radio only" modes -- without landlines or the Internet -- and sustainable on emergency power (when public utility power has failed); some MARS stations must be transportable for timely deployment

Coming Up in QST: Look for the February Issue of QST to Arrive Soon

The February issue of QST is jam-packed with all sorts of news and information that today's Amateur

Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments, from public service to on-the-air activities, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone. You'll find a plethora of technical and general interest articles, as well as monthly columns such as How's DX, Hamspeak, Vintage Radio and more. Click here to discover what's in store for you in the February issue of QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

Hints & Kinks : A BNC Connector Tool

The completed tool aids in inserting or removing BNC jacks from a chassis without damaging the connector.

Scott McCann, W3MEO, of Queenstown, Maryland, made this tool by soldering a BNC connector to the shaft of an old screwdriver (see photo): "I cut off the blade and tinned the shaft with ordinary solder and flux. I then removed the center pin and Teflon from a BNC plug and soldered the plug onto the screwdriver shaft. While it was hot, I 'locked up' the nut and collar with solder. Now I have a BNC driver, very handy for installing and removing BNC jacks without marring them, which can happen using pliers or other 'make do' tools." Do you have an idea or a simple project that has improved your operating? Maybe you've taken something commonly found around the home and developed a ham radio use for it? Why not share your hints with fellow hams in "Hints and Kinks," a monthly column in QST. If we publish your hint in QST, you will receive \$20. Send your hints via e-mail or to ARRL Headquarters, Attn: "Hints and Kinks," 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address.

ARRL in Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members, such as speaking with representatives of the FCC's five Commissioners concerning BPL, representing Amateur Radio at various meetings leading up to WRC-12, rolling out new platforms for the ARRL's Tech Q&A, processing certificates and endorsements for the Hiram Percy Maxim 140th Birthday Celebration and more. This installment covers the month of December.

Now You Know!: 4U1 Call Signs

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

This past weekend when I was working the ARRL RTTY Round-Up, I came across a call sign that I had never seen before. But that's not what confused me (as I become more active on the air, I run across all sorts of interesting call signs, such as 3V8ST). No, what confused me was that the supercheck database and my logging program told me that the call sign was located in the US. We all know that AA-AL, K, N and W are all US prefixes. Then why was 4U1WB showing up as being located in the US, too?

I'm looking forward to getting one of these in my mailbox soon!

Upon assurances I was not going crazy -- and more importantly that the supercheck database and my logger were not broken -- I found out that 4U1WB is a United Nations call sign assigned to the World Bank Amateur Radio Club at the World Bank in Washington, DC. There are four 4U1 call signs around the globe: 4U1WB; 4U1UN, assigned to the United Nations; 4U1ITU, assigned to the International Amateur Radio Club at the International Telecommunication Union, and 4U1VIC, assigned to the Vienna International Radio Club at the Vienna International Centre.

In the past, the United Nations has issued 4U call signs to various entities, allowing its use in areas where the UN has had peacekeeping forces. In 1995, an operation from Western Sahara used 4U/KC0PA, while Burundi used 4U9U in 1994.

World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC.

While 4U1UN and 4U1ITU count for credit toward the ARRL's DXCC award, 4U1WB and 4U1VIC do not. The DXCC rules define 4U1WB and 4U1VIC as "ineligible areas." These areas are classified as "extraterritorial legal entit[ies] of any nature, including, but not limited to, embassies, consulates, monuments, offices of the United Nations agencies or related organizations, other inter-governmental organizations or diplomatic missions." This rule also clarifies that these two stations are considered part of their "host entity" for DXCC purposes. This makes 4U1WB part of the US and 4U1VIC part of Austria for DXCC purposes.

For more on 4U1UN, be sure to check out the February issue of QST. So now when you see or hear a call sign come across the ether to your radio with a 4U1 prefix, don't be alarmed when you find out that the call sign is based in the United States. Now you know!

VEC News: NCVEC Releases New Technician Class Question Pool

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool on Monday, January 4. This new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination; it will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element. The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

This Week on the Radio

This week, there is a running of the NCCC Sprint on January 8. The Mongolian RTTY DX Contest and the Midwinter Contest (CW) are January 9. The Hunting Lions in the Air Contest, the Michigan QRP January CW Contest, the WW PMC Contest and the North American QSO Party (CW) are January 9-10. The SKCC Weekend Sprint and the Midwinter Contest (Phone) are both on January 10. Next week, there is another running of the NCCC Sprint on January 15. The Hungarian DX Contest and the North American QSO Party (SSB) are January 16-17. The Feld Hell Sprint is January 17, the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is January 18 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is January 21. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page, the ARRL Contest Update and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page.
+ ARRL Recognizes: Robert H. Welsh, N3RW, Wins December QST Cover Plaque Award

The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for December is Robert H. Welsh, N3RW, for his article "How the Ionosphere Was Discovered." Congratulations, Robert! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the January issue by Sunday, January 31.

Silent Key: Knut Magne Haugland, Last Surviving Crew Member of Kon-Tiki Expedition, Passes Away

Knut Haugland and Torstein Raaby were the the two radio operators on board the Kon-Tiki. Both Haugland and Raaby were active in the Norwegian Resistance during WW II.

Knut Magne Haugland of Norway passed away on December 25. He was 92. Haugland was one of five men, who with Thor Heyerdahl in 1947, successfully crossed the Pacific Ocean in a 45 foot raft made of balsa wood and bamboo -- named Kon-Tiki -- to prove that people from South America could have settled Polynesia in pre-Columbian times. Heyerdahl and his companions sailed the raft for 101 days more than 4300 miles across the Pacific Ocean before smashing into a reef in the Tuamotu Islands on August 7, 1947. The expedition used call sign LI2B and carried three watertight radio transmitters. The first operated on the 40 and 20 meters, the second on 10 meters and the third on 6 meters. Each unit was made up entirely of 2E30 vacuum tubes providing 10 W of RF input. As an emergency backup, they also carried a German Mark V transceiver originally re-created by Britain's Special Operations Executive in 1942. Other equipment included a hand-cranked emergency set of the Gibson Girl type for use on the maritime bands, a special VHF set for contacting aircraft and two British Mark II transmitters. The Kon-Tiki also carried a National Radio Company NC-173 receiver. Dry batteries and a hand-cranked generator supplied the power.

Advocacy: Amateur Radio Bill Passes Senate, Moves to the House

On Monday, December 14, S 1755 -- *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009* -- passed the Senate by unanimous consent; the bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration. Sponsored by Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), S 1755, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study on emergency communications. S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

Public Service: Hams Help Out with Sea Rescue

When Dave Nicholson, N2AWE, was stranded at sea earlier this month off the Bermuda Triangle, he had no fuel and his 47 foot sailboat had sustained severe damage in a storm. When they learned of his predicament, hams with the Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) helped to coordinate with the US Coast Guard to bring fuel and a tow boat to guide Nicholson safely to port.

The 2009 ARRL Spectrum Defense Campaign Needs Your Support

Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, reports that the ARRL has raised more than \$221,000 toward the goal \$310,000 for the [2009 Spectrum Defense Fund](#). "The messages I receive from the ARRL members and hams who contribute to this much needed fund are heartening," she said, "expressing appreciation for all the work ARRL does for the Amateur Radio community to protect our frequencies. And we can all be proud of the successes that have come from the work of ARRL leadership -- the Board and staff here at HQ. But there is always more to do." Hobart said that year after year, ARRL members tell her that the League's representation of radio operators -- both in Washington and on the international stage -- is one of, if not the most important activities that the ARRL does. "The cost of that representation at meetings in Washington, at ITU gatherings and working party meetings to prepare for world telecommunications conferences is the key to the continued success of our defense efforts," she said. "Spectrum Defense is one of those areas that is not covered completely by member dues. So we ask ARRL members to do what they can to help cover those expenses." Amateurs wishing to make a contribution may do so easily [online](#), via postal mail or by calling the ARRL Development Office at 860-594-0397.

Amateur Radio in Space: First Chinese Amateur Radio Satellite Now in Space

AMSAT China ([CAMSAT](#)) reports that at around 0230 UTC on December 15, China launched its first Amateur Radio satellite -- named [XW-1](#) -- into space. The microsatellite -- a secondary payload aboard the CZ-4C rocket launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center -- was launched into a Sun-synchronous orbit with an apogee of approximately 1200 kilometers. XW-1

successfully reached orbit at 0253 UTC. Members of the XW-1 launch team reported they received a beacon from the satellite shortly after the satellite deployed. In the first few days, the XW-1 team will work on the satellite's FM and store-forward transponder mode and its linear transponder mode. Once those tests are complete, they will upload a new flight program to set up the payload schedule. The satellite's communications payload includes a beacon and three crossband transponders operating in FM, SSB/CW and digital modes. Uplink and downlink frequencies can be found on the [CAMSAT Web site](#). For the latest Keplerian elements for XW-1 and other satellites, check out the [W1AW Keplerian Bulletins](#).

Amateur Radio in Space: Students and Teachers Invited to "Fly a File" on ARISSat-1

On February 3, 2006, cosmonaut Valery Ivanovich Tokarev hand-launched the Amateur Radio satellite SuitSat-1 from the International Space Station during an extra vehicular activity (EVA), NASA's term for a spacewalk. A discarded Russian ORLAN spacesuit, SuitSat-1 was equipped with an Amateur Radio transmitter that transmitted telemetry and greetings from youngsters to the youth of the world in several languages. In 2010, an Amateur Radio satellite -- ARISSat-1 -- will once again be hand-launched from the ISS. Like its predecessor, ARISSat-1 will transmit messages recorded by students, and teachers and students are invited to "fly a file" aboard this Amateur Radio satellite.

ARRL Publications: Check Out the January/February 2010 NCJ

The January/February issue of *NCJ, The National Contest Journal*, is filled with the latest news from the contesting world. Whether you are new to contesting or are a seasoned pro -- or somewhere in the middle -- you will find something in *NCJ* just for you. In addition to all of the exciting articles in this issue, there are all the regular columns and features you expect from *NCJ*: "Workshop Chronicles," by Don Daso, K4ZA; "Contest Tips, Tricks & Techniques," by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT; "VHF Contesting," by Jon Jones, N0JK; "RTTY Contesting," by Don Hill, AA5AU; "Propagation," by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA; "Contesting on a Budget," by Ralph Bellas, K9ZO, and "Contesting 101," by Kirk Pickering, K4RO. *NCJ* is published six times a year by the ARRL; it is edited by Al Dewey, K0AD. *NCJ* is what every contester needs in their shack -- [subscribe today!](#)

Public Service: Utah Hams Coordinate Rescue

On December 2, this dairy truck crashed and rolled into the Logan River in Utah. Brent Yeates, KA7FAP, was able to help rescue the driver and call for help on his handheld transceiver.

In areas where cell phone signals just won't work, Amateur Radio gets through. That's what Brent Yeates, KA7FAP, of North Logan, Utah, found out just before noon on Wednesday, December 2: He came across a dairy truck that had crashed and rolled over in the Logan River as he drove on Route 89 through Logan Canyon. As 38,000 pounds of dairy products were spilling into the Logan River, Yeates waded through the cold river to help get the driver out of the truck's cab and then put out a call on his handheld transceiver.

Spotlight on Amateur Radio: Major Computer Publication Devotes January 2010 Issue to Amateur Radio

Emergencies may get all the attention in the press, but lately, the technological side of Amateur Radio has been showing up a lot in places that are read by the people who make next year's trends. Hams indeed are technical and creative people, consummate MacGyvers. To kick off the new year, the computer magazine *Linux Journal* has come out with an entire issue dedicated to Amateur Radio and the creative uses of open source computer programs. This 80 page issue features Tux, the Linux mascot on its cover wearing a pair of headphones, holding a microphone -- and even sporting an Emergency Coordinator badge around his neck -- hooked up to an HF transceiver. The issue has headlines on the cover such as "Amateur Radio and Linux -- Open Source for the New Generation," and "Get Started with Amateur Radio," and includes articles like "When All Else Fails -- Amateur Radio, the Original Open-Source Project" by David Lane, KG4GIY.

Scott Robbins, W4PA, to Purchase Vibroplex

Scott Robbins, W4PA, of Knoxville, Tennessee, told the ARRL that he has signed an agreement to purchase The Vibroplex Company, Inc from present owner Felton "Mitch" Mitchell, W4OA, effective December 21, 2009. "Vibroplex represents the great tradition of CW operation in Amateur Radio going back many, many years," Robbins told the ARRL. "I'm tickled to be able to continue the more than 100 years of history that has gone into this company." Robbins -- who has been employed with Ten-Tec Inc since 1995 (he has been Product Manager for Ten-Tec's Amateur Radio equipment line since 1997) -- will leave his position in mid-December to take over full-time management and ownership of Vibroplex.

"It's a great opportunity to continue the more than 100 years of tradition that the Vibroplex name represents," Robbins said.

ARRL Publications: ARRL Licensing Study Guides -- Coming to an eBook Reader Near You

Study for your new ticket on your Kindle, iPhone or iPod touch!

ARRL is pleased to announce that owners of Kindle - an electronic book reader sold by Amazon.com -- can now download ARRL's Tech Q&A directly from the online bookseller for use on their Kindle. Kindle is shaped much like a book with a paper-like screen that displays text and pictures. Those who have the Kindle application installed on their Apple iPhone or iPod touch can also download the book for use on these devices. When you download the Tech Q&A, you can gain access quickly and easily, smoothing the path to your first ham radio license. This ideal study tool -- whether you're at home, in the office, traveling or just on the go -- lets you review the questions and answers from the entire Technician question pool so you can pass the 35-question exam. Kindle versions of the General Q&A and the Amateur Extra Q&A will be available sometime in January. All three can be purchased from Amazon.com for \$9.99 each.

Regulatory: FCC Dismisses Two Petitions

On Wednesday, December 9, the Federal Communications Commission dismissed two separate Petitions for Rulemaking. The first Petition was filed by Murray Green, K3BEQ, concerning the operation of repeater stations in the Amateur Service. The other Petition, filed by Glen Zook, K9STH, requested amending Section 97.119(a) to change how often stations must identify themselves.

Now You Know!: The ARRL 10 Meter Contest and Satellites

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

This weekend marks the 37th running of the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Back in November 1973 when the contest was first announced in QST, the rules differed slightly from how they stand now. This event began due to the interest that radio amateurs showed in the 10 meter band, thanks to the 5-band awards offered by the ARRL. "Occupancy is an important issue of the day as is proof that there's life in the old band yet," the article stated. "At a recent convention the matter was raised and met with enthusiastic response. Rather than postpone the idea for

another year, the consensus was 'let's give it a try for '73,' prompting a recommendation by the Contest Advisory Committee."

AMSAT-OSCAR 6 was launched October 15, 1972 by a Delta 300 launcher from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Lompoc, California. AO-6 was launched piggyback with ITOS-D (NOAA 2). AO-6 was the first-phase 2 satellite (Phase II-A). Weight 16 kg. Orbit 1450 x 1459 km. Inclination 101.7 degrees. Box shaped 430 x 300 x 150 mm. Quarter-wave monopole antennas (144 and 435 MHz) and half-wave dipole antenna (29 MHz). AO-6 Firsts: complex control system using discrete logic; satellite-to-satellite relay communication via AO-7; demonstrated Doppler-location of ground station for search and rescue, and demonstrated low-cost medical data relay from remote locations. Click here for more information on AO-6.

In 1973, each completed two-way QSO was worth 2 points, except QSOs with a US Novice were worth double that. The article pointed out that certain FCC-issued Novice call signs look a little strange: "Novices in KZ5 and KG4 have strange call signs -- a Canal Zone Novice has an 'N' at the end of the call, such as KZ5AAN. A Novice in Guantanamo Bay has an 'N' after the number, such as KG4NAA. All others replace the K with a W (i.e. WL7, WH6, etc.). If you work a station once on cw you can work him again on phone. Oscar QSOs also count."

Oscar QSOs? As in the satellite? Yes! The 1973 rules stated that "Oscar 6 contacts may be counted. All cw QSOs must take place between 28.0-28.5 MHz except those made through Oscar 6." The article also advised contest participants to stay clear of 29.45-29.55 MHz, as these were the Oscar downlink frequencies. Beginning in 1973 and continuing through 1979, QSOs made via the Oscar satellites counted for credit in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Beginning in 1980, after 10 meters had seemingly come back to life, the CAC no longer accepted the QSOs for credit in the contest. Now you know!

2009 Flea Markets/Conventions

February
13 Algonquin ARC Hamfest, Marlboro, MA, see www.n1em.org

March
20 ECARA Pomfret CT

April

18 MIT
30 NEARfest, Deerfield NH

May
16 MIT

August
27-29 ARRL NE Convention, Boxborough

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Upcoming Operating Events

January

17 North American QSO Party SSB
23-25 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
29 CQ 160 Meter Contest (CW)

February

6 Delaware QSO Party
6 10-10 Int Winter Contest SSB
7 North American Sprint CW
13 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
20-21 ARRL International DX Contest (CW)
26 CQ 160 Meter Contest SSB
27 North American QSO Party RTTY

March

6-7 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)
14 North American Sprint RTTY
27 CQ WW WPX Contest SSB

June

12-14 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

19 Kids Day
26 ARRL Field Day

July

10-11 IARU HF World Championships

For further info on these and other contests refer to:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>.

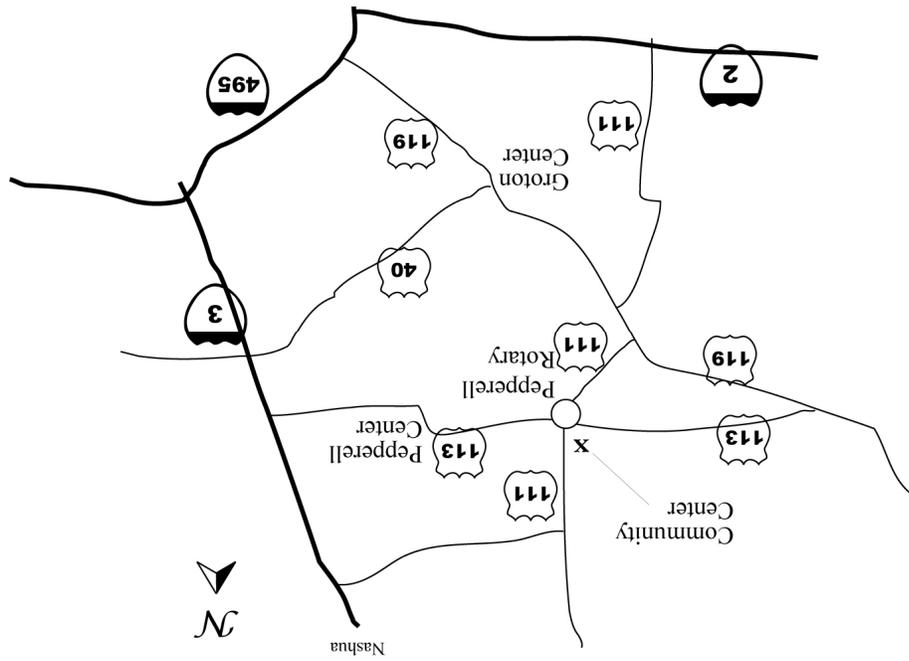


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Bob Reif: W1XP 2007-2010
Skip Youngberg K1NKR 2008-2011
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