



de NINC

May 2011 Volume 20 Number 05

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting presentation will be Interfacing to Automobile Data System.

This month's meeting is Thursday May 19th at 7:30 and will be held at the Community Center.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting we had 2011 elections. The Officer positions and one Board position needed to be filled. The 2010 slate of officers opted to run for reelection as did the expired board position. No others volunteered or were nominated. A voice vote was held and the candidates were elected. This sets the officers as;

President	Stan KD1LE
Vice President	Bruce K1BG
Secretary	John KK1X
Treasurer	Ralph KD1SM
Board 2009-2012	Joel W1JMM
Board 2010-2013	Bob W1XP
Board 2011-2014	Skip K1NKR

Last month's meeting presentation was on Digital TV Signals by Dan Pedtke KW2T. Dan described the many signals required by digital TV and compared them to the "simple" old style analog TV system.

In attendance were

Bruce K1BG, Dennis K1LGQ, Skip K1NKR, Tom K1NNJ, Gary K1YTS, Larry KB1ESR, George KB1HFT, Ben KB3RWM, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Dan KW2T, Les N1SV, Jim N8VIM, Roland NR1G, Joel W1JMM, Pete W1LLB, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC.

Lantern Battery Challenge Results

We had a record number, eleven, sign up for the Lantern Battery Challenge this year. Six logs were submit-

ted and at last month's meeting the results were announced and the award certificates presented. Then we all enjoyed the cake. I think we all had a good time and I hope we all are looking forward to next year.

For those that didn't make it to the meeting last month here are the results again.

Bruce, K1BG, captured first place in the Unlimited, CW class with a record number of contacts. He had a total of 259 QSOs in 81 DXCC countries. Second place in this class was Les, N1SV with 43 contacts in 24 countries.

In the Unlimited SSB class, first place was taken by Skip, K1NKR.

In the Transmit only CW class (only the transmitter battery powered) we had two entries from two new stations to the Lantern Battery Challenge. Both of these stations were using home brew transmitters that they built for the LBC. First place was KB1LZH with a total of 84 contacts using his home brew VFO controlled 80 meter transmitter. Second place was Peter N1ZRG using a crystal controlled 20 meter one watt transmitter he also built for the LBC.

The last of the six entries was by yours truly, using home built CW transmitters and receivers on 80 and 40 meters. Most of my

contacts were on 80 meters using a crystal controlled one watt transmitter which was a lot of fun for me. I tend to rag chew and have to tell everybody about the Lantern Battery Challenge so the contacts tend to be more than the hello/good-bye QSO that would extend the battery life. Going through the contact start and stop times in my log the average QSO (33 total) was about 16 minutes, for a total of about ten hours of QSO time and probably over five hours of Key down time. My output power was going down to just over half a watt by the end of February but I was still making contacts and receiving good reports. This 80 meter VXO rig is a proto type of what I am calling the Lantern Battery Challenge Special. Peter N1ZRG was also using a 20meter version of this design.

So what about next year? Well we are considering expanding the event to include other local clubs for next year but it's too soon to announce the results of this yet. I hope everybody that participated in this season's event had as much fun as I did. The one thing we need is more stations taking part in the event. There are many classes to enter so there should be one that appeals to you. We have yet to have any digital mode entries. I think the digital modes should be a natural for the low power operation. I'm looking forward to next year's event. I hope you are also. 73 Bob W1XP

NVARC Field Day 2011

Date: Sat. June 25, to Sun. June 26

Location: Heald Street Orchard Pepperell, MA

Lat, Long: 42.67, -71.6275

Entrance Lat, Long: 42.6715, -71.6282

Operating: 2 Alpha w/VHF/UHF and GOTA stations.

Field Day Chairman and Information Station:
Roland (NR1G)

Station Captains:

CW Station: Bob (W1XP)

Phone Station: John (KK1X)

VHF/UHF Station: Skip (K1NKR)

GOTA Station: Bruce (K1BG)

Antenna Coordination:

Stan (KD1LE) and Bob (W1XP)

Infrastructure Captain:

Power & Networking: Jim (N8VIM)

N1MM Logging: Bruce (K1BG)

There are still plenty of things left to volunteer for. Contact station captains to reserve an operating slot. Please contact Roland (NR1G) if you are interested in planning and coordinating any of the meals. Otherwise you'll be on your own for meals.

Here's a little Field Day History for you as best as I was able to recreate.

Year	NVARC							
	Call	Score	Cat	OSOs	Mult	GOTA	Sec	Part
92	K1BG	4,958	2A	1,384	2	-	EMA	16
93	-		2A			-	-	
94	K1BG	3,214	2A	764	2	-	EMA	20
95	-		2A			-	-	
96	N1NC	5,990	2A	1,613	2	K1BG	EMA	8
97	N1NC	6,656	2A	1,657	2	-	EMA	10
98	N1NC	5,428	2A	1,514	2	KF6KQB	EMA	14
99	-		2A			-	-	
00	-		2A			-	-	
01	N1NC	3,990	1AB	349	5	-	EMA	6
02	N1NC	4,160	2AB	429	5	-	EMA	26
03	N1NC	4,396	2A	1,424	2	KB1HDO	EMA	21
04	N1NC	7,458	2A	1,950	2	AB1CV	EMA	19
05	N1NC	4,744	3A	1,112	2	KA1LEQ	EMA	21
06	N1NC	5,202	2A	1,375	2	AB1GA	EMA	24
07	N1NC	4,370	2A	895	2	K1NNJ	EMA	31
08	N1NC	5,280	2A	1,461	2	K1NNJ	EMA	23
09	N1NC	4,842	2F	1,115	2	N8VIM	EMA	25
10	N1NC	5,802	3A	1,311	2	-	EMA	57

Any questions, comments or suggestions are appreciated and should be sent directly to me.

73, Roland, NR1G

Townsend Lions Club Canoe Race

On Saturday April 16 the Townsend Lion's Club held its annual Squannacook Canoe and Kayak Race.

The race starts at the Townsend VFW and proceeds along the Squannacook River to the pond at Townsend Harbor. The race is timed; paddlers start at 1-minute intervals beginning at 10am and their finish time at Harbor Pond is recorded. The fastest group completes the course in about 90 minutes while the slowest took nearly twice that time.

The river was fairly low this year and the weather was slightly on the chilly side. A brisk wind throughout the day was especially noticeable at the shore of Harbor Pond.

Radio operators volunteering for checkpoints along the course this year were: Bob AB1CV, Barry W1HFN, John KK1X, Charlie KT1I, Nancy KB1KEF, Stan KD1LE, Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, and Ralph KD1SM. Gary organized the crew while Stan had a dual role at the railroad trestle behind Town Hall serving as Net Control for the event.



Two paddlers approach the the final portage on the river.



A pair of slightly chilly paddlers reach the finish.



Julie (daughter of KB1KEF), Nancy KB1KEF, Bob AB1CV, Tom K1JHC, John KK1X, Charlie KT1I, Stan KD1LE, Barry W1HFN, Ralph KD1SM, and Gary K1YTS at the Townsend VFW preparing to head out to their checkpoints.

NVARC Net

The NVARC net meets on 442.900 N1MNX repeater Mondays at 8:00 PM. The net is for sharing information and asking questions. Recent topics were a quiz on snow records, meeting programs, antenna suggestions for new hams

Bring your questions and topics for discussion so that we can all learn something.

Check in's for Monday April 04, 2011 NET @ 8:pm on 442.900MHz, shift +5MHz, PL 100

1. N8VIM Jim NCS, K1NKR Skip, N1MNX Dave, KD1LE Stan, NW1U Paul, KB1HFT George, WR1G, Roland, W1LTN Dick, K1YTS Gary, KB1ESR Larry W1XP Bob, K1BG Bruce

PSLIST

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

Board Meeting

Meeting at the Community Center this month.

Road Cleanup starts this month May 22th at 8:00 AM

Skip went over the upcoming meeting presentations. N8VIM vehicle interfacing.

Ralph gave the treasurers report which is reported in its own section. Settled with Bob for LBC cake and drinks.

Roland discussed Field Day plans. Put together press releases. Update article for newsletter.

Bruce reported he completed the 2 X 6 antenna switch to share the antennas between the Field Day CW and SSB station. Needs computers, network switch, monitors to set up the network and test. Discussed station locations.

Ralph proposed a Field Day budget of \$650. Raph will update the Website Field Day information.

Ralph explained the ARRL club insurance is changing companies. Will have to look into the details.

Bob is working on a triplexer to share a tri-bander on 10-15-20 between three transmitters.

We received a thank you from the Townsend Lions Club for our support of the Canoe Race April 16th.

New England QSO Party this coming weekend.

In attendance were Stan KD1LE, John KK1X, Ralph KD1SM, Bob W1XP, Bruce K1BG, Roland NR1G (Field Day Chairman), Gary K1YTS, Skip K1NKR.

Adopt A Highway

Next clean up will be May 22nd at 800 AM. Meet at the river common.

Thanks to the following members that turned out for the cleanup; John KK1X, Ralph KD1SM, Leo K1LK, Earl WR1Y, Stan KD1LE, Rod WA1TAC

Treasurers Report

Income for April was \$85 in membership renewals and \$12.54 in bank interest. Expenses were \$17.60 for Newsletter postage and \$28.38 for the Lantern Battery Challenge awards ceremony leaving a net income of \$51.56.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,982.24
Community fund	\$4,336.41

As of 5 May we have 44 members who are current with their dues and 22 renewals outstanding. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If you are not yet an ARRL member and are interested in joining, please consider letting Ralph send in the paperwork for you. The Club will buy the stamp and will get a commission from ARRL. If your ARRL membership is ready for renewal, you can let Ralph mail it in for you and the Club will still get a (smaller) commission. ARRL membership checks should be made payable to NVARC; Ralph deducts the Club commission before forwarding your paperwork to Newington.

Ralph KD1SM

ARRL Letter

Public Service: Northern Florida Hams Respond to Aftermath of Alabama Storm

After the [devastating storms that swept through Alabama last week](#), radio amateurs from the ARRLs' Northern Florida Section -- at the invitation of ARRL Alabama

Section Emergency Coordinator Greg Gross, K4GR - are making their way to Alabama to assist with providing assistance.

"We contacted Greg and worked out a disaster operation assignment," ARRL Northern Florida

Section Manager Paul Eakin, KJ4G, told the ARRL. "We have already sent two teams to Alabama and have five others on stand-by. This was a very damaging tornado and it will be very long time before everything is cleared up."



Hackleburg -- located in Marion County in Alabama's northwest corner -- suffered an EF-5 tornado last week that killed 30 of the town's 1400 residents. Hams from the ARRL's Northern Florida Section are in Hackleburg and Jasper (located in Walker County) to help provide communications support. [Rogelio V. Solis/Associated Press]

Public Service: Georgia Hams Hasten to Help During Storms



Hams in Paulding County -- located in Georgia's northwestern corner -- activated for the tornadoes and thunderstorms that swept through the South last week. According to Paulding County ARES[®] Public Information Officer Lee McDaniel WB4QOJ, the County's Emergency Management Agency invited ARES[®] members to gather at the county's Emergency Operations Center on the evening of April 26 to help provide communications support.

Hams Helping Hams: The ARRL's Ham Aid Program Responds to Devastated South



The ARRL's Ham Aid Fund has been tapped to aid Amateur Radio operations in Alabama, following the wake of destructive killer tornadoes that ravaged the state last week. According to ARRL Chief Development

Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, hams in Alabama have requested radios and antennas, since cell tower sites and repeaters have been damaged and are not yet back up. "The ARRL has already shipped five cases to the state, full of 2 meter, 440 MHz and HF radios, as well as two cases of handheld transceivers with batteries," she said. "We anticipate the demand for equipment may continue from Alabama and possibly from neighboring states."

Hobart said that she knows that not every ham can be in Alabama to help out, but every ham can support the effort -- by contributing to the ARRL's Ham Aid Fund: "First created in response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Ham Aid Fund has enabled ARRL to provide vital communication equipment to devastated areas along the Gulf Coast. Now the fund is purchasing equipment and funding shipping costs to meet the needs of hams in Alabama, as well as our served agencies such as the Southern Baptist Men's Kitchen and the American Red Cross."



Following the January 2010 earthquakes in Haiti, ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, prepared the Ham Aid shipment to that country. [S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, Photo]

How can you help? Hobart said that the best way is to make a contribution of \$25, \$10 or \$5 -- or whatever you can afford. The ARRL will use your contribution to respond to the calls for assistance from Amateur Radio operators where repeaters, antennas and radios have been damaged or destroyed. "And this event may be just the beginning," she explained. "As hurricane season is on the horizon, we need to be prepared for those situations when all else fails. The easiest way to make your donation is on the [ARRL website](#). Use the simple form and designate your contribution to the ARRL Ham Aid Fund. We'll put your gift to work right away in the affected area. On behalf of the ham community in Alabama, thank you!"

Public Service: Tornadoes and Thunderstorms Keep Radio Amateurs Busy in Midwest, Southeast

A tornado moves through Tuscaloosa, Alabama on Wednesday, April 27. A wave of severe storms, laced with tornadoes, killed at least 250 people around the region.

As violent storms swept through Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and North Carolina, served agencies called upon Amateur Radio operators to help provide communications support and real-time weather observations. The storms and flooding were the latest in the severe weather that has pummeled much of the mid-South this month. Just a week ago, storms tore a wide path from Oklahoma all the way to North Carolina.

Counting Down to Dayton -- Where Global Friendship Takes Center Stage

The ARRL is making all the final plans and preparations to bring its "show and tell" exposition -- known as ARRL EXPO -- to the Dayton Hamvention® next month. Hamvention, sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association since 1952, will be held May 20-22 at the Hara Arena Conference and Exhibition Center in Trotwood, Ohio.

FCC News: Anchorage VEC Asks FCC to Grant Lifetime Credit for Expired Licenses

In a Petition for Rulemaking filed with the FCC on April 15, the Anchorage VEC -- one of 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators in the US -- asked the Commission to give permanent credit to radio amateurs for examination elements they have successfully passed. This would, in effect, create a license exam credit that would be valid throughout an amateur's lifetime, never expiring.

On the Air: Find an ARRL Field Day Station Near You

First introduced in 2008, the ARRL's Field Day Station Locator Service has proved a popular addition to the Field Day toolbox. This service -- an interactive map that helps amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them -- is free to clubs or individuals who will be operating public Field Day stations. Stations can also be listed by state or province. So far, hams in all 50 states and Puerto Rico have listed Field Day sites on the Field Day Locator. If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started -- just go to the Field Day Station Locator website and follow the instructions. ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On June 25-26, join tens of thousands of Ama-

teur Radio operators as they gather for a public demonstration of the Amateur Radio Service.

WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Honored at National Hurricane Conference

WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R (center), receives the Distinguished Service Award at the National Hurricane Conference earlier this month. He is flanked by NHC Director Bill Read, KB5FYA (left), and former NHC Director Max Mayfield. [Photo courtesy of John McHugh, K4AG]

W4NXC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award at the National Hurricane Conference -- held April 18-22 in Atlanta, Georgia -- for "exceptional service in providing emergency communication during hurricane events over three decades while leading [the] WX4NHC Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center."

Ripoll not only serves WX4NHC as its Assistant Coordinator and an operator, he co-founded the station with then-NHC Director Dr Neil Frank in 1980. WX4NHC collects ground weather reports for areas that are -- or are about to be -- affected by approaching hurricanes, gathering thousands of these reports that are passed on to the forecasters. The station also broadcasts the advisories to ships at sea and to those coastal areas that do not have any other means of receiving them, saving many lives over the years.

FCC News: ARRL Scores Partial Victory in ReconRobotics Proceeding

The FCC has given radio amateurs a partial victory in response to the ARRL's challenge, in a Petition for Reconsideration, of a rules waiver that permits the certification and licensing of the Recon Scout -- a remote-controlled, maneuverable surveillance robot operating in the 430-448 MHz band. The device is marketed to public safety agencies and certain security personnel by ReconRobotics Inc.

In an Order on Reconsideration released on April 15, the FCC granted the ARRL's request for changes in the labeling and instruction manual requirements to ensure that users of the device are aware of its limitations, with regard to interference. Noting that no applications for individual licenses to operate the Recon Scout had been granted, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, and the Office of Engineering and Technology deferred to the Commission's Enforcement Bureau with regard to complaints that ReconRobotics has been marketing uncertified devices and that the devices have been operating without authorization.

California Supreme Court Declines to Hear Antenna Zoning Case

The California Supreme Court refused to hear the antenna zoning case brought forth by Alex Zubarau, WB6X, of Palmdale, California -- with the assistance of his ARRL Volunteer Counsel Len Shaffer, WA6QHD -- after receiving a mixed decision by the California Court of Appeals earlier this year. The Supreme Court -- California's highest court -- handed down their decision on April 20.

Spectrum Defense: "Eternal Vigilance" Is the Price We Pay for Our Spectrum

The first edition for 2011 of Spectrum Defense Matters - a newsletter aimed at keeping ARRL members updated on issues related to the protection of Amateur Radio frequencies -- was recently released on the ARRL website. This newsletter covers both domestic and international topics related to the Amateur Radio spectrum. As ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said in a recent ARRL Legislative Update newsletter, "Eternal vigilance is the price of spectrum." Sometimes the threats are minimal; sometimes their impact can be devastating if not addressed. Regardless of the degree of severity, any threat to our Amateur Radio spectrum must be a top priority of the ARRL.

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On the Air: DXCC Approves Two Tristan Da Cunha and Gough Operations

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that two operations on Tristan Da Cunha and Gough -- the 2010 ZD9AH operation and the 2010-2011 ZD9T operation -- have been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had these operations rejected in a recent application, please send an

e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk," Moore said. "Please note that due to heavy e-mail volume, you may not receive a reply. Results will appear in Logbook of The World (LoTW) accounts, as well as online on the daily listings."

Upcoming Contests

Upcoming contest information - domestic

Credit to Bruce Horn WA7BNM for all information. For more information visit
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

May 2011

SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, May 25
<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 28 to 2400Z, May 29
<http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>

ARCI Hootowl Sprint 2000 local - 2400 local, May 29
<http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/1518/118/>

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint 2300Z, May 29 to 0300Z, May 30
<http://www.qsl.net/miqrclub/contest.html>

June 2011

10-10 Int. Open Season PSK 0000Z, Jun 4 to 2400Z, Jun 5
<http://www.ten-ten.org/oseason/oseason.html>

Alabama QSO Party 1600Z, Jun 4 to 0400Z, Jun 5
<http://www.alabamagsoparty.org/2010/2010Rules.pdf>

NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint 1800Z-2000Z, Jun 8 <http://naqcc-eu.org/SprintHelp/SprintRules.pdf>

ARRL June VHF QSO Party 1800Z, Jun 11 to 0259Z, Jun 13
<http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf-qso-party>

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Jun 15
<http://naqcc.info/sprint201112mw.html>

West Virginia QSO Party 1600Z, Jun 18 to 0200Z, Jun 19
<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/2010wvqp/wvqp2010.htm>

Kid's Day Contest 1800Z-2359Z, Jun 18
<http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Jun 22
<http://naqcc.info/sprint201112mw.html>

ARCI Milliwatt Field Day 1800Z, Jun 25 to 2100Z, Jun 26
<http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/6870/118/>

ARRL Field Day 1800Z, Jun 25 to 2100Z, Jun 26
<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

73 de KK1X

2011 Flea Markets/Conventions

Advertisements

Your advertisement could be here.

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



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

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

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Vice President: Bruce Blain K1BG
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Board Members:
Joel Magid W1JMM 2009-2012
Bob Reif: W1XP 2010-2013
Skip Youngberg K1NKR 2011-2014

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Property Master: John Griswold KK1X
N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG
Annual membership dues are \$15; \$20 for a family
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 battery power
147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater battery power
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