



SIGNAL

October 1994 Volume 3 Number 10

The President's Column

Things have been very busy lately. And it seems there have been at least two radio related events a weekend. Some of them are outdoors and this is a great time of year for them. There are other things like climbing Mt. Monadnock, picking some apples, leaf peeping, or choosing a pumpkin. With the days getting short and the air getting cooler we have to take advantage of the good weather. There is also the opportunity to start/finish that antenna work you have been putting off. There will be plenty of time to curl up by the radio's when the snow is flying. And if you still own tube gear it'll keep you warm too.



As of this writing my results from the HPM Celebration are 39 confirmed states and 4 Canadian Provinces. It looks like that's where I'll end up.

Attended both days of the Boxboro Convention. There were quite a few interesting presentations there. Got to listen to one of Clint's favorites Wayne (CQ) Greene. Spent some time around the flea market and generally had a good time.

Having just recovered from the convention, Clint and I packed up the club junk, I mean goodies, for Rochester. We headed off Friday morning. The Club table did pretty well and we each took off occasionally to browse the other tables. There was quite an assortment of equipment there. Everything from amplifiers to chain saws. We proudly displayed the club banner (one of only two that I noticed).

Attended the Oct. MARA meeting and passed out certificates to three people who had attended our Sept. Fox Hunt. There was a summary report by Paul Topolski N1IPG on the simulated emergency test run in Templeton in Sept. The scenario was a small plane crash into a wooded campsite. It involved area police, fire, rescue units, and Hams. It included DFing the "transponder" (a two meter rig), the search, and triage of the "large" number of "injuries" (since it hit the camp site). They also provided communications between the triage team and medical personnel at the command center. (Sounds like the ARES group is quite active out there.)

Stan KD1LE

At The Last Meeting

Bob Reif, W1XP, spoke about the factors affecting the performance of HF antennas. In particular he discussed the effects of ground and height of the antennas. Bob did both modeling of the systems and actual measurements. He gave the same presentation at the RSGB (Radio Society of Great Britain) HF convention earlier this month.

We also had a preview of the election with one of the candidates for state representative speaking.

In the drawing, lucky winners walked away with an ARRL Handbook, or tickets to the ARRL Boxboro Convention. Stan KD1LE

This Months Speaker & Beyond

For October Tom LaCouture, WV1T will be our guest. Tom's presentation is "The Myths and Fallacies of SWR" Study up, he might give a test!

We're planning to have another "Home Brew Night" this winter. If you haven't built anything since the last one you still have time. I've given this some thought and have decided on my submission. The competition could be keen.

Stan



The FCC Doings

The FCC has a new toll free number for customer inquiries. The number will be operational between 8 AM and 4:30 PM Eastern time to access an automated information system with recorded messages on interference complaints, form requests, records, and other messages. A touch tone phone is required. The number is 800-322-1117

The FCC has denied a petition to waive the Morse Requirement for those over 65 years of age. It stated that there were already rules for recognized disabilities and that the current structure is based on "the desires of the Amateur service community".

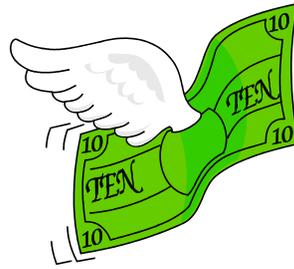
There have been some problems with recently issued Tech license renewals. If you held a Technician class license issued before March 16, 1991 you are automatically a Tech with HF privileges. In reissuing new licenses, which specify Tech with HF where appropriate, some licenses were mistakenly issued Technician (no-code). If this happened to you, you must contact the FCC with copies of the before and after license and explain the situation.

Stan KD1LE

\$The Treasurer's Report\$

Income for the previous month was \$97.00 and expenses totaled \$782.38 leaving us fund balances as of the October Board meeting of:

General Fund:	\$238.78
Education Fund:	\$240.00



An explanation of the large expenses is in order this month. The club's annual liability insurance premium is payable in September. Also we purchased books for the Novice/Tech class.

These books were purchased at a significant discount and will be sold to the students at the same price as Radio Shack charges for retail, so when all the books are sold the club will realize a net profit. The \$111.00 for the purchase of the tables is also recorded this month. Receipts from the first two classes had not made it back to the Treasurer in time for this report.

Membership renewals are coming in regularly now. The constant listing of each member's renewal date on the newsletter mailing label is a good reminder for most people. Thanks to all who are conscientious about paying their obligations.

And once again my regular reminder--if your ARRL dues are soon up for renewal, you can make a contribution to the club's treasury at no additional cost to you by writing a check in the full amount of your ARRL dues to the club and letting me send it in for you. The ARRL rebates a portion of your dues directly back to Affiliated Clubs when you renew through the club.

73 de Ralph KD1SM

Fox Hunting

The Fox Hunt went off as scheduled Sept. 17. It took place at the Cowdrey Nature Center in Lunenburg. It seemed like such a benign place to have the hunt. Some woods and hills to separate the hunters. But as it turns out the reflections were a killer. The strongest signal at the start was 90 degrees or so off the fox. In pursuing that signal you never got to a point that the real direction was indicated. The signal just died out. We had five full size hunters



KD1SM Ralph,
W1HFN Barry,
WN1E Charlie,
KD1LE Stan, and
N1QDX Paul and two
smaller sized hunters
Erin and Craig
(Paul's assistants).

N1QIT Jeanine, was our devious Fox Hider. Charlie was the only hunter to find the Fox in the normal two hour search time. But some of the hunters (KD1SM and KD1LE) were too stubborn to give up and did find it in another half hour or so. The same stubborn hunters actually went back after the hunt to try other antenna's and techniques, but to no real advantage. The location was just tricky. The first finder received his certificate at the October 12 MARA meeting.

Stan KD1LE

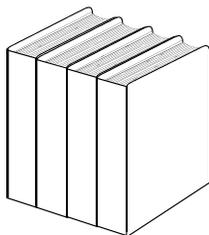
Board Meeting Notes



For the October meeting we reported the purchase of three six foot folding tables (the tables made their maiden voyage to Rochester to display the club goodies.) We discussed the results of the Rochester Flea Market and the wrap up of the soccer tournament.

We're looking for a home for the tables. Just think how handy it would be to have three six foot tables around. The board decided that club members should be able to borrow the tables for personal uses (parties, etc). The order of priority being club functions, the keeper of the tables, other club members. Scheduling would be handled by whoever volunteers to store them. Stan KD1LE

Classes



The Ham class started Oct. 4 at the Groton Center Fire Station. The classes will be Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. There is no charge for the class but you need to buy or get a recent copy of the text book. The class will again be taught by the members of NVARC.

I had been a little concerned since we did not have many advanced sign ups. But there were about 20 potential Hams present for the first two classes. Morse code is being run in the last half hour of the class. Earl WR1Y taught the first class and Stan KD1LE the second class. Earl needs a few more volunteers to sign up to teach one class each. If you want to get your choice of topic sign up early. Erik KA1RV is teaching the third class and Clint KD1OL the fourth class.

ARRL NOTES

Bits and Bytes from the:

ARRL NEW ENGLAND DIV. NEWS

From data presented at the ARRL Board of Directors meeting, it looks like the Ham population in the year 2001 will be 800K plus. The distribution now is about one third Techs and all other classes make up the other two thirds. Data on the Techs has only started to be available recently. With there being roughly a 50-50 split no code-code. The trend right now would have the Techs at two thirds of the popu-

lation by 2001 because the numbers of higher class licensees is shrinking. (I guess its up to all of us to help the new Hams learn that there is more to Amateur Radio than 2 meters--ed.)

ARRL Bulletin 75 ARLB075

The FCC has ordered three California amateurs to show cause why their station licenses should not be revoked, and has ordered their operator licenses suspended. The three, all Extra Class volunteer examiners, are accused by the Commission of signing paperwork indicating that several persons had passed amateur exam elements when, the FCC says, they had not. The exams, the FCC said, were not administered at all.

The FCC also said that, in response to its inquiries, all three VE's replied with answers that the FCC called "misrepresentations of material fact." The three amateurs are James B. Williams, AA6TC, of Wilmington, California; and Rose Marie Flores, N6WPR, and Robert L. Flores, N6WPQ, both of Santa Monica, California.

The session was conducted under the coordination of the ARRL/VEC. The ARRL/VEC suspended the accreditation's of the three volunteer examiners when questions arose in late 1993.

The three have 30 days to request a hearing before an administrative law judge.

DXpedition Notes

Hi, all !! If you haven't already found out I recently went to Europe, by myself, from July 12 through August 18. I started off leaving Logan Airport (Boston for those of you who don't know), at around 2:00 PM for Chicago Illinois (O'Hare Int'l airport). After a hour lay-over I took off for the 9 hour flight to Frankfort Germany.

I stayed in the area south of Frankfort in the town was Birkenau or Neider Libesbach. I applied for my German reciprocal license (for Tech Plus), the day I arrived and I received it about 2 weeks from then. I operated on mainly 440 packet (not too much 2m over there). I received many connections asking where I was from and stuff like that, it was fun. I received a connection from DL0WH, which was the closest club station near by. They told me all about their club station and invited me to it. So the next day I drove over there and boy was I amazed. They had three towers with at least 2 different antennas stacked on them. Inside the building they had every band imaginable, with amplifiers on almost every band. I used 2m SSB with my call sign (DH/KB1AWE) and made around 15 QSO's. I also used 20 meters, using the call DL0WH of course, with a kilowatt and a half through a 5 element 20 meter beam!!! I qso'd with a couple of my friends

who I talk to on 10 meters frequently (when it's open) and I thought that was fun.

That is basically all that happened during my months trip to Europe, Ham Radio wise. I also went to France (to go to some cafe's) and I also went to Switzerland to see the Alps and boy it was quite an experience.

That's about it, 73's from Jeremy--KB1AWE

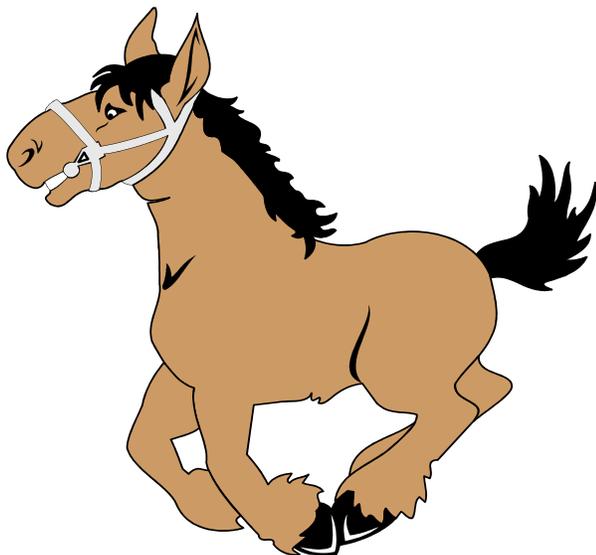
NVARC QSL Bureau

The "Buro" has begun collecting cards for the next shipment. Just to remind everyone, I would like to send them out monthly. It takes long enough to get them back without adding weeks or months on your own desk. The last cards I received from the BURO (the big Buro) in Sept. were late 1993. I have cards from three people now. If I get another fifty or so I will send them out after this meeting.

Stan

Hosstraders

Nine AM Friday morning, Stan, our beloved President and I entered the gates of the Rochester NH Fairgrounds. The trip up was rather uneventful. I misplaced my hand-held, drove all over town looking for it (no small feat towing a 22 foot long trailer), had people calling places I'd been and finally found it, dead battery and all on the radio bench at home.



Got the charger, headed out and got us lost about half way. Not seriously lost, just wandering through the back roads of scenic central NH. Great start to a great weekend. Arriving as early as we did we had our pick of the good spots. We ended up at the far end of the main road through the grounds. Stan had cleverly positioned the trailer so we had the sun in the morning and shade in the afternoon. We should have moved one road over and we would have had electric power. Oh well there is always next year.

To the uninitiated it looks like a Flea Market setting up but to those who have lived through it, it is much much more. We set up two of the new club tables and proceeded to set out the goods we had garnered from our own and others' radio shacks. A grand assortment that included every thing from Computers to Oscilloscopes with carts and all. We sold lots of little items such as the small colorful speakers Stan had brought. In fact we were a landmark. I heard one fellow on an HT say. " I'm by the guys that have all the colored speakers " and the answer was " I know where you are. I'll be right there. We had all types of people stop by from the guy who picked up a power supply marked \$100, paid for it and walked away to the guys who wanted to know if the \$5 O'scope worked. In the end Stan and I had a good time. We barbecued steaks and enjoyed being out in the best weather I've ever experienced for a Deerfield/Rochester Hamfest. The Club made \$77.50 and some of you all cleaned out your shacks so you have more room for more stuff. I had a good time but will not be able to do it next year. Dave N1MNX has agreed to pick up the task so see Dave in the spring for details.

Clint KD1OL

Public Service Log

NVARC Provides Needed Communications At Soccer Tournament.

Pepperell held its 8th Fall Classic 6v6 soccer tournament over Columbus Day weekend. Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club provided an emergency communications network over 23 soccer fields spread throughout town. This year's tournament was the smoothest run and had the least amount of chaos. That's the good news. More good news was that the field was trimmed to only 320 teams of 10 players. Even though there were still over 5,000 people, fewer teams made quite a difference. The weather was spectacular and it was three days of sunny fall days. Accidents were the fewest of any past tournaments. From the standpoint of NVARC involvement it was pretty quiet. There were long stretches of no activity on the radio. Net control would occasionally announce that the tournament communications link on 11 meters was also silent. We can be glad that there were not more accidents or missing people. We were there and we were ready in case something had happened.

Despite all the good news, there were 5 incidents requiring communications link to summons EMT or ambulance duty. Within the first hour of tournament play on Saturday, two goalies had crashed into the goal posts and had to sit out the rest of the game. It was starting off with action. That action quickly subsided. Throughout the weekend there were only 2 broken wrists, one dislocated hip, 2

bee stings, (one girl was stung 5 times and developed an allergic reaction) and 2 jammed toes.

For each of the two prior years there were 2 to 3 missing children reported. Amateurs ended up finding them. This year there were no missing children or parents. No fights, no stray dogs, it was quiet. Until the afternoon of the last day...

Unannounced and unplanned, the tournament field marshals for the afternoon failed to show up. I had to respond to an emergency phone-call from my business and had to leave the fields. Within 20 minutes the tournament 11 meter network collapsed. All radios in - no one on field, games continuing with all the controversy and questions of tournament play. In position was NVARC. Without NVARC, there would have been no communications, emergency or otherwise. John, **KA1ZTU** was in Net Control. Allyn, **N1PIP**, Ralph, **KD1SM**, Jeanine, **N1QIT**, Ben, **KB1FJ**, and Roger, **WA1ZEP**, were in place and prepared. They did a great job and deserve hearty congratulations for picking up the challenge and meeting it nicely. Another illustration to show that you never know what's going to happen next, it's good to be prepared, and they were.



experience.

Throughout the weekend several hams performed duty as Net Control. Lynda, **N1PBL**, John, **KA1ZTU**, Jeanine, **N1QIT**, Ralph, **KD1SM**. Congratulations to all on a great job. This activity gives everyone an opportunity to gain good
It's not easy standing up all day either! All of the above rotated into field duty too. Important to the success of a net is the field communicators. Allyn, **N1PIP**, really gave NVARC presence at the tournament a lot of his time. Saturday, Sunday and Monday, there was Allyn. Deep gratitude for a big job well done!. Strong thanks also to Stewart, **K1YET**, Dave, **N1MNX**, Stan **KD1LE**, and Mike, **N1LHT** all of whom gave a great deal of time and good communications skills to this community service effort. Special thanks to Roger, **WA1ZEP**, from Rhode Island, who joined in net activities while visiting Pepperell to watch his son compete in the tournament. Roger gave us good eyes and ears on the fields where his son played and we appreciate his assistance and getting a chance to meet Roger.

73 es TU de WX1J



Comments from the Editor....

One of the purposes for these events (from our point of view) is to prepare for an emergency. As such some critique can be constructive. Since the total distance covered this year was less than last year (they didn't use the Jersey St. fields), communications were generally solid.

Everyone's batteries held out, so we came prepared there (at least for a one day event at low power.) Everyone should give some thought as to how they could operate for an extended period. A spare battery pack or the ability to use regular alkaline batteries is one solution. The West Mass. RACES group requires that each operator have the capability for 24 hours of operation. One of the ways they suggest to accomplish that is a home made battery pack of eight alkaline D cells. Myself I find that to be too large a package and have adopted standard eight cell AA battery holders and Nicads. These are readily available at Radio Shack. There is an ARRL supported standard for power connections which spells out the connector type and polarity of the wiring. This standardized connector arrangement allows radios and power sources to be interchanged easily. If you are interested in the standard I have copies of the QST article in one of the folders on the info table at our regular meetings.

Another thing to consider is how well you understand that new rig. Why is my radio doing that? Or how do I turn that "feature" on or off? The radios are getting so complicated that each key has two or three uses. It is important to have a good understanding of your equipment. There were so many radios operating the simplex frequencies at Rochester that we wanted to use the tone squelch to quiet the rig when we (Clint and I) were not in communication. Clint knew how to use his, together we figured out mine. There was no rush there. But if I had been trying to figure out tone squelch or keypad locking at night in a hurricane it wouldn't have been so good. Since I seldom carry my users manual I may not have been able to figure it out at all. The moral here is simple. Take the time to read the manual and know your equipment before you need to use it.

Stan

JOTA 94

Den Connors **KD2S** and Stan Pozerski **KD1LE** ran JOTA from Camp Wanocksett in Dublin NH the weekend of Oct. 15-16. Boys from Troops 13 and 26 as well as Weblos from Pack 41 participated. Besides JOTA, hiking and A disaster scenario were on the agenda. The JOTA station ran HF; voice and CW and the VHF-UHF side ran FM and

we put a few NTS messages into the EM2MN. About 30 boys and some of their parents participated. Stan KD1LE

VE Report

The last VE session that I worked at Nashua had 36 candidates. 65 test elements were administered. This resulted in 12 Tech, 3 Tech+, 2 General, 3 Advanced and 1 Extra upgrades.

There has been quite a bit of news about problems uncovered at VE sessions in California last year. The result has been probable loss of Amateur FCC licenses for some number of VE's and the invalidation of about 50 licenses or upgrades.

Swap Shoppe

Coffee Cans--Does anyone need any large coffee cans for storage? I have a bunch of them. Stan



Mark Your Calendar

Wed Oct. 19 VE Exams Lunenburg HS 7:00 PM
Contact Tom K1JHC @508-534-9377
Sat Nov. 19 HN Ham Radio Auction, Billerica, Ma.
(Formerly Bull) Contact Elliot W1MJ
508-851-0183

From the Video Library

The Video Library now has six titles available to loan.

The Last Voice From Kuwait
The all China DF Competition
Your League at Work
Signal to Noise Story
Gonzaga Prep HS Radio Club Satellite communications

The New World of Amateur Radio

You can get them anytime you can catch me at home, and I will bring the available tapes to each meeting. Stan

Resource List

Construction	Earl Russell	448-5822
DX	Bruce Blain	448-9438
NTS, MARS	Stan Pozerski	433-5090
Races	Ben Akins	433-9227



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
PIO: Earl Russell WR1Y

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month
- 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell VFW hall. Talk-in 146.490
simplex

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 acceptable.

Packet address: PEPMBX (145.09 MHz)