



# SIGNAL



September 1996 Volume 5 Number 9

## The Presidents Letter Sept 1996



The summer is over, well almost anyway, and the time has come to identify projects and activities for the coming year. There is much to choose from; Getting that long put-off upgrade, getting the

H-F station set up with a new antenna, getting on that new mode, or getting involved with new, or re-noved activities in the club.

This year promises to be a busy one. Septemberfest, The Pepperell Soccer Tournament, The Groton Road Race, The possibility of adopting a highway and the Fall classes to bring in new blood, and club meetings. These are all activities that will be calling out for attention.

As in any club, the lifeblood is the membership, without its support the club will wither and perish, only to be a memory in some box of old news letters. If every member made a commitment to just one activity in the year, there would be no worries about the continuing health of the club. Select your activity for the up and coming year, and help make the club a success.  
73's Erik Piip KA1RV  
Erik Piip

Phone: [1]-508-448-5536  
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Chinese Curse: May you live in interesting times.

## Mass Traffic Handler Cookouts

Eastern Massachusetts traffic handlers gathered in Concord at the home of Marcia

KW1U and Terry N1MLO on August 11th. There were operators there from East Mass, SE Mass, Cape and Islands, and Central Mass nets. Some locals were seen there. WA1VMG Joe, N1QDZ Joseph, N1QIT Jeanine, KD1SM Ralph, N1PBL Lynda, and KD1LE Stan. It was good to see the faces of other NTS traffic handlers. Sometimes you talk to someone for years before you meet them.

Jim Hatherly WA1TBY, the East Mass Traffic Manager was there greeting everyone. He ran a drawing giving out some ARRL Handbooks, ARRL Operating Manuals, and ARES Field Resources Manuals.

The Western Massachusetts traffic handlers had their cookout at the home of Ralph KD1SM, Jeanine N1QIT, and Joseph N1QDZ on Sept 15<sup>th</sup>.

## QSLing

I recently received a QSL card that had the following saying on it.

"A QSL card is the final courtesy of a QSO."

I have seen this saying in several forms over the years. It's even a sentence in the ARRL Operating Manual under the topic of QSLing. Since I QSL everyone promptly after the QSO I don't think much about it. But I have received letters and cards from hams thanking me for my prompt QSL. Some even seemed amazed that anyone still QSL's on domestic contacts. Apparently they had not received a card in some time. There may be more to that story though, maybe they have not sent out any either. I get a good return on the cards I send out, and I think that is at least in part due to the promptness. I also like to personalize each card. I don't write a lot, but I include the other operators name and if there is something specific in the discussion I make reference to it. That way he knows I was really listening at this

end. The sticker replies are necessary when your sending out thousands of cards as Dxpeditons do. But for my personal contacts—well I'd just as soon keep them that way—personal.  
Stan

**This Month and Beyond**

The speaker for this month is Bruce K1BG. He will be taking about Field Day results and upcoming contests.  
At the meeting there will be copies of an ARRL Bulletin concerning recent FCC rulings on RF Safety Standards.

**Bits From The Directors Bulletins**

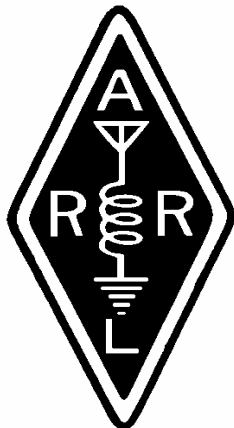
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ARRL NEWS RELEASE

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ARRL/VEC to Offer Free Electronic Filing of FCC Forms 610 For ARRL Members



Effective immediately, the ARRL/VEC will electronically file with the FCC Forms 610 for ARRL Members. The ARRL/VEC can electronically file FCC Form 610 applications for amateur station license renewals, or for address, name or call sign changes. This service is FREE to current ARRL Members.

What is required to use this ARRL Member service?

ARRL Members must send a correctly-completed, signed and dated original Form 610 to the ARRL/VEC. Members can send the Form 610 by US mail, by courier, or hand deliver to: ARRL/VEC, 225 Main St., Newington CT 06111 (USA). Applications received by the ARRL/VEC must include an original signature. Forms 610 cannot be accepted via fax.

Special Information Regarding Applications:

\* Renewals (Box 4F): Only applications for renewal made on FCC Form 610 may presently be electronically submitted by VECs. For now, VECs cannot process computer-generated Forms 610-R (which are mailed by the FCC directly to upcoming expirees)-those must go directly to the FCC (also, VECs cannot presently process FCC Forms 610-A, 610-B, 610-R or 610-V). FCC Rules stipulate that renewals be submitted to them no earlier than 90 days before the license expiration date. Licenses that have been expired for less than two years may still be reinstated--a Form 610 for renewal must be submitted to a VEC or FCC before the two year grace period has ended.

\* Systematic Call Sign Changes (Box 4E): Applications submitted for a systematic call sign change must have Box 4E checked, and the applicant must initial the line adjacent to the box.

\* Address Changes (Box 4D): Applications must include a current mailing address that is within the United States or its Possessions/Territories (where mail can be delivered by the United States Postal Service).

\* Name Changes (Box 4C): Applications submitted for a name change must include a copy of a legal document showing the formal name change. The former name must be written on the line next to Box 4C. Typographical errors can be corrected using Form 610.

Any questions regarding Form 610 application processing for ARRL Members can be directed to the ARRL/VEC by calling 860-594-0300 (weekdays and evenings, from 8 am to 9 PM eastern time).

**AMATEUR RADIO TO BE PART OF 75TH ANNIVERSARY EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION**

Larry Buck K1HEJ is again coordinating the Amateur Radio message booth at the New England Center at the "Big E" this fall. Each year, Amateurs from around New England support this public relations effort by volunteering to staff the booth during the event. The public is invited to send NTS messages and to talk to Hams about Amateur Radio.

This year the "Big E" will run from September 13 to 29 and the booth will be staffed from 10AM to 10PM each day.

I would encourage all ARRL Affiliated Clubs and especially the Special Service Clubs to consider volunteering to support the booth for one day. Larry reports that 3 clubs from Connecticut have already reserved their days at the booth!

Many groups that do support the Amateur Radio booth solicit enough volunteers so that all may have time to walk the fair grounds and enjoy the sights and sounds during the day. This project is a lot of fun and a great public service event for your club!!

The "Big E" is the 9th largest fair in the country and it is estimated that well over one million people attend each year! Ask your club to support this outstanding Amateur Radio public service and public relations opportunity. Contact Larry via Email at BUCK@ccsua.ctstateu.edu or via US Mail: Larry Buck K1HEJ 262 Winthrop St. New Britain, CT 06052

KD1NX IS CITED BY ARRL FOR PROMOTING AMATEUR RADIO AT AVIATION EXPO

Rosalie White WA1STO, Manager ARRL Educational Activities Dept., has awarded Bill Foster KD1NX, of Brockton, MA a special merit certificate for his leadership in introducing Amateur Radio to over 50 teachers and 3000 school children. Bill organized an Amateur Radio display at the Aviation Expo at Logan Airport and was able to provide HQ with a list of over 50 teachers who were interested in getting the teacher's information packet to learn more about Amateur Radio and how to use it in the classroom.

This is the second year Bill has worked this event which is sponsored by MASSPED, United Airlines, FAA and MASSPORT. Assisting Bill in this innovative effort were: N1GKE, N1ENS, N1NHZ, KA1TUZ and WA1PDY. Thanks to Bill and the crew for getting our message out to young people and the teaching community.

FCC ISSUES NEW HAM STATS FOR NEW ENGLAND FOR MAY

In May, we had 148 new Hams join our ranks! EMASS lead the list with 40 new licensees and the list ranged in age from a 10 year old in NH to an 86 year old in EMA. This list only includes new licensees for the month. We are still not able to get good data on upgrades, but will keep trying.

LICENSE	NUMBER
Novice	7
Technician	123
Tech+	13
General	5
TOTAL	148

Number of women licensees	25
Youngest licensee	10yrs (NH)
Senior licensee	86yrs (EMA)

There are probably later statistics out, but I haven't seen them. The September VE session in Nashua had about 25 candidates taking exams. Stan

### Newsletter/Membership Info

The Newsletter mailing labels show the current membership expiration date. If there are any discrepancies please let the treasurer (Ralph KD1SM) know. This months labels are current as of Sept 12<sup>th</sup> which was the Board Meeting.

### Upcoming Public Service Events

Groton Septemberfest	Sept 21
Eastern States Exposition	Oct
Pepperell Soccer Tournament	Oct 12,13,14

Our space has been confirmed for the Septemberfest in Groton. If anyone has any thoughts about how or if we should change our presentation we would like to know.

The Soccer Tournament in the Fall takes a lot of support. Scott WX1J has been in contact with the organizers and has been planning for this event. Ideally we would have about ten people on the site from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM for the three days.

We need people to sign up as early as possible so we can make plans. There is always great soccer going on so you won't get bored. Don't forget to check and charge your batteries.



Also, if your not familiar with your rig, you should try to do so. If you have questions about it, bring the manual with you.

The Groton Road Race is already in the planning stages. It will be April 27<sup>th</sup>. Erik KA1RV is the contact for this event.

## Ham License Class

We will be running a class for Novice and Technician class licenses. We are coordinating with the Pepperell Parks and Recreation and the publicity from Septemberfest in Groton. We are tentatively scheduled to start classes Tuesday October 8. The location has not yet been determined. I will put out additional info as soon as I can.

We will be teaching using the Now Your Talking books and teachers guides. I will be looking for people to teach one class. That gives you time to prepare and isn't a commitment to the whole length of the class. We have some props and equipment to use for the classes. So think about teaching a session or dropping in. Extra bodies were always helpful answering questions during breaks or after the class.

Stan

## Meeting notes from August

The August meeting was held at the KD1LE QTH. The weather was a bit threatening. The small ones, undaunted by that, went swimming anyway. The rest of us cooked our meals and sat around chatting under the tarp, just in case it rained. I was happy to see everyone there.

Stan

## NVARC Slow Speed Net

The net meets Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 P.M. on 28.123 MHz. Except the third Thursday of the month. that being the club meeting night.

## Board Meeting Notes

At the board meeting this month we discussed plans for the fall radio classes and where we might hold them. We covered plans for the soccer tournament, the status of the SAREX QSL project, Groton Road Race, and the NVARC QSL bureau. We received the Treasurers report which is printed elsewhere. We also discussed plans for Septemberfest and what we should have for equipment there.



## \$The Treasurer's Report \$

August recorded income was \$15.00 in dues (I haven't yet received the bank statement, so the interest income will be reported next month). Expenses were \$69.39 for newsletter postage and copying, QSL bureau, and the picnic. The Squannacook River Runners once again made a generous donation of \$250.00. This donation has been added to the Education Fund. Current balances are:

General Fund  
\$853.28  
Education Fund  
\$438.34

Remember; if your ARRL dues are up for renewal, make out your renewal check to the Club and hand me your renewal form. You'll save the cost of the stamp and the League lets the Club keep two dollars of the fee. There couldn't be a less painless way for you to help the club out.



-Ralph KD1SM

## DOS Poem "Nevermore"

Once upon a midnight dreary, fingers cramped  
and vision bleary,  
System manuals piled high and wasted paper  
on the floor,  
Longing for the warmth of bedsheets,  
Still I sat there, doing spreadsheets:  
Having reached the bottom line,  
I took a floppy from the drawer.  
Typing with a steady hand, I then invoked the  
SAVE command  
But got instead a reprimand: it read "Abort, Re-  
try, Ignore."

Was this some occult illusion? Some maniacal  
intrusion?  
These were choices Solomon himself had never  
faced before.  
Carefully, I weighed my options.  
These three seemed to be the top ones.  
Clearly, I must now adopt one:  
Choose Abort, Retry, Ignore.

With my fingers pale and trembling,  
Slowly toward the keyboard bending,  
Longing for a happy ending, hoping all would be  
restored,

Praying for some guarantee  
Finally I pressed a key --  
But on the screen what did I see?  
Again: "Abort, Retry, Ignore."

I tried to catch the chips off-guard --  
I pressed again, but twice as hard.  
Luck was just not in the cards.  
I saw what I had seen before.  
Now I typed in desperation  
Trying random combinations  
Still there came the incantation:  
Choose: Abort, Retry, Ignore.

There I sat, distraught, exhausted, by my own  
machine accosted  
Getting up I turned away and paced across the  
office floor.  
And then I saw an awful sight:  
A bold and blinding flash of light --  
A lightning bolt had cut the night and shook me  
to my very core.  
I saw the screen collapse and die  
"Oh no -- my database", I cried  
I thought I heard a voice reply,  
"You'll see your data Nevermore."

To this day I do not know  
The place to which lost data goes  
I bet it goes to heaven where the angels have it  
stored.  
But as for productivity, well  
I fear that it goes straight to hell  
And that's the tale I have to tell  
Your choice: Abort, Retry, Ignore.  
unknown

### **NVARC QSL BUREAU**

The NVARC Buro sent out four pounds  
of cards since the last meeting. We have some  
pretty active QSLers out there.

Bring your cards and a QST label to the  
meeting or to breakfast and the club will take  
care of the shipping and bureau fee.

### **Did You Ever Wonder**

Why do we drive on parkways and park on  
driveways?

Why is it when you are driving and looking for an  
address, you turn down the volume on the ra-  
dio?

Why is it called a TV "set" when you get only  
one?

### **From the Video Library**

The Video Library has eight titles to loan.

- \*Disaster Preparedness/Public Service
- \*Everything You Always Wanted to Know About  
Antennas
- \*The Last Voice From Kuwait
- \*The all China DF Competition
- \*Your League at Work
- \*Signal to Noise Story
- \*Gonzaga Prep HS Radio Club Satellite Com-  
munications
- \*The New World of Amateur Radio



### **Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club**

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Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

Pres.: Erik Piip KA1RV  
V Pres.: Bruce Blain K1BG  
Secretary: Stewart Jackson K1YET  
Treasurer: Ralph Swick, KD1SM  
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
PIO: Earl Russell WR1Y

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

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