



SIGMA



de N1NC

May 2001 Volume 10 Number 5

This Month's Meeting

This month presentation will be on PSK31. Gordon LaPoint N1MGO will do the presentation and will show several of the software packages available to operate on this mode.

Earl will have his laminator for people who wish to laminate their licenses.

Last Month's Meeting

We held elections at last months meeting. The Officers for the current year are;

President	Erik KA1RV
Vice President	Earl WR1Y
Secretary	Ian NZ1B
Treasurer	Ralph KD1SM
Board 2002	Bob W1XP
Board 2003	Den KD2S
Board 2004	Craig N1ABY

We passed out a Club Yearbook to members in attendance at the April meeting. We have also passed them out at the April road clean up and the Groton Road Race. There is one for each membership. If you have not received your copy please make arrangements with Stan. The yearbook contains information on the club history, activities, and members. We are also looking for suggestions such as additional information you would like to see there, items of club history and corrections. Please forward to your comments and additions to Stan.

Bring your short Shows-and-Tell to the meetings. They are always welcome. Its always interesting to see the variety of things people are working on.

We gather at Tiny's for breakfast Saturday mornings at 8:00 AM. We sit in the back dining area.

FoxFinder Kit

The article on the Fox-Finder in the April QST is still generating considerable business for the club produced kit. Over one hundred kits have been ordered so far.

Adopt A Highway

Sunday April 22, 2001 was our first road cleanup of 2001. It was a great day for a Sunday morning stroll. The first cleanup is always the most work but we finished in an hour give or take a few minutes thanks to the good turn out.

The following members pitched in for the cleanup.

Bob W1XP, Craig N1ABY, Ben KB1FJ, Erik KA1RV, Erik W1ZBT, Pat N1VAV, Dwight AA1MT, Rod WA1TAC, Ralph KD1SM, and Stan KD1LE

Board of Directors Meeting

The May Board of Directors meeting took place May 10th at Erik's. The following were in attendance. Erik KA1RV, Den KD2S, Bob W1XP Ralph KD1SM, and Earl WR1Y.

There was discussion about meeting programs. Earl would like members to give presentations about their interests or areas of expertise.

Proposed Constitution and Bylaw Changes

After reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws a few problems have been noted particularly with regard to

meeting quorums. There are also some suggestions for improvements. The following are proposed changes that I will bring to the May meeting for discussion and will ask for the Board to call for a vote at the June meeting. I have included some explanation with each proposal.
Stan

1) There are references to monthly meetings but when is not defined and the summer July and August break is not mentioned.

Add to Bylaws Section 2 between the two existing sentences.

“NVARC holds monthly General Meetings from September to June.”

2) Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is the correct name therefore change "Corps" to "Service" in Constitution Article III Section 2 fourth sentence

“Amateur Radio Emergency Corps.” to “Amateur Radio Emergency Service.”

3) Proposed Article III Section 7 (new) to assure that the assets we have worked for are not misappropriated should the club no longer exist add to Constitution Article III as Section 7.

“The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club will be dissolved if any of the following conditions exist.

a. The membership is unable or unwilling to fill the positions of President and Vice President for a period of sixty days.

b. NVARC does not hold a regular monthly meeting for more than four consecutive normal meeting months as defined in Section 2 of the Bylaws.

c. The membership votes to dissolve the club with a majority vote at a special meeting after having been announced in the newsletter or by direct mailing.

Upon a determination of dissolution, as defined above, by the remaining elected Officers the

Treasurer or acting Treasurer is instructed to settle all unpaid debts and then transfer all remaining assets to the American Radio Relay League Educational Fund or its successor.”

4) Article IV—General Meeting

Meeting attendance doesn't support the quorums required in this section. General Meetings should operate with looser requirements than Special Meetings.

In the second sentence replace 20% with 15%.

In the third sentence replace “a majority (not simple majority)” with “a majority (51%)”

5) Article IV---Special Meeting. The quorum specified is 50%. This is unreasonable based on meeting attendance. Even town meetings only require about 10% for a quorum. We considered some plan to move members to the Associate Member status but were concerned that they may feel they are lesser members though that is not the intent. This may result in the loss of members. While we could promote absentee balloting we haven't seen much interest there and it is an added burden to create ballots and do mailings. People voting this way don't get to participate in the discussion on the issue. There is no data to support the idea that any useful number of members would avail themselves of this option. The best choice is to reduce the quorum to 20% keeping the needed vote at 2/3^{rds} to ensure good support for a proposal in this category.

In the fourth sentence replace “50%” with “20%”

Public Service

Listing public events at which Amateur Radio communications is providing a public service and for which additional volunteers from the Amateur Community are needed and welcome. Please contact the person listed to identify how you may serve and what equipment you may need to bring.

Every event listed is looking for volunteers
Date Location Event Contact Tel/Email

May 13 Devens MA Parker Classic Road Race Stan
KD1LE 978-433-5090 kd1le@amsat.org

May 20 Wellesley MA Veterans Parade Tom N1CPE
508-879-9192 tom@n1cpe.cnchost.com

Jun 10 Gloucestr MA ADA Tour de Cure, Bike Tour
Keith N1HLK 781-631-2262 N1HLK@nsradio.org

Jun 15 Bethel ME Maine Lung Bicycle Trek Bill
W1LEE 207.287.4164 W1LEE@arrl.net

Jun 16 FarmingtonME Maine Lung Bicycle Trek Bill
W1LEE 207.287.4164 W1LEE@arrl.net

Jun 17 WatervilleME Maine Lung Bicycle Trek Bill
W1LEE 207.287.4164 W1LEE@arrl.net

The most recent copy of this list is maintained as
<http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>.

From The ARRL Letter

HAM RADIO NUMBERS SHOW POST-RESTRUCTURING GROWTH SPURT

Amateur Radio is experiencing a bit of a growth spurt in the wake of amateur license restructuring. FCC licensing statistics as of the end of March—the most recent complete figures available—show a net gain of approximately 6600 current licensees, or about 1%, from last April, when restructuring went into effect. Prior to that, the number of amateurs had remained relatively stable since 1998.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the full impact of license restructuring—including the elimination of the 13 and 20-WPM Morse exams—is slowly making itself felt within the amateur community. “For the first quarter of 2001, ARRL VEC test session statistics show that new and upgrading amateurs continue to earn licenses at a rate stronger than that of first quarter 1999 and first quarter 2000,” he said. “This is a positive trend that we expect will continue over the coming months.”

As of the end of March, according to statistics compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, the FCC showed 684,359 current licensees on its books, although the number of active amateurs is believed to be far smaller. Speroni’s figures show that more than

20,000 new amateurs entered the hobby over the past year, while attrition was on the order of 13,600.

Overall, statistics show growth in the number of Extra, General and Technician licensees from year-earlier figures, while the number of Advanced, Tech Plus and Novice licensees declined.

Jahnke says comparing the ARRL VEC’s first quarter 2001 numbers shows that interest in the Extra class license is up by as much as 30% over the first quarters of 1999 and 2000. “Extraordinarily, interest in the General license is up 450% to 650%!” he said.

With the change to a new, 50-question Extra class written element that combines material formerly covered in the 90 questions contained within the old Advanced and Extra tests, some predicted the Extra test would be easier to pass. That’s not proving to be the case this year—at least at ARRL VEC-sponsored sessions, where the Extra pass rate has declined by nearly 7% from 1999. Technician and General pass rates this year have been up on the order of 10% to 12% from pre-restructuring rates, however, at ARRL VEC sessions.

Licensee numbers compiled by Speroni show that the FCC issued nearly 5400 new licenses in the first quarter of this year—more than 2230 in the month of March alone. That compares with around 3730 new hams in the same quarter last year. As would be expected, the vast majority of the newcomers entered the hobby as Technician licensees. March was one of only three months in the past year where the number of new licensees exceeded 2000. For more information, visit Speroni’s Amateur Radio Education Web Site, <http://ah0a.org/AH0A.html>.

AMATEUR ANTENNA BILLS MOVE FORWARD IN ALASKA AND NEVADA

Amateur Radio antenna bills have made significant legislative headway in Alaska and Nevada. The Alaska bill is on its way to the governor, while the Nevada measure has cleared the Assembly and is bound for the state Senate.

Alaska Section Manager Kent Petty, KL5T, reports that Senate Bill 78 passed the House of Representatives 37-0 on April 19 after clearing the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee. The measure now goes to Gov Tony Knowles for his signature, and Petty says he’s confident the governor will sign the bill.

The Alaska Senate had passed SB 78 in March on a 20-0 vote. The bill, “An Act Relating to Municipal

Regulation of Radio Antennas,” was introduced by Sen Robin Taylor of Wrangell. It would incorporate the wording of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1—calling on localities to “reasonably accommodate” amateur antennas—into Alaska’s state statutes. It also includes a schedule of antenna heights, below which municipalities could not regulate, and it includes a “grandfather” provision to protect existing towers should a municipality enact a restrictive antenna ordinance.

The Alaska bill’s three-tier minimum regulatory height schedule depends on local population density and lot size. Municipalities would not be permitted to further regulate antennas shorter than 75 feet in areas with a population density of more than 120 people per square mile. A minimum regulatory height of 140 feet would prevail in areas with a population density of more than 120 people per square mile on a lot of an acre or more. The top-tier 200 feet minimum regulatory limit would apply where the population density is 120 people or less per square mile.

More information on SB 78 is available at the Alaska Legislature Web site, <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/>.

There’s good news and not-so-good news about Nevada’s amateur antenna bill, Assembly Bill 61. On April 12, the Nevada Assembly Government Affairs Committee acted to remove sections of AB 61 that dealt with deed restrictions. Those sections of the bill would have prohibited antenna restrictions from future deed covenants, conditions and restrictions—or CC&Rs—in Nevada. On the plus side, Nevada Assistant Section Manager Dick Flanagan, W6OLD, reports that the Committee referred the amended bill to the full Assembly with a recommendation to approve it. The Assembly passed the measure April 19 on a 40-0 vote. Left intact were sections that would add the wording of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 to the Nevada Revised Statutes. The bill now goes to the Nevada Senate. “We’ll be rounding up the troops in support,” said Nevada Section Manager Jan Welsh, NK7N.

Flanagan concurs that the battle isn’t over. “While we have achieved a major milestone by passing the Nevada Assembly, we are still anticipating a fight from the local government associations in the Senate,” he said. Flanagan has urged amateurs there to make their feelings known on the bill by sending e-mail or letters to their local lawmakers and by recording their opinions with the Nevada Legislature’s “Share Your Opinion” page, <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/71st/opinions/> or by telephone.

The Carson Valley Radio Club Web site, <http://www.cvrc.net/ab61/>, and the Nevada Legislature’s Web site, <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/>, have more information.—Kent Petty, KL5T; Dick Flanagan, W6OLD

MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA YOUNGSTERS ENJOY ARISS SPACE CHATS

Youngsters at schools in Mississippi and Alabama have had a chance to chat via Amateur Radio with the two US crew members of International Space Station. The contacts were arranged by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station—or ARISS—program. Astronaut Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, spoke last week with Vicksburg (Mississippi) High School students, while her astronaut colleague Jim Voss took a turn at the NA1SS mike this week during a contact with youngsters at Admiral Moorer Middle School in his home state of Alabama.

After a couple of false starts, nine Vicksburg High School students finally got to meet Helms on the air on April 11. “The contact was near perfect,” said Bill Ford, W5WAF, a member of the Vicksburg Amateur Radio Club committee that helped set up the equipment for the contact. Two previous QSO opportunities had to be scrubbed because of the ISS crew workload.

Initially anticipating a direct contact with NA1SS, the Vicksburg ARC had installed antennas and equipment at the high school. As things turned out, the contact ended up being telebridged through the Sacred Hearts Academy station in Honolulu, Hawaii. Audio was handled via special telephone circuits.

The students fired off 18 questions, ranging from the salary of an astronaut to the sensation of riding the shuttle to orbit. One student who happens to be 6 feet 3 inches tall asked about the height requirements for astronauts. Helms told senior Christopher Withrow that the height restriction is 6 feet 4 inches. Withrow said he’s still growing.

Vicksburg ARC President Eddie Pettis, N5JGK, called the contact a very successful community-wide effort. The event also got excellent media coverage.

On April 16, youngsters at Admiral Moorer Middle School in Eufaula, Alabama, worked the ISS through a telebridge with ground station NN1SS at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. Youngsters managed to complete their entire list of two dozen questions, several focusing on the health effects of being in space.

One youngster asked what Voss would do if he got sick during his stay aboard the ISS. He explained that he and Helms were the medical team during the Expedition 2 crew mission and that if one became ill, the other would provide treatment. Voss said the crew can talk with a physician on Earth if they need help.

Voss also told the students in Alabama that the body adjusts to the lack of gravity by using visual cues rather than the inner-ear to determine balance. Voss also said that he considered research in the field of radiation monitoring very important to opening the way for colonizing space.

ARISS mentor Randy Becnel, W5UE, worked with both the Vicksburg and Moorer ARISS teams.

The Moorer school QSO was scheduled at Voss's request. Helms and Voss have participated in several ARISS school contacts since coming aboard the ISS in March. The Expedition 2 Commander is Russian cosmonaut Yury Usachev, UA9AD.

The next tentatively scheduled ARISS contact is with Parkway Central High School in Chesterfield, Missouri, later this month.—thanks to Bill Ford, W5WAF, Allen White, WB4MIO, Will Marchant, KC6ROL; The Vicksburg Post, and MSNBC

DAVID CLARK, KB6TAM, IS BACK ON THE HIGH SEAS

Call him persistent, even stubborn, but don't call him a quitter, and don't count him out. Rebounding from the February 7 disaster that sank his first sailboat, the Mollie Milar, David Clark, KB6TAM, again set sail April 11 from Cape Town, South Africa, in a new boat. His goal is to become the oldest person to sail solo around the world. Clark will turn 77 on May 17.

The February maritime disaster in which his sailboat sank also claimed the life of his beloved canine companion, Mickey, who was lost at sea during the rescue. Clark has named his new vessel Mickey in the dog's memory. The new boat is a 34-foot fiberglass hull vessel.

Now some 800 miles out of Cape Town, Clark has been keeping a daily ham radio schedule with the Pacific Seafarer's Net on 20 meters, according to Bob Reed, N6HGG. The net has been running phone patches so that Clark can speak with his wife. Clark's next port of call is St Helena, where he will take on water and supplies. He expects to reach there in about 10 days. Reed says Clark has been keeping a daily schedule on 14.245 MHz at around 1400 UTC.

He's also keeping in touch with South African hams at 1500 UTC on 14.195 MHz.

Clark says he expects to be back in Ft Lauderdale, Florida—where his journey began in December 1999—sometime between the middle of June and the first of July. While Clark has some corporate sponsors, he's been funding his trip largely out of his Social Security income and his occasional clarinet gigs.

For more information on David Clark's journey, visit <http://www.dclark.com> and <http://www.captainclark.com>.

QST TECHNICAL EDITOR PAUL PAGEL, N1FB, RETIRES

ARRL Headquarters staff member and well-known QST technical editor Paul Pagel, N1FB, has retired. Pagel, who turned 63 this month, was on the HQ staff for nearly 22 years. In his capacity as a senior assistant technical editor, Pagel prepared much of QST's technical content for publication. He also handled the popular "Technical Correspondence" column.

Outgoing QST editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, who's now ARRL's chief operating officer, says the QST editorial team won't be the same without Paul Pagel. "He's helped countless authors polish their articles for the magazine," Wilson said. "He also helped train a number of ARRL technical editors over the years—including me. I still remember Paul's patient advice and guidance as I worked on my first articles for the magazine. We'll miss him."

A ham since 1958—when he went from ground zero to Conditional class (K1KXA) in one leap—Pagel says he can't remember when he was not interested in Amateur Radio. Growing up in New Britain, Connecticut, he taught himself the Morse code at age 16. "I got a J-38 key for \$1 at a rundown radio-TV shop," he said, "and I learned the Morse code by listening to the clicks of the key, because I didn't have a code oscillator." This gave him a leg up when he joined the Air Force right out of high school and became a ground radio operator in Germany. While overseas, he also met his wife, Karin. The couple now lives in Enfield, Connecticut. Their son, Eric, is a police officer.

Following the service, Pagel went to the FCC office in Boston one day and upgraded all the way to Amateur Extra in a single sitting. After graduation from Ward School of Electronics in Hartford, he went to work for IBM.

Prior to coming to work in the old Technical Department at ARRL, Pagel spent 12 years as an engineer

at WWLP-TV in Springfield, Massachusetts. He learned of that opening from a fellow ham. Pagel said that making the jump from his TV job to ARRL in June 1979 meant “a huge cut in pay,” but writing and editing in a ham radio environment were what he’d always wanted to do.

“I immediately took over the ‘Product Review’ column,” he said. “That was scary!” He cites as one of his major contributions convincing then-ARRL General Manager Dick Baldwin, W1RU, to purchase state-of-the-art test gear for the ARRL Lab to conduct routine evaluations of new Amateur Radio products. “That was the turning point for ‘Product Review,’” he said.

Over the years, Pagel has enjoyed several facets of hamming, including CW—his first love—AM, SSB, RTTY and weather satellites. During his ARRL tenure, he collaborated with ARRL Technical Advisor Ralph Taggart, WB8DQT, on the first edition of the Weather Satellite Handbook. He also enjoyed building his own gear. An ARRL Life Member, Pagel said he hopes to get back into the hobby, now that he has more time and isn’t involved with it professionally.

FIRST TUNA TIN 2 WAS CLAIMED

When the TUNA TIN 2 low-power transmitter article appeared in QST in 1976 (<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/7605014.pdf>), its author Doug DeMaw, W1CER (later W1FB), envisioned it as a weekend project that could be used for short-range contacts. Now, a quarter of a century later, a Canadian amateur has claimed the first Tuna Tin 2 Worked All States Award! Steve McDonald, VE7SL, got caught up in “Tuna Tin 2 Mania” and bought one of the popular TT2 kits. After working about 30 states with the little rig, WAS suddenly seemed plausible. McDonald realized his dream several months later when he turned in his cards for WAS. All contacts for the award had been completed while he was running about 400 mW from a Tuna Tin 2. As far as the ARRL awards folks know, this marked the first time WAS was achieved with a Tuna Tin 2—although there is no special endorsement for having done so. “Doug DeMaw knew in his heart that the rig would be useful and popular, but I don’t think he ever envisioned that this little transmitter would still be working its QRP magic over 25 years after it first appeared in the pages of QST,” said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI—himself a QRP and TT2 aficionado who has promoted the Tuna Tin 2 Revival and was McDonald’s Connecticut contact for WAS. Congratulations to VE7SL on a tremendous operating accomplishment.—Ed Hare, W1RFI

* CQ Contest and DX Hall of Fame inductees for 2001 announced: CQ magazine has announced its 2001 inductees into the CQ Contest and CQ DX halls of fame. Algis Kregzde, LY2NK, and Ron “Sig” Sigismonti, N3RS, were named to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. Robert Allphin, K4UEE, and Robert Eshleman, W4DR, join the roster of the CQ DX Hall of Fame. Kregzde is a coach, leader and coordinator of the Lithuanian National HF Team, president of the Lithuanian Radio Sports Federation and vice president of the international European Radio Sports Federation. Sigismonti has been contesting for four decades and is past president of the Frankford Radio Club, which nominated him. Allphin, a member of the 1996 and 2000 US WRTC teams, was nominated by the Southeastern DX Club. Eshleman, the recipient of the 2000 ARRL Clinton DeSoto DXCC Challenge Cup, is a past chairman of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee. He holds Five-Band DXCC certificate No 1. He was nominated by the Tidewater DX Club, the Flanders DX Club, and UBA—Belgium’s national Amateur Radio society. Induction ceremonies will be held at the Dayton DX and Contest banquets.—CQ news release

SETI LEAGUE BOUNCING SIGNALS OFF MOON

With financial assistance from the American Astronomical Society, The SETI League Inc has placed on the air a transmitter that bounces microwave signals off the moon’s surface for use in testing Earth-based radiotelescopes. Operating on 1296 MHz under the call sign W2ETI, the EME beacon enables amateur and professional radio astronomers to calibrate their receiving systems by providing a stable reference signal from a known point in the sky. The SETI League’s EME beacon received its first shakedown in March, providing scientists at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico with a weak, well-calibrated test signal for use in conjunction with the Project Phoenix targeted search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Project Phoenix scientists had formerly used a microwave transmitter aboard the Pioneer 10 spacecraft for this purpose. Twenty nine years after its launch, Pioneer 10 is now outside our solar system, seven billion miles from Earth, and its 8 W beacon is too weak to be received—even by Arecibo. The SETI League promotes a privatized search for extraterrestrial intelligence. The organization boasts more than 1200 members in 60 countries, many of the Amateur Radio operators. Its executive director is Paul Shuch, N6TX. For more information, visit the SETI League Web site, <http://www.setileague.org/>.

\$April Treasurer Report\$



The book drawing winners in April were Wolfgang KA1VOU who selected the ARRL 2001 Handbook and Bob W1XP who selected the Extra Class license manual (for someone else, no doubt).

Income for April was \$25 from the book drawing, \$75 from membership renewal, \$7 from ARRL member renewal rebates, \$1126.69 net from FoxFinder kit and board sales, and \$20.50 in bank interest.

Expenses were \$37.59 for newsletter postage and mailing labels, \$15.95 for the outgoing QSL bureau, \$110.67 for yearbooks, and \$23.99 for badge labels leaving a net income of \$1065.99 .

Fund balances as of May 10 are:

General Fund:	\$4216.30
Community Fund:	\$1192.55

If your ARRL renewal is coming up soon, I can mail it for you. If you bring it to me at a club meeting you save 34 cents and add a little bit more to the General Fund balance from the ARRL rebate to the Club. If you're not yet an ARRL member and wish to join, the Club can get a larger one-time rebate. Make your check payable to NVARC and I'll do the rest.

73,-Ralph KD1SM

2000-2001 Fleamarkets

19 May Forestdale RI RIFMRS @VFW rt146 8A
flea+auct Rick K1KYI 401 725 7507

20 May Flea at MIT Nick 617 253 3776

26 May Vernon CT NARC@TollandAgC I84x67
Wayne 860 487 1921

1-3 June Rochester NY Atlantic Conv Harold K2HC
716 424 7184



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V Pres.: Earl Russell WR1Y
Secretary: Ian Norrish NZ1B
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
Photographer Ralph Swick KD1SM
PIO: open

Board Members
Bob Reif 1999-2002
Den Connors 2000-2003
Craig Kalley 2001-2004

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

442.90 + 100Hz Repeater
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater

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corrections and inquiries should be directed to the
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