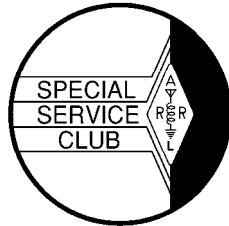




SIGNAL

de N1NC



November 2004 Volume 13 Number 11

This Month's Meeting

This month's program is Members Short Subject Night. We have presentations by Skip K1NKR, Bob W1XP, Dennis K1LGQ.

Remember next month is Homebrew so finish up those projects and show them off.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting was a QSL Card Sort. We sorted 115 pounds or approximately 20,000 cards for the W1QSL Bureau. At the Boxboro Convention we received a certificate for our efforts which has been returned to us with some typographical adjustments. Several people were able to filter some of their own incoming cards out of the stack. After the sort we had pizza and soft drinks provided by NVARC.

From the President

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Stan KD1LE

Adopt A Highway

Participating in the October cleanup were Pat N1VAW, Dave N1MNX, Larry KB1ESR, and John KB1HDO who ran the cleanup. Thanks to everyone who participated.

This month is the last cleanup for the year. Since we were short participants last month and could only do a partial cleanup it would be good to have a full crew this month so we can cover the entire section.

The next cleanup is Sunday November 21st. We meet at the traffic island on the east side of the Nashua River at 9:00 AM.

Board Meeting Notes

The NVARC Board met November 11th at the KD1LE QTH. In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, Peter N1ZRG, Les N1SV, Bob W1XP, John KB1HDO, and Bruce K1BG.

Items discussed

Ralph to order books for raffle. Several non book items donated to drawings.

Meeting program for November
Skip K1NKR
Bob W1XP
Dennis K1LGQ

Need programs for January thru June. Brainstorming for ideas. Several possibilities to be pursued.

Ralph passed out the Annual Financial Summary last month. It was available at the last meeting and there will be copies at this meeting. The significant fact it points out is that for the last three years (since FoxFinder income stopped) the budget has been approx \$100 in the red each year. This is even though we have not had to pay printing costs for the newsletter and yearbook, a savings of approximately \$250 each year. The Board also recognized that interest on our current accounts is helping to reduce this deficit. A significant reduction of our savings will increase this problem.

In a series of discussions the Board concluded:

- That current regular expenditures were in line with proper operation, support of activities, and benefits to the members.
- That a balanced budget was desirable but the current deficit is manageable. If the imbalance continues or increases some additional source of income should be found to balance the budget.
- That proposals for large grants should be balanced by including a plan for fund replacement.

Les had a suggestion of a sound card interface board as a club design/build project if there is sufficient interest.

NVARC Club Net

The net on September 20th was called by Ken N1MNX. Participating were Ken K1KEY, Larry KB1ESR, Bob W1XP and Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM.

The September 27th net was called by Stan KD1LE. Participating were Skip K1NKR, Ken K1KEY, Bob W1XP, Larry KB1ESR, and Ralph KD1SM. The net program was a quiz on hurricane facts and history.

Nets continue to be called and are a good place to bring information for the club and questions or discussions. The net meets at 8:00 PM Monday evenings on the 442.900 N1MNX repeater.

2004 Field Day Results

Well the numbers are in. No matter how you look at them NVARC had a very successful Field Day. Not only did we amass good numbers, we had a great time. The ARRL Web Site allows the scores to be sorted six ways to Sunday. I have listed some sample ways that move from the largest to smallest geographic area. I also used some category variants.

All 2A All Entries (455 entries)

| | QSO's | Section | Place |
|-----------|-------|---------|-------------------|
| W5ZN | 4424 | AR | 1st |
| K1RK | 2593 | EMA | 13th |
| NVARC | 1950 | EMA | 31 st |
| NS1RA | 1805 | EMA | 46 th |
| Newington | 1008 | CT | 174 th |
| Norwood | 467 | EMA | 201st |

All Categories New England (135 entries)

| Place | Club | Category | Score |
|-----------------|------------|----------|-------|
| 1 st | NARC | 21A | 12984 |
| 5 th | MITRE/BARS | 3A | 8506 |

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----|------|
| 11 th | NVARC | 2A | 7458 |
| 23 rd | W1GZ | 4AB | 4175 |
| 31 st | PART | 2A | 3246 |
| 35 th | Newington | 2A | 2982 |
| 38 th | Norwood | 2A | 2632 |
| 68 th | Wellesley | 2A | 1072 |

All 2A New England Category (22 entries)

| Place | Club | QSO's | Participants |
|------------------|-----------|-------|--------------|
| 1 st | W1NVT | 3780 | 30 |
| 5 th | NVARC | 1950 | 19 |
| 6 th | NS1RA | 1805 | 45 |
| 13 th | PART | 670 | 19 |
| 16 th | Newington | 1008 | 20 |
| 17 th | Norwood | 467 | 30 |
| 20 th | Wellesley | 155 | 28 |

All 2A Massachusetts (7 entries)

| Place | Club | Participants | Score |
|-----------------|----------|--------------|-------|
| 1 st | Falmouth | 51 | 9230 |
| 2 nd | N1NC | 19 | 7458 |
| 3 rd | NS1RA | 45 | 6870 |
| 4 th | W1AA | 21 | 4028 |
| 5 th | K1EJ | 19 | 3246 |
| 6 th | N1OP | 30 | 2632 |
| 7 th | W1TKZ | 28 | 1072 |

Everyone should be pleased with the great showing.

PSLIST October

Public Service Volunteer Opportunities in the New England Division.

**** Every event listed is looking for communications volunteers ****

| Date | Location | Event |
|------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Dec 4 | Sutton, MA | Festival of Lights |
| Bob KA1OTQ | 508-865-6957 | ka1otq@arrl.net |

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.

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

Pepperell Soccer Tournament

Some additional pictures not included in last months Signal.



Courtesy KD1SM

Earl WR1Y at Comisky



Courtesy KD1SM

Stan KD1LE on the Lower Varnum Fields



Courtesy KD1SM

Dave N1MNX, Chris KB1KUZ, and Stan KD1LE at the Town and Comisky Fields



Courtesy KD1SM

Peter N1ZRG on the lower Varnum fields

ARRL Letter

ARRL DISAPPOINTED WITH ADMINISTRATION OVER BPL REPORT AND ORDER

The ARRL has expressed its disappointment with the Bush administration's failure "to prevent radio spectrum pollution by BPL systems." In a November 1 letter to Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans copied to President George W. Bush, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, recalled Evans' assurances on the administration's behalf earlier this year "that we are responsible and sensitive to valuable incumbent [radiocommunication] systems." Haynie told Evans the FCC's BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37--adopted October 14 and released two weeks later—suggests otherwise.

"Despite excellent work conducted by the technical staff of your National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to document the extensive harmful interference that will occur if BPL systems are deployed at the radiated emission limits presently permitted by the FCC rules," Haynie said, "it appears that the NTIA concurred in the FCC's decision not to tighten those limits."

The FCC maintains that BPL emissions are localized and at low enough levels to preclude harmful interference in the first place, and it has left the door open to possibly upping the limit in the future.

Haynie pointed out that both international treaty and US law entitle licensed radiocommunication services to protection from harmful interference that unlicensed systems like BPL might generate. "Despite this," he continued, "the FCC has shifted the burden for initiating interference mitigation from the BPL system operator to the radio licensee." The NTIA's September 13 submission to the FCC shows that at FCC Part 15 limits, the probability of harmful interference is essentially 100 percent within 200 to 400 meters (approximately 660 to 1300 feet) of a power line carrying BPL signals—depending on the operating frequency.

"Amateur Radio stations are typically located in residential areas, nearly always well within such distances," Haynie noted. "The FCC's Report and Order provides no assurance that when interference occurs—as it unquestionably will—it will be promptly eliminated."

As part of the Commerce Department, the NTIA not only administers radio spectrum allocated to federal government users but advises the White House on telecommunications policy. On June 24, President

Bush extolled BPL during a speech on technological innovation even while acknowledging interference concerns.

Haynie said the League will continue efforts to improve the R&O. Calling the HF spectrum "a unique and priceless resource," the ARRL president expressed regret that the administration "is willing to squander such a unique natural resource in order to provide a short-range broadband connection that can easily be provided by several other non-polluting means."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, echoed Haynie's concerns. The FCC R&O, he said, "shifts the burden to licensed operators to react to interference rather than adopting rules to prevent interference from occurring." The R&O advises locating "sensitive receiver antennas" as far as practically possible from power lines. Additionally, the FCC admonished ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas." Reacted Sumner: "If a BPL system operator wants to meet its obligation by picking up all of the costs of relocating a licensee's antenna, it's free to make the offer."

If interference occurs, the new Part 15 rules will require BPL system operators to employ "interference avoidance techniques" such as "frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement." Notches would have to be at least 20 dB—slightly more than 3 S units—below applicable Part 15 limits on HF and at least 10 dB below Part 15 limits on VHF—not much protection for weaker signals common in HF work.

"We might be more optimistic if there had, to date, been a single instance when the FCC had ordered a BPL system to terminate operation for causing harmful interference," Sumner said. "The Commission continues to be in denial, despite hundreds of pages of documentation of ongoing interference."

Sumner said the ARRL was gratified that the FCC R&O recognized that BPL devices have significantly greater interference potential than other Part 15 devices and that the Commission will require certification of BPL systems rather than the less-stringent verification. Additionally, Sumner said, the League was pleased that the FCC-mandated public BPL system database will require systems to be listed several weeks ahead of actual implementation so that amateurs and others have advance notice.

ARRL officials continue to mull possible formal responses to the R&O. The ARRL Executive Committee already has okayed the filing of a Petition for Reconsideration. It further authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue

other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

For more information on BPL, visit the Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl>>.

NEED FOR SPECTRUM DEFENSE NEVER ENDS

While ARRL members often say that advocating for Amateur Radio's interests is the most valuable service the League can perform on their behalf, that advocacy carries a hefty price tag. So says ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. Although she realizes it's a message ARRL members may be weary of hearing, Hobart says the cost of keeping abreast of today's changing regulatory and technological environment is essential to Amateur Radio's future. And while contributing to the 2005 ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund is a regular and ongoing obligation, it also pays back donors down the road.

"Radio amateurs owe it to themselves to donate," she says, "no matter their license class or even whether they're ARRL members or not." Hobart reiterated the campaign kickoff comment of ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who said, "Without spectrum, the license that we have in our pocket or hanging up on the wall is pretty much useless."

Despite the FCC's recent adoption of new rules to govern broadband over power line (BPL) systems—the theme of the 2005 fundraising campaign is ". . . more than just BPL"—Hobart says spectrum defense remains just as important as ever. "ARRL's work continues—technically, legally, any way we can," she emphasized. "The bills keep mounting."

But she also points to results. ARRL's persistence in the BPL proceeding, she noted, helped to put Amateur Radio's interference concerns on the FCC's radar screen and get them acknowledged—even if not yet adequately addressed—in the FCC's recent BPL Report and Order.

Beyond BPL, "there will be other challenges down the road," Hobart says. "And—like the Boy Scouts—we need to be prepared." The cost of spectrum defense, which includes advocacy in "Official Washington," through the ARRL's Technical Relations Office, does not come entirely out of individual member dues.

"Without these fundamental relationships in DC, when something hits, we simply wouldn't be ready," she said.

Hobart called on "ARRL members regardless of license class, prior donors who haven't contributed this year, our generous Diamond Club members and Amateur Radio clubs and organizations" to give what they can. "All of these have an important stake in the success of our advocacy, whether it's BPL, spectrum access or an issue we don't even know about yet," said Hobart.

She also thanked those who have already contributed. "A lot of people have given a lot of money so far, but the need doesn't stop," she said.

In his October QST "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out that not all of ARRL's advocacy work is defensive. "Thanks to our persistent effort over more than a decade, last year's WRC [World Radiocommunication Conference] agreed to double the size of the worldwide 40-meter amateur band by relocating broadcasting stations elsewhere in the spectrum," he wrote. He also noted the authorization for US amateurs to use five channels in the 5-MHz band. Such significant victories, he asserted, would not be possible "without financial support from thousands of ARRL members like you."

Radio amateurs may contribute online via the ARRL's secure donor Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/fdefense.html>>. Those contributing at or above the \$50 level may request a gift as a token of the League's appreciation.

For more information, contact ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, mhobart@arrl.org; 860-594-0397.

PERMANENT ISS HAM STATION, HUMAN CREWS SHARE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

Four years ago this week, the Expedition 1 crew arrived aboard the International Space Station, home of the first permanent Amateur Radio station in space. Just weeks earlier, the FCC granted the station's distinctive NA1SS call sign. By the time William Shepherd, KD5GSL, Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gidzenko arrived on November 2, 2000, the Phase 1 or "initial station" Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) gear was already on board for the crew to install. Crew increments comprised of US astronauts and Russian cosmonauts have rotated duty tours continuously ever since, and ham radio has played a role in each crew's routine.

"Every challenge for the International Space Station crews, flight control teams and management adds to

the knowledge base we need to develop longer spaceflight missions to places like the moon and Mars," said International Space Station Program Manager Bill Gerstenmaier. "The work we're doing on station is directly connected to future exploration missions." ARISS International currently is mulling Amateur Radio's role in NASA's "Moon, Mars and Beyond" initiative.

With NASA's shuttle fleet now grounded, crew increments have shrunk to two people, while duty tours have stretched from four to six months. Despite fewer hands on deck, NASA says the two-person crews sometimes have been able to do more with less—often improvising.

The Expedition 10 crew of Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, and ISS Flight Engineer Salizhan Sharipov, arrived at the ISS just last month—aboard a Russian Soyuz vehicle, just as the Expedition 1 crew did, although other crews traveled via the shuttle. Over the years, in addition to visiting space shuttle crews, there have even been a couple of paying "space tourists" and other short-term visitors who took advantage of the ARISS gear onboard. More recently, Russian Space Forces Test Cosmonaut Yuri Shargin—who arrived with the Expedition 10 crew—completed two ARISS contacts with school groups in Europe.

The Expedition 10 crew is not expected to begin its own series of school group contacts until the week of November 15 at the earliest. Unscheduled ham radio activity by crew members typically is suspended during crew changeover periods. As of November 4, the NA1SS FM voice repeater remained off and the ARISS Phase 2 equipment was back in packet mode under the RS0ISS call sign.

This week marked a first when Chiao cast his vote in the November 2 presidential election while orbiting 230 miles above Earth. A law the Texas State Legislature passed in 1997 allows astronauts to vote electronically from space. Chiao submitted his electronic ballot to his county clerk's office via e-mail.

Some statistics: Since the Expedition 1 crew carried out the first successful ARISS school group contact—with Luther Burbank Elementary School near Chicago on December 21, 2000--ISS crews have racked up 150 similar Amateur Radio contacts. Approximately two-thirds of them have been direct, 2-meter QSOs, while the rest were carried out via "telebridge" stations, where two-way audio was teleconferenced to the school via an Earth station convenient to QSO NA1SS directly.

The crew holding the record for the most ARISS school group contacts was Expedition 3. Commander Frank Culbertson, KD5OPQ, answered

questions via ham radio posed by students at 22 different schools. Culbertson also activated NA1SS during the 2001 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) scouting event.

NASA recently announced that after an extensive review, it's planning its return-to-flight shuttle mission, STS-114, for a launch window that opens next May. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says PCSat 2—an externally mounted ham radio payload—is expected to fly on that shuttle flight, which also will mark the return of three-person ISS crews. "We will also be able to better negotiate the delivery of our computer, which is essential for the SSTV system," Bauer added.—some information from NASA

UNITED WAY REPORTS HUGE HAM RADIO RESPONSE TO ARRL HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

The United Way in Martin County, Florida, reports "a huge response" by the Amateur Radio community to the ARRL's call to support a holiday toy drive on behalf of the agency's "White Doves Holiday Project." The ARRL effort aims to provide toys for youngsters left homeless or displaced by a relentless string of hurricanes earlier this year. Carol Hodnett, who directs the United Way of Martin County's Volunteer and Community Resource Center (VCRC) says ARRL members from Maine to California have sent toys or money, and more are arriving every day.

"Because of the overall strain on our state, we have been looking outside the area for help in supporting the White Doves Holiday Project this year," Hodnett said. "We are so incredibly thankful to the American Radio Relay League for thinking of the children in our area in planning its toy drive."

Among the responses: Hodnett says a representative from an ARRL-affiliated club in Cary, North Carolina, is planning to drive a truckload of toys to the White Doves warehouse at the Martin County Fairgrounds next month. The ham radio club at Salt Brook Elementary School in New Providence, New Jersey, also is planning to contribute to the toy drive, she said.

Ham radio operators maintained emergency communication operations in several Florida counties following hurricanes Charley, Frances, Jeanne and Ivan, Hodnett noted, and "they learned about the devastation firsthand or through their networks."

ARRL Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says that while severe weather affected many areas of the US to differing degrees, Florida was hit the worst, and thousands of families were

left without a place to live. "For a child suddenly living out of a tent, or car, or someone else's home, the 2004 holiday season will be anything but jolly," Pitts says. "But hams are coming to their rescue in a new way."

Hams across the country are encouraged to purchase an unwrapped toy for a boy or girl aged 1 to 14 and send it with a QSL card or 3x5 card displaying their call sign to: Ham Radio, The United Way White Dove Project, 50 Kindred St—Suite 207, Stuart, FL 34994. Monetary donations also are welcome. Send gifts and donations prior to Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 25. Martin County United Way has agreed to serve as the collection point and also coordinate distribution to the surrounding counties.

"The thousands of hours hams spent in providing free emergency communications to the families hurt by the hurricanes is now being matched by the thousands of dollars in caring for their children," Pitts said. The first shipment of toys from ARRL Headquarters staffers should go out by November 8.

Additional information about the ARRL holiday toy drive are on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/10/18/2/>>.

USTTI COURSE STUDENTS SHOW SPECIAL INTEREST IN AMATEUR RADIO

ARRL Headquarters played host to seven international students October 18-22 for the 2004 United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) <<http://ustti.org/>> Amateur Radio Administration course. This year's group of participants included three radio amateurs. Coordinated by USTTI and presented by ARRL Headquarters staff, the program covered—among other topics—the International Telecommunication Union and ITU regulations, the International Amateur Radio Union, spectrum management, disaster communication, digital communication, amateur satellites, electromagnetic interference, international licensing and the future of Amateur Radio.

"This was the best class that I had the opportunity to teach in my eight years with ARRL," remarked ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Walt Ireland, WB7CSL, who taught the majority of the course. He said the students all were more interested Amateur Radio administration and ITU telecommunications rules, regulations and administration than in technical issues.

All students were associated in some respect with their countries' telecommunication organization. At-

tending the 2004 session were Anthony Lynch, of Barbados; Cyprien Vagheni, 9Q1KS, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Benjamin Enyenze, of Kenya; El Alia Malainine, CN8YI, of Morocco; Murari Pokhrel, of Nepal; Leah Vengua, DU1LEA, of the Philippines, and James Ssekuma of Uganda.

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, provided an introduction to the ITU. In addition to studying rules, regulations and procedures, the trainees also constructed a simple 40-meter receiver in the ARRL Laboratory.

"We learned a lot from the students," Ireland concluded, "and Headquarters support was outstanding, as usual."

USEFUL LIFE OF UO-22 SATELLITE APPEARS OVER

According to AMSAT-UK, the UO-22 satellite is not in good shape, and its useful life may be over.

"The SSTL [Surrey Satellite Technology Limited] Ground Station control centre at the University of Surrey have attempted several times in recent weeks to reactivate the satellite," AMSAT-UK reports. "After one attempt it did come back to life, but only briefly. Other attempts have failed completely."

The SSTL ground control station may make further attempts to reactivate UO-22, "but it seems unlikely that they will be completely successful." The cause of the satellite's failure is not known for certain, but SSTL believes it may be related either to the spacecraft's batteries or to the fact that the satellite is very hot due to orbital precession, which has put it generally in full sunlight. The elevated temperature has been causing problems with the receivers as well as with the batteries.

Launched on July 17, 1991, from Kourou, French Guiana, UO-22 has served for many years as the 9600 baud store-and-forward satellite for the Amateur Radio packet radio worldwide SatGate service, which linked packet radio networks in many countries. AMSAT-NA reports UO-22 as "non-operational." For further information on UO-22 contact Jim Heck, G3WGM <g3wgm@amsat.org>.

ARISS INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES PONDER "SUITSAT" POSSIBILITIES

If plans come together in time, an outdated Russian spacesuit could become the most unusual Amateur Radio satellite ever put into orbit. Being called "Suit-Sat" for now, the idea—from ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR—sparked wide-ranging discus-

sion among delegates to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Team meeting October 11-13 in Alexandria, Virginia. With diminishing stowage space aboard the ISS, several Orlan spacesuits used for space walks have been declared surplus. Samburov's notion is to have an ISS crew equip one of them as an Amateur Radio satellite--possibly including a camera in the helmet area--and launch it during a space walk. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the project is on a fast track because it must be ready to roll in less than a year.

"It is on a very short schedule," Bauer said. "They're talking about launching in November of 2005, and to launch then, it really has to be ready in June of next year. It's going to be a big challenge," Bauer said. A second Orlan suit is expected to be available in 2007.

Bauer says the fact that SuitSat will have to be integrated in orbit by cosmonauts adds even more to the complexity. And after all that, SuitSat might float in space just a month or two before deorbiting. As a result, delegates tried to keep the "KISS" principle in mind during their brainstorming on how to equip SuitSat. "We've got to keep it simple, and we've got to keep the costs down," Bauer commented.

In addition to an onboard camera and a downlink transmitter, other ideas floated included the installation of temperature and radiation sensors, a beacon, a text-to-speech voice synthesizer so SuitSat could "speak" to students from data uplinked via packet, a full-duplex repeater and a GPS receiver to track SuitSat as it orbits Earth. The Orlan suits are pressurized and thermally protected, and have ample room inside.

"I think we're doing a good job of engineering this thing on the fly," Bauer remarked during the discussions. "This has excited a lot of people." ARISS delegates agreed that the project might pique the interest of students, teachers and the news media. The ARISS Project Selection and Use Committee is studying the proposal, and ARISS is soliciting ideas from the Amateur Radio community on what to include.

The ARISS delegates also heard updates on ISS hardware projects already in the pipeline, including launch of a multiband, multimode Yaesu FT-100D transceiver and a slow-scan TV system to the ISS, possibly within the next year.

Re-elected during the session were Bauer as ARISS International Chairman, Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, as

Vice Chairman, and Rosalie White, K1STO, as Secretary-Treasurer. Following the meeting, Bauer said he was pleased to see the ARISS team--now in its eighth year--"on the same page" and working smoothly.

"Every time we have an ARISS meeting, the camaraderie, the teamwork internationally get better and better," he said.

Samburov offered similar sentiments. "It seems to me we have become more than just colleagues," he said. "We have become friends, with a great deal of trust among ourselves."

AMATEURS SUPPORT HOSPITAL COMMUNICATIONS DURING TELECOMMUNICATIONS OUTAGE

When construction equipment accidentally severed two telecommunications trunk lines serving Tustin Hospital and Medical Center (THMC) in California on October 6, the hospital knew just whom to call. Members of the Orange County Hospital Disaster Support Communication System (HDSCS) responded promptly to fill in, as the 177-bed facility suddenly found itself without telephone, e-mail, fax, fire alarms or paging service. The initial seven HDSCS responders eventually grew to two dozen over the course of the 16-hour outage that began in the late afternoon and continued until the following morning. April Moell, WA6OPS, and two other fixed-stations handled incoming and outgoing telephone calls on behalf of THMC. Message traffic began to flow as soon as HDSCS operators got to their assigned stations, and hospital staffers re-established links with patients' physicians on the outside. "Although we have participated in numerous drills at THMC in the past, some newer employees were unfamiliar with Amateur Radio's capability," said Moell, who founded the 80-member ARES group in 1980. "They seemed amazed that HDSCS support has been completely free of cost to them. It's a true community service." HDSCS has agreements to provide backup communication to 34 acute-care medical facilities in Orange County. This month's activation marked the 85th in HDSCS' history for a hospital communication failure and the fifth emergency activation this year.

Contest Calendar and DXpeditions

The information for a DXpedition can be quite detailed and may include bands, dates, number of stations, and times of day they plan to work certain continents so I can not list it all here. But if a country or

prefix is of interest you can get more information at www.425dxn.org.

DXpeditions

| Call | Location | Until |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 8Q7WP | Maldives | 09/05 |
| VK0DX | Antartica | Dec |
| VQ9LA | Diego Garcia | Dec |
| HF0QF and HF0POL | So. Shetlands (SP-01) | Dec |
| HA200CVM | special station (Hungary) | Jan |
| 9U6PM | Burundi * | by HB9DTM |
| | Feb | |
| T98AQL | Bosnia-Herzegovina * | by IZ4AQL Mar |
| 5H3HK | Tanzania | till March 2006 |
| ZD8I | Ascension Is | till March 2006 |

Advertisements

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



\$November Treasurers Report\$

Income for October was \$55 in membership dues and \$9.15 in bank interest. Expenses were \$14.80 for newsletter postage, \$50.52 for October meeting pizza and soda, and \$255 for the liability insurance premium (actually paid prior to last month's meeting but accidentally omitted from last month's report), leaving a net expense of \$256.17 for the month. \$60 in reimbursements from August Now You're Talking distribution was restored to the Community Fund from the General Fund, as the purchase of the books came from the Community Fund.



Current balances:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| General fund | \$4510.38 |
| Community fund | \$1782.95 |

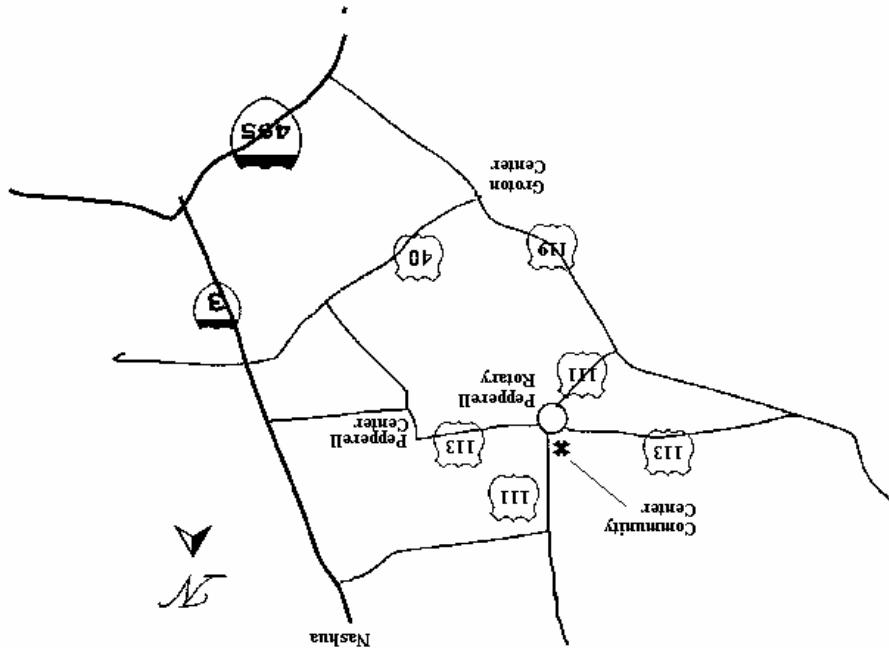
As of 11 November we have 55 current members and five renewals outstanding.

73,
Ralph KD1SM

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President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
Vice President: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG
Secretary: John Griswold KB1HDO
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Board Members:
Les Peters 2002-2005
Dave Peabody 2003-2006
Bob Reif 2004-2007
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
Emergency Coordinator: Den Connors KD2S
Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
PIO: Ron Wood W1PLW
Librarian: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG
Property Master: John Griswold KB1HDO
N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG
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
147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater
53.890 – 100Hz Repeater

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 OK. You can send items to
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