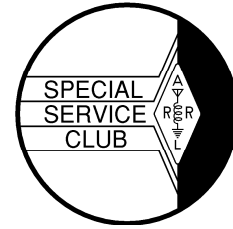




SIGNAL



de NINC

July 2006 Volume 15 Number 7

This Month's Meeting

No regular meetings till September.

Club Cookout August 12th at KD1LE QTH.

Since there is no meeting to use as a reminder I will list the Road Cleanup Saturday July 22nd here.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting presentation was by Ann WA1S on the K7C Kure Island DXpedition in which she participated.



Courtesy KDISM

Ann holding her NVARC Mug.

Ann started with a video of the DXpedition which covered not only the operating event but also the arduous boat ride to the island, restrictions place on them because of the environmental sensitivity of the area, and the projects they undertook to improve facilities on the island. She continued with her own photo collection which included many pictures of the wildlife on the island.

Field Day 2006

Larry KB1ESR and Peter N1ZRG had been planning for Field Day 2006 for what seems like forever and then it was here and over. We ran 2A with SSB, CW, GOTA, and UHF/VHF stations. We were located in the Pepperell conservation land apple orchard on Heald St.

Work began month's before with Bob W1XP and Stan KD1LE doing site planning. The wet spring weather made mowing the site a critical task but the continuing rain prevented us from getting to it. Fortunately Rob Rand of the Pepperell Conservation Commission offered to mow for us. With a farm tractor and five foot mower Rob spent over two hours the Thursday before Field Day mowing the main areas.

Thursday evening Bob and Stan made final stake outs of antenna locations and mowed specific areas to be used as guy points at the various antenna locations.

Friday morning Ralph KD1SM brought in his tractor and mowed trails connecting some of the antenna sites and the knoll where the U/VHF station was to be located.

Set up started Friday afternoon to get equipment on site and to put some tents and antennas in place. We resumed set up Saturday morning.

On air operations started at 2 PM Saturday afternoon.



Along the south edge of the open area are the CW tent, the dining canopy Leo provided, Larry's RV which provided power, rest facilities, and the GOTA station.



Dale AB1GA at the GOTA station with Bob W1XP Elmering. The GOTA station logged 44 contacts.



Bruce K1BG and Leo K1LK operate the CW station.



This years dinner Chef's Karen KA1JVU and Peg greet Larry KB1ESR who ran the food show with Bob AB1CV the past few years. Larry was banned from the "kitchen" this year.



Peg (above) and Karen KA1JVU prepared Saturday night dinner.

We have received many positive comments on this year's edition of the NVARC Field Day and I think everyone had a great time. We have also received some thoughts for improving Field Day next year. If you were there and have an idea how we might do things better send an email or drop a note to a club officer or one of the Field Day Chairpersons.

Each year we have gotten better at set up and tearing down at the end of Field Day. By taking down unused antennas as the bands change and equipment over the course of the morning we were able to clear the site within two hours of shutting down the last station.

Contact and point comparison to recent years.

Year	Class	CW	Phone Contacts	Total
2006	2A	801	532	5202
2005	3A	685	427	4744
2004	2A	1079	871	7458
2003	2A	474	950	4396
2002	2B	303	126	4160

Compared to 2005 we did better in CW and SSB contacts. We failed to pick up a few of the bonus point categories that we traditionally get. Overall we still did better than last year even though we shut-down early due to the impending weather. Stations were shutdown early as the operators decided they had had enough fun. All the stations were shutdown by noon and we had packed up and secured the site by 2:00 PM.

Board Meeting

Board meeting discussions.

Club cookout will be August 12th mid afternoon till whenever. Bring your own grub. There will be drinks and condiments available.

Grotonfest application received with a \$25 fee. Decided we were not interested.

Field Day payments approved.

Ralph gave the financials which are in his full report elsewhere.

Discussed making a grant to the Pepperell Conservation Commission in consideration of our use of the orchard for many years.

In attendance Stan KD1LE, Joel W1JMM, Ralph KD1SM, Peter N1ZRG, Larry KB1ESR, John KK1X.

Fitchburg Longsjo Bike Race



Courtesy KD1LE
N1UZ, Ralph KD1SM, and Tom K1JHC getting their assignments for the downtown Fitchburg day of the Longsjo bike race.



Courtesy KD1LE
The field of bicycles make a turn on a lap of the downtown Fitchburg day of the Longsjo Classic.

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

Treasurers Report

Income for June was \$85 in membership dues and \$22.58 from bank interest. Expenses were \$204.07 for Field Day and \$15.60 for newsletter postage, leaving a net expense of \$112.09 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$4284.65
Community fund	\$2071.83

As of 13 July we have 57 members who are current with their dues and 7 renewals outstanding. Please check the member roster that is circulated at the monthly meeting if you do not remember your renewal date. Your membership date also appears on your newsletter mailing label.

If your ARRL membership renewal is coming up, leave your renewal with me at a Club meeting and the Club will pay the postage. As a Special Service Club, the ARRL lets us retain a small portion of the dues that we forward to them.

Ralph KD1SM

PSLIST April 11

Date	Location	Event	Contact	Tel/Email
------	----------	-------	---------	-----------

Jul

4	Chelmsford MA	4th of July Parade	Darrel K1EJ	978-251-4805 k1ej@arrl.net
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NVARC Club Net

The club net meets on the 442.900 repeater. Recent participants include Dave N1MNX, Bob W1XP, Bob AB1CV, Joel W1JMM, John KK1X, Larry KB1ESR, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM, Stan KD1LE, Don AB1DS, Les N1SV, Richard KB1MBR, Ken K1JKR, Erik W1ZBT, Dan N1LLG and Peter KB1LZH.

Recent discussions were on Field Day and how things went, repeater work, meeting information, tools needed.

The net is 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.

Adopt-A-Highway

The next road cleanup is Saturday July 22nd after breakfast.

Thanks to the following members for their participation in last months cleanup Ralph KD1SM, Peter N1ZRG, Stan KD1LE, Erik W1ZBT, Larry KB1ESR, and Cindy.

We meet at the Nashua River common at 9:00 AM.

ARRL Letter

FIVE RADIO AMATEURS NOW ABOARD THE SPACE STATION

Five cosmonaut or astronaut-hams now are aboard the International Space Station, and one of them -- European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter, DF4TR -- has officially joined the Expedition 13 crew for the remainder of its duty tour and for about half of Expedition 14's tour -- six months in all, according to NASA. His arrival marks the first time since May 2003 that the ISS has had a three-member crew. Reiter and six other astronauts -- two of them also hams -- arrived July 6 aboard shuttle Discovery. A veteran of the Russian Mir space station, he's the first ESA astronaut to become part of a long-term ISS crew. He told reporters July 7 that it feels good to be back in space after 11 years.

"The body somehow remembers the feeling of weightlessness, how to move, how to work in space," Reiter remarked. "It's a huge station. There is a lot of space inside here."

There to greet the newcomers when they came aboard the ISS were Expedition 13 Commander Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS, and Flight Engineer and NASA Science Officer Jeff Williams, KD5TVQ. The shuttle and ISS crews will spend the next week conducting joint operations, including two spacewalks and transferring cargo from and to Discovery. Reiter said he's looking forward to his spacewalk with Williams in early August.

"I think everyone can imagine when you are up in space for a long time, it's really great to go outside at least once," he said.

Discovery shot into space from Cape Kennedy July 4 -- the first Independence Day shuttle launch ever and only the second since the Columbia disaster in 2003. Relieved mission control personnel reacted with

hoots, handshakes and hugs after the twice-postponed Discovery mission STS-121 reached preliminary orbit without a hitch.

Weather worries kept Discovery on the launch pad July 1 and 2. NASA managers also were concerned about a crack discovered in foam insulation near a bracket holding the liquid oxygen feed line in place on the external fuel tank. Some insulation also broke free during launch.

The STS-121 crew includes Commander Steve Lindsey; Pilot Mark Kelly; and mission specialists Stephanie Wilson, KD5DZE, Lisa Nowak, KC5ZTB; Mike Fossum and Piers Sellers.

To be on the safe side, prior to docking, Lindsey piloted Discovery through a back-flip maneuver to allow Vinogradov and Williams to eyeball and capture imagery of the orbiter's heat shield for any signs of damage.

NASA is pinning its hopes on a successful Discovery mission, since the space shuttle is the only vehicle capable of transporting the components remaining to complete the ISS, including the ESA's Columbus module, which has been outfitted to accommodate Amateur Radio.

NASA astronauts Michael Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK, and Sunita Williams, KD5PLB, and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin, RZ3FT, have been named as the 14th ISS crew. Expedition 14 is scheduled to begin this fall.

HAM RADIO POST-FLOOD SUPPORT IN EASTERN US WINDS DOWN

ARES/RACES members in Bucks County, Pennsylvania - just north of Philadelphia - remained active this week supporting Red Cross operations following major flooding in several communities along the Delaware River. BCARES volunteers continued to provide communication for shelters and local emergency operations centers (EOCs) through the end of the week, according to Bucks County Emergency Coordinator Harris Stein, NY3H.

"Thanks to all who have volunteered so much to handle this emergency," Stein said. "Bucks County can be proud of your effort and professionalism."

Stein reports that nearly four dozen ham radio volunteers had participated in the activation as of July 4, staffing six EOCs, two shelters and three additional command sites. Three "rover" units handled such tasks as reporting on river levels. Ham radio volun-

teers also assisted the Red Cross with damage assessment.

Elsewhere, 18 volunteers from the Pocono Amateur Radio Klub and Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association supported emergency communication between the Monroe County Office of Emergency Services and several Red Cross-sponsored shelters.

In Columbia County, where the Susquehanna River crested at 28.6 feet - nearly 10 feet above flood stage, ARES/RACES activated an emergency net, and Amateur Radio volunteers assisted with river level readings at 15 locations. The net remained operational for 27 hours. ARES/RACES members also aided with bridge and road closure announcements. Several bridges and roadways remained closed this week.

Amateur Radio volunteers also supported communication to two Red Cross shelters in Columbia County and helped to distribute drinking water after the local water company had to shut down due to flooding.

"The long cleanup and recovery process continues for the many resident of Columbia and other nearby counties affected," said Columbia County ARES RACES Radio Officer Randy Kishbaugh, N3JPV.

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL, said Amateur Radio volunteers activated in Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Columbia, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Schuylkill and Wyoming counties.

Meanwhile, ARES/RACES operations in response to flooding in two New Jersey counties have ended. "We are back to normal," Mercer County Emergency Coordinator Kip Burnett, KB2EGI, told ARRL earlier this week. The county EOC remains active to assist in cleanup operations, although Amateur Radio support is no longer necessary. Located along the Delaware River, Mercer County includes the state capital of Trenton.

To the north, Sussex County Deputy Communications Officer Dan Murphy, W2GZB, reports that ARES/RACES responded to support flood relief operations on June 28 and 29. Murphy says county emergency managers requested ARES/RACES operators at EOCs in Newton and Montague and, during a power outage, to the 911 center in Newton. Ham radio volunteers provided communication support at a shelter and at the flood zone in Montague. "All operations went well," Murphy reported.

ARRL Eastern New York Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Stone, KB2YUR, reports ARES activity in support of the Greater New York American Red Cross wound down July 5.

"During the operations we provided communications for the Red Cross to shelters, their command vehicle, the temporary headquarters and between emergency response vehicles (ERVs) and other Red Cross vehicles," Stone told ARRL. "We operated from 7 or 8 AM until the last feeding, done as late as 11 PM." Amateur Radio volunteers traveled with mass care vehicles, food drop units and disaster assessment teams.

ARES volunteers from two states and seven counties assisted in the flood response operation, Stone said.

ARRL'S "THE BIG PROJECT" TOPS 170 SCHOOLS

With the addition of four new schools, the ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP -- also known as "The Big Project") now has 171 schools across the US onboard. The newest ETP project grant schools are Denison Middle School, Winter Haven, Florida; Hitchcock High School, Hitchcock, Texas; Jefferson School, St Louis, Missouri, and Mesa Linda Middle School, Apple Valley, California. ETP Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, notified the four schools in June.

"I am honored to announce that your school has been awarded an Education and Technology Program grant to help you further your school's educational goals," Spencer said in letters to the four schools. "This grant award recognizes the importance of wireless technology in our society and your innovative program that uses the concepts of wireless technology in education." Program grants to the four schools will total \$9000.

In addition to the four new schools, the ETP awarded progress grants to two schools that already are a part of the program. They are Powell GT Magnet School, Raleigh, North Carolina and South Sevier High School, Monroe, Utah. Progress grants to the two schools will come to \$1000.

The ARRL Executive Committee approved allocating \$10,000 in program and progress grants during its May meeting. Spencer now is awaiting equipment "wish lists" from the schools to put the items out for bid. Program schools have a choice of three turnkey Amateur Radio station configurations, depending upon what the school hopes to accomplish.

For more information, visit the ARRL Education and Technology Program Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>> or contact ETP Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, <m Spencer@arrl.org>.

"INTRUDERS" SPOTTED IN SEVERAL AMATEUR RADIO HF BANDS

An "intruder" signal spotted on 20 and 17 meters - possibly originating from a Chinese HF broadcast station - has sparked a slew of reports and complaints from around the globe. In addition, those who volunteer to monitor the bands for out-of-place signals cite reports of so-called "single-letter beacon" stations on 40 meters. As the League's liaison with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Monitoring System (IARUMS) <<http://www.iaru.org/iarums/>> - also known as "Intruder Watch" - ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, is often the first to hear about strange signals that suddenly pop up on the bands.

"It was still on 18.160 MHz as of July 4," Skolaut said, citing reports of a "Chinese broadcaster" on 17 meters. "DARC Monitoring System Coordinator Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, reported hearing the broadcasts on 20 meters as recently as July 2. He indicated the signal was showing up at various times on 14.230, 14.305 and 14.310 MHz." The signal has been heard on one band or the other in the US from the Northeast to Hawaii, as well as in Canada, Sri Lanka, the UK, Australia, Hong Kong and India.

Monitors in Connecticut and Pennsylvania reported a strong AM signal from the apparent broadcaster on 18.160 MHz on July 2 at 1100 UTC and 1300 UTC. The signal has been heard on 14.180 MHz as well. Several listeners say their bearings put the source of the signal in central or southern China. Chris Cummings, G4BOH, says he's been able to match the audio to transmissions appearing on 15.495, 11.665 and 12.025 MHz. He filed a report with Ofcom, the UK's telecoms regulatory agency. Bihlmayer filed complaints with German telecoms authorities as well as with the Chinese Embassy in Berlin.

Reports filed with DX Listening Digest <<http://www.worldofradio.com/index.html>> suggested that the 14.180 and 18.160 MHz broadcasts are intended to jam the clandestine "Sound of Hope" transmission from Taiwan. The July 2 DX Listening Digest reports put the Chinese-language broadcasts appearing on 14.310 MHz - QRMing the Medical Amateur Radio Council (MARCO) net on 14.308 MHz - as well as on 18.160 MHz. Short wave listen-

ers (SWLs) say the AM carrier occasionally drops at the top of the hour for a monitoring check, only to reappear five minutes later.

Skolaut has shared reports and updates with the FCC, although the Commission has no authority to make intruder stations outside the US stop transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies. Such situations typically are dealt with through diplomatic channels.

For several years now, monitors around the world have reported the presence of "single-letter markers" or "single-letter beacons" apparently emanating from Russia. The so-called "C" beacon has again been reported active on 7.039. Those familiar with the beacons - believed to be Russian Navy channel markers - say there has been a "beacon cluster" on and around 7.039 MHz in the past. These stations identify with a single letter in conventional Morse code.

IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Bill Zellers, WA4FKI, compares the Intruder Watch program to a Neighborhood Watch that communities set up to reduce crime. He invites other radio amateurs or SWLs in IARU Region 2 (the Americas and some eastern Pacific Islands) to become part of the Intruder Watch program. He explains that IARUMS volunteers listen on the bands for intruders. IARU monitors have no legal authority but act only as band monitors, he points out.

Monitors in other parts of the world have logged "drift net buoys" on 160 meters, international broadcasters on 80 and 40 meters, fishing trawlers and pirates, paramilitary stations from India on 17 meters as well as something called "the Havana Gurgle" - the third harmonic of a broadcast on 6.030 MHz.

"To survive, the Amateur Radio community needs clean frequencies that are free of intruders," Zellers says. "Take a few minutes to join the Intruder Watch program and help us take care of our Amateur Radio neighborhood." Contact Zellers <wa4fki@nc.rr.com> for more information.

UN MAKES IT OFFICIAL: MONTENEGRO NOW NUMBER 336 ON THE CURRENT DXCC LIST

A new ARRL DXCC entity came into being this week! As expected, the United Nations admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member June 28, and that action automatically makes the tiny Balkan nation the 336th current DXCC entity.

"According to the ARRL DXCC List criteria, entities on the UN list of member-states qualify as political entities," said ARRL Membership Services Manager

Wayne Mills, N7NG. "Therefore, effective June 28, 2006 (UTC), ARRL has added The Republic of Montenegro to the DXCC List. Claims for DXCC credit will be accepted immediately."

The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> this week quoted Ranko Boca, YT6A, that current Montenegrin radio amateurs may use their current Serbia-Montenegro call signs until the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) designates a call sign block for the new country.

In anticipation of Montenegro's new nation status, International DX Festival Montenegro <<http://www.yu6scg.cg.yu/international-dx-festival.html>> has been set for July 20 until August 12. That's when several international operators — with Boca as DXpedition leader and well-known DXer Martti Laine, OH2BH, as radio operations leader — will join forces with Montenegrin Amateur Radio operators from at least three different stations using a common call sign in an effort to meet the DX community's need to work the newest DXCC Entity. Festival organizers have set the ambitious goal of 200,000 contacts for the event, which will use all HF bands.

The event also will include several basic courses on ham radio operating and CEPT license examinations aimed at new and less-experienced radio amateurs. Another goal is to establish an Amateur Radio Club of Montenegro

Others scheduled to take part in the DX Festival include ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, and XYL Linda, KA1ZD; 3Y0X team member Bob Grimmick, N6OX; IARU Region 1 Executive Committee member Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T; Carsten Esch, DL6LAU, and Vladan Kecman, YT3T/YU1AO.

Montenegro declared its independence on June 3 following a national referendum May 21.--The Daily DX; ARRL DXCC Desk

FCC TO SEEK COMMENTS ON KATRINA PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The FCC will invite public comments in response to recommendations presented this month by the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-83A1.pdf> in EB Docket 06-119, released this week, contains wide-ranging proposals and considerations that could involve FCC rule or administrative changes, a few of which deal with the Amateur Service.

"The devastation of Hurricane Katrina highlighted the importance of telecommunications and media to our daily lives, and our dependency on our national communications infrastructure," remarked FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin. "With this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, we are asking for comments and suggestions from the public on how to best address and implement the Independent Panel's recommendations."

The Independent Panel's report points out that Amateur Radio stations were among those segments of the communications infrastructure adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"Equipment was damaged or lost due to the storm, and trained amateurs were difficult to find in the immediate aftermath," the report said. "However, once called into help, Amateur Radio operators volunteered to support many agencies, such as FEMA, the National Weather Service, Hurricane Watch [Net] and the American Red Cross."

The Independent Panel report said Amateur Radio volunteers provided communication in many locations where no other means of communicating existed. Hams also provided other technical aid to communities affected by Hurricane Katrina, the report added. The panel recommended adopting "a proactive (rather than reactive) program for network reliability and resiliency."

ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, addressed the Independent Panel on March 7 to note that Amateur Radio volunteers "were part of the solution" in supplementing normal emergency communication systems taken out by the storm. For 37 days following Hurricane Katrina, Sarratt headed the volunteer effort to process Amateur Radio volunteers headed to the Gulf Coast to assist recovery operations.

In its NPRM, the FCC asked if should explore amending its rules to permit automatic grants of certain types of waivers or special temporary authority (STA) in declared disaster areas. "As a condition of the waiver or STA, the FCC could require verbal or written notification to the Commission staff contemporaneously with activation or promptly after the fact," the NPRM suggested. Following last year's devastating hurricanes, the FCC issued a handful of STAs to permit licensees lacking HF privileges to operate on HF for emergency purposes. The NPRM offered these specific areas for consideration.

* Waiver of Amateur Radio and license-exempt rules, permitting transmissions necessary to meet essential communications needs.

* Waiver of application filing deadlines, something the FCC did last fall for amateurs who lived in hurricane-stricken states.

* Streamlined STA process, so parties in the affected area may simply notify the FCC in writing or orally of a need to operate in order to restore service.

Comments will be due 30 days from the date the NPRM is published in the Federal Register and may be filed via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

ASTRONAUT STILL SEEKS QSLs FOR DXCC FROM SPACE

International Space Station Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, reports logging 130 DXCC entities from NA1SS while on orbit, but the DX QSLs have been slow in coming. To date McArthur has only about one-third of the entities confirmed for a special DXCC from space.

DX stations that worked McArthur at NA1SS during Expedition 12 are urged to send QSL cards to ARRL, ARISS QSL -- Exp 12, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494 USA. DX stations may also QSL via the routes on the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Web site <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm#QSL's>>, but they will take longer to be counted. If you've already sent a card "via the buro," ARISS asks that you send another to the ARRL ARISS QSL address.

As of June 20, McArthur has these entities confirmed from NA1SS: Alaska, Antarctica, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, England, France, Gibraltar, Hawaii, India, Israel, Japan, Mariana Is, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Puerto Rico, South Cook Is, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Flea Markets

July
22 NE Antique Radio Club

Aug
12 Piscataquis ARC ME
19 STARC Tail-Gate Hamfest St Albans VT
20 NoBARC Fleamarket Northern Berkshire ARC
20 MIT

25-27 NE Division Convention Boxboro

September

10 SEMARA Dartmouth MA

16 RI Amateur FM Repeater Service Flea Market
North Smithfield RI

17 MIT

17 Candlewood ARA Newtown CT

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.

Aug

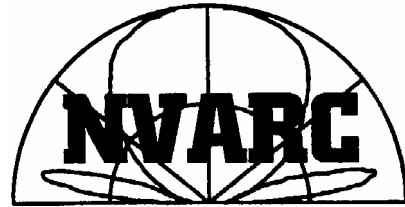
5-6 ARRL UHF Contest

19-20 ARRL 10 GHz and up Contest

DXpeditions

Call	Location	Until
7Q7WW	Malawi	23 June
CU8F	Flores Island	29 July-8 Aug
9V1CW	Singapore	2008
T68G	Afghanistan	March 2007

See www.425dxn.org for more listings

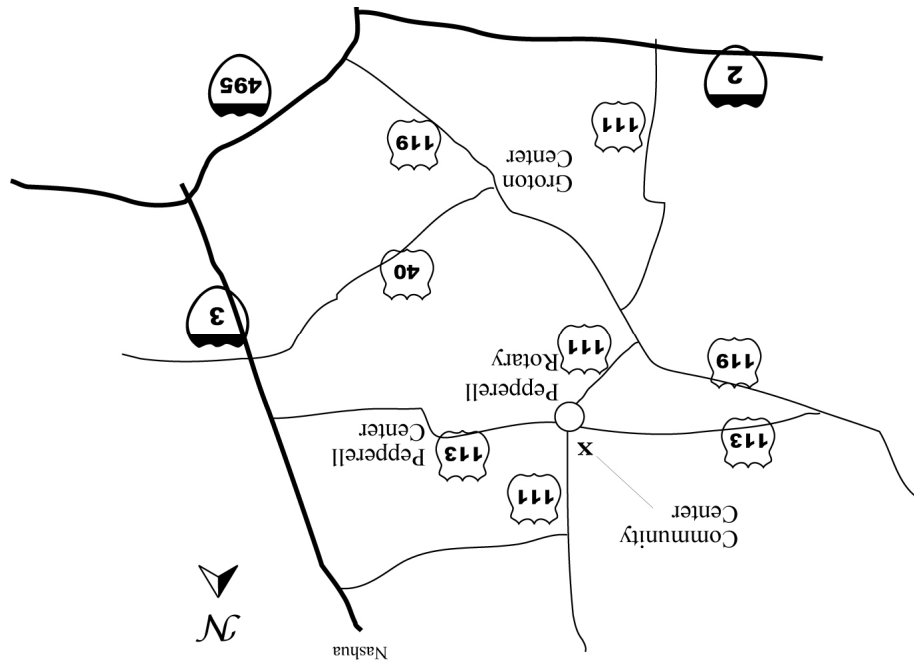


Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month
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Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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