



SIGNAL



de NINC

February 2009 Volume 18 Number 2

This Month's Meeting

Next club meeting is Thursday January 15. The program is Members Short Subjects. Polish up those short presentations.

No volunteer has come forward to run the Monthly Adopt A Highway road cleanups. The road cleanups start in April and we receive a letter to signify our intent to participate. We would need a volunteer prior to that time if we are to continue.

Meeting site info and maps on the back page and the NVARC Website.

Wear your badge to the meeting so new members can tell your name and you can introduce yourself to them. It may be worth your while.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting program was Members Short Subjects.



Dick showed his quick mount used to hang his rig on the glove box door. The rig being stored in the glove box.



Courtesy of KDISM

Earl shows his homebrew anemometer.

Present at the meeting were:

John KK1X, Stan KD1LE, Jim N8VIM, Tom K1NNJ, Dick W1LTN, Leo K1LK, K1LGQ Dennis, N1ZRG Peter, Rod WA1TAC, Joel W1JMM, Tony KX1G, Bruce K1BG, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, Larry KB1ESR, KB1JKL Phil, KB1LZH Pete, N1SV Les, WA1TAC Rod, Jim W1TRC, W1JMM Joel, W1ZBT Erik, W1XP Bob, WR1Y Earl

NVARC Emergency Protocol

In the event of an emergency and particularly a communications emergency the way we can help is by providing a means for emergency management to communicate. To do this we have three repeaters. The repeater frequencies, shifts, and tones are listed on the back of every newsletter. Ideally everyone should have these frequencies programmed and monitor them on a regular basis. Everyone should also know that the two-meter repeater runs on commercial power. So that is likely to be off the air in this type of situation (and it was after the ice storm.) The two repeaters we have that run on full time battery power are the six-meter 53.890 and 442.900 MHz repeaters. Although they may seem quiet a number of people monitor them full time. A simple scanner is one way to monitor both or all three if your transceiver is a one band at a time model. It is suggested that people come up on the repeater to get information and to make themselves available in case there is a need during and after an emergency situation. We generally wouldn't be running a formal net. Many of us also monitor 146.490 MHz simplex. Don't hesitate to call on the repeater. If everyone is listening and no one transmits no one will ever know anyone is there.

We don't have a formal emergency plan other than trying to be ready as a resource if called. Since some members are connected to RACES or other emergency groups we would try to support them if called. To do this we need to know who is available.

Yet Another Book Review

Basic Antennas
By Joel Hallas, W1ZR

Reviewed by, Bob Reif W1XP

"Basic Antennas" is the latest antenna publication by the ARRL. It came out in December of last year. It is written by Joel Hallas, W1ZR, the technical editor of QST. This is Joel's latest "basic series" book. It was preceded in 2005 by "Basic Radio", a comprehensive introduction to radio communications. "Basic Antennas" starts with basic antenna theory and progresses through simple wire antennas multi band antennas, VHF/UHF antennas and multi element arrays. It is intended as a first book on antennas and I think it does that quite well. There is very little math and lots of diagrams and plots of antenna performance that make understanding the concepts easy. It is not an in depth technical description of these antenna topics. Books have been written on many of the topics

covered. But it does cover many of the basic antenna types. It is not a book filled with reprinted antenna articles although there are some. There are several very useable antenna constructions described in the book, but that is not the book's primary purpose. This book is, a very good "first book on antennas". I wish there had been a similar book available when I first started in this hobby years ago. I think this book fills a very important place on a beginning hams technical book shelf. The author starts with some elementary electricity and magnetism and then moves on to the half wave dipole. He then discusses the important relationship between the half wave antenna, either horizontal or vertical, and the ground beneath the antenna. In a somewhat different approach, he then goes on to develop multi element antennas from the basic dipole. He covers things that are usually in the later chapters of an antenna book. Such things like phased array and bob-tail antennas are included next. Then reflector type antennas are covered. Parasitically coupled antennas (Yagis) are not introduced until chapter 18. This is not an unsound approach. If you understand how things work when they are connected by wires, understanding how they work when connected electromagnetically should easily follow. Mobile antennas and antenna measurements finish up the book. I think the last chapter, Antenna Measurement is weak. SWR and field strength measurements are the only topics covered. Maybe this goes along with the introductory nature of the text but there are so many more antenna measurement tools available today I think at least things like antenna analyzers should have been covered. I can't imagine doing antenna work at any level without one at hand. I've really gotten spoiled by these modern boxes.

There are 26 chapters and two Appendices. Most of the chapters are short and confined to one brief topic. This is an elementary book with limited goals. The first appendix covers antenna modeling. The second discusses how to use the decibel. The antenna modeling appendix covers the use of Eznec for which an unlimited time trial version can be downloaded. It does have a segment limit of only 20, so the complexity of the antenna is limited. But this version is enough for you to decide if you wish to purchase a full version. Many of the simple antennas covered in the book can be modeled with the trial version. The second appendix covers the decibel and its use for expressing power ratios. I think this could have been covered a bit better with more examples worked out in more detail.

Each chapter has several review questions. Use of these questions to check your understanding is a very worthwhile way to develop the confidence that you are mastering the ideas and concepts of the ma-

terial just covered. I encourage anyone using to book to use the questions to your advantage.

So to conclude, the book is not for everyone. But if you really feel you are a novice when it comes to antennas I think you will find this book a good first step down the road to understanding that all important station accessory, the Antenna. Till next time, 73 Bob W1XP

ARRL NE Division Cabinet Meeting

de Ralph KD1SM

Twice a year the ARRL Board of Directors meets to discuss various League matters. Just prior to each meeting Tom Frenaye K1KI, New England Director, invites the Section Managers, Affiliated Club presidents, and other field appointees to a "cabinet meeting". The purpose of this meeting is to share ideas among the Sections and Clubs and provide Tom input from our respective constituencies.

I attended the New England Division cabinet meeting in Springfield on January 10 with 35 other section appointees and Club presidents from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

We had a lengthy discussion of ARES and the opportunities and challenges of groups, such as hospital emergency communications groups, becoming licensed Amateurs without experiencing all the aspects of the hobby. One suggestion from the floor was to see more support for ARES from ARRL along the lines of the GOTA program. There was a feeling that one Simulated Emergency Test per year was not sufficient.

Further discussion of the cost associated with the Emergency Communications continuing education courses ensued. Tom K1KI said that the courses were administered through a distance learning center and the fee was necessary in order to be able to use that resource.

Impromptu reports were heard from representatives of the Contest Advisory Committee, the VHF/UHF Advisory Committee, and the DX Advisory Committee. Each of these committees is discussing proposed rule changes.

Tom Frenaye reported new licensee statistics. There is an increase in new licensees from 2007 to 2008 in New England. However, other Divisions see a larger increase in growth, with the Northwest Division -- which is a similar size to the New England

Division -- seeing more than twice the number of new licensees as New England.

Mike N1IW described an idea that grew from discussions on how to interest new licensees in the broad aspects of Amateur Radio. In a cooperative venture with 3 clubs (Nashua Area Radio Club, Billerica Amateur Radio Society, and the Westford Police Amateur Radio Team), a literature table is displayed at their Volunteer Exam sessions. Club information is displayed for the benefit of the new licensees.

Mike Raisbeck K1TWF, Vice Director, made some additional meeting notes available at <http://ema.arrl.org/node/1539>

Wanted

As a follow up to the ice storm several of us are rebuilding our 12 volt generator/chargers. They can be used in place of a regular generator and charger to charge the repeater batteries. I am looking for a suitable structure to rebuild mine on. Suitable structures might be any discarded gas powered device such as a portable pressure washer, water pump, or compressor. This type of frame should be easily adaptable to mounting an engine and alternator. It would be even better if it still has a working engine.

I am also looking for long strips of tarp material such as a used pool cover. I need 25 foot strips six feet wide to cover the tower trailer. Keep it in mind in the spring when people open their pools. The covers may be damaged during the winter but still yield several suitable strips.

Stan KD1LE

Thoughts on the NVARC Recognition Program

by Skip Youngberg, K1NKR

There were no recommendations for 2008 recognition awards under the recently instituted awards program. This was a disappointment but, frankly, not a surprise. The idea for a recognition program came late in the year and we sprung the opportunity on the membership with little time for action.

The fact remains that we have a club of uniquely talented members whose interests in Amateur Radio span the entirety of the FCC's "purpose" for the hobby.

- 97.1(a) Emergency and Public Service Communications,

- 97.1(b) Advancement of the Radio Art,
- 97.1(c) Improvement of the Amateur Service,
- 97.1(d) Training and Licensing, and
- 97.1(e) International Goodwill.

And on a peer-to-peer basis we should recognize the achievements of and the inspiration we gain from our co-members.

So what will we do? We'll continue the program for 2009. Watch your fellow club members. Note who's done something in the upcoming year that impresses or inspires you. There'll be a reminder in September or so. And maybe a little coaching on recommendation writing—but the recommendation is and has to be yours.

Need a Ride?

Do you need a ride to the club meetings? Do you know someone who does? If you do please contact Bob W1XP 978-448-6559 and leave a message. We'll see that you get to the meeting.

PSLIST

Every event needs communications volunteers

April

18 Townsend Lions Canoe Race
19 Adopt-a-Highway
Groton Race

May

Parker Road Race

July

Longsjo Classic
Alzheimer's Memory Ride

We are starting to fill in the 2009 events calendar. Seen www.n1nc.org/Events

Board Meeting

Discussion about the awards program. There were no submissions for the 2008 year award. Skip wrote an article for this newsletter.

Ralph gave the Treasurers report.

Discussion about emergency preparedness and how to encourage members to prepare both on an individual basis and as radio operators. Reports from Den KD2S and Larry on activities at NMAEPC.

Road Cleanup needs better turn outs. Do we want to sign up in the spring? We need someone new to run the cleanup for 2009 if we are going to continue.

Adopt A Highway

We need someone to run the road cleanups if we are to continue. Stan has managed the cleanups since they started more than ten years ago. We will need a volunteer before we commit to MassHighways in the spring.

Also we need a minimum of six people by MassHighways rules for a cleanup. We would like eight as that allows us to cover our 2 miles in an hour. The rules say we need to work in pairs. With four pairs each group walks one quarter mile out and back. With that plan we are easily done in an hour. Think about it this way. If everyone in the club did one cleanup a year we would have our eight people for the eight cleanups just doing one cleanup each. No more cleanups until April.

Stan

Treasurers Report

Income for January was \$245 in membership renewals and \$6 for a Worked All Massachusetts Counties certificate request. Expenses were \$23.60 for December and January newsletter postage (mailed together) and \$70 for the annual Post Office box fee, leaving a net income of \$157.40 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$4,192.68
Community fund	\$2,699.41

As of 4 February we have 54 members who are current with their dues and 11 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. You can always ask Ralph if you are in doubt.

Remember; the Club gets a commission on any new ARRL memberships or membership renewals that you submit through Ralph. Checks should be made payable to NVARC so that our commission can be deducted before we forward your membership to Newington.

Ralph KD1SM

ARRL Letter

ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUES MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATION POLICY STATEMENT

On January 30, at the instruction of the Board of Directors at its January 2009 meeting, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted a policy statement on mobile Amateur Radio operations. The statement addresses the growing number of proposed state and local laws and ordinances regulating the use of cellular telephone and text messaging, inadvertently affecting Amateur Radio mobile communications <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>>

In its statement, the Executive Committee urges state and municipal legislators to limit the scope of their proposals, limiting them to devices such as full duplex wireless telephones and related handheld or portable equipment. Alternately, it suggests that licensed Amateur Radio operation be listed specifically as an exclusion to the proposed regulations.

"At the start of each new session, you see a flurry of this type of proposal in state legislatures across the country," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. As of February 1, 2009, Henderson said that the ARRL is aware of proposals in 11 states: Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming, as well as several local city or town proposals.

"These proposals are usually intended to regulate cellular telephone and text messaging by drivers as a matter of safety but, when they are written in very broad terms, can include Amateur Radio mobile operations in the 'net' they cast," Henderson continued. "The Executive Committee's policy statement gives a good, concise background of the role the Amateur Service plays in public safety and service communications. It also highlights the differences between communications conducted by cellular telephone and those using Amateur Radio. Finally, the statement offers some suggested statutory language for state motor vehicle codes which would protect Amateur Radio mobile operation."

The ARRL recognizes that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents. The policy statement raises the fact that cell phones utilize full duplex communications -- where the user is talking and listening simultaneously. The Executive Committee statement says "Two-way radio use is dissimilar

from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player.

There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile, private land mobile or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect."

The ARRL Policy Statement also recognizes the responsibility of the amateur community to conduct its activities in a manner that does not create unsafe operation of their motor vehicle. "Safety has to be a top concern at all times," Henderson concluded.

The ARRL Humanitarian Award

The Board voted to confer the 2008 ARRL Humanitarian Award to the amateurs of the Sichuan Radio Sports Association, the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) <<http://www.crsa.org.cn/english.php>> and the many Amateur Radio operators in China who assisted with communications support during the aftermath of the May 2008 earthquake in that country.

In the wake of the earthquake, the CRSA called on its members to "take actions to ensure their Amateur Radio stations to operate properly, and to the extent possible stand by on often used short-wave frequencies. If any radio signal is heard from the disaster area, please do your best to understand what is most needed by people in that area and report it to the local government authority. If people in the surrounding areas need to pass messages to their loved ones over the radio, please help them to get in touch and get the messages across as soon as possible. Amateur Radio stations in the disaster area and surrounding areas if in working condition should be used unconditionally to assist the local earthquake disaster relief authorities, and subject to permission by the said authorities, to provide communications services to them. For emergency communications purposes, Amateur Radio stations may also be used to pass messages for local residents on a temporary basis until local telecommunications services resume. Amateur Radio stations of all regions should give way to and stand by for emergency communications."

According to the CRSA -- the Chinese IARU Member-Society -- Chinese government officials and the news media recognized that when normal communications failed after the earthquake, Amateur Radio operators stepped in to provide vital links. CRSA ac-

knowledge that the main organizer of local Amateur Radio traffic, Luo Minglin, BY8AA, "continuously coordinated VHF/UHF communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's province of Sichuan. More repeaters were set up in both Beichuan and Mianyang -- among the worst hit areas outside the epicenter -- to form an effective Amateur Radio communication network."

Zhang Zhen, BG8DOU, said that right after the earthquake, "Two ham radio operators drove to the center of the earthquake area and had a repeater set up by the morning of May 13. This repeater enabled the transmission of rescue instructions and status reports, and was a main communication channel for public use. The repeater carried communications for the Mayor of Mianzhu City who gave orders to those on the front line rescue and recovery activity."

On May 12 at 1858 UTC, Liu Hu, BG8AAS, of Chengdu, reported that the local UHF repeater in that town "keeps busy running after the quake. It helps to direct social vehicles to transport the wounded from Dujiangyan, Beichuan and other regions. Another UHF repeater also started working in Mianyan, supported by generators, but they are going to face a shortage of gas."

According to ARRL Programs and Services Committee Chairman Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, the PSC Committee itself put forward the nomination. "We received three nominations from the public for other groups or individuals," Frahm said, "but we as a committee felt the Chinese amateurs and their organizations exemplified the highest level of dedication to public service."

Antarctic Station QRV Until February 18

KC4USV, the Amateur Radio station at McMurdo Station <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McMurdo_Station> on Ross Island in Antarctica is now on the air. According to Bill Erhardt, K7MT, who is stationed at McMurdo, the station boasts a new transceiver, amplifier and antenna. "We set up the equipment on January 19, tested it and went on the air," Erhardt said. "The station will be in operation on Sundays on 14.243 MHz, starting at 0001 UTC. We had a nice pile up Sunday, February 1 with US hams on the East Coast and in the Midwest." Erhardt leaves McMurdo on February 18 and is unsure if the station will be on the air over the Antarctic winter.

HAMS HELP OUT WITH HISTORIC DAY

On Tuesday, January 20, Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States. Numerous organizations -- federal, state and local agencies, the staff

of Presidents Bush and Obama, as well as private agencies -- were involved in the months of planning required to make the event go smoothly. From the very beginning, Amateur Radio operators were involved, making sure that communications support was available by providing backup communications in the event that primary communications were disrupted.

According to ARRL Virginia Section Public Information Coordinator Joe Safranek, K4JJS, the Virginia and Maryland Offices of Emergency Management -- as well as various local jurisdictions in and around the Washington, DC metro area -- requested the assistance of Amateur Radio operators to provide local and short distance communications for the inauguration and the events leading up to it.

Safranek said that ARRL Virginia Section Manager Carl Clements, W4CAC, and ARES-RACES of Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Sokol, K4KHZ, selected Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator Bruce Freund, K7BC, to be the project officer for this event.

"Freund's area of responsibility covered two Virginia ARES districts that are comprised of 14 cities and counties along the western border of the District of Columbia," Safranek said. "These districts are managed by Howard Cunningham, WD5DBC, and Tom Lauzon, K14AFE. They had to ensure that their jurisdictional Emergency Coordinators and members accomplished the mission objectives received from event officials."

Numerous Amateur Radio operators involved with the various organizations serving the jurisdictions in Virginia, DC and Maryland all worked together."

Across the Potomac River, ARRL Maryland/DC Section Manager James Cross, WI3N, and Section Emergency Coordinator Steve Beckman, N3SB, were actively involved from the beginning with planning and preparation efforts. If needed, Section leadership was prepared to assist within the District. In DC, members of Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT) <<http://www.reactintl.org/>> were also part of the planning; the organization had a representative at the very first regional planning meeting.

Planning for communications support during the inauguration drew upon the expertise and relationships developed through the years of planning the annual Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) in DC <<http://www.marinemarathon.com/>>, Safranek said. "The marathon is our major regional Amateur Radio event in the Metropolitan DC area," he said. "When planning our communications support for the marathon, we use the Incident Command Structure (ICS). We decided to use ICS with the inauguration, too. By using a system we were all familiar with, we had a head start."

Safranek listed some of the many ways amateurs helped out with communications support: Nick Meacher, N3WWE, built on a template the group used for the marathon for the compilation of the Incident Communications Plan. Weeks in advance of the inauguration, Fairfax County Emergency Coordinator Jeff Wilson, AI4IO, led a

field test of the repeaters planned for use for the primary Regional Coordination Net to ensure that participating Emergency Operations Centers would be able to operate cleanly through the selected repeaters. Field tests are a key lesson learned from MCM and identified necessary changes to the Communication Plan. District Emergency Coordinator Howard Cunningham, WB5DBC, serves the marathon as Special Project Officer. He prepared a staffing approach for mutual assistance that, if needed, would rely on the on-call ARES/RACES organizations in Loudoun, Prince William and Fauquier counties to supplement the activated groups in Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax.

Safranek said that the area's communications equipment was well suited to the task: "Using a combination of many systems, hams were able to move information quickly and efficiently. The Network Engineers Repeater Association (NERA) UHF linked repeater system <http://www.gsl.net/nera/> supported the primary Regional Coordination Net. Local group operations used other analog VHF and UHF systems for phone, Winlink, packet and other modes of operation, as well as the use of a D-STAR VHF/UHF voice and data system. Some operators monitored the Old Dominion Emergency Net/Alfa on 3947 kHz."

On the Maryland/DC side of the Potomac River, hams were active in other areas, including several stationed at RFK Stadium to assist with the visitors from the more than 1200 buses that were parked there. District EOCs in Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties also had hams providing communications support.

ASEC Bruce Freund singled out the achievements of the Fairfax ARES-RACES Unit, specifically the actions of Fairfax Assistant Emergency Coordinator Tom Azlin, N4ZPT. "Tom was deeply involved in the local and regional planning activities before the event; he serves a similar key role in the Marine Corps Marathon leadership. But in my opinion, it was his performance in the execution of the plan that is particularly noteworthy. During the field testing for the Regional Coordination Net, several jurisdictions could not reliably hit the planned repeaters, so we made the decision to shift to the NERA linked UHF system.

Unfortunately, the Fairfax EOC VHF/UHF antenna only provides marginal coverage into NERA. Due to the difficulties the EOC experienced when the Regional Coordination Net opened at 4 AM, Tom put a separate liaison channel in place to supplement the EOC's NERA link and manned it himself while developing a watch bill to ensure coverage on this unanticipated circuit. That liaison channel was covered solidly throughout the day and was the last ARES-RACES circuit secured at the end of operations on Tuesday evening. Tom made sure that the EOC was staffed beginning at 3 AM, until it was secured a little after 8 PM. While his leadership in the planning activities is noteworthy, Tom's stepping forward to provide leadership ensuring successful execution merits special recognition."

Fairfax Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Operations, Art Pond, KD4FBT, worked very long days during the planning phase. Due to his job on Capitol Hill, he was

busy getting the new members' IT infrastructure set up. "He pulled one of the six hour rotations in the EOC during what might have been the highest activity time if there had been transport problems inbound," Freund said. "This shows the dedication of the volunteers in working very long days on their regular job, pulling activation duty for the event, and then going back to their regular jobs the very next day."

In Fairfax, one operator was on duty at the local Emergency Operations Center at the beginning and end of the activation, while two were on duty during the main portion of the event. EOCs in Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church City also had ARES/RACES operators on duty. The Virginia State EOC was manned with a full Amateur Radio crew utilizing HF, VHF and UHF links via voice, packet and Winlink to the inauguration Nets. Besides providing support at EOCs, amateurs were also on duty at Alexandria Hospital, while others were on standby to support communications at two other hospitals in Prince William County, as well as EOCs in Loudoun, Fauquier and Prince William Counties.

Freund is also a member of Army MARS. He served as Net Control Station on the MARS frequencies during the event. According to Safranek, Army MARS HQ at Ft Huachuca, Arizona, put out a directive stating an Actual Incident Net would be established, directing the type of MARS coverage that would be required and how Region 3 (in the DC area) would have liaisons from other regions available to pass any necessary traffic. ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCCD, monitored both ham radio frequencies and the ARRL HQ MARS station, AAN1ARL. At the Virginia Commonwealth level, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management opened their EOC where Terry Hebert, KG4GLS, coordinated Amateur Radio activities. State EOCs in Maryland and Virginia had Army MARS operators on premises participating in their regional nets.

Sokol said he was pleased at the outcome of this historical event: "When I was appointed SEC in April 2008, I told the ASECs that they are the managers over their areas and they will be given the opportunity to do just that -- manage operations in their designated areas. Section Manager Carl Clements, W4CAC, totally agreed with this comment and has been extremely supportive of efforts to delegate authority to the intermediary managers, the ASECs and the District Emergency Coordinators, since they are the local area experts. I am really proud of the way in which ARES-RACES of Virginia participated in this event."

"As Virginia Section Manager, I am responsible for a myriad of items -- the emergency communications aspect of the hobby being one of prime importance," Clements said. "With a senior leader like Ron Sokol, a staff of ASECs like Bruce, our DEC, and our local ECs performing their managerial and supervisory duties in an outstanding manner, there is no wonder why our numbers are constantly growing. The Section has accomplished a lot in less than a year, including a Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. We have been instrumental in working with a group of dedi-

cated hams in the western areas of the Commonwealth in building an RF link to the eastern areas of Virginia and now we are participating in the inauguration of the President of the United States of America. I could not be more proud of these fine men and women as I am now."

FCC LICENSE ACTIVITY ON THE RISE

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, there continues to be a heightened interest in Amateur Radio following the FCC's elimination of the Morse code exam requirement in February 2007: "The number of new license applicants remains strong under the new Amateur Radio Service rules. The following table chronicles all 14 FCC authorized VEC organizations' new license activity over the last few years." In 2008, the total number of US amateurs rose 1.2 percent, from 655,800 in 2007, to 663,500 in 2008:

New Amateur Totals 2006 through November 2008			
Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	1274	1647	1755
Feb	1605	2435	2998
Mar	2531	3478	2816
Apr	1728	2673	3090
May	2283	2607	2562
Jun	1967	2281	2402
Jul	1401	1786	2077
Aug	1623	2183	2084
Sep	1357	1462	1763
Oct	1781	2109	2303
Nov	1993	2132	2197
Dec	1569	1935	2019
Totals: 21,112 26,728 28,066			

Somma said that the number of General and Extra class upgrades is also on the rise. "When looking at 2006 totals," she said, "we see that upgrade applications for 2007 were up 286 percent; in 2008, they were up 146 percent over 2006. Requests for new club licenses also remain strong. In 2008, we had 671 applications for club licenses come in, while in 2007, there were 506 applications. That's an increase of 133 percent."

Calling it a "ripple effect," Somma said that the number of amateurs who want to be volunteer examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up. "Here at the ARRL VEC, we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to

their community by serving as examiners and instructors," she said.

Somma further broke down the numbers to show the approximate number of licensees per FCC license class:

- Novice: 18,500
- Technician: 322,500
- General: 145,000
- Advanced: 62,000
- Extra: 115,500
- Total US Amateurs: 663,500

"I can think back to the mid 1980s when there were approximately 450,000 US Amateurs," Somma recalled. "These are the highest numbers of General and Extra class licensees I have ever seen." As of April 15, 2000, the FCC no longer issues Novice or Advanced class licenses. "As expected, the number of Novice and Advanced class licensees has decreased," she said. "As I look toward 2009, I see Amateur Radio growing in a positive direction." -- Some information provided by Joe Speroni, AH0A

2008 Flea Markets

- Feb
Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Flea Market at the Marlborough Middle School
- March
27-28 Maine State Convention Lewiston ME.

Advertisements



DICK WILBORG W1ZC
JOHN ROSE WW1Z

BELTRONICS, INC.
AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE DIVISION
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603-465-2422 P.O. BOX 330
800-323-5876 19 PROCTOR HILL RD.
FAX 603-465-3320 HOLLS, NH 03049

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

Contest, DXpeditions and Special Events

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.

Contests 2009

February

2-3 Vermont QSO Party

2-3 10-10 International Winter QSO Party

2-3 Delaware QSO Party

Mexico International RTTY Contest

9-10 Louisiana QSO Party

9-10 RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest CW

16-17 ARRL International DX Contest CW

23-24 CQ WW 160 Meter Contest SSB

March

1-2 International DX Contest SSB

15 North American Sprint Contest RTTY

28-29 CQ WW WPX Contest SSB



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

PO Box # 900
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<http://www.n1nc.org/>

President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE

Vice President: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG

Secretary: John Griswold KK1X

Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

Board Members:

Joel Magid W1JMM 2006-2009

Bob Reif: W1XP 2007-2010

Skip Youngberg K1NKR 2008-2011

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE

Emergency Coordinator: Larry Swezey KB1ESR

Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

PIO: Dave Peabody N1MNX

Librarian: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG

Property Master: John Griswold KK1X

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

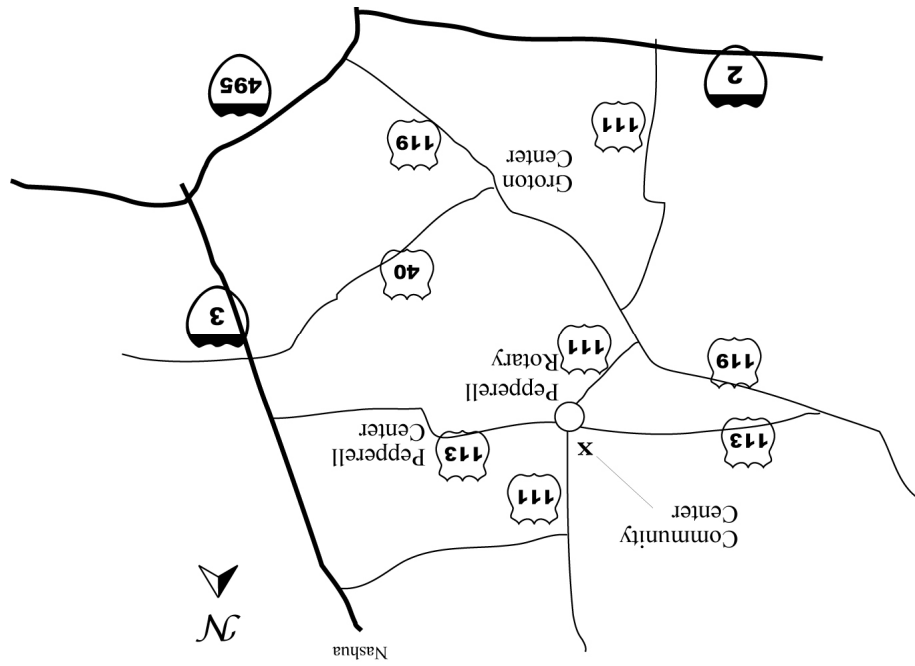
442.900 + 100Hz Repeater battery power

147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater

53.890 - 100Hz Repeater battery power

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