



SIGNAL



November 1996 Volume 5 Number 11

From The President

The past year has seen a drop in attendance. The board has discussed this problem several times and is struggling on how best to address it. Sadly this is not a phenomenon that is unique to our club. Many larger clubs, radio and other interests have folded due to competition for peoples limited time and resources. It would be unfortunate for us to follow in the same path. My interest is in finding a formula that will help the club maintain and grow its membership. Feel free to contact me, or any other member of the board if you have ideas. Some of our own ideas have been:

- Reduce the formality of the meetings
- Make the talks shorter, concentrating on less technical content
- Spend more on the social side, with open forums for one-on-one technical assistance.

We are always looking for speakers. If you have a subject that is near and dear to you, don't be shy, volunteer to give a presentation on it. Contact our V.P. Bruce Blain, (508)-772-4138 with your subject. During this year expect to hear me talk about one of my favorite subjects, my telescope and CCD camera.

Set aside the 3rd Thursday, and come to the meeting. Let us help you more forward in the fascinating hobby that you have already invested a lot of effort in.
Erik KA1RV

Technical Articles

The next series of technical articles will cover transmission lines. It will be a four page installment in each of the next three months. You should save them as a reference if you find them interesting.
Stan

440 Repeater and Phone Patch Info

Thanks to the following Hams for their contributions in support of the repeater and phone patch.

Stu Jackson K1YET, materials, labor and phone patch contribution.

Stan Pozerski KD1LE, materials, labor and phone patch contribution.

Ralph Swick KD1SM, materials and phone patch contribution.

Earl Russell WR1Y, phone patch contribution.

Scott Pyles WX1J, phone patch contribution.

Roger Bisbo N1OJW, phone patch contribution.

Marc Leveque KB1BND (Hollis) phone patch contribution.

Bernie Peabody N1IMO, materials and reciprocal use of his 73 system and the Hollis area phone patch.

Ben Akins KB1FJ, materials, labor, and the repeater.

Dave Peabody N1MNX, site coordination, tower electric arrangements, phone arrangements, and labor.

Thanks to all for their help and contributions. Maintaining the phone patch means there is a monthly phone bill. Contributions are needed on a regular basis to maintain the service. Ideas are always welcome to help us get more donations to increase repeater options.

If anyone would like to help contact;
Dave Peabody N1MNX
on 442.900+100 Hz

or at
PO Box 1309
Pepperell. Ma 01463

SkyWarn

Jeanine N1QIT is trying to schedule SkyWarn training for the Fitchburg/Townsend/Pepperell area for somewhere in the March - June time frame. Anyone who might be interested should contact her at 508-582-7351.

The Soccer Tournament

From WX1J

On Labor Day Weekend, 1996 the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club participated in the 11th Annual Pepperell Fall Classic Soccer Tournament. With over 320 teams playing in 44 categories there were 2,000 people in an around 24 soccer fields spread from Varnum Brook School to the North Middlesex High School. NVARC provided a network of Hams at each venue linked by radio to a Net Control station at the main tournament headquarters in Varnum Brook School. The purpose of the net was to provide emergency health and welfare communication in case of accident or other incident.

The tournament was well organized and conducted this year. The weather cooperated and as a result the number of injuries was very small. The tournament committee thanked NVARC for it's participation, indicating that our communication network is highly reliable and essential with an event of this size in the event that an emergency takes place.

I would like to thank everyone who participated. Some were able to spend a little time and that was great. Others went far above and beyond, for those we are very grateful as they represented the NVARC spirit that makes Hams proud. Special thanks again to the Hams that participated. (Listed alphabetically by first letter of suffix)

NZ1B Ian
KD1EC Herm
KD1ED Bob
KB1FJ Ben
WX1J Scott
K1JKR Ken
KD1LE Stan
N1MNX Dave
N1PBL Lynda
N1QDZ Joseph
N1QIT Jeanine
KD1SM Ralph
N1TVB Laurie
N1VAL Mike
N1VAV Greg
N1VAW Pat
WR1Y Russ



If I missed someone, I apologize, unfortunately I was not able to be at the event all three days.

Participating in events like this with your club is an important part of being a Ham. The November issue of WORLDRADIO has an article on page 18 entitled Amateur Radio comes through. It chronicles a weekend long civic event which turned into a disaster. The organizers had counted on cellular phones to handle communications. When the cellular phone system failed, they were stuck, responsible for thousands of people. Hams in Chicago quickly responded and set up a communications network that kept it from being a tragedy. Participating in fun events is fun. It is also a superb way to get experience cooperating in a large effort when things aren't critical. Then, God forbid, should an emergency occur, you too will feel as natural as can be doing the one thing that may just save lives.

It's not just enough to have a radio, or to have a license. It's equally important to be an effective communicator. That comes with practice. It's great to have fun while practicing. Even with the cellular phones, in operation, Chicago could very easily have been in bad shape because the link is two point only and the people with cellular phones may not have experience providing emergency communication, which is different than talking with your friends on the phone.

Next time NVARC is providing communications, please join in. Even if only for an hour, the value to you will be immense and the club appreciates it too. Save space on your calendar also for the 12th Annual Pepperell Fall Classic Soccer Tournament. It will be held on October 11, 12 and 13, 1997. NVARC will be there... Can we count on you?

Scott WX1J

From KD1LE

The Soccer Tournament was a great success and the weather and foliage were perfect. Some 320 teams competed over the three days of the event. With typical teams of ten players, that makes about 3200 players and probably twice that many other family members. That brings ten thousand people (the towns population) in for the weekend.

I think we did a great job. For Saturday and Sunday we generally had six operators on site continuously. We ran low on Monday afternoon when we had only three, but its not a holiday for everyone, and it is only a hobby. Since I was net control on Monday I had to decide when to close down, and with only three of us for much of the afternoon I thought about it a few times. The thing that kept me going was that even though I only had two operators out there (one at Kennedy and one on the Varnum Brook fields) on a good number of occasions

when they were looking for the tournament director or some piece of information needed to be moved from one place to another, we were the ones able to get it done. I have to say that the marshals were better this year than in past years and they were all adults. Their weakness is that they are not experienced at using a radio.

For the weekend we had seventeen operators put in almost two hundred hours of volunteer time. The following, in no particular order, are those who helped make this a success.

KE1ED Bob, KE1EC Herm, KB1FJ Ben, N1PBL Lynda, N1VAW Pat, N1VAV Greg, N1VAL Mike, WR1Y Earl, N1TVB Laurie, N1QDZ Joseph, KD1SM Ralph, NZ1B Ian, K1JKR Ken, N1QIT Jeanine, WX1J Scott, N1MNX Dave, KD1LE Stan.

Particular thanks go to WX1J Scott for following up with the organizers over the months and the final soliciting of volunteers and use of his equipment for the net control station for the weekend.
Stan

Upcoming Public Service Events

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

A number of other public service events are listed in the KD1SM/KD1LE Public Service List.

Ham License Class

I am looking for a small piece (4 or 5 inches) of old style ladder line for my component boards that I use in the classes. The kind with the plastic spacers. If anyone has some it would be appreciated.

Also, think about teaching a session or dropping in. Extra bodies were always helpful answering questions during breaks or after the class.
Stan

Meeting notes from October

The Guest for the October meeting was Sharon Machlis KC1YR. Sharon talked about friends from the Eastern Bloc countries she had made via radio. She also talked about some of her strategies to increase the level of communication above the "your 59 and the rig is..." She took the time to learn some of the languages for the areas she was particularly interested in to improve her responses. Sharon talked in detail about friends in the former Soviet Union and Slovenia and the trying times getting communication in and out during the war and particularly during the siege of Sarajevo.

She had a collection of cards and souvenirs from the area.

Bruce K1BG did a Field Day wrap up since the results were in the November QST which arrived just before the meeting.

Stan KD1LE covered the soccer tournament radio nets and the ongoing license class.

Earl WR1Y reported that the Adopt a Road Program will probably not move forward until Spring. There is a requirement that someone representing us sit through a video on the subject. There was some joking about how we probably knew how to pick up trash. The tape is probably safety oriented and gives the details of the process.

KA1DZV Les reported that the Umass Lowell Radio Club is starting up again and is looking for equipment donations.

NVARC Slow Speed Net

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

Board Meeting Notes

The Club officers and board met on 14 November for the Board meeting. The meeting started at 7:40.

Stan (KD1LE) updated the board on the progress in the Novice/Technician class being held in Pepperell. They are about four weeks from completion. Stan is looking for licensed hams to come to the class to give different perspectives on the topics or to teach a session or element.

Stew (K1YET) reported on correspondence of which there hasn't been much of interest. Various club bulletins will be available at next week's meeting.



Craig (N1ABY) and Stan are working on a generator switching circuit or process for Field Day. The intent is to use two generators and to switch live (or close to it) from one to the other so that radio operations are not interrupted. This will also give each generator a break and allow for fueling and maintenance.

Ralph (KD1SM) reported that expenses exceeded income last month.

The cost and method of printing the newsletter was discussed. Stew offered to print the newsletters at no cost to the club. Stan mentioned his concern about the timing in order to get them out in advance of the meeting. (ed - articles and information must be received earlier to take advantage of this)

Bob (KE1ED) has been looking into possible books to be provided by the club to local libraries. He had copies of WorldRadio and 73. Eric will check with the Groton library to see if they are interested in receiving a subscription donated by the club from our Education fund.

Eric is verifying the speaker with Bruce (K1BG) for this months meeting. Stan and Ralph volunteered to give a presentation on APRS if there is no scheduled speaker.

It was mentioned that December is Home Brew night. Club members are encouraged to bring their projects in for "show and tell". It doesn't have to be ham radio related.

Stan mentioned that right after New Years a committee should be named to look after the longer range items of Field Day planning. As hard as it is to believe, it'll be less than six months away then.

Eric closed the meeting at 8:10.

\$The Treasurer's Report \$

October income was \$15.00 in dues and \$1.47 in bank interest. Expenses were \$45.90 for newsletter copying and postage and the post office box fee. Current balances are:

General Fund \$628.85
Education Fund \$448.34
Ralph KD1SM

NVARC Hamfest

Kenwood HF Station
TS520 Transceiver (new finals)
Kenwood DG 5 Digital Display
Kenwood AT 200 Antenna Tuner
Kenwood MC 50 Desk Microphone
Dentron Big Dummy Dummy Load
\$450.00 firm

Yaesu DX 560 Tranceiver \$100.00

If your interested in any of the above equipment, contact Bob KE1ED

NVARC QSL BUREAU

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

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


Some Things to Think About

Never take life too seriously, nobody gets out alive anyway.

No job is so simple that it can't be done wrong.



You can only be young once, but you can be immature forever.



**Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club**
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V Pres.: Bruce Blain K1BG
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Treasurer: Ralph Swick, KD1SM
Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
PIO: Earl Russell WR1Y

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

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.

Packet address: PEPMBX (145.09 MHz)