

SIGNAL

June 1993 Volume 2 Number 6

Let's Get Radio-Active!

This month at the NVARC meeting

Field Day

Have I mentioned Field Day yet? Stop me if you've heard this one....

Scheduled for the last full weekend in June (the 26th and 27th this year) Field Day is almost upon us, and in fact, this is the last meeting before it happens.

In spite of underwhelming response, Bruce, K1BG, who normally schedules speakers has wisely left this meeting open for Field Day planning. There will be slides of Field Days past and plans for Field Day present. We hope we shan't have to raise the spectre of Field Days Yet To Come (God bless us every one...)

Some Field Day operations are huge, say, 15 or more simultaneous transmitters -- some are small, like a couple of hams doing battery powered QRP. The NVARC effort will be modest but like all Field Day operations, very satisfying.

The other nice thing about Field Day is that it comes every year. It's a tradition-builder. As the club grows in experience, Field Day can grow with us.

But you can't participate if you don't know where it is. And since nobody knows yet, you'll have to come to the meeting 7:30pm 17 June at the Pepperell VFW.

NVARC Outgoing QSL Bureau

Starting this month, we're going to take advantage of our ARRL affiliation to submit cards to the outgoing QSL bureau as a club. All you have to do is make out your cards and

take them to the NVARC QSL manager, Clint Talmadge, KD1OL. Small quantities of cards will be sent for no charge. People submitting large quantities may be asked for a donation. "Small" and "large" are defined at the QSL manager's discretion.

Start that wallpaper collection now

The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club is proud to announce the creation of NVARC's first operating award: DXCC -- the DX Decimal Club.

Because we're a young club and have quite a few new operators, NVARC feels that we need to help "set the hook" for new paper-chasers. Everyone has heard of the ARRL's prestigious DXCC award and some hams make a whole sub-hobby of chasing countries for the various awards based on DXCC. It's a lot of fun. But to a new ham, collecting those first 100 cards can be seem pretty daunting.

The handsome DXCC certificate is awarded for presenting 10 QSLs from countries on the DXCC list. Endorsement stickers are available for each 10 new countries up to 90. (When you get 100, apply for DXCC.)

To apply for the DXCC award, see the NVARC Awards Manager, Patrick Taber, KC1TD for an application and submit it with your cards for checking. There is no charge to NVARC members for this award. The charge to non-members is \$2. DXCC rules for QSLs apply unless specifically overridden by the NVARC Awards Manager.

Other awards are under consideration. If there is interest, we might also consider having competition inside the club for some of the contests (e.g. submit copies of your N.A.

Sprint log to NVARC for scoring within the club.)

What goes up must come down

By Bruce, K1BG

May 22 was not like any ordinary Saturday. Having lived in Pepperell for the past 8 1/2 years and having been an active ham for that entire time, the taking down of my tower and antennas was a very painful experience.

Pat, KC1TD showed up 40 minutes early. His baby-sitter the night before took the message as "See you in the morning, 8:20". The only problem was that I called at 8:20 and she forgot about the 9 o'clock part. Pat and I enjoyed a fine cup of instant coffee and discussed how fortunate we were that I didn't call at 7 the night before.

The whole crew started showing up around 9, with club members Ben KB1FJ, Stan KD1LE, Clint KD1OL, Bud N1MDA, Ed AD8V, and others in attendance. Also coming were Larry K1MNS and Paul NX1H. In the past, the local crew worked on my tower, but we weren't real experienced working on large towers. Larry has 11 towers and a 25 ft dish he uses for moonbounce (EME), and Paul helps Larry with a lot of his HF tower antennas. Since I had to have the tower down ASAP, time was of the essence, and it wasn't a bad idea to have our locals learn as much from these "experts" as possible.

A tower might not sound like a lot, but let me tell you, I had a lot of junk on this tower, and it was big to begin with. The task was as follows: Take down 100 ft of Rohn 25. First, the antennas - 4 elements on 20 meters with a 32 ft boom, 2 elements on 40 meters with a 16 ft boom, 4 elements on 15 meters with a 21 ft boom, a 2 meter vertical, an 80 meter dipole, a TailTwister rotator, a 22 ft steel pipe mast, 10 tower sections, and an assortment of coax cables, rotator control cables, and 4 sets of 1/4 inch guy wires. All of the antennas were cramped together at 100ft or higher - up on the mast. Because I'm moving - it was remove it or lose it!

Pat and Paul were the first to go up, and they got the lions share of the job - the antennas at the top. The weather was pretty good, and the job went quickly. These guys simply dropped the guy wires at 100 ft and disassembled the antennas at the top. Sounds easy! Not!

Larry and I relieved them after they had pulled the top two sections off the tower. I was first up, and I dropped the 75 ft guys. There Larry and I stood, 20 ft above the 50 ft guys, flapping in the breeze, trying to get the tower section off. After banging, pushing, shoving, lifting, squirting WD-40 everywhere, and doing everything possible to get that sucker loose, it finally came off. Hooray!

Larry and I took a few more sections off, and Pat and Paul finished. The last 30 feet came down "Two Jima" style, and we came very close to completely dropping it. By this time the crew was down to just Pat, Paul, Larry, and I, and we were pretty pooped.

How long did it take? Well, by just after 3 PM the four of us were dining on subs and diet cokes down at Pizza Pizzazz in Pepperell center. We were all tired and ready for a rest, but unfortunately, I had miles of coax, rotator, and guy cables to coil up. I think that was physically the hardest part of the job, but at least my two feet were on the ground.

The following Sunday, Pat and I helped Paul and Larry at Larry's house, but that is another story. Thanks to all the people who helped. None of this would have been possible without the involvement and support of those who helped put it up and take it down. This spirit and teamwork is one of the really great things about Amateur Radio. Hopefully, by this time next year another tower will be up at the new QTH.....

To be continued.....

The President's Column

Opportunities abound for public service activities and some of them can even be fun, hi. On Monday May 24th, I participated in the TOUR DE SOL. This is a race of sorts for solar and electric powered vehicles. The cars-

motorcycles-vans-? started out from Cambridge Ma. on the first leg of a multiple day trip to Burlington Vt. They traveled out Rt. 2A to Mt. Wachusett College in Gardener. There they were on display for the evening. For the Hams, the event meant staffing the start, finish, 7 checkpoints, a trailing vehicle, and parking control. Because of the distance the eastern part of the event was run on the 146.64 repeater in Waltham and the western part on the 147.315 repeater in Fitchburg. The two nets were coordinated by net liaison stations, with a relay station, running on the 448.175 repeater located on Mt. Wachusett. The vehicles were tracked through each check point so that the position of each vehicle could be localized should a problem develop. It was an interesting event which was publicized on local TV. A particularly nice aspect of an event like this is meeting people face to face. I met people from both eastern and western Massachusetts that I had known only from the airwaves.

--Stan KD1LE

Public Service Log



Seeking Volunteers: Harvard Bicycle Race

Coordinator: Duane Long, KD1JY, (508)448-3049

Pepperell 4th of July Parade

Coordinator: Patrick Taber, KC1TD
(508)433-2521

Upcoming Events

25-26 June

Field Day

Need I say more?

Saturday 24 July

ARRL New England Division Convention.

At Center of New Hampshire Convention Center in Manchester, NH. Flea market,

license exams, DXCC and WAS field QSL checking, forums for Contesting, DX, Packet and ARRL. 8:00 am to 4:30 PM. Admission \$4.00 in advance \$5.00 at the door.

HOW COPY?

Let's Get Radio-Active!

I can't remember who first started the campaign "Let's Get Radio-Active!" I saw it a long time ago in one of the magazines, and I hope that nobody's toes are getting stepped on if I steal the phrase to help promote activity within NVARC.

The club is somewhat over a year old and the novelty of just having a club at all is wearing off. It's time to *Do Something!* The question, of course is what shall we do? Ham radio is different things to different people. We probably can't pick a single thing that will excite all the folks in the club. But we can use the club as a vehicle to bring people of like interest together then funnel the energy of the sub-groups back into the club as a whole. Our Vice President, Scott, **WX1J** will be circulating a questionnaire to try and determine what directions might be fruitful.

There are other things we can do right away --

- Use the 146.49, "local simplex frequency" and talk to the people who pop up there.
- Come to breakfast Saturday mornings at 8:00 am at the Fox Pond II restaurant in Pepperell.
- Participate in club events (like Field Day.)
- Participate in the club awards program.
- Submit an article to the newsletter or give a talk to the club about something you've done that's radio-related.

Next Month --

Another technical article from Russ -- this time on the subject of resonance. (I'd have liked to put it in this issue, but I have to draw all the diagrams first....) Personally, I love these things, but it would be nice to hear how the rest of the club likes them.

--KC1TD



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

Officers:

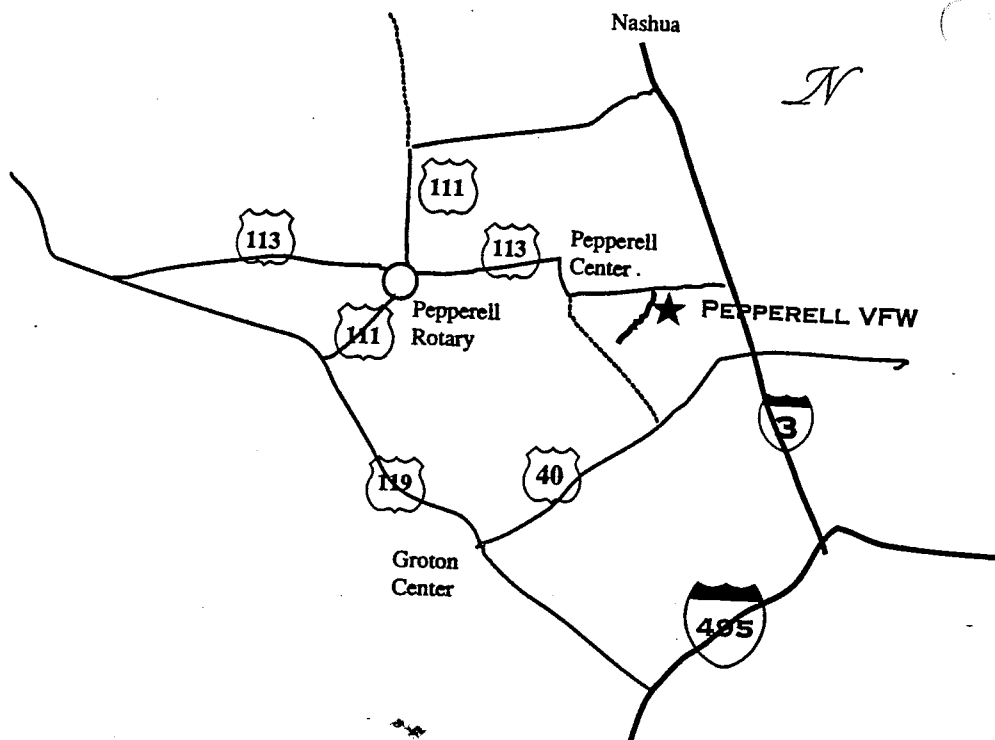
President: Earl Russel, WR1Y
Vice-President: Bruce Blain, K1BG
Treasurer: Ben Akina, KB1FJ
Secretary: Duane Long, KD1JY

The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Pepperell VFW hall, 7:30pm. Annual membership \$15. Special rates for families and under 16.

Articles for NVARC Signal are always welcome. Preferred format is plain text on 3.5-inch IBM floppy, though the editor is happy to accept anything from phone calls to sketches on cocktail napkins. Send to:

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