NVARC
Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club

SIGNAL

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

de N1NC September 2001 Volume 10 Number 9

This Month's Meeting

This months meeting program will be given by Terry Koen N1IWF. Terry is a retired Fire Captain from the city of Boston. Terry's talk will be on communications problems encountered during recent emergencies and how a system has been put in place to streamline radio networks.

The October meeting will be a QSL card sort for the W1 QSL Bureau. It's a lot of fun and you get to see the variety of QSL cards people receive.

Bring your short Shows-and-Tell to the meetings. They are always welcome. Its always interesting to see the variety of things people are working on.

We gather at Tiny's for breakfast Saturday mornings at 8:00 AM. We sit in the back dining area.

Adopt A Highway

Sunday August 19th we completed our August road clean up. Due to a busy schedule I forgot to call around for volunteers. Fortunately a few people remembered that the cleanup is **always** the Sunday after the regular meeting date. Four of us completed the clean up in just one hour. We skipped one section that was in good shape in order to stick to my one hour target for the activity. Thanks to Jim AA1PO, Ralph KD1SM, Bob W1XP for helping out.

The next cleanup will be September 23rd.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month we had no regular meeting. The cookout at Den's house was a success with 18 people attending. Den was a gracious host and the set up was very nice. Some of the kids swam while the rest of us sat around and chatted. We did the cookout thing and ate on the deck in Den's backyard. Den also set up an HF Station on his screened in porch. During the evening Den logged a QSO with a station in Beruit.

This must be the place.

Club picnickers chatting on Den's new deck.

Dennis K1LGQ and Diane K1LQ

Erik testing out Den's rig and trying for some DX. He hasn't forgotten the real reason he's there…food.

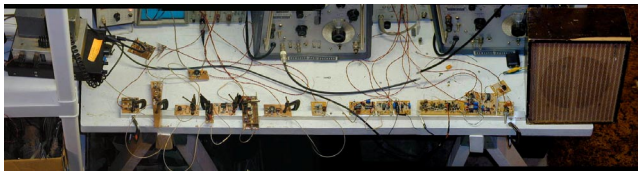
Now they get serious about cooking and eating. Two grills no waiting.

Having looked over Den's setup the experts are consulting on where Jim N8VIM (Den's neighbor) should plant his tower seeds.

W1XP on the air with AO-40

Bob W1XP gets his antennas up to work AO-40

New 6 Meter Receiver



There have been several pictures of Bob's work on the new 6 meter repeater receiver but they were all small sections. Here is a farther away view of all the pieces wired together.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board meeting was held September 13th at the KD1LE QTH. In attendance were Earl WR1Y, Ian NZ1B, Ralph KD1SM. Stan KD1LE. Earl ran the meeting as Erik has been unable to return from his European vacation due to the shutdown of the airlines. The Board discussed meeting programs, finances, and raffles. There was also discussion about two events we have been asked to support. It was agreed to support the Pepperell Fall Classic Soccer Tournament which is held Columbus Day weekend (October 6th) and Ian will coordinate it. We also agreed to support the Bay State Marathon which will be held October 21st. We will contact BARS and PART to try enlist help on that one. In addition we will send radiograms to hams in the towns the course covers (Lowell, Tyngsboro, and Chelmsford).

Public Service

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.

Every event listed is looking for volunteers
Date Location Event Contact Tel/Email

Sep 30 Hopkinton MA Jimmy Fund Marathon Walk
Bob WA1IDA 508-650-9440 wa1ida@arrl.net

Oct 6-8 Pepperell MA Fall Classic Soccer Tourny
Ian NZ1B 978-448-5681 inorrish@usa.net

Oct 8 Worcester MA Columbus Day Parade
Dick N1JET n1jet1@juno.com

Oct 13 Boston MA ADA Walk for Diabetes
Bruce KC1US 781-275-3740 kc1us@cyberzone.net

Oct 14 Brookline MA BAA Half-Marathon
Bob WA1IDA 508-650-9440 wa1ida@arrl.net

Oct 21 Lowell MA Bay State Marathon Stan
KD1LE 978-433-5090 kd1le@amsat.org

This list is published periodically as demand warrants by Stan KD1LE and Ralph KD1SM. Our usual distribution is via packet to NEBBS, via Internet mail to the arrl-nediv-list and ema-arrl distribution lists, and on the World Wide Web (see URL below). If other mailing list owners wish us to distribute via their lists we will be happy to oblige. Permission is herewith granted to republish this list in its entirety provided credit is given to the authors and the URL below is included. Send comments, corrections, and updates to:

(via packet) KD1SM@K1UGM.#EMA.MA.USA,
(via Internet) KD1SM@ARRL.NET.

We make an attempt to confirm entries with the coordinator unless the information is from another published source. We very much appreciate the assistance we have been receiving from our 'scouts'; everyone is welcome to send us postings.

The most recent copy of this list is maintained as http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv.

From The ARRL Letter

FCC REGISTRATION NUMBER BECOMES MANDATORY IN DECEMBER

Get ready (again) for the FRN! Although the FCC has slipped the deadline before, the Commission said this week that, starting December 3, 2001, everyone doing business with the FCC--licensed or not--must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number--or FRN. The FCC called the move "a first step" toward streamlining fee collection and tracking. Many amateurs registered with the Universal Licensing System (ULS) were assigned a 10-digit FRN by the Commission Registration System--or CORES--in a one-time cross-registration last year and notified by mail.

Details to implement CORES for the Amateur Service are still being worked out. Steve Linn of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau said just how CORES and ULS will work together remains up in the air. "CORES is not replacing the ULS database," he explained, "but there are a lot of questions as to how it is to be integrated." A final implementation with respect to Amateur Radio is "yet to be determined," he

said. Under the most likely scenario, however, CORES registration will supplant ULS registration for those who do not already have an FRN.

Those without an FRN will be required to register and provide one before transacting business with the FCC, whether or not a fee is required. An individual does not have to hold an FCC license to obtain an FRN. The requirement to obtain one extends to applicants for an Amateur Radio license as well as to anyone required to pay a fee to the FCC, such as those applying for a vanity call sign. CORES registrants will be required to supply a Taxpayer Identification Number--or TIN--typically a Social Security Number (SSN) for an individual. The FCC says CORES information is not made public.

An FRN will not be needed to file comments in rulemaking proceedings. Filings that do require an FRN but don't include one will be rejected. The FCC has not yet proposed replacing the ULS Licensee Identification Number with an FRN; many amateurs already have both, and both numbers appear in FCC licensee records. The ULS continues to be available to new registrants.

The FCC began implementing CORES last year. The agency announced the adoption of its new CORES/FRN rules on August 31 and detailed the requirements in a Report and Order.

In its Order, the FCC sounded almost apologetic for imposing yet another set of numbers on licensees and applicants. "We realize that the manner in which our electronic systems have developed has results in a multiplicity of numbers, passwords and identifiers," the FCC conceded. The FCC said that once various electronic filing systems--such as ULS--incorporate CORES and FRN into their application process, "the need to maintain registration information in multiple systems will be eliminated."

The FCC said CORES makes provision for the registration of foreign nationals unable to obtain an SSN by providing the ability to register without one. The FCC has required that club stations obtain an assigned TIN when registering in the ULS. In an apparent about-face, the FCC's CORES Order states that unincorporated radio clubs registering in CORES should use the TIN/SSN of the license trustee. The ARRL has asked the FCC to clarify.

The on-line filing system and further information on CORES is available by visiting the FCC CORES Web page, <https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/cores/CoresHome.html>. A copy of the FCC R&O is available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/09/04/3/cores-ro.pdf>.

CALIFORNIA ARES GROUP RESPONDS FOR BACK-TO-BACK BLAZES

In the wake of the "Oregon Fire" activation the last week of August, the Shasta County, California, ARES team barely had time to take a smoke-free breath before being activated again.

Shasta County Emergency Coordinator Drew Witham, W1SAR, reports that just as evacuation orders in Weaverville were being cancelled and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection was announcing near containment of the Oregon fire, another huge blaze broke out in the nearby town of Hayfork. By late in the day of August 31, the "Hyampom Fire" had scorched an estimated 450 acres and prompted another round of evacuations.

Shasta County and Trinity County ARES members responded quickly to shadow CDF and Red Cross team members. Witham said this enabled communication from the mountain communities back to CDF and Red Cross incident support centers in Redding.

"Heavy smoke and difficult terrain made direct communication difficult," Witham said. "At times messages were being relayed via two monitoring stations using three different repeaters." Witham said that all of the public information coming from the CDF's multi-agency information center in Redding was relayed via ham radio.

Witham said he'd first learned of the "Oregon Fire" while on duty battling another blaze with his local volunteer fire department. Still in his wildland firefighter's yellow Nomex gear, he headed for CDF Headquarters in Redding, where DEC Dick Cloyd, WO6P, had responded to the CDF activation of ARES. They quickly formulated a plan, and Witham headed for the fireline 60 miles away in the mountains.

"Despite the distance, CDF and Red Cross personnel had communications within the hour, and support was continued as needed right through the holiday weekend," Witham said. ARES operators stood down September 3.--Drew Witham, W1SAR/SCARES

HIGH-ALTITUDE BALLOON FLIGHT CARRIED HAM RADIO PAYLOAD

Edge of Space Sciences is declaring its latest balloon launch a success. The Denver, Colorado-based nonprofit organization promotes science and education by exploring frontiers in Amateur Radio and high-

altitude balloons. EOSS reports that its Flight 51 was launched and recovered successfully on August 25. Seven payloads were on board. "ATV from the balloon was spectacular," said Jack Roland, KE0VH. "It showed the balloon going through a snowstorm as it ascended through 25,000 feet, on its way to its maximum altitude of slightly more than 90,000 feet." Roland said the EOSS team had clear pictures throughout the entire flight. Future flights will incorporate a crossband repeater. For more information, visit the EOSS Web site http://www.eoss.org/index.html.

WEST KIRIBATI T30ES OPERATION ON THE AIR

Eric Griffin, N1JSY, will be on the air for the next 18 months from the island of Butaritari in West Kiribati as T30ES. The T30ES operation is not a DXpedition. Griffin is a Penn State grad who's in the Peace Corps. His T30ES adventure is being supported by the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association and the Bethel Educational Amateur Radio Society, both of Connecticut, whose members donated the various elements for the T30ES station. At last report, one antenna was up and N1JSY had made a few regional QSOs as the station undergoes its shakedown cruise. T30ES will be active as his schedule permits. He's running 100 W with battery power and will operate only during his non-work hours. QSL to PO Box 3441, Danbury CT 06813. For more information on T30ES, visit The Kiribati Connection Web site, <http://people.mags.net/boem/kiribati1.htm>.--Peter Kemp, KZ1Z

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ARES ACTIVATES FOR "OREGON FIRE" EMERGENCY

Northern California members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service this week assisted with communication at the "Oregon Fire" emergency near the historic town of Weaverville in Trinity County. The fire, named for nearby Oregon Mountain, caused the temporary evacuation of around 1000 residents.

Sacramento Valley (North) Section Emergency Coordinator Dave Thorne, K6SOJ, reports that more than a dozen trained volunteers were providing emergency radio communication and other support for the American Red Cross and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Emergency Communication--or EMCOMM--stations were set up at Red Cross evacuation centers near Weaverville and at the Red Cross Shasta Area Chapter Headquarters. Team members--who are also registered with the CDF's Volunteers in Prevention, or VIP, program--helped CDF officials at the fire scene and at CDF facilities in Redding.

The fast-moving fire near Weaverville was reported around 2:30 PM on August 28. Evacuations ordered in the town of approximately 3,000 included the local hospital's patient population. Thorne said patients were transported via air or ground to hospitals in Redding. About a dozen homes were destroyed in the fire, believed caused by sparks from a motor vehicle. Evacuated residents were allowed to return August 29.

ARES operators successfully handled several out-of-state disaster welfare inquiries.

The ARRL Sacramento Valley Section's mutual aid plan was activated, and additional team members from Shasta and Tehama counties provided back-up support.

ARRL E-MAIL FORWARDING SERVICE ADDRESS CHANGES WITH CALL SIGN

ARRL Information Systems Manager Don Durand reminds ARRL members who are planning to obtain new calls sign that their ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service address will follow suit. So, plan ahead. The @arrl.net system is designed to provide only one e-mail forwarding address per member, based on your current call sign. Durand says the system will automatically update your ARRL E-Mail Forwarding System address to reflect your new call sign. ARRL membership records also are automatically updated using data provided by the FCC Amateur Service database. Visit the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/emailfwd.html> for more information.

FCC ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON REALLOCATION PROPOSALS

The FCC is accepting comments on its proposals to reallocate some spectrum in the 2390 to 2400 MHz amateur segment as well as in the non-amateur 1.9 and 2.1 GHz bands for unspecified mobile and fixed services. The 2390-2400 MHz band is a primary Amateur Service allocation. The FCC has proposed including the band and others to support the introduction of advanced wireless services, including third-generation (3G) mobile systems.

The FCC approved its Memorandum Opinion and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking August 9 and released it for comment this week.

Interested parties may comment on the proposal via the Internet or e-mail using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS)

<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. The FCC says that Electronic Comment Filing System users must submit a separate filing for each proceeding listed--in this case ET 00-258, ET 95-18 and IB 99-81. The filings may be identical.

In January 2000 the FCC proposed a number of bands for new, advanced wireless services. The FCC said this month's further proceeding would "supplement the record by providing new allocation options" not included in ts January 2000 NPRM.

In the case of 2390-2400 MHz, the FCC notes that, while unlicensed Part 15 devices already share the band with hams, the band has been kept free of services that might be incompatible with amateur use. The FCC now wants to know if these sharing concerns still hold and if they would preclude allocating the band for advanced wireless services.

Noting that Amateur Radio previously shared the band with the federal government, the FCC invited comment on reinstituting such a sharing arrangement. "We also seek comment on the impact on the amateur services of further shared use," the FCC said. The FCC hinted that it might consider again lumping relocated federal government users with amateurs on 2390-2400 MHz, should it reallocate 1755-1850 MHz--now occupied by federal government users--for advanced wireless services.

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to upgrade the adjacent Amateur Radio allocation at 2400-2402 MHz from secondary to primary status, mainly to protect satellite operations in this band. AO-40 has been successfully using that band for downlink telemetry and transponder operation, and AMSAT plans a similar downlink for its next satellite project. The Amateur Service already is primary at 2402-2417 MHz and secondary at 2417-2450 MHz. The ARRL has re-petitioned the FCC for primary status at 2300 to 2305 MHz.

AMATEURS COMPLETE FIRST 24-GHZ EARTH-MOON-EARTH QSO

Here's another one for the Amateur Radio record books. On Saturday, August 18, hams in Texas and Manitoba completed the first 24-GHz Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) QSO. The contact followed by several months the first documented echoes from the moon on 24 GHz.

Noted microwave enthusiast Al Ward, W5LUA, of Allen, Texas (EM13), says his QSO with Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA, in Winnipeg, Manitoba (EN19), was a result of several years of effort in trying to optimize antenna gain and receiver sensitivity, and to obtain adequate power to make the roughly half-million mile path to the moon and back.

"Signals were weak but easily copied at both ends," Ward said. The August 18 QSO took place at 1417 UTC on 24,192 MHz. Malowanchuk said the two exchanged "M" reports.

After many failed attempts, Ward succeeded last March in hearing 24 GHz EME echoes and documenting them for the first time. Such accomplishments on 24 GHz are particularly significant because water-vapor absorption of signals peaks at around that frequency.

VE4MA used a 2.8-meter offset-fed dish and a travelling wave tube amplifier producing 70 W. W5LUA has a 3-meter prime focus dish and a TWT amp producing 80 W. A fixture in the VHF-UHF and microwave standings, Ward was the recipient of the 2000 ARRL Microwave Development Award.

Additional details are on the North Texas Microwave Society Web site, <http://www.ntms.org>.

NEW COUNTY FOR COLORADO

County hunters take note. The State of Colorado is gaining a new county. Effective November 15, 2001, the City and County of Broomfield will officially come into existence. Roy Wright, WA0SJQ—who lives in Broomfield--reports that the new county was created to consolidate the City of Broomfield into a single jurisdiction. At present, Broomfield lies within four different counties.

FCC INVITES 60-METER PETITION COMMENTS

The FCC is accepting comments on the ARRL's petition seeking the allocation of 5.250 to 5.400 MHz to the Amateur Service on a domestic (US-only), secondary basis. The Commission put the proposal on public notice this week and assigned a rulemaking number, RM-10209, to the proceeding. Comments are due by September 12, 2001.

Interested parties may comment on the proposal using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (EFCS) <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Commenters should reference "RM-10209" in their postings. Even if the FCC eventually okays the petition, it's likely to be several years before the new band actually becomes available.

In its petition, the ARRL told the FCC that the new band would aid emergency communication activities by filling a "propagation gap" between 80 and 40 meters, particularly for emergency communications dur-

ing hurricanes and severe weather emergencies. The ARRL also said a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz also could relieve substantial overcrowding that periodically occurs on 80 and 40.

The ARRL has proposed that General class and higher amateurs be permitted to operate CW, phone, data, image and RTTY on the new band running maximum authorized power. No mode-specific subbands were proposed. If allocated to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, hams would have to avoid interfering with--and accept interference from--current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30 meters.

The ARRL said that its successful WA2XSY experimental operation between 1999 and this year has demonstrated that amateur stations can coexist with current users and that the band is very suitable for US-to-Caribbean paths.

A copy of the ARRL petition is available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/5MHz>.

ARRL TO FCC: STOP THE ENCROACHMENT!

The ARRL has called on the FCC to put an end to commercial encroachment on amateur allocations at 2.3 and 2.4 GHz. The League included the request in its reply comments, filed August 16, on a petition by AeroAstro to share co-primary status with the Amateur Service at 2300 to 2305 MHz. The ARRL reiterated its stance that the company's petition represents "a Trojan Horse" and that there is no way that Amateur Radio and AeroAstro's position monitoring system could share the same spectrum.

"It is time for the Commission to stop those encroachments, because they have gone too far already," the ARRL said.

The League said AeroAstro's petition for a commercial Miscellaneous Wireless Communication Service allocation at 2300 to 2305 MHz not only would impose "preclusive operating conditions" on hams but represents "yet another in the continuing series of encroachments" into amateur allocations between 2300 and 2450 MHz. The ARRL asserted that AeroAstro has failed to back up its claim that hams and low-power commercial operations can share the band on a co-primary basis without interfering with each other. An interference study prepared by the ARRL Lab and attached to the League's comments predicts "intolerable" interference, especially to weak signals, if the AeroAstro petition were granted.

ARRL has petitioned to elevate the Amateur Service from secondary to primary status on the band and requested that no commercial operations be introduced. AeroAstro seeks co-primary status with the Amateur Service to accommodate its Satellite Enabled Notification System (SENS) position-monitoring system under MWCS rules. The FCC put both petitions on public notice last month, and both parties filed comments earlier this month. There is no primary occupant at 2300-2305 MHz.

"There is no dispute that the segment near 2304 MHz is uniquely suited to amateur weak-signal communications, and the remainder of that segment is used and useful for other types of amateur communication," the ARRL said in its reply comments.

AeroAstro says its 1 W spread-spectrum SENS uplinks and Amateur Radio can share the 5 MHz of spectrum and still protect the nearby NASA Deep Space Network. While contending that it "does not seek to cut back current Amateur operations in the band," AeroAstro also asked the FCC to severely limit amateur power levels in the band. The ARRL has called those recommendations "Draconian" and "unacceptable."

The ARRL has contended that AeroAstro should wait until the FCC finalizes another proceeding, ET Docket 00-221, that would make spectrum at 1670 to 1675 and 2385 to 2390 MHz available for the MWCS system it proposes.

The League asked the FCC to dismiss the AeroAstro petition as defective and to grant the League's petition for primary amateur status at 2300 to 2305 MHz.

A copy of ARRL's reply comments in the proceedings, RM-10165 and RM-10166, are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-10166/rm-10166-reply.html>

ARRL ANNOUNCES AMATEUR RADIO INTERFERENCE ASSESSMENT PROJECT

The ARRL has inaugurated the Amateur Radio Interference Assessment (ARIA) project. The effort will involve amateur volunteers across the country to assess the noise levels primarily from unlicensed devices in bands above 400 MHz.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has advised the FCC that ARRL plans to conduct ARIA as a "real-world" noise study. The League will contribute its results to an overall radio noise study sponsored by the FCC Technological Advisory Council. The TAC study

will look into whether noise generated by low-power unlicensed Part 15 devices is on the rise and whether it's adversely impacting other services.

ARRL's role will be to measure radio noise in the amateur bands above 400 MHz, with initial emphasis on the band 2400-2450 MHz, where Bluetooth and IEEE 802.11b-protocol wireless local area networks are gaining popularity. The ARIA's noise-measurement program will begin with some exploratory tests by the ARRL Laboratory.

Long-term tests starting next year will assess noise trends on the UHF/microwave bands over a period of several years to determine if the situation is staying the same, getting worse or getting better.

"If it's getting worse, as some suspect, we will then be armed with factual data to develop a strategy for continued Amateur Radio access to the UHF/microwave spectrum," said ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI.

ARIA is attempting to identify volunteers to participate in the program. Rinaldo asked that "qualified and motivated" individuals send resumes and information related to test and measurement capability and equipment availability to aria@arrl.org.

Initial volunteers should be willing to review the test plan, have receiving equipment and antennas capable of covering the 2400-2450 MHz band in a vehicle, and be able to report results in a timely manner.

Thanks to Amateur Radio, a sailor aboard a US Navy destroyer at sea got to hear his newborn son's cries for the first time. On August 12, members of the Maritime Mobile Service Net, with cooperation of the Pacific Seafarers Net, put sailor Mark McDonald in touch with his wife, Wendy, in California, who was about to go into labor. The sailor later was able to chat with his wife and her mom and to listen to his son's crying.

Terry Pipitone, KB1FMM, in Connecticut, got a front-row seat. He said the Net session started out in typical fashion on 14.300 MHz. It soon got interesting after Tom Lange, W4MDL, on McDonald's ship checked in seeking help from anyone who could put the husband and wife in contact. When no West Coast stations were available, Pipitone made some calls to California, where--as it turned out--Wendy McDonald was headed for the hospital.

As the Net's closing time neared, the proceedings shifted to the Pacific Seafarers Net on 14.313 MHz. While KB1FMM remained in contact with the hospital, ARRL member Tom Whelchel, WA6TLL, in California stepped in to provide a phone patch between the hospital and the ship--somewhere in the North Atlantic.

As Pipitone tells it, things happened pretty fast after that. "At 0810 the baby was born and at 0815 Mark and his new son--Justin Alexander McDonald--were on the phone together," he said. "Mother and son were all doing fine, and the proud father was in tears. The timing and the cooperation could not have been better."

Listening in on the proceedings was Eric Boyle, N0YET, in Kansas, who reports Mark McDonald not only was able to speak with his wife and his mother-in-law but got to hear his baby crying for the first time. "This was neat!" he enthused. "It is times like this that make me extremely proud to be part of the Amateur Radio Community!"

For more information on the Maritime Mobile Service Net, visit the Net's Web site <http://www.mmsn.org/>.

ILL WINDS SPAWN NEW MARS NET, GOOD RADIO

Tropical Storm Barry--never quite a hurricane--proved to be a fizzle for weather watchers. But for Army MARS members in Florida and the Caribbean, Barry offered an opportunity to test a new emergency link. The "H"—or Hotel--Net.

The Hotel Net, formed last May just before the hurricane season, is largely the creation of retired telephone worker Paul Donahue, AG4EZ/AAT4ZS, of Palatka, Florida. Donahue had noticed Puerto Rico members trying to check into Florida's Military Affiliate Radio System nets. He proposed establishing a transcaribbean linkup. By the time the storm warnings were hoisted for Barry, the Hotel Net was ready.

What MARS brings to the table is access to a broad range of military frequencies, with more options for clear propagation and less vulnerability to overcrowding. Designated MARS members also have direct contact with federal disaster relief agencies through the government's National Communications System. By the time Barry died out, 19 stations joined the Hotel Net, including stations in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands and a handful of others along the East Coast. Links were also established to MARS VHF clusters in Florida and Puerto Rico.

At the Ft Huachuca, Arizona, gateway station AAA9USA, contract operator Martha Bochicchio, KD7AIM/AAT9DS, kept her ear to the MARS national "911" frequency in case headquarters support was needed.

NCS Donahue says his goal is to bring the entire Gulf region into the net with stations up the East Coast and with as many VHF clusters as possible reporting into a HF station to relay.--Bill Sexton, N1IN

September Treasurer Report$

Income for August was $49.29 net from FoxFinder kit sales. Expenses were $20.40 for newsletter postage leaving a net income of $28.89.

Fund balances as of September 13 are:

General Fund	$5345.16
Community Fund	$1317.55

If your ARRL renewal is coming up soon or you haven't yet joined ARRL and wish to do so, I can mail your paperwork for you. Make your check payable to NVARC and I'll do the rest. The ARRL rebates a portion of your membership to the Club when I do the mailing. Note that this rebate program ends on October 1, so if you're about to renew please do so this month. The new rebate program will be a larger amount to the Club but will only apply to new ARRL memberships.

73,
-Ralph KD1SM

2001 Fleamarkets

16 Sep 2001 + Western Connecticut Hamfest
Candlewood ARA, Newtown, CT

16 Sep 2001 x MIT Radio Society/Harvard Wireless Club/MIT UHF Repeater Assn.

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Board Members
Bob Reif 1999-2002
Den Connors 2000-2003
Craig Kalley 2001-2004
Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month - 7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr. Talk-in 146.490 simplex
442.90 + 100Hz Repeater
53.890 – 100Hz Repeater
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