



See you at our next meeting!

February 2, 2009, 7 PM
Nashua Public Library

NARC Program - Making an SSB QSO – February 2nd

The requirement for Morse code to obtain HF operating privileges has been history the past two years. Along with this change, the exams for higher-class amateur radio licenses have also been substantially simplified. These changes are beginning to have a beneficial effect on the hobby with an increase in the number of new licensees.

If you are a recent ham radio newbie, or if you just got back into the hobby after years away from it, it's time to make the move to the HF spectrum and contact stations in other parts of the country and around the world. Perhaps those pictures of impressive ham stations with equipment full of knobs and buttons that you've seen on the Internet have you a little bewildered and intimidated.

Fear not; help is on the way. Join us Monday, February 2nd, for a presentation geared specifically to helping licensees, new and "re-upped", get on the HF bands and make contacts. The presentation will be "How to Make a SSB QSO" that will walk you through the process. We will also touch on some simple antennas that you don't need computer modeling to design. We will also have a presentation from the Billerica Amateur Radio Society (BARS) in the coming months that addresses the art of QSLing.

MAINE STATE CONVENTION - 2009

The Maine State Convention will be held Friday March 27th and Saturday March 28th at the Ramada Inn, 490 Pleasant St, Lewiston. An ARRL forum will be held Friday evening at 7:00 PM and another ARRL forum will take place Saturday morning. Doors to the hamfest will open at 8:00 AM Saturday and run until noon. Admission is \$6 for ages 18 and older and free under the age of 18. All talks are free of charge.

Talks will include Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, inventor of APRS (via videoconference), Dr. Steve Kerchel, A4AK on coaxial wavetraps, Dolph Holmes, on emergency communications, Roy Jones, KB1PWJ, Communications Manager from the Maine Emergency Management Agency and Rex Harper, W1REX, on the Camaraderie of QRP, Lee Trask, W1LWT, with a digital symposium, and the Wide Area Amateur Radio Network with a talk on Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio (D*STAR).

Anybody interested in selling items, the cost will be \$8 per table. If a club is interested in having a table, it is free; however, if a club sells items then they will have to pay \$8 per table. The Ramada Inn will have a special rate of \$64.90 (plus tax) per day for the hamfest. Please call (207) 784-2331 and ask for the ARRL Convention rate. V.E. Testing will be held at 12:30 PM. Walk-ins are allowed. Please be sure to have all necessary paperwork (copy of FCC license, CSCEs indicating previous credit if taking General or Extra exams, two forms of identification).

Talk-in will be available on the Auburn Repeater, 146.61 MHz, no PL tone. Amateurs are encouraged to bring a 2-meter handheld since announcements and other information will be transmitted on 146.46 MHz simplex. For more information please contact either Cory Golob N1URA at 207-514-0202 / 860-786-1837 n1ura@arrl.net or Ivan Lazure N1OXA 207-784-0350 n1oxa@arrl.net. I look forward to seeing you all at this year's Maine State Convention - 73 DE N1URA -Cory Golob

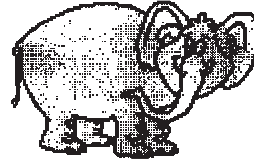
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Tiny Elephant's Corner

A NARC Bulletin Exclusive

A monthly column by Ed Deichler, K2TE



Oh Yeah? Well, @#\$\$%^&^&*!

A few years ago I wrote a column about packet etiquette that was aimed at applying common sense when using the still-new packet cluster spotting system. Since that time it has become integrated in many amateur logging programs and is never given another thought. What I wrote about dealt with my observations of what was going on with the cluster that I found annoying and offensive, both personally and legally. I feel the time has come to revisit the topic and the impact of bad behavior on amateur radio.

Back in the days before pushbutton dual-receive, split-mode transceivers and spotting networks, operators were pretty much orderly and courteous on the bands. Finding out about a rare Dxpedition meant subscribing to a newsletter (still does) or listening on nets for the DX to show up on frequency, or for the DX net control to inform stations when and where the group would be operating. Most of the time, however, a ham had to pay attention to propagation and actually tune around for the station. Working split was actually easier than today since hams had a separate transmitter and receiver. (Those of you licensed over 30 years will know what I mean.) This configuration made it easy tune the receiver and not hit the wrong button that would put you on the DX station's calling frequency or the wrong part of the band. This also meant that veteran DXers usually worked the DX before a pile-up developed, which would only occur if the DX station hung around for a while to allow others to find him.

Enter the digital age and the era of instant everything. The automation of stations today make it possible to be on the DX station's frequency ready to call within seconds of turning the rig on and clicking a single button. No knowledge of propagation or beam heading is required; just go to the spotted frequency. The pile-up becomes large very quickly and takes on the atmosphere of a piranha dinner party. It isn't long before an errant station starts calling on top of the DX station. Others tell him to move up but he continues to call, probably because he is not listening there (wrong button problem). Soon others join it to tell the "kilocycle kops" to knock it off and stop jamming the DX station. Now the frequency becomes busy with ugly voices and eventually someone lets fly with locker-room epithets. Suddenly, it gets quiet as if the miscreants scattered like kids who broke a window with a snowball.

One might argue that such behavior is common on SSB because talking is spontaneous without any conscious thought. For a while this seemed to be the case since it was not heard on CW where an angry operator has a few seconds to think about what he is doing before hitting the paddles in retaliation. Alas, the disease has struck CW; I have copied stations sending a universally known profane phrase in a CW argument! Back to the packet cluster and I find that annoying posts have now been replaced by blunt comments and cluster-wide rants.

Ok, enough sermonizing. I suppose one could argue such behavior is allowed under the First Amendment. Tell that to the FCC. Amateur radio is a regulated service in the same vein as commercial broadcasting. I suppose one could also rationalize that, being at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, there are far more fish in a smaller pond as the only useable bands are 20, 40 and 80 meters so it is crowded and people get frustrated. This is a cause, not a justification. Maybe it's an extension of high-profile brutish behavior that society seems to find tolerable. Take your pick.

(Tiny Elephant Corner Cont'd)

This is a mess that has steadily developed in proportion to the decline in self-policing that amateurs used to practice. I am referring to a preventive measure and not the "kilocycle kop" power trip. It is a practice as old as the hobby itself. Many of us remember an experienced ham or two who helped us get into the hobby and made sure we didn't stray from acceptable operating practices. The ARRL dubbed him "Elmer" and the concept of a radio father figure kept us in line.

There was also a core of official observer stations (the Oh-ohs) that monitored our transmissions and where we operated. I remember getting some of those dreaded post cards that said a harmonic of my transmit frequency was copied outside the amateur bands. We all lived in fear of the men in black with sunglasses showing up at the door to confiscate our rigs. With the proliferation of solid-state rigs with excellent frequency stability such digressions are largely a thing of the past.

The FCC's focus on policing amateur activity has diminished substantially over the years with other priorities and budget pressures to the point where only the most egregious violators get nabbed. It has often been stated that if we don't police ourselves on the bands we will lose them. At one time no one wanted the "worthless" frequencies below 200 meters. However, the explosion in wireless technologies has fueled fierce spectrum competition that may change this perception.

Maybe it's time to bring back Elmer to do a reset of amateur practices. Think about it the next time you're on the air.

LETTER to the EDITOR

Dear Editor: Please explain how the "Classique Junk" activity works. Do I just walk in with a bunch of stuff and hope someone takes it away? Does the stuff have to be radio (ham or otherwise) related or can it be anything? If no one takes it, do I get to keep it or does NARC throw it away for me? If I "enter the raffle," do I have to take something from the junk pile even if nothing is of interest?

Pack Rat

Dear PR: First of all, it's "Classie Jonque". Yes, if you have an item for the raffle, it should be ham radio-related. If not, the next best thing is something a ham can use, e.g. tools. It is NOT intended for your grandmother's stuffed squirrel. If you are that fussy about the raffle, don't enter it. (Hey, if you pull something you don't want, take it to the dump the next weekend.) And if stuff you bring in is not taken home by someone else, you get to take it back home.

NARC Club Badge Order Form

Please print your First Name and Callsign as you would like them to appear on the badge:

Price: \$5.00 each

Send (or give) to : **Treasurer, Nashua Area Radio Club**
PO Box 248
Nashua, NH 03061

Please make checks payable to: Nashua Area Radio Club

Badges will be mailed.

ERRATA

The name of the NARC Treasurer, Bill Bordy, was misspelled in the paper edition of last month's NARC Bulletin

The picture of "Tiny Elephant" disappeared in last month's bulletin but has now returned

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor: Can I use the Bulletin to advertise personal stuff for sale? If so, would it be only for radio related stuff?

House Cleaner

Dear HC:

As for selling stuff through the Newsletter, ham radio-related only please

**Treasurer's Report
Dec 1, 1008 to Jan 5, 2009**

Beginning Balance	\$4,944.97
Receipts	
Membership	\$20.00
Total Receipts	\$ 20.00
Disbursements	
N1fd.org domain 3 yr registration	(\$27.60)
Postage for 14 ltrs to new Hams	(\$5.88)
Postage Treasurer	(\$1.65)
Nashua Library Donation	(\$100.00)
Total Disbursements	(\$135.13)
Ending Balance:	\$4,829.84

NARC Treasurer's Report – Period from January 1 to December 31, 2008

Beginning Balance, Jan 1, 2008 \$4,827.41

Receipts

Advertising	\$ 0.00
Badges	\$ 0.00
Classes	\$422.95
Field Day Meals	\$477.00
Field Day hat (2006)	\$ 10.00
Donations	\$111.12
Membership	\$808.75

Total Receipts \$1,829.82

Disbursements

Badge Fabrication	(\$ 0.00)
Check Printing	(\$ 26.09)
Christmas Dinner	(\$ 0.00)
Classes (Technician)	(\$457.42)
Donation (HC ARES)	(\$150.00)
Donation (Nashua Library)	(\$100.00)
n1fd.org domain 3 yr registration	(\$ 27.60)
Equipment (SB-102 Manual)	(\$ 31.00)
Field Day Expenses	(\$174.40)
Field Day Meals	(\$305.85)
Insurance	(\$325.00)
Newsletter Postage	(\$ 0.00)
Newsletter Printing	(\$106.50)
P.O. Box Fee	(\$ 86.00)
QSLing	(\$ 30.00)
President Postage	(\$ 5.88)
Treasurer Postage	(\$ 1.65)

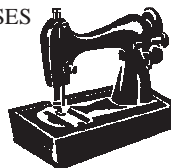
Total Disbursements (\$1,827.39)

Ending Balance, Dec 31, 2008 \$4,829.84

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The KY1N Memorial Exam List

Scheduled VE exams for February 2009 MA ME NH VT
Please check with the contact person, as some dates are tentative

Date	Time	Contact	Location	Phone
02/07/09	10:30	Larry Houbre, AA1FS	Dartmouth MA	508-991-6055
02/08/09	12:00	Bob Quinn, WV1A	Gloucester MA	978-283-4660
02/09/09	19:00	Jim Clogher, N1ICN	Brookline MA	617-364-4658
02/11/09	19:00	Bruce Anderson, W1LUS	Billerica MA	978-851-2886
02/13/09	18:30	Ralph T Stetson III, KD1R	Burlington VT	802-878-6454
02/14/09	09:00	Ben Fleck, K2LYE	Falmouth MA	508-540-2583
02/16/09	19:00	Skip Denault, KB1CNB	Fall River MA	774-644-3469
02/16/09	18:30	Francis D'auria, W1AD	Pittsford VT	802-775-3033
02/18/09	19:30	Nick Altenbernd, KA1MQX	Cambridge MA	617-253-3776
02/19/09	19:30	Louis Harris, N1UEC	Canton MA	508-668-0858
02/23/09	19:00	Walton G Congdon, W1ZPB	Northfield MA	413-498-2729
02/25/09	19:00 *	Paul Upham, KD1YH	Shirley MA	978-597-6535
02/27/09	18:00	David Cote, W1FAB	Holyoke MA	413-575-2950
02/28/09	12:00 +	Daniel Lee, W1DFL	Danvers MA	978-352-4513
02/28/09	09:00	Jim Heedles, WW1Y	Nashua NH	603-673-7395

NOTES: *- PREREGISTRATION MANDATORY
T = TECHNICIAN EXAMS ONLY
+= PLEASE CALL TO GUARANTEE SEATING

TIMES ARE LOCAL TIMES

Please remember to bring the following with you"

- Original & copy of FCC license (if licensed)
- Originals & copies of all CSCEs you are claiming
- One photo ID, or two non-photo IDs (one with address)
- The 2009 Test Session Fee of \$15.00

For latest update check <http://www.ky1n.net>

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting - December 29, 2008

Attendees: Present were the President, Ed Deichler (K2TE); Secretary, Jack Duffy (NF1L); Treasurer, Bill Bordy (NJ1H); Membership Director, Stuart Sherman (N1STY). Activities Director Bill Hammond (KA1SSR) was unable to attend.

Location: The December Board Meeting was held in the Hunt Room at the Nashua Public Library.

President: After the ice storm, questions were raised about the use of the club generator. After much discussion the Board reached an agreement that the club generator is reserved for use in emergencies by ARES, Red Cross Shelters, and similar situations. It would not be fair for individuals to benefit from the use of the generator.

New England ARRL Division Cabinet Meeting to be held January 10th in Springfield, MA. The club President, Secretary, and Treasurer will attend.

Elmer Series Club presentation "How to Make a SSB QSO". We will attempt showing U-Tube videos at the next meeting.

Secretary: Propose that the club reimburse members \$25.00 of the expenses of taking any of the three EmComm courses offered by the ARRL. Members would have to be in good standing and present a copy of their certificate of completion for EC-001, EC-002, or EC-003.

Program: January meeting will be member's project night.

Treasurer: We donated \$100.00 to the Library. Secretary notes we have received a Thank you from the Library. Our current balance is \$4829.84.

Surplus Equipment: The club has an undetermined amount of equipment. Some at members homes, some are pre-positioned at EOCs for ARES use. We need to identify such equipment and dispose of the majority by offering it to the members and taking the remainder to NEAR-Fest.

Membership: We have 46 members whose dues are current.

Adjournment: Having no further business the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next Board meeting is January 26th at the Library.

NARC Club Meeting, January 5, 2009

The President, Ed Deichler (K2TE), called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM in the Nashua Public Library, and began the meeting with introductions.

Program: The first presenter on Project Night was Rich Carter (KE1EV). Rich presented two projects: A beautiful restoration of a Drake TR-3 and its matching remote VFO, and how to install a ham rig in a 1987 (Classic) Corvette. Both were fantastic jobs.

Frank Sweich (N1DGQ) appeared as Pumpkin Man with his Orange Hoodie and flashing and beeping helmet.

Bill Bordy (NJ1H) showed pictures of the recent Ice Storm and how he repaired his Microwave that failed due to the storm.

Ed Deichler (K2TE) presented his interpretation of a K9AY Loop Antenna that he has installed in order to receive signals from Japan on 160.

John Halbert (W1SMN) brought in a Hallicrafter's SX-100 in mint condition that he was able to obtain from an estate sale at a more than reasonable price.

Jack Duffy (NF1L) showed his ham station and antenna farm and how he used prepackaged furniture to build his station.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Bill Bordy (NJ1H) reported that the current club balance is \$4,829.84.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary, Jack Duffy (NF1L) introduced a proposal that the club support ARES by reimbursing members \$25.00 for taking and successfully completing the three ARRL Emergency Communications Courses.

President's Report: The President, Ed Deichler (K2TE) asked if Dave Banks (N1SUE) and Jack Warren (WB4MDC) would again chair the Audit Committee. Both Accepted.

Membership Report: The Membership Director, Stu Sherman (N1STY), reported that the club now has 46 members in good standing.

Activities: The Activities Director, Bill Hammond (KA1SSR), noted that Pizza this week is at D. W. Pizza in Merrimack.

Adjournment: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

For those interested and in response to questions at the last NARC meeting, Department of Homeland Security / FEMS/Emergency Management Institute on-line, FREE, Independent Study courses can be found at [HTTP://TRAINING.FEMA.GOV/IS/CRSLIST.ASP](http://TRAINING.FEMA.GOV/IS/CRSLIST.ASP)

FLEA MARKET - Saturday, 14 Feb - Marlborough, MA

Sponsored by Algonquin Amateur Radio Club at the Marlborough Intermediate Elementary School (Marlborough Middle School)

9 AM to 1 PM - Admission - \$5.00 VEC Exams at 9 AM Contact: fleamarket@n1em.org

The



was founded in Nashua, NH on October 3rd, 1979, in order to operate a non-profit corporation for educational and scientific purposes as follows:

- 1) To educate and increase the proficiency of its members in the science of radio communication.
- 2) To provide for the dissemination of information among its members concerning scientific advancement and progress in the field of radio communication.
- 3) To organize and train units of licensed radio amateurs capable of maintaining radio communication as a public service during periods of emergency.

Executive Board – 2009:

President **Ed Deichler**, K2TE (603)429-0221, pres@n1fd.org

Vice President **-OPEN-** [vp@n1fd.org]

Secretary **Jack Duffy**, KE1HS (603)882-2085, secy@n1fd.org

Treasurer **Bill Bordy**, NJ1H (603)882-3789, tres@n1fd.org

Activities **Bill Hammond**, KA1SSR (603-595-2403, activities@n1fd.org)

Membership **Stu Sherman**, N1STY (603)878-4808, membership@n1fd.org

Programs **--OPEN--** [programs@n1fd.org]

Activities & Committees – 2009:

QSL Manager **Ed Deichler**, K2TE (603)429-0221

Field Day **Ed Deichler**, K2TE (603)429-0221

Station Trustee **Ed Deichler**, K2TE (603)429-0221

Club Property Training

Training Asst. **Rich Carter**, KE1EV (603)889-2459

EC Liaison **Sterling Eanes**, AK1K (603)465-2277

Audit Committee **Jack Warren**, WB4MDC (603)429-1137

Dave Banks, N1SUE (978)433-8104

Volunteer Exams **Jim Heedles**, WW1Y (603)673-7395

Nashua Area Radio Club Internet Home Page: <http://www.n1fd.org>

WebMaster: **Bill Bordy**, NJ1H
webmaster@n1fd.org

NARC Board Mailing List: bod@n1fd.org

NARC General Members Mailing List : members@n1fd.org

ARES Emergency Coordinator for Hillsborough County:
Jim Blaine, WD4JZO, 603-889-4429, wd4jzo@arrl.net

ARRL: 1-800-32-NEWHAM or newham@arrl.org,
www.hello-radio.org

Nashua Area Radio Club meetings are accessible for the physically challenged

NARC Calendar 2009

Board Meeting:

Monday, Jan 28, 7 PM - Nashua Public Library,
Monday, Feb 23, 7 PM 2 Court St., Nashua

Club Meeting:

Monday, Feb 2, 7 PM - Nashua Public Library,
Monday, Mar 2, 7 PM 2 Court St., Nashua

Program:

Feb – How to make a SSB QSO

Weekly Events:

Emergency Nets:

Tuesdays: 8:00 PM Hillsborough County 146.73 – PL88.5
Saturdays: 8:30 AM NH ARES 3945 +/- KHz LSB

Pizza:

Thursdays: 6:15 PM - Various locations - check 147.045

Breakfast:

Saturdays: 8:15 AM - Nathaniel's Restaurant,
537 Amherst Street (Rte 101A)

Nashua Area Radio Club Bulletin

Published by the Nashua Area Radio Club, Inc. just prior to its monthly meeting and distributed free to members and friends of Amateur Radio.

Bulletin Staff:

Editor: **Bill Lana**, N4COY (603)881-7308
N4COY@Gmail.com

Advertising: Position Available

Circulation: **Stu Sherman**, N1STY (603)878-4808

Deadline for submitting articles or photographs for the next issue is the Monday following the current month's Club meeting. Electronic submissions are preferred and should be sent via electronic mail to N4COY@GMail.com. On-line images may also be sent electronically in any standard image file format. Material for publication can also be sent to Bill Lana, 29 Pemberton Rd, Nashua, NH 03063

Advertising enquiries should be addressed to P O Box 248, Nashua, NH 03061-0248 or by contacting any of our Board Members. Advertising matters must not be raised over the Amateur airwaves.

Nashua Area Radio Club Official Membership Application

New Applicant:	<u>Date Applying</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Student/Sr.(Over 65)</u>	<u>Family</u>	Renewal:	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Student/Sr. (Over 65)</u>	<u>Family</u>
	Sep-Nov	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$30.00		\$20.00	\$15.00	\$30.00
	Dec-Feb	\$15.00	\$11.25	\$22.50				
	Mar-May	\$10.00	\$ 7.50	\$15.00				
	Jun-Aug	\$ 5.00	\$ 3.75	\$ 7.50				

Annual Dues - due September 1st of each year.
Membership year runs from September to August.

Name _____ Callsign _____ Class _____ Packet address _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Email address _____
 Monthly Newsletter Mailing Preference Electronic US Mail ARRL Member yes no Expiration date _____

Additional Family members:

Name/Callsign _____ ARRL Member yes no Exp. _____ Email address _____
 Name/Callsign _____ ARRL Member yes no Exp. _____ Email address _____

Make checks payable to: The Nashua Area Radio Club. Mail check and application to: Membership, Nashua Area Radio Club, PO Box 248, Nashua, NH 03061.

In signing this application, I hereby apply for membership in the Nashua Area Radio Club, and agree to abide by its constitution and by-laws.

Signature _____ Date _____

*Tour the World with Amateur Radio
 Next meeting February 2, 2009, 7PM - Nashua Public Library*

Nashua Area Radio Club
 P. O. Box 248
 Nashua, NH 03061-0248