



Established: 1964

North Shore Radio Association News



member

SUMMER 2006

Editors: Kathy (KB1LPW) & Rick (KB1LYJ) Savage

www.nsradio.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3724
Peabody, MA 01961-3724

Meetings: second Monday of the Month (September to June: 7:30 P.M, at the South Congregational Church, 60 Prospect Street, Peabody, MA (talk-in 145.470/R)
Weekly club NET: Sundays at 20:30 (8:30 P.M.) on the 145.470MHz PL of 136.5 Danvers Repeater

CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(all emails:
Callsign@nsradio.org)

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FIELD DAY...

Field Day was held on the wet weekend of June 23rd to 25th. To view more photos from the event, go to www.nsradio.org & click on to Field Day Photos.

REPEATER MOVE PROGRESS...

Here is the status on the repeater move as of July 11th.

The 145.470 & 442.80 machines are still operating okay. The 53.85 machine is now at the Danvers site on an old abandoned antenna. This antenna is not tuned for the six meter band is performing okay. The coverage is okay at this time.

A new machine for the six meter frequency is almost finished and will be put in place when the move is completed. it will raise the output power from 20 watts to 100 and increase sensitivity to about 0.18 microvolts (about -125db)

The 220 machine has been shifted to the new frequency of 223.88 and is back at Hunt Hospital. The receiver is a little deaf and still needs some work, otherwise the site is okay and the machine is ready to be moved.

All of the equipment needed for the installation is now in stock at my house awaiting an installation date from Cingular. Once that date is available we'll let everyone know.

The linking capabilities at the 220 site are finally working okay however we still need to get the 220 receiver up to snuff.

Lou Harris

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REPEATER TOWER FUND...

We are still looking for donations to cover the Repeater Tower Change at the 145.470 repeater. Please donate if you can, as we have expenses to cover to make the move. Please send your donations to:

NSRA
P.O. Box 3724
Peabody, MA 01961

NSRA EVENT COMMUNICATION TEE SHIRTS



We are selling event communication red tee shirts with all proceeds to benefit the repeater move fund. Shirts are \$15.00, currently sizes XL, 2XL, and 3XL are available. Larges will be in soon, and there is currently a waiting list for those. The Tee-shirts available at all NSRA meetings and at most other NSRA events.

All shirt inquiries can be sent to Gordon at kx1kty@nsradio.org

WBZ FIELD TRIP, A NSRA FEATURED EVENT ON MAY 13, 2006...

The plan for the day, was a visit to radio and television station of WBZ -CBS for Boston, a top ten USA market. (#7) the entertainment and speaker committee Rowe K1HRA and Al W1DUW had hoped for at least ten members, and friends that would enjoy this, but Saturday was set for a long rainy day. We had some doubt's as I slogged my way along Rte. 128 and Rte. 2. Upon arriving just before the 3:00 P.M. start time I was pleased to see several car's with one member talking to me how much he was looking forward to this tour because years earlier he had worked in a major Washington, D.C. television station and was anxious to see how much had changed. Wow I thought nice enthusiasm at the start of our tour.

At the appointed time we were in the lobby and talking with the friendly security watch. Just about the same time Dan Brown W1DAN (senior tech for television ops.) came into the lobby and in came a few more and then several more, before we knew it a total of 20 NSRA members and friends, family members were there. Dan was impressed that on a rainy day, we had such an enthusiastic turnout.

This began the tour, production rooms, tape editing rooms, computer graphics art rooms, the tape down links with ample explanation, about two inch tape, routers and servers and tape production method and how it was all moving to computer hard drives, and away from tape.

While we were in the News Studio enjoying a hands on explanation on the new state-of-the art Sony \$100,000 camera's each and we saw four of them, in a row. While we were doing this they had a news weather update by the weather talent...the young lady took her place explained what was about to happen and we could watch from the control room while a live update was being done in front of us. We saw the remote camera swing into action, with auto focus and color balance, I enjoyed seeing the analog video wave form and the color phase monitor...having some understanding of what I was seeing. The member who had television experience in Washington, DC told me wow great!! Some things have really changed but much is still the same as far as manpower, from years before.

The tour continued with a full unhurried tour of the weather area the WBZ radio 1030 AM studios and the transmitter control unit. When Dan had completed the tour, Twelve members joined us for a get together at a nearby restaurant where we continued chatting with our host Dan.



I had chosen to walk with Dan and a few others from WBZ to the restaurant and then later to the front lobby with Dan...as we finished up our visit, I spotted, in a glass case the big old microphone from 1921 with WBZA on the side. Wow I had seen, along with others, the latest and newest in broadcasting equipment and here I was looking at equipment from the very start of radio broadcasting, by America's first clear channel radio station WBZA- Boston.

Yes sir what a tour, what a visit as I said goodbye to Dan and drove home in a blinding rain.

Dan has accepted being our guest for the October meeting and we will have a technical discussion on high definition radio and television by WBZ senior technician, Dan Brown W1DAN.

(Editor's note, photos from the field trip can be viewed at www.nsradio.org)

Al Prudhomme,Jr. W1DUW

PUBLIC SERVICE CALENDAR...

We are still looking for help for the following Public Service events. The upcoming events are:

- Friday & Saturday - July 21st & 22nd - Maine Forest Rally in Rumford Maine For more info and to sign up: <http://www.maineeforestrally.com/haminfo.html>
- Saturday, July 22nd - Blackburn Challenge - Rowing Race around Cape Ann, Gloucester, MA
- Sunday, July 23rd - Reid's Ride - Bike Ride from Lynn, MA to Gloucester, MA for a Cancer Charity
- Monday, September 4th - YMCA Cape Ann Run
- Saturday, September 9th - Cycle 4 Life Bike ride for Cancer Hospital Ride is from Marblehead, MA to Ipswich, MA and Back
- Saturday, September 16th - Special Olympics Bike Ride - In Topsfield Area - Route TBD
- Weekend, October 20-22nd - Head of the Charles Regatta, Cambridge, MA
- Sunday, November 26th - Santa Claus Parade, Gloucester, MA

Check the website for more information and updated events.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Eric at KA1NCF@nsradio.org

SKYWARN & ARES NEWS...

Well, where can I begin? This has certainly been one of the busiest time periods for both SKYWARN and ARES activations. Hopefully, everyone has dried out after the recent major Floods of 2006. The ARRL has posted not one, but FOUR articles on our hard work and dedication. These articles and more, including almost 200 photos from various points in Essex County, can be accessed through the area Floods of 2006 link on both the Main NSRA Page and the SKYWARN link.

Special Thanks goes out to the following radio operators who assisted with the various ARES activations for the Mass Bay and Northeast Massachusetts Red Cross Chapters: W1FBI, K1DAC, KB1FLH, K3GRN, N1QEH, W1CAC, W1LN, K1YTS, W1KPI, N1ZJ, K1DYO, N1VUX, KB1MRH, KX1KTY, and K1BTH.

Special thanks also goes out to our ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, for his site visits on Thursday Evening and Saturday Afternoon, as well as Carl Aveni - N1FY, Assistant Section Manager, for taking care of Net Control Duties. A tremendous job was done by all and we can rest assured the Red Cross was truly appreciative of our efforts. (I have even heard of one Red Cross volunteer making sincere inquiries about becoming a ham - a big testament to our hard work!).

Thanks are also in order to those that participated in the Statewide Hurricane Drill that took place on Monday, June 5th. Now is the time to test our preparedness for a hurricane before we get deep into Hurricane Season. Drills like these help us test out not only the current state of our ARES team, but try out new



modes and methods to be employed during future activations. The next drill will be in the fall, our Annual SET (Simulated Emergency Test). If you have any comments on the drill, or any of our previous activations, please let me know. All comments are good comments!

This brings me to my next point. As we look forward to the summertime months, Hurricane Season has now officially begun. Take a few moments to review your preparedness plans, both personal and radio wise. Keep an eye out on the National Hurricane Center forecasts, which can be found at www.nhc.noaa.gov. Perhaps you have heard the several different long-range forecasts stating that New England is long overdue for a major hurricane. Only time will tell if this is the year or if ten years from now is the year, but predictions are calling for another very active hurricane season. We will post some preparedness information on the SKYWARN page during the month of June, be sure to check it out.

The SKYWARN Training session held in Peabody on May 18th was a big success as well. Almost 50 people came out to hear NWS Forecasters Bill Babcock and Glenn Field talk about how severe weather spotting is done. They all received a card with unique spotter ID # to prove they successfully completed the training. If you missed the session, time is running out, but there are still a couple of opportunities in the area, including a session still being planned for Boston in July. Simply visit www.weather.gov/boston and scroll down until you see a link titled "SKYWARN TRAINING 2006" under Weather Safety. All are welcome and this class is offered free of charge, and a ham radio license is not a requirement to take the class.

Finally, if you are interested in joining the North Shore ARES Team, please contact either myself or Eric - KA1NCF (North Shore ARES District Emergency Coordinator) using the e-mail address ares@nsradio.org. Our new Yahoo Group is now up and running, if you would like access please let us know using that e-mail address as well.

73 from Jim Palmer, KB1KQW
North Shore Assistant SKYWARN Coordinator
North Shore ARES Emergency Coordinator

OUT AND ABOUT WITH AL...

I will take this space to give my comments on the Sunday night net, a opinion to have a thought or a discussion. I like the thought that I can be a host to discussion, opinion etc...

The NSRA Sunday night net is a great resource, we all know this and is a great activity of the NSRA. We have discussed this many times and our attendance for the net is beyond what one would expect for 8:30 P.M. on a Sunday night...with a usual attendance of between 25 to 35 members and friends of the repeater signing in.

What do you think of the situation, many members do, and that is to check in then say IN and OUT, what if you just check in and stand-by listen to the Newline from the ARRL and maybe you will think of a comment on a subject they have discussed, or you may wish to discuss a technical topic or make a comment in general , I think you get the picture, we like to go down the list regardless of any limits you may have had. Many times this does happen and a comment or a best wish is passed on from a station that was IN/OUT.

The NSRA net is fantastic and seems to get better each time, this is great because the NET is only as good as each one of us wishes to make it. You being a part of it with comment, a selling item, a question, or a technical comment, or on the air activity, only makes the net even better...I remember one Sunday night, a member had worked a station in Japan earlier in the week, his enthusiasm on this contact was obvious as he commented on the Net.

To me that's the sort of thing that makes our net so good. It would be great to even get more of this.



Of course there are many times where this is not possible, myself included, and that's fine but do you agree that, when possible, exchange that IN/OUT with just a sign in and let the thoughts, opinions you have be said as we go "down the list of check-ins".

AI W1DUW May 2006

THE ARRL NEW ENGLAND DIVISION CONVENTION, THE BOXBORO SHOW...

The 2006 ARRL New England Division Convention will be held on August 25, 26th and 27th. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

A great program is being planned. We are excited to announce that the newly elected A.R.R.L President, Joel Harrison, W5ZN will be in attendance. Here is your opportunity to meet Joel first hand at the ARRL Forums. He doesn't get off that easy though, as our guest of honor at the Saturday evening banquet, we get the opportunity to hear from him again. Order your tickets early as the banquet seating is limited.

We are also happy to report that Bob Heil, K9EID will be making a return visit with one of his ever popular talks on all things audio. Look for Bob's presentation early on Saturday, and we've left plenty of time of questions and answers after his presentation.

The Special Event station W1A will be in operation. This is a good opportunity to operate the top shelf amateur radio equipment the industry has to offer and have fun while doing it!

The Boxboro Holiday Inn, located at the junction of Routes 111 and 495 in Massachusetts, will again open it's doors to the Amateur Radio community with its spacious parking and comfortable accommodations. Hotel information is available through the Boxboro.org website. Room rates are reduced for this year, be sure to ask for the "Boxboro Ham Radio Convention Rate" when making your reservations.

The "Call for Presenters" remains open. Please contact WO1N if you have an Amateur Radio related presentation or represent an organization that would like to reach out to a large population of active Hams.

Volunteers are also welcome to help with event planning and execution.

We hope to see you there!

Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF
Convention Chair
K1TWF@arrl.org

Ken Caruso, WO1N
Program Chair
WO1N@ARRL.NET
(978) 663-3027 (h)
(978) 256-5377 (w)

Tom Walsh, K1TW
Volunteer Chair
K1TW@arrl.net

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

A reminder that exams are being held on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Danvers Central fire Station on High Street. E-mail W1LN or W1ZT at nsradio.org for more information.

FROM THE EDITORS...

The next deadline for the newsletter will be September 1st. Please send your information, informational articles, cartoons, etc, to KB1LPW and LB1LYJ at newsletter@nsradio.org



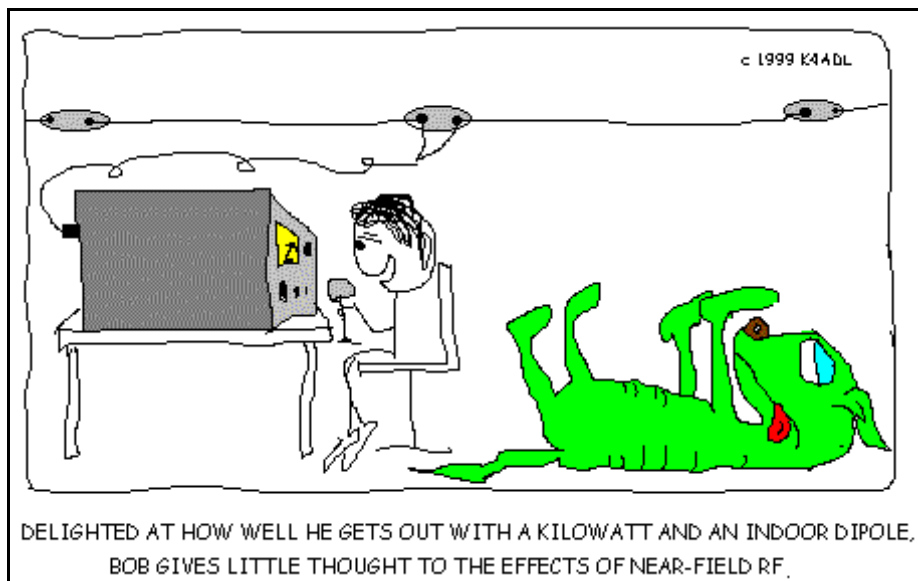
NIMS/ICS TRAININGS...

(This is taken in part from The SPARC, June 2006, newsletter of the Boston Amateur Radio Club, Paul Carter, N1TF, Editor)

The Department of Homeland Security is requiring all first responders, including volunteers, to complete at least introductory training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by 2007. Most, if not all non-government agencies will soon require ICS-700 course for volunteers (including hams) to participate in their activities.

These courses are available free of charge as part of the Independent Study course available from FEMA, designated IS-700. If you are interested, go to www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/crslist.asp to view the course list. You can take the course on line or download the materials & take the course at your own pace. There is a final exam, on line but it is rather straight-forward. After you pass the course you will receive notification of your passing by e-mail and a certificate will be sent to you within a few weeks.

There are several free courses to choose from, including "A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance" ; IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command Systems (which will be offered on the Friday of the Boxboro show with pre-registration)". "Basic Incident Command Systems"; "Intro to Community Emergency Response Teams", plus loads of other courses, all free of charge. Take some time to check these out.



www.qsl.net/k4adl. No animals were harmed during the production of these cartoons, and any similarity to persons living or dead is totally ridiculous.

