

New England QRP Annual Meeting

ARRL Headquarters
Newington, Connecticut
April 8, 2006

Attendees

K1LGQ	Dennis Marandos	Brookline, NH
N1RXV	Bob Schmeichel	Acton, MA
WB1HBE	John Forrest	Chelmsford, MA
NT1U	Dave Siegrist	Shrewsbury, MA
N1EI	Charlie Fitts	Mansfield Center, CT
W1FMR	Jim Fitton	Salem, NH
K1PYU	Len Cowles	East Granby, CT
KC1SX	Mike Tracy	Newington, CT
NE1OB	Greg O'Brien	Marlboro, MA
NE1RD	B. Scott Andersen	Acton, MA
K1CL	Chuck Ludinsky	Chelmsford, MA
K1WVO	Mike Ryan	Merrimack, NH
KE1L	Mark Dulcey	Dorchester, MA
N1ZSW	Ron Pfeiffer	Worcester, MA
WA1ZCQ	Carl Achin	Hampton, NH
N1AIA	Scott Richardson	Berwick, ME

Agenda

- QRP frequency change 7030 ~ 7040
- Contesting
- Club kit
- Club badge
- Club net
- Lobstercon
- Boxboro
- Hello-radio.org
- QRP Afield
- Future meeting location and date
- Dayton Hamvention and Four Days In May

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM

7030/7040:

There is a movement within the QRP community to move the QRP calling frequency on 40m to 7030. It was recommended that the NEQRP members begin listening and operating on 7030 as well as 7040. Inexpensive crystals for 7030 are likely to become available from the usual QRP part sources and, as they become available, we should alert members of these sources on the NEQRP list.

Contesting:

Contest sponsors allow groups of participants to submit scores for club competition. The NEQRP should register with these sponsors so club members may begin submitting scores for the club. Contest submittals are usually accomplished through electronic logs in the “Cabrillo” format. There was a discussion regarding the logistics of logging in the field, transferring paper or palm-pilot logs to regular computer logs.

ACTION: Scott (NE1RD) will determine what needs to be done and work with Chuck (K1CL) to update the NEQRP web site. Additionally, email will be sent to the NEQRP reflector with an update announcing the web site change and instructions for how to participate.

Club kit:

Dave (NT1U) offered to lead a kit effort for a SCAF (switched capacitance audio filter). This version offers fully adjustable center frequency and bandwidth. There will be a first phase where the design will be built Manhattan-style and tested by a small group of pilot builders. Once the design is proven, next steps will be determined including circuit board design, larger scale part acquisition, etc.

ACTION: Dave (NT1U) will lead the SCAF project effort.

ACTION: A first phase where the design will be built Manhattan-style and tested by a small group of pilot builders. Greg (NE1OB), among others, will be in this first phase.

ACTION: Once the first phase has been completed, a second phase will be planned including circuit board layout, part acquisition, etc.

ACTION: The project will be financed via the club’s treasury.

ACTION: Once a working kit has been designed, sound samples should be taken and posted to the NEQRP web site as part of the kit’s description.

ACTION: Jim (W1FMR) mentioned a PC-based program which can generate sine, square, and sawtooth waves through the sound card that could be used to evaluate the SCAF’s performance. Jim will send the description via the email reflector.

Scott (NE1RD) suggested an end-fed-half-wave multi-band tuner project. This project would be a re-kitting of a design by a German QRP club.

ACTION: Scott (NE1RD) will send the description on the email reflector.

Club badge:

Club patches were sold to attendees. Do we want to make club mugs? How about club travel mugs? Polo shirts? Possible sources for NEQRP group merchandise was discussed including “Café Express” and VE3JFF.

ACTION: Scott (NE1RD) to contact “The Sign Man (NV5A)” about badges containing the NEQRP logo. (Badges with logos from QRP ARCI, Westford’s

PART club, etc. are already available from this source.) Results of this investigation will be stated on the NEQRP email reflector.

Club net:

The NEQRP club CW net is held each Thursday at 8:30 PM (local time) on 3.566 Mhz. The NEQRP club phone net is currently inactive; however, it was suggested that interested parties should try calling CQ NEQRP each Tuesday at 7:30 PM (local time) on or near 7.285 Mhz. The phone net has been troubled by QRM from commercial broadcast stations, as well as intensive ham activity in the few open spots around 7.285.

Lobstercon /Atlanticon updates:

A review of this year's Atlanticon was given by Greg (NE1OB). Scott (NE1RD) mentioned audio interviews from some presenters are available on the '99 Hobbies' web site, <http://www.99hobbies.com>, including a two part interview with the guy who had developed homebrew moon-bounce equipment.

Lobstercon (<http://www.wulfden.org/Lobstercon/index.shtml>) was unanimously praised by prior attendees and all members were encouraged to attend this year's function.

Boxboro:

Jim (W1FMR) will try to get us a meeting forum room at Boxboro. We should develop a list of speakers that will be at our forum. Dennis (K1LGQ) and Dave (NT1U) both volunteered. Others will likely be recruited.

ACTION: Jim (W1FMR) will organize this and report to the group.

Hello Radio (ARRL initiative):

A discussion regarding the recruitment of young hams and others was discussed. No particular decisions were made but the group should continue to look for ways of leveraging the ARRL's initiative with our own.

QRP Afield:

New rules for this year's QRP contest should be developed and notifications to various media outlets should be done. We will change the time limits of the contest to a single six hour time period (11:00 – 17:00 Eastern Time). All HF bands should be allowed. Date is 16 September 2006.

ACTION: Chuck (K1CL) will finalize the rules for this year's contest and notify Dan Henderson (N1ND).

Four Days in May (Dayton):

The group discussed the upcoming FDIM to be held at Dayton.

NEQRP club QSL cards:

Our club call (WQ1RP) can be used by any member, with prior coordination with and approval from the trustee, K1CL. Should we get club QSL cards to support QSLing for this call? Also, can multiple people use the club call from multiple locations?

ACTION: The group agreed we should obtain new cards.

ACTION: Scott (NE1RD) offered to mock-up a card design.

ACTION: Scott (NE1RD) offered to look up FCC rules to determine if the call could be used from multiple locations.

ACTION Chuck (K1CL) will investigate ways of coordinating member uses of the club call sign on the web site.

Next meeting:

Dennis (K1LGQ) suggested our next (luncheon) meeting be held some time in June, probably at Kilarney's Pub in the Holiday Inn, Nashua, NH.

OTHER:

Chuck Adams (K7QO) has code practice files (.mp3) available on the FISTS website and other places. Group members were encourage to try these.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM, followed by lunch in downtown Newington, and, for several members who chose to do so, an afternoon session operating the rigs at W1AW.

Notable quotes:

"There will be people there that are so famous I don't know who they are."

-- Dennis (K1LGQ)

Q: "What's a YL?"

A: "That's our next club kit."

-- Unattributed