



CCDX Propagation



2011V1

The Official Newsletter of the CCDX Amateur Radio Club - Where "Radio-Active" Amateurs Meet

February 2011

CCDX - Getting Back on Track!

Thank you to all who braved the bad weather for the January 2011 CCDX Meeting. We met at our new location - the Keene Fire Station on Vernon Street.

While we did not cover our most pressing issue - the Constitution and By-Laws, we did cover some important information. We talked about upcoming meetings and events. This is very important to our future as a club as well.

We want to keep members interested in the club and will do that by offering a variety of subjects at future meetings. Look for more information on page two of this newsletter. We also need volunteers to help present the information. I know not everyone wants to listen to my voice at every meeting.

Another subject we really did not cover in detail is the status of the repeater. I know it is just about ready to go back up on the hill. About the only thing needed is for our repeater gurus to find the time in their very busy schedule and for the weather to cooperate at the same time.

Since we have a new location, does that mean we will abandon the Red Cross? I sure hope not! I will be talking with Dan, W1NAC and the Red Cross to go over our current relationship.

I would like to thank Jack, N1NGF for taking the ball on the Cheshire Medical Center radio. Jack got the right connector, installed it and the radio is operational. The HARP group had a communications test on February 7th and CMC was able to participate.

de KA1VGM

Next CCDX Meeting:

February 16, 2011

Keene Fire Station
32 Vernon Street
Keene, NH 03431
 (Our new home)

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Upcoming Events & Meetings

February

Bring your laptop night. We will be helping members get their laptop set up for ham radio use. We will be helping to install software for Windows, Linux and Macs. Logging, Ham Radio Deluxe, satellite tracking and others. CD's will be provided. You will be getting hands on help from the gurus.

March

Build a sound card interface night. I will have enough parts for 7-8 sound card interfaces. Bring your soldering irons. You will have to supply your own connector for your radio but we will building a fully functional sound card interface. This will be an optically isolated interface with serial port PTT.

This can be used even if you do not have separate rig control with just about every digital mode software. It cannot be used for CW transmission except for on certain programs that use SSB for CW like fldigi.

April

K3 Demo - AE1P will bring in his K3 and indoor antenna. He will give us a tour of that fine radio and show us what it can do. He will also be showing us his newly build indoor loop antenna. This is ideal for those of us with antenna restrictions.

May

We need a program and a presenter. I will be working on this in the next few weeks but am looking for input. Maybe an antenna project? How about a remote rig control interface demo? Satellite communications?

June

Field Day. We will work on some basic antenna and tower safety. We will also cover basic electrical and generator safety as well.

July-August

Summer Break - No meetings.

At least that is what we normally do! Is any one up for doing some contesting as a group this summer? How about a group trip up Mt. Monadnock with some portable HF and VHF equipment? I bet we could get some interest from other hikers.

Any other ideas out there?



Previous Minutes - January 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

The previous minutes from December were not available due to the meeting not being held. The minutes from November 2010 were voted on and accepted.

The treasurer was not present due to road conditions. The treasurers report was not read.

KB1IVX - Lisa passed away on October of 2010. Her father contacted KA1VGM and donated some books and training material to the club. These were brought to the meeting and distributed to those that were interested.

KA1VGM did not bring the paperwork to vote on the new constitution and by laws. This will be put off until next month.

KA1VGM spoke about future plans for Field Day this year. He will be handling the organization of it.

Al Kulas is willing to do publicity before Field Day again. He will get in touch the the CAP and get the contact info to KA1VGM

There was talk about a GOTA station with scouts / CAP running it.

KA1VGM solicited ideas for programs for future meetings:

February will be a bring you laptop night - we will be helping people install software / Operating Systems on their laptop for amateur radio use.

March will be build a sound card interface night. KA1VGM will bring enough parts for seven sound card interfaces. Everyone needs to bring their own soldering irons and solder.

April will be a demonstration by AE1P on the Elecraft K3 transceiver.

May is yet to be determined.

June will be preparation and review of safety procedures for Field Day.

A vote was taken and approve to make the KFD the permanent meeting place for CCDX.

Neil - AE1P and others talk on Saturday nights on 28.355 between 8:30 and 9:00 PM

Meeting was adjourned ~8:25pm



Software Spotlight - Ham Radio Deluxe

For those of you not familiar with Ham Radio Deluxe - HRD, it is designed as a all-in-one logging, rig control, satellite tracking, rotator control, gray-line, digital modes and remote control software package.

Ham Radio Deluxe 5.0 has some radical differences from its predecessor 4.0. One of the major changes is that the program has become more modular. Some of the functions that used to be integrated into the software are now standalone programs. That does not mean the software is any less functional. It just makes it a smaller program if you don't need all the add ons.

Here is a quick look at the features:

Logbook is now a standalone program - new features include:

- DX Cluster,
- Sunspot (Solar Cycle) displays,
- Audio recorder and monitor ,
- Greyline display,
- Support for Microsoft Access (default), MySQL and Microsoft SQL Server,
- Full networking.

Digital Master 780:

- User interface simplified,
- Added Contestia and RTTYM.

Satellite Tracking is now a standalone program:

- Improved display.

Rotator support is now a standalone program:

- Point and shoot,
- DDE tracking,
- DDE interface,
- Modern display.

HRD communicates among its different components using an IP server. It's protocol is documented on the web site. This allows for easy expansion by third parties. It also allows for connections to separate machines running different parts of the software. You can have your PC at home running the rig control and rotor control software while running the digital modes software from your laptop in another country or in the parking lot on lunch break at work.



Software Spotlight - Ham Radio Deluxe - cont'd

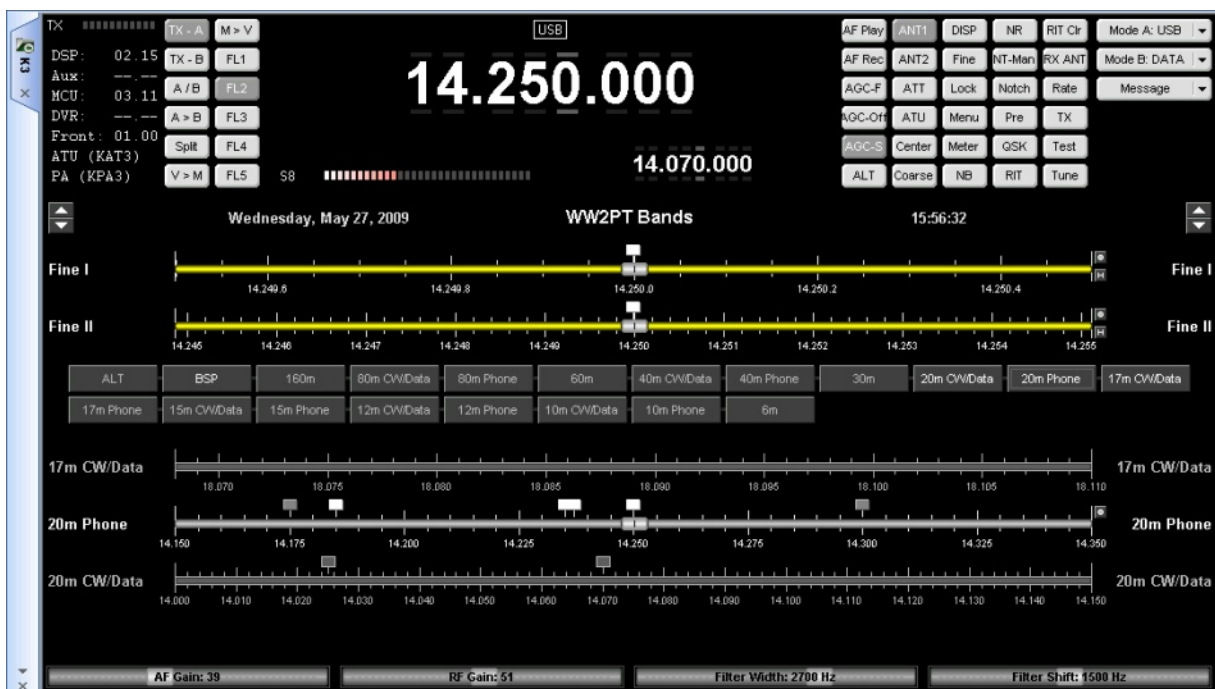
The DM780 - Digital Modes software that is included in HRD is very extensive and customizable. It includes the following features:

- PSK, QPSK, Contestia, CW, DominoEx, Hell, MFSK, MT63, OLIVIA, RTTY, RTTYM, THROB.
- Full logbook.
- Skinning - adjust look and feel as required.
- SuperBrowser shows all PSK traces on the band in one window!
- SSTV with Scottie and Martin modes.
- RSID (automatic mode detection and tuning).
- Much, much more.

All of these components add to the total value of HRD as a complete computer controlled amateur radio station. We have some members that use HRD on a regular basis. Ask on the weekly net or at a club meeting if you are interested. I am sure they would be happy to give you a demonstration.

Who knows, maybe Field Day this year will find us using different software packages to control the radios. This will allow members to be exposed to other software that they are not normally.

I have included a small snapshot of HRD for those interested. - Did I mention this software is free? Find it at www.ham-radio-deluxe.com



Proposed CCDX Constitution & By-Laws

Article One: Name of the Organization

We, the undersigned, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, constitute our selves the "Cheshire County DX Amateur Radio Club", or also by "CCDXARC" and enact this constitution as our governing law.

Article Two: Purpose

It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community and support public safety when called upon to do so.

Article Three: Membership

All persons interested in Amateur Radio communications shall be eligible for membership. Membership is open to any person with an interest in Amateur Radio. Membership includes voting for club officers. A member is an individual who has paid their dues. The club does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, gender, religion, or disability.

Article Four: Meetings

The By-laws shall provide for regular meetings. At meetings a minimum of seven members, of which a minimum of two must be officers, shall constitute a quorum for voting purposes.

NOTE 1: The Internal Revenue Service requires that non-profit organizations that receive tax exemptions under Section 501(c)(3) have a quorum present at their required yearly meeting. If it is not, then not only can they not vote, but they must also have another meeting so that it then takes longer for them to make decisions.

NOTE1a: ATTENTION ALL NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS:

Any nonprofit organization that 1) will be applying to the IRS to be a 501(c)(3) organization and/or 2) will solicit donations or distribute funds in the state of N.H. and/or 3) is formed for any purpose enumerated in RSA 7:21, II is required to register with and report to the Attorney General, Charitable Trusts Unit on form NHCT-1.

NOTE 2: A quorum may be a majority, some number greater than a majority, or some number less than a majority. While a majority of members is often the quorum for legislative bodies, often ordinary societies (voluntary associations) will have a smaller quorum. Robert's Rules provides that the quorum set in an organization's bylaws "should approximate the largest number that can be depended on to attend any meeting except in



Proposed CCDX Constitution & By-Laws - cont'd

very bad weather or other extremely unfavorable conditions."

Article Five: Officers

Section 1. - The officers of this club shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. - An advisory Group consisting of a minimum of three and maximum of five voting members will be appointed.

Section 3. - The Officers of this club shall be elected for a term of one year by the members at the June meeting.

Section 4. - The President will solicit volunteers to be appointed to the Advisory Group.

Section 5. - Vacancy of the President's office during his/her term will be filled by the Vice-President.

Section 6. - The President may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the membership after an attempt to notify them of this intent 30 days in advance.

Article Six: Duties of Officers

Section 1. - The President, shall preside at all meetings. He/she will ensure observance of this club Constitution and By-laws and sign all official documents adopted by the club.

Section 2. - The Vice-President will assist the President, or in his/her absence the Vice-President will preside over the monthly meetings and be a voting member of the Advisory Group.

Section 3. - The Secretary shall maintain the membership list, provide new members with applications, responsible for all outgoing and incoming correspondence, read appropriate communications to the members at meetings and record the minutes of the meetings. The Secretary may preside at any meeting in the absence of the President and Vice President.

Section 4. The Treasurer will receive all monies paid to the club, keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended, and pay all bills incurred in the transaction of the club business.



Proposed CCDX Constitution & By-Laws - cont'd

At the request of any member he/she will make available an itemized statement of receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer shall keep deposits and all club funds in the bank under the club name. All books shall be audited at the clubs discretion.

Article Seven: Finances

Section 1, Dues. The By-Laws shall provide for.

Section 2, The club, may from time to time, levy upon the Membership such dues or assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the Club.

Section 3, Disbursement of club funds will only happen at a meeting as outlined in article four with a vote of a simple majority.

Article Eight: Dissolution of Assets if necessary

Upon dissolution of the club, all properties and holdings will be liquidated to cash, all the balances of the assets, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the club, shall be donated to a charitable cause voted on by a simple majority vote of 50 percent the total membership. If a quorum cannot be reached, the donation shall be to the American Radio League, Newington, CT (ARRL).

or

Upon the possible dissolution of the club, any remaining proceeds shall be donated to a charity agreed upon by the majority of the general membership after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the club.

Article Nine: Permanent committees

Section 1, Advisory Committee - An advisory Group consisting of a minimum of three and maximum of five voting members will be appointed by the President.

The Advisory Group will conduct the day to day organizational activities of this club. This includes, but is not limited to, securing appropriate meeting sites, providing for meeting



Proposed CCDX Constitution & By-Laws - cont'd

content, and establishing various committees and work teams. The Group may, at its discretion, call on the general membership for assistance in any tasks it deems necessary.

Section 2, Liaison - The New Hampshire West Chapter of American Red Cross

Article Ten: Amendments

Section 1, this constitution and by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the attending membership, assuming that a quorum has been met. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Advisory Group at a regular meeting and shall be voted on during the next regular meeting, provided all members have been notified of the intent to amend the constitution and/or by-laws at said meeting.

By – Laws

- 1) Name – Cheshire County DX Amateur Radio Club, or also by CCDXARC.
- 2) Purpose - further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community and support public safety when called upon to do so.
- 3) Officers – Elected Officers shall be a licensed Amateur Radio Operator and may serve a term of one or more years.
- 4) Meetings -
 - A) Regular meetings of the general membership shall be held the third Wednesday of each calendar month with the exception of July and August.
 - B) Members will be notified of the time and place of all regular meetings through the CCDXARC Yahoo Group Postings, other mailings, word of mouth and on the club web site.
 - C) Special Meetings may be called by the President upon the written request of any 5 club members. All members are to be notified by the best means possible concerning special meetings and the business to be transacted.

Proposed CCDX Constitution & By-Laws - cont'd

D) An annual meeting of the Membership will be held during the month of June for the purpose of electing Officers and for such other business as may come before the meeting. The term of the newly elected officers shall run from September 1 of the current year thru June 30 of the following year.

E) General meeting will be held each month for the purpose of transacting business, conducting programs of general interest and promoting Amateur Radio.

F) Meetings will afford no cost to the Club or its members unless facilities are not available; at which time, all members will receive such notice by electronic mail or USPS.

G) At all meetings, both regular and special, where a vote is required and a quorum, as set forth in the Constitution or these By-Laws, is not present, such business that comes before the Membership will be deferred until the next regular meeting and all members will be notified by electronic mail or USPS again of such business requiring a quorum and that same business will be transacted upon by the majority of those members present.

H) The casting of all votes for both regular and special meetings will be done in person.

5) Dues.

An annual amount of \$10.00 per member is requested in accordance with the provisions of Article Seven of the Constitution for the purpose of providing funds for expenses.

The Treasurer, with approval from the Advisory Group may request of the general membership such dues or assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the business of this club. Non-payments of dues may result in the loss of member status. Annual dues shall be paid by September 31 of each year.

6) Secretary.

A) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the constitution and By-Laws of the club and have said documents with him/her at every meeting. He/she shall note all amendments, changes, and additions to the constitution and shall permit it to be reviewed by members upon request.



Proposed CCDX Constitution & By-Laws - cont'd

B) Keep on hand the Articles of Agreement for the State of New Hampshire and shall permit it to be reviewed by members upon request.

7) Treasurer

Payments exceeding \$200 require two signatures on the club check.

8) Membership

Membership is open to any persons, licensed or unlicensed as an amateur radio operator.

9) Unlicensed members.

Unlicensed member may only operate club equipment according to the currently established federal communication commission part 97 rules and regulations.

10) Violations.

Members are responsible to know and abide by the appropriate FCC rules and regulations, as well as generally accepted Amateur radio etiquette, including the ARRL voluntary band plans. Repeated violations will result in suspension of club operating privileges.

11) Disbanding.

Club can only be disbanded by a 100% Yes Vote to Disband by 100% of the membership.

Revision date:



The CCDX Amateur Radio Club Newsletter is the official publication of the Cheshire County DX Amateur Radio Club. We are looking for articles to fill the monthly newsletter.

Please send all submissions to
ka1vgm@gmail.com.

We prefer all submissions be in a standard "editable" format such as MS Word, OpenOffice, RTF, txt, etc. We will not accept PDF files that have been scanned due to not being able to export the text.

Please make sure it is your original work and all external sources are referenced in your submission.

The CCDX Amateur Radio Club is currently represented by the following elected officials:

President: Larry Levesque - KA1VGM

Treasurer: Mike Paulin - N1MXJ

Secretary: Derek Tousley - W1WWW

These elected positions are voted on by the current membership during its annual meeting in September of every year.

A copy of the incorporation documentation, position responsibilities, membership requirements, minutes of meetings and more can be found on our website at <http://www.ccdx.org>

This newsletter is designed to be 100% digital. No enhancements were made to allow for better looking printed text. Where necessary, digital images are saved in a higher resolution. This allows for better viewing at magnified levels on screen. This is especially important for schematic drawings.

The original material is acknowledged to belong to the author. By submitting the material for inclusion into the CCDX newsletter, the author is authorizing the CCDX ARC the use of the article. This use may include re-printing the specific article and posting on the CCDX web site.

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Schematic creation: gschem

Spreadsheet: OpenOffice.org



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