

Thinking Day On The Air

A rewarding club outreach
and public service activity

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Background

- World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides
- Thinking Day On The Air
 - An Amateur Radio Special Event
 - Originated in the UK
 - Like the Boy Scouts' Jamboree On The Air
 - The weekend closest to 22 February



NVARC – TDOTA 2015 & 2016



One Room, 80 Girls: Bedlam!



2016 – Ample Facilities



TDOTA-2016 Participation

Troop	Age Group	Hometown	Scouts	Adults
12416	4-5 grade	Raymond NH	4	5
10664	K-1 grade	Candia NH	3	2
12842	4-5 grade		3	2
20971	K-1 grade	Deerfield NH	6	2
22281	2-3 grade		7	2
22367	6-8 grade		4	2
20604	2-3 grade	Epsom NH	2	2
	4-5 grade		7	
	11-12 grade		2	
11043	4-5 grade	Northwood NH	3	3
11142	6-8 grade		7	2
	2-3 grade	Nottingham NH	1	
	2-3 grade	Brookline NH	1	1
	6-8 grade	Andover MA	2	2
	2-3 grade	Groton MA	5	2

**57 Girl Scouts and 27 Girl Scout leaders,
representing 15 troops, 9 towns, and 2 states
--and 7 Radio Amateur volunteers**



Set-up and Operations

- Tower
- Rig
- Morse code oscillators
- FRS handi-talkies
- Departed home <0800
- Arrived
- Set up tower, Yagi, dipoles.
Set up IC-756PRO, grayline demo.
- Set up code room
- 0900-1500: ops
- Tear-down, departure
- Home again ~1800



Activities and Organization

- Three rooms
 - Auditorium-cafeteria: communications
 - Classroom 1: crafts and Morse code
 - Classroom 2: world map, grayline demo, and station
- “Net Control” FRS handi-talkies for room-to-room reporting



Recognizing a Larger World

- World map
- “Grayline” display of day/night



Learning About Communication

- Sound
- Messages
- Technology



Related Craft Activities



Learning Morse Code

- Our most popular activity
- Many returnees throughout the day



Contacting Radio Amateurs



Planning and Organizing

- Hams, it's a Girl Scout activity. We're here for support. Planning is part of their personal growth.
 - Troop goals
 - Size and venue
 - Invitations to other troops
 - Infrastructure and hospitality
 - Thinking Day activities
 - Experiences
 - Experiments
 - Getting on the air



Connecting Club-to-Troop

- Youth organizations tend to receive unsolicited proposals with caution.
- Establish person-to-person contacts within your community—early and often!
- Keep it simple. The girls' ages are 5-17.
 - ...but varied. *The girls' ages are 5-17.*



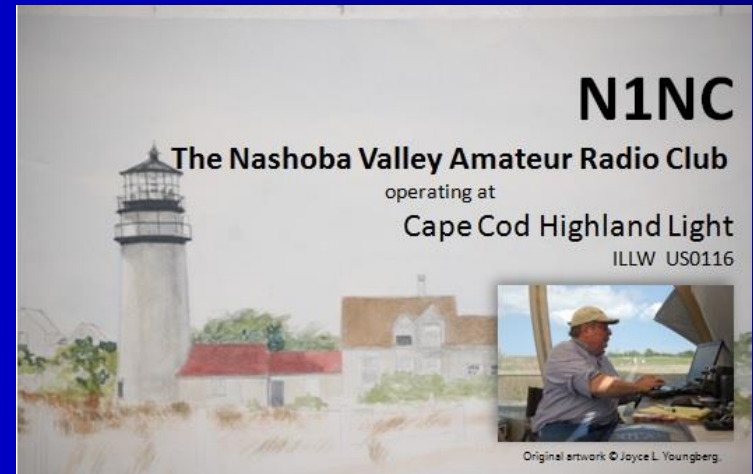
What's the Club Do?

- **Equipment**
 - A 100w rig is probably enough
 - Prepare for failures and forgotten items
- **Antennas**
 - Fan dipole (80/40, 10/15/20)
- **Site survey**
- **Operators**
- **Time (and enjoyment!)**



Simplicity

- It doesn't take lots of gear or a tower.
- Think Field Day (or less)
 - Hilltopping
 - NPOTA
 - SOTA
- But fixed.
Not a mobile rig and extension cables.



One rig, two dipoles, coax, rope.



Spot yourself if you can.



Then Let the Magic Happen!



The Follow-up

- QSLs
- Interest Patch support
- Next year



RRS photography

TDOTA Resources

<http://www.girlguides-on-the-air.co.uk/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Girlguiding Guides on the Air website. At the top, there is a banner with the Girlguiding logo (a trefoil with a radio) and the text "WE DISCOVER, WE GROW Girlguiding Guides on the Air". To the right of the logo are three photographs: a group of girls, a man in a white shirt, and a woman in a Girl Guide uniform talking on a radio. Further right is a circular logo with "ON THE AIR" and a radio icon. Below the banner is a navigation menu with the following links: HOME, NEWS, TAKING PART, ACTIVITIES, STATION LIST, DOWNLOADS, and CONTACT. The main content area features the heading "TDOTA 2016" in red, followed by the text "will be the 3rd full weekend in February 20 & 21". Below this, a paragraph states: "TDOTA is an opportunity for the members of Girlguiding from the youngest Rainbow to the oldest Trefoil Guild member to talk to other members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world via Amateur Radio." Another paragraph follows: "The 22nd February is Thinking Day because it was the birthday of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout and Guide movements, and his wife Olave, who was the first World Chief Guide." To the right of the text is a black and white illustration of Lord Robert Baden-Powell and Olave Baden-Powell wearing hats. The background of the website has a collage of images related to Girlguiding and radio.

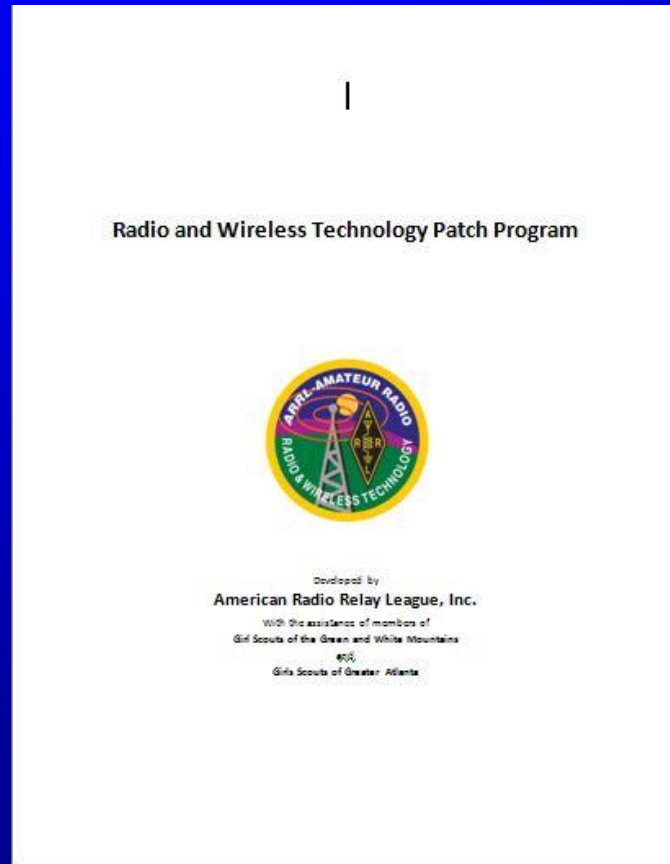
Patch Program



- New Radio and Wireless Technology Patch program
- Led by American Radio Relay League
 - The National Association for Amateur Radio
- Authored by Radio Amateurs who are members of
 - ARRL
 - Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta
 - Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains
 - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
 - St Thomas Aquinas College (New Jersey)



Patch Resources



- Debuted in April 2016
- Pamphlet available soon
 - On line
<http://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/>
 - At GSGWM store
1 Commerce Drive,
Bedford, NH
- Pamphlet and completion patches from ARRL

<http://www.arrl.org/girl-scouts-radio-patch>



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- Troop 12416 Raymond NH
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