



# SIGNAL



de NINC

May 2010 Volume 19 Number 5

## This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting program will be Software Defined Radio by Skip K1NKR

This month's meeting is Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30

## From The President

I want to thank those who ran for club office last month as without members willing to do the thinking and planning the club and the activities we run would not exist.

I would like to thank Peter Nordberg N1ZRG outgoing Vice President for his years of contribution. Also Bob Reif W1XP whose term had expired but who accepted another three year term as Board Member.

Now that elections are over the next most important thing for the success of our activities is the participation of you, NVARC's members. The support of the membership is what makes each project or event successful. I hope to see you at some of the upcoming events.

Stan KD1LE

## Last Month's Meeting

At last month's meeting program we held elections for NVARC Officers and a Board member. As a result of the elections the club officers are as follows.

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| President         | Stan KD1LE  |
| Vice President    | Bruce K1BG  |
| Treasurer         | Ralph KD1SM |
| Secretary         | John KK1X   |
| Board Member 2011 | Skip K1NKR  |
| Board Member 2012 | Joel W1JMM  |
| Board Member 2013 | Bob W1XP    |

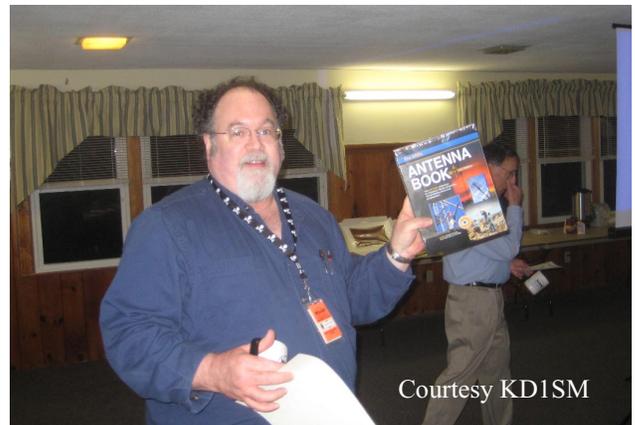


Courtesy KD1SM

The Lantern Battery Challenge awards were presented

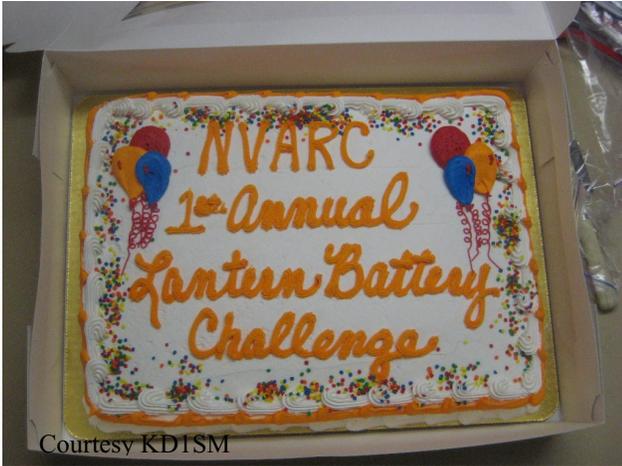
by our club president Stan. L-R Les N1SV, John KK1X, Bob W1XP, Dennis K1LGQ, Bruce K1BG

Participants shared their stories and thoughts on the event. The event Chairperson, Bob W1XP, polled the membership as to whether to hold the event again and the response was positive. He also asked for suggestions for changes that might improve the activity.



Courtesy KD1SM

After the certificates were passed out a raffle was held from all the participants who submitted logs with the prize being an ARRL Antenna Book which was won by John KK1X.



Courtesy KD1SM

In celebration of the first Lantern Battery Challenge a cake and refreshments were shared at a break in the meeting.

In attendance

Bob AB1CV, Bruce K1BG, Ken K1JKR, Dennis K1LGQ, Skip K1NKR, Tom K1NNJ, Gary K1YTS, Larry KB1ESR, Phil KB1JKL, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Les N1SV, Peter N1ZRG, Roland NR1G, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP, Erik W1ZBT, Earl WR1Y

**Squannacook River Canoe and Kayak Race**

On Saturday April 17 MARA and NVARC members provided radio communication for the Townsend Lions Club Squannacook Canoe and Kayak Race.

This has become an annual event. We are positioned at 13 checkpoints along the 6 mile stretch of the Squannacook River from the VFW in West Townsend to Harbor Pond. We track each canoe and kayak along the river in order to report to the event organizers any problems that are brought to our attention along the course.

The boats start at 1-minute intervals. The weather this year kept the number of entrants down and 41 boats participated.

Gary K1YTS coordinated the Amateur Radio event support. The volunteers are pictured in the pre-race photo below: (back row, left to right) Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM, Bob AB1CV, Charlie KT1I, Tom

K1JHC, (front row) Stan KD1LE, Ray KB1LRL, John KK1X, Nancy KB1KEF. Not pictured: Jim AD1L.



Courtesy KD1SM



Courtesy KB1KEF

Above: Bob Oakes from Shirley and Joe Bertozzi from Pepperell were the sweep team. Bob won the race several times in previous years so he decided to be the last boat in this time. KB1KEF photo

**Groton Road Race**

Thirty-six Hams helped with the 19th annual running of the Groton Road Race on April 25. The weather forecast was a bit threatening but the rain held off all day and the racers enjoyed fine running temperatures.

Each year we encounter something new to challenge us and demonstrate why having trained communicators with two-way radios and shared channels ("multicast") makes things practical that cell phones cannot easily do. This year's incident was a motor vehicle collision (not involving any race participants) a few minutes before the roads were scheduled to be closed for the start of the 10k race.

There was some initial confusion about whether the race would be permitted to start after the emergency vehicles had been dispatched to the scene. Since we had several Hams in liaison positions with the Groton Police Department we were quickly able to establish that the race start was required to hold until the All Clear was received from the Police.

In the confusion there was conflicting information being given to the starting line officials. Based on the teamwork that we have established over the years, the authoritative information was sorted out from the wishful thinking and the intentions of the Groton PD commander were communicated and followed.

The radio operator crew this year was Bob AB1CV, Jim AD1L, Gerry K1GCM, Tom K1JHC, Pete K1SUB, Wil K1WD, Gary K1YTS, Karen KA1JVU, Larry KB1ESR, Nancy KB1KEF, Carsten KB1KTP, Ray KB1LRL, Steve KB1NMJ, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Charlie KT1I, Jim N1HTS, Mike N1IW, Keith N1KLL, Phil N1MOR, Joseph N1QDZ, Mary Jane N1RKO, Bob N1RXV, Jim N8VIM, Art NF1A, Roland NR1G, Jim W1KQ, Bob W1OJP, Paul W1SEX, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC, Gil WK1H, Ken WO1N, and Earl WR1Y. These volunteers represented several area clubs including NVARC, MARA, and BARS.

Race Director Chris Russell, Groton Police Chief Don Palma, and Groton Police Lieutenant James Cullen, OIC, all expressed their gratitude for the Amateur Radio Operators who make this event possible. There are uniformed officers from several agencies at this event and their radios do not inter-operate. Amateur Radio provides a critical function in communicating vital information at many points in the event.



Runners in the 10k passing NCS



Courtesy KD1SM

KD1LE and KD1SM start setup of NCS at 0730



Courtesy KD1SM

Stan KD1LE and Bob W1XP at NCS



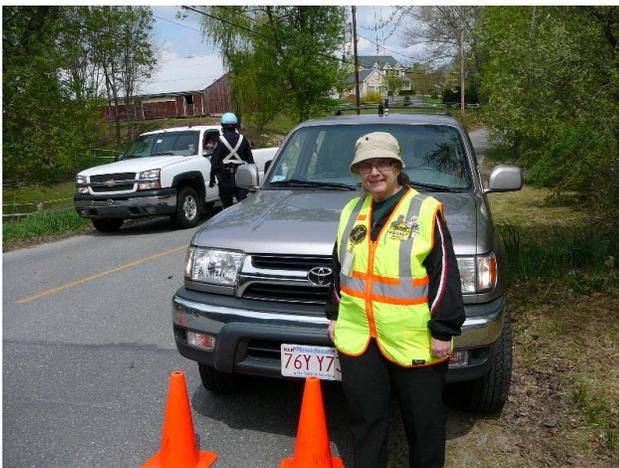
Courtesy KB1KEF

Gary K1YTS at checkpoint 17



Courtesy KD1SM

KD1SM, KD1LE, Chief Palma, KB1ESR



KB1KEF at CP 17

### Lantern Batter Challenge Wrap Up

The first annual NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge is over. I think we can call it a success. We had five stations submit logs and they all claimed to have had FUN. We had a nice cake for refreshment after the awards ceremony and maybe we have a tradition started. So now is the time to make suggestions about what we might do differently for next year. My idea is to do next year about the same as last year's event. Hopefully we will have more operators join in the fun. So for now I see September as the sign up period for next year's event. The start time will be after the October meeting and end again on the first of March. So you have about five months to improve that antenna or build the low power radio you have been thinking about building. Then the fun can all start again in the fall. Thanks to all those that made this first event a success.

Till next time, 73 Bob W1XP

### NVARC Slow Speed CW Net

The NVARC Slow Speed CW Net meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:30 on 28.123 MHz.

After the net concludes the net moves to 28.423 USB to discuss the evenings net, answer questions, and take comments.

If anyone is interested in participating there is a handout which may help you understand and follow the net.

If you are not sure enough with sending and receiving the code to check in you can still listen in and participate in the phone session afterwards.

John KK1X has been providing participants with an audio file of the net afterwards to be used for additional practice.

Recent participants Jim N8VIM, Peter N1ZRG, John KK1X, George KB1HFT, Bob W1XP, Roland NR1G, Skip K1NKR. Bruce K1BG and Stan KD1LE have been net control stations.

### NVARC Net

The NVARC net meets on 442.900 N1MNX repeater Mondays at 8:00 PM. The net is for sharing information and asking questions.

Recent topics software defined radios, upcoming events, Field Day Plans,

Recent check ins Jim N8VIM, Les N1SV, Stan KD1LE, Gary K1YTS, Skip K1NKR, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP and Roland NR1G.

## PSLIST

Every event needs communications volunteers

- Parker Road Race - 23 May
- Field Day - 26-27 June
- Longsjo Classic - 2-5 July
- Memory Ride for Alzheimer's Research - 24 July

See [www.n1nc.org/Events](http://www.n1nc.org/Events) for the latest information

## Board Meeting

Discussion of upcoming meeting presentations. Skip K1NKR is going to take the responsibility for meeting programs.

Ralph will submit the Treasurers report for the newsletter. Ralph will write an annual report.

Discussed the Groton Road Race wrap up. This year our sweep vehicles helped manage the race better. APRS worked well this year.

Thinking about a future Lantern Battery Challenge and what might be done to improve it.

Discussed the slow speed CW net operation which has been going very well thanks to Bruce K1BG. Participation has been four to six to people which is very good. Discussed how things are working from the beginners perspective and anything that might improve how it is working for them. One reminder. When you check in you should transmit at a speed appropriate to all the other participants. In other words, slow. Ralph will put the documents up on the club webpage.

Bruce wondered if we wanted to do something as a club at/for Boxboro which is coming August 27-29.

John will finish up on the auction equipment disbursement/collections and close with Ralph.

Roland Field Day Chairman talked about responses to his email questionnaire and progress with site selection. Discussion about organization of tasks and publicity.

Bruce K1BG will look for a volunteer to host the club cookout.

Bruce would like to try one new activity each year.

John working on Parker Classic planning.

Ralph managing Longsjo which is the weekend after field day and the Alzheimer Memory Ride July 24th

Brownies were served.

In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, Bruce K1BG, Skip K1NKR, Bob W1XP, Gary K1YTS, Roland NR1G, and John KK1X.

## Adopt A Highway

The April road clean up took place on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The following members helped make the clean up a success.

Bob W1XP, Stan KD1LE, Jim AA1PO, Earl WR1Y, Nancy KB1KEF, Gary K1YTS, John KK1X

The next road clean up will be Sunday May 23rd

## Treasurers Report

Income for April was \$270 in membership renewals, \$4 from ARRL renewal commissions, \$3.47 in bank interest, and \$50 from the April meeting book raffle. Expenses were \$17.60 for newsletter postage and \$42.56 for the April meeting refreshments celebrating the Lantern Battery Challenge, leaving a net income of \$267.31 for the month.

Current balances:

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| General fund   | \$4,340.02 |
| Community fund | \$3,771.41 |

As of 6 May we have 47 members who are current with their dues and 20 renewals outstanding. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If your ARRL membership is ready for renewal, you can let Ralph mail it in for you and the Club will get a commission. If you're interested in joining the ARRL

and do so through Ralph the Club will get a bigger commission. ARRL membership checks should be made payable to NVARC so that our commission can be deducted before we forward your membership to Newington.

Ralph KD1SM

## ARRL Letter

### Proposed Rules for Amateur Radio Operators and Emergency Drills

The FCC is seeking comments regarding its proposal to amend 97.113(a)(3) of the Amateur Radio rules. The deadline to file comments is May 5, 2010. Read the NPRM here.

In March, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) (Docket #10-72) that proposed to amend the Part 97 rules -- specifically 97.113(a)(3) -- governing the Amateur Radio Service. The new rules would provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill. On April 22, a summary of the NPRM was published in the Federal Register and the FCC is seeking comments on it. Comments must be filed on or before May 24, 2010 (30 days after publication in the Federal Register); reply comments must be filed on or before June 7, 2010 (45 days after publication in the Federal Register). Instructions on how to file comments are listed beginning on page 5 of the NPRM.

#### The Doctor Is IN: Window Line and Coax Loss

Andy Anderson, AE5EA, of Placitas, New Mexico, has an old three band, three element quad that was built by a company no longer in business. This quad was designed to be fed with coax to a 1:1 balun. Andy told the ARRL's Doctor that he plans on putting the quad back up and was wondering if he can feed it with 450  $\Omega$  window line to avoid the loss in over 180 feet of coax.

Here's what the Doctor had to say:

There are two approaches that should work with the window line (assuming the feedpoint's impedance is 50  $\Omega$  -- a quad is typically a bit higher).

\* Feed the driven element directly with the window line. At the station, you will then need a wide range antenna tuner that can match balanced loads. This could be a regular unbalanced one with a balun on the output. Note that the impedance will be neither

50 nor 450  $\Omega$ , but will vary widely due to the transformation through the mismatched line, which will be different on every band. The 9:1 SWR with 180 feet of typical window line will result a bit less than 1 dB loss at 28.5 MHz and 0.67 dB on 14 MHz.

\* Use a 9:1 balun at each end of the window line. You may want to use coax (with a coil choke) from the antenna to below the rotator. Then attach a balun (waterproof units are available or you can build your own). Run the window line to (or near to) the station and use another 9:1 balun and coax to the radio. The two baluns combined will have less than 1 dB loss. The matched window line will have 0.2 dB additional loss on 14, 0.26 dB on 28 MHz.

Another thought is to use really good coax. 180 feet of LMR 400 or Belden 9913 coax, for example (both fit standard UHF connectors), will have a matched loss of 1.2 dB at 28.5 MHz, but only 0.8 dB on 20 meters. While not cheap, it probably will cost less than the window line plus two baluns. A section of special "LMR Flex 400" can be used around the rotator.

The performance differences among the various approaches are small. If I were starting from scratch, I think I'd go with low loss coax, based on simplicity and ease of operation.

Thanks Doctor! Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

#### Mike Corey, W5MPC, Joins ARRL Staff as Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager

The ARRL is pleased to welcome Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC, to the Headquarters staff in Newington. Corey's major responsibilities include addressing the development and implementation of an organizational disaster response plan as well as an operational continuity plan, complete with supporting procedures and training. Corey also will play an integral part in the management of ARES and in future negotiations with served agencies with whom ARRL shares or creates Memoranda of Understanding. An Extra class licensee and an ARRL Life Member, Corey comes to the ARRL with almost 20 years of experience with emergency communications. Licensed since 1988, he has been involved with SKYWARN since 1991 and has attended basic and advanced SKYWARN training. He is the co-author of the ARRL Storm Spotter's Handbook, which is due out next month.

## 2010 Flea Markets/Conventions

### May

22 Goshen CT Fleamarket  
29 Vernon CT Fleamarket

### June

4 Feeding Hills Fleamarket  
5 Bangor Hamfest, Bangor ME  
12 Windsor CT Fleamarket  
12 Rochester NH Fleamarket  
19 Newington CT Fleamarket

### August

27-29 ARRL NE Convention, Boxborough

## Advertisements

Your add could be here.

Tell them you saw it in the Signal. Advertisers should contact the NVARC Treasurer for information.

## Upcoming Operating Events

### June

12-14 ARRL June VHF QSO Party  
19 Kids Day  
26 ARRL Field Day

### July

10-11 IARU HF World Championships

For further info on these and other contests refer to;  
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>.



## Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

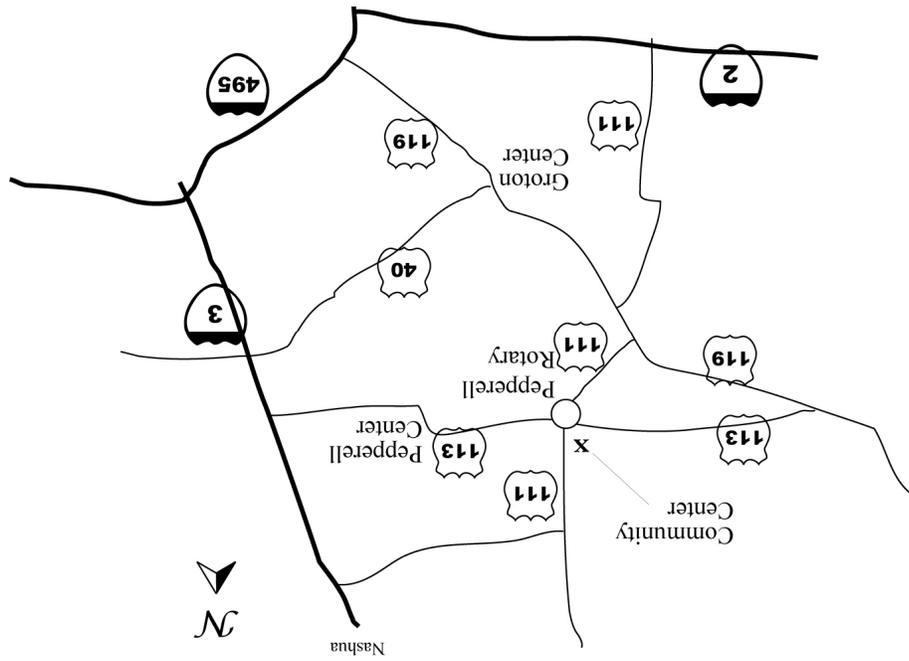
PO Box # 900  
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<http://www.n1nc.org/>

President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
Vice President: Bruce Blain K1BG  
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X  
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
Board Members:

Skip Youngberg K1NKR 2008-2011  
Joel Magid W1JMM 2009-2012  
Bob Reif: W1XP 2010-2013

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
Emergency Coordinator: Larry Swezey KB1ESR  
Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
PIO: Dave Peabody N1MNX  
Librarian: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG  
Property Master: John Griswold KK1X  
N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG  
Annual membership dues are \$15; \$20 for a family  
Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month  
7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr.  
Talk-in 146.490 simplex  
442.900 + 100Hz Repeater battery power  
147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater  
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater battery power  
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