

de NINC

February 2012 Volume 21 Number 2

### This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 and will be held at the Pepperell Community Center.

Skip reports the meeting program will be a Travelogue of Ecuador and the Decommissioning of HCJB by Harry WA1VVH.

NOTE: The Pepperell Library Book Sale will be March 15-16. That would be our March meeting night. The Community Center Director has arranged for us to hold the meeting at the Pepperell Library as we usually do. Please remind members that you may be in contact with. Also we should plan to clear the library around 9 PM so we should start on time.

### From the President

Come April the club will be 20 years old. I think that is correct since it started in 1992 and this is 2012. In any case I have been President for fourteen years and an assistant to the President for five years. So I have decided at this time not to run for President in April and allow someone else to have some fun. I want to thank everyone who helped me run the club over the years which made my job so much easier. I want to also thank all those who volunteered to run and support our activities such as Field Day, the many public service events and our club events like the annual cookout.

Bob W1XP has volunteered to be a one person nominating committee. Members wishing to run for one of the open positions should contact him. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Board member terms expire each year. The officer positions are filled for one year and the Board member is elected for a term of three years so the Board members terms overlap for continuity.

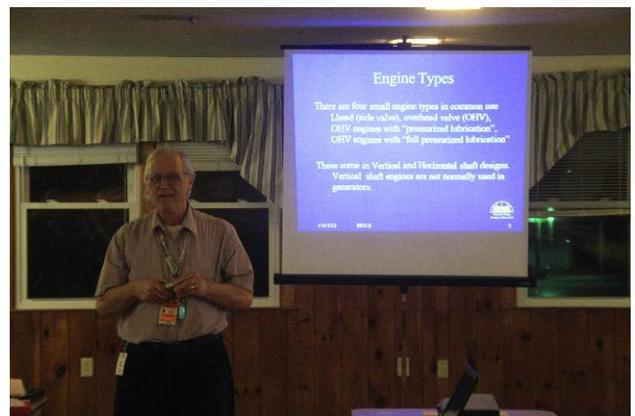
Thanks Again and 73 Stan

### Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting program was Members Short Subjects. We had three presentations for the meeting. These were 15-20 minute presentations.



Rod WA1TAC did a presentation on Encryption. He talked about some of the history of encryption and some of the schemes used.



Stan KD1LE presented on Portable Gasoline Generators. The talk was about generator specifica-

tions, engine types, lifespans, transfer switches and the proper ways to connect them. He also mentioned some electrical code requirements and legal issues.



Bob W1XP talked about the 600 Meter Band and prospects for more spectrum being allocated there at WARC 2014. A small number of hams with experimental licenses have been operating there for several years to understand propagation and to demonstrate they would not interfere with other users.

Attendees:

Ken K1JKR, LEO K1LK, Skip K1NKR, Tom K1NNJ, Gary K1YTS, Ed KA1QL, Larry KB1ESR, Bob KB1IIV, Phil KB1JKL, Ken KB1UVP, Chris KB1WKI, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Don N1HVA, Les N1SV, Ed N1YFK, Peter N1ZRG, Jim N8VIM, Roland NR1G, Paul NW1U, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP, Ed W1ZZ, Rod WA1TAC, Earl WR1Y

### Lantern Battery Challenge

The third annual NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge is just about a month from being over. How many dead batteries do we have? How many unused batteries do we have? ☺ There is still time to get on and run the battery down. Or make a good try. Another thing a battery that has had a rest may be good for another string of contacts. There are several major events left before this year's event comes to an end. Don't forget logs are due at the March club meeting which will be held at the Pepperell Library. 73 Bob W1XP

### "Oscar and Me"

By W1XP

Over the last few months there have been several articles on the 50th anniversary of the launch of the first amateur built earth satellite. This satellite was called Oscar for Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio. This satellite was built by a group of west coast amateurs and launched aboard an Air Force rocket as a piggy back payload. The launch took place on December 12, 1961. The satellite was just a simple battery powered two meter beacon. The transmitter ran 140 milliwatts and the antenna was a simple 19 inch whip. Although the satellite only stayed in orbit for 22 days, during that time the satellite beacon was received around the world by thousands of amateurs. I was one of them.

I came home from college on Christmas break in December of 1961 unaware that the satellite had been launched, although I was aware that the project was in the works. I still recall talking to a good friend on two meters and he telling me to listen with the antenna pointed south at a certain time and the approximate frequency. Well I listened and about the time I was sure I wasn't going to hear it there was a faint, GLEEEEP GLEP. I can't think of a better way to describe the very high speed CW Dit Dit Dit Dit. The keying rate was supposed to be a function of the internal temperature of the satellite, but since the satellite was running very hot, the keying speed was very high and always sounded the same. This was about half way into the 22 day life of the satellite. The signal level built up quickly as the satellite came over the horizon and for the next few minutes was very easy copy. The received frequency was changing a bit and as it passed usually to the east or west the frequency would change quite rapidly. The well known Doppler shift as the apparent speed of the satellite changed. All this was new and exciting stuff. Then as it receded and passed over the northern horizon the signal would disappear. The signal would go from loud to gone all in the span of only a few seconds. But about 90 minutes later there may be another pass. The thought that this thing I was listening to again had been all the way around the world since I had last heard it was fascinating. During the day it passed from north to south. I caught every pass I could. Every day W1AW would transmit cities and times of passes. Coping the bulletins every night was a must. But I was also learning about orbits and how to predict the time of a pass. We were a long way from personal computers, but there were analog computers consisting of charts and graphs and cov-

erage overlays that used equator crossing time and longitude to predict the time and heading of satellite passes. All great stuff! I managed to listen to many of the about six passed a day as I recall while I was home. The satellite's life ended soon after I returned to school, but I can still hear the GLEEEEP GLEP as it passed overhead. The satellite radio bug had bitten.

Now fast forward a few years and I was now a young EE starting out and had the chance to work on a team that was building satellite tracking receivers. Now I was the junior man on the team for sure. But then one day during a meeting I discovered I was the only one that had actually ever tracked a satellite. I was even the only one that had heard a signal from a satellite. I should have asked for a big raise. But you never know where your amateur radio experience will take you.

The history of the amateur space program has had many highs and lows over the years since, but it all started with that simple short lived beacon satellite we now call Oscar I. I don't know if any readers of this were in on listening to Oscar I, but I hope you had your own Oscar I experience of one kind or another like I did fifty years ago. Till next time 73 Bob W1XP

### 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.

Bring your questions and topics for discussion so that we can all learn something.

Recent discussions have been antenna work, operating JT65, and helping others get on the air.

Recent Check in's;

N8VIM Jim NCS, K1NKR Skip, N1MNX Dave, KD1LE Stan, NW1U Paul, KB1HFT George, NR1G, Roland, W1LTN Dick, K1YTS Gary, KB1ESR Larry W1XP Bob, K1BG Bruce.

### PSLIST

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

### Board Meeting

The Board meeting was held February 2<sup>nd</sup> this month. The upcoming meeting programs were discussed.

Ralph submitted the Treasurers report.

Skip still working the speaker issue for the meeting. (The speaker was confirmed after the board meeting.)

Upcoming ps events Townsend Canoe Race, Groton Road Race, Longsjo Classic bike race, Alzheimer's Memory Ride.

Ralph covered Longsjo info though limited at this time. The courses are going to be different than in the past.

Club mailbox fee was paid. Post Office box fees have gone up and the cost is now \$86.00. The board approved the expenditure.

Bruce is going to look into the WRTC for updates.

Stan has assembled all the Field Day information that has been given to him. We now have eight loose leaf binders with past Field Day information. The first data is from 1989 and is only a printed log. The more recent years are nearly a full one inch binder.

John will pick up books for the book raffle to approximately cover the rest of meetings till the summer break.

There was a request/proposal that the Tower Consortium supply the tower trailer to support the antennas for the special event station at the Boxboro Convention which is coming up this summer. If this happens should we ask for a free club table nearby to promote the club and sell items for club members?

Elections are coming up in April. Every year the four officer positions and one board member position are up for election/reelection. If you are interested in running for one of these please contact Bob W1XP. Stan informed the Board that he will not run for president in April.

Roland NR1G the Field Day Coordinator asked about where this year's location should be. The feeling was that with WRTC coming up we should

maintain our presence in the orchard. He also asked about buying additional signs to be used to direct the public to the site.

In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Larry KB1ESR, Gary K1YTS, Larry KB1ESR, John KK1X, Skip K1NKR, Bob W1XP, Ralph KD1SM

**Treasurers Report**

Income for January was \$80 from membership dues and \$3.04 in bank interest. Expenses were \$17.60 for newsletter postage and \$86 for Post Office box annual fee, leaving a net expense for January of \$20.56.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,383.98
Community fund	\$4,286.41

As of 2 February we have 42 members who are current with their dues and 23 renewals outstanding. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If you are joining ARRL or renewing your membership please consider letting Ralph send in the paperwork for you. The Club will buy the stamp and will get a commission from ARRL. ARRL membership checks should be made payable to NVARC; Ralph deducts the Club commission before forwarding your paperwork to Newington.

As an Special Service Club, the ARRL expects a majority of Club members to also be ARRL members.

Ralph KD1SM

**NVARC Swap Shop**

Stan has the following items up for grabs.

Too heavy to bring to a meeting. Not radio related but newsletter editor exercising his power.

2 sets (4) tire chains. Maybe useful for a tractor or some other use. They are 80 X 15 inches with a cross chain ever fourth link. If I don't hear from somebody by the meeting I'm turning them in for scrap metal. They weigh quite a few pounds each. I can only carry two at a time.

PK-232 mbx with the DSP and Sound Card options, manuals, cables. Also PK99 and manual. This was

working a few years ago when I took it out of service.

LINKSYS wireless G router WRT54GS no power supply and condition unknown

LINKSYS Etherfast/DSL router BEFSR41 with power supply condition unknown.

Half a box (5) HP ThinkJet ink cartridges P/N 92261A.

Diconix (Kodak) Model 150 portable parallel printer. Runs on AC (wallwart) or 5 or 6 NiCad C cells. Condition unknown.

5 Cannon BC-10 Bubble Jet ink cartridges. . I think they go with the above printer.

Contact Stan KD1LE  
\*\*\*\*\*

Skip K1NKR has the following item

I'm cleaning a few things up in the workshop. Years ago I bought what I call a "half rack" knowing I really needed it; I didn't.

Free for the taking:

Enclosure on wheels, color: tan with brown accent.  
26" high, 22" wide, 24-1/2" deep (outside dimensions, excluding wheels)  
23" rack space, front and back

Contact Skip K1NKR

**Follow up to Generator Presentation**

Just a few notes to add to last month's presentation.

I searched for any specific requirements for connecting generators in Massachusetts and was unable to find any references in the General Laws. On contacting my local Electrical Inspectors office I was told only that is must be according to the National Electrical Code. I did find that Connecticut is similar to California as they will cut the lines to a house that is found to be improperly backfed and will not restore power to that house until a transfer switch is installed.

The National Electrical Code basically says when backfeeding an approved transfer switch must be used. A circuit breaker is not an approved transfer device. It also requires a specific generator connec-

tion and states that a household outlet must never be used for a generator connection.

I spoke some about generators or more specifically the engine lifetimes. Though they may seem short remember you pay maybe \$5000-\$10,000 for your automobile engine. If it lasts 100,000 miles and you drove those miles at 30 MPH that engine lasted only 333 days.

I hope this information is helpful to everyone thinking about an emergency generator.

Stan KD1LE

### ARRL Letter

Radio spectrum.

+ *ARRL HQ*: Volunteer Tour Guides Make Your Visit to

ARRL Headquarters Pleasant and Informative When you visit ARRL Headquarters in Newing



**Paul Ciezniak, K1SEZ, of Wallingford, Connecticut, is one of the volunteer tour guides here at ARRL Headquarters. [S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, Photo]**

ton, Connecticut, the first smiling face you're likely to see is a tour guide. ARRL's Tour Guide program now includes 19 volunteers who donate thousands of hours of their free time per year, giving tours to hundreds of visitors. ARRL's tour guides are an integral part of the ARRL. When not giving tours, they are busy accomplishing tasks in various HQ departments -- sorting QSL cards, working on special projects in the lab, updating the periodicals archive, and much, much more.

### 2011 Flea Markets/Conventions

02/25/2012 Vermont State Convention, (HAM-CON) South Burlington ME

March 23-24 -- [ARRL Maine State Convention](#), Lewiston, Maine

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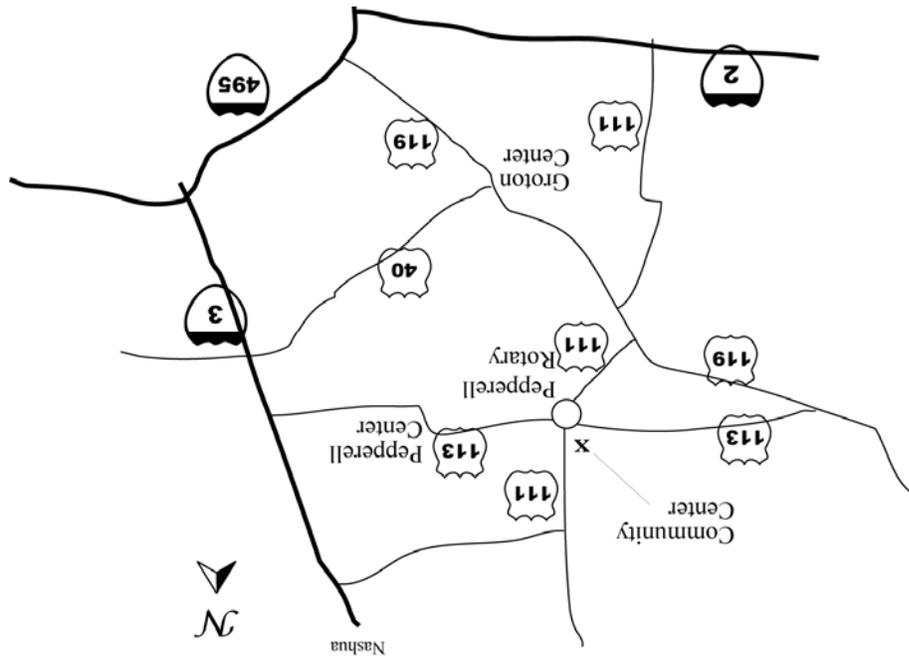
### Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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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:  
Joel Magid W1JMM 2009-2012  
Bob Reif: W1XP 2010-2013  
Skip Youngberg K1NKR 2011-2014

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
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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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