

SIGNAL



de N1NC

June 2012 Volume 21 Number 6

This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday June 21st at 7:30 and will be held at the Pepperell Community Center. This month presentation

Presidents Corner

June 2012

Radio Amateur versus Radioaficionado. Many of the international Amateur Radio organizations are radioaficionado organizations. *Aficionado.* Cool word. Look it up. (OK, for the lazy, it's "a person who likes, knows about, and appreciates a usually fervently pursued interest or activity.") Wasn't this definition part of an extended passage in a book I just read? Yes, Hemmingway's The Sun Also Rises. Amazing that we should find Amateur Radio stuff in Hemmingway...

The most significant element of all this is that being an aficionado is existential instead of being merely descriptive. Even though I've got an operator's license and a station license that designates my station as K1NKR, am K1NKR (or W1LTN, or KB1WIKI, etc.). Our radio identities are as much of us as the blood coursing through our veins. Non-hams just don't understand this. And it's different from being a nerd, a geek, or a social misfit with a mere hobby.

All this leads to Field Day. FD is the biggest event on the calendar. We fervently pursue our joint interest. We get to "play radio." We get to try out emergency-like operation in the field. We get to socialize. And we get to show off the best of Amateur Radio to the visiting public. See you there!

And on another note. We can look back on a pretty good set of meeting programs this past year. What shall it be next year? I've asked a couple of folks to be on the lookout for a couple of subjects each. We

shouldn't expect to succeed by shooting in the dark, though. What do you want to hear about? Even better, what might you want to present? Or maybe you know someone who you—or one of the Board—can recruit to talk to us. There are only about three "fixed-format" meetings in the year; The rest are there for our entertainment and enlightenment. When the June meeting is over, we (someone..., who...?) will have just over two months to arrange a meeting presentation for September.

And..., even though the club doesn't meet during July and August there are post-Field Day opportunities to get together. The first shake-down for World Radiosport Team Championships will be at our own FD site on 13-15 July. We have the annual club picnic—Larry, KB1ESR, and Cindy are the hosts this year (date TBD). Bruce is leading the second annual DXpedition to Highland Light on Cape Cod the third weekend in August. Plus, the summer always provides good-weather project time when ad hoc groups can convene, work, build/test, operate, or socialize. Hmm, anyone want to help me re-string an 80/60/40M dipole? Is there any "agony gain" in a dipole erected during good weather?

Skip K1NKR

Last Month's Meeting

Last Month's Meeting presentation was Jim Francis, K1PTF, who talked about his experiments and development of ways to interface the Dragon speech recognition software into the hamshack. No, this isn't robotic ham radio with its automatic QSOs, automatic logging, automatic QSLs, and automatic certificates. It's station control for convenience at the minimum and for support to the handicapped as one ultimate goal. But mostly it's experimenting and learning.

Attendees:

Phil KB1JKL, John KK1X, Dennis K1LGQ, George KB1HFT, Rod WA1TAC, Bob AB1CV, Bob W1XP, Earl WR1Y, Bruce K1BG, Dick W1LTN, Jim N8VIM,

Leo K1LK, Peter N1ZRG, Gary K1YTS, Les N1SV, Wolf WA1VOU, Paul NW1U, Skip K1NKR, Peter KB1PBA, Ken KB1UVP, Dan KW2T, Don N1NWE, Alma (guest of Don), Dan (guest of Don)

Groton Memorial Day Parade

Members of NVARC supported the Groton Memorial Day Parade. We (KD1LE, WR1Y, KD1SM) provide Public Address Systems for several locations along the parade route as well as Legion Hall, and at the Cemetery.



kd1sm photo

Above the Minute Men fire a salute at the Old Burying Ground at one of the parade stops.



Bob AB1CV, Parade Adjutant (left) with Lt. Col. Grunwald, 25th Marine Regiment (center)

3rd Lantern Battery Challenge Wrap Up

Well the Third Annual Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club Lantern Battery Challenge is over. The logs are in, the certificates presented, the prize drawing held and the cake eaten. Now we can take a breather while we start thinking about next year. The committee is trying to think what can be changed for next year that will get even more people involved in the activity. One thing that is being considered is a smaller battery. Many of the people that entered say they still had batter capacity left. So we are considering using smaller batteries next year. What do you think about a pack of nine AA batteries? It would be less expensive also. But there has been some comment about keeping the higher capacity battery for those using high drain rigs. Changing the duration of the activity is also under consideration. If you have any thoughts about the Lantern Battery Challenge will you please send them to me. We really want to hear what we can do to make the activity even better and encourage more to take part in the event.

This year we had a total of eight logs received in four categories. There were two logs received in the digital mode this year. This is the first time we have had a digital mode entry. AB1HD, Rich, received a First Place certificate for his finish in that mode using PSK31. KK1X, John, received the second place award also using PSK31. Skip, K1NKR, finished first in the SSB mode, unlimited class, and Bruce, K1BG turned in a high score of 158 QSOs in the CW unlimited class. This was the highest entry this year. K1LGQ, Dennis, still holds the high score record of 169 in the first LBC. In the CW mode, NE1RD, Scott, finished in first place with 150 QSOs. W1IS, Bob, was in second place, W1XP, finished in third place, and KB1PBA, Peter, finished in fourth place. This year the book drawing was won by Rich, AB1HD. The drawing is for a donated prize. The drawing is held between all those participants that submit valid log entries. This year's prize was a copy of "Experimental Methods in RF Design".

This year we opened up the event to members of PART, and MARA. Two of the first place finishers were from PART. Well Done! (Come on you NVARC guys. We'll show them next year. ☺)

I hope all those that took part had a good time and plan to join in again. And I look forward to even more of you joining in the fun next year. Till next time.

73 Bob W1XP

Field Day 2012



www.arrl.org

Date: Sat. June 23, to Sun. June 24
Location: Heald Street Orchard
Pepperell, MA
Entrance : 42.6715, -71.6282



Information Table – Photo courtesy Ralph KD1SM

Field Day is just around the corner. Let me describe just some of the recent activities that have been going on to prepare for Field Day.

Posters and postcards were printed and posted around the various towns. They contained a QR code created by Ralph KD1SM that linked directly to the N1NC field day site. Go ahead and try it.



Invitations were sent to all local amateurs by Bruce K1BG.

Invitations and Press Releases were sent to Selectman, Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, Emergency Management Boards, and local media.

Field Day Video(s) have been posted to Vimeo, documenting our 2010 and 2011 experiences. The 2010 Video is playing in rotation on the Pepperell Cable access channel. Many thanks to Dave Pease for producing and posting this video.

2010: <http://vimeo.com/42448213>
2011: <http://vimeo.com/41890581>

Jim N8VIM, Bruce K1BG, George KB1HFT, and Stan, KD1LE met to configure and test N1MM on the logging laptops to be used for Field Day. The laptops were all networked and verified to work with the final configuration to be done by the station captains for the radio to be used.

In addition, Jim did some leakage testing of the laptops supplies to get an idea of what we might expect come Field Day. As we discovered last year, some GFCI problems we had might have been related to excessive leakage current of one or more station computers. Measurements ranged from 0 to 25 microamps. No problems are expected with this level of leakage current, but it is good to know. The next test is to see if the laptops supplies will interfere with the radios.



Jim & Generator – Photo courtesy Ralph KD1SM

Stan and Jim also got together to test the power distribution system. This included a test from the generator through the Power Distribution Unit (Jim has one PDU, Stan has another.) out to the station outlets. The purpose of this test was to understand if all of the power distribution components played well together. The PDU has centralized GFCI outlets and circuit breakers that allow individual control of power to each station. And these units can be daisy chained to put power exactly where we want it on the field day site.



PDU and network switch - Photo courtesy Jim N8VIM

Let me finish with a description of this year's Field Day operation:

We will be operating: 3 Alpha

With the following stations:

CW, SSB, Digital, VHF/UHF/Satellite, GOTA.

Field Day Chairman:
Roland, NR1G

Station Captains:

CW: Bob, W1XP

SSB: Les, N1SV

Digital: George, KB1HFT

VHF/UHF/Satellite: Skip, K1NKR

GOTA: Bruce, K1BG

Site Coordination Captain:
Stan, KD1LE

Infrastructure Captains:

Power, Networking, and Electrical Safety: Jim,
N8VIM

N1MM Station Logging: Bruce, K1BG

Meals:

Saturday Lunch: Lynda N1PBL
Saturday Night BBQ: Leo, K1LK
Sunday Breakfast: Larry, KB1ESR

Bonus Point Responsibilities:

Educational Activity: John KK1X

Message Section Mgr: John KK1X

Message Handling: John KK1X

W1AW Bulletin: Stan, KD1LE

Satellite QSO: Skip, K1NKR

Alternate Power: Jim, N8VIM

Information Table: Roland, NR1G

You can contact the Field Day Captains or the Chairman if you are interested in helping out with setup, planning, operation, food, bonus points, or takedown.

Any questions, comments or suggestions are appreciated and should be sent directly to me.

Many thanks to the individuals who have volunteered for these positions:

73, Roland, NR1G

WRTC Preparations

Sunday June 3rd Bruce K1BG, Stan KD1LE, and Les N1SV trekked to Kensington NH for a YCCC/WRTC meeting. There was a brief YCCC meeting but the afternoon was spent getting familiar with the tower and antenna system that will be used for WRTC 2014. The weather was soggy but everything went as planned. Since we were all busy working and watching how things went together I didn't take any pictures. These were pulled from a video by KA1IOR from a link that was sent to all the participants.



The system that will be used to put up the towers is called "The Falling Derrick." The central element is

the above base system. The large plate is staked to the ground at the four corners. The center plate mounts the tower and the Gin Pole and is hinged to the bottom larger plate. What looks like a bar across the bottom edge is the hinge.



After the larger plate is staked to the ground one section of tower is attached vertically and the Gin Pole is attached horizontally. The Gin Pole is 20 feet long and has large eye bolts for attaching pulleys, guys, and cables. Once all the cables and guys are attached the single section of tower is tipped over horizontal and the Gin Pole goes vertical. The remaining three sections of tower are then attached. Once everything is assembled the tower is raised till the rotator is at the proper height to attach the antenna which was assembled by another crew.



There is mechanical advantage built in using several pulleys on the Gin Pole and a ground location. The tower and the Gin Pole are guyed to the side points before the tower is lifted so they cannot move sideways. The entire assembly is then raised by one person using a hand cranked winch



The Gin Pole is attached to the tower with a fixed steel cable so the two stay at right angles. The winch and pulley system simply pull the Gin Pole over.

They have created a manual which includes instructions, drawings, and dimensions to lay out the system. The manual should be available soon for review.

Stan KD1LE

Treasurers Report

Income for May was \$35 from membership fees and \$2 from ARRL membership renewals. Expenses were \$18 for newsletter postage, \$7.44 for a new roll of book raffle tickets, \$51.34 for cake and soda for the April meeting, \$100.38 for ARRL books donated to the Pepperell Library, and \$78 for the gavel for outgoing president KD1LE leaving a net expense for May of \$218.16.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,149.52
Community fund	\$4,286.41

As of 7 June we have 39 members who are current with their dues and 29 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 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, KD1LE Stan, KB1HFT George, NR1G, Roland, W1LTN Dick, K1YTS Gary, KB1ESR Larry W1XP Bob.

PSLIST

See www.n1nc.org/Events for the latest information

Board Meeting

Board Meeting 6/7/2012:

1) Ralph mentioned new members (thought they'd be in Treasurer's report?)

2) We assigned the same budget for Field Day as last year:

Field Day Budget proposal:

650 allocated (2011) – 605 spent (2011)
300 food
50 fuel
150 portajohn
150 pins

3) September program is needed.

4) Talk of mid-fall licensing course

5) Donation to library and donation to community center - John to write letters, Ralph supplied checks (library \$100, community center \$500)

6) Longsjo June 30

7) WRTC Test July 13-15

8) Memory Ride July 14

9) Boxboro coming up

10) New projection screen – certificate for Peter as donor?

11) \$40 donation from W1 QSL buro in form of ARRL gift certificate – raffle at QSL sort meeting seems appropriate - certificate given to John.

John

ARRL Letter

Forecasters Calling for "Near-Normal" Hurricane Season



In 2005, Hurricane Katrina strengthened into a powerful Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 160 miles per hour. The boost came just hours after Katrina reached Category 4, with winds of 145 miles per hour, as it gathered energy from the warm water in the Gulf of Mexico. In this photo from NASA, Katrina is shown on its path toward the coastlines of Louisiana and Mississippi.

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cal Storm Beryl both developed several days before the official start of the season, the first time since 1908 that two tropical storms developed early; the only other year with two storms so early in the season was 1887.

CPC forecasters say that there is a 70 percent chance of having 9-15 named storms, of which four to eight could become hurricanes, including one to three major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5). These ranges do not represent the total possible ranges of activity seen in past similar years. Tropical systems acquire a name upon reaching tropical storm strength with sustained winds of at least 39 miles per hour. Tropical storms become hurricanes when winds reach 74 miles per hour and become major hurricanes when winds increase to 111 miles per hour. An average season has 12 named storms, including six hurricanes with three becoming major hurricanes.

2011 Flea Markets/Conventions

June

16 NARL Fest, Newington CT
17 MIT Flea
July
15 MIT Flea
August
11 STARC Hamfest, St Albans VT
11 Three Rivers Hamfest, Milo ME
24-26 ARRL NE Convention (Boxborough)

Advertisements

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Your article could have been here.



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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<http://www.n1nc.org/>

President: Skip Youngberg K1NKR

Vice President: Larry Swezey KB1ESR

Secretary: John Griswold KK1X

Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

Board Members:

Bob Reif: W1XP 2010-2013

Roland Guilmet NR1G 2011-2014

Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2012-2015

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

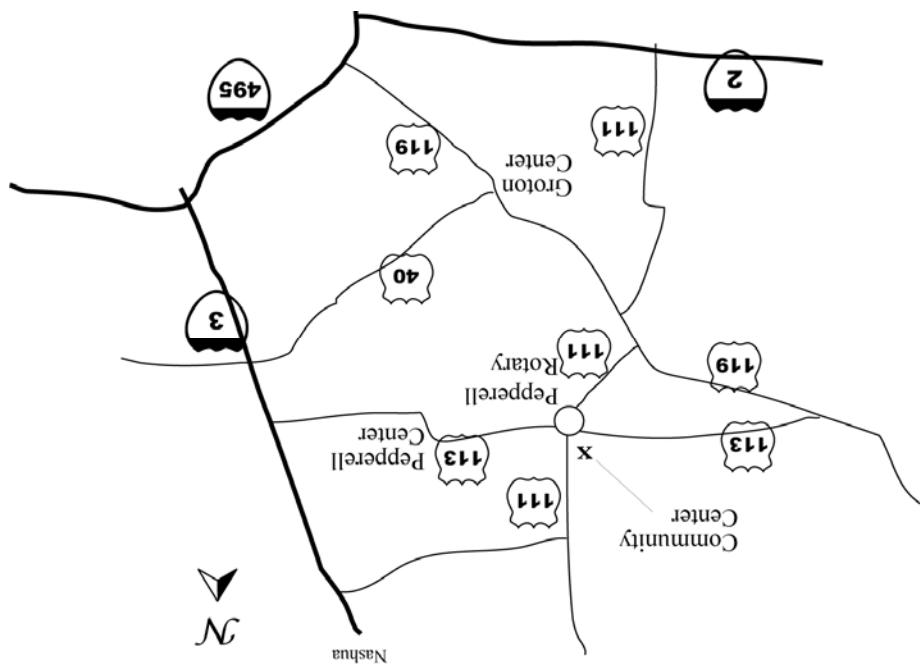
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corrections and inquiries should be directed to the

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