



# SIGNAL



de NINC

October 2012 Volume 21 Number 10

## This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at the Pepperell Community Center.

This month's meeting program is the annual Card Sort for the W1 QSL Bureau. See the President's Corner.

The batteries and battery packs will be distributed to those participating in the 2012 LBC at the October meeting.

## Last Month's Meeting

The first item of last month's meeting was introductions adding something you did or could offer to members as far as elmering.

Then to bring us up to date on activities that took place during the summer when we "don't do anything" Roland NR1G. gave a June Field Day wrap-up and pin presentation for Field Day participants. Roland also brought us up to date on the July dry-run for the 2014 World Radiosport Team Competition. And finally he reported on another successful August mini-DXpedition for International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend. The participation this year was double last year's which was our first participation in the event.

The highlight presentation was Bill Barber, NE1B, speaking on what's going on with the conversion of surplus and commercially available Digital Mobile Radios for Amateur use. This is not just another interesting form of D-Star. It's an existing standard with an already large equipment and supplier base. There are local DMR repeaters and they can be linked via the Internet worldwide. Bill demonstrated access to his repeater in Hudson NH.

## The President's Corner

SEPTEMBER 2012

### From the President

(And this coming month's meeting announcement all rolled into one.)

October is one of those months in the NVARC calendar when you know exactly what is going to happen. It's our annual W1 Bureau QSL card sort.

Now I don't know about you, but if someone gave me the choice of sitting all evening at a club meeting and being entertained versus standing up popping thousands of postcards with hard-to-read callsigns into little cubbyholes I'd be quick to answer "let them entertain me!" I'm sure some members factor that into their what-to-do-on-the-third-Thursday decision making.



But it's not that simple. First of all, the sort is a long-standing tradition. We're performing a service for our fellow Amateurs. Second, you get to participate in one of the oldest aspects of our hobby—delivering the "final courtesy of a QSO." And some

of those cards we handle are truly amazing works of art and esoterica. Just holding them in your hands invokes a sort of Lowell Thomas feeling that the world is really a very interesting and far-flung place. Be honest, wasn't the thrill of maybe talking to someone on the other side of the world one of the things that inspired you to become a Radio Amateur?

Plus, you get to hear Les bragging about his multi-mega DXCC standing. This is the meeting where we practice returning slap shots on the subject. It's all in good fun and provides an excellent bonding experience for us club members as well as for the visitors from other clubs.

My back of the envelope calculation shows that each of us burns the equivalent of a couple of slices of pizza and a glass of soda in an evening's QSL sort. Those numbers have been carefully factored into the planning for this great event.

Come on along! Fun, exercise, camaraderie, pizza, maybe even a little entertainment. What more could you ask for?

### W1QSL Manager SK

On a sad note Eric KV1J our W1QSL Bureau contact reports that Art Holmes W1RZF the W1QSL Bureau Manager is a SK.

He went on to say.

"Art efficiently managed the W1 Bureau for the past many years. I know it is at least 8 since that is when I started working with him and he had been at it for many years before that. Art was a seasoned, professional, high level manager in his technical career and he brought those skills to the QSL bureau operation. He brought in new innovation to the Final Sorting Management process and he knew how to delegate and build a strong team of volunteers. Thank you Art!"

### On the Passing of an Era

In late September Jim, N8VIM, got a call from Chris Connors, the son of Dennis, KD2S (SK). "It must have felt like this when New Yorkers looked up and saw the towers gone," he said. Den's XYL, Rosemary, had asked Jim to help dismantle the station of this former NVARC member and accomplished Radio Amateur.



Indeed. Den Connors' tower is now safely down. A group of volunteers from the club helped Jim dismantle it over two weekends. They were: Ralph KD1SM, Bruce K1BG, Peter N1ZRG, Skip K1NKR, and Chris KB1WKI.

The tower was ninety feet of Rohn 25, with two sets of guys. A Hy-Gain TH-11DX antenna topped it off.

All in all, the job went pretty smoothly. A professional-quality installation some decades ago ensured that everything was still in excellent condition—little rust-frozen hardware and few missing parts. Winds at altitude did shorten the work party the first Saturday, though. Throughout the entire exercise "safety first" was the motto. It paid off.

Jim's too young to remember ABBA. But one of their lyrics summed it up.

*Times of joy and times of sorrow,  
We will always see it through.  
Oh I don't care what comes tomorrow.  
We can face it together  
The way old friends do.*

It's not just a hobby, Jim. It's a community.



**LBC2012**

**NVARC Forth Annual Lantern Battery Challenge**

Oct 2012

The forth Annual Lantern Battery Challenge will start at the end of the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. So if you signed up be sure and pick up your batteries at the meeting. Rod WA1TAC has volunteered to distribute the batteries this year. (Thanks Rod!) Please make every effort to pick up you battery or have some one pick it up for you. If this doesn't work for you please make arrangements with Rod to pick up your battery after the meeting.

**CAUTION.** The battery packs this year have about an 18 inch long lead. You will have to make your own connection to this lead. Do this first. There is a tab that is inserted between the end of the last cell and the cell holder. Do not remove this tab before you have made your connection to the battery lead. After removing the tab from the battery verify with a VOM that the polarity of your battery connection is correct. You are responsible for making sure that the polarity is correct so you do not damage your radio. Measure Twice! At least.

Remember to keep the battery current down. Especially in transmit. The battery likes to give up it's energy in little sips, not big gulps. If you can hold the transmit current to an amp or less you will be rewarded with longer life. But extended receive periods will run the battery down just the same. Turn off the battery when you are not actively looking for QSOs. I've been told some radios draw current even when off. So I always disconnect the battery

when not in use. There will be a more detailed sheet of battery recommendation with the batteries when they are picked up.

If anybody has a question or wants to consider building up a small transmitter to get on in the Transmitter only mode send me an Email.

Good luck everyone and I hope to work you all in this years Lantern Battery Challenge.

73 Bob W1XP

**Wanted**

PL259 connectors that are being discarded from old cables or cables you are rebuilding.



I have built a grounded entrance panel for my coax cables. Above is an outside view. There are many unused ports. I would like to protect the unused external ports with a connector that is sealed. So if you have some old PL259 connectors you are replacing or cables you are throwing out save them for me.

Thanks Stan

**Treasurers Report**

Income for September was \$250 in membership renewals, \$30 from the September meeting book raffle, and \$96 from Lantern Battery Challenge entries. Expenses were \$18 for newsletter postage leaving a net income for September of \$358.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,790.86
Community fund	\$4,286.41

As of 4 October we have 40 members who are current with their dues and 30 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

### Board Meeting

Board Meeting  
10/4/2012

#### Treasurer's Report

- Separate cover by Ralph
- General fund \$2,790.86
- Community fund \$4,286.41

John – QSL cards ILLW QSL cards - photo printed for \$13/100, trimmed for \$4.

Constitution report - some suggestions - more work to be done:

- Four kinds of meetings – why?
- Term limits?
- Nominating Committee

November Meeting – WB1EWS on broadcast engineering? (since confirmed)  
Backup presentation by Skip?

March meeting – Bob & Stan Lightning Protection show?

W1 Buro gift certificate -  
Raffle off at QSL sort. Funds disposition TBD.

GM3TCW Honorary membership voted in Email sent

John to buy \$5 worth of soda for QSL sort.

Plus \$65 approved for pizza

### September Meeting Photos



Field Day pins were distributed to all members who helped at the N1NC site. Left to right: Ed N1YFK, John K1JEB, Stan KD1LE, John KK1X, George KB1HFT, Roland NR1G, Wolf KA1VOU, Jim N8VIM, Larry KB1ESR, Bob W1XP, Chris KB1WKI, Skip K1NKR. KD1SM behind the camera.



President Skip K1NKR addresses the assembly.



Roland NR1G reviews the testing done at a few of the sites selected for WRTC2014.



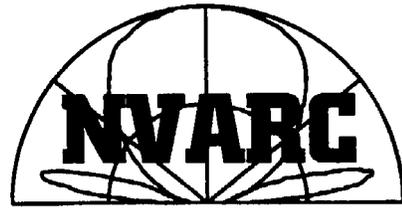
Guest speaker Bill NE1B presents the latest on DMR



Skip presents our traditional advertising – err Thank You gift to our guest speaker.



Lucky Larry KB1ESR won the book raffle and appears to be selecting the ARRL Handbook.



**Nashoba Valley  
Amateur Radio Club**

PO Box # 900  
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

<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

This newsletter is published monthly. Submissions, corrections and inquiries should be directed to the newsletter editor. Articles and graphics in most IBM-PC formats are OK.

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