

SIGNAL



de NINC

April 2013 Volume 22 Number 04

This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday April 18th at 7:30 at the Pepperell Community Center.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting presentation was Lightning Protection for Amateur Stations by Bob W1XP and Stan KD1LE



Bob W1XP describes the electrical circuit of storms



The crowd listens intently to Stan KD1LE



Stan and Bob even brought some bottled lightning



Stan circulated several types of grounding clamps and in-line lightning protection devices.

Those present were: Bruce K1BG, John K1JEB, Dennis K1LGQ, Leio K1LK, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, Michael KA1NXH, John KB1FT (Frankstown NH), Dan KB1YGB, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Dan KW2T, Les N1SV, Peter N1ZRG, Jim N8VIM, John N9RE, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC, Russ WR1Y.

The President's Corner

President's Corner

de Skip, K1NKR

A couple of topics this month.

On April third, Bruce, K1BG, came across a copy volume 1 number 1 of the Signal (before it was even named the "Signal"). This was the only issue of the newsletter that the club has not been able to track down. Bruce and Ralph, KD1SM, are prepping it for inclusion on the club webpage with all the other issues. If you haven't ever perused these now-historical documents, do so. They provide a wonderful perspective of the life and growth of an active and productive local Amateur Radio club. There's something else in that first issue of Signal that bears repeating this season. "Public service events are the most visible activity that hams undertake, and those who take time out of their schedule deserve our deepest thanks, not just for the service they provide to the public but for the service they provide to the amateur radio community."

Now, I'm not a died-in-the-wool public service ham. Barely a little bit of a public service ham. Plus a little DXing, a little EMCOM in years past, and a little contesting, and a little Field day, and a little experimenting, and a little of everything else, and on and on. I've got to say, though, that participating in even one PS event a year can be a thoroughly rewarding experience. You don't have to walk in as an expert, just a volunteer, to have a good day contributing to the larger community around us. It's NVARC public service season. We've got the Groton Road Race and the Townsend Canoe Race, among other events, coming up soon. Contact one of the coordinators (KD1SM and K1YTS, respectively, for Groton and Townsend) and have a good time.

The second topic concerns an article in the April issue of IEEE Spectrum magazine. It's "Peaceful Coexistence," by Ariel Bleicher. If you can get a copy of the magazine, take the opportunity to read it. The story is about the co-occupancy of the 70cm band by the Department of Defense, the Radio Amateur service, and the medical device community. DOD has the primary spectrum allocation; we have a long-standing secondary allocation; and the meds now have a Part 95 secondary allocation.

We Amateurs are careful guardians of what we consider "our" spectrum. We don't stand for out of band operation and we object strongly to intruders. Older Amateurs still lament the loss of the 27MHz Amateur

band to the upstart (and scofflaw) Citizens Band. A while back, we lost the lower portion of the 220MHz band to some business politicking from United Parcel Service—who subsequently abandoned the spectrum they had grabbed. More recently, we had to accommodate an incursion into 70cm by Recon Robotics and its unlicensed law enforcement video equipment.

The devices that are the subject of the IEEE article are implantable microstimulators. They will be used intramuscularly to restore function in patients whose nerve-muscle connections have been damaged. The RF power levels involved are low enough as to not cause interference to us but consider the opposite. What kind of press would the DOD or Amateurs get if legitimate stations interfered with patients, even if the patients were using unprotected radio devices? Co-secondary status means that we deserve no protection from them and they deserve none from us. It's only a slightly better issue than Recon Robotics: just wait for the wailing and screaming that occurs when legitimate operations inevitably interfere with unlicensed police operations.

Most hams feel that if we have to follow the rules others should, too. Well, the IEEE article describes the well coordinated, cooperative effort undertaken by two researchers who have an appreciation of the Radio Amateur community's interests. Working with—instead of against—the incumbent DOD and Amateur allocation holders, they resolved the to/from interference issues with technical design changes before making a request for spectrum. Amazing! Imagine what would happen if others worked that way.

That's two. Now for the third half of the story. Speaking of seasonal activities, Field Day is just around the corner. If you have access to the QST archives on the ARRL website take a look at pages 47-49 of the May 1995 issue. Is that us or what?

This Month's program

Les, N1SV, will speak on "Getting Ready for the Six Meter DX Season." You'll enjoy this one! Six has always been called the "magic band." Like the upper HF bands its propagation comes and goes dramatically with the solar cycle. Always a local band, at the peak of the cycle it can be a DX band as well. Plus, it is subject to some spectacular propagation anomalies: early summer e-skip, winter aurora, meteor scatter, just to name a few. Since most all-band rigs produced in the last 15-20 years include HF-plus-6, getting on is just a matter of making the right selection on the bandswitch. Ten feet

of wire and a piece of coax is all it takes for an antenna because when the band opens low power and a wire is almost as good as QRO and a big beam. (*Almost, Les. Almost*)

Also, being April, we'll have a lot of little—but terribly important—secondary items. This year's Lantern Battery Challenge has concluded successfully and we'll have our annual awards ceremony. Cake included.

Plus, it's elections time. All four officerships are open every year and our three directorships open up one per year on a rotating basis. This year, Roland, NR1G, has had to resign his directorship because of his business travel schedule so two positions will be open. One of the open directorships is for the one remaining year of Roland's term and the other is for a full three-year term.

NVARC Fourth Annual Lantern Battery Challenge

The 2012/2013 Lantern Battery Challenge is over, the logs are in and the award certificates are ready for presentation at the April meeting. We had some participants relate their experiences in this event at the last meeting and hopefully more will fill us in on their trials and tribulations at the upcoming meeting. We had a total of seven logs submitted this year. About the same as last year. Besides the excitement of the awards, we will have a cake so come and enjoy that also.

Even if you didn't take part in the activity this time (or ever) I'd like to hear comments about what we can do for next year. It will be the fifth year, so I'd like to do something special. What can we do that would entice YOU to take part next year?

I would like to thank all that have helped, including the NVARC board in making this event a success. I'd like to especially thank Stan, KD1LE for his support through the years, and especially this year. He was the source of the very first rate AA cell holder used to make up the battery packs for this year's event. Thanks Stan!

So come and join the fun. And join in next year.
73 Bob W1XP

Treasurers Report

Income for March was \$80 in membership renewals, \$50 from the book raffle, \$2.12 in bank interest, and a \$2 donation with an ARRL membership renewal.

Expenses were \$18.40 for newsletter postage and \$92.77 for the outgoing QSL bureau leaving a net income for March of \$22.95.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,926.27
Community fund	\$4,636.41

As of 4 April we have 38 members who are current with their dues and 33 renewals outstanding. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph. Many members have an anniversary date of 1 April, the founding of the Club.

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 Shoppe

To anyone who might be interested there'll be a huge garage sale at the former home of Earl Russell on Friday and Saturday from 9 to 3. Lots of tools and other interesting stuff. The ham gear has been given to my son-in-law who just got his extra class, but there is various other electronic stuff. The garage has to be cleaned out to sell the house. Drop by and say hello--fill a bag.

Russ WR1Y

Framingham Flea Market

The Framingham ARA (FARA) Flea Market was held on Sunday April 7 at the Keefe Vocational School in Framingham. The crowd seemed a little smaller this year, and there were no commercial vendors.

MARA members included Ray KB1LRL and Tom K1JHC manning Ray's cable booth and Ken KB1UVB running his booth.

NVARC members included Leo K1LK, Rod WA1TAC, and Ken KB1UVP manning his table.

Refreshments were served by the local Boy Scout troop, and a VE Session was held. You could tell it was Spring because Mr Mike was selling advance tickets for NEAR-Fest!

Your correspondent passed on the offer of a "Navy Flameproof" straight key because it was incomplete, though attractively priced at \$40. Besides, how many Navy Flameproof keys can one reasonably own? I already have one that's complete and intact.

Regards,
John KK1X

March Board Meeting

April 4, 2013
Board Meeting Convened at 7:30

Skip, Ralph, Larry, Roland, Bob, Rod, John

Treasurer's report

John needs to update ARRL web site this month.

Dues in Arrears policy voted in

Field Day press releases from Roland

Community Fund policy voted in

Larry has a speaker, trying to schedule for June

The "Summer Study" commission tasked with a review of the Constitution made draft proposals, which were discussed at length. This discussion led to changes to the draft, which will be released to the Club for review and vote in a yet-to be-scheduled Special meeting.

LBC - Bob W1XP is donating the batteries to the club, while the club in turn will donate a gift for winners raffle (\$50 HRO gift card), and refreshments were budgeted for NTE \$50

Elections coming up. Nobody had jumped forward. Larry cannot run for VP again. With Roland resigning as Director, we have a VP spot and a Director spot. Bob is running for the three years Director position.

Concluded at 10:00

Proposed Dues in Arrears Policy

The policy adopted at the April Board meeting is:

Dues In Arrears

NVARC membership fees are due annually on the anniversary of the members' first date of joining the Club as recorded by the Treasurer.

The Treasurer circulates a full membership list with each members' anniversary date at the monthly meetings.

A four month grace period is provided following the anniversary date.

If the dues for the current year have not been received by the Treasurer on the fifth month following the anniversary date the Member:

1. Shall not receive further printed newsletters,
2. Is not eligible to participate in the discounted PowerPole purchase program, and
3. Is not eligible to submit QSL cards for forwarding to the outgoing QSL bureau at the Club's expense

Until the arrears are cleared by the full amount due being paid.

The Treasurer will send one postcard reminder in lieu of the first issue of the newsletter that would have been sent.

Proposed Community Fund Policy

From time to time NVARC had been fortunate to receive significant monetary donations. Some of these have been gifts from estate auctions, others have been unsolicited donations from organizations who benefit from our volunteer public service, and some have been gifts from Club members or friends of the Club.

When the first of these gifts was made to the Club the Board of Directors at that time established an informal policy to put such donations into a separate fund to be used for special projects that advance Amateur Radio in the communities served by NVARC. Initially this fund was called the "Education Fund" and was expected to be used to support school activities around Amateur Radio. Later the uses to which the fund could be designated were

extended to anything benefiting the community and the fund was renamed to Community Fund.

The following policy applies to the Community Fund.

Any monetary donation in excess of \$25 not otherwise designated by the donor for a specific Club purpose is to be placed in a Community Fund separate from the General Fund.

The Community Fund is intended to be used for projects that provide substantive benefit to the community beyond the direct Club members or the Club activities. Examples include donations to other community organizations -- especially those who provide facilities used by the Club, purchase of materials for libraries or schools, and purchase of license study materials for loan to prospective new Hams.

Interest from the Community Fund may be transferred to the General Fund. Other disbursements from the Community Fund are made at the discretion of the Board of Directors, with any amount of \$200 or greater being subject to the approval of the Membership per the spending authority granted to the Board of Directors in the Club By-Laws.

Groton Road Race

Every year for the past 15 or 16 years the Squannacook River Runners have held a foot race in the town of Groton and NVARC has provided radio operators stationed around the course and shadowing several of the race officials.

The 2013 Groton Road Race is scheduled for Sunday, April 28,

Our role is to provide the communications linking the officials and other public safety personnel together. Police officers from several agencies in north central Massachusetts come to Groton to secure the many road intersections along the course. Their radios do not interconnect and Amateur Radio is key to the event.

This is one of NVARC's premier public service events for the community. It gives us great visibility, not only from the runners -- many of whom will thank the operators as they pass a station -- but also from the spectators around the course.

It takes 30 to 40 Hams to fully staff this event. All you need is a 2-meter handheld or mobile. No special experience required other than knowing how to operate your radio; on-the-job training is provided.

There are three reporting times; the parking and race official shadow team begins at 9am, the course positions for the 5k race at 11:20, and the course positions for the 10k race at 12:30.

If you are available on Sunday the 28th please contact Ralph KD1SM; kd1sm@arrl.net.



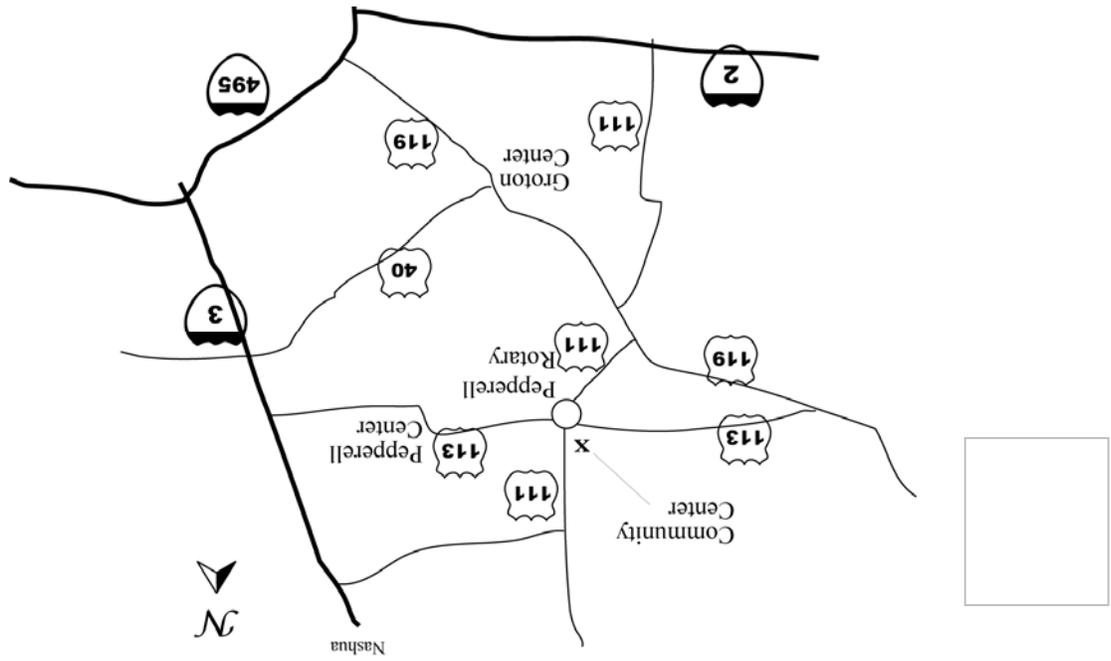
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Roland Guilmet NR1G 2011-2014
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N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG
Annual membership dues are \$15; \$20 for a family
Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month
7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community 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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