



# SIGNAL



de N1NC

December 2014 Volume 23 Number 12

## This Month's Meeting

### This Month's Program

It's Small Projects Night again! Come in and show off what you've been working on. No project is too small—or too large. Not sure which of those 2014 projects of yours fits in? Don't worry; they all do. We've heard about many things, from grounding systems to homebrew tube radios, mechanical contraptions, bicycle mobile, and numerous station accessories. Come. Brag. Converse. Have coffee.

## Last Month's Meeting

For the past few years Eric, KV1J has DXpeditioned to Miquelon Island. Sixteen miles off the coast of Newfoundland and just 800 miles from Boston, the tiny islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon are the last vestiges of the colonial empire of New France. Eric has activated the island eight times and is preparing for his February-March 2015 DXpedition.

### Attendees:

#### Members

Jim AB1WQ, Bruce K1BG, Skip K1NKR, Bill K1NS, Gary K1YTS, Ken KB1UVP, Greg KB1WAQ, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Dan KW2T, Ed N1YFK, Peter N1ZRG, Dick W1LTN, Rod WA1TAC,

#### Guests

Eric KV1J  
Bob KB1JZU

## President's Corner

### Topic One—What Goes Around...

Within a month we'll be looking forward to what the new year might bring. That being the case, December must surely be the time for looking back.

The NVARC year consists of a cycle of activities and events. There is the program year—the September through June meetings and talks. The officership year is the twelve months following the April elections. We have a business year, but it doesn't have much formality. Since we have open membership our dues year is different for everyone. Our activities year peaks in public service season, but it also includes social events like picnics and tours as well as operating events like Field Day and the Lantern Battery Challenge. Here in NVARC there are 92 "things" that occur regularly over a twelve month period. (Most are the kind of recurring things you'd expect: meetings and the like.) All are important.

This yearly cycle is not a closed circle. It's more like a spiral staircase where we seem to circle around periodically to familiar vantage points, yet we accomplish our part of the "great climb." Whether the steps are shallow or steep, the things we do each year actually evolve (or is it progress, or increase) and the history of the club's accomplishments fills like an old trunk in the attic. Look at the old *Signals* on the club website and you'll see.

So returning to December being the time for looking back, it's been a pretty good year. Thanks to Bruce, K1BG, Les, N1SV, and their host of volunteers, we are highly regarded locally and regionally for our support of WRTC. Thanks to Dan, KW2T, Tech Night is off the ground and very, very successful. And thanks to Stan, KD1LE, we have the best and most comprehensive club newsletter of those in the area. Thanks to Ed, N1YFK, we have returned to having coffee at the monthly meetings. Those meetings continued to be informative and entertaining—thanks to a host of in-club and guest speakers. And membership has been stable for at least the

past four years. Most importantly, we continue to be a multi-interest, multi-town local club—thanks to you.

### **Topic Two—Field Day in December.**

We did Field Day in “lite” fashion this past June. No multi-transmitter set-up; no publicity or educational activities, no dining tent. Nevertheless, N1NC fielded a class 1A station—one transmitter using emergency power. We accomplished 500 QSOs and netted 1702 points. We placed 1077 out of 2686 (40%) Field Day stations in the United States; 48 out of 121 (again 40%) class 1A stations in the US. That also placed us 13 out of 35 (37%) overall in Eastern Massachusetts—and the best of the two class 1A stations in EMA. For an intentionally modest weekend we did pretty well.

But Field Day isn’t merely a contest. It’s a multi-faceted event. It’s real Amateur Radio clubness, to coin a phrase. Sure, there’s the point gathering to maximize a score. That’s the numeric way entrants track how well they did. But FD is also a chance to test out a club’s ability to respond to unusual situations—emergencies, public service events, ad hoc opportunities for publicity. And in no small measure FD is a club social event.

If you were a participant or even just an observer at this year’s “Field Day Lite” thanks and congratulations. If you didn’t come over to the FD site for whatever reason—didn’t get to it, “not my thing,” or perhaps some more deep-seated reason—consider NVARC’s Field day 2015. Whether you sign on to the set-up and support crew, get a bit of operating time in, or just schmooze with your fellow Amateurs, Field Day is the premier event of the year for all local clubs.

## **Days in History**

15 January (1803). Birth date of Heinrich Daniel Ruhmkorff, a German engineer who invented the high-voltage induction coil that bears his name. The energy source for Heinrich Hertz’ first experiments in generating radio waves was a Ruhmkorff coil.

22 January (1775). Birth date of Andre Marie Ampere, considered the father of electromagnetism. The unit for electric current--the ampere--is named after him.

25 January (1878). Birth date of Ernst Frederick Werner Alexanderson, inventor of a radio alternator, a high power radio-frequency source. See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexanderson\\_alternator](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexanderson_alternator) for an interesting description of how to get hundreds of kilowatts with not tubes or transistors!

## **N1NC**

To:  
NVARC Members

Did anybody operate N1NC on November 30, 2014?  
I have a QSL card that needs a reply.

Thanks,  
John Griswold KK1X

## **NVARC QSL Bureau**

One benefit of membership in NVARC is the free forwarding of QSL cards to the ARRL's outbound DX QSL bureau. In the past Bob, W1XP, has collected and sent cards. At the last NVARC Board of Director's meeting it was decided that Rod, WA1TAC, will assume this task for the future. Rod will be accepting cards at the November meeting. As before, all cards for the outbound bureau should have the recipient's call on the upper right corner, be sorted alphabetically, and include proof of current ARRL membership.

73, Rod

## **December Board Meeting Notes**

Board meeting 12/4/2014

Treasurer's report

Kits and/or other bits (Arduino?) for "book" raffle?  
Any interest in group purchase of i.e. Arduino for projects TBD?

Ralph to send out postcards to delinquent accounts.  
\$6 allocated for expense

Nominating committee in January for upcoming elections

ARRL Cabinet meeting in January in Springfield

Discussion of NE Repeater council proposals to use 146.49 as part of a repeater pair  
- Talk to Dave about objecting

Move January board meeting to a mutually-convenient time. Jim has the con.  
Field Day was briefly mentioned. Very briefly.

## November Treasurers Report

Income for November was \$35 in membership dues, \$40 from the book raffle at the October meeting, \$15 from ARRL memberships, and \$40 in PowerPole connector sales. We incurred no expenses this month leaving a net income for the month of \$130.

We received a donation from the Squannacook River Runners as thanks for our support of the 2014 Groton Road Race. This \$250 donation has been added to the Community Fund.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,079.58
Community fund	\$4,636.41

As of 4 December we have 36 members who are current with their dues and 28 renewals outstanding. Many thank to those of you who hand in your dues before Ralph comes to you. 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

## Groton Road Race Correspondence

### **Squannacook River Runners**

**Box 451 Groton, MA 01450**

**[www.sqrr.org](http://www.sqrr.org)**

**November 1, 2014**

**Ralph Swick**

**Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club**

**P.O. Box 900**

**Pepperell, MA 01463**

**Sub: Donation from 2014 Groton Road Race**

**Dear Ralph Swick,**

***Our running club hosted the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Groton Road Race this past April. We had a successful event this year with a large turnout of runners and spectators and impressive athletic performances.***

***Our community road race is entirely organized and staffed by volunteers, and it would not be possible without the support of the NVARC. We are pleased to present the enclosed check in the amount of \$250.00 in recognition of the services you provide to our community year after year.***

***Sincerely,  
Squannacook River Runners  
Jason Shamberger  
Treasurer***

## Meeting Coffee "Bar"

Many thanks to Ed Snapp, N1YFK, for his rejuvenating the coffee "bar" at the meetings. There's been an incremental increase in socializing, and that's what we meet for.

Don't forget to leave a donation if you partake.

## Items That Anywhere Else Would Be Called Strays

Where did you first get inspired? Was it Popular Electronics magazine? Were Carl and Jerry your heroes? Every back issue of PopTronics has been PDFd and archived at <http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Popular-Electronics-Guide.htm>. Or maybe it was the American Basic Science Club. Advertised in the back of comic books, ABSC was a Heathkit-like a subscription to Scientific American. A backgrounder story on the ABSC can be found at <http://www.quickreference.info/small-business-stories/american-basic-science-club-case-history-of-a-successful-small-business/>. Now, who have you inspired? And, how?

Dan, KW2T, (our prodigious experimenter and VHF nut) just had his first HF contact in a couple of decades. You should have heard him describing 10 meters at the table at Tiny's. It was like a brand new operator discovering HF—which died-in-the-wool

VHF operators like him call the "DC bands." So, even the old can be new. Always something to explore. Watta hobby!

Just read the following on AOL. Incredible what people will report. Copper kills so I suppose we should eliminate the dreaded element. Ignorance doesn't take the blame so I suppose we should exalt it.

Long ago, reading the esteemed Lowell Sun, I got to wondering whether reporters were as stupid as they seemed or whether they really knew better but were just taking us all along for the ride. I still haven't come to a conclusion.

A Florida man has died in a tragic accident while helping his in-laws.

Jason Ferguson, 33, was installing a dishwasher Thursday night when he was electrocuted. His brother and sister-in-law found him on his knees with his left arm behind the dishwasher, but he wasn't moving.

The two performed CPR until police officers arrived and rushed him to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

According to WKMG, Ferguson was in a puddle of water when he asked his brother-in-law to turn the power back on.

After an investigation, officials have determined his wedding ring touched a copper wire that caused the electric shock.

Copper has caused a number of freak accidents in recent years. In 2012, a California man was killed while trying to steal copper wire from a utility pole with bolt cutters.

And last year, a man in Oregon died while attempting to rip out copper wire from an abandoned plywood mill.

## NVARC Club Net

The NVARC Club Net meet's every Monday evening at 8 PM on the 442.900 Pepperell repeater.

Stop in and bring your input and questions.

The net is in need of a regular Net Control Station (NCS).

Recent attendees were

Jim N8VIM, Stan KD1LE, Skip K1NKR, Larry W1ESR, Les N1SV, Bruce K1BG, George KB1HFT, Dave N1MNX

## Upcoming Contests

December 2014

19 Russian 160 Meter Contest  
21 Rookie Roundup CW

2015

January

3 ARRL RTTY Roundup  
3-4 EUCW 160 Meter Contest  
10 North American QSO Party CW  
11 DARC 10 Meter Contest  
17 North American QSO Party SSB  
17ARRL January VHF Contest  
23 CQ 160 Meter Contest CW  
24 ARRL January VHF Contest

February

7 Vermont QSO Party  
7 Minnesota QSO Party  
7 Delaware QSO Party  
7 Mexico RTTY International Contest  
7-8 Black Sea Cup International  
8 North American Sprint CW  
14 New Hampshire QSO Party  
21 ARRL International DX Contest CW  
27 CQ 160 Meter Contest SSB

March

1 North Carolina QSO Party  
7-8 ARRL International DX Contest SSB  
14 Idaho QSO Party  
15 North American Sprint RTTY  
15 Wisconsin QSO Party  
21 Russian DX Contest  
22 North American Sprint SSB  
28 CQ WW WPX Contest SSB

April

2 SARL 80 Meter QSO Party  
4-5 Mississippi QSO Party  
4-5 SP DX Contest  
11-12 JIDX CW Contest  
11-12 Georgia QSO Party  
17-18 Holyland DX Contest  
18 EU Spring Sprint SSB  
18-19 YU DX Contest  
25-26 SP DX RTTY Contest  
25-26 Florida QSO Party

May  
ARI International DX Contest  
2-3 Indiana QSO Party  
2-3 New England QSO Party  
CQ-M International DX Contest  
9-10 Volta WW RTTY Contest  
30-31 CQ WW WPX Contest CW

### Flea Markets/Hamfests

2015 August  
21 ARRL New England Convention Boxboro MA  
2015  
March  
7 Chicopee MA Mt Tom ARA  
May  
1, 2 Deerfield NH NEARfest  
August  
21, 23 Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Convention

### Your Article

Your article could have been here which would have eliminated this blank space.



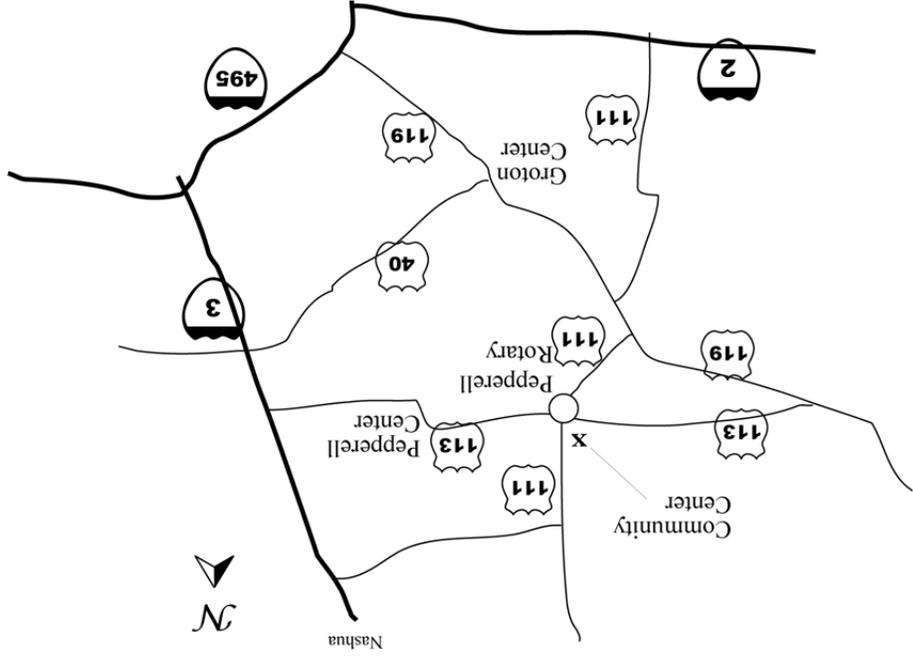
## Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

President: Skip Youngberg K1NKR  
Vice President: Jim Hein N8VIM  
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X  
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
Board Members:  
Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2012-2015  
Bob Reif: W1XP 2013-2016  
Wolf Seidlich KA1VOU 2014-2017

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
Emergency Coordinator: Larry Swezey W1ESR  
Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
PIO: Roland Guilmet NR1G  
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  
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