

SIGNAL

A club since 1992



Since 1993



Since 1996

de N1NC

May 2018

Volume 27 Number 5

This Month's Meeting

*****NOTICE*****

Per the NVARC Constitution, we will hold a "Special Election" at the May meeting to fill the open Board position. Nominations are open until then.

*****NOTICE*****



April may be the anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic* but May is the month we'll hear about it. The sinking was actually a milestone event in the history of radio and radio regulations. (We can actually trace our licenses back to it.) Our local area was more involved in the "night to remember" and has more radio history than you might know. Skip, K1NKR will present a multi-media show all about things to know, places to visit, and personalities to revere—all brought about by the sinking of the *Titanic*.

The President's Corner

The MARA card sort came off well. I confirmed with Erik there that we are on the schedule for our October sort.

The first order of business at the May meeting will be to hold a Special Election to fill the vacant Board of Directors spot. Nominations are open until that time.

We are in need of a Field Day Coordinator(s). While the job might seem to involve a lot, but the Coordinator is really meant to be the club's "big picture" organizer, identifying people to carry out all the necessary work. You don't have to find the tables, chairs and radios for the stations, but you'll find the person to Captain the station who will find the tables and chairs, radios, tent, operators, etc. Since time is running short, I have already requested permission to use the Heald St Orchard. Paula was busy when I stopped in, so I have to go back to get our copy of the paperwork.

There should be a report elsewhere, but the Groton Road Race event went well, although the weather sprinkled on us from time to time.

The Arduino Group continues to meet at 10am on Monday mornings at the Community Center. The Antenna Analyzer design as published in QST has been pretty much completed by the participants with a few hardware changes and a lot of software improvements. We are off on a second version using different hardware, which may provide added benefits. Interestingly it will use the same improved software that we have been working on with the original model.

We need to get a few people together to do some work on the repeaters this year. There is some regular maintenance (about an hour or two) that should be done this spring and again next fall when we close up the building for winter. I didn't look closely or wasn't thinking about it, but the building probably needs to be painted sometime this year. That is a little more work but can be done by a larger group of people in only a few hours also. Since Dave N1MNX can no longer do some of these things we have to pick up the ball.

73, Stan KD1LE

News and Happenings

Last Month's Meeting

Jim, N8VIM, saved the evening from being speakerless by giving a great talk about the in's and out's of installing home solar. Otherwise, nothing out of the ordinary happened—even at the annual election.



K1NKR photo

The Arduino Group

If you've been following the in-club news you know that the "Arduino Group" isn't as computer-focused as you might have thought. The gang has been analyzing and redesigning what may eventually be "the best antenna analyzer ever."

Take a look at:

https://groups.io/g/SoftwareControlledHamRadio/topic/aa_version_03_6_files_are_now/18578129?p=...20.0.0.0::recentpostdate%2Fsticky...20.2.0.18578129

de George, KB1HFT

Field Day Cometh

Field Day Cometh.

Field Day Cometh.

Will you be-eth there?

'nuff said.

Publication Note

You might notice some changes in the box on the last page of this, and future, *Signals*. **Some of the incumbents' names have changed following the April election, of course. (Wrong, Bucko. I started writing this issue of the newsletter before the meeting and was too lazy to go back and re-write this note. Ed.)** I'm also trying to trim things up and eliminate any "noise" that's accumulated over the years. I'm now only listing constitutionally-defined officers and appointed positions. There isn't any position defined, for instance, as a "photographer" or a PIO (Public Information Officer).

There isn't any constitutionally required license trustee position, but I've continued to include it as a representation of the trustee's ongoing responsibility and authority. The same goes for the keepers of our property and library holdings. On the other hand, I've moved the Signal editorship out of the "Officers and Appointees" area and placed it down with the publication information.

By the way, the constitution does provide that committees shall be appointed at the discretion of the President but we've seldom really used them formally. The six identified as options are: 1) Nomination Committee, 2) Field Day Committee, 3) Newsletter Committee, 4) Local Interference Committee, 5) RFI/TVI Committee, and 6) Education Committee.

73, Skip K1NKR

Public Service

Opportunities for Amateur Radio Public Service

Contact: Mark Richards, K1MGY
kmalitt1@gmail.com, k1mgv.usa@gmail.com.
617-592-4392.

RIDE to End Alzheimer's

Date: Saturday, June 9, 2018. Time: Morning to mid-day; late morning to afternoon.

Location: Odiorne State Park, Rye, NH 03870

The RIDE is a fully-supported cycling event with 100, 62 and 30 mile courses, and 5 pit (medical, hydration, and snack) stops. It begins and ends at the NH seacoast. The courses extend west to Newton, NH and south into Rowley, MA. For riders and volunteers alike, it's a fantastic day, a great way to make new friends, and quite the party! This is a large, complex event. We need your help! This event was formerly headquartered at Devens, MA and was supported by NVARC. Volunteers are needed for Amateur Radio Communications

- Aboard or as SAG vehicles
- At PIT stops
- At the event headquarters NCOC
- SAG Drivers

PMC Kids Ride to benefit the Jimmy Fund

Date: Sunday, June 17, 2018. Time: 0700-1200

Location: Willard Elementary School, Concord, MA

On Sunday, June 17, 2018, PMC Kids Rides will be coming to Concord at the Willard Elementary school. This is an annual fundraising event for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund. Ages 5 to 15 are invited to ride either a 1, 4, 8, or 12 mile route. Since the PMC Concord Kids Ride started in 2008, over \$320,400 has been raised towards the fight against cancer. Volunteers are needed for Amateur Radio Communications:

- Aboard or as SAG vehicles
- At the event headquarters NCOC
- At Road Marshall locations

-- SAG Drivers (with communications specialist aboard)

de Mark, K1MGY

Groton Road Race

—Wet but Successful

Continuing this year's pattern of rainy foot races, Sunday April 29 challenged the 27th running of the Groton Road Race with threats of rain. That did not seem to affect participation much, however. Perhaps the runners were basking in the relative warmth compared to Marathon Monday.

The Groton Road Race is hosted by the Squannacook River Runners. NVARC has been providing radio communications for this event since its second year; this is our 26th "run". The race committee and the Groton Police Department consider Amateur Radio to be a vital component of this event. This year thirty-six Amateur Radio operators turned out to provide the event communications. **[Many police departments participate and they don't all use common frequencies, so we're the "glue" that holds the race together. Ed.]**



Groton Deputy Chief Jim Cullen briefs the police officers (green coats) and amateur radio crew (orange vests) with Chief Don Palma.

KD1SM photo

A change introduced this year seems to have been met with appreciation. The race committee moved the start times of the 5k and 10k races 90 minutes earlier. According to Race Director Ryan McMeniman this was done to avoid interfering with kids' afternoon activities. At least one of our radio operators confirmed that as soon as we were secured from race duty he was off to a soccer game. Groton Police Deputy Chief Jim Cullen noted

also that as several main roads through town are closed for the race the earlier timing was also a plus.



5K runners pass Net Control with Stan KD1LE cheering them on.

KD1SM photo

If you missed us this year, please consider joining the radio team in 2019. We've always had a rewarding time regardless of the weather. Mark April 2019 on your calendars. In recent years the Groton Road Race has been on the last Sunday of April. We'll await word on the exact date of next year's Race.



Stan KD1LE, NVARC President, and Ray KB1LRL, ARRL WMA Section Manager, confirm that the Net Control Station setup is complete at 0700 Sunday morning.

KD1SM photo

The Squannacook River Runners and the Groton Police Department thank everyone who volunteered: AB1CV, AB1PM, AB1WQ, K1JHC, K1JKR, K1NKR, K1RAU, K1YTS, K9AEN, KB1HFT, KB1KTP, KB1LRL, KB1NMJ, KB5JR, KC1EIV, KC1IGD, KD1LE, KD1SM, KK1X, KW2T, KX1M, N1ALO, N1HTS, N1ICB, N1KLL, N1MOR, N1QDZ, N1RKO, N1SPA, N1YFK, N8VIM, NA1T, NF1A, NW1U, W0TJP, WA1VVT, and WY1X.

De Ralph, KD1SM

Strays



K1NKR photo

To fracture a quote from Crocodile Dundee, "You think you've got a mobile? THIS IS a mobile."



K1NKR photo

You might not be preparing for the NVARC Summer Picnic, but I am.

Treasurer's Report

Income for April was \$120 from membership fees and \$55 from the March meeting book'n'stuff raffle. There were no expenses in April leaving a net income of \$175 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund \$3,216.09
Community fund \$5,061.52

As of 3 May we have 45 members who are current with their dues and 18 renewals outstanding. Thank you to those of you who hand in your dues before I come to you. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask me.

de Ralph KD1SM

Bored Meeting Notes

Board meeting 5/3/2017

Attending: Stan KD1LE, Jim N8VIM, John KK1X, Ralph KD1SM, Jim AB1WQ, Ed N1YFK.

- Special meeting in May to elect a board member.
- Getting presentations from Arizona club not as easy as we thought.
- Ralph to contact "Kevin" of the Billerica PD to ask about a CERT presentation.
- Looking for a Field Day coordinator.

Respectfully submitted,
de John KK1X

Club Services

Special Interest Groups and Tech Nights. Occasionally, members with particular interests (e.g., Arduinos, moonbounce, etc.) will get together and Elmer each other or work on a joint project. More than occasionally—usually the second Thursday evening of the month—Tech Night at the Community Center will concentrate on a subject of interest. Keep an eye on the Reflector for information and scheduling.

NVARC Website

www.N1NC.org. Our public face to the world, the website has historical and informative information as well as data like the constitution, the library and property lists, and the newsletter archive.

- The ARRL website is at <http://www.arrl.org/>.
- The new Eastern Massachusetts ARRL Section website at <https://ema.arrl.org>.
- The WMA Section website is at <http://wma.arrl.org/>
- The NH Section website is at <http://www.nharrl.org/>.
- The Billerica ARS now has a new and much improved website at <https://www.w1hh.org/>.

Two years ago we announced plans for an enlarged and style-updated NVARC website. We just needed a volunteer to take on the project. We still do

Calendar

May

20 Flea at MIT

June

2 NEARC antiques flea, Brookline NH

17 Flea at MIT

23,24 Field Day

July

15 Flea at MIT

August

19 NoBARC Hamfest, Adams MA

19 Flea at MIT

Upcoming Operating Activities

2018

International Grid Chase (all year!)
Science Milestones event (all year!)

June

1-3 Museum Ships on the Air
9-11 June VHF Contest
16 Kids Day
23,24 Field Day

July

14-15 IARU HF World Championship

August

4-5 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
18-19 10 GHz & Up – Round 1
19 Rookie Roundup – RTTY

Are you a “contest nut?” See
<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar> (Contest
Corral) for month-by-month listings of both
ARRL and non-ARRL contests.

Advertisers

FOR SALE

New, unopened Diamond model NR770HA
2m/70cm “Dual Band High Power Rating., High
Performance Radialless Mobile Gain Whip
Antenna.” Gain: 3dB (2m), 5.5dB (70cm). Lists
for \$48.95 at HRO. Note: This is the antenna
only; the various mounts are separate items.
Yours for \$35—that’s almost 30% off list price!
Contact Skip, K1NKR.



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

President: Stan Pozerski, KD1LE

Vice President: Jim Hein, N8VIM

Secretary: John Griswold, KK1X

Treasurer: Ralph Swick, KD1SM

Board Members:

Jim Wilber, AB1WQ, 2016-2019

Ed Snapp, N1YFK, 2017-2020

(open) 2018-2021

Property Master: John Griswold, KK1X

Librarian: Peter Nordberg, N1ZRG

Emergency Coordinator: [open]

N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain, K1BG

Join NVARC! Annual membership dues are \$15;
\$20 for a family.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the
month at 7:30 p.m. in the Pepperell Community
Center.

Contact us on the N1MNX repeater.

442.900 (+), 100Hz

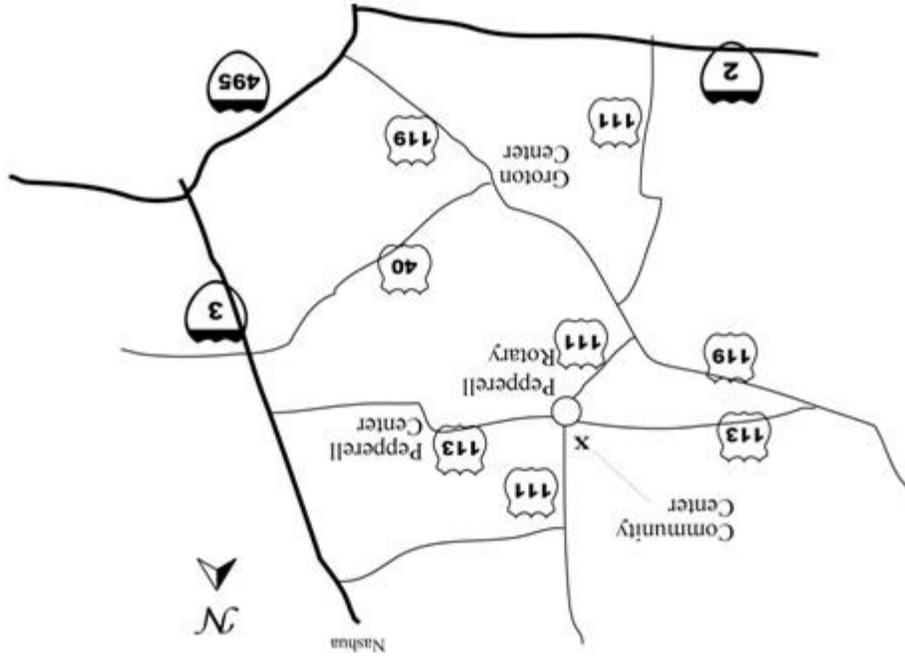
147.345 (+), 100 Hz

53.890 (-), 100Hz

This newsletter is published monthly. Submis-
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rected to the newsletter editor. Articles and
graphics in most PC-compatible formats are OK.

Editor: Skip Youngberg, K1NKR

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