

SIGNAL

A club since 1992



Since 1993



Since 1996

de N1NC

October 2018

Volume 27 Number 10

This Month's Meeting

Card sort! Card sort!! Card sort!!! (Pizza and coke, and maybe coffee, as well.) NVARC's October meeting is always well-attended and very social. Expect to see members of other local clubs.



As a special inducement, bring along your outgoing international QSLs. Remember free outgoing QSL service is a benefit of NVARC membership. (This year the free outgoing service will be offered on a one-time basis to non-member sorters who bring cards and proof of ARRL membership.)

Last Month's Meeting



Last month we were joined by Rob Macedo, KD1CY, who spoke about SKYWARN and extended his talk to provide a status on the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Tom K1TW (Eastern Mass Section Manager) also attended. Sean WA1TE, of Westford, visited. Sean is a new—but very devoted—VHF contest rover.

“Lost” member Mack KC1EOB also attended. Welcome back!

The President's Corner

Not much to report from here. Our October meeting is the annual W1 QSL card sort. Everything is in place for that activity. With Fall comes NEARfest October 12th and 13th. Maybe you will have found some hidden gem there that you can report on at a future meeting.

For ARRL members, don't forget to fill in and send your ballot for ARRL Division Director.

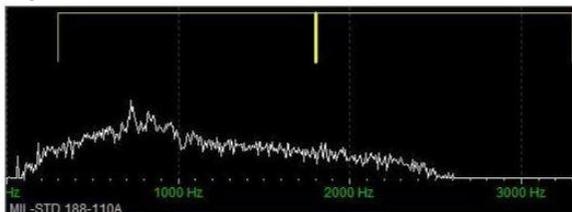
The shorter days and falling leaves remind us that time for antenna work is growing short. Get those antenna projects and repairs done (ugh) so you can enjoy operating this winter (un-ugh).

There have been some discussions on Thinking Day on the Air (TDOTA), which is coming up. Thinking Day 2019 is February 22nd, so I think TDOTA will be the 23rd and 24th. Skip will correct me on this I'm sure. **[Good, but incorrect guess on “closest weekend. That's what I would have guessed, too. But www.guides-on-the-air.co.uk says, “TDOTA 2019 will be the 3rd full weekend in February: 16 & 17.” Ed]** It is possible we will have a Saturday and Sunday activity so stay tuned as plans develop.

Our November meeting program is set, so looking further out we are looking at Homebrew and Members Short Subjects meetings where we depend on all of you to make them interesting. You have plenty of time to finish

up those projects and short presentations. I'll note here that we usually do those at the December and January meetings. But we may have a presenter who needs one of those dates, so we may have to move one or both of those programs around to accommodate him.

Later this month, Army and Air Force MARS will be participating in an exercise that will involve the Amateur Service. The exercise objectives are around interoperability and collecting information from the Amateurs. There will be digital broadcasts and interoperation on 60 meters, which we share with the military. It will include the use of M110A, which is a digital mode used by the military and others. From the Amateur side, you can think of M110A as just another "sound card mode," but it is built into the military radios.



from

http://w3jii.com/downloads/M110ADMT_User_Guide.pdf

The software is available on the usarmymars.org website under software/Amateur Radio MIL-STD Software Kit – Public. It is called MS-DMT. Because of the symbol rate limit on the Amateur bands it generally can not be used, but that does not apply to the 60 meter band. Listen around and tell us what you "hear."

de Stan KD1LE

Editor's Note



I do a lot of traveling up Route 16 in New Hampshire to the FN43 "alternate fixed transmitter location," as the FCC used to call it. One Friday the tourist traffic was heavy, but proceeding in orderly fashion at its usual conservative 60+mph on the 55mph road. The light ahead turned red. As we slowed, a car raced up the breakdown lane, turned right at the light,

made an immediate U-turn, and then turned right again to re-enter 16—all before the light changed. Pursuing the "It don't matter if you don't get caught" philosophy of driving, this hearty soul gained about six positions in the line of traffic. He also set a memorable example of how out-of-state drivers should (or shouldn't) behave.

What's this got to do with Amateur Radio? Plenty. Do you dishonor the band edges? Do you intentionally QRM? Do you broadcast music? Of course not!. In a sense, we don't speed down the breakdown lane. That license we have is unique. With no significant exceptions, every transmitting license worldwide is issued to a government, a corporation, or an organization (*i.e.*, not to people)—except for Amateur Radio licenses. As Amateurs we've all been tested for and then continuously exemplified the trust placed in us. And we're about the only people in the world to enjoy this privilege.

Think about it. License X is issued to government/corporation/organization Y "to transmit on frequency F (only), using modulation M (only), from location L (pretty much only), for purpose P (only). Contrast that with the authorizations that we're used to in frequency, modulation, QTH, and operating activity. Wow!

All this is the foundation of the magic our hobby offers us. Our interests and activities are virtually unlimited. LF (and lower) through EHF (and higher). CW, voice, image, text, and more. Fixed, mobile, satellite. Public service, ragchewing, DXing, experimenting, contesting, and on, and on. Frankly, I'm awed by all this.

On another note:

Most everyone knows I strongly believe in term limits—even for volunteer functions like newsletter editor. I took the job with the June 2016 issue; it's about time for some new blood. I will turn over editorship of the Signal on or before the April 2019 meeting, depending on whether a volunteer identifies him (or her) self in the meantime. So, as of 19 April you will have a new editor. Or none, it all depends on the membership.

de Skip, K1NKR

Strays

Twenty members—plus three guests—attended the September meeting. For what it's worth, we historically have about 50% of our paid up membership attend a meeting. (Records show that paid up membership averages just over 40 and behind-in-dues membership runs just over 20 at any time.)



A marine biologist developed a race of genetically engineered dolphins that could live forever if they were fed a steady diet of seagulls. One day, his supply of the birds ran out so he had to go out and trap some more. On the way back, he spied two lions asleep on the road. Afraid to wake them, he gingerly stepped over them. Immediately, he was arrested and charged with... "transporting gulls across sedate lions for immortal porpoises." *[OK, so it's not ham radio. But I did lift it from a ham radio journal which shall remain unnamed. Ed]*



Last month we asked, "What's your Ham Radio "Numerology Quotient?" (How many of these numbers mean anything to you? 73, 88, 80, 807, 6146, 38, 225, 1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/0, 5, 8, 2.15, 1914, 1992, 27, ...30.)

Here are the answers:

- 73** - best regards (not 73s=regardses)
- 88** – love and kisses (not 88s=loves and kisseses),
- 80** – antique tube rectifier
- 807** – a beer, among other things
- 6146** – power amplifier tube
- 38** – original ARRL address (38 La Salle Rd, West Hartford CT, now part of a shopping district)
- 225** – current ARRL address
- 1/.../0** – call areas
- 5** -our CQ zone
- 8** – our ITU zone
- 2.15** - gain (dBi) of half-wave dipole
- 1915** – establishment of ARRL
- 1992** – establishment of NVARC

- 27** – (MHz) former ham band, now a ...
- 30** – journalist's "end of story" identifier.



Looking for an idea for Homebrew or Short Subjects night? Here's an idea from a job interview: a key competency, "drive to learn," was tested with the prompt: "Tell us about one thing you taught yourself over the last six months and how you went about doing it." What's new at your QTH, OM?

Treasurer's Report

Income for September was \$125 from membership renewals. Expenses were \$11.71 for dinner for the September meeting presenter, leaving a net income of \$113.29 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,739.57
Community fund	\$5,061.52

As of 4 October, we have 41 members who are current with their dues and 24 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.

If you are joining ARRL or renewing your membership please consider me letting me 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. I deduct 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.

de Ralph KD1SM

Board Meeting Notes

Board meeting 10/4/2018 *[Radio Day, get it? Ed]*

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

AB1WQ, Bruce K1BG. Observing: Skip K1NKR.

- Card sort this month. Stan needs help moving sorting boxes, will contact other local clubs.
- Meetings: November is still Bob DeMattia K1IW. December Homebrew, January Short Subjects.
- Some discussion about Bruce's idea about teaching ham radio. Bruce and Skip to look in-to online resources about class content and structure. Looking for someone to head up the class operation.
- Bruce suggested allowing card sort participants to bring outgoing cards to buro. We're doing it. (approved)
- Bruce reported on science fair at Bromfield School (Harvard MA). Interesting variety of project subjects. Science fairs are typically in February, or shortly thereafter.
- Jill's NH Girl Scouts really looking forward to Thinking Day on the Air. Skip to settle dates for TDOA with Shirley MA and Raymond NH. Stan to look into Tyngsboro TDOA. Can the TDOA program be expanded to draw more interest to the hobby?

Respectfully submitted,

de John KK1X

Club Services

Newsletter. The monthly *Signal* is the club's record communications. It's archived on the NVARC website (www.n1nc.org) and serves as the historical archive of the club's interests and activities. Most distribution is electronic, a notice referring addressees to the archive. About thirty copies per month are printed for those who can't, or prefer not to, access the archive and for distribution to the public at HRO and Electronics Plus.

Special Interest Groups. Occasionally, members with particular interests (e.g., Arduinos, moonbounce, etc.) will get together and Elmer each other or work on a joint project. Keep an eye on the Reflector for information and scheduling.

Repeater. The Pepperell repeater is not actually a club asset. It belongs to member Dave, N1MNX, who has always graciously made it available for our use and for which we provide maintenance. The repeater has 6m (53.890 MHz), 2m (147.345 MHz), and 70cm (442.900 MHz) capability and a battery back-up. Look up Dave's entry on www.QRZ.com and his webpage at www.n1mnx.com for technical information.

Calendar

October

12-13 NEARfest, Deerfield NH

21 Flea at MIT

November

(Find something. Tell us all.)

December

(Find something. Tell us all.)

Upcoming Operating Activities 2018

International Grid Chase (all year!)

Science Milestones event (all year!)

October

15-19 School Club Roundup

27-28 EME Contest, 50-1296MHz

November

3-5 November Sweepstakes -- CW

17-19 November Sweepstakes -- Phone

24-25 EME Contest, 50-1296MHz

30-2DEC 160 Meter Contest

December

8-9 10m sprint

16 Rookie Roundup -- CW

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

HP141T Spectrum Analyzer Set

- HP 141T Display Section

- HP 8552B Spectrum Analyzer - IF Section

- HP 8556A Spectrum Analyzer - LF Section (0-300KHz)

- HP 8553B Spectrum Analyzer - RF Section (0-110MHz)

- HP 8554B Spectrum Analyzer - RF Section (0-1200MHz)
- HP 8555A Spectrum Analyzer - RF Section (1.5-43GHz)
- ...**plus**
- HP8443A Tracking Generator Counter (0-110MHz)
- ...**plus**
- Spare storage CRT
- ...**plus**
- Documentation/manuals

\$850. Contact Skip, K1NKR

One Last Good Question

With apologies to the holder of the callsign (and everyone else who has to listen to the phrase—over, and over, and over...)



We're an ageing hobby, true. Does this mean we need more youth or should we be celebrating birthdays as indicators of accumulated experience? Hmm, maybe it's just that October is Halloween month and the editor had a scary picture to share.



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

Bruce Blain, K1BG, 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

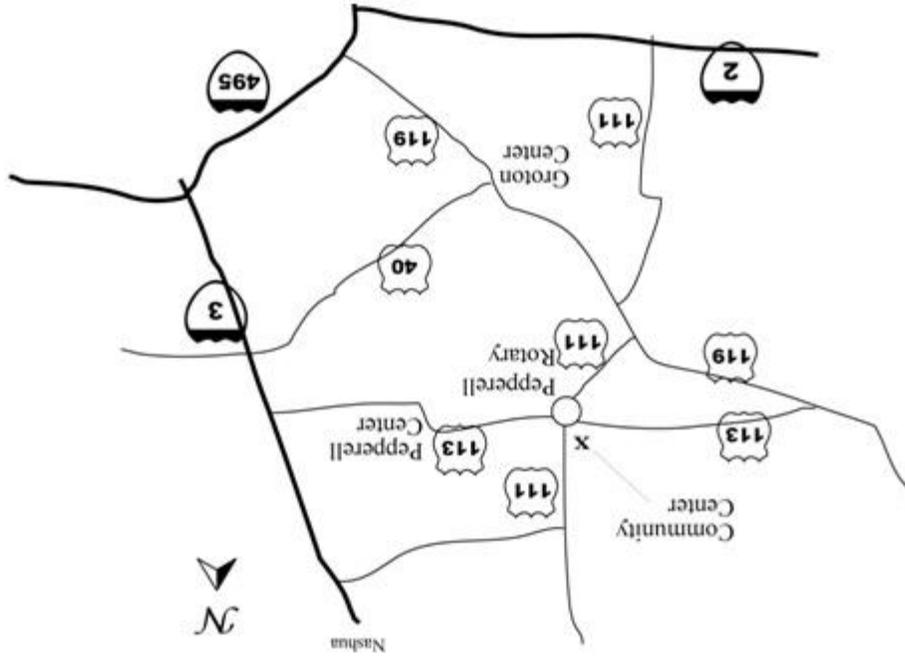
147.345 (+), 100 Hz

53.890 (-), 100Hz

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

Editor: Skip Youngberg, K1NKR

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