



SIGNAL



de NINC

September 2011 Volume 20 Number 09

This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday September 16th at 7:30 and will be held at the Pepperell Community Center.

The meeting program will be N1HXA Mike Traffic who will talk about how he invented the Hex-Beam.

October's meeting is the QSL Card Sort.

Last Month's Meeting

There was no August Meeting.

From the President

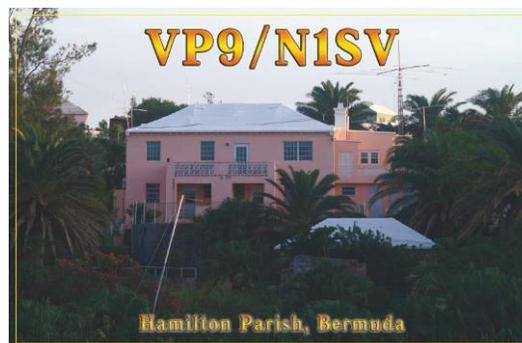
As I write this edition with a meeting coming up it can only mean one thing, summer is over. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer.

Skip has worked up a good number of the meeting programs, but as always if you have suggestions we'd like to hear them. Sometimes it can take a while to find someone for a particular subject and availability can be an issue. Also we are always looking for short subjects especially on things our members have done.

So I hope to see you all at the September meeting. It is not too early to mention the October QSL card sort meeting. Bring along a friend or someone you think might be interested in Amateur Radio.

Stan KD1LE

Work N1SV Contest



N1SV Operating from Bermuda October 27th thru October 31st.

With lessons learned from last year's trip to Bermuda, I again return to VP9 the last weekend of October to try it again. I arrive Thursday the 27th and should be QRV that evening signing VP9/N1SV. During the CQWW Phone contest, look for me on all bands as VP9I (Not VP9/N1SV).

As an incentive, I will be giving away a \$50 ARRL gift certificate to the NVARC member who works me on the most bands during the contest. In the case of a tie the member who works me the earliest wins.

Now that I have operated from VP9 during this contest I can provide some hints to better your odds on finding and working me. First the DX packet cluster is your friend, monitor it if you can.

I expect that Friday night all the open bands will be very crowded making it difficult for me to find a frequency to run on forcing me to spin the dial a lot. The best band to find me on is 160m at the top of each hour for the first 5 – 15 minutes (depending on activity level) when the band is open. I will be working split listening above 1.840 and will announce where I am listening.

Saturday morning right after my local sunrise (one hour earlier than your local sunrise since) I will be on

40m for 1-2 hours depending on level of activity. This is an ideal time for you to work me. Later Saturday morning I plan to operate on the higher bands. Don't get frustrated if you hear me on 15 or 20m Saturday morning operating below the US phone band. This is a common tactic with VP9 stations to intentionally filter out US stations as the window to work the US is much larger than that to work European / African stations. Saturday afternoon look for me back in the US phone band where I expect there will be pileups. The best thing to do if there is a large pileup is just come back in 15 – 30 minutes when the chaos has cleared a bit.

Sometime Saturday evening I will move to 40 and 80m and try to set up shop on a clear frequency. After 2300z Saturday evening look for me on 160m just like Friday night. Sunday will be a repeat of Saturday but I expect everything may be a little slower so consequently I may be changing bands faster. I will announce the winner at the November NVARC meeting (You do not need to be present to win). Good luck to all! Les N1SV

Intl Lighthouses/Lightships Weekend

The 14th Annual International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

<http://www.illw.net>

by Roland NR1G, for Bruce K1BG, Skip K1NKR, and Jim K1PTF



Highland Light - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

Several NVARC members participated in the International Amateur Radio Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend event. This annual operating event is held every year on the third full weekend in August. This year it was held on August 20th and 21st.



NVARC tent and crew - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

Bruce K1BG organized participation in the ILLW event by contacting the caretakers of the Highland Light (aka Cape Cod Light) in North Truro, Massachusetts. Bruce was joined by Roland NR1G, Skip K1NKR, and Jim K1PTF.



Highland Light - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

This event was established in 1994 when eleven stations in Scotland established at lighthouses began operating primarily on the HF bands and making 750 QSOs over the weekend. Between 1994 and 1999 European interest grew as Danish, German, South African, and French lighthouses were added. Thus, the event became truly international and the name was changed to International Lighthouse/

Lightship Weekend. In 1999 there were 204 lighthouse/lightship stations and 36 countries. This year, 2011, 470 Lighthouses (including 19 Lightships) representing 55 countries participated.



View from Lighthouse- Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

The fun part about this event is that it is NOT a contest. It is a relaxed and fun weekend without the pressure of a contest. For those NVARC members who enjoy a relaxed kind of Amateur Radio activity it is definitely an event to consider for the future. And the plan is to do this again next year. ILLW next year will be held August 18-19, 2012. It is fortunate that ILLW will occur the weekend before Boxboro next year. Boxboro will be held August 24-26, 2012.



Information Table - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

We took this opportunity to discuss Amateur Radio with many visitors to the Lighthouse, a number of whom were Hams. We had a Field Day style information table about NVARC, the ARRL, and Ham Radio.



Setup from the Lighthouse - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

Our operating tent, as you may have noticed, was within ten feet of the door where the Highland Lighthouse tour began.



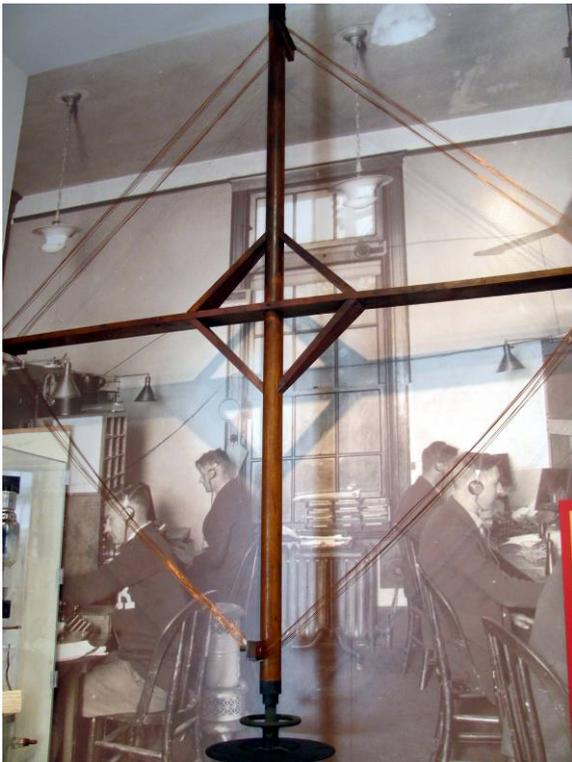
A couple of visitors - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

We kept a log and recorded at least 26 visitors. And, there were many that didn't take the time to record their names in our book. We had at least six Amateur Radio operator visitors (Bob WB4SON, George KB1GLG, Kristi KB1STI, Roger W1JI, Bill KA1IWY, and Chuck W8PT) stop by and spend some time with us.



Marconi Center Entrance - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

Since this was such a low pressure event, Skip and Roland decided to drive south to the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center, leaving Bruce and Jim to man the Lighthouse station.



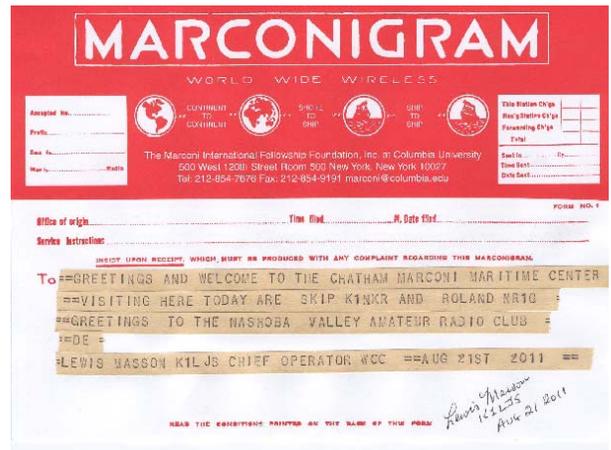
Direction Finding Antenna - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

The museum is about 20 minutes away and definitely worth seeing. It explains the decades-long history of WCC, the commercial Marconi traffic station. There is a working Amateur Radio station located on the site and is available to be used. Since Skip and Roland arrived so late we decided not to use the station and instead spent the time reviewing the exhibits. Here we met Lewis Masson K1LJS, a retired operator at the site who serves as a docent.

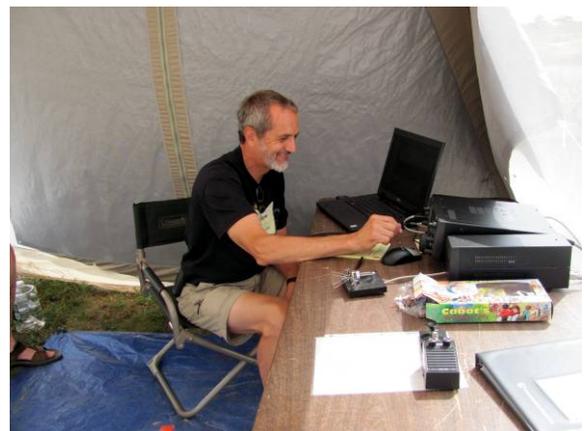


Original Tin Sign - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

Lewis created a MarconiGram using a vintage 5-bit Baudot paper tape punch, tape, reader, and teletype.



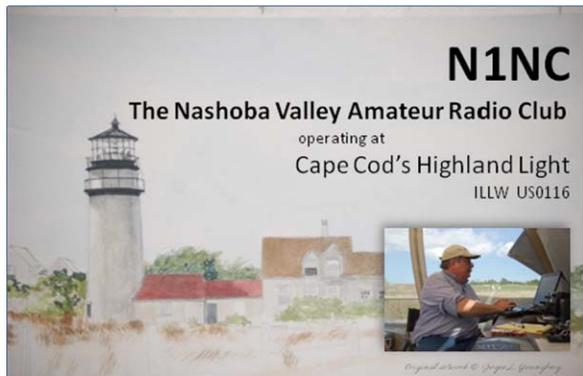
MarconiGram – Scan courtesy Roland NR1G



Jim KIPTF – Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

We have generated a special QSL card for those stations that contacted us and the Ham Radio visitors who stopped by and signed our visitor log. Skip's XYL Joyce used her time on the cape to paint a beautiful watercolor of the Highland Light from her

vantage point near the ocean. She has graciously agreed to let us use a reproduction of it for what promises to be a very collectable QSO card. The first of many, perhaps.



QSL Card - Courtesy Joyce Youngberg

Skip and Roland returned just in time to help pack up. With 217 QSOs under our belt, including a couple of NVARC members (George KB1HFT and Bob W1XP/4) we declared the weekend a resounding success and hit the road for home.

NVARC Net

The NVARC net meets on 442.900 N1MNX repeater Mondays at 8:00 PM. The net is for sharing information and asking questions. Recent topics were Field Day scoring and updates on things like leakage testing for equipment, Lighthouses on the Air, suggestions for next years Field Day. Because we have run into a Monday holiday several times recently I (Stan) propose that we change the net meeting day to be Monday or in the case of a Monday holiday then Tuesday.--Stan

Bring your questions and topics for discussion so that we can all learn something.

Recent Check in's;

N8VIM Jim NCS, K1NKR Skip, N1MNX Dave, KD1LE Stan, NW1U Paul, KB1HFT George, NR1G, Roland, W1LTN Dick, K1YTS Gary, KB1ESR Larry W1XP Bob, K1BG Bruce

PSLIST

See www.n1nc.org/Events for the latest information

Board Meeting

Ralph to pay out he Lighthouse and FD expenses.

Approved Jims FD expense

Approved Light house donation Highland Light.

Bruce and Roland went over the Lighthouse weekend. They are Interested in doing it again.

Skip went over the program schedule for the year as he knows it.

Road Cleanup September 18th at 8:00 AM

Voted to renew John GM3TCW Honorary Membership. John will contact him.

Larry was going to check on the Pepperell Public Safety Day event.

Approved pizza and drinks for the October QSL Card Sort.

Stan reported that Road Cleanup attendance has fallen off with 4, 3, 2 and 4 people the last four month's. The November Cleanup will be the last one for us and we will not renew in the spring.

Skip announced the September meeting program will be Mike Traffie on the Hex-Beam Antenna.

Card Sort planned for October meeting. Stan reported that he has already met with Steve K1SG and received the QSL cards.

Ralph gave the Treasurers Report as printed in the newsletter.

Thanks to Cindy and Larry KB1ESR for hosting the cookout.

Skip will contact Doug K1DG to pursue the WRTC 2014 that will take place in NE sponsored by YCCC.

LBC Bob updating application. Several PART members interested. Probably best to have every-one drop off application at September meeting and pick up their battery at the October meeting.

In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Bob W1XP, Bruce K1BG, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Skip K1NKR, Roland NR1G and Gary K1YTS.

Treasurers Report

Income for August was \$30 in membership renewals. Expenses were \$17.60 for Newsletter postage leaving a net income of \$12.40.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,541.14
Community fund	\$4,336.41

As of 2 September we have 41 members who are current with their dues and 24 renewals outstanding. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If you are not yet an ARRL member and are interested in joining, please consider letting Ralph send in the paperwork for you. The Club will buy the stamp and will get a commission from ARRL.

If your ARRL membership is ready for renewal, you can let Ralph mail it in for you and the Club will still get a (smaller) commission. ARRL membership checks should be made payable to NVARC; Ralph deducts the Club commission before forwarding your paperwork to Newington.

Ralph KD1SM

Upcoming Contests

N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR
September 2011

NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint (CW) QRP Contest
Sep 12, 1800z to 2000z
Rules: <http://naqcc-eu.org/sprints>

CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW) ... QRP Category
Sep 14, 1300z to 1400z and
Sep 14, 1900z to 2000z and
Sep 15, 0300z to 0400z
Rules: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

Connecticut QSO Party (SSB/CW/Dig) ... QRP Category
Sep 17, 0000z to 2359z
Rules: <http://www.ctqp.org/Rules.html>

Scandinavian Activity Contest (CW) ... QRP Category
Sep 17, 1200z to Sep 18, 1200z
Rules: <http://www.sactest.net/>

CIS DX QPSK63 Contest ... 10W Category

Sep 17, 1200z to Sep 18, 1200z
Rules: <http://www.cisdxc.srars.org/cisdxc.pdf>

South Carolina QSO Party (ALL) ... QRP Category
Sep 17, 1300z to Sep 18, 2100z
Rules: <http://www.w4cae.com/scqp/scqsoweb.html>

QRP Afield (All) QRP Contest
Sep 17, 1500z to Sep 18, 0300z
Rules: <http://newenglandqrp.org/afield>

Washington State Salmon Run (CW/SSB/Dig) ... QRP Category
Sep 17, 1600z to Sep 18, 0700z
Sep 18, 1600z to Sep 18, 2400z
Rules: <http://www.wwdx.org/>

Feld Hell Club Sprint (Feld Hell) ... QRP Category
Sep 17, 1600z to 1800z
Rules: <http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home>

NA Sprint (SSB)... QRP Category
Sep 18, 0000z to 0400z
Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php>

BARTG 75 Baud RTTY contest
Sep 18, 1700z to 2100z
Rules:
<http://www.bartg.org.uk/sprint75contest.asp?pageid=211017>

RUN FOR THE BACON (CW) QRP CONTEST
EDT: Sep 18, 9 PM to 11 PM
UTC: Sep 19, 0100z 0300z
Rules: <http://fpqrp.org/>

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint QRP CONTEST!
EDT: Sep 21, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM
UTC: Sep 22, 0030z to 0230z
Rules: <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>

CQWW RTTY DX Contest ...<150w Category
Sep 24, 0000z to Sep 25, 2400z
Rules:
http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest/cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest_rules/2011_cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest_rules.pdf

Texas QSO Party (All) ... QRP Category
Sep 24, 1400z to Sep 25, 0200z
Sep 25, 1400z to Sep 25, 2000z
Rules: <http://www.txqp.org/>

AGCW VHF/UHF CW Contest ... QRP Category
Sep 24, 1400z to 1759z

Rules: http://www.agcw.org/en/?Contests:VHF-UHF_Contest

Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint (CW/PSK31) QRP CONTEST

Sep 26, 0000z to 0400z

Rules:

<http://www.njqrp.org/data/qrp-homebrewers-sprint.html>

SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards

Sep 28, 0000z to 0200z

Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW) ... QRP Category

Sep 28, 1300z to 1400z and

Sep 28, 1900z to 2000z and

Sep 29, 0300z to 0400z

Rules: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, N0AX(ARRL), VA3JFF& G4GXL (QRPARCI) N2APB (AmQRP), WB3AAL (EPAQRP) and others for assistance in compiling this calendar.

If you wish to subscribe to the Calendar, send an e-mail to N2CQ@ARRL.Net

Please forward the contest info you sponsor to N2CQ@ARRL.NET and we will post it and give it more publicity.

Anyone may use this "N2CQ QRP Contest Calendar" for your website, newsletter, e-mail list or other media as you choose.

72 de Ken Newman - N2CQ

N2CQ QRP Contest Calendar Links:

<http://www.n3epa.org/Pages/Contest/contest.htm>

<http://www.amqrp.org/contesting/contesting.html>

<http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/6134/130/lang,en>

Adopt A Highway

On Sunday August 21st we held our August Road Cleanup.

Thanks to Stan KD1LE and Larry KB1ESR who turned out for the cleanup;

The next cleanup will be Sunday September 18th at 8:00 AM. Meet at the river common.

There are only three more road cleanups left this year. We are not continuing in the Adopt A Highway program next year.

ARRL Letter

Public Service: Hams from North Carolina to Maine Provide Communication Support Before, During and After

Hurricane Irene -- the first major hurricane of the 2011 hurricane season -- left extensive



ARRL Emergency Preparedness Assistant Ken Bailey, K1FUG (left) and ARRL Field Organization Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X, monitor traffic nets at W1AW during Hurricane Irene.

flood and wind damage along its path through the Caribbean, the East Coast of the United States and as far north as Atlantic Canada. Beginning on August 20 as then-Tropical Storm Irene headed toward Puerto Rico, radio amateurs were already on alert. Irene first made landfall in the US as a Category 1 storm on the morning of Saturday, August 27 on North Carolina's Outer Banks. In preparation, ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC, activated the ARRL HQ Emergency Response Team (HQERT). On Tuesday, August 23, this team of ARRL HQ staffers began monitoring various nets and providing support to the affected Field Organizations from W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. Two days later, the HQERT went into active mode.

Public Service: Puerto Rico Feels Early Brunt of Hurricane Irene



Tropical Storm Irene, as seen by NASA's GOES-13 satellite over Puerto Rico on Sunday, August 21. [Image courtesy of NASA]

When Tropical Storm Irene formed on the evening of Saturday, August 20, the Puerto Rico

Emergency Management Agency began to activate in preparation for the storm's approach. According to ARRL Public Information Officer Angel Santana, WP3GW, amateurs affiliated with the Cuerpo Voluntarios Radioaficionados (CVR) began to move throughout the island. In San Juan, CVR activated KP4CVR on the KP4CAR repeater. Hams also monitored 7.195 MHz for traffic and used 146.520 MHz for local contacts.

Kalaupapa, Hawaii Is Site of Second ARRL Remote VE Testing



The Kalaupapa Peninsula (as seen by the red dot) -- located on the island Molokai in Hawaii -- was the site of the second remote VE testing administered by the ARRL.

From the sunny shores of Hawaii's Kalaupapa Peninsula, -- located on the Island of Molokai -- ARRL Volunteer Examiners gave a remote ARRL VE session on the morning of July 25. Well, at least it was morning in Hawaii, but it was late in the afternoon at ARRL Headquarters. What made this VE session so special that it was only the second VE session to be administered via Internet video feed. The first video VE session -- and the first-ever VE session in Antarctica -- took place in October 2010.

Not only was this VE session special due to its location, only one VE was at Kalaupapa for the exam. "This is where the Internet video feed came into play," explained ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "Joe Speroni, AH0A -- who lives in Honolulu but went to the site at his own expense -- was at Kalaupapa, but Bev Yuen, AH6NF, and Ray Moody, AH6LT, were in Honolulu and watching on video. We also had three VEs here at ARRL Headquarters watching via video feed: Penny Harts, N1NAG, Steve Ewald, NV1X, and Rose Anne Lawrence, KB1DMW. These three administer many VE sessions each year here at ARRL HQ."

On the Air. Have Some Fun in the ARRL September VHF QSO Party

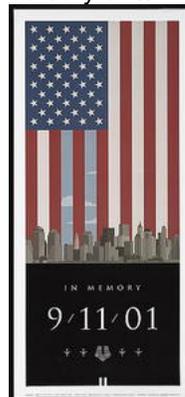


Ed Parsons, K1TR, of Windham, New Hampshire, operates the 2010 September VHF QSO Party as a rover. Here he is in his "shack," located in the back of his minivan. [Photo courtesy of Ed Parsons, K1TR]

September is here, and that means the VHF bands have been getting a workout. "If you've never experienced the fun of VHF+ operating, the ARRL September VHF QSO Party, the weekend of September 10 is a great place to start," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "With many HF radios now offering at least 6 meter SSB/CW capabilities -- and some offering 2 meters and 70 cm as well -- any amateur with a Technician class license or higher can experience long-haul communication on the VHF bands."

Kutzko explained that September is known for having good tropospheric propagation, as opposed to June, which is known for sporadic-E, or E-skip. "As the summer winds down, the sporadic-E season comes to an end and good tropo conditions flourish," he said. "A modest station -- say a 50 to 100 W SSB/CW transceiver and a small Yagi on 2 meters -- can, with favorable conditions, make QSOs several hundred miles away. If conditions are excellent, QSOs of more than 1000 miles are possible."

On the Air. Special Event Stations Mark Tenth Anniversary of 9/11



In remembrance of those who died in the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, several Amateur Radio Special Event Stations are being planned. Click [here](#) for a list of those stations that have notified the ARRL that they will be on the air. The dates, times and frequencies of these Special Event Stations are listed as they were reported to the ARRL, and as such, are subject to change. This list will be updated

as more Special Event Stations notify ARRL HQ of their plans. We recommend that you bookmark the web page and check back periodically for any additions.

2011 Flea Markets/Conventions

09/09 QCWA Convention, Warwick RI
09/10 Windsor Hamfest, Windsor ME
09/11 Western Connecticut Hamfest, Newtown CT
09/17 Alexander Hamfest, Alexander ME
09/17 76 Auction and Flea Market, Slatersville RI
09/18 MIT, Cambridge MA

10/09 Connecticut State Convention, Wallingford CT
10/13 Microwave Update Convention, Enfield CT
10/16 MIT, Cambridge MA
10/29 Auction, Gales Ferry CT

11/05 Londonderry Hamfest and Flea Market
11/12 FARAFest, Bourne MA

Advertisements

Your advertisement could be here.

Tell them you saw it in the Signal. Advertisers should contact the NVARC Treasurer for information.



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

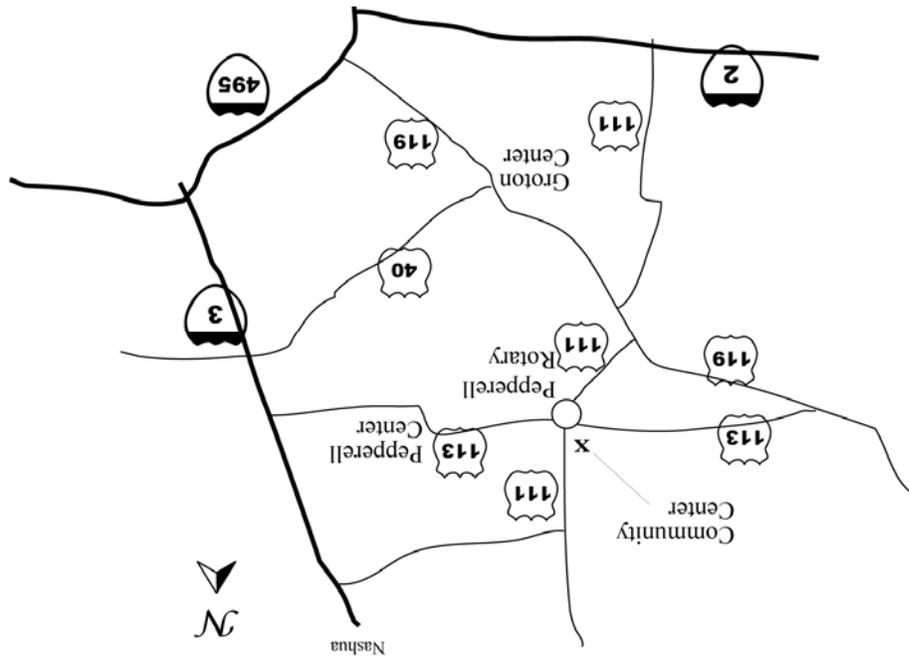
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Property Master: John Griswold KK1X
N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG
Annual membership dues are \$15; \$20 for a family
Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month
7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr.
Talk-in 146.490 simplex
442.900 + 100Hz Repeater battery power
147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater battery power
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