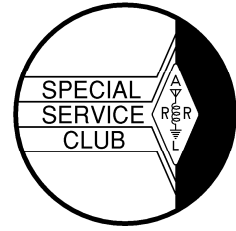




SIGNAL



de N1NC

May 2014 Volume 23 Number 5

This Month's Meeting

May's meeting will feature Layne, AE1N, describing a single antenna that covers eleven bands. He took on the research, design, construction, and testing of the antenna last year and has given talks on it recently at other clubs. Layne is currently both the membership chairman and the newsletter editor of the Nashua Area Radio Club.

This month's meeting is May 15th at the Pepperell Community Center at 7:30 PM.

Next Month's Newsletter

Next month's Signal will include Les N1SV's last article in his great series on DXing.

Also some participant comments on the LBC

Last Month's Meeting

At the April meeting NVARC elections took place. The results of the election were as follows.

President Skip K1NKR
Vice President Jim N8VIM
Treasurer Ralph KD1SM
Secretary John KK1X
BOD to 2015 Rod Hersh WA1TAC
BOD to 2016 Bob Reif: W1XP
BOD to 2017 Wolfgang Seidlich KA1VOU

April's meeting featured Dennis, W1UE, speaking on "RTTY Operation for the Newbie." Dennis has been the top scoring station in the RTTY Roundup three times, top scoring US Station in the CQWW RTTY contest two times. When explaining RTTY, Dennis' approach is that you have to have an understanding of what a RTTY signal is, how to tune it, and how to quickly make contacts with the mode.



Dennis W1UE talks about RTTY



Dennis W1UE accepts an NVARC mug



Dennis K1LGQ, Bruce K1BG, Bob W1XP, John KK1X accept their Lantern Battery Challenge certificates

President's Corner

de Skip, K1NKR

Let's discuss term limits and departures. That's probably a lousy subject for the first editorial following an election. It brings up thoughts of quitters—or lame ducks at least. But that's not my point.

Every organization owes thanks to its active members. Ten percent of any organization does ninety percent of the work. That's not bad; it's even "management by clique." It's just normal. What we do often see, though, are the same faces participating in, leading, and enjoying our various activities. Yet thanks to the wide range of interests of our semi-active (I'll never say inactive) members express we have a vibrant local club that admirably services the technical, public service, and social needs that brought us all together. Plus, we've got something better than twenty percent of our members doing the ninety percent.

Over the past two years of my tenure I've tried to promote leadership development. We've had new officers—from the ranks. We've had new Directors—again from the ranks. Rank-and-file members have stepped up to Public Information Officer, newsletter article writer, DXpedition coordinator, and picnic host jobs, just to name a few. Dan, KW2T, while serving as an interim Director, started our "Tech Night" series and then decided not to run for another Director term (for which Wolf, KA1VOU, was elected from the ranks) because he was enjoying organizing Tech Night so much. All these folks' contributions have been great. I and the club as a whole sincerely appreciate their active participation.

That's what a local club is all about. When I was elected president I told myself that in the absence of a constitutional requirement I'd impose a three-year term limit on myself.

Young girls who are members of the International Order of the Rainbow are told during their officer investment ceremony that,

"You should be an example to the members of the Assembly not only in your everyday life but in your association with them. And remember, **though elevated for the time being, you too, must return to the ranks. ...**"

There's historical precedent for this. Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus (519 BC – 430 BC) twice assumed



Dan KW2T shows the home-baked cake he made for the Lantern Battery Challenge awards celebration



Dan KW2T made a home-baked cake for the Lantern Battery Challenge awards celebration

In attendance: Jean K1AVM, Bruce K1BG, Dennis K1LGQ, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, Wolf KA1VOU, Ken KB1UVP, Greg KB1WAQ & Tom, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Dan KW2T, Les N1SV, Ed N1YFK, Peter N1ZRG, Jim N8VIM, Dennis W1UE, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC

Photos courtesy Ralph KD1SM

leadership of the Roman Empire, only to return to his farm when the demands of his term were complete. On this side of the pond, George Washington returned to his private life following the French and Indian War and again after his presidency. It's a smart idea. Assuming a leadership position need not and should not be an inescapable commitment.

So we're on to a new annual cycle for NVARC. We've got a business cycle from April to April, a September to June program year, and a summer season. Keeping up with our activities is like converting local time to GMT! Let's see now, GMT is local minus five-ninths times 32, right? Oh yeah, except for months ending in "r," when you have to add—or is it subtract—daylight savings time. We hams are a bunch of busy little piglets.

And there's a lot to do in "the ensuing term." In June there's Field Day. July this year brings our logistics support and ceremony participation for the World Radiosport Team Competition followed by the ARRL Centennial Convention. Sometime in the summer we'll have our annual picnic (hosted, but not slaved over, by a volunteer). We fully expect that August will bring another mini-DXpedition to the Cape for International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend. And we always need ideas and speakers for our meetings' programs. None of these is for "those other guys;" they are for all of us. Join in and have fun. We've got a big year ahead of us.

April Treasurers Report

Income for April was \$140 in membership renewals, \$2.18 in bank interest, and \$27 from the book raffle. Expenses were \$28.00 for newsletter postage leaving a net income for April of \$141.18.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,809.33
Community fund	\$4,836.41

The Spectrum Defense Fund Matching Gift Program has collected \$55 thus far. NVARC will match up to \$250 in total gifts received by Field Day.

As of 8 May we have 45 members who are current with their dues and 26 renewals outstanding. Many members have a renewal date of 1 April as that was the first month the Club collected dues. 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

Townsend Lions Club Canoe Race

The race was supported by the following area hams.

AB1CV Bob, KB1LRL Ray, KD1SM Ralph, K1JHC Tom, KD1LE Stan, KB1KEF Nancy, KT1I Charlie, KK1X John, W1HFN Barry, KB1ZNI Tom, KW2T Dan, KB1RYS Bruce, K1YTS Gary.

May Board Meeting Notes

Board meeting 5/8/2014

Rod, Bob, Skip, Wolf, Ralph, John
Treasurer's Report
Larger postage cost due to larger newsletter Ralph to cull the list of uninterested members
John to write letter to League regarding donation to Educational Fund to honor Founders and SKs
GRR and Canoe race were successful
Highland Light outing discussed - new management at lighthouse
Meeting topics set through the end of this season
Summer Project vote postponed for fine-tuning
Still need a Field Day chair
Concerns expressed that not enough volunteers have stepped forward for WRTC

John Griswold KK1X

The 2013/2014 NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge Wrap Up

The Lantern Battery Challenge activity period ended on the 1st of March. We had seven logs submitted out of the nine members that signed up this year. At the April meeting we awarded certificates and had a great cake that is traditional. This year the cake was made and decorated by Dan, KW2T and Mary Lou, N2MRX. Dan did the decorating. I must say it was the best decorated cake we have had in the six years of this activity. It tasted great also! Thanks Dan and Mary Lou!

As is not unusual, in an activity that has more categories of entry than participates, every one finished in first place! Also since this season's activity was dedicated to recognition of the event 90 years ago last November. This was the first two way contact between amateur operators across the Atlantic Ocean. This event 90 years ago opened up the frequencies that we now know as HF to worldwide communication. It was the discovery of the propagation of radio waves via the Ionosphere. To commemorate this momentous event a dual point system was added to the Lantern Battery Challenge scoring this year. Basically US QSOs counted 5 points and all other QSOs counted 9 points. This was to encourage DX QSOs. The Idea was to "make QSOs across the Pond" like 90 years ago. I am happy to report that all entries were successful in making at least one DX QSO. It was also probably the time of the peak of Solar Cycle #24 and some of us were able to use this event to capture some good DX conditions on 10 meters and the other high bands.

We had two stations taking part in the event for the first time this year this year. And they both report that they had a lot of fun. John K1JEB, was a first time entrant in the LBC. John spent most of the activity period building a stable full of QRP transmitters. He was having so much fun designing and building that he almost forgot to get on the air. But John entered in the CW, Crystal controlled mode with an Unlimited Antenna. He only made 8 contacts for a score of 39, but had fun just the same. I expect he will be ready for next year's event.

Another first timer, was George W1JHR. George had rig problems and spent a lot of his efforts trying to find out why his K2 was putting out so little power. He got the problem solved and made some QSOs. George entered in the Mixed CW/SSB mode with a General Antenna. He only made 7 QSO's but made more 9 point contacts than John K1JEB and ended up with 43 points.

In the Digital mode we had two entries this year. George, KB1HFT and John, KK1X. George made 32 contacts, and 176 points in the General antenna category. John made 33 contacts, but had a final score of 201 points. The real difference was John made 7 more 9 point QSOs than George. I guess the Unlimited Antenna John used made a difference. But George uses indoor antennas so he did very well. Well done both of you.

There was another interesting matchup between Dennis K1LGQ and Bruce K1BG in the CW mode. Dennis used an R 7 vertical in the General antenna category, and Bruce used his unlimited antenna farm. Dennis made 58 contacts with 1 DX contact, while Bruce made 44 contacts but with 28 DX QSOs had 372 points to Dennis' 294.

The last entry was by "yours truly". It was my best showing and I don't know why except 10 meters was smoking. My participation certainly didn't go according to my plan. I missed the CQ World Wide CW contest which had been so much fun the year before. But I did make the ARRL 10 meter contest and the band conditions were absolutely super. I pretty well ran the battery down. I did manage to squeeze out some more contacts after giving my battery a chance to recover. I made some more contacts in the ARRL DX contest. What wasn't part of the original plan but turned out to be fun was to make at least one QSO on each band 160 meters to 6 meters. I also made contacts on the three modes, CW, SSB and Digital (PSK 31). I just squeaked in the one PSK 31 QSO by turning down the output power well below 1 watt so the radio would not shut off due to low battery voltage during transmission. The 160 and 6 meter antennas put me in the Unlimited Antenna category. The final totals were 139 contacts, and 1083 points.

I've taken some of the comments from the entry forms, and they will be published separately. Hopefully these experiences will encourage you to join in on the fun.

If anybody had any ideas for next year's event please send them or talk with me about them. Do you like the different points approach like this year or just QSO totals? Should we reduce the entry categories or keep it the way it is? What can we do to get YOU to join in on the fun?

I want to thank all of you that joined in this year's event and invite you all to join in the fun next year. Till next year. 73 Bob W1XP

Groton Road Race

On April 27 19 NVARC members were joined by 17 Amateur Radio operators from other clubs to provide radio communications for the 23rd running of the Groton Road Race. This is the 21st year that NVARC has organized the Ham volunteers for this event.

The Ham crew connects the Race officials with each other and with the Groton Police Department. We are also stationed at road intersections around the course serving to connect the police officers from several agencies with each other.

Thanks to Bob AB1CV, Tom K1JHC, Ken K1JKR , Steve K1SMD, Pete K1SUB, Gary K1YTS, Karen KA1JVU, George KB1HFT, Nancy KB1KEF, Carsten KB1KTP, Ray KB1LRL, Steve KB1NMJ, Ken KB1UVP , Greg KB1WAQ, Dan KB1YGB, Tim KC1AJJ, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Tim KQ1Y, Charlie KT1I, Dan KW2T, Jim KX1M, Steve N1BDA, Jim N1HTS, Rob N1ICB, Keith N1KLK, Phil N1MOR , Don N1NWE, John N1PYN, Joseph N1QDZ, Mary N1RKO, Deryl N1SPA, Jim N8VIM, Paul NW1U, Tim W0TJP, Larry W1ESR, and Bob W1XP for participating this year.

Special thanks to Stan KD1LE and John KK1X for mustering at 0700 to set up NCS with me.

-Ralph KD1SM



Stan KD1LE at Net Control



The Net Control and logistics tents



10K leaders pass Net Control



The 10K runners pass Net Control



The 10K runners pass Net Control



Stan KD1LE in Net Control

Photos Courtesy Ralph KD1SM

Weekend Aftermath



The Townsend Lions Club Canoe race and the Groton Road Race are in the history books. But after two events on a rainy weekend the participants' work isn't finished. There are vests to dry, fold, check for returns and put away. The masts, antennas and radios had to be unloaded and put back in

storage. The deep cycle battery which kept three radios on the air Sunday needed recharging.

Ropes, strings and line casting equipment needed to be dried and rerolled. Coax cables unrolled, dried, re-labeled and rerolled. Then there are the miscellaneous gloves, hats, rags and tarps to dry and put away to be ready for the next event. Fortunately after two rainy days Monday was sunny and all was completed easily.

Stan KD1LE

Meeting Coffee "Bar"

Many thanks to Ed Snapp, N1YFK, for his rejuvenating the coffee "bar" at the last two 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.

Strays

Have you been chasing the W1AW/n stations? It's a good way to work all states. Pairs of states are on each week from Wednesday to Wednesday (GMT). If you think it's too late to start because you've missed some states you're wrong. You can capture the remainder of the first cycle until July 8. The second cycle of all fifty states starts on July 16. Some die-hard NVARC members are attempting an all-band/all-mode W1AW/n Centennial WAS.

Along those same lines, Dale AF1T (operating as W1AW/1 a few weeks ago) and Dave K1WHS extended the "pickle antenna to pickle antenna" DX record. Their contact was from Henniker NH to Lebanon ME, about 65 miles. They proved the old adage "any antenna is better than no antenna at all." They also proved a lot about ham ingenuity.

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 activity on the net included Last Call for SK (WR1Y)

Recently participants talked about the upcoming Groton Road Race, hopes for Spring weather, antenna work, antenna switches. Also, various SDR dongle projects by members for aircraft radar, signal analysis and interference identification.

Recent attendees were

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

Upcoming Contests

Jul
12-13 IARU HF World Championship & WRTC2014
Aug
2-3 UHF Contest
16-17 10 GHZ & Up Round 1
17 Rookie Roundup RTTY
Sep
13-15 Sep VHF
20-21 10 GHz & Up Round 2

Flea Markets/Hamfests

May
31 23rd Annual Hamfest (Goshen CT)
Jun
15 MIT Flea (Cambridge)
21 NARL Fest Newington CT
Jul
17 ARRL National Convention (Hartford CT)
20 MIT Flea (Cambridge)
Aug
9 Three Rivers Hamfest (Milo ME)
17 MIT Flea (Cambridge)
Sep
12 CT State Convention (Nutmeg Hamfest)
21 MIT Flea (Cambridge)

Your Article

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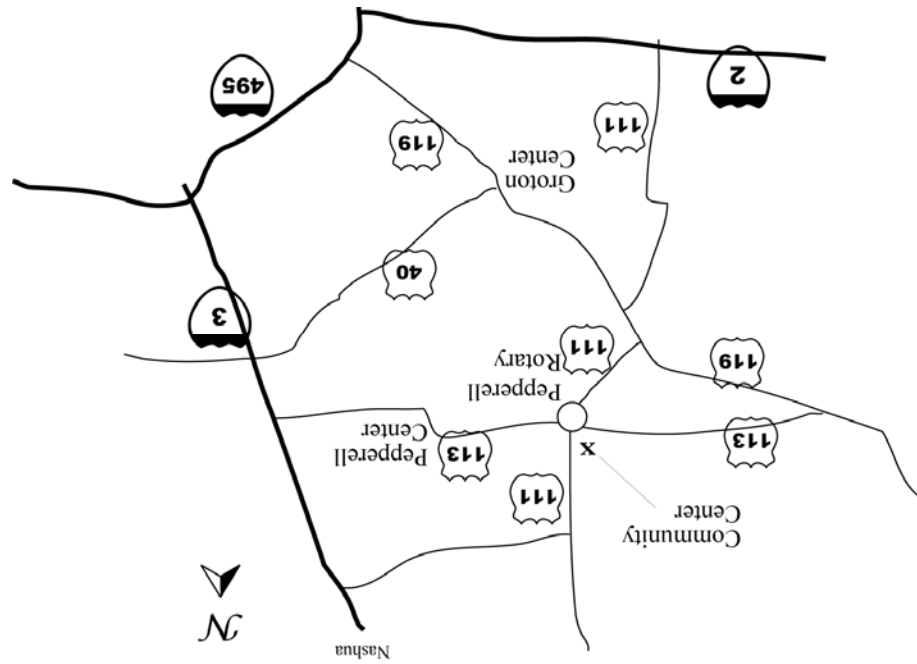
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Vice President: Jim Hein N8VIM
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Board Members:
Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2012-2015
Bob Reif: W1XP 2013-2016
Wolfgang Seidlich KA1VOU 2014-2017

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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
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