

# SIGNAL



de N1NC

October 2014 Volume 23 Number 10

## This Month's Meeting

October's meeting is entirely devoted to doing the sort for the W1 QSL Bureau. Fun and aching backs during the sorting give out (pun intended) later to a follow-up gourmet treat of pizza and soda. If you haven't done this before and it sounds like a lot of work, you'll find that this is actually the club's most rewarding event. Come. Be surprised. See the pretty cards. You might even find some addressed to you.

## Last Month's Meeting

September's meeting program was back to the two topic format. The featured attraction was a tag-team table talk by Peter K1PLH and John KK1X. Each of these NVARC members has been experimenting with several of the new credit card-sized computers.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Mark K1MGY gave the WRTC 2014 presentation that was published in the National Contest Journal (NCJ) and was also given at the WRTC 2014 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Peter K1PLH giving the Arduino part of the meeting presentation



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

John KK1X giving the Raspberry Pi segment of the October meeting presentation.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

The presenters sharing the award of the NVARC mug for giving their presentations

Present at the meeting were;

Jean K1AVM, Bruce K1BG, John K1JEB, Dennis K1LGQ, Skip K1NKR, Peter K1PLH, Gary K1YTS, Michael KA1NXH, Wolf KA1VOU, Phil KB1JKL, Ken KB1UVP, Greg KB1WAQ, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Don N1NWE, Les N1SV, Ed N1YFK, Peter N1ZRG, Jim N8VIM, Larry W1ESR, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC,

Guests

Mark K1MGY, John K4LSX, Jim Wilber (Pepperell), Rob Rand (Pepperell)

## New Member

Jim Wilber of Pepperell joined the Club at the September meeting. He's working on getting licensed.

Welcome, Jim

## President's Corner

de Skip, K1NKR

Public service season tends to be in the spring but each October the club performs a special public service event benefitting our fellow Amateurs. Sounds like a highfalutin' way to describe the annual sort we do for the W1 QSL Bureau, but it is the case. Whether you're a serious DXer or a casual one, you and others benefit from the QSL Bureau and this club event supports everyone. It's actually a lot of fun, too. Y'all come.

While we're at it, let's recall a few other "internal public service" things we have going on. Back in November 2008 the Board initiated a recognition program (<http://www.n1nc.org/Recognition/>) to acknowledge Club members whose contributions supported any of the 5 principles which establish the "basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service (See §97.1 at <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-text.>) This was intended to be a "by the members, for the members" kind of recognition; Board members are ineligible for any award and are even ineligible to nominate potential awardees. This has been a big year for Amateur Radio, and NVARC members have made big contributions to various of the five principles. Think seriously about recognizing your fellow members. And act.

Speaking of casual DXers, here's an opportunity. Waaay back, someone put a tongue-in-cheek article into the Signal. It was the 1993 issue, to be exact; go look at <http://www.n1nc.org/Newsletters/1993/206.pdf>. If you're new to the hobby—or one of those casual DXers—consider DXXC. It's the DX Decimal Club, and that's got to be a lot easier to achieve than DXCC. Tongue-in-cheek or otherwise, I'm sure the current club secretary/awards manager could come up with suitable recognition for DXXC serial number 1. Already established DXers need not apply.

Did you know that our club is the administrator of the Worked All Massachusetts Counties Award. It's just another public service we do with no expectation of becoming rich or famous. According to John KK1X the award is reasonably challenging yet he gets a continuous trickle of applicants. As we move towards the indoor recreation side of the calendar county hunting might be interesting. Here are a couple of look-ups for US and local counties awards: <http://www.dxawards.com/UScountyawds.htm>, <http://www.n1nc.org/WAMC/>.

Our Outgoing QSL Service is worth more than the price of dues for members who use it. Are you an ARRL member? Have you got DX cards to go out? Gather them up, wrap them in a copy of your QST mailing label, and pass it all to Bob W1XP. When he accumulates a reasonable boxful he sends them to the League. And NVARC pays the postage.

More savings. Want to plug your radio into Power-Pole discounts? See Ralph KD1SM.

I've said it before; I'll say it again. Whatta club!

## 10 GHZ Contest

On Saturday 20 September, Skip K1NKR and Stan KD1LE headed out after the club breakfast at Tiny's. Packed in the back of Skip's car was his 1 watt 10GHz SSB rig and a 2m rig for coordination. (Microwave contests allow arranged QSOs because of the wide frequency ranges, few contestants, and tight antenna patterns.) They drove to the top of Mount Wachusett and operated for a little over three hours.

Propagation was a bit limited by air mass humidity but all ten of the QSOs Skip and Stan made were fairly easy shots. All in all, they worked Martha's Vineyard, Block Island, West Lebanon ME, Mount Greylock, and Mount Equinox. One of the Mt Equinox QSOs was with another NVARC club member, Dan KW2T.

Their best DX was 154km. Not bad for 850 milliwatts to a 70cm diameter antenna.

Dan's previous Tech Night had featured a "tune-up" for microwave rigs and introduced a number of club members to the microwave realm. Actually, the club already has a large concentration of members with 10GHz capability, perhaps more than most any other club in the local area.



(picture) Stan, KD1LE, takes a break from the wind during the second weekend of the ARRL 10GHz Contest.

## So You Have That!

This is the second installment of "So You Have That" I'm looking for member submissions to keep the series going.

It was suggested that if you need a tool you post it here and maybe someone can help you.

## Lantern Battery Challenge 2014

The 2014/2015 NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge will begin at the close of the October meeting on the 16th. If you signed up be sure to pick up your battery at the meeting. John K1JEB has volunteered to distribute the batteries this year, so be sure to check with John and select your battery pack. If you can't make the October meeting make arrangements with John to pick up your battery.

This year the battery packs do not contain any leads. Some have said they replace them anyway. So John and I got lazy when we were assembling the batteries and left off the leads. So be sure to correctly connect your lead and connector to the battery pack. Be extra careful to be sure the polarity is correct. We don't want anyone damaging a radio by getting the polarity wrong. Check it twice. At least.

I am looking forward to this year's event as always. Hope to work as many of the other stations entered in this year's event as possible. Remember it's all about having fun. 73 Bob W1XP

## October Board Meeting Notes

Board meeting 1/2/2014  
John, Rod, Bob, Skip, Wolf, Ralph

Treasurer's report  
John needs to write letter to GM3TCW  
Lantern Battery Challenge - batteries purchased & assembled.  
TS-450S problem turned out to be a leaking battery.  
Field Day - who is interested? What do we do this year?

Respectfully submitted,  
John KK1X

## September Treasurers Report

Income for September was \$90 in membership dues, \$105 in Lantern Battery entry fees, and \$56 from the September meeting book raffle.

Expenses were \$19.60 for newsletter postage and \$47.90 for the book raffle leaving a net income for the month of \$183.50.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,061.63
Community fund	\$4,386.41

As of 2 October we have 34 members who are current with their dues and 30 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

## Tech Night

Tech Night continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month.

This month is the start of the K1EL keyer project. More than fifteen people signed up to build the kit.

## 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.

## Strays

Did you know that most Amateur allocations above 420 MHz are secondary allocations? We're a co-primary allocnee (along with both government and non-government mobile services) from 2390 to 2395 and the only primary alocee from 2395 to 2417. Interestingly though, there are no other services allocated to 2300-2305 MHz yet we are still a secondary allocnee there.

"In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice;  
in practice, there is."  
- Chuck Reid

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Jan\\_L.\\_A.\\_van\\_de\\_Snepscheut](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Jan_L._A._van_de_Snepscheut)  
<http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Theory>

## 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).

Recently participants talked about the upcoming Field Day, WRTC, the search for a June meeting location, SDR dongle projects and trouble shooting. Also local interference location and signal identification.

Recent attendees were

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

## Upcoming Contests

October  
20-24 School Club Roundup  
November  
1-3 November Sweepstakes CW  
8-9 EME 50 to 1295 MHZ  
15-17 November Sweepstakes Phone  
December  
5-7 160 Meter  
6-7 EME 50 to 1296 MHZ  
13-14 10 Meter  
21 Rookie Roundup CW  
2015  
January  
1 SARTG New Year RTTY  
3 ARRL RTTY Roundup  
10 North American QSO Party CW  
17 North American QSO Party SSB  
17ARRL January VHF Contest  
23 CQ 160 Meter Contest CW  
24 BARTG RTTY Sprint  
February  
7 Vermont QSO Party

7 Minnesota QSO Party  
7 Delaware QSO Party  
7 Mexico RTTY International Contest  
8 North American Sprint CW  
14 New Hampshire QSO Party  
21 ARRL International DX Contest CW  
27 CQ 160 Meter Contest SSB  
March  
8 ARRL International DX Contest SSB  
14 Idaho QSO Party  
22 North American Sprint SSB  
28 CQ WW WPX Contest SSB

### Flea Markets/Hamfests

October  
19 MIT Flea (Cambridge)  
November  
8 FARA-Fest Bourne MA  
2015 August  
21 ARRL New England Convention Boxboro MA  
2015  
March  
7 Chicopee MA Mt Tom ARA  
27, 28 Lewiston ME AARC ME Convention  
May  
1, 2 Deerfield NH NEARfest  
June  
6 Hermon ME PSARA  
August  
21, 23 Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Convention

### Your Article

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



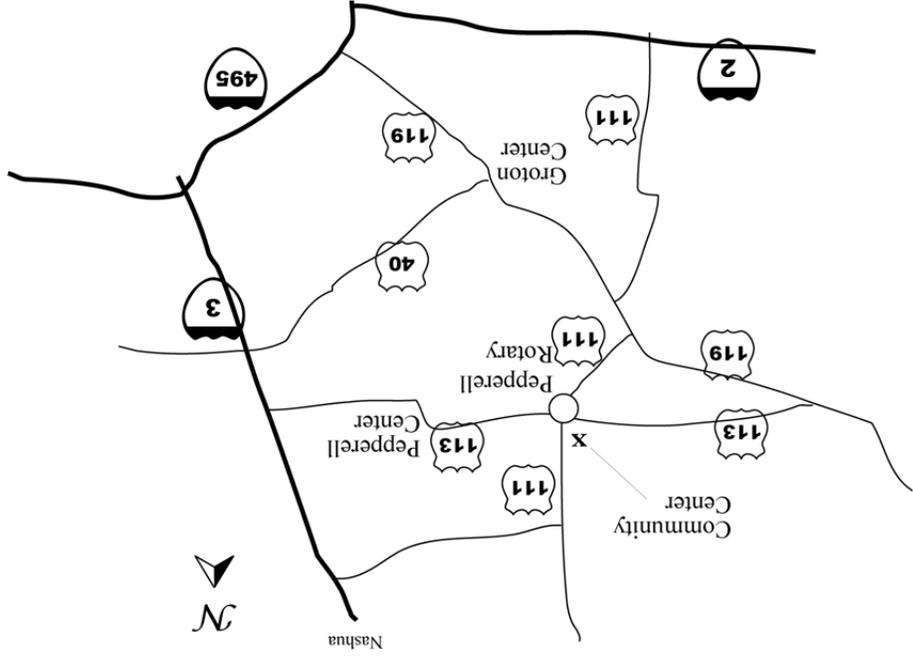
## Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

PO Box # 900  
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

<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  
newsletter editor. Articles and graphics in most IBM-  
PC formats are OK.  
Copyright 2014 NVARC



**Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club**

*PO Box 900*

*Pepperell, MA 01463-0900*

