

# SIGNAL



de N1NC

May 2016 Volume 25 Number 5

## The President's Corner

First I want to thank Peter N1ZRG, the outgoing President, for driving the Club forward for the past year. Also, Bob W1XP the outgoing Board member for his many years supporting the Club as a Board member.

As a result of the April elections I welcome Jim AB1WQ as the new Board member.

Below is our new ARRL Special Service Club certificate. John KK1X recently certified with the League that we were qualified for that status. SSC status is held for a two-year period.



For a little history NVARC became an ARRL Affiliated Club in 1993 and qualified for Special Service Club status in 1996. So this makes it 20 years of outstanding service to the Amateur and local community. While we have given good service in those areas, I am particularly proud of some specific things we have done over the years. Yes, we've run FCC license classes, ARRL Emergency Communications classes, and

brought home all the paddlers from numerous Townsend Lions Club Canoe Races to name a few. However, a few things stand out. 20 years, give or take, of supporting the Groton Road Race is one. Putting the Hawthorn Brook Middle School in Townsend on the air with the International Space Station was a great service and community outreach. Keeping up that tradition our recent involvement with two years of Thinking Day on the Air with the Girl Scouts which resulted in the ARRL Wireless Technology Patch for the Girl Scouts. These events reach far beyond our area with their benefit and hopefully creating a good image and publicity for Amateur Radio. Let's keep up the good work.

On another note I want to thank Skip K1NKR for volunteering to take over the Signal Editorship. I will transition that to him over the next month. I have been your editor since year two of the Signal it has been both a lot of fun and a lot of work. I'm sure Skip will do a great job. I need you to support him, as you did me, with articles and pictures to keep the Signal interesting and informative.

Stan KD1LE

## This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting program is still in the works. The planning, post elections, is moving forward though and we have June, September, and October meetings planned. With the December being traditional Homebrew Night and January Members Short Subjects things will settle down. If you know of an interesting speaker let an Officer or Board member know. Even if it is only an interesting subject that we may be able to create our own presentation could be of interest.

## Groton Road Race

### Another Successful Groton Road Race



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Sunday April 24 was a great day to hold a foot race. The temperatures were significantly cooler than the previous Monday for the Boston Marathon.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

*Above Deputy Chief Cullen, Groton PD, who managed the race as "Police Command" gives the pre-race briefing.*

Forty-two Amateur Radio operators volunteers provided communication for this high-visibility event. The parking crew started the day early helping get the participants' vehicles settled and the participants onto the shuttle busses to the Florence Roche school while another set of radio operators paired up with key Race officials to help them stay in touch with each other.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Thirty minutes before the start of the race the parking crew stood down and they and the rest of the radio operators took up stations at all the major road intersections around the course. We introduced ourselves to the police officers at those intersections and helped keep them informed of the progress of the races.



Photo Courtesy KC1AJJ

This year as in 2015 the two races that use the town streets were run in parallel. The longer 10k race started first followed by the 5k race about 15 minutes later.

The Squannacook River Runners, organizers of this race, and the Groton Police Department thank everyone who volunteered: AB1CV, AB1PM, AB1WQ, AB1XB, K1JHC, K1JKR, K1RAU, K1SMD, K1SUB, K1YTS, K9AEN, KB1HFT, KB1KTP, KB1NMJ, KB5JR, KC1AJJ, KC1COF, KC1ETB, KD1LE, KD1SM, KK1X, KT1I, KW2T, N1ALO, N1BDA, N1HTS, N1ICB, N1KLK, N1MOR, N1NWE, N1QDZ, N1QIT,

N1RKO, N1SPA, N3BGN, N8VIM, NF1A, NW1U, W0TJP, W1KQ, WA1TAC, and WY1X

Ralph KD1SM

### Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting started with nominations for the various Board and Officer positions. Jim Wilber AB1WQ volunteered to run for the open Board position and Stan KD1LE volunteered to run for President. With the other Officers and Board members willing to continue a slate of one candidate for each position was achieved. The Secretary cast one vote for the proposed slate and the elections were over.

Peter N1ZRG filled the rest of the meeting with a description of quadcopter/drone racing that he had seen at a meeting of his R/C plane club.

Members in Attendance: Jim AB1WQ, Bill AB1XB, Bill K1NS, Gary K1YTS, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Dan KW2T, Les N1SV, Ed N1YFK, Paul NW1U, Ken N3BGN, Jim N8VIM, Jesse W1DEA, Larry W1ESR, Rod WA1TAC.

Guests: Wayne AG1A, Charles KC1EIQ

### New Members

Welcome to new members Craig Brauckmiller KC1ETB of Shirley, Steve Davidson K1SMD of Hollis NH, Mack Wallace KC1EOB of Lowell and Kayla Creamer W2IRY of Ayer.

### Meeting Coffee Bar

Many thanks to Ed N1YFK for running the coffee "bar" at the meetings. It is nice to have some form of refreshment at the meetings.

Don't forget to leave a donation if you partake.

### Townsend Lions Club Canoe Race

For another year we supported the Townsend Lion's Club Canoe Race. Our contact, Gary K1YTS, with members from MARA and NVARC

staffed about 10 locations along the Squannacook River to track the canoeists along the route from West Townsend to the finish at Townsend Harbor



Photo Courtesy KD1SM



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

As you can see from the picture the river isn't always easy paddling. With snags, dams, and complete river blockages that require portages. Some of the areas are inaccessible by vehicle and even difficult on foot. So it is important to know where to go if you really have to look for someone.

### Boston Marathon

Quite a few members worked at the Boston Marathon this year. Over 200 amateurs supported the race.

Before I forget, if you worked the Marathon and have a picture and a brief paragraph or two about your experience we would like to see it in the Signal.



Photo Courtesy KD1LE

Above is the view of the Boston skyline from the windows at the course net control location. Unfortunately, the windows were behind us or to the right of the lower picture so we don't get to enjoy it. Another aspect of working at net control is the only runners you see are on TV.



Photo Courtesy KD1LE

Above around the horseshoe arranged tables are the Net Control Stations. The above are the course Net Controls C1 to C7 clockwise from the lower right. I was C1 NCS. Continu-

ing further are the bus and medical supply Net Control Stations. The TV is to keep track of the race. The bulletin board in the center is to keep track of which course stations are checking into what course Net Controls. On the tables are various color coded forms for recording questions, information, medical supply requests, medical transportation requests, water consumed at the hydration stations and people treated or currently at the aid stations.

Stan KD1LE

## Tech Night

April Tech Night was Thurs, April 14, 2016, in the Pepperell Community Center. Dan KW2T made a presentation on test equipment, old and new. He had both a \$24,000 Tektronix scope from 2015 and one from 75 years earlier, a 1939 Dumont 164.



Photo Courtesy AB1WQ

The old oscilloscope Dan brought to Tech Night was actually quite unique. It of course was a vacuum tube design and has some very old tubes in it. The patents listed on it include the basic oscilloscope patent in 1932 by Allan Dumont.



Photo Courtesy AB1WQ

Dan had the schematic to it and opened it up to show the clear glass CRT. It also has a very unusual tube in it, a gas triode, that works like a unijunction transistor to generate the sweep. Unfortunately, the electrolytic caps seem to have a problem (only 75 years old - I wonder if they dried up by now), and the high voltage won't go high enough for it to run, but it will not be hard to fix.

While Tech Night falls too close to the Signal printing to be included in the current issue, next month's report should be very interesting. The oscilloscope kit project Jim N8VIM proposed really took off and will have about 25 participants. The kits and parts have been ordered. The build will take place at the May and June Tech Nights.

### NEAR-fest

NEAR-fest took place April 29-30 at the Deerfield Fairgrounds in NH. I made the trek with Jim N8VIM on Friday. We cruised the hundreds of tables and vendors picking up those bits and pieces needed for ongoing projects.

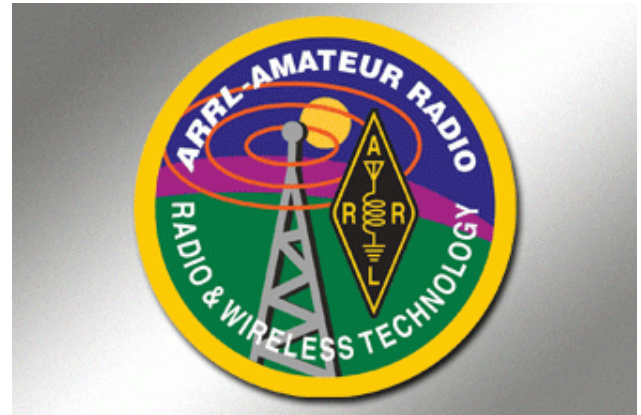
I wasn't aware of this in the past, but they had a single track of presentations in the Entertainment Building. In the morning I attended a presentation on Solar Power and Ham Radio by Tony K1KP who authored the QST article in the April 2016 edition. I also attended a presentation by Region One Army MARS.

Seen at the fleamarket were Jim N8VIM, Dan KW2T, Rod WA1TAC. Also somewhere on the grounds was Bruce K1BG.

Stan KD1LE

### ARRL Girl Scout Patch

Well, the ARRL's Girl Scout Radio & Wireless & Technology Patch (like a Boy Scout merit badge) is up and running!



See <http://www.arrl.org/girl-scouts-radio-patch>.

The help of NVARC Thinking Day On The Air participants led by Skip K1NKR, and supported by Greg , Stan KD1LE, Bruce K1BG, and Ralph KD1SM (and NARC's Anita Kemerer, AB1QB at this year's event) went a long way to the fulfillment of this achievement. TDOTA activities were used to "proof" many of the patch requirements that Jill dddd had been working on with the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains along with the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta and the ARRL.

Stan KD1LE

### 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. Recent nets have been run by George KB1HFT/NCS. Attendees; Stan KD1LE, Skip K1NKR, Jim N8VIM, Peter N1ZRG, Dan K1RAU, Dan KW2T.

## Strays

### That which in another publication would be called Strays

The Yagi-Uda antenna was actually invented in 1926 by Shintaro Uda but was patented by Dr Hidetsugu Yagi. The "Yagi" name has become more familiarly associated with the antenna, with the name of Uda often omitted. Yagi spent considerable time in Europe and the United States (thereby becoming dis-oriented), so he is much more well-known than Uda. The name association also appears to have been due to Yagi having filed a patent on the idea in Japan without Uda's name in it, and later transferring the patent to the Marconi Company in the UK. Yagi's U.S. Patent 1,860,123 ("Variable Directional Electric Wave Generating Device") was issued in May 1932 and assigned to the Radio Corporation of America.

Heard on 40m: "I have Jurassic gear here." (referring to what others might call boatanchors)

### Late-breaking Member News

Jim, K1PTF, (living in Cazenovia, NY for the past couple of years) reports success with SDR dongles. Using HSDR software to interface, demodulate, and display, he has been listening to the local 2m SSB net, decoding APRS (using a software TNC on the same computer), and monitoring the AO-7 and FO-29 satellites.

## May Treasurer's Report

Income for April was \$170 from membership fees, \$2 from ARRL membership renewals, \$2.28 in bank interest, and \$5 from PowerPole connector sales. Expenses were \$19.60 for newsletter postage, \$56.30 for the outgoing QSL bureau, and \$254.84 for 2015 Field Day expenses, leaving a net expense of \$151.46.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,230.80
Community fund	\$4,886.41

As of 5 May we have 50 members who are current with their dues and 9 renewals outstanding. Many members have an anniversary date of April 1, as that is the Club's birthday. Thank you 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

## Board Meetings and the May Board Meeting

With the new slate of Officers and Board the Board meetings will change location to the Presidents QTH on the first Thursdays of the month at 7:00 PM. As always the board meetings are open to all interested NVARC members.

Board Minutes

Board meeting 5/5/2016

Stan KD1LE, Jim N8VIM, Rod WA1TAC, Jim AB1WQ, John KK1X, Ralph KD1SM. (Skip K1NKR observing)

Skip has a TV demo queued up for Field Day

2015 Field Day was Budgeted \$635 / \$375 was reimbursed.

Proposed Field Day Budget for Field Day 2016

Food-\$250, Fuel-\$30, PortaLet-\$125, Pins-\$150  
Total \$555

Budget to be presented to the membership.

Jim(AB1WQ) arranging for Heald Street site

Conservation Commission office open only Mon  
- Wed during the week

Brochures being updated

Discussion of a Facebook page. Kayla W2IRY  
being tasked at Jim(AB1WQ)'s request

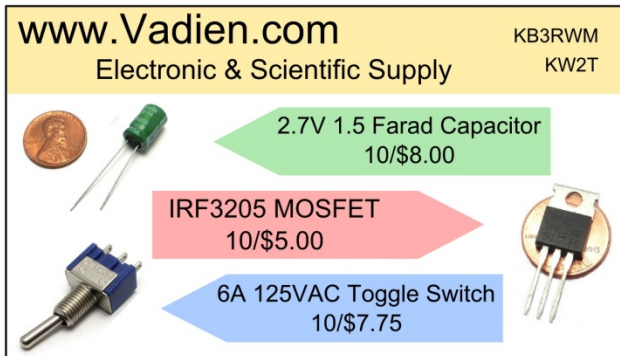
John Griswold, KK1X

## 2016 Flea Markets/Hamfests

May  
21 Southern Berkshire ARC Hamfest, Goshen CT  
June  
9 Flea at MIT  
July  
17 Flea at MIT  
August  
20 Windsor Hamfest, Windsor ME  
21 Flea at MIT  
28 NoBARC Hamfest, Adams MA  
September  
9-11 N E Division Convention, Boxboro MA  
18 Flea at MIT

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## 2016 Upcoming Contests

May  
14 Arkansas QSO Party  
June  
11-13 June VHF  
18 Kids Day  
18 Stew Perry Topband Challenge  
25-26 ARRL Field Day  
July  
9-10 IARU World Championship  
August

6-7 August UHF  
20-21 10 GHz & Up Round 1  
21 Rookie Roundup RTTY  
September  
10-12 September VHF  
17-19 10 GHz & Up Round 2  
24-25 EME 2.3 GHz & Up



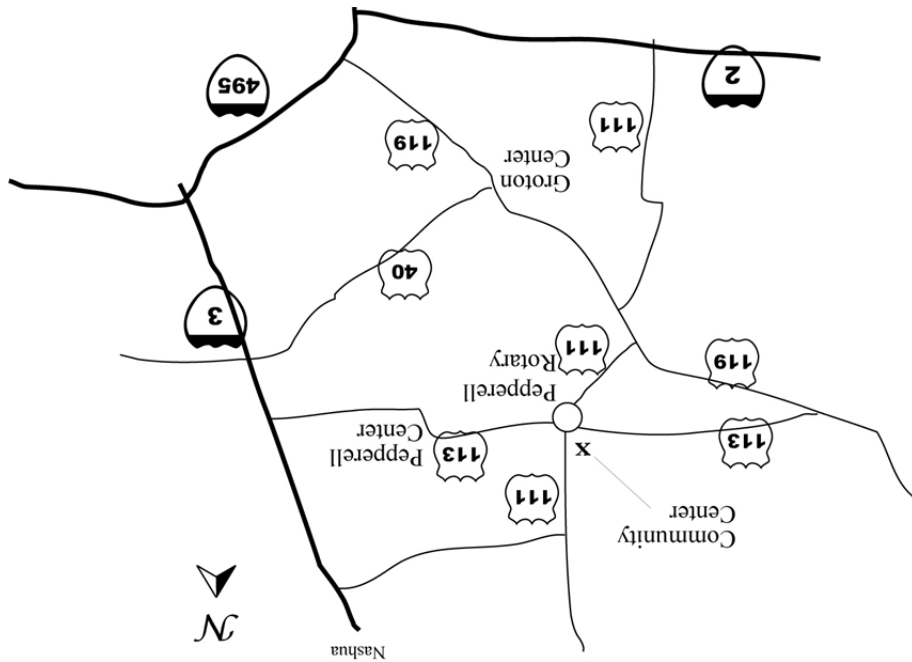
## Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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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:  
Ed Snapp N1YFK 2014-2017  
Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2015-2018  
Jim Wilber: AB1WQ 2016-2019

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 Emerg Pwr  
147.345 + 100 Hz Repeater Emerg Pwr  
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater Emerg Pwr  
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