



SIGNAL

A club since 1992



Since 1993



Since 1996

de N1NC

September 2018

Volume 27 Number 9

This Month's Meeting

Summer's over and we return to the "program year."



SKYWARN

This month we will be joined by Rob Macedo, KD1CY, who will speak about SKYWARN. SKYWARN is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

First licensed when he was 15 years old and now boasting over 20 years' experience in the hobby, Rob is the Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency coordinator. Professionally, he is a Manager and Principle Disk Drive Evaluation Engineer at EMC Corporation.

Antennas Available

Recently Gene, WW4EN, offered two used **Hy-Gain AV640** antennas whose disposal was intended to benefit the club. Gene asked me to handle the disposal. Last month I advertised their availability on the club reflector and at least three members expressed interest. Two antennas, three requests...

Because the antennas were not offered "first-come/first-served," and because a donation value hadn't been established, I solicited the Board and they decided that the antennas would go to the highest two reasonable offers of (or over) \$150 from among all club members.

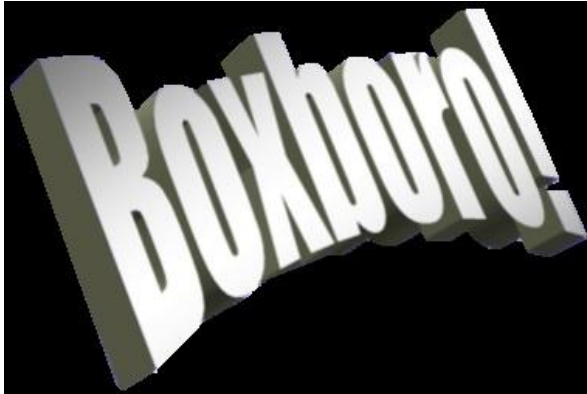
So as not to initiate a "bidding war," I'll record the first offer only from any club member as his or her offer. I'll accept offers up to midnight the day before the September meeting (*i.e.*, 2359++ local time on 19 September) sent to **K1NKR@arri.net**. I'll bring the record to the Board at the meeting and they will announce the disposition of the antennas.

These antennas are used. The list price for new ones is \$449.95. GigaParts offers them for \$429. Similar ones have been offered used on QRZ forums for between \$200 and \$350.

de Skip, K1NKR

News and Happenings

Boxboro!



Where in the world can you not distinguish between ham radio operators sartorially masquerading as the down-and-out and the down-and-out masquerading as ham radio operators? (Good for flea market bargaining—or for showing how intensely focused you are on the hobby versus on trivial social conventions.) Where in the world are the lines to the men's rooms longer than the lines to the women's rooms? Hmm. We never pretended to be lawyers, or surgeons, or scions of business.

Still, IMHO Boxboro was a sounding success. You name it—the talks, the flea market, the vendor area, the general organization (after a slow start Saturday) and hospitality—all were, as we say, FB.

(Note: The opinions expressed by any Signal author are personal and do not necessarily represent the position of the newsletter or the club.)

New England's premier Amateur Radio convention was held September 7, 8, and 9 at the Boxboro Regency Hotel & Conference Center (Formerly the Boxboro Holiday Inn).

And NVARC was well represented...

There was a whole thread Saturday morning on propagation. It started out with (non-member) Tom Carrigan, NE1R's introduction to HF propagation. Next, member Joe, K1YOW gave an updated presentation on 6—meter sporadic E and weather systems. Finally that morning, Phil, W1PJE, brought the professional researcher's perspective on recent activities in the science of HF propagation. Rounding out Saturday afternoon,

Bruce, K1BG, gave a talk on entry level licensing in which he exposed what's worked and what hasn't.

Saturday evening, Bob, W1XP, took the



opportunity to congratulate Abigail "Astro-naut Abby" Harrison, founder of The Mars Generation, following her keynote speech at the convention banquet. (We had something in excess of

fifteen NVARC members at the festivity.)
(KA1JVU photo)

Sunday's always dead, right? Well, wrong in this year's case. Rod, WA1TAC, primed us all for the prize giveaway by presenting an excellent talk on the Groton solar electricity generating farm and the efforts he, W1XP, and the Haystack crowd made in ascertaining the potential for RF interference.



AB1WQ photo

Member to Speak at TAPR Conference

From the ARRL webpage

NVARC member Philip J. Erickson, W1PJE, will keynote the 2018 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) **banquet** on Saturday, September 15. His topic will be "Towards a 21st Century Understanding of Earth's Upper Atmosphere: The Value of Radio Based Amateur-Scientist Partnerships." Erickson heads MIT's At-

mospheric and Geospace Sciences Group at Haystack Observatory. Headlining the [Sunday Seminar](#) on September 16 will be Nathaniel A. Frissell, W2NAF, of [HamSCI](#) renown, discussing "[The Citizen Space Weather Station Project](#)." Frissell is an assistant research professor in the Center for Solar-Terrestrial Research at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

The President's Corner

We've been extremely busy for the last month, so it has flown by. I woke up this morning at the regular time and it was dark. That, Labor Day, and the Boxboro Convention all say summer is close to being over. Hope you had a good one. Our first meeting of the fall season is a couple of weeks off and I hope to see you all there. Bring a friend or someone who might be interested in Ham Radio.

NVARC gets another mention in the September issue of QST in the CASSIOPE Spacecraft article on page seventy-six. Our contribution to Ham Radio Citizen Science Investigation (HamSCI) began during the 2017 eclipse HamSCI experiment and continues.

Our meeting program schedule is in good shape with a number of people contributing ideas or speaker arrangements. But keeping the program schedule filled is a never-ending task. So, if you think of or see something that you think would be of interest to members let us know. On the subject of future meetings, December and January are member driven programs (Homebrew and Short Subjects) and are most interesting when many contribute—no matter if it is big or small. So get those projects and short presentations ready!

I don't usually attend the Friday sessions at Boxboro, but this year the three forums on a single track looked interesting. There was an excellent presentation by Julio Ripoll, WD4R on the National Hurricane Center, a presentation on a new system at the ARRL for managing ARES members, and a SKYWARN training session. A full day on a single track. I met quite a few NVARC members at the convention and had dinner

with some at the banquet. The banquet speaker was a highly motivated young woman striving to become an astronaut. At her age she has already made quite a mark. I'll mention just one, which is an organization that funds scholarships for kids around the world to attend NASA's Space Camp. *[They have already funded a couple of dozen low-income students—tuition, travel, room, and board. That's commitment and contribution to the future! Ed]* I also met with radio friends from across New England who I never see other than Boxboro or maybe NEARfest.

de Stan KD1LE

Editor's Note

Packaging up a monthly newsletter isn't as agonizing as you might think it is. We're fortunate to have such a diverse and active club.

More than every once in a while we get some fame and positive publicity. Think back, we've recently made a couple of splashes with our Cassiope Field Day participation. Before that, it was our HamSCI eclipse activity, and our leadership in the Girl Scouts' Thinking Day On the Air, and years of Groton Road Race service.

How many of us remember "the Foxfinder" (*QST* April 2001, pp. 35-39)?



This little fox hunt sniffer was designed by NVARC members to locate the transmitter down to the last

few meters—where other techniques often fail. The club hasn't participated in fox hunting for quite a while—and PART of Westford—has pretty much picked up the ball locally, but a couple of our Foxfinders found use last year when we supported MARA's Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air.

Do a Google search on "foxfinder amateur radio." We're quoted, and reviewed, and imitated all over the Internet!

We just received an appreciative note from CQ Magazine Contributing Editor Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ, regarding another seminal NVARC contribution to the hobby. You may have seen some traffic about it on the Reflector. Wayne (and it turns out, many others) are enamored with NVARC's "Ugly Filters."

Now do a Google search on "ugly filters amateur radio." Again, we're quoted, and reviewed, and imitated all over the Internet!



What's special about a bandpass filter or interconnecting a few of them as a Field day HF triplexer. Well, nothing really; but these filters, designed and built by NVARCers, represent the spirit of amateur Radio. Design. Junk-boxing. Self-reliance. Skill. Economy. Utility.

By the way, if you have an underused credit card or overflowing club budget you can purchase commercially produced filter/triplexer sets from DX Engineering for \$650-750. I bet they work almost as well as ours do.

de Skip, K1NKR

<http://www.arrl.org/news/cassiope-spacecraft-listens-in-on-2018-arrl-field-day>

[http://www.n1nc.org/Events/2017/HamSCI/NVARC and the Eclipse.pptx](http://www.n1nc.org/Events/2017/HamSCI/NVARC%20and%20the%20Eclipse.pptx)

<http://www.n1nc.org/Events/2017/GSTDOTA/article>

<http://www.n1nc.org/FoxFinder/>

<http://www.n1nc.org/Filters/>

Strays

Have you tried the [QRZ.com trivia quiz](#)? A new one is posted every day as part of the website's 25th anniversary sweepstakes. I've been trying it daily and am averaging 60-70% correct answers (counting dumb mistakes and quibbles). That seems to be placing me above about 70% of the respondents—one day 60% correct was better than 90% of respondents! Try it; you'll like it! But no looking up the answers on the Internet...



FYI. The cliffside gazebo housing the model of Marconi's Wellfleet station has apparently suffered the same fate as the station itself. Still, there are plenty of radio-oriented historical sites in our area. Fall is a wonderful time to get out and tour. Great WX, minimal traffic QRM. How many sites can you put on your RHCC (Radio History Century Club) achievement list?



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.

(answers in next month's Signal)

Treasurer's Report

Income for August was \$3 from ARRL membership renewals. Expenses were \$20 for newsletter postage and \$151.60 for Field Day expenses, leaving a net expense of \$168.60 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund \$2,626.28

Community fund \$5,061.52

Our final Field Day expenses were as follows:

Food \$259.86

Porta-John \$145.00

Pins \$171.60

Trash bags \$6.60

Total \$583.06

This is \$3.06 over the budget due to an unanticipated cost increase of \$20 for the Porta-John.

In addition to the reimbursed items above N8VIM and AB1CV made in-kind donations totaling \$171.83 for power and ice.

As of 6 September, we have 46 members who are current with their dues and 19 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.

de Ralph KD1SM

Board Meeting Notes

Board meeting 9/6/2018

Attending: Stan KD1LE, John KK1X, Ralph KD1SM, Ed N1YFK, Bruce K1BG.
Observing: Skip K1NKR.

- September presentation by Rob Macedo Skywarn/ARES. Rob expressed interest in dining before the meeting.
- {Current balances as reported in Treasurer's report.}
- October card sort. See Eric at Boxboro.
- November meeting Bob DiMattea K1IW on Marathon communications.
- Skip polling [will poll] other clubs for interest in Thinking Day OTA/Girl Scouts.
- NVARC mentioned in latest QST re the propagation experiment.
- Bruce investigating the idea of promoting ham radio via high school science fairs.
- Possibility of a ham radio class advertised via NextDoor? [Using] KB6NU or Gordon West methods?

Respectfully submitted,

de John KK1X

Club Services

W1 QSL Sort. Perhaps the most social meeting we have, our sort for the W1-Area QSL Bureau each October is a "give back" to the hobby. We're a leader in this volunteer opportunity and usually sort over 17,000 cards in an evening.

Meetings. Meetings, meetings! That's what makes a club, right? Monthly get-togethers of folks who love the hobby. News, information, planning, bragging—and an informative program presentation as well. We're an all-interest club and the presentations reflect that.

The NVARC Club Net. Yes, it still meets every Monday evening at 8 PM on the 442.900 Pepperell repeater. (*And is ably managed by George KB1HFT. Thanks, George!*) Stop in and bring your input and questions.

Calendar

September

- 16 Flea at MIT
- 20 First NVARC meeting of the year!

October

- 6 NEARC Antiques, Brookline NH
- 6-7 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test
- 12-13 NEARfest, Deerfield NH
- 21 Flea at MIT

November

(Find something. Tell us all.)

Upcoming Operating Activities 2018

International Grid Chase (all year!)
Science Milestones event (all year!)

September

- 15-16 10 GHz & Up – Round 2
- 29-30 EME Contest, 2.3+GHz

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

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.

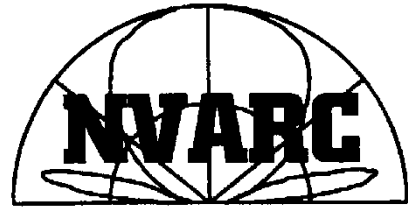
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A Final Thought

... Your article could have been here.



**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

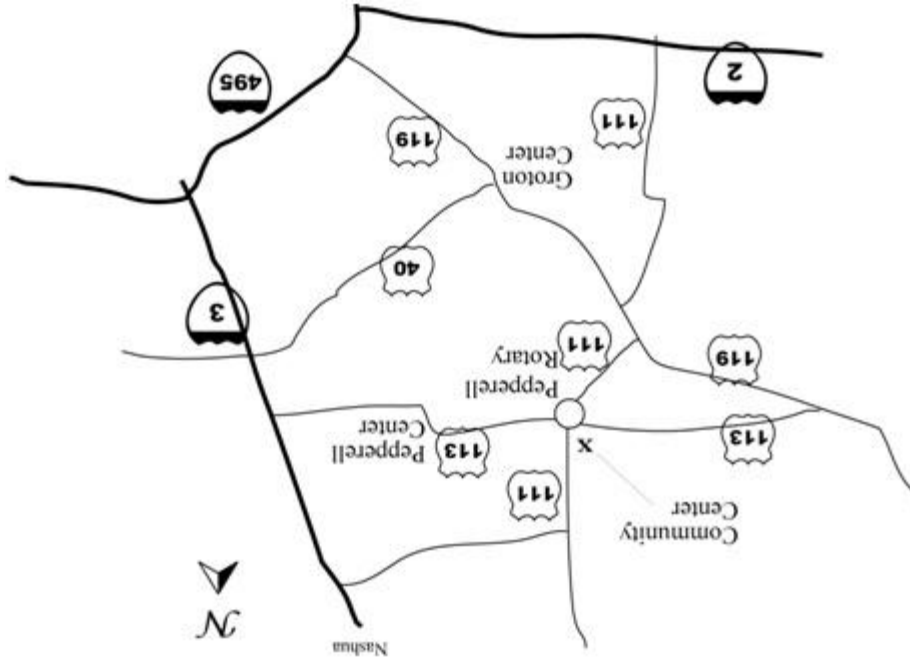
147.345 (+), 100 Hz

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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