



# SIGNAL



de N1NC

November 2002 Volume 11 Number 9

## This Month's Meeting

This month's presenter is Mike Raisbeck K1TWF who is the ARRL New England Vice Director. Mike will discuss new League activity.

Remember December is Homebrew night so you have a month to get your projects finished. Every homebrew project you bring that is powered by a Powerpole connector entitles the owner to one free ticket to the book drawing up to a limit of two free tickets.

Earl WR1Y will have a laminator for people who need their license or other card-sized items protected

Bring your outgoing QSL's to the meeting and have the club send them out. See Bob W1XP.

Bring your short Shows-and-Tell to the meetings. They are always welcome. Its always interesting to see the variety of things people are working on.

## Club Members Recognized

Ralph KD1SM and Stan KD1LE were recognized with a "Thank You Letter" in the Central Mass Amateur Radio Club (CMARA) newsletter "Ham Chatter" for their help in resolving operational issues with the club's repeater.

## Welcome to New Members

Welcome to new members John Aliskevicz N1WRT from Fitchburg and Jason Aliskevicz from Shirley.

## Last Month's Meeting

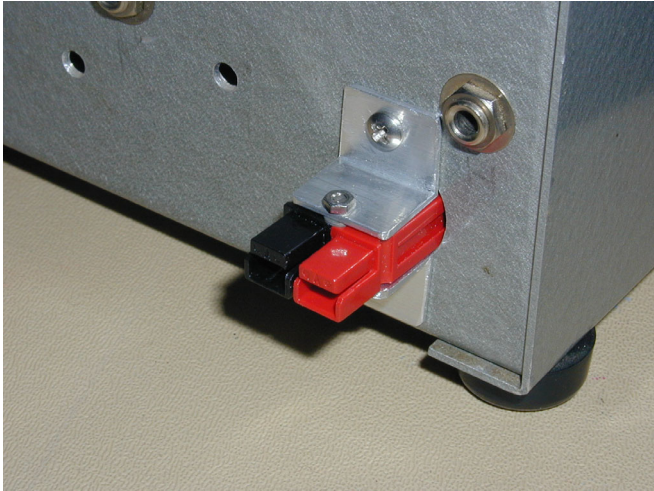
Ian NZ1B reported on the Pepperell Fall Classic Soccer tournament (pictures elsewhere) and thanked the volunteers. Ralph KD1SM gave the treasurers report that was recorded in the newsletter. Stan KD1LE reported

on the Rotary Rail Trail Charity event and handed out tee shirts provided by the Groton-Pepperell Rotary. Stan handed out the revised Club Yearbooks. Last month a few people brought items for show and tell. John KB1HDO has gotten interested in fox hunting and here he shows off his tape measure Yagi. The idea of the tape measure elements is they can bend without breaking which is a good thing when you are dragging an antenna through the woods.

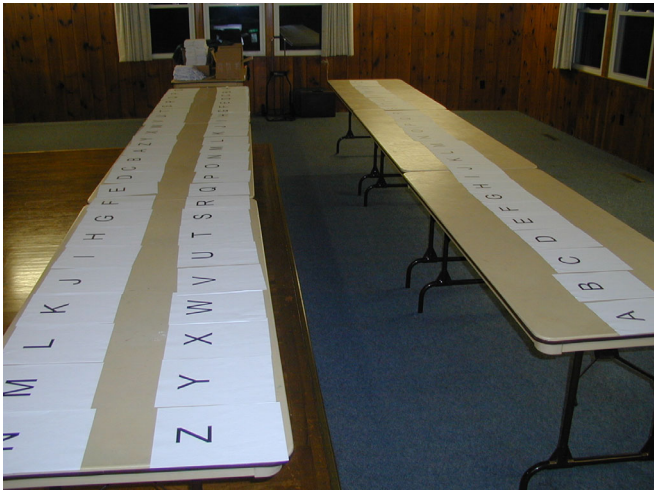


Another show and tell item was by Bob W1XP. It shows a solution to adding Powerpole connectors to

older equipment as chassis mount instead of hanging a pigtail off the equipment.



The October program was a QSL sort for the W1QSL incoming bureau. All cards for amateurs with first area call signs (1) come through the W1 bureau regardless of where they live. The cards are then presorted (what we did) to the first letter of the suffix. So we had to resolve down to the 26 letters of the alphabet. They are then forwarded to a Letter Sorter who is responsible for that letter. The Letter Sorter must sort these down to an individual call sign. The Letter Sorter has to sort to 26 times 26 suffix possibilities times all the prefix possibilities (A,K,N,W,etc). There was a good turn out for the sort and we completed 60 pounds of cards by 9:00 PM. After the sort the Ralph KD1SM picked up the pizza and soft drinks which the club provided.



Here is the sorting arrangement used by Stan for the QSL sort. On the right the alphabet is arranged A-Z going away. In the left center is the alphabet A-Z coming towards you. At the left is the alphabet starting in the center and wrapping around the other end. If you

sorted on the right side you have access to one run of the alphabet and there is no confusion but lots of walking. On the left you have access to two alphabets and should never be further than half an alphabet from any letter. If you choose to go for maximum concentration and worked the middle you should have been no more than one quarter of the alphabet from any letter. Some people even chose to sit down and sort into boxes like using an index card file. We aim to please all the sorters.



Above (L-R) Don N1NWE, Bob W1XP, and Dwight AA1MT.



After the sorting was done we sat down to pizza and drinks provided by the club. Above and standing are Earl WR1Y and Phil Hopkins. Also above and sitting are Ian NZ1B, Stan KD1LE, Ron KB1GID, and Erik KA1RV.

During the evening Stan passed out the completely revised NVARC Yearbook to members at the meeting. If you didn't make the meeting you will have to make arrangements to pick up your copy.

Last month we provided communications for the Groton-Pepperell Rotary Charity Walk. Stan passed out the tee shirts, provided by the Rotary, to the members that helped support the event.

The Board brought to the meeting a proposal to donate equipment to the Manchester School of Technology. Dennis Marandos K1LGQ is a teacher at the school. The equipment was from a donation several years ago and was left over after being offered for sale to members and later at Hopkinton.



It included a Kenwood TS-430 HF transceiver, a Yaesu Ft-480R 2 meter all mode transceiver, and an FT-208R 2 meter hand held.

After a brief discussion a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to make the donation. Dennis plans to use the station he is setting up to introduce his students to the "communications" part of his "Electronics and Communications" course. He gave a brief description of his activity after Erik presented him with the equipment.

The Board is still looking for proposals from area schools. The general guidelines are that they should have faculty or parents that are or willing to become licensed Ham Radio operators. They must have regular attendance at the school so that they could successfully manage a station and make it available to the students. They should have a commitment from the school supporting the activity and use of space. The Manchester School of Technology is the only one identified so far.

### Foxbox Hunts

The NVARC Foxbox has been deployed on a regular basis though it took a break for the soccer weekend.

The only hunters that have been found in the Foxbox log lately are Mike WZ0C and Barry W1HFN. In recent weeks the foxbox has been hidden on conservation land along the Nashua River Rail Trail in Groton and at the Skitapet Conservation land in Groton. If you have any questions about Fox Hunting or need a hand getting started see Ralph KD1SM or Stan KD1LE.

### Pepperell Fall Classic Soccer Tournament

The weekend following Signal press time we provided communications support for the Pepperell Fall Classic Soccer Tournament. Ian NZ1B organized the support for this event. Ian was able to get a half page credit/Ad for NVARC in the handout used by everyone who attended the tournament.

The first two days of the tournament were rainy so there were no pictures taken (that I know of) by the Signal staff. So I'm not slighting people who worked Saturday or Sunday. In fact I worked Sunday but taking pictures was less important than staying dry and warm.



Above (L-R) Ken K1JKR, Ian NZ1B, and Gary K1YTS flank the NVARC banner at the NCS tent on the Town Field. The antenna for NCS is between and above Ian and Gary.

Below Larry KB1ESR in his rain gear with Ian in the background at the NCS table with the rig and pictures (Ralph KD1SM's idea) of important people in the tournament staff on the table.



In position at Cominsky Field, Ken K1JKR puts on a smiling face in the challenging weather.



Above Ian in action as net control.

While the weather could have been much worse it was still a good check of everyone's ability to operate under adverse conditions. Having good rain gear and suitable footwear is an important part of being prepared. You also need a way to keep your radio out of the rain. A speaker microphone or headset allows you to keep your rig under your coat. That's not to say the speaker-mic will like the rain. A common failure for them is to go key down. Plastic bags are an inexpensive way to cover your handheld or a microphone allowing you to use them in the rain.



Above Gary K1YTS manning his position at Town Field.

What a difference a day makes as you can see from the bright sunshine in the pictures from Monday on the following pages. Though it was dry it was quite cool.



Above Stan KD1LE and Sue EMT pose for the cameraman after set up was complete. Later in the day Sue got in the ambulance to warm up and Ralph chatted with her.



Above is Ralph KD1SM with Susan from the Pepperell Ambulance Service on duty at the Town fields on the Monday edition of the tournament.



Above and below are some scenes from the various fields showing plenty of activity. After three days you would think they would slow down, but kids have lots of energy.



Usually there is a lot of Fall color tournament weekend but the foliage season seemed a bit late this year. There was color but you had to look around for it. Above is some of that color. Of course you can't see it in the printed copy. But you can always check it out at [n1nc.org](http://n1nc.org)

### November Board of Directors Meeting

The November Board of Directors meeting was held Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup> at the KA1RV QTH.

Ralph KD1SM presented a proposal for a new Property Master job description. The Board had discussed the need to have such a position because of discussions at Board and Club meetings indicating that there may be equipment purchased by the club or donated to the club that would be held for member use. Ralph had presented a first draft at the October Board meeting. The club also has permanently assigned equipment used for club business or activities such as road cleanup sticks and safety vests that needs to be tracked. The Board approved the Property Master description as published elsewhere in this edition.

Ralph reported the supply of Powerpole connectors was exhausted and requested permission to make another order. The Board approved the purchase of 250 connectors. The Board also approved payments for the N1NC.org domain name for four years and reimbursement for the cost of materials for signs for the Rotary Charity Walk.

Stan KD1LE suggested to the Board that we take some action to improve our participation in events promoting Amateur Radio such as JOTA and Septemberfest. We have taken advantage of none of these events for four or five years now. The Board agreed the club should plan in advance to participate in these type events so as not to miss them.

Erik indicated he needed someone to take over the organization of the Groton Road Race communications for this coming Spring.

There was a discussion on presidential succession and which position gets filled, president or vice-president in the case of absence of the president.

The board discussed and the President approved an honorary membership for John GM3TCW.

## NVARC Property Master Defined

Property Master

Adopted 2002-11-14

The President shall appoint a Property Master from the full Membership. This appointment becomes effective immediately upon ratification by the Board of Directors.

The duties of the Property Master are:

1. Create and maintain an up-to-date inventory ("Property Inventory") of all Club property (chattel). This inventory shall include the location of all property, including the name of the individual who has custody of each item with the callsign (if any), and shall be in two parts:

(1) All property available for signout. Signout property is RF equipment such as test equipment, radios, microphones, keyers, antennas, power supplies, TNCs, and cabling that is intended for circulation within the Membership (or, with Board approval, outside the Membership); and

(2) All permanently assigned Club chattel such as Adopt-A-Highway equipment, tables, coffee pot, badge punch, excluding Library materials.

2. Provide periodic articles no less often than quarterly to the Signal editor regarding the signout property.

3. File an annual report at the April Board meeting with the Board of Directors containing the Property Inventory and the number of times each item of signout property has been in circulation.

4. Assure that Club signout property is available for circulation to Members with reasonable advance notice. Typically this will require the Property Master or his/her representative to be a regular attendee at the monthly meetings so that Members may request in advance that specific items be brought to the Meeting.

5. Signout property may be held by a Member until the next regularly scheduled Monthly Meeting. Members holding signout property must present it to the Property Master or his/her representative at the Monthly Meeting. Signout property is made available to Members on a first-come, first-served basis. A Club activity requesting the signout property will always have priority. If the Member who currently holds a piece of signout property wishes to sign out the same piece of property again, that Member's name is placed last on the request list at the next Monthly Meeting. With the exception of a Club activity, the Member requesting signout property must

be present at the Monthly Meeting to claim the property. The request list shall carry over month to month. If the member(s) whose name(s) are first on the list when an item becomes available are not present at the meeting, their names are removed from the list.

6. The Board of Directors retains responsibility for making all acquisitions or accepting donations of property.

## CEMARC

CEMARC has organized a youth net to begin November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The net will be run on the Minuteman Repeater Association linked repeater system. The net is for children grade 12 and below. The net attendees will determine the subject matter.

After first check ins to allow control ops to check in for their unlicensed children all calls will be to the children.

For questions contact

Frank Murphy N1DHW [n1dhw@arrl.net](mailto:n1dhw@arrl.net)

Ann Weldon KA1PON [aweldon@aol.com](mailto:aweldon@aol.com)

Kevin Paetzold K1KWP [k1kwp@arrl.net](mailto:k1kwp@arrl.net)

## NVARC Power Distribution Boxes

The Power Distribution Box Kits were available at the October meeting. Most of the second run of the kits are now gone. We have no plans to put together more kits at this time. If you still need/want a kit or kits see Stan before they are gone.

## Adopt-A-Highway

On October 20<sup>th</sup> we performed our road clean up. Due to the minimum summer cleanups there was quite a bit to pick up. Seventeen bags of trash and one old tire and wheel.

The October cleanup crew included Dan N1LLG, Bob W1XP, Peter N1ZRG, Stan KD1LE, Pat N1VAW, Jim AA1PO, John KB1HDO, Ben KB1FJ, Ian NZ1B.

Thanks to everyone who helped out.

The next and last road cleanup for 2002 is Sunday November 24th.

## PSList and other opportunities

Public Service Volunteer Opportunities in the New England Division

Date	Event	Location
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Event Contact	Tel/Email
Dec 1 Festival of Lights Bob KA1OTQ 508-865-6957	Grafton, MA <a href="mailto:ka1otq@arrl.net">ka1otq@arrl.net</a>
Dec 7 Festival of Lights Bob KA1OTQ 508-865-6957	Sutton, MA <a href="mailto:ka1otq@arrl.net">ka1otq@arrl.net</a>

This list is published periodically as demand warrants by Stan KD1LE and Ralph KD1SM. Our usual distribution is via packet to NEBBS, via Internet mail to the arrl-nediv-list and ema-arrl distribution lists, and on the World Wide Web (see URL below). If other mailing list owners wish us to distribute via their lists we will be happy to oblige. Permission is herewith granted to republish this list in its entirety provided credit is given to the authors and the URL below is included. Send comments, corrections, and updates to:  
(via packet) KD1SM@K1UGM.#EMA.MA.USA,  
(via Internet) KD1SM@ARRL.NET.

We make an attempt to confirm entries with the coordinator unless the information is from another published source. We very much appreciate the assistance we have been receiving from our 'scouts'; everyone is welcome to send us postings.

World Wide Web users: the most recent copy of this list is maintained as <http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>.

**From The ARRL Letter**

**"GOOD AMATEUR PRACTICE" MEANS NEVER HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY**

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth has endorsed a list of several points that he feels help to define the concept of "good amateur practice." Section 97.101(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules refers to "good engineering and good amateur practice"--considered to refer to maintaining the highest standards of engineering and on-the-air comportment. But the rule lacks specifics.

"Good amateur practice is a hard thing to define," Hollingsworth conceded. "I'd have to say it's operating with the realization that frequencies are shared, that there's going to be occasional interference and that's no reason to become hateful and paranoid."

Hollingsworth says amateurs have to realize that more people than ever are listening in, especially since September 11, 2001, and that amateurs always need to remember that "our rights end where another person's begin."

A Michigan Amateur Radio club has been credited with distributing a list of "Riley-isms" culled from Hollingsworth's various talks at conventions and ham-fests and club meetings around the US. Hollingsworth--who verified that he had been cited accurately--says his various comments represent an effort to flesh out what "good amateur practice" consists of for considerate the Amateur Radio operator. According to Hollingsworth, good amateur practice means:

- \* giving a little ground--even if you have a right not to--in order to help preserve Amateur Radio and not cause it to get a bad name or hasten the day when it becomes obsolete.
- \* respecting band plans, because they make it possible for every mode to have a chance.



\* being aware that we all love Amateur Radio, and there's no need to damage or disgrace it just to save face.

\* keeping personal conflicts off the air. Settle your arguments on the telephone, the Internet or in person. Just keep them off the air.

\* cutting a net or a contester a break, even if you don't have to and even if you have no interest whatsoever in nets or contesting.

\* realizing that every right carries responsibilities, and just because you may have a right to do certain things doesn't mean it's right to do them in every circumstance.

\* you don't "own" or get preference to use any frequency.

\* not operating so that whoever hears you becomes sorry they ever got into (or tuned in on) Amateur Radio in the first place.

Hollingsworth notes that the list "doesn't touch on a lot of other technical issues, such as using 1500 W when your signal report received is 40 over 9." Good amateur practice, he said, "just means a lot of things that can't always be quantified."--thanks to Riley Hollingsworth

**AMATEUR RADIO GLOSSARY, ABBREVIATIONS AVAILABLE ON ARRL WEB SITE**

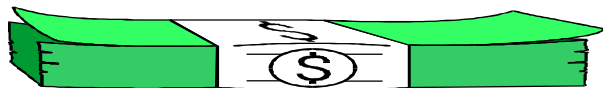


A glossary <<http://www.arrl.org/qst/glossary.html>> of Amateur Radio and electronics terms and a list of abbreviations

<[http://www.arrl.org/qst/aguide/Abbrev\\_AWE.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/qst/aguide/Abbrev_AWE.pdf)> found in ARRL publications now are available on the ARRL Web site. The glossary covers the range of terms from "Alternating current (ac)" to "Yagi antenna" and "73." The abbreviations cover the field from "a"--the abbreviation for "atto," the prefix for 10 to the minus 18th--to the Greek letter Omega, the symbol for ohm(s). Also posted is a list of corrections that will appear as "Feedback" <<http://www.arrl.org/qst/feedback/>> items in QST. The posting of the glossary, abbreviations list and "Feedback" came about as a result of suggestions from members and should prove especially helpful and convenient to newcomers to Amateur Radio.

### \$October Treasurer Report\$

Income for October was \$75 in membership dues, \$10.00 net from the FoxFinder project, \$50 from PowerPole connector distribution, and \$15.17 in bank interest.



Expenses for October were \$16.55 for newsletter and yearbook postage, \$36.94 for materials for the Rotary Rail Trail signs, and \$46.07 for pizza and soda for the October meeting.

Net income for October was \$50.61.

Current balances:

General fund: \$5035.41  
Community fund: \$1842.55

73,  
-Ralph KD1SM

### Equipment Wanted for Repeater

The repeater lawnmower is in need of some new rear wheels. It has the large (about one foot) spoked wheels. Contact Stan KD1LE if you have an offering.

### Fleamarket Calendar

15 Feb Algonquin ARC, Marlborough, MA  
20 Apr MIT, Cambridge, MA



### Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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V Pres.: Earl Russell WR1Y  
Secretary: Ian Norrish NZ1B  
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
Board Members:

Den Connors 2000-2003  
Bob Reif 2001-2004  
Les Peters 2002-2005

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
PIO Ron Wood KB1GID

Librarian Peter Nordberg N1ZRG  
N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG

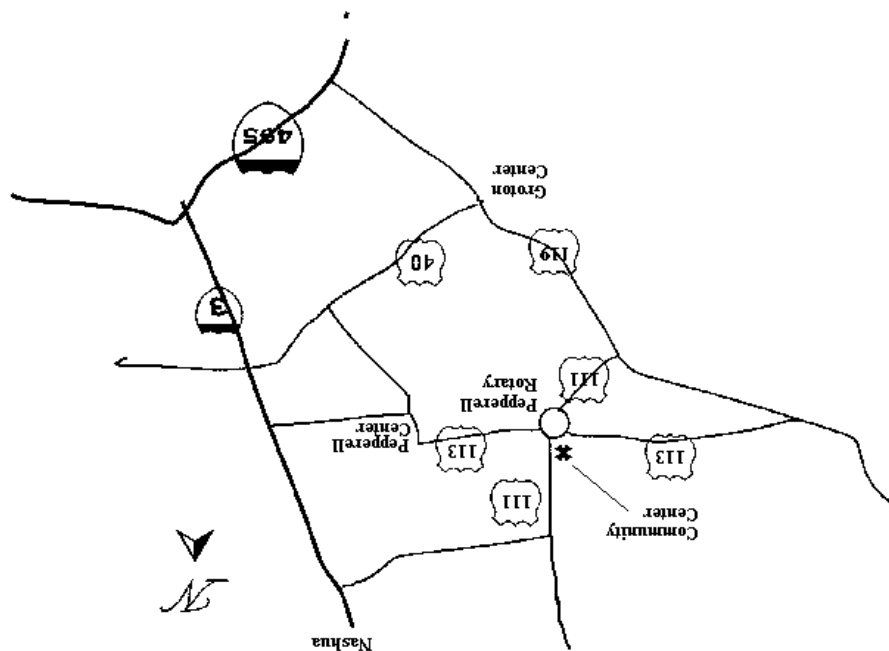
Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month -  
7:30 p.m. - Pepperell Community Ctr. Talk-in 146.490  
simplex

442.90 + 100Hz Repeater  
53.890 - 100Hz Repeater

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. You can send items to

[pozerski@net1plus.com](mailto:pozerski@net1plus.com)

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