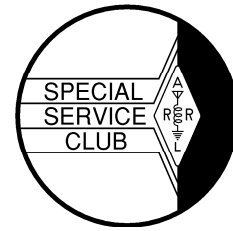




# SIGNAL



de NINC

April 2010 Volume 19 Number 4

## This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting program will include a number of items.

Elections for NVARC Officers and a Board member.

There will be Lantern Battery Challenge awards and some presentations by participants.

We will have a celebration for the first Lantern Battery Challenge.

This month's meeting is Thursday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30

## Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting presentation was on Skimmers by John KK1X. John described the function of the skimmer software which logs information from all the CW QSO's that it can interpret within the band pass of the radio. It is like having an operator using a receiver to map out potential contacts information.



Bob W1XP brought in a Davco receiver which was the first all transistor receiver produced.



In attendance were Ken K1JKR, Leo K1LK, Dennis K1LGQ, Skip, K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, Erica KA1LDP and Drew W1PCQ, George KB1HFT, Stan KD1LE, Pete KB1LZH, John KK1X, Les N1SV, Jim N8VIM, Roland NR1G (formerly W1RLG), Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC

## NVARC Slow Speed CW Net

The NVARC Slow Speed CW Net meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:30 on 28.123 MHz.

After the net concludes the net moves to 28.423 USB to discuss the evenings net, answer questions, and take comments.

If anyone is interested in participating there is a handout which may help you understand and follow the net.

If you are not sure enough with sending and receiving the code to check in you can still listen in and participate in the phone session afterwards.

John KK1X has been providing participants with an audio file of the net afterwards to be used for additional practice.

Recent participants Jim N8VIM, Peter N1ZRG, John KK1X, George KB1HFT, Bob W1XP, Roland NR1G, Skip K1NKR. Bruce K1BG and Stan KD1LE have been net control stations.

## NVARC Net

The NVARC net meets on 442.900 N1MNX repeater Mondays at 8:00 PM. The net is for sharing information and asking questions.

Recent topics software defined radios, upcoming events, Last Call for SK, Lantern Battery Challenge activity.

Recent check ins Jim N8VIM, Les N1SV, Stan KD1LE, Larry KB1ESR, Gary K1YTS, Skip K1NKR, Ed K1ZZ, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP.

## PSLIST

Every event needs communications volunteers

- Squannacook River Canoe and Kayak Race - 17 April
- Adopt-a-Highway cleanup starts - 18 April
- Groton Road Race - 25 April
- Parker Road Race - 23 May

- Field Day - 26-27 June
- Longsjo Classic - 2-5 July
- Memory Ride for Alzheimer's Research - 24 July

See [www.n1nc.org/Events](http://www.n1nc.org/Events) for the latest information

## Board Meeting

Discussion of upcoming meeting presentations.

Ralph will submit the Treasurers report for the newsletter.

Discussed the Lantern Battery Challenge awards. Awards will be presented at the meeting. Discussed possible items that might be used as awards.

Discussed the Groton Road Race and possible APRS support for lead, course control and sweep vehicles.

Discussed the slow speed CW net operation which has been going very well thanks to Bruce K1BG. Participation has been six to eight people which is very good. Discussed how things are working from the beginners perspective and anything that might improve how it is working for them. One reminder. When you check in you should transmit at a speed appropriate to all the other participants. In other words, slow.

Chocolate Chip Cookies were served.

In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Skip K1NKR and Bob W1XP.

## Adopt A Highway

At the Board Meeting there was a discussion about whether we should continue in the MassHighway Adopt A Highway Program. It was felt that we get good publicity and recognition from this activity and though it is not a radio activity it is still a public service and should continue.

## Treasurers Report

Income for March was \$15 in membership renewals. Expenses were \$17.60 for newsletter postage leaving a net expense of \$2.60 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$4,072.71
Community fund	\$3,771.41

As of 7 April we have 37 members who are current with their dues and 30 renewals outstanding. Many original Club members have membership anniversary dates of 1 April; the founding date of the Club. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If your ARRL membership is ready for renewal, you can let Ralph mail it in for you and the Club will get a commission. If you're interested in joining the ARRL and do so through Ralph the Club will get a bigger commission. ARRL membership checks should be made payable to NVARC so that our commission can be deducted before we forward your membership to Newington.

Ralph KD1SM

## ARRL Letter

### **ARRL Executive Committee Examines Proposed Vanity Call Sign Changes, Legislative, Regulatory Issues**

The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) held its first 2010 meeting Saturday, March 13 in Denver. The EC worked through a lengthy agenda that for the first time had been shared in advance with ARRL members -- the result of an ARRL Board action at its January meeting intended to increase transparency in the governance of the organization.

The EC administers the League's affairs in between Board meetings. It consists of the President (Kay Craigie, N3KN), five Directors elected annually by the Board, and - without vote - the First Vice President (Rick Roderick, K5UR) and Executive Vice President (David Sumner, K1ZZ). For 2010 the Director members are Tom Frenaye, K1KI (New England), George R. Isely, W9GIG (Central), Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT (Rocky Mountain), Bob Vallio, W6RGG (Pacific) and Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV (West Gulf). Also in attendance at the meeting were General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD; Vice President Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, and International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, K0QB.

### **FCC News: FCC Issues Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Government Disaster Drills and Amateur Radio**

On March 24, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) proposing to amend the

Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules "with respect to Amateur Radio operations during government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster readiness drills and tests." While current rules provide for Amateur Radio use during emergencies, the rules prohibit communications where the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. In October 2009, the FCC released a Public Notice clarifying the Commission's rules relating to the use of Amateur Radio by licensed amateurs participating in drills and exercises on behalf of their employers. To date, the FCC has granted several dozen waivers under this new policy.

The FCC notes that while there are some exceptions to this prohibition, "there is none that would permit amateur station control operators who are employees of public safety agencies and other entities, such as hospitals, to participate in drills and tests in preparation for such emergency situations and transmit messages on behalf of their employers during such drills and tests." Based on that, the Commission proposes to amend the rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

### **Glitch Delays Launch of New ARRL Web Site**

The ARRL's launch of a new Web site has been delayed following problems that appeared as the huge computer programs were being transferred to their main Web server. Normally the Web site connects ham radio operators around the world, dynamically presenting the services that ARRL offers the ham radio community at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). "When we tried to switch over to the new Web site on Wednesday, we encountered unanticipated technical issues during the process of transferring to the new Web site," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "It appears that with all of the new technology and vast simultaneous hits to the site, the code had problems keeping up. We are working to fix the issues and should be online very soon. We have temporarily switched back to the old Web site until these issues are resolved. Obviously, we are trying to complete this transfer as quickly as possible and we will keep you informed of our progress."

### **Dayton Hamvention: Announcing the 2010 Dayton Hamvention Award Winners**

Three Amateur Radio operators who have made significant contributions to the Amateur Radio Ser-

vice will be honored guests when the 2010 Dayton Hamvention opens in Hara Arena on May 14. In addition, Hamvention organizers will recognize a Club of the Year in keeping with the 2010 Hamvention theme: Amateur Radio Clubs Worldwide: The Lifeline. "Choosing the finalists was a difficult process due to the number of fine nominations," said Hamvention Awards Committee Chairman Frank Beafore, WS8B.

### **Public Service: ARRL Signs Memorandum of Understanding with American Red Cross**

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signs the new Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross as American Red Cross President and CEO Gail McGovern looks on.

On Thursday, March 25 ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the American Red Cross (ARC) at ARC National Headquarters in Washington, DC. The MoU, which replaces an earlier Statement of Understanding that expired in 2007, provides a "broad framework for cooperation" between the ARRL and the ARC "in preparing for and responding to disaster relief situations at all levels in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial."

### **Public Service: Amateur Radio Assists with Rescue in Great Smoky Mountains**

The Alum Cave Bluffs Trail begins as a wooden bridge crossing Walker Camp Prong.

On Sunday, March 28 -- a day with a lot of rain, wind, sleet and, fog -- John Oakberg, NK4N, of Sevierville, Tennessee, went out hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park near Mt LeConte. When he was about 1 mile up from Alum Cave Bluff, he came across Judy Potter, 57, of Atlanta who had broken her ankle while on the trail. Oakberg reached for his cell phone to call 911, but there was no coverage available. He then reached for his handheld transceiver and put out a call to any Amateur Radio operators who may be listening via some nearby VHF 2 meter repeaters.

### **Amateur Radio in the Classroom : 2010 ARRL Teachers Institute Begins with a Bang in Tucson**

More than 20 educators and five Elmers participated in the first Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, held over five Saturdays in February and March at Jefferson Park School in Tucson, Arizona.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI) began its 2010 sessions in February with a TI course designed specifically for teachers in the Tucson (Arizona) Unified School District (TUSD). Taught at Jefferson Park Elementary School, 21 educators -- including the school principal, school counselor and three resource personnel -- took part in five Saturday sessions, working through an expanded 45 hour Teachers Institute (TIs usually are done in about 32 hours). The teachers completed homework assignments that included building the clock kit, building a flashing LED Santa and reading the first two chapters of What's a Microcontroller? In addition, five parents attended the TI as observers. The course was taught by TI Instructor Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, who teaches in the TUSD.

### **ARRL in Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?**

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members, including signing a new Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross, preparing for WRC-12, legislative actions, holding workshops to help teachers introduce wireless technology in their classrooms, promoting on-the-air events, investigating power line noise and more. This installment covers the month of March. Read more here.

### **ARRL Executive Committee Examines Proposed Vanity Call Sign Changes, Legislative, Regulatory Issues, More**

The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) held its first 2010 meeting Saturday, March 13 in Denver. The EC worked through a lengthy agenda that for the first time had been shared in advance with ARRL members -- the result of an ARRL Board action at its January meeting intended to increase transparency in the governance of the organization.

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Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, and International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, KOQB.

### **FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski introduces the National Broadband Plan.**

On Tuesday, March 16, the FCC held an Open Meeting to introduce its report Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan (NBP) that was delivered to Congress that afternoon. Calling it "an ambitious agenda for connecting all corners of the nation while transforming the economy and society with the communications network of the future -- robust, affordable Internet," the Commission found that nearly 100 million Americans lack broadband at home today and 14 million Americans do not have access to broadband.

### **ARRL Seeks Input for New IARU Region 2 Band Plan**

The International Amateur Radio Region 2 conference -- to be held later this year in El Salvador -- brings together delegations from the national Amateur Radio Societies in the Western Hemisphere. One of the topics on the agenda will be the Region 2 HF band plan. This band plan is "harmonized with" -- spectrum management-speak for "very similar to" -- the IARU Region 1 and Region 3 band plans. At this year's conference, the IARU Member-Societies will consider possible changes to the Region 2 band plan. The ARRL is cooperating with this procedure by inviting input to be sent to the ARRL Board of Directors' Band Planning Committee. The committee will review the existing Region 2 band plan, consider input from the amateur community and make recommendations to the ARRL Board for submission to IARU Region 2.

### **FCC News: FCC Proposes to Eliminate Spread Spectrum APC Requirement, Reduce Spread Spectrum Power Limit; Cleans Up Portions of Part 97**

In response to a 2006 ARRL Petition regarding spread spectrum issues, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on March 16 (WT Docket No 10-62), proposing to amend Part 97 to facilitate the use of spread spectrum communications technologies by eliminating the requirement that amateur stations use automatic power control (APC) to reduce transmitter power when the station transmits a spread spectrum (SS) emission and reducing the maximum transmitter power output when transmitting a SS emission. Through an Order attached to the NPRM, the Commission also made

"certain non-substantive revisions" to the Amateur Service rules. Read more here.

### **ARRL Publications: ARRL Introduces Understanding Basic Electronics, second edition**

ARRL's Understanding Basic Electronics, second edition -- your gateway into the exciting world of electricity and electronics -- is written in a friendly, easy-to-understand style that beginners and nontechnical readers will enjoy. This introductory guide is ideal for students with basic math skills, as well as radio amateurs and experimenters interested in gaining a more complete understanding of basic electronic principles -- anyone eager to unlock the mysteries of electronic circuits.

Authored by Walter Banzhaf, WB1ANE, this new edition features student-friendly math made easy -- an inexpensive calculator is all you need -- and now includes digital electronics. Even if you already have a foundation in basic electronics, you will enjoy the small module format of each chapter, allowing readers to digest "bite-sized" chunks of learning material. Real-world examples and clear illustrations make the study of electronics interesting and fun! A handful of small "kitchen table" projects are included to help bring abstract concepts to life.

Understanding Basic Electronics, second edition includes chapters on electronics, analog and digital electronic circuits, electrical terms, conductors, insulators and resistors, electricity and magnetism, capacitors and inductors, electrical circuits (both series and parallel), Ohm's law, techniques and tricks on how to solve circuit problems, energy and power, alternating current (ac), capacitors and inductors, transformers, impedance, resonant active device concepts, semiconductors, diodes, transistors and ICs -- and much more.

For a limited time, ARRL members can purchase Understanding Basic Electronics, second edition for only \$29.95 -- that's \$3 off the regular price of \$32.95!

### **Legislative Affairs: ARRL Requests Support for S 1755**

The ARRL needs your help to encourage the leadership of the House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Committee to back the passage of Senate Bill 1755. Click here for information on how you can show your support for this very important piece of legislation.

Senate Bill 1755 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 introduced in October 2009 by Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) -- has unanimously passed the US Senate and has been sent to the US House of Representatives for consideration and now sits in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The ARRL is asking its membership to contact the leadership of the Energy and Commerce committee, requesting support and action on moving S 1755 through the committee. S 1755 accomplishes the same things as HR 2160; HR 2160 was introduced in April 2009 by Rep Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). Since S 1755 has already been approved by the Senate, moving it forward in the House will simplify the process. Click here for more information, including instructions on how to encourage the committee's leadership to support S 1755.

### **FCC News: FCC Seeks Comments for Blanket Waiver to Allow Amateur Radio in Hospital Emergency Drills**

In February 2010, the American Hospital Association (AHA) filed a request with the FCC for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules "to permit hospitals seeking accreditation to use Amateur Radio operators who are hospital employees to transmit communications on behalf of the hospital as part of emergency preparedness drills." On March 3, the FCC issued a Public Notice -- WP Docket 10-54 -- seeking comments if the Commission "should grant AHA's request for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) to permit amateur operators who are hospital employees to participate in emergency drills that are conducted by hospitals for accreditation purposes and that are not government-sponsored." Section 97.113(a)(3) specifically prohibits amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer." Instructions on how to paper file or file electronically are listed in the Public Notice.

### **ARRL Recognizes: Bob Schroeder, N2HX, Awarded 2009 Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Award**

Bob Schoeder, N2HX, is the recipient of the ARRL's 2009 Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Award for his article "Electromagnetic Pulse and Its Implications for EmComm" that appeared in November 2009 issue of QST.

H. Robert "Bob" Schroeder, N2HX, of Ewing, New Jersey, has been named the winner of the ARRL

Foundation's 2009 Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Award for his article "Electromagnetic Pulse and Its Implications for EmComm" that appeared in November 2009 issue of QST. The editorial staff commented on Schroeder's article, saying that "the topic of nuclear EMP is somewhat esoteric by itself, let alone discussing its impact on Amateur Radio, yet the author did an outstanding job of making the subject matter understandable even to the relatively non-technical ham. His writing is clear and to the point, offering practical advice not only for EMP mitigation as it applies to the unlikely event of a nuclear burst, but also extending the same principles to mitigation for lightning damage."

### **Hints and Kinks: Painting Letters**

This idea comes to us from Dave Price, K4KDP, of Goldsboro, North Carolina.

As I get older, I find it is harder to read some of the smaller print on my radios. The ICOM 706 is a good example. The radio connectors are marked ANT 1, ANT 2, MIC and DC 13.8V, just to name a few. These are marked by either raised letters or letters that are indented into the radio housing. I found that if I paint these letters white, they show up much better on the black metal case. There is a fairly easy way to paint the letters white using cotton swabs with wooded sticks.

Break off the cotton tip on some of the swabs until you have about six of them with sharp points at the break area. Throw away the cotton tip and use only the wooden stick to paint with. Now spray a small puddle of white paint onto a piece of cardboard. The cardboard will absorb some of the moisture. Just as the paint starts to thicken dip the pointed end of the stick into the paint and then gently tap the paint into the indented area of the radio housing. On raised letters I use the blunt end of the stick, repeating the same process. It is best to use very little paint and repeat the process of dipping into the paint and tapping the paint onto the letters many times.

You will find you have to replace the stick several times and spray a new puddle of paint when the old puddle gets too thick. You will also need to have some small paper towels and rubbing alcohol close by to quickly clean up any mistakes. I strongly recommend you practice this on some junk metal before attempting this on your expensive radios. I have also used this same trick on unpainted numbers for my Chevy truck 4 wheel drive shift mounted on the truck floor and for my watch bezel to make the unpainted numbers easier to read.

Do you have an idea or a simple project that has improved your operating? Maybe you've taken something commonly found around the home and developed a ham radio use for it? Why not share your hints with fellow hams in "Hints and Kinks," a monthly column in QST. If we publish your hint in QST, you will receive \$20. Send your hints via e-mail or to ARRL Headquarters, Attn: "Hints and Kinks," 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address.

### 2010 Flea Markets/Conventions

April  
18 MIT  
30 NEARfest, Deerfield NH

May  
1 NEARfest Deerfield NH  
16 MIT

August  
27-29 ARRL NE Convention, Boxborough

### Advertisements



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Tell them you saw it in the Signal. Advertisers should contact the NVARC Treasurer for information.

### Upcoming Operating Events

June  
12-14 ARRL June VHF QSO Party  
19 Kids Day  
26 ARRL Field Day

July  
10-11 IARU HF World Championships

For further info on these and other contests refer to;  
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>.



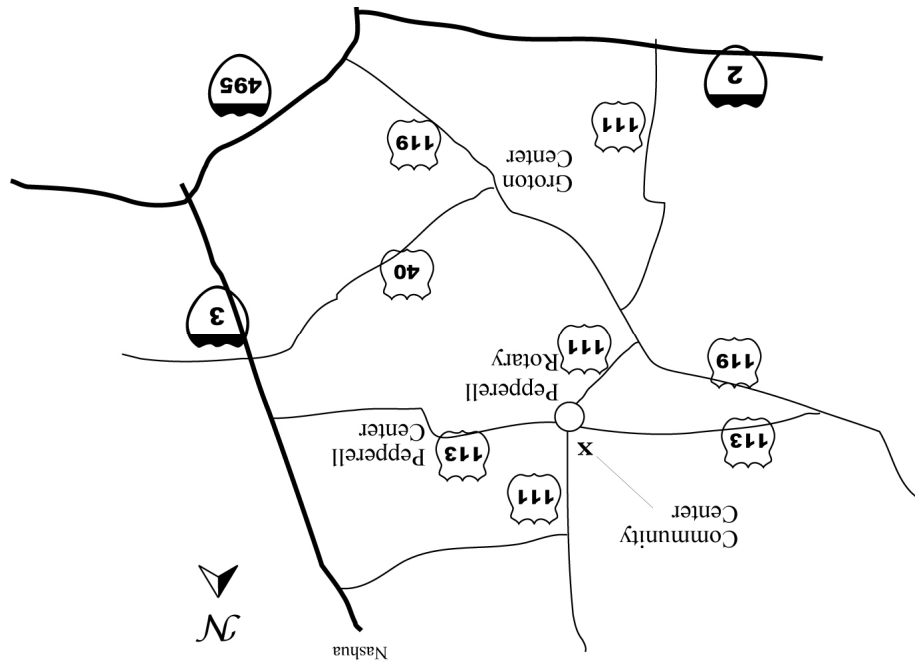
### Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
Vice President: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG  
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X  
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
Board Members:  
Bob Reif: W1XP 2007-2010  
Skip Youngberg K1NKR 2008-2011  
Joel Magid W1JMM 2009-2012

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Property Master: John Griswold KK1X  
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  
442.900 + 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.  
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