

# SIGNAL



de NINC

December 2011 Volume 20 Number 12

## This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 and will be held at the Pepperell Community Center.

This Meeting is the annual HomeBrew Night. Bring your home brew projects to show off.

## Last Month's Meeting

The December meeting program was on the World Radiosport Team Championship by K1DG. Doug brought news that he had gotten permission to use the Heald St orchard for the 2014 WRTC Championship. This is the first confirmed site. He needs enough sites to host 65 stations and the stations need to be 500 meters apart. The orchard may be able to support three stations.

He is looking for volunteers for the many tasks that have to be done not only in 2014 but starting now. You can go to the website [WRTC2014.org](http://WRTC2014.org) for more information, to volunteer for some task, or to donate.



Ed K1EP Explains the OO Program

Doug was followed by K1EP who is the coordinator for the Eastern Mass Official Observer program. Ed explained the organization and its purpose.



Also at the November meeting Les N1SV presented the contest results for his Bermuda trip. Four NVARC members contacted Les in the contest but only once each. Rod WA1TAC was the first to make contact so he was awarded the ARRL gift certificate.

## From the President

This meeting and the next are the two meetings that entirely depend on members to be successful. I hope to see a lot of participation at these meetings. If you need any support items like a projector let us know.

Best Wishes for the Holidays.  
Stan KD1LE

## Ethereal Adornments

### Or How History Went Wrong

#### Plus some other thoughts.

By Bob Reif, W1XP

The other day while I was researching another topic I came across an article written by Lauren G. Windom in a 1929 QST. The article has the interesting title of "Notes on Ethereal Adornments". Now as you may have guessed this article was an article about an Antenna. After downloading the article from the ARRL web site and reading it the thought struck me that instead of naming the antenna after the author of the article, the antenna should have been named an "Ethereal Adornment". It seems to me that this would have made life much easier for many hams today. Just think, how could a planning board, homeowners association, or XYL, deny permission to erect an "Ethereal Adornment"! The name just brings on visions of puffy white clouds, pretty yellow flowers, blue birds and angles on wing. We "really missed it"! Instead we named the antenna "the Windom". A golden opportunity missed.

But what about this antenna? Some may recognize it as an off center fed half wave horizontal wire antenna. The connection to the transmitter is via a single wire not a two conductor transmission line. This single wire is connected not in the center of the horizontal section but about 14% off center. Note because of this off center feed, the current in the horizontal section has the same distribution as a normal half wave dipole. This section radiates as a normal dipole. Because the radiation of the single feed wire is not canceled by the equal and out of phase radiation of a second wire, as in a two wire transmission line, the feed wire radiates. A major portion of the radiation may actually come from the feed wire. It all depends on the length and location of the feed wire. The radiation of the vertical portion of the feed wire is vertically polarized. The top horizontal section radiates horizontally polarized as a horizontal dipole. The total radiation of the antenna is the sum of the two. Both vertical and horizontal radiation are provided by this antenna. This mixed mode of operation may be a good thing. Some claim it is.

The major disadvantage of the antenna is the radiation starts in the shack. The three downsides to this are that the antenna may cause problems where the RF energy may interfere with the transmit audio or interfere with other equipment in the shack or household. Secondly, a good part of the radiation may be lost to effective communications because it

is absorbed in the surroundings. And thirdly, on receive the antenna feed wire may pick up high noise levels from the electronics located close to the wire.

But one major advantage to the antenna is that it works very well on the harmonics of the frequency the antenna is a half wave long on. It is a good multi band antenna. A fact that was not missed by the developers of the antenna in 1929. It is the multi band performance of the antenna that has been it's main attraction ever since. In the 1950s a version of off center fed antennas using 300 ohm tv cable was popular and was also called a Windom. Currently there is a version of this antenna marketed by an antenna, wire, and cable distributor, called the Carolina Windom. This antenna claims to take advantage of the radiation off the feed line. In the 1950s HF baluns were not a common thing. There is at present a growing interest in what is called the off center fed dipole or off center fed antenna. These antennas are again popular for the multi band performance they provide. Typically today they use coax feed line and baluns to choke off the common mode current in the feed line. The 1929 original work on the antenna was done at Ohio State University and the radio club station there; W8XJ.

Fifty-five or more years ago as a younger ham, I remember sitting in my mentor's cellar and watched with wonder as Warren W9EEO (SK), worked the world on 40 meter CW. The transmitter was a converted WWII aircraft "command transmitter". It only ran about 40 watts. And you guessed it. The antenna was a Windom. The station was located in a corner of the cellar behind the furnace, (it was the warmest part of the cellar) and the antenna single feed wire went across the ceiling on old knob insulators and out the cellar window. Out side it went up at an angle and connected to the 66 foot flat top not far out of reach. It wasn't impressive by any standard. But it impressed me. Talking around the world on such a simple antenna was impressive. I remember sitting off to the side as Warren and I visited on a cold winter evening. The air was warm, behind the furnace. The smoke from Warren's pipe slowly circled around in the dim light. Warren carried on two conversations at a time. One with me, and one with the operator at the other end of the QSO. He had lots of interesting stories of how he had grown up with radio. His first small Ford coil spark transmitter running off a couple of telephone batteries and the joy of working other stations at six miles. How when the US entered WWI the government radio inspector had showed up and sealed his radio equipment in a canvas bag. And what he had hidden from the inspector so he could still listen. It was those days when we almost lost ham radio. Warren

would describe his early tube transmitter than ran off ten discarded 90 volt radio B batteries in series. It was heard at the southern tip of South America. He was given a T9 report followed by a question mark. Most stations of moderate or high power at this time had a bad AC note. Too young for WWI and too old for WWII, he had worked a second job during WWII training Army and Navy radio operators in code and theory.

He had grown up in a railway telegraph office. His parents had managed the C & O Rail Road depot in the small town of Malden, Indiana, so Warren had grown up with code all around him. What Warren called "Morse" as the code used by the rail roads was different for the "International Morse" code we use for radio. It was Warren that had given me my Novice test about six months earlier. But sitting in Warren's cellar listening to him work stations all over the world on 40 meters was where I became determined to do what ever it took to get my code speed up to 13 WPM and learn what I needed to pass the theory test and become a part of this Magic hobby. And I still remember that magic antenna that Warren used. The antenna that Warren called a Windom. And as I think back on those exciting days and the many visits to Warren's shack, I think that "Ethereal Adornment" is a much more fitting name for Mr. Windom's antenna. It truly was a thing of magic and beauty.

Hope you all have a Happy Holiday Season and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. Till next time, 73 Bob W1XP

### 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.

Bring your questions and topics for discussion so that we can all learn something.

Recent discussions have been antenna work, operating JT65, and helping others get on the air.

Recent Check in's;

N8VIM Jim NCS, K1NKR Skip, N1MNX Dave, KD1LE Stan, NW1U Paul, KB1HFT George, NR1G, Roland, W1LTN Dick, K1YTS Gary, KB1ESR Larry W1XP Bob, K1BG Bruce.

### PSLIST

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

### Board Meeting

The Board meeting was held December 1<sup>st</sup> this month. The upcoming meeting programs were discussed. The Treasurers report was submitted. There was also a discussion about supporting the 2014 WRTC as a club. We requested more information about what would be required to support a station or site for the event.

In attendance were Stan KD1LE, Roland NR1G, John KK1X, Skip K1NKR,

### Treasurers Report

Income for November was \$61 from the ARRL Handbook raffle at the November meeting and \$5 in "green stamps" for the ILLW QSL cards.

Expenses were \$63.06 for ILLW QSL card postage and \$132.49 for members' cards sent to the outgoing QSL Bureau. This leaves a net expense for November of \$129.55.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,367.00
Community fund	\$4,286.41

As of 1 December we have 43 members who are current with their dues and 22 renewals outstanding. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If you are not yet an ARRL member and are interested in joining, please consider letting Ralph send in the paperwork for you. The Club will buy the stamp and will get a commission from ARRL. If your ARRL membership is ready for renewal, you can let Ralph mail it in for you and the Club will still get a (smaller) commission. ARRL membership checks should be made payable to NVARC; Ralph deducts the Club commission before forwarding your paperwork to Newington.

Ralph KD1SM

### Upcoming Contests

N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR  
December 2011

40 METER FOXHUNT (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Dec 16, 0200z to 0329z  
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

Feld Hell Club Sprint (Feld Hell) ... QRP Category  
Dec 17, 0000z to 2400z  
Rules: <http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home>

OK DX RTTY Contest  
Dec 17, 0000z to 2400z  
Rules: <http://www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE>

RAC Canada Winter Contest (All) ... QRP Category  
Dec 17, 0000z to 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests/>

Croatian CW Contest (CW) ... QRP Category  
Dec 17, 1400z to Dec 18, 1400z  
Rules: <http://www.9acw.org>

Stew Perry (W1BB)  
Topband Distance Challenge (CW) ... QRP Category  
Dec 17, 1500z to Dec 18, 1500z  
Rules: <http://jzap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt>

Rookie Roundup (CW) 100W Max  
Dec 18, 1800z to 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Dec 18, 2000z to 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/8108/118/>

RUN FOR THE BACON (CW) \*\*\* QRP CONTEST \*\*\*  
UTC: Dec 19, 0200z 0400z  
Rules: <http://fpqrp.org/>

80 METER FOXHUNT (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Dec 21, 0200z to 0329z  
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

40 METER FOXHUNT (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Dec 23, 0200z to 0329z  
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

R A E M Contest (CW) .. Low Power category  
Dec 25, 0000z to 1159z  
Rules:  
[http://www.srr.ru/CONTEST/cup\\_raem\\_engl\\_11.php](http://www.srr.ru/CONTEST/cup_raem_engl_11.php)

DARC Christmas Contest (CW/SSB) ... Low Power Category  
Dec 25, 0830z to 1059z  
Rules:  
<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en/rules>

SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards  
Dec 28, 0000z to 0200z  
Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

80 METER FOXHUNT (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Dec 28, 0200z to 0329z

Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW) ... QRP Category  
DEc 28, 1300z to 1400z and  
Dec 28, 1900z to 2000z and  
DEC 29, 0300z to 0400z  
Rules: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

NACC Straight Key/Bug Sprint (CW mw Special) \*\*\*QRPp Contest\*\*\*  
Dec 29, 0130z to 0330z  
Rules: <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>

40 METER FOXHUNT (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Dec 30, 0200z to 0329z  
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, N0AX(ARRL), G4GXL (QRPARCI) N2APB (AmQRP), WB3AAL (EPAQRP) and others for assistance in compiling this calendar.

If you wish to subscribe to the Calendar, send an e-mail to [N2CQ@ARRL.Net](mailto:N2CQ@ARRL.Net)

Please forward the contest info you sponsor to [N2CQ@ARRL.NET](mailto:N2CQ@ARRL.NET) and we will post it and give it more publicity. Anyone may use this "N2CQ QRP Contest Calendar" for your website,

## Adopt A Highway

On Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> we held our last Road Cleanup. We started back in 1997. In 1998 a picture of our cleanup crew made the pages of QST.

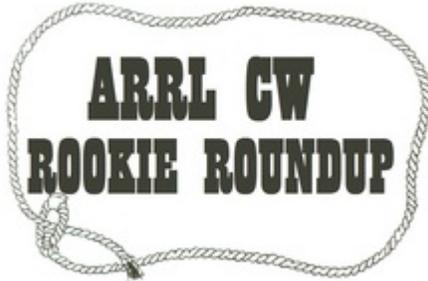


Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Thanks to (L-R) Stan KD1LE, Rod WA1TAC, Roland NR1G Bob W1XP, and Ralph KD1SM for helping out at this last road cleanup.

## ARRL Letter

*On the Air.* Round Up Those CW QSOs in the ARRL CW Rookie Roundup



The ARRL's Rookie Roundup comes around again on Sunday, December

18. This time, the focus is on CW operation. The Rookie Roundup is an on-the air event is designed to help newly licensed amateurs build their HF and 6 meter operating skills. Similar to the ARRL Novice Roundup that ran from 1952 until 1995, the Rookie Roundup combines a competitive event with some on-the-air training, bringing fun and Elmering into the 21st century. Three Rookie Roundups -- SSB, RTTY and CW -- are held each calendar year: The CW running of the Rookie Roundup will take place Sunday, December 18 from 1800-2359 UTC. Read

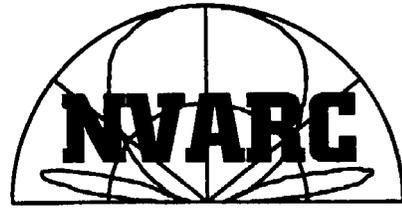
## 2011 Flea Markets/Conventions

02/04/2012 WinterFest 2012 Augusta ME  
02/25/2012 Vermont State Convention, (HAM-CON)  
South Burlington ME  
08/12/2012 NoBarc Hamfest 2012 Adams MA

## Advertisements

Your advertisement could be here.

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



## Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

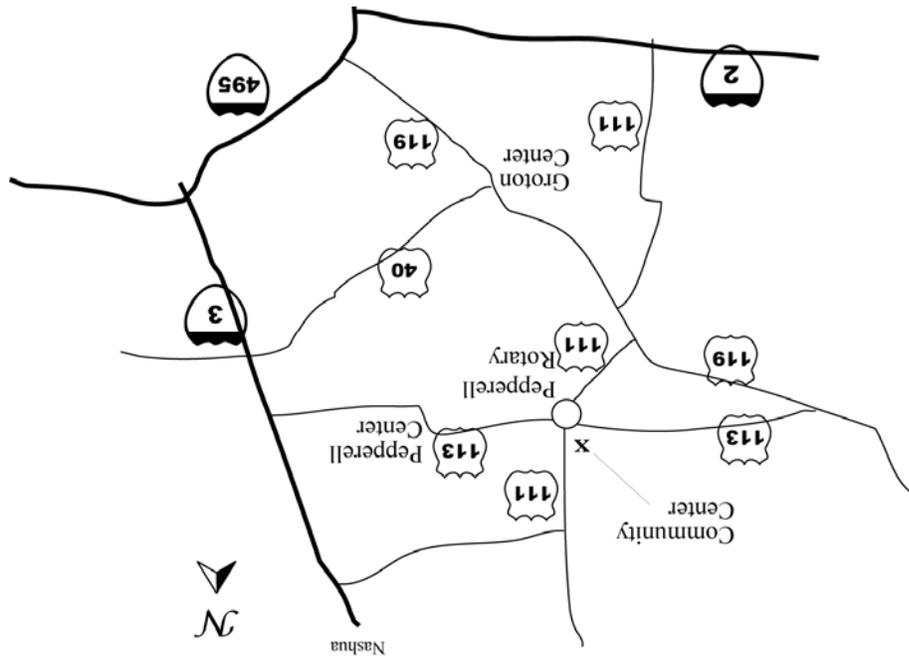
PO Box # 900  
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

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

President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
Vice President: Bruce Blain K1BG  
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X  
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
Board Members:

Joel Magid W1JMM 2009-2012  
Bob Reif: W1XP 2010-2013  
Skip Youngberg K1NKR 2011-2014

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE  
Emergency Coordinator: Larry Swezey KB1ESR  
Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
PIO: Dave Peabody N1MNX  
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 2011 NVARC



**Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club**

*PO Box 900*

*Pepperell, MA 01463-0900*

