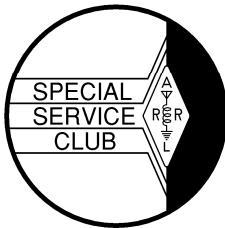


# SIGNAL



de N1NC

May 2012 Volume 21 Number 5

## This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 and will be held at the Pepperell Community Center.

This Month's Meeting For the May meeting we have our own Jim Francis, K1PTF, who will talk about his experiments and development of ways to interface the Dragon speech recognition software into the hamshack. No, this isn't robotic ham radio with its automatic QSOs, automatic logging, automatic QSLs, and automatic certificates. It's station control for convenience at the minimum and for support to the handicapped as one ultimate goal. But mostly it's experimenting and learning. Should be an interesting talk.

## Presidents Corner

MAY 2012

From the President

Well, the Groton Road Race was yesterday and I've just logged off the Monday night net. A two-item data sample, but it does say a bit about the club. We're what the academics (*i.e.*, paid professional students) of organizational development would call a "programs" club.

Think about it. We've got club meetings and their entertainment of course. All clubs have that. But we've also got an extensive public service activity; the QSL sort and outgoing QSL service; Saturday breakfast and the summer picnic; Field day, the Monday night net, and mini-DXpeditions (like the August lighthouse weekend); and elmering—just to scratch the surface. And we've got experimenters and contestants, QRPers and QROers, DXers and ragchewers. Everybody's got a niche, and those niches don't necessarily compete. It's OK to be

interested in more than one thing, so the club supports them all.

I've said it over and over again, "This is a learning hobby." But experience, not book-learning. Let's endeavor this coming year to explore and share those experiences. Give a talk. Try a new aspect of the hobby. Encourage and help someone else to try a new aspect of the hobby that you already enjoy.

So what's your niche?

Skip K1NKR

## Last Month's Meeting

The meeting program was How Antenna's Work by Dale AF1T. He was assisted by Michele W1MKY

Prior to the presentation several items were discussed. The Board proposed \$500 donation to the Pepperell Community Center. We have been meeting there at no cost for about 19 years. Because of the amount of the proposed donation it had to be brought to the membership. After presenting the proposal to the members and there were no objections a vote was taken and was unanimous.

For information it was also discussed that the Board approved a donation of several books to the Pepperell Lawrence Library and a \$100 donation. The Library has allowed us to meet there when the Community Center has been unavailable without restrictions. The treasurer is to take care of the book ordering and the donations.

Upcoming events were announced such as the Groton Road Race, Longsjo Bike Race and the Alzheimer's Memory Ride.

There was also a follow up on the Townsend Canoe Race.



Photo Courtesy KK1X

Stan KD1LE presents the NVARC mug to Dale AF1T and Michele W1MKY after the presentation.



Photo Courtesy KK1X

Above are the Lantern Battery Challenge participants with their award certificates. See article below for more information. L-R Peter KB1PBA, Skip K1NKR, Bruce K1BG, John KK1X and Bob W1XP

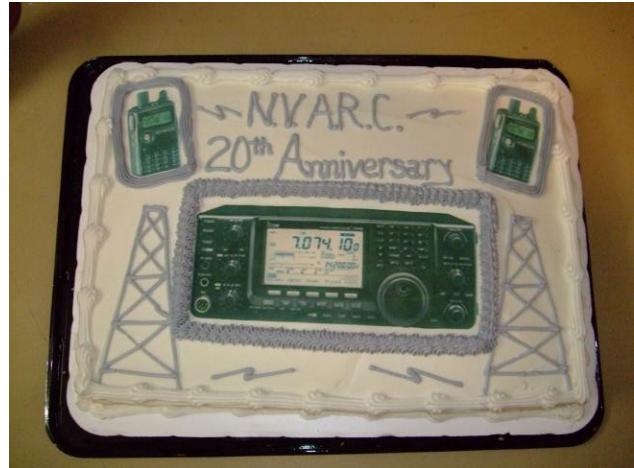


Photo Courtesy KK1X

Last month we also celebrated NVARC's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After the antenna presentation we relaxed with cake (above) and soft drinks.

#### Attendees:

Phil KB1JKL, John KK1X, Dennis K1LGQ, George KB1HFT, Rod WA1TAC, Bob AB1CV, Bob W1XP, Earl WR1Y, Bruce K1BG, Dick W1LTN, Jim N8VIM, Leo K1LK, Peter N1ZRG, Gary K1YTS, Les N1SV, Wolf WA1VOU, Paul NW1U, Skip K1NKR, Peter KB1PBA, Ken KB1UVP, Dan KW2T, Don N1NWE, Alma (guest of Don), Dan (guest of Don)

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Lantern Battery Challenge Wrap Up

The third annual Lantern Battery Challenge has ended as of the first of March. I have received a total of eight logs in a total of four entry categories. It was encouraging to receive two digital mode entries for the first time. CW did continue to dominate with four entries. Everyone is invited to the April meeting where after the presentation of the awards we will have refreshments. This is a usual Lantern Battery Challenge tradition, but this year we have a larger achievement to celebrate. That is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NVARC.

On a different note, I would like to invite comments on how we run the Lantern Battery Challenge in the future. There have been several comments about having lots of battery left. Sadly some have batteries that remain unused. I have considered two options. Changing the time period either longer or shorter, and the second is changing the power source. This would be a change to a source with less capacity. A battery made up of AA cells is one idea. This would also be a less expensive battery so the entry fee would be lower. This would probably

favor more low power and simple receiver rigs. One thought I had was to reduce the activity period from October to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. For contest activity it included the CQWW phone and CW as well as the ARRL Sweepstakes phone and CW, the ARRL ten-meter contest and many others concluding with SKN on New Years day. But this is only to start the conversation so let's hear from you whether you have been in the LBC or not. 73 Bob

## Field Day

CQ CQ Field Day CQ CQ Field Day



[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

Date: Sat. June 23, to Sun. June 24  
 Location: Heald Street Orchard  
 Pepperell, MA  
 Entrance : 42.6715, -71.6282



Photo Courtesy Ralph, KD1SM

Calling all amateurs. Come join us at Field Day 2012. We need NVARC members and fellow amateurs to help with setup, radio operation, and takedown. If you have never been to or have been

reluctant to participate in Field Day, you can be assured of having a good time.

The NVARC Field Day is an opportunity to meet and experience the fellowship of your fellow Ham Radio operators. You can come to operate or to observe. This is a low pressure event that helps Amateurs learn to setup and operate in less than ideal conditions, similar to those Ham Radio operators around the world are called to do in emergency situations.

Field Day is also an opportunity to educate the public about Amateur Radio and the number of services we perform.



Photo Courtesy Jim, N8VIM

A description of this year's Field Day operation:

Operating: 3 Alpha  
 CW  
 SSB  
 Digital  
 VHF/UHF/Satellite  
 GOTA

Many thanks to the following who have volunteered for these positions:

Field Day Chairman:  
 Roland, NR1G

Station Captains:  
 CW: Bob, W1XP  
 SSB: Les, N1SV  
 Digital: George, KB1HFT  
 VHF/UHF/Satellite: Skip, K1NKR  
 GOTA: Bruce, K1BG

Site Coordination Captain:  
 Stan, KD1LE

Infrastructure Captains:

Power, Networking, and Electrical Safety: Jim, N8VIM  
N1MM Station Logging: Bruce, K1BG

Meals:

Saturday Lunch: Lynda N1PBL  
Saturday Night BBQ: Leo, K1LK  
Sunday Breakfast: Larry, KB1ESR

Bonus Point Responsibilities:

Educational Activity: *Open Position*  
Message Section Mgr: *Open Position*  
Message Handling: *Open Position*  
W1AW Bulletin: Stan, KD1LE  
Satellite QSO: Skip, K1NKR  
Alternate Power: Jim, N8VIM  
Information Table: Roland, NR1G



Photo Courtesy Roland, NR1G

As you can see I still need a volunteer to develop and present an educational activity at Field Day. There are also a number of bonus points that need volunteers to be responsible for.

You can contact the Field Day Captains or Chairman if you are interested in helping out with setup, planning, operation, food, bonus points, or takedown.

Volunteers are also needed to put up postcards and posters around the local area. These should be available for the upcoming NVARC meeting on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Links:

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field\\_Day\\_\(amateur\\_radio\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_Day_(amateur_radio))

Any questions, comments or suggestions are appreciated and should be sent directly to me.

If you're curious, here's a little bit of Field Day history:

Year	Call	Score	Class	NVARC					Ops	Part
				QSOs	Mult	GOTA	Section			
1992	K1BG	4,958	2A	1,384	2	-	EMA		16	
1993	-		2A			-	-			
1994	K1BG	3,214	2A	764	2	-	EMA		20	
1995	-		2A			-	-			
1996	N1NC	5,990	2A	1,613	2	K1BG	EMA		8	
1997	N1NC	6,656	2A	1,657	2	-	EMA		10	
1998	N1NC	5,428	2A	1,514	2	KF6KQB	EMA		14	
1999	-		2A			-	-			
2000	-		2A			-	-			
2001	N1NC	3,990	1AB	349	5	-	EMA		6	
2002	N1NC	4,160	2AB	429	5	-	EMA		26	
2003	N1NC	4,396	2A	1,424	2	KB1HDO	EMA		21	
2004	N1NC	7,458	2A	1,950	2	AB1CV	EMA		19	
2005	N1NC	4,744	3A	1,112	2	KA1LEO	EMA		21	
2006	N1NC	5,202	2A	1,375	2	AB1GA	EMA		24	
2007	N1NC	4,370	2A	895	2	K1NNJ	EMA		31	
2008	N1NC	5,280	2A	1,461	2	K1NNJ	EMA		23	
2009	N1NC	4,842	2F	1,115	2	N8VIM	EMA		25	
2010	N1NC	5,802	3A	1,311	2	-	EMA		51	
2011	N1NC	6,022	2A	1,530	2	K1BG	EMA	30	55	
2012	N1NC	TBD	3A	TBD	2	K1BG	EMA	TBD	TBD	

73, Roland, NR1G

### Treasurers Report

Subject:  
April Treasurer's Report  
From:  
Ralph Swick <ralph@kd1sm.net>  
Date:  
5/6/2012 10:17 PM

Income for April was \$75 from membership dues, \$6.44 in bank interest, \$4 from ARRL membership renewals, \$10 from PowerPole connector sales, and \$52 from the April meeting book raffle.

Expenses were \$18 for newsletter postage and \$25 for meeting speaker travel expenses leaving a net income for April of \$104.44.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,367.68
Community fund	\$4,286.41

As of 3 May we have 40 members who are current with their dues and 27 renewals outstanding. As April is the Club's anniversary date, many of our Members have their membership anniversary date last month. 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

### 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, KD1LE Stan, KB1HFT George, NR1G, Roland, W1LTN Dick, K1YTS Gary, KB1ESR Larry W1XP Bob.

### PSLIST

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

### Board Meeting

Board meeting 5/3/2012

Skip K1NKR, Roland NR1G, Rod WA1TAC, Bob W1XP, John KK1X, Larry KB1ESR

Next club meeting Jim K1PTF on speech recognition, Field Day (Roland)

Credit union signature card for Skip?

Discussion of Field Day sign, post cards

Club brochures – mods due – Skip to edit & relay to Roland for printing, to John for archive

Townsend Canoe, GRR, Parker Classic defunct, Longsjo Classic, Memory Ride

Roland has some new Field Day materials – Invitation for Ops (Bruce's email list), Field Day press releases, EMA ARRL folks on the list Field Day antenna & station plan

WRTC testing on July 13, 14, 15

Need a host for summer picnic – Dennis cannot do it due to lawn reseeding.

Wrapup article for LBC 2011-2012 done by Bob – to Stan  
Let's continue LBC

GRR - 2m repeater interfering with / interfered by police band so perhaps switch to 70cm? (Larry)

Skip soliciting meeting subjects

List undocumented member tasks to educate future generations of the board?

Board of Trustees – Skip requests an audit of the constitution over the summer.

Respectfully submitted,  
John KK1X

### ARRL Letter

*On the Air:* Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test Scheduled for May 12



The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test in celebration of the 62nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day. Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May -- May 19 in 2012 -- the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 12 to prevent a conflict with the Dayton Hamvention®, scheduled for May 18-20. Read more [here](#).

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*On the Air:*  
7O6T Yemen  
DXpedition Now  
Underway  
*The Daily DX* is  
reporting that  
the 7O6T Yemen  
DXpedition began at 2100  
UTC Monday,  
April 30 and will  
continue  
through 2100  
UTC May 15.  
Yemen currently  
sits at #5 on *DX Magazine's*  
most wanted  
list, behind  
North Korea,  
Navassa, Bou-  
vet and Heard  
Island. The  
ARRL DXCC

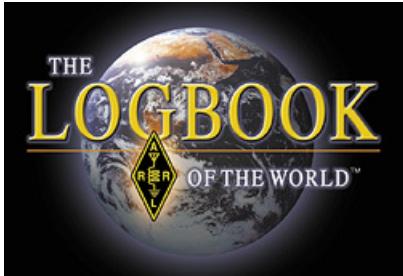


A team of radio amateurs has activated the island of Socotra, located about 353 kilometers south of Yemen. This is only the second time that hams have operated from the island; the first time was in 1964-1965 when Socotra was part of Britain's Aden Protectorate.

Desk will review the 7O6T DXpedition's documentation before granting approval for the operation to count for DXCC credit.

The DXpedition will be on Socotra Island -- the largest island in the four-island Socotra archipelago located in the Indian Ocean -- about 353 kilometers south of the Yemen mainland. Socotra Island (AF-028) is also ranked #1 on the RSGB's Islands on the Air (IOTA) list, with only .3 percent of IOTA participants claiming it. Socotra also counts for one of the three Diamond DXCC Entities that make up today's Yemen (including Aden City and Yemen itself) from the 1937 DXCC List.

*On the Air:* Logbook of The World Marks 50,000 Users



On May 1, Dragan Pavlovic, YT3PDT, completed his registration process for Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)), becoming the 50,000th

person to take advantage of the ARRL's online QSL confirmation system. According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, there are more than 3500 individuals from outside the US in the process of obtaining a digital

certificate, and more than 1800 individuals inside the US who have started the certificate process, but not yet finished.

Earlier this year, the ARRL and CQ Communications [announced](#) that the ARRL will provide support for CQ-sponsored operating awards by LoTW, beginning with the WPX Award. This project has [entered the beta testing phase](#) with a select group of hams and, barring any unforeseen circumstances, is on track to be launched to the Amateur Radio community this month.

"Radio amateurs around the world consider LoTW to be the 'must have' awards and electronic confirmation system," Patton said. "We look forward to planned improvements and upgrades, and we are gratified that so many people have helped the system grow and become more and more useful."

## 2011 Flea Markets/Conventions

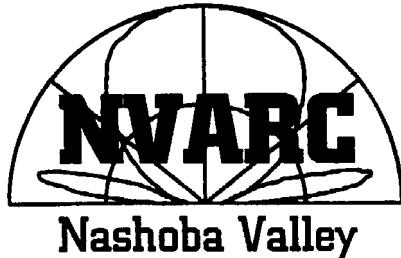
- |        |                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| May    |                                 |
| 19     | Goshen Hamfest, Goshen CT       |
| 20     | MIT Flea                        |
| June   |                                 |
| 2      | Hermon Hamfest, Hermon ME       |
| 16     | NARL Fest, Newington CT         |
| 17     | MIT Flea                        |
| July   |                                 |
| 15     | MIT Flea                        |
| August |                                 |
| 11     | STARC Hamfest, St Albans VT     |
| 11     | Three Rivers Hamfest, Milo ME   |
| 24-26  | ARRL NE Convention (Boxborough) |

## Advertisements

Your advertisement could be here.  
Tell them you saw it in the Signal. Advertisers  
should contact the NVARC Treasurer for information.

## This Space Left Blank

Your article could have been here.



### Nashoba Valley

### Amateur Radio Club

PO Box # 900  
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

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

President: Skip Youngberg K1NKR

Vice President: Larry Swezey KB1ESR

Secretary: John Griswold KK1X

Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

#### Board Members:

Bob Reif: W1XP 2010-2013

Roland Guilmet NR1G 2011-2014

Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2012-2015

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

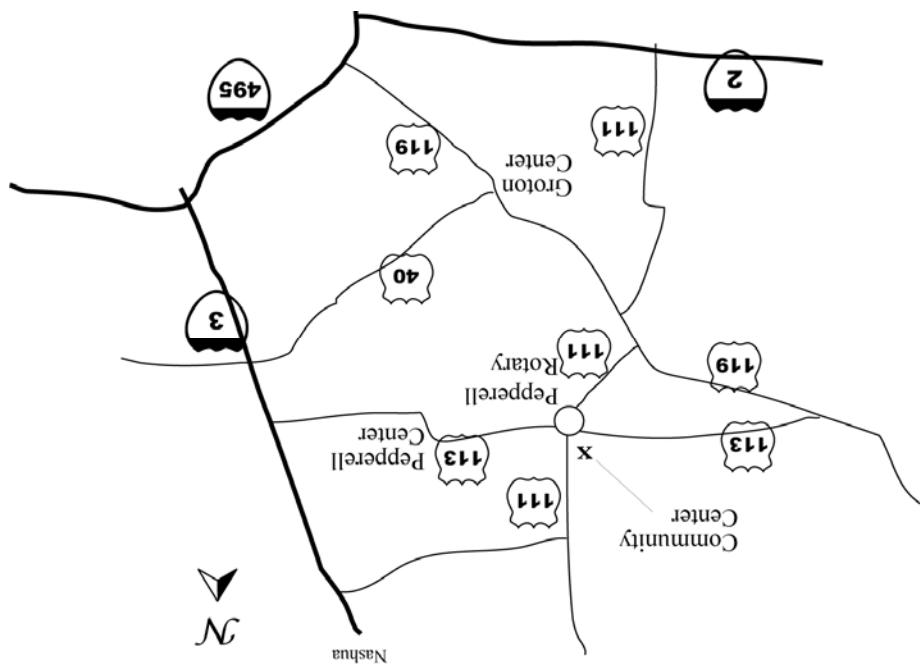
This newsletter is published monthly. Submissions,

corrections and inquiries should be directed to the

newsletter editor. Articles and graphics in most IBM-

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