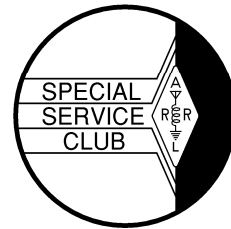




SIGNAL



de NINC

July 2012 Volume 21 Number 7

This Month's Meeting

There are no regular meetings in July or August.

The club cookout will be September 8th at Cindy and Larry's.

Presidents Corner

July 2012

Who was your Elmer? I often lament—sometimes too publicly—that I never had one. I do now, but it's not just one person. (If you've already broken the code, skip all the way to the last paragraph.) Anyway, my great-uncle Jack, the original W1JP, administered my license exam but he never led me through the study process. I spent my thirteenth year on this planet learning in the blind. There were three or four pages of questions for Novice exam in the old ARRL "The Radio Amateur's License Manual," but those twenty questions were the biggest challenge I'd ever encountered. Maybe Uncle Jack did feed me the manual. I don't remember. But I do remember it cost fifty cents that I know I didn't have back then.

Having experienced almost failing the Novice exam for the 5 word-per-minute code element, I immediately returned to solo studying and got my Technician license five months later. This meant that my Amateur Radio career wouldn't be terminated forever in 1961. Back then the Novice license had a non-renewable term of one year and the Tech required only the fifty question General written exam and the 5wpm I had already passed. About this time I met Sid Gorter, the original W1DAN, who "guided" me through building the two-meter 2E26 rig from the ARRL Handbook. I had no receiver, no antenna, no power supply, and no modulator but building a transmitter was the Holy Grail for a thirteen year old. Even if I was using acid core solder for the work I did at home. Sid's mentoring mostly consisted of leav-

ing me alone Saturday afternoons in his basement workshop and adjacent hamshack. With unfettered access to Sid's six-meter station, I never did finish my rig.

Fast forward to the present. Like many NVARC members I "know all about" DXing, and digital modes, and satellite operations, and on and on. But frankly, I haven't had enough practice in many of those aspects of the hobby that every time I return to trying out the new experience it's little enough of a success (or big enough of a failure) that I back away and return to doing something I'm more familiar with. WHAT IF—we had an "Elmer bank?" A few of us spoke of this during Field Day and at the following Monday Night Net but there was no resolve to immediately initiate it. It made good conversation, though. Let's not drop it. OK, homework assignment. Spend the summer thinking about the one or two things that you most like about the hobby and you'd like to pass on to someone else. When we reconvene in September and go around the room for introductions add your "two bits." And if I don't prompt the group for that kind of introduction, remind me to do so. The grey matter is ossifying—I can't even remember

Skip K1NKR

Last Month's Meeting

Last Month's Meeting presentation was orchestrated by Skip K1NKR and was a mixture of the current Public Service Announcements on Amateur Radio, updates on Field Day by Roland NR1G, updates on WRTC by Bruce K1BG.

Field Day 2012



Heald Street Orchard Entrance - Photo courtesy Ralph KD1SM

Field Day 2012 is over and the consensus is that it was a very successful Field Day on many fronts.



Setup - Photo courtesy Ralph KD1SM



Setup - Photo courtesy Ralph KD1SM

It was a beautiful Saturday morning with excellent turnout for Setup, close to 20 NVARC members and friends putting up 5 stations (CW, SSB, Digital, VHF/UHF, and GOTA) with antennas, shelters, power and networking infrastructure.



Information Tent - Photo courtesy Ralph KD1SM

An information booth provided a central location for visitors to sign in and review NVARC and ARRL literature, magazines, and books.



Dinner Time - Photo courtesy Ralph KD1SM

And of course the troops were well fed with lunch, dinner, breakfast, lots of chocolate chip cookies, lemonade, and water.

Lots of preparation went into this year's Field Day. Jim N8VIM and Bruce K1BG setup the station laptops with networking and N1MM Support. Stan KD1LE and Leo K1LK did extra mowing. Bob W1XP made special 9 to 1 baluns to connect the SSB dipole a via 450 feet of ladder line. Another SSB tri-band antenna on an extension ladder setup required another 300 feet of ladder line. Lots of testing went on before and during setup.

Some additional highlights:

We logged 65 participants and made 1,305 contacts (QSOs.)



Solar Power - Photo courtesy Jim N8VIM

We logged 50 CW contacts using Solar charged battery power.



GOTA Operator - Photo courtesy Skip K1NKR

The GOTA station was very successful with 14 operators and coaches making 199 QSOs. Five operators were aged 9, 10, and 11.



CW Tent Before Wind Event - Photo courtesy Ralph KD1SM



CW Tent During Wind Event - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

Mother Nature took a shot at us, reducing the CW screen room to a pile of bent supports and the Food Tent almost flew away if it weren't for the six able bodies that held it down for the duration. The Information tent became a source of flying brochures.



Knot Tying Class - Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

In an interesting coincidence, this year's Educational Activity by John KK1X was a knot tying class for Hams. The Truckers and Taut Line Hitch became essential for tying down the tents.



Power, Networking and Internet – Photo courtesy Jim N8VIM

This year the Power Distribution system, supported by Jim N8VIM, worked very well. Just a couple of minor GFCI resets for the whole weekend.



Pepperell Selectman Stephen Themelis – Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

We were visited by Pepperell Selectman Stephen Themelis.

A free lance reporter for Nashoba Publications did make an appearance at breakfast before setup. A article was published in the July 6th Pepperell Free Press (some inaccuracies, but any press is good press.)

Jim N8VIM and Ralph KD1SM did an over flight of the Orchard with some excellent aerial photos of our Field Day operations.

Expect a more detailed analysis of our Field Day logs in the August issue and a short Field Day discussion at the September Club meeting.



The End – Photo courtesy Roland NR1G

Many thanks to the individuals who volunteered for positions and participated.

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
Cookies and Lemonade, Bob AB1CV

Bonus Point Responsibilities:
Educational Activity: John KK1X
Message Section Mgr: John KK1X
Message Handling: John KK1X
W1AW Bulletin: Stan, KD1LE
Satellite QSO: Skip, K1NKR
Alternate Power: Jim, N8VIM
Information Table: Roland, NR1G

73, Roland NR1G

WRTC Preparations

The weekend of July 13-15 the first round of WRTC set up and tests took place. In Pepperell three sites were activated the Heald St Orchard, Twin Valley Farm, and Kimball Farm. Bruce K1BG was the Beam Team Captain for the orchard and Les N1SV was the Beam Team Captain for Twin Valley. Twelve sites across Massachusetts were set up for the weekend IARU Contest to test the set up process and the sites for radio propagation.

The organization is based on three teams to operate a site. The Beam Teams set up the towers and antennas. The site teams set up the tents and generators. The operating teams set up radios and operate in the contest and make specific transmissions at scheduled times that are recorded and analyzed from remote locations.

Although this seems like Field Day (FD) which we have done many times and we think we know how to do it is much different when the equipment is unfamiliar and the setup is by someone else's process. The day started with picking up the equipment at a storage facility in Hudson NH with each site having a scheduled time based on a 15 minute cycle.

Our pick up was at 10:30 which is the first big change from FD. This means we didn't arrive on site until 11:00 AM. Not only is that a late start but it was very hot by then. From the perspective of WRTC the late start for set up doesn't matter since the event doesn't start until the following morning at 8:00 AM.

The set up took about seven hours and we left the site around 7 PM.

More details later.

Treasurers Report

Income for June was \$90 from membership fees and \$54 from the monthly meeting book raffle. Expenses were \$68.01 for outgoing cards to the QSL Bureau, \$18 for newsletter postage, \$292.57 for Field Day food, fuel, and the portajohn, and \$200 for liability insurance leaving a net expense for June of \$434.58.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,714.94
Community fund	\$4,286.41

As of 22 July we have 39 members who are current with their dues and 31 renewals outstanding. 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 for the latest information

Board Meeting

Board Meeting

July 19, 2012

Mail – Thank you from Pepperell, Porta-potty bill, bank statement

EMA Section calendar updated with our schedule by John

Lighthouses Lightships on the Air on 18/19 August is a club activity

Authorize purchase of QSL cards, postage (\$170)

Lighthouse membership expenses to be covered by the club (\$50)

Club picnic September 8 at Larry's

American Cancer Society Bicycles Battling Cancer Ride June 2013 – tabled – anyone to run it? Course is all south of our "operating theater".

The 2012 route map is <http://ridewithgps.com/routes/768122>

Did anyone attend the cabinet meeting?

September meeting plans? Still pretty nebulous.

September - LBC signup?

Ham class? Ralph running a 2-weekend class for ARC folk

Digital modes talk again? - possible for September?

Constitution audit wrapup? Skip had asked "Board" members to audit the constitution and he wants a report.

2011 Flea Markets/Conventions

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.

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Your article could have been here.

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Getting the hint?



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

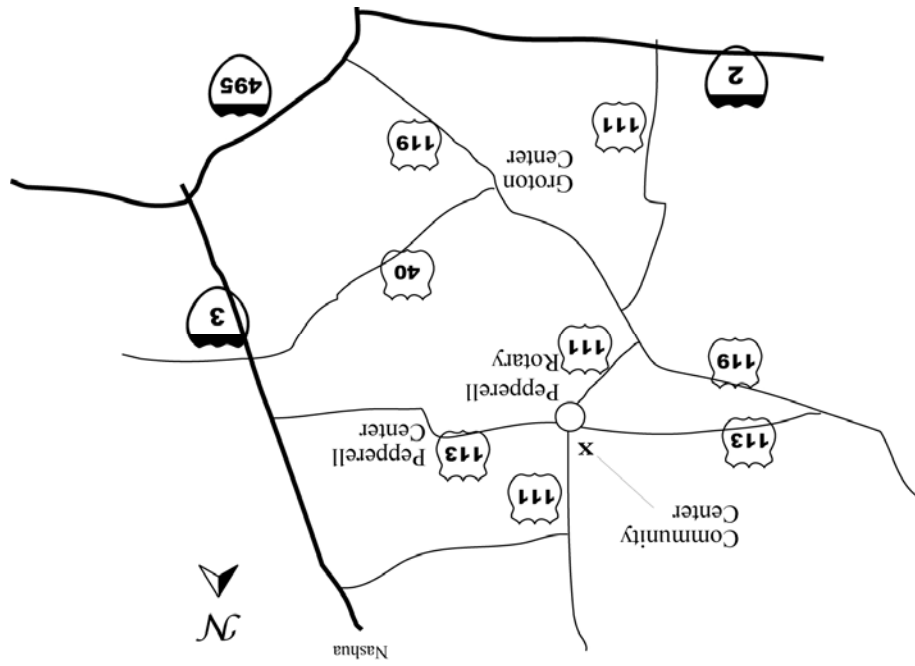
<http://www.n1nc.org/>

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
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