

SIGNAL



de NINC

November 2012 Volume 21 Number 11

This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday November 15th at 7:30 at the Pepperell Community Center.

The meeting program will be Paul WB1EWS on broadcast radio.

Upcoming meeting programs depend on you! Remember the December meeting is Homebrew so finish up those projects to show off. The January meeting is Members Short Subjects. If you have a short presentation (5-15 minutes) contact one of the Officers so they can plan the meeting and any resources needed.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting program was the 2012 annual QSL Card Sort for the W1 QSL Bureau. This was our 16th sort for the Bureau taking us back to 1997. Card sort pictures courtesy KD1SM.--ed



Jean K1AVM and Dennis K1LGQ

de Skip, K1NKR

Well, the sort has come and gone. I didn't get my nose up from the grindstone all evening but it seemed like folks had a good time. The pizza was even gone by the time I looked up.



George KB1HFT



Leo K1LK and Peter N1ZRG

We especially welcomed the members of other clubs who joined us for the sort.



We sorted five boxes of cards. Eric, KV1J (the W1 sort manager), provided me a guesstimate that that's about 16,500 cards. As Stan always did in years past (thanks, Stan!), I did a quality review of the entire sort. This review gets all the cards right-side up and culls out any miss-sorted cards. Accuracy-wise we had 341 erroneous cards. Now, stacked up that's about four inches of cards and might not look too good to the uninitiated. But numerically that's only about a 2.1 percent error rate and it got fixed in the quality review.



Ken K1JKR

Interestingly, the errors fell into three easily discernible groups. First, an "I" following the "one" is easily missed. Second, there is a forgivable bit of "fatigue-induced dyslexia." And finally, some of those pesky cards stick together—especially those thin ones from a certain S53! Plus, there was one Netherlander whose penmanship (relative to our "American sensibilities") didn't readily distinguish "Ds" from "Ps."

But what a lot of exotic places and interesting local images! Some of our international brethren put some wonderful QSLs together. True artworks. I like the Logbook of the World idea, but I hope it doesn't kill traditional QSLing. We'd lose a valuable part of the hobby—one that non-Amateurs can see, readily understand and appreciate.

Overall, a total of twenty-eight people participated in the sort. According to the sign-in roster we had seven guests from two other clubs, PART of Westford and MARA of Fitchburg.



Skip K1NKR

Bottom line. We had fun and a little camaraderie, and we did our fellow Amateurs a service. And I hear the pizza was great. Thanks to all who participated.



Other clubs represented: MARA, PART

-- NVARC

Jeanne K1AVM, Bruce K1BG, John K1JEB, Ken K1JKR, Dennis K1LGQ, Leo K1LK, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, Wolf KA1VOU, Larry KB1ESR, George KB1HFT, Ken KB1UVP, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Les N1SV, Peter N1ZRG, Paul NW1U, Dick W1LTN, Rod WA1TAC, Earl WR1Y

-- Guests

Tom AB1GF. Mike KA1NXH, Bob KB1JZU, Peter KB1PBA, Norm W1BYH, Barry W1HFN. Gus W1OG

The President's Corner

NOVEMBER 2012

From the President

I've finally caught up with myself and re-numbered these columns. Before it was, for instance, "I'm writing at the end of September in anticipation of the October newsletter." So the Signal showed one date and the President's Column showed another, indicating that the President didn't know what month it was. But sometimes the keyboard didn't get any use until after the first-of-the-month Board meeting. Then the issue became "Do I fib and write as if it were the end of the month or do I put the new month's date in?" Big deal. But it did screw up my files as badly as when I didn't have a shack clock set on UTC and inevitably messed up logs trying to convert to and from local time. (Hmmm. Do I subtract the 32 before or after I multiply by five-ninths?) From now on the column date and the Signal issue date will be the same.

All this leads into a discussion of the seasons we have here in the club. We wake up in September and start our program year. There's emphasis on having an exciting topic for that evening's program

and we look forward to the year's topics and activities. The QSL Sort is traditionally in October. We arrange another informative topic for November and then we go into the "cozy home in New England" mode, where members contribute to Homebrew Night in December and Short Subjects Night in January. We're always looking for topics for the late-winter and spring meetings and in each of our meetings we also try to provide a short secondary topic. So if you're inclined to share your interests or expertise there's ample opportunity.

Activities-wise, fall and early winter host our annual Lantern Battery Challenge. Later, spring brings public service season: canoe races, road races, and bike races. Plenty of chance to get out in the sunshine for those who are so inclined.

The election cycle doesn't align with the program cycle. There's a good reason for that. Elections are in April. That gives the new slate May and June, which should already have meeting entertainment scheduled, to organize before going into summer mode.

Summer comes and goes. Even in Summer we're more active than we let on. Field Day. WRTC. Lighthouse Weekend. The picnic. And all of a sudden we're back to September.

Throughout the year we've got the Monday evening net, the newsletter, the e-mail reflector, and the website to stay in touch and informed.

I don't know who designed it this way but I thank him or them immensely. Having a calendar structure—and a fine group of other Officers, Directors, and activity coordinators—make operating the club and its programs and activities a dream rather than a nightmare.

Repeater Battery Fund

Larry KB1ESR reports he has collected \$300 toward the replacement of the repeater batteries. The batteries are two sets of three 105 AH deep cycle batteries. Larry has found the current cost for a set of three is \$510. The current two sets of three deep cycle batteries are five and six years old and were purchased by the North Middlesex Area Emergency Planning Committee (NMAEPC). Although the batteries have been maintained they are starting to show their age and should be replaced. The battery system has proven its worth several times in the past few years when the repeater site was without power for several days.

Since we are the primary users we have set a goal to collect half of the expected cost before asking for another donation. Hence \$510 for the first set. Larry has asked for time at the next NMAEPC to ask for a match or donation toward the second set of batteries.

The following people have donated to the fund.

KD1SM Ralph, KA1VOU Wolf, KD1LE Stan, W1ESR Larry, KK1X John, W1XP Bob, K1BG Bruce, N1ZRG, Pete, N8VIM Jim, NR1G Roland

Looking For Something to Do?

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

Here are the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club's programs and activities. This is what "makes" the club what it is--in an (arguably) prioritized order. It's a pretty impressive list and should have something for everyone. (Most any "past" or "dormant" activity can be reactivated if you want to take part.)

Members.

Meetings: Presentations. Camaraderie, excess equipment swaps. Book raffle.

Member and External Communications: Newsletter, Newsletter Editor appointed position, Photographer appointed position. E-mail Reflector. Club Webpage, QRZ page content. Members Yearbook. Member Recognition (established, unused). Public Information Officer appointed position.

Social Contact (beyond meetings): Saturday Breakfast. Summer Picnic.

Operating: Monday Night Net. Lantern Battery Challenge. Field Day (June), Field Day committee appointed position. ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau mailing member benefit. Club callsign (N1NC), Trustee appointed position. Mini-DXpeditions, e.g., International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend (August).

Public Service: Massachusetts Adopt-a-Highway participation, aka "Road Clean-up" (monthly in season, past). Groton Road Race (April, OPR KD1SM). Squannacook River Canoe and Kayak Race, aka Townsend Canoe Race (April, OPR: K1YTS). Boston Marathon (by individual members) (April). Parker Classic Road Race (at Devens) (May--defunct). Groton Memorial Day Parade (May, OPR: AB1CV). Alzheimers Memory Ride (July, OPR: KD1SM). Longsjö Classic Bike Race (at Fitchburg) (July, OPR: KD1SM). Emergency Coordinator appointed position.

Special Service: W1-Bureau QSL sort (October meeting). Worked All Massachusetts Counties Award management. Awards Manager appointed position. Website hosting for Central Massachusetts Two Meter [Traffic] Net.

Technical: Elmering. Support of N1MNX repeater. Emergency Gear/Portable Repeater. Member discounts on PowerPole connectors. Loaner Equipment Pool, Property Master appointed position. Loaner Library Pool, Librarian appointed position. Local Interference and RFI/TVI standing committees (dormant).

Training: Tue/Thurs Slow-speed CW Net (past). Education standing committee (dormant). Licensing Classes (past). EMCOMM Classes (past).

Admin, Excom/Board: Board meetings, club management. Coffee mugs for presentation gratuities. PO Box. Financial accounts. Club liability insurance. ARRL affiliation, club page, Special Service Club status. Nominating Committee appointed position. Community Center/Library meetingplace coordination

Wanted

PL259 connectors that are being discarded from old cables or cables you are rebuilding.



I have built a grounded entrance panel for my coax cables. Above is an outside view. There are many unused ports. I would like to protect the unused external ports with a connector that is sealed. So if you have some old PL259 connectors you are replacing or cables you are throwing out save them for me.

Thanks Stan

Treasurers Report

Income for October was \$35 in membership renewals, \$10 from PowerPole connector sales, and \$50 from the raffle of the donated W1QSL Bureau

certificate, \$2.51 in bank interest, and \$0.15 from excess ILLW QSL postage.

Expenses were \$18 for newsletter postage, \$20.45 for check printing, and \$49.50 for soda and pizza for the October QSL sort meeting leaving a net income for October of \$9.71.

In addition we received a donation of \$100 from Rosemary Connors which by tradition I have placed into the Community Fund.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,800.57
Community fund	\$4,386.41

As of 6 November we have 43 members who are current with their dues and 25 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

Board Meeting

From
John Griswold <kk1x@kk1x.net>

No treasury report John reported that an email to GM3TCW was sent - no response

John turned \$100 check and \$0.15 postal change over to Ralph

Larry brought up repeater relative to club's "responsibility", but this didn't carry much weight. Issue tabled - it's not a club repeater.

No further work has been done by constitution review committee.

November meeting program is Paul WB1EWS on broadcast radio.

February meeting is still open. December & January Homebrew & Short Subjects as usual.

March meeting is the Lightning Protection show starring Stan and Bob.

That is all



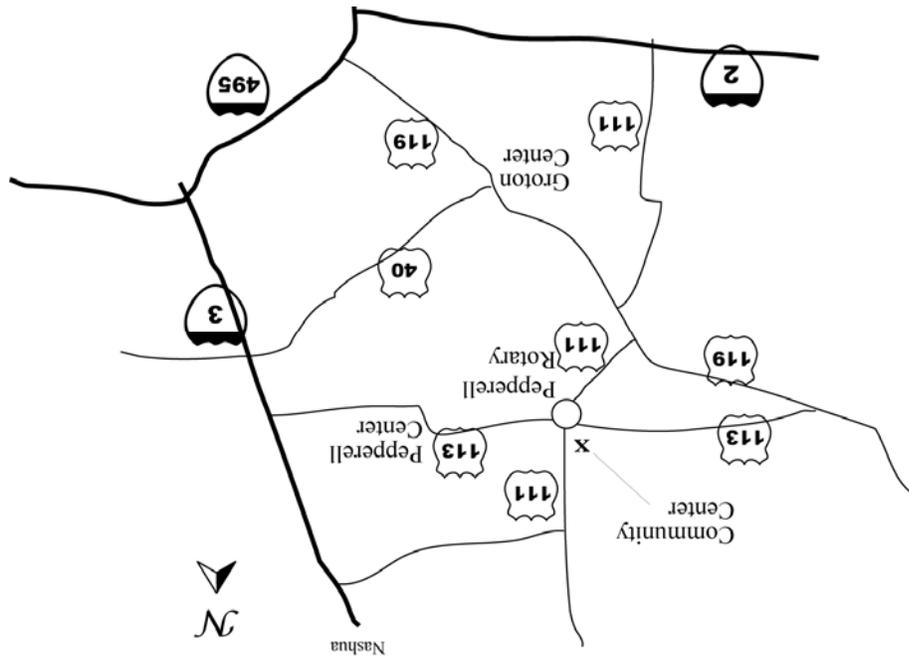
Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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
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Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

*PO Box 900
Pepperell, MA 01463-0900*

