

# SIGNAL



de NINC

January 2013 Volume 22 Number 01

## This Month's Meeting

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

The meeting program will be Short Subjects Night. Come share your favorite topic with your fellow Club members with a brief presentation (5 to 15 minutes).

## Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting program was Homebrew Night.

Skip K1NKR did introductions and noted that this may be the last meeting of NVARC as the Mayan calendar was about to expire.



Skip K1NKR talked about the cable run he installed to bring coax from his shack to his tower. Above he "shows" the invisible hole he dug.

Bruce talked briefly about the slow speed CW net that was running Tuesdays and Thursdays

Larry announced the first set of replacement repeater batteries had been purchased. The second is anticipated to be funded by NMAEPC.

Skip noted that the January meeting program is Members Short Subjects and its success depended on members stepping up.



Dennis K1LGQ showed several projects. A torroid balun, CW sending device, noise bride, high/low voltage cutoff device to protect equipment and a Norcal kit transmitter.



Rod WA1TAC showed a CHU translator and a 6 meter antenna he built.



Bob W1XP showed a 15 meter low pass filter build in an electrical box. He promoted use of the electrical box as a low cost and readily available option for projects. He also showed of a feed-through entrance panel he was building to bring all his coax into his house.

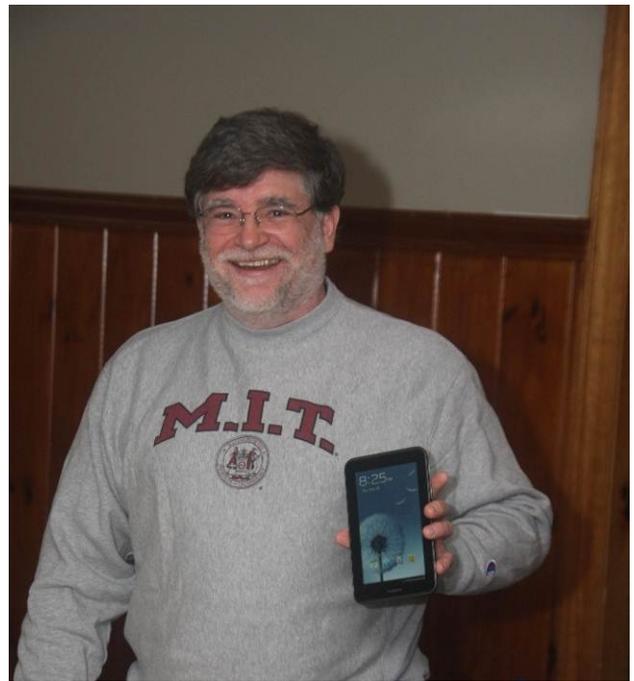
Stan KD1LE showed an inexpensive panel meter he used to monitor backup batteries in the shack.



Phil KB1JKL showed a thermocouple welder he designed.



Leo K1LK showed a regenerative receiver he built based on early 1910's design.



New member Eugene WW4EN from Michigan now in Townsend talked about his tower setup

The presentations were followed by the Yankee Swap. Below Bruce negotiates for Dennis' gift.



In attendance were;

Jean K1AVM, Bruce K1BG, Dennis K1LGQ, Leo K1LK, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, George KB1HFT, Phil KB1JKL, Ken KB1UVP, Chris KB1WKL (guest), Dan KB1YGB (guest with N1NWE), Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Dan KW2T, Don N1NWE, Alma Campbell, Les N1SV, Ed N1YFK, Larry W1ESR, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC, Eugene WW4EN, John K1JEB

## The President's Corner

JANUARY 2013

**From the President**  
de Skip, K1NKR

Well, it's January. We apparently survived the end of the world and the fiscal cliff. Surprisingly, there hasn't been any fringe talk about 2013 being a triskaidekaphobia year. So I guess it's time to get on with life.

I spent the latter part of December cleaning up a few things in the shack. Finishing some unfinished projects. Re-stacking the piles of magazines and stuff that had accumulated during the year. Even trying out a few old-but-unused accessories. It was a nice waste of time. As my DX Elmer tells me, "Skip, if you spent less time transcribing your old logs into the computer and more time on the air you'd increase your country count a lot faster." ...Sad, but true.

So here are my New Years' resolutions.

1. Get on the air more.
2. Achieve DXCC, or some other noteworthy operating milestone. We humans live by milestones. They're the yardsticks of life. They're also motivators. Collecting some "wallpaper may be just what I need to achieve resolution 1.
3. Try out a few of the digital modes. I've done a lot of listening but virtually no QSOing—is there a theme here? Maybe experiment with digital voice QSOs via freeDV, or high-quality imagery via EasyPAL. I've got them up and running for reception already. (I had EasyPAL identified, Googled, downloaded, installed, and working in less time than it took the 20-meter QSO I was SWLing to move on to the next picture.) From PSK31 and JT65-HF, to slow-scan TV, to WSJT, to Digital Radio Mondiale, to these two new ones I've just come across there's some amazing stuff out there! And, being sound card based, they make adding a new capability to your station a lot easier than hooking up an old Model 28 teletype ever was.
4. Resurrect that Alinco DR-1200 2-meter data transceiver and the old AEA PK-80. (Old? It's got a 3-digit serial number! Really.). I don't know what for or why I but hate to see the equipment languishing on the shelf. I've just got to get it on the air. Anybody got any ideas for experimenting along this line?
5. Help get at least one new ham into the fold. Maybe he or she will help me with resolution 1.

What's on your list?

**They Don't Call It Wireless 'fer Nuthin'**

January is Members' Short Subjects Night.

This has always been a popular meeting. Projector, audio, and screen will be available to support your 10-15 (OK, 5-20) minute talk about anything Amateur related that strikes your fancy. New equipment? Unique QSLs? Recordings of digital modes? How to solder a coax connector? Making an emergency J-pole out of a piece of twin-lead? You name it; the program's all yours!

A little heads-up if you've got a subject would be appreciated, but don't avoid stepping up to the evening's "open mike" just because you didn't give anyone advanced notice. Hey, it's another members' night. The show is yours.

Whether or not you've got a subject to present, how about taking one or two pictures of the rat's nest in your shack? JPEGs printed on plain paper are just fine. No cute little shack portraits; what we're looking for are mug-shots of the cabling in and around the equipment. We'll share the best and the worst of "the wires that make wireless work." There may even be a prize—of equivalent importance, utility, and value to those of December's Yankee Swap.

### Upcoming Meeting Topics

Here's where we stand for the remainder of the winter and on into spring. Note that we could use feature topics for May and June as well as short topic presentations for February, May and June. Got something you want to hear about? Ask for it; maybe we can find a source. Even better, got something you want to talk about? Speak up. Afraid to speak up? Don't worry; we've coached a couple of very bashful speakers through presenting some exceptionally interesting talks.

JANUARY Members' Short Subjects Night  
FEBRUARY primary - W1SZ and WA1HCO on "EME, MS, and Other Nifties"  
secondary - OPEN  
MARCH primary - W1XP and KD1LE on "Lightning Protection"  
secondary - Participants on "Lantern Battery Challenge Experiences" (...more secondary?)  
APRIL primary - N1SV on "Getting Ready for the Six Meter DX Season"  
secondary - Elections, Lantern Battery Challenge Awards Ceremony  
MAY primary - OPEN  
secondary - N1IMW on "Walter Cronkite, Chatham, Marconi, and the Titanic"  
JUNE primary - OPEN  
secondary - Discussion of our June Field Day preparation, July WRTC-2014 support, and August ILLW mini-DXpedition

December attendance

Jean K1AVM, 1, Bruce K1BG. Dennis K1LGQ, Leo K1LK, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, George KB1HFT, Phil KB1JKL, Ken KB1UVP, Chris KB1WKI (guest), Dan KB1YGB (guest with N1NWE), Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Dan KW2T, Don N1NWE, Alma Campbell, Les N1SV, Ed N1YFK, Larry W1ESR, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC, Eugene WW4EN, John K1JEB

## NVARC LBC

### NVARC Forth Annual Lantern Battery Challenge Update

Jan 2013

The Forth Annual NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge will end at 0001 UTC on Jan 22. That is 7:01 Monday evening the 21<sup>st</sup>. That will allow operation during the ARRL VHF contest the weekend of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This is a good opportunity to finish running down your LBC battery pack. Besides the usual SSB and CW activity on the VHF bands, there is a new FM only category this year. This means that you can use your FM hand held and possibly run on the LBC battery pack or on the AA cells removed from the pack. Note that 50 MHz is the only VHF band that LBC activity is permitted. Skip K1NKR has forwarded an announcement that was sent out by the Nashua Area Radio Club concerning the FM operation in the January VHF contest. (See below) Even if you are not in the LBC this may be a way to have some fun in the contest. Remember that these are shared frequencies and not everyone on may be interested in the contest.

I've had some comments that people have been having fun, and that is what it is all about. With just days to go it is still not too late to get in on the fun if you haven't started yet. I still have a little battery left. Now I need to decide how to use it. ☺ This VHF activity sounds interesting.

Logs and summary sheets are due by the Feb. meeting.

73 Bob W1XP

## NVARC Slow Speed CW Net

Several years ago I ran a "slow speed" CW net for club members who were just starting out on CW to develop their skills. I stopped the net for several reasons - I got busy at work for one.

Well, a number of people have recently come to me and asked if I would start it again. I am giving a qualified "yes" to the question. The condition is that when I am tied up, somebody else will pick up and carry the ball. That's all I ask.

The next was a modified formal net process. Modified meaning that there is structure to it, but no

traffic handling. In light of this, I am attaching three documents to this email:

-ssn protocol rev 3A - a description of how the net runs

-ssn exchange rev 1 - a description of how typical CW exchanges are made on the net

Have a look at the info. It may seem complicated, but it's really easy. If you are new to CW or an old timer, I encourage you to make every mistake in the book (just like I did). It's supposed to be a learning experience, and mistakes are encouraged.

I don't remember what frequency or time we used to meet at, so we will meet every Tuesday and Thursday (except for club meeting night) at 7:30 PM on 28.123 MHz, and we can follow the net at 28.400 MHz SSB afterwards. If you arrive late, don't worry. The net usually runs 45 minutes or so, and I can stretch it out.

Questions: Either email me, or call me at 978-772-2773.

One question: What speed should I start at? I suggest a speed of 8 WPM, with Farnsworth spacing at 15 WPM.

Your feedback is welcomed.

Bruce, K1BG

### HRO Generosity

I recently went to HRO to purchase books for our book raffle. The manager, Peter, overheard me talking to one of the salespeople, and queried me about the club, and what we did with the books and such.

Peter recognized the club due to my prior purchases there, and was very generous to us. He discounted four books that I selected by about \$5 each, and as he was checking me out, he went into the stockroom and brought back an ARRL Handbook and two Operating Manuals from last year, and donated them straight out.

I would request from our membership that next time you visit HRO to purchase "candy", seek out Peter, mention that you're a member, and thank him for his generosity."

Thanks

John KK1X

### Treasurers Report

Income for December was \$35 in membership renewals and \$5.67 from bank interest. Expenses were \$18 for newsletter postage and \$147.80 for books for the monthly raffle leaving a net expense for December of \$125.13.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,745.44
Community fund	\$4,636.41

As of 3 January we have 44 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 6 December

January 2013 Board meeting

(Skip, Rod, Roland, Bob, John, Ralph)

Treasurer's Report

No secretary report

HRO

LBC runs through Monday after VHF contest (0001Z 22 Jan 2013)

Meeting topics - need secondary for Feb after EME talk (VLA DVD is a possibility if there's a short clip)

Six month limit on free newsletters without dues payment

John foolishly volunteered to be a Field Day chairman of last resort, and was immediately congratulated his new capacity.

Field Day "Whacky Antenna" theme?

Roland as PIO is looking for a calendar for upcoming year.

John Griswold KK1X

### Division Cabinet Meeting

Skip K1NKR and Ralph KD1SM attended the semi-annual ARRL New England Division "cabinet" meeting on January 5 in Springfield.

This meeting is called by Division Director Tom Fre-naye K1KI and Vice Director Mike Raisbeck K1TWF. The presidents of every ARRL Affiliated Club in the New England states are invited to meet with the ARRL Section Managers to discuss items of shared interest and provide input to Tom for the next ARRL Board meeting. Tom schedules these meetings to be shortly before the ARRL Board meeting so the input he gets from the field is "fresh".

For this meeting 30 people were present. Discussion topics included recent activity in FCC Notices of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC requests for input on possible future NPRMs, growth in Amateur Radio licensing, and common challenges seen by the clubs who were represented.

There was a lot of discussion on opportunities to present Amateur Radio in the "maker fairs" that are fast-growing venues attracting the sort of people who are interested in constructing with new technologies – exactly the kind of people who started Amateur Radio a century ago.

Another topic that got quite a bit of discussion was the planned Centennial Anniversary of ARRL. This will be punctuated with a national convention to be held in the Hartford (CT) Convention Center the weekend after WRTC 2014. As the event years are traditionally Boxboro Convention years, the Boxboro organizing committee is working with the National Convention organizers to make this convention in Hartford be the single 2014 convention in our area.

In conjunction with the centennial, suggestions were solicited on how to best use the large collection of historic artifacts that ARRL owns to present the history and future of Amateur Radio.



## 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-PC formats are OK.

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