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SIGNAL



de NINC

March 2013 Volume 22 Number 03

This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday March 21st at 7:30 at the Pepperell Community Center.

This Month's Program is Lightning Protection for Amateur Radio Stations by Bob W1XP and Stan KD1LE

Last Month's Meeting

At last month's meeting Skip spoke about a visit to the Nashua Makelt Club.

The meeting program was The Greylock Expeditionary Force by Jeff WA1HCO and Dave W1SZ



NVARC President Skip K1NKR gives February speakers NVARC mugs.

They also covered EME contacts and WSJT software.

Stan KD1LE won the drawing for an ARRL Antenna Compendium.

John KK1X won the Les Moxon HF Antennas book.

In attendance

Jean K1AVM, Bruce K1BG, Dennis K1LGQ, Skip K1NKR, Gary K1YTS, Phil KB1JKL, Ken KB1UVP, Stan KD1LE, John KK1X, Les N1SV, Ed N1YFK, Peter N1ZRG, Larry W1ESR, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC, Gene WW4EN, (guests) Bill K1NS, Dave W1SZ, Jeff WA1HCO, Mark WA1QHQ, Steve (NCY, Littleton), Bryan (NCY, Westford)

The President's Corner

President's Corner

de Skip, K1NKR

I started column this last evening but didn't have any theme, so I cobbled together a few random thoughts. It didn't come out too well.

Then I headed out this morning for the club breakfast at Tiny's. Intentionally careful as I was when I stepped out the front door, I quickly found myself on my back. A trip to the Lowell General emergency room, a CT scan, three staples to the back of my head, and six hours later I was back home having breakfast. But I had a theme.

Gravity—it's the law. And it works mighty fast, too. What's that mean?

It means that antenna season is almost upon us and all good hams will be heading out to the great outdoors, up on the roof, up a tree, or up a tower. Be careful! And no matter how careful you are, remember that accidents still can happen. Given a normal

human reaction time of 0.3sec, a fall from the top of a 6 foot step ladder gives you barely enough time to think "SHIT!" before you hit the floor. (That approximates this morning's adventure, including the dialog.) From the roof of a single story house you have time to say "Oh Shit!" When you drop a wrench from a 25 foot tower you have time to say, "Heads up," giving your assistant time to look up and catch it in his teeth. From a 50 foot tower you have just enough time to say "Holy cow, it's a long way down."

And, as they say, "It isn't the fall that hurts. It's the sudden stop." At the end of a fall from a one-hundred foot tower you're traveling 54.5 miles per hour. So you can easily simulate the experience by jumping out of your car. Even if you're one of the slowest travelers on the highway.

So be safe. Belt, hard hat, plenty of tie-offs for parts and tools. And a spotter. Don't do solo work like I do.

And while we're on the subject, don't forget electricity. From accidentally touching an antenna to a power line to accidentally touching yourself to a power supply there's one important thing to remember: electricity works even faster than gravity.

Now, let me think... Those staples look like they'd make a perfectly fine 3-element yagi for the 47GHz band. Wonder how I'd feed it?

This Month's program

Stan, KD1LE, and Bob, W1XP, have done a lot of research and experimenting since last September when Stan's shack suffered the ill effects of a local lightning strike. They've put together a talk on lightning protection that we all should find interesting and informative. Our secondary program will be a round table on members' experiences during this year's Lantern Battery Challenge. Plus, we've got a couple of other potential club activities to discuss. And if that doesn't round out the evening, let's note that there's been a lot of socializing during the past few meetings. Great. Getting together is what we're all about. Let's keep it up!

NVARC Swap Shoppe

Available for free one case of pleated air filters 24 X 24 X 2.

Treasurers Report

Income for February was \$15 in membership renewals, \$44 from the book raffle, and \$4.68 in bank interest. Expenses were \$18.40 for newsletter postage leaving a net income for February of \$45.28.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,903.32
Community fund	\$4,636.41

As of 9 March we have 42 members who are current with their dues and 28 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.

March Board Meeting

The Board Meeting had not taken place at the time of publishing.

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This space could have held your article.



**Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

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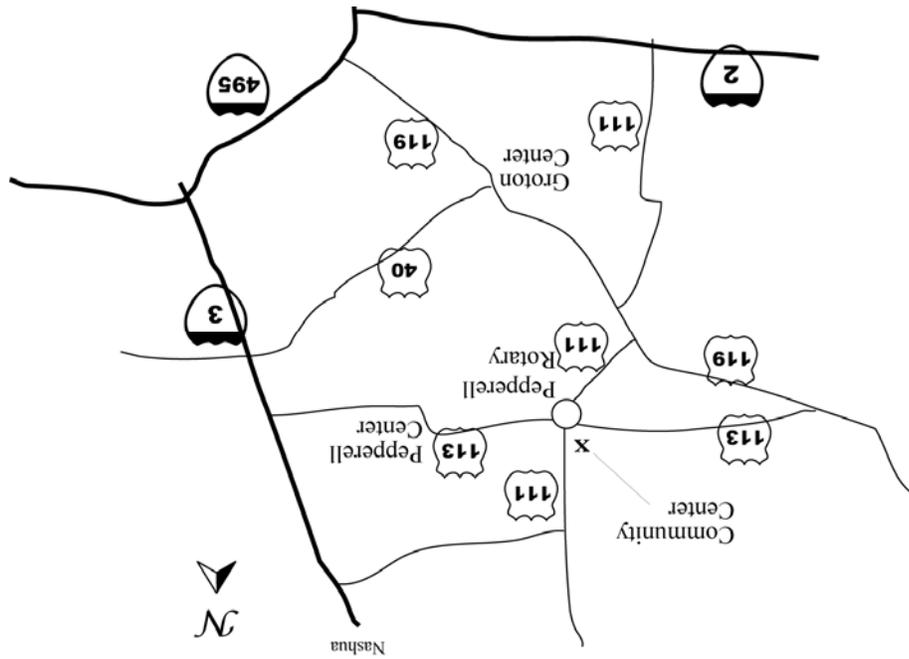
<http://www.n1nc.org/>

President: Skip Youngberg K1NKR
Vice President: Larry Swezey KB1ESR
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Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
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Bob Reif: W1XP 2010-2013
Roland Guilmet NR1G 2011-2014
Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2012-2015

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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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