

SIGNAL



de NINC

July 2013 Volume 22 Number 07

This Month's Meeting

There are no regular meetings in July and August.
The Cookout will be August 10 at 1300 at K1LGQ.

Last Month's Meeting



At the June 20 2013 Club Meeting Phil Erikson from the MIT Haystack Observatory spoke on atmospheric physics



Skip K1NKR awards Phil the NVARC Mug

The President's Corner

President's Corner
de Skip, K1NKR

The difficult part of having the Fourth of July holiday occur so early in the month is that it interferes with Board meetings and newsletter inputs. Maybe we should move the Fourth. Maybe I should get more organized!

First of all, kudos to John KK1X on a FB FD! It was a fairly last-minute organized, low-key affair but we did it. And everyone seemed to have a good time.

We were 1A and had a VHF station as well. A couple of junior ops added to the family/public aspect of the event and we even had a couple of cross-the-site microwave contacts to show folks what that aspect of the hobby looks like. The Tower Consortium provided our classic landmark (and are perennially under-appreciated—thanks, guys). And a wonderful article by Chelsea Feinstein in the Lowell Sun rounded things out with some great publicity.

Now, kudos in advance to the “Boys of Summer,” those members who lead the club’s various summer activities while meetings are in hiatus. Bruce K1BG is honchoing our 13-15 July World Radiosport Team Championship site support activities. Bruce also is the focus for what has become our annual mini-DXpedition for International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (17-18 August) out at Cape Cod’s Highland Light. It looks like we may have a larger group this year, and it’s the same weekend as the ARRL 10GHz contest. And Dennis K1LGQ is hosting this year’s picnic on 10 August. Hold these dates open on your calendar for now; there’ll be more detailed information on the Reflector and in next month’s Signal.

It’s hard to believe that half of 2013 is behind us already. Looking back, it’s been a pretty good year for the club. How are you doing on your New Years’ resolutions? (I’m actually zero for five, but still working on it. I started this article out on an “organization” theme, didn’t I?) Nevertheless, it’s been a good Amateur Radio year for me from a projects, operating, and activities perspective. Has it been a good Amateur Radio year for you?

Treasurers Report

Income for June was \$15 in membership renewals, \$2 from ARRL membership renewals, and \$10 from PowerPole connector distribution. Expenses were \$18.40 for newsletter postage, \$57.81 for the Lantern Battery Challenge awards refreshments at the April meeting, \$50 for the Lantern Battery Challenge prize, \$200 for the annual liability insurance premium, and \$283.71 for Field Day (Porta-John, lunch, and dinner; additional receipts are expected), leaving a net expense for June of \$582.92.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,544.55
Community fund	\$4,636.41

As of 10 July we have 41 members who are current with their dues and 29 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

July Board Meeting

Treasurer's report

Secretary/Field Day/QSL Mgr - Field Day report in progress, so far 4 QSLs returned

ARRL Regional meeting - nobody from NVARC attended

2012/2013 summer study report - tabled major discussion for August meeting

Bruce and Dan discussing how to engage children in ham radio

Summer picnic at K1LGQ August 10 @ 1300 \$20 budget

International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend coming in August

Need to eliminate backlog of badge requests

John to write up Field Day Pin list

Discussion of submitting contest scores under NVARC club membership, and whether it might spur additional activity by members in contesting.

Lantern Battery Challenge - new ideas under discussion - 90th anniversary of first transoceanic amateur contact

Discussion of a Lab Night like Port City ARC in Portsmouth. Could lead to more involvement in building/operating, might spur additional licensing upgrade interest

respectfully submitted,
John KK1X

Field Day 2013



Photo Courtesy KD1SM/N8VIM

The Field Day site with the V/UHF upper left and the HF station and tower in lower right. The white food tent is upper center.

First, I would like all participants for making Field Day 2013 a fun and safe outing. Second, I must extend high honors to Roland NR1G for his past performance as Field Day Chair. He made it look so easy that I was lulled into a false sense of security, and make a few clear errors, but we worked around them.

Results

This is what everybody wants to see, so here are the results

Year	Score	Category	QSOs	Participants
2013	4700	1A/V	1237	35
2012	5242	3A/V/G	1307	65
2011	6022	2A/V/G	1530	55
2010	5802	3A/V/G	1311	57
2009	4842	2F/V/G	1115	25

In 2010 and 2012, we had a total of five stations on the air, in 2009 and 2011 there were four. This year we had only two, but because participation at the two stations was significantly higher than in past years, the overall QSO count was, proportionally, much greater. The HF station logged contacts every hour during the entire contest - the low spot was hour 1400Z, from 1000-1100 local, when we collected only 15 QSOs, but three operators (K1BG (VHF), K1NKR (HF), N1ZRG(HF)) got to play radio.



Photo courtesy KD1SM

The VHF station was idle from 0100Z through 1100Z, but given the vagaries of the 6m & 2m bands, that's not at all unusual.



Photo courtesy of KD1SM
The U/VHF station and antennas

There was a noticeable decline in overall foot traffic over the 2012 Field Day, and I have to attribute that to signage. I didn't put any out this year - one of the things that slipped through the cracks in the administrative changeover. In prior years there were signs out at the Pepperell rotary leading passersby out Main Street toward the Field Day site, and more on Heald Street marking the location of the Conservation Area's entrance. I got an email from one ham who tried to find us, and passed the entrance twice! Mea culpa.

On the positive side, we gained assistance this year from Lee N1BA and George W1JHR, who found out about our efforts via Bruce K1BG's email list, and John WW1Z was kind enough to provide the VHF station this year. George brought along the coolest

portable mast setup imaginable for the 6m/2m station, which was setup atop the hill.

Another hole in my Field Day master plan was mowing. Rob Rand is the fellow at the Conservation Commission who does the mowing for us. I let that schedule slip too far, and found out that Rob visits in Canada right before Field Day. While the area might have been "OK" for our needs, Leo K1LK came to the rescue and mowed for us on Friday. Additional mowing was done on site to make room for the tower guys during setup.



Photo courtesy of N8VIM

Bob W1XP, Skip K1NKR and George W1JHR are all VHFers, and brought along some microwave equipment to play with.



Photo courtesy KD1SM

Contacts were made among the various parties on 5GHz and 10GHz bands, though none of it counted for Field Day points, either as QSOs or educational credit, as was intended. ARRL rules are rather restrictive on what constitutes "educational",

requiring more hands-on activity or actual instruction, rather than demonstration.

Chelsea Feinstein from Nashoba Publishing came out to the site to take some pictures and interview several of the participants. Chelsea's article can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/nrag8gc>. She got a pretty good handle on what a bunch of crazy people were doing out in the orchard in that heat, though I don't know how she could have mangled Skip's name that badly. (Perhaps he said "spelled just like it sounds"?). Oh, and just for the record, I did have a cell phone, and Jim N8VIM had supplied internet, along with all the computer interconnects, generator, and power distribution.

After all was set up, John KK1X made a run to Ayer, back home to pick up a USB keyboard, and on the way picked up pizza and subs for the crew's lunch. RF started radiating quickly after the 1400 start time, with 61 contacts made in the first hour.

Leo K1LK again provided us with a tasty dinner of chicken, salad, potato salad and dessert, and Bob AB1CV slaked our thirsts throughout the Field Day setup, operating, and teardown with what I can only estimate to be 20 gallons of ice water and 20 gallons of lemonade, as well as his customary 14 dozen chocolate chip cookies (he should really sell those, but then we'd have to share). Chef Larry W1ESR came prepared with plenty of hash, bacon, eggs, pancakes, toast, and coffee. Everybody knows that an army runs on its stomach, and we all appreciate the effort put into feeding this crew!



Photo courtesy N8VIM

Leo K1LK (left) looks on as the crew eats.

Jim N8VIM and Ralph KD1SM did the annual flyby, taking photos of the Field Day site from a Cessna.



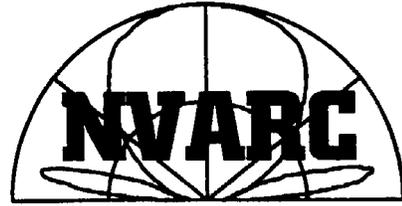
Primary crew for Field Day, and this won't come as a surprise to anybody:

- Antennas - Bob W1XP and Stan KD1LE
- Power and Networking - Jim N8VIM
- Chair and Computers John KK1X
- HF Station - Bruce K1BG
- VHF Station- John WW1Z and George W1JHR
- Saturday Lunch John KK1X (via Verona Pizza in Ayer)
- Saturday Dinner Leo K1LK
- Sunday Breakfast Larry W1ESR
- Water, Lemonade, Cookies- Bob AB1CV

Initial sentiment toward Field Day seemed quite unenthusiastic. Up until a few weeks before it all had to come together, I had only one person committed to field a station. Discussions at the Board Meetings and Saturday breakfasts led me to the distinct conclusion that a "low-key" Field Day was called for. We rarely have enough operators to keep several stations on the air for a reasonable percentage of the time. Putting up only one station saved a lot of construction effort, plus it simplified the power and network distribution. Setup and teardown all went smoothly and peacefully, and much more quickly than in the past.



This space could have held your article.



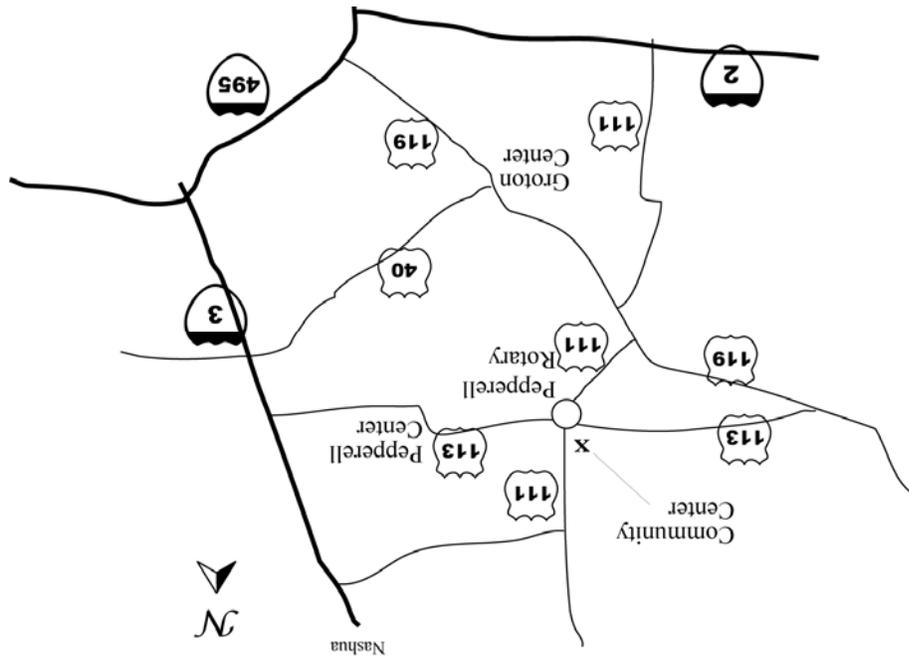
**Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

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

- President: Skip Youngberg K1NKR
- Vice President: Jim Hein N8VIM
- Secretary: John Griswold KK1X
- Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
- Board Members:
Dan Pedtke 2011-2014
Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2012-2015
Bob Reif: W1XP 2013-2016

- 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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