



# SIGNAL



de NINC

December 2013 Volume 22 Number 12

## This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting is December 19th at the Pepperell Community Center at 7:30 PM. The Community Center is on the Northwest corner of the Route 111/113 rotary in Pepperell. Access is from Route 111 going north from the rotary

## Last Month's Meeting

Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, "Mr Communicator" for the Boston Marathon gave a presentation on what it take to provide communications for the Boston Marathon. He also covered activity specific to this year's Marathon.



### Attendees:

Jean K1AVM, Dennis K1LGQ, Skip K1NKR, Bill K1NS, Gary K1YTS, Phil KB1JKL, Ken KB1UVP, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Dan KW2T, Les N1SV, Ed N1YFK, Peter N1ZRG, Jim N8VIM, Larry W1ESR, Dick W1LTN, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC

Guests  
Ed W1ZZ, Steve W3EVE

## President's Corner

de Skip, K1NKR

Wow, December already. Well, nothing to worry about; the club runs itself for the next two months. December brings Homebrew Night and January brings Short Subjects Night, both member led meetings. Wonder what else there might be?

Oh, yeah the last few weeks before starting New Year's resolutions all over again. Wonder how 2013 went?

I was going to get on the air more. That was supposed to be easy—2012 had been an embarrassingly slow year. That's why I made the resolution. So I figure if I can make twice as many QSOs from now until January as I've made so far this year I can call the resolution "done." But I've got to say, what I got this year were "quality QSOs." Little of this "59, you're in the log, 73" stuff. I had some real conversations! One day a ham commenting on his 88 degree heat was immediately followed by QSO with another who commented that the overnight snow had kept him from going to work. Now that's ham radio!

I was going to achieve DXCC or some other noteworthy operating milestone. OK. The country count is up to 158 worked and 68 confirmed. That's lifetime, of course. And I spent decades of that as a devout VHFer. And it only counts the log I've reconstructed since the last disk crash. (And there must be another excuse.) The state total shows 50/49 but I know that's wrong because I had 50/50 back in New York. I guess I should submit something before I lose any more ground. Resolution status: not done, but with plenty of real good excuses.

Trying out a few of the digital modes. Naaahhh. I should have, but...

Aha! Resurrecting the old Alinco DR-1200T and the 3-digit serial number AEA PK-80. Well, there's still three and a half weeks left. Can't afford to move too quickly on that one. Plus, is anybody still on packet nowadays?

But helping get at least one new ham into the fold. That's where I really failed. Did anybody do any better on this one? That's where the real reward is.

Oh, well. There's always 2014.

## This Month's Program

It's Homebrew Night! You bring it (we hope); you describe it (with appropriate pride); we talk (maybe); we sit in awe and respect (for sure). Seriously, each year we sweat about whether anybody is going to show up with show-and-tells for Homebrew Night. And each year we are blown away with the breadth of interests and skills among our members. Thanks in advance.

Last year we had a Yankee Swap at the December meeting. A number of us were a little skeptical of

how it might work out but it turned out to be a bunch of fun. This year we sent out a "shall we do it again" on the Reflector. The response was two-to-one in favor of doing it. (Two "yesses;" one "no.") So let's do it!

What to do. Participate if you want to; sit back if you don't want to play. For you players, go raid the back shelf of the shack or the workshop. Find something that you once thought was a great idea but have now come to your senses about. Wrap it up (Brown paper bags are acceptable.) and bring it in. Don't identify who it's from.

Distribution will be in accordance with Yankee Swap tradition. Someone will select the first wrapped gift at random. The next person chooses another wrapped gift and gets to either keep it or swap it for one that anyone else unwrapped earlier. The process continues until all gifts have been unwrapped AND THEN the first selectee has had a chance to exercise his keep or swap privilege.

Please, nothing expensive. Figure your "swap" is the equivalent of a non-gender specific, non-offensive, seasonal, generic \$10-15 gift. No trash or unfinished projects, though. You might get it back next year.

## NVARC Club Net

The NVARC Club Net meet's every Monday evening at 8 PM on the 442.900 Pepperell repeater.

The December 9<sup>th</sup> net was a "free net" in that there were four participants in a round robin discussion with no net control station as such.

The net is in need of a regular Net Control Station (NCS).

Participants talked about Winter preparations antenna work, potential meeting speaker.

Recent attendees were

Jim N8VIM, Stan KD1LE, Skip K1NKR, Larry W1ESR, Les N1SV.

## November Treasurers Report

Income for November was \$50 in membership renewals and \$9.41 from bank interest. There were no expenses paid this month leaving a net income for November of \$59.41.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,674.83
Community fund	\$4,586.41

As of 5 December we have 46 members who are current with their dues and 27 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

## December Board Meeting Notes

December 5, 2013  
Board Meeting

Correspondence from GM3TCW thanking us re Honorary Membership renewal

Skip setting up a meeting with Phil Erikson regarding another talk regarding Haystack

Tech Night troubles - room is not consistently available. Punting.

First Tech night Thursday 12/12 at 7:30PM

Library and Materials pages to be added to website. Not completed yet.

Ed Snapp supplied coffee for the November meeting - we need to rotate that or supply some reimbursement to Ed.

Yankee swap at the December meeting.

Secretary to archive suggested policy for "for-profit" items listed in newsletter and/or reflector.

Dan up for February meeting to discuss low-voltage tube "spy" radios. Need to find a secondary presentation for February

Dale AF1T in March for transmission lines

Dennis W1UE on How-To-Do RTTY for April

Respectfully submitted,  
John KK1X  
Secretary

## Strays

There's been some consternation recently among NVARC members concerning the proper use of phonetics. Some members insist on the military alphabet. Others say it should be the alphabet listed by the ITU (we're radio folks after all). One vociferous member insists on ICAO. In the interest of resolving this dispute we searched the Strays in the back issues of QST for a then-famous list of phonetics. We ran out of patience before we found the Stray so we hit the Internet. You can believe everything you find on the Internet, right? Here goes:

**A** as in aisle or aye  
**b** as in bdellium (pronounced dell-ee-um)  
**c** as in czar  
**d** as in djibouti (pronounced ja-boo-tee)  
**e** as in eight, eye, or ewe  
**f** as in fjord (this one is pretty weak because it still starts with an 'eff' sound)  
**g** as in gnaw  
**h** as in herb  
**i** as in loan (Welsh name pronounced yo-an)  
**j** as in jalepeno  
**k** as in knife  
**l** as in llano (Double-L in Spanish becomes y, don't yano?)  
**m** as in mnemonic  
**n** as in ngwee (pronounced uh-nug-gwee)  
**o** as in oestrogen  
**p** as in pneumatic  
**q** as in queue or quay (pronounced kay)  
**r** as in trademark ® (sorta weak)  
**s** as in sea  
**t** as in tao (pronounced dow)  
**u** as in uakari (pronounced waa-car-ee)  
**v** as in Five (as in the roman numeral five – not great but still confusing)  
**w** as in wrench or why  
**x** as in xenon

y as in you (or yttrium, pronounced ee-tree-um)  
z as in UTC (weak and majorly geeky, UTC is  
also known as Zulu, hence the abbreviation Z)

### **Incandescent Light Bulbs**

Several years ago I wrote an article about the future demise of the incandescent light bulb. Some of the deadlines have come and gone. This year the production and sale of 75 and 100 watt bulbs was banned. Starting January 1 that will extend to 40 and 60 watt versions. When I wrote the article there were still issues with CFL's like noise, color temperature, whether they had to be used vertical, and dimming. Many, if not all those problems have been addressed. The other option that almost seemed science fiction was LED lamps. Some were being produced but at an expected cost of \$50-\$100. Well technology marches on. Today you can get CFL's in several color types and there are dimmable versions. The LED versions are available at Home Depot in 40 and 60 watt equivalent versions for around \$10. As they push the envelope CREE and Phillips have 75 watt equivalents available in the \$24-\$30 range. These "bulbs" are supposed to pay for themselves in energy savings in about three years in a "regular use" setting of about 3 hours a day.

Stan KD1LE

### **NVARC Swap Shoppe**

Nothing listed.

### **Your Article**

Your article could have been here.



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Amateur Radio Club**

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President: Skip Youngberg K1NKR  
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Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2012-2015  
Bob Reif: W1XP 2013-2016

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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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