

SIGNAL

A club since 1992



Since 1993



Since 1996

de N1NC

March 2017

Volume 26 Number 3

This Month's Meeting

Long-time NVARC friend Ed Parish, K1EP,



will speak to us this month. Ed spoke to us a while back on the ARRL Official Observer program, of which he's the Eastern Mass coordinator.

This month Ed has a special treat. He recently undertook a DXpedition to Cuba and will tell us about it. He might even have some hints and kinks about how you can visit this formerly forbidden DX entity.

Don't forget, March is month of the Pepperell Lawrence Library Book Sale at the Community Center. This precludes the use of the Community Center for our meeting. As usual, the Library has accommodated us by allowing us to **meet at the Library** itself. The meeting will start at the **normal 7:30 time.**

The Library is the ornate brick building just over the hill west of the Community Center on Route 113, at 15 Main St. If you get to the blinking light and the Town Hall you just missed it.

NEXT Month's Meeting

We'll be "off-site" again for the April meeting. (No joke.) In April we will be at the MIT Haystack Observatory.

This promises to be "a most excellent event!" We'll have elections, club members Joe K1YOW will give a talk and Phil W1PJE will give us a tour of the observatory, and we'll have a meeting with a professor and 25 undergraduate students from Pennsylvania.



Go ahead and drool. You can't have one of these in your back yard. But you can have one as a friendly neighbor!

MIT photo

The President's Corner

Things have been moving along nicely preparing our meeting programs and we currently have the next two meetings planned. We carefully try to present a balance of subject matter throughout the year. And we always welcome and encourage suggestions for future meeting topics, especially if you

see or hear of a presentation that would be suitable for NVARC.

We still have some openings that we need to fill. Having someone in the position of Public Information Officer would help the club get the word out, not only about NVARC but also about Amateur Radio. It shouldn't require too much work and once you establish a schedule of when the various media need input---some of it would even be routine. Another position we really should fill is that of Emergency Coordinator. Den KD2S and Larry W1ESR filled the position for years and kept us in touch with what was happening in Emergency Management in our area towns. If anyone is interested in one of the positions, contact one of the Officers.

Remember **the March meeting will be at the Pepperell Library, downstairs in the meeting room** where we usually meet when the book sale takes over the Community Center. The April meeting will be at Millstone Hill and we would like to start April's meeting at 7:15 so we can take care of elections and any other business before 7:30 when the program will begin. We'll be sure that detailed information is distributed prior to the meeting.

Having mentioned elections above, note that five positions need to be filled every year. The four club officers; President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, plus one Board Member must be elected. It's important to the club that leadership is continuously developed by getting "new blood" on the Board. If anyone is interested in running for one of these positions let us know.



Kayla's dramatic photo of our FD operation last year has been reproduced on a number of Amateur Radio news sites.

W2IRY photo

Thinking a little further out, Field Day is only three months away. We need one or two people to coordinate the NVARC Field Day operation.

I want to thank all the members who came out in support of the Girl Scout events in Shirley MA and Raymond NH last month. Both events came off perfectly and we anticipate we will be in high demand to repeat these in the future. Skip is still actively promoting TDOTA up and down the Merrimac and hopefully some other clubs will pick up on what we have started. NVARC has led the way on a number of activities and it is another area we are always on the lookout for—whether it is outreach to the community, public service, or projects like the Girl Scout, or activities promoting STEM to youth. New ideas are always welcome.

73, Stan KD1LE

Last Month's Meeting

Due to a snafu [on the part of yours truly, the Editor], February's planned speaker was not available. Nevertheless, since our Thinking day On The Air events were only two days away, Skip K1NKR presented the club's TDOTA briefing. This is the briefing we present to other clubs. Our own copy is an extended one which includes "training advice" for participants.

News and Happenings

A TDOTA Submission

Here's what a couple of the TDOTA participants thought of the event and reported to their parents.

Thinking Day On The Air

Dear parents,

Yesterday, 2-19-17, we had Thinking day On The Air. We did Ham Radio, Morse Code, we made bracelets, and the activities. We also guided the daisy's and brownie's around the school. In Ham Radio we talked to people from Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island many more as well. In ham radio we also talked to people around the world and learned about QSL cards. In

Morse Code we talked using dits and dahs (long and short key presses) and we had to see if they could figure out what we were saying. We also made bracelets out of beads, saying in morse code GSGWM [*Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains. Ed.*]. For activities we played telephone and we made string and cup phones. We also drew pictures of things we can use to communicate with. When we went to each station we used walky-talkies to tell "Net Control" we were entering or exiting. We guided Daisys and Brownies to each station to help them understand. We enjoyed Thinking Day On The Air and so did everyone else.

By Olivia and Maddy
[Girl Scouts of Troop 10435]

Reviewing (Renewing) History

International Marconi Day celebrates the huge part Guglielmo Marconi played in the invention of radio.

International Marconi Day (IMD) is a 24-hour Amateur Radio event that is held annually to celebrate the 25 April 1874 birth of Marconi. The event is usually held on the Saturday closest to Marconi's birthday and in 2017 it will be held on the 22nd of April.

For information, <http://qx4crc.com/gb4imd/>.

Editor's Note

Aside from any editor's obvious desperation in seeking out contributions for a newsletter, there really is a satisfaction in putting one together.

The first is the people. Ye Honorable Club Members, each with his own skills, interests, and (shall we say) personalities.

I took a gamble a couple of months ago in profiling Jim N8VIM. He didn't know I was going to write about him. No interview, no nothing. Just the inspiration—no, the contradiction—of his outward personality and the smile he had during the Home Brew Night presentations.



And frankly, it's been easy to document the club's activities, camaraderie, contributions to the public good, and other successes.

This month it's time to highlight a combination of personality and news. Gene WW4EN was moved during the talk at last month's meeting. Saturday's Shirley MA event was local for him, but he was busy, heavily obligated over the weekend by his business' needs. Between Thursday night and Saturday morning, he rearranged his schedule. On Saturday, he and Stan KD1LE introduced wave upon wave of Girl Scouts to Morse code.

I've often remarked on how rewarding it is to see the Girl Scouts' faces brighten as they discover the larger world via Amateur Radio. Well, you should have seen Gene's face brighten as he taught the history, art, and skill of CW to those bright faces.

Gene found it so rewarding that he pulled an "all-nighter" Saturday night to close out a list of business loose ends just so that he could volunteer up at the New Hampshire event the next day.



Gene (left foreground. Smiling, we promise!) and Stan at the Morse table.

KD1SM photo

Eighty-plus Girl Scouts are now Morse aficionados thanks to Gene's work and Stan's tutelage. But equally importantly, Gene has been moved thanks to eighty-plus Girl Scouts.

All this makes editing a newsletter easy, and satisfying.

73, Skip K1NKR

Public Service

PS season will be fast upon us. Here's a sample of what's coming up.



The Boston Marathon will be held Monday, April 17. An absolutely premier event in the world of Amateur Radio public service, the Marathon is a “personal volunteer event,” rather than a club function. NVARC has been well represented among volunteers for many years. For information, talk with Stan KD1LE or Ralph KD1SM among others.



The Townsend Lions Club Canoe Race will be held Saturday, April 22. We’ve provided communications support for the race for years, usually under the leadership of Gary K1YTS. The race is still on, but Gary, recovering (very well) from coronary bypass surgery, may not be able to take the lead. Stay tuned!



The Groton Road Race continues to be a major event for Amateur Radio in North Central Massachusetts. The Squannacook River Runners (not to be confused with the Canoe and Kayak group!) are the event organizers. Since nearly as far back as the inception of this event 26 years ago, NVARC has been meeting the Race Committee's request for Amateur Radio support for logistics and safety communications.

Those of you who have joined us in the past years know that the runners sincerely appreciate our presence. Many say so as they run past. This event is so large that police officers from several other agencies come to assist the Groton PD. The Groton Police Department considers our Amateur Radio involvement to be a critical component for the safety of all participants.

The race event schedule for 2017 is the same as that for the past two years; the 5k and a 10k races will start simultaneously. The 5k course takes a corner in downtown Groton and leaves the 10k course, rejoining it down course so the final segments are the same. The maps, etc. from previous years

are available on the NVARC Public Service Events page. (www.n1nc.org/Events/)

Contributing to the public good is one of the reasons Amateur Radio exists. Our public service events are a key opportunity for us to show our colors, volunteer our skills and equipment, and demonstrate why it is in the public's interest to continue to allocate precious RF spectrum to the Amateur Radio Service. The Groton Road Race is a low-stress event and a great way to gain more experience with the public service aspect of Amateur Radio. Please consider joining us on the 30th.

If you are interested in helping at these events but unsure of what is expected of you or what equipment you may need, please ask me, Stan KD1LE, or John KK1X.

The Squannacook River Runners and the Groton Police Department repeatedly praise and express their appreciation for your assistance in providing communications for this event. I do hope you will be able to join us this year. Please let me know.

Thanks and 73,
Ralph, KD1SM



Of course all this just leads up to June's ARRL Field Day, doesn't it?

On the Air

Joe K1YOW is exploring the digital modes. He and about five others started their conversation on the club Reflector but have moved it into an e-mail group. If you are interested in joining up (as a novice or an expert), contact Joe via the Reflector.

Incidentally, thanks to Joe's questions, and insistence, eQSL now includes MSK144 and QRA64 as identified modes. The inclusion had to await the ADIF (computer logging and contest entry) specification to be updated. (Wonder if Joe's insistence had anything to do with that?)

Treasurer's Report

Income for February was \$15 from membership fees and \$19 from the raffle. Expenses were \$21.24 for batteries for the code practice oscillators used in the Thinking Day On The Air event and \$18.80 for newsletter postage leaving a net expense of \$6.04 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,929.92
Community fund	\$5,136.41

As of 2 March we have 51 members who are current with their dues and 9 renewals outstanding. Thank you to those of you who hand in your dues before I come to you. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask me.

de Ralph KD1SM

Board Meeting Notes

Board meeting 3/2/2017

Attending: Stan KD1LE, Jim N8VIM, John KK1X, Ralph KD1SM, Rod WA1TAC, Ed N1YFK. Observing: Skip K1NKR

Discussed:

- Treasurer's Report: General fund \$2,929.92; Community fund \$5,136.41.
- Speaker for March K1EP Ed Parrish. Meeting downstairs in library. Cuba DXpedition.
- April meeting E-Skip at Haystack observatory.
- Need programs for May and June.
- Library staff wants Ham 101 presentation on May 17 @7:00PM.
- Brainstorming for [future] Thinking Day activities.

Respectfully submitted,

de John KK1X

Club Services

CW Mentors

Not to slight the many great CW ops in the club it is worthwhile to point out that two members are particularly active in CW training. If you're interested in learning Morse, or in improving your skill, contact Bruce K1BG or Dennis K1LGQ.

ARRL Renewals

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. We are a Special Service Club, and the ARRL expects a majority of club members to also be ARRL members.

Meeting Swaps

Got anything left over in the shack or shop? Is it "not good enough to keep, yet too good to toss away?" Bring it to a meeting and give it away. There's always someone more desperate than you.

Calendar

Upcoming Events

March

19 Contoocook Valley ARC flea market, Henniker NH

31 Maine State Convention, Lewiston ME (through 1 April)

April

16 Flea at MIT, Cambridge

17 Boston Marathon

20 **NVARC election night**

23 Framingham ARA Flea & Exams

20-23 Eastern VHF Conf., Manchester CT

May

5/6 NEARFest, Deerfield NH

21 Flea at MIT, Cambridge

Upcoming Operating Activities

March

4-5 ARRL DX – phone

April

16 Rookie Roundup – phone
22 International Marconi day

May

xx Hmm. Nothing?

Are you a “contest nut?” See <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar> (Contest Corral) for month-by-month listings of both ARRL and non-ARRL contests.

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**Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

PO Box # 900
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

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

President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE

Vice President: Jim Hein N8VIM

Secretary: John Griswold KK1X

Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

Board Members:

Ed Snapp N1YFK, 2014-2017

Rod Hersh WA1TAC, 2015-2018

Jim Wilber AB1WQ, 2016-2019

Editor: Skip Youngberg K1NKR

Emergency Coordinator:

Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

PIO:

Librarian: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG

Property Master: John Griswold KK1X

N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG

Join NVARC! Annual membership dues are \$15; \$20 for a family.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Pepperell Community Center.

Contact us on the N1MNX repeater.

442.900 (+), 100Hz

147.345 (+), 100 Hz

53.890 (-), 100Hz

This newsletter is published monthly. Submissions, corrections and inquiries should be directed to the newsletter editor. Articles and graphics in most PC-compatible formats are OK.

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Girl Scout Troop #10435
56 Harriman Hill Road
Raymond, NH 03077

28 February 2017

Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 900
Pepperell, MA 01463-0900

Dear Club Members,

On behalf of everyone from Girl Scouts I would like to thank you for your very generous sponsorship of our troop for the International Thinking-Day-on-the-Air event. I know that many club members were able to attend this year but I wanted to make sure that all of you know how much we appreciate the time that you spend with the girls.

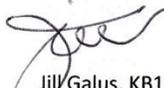
This year, the girls made voice and Morse code contacts. Each girl had the opportunity to speak into the microphone at the radio station and to listen to Morse code demonstrations. She also was able to practice Morse code and the phonetic alphabet. Each girl left with a QSL card and a Thinking-Day-on-the-Air patch for her vest which was issued by Girl Guides of London.

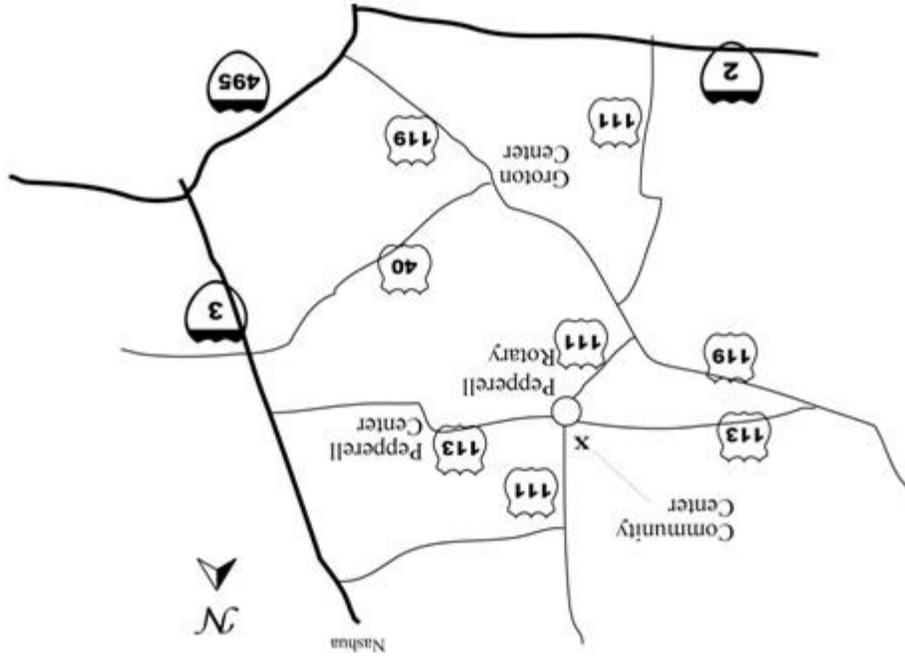
The girls used the cafeteria as an activity room. It held three science experiments on communication. Two classrooms were used for quieter activities. One was set up at the Code Practice Room. In this room the girls could practice Morse code and the phonetic alphabet. To keep girls circulating, there was a Morse code craft offered in the Code Practice Room as well. This year the girls made a Morse code bracelet. The other classroom was set up as the radio station. There the girls used a radio station to send voice and Morse code messages to other stations around the country (and a few internationally, too). They also learned about time zones and the "grey-line" where the darkness of night began.

I hope that you have been able to see the photographic collection that was posted at the club website. The girls get just as excited seeing the photos and reminiscing as they did at the event.

Thank you again for your generous support. We couldn't run fantastic events like this without you.

73,


Jill Galus, KB1SWV
Raymond Troop Leader



Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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