

JAWBIE



A club since 1992



Since 1993



Since 1996

de N1NC

APRIL 2017

Volume 26 Number 4

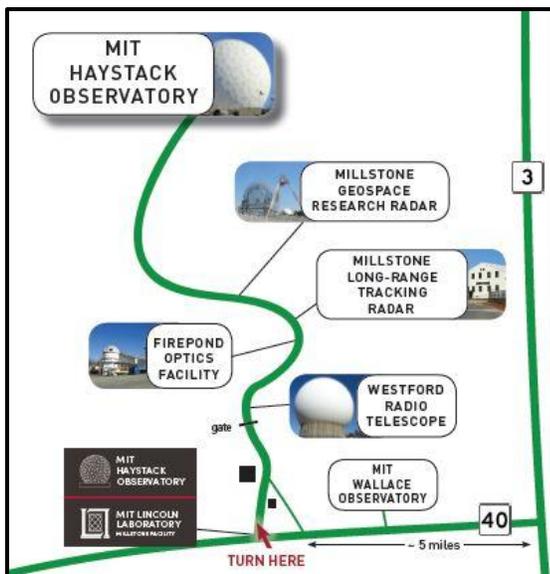
Notice to the congenitally or intentionally humor-impaired: Disregard anything in RED.

This Month's Meeting

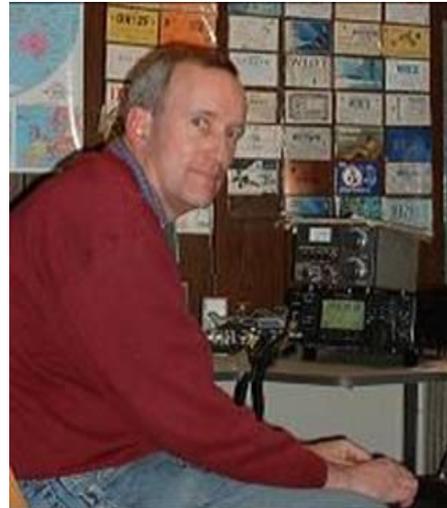
OK. This one is serious, folks.

This month's meeting will NOT be at the Community Center. We will convene at 1915 (15 minutes earlier than usual) at the MIT Haystack Observatory in Westford.

To get to the observatory, take Route 40 to approximately the Westford-Groton line. At the MIT sign, take Millstone Rd in a northerly direction. (*Caution: If you're coming in from the east, do not head up the steep driveway east of Millstone Rd or Millstone Hill Rd to the Wallace Observatory.*) Follow Millstone Rd up, and up, and up—past some pretty impressive radomes and antennas—keeping to the left at the fork in the road, to the gigantic geodesic dome at the end of the road. If you are uncomfortable with those directions, see <http://www.haystack.mit.edu/site/directions.html>.



This promises to be a memorable evening. NVARC member Phil Erickson W1PJE is hosting us. We will have elections. Member Joe K1YOW will present his talk on sporadic-E propagation. And we'll meet with a group of twenty-five students from the University of Pennsylvania.



K1YOW photo

ANNUAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given of the annual election of the Officers and Board of the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club. The election will be held at 7:15pm (1915 hours) during a Special Meeting conducted within the general meeting on 20 April. (Detailed venue and directions are described elsewhere in this newsletter.)

All four officer positions and one Board member position are up for election. Note that, although all five incumbents have indi-

cated willingness to continue in their roles, the election is open and nominations will be accepted from the floor.

The incumbents are:

<p>President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE Vice President: Jim Hein N8VIM Secretary: John Griswold KK1X Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM Board Member: Ed Snapp N1YFK, 2014-2017</p>
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The NVARC constitution provides for absentee ballots. For information on absentee balloting see Article IV, Section 4 of the constitution. The constitution is posted at: <http://www.n1nc.org/Members/Constitution%20and%20Bylaws>.

The President's Corner

I attended the North Middlesex Area Emergency Planning Committee (NMAEPC) meeting on March 22nd. I have attended this meeting with Larry W1ESR (SK) for several years and it was a reminder that he is no longer with us. But Larry filled the position of the Club Emergency Coordinator (EC) which means keeping up with what is going on in the area towns. An advantage with the NMAEPC (too long a name and unpronounceable acronym) is a central point that representatives from the area towns meet so contact information and news can be gathered from one place and meeting. The towns are represented by a variety of people such as Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, Emergency Management Directors (who may be separate from the Police or Fire Chief), or someone appointed to attend. We have been invited to attend as representatives of RACES or Amateur Radio as a resource they value. I would like to fill the EC position with someone who is interested. The one problem for some people is this is a job for most of the committee so the meetings are during the day. I did clear up a question about custodianship/ownership of the equipment they have generously provided for our repeater.

Last reminder before April meeting: elections. Besides the appointment mentioned above we have five positions to fill, the four officers and one Board member. I didn't poll

the current members at the last Board meeting to see if there are any truly empty spots, though they are always open as far as the election goes. The Board member is good entry point to club management as it has no regular duties but only the goal of guiding the club's direction and representing the best interests of the members.

On a different subject line, we have been doing the Girl Scout Thinking Day on the Air (TDOTA) for three years now. We use the tower trailer because we have it. It works, and contains most everything we need to set up. But as we go around to the area clubs it might be intimidating. We have offered to help a club wanting to participate in TDOTA—and antennas and supports might be an area to think about. For TDOTA, Field Day, and other events antenna supports and antennas are important. So a system and equipment to accomplish this for a club or a few people not lucky enough to have what we have could be helpful. The challenge for many sites like schools is that there are often no nearby trees and lots of pavement so no stakes in the ground. I was thinking of a 20-40 meter fan dipole and a tilt up base the kind you drive a vehicle onto. Has anyone had any experience with these to support a simple antenna like this in inverted-Vee fashion? How high is reasonable with one of these? I could imagine buying or building these and several are advertised on the Web.

BTW, NVARC and TDOTA were again mentioned in last week's ARRL Letter and website, and twice in the Eastern Massachusetts Section Newsletter. Once for the event and once for Skip's next presentation at the Billerica club. [5 April. Very successful. Ed] This outreach to kids is not only good for us and the hobby but the club is getting a lot of good press out of it.

73, Stan KD1LE

Last Month's Meeting

A real DXpedition for under \$600 per week? That's what Ed K1EP did. And he told us about it last month.



KD1SM photo

Ed and a couple of partners mounted a DXpedition to Cuba last year, meeting and operating with two Cuban hams there. Ed's travelogue recounted the trip's preparations, transportation, financing, and lodging. He went on to describe building the antenna farm and operating—as well as the open bar and the beer downtown. At the conclusion of the talk, Stan presented Ed an NVARC coffee mug, a gift we didn't have on hand the last time Ed spoke to us and which he (surprise, surprise!) was looking forward to.

News and Happenings

April News

In a sudden, but not unexpected action, the FCC announced yesterday that Part 15 devices have been moved from "allowed" to "Primary" status. This is a bow to pressure from consumers and the retail market.

Spectrum management defines three levels of status. Primary users are protected from harmful interference from all other users (except other Primary users, of course). Secondary users must protect Primary users but are protected from all other users. And "allowed" users must protect all other users and have no interference protection themselves.

This action significantly alters the Part 15 warning hidden on the rear or underside of consumers' incidental radiating devices:

"This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation."

Consumers have always misread the Part 15 warning, thinking that "may not cause" meant that the device might, or might not cause interference—so what?—and that "must accept" was a terrible inconvenience.

Related to this action is the reassignment of current Primary users to Secondary status and Secondary users to "allowed" status. "It should have been a tough decision," said one in-the-know political appointee, "but we figured that it was easier to put public safety on the line than to try and educate the public. Plus, as far as Amateurs go, they can adapt to anything. We stuffed them onto two hundred meters and below a century ago and they've made out just fine."

de Don UP5KC

Tech Night

We've been a little remiss in reporting on Tech Night. The problem is that TN occurs a day after the Signal goes to print. Here's a catch-up.

The March Tech Night took place at the Community Center on March 9th. Bob W1XP presented on the propagation characteristics of Gray Line. He used a white board to explain the various layers of the ionosphere in play. He demonstrated software showing the Grayline and what the propagation paths would be to various locations and how that changed with the movement of the Grayline.

Stan KD1LE set up the NVARC Fox under one of four tubs and provided handhelds and a Foxfinder to test the possibility of using an indoor fox hunt as part of next year's Girl Scout Thinking Day program. Bob W1XP explained body fade direction finding and the problems encountered with reflections, particularly indoors. He then explained the Foxfinder operation. We found that at normal power body fade with a handheld indoors was not useful. On the other hand, the Foxfinder was able to locate the fox in one of the tubs along a wall. It would be better in a larger room with greater separation between the tubs.

Stan KD1LE and Ralph KD1SM assembled the March Signals for mailing.

March attendees were; John K1JEB, Peter N1ZRG, Drew W1PCQ, Harvey K1KKS, Joe

K1YOU, Dan KW2T, Bill AB1XB, Bob W1XP, and Stan KD1LE.

Editor's Note

I've been itching to put out an issue like this. I hope you enjoyed it. 'Nuff said.

73, Skip K1NKR

Public Service

Here's an important follow-up to last month's summary of upcoming NVARC public service activities.

The Groton Road Race, arguably our best PS event—and the easiest to participate in—will be held Sunday, April 30, 2017. See <http://www.grotonroadrace.com/> and <http://www.n1nc.org/Events/2015/GRR/>. (The info is the same as for previous years.)

Contact Ralph KD1SM to participate—NOW!

On the Air

Most needed calls list: 5U4GB, UP5KC, K9CAT, Q3NPN, VY73s, YM4CLUB. (Think about that last one.)



Field Day will be upon us soon. The following committee has been appointed:

- I.B. Stucky, (incident commander)
- Justin Case (event planner)
- Larsen E. Rapp, WIOU (infrastructure)
- Al Fresco (menu planner)
- Frank Furter (cook)
- Rick Shaw (transportation coordinator)
- May B. Goodenough (log checker)

The Technical Corner

"Merry Christmas. QTH here is Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllan

tysiliogogogoch, on Anglesey Island, Wales. I'd give it to you in phonetics, but there's noel in phonetics."



[There are some absolute classics in the historic annals (that's annals, with two "n"s) of Amateur Radio. Here's one to appropriately educate newer Amateurs and to note in preparation for Field Day.

By the way, you can tell that this is a classic. Beer cans are no longer solderable! Ed]

The Forty Metre Beer-Can Special

Take one empty beer-can and carefully solder it to another empty can. Make sure that the joint is clean and dry and has good electrical contact.

Take another beer-can. Carefully consume the contents, and then solder this to the other two. I mean, solder it to the end of one of the other beer-cans.

You should now have the beginnings of a vertical antenna for forty metres. You have three or some more beer-cans soldered together making a total length of about 1.5 feet or half a meter. Only about 31.5 feet (or 63 beer cans) to go!!

Empty the insides out of the insides of beer can number five. Ensure inside is empty and glue with hot silver stuff to another beer can what have been emptied outside before and joined to some more. Getting longer huh? (Please excuse: little drift in vernak varnakul strait talk--even tecknicle authors are human, are human sometimes human or.)

Remember the gold rule. "Longer antenners are better in length than shorter ones are shorter." To quote the well-know formular--length in megacycles is 468 over wavelength in feet multiplumed by dead-electric constant.

Empty too more cans of bees and stick together with more shouldering.

Just keep soldiering on one beer can to another beer can until you retch about 30 feet in long. Then test resonant flatulance with a anerlyz anil thing that meazures things. Add some more barf cans if two short or unsouldi unsoldiia. Take some away if too short.

Ingore: two much pane in fingers from 2 much soldiering.

Carefully dig ground steak and add dirt if non presents. Plaice forty metre verticle up strait in horizontel possess possi plaice up right in ground but take care to isilate from stuff what I can't remember what is called earth.

Feed antenner from bottem or top (who cares?) with zip cords or nice little coaxially wire stuff (a prettly little wire runing inside a fat wire outside at 50 mph or 72 mhos) and then sit bak and work DX.

WARNING: From experinecience: do not make misteak of puting full cans at topp of antenner and emptie at bottem. Thish makes it very dangrous for close neybor in bad WX.



Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



www.savagechickens.com



New Phonetics

Or, Why isn't "phonetics" pronounced phonetically?

We don't have any accents here but everyone else does, so we should be weal caahful that we help them undastand us. (Actually, it's those WhoaDilundas who tawk kinda funny.) Besides, getting the message acwoss is expecially impaw'ent.

Back in QST for November 1958, W9LZV suggested an "improved" phonetic alphabet.

After careful research, linguistic science has done him one better.

Aardvark	Nguen
Bdellium	Ouija
Circus	Phonetic
Djibouti	Quay
Ewe	R **
F *	Sea
Gym	Tchaikovsky
Hour	Use
I *	V *
Junta	Who
Knight	Xerox
L *	Yipsilanti
Mnemonic	Z *

* There are no phonetics for the letters F, I, L, V, and Z. Operators are advised not to use these letters during communication.

** Consider using ALPHA-HOTEL.

Despite this research, one suggestion might be that the first phonetic letter be changed to Abalone (pronounced aw-baloney).

Strays

Scott Paper has come out with a tubeless toilet paper roll. We're glad they're catching up. Radios have had a tubeless option for quite some time.



"I admit that I am responsible for the adopting of long waves for long- distance communication. Everyone followed me in building stations hundreds of times more powerful than would have been necessary had short waves been used. Now I have realized my mistake."

Gugliemo Marconi's comments to the Institute of Radio Engineers, 1927.

You got that right, Gugie baby! Oh, and happy birthday. (25 April 1874–20 July 1937)

Treasurer's Report

Income for March was \$15 from membership fees and \$2 from ARRL membership renewals. Expenses were \$19.60 for newsletter postage leaving a net expense of \$2.60 for the month. A correction to last month's report: newsletter postage is \$19.60 per month, not the (old rate) of \$18.80.

Current balances:

General fund \$2,924.92

Community fund \$5,136.41

As of 7 April we have 43 members who are current with their dues and 17 renewals outstanding. The renewals are high in April as this is the Club's founding month so many of the original members renew in April. 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 4/6/2017

Attending: Stan KD1LE, Jim N8VIM, Ralph KD1SM, Jim AB1WQ, Ed N1YFK.
Observing and recording: Skip K1NKR

- Elections. Position holders for all five open volunteered to continue.

- Speakers needed for May, June, and September.

- Approved \$15.37 grant request for TDOTA postage from Shirley Girl Scout troop

- AB1WQ will be Field Day Incident Commander with K1NKR and N1YFK assisting. Stan will reserve Orchard site. A Field Day budget request of \$580 will be presented to the membership at April's meeting.

- A budget request of \$200 for the club's annual liability insurance premium will be presented to membership at April's meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

de Skip K1NKR

Note, due to a typing error AB1WQ's attendance at last month's Board meeting was not documented. The Editor regrets the error.

Club Services

Outgoing QSL Service

Sure we sort incoming cards for the W1 Bureau, but do you remember that we also send Bureau cards out on behalf of members? The big DX contests are October and March. Our card shipments go out late fall and late spring. **A shipment is being prepared now.** Save on postage; see Rod WA1TAC.

NVARC Website

www.N1NC.org. Our public face to the world, the website has historical and informative information as well as data like the constitution, the library and property lists, and the newsletter archive.

We have plans for an enlarged and style-updated website. We just need a volunteer to take on the project.

Calendar

Upcoming Events

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

June

18 Flea at MIT, Cambridge

24/25 Field Day

Upcoming Operating Activities

April

16 Rookie Roundup – phone

22 International Marconi day

May

6/7 New England QSO Party

June

- 10-12 ARRL VHF contest
- 18 Kids Day
- 24/25 Field Day

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.

Advertisers



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Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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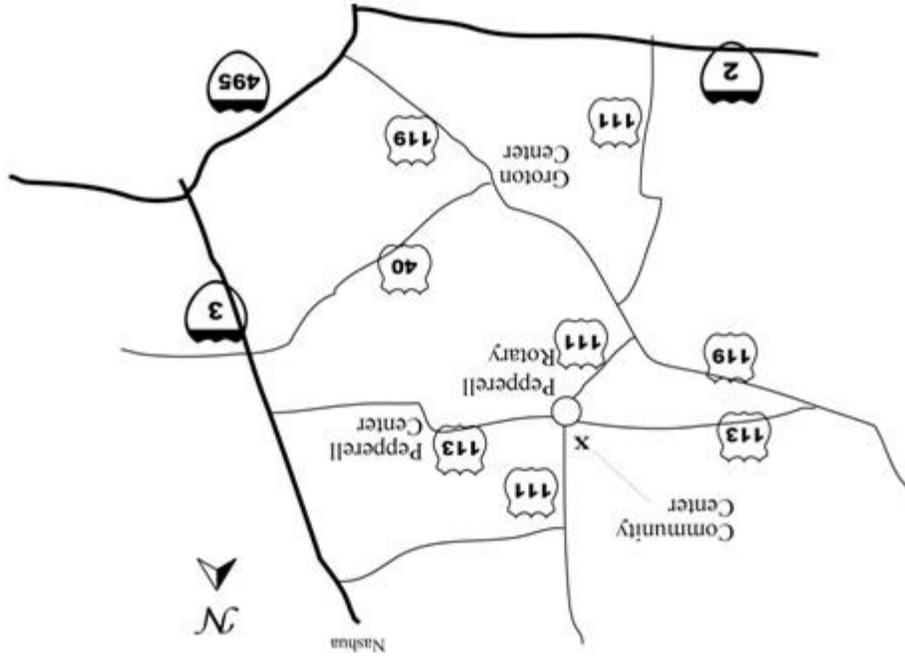
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President: Stan Pozerski KD1LE
Vice President: Jim Hein N8VIM
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Board Members:
Ed Snapp N1YFK, 2014-2017
Rod Hersh WA1TAC, 2015-2018
Jim Wilber AB1WQ, 2016-2019

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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

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sions, corrections ,and inquiries should be di-
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