



SIGNAL

A club since 1992



Since 1993



Since 1996

de N1NC

April 2020

Volume 29 Number 4

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This Month's Meeting

The April NVARC meeting will be formatted as a Video Conference meeting using the "WebEx" computer/smartphone application, thanks to Jim, N8VIM's employer's (MedTronic) contribution to NVARC of their WebEx access, as a public service.

Sign-in details will be forthcoming.

The Video Conference session will include a "Special Meeting", as described in the club constitution, wherein **elections** will be held for several Club officer positions.

Absentee ballots will be made available for those who do not wish to Video Conference. See the following two articles for more details.

Additionally, Bruce, K1BG will give a presentation on Single Operator Field Day.

NVARC Elections: Nominations

de Bruce, K1BG

In accordance with the club constitution, NVARC's Nomination Committee is seeking nominations for officers and a director for the upcoming 2020 – 2021 club year, beginning with the end of the April meeting and running through the April meeting next year.

The positions currently held are:

Officers

President – Stan Pozerski, KD1LE
 Vice President – Jim Hein, N8VIM
 Secretary – John Griswold, KK1X
 Treasurer – Ralph Swick, KD1SM

Directors - Term

Ed Snapp, N1YFK – 2017–2020
 Bruce Blain, K1BG – 2018-2021
 Jim Wilber, AB1WQ – 2019-2022

Nominations are open and being sought for all officers' positions and the three-year board position that begins in 2020.

To volunteer to run for election to a position, or nominate another club member who would have interest in a position, please forward the club member's name, callsign, and the position of interest to **nvarc_board@n1nc.org**. Nominations must be received no later than **Sunday, April 12th**. If you have any questions, please forward them to the same email address.

Thank you in advance,

-de Bruce, K1BG

NVARC Elections: Process

de John, KK1X

The Coronavirus has put a damper on things this year, and it has complicated NVARC elections, which are required to be held in April of each year.

In our recent NVARC business meeting, the Board came up with a plan to assure that elections go smoothly and fairly.

The first focus of the plan is that of Nominations.

Directors Bruce, K1BG, Jim, AB1WQ, and Ed, N1YFK, have been appointed by the Board as the

Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations at nvarc_board@n1nc.org for all four Officer (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) positions, and for one Director position.

Of the incumbents, so far, Stan, KD1LE, has indicated he will not run for any position.

Nominations will be open until April 12, 2020.

After the nominations are complete, the Secretary will produce an email ballot that will be sent to each member on **April 14**. Members will have until **April 16**, just prior to the monthly meeting, to submit their absentee ballots by email to nvarc_board@n1nc.org.

The second focus of the plan is that of the Election itself.

The Board intends to conduct the Election Special Meeting by Video Conference on April 16, at the usual monthly meeting time of 19:30.

Instructions for the Video Conference will be sent to members in an email prior to the 16th.

Any absentee ballot received prior to the Special Meeting can be changed/overridden if you attend the video conference, so feel free to email your ballot even if you do plan to attend online.

We intend to use the real-time polling feature available in our WebEx video conference to solicit any and all changed votes.

Please think about taking a leadership position in the club, or nominating someone you think would be a good (and willing!) leader.

Submit nominations following Bruce's instructions, in the preceding article.

Thank you, and stay well!

-de John, KK1X

NVARC Elections: Some History

de Bruce, K1BG

The following article was written by NVARC co-founder Earl Russell, WR1Y, and appeared in the November 1992 issue of the Signal. I credit Earl with being the Father of NVARC. He organized the first meetings to organize a club, and served as its first president, and provided leadership that was critical in the early days of the club. I think of Russ as NVARC's George Washington.

Back Scatter by Russ, WR1Y

The Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club officially begins its second year in January.

The momentum of the first six months has created a base-line for a vibrant, civic-oriented organization. We should be very proud of what has been accomplished at the same time striving to maintain the momentum.

Interesting activities and public service functions will be sufficient for survival, but survival is not enough.

The continued strength of the club will depend on its ability to attract new members. Each of us is an emissary of our club and should be proud enough of this affiliation to actively solicit new members. The Groton Septemberfest was a recruiting bonanza as evidenced by membership in our current ham class.

There must be continual activity in events like that if the club is to prosper.

At the December meeting the club will elect a new slate of officers. The new officers will work with the outgoing people for as long as required to accomplish an orderly transfer of responsibility and authority. The requirements for holding one of the club officer positions are liberal:

An applicant must:

- Be a full member of the club (i.e. hold any class of amateur radio license)
- Be willing to serve (and have the time)
- Be a little crazy (it helps)

The toughest requirement is number 2.

It does take some time and effort but the rewards are legion. Don't assume someone else

is going to jump forward – we need everyone involved.

We've done a great job, folks, but you ain't seen nothin yet. –Russ

While many things in the club have evolved over the years, the need still remains the same.

Nominations are now open for the four officers' positions in the club plus one of the three directors positions. Of particular need are volunteers for the positions of club President and Vice President.

Please step forward and make your interest known with an email to the nominations committee at nvarc_board@n1nc.org.

-de Bruce, K1BG

Call for Outgoing QSL cards for the ARRL Bureau

As a benefit to club members, NVARC provides a bulk QSL card submittal to the League's Outgoing QSL Bureau.

This service is free to members in good standing; the club pays the fees and postage.

If any member has QSL cards going to foreign countries that have QSL bureaus (see ARRL web site for details), submit them to Rod, WA1TAC, at 8 Bridge Street, Groton, MA01450. Or call him at 978-448-3132 to set something up. Also needed is proof of league membership, which can be a copy of your QST mailing label

Rod is preparing a shipment of cards to send to Newington at the end of April.

From the Shack de George, KB1HFT

<wayback_machine_ON>

Back in ~1963, I took the Novice test at a neighborhood ham's shack: one-on-one. I was 16, and nervous as heck about passing the 5wpm code test.

Apparently, I did well enough to pass, and became KN3FUV. I later upgraded to Tech, and was then K3FUV, which I let lapse in the 1970's, as other things in life were happening. Job, Army, Job, Grad School, Job, Job, Job.

In 2000, I decided to get back in, and passed the General, then, a year later, the Extra. Without code.

I've never been a true practitioner of the necessary physical & mental coordination needed for the CW arts, although I have a bunch of CW QSL cards from the 60's that witness at least a passing familiarity with it. I've also a certificate of membership in the ARRL Ragchewer's Club: issued to KN3FUV.

<wayback_machine_OFF>

Lately, I've decided to try to increase my CW skills, and so, I take part in an informal NVARC CW net (daily at 0930; 3.562MHz, ~12-15wpm). I'm getting better, but still get all garfangled <a technical term> when I don't immediately recognize a character, and so miss the next few characters.

Also, there is a lot of QSB at 80meters for the short distance comms we are attempting, since most of the radiation is skyward, not groundwave. This makes it harder to copy when the signal fades out completely!

But it is good "real world" practice, IMHO.



Unfortunately, when operating on 80m, using the inverted Vee I wrote about in last month's Signal, I get a lot of RF in the house. So much that it knocks out my WiFi router. A single dit will do it. It does not happen on other antennas/bands.

The router recovers gracefully, but this is not a good situation.

I've inserted a choke Balun at the Vee's feed point: 14turns of RG58 on a type 31 core that Bob, W1XP, kindly lent me.

I measured/calculated that it provides almost 10K of reactance at 3.56MHz. That oughtta be enough.

But it doesn't get rid of the problem.

OK, so how about a 1:1 Balun? That's the next experiment.

Then I'll investigate the sub-optimal grounding system that I have thrown together.

Stay tuned. Don't touch that dial!

-de George, KB1HFT

Board Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Stan, KD1LE
John, KK1X
Ralph, KD1SM
Phil, W1PJE
George, KB1HFT

Jim, N8VIM,
Bruce, K1BG,
Jim, AB1WQ,
Skip, K1NKR,

Conducted Via WebEx Video

- Need to send a notice to club for nominations.
- OK to use email for ballots, also will hold an online meeting.
- Online votes outweigh potential absentee ballots.
- Will take nominations until 4/12.
- Will produce ballot by 4/14 with replies due by 4/16, prior to meeting.
- Bruce suggesting Board be the nominating committee.
- Meet back "here" next Thursday.
- Need to find a President, Vice President, and perhaps a Board member.
- Property list – will dispose of trash sticks, cotton gloves, folding tables. Ralph updating the list.

-de John, KK1X

Treasurer's Report

We received no Income for March and had no expenses.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,572.67
Community fund	\$5,948.25

As of 2April we have 47 members who are current with their dues and 17 renewals outstanding. Thank you to those of you who mail or hand in your dues before Ralph comes to you. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

Membership dues can now be paid via PayPal:

Go to <https://www.paypal.me/nvarc>

- Please **remove** the checkmark in the box "**Paying for goods or a service**", as PayPal deducts a fee for their "purchase protection" if you leave this checked. If your "shipping ad-

dress" is still displayed, then the box is still checked, adding an expense to the Club.

- (Optional) enter your callsign in the "Add a note" field.

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 a Special Service Club, the ARRL expects a majority of Club members to also be ARRL members.

-de Ralph, KD1SM



The following "Article" (more like a "Hints and Kinks" in QST) appeared in the March 1925 issue of "The Experimenter", submitted by "Albert W. Small".

The article shows a radio set that uses a light bulb with a piece of tin-foil placed on the glass as a diode detector. Pretty cool, huh?

I'm hoping some electric utility expert out there can give us some historical background on 110 VDC service.

We've come a long way in 100 years!



-de Bruce, K1BG

Calendar

W1AW Schedule

PAC	MTN	CENT	EAST	UTC	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	1400		FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE
7 AM- 1 PM	8 AM- 2 PM	9 AM- 3 PM	10 AM- 4 PM	1500-1700 1800-2045	VISITING OPERATOR TIME (12 PM-1 PM CLOSED FOR LUNCH)				
1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	2100	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE
2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	2200	CODE BULLETIN				
3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	2300	DIGITAL BULLETIN				
4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	0000	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE
5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	0100	CODE BULLETIN				
6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	0200	DIGITAL BULLETIN				
6 ⁴⁵ PM	7 ⁴⁵ PM	8 ⁴⁵ PM	9 ⁴⁵ PM	0245	VOICE BULLETIN				
7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	0300	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE	SLOW CODE	FAST CODE
8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	0400	CODE BULLETIN				

W1AW's schedule is at the same local time throughout the year. From the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November, UTC = Eastern US time + 4 hours. For the rest of the year, UTC = Eastern US time + 5 hours.

♦ Morse codetransmissions: Frequencies are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, and 147.555 MHz.

Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7½, 10, 13, and 15 WPM.

Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13, and 10 WPM.

Code bulletins are sent at 18 WPM.

April

- 7 – 8 ARRL International DX Contest. 0000Z 7MAR → 2400Z 8MAR. 160, 80, 40, 15, 10M.
<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
- 11 RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW. 80m only.
<https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2020/r80mcc.shtml>
- 14 AGCW QRP Contest. 1400Z – 2000Z.
<http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/contests-and-cw-activities/qrp-contest>
- 18-19 CQMM DX Contest. 0900Z 18APR – 2359Z 19APR. 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. <http://www.cqmm.com/rules/>
- 19 ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB. 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. 1800Z – 2359Z. <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>
- 22 432 MHz Spring Sprint. 1900 Local – 2300 Local.
<https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/home/2020-information>
- 25-26 Helvetia Contest. 1300Z 25APR-1259Z 26APR. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m. CW, SSB, Digital.
https://www.uska.ch/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/HF_Contest_Rules_2018_EN.pdf

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**Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

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

President: Stan Pozerski, KD1LE
Vice President: Jim Hein, N8VIM
Secretary: John Griswold, KK1X
Treasurer: Ralph Swick, KD1SM
Board Members:

Jim Wilber, AB1WQ, 2019-2022
Ed Snapp, N1YFK, 2017-2020
Bruce Blain, K1BG, 2018-2021

Property Master: John Griswold, KK1X
Librarian: Peter Nordberg, N1ZRG
Emergency Coordinator: [open]
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.

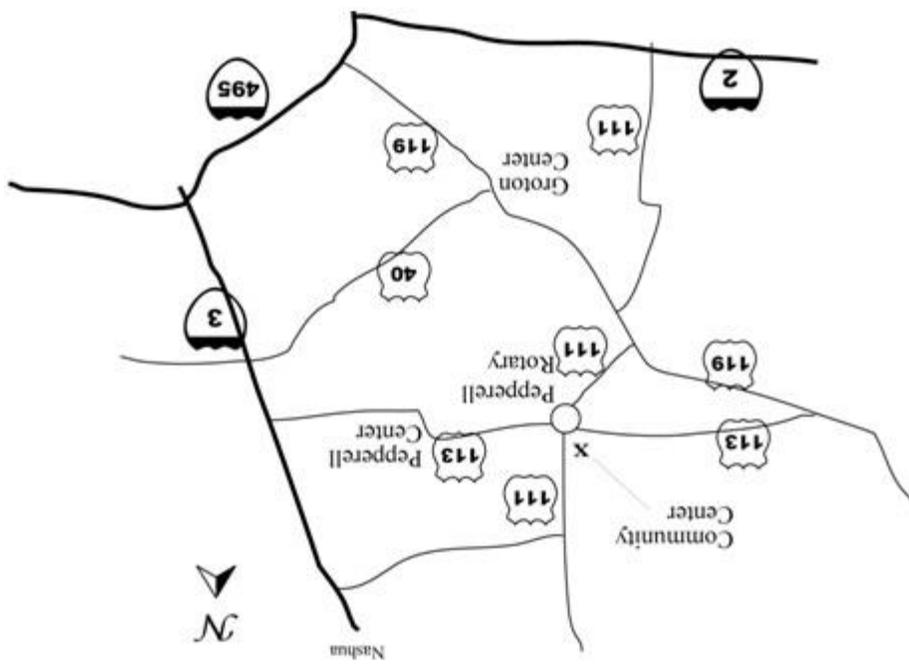
Contact us on the N1MNX repeater.
442.900 (+), 100Hz
147.345 (+), 100 Hz
53.890 (-), 100Hz

This newsletter is published monthly. Submis-
sions, corrections and inquiries should be directed to
the newsletter editor:

editor@n1nc.org

Articles and graphics in most PC-compatible for-
mats are OK.

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