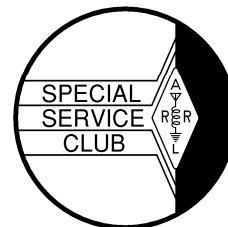




SIGNAL



de NINC

November 2011 Volume 20 Number 11

This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday November 17th at 7:30 and will be held at the Pepperell Community Center.

The November meeting program will be on the World Radiosport Team Championship by K1DG. That will be followed by K1EP on the Eastern Mass Official Observer program.

Road cleanup November 20th at 8:00 AM. Our last Adopt-A-Highway road cleanup will be Sunday November 20th. We will meet at the river common on 119 at 8:00 AM.

Last Month's Meeting

The October meeting program was the annual QSL card sort for the W1QSL Bureau. This was the 15th year we sorted for the Bureau. See article later in the Signal.

The October meeting was also the official start of the NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge. Batteries were passed out to those participating in the event. Good luck to the participants.

From the President

Well I'm slowly recovering from the freak October snow storm. We went six days without power which is the longest we ever lost power in the 31 years we have lived here. Fortunately I suffered no antenna or other serious damage. It certainly could have been much worse. With only an overnight storm and sun and mild weather the week after it allowed a relatively easy recovery. If the storm had lasted several days and had been followed by cold temperatures it would have much more costly in human terms. So we should take it as a warning and warm up for what is to come. Winter is just around the

corner. Check the antenna and support structure conditions. Charge the spare batteries. Make sure the local repeater frequencies are programmed in your radios. They are listed with the club information on the last page of the newsletter. Then all we can do is sit back and see what Mother Nature sends our way.

Stan KD1LE

2011 CQWW SSB Contest (VP9I)

Les, N1SV

Well I'm back from another trip to Bermuda where the weather was warm and the propagation on the high bands was hot! I arrived Thursday October 27 and was QRV that evening as well as some of Friday morning as VP9/N1SV and made about 500 QSOs.

This is the second year that I have operated the CQWW SSB contest from Bermuda but the first year that I used the VP9I call. To encourage greater club participation I decided to give away a \$50 ARRL gift certificate to the NVARC member who could work me on the most bands during the contest. Unfortunately the snow storm back home put a dent in the activity level and I was only able to log one contact with each of four members. Rod, WA1TAC was the first to work me edging out KK1X by just 2 minutes to win the \$50 ARRL gift certificate! Here is a complete list of members worked me.

DATE	TIME	CALL	BAND
10/29/11	2026z	WA1TAC	20m
10/29/11	2028z	KK1Z	20m
10/29/11	2053z	N8VIM	20m
10/30/11	0035z	KD1LE	80m

Conditions on 10 and 15m were great both days with lots of activity. The 10m band was wall to wall with stations all the way up to 29.115 MHz! I operated 42 of the 48 hours and finished with 3,570 contacts and a claimed score of 3.18M points. While I don't ex-

pect to win anything, it does look likely that my score will put me in the top 10 in the world for my class (Single Operator All Band Low Power).

W1 QSL Bureau Card Sort

This was our 15th year sorting for the W1 QSL bureau. Back in the early days we sorted many fewer cards and it took us much longer. These days we sort approximately 20,000 cards and the bulk of the sort was done in less than one and one half hours.



We had a great turn out for the October QSL Card Sort with 29 members and guests participating. Larry KB1ESR (above right) and Stan KD1LE brought the sorting boxes and miscellaneous equipment to the Community Center around 6:00 PM. Since there is a group using the hall before us we cannot set up until they leave. So they went off to supper and to wait for our time in the hall. Although the meeting doesn't start until 7:30 we got into the hall early and started setting up. By 7:00 PM we were in full swing sorting up a storm.



Above Bruce K1BG and Dennis K1LGQ puzzling over a QSL card.



Above center John KK1X is collecting cards from the sorting boxes and grouping them according to the letters on the tables.



By 8:00 PM the cards had all been sorted into the sorting boxes. Pizza was ordered. Then the cards were consolidated onto the center row of tables where people could check to see if they had any incoming cards.





The cards were then rubber banded and packed back in the shipping boxes.



The real reason this meeting is so well attended year after year?

After the sort was completed we all enjoyed some pizza, soft drinks and lots of ham chatter.

Participants were Bruce K1BG, Ken K1JKR, Dennis K1LGQ, Leo K1LK, Skip K1NKR, Jim K1PTF, Gary K1YTS, Wolf KA1VOU, Larry KB1ESR, Ken KB1UVP, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Tony KX1G, Les N1SV, Ed N1YFK, Roland NR1G, Rod WA1TAC, Herm WW1HR and guests Al K1AHM, Ed KA1QL, Russ WA1RKO, Bob KB1JZU, Peter KB1PBA, Charlie KT1I, Ray KB1LRL, Norm W1BYH, Barry W1HFN, and Bob W1IS.

Also at the October meeting the batteries were passed out to the competitors in the 2011 NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge (LBC). This year the LBC was for the first time opened to participants outside NVARC with MARA and PART members invited to participate.



LBC participants received their batteries at the October meeting. Left to right Leo K1LK, Bruce K1BG, John KK1X, Skip K1NKR, ?, ? Barry W1HFN.

Meeting pictures all courtesy of Ralph KD1SM.

Card Sort Follow Up

After the card sort Lynda N1PBL and Stan KD1LE scan the cards correcting errors and bundle them into more even packs so it is easier to box them for the next leg of their journey. Below are the results of the scan.

Miss sorts are listed by letter followed by the number of cards in that group that didn't belong for any reason. There isn't anything that stands out by letter. Some errors were cards stuck together. But most defied explanation.

A34, B20, C19, D21, E22, F9, G18, H19, I23, J15, K20, L7, M21, N18, O12, P2, Q16, R19, S12, T16, U11, V2, W23, X18, Y12, Z15

The following list is the cards that were miss sorted above now sorted or the resorted miss sorts if you will.

A21, B28, C16, D14, E18, F17, G22, H13, I59, J11, K12, L14, M16, N21, O6, P8, Q1, R11, S11, T11, U23, V3, W17, X20, Y16, Z9

Since the number of cards in each alphabetical groups varies considerably there isn't much that stands out except the "I" with 59 errors which is two to three times the errors of most other letters. This has always been the case and the only explanation is that it is mistaken for a 1 so the card gets sorted on the letter after the "I" and not the 1 in the callsign.

The end result is that 424 cards out of 20,000 were miss sorted or about 2%. In the past the rate has

varied but has been as much as 4%. So this is an improvement and I am sure it is appreciated by the letter sorters who get the cards next. Otherwise each letter sorter has to get some number of cards to each of the other sorters.

Stan KD1LE

NVARC Net

The NVARC net meets on 442.900 N1MNX repeater Mondays at 8:00 PM. The net is for sharing information and asking questions.

Bring your questions and topics for discussion so that we can all learn something.

Recent Check in's;

N8VIM Jim NCS, K1NKR Skip, N1MNX Dave, KD1LE Stan, NW1U Paul, KB1HFT George, NR1G, Roland, W1LTN Dick, K1YTS Gary, KB1ESR Larry W1XP Bob, K1BG Bruce.

PSLIST

See www.n1nc.org/Events for the latest information

Board Meeting

There was no formal Board meeting this month. I was still without electricity when the day came around and with nothing earth shattering to decide I canceled the meeting.

Stan

Treasurers Report

Income for October was \$100 in membership renewals, \$7.72 in bank interest, and \$15 in Lantern Battery Challenge entrance fees.

Expenses were \$17.60 for Newsletter postage, \$43.61 for a final Field Day expense, \$126.06 for QSL cards for the ILLW Cape Cod Highland Light special event, and \$59.77 for pizza and sode for the October QSL sort meeting leaving a net expense of \$124.32.

Current balances:

General fund \$3,496.55

Community fund \$4,286.41

As of 12 November we have 43 members who are current with their dues and 22 renewals outstanding. Please check your renewal status on the roster circulated at the monthly meeting or ask Ralph.

If you are not yet an ARRL member and are interested in joining, please consider letting Ralph send in the paperwork for you. The Club will buy the stamp and will get a commission from ARRL.

If your ARRL membership is ready for renewal, you can let Ralph mail it in for you and the Club will still get a (smaller) commission. ARRL membership checks should be made payable to NVARC; Ralph deducts the Club commission before forwarding your paperwork to Newington.

Ralph KD1SM

Upcoming Contests

N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR
October 8 - November 6, 2011

Plenty of opportunity to make contacts for your Lantern Battery Challenge. (Don't wait until March like me...)

73,
John KK1X

N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR
November 12 - December 11, 2011

WAE RTTY Contest ... 100W Category
Nov 12, 0000z to Nov 13, 2359z
Rules:
<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/>

Japan International DX Contest (phone)... 100w category
Nov 12, 0700z to Nov 13, 1300z
Rules: <http://jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html>

OK/OM DX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category!
Nov 12, 1200z to Nov 13, 1200z
Rules: <http://okomdx.crk.cz/g.html>

CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW) ... QRP Category
Nov 12, 1300z to 1400z and
Nov 12, 1900z to 2000z and
Nov 13, 0300z to 0400z
Rules: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

Kentucky QSO Party (CW/Ph)
Nov 12, 1400z to Nov 13, 0200z
Rules: <http://www.wkdx.com>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (Straight Key CW) ...
QRP Category
Nov 13, 0000z to 2359z
Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/index-wes.html>

NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint (CW) *** QRP Contest

Nov 14, 1800z to 2000z
Rules: <http://naqcc-eu.org/sprints>

UBA Foxhunt (CW/PSK31/SSB) *** QRP Contest ***
Nov 14, 1930z to 2030z
Rules: <http://www.on5ex.be/foxhunt/foxhunt.html>

80 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Nov 16, 0200z to 0329z
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint *** QRP
CONTEST! ***
EST: Nov 16, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM
UTC: Nov 17, 0130z to 0330z
Rules: <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>

40 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Nov 18, 0200z to 0329z
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

YO International PSK31 Contest (80 Meters) ... 50W
max
Nov 18, 1600z to 2200z
Rules: <http://www.yo5crq.ro/Rules.htm>

LZ DX CONTEST (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category
Nov 19, 1200z to Nov 20, 1200z
Rules: <http://lzdx.bfra.org/rulesen.html>

Feld Hell Club Sprint (Feld Hell) ... QRP Category
Nov 19, 1600z to 1800z
Rules: <http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home>

ARRL Sweepstakes (Phone) ... QRP Category
Nov 19, 2100z to Nov 21, 0259z
Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

NA Collegiate ARC Championship (Phone) .. QRP
Category
Nov 19, 2100z to Nov 21, 0259z
Rules: <http://www.collegiatechampionship.org/rules/>

European PSK Club - PSK63 QSO Party ... 100W.
Max
Nov 20, 0000z to 2359z
Rules: <http://www.eu.srars.org/>

Homebrew& OldTime (HOT) Equipment Party ...
QRP Category
Nov 20, 1300z to 1700z
Rules: <http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/hotr.html>

RUN FOR THE BACON (CW) *** QRP CONTEST

EST: Nov 20, 9 PM to 11 PM
UTC: Nov 21, 0200z to 0400z
Rules: <http://fpqrp.org/>

UBA Foxhunt (CW/PSK31/SSB) *** QRP Contest ***
Nov 21, 1930z to 2030z
Rules: <http://www.on5ex.be/foxhunt/foxhunt.html>

SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards
Nov 23, 0000z to 0200z
Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

80 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Nov 23, 0200z to 0329z
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW) ... QRP Category
Nov 23, 1300z to 1400z and
Nov 23, 1900z to 2000z and
Nov 24, 0300z to 0400z
Rules: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

40 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Nov 25, 0200z to 0329z
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

CQ World Wide DX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category!
Nov 26, 0000z to Nov 27, 2359z
Rules: <http://www.cqww.com/rules.php>

UBA Foxhunt (CW/PSK31/SSB) *** QRP Contest ***
Nov 28, 1930z to 2030z
Rules: <http://www.on5ex.be/foxhunt/foxhunt.html>

80 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Nov 30, 0200z to 0329z
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

QRP ARCI Topband CW& SSB Sprint *** QRP
CONTEST ***
Dec 1, 0000z to 0600z
Rules:
<http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/5267/118/>

40 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest ***

Dec 2, 0200z to 0329z
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

ARRL 160 meter Contest (CW) ... QRP Category
Dec 2, 2200z to Dec 4, 1600z
Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

TARA RTTY M麁馥 ... 150W category
Dec 3, 0000z to 2400z
Rules:
http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Dec 3, 0600z to 0800z
Rules:
<http://qrp.ru/modules/sections/index.php?op=viewarticle&artid=7&page=1>

TOPS Activity 80 Meter Contest (80M CW) ... QRP Category
Dec 3, 1600z to Dec 4, 1759z
Rules:
<http://procwclub.yo6ex.ro/TOP%20OF%20OPERATORS%20ACTIVITY%20CONTEST.pdf>

Adventure Radio Spartan Sprint (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Dec 6, 0200z to 0400z
Rules: http://adventure-radio.org/wiki/index.php?title=Spartan_Sprints

80 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Dec 7, 0200z to 0329z
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

40 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Dec 9, 0200z to 0329z
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

ARRL 10 Meter Contest (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category
Dec 10, 0000z to Dec 11, 2359z
Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW) ... QRP Category
Dec 10, 1300z to 1400z and
Dec 10, 1900z to 2000z and
Dec 11, 0300z to 0400z
Rules: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

UBA Low Band Winter Contest
(CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK) .. QRP Category
Dec 10, 1700z to 2100z and
Dec 11, 0600z to 1000z
Rules: <http://www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules/low-band-winter-contest>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (Straight Key CW) ...
QRP Category
Dec 11, 0000z to 2359z
Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/index-wes.html>

The Great Colorado Snowshoe Run (20M CW) ***
QRP Contest ***
Dec 11, 2100z to 2259z
Rules: <http://www.cqc.org/contests/snow2011.htm>

Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, N0AX(ARRL),
VA3JFF& G4GXL (QRPARCI)
N2APB (AmQRP), WB3AAL (EPAQRP) and others
for assistance in compiling this calendar.

If you wish to subscribe to the Calendar,
send an e-mail to N2CQ@ARRL.Net

Please forward the contest info you sponsor to
N2CQ@ARRL.NET and
we will post it and give it more publicity.
Anyone may use this "N2CQ QRP Contest
Calendar" for your website, newsletter, e-mail list or
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course.)
72 de
Ken Newman - N2CQ

N2CQ QRP Contest Calendar Links:
<http://www.n3epa.org/Pages/Contest/contest.htm>
<http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/6134/130/lang,en/>

Adopt A Highway

On Sunday November 20th we will hold our last
Road Cleanup for 2011. We are not renewing our
participation next year but we would like a good turn
out to finish what we started way back in 1997. In
1998 a picture of our cleanup crew made the pages
of QST



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Thanks to Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, Rod WA1TAC, Larry KB1ESR, John KK1X, Roland NR1G.

ARRL Letter

USA Brings Home Gold at 2011 High Speed Telegraphy World Championships

Back in September 1936, Eugene A. Hubbell, W9ERU, took home the silver trophy at what the October 1936 issue of QST called the first official



Kody Low, K3ODY, Kennan Low, KE3X, and Barry Kutner, W2UP, represented the US at the Ninth High Speed Telegraphy IARU World Championship last month in Bielefeld, Germany. Kutner also took the first-ever gold medal won by a non-European in the pileup competition. [Photo courtesy of Barry Kutner, W2UP]

"Amateur Code Speed Contest." Only making one error, Hubbell won first prize with his winning speed of receiving 52.2 words per minute. Held at the ARRL Central Division Convention that year, the contest required operators to decipher plain language text at two minute intervals that ranged in speed from 25 to 52.7 words per minute. But things

have changed since Hubbell made history. Today, individuals all over the world compete in High Speed Telegraphy (HST) events where they are challenged to correctly receive and copy Morse code transmissions sent at very high speeds, upwards of 300 characters a minute.

According to Barry Kutner, W2UP, HST has long been considered a sport in Europe, especially Eastern Europe, similar to chess or an Olympic sport. This year, Team USA -- consisting of Kutner, Kennan Low, KE3X, and Kody Low, K3ODY - placed 10th at the Ninth High Speed Telegraphy IARU World Championship in Bielefeld, Germany this past October. Kutner won a gold medal -- the first in HST history to a non-European -- in the pileup competition, and a bronze medal in the RUFZ competition.

Record Number of Freshmen Take Tech Exam at California University When 114 freshmen

electrical engineering students at California Polytechnic State University in San



Almost 120 Cal Poly-SLO freshmen electrical engineering students sat for the Technician exam; 96 students passed the test. [Marcel Stieber, AI6MS]

Luis Obispo, California, gathered on Friday, November 4 to take their Technician exam, they made history. Not only was the session one of the largest exam sessions ever, it was the largest exam session sponsored by a college Amateur Radio club *and* the largest exam session ever held in San Luis Obispo County. After all the exams were graded, 96 of the 114 students were brand new licensed amateurs, joining the next generation of radio amateurs in the US. Hosted by the Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club, this exam session broke its previous record of 62 new licensees, set earlier this year in October. These 96 new Amateur Radio operators will join more than 700,000 other hams in the US in providing volunteer and emergency communications support for everything from local bike rides and parades to global disaster relief.

LoTW Processing Update



Log-book of The World ([LoTW](#)) has been managing to hold its own against

the current high volume of incoming logs. An approximate 60 hour processing delay has been maintained for about a week. As of November 9, there are approximately 2.8 million QSOs in the LoTW queue. Many logs are still coming in from the CQ WW and the ARRL Sweepstakes Contests that were held the last two weekends. If you have already uploaded a log, there is no need to upload it again. By doing so, you will only add to the lengthy queue. Also, please do not send entire logs that contain previously uploaded QSOs. Please use the date range option when signing logs. This will allow you to select QSOs from your log within a specific date range. By following these guidelines, this will allow LoTW to process the backlog at a faster pace. The ARRL IT staff has been working diligently to speed up the LoTW processing time and eliminate the backlog. Thanks again for your patience.

Public Service: Amateurs Assist with Communications in Aftermath of Rare October Nor'easter

A rare nor'easter brought historic snowfall and widespread damage and power outages from the Mid-Atlantic into the Northeast United States on the last weekend of October. Up and down the Atlantic seaboard, radio amateurs provided various critical services to the National Weather Service through the SKYWARN weather spotter program, and provided communications support to local, state and federal emergency management and non-governmental organizations.

"Amateur Radio operations at the National Weather Service office in Taunton, Massachusetts were active



Carl Aveni, N1FY, works at the WX1BOX desk at the National Weather Service office in Taunton, Massachusetts. [Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Photo]

on WX1BOX, the office's Amateur Radio station," Rob Macedo, KD1CY, told the ARRL. Macedo serves as the Eastern Massachusetts ARES[®] Section Emergency Coordinator and SKYWARN Coordinator for the NWS Taunton office. "Hams in Taunton were active for 21 hours supporting meteorological and damage data that was shared not only with the NWS, but also with the media and local, state and federal emergency management. This brought critical situational awareness and disaster intelligence information in near-real time with many agencies."

In the ARRL Connecticut Section, Section leaders were conducting their Simulated Emergency Test (SET) when the storm hit. "Because of the storm, we truncated the SET operational period and braced for the unseasonable October snow," explained ARRL Connecticut Section Emergency Coordinator Wayne Gronland, N1CLV. "The planned hurricane/earthquake SET scenario was quickly displaced by a *real* nor'easter! SKYWARN operators across the Section were activated on Saturday afternoon, and nets went late into the evening gathering snow, rain and wind data for the National Weather Service."

ARDF Update: New Mexico Hosts Successful Fox-hunting Championships

Results of the USA's 11th national championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) are in the record books. Members of Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club went all out to provide a top-notch experience for fans of on-foot transmitter hunting, also called radio-orienteering and foxtailing. They came from 10 states and four other nations to see who would win medals by finding transmitters in the forests of central and northern New Mexico. From



After leaving the 2 meter starting point, competitors had to be nimble to get down into the canyon that served as a corridor into the forest. [Joe Moell, K0OV, Photo]

September 14-18, competitors took to the woods with directional antennas and receivers. They navigated not with GPS sets, but with maps and compasses. Their goal was to find all of their required transmitters and to get to the finish line in the shortest elapsed time. For fairness, the organizers didn't disclose the exact sites of the competition in advance. That kept anyone from doing advance reconnaissance in person or via *Google Earth*. Competitors boarded buses on Saturday and Sunday mornings, not knowing where there were going.

2011 Flea Markets/Conventions

02/04/2012 WinterFest 2012 Augusta ME
 02/25/2012 Vermont State Convention, (HAM-CON) South Burlington ME
 08/12/2012 NoBarc Hamfest 2012 Adams MA

Advertisements

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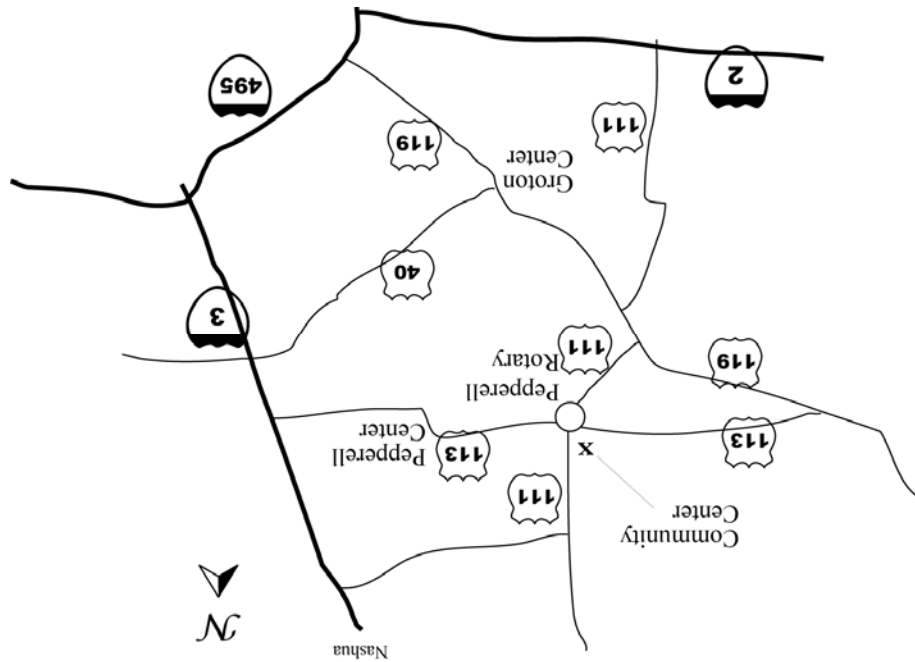
Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

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