



# SIGNAL



de NINC

August 2012 Volume 21 Number 8

## This Month's Meeting

There is no regular meeting in August.

The club cookout will be September 8<sup>th</sup> at Cindy and Larrys.

## September's Meeting

We'll kick off our new program year with two topics, much as we tried to do last year: one short, informal, and local; the other a highlight.

"What Did You Do Over the Summer?" will be answered by NR1G and K1BG. It's been a not-so-idle summer. We'll have a June Field Day wrap-up and pin presentation, a review of the July dry-run for the 2014 World Radiosport Team Competition, and a travelogue of our second annual August mini-DXpedition for International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend.

And the highlight presentation will be Bill Barber, NE1B, speaking on what's going on with the conversion of surplus commercial Digital Mobile Radios for Amateur use. Few, if any, of us have probably heard of this aspect of the hobby. Heck, the last time "surplus" was mentioned it had a "WW-II" attached to it! This is not just another interesting form of D-Star. It's an existing standard with an already large equipment base. Plus, there are local DMR repeaters available and they can be linked worldwide.

Skip K1NKR

## Presidents Corner

August 2012

I have a few non-Amateur interests. (Sure, I'm embarrassed by the admission. Wouldn't you be?) And I spend a certain portion of my life in waiting rooms. So I've been noting how other hobby and

interest groups are addressing their current environment and their future membership.

The environment part is actually scary. Prior to 2001, people with unusual interests or skills were often looked upon as strange, occasionally non-social, and sometimes preoccupied. But they weren't dangers to the community. Events in 2001 changed that. Now anyone who has a skill is suspected of perhaps intending to use that skill for nefarious purposes. Can you program? You might take down the banking system? Are you a radio-control modeler? Your airplane might fall out of the sky and hurt me (or you might intentionally do something damaging). And pity the poor private pilots—even though they are apparently all rich enough to afford a hobby like that—everyone thinks they're flitting around unfettered, buzzing houses, and generally getting in the way of the commercial airliners.

You and I know that little, if any, of this is true. But all hobbyists have seen the world change to one of increased regulation, scrutiny, and insurance bills. And that doesn't even address the restrictive covenants, etc. intended to increase the "beauty, calm, and marketability" of their neighborhoods.

I suspect that the only remedy to this paranoia is an intense public information campaign. Folks need to know what it is in various skill-based hobbies that intrigues us hobbyists? Who are we? And what do we actually have in common with others? People need to re-learn seeing their neighbors as neighbors, not suspects. Knowing them might be a good first step.

The other thing that's bothering hobby-based organizations is membership. The demographic of inquisitive "amateurs" of any type is an aging, shrinking one. We live in a highly active society which is pursuing highly inactive interests. As long as Joe Beerbelly has his TV, six-pack, and pork rinds he's safe from our trying to impose Amateur Radio on him. But what about the Johnnie Gamers and Suzie IPods of all ages? For at least some of them life must be more than mock conquests and virtual relationships.

Many national-level organizations are addressing membership and demographic issues for their respective communities. You may be aware of what the League is doing. Take a look also at websites for the model airplane and model railroad folks, the classic car folks, even fraternal and civic organizations, just to name a few. But it's up to us to inspire others one-on-one by showing evidence of the satisfaction we get out of the hobby.

A column in an old AOPA (general aviation) magazine commented that there are three stages to life: earning, earning, and returning. IMHO, these don't have to be closely related to age. I may be getting older but I haven't grown old—and I hope that's the case with you as well. Whether you're fifteen, thirty-five, or eighty-five, one element of your "Amateur resume" is the number of people you've inspired to enter the hobby. It's a personal thing. Neighbor to neighbor.

Skip K1NKR

### LBC 2012

#### Forth-Annual NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge

The forth-annual NVARC Lantern Battery Challenge is just a few months off. This operating event is scheduled to start as usual after the October club meeting. But this year we are planning some changes that we hope will encourage more members to take part in the activity. Next month we will publish a new set of Operating Parameters detailing exactly what these changes are. But it will involve a smaller battery pack and a shortened activity period. This should also include a reduced entry fee. So if you haven't joined in on the fun, you are running out of excuses. Be sure to watch next months Signal for full details.

73 Bob W1XP

### Last Month's Meeting

There was no July Meeting

### Alzheimer's Memory Ride

On Saturday July 14 the Massachusetts/New Hampshire Alzheimer's Association sponsored the 2012 Memory Ride for Alzheimer's Research. More than 400 cyclists rode in the event and raised over \$360,000 for research into this disease.



Above: Bob AB1CV, Stan KD1LE, Angela Floro cover Net Control [KD1SM photos]

The event has four different course lengths: 100 miles, 62 miles, 30 miles, and 3 miles. Each course is a loop that starts and finishes on Museum Field at Devens. This is the fourth consecutive year that the event has been based at Devens and for each of the four years the organizers have requested radio communications support from the Amateur Radio community.



Above: Bob AB1CV and Stan KD1LE at Net Control

NVARC members Stan KD1LE, Jim N8VIM, Dan KW2T, Gary K1YTS, Ken KB1UVP, Larry KB1ESR, John KK1X, George KB1HFT, Bob AB1CV, and Ralph KD1SM were joined by Ray KB1LRL and Rick AB1PM of MARA, Chris KB1WKI, and Brett AB1RL to provide communications between six pit stops, six roving support vehicles, and Devens. Repeaters owned and maintained by the Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Paul Andrews WB1EWS, and Dave Peabody N1MNX were used to provide coverage across the large area from Sterling to Hollis NH.

Supporting events such as this is one of the reasons the FCC grants the Amateur Radio Service so much spectrum. The radio operators who participate in these events are being public ambassadors for the Amateur Radio Service. Many of the cyclists who participate make the additional effort to stop and thank us for our service.

Memory Ride Event Coordinator Angela Floro writes:

*Thank you so much for everything this past weekend and please send this along to your operators. It's TRULY appreciated what each and everyone of you do, year after year. Memory Ride wouldn't be the same without you.*

*We TRULY appreciate you giving up a Saturday during the summer months to help with this event.*

Warmly,

Angela Floro  
Development Officer, Special Events  
Alzheimer's Association, Massachusetts/New Hampshire Chapter

For more information about the event itself, see the event web site <http://www.alzmass.org/memoryride/>

**Field Day 2012 Summary**

Another Field Day has come and gone. And much to my own disappointment I wasn't able to put the Field Day Summary together in time for last month's newsletter. So here it is. It's all numbers, statistics, and graphs in an attempt to quantify how much fun we had. Hope to see you there next year.

73, Roland NR1G

**Field Day Submission Summary**

Field Day Call Used: N1NC  
GOTA Station Call: K1BG  
Participants: 65  
Operating Class: 3A  
Section: EMA  
Total CW QSOs: 474 = 948 pts.  
Total Digital QSOs: 65 = 130 pts.  
Total Phone QSOs: 768 = 768 pts.  
Power Multiplier: x2

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Claimed QSO Score: = 3,692 pts.

**Field Day Bonus Points**

100% Emergency Power: = 300 pts.  
Media Publicity: = 100 pts.  
Setup in Public Place: = 100 pts.  
Information Booth: = 100 pts.  
NTS Message: = 100 pts.  
W1AW Field Day Message: = 100 pts.  
Formal NTS Messages: = 100 pts.  
Satellite QSO Completed: = 0 pts.  
Natural Power QSOs: = 100 pts.  
Site Visit Elected Official: = 100 pts.  
Site Visit Served Agency: = 0 pts.  
Educational Activity Bonus: = 100 pts.  
Youth Element Achieved: = 100 pts.  
GOTA Bonus: = 200 pts.  
Web Submission: = 50 pts.

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Total Bonus Points Claimed: = 1,550 pts.

Total Points: = 5,242 pts.

**Field Day Log Analysis**

The following tables and graphs are an analysis of our Field Day QSOs by Station, Band, Mode and Time of Day.

CW STATION						
Time	Hour	15M CW	20M CW	40M CW	80M CW	TOTAL
2:00 PM	0		38			38
3:00 PM	1		39			39
4:00 PM	2	2	15			17
5:00 PM	3					
6:00 PM	4					
7:00 PM	5		14			14
8:00 PM	6		18			18
9:00 PM	7		23	7		30
10:00 PM	8		8	9	3	20
11:00 PM	9			16		16
12:00 AM	10			19		19
1:00 AM	11			20	2	22
2:00 AM	12				19	19
3:00 AM	13				28	28
4:00 AM	14				19	19
5:00 AM	15			4	11	15
6:00 AM	16			6		6
7:00 AM	17					
8:00 AM	18			12		12
9:00 AM	19		7	6		13
10:00 AM	20		12			12
11:00 AM	21	5	7			12
12:00 PM	22	5	46	1		52
1:00 PM	23		43			43
TOTAL		12	270	100	82	464
Points		24	540	200	164	928

SSB STATION					
Time	Hour	15M SSB	20M SSB	40M SSB	TOTAL
2:00 PM	0		69		69
3:00 PM	1		55		55
4:00 PM	2		69		69
5:00 PM	3		10		10
6:00 PM	4	6	1		7
7:00 PM	5	14	41		55
8:00 PM	6		42		42
9:00 PM	7		25	10	35
10:00 PM	8			7	7
11:00 PM	9			3	3
12:00 AM	10				
1:00 AM	11				
2:00 AM	12				
3:00 AM	13				
4:00 AM	14				
5:00 AM	15				
6:00 AM	16			12	12
7:00 AM	17			33	33
8:00 AM	18		52		52
9:00 AM	19	3	24		27
10:00 AM	20	12			12
11:00 AM	21	5	28		33
12:00 PM	22	10			10
1:00 PM	23	4			4
TOTAL		54	416	65	535
Points		54	416	65	535

DIGITAL STATION				
Time	Hour	20M SSB	40M SSB	TOTAL
2:00 PM	0	3		3
3:00 PM	1	1		1
4:00 PM	2	3		3
5:00 PM	3	3		3
6:00 PM	4	3		3
7:00 PM	5		6	6
8:00 PM	6		4	4
9:00 PM	7	2	2	4
10:00 PM	8		5	5
11:00 PM	9		4	4
12:00 AM	10		3	3
1:00 AM	11		2	2
2:00 AM	12			
3:00 AM	13			
4:00 AM	14			
5:00 AM	15			
6:00 AM	16		2	2
7:00 AM	17		5	5
8:00 AM	18		4	4
9:00 AM	19			
10:00 AM	20		2	2
11:00 AM	21		3	3
12:00 PM	22	2		2
1:00 PM	23	6		6
TOTAL		23	42	65
Points		46	84	130

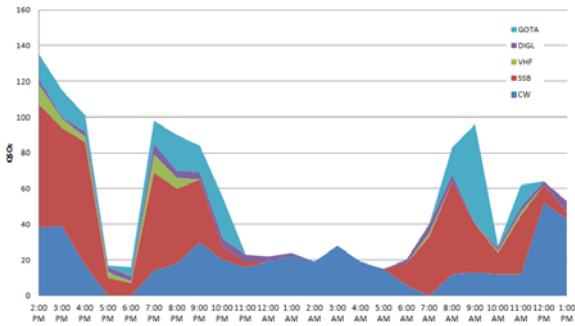
VHF/UHF				
Time	Hour	6M CW	6M SSB	TOTAL
2:00 PM	0		11	11
3:00 PM	1		5	5
4:00 PM	2	3		3
5:00 PM	3	1	2	3
6:00 PM	4		1	1
7:00 PM	5	6	4	10
8:00 PM	6		6	6
9:00 PM	7			
10:00 PM	8			
11:00 PM	9			
12:00 AM	10			
1:00 AM	11			
2:00 AM	12			
3:00 AM	13			
4:00 AM	14			
5:00 AM	15			
6:00 AM	16			
7:00 AM	17		2	2
8:00 AM	18			
9:00 AM	19			
10:00 AM	20		1	1
11:00 AM	21		2	2
12:00 PM	22			
1:00 PM	23			
TOTAL		10	34	44
Points		20	34	54

GOTA STATION						
Time	Hour	10M SSB	15M SSB	20M SSB	40M SSB	TOTAL
2:00 PM	0	3	2		9	14
3:00 PM	1	1	7		7	15
4:00 PM	2	1			8	9
5:00 PM	3				1	1
6:00 PM	4			5		5
7:00 PM	5	1	12			13
8:00 PM	6		20			20
9:00 PM	7		15			15
10:00 PM	8		23			23
11:00 PM	9					
12:00 AM	10					
1:00 AM	11					
2:00 AM	12					
3:00 AM	13					
4:00 AM	14					
5:00 AM	15					
6:00 AM	16					
7:00 AM	17					
8:00 AM	18			15		15
9:00 AM	19		4	52		56
10:00 AM	20		1			1
11:00 AM	21		12			12
12:00 PM	22					
1:00 PM	23					
TOTAL		6	96	72	25	199
Points		6	96	72	25	199

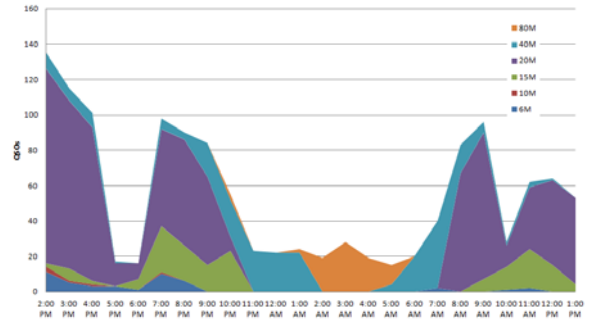
QSOs by STATION						
Time	CW	SSB	VHF	DIPL	GOTA	TOTAL
2:00 PM	38	69	11	3	14	135
3:00 PM	39	55	5	1	15	115
4:00 PM	17	69	3	3	9	101
5:00 PM		10	3	3	1	17
6:00 PM		7	1	3	5	16
7:00 PM	14	55	10	6	13	98
8:00 PM	18	42	6	4	20	90
9:00 PM	30	35		4	15	84
10:00 PM	20	7		5	23	55
11:00 PM	16	3		4		23
12:00 AM	19			3		22
1:00 AM	22			2		24
2:00 AM	19					19
3:00 AM	28					28
4:00 AM	19					19
5:00 AM	15					15
6:00 AM	6	12		2		20
7:00 AM		33	2	5		40
8:00 AM	12	52		4	15	83
9:00 AM	13	27			56	96
10:00 AM	12	12	1	2	1	28
11:00 AM	12	33	2	3	12	62
12:00 PM	52	10		2		64
1:00 PM	43	4		6		53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>1307</b>

QSOs by BAND							
Time	6M	10M	15M	20M	40M	80M	TOTAL
2:00 PM	11	3	2	110	9		135
3:00 PM	5	1	7	95	7		115
4:00 PM	3	1	2	87	8		101
5:00 PM	3			13	1		17
6:00 PM	1		6	9			16
7:00 PM	10	1	26	55	6		98
8:00 PM	6		20	60	4		90
9:00 PM			15	50	19		84
10:00 PM			23	8	21	3	55
11:00 PM					23		23
12:00 AM					22		22
1:00 AM					22	2	24
2:00 AM						19	19
3:00 AM						28	28
4:00 AM					19		19
5:00 AM					4	11	15
6:00 AM					20		20
7:00 AM	2				38		40
8:00 AM				67	16		83
9:00 AM			7	83	6		96
10:00 AM	1		13	12	2		28
11:00 AM	2		22	35	3		62
12:00 PM			15	48	1		64
1:00 PM			4	49			53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1307</b>

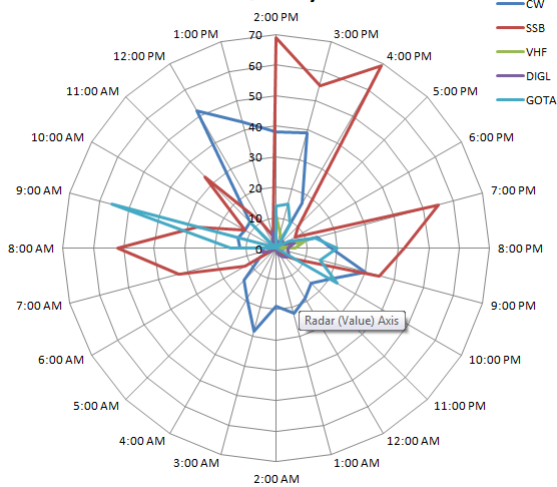
NVARC Field Day 2012 - QSOs by Station



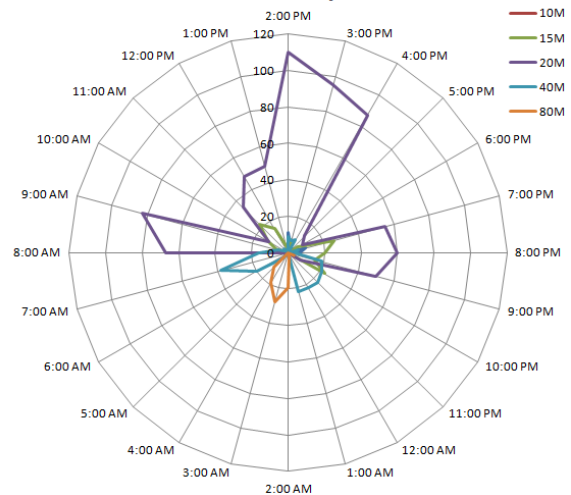
NVARC Field Day 2012 - QSOs by Band



QSOs by Station



QSOs by Band



## DXCC Card Checking

The ARRL's DXCC field checking program originally permitted amateurs that were either interested in applying for a new DXCC award or for an endorsement to have their QSL cards checked locally instead of having to send them to the ARRL. In recent years this program has been expanded to also include the WAS, WAC, and VUCC award programs. And just this past March it was further enhanced to also include 160m contacts (if the field checker has a 160m DXCC award) as well as all current and deleted entities dating back to November 15, 1945.

There are almost 200 volunteer card checkers around the world with about 75% of them residing in the US. When Ann WA1S moved from Milford, NH to GA a couple of years ago the nearest card checker became more than 60 miles away. This spring I started to investigate how to become a card checker and was eventually nominated by our New England Division Director, Tom Frenaye K1KI. And as of July 24<sup>th</sup>, I am now the ARRL's newest DXCC card checker. I hope now that we have a local card checker again that this encourages those who have been thinking about applying for a DXCC, WAS, WAC, or VUCC award or endorsement to do so.

With so many awards and endorsements that can be field checked now there isn't enough room here to go into the details about every one of them. So I encourage you to visit the ARRL's awards webpage [www.arrl.org/awards](http://www.arrl.org/awards) for more information. In general the process to submit a field checked application is similar to the traditional one. You will need to fill out all the paperwork, provide the properly sorted QSL cards, appropriate awards fees, and a properly addressed and stamped envelope. The difference is we meet somewhere I check your cards, you get them back and then I sign and submit the application to the ARRL. Having cards field checked eliminates the possibility of your cards being lost in the mail and saves you money in the shipping and handling fees.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me either via e-mail at [n1sv@comcast.net](mailto:n1sv@comcast.net) or via phone at 978-877-9947. And while I may not be able to answer all your questions, I do know people that can.

Les, N1SV

## A Giveback Opportunity

Since 2001 we have used the Heald St Orchard conservation land for our Field Days. Through our efforts of cleaning up before our use, following all their requirements, and leaving it like we found it, less the mowed grass we have established an excellent relationship with the Pepperell Conservation Commission (PCC). We don't think much about it now but by the rules the gate is supposed to be locked at all times. In the early years we did that and not everyone drove in which was less convenient and was less inviting to visitors. We also mowed ourselves with regular mowers or members lawn tractors. For many years now Rob Rand of the PCC has done the bulk of the mowing for us and the rules have been relaxed as far as access.

This relationship has also benefited WRTC. The orchard and other conservation land in Pepperell being the first, and probably the easiest sell for WRTC 2014. It also benefited us when setting up for the WRTC test this year when we found, due to the requirement the tower be aligned north-south we did not have clearance from the trees to put the antenna on the tower. Rob had been visiting to see how things were going (he has also come to Field Day and Field Day dinner). When I pointed out our problem he volunteered to go home and get his chain saw and cut down the trees we needed removed. I suspect Tom Frenaye K1KI (who is also the ARRL NE Division Director) and other members of the WRTC leadership team who were present because of other issues were impressed that he would cut down the trees for us.

Over the years I have cut Poison Ivy around the Field Day site and trimmed some branches for access. More recently I have been working with the PCC trail maintenance people and Rob to open up some of the walking paths. This fall we are going to try to finish up work on the trail that parallels Heald St from the repeater site to the gate where we go in for Field Day.

They will be scheduling a morning, possibly in September, to finish that work. This is targeted at a specific task and is not a commitment to anything else. So if you are interested in giving a couple of hours back for all that we have benefited let me know and I will contact you when the time comes.

Stan KD1LE

## WRTC 2012 Update



In preparation for the World Radio Team Championships scheduled for July 12 and 13, 2014, testing of potential station locations took place during the IARU World Championship contest on July 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> this year. As you may or may not be aware, Pepperell's Heald Street Orchard (home to our annual Field Day site) is being considered for one or several station locations for WRTC.

A "Beam Team" whose responsibility is to set up a 40 ft tower with a multiband beam and dipoles was put together consisting of NVARC members. Team participants this year included me, KD1LE, W1XP, W1LTN, K1NKR, NW1U, and KK1X.

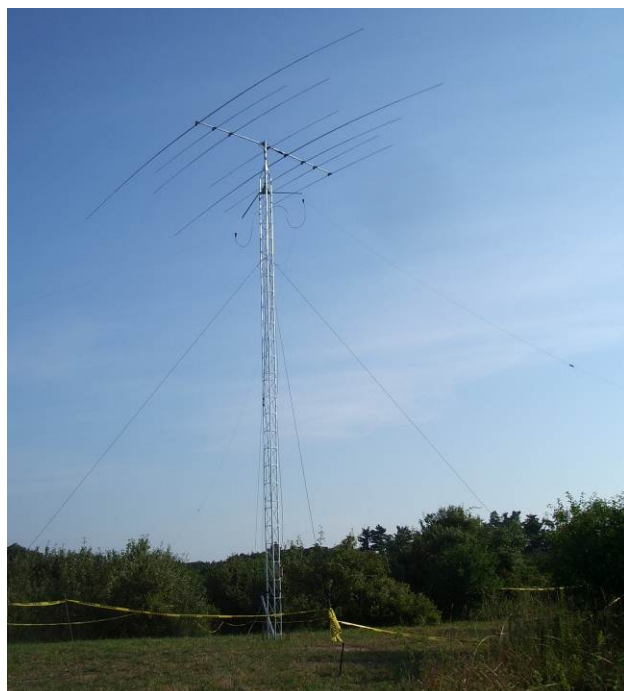


KD1LE and I picked up all the bits and pieces around 9:30 AM on Friday, and setup commenced at approximately 11 AM. Stan's trailer made this part really easy, and the guys at the storage facility were most complimentary of Stan's setup. Temperatures during the day were in excess of 90 degrees, and I can honestly say that the biggest challenge we had all day was dealing with the heat. But besides this, difficulty in getting tower sections to align and a missing part to the beam were only a few of the

problems that the team experienced during the day. But nothing (in my opinion) was worse than the heat! The final touches were put on the setup at approximately 6PM, which was a lot longer than we expected.



Sandor, NB1N headed up the site team (whose responsibility is to set up the tents, generators, and keep an eye on the site over the weekend), and Eliot, W1MJ headed up the operating team. A special thanks needs to go out to Sandor – He arrived early and helped set up the tower with the rest of us. Operators that participated were W1MK, K9HI, K1IB, NB1N, and club member Les, N1SV (who, BTW, was the captain of another beam team that set up at Twin Valley Farm in Pepperell). The operating team had a claimed score of 1,012,254 points, which put the station in the middle of the pack for the 14 WRTC test stations that participated.



Takedown was Sunday morning. My understanding is that it went quickly and without incident (I was in San Diego! Again, my apologies to the team...). We will test again next year, and our beam team is expected to raise 2 or 3 antennas next year (we'll see!). In the meantime, I'm open to any additional volunteers to help out, and with additional stations there will be additional opportunities to operate. I'll make everyone aware of plans as the time gets near.

For anyone interested, there will be a presentation at the upcoming Boxboro Hamvention on the results – particularly site performance. Keep an eye on the YCCC meeting agenda for more info.

Thanks again to everyone who helped out, and thanks to everyone who is committed to making WRTC2014 a success.

Bruce K1BG

### Treasurers Report

Income for July was \$20 from membership fees and \$6.05 in savings interest. Expenses were \$18 for newsletter postage leaving a net income for July of \$8.05.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,722.99
Community fund	\$4,286.41

As of 22 August we have 37 members who are current with their dues and 33 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

### 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 discussions have been Equipment damaged by lightning, Slow speed CW net, antenna work, operating JT65, WRTC, Flying, and helping others get on the air.

Recent Check in's;

N8VIM Jim NCS, K1NKR Skip, KD1LE Stan, KB1HFT George, NR1G, Roland, W1LTN Dick, K1YTS Gary, KB1ESR Larry W1XP Bob, KB1WKI Chris and N1SV Les.

### PSLIST

See [www.n1nc.org/Events](http://www.n1nc.org/Events) for the latest information

### Board Meeting

There was no August Board meeting.

### 2011 Flea Markets/Conventions

August  
24-26 ARRL NE Convention (Boxborough)  
September  
9 Western CT Hamfest, Newtown CT  
15 76 Fleamarket and Auction, Slatersville RI  
16 MIT  
29 White Mt. ARC Hamfest, Center Conway NH  
October  
21 MIT

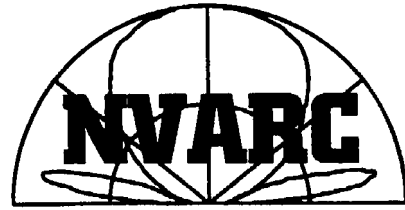
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**Nashoba Valley  
Amateur Radio Club**

PO Box # 900  
Pepperell Mass 01463-0900

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

President: Skip Youngberg K1NKR  
Vice President: Larry Swezey KB1ESR  
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X  
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

**Board Members:**

Bob Reif: W1XP 2010-2013  
Roland Guilmet NR1G 2011-2014  
Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2012-2015

Editor: Stan Pozerski KD1LE

Emergency Coordinator: Larry Swezey KB1ESR

Photographer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

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

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