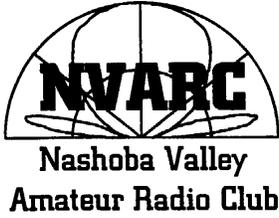


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de NINC

February 2013 Volume 22 Number 02

This Month's Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Thursday February 21st at 7:30 at the Pepperell Community Center.

This Month's Program

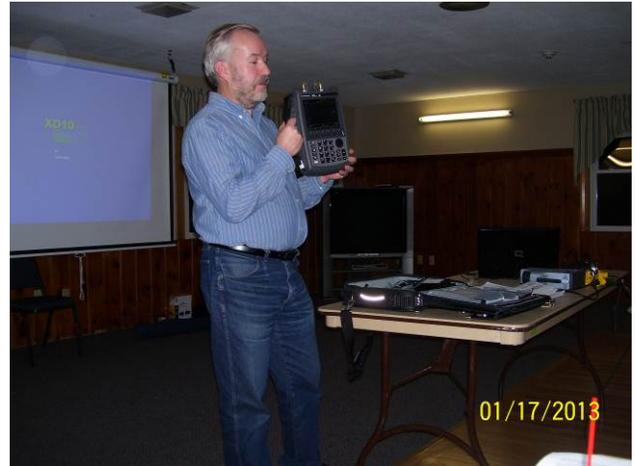
Have you been looking around to learn about something really out of the ordinary in Amateur Radio? Earlier this Fall Dave, W1SZ, and Jeff, WA1HCO, decided to try their hands at the ARRL EME (moonbounce) Contest. They assembled a station at Dave's house, got on the air, made contacts, and now have a lot of "golly gee whizzes" to tell us about. We expect their talk will be peppered with pictures, videos, audio clips, and even some equipment show-and-tells.

As a secondary program, Skip will have a quick review of his recent visit to the Makelt Labs in Nashua. Makelt is a community space that provides tools and work space on a membership or pay as you go basis. Want a tutorial and the ability to use a CNC plasma cutter or a 3D printer? They're the place to go to.

And did we forget the "wires that make wireless work" segment of last month's program? No fear. Bring in a photo this month. We'll share the best and the worst of the rats nests in our shacks. Just remind Skip or he'll forget again.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting program was Members Short Subjects



Presentation on a portable Spectrum Analyzer



Leo K1LK described the process he used to letter the front panel of the receiver he showed at the December meeting.

The President's Corner

de Skip, K1NKR

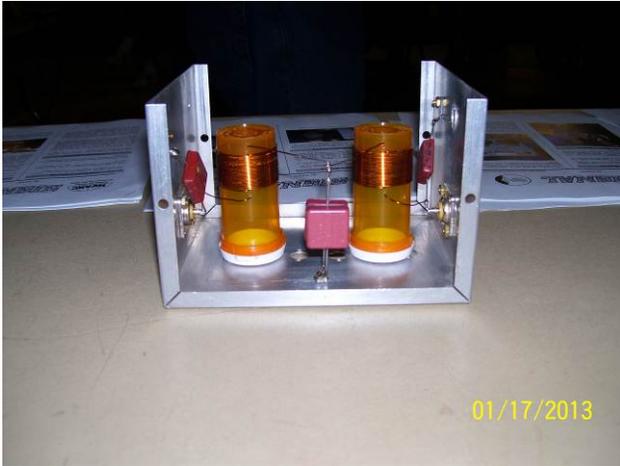
Do you read QST cover to cover? Really? Did it slip by you or did you catch the line in Dave Sumner's February QST editorial? To quote K1ZZ, "Today it is not an idle boast to say that the largest body of practical knowledge about ionospheric radio propagation resides in the Amateur Radio Service." Dave's words may have been a subtle lead-in to Eric P. Nichols' (KL7AJ) article "Amateur Radio Science" later in the issue. Nichols recommends that we Amateurs participate in and contribute to ionospheric research and maybe even offer our services to the science community. "There aren't enough physicists or labs to do this sort of science properly," he writes.

We Amateurs really do have a lot of practical ionospheric propagation knowledge. Which are the best bands for working out a couple of hundred miles in the evening? You knew that without thinking, right? Is winter or summer better for 160 meter operating? How is it that twenty holds on when the higher bands are collapsing? Ever followed the grey line around the world, working DX stations in different longitudes as the day progressed?

And while you might quote F10.7 values or A and K indexes to impress the guys at breakfast, you really bagged that rare one because your experience told you what to do—not because you were following and obeying the numbers. Notwithstanding the A's you got in "colledge" you've come to rely on experiential knowledge, not just intellectual knowledge.

I "know" all about it. Or do I? Thanks to magazines, movies, TV, and the Internet people can know what it's like to be at the top of Mount Everest. Or to scuba dive. Or to fly an airplane. But ask anyone who's done any of these things: if you haven't done it you just haven't done it. Dr David Ballard, the first to explore wreck of the Titanic, brought "telepresence" to the educational the world. Not everyone can "be" there, but everyone can "see" there, was the gist of his argument. (True, but I've never forgiven him for it. It separates the "lucky first-hand explorers" from the "mere second-hand observers." My problem, not his.) Ask any soldier. Boots-on-the-ground experience provides a whole lot different situational awareness than the knowledge a staff officer has—even if the staff officer has a host of expensive sensors providing him a more global view.

But K1ZZ's editorial concentration was on the possibility of access soon to bands in a part of the



Bob W1XP showed a filter with coils wound on pill containers



Bruce K1BG described the process for getting Ham license plates.



Rod WA1TAC recorded in detail the building of an Elecraft radio.

spectrum that we've not had access to for a century. Are you ready for these new LF and MF allocations? Is there even enough wire around to build those long antennas? Maybe, maybe not. But we Amateurs are a resourceful lot. We've loaded up some really odd items to make QSOs—flag poles, bedsprings, wet strings, pickles, hot dogs. And we're accumulating a lot of data to record the details of our experiences. There are already half a **billion** QSOs in Logbook of the World. QSOs that span from DC to daylight.

No question: we shall continue to contribute to the radio art. That's part of the charter the FCC gave us. Eureka's don't have to be earth-shattering to be earth-shattering. All the little ones add up. We're a step ahead by already knowing more about propagation in the ionosphere than anyone else. We've been there. Boots on the ground. For a century.

Radio Programming

Over the years we have built a matrix of frequencies commonly used by members. These include not only local frequencies but those used for a variety of public service events such as the Boston Marathon as identified by members that participated. I personally have the frequency matrix and programming cables for the Yaesu FT-8900 and Yaesu VX7R.

If anyone has a similar set up for a different model radio and would be willing to do the same please let me know so we can announce in the newsletter before the scheduled meeting which radios we are prepared to program. If you have the software and hardware (cable) for a radio but no frequency matrix I can export the data set I have in a spreadsheet for you to try to import into your software.

If there is interest we can schedule a programming session for before and after a regular meeting.

Stan KD1LE

Welcome to February



Treasurers Report

Income for January was \$75 in membership renewals, \$2 from ARRL membership renewals, and \$54 from the book raffle. Expenses were \$18.40 for newsletter postage and \$147.80 for books for the monthly raffle leaving a net income for January of \$112.60.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,858.04
Community fund	\$4,636.41

As of 13 February we have 44 members who are current with their dues and 26 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

February Board Meeting

Skip, Larry, John, Rod

Nothing on the calendar

March meeting at Library

Skip arranged February meeting speakers

Lantern Battery challenge wrapup in March

April is Les getting ready for 6m DX, elections

Talk & secondary talk arranged for May

Need a talk for June

Rod reports Constitution study will be ready for
March

No public service events coming along

John Griswold KK1X

This space could have held your article.



**Nashoba Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

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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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corrections and inquiries should be directed to the
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