

SIGNAL



de N1NC

November 2015 Volume 24 Number 11

The President's Corner

Good Day Folks!

The November speaker is Justin Hughes, JK1H. Justin will talk about the use of ham radio in "performance rally" events. The rally events are auto driving challenges over predetermined courses with drivers and crews competing against each other. Communication between the drivers and crews is critical and ham radio has come into use to effect communications.

Thursday, November 12th is the next Technical Night, to be held at the Community Center beginning at 7:30 pm. The event is held in the basement and generally runs to about 9:30 pm or thereabouts. Subject discussions are ad hoc and also encourage questions from the participants to the group that an individual desires help with. Subjects to be discussed at an upcoming meeting are welcome, as are kit / building project suggestions. Test equipment that can be brought to the meeting is also welcome and appropriate.

At the regular club meeting night, Thursday November 19th, I will be adding a request to the introduction at the beginning of the meeting to have each member, when he introduces himself with name, call, QTH, to include a sentence or two about a primary interest he has regarding their activities – such as, "Peter, N1ZRG, Pepperell, interest is Elecraft software defined radios, KX3 Rx / =Tx, PX3 Pan Adapter and KPA 100 amplifier ". The notion is to share capabilities and interests so that others may increase their knowledge and where, perhaps, to find a mentor / elmer.

Enjoy our activities and see you at our meetings.

Peter N1ZRG

This Month's Program

The November speaker is Justin Hughes JK1H. Justin will speak about the use of ham radio at performance rally events. These events have race cars flying down closed gravel roads through the woods. In addition to the usual event logistic communications many competitors also use ham radio for their own race car to service crew communications. The most unusual part is that many people who are already involved with rally end up getting their ham licenses just for rally work, and some find their way to other parts of the hobby as well.

See <http://www.rightfootdown.com/event-coverage/yes-the-ford-mustang-will-rally/> for an example.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month we again performed the presort for the W1QSL Bureau.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Jean K1AVM and Dennis K1LGQ hard at work, and having fun, sorting through the piles of QSL cards.

We have been sorting QSL cards once a year for the W1QSL Bureau since 2000. That is a great record and service to region one hams who depend on the Incoming QSL Bureau to deliver their incoming cards..



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Mack Wallace and Skip K1NKR sorting on one side of the NVARC Sorting Box.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Rod WA1TAC sorting into one side of the box. The one challenge the boxes have is the alphabet is forward on one side and reverse order on the other side.

Once the presort is complete the cards have been sorted to the first character after the region number (1). Then they are forwarded to the "letter" sorters who sort the cards down to the individual station call sign.

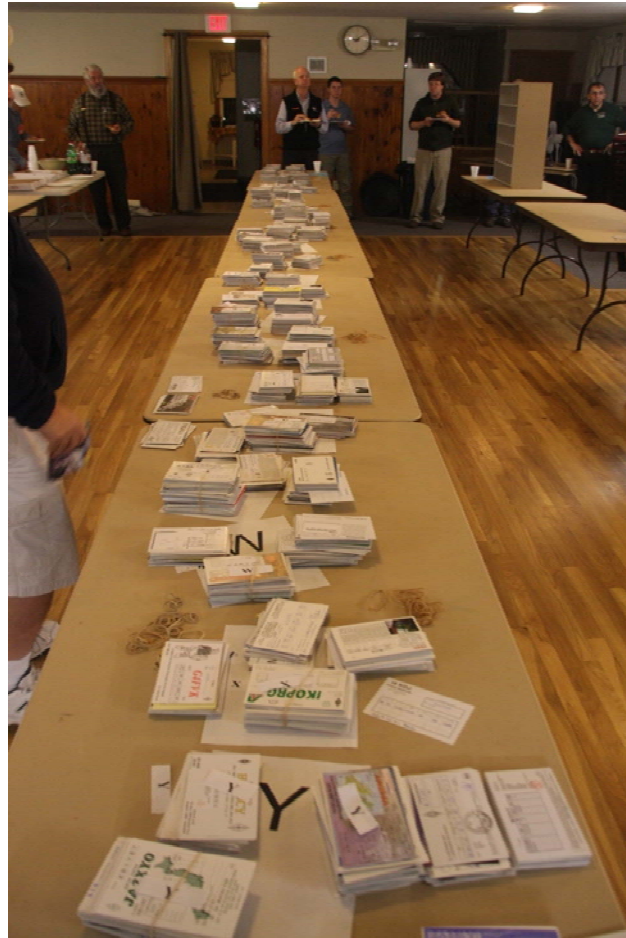


Photo Courtesy KD1SM

After the cards are sorted they are accumulated by letter A-Z in the center area.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

At this point the participants can look through the pile that would contain their cards.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Chuck WA1RCH (L), Bruce K1BG with a card for his station, Dennis K1LGQ, Connor



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Center right Eric KV1J from the W1QSL Incoming Bureau managing the consolidation of cards during the sort.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Ed N1YFK busy sorting cards

We sorted 15-18,000 cards each year for the past 15 years which is a great service to the Ham community.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

John KK1X working through his hand full of cards.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Stan KD1LE sorting into the sorting box.

Club members built the sorting boxes over several years as the popularity of the card sort was demonstrated by the great attendance at the meetings.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Eric KV1J with the boxes of cards after the sort. There a 3000 to 3500 cards per box.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Les N1SV checking the collected cards for proper orientation and sort.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

And of course after the sort there was pizza, drinks and .lots of radio talk.

In Attendance:

Jim AB1WQ, Bill AB1XB, Jean K1AVM, Bruce K1BG, John K1JEB, Dennis K1LGQ, Leo K1LK, Skip K1NKR, Bill K1NS, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Eric KV1J, Dan KW2T, Tony KX1G, Ed N1YFK, Peter N1ZRG, Bob W1XP, Chuck WA1RCH, Rod WA1TAC

Tech Night

No report from last Tech Night

LiL PuP

The June 1997 issue of QST featured an article on emergency power called The 12 Volt Pup. Being interested in emergency preparedness and thinking of powering the repeater system in an emergency I built my low tech version of the Pup.

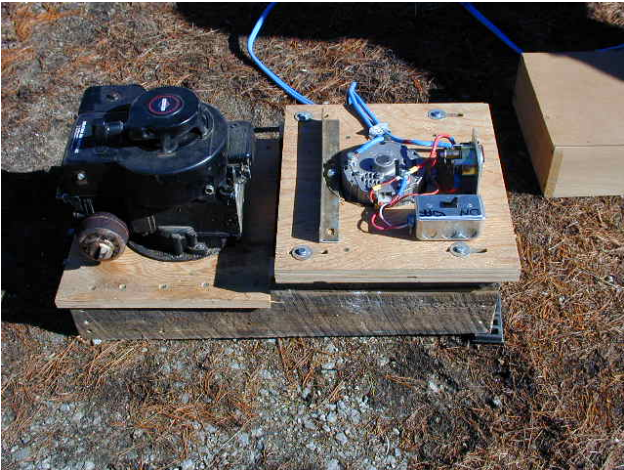


Photo Courtesy KD1SM

The Pup was based on a car alternator and a salvaged vertical shaft lawnmower motor.



Photo Courtesy KD1SM

Bob W1XP and Stan KD1LE monitoring the running first generation Pup.

While the system worked the engine was really too tired and small to properly power the alternator. It could only crank out 25 or 30 amps of 12 volt DC current. The wooden construction was easy but left something to be desired. But it would work and was a possible source of power for running our repeaters

and charging the repeater batteries. We have had to do this in the past when power was lost at the repeater site for a week due to an ice storm.

Over the years the Pup has been improved (completely redone) resulting in a new pup. The engine was upgraded to an electric/recoil start snow blower engine of twice the power. The base replaced by an aluminum plate and the entire system made more portable on a cart.

With winter coming and triggered by an emergency exercise I participated in recently I checked out and ran my regular 110/220 volt generator. But the Lil Pup was sitting in the corner not having been used for many years. So after checking the fluids and pulling it outside I was pleased to find it started right up and charged an attached battery at 45-50 amps. In the improved version the alternator puts out 55-60 amps and will automatically charge an attached battery.



Photo Courtesy KD1LE

The Pup in its current form with the engine on the left, the alternator under the wire tray and the amp meter, volt meter and protection fuses in the box at the right (cover removed).



Photo Courtesy KD1LE

Attached jumper cables are to connect to a battery or batteries to be charged. It can connect to external terminals at the repeaters and run the repeaters while charging the batteries.

November Board Meeting Notes

Board meeting 11/5/2015

Attending : Ed N1YFK, Bob W1XP, Peter N1ZRG, Rod WA1TAC, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X
Jim N8VIM in Germany

Justin Hughes KJ1H confirmed speaker for November

December is Home Brew Night

January is Short Subjects

Introductions should include interests and expertise remarks from members

John KK1X

Meeting Coffee Bar

Many thanks to Ken KB1UVP for picking up the coffee "bar" at the meetings. There's been an incremental increase in socializing, and that's what we meet for.

Don't forget to leave a donation if you partake.

NVARC Club Net

The NVARC Club Net meet's every Monday evening at 8 PM on the 442.900 Pepperell repeater. Stop in and bring your input and questions. Recent nets have been run by George KB1HFT/NCS. At-

tendees; Stan KD1LE, Skip K1NKR, Larry W1ESR, Leo K1LK, Jim N8VIM, Bob W1XP, Peter N1ZRG Dan K1RAU.

November Treasurers Report

Income for October was \$75 from Club membership dues. Expenses were \$65.68 for the October meeting refreshments and \$19.60 for postage leaving a net expense of \$10.28.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,248.21
Community fund	\$4,636.41

As of 5 November we have 46 members who are current with their dues and 17 renewals outstanding. Thank you to those of you who 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.

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

Flea Markets/Hamfests

October

16 NEAR-Fest Deerfield NH

18 Connecticut State Convention Meriden CT

18 Flea at MIT

November

14 FARAFest Bourne MA

February

27 Vermont State Convention

March

19 Amateur Radio Fleamarket Dayville CT

20 Southington ARA Fleamarket CT

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Upcoming Contests

November

7-9 November Sweeps CW
21-23 November Sweeps Phone
28 CQ WW DX Contest CW
28-29 EME 50-1296 MHz

December

4-6 160 Meter
12-13 10 Meter
20 Rookie Roundup CW
26 Stew Perry Topband Challenge

January

1 Straight Key Nighty
2-3 RTTY Roundup
3 Kids Day
30-1 January VHF

February

8-12 School Club Roundup
20-21 International DX CW

March

5-6 International DX Phone
April

17 Rookie Roundup Phone



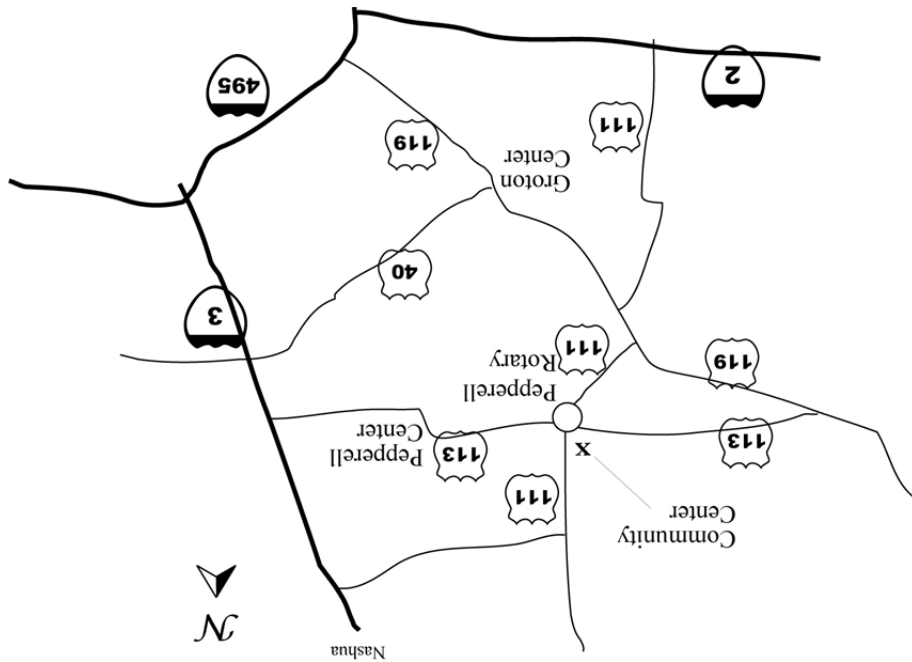
Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

President: Peter Nordberg N1ZRG
Vice President: Jim Hein N8VIM
Secretary: John Griswold KK1X
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM
Board Members:
Rod Hersh WA1TAC 2012-2015
Bob Reif: W1XP 2013-2016
Ed Snapp N1YFK 2014-2017

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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
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