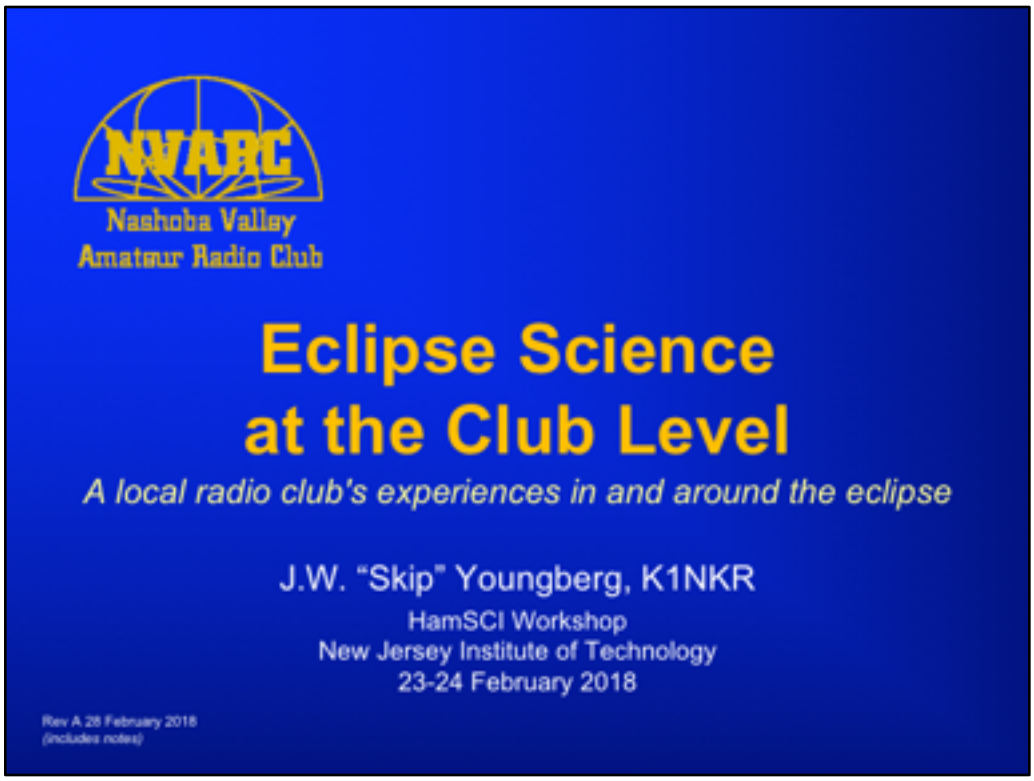


Following the announcement of HamSCI activities for the 2017 solar eclipse, the Nashoba Valley Radio Club (NVARC) undertook a significant effort to participate. The experience was positive for the club and—we hope—contributed to the overall science effort. This presentation reviews various aspects of the club's participation and notes lessons for future HamSCI activities.

Author's biography. *J.W. "Skip" Youngberg, K1NKR, of Tyngsboro MA, has been licensed since 1960. Although primarily a VHF/UHF/SHF operator, he has dabbled in many areas of the hobby. Now retired, he spent his US Air Force and civilian careers developing systems for communications, navigation, intelligence and electronic warfare. Skip can be reached at K1NKR@arrl.net.*

As a bit of introduction, NVARC, the Nashoba Valley amateur Radio Club is "just your typical club—medium sized and serving a local population.

Notes:
There are 149 ARRL affiliated clubs in the New England Division;
38 in Eastern Massachusetts;
10 in Western Massachusetts;
16 in New Hampshire.

The club intentionally stays away from being "a contest club," "a repeater club," a "public service club," or a "science club." It seeks to serve all members of the local Radio Amateur community.

Satisfying a multi-interest club can be challenging (often prompting the "how do we light a fire under a wet blanket" conversation). We've learned that any activity which involves 10% or more of the club is a success.

Notes:

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend. Three years (1999-1999), 4-6 participants. Three-plus hour ride, plus overnight accommodations in a high-cost vacation area.

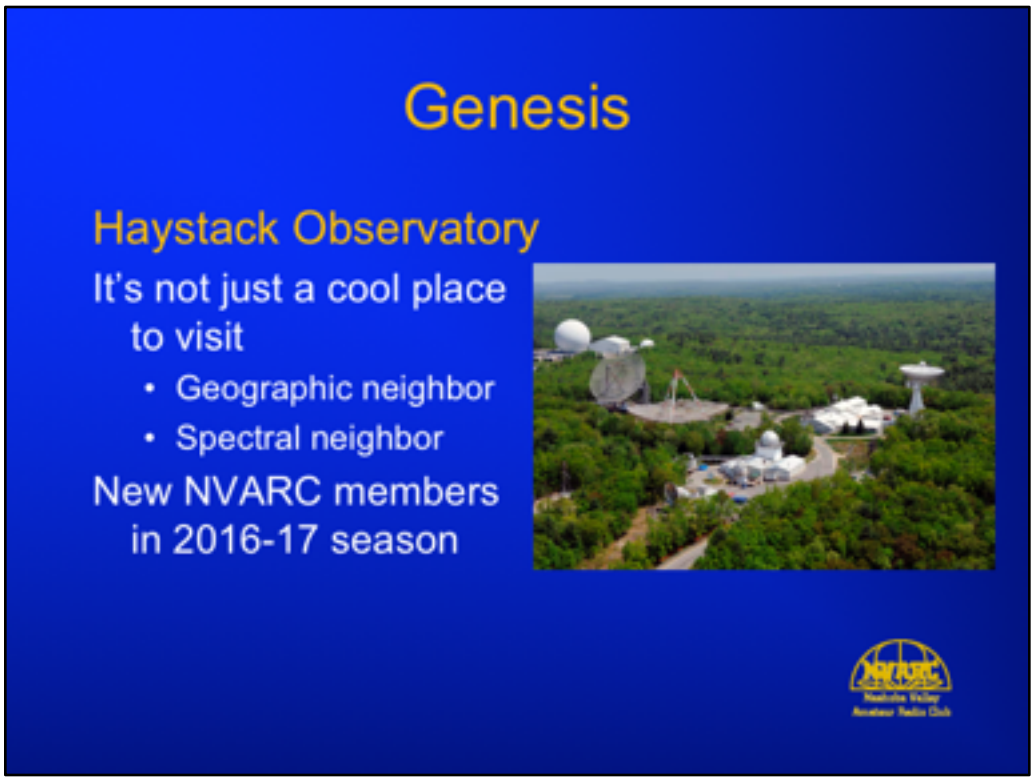
TDOTA. Three years so far (2015-2018+), 6 participants. Immense publiciity.

Tech Night. Three years (2012-2016), 6-10 participants. Activity/Elmering sessions. Copied (to satisfy other goals) by other local clubs.

Groton Road Race. Principal source of inter-town police/EMT communications. Many years (1993-2017+), 20-30 participants. High-interest public service activity with guest clubs.

Lantern Battery Challenge. (How many QSOs can you make with one 12-volt "lantern battery" stack?) Three years (2014-2017), 6-8 participants. Operating event with ceremony.

W1 QSL Sort. Many years (1999-2017+), 20-30 participants. High-interest service meeting with guest clubs.



We live in the shadow of the MIT Haystack Observatory. We also coexist with its 440MHz and L-band emissions. Until recently though, it was just the place for an irregularly occasional visit.

In 2016, Phil Erickson, W1PJE, and his colleague Will Rogers, KD4FOV, came to a meeting and joined NVARC.

Haystack's New Outreach

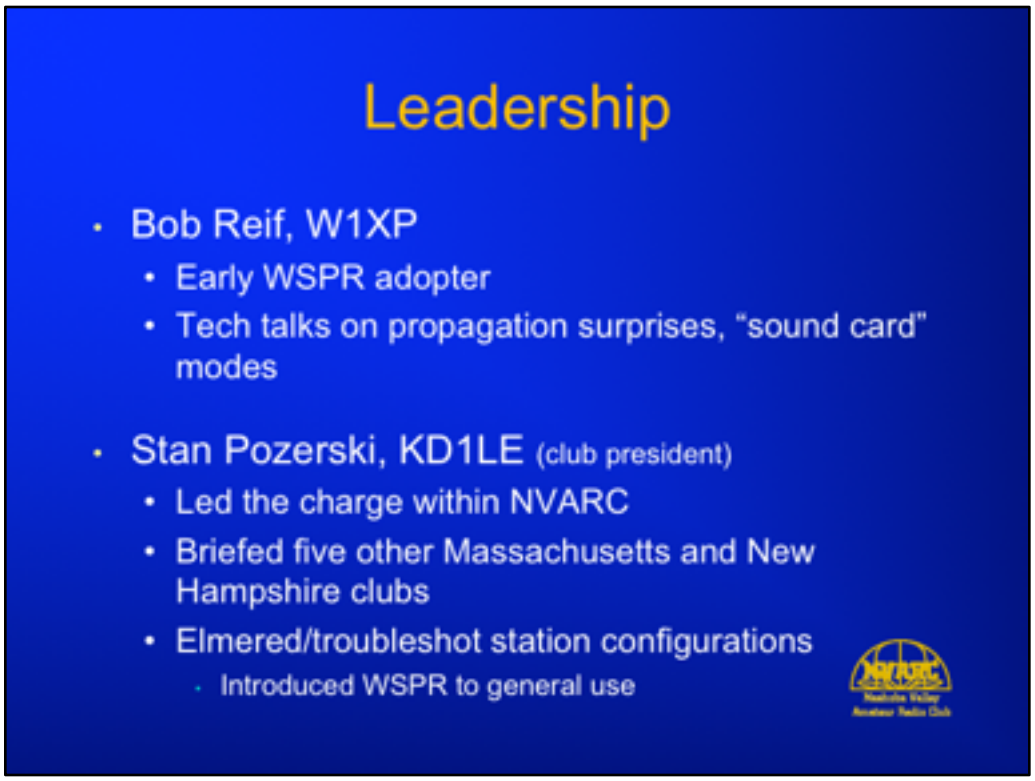
Pepperell MA, 20 April 2017. The Nashoba Valley ARC (NVARC) was hosted for its April meeting by member Dr Phil Erickson, W1PJE, at the MIT Haystack Observatory. Highlights of the meeting included a talk on E-skip by club member Joe Dzekevich, K1YOW, discussions with the Haystack staff and 25 visiting students from the University of Pennsylvania, and a tour of the Haystack radiotelescope.

Also at the meeting Dr Erickson and Stan Pozerski, KD1LE, announced a new cooperative arrangement between NVARC and Haystack which will encompass (among other things yet to be proposed) mutual outreach to youth, the possibility of joint EME activities, and the conduct of "HamSCI" experiments.

So, what did NVARC do in association with the eclipse?

SEQP/Eclipse Schedule

- Initiation — April
- Talk-up — June club meeting
  (and at other clubs in June and July)
- Preparation — months of June, July, August
- Activity — 21 August
- Breather — zzzzz…



Bob, W1XP, had discovered the utility of WSPR some time in the past and talked it up among the club. There was a little interest, but no real movement.

When he heard of the HamSCI eclipse activity, Stan, KD1LE, started an in-club activity to participate—hoping to satisfy the 10% rule.

Note:
NVARC, Billerica (MA) ARS, PART of Westford (MA), Contoocook (NH) Valley RC, Granite State (NH) ARA

On 21 August we had members deployed at various sites in the eastern US. Most, admittedly, were at or near home. But some had the opportunity to travel, either prompted by the eclipse itself or just conveniently to visit relatives.

All in all, we had 15 participants activating more than 20 stations in 16 separate locations, and/or observing, and/or operating in the SEQP.

We beat 10-percent.

Results

- Activity, excitement
- New indigenous capabilities and skills
- Reports

The reason for this talk is to provide feedback to research sponsors who might be considering other HamSCI campaigns.

Observations *(cont.)*

- Feedback from sponsors
  - Needs to be more active.
- Duration, longevity *(a personal prediction)*
  - Without feedback - once and over
    maybe even negative critique
  - With feedback - maybe three years

Contact

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  - NVARC_Board@N1NC.org