



Established: 1964

North Shore Radio Association News



member

SPRING 2007—MOVE SUPPLEMENT
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www.nsradio.org
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Meetings: Third Monday of the Month (September to June) at 7:30 P.M, at the South Congregational Church, 60 Prospect Street, Peabody, MA (talk-in 145.470/R)
Weekly club NET: Sundays at 20:30 (8:30 P.M.) on the 145.470MHz PL of 136.5 Danvers Repeater

CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(all emails:
Callsign@nsradio.org)

President:
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Club Trustee:
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N1UEC

In honor of the repeater move to it's new home in Danvers, we are dedicating this supplement to the move!

THE NORTH SHORE RADIO ASSOCIATION REPEATER MOVE...

The North Shore Radio Association has had a repeater installed in Danvers on the water tank at the old state hospital since well before I became a ham. In recent years I have become the proud custodian and trustee of the equipment and the site. We have had many discussions with the wireless carrier and the public safety folks regarding the trials and tribulations at the site. This article will detail some of the latest developments regarding the relocation from the water tank to the new Monopole during the transfer of the property from the state to Avalon bay communities.

When word of the pending sale of the state property went from myth and lore to fact, we started to negotiate with the wireless company and the new site owners regarding the space for the transmitters on the hill. We knew, as hams, we were going to have to work long and hard to keep any infrastructure on the hill. We dug through the archives and located the earliest contracts we could find that were signed by members of the club and the site. We uncovered early letters from the technical committee to the speaker of the house dating back to 1985, and an eventual agreement signed with then, Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, Inc. DBA Cellular One on 12/31/1991. Armed with this information and the support letters from MEMA, National Weather, and Civil Defense, as well as support from the Danvers Police and Fire Departments, we went to the planning meetings.

We also had heard rumors of the pending sale of the infrastructure at Hunt hospital and did not want to lose all of our presence in the area. We made sure that we requested the entire infrastructure we believed we would need for the foreseeable future and expecting to be shot down and cut back, wished for the moon.

Our previous infrastructure included 2 antennae, one for 145.47 and one for 442.800. We asked for 5 placements on the new monopole, including a request for 145.47 on the top of the tower. Well, we got what we asked, for! OY! Now we had to finance the infrastructure for 4 repeaters and a packet node on the hill! This would include NEW antennae, new hard line, new polyphasers, etc.

In This issue...

- New Meeting night
- Repeater Move
- New members
- Great To Write
- Amateur Radio Exams
- NSRA Event Tee Shirts
- ARES/Skywarn Updates
- Out and About with AI
- NearFest
- NSRA Repeaters
- ...and much more



We began the fundraising and begging not knowing how long it would take for the permits to be granted, knowing fully, that the wireless provider would want to move at lightning speed once the permits were granted. We passed the hat around, sent out newsletters, and generally begged the membership for the outstanding support we believed we could count on.

The club did not disappoint us. We came through with more money than we thought we could, in a shorter time than we believed possible. We had the antennae and the cable ready in about 3 months. It's a shame that the regulatory agencies took more than a year to get it together!

Now, here we are, almost 18 months later, and we are finally on the air from the new location. We are still in the throws of fine-tuning and adjustments that will make the systems play well, and we are the first to occupy the new building! (Even before there is a permanent roof!) We will be moving the 220 machine to the new building soon and then we will have vacated a second site in less than two years. Last year we lost the APRS Igate site at Beverly Airport and this year we will lose Hunt Hospital.

We have fought long and hard to keep a presence on what is now know as Avalon Bay at Hawthorn Hill and it would not have been possible without the generosity of the members and the hard work of the technical staff.

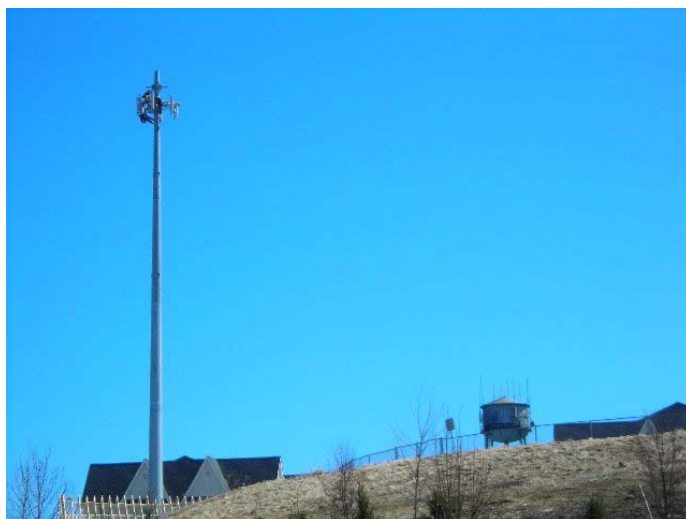
Next Issue, I'll detail the workings of each of the machines!

- Lou - n1uec

Photos of the process



Water Tower with multiple antennas



New tower with water tank in the background





New building, our equipment will be on the right



Cables going to tower



Rear of 2 meter machine



Front of machines installed



Rear of 440 machine



Antenna awaiting it's move



Tower platforms

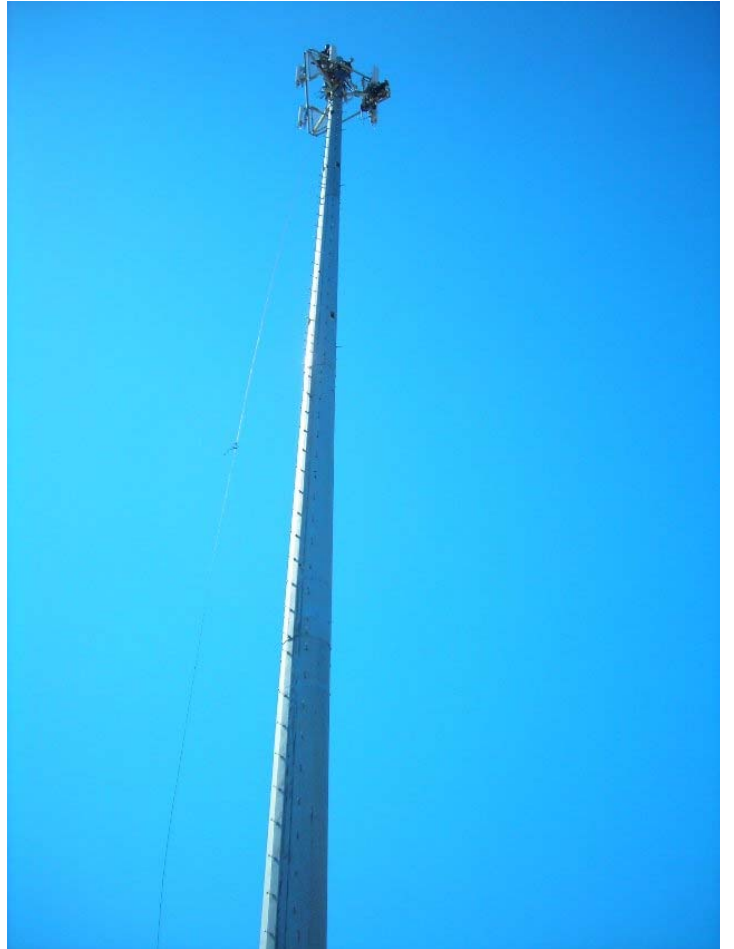


Tower going up





Tower Mounts



New tower