



SIGNAL

A club since 1992



Since 1993



Since 1996

de N1NC

September 2021

Volume 30 Number 9

In this Issue

- NVARC Picnic! A Great Success2
- A Propagation Conundrum, de Bill, K1NS.....4
- Some Aurora research, de Joe, K1YOW4

NVARC Monthly Meetings

NVARC general meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 2430 UTC (7:30pm, Eastern Time). Meetings will resume at the Pepperell Community center this month, and will also be available on Zoom

Non-members who are interested in attending via Zoom may send an email to meetings@n1nc.org requesting the teleconference details.

NVARC thanks **Medtronic, Inc** for providing the teleconferencing services under their employee volunteer support program for non-profit organizations.

This Month's Meeting

The September 2021 NVARC General meeting will be at the Pepperell Community center, and, if we can swing it, also via Zoom. See Bruce's column for details.

The meeting will feature a "Candidate's Night" program, wherein the Candidates for ARRL New England Director will present their views and proposals.

Next Month's Meeting

Ward Silver, N0AX, is scheduled to speak on the Yasme Foundation¹.

The Yasme Foundation a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation organized to support scientific and educational projects related to amateur radio, including DXing and the introduction and promotion of amateur radio in developing countries.

The President's Corner de Bruce, K1BG

Autumn is traditionally a busy time of the year for NVARC, and 2021 is proving to be no different than any other pre COVID year.

This coming weekend is the Northeast **HamXposition**², which takes place in Marlborough, MA, on September 10th, 11th, and 12th.

This year, non-profit organizations are being offered table space in order to publicize their organizations, and NVARC will have a table.

I'm asking club members to volunteer a little time (meaning an hour or two) on Saturday or Sunday and sit at the table to welcome people who stop by.

I expect that it will be mostly club members who stop by, but who knows? We may pick up a member or two from the general public. John, KK1X, is organizing the event. Please contact him at KK1X@KK1X.net.

NVARC plans on having an in-person club meeting in September, at the Pepperell Community

¹ <http://www.yasme.org>

² <https://hamxposition.org>

Center. Doors open at 7:10pm, the meeting will begin at 7:30pm.

NVARC intends to be COVID-conscious, and will ask members to wear masks if they are able. A supply of blue surgical masks will be available.

The theme for this month's meeting will be "Candidates Night", where the candidates for ARRL New England Director will come and speak with us.

NVARC will attempt to also "simulcast" this meeting on Zoom, giving people who live outside our local area for the first time ever a chance to participate in the club meetings. However, equipment and expertise in this kind of video production is needed.

So, does anyone reading this have experience with this kind of activity, or access to an external digital camera for this type of production?

Let me know – right now, we are learning-as-we-go at this, and could use some help. Contact Bruce, K1BG.

NVARC will again run Technician classes starting sometime in September. The current plan is to offer these classes in person, in either Pepperell or Groton. We are trying to confirm a location, but classes will be held twice a week for two hours a night for a period of four weeks (eight evenings total). Do you know of anyone interested in getting their Technician class license? Please contact me, Bruce, K1BG, if you want to know more.

For several years now, the Billerica Amateur Radio Society's (BARS) new ham QSL program has been quite successful at attracting new members to the club.

The program works like this: Every month, the ARRL makes available, to affiliated clubs, files containing information on new hams.

BARS takes the info for new hams in their area and sends each one a postcard with general club information on the front, like a QSL card, and an invitation to club meetings on the back.

This may sound like a lot of work, but it's not! According to last year's FCC data, there was a whopping 15 new hams in the 16 zip codes in which the vast majority of NVARC members reside.

NVARC's board has budgeted for us to adopt this program and we are looking for a volunteer to co-

ordinate it. It requires an individual who can send via US Mail several, at most, post card sized QSL cards a month. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering.

Finally, the board is coming up with guidelines for use of the club's "N1NC" callsign by multiple stations simultaneously, on different bands, for on-the-air activities such as Parks on the Air (POTA) activations, contests, special events, or other specific activities.

If you have an interest in promoting the club, shortening your call, or just trying an operating event, let us know. N1NC is available for YOU!

That's it for September. I hope to finally see you again (in person) in the upcoming month.

-de Bruce, K1BG

2012 NVARC Picnic

Once again, Jessica, WU3C, hosted a Great Picnic, with significant assistance from Jim, N1VIM, and several others, who brought goodies and helped lay out the spread.



And What a Spread it Was!



Here's Jessica, "encouraging" the charcoal



One count had it at two dozen happy campers. Discussion groups formed and re-formed.



Some *Seriously* Technical Stuff was discussed. Here's John, K1JEB, left, and Dan, KW2T.



Some fun was had by all.



Jessica describing her vast array of arrays and antenna wires with Vlad, W1MTI.



Bruce, expertly building another cheeseburger.



It was a great, bug-free, afternoon to just relax and gab.

Your Editor had a great time, chatting with several folks, meeting new ones, and having a great conversation with Dan, K1RAU, Bill, K1NS, and Dan, KW2T on, of all things, Jazz Music from the 1960's. Coltrane, Tjader, Getz, Gilberto, Santamaria, Brubeck, Desmond. "Ahh, 've all yearn fer ze 'oldt dayz".

Jim, N8VIM, brought a selection of fine wines from Canton, Michigan. Two of the ones that this reviewer tasted were "Ice Wines"³, which were found to be quite delicious.

A Propagation Conundrum

de Bill, K1NS

FT-8 program "WSJT-X" can be configured to send you "Band Activity" every few seconds. It lists all stations you can hear on your current band, and whom they are calling. It is an instant glimpse of propagation.

Last Friday evening (9/3), FT-8 was popping on 17m with Asia-Pacific stations--VR2, JA, 3D2, ZL, VK, B, 9M, 3W and more.

That's well over a 90° arc on a polar projection map. I could hear only 1 or 2 Europeans, and only a few W station. 15m, on the other hand, was almost dead.

The interesting thing is that on 20m, there were almost no Asian stations but lots of Europeans and Americans.

It has me wondering what kind of propagation could allow so many Asians on 17m, but none on 20m?

If the MUF is above 18 MHz to Asia, why isn't it just as high to Europe? I don't know the answer, but it's questions like this that make ham radio fun and intriguing!

de Bill, K1NS

Some Aurora Research

de Joe, K1YOW

I am just passing along a short article I found on some Aurora research.

I have not worked Aurora propagation in years, but hopefully as the sun wakes up, we will get to work some 6m and 2m aurora modes in CW and if good, SSB.

³ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_wine

I've found that we need at least a G2 level geomagnetic storm with a G3 being much better, to have a chance at Aurora communications from way down South here in south central New England.

Here's a link to [Understanding Aurora Formation with ESA's Cluster Mission:](https://phys.org/news/2021-09-aurora-formation-esa-cluster-mission.html?fbclid=IwAR2bwrOULicrx9-rkeBVFmNjk-gL8fua7tBFh4b9Dt2s0V9-ZVOLizBiXzY)

<https://phys.org/news/2021-09-aurora-formation-esa-cluster-mission.html?fbclid=IwAR2bwrOULicrx9-rkeBVFmNjk-gL8fua7tBFh4b9Dt2s0V9-ZVOLizBiXzY>

de Joe, K1YOW



Have **YOU** paid your NVARC Dues? See: <http://n1nc.org/Members/Roster> for your renewal month.

Treasurer's Report

Income for August was \$35 in membership fees. Expenses were \$200.63 for the porta-john and \$36.10 for generator fuel for Field Day, leaving a net expenditure of \$201.73 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,587.09
Community fund	\$5,948.25

As of 2 September we have 42 members who are current with their dues and 33 renewals outstanding. Thank you to those of you who mail your renewals or use PayPal. Renewal months are in the member list on the N1NC.org server at <http://n1nc.org/Members/Roster>.

To pay membership dues via PayPal see the instructions at <http://n1nc.org/Members/dues>.

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. As a Special Service Club, the ARRL expects a majority of Club members to also be ARRL members. Contact Ralph for further information if you need it.

de Ralph, KD1SM

Board Meeting 5AUGUST2021

[Ed: These minutes from last month's meeting are printed here, in arrears, due to a previous editing error.]

1. Treasurer's Report: We have a new member to the club. Person is a member of the CERT team.

Treasure's report was sent by email.

2. Dan has submitted the Field Day results. We have 6,142 points without including the D-Class scores.

3. Jessica plans the Club Picnic for August 28th at 2pm.

4. At the Ham Exposition NVARC will be setting up a table. Volunteers will be needed to man the table in 2hr shifts on Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

5. For the Publicity Outreach NVARC will be passing out handouts.

William Wilder, W1GXC, is the new member of the club

6. George added some colors (Green) to the NVARC logo in the Signal. This is an experiment in progress.

7. NVARC has 52 current followers on Facebook. Likes are needed so more data can be obtained.

8. Phil will be talking about HamSCI at a club meeting.

9. More Club meeting guest speakers are needed. Phillip will try and make a list of prospects.

10. Card sort meeting will be held in November meeting.

11. We have use of the Community Building for free.

12. Considering an in-person board meeting to resume. One possibility is at the Westford 99 Restaurant.

13. Jim Wilbur may volunteer to regain the code to enter the Community Building.

14. Proposed is to have the Thursday Community Building meetings to start with the social to start at 7pm. The formal meetings to go from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

15. The Boston Marathon should be credited as a Community Event.

16. Dave, AA1DX, is downsizing and needs to have several items removed from his home by Sunday the 15th. Bruce has sent a list of items for members to bid on. There are prices that were calculated as 1/2 what was found on eBay.

17. In August there was a Zoom social meeting. 12 members had attended the event.

18. Ralph and Stan checked the repeater antennas and found problems with two of them. The 2m repeater antenna was swapped with a third antenna that was not currently in use.

19. Bruce will be planning a license class with a focus on Pepperell area residents.

20. Bruce is planning to see if he can drum up some activities after the Saturday breakfasts (like Fox Hunts etc.)

21. Bill K1NS from ERDC said that ERDC may issue Grants for Amateur Radio Projects.

22. The Board approved paying the \$200.63 invoice for the porta-potty. The Board approved reimbursing N8VIM \$36.10 for fuel.

de John, K1JEB

Board Meeting 2SEPTEMBER2021

1. Treasure's Report:

NVARC received \$35 in membership fees.

- \$200.63 for the Porta-Potty, and \$36.10 for the generator fuel or \$236.73 total expenses for the month
- Current General Fund balance is \$2587.09.
- NVARC has 42 members with up-to date dues and 33 members behind in their dues.

2. Phil is working on candidate's night. He is working on the October Meeting Speaker.

3. QSL Sort is scheduled for November.

4. There is still an in person meeting planned for September. Bruce will check on the Masking Mandates for Pepperrell.

5. Planning attempts to do simulcast of the meeting both in-person and zoom.

6. December meeting topic is HomeBrew Night.

7. January is Short Subject Night

8. Jessica's NVARC Picnic went very well.

9. AA1VX downsizing netted NVARC \$470+.

10. NVARC will be setting up a table at the New England Convention. Volunteers will be needed to man the table on Saturday.

11. Bruce will post to the signal the upcoming classes.

12. NVARC has been having a good turnout at the Saturday Breakfasts at Tiny's.

13. Bruce will put message concerning Tom's (K1TW) CW Skills Classes on Zoom.

14. NVARC N1NC call sign can be used for the Slow Speed CW Net along with 3 other clubs on 20, 40 and 80 meters.

15. NVARC should send Welcoming QSL cards to newly licensed hams within the 16 zip code footprint of our membership list. Need to order these special QSL cards.

Motion made and passed to allocate up to \$50 for 100 cards and postage.

16. NVARC to see if any coordinated support to the MARS Museum at Devens.

17. George could use material for the newsletter.

18. de John, K1JEB

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Vice President: Phil Erickson, W1PJE
Secretary: John Bielefeld, K1JEB
Treasurer: Ralph Swick, KD1SM

Board Members:

Jim Wilber, AB1WQ, 2019-2022
Skip Youngberg, K1NKR, 2020-2023
Jim Hein, N8VIM 2021-2024

Property Master: John Griswold, KK1X
Librarian: Peter Nordberg, N1ZRG
N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain, K1BG

**Join NVARC! Annual membership dues are
\$15; \$20 for a family.**

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Contact us on the N1MNX repeater.
442.900 (+), 100Hz
147.345 (+), 100 Hz
53.890 (-), 100Hz

This newsletter is published monthly. Submissions, corrections and inquiries should be directed to the newsletter editor: editor@n1nc.org.

Articles and graphics in most PC-compatible formats are OK.

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