



# SIGNAL

A club since 1992



Since 1993

de N1NC

February 2022

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## NVARC Monthly Meetings

NVARC general meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 2430 UTC (7:30pm, Eastern Time). Meetings are held at the Pepperell Community center.

## This Month's Meeting

The January NVARC meeting will feature Les, N1SV, speaking on 6- and 20-meter meteor scatter.

## The President's Corner

de Bruce, K1BG

Last month I mentioned that NVARC was about to begin Technician license classes. These began on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and will continue through February. As of today (2/8), we have completed three of the 8 sessions with 8 regular students (having had a total of 17 interested at one point or another). I'd like to thank George, KB1HFT, Dennis, K1LGQ, and Ray, AA1SE, (from the Montachusett club) for taking the time to help with classes. Also, Dave Querze from Pepperell Emergency Management and Katie Callbeck from Pepperell Recreation have been invaluable in securing the meeting rooms at the Pepperell Community Center.

I could always use more help in the class, and you will find participation quite easy. If you would like to help, come down to the community center at 7PM on Mondays or Wednesdays through the end

of the month. I would welcome your interest and involvement.

I have just learned that two of my students have taken and passed the Technician exam: Chris Pinto, KC1QKI, from Worcester, and Bill Reed, KC1QKJ from Ayer. Great work, Guys!



I sent a notice out on the club reflector looking for people to take part in a demonstration of amateur radio at the Boy Scout Klondike Derby held in Dunstable on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and club members volunteered!

The demonstration was set to take place at the end of the day, but the weather was bitterly cold, and the scouts tended to scatter with their parents as soon as they could.

Still, a successful demonstration of amateur radio was held by organizers New England Sci-Tech ARS, Jon, KC1IMI, Mindy, KM1NDY, and others who had 2-meter VHF and 20- and 40-meter HF stations in action.

NVARC members Rod, WA1TAC, Jim, AB1WQ, and I helped with the activities. Those is attendance deemed the activity a success, and I believe more of these youth activities will take place in the future.



The first batch of N1NC "welcome to ham radio" "QSL" cards have been sent to new hams in the NVARC area!

I'm still looking for a volunteer to mail perhaps one or two cards a month. Please let me know if you are interested.



As president, one of my tasks as defined in the club's By-Laws is to appoint a committee, not later

than April, to plan and coordinate ARRL Field Day activities for the coming year.

Jim, AB1WQ, has been Field Day chairman now for at least the past five years, and it's time for someone else to step-up.

The club is looking for "new blood" to coordinate Field Day. Whoever volunteers can expect plenty of help from those of us who have done-it-before. If YOU are interested in being on the committee or would like to be chairperson of the committee, please let me know.

February's guest speaker will be Les, N1SV, who will talk about 6- and 2-meter meteor scatter. This should be a very interesting meeting.

We continue to "simulcast" in person club meetings on Zoom. While the technology affords people the opportunity to attend remotely, the process is neither convenient or seamless, and it puts a burden on at least one person who has to act as "director" for the activity.

As a club, we will need to address how and if we continue this in the future. In either case, let's hope that Covid is entering the "endemic" stage and we can return to normalcy sometime soon.

I look forward to seeing you at a technician class or at the club meeting, Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

-de Bruce, K1BG

### **NVARC YouTube Channel!**

Jim, N1VIM, has compiled quite a few nice videos that capture some facets of NVARC and the interests of its members. This entailed filming, editing and publishing the video files on YouTube.

You can view these videos by browsing to youtube.com, and searching for "NVARC", where you can view the videos.

If anyone has old (or new) Ham Radio related videos or electronic projects, and would like to have them edited and put on the YouTube channel, please contact Jim, N8VIM.

### **The History of Entry-Level Licensing Part 5**

de Bruce, K1BG

Last month I ended with the re-write of the questions published by the FCC in 1973, and the concern that the Novice exam was getting more complicated.

In early 1975, the FCC proposed a complete restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service in Docket 20282<sup>1,2</sup>. Besides big changes to the rest of amateur radio (including a no-code VHF "Communicator" license), the proposal had several changes proposed for the Novice entry level license.

The entire proposal was met with a great deal of resistance from the Amateur community. For one thing, Amateur Radio was considered healthy at the time. The community did not see a problem that needed fixing. Secondly, a no code license (at the time) was generally considered unacceptable. The proposal was generally rejected by the amateur community and ARRL membership in particular.

As usual, the ARRL went into high gear. The July 1975 edition of QST has a number of interesting articles. The "It seems to Us" editorial spells out how the ARRL Board of Directors feels about the proposal. The league also published the results of a detailed survey of league members, which is quite interesting.

While there was a lot of reaction to the proposal, fate stepped in before the FCC could come to a decision. In January 1976, country singer C.W. McAll had a #1 hit song called "Convoy"<sup>4,5</sup>. The "CB craze" had arrived! Almost immediately, the FCC was swamped with hundreds of thousands of CB license applications. Word has it that paralysis at the FCC set in, and nothing could get done.

Apparently, this included action on Docket 20282. At the time, what looked like minor changes were made to the Novice License<sup>6</sup>. These changes were: Technician licensees now had full Novice privileges, a Novice with an expired license could immediately take the exam again, and Novice transmitted power was increased from 75 watts input to 250 watts input!

Within a few months, several other changes were made to the Novice license. First, the distinctive Novice callsign was dropped<sup>7</sup>. And second, the FCC went to publishing questions in a study guide to a "syllabus" that simply defined, in outline form, the scope of the material the prospective applicant should study<sup>8</sup>. I will talk more about this in the next installment of this article. Additionally, in 1978, the FCC made the Novice renewable, just like any other amateur license<sup>9</sup>.

In 1976, with the change to the syllabus system the FCC went to, the ARRL dramatically changed their study guides. Gone were the FCC question-

based license manuals. The 77 page “Tune in the World” replaced the 6 page novice section of the ARRL License Manual.

At this point, I would like to make note of the following. If you remember the idea for the original Novice license, the FCC spelled out the following goals:

- 5 Word Per Minute Code Requirement
- Simple test – basic rules and regulations
- Limited Privileges
- Limited Duration (one year), non-renewable

The ARRL asked for Novices to have a distinctive callsign, which the FCC agreed to.

By late 1978, most of the original goals set forth in the 1949 Novice license proposal had been *eliminated* or dramatically impacted. While the Novice still had a 5 word per minute code requirement, the test – and the study guides – were hardly the simple 28 questions the FCC published. Limited privileges were replaced – crystal control to VFO control, and 75 watts to 250 watts. The limited one-year license term was now five years renewable. And the distinctive callsign that identifying a Novice licensee was gone!

Many of the incentives for upgrading for the Novice to a higher class license were eliminated. The very successful and highly effective license as we had known it ceased to exist! And as we will see in future installments, as privileges increased and license difficulty increased, the desirability and effectiveness of the Novice as an entry level license continued to decline.

-de Bruce, K1BG

1. <https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/QST/60s/QST-1-975-01.pdf>, pages 57, 58.
2. <https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/QST/60s/QST-1975-02.pdf>, Front Cover, pages 76-78, 158-170, 173, 176.
3. <https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/QST/60s/QST-1975-07.pdf>, Front Cover, pages -, 56, 49 – 55.
4. <https://youtu.be/Sd5ZLJWQmss>
5. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convoy\\_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convoy_(song))
6. <https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/QST/60s/QST-1976-09.pdf>, page 73.
7. <https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/QST/60s/QST-1976-12.pdf>, page 64.
8. <https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/QST/60s/QST-1978-08.pdf>, page 9.
9. <https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-DX/QST/60s/QST-1978-05.pdf>, page 46 – 47.



## Some Interesting Links

[Ed: I'd like to make this section a regular feature of Signal: wherein readers submit links to articles that they have run across that might be of interest to NVARC members.

If you are reading a hardcopy of Signal, you can easily navigate to these links by opening this edition Signal on our server at <http://n1nc.org/Newsletters/2022/3102.pdf>.

Here are a few of said links. If you have others, please email them to [editor@n1nc.org](mailto:editor@n1nc.org).]



Joe, K1YOW, recently shared this link on ionospheric ripples caused by the Tonga volcanic eruption:

[https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/tonga-eruption-sent-ripples-through-ionosphere?fbclid=IwAR2xqiMTs\\_jQNVJMVX\\_icdDoRzvFiddu-eAaF0hHrFM34s0rz4tyz4DmUB8](https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/tonga-eruption-sent-ripples-through-ionosphere?fbclid=IwAR2xqiMTs_jQNVJMVX_icdDoRzvFiddu-eAaF0hHrFM34s0rz4tyz4DmUB8)



The MIT Flea is Back! Hoo-Ray!!

<https://w1mx.mit.edu/flea-at-mit/>



Just what is an “lambic” keyer? And what is lambic Mode “A” and “B”, and why?

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6R4t3Wq1Gic>



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

## Treasurer's Report

Income for January was \$65 in membership renewals. Expenses were \$94 for PO Box 900 renewal for six months, leaving a net expense of \$30.94 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$2,423.71
Community fund	\$6,628.25

As of 3February we have 34 members who are current with their dues and 40 renewals outstanding. Renewal months are in the member list on [www.n1nc.org](http://www.n1nc.org) in the Member's area; check yours on <https://www.n1nc.org/Members/Roster>.

Thank you to those of you who mail your renewals or use PayPal without a reminder.

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 February 3, 2022

#### Attendees:

Bruce, K1BG,	Jim, N8VIM,
John, K1JEB,	Jim, AB1WQ,
George, KB1HFT	

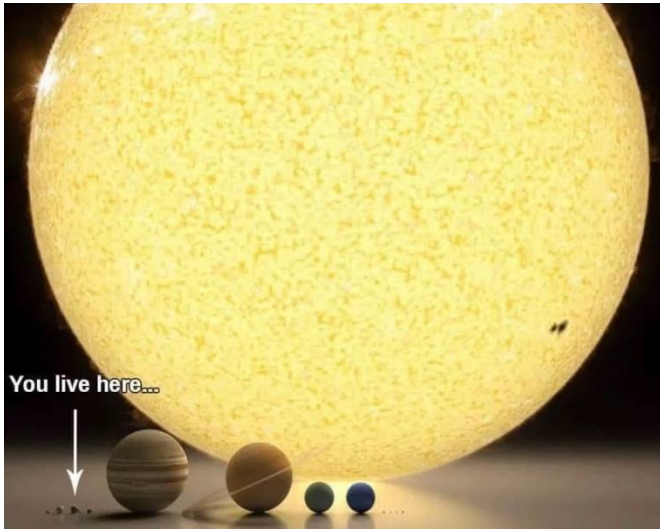
1. Meeting Started at 7:30pm
2. Treasure's report via email is: General Fund is: \$2,423.71 and Community Fund is: \$6,628.25
3. Annual PO box rental fee has increased to \$212 per Ralph.
4. Signal Distribution is ongoing by George.
5. Jim Hein and Bruce mentioned that the YouTube Channel viewership is steadily increasing.
6. Bruce sent out 15 cards for the QSL Card Program. To aid in feedback a link may be added to the website so those receiving the cards can respond.
7. February Speaker will be Les Peters, N1SV, on Meteor Scatter.
8. A discussion whether the February meeting will be a hybrid meeting or just a Zoom meeting. There are technical issues for the hybrid meeting that need to be worked out.

A test run will be conducted to work on the technical issues.

9. The AA1VX downsizing is still a work in progress.
10. The Weekly 2m net is still on but, the repeater still needs maintenance. Bruce will try to make contact with the owners to see if anything can be done to get a team to repair the repeater.
11. At last Wednesday's Licensing class there was a scheduling conflict: the Community Building was double booked with a Dog training class. Jim Wilbur will check in with the town to clear it up.
12. Saturday Breakfast is going well.
13. CW Help Group still meets at 8PM on Tuesdays.
14. John, K1JEB, will see what is required for the Club to regain the ARRL Special Services Club Rating. This needs to be revalidated every 2 years.
15. John, K1JEB, will plan a Visioning Meeting to help the membership focus on what the Club activities will focus on going forward. This is best done when we can all meet in person at the monthly meetings. It is not practical in hybrid meetings.
16. The Boston Marathon is requesting volunteers.
17. This year's Field Day needs a new Chairperson to head it.
18. A plan was discussed for Club Board Members to call all Members that are behind on their dues. But there is a need for the Board Members to have access to the contact information to be able to make the calls. The Call numbers will be divided up among the Board members to make the load easier. Tentative plan is for the Board members to meet at Bruce's house at 1pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February.
19. George is requesting new material to be published in the Signal
20. Meeting ended at: 8:36pm.

*de John, K1JEB*

# Strays



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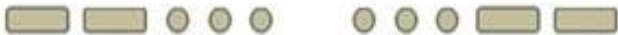
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**President:** Bruce Blain, K1BG  
**Vice President:** Phil Erickson, W1PJE  
**Secretary:** John Bielefeld, K1JEB  
**Treasurer:** Ralph Swick, KD1SM

**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.**

NVARC general meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 2330 UTC (7:30pm, Eastern Time). Non-members interested in attending may send an email to [meetings@n1nc.org](mailto: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.

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](mailto:editor@n1nc.org). Articles and graphics in most PC-compatible formats are OK.

Editor: George Kavanagh, KB1HFT

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