



SIGNAL

A club since 1992



Since 1993

de N1NC

November 2022

Volume 31 Number 11

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The President's Corner

With the leaves and temperatures falling and autumn coming on strong, many of us find that we are spending more time indoors. More time indoors may mean more time for amateur radio. Co-incidentally, band conditions are on the upswing, with operators experiencing HF band conditions that can only be described as fantastic. This makes for really enjoyable operating experiences.

As many of you know, I operate some of the major contests as part of a multi operator group at [K1TTT's](#) station in Peru, Massachusetts.

Two weekends ago, the annual CQ WorldWide DX Phone competition took place. 10 and 15 meter conditions were fantastic, with openings to the entire world. On ten meters, stations occupied spectrum from 28.3 MHz (the bottom of the phone band) to well over 29 MHz. Wall to wall for over 700 KHz of spectrum. This level of activity hasn't been seen in years, and it was refreshing to see so many stations and so many

countries on the air.

For contesting aficionados, autumn is the



beginning of contest season. Besides major contests like CQ WorldWide and ARRL Sweepstakes, there are many smaller contests that take place. Many hams think that contests are all about intensity and effort, but for many participants it's an opportunity to test antennas and equipment and get some contacts in the log. Adding a DXCC country or two to your country total is pretty easy to do during a DX contest.

One of my favorite casual contests is the ARRL 10 meter contest, and with band conditions on the upswing it should be a great weekend for making sure everything works and making some interesting contacts. For more info on upcoming contests, visit <https://www.contestcalendar.com/> and <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

In the past years, it's been suggested that NVARC may try to organize a "club gavel competition" for the ARRL 10 meter contest. ARRL affiliated clubs compete for these gavels, and we are an ARRL Affiliate Club. As a "local club", NVARC might have a good chance at competing for a gavel in the 10 meter contest. Interested? Let me know.

November's meeting is always my favorite meeting of the year. As we have for over 25 years, NVARC sorts incoming QSLs for the W1 QSL Bureau (<http://www.w1qsl.org/>). Please attend the meeting, sort some cards, interact, converse with fellow members, and enjoy pizza and soft drinks when the sorting is done. I particularly enjoy having conversations with other club members while sorting cards, and occasionally having a card addressed to me show up during the evening! And don't forget, as a benefit to those in attendance, NVARC will cover the cost of sending cards via the outgoing bureau. Bring your cards and proof of ARRL membership (a photocopy of the front of a recent QST label with expiration dated, for instance) and the cards will be sent.

Please have a happy Thanksgiving. Remember that "homebrew night" traditionally happens at our December meeting.

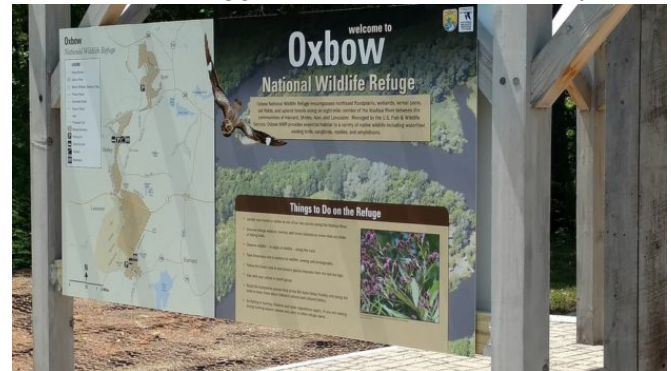
- de Bruce, K1BG

Proposed POTA Activation

At this week's 2 meter net, a number of check-ins expressed interest in having a POTA (Parks on the Air) activation. Basically, operators set up in a recognized state or national park and make contacts with other hams who are participating in the program. <https://parksontheair.com/>

One of the suggested locations is the Oxbow National Wildlife Sanctuary in Devens, MA. It's POTA designation is K-0327. Currently there are

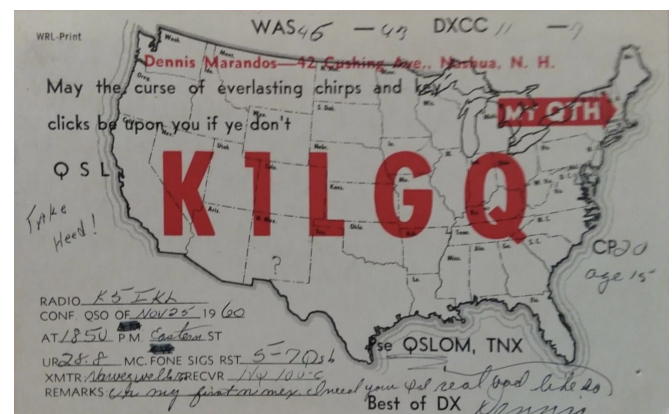
9 successful activations, of which 3 were done by the current Park Leader – NVARC'S Property Master John KK1X. The park is easily accessible, and it was suggested we operate after breakfast one Saturday. This has not been decided yet on, and I'm sure suggestions are welcome. If you're



interested, let me know, and keep an eye on the club reflector for an announcement

-de Bruce, K1BG

The Incoming QSL Bureau and NVARC's Role



As most of you know, the November meeting of the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club is our annual QSL sort. Many of our new hams (and we have quite a few!) ask, what is a QSL, and why do a sort? "QSL" is a "Q-Signal" (a three letter abbreviation beginning with the letter "Q" to facilitate communications between operators who speak different languages) which conveys the message "I am acknowledging receipt". You might use it in a contact after correctly receiving a message or signal report. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q_code In the early days of amateur radio, hams began exchanging post cards with their call signs on them to verify and document that contacts took

place. Besides callsigns, these cards contained the details of the contact: The other stations call-sign, signal report, frequency band, mode, time, and date. Other information – operators name, address, station details, etc – could also be included on this post card. Cards were used as proof of a contact for bragging rights, award criteria, or just as a courtesy. Over time, these became commonly known as “QSL cards”. The art of QSLing was born! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QSL_card



Historically, QSLing – especially internationally – was (and is) an expensive proposition. Hams developed “QSL bureaus” which would bundle cards sent internationally and take advantage of bulk mailing rates. Here’s how it works. Amateurs hold their outgoing international (or “DX”) cards until they have a bundle to send. They then send the card bundle to an “outgoing” bureau (and pays a nominal fee, usually based on the weight of the bundle), which separates the outgoing cards by country. Other hams around the country

do the same thing. Once enough cards are accumulated for a bulk mailing to a particular country, off they go. The “incoming” bureau in a country receives bundles from all over the world. They then sort and distribute these cards to the individual hams inside their country (and BTW, the individual ham pays for local mailing of cards to them).

It sounds complicated, but it really isn't. So what will NVARC do at the November meeting? Erik, KV1J, runs the W1 QSL Bureau (<http://www.w1qsl.org/>). He will bring cards from QSL bureaus all over the world, destined for radio amateurs in the USA with a "1" in their callsign. We will do an initial sort. This means that we will sort all of the cards by the letter that comes after the "1" in the callsign. These will then get forwarded to 26 individual sorters who will then sort again for individual hams. Once an individual ham has enough cards bundled to get a break on postage, off they go.

NVARC's job is pretty easy. We have boxes that are similar to the old letter sorting boxes you see the Post Office using. While sorting interesting QSL cards, we're conversing with fellow club members, and generally having a good time. Usually, in less than an hour we are finished with our sort and eating pizza. I can hardly wait, and I hope to see you there.

- de Bruce, K1BG

October General Meeting

The October General Meeting has featured a prominent traveler and DX'er Thaire Bryant W2APF. His talk "Operating /P Anywhere in the World" was filled with humor, wit and tons of useful info for those who want to trek the world and send the message from *the other side* of the DX pileup.



An expert in /P and a connoisseur of Elecraft has answered numerous questions and had a good cheer with the audience of NVARC-ers and their guests. His presentation is immortalized on NVARC's YouTube Channel. [Check it out!](#)

-de NVARC N1NC

The State of N1MX Repeater and 2M Net

The NVARC Information Net is held Monday nights at 7:30pm, Eastern time on the 2m Pepperell repeater, N1MNX: 147.345MHz, PL: +100.

As many of you already know, James, N8VIM and Bruce, K1BG have performed maintenance



and minor repairs on the antennae feeders of N1MX repeater last month. They replaced a broken N to SO239 adapter and drained and

cleaned the coax. As a result, the repeater's performance has improved significantly. VSWR has changed from 5 (144MHz) and 8 (440MHz) to 2.1 and 1.3 respectively.

My personal assessment is that now I only need 5W to hit the repeater from approximately 23 km distance, while before maintenance I would need 20 - 25W.

Overall, we now have steady participation with a number of check-ins by new Hams and the first timers. Net control duties were performed by Bruce, K1BG and John K1JEB.

We are looking for volunteer NCS for months of December on. Any licensed amateur could be NCS. Please let Bruce K1BG know if you are interested.

- de Vlad , W1MTI

The Treasurer's Report

Income for October was \$15 in membership fees. There were no expenditures.

Current balances:

General fund \$2,754.48

Community fund \$6,628.25

As of 9 November we have 36 members who are current with their dues and 41 renewals outstanding. Renewal months are in the member list on www.n1nc.org in the Member's area; check yours on <https://www.n1nc.org/Members/Roster> or you may also email me. 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 in the same Members area.

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

de Ralph, KD1SM

NVARC Board Meeting

No Board Meeting was held in November prior to the newsletter publication.



- de NVARC, N1NC

Monthly Meetings

NVARC General Meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 2430 UTC (7:30pm, Eastern Time), except for July and August, when no General Meetings are held. When held, meetings are at the Pepperell Community center.

Next General Meeting

The next General meeting will be held in person at the Pepperell Community Center, 2 Hollis St, Pepperell, MA 01463 on November 17, 2022. We will hold the annual QSL sorting for W1 ARRL QSL bureau combined with a Pizza Party.

Calendar

November

15,22 Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest

<https://wsac.com/rules.html>

19 SARL Field Day Contest

<http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp>

19-21 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

20 Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party

<http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/hotr.html>

26/27 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

<http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

26/27 Ham Spirit Contest, SSB

<https://www.hamspiritcontest.com/eng/rules>

December

1 NRAU 10m Activity Contest

<https://nrrlcontest.no/index.php/nrrl-contests/nrau-nac/10m/nrau-nac-10m-english-rules/278-nrau-nac-10m-english-rules.html>

2-4 ARRL 160-Meter Contest

<http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

3/4 UFT Meeting

<https://www.uft.net/activites-et-concours/rencontres-uft/>

3/4 INORC Contest

<https://www.inorc.it/wp/contest-i-no-r-c/>

10/11 ARRL 10-Meter Contest

<http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

10/11 International Naval Contest

<https://www.marinefreunde.com/eng/inc.html>

Have YOU Paid Your NVARC Dues?



See: <http://n1nc.org/Members/Roster>
for your renewal month.

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

Board Members:
Sean Pearson, KC1ONO, 2022-2025
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).
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.

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

Editor: Vladimir A. Goncharov, W1MTI

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