



# SIGNAL



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## THE VIEW FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

de PHIL ERICKSON W1PJE

*The state of our union: ask not  
what your NVARC can do for you...*

NVARC finds itself in a curious place now: the president's seat remains empty after the April elections. While it is indeed quite difficult for anyone to fill Bruce K1BG's shoes, the lack of candidates for the lead club position was a bit of a surprise to me as the incumbent vice president. So, while we continue to remind you as members of the open (and attractive) presidential opportunity, it falls to me as the VP to provide an opinion and a summary of where the club is now, and where we hope it will go. I will endeavor accordingly to be short and focused.

Every year, the US president typically opens his January address to Congress with a firm declaration: "The state of our Union.. is Strong!". I feel the same way about NVARC in 2023.



*De casa mea visum.*

The club punches well above its weight, with extraordinary, deep, and experienced talent at many levels along with execution of a number of great programs in the last year. Just to name a few (and this is not a comprehensive list):

- Bruce K1BG continues work in CW Academy teaching, Technician licensing classes, and in club development both at the regional and national level within ARRL.
- Skip K1NKR has become a key motivator in selection of speakers and topics for the upcoming ARRL New England Division Convention ("HamXPosition") in Marlborough.
- Jim N8VIM has put a lot of his own time, talent, and financial effort into

repairing the N1MNX VHF/UHF repeater and bringing it back to top condition. (Indeed, the repeater itself has seen reinvigorated activity as well through the Monday night net.)

- A series of excellent speakers on a wide range of topics has been featured at monthly meetings, and N8VIM has provided a first rate Youtube collection of videos from these events that is attracting eyeballs. Indeed, this month we get to look forward to a presentation by Tim Duffy K3LR, owner of an amazing world class superstation and the principal mover behind DX Engineering.
- Les N1SV is well known as a very active contester in VHF and microwave circles, appearing regularly in summaries for example of 222 MHz activity nights led by Dave K1WHS and coordinated through the New England Weak Signal VHF club.
- Several members are active participants in the “New England Grape” effort to measure HF propagation changes through observation networks sponsored by the Ham Science Citizen Initiative (HamSCI), which targets WWV time signals from Colorado.
- A wildly successful NVARC Thinking Day on the Air was held this year in February with Girl Scout troop 65051 from Lunenburg, including active participation from several NVARC members including Jim AB1WQ and our friend (and former guest speaker!) Mindy KM1NDY.
- The Groton road race was once again supported extensively by NVARC, and was much appreciated by the community.
- The Signal itself has featured in-depth articles that are well beyond the typical fare of other club newsletters I’ve read.
- This month’s Field Day Committee is organizing another event at Heald Orchard in the NVARC tradition.

NVARC can derive considerable pride from these things and people. The challenge, as with any club or volunteer organization, is to sustain this level of activity, recognition, and excellence without burnout of the same people who tend to pitch in again and again. That’s where you come in, Constant Reader (as Stephen King likes to say).

So where can we go? What ideas do you have for providing more club opportunities? Here’s some to prime the pump. What about expanding information on homebrewing, a subject noted in a recent Signal survey of interesting topics? How about hands-on refurbishment of classic ‘hollow state’ / vintage radio gear? How about a club in-person activity such as a foxhunt using AM (not FM) transmitters and home constructed UHF Yagis<sup>1</sup>? How about some thoughts on participation in propagation tests during the upcoming April 4, 2024 US east coast eclipse, riding on the coattails of NVARC’s August 2017 eclipse work and using national coordinated efforts through HamSCI<sup>2</sup>? How about a group visit to ARRL in Newington or the historic Marconi Wireless Station in Wellfleet? How about an interactive tutorial on VHF/UHF satellite

<sup>1</sup>This idea was presented at the recent May 2023 Four Days in May (FDIM) by Rick Campbell KK7B, co-author of Experimental Methods in RF Design, and provides an intriguing twist on the conventional fox hunt idea.

<sup>2</sup>2023/2024 HamSCI Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science; <https://hamsci.org/eclipse>.

work? How about a multi-part series in the Signal on your latest radio obsessions<sup>3</sup>?

These are only some ideas that came to mind quickly. I'm sure you know more. In the end, all these 'sparks' need is your help and willingness to organize. I can assure you that it's easier than it might seem. NVARC has the people, the materials, and the wisdom to accomplish these and more things - along with the can-do spirit and the willingness to

help learn and grow together. So that's my quick message: let's put our Thinking Day caps back on and try some new things. Whether a new or seasoned member, your NVARC board is ready to help and spread the word, and we are looking forward to your new ideas (or even new life into old ones). Contact any of us, and we'll pass the word along to get things going.

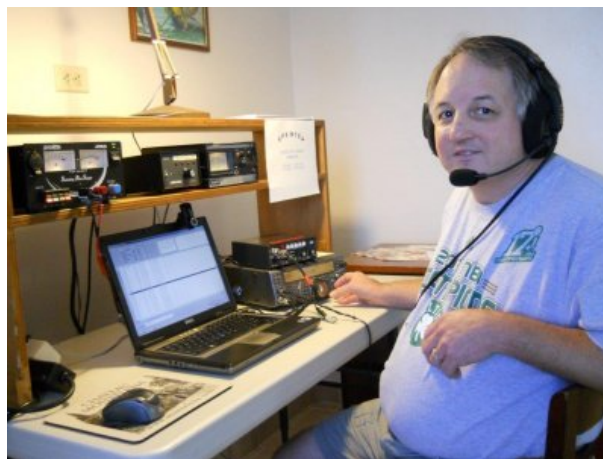
QRT for now but monitoring for your reply

- 73 de W1PJE

## *Member Profile: Les, N1SV*

### HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN HAM RADIO?

As a teenager I attended a Technical High School in Willimantic CT, where I studied electronics. The school had an amateur radio club run by the autobody shop teacher, Earl White W1VNI (SK). I joined the club and while we had no equipment, Earl taught us the theory and CW skills to prepare us for the Novice exam. I got my Novice license in 1979 and was issued the calls KA1DZV. My first station consisted of a Heathkit DX-35 transmitter with the external VFO (that drifted terribly) & a Realistic DX-160 receiver. To this day one of the most memorable contacts that I've ever made was with Earl White W1VNI (SK) after I assembled my first station. His QSL card sits prominently framed in my shack to remind me of how this all began! I've upgraded several times including in 2000 when I got my Extra license and the vanity call N1SV.



*Les, N1SV operating from VP9I in Bermuda*

### WHAT PARTS OF THE HOBBY MOST INTEREST YOU?

Having been active in the hobby for more than 40 years, there isn't much I haven't tried. But my first passion has always been DXing. While I dabbled in DXing as a teenager growing up in CT, it was not until I moved to Townsend, MA in 1994 that I really became serious about it. My first tower went up in 1998 and it really opened the door for me to

<sup>3</sup>Your Signal editor Vlad W1MTI leads the way here - check recent issues for details on his HF amplifier construction series.

be able to work a lot of interesting DX. With a Tribander and a 40m beam, my DXCC totals really took off. The station has evolved over time and in 2000, I installed an 80m four square in my back woods. This antenna really turned out to be a game changer for working long haul 80m DX. Over more than 20 years of persistence with it, I've managed to work 301 DXCC entities and learned a lot about low band propagation. I've also enjoyed working DX on 160m with a far simpler Inverted-L having 192 confirmed on that band. Recently I've also been active on 630m even working a couple of European stations. Over the years I've managed to work & confirm 10-band DXCC (160-6m) as well as 339 of the current 340 DXCC entities with only North Korea remaining.

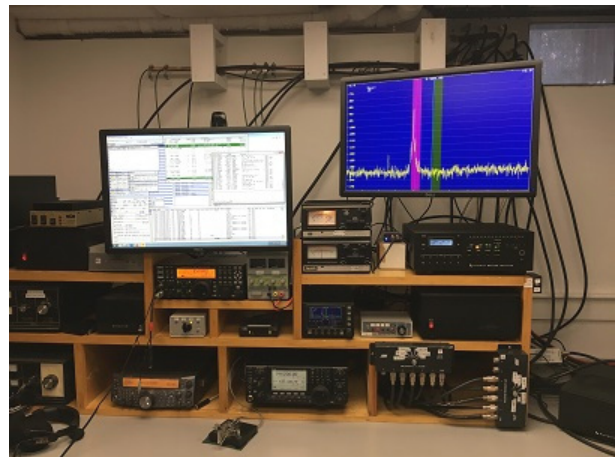


*Operating from Mt Wachusett for the 2022 ARRL 222 MHz & Up Contest*

I became interested in contesting as a way to increase my DXCC country count however, it really grew into more than just that. My favorite contest has always been the CQWW SSB contest, arguably the largest and most popular contest of the year. In the early 2000s, I tried to design a station that could compete in this contests Low Power category. And in 2001 & 2002, I posted the top US score in the LP category. I had the pleasure of operating the 2010 CQWW SSB contest from Bermuda, and enjoyed it so much

that I've returned numerous times since then. In 2014 I was fortunate enough to finish #3 in the world from there as VP9I in the low power category, having worked more than 4,200 contacts during the weekend. And for the past 30 years I've operated on and off (mostly on) with the Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force (W2SZ) on Mt Greylock in Northwestern MA for the June & Sept VHF contests. We setup six or more temporary towers and extensive equipment Field Day style, in order to work other stations from 50 MHz through 47 GHz. It's a lot of work but also a lot of fun! Over the years we've won 85% of these contests.

In 2007 I put up my second tower primarily for 2m, 222 & 432 MHz weak signal work. I've enjoyed experimenting with some of the unique VHF/UHF propagation modes like Sporadic-E, Meteor Scatter, and Aurora. I also enjoy operating VHF / UHF portable from local mountain tops like Mt Wachusett, Pack Monadnock, and Mt Equinox. Last august I operated the ARRL 222 & Up contest from the top of Mt Wachusett which was a lot of fun.



*The N1SV's shack.*

## HOW DID YOU FIRST FIND OUT ABOUT NVARC?

You know having been a member for so many years, I can't remember but would



assume it's probably by word of mouth?

### WHAT ELSE CAN YOU TELL THE CLUB ABOUT YOURSELF AND/OR HAM RADIO?

I've worked as a Test Engineer for the past 30+ years and amateur radio has been a faithful companion to my professional career. I'm a volunteer ARRL card checker able to field check cards for all DXCC (including 160m), WAS, VUCC, & WAC awards. In 2014 I had the pleasure of leading a team of volunteers that assembled antenna installations for the operators participating in the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship, held for the first time in New England. It was a wonderful experience and I'm proud of the job everyone did to help New England shine bright in the contest world.

### WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE CLUB?

The club is a wonderful place to meet other local hams, to exchange ideas and seek or offer assistance with projects. I've met some really interesting people over the years and formed many long-term friendships through NVARC. Over the years I've been a board member, a Field Day Coordinator, given numerous presentations, and authored many articles. I've tried to ensure as best I could that the club continues to be a place for local hams to meet.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE EXPRESSION OR QUOTE?

Life is too short for QRP!

## ARRL FIELD DAY

de BRUCE, K1BG



ARRL Field Day plans are percolating along nicely at this time. It's 2023, and NVARC is dealing with not having a Field Day Chairperson this year. Having said that, we have done Field Day enough

times that we know how-to-do-it, and a number of people have volunteered to contribute individually to the effort.

What is ARRL Field Day? According to the ARRL, "ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!"

N1NC's Field Day operation will take place at the Heald Street Orchard in Pep-

perell, which is where the club traditionally holds our Field Day. We will set up during the morning of Saturday June 24th and operate from 2PM on the 24th until 2pm on Sunday the 25th. Then we take everything down and go home! Feel free to camp the whole weekend, or participate as time permits. Whatever fits in your schedule.

Currently, we plan on operating in the 2A category. This means 2 stations operating under emergency power. One station, organized by John, KK1X, will be an ICOM IC-7300 set up for 80 - 10 meters. SSB, CW, and Digital modes. The planned antenna is a multiband end-fed dipole. I'm organizing the other station. This will be an ICOM IC-7600, which again will be set up for 80 - 10 meters, SSB, CW, and Digital modes. This will essentially be a duplicate of last year's effort.

The rules allow for a "free" VHF/UHF station. Skip, K1NKR, and Les, N1SV, will be coordinating this station. Plans are to use an ICOM IC-746 with several small yagi antennas. Les, N1SV, will also be attempting satellite contacts for the first time in several years. That should be exciting!

Jim, N8VIM, will again coordinate infrastructure - generators for power and networking for connecting all the stations together. I will coordinate setting up the N1MM logging software for the stations. And Leo, K1LK, will arrange the common area, where members and visitors can

congregate.

A permit for the site has been applied for, grass cutting is scheduled, and we are working out the details for a porta-potty to be delivered.

There are several volunteers needed who could help out in a big way. In the past, NVARC has had a "point wrangler", who goes through the rules and helps secure all the available bonus points that the rules allow (<https://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules>). This year, and in recent years, we haven't had someone step forward to organize a "GOTA", or "get-on-the-air" station. The GOTA station is for unlicensed or inactive hams to get a taste of what amateur radio is all about, and has its own station as defined by the Field Day rules. And finally, the rules now allow for a Field Day Safety Officer. The job of the safety officer is to verify that all safety concerns on the Safety Check List (found in the ARRL Field Day Packet available on the ARRL website) have been adequately met.

If you are interested in volunteering, please let someone know. But please plan on visiting the Field Day site and joining the club members who are participating. It's fun, you meet great people, and you will get a chance to operate (if you so desire). Come, enjoy, learn, make friends, and have a good time. Bring family and friends! I'm sure you'll be hearing more about Field Day in the coming weeks.

CU there. de Bruce, K1BG

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## NVARC BOARD MEETING

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*June 1, 2023*

Attendees:

Bruce, K1BG, John, K1JEB,  
James, N8VIM, Ralph, KD1SM.

Call to Order: 7:30pm

Bruce K1BG requested that the Board Meetings be moved to the first Wednesday of each month. This is to accommodate Phil Ericson W1PJE to be able to attend the Board Meeting. Currently Thursday he has a conflict. The request was approved by the attending board members.

Bruce K1BG has coordinated with the town Pepperell for the permit to run Field Day and to have the vegetation cut down to make room at the Orchard.

Bruce K1BG completed the renewal for the Club Affiliation with ARRL.

The June Meeting's guest speaker will be Tim Duffy K3LR. He will be covering the topic of Contesting.

Ralph KD1SM got the OK to proceed with the club funds to pay for the Club Liability Insurance.

Adjournment: 8:40pm

de John, K1JEB

## THE TREASURER'S REPORT

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Income for April 2023 was \$95 in membership fees. Expenses were \$1.35 for PayPal fees, leaving a net income of \$93.65.

We recorded no income or expenses for May 2023

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,225.73
Community fund	\$6,628.25

As of 1 June we have 50 members who are current with their dues and 31 renewals outstanding. Renewal months are in the member list on [www.n1inc.org](http://www.n1inc.org) in the Member's area; check yours on <https://www.n1inc.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. Contact Ralph for further information if you need it.

de Ralph, KD1SM

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING

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The next General meeting will be held in person at the Pepperell Community Center, 2 Hollis St, Pepperell, MA 01463 on June, 22 2023 at 7:30pm. The doors will open at 7pm for socializing. The invited speaker will be Tim Duffy K3LR, with the topic "Contesting".

## NVARC's 2 METER NET

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

The repeater has been recently repaired by James, N8VIM - check it out!

## NVARC GENERAL 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.

## Strays



*From the front page of QST, 06-1923.*



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## THE ANSWER TO THE LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE.

The painting featured in the last month "Strays" section is by Samuel Morse, creator of the Morse Code. Morse began his career as a painter. The painting is of five- year- old Mary Hone, titled "Little Miss Hone". It is on display at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

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# Contest Calendar

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## JUNE

- 10 [ARRL June VHF Contest](#)
- 16 [SARL Youth QSO Party](#)
- 17 [ARRL Kids Day](#)
- 18 [WAB 50 MHz Phone](#)
- 24/25 [ARRL Field Day](#)

## JULY

- 1/2 [Marconi Memorial HF Contest](#)
  - 3 [RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW](#)
  - 7 [K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)
  - 8/9 [IARU HF World Championship](#)
  - 13 [Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#)
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Amateur Radio Club

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[www.youtube.com/@nvarc](http://www.youtube.com/@nvarc)

**President:** Vacant

**Vice President:** Phil Erickson, W1PJE

**Secretary:** John Bielefeld, K1JEB

**Treasurer:** Ralph Swick, KD1SM

**Board Members:**

Bruce Blain, K1BG, 2022-2025

Robert J. McArthur, K1QT, 2023-2026

James 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 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(+), 100Hz

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: Vladimir A. Goncharov, W1MTI

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## Have YOU Paid Your NVARC Dues?



See: <http://www.n1nc.org/MembersRoste>  
for your renewal month.

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