



SIGNAL



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JULY 2023

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FIELD DAY 2023

de **BRUCE BLAIN K1BG**

Traditionally, NVARC has put on a really great Field Day, and 2023 was no exception! The weather was good, bugs were reasonable, and band conditions were OK. Everything was so great that a good time was had by all. I think! We started Field Day in our traditional way – gathering for breakfast at Charlotte's in Pepperell. Due to its proximity to the Heald Street Orchard – where NVARC holds Field Day – we have breakfast there instead of Tiny's on Field Day morning.

Without a chairperson for 2023 Field Day, club members who have “done it before” kind of winged it. HF stations were provided by John, KK1X, and me, Bruce, K1BG. These stations consisted of ICOM radios driving end-fed multiband dipole antennas. Computers running N1MM+ logging software rounded out these stations. Two stations running emergency

power put us in the “2A” category.



NVARC's Field Day 2023.

Les, N1SV, and Skip, K1NKR provided the VHF/UHF station. This is a “free” station, meaning that it does not put us in the three transmitter category. We made contacts on 6 and 2 meters, as well as a satellite contact (for the first time in many years). Besides the normal points for making contacts, working a satellite got us 100 bonus points!

Jim, N8VIM, provided power and networking for the weekend. As in previous years, both the generator and the network performed flawlessly.

Leo, K1LK, provided the gathering area – tables, chairs, and an awning that covers the whole area. This gives us a place to congregate when not operating, and

a place to entertain visitors who happen upon us.



Sandor, NB1N.

John, KK1X, brought drinks and cookies, and Charlie, AB1ZN, brought a crock-pot full of hot sausages and rolls so that we had hot food for Saturday evening. Charlie also brought muffins in the morning, and Jim AB1WQ brought a coffee pot so that we had fresh fuel in the morning!



The camp.

Rounding things out, Jim, AB1WQ, brought a picnic table and went around putting up signs so that the general public could find us. He also arranged for the porta-potty, had it delivered, and went back after and arranged for it to be picked up and the signs removed and stored for next year.



Assembling VHF antenna.

Last but certainly not least, special thanks to Paula Terrasi and Rob Rand with Pepperell Conservation. Paula issues our permits every year, and Rob cuts the grass prior to our arrival. We could

not do Field Day at the Heald Street Orchard without their support.

I hope I didn't leave anyone out! If I did, I apologize. It was a busy weekend.



A total of 26 people signed the guest log this year (we always miss a few who show up), and of these 12 people made contacts. 4 of them were unlicensed, with 3 of them counting as “youth” operators. Again, we get bonus points for this! Here is the breakdown:

Table 1: NVARC's Field Day 2023

Operator	Phone	CW	Total
N1NC	145	1046	1191
NB1N	0	698	698
K1BG	5	348	353
KK1X	27	0	27
N1SV	21	0	21
N8VIM	18	0	18
KC1OHA	17	0	17
KC1RKH	16	0	16
TREY	14	0	14
ELLIE	13	0	13
ALEX	10	0	10
DENNIS	3	0	3
K1NKR	1	0	1

We found time to mentor Ellie, Trey, Alex, and Dennis, and we got a few newer hams on the air as well.

While we don't focus on “points” or “winning”, I'm always asked how we did. We made 1191 contacts for what appears to be a preliminary score of 4,474 points. This is calculated by 1 point per phone contact, 2 points per CW contact, and a power multiplier of 2. We also qualified for 910 bonus points for a total score of 5,384.



Pulling it tight.

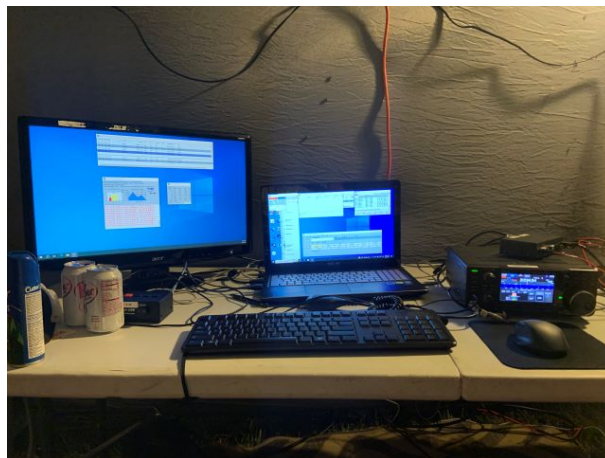
We scored 6142 in 2021 and 5,332 in 2022. We had similar numbers of contacts in all three years, but the difference was in the bonus points.



On the phone.

A number of people came to me with suggestions for next year. “Let’s have Field Day in a different place!” “Let’s do a QRP Field Day!” “Let’s have a GOTA Station (a “get-on-the-air” station for unlicensed and inactive hams, allowed in the rules)!” My response to these suggestions is, “If you volunteer to be chairperson, you have

a lot of say over these things!”



Think about it and see you at Field Day in 2024.

Bruce, K1GB

HAMXPOSITION 2023

de NVARC, N1NC



You may have noticed that HamXposition [HamXposition](#) is two weeks earlier than usual this year. Plan accordingly and do not miss this premier Amateur Radio conference that includes the ARRL New England Division Convention!

Considering going beyond trivial participation? There are two ways you may volunteer. One is to register at [HamXposition/volunteer](#) . Another is to participate in NVARC activities, which primarily consist of helping to set up NVARC's table and help man it during the event. Contact NVARC board members or just send an inquiry to NVARC's mailing list.

CU there, N1NC.

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR

de BRUCE BLAIN K1BG

I've been a ham a long time. 55 years as of 4th of July weekend to be almost exact. Over most of that time, things were the same – the old timers with experience helped the new hams with whatever questions they had. In many cases, we solved problems by “just giving it a try”. Many things were learned, and much experience was gained. It seems that the internet has changed all that!

I'm constantly amazed at the questions that are now being asked, and I'm astonished by some of the answers being given. When “Mary” puts out a Facebook question, and “Bob” provides an answer that IMO is completely wrong, I begin to wonder if Mary has tried to answer her own question experimentally and if Bob was licensed yesterday.

For instance. “I received a spool of CATV 75 Ohm coax yesterday. Can I use this with my 50 Ohm transmitter and antennas?” Answers were all over the place, from “it's junk, throw it away” to “you'll have problems with your SWR” to “if you're using a solid-state transmitter, it won't like it”. Like most things RF, there is no simple answer. RF is not an exact sci-

ence! That, combined with the fact that most people responding on their smart phones limit their answers to what they can type in 30 seconds makes for a very poor response to a reasonable question.

I see these kinds of questions almost every day. A question about tower safety (my stock answer is that if you are asking that kind of question on Facebook, your feet should never leave the ground). A question about grounding radials for a vertical (where a respondent said the National Electrical Code will tell you everything you need to know about proper grounding). Can I use a barrel connector to join two pieces of coax together to make a longer piece, or should I just buy a longer piece? How much will the performance degrade? One respondent recommended not using a barrel connector, just use a wire splicer. Little context to the questions (HF or VHF?), answers with little depth of knowledge, and people not only confused, but unwilling to just “give it a try.”

One of the reasons I'm passionate about my local radio club is the help I received when I was first licensed by my Elmers

(mentors) in the local club that helped me out. NVARC provides excellent opportunities to bounce ideas off hams who have been around the block a few times. Club meetings, breakfasts, club nets, the club reflector, etc. And with the exception of ham related activities that can easily result in death – like climbing towers or troubleshooting the high voltage section of a kilowatt amplifier – you should feel free to try things out and to see if they work. If you have a question – ASK!

Having said that, I've been using 75 Ohm coax since I was a novice, and continuously for the last 30+ years with no problems (I sensed some astonishment with this answer). I recommended splicing an additional section of coax using barrel connectors to extend the length of coax rather than replacing it with a longer length. But in all honesty, I once had an immediate need to lengthen a piece of coax and no connectors or soldering iron handy. Guess what? Splicing center conductor to center conductor, shield

to shield, and taping the whole mess up worked that day. You never know unless you try.

Working on towers is a whole other subject. Chances are, if you are asking on Facebook, you have no business working on a tower. There is lots of good information out there. Read up on tower safety before you ever climb a tower (there are some good books out there, like "Up The Tower" by K7LXC). And never, ever, climb alone, or climb a tower without an experienced team member to provide advice and a second opinion. The rule "two heads are better than one" should be adhered to, and never attempt anything where safety may be compromised.

One thing is for sure – the advice you get on a place like Facebook may not be correct. The respondents may not be knowledgeable, and the advice may be wrong.

Bruce, K1BG

NVARC's PICNIC 2023

de NVARC, N1NC

This year, NVARC will have an annual picnic on August 12. Dennis, K1LGQ will be the host. Stay tuned on 2M Net and NVARC's reflector.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Income for June 2023 was \$45 in membership fees. Expenses were \$0.45 for PayPal fees, leaving a net income of \$44.55.

We recorded no income or expenses for June 2023

Current balances:

General fund \$3,270.28
Community fund \$6,628.25

As of 6 July we have 51 members who are current with their dues and 30 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. Contact Ralph for further information if you need it.

de Ralph, KD1SM

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

There is no General Meeting in July. Next general meeting will be in September.

NVARC BOARD MEETING

The minutes for July Board Meeting have not been submitted.



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



Contest Calendar

JULY

22 [YOTA Contest](#)

22/23 [ARAM 50 MHz Contest](#)

27 [RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data](#)

29/30 [RSGB IOTA Contest](#)

30 [ARS Flight of the Bumblebees](#)

AUGUST

1 [ZL Sprint](#)

5/6 [ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)

12 [ARRL EME Contest](#)

12 [Kentucky State Parks on the Air](#)

12/13 [Maryland-DC QSO Party](#)



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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

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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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Have YOU Paid Your NVARC Dues?



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

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