



# NVARC *Signal*



VOL. XXXIII... No. 10

[WWW.N1NC.ORG](http://WWW.N1NC.ORG)

October 2025

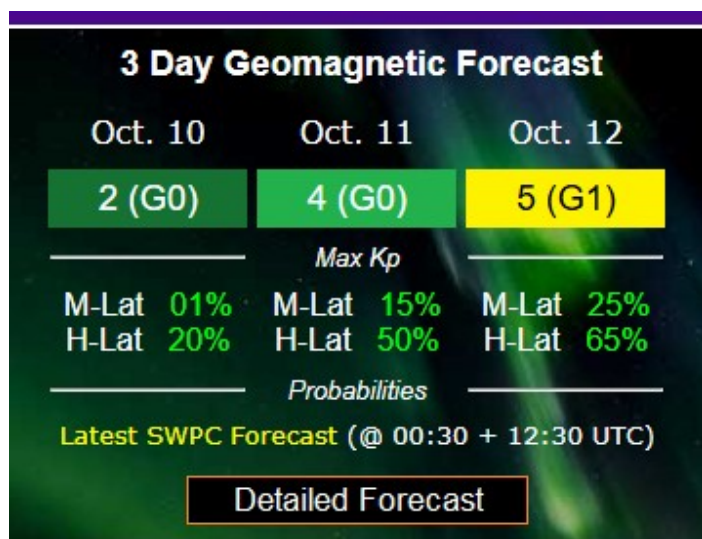
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## Next Meeting

October's meeting will be held  
7:30 PM on October 16, 2025 at  
the Pepperell Community Center  
at 4 Hollis Street in Pepperell  
Massachusetts.

Bruce, K1BG will present an  
introduction to contesting for  
new hams.



Before I run out the door to play  
radio, I check whether it's worth  
the effort at [solarham.com](http://solarham.com) .  
Sunday is going to be terrible :)

[Hamsql.com/solar.html](http://Hamsql.com/solar.html) is also a  
good site for checking.

## Weekly 2-meter Net

The NVARC Information Net is  
held Monday nights at 7:30PM  
local time on the  
2m N1MNX repeater:  
147.345 MHz +100PL.  
An informal net on 28.400(+/-)  
may follow the VHF net.

## President's Corner

### Les N1SV

As I write this, the weather is feeling more like summer than fall with temps in the low 80s and the leaves turning. But don't let the weather fool you. Now is the time to get all those antenna projects done before things change. I just completed all my antenna work including having the existing 6m beam replaced, replacing the VHF/UHF repeater vertical, and installing loop yagis for 900 MHz & 1296 MHz.

Bruce K1BG recently held another very successful Technician license class with 17 students in attendance, the largest so far. On October 1st we held a VE session where all 8 students who showed up passed their technician exams. We even had one of these students go as far as to pass his General exam and then get a 29 of 50 correct on the Extra exam. It was truly gratifying to see so many students become licensees. In preparation for the VE session, I became an accredited VE myself. So now there is at least 6 NVARC members who are accredited as Ves.

The NEARFest flea market was held on Friday October 3rd & Saturday October 4th. While I couldn't get up there on Friday, I did make it on Saturday. I met up with a couple of the newly licensed Technicians from Bruce's class. I enjoyed showing them around and helping them to find some equipment to set up their stations with. My sole purchase was a surplus 6-foot ½" Helix coaxial cable that I spend all of \$5 on.

Last month's presentation on the 3Y0K 2026 Bouvet Island DXPedition by Adrian KO8SCA was a great success. I didn't realize the logistics and budget to pull off such a large-scale event like this. This month our speaker will be Bruce K1BG who will be presenting on contesting for those new to the hobby.

Bruce is an accomplished veteran contester who I'm sure will provide a lot of useful information and anecdotes.



## Treasurer's Report

### Ralph KD1SM

NVARC received no income in September and had no expenses for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,305.44
Community fund	\$7,243.25

As of 2 October we have 43 members who are current with their dues and 5 renewals outstanding. With the Bylaws update adopted earlier this year all membership renewals become due in January. A "catchup" amount for the remainder of 2025 will be added to your renewal dues for January 2026.

To pay membership dues via PayPal see the instructions in

<https://n1nc.org/membership/>

If you are joining ARRL or renewing your membership please note ARRL's instructions to enter your NVARC membership information. As a Special Service Club, the ARRL expects a majority of Club members to also be ARRL members and will send a portion of your new or renewal ARRL membership fee back to the Club. Contact Ralph for further information if you need it.

## Board Meeting Report

### John K1JEB

Les N1SV reported the old N1MNX Repeater Web page needs to be updated to reflect the new N1NC call sign. John KK1X suggested the current web site be kept for historical reasons.

Ralph KD1SM has had a License Class attendee give him glowing and positive remarks concerning the classes.

Bruce K1BG will be the October Meeting speaker. He will be speaking about contesting to the new hams at the meeting.

The November meeting will be the QSL Card sorting meeting. The board passed a motion for a budget of \$150.00 to cover the meeting pizza and drinks expenses.

Skip K1NKR has suggested that the club should give approximately 10 to 15 minutes at each meeting to cover subjects that would benefit the newly licensed hams.

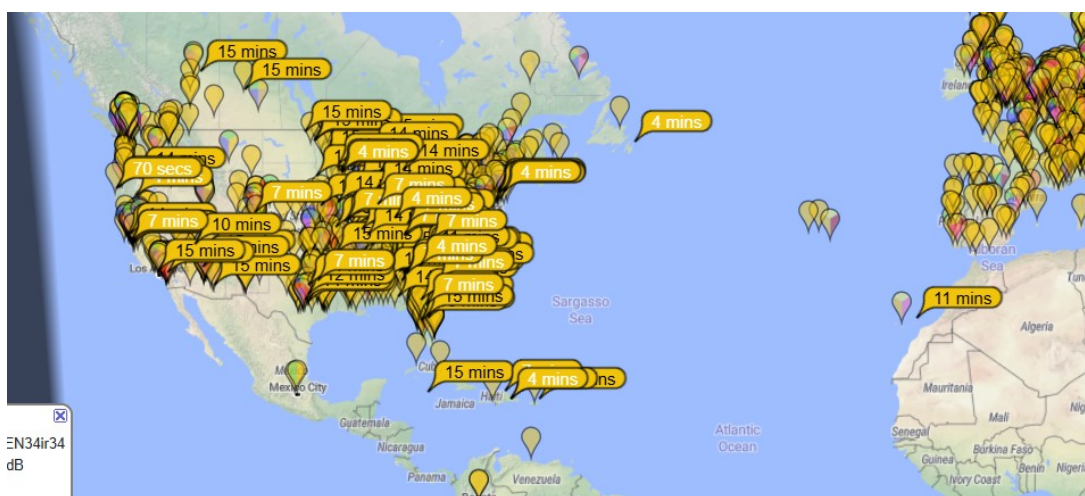
Les N1SV has reported that the last series of license classes was the largest group in NVARC history. Les N1SV also suggested that not only should the classes be given by the club but also license exams would be beneficial as well.

Zack KC1VUY asked if the board would be interested in the club running a Facebook Group. K1JEB has reported that the 2-meter NET on Mondays has been doing well but check ins are down.

## Working POTA

September was pretty busy for me. I made a total of some eighteen activations, including a number of new parks for me. I worked Reid SP in Georgetown Maine on a trip to the Common Ground Fair in Unity. I also activate Wolf's Neck Woods SP on the same trip. I made two trips to Natural Bridge State Park in Clarksburg Mass. The second trip was entirely vanity – I wanted to show up on their leader board :)

I also visited Mount Holyoke Range SP. I'd been there before but equipment failures prevented me from getting the ten contacts I needed for an activation, so I called for a mulligan.



### 20m “Hamstick” at 5W

I've been playing with a number of antennas in my adventures. Of late I've been pretty lazy. Twice I've used an end-fed half wave cut for 40 meters, and I used an off-center fed dipole (1) and a delta loop (1). The rest of the efforts were done with either a tripod-mounted vertical with two elevated radials (4), a ground-mounted vertical with between 9 and 15 radials on the ground, or a hamstick on a magneti mount..

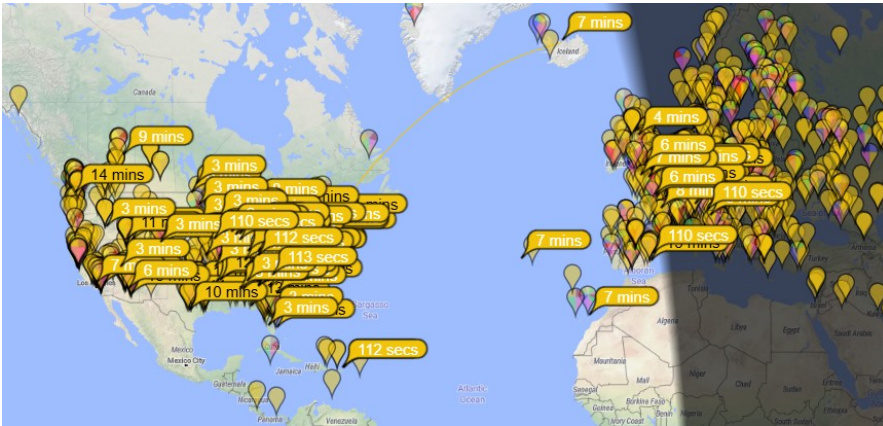
For additional fun, I also brought my Icom IC-7300 out into the field,

as I do on Field Day for the phone station. I wanted to compare the use of a bit more power than my KX3 can produce. I typically run 5 watts with the KX3 to keep the finals cool enough to touch. I set the power to 50 watts on

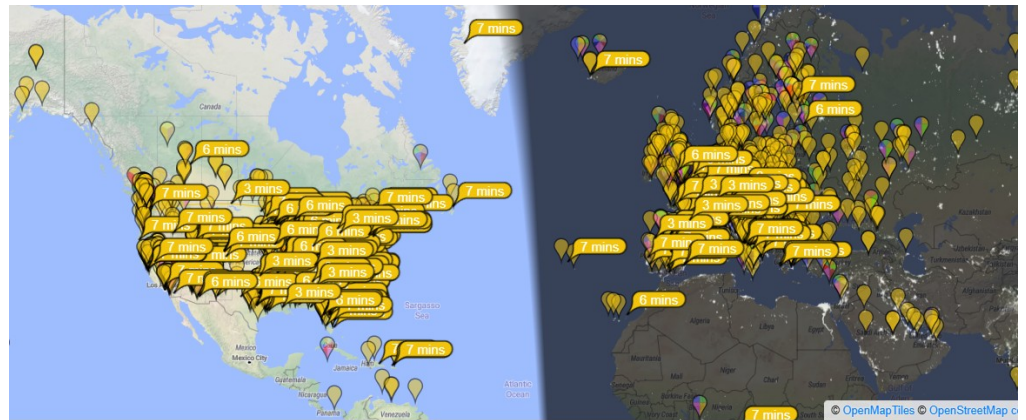




the 7300, and was mildly disappointed that I didn't get better results. Ten times the power equates to a marginal increase in reach.



## Hamstick at 10W



## Hamstick at 50W

While these three pictures are from different locations *and* on different days, it's somewhat evident that boosting transmit power by an order of magnitude does produce *some* improvement in performance, but I don't find a compelling reason to spend \$1500 on Elecraft's \$1500 amplifier for the KX3. (There is a competing model for <\$300. Hmmm...)

I have a list of 48 state parks in Massachusetts. Oddly, not all of the state parks in the Commonwealth are listed by POTA. I'll have to get on that. But of the 48 parks on my list, I have 21 that I've yet to activate. October has started off pretty well, with two new parks in Massachusetts, one in Vermont, and another in New Hampshire.

I'm working on a primer for new POTA operators, which I hope to have completed by next month.

Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 900  
Pepperell MA 01463-0900  
<https://n1nc.org>

President: Les Peters N1SV  
Vice President: Zack Harrison KC1UY  
Secretary: John Bielefeld K1JEVB  
Treasurer: Ralph Swick KD1SM

Board Members:  
John Griswold KK1X (2024-2026)  
Jim Hein N8VIM (2024-2027)  
Matt Fennell KC1TUV ( 2025-2028)

N1NC Trustee: Bruce Blain K1BG

Join NVARC! Annual dues are  
\$15 individual, \$20 family

Contact us on the N1MNX repeater:  
442.900(+) PL100  
147.345(+) PL100  
53.890(-) PL100

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corrections, and inquiries should be sent to

[editor@n1nc.org](mailto:editor@n1nc.org)  
to reach the newsletter editor.

Editor: John Griswold KK1X  
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