



NVARC

Signal



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WWW.N1NC.ORG

December 2025

In This Issue

Next Meeting	1
2-meter Net	1
President's Corner	2
About December's Meeting	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Winter Field Day	4
Board Meeting Report	5
Operating Tip	6
Emails from QSL World?	7
"DX Commander" Clone	10



Breakfast Club: K1NS, AB1ZN, N1SV,
KB1HFT, AB1WQ, NS1V, KC1TUV(?),
K1JEB, K1BG, N8VIM KK1X photo

Next Meeting

This month's meeting will be held 7:30 PM on December 18, 2025 at the Pepperell Community Center at 4 Hollis Street in Pepperell Massachusetts.

This month's program is our annual Show and Tell, or "Boat Anchor Petting Zoo". Bring in your projects to show off your dreadful DIY talents.

Weekly 2-meter Net

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

President's Corner

Les N1SV

As I'm writing this, we are in the midst of our first cold snap around here and I've just returned from a week in Florida. Shorts one day - shoveling snow the next, it's crazy! I was staying in a large retirement community in Florida complete with HOA restrictions. It reminded me of how fortunate those of us are who live in an area without those restrictions. If you haven't generated your letter to support Senate bill S.459 and House bill H.R.1094 that reduce HOA restrictions, please do so. The ARRL has made it extremely easy to do this by using this link

<https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>. You can find more information about this legislation here <https://www.arrl.org/regulatory-advocacy>.

By the time you read this the General license class that Bruce, K1BG has been running should be just finishing up. The feedback from Bruce is that it had gone very well, and he expects a number of new General licensees to emerge from the licensing exam being held on December 15th.

Congratulations to the fourteen new Technician licensees who graduated from Bruce's fall class. Bruce has done an excellent job training these new hams but getting licensed is just the first step. If you know one of these newly minted Technicians, please reach out to them and offer them any assistance you can to help get them on the air.

This month we have our annual "Show & Tell" also known as the "Boat Anchor Petting Zoo" and previously known as "Homebrew Night".

Whether you have something big or small, new or old that you'd like to share with our members please bring it in. At the November meeting Phil, W1PJE indicated that he had something very unique that he might bring in. I'm looking forward to seeing what he has.

And if your item is too big or too heavy to bring in, don't worry, just bring in some pictures. And speaking of meetings, don't forget that January is our Short Subjects night.



President's Corner cont'd

The Short Subjects night allows members to present on topics of interest to them that typically run for 15 minutes or less. This is always an interesting meeting, but it relies on our members to make it successful. So, if you have an idea, please reach out to me so we can cultivate it.

And just a reminder that at our April 2025 meeting the club approved a change to our bylaws, making all memberships renew January 1st. Depending on your current renewal month there will be an adjustment to your remaining 2025 dues of \$1.25 / month. As an example, if my renewal month was June my adjustment would be \$7.50 (6 months x \$1.25 / month). If our treasurer has not already done so expect him to communicate your specific adjustment for remaining 2025 dues. Going forward all dues will be due on January 1st. Club dues are an integral part of our club that funds our liability insurance so we can continue to have meetings at the community center and supports events like Field Day and our Annual card sort. So please work with our treasurer Ralph, KD1SM to ensure your dues are up to date.

December General Meeting Bruce K1BG

Traditionally, NVARC's December meeting has been "Homebrew Night" where members bring the things that they have been working on all year. Over the last few years, we broadened the focus to include things like software programs you are working on, antenna projects, equipment restoration and repair, and generally anything being worked on that is not commercial off-the-shelf. In 2023 we added a "Boat Anchor Petting Zoo" category where you can show off any of your tube-based equipment.

It's a great social night where you can experience what other people are doing, ask questions, and rub shoulders with other members and guests. If you are new or not a tinkerer don't let that stop you from coming and enjoying yourself.

Treasurer's Report Ralph KD1SM

Income for November was \$52.50 in membership fees. Expenses were \$1.57 in PayPal fees and \$127.27 for the November QSL sort refreshments leaving a net expense of \$76.34 for the month.

Current balances:

General fund	\$3,229.10
Community fund	\$7,243.25

As of 3 December we have 41 members who are current with their dues and 54 renewals outstanding. Please remember when you are renewing that our membership term is now 1 January to 31 December. Please add \$1.25 for each remaining month of 2025 when you pay your 2026 dues.

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.

Winter Field Day John KK1X

I found out about Winter Field Day just before the last iteration in January 2025. I had just come off of my 2024 adventure of over 7000 POTA activator contacts, so sitting out in my car for a few hours wasn't out of the ordinary. I hadn't really prepared and didn't hang around for long. This year I'm hoping to spend a little more prep time and post a better showing. Winter Field Day is January 24 & 25, 2026. Contemplate joining in that weekend, especially if you have a winter cabin or such...

<https://winterfeldday.org/>

Board Meeting Report John K1JEB

Bruce K1BG will be providing a list of the graduating new hams that recently received their new licenses to Ralph KD1SM.

A discussion on replacing the club's broken badge laminator. Further research is needed to find one that is cost effective.

Bruce K1BG suggested adding web content geared toward the new Technician licensed hams.

A discussion was made concerning the 6 meter repeater and its current status. So far it is working with the current setup.

Matt KC1TUV reported on the GMRS repeater. He working on replacing the antenna and its side mount on the tower.

Bruce K1BG indicated he currently has 15 Students attending his General License classes also to include a VE session on December 15, 2025. Apparently, word is getting out about these classes and future classes may continue to grow.

Les N1SV and Bruce K1BG had a conversation concerning starting a VE program within NVARC.

Bruce K1BG indicated that the Estate Sale was able to sell the more expensive items, one Yaesu HF transceiver and two Yaesu 2m radios.

Spare Gear?

Bruce's classes have provided an influx of new hams into the service. The club is looking to set up a pool of loaner transceivers to get the new folks on the air.

Do you have a spare radio just collecting dust? Let us know. Start with the editor (kk1x at kk1x dot net) and your info will be forwarded. (I didn't want to just throw Les under the bus...)

Operating Tip John K1JEB

Frustrated with his Bencher key's tendency to slide around the table, John K1JEB took matters into his own hands and fixed the problem.



John cut the bottom from a bread pan to create a nice package (above), filled the cavity with about eight pounds (~3.6kg) of lead flashing. The flashing was melted down (yes, outdoors) and poured into the pan. The Bencher hardware was migrated to the new base.

This key nearly meets the old W1XP requirement: “It has to be a two-man lift.”



And yes, these photos were taken during breakfast at [Tiny's](#), thus the “photo studio” strewn with empty sugar packets and creamers...



Emails from QSL World?

Bruce K1BG

Lately, I started getting emails from an entity called “QSL World”. www.qslworld.com (for me, 76 over the last 6 months). Each email contains an image of a QSL card (and information) for a contact that I had with that station. I can reply with a QSL card image with one of 5 pre-designed QSL cards containing information that I can edit. Presumably if that information is also in my logbook. Sounds like an easier, updated version of eQSL (another electronic QSL service).

QSL World is the brainchild of Andrei Ivanoff, PY2MB/KO4ZHL, a Brazilian ham living in Miami. The site started by “offering an ADIF-to-map platform to help ham operators visualize their contacts.” You upload a .ADIF file log (ADIF is a file format used for exchanging log files between programs and users) to the site and it displays on a map for you. Adding QSL cards came later.

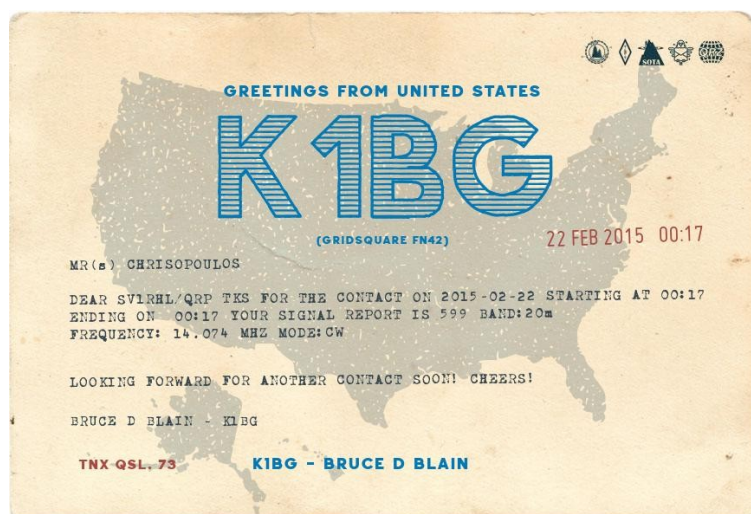
For chuckles, I tried uploading an ADIF file I had for a POTA (Parks-On-The-Air) activation I did last year, and presto! A nice map was generated (Mercator projection). Interestingly, QSL World now gave me the opportunity to pick a QSL Card style – one of the same five free designs that you can pick when you reply to a QSL World email request – and a button that says “Send QSO confirmation to all contacts”! Can you imagine the traffic generated if I had uploaded my entire ADIF file of over 100,000 contacts? YIKES! It’s no wonder hams are asking why they are getting all of these emails.

Another tab on the website says, “Become a member”, so I had a look. There are three membership levels, from \$9.99 to \$19.99. It doesn’t say for how long or what you get, but to the left of the membership levels are the disabled links to presumably the services offered. These include some of the things already tried (mapping and sending cards to all contacts at once), plus a QSL Card Design Studio (again, to design a custom QSL for the service?) and others. Interestingly, out of the 76 requests I received, only 8 were custom designs.

Emails from QSL World


I find the service interesting and innovative, something the ARRL should have stitched into Logbook of the World a long time ago. I find the lack of an Azimuthal map option disappointing, and the idea that you can send 100,000 QSL cards at a time crazy. While the service is convenient, it does not offer the security and safeguards the antiquated ARRL Logbook of the World is known for (and I suspect they are not trying to offer this). And FWIW, a number of the QSL cards confirmations requested of me were not in my log. Presumably they never happened. An honest mistake or something more sinister? Your guess is as good as mine.


But if you are getting these emails and want to know the story-behind-the-story, now you have it.



Here are a few QSL cards
Bruce K1BG has sent to
SV1RHL via the QSL World
site.



QSLWORLD-60M T.C.C. +  + SERVING ALL CONTINENTS.

 **QSL TELEGRAM**

BY ORDER OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Small print: Service of WWW.QSLWORLD.COM TELEGRAPH CABLE COMPANY is limited to terms & conditions presented on its internet location.

Received at the Local Branch (Over the air)

FN42 ORIG UNITED STATES

MR(s) CHRISOPOULOS

DEAR SV1RHL/QRP-(STOP)-TKS FOR THE CONTACT ON 2015-02-22-(STOP)-STARTING AT 00:17 ENDING ON 00:17-(STOP)--YOUR SIGNAL REPORT IS 599 -(STOP)-BAND:20m FREQUENCY: 14.074 MHZ MODE: CW-(STOP)-LOOKING FORWARD FOR ANOTHER CONTACT SOON! CHEERS!-(STOP)-

BRUCE D BLAIN - K1BG 12:17 am

Small print: WWW.QSLWORLD.COM OFFERS THIS DELIVERY SYSTEM FREE OF CHARGE. THIS FILE HAS NO LEGAL VALUE AND WAS CREATED SOLELY TO ENTERTAIN OUR BELOVED HAM COMMUNITY!

GREETINGS FROM UNITED STATES

K1BG

GRIDSQUARE FN42

TO RADIO SV1RHL/
YOUR 20m -- CW SIGNAL
RECEIVED AT 00:17 GMT ON 2015-02-22
WERE RST 599

REMARKS MR(s) CHRISOPOULOS
GRATEFUL FOR THE QSO.
LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER EXCHANGE.
BRUCE D BLAIN - K1BG

TNX QSL 73

FROM UNITED STATES
(GRIDSQUARE FN42)

K1BG

TO MR(s) CHRISOPOULOS
DEAR SV1RHL/QRP. Tnx FOR THE CONTACT
LOOKING FORWARD FOR ANOTHER CONTACT SOON! CHEERS!

TO RADIOSV1RHL/QRP CONFIRMS OUR 14.074 MHZ. TWO-WAY CW CONTACT.
OF 22 FEB 2015 at 00:17 to 00:17 WHEN YOUR SIGNAL WERE RST 599

TNX QSL 73 K1BG - BRUCE D BLAIN

Small print: SERVICE OF WWW.QSLWORLD.COM IS LIMITED TO TERMS & CONDITIONS PRESENTED ON ITS INTERNET LOCATION

FROM THE MAJESTIC LAND OF UNITED STATES

K1BG

(GRIDSQUARE FN42 - BRUCE D BLAIN)

Note:
Thank you for the contact.
I hope to catch you on the air again soon!

CONFIRMING QSO:

STATION	DATE	UTC	BAND	MODE	RST
SV1RHL/QRP	2015-02-22	00:17	20m 14.074 MHz	CW	599

TNX QSL 73

DX Commander Clone

John KK1X

Anticipating a few dozen contacts in the ARRL November Sweepstakes, I needed (wanted) a multi-band vertical antenna to augment my oddly-installed End Fed Half Wave (EFHW), which goes up about sixty feet and then straggles its way easterly toward the neighbor's yard.

I've followed Callum M0MCX, who has designed and marketed several versions of what he calls the [DX Commander](#). It's essentially half of a fan dipole mounted vertically, with radials, making a simple multi-band vertical antenna. And it works. Callum provides detailed construction info for his antennas *gratis*, on his site. He sells versions of the DX Commander that cover all the way from 6m to 80m. Callum's designs are much prettier than mine. He uses water-jet-cut high density polyethylene (HDPE) for wire guides and aluminum (*aluminium* when he says it) plates for the ground radial and element attachment sections. I cut narrow (1" = ~2.5cm) strips from a plastic cutting board from Dollar Tree. I used a heat gun to bend these strips into "L" brackets to guide the wire elements and tie off the orange shock cord used to tension the elements.

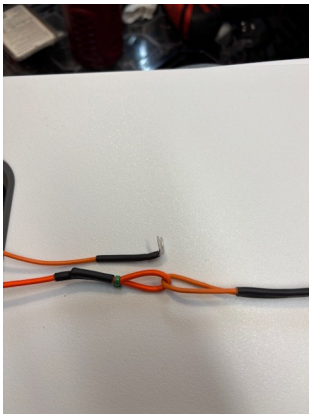
Callum's supports are precision-cut to perfectly fit the diameter of the fiberglass mast section. My supports are taped to the mast with electrical tape. I know I have duct tape around here somewhere, but the electrical tape leaves behind less residue than duct tape, I opine. Callum's antennas last for years. Mine was up for a weekend.

I have a spreadsheet on my phone that breaks out wire element lengths for dipoles at FT8 frequencies, and modified it for SSB. I added a bit of wire for tuning and connections. SWR on 15m was unrecorded, but it was decent enough where I didn't bother to make adjustments.

Band	Center Freq	Initial Length (nom $\lambda/4$)	Final SWR
40	7.200	33 ft (10m)	1.38@7.200
20	14.200	16.5 ft (5m)	1.17@14.200
10	29.000	8.2 ft (2.5m)	1.26@29.100



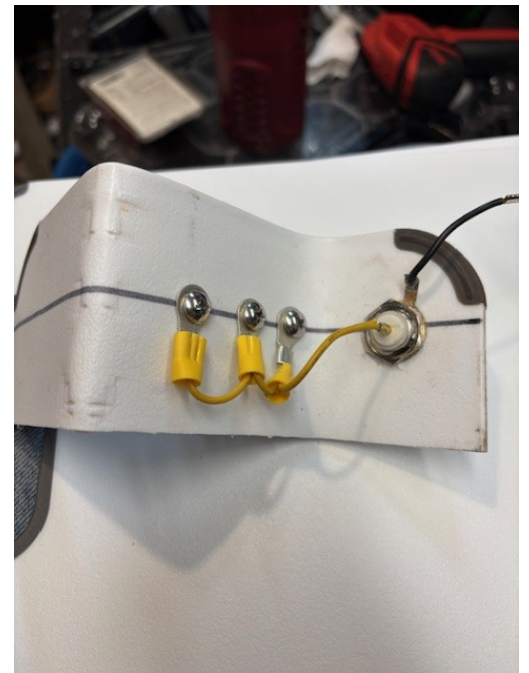
Dollar Tree cutting boards are relatively cheap at \$1.25, and provide a decent raw material - easily cut and drilled, and quickly bent with a heat gun. The L-shaped brackets are drilled $\frac{1}{4}$ " (~6mm) to allow knots to pass through easily, and are fastened to the mast with bargain-bin electrical tape. It was only up for the weekend.



The three radiating elements are appropriately-tuned segments of 18 AWG (1mm) silicone-insulated wire in my standard orange. Loops were formed with zip ties and glue-lined heat shrink. Tensioning was provided by this really cool orange bungee cord I managed to find, again with the glue-lined heat shrink.



The plain coax bulkhead connector on the bottom bracket feeds the three radiators and has an attachment point (three female spades) for radials.



KK1X photos

Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club
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<https://n1nc.org>

President: Les Peters N1SV
Vice President: Zack Harrison KC1VUY
Secretary: John Bielefeld K1JEB
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

This newsletter is published monthly. Submissions,
corrections, and inquiries should be sent to

editor@n1nc.org
to reach the newsletter editor.

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