

August 2022

NEW ENGLAND BEACON

Issue 2

ARRL Division Newsletter



INFORM

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PROJECT BIG E TO HIGHLIGHT MODERN AMATEUR RADIO TO HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FAIR ATTENDEES

by Phil Temples, K9HI, New England Vice Director

The BIG E Multi-state Fair

Modern Amateur Radio will be on full display this fall to hundreds of thousands of people at The BIG E in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Billed as “New England’s Great State Fair,” The BIG E runs from September 16 through October 2, 2022. It is the largest agricultural event on the eastern seaboard and the sixth largest in the nation. The BIG E enjoyed over 1.5 million visitors in 2021—despite COVID.



Project Big E

Planning for Project Big E (the Amateur Radio component) began in 2021 by Larry Krainson, W1AST; members of the Hampden County Radio Association and other interested individuals. They envisioned a ham radio booth that would demonstrate the many aspects of modern ham radio, and provide an avenue for people to sign up for information and courses in their local area.

Since then, other individuals and clubs from across New England have become involved—including ARRL Headquarters and the ARRL New England Division leadership.

The Booth

The Amateur Radio booth will be on public display for 17 days; 12 hours per day. “We’ve been given a \$4,000 booth. We have to make it look appealing and staff it the entire time,” according to W1AST.

Staffing will occur every day in two 6-hour shifts.

Some of the Project Big E booth ideas include:

- An emergency communications display
- D-STAR and/or other digital mobile mode demo
- Digital HF modes on a big screen
- A special event station (N1E) with unique QSL cards
- SSB, CW and digital modes
- Demonstrations of portable stations for field operation (i.e., Parks On The Air, Summits On The Air)
- Highlight youth in ham radio

According to Larry Krainson, W1AST, “If just one-tenth of one percent of attendees sign up for ham classes, that would be 1,600 names to distribute to all New England clubs. We would all benefit and grow ham radio.”

W1AST hopes that volunteers from different states’ radio clubs will staff the booth during State and Theme Days.

N1E Special Events Station

Project Big E and the Hampden County Radio Association (W1NY) has reserved the 1×1 special event callsign “N1E” for use during the 17-day event.

Live ARISS Contact (“The BIG E Space Chat”)

New England ARRL Division Director Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, arranged with the ARISS (“Amateur Radio on the International Space Station”) leadership to conduct an ARISS contact for youths at The BIG E. AB1OC is an ARISS Mentor and Ground Station and is very active in the program. As with all ARISS school contacts, the actual day and time for the scheduled contact won’t be known until 10 days in advance. Currently, the Space Chat “window” is September 26-29, 2022.



Larry Krainson, WIAST, secured an agreement with a local firm, Black Helicopter Creative, to provide the live streaming, video editing, projection enhancement and recording of the ARISS contact. Black Helicopter Creative are donating their time and effort to make this contact and the live stream a professional view for all.

ARRL Division Vice Director Phil Temples, K9HI, and Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, are working closely with The BIG E marketing department to produce PR materials for The BIG E Space Chat which is expected to draw extensive television and media coverage.

Youth Educational Component

ARISS contacts require a youth educational component. Project Big E is working with New England Sci-Tech in Natick, Massachusetts. The non-profit STEM+ organization is offering free workshops to youth who will participate in the ARISS contact. Some of those activities will include:

- Model rocketry
- Air-powered rockets and planes
- Amateur radio license course
- Basic electronic workshop
- Elementary mathematics in modeling rocket flight
- Introduction to Morse code



Initially set up for homeschooled students, the program is now open to all youths across New England.

Get Involved

To learn how to be involved with Project Big E, visit <https://nediv.arrl.org/project-big-e>. We maintain an active groups.io list. To join the group, visit <https://groups.io/g/projectbige>.

Clubs who organize and help staff the booth will receive preferential treatment in receiving contact information of interested people who stop by the booth and register.

All volunteers who help with Project Big E can have their admission and parking costs reimbursed. If you are traveling a great distance, the Project Big E committee can assist with their overnight accommodations by arranging for them to stay with host families in the area.

Conclusion

Project Big E and The BIG E Space Chat have the potential to introduce Amateur Radio to hundreds of thousands of the general public. Not since the Museum of Science ham radio exhibit project in the 1970s has such a project of this magnitude been attempted in New England. Its success will depend to a large extent upon the volunteers we recruit. Please consider joining us in making Project Big E a huge success.

We welcome you to come to The BIG E Space Chat and bring your family members, especially the younger ones. Who knows--the experience may inspire them to pursue a scientific or engineering discipline in school and later, in a chosen career.

Amateur radio operators and up to three guests will be provided free admission to The BIG E on Space Chat Day if they present an official copy of their FCC license at the gate. For details, visit <https://nediv.arrl.org/big-e-space-chat/>

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE FOR 2Q-2022

by Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC

I've been quite busy the last few months with a combination of ARRL Board work, New England Division projects, Mentoring, and some time on the air. I am pleased to report good progress on many fronts. Here's more about what I've been up to.

Club Grants



Mike Walters, W8ZY, and I, as part of an ARRL Foundation Committee, put together the application and decision process for the ARRL Foundation Club Grant program and rolled it out. Thanks to a generous donation by ARDC, the ARRL Foundation is making \$500,000 available to Amateur Radio Clubs.

ARRL Club Grant Program at a glance:

- Clubs do not need to be ARRL-affiliated clubs to submit proposals
- Looking to fund projects that create significant impact beyond the applying club: transformative impact on Amateur Radio; create public awareness and support for Amateur Radio; educational and training impact.
- Examples of projects include, but are not limited to: get-on-the-air projects; ham training and skills development through mentoring; STEM and STEAM learning through Amateur Radio; station resources for use by the ham community; emergency communications and public service projects that emphasize training; club revitalization projects.

The response to the first round of this program has been tremendous. We received 127 applications for Club Grants! The first round of grants will be awarded by the end of the summer, and the second tranche of applications and awards will commence in the late summer/early fall.

Board Projects and Meetings

I am working along with other ARRL Board Members and leaders as part of several ARRL Board Committees. First, I am a member of the Administration and Finance Committee, where I am chairing a subcommittee that is looking at ways to grow ARRL membership and increase active participation in Amateur Radio.

I'm also leading a subcommittee within the Emergency Communications and Field Service Committee that is working on a plan to create the next generation of the National Traffic System (NTS). I am working closely with Marcia Forde, KW1U, and other traffic handlers to create a plan for NTS 2.0. We are planning a series of briefings for Traffic Handlers here in New England as well as across other ARRL divisions on the NTS 2.0 project.

Finally, I have been appointed to be one of the ARRL Board members on the newly formed Investment Management Committee. The Investment Management Committee provides oversight of ARRL's external investment manager and advises ARRL's Administration and Finance Committee and the Board of Directors on investment policies and portfolio management.

Field Day

Anita, AB1QB, and I had a great time during Field Day, visiting clubs all over New England. We covered about 1,000 miles during a three-day tour on Field Day weekend. I especially enjoyed meeting folks in person during Field Day and seeing what everyone was doing. It was great to see all of the different ways that clubs across New England approached Field Day. Anita took many great photos during our tour, and you can view those and read more about our Field Day travels [here](#). We operated as AB1OC/M from the mobile HF station in our truck during the trip and had a ton of fun on the air as well.

Assistant Director Teams

Phil Temples, K9HI, and I continued working with our division Assistant Directors as they continued to set up their teams and began sharing information and projects across our division.

- Cory Golob, KU1U – Assistant Director, Emergency Communications and Public Service Activities
- Rob Leiden, KIUI – Assistant Director, Spectrum Protection and Use
- Anita Kemmerer, AB1QB – Assistant Director, Mentoring and Ham Development
- Dan Norman, N0HF – Assistant Director, Youth Outreach and STEM Learning

A great deal of good work is getting accomplished by our Assistant Directors, and each team has projects underway that will benefit hams across New England. Our second quarter 2022 newsletter features articles about what our ADs are doing.

BIG E Space Chat



New England school students will be making live radio contact with an astronaut on the International Space Station from The BIG E during the week of September 26th – September 29th. The “BIG E Space Chat” is part of a program to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) educational activities and Amateur Radio learning activities for young people.

We brokered the creation of this project through a partnership between The BIG E, New England Sci-Tech (a STEM education group in New England), Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS), and Black Helicopter Creative LLC. You can learn more about The BIG E Space Chat and how students can sign up to be part of the planned education program [here](#).

Folks are also planning an Amateur Radio booth at The BIG E, and you can learn more about that project and how your club can be part of it [here](#).

Communications, Club Meetings, and Hamfests

We continued with our work to improve communications this quarter. There are three parts to our activities in this area:

- Quarterly Division Cabinet Meetings with Club Presidents, Section Managers and Field Staff Members, and other leaders
- Triannual (every 4 months) Division Town Hall Meetings with all ARRL Members in New England
- Frequent attendance at Club Meetings (at least 6 times a quarter for each DVA team member)

We held our second Cabinet Meeting on April 16th (see what was discussed [here](#)). Our next Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for August 13th. We are inviting members of the HQ Staff to these meetings so that they can share information on what they are doing and receive feedback directly from division leaders.

We held our second Town Hall Meeting on June 15th. Attendance was excellent again, with over 140 in attendance. We provided an update on ARRL and New England Division activities and answered questions from the folks who attended. You can see what was discussed, including a recording of the event, [here](#). We are planning to hold our next Town Hall Meeting in November.

We held an ARRL Forum at Spring NEAR-Fest in Deerfield, NH, where we provided an update on ARRL and New England Division projects and answered questions. We joined Peter Stohrer K1PJS at NEAR-Fest to talk with folks and answer questions.



Western MA Section Manager Ray, AA1SE and Assistant Director Anita, AB1QB discuss Licensing and Mentoring with Gordon West, WB6NOA at Hamvention

We also attended the Dayton Hamvention, where we helped to staff the ARRL Clubs booth and answer questions about the ARRL Foundation Club Grant program. I am also planning to host an ARRL Forum at HamXposition in Marlborough, MA. HamXposition will take place on August 26th – 28th. You can [see the schedule](#) for the ARRL forum and session hosted by our division ADs here.

Licensing, Mentoring, and Youth

What Do EmComm and Public Service Communicators Do?

- Message Handling
 - Formal and Informal Messages
 - Health and Welfare Messages
- Situational Reporting
 - Report Local Conditions and Infrastructure Issues
 - Roads, Bridges, Power Outages, Flooding
 - Weather Conditions
- Provide Inter-Organizational Communications
- Assist Partner Agency Leadership with Communications Support
- Create Communications Links Between a Disaster Area and Outside World
- Public Service Event Communications





Stu, W1SHS, hosts an “Introduction to EmComm” at Ham Bootcamp

I have continued work on Licensing and Mentoring programs. We taught weekend Technician, General, and Extra License classes this spring and helped 19 hams earn their license or an upgrade.

We also held a spring Ham Bootcamp program, which helps hams across the country to learn how to use their Amateur Radio License to operate, put stations together, and get on the air. We added additional Ham Bootcamp training on getting started in Emergency Communications activities thanks to help from Stu Solomon, W1SHS, and Cory Golob, KUIU’s Emergency Communications and Public Service Activities Team.

I've enjoyed some operating time in the ARRL June VHF Contest and the new ARRL International Digital DX Contest. We also operated as K2K New Hampshire during the 2022 13 Colonies Special Event. We have received hundreds of QSL requests from our K2K operations, and we are working through those now. Finally, the 6m Band has been pretty good this year, and I am enjoying some operating time on 6m on most days as well.

I hope to see you soon at a Hamfest, Club Meeting, Town Hall Meeting, Cabinet Meeting, or some other event in the near future. All the Best and 73



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR UPDATES

Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) Web-Based Help to Roll Out in 4th Quarter

Rob Leiden, K1UI, Assistant Director for Spectrum Utilization & Protection

Every new power-dependent technology has also produced an ever-increasing number of RFI generating devices. Solar generators, LEDs, power line faults, charging devices and many other sources pollute the amateur radio spectrum and impact its effective use. The New England Division, with the cooperation of Ed Hare, WIRFI and Steve Anderson, WIEMI at the ARRL Lab, has created a program to assist hams to identify and eliminate or reduce RFI in the ham shack.

The final phase of a project to provide a web-based RFI troubleshooting process is planned for the fourth quarter of this year. The web pages are in place and the teams to assist New England hams to use them have been established in each section. The pages feature:

- A decision tree and general tips to guide a ham's own investigation
- Team contact information and a form to fill out if you need team help
- Information about how a ham can buy or build their own RFI -hunting equipment
- Maps and power company contact information
- Techniques to reduce RFI from sources that cannot be reasonably eliminated and many other references that help hams identify RFI sources,

To use the process, a ham first performs the checks outlined in the decision tree. If that doesn't identify the noise source, the ham then fills out a form explaining what was done and sends it to the section RFI team together with a spectrum file if available. The RFI team then works with the ham to help identify and eliminate the RFI. If necessary, the case is forwarded to the ARRL and then, if still unresolved, to the FCC.

Two RFI-related forums are planned for the Marlboro HamXposition in late August. Annette, KA1RFI and Rob, KIUI will discuss the partnership between radio amateurs and Eversource of New Hampshire to identify and correct power line – related RFI. Rob will then lead an RFI team forum where RFI team tools will be available for demonstration. Some of these were evaluated by the RFI teams at their June meeting.

NEDIV Youth and STEM Outreach Update

Dan Norman, *NOHF, Assistant Director for Youth Outreach & STEM Learning*

This summer two major events (Space Chat at the BigE and HamXposition) are both great opportunities for New England Youth to experience what Ham Radio can offer. There will be all sorts of activity and visual stimuli at the booth areas to attract our young people to check out and pursue. Local Ham clubs will be available to answer questions and provide information on training, workshops, licensing, and other aspects of our hobby.

Creating ways to advertise and connect with our Youth is a priority. Social Media is a great way, and access to an Information Warehouse-type platform providing content in one place is key. This would include Amateur Radio topics of all types, events, study classes, VE Sessions, practice tests, HamFests, calendars, local club meetings, DX spots, remote SDR receiving stations, to name a few. For now our NEDIV website will host it, looking forward I am envisioning a very well-built App available on our favorite App Stores for free download. A QR code will link users to this information on our website. More on this soon!

July 13th a combined Zoom meeting (Youth Outreach and Ham Mentoring & Development) took place and I've been impressed at the upswing of help and suggestions that keep coming in. My role in Youth outreach is very much about building a foundation that simplifies the "how-to" for youth outreach by listening and learning how other clubs and Ham organizations operate youth programs and make it happen.

I've been thinking back on how Ham Radio has evolved over the decades. Our use of the Internet especially. Everything from learning, buying/selling, news, maps, on-air tools, remote Ham Radio, Social media groups, local info, to name a few, has been key to our success. Building upon this to even further the capabilities for Ham Radio technology moving ahead will require young people to engage and pursue. I ask you to consider reaching out to youth who may have an interest in Ham Radio and strike up a conversation. I know many of you already do. Thanks for your assistance. Have a great summer!

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Emergency Communications and Public Service

Cory Golob, KU1U, Assistant Director for EMCOMM and Public Service

A special guest attended the most recent New England Emergency Communications and Public Service (NE-ECAPS) meeting, Craig Fugate, KK4INZ. Craig was the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator from 2009 until 2017. This meeting was well attended and well received which has made me realize this will be the future direction of NE-ECAPS meetings; Presenters will offer a presentation on EMCOMM related items followed by a Q&A session. These presentations can be supplemental to what local clubs or organizations have in place for education and topics discussion. The group will continue to form sub committees to address issues that arise and provide AB10C with information that can help his decision-making at the board level. There are two active sub groups: Recruitment (Team Lead: Rob Macedo, KD1CY) and Training (Team Lead: Keith Anoe, KE4UCW).

A new radio net is expected to launch this fall which will be called the New England Information Net (NEIN). This net is designed to disseminate information from each Section Manager, Section Emergency Coordinator and Section Traffic Manager in New England who would like to participate. Each participant will be given 3 minutes to offer information that can be relevant to the New England amateur radio community. This net will occur once per month on the first Saturday at 7:00 PM. On the even months, Echolink/IRLP will be used to link repeaters. I am awaiting confirmation on which conference room can be used for this net. On the odd months, HF will be used to communicate information on 3.944 MHz LSB. If all parties in each section participate, this net will last approximately one hour (9 minutes per section times 7 sections). This will also allow the ability for people to test propagation and how well they can receive signals from around New England on 75-meters, which is a popular HF band for local/regional Public Service communications. More information on the official start date will follow once confirmation of Echolink/IRLP coordination has been finalized.

Rob Leiden, K1UI, and I are both involved in Mesh Network related projects as they overlap both of our disciplines. Congratulations to RICOMU and the Rhode Island Emergency Mesh Network on their grant approval of \$83,000 for their new and upgraded equipment on their system. Maine has submitted a grant to expand their Mesh network and should hear results in September. The ability of Mesh networking will be pivotal in the expansion of communication methods and allow infrastructure that can handle large amounts of data, utilize live camera feeds, implement PBX phone systems, link repeaters and more. The other benefit of Mesh networking is the availability and affordability of equipment. To advance amateur radio, equipment needs to be affordable and available for it to flourish. This hobby is strong because of people like you who are willing to dedicate their time and effort to make it fun, enjoyable and successful.

OUR FIELD DAY JOURNEY – AB1OC AND AB1QB

by Anita Kemmerer, AB1QB

New England Division Director Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC and Assistant Director Anita, AB1QB traveled 900 miles over the Field Day weekend to visit many clubs in New England. Here is a summary of their travels:

Thursday, June 23rd – Meriden Amateur Radio Club



Ed Snyder W1YSM Receives 75 Year Award Plaque from Fred, AB1OC, Phil, K9HI, and Betsey, K1EIC

We were invited to celebrate 75 years of ARRL Affiliation with the Meriden Amateur Radio Club. An ARRL plaque recognizing MARC's 75 Years of ARRL club affiliation will be awarded to club president Ed Snyder, W1YSM, from New England Division Director Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, and Vice Director Phil Temples, K9HI. Former Section Manager Betsey Doane, K1EIC, also spoke to the group. The event was well attended by members and town dignitaries including Honorable Mayor William Dickinson and Fire Chief Joseph Czentnar.

Friday, June 24th – Rhode Island and Connecticut
Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club



Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club

Our first stop on Friday was at Chopmist Hill in Scituate, RI to visit the Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club. We had a nice chat with Mike, K1ETA, Lee, K1LRS, Byron, K1CYQ, Jim, K1GND, and Wayne, K1VRF, who were starting to setup their Field Day Station. We learned about the history of the Chopmist Hill site, which was used as a listening post during World War 2, due to its favorable conditions for radio reception.

Newport County Radio Club



Newport County Radio Club

Our next stop was at Glen Park in Portsmouth, RI to visit the Newport County Radio Club's Field Day site. This was a great site and the hard-working Field Day crew had already put up 4 towers with antennas by the time we arrived at 1:30 pm.



Newport County Radio Club

We also enjoyed chatting with Nancy, KC1NEK, Paul, K1YBE, and Willy, W1LY about the Club's field day plans and their activities and educational programs.

SECARS



SECARS Field Day

Our next stop was at the SECARS (Southeastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Society) Field Day Site at the Zagray Farm Museum in Colchester, CT. SECARS was formed only 1 month ago when the Radio Amateur Society of Norwich (RASON) and the Tri-City Amateur Radio Club voted to form a new club. This year is the first Field Day for the new club. We enjoyed talking to Rob, KB1RS, Bob, W1RPQ, and Peter, K1PTO about how the club was formed and their field day plans.

Saturday June 25th – Massachusetts and New Hampshire
Hampden County Radio Association



Hampden County Radio Association

Our first stop Saturday morning was at the Hampden County Radio Association field day site at School Street Park in Agawam, MA. HCRA president Larry, W1AST along with Najm, AB1ZA, Chris, W1TRK, Marc, K8LSB, and Bud, W2BUD were working hard to set up Field Day before the 2 pm start.

Contoocook Valley Radio Club



Contoocook Valley Radio Club

Our next stop was the Contoocook Valley Radio Club at AF1T and W1MKY's QTH in Henniker, NH. We enjoyed chatting with Dale, Mickie, and the Contoocook Valley members and tour their site, including their incredible antenna farm! Pictured above are Ed, K2ECR, Claire, KC1PGW, Fred, AB1OC, Mickie, W1MKY, Chris, AC1EO, Bob, KB1QV, CVRC President Wolf, KA1VOU, Dale, AF1T, Allen, NS1O and Nathan, Art, K1BX, and Bill, AA1BF.

AB1OC/Mobile



AB1OC Mobile

We made the Field Day journey in our mobile HF station. We enjoyed operating the station during Field Day with AB1OC on the mic and AB1QB logging.

Granite State Amateur Radio Association



Granite State Amateur Radio Association

Our next stop was the Granite State Amateur Radio Association's Field Day site in Goffstown, NH. Pictured above are Steve, N1EZ, and Steve, KC1OSX on the 40-meter station.

PART of Westford, MA



PART in Concord Rod & Gun Clubhouse

Our next stop was at the Concord Rod and Gun Club in Concord, NH, where the PART of Westford, MA club held their Field Day. It was great to visit with our friends at PART! Pictured above are Gene, KB4HAH, Fred, AB1OC, Geoff, W1GCF, and Rick, W1RAG in the Clubhouse.



AB1OC with KB1OIQ at PART GOTA Station

We also spent some time at the GOTA station visiting with Andy, KB1OIQ.

Nashua Area Radio Society



Nashua Area Radio Society

Next stop was to visit the Nashua Area Radio Society, our home radio club, at the Hudson Memorial School in Hudson, NH. It was great to visit with the members who came out for Field Day, including, Jamey, AC1DC, Lee, KC1GKJ, Vince, KD2TMJ, Joe, AC1LN, Mike, W1TKO, John, W2ID, Fred, AB1OC, Aron, W1AKI, John, W1SMN, and Rick, KB1RGB.

Sunday June 26th – New Hampshire and Maine
Port City Amateur Radio Club



Port City Amateur Radio Club

Our first stop on Sunday was at the top of Stratham Hill in Stratham, NH – the Field Day site for the Port City Amateur Radio Club. This club had a great antenna farm, taking advantage of the large tower at the top of the hill. We also had the pleasure of meeting Brayden, KC1KUG, who is getting ready to be part of a youth team at WRTC next year in Italy. We also got to chat with the other members at the site including, Derek, KB1LXX, David, W1DWF, Carl WA3UEN, Gerry, W1VE, Rory, W1ENR, Mark, K1RX, Steve, KC1ILT, William, KB1YJ, Richard, N1AA, Dennis, KC1LLB, Joe, K1JEK, and Barry, KB1VX.



Les, KC1EOT at Great Bay Radio Club Public Info Table

Our next stop was the Great Bay Radio Association's Field Day site at Garrison Hill Park in Dover, NH. We were greeted by Les, KC1EOT, who had put together a great Public Information Table.



Great Bay Radio Association

We enjoyed meeting members of the club including Jeff, N1XUQ, Les, KC1EOT, David, N1DOU, Winona, KC1ECM, and Mike, N1AMD.

Wireless Society of Southern Maine



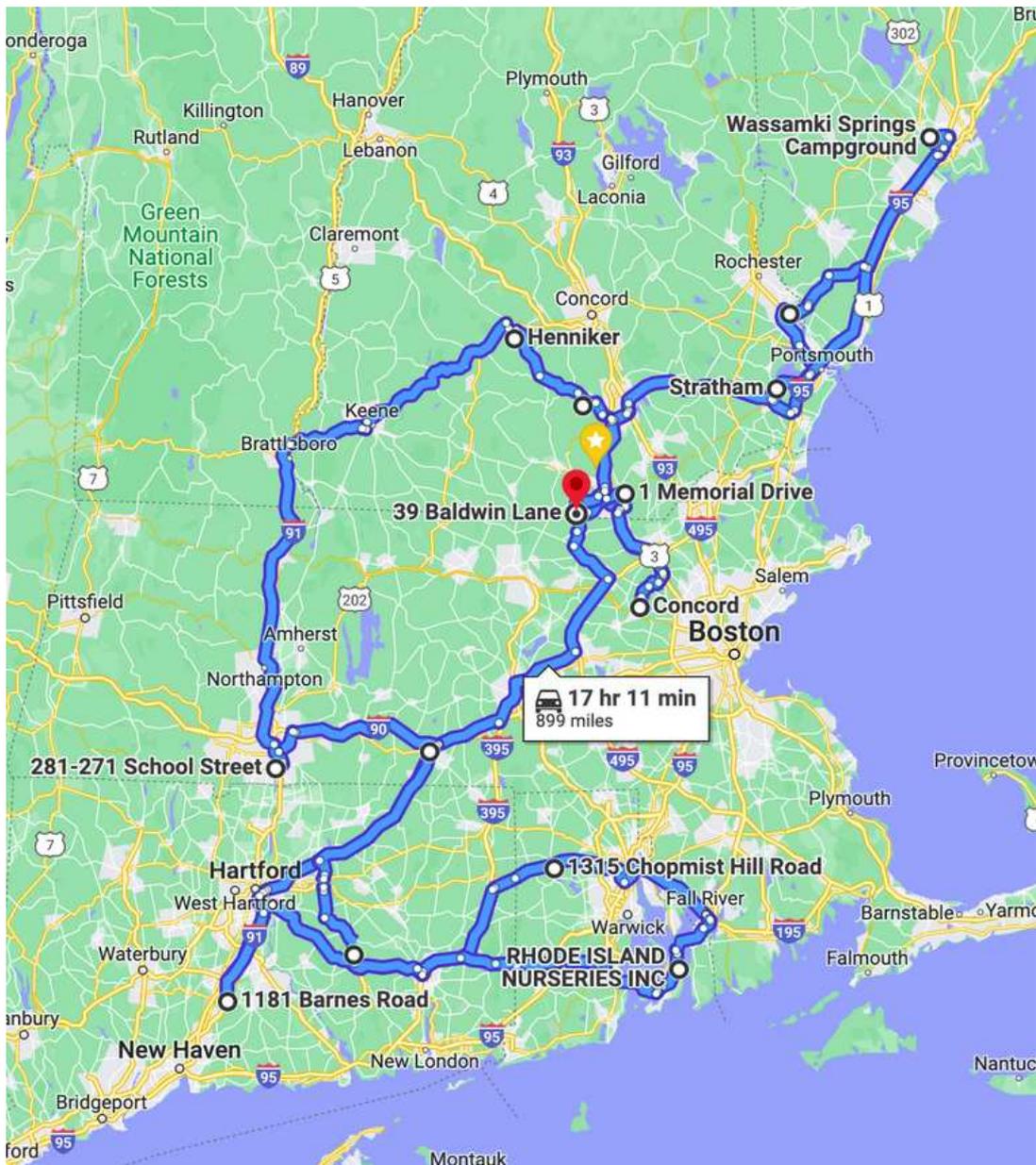
Wireless Society of Southern Maine

Our last stop was at Wassamki Springs Campground in Scarborough, Maine, the Field Day Site of the Wireless Society of Southern Maine. This was a great site and club members were busy making the last contacts before the Field Day operations ended. We enjoyed touring their site and meeting members Eric, N1RXX, Waylon, KC1HJN, Jason, W1SFS, Tim, KB1HNZ, Stefania, K1GJY, Peter, KC1HBM, and James, KB1SDK.

Field Day Journey

Over the weekend we drove a total of around 1000 miles – you can see our trip below.

We have been very much looking forward to visiting Field Day sites around New England this year. It was great to see everyone face-to-face and see the many ways that folks approach Field Day. We very much enjoyed talking with folks about their club and their Field Day experiences.



Field Day Tour Map

MY FIELD DAY JOURNEY

by Phil Temples, K9HI

On June 25-26, 2022, New England Division Vice Director Phil Temples, K9HI traveled approximately 320 miles and visited seven Field Day sites in Western and Eastern Massachusetts. He attempted to make it eight--the Algonquin ARC at Crow Island in Stow--but Murphy had other plans.

Hampden County Radio Association, Agawam, MA – W1NY

My first stop on my journey Saturday morning was at the Hampden County Radio Association's Field Day in School Street Park in Agawam. When I arrived, the gang was hard at work erecting a military-style push-up tower with a multi-band yagi beam on top. It was a team effort that went smoothly, thanks to HRCA president Larry Krainson, W1AST. I displayed the Amateur Radio Day proclamation from Governor Charlie Baker for people to pose with. All too soon, it time to move on to the Southwick EMA Radio Club.



Hampden County RA Gange posed with Amateur Radio Day Proclamation



Tower & antenna erection at Hampden County Radio Association Field Day

Southwick EMA Radio Club, Southwick, MA – WC1SM

Just down the road, the Southwick EMA Radio Club field day set up operations at the Town's DPW/Auxiliary EOC. The club's trustee, Charlie Dunlap, K1II, was a gracious host. He took time from his busy setup schedule to show me around the Communications Trailer as well as the Auxiliary EOC building. It's clear that Charlie and his crew take great pride in their infrastructure with which they effectively use to serve the Town of Southwick.



L-R: Southwick EMA RC trustee Charlie Dunlap, K1II; Scott Flebotte, MEMA
Scott's intern (identity unknown)

Worcester Emergency Communications Team, Worcester, MA – WE1CT

I couldn't help but be impressed by the young crowd I met at the Worcester ECT Field Day at the Public Facilities and Parks Headquarters on Manny Familia Way. Many of their members are graduates of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. WE1CT were a welcoming bunch and took the time to explain to me WE1CT's mission and the many public service events they've been involved with over the years.



Worcester Emergency Communications Team posed with Governor's Amateur Radio Day proclamation

Upon leaving Worcester, I programmed my GPS for my next stop: the Algonquin ARC at Crow Island in Stow. Alas, it wasn't meant to be. After many frustrated twists, turns, and wasted time, I finally realized that my GPS kept routing me into the same dead-end street in a subdivision. I even drove to the Stow airport to ask for directions but I couldn't keep track of what I was told.

As Bill Ricker, N1VUX, correctly pointed out to me later, had I simply followed the information on the fd.ema.arrl.org page I would have had correct coordinates with which to find them. Lesson learned, Bill!

I accepted my defeat and set course for the Concord Rod & Gun Club--the site of the PART of Westford's Field Day site.

PART of Westford, Concord, MA – WB1GOF

George Allison, K1IG, and company know how to run a successful Field Day! Their site occupies a small portion of pristine wooded property at the Concord Rod & Gun Club. PART featured a welcoming GOTA tent staffed by Andy, KB1OIQ. Stations were also QRV inside of the main cabin and several smaller nearby cabins.

Of course, PART is known for its great food. Given how close it was to dinner time, how could I refuse a generous helping of lasagna? PART also featured its traditional Field Day cake for dessert.



PART of Westford GOTA tent



PART's traditional Field Day cake

Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society, Natick MA (W1STR)

Bob Phinney, K5TEC, Rusty Moore, K1FVK, Bruce Tinkler, N9JBT, and the gang were in high gear for Field Day festivities. It seemed like the New England Sci-Tech (NEST) facility was a whirlwind of activity—people making radio contacts, people demoing gizmos, youths playing games, a VE session, and more. It's always a thrill to see young people involved in ham radio and other STEM activities! The crew at NEST manages to create a fun, exciting atmosphere for kids and adults alike.



Jeremy Breef-Pilz, KB1REQ at New England Sci-Tech Field Day

Wellesley Amateur Radio Society, Needham, MA – WITKZ

The next morning, I caught up with Dan, W1DAN, and the gang at the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society at their traditional Field Day QTH—the gazebo in Needham Memorial Park. I arrived shortly after the coffee and donuts (impeccable timing!). After showing off the Governor’s Proclamation, Dan showed me around. Then I was treated to a demonstration by Bruce, KC1FSZ of the club’s LoRA (low power, Long Range) wireless network project. The team had set up a string of LoRA stations (cleverly disguised as birdhouses) spanning several miles. It was amazing what you can do with a few milliwatts on the 900 MHz band.

All too soon, it was time to set off for the Boston ARC Field Day just down the road in Westwood.



Wellesley ARS gang posed with Amateur Radio Day Proclamation

Wellesley ARS LoRA
“Birdhouse” system on
900 MHz

Boston Amateur Radio Club, Westwood, MA – WIBOS

The Boston ARC operated from a brand new QTH this year: the Hale Education center in Westwood. It was a beautiful location where participants had access to rustic cabins while also “roughing it” in tents. Geri Duff, KB1ISG, Mark Duff, KB1EKN, and BARC President Brendan Baldonado, NW1S, made me feel right home with coffee and bagels while showing me their setup. BARC netted some good publicity via the local Westwood online newspaper resulting in visitors!



Boston ARC President Brendan Baldonado, NW1S

Whitman ARC, East Bridgewater, MA – WAINPO

My last stop of the weekend was a visit to the folks at the Whitman Amateur Radio Club at the Old Colony YMCA in East Bridgewater. John Murphy, WI1G, and Mike Davis, WAIMAD, rolled out the red carpet and introduced me to the crew and updated me on recent club activities. The group posed for a photo with the Governor’s proclamation.



Whitman ARC Field Day gang

ARRL-SANCTIONED HAMFEST:

STARC HAMFEST

ST. ALBANS CITY, VERMONT

The following Hamfests are as listed in the ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database

STARC Summer Hamfest 2022

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/13/2022 Start Date: 08/13/2022

End Date: 08/13/2022

Location: VFW Post 758 St. Albans, Vermont

353 Lake St.

St. Albans City, VT

Sponsor: STARC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.230/PL 100

Public Contact: Arnold Benjamin , N1ARN

1420 Rice Hill Rd. Franklin , VT 05457

Phone: 802-782-6650

Email: N1ARN@YAHOO.COM



**St. Albans
Amateur Radio Club**

ARRL-SANCTIONED HAMFEST: WINDSOR HAMFEST, WINDSOR, MAINE

Windsor Hamfest

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/20/2022 Start Date: 08/20/2022

End Date: 08/20/2022

Location: Windsor Fairgrounds

82 Ridge Rd

Windsor, ME 04363

Sponsor: Augusta Amateur Radio Assn

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.670/100

Public Contact: Bill Crowley , K1NIT

150 Maple Street Farmingdale, ME 04344

Phone: 207-512-0312

Email: k1nit@arrl.org



Augusta Amateur Radio Association

W1TLC

Augusta, Maine

ARRL-SANCTIONED HAMFEST:

NOBARC HAMFEST

ADAMS, MASSACHUSSETTS

NoBARC Hamfest

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/21/2022 Start Date: 08/21/2022

End Date: 08/21/2022

Location: Adams Agricultural Fairgrounds

371 Old Columbia St.

Adams, MA 01220

Website: <http://www.nobarc.org>

Sponsor: Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.91 pl 162.2

Public Contact: Eric Mazur , KA1SUN

POB 2097 Pittsfield, MA 01202

Phone: 413-743-9975

Email: K1FFK@yahoo.com



ARRL-SANCTIONED HAMFEST: NORTHEAST HAMXPOSITION, MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Northeast HamXposition, ARRL New England and Hudson Division Convention
HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/26/2022 Start Date: 08/26/2022

End Date: 08/28/2022

Location: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center
181 Boston Post Rd.

Marlborough, MA 01752

Website: <http://hamxposition.org>

Sponsor: FEMARA

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: tbd

Public Contact: Michael Raisbeck , K1TWF

85 High Street Chelmsford, MA 01824

Phone: 1-508-574-5432

Email: kltwf@arrl.net



ARRL-SANCTIONED HAMFEST: WESTERN CONNECTICUT HAMFEST NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT

Western Connecticut Hamfest
HAMFEST/CONVENTION
09/11/2022 Start Date: 09/11/2022
End Date: 09/11/2022

Location: Police Athletic League
35 Hayestown Road
Newtown, CT 06470

Website: <http://cararadioclub.org>

Sponsor: Candlewood Amateur Radio Association

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.300 (+600) PL 100

Public Contact: Marcus Swearingen , AB1WV

PO Box 55 Brookfield, CT 06804

Phone: 303-912-9379

Email: Hamfest@cararadioclub.org



ARRL-SANCTIONED HAMFEST: ST. CROIX VALLEY ARC HAMFEST ALEXANDER, MAINE

St Croix Valley Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
HAMFEST/CONVENTION

09/17/2022 Start Date: 09/17/2022

End Date: 09/17/2022

Location: Alexander Elementary School
1430 Airline Rd.

Alexander, ME

Website: <http://stcroixvalleyamateurradioclub.com>

Sponsor: St Croix Valley Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.330 + 118.8

Public Contact: Roger Holst , W1LH

70 Cooper Road Alexander, ME 04694

Phone: 207-214-9260

Email: holst@midmaine.com



ARRL-SANCTIONED HAMFEST:

VINTAGE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM OUTDOOR SWAP MEET

WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

Vintage Radio Communications Museum Outdoor Swap Meet
HAMFEST/CONVENTION

09/17/2022 Start Date: 09/17/2022

End Date: 09/17/2022

Location: The Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut
115 Pierson Lane
Windsor, CT 06006

Website: <https://www.vrcmct.org>

Sponsor: The Amateur Radio Club of the Vintage Radio Communications Museum

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: None

Public Contact: John Ellsworth , Museum Director

Vintage Radio & Communications Museum of CT 115 Pierson Lane Windsor, CT
06095

Phone: 860-683-2903

Email: radioclctr@aol.com



A WIDE BAND AMATEUR AND GMRS VERTICAL ANTENNA FOR 70CM

by Ray Irwin, WA1FFT (courtesy of Meridan Amateur Radio Club's 'Key Klix')

The objective was to build a very low-cost vertical antenna for GMRS usage, that turned out to be very wide band that included the 70cm Amateur band at a SWR of less than 1.5. Started the build by checking my “junk” parts and found a SO-239, RG-213 that I cut to exactly 18 inches, two 1-inch SCH40 end caps, a small connector to solder the braid to and #10 copper wire left over from my 6M antenna project. Headed to Home Depot and bought a pack of #4-40x ½ inch round head combo pack of eight nuts and bolts. Next, I bought a two-foot length of SCH40 one inch PVC pipe. Total cost was under seven dollars. Now a disclaimer is warranted. As a young boy I built a lot of Erector Set cranes, cars and mystery items, so I’m able to put a nut on a bolt with next to no clearance. That said, you may want to build the antenna with 1.25-inch PVC, giving you a lot of extra room. I left the insulation on the 6.25 inch of #10 wire. I removed about a half inch of outside insulation on the #10 wire, and the same on the coax. See blow. I tinned and soldered the coax center conductor to the #10 six-inch wire. I had wanted to fold the outside braid over the coax giving a theoretically better pattern, but decided on plan B when I failed to get the center conductor outside the shield. I then twisted six-inch braid for the other end of the dipole, and pressed on.



I then soldered a 2-inch #12 wire to the lug that will go over one of the #4 bolts. That wire will eventually be soldered to the outside braid. I next used a half inch drill to drill out the center of one of the end caps. (Try to find an end cap that is flat so the SO-239 will be flat against the end.) I filed the hole some and placed the SO-239 against the end cap, marking the sites for the 1/8-inch drill holes. Installed the solder lug onto one of the #4 bolts and then the rest of the #4-40 hardware. I stripped the other end of the 18-inch RG-213 cable of 1.5 inches, removed one inch of the center insulation and twisted and tinned the 1.5 inch of braid and ½ inch center conductor. See picture. The two-inch wire is soldered to the braid and the center conductor to the enter pin of the SO-239. See picture



Slide the two-foot assembly into the two-foot PVC and put on the top end cap. The top of the vertical element should be about two inches below the top cover. I used a MFJ-844 power meter to test the SWR, plus the forward power, using both my AnyTone E-30 GMRS HT and my Yaesu dual band VX-7R HT. I also did the same with a Bird Power Meter. My MFJ-266 Antenna Analyzer was not functioning properly on UHF. My on-air testing consisted of connecting the antenna inside my home to my AnyTone E30 that was controlled by an Argent Data Systems ADS-SR1 Simplex Repeater module. I then used my second E30 to make calls over the simplex repeater at ranges to about one KM. Maximum range testing to follow with the CERT team. Next, I'll provide an article on my simplex repeater build using the ADS-SR1.

73 Ray Irwin WA1FFT

SPECTRUM PROTECTION AND USE RFI MEETING

by Dan, W1DAN (courtesy of Wellesley Amateur Radio Society's 'The Spark Gap')

On a sunny and warm Sunday June 5, members of the New England ARRL Spectrum Protection and Use working-group got together at the QTH of ARRL New England Division Director Fred Kemmerer AB1OC in Hollis NH to discuss RFI group goals, procedures and to evaluate various RFI test equipment. After enjoying a station tour and tasty pizza, we tested older and currently-marketed RFI test gear.



The gang surveying RFI detection gear

Attending were: Hosts Fred AB1OC with XYL Anita AB1QB, Assistant Director and working group lead Rob KIUI, Eastern Mass Technical Coordinator Dan W1DAN, WARS club member Dom NIDM, Stephanie WAIYKL, Najm AB1ZA and ARRL lab RFI engineer Steve WIEMI.



A lively discussion occurred bringing in vast RF and business management experience from the gang who helped gel the immediate future goals of the group. Steve WIEMI demonstrated some excellent ARRL RFI field test gear and we compared this to less expensive offerings on the market today. While we ogled over Steve's gear, cost-effective equipment will be deployed to the various ARRL New England sections for RFI team use.



Rob and Najm listen to ultrasonic noise coming from a light fixture using an MFJ 5008 ultrasonic receiver.



Rob uses a handheld VHF antenna as Dom compares noise levels using an Icom IC-705.

The gang left excited at the prospect of efficiently resolving RFI issues for the New England amateur radio community. Further information can be seen here:

<https://nediv.arrl.org/spectrum-protection-utilization/>



SOURCEFORGE OPEN SOURCE EXCELLENCE AWARDED TO “ANDY’S HAM RADIO LINUX” COLLECTION

by Phil Temples, K9HI

Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ, recently received an award from the SourceForge website for his work on the “Andy’s Ham Radio Linux” software collection. Andy has created and maintained the collection for the past ten years. In that time, it has been downloaded 100,000 times.

SourceForge recognized the project for:

- * Community Leader
- * Community Choice
- * Open Source Excellence
- * SourceForge Favorite

PART of Westford President George Allison, KIIG, wrote, “Congratulations on the award from SourceForge! I know that your software collection has significantly influenced the adoption and use of Linux by ham radio operators worldwide.”

“This was quite unexpected,” said KB1OIQ. “I am very pleased that the project has been so well accepted by our ham radio community. Both the Linux and ham radio communities have a tradition of helping others, and I have benefited greatly from their combined patience and tutelage. This is my way of saying ‘thank you’ to those communities.”

ANNUAL MARSHFIELD FAIR AMATEUR RADIO EXHIBIT, AUGUST 19-28, 2022

by Phil Temples, K9HI

The Whitman Amateur Radio Club will sponsor a ham radio booth and special events station at the Annual Marshfield Fair August 19-28, 2022, from 1200-2000 ET. The booth will be located behind the grandstand, just up from the first aid station and next to the blacksmith.

The club will operate under the call sign NN1MF on 20 meters. The station will also be active on the Whitman ARC repeater (147.225 MHz +PL67) and on EchoLink .

“We will also be conducting a program at 15:00 (3pm) and 18:00 (6pm) on “Introduction to Ham Radio, how to get on the air,” writes WARC’s Jack Foley, N1QE. “Stop by and find out all that is available to you with your NEW ham radio license! Licensed hams stop by and inquire about our educational licensed advancement classes. Or just to talk Ham stuff.”



NAME THAT LIGHTHOUSE

by Cory Golob, KU1U

Can you correctly name the Lighthouse pictured on the cover photo of this issue of the New England Beacon?

Send a Radiogram to:

*Cory Golob, KU1U
63 Jordan Bridge Rd, Sabattus, ME. 04280*

Include the name of the lighthouse in the text of the radiogram, location is optional. Those who submit the correct answer will be listed in the next edition of the newsletter.

Not sure where to originate your message into the National Traffic System? Check out the [New England Net Directory](#) for listings of various traffic nets on HF, VHF and UHF.

