

The Digital Communicator Quarterly



The newsletter of the New England Fusion Group
Autumn, 2021



Welcome!

Howdy, and thanks again for being part of the New England Fusion Group! It was a fast and furious summer for me, and my guess is you were just as busy! We at the New England Fusion Group certainly did not take any summer siestas, and we hope the ham community is having as much fun as we are.

3rd Quarter Membership meeting:
Friday, September 24, 2021 7pm Eastern
Zoom call – see text for details

As I pen this autumnal message, I find myself running from Karate class to “tumbling” class, and then to dance class... trying to keep my little 3rd party operators busy after school – and don't forget about soccer practice and weekend soccer games! Apparently hams with 3rd graders and 6th graders at their QTH have little if any extra time to get on the air. The leaves are starting to turn, the camper has been brought back home for some needed repairs, and I am looking forward to sitting on the sidelines at some soccer games., as long as I have my FT3 with me to monitor the WolfDen, Wires-X room # 28941. Maybe I'll even sneak the QRP HF rig into the trunk for some of these games? No matter what rig I bring on my upcoming fall adventures... New England always provides activities to keep my family on the move. I've recently acquired a commercial cellular hotspot, and I'll be doing some unscientific data usage

studies regarding Wires-X. I promise, you'll be the second to know. 73 for now, N1SFT.

NEFG Quarterly Business

No items of any significance to report.

The membership roster is back to 16 members.

The club is ARRL Affiliated.

Current Projects

The Sunday TechNet has been in full swing since July 25th, and

as of press time we haven't missed a single weekend. When I say “we,” I am not exaggerating! Running a successful net: one that provides good information, does it in an organized and controlled manner, and provides the participating stations a good balance of fun and radio operations is not an easy task. As it turns out, having a dedicated team is the key to success.

When you approach a net with a team mentality, some amazing things can happen; an experienced net control station makes traffic control look easy, which allows a presenter or “Technical guide” station to focus on the topic at hand since they can relax and know the net will proceed. Perhaps a small technical glitch happens on the Wires-X network, and the Net Control station loses the ability to transmit? With the right crew, another temporary NCS

can call for checkins, and another station can even take on the logging duties.

As for topics, we have had the following major topics;

1. Introduction to / Intermediate Wires-X
2. Introduction to APRS
3. Antennas for C4FM
4. Introducing the FT-5

If there are any technical topics that you'd like to take a deeper dive into, just let us know, and we'll do our best. BETTER YET... come on board and offer to be a technical presenter on a topic of your choice! This group will only be as good as our collective hive experience. Anyone can be an expert, and remember this: "...You don't know diddly until you've tried to teach it!"

Website

The website has had an overhaul, and the current URL is www.nefg.us Please check out the website. We hope to upload our previous FAQ's and radio support tutorials soon. Thanks to Rich Zore, NR1CH for contributing a fantastic white paper on some common setups for Wire-X. We'll be looking for more contributors on the website over the winter, so if you have any desire to participate and contribute in any way... please reach out.

Fusion Operators' Bio

Each quarter we'd like to spotlight one of our members and learn a little about them. Last quarter we read the "origin story" of the Wolf Den repeater network... part 1. We're looking forward to reading about the "rest of the story" as Paul Harvey would have said. Until then, let me introduce you to one of our Directors of the New England Fusion Group; Mr. Bryan King, KX1B, let's read Bryan's ham autobiography:

I became interested in shortwave radio listening with the gift of a Hallicrafters SX-110 on Christmas Day 1979. My listening to the strange sounds on the shortwave bands of the

Grundig Stereo should have been a clue... I earned my NOVICE license in July 1980 with callsign KA1FQT at the age of 15 when I lived in Metropolitan Boston. First radio was the TEN-TEC Model 574 (Century21) CW only radio. When Novice enhancement came into effect, I bought the Kenwood TH-31BT HT and was on 13.5 cm FM repeaters for the first time!! Upgraded to Technician in 1994, and General the following year. In those years I was living in Merrimack, NH and began operating on 6 Meters with an Alinco DX-70. In 1998 I moved to Goffstown NH, applied for a vanity callsign and was granted K1SNH, and then upgraded the ham station to an ICOM 746. That year, I also began working satellites, and built a station with a 2.4Ghz downlink with a 70cm uplink to work AO-40 in early 2000's. AO-40 was in a highly elliptical orbit. I made several QSO's in Europe, Africa, North and South America through AO-40. This activity lead to me forming a repeater club, to promote 1200Mhz in early 2000's. So, I applied for and was granted club callsign K1GHZ and setup an FM repeater on 1290.500 MHz on the summit of Mt. Uncanoonuc in Goffstown, New Hampshire. We had to work out an arrangement with Haystack Observatory in Tyngsborough, MA to avoid interference with their operations on the same band. Became active on 222Mhz single-sideband with the acquisition of a DEMI transverter. In May 2008 upgraded to Extra class. Continued to pursue VHF/UHF/microwave weak signal and satellite work. Applied for a vanity callsign KX1B which was granted in 2010. Took a break from ham radio for about 8 years due to family and work commitments. Returned to the hobby to discover all of these digital modes such as Fusion, D-STAR and DMR. Setup a Wires-X node linking the Fusion repeater at WA1VVH's QTH which is 25 miles south in Pepperell, Massachusetts to the Wolfden network. Today I have gear to operate on every band from 630 Meters through 1200Mhz and 10Ghz. Ham Radio launched me onto a technical career trajectory when I was in high school.

Bryan King, KX1B
Director, New England Fusion Group

The Digital Communicator Quarterly

Schedule

The next full membership quarterly meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 24th 2021. The meeting will start promptly at 7pm, and will officially end at 8pm Eastern. Please logon to our next quarterly meeting: the zoom meeting number is [926 3856 3585](https://us02zoom.us/j/92638563585), and the password is 28941.

This meeting number will stay static for as long as possible.

We will discuss club business, committee initiatives, membership, and review the net and the website. If you are a member, please attend. If you are considering becoming a member or are just curious about what a virtual Ham Club is all about, please join us. Send an

email to nefg.bod@gmail.com and we'll welcome you!

Weekly Tech Net

We host a weekly net on Sunday, which is carried by Wires-X Room #28941 and over the air on the Wolf Pack Repeater System.

We are considering a time change. The net has run every Sunday at 11 AM Eastern, but the group may see a change to a later time. A google poll has been sent to all previous checkins, as well as club membership.

New Business

If you have any desire to lend a hand, the NEFG Board of Directors will absolutely appreciate any help offered! Send an email to nefg.bod@gmail.com make your voice heard.

Communicating with the Club

Subscribe to the email reflector by sending an email to: n1efg+subscribe@groups.io

Club email reflector: n1efg@groups.io

Board of Directors: n1efg-BOD@groups.io

Website: <http://www.nefg.us>



The Digital Communicator Quarterly is copywritten by the New England Fusion Group, 2021 - 2022