

July 16, 2021

**2021 Report of the New England Division
Submitted by Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, New England Director**

It was a busy winter, despite the lack of travel due to Covid. With the July Board meeting coming up, Board members have been encouraged to submit reports on their activities. ARRL provides services to its membership that no local club can, such as representation in Washington, DC before the FCC, and the Congress, funding of national initiatives, and so forth. This report summarizes the activities of the New England Division since the last in-person board meeting held 18 months ago.

National

Legislative Work. The Legislative Advocacy Committee has been productive, and the New England Division has been front and center on this project. One result of the committee's work was a statement on the floor of the house on June 23, 2021, when Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ-8) stood to recognize Amateur Radio operators in connection with Field Day. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LuleSzmX1o>. On two occasions, selected ARRL directors visited with FCC staff relevant to our mission, and congressional staff relevant to our congressional agenda. The New England division was represented there.



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Left to right: W3TOM, K5UR, N5AUS, W2RU, K1VR, K3ZJ

Legal Structure. In addition, the New England Division is represented by its Director on the Board's Legal Structure Review Committee. The Committee has completed a review of changes made since the initial incorporation of the ARRL in 1915, changes that have been proposed and never filed with the Secretary of State in Connecticut, and other matters. The Committee members were not satisfied with our findings and detailed recommendations for "upgrades" will be made to the Board at its January 2022 meeting.

Learning Network. At the request of the ARRL's Learning Network initiative, the New England Director produced a series of six presentations on antenna zoning and permitting. They are now available to all, and all six may be found at <https://www.gotostage.com/channel/d8ea15d6ea99464e8ec08c33d7e1e3e5>

Investment Management. In late 2020, the Board received a position paper from the New England Division Director on the management of the ARRL's endowment which, depending on how you count it, is \$36-40 million. It was the Director's view that the Board was not handling its forty million dollars in accordance with best practices for a non-profit endowment given our circumstances. The position paper was followed up with a motion to the Board at the January 2021 meeting which, with minor amendments, was adopted by the Board, creating a new Investment Management Committee (IMC). Through July 1, 2021, the IMC, which includes representation from the New England Division, has met 18

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times. An interim report will be presented to the Board at its July 2021 meeting. I fully expect that management of the endowment will have transitioned to a substantially different system next year. If any ARRL member has substantial experience in the management of substantial investment funds, please contact the New England Director at K1VR@arrl.org, as the Board will be looking for help from membership, if possible, later this year.

Ethics & Elections. In 2020, the New England Director served as Chairman of the Board's Ethics and Elections Committee, and as the Board's teller at the counting of ballots in November. That committee deals with complaints during campaigns for positions such as Section Manager and Division Director.

Executive Committee. As in 2019, in 2020, the New England Division was again privileged to represent Board colleagues to serve on the Executive Committee. This Committee is entrusted to provide direction to HQ staff between full Board meetings in January and July.

Division Membership Activities

Field Day. As you would expect, Covid-19 prevented most 2020 in-person ham radio events after March 8th or so, continuing deep into the first half of 2021. Lacking events to attend, I cannot report to you on what I learned at those events. However, I did get to three Massachusetts Field Day sites during set up on Friday, June 25th, one Massachusetts and six Connecticut FD sites on Saturday, June 26th, and three Connecticut FD sites on Sunday, June 27th. The only problem was that at one site on Saturday, and one site on Sunday, I couldn't find the club! The Housatonic ARC (N1KT) was very gracious in their apologies. In the end, total FD visits: 11. Comments:

- Most unique site (and yes, I know that there are no degrees of uniqueness, but I'll say it anyway) – W1M, the Waltham ARA and the Algonquin ARC, at Crow Island Airpark, Stow, MA. In earlier days I went on FD with the W1MHL (Waltham ARA) crowd many many times.
- Best public exposure: a tie between the Hamden County Radio Association (Agawam, MA), Greater Norwalk ARC (Norwalk, CT) and Woodmont ARA (Woodmont, CT) – all in very visible public parks. Bravo!
- Best food? Radio Amateur Society of Norwich (RASON) at the Zagray Farm Museum, Colchester, CT.
- Best write-up? Nashoba Valley ARC, N1NC. I didn't get to them this year, but their description of the event, with photos, was the best sent to me. <http://www.n1nc.org/Newsletters/2021/3007.pdf>

New Hampshire HOA. In New Hampshire, in conjunction with Rep. Glen Aldrich (R-Belknap 2), KC1AAI, I drafted a bill to aid hams living in homeowner association properties, and testified (for the second time) before the committee handling the subject. We will take another run at this in NH in 2022. An effort is being organized right now by Bill Ohm, W1OHM (a classmate of mine, and former State Rep.) and NH Section Manager Pete Stohrer, K1PJS, with the help of NH State Government Liaison Bill Nelson, KA1PTW. The New England Director plans to offer a new draft for them to chew on this time. It will be a more significant effort than last time, because we'll have more shoulders to the wheel.

Constituent Service. As usual, all manner of requests for information, help with subscriptions, comments on League policy, and licensing were handled by email correspondence with members and HQ, or by responding with information directly.

Personal

Milford, NH. As a matter of personal privilege, also in New Hampshire, I'd like to mention that I played a private "lawyer on TV" for John Webster, NN1SS, sought a special exception for two 90' towers in

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Milford. I am hopeful that the permit will be granted at the second hearing on July 15, 2021, after a site visit. The filing for NN1SS may be found at https://www.milford.nh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4701/f/agendas/2021-14_webster_m53l16_se.pdf

Framingham, MA. In Massachusetts, again as a private lawyer, it was my privilege to represent KD1MF before the Land Court KD1MF in a victory for his proposed 80 foot tower in Framingham. A summary of the case may be found at <https://nediv.arrl.org/2021/06/24/framingham-amateur-misha-filippov-kd1mf-wins-in-ma-land-court-decision/>. This reported decision may be found at https://www.masscourts.org/eservices/search.page.3.1?x=401GF4QISjpGiuOZu6XCivgQvvq9S8g4dhwOfaMnSoKwHkLqkDQSyjAyOAUJGZtZ7c9Cbc7cNYldcgPy-8WK85L*kHb*3OPrRCIsZvD6FBwj2EPG99bUBsvTAYJ1mIIPGwYuuuy4NxRGvVjpSvoGWiaqKFK70vZZ9in8iClydU

Book. Again, and unrelated to my position as a Director, but explaining why the last half of 2020 and the first half of 2021 was a busy time in my life, I published, in cooperation with the ARRL, the Third Edition of *Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur*. As the second edition, also in cooperation with the ARRL, was published in 2011, there have been some changes to include as a result of the intervening 10 years. For those curious about the subject, there is no conflict of interest here. The ARRL has no other book on this topic, and this book is being sold through the ARRL Store. While this was not written as a Board member, it benefits all hams because, as we say, "No antennas, no ham radio."

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR
Director, New England Division