

# MARA W1⚡GaZette



April 2005

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 47 No. 8

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, April 13  
7:30PM**

## Lunenburg Public Safety Bldg

The April MARA meeting will be held in the emergency operations and training room at the recently-completed Lunenburg Public Safety Building. The Lunenburg PSB houses all Police, Fire, and Dispatch for the Town of Lunenburg.

Our host will be Brian Leblanc, Civil Defense Director for Lunenburg. Brian will provide some background on the new building and provide a tour of the fire department side. If a police officer is available, we may be able to tour the police side as well. The dispatch center and RACES radio room are also adjacent to the EOC.

The Lunenburg Public Safety Building is on Route 2A/Massachusetts Ave just east of the intersection with Beal St., behind Tri City Marine. The driveway is immediately adjacent to Tri City Marine, on the east side. Meeting attendees may park in back behind the building. There is a rear door leading directly into the EOC/training room in the center of the building. Look for the windows.

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## Contributors To This Issue:

K1JHC, KB1JXJ

## Volunteers Needed for NCCES Walk and Road Race 1 May

Jim W1DF and Charlie KT1I request about 6 radio operators to help with the North Central Charter Essential School scholarship fundraising walk and road race on May 1 in West Fitchburg.

There are two water stops, the start/finish, and several key intersections at which radio communications are desired.

Jim will be running in the race, so you'll have an opportunity to cheer on one of our own. Several of the "regular" ARES public service volunteers are already committed to other events that morning, so if you can assist please contact Jim or Charlie soon so they can convey appropriate information to the event organizers.

## Watt's Happening

**Sundays, 0800 local 5330.5** (ch 1) USB  
Western Mass Emergency 60M Net  
Alternate frequencies are 5346.5 (ch 2),  
5366.5 (ch 3), 5371.5 (ch 4), and 5403.5 (ch 5).

**Sundays, 0830 local 3937**  
Western Mass Emergency Net. Alternate  
frequency is 3942 in case of QRN, QRM, or  
frequency in-use. Also a good idea to scan up  
and down 10kHz if you cannot find the net.

**Sundays, 0900 local 145.45-**  
Montachusett Emergency Net

**Mondays, 2000 local 147.525 simplex**  
Worcester Emergency Simplex Net

**Tuesdays, 1930 local 145.37-**  
Templeton Emergency Net

**Wednesdays, 2100 local 28.341**  
Harvard Repeater Club  
10 meter sideband net "Activity Night"

**Nightly, 2100 local 146.97-**  
Central Mass Traffic Net

**First Monday, 1900 local 3943, 7245**  
RACES Net

**First Wednesday, 2000 local 3915**  
K1ARC Red Cross Net  
<http://www.qsl.net/k1arc/>

**Saturday, April 9, Londonderry NH**  
IRS hamfest, Lion's Club, 8am

**Sunday, April 17, Cambridge MA**  
Flea at MIT. Third Sunday April-October.

**Saturday, April 23, Nashua NH**  
NE Antique Radio Club, St. Stan's, 9am.

**Friday & Saturday, May 6&7, Hopkinton  
NH;** Hoss Trader's Ham Fest

see <http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>  
for other New England events.

## VE Team Report

The March Amateur Radio license exam session had no registered candidates so the session was not held.

The VE Team does accept walk-ins *as long as the session was being conducted*, however we are changing the session registrations to indicate "walk-ins not allowed" to emphasize that candidates should contact us to insure that the session is being held.

The MARA and Harvard Repeater Association VE Team holds FCC Amateur Radio Exam sessions on the fourth Wednesday of the month in Shirley. Preregistration is required; the session is canceled if no candidates are registered by the weekend prior to the session. Contact Paul KD1YH at 978-597-6535 to register for the session.

The VEC exam session fee for 2005 is \$14.00. Examinees may take as many different exam elements as they wish during the session. Any exam re-takes are at the discretion of the examiners and constitute a separate "session" and payment of a new session fee is required.



BERNIE PEABODY N1IMO  
DICK WILBORG W1ZC

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Tell them you saw it in the W1/GaZette

## The MARA W1/GaZette

is published by the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association just prior to the monthly meeting. The newsletter is distributed free to members and friends of Amateur Radio.

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### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

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### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Club Secretary: Pauline Carulli KB1JXJ  
Annual Dues: Regular \$25  
Family \$30  
Fixed income \$15  
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30pm  
September to June

Mailing address: MARA  
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### OFFICERS:

Gary Busler, K1YTS 978-597-8769	President
Paul Upham, KD1YH kd1yh@ziplink.net	Vice President
Pauline Carulli, KB1JXJ	Secretary
Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO	Treasurer
Charlie Cayen, KT1I	Trustee

MARA owns and operates the W1GZ repeater providing emergency autopatch service on 145.45 (CTCSS 74.4) in Fitchburg.

## March Meeting

de Pauline KB1JXJ

9 March 2005

LEMA Headquarters, Leominster

Present: K1YTS, KB1JXJ, N1MGO, KT1I, KB1LJJ, KA1QYQ, W1UD, N1UZ, W1SEX, KB1LZD, K1JHC, W1BYH, KB1JZU, KD1SM, AA2T, WA1FIA

07:15 - Gary K1YTS; Any executive business?  
None brought up  
At 07:30 we will tour the LEMA HQ with Charlie Coggins

07:28 - Meeting called to order  
Gary K1YTS thanks Charlie Coggins for his hospitality.

07:30 - Tour begins with some history of how Emergency Management came to this new building,

Started 2.5 years ago

The old building was found not to be fiscally reasonable to rebuild and remodel

The city purchased the old TriSum Potato chip factory

Most of the work has been done by Volunteers

The Heating, Plumbing and Electrical was done by professionals

LEMA has 27,000 square feet

Houses multiple units, consisting of the Dive team, Canteen, Rescue, EMS, auxiliary police

LEMA is a member of the Mid-State Mutual aid system

Has a small Ham/MARS station - needs more equipment

53 Volunteers

2 full time employees

08:20 - Tour over

08:21 - List of public service events coming up

Townsend Canoe Race - 16 April 9am to 2pm , need 15 volunteers, see K1YTS for more info

Boston Marathon - 100 Amateur radio operators short, contact K1IW for info

Dana Farber 5K race - 2 April 10am 24th is final meeting

Groton Road Race - Ralph KD1SM needs 40, has 10 volunteers

Walk for Hunger - 2 May

Eastern States Expo (Big E) - 15 September, email K1HEJ@yahoo.com

Field Day - Antenna plot all done, Norm W1BYH will bring the plan to the April meeting. Bill N1UZ has sent a letter to the Mountain, waiting for a response.

April Meeting - Ralph KD1SM has confirmed with Lunenburg Public Safety the availability of the new Building for our meeting. There will be a building tour during our meeting there.

08:37 - Show and tell -

Bill W1UD, short talk and pass around of the SCS PTC II Terminal Node Controller

Tom K1JHC, has built a remote control for his motorized golf cart

Paul W1SEX, Circulated the survey report of the Mohawk club and talked about his ongoing Power Supply project by Bill Bowden, see

<http://ourworld.compuserv.com/homepage/billbowden/page12.htm>

Bill N1UZ, explained his tower Trailer project, a portable tower on an old boat trailer that can be used for field day.

09:03 - Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted  
Pauline R. Carulli KB1JXJ  
Secretary

## Old Timer's Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The monthly meeting of the Old Timers was held at Bickfords Restaurant, North Main Street Leominster, on Wednesday March 2nd. There were four members present; Bill AA1BL, Norm W1BYH, Roy W1OOY, and Tom K1JHC.

The discussion this month was about the Echolink and how it operates and Rag Chewing.

Why not join us on the First Wednesday of the month, at 12:30 PM.

## WMA Section News

de Bill W1UD, Section Manager  
<http://www.arrl.org/sections/WMA.html>

News last updated: Mon, March 21, 2005 at 10:09 AM ET

Spring is rapidly approaching. Only a couple of club meetings left and we all will be out on

Field Day. By now your place for FD should have been decided and reserved if necessary. The number of stations and what bands you will be operating should have been calculated. A site and installation committee should have been formed. Of course the food preparation people should have been brought into the fray. A census should be taken of the available equipment whether club owned or individually owned should be made. Plans should also be formulated for operating times and above all the finances of the organization should be considered. If these suggestions are adhered to, a pleasant experience will be had by all participants.

From the propagation forecasts I have been watching, our bands are coming to life again. There have been isolated opening on 10 meters to various parts of the world. Mostly in the Trans-equatorial direction. 15 meters comes to life more frequently than in the winter. Of course 20 meters is our main DX band and will remain so until an upward swing in the next solar cycle. 40 meters remains good for European contacts despite the high noise level.

Digital operation is active each weekend. There seems to be a number of contests active each weekend. Either RTTY or PSK31. I have procured a new TNC. One of those SCS units made in Germany. Even some of the very popular software that is designed for contest work has been rewritten by the authors to accommodate the SCS TNC. Expensive, but look at the specs, and you will see that it is impossible to beat with any other unit on the market. They claim that it will dig into the noise by 18db and produce a copyable signal. After using it a couple of months, I am in agreement with the manufacturer. It serves a dual purpose as far as I'm concerned. Being a MARS member, most of the traffic on MARS is sent by PACTOR and this unit has the

capability of operating in PACTOR II and III mode. I never realized the speed of PACTOR III until I used it to transmit traffic. It's so fast it is almost unbelievable.

Dave Fortin, V73UX, reports via Franny Moy, W1SPG's Senior News, that he has spent some time out in the harbor with his low lux camera taking video of undersea sites. From the ARRL DX news, there is an active Dxpedition there on the island. Maybe Dave will look them up and spend some time visiting. The MARA club spent their last meeting at the Leominster EOC. After an informative and educational tour by the director their meeting was conducted. The present EOC facility was the 'Tri-Sum' potato chip factory. One thing the director emphasized it that all the physical work was done by volunteer craftspeople. The inside is completely remodeled and looks like a new building. Most of the material used was contributed by various business in the City of Leominster. Yours truly brought my new toy, the SCS TNC, and explained its advantages and operation. Little did I know it was Show and Tell night. The HCRA had the same program for their meeting. An added feature of their meeting was a demonstration by John, N1JIO, of rig to computer inter-faces.

The free CEP/ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses are going to be ending very soon. If you haven't taken at least the first part of a three part series, I encourage you to get enrolled. It's interesting and informative and above all your \$45 entrance fee will be refunded when you complete your segment of the course. Such a bargain, where can you get educated for free these days. Check it out on the ARRL web page. Until next month,

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73 Bill W1UD.



Top: Charlie Coggins, LEMA Director, addresses the MARA meeting and shows the new emergency response trailer. Middle left: the communications room with the ARES/RACES station on the left



Left: The LEMA vehicle bay.

Above and right: Paul W1SEX shows his KA0ZLG folding J-pole from March QST

## Townsend Canoe Race 16 April

Gary K1YTS is looking for 12 radio operators to assist with the Townsend Lion's Club Canoe Race on Saturday, April 16.

The race is on the Squannacook River starting at the VFW hall in West Townsend and ending at Harbor Pond in Townsend Harbor.

Volunteers will track the canoeists through several checkpoints, making sure that all participants are accounted for. A spaghetti dinner is served following the race.

## SKYWARN Training 18 May

Steve N1BDA relays a report from Terry KA8SCP that a SKYWARN training session is being planned in Westford on May 18. The session is being hosted by PART and the Westford Community Emergency Response Team. It is expected to be held at the Blanchard Middle School.

Check the SKYWARN spotter training schedule at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/skywarnTraining2005.shtml> for updates.

## 145.37 Repeater Re-Siting

de Paul W1SEX

Permission has been secured to co-locate the 145.37 repeater with the Gardner Police equipment. In order to determine the effectiveness of this location, site reception reports are needed from area hams. Please tune your wide band two meter radio or

scanner to 155.73 MHz, PL 192.8, and report the following to [w1sex@arrl.net](mailto:w1sex@arrl.net)

### From a base station:

1. Signal strength and quality
2. Your radio make and model
3. Antenna and feed line type

### From a mobile installation:

1. Signal strength and quality
2. Your radio make and model
3. Antenna type: 1/4, 5/8 or high gain
4. Permanent or magnetic mount

### From a hand held radio:

1. Signal strength and quality
2. Your radio make and model
3. Antenna type: standard heli-flex or aftermarket high gain

## ARRL Files Opposition to BPL Reconsideration Petitions

The ARRL has filed an Opposition to three petitions for reconsideration in the broadband over power line (BPL) proceeding, ET Docket 04-37. The League targeted points raised in reconsideration petitions from Current Technologies LLC, the United Power Line Council (UPLC) and Amperion Inc. Each is seeking reconsideration of certain aspects of the Report and Order (R&O) the FCC adopted last October 14 that spell out new Part 15 rules to govern BPL deployment. In its Opposition, the ARRL says the FCC should not eliminate a requirement that BPL

providers give 30 days' advance notice of service initiation, as Current, UPLC and Amperion have requested.

“Grant of the petitioners' request to eliminate the 30-day advance notice requirement would not only be antithetical to the Commission's goal of providing competitive, affordable and efficient broadband access;” the ARRL said, “it would also eliminate even the most minimal means for Amateur Radio licensees to be able to identify and contact the source of harmful BPL interference when it occurs.”

Current, UPLC and Amperion contended in their petitions that the 30-day rule forces BPL providers to tip their hands to their competition. The League charged that the petitioners were, in effect, asking the Commission “to protect them by regulatory means from competition in broadband delivery.”

Keeping the 30-day notification period in place, the ARRL argued, offers radio amateurs a chance to determine baseline ambient noise levels ahead of a BPL deployment and to be able to identify interference when it occurs and the extent to which the HF and low-VHF operating environment is degraded.

The ARRL also took issue with requests by Current and UPLC either to extend the transition period for certification of BPL equipment made, marketed or installed on or after July 7, 2006, or to drop it altogether. Either approach, the League contended, “is tantamount to an abdication of any requirement to implement any of the admittedly inadequate interference mitigation requirements in the Report and Order at all.”

As the rule is written, the League's Opposition points out, “no BPL system placed in operation ever has to come into compliance with the interference requirements.” The ARRL maintains that the FCC erred in its

R&O by permitting the installation and operation of non-compliant equipment after the R&O's effective date.

“The rule, as it now stands, actually encourages the installation of systems incorporating non-compliant equipment which creates harmful interference over the next 18 months,” the ARRL said. Based on actual interference cases, the ARRL continued, “any reasonable analysis of BPL leads to the conclusion that the rules adopted in the Report and Order are woefully inadequate in terms of interference prevention.”

Noting that Current's equipment already excludes all amateur allocations but 60 meters, the League said everyone would be better served if the FCC had required BPL providers to avoid Amateur Radio spectrum altogether--or if they would so voluntarily.

The ARRL also took the FCC to task with respect to how it's dealt with the BPL initiative and the industry itself. “The extent to which spectrum-polluting BPL systems have been accommodated by a Commission with its collective head in the sand about interference is shameful and an abdication of duty,” the League's Opposition concludes. “To further deregulate this ill-advised polluting technology would, in this context, be unconscionable.”

from *The ARRL Letter*

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April 1, 2005

## Ham Radio Provides Crucial Communications In Quake's Wake

Working under harsh conditions, Indonesian Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers the week of March 27



established VHF links between earthquake-stricken Nias Island and northern Sumatra. Nias Island was hit March 28 by nearby magnitude 8.2 and 8.7 underwater earthquakes. More than 1000 people are reported to have died as a result of the earthquakes. The tremors affected some of the same areas still recovering from the December earthquake and tsunami. Although officials and residents remained on alert for tsunamis this week, none occurred. A magnitude 6.3 aftershock occurred in the vicinity March 30.

Organization of Amateur Radio for Indonesia (ORARI) headquarters in Jakarta this week called on its members to be ready to assist. An ORARI team deployed by air to Nias Island March 29 set up "zulu" (emergency) station YB6ZAH in Gunung Sitoli, the island's largest city. YB6ZAH has been in contact with the ORARI District 6 command post in Medan, North Sumatra. The ORARI team already had experience supporting communication following the December 2004 tsunami that claimed an estimated 300,000 lives in South Asia.

In the earthquake's immediate aftermath, ORARI ARES members reportedly were on duty with little or no food to eat, although they did have drinking water. At that point, many victims had not yet been evacuated, and some remained trapped in the debris.

ORARI team members include Zulkarman Syafrin, YC6PLG, Herman Rangkuti, YC6IQ, and Soejat Harto, YB6HB--a medical doctor. Syafrin reports that the earthquake damaged the power, telecommunication and transportation infrastructure or took them out altogether on Nias Island. Buildings in Gunung Sitoli were reportedly flattened and roads severely damaged or impassable.

In the early going, the team was using portable generators and had to restrict operation to every two hours to conserve scarce fuel. TELKOM, the Indonesian Department of Public Telecommunication, has since provided the ORARI ARES team with a bigger generator, and the operation has relocated to the TELKOM building, where fuel is no longer a problem. ORARI District 6 plans to supply more logistical and radio equipment, while Ady Susanto, YB6VK, was preparing a set of solar cells for the ORARI ARES team's use in Gunung Sitoli.

New Mexico radio amateur Earl Campbell, N8TV, now working with the International Red Cross in Banda Aceh on post-tsunami relief, plans to set up an emergency Amateur Radio station on Simeulue Island, which also was affected by the earthquakes. Campbell's IT team reportedly is headed for Nias Island to set up a satellite Internet connection and to support the ARES team in Gunung Sitoli.

Updates on ham radio earthquake relief activity in Indonesia are available on the AB2QV Web site

<http://www.qsl.net/ab2qv/nias.htm>

--Wyn Purwinto, AB2QV

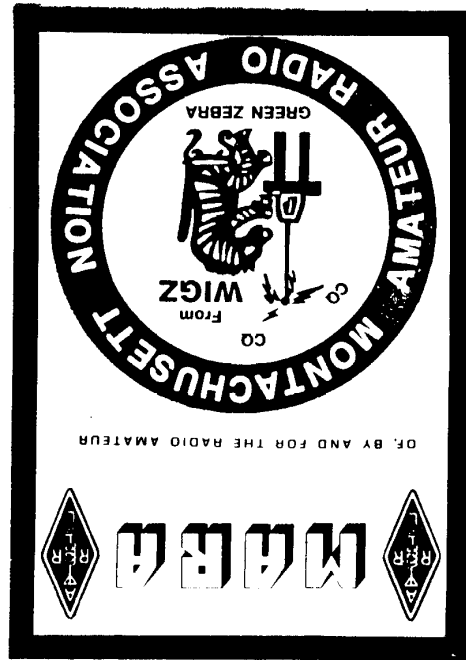
from *The ARRL Letter*

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**Club elections are in 2 months. Whom do you want to lead the Club for the next year? Think about it.**



**Montachusett Amateur Radio Association**  
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