

MARA W1 GaZette



September 2007

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 50 No. 1

September Meeting

Wednesday, September 12
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Library

Bob Reif W1XP
"New Ham Bands"

Hope everyone had a great summer. Several tower and antenna projects were mentioned on the Sunday morning Montachusett Emergency (ARES) Net. So those tower seeds seem to be working.

The MARA meeting year resumes this month with a presentation by Bob Reif W1XP, probably about the 5meter band. Unless Bob decides to talk about something else. Whatever his topic is, Bob's presentation is sure to be fun and instructive.

Come join us in the Wallace Community Room of the Lunenburg Public Library on Mass Ave just east of the center of town.

President's Corner

de Bill N1UZ

Wow what a busy summer it has been, between work, grass cutting, day trips and a couple of vacation days there has been very little time left for Amateur Radio.

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Contributors To This Issue:

N1UZ, N1MGO, KB1JXJ, K1JHC,
K1YTS, KB1JZU, AA2T

The MARA board did have a summer meeting to discuss this coming year meetings We did come up with a very good list of speakers for the club meetings, Pauline KB1JXJ will make sure we have something planned for every meeting.

The summer party will be at my QTH this year on Sept 16 from 2-6 PM. See inside for directions.

Johnny Appleseed Festival

de Tom K1JHC

The 14th Annual Johnny Appleseed Arts & Cultural Festival will be held in downtown Leominster on **Saturday September 15th** from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Montachusett Amateur Radio Association will have a booth again this year, through the kind sponsorship of the Curley Marchand Funeral Home.

(continued on next page)

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/>

Sunday, September 16; Cambridge MA
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April - October

Saturday, October 6; Feeding Hills MA
Mt. Tom ARA Hamfest, 11am

Fri & Sat; October 12 & 13; Deerfield NH
NEAR-Fest; see www.near-fest.com

Johnny Appleseed Fest - 15 Sep

continued from page one

We will be in the same spot as last year and tower, antennas, and radios have been promised. The big thing that we really need are volunteers to help with set-up starting at 7:00 AM and others to man the booth during the day.

Last year was quite successful with many visitors to the booth and contacts made around the country and into Europe. Young and old will be invited to try their hand at sending their names with a code key. So come on down to help or visit.

Club Cookout - 16 Sep

Bill N1UZ and Pam Leger are hosting a cookout for MARA members and guests on Sunday, September 16 2-6pm.

Direction to 131 Old Westminster Rd, Hubbardston:

At the Cracker Factory in the center of Westminster, take South St. for 1.8 miles and go right on Minott Rd for 1.5 miles then bear left onto Newton Rd.. Stay on Newton Rd for .6 miles it will turn into Old Westminster Rd at the town line. Continue for .8 miles 131 is on the right side, Yellow house. We will have the radio on 145.450 hope you all can make it.

NVARC QSL Card Sort
October 18, 7:30pm
Pepperell Community Center

The MARA W1/GaZette

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The deadline for materials to appear in the W1/GaZette is noon on the Sunday before the first Wednesday of the month.

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

June Meeting Report

de Pauline KB1JXJ

13 June 2007

Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room,
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 19; Bill N1UZ, Paul KD1YH, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Ray KB1LRL, Bill W1UD, Tom AB1GF, Ralph KD1SM, Gary K1YTS, Jeff KB1FTN, Norm W1BYH, John KK1X, Barry W1HFN, Ed KB1LJJ, Nancy KB1KEF, Bob KB1JZU, David KB1OPS, Suzie KB1OZQ, and Walter K1CMF.

07:25 - General Meeting called to order and Introductions

07:30--- Reports:

- 1) J.A Fair - K1JHC not present.
- 2) Field Day - On track
- 3) Ray will put in the T&G paper meetings and Field Day info
- 4) Ralph - KD1SM Saturday Longsjo Mountain Race, Need 6-7 more Hams
- 5) Gordon - N1MGO Treasurer's Report May 2007

Starting balance	\$614.55
Income	\$25.00 Dues
Expenses	\$17.00 State for Field Day
Ending Balance	\$622.55

07:33-- Motion to accept financial report, Motion passed

07:34 Counters chosen for club election, Bill W1UD, John KK1X and Norm W1BYH

07:35 Ballots passed out and collected

Secretaries Report - Accepted as published in News Letter

VP - No report

Discussion on Repeater progress

Ralph - KD1SM Check from Bill - NZ1D for booklets, presented to the Club

Pepperell Card sort is October 18.

Web site www.w1gz.org is up and running

07:42 Motion for secretary to cast one ballot for the unopposed officers and the result of the VP election was Ray Lajoie KB1LRL, Other officers are: President - Bill N1UZ, Secretary - Pauline KB1JXJ, Treasurer - Gordon N1MGO, Trustee - Charlie KT1I. Also appointed is Web Master - Paul KD1YH

8:00 Presentation: Gordon - N1MGO on Digital Modes

8:50 Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli, KB1JXJ
Secretary



DICK WILBORG W1ZC
JOHN ROSE WW1Z

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MARA Board Meeting; 31 Jul

de Pauline KB1JXJ

1. Summer Outing at Bill - N1UZ Sept 16
2. Holiday Luncheon - Bootlegger Restaurant \$20/person. 02 Dec or 16 Dec
3. May meeting - hosting QSL sort night, provide pizza
4. Discussion of:
 - a. Additional speakers for meetings.
 - b. Flea market in off year of ARRL at Boxborough
 - c. J.A. Fair - \$125 Fee - canceled
 - d. Discussion of publicity for the club, Public access TV is approximately \$20/year
 - e. Studio visits to LATV and/or FATV
5. Ray KB1LRL , badges for club members
- 6 Meeting format
 - a. Introductions of new people only
 - b. Reports
 - c. Presidents message/report
 - d. Speaker
7. Web Site - Move to w1gz.org, opening page needs to be more exciting. Gordon will email links for his wx station to the web master
8. Field Day 2008
 - a. Bill N1UZ secured Academy Hill in Westminster

- b. Ray KB1LRL has a 10x20 tent
- c. Dates are 28-29 June 2008

Adjourn at 8:50 pm

Present: Bill N1UZ, Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Charlie KT1I, Pam XYL of Bill.

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli, KB1JXJ
Secretary



Above: Pam, Bill N1UZ, Charlie KT1I, Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Paul KD1YH enjoy the Leger QTH at the Board meeting. Photo by N1MGO.

Save The Dates

The MARA
Summer Outing
16 September 2007



Hosts
Bill & Pam Leger
2pm to 6pm

Christmas Luncheon



The Bootlegger Restaurant
50 Massachusetts Avenue
Lunenburg MA

2 December 2007
1 o'clock
Details to Follow



KB1JXJ

Greetings de Dennis K1OYQ

From: K1OYQ
To: N1MGO
Subject: RTTY
Date sent: Sat, 1 Sep 2007 14:37:23 -0400

Gordon,

Just worked you on 20 M RTTY. I tried to get back to you again but the band shifted on us.

I grew up in Leominster and got my first license as KN1OYQ around 1959. I knew Tom Duffy, Bruce Giunta, Bob Scherer, Ray Chaisson, Harry Howard, Jim Moran (Sr & Jr), Bill Voedisch and a few other I can't remember.

I was a member of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Club in Fitchburg. It is quite a kick to work your hometown. Thanks for the QSO.

Dennis LaPierre K1OYQ

Contesting Chatter

de Gordon
N1MGO



September 2007

Contests coming up in September:

8-9 Sat 0000 - Sun 2359

Worked All Europe DX-Contest - SSB

15-16 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200

The 49th Scandinavian Activity Contest - CW

15-16 Sat 1800 - Sun 1800

QCWA QSO Party - All

16 Sun 0000 - 0400

North American Sprint Contest - SSB

22-23 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200

The 49th Scandinavian Activity Contest - SSB

29-30 Sat 0000 - Sun 2400

CQ WW RTTY DX Contest - RTTY

Contests coming up in October

6 Sat 0000 - 2359

LoTW Contest - SSB

6 Sat 0000 - 2400

The PSK31 Rumble - PSK

6 Sat 0000 - 2359

LoTW Contest - SSB (New: See -
<http://74.194.51.88:7777/>)

13 Sat 0000 - 2359

LoTW Contest - CW/Digi

13 Sat 0000 - 0759

The Makrothen Contest (1) - RTTY (see
web site, 3 parts)

15-19 Mon 1300 - Fri 2400

School Club Roundup - All

20-21 Sat 0000 - Sun 2400

JARTS WW RTTY Contest - RTTY

20-21 Sat 1500 - Sun 1459

Worked All Germany Contest - CW/SSB

28-29 Sat 0000 - Sun 2400

CQ WW DX Contest - SSB

The above contests are some of the big ones to start the fall and winter contest season. There are many other contests also going on during September and October.

For more contests and information, with links to the rules see:

<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/> or

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Are you into DX hunting? If so, this contest season will benefit you. Many of the hard to get DX entities are active during some of the contests, especially the big ones like the CQ WW DX RTTY, CW and SSB. The club meetings will have presentations through out the year related to various aspects of DXing. Using a DX cluster to watch for your needed country can also help. Most of the modern logging programs and contest loggers will connect to dx clusters using a packet network or over the Internet. DXtelenet is a stand-alone program to connect to dxcluster sites, see <http://www.qsl.net/wd4ngb/telnet.htm> DXtelenet can also interface to several logging programs to provide them with DX spots from various sources, with filtering.

Is your station ready for the upcoming contest season? Do you have all of the antennas and antenna switching you need? Are your radios ready? Have you checked the power cords to

make sure you have no loose connectors? Is the computer interfacing equipment working and all checked out? If you use an external tuner, is it checked out for proper operation. If your tuner is a manual one do you have charts built listing the settings for all of the frequency ranges and antennas you will be using? This makes it much faster to shift antennas and frequencies during fast paced contest activity. Have you checked the cooling fans on all your equipment, computers, radios, amps, power supplies and anything else that has a cooling fan?

If you use an amp for high power, especially 500 watts and over, make sure all your coax connections are in good shape, and the coax itself is free of kinks or very sharp bends. High power can cause heating of the Dielectric and "migration" of the center conductor, especially if you have high SWR and tune it out with an antenna tuner. This will lead to shorts in the coax, not what you need or want during a contest or a big pileup when you are chasing that rare DX station. Some of the smaller coax types, like RG-58, have a maximum voltage rating that is less than what they will see if using 1000 watts, or more. So use the correct transmission line for the power you are running, not just the loss factor should be considered!

I will be doing various contests through out the year, if you are interested in watching or participating in any contest let me know. Many of the contests have a multi-operator category that I will switch to if I have any other operators. I can use WriteLog or N1MM contest software, if you have a preference.

If you need help with log submission, or setup for a contest, I will try to help. Call me on the club repeater, or e-mail me, or stop by.

Gordon - N1MGO

K1SON Completes 64-Day Ride

Jerome Rogich K1SON, son of Jerry AA2T, spent his summer riding his bicycle from San Francisco to Washington DC. With 90 of his Pi Kappa Phi fraternity brothers, Jerome was participating in the Journey of Hope fundraising ride to benefit children and adults with disabilities.

Jerome's story was the Page One article by Lindsay Savageau in the August 24 issue of the Leominster Champion.

Jerome is a student at UMass Amherst where, according to Savageau, the Journey of Hope began in the late 80's or early 90's with Pi Kappa Phi's Push America program. Jerome raised over \$5,700 for the program with his participation.

Jerry AA2T traveled (by automobile, we presume) to Washington DC to meet Jerome on the group's arrival and spend a few days there.

Congratulations to you and your fraternity brothers, Jerome! Congratulations also to Mom and Dad. Jerome has posted some photos of his 3,400 mile journey at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jrogich>

Old Timers Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

An interesting one and half hours was had on Wednesday August 7th. Regulars present were Norm W1BYH, Charlie KT1I, Roy W1OOY, Howard W1TQB, and Tom K1JHC. The group welcomed Al Faul KA1AKD. Topics centered around the ability of many DXers to speak many languages. Why not join us at Bickford's Restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 PM.

Call for Volunteers - 23 Sep

de Gary K1YTS

The Town of Townsend will be having a 275 anniversary parade on Sunday 23 September at 2 PM. The parade will consist of 4 main divisions and over 100 units.

The parade route is 1.6 mi long and will be about 1.5 hours of duration. Hams are needed for organization and safety functions.

Contact: K1YTS@ARRL.org or phone 978 815 4992 for information or to volunteer. Also visit <http://www.townsend275.org> or tune to 91.7 FM radio of in the center of Townsend.

Antenna Improvements

In mid-July Tom AB1GF installed a new VHF vertical atop Bob KB1JZU's tower.



MARA Member EMail List

Did you receive the email notice of this issue of the W1/GaZette? If not, then you're not on the MARA members email distribution list and you may be missing other Club notices.

The members list is mara@w1gz.org and posting is restricted to people who are subscribed, to minimize spam. The list does not currently get a huge amount of traffic, so if you'd like to subscribe you don't need to worry about getting a flood of new email.

Let Ralph KD1SM know if you'd like to be added to the list. email ralph@kd1sm.net.

Winchendon Triathlon; 29 July

On Sunday, July 29, MARA members Gary K1YTS, Ray KB1LRL, Charlie KT1I, John KK1X, and Ralph KD1SM answered the request for volunteers to assist with a swim-bike-run triathlon around Lake Dennison in Winchendon. This was the first year for this event at this location and despite a last-minute course change forced by a road closing due to an automobile accident a few hours before the event, the event seemed to proceed without any serious problems.

The full radio crew included John N2YHK, coordinator, Stan KD1LE, Callie K1ZAK, Andy KB1JRX, and Linda KB1KCW.

The event organizer was so pleased with the help of the Amateur Radio operators that our assistance was requested again in August for a triathlon in Gardner.

Longsjo Classic; 30 June, 1 July

de KD1SM

The weekend after Field Day was another beautiful one weather-wise and that was just dandy for the 730 bicycle racers and 14 Ham volunteers who participated in the Longsjo Classic bicycle race.

This four-day event brings professional-level bicyclists from around the world to our area. Day 1 is time trials, day 2 is a circuit race around a 3.1 mile course. The different classes of racers make between 6 and 25 laps of this course. Day 3 is the "Mount Wachusett Road Race". This course in Westminster and Princeton is 11.4 miles and the racers make 4 to 9 laps. On the final lap the racers turn into the Mt. Wachusett Reservation and finish at the top of the mountain. The final day is the Downtown Criterium on a 0.9 mile course with 17 to 55 laps. The Pro Men (the most laps) race a total of 232 miles over the 3 days.

Volunteers from MARA, the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club, the Mohawk Amateur Radio Club, and the Worcester Emergency Communications Team were stationed around the courses on days 3 and 4 to help with any emergency communication necessary. On the Mountain Road Race our information about the locations of each race group also helps the Police manage traffic and the USCF officials keep track of the progress of the race.

Operators Bob Johnson AB1CV, Tom Duffy K1JHC, Gary Busler K1YTS, Callie Cornell K1ZAK, Larry Swezey KB1ESR, Ray Lajoie KB1LRL, Stan Pozerski KD1LE, Ralph Swick KD1SM, John Griswold KK1X, Charlie Cayen KT1I, Tom

Pratt N1KKY, Gordon Lapoint N1MGO, Paul Topolski W1SEX, and Bob Nichols WA1VVT, contributed 214 person-hours of volunteer time to help with health and safety communication as well as course logistics for the US Cycling Federation officials.

In addition to two fine days with excellent vantage points from which to view the races, we get many "thank you"s from the riders and from the USCF officials. The Saturday Ham crew of 12 was specially thanked in-person by two US Cycling Federation officials Kinnin Payson, Longsjo Technical Director, and Mike Conlan, Chief Referee. Race Director Bill Chiarchiaro of the Fitchburg Cycling Club also came over to thank us as we were staging in the Wachusett ski lodge parking lot. Ms. Payson said that the USCF always looks forward to the Longsjo because of the excellent support they receive from the Amateur Radio operators.

Many thanks to the 14 volunteers who helped this year.



left-right: KK1X, K1YTS, K1ZAK, AB1CV, KT1I, N1MGO, N1KKY, KB1ESR, WA1VVT, (front) KD1LE. (KD1SM photo)



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