

MARA W1GaZette



October 2007

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 50 No. 2

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, October 10
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Library
Skip Youngberg K1NKR
"Radio Mobile"**

Our October meeting will be held in the Wallace Room of the Lunenburg Public Library on Route 2A/Massachusetts Ave.

The presenter will be James "Skip" Youngberg describing the Radio Mobile tool.

Field Day 2007

de Ray KB1LRL

June 25 and 26 was our annual ARRL field day on top of Mount Wachusett and we had a fine turnout of weather, campers, and antennas!

The weekend actually started Friday afternoon with Gary, Nancy and I arrived and started the set-up. We were then joined by Paul N1QDX, the other Paul KD1YH and Bill NZ1D. The others were Norm W1BYH, Tom AB1GF, the other Tom K1JHC, Bill W1UD, and others who stopped in at

In This Issue...

Next Meeting	1
Field Day 2007	1
Watt's Happening	2
VE Team Report	2
September Meeting	3
Contesting Chatter	4
Old Timer's Lunch	6
Cookout Photos	6
Townsend 275th Parade ..	7

Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, KB1KEF, KB1JXJ,
N1MGO, K1YTS

different times. A couple of mainstays, Gordon N1MGO, Charlie KT1I, and Barry W1HFN defected to the hills of Vermont and worked out there.

The weather could not have been more perfect. Gary K1YTS was busy with all the visitors who stopped by to check us out. We even had visitors from a wedding reception all dressed up equipped with their drinks!

The purpose of field day is actually an emergency preparation drill and we dealt with a couple of minor issues that we will improve on next year. One was a power issue that was causing some instability in some of the computers and the ups units that Norm and Gary were using.

(continued on page 8, photos on page 9)

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/>

Free

I have a corner computer desk about 8 ft. on
a side that is partially disassembled in my
lower level, was my former ham operating
bench. It's free to anyone who wants it. Two
people and a truck will do it or possibly can
be further disassembled.

Charlie KT1I

For Sale

Charles N1WAS has pieces of an estate for
sale: a Kenwood PL90A linear, a Ten-Tec
Omni-VI, with an MFJ tuner. Contact
Charles at 508-488-8426.

VE Team Report

The MARA/Harvard Repeater Club VE
Team was busy over the summer. In June
we served 8 candidates and 4 upgrades to
General were earned. In July we served 6
candidates with two new Technician and
one new General license earned. In August
we served 6 candidates with 3 new Techni-
cian licenses and 2 upgrades to General
earned. We had no candidates
pre-registered in September, so no session
was held.

The Volunteer Examiners who served these
sessions were: K1JHC (Jun, Jul, Aug),
K1YTS (Aug), KD1SM (Jun, Jul, Aug),
KD1YH (Jun, Jul, Aug), KK1X (Jun, Jul,
Aug), KT1I (Jun), N1HVA (Jun), N1MGO
(Jun, Jul), and WA1RHP (Jul, Aug).

The next session is scheduled for October 24.
Pre-registration is essential.



BELTRONICS, INC.

AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE DIVISION

www.beltronics.net

hamrepairs@beltronics.net

603-465-2422
800-323-5876

FAX 603-465-3320

P.O. BOX 330
19 PROCTOR HILL RD.
HOLLIS, NH 03049

DICK WILBORG
JOHN ROSE

W1ZC
WW1Z

. 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.

Contents copyright © 2007, MARA. Permission to use in other Amateur Radio publications with credit to MARA is hereby granted.

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

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Editors: Ralph Swick KD1SM
978-582-7351 kd1sm@arrl.net
Webmaster: Paul Upham KD1YH

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
PO Box 95
Leominster, MA 01453
Web site: <http://www.w1gz.org/>

OFFICERS:

Bill Leger, N1UZ President
Ray Lajoie, KB1LRL Vice President
rplajoie@comcast.net
Pauline Carulli, KB1JXJ Secretary
kb1jxj@arrl.net
Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer
n1mgo@arrl.net
Charlie Cayen, KT1I Trustee
kt1i@arrl.net

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

September Meeting Report

de Pauline KB1JXJ

12 September 2007

Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room,
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 20 Bill N1UZ, Paul KD1YH, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Charlie KT1I, Ray KB1LRL, Tom AB1GF, Gary K1YTS, Norm W1BYH, John KK1X, Barry W1HFN, Ed KB1LJJ, Nancy KB1KEF, Bob KB1JZU, David KB1OPS, Suzy KB1OZQ, Tom K1JHC, Howard W1TQB, Bob W1XP, Al KA1AKD

07:28 - General Meeting called to order and Introductions

07:30--- Reports:

1) Gordon - N1MGO Treasurer's Report

June 2007

Starting balance	\$622.55	
Income	\$80.00	Dues
	\$28.00	NZ1D
		Book donations
	\$23.00	Raffle proceeds
Expenses	\$16.40	Postage
Ending Balance	\$737.15	

July and August 2007

Starting Balance	\$737.15
Income	\$50.00 Dues
Expenses	\$100.00 Port-o-potty FD
Ending Balance	\$687.15

07:31-- Motion to accept financial report

Motion passed

2) secretary's report

Moved and accepted as written in newsletter

3) VP Report KB1LRL

a. Boost Membership

1. Name badges

2. Mailing and calls to membership to get more attendance and participation

4) President's Report

a. Summer outing 16th of September at Pam and Bill's

b. JA Fair; Tom K1JHC all set set up time is 7am

c. Holiday Luncheon
\$20.00pp 2nd of December

d. Speakers mostly set

e. Nashoba sort 18 October Thursday 7:30pm Bob M., Bill, & Gordon will be there

f. Flee Market with 2 area clubs --- off year of Boxborough still in the picture

g. Web site up and running

h. Field Day 2008 -- Academy Hill Westminster 2009 not available

i. Gary would like some volunteers for Townsend's 275th anniv. Parade 23rd September

j. Motion for the VP to dress up like the green Zebra and hand out brochures

(VP was not in favor of this)

k. K1OYQ ex MARA member sends Hello (Dennis La Pierre)

l. W1HFN has slides of his antenna party and will remain after the meeting so members are able to view them,

8:00 Presentation: Bob Reif New Ham Band

8:50 Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli, KB1JXJ
Secretary

Contesting Chatter

de Gordon
N1MGO



October 2007

Contests coming up in October

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

27-28 Sat 0000 - Sun 2400

CQ WW DX Contest - SSB

Contests coming up in November

3-4 Sat 2100 - Mon 0300

ARRL Sweepstakes - CW

10-11 Sat 0000 - Sun 2359

Worked All Europe DX-Contest - RTTY

17-19 Sat 2100 - Mon 0300

ARRL Sweepstakes - SSB

24-25 Sat 0000 - Sun 2400

CQ WW DX Contest - CW

30-2 Dec Fri 2200 - 1600 Sun

ARRL 160 Meter Contest

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 October and November. For more contests and information, with links to the rules see: <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/> or <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

I'm writing this while doing the CQ WW RTTY contest, as a Multi-Operator Single Transmitter station. The bands are poor to

fair, with the A index = 26, SF=68 and K=4. What this means is that the low bands are noisy, and the bands above 20mtrs are dead. But this does not mean that there is no propagation!! We have worked 116 DX countries and over 700 Q's in the last 24 hours. We even worked a couple of VK's and ZL's on 40mtr! Even though this is the bottom of the sunspot cycle does not mean that all the bands are dead, just some of them. So get out there and work the DX and the contests! For a look at how the solar cycle is doing see:

<http://www.dxlc.com/solar/>

This site has a wealth of info available on the solar cycles and sunspots.

What helps when there are no sunspots? Better antennas and NOT assuming the bands are dead. The contest I'm doing right now shows that there is propagation to somewhere in the world any time. I have put up a couple of new wires, one for the WARC bands and a dipole for 40mtrs, tuned to the low end for cw and rtty. The 40mtr dipole does work better than the G5RV I normally use. I have up a 15mtr dipole, leaving the G5RV as my main antenna for 10,20 and 80 mtrs. I also use a small tri-band on the roof tower, the Cushcraft A3S. The A3S is normally only used for SO2R for the second radio. Want better antennas? Try a dipole cut for the portion of the band you use, resulting in a SWR under 1.5 to 1 so you don't need a tuner. Also make sure the orientation is broadside to the direction that most interests you. Add a small triband beam if you can, the extra gain will be noticed! The best help for the low bands is 500 Watts or more on TX! Small desktop tube amps can be had for less than \$800 used, and just over \$1000 new. That is 500 Watts on RTTY and 1KW on phone. This can make a BIG difference on 40 and 80 meters.

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

Old Timer's Lunch

September 5, Bickford's Restaurant, Leominster



Left to right: Nancy KB1KEF, Gary K1YTS, Charlie KT1I, friend of N1UZ, Roy W1OOY, Tom K1JHC, and Samantha. Samantha is the regular waitstaff for the group at Bickford's. Photo courtesy KB1KEF.

Cookout - September 16

Bill N1UZ and Pam Leger QTH. Photos courtesy KB1KEF.



left to right: K1JHC, N1UZ, KB1KEF, Pam, ??, ??, KD1YH, Patty.



Above: K1JHC, K1YTS, KB1KEF

Townsend 275th Parade

As part of the celebration of its 275 anniversary, the Town of Townsend held a parade along Route 119 through the center of town on Sunday, September 25.

Gary K1YTS was asked to organize a crew of radio operators to provide communications in the parade staging area between the 6 divisions of the parade, the two parking areas, the finish area, the Public Safety Dispatch area, and the parade officials.



Fourteen volunteers answered the call: (left to right, above) John KK1X, Charlie KT1I, Tom K1JHC, Ray KB1LRL, Gary K1YTS, Barry W1HFN, Stan KD1LE, Bob AB1CV, Wayne N1CKM, (not pictured:) Larry KB1ESR, Matt KB1OJH, Jack KB1OZL, Ralph KD1SM, and John N2YHK.

Jack, Matt, and John are members of the Worcester Emergency Communications Team (WECT, the Worcester RACES group), and came up from Worcester to volunteer.

Radio operations were conducted on 2meter simplex with Net Control in the parking lot of the Spaulding School.



Above: a portion of the parade passes NCS.

Below: Tom K1JHC (second from right) follows the Londonderry Marching Band at the end of the parade.



After the parade, Gary sent the following message to the operators:

GREAT JOB EVERONE! Your help was instrumental in a successful Parade Production, 16 hams, several non ham volunteers gave over 200 hours of their time. Several worked from 7AM till 6PM. As usual, several Amateur Radio Operators wore several hats - directing traffic, assisting the

public, improving bus transportation and calming the public.

Net control was constantly busy, radio coverage was excellent with no failures and the use of a backup channel was unnecessary. Communication and cooperation with police and EMS was excellent

Several Failings on My part- not getting lunch delivered to a busy crew, not having direct contact to bus contractors and not getting everyone to see part of the parade. I also did not give out enough of a list of alternate phone numbers (i.e. cell phones) Please let me know what went wrong and what our group did right. Critique is a good thing.. More info to follow--

As usual, Hams "Git er done"
73 Gary K1YTS

--

On the Thursday after the Parade, the Sentinel and Enterprise published a Letter to the Editor from the Parade committee thanking us for our assistance.



Above: At the NCS table we had literature about Amateur Radio available for

spectators to take. Most were fully occupied with the parade but we did hand out some literature and answer some questions about the Service. (All photos by KD1SM).

Field Day 2007

(continued from page one)

The other is the need of a more streamlined logging system with the possibility of using a server as the main system which is hooked up to a stable power system. I may look at this as a club project since there is an abundance of computer people who can provide some valuable input to this. My station was set up to a solar unit hooked up to a battery. This worked out good and found out that I can sustain myself better if there was more solar charging, so I am thinking about a 125 watt panel with a battery system that will provide some versatility without the use of a generator.

The results of the "contest" were submitted by me and the ARRL has it on record. Hopefully the points will stand which was over 2000 points. Well done everybody! The challenge for next year is to improve, on the score, the participation, the set-up, and most of all....The fun! Keep next year in mind and join us. We are looking at a new playground, the Academy Hill bandstand in Westminster which will give us more exposure and room for more toys, and of course more operators (hint, hint).

I'm looking forward to next year, how about you? Till then 73's Ray



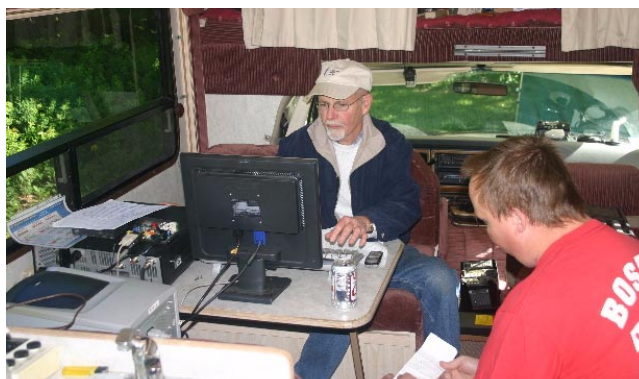
clockwise from left:
The entrance to the
site, Bill NZ1D
makes his
pilgrimage from
Florida to
participate, Nancy
KB1KEF prepares
to serve breakfast
to Ray KB1LRL as
Ray calls the
Montachusett
Emergency Net.



Gary K1YTS, Paul N1QDX, Norm
W1BYH, Tom AB1GF operating.

Left: arial perspective of the site.

KD1SM photos.





Montachusett Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

