

MARA W1/GaZette



November 2007

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 50 No. 3

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, November 14
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Library**

**Scott Andersen NE1RD
"100 Pound DXpedition"**

All persons interested in Amateur Radio are invited to attend the MARA monthly meetings. The November meeting presenter is scheduled to be Scott NE1RD describing his answer to a challenge to fit "everything" he needed for a radio expedition in a hundred-pound backpack.

A sneak peek at Scott's solution may be found on his web log;
<http://100pounddxpedition.blogspot.com/>

Old Timers Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

A meeting of the Old Timers was held on Wednesday October 3. Members present were Norm W1BYH, Charlie KT1I, Roy W1OOY, Al KA1IKD, Gary K1YTS, and Tom K1JHC. The main topic of the day was the great communications at the Townsend Parade.

In This Issue...

Next Meeting	1
Watt's Happening	2
October Meeting Report	3
Contesting Chatter	5
Roster	6
ARES Support in San Diego ..	7
ARRL In Court Over BPL	8
ARISS Antennas on Columbus ..	9

Contributors To This Issue:

K1JHC, KBIJXJ, N1MGO

Why not join us at Bickford's Restaurant on the first Wednesday of the each month at 12:30 PM.

MARA Helps With QSL Sort

Nine MARA members participated in the NVARC QSL sort on October 18 in Pepperell. Gordon N1MGO, Bob KB1JZU, Bill N1UZ, Charlie KT1I, Barry W1HFN, Nancy KB1KEF, Gary K1YTS, John KK1X, and Ralph KD1SM joined 21 others and the crew of 30 sorted 20,000 QSL cards in a little over an hour.

Many of the sorters found cards addressed to them and took advantage of the opportunity to pick up those cards immediately.

After the QSL sort everyone was treated to pizza and soda.

See 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/>

Saturday, 3 Nov; Londonderry
IRS Flea Market

Saturday, 16 February 2008, Marlboro
AARC Hamfest

Sunday, 17 February 2008, Westboro
Antique Radio fest

Sunday, 6 April 2008, Framingham
FARA Hamfest

VE Team Report

No candidates registered in advance for the
October session, so the exam session was
canceled.

The next session is scheduled for November
28. Pre-registration is essential.

The MARA/HRC VE Team holds exam
sessions on the fourth Wednesday of the
month. Those wishing to take exams are
asked to pre-register with Paul KD1YH at
978-597-6535.

**If we have no pre-reg-istered
candidates by the weekend prior to the
scheduled session we will cancel the
session.**

A pat on the back is only a few
inches from a kick in the butt.



DICK WILBORG W1ZC
JOHN ROSE WW1Z

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

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.

October Meeting Report

de Pauline KB1JXJ

10 October 2007

Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room,
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 20 Bill N1UZ, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Charlie KT1I, Ray KB1LRL, Tom AB1GF, Gary K1YTS, Norm W1BYH, John KK1X, Barry W1HFN, Nancy KB1KEF, Bob KB1JZU, David KB1OPS, Tom K1JHC, Al KA1AKD, Skip K1NKR (presenter), Bill AA1BL, Bette (guest), Walter K1CMF, Ralph KD1SM

07:28 - General Meeting called to order and Introductions

07:31--- Reports:

1) secretary's report

Moved and accepted as written in news letter

2) Gordon - N1MGO Treasurer's Report September 2007

Starting balance \$687.15

Income:

\$165.00 Dues

\$23.00 Raffle proceeds

Expenses:

\$50.00 deposit for Holiday Luncheon

Ending Balance \$825.15

07:32-- Motion to accept financial report

Motion passed

3) VP Report KB1LRL

4) Ready for Deerfield get items to him before late pm Thursday

4. Tom JA Fair Good workers Some rain and wind Not as good of a spot to attract passers by

5. Field Day 2008 Academy Hill Westminster

6. reminder QSL Sort Oct.18th Pepperell Pizza Party

7. Speakers

8. Nov Scott Anderson
Dec. Holiday Luncheon
Jan 2008 Ann Santos

9. Sunday Royalston Triathlon Call Paul W1SEX if you can help

10. Gary All went well in Townsend Thank you to all who participated

11. Norm try to have a Q&A for new HAMS

7:43 10 minute break

Raffle winner AB1GF-Tom
Repeater Guide 2008

7:55 Presentation Skip - K1NKR
Radio Mobile System -- A propagation and Mapping Program

Digital Terrain Data

8:40 Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli, KB1JXJ
Secretary



above: Tom AB1GF displays his pleasure at winning the \$1 raffle.

below: Skip K1NKR (center, standing) presents Radio Mobile to the Club in the Lunenburg Library Wallace Room.

KD1SM photos



Contesting Chatter

de Gordon
N1MGO



November 2007

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

Contests coming up in December

30 - 2 Fri 2200 - Sun 1600
ARRL 160 Meter Contest - CW

1 Sat 0000 - 2400
TARA RTTY M el ee - RTTY

8- 9 Sat 0000 - Sun 2359
ARRL 10 meter Contest - CW/Phone

15 Sat 0000 - 2400
OK DX RTTY Contest - RTTY

15-31 Sat 0001 - Mon 2359
Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party - All

29 Sat 0000 - 2359
RAC Canada Winter Contest - CW/Phone

29-30 Sat 1500 - Sun 1500
Original QRP Contest - CW

29-30 Sat 1500 - Sun 1500
Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge - CW

The above contests are some of the big ones of the fall and winter contest season.

There are many other contests also going on during November and December.

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 Phone contest. The bands are fair to good, with the A index = 13, SF=67 and K=2. What this means is that the low bands are good, and the bands above 15 Meters are dead. The bands are much better than they were even a month ago! 15 Meters is open, with some reports of 10 Meters being open. For a look at how the solar cycle is doing see: <Http://www.dxl.com/solar/> This site has a wealth of info available on the solar cycles and sunspots.

The phone contest going on while I write this brings up an idea for the article, Proper Operation! How wide is your outgoing signal? Is it wider than it should be? Is it clean? Are you overdriving your finals and/or amplifier? What about proper on air operation? Are you a "considerate operator"?

See:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/conop.html> for a guide on frequency of operation. Do you ask "Is this frequency in use?" before you start calling CQ? The CW and RTTY versions of "Is this frequency in use?" are QRL? QRL? Then LISTEN then take a second to LISTEN again for an answer to the QRL? Remember, the art of being a good Amateur radio operator is being courteous, friendly and above all LISTENING before you transmit.

If you have any questions about your signal quality on the air, check it! If you don't know how, or don't have an o'scope, ask for help! There are many club members that can help you check your signal quality, from as simple as just listening to your signal, to as complex as bringing test equipment to your shack.

Now on to DX'ing. There are some very interesting DX operations going on during the next couple of months. There will be operations from Guyana, 8R1PY, a very rare country. Some of the other rare ones are: Qatar, Tonga, Brunei, Malaysia, and Mozambique to name a few. See: <http://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html> for more DX information.

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

Roster

Current Members ('07-'08 dues paid):

NZ1D	William Wornham
WB1HIB	Jerry Breault
KB1LJJ	Edward Hendershaw
W1LXE	Norm Lyons
N1GKX	Steve Ruggles
KB1OPS	David Simonds
KA1QYQ	Ernest Lazette
KB1FTN	Jeffrey Newbro
KB1OZQ	Suzanne Williams
KD1SM	Ralph Swick
N1QIT	Jeanine Swick
N1GNI	Ken Bujold
K1JFK	John Keena, Jr.
N1MGO	Gordon LaPoint
KB1JXJ	Pauline Carulli
KB1LRL	Ray Lajoie
AA1BL	Gordon Gormley
W1BYH	Norm Rivers
N1UZ	Bill Leger
AB1GF	Tom Antil
KA1VV	Doug Sargent
K1BBV	Jerry Aubuchon
KC0HMJ	William Lyons
K1YTS	Gary Busler
KB1KEF	Nancy Richards
W1HFN	Barry Fox
KK1X	John Griswold
W1DF	Jim Kane
K1VHS	Samantha Kane

Not in this list? See Gordon N1MGO, MARA Treasurer.

San Diego Area Hams Activated as Wildfires Ravage Southern California

As fires raged through parts of the San Diego area and other areas in Southern California, ham radio operators did their part to ensure the safety of residents either affected or threatened by the fires. ARES groups in San Diego were activated on Monday, October 22 and continued to assist their served agencies until early Wednesday morning. Sixty hams were called to service by the County of San Diego's Emergency Medical Service.

According to ARRL San Diego Section Emergency Coordinator James J. Cammarano II, KG6R, hams assisted at the San Diego Medical Operations Center, six trauma centers and 16 community hospitals. Hams served as a resource, Cammarano said, "to be used in case primary circuits to hospital communications were lost due to either overload or power interruptions." In addition to these 60 amateurs, another dozen or so hams were activated by the Red Cross.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, learned that San Diego ARES volunteers were activated and now they are in standby mode. "They are ready to go at a moment's notice, but there are currently no plans for re-activation," he said. As in any emergency situation, information can quickly change and the ARRL will continue to monitor the situation and inform members if the situation changes.

Orange County update: Acting Section Emergency Coordinator Cathy Gardenias, K6VC, provided this update on the situation

in the ARRL Orange Section as of October 25: "Amateur Radio operators have been utilized. The San Bernardino County Fire EOC has been using ECS and ARES members in the EOC to monitor communications and other jobs needed. At the command post at the Rim of The World High School near Lake Arrowhead, ECS and ARES members who have been fully trained in all ICS and S190 (bush training) are handling communications and other needs. This is according to Jeff W6JJR DEC for ARES San Bernardino County and a Public Information Officer (Miles) from the EOC in San Bernardino. The EOC is at Level III at this time.

"SATERN [Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network] Amateur Radio operators at all the shelters have been volunteering their time as non communicators, but as helpers for those who are in need."

from *The ARRL Letter*
Vol. 26, No. 43
October 26, 2007

ARRL Faces FCC in Federal Court Over BPL Issues

On Tuesday, October 23, the ARRL faced the Federal Communications Commission in the US Court of Appeals over the continuing debate concerning harmful interference to licensed radio services from unlicensed Broadband over Powerline (BPL) systems. BPL is the delivery of broadband Internet communications using unshielded electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals to homes and businesses. BPL systems are designed to conduct RF energy through unshielded, medium voltage power lines, using some or all of the HF spectrum between 1.7-80 MHz. At those frequencies

on unshielded overhead power lines, the electrical wiring not only conducts the signals, it radiates them very efficiently for very substantial distances from the power lines.

In October 2006, the League petitioned the United States Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit to review the FCC's October 2004 Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37 and 2006 Memorandum Opinion and Order which generally denied all of the 17 petitions for reconsideration. In its brief initially filed May 17, the ARRL contends, among other things, that the FCC's adoption of rules to govern unlicensed BPL systems fundamentally alter the longstanding rights of radio licensees, including Amateur Radio operators. Specifically, the FCC order, while adopting rules that it claimed would minimize instances of harmful interference to licensed services, eliminated a fundamental requirement for unlicensed devices, and held for the first time that BPL systems need not shut down in the case of unresolved instances of harmful interference to "mobile" stations.

The ARRL argues that the FCC's BPL rules violate Section 301 of the Communications Act, which requires that operators of devices that emit radio frequency energy which have a substantial interference potential cannot operate without an FCC license. "For years, the FCC has consistently read Section 301 to apply to unintentional radiators, such as BPL devices, and has expressly embodied that interpretation in its rules," the League's brief recounts. The brief notes that extensive studies done by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration conclude persuasively that interference from BPL to mobile stations can be expected at distances up to almost a football field, and to fixed stations at distances up to five football fields.

The Commission then compounded its error by asserting that BPL devices do not fall within Section 301 at all, the League said. "This hail-Mary attempt at justification is another unexplained departure from prior policy that independently requires invalidation of the orders," the ARRL remarked in its brief.

The ARRL contends that the FCC orders under review "jeopardize the license rights of ARRL's members and other license holders by authorizing providers of a new device -- Access Broadband over Power Lines, or 'BPL' -- to send radio signals across the electric grid in the frequencies the license holders occupy, but without having to obtain an FCC license."

Each side had 20 minutes to present their case, with the League going first. Attorney Jonathan Frankel, of the WilmerHale Law Firm, argued the case for ARRL before the three judge panel.

For the first time in decades, the FCC decided against requiring that operations found to cause "harmful interference" be shut down immediately -- a stance that ignores the "right of the license holder to be free from interference," Frankel said in court. The FCC has also withheld portions of studies that would "potentially" show BPL does cause harmful interference to other devices -- and ignored reports of tests the ARRL argues offer "substantial" evidence of interference problems, he continued. "We're talking about devices that radiate for football fields in length and all along power lines," Frankel said of the BPL gadgets. "When you drive down the street, [an Amateur Radio operator's] service is interrupted constantly."

from *The ARRL Letter*

Vol. 26, No. 43

October 26, 2007

New ARISS Antennas Installed On Columbus

Two Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) antennas have been installed on the nadir side of the new International Space Station's Columbus module, set to launch later this year. Columbus will house an additional Amateur Radio station, including the first digital Amateur Radio TV (DATV) station in space, as well as a ham radio transponder. The yet-to-be-built Columbus amateur gear will facilitate operation on new frequencies that will make it possible for ARISS to establish wideband and video operations for the first time and allow continuous transponder operation. Video from the installation and inspection is available at the Columbus Web site

<<http://www.ariss-eu.org/columbus.htm>>.

At the ARISS International conference last year in San Francisco, Graham Shirville, G3VZV, speaking on behalf of ARISS-Europe, outlined plans for a mode L/S ham radio transponder as well as a DATV downlink on S1 band (2.4 GHz). "So, future ARISS contacts could have pictures as well as sound," Shirville told the delegates. ARISS-Europe is looking at a 10 W transmitter and a signal bandwidth of from 4 to 8 MHz. Since the Columbus module will be some distance from the other two ARISS stations, parallel operation will be possible.

Funding to finish and install ham radio antennas on the European Space Agency (ESA)-built laboratory module has been uncertain, however. Donations already have come in from the ARRL Foundation,

AMSAT-NA and AMSAT-UK, among other organizations, as well as from many individual donors. According to Bertels, there is still a funding shortfall of 15,000 Euros (approximately \$21,000 USD). To help out, PayPal donations are being accepted (access the PayPal site via the Columbus Web page).

from *The ARRL Letter*

Vol. 26, No. 43

October 26, 2007



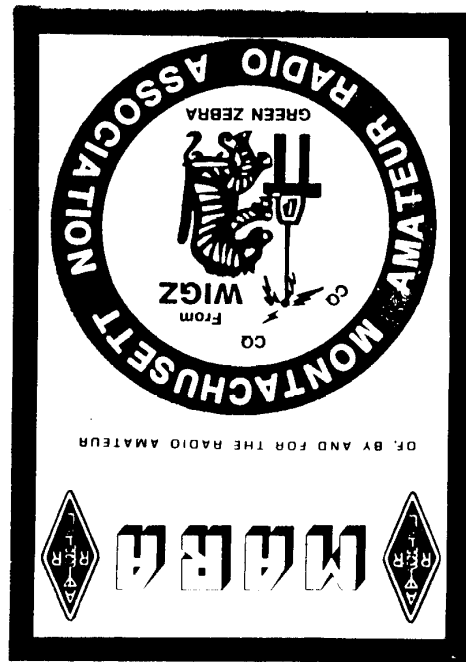
above: Bob KB1JZU sorts QSL cards into 26 bins while John KK1X collects sorted piles.

below: 6 sorting boxes were used, as well as a row of tables in the center of the room to stack cards. Charlie KT1I and Barry W1HFN are left of center in this photo.

Pepperell, 18 Oct

KD1SM photos





Montachusett Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

