

MARA W1/GaZette



December 2007

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 50 No. 4

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 9
7:30PM

Happy Holidays

The December MARA meeting was a very brief one at approximately 1:30pm on Sunday, December 2. Food was served immediately following the 5-minute meeting.

MARA Secretary Pauline KB1JXJ informs W1/GaZette that the Lunenburg Public Library Wallace meeting room has been booked for MARA meetings for the first half of 2008.

President's Corner

de Bill N1UZ

Another great year is coming to an end soon. I don't have any clue where the time has gone. Hopefully this coming year I will have more time for RTTY contesting and improving my antennas (as in more antennas).

We also had a great Christmas Party again this year at Bootleggers, 33 people attended. As usual the food was great. I would like to thank Pauline KB1JXJ and my wife Pam for making all the arrangements and also

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Contributors To This Issue:

N1UZ, K1JHC

providing the gifts and great deserts. I do believe this was the largest Christmas party in MARA history.

Old Timer's Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

A meeting of the Old Timers was held on Wednesday November 7th. Members present were Norm W1BYH, Charlie KT1I, Roy W1OOY, Al KA1IKD, Gary K1YTS, Nancy KB1KEF, and Tom K1JHC.

The main topic was fair propagation with out Sun Spots. All signs point to this being the bottom of the solar cycle.

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

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, 16 February 2008, Marlboro
AARC Hamfest

Sunday, 17 February 2008, Westboro
Antique Radio fest

Saturday, 5 April 2008, Londonderry
IRS Hamfest

Sunday, 6 April 2008, Framingham
FARA Hamfest

For more information and other 'Fests, see
<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

November VE Session

The MARA / Harvard Repeater Association
Volunteer Examiner Team held an exam
session on November 28.

One examinee earned a new Technician
license.

The next session is scheduled for December
26. Pre-registration is essential. (We
already have one person registered!)

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.**

Best Wishes to all for 2008



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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.

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

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

November Meeting Report

de Ralph KD1SM for KB1JXJ

The November MARA general meeting was called to order at 1930 on Wednesday the 14th by President Bill N1UZ.

20 members and 1 guest were present: Bill N1UZ, Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO, Bob KB1JZU, Charlie KT1I, John KK1X, Norm W1BYH, Dave KB1OKF, Al KA1AKD, Barry W1HFN, Ralph KD1SM, Tom AB1GF, Nancy KB1KEF, Ed KB1OTT, Bill W1UD, Bette Liljengren, Suzy KB1OZQ, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, Paul N1QDX, and Scott NE1RD.

Treasurer's Report (N1MGO):

Starting balance: 825.15
income:
October raffle 21.00
dues 205.00

expenses:
newsletter postage: 32.80

Ending balance: 1,018.35

The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as printed in the November W1/GaZette.

Pauline KB1JXJ reminded everyone of the holiday dinner at Bootleggers Restaurant in Lunenburg on Sunday, December 2, 1pm. The cost for food is \$20 per person.

Vice President (KB1LRL):

Concerned about the repeater situation; there has been lots of noise on the repeater.

The repeater has trouble with weak signals.

Norm W1BYH reported that he has tuned a bandpass filter to put in front of the receiver. He plans to install this on Nov 15. There have been no filters in the receiver as the current temporary repeater at his site was originally only expected to be in use for a few weeks. Norm believes that the problems with the current (temporary) repeater are primarily desense, not interference.

Gary K1YTS reports that he now has the Club repeater running in his garage and is trying to locate the problem the repeater has had in low temperatures. He believes he has identified the circuit that is sensitive and now needs to isolate the component. He may bypass the front panel connectors that were added-on.

Ray suggests that we use the 147.315 repeater (PL 100) as a backup, especially for the Montachusett Emergency Net.

Bill N1UZ replied that the Emergency Net should use simplex on 145.45 when the repeater is not working.

Ray reported that the Field Day results have been published. W1GZ scored 727 overall with 2300 points. He would like the Club to break 3000 in 2008.

Ray also reported that the October NEAR-Fest in Deerfield was fun. Tom AB1GF sold everything he had taken to the hamfest.

Charlie KT1I felt that NEAR-Fest was better than HossTraders.

Bill N1UZ reported that 6 to 8 MARA members went to the NVARC meeting on

October 18 to help with the QSL card sort. He gave great praise for KD1LE's sorting boxes.

Bill noted that there will not be a meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of December; instead, the December meeting will be held during the holiday party on December 2. The January meeting speaker has been scheduled; Ann Santos WA1S will speak on the Kure Island DXpedition. [Ed Note: see Ann's web site <http://home.tiac.net/~wa1s/>]. As always during the winter months, listen to 145.45 for snow cancellation.

Bill reports that he has contacted with the Westminster Board of Selectmen for permission to use the Westminster Town Commons for Field Day 2008. No site use permit is needed but the Fire Chief wants to verify the fire rating of the cooking tent.

Norm W1BYH notes that the ARRL Frequency Measuring Test takes place just after the Club meeting. W1AW transmits on 40, 80, and 160 meters at a precise frequency. The goal of the test is to read their frequency as accurately as you can. Here, accuracy is measured in fractions of a Hertz; .1 to .01 Hz.

Gordon N1MGO announced that Bette Liljengren of Greenville NH has joined MARA.

The raffle was won by Al KA1AKD.

Bill N1UZ announced that Paul WR1X is collecting books to send to military personnel stationed overseas. The program is called "Books for Soldiers". Contact Bill if you have anything to contribute.

The meeting adjourned at about 2015 at which time Scott Andersen NE1RD spoke about his "100 pound" DXpedition to Montserrat.



above: Al KA1AKD displays his raffle winnings. *KD1SM photo*

Welcome New Members

MARA has two new members in November:

Bette Liljengren KB1PSP, Greenville NH

Ed Niemczura KB1OTT, Fitchburg MA

Welcome, Bette and Ed.

Congratulations

Bette KB1PSP received her Technician license shortly after the holiday party.



above: Scott Andersen NE1RD (center, behind laptop) talks about the VP2M Dxpediton operation on Montserrat 29Jan'07 - 6Feb'07. Scott's web site <http://dxpediton-vp2m.com/> has more information about the operation.

Shown left to right in the Lunenburg Public Library are: Norm W1BYH, Nancy KB1KEF, John KK1X, Al KA1AKD, Tom K1JHC, Suzy KB1OZQ, Scott NE1RD, Gordon N1MGO, Charlie KT1I, Ed KB1OTT, Barry W1HFN, Bob KB1JZU.

KD1SM photo

December Holiday Party

Below, top to bottom: Heather & Ed KB1OTT, Peg & John KK1X, Jerry WB1HIB & Diane, Charlie KT1I, Bill NZ1D.



Top to bottom: Carolyn & Norm W1BYH, Howie W1TQB, Doris & Tom K1JHC, Ruth & Dave KB1OKF, Bill N1UZ & Pam



left top to bottom: Paul KD1YH & Patty, Tom AB1GF, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Pam Leger. Below top to bottom: Charlie KT1I, Bill NZ1D, Paul N1QDX & Mary Ann, Gary K1YTS & Nancy KB1KEF.





Left: Bette KB1PSP

Below: Walter K1CMF & Pat. Pat is wearing a handcrafted necklace donated by a colleague of Pauline's and won by Walter in one of the drawings.

Below, right: Joseph N1QDZ pulls one of many door prize tickets.



Above: Pauline KB1JXJ wears another handcrafted necklace from her colleague, Liz Blanchflower of stoneandsterling.com



(behind the camera:)
KD1SM



Above: Bill N1UZ turned a cherry & walnut bowl and donated it as a special raffle prize. Ruth was the lucky winner.



Hams Activated in Northwest Flooding

From *The ARRL Letter*
Vol. 26, No. 48
December 7, 2007

For the past week, the wake of fierce storms have ravaged the Pacific Northwest, killing at least seven people and leading to widespread flooding and mudslides that shut down roads and highways. Tens of thousands of residents remained without power after the storms struck Oregon. The governors of Washington and Oregon declared states of emergency, which could speed relief efforts in flood-hit areas.

Throughout it all, Amateur Radio operators were there to help. In Oregon, after a visit Tuesday to Vernonia, Governor Ted Kulongoski said, "I'm going to tell you who the heroes were from the very beginning of this...the ham radio operators. These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us." The Oregon Office of Emergency Management said the radio operators were tireless in their efforts to keep the systems connected. When even state police had difficulty reaching some of their own troops, ham radio worked, setting up networks so emergency officials could communicate and relaying lists of supplies needed in stricken areas.

Amateur Radio's role in again providing communications when other systems were destroyed or overloaded was not missed by the media. Many TV, radio and newspaper items have appeared, praising the hams and noting their service to the communities. Portland's KATU Channel 2 spotlighted the role

Amateur Radio played throughout the storms
<http://www.hello-radio.org/video/oregon2.wmv>

In Oregon, ARES is still providing communications to the coast, with more than 60 volunteers working at the coast and many more at points in between.

According to Sally Jones, Administrator for the Columbia 911 Communications District, "The 911 lines that would normally be answered in Seaside and Astoria for callers in Clatsop County were diverted by the phone company to the Columbia 911 Communications Center on a temporary emergency basis. The emergency phone calls are being taken by Columbia 911 staff who are relaying the information via Columbia County and Clatsop County Amateur Radio Emergency Services volunteers to the police fire and emergency medical dispatchers in Clatsop County, who then are activating Clatsop County first responders." Clatsop County's 911 service also went down in the storm, but officials there relied on ham radio operators to transmit messages, including information about people in need.

The Thurston County Department of Emergency Management activated ARES on Tuesday, December 4 to support ongoing flood evacuation operations in southwest portion of the county. The team staffed the County Emergency Operations Center's radio room in Olympia and manned sites at the Rochester Fire Station, various evacuation centers as well as landing zones for the helicopter rescue teams.

The ARRL will update this story on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org>> as more information becomes available.



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