

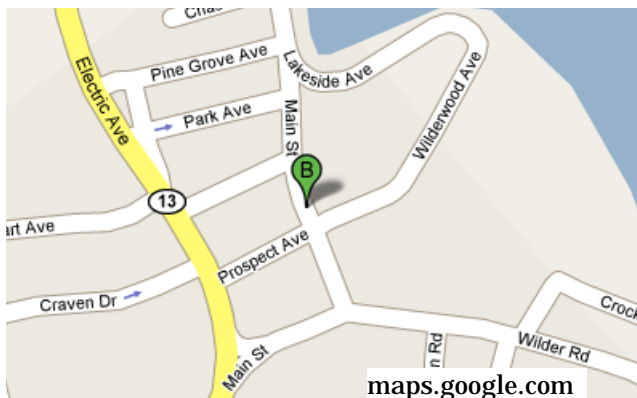


## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, 9 April**  
**7:30PM**  
**Chapel of All Saints**  
**1469 Main St.**  
**Leominster MA**  
**Les Peters N1SV**  
**“The Art of QSLing”**

Due to a scheduling conflict for April at the Lunenburg Public Library, this month’s MARA meeting is being held at a new location.

The Chapel of All Saints is near the intersection of Main Street and Electric Ave. at the south end of Lake Whalom. Note that Route 13 follows Electric Ave at this intersection; Main St. turns eastward toward Lake Whalom and then turns northward at the end of Wilder Road. The Chapel of All Saints is at the intersection of Main St. and Wilderwood Ave.



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## Contributors To This Issue:

N1MGO, KB1JXJ, K1JHC, W1UD

## Townsend Canoe Race

Saturday, 19 April is the Townsend Lions Club Squannacook River 2 Man Canoe and Kayak Race. The race starts at 10am. Radio Operators have staged at 0900 at the VFW pavilion on Route 119 in West Townsend. About 14 radio operators are needed to cover this course.

Approximately 100 canoes launch at 1 minute intervals into the Squannacook River. The radio operators are stationed at various points along the course to check off each canoe as it passes and insure that every canoe reaches the finish at Harbor Pond.

Please contact Gary K1YTS if you are available to volunteer for the radio crew for this event. All volunteers are invited to partake of the spaghetti supper at the VFW after the event.

## 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, 5 April, Londonderry NH**  
IRS Hamfest

**Sunday, 6 April, Framingham**  
FARA Hamfest

**Sunday, 20 April, Cambridge**  
Flea at MIT; third Sunday April-October

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

## VE Team Report

The March MARA/Harvard Repeater Association VE session had no exam candidates pre-registered so the session was canceled. The next session is scheduled for April 23.

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-registered candidates by the weekend prior to the scheduled session we will cancel the session.**

## Public Service Events

April 19 - Squannacook Canoe Race

April 21 - Boston Marathon

April 27 - Groton Road Race



DICK WILBORG W1ZC  
JOHN ROSE WW1Z

**BELTRONICS, INC.**

AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE DIVISION

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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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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  
PO Box 95  
Leominster, MA 01453

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

## March Meeting Report

de Pauline KB1JXJ

12 March 2008

Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room,  
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 21 Bill N1UZ, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Charlie KT1I, Tom AB1GF, Norm W1BYH, John KK1X, Barry W1HFN, Bob KB1JZU, David KB1OPS, Tom K1JHC, Al KA1AKD, Bette KB1PSP, Ralph KD1SM, Ed KB1LJJ, Bill W1UD, Joseph N1QDZ, Paul KD1YH, Steve N1GKX, Guest-Bob; son of Steve, Bill AA1BL.

07:30 - General Meeting called to order and Introductions

07:31--- Reports:

Gordon - N1MGO Treasurer's Report

Jan. 2008

Starting balance	\$1215.35	
Income	\$24.00	Raffle
Ending Balance	\$1239.35	

February

Starting Balance	\$1239.35
Ending Balance	\$1239.35

07:35-- Motion to accept financial report

Motion passed

07:37 Secretary No report as there was no Meeting in February

Announcement: April 9th meeting to be held at The Chapel of All Saints  
1469 Main Street  
Leominster, MA

#### 07:39 Reports

1. Card Sort to be held in May at the Lunenburg Public Library site

7:40 N1MGO Gordon; Short explanation of CW- Skimmer Software for contesting

7:45 Web Master, Paul, KD1YH Nothing going on, More links added.

7:46 Ralph, KD1SM

- |                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Townsend Race           | 19 April         |
| 2. Groton Road Race        | 1 week later     |
| 3. Alzheimer's Fund Raiser | 26 July          |
| 4. Longsjö                 | 4th July Weekend |
| 5. Boston Marathon         |                  |

Deerfield May 2 & 3

Field Day Westminster  
Academy Hill  
Norm not sure he is available

7:49 Ralph Laptops for kids demonstration

7:55 Break

8:05 Barry, W1HFN My Days Labrador

8:30 Q & A

8:45 Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted  
Pauline R. Carulli, KB1JXJ  
Secretary

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## Old Timer's Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timers meeting was held on Wednesday March 4th at 12:30 PM. It was nice to see new member Gerry WB1HIB at the last meeting.

Many of our members are no longer with us, and it would be good to see more new members at our meetings.

The discussions are always interesting; making the get together enjoyable. Why not try to make it on the first Wednesday of the month at Bickford's Restaurant, on North Main St in Leominster.

## Do We Have Your Address?

An electronic version of the W1/GaZette is sent every month to the MARA members' discussion list <mara@w1gz.org>.

All MARA members whose email addresses have been given to the newsletter editor are subscribed to this list (unless specifically requested otherwise).

If you have not been receiving these messages and would like to do so, send an email to Ralph so he will have your address. MARA members are welcome to use this list for other announcements they believe are of interest to Club members.

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## Contesting Chatter

de Gordon  
N1MGO



April 2008

### Contests coming up in April

5- 6 Sat 1500 - Sun 1500  
SP DX Contest - CW/SSB

5- 6 Sat 1600 - Sun 1600  
EA RTTY Contest - RTTY

5- 6 Sat 1800 - Sun 1800  
QCWA QSO Party - All

12-13 Sat 0700 - Sun 1300  
Japan International DX Contest - CW

19 Sat 0000 - 2400  
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest -  
Digi

26-27 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200  
SP DX RTTY Contest - RTTY

### Contests coming up in May

3- 4 Sat 2000 - Sun 0500  
New England QSO Party (1) - All

4 Sun 1300 - 2400  
New England QSO Party (2) - All

10-11 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200  
A. Volta RTTY DX Contest - RTTY

10-11 Sat 1600 - Sun 0400  
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party - CW/Digi/Phone

17-18 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200  
H. M. The King of Spain Contest - CW

24-25 Sat 0000 - Sun 2359  
CQ WW WPX Contest - CW

The above contests are some of the big ones of the spring contest season.

There are many other contests also going on during April and May, including many State qso parties. Ontario, Michigan, Florida, Nebraska and Mid-Atlantic are just some of the states!

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

<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/> or  
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

If you would like to participate in any of the upcoming contests, especially the RTTY or CW ones let me know. I run a software decoder for CW, as an assist because most of us can not copy code at 30 to 40 wpm like lots of the "Big Guns" are sending during a contest. I'm not setup for computer generated voice, so I don't do much with the voice contests, just a little hunting around for the nice DX or a new state on a band, but If you would like to operate during a ssb contest let me know. We can run low power (100 watts) or high power (500 watts), except the contests like NAQP that have a maximum power of 100 watts, with no high power class.

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 [n1mgo@arrl.net](mailto:n1mgo@arrl.net)

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## Boston Marathon Support

Date: Tue, 25 Mar 2008 11:21:18 -0500 (CDT)  
 From: "Paul Topolski, W1SEX"  
 <paul.topolski@comcast.net>

Subject: Link for Marathon Signup

The Marathon is a little more than three weeks away and preparations are continuing on schedule if not a little ahead.

As of this date we are short about ten more volunteers for the event and if you know of any hams that would like to participate please send them the link below.

<http://www.mmra.org/marc/access.html>

I am starting to make assignments today and fully expect to have them completed by weeks end. If you have any questions please feel free to write and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Once again thank you for volunteering and I am looking forward to seeing you on race day.

Rgds,  
 Paul, W1SEX



N1QIT at the 2006 Marathon finish line.  
 (KD1SM photo)

## Amateur Radio Clinic

Saturday May 17, 2008 from 9 AM to 2 PM

@Leominster Masonic Hall, 69 West St

Sponsored by WB1EWS and WA1RHP and the Masons of Wilder Lodge AF & AM

HF and VHF/UHF demonstrations

We will have test equipment and tools on hand and will be prepared to:

install mobile rigs

mount antennas on cars (you supply the antenna and car)

check frequency and deviation

perform minor repairs on rigs

The object of this exercise is to increase the number of local amateur operators who have usable mobile radio gear, and consequently the usage of our local repeaters.

Paul WB1EWS

## ARES Preparation

*Ed: While the following message was issued in advance of a specific weather warning, it applies throughout the spring flood season.*

To: wma-ares@yahogroups.com  
 From: "John J. Ruggiero" <n2yhk@wpi.edu>  
 Date: Fri, 7 Mar 2008 17:46:53 -0500 (EST)

Subject: [wma-ares] WMA ARES Preparation

\*\*\* APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION TO ALL WMA ARES MEMBERS AND LEADERS \*\*\*

Hi Folks,

As I'm sure you've heard, we are expecting several inches of rainfall in the Western Massachusetts Section over the next 24 hours or so. The numbers vary from about 2" up to isolated amounts of 5+". If this rainfall materializes as expected and is added to the rainfall received earlier this week as well as to the melting snow pack, Western Massachusetts could experience significant moderate flooding. Consult your local media outlets as well as reports from the NWS and MEMA for further information.

As WMA ARES members and leaders, you should take some time to prepare yourself for any possible communications assistance requests. Check your go kits, charge your batteries and stock up your personal supplies. Some potential requests for assistance for this type of situation might include providing communications to facilitate local evacuations, staffing of shelters and providing preliminary damage assessment reports to emergency management and disaster relief organizations.

At this time, expect SkyWarn operations on the usual local SkyWarn repeaters, as well as command / liaison nets on IRLP / Echolink (9123 / \*NEW-ENG\*):

- 146.910 162.2 Mt. Greylock
- 146.940 127.3 Mt. Tom
- 146.670 127.3 Agawam - IRLP Liaison
- 146.985 136.5 Greenfield
- 146.925 100.0 Worcester
- 146.970 114.8 Paxton
- 147.390 100.0 Athol
- 145.370 136.5 Gardner

The HF frequencies of 3943 / 7245 will also be utilized for command / liaison as necessary.

ARES members should be prepared to assist SkyWarn spotters with net control and liaison duties as well as with reports meeting criteria, such as:

Winds greater than 40 mph (large branches / trees / power lines down)

Damage to Buildings

Rainfall greater than 1" in an hour or 2" storm total

Flooding

Streams / Rivers (and when they're nearing their banks)

Coastal

Street (road closures / washouts, cars stuck)

You should also monitor your local municipalities and relay in any CONFIRMED reports of the above situations. They should be relayed to the NWS as well as to any local served agency, your regional or state MEMA HQ and to any Red Cross chapter / Salvation Army liaisons that are active.

This information will help those agencies issue warnings and prepare for their response to any disasters.

If local ARES groups are activated, please inform me of the following information:

Date / Time of activation and requested by whom

Mission

Served Agency

Nets in Operation & Freqs

# of staff involved

Where are they deployed

With whom and what are they communicating

Do you have sufficient EmComm capability now?

Expected duration of activity - Will you need relief?

In describing the mission, you may report this information (from a MARS EEI - The format is not critical for ARES purposes):

Impacted Area - Include Date / Time

Status of Emergency Medical Facilities

Status of Local Transportation Facilities (Roads/Bridges/Airports/RR)

Exact location and characteristics of damage

Status of Utilities

Status of Commercial Communications (Phone/Radio/TV/Cell)

Source of Information (Self/Scanner/Media/Served Agency)

Remarks - Expected Changes

ARES leaders (DECs and ECs) should contact their ARES members and conduct a survey of those who might be available for ARESMAT assignments intra- and/or inter-section over the next few days. Be sure to verify contact information for your members and have them monitor their local ARES frequencies for information.

Let me know if you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc.

Thanks!

John, N2YHK  
WMA SEC

---

## Mike's Story

*Original fiction by WIUD*

The Great Depression was at its height in 1933. Jobs were not available and if you could find a job it was only a couple of days a week. These conditions were prevalent throughout the country but especially in big cities. Boston was no exception. Mario, or Mike, as he was known in his new country was caught in this predicament. His family had moved from Italy to take advantage of all this country offered. Streets paved with gold and freedom and liberty for all. Little did they know what the conditions would be when they applied five years before they immigrated to America. Mike was fortunate enough to have made it through the school system in the North End of Boston and found a part time job helping a stonemason. It was hard work and the pay was little compared to today.

While walking home from a job near Boston University he heard strange sounds coming from a building that was close to the sidewalk. Sounds that he had never heard before. The next day he passed the building and the same noises were being emanated. There was a student smoking his pipe and Mike asked him what the strange noise was. Curiosity was driving Mike crazy. The fellow said that was Morse code being sent by the universities ham radio station. Mike queried what was ham radio. He knew what radio was because they had one but it had never given off these strange noises. The club member invited Mike into the 'shack' and explained what ham radio was. They were operating on a network relaying messages to the Middle West. Of course Mike was invited to drop in anytime. Ham radio operators are a little strange. Race, creed or color always meant little to them.

During the next few months Mike was a regular drop in at the ham station. He was in the process of learning the Morse code when the job he was working in the area was just about finished. By that time Mike had become a regular fixture of the station, the members enjoyed him company. His speech had a distinct



Italian accent and they sometimes joked with him about that. They said that they could detect the accent in his Morse and the slight smell of garlic when he was crunching out Morse on his newly acquired key. Mike mentioned that he would not be seeing them for a while as his job had come to an end and it was a distance between the North End and BU campus. One of the members suggested that he go to the administration office and see if the University might have a job opening for him. Mike left that night with the promise he would be back when he could and he would check the employment office of the university the next morning. Through the intercession of the club members, the University hired Mike. It was only a janitorial job but it was full time and paid more than what he was making as a stonemason's helper. It also gave him time to be around his new ham friends. Within the next few years Mike had accomplished three things. He had gained his citizenship and his ham operator's license. He had been promoted in his job at the university to custodial supervisor. Everything was going well for Mike.

Next month would be December 1941. Of course most of his friends would be going home for Christmas. Just like the last few Christmases, Mike would be the only operator at the station to maintain the traffic schedules. What the hell, Mike thought. I'll spend my Christmas handling traffic and talking to my friends around the country. It's better than going home to listen to my brothers and sisters argued about what they wanted to get for Christmas. It was December 6th and on the way home he thought of what he would do after church tomorrow. Maybe a trip to Cape Cod to visit my cousin would be a good way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

On the way back from the cape the radio program was interrupted with an announcement that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. The next day President Roosevelt and congress declared war on Japan and shortly after Germany.

Mike enlisted in the army in January of 1942. He was processed at Fort Devens and was put on a train headed for South Carolina for training. After basic training he was assigned to the Signal Corps. In those days, anyone that held an amateur radio

license had a good chance of working in radio. Mike was given a course that made him a radio repairman. He wanted to become a radio operator but the military probably had an excess of operators and decided he had the aptitude and partial training in radio repair because of his ham license. Twenty-six weeks in radio repair school and Mike was trained and ready to repair anything the army was using for communication.

It was the policy of the army not to send people of ethnic backgrounds, even though they were citizens, to the theater of operation where their background may put him in contact with their people. Remember, we were at war with Italy and Mike was of Italian descent. Mike was sent to the west coast to Fort Lewis in Washington to maintain radio equipment.

Mike was sent from Fort Lewis to Australia. Our forces were island hopping toward Japan. His next duty station was in the Philippines. After the second atomic bomb the Japanese surrendered.

Mike decided to be discharged from the Army in Australia where he had met an Australian girl while he was stationed there. He returned to the United States five years later and stayed in California with his war bride. He secured a position with Howard Hughes Company after completing an engineering degree from Stamford University. During his time with Hughes, he was instrumental in helping design the first satellite that was used to transmit 'C' Band television signals to home and cable subscribers. His team worked on military satellites that were capable of high-resolution surveillance of ground objects.

During all this, Mike set up and maintained W1AJ/W6ZM. His Australian, better half, encouraged him to operate his station to get his mind off the design problems he encountered in his work place. Mike could be heard regularly in a 'pileup' attempting to contact that elusive country he had not confirmed as well as handling traffic on the PAN net.

Mike's talent was never fully utilized because his life was cut short. He was killed in an automobile accident while traveling to his local radio club monthly meeting.

This is fictional. 73 Bill W1UD



Montachusett Amateur Radio Association  
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

