

# MARA W1GaZette



September 2008

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 51 No. 1

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, September 10**  
**7:30PM**  
**Lunenburg Public Library**

We trust that everyone had a good summer and is eager to have regular monthly MARA meetings resume.

Field Day was great. The new location at the Westminster town commons on Academy Hill was great; lots of room to spread out and easy public access.

The Club picnic at Bob KB1JZU's place was very well attended. The rain did not dampen our spirits at all. Bob had the great foresight to erect an 18x18 canopy so we were protected from the two brief showers. Thanks, Bob, for the wonderful hosting!

The ARRL New England Convention — aka "Boxboro" — was well-attended. Sadly, the two big door prizes did not go to MARA members. Better luck next year.

## President's Corner

Greetings! As we start a new season of meetings, I look forward to attending these meetings in a new role as president and I truly appreciate the opportunity to help the

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## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, KT1I, KB1JZU, N1MGO,  
KB1JXJ

club grow and create new ways to make things interesting and fun.

I want to thank Bill N1UZ in his leadership and efforts the past 2 years and continue to work together in achieving our goals. I also want to thank Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, and Paul, KD1YH and Charlie KT1I for their continuing efforts and look forward to their support throughout the year.

September's meeting is going to be a bit different. There will be no guest speaker. Instead, what we are going to do is present some ideas and share some goals for the year. Some plans of note will be getting the repeater project completed and installed, preliminary discussion and plans for field day 2009, a special event station project and some others in the works.

The bulk of the meeting will be an open discussion on the topic of "what do YOU want out of the club."

*[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/>

**10-11 October, Deerfield NH**  
NEAR-Fest

## Correction

Everyone was apparently too polite to  
comment about the typo in the August newslet-  
ter. Your Newsletter Editor had neglected to  
update the officers on page 3 with the results of  
the June sentencing — err, election.

## President's Corner (cont.)

*continued from page 1*

This one makes me a little nervous. My fear  
is the deafening roar of crickets in the room!  
This is your club too. You pay dues and cast  
your votes. There is a great mix of members  
new and old and I would like to get your  
input. What would interest you? Guest  
speakers, Homebrew night, Tech night? I  
am also looking for some of our members to  
share their talents and experience to the  
others. There are a vast assortment of  
subjects that can be discussed and shared,  
and the newer members could benefit from  
this (myself included!) Again, the purpose is  
to make it interesting and fun.

I encourage you come to the meeting, bring  
your ideas, write them down. Even if we  
don't get to it or if its the same thing as  
someone else, or ??? you can give them to  
me to look at. I never refuse ideas. You can  
also e-mail them to me a  
[kb1lrl@comcast.net](mailto:kb1lrl@comcast.net) or [@arrrl.net](mailto:@arrrl.net)

Thank you and look forward to seeing you.

Ray KB1LRL



DICK WILBORG W1ZC  
JOHN ROSE WW1Z

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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.

### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

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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:

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

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

## VE Team Report

The MARA & Harvard Repeater Club Volunteer Examiner Team held the August exam session on Wednesday the 27th.

One Technician license was [re]earned and two upgrades to General were earned.

Thanks to Volunteer Examiners Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Paul KD1YH, John KK1X, and Ralph KD1SM for serving at this session.

Since January the VE Team has held 4 exam sessions serving 10 individuals. 4 Technician, 2 General, and 3 Extra Class licenses have been earned.

The next session is scheduled for September 24.

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**

The W1/GaZette is emailed 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 occasionally use this list for other announcements as well.

## September is 5th Annual National Preparedness Month

de Allen Pitts W1AGP

7 August 2008

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced today that more than 1,200 national, regional, state and local businesses and organizations have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition. Sponsored by the department's Ready Campaign, National Preparedness Month helps to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses, and communities on emergency preparedness.

"As we approach our fifth National Preparedness Month, I want to thank the hundreds of coalition members who are making a difference in their communities by helping raise the basic level of preparedness in our country," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Individual preparedness is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness. Experience shows that if Americans take steps ahead of time, they stand a much better chance of coming through an emergency unharmed and recovering more quickly."

The Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps (<http://www.citizencorps.gov/>) are specifically encouraging individuals across the nation to take important preparedness steps. These steps include: getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, as well as taking the necessary steps to get

trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts.

National Preparedness Month Coalition members have agreed to distribute emergency preparedness information and sponsor activities across the country that will promote emergency preparedness. Membership is open to all public and private sector organizations. Groups and individuals can register to become members by visiting <http://www.ready.gov/> and clicking on the National Preparedness Month banner.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joseph I. Lieberman and Ranking Member Susan M. Collins, along with House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie G. Thompson and Ranking Member Peter T. King, will serve as honorary Congressional Co-Chairs of National Preparedness Month 2008. Together, they will lead the effort to increase public awareness about the importance of emergency preparedness on Capitol Hill and throughout the country.

For more information on the Ready Campaign and National Preparedness Month, please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or <http://www.listo.gov>. Information is also available by phone at 1-800-BE-READY or 1-888-SE-LISTO.

February 2008 marked the Ready Campaign's fifth year at the Department of Homeland Security. Launched in 2003 in partnership with The Advertising Council, Ready is designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. It has proven to be one of the most successful campaigns in Ad Council's more than 65-year history. Since its launch, the



campaign has generated more than \$703.2 million in donated media support. Individuals interested in more information about family, business and community preparedness can visit <http://www.ready.gov> or call 1-800-BE-READY to receive free materials.

Linking up with the Ready.gov people and participating in September's National Preparedness Month, is an easy win. The federal people are already doing all the hard work. All you really have to do is sign up. Most clubs and ARES groups are already doing activities which fit into their structure, so why not get credit for your actions? Of course if you do something more with this opportunity, so much the better! But you have to sign your group in and no one can do that for you. There are hundreds of ARES groups and clubs in the country. Wouldn't it be fun to have even 70% of them sign up and get noticed? Go to <http://www.ready.gov/> and click on the National Preparedness Month banner.

Allen G Pitts, W1AGP  
Media & PR Manager  
ARRL - the national association for  
Amateur Radio  
225 Main St. Newington CT 06111



## August Cookout



Above: Dot, KB1KEF, K1YTS, KK1X, K1JHC, N1MGO, WB1BYH, KB1OKF



Above: WB1BYH, KD1YH, N1MGO  
Left: K1JHC, KB1JXJ, KB1LRL  
Below: W1HFN, N1QDZ

[all photos this page by KT1I]







Left: N1MGO, KD1SM, Peg, KB1OKF, KB1KEF, K1YTS, KK1X, K1JHC, KT1I, KB1LRL, N1QDX  
[KB1JZU photo]

Below, left and right: Captain N1QDX leads two tours of Hickory Hills Lake before the rain starts.  
[KB1JZU and KD1SM photos]



Above: KT1I celebrates a birthday too, with cake from KB1JXJ.  
[KD1SM photo]



Above: KB1JZU and KB1JXJ watch a departing lake tour get underway.  
[KD1SM photo]



## Longsjo Thanks

To the officers and members of:

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association  
Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club  
Mohawk Amateur Radio Club

From: Ed Collier  
Fitchburg Longsjo, Classic  
Executive Director

Bill Chiarchiaro,  
Fitchburg Longsjo, Classic  
Director of Operations

Subject: 2008 Fitchburg Longsjo Classic  
Amateur Radio Support

We would like to thank the members of the clubs who provided amateur radio communication support to the 2008 Fitchburg Longsjo Classic bicycle race. Over the many years of participation, this has become an integral part of the Longsjo's operations. It is very reassuring to have this additional conduit of communication. When we directors are trying to quickly get some vital piece of information, the solution is often to "check with the hams." Your competence and diligence in information and message management are truly commendable. We will be hoping for your involvement with next year's 50th anniversary of the Longsjo!

Looking forward to your participation in 2009,

Ed & Bill

*Ed. Note: each of the 3 Clubs was given a donation on behalf of the Fitchburg Longsjo.*

## Boxboro 2008

August 22, 23, and 24 were beautiful summer days — perfect for the ARRL New England Convention; aka "Boxboro".

MARA members AB1GF, K1JHC, K1YTS, KA1AKD, KB1JXJ, KB1JXJ, KB1JZU, KB1LRL, KD1SM, KK1X, KT1I, N1MGO, N1UZ, W1HFN, and WA1FIA were all seen there.

Below: KD1SM helped demo the Red Cross Emergency Communication Response Vehicle. This vehicle is garaged near Hartford CT and provides the first response in all of the northeastern US to establish a disaster response operation.



## Memory Ride Thanks

On Saturday, July 26, the Alzheimer's Association was proud to support the 230 amateur and seasoned cyclists that participated in the 12th annual Memory Ride event. The Alzheimer's Association is grateful to the support and expertise the Amateur Radio Club members provided to cyclists, volunteers and Association staff. For the first time in the event's history, pit stop leaders, support and gear vehicles, emergency personnel, event coordinators and others were able to communicate in an efficient manner to ensure the safety of all riders. We couldn't have done it without the support of amateur radio volunteers—thank you!

Memory Ride was a success thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and cyclists who were involved. Over \$350,000 has been raised to date and supports the Alzheimer's Association research program by providing critical funds to Massachusetts based researchers searching for a cure. Thanks to donors, the Association has become the largest private, nonprofit funder of Alzheimer research. The Alzheimer's Association's mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

Thank you again for moving us closer to a cure for Alzheimer's.

Carolyn Whipple  
Development Manager  
Alzheimer's Association, MA/NH Chapter  
311 Arsenal Street / Watertown, MA 02472  
800.272.3900 Helpline  
[www.alz.org/MA](http://www.alz.org/MA)

## Hold That Date! 7 December

Pauline KB1JXJ, MARA Secretary and social coordinator, says the 2008 holiday party will be held on the 1st Sunday in December — that's December 7.

The party will again be at the Bootlegger's Restaurant in Lunenburg.

## Congratulations KB1QWR

Congrats to Mark Turmaine on getting licensed as KB1QWR. The May QSL Card Sort was Mark's first MARA meeting.

*Ed. Note: perhaps he thought there'd be pizza at every meeting?!*

## N1MGO Hosts NAQP Contest

de Gordon N1MGO

Gordon N1MGO and Pauline KB1JXJ hosted an NAQP RTTY contest station July 19-20 at their house.

The operators were Gordon N1MGO, Charlie KT1I, and Ray KB1LRL. Bob KB1JZU was showing his "measuring tape" fox hunting antenna. Also visiting the contest operation were Bette KB1PSP and her friend George N7QU from Eugene OR. Pauline KB1JXJ provided support and food for all the contesters and visitors!

Our score is the best we have ever done, even with sun-spots, we usually do the July NAQP from VT and the February NAQP from Gordon's place.



The unofficial score (for Multi op 2 transmitter stations): (official scoring is not out yet)

| Call       | QSOs | Mults | hr   | Score   | Club/Team |
|------------|------|-------|------|---------|-----------|
| All M/2 LP |      |       |      |         |           |
| W6YX       | 798  | 207   | 12   | 165,186 | NCCC      |
| N2WK       | 778  | 197   | 12   | 153,266 |           |
| N1MGO      | 598  | 156   | 12   | 93,288  | YCCC      |
| VE7FO      | 223  | 90    | 12   | 20,070  | BCDX      |
| W3/NH7C    | 153  | 87    | 9    | 13,311  | PVRC      |
| AA9DY      | 167  | 66    | 5.37 | 11,022  | SMC       |
| K6III      | 95   | 40    |      | 3,800   | NCCC      |



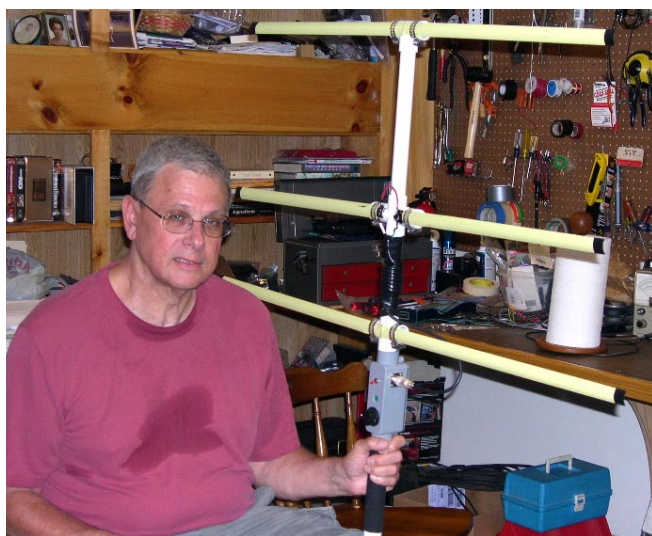
Above: Ray KB1LRL at the primary operating position.

Below: Charlie KT1I looks for spots.  
[KB1JXJ photos]

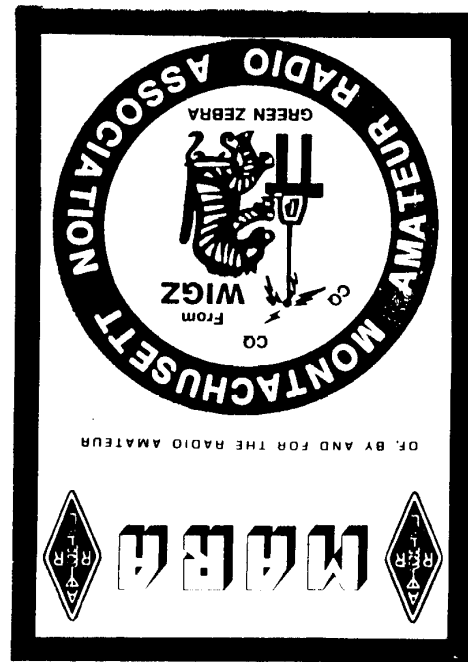


Above: Betty KB1PSP and George N7QU admire the contesting station.  
[KB1JXJ photo]

Below: Bob KB1JZU describes the operation of his "tape measure beam" for foxhunting. This design is especially good for moving through the woods.  
[KB1JXJ photo]



September 2008



**Montachusett Amateur Radio Association**  
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

