

MARA W1 GaZette



October 2008

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 51 No. 2

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 8
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Library

Bill Voedisch W1UD
“Traffic Handling”

All MARA members and everyone interested in Amateur Radio is invited to our monthly meetings at 7:30 PM on the second Wednesday. Most meetings are held in the Wallace Community Room of the Lunenburg Public Library. The Library is just east of the center of Lunenburg on route 2A / Mass Ave.

President's Corner

Hi everybody. I was very encouraged at my first meeting as president. Fortunately the crickets did not show up, but some great input as to what you want for activities. With that I thank you and hope to get a little help executing some of these. Hopefully word will spread out and boost attendance.

For those that did not attend the last meeting missed out on a little surprise; that of a notepad with the club logo on it. I am hoping to use it as a fundraiser to put some

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, N1MGO, KB1JXJ,
KD1YH, NZ1D

more money in the treasury. You can help by purchasing one for 5 dollars each. (Hey, stocking stuffer, hint, hint!) I will have them at the meetings.

The NVARC card sort is in October in Pepperell during their regular meeting. Lets have a good showing there. If you haven't been to one, go to it, it is a fun time and a good opportunity to meet some other hams face to face or face to card. Details will be at the meeting.

Ed. Note: The NVARC QSL sort will be held on Thursday, October 16, 7:30pm at the Pepperell Community Center, on route 111 at the Pepperell rotary.

Sholan Farms in Leominster has welcomed us to participate in a Ham station at their events they have there. They have the Apple Blossom festival in May, and the Scarecrow festival in October, as well as

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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

18 October, Manchester NH
New England Antique Radio Club

19 October, Cambridge MA
Flea at MIT

1 November, Londonderry NH
IRS Flea Market

Additional events are listed on
<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

President's Corner

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others. This is exiting as we used to participate in the Johnny Appleseed Festival but elected not to do the event due to logistical reasons. This gives us a great spot to promote amateur radio to young and old. I am going to visit there and will have more details hopefully at the meeting.

And, of course it is October and it's not October without NEAR-fest on the 10th and 11th in Deerfield. K1YTS and KB1KEF will be there as well as myself and KT1I looking to sell our "merchandise" and pay for our trip at least. Whether or not we do, we always have fun going there. If you have the time we would love to see you up there. There will be plenty of drinks and M&Ms to nibble on. If you have anything to sell you can contact one of us and we will get it up there for you and see if we get lucky.

As you can see, we got a bunch of good stuff going on here. Join us at the meeting or join us in planning something. We would love to see you. Spread the word, and Thanks!

73 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.

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

September Meeting Report

de Pauline KB1JXJ

10 September 2008

Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room,
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 20; Ray KB1LRL, Bill N1UZ, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Charlie KT1I, Tom AB1GF, Norm W1BYH, Barry W1HFN, Bob KB1JZU, David KB1OPS, Al KA1AKD, Paul KD1YH, Mark KB1QWR, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, John KB1QZE, Bette KB1PSP, Bill W1UD, Nancy KB1KEF, Paul N1QDX.

7:30 - Meeting called to order by the new President Ray - KB1LRL

Secretary Report - None

Treasurer: Summer up to end of August

Opening Balance	\$736.56
Income	\$23.00 Raffle
	\$375.00 Dues
Expenses	\$100.00 Field day
	\$62.74 Summer Outing
Balance as of 1 Sep.	\$998.82

7:34 Report accepted

Vice Present: New VP is Bill N1UZ

Thank everyone for their work during his tenure

Recognized Pauline KB1JXJ, Gordon N1MGO, and Ray KB1LRL for their work on the board and in keeping the speakers coming.

Treasurer additional comment: The Longsjø Bike race made a donation of \$100.00 to the club.

President will send a thank you note to the race organizers.

Repeater: It is being worked on up and running before bad weather is possible

Field day: Same site next year, Need more signage to get more visitors, Scoring was not as well as expected. Next year is the 250 year anniversary of the town we must vacate by 2pm on Sunday. Perhaps the club could some traffic control for the town during this event,.

JA Fair: NO

Sholan Farm: Many events in which we can participate and the Farm is open to our participation.

Too late for this year but is very possible for an special event station for next year.

Ray KB1LRL: 3 items

1. Has been looking at a site entitled How to grow your local club

2. Thank you gift for the speakers; we should be giving some token for their time

3. Has purchased some note pads with the club logo on them, we can sell them for \$5.00 and make a little money. We could also use them as a thank you gift for speakers.

8:03 10 Minute break

8:16 Raffle winners: Tom AB1GF & David KB1OPS

Next months speaker is Bill- W1UD on Traffic Handling

Ray: What do you want from the club?

1. Q&A Period
2. Buy in volume small kits for club members
3. card sorts
4. Fox Hunting
5. Home Brew night
6. Show and Tells

Our card sort is in May

8:43 Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli, KB1JXJ
Secretary

Old Timers Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timers held their monthly meeting at Bickfords Restaurant on Wednesday September 3. Those present were Gary K1YTS, Norm W1BYH, Charlie KT1I, Roy W1OOY, Al KA1AKD, and Tom K1JHC.

After a nice lunch we discussed the many technical changes that have taken place during our years.

Please join with us on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30.

Annual NVARC QSL Sort

Hi from NVARC

I know this is early but I wanted to invite the members of MARA to the NVARC October meeting. Every October we sort incoming QSL cards (about 18,000) for the W1 QSL Bureau. We talk, sort cards and after we are done have pizza.

Our meeting is the 3rd Thursday of the month which makes the October meeting the 16th. After we do the presort the cards go to the letter sorters. For those with 1 calls you can look through the appropriate letter to get your cards early. The meeting is held at the Pepperell Community Center at the junction of Routes 111 and 113.

We should be able to get in the Community Center around 7:00 PM

If you have any questions please contact me.

Stan KD1LE
President NVARC

CQ WW RTTY Contest

On September 27 and 28 Gordon N1MGO and Pauline KB1JXJ hosted several hams at their house for the CQ Worldwide DX RTTY contest.

The following Contest Report was submitted with the logs:

Call: N1MGO

Operator(s): N1MGO, W1BYH, KT1I, KB1LRL, N1QDX

Station: N1MGO

Class: M/S LP

QTH: MA

Operating Time (hrs): 42

Summary:

Band	QSOs	Pts	State/Prov	DX	Zones
80:	121	173	37	22	13
40:	248	434	44	58	20
20:	414	927	39	77	21
15:	39	81	15	25	17
10:	2	4	1	2	2

Total: 824 1618 136 184 73
Total Score = 636,267

Club: Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Comments:

Operators: N1MGO KT1I KB1LRL
W1BYH N1QDX

Lots of other people assisted and watched, including: Steve Hughs, KB1JXJ, KA1AKD, K1JHC, KD1SM, W1HFN, KB1JZU.

Lots of fun, great participation! This was a club event for the M.A.R.A radio club (Montachusett Amateur Radio Association). Some of the club members just watched, some operated, and KB1JXJ, Pauline,

provided food, lots of food, and other assistance!

Most fun, working two stations on 5 bands, (K1TTT and ZX2B) Thanks!

The propagation was interesting, including an opening on 15mtr that had little participation, but I was able to work 3V8BB on 15mtrs. There was also an opening on 10mtrs, with no takers to speak of!

Thanks to all for the contacts, and especially KB1JXJ for putting up with all the traffic through the house at all hours!

Gordon N1MGO



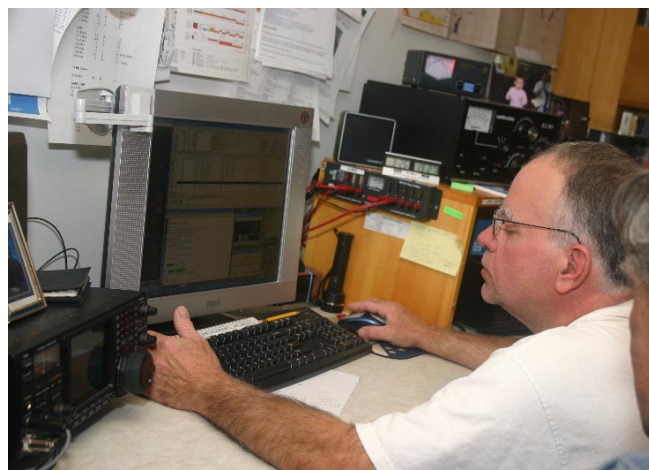
Above: Tom K1JHC and Al KA1AKD observe while Charlie KT1I searches for multipliers on 15 meters.



Above: Gordon N1MGO works 40 meters while Al KA1AKD and Paul N1QDX offer advice.

Below: Paul N1QDX at the main operating position.

Bottom Left: Tom K1JHC operates the multiplier station.



KD1SM photos

VE Team Report

The MARA & Harvard Repeater Club Volunteer Examiner Team held the September exam session on Wednesday the 24th.

One new Technician license and one upgrade to General were earned.

Volunteer Examiners Tom K1JHC, Gordon N1MGO, Gary K1YTS, Paul KD1YH, Tom WA1RHP, and Ralph KD1SM served at this session.

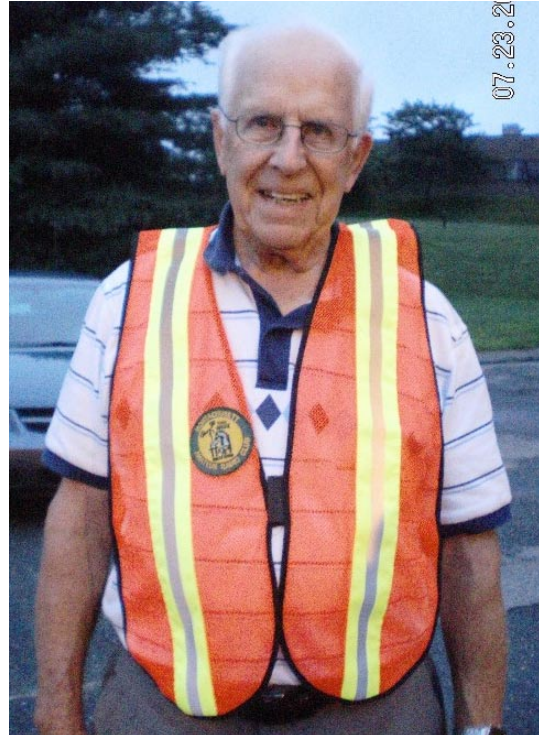
Since January the VE Team has held 5 exam sessions serving 12 individuals. 5 Technician, 3 General, and 3 Extra Class licenses have been earned.

The next session is scheduled for October 22.

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.

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



Above and Below: Tom K1JHC models a customized safety vest with the MARA emblem on the front and his call on the back.

KD1YH photos



Repeater Repair Progress

Paul KD1YH works on the MARA 145.45 repeater in his air-conditioned laboratory:



How I Got Started

My brother talks to airplanes...
or how I got started in Amateur Radio

de Bill, NZ1D

I first became interested in ham radio about 1946, about nine years old. My brother Roland and his buddy "Buster" were learning semaphore and Morse code for some Boy

Scout award. They went around talking in "dits" and "dahs." *Wow, I thought, that's like having a Super Hero's secret decoder ring -- nobody knows what they're saying.*

Roland was a tinkerer and experimenter who tore apart old radios and cars and built "contraptions" out of the parts. The father of another of his schoolmates ran a small TV repair business and had a ham license. Roland spent much of his free time at the TV shop learning how radios and TVs worked. He had a large black crackle-finished rack stuffed in one corner of our kitchen, full of strange equipment containing lots of brightly glowing tubes. It contained some sort of receiver and he sometimes listened to airplanes with it.

"I can talk to them if I want to," he boasted.

It was all very fascinating and I started to learn Morse code from his Boy Scout handbook, but other interests, such as hunting and shooting, pushed it to the back burner.

Hey, it's the infantry, dummy!

Several years later, after taking a battery of tests in high school, my counselor asked about my career goals. Even though I had earned a small history scholarship, something told me to say that I might want to pursue electronics. I had been reading parts of Roland's old hand-me-down ICS course and various electronics magazines, and had been bitten by the bug (pun intended for you CW ops).

Three days after my seventeenth birthday, while still a junior in high school, I enlisted in the Mass National Guard. I professed to the "Exec" an interest in becoming a radio repairman. They promptly issued me an

M1 Garand rifle and assigned me to an anti-tank rocket squad. *Well Duh! It was an infantry company!* The only good news was that I beat all the old veterans and won the division rifle competition that summer.

After graduation I wangled an interview with AT&T, passed the entrance exam, and was rewarded with a lineman's job, digging post holes (with a shovel), climbing telephone poles, and stringing wire and cables. I soon found myself at odds with Andy, the line gang supervisor, a grizzled old Scotsman who must have been a cousin to Captain Bligh of the HMS Bounty. Actually, his subordinate, my immediate supervisor and go-between, was -- yeah, you guessed it -- Fletcher. Well, in truth, Fletcher was his surname, not his "Christian" name (sorry!).

When I was not out in the field falling off poles, I hung around the shop pestering one of the "car-phone" radio repairmen, who was also a ham operator (I think his name was Johnson). For some reason, the "romance" of a mobile radiotelephone beckoned. But alas, still no ham license.

After a few months of picking creosote-impregnated slivers out of various parts of my anatomy, I decided there must be a less hazardous path to a future in electronics. My two-year 'Guard enlistment was almost up, I was still consigned to dragging a 57mm rocket launcher through the muck and mire with no radio job in sight, so I trundled off to the local recruiting offices to see what active duty had to offer. I passed up the army...*been there, done that - they'll just look at my 'Guard record and...*, snuck by the marines...not much different than the army, just tougher, and went straight to the navy.

"Sorry, I'm at quota, come back in about six months." Quota? They have quotas? The thought of another six months with Captain Bligh sent me across the hallway to the air force.

"Congratulations," the recruiter said, looking at my test scores, "what career fields are you interested in? You can pick three."

"Electronics, aerial photography or jet mechanic."

"How 'bout electronics, electronics, electronics? That way I'll guarantee you get it."

"When can I leave?" I asked.

"Tomorrow morning soon enough?"

Several months later I graduated from Ground Communications Equipment Repairman School at Scott AFB, Illinois, received my second stripe, and proceeded to my first assignment. As a "perk" for being first in my class, I got to choose my general area of assignment and I picked Iceland, Greenland or northeast US. I got Loring AFB in Limestone, Maine, "the land of eleven months of winter and one month of poor sledding," -- about as far "northeast" as you could get and still be "US".

Ten years had passed since I had shown my first interest in radio. Now, armed with a Certificate of Proficiency, a 1956 edition of the ARRL Amateur Radio Handbook, and a brand new Hallicrafters S-53A receiver, I was officially a communications technician in the Strategic Air Command's Eighth Air Force. But still no ham license. I really needed a mentor!

to be continued ...



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