

# MARA W1 GaZette



April 2009

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 51 No. 7

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, April 8**  
**7:30PM**  
**Lunenburg Public Library**  
**Ed Emco W1KT**  
**ARRL WMA Section Manager**

All MARA members and anyone interested in Amateur Radio are welcome to attend our monthly meetings, held in the Wallace room of the Lunenburg Public Library.

Thanks to all who linger after the meeting to help return the tables and chairs to storage before we secure the room at 9pm as the Library requires.

## The President's Corner

Greetings! Welcome Spring! I'm sure you agree with me that you are not sad to see the snow disappear, although it now exposes the fact there is a lot of cleanup to do, as well as some repair work. I drive by a lot of houses and see a lot of piled up branches have formed in the front yards for pickup....or a very nice bonfire, whichever happens first.

But, spring is also the time we use to dust off the HT's and charge the batteries, fix

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## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, K1JHC, AA2T

antennas for the upcoming public service events coming up. The three coming soon are the Squannacook Canoe race, the Groton road race, and the Boston Marathon. We also have others as well, and I encourage you to volunteer, this is not only to hone our emergency communications skills, but also, to give to the communities we serve, and to promote ham radio.

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## Townsend Canoe Race

Why not start the public service season with a few hours on the banks of the river. This year there is much more debris in the water so it may be a real obstacle race and more help will be needed. As usual we plan to meet at the VFW in West Townsend (Route 119) on Saturday, April 18 at 9:00 AM for pictures and information updates.

*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, 2000 local 28.410**  
"10/410" Net

**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, 18 April, Townsend MA**  
Townsend Lion's Club Canoe & Kayak Race

**Monday, 20 April**  
Boston Marathon; Ham volunteers needed

**Sunday, 26 April, Groton MA**  
Groton Road Race; contact KD1SM

**Friday, 1 May & Saturday, 2 May**  
Deerfield NH; NEAR-Fest

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

## Townsend Canoe Race

*continued from page one*

To volunteer sent info to  
K1YTS@ARRL.NET or call Gary at 978.  
597.8769. We have assignments for non  
hams as well so bring anyone who would  
like to participate. If you know where you  
wish to be on the course let me know.

73, Gary K1YTS

## March Exam Session

The MARA / Harvard Repeater Club Volun-  
teer Examiner team held the scheduled  
license exam session on March 25. One new  
Technician license was earned.

Examiners John KK1X, Tom K1JHC, Gary  
K1YTS, Paul KD1YH, and Ralph KD1SM  
supported the session.

The monthly exam sessions are now being  
held at the Eagle House in Lunenburg; aka  
the Lunenburg Senior Center. Contact  
KD1YH to pre-register for any monthly  
session.



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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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.

## President's Corner

*continued from page one*

April's meeting will be visited by Ed Emco, W1KT, our Western MA section manager. I'm sure he will have some good stuff to talk about. I know I'll have some questions for him. Join us at the meeting.

Before you know it, May will be rolling around the corner and with it is Near-fest, which is a two day hamfest in Deerfield NH. There are commercial vendors, a big flea market, VE sessions, food, music, and more. I surely hope the economy will not dampen the turnout. I will have a bunch of stuff to sell. If anyone has anything to sell, let me know and I can bring it up and see if we get lucky.

That's about it for now. Lot's and lots of things going on. Jump on in and have some fun. See you soon.

73 Ray KB1LRL

## Old Timer's Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

We had a really large group at our meeting on March 4th at Bickford's Restaurant, with 11 members present. The group included Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Ed KB1LJJ, Al KA1AKD, Charlie KT1I, Norm W1BYH, Ray KB1LRL, Barry W1HFN, Dave KB1OPS, Mark KB1QWR, and Nancy KB1KEF. The difficulty in obtaining gun permits and antennas were the topics of the day. Please join with us on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30.

## Field Day 2009

de Ray KB1LRL

Before you know it, the fourth weekend in June will be here and Field Day will be upon us. I have been mentioning it at the meetings in hopes to start the thought process as to how we are going to operate this year. Hopefully we will have a better turnout overall now that we got our feet wet in our new digs at Academy Hill in Westminster.

I am looking for someone with skills at sign making to make up some signs to post around town to attract visitors. I will be building a couple of folding sign boards, and we have some picket style ones. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

I would like to try to get a preliminary list of who will be going and their preference in operating mode and times.

If anyone has any ideas, or suggestions, please let me know at kb1lrl@comcast.net

Thank you.

## Groton Road Race

Radio operators are still needed for Sunday April 26 when over one thousand runners are expected to converge on the town of Groton for the 18th annual Groton Road Race.

Amateur Radio Operators working closely with the Groton Police Department have provided logistics, and health and safety communications for this race since the third year of the race. Amateur Radio is a critical component of this event; dozens of public

safety personnel come in from outside the town and their radios do not all interoperate. Amateur Radio operators are stationed at key points around the course to provide communications with the course marshals and the public safety officers positioned nearby.

Ralph KD1SM is soliciting 36 to 40 volunteers again this year for the event. Some positions require only morning availability, some positions need to be manned all day, but the majority of volunteers are needed only in the afternoon.

This event has been a lot of fun for all involved and we could not ask for better exposure of Ham Radio to the community.

If you are interested in learning more, or if you want to volunteer, please contact Ralph <kd1sm@arrl.net>.

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### Leominster Emergency Management

**2nd Annual Indoor  
Flea Market / Yard Sale**

**Saturday April 25th  
8:00am to 1:00pm**

**37 Carter Street, Leominster**

**Over 30 Tables!**

**Food! Raffles! Fun!**

**To benefit the Leominster  
Office of Emergency Management**

**Tables available for rent**

**call 978.534.7581  
for a great deal on a table**

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## North Dakota Hams Help To Head Off River Flooding

Early on Friday, March 27, the Red River -- the natural boundary separating North Dakota and Minnesota -- rose more than 22 feet above flood stage. According to Mark Johnson KC0SHM, President of the Red River Radio Amateurs (RRRA) <<http://www.rrra.org/>>, hams are "substantially involved" with the flood operations.

Johnson said that on March 22, officials in North Dakota's Cass County and Minnesota's Clay County requested the assistance of local amateurs. "Initially, hams supported the area, helping out with coordinating food and water requests for the Salvation Army and Red Cross," he said. "In addition, Clay County hams have been heavily involved with coordinating sand and sandbag logistics."

Johnson said that as the river continues to rise and sandbagging operations near completion, "ham activity is morphing from dike preparations to developing emergency communications for evacuations, in the event should that become necessary. As of Thursday, March 26, we are currently communicating between three hospitals, two county Emergency Operation Centers, volunteer centers, the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, the Coast Guard and a helipad." Johnson said these are 24 hour operations.

"Honestly, I do not know the number of hams participating; I would estimate roughly 30 or more at this time to support the operations," Johnson told the ARRL. "The volunteer response has been enormous -- we believe we have enough volunteers on

hand to manage through the weekend. After the weekend, we are relying on other area hams who have responded to the call that are standing by." Since all resource needs are being met by amateurs in the North Dakota and Minnesota Sections, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, said that there is no need for Amateur Radio assistance from other Sections at this time.

In the Canadian province of Manitoba, the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization and the City of Winnipeg Emergency Program have requested assistance from local ARES groups there to help out with the flooding on that side of the border, said Radio Amateurs of Canada's Manitoba Section Emergency Coordinator Don Gerrard, VE4DWG. "Both organizations are in the process of activating their Emergency Operations Centers and have requested ARES radio operators to begin staffing the radio room at the facilities beginning Monday March 30, 2009," he posted on an RAC ARES reflector.

"As both a ham and a resident of Fargo, I am deeply touched by the community outpouring of support for fellow man," Johnson said. "Volunteers by the thousands have poured into churches to help with food, volunteer centers to help fill sand bags and to the front lines for sand bag placement. Everyone pray for us -- we need a miracle for the community as a whole to pull this off."

from *The ARRL Letter*  
Vol. 28, No. 12  
March 27, 2009

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## ARRL Youth Editor: Young People Can Help With Emergency Communications, Too!

ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan KU0DM, of Prairie Village, Kansas, says many young hams want to help out with Emergency Communications and ARES activities, but really don't know where to start. "One disadvantage of being younger hams is the fact that legal guardians are a must for most situations," MacLachlan said. "While a young ham may not be able to go out and save the day with a handheld transceiver after a large storm, there are many ways they can aid in emergency operations."

MacLachlan said that the first step in helping to support Emergency Communications is to join the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) or a local club that works with city or county to provide emergency communications services. "When you approach your Emergency Coordinator, basically the president of that ARES group -- I recommend that you have discussed with your parents what you can and can't do in an emergency in terms of Amateur Radio response. If your parents are like mine, chances are they're not fond of the idea of having their kid running around a disaster zone in the name of emergency communications. I'd recommend asking your EC if there is a position you could fulfill from home, or even in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) where operations are carried out."

One example of a duty that a young ham could fulfill at the EOC would be Net duty. In an emergency response effort, MacLachlan said that hams establish a Net

to relay emergency traffic or other information to the people responsible for responding to the event: "Chances are the Net will last longer than 10 hours, and since hams are human, the primary Net Control (NC) will need a break at least several times in that time period -- you could help as back-up. Another duty that could be performed is shadowing various emergency response personnel for the city. Believe it or not, not a lot of Emergency Managers have their Amateur Radio license. If they go out to drive around and survey damage, they need to have a link to the ham radio Net in case they hear anything they need to respond to."

According to ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, young hams also need to check with their local government officials, as well. "Due to legal considerations, not all emergency management officials can have young people in their domains, such as an EOC," Dura explained. "While you can still help out with your ARES group, you might not be allowed to help out in the EOC."

MacLachlan strongly encourages local Emergency Coordinators to think of ways of creating positions that younger hams could fulfill in an emergency. "We're the next generation," MacLachlan said, "and starting emergency response at a young age is the best training for when we're ready to take the helm."

from *The ARRL Letter*  
Vol. 28, No. 11  
March 20, 2009

## Hams To Activate Midway Atoll As K4M In October 2009

Earlier this year, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that they would open Midway Atoll <<http://www.fws.gov/midway/>> to Amateur Radio operations for two weeks only, from October 5-19, 2009 <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/27/10596/>>. Tom Harrell, N4XP, of Monroe, Georgia, and Dave Johnson, WB4JTT, of Aitkin, Minnesota, have put together a team of 19 operators from all over the world to activate Midway Atoll for a 10 day period as K4M <<http://www.midway2009.com/>>. This the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002.

“Activity will be on 6-160 meters with 5 to 6 stations. At least one station will be active on 20 meters around the clock for those who need it for a new country.” Harrell and Johnson said. The team has posted a list of planned frequencies on their Web site <<http://www.midway2009.com/kh4freqs.html>>.

The co-leaders said that travel to the atoll is only allowed by chartered aircraft: “Because of the size of the aircraft, the team is presented with unique challenges. As such, the aircraft will only be able to carry the team, requiring the equipment to be shipped by boat some months ahead.”

In January, the USFWS started a program to encourage visitors to experience Midway's wildlife, history and culture, as well as non-wildlife-dependent activities -- including Amateur Radio. To ensure the safety of the wildlife on the Refuge, Midway Atoll Refuge Manager Matt D. Brown said that Amateur

Radio operations will be permitted for two weeks only, and only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island.

Brown said that the K4M team will be required to attend a refuge orientation shortly after their arrival designed to enhance visitor safety, wildlife protection and overall enjoyment of the wildlife refuge. “Although determined to be a wildlife-compatible activity,” Brown said, “this [Amateur Radio] opportunity is being conducted on a trial basis.” Brown has the authority to discontinue the activity at any time, based on wildlife protection and conservation goals.

Midway is located in the North Pacific Ocean approximately 1250 miles northwest of Honolulu. The atoll is an unincorporated territory of the United States and is the only atoll/island in the Hawaiian archipelago not part of the State of Hawaii. Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge is owned and administered by the USFWS on behalf of the American people and has international significance for both its historic and natural resources.

In 1988, Midway became a National Wildlife Refuge, at the time subject to the primary jurisdiction of the Navy. In 1993, the Navy decided to close the Naval Air Facility after more than 50 years of continuous operation. On May 20, 1996, custody and accountability for Midway Atoll transferred from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior. President Clinton signed Executive Order 13022 on October 31, 1996, effectively superseding earlier orders assigning responsibility for Midway to the Navy.

from *The ARRL Letter*  
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March 13, 2009

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