

MARA W1⚡GaZette



May 2009

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 51 No. 8

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, May 13
6:00PM
Lunenburg Public Library**

QSL Card Sort

The Second Annual MARA QSL Card Sort is the full agenda for the May monthly meeting. We'll setup at 6pm in the usual location at the Lunenburg Public Library where tables and letter sorting boxes will be setup. We expect to be sorting twelve to fifteen thousand QSL cards for the incoming QSL bureau. This task goes very quickly with the six letter sorting boxes that are being generously provided by Stan KD1LE from the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Pizza will be provided after the cards have all been sorted.

The President's Corner

Hello all, I am winding down from NEAR-Fest and getting motivated to get things back in order and start gearing up for all the other events coming up. We are now officially in our "busy season" with the canoe race and the road race behind us with

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, KK1X, KB1JXJ

lots more to come. Read on and see what's coming up, and what you missed.

Our next meeting is featuring our card sort. Members from NVARC will be there and we will be sorting qsl cards, then having pizza and soda afterwards. Thanks to Stan KD1LE for the use of the sort equipment and NVARC for their participation.

This month is also the annual nominations for club officers for the coming year. Last month, we put in place a nomination committee and nominations will be announced at the meeting. If anyone wishes to put their name in for nomination to any of the offices, should do so by meeting time.

Field Day is fast approaching and we need to know who will be attending. It's going to be at Academy Hill in Westminster. Set up

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/>

Sunday, 17 May, Cambridge
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April - October

Sunday, 17 May, Devens
Parker Classic Road Race; radio operators
needed. Contact John KK1X

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

The President's Corner

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is usually Friday afternoon, and activities
will commence at 1400 Saturday and will go
through the night to around 1400 Sunday.

Let us know what you can do if you plan on
attending. We will discuss this further at
the June meeting to finalize things.

The coming year the club will be looking for
some guest speakers. If anybody knows of a
speaker or has a subject they would like to
present, let us know.

That's it for now. As always, I am open to
comments, suggestions, opinions. Just send
me an email at kb1lrl@comcast.net.
Thanks, 73 Ray KB1LRL

VE Team Report

There was no April Volunteer Exam
session. The next session is scheduled for
May 27. Contact Paul Upham KD1YH to
pre-register. If no candidates pre-register
the session is canceled.



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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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OFFICERS:

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

March Meeting Report

11 March 2009

Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room,
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 20; Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Charlie KT1I, Norm W1BYH, Barry W1HFN, David KB1OPS, Al KA1AKD, Paul KD1YH, Gary K1YTS, John KB1QZE, Bill W1UD, John KK1X, Ed KB1LJJ, Ralph KD1SM, Mickey WB1GFZ, Mark KB1QWR, John K1TLV, Johan AB1KF, Don Demarsh; WICN - Public Radio Station.

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

Secretary Report - as written in newsletter by KD1SM- Ralph

Accepted

Treasurer

Opening Balance \$1590.07

Income \$26.00 Raffle

\$7.00 NZ1D Book Sale

Expenses \$33.60 Ck# 590 postage

Balance \$1589.47

Note: Insurance is due (\$250)

7:34 Report accepted

Repeater: Gary has the receiver

7:35 New Business

Bill N1UZ - Westminster needs Hams to assist.

22 Aug - Fireworks

27 September - Parade, need 15-20 Hams to assist

Old Business

Membership - Ed KB1LRL - sent email to members on old membership list, only one responded, Phil Shay - N1QAM

Sholan Farms - Charlie KT1I - 1) Go there in the spring to inspect the site

2) Contact Jo-Ann Dinardo to reserve site for October

3) QSL Card - What design?

Home Kit Project - ~\$50 for a kit, 40mtr Transmitter, info at next meeting.

Reminder - Field Day at Academy Hill in Westminster

7:45 5 minute break

7:55 Barry Introduces Guest speaker, Don Demarsh - Operations Manager for WICN FM radio station

8:40 Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli KB1JXJ
Secretary

April Meeting Report

08 April 2009

Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room,
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 18; Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Norm W1BYH, Barry W1HFN, David KB1OPS, Al KA1AKD, Gary K1YTS, John KB1QZE, Ed KB1LJJ, Mickey WB1GFZ, John K1TLV, Ed W1KT, Tom AB1GF, Bill N1UZ, Nancy KB1KEF, Bob KB1JZU, Tom K1JHC

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

Secretary Report - as written --Accepted

Treasurer

Opening Balance	\$1,589.47	
Income	\$21.00	Raffle
	\$50.00	Dues
Expenses	\$16.80	postage
Balance	\$1,393.67	

7:34 Report accepted

7:34 VP- Bill

Westminster town common secured for 2009 & 2010 Might need to share Friday pm with farmers' market

Old business

Membership - Ed KB1LRL - Needs applications responded

Deerfield Gary, Barry, Tom AB1GF going
May 1 & 2 2009

Sholan Farms - May 9 or 16 Apple Blossom
Festival

Canopy, radio, dipoles --demonstration

Home Kit Project - \$55 + S&H for a kit,

New Member John K1TLB

May card sort our club 6pm

June elections 3 past Presidents - Norm,
Gary, Tom ballot next month

7:50 Gary Two weeks
Townsend canoe race

Coming week River Rat Race

Marathon

Groton Road Race 26 April 09

All announcements can be made on
www.wma.arrl.org

VE Testing site Changed Lunenburg
Senior Center

Remind KD1SM to announce change

7:55 Break

8:08 Program Western Mass Section
Leader Ed Emco

8:40 Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli KB1JXJ
Secretary

NEAR-Fest V

de Ray KB1LRL

NEAR-Fest V in Deerfield, NH is now in the books and the ham radio gods convinced Mother Nature to hold off the weather for the time being. The outlook was not promising and unfortunately the overall turnout was light as a result. Those that were there did not get disappointed.

There were deals to be made and had. Gary K1YTS, Nancy KB1KEF, Charlie KT1I, Tom AB1GF, and myself were under the mindset that it was going to be a wet event, and what a surprise that it wasn't so.

Saturday was absolutely beautiful! My feeling is the die-hards don't go there just to buy and sell, but to also get together for a social gathering. It was nice to see club members there and others, and meet new ones as well. The staff of NEAR-Fest is to be commended for a fine job of putting it all together and making sure it will stay there.

As much as I try, there seems to be no beating Tom. He manages to walk out of there with a near empty truck and a wad of cash in his pocket selling his tower pieces and rotators, which is good for him considering the state of employment he's in. Gary and Nancy had an assortment of radios, tools, hardware, Beanie's. It's a marvel how much he carries in that rig. Nancy, as usual, supported our efforts, walked Snoozle, and kept us fed. Thanks Nancy for all you do.

Mark your calendar now; NEAR-Fest VI is going to be October 16th and 17th. You know I'll be there.

Townsend Canoe Race

Saturday April 18 started out looking a bit dreary and occasional rain droplets met the 10am start of the Townsend Lions Club two-man Canoe and Kayak race. Rain never fully arrived, however, permitting the 43 canoes and kayaks to run the Squannacook River from West Townsend to Townsend Harbor safely.

Eight Hams assisted at checkpoints along the course; John KK1X, Barry W1HFN, Nancy KB1KEF, Gary K1YTS, Charlie KT1I, Stan KD1LE, Tom K1JHC, and Ralph KD1SM. Soon-to-be Ham John Ceratelli worked alongside Barry.



above: Stan KD1LE is Net Control and also watches the river at the lower railroad trestle.



above: (left-to-right) KD1SM, KK1X, KD1LE, KT1I, W1HFN, John C, K1JHC, KB1KEF, K1YTS

The volunteers were treated to a spaghetti dinner along with the participants at the West Townsend VFW after the event.

below: low water and snags forced several canoeists out of their crafts mid-stream.



Parker Classic - 17 May

I'm soliciting volunteers for the Parker Classic Road Race. Stan KD1LE has run this effort in past years, but he's graciously allowed me to head the effort going forth.

The race's web site is
<http://www.parker.org/PEF/ParkerClassicRoadRace.htm>

We'll need to gather in the normal parking lot at about 9:15 or so.

Please let me know if you can help out.

Ham information may be found at
<http://www.n1nc.org/Events/2009/Parker/>

Thanks,
John KK1X

Groton Road Race

It was a beautiful sunny day on Sunday, April 26 for the 18th annual Groton Road Race. This was also the first hot sunny weekend day of 2009 and many runners were unprepared for the 80 degree heat. For the first time we had several medical calls on the course and after the finish line.

A record volunteer crew of 39 Hams assisted this year. From MARA came Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Nancy KB1KEF, Ray KB1LRL, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Charlie KT1I, Gordon N1MGO, and Bill N1UZ.

below: runners take the corner from Main St. onto Hollis Street in the Groton 5k race. KK1X photo



below: runners on Main St. in the Groton 10k race. KK1X photo



The MARA crew were joined by AB1CV, AE1Y, K1EJ, K1SUB, K1WD, K2HZB, KA1JVU, KB1ESR, KB1KTP, KC1US, KD1LE, N1BDA, N1HTS, N1ICB, N1LLG, N1MOR, N1QDZ, N1RKO, N1RXV, N1SPA, N8VIM, NF1A, W1JMM, W1KQ, W1SEX, W1XP, WA1RHP, WA1TAC, WR1Y, and WW1HR.



above: Bob Johnson AB1CV (left) and Carsten Turner KB1KTP (right) with Groton Police Chief Don Palma, Jr.

below: Stan KD1LE at NCS.



Message from WMA Section Manager W1KT

<http://wma.arrl.org/announce.php?id=154>

Posted by: WK1H on 04/09/2009 1:31 PM
WMA SM Ed Emco W1KT

Hey Gang,

On 08 April I was invited to attend a meeting at the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association at the Lunenburg Public Library, a great meeting place.

The members of this club are very friendly knowledgeable and fun to be with, there was coffee, desert and a 3 prize raffle. They are having a membership drive; if you are looking for a club with a lot of activities I encourage you to check into this club, you will not be disappointed. Here is the club's web site.

I want to thank the president of the club, Ray Lajoie KB1LRL, for the invite. I had a great time.

Field Day is approaching very fast and I am sure everybody's plans are made. If you are not a participant in Field Day yet, you should check out the Field Day locator and plan visiting a few and join in the fun.

73, es Gud DX
Ed/W1KT, WMA SM

Save Paper and Postage

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 occasionally use this list for other announcements as well.

Houston Representative Introduces Amateur Radio Bill In Congress

On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced HR 2160 -- the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009" -- in the US House of Representatives. This bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response."

If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

The bill currently has five co-sponsors: Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Bennie Thompson (D-MS). Representative Thompson currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. Representatives Jackson-Lee, Lofgren and Kilroy are members of that committee.

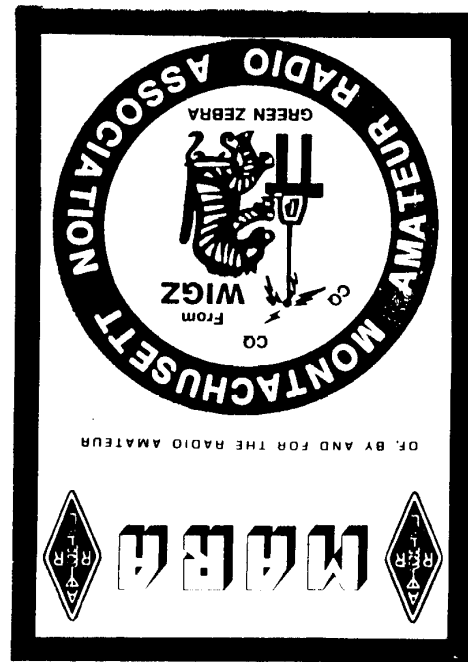
"We understand that Representative Jackson-Lee was very impressed with the radio amateurs she encountered on a visit to an Emergency Operations Center in Houston during Hurricane Ike last September," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We are grateful to her and to the five original co-sponsors for their support of Amateur Radio and the encouragement that their bill offers."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concurred: "We are excited to have Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee introduce HR 2160. It is extremely encouraging to have the support of a number of original co-sponsors -- including several members of the House Homeland Security Committee -- who recognize the importance of Amateur Radio's long history of public service."

excerpted from *The ARRL Letter*
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May 1, 2009

Full story at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1>

May 2009



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