

MARA W1⚡GaZette



June 2009

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 51 No. 9

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, June 10
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Library
Wallace Room**

FoxHunting with Barry & Bob

The President's Corner

Well, I think we can all agree that we had a "normal" spring and now that summer is approaching it will bring a normal pattern as well. I don't know about you, but I have been very busy doing lots of things, and finding a lot more to do. Let's get caught up on some things:

We have a day set aside for our annual cookout at Bob's house (KB1JZU). My most sincere appreciation to Bob for being the host again. If you missed it last year you missed a great time. Details to follow.

The election committee has recommended that the current officers continue on for the next year. This was voted on by the members in attendance. I wish to thank the committee for their effort and to the fellow officers for their efforts the past year. It was fun.

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, KB1JXJ, NIMGO,
K1JHC, KK1X, KB1RLC

The Longsjo Bike race is coming up the beginning of July. Sadly the Mount Wachusett run will not finish at the summit due to the power line construction. Instead, it will finish in Princeton center. Ralph, KD1SM will be looking for volunteers soon, so try to sign up for one of the three days. (more if you want to!)

We had our card sort last month and we had a bunch of them. I was surprised to find a card that goes back to the 70's. I don't know if the pile is that big or we are getting caught up!

This month I am doing something a little different. I asked Bob KB1JZU, and Barry W1HFN to bring in their foxhunting gear. Weather permitting, Barry will hide the fox and Bob will demonstrate the art of finding it. Anyone else can bring their gear and try it out, or put something together and hunt

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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/>

Sunday, 21 May, Cambridge
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April - October

Saturday, 4 July, Princeton MA
Longsjo Classic Wachusett Mountain Road
Race

Sunday, 5 July, Fitchburg MA
Longsjo Classic Downtown Criterium

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

The President's Corner

continued from page 1

it down yourself. This will give people a
good eyeball as to this popular form of ham
radio. I'm looking forward to it

How can I get away without mentioning
that famous 4th weekend in June. I'll be
there, how about you?

That's it for now. See you soon.

Ray KB1LRL

VE Team Report

The Volunteer Examiner team held its
regularly scheduled session on May 27.
Four examinees attended. Two new Techni-
cian licenses, one new General license, and
one new Extra license were earned. All
candidates started with no license at all!

The examiners were Tom K1JHC, Gary
K1YTS, Paul KD1YH, John KK1X, and
Ralph KD1SM. The next session is
scheduled for the Wednesday before Field
Day; June 24.



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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Annual Dues: Regular \$25
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.

May Meeting Report

13 May 2009

Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room,
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 19 Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Norm W1BYH, Barry W1HFN, David KB1OPS, Al KA1AKD, Gary K1YTS, Ed KB1LJJ, Mickey WB1GFZ, Bob KB1JZU, Tom K1JHC, Charlie KT1I, Mark KB1QWR, James AD1L, Dave KB1OKF, Stan KD1LE, Bob W1XP, Ralph KD1SM

6:30 Card Sort 2009 began

Ed note: over 12,000 QSL cards were sorted in under 2 hours.

8:04 Ray KB1LRL extended the club thank you to Stan for his help with the card sort by means of the loan of his sorting boxes.

The nominating committee was asked for its slate for the elections in June.

Committee reported the slate is the same as the current officers.

Slate passed

8:06 Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli, KB1JXJ
Secretary



above: Pauline KB1JXJ, Bob KB1JXU, Norm W1BYH, and Gordon N1MGO are busy at the sorting boxes

below: Stan KD1LE provided 8 sorting stations

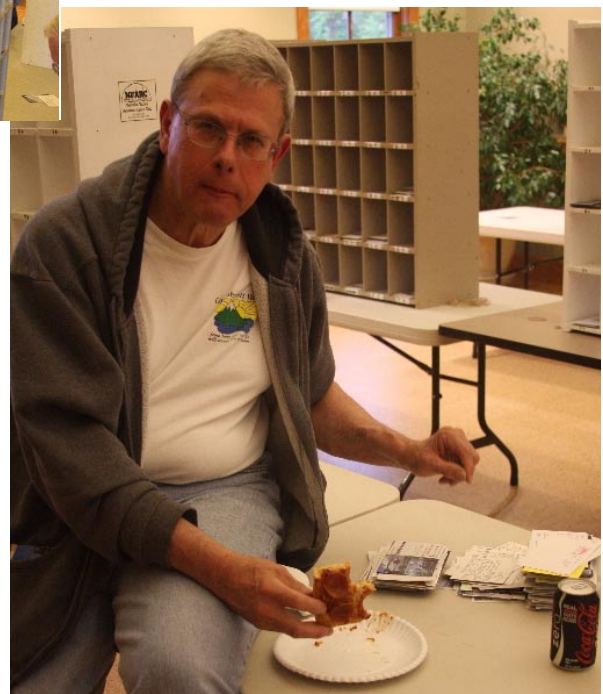


above: Stan KD1LE seen through one of the sorting boxes he and other NVARC members constructed.

below: Bob KB1JZU partakes of post-sort pizza while searching for QSL cards addressed to his station.



below: about half of the 12,000 cards that were sorted awaiting repackaging. KD1SM photos



Treasurer's Report

3 June 2009

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association
Treasurer's report for April 2009

Starting balance	\$1393.67
Income	\$21.00 Raffle
	\$50.00 Dues
Expenses	\$
Ending Balance	\$1464.67

Signed: Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO
Treasurer

Old Timer's Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timers met on Wednesday May 6 at Bickford's Restaurant. Those present were Charlie KT1I, Don W1IBJ. Tom K1JHC, Al KA1AKD, Barry W1HFN, Norm W1BYH, Gary K1YTS, and Roy W1OOY.

We had a great time talking about real old times with Candles on top of milk bottles on the winter porch, men carrying bag after bag of coal up the steps and into the cellar window, lugging 5 gallons of oil in for the kitchen stove and banking the furnace at night.

Have you considered joining the QCWA? We have two chapters in this state, Yankee #112 in the East and Pioneer #183 in the

west. National has a fine Magazine. Each Chapter has 4 dinner meetings a year and a joint picnic in the summer. This summer we will visit the N E Wireless and Steam Museum in RI. Please join us next month at Bickfords on the 3rd of June.

Parker Classic Road Race

de John KK1X

Sunday May 17 marked the 14th annual Parker Classic Road Race in Devens. Eight hams from NVARC and MARA braved the light rain leading up to the Two-mile race. The weather improved to nearly pleasant by the start of the Five-mile race, and held for the rest of the afternoon.

Thanks go out to Gary K1YTS, Nancy KB1KEF, Ray KB1LRL, Barry W1HFN, Stan KD1LE, Larry KB1ESR, John KK1X, and Ralph KD1SM, who served as Net Control.

The Race Committee provided T-shirts and lunch for the hams as a thank-you.

Dawn de Freitas, chairperson of the Parker Classic committee, expressed her gratitude for our help and expressed a desire for us to return again for next year's race.

Welcome New Members

John Cerritelli of Westminster

James M. Daly AD1L of Gardner

John Diefenbach K1TLV of Mason, NH

Longsjo Needs You!

This year is a special year for the Fitchburg Longsjo Classic. It is the 50th running of this internationally-known pro-level bicycle race. Some well-known racers in the international circuit are expected to participate.

For over 10 years local Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteers have provided logistics, health, and safety communications for the Race.

We cover the Wachusett Mountain Road Race and the Fitchburg Downtown Criterium. This year these two events are on Saturday, July 4 and Sunday, July 5.

One significant change has been made to the Wachusett Mountain Road Race course for this year. Traditionally the Road Race finish line has been at the summit of Mt. Wachusett. The summit road will be impassable during this year's race due to construction aftermath of the December ice storm.

The finish line this year will be in Princeton Center. The Race organizers therefore are expecting a very large spectator turnout in Princeton Center. We may need additional Radio support for this reason.

This is always an exciting event and very good public relations for Amateur Radio. The US Cycling Federation officials each year express their great appreciation for the communications support provided by the Hams.

14 radio operators are needed for the Road Race and 6 for the Criterium. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ralph KD1SM at arrrl.net.

Enjoy your Summer

The June meeting and Field Day mark the beginning of MARA's summer hiatus. There are no regular Club meetings in July or August.

Look for further announcements of a cookout in August.

MARA E-mail List

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 -- such as the summer cookout. So, you want to be on it!

How I Got Into Ham Radio

... and spent all my money

CQ CQ CQ,

Friday December 5th, 2008

This is Joe KB1RLC. I am one of the newest members of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association.

Soon after an industrial accident, I had to retire as an electrician of thirty-plus years. We moved here to Townsend, a nice country

setting, different from the big city where I could touch the neighbors garage from the kitchen window.

It all began on a late summer evening down in the basement. I was looking for something from the move of several years back, and found the old Washington forty channel CB rig and a D-104. Oh, how I used to enjoy the CB radio with the shiny chrome desk mike. I sat there for a while and played with the switches, held the mike, fake breaking and talking to nothing just remembering the good old days of citizens band radio, I think it was then I knew I wanted to chew a rag. So I cleaned off the dust, plugged in the power cord, turned the power knob on, and it lit up like the Christmas tree!

I was remembering the twenty years that had passed by so quickly as I went through all the channels, one to forty, upper and lower sideband. I set the rig up in a spare room upstairs. I then purchased a beam antenna on line, some 1" pipe, two hundred feet of coax, along with an old rotator I had in the garage. It was soon after that I discovered that truckers were not what I had in mind to chew rag with.

There are a few good CBers and HAMs, too, talking on their old rigs, but most pushing big power and making lots of noise. The skip is kind of fun too. Now, for the honey of a HAM, it was the beginning of spending money. The CB was working good, not like it used to be - busy- now mostly quiet.

After many visits to our local WalMart I had noticed in the parking lot a small automobile in the same spot with a funny looking lightening symbol I found to be a radio call sign on the license plate which got my curiosity. I found the owner and started asking questions. I explained to my new

friend about my CB. That was the beginning of a whole new world of radio.

He was talking HAM, a new word in my vocabulary. He also told me to go to HRO on line and to my amazement, I saw all the goodies. Now I needed a good radio, a new antenna, some coax cable, even a new ladder to get up on the roof! How do I explain this to my wonderful wife? Well, first I need to get a license to operate a radio.

I looked on the ARRL web sight to find locations of HAM operators and test sites and found a guy by the name of Paul and left a message that I was interested in a ham radio license. After a while he called me and explained how to take the test, meet other operators, and also some of the events he is involved with. He invited me to a meeting at his radio club in the middle of November.

I was really anxious about getting a license to operate a HAM radio, so I studied hard. The wife and I went to HRO (THE TOY STORE) I was amazed at all the cool stuff, asked a lot of questions and walked out with only a book The ARRL HAM RADIO LICENSE MANUAL - it was the least expensive purchase in that place. The second trip was very expensive. I studied hard for about eight weeks and did practice tests on QRZ. When I got real good at passing it said "You are ready!".

I went to a test session up in Gloucester MA, the CAARA meeting clubhouse. Nice set up there. I was well greeted, and then passed the exam in about half an hour. A happy HAM I am. I invited my lovely wife, Jill to join me in celebration of passing Element 1 Tech license. We then went to Kelly's at the North Shore mall off Route 128 in Peabody . We shared a large plate of fried clams, and each had a large roast beef sandwich. I also

treated our two Boston Terriers, Pixie and Pepper, as they also love roast beef.

My friend at WalMart introduced me to a new friend, Gary K1YTS. Gary is a good, friendly guy who has a wealth of knowledge in many areas. Gary invited me to his home to chat about HAM radio equipment, antennas, his bucket of baluns, and I saw a real live antenna farm. He explained his enjoyment with his many radios, as well as helping out at special club events. He has got to be a great asset to his HAM club.

Gary told me about MARA. He also has given me a few good web sites for information, and some frequencies I might find interesting. A few days later, the wife and I took a trip to the ARRL in Newington CT. It's amazing - for a small place they had a lot of cool stuff. I left there with a new hat, a few books and a brand new "call sign" I could call my own.

Also while visiting I met an engineer and we talked about a problem I was having with noise from the overhead wires in front of my home (that's a whole other story - I'll explain how I managed to resolve at another time). That evening, I went to my first MARA meeting, joined, and to my enjoyment, met some new friends.

I am now ready to go to the next step and get the Element 3 General License, and to learn code. I want to thank the people I have met, as I have learned a lot about the radio waves and electronics, (and also emptied our savings account!).

Joe KB1RLC

P.S. Thank You for shopping @ Walmart- Where I learned about the operation of The Amateur Radio, thank you Sam N1TIZ.

From WMA Section Manager

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. <<http://www.w1gz.org>>

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

ARRL Seeks Member Support for HR 2160

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818/?nc=1>>

To support HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- the ARRL is asking its membership to contact their members of the US House of Representatives with a request to become co-sponsors of this significant piece of legislation.

"HR 2160 presents the Amateur Radio Service with a unique opportunity -- but also carries with it the important responsibility of making your voice heard," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "HR 2160 stands as the first step in trying to address the long standing problem of extending the protections afforded Amateur Radio operators under PRB-1 to deed restrictions and covenants. To be clear, passing HR 2160 is not going to achieve that goal right away. But it will help lay the ground work by assessing the impact such restrictions have on our ability to train for and respond to disasters and other emergencies."

"Getting a bill successfully through Congress is a formidable task -- one that is going to require the involvement of every ARRL member," said Henderson. "Working with our Washington consulting firm Chwat & Co, we are laying a dynamic approach that will allow us to make our case most effectively. We have developed a strategy to maximize our impact when dealing with each member of Congress."

Since the anthrax scare that followed the 9-11 attacks, all incoming mail to Congress is delayed anywhere from four to six weeks while it is screened. This means using normal US Mail is no longer an effective method of letting Congress hear your voice. While e-mail is convenient, it is not effective, due to the large volume of e-mail that each Congressional office receives.

"To ensure that ARRL members' letters are quickly and expediently received by Congress, our strategy is to ask ARRL members send their letters directly to Chwat & Co," said Henderson. "Chwat's staff will sort the letters by Congressional district and hand-deliver them to the appropriate House offices, providing a direct point of contact with the Congressman and their staff. This personal contact gives us the chance to provide not only letters from constituents, but information from the ARRL on why this legislation is important."

The ARRL has provided a sample letter for League members to personalize and send to their Congressional representative. "Personalized letters make a better impression than a standard form letter or petition," Henderson explained. You can find the name and address for your Congressman on the ARRL Members Only Web page.

HR 2160:

<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>

Sample letter:

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/DearMemberOfCongressHR2160.doc>>



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