

# MARA W1GaZette



September 2009

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 52 No. 1

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, September 9**  
**7:30PM**  
**Lunenburg Public Library**

Our Welcome-Back-From-Summer meeting will be held on 9 September in the Wallace Room of the Lunenburg Public Library. Come meet our mystery guest.

## President's Corner

de Ray KB1LRL

Hello there! I hope everyone had a great summer despite the ongoing unusual weather that seems to be the trend this year. It has been also been a busy season as well and continuing to be one.

In June we had Field Day which as usual a fun time. Kudos to Tom, Ab1gf for working vhf and uhf and really digging in with over 100 qso's! Great job!

July was our annual Longsjo Bike race. The two days were busy, but overall a safe and exiting event. Thanks to Ralph, Kd1sm for the ongoing fine coordination of that. Well done. We also had the Tri-athlon in Winchendon, and the list of other events during the summer that kept us in the

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## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, N1UZ, K1JHC, KB1JZU,  
AD1L, KD4GT

sunshine and sometimes rain helping our towns and groups while working on our field communication skills.

Now that we start a new season of meetings I have been looking at some challenges we need to take on and see if we can have some fun with it and keep the meetings lively and promote a larger membership. One of the challenges is the list of guest speaker has gotten pretty thin. I am looking for any suggestions, even ideas on what we can do during that time frame. I have an idea or two I will kick around and see if that has interest. If you have anything feel free to contact me.

That's it for now. I am looking forward to another year as your club leader. My sincere thank you for last year and this coming year. It has been fun 73's Ray

## 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/>

**20 September, Cambridge**  
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April - October

**16 & 17 October, Deerfield NH**  
NEAR-Fest VI  
<http://www.near-fest.com/>

**17 October, Manchester NH**  
NE Antique Radio Club

**18 October, Cambridge**  
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April - October

## Help Wanted - 27 September

de Bill N1UZ

### Westminster 250th Anniversary Parade

The town of Westminster has asked for help  
with the 250th Anniversary of its town  
parade on September 27th, from 10AM  
until approximately 3:30PM. About 15 to 20  
Hams will be needed for health and safety,  
parade dispatching, bussing and traffic.

The parade route will be along West Main  
St towards the center of town ending at the  
Cracker Factory. As of now we will have 3  
divisions with a total of 10 bands and 6  
marching groups. Mixed in with 20 floats  
and 25 antique cars, the parade will be one  
of the largest events ever in Westminster.

Please reply to Bill Leger [n1uz@arrl.net](mailto:n1uz@arrl.net) or  
call him at 978-502-8067.



**BELTRONICS, INC.**

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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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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.

## Help Wanted - 13 September

de Steve W3EVE

I need several more hams to help with the Jimmy Fund Walk Sunday Sept. 13. This event is run on the Boston Marathon course and runs for most of the day. The majority of the activity is on the last half of the course. We have hams on the buses like the Marathon and a ham at each first aid/water station. This is a low key activity. We use 2 meters for this event.

Drop me an email if you can help. If you have questions feel free to call my cell phone at 508-922-9688.

## VE Team Report

The Volunteer Exam Team conducted two license exam sessions during the summer. The June 24 session served 2 candidates. The August 26 session served four candidates. All candidates earned new licenses or upgrades; four new Technicians, one new General, and one upgrade to Extra Class.

The Volunteer Examiners for these sessions were Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM, Paul KD1YH, John KK1X, Bob N1BE, and Gordon N1MGO.

The next session is scheduled for September 27. Contact Paul Upham KD1YH to pre-register. If no candidates pre-register the session is canceled.

## "Runner Down"

de Clifford Segar, KD4GT

One aspect of Amateur Radio I enjoy is working public events. There are plenty of marathons and bicycle rides to choose from here in Atlanta, Georgia. They are the best training for emergency communications available: Net discipline, message brevity, accuracy, priority triage in addition to solving technical issues like extending battery life, locating a mobile station in a difficult location or using digital modes in a high noise environment are all useful skills that can be learned by participating in these events.

A more rounded ARES volunteer also seeks out additional training that falls outside of normal radio skills. SKYWARN, Basic First Aid and CPR are almost essential, especially if you are considering deployment into disaster areas. Our local ARES group has the benefits of having several members who are employed in the medical field. Among them is Phillip Newman, KE4LSH, a practicing nurse with instructor certification in CPR through the American Heart Association. Newman, in concert with his employer, Covenant Health, arranged for a CPR training session for our ARES members. It was almost prescient.

Recently, ARES supported a fund-raising 10Km run/5Km Walk around Roane State Community College. Check points were selected based on having visual contact with every part of the course, a station located with the organizers and a net control station.

"Runner down." We all heard the bouncing sound of 16-year old Cody Anderson, KI4FUV, racing toward the runner. In

running events, a trip and fall isn't completely unusual. Blisters and road rashes are expected. But this one was serious.

"Roll EMS. We're halfway between checkpoint 1 and 2." Anderson had assessed the airway, breathing and circulation (the ABCs) of the runner, which were not good. There were no more transmissions from KI4FUV for several minutes: Anderson was performing his new CPR skills. Since this part of the course was on a public road, the Sheriff's Office had a unit close by. That officer moved his vehicle into position and directed traffic and runners past the scene and to keep the way clear for the ambulance to move into position.

Net Control had a second radio with which to directly contact the EMS unit on standby for this event. They arrived and brought out their AED, the Automatic Electronic Defibrillator. The patient's response to one shock from the AED was a good prognostic indicator that all would end well for this runner.

Event organizers expressed their thanks and appreciation for the ham's ability above and beyond radio communication skill. Lesson: I urge everyone to get trained in CPR and Basic First Aid. You never know when that training will possibly be the difference between life or death.

Clifford Segar KD4GT  
Rockwood, Tennessee

*From the ARES E-letter June 17, 2009*  
<http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/?issue=2009-06-17#toc04>

*Ed. note: It's hard not to read this thinking "this could easily be the Groton Road Race." We're there at these Public Service events in order to facilitate these life-saving services.*

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## The New England Museum Of Wireless And Steam, Inc

de Tom K1JHC

The Nutmeg, Pioneer, and Yankee QCWA Chapters met at the Museum of Wireless and Steam in July. We thank our hosts, Directors Robert and Nancy Merriam at the site for a very enjoyable and sunny Day.

This dual purpose museum has been located in East Greenwich RI for 45 years and has amassed a surprising collection of radio gear and steam engines. The wireless area is mostly devoted to the early Spark Gap transmitters. Mr. Merriam pointed out to the group the differences between the primary Spark Gap transmitters and the smoother sounding Quench Gap transmitters that followed. He also showed some devices that quenched the Spark through a series of plates.

At lunch Mr Merriam sat with Al KA1AKD and myself away from the main group because of his Cochlear hearing Implant gave him difficulty when many voices are talking. After lunch we had a mostly personal tour of the radio and steam buildings.

The highlight of the collection are two complete Radio Rooms removed from actual Sea Going Ships and reassembled in two of the buildings. There is an actual 1 gallon Rotary Gap Transmitter donated by a local Ham. I had an opportunity of operating the key on this rig, and boy the noise made me jump.

There are lots of radio displays illustrating the work of radio pioneers like Faraday, Maxwell, Hertz, Lormas, Haywood, Onesti,

Tesla, and others. It is interesting to note as early as 1881 Professor Amos Dolbear, was discussing Radio Transmission in his classes. T A Edison patented plans for a radio transmitter and antenna installation along with a receiver set-up around 1990. There is no record that Mr. Edison constructed any radio station. He sold his patent to Gugliemo Marconi. Mr. Marconi --blessed with monies from his wife, a member of the Jameson Whiskey family, and other backers-- was able to buy many patents from other inventors and erected a working transmitter site around 1903.

Early manufacturing consisted of factories situated along rivers using water power and belt transmission for their machines. Expansion of industry used all the available space along the rivers and another power source was needed. This was the start of the steam engine with belt drives and later Generators Sets. Rhode Island was heavy with industry and fostered the start of production of Steam Engines.

The George H Corliss Steam Engine Company, located in the Providence area, was noted for many refinements. As industry moved away from their own power generation to electricity supplied by the local Power company, the Steam Plants became surplus and over thirty sets have been acquired and installed at the museum. Three of the Engines were Steamed-up and running. There was an Engine from the Fitchburg Steam Engine Company.

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## Field Day 2009



Above: W1GZ Field Day  
Academy Hill, Westminister MA  
[AD1L photo]

Right: Tom AB1GF  
[AD1L photo]

Below right: Gordon N1MGO  
[AD1L photo]

Below: Well-marked street  
intersection invites the public to  
the site.

[KD1SM photo]





## Field Day 2009



above: Ray KB1LRL with solar array



top right: Charlie KT1I, Jim AD1L

right: Gordon N1MGO

below right: Nancy KB1KEF

below: Jim AD1L, Barry W1HFN

[KD1SM photos]





## Cookout 2009



above: Al KA1AKD, John KK1X, and  
Norm W1BYH [KB1JZU photo]

right: Dot, Al KA1AKD, Tom K1JHC  
[KB1JZU photo]

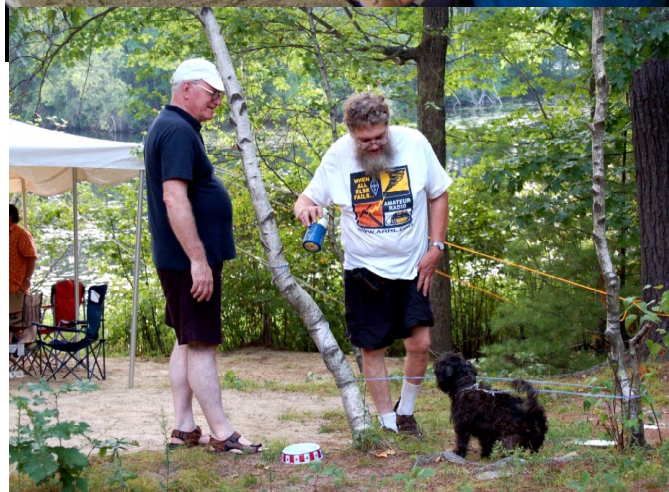
below right: Peg Griswold and Nancy  
KB1KEF staff the grill [KD1SM photo]

below: Bill W1UD  
[KB1JZU photo]





## Cookout 2009



above: Bob KB1JZU provided the shade

left: Gordon N1MGO, Gary K1YTS, and Snozzles (aka *Killer*)

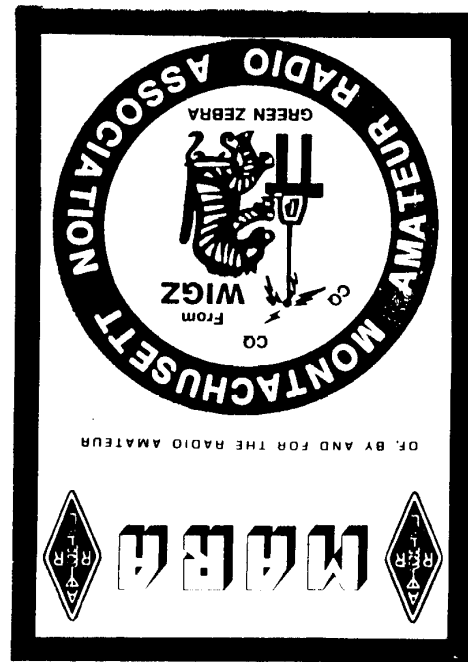
below: Commodore Paul N1QDX takes the wheel with KK1X, Maryann, KB1LRL, KB1KEF, N1QIT, and N1QDZ

below left: Paul KD1YH, Norm W1BYH

[KB1JZU photos]



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