

MARA W1⚡GaZette



October 2009

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 52 No. 2

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, 14 October
7:30PM
Wallace Room
Lunenburg Public Library**

**Mark Diggins VK3MD
"IARU DFing"**

Barry W1HFN has arranged our guest speaker for the October meeting. Mark Diggins VK3MD will be talking about the direction finding activities of the International Amateur Radio Union.

President's Corner

de Ray KB1LRL

Greetings, and welcome to fall. This of course is open to personal opinion. My opinion is "Rat's, the cold weather is coming!" Of course we can all take inventory as to the accomplishments we made during the summer and feel good about it, or look at what can we improve on. The list can be huge for some of us. I know I could of done a lot more, but my public service time was on the increase, which was good. I still

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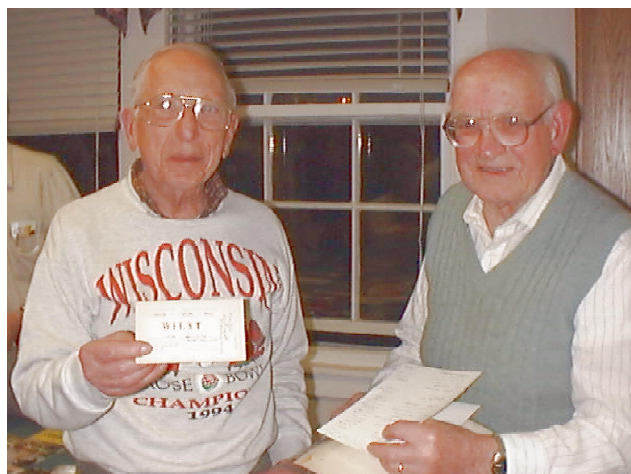
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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, KC0HMJ, N1UZ,
K1JHC, KT1I

Norm Lyons W1LXE SK



Norm and Gerry W1IPZ at a MARA meeting in 1999 show off favorite QSLs

KD1SM photo

Norman B. Lyons, W1LXE, became a silent key on Friday, September 24, 2009. First licensed as W1LXE in 1938, Norman held an Extra Class license as well as a First Class Radiotelephone license and a Second

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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/>

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

VE Team Report

No Volunteer Exam session was held in September as no candidates had pre-registered for the session.

The MARA Volunteer Examiner team schedules monthly Amateur Radio license examination sessions on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The examinations are given in the Lunenburg Senior Center "Eagle House". The Eagle House is located behind the Lunenburg Public Library.

All classes of licenses are tested. Candidates must bring the \$15 examination fee and photo identification. If the examination is for an upgrade to an existing license, the original and a photocopy of the current license must also be brought.

The next session is scheduled for October 28. Contact Paul Upham KD1YH to pre-register. If no candidates pre-register the session is canceled.



DICK WILBORG W1ZC
STEVE MORIN N1SM

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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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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.

President's Corner

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need to get over a hurdle that's still haunting me that I REALLY need to work on. Ham radio is very similar to our personal lives too. What hurdles can we overcome, what was good, or can be improved on. There are a great many things to this great hobby of ours that we can do, learn, share, improve on, etc. Take some time during that quiet time over coffee and find that something that can give you a warm and fuzzy feeling during those cold days, then come to our meetings and share it with others.

We still have a busy agenda. Sept 27 was the Westminster parade. On October 10 will be the Scarecrow Festival at Sholan Farms. The 15th is the NVARC card sort at the Pepperell Community Center. And of course the 16th and 17th is Near-Fest. Try to join in on one or all the events. We are always looking for helpers and willing participants.

A couple of items I want to mention is any member who needs a new id badge or does not have one please contact me or let me know at the meetings and I'll get one made up for you. The other thing is Charlie, KT1I, our esteemed trustee is going to have an inventory done of all club equipment. This is going to be radios, repeaters, antennas, etc. If you can give us a list of what you have, and the condition and if it works or not that would be appreciated.

If you missed my post, we were saddened to learn of W1LXE, Norm Lyons becoming a silent key. The club wishes to extend our sympathies to their family and friends.

That's about all for now. Hope to see you all at the next meeting. If you haven't been lately, you don't know what you're missing!
73's Ray KB1LRL

Norm Lyons W1LXE SK

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Class Radiotelegraph license. After serving as a radio operator during World War II, Norman pursued a career in radio and electronics as a field engineer. His work took him to many parts of the world, including Ethiopia, Hall Beach (Canada), Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Cyprus. While he was in other countries, he managed to get on the air even if that required obtaining a foreign amateur radio license. For example, he held the call ET1IR while he was in Ethiopia, which must have made him rare DX at the time.

Norman graduated from Fitchburg High School in 1940 and then enrolled in the Eastern Radio Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. After his graduation from Eastern Radio Institute in 1941, he worked for Gensea Corporation as a radio operator for lightship communications. His stories from this job included creative ways to remove ice from long wire antennas on the ships. In March 1942, he accepted a position as the transmitter engineer for WWSR, in St. Albans, Vermont. In March 1943, he joined the United States Army, and after engineering training at New Mexico State College, he served as a radio operator until his discharge in 1946. After the war, Norman worked for a short time as an engineer for WEIM, then, from 1946 through 1959, as an electronics field engineer for the Central Intelligence Agency. On his return to private industry in 1960, Norman worked as an electronics field engineer for several companies. He retired from full time work in 1977 but continued to work on a contract basis for several years. During this period, he

worked primarily on radar installations at major airports, including O'Hare and Logan.

Norman loved to build equipment. His first station was homebrew and was located in his second floor room at his family's home. His nephew, Bill Lyons (KC0HMJ), first discovered an interest in amateur radio as he watched Norman fire up and operate that CW station. As his nephew's interest in amateur radio grew, Norman prompted him to build equipment. Bill still has and uses a BC-453 and 40 meter converter built with Norman's guidance.

An experienced CW operator, Norman earned high speed copying certificates from the ARRL. Even after health problems made it impossible for him to send CW, he enjoyed "reading the CW mail."

Although his first love was CW, for many years he operated a mobile FM station using a Gonset transceiver and a 6 meter mobile halo antenna built in Fitchburg. His QSL cards reflect his active mobile operations on the mid-Atlantic coast.

When his nephew Bill earned his license, he and Norman maintained regular skeds between Lincoln, Nebraska and Fitchburg. They used PSK31 on 20 meters, and enjoyed long QSOs, sometimes including Norman's good friend W3KO (SK) in Texas.

As Norman's health declined and he was unable to get on the air, he enjoyed reminiscing about his amateur radio activities. He particularly enjoyed looking through the many QSL cards he had received over the years. Among the QSOs he recalled was one he had on December 7, 1941. The QSL card confirming that QSO includes a message from his contact about

the attack on Pearl Harbor. Both Norman and his contact understood that their QSO was one of the last before the government suspended the privilege of amateur radio operation for the duration of the war.

Norman was an active member of MARA and will be remembered by club members as a technical expert and, more important, as a friend and Elmer. He will be missed by family and friends, but his love of the hobby will live on in those people he helped and inspired.

de Bill Lyons KC0HMJ

Westminster 250th Anniversary Parade

de Bill N1UZ

Well the parade has come and gone, 1 year of planning for 2 ½ hours of parade. It has been a very good experience for me and about 10 other people on the parade committee, meetings every other week for the past 6 months and a lot of meetings on Wednesday nights the same night as MARA and the Mohawk Radio Clubs. Needless to say I have missed a lot of club meetings.



It rained all day, but not on our parade. Everything got wet but it did not dampen the spirit of the town. The largest event in the 250 year history of the Town of Westminster. The parade consisted of 3 divisions, 10 bands, all kinds of farm tractors, lots of antique cars, hundreds of marchers; many fire and tow trucks, and thousands of spectators.



It was very much notice that a large amount help for the parade came from out of town. Especially in communication, 15 Amateur Radio operators were involved in either the planning and logistic of the parade or in the actual command center of the parade.

I would like to extend the "Thank You" that I received to the following Hams who helped out: Dave N1MXV, Gary K1YTS, Charlie KT1I, John N2YHK, Rob KC2EMA, Tom K1JHC, Ben NB1H, Frank W1FRN, Jim KA1GCN, Paul W1SEX, Ray KB1LRL, Deb KB1QCC, Jack K1RFK and John KK1X

photos courtesy David Couture

additional photos on next page



above and below: Westminster 250th Anniversary parade photos courtesy David Couture



Old Timer's Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timers met for lunch at Bickford's Restaurant during the summer in July, August, and September. Regulars were Norm W1BYH, Charlie KT1I, Gary K1YTS, Roy W1OOY, Tom K1JHC, Al KA1AKD, Paul N1QDX, and Barry W1HFN.

Charter member Norman Lyons W1LXE became a silent key in September. Norman enjoyed having lunch with the Old Timers, going to Flea Markets, and he could cobble up anything from his Junk Box.

We also learned that Howard W1TBY is in a Rehabilitation Care Center in Gardner.

Please join with us on the first Wednesday of each month at the Restaurant.

NVARC QSL Sort; October 15

de Stan Pozerski KD1LE

The NVARC QSL Card Sort will be October 15th at the Pepperell Community Center. Officially the meeting starts at 7:30 but depending on who is using the community center before us we usually get in just after 7. A map is available at www.n1nc.org/ and click on "meetings".

This is the presort of incoming cards. The cards we sort then go to the specific "letter sorters" who sort and send them to the individual.

We sort about 20,000 cards at the meeting.

New Western Massachusetts ARRL Web Site and ARES Database

<http://wma.arrl.org>

We have timed the release of the new website to coincide with the release of the new WMA ARES Member Registration System. The ARES registration system is now online and available at the link in this website's main menu. There are two real advantages to this type of ARES membership registration system. First, it gives the ARES leadership the ability to know exactly what resources and manpower are available to them, and a means of activating and organizing those resources quickly and easily during an incident. Second, it gives ARES members the ability to update their registration as often as necessary, instantly informing the ARES leadership of their new skills, equipment, or status. It should be noted that the database is also sent out to their leadership in hard-copy regularly, so that records and member data are still available even if the database is not - an important consideration for any emergency response entity.

As such if you currently are or you wish to become a WMA ARES member please register in the system using the New Application function. If you are an existing ARES member and you know who your EC is, please note that in the comments field at the very bottom of the form.

We are happy to have released both the newly revamped website system as well as the new WMA ARES Member Registration System.

73,

Gil Hayes WK1H

ASM Southeast and Webmaster

ARRL President Harrison Presents League's Views On Distracted Driving Laws To Safety Advocacy Group

From *The ARRL Letter*

Vol. 28, No. 32

August 14, 2009

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/09/0814/>

To ensure that Amateur Radio is not an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written a letter to the National Safety Council (NSC) <<http://www.nsc.org/>> highlighting issues regarding the use of Amateur Radio emergency communications devices in vehicles

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Letter7-30-09.pdf>. Many states have outlawed the use of cell phones while driving; some states with these laws have ambiguous wording (such as "mobile communication devices" or "mobile electronic devices") concerning the use of Amateur Radio while driving.

According to their Web site, the NSC is "on a mission" to "alert the American public that different kinds of distractions have different levels of crash risk. Talking on a cell phone and sending text messages are much higher risk activities that occur for longer durations and with more people than most other actions engaged in while driving." They also seek to "lead a change in our nation's cultural norms, so people come to view cell phone conversations and text messaging while driving as unsafe and socially unacceptable. Calling for a legislative ban on these activities is the first step in a long-term process to educate Americans to their risk and change the culture"

<http://www.nsc.org/resources/issues/distracted_driving.aspx>.

Harrison explained to NSC President Janet Froetscher that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster: "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, it boils down to the difference between simplex -- when only one message can be sent in either direction at one time -- and duplex -- a communications mode, such as a telephone system, that provides simultaneous transmission and reception in both directions. Harrison, citing Sumner's 40-plus years of experience as an Amateur Radio operator, puts it this way: "Simplex, two-way radio operation is simply different than duplex, cell phone use. Two-way radio operation in moving vehicles has been going on for decades without highway safety being an issue. The fact that cell phones have come along does not change that."

Harrison attached a copy of the ARRL's Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation to the letter to the NSC. "Amateur Radio mobile operation is ubiquitous, and Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications, and other organized Amateur Radio communications activities and networks necessitate

operation of equipment while some licensees are driving motor vehicles," the Policy Statement reads. "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than, listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile radio, private land mobile radio or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect. Nevertheless, ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times. See the Policy Statement on the ARRL Web site: <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>>

"The ARRL acknowledges numerous and increasing instances of state legislative proposals (and occasionally municipal ordinance proposals) to curb the use of cellular telephones while operating motor vehicles, ranging from prohibitions on hand-held telephones to prohibitions on all forms of electronic devices," the Policy Statement maintains. "These statutory proposals would supplement the more generalized motor vehicle code requirements that exist in various forms in virtually all States, which require operators of motor vehicles to pay full time and attention to the operation of the vehicle while driving. ARRL understands that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents, and it is not unreasonable to be concerned about substantial distractions to drivers of motor vehicles."

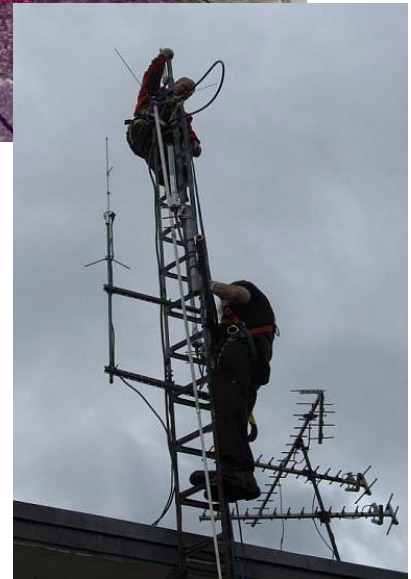
Saying that the League understands that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents, "it is not unreasonable to be concerned about substantial distractions to drivers of motor vehicles. Given the necessity of unrestricted mobile Amateur Radio communications in order for the benefits of Amateur Radio to the public to continue to be realized," the policy statement reads, "the ARRL urges state and municipal legislators considering restrictions on mobile cellular telephone operation to (I) narrowly define the class of devices included in the regulation so that the class includes only full duplex wireless telephones and related hand-held or portable equipment; or alternatively (II) specifically identify licensed Amateur Radio operation as an excluded service."

"The ARRL is aware of no evidence that [mobile] operation contributes to driver inattention," the Policy Statement asserts. "Quite the contrary: Radio amateurs are public service-minded individuals who utilize their radio-equipped motor vehicles to assist others, and they are focused on driving in the execution of that function."

145.45 Back in Service at Burbank Campus

In June the MARA 145.45 repeater was placed back in service at the Burbank Campus of Leominster Hospital. The Club's repeater had been off the air for several years while repairs were in progress. Norm W1BYH kindly provided "temporary" service on 145.45 from Alpine Hill.

Charlie KT1I, W1GZ Trustee, provided the following photos of the June work party to return 145.45 to the Burbank site.



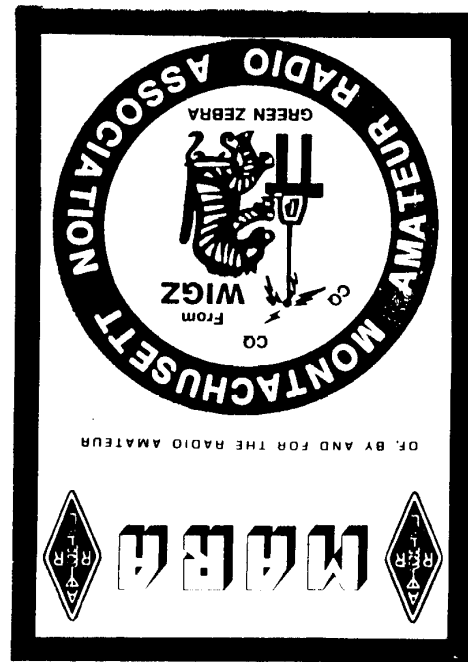
Top: Paul KD1YH with the repeater

Above: Tom AB1GF and Gary K1YTS install the antenna

Below: Tom AB1GF, Ray KB1LRL, and Gary K1YTS on the roof



October 2009



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