

MARA W1GaZette



Nov/Dec 2009

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 52 No. 3

Holiday Party

**Sunday, December 6
1:00PM
Bootlegger's Restaurant
Lunenburg MA**

de Pauline KB1JXJ

Hello Everyone,

I am taking reservations for the Holiday Luncheon at the Bootlegger, 1pm, December 6. That is the first Sunday in December. Please send the number attending, your name & call sign and the name of your xyl, yl or guest. We do not order dessert for this meal. If some of you would like to bring some finger desserts to share I am sure they would disappear!!!!

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Pauline KB1JXJ

Ed. note: the Holiday Party serves as the December MARA meeting. The next formal meeting will be January 13, 2010.

President's Corner

Hi there. Well, now that the summers over and we are into the autumn where we change tunes and start working on our radio and antenna projects in preparation

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1JXJ, KB1LRL, W1HFN, KT1I

for that nasty "W" word I do not wish to discuss! I have actually got involved with my antenna situation and finally put up that Hy-Gain vertical. I did this for two reasons, one is to start using 6 and 10 meters, and two to start knuckling down and get this upgrade under my belt once and for all. I discovered while putting the antenna up is that I really need to get a better understanding as to the how's, who's, and what's. (or watts!) I've got the toys and I just need to decipher what it all means. Bottom line is that I have a 26 foot antenna with a s9 in the noise department and most bands have a high swr. So I still have some work to do.

Why did I tell you my antenna story.... HELP!!! just kidding! But if I do need help, I know where to go if I need it. Tradition is that when you start your journey in Ham Radio, you had an "Elmer" to help you along the way. I had always considered the club to

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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/>

Feb 13, 2010, Marlboro MA
Algonquin ARC Hamfest

April 30 & May 1, 2010, Deerfield NH
NEAR-Fest

August 27-29, 2010, Boxboro MA
ARRL New England Convention

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

President's Corner

continued from page one

be my elmer because there is so much that everyone has to contribute because of the diversity of interest's the members are involved in. (Actually I may have to dismount the antenna to adjust some things so a little help won't hurt)

Our little radio club has been and will continue to be that resource of information for the technology challenged. The one thing we should not do is keep it to ourselves. Share it with others freely and willingly. Find new ways to send the message that this technology is NOT dead. Our friendly newsletter is a good spot too. I would love to see our own version of hint's and tricks column here. Go up to that newbie and say "I CAN HELP!" You may be helping the future president of this club. When you think about it, that is how it happened to me.

Thanks and 73's all.

Ray KB1LRL



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DICK WILBORG
JOHN ROSE

W1ZC
WW1Z

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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Webmaster: Paul Upham KD1YH

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
PO Box 95
Leominster, MA 01453

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

OFFICERS:

| | |
|--|----------------|
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| Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO n1mgo@arrl.net | Treasurer |
| Charlie Cayen, KT1I kt1i@arrl.net | Trustee |

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

VE Team Report

No Volunteer Exam session was held in October as no candidates had pre-registered for the session. The MARA Volunteer Examiner Team ran an exam session in Nashua at the Red Cross Chapter House for a licensing class. Eight new Technician licenses were earned. Examiners John KK1X, Gary K1YTS, and Ralph KD1SM were joined by two other VEs from the Nashua area for this 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 November 25. Contact Paul Upham KD1YH to pre-register. If no candidates pre-register the session is canceled.

Is This W1/GaZette Early or Late?

Due to work, your editor was unable to prepare the November W1/GaZette in advance of the November meeting. Thus this issue will serve as the combined November and December W1/GaZette.

Have a great holiday season and best 2010.

September Meeting Report

de Pauline KB1JXJ

9 September 2009

Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room,
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 17; Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO,
Pauline KB1JXJ, Bill N1UZ, Norm
W1BYH, Barry W1HFN, Al KA1AKD, Gary
K1YTS, WB1GFZ Mickey, Bob KB1JZU,
Tom K1JHC, James AD1L, Dave KB1OKF,
John KK1X, Walter K1CMF, Paul KD1YH

7:30 Call to order and introductions

7:31 Old business and reports

Secretary As written

Summer Treasurer's report

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Starting | \$1086.39 |
| Dues | \$25.00 |
| Expense | \$100.00 |
| | field Day necessities |
| Ending | \$1,111.39 |

7:32 Accepted

Vice President; No report

N1UZ Bill:
Westminster parade Needs HAMS
27 September

WEB Master Up and running

Field Day Recognition
Tom AB1GF 1,800 POINTS UHF/VHF

Holiday Luncheon:
6 December 1pm
Bootlegger Restaurant

Sholan Farms
Demonstration Station only
October 10

KK1X John:
Card sort Pepperell
15 October Community Center

Discussion of various potential club
events

7:55 Break

8:10 Program
AD1L Jim; QRZ Information

8:45 Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli, KB1JXJ
Secretary



Above: Barry W1HFN, Tom K1JHC, Al
KA1AKD, and Ray KB1LRL at the Septemb
er meeting.

[KB1JXJ photo]

October Meeting Report

de Pauline KB1JXJ

Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room,
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 27; Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Bill N1UZ, Norm W1BYH, Barry W1HFN, Al KA1AKD, Gary K1YTS, Mickey WB1GFZ, Mary (XYL Mickey), Bob KB1JZU, Tom K1JHC, James AD1L, Dave KB1OKF, Tom KD1GF, Paul KD1YH, Charlie KT1I, Lawrence KB1LGX, Joe KB1RLC, Ed KB1LJJ, David KB1OPS, Bill W1UD, Dennis K1LGQ, Doug KB1MCK, Mark VK3MD, Ralph KD1SM, Johann K1ARG

7:30 Call to order and introductions

7:31 Old business and reports

Secretary No Report

Sept Treasurer's report

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Starting | \$1,111.39 |
| Dues | \$230.00 |
| Raffle | \$16.00 |
| Expense | \$51.50 Postage |
| Ending | \$1,306.19 |

7:34 Accepted

Vice President:

Thanked club members who participated in the Westminster events

Membership:

Will be out of commission due to a medical procedure

Silent Key Norm Lyons

New Faces Johann K1ARG

Newsletter:

More articles wanted on "How I got started in HAM Radio"

Exploratory Committee

Norm-W1BYH, Bill-N1UZ plus a member from a western club

Topic - Linking 4 repeaters along Rt 2 Harvard, Fitchburg, Athol, & Gardner

Trustee Charlie-KT1I:

Need of a club inventory Who, What, Condition of club materials. Holder to keep them but update on what we really have and where is it?

ID'S:

If you need one tell Ray-KB1LRL

Mohawk Club:

Bill-N1UZ Club is struggling asked members to sign up to receive the newsletter and suggested MARA club members to visit their club meetings.

Sholan Farms:

10 October -Volunteers were light, ARRL has a grant program for equipment for staff science programs in schools. Need sponsors in schools to attract young people to HAM Radio.

IPOD:

KB1JZU- Bob New technology

8:05 Break

8:20 Program:
Mark Diggins VK3MD
"IARU DFing"

9:00 Adjourn

Club will ask Mark back to complete his presentation

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli, KB1JXJ
Secretary



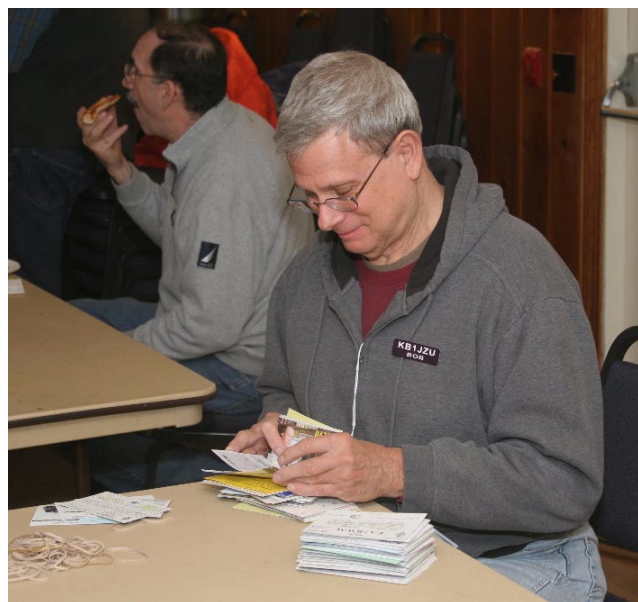
Above: Barry W1HFN introduces Mark VK3MD at the October meeting.

[KD1SM photo]



Above: Mark VK3MD displayed his marked US Amateur Radio Direction Finding map from the 2009 Championships at Blue Hills Reservation this past June.

[KD1SM photo]



Above: Bob KB1JZU searches through the "J" stack for QSL cards addressed to him after the NVARC QSL sort on 15 October.

[KD1SM photo]

NEAR-Fest VI

de Ray Lajoie KB1LRL

NEAR-Fest VI was a gamblers' nightmare as to what you would bet on. It was one to bet on if there will be rain or snow, wind and cold, sun or clouds. We left early Friday morning and it was indeed snowing out...yikes!

As we made our way north, the snow was diminishing and the fairgrounds were not precipitating, just cold and breezy. Gary K1YTS and Nancy KB1KEF, Tom AB1GF, and myself got there at 0730 and there was already a few rows of vehicles waiting.

0900 approached and the stampede began to get to our spots and set up. The weather definitely kept the crowd down and some of

the commercial vendors did not show either. Tom did his usual tower madness and went home with an empty truck. Gary and Nancy had their usual goodies as did I. Our sales were a little flat.



Above: The K1YTS / KB1KEF table

[KB1LRL photo]

When Saturday rolled around and woke up, the priority was to thaw out, BIG TIME. There was a layer of frost on everything. But, as the morning progressed it actually was warming up with a nice sunshine. Tom K1JHC and Al KA1AKD arrived and set up a table with ours. He didn't do too badly for the time they were there.



Left: K1YTS searches for boat anchors

[KB1LRL photo]

All in all we all had an enjoyable, yet challenging event this year. I'm sure I speak for others when I say I will be looking forward to next spring. By the way it will be April 30, and May 1. See you there.

Ray KB1LRL



Above: Tom AB1GF even sold the hat off his head.

[KB1LRL photo]

Club Property Inventory

de Charlie KT1I

Hello fellow members,

As you may know, as club trustee, I am compiling an inventory of MARA Club property. I think that I know where some of it is but we need to put this all together on paper. In most, if not all cases, the property will remain with you, we just want to know some information.

Please feel free to e-mail me at kt1i@arrl.net or Charles Cayen, 163 Baldwinville State Rd., Winchendon, MA 01475.

continued on next page

Club Property Inventory

de KT1I

continued from previous page

What we need.

1. What it is.
2. Brand and model number if possible.
3. Where it is stored, if not at your residence.
4. Your estimation of it's condition. (e. g. works great, don't know, possibly junk)

This covers everything from the club banner, repeater, parts, antennas, donated items to name a few.

Many thanks for your speedy reply and a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

73 Charlie KT1I

A Cape Cod Historic Radio Vacation

Part II

de Barry W1HFN

During last summer's Cape Cod vacation I visited the ex-RCA coastal receiver site WCC at Chatham. That prompted me to write an article for the Nov 2008 MARA newsletter. Based on my experience in the Air Force with widely separated RX and TX sites, I knew there had to be a TX site for WCC somewhere in Chatham. This year's

vacation I was prepared, I knew where to look. The TX site was located at Forest Beach in West Chatham, 3.5 miles as the crow flies from the RX site. My wife and I dropped by Forest Beach to dangle our toes in the Atlantic for a while, and then drove to the scenic overlook where the town had erected a plaque to memorialize the spot.



The inscription says in part, "This is the site of the former South Chatham Marine Radio Transmitting Station WCC. It was built by RCA in 1946. This station served as an auxiliary to the North Chatham WCC Receiving Station built by Guglielmo Marconi in 1914. During peak years of operation it relayed over one thousand messages a day and was able to reach ships around the world. The transmitting station antennae field covered many acres of marsh."

At the time, there was a 300 foot steel tower and more than 90 poles supporting a variety of dipoles, beverages and rhombics. All of these antennas were removed when the land was sold to Chatham in 1995. Some of the poles were left as nesting places for ospreys.



The four concrete pylons are all that's left of the 300 foot tower.



Here are two of the remaining four of the more than 90 utility poles. Notice the osprey nest on the right hand pole. The steel tower at the RX site has a similar nest at its top.

The town of Chatham has voted funds to restore the buildings at the RX site as a museum/memorial. There are also plans to include a ham station, the call being

WA1WCC. More info can be found at:
<http://www.chathammarconi.org/>

Hopefully the station will be open and available for the use of visiting hams, I certainly hope so and expect to make use of it on future vacations.

Barry W1HFN

ARES On-line Registration

de Paul Topolski W1SEX

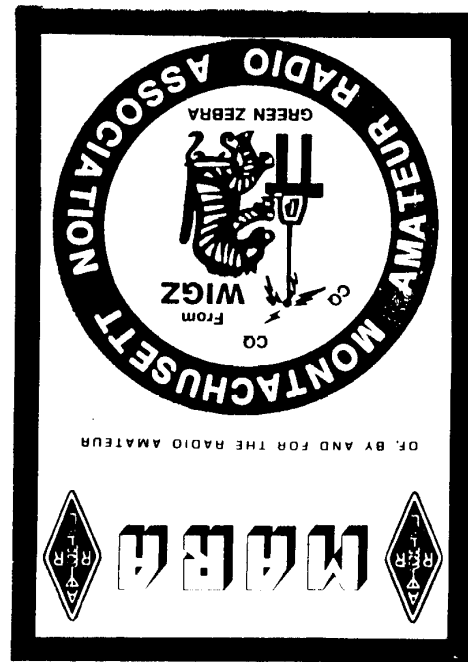
A new ARES registration system is available on-line. All radio amateurs are highly encouraged to become a part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. For further information about ARES please go to the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org>

If you have any questions about Western Mass ARES please feel free to reply via e-mail or call me directly at 978-632-9432.

The link to the on-line registration site is here:

https://secure.ema.arrl.org/qilan/ares/WMA/ARES_member_login

73,
Paul Topolski, W1SEX
Western Mass ARES
North Worcester County
District Emergency Coordinator



Montachusett Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

