

MARA W1⚡GaZette



January 2010

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 52 No. 4

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, January 13
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Safety Building**

**Mike Raisbeck K1TWF
“Input to our ARRL”**

MARA is changing meeting locations. With the support of Lunenburg Fire Chief Scott Glenn, we are able to use the training room in the Lunenburg Public Safety Building. Chief Glenn is also the Lunenburg Emergency Management Director and recognizes the support that Amateur Radio operators provide under the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) program.

The Public Safety Building is on Route 2A west of the center of Lunenburg. It is behind TriTown Marine, just east of the Worker's Credit Union building. Please park to the right of the building and walk around to the rear entrance to the training room.

This change was made necessary due to recent budget cuts in Lunenburg. The public library will not be open on Wednesday evenings for the rest of the fiscal year.

Thanks to Chief Glenn and Police Chief Dan Bourgeois for allowing us the use of their facility.

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, KB1JXJ, N1MGO, W1UD

The President's Corner

Ed note: This was written before we received word of the approval for our use of the training room at the Public Safety Building.

de Ray KB1LRL

Happy New Year Everyone! As we embark on a new year, new decade, I'm sure we all took a breath and said, "Where did it go?" These last ten years have seen it's share of tragedies and triumphs and we are still dealing with some of them right now. Our club is no exception. The big one is where are we going to have our meetings? That's right, The library has cut its budget and has reduced its hours so that we cannot conduct our meetings there anymore. Pauline KB1JXJ, Ralph KD1SM and myself are looking into finding a new location. We are trying to keep it near the area seeing

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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

Saturday, March 6, Feeding Hills MA
MTARA Hamfest
Springfield Turnverein Club
176 Garden Street
7am for vendors
9am for bargain hunters

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

President's Corner

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it's a convenient location. If you have any suggestions give me an e-mail so we can look into it. Stay tuned we will announce it as soon as we secure a spot.

The coming year I look forward to being your leader and to continue to develop the club and increase its membership. There are challenges in this also. Speakers as I had mentioned earlier is getting kind of thin, our future meeting place, etc. I do want to have another homebrew night and would love to have a group project that we can get some good participation in. We will be looking at the repeater linking project further. And, of course Field Day, just to name a few.

January's speaker I am privileged to have coming is Mike Raisbeck, our ARRL New England Vice Director. He will be here and will be asking for your input for the forth coming ARRL board meeting coming up soon after. I encourage everyone to be present and give Mike some good input to bring to the meeting.

That's it for now, take care and look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

73's Ray



DICK WILBORG W1ZC
JOHN ROSE WW1Z

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Annual Dues: Regular \$25
Family \$30
Fixed income \$15
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September to June

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

December Meeting Minutes

de Pauline KB1JXJ

6 December 2009

Holiday Luncheon -- Bootlegger
Restaurant, Massachusetts Ave. Lunenburg
Ma.

Present- Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO,
Pauline KB1JXJ, Bill N1UZ, Norm
W1BYH, Barry W1HFN, Al KA1AKD, Gary
K1YTS, Mickey WB1GFZ, Mary XYL de
Mickey, Tom K1JHC, Paul KD1YH, Charlie
KT1I, David WN1E, Ed KB1LJJ, Bill
W1UD, John KK1X, Paul N1QDX, Bill
NZ1D, Several YL's and XYL's were also in
attendance.

1:30 Call to order and introductions

1:32 Adjourn

1:32 to 3pm A good meal and social time
was shared with friends. Doris (YL of
K1JHC) and Patty (YL of KD1YH) won the
lady's prizes and Gary (K1YTS) was the
HAM of the year winner and Bill (NZ1D)
won the gift certificate to Home Depot (I
apologize in advance if this is not correct
my memory is fuzzy on this one) ,
Barry -W1HFN won Mary Ann's (XYL of
N1QDX) homemade fudge.

Respectfully Submitted
Pauline R. Carulli, KB1JXJ
Secretary



Top: Pauline Carulli KB1JXJ, Bill Wornham NZ1D,
Charlie Cayen KT1I

Center: Mickey WB1GFZ & Mary Westover, Ed Hendershaw KB1LJJ,
Barry Fox W1HFN

Above: John Griswold KK1X, Peg Griswold & Penny Faul,
Gary Busler K1YTS

Left: Al Faul KA1AKD

KB1JXJ photos



Left:
Ray Lajoie
KB1LRL,
Charlie
Cayen KT1I,
Dave Cayen
WN1E,
Bill Leger
N1UZ



Left:
Connie with
Bill Voedisch
W1UD,
Paul Upham
KD1YH



3rd row: Gary Busler
K1YTS, Nancy
Richards KB1KEF,
Paul N1QDX and
MaryAnn Doherty

Left: Norm Rivers
W1BYH



Above: Gordon Lapoint N1MGO,
Ray Lajoie KB1LRL

KB1JXJ photos

VE Team Report

The MARA Volunteer Examiner Team held its final Amateur Radio exam session on Christmas Eve Eve. One candidate earned an upgrade to General.

During 2009 the VE Team held a total of nine sessions serving 28 individuals. The number of new licenses earned at these sessions was:

Technician:	19
General:	6
Extra:	3

The examiners and number of sessions served by each were:

K1JHC	6
K1YTS	8
KD1SM	8
KD1YH	7
KK1X	9
KT1I	1
N1BE	1
N1MGO	3
WA1RHP	2

Thanks to each of the examiners for your service on behalf of Amateur Radio.

When I Was First Licensed

by W1UD

Everything was not the same as it is today. Maybe I had better compare what existed then to today. There were no repeaters. RTTY was surplus military teleprinters and tube demodulators. No computers as we know them today. Most equipment was home made using surplus military parts.

No transceivers. Antennas were home made using available materials and formulas. License examinations were given at the local FCC office. Some of the offices were many miles away. Our ham bands were patrolled by the commission and it was not unusual to get a citation if you operated outside our frequency allocation or had poor quality transmissions.

Operation on the VHF/UHF bands was Amplitude Modulated. No FM! AM was used on the HF bands. Of course there was SSB but only used in commercial applications. The cost of the commercial SSB equipment would be more than the average ham could afford or knew how to build.

There were only two licenses available to hams. Class B and A. The Class B license required knowledge of the Morse Code with a receiving and sending speed of 13 wpm plus technical requirements. The 75 and 20 meter radiotelephone bands were restricted to a Class A license. One or more years as a Class B licensee was mandatory before the class A examination could be taken.

The class A license was similar to the commercial radiotelephone license. One question I will always remember was: Draw a diagram of a push-pull amplifier capable of one kilowatt for 20 meters and label component values for each part used.

All papers used in the examination were sent to the FCC office in Washington, D.C. for correction. You were notified in about a month if you passed the examination. Everything was a lot slower those days.

Those were some of the limitations back in the forties. There probably were a few more that I have not thought of.

No repeaters as we know them today. Most VHF work was done either fixed station or mobile with a very restricted range for mobile operation. Mobile equipment was home made and powered by surplus dynamotors. It was not unusual to scan the two meter band and find a station operating mobile on the top of Mt. Wachusett any summer evening or during the weekend.

You could find RTTY operation on the low frequency bands. Most of the operators were people that operated and maintained teletype equipment while on active duty in the military during WW II. Their interest carried over to their ham radio operations. Even I had a model 15,19 and 33 teleprinter and surplus decoder. Believe me, with all the noise they made I was not very welcome when I decided to operate RTTY. Computers, monitors and solid state decoders have solved that problem today.

Like every young man, the time in had arrived to pick a mate for life. That was not difficult to do because I had been going 'steady' with a girl that I had met in a biology class in high school. During my time in college we decided to marry and ham radio would have to be put on the back burner for a while. Marriage, the Korean War, starting a business, a new home and a child occupied all my spare time. The marriage and business were successful. I had a few more 'Rubels' in my pocket and it was time to get back on the air.

The time was about 1957 and the solar cycle was on the way up. The ideal time to return to hamming. I went to my mother's home in the Whalom district of Leominster and retrieved my Hammarlund Super Pro receiver and ARC 5 transmitters. It only took a few hours and I was back on the air at 240 Main Street in Leominster, with an 80 meter antenna fed with open wire line. I later discovered that I

was using a G5RV configuration. Maybe I should have written an article for QST describing the antenna and everyone would be calling their antenna W1QKX instead of a G5RV. I'll admit my CW was not what it was when I went off the air but a few hours of on air time took care of that.

I had never been too interested in DX but the DX bug bit.

Finances were good and I bought a Halli-crafters 101A receiver and the matching HT 32A transmitter. Soon after I discovered the receiver drifted all over the place. I heard about the Collins A line and their stability. Five hundred dollars for an A4 was a lot of money in those days when you could buy a new Chevy for \$2200.

To make a long story short, I managed to trade the 'drifter' for an A4. Fifty years later I have the A4 and it has never drifted. Finances improved and I purchased a Hygain four element triband yagi for twenty, fifteen and ten meters and a seventy foot tower to put it on. One Sunday morning members of the club came over for an antenna party.

After missing a couple of good contacts and complaining to my XYL, we went for a ride to Evans Radio in New Hampshire. There was a Johnson Viking Thunderbolt amplifier on display with a price tag of \$279 on it. I know it was a good buy because today the same amplifier is selling for over \$500 if you can find one. The Chief Cook and business associate, my XYL, said to buy it but don't look for a birthday present. There wasn't many stations that I called that didn't come back on the first call either on CW or phone with the new amplifier running.

There were two clubs in this area. One had been active for many years but was on the decline and the other was newly organized and devoted to repeater operation. Most of

the active hams in the area were members of both organizations. After hours of deliberation, a constitution was written that satisfied members of both organizations. I was instrumental in writing the club constitution and represented the old organization. The outcome was MARA.

73 W1UD

Amateur Radio Bill Passes Senate, Moves to the House

On Monday, December 14, S 1755 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- passed the Senate by unanimous consent; the bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration. Sponsored by Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), S 1755, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study on emergency communications. S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

Members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee considered S 1755 on December 10. After it passed through Committee, it was placed on the Senate's calendar to be voted on. "We are grateful to Committee Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins for sponsoring the bill and arranging for its swift consideration and passage by the Senate," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Similar in language to HR 2160 (also called The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 that was introduced this past April by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee [D-TX-18]), S 1755 calls on DHS to undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio Service communications in emergencies and disaster relief and then to submit a report to Congress no more than 180 days after the bill becomes law. The study shall:

Include a review of the importance of Amateur Radio emergency communications in furtherance of homeland security missions relating to disasters, severe weather and other threats to lives and property in the United States, as well as recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts and improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.

Identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use regulations on residential antenna installations; and make recommendations regarding such impediments for consideration by other federal departments, agencies and Congress.

In conducting the study, S 1755 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to "utilize the expertise of stakeholder entities and organizations, including the Amateur Radio, emergency response and disaster communications communities."

S 1755 makes note of the fact that Section 1 of the Joint Resolution entitled Joint Resolution to Recognize the Achievements of Radio Amateurs, and To Establish Support for

Such Amateurs as National Policy -- approved October 22, 1994 (Public Law 103-408) -- included a finding that stated: "Reasonable accommodation should be made for the effective operation of Amateur Radio from residences, private vehicles and public areas, and the regulation at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage amateur radio operations as a public benefit." The bill also pointed out that Section 1805(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 757(c)) directs the Regional Emergency Communications Coordinating Working Group of the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate their activities with ham and Amateur Radio operators among the 11 other emergency organizations, such as ambulance services, law enforcement and others.

from *The ARRL Letter*

December 17 2009

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/index.html?issue=2009-12-17>

Utah Hams Coordinate Rescue

In areas where cell phone signals just won't work, Amateur Radio gets through. That's what happened when Brent Yeates, KA7FAP, of North Logan, Utah, found out just before noon on Wednesday, December 2 when he came across a dairy truck that had crashed and rolled over in the Logan River as he drove on Route 89 through Logan Canyon.

As 38,000 pounds of dairy products were spilling into the Logan River, Yeates waded through the cold river to help get the driver out of the truck's cab and then put out a call on his handheld transceiver. Another ham, Brent Carruth, AD7VF, of Logan, was monitoring the repeater and heard Yeates

make the call. Carruth listened as Yeates give a first-hand account of the condition of the driver and the seriousness of the crash and then called 911. According to The Herald Journal, Utah Highway Patrol officials originally reported that the call for help came from a motorist who traveled to a cell phone reception area before dialing 911.

This is not the first time a radio amateur was on hand to help out in Logan Canyon: In March 2008, Eldon Kearn, K7OGM, of Fish Haven, Idaho, was driving in the Logan Canyon, Utah area when he came upon a driver who lost control of her truck in the snow. Her truck fell more than 100 feet over a cliff, and two of the three passengers were thrown from the truck. Using his handheld transceiver, Kearn was able to contact Roger Ellis, KE7HTE, of Logan through the local repeater to ask for help.

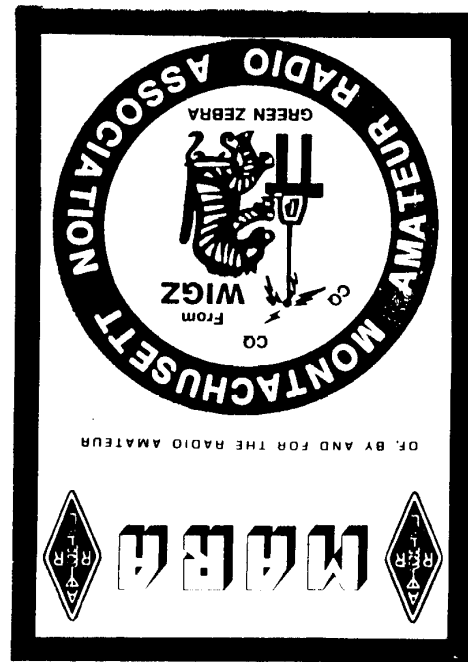
Carruth explained that a radio operator virtually anywhere in the mountains of Cache or Rich County can broadcast a signal to the repeater that sits atop Logan Peak in the Bear River Mountains east of Logan. The cluster of communication equipment rises about 5200 feet above the valley floor, giving gives the spot a strong vantage point over much of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The Logan River rises in the Bear River Mountains in Idaho and flows south, then southwest through Logan Canyon and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest to the city of Logan in the Cache Valley. It then joins the Little Bear River a few kilometers west of Logan and about eight kilometers upstream from where the Little Bear River joins the Bear River. -- Information provided by The Herald Journal

from *The ARRL Letter*

December 10 2009

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/index.html?issue=2009-12-10>

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