

# MARA W1GaZette



May 2010

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 52 No. 8

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, 12 May  
7:30PM  
Public Safety Building  
Lunenburg**

## QSL Card Sort

For the May MARA meeting we will be sorting incoming QSL cards for the W1 bureau. These are cards from foreign contacts that are sent through the bureau to US Hams with a '1' in their callsign.

Our task is to sort several thousand cards in 27 piles; one for each letter of the alphabet for the first letter immediately after the '1' and a pile for card that are not addressed to a Ham with a '1' callsign.

There are several special cases; cards may be addressed "via" another callsign. The "via" callsign should be a '1' call and we sort by that. Some cards may have been sent by a US Ham to a foreign station and the bureau in the foreign country returned the card for a variety of reasons. We sort the card back into the pile to be returned to the sending US ham.

This is a fun event; you get to look at many unusual cards. If you are a DXer yourself

## In This Issue...

Next Meeting .....	1
President's Corner .....	1
Watt's Happening .....	2
March Meeting Report .....	3
April Meeting Report .....	4
VE Team Report .....	5
NEAR-Fest VII .....	5
Repeater Linking Project .....	6
Old Timers' Lunch .....	7
Squannacook River Race .....	7
Groton Road Race .....	8

## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, KB1KEF, N1MGO, K1JHC

you may go through the appropriate pile at the end of the sort and retrieve any cards that are addressed to you.

## The President's Corner

As I sit here thinking about what to write and sipping coffee this morning, I realized that it's already May. Yikes! Just yesterday we were all complaining about all the rain we got. It has indeed been a busy spring so far.

So, at this point we got through our April's events unscathed and still have more to come. So far the weather gods have been very good to us. This has also demonstrated our skills as operators in the field, and has also given some of us the opportunity to do a little pr work in the process and get more people interested in what we do.

*continued on page 2*

## 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, 16 May, Cambridge MA**  
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April - October

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

**August 27 - 29, Boxboro MA**  
ARRL New England Division Convention

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

## President's Corner

*continued from page 1*

Along with all the public service we do there are other things going on as well. Gordon N1MGO has been working with Paul KD1YH in getting the repeater linked and appears to be moving right along. My hats off to Gordon, who has taken on the linking of not just ours, but ALL of them. He has been getting equipment, building cables, managing software, you name it. Join me in thanking Him and Paul for stepping up and seeing this through.

Field Day will be fast upon us and I hope we put together another successful event this year. I have invited the Mohawk club along as they are not having one this year due to events in their city conflicting with it. My situation is unknown with my back and surgery may appear to be eminent. (I'll know the 17th) I need 1 or 2 people who can step up and back me up in the event I am unable to do so, or be limited as to what I can do. Drop me an e-mail if you can.

So with that, that's about all for now. This month's meeting is the card sort with NVARC at our meeting place. We will have a quick meeting to go over nominations for the upcoming elections, and pizza. So, as a car dealer would say, "come on down!"

73's all. Ray

## 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:

Editors: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
978-582-7351 kd1sm@arrl.net  
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:

Ray Lajoie, KB1LRL President  
rplajoie@comcast.net  
Bill Leger, N1UZ Vice President  
Pauline Carulli, KB1JXJ Secretary  
kb1jxj@arrl.net  
Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer  
n1mgo@arrl.net  
Charlie Cayen, KT1I Trustee  
kt1i@arrl.net

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

## March Meeting Report

de Pauline KB1JXJ

10 March 2010

Lunenburg Public Safety Building,  
Lunenburg MA.

Present: 16; Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Bill N1UZ, Barry W1HFN, Al KB1TNN, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, Charlie KT1I, Ed KB1LJJ, David KB1OPS, Ralph KD1SM, Tom AB1GF, John KK1X, Mickey WB1GFZ, Paul WB1EWS

7:30 Call to order and introductions

7:31 Treasurer's report January 2010

Starting	\$1,374.19
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Dues	\$30.00
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Raffle	\$22.00
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Minus Postage	\$35.00
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Holiday Luncheon	\$147.00
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Ending (Jan)	\$1243.99
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February 2010

Start and End	\$1243.99
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Questions: How is the collection of dues going?

Answer: Due July 1st so slow at this time

7:40 Accepted

- 7:40 1. John - Parker Road Race 23rd May  
 2. Condolences given to Gary, K1YTS from the club on the loss of his mother  
 3. Townsend canoe race 17 April  
 4. Friday April 30th Saturday May 1 Nearfest  
 5. Tom Duffy Check from the estate items sold at last Nearfest of Howard W1QTB \$100.00 Check  
 6. Charlie KT1I, in charge of inventory of club property  
 7. Ralph KD1SM, Groton Road Race  
 8. Boston Marathon  
 9. Bill N1UZ, Field Day 2010 Must optimize space to use whole area 4th weekend in June,  
 10. Bill, N1UZ, Linking project Gardner, Athol, Fitchburg.  
 Cost to M.A.R.A. \$300.00:  
 \$188.00 IRLP Card  
 \$112.00 Misc. expenses  
 Replace expense from donations and money collected from the raffle  
 Raffle money to go into a repeater fund  
 Radio and computer needed  
 11. Vote taken to link repeaters and spend the \$300.00; Yes 13 No 1 Abstentions 2. Paid up members 35 so vote stands  
 12 Show and Tell

8:45pm Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Pauline R. Carulli KB1JXJ  
 Secretary

## April Meeting Report

de Pauline KB1JXJ

14 April 2010

Lunenburg Public Safety Building, Lunenburg MA.

Present: 16; Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ, Barry W1HFN, Al KB1TNN, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, Charlie KT1I, Ed KB1LJJ, David KB1OPS, Tom AB1GF, John KK1X, Mickey WB1GFZ, Nancy KB1KEF, Norm W1BYH, Paul KD1YH, James AD1L, Doug KB1MCK

7:30 Call to order and introductions

7:31 Treasurer's report March 2010

Starting	\$1,243.99
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Dues	\$55.00
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Raffle	\$18.00
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Donation	\$100.00
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Minus Ins.	\$250.00
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IRLP	\$192.60
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Ending (Jan)	\$974.39
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7:36 Accepted

7:37 Charlie-KT1I Spoke to Pierre

No current concerns construction is canceled for at least a couple of years

7:38 1.Old Business - None

2. Repeater - IRLP should be running by the end of the month; Gardner by the end of the month also, Athol could take longer

3. Gary, K1YTS, Squannacook canoe race

4. May is our card sort

5. suggested to move card sort to April and have elections in May

6. Discussion on term limits 2 1 year terms No for now

7. By Law review to be completed by September Charlie KT1I and James AD1L

8. Election Committee Tom, K1JHC, Gary, K1YTS, Norm, W1BYH

9. Field Day 4th weekend in June 26th and 27th

\$20.00 to Paul, KD1YH for food.

8:37pm Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted  
Pauline R. Carulli KB1JXJ  
Secretary

## VE Team Report

The MARA Volunteer Examiner Team held its first exam session for 2010 on April 28. One candidate earned an upgrade at this session. Examiners John KK1X, Charlie KT1I, Gary K1YTS, and Ralph KD1SM ran 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 May 26. Contact Paul Upham KD1YH to pre-register. If no candidates pre-register the session is canceled.

## NEAR-Fest VII

de Ray KB1LRL

NEAR-Fest VII pretty much went down in the books as the best one yet. If any one was there and saw it, you would know. Perfection achieved!

As the normal, Gary K1YTS, Tom AB1GF, and myself made the trek up together. Gary showed off his newer truck and trailer which had me at times working to keep up with him, which was ok by me. We did it differently this year as we went Thursday afternoon and camped out there overnight. This worked in a lot of ways and looks like we will continue to do this. And of course when I woke up there were cars waiting in line, at 0515! At 0900 the stampede began. As we were setting up I was watching nearly an hour after opening there was still a line of cars going in. Needless to say some item's did



not cool off when they got sold. I did a decent job with the wire, and some other goodie's, but Gary was the clear winner this time.

It was nice to see all the familiar faces up there having a nice time. Even if we did not sell as much it is still a marvelous time. Many, many thanks to Nancy KB1KEF for her cooking and hospitality. The next event is October 15th and 16th. I hope it will not be a frosty one to make up for this one, but we will see.

73's Ray



Above: Gary K1YTS arranges the display under the camper awning. KB1LRL photo

Below: Al KB1TNN, Charlie KT1I, Tom K1JHC, and Barry W1HFN enjoy the fine weather; best in many years. KB1KEF photo



## Repeater Linking Project

de Gordon N1MGO

The W1GZ IRLP node is working, we still need to get the control codes at the repeater and the node computer fixed up. The PL tone from the repeater still needs to be modified so it is removed when the repeater ID's. KD1YH will go up to the repeater to do the hardware mod that is required.

The radio was supplied by WB1GFZ, a Yaesu 1500M. Its the perfect radio for this because the data port has COS and the data PTT disables the Mic.

I need a 2mtr antenna, simple like a Ringo or small beam even for the link radio. I'm using a magmount auto type antenna right now.

The N1EZD node computer is up, the interface wiring needs to be built then hooked up to the repeater and the audio chain adjusted. It May need some custom scripts written, don't know that repeater.

The W1WW node computer is not setup yet, I used a temporary setup to get the node number issued. I will work on that later this month. The radio may need mods, I don't know if it has a COS output yet.

Node numbers:

W1GZ 8433 (Fitchburg)

N1EZD 8581 (Gardner)

N1WW 8477 (Athol)

Please read the Guidelines and other info on the IRLP web page at: <http://www.irlp.net/>

The W1GZ node status is shown at:

<http://status.irlp.net/index.php?PSTART=11&nodeid=8433>

The proposed control codes are:

C0\* = ready the system for connect to a node, after sending this then send the 4 digit node number you want.

Note: This disables the ID's and CW from the repeater so be sure to send the D1\* when you are done!!

C1\* connects to N1EZD (quick dial)

C2\* connects to N1WW (quick dial)

D1\* disconnect and return repeater to normal.

## Old Timers Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timer's lunch was held Wednesday April 7th at Bickford's Restaurant. Those present were Tom K1JHC, Norm W1BYH, Gary K1YTS, Barry W1HFN, Al KB1TNN, Mark WB1QWR, Ed KB1IJJ, and Charlie KT1I.

Have you seen the MARA Internet Site? Check it out at ([www.w1gz.org](http://www.w1gz.org))

Please join with us at the restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30.

## Squannacook River Canoe and Kayak Race

On Saturday April 17 MARA and NVARC members provided radio communication for the Townsend Lions Club Squannacook Canoe and Kayak Race.

This has become an annual event. We are positioned at 13 checkpoints along the 6 mile stretch of the Squannacook River from the VFW in West Townsend to Harbor Pond. We track each canoe and kayak along the river in order to report to the event organizers any problems that are brought to our attention along the course.

The boats start at 1-minute intervals. The weather this year kept the number of entrants down and 41 boats participated.

Gary K1YTS coordinated the Amateur Radio event support. The volunteers are pictured in the pre-race photo below: (back row, left to right) Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM, Bob AB1CV, Charlie KT1I, Tom K1JHC, (front row) Stan KD1LE, Ray KB1LRL, John KK1X, Nancy KB1KEF. Not pictured: Jim AD1L.





Above: Bob Oakes from Shirley and Joe Bertozzi from Pepperell were the sweep team. Bob won the race several times in previous years so he decided to be the last boat in this time. KB1KEF photo

## Groton Road Race

Thirty-six Hams helped with the 19th annual running of the Groton Road Race on April 25. The weather forecast was a bit threatening but the rain held off all day and the racers enjoyed fine running temperatures.

Each year we encounter something new to challenge us and demonstrate why having trained communicators with two-way radios and shared channels ("multicast") makes things practical that cell phones cannot easily do. This year's incident was a motor vehicle collision (not involving any race participants) a few minutes before the roads were scheduled to be closed for the start of the 10k race.

There was some initial confusion about whether the race would be permitted to start after the emergency vehicles had been

dispatched to the scene. Since we had several Hams in liaison positions with the Groton Police Department we were quickly able to establish that the race start was required to hold until the All Clear was received from the Police.

In the confusion there was conflicting information being given to the starting line officials. Based on the teamwork that we have established over the years, the authoritative information was sorted out from the wishful thinking and the intentions of the Groton PD commander were communicated and followed.

The radio operator crew this year was Bob AB1CV, Jim AD1L, Gerry K1GCM, Tom K1JHC, Pete K1SUB, Wil K1WD, Gary K1YTS, Karen KA1JVU, Larry KB1ESR, Nancy KB1KEF, Carsten KB1KTP, Ray KB1LRL, Steve KB1NMJ, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Charlie KT1I, Jim N1HTS, Mike N1IW, Keith N1KLK, Phil N1MOR, Joseph N1QDZ, Mary Jane N1RKO, Bob N1RXV, Jim N8VIM, Art NF1A, Roland NR1G, Jim W1KQ, Bob W1OJP, Paul W1SEX, Bob W1XP, Rod WA1TAC, Gil WK1H, Ken WO1N, and Earl WR1Y. These volunteers represented several area clubs including NVARC, MARA, and BARS.

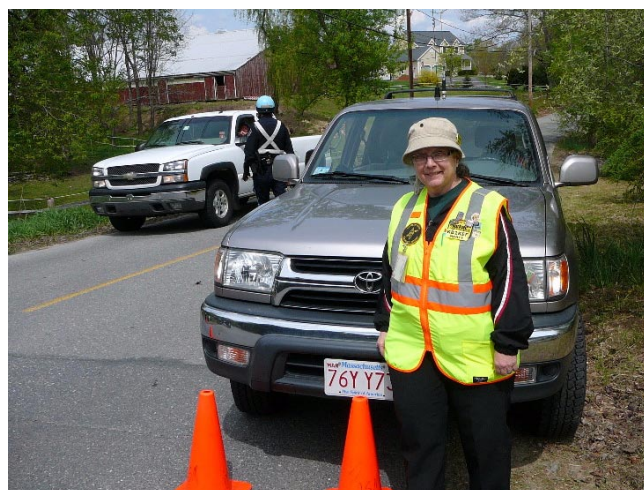
Race Director Chris Russell, Groton Police Chief Don Palma, and Groton Police Lieutenant James Cullen, OIC, all expressed their gratitude for the Amateur Radio Operators who make this event possible. There are uniformed officers from several agencies at this event and their radios do not interoperate. Amateur Radio provides a critical function in communicating vital information at many points in the event.

*see photos on next page*

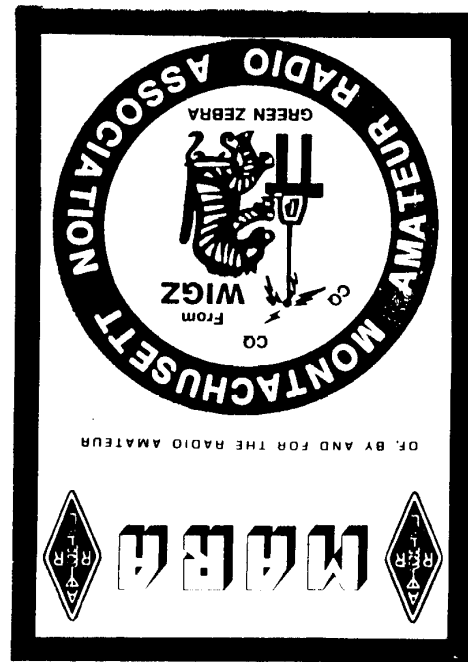




Top left to right: KD1LE and KD1SM start setup of NCS at 0730, Gary K1YTS at checkpoint 17, Phil N1MOR has been part of the parking team for years. Below: KD1SM, KD1LE, Chief Palma, KB1ESR; runners in the 10k passing NCS. Bottom: KD1LE announces 5K lead passing NCS, KB1KEF at CP 17.



May 2010



**Montachusett Amateur Radio Association**  
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

