

MARA W1GaZette



September 2010

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 53 No. 1

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, September 8
7:30PM
Wallace Room
Lunenburg Public Library**

**Reflections on 60 Years of
Amateur Radio Activity
in the Montachusett Area**

We're back in the Lunenburg Public Library starting in September. The library received sufficient funding in the new fiscal year to be open on Wednesday evenings. We have some conflicts with other groups who booked the room in 2011, so keep an eye on the GaZette.

The welcome-back-from-summer program is a celebration of 60 years of Amateur Radio activity of MARA and its predecessor clubs; see Ray KB1LRL's article below and the W1LXE archives on page 9.

President's Corner

Hi everyone. This season is going to usher in a new era for this club as we start our 60th year! This is something we all should

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, W1HFN, K1JHC, W1LXE

be proud of, especially to those who have been with us for a number of years.

This began in June when at the meeting, Gordon, N1MGO gave me a box of old documents that was saved from a former member who for was for a time, was the secretary. It contained newsletters, meeting minutes, membership applications, etc. Since I could only sit and walk while I was healing, I went through all those papers and it got me thinking and researching and more thinking.

These records went as far back as 1963. Minutes and newsletters were typed. Announcements were mailed. The club even had a mimeograph machine. Septembers meeting was a banquet with dinner and music and they installed the new officers.

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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/>

Sunday, September 18, Cambridge MA
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April to October

October 15, 16, Deerfield NH
NEAR-Fest

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

President's Corner

continued from page 1

The 70's there was another club and new technology. The repeater club at the airport. The coffee was replaced with beer for a time!

The 80's showed a lot of change as the two clubs merged and became what is now MARA. It also brought the beginnings of computers and its use with radio. The club also had an annual hamfest for a time. The news letter went from Key-Klix and evolved to the MARA Gazette.

As I continued digging I found members who briefly stayed and others who have been around all aspects of it and some who even came, left, and returned. At one point the membership roster was as high as 77 members! Meetings had 30-40 in attendance.

I discovered a few things while reading all this. First is some of the challenges we face now are the same as the past. i.e. guest speakers. The club back then had a more formal decorum. They were quite active and some projects had committee's that put in a lot of time in their efforts, and it came out successful. The hamfest is a good example. It grew each year they had it.

The history showed me that in those days, we were active, growing. There was a membership that got involved in the organization, education, and promotion of our club. We even had novice and tech classes!

As we now turn 60, I see a new challenge we now face. I fear we are showing our age. We are slowing down. There are those that were dynamo's back then are now

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Club Secretary: Barry Fox W1HFN
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.

advancing in age and do not have the energy to do it. That's fine, that's the way it goes and you did well. Enjoy yourself.

What I see is as time marches on and this crazy world is putting more demands on our time and energy, we do not have the time or desire to add club activities to our schedule. But, what happens when the repeater breaks down? Or the newsletter editor decides that's enough, or the person supporting the new IRLP link is in Fiji doing a rtty contest? (I had to throw that in!)

The fact is we have relied on the same individuals for the same thing. Ham radio has taught us to have a backup. Is there? I am the first to admit that I have been a plug and play person and do not know the first thing about how to trace a problem to a blown capacitor. I am trying, but who can step in when the problem occurs?

This is not meant to be a wet blanket to our achievements over the years. What this is meant to be is a challenge to ALL members. Let's work at continuing to be a healthy club and not let arthritis set in. The long-timers, stay involved by teaching and keeping the older technology alive. Help them find that blown capacitor and fix it. Promote Amateur radio and the club.

To those that are newer into the hobby, GET INVOLVED! You do not have to it all, pick something. Be an officer, a newsletter contributor, learn to maintain the repeater, or the IRLP link, go to public service events and promote Ham radio. Get good at it too. Doing this will help us continue to grow and be that healthy club. It may not be easy at times and sometimes we question if it's worth it. (Mine in truth is Field day) But, we need to find something good in it and

keep trying. Because the next time could make you feel 10 feet tall.

I hope you will find the time to attend some meetings. I am hoping to have some great things planned in celebrating 60 years and to build on another 60. Stay tuned to the MARA reflector and newsletters for more.

Thank you and 73,
Ray

June Meeting sort-of Report

de Ralph KD1SM

As you might surmise from other articles in this issue, the following officers were elected for 2010 - 2011. Thanks to each of you for agreeing to serve:

President	Ray Lajoie KB1LRL
Vice President	Bill Leger N1UZ
Secretary	Barry Fox W1HFN
Treasurer	Gordon Lapoint N1MGO

Boy Scouts 100th Anniversary

The area Boy Scouts are having a celebration on Saturday, September 18th at Carter Park in Leominster and MARA has been asked to provide a demonstration of Ham radio for the scouts as well as the public. This will be a great opportunity to demonstrate our capabilities as well as promote our club.

The plan will be to set up at minimum an SSB station, ideally a rtty station would be great to draw the youth in another form of

“texting.” It will also be powered by either a generator or the solar power supply I built, weather permitting. The antenna may be a military mast with a 20 meter hamstick dipole setup or a g5rv depending on layout and safety.

I could use 3-4 people to help with setup and take down and also operating and public relations. We will have handouts to give out. If anybody is interested in helping out, call me or drop me an email. Thank you.

Ray KB1LRL

Field Day 2010

The fourth weekend in June rolled around and with it came Field Day. Academy Hill became the center of communications for the annual event. As with other years we had our challenges. One of the biggest one was the lack of operators as more of our usual participants were unable to attend which needless to say contact scores were low.

We were encouraged to see some new faces join in. Walter K1CMF was a great help in set up and take down, and Bob Coleman K1QED brought along his QRP setup and spent a Saturday with us.

The visitor count was light as the common does not see much in the way of visitors, but had visits from the Fire dept, club members, even some of the long time former members. We also had a visit from Tom Frenaye, K1KI, our division director who had a pleasant conversation with us for a time.

Next year we will be looking at going back to Mt. Wachusett. Hopefully, the road will be open by then. With any luck we will have

a much better turnout in many ways. I could use a volunteer to assist in coordinating it with me. If any one is interested, drop me an e-mail.

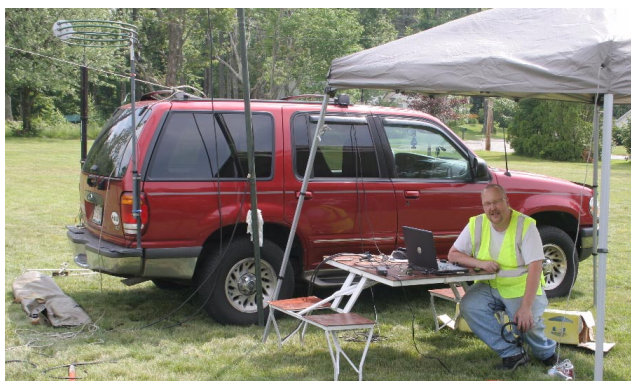
73,
Ray KB1LRL



above: Ray KB1LRL flies the MARA colors

below: Tom AB1GF at his portable station

bottom: Al KB1TNN [kd1sm photos]



Top to bottom: Paul KD1YH at the IR station, let it not be said that MARA operated under the gun, Ray KB1LRL, Bob K1QED

[kd1sm photos]



Little Known Morse Fact

de W1HFN

My wife and I took a day off from work, did some shopping, had lunch and decided to visit the Worcester Art Museum (<http://www.worcesterart.org/>) as we had not been there in some years.

While browsing through the Early American art room, we came across a painting, "Chapel of the Virgin at Sorbocio", by (get ready, here it comes) Samuel F.B. Morse. Yes, the very same Mr Morse of Code fame.

Turns out he was a very accomplished artist in his younger years and gave it up for science. So the art world's loss was the communication world's gain.

73,
Barry W1HFN

Ed. Note: Samuel F.B. Morse was born in Charlestown MA. He was trained in painting in England, Morse also became one of the earliest photographers after meeting Louis Daguerre in Paris, considered the inventor of photography with his Daguerrotype process. Morse trained famed Civil War photographer Mathew Brady. The Library of Congress lists a few more facts you may not have previously known:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sfbmhtml/sfbmlessereessay.html>

Walter K1CMF points out that the Worcester Art Museum displays a photograph of the Morse painting in its collection at
<http://www.worcesterart.org/Collection/American/1907.35.html>

Old Timer's Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

Old Timers held their monthly meeting at Bickfords Restaurant on Wednesday August 4.

Bill NZ1D was welcomed on a trip from Florida. Also present were Charlie KT1I, Norm W1BYH, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, Barry W1HFN, and Paul N1QDX. The discussion was on first Call Letters issued by FCC.

Please join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:15pm.

VE Team Report

There were no pre-registered candidates for license exams in June, July, or August so those sessions were all canceled.

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 September 22. Contact Paul Upham KD1YH to pre-register. If no candidates pre-register the session is canceled.

Longsjo Bike Race

On Saturday July 3 and Monday July 5 radio operators from the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association, the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club, and the Mohawk Amateur Radio Club provided course safety communications for the 51st Fitchburg Longsjo Bicycle Race.

The operators were Bob AB1CV, Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Warren KA1JL, Larry KB1ESR, Ray KB1LRL, Stan KD1LE, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, Ben N1XYT, Paul W1SEX, and Mark WB1ARZ.



Front row (left to right): KD1SM, KB1LRL, Longsjo Executive Director Ed Collier, KD1LE, KK1X

Back row (left to right): KB1ESR, K1YTS, N1XYT, K1JHC, AB1CV, KA1JL, W1SEX

(not pictured: WB1ARZ)

right: Bob AB1CV prepares the start of another race in the Downtown Criterium



above: Warren KA1JL and Ben N1XYT at the Fitchburg Upper Common.

below: N1XYT keeps an eye on the peloton rounding the boulder at the Upper Common.

kd1sm photos





above: Larry KB1ESR stays protected behind hay bales at lower Putnam

below: John KK1X guards upper Putnam

bottom: riders in the Downtown Criterium use the entire width of Main Street.

kd1sm photos



August Board Meeting

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association Board Meeting

10 Aug 2010

Attendees:

Ray, KB1LRL, President

Bill, N1UZ, Vice President

Gordon, N1MGO, Treasurer

Pauline, KB1JXJ, Outgoing Secretary

Barry, W1HFN, Incoming Secretary

Charlie, KT1I, Repeater Trustee/Club Call Trustee

Paul, KD1YH, Repeater Committee Chairman

The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM EDT.

Topics discussed:

60th Anniversary of the club in 2011.

Speakers for the 2010/2011 meetings

Christmas party

Club jackets/T-shirts

Gardner parade

BoyScouts 100th Anniversary

Field Day site

Fund Raiser

Newsletter contributions

Meeting site

Kit building project

Gardner Hot Dog social

Club picnic

Adjourned 7:55PM EDT

Respectfully Submitted,

Barry W1HFN

Secretary

From the W1LXE Archives

Bill Lyons, ex KC0HMJ, and nephew of Norm Lyons ex W1LXE (SK) provides the following from his uncle's archives. Bill now holds the call W1LXE in his uncle's memory.



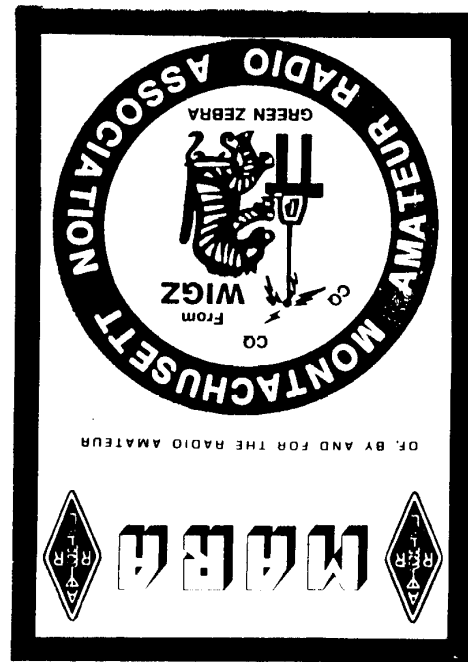
above: Field Day June 1939 with W1MBL (Bill Forman) at left at the 2.5 meter transceiver, W1LDV (Bob Gooding) in the center at the 80 meter SW3 and Bob Smith a visiting ham on the right

left: Field Day June 1946 at W1LTY's camp. Norman is at the portable generator. The other person may be Bob Gooding W1LDV

below: The W.P.A. - Park Department Recreation Radio Club (late 1930s or early 1940s). Norman W1LXE is second row from bottom, far left. He graduated from FHS in 1940 and then went off to the Eastern Radio School. The club callsign, W1LXT, appears on the wall at the right.



September 2010



Montachusett Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

