

MARA W1 GaZette



October 2010

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 53 No. 2

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 13 October
7:30PM
Wallace Room
Lunenburg Public Library

The President's Corner

Greetings! I don't know about you, but these last few months have been screaming by. Between Public Service events, Conventions, Work, there isn't much time to figure out what day it is sometimes. Now that the fall is here and the cooler weather is here, (I think) we start to look at getting ready for a winter of contesting, DX'ing, honing our radio skills or trying out something new. I've got my list ready, let's see how much I get accomplished. What's on your agenda?

Bill N1UZ has been busy putting together a shed that will be transported to Gardner's new repeater site. He will have a workday soon to put it together and get the repeater moved. The Mohawk club could use some help when the time comes. I will put out a notice when things will happen so we can lend a helping hand. Bill has also been looking at spots for our upcoming Christmas party. Bill should have some info on this as well soon.

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, W1HFN, K1JHC,
AB1GF

Tom AB1GF has also been working on towers and even built a tower trailer. Pretty nifty setup for short money. Tom has been seen terrorizing hilltops doing vhf-uhf contests. Looks like a new toy for field day...maybe.

Charlie KT1I has been doing some Geocaching, contesting, traveling, and will be working on arranging a special event day to celebrate our 60th year. More to come shortly on this.

Gordon N1MGO has been honing his antennas and has been producing some impressive numbers in some recent RTTY contests. He has been hanging tough with some of the "big guns" and is looking forward to propagation on the upswing.

So, what's coming up to occupy some more of our time? Well, it's October so that must
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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, October 17, 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>

The President's Corner

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mean one thing, Near-Fest! Hopefully the weather will cooperate with us and be another frosty one like last year. Gary K1YTS, Tom AB1GF, And myself will embark to our hallowed ground Thursday afternoon and gear up for some fun. Shortly after that NVARC is having their card sort at their next meeting. This will be at the Pepperell Community Center. The Head of the Charles Regatta is coming up as well.

If boredom should occur, by all means take advantage of some of these projects going on and lend a hand. It will warm you in many ways.

73. Ray KB1LRL

Old Timers Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

Old Timers held their monthly meeting at Bickford's Restaurant on Wednesday October 6. Present were Charlie KT1I, Norm W1BYH, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, Barry W1HFN, and Al KB1TNN.

The discussion was centered on the complete Eastern Blackout in the fall 1955, and Kenwood Transceivers.

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

The MARA W1/GaZette

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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.

September Meeting

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Association

8 Sept 2010

The meeting was held in the Lunenburg Public Library and was called to order at 7:30PM by the President, Ray KB1LRL. Other officers present were: Vice-President, Bill N1UZ,

Treasurer, Gordon N1MGO and Secretary, Barry W1HFN. Members in attendance were: Ralph KD1SM, Bob KB1JZU, Charlie KT1I, Gary K1YTS, Norm W1BYH, Walter K1CMF, Al KB1TNN, Tom K1JHC, Paul N1QDX, Paul KD1YH, Tom AB1GF, Mickey WB1GFZ, Bill WB1FWW (guest), Ed N1EJH, and David KB1OKF.

Introductions were made and the Treasurers report given. A motion to accept was made and seconded. The current balance is \$1181.37. Committee reports were also made; the Repeater Committee reported the IRLP project is stalled waiting for Gardner to get their repeater moved and on-line. Membership Committee promised applications would be available at the BSA event.

Old Business: The club picnic, venue courtesy of Bill N1UZ, was a great, if not soggy success. Paul KD1YH demonstrated his gymnastic skills while the rest of us applauded. Great burgers and dogs were grilled by our genial host and Gary K1YTS served an example of his culinary skill. Others brought desserts, salads, etc all of which were enjoyed. Thanks were given to Bill for hosting.

New Business: The cost and procurement of coffee / snacks for the meetings were discussed. Pauline and Gordon had provided them in the past, thank you both for your generosity. It was decided to set up a coffee-fund jar, see how that works and if not, it will be BYOC.

The club will be setting up a station at the BSA 100th anniversary event at Carter Park, Ray will be setting up a station using the club call and looking for volunteers.

The 2011 Christmas Party was discussed. A suggestion was made to investigate restaurants other than The Bootlegger.

Gordon N1MGO, will be operating in the CQ WW RTTY Contest and all are invited to observe and/or operate.

Tom K1JHC mentioned the new 900 MHz repeater and invited all to make use of it.

Field Day 2011 was brought up. A show of hands was in favor of returning to Mt Wachusett, if available. If not, Academy Hill and Alpine Hill are viable options.

There was a ten-minute break for coffee, munchies and socializing.

The guest speaker(s) of the meeting were Norm W1BYH and Tom K1JHC. Bill W1UD was also invited but was unable to attend. This being the first meeting of our 60th year as a club, they were invited to speak on their association with the club, its founding and some past members and events. Our present club consisted of two separate ones ("radio club" and "repeater club") which were merged in the 80's as most of us were members of both clubs and saw the logic of combining them. Also

mentioned was Bill NZ1D's book on the origin of the club call, W1GZ.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted
Barry Fox, W1HFN, Secretary



above: Norm W1BYH (l) and Tom K1JHC (r) accept 60th anniversary recognition certificates.



above: Norm W1BYH displays some photographs circa 1960's.

[KD1SM photos]

VHF/UHF Contest Rover

de Tom AB1GF

June was my first time so I said I was putting more effort this time. So I built a 28' fold over tower on a utility trailer. I added antennas for 6m 2m and 70cm.

I started off in FN34 Danville, VT at Dole Point. It took about an hour to set up. Thank you Larry K1LPS for the tour.

That evening I traveled to a rest area off I89 in FN33. Here I did not deploy the tower so I used the mobile antennas. Hi-par Saturn 6 and 2m/70cm whip.

In the morning I drove to Pack Monadnock, I could not drive up with the trailer so I parked across the road at Temple Mountain state reservation, FN42 and set up the tower.

I was going to Bald hill in Union, FN31, but because of some damage to the tower trailer I decided to ST in a familiar area. I finished in Jaffrey, NH FN32. I parked in the Conant High School parking lot. Lesson learned, get a duplexer, so I do not have to keep changing feed lines around. What a pain.



photos courtesy
AB1GF





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