

# MARA W1GaZette



November 2010

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 53 No. 3

## Next Meeting

**Sunday, 12 December**  
**1:00PM**  
**Bootlegger's Restaurant**  
**Lunenburg MA**

Please let all join together at Bootleggers Restaurant Dec. 12, 2010 @ 1:00pm, for our annual Holiday Party Celebration of MARA's 60th Anniversary with an optional Yankee Swap. There will not be a Wednesday meeting in December; the holiday party takes the place of the Wednesday meeting.

The holiday party will be \$30.00 per person. Menu choices need to be in by Dec. 1, 2010 to N1UZ @ARRL.net. See page 8 for the menu options.

All payment needs to be in by Thursday Dec 9th to Bill Leger, 131 Old Westminster Rd, Hubbardston, MA 01452.

## President's Corner

Hi there. There is a definite feel that the summer is finally over and the rustling of leaves as well as our closets digging out the sweaters and coats. Here comes another winter. BLEEEEECH! We now start turning to the warm indoor projects and making

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## Contributors To This Issue:

N1UZ, KB1LRL, KT1I, K1JHC,  
W1HFN

sure our stations are ready for whatever hits us. Hopefully we don't need it.

It's good to hear that the Gardner repeater project is coming along smoothly. The new uhf repeater is now operational and they are nearing the point where the irlp link will be set up. That was quite a project where they are basically building nearly everything from scratch. Well done.

October 15th started out not so ordinary for a few of us. Deerfield New Hampshire was turning into a large pond as the weather gods gave us some stormy weather with lots of rain and wind. This was a demonstration of some real heartiness in true New England fashion as Near-fest 8 continued on. Between sales and visits we were making sure awnings, tents, vehicles, dog's, etc were not getting drowned or blown

*continued on next page*

## 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/>

## President's Corner

*continued from page 1*

away. It was impressive to see the faithful following that this hamfest had generated and the distances they traveled to get there. As some of them said "a bad day at Near-fest still beats a good day at work!" So true!

Mark your calendar, April 29 and 30, 2011 we will meet again.

We now have a place for our annual Christmas party. We will still be at the Bootlegger Restaurant on Mass Ave. The menu will change as we are going to a choice of meals with appetizers and desserts instead of the buffet. We will also have a Yankee Swap too to have some fun. Fifteen dollar limit. More information will follow. I want to thank Bill, N1UZ for his effort in setting it up. He's been a busy boy between this and Gardner's repeater project.

I noticed September's newsletter was a little thin, I know Ralph has been quite busy with work and sometimes he has to scramble to get them ready. I, myself appreciate Ralph's efforts with our newsletter. As a club we all should. What we need to do is keep feeding him with articles and ideas to give him stuff to use without him working harder to gather enough to publish. With the 60th anniversary going on, I'm sure there may be articles, photos, etc that you can scan and send to him. The older, the better. I know I would love to see some stuff from back in the day. Along with that, if you have anything you wish to contribute to our archives I am putting together, bring them to a meeting or contact me for arrangements to pick up.

One other item, I had brought refreshments last month and put out a bag for donations. I just barely got half of what I paid. Because of this, and the fact I may not be able to do this because work can be unpredictable, I will open it up to members bring their own, or if they wish to contribute, may do so.

That's enough chatter for now. Have fun, be well, use the force!

73 Ray KB1LRL

## 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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Annual Dues: Regular \$25  
Family \$30  
Fixed income \$15  
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30pm  
September to June

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### OFFICERS:

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

## 100th Year Boy Scout Celebration at Leominster Carter Park

de Charlie KT1I

MARA was invited to attend the Boy Scout 100th Year Celebration at Carter Park downtown Leominster Saturday September 18th. I arrived to find the shelter already up and antenna erection in progress. With the help of a couple of tree climbing scouts, the antenna was in the trees. Although not anywhere near optimum height, it did work!

Members attending were Barry W1HFN, Tom K1JHC, Al KB1TNN, Ed N1EJH, Ray KB1LRL and myself. There were a lot of scout activities going on from a climbing wall to a pinewood derby setup. We did make contacts most notably Shanghai, China via IRLP through a gateway in Erie, PA and a special event station in Ontario. We did have quite a few folks stop by to chat with us and a couple of scouts who asked some good questions. All in all, in my opinion, a worthwhile effort for the club.

Charlie KT1I



above: Ray KB1LRL in Carter Park  
photo courtesy KT1I

## 900 MHz Radio

de Tom K1JHC

Two years ago Al KB1TNN bought himself a 900 "Radio at NEARFEST, and it all started from there. I learned that Barry W1HFN also had a 900 Radio. Well this year I bought a Motorola GTX 900 Base Station on EBAY, and also a walkie at NEARFEST.

Hams are able to convert Motorola Commercial radios over to the 900 Ham Band. These radios do not have a tuning dial and have to be programmed for each repeater by computer. There are repeaters in Boston, Waltham, Hopkinton, Georgetown, Marlboro and Framingham.

There is a group of hams that band together to promote the use of 900 called GEMOTO. Al and I started to go to the GEMOTO Breakfast at Brittaney's in Northborough. On Saturday morning at the breakfast we learned a repeater for 900 Radio that was going to be for sale at the Framingham Flea Market. The three of us Al, Barry and myself joined together as trustees and Barry obtained coordination for a repeater to be located in Fitchburg with the frequency of 925.5625 Mhz.

We met Will Bartlett at the Flea and worked out a very nice price for a Motorola Rack mounted repeater with built in Cavities and power supply. Will was nice enough to tune up the unit and with Norm's help it was installed atop Alpine Hill on June 19, 2010.. We have good coverage with reports From Pepperell, Westminster, Littleton and Bolton.

## The Chatham Marconi Maritime Center

de Barry W1HFN

You will recall that in past articles, I have visited the then closed and derelict Chatham Wireless Station Receiver/Operations building and the site of the long gone transmitters for WCC at Forest Beach, also in Chatham. The town of Chatham realized they had a national historic treasure in their town and decided to do something about it. After eight years of civic effort, money was raised to refurbish the Receiver/Operations building and turn it into a museum. The grounds were improved with the addition of a parking lot and access road. After a grand opening on August 1st of this year, it was announced that the museum would close for the season on October 2nd. "That's not fair", I said to my wife, "I haven't seen it yet"! "Now I have to wait until next summer"! So a trip was hastily arranged for the last weekend in Sept. Like most museums, they are closed on Mondays, so we had to get there on Sunday. Easy trip to the Cape on Sunday in late September, no traffic jams prior to the Bourne Bridge, at the rotary or on Rte 6 to Chatham.



Main entrance, not very imposing is it?



Once through the entrance, there is a reception/greeting area where visitors are asked to sign in. There is a column in the guest book for ham radio call signs, attesting to the interest the staff knows we have. Immediately after that, is the entrance to a mini-theatre where a video shows the history of WCC narrated by Walter Cronkite, also a ham.

After viewing the video (good idea for all) there is an early “transceiver” on the right.



This unit was made by Mackay Radio and Telegraph Co., Marine Division. It consists of one RX and TX in the left hand 1/3 rack and another RX with much more powerful

TX in the right hand 2/3. IIRC, the small TX was good for 50W and the larger one 200W.

After the “Real radios glow in the dark”, there is a diorama in a glass case showing the station in its heyday. The campus consisted of 8 buildings and 13 acres of large utility poles upon which were various rhombics and dipoles. Situated right on Rte 28 is the 300 foot steel tower (lower right corner of diorama), which held one end of at least 4 wire antennas. In the upper right corner is a steel tube mast, which no longer exists.



A short walk up the hill from the museum and some poking around in the bushes finds the remains of the steel tubular mast. Not much left.



On the main floor are several small exhibits. A TTY wireline station, CW setup, a mention of WCC's role during WWII as a monitoring station for clandestine radio transmitters in the US, a rack full of RX, some ham and some special purpose marine RXs, and last but not least, the ham radio station.



TTY wireline Model 19? WCC was connected to a large TTY network for sending and receiving news, business and private messages to and from ships at sea.



These National HRO RXs were manned by members of the Naval Women's Auxiliary.



The CW demonstration setup. N1MFW, one of the docents, at the key. I had a nice chat with Bob.

Here is a quote from his QRZ listing: "Learned CW from a book once owned by W1KL, (then W1JNM), who was tech. in charge of WCC xmtr stn. in W. Chatham, MA. Joined US Coast Guard soon after high school, spent 5 years as a CW op for them." He certainly qualifies as a docent!



Rack-mounted RXs. In the middle of the left-hand rack is a Yaesu FRG-7. Third unit down in the right-hand rack is a National HRO500. Below that an RCA special marine radio RX. Below that a Collins 51J4. The other units are line and audio amps, power supplies and switching panels.





WA1WCC. This is in a separate room, not open to the public. There is an active ham radio club in the area and it gets used quite a bit. In the back yard of the museum is a "bone yard" of various antennas.



Antenna "bones".

The Chatham Marconi Maritime Center is a great spot to spend an hour or two when visiting the Cape. It is located at the corner of Rte 28 and Old Comers Road. Just look for the 300 foot steel tower, you can't miss it.

For more information, go to:  
<http://www.chathammarconi.org/>

## Old Timers Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

Old Timers held their monthly meeting at Bickford's Restaurant, North Main St, Leominster, on Wednesday November 3. Present were Jack WA1GCY, Paul N1QDX, Charlie KT1I, Norm W1BYH, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, Barry W1HFN, and Al KB1TNN. The discussion was centered on the amounts of Radiation, many of us were exposed to during our tour of Duty through High Powered Transmitters, Radar, and other.

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

## VE Team Report

The MARA Volunteer Examiner team held a license exam session at the Lunenburg Senior Center on Wednesday, October 27. One candidate successfully upgraded to General Class.

No candidates were pre-registered for the November session so that session was canceled.

The next MARA VE session is scheduled for December 22.

The MARA Volunteer Examiner team schedules monthly Amateur Radio license examination sessions on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Contact Paul Upham KD1YH to pre-register. If no candidates pre-register the session is canceled.

## Holiday Party

*The tree is up the lights are aglow..  
along with the radios buzzing with  
contests...*

*It's time to celebrate with folks we  
know!!*

*Please let all join together at  
Bootleggers Restaurant*

*Dec. 12, 2010 @ 1:00pm, for our  
annual Holiday Party Celebration  
of MARA's 60th Anniversary ,*

*And optional Yankee Swap(\*)*

*Menu Choice*

- 1. Angus Prime Rib*
- 2. Baked Haddock*
- 3. Apple Stuffed Chicken*

*Please choose which one you would  
like for each person attending.*

*Dinner will also include:*

*Apple Formaggio Salad  
French Onion Soup  
Rosemary Oven Roasted Potatoes  
Sauteed Green Beans Almandine*

*Along with Coffee and Home made  
Desserts*

*Price for the Holiday Party will be  
\$30.00 Per person*

*All choices need to be in by Dec. 1,  
2010 N1UZ @ARRL.net*

*All payment needs to be in by  
Thursday Dec 9th*

*Mail to*

*Bill Leger  
131 Old Westminster Rd  
Hubbardston, MA 01452*

*\* Who ever chooses to participate in  
the Yankee Swap please bring a  
\$15.00 gift.. Ho Ho Ho!!!!*



## Amateur Radio Operators Provide Communications Support During Chilean Mine Rescue

10/14/2010

As the last of the 33 miners who were trapped 2300 feet deep inside (and 3 miles from the mine entrance) the San José Mine -- located about 27 miles from the Chilean town of Copiapó in the Atacama Desert -- rose to the surface at 0055 UTC on October 14, the world cheered in unison. The miners, who were underground for 69 days -- the longest time ever for miners to be trapped and survive -- all emerged relatively healthy.

According to the Radio Cub de Chile (RCCH) -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- amateurs with the Radio Club Copiapó, CE1CPI, provided communication support between the authorities and emergency equipment operators inside the San José Mine complex, as well as with family of the trapped miners in the complex and authorities in Copiapó. "There are no other means of communication at the scene," said Radio Club Copiapó President Jose Maldonado Lazo, CE1RXY. "The group is working in the area of the mine with three phones, while amateurs in Copiapó "are covering all the needs of SENCO [a construction company], SAMU [ambulance and EMT], the Interior Administration and the fire and police departments. We do this gladly and hope that this has a happy ending."

According to Erico José Andrade, CE2EPB, Radio Club Copiapó has a lot of equipment, enabling the club to cover almost all of the Atacama Region: "This helped effectively from the outset after the accident, because

the mine complex where the emergency occurred did not have contact with ordinary phones that could coordinate the rescue effort in the shortest time possible."

Some of the 80 members of Radio Club Copiapó installed amateur equipment in the mine complex, and volunteers from the club have, from the moment the mine collapse first occurred on August 5, have taken shifts to provide communication support. "This, together with additional mobile police stations, hospitals and fire battalions, kept everyone abreast of all the needs and urgent requirements," Andrade explained.

From *The ARRL Letter*

October 14, 2010

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2010-10-14>

## Colorado Hams Assisted Wildfire Relief Efforts

09/08/2010

A fire that began on Monday, September 6 northwest of Boulder, Colorado had members of Boulder County ARES® providing communications support to the Boulder County Sheriff's Office and the American Red Cross. ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan, K0RM reported that Amateur Radio operators provided voice and ATV communications between forward fire units, the Incident Command post and the Emergency Operations Center, as well as voice and packet communications for the Red Cross.

From *The ARRL Letter*

September 9, 2010

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2010-09-09>



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