



## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, 12 January  
7:30PM  
Wallace Room  
Lunenburg Public Library**

## “What’s New at the Candy Store”

Happy 2011 everyone. Our first meeting of the new year will feature a presentation of some of the new toys to be found at our favorite shop in Salem, New Hampshire. Perhaps Santa already delivered some of these to you, but if not you can make your own list, check it twice, and “do it yourself”.

## The President’s Corner

Happy New Year to everyone. I was just sitting down to writing this when I learned that Bill Voedisch, W1UD became a silent key on the 1st. I don't think I have to dwell on the fact of his dedication to the club as well as the league and his contributions along with it. He will be missed. 73 Bill

So, I hope Santa Ham was good to everyone and we are kicking off a new year with new projects to enhance our hobby. I have a few

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## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, W1HFN, K1JHC, KT1I

goals to hopefully accomplish this coming year. One of which is to try to get rtty going at my station. I want to give Gordon some serious competition! (yeah right!) Also get antennas working properly, and look to see if I can resurrect a National HRO receiver. (I'll need help on that one) We'll see how it goes.

*continued on page 2*

## Silent Key - W1UD

The Montachusett Amateur Radio Association regrets to announce the passing of member and former president, Bill Voedisch, W1UD. He passed away of an illness at home on the 1st.



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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

**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/>

**Saturday, February 19, Marlboro**  
Algonquin ARC Hamfest, Marlboro Middle  
School

**Sunday, February 20, Westford**  
Antique Radio show

**Saturday, March 5, Feeding Hills**  
Mt Tom ARA Hamfest

Additional events may be found on the  
W1GSL New England Ham - Electronic  
Flea Market List  
<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

## The President's Corner

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Now that 2011 is here I hope we can see new opportunities to take this fine hobby further and reap the benefits from it. In light of Bill's passing, I think it would be fitting to honor him in doing just that. I know that one of his favorite spots was the top of Mount Wachusett for field day. How about doing up a field day that would make him proud. I am open to suggestions on that!

For those who missed the Christmas party last month, you missed a good one. I got a little nervous about the start and the outcome, but towards the end it took one gift and that started it out with huge laughter. Look at the pictures, that tells it all. What fun. This might be something we can do again next year. More people=more fun!

Thanks to all who made 2010 a good year and to look forward to doing it again in 2011.

73 Ray KB1LRL

## Silent Key - W1UD

*continued from page 1*

For those who did not know Bill, he was a fixture in the Amateur Radio community, serving us as a President, as well as many other club offices. Bill was also the WMA section manager for a number of years for the ARRL. Up to his passing, he was using his CW skills passing traffic on various nets. He

## The MARA W1/GaZette

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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.

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### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Club Secretary: Barry Fox W1HFN  
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 rplajoie@comcast.net	President
Bill Leger, N1UZ	Vice President
Barry Fox, W1HFN foxbw@comcast.net	Secretary
Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO n1mgo@arrl.net	Treasurer
Charlie Cayen, KT1I kt1i@arrl.net	Trustee

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

was involved in many aspects of club activities including the first repeater, the development of the newsletters and contributed faithfully to many, field day events.

Bill wrote many articles for the W1/GaZette and its predecessors. His most recent article appeared exactly one year ago, in January 2010. He will be surely missed.

## Old Timer's Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timers met at Bickford's Restaurant on Wednesday January 5th. Those present were Charlie KT1I, Barry W1HFN, Gary K1YTS, Norm W1BYH, Al KB1TNN Tom K1JHC, and Paul N1QDX. The topic of the day was about the RTTY activity on 160 Meters, and interesting TVI situations before Cable.

Please join with us around 12:15pm on the first Wednesday of the month.

## Special Event Station; MARA 60

de Charlie KT1I

Announcing a Special Event Station celebrating the 60th Anniversary of MARA.

1300Z to 2100Z Sunday March 13th.

Operation will be on 15, 20, 40 and 75 meter bands SSB and digital.

Operate from the comfort of your shack! If enough people commit themselves, time segments will be split up.

Here's a chance to do something different!

The more operators, the merrier and the lighter the load for all. Come hear more at the Club meeting.

## October Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Association

13 Oct 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: Charlie KT1I, Gary K1YTS, Norm W1BYH, Walter K1CMF, Al KB1TNN, Tom K1JHC, Paul KD1YH, Tom AB1GF, Mickey WB1GFZ, Ed N1EJH, Dave KB1OPS, Paul W1SEX, David KB1OKF,

Paul W1GHZ, (guest speaker ), and Dan, KW2T, (guest).

Introductions were made and the Treasurers report given. A motion to accept was made and seconded. The current balance is \$1262.99. It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the September meeting be accepted as published in the MARA newsletter. Membership Committee reported applications were available at the BSA event, but no takers.

Old Business: Bill, N1UZ, made a presentation of the possible venues and menu choices for the 2010 Christmas Party. The choices were The Bootlegger and El Camino. A vote was taken and the Bootlegger was chosen.

The Repeater Committee reported that the Gardner Repeater 95% operational and almost ready for the IRLP connection. The MARA end has been ready for some time.

New Business: Ray, KB1LRL, mentioned that Norm, W1BYH, had been featured on the local TV station regarding Finnish history in Fitchburg. Norm gave a small talk on the experience. Charlie, KT1I, has taken charge of the MARA 60th Anniversary special event station. The event will take place after the year-end holidays, using the club call and all members are urged to participate. The MVARC QSL sort is to be held Oct 21st, we are invited and urged to attend.

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

Before the guest speaker, the 50/50 raffle tickets were drawn, first winner being Norm W1BYH and the second, one of our guests, Dan KW2T.

The guest speaker of the meeting was Paul Wade W1GHZ of Shirley. He gave a very interesting PP presentation of the ins and outs of the microwave aspect of ham radio. Very informative, well put together and well presented.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted  
Barry Fox W1HFN, Secretary

**November Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Association

10 Nov 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: Charlie KT1I, Gary K1YTS, Norm W1BYH, Walter K1CMF, Al KB1TNN, Tom K1JHC, Paul KD1YH, Tom AB1GF, Mickey WB1GFZ, John KK1X, Bill WB1FWW, Bob KB1JZU and Greg WA1JXR, guest speaker.

Introductions were made and the Treasurers report given. A motion to accept was made and seconded. The current balance is \$1280.99, with \$89.00 for the repeater fund. It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the September meeting be accepted as published in the MARA newsletter.

Old Business: Bill, N1UZ, mentioned that dinner choices for the Christmas party had to be in to him by Dec 1st and payment by Dec 9th, \$30.00 per person. There will also be a Yankee Swap with gifts not to exceed \$15.00. He also reported that the Gardner Repeater is up and running with exceptionally good coverage, although a local high-tension line seems to be causing some noise on the RX side during dry WX, OK when wet.

There was a ten-minute break for socializing.

Before the guest speaker, the raffle tickets were drawn, first winner being Tom AB1GF and the second, Tom K1JHC.

The guest speaker of the meeting was Greg Algieri WA1JXR on the ins and outs of the EZNEC antenna modeling program. I think we all learned quite a bit from his talk. Very informative, well put together and well presented.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted  
Barry Fox, W1HFN, Secretary

## Lessons to Remember

From the desk of Tom Duffy, K1JHC

Disclaimer: I take no credit for the content, as it has appeared elsewhere from time to time. Some of you may have not seen it and the rest can laugh again. Purportedly it is a letter to an Insurance Company to justify a claim.

"I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block number thirteen of the accident reporting form. I put "poor planning" as the cause of the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am an Amateur Radio Operator. Since spring was in the air I decided it was a good time to improve my antenna farm. On the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tool and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number eleven of the accident reporting form, that I weigh only 155 pounds.

Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forget to let go of the rope. Needless to say I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold on to the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools the barrel now weighed no more than 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number eleven. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report however that as I lay there on the tools, in pain and unable to stand and watching an empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope."

*Ed. note: this is the Ham Radio version of the story; other versions go by the name "The Bricklayer". See, e.g.*

<http://www.darwinawards.com/legends/legends1998-08.html>

December Meeting



K1YTS & W1HFN



Peg Griswold & Rebekah Carr



AB1GF



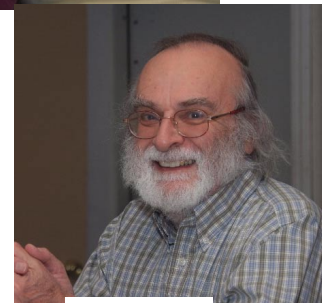
Pam & N1UZ



KB1KEF



cakes de Pam leger



K1CMF



Patty & KD1YH



KB 1OKF & Marty



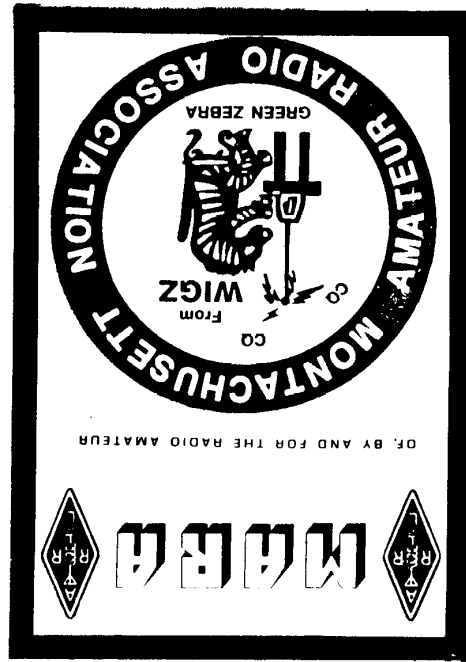
KK1X & Peg



bowl de N1UZ



KB1HNC



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