

# MARA W1⚡GaZette



March 2011

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 53 No. 6

## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, March 9  
7:30PM**

**Public Safety Building  
Lunenburg MA**

**Tom Frenaye K1KI  
Ed Emco W1KT**

The MARA March meeting features ARRL New England Division Director Tom K1KI and Western Massachusetts Section Manager Ed W1KT celebrating 60 years of amateur radio in MARA and its predecessor Clubs. The meeting will again be held in the training room of the Lunenburg Public Safety Building (a.k.a. Police and Fire headquarters).

Please park in the drill area at the far right rear corner of the building. The training room door is at the rear center of the building.

## President's Corner

Hi there! The thought that March is here and there is hope that somewhere under this white garbage is grass, dirt, flowers, unraked leaves, etc. We all cling to hope that warmer

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## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, W1HFN, KT1I, K1JHC

weather is approaching and all this will disappear and we can be free of winter's grip and think about what to do when it arrives. It's already starting out to be a busy season so far. I for one, am hoping to take full advantage of it. I have already signed up to do the Marathon in Boston again and am looking at our local events as well. We will be announcing public service events here and on the MARA reflector. I encourage you to look at the calendar and see what you would be interested in participating in.

One of my goals this year was to get my rtty setup going and touched base on it last month. I am happy to say that I now have a portable and base set up with thanks to N1MGO. I wish that I was able to do it on my own, but his generous help and exper-

*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/>

**Sunday 3 April, Framingham MA**  
Framingham Ham Fest

**Sunday 10 April, Groton MA**  
Groton Road Race

**Saturday 16 April, Manchester NH**  
New England Antique Radio Club

**Sunday 17 April, Cambridge MA**  
Flea at MIT electronics flea market

**Monday 18 April, Hopkinton-Boston**  
Boston Marathon

## President's Corner

*continued from page one*

tise has allowed me to get started a lot sooner and will be able to learn it better as I utilize the applications in a practical way. In true elmer fashion what he teaches me will enable me to pass on to someone else, and so on, and so on...(hint, hint, see how this works?) Now, to do a refurb on a HRO receiver. This should be interesting. The club, as you know, has a wealth of information and varied interests. It's future growth depends on it. Tap into the talent, don't let the cricket's take over. Take an active part in the club's activities.

That's it for now. Have fun, stay safe. 73  
Ray KB1LRL

## VE Team Report

The MARA Volunteer Examiner Team held its first license exam session of 2011 on February 23rd at the Lunenburg Senior Center. Three candidates took exams and two upgrades were earned.

Thanks to examiners K1JHC, K1YTS, KD1SM, KD1YH, KK1X, KQ1Y, and N1HVA for supporting this session. A special welcome to new examiner Tim KQ1Y who has joined the VE team.

The MARA Volunteer Exam Team schedules exams for the fourth Wednesday of the month. Preregistration is required as the session is canceled if no candidates have preregistered by the weekend prior to the

## 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: 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.

scheduled session. Walk-ins will be accepted if the session is held.

Contact Paul KD1YH at 978.597.6535 to preregister.

## February Meeting Report

de Barry W1HFN

### Minutes of the February 2011 Meeting of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Club

The meeting was called to order at 7:30. Those in attendance were: President, Ray KB1LRL; Treasurer, Gordon N1MGO; Secretary, Barry W1HFN and Al KB1TNN, Tom K1JHC, John KK1X, Tim KQ1Y, Tom AB1GF, Gary K1YTS, Ed N1EJH, Charlie KT1I, Ralph KD1SM and our guest speaker, Cal WA1WOK from HRO.

Treasurer's report: balance of \$1275.99 and a repeater fund of \$106.50

New business: Charlie KT1I discussed the clubs 60th Anniversary Special Event Station and passed out information sheets. The event will take place Sunday, March 13th from 1300Z to 2100Z. Modes are SSB and digital. The event will be mentioned in QST and QRZ, cannot find a way to get it into CQ. There will be a special QSL card available to those contacted, but no certificate. QSO participants are requested to QSL to the clubs PO Box 95 in Leominster with and SASE. Members are encouraged to sign up for one of the available band time slots. Charlie put a lot of effort into this, so let's all support it.

Field Day was discussed. Tom AB1GF has stepped forward to manage the event this year. We are hoping to get the use of Mount Wachusett this year, but that is still up in the air. Tom is hoping to run two or more HF rigs into one tri-band yagi using a triplexer, hope it works out.

Gordon N1MGO mentioned the NAQP RTTY Contest is coming up and all are invited to his QTH to join in the fun.

A short break was taken after the business meeting and our guest picked the evening's raffle winner, Gary K1YTS.

Cal gave a very informative presentation on DStar, the digital ham radio mode. A question and answer session followed. Cal then gave a short commercial for HRO who just happens to sell the ICOM gear.

The March meeting will feature our 60th Anniversary speakers.

## MARA 60th Anniversary Special Event Station

de Charlie KT1I

The 60th Anniversary MARA Special Event will be held on Sunday March 13th. It will be a success only if we have enough operators to cover the band-time segments without anyone having to spend the whole day at the rig (unless they want to).

The Special Event runs from 9 AM (1300Z) to 5 PM (2100Z) with SSB and digital operation. Remember this is the first day of DST.

Published frequencies are:

15 meters 21.250 khz

20 meters 14.250 khz

40 meters 7.250 khz

75 meters 3.900 khz

Digital operation in the appropriate sub-bands.

1. One station per band-mode. Times will be split up between operators. First come-first served! More operators will make lighter work for all.
2. Logs accepted either as .adif files (most logging programs output this) or legible paper logs. Information: band and frequency, Z time, call of contact, first name of contact if possible, signal reports sent and received.

We will be issuing a special 60th anniversary commemorative W1GZ QSL card, no certificates. If asked, SASE please.

I have listed the Leominster PO Box 95 club address in the announcements but if someone sends it to the QRZ address, it will come to my address.

I will take care of filling out the QSL cards and sending them out.

My contact info: kt1i@arrl.net tel. 978-297-7169 (leave a message with the nice machine if I don't answer)

Looking forward to a great event!

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## Groton Road Race is April 10

de Ralph KD1SM

If you're tired of this winter and looking forward to spring activities, allow me to turn your thoughts to the Groton Road Race. This race is one of the high-visibility events for Amateur Radio support. We typically field a crew of 35 to 40 radio operators to support this event.

This year the race is being held two weeks earlier than previous years -- the event organizers must be optimistic about a change of weather. I sure hope they've called this one correctly! Spring will be here by Sunday April 10 (think positively, think positively, think ...).

As you know from previous years our radio communications is held by the Groton Police Department to be a vital component of this event. Amateur Radio support of the Groton Road Race is one of the best public relations activities we can do for Amateur Radio locally.

I am again looking for 40 volunteers. Please let me know if you're available this year to help on April 10. If you have a preference for assignment, please let me know that as well.

The greatest number of operators are needed on station at 12:30 for the 10k race. If you are available to be on station at 11:30 for the 5k or 9:15 for race official shadows, parking, and other logistics, please let me know that too.

Photos of some previous years are available:

<http://www.n1nc.org/Events/GRR2003/>  
<http://www.n1nc.org/Events/GRR2006/Photos/>

For other race details, please see  
<http://www.grotonroadrace.com/>

## Old Timer's Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timers held their monthly luncheon at Bickford's Restaurant, North Main St, Leominster, on Wednesday March 2. Present were Paul N1QDX, Charlie KT1I, Norm W1BYH, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, and Al KB1TNN.

The discussion was centered on Memory Sticks and external Drives of many Gigabits.

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

## ARRL Members Respond to HR 607

03/02/2011

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-members-respond-to-hr-607>

Last month, a bill was introduced in the US House of Representatives that addresses certain spectrum management issues, including the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public Safety broadband network. This bill -- HR 607, known as The Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011 -- if passed, also calls to auction off parts of

the 70 cm band, namely 420-440 and 450-470 MHz. As such, the ARRL asked its members to write their Representative, asking them to not support HR 607 in its current form.

According to ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, Chwat & Co -- the ARRL's legislative relations firm in Washington, DC -- received almost 1000 letters in just the first week from League members in opposition to HR 607. "This is a great start and many thanks to the diligent members who have risen to the challenge; however, it cannot stop there. As long as HR 607 is in its current form, we must continue this campaign." He clarified that the ARRL opposes HR 607 in its present form: "We do not oppose the concept of dedicated spectrum for the development of a Public Safety infrastructure and wireless network. We object to the bill because of the inclusion of 420-440 MHz as part of the spectrum to be swapped and auctioned to commercial users."

Henderson shared a few pointers for writing letters in opposition to HR 607. He said that two of the most frequently asked questions that he receives are Why does the ARRL ask us to funnel our letters to Congress through Chwat & Co? Why can't I send my letter directly to my Representative?

"Trust me when I say I understand your concern and I firmly believe that the more input members of Congress receive -- either for or against an issue -- from their constituents, the better the public interest is served," Henderson said. "But using the services of Chwat & Co has many advantages that help the ARRL further its legislative agenda. The most important part of our system is that hand-delivery of constituent letters to a Congressional office provides

the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with key staff or your Member of Congress -- an opportunity to make our point directly."

Unfortunately, several dozen letters sent to Chwat & Co. are not usable for a variety of reasons, Henderson explained. Some letters are in support of bills that the ARRL supported in previous sessions, but have no bearing on HR 607. Henderson cautioned that bill numbers change in subsequent Congresses, as do the issues being addressed: "Please make sure your letter is addressing the correct issue. Don't 'dust off' that letter you sent previously -- it will not help with the current problem."

While we all look for "easy" ways to express ourselves to our Representatives, a letter sent without a signature carries little weight when Congressional staffs begin assessing support or opposition to a bill. Though many members of Congress have websites where constituents can simply fill out a web page form to share their thoughts with their Representative, such web forms have only limited usefulness in lobbying on a specific issue. "The fact that a constituent makes the effort to sign a letter personally -- then sends it in via fax, regular US Mail or by scanning the signed letter into a PDF then e-mailing it -- has a far greater impact than an unsigned e-mail or web-based form," Henderson said. "Please make sure your letter carries your signature. It does make a difference!"

Henderson said that several letters received at Chwat & Co were addressed to the wrong person. For example, there were several letters addressed to Senator Boxer, but began with "Dear Representative Boxer" -- an incorrect title. "We are not asking letters be sent to members of the Senate -- only to

your Representative in the US House. If you are unsure of who your Representative is, you can find out here.”

Sometimes, in our eagerness to help, we can overlook some of the basics, like grammar, spelling and the proper form of address. “Please proofread your letter several times to ensure it is accurate,” Henderson advised. “This should include all names, addresses and salutations, as well as any comments or edits you may add to our form letter.” He said that by reading the final letter out loud to yourself several times before sending to Chwat & Co, you can find most, if not all, mistakes.

“Defeating HR 607 in its present form is a fight Amateur Radio can win -- but only with thoughtful participation by us all,” Henderson explained. “Thanks to all of you for your efforts and let's keep this moving forward. Protecting our spectrum is important to all of us!

## Amateur MF Allocation Moves a Step Closer

02/24/2011

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-mf-allocation-moves-a-step-closer>

Amateur Radio has moved a step closer to a medium frequency (MF) allocation below the AM broadcast band. During the first week of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), held in Geneva February 14-25, delegates completed the drafting of nine pages of analysis of the technical and

regulatory issues related to WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.23: consideration of a possible secondary allocation to the Amateur Service of about 15 kHz somewhere between 415 and 526.5 kHz.

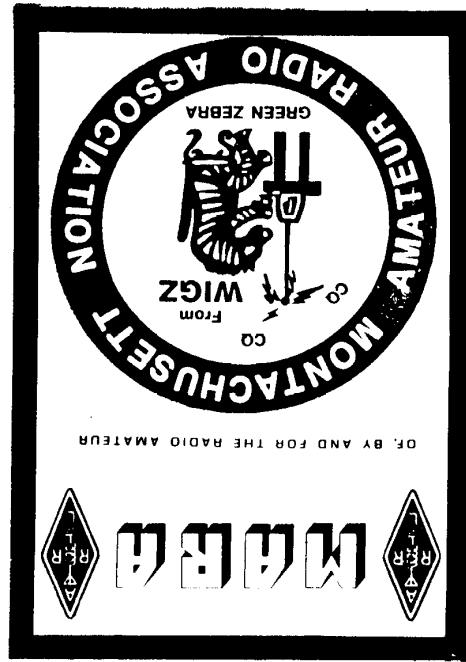
Method A envisions an allocation of up to 15 kHz between 472 and 487 kHz. Method B calls for allocations of 461-469 kHz and 471-478 kHz.

“The hard work of a team of radio amateurs led by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) -- and with considerable help from friendly administrations -- has gotten us to this point,” said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, who attended the first half of the CPM on behalf of the IARU. “While more support will need to be developed among other administrations if we are to achieve an allocation at WRC-12, our prospects are better now than they were a week ago.” He gave particular credit to Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, who has coordinated the IARU effort and gained valuable support from the Canadian administration. “Ken and the IARU team have been working on this issue for three years,” Sumner said.

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX attended the CPM as a member of the United States delegation. The US supports what is now called Method B, which also has sufficient support among other administrations in the Americas to have become an Inter-American Proposal of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL). At this stage, what is now called Method A has support from several administrations in Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

WRC-12 will be held in Geneva next year from January 23 to February 17.

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Montachusett Amateur Radio Association  
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

