

MARA W1⚡GaZette



April 2011

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 53 No. 7

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 13
7:30PM
Public Safety Building
Lunenburg
QSL Card Sort

The President's Corner

Hello everyone, I am at the point where I'm going to put a sign out "Lost! Springtime. Reward if found." (Reward is sunshine and warmth) I hope I can be optimistic and say it's here. Or, we will be walking around Near-Fest with snowshoes and skis. I'm sure I am not alone with those who want to get out there and start getting things started. April is certainly going to be a busy month. Groton road race, Squannacook Canoe race, Boston Marathon, NEAR-Fest. Of course, this all leads up to more and more. I'm looking forward to it. I hope you will too and participate in some of it.

It was great to have our division leader and section manager join us for our 60th anniversary meeting. I want to thank again Gordon and Pauline for that great cake. (The fire dept. liked it too!) Also, thanks to Bill Lyons W1LXE and Tom K1JHC for

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KB1LRL, W1HFN, N1MGO, KB1JXJ,
KT1I, W1BYH, N1QDX

bringing us some fine memorabilia. It would have been great if we had more people attend, but those that were there had a good time.

April's meeting will be our annual card sort. We have a bunch of cards ready to sort and we will spend the time sorting and we will have pizza afterwards. It is interesting to see all the different cards from around the world. Thanks to Stan, KD1LE and the NVARC group for the use of the bins and their time to help us out. As you know, they have a sort in October that we help with, so keep that in the memory bank for when the time comes.

I also want to put out a "Help wanted" sign. I am looking for 1, preferably 2 people who would be Net control for our Sunday morning net. This will be primarily a 5th Sunday and as a backup role should somebody be away or cannot do it on their day. You will get net time regardless.

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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 10 April, Groton MA
Groton Road Race

Saturday 16 April, Townsend MA
Squannacook Canoe and Kayak 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

The President's Corner

continued from previous page

If you are interested drop me a email or
contact me.

I guess that's about it for this month. I hope
to see you out there doing public service or
at the meeting. Take care and 73

Ray KB1LRL

VE Team Report

There was no license exam session in
March. The next exam session is scheduled
for April 27.

The MARA Volunteer Exam Team sched-
ules 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
scheduled session. Walk-ins will be
accepted if the session is held.

Contact Paul KD1YH at 978.597.6535 to
preregister.

New Member KB1UVP

Welcome to new member Kenneth Bailey
KB1UVP of Lunenburg.

Ken submitted his membership application
between the March and April meetings.

The MARA W1/GaZette

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Annual Dues: Regular \$25
Family \$30
Fixed income \$15
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September to June

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Charlie Cayen, KT1I kt1i@arrl.net	Trustee

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

March Meeting Report

Minutes of the March 2011 Meeting
of the
Montachusett Amateur Radio Club

de Barry W1HFN

The meeting was called to order at 7:30. Those in attendance were: President, Ray KB1LRL; Vice-President, Bill N1UZ; Treasurer, Gordon N1MGO; Secretary, Barry-W1HFN and Al KB1TNN, Tom K1JHC, Tim KQ1Y, Tom AB1GF, Gary K1YTS, Ed N1EJH, Charlie KT1I; Bob KB1JZU; Mickey WB1GFZ; Walter K1CMF; Paul N1QDX; Ralph KD1SM and our special guests from the ARRL, Tom Frenaye K1KI and Ed Emco W1KT.

The usual business meeting procedures were waived due to this being the 60th Anniversary Celebration get-together. However, due to its relevance, 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.

Gary K1YTS mentioned that the annual Townsend Canoe Race will be held on April 16th, operators needed as per usual.

Tom Frenaye K1KI, the New England Division Director from ARRL congratulated the MARA on our 60 years as a club. He had a copy of a 1961 QST and read some excerpts, operating news, items for sale, etc. Very relevant and informative. He also mentioned the bill before Congress, HR607 which appears to threaten the Amateur Service allocations in the 450MHz band and urged us to contact our reps in our opposition.

Ed Emco W1KT, the Western MA Section Manager from ARRL also congratulated us on 60 years. He also gave some comments on the cost of living then, gasoline 19 cents a gallon, etc. In addition, he mentioned some historic firsts on that era.

At the Q&A session after their talks, Bill N1UZ queried Tom about the state of ham radio today. He answered as to the growth of the hobby, the parts of the country where EMCOM is most relevant which helps fuel that growth and the attrition rate. Ham radio needs 2500 newcomers per year to offset the attrition. We get 2600, so are ahead of the game. Tom K1JHC asked about D-Star. Tom mentioned he had no first-hand experience in the mode, but did see its uses.

At 8PM the formal meeting was recessed for coffee and cake (thank you Pauline) and general socializing.

Several boxes of VERY old documentation from the original radio clubs, were displayed on tables at the rear of the room. Old newsletters hand typed with carbon copies, mimeograph copies, etc, all relics of a bygone era.



Above: Tom Frenaye K1KI (center) helps celebrate 60 years of Amateur Radio in the Montachusett region.

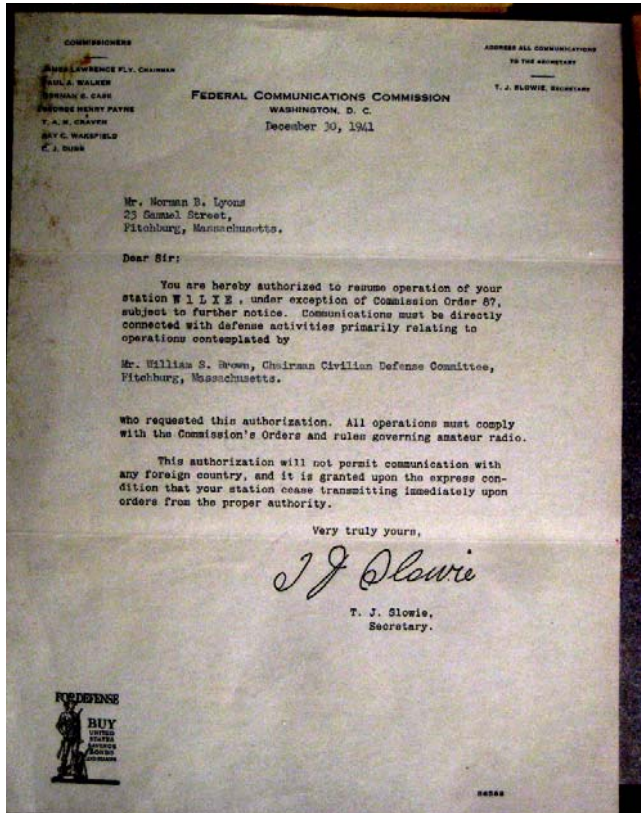


Left: an array of Club newsletters dating from the 1930s from the W1LXE library.

KD1SM photos

Below: A 1936 newspaper article describing the role of Amateur Radio in recovery from the '36 floods. Courtesy W1LXE





Top left: December 1941 authorization for W1LXE to resume radio transmission during WW II.

Above: Newspaper articles about Field Day 1946.

Bottom left: K1JHC shows a retirement gift he received from Simonds Saw -- a sculpture of the W1GZ Green Zebra logo.

Below: 1940 and 1946 Boston Hamfest souvenir pins.



KD1SM photos

MARA 60th Anniversary Special Event Station

Thanks to all who participated, the MARA Special Event Station celebrating our 60th year was a success. We made 300 QSOs on 10,15,20,40 and 75 meters using phone, RTTY and PSK31. So far I have received about 50 QSL cards for the event. It would not have happened without the generous participation of the following operators:

Paul N1QDX, John KK1X, Ray KB1LRL, Gordon N1MGO, Norm W1BYH, Barry W1HFN, Tim KQ1Y, Pauline KB1JXJ, Tom AB1GF, Gary, K1YTS, and Charlie KT1I

Charlie KT1I



Above: Gordon N1MGO at one operating position

Below: Pauline KB1JXJ at the mic.

photos courtesy N1MGO and KB1JXJ



Below: Paul N1QDX at his station.

photo courtesy N1QDX



Above: Gary K1YTS operates at N1MGO.

Below: Tom AB1GF and Charlie KT1I relax during operations at N1MGO.

photos courtesy N1MGO and KB1JXJ





Above: Barry W1HFN at his station.

photo courtesy W1HFN

Below: Norm W1BYH at his station.

photo courtesy W1BYH



**Hams Help When Phones Fail
at Southern California Hospital**

03/25/2011

By Joe Moell, K0OV

When nurses and other caregivers picked up their phones at Children's Hospital of

Orange County (CHOC) in California in the early morning on March 21, there was no dial tone. A power surge caused the central processor in the hospital's phone switch to fail. Following established procedures, the Lead Operator at the CHOC switchboard immediately activated the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS), using an off-switch tie-line to reach April Moell, WA6OPS, head of this ARES group that specializes in helping hospitals when their communications fail.

Moell established a 2 meter net and initiated a call-out of HDSCS members via telephone and pager. Two Hams soon arrived at the hospital to help establish a link with the outside world. Soon, more operators were at the hospital to communicate for its most important units, including the emergency department, neonatal intensive care, pediatric intensive care and the pharmacy.

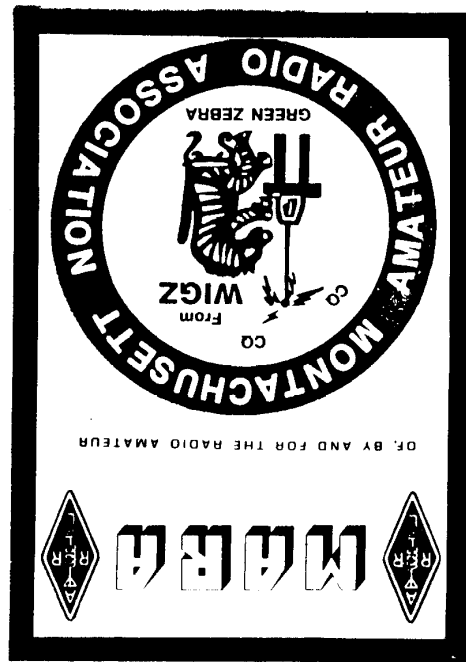
She then contacted the supervisor at Orange County Communications to report the outage and to provide her telephone number for incoming calls to CHOC.

By 10:45 AM, some phones were working, but spare parts were on their way from a supplier. HDSCS continued to provide unit-to-unit and hospital-to-community messaging as needed, including coordination of patient treatments and a request for blood.

This is the 31st year of HDSCS service to medical facilities in Orange County and the 114th activation to provide communications support when telephones have failed or overloaded. The reasons for HDSCS involvement have ranged from equipment failure, to cut cables, to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and wildfires. .

From the ARRL Letter

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2011-03-31>



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