



## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, January 11  
7:30PM  
Lunenburg Public Library**

**“WRTC 2014”  
Doug Grant K1DG**

Happy New Year everyone. The January meeting program will be a presentation on the World Radiosport Team Championships (WRTC) 2014.

The World Radiosport Team Championship is held every four years and consists of 50 to 60 two-person teams of amateur radio operators competing in a test of operating skill. Each team uses identical antennas and operates from the “same” location.

Previous WRTCs have been held in Seattle (1990), San Francisco (1996), Slovenia (2000), Finland (2002), Brazil (2006), and Russia (2010). WRTC 2014 will be held in the New England area. Doug Grant K1DG has competed in several WRTCs, including the first in 1990, and is one of the organizers of WRTC 2014. He will explain how the event will run and the many challenges in finding sites in New England that meet the strict criteria for a WRTC.

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## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, W1HFN

## President's Corner

Hello, Happy New Year! Does everyone agree with me and say that 2011 kind of whizzed by? Hopefully 2012 will be a little slower and we can kind of kick back and enjoy it more. We were certainly met with some challenges this year and hopefully we were able to meet them head on and rise to the occasion.

2011 gave us a lot to deal with. A tornado in Springfield, Hurricane Irene, A freak snowstorm in October, and a lot of fires, especially one that canceled Longsjo this year. I think with the New Year, I should recognize some individuals who have put forth an effort to be available in some capacity to assist in disaster assistance whether it is with ham radio or not. If I missed anyone forgive me.

*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/>

**Saturday, February 18, Marlboro**  
Algonquin Radio Club Hamfest, Marlboro  
Middle School

**Sunday, March 25, Framingham**  
Framingham Hamfest, Keefe Tech  
For more events, see the New England Area Ham -  
Electronic Flea Market list at  
<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

## President's Corner

*continued from previous page*

Ralph KD1SM. His tireless efforts with the Red Cross have put a strain on his time and has resulted in the newsletter not getting out. This is not a dig on that by no means, it means he has been a very busy person manning shelters, and responding to incidents that require his being there to help out the victims. Jeanine N1QIT has been in the thick of it as well manning shelters during the storms, etc.

Charlie KT1I was manning a shelter in Templeton during the storms for CERT.

Tim KQ1Y and Jerry AA2T has been manning communications in Leominster Emer. Mgmt.

Bill N1UZ for manning Westminster Emer. Mgmt.

Gordon N1MGO for his efforts in getting the IRLP links operational to enhance communications by linking Gardner and Athol to provide greater coverage along Rt2.

Barry W1HFN and Paul N1QDX and others for backing me up on the net during the storms.

Hopefully I got everyone, Thank you for all you do!

I wanted to get this out to at least get those recognized. I can go on further but I may have limited space. I will, say though, come to the meetings, you may learn something. I have been working on things to educate and teach and getting others to do so as well!

73 Ray KB1LRL

## 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.

## October Meeting Report

de Barry W1HFN

Minutes of the MARA club meeting for 12 Oct 2011

The meeting was called to order by the president at 7:30PM.

Those in attendance were: Ray KB1LRL, Bill N1UZ, Gordon N1MGO, Barry W1HFN, Charlie KT1I, Al KB1TNN, Paul KD1YH, Tim KQ1Y, Norm W1BYH, John KK1X, Ed N1EJH, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, Greco KB1TKD, Mickey W1IY and Paul WB1EWS. Introductions were made.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the MARA newsletter.

Treasurer's report: balance of \$1274.14 with \$132.50 in the repeater fund. Income from today's raffle \$25.00.

The attendance (or lack thereof) was reported by the Johnny Appleseed Net Controller, Ed N1EJH. There are not too many checkins; N1EJH, W1IY, K1YTS, KQ1Y, N1QDX and W1HFN from our club have checked in from time to time.

The MARA club was invited to join NVARC in their QSL card sort on 20 Oct in Pepperell.

The IRLP project is nearing completion, the needed radio and coax adapter was acquired and hopefully will be operational soon.

Ray KB1LRL presented us with a two part quiz show. Questions from the license exam

were put before the attendees and spirited discussions followed. Ray promised more of these in the future.

Our “guest speaker” was Mickey W1IY, who showed us how he built off-center fed dipoles. Most of the components were hardware store items, only the balun and insulators from ham suppliers. It covered 10-80 meters, made of #14THHN house wire and had a short length of 44’ 8” and longer side of 78’ 8”. The antenna to be one of the raffle prizes.

The raffle made \$25.00 for the treasury. There were two prizes, a nifty pocket knife and a just manufactured off center fed dipole built by Mickey W1IY. The knife won by W1HFN and the OCFD by Paul KD1YH.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and passed at 2045.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barry W1HFN  
Secretary

## November Meeting Report

de Barry W1HFN

### MINUTES OF THE MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

9 November 2011

The meeting was called to order by Ray, KB1LRL at 1940. Those in attendance were: Ray KB1LRL, Ed N1EJH, Gordon N1MGO, Barry W1HFN, Charlie KT1I, John KK1X, Tom K1JHC, Al KB1TNN,

Gary K1YTS, Paul KD1YH, and Paul N1QDX.

The Treasurer reports an ending balance of \$1348.31, \$157.50 of which is in the repeater fund. \$200.00 was donated to the Friends of the Library in appreciation for the use of the Library. Eight dollars was added to the treasury from the 50/50 raffle.

There was a very low turnout for this meeting, only 11 members attended. Suggestions were taken from the floor on how to do a better job of spreading the word. One of which was doing a PSA on the local cable access channels for Fit and Leo.

The Christmas Party / December meeting will be held on 4Dec at the Bootlegger’s, as it was last year. The price per person will be \$20.00, with any difference being made up from the club treasury. Payment can be in advance or at the door. Choices will be prime rib, haddock or chicken. A salad and veggies will be included. We will also have the always-popular Yankee Swap, max value of \$20.00. Swap items are not limited to being radio-related; XYLS are welcome to bring whatever suits their fancy.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Sunday 2M MARA net. Anyone interested, please contact any of the current Net Controllers; KB1LRL, N1MGO or W1HFN.

There was a Q&A session with three questions, two taken from the General Class list and the other from the Extra Class. A spirited discussion revolved around the answers.

The 50/50 raffle was held, the winner being Tom K1JHC. Fifteen dollars was raised.



After the raffle, a presentation on the capabilities of the Array Solutions AIM 4170C antenna analyzer was given by Barry W1HFN and was well received (I hope).

A motion was made and carried to adjourn at 2040.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry W1HFN  
Secretary

## December Meeting

The December meeting was briefly called and adjourned on Sunday, December 4 at Bootlegger's Restaurant in Lunenburg. Following the very brief meeting a holiday feast was consumed.



The function room has been remodeled since 2010.



Paul N1QDX  
and MaryAnn



Above: Tom AB1GF, Al KB1TNN, Ray KB1LRL, and Chatmon WA1FIA



Above: Mary, Mickey W1IY, and Al



Above: Walt K1CMF, Paul KD1YH, and Patty

all photos by KD1SM



Above: John  
KK1X and Peg  
Right: Jeanine  
N1QIT and Ray  
KB1LRL



Dessert time! Walter beats Paul to the  
plate offered by Pauline



Left:  
Norm  
W1BYH  
and  
Barry  
W1HFN



Post-dessert entertainment --  
the Yankee Swaps await

Right:  
Charlie KT1I  
and  
Caroline Rivers



Left: Pauline  
KB1JXJ and  
Gordon N1MGO  
prepare to  
circulate with  
desserts



gifts small and large eagerly  
extracted from their wrappings





Walt tears in while Charlie feigns disinterest



It's a swap! Paul wants what Pauline has.



Above: Walt and Paul pay close attention to Charlie's selection; will he keep whatever it is?

Below: each unwrapping has a watchful audience



And Norm doesn't plan to let Barry go home with those DX maps



Barry did get to keep a W1GZ cap



And Mickey was tagged with a special star



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