



## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, March 14**  
**7:30PM**  
**Lunenburg Public Library**  
**Rob Macedo KD1CY**  
**“SKYWARN and ARES”**

The March MARA meeting will feature a presentation by Rob Macedo KD1CY on the SKYWARN program and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Rob is the ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator for Eastern Massachusetts and has coordinated the SKYWARN Amateur Radio program in Massachusetts for many years.

The meeting will be in the Wallace Room of the Lunenburg Public Library.

## President's Corner

Hi there, I thought I was hearing the distant sounds of birds chirping and flowers growing. But It really was the sounds of plows and sanders...Darn! Oh well, we know spring is just around the corner and just the word, March, just gets us a little anxious for the warm weather once again.

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## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, W1HFN

Not that we had a tough winter this year...whew!

Spring usually is the time we start looking at getting some things going that we cannot do or procrastinate in the winter months. I have actually starting to ramp up on some things and am finding my weekends are starting to fill up. There are a bunch of things coming up and lots for all to do. Stay tuned as things draw near.

If you haven't been to the meetings lately you are missing out on some good stuff. We had the organizers of the 2014 World Radio competition here and it looks as if Sholan Farms in Leominster will be a site for some of the competition which is a treat for us. Consider helping out when the time comes. This is a great plug for ham radio in our community. We also had a tutorial on the IRLP link and how it works which now

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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

**Nightly, 2100 local 146.97-**  
Central Mass Traffic Net

**First Wednesday, 2000 local 3915**  
K1ARC Red Cross Net  
<http://www.qsl.net/k1arc/>

**Sunday March 25, Framingham MA**  
Framingham Hamfest; Keefe Tech

**Sunday April 15, Cambridge MA**  
Flea at MIT

**Fri & Sat May 4&5, Deerfield NH**  
NEAR-Fest

**Saturday 16 June, Brookline NH**  
New England Antique Radio Club

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

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works great and we have had Bill NZ1D  
check in from Florida and Tim KQ1Y  
calling from Sweden. We have been getting  
some good meetings together, so as one car  
dealer says, "Come on down!"

There will be the usual things coming up  
soon, Field day, Card sort, and elections.  
Election nominations are in May and the  
election is June. Your club needs you so  
consider stepping up and taking on being  
part of the organization. Along with organi-  
zation, please make sure your dues are up  
to date. If not, do so soon.

That's it for now, hope to see you at the  
upcoming meeting

73 Ray KB1LRL

## VE Sessions

The MARA Volunteer Exam Team  
conducted the scheduled exam session on  
January 25. One candidate earned a new  
Technician license. KK1X, K1JHC,  
N1HVA, K1YTS, KD1YH, and KD1SM  
were the Volunteer Examiners.

The February session was canceled due to a  
schedule conflict.

The March session is scheduled for  
Wednesday, March 28. All levels of  
examination are available. Candidates  
should preregister with Paul KD1YH at  
978.597.6535 or [phupham@verizon.net](mailto:phupham@verizon.net).

## The MARA W1/GaZette

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### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

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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  
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### OFFICERS:

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

## January Meeting Report

Minutes of the Jan 2012 Meeting  
of the  
Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

The meeting was called to order by the president at 7:30PM. Those in attendance were: Ray KB1LRL, Norm W1BYH, Charlie KT1I, Gordon N1MGO, John KK1X, Ken KB1UVP, Gary K1YTS, Paul KD1YH, Al KB1TNN, Tom K1JHC, Tim KQ1Y, Barry W1HFN, our newest member Chris KB1WKI and two guest speakers, Doug K1DG and Dave KM3T.

Chris KB1WKI was introduced as our newest member and was made to feel welcome.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the previous months minutes as posted in the club newsletter. The Treasurers report was made: balance for Nov-Dec is \$1467.18 with \$155.65 in the repeater fund. The club members paid \$440 towards the cost of the Christmas Party dinner which was \$664.13. The club paid the balance out of the treasury of \$224.13.

Paul KD1YH gave a short synopsis of the status of the IRLP setup.

Ray KB1LRL gave his now-famous Q&A session out of the General Class question pool. Tim KQ1Y got both correct.

The raffle netted \$18 to the club, a nice folding knife and notepad as the prize.

Our guest speaker, Doug K1DG, gave a presentation of the upcoming 2014 WRTC event. It included a video and PP

presentation. Very informative and very well received. The dates are 8 - 14 July 2014, the sites are all hopefully to be located within a 25 mile circle of Central MA. A request was made for volunteers for this event and eventually even financial support.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:36 and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry W1HFN  
Secretary

## February Meeting Report

Minutes of the February 2012 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, Gary K1YTS, Charlie KT1I, Norm W1BYH, Paul N1QDX, Paul KD1YH and Ken KB1UVP.

Treasurer's report: income of \$92.00, expenses of \$96.00 and an ending balance of \$1463.18.

The World Radiosport Team Championship for 2014 was discussed. Sholan Farms has agreed to the use of their land on Pleasant St in Leominster for the event. Local clubs assisting in this event are eligible to acquire the towers, antennas, generators, etc. at a good price. While 2014 is a ways off, the club will most likely help out.

Paul N1QDX, was welcomed as our new MEN net control for the first Sunday of the month and did a great job in his first time out.

The Townsend Canoe Race date is TBD, Gary K1YTS will keep us informed as to particulars for that event. Gary also mentioned that our reservation for Mt Wachusett has to be made early, just to get "penciled in" on their calendar.

Tom K1JHC mentioned new rules to go into effect regarding the 60 Meter band. Some discussion followed.

Norm W1BYH mentioned the New England QSO Party on May 5&6. Maybe the club could participate? That is also the dates of NEARFEST.

Gordon N1MGO announced the CQ WPX RTTY contest the weekend of Feb 11&12. All are invited to his QTH to observe and/or participate.

Gordon also gave a presentation on the use and functions of the IRLP system. Very informative and many questions followed.

Ray KB1LRL showed a ham radio video put out by the ARRL. Very good PR info, Ray is hoping to get it on the Fit and Leo Public Access TV channels.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry W1HFN  
Secretary

*Ed. update: the Townsend Squannacook canoe and kayak race date is Saturday 14 April.*

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## Convalescing

Charlie KT1I was in hospital in Worcester but is now released and recuperating with Dave WN1E.

Charlie welcomes email from Club members.

We wish you well, Charlie.

## MA RACES Evolving

At a meeting of Amateur Radio operators in the Massachusetts Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (MA RACES) on Saturday February 25 Mike Neilsen W1MPN, Acting Massachusetts State RACES Radio Officer, outlined a process that will lead to changes in the RACES program in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

These changes accompany a reevaluation by Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency of its own needs for fallback communications support.

Mike told the meeting that the specific details of the new structure for support of MEMA's needs by Amateur Radio operators are still being worked out. Mike outlined some of the many considerations that are influencing the new organizational structure. He reported that a general announcement will be made once the details have been agreed by MEMA and the Amateur Radio emergency communications leadership headed by himself, Rob Macedo KD1CY Eastern Massachusetts ARES SEC and John Ruggiero N2YHK Western Massachusetts ARES SEC. Stay tuned!

## Townsend Squannacook Canoe and Kayak Race

The Townsend Lion's Club will hold its annual Squannacook River Canoe and Kayak race on Saturday April 14.

ARES operators have supported this event for several years, providing coverage at a dozen strategic points along the river course from the VFW in West Townsend to Harbor Pond. Over 100 canoes and kayaks typically enter into this event.

The radio operators track each of the race participants from start to finish allowing the event organizers to dispatch assistance if needed more rapidly and to the part of the river where it may be needed.

Interested operators should contact Gary K1YTS to learn more.

## Groton Road Race

The 21st Annual Groton Road Race is scheduled for Sunday, April 29. This event consists of a 5k and 10k foot race along starting down Main Street in Groton and continuing along scenic back roads to return to the starting point. Over a thousand runners participate in this event.

ARES operators have supported the Groton Road Race since the second year. We provide vital communications links between the several public safety agencies who assist the Groton Police Department with traffic control for this event.

Interested operators should contact Ralph KD1SM to learn more.



Montachusett Amateur Radio Association  
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