



Next Meeting

**Wednesday, June 13
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Library
Annual Elections**

Presidents Corner

Hi all. The expression of time flies when you're having fun certainly rings true in a lot of aspects in life and also in good and bad. I have looked back to the time I joined the club when I did not have a callsign. At that time I did not even see myself being your leader for four years. I have thought long and hard over the last few months and decided to step aside as the president. I do not like to use the term "burnt out" because that is not true in this case. I am not letting it get to that point. I have gained valuable skills and experience and truly appreciate the opportunity to have served the club in this capacity. So, Thank you all. But, I'm not going to sit in a corner and watch. I will still contribute to the club and in some cases be a pain in someone's "you know what" I also want to thank from the bottom of my heart to all those who supported me

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, AA2T

and assisted me in my duties during that time.

With that being said it is time to open up nominations for elections for officers for the upcoming year. Norm, W1BYH, Tom K1JHC, and Gary K1YTS will again be the election committee. Any club member is welcome and encouraged to put your name in for any of the positions we have as long as you are a member in good standing with current dues paid. Two positions will be open. My position as President and the Vice President as Ed N1EJH has some health issues which require further treatment and does not want to continue in this role. As I said in the past, this is your club, be a part of it. Elections will be held at the next meeting in June.

Again, Thanks to all of you for allowing me to serve you.

73, Ray KB1LRL

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 16 June, Brookline NH
New England Antique Radio Club

Sunday 17 June, Cambridge MA
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April-October

24-26 August, Boxborough MA
ARRL New England Convention

For more events, see the New England Area
Ham - Electronic Flea Market list at
<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

VE Team Report

The Volunteer Exam Team has conducted
three license exam sessions thus far in 2012
with the largest session in several years
taking place in May. A total of seven candi-
dates have been served at these sessions.

Four new Technician Class licenses, two
General Class licenses, and one Extra Class
license have been earned.

Volunteer Examiners Tom K1JHC, Gary
K1YTS, Paul KD1YH, John KK1X, Don
N1HVA, Gordon N1MGO, and Ralph
KD1SM have made these sessions possible.

The Volunteer Exam Team schedules
sessions for the fourth Wednesday of every
month at the Lunenburg Senior Center, 25
Memorial Drive, Lunenburg MA.

The June session is scheduled for
Wednesday, June 27. All levels of
examination are available. Candidates
should preregister with Paul KD1YH at
978.597.6535 or phupham@verizon.net. If
no candidates have pre-registered by the
Saturday prior to the scheduled session the
session will be canceled.

Don't Forget:

Field Day - June 23 & 24

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.

May Meeting Report

de Barry W1HFN

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

9 May 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Ray KB1LRL. Those in attendance were: Ray KB1LRL, Paul KB1WUG, John KK1X, Al KB1TNN, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, Norm W1BYH, Walter K1CMF, Gordon N1MGO, Bob KB1JZU, Pete K1PLH, Paul KD1YH, our guest speakers Jerry AA2T and Charles Coggins "H2O" and our newest member, Nelson KB1WYD.

Treasurer's report: ending balance for the month of April is \$1343.18 and \$182.50 in the repeater fund.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as posted on the club newsletter.

Technical committee reports the computer failure for the IRLP system has been rectified (a little electronic pun there), the PC power supply had died and has been replaced. The system is operational again.

We welcomed our newest member, Nelson, KB1WYD from Somerville. Welcome to the fascinating world of amateur radio and to the MARA.

Several club members reported going to NEARFEST and having a good time. The secretary gave a report on the "falling derrick" system of tower erection for the WRTC event in 2014 which was demonstrated at NEARFEST. There will be a test

station set up at Sholan Farms during the IARU contest in July. Tom K1JHC, is our club liaison with the WRTC committee for that site. If enough space is available, there may be two stations set up at Sholan Farms for the WRTC event.

We are all eagerly awaiting Boxborough in August and NEARFEST in Oct.

A nominating committee has been named to come up with a slate of candidates for the next year. The members are; Norm W1BYH, Tom K1JHC and Gary K1YTS. Due to health issues, Ed N1EJH, our Vice President, has declined to run again. Our President, Ray KB1LRL, has also decided to take a sabbatical.

After a ten minute break, our guest speaker, Charles Coggins head of Leominster Emergency Management gave a talk on what the team does and hopes to do in the future. Jerry AA2T presented the ham radio aspect of the team. They both stressed the fact that radio operators were needed and we were all welcome to participate.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:52, seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry W1HFN
Secretary MARA

Leominster Emergency Management Update

de Jerry AA2T

As a follow up to the May meeting, I wanted to update the membership as to what has been happening. For one the facilities are still coming along. The training room and several offices are done that are across from the EOC since I believe MARA met there. There is a full kitchen now installed which has a partially finished dining area. The walls are up in the Cedar Street and there are plans for a small amphitheater for training as well as clean and dry storage rooms that are used for cots right now.

The membership is up to 90 people at this point and we have mainly expanded in the sheltering area. We still have EMS, Water Rescue, Rehab (Canteen), Comms and Admin groups. We are organized per NIMs. Charlie Coggins has been our supporter for years now ever since we provided communications for the Molly Bish incident. We have upgraded the station to a Icom 2820 (vhf/uhf) and for the Icom 706 we have an AL811H and tuner. We have an SCS Pactor 3 modem as well as setup for sound card modes. For antennas we have an off center fed dipole for 75M on the tower and an R6000. We are working on a major IT expansion at this time and we hope to follow that up with some ideas in terms of beefing up the Ham Radio side. On the other hand if there is a MARA member with antenna restrictions, being a member you can use the station we have.

There are new relaxed requirements for membership in Leominster OEM. Full time volunteers are expected to give 4 hours a

month only and have to go in front of the city council. We have a new category of volunteer called an "on call" volunteer. These would fit most of the Ham Community however we would like to keep your contact info on file.

The Sheltering area is where we need the most help from the Ham Radio Community. We generally have Southeast school open for sheltering during major storms, followed by the other schools if need be. Most of the elderly housing does not have backup power so especially in winter, we maybe opening up several schools at one time. We can do an ARES callup however for on scene or at shelter posts now require a minimal CORI check done by Leominster OEM. We do the check internally, no external company is used. All records are locked on site and privacy is of utmost concern. So I recommend that MARA members contact us for either a full time or an "on-call" position to assist.

Glad to help with a tour and meeting with interested parties. Charlie is out on medical leave until May 21, however I will be glad to help as well.

Contact info:

Charlie Coggins
CCoggins@Leominster-MA.gov
978-534-5780

Jerry Rogich
aa2t@arrl.net
978-534-1867

Using the IRLP Link:

Route 2 Corridor Linked Repeater Project

After many years of discussion, the "Route 2 Corridor Linked Repeater System" is now a reality. Thanks to the work of Gordon N1MGO, Paul KD1YH, Ray KB1LRL, Paul W1SEX, and others, the Fitchburg 145.45, Gardner 145.37, and Athol 147.39 repeaters are now linked via the Internet. The repeaters can be unlinked but will return automatically to the linked state after 10 minutes of idle time.

The Fitchburg node can also be accessed directly over Echolink.

Due to the additional delays imposed by the Internet link, participants in QSOs on different repeaters should leave a 2-second pause between carrier drop and key-up to allow the links to turn around. Also, a 1 to 2 second pause after key down may be necessary to avoid losing the first couple of syllables across the link.

The following instructions for the use of the IRLP and Echolink linking capability have been posted on the W1GZ Web site:

Notice!! no tail or beep, this a requirement.

Remember to pause, listen and pause again

To Connect:

- Listen to be sure the frequency is clear
- Key up W1GZ repeater, announce your id and that you are bringing up the link, e.g.;

"YOUR CALL connecting", then pause

- Enter C, 0, * (i.e., "C+ 0+ star"), un-key and wait for response
- Enter the requested node's four digit code, e.g.; 9123 connects to the New-Eng gateway
- Pause for 10 seconds, then announce your call; e.g.; "YOUR CALL listening"

To Disconnect:

- Enter D, 1, * (i.e., "D+ 1+ star")

Notice!! no tail or beep, this a requirement

Hi,

I have finished the work on the IRLP node and installed ECHOLINK software, so our node is now a dual node. You can connect to the ECHOLINK side by using echolink software or nodes to connect to W1GZ-R (node number 688832).

The incoming ECHOLINK server will allow up to 8 simultaneous connections.

You can also use the repeater to connect out to echolink nodes the same way you would IRLP nodes.

USING DTMF tones:

Send "C0*" unkey, wait for the announcement

If IRLP node:

- Send the 4 digit node number

If ECHOLINK node:

- Send # plus the node number

To end the call send "73" or "D1*" to bring the link down and return the repeater to normal.

Have fun!

Groton Road Race Wrap

MARA members Rick AB1PM, Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Nancy KB1KEF, Ray KB1LRL, Chris KB1WKI, Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X, and Tim KQ1Y joined 35 other Amateur Radio operators on Sunday April 29 for the Groton Road Race.

This annual event is sponsored by the Squannacook River Runners and draws more than a thousand runners to Groton.

Amateur Radio plays a vital communications role as public safety officials from many different agencies converge on Groton with their own independent and non-interoperable radio systems. Although the Middlesex County Sheriff's communications command post has also been on-site the past several years, the first line of communication around the course is via Amateur Radio.

In addition to the two dozen critical points around the 5k and 10 courses radio operators also shadow key race officials to keep them in contact with each other and with events on the course. A parking detail in the first two hours of the day helps guide race participants and spectators to the off-site parking locations and the shuttle buses back to the event site.



above and below: Tim KQ1Y tracked the last runners in both the 5k and 10k races.



above: Stan KD1LE maintains one of the two the Net Control operating positions as the 10k runners pass Checkpoint 2 at Champney Street heading down Main Street in Groton.

It was crisp in the shade with a breeze.

KD1SM photos



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