



Next Meeting

**Wednesday, 12 September
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Library**

We hope that all MARA members and your families had a good summer.

MARA's monthly meetings resume from the summer break with an encore presentation from Dennis Marandos K1LGQ on the activities of the New England QRP Club.
<http://newenglandqrp.org/>

QRP is the art and science of communicating at reduced power levels. While all Amateur Radio operation is required to "use the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications" [§ 97.313], QRP enthusiasts set a maximum transmitter output of 5 watts and focus effort on the rest of their station to successfully communicate around the world. Dennis is a longtime QRP evangelist and will likely bring several examples of receivers and transmitters, both kit and commercial.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QRP_operation

The September MARA meeting is scheduled for our usual meeting location in the Wallace Room of the Lunenburg Public Library. The October meeting location is still to be determined as the Library is not available on the night of that month's meeting.

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, AA2T, W1HFN, NZ1D,
K1JHC, AB1GF, KB1JXJ

President's Corner

Hi, what I want to know is this, WHERE DID THE SUMMER GO? Wow, were we busy. I think the term "slow down" is only to get out of warp speed. Many activities and events were in the program this year and some of us took full advantage of them, and while doing them we were working on elevating ourselves from "medium to well done" in the sun exposure department.

The nice thing out of all this is we were able to get together and learn new things and demonstrate to others what we can do in this hobby. I sincerely want to see this as a foundation to build on and strengthen as a group and grow as a club as a result.

As you know, I have returned as your president of the club and the task at hand is

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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-, 145.37-
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

Sunday 16 September, Cambridge MA
Flea at MIT; third Sunday April to October

Saturday 29 September, Brookline NH
NE Antique Radio Club

Fri & Sat, 12 & 13 October, Deerfield NH
NEAR-Fest <http://near-fest.com/>

Saturday 3 November, Londonderry NH
Interstate Repeater Society flea market

Additional ham fest and flea market infor-
mation can be found on the W1GSL New
England Area Ham - Electronic Flea
Market list at <http://www.swapfest.us>

President's Corner

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going to be challenging. So far I see a little encouragement as I have received some emails from people who want to take the test and join the club. A couple of people stepped up and got them in the right direction and gave them a warm invite. Another foundation to work on! We need to have interesting things to present at the club, and this will be the big challenge. An active club has a wealth of talent that can contribute to club activities and this can help maintain an active interest with newcomers and keep the spark alive. We cannot let mold grow within. People (not cricket's) can certainly give me suggestions anytime.

We still have a lot of weather left and activities to partake in. Invite someone, demonstrate something, learn something. Like Nike said "Just do it", but do it ham-style! Hope to see you at the meeting.

73, Ray KB1LRL

VE Team Report

The MARA Volunteer Examiner team conducted Amateur Radio licensing exam sessions in June and August for six individuals. One Technician Class, four General Class, and one Extra Class license were earned.

Thanks to Volunteer Examiners Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Paul KD1YH, John KK1X, Charlie KT1I, Gordon N1MGO, and Ralph KD1SM for holding these sessions.

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.

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Club Secretary: Barry Fox W1HFN
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.

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

The September session is scheduled for 26 September. All levels of examination are available. Candidates should pre-register 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.

Leominster Shelter Drill 9/22 ARES Support Request

On September 22 starting at 8:30am, Leominster Emergency Management will run a shelter drill using one of the local schools. The drill will consist of delivery of equipment using a trailer with facility items such as cots. There will be EMS and safety people on hand as well as a handful of folks that will be evaluating the drill.

Last time we had a drill and an actual event one of the largest issues was communications. Personnel were tied up with duties and would leave the radio or let the battery go dead. This time we need to staff with skill ham operators. The drill should last only until the early afternoon. We are looking to staff from the community as part of the drill.

If we could get 4-5 folks, that would be great and we could in turn have shorter shifts for the volunteers from the ham radio community.

Thanks Jerry AA2T

June Meeting Report

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

13 June 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Ray KB1LRL. Those in attendance were: Ray KB1LRL, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, Norm W1BYH, Gordon N1MGO, Paul KD1YH, Tom AB1GF, Ralph KD1SM, Jim AD1L, Giulio KB1TKD and Barry W1HFN. There was no guest speaker.

There was no Treasurer's report, previous months report can be found in the May newsletter. The Treasurer read a letter from the Townsend Lion's Club thanking us for our support of the recent canoe race and enclosing a check for \$30.00 for our general fund. The ARRL QSL sorting director also sent us a \$40.00 ARRL gift certificate in appreciation of our sorting efforts.

Field Day: The permits were acquired 12 June, questions were raised about parking. It is assumed we will use the same area as last year. Gary K1YTS is the porta-potty person and Paul KD1YH will be chef de cuisine.

It was decided that in spite of the low attendance we did have a quorum for elections. Ray, Gordon and Barry volunteered to stay on for another year. Tom AB1GF was nominated to fill the Vice President position vacated by Ed N1EJH. It was proposed that the Secretary cast one vote to elect the slate and was done so.

There was much discussion on the lack of enthusiasm of the club in general. What

can be done to get the interest and participation level raised. Jim AD1L proposed more get-togethers, not just monthly club meetings, maybe to model and build antennas. Attempts were made in the past to interest the local Boy Scout troops, to no avail, maybe that should be tried again. It is basically a general interest club, but there are so many niche segments to the hobby, it is hard to get everyone interested in all subjects.

The Lunenburg town meeting failed to pass a budget override; hence the library may not be a viable meeting place for next year's meetings. Pauline KB1JXJ will contact the library and get more information. Our backup plan is hopefully the Lunenburg Police/Fire Station. Ralph KD1SM to be the liaison person.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:45, seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry W1HFN
Secretary MARA

Boy Scout Expo 9/15 Volunteers Needed

We are invited once again to put on a radio demonstration at the Boy Scout expo on September 15 at Carter park in Leominster. I want to see who would be willing to assist in setting up and promoting Amateur radio in our community. Let me know if you can assist in this also.

Ray KB1LRL

Malcom Coburn, N1RF SK

de NZ1D

Mal Coburn, N1RF (ex K1DKB) of Ashburnham died August 13, age 76. Mal was a founding member and first Secretary-Treasurer of the Montachusett Repeater Association, Inc., formed in the summer of 1974. A primary purpose of the club was "to operate and maintain a radio repeater." The MRA members put up the first 2 meter repeater in our area, officially licensed on September 27, 1974 as WR1AEK. The repeater, which originally ran with a 1 MHz split on 147.46/146.46, made its first "on air" operation on November 9 of that year when Ellis, W1GUI (SK) made the first contact with the crew at the repeater site. A duplexer was added 4 months later.

Some of our old-timers will remember Mal and the MRA. Many of the MRA's 42 charter members held dual membership in the Montachusett Amateur Radio Club (e.g., Norm W1BYH, was MRA charter member #25). About 1977, about the time that the repeater moved to the current frequency pair, club members started the 2-meter Montachusett Repeater Emergency Net. The two clubs merged in 1980 to form the current Montachusett Amateur Radio Association. After the merger, the name was shortened to the Montachusett Emergency Net. Thus the WR1AEK repeater can claim the distinction of being both the forerunner of our current W1GZ repeater and our Sunday morning net.

Mal was also involved with Bob W1OBU (SK) and his 220 MHz repeater. After the Hi-Par Products company founder Henry Hirvonen W1NEV, of Fitchburg, became SK, Mal took over the Hi-Par antenna product line, focusing primarily on the Musak business.

Field Day 2012

Field Day is a nationwide exercise conducted annually in June to test the ability of Amateur Radio Operators to setup, operate, and stow a full communication post where no facilities (antennas, antenna supports, electricity) exist.

photos de KD1SM



Above: The MARA Field Day site at the summit of Mt. Wachusett. The stations are the arc of vehicles below (to the south of) the new fire watch tower. The fire watch tower opened a few weeks later with a public observation platform on its lower level.



Above: Ray KB1LRL, Tom AB1GF, and Bill NZ1D take some respite from the shade.

more photos next page

Many groups operate from Emergency Operations Centers as well as home stations to test existing communications facilities.

The test consists of exchanging a brief contact with as many other Field Day stations around the country in a 24-hour period from 2pm Saturday to 2pm Sunday.



Above: Nancy KB1KEF makes and logs a contact. Below: Thanks to perspective AB1GF's beam at 20' appears to dwarf the new fire tower.



WRTC 2012

de Tom K1JHC

The World Radiosport Team Championship will be held the second weekend of July in 2014. To prepare for this operation many test sites were held around Eastern Massachusetts this year. The MARA group backed a Station near the old bandstand at Sholan Farms. Much preparation was accomplished prior to the test run. First was getting all permits, and insurance. Meetings with Joanne Dinardo, Tom Frenaye, Conservation committee, and Mike Meehan the Farm Manager. Finally the week arrived.

On Friday KB1LRL went to Hudson NH to pick up the material K1JHC and KB1UVP arrived early to lay out the site. At noon Ray pulled up and the truck was unloaded. Tower construction took 6 hours because of poor alignment of the base pins. The generator was started and our operator Al Singer W2KW from NYC checked everything out. Security was kept through the night and the IARU Contest started at Saturday noon for 24 hours. Al operated for 22 hours with the following results

IARU HF World Championship QSOs
 Band CW Ph zones HQ Mults

	CW	Ph	zones	HQ Mults
160:				
80:	84	20	15	16
40:	91	39	24	17
20:	300	98	52	40
15:	91	65	39	29
10:	30	15	6	6
Totals	596	237	136	108
Total Score = 665,632				

photos on next page



Left: some of the Sholan Farms WRTC 2012 crew; (left to right) Tom K1JHC, Tim KQ1Y, Tom AB1GF, Gary K1YTS, Barry W1HFN, Ray KB1LRL, son of AB1PM, Rick AB1PM

photo courtesy KB1LRL



Above: Gary K1YTS, Ken KB1UVP, and Al N2KW assemble the tower.

photo courtesy KB1LRL



Above: the top of the tower is supported on a ladder while the rotator is installed.

photo courtesy AB1GF



The tower is raised using a "falling derrick" method; at left the winch rope goes over the vertical pole and down to the top of the tower. At right the derrick pole is horizontal.

photos courtesy AB1GF



Cookout

On Sunday August 19 Paul N1QDX and Mary Ann Doherty hosted the MARA members' cookout.



Above: Paul KD1YH and Patty.

Below: Charlie KT1I, Walt K1CMF, Gary K1YTS, Al KB1TNN

Bottom: Ray KB1LRL, Nancy KB1KEF, Barry W1HFN

photos courtesy KB1JXJ (top & bottom) and W1HFN (below)



Top: Paul N1QDX at the IR transmitter. Above: Barry W1HFN, MaryAnn, Ray KB1LRL. Below: Nancy KB1KEF, Gary K1YTS, Al KB1TNN, Charlie KT1I

photos courtesy KB1JXJ



Memory Ride for Alzheimer's Research

de Ralph KD1SM

On Saturday July 14 the Massachusetts/New Hampshire Alzheimer's Association sponsored the 2012 Memory Ride for Alzheimer's Research. More than 400 cyclists rode in the event and raised over \$360,000 for research into this disease.

The event has four different course lengths: 100 miles, 62 miles, 30 miles, and 3 miles. Each course is a loop that starts and finishes on Museum Field at Devens. This is the fourth consecutive year that the event has been based at Devens and for each of the four years the organizers have requested radio communications support from the Amateur Radio community.

MARA members Rick AB1PM, Gary K1YTS, Ray KB1LRL, Ken KB1UVP, John KK1X, and Ralph KD1SM were joined by NVARC members Stan KD1LE, Jim N8VIM, Dan KW2T, Larry KB1ESR, George KB1HFT, Bob AB1CV, plus Chris KB1WKI, and Brett AB1RL to provide communications between six pit stops, six roving support vehicles, and Devens. Repeaters owned and maintained by the Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Paul Andrews WB1EWS, and Dave Peabody N1MNX were used to provide coverage across the large area from Sterling to Hollis NH.

Supporting events such as this is one of the reasons the FCC grants the Amateur Radio Service so much spectrum. The radio operators who participate in these events are being public ambassadors for the Amateur Radio Service. Many of the

cyclists who participate make the additional effort to stop and thank us for our service.

Memory Ride Event Coordinator Angela Floro writes:

Thank you so much for everything this past weekend and please send this along to your operators. It's TRULY appreciated what each and everyone of you do, year after year. Memory Ride wouldn't be the same without you.

We TRULY appreciate you giving up a Saturday during the summer months to help with this event.

Warmly,
Angela Floro
Development Officer, Special Events
Alzheimer's Association,
Massachusetts/New Hampshire
Chapter



Above: Bob AB1CV, Chris KB1WKI, and Brett AB1RL confer with Stan KD1LE at Net Control

KD1SM photo



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