



## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, January 9**  
**7:30PM**  
**Lunenburg Public Library**

Happy New Year. The January MARA meeting will be back at the Lunenburg Public Library Wallace Room. President Ray KB1LRL will be the presenter -- on a topic of his choosing.

## President's Corner

Hi and Happy New Year! Another one for the books. As we saw one year go out and a new one come in we take the time to reflect and see if we made good use of the year and see what we can do in the future to make things better. Myself, I anticipate quite a transitional year as I work towards a new QTH and settling into a new environment radio-wise and environment-wise. Mixed into that is all the other projects and events we have so I have to watch out and not blink my eyes or this new year will be done already!

I am hoping that 2013 bring a year of growth as well, I have been seeing signs of that to the positive and am hoping this continues. I have been working on creating interesting and educational topics for the meetings and have come up with a few good ideas but still struggle for more. The pool of

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## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, N1MGO, KB1JXJ, W1HFN

available speakers is getting thin and creates quite a challenge. I am planning another session where people are selected and they have to give a mini talk on something educational and am planning on having WRTC back to update us on the 2014 world contest and the planning that goes behind it. I am always open to suggestions.

Keep your eyes open on the newsletter and emails as the board will be instituting policies on membership and dues process. This is important as it may affect you status with the club, we do not want you to slip through the cracks and want you to continue being a part of our organization.

As part of your membership one of the benefits is receiving a monthly newsletter either electronically or by mail. Our own Ralph Swick KD1SM has been working on the newsletter and doing all the editing, printing, mailing, etc. There have been

*(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/>

**16 February 2013, Marlboro MA**  
Algonquin ARC

**17 February 2013, Westford MA**  
NEARC

Additional ham fest and flea market  
information can be found on the W1GSL  
New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea  
Market list at  
<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

## President's Corner

*(continued from page 1)*

times that the newsletter has not been able to happen as a result of his job or his Red Cross duties stretching him beyond his limits. I want to thank Ralph for his efforts and please consider volunteering submissions to the newsletter or maybe even looking to back him up when he is unable to make deadline.

That's enough chatter for now. Hope everyone made a New Year's resolution and will attend our meetings regularly. See you there.

73, Ray KB1LRL

## RTTY Contest at N1MGO 5- 6 Jan

de Gordon N1MGO

I will be hosting a rtty contest this weekend [5 January] at my house (144 Wilder Rd. Leominster, MA). The contest starts at 13:00 and runs for 30 hours. We will be running 500 watts using my Elecraft K3 radio and KPA 500 amp.

All are welcome to come operate or just watch and learn about RTTY contesting, and the K3 radio.

Please let me know when you are coming so KB1JXJ can plan the food accordingly!!

Gordon N1MGO

## The MARA W1/GaZette

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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

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.

## VE Team Report

The MARA Volunteer Examiner Team conducted its final exam session of 2012 on Boxing Day -- December 26.

One license upgrade to General was earned, one license upgrade to Extra, and one former licensee who had allowed his license to lapse was re-licensed. Thanks to examiners Gary K1YTS, Gordon N1MGO, Paul KD1YH, and Ralph KD1SM.

The MARA VE Team conducted a total of 8 exam sessions in 2012 serving 24 candidates. Eight Technician licenses were earned, 10 General, and 5 Extra Class.

The Volunteer Examiners who served in 2012 and the number of sessions each served are: Tom K1JHC (7), Gary K1YTS (7), Ralph KD1SM (8), Paul KD1YH (8), John KK1X (6), Charlie KT1I (1), Don N1HVA (2), Gordon N1MGO (4), and Mary N1RKO (1). Thanks to each of you for this service to the Amateur Radio community.

## November Board Meeting

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

13 Nov 2012

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

The main topic of discussion was the need for speakers at our monthly meetings. Gordon has volunteered to take the Nov meeting with a presentation on digital

modes. Charlie has contacted his son about someone in his club doing a presentation on Summits On the Air (SOTA), we are waiting for a response. Barry has agreed to contact Anderson Power Products in Sterling regarding a demo of the proper methods of attaching wire to their Power Pole connectors. The April meeting, and possibly others, will have the 5/10 minute mini-presentations from randomly picked members.

The December meeting / get-together will be held at Gordon and Pauline's QTH. Those attending are requested to bring a desert and Yankee Swap gift not to exceed \$10-\$15.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry, W1HFN  
Secretary

## Changes to Dues Policy

de Ray KB1LRL

Our fiscal year runs from September to June with July and August off. As a general rule dues for the upcoming year are to be paid in June. Over the course of time we have been pretty lenient about the membership and when they pay their dues. The time involved in managing this and the cost of postage is getting to be challenging. With that the board has decided to implement the following policy.

- Dues for the following year will be paid at the June meeting. We will make every effort to remind all prior to the June meeting. Those who do not will be

reminded 2 times afterwards. After the December meeting if there has been no activity you will be considered inactive and dropped from the membership list and no mailings will be sent.

- You are now given notice at this time to correct your status if you need to. If after March 2013 there is no activity we will edit the membership list as necessary.
- This is by no means you are banned from club functions. We will always welcome you to the meetings and functions, But you will be denied voting privileges and cannot hold an officer's position, and again no emails or newsletters.

Thank you in advance. If there are any questions feel free to email me at [rplajoie@comcast.net](mailto:rplajoie@comcast.net)

Ed. Note: Webmaster Paul KD1YH has put a copy of the membership list at [http://www.w1gz.org/mara%20members%202012-2013\\_for%20web.htm](http://www.w1gz.org/mara%20members%202012-2013_for%20web.htm)

## November Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association Meeting

14 November 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM. Those in attendance were: Tom AB1GF, Mickey WI1Y, Gordon N1MGO, Ray KB1LRL, Paul KD1YH, Al KB1TNN, Tom K1JHC, Norm W1BYH, Charlie KT1I, Bill N1UZ, Ralph KD1SM, Gary K1YTS, Ken KB1UVP, Walter K1CMF, Barry W1HFN and welcome to "newbies" Bruce KB1YRS, Steve KB1YUP and Chris KB1WKT.

Introductions were made with a short “my interests are” added to the name and call sign. The secretary made a motion to have the previous month’s meeting minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter. Seconded and passed. Treasurer’s report, ending balance of \$1596.04 plus \$206.50 in the repeater fund. Motion to accept, seconded and passed.

A request was made by Ralph KD1SM to have the minutes from the Board Meetings submitted to be printed in the newsletter. The secretary will comply.

The December non-meeting / holiday gathering was announced, it will be held at the QTH of Gordon and Pauline 2 Dec. A vote of thanks was given to Bill N1UZ for providing the snacks and coffee for the meeting. Charlie KT1I has volunteered to provide same for the Jan meeting.

There was a ten minute break for goodies and socializing. After that, Gordon N1MGO gave a most interesting presentation on digital soundcard modes. He also passed around a HF radio to PC interface.

A motion to adjourned was made and seconded at 9:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry W1HFN  
Secretary

**WA1ZJG SK**

Bobby Barrett WA1ZJG became a silent key on December 22. Bobby was a very accomplished machinist. He and Alda have hosted the Harvard 145.41 repeater at their home for many years.

**December Meeting**

The traditional December holiday party was hosted by Pauline KB1JXJ and Gordon N1MGO at their home. It featured good fellowship, great refreshments, and the always-fun Yankee Swap.

All photos courtesy KB1JXJ and N1MGO



below:  
Ray KB1LRL,  
Charlie KT1I





Above:  
Carolyn Rivers,  
Mary Westover  
Left: Norm Rivers  
W1BYH  
Below: Barry Fox  
W1HFN



Right: Ray KB1LRL  
helps Pauline KB1JXJ  
pull the next Swap  
recipient  
Below: Ray ponders the  
contents of his selection.



Left: Paul Doherty  
N1QDX,  
Gordon Lapoint  
N1MGO,  
Norm Rivers  
W1BYH



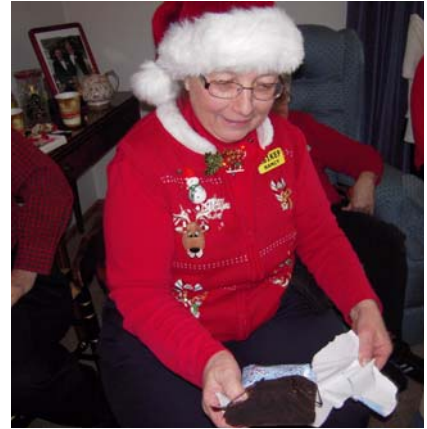
Above: Ray makes a  
swap.  
Left: Patty wonders if  
she'll get to keep it



Above and right:  
the group gathers  
for the Yankee Swap



Above: Al KB1TNN and  
Penny Faul  
Left: Steve (guest of  
Norm W1BYH) displays  
his find



Participating:

- Gordon N1MGO
- Pauline KB1JXJ
- Charlie KT1I
- Ray KB1LRL
- Don W1IBJ
- Bruce KB1YRS
- Walter K1CMF
- Mickey W1IY and Mary
- Tom K1JHC & Doris
- Norm W1BYH & Carolyn
- Paul KD1YH & Patty
- Al KB1TNN & Penny
- Barry W1HFN & Paula
- Gary K1YTS & Nancy KB1KEF
- Paul N1QDX & MaryAnn
- Steve & Sandy



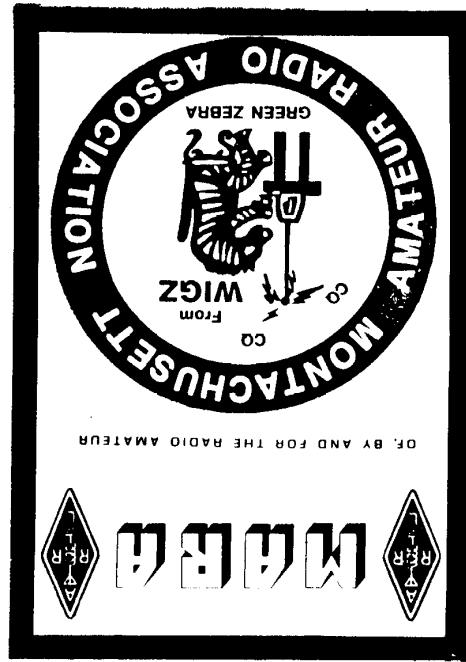
Top row: Doris & Tom K1JHC, Paul KD1YH, Nancy KB1KEF

Above left: Walter K1CMF models a hat, (center) Gordon N1MGO, (right) Steve, Bruce KB1YRS, Tom AB1GF, and Ray KB1LRL

Left and below left: Gary K1YTS, Don W1IBJ, Al KB1TNN

Below right: Barry W1HFN contemplates a swap





**Montachusett Amateur Radio Association**  
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

