



Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 13th
7:30PM
Wallace Room
Lunenburg Public Library

“Summits On The Air”

The end of winter is coming soon -- thus sayth Punxsutawney Phil. Who wants to argue? Maybe you won't need to strap on those showshoes after all to get to ...

The February MARA meeting will feature a presentation on “SOTA”, Summits On The Air, from the Hampden County Radio Association. Let's show our guests a good turnout.

Presidents Corner

Greetings! Well the famous groundhog is predicting an early spring. This could be most encouraging. If you have the same feelings as me, the holidays are now over, this stuff can move on now. I am now looking at the “mountain” of things I need to do and the early warmth would be a great help to me. The one nice thing is hamfest's are starting up again and am looking forward to those and am hopefully expanding by a couple of more.

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, N1MGO, W1HFN, N1UZ,
AD1L, K1JHC

With the New Year moving onward, I want to toss out an invite of sorts for the upcoming spring season where public service events will start to ramp up pretty well. This is also for the newly licensed hams who want to explore this aspect of the hobby. There are a number of them out there including the Boston Marathon that is always out looking for helpers. This is not only the opportunity to demonstrate ham radio to the public, but also gives us practice in emergency communication skills, valuable when that next hurricane motors through the area. Stay tuned to our comm's outlets for announcements on what's coming up.

We have now have our club affiliated with the ARRL and CQ contesting lists so if you are not part of an existing club you can enter in the Montachusett list. Thanks go to Jim AD1L for putting it together.

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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

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

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Speaking of contests, Gordon N1MGO is going to participate in the CQ WPX RTTY contest at his QTH and as always is opening his station for those who wish to operate, learn how to operate, or observe. This is a 48 hour contest so the eyelids will be a little heavy for some. But it is a fun contest. Come on down and check us out.

The upcoming meeting will feature Some operators from the Hampden club near Springfield. They will do a presentation on SOTA, which is "Summits on the Air" This is where you pack your gear and set up on top of a hill, or mountain and make contacts. This should be interesting so come on down to the meeting and have some fun...or being part of making it fun!

See you there.

73,
Ray KB1LRL

RTTY Contest at N1MGO Feb 9- 10

de Gordon N1MGO

We will be running a Multi-One effort for the CQ WPX RTTY Contest. For the rules see:
<http://cqwpxrty.com/rules.htm>

If you want to operate or just watch, call or write me.

We will be using Charlie's call, KT1I.

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.

January Meeting Report

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

9 January 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Ray KB1LRL. Introductions were made, those in attendance were: Ray KB1LRL, Gary K1YTS, Tom K1JHC, Norm W1BYH, Gordon N1MGO, Tom AB1GF, Ralph KD1SM, Charlie KT1I, Al KB1TNN, Ken KB1UVP, Steve KB1YUP, John KK1X, Bruce KB1YRS, Bill N1UZ, Tim KQ1Y and Barry W1HFN. Our speaker was Ray KB1LRL.

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of our last meeting as it appeared in the newsletter. Treasurer's report; the balance for July and August is \$1,483.50 with \$206.50 in the repeater fund. The raffle brought in \$23.00; Tom K1JHC won the first draw and elected to take the ARRL tot bag and MARA notepad, Bill N1UZ got second and the knife and notepad.

Ray gave a synopsis of the ARRL meeting of club presidents where WRTC 2013 / 2014 were discussed along with the ARRL 100th Anniversary / Mega-Convention to be held in Hartford in July of 2014. Jim AD1L requested MARA become an ARRL recognized contest affiliate club, it was agreed to and subsequently arranged. Tom K1JHC mentioned the WRTC event coming up this July. There will be two stations this year instead of one.

There was a refreshment / socializing break at 7:55.

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The meeting resumed at 8:05 and the floor was given over to Ray KB1LRL. He gave a most interesting slide show talk on HF propagation.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:00, seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry W1HFN
Secretary MARA

Linked Repeater Etiquette

Hi, Just to remind all that the W1GZ repeater is LINKED to Gardner and Athol repeaters, as well as Echolink.

You need to allow a 2 second delay before transmitting.

Other stations trying to get in on other modes do not have a chance as well as timing out repeaters because it does not allow to break. There was a incident this morning [January 27] and needed to take down the link.

Please be mindful of this need to delay

Thank you
Ray KB1LRL

New Members

MARA welcomes the following new members to the Club:

KB1YRS
Bruce Wilbur
Fitchburg

New Members (continued)

KB1YUP
Steven M Faucher
Fitchburg

General Class License Course

de N1UZ

The Gardner Office of Emergency Management and Mohawk Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a General Class course starting on January 26th.

The details are:

- Dates: January 26th to March 30th, 10 weeks.
- Location: Gardner Office of Emergency Management, 61 East Broadway, Gardner.
- Pre-registration is required, e-mail w1sex@arrl.net
- Class is limited to ten students.
- Students must have the ARRL General Class License Manual, 7th Edition.
- Students must have a scientific Calculator, TI-30Xa is preferred but any scientific will do.
- Students must have a digital multimeter.
- Park in the rear of the building off Prospect Street, the class is on the second floor.

Contact w1sex@arrl.net if you have any questions.

MARA Now On ARRL Contest Club List

de James AD1L

Hello folks,

Ray KB1LRL delegated me the task of getting MARA added to the ARRL and CQ contest club listings. I would like to report that the transaction has been completed with regard to the ARRL.

As a general ARRL affiliated club we are officially listed as Montachusett ARA, so that is the title I used when addressing the contest branch.

I received a quick confirmation from Sean KX9X the ARRL contest branch manager informing me that we are now officially listed.

When submitting your contest logs the club field should look exactly like this,

CLUB: Montachusett ARA

You can view the list at
<http://www.arrl.org/contest-club-list>

NOTE: When submitting logs **DO NOTE USE THE CODE you see next to our club name on the list.** I have been informed that code is for internal ARRL use only (yes, I asked why it is on the public page).

My next task will be to approach the CQ Magazine contest manager about their list. I will of course be submitting the same name, and I will inform you all when I have a response.

Best regards,
James AD1L

New HF CW Net

New HF CW Net Starting January 7

de WK1H on Monday 07 January 2013

There has been no section CW net for either East Mass or West Mass for some time. Some have approached me concerning their interest in CW, so I plan to run a slow speed CW traffic net for both Massachusetts sections and Rhode Island which will offer training in message handling and net operation and at the same time hopefully give folks a chance to increase their CW capabilities.

We will meet on 3565 Khz plus or minus at 7PM Monday through Friday. If enough interest and personnel available I will add weekends as well.

Training messages will be provided and questions and comments are always welcome. I plan on a Q&A session on the Boston 145.23 repeater following the EM2MN which meets at 8 PM. Obviously most in West Mass section will not be able to make that, but I can be available by email or either following CM2MN on the Paxton repeater or on HF or Echolink by arrangement.

Anyone interested in CW will be most welcome. Come meet new friends, learn new skills and hopefully have some fun.

73,
Marcia KW1U STM

contributed by KB1LRL

Boston Marathon Radio Operators Wanted!

de Bob K1IW

4 January

We are now accepting volunteers for the 2013 Boston Marathon. The Marathon will be held on Monday, April 15th.

To sign up, please visit
<http://marc.mmra.org> .

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ THIS NEXT PART:

If you have volunteered in previous years then sometime around January 8th you may have received an email or postcard from the Boston Athletic Association directing you to register on the BAA web site. PLEASE DISREGARD this email or postcard!

The only registration you should do is at the MMRA web site (address above). If you register on the BAA system, this will only cause confusion. The BAA automatically sends out notices to all 10,000+ volunteers that helped in the last few years.

Because of the special qualifications for the amateur radio positions, please register **ONLY** on the MMRA web site.

Positions are available to shadow race officials at the start, positions along the route, and finish line.

73,
 Bob K1IW

Old Timers Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timers held their monthly meeting at Bickfords Restaurant on Wednesday January 2.

Those present were Gary K1YTS, Barry W1HFN, Ken KB1UVP Don W1IBJ, Tom K1JHC, Al KB1TNN, and Norm W1BYH.

Topics ranged From New Year's Eve meals to the present state of the County. Please join with us on the first Wednesday of each month at 12 Noon.

Incentive Gift - ARRL Membership Renewal

de James AD1L

Hi Folks,

A heads-up for anyone renewing their ARRL membership in the near future.

I was at the ARRL web site renewing my membership and while filling in the form I noticed a box to enter a "Promo Code." So, I decided to do a web-search to see if codes were posted anywhere. I was surprised to find the following...

<http://www.retailmenot.com/view/arrl.org>

Of the few codes there I used RN3E and was able to select a free book when renewing. I choose "More Classic Wire Antennas," because I have the original edition.

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The book was a \$20 value, which is nice, but I would rather they let me opt out of mailed QST and reduce my dues by \$20. But that is a whole other story -- the league is currently campaigning to have members opt for the Electronic Version of QST only, but offering not even a small reduction in dues. I think that is short-sighted, but probably also a topic for a different venue.

I hope someone finds the codes useful!

Best regards,
James AD1L

Division Cabinet Meeting

Ralph KD1SM attended the semi-annual ARRL New England Division "cabinet" meeting on January 5 in Springfield.

This meeting is called by Division Director Tom Frenaye K1KI and Vice Director Mike Raisbeck K1TWF. The presidents of every ARRL Affiliated Club in the New England states are invited to meet with the ARRL Section Managers to discuss items of shared interest and provide input to Tom for the next ARRL Board meeting. Tom schedules these meetings to be shortly before the ARRL Board meeting so the input he gets from the field is "fresh".

For this meeting 30 people were present. Discussion topics included recent activity in FCC Notices of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC requests for input on possible future NPRMs, growth in Amateur Radio licensing, and how the new digital edition of QST is being received (yes, an app version for Android is expected later this year).

Tom K1KI discussed challenges with Logbook of the World; it is being used in a very different way than was anticipated in the original design. As a result, the service has performance issues. Tom talked about the status of a hardware replacement for the Logbook of the World. Other topics of discussion included Amateur Radio involvement in the response to Hurricane Sandy. The final topic was a roundtable on common challenges seen by the clubs who were represented.

There was a lot of discussion on opportunities to present Amateur Radio in the "maker fairs" that are fast-growing venues attracting the sort of people who are interested in constructing with new technologies -- exactly the kind of people who started Amateur Radio a century ago.

Another topic that got quite a bit of discussion was the planned Centennial Anniversary of ARRL. This will be punctuated with a national convention to be held in the Hartford (CT) Convention Center the weekend after WRTC 2014. As the event years are traditionally Boxboro Convention years, the Boxboro organizing committee is working with the National Convention organizers to make this convention in Hartford be the single 2014 convention in our area.

In conjunction with the centennial, suggestions were solicited on how to best use the large collection of historic artifacts that ARRL owns to present the history and future of Amateur Radio.



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