



Next Meeting

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

Eric Falkof K1NUN
“Stealth Antennas”

The March meeting presenter is scheduled to be Eric Falkof K1NUN of Wayland on the topic of stealth antennas. Come see how many you can find.

President's Corner

Hi Everyone! It is amazing its March already. Pretty soon we will be complaining about the heat of summer. If the first two months of 2013 are any indication, we are in for an interesting and busy year, at least for me in some respects. This month started out with the news that a much waited on and anticipated house purchase has been approved and am now in the process of closing the deal. So very soon I will become a Lunenburg resident, and have room for some GOOD antenna setup. Needless to say I have my work cut out for me.

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, KB1JXJ, K1JHC,
N1MGO, N1UZ

As I have been planning my move, I have been also working on club stuff as I sent the permit application for Mt. Wachusett for field day and I also have got some great speakers for the upcoming months. The month of June I am planning one of those mini talk challenges I had in October. People are drawn from a bag and they give a 5 minute talk on a subject that is educational. If they do not, they get questioned on the question pool. So, you have time to plan on something. The last one was fun and I think we will be doing this off and on.

It is encouraging lately to see the uptick in activity at our meetings. With any luck this will surely continue. There are and will be many activities in the coming months, so stay tuned for more. Till then, I look forward to seeing you at one of them or at a meeting or two.

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

Wednesdays, 1900 local 145.37-
Gardner/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, April 7; Framingham MA
Framingham Hamfest, Keefe Tech

Saturday, April 20; Brookline NH
NEARC Antique Radio flea

Sunday, April 21; Cambridge MA
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April - October

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>

VE Team Report

The MARA Volunteer Examiner Team held its monthly FCC Amateur Radio exam sessions for January and February on Wednesday, January 23 and Wednesday, February 27.

The January exam session served three candidates with one new Technician license earned as well as one upgrade to General and one upgrade to Extra. In February four candidates all earned new Technician licenses.

The examiners for these sessions were Tom K1JHC (Jan+Feb), Gary K1YTS (Jan+Feb), Ralph KD1SM (Jan+Feb), Paul KD1YH (Jan+Feb), John KK1X (Jan+Feb), Tim KQ1Y (Jan), Don N1HVA (Jan), and Gordon N1MGO (Jan+Feb).

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

All levels of examination are available. Candidates should pre-register with Paul KD1YH at 978.597.6535 or by email to phupham@verizon.net. If no candidates have pre-registered by the Saturday prior to the scheduled session the session will be canceled.

Think Spring!

The MARA W1/GaZette

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Annual Dues: Regular \$25
Family \$30
Fixed income \$15
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September to June
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MARA owns and operates the W1GZ repeater on 145.45 (CTCSS 74.4) in Fitchburg.

February Meeting Report

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

13 February 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Ray KB1LRL. Introductions were made, those in attendance were: Ray KB1LRL, Gary K1YTS, Norm W1BYH, Gordon N1MGO, Tom AB1GF, Charlie KT1I, Al KB1TNN, Ken KB1UVP, Steve KB1YUP, Bill N1UZ, Tim KQ1Y, Tom W0TJP, Paul KD1YH, Merle KB1ZGC, Bob N1HPZ, Dave WN1E and Barry W1HFN. Our guest speakers were Frandy N1FJ and Jim KK1W.

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 \$1,521.50 and 229.50 in the repeater fund. The raffle brought in \$34.00; Steve KB1YUP won the nifty dipole pulley thingy.

The Tech Committee reported that the Gardner link was down and then repaired.

Steve KB1YUP volunteered to bring doughnuts for the March meeting Ray KB1LRL will supply the coffee.

Upcoming public service event is the Townsend Lions Canoe Race, sometime in March, the date TBD. The Boston Marathon will be in April, lots of volunteers will be needed.

The Gardner repeater group will be holding the Western Mass Emergency Net at 1900L on Wednesday. This net will be linked like

our W1GZ Sunday nets, all are invited to participate.

There was a short socializing break at 1925.

The meeting resumed and the floor was given over to Jim KK1W and Frandy N1FJ. They gave a most interesting slide show and video presentation of the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Barry W1HFN
Secretary MARA



above: Pauline KB1JXJ and Gordon N1MGO hosted the February meeting presenters and guests at their home prior to the meeting. Around the table from the left are Ray KB1LRL, Jim Mullen KK1W, David Cayen WN1E, Gordon N1MGO, Frandy Johnson N1FJ, and Charlie KT1I.

Photo courtesy KB1JXJ (behind the lens)

Old Timers Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timers held their February monthly meeting at Bickford's Restaurant on Wednesday, February 6.

Those present were Gary K1YTS, Charlie KT1I, Paul N1QDX, Al KB1TNN, Norm W1BYH, Tom K1JHC, and Barry W1HFN.

NOAA Weather Laboratories has a free APP "mPING" whereby Hams can give present WX conditions directly by clicking on the screen and sending Info. Give it a try.

Please join with us on the first Wednesday of each month at 12 Noon.

Welcome New Members

MARA welcomes the following new members during the February meeting:

W0TJP
Timothy J Pandiscio
123 Milk St
Fitchburg, MA 01420

KB1ZGC
Mark Thompson
871 Mass Ave
Lunenburg, MA 01462

145.37 ARES Net Returns

forwarded by N1UZ

From: Doug Lepisto
To: mohawkarc
Sent: Sunday, February 17, 2013 11:17 AM
Subject: [MohawkARC] 145.37 Net Is Coming Back

Greetings,

The net on the 145.37 W1GCD Gardner repeater is coming back on Wednesdays starting February 20th at 7:00 p.m. This net will also be on node 9127 of the New England Reflector with Athol and Fitchburg linked in. I will be the net control station to get things up and running again, but after a few weeks will need some addition net controls to help out. Hope to get a good turn out!

Also, don't forget about the great meeting presenter we have for this month on the 27th. Dave KM3T from WRTC will be coming to speak to us - please be there if you can!

73,
Doug
KB1MCK

In the Glow of the Filaments...

de Bill NZ1D

Part 5: "Birds of a feather..."

In the previous parts of this narrative we met a handful of local amateur radio operators and experimenters before the "War to End All Wars" abruptly ended all U.S. amateur radio activities. Some were called away by the lure of the sea. One would adopt our area as his new home and later help sow at least some seeds for our present club. And one, Nestor Stolba (1GY) would later return as W1GZ and co-found the group that would become the MARA.

But these were all individuals. What about local club activities? As Harold Kramer, W1JB, ARRL COO and QST publisher, recently wrote: "Amateur Radio clubs are the machinery that drive the majority of Amateur radio activities." ("Clubs: Amateur Radio's Future," QST, November 2011, p. 74.) Although I have not found any traces of formal organized radio club activity occurring in our immediate area before the WWI shutdown, radio clubs in some form had been around since the beginning of amateur radio. The ARRL, founded in 1914, was itself a very far-reaching, wide-area radio club. Co-founders Hiram Maxim, 1AW, and Clarence Tuska, 1DW, were both principals of a pre-existing club, the Radio Club of Hartford.

Other formally-organized clubs were popping up in the major metropolitan areas around the country. In 1917 an ARRL editorial pushing for affiliation of the

different radio clubs “throughout the country” stated: “Hardly a city large enough to be called a city, is without either some little group of amateur radio enthusiasts who get together every so often or a real live Club with regular places of meeting and regular officers.” (“Affiliating the Clubs,” QST, March 1917, p. 25, 26.) By then, the central and eastern parts of Massachusetts boasted several clubs, including the Fall River Amateur Wireless Association formed in late 1915 or early 1916 and the Lowell Radio Club formed before April 1917. Students at Harvard, MIT and WPI all had access to their school's station licenses.

The editorial continued, “All of these groups have one interest and this interest is never local, because every wireless enthusiast wants to work distant places.” CQ DX anyone?

Several ARRL editorials in the prewar years touted many reasons for joining together, most of which are still valid. Although the main thrust in the early years was message handling and its associated problems, such as scheduling, QRM and “rotten operating,” other common issues were recruiting, education, sharing of ideas, protecting the amateurs' use of airwaves by banding together to reduce interference and to prevent big business from encroaching on radio resources. One interesting editorial in June 1916 QST entitled “A Hint for Radio Clubs,” suggested operating rules and schedules to combat such aggravations as having “some one start testing...when one is copying a message from a long-distance amateur” or the habit of having amateurs tie up the airwaves by talking for hours about nothing in particular. Sound familiar?

There isn't much of a trail of what, if anything was happening locally insofar as organized amateur radio was concerned. We do know that by May of 1916 Townsend's Francis Struthers (1OQ) and Ian Rusk (1RR) both had heeded Maxim's overtures and joined the ranks of the ARRL. Thirty miles away, in Manchester, NH, Starkey, who later would figure prominently in Fitchburg's amateur community, was active with several radio enthusiasts. This writer once had a photograph labeled “Manchester, NH 1914” that showed Starkey with three others in front of an amateur radio “apparatus”. The others were Robert Worrall, a machinist who lived in the same rooming house as Starkey, one Hitchcock “ICD”, and one named Webber. Hitchcock may have been William, who had been a railroad telegrapher in Lynn and Lawrence, and was then pounding the brass as the Manchester Union Leader newspaper's telegraph editor.

By mid-1916, a few miles down the Merrimack River in Hitchcock's former hometown, Arthur Stansfield received his station license and set up a 500 watt “apparatus” in his grandmother's house. The call letters, familiar to us a generation later, were 1GZ. By then Starkey had found himself a bride, fellow Canadian Elizabeth Speirs, and moved to 800 Water Street, Fitchburg, where he hired on as an electrician at the Falulah Paper Co. He seems to have been somewhat of a “joiner” and an organizer (for example he spent 78 years in the IOOF) and but for the outbreak of war may have tried to organize amateur radio club activities in the Fitchburg-Leominster area. The extent of any early activity is unknown.

While all of this growing and organizing and affiliating was taking place the ugly specter of war loomed on the horizon. The war in Europe had been raging for more than two years. Even though President Wilson had proclaimed neutrality early on, U.S. amateur radio operators knew that their use of the wireless might soon be jeopardized by the onslaught of the Kaiser's grey-shirted legions. In March 1917 a QST editorial reported, "When the European war first broke out, a lot of us on the Pacific coast were compelled to shut up." After some negotiations with the Commissioner of Navigation in Washington the order was lifted. The editor did not specify the cause of the order or why it was for the Pacific coast only. Nonetheless it was a sign of what lie ahead.

Meanwhile, the government was actively recruiting men and women as wireless operators, both as civilians and in the military. Advertisements in local newspapers shouted "WIRELESS operators are urgently needed in all branches of Government Service, Naval Reserve, Signal Corps (Aviation and Field Service) Artillery, etc."

The next month the other boot dropped. On April 6, 1917, President Wilson issued the dreaded Executive Order to cease all wireless activity. The order was published in full in the May issue of QST, under the headline "WAR!" Amateur Radio experimentation in the U.S. had just lost its "spark."

Next time, in Part 6: Amateur Radio operators, Uncle Sam wants you!

Ed. note: part 4 of this series by NZ1D appeared in the W1/GaZette vol. 55 no. 3, November 2012.

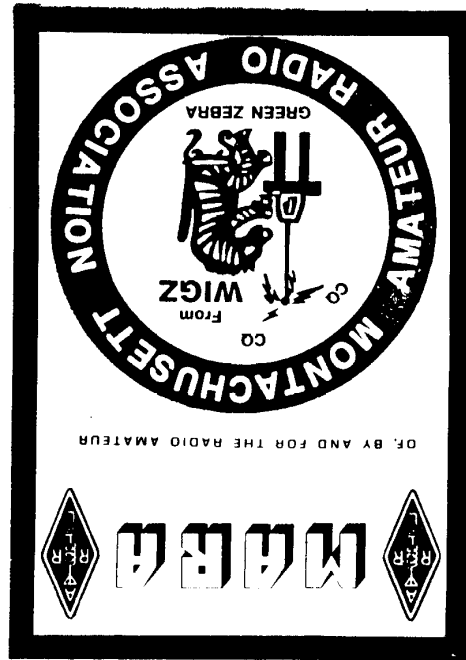
Florida Hams Prove that Ham Radio Works When Cell Phones Don't

After a day of exploring the Green Swamp Wildlife Management Area in Florida with his grandson, Joe Cody KE4WDP saw that the roads were flooding and becoming hazardous. As he tried to drive out of the area, Cody's small pick-up truck got bogged down in the mud. Since he was out of cell phone range, Cody tried calling for help on the Dade City 146.880 repeater. Richard Parker, KF4ORW, of Dade City, Florida, heard the call and answered.

Parker called 911 in Pasco County, who put him in touch with the dispatch in neighboring Polk County. Cody passed his location on to Parker, who in turn passed it on to the Polk County Sherriff's Office.

About 30 minutes later, Parker saw a helicopter fly over and around Cody's position, and after another 30 minutes, Cody radioed back, saying he was on his way home -- thanks to a Lake County Deputy in a Sherriff's Office truck that had a winch. The Polk County Sherriff's Office called me back to say that the helicopter from Lake County found the truck inside Lake County and sent both a deputy from Lake County, as well as a Fish and Game Officer and winched him out of the mud. They called me back to thank us for assisting the stranded pair. Ham radio still works when other forms of communications don't." -- Thanks to ARRL West Central Florida Section Public Information Coordinator Kevin Poorman, KV4CT, for the information.

From *The ARRL Letter*
March 7, 2013



Montachusett Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

