



Next Meeting

Wednesday, 10 April
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Library
“Go Kits”
Steve Telsey N1BDA

The April regular MARA meeting is scheduled for the usual second Wednesday at the usual location.

Public Service Season Starts

April brings spring (really) and the start of public service season for Amateur Radio operators in the Montachusett area.

Squannacook River Canoe Race Saturday, 13 April

Gary K1YTS coordinates the Hams for the Squannacook River Canoe and Kayak race. We meet at the West Townsend VFW on Saturday morning to get our assignments along the river. Positions secure one by one as the last canoe passes.

Groton Road Race Sunday, 28 April

Ralph KD1SM coordinates the Hams for the Groton Road Race. Assignments start at several times during the day.

In This Issue...

Next Meeting	1
Public Service Season Starts ..	1
Watt's Happening	2
VE Team Report	2
March Meeting Report	2
World Radiosport Team Championship	4
Old Timers' Lunch	4
NTS Developer W1NJM SK ...	4

Contributors To This Issue:

W1HFN, K1JHC

Please contact Gary and Ralph if you would like to volunteer for either of these events. If you need more information before you commit, they will be happy to talk with you.

All events can be done with a 2-meter handheld. Some assignments can make use of a mobile radio in your vehicle. Let Gary and Ralph know of your equipment capabilities and they will match you to the assignment.

Of course several MARA members are part of the large Amateur Radio crew for the Boston Marathon. If you did not receive an application for that event this year and would like to participate next year, talk with Ralph KD1SM and he'll connect you with the appropriate coordinators.

The Public Service List, aka "PSLIST" is a good source of other volunteer opportunities around New England.

<http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>

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, 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

Saturday, April 20; Brookline NH
NEARC Antique Radio flea

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

May 3 & 4; Deerfield NH
NEARfest XIII

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 Examiners conducted the regularly scheduled 4th Wednesday VE session at the Lunenburg Senior Center on 27 March.

Six candidates were served at this session. Two new Technician licenses were earned, two upgrades to General, and one upgrade to Extra were also earned.

The examiners were Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM, Paul KD1YH, John KK1X, Charlie KT1I, and Don N1HVA.

The MARA Volunteer Exam Team schedules sessions for the fourth Wednesday of most months at the Lunenburg Senior Center, 25 Memorial Drive, Lunenburg MA. There will not be a session in April, however.

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.

March Meeting Report

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

13 March 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, Ken

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.

Contents copyright © 2013, MARA. Permission to use in other Amateur Radio publications with credit to MARA is hereby granted.

The deadline for materials to appear in the W1/GaZette is noon on the Sunday before the first Wednesday of the month.

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Editors: Ralph Swick KD1SM
978-582-7351 kd1sm@arrl.net
Webmaster: Paul Upham KD1YH

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

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
PO Box 95
Leominster, MA 01453
Web site: <http://www.w1gz.org/>

OFFICERS:

Ray Lajoie, KB1LRL President
rplajoie@comcast.net
Tom Antil, AB1GF Vice President
thantil@comcast.net
Barry Fox, W1HFN Secretary
foxbw@comcast.net
Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer
n1mgo@arrl.net
Charlie Cayen, KT1I Trustee
kt1i@arrl.net

MARA owns and operates the W1GZ repeater on 145.45 (CTCSS 74.4) in Fitchburg.

KB1UVP, Steve KB1YUP, Bill N1UZ, Tom W0TJP, Paul KD1YH, Mark KB1ZGC, Paul KB1WUG, John KK1X, Tom K1JHC, Bruce KB1YRS, Walter K1CMF, Ralph KD1SM, Chris KB1ZKL and Barry W1HFN. Our guest speaker was Eric K1NUN.

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of our last meeting as it appeared in the newsletter. Treasurer's report; the balance is \$1,579.50 and 263.58 in the repeater fund. The raffle brought in \$35.00, and the secretary neglected to write down the winner.

MARA will again be supporting the WRTC event this July 14th with two stations. Volunteers are needed to help set up the tower/beam, operating tent and generator. Contact Tom K1JHC, site manager, if interested.

Upcoming public service event is the Townsend Lions Canoe Race, scheduled for Saturday, 13 April. Volunteers are needed, Gary K1YTS passed around a sign-up sheet to those interested. The Groton Road Race takes place on Sunday, 28 April with at least 40 hams needed. Contact Ralph KD1SM if interested.

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. The Mohawk club will have KM3T of the WRTC organization give a talk at their 27 March meeting.

Barry W1HFN donated surplus stock magnifying lenses to the club, free to all.

There was a short socializing break at 1925.

The meeting resumed and the floor was given over to Eric K1NUN who gave a very interesting talk on stealth antennas, and equally as important, stealth operating.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Barry W1HFN
Secretary MARA

World Radiosport Team Championship

de Tom K1JHC

On the second Weekend of this July we will be holding another Test in preparation for the World Radiosport Team Championship to be held in 2014. This year we hope to have two sites at Sholan Farms and we will need more hands. Please see me at the club meeting or call 978-534-9377 and volunteer your assistance. Two Tower Crews will be needed and we will have to provide Security from Friday evening to Sunday Noon.

The World Radiosport Team Championship is held in a different Country every four years. In 2014 the contest will not only be held in the United States, but here in New England.

Doug Grant K1DG has been in many competitions and with his partner John Dorr K1AR won the Championship in 1990. About 52 two man teams from countries around the world will come to New England on the second week of July, 2014. They will operate 24 hours from noon Saturday to noon Sunday using identical Radios, generators and Antennas.

Old Timers' Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timers met for lunch at Bickford's Restaurant on Wednesday April 3, 2013.

The topics were many, but gravitated to autos and their costs. These comments were vivid and interesting. Present were Charlie KT1I, Gary K1YTS, Norm W1BYH, Paul N1QDX, Al KB1TNN, Tom K1JHC, Barry W1HFN, and Ken KB1UVP.

Please join us the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00pm.

National Traffic System Developer George Hart, W1NJM (SK)

QST de W1AW

Special Bulletin 3 ARLX003
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 26, 2013

To all radio amateurs

George Hart W1NJM -- the chief developer of the National Traffic System (NTS) -- passed away Sunday, March 24. He was 99. An ARRL Charter Life Member, Hart spent more than four decades as a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff and continued to be an active amateur and regular participant in Field Day. In 1984, the ARRL Board of Directors named Hart as an ARRL Honorary Vice President.

First licensed in 1929 as W3AMR in Pennsylvania, Hart began his ARRL career in August 1938 as a second operator at the W1AW Maxim Memorial Station, which was new at the time. He took over as Acting Communications Manager in 1942 when then-Acting Communications Manager John Huntoon, W1LVQ, left the ARRL for active duty in the US Coast Guard during World War II. Beginning with the December 1942 issue, Hart contributed almost 1000 articles to QST, with topics ranging from public service to

simulated emergency tests to traffic handling pointers; he also penned the monthly columns "Operating News" and "Amateur Radio Public Service." Hart served in the Army Air Force from 1944-1946, returning to his job as a Communications Assistant at ARRL Headquarters under Ed Handy, W1BDI, after the war. During his tenure at the League, Hart served as Communications Assistant, National Emergency Coordinator and ultimately as Communications Manager from 1967 until his retirement in 1978.

"George Hart exemplified the finest of the 'old school' radio amateurs for whom operating skill and public service were paramount," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "For many years -- as a private endeavor from his own station -- he offered high-speed Morse code practice at up to 65 words per minute. George set and met high standards in everything he did, inspiring generations of radio amateurs to do the same."

Hart announced the National Traffic System in the September 1949 issue of QST. In his article "New National Traffic Plan: ARRL Maps New Traffic Organization for All Amateurs," he outlined the new system.

"During 1948, practically every section in the ARRL field organization had a net of some kind going, and 47 sections had nets devoted exclusively to traffic handling. If, in each section net, a certain station (or stations) was designated to take all traffic going outside the section, this station then to report to a later net having greater coverage, and the same procedure repeated funneling into still greater coverage areas, we would have a traffic organization of national scope capable of handling traffic to (and from) any point in the entire field organization, which includes the entire United States, most of its Possessions and most of Canada.

"This in briefest outline, is the essence of the ARRL National Traffic Plan. It takes the already-existing section net as a unit and makes two larger unit categories which are called 'regional' and 'area' nets. Each regional net covers a certain number of section nets (normally those within a certain call area), and each area net covers a certain number of regional nets (normally those within a time zone). The area nets, of which there are four (one for each time zone), pass traffic around among themselves, and it then comes back down through regional and section nets again in the same evening. This requires organization and teamwork of no small dimensions, but it will work if we get together on it and push."

In 2009, the ARRL Board of Directors created the George Hart Distinguished Service Award. This annual award is conferred upon an ARRL member whose service to the League's Field Organization is of the most exemplary nature.

Ellen White, W1YL, remembered Hart fondly: "George was my 'boss' for a number of years in the ARRL's Communication Department. His devotion to the National Traffic System and all forms of emergency communication were legendary, as well as was his even-handed management of all operating phases. I will miss Geo, and that's no joking matter."

Hart was a member of the ARRL A-1 Operator Club, the Quarter Century Wireless Association and the Newington Amateur Radio League, which he helped create in 1946 and for which he served as its first president. He was inducted into the CQ Hall of Fame in 2010 for his contributions to the NTS.

A memorial service is being planned for April.



Montachusett Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

