



Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 12
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Library

Annual Meeting

The June MARA meeting is our Annual Meeting wherein we conduct the critical business of electing our officers for the coming year.

All Members in good standing are eligible to run for office. As of the date of publication there is just one contested office -- for Vice President.

Other topics to be discussed at the June meeting include Field Day and Short Subject Challenge.

President's Corner

Hello everyone. Yet another season has come to pass. Usually around this time, normally earlier, I start to evaluate myself and try to assess what was good and what went nuclear. As some of you know last year I had the feeling of general failure and was giving up the ship in hopes that someone else could share their ideas and try to revitalize this club. Well that didn't happen as no one

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, W1HFN, NZ1D

really wanted to step up and take over. So, reluctantly I kept going. We had a board meeting, a cookout, ok, nothing major but I came out of both of them a little encouraged.

Then the new season arrived and I started to see the spark turning into a flame, we actually got some new members and they showed some enthusiasm. Now came the challenge, keeping them and making the meetings educational and fun. This exceeded my expectations and with the help of a former secretary came up with a list of speakers that also entertained and educated us. Call it luck or call it karma, this was better than I expected and I saw the results.

So now that it is election time, I did my evaluation. Now it is your turn to decide the direction of the club. The nominations are still open and if anyone wishes to give an office a shot, please feel free. As it stands now there is a run for Vice President. Tom AB1GF

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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, 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, June 16; Cambridge MA
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April - October

15 June; Newington CT
NARL hamfest, St. Mary School, 8am

Sunday, July 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>

President's Corner

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our current VP, and Bill N1UZ, past President and Vice President. Everyone else is pretty much unchallenged. I hope to see you at the meeting to decide on the next year.

We also have our annual event planned and that is Field Day. That will be discussed as to what chaos and disorder will rule that weekend. It never fails, something will blow up there.

Whatever time is left we are going to have our mini talk challenge. If you remember last October we drew names from a bag, and the lucky one will give a 5 minute talk on something ham radio educational or you will spend that time answering questions from the pool. So bring your topic. You never know, you may learn something yourself! See you all there!

73 Ray KB1LRL

VE Team Report

One examinee earned a new Technical license at the VE session on May 22nd. The examiners were Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM, Paul KD1YH, and John KK1X. A second candidate had pre-registered for the session.

The next session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26. The VE Team is happy to hold a session on the fourth Wednesday of the month as long as at least one candidate has pre-registered.

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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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.

May Meeting Report

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association Meeting

8 May 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM. Those in attendance were: Tom AB1GF, Gordon N1MGO, Ray KB1LRL, Paul KD1YH, Al KB1TNN, Tom K1JHC, Charlie KT1I, Bill N1UZ, Ralph KD1SM, Gary K1YTS, Ken KB1UVP, Walter K1CMF, Paul KB1WUG, John KK1X, Mark KB1ZGC, Steve KB1YUP, Paul N1QDX, Bruce KB1YRS, Tim W0TJP, Aaron KB1ZKO, Barry W1HFN and our guest speaker Steve W3EVE.

Introductions were made with name and call sign. Happy Birthday to Bill N1UZ. 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 \$1532.10 plus \$344.50 in the repeater fund. Motion to accept, seconded and passed. A reminder that dues are due in June.

The repeater trustee, Charlie KT1I, was notified by Burbank Hospital that the building in which our repeater is housed, is to be demolished. A new location on the grounds has been offered which has the benefit of emergency power back-up. Charlie and Paul KD1YH to pursue the matter. The 220MHz repeater recently donated to the club is presently residing in KD1YH's garage. Installation awaits an antenna and coax and possibly not until after the 2M machine is in its new home. Field Day planning proceeds with the club getting permission to use the Mount. A show of hands was requested for

operators, especially for CW and the later hours. Ray graciously provided refreshments for the meeting, Bruce KB1YRS and Steve KB1YUP volunteered to handle that for the June meeting. There will be a meeting of the WRTC Beam Team on June 1 in Milford to go over antenna assembly issues. Nominations for club officers will be held during the June meeting. The current slate of officers has volunteered to serve another year, but nominees are welcome. Tim WQ1Y mentioned that the annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band test will happen 11 May. One of our newer members, Chris KB1ZKL, donated a Baofeng HT to the club for the raffle. The club realized \$113.00 from ticket sales and the lucky winner was Mark KB1ZGC. The secretary was asked to send a thank-you letter to Chris and will do so.



above: Mark KB1ZGC was the happy winning raffle ticket holder, taking the dual-band HT donated by Chris KB1ZKL.

KD1SM photo

There was a ten minute break for goodies and socializing.

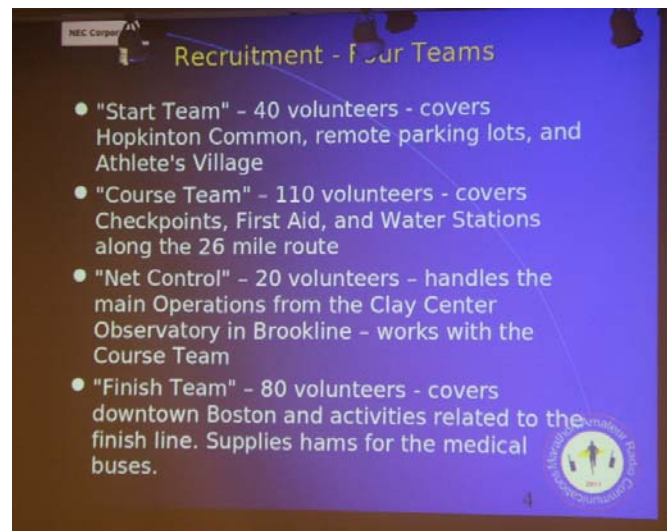
Steve W3EVE gave a talk on the ham radio organizations aspect of the Boston Marathon. He also touched on our contribution to the aftermath of the explosions.



above: Steve Schwarm W3EVE describes the Boston Marathon Amateur Radio support.

below: Steve detailed the size of the Amateur Radio crew.

KD1SM photos



A motion to adjourned was made and seconded at 8:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barry W1HFN, Secretary

WRTC 2014

On Saturday, June 1 a group of volunteers gathered in Milford, MA. Including Gary K1YTS, Tom AB1GF, Barry W1HFN, and myself in an all familiar territory. Raising the tower in the heat! We attended the training session to learn the changes and practice and hopefully train some newbies that were there.

The day started out at 7 am to coffee and doughnuts and then an overview of the sites and jobs for the event. I walked in the building to find a wall of various plaques from CQ and ARRL etc. and found out the owner of the company and building was Krassie K1LZ who hosted the day and had his staff and family man the barbecue while we went about our training. He has also donated space to house a second storage site for the gear. Now that is a generous man. He even treated us to his native Bulgarian sausage which was quite tasty. After the lunch we were treated to a Ben and Jerry's ice cream truck. Ok, who's in the mood to take down a tower after all that!

So, yours truly was pre selected to take charge of one tower raising and K2TE had the other. It actually took us two hours to get it set up. A lot better than last year; the improvements were a big help and the improvements are continuing. The other team almost lost theirs. It was just about up and it wanted to keep going. We thought that one was a goner but they saved it. Luckily no one got hurt or got sick from the heat.

The testing event is set for July 12, 13, 14 of this year and we do have a need for volunteers. We need some more to help with two stations. That's two of everything. There is the setup on Friday and Sunday am

takedown. We need people to stand watch over night and event day. And we need some operators. This is a 24 hour contest From 8 am Saturday to 8 am Sunday.

This event runs every 4 years and I'm sure it will not see the east coast for some time. It is a lot of work, but it is a lot of fun. See me if you want to volunteer.

Thanks a lot, Ray

In The Glow Of The Filaments

OR A SHORT TRIP IN THE 'WABAC' MACHINE (with apologies to Mr. Peabody and Sherman)

de Bill NZ1D

Part 2 Redux: In Search of Nestor Stolba's Call Sign Revisited

By now, those of you who have been following (or tolerating) the series, "In the Glow of the Filaments," our little look back at the MARA's founding, are aware that our predecessor club, the Montachusett Amateur Radio Club, sprouted from the Region Nine (CD) Radio club, formed in 1951 by Nestor W. Stolba, W1GZ (sk). And we know also, with a certain degree of accuracy, that Nestor had been a "ham" much earlier than that, reportedly since he was a teenager. Ellis Holden, W1GUI (sk), ex 1BON, writing in 1976, told us that Nestor received his first license in 1911. We now know that was not possible, as licensing wasn't mandated until August 1912 and the first official call letters weren't issued until late 1912 or early 1913. Since Nestor's family said that he received

his first license on his 15th birthday (February 27, 1914), that would seem to be closer to the truth, although in deference to Ellis, he undoubtedly would have been experimenting much earlier than that.

In Part 2 of the series (vol. 54 no. 4, April 2012), I repeated an earlier lament that unfortunately the family didn't tell us the call letters of that license and, since the government's records had been lost, "short of some fortuitous but highly unlikely discovery in a dusty Fitchburg attic, or painstakingly pouring over old call books, if and where available, the first call letters probably would never be known to us." In closing Part 2, I then boldly and somewhat boastfully announced I had found a reference to Stolba's earlier call letters in a 1949 QST article and that (trumpet fanfare please!) they had been 1GY.

Well friends, as Yogi put it, "It ain't over 'til it's over." Here is an interesting tidbit regarding Stolba's original license taken from the Fitchburg Daily Sentinel, Monday, March 2, 1914, three days after his 15th birthday:

"Nestor W. Stolba Licensed Wireless Operator."

"Nestor W. Stolba of 171 Blossom St. was granted a U.S. government radio operator's license on Saturday, as a result of an examination he took at the custom house at Boston, last week. This license is what is known as a first class amateur's license and is next in rank to one given to a commercial or steamboat operator. The license gives him the authority to transmit messages outside the limits of the state which is forbidden unless the owner of a wireless station passes an examination given by the

U.S. radio inspector at Boston. Stolba's license states that his knowledge of instruments used in wireless is excellent and that he is also excellent in the care and construction of apparatus and in transmitting and receiving in the Morse and Continental telegraph code. He has a wireless station at his home and is the third Fitchburg resident to hold one of the licenses."

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But wait! There's more. Stolba's very first call letters actually may have been....Oh crap! There goes my phone. Sorry, but I really gotta take this. CUL.

ARRL in Action

Compiled by S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
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Ed. Note: This is a subset of K1SFA's May compilation; see the full text with links at <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-in-action-what-have-we-been-up-to-lately-58>

More than 100 volunteers, officers and staff represented the ARRL in the ARRL EXPO at the 2013 Dayton Hamvention®. The event -- which ran on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (May 17-19) -- featured forums, DX activities, a "Meet the Authors" area and more.

Members of the ARRL Field Organization in Oklahoma assisted served agencies in the wake of a deadly tornado.

The ARRL filed comments on an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that calls for an expansion of unlicensed broadband on 5 GHz.

Logbook of the World -- the ARRL's online QSO confirmation system -- logged its 500 millionth QSO at 0140 UTC on May 22.

The ARRL Public Relations Committee is sponsoring an "I Am the ARRL" video contest.

Section Manager Election Results: ARRL members in Nebraska, New Hampshire and Wisconsin will get new Section Managers.

W1AW News: W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, repaired the 2 meter antenna used for the W1HQ D-STAR system and a power supply used for one of the broadcast transmitters.

ARRL Education Services manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, along with representatives from NASA's Teaching from Space Office and AMSAT, reviewed 17 proposals for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. They selected 10 applications for contacts to take place during May-November 2013, including the National Boy Scout Jamboree. So far in 2013, ARISS partners have supported 25 international contacts.

DXCC Desk: The February 1984 operation to TI9CCC (Cocos Island) has been approved for DXCC credit.

The July print issue of QST was released to the printer, and the digital edition was released to the digital publisher. The June digital edition of QST was made available to ARRL members. Second printings of Ham Radio for Arduino and PICAXE and Emergency Power for Radio Communications were released to the printer.

Official Observer Desk: ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, handled complaints regarding interference on 3.840 MHz in California, a report of questionable operation on 7.275 MHz, radio amateurs operating outside of license privileges, a broadcast station heard on 6 meters, unidentified VoIP operation, unlicensed individuals in San Francisco using Amateur Radio frequencies, problems on an Arkansas repeater, unidentified Russian digital signals on 20 meters and radio amateurs experiencing interference on 10 meters from CB operators in Missouri. He also answered questions concerning antenna restrictions, operating overseas, a club offering a prize in a fox hunt, proper identification while cross-banding and a possible bogus call sign in Florida.



Montachusett Amateur Radio Association
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