



## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, March 12  
7:30PM**

**Wallace Room,  
Lunenburg Public Library**

## Video Night

The March MARA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday the 12th. We'll be at our regular location: the Wallace Community Room in the Lunenburg Public Library.

Ray KB1LRL has chosen some special videos to share. See his column next.

## The President's Corner

Hi everyone. It's amazing that we are starting the third month of the year and it seems to be the longest winter we had! I will say this, I don't want to hear anyone complain about the heat this summer! I hope we make the best use of it and also to enjoy it. I don't have to labor on the all the stuff we have in store for us. The one thing I will do is remind those that there is a need for volunteers and your help would be rewarded with valuable experience and deep gratitude.

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## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, W1HFN, K1JHC, N1EJH,  
K1TWF

I have also been having a challenge with getting some interesting stuff for the meetings. Speakers have once again have become thin again as we as people have become busier and their time has been maxed out. As Dr. Evil once said "Throw me a bone here" I could use some suggestions. Let me know. As they say "Vitality is the force behind success" (or maybe it's just me that said it) I do have some ideas cooking, I need to see how to execute them.

This month I will present a video or two that I found and see why they were not nominated for an Oscar. Come to the meeting and see if the butler really did it!

I hope to see you all at the meeting bring your ideas and anything else.

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

**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, 6 April; Framingham**  
Framingham Ham Fest, Keefe Tech.

**Sunday, 20 April; Cambridge**  
Flea at MIT; 3rd Sunday April - October

**Saturday, 26 April; Brookline NH**  
NEARC Antique Radio Swap Meet  
Brookline Event Center

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

Exam sessions were held in November,  
January, and February. A total of 9 candi-  
dates were served. Three Technician  
licenses, two General licenses, and two  
Extra Class licenses were earned.

The Volunteer Examiners serving at these  
sessions were Tom AB1GF, Tom K1JHC,  
Bruce KB1YRS, Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM,  
Paul KD1YH, John KK1X, Don N1HVA, and  
Chatmon WA1FIA. We welcome AB1GF and  
KB1YRS to the VE Team.

In 2013 the team conducted nine sessions  
and served 33 candidates who collectively  
earned 20 Technician licenses, 9 General  
licenses, and 4 Extra Class licenses. The  
examiners were Tom AB1GF (1 session),  
Tom K1JHC (8 sessions), Gary K1YTS (7  
sessions), Ralph KD1SM (9 sessions), Paul  
KD1YH (8 sessions), Justin KJ1H (1  
session), John KK1X (6 sessions), Tim KQ1Y  
(1 session), Charlie KT1I (2 sessions), Don  
N1HVA (5 sessions), Gordon N1MGO (3  
sessions), and Chatmon WA1FIA (1 session).

Exam sessions are scheduled on the 4th  
Wednesday of the month. Preregistration is  
required otherwise the session may be  
canceled, however if at least one candidate  
has preregistered then walk-ins will be  
accepted. Use the exam session locator on  
[arrl.org](http://arrl.org) for further information including  
preregistration details.

The sessions are now being held at the  
Lunenburg Public Safety Complex. The  
Team thanks Chiefs Sullivan and Marino  
for providing access to the training room for  
these exam sessions.

## 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.

### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

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

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

## W1BYH SK

Norm Rivers W1BYH became a silent key on October 27. Norm was an avid Amateur Radio operator since the age of 13. He helped to establish MARA and its predecessor clubs and held several offices in the Clubs over the years including station trustee and President.

Norm was a fixture at MARA meetings until his illness prevented him from attending the past two years. Norm carried a lot of the Club history in his head. His stories of how things used to be were freely shared at Club meetings.

Norm was also a contester, particularly enjoying RTTY (Radio Teletype) contests where the call W1BYH was recognized by Hams world-wide. Field Day was one of Norm's favorite Club activities.



Norm W1BYH at his standard Field Day station, 2007. kd1sm photo



Norm presenting to MARA his earlier activities in Fiji and other DX locations.

kd1sm photo



Norm with one of his many passions in Amateur Radio -- exchanging QSL cards. Here he looks for cards addressed to him at a MARA QSL sort in 2009.

kd1sm photo

## Remembering Norm

I first met Norm while studying for my Novice License in 1959. He has been a true friend and Fellow Ham ever since. While

Plant Engineer at Simonds Saw I had the pleasure of having Norm's help while setting up the Paging System.

- Tom Duffy K1JHC

Ran into Norm at one of the Deerfields that was held elsewhere. He was in his RV and cooking up some lunch. He invited me to share, and for the first time in my life I had a concoction of baked beans, peaches and Spam all warmed up in one pot. Quite good and filling.

Another time, we were up at his repeater site, must have been in the late 70's / early 80's and decided to do Field Day right there. He had an old picnic table, an all-band Swan xceiver and small putt-putt generator so off we went. Did not score very well, but had a good time.

- Barry Fox W1HFN

I have known Norm for some 40 years. When I started my radio shop, back in '76 Norm was kind enough to help me get things up and running. He will be missed by me and many others. I would say he was one of the finest gentlemen I have ever met.

- Ed Hendershaw N1EJH

Norm was a huge fount of historical information about Ham Radio in the Fitchburg/Leominster area. He was "front and center" when much of the history was being made. I enjoyed hearing Norm speak of other local Hams whose contributions, with Norm's, created several predecessor clubs to MARA and finally the MARA we have now. Norm's personal archives of Club history are a huge treasure.

- Ralph Swick KD1SM

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## KB1TNN SK

Al Faul KB1TNN became a silent key on January 5. Al's health had been declining for several years but he continued to attend MARA meetings and Old Timers' Lunches whenever he could. Al also enjoyed participating in Field Day and was one of the regulars for the past several years.



Al KB1TNN admires a door prize at a MARA meeting. kd1sm photo



Old Timer's Lunch, July 2012; Al KB1TNN with Ken KB1UVP, Paul N1QDX, Gary K1YTS, Bill NZ1D, and Tom K1JHC.

kd1sm photo

## October Meeting

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association Meeting

9 Oct 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM. Those in attendance were: Tom AB1GF, Gordon N1MGO, Ray KB1LRL, Paul KD1YH, Charlie KT1I, Ralph KD1SM, Gary K1YTS, Ken KB1UVP, John KK1X, Bruce KB1YRS, Tim W0TJP, Steve KC1AHU, Tom K1JHC, Al KB1TNN, Bill N1UZ, Barry W1HFN and our guest speaker Paul WB1EWS.

No introductions were made as we all pretty much knew each other. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Treasurer's report; ending balance of \$1949.90 plus \$447.50 in the repeater fund. Motion to accept, seconded and passed.

Ray KB1LRL will be out of town in Nov, the meeting will be presided over by VP Tom AB1GF.

Tech Committee report: The 220 repeater RX appears to have a dead pre-amp, Paul KD1YH will address the issue. The TX is functioning well. Gary K1YTS has located a relay rack for the W1GZ 2M repeater move. It was agreed that a date has to be set for the preliminary move or we will be doing it in the winter. Gordon N1MGO mentioned a problem with the IRLP node on power-up, he will fix.

The raffle netted the club \$23.00.

Tom AB1GF mentioned NEARFEST upcoming date, much interest noted.

There was a ten minute break for goodies and socializing. After that Paul WB1EWS gave a very interesting talk on broadcast engineering with emphasis on antenna systems.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 9:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry W1HFN  
Secretary

## November Board Meeting

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

13 Nov 2013

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

Those present were: Ray KB1LRL, Paul KD1YH, Tom AB1GF, Gordon N1MGO, Pauline KB1JXJ and Barry W1HFN.

The main topic of discussion was the need for speakers at our monthly meetings. Several suggestions were made, to be followed up.

The December meeting / Christmas party will be held at Gordon and Pauline's QTH, Dec 8th from 1 – 3 PM. As in the past, a Yankee Swap will be held. If you wish to participate, please limit your gifts to \$15.00 or less, one each for "the ham" and one for "the spouse".

We are still investigating helping the Fitchburg EOC with comms.

Gary K1YTS and Tom AB1GF to visit Burbank and get started on the repeater move.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry W1HFN  
MARA Secretary

## November Meeting

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association Meeting

13 Nov 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by the VP, AB1GF, as Ray was out of town. Those in attendance were: Tom AB1GF, Gordon N1MGO, Paul KD1YH, Gary K1YTS, Ken KB1UVP, John KK1X, Bruce KB1YRS, Tim W0TJP, Steve KC1AHU, Walter K1CMF, Tom K1JHC, Chris WB1ZKL, Mike KJ6ZMX, Jim K1BEZ, Chris nocallyet, Tom nocallyet, Barry W1HFN and Stan KD1LE and Bob W1XP our guest speakers.

Introductions were made with name and call signs. Treasurer's report; ending balance of \$1927.90 plus \$493.50 in the repeater fund. Motion to accept, seconded and passed.

Tech Committee report; The repeater move is underway, K1YTS, AB1GF, KB1UVP and KB1YRS moved the rack to the new location. Hospital maintenance will pierce the wall for coax and etc. A new receiver was purchased for the 220 repeater.

There will be no regular meeting in December as the annual holiday party will be held

at Gordon and Pauline's QTH. Date is 8 Dec, from 1 to 3 PM. As usual, a Yankee Swap will be held with a suggested cost not to exceed \$15.00.

Gordon gave a status report on Charlie KT1I's condition, doing well at Wachusett Manor re-hab. Tom visited Al KB1TNN at Sterling Village and reported he is improving.

There was a ten minute break for refreshments provided by Bruce KB1YRS.

Guest speakers were Stan KD1LE and Bob W1XP who gave a very informative talk on lightning protection for the antenna system and shack.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 9:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry W1HFN  
Secretary

**January Meeting**

Minutes Of The Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

8 Jan 2014

The secretary was absent from this meeting. The following courtesy of Ray KB1LRL.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by president KB1LRL. Introductions were made.

Those in attendance: Ray KB1LRL, Tom AB1GF, Gary K1YTS, Chris W2ZLX, Gordon N1MGO, Ken KB1UVP, Paul KD1YH, Tom K1JHC, Walter K1CMF, Bruce KB1YRS and Jeanine N1QIT.

Treasurer's report: balance of \$1799.90 with \$493.50 in the repeater fund. Moved and seconded to accept. The passing of Al KB1TNN was noted and memories related.

Repeater news: no news on the movement of the W1GZ repeater at Burbank.

Ray gave an update on the ARRL Cabinet meeting.

The Boston Marathon was discussed along with other public service opportunities.

There was a ten minute break for refreshments.

Gary K1YTS gave a presentation of his "Go Pack" he uses for the Boston Marathon plus some antennas he has for use in field deployment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry W1HFN  
Secretary

**February Meeting**

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

12 Feb 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 by president KB1LRL. Introductions were made.

Those in attendance: Ray KB1LRL, Tom AB1GF, Charlie KT1I, Jim W1DF, Gary K1YTS, Chris W2ZLX, Gordon N1MGO, Bill N1UZ, Ken KB1UVP, Paul KD1YH, Tom K1JHC, Tom W0TJP and Barry W1HFN.

Treasurer's report: balance of \$1799.90 with \$493.50 in the repeater fund. Moved and seconded to accept. The club received a thank you card from the family of recent SK, Al KB1TNN for our donation. It was mentioned that a previous club member, Jack WA1GCY was suffering from a brain tumor.

Thanks to Bruce KB1YRS and Tom AB1GF for the meeting refreshments. Ken KB1UVP to provide same for the March meeting.

Repeater news: the 220 machine duplexers need to be adjusted, Bruce KB1YRS to take that action. The Gardner repeater group is resurrecting the Wednesday evening net, all are invited to participate.

The Marboro flea market is next Saturday, many express interest in attending. The 2014 ARRL Field Day packets are out, our involvement to be discussed at a later meeting. Our major need is for night time ops.

The raffle brought \$9.00 for the club, the winner was Tom AB1GF, the prize a 2005 ARRL Handbook. Then followed a 10 minute break for refreshments.

"Show and Tell" night featured the following: Tom AB1GF showed his homebrew 10/15/20 M tri-plexer, which allows three separate rigs to use the same tri-bander at the same time. Also he showed his Black Widow iambic key made from a kit. Tom K1JHC showed his homebrewed wind speed indicator about to be speed calibrated from a moving car. Bill N1UZ brought his portable HF station-in-a-box. Very neat installation. Tom W0TJP showed a SDR XCVR he had built. Barry W1HFN showed his two homebrew fox-finder receivers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry W1HFN  
Secretary

## 2014 Wish List

With 2014 here, I am looking to provide not only an educational function, but a function that some time or another is a necessary club function. I have been mulling over this thought soon after the passing of Norm, W1BYH and need to address this issue.

Our club is comprised of our members and with it a small core of us that has the specialty that they do for the club that is part of our benefit. If, God forbid, something happens, to one of them, who would step in and take over? Do you know how to maintain and repair the repeater? Do you know how to manage the IRLP if something crashes? How about writing a newsletter? And so on.

I am asking that our members look at something they may like and talk to those to learn how to do those things. There are others and I can make a big list, but we need to diversify our specialties to ensure our club has a good solid future. I am not asking you to take over, but actively learn in order to assist them and step in if needed. Please consider something and either let them know or me so I can follow this along to assist. I do have a need for two net control operators to take the Sunday net if someone is absent and to pick up the fifth Sunday when it rolls around. Let me know if this would interest you.

Thanks a lot!

Ray KB1LRL



## ARRL New England Division Cabinet Meeting

January 4, 2014  
Springfield MA

- I. Introductions
- II. Centennial convention  
3rd weekend in July, 2013 in Hartford
- III. League
  - a. Information Technology
    - i. the usual spam filtering problems with arrl.net addresses
    - ii. Head count is up on people supporting IT
    - iii. Improvements to the online sales system
    - iv. Android support for digital QST
    - v. LOTW - improvements continue
    - vi. Electronic elections not working as well as hoped
- IV. FCC action
- V. Debra Johnson – Education Services
  - a. Instructor and licensing support
  - b. Level 1 Emcom course
  - c. Outreach
  - d. Maker community – working on using this approach to promote ham radio
  - e. Working with kids
  - f. How far should the League go in promoting more general science and technology education ?
  - g. No particular group in charge of recruitment at the League !! PR is the closest.
  - h. Most common route to licensing seems to be self study.
- VI. Digital comm.
  - a. Are we getting to the “tipping point” of moving from analog to digital
  - b. Should we consider 2.4 GHz HSMM in 2.4 GHz band plan ?

- VII. Frequency coordination
  - a. New England Spectrum Management Council is voting on a proposal to change their band plan to expand 2 meter repeater frequencies over some simplex frequencies
  - b. There hasn't been much increase in 2 meter repeater use in recent years – why now?
  - c. There seems to be no one representing the interests of simplex users
  - d. Do we need a more national approach?
- VIII. EMCOM
  - a. APCO MOU (public safety communication group, police, fire, etc.)
  - b. Note the new FEMA AUXFOG document (covering auxiliary comm. For FEMA) – see HCRA web site for link
- IX. WRTC 2014
- X. Clubs
- XI. For the Board meeting
  - a. Spectrum protection
  - b. Incentivize the digital QST subscription
  - c. Dues are low, considering inflation
  - d. Tower cases – looking for good solid cases to pursue
  - e. ARES/RACES – confusion continues

1/4/13 - K1TWF

## Catching Up

*From the Editor ...*

*Yes, this really is only the third issue of the W1/GaZette that has been published this Club year. Apologies for that. The job, family, and other volunteer activities have caused delays each month when I intend to get the newsletter done. Apologies for that. And ongoing appreciation for those who submit articles.*



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