



Next Meeting

**Wednesday, June 11
7:30PM
Lunenburg Public Library**

**Election of Officers
Field Day Planning**

The MARA Annual Meeting and election of officers is scheduled for Wednesday June 11. This meeting marks the end of a fiscal year so dues are also due for the next year.

Traditionally MARA does not hold a regular meeting in July or August.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee offers the following slate of candidates for Club officers for the upcoming year:

President	Ray Lajoie KB1LRL (*)
Vice President	Tom Antil AB1GF (*)
Secretary	Bruce Wilbur KB1YRS
Treasurer	Gordon Lapoint N1MGO (*)

* incumbent

Nominations from the floor can be made at the meeting.

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Contributors To This Issue:

AB1GF, KB1LRL, W1HFN, NZ1D

The President's Corner

Greetings! As I am typing this it is sunny, I am hot as it is 85 degrees out, as I have promised... I AM NOT COMPLAINING! I also realized it has been 1 year of my little "accident", I have found out it became a good little weather indicator as a result.

I have been spending this year so far trying to get caught up, but I am starting to find myself getting into the same predicament as others are. We are so busy we lose track of ourselves and now Field Day is just about here and following that in two weeks WRTC... The BIG one. So I have been asking those busy ones to be busier and help out, what fun!

That's my 2½ cents worth. It's hard to imagine that 10 years ago in October I got my license for the first time. I said it before and I'll say it again that I wish I found this years ago.

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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 15, Cambridge MA
Flea at MIT; repeats July 20 and August 17

July 18 & 19, Hartford CT
ARRL National Convention

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>

The President's Corner

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This is now the end of our current year and I hope we get together and do something together. Field Day is open to everyone and WRTC is still in need of volunteers to help out. And, yes, I do plan on a cookout and need to plan that. I'll take suggestions for that one. (You, members, not the crickets!)

The meeting this month is of course field day planning, elections for the upcoming year and another thing or two. And remember... DUES are coming up. I look for this month although the year starts in September.

Please consider what you want to get out of next year. Speakers, subjects, projects, etc. What do you want to learn? Do you want to upgrade your license? (No comments!) I am always open to suggestions, looking for things to promote enthusiasm, participation, fun and education. You have all summer, give it a think and let me know. (You, members, not the crickets!)

Hope to see you at the meeting and have a great summer

73, de Ray, KB1LRL

Have a safe Field Day and a great summer. No regular MARA meetings in July and August.

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
Mailing address: MARA
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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.

May Meeting Report

Minutes Of The Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

14 May 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by president KB1LRL. Introductions were made.

Those in attendance: Ray KB1LRL, Tom AB1GF, Charlie KT1I, Gary K1YTS, Chris W2ZLX, Gordon N1MGO, Ken KB1UVP, Paul KD1YH, Tom K1JHC, Tom W0TJP, Paul KB1WUG, Walter K1CMF, Mark KB1ZGC, Bruce KB1YRS, John KK1X, Dan AB2TG, Chris KB1ZKL, Ralph KD1SM, Kevin N1ERS, Bob KB1JZU, Dave (nocall), Barry W1HFN and our guest speaker, Andy KB1OIQ.

Congratulations to Paul KB1WUG on attaining his General Class License.

Treasurer's report: balance of \$1636.90 with \$520.50 in the repeater fund. Moved and seconded to accept.

Tom AB1GF reported someone has stolen all the clubs Field Day antennas from his back yard. Barry W1HFN offered to donate a tri-bander from an SK estate. Tom to pursue acquiring others. Tom also mentioned the club might want to pursue ARRL insurance.

Repeater news: the 220 machine appears to functioning well. We are still awaiting news from the hospital that the hole has been punched through the wall of the new site. Tom AB1GF to pursue the matter. In a similar vein, it was suggested that the inventory of the clubs assets be updated.

Tom K1JHC has contacted Fitchburg Public Access TV and The Sentinel and Enterprise in regard to them covering our WRTC event.

Gary K1YTS and Ralph KD1SM thanked all who volunteered for the Townsend Canoe Race and Groton Road Race, respectively. The Alzheimer Memory Ride is looking for volunteers, contact Ralph if interested.

The raffle brought \$11.00 for the club, the winner Bruce KB1YRS who received an ARRL Antenna Book. He promptly offered it up, Paul KB1WUG was the new owner.

Andy KB1OIQ gave a presentation on the LINUX operating system as used in ham radio applications.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barry W1HFN, Secretary

VE Team Report

The MARA license exam session for May was canceled due to KD1SM's schedule conflict.

The next session is scheduled for Wednesday June 25. Pre-registration is important so that you can be contacted in the event of a last-minute change.

To register for the exam session, contact Paul Upham KD1YH by phone at 978.597.6535 or by email at phupham@verizon.net. Walk-ins are accepted however the session will be canceled if no candidates are pre-registered.

Exam sessions are expected to continue on the fourth Wednesday of the month throughout the summer.

In the Glow of the Filaments

de Bill NZ1D

Part 7: A Typical Day with the "Young Wizard with Wireless"

Although it may not have constituted a club, per se, young Nestor's little club house at 171 Mt Vernon Street seems to have been a focal point of the neighborhood. It was here that the young "wizard" held court with his circle of friends. As described in the December 1914 article, "The wireless 'shack' as it is known among the boys who are interested in the study of wireless is a favorite rendezvous at night when the messages come the thickest. Almost any night, from 7 o'clock to 10 o'clock there are at least three or four boys gathered in the little shed, working the small set or else reading the messages taken from the air and copied by Stolba on his typewriter. The official call given to this station by the Radio inspector is 1K.U., and the station is registered under this title."

So let us go back to 1914 and take a look around Nestor's little wireless shack. One corner of the shack is taken up by a set of instruments for sending and receiving "Morse" telegraph, the other station being in the Stolba house. In addition, a small telephone set connects to wires running to the house so if Nestor is wanted he can be called at any time. Nestor tells us that he plans to extend this private telephone system to the nearby house of a friend. In what could represent any typical ham shack, boxes and shelves in the little shed contain dry batteries, electrical wire and parts of old electrical apparatus. The place resembles a combined power house and laboratory.

During the day the airwaves are mostly quiet, although Nestor has a schedule of various government stations and other calls that are sent daily and he generally “listens in” at the proper times. The government station in Arlington, Virginia, sends out time messages at 10 am, followed at noon by traffic from the Boston Navy yard, but the “real business” starts at 6 pm. At this time, messages are usually received from the Boston Navy yard followed a short time later by transmissions from the “big station on the roof of the Filene store in Boston.” During college football season, this station sends results of the big-college games to ocean-going steamers. Stolba copies these messages and posts them on a bulletin board in the shack for the benefit of the youthful amateurs who frequent the shack after supper. He also copies daily weather bulletins and storm warnings sent to ships from Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

At 9 pm it's time for the news. That's when the station at Sayville, Long Island sends press reports to all the ships at sea equipped with Marconi and DeBieg wireless services. Twenty years into the future, a journalist and newspaper gossip columnist named Walter Winchell will mimic this system for disseminating the news. Starting in the 30's, Winchell will open his radio broadcasts by pounding on a telegraph key while announcing, “Good evening Mr. and Mrs. America from border to border and coast to coast and all the ships at sea.”

At 9:55 pm, the government station in Arlington, Virginia sends a second series of time messages. At this time it is “common custom for Mt Vernon street residents to bring in their clocks and watches for the

purpose of having them set to official 'observatory time' by wireless.” Then at 10 pm, the station at Wellfleet sends its messages to steamers and land stations. Visitors are welcome to listen in to all this activity. The shack is equipped with an extra pair of headsets and visitors are given a chance to listen to the mystical on-off bzzzt-bzzzt of the code, which of course to the initiated, spells words and sentences.

In addition to keeping active with all this daily activity in his Mt Vernon Street shack, Nestor sends messages out to Fitchburg boys who have stations but who are unable to send any great distance, "being content at the start with receiving stations of low power and not requiring licenses to operate.”

During his last summer vacation, Nestor spent many hours in wireless stations in Boston, working to increase his code speed and his wireless knowledge. With the assistance of U.S. Navy experts in sending and receiving, he quickly mastered copying messages sent out by the various government and commercial stations. This connection with the Navy undoubtedly was facilitated by brother Edward, 10 years his senior and an engineer in the Navy.

Next time, in Part 8: “Something to do, something to think about...”

Editor's Note: Part 6 “Young Wizard with Wireless” appeared in the October 2013 issue of the W1/GaZette.



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