



## Next Meeting

**Wednesday, September 10  
7:30PM  
Lunenburg Public Library  
“Short Subject Challenge”**

Monthly MARA meetings resume after the summer break with everyone contributing to a “short subject challenge”. We have done this several times and it has proven quite fun. Calls will be drawn out of a hat; if your call is drawn you’ll be invited to present briefly on any topic of your choosing. If you prefer not to stand up and talk then you’ll have the fun of answering a question from the current Extra Class question pool.

## President’s Corner

Hello everyone! I hope everyone has had, or still having a great summer. We actually had fine weather and when we needed it, it cooperated with us.

Busy was the word of the summer as activities and events had us in maximum overdrive at times and I am happy to report, it was all met with huge success. More on these in other articles.

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## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, AB1GF, W1HFN, KB1JXJ

One of the big things was we had a fair amount of press which was a great benefit to ham radio. Our very own editor, Ralph KD1SM was featured in the Sentinel on Skywarn and yours truly was on the Leominster’s Mayor show and talked about WRTC and ham radio. Leominster Access TV with Tom K1JHC and Don Montrym W1IBJ is now putting together a 30 minute documentary of Ham radio in the area. We had a video intern filming us at Field Day and at WRTC. This is a learning experience for the small time I have been working on it. Hopefully it will be ready and will be presented at a upcoming club meeting. So far it looks good and will be a good promo for the hobby for the area.

The upcoming meeting and the entire year’s will be at the Library thanks to Pauline KB1JXJ for arranging that. Sept 10 is our first one. The first one will be our short subject challenge. Bring a small subject to present or be questioned from the Extra Class pool. Let’s see some good stuff this

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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 21 September, Cambridge**  
Flea at MIT; third Sunday April - October

**Saturday 27 September, Brookline NH**  
NE Antique Radio Club

**10-11 October, Deerfield NH**  
NEARfest

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

*continued from page 1*

time. We are also looking for some  
presenters..again. Give me some input  
please.

Hope to see you at the meeting. Spread the  
word!

Ray, KB1LRL

## VE Team Report

The MARA Volunteer Examiner Team  
continued to conduct license exam sessions  
through the summer. Three sessions were  
held with a total of 11 new licenses and 6  
upgrades earned.

The examiners were Tom AB1GF, Tom  
K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Bruce KB1YRS,  
Ralph KD1SM, Paul KD1YH, John KK1X,  
Don N1HVA, Gordon N1MGO, and  
Chatmon WA1FIA.

Exam sessions are scheduled for the 4th  
Wednesday of the month, 7pm at the  
Lunenburg Public Safety Complex.

To register for the exam session, contact  
Paul Upham KD1YH by phone at  
978.597.6535 or by email at  
[phupham@verizon.net](mailto:phupham@verizon.net). Walk-ins are  
accepted however the session will be  
canceled if no candidates are 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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Club Secretary: Bruce Wilbur KB1YRS  
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.

## June Meeting Report

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association Meeting

11 June 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM. Those in attendance were: Tom AB1GF, Gordon N1MGO, Ray KB1LRL, Paul KD1YH, Charlie KT1I, Gary K1YTS, John KK1X, Bruce KB1YRS, Tim W0TJP, Tom K1JHC, Jim AD1L, Chris W2ZLX, Dan AB2TG, Don W1IBJ and Barry W1HFN.

Introductions were made with name and call signs. Treasurer's report; ending balance of \$1697.90 plus \$531.50 in the repeater fund. Motion to accept, seconded and passed.

Tech Committee report; the 220 repeater is up and running at KB1YRS' QTH. It will be relocated to Burbank when the 2M repeater is moved to its new location. AB1GF to light a fire under the maintenance people to get the holes drilled for the move. N1MGO offered for sale to the club his CushCraft A3S yagi. To be decided at a later meeting.

There was a ten minute break for goodies and socializing during which raffle tickets were sold. The club realized \$17.00. There were two drawings; N1MGO won the Operator's Manual which he gave to W2ZLX and K1JHC won the MARA hat.

K1YTS mentioned that the 900MHz repeater was back in business.

KB1YRS showed his HB chip resistor-PC CPU heatsink dummy load and AB1GF's pint can version of same.

AB2TG would like to learn more about 2M/440 ISS and ham satellite QSOs.

W1HFN showed the dongle-based 25MHz to 1.8GHz spectrum analyzer he received as a birthday present.

KB1LRL mentioned that the Alzheimer's Ride was the same day as WRTC teardown, contact KD1SM if you can assist. Our club to travel to Hingham to set up 2 WRTC antennas there on Wed, then do our own at Sholan on Thurs.

W1IBJ will give a talk later in the year on the radio equipment of the last WW2 destroyer. He will also be doing some videoing and interviewing of our WRTC effort at Sholan Farms in July.

Elections were held; the incumbents, Ray KB1LRL (President), Tom AB1GF (Vice-President) and Gordon N1MGO (Treasurer) were re-elected. A new secretary, Bruce KB1YRS, was elected.

There was much discussion regarding Field Day, the need for night time operators mainly. We are to be in a friendly competition with the Gardner club for meeting refreshments as a prize for best score. Also mentioned were antennas, needed and on hand, tower/masts and food, KD1YH to act as chef de' cuisine as usual, and would appreciate \$20.00 per head from those attending to purchase victuals.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry W1HFN, Secretary

*Ed. Note: Thanks Barry for your four years of providing these meeting minutes for the GaZette.*

## Field Day 2014

de Tom AB1GF

I want to thank all who participated this year. We were on top of Mount Wachusett again. We were 3a and had a vhf/ uhf station too.

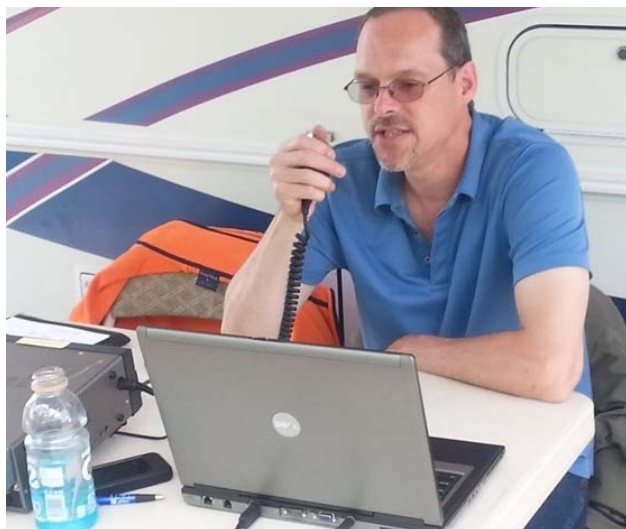
Gary K1YTS brought a Flex radio to try out. Bill NZ1 and a D had to get used to a radio without knobs!



all photos courtesy AB1GF



Gordon spent field day with us and set up a RTTY station.



Bruce KB1YRS ran the GOTA station and had a blast. He said he is looking forward to next year.



N1QDX set up a station and I had VHF/UHF covered.

The totals are in. Drum roll please.....

MARA 2716. (Ly1358)

MARC 3834 (ly 2766)

MARC beat us again but only by 1118 points for qsos.

So I will be bringing them their refreshments this month and presenting them with the plaque.

I plan on reclaiming the plaque next year.

Tom AB1GF

<p><b>WRTC...The Big Show</b></p>
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de Ray KB1LRL

July 9, 5 AM, It begins. We were asked to help out at another site as they were short-handed. We made the journey to Hingham. I guess we should be lucky we did not get sent to the Cape! This started 4 days of the official WRTC competition where we were setting up two tower assemblies at Wompatuk State Park and two full stations here at Sholan Farms. The weather was sunny and warm, fortunately not roasting like previous years. I'll take the warm over rain in this case.

WRTC2014 was four years in the making. It all started with Doug Grant K1DG visiting our club and presenting the event. Tom K1JHC suggested Sholan Farms and then the little ball started rolling and turned into a steamroller. And so they say, the rest is history. I took on the whole project when Tom bowed out in 2013.

Friday was the competitor's to find out where they were going to compete. We got a team from Great Britain and one from South America. They arrived Friday to set up, tune, test and tweak to be ready. They also took the time to talk to us as well as media, and Leominster's Mayor Dean Mazzarella who gave us a great welcome. 8 AM Saturday, it begins. Don't even talk to them as they were FOCUSED! For 24 hours that is where they stayed, with the referee right behind them. Our group provided support as needed, although they seemed pretty self sufficient. Even the camper was there "just in case."

Sunday we said our goodbyes to the contestants, referees, and stations as it was over. We cleaned up Sholan, then to Hingham to tear that down. At the end Gordon is the proud owner of a station as well as me. WRTC officially ended for us on Sunday at 6:30 pm. We all became a small part of that history.

Here are the warriors who put in the time, sweat, muscle, to make our effort a great success: Gary K1YTS, Tom AB1GF, Tom K1JHC, Barry W1HFN, Doug N1DBL, Ken KB1UVP, Tim KQ1Y, Bruce KB1YRS, Gordon N1MGO, Charlie KT1I. Their efforts and dedication are greatly appreciated and is a testament to the core of dedicated individuals that MARA has. Our team has also been complemented by the organizers as to how well we handled ourselves throughout the event.

I know I've already said it a bunch of times, and I'll say it again when I give them a heartfelt thank you for the support they gave us and showing others what we're made of!

Ray KB1LRL

## WRTC 2014

de Tom AB1GF

WRTC 2014 has come and gone. for those who volunteered thanks for all the help. Without the volunteers this would have not have happened. Thank you.

WRTC is equivalent to the Olympics of ham radio and we had a major hand in pulling this off.

58 teams of 2 operators from 33 different countries come to Massachusetts & new Hampshire to compete. All the stations were the same. 40' tower- tx38 tribander- yeasu rotator coax and an inverted v for 40m and 80m. They had a tent generator tables and chairs and a potty also.

They brought their own rigs and triplexers.

We got to meet some great people.



The Sholan farms site had 2 teams. England was Gerry GIORTN and Kasu M0CFW. And Bernd VK1IA was their referee.

photo courtesy AB1GF



Argentina was. photo courtesy AB1GF

The Q's were over 4,000 in 24 hours and only 100 watts.

Gary K1YTS, Tim KQ1Y, Doug N1DBL, Gordon N1MGO, Barry W1HFN, Tom K1JHC, Bruce KB1YRS, Ken kb1UVP, Ray KB1LRL and Tom AB1GF helped with the setup site security and tear down. Of 4 sites - 2 in Hingham and 2 at Sholan farms. I want to thank Ray KB1LRL for stepping up to the plate and bringing us together for this great event.

Tom AB1GF



above: N1MGO readying beam at Sholan photo courtesy W1HFN

## In the Glow of the Filaments

de Bill NZ1D

Part 8: "Something to do, something to think about," E. T. Seton.

So far in this look back at our roots, we have learned that Nestor W. Stolba, 1KU, 1GY, W1GZ (sk), founder of the Region Nine (CD) Amateur Radio Club in 1951, earned his first amateur radio license in February 1914, on his fifteenth birthday. In the last installment we toured Nestor's modest Mt. Vernon street shack and learned a little about his daily "wireless" routine and its influence on his friends and neighbors. But who or what got him interested in amateur wireless?

Perhaps it was a member of his father's circle. William manufactured cigars. In an era when cigar smoking was in vogue, that was somewhat like being a barber or saloon keeper. He was very active socially and, according to contemporaries, "unusually well known on account of his deep interest in fraternal and labor organizations as well as in matters pertaining to the welfare of the city." Active in the cigar makers union and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, he was at one time President of the Fitchburg aerie FOE.

In the family, Nestor's oldest brother may have been the primary influence. By the time Nestor was taking his first steps, Edward was already an apprentice machinist. By 1910, at 26, Edward had finished circumnavigating the globe as a "blue-jacket" on the USS Rhode Island, part of Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet. As a Naval shipboard engineer, Edward would have been keenly aware of the importance

of the wireless to military and commercial shipping interests. But when Nestor later joined the maritime service, although he was an accomplished wireless operator, for some reason he didn't respond to the growing demand for wireless operators, but instead through "hard work and study" he followed Edward's lead and became a shipboard engineer. Both men would eventually continue their careers on land as stationary engineers and inspectors in the insurance industry.

As for outside influences, Gernsbach's May 1909 "Wireless Blue Book" of registered "United States Amateur Stations" lists at least a dozen "amateurs" in New England with nine of these being in Massachusetts but none in Fitchburg. (There actually may have been more as registration was voluntary.) The second issue (June 1910) lists three amateur stations in Fitchburg: 19-year-olds Gifford Hartwell (HNG) and Leslie Cate (LLM), and Weyman Crocker (MWS), 15. All three went on to technical fields, Hartwell and Cate as civil engineers and Crocker (Harvard class of 1917) as a Lt. in the US Navy and later as a chemist in the family paper industry. None appear in the fourth issue (published Aug 1914) after licenses were required.

Around this time a new idea was being introduced in schools to prepare students for industry. First used to train engineers, the idea spread rapidly to public education. Called variously manual training, practical arts, or industrial arts, these programs included carpentry, sheet-metal work, plumbing, electricity, and other skills. Fitchburg High School started its "cooperative industrial" course before 1910.

Along the same vein, the State Normal School at Fitchburg (what is today's Fitchburg University), opened a two-year school in the fall of 1909 called the Practical Arts School, "one of the first junior high schools in the United States." The following year it instituted a Practical Arts course for teachers, touted as the "first practical arts teacher training course in the country for men." The course was advertised as a "two years' course open to young men. Fits for teaching manual training and various forms of industrial work."

Nestor's family also had a direct connection to the Normal School, just a few blocks away. His sister Elizabeth received her two-year Elementary School teacher training there, entering the "Seventeenth Class" in September 1911 and graduating in June 1913. One of her classmates (and alphabetically adjacent in the class roll) was Marguerite Struthers of Townsend. Both had younger siblings who became amateur wireless operators, Nestor as 1KU in 1914 and Francis Struthers as 1OQ shortly thereafter. Connection or coincidence?

Manual training teachers, such as William Holman mentioned in Part 3, who received his teaching certificate from the Normal School in 1916, often worked like latter-day Johnny Appleseeds, spreading the seeds of electricity as they circulated among area schools. Wireless clubs were popping up in many Massachusetts' high schools and several already had their own amateur station licenses. For example, in 1913, Groton School (1GR Duncan Hodges, trustee); 1914, Beverly HS (1LF) and Newton Technical HS (1LP); and 1915, Lynn English HS (1VK).



As expected, universities had been in the forefront. The MIT Radio Society (1XM c. 1914), organized in 1909, claims to be America's oldest college amateur radio station although the Harvard Wireless Club (1AF) also traces its beginning to the same year. New York City's Columbia University boasts that it beat them both, the students forming the Wireless Telegraph Club of Columbia University in 1908 (2XM in 1914), claiming to be "the earliest recorded formation of an amateur radio club, collegiate or otherwise."

In addition to the influence of schools, and magazines such as Gernsback's, there were several other avenues to an interest in wireless. Perhaps the one with the broadest appeal was Baden-Powell's new "club" idea imported from Britain in early 1910 by Dan Beard. This "youth gang" thing called Scouting had rapidly captured the attention of the civilized world. Introduced to America by Beard and Ernest Thompson Seton, author of the Birch Bark Roll of the Woodcraft Indians, Fitchburg's program started in November. By 1914, the Fitchburg Council's program was very active and within a few years there were five troops in the city and at least one troop in almost every other area town.

Morse code and signaling were big parts of Scouting. A boy could purchase the Boy Scout Handbook at Nichols and Frost on Main Street for a quarter and easily master the code. In May 1913 Leominster's Troop 1 gave a demonstration to an audience of about 200 in the assembly hall of the Unitarian Church where Scouts Charles Gavin and Ralph Bacon demonstrated the semaphore and Hobart Whitney and Brownlee Gauld demonstrated "the Morse key." We don't know if Nestor was a Boy

Scout, the Fitchburg Council's records for the first few years are somewhat spotty, but Scouting did present many a young boy's "close encounter" with the wireless. For example, in Cambridge, where Nestor moved to in 1915, BSA Troop 2 was licensed as 1SX, with the scoutmaster as trustee.

Next time, in Part 9: A Resource for National Defense.

*Editor's Note: Part 7 "A Typical Day with the 'Young Wizard with Wireless'" appeared in the June 2014 issue of the W1/GaZette.*

## August Club Picnic

Paul N1QDZ and his XYL Mary Ann hosted MARA at their home on a fine Sunday in August. Pauline KB1JXJ provided photos.



KK1X, K1JHC, K1YTS, Peg Griswold, Doris, KB1KEF, K1CMF



KB1KEF, Mary Ann, K1YTS, K1CMF, KT1I



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