

145.45 Repeater Relocated

With thanks to our hosts at Burbank Hospital for identifying a new location, our intrepid Technical Committee has relocated the 145.45 repeater to allow for the demolition of the building on which it has been housed since 1999. The repeater had been moved at that time to prepare for the demolition of its previous “base”.

Tom AB1GF provided the following:

On Saturday September 27 and Sunday the 28th, Tom AB1GF, Gary K1YTS, Paul KD1YH, Barry W1HFN, and Bruce KB1YRS got together to move the repeater to the new room at the hospital.

The repeater needed to be lowered down through a trap door to a cart waiting to roll it to the new room. While the repeater was being put into the new rack the tower feed lines and antennas were removed and transported across the roof to their new location.

New brackets were installed and tower and antennas were reinstalled. We were able to reduce the length of the hard lines. 2m 1.25m and 70cm antennas all have LDF-450A hard line. The 2m audio needs work but since no one would comment till after we left and locked the doors it makes it hard to know what is wrong.

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Contributors To This Issue:

AB1GF, KB1YRS, W1SEX

The W1GZ repeaters are on 145.450 - pl 74.4 and 224.340 - pl 103.6.

IRLP, EchoLink and emergency power are available.

Tom AB1GF V.P. MARA

Photos courtesy the moving crew.



above: K1YTS and AB1GF prepare to lower the cabinet through the floor to the floor below.

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 19 October, Cambridge
Flea at MIT; third 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>



above: AB1GF strips the tower.



above: KD1YH, KB1YRS, K1YTS and
AB1GF have the tower down ready to
carry across the roofs.

below: KD1YH removed the repeater
from the old cabinet.



The MARA W1/GaZette

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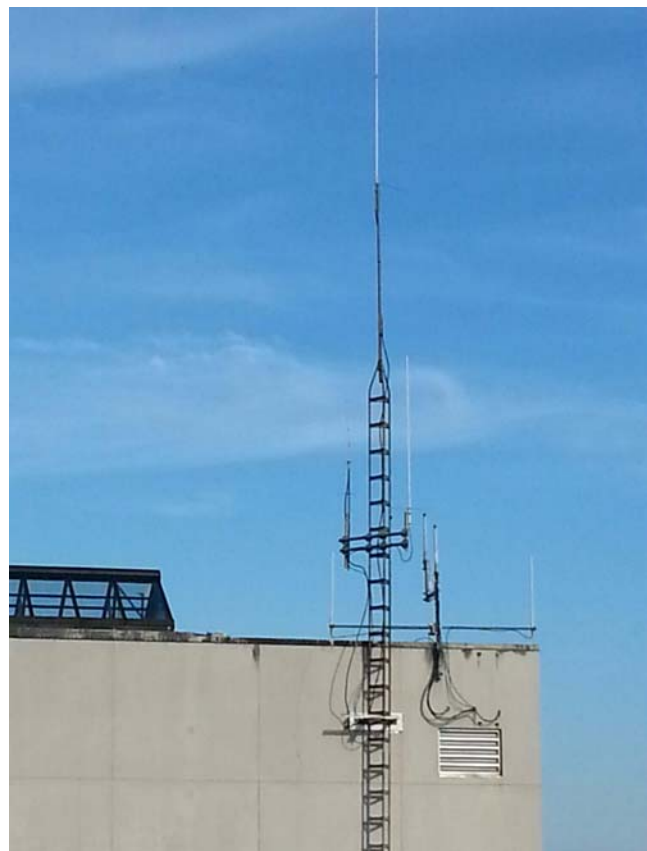
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MARA owns and operates the W1GZ repeater on 145.45 (CTCSS 74.4) in Fitchburg.



above: KD1YH with the repeater installed in its new rack.

below: the tower and antennas re-located.



September Meeting Report

MARA meeting minutes Sept. 10, 2014

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

Attendees: Ray KB1LRL, Tom AB1GF, Charlie KT1I, Barry W1HFN, Daniel AB2TG, Tom K1JHC, TIM W0TJP, Paul KD1YH, Gordon N1MGO, Gary K1YTS, Ralph KD1SM, Chris W2ZLX, Bruce KB1YRS

Treasurer Report: Current Balance \$1848.50 with \$548.50 in the repeater fund.

Current Business: 450 repeater is working fine. Move is scheduled for Saturday September 27. Tom AB1GF to coordinate. 220 repeater needs an amplifier. Club passed vote to spend \$475.00 on amplifier.

Members: dues must be caught up.

Christmas party to be held at Gordon's N1MGO and Pauline's Date is December 7 at 1:00 PM. All are welcome.

Please bring a sweet or savory snack, and a gift for Yankee swap.

Bruce KB1YRS to contact Lunenburg library to find out whether cash or book donation is acceptable

Other news: Gordon N1MGO brought in and Arduino controller configured as a prototype computer interface for a rotator control. Bruce KB1YRS brought in a CW paddle He built.

Barry W1HFN brought in a Home built vacuum tube cw transmitter for 40 meters.

MARA members attended the WRTC appreciation day. Tom K1JHC, Bruce KB1YRS, Charlie KT1I, Gordon N1MGO, Barry W1HFN, Tom AB1GF, Ray KB1LRL, Gary KT1I, Ken KB1UVP. Other noted attendees – “The other guys” on the other side of room Ralph KD1SM, John KK1X. Many raffles were held. Tom K1JHC pulled out another win to continue his luck streak. Gordon got the “Shaft” as he won a bag of shaft collars. We got to see many pictures and hear stories from WRTC. Contestants sent many thanks for a job well done. Lunch of pasta and pizza was enjoyed.

Meeting end called: 9:00 PM

Bruce KB1YRS, Secretary

VE Team Report

The September Volunteer Exam session served three candidates, with all three earning license upgrades. One candidate upgraded to General Class and two upgraded to Extra Class.

Examiners were Tom K1JHC, Ralph KD1SM, Paul KD1YH, John KK1X, and Don N1HVA.

Exam sessions are normally scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of the month, 7pm at the Lunenburg Public Safety Complex. The October session is canceled, however.

To register for an 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.

Technician License Class

de Paul W1SEX

As you know, during a disaster the first thing that goes wrong is communications. Amateur radio is a very important part of the emergency management function and ham radio operators are an exceedingly valuable resource. With that said, we will be having another study class for the Amateur Radio Technician Class License.

Depending on how the class does we should be meeting for five class sessions plus an intro week plus test week. Class starts on November 1st and the test is on December 13th. We will be using an on-line study guide called HamTestOn-Line. No book will be needed for this class. You will be able to study any time you wish and will need to spend a minimum of thirty minutes per day in order to be successful. You may put in more time than that if you wish and take your exam ahead of schedule if you so desire.

The classroom sessions will consist of lab demonstrations using test equipment such as multimeters, oscilloscopes, signal generators, radio frequency test gear and more. We will also be using ham radios to demonstrate the various communications modes we use to make contacts domestically and around the world. If you have any questions on the study materials and wish to see a particular concept demonstrated or you are having difficulty with a particular subject then send me an e-mail and I will prepare a demonstration for you. I will have a demonstration schedule for you at the intro class.

To take the class you will need to have the following with you on the first day;

- \$15 for your subscription fee to HamTestOnLine.com. DO NOT SIGN UP BEFORE THE CLASS! As part of this class your subscription fee is discounted from the regular \$24.95. I must purchase the

subscriptions ahead of time as please bring cash only for reimbursement.

- You will need a scientific calculator for the class. Please purchase a Texas Instrument TI-30Xa. [Click here for Wal-Mart's current price.](#) We have learned in past classes that if you are not intimately familiar with your calculator then trying to work the math problems AS A GROUP is exceedingly time consuming.
- You will need an electronic multimeter for the class. Many of the labs are hands on and this instrument will be one of the most used ham radio accessories you have. Additionally, a multimeter is exceedingly handy around the house. An auto-ranging digital multimeter is preferred and can be purchased at Wal-Mart. However, a manual range meter can also be used. [Click here for an auto-ranging meter](#) and [here for a manual ranging meter.](#) If you wish to spend a little bit more on a meter that provides some additional functionality consider the TekPower TP400ZC. I purchased two of these specifically for class demonstrations after seeing a video review of the meter by a ham radio operator from Cleveland, OH.

At the end of the class we will provide an FCC exam session which costs \$15. Once you pass your exam the FCC will send you a license with your call sign which is good for ten years. At this time, there is no cost to renew your license.

Please send me an e-mail to register for the class so I know how many HamTestOnLine subscriptions to buy. Feel free to visit the website to review the application.

If you have any questions please feel free to drop me a line if you have any questions.

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