



## Next Meetings

**Wednesday, November 12**  
**7:30PM**  
**Lunenburg Public Library**  
**“Contesting”**

The November MARA monthly meeting is scheduled for the 12th. See Ray’s column next for the program.

## President’s Corner

Hello there. I’m kind of drawing a blank as to what to write about as in July I put myself in “laying low” mode after all the events we had, and trying to prioritize my rebuild project at the other house. But wait, blink your eyes and we will be at the Marathon again.

I want to give a special shout out to the gang that got the repeater moved especially to Tom AB1GF for putting it together and keeping it safe. So far everything seems to be working so well done guys!

As with colder weather setting in there will be the opportunity to do a little DXing and contesting. This is always fun and sometimes real exiting when you get that country you have been looking for or

## In This Issue...

Next Meeting .....	1
President’s Corner .....	1
Watt’s Happening .....	2
Contesting .....	2
October Meeting Report .....	3
In the Glow of the Filaments ..	4

## Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, AB1GF, KB1YRS,  
NZ1D

beating a score, etc. Some of us are also willing to have some guests over and participate or the newer ones who want to give it a try. Remember, you can work them using the control station’s privileges, so go on over and check it out.

We came up dry for speakers so we will have a video. I found one by Doug Grant K1DG he presented at Dayton a few years ago on contesting so I thought that would be a good one. So join us to the next meeting and pick up some pointers on contesting. See you at the meeting.

Ray KB1LRL

---

*A group of MARA members is planning to make a pilgrimage to WIAW on Veteran’s Day. We look forward to a report after their journey.*

## 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

**February 15 2015, Westford MA**  
New England Antique Radio

**March 7 2015, Chicopee MA**  
Mt. Tom Amateur Radio Association  
hamfest

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>

## Contesting

de Tom AB1GF

CQ WW SSB

October 25-26 I ran multi single from my  
new shack. I invited anyone to stop in to  
operate so Steve KC1AHU stopped in for 3  
hours both Saturday and Sunday.



Above: KC1AHU at the helm.  
photo courtesy AB1GF

I wanted to better my score from last year  
346.825. I was able to reach 545.292 with  
663 qso's.

I want to run in this years Sweepstakes on  
November 15-17 2100 UTC Saturday - 0259  
UTC Monday. If I can get a few operators  
we can run as W1GZ.

Also it would be a good practice run for field  
day. I have this CB that needs to go back to  
its home in Gardner hey.

73 de Tom AB1GF

## 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.

Contents copyright © 2014, MARA. Permission to use in other Amateur Radio publications with credit to MARA is hereby granted.

The deadline for materials to appear in the W1/GaZette is noon on the Sunday before the first Wednesday of the month.

### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Editors: Ralph Swick KD1SM  
978-582-7351 kd1sm@arrl.net  
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 President  
rplajoie@comcast.net  
Tom Antil, AB1GF Vice President  
thantil@comcast.net  
Bruce Wilbur KB1YRS Secretary  
bruce.k.wilbur@verizon.net  
Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer  
n1mgo@arrl.net  
Charlie Cayen, KT1I Trustee  
kt1i@arrl.net

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

## October Meeting Report

MARA meeting minutes Oct. 8, 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, Chris W2ZLX, Bruce KB1YRS, Les Peters N1SV, John KK1X, Ken KB1UVP, Steve KB1YUP, Erik W1QED, Walter K1CMF, Bill NZ1D, Kurt KE4IXV.

**Treasurer Report:** Current Balance \$1919.50 with \$559.50 in the repeater fund.

**Current Business:** 450 repeater is working fine. Repeater is moved.

Members: dues must be caught up.

John KK1X saved the day when Bruce forgot the raffle tickets.

Pauline KB1JXJ to contact Lunenburg library to find out whether cash or book donation is acceptable.

**Other news:** Les Peters N1SV gave a presentation on DX expeditions. Les goes to Bermuda and contests at the Bermuda DX club. The station VP9I can be rented, just bring your operating equipment. The antennas, and lodging are on site. It is a great location for contesting to Europe. Station owner will help you get your license and pick you up at the airport.

Les talked about the best times to use different frequencies, and which parts of the world to work on those frequencies.

Les gave a very good presentation. Bermuda is a fine place for a Vacation and a great chance to do some amateur radio in a different country.

**Meeting end called: 9:00 PM**

Bruce KB1YRS, Secretary

## In the Glow of the Filaments

de Bill, NZ1D

Part 9: A Resource for National Defense

But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks? It is the east and Juliet is the sun. Well...actually it was the north and the light was Andy K1OWL. On a clear Saturday evening several years ago, while standing on the ski lift platform near our Mt Wachusett Field Day site (1935 ft ASL), I received visible Morse signals from K1OWL on Pack Monadnock, Jaffrey NH (2300 ft). The path was 42 51N, 71 52W to 42 29N, 71 52W or a distance of 25 miles. Signals were confirmed via 2m (my puny "maglight" was too weak to make the return path.)

The ability to communicate with their 'fellows' via Morse code has long fascinated many young boys and girls. "What Toyland has for Little Folks" touted a 1916 pre-Christmas article in the Daily Sentinel. "For the older boy there are new electrical contrivances and one of the most interesting is a new flashlight that gives a continuous light or a quick flash, according to the pressure of the thumb or forefinger, so that messages by the Morse code may be sent as far as the light can be seen." Who among us hasn't owned and treasured one of those!

In March 1914, after Nestor Stolba received his first amateur license, the news reported that the 15-year-old "has a wireless station at his home and is the third Fitchburg resident to hold one of the licenses." Ellis Holden, W1GUI (sk), licensed as 1BON in 1920, said he heard that Nestor had been toying with the wireless as young as 11. At the time Department stores were pushing small, inexpensive wireless kits for Christmas presents. By 1912, before the government required licensing, there were an estimated 10,000 "amateurs" in the country. Even after licensing, newspapers often referred to both licensed and unlicensed practitioners of the art as amateurs.

If Nestor was the third Fitchburg licensee, and the "youngest licensed amateur wireless operator in the state," that left two more licensed amateurs in Fitchburg in February 1914, both older. The December 1914 Sentinel article stated that Stolba's set was made by the "Wachusett wireless company," which reportedly consisted of Stolba and two other amateurs. They made the sets in the summer months and sold them "all over this and other countries" in the winter.

Perhaps Stolba's business partners were the same two licensees referred to in the earlier March article. In addition to a few Scouts who may have mastered the code, there were at least three other wireless enthusiasts in the city at the time: Howard Cosman, 17, C. H. Vaughan, 19, and H. A. Thorndike, 32. It is not known whether these three had licenses, but they undoubtedly contributed to the hobby as will be shown later in this series.

Over the next several years, as world events began to spin out of control, the wireless's

importance to national defense became clear. The US became involved in revolutions and military actions in Nicaragua, Mexico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. By the fall of 1914 Europe had exploded into all-out war.

In November the wireless played a key role in a major naval battle off Coronel, Chile. Admiral Spee's fleet had been roaming virtually unmolested in the southern Pacific until the British detected its location by intercepting wireless signals. (Unfortunately the out-gunned British lost the ensuing battle, but the point had been made.) QST would later report, "When the European war first broke out, a lot of us on the Pacific coast were compelled to shut up." The reason wasn't given, but it may have been related to this battle.

Newspapers began to run articles touting the wireless, especially accounts of its use by the military. One such article was a fall 1915 Daily Sentinel article called "The Boy Scout's Part in the War." The full-page account described the activities of Scouts overseas, especially British Boy Scouts and their adventurous efforts helping the home front in the European war effort. Many of the Scouts' activities included wireless work and message handling.

In September, columnist Frederic J. Haskins, in the Haskins Letter, presented an excellent treatise entitled the "Amateur Wireless Operator," describing amateur radio and pointed out that amateur operators "constitute a resource for national defense which has been almost entirely overlooked. Most of these operators are

mere school boys, but they are active, alert and efficient...."

"Nearly two years ago," he wrote, "the naval observatory issued an illustrated circular showing the essential requirements of a wireless station. The instructions were simple enough to be followed by any high school boy with a mechanical turn of mind. Thousands of these boys are now using stations built from these directions."

"An increasing number of boys are making their own instruments as a part of their work in technical high school. The Bureau of Standards gives advice to instructors in these schools as to the materials best adapted to amateur work. It also gives free individual instruction to any boy who asks for it, as hundreds are doing."

At the ARRL, Hiram Maxim also began pushing for the use of amateur radio in national emergencies. A few months after the Haskins column, the first issue of QST contained an article describing efforts for a Volunteer Radio Corps. The next issue proclaimed: "Last month we detailed at length the efforts made by the Directors to place the League at the disposal of the Federal authorities for national defense purposes. This seems to have stirred the blood of many of our good American members, for now we have the formation of a Volunteer Radio Corps being actively agitated."

Next time, in Part 10: Why Not the "Y"?



Montachusett Amateur Radio Association  
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

