



Next Meeting

**Wednesday, January 14
7:30PM**

**“Remote HF Operation”
Dennis Egan W1UE**

Happy New Year! The first general meeting of 2015 is scheduled for January 14, 7:30pm in the Wallace Room of the Lunenburg Public Library.

The scheduled presentation is on remote HF operating by Dennis Egan W1UE. Come start the new year with an interesting talk accompanied by a demonstration.

The January meeting refreshments are being provided by Bruce KB1YRS (snacks) and Tom AB1GF (beverage). Please be sure to thank them.

The President’s Corner

Greetings and Happy New Year; Its 2015 already. I guess we should all think about that and slow down and smell the roses. It’s no secret we have been running crazy just trying to stay ahead of it all. I must of said this several times about refocusing on certain things and get the enjoyment back in the things we do.

In This Issue...

Next Meeting	1
President’s Corner	1
Watt’s Happening	2
VE Team 2014 Report	2
November Meeting Report	3
Condolences	4
900 MHz Repeater	4
New NWS Weather Tools	4
In The Glow of the Filaments ..	5
State of the Repeaters	6
W1AW Pilgrimage	6
Christmas Party	8

Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, KB1YRS, K1JHC, W0TJP,
NZ1D, AB1GF

With a new year comes a new year of events and activities. The local flea markets will be back and let’s not forget, Boxboro is back and will now be an annual event. (There goes my last week of vacation!) We have to wait a little bit for the April rush for the races. So there is plenty of time to start tuning up your gear. By the way the Marathon is different to sign up and is coming soon. Read the email carefully.

January we are featuring Dennis Egan W1UE. He will be talking about remote operating and if the network cooperates he will also demonstrate it as well. So come one, come all.

I guess that’s about it. Let’s see if we can slow down this year to enjoy it better. Have fun trying at least!

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

Saturday, February 15, Marlboro MA
Algonquin ARC Hamfest, Marlboro Middle
School, 9am

Saturday, March 7, Chicopee MA
Mt. Tom Hamfest, Moose Lodge, 8:30am

Friday-Saturday, May 1-2, Deerfield NH
NEARFest, Deerfield Fairgrounds

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 2014 Report

During 2014 the MARA Volunteer
Examiner Team conducted 9 sessions,
including a session in Gardner. A total of
51 individuals earned new licenses or
upgrades; 30 of those were new licensees.

The Volunteer Examiners who served, the
number of sessions, and the total number of
candidates seen by each are:

Tom AB1GF	5	25
Debbie AB1UR	1	11
Tom K1JHC	8	40
Gary K1YTS	8	48
Bruce KB1YRS	4	18
Ralph KD1SM	9	51
Paul KD1YH	8	40
John KK1X	8	40
Charlie KT1I	1	11
Cliff N0HJS	1	11
Don N1HVA	3	15
Gordon N1MGO	1	8
Paul W1SEX	1	11
Chatmon WA1FIA	5	33

Thanks to all of the examiners for their
service.

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.

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 © 2015, 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: Bruce Wilbur KB1YRS
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 Wilber, 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.

November Meeting Report

MARA minutes Nov. 12, 2014

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

Attendees: Ray KB1LRL, Tom AB1GF, Charlie KT1I, Barry W1HFN, Daniel AB2TG, Tom K1JHC, TIM W0TJP, Gordon N1MGO, Gary K1YTS, Bruce KB1YRS, John KK1X, Ken KB1UVP, Dave KC1BNE, George W1AQI, Bob KB1JZU.

Treasurer Report: Current Balance \$1927.71 with \$497.71 in the repeater fund.

Current Business: 450 repeater is working fine. 220 amplifier in place, adjustments need to be made.

Members: dues must be caught up.

A raffle was run for the ARRL book, "Emergency Communication Handbook". \$17.00 was collected for the treasury, and Ken KB1UVP was the lucky winner.

Christmas party Reminder: December 7, 2014 1:00 PM at Pauline and Gordon's. Bring a swap gift not to exceed \$15.00.

Other news: Ray played a presentation by Doug Grant K1DG on the correct way to contest. The presentation compared Amateur radio to birding (bird watching). There are many similarities DX (distant bird spotting), bird spotting contests, and of course the rules and ethics of contesting. The presentation dealt with the written rules we should be following, as well as the unwritten rules of good conduct.

Meeting end called: 9:00 PM

de Bruce KB1YRS,
MARA Secretary

Condolences

Patty Dooley, long time partner of Paul KD1YH, died on December 13 after a several week hospitalization.

Patty was well known with MARA; she was a regular at the MARA summer cookouts and the winter holiday party.

Patty had worked in the quality control department at Benchmark Electronics Company in Nashua for the past 10 years.

We extend our sympathies on their loss to Paul and to Patty's sisters, brothers, and their spouses.

Fitchburg 900 MHz Repeater

de Tom K1JHC

30 October

The Fitchburg 900 machine is up and running and would like to hear more activity. Try it out, you will find solid coverage.

This morning I worked KB1PRE, Dave in Littleton from Bolton. Thursday [30 Oct] will be 900 Day with stations on all local Repeaters, Pepperell, Marshfield, Boston, Waltham and Marlboro.

New NWS Weather Tools

de Tim W0TJP

I love new toys, and found a new page from NWS to be pretty cool. There are a number of SKYWARN weather spotters in the crowd and people that are interested in weather. The following excerpt explains the how/why for the linked site (at the bottom), and is quoted from NWS here:

This year we will be adding some additional thresholds such as the probability of greater than 0.1 inches and the probability of greater than 1 inch of snow. these probability graphics can be extremely helpful. For example in some storms there is a high probability of greater than 2 or 4 inches but near zero probability of greater than 8 inches. ... The probabilities are a good planning tool to be able to gauge the expected scope of an event.

The NWS-Taunton Winter Weather Page can be found at
<http://www.weather.gov/BOX/WINTER>

<http://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=NWS&format=CI&version=1&glossary=0&highlight=off&issuedby=BOX&product=PNNS>

In The Glow of the Filaments

de Bill NZ1D

Part 10: Why Not the "Y"?

January 5, 1916: an inconspicuous, seven-line notice on page 1 of the Daily Sentinel announced, "The new Y.M.C.A. boys' class in wireless telegraphy and elementary electricity, which will be under the direction of C. Harry Vaughan, electrical engineer, with the Fitchburg Machine Co., will meet this evening for the first time at 7:30 o'clock." So it seems, in addition to the influence of school wireless clubs, national magazines, and the Morse code activities in Scouting, the local YMCA or "Y" became another major player fostering an interest in wireless and electricity.

Born in Plattsburg, NY, in 1894, Vaughan moved with his family to Leominster before 1910. He entered Wentworth Institute of Boston shortly after the school opened its doors in 1911, graduating in 1913. In August of that year he was elected to the position of office secretary of the Fitchburg YMCA where he took up residence in the association building at 525 Main Street. At the time the Fitchburg YMCA advertised in city street directories under "educational classes" although the subject matter wasn't specified.

We don't know whether Vaughan's "new" class meant it was the first class of its kind at the local YMCA, or whether it was "new" as in subsequent to an earlier class. In New York City the YMCA advertised its YMCA Telegraph School in Modern Electrics and Mechanics as early as the January 1914 issue. (After the 1919 re-instatement of licensing, many YMCAs received their own club station licenses.)

Vaughan's 1916 wireless class contained at least 14 boys. Their names have not been discovered to date but many Fitchburg men who went "with the colors" during the war served as radio operators or radio electricians, and of the 65 "Y.M. Boys" who went, four are known to have served in the aviation signal corps or the navy radio department.

In early February the YMCA reported that the boys' wireless class had "ordered a complete wireless equipment which is to arrive this week and will be erected on the roof of the association building. The apparatus will be modern and complete in every detail and the boys are conducting entertainments and planning other ways in which to raise the necessary amount to pay for it and keep it in operation." The following week Herbert A. Thorndike gave a talk and demonstration of wireless telegraphy to the boys of the wireless class.

At 34, Thorndike was much older than the others and his early years are a bit of a mystery. He was born in the western part of the state, in or near Shelburne, son of a painter, and appeared in Fitchburg about 1900, age 18, unknown occupation. He first lived on Winter Street with his future in-laws, an engineer with the B&M railroad and his wife and daughter. The rest of his family had relocated to New Haven, CT.

By 1916 Thorndike had become a socially active business leader, co-founder and superintendent of the Diadem Manufacturing Company on Lunenburg Street, a comb manufacturer and purveyor of "superior celluloid" products. As a sideline, he dealt in new and used automobiles at his 23 Summer street address. Six years earlier, at the age of 28, he had bought out the Fitchburg Pin Co., renaming it Diadem (aka "crown"). He later claimed a college education, although it is not known where or what

he studied. He was considered by his peers and the city leaders to be an "expert in wireless apparatus" and it was said that his own wireless station was the "largest and most powerful in Central Massachusetts."

The week after Thorndike's demonstration, Vaughan accepted a job with General Electric and moved to Schenectady, NY. On the 24th Howard E. Cosman took over as the new instructor. Cosman was a Fitchburg native, born in 1896, son of a B&M railroad worker. At the time he was teaching the wireless class he listed his occupation as comb maker (perhaps for Thorndike's company). He may have been licensed as early as 1914; perhaps getting his start in Scouting, or from his older brother Fred, an electrician.

In mid-March the YMCA reported that the boys' wireless class "now has its apparatus in working order and, on Wednesday evening, secured messages sent out from Wellfleet, Newport, Boston, and other points." Fourteen boys attended the class and accompanying demonstration. At the next meeting, the class "augmented their own apparatus with powerful apparatus loaned by other local wireless enthusiasts and enjoyed communications with many points more distant than ever before, the most distant point heard from during the evening being Arlington, Virginia."

Although the records show that there were individual amateur radio operators in our immediate area before the 1917 shutdown, no traces of formal organized radio club activity have been found. The YMCA classes might have been the genesis of such an organization, with the help of local wireless enthusiasts like Vaughan, Cosman, Thorndike and others. Sadly, the war brought this all to an end before it could coalesce.

Next time, in Part 11: "Voila, le commencement de la fin."

State of the Repeaters

de Tom AB1GF

30 November

I installed the amplifier for 224.340. Output is now 15 watts. I also made a few adjustments on 145.45. Bruce KB1YRS will be checking the cavities on both repeaters and adjusting as needed. Paul KD1YH wants to try installing the backup receiver on 45.

Please do not Kerchunk the repeaters. Identify when bringing up repeaters.

Charlie received a new license, and we will be posting a copy of it at the repeater site. .

73 ab1gf

W1AW Pilgrimage

de Tom AB1GF

On November 11, 2014 a small group made the trek down to Newington CT to visit the ARRL and W1AQ. Ray KB1LRL, Charlie KT1I, Paul N1QDX, Barry W1HFN, and Tom AB1GF took the tour of the headquarters. We got to see behind the scenes the great things that make the ARRL a valuable resource. We got to visit the lab and RF screen room. (This is where the product reviews are done).

We saw QST being put together.

We also saw the outgoing QSL Bureau. Ray KB1LRL dropped off a stack of cards. While we were there, I received my DXCC and

WAS certificates. The tour ended at the headquarters station W1AW. Inside we saw where all the bulletins and code practice comes from. There are 3 studios with 6 operating positions. "This is W100AW, you arrive 5 9 here in Newington CT."



Above: the test lab



(N1QDX broke their dummy load)



Above: Charlie KT1I and Paul N1QDX operate W1AW.



Above: A break on the diamond terrace



" Ray, can I?"
(Ray said "no!")

73 de ab1gf

all photos courtesy AB1GF



Left: Ray KB1LRL received this plaque for 1st place in the 2014 RTTY Roundup, Single Op Low Power class.

photo courtesy AB1GF

Below: Gordon N1MGO and Pauline KB1JXJ hosted the December Christmas Party.

photo courtesy AB1GF



Christmas Party 2014

all photos courtesy AB1GF





Montachusett Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 95 Leominster MA 01453

