



## September Meeting

Hi everyone. As you know September is approaching and we are starting our season once again. At our September meeting Skip Youngberg K1NKR will present "Thinking Day on the Air," the Girl Scouts version of JOTA.

### IN THIS ISSUE...

Next Meeting	1
President's Corner	1
Ride an Ox 'Til You Can Ride a Horse	2
But First a Little History	2
May Meeting Report	3
State of the Repeaters	4
900 MHz Repeater Relocation	4
The Old Timers' Lunch	4
"Bambi" Team RTTY Contesting Again!	5
Watt's Happening	7
ARES Net	8

Contributors To This Issue:

AB1GF, K1JHC, KB1LRL, KB1YRS, KT1I, W1HFN,

## The President's Corner

*de Ray KB1LRL*

Hello. It has been a long time since I did one of these. My thanks to Bill NZ1D for stepping up from Florida to take a crack at this forgotten, yet much needed project. This will be an electronic newsletter and will also be posted in the W1GZ.org website. I would like to see this successful and part of it is we need input. Projects, events, meeting minutes and agenda, etc. Get it over to Bill. Board members, send your reports to him as well so we can add more time for our presenters

So, let's see if I can summarize some things that has been going on...the usual cast of characters are still on board for another year. We had a great cookout at my QTH and no one keeled over! A bonus!! Tom AB1GF and Barry W1HFN on the suggestion of Gordon N1MGO to seek out a potential place to have a club station set up. A place with internet access would be good. So some suggestions have been kicked around and they are looking at possibilities.

Field day was another success with a point total of 6844. Thanks to all who participated. Let's keep up with the upward trend. We have more tweaking but we do that every year. More things are becoming more standardized and making it better.

Gone from our area, but never forgotten, Ken Bailey N3BGN he has made the move to Florida to be closer to family. We wish him the best of luck and the most sincere thanks for his contributions to the club. You will be missed, Ken.

## Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

The repeaters seem to be doing good with the support from Paul, KD1YH and Tom, AB1GF. We are looking at getting a new controller and we are moving the 900 MHz repeater to Burbank as well (see the state of the repeaters later).

Now that the Airport Diner has departed from the Fitchburg Airport, Tom K1JHC and Barry W1HFN have been busily looking for a new spot for the monthly Old Timers' lunch, which meets on the first Wednesday of the month.

September kicks off the new year with our guest from NVARC Skip Youngberg who is going to present "Thinking Day on the Air", which is the Girl Scouts version of JOTA and it has been gaining in popularity. The meeting is September 14th at the Lunenburg Public Library. I have been looking to alternatives for the meetings as speakers are virtually non-existent. I consider myself quite lucky as I have been able to keep the meeting moving along, but it cannot hold out for long. If there is anyone walking around Boxboro or Near-Fest and comes across someone that has something of interest, invite them.

Just remember, everyone, you are the catalyst for the club. Don't assume when something comes up that "someone else will do it." Step up! Be active! Let's drown out the crickets that we seem to hear too often. There are a couple of nearby clubs out there that at times have 50 members in attendance. Why? They are active.

Don't forget Boxboro is Sept 9 and 10 and NEAR-fest is October 14 and 15. That's all for now. Let's get this year off to a great start!

### ***Ride an Ox 'Til You Can Ride a Horse.***

*de Bill NZ1D*

Welcome to the resurrection of the W1/GaZette (been dead longer than Lazarus, the last issue having been published in January 2015). This attempt may not be as stylish as previous issues, but thanks to an all-expenses-paid tour of the Far East many years ago courtesy of the USAF, I learned an old Japanese proverb, "uma ni norumade, ushi ni nore" -- which roughly translates to the saying in the heading above. The newsletter may not be a "horse" but perhaps at least it can be an "ox."

If our new attempt at the newsletter is successful, we will have six channels for club "news" -- the web page, which is typically "static", the official public group FB page, the community FB page, the newsletter, the Sunday morning ARES net, and of course the monthly meeting. As we progress, the challenges will be how do we integrate this into an integral informational "package"; i.e., what are the reasons/purposes of each medium, how much if any redundancy should exist between them, which one or more will be the "go to" place for what club information, etc. We are communicators after all.

### **But first a little history**

A hundred years ago this year 20-year-old Howard Cosman, 1ENE, started a wireless telegraphy class for 16 students at the Fitchburg YMCA. A few miles away, in Cambridge, teen-age Nestor Stolba, only recently having moved from Fitchburg, received call sign 1GY. He would later return to the city and co-found our present club. Meanwhile, George Starkey, an electrician, arrived in town from New Brunswick via Manchester, NH and brought with him his own interest

in Amateur Radio. In Lawrence, mechanic and draftsman Arthur Stansfield became the first 1GZ and Arlington teacher and airplane enthusiast Willis C. Brown received 1NX. The following year, our entry into the First World War stopped all Amateur Radio activity.

At the end of the war Starkey and others formed the Worcester North Radio Association on Water Street and received club call letters 1BBN with Cosman, then 1CBM (ex 1ENE) as trustee. The club also later sponsored the Fitchburg Boy Scouts who received 1CV (Cosman, now a Boy Scout leader, again as trustee).

Several years later the path of our club call letter suffix "1GZ" went to Willis Brown (ex 1NX) and when the Federal Radio Commission added the "W" in 1928, he became W1GZ. He would be the last to hold the call until Stolba (ex 1KU, 1GY, 1ABF, 1AXF). received it in 1948. Shortly after Stolba's death in 1951, the FCC assigned W1GZ to the club.

## ***May Meeting, Treasurer's Report***

*de Bruce Wilbur KB1YRS, MARA Secretary*

Mara minutes, May 11, 2016 (The business portion of the June MARA meeting was suspended to concentrate on Field Day planning).

**Meeting called to order:** 7:30 PM

**Attendees:** Ray KB1LRL, Tom AB1GF, Greg WA1JXR, Maria KB1DRM, Marian AA1VU, John KK1X, Craig KC1ETB, Gordon N1MGO, Gary K1YTS, Paul KD1YH, Barry W1HFN, Erik W1QED, Tom K1JHC, Bruce KB1YRS, Tim W0TJP, Dan K1RAU, Mickey W1IY, Tom NE1R, Bill KC1EWJ, and Ken N3BGN.

**Treasurer Report:** General business suspended for meeting .

**Current Business:** 2m repeater is repaired. A kink in the hard line was causing a short. Tom AB1GF and Paul KD1YH remove damaged section.

**There are some upcoming Events in June :** ARRL Field Day 2016

**Members:** Dues are due in June. Please pay at the June meeting.

**General Discussion:** A raffle was run for a New Kershaw Knife donated by Bruce KB1YRS \$33.00 was collected for the treasury, and Tom AB1GF was the lucky winner.

Ray KB1LRL brought an idea for a new project: build a club station. Gordon N1MGO offered to donate a new radio for the station. We need to look at the possibility of finding a location, and possibly a trailer to build into a station. Barry W1HFN, and Tom AB1GF have volunteered to look for possible sites.

June is Election month. Please consider giving your time to the club, and running for office!

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

**Meeting Presentation:** Tom Carrigan NE1R: Radio Propagation. Tom gave an excellent presentation on radio waves, angle of incidence, ground-wave, sky-wave, and the effects of the sun and sunspots.

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

## ***State of the Repeaters***

*de Tom AB1GF*

Paul KD1YH and AB1GF spent a Saturday at the repeater site. 145.45 output was down to 6 watts, Paul adjusted the PA up to 25 watts into the “cans”, which have about 3db loss. With 65' of ldf4-50a feed line, we end up with 12.5 watts going to the antenna, a Diamond X700HNA, which provides a 9.3db gain.

I removed the 70 cm antenna and added a duplexer so the main antenna (dual-band) will be also used for the 70 cm receive/control link. On 224.340 the feed line was 9913 and I switched it to 65' of ldf4-50a. The output is 2 watts into the “cans” and 11 watts out to the antenna.

The Installation of the 900 MHz repeater is currently a work-in-progress (see “900 MHz Repeater Relocation” below).

## ***900 MHz Repeater Relocation***

*de Barry W1HFN*

Several weeks ago, Tom AB1GF, Gary K1YTS and I met at the Alpine Hill repeater site. The plan was to remove the Motorola MSF-5000 900 MHz repeater and relocate it to the W1GZ repeater site. After much fumbling around trying to get the gate unlocked (confusion about which lock used which combination) we gained entry. We managed to get the incredibly top-heavy repeater onto a two-wheeler, out of the shipping container-cum-repeater shack and across a long distance of rocky ground to the tailgate of Gary's pick-up. Then the fun began. Did I mention it was top-heavy? Total weight I would guess is around 150 pounds, 149 pounds of which are at the top. After much exertion we managed to get it on the truck.

We then proceeded to Burbank Hospital where more help in the form of Jim, AD1L arrived. Good thing, as we now had to negotiate four flights of stairs. The stairs were a real test of stamina; we were all quite exhausted when we finally rolled through the door to the site. We then unloaded the rig onto the floor and slid it into its new home. We still need to install the antenna which Tom sourced for FREE from N1AXP. We have not powered up the rig, as we need the antenna and feed line connected, plus a way to measure the forward and reflected power. My hope is to acquire a 250W 900MHz slug for a Bird 43 to expedite the power measurements.

Many thanks to Gary, Tom and Jim for their help

## ***The Old Timers' Lunch***

*de Tom K1JHC*

The Old Timers' meet for lunch on the first Wednesday of each Month. Until recently, we had been going to the Airport Diner but it closed July 31. Last month we met at the Summer Street Café, which was sort of cramped (waitress had to “sidle” between tables!). Now the Airport Diner's former owner-manager Steve has made an arrangement with Mario's on Hamilton St and

he hoped to ready for us to meet on Wednesday 7 September at 12 Noon.

*[Breaking News! As of this writing, it looks like the new place will not be ready until later than hoped for, so Denny's may be the fallback, Ed.]*

## **“Bambi” Team RTTY Contesting Again!**

*de Charlie KT1I*

As some of you may know Gordon N1MGO, myself and others have operated the NAQP RTTY contest from Vermont many times. Unfortunately, the hunting camp near Rutland is no longer available.

So what to do? Thoughts of some sort of a portable operation in a campground? Luckily, my son Dave WN1E put us in touch with David AA1YW who just happened to have a second home just over the border in VT. I want to thank him again for his kind hospitality for the “Bambi” group. His nice house was all we could have asked for. We even got David going as an operator in the contest! Also thanks to Pauline KB1JXJ for providing lots of food to keep us going.

Details of the contest:

Operators: Gordon N1MGO, Ray KB1LRL, David AA1YW, and myself., KT1I

Time: The whole 12 hours, 2PM to 2AM. Starting Saturday June 16.

Rigs: Elecraft K3, Icom 756 Pro II

Antennas: KT33 Tribander and 40 M and 80M dipoles that we installed.

Results:

Band	QSOs	Mults
80	103	24
40	271	48
20	263	41
15	30	17
10	0	0

Total            667        130        Total Score 86,710

Comments: 10 M was dead from the start, 15 M died out mid-afternoon. 40M beat out 20 M and 40M and 80M were going strong at the end. We operated from the porch and didn't even get wet during the evening rainstorm. All the equipment worked fine. Hopefully we will be able to use this site again in the future. MARA does have a small contingent who enjoy contesting. We will be doing several more contests through the Winter. We are always looking for and willing to train new operators. If you are Interested, get in touch with Gordon, Ray or myself.

## **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 © 2016, MARA. Permission to use in other Amateur Radio publications with credit to MARA is hereby granted.

## Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

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: Bill Wornham NZ1D, 352-751-4682 nz1d@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

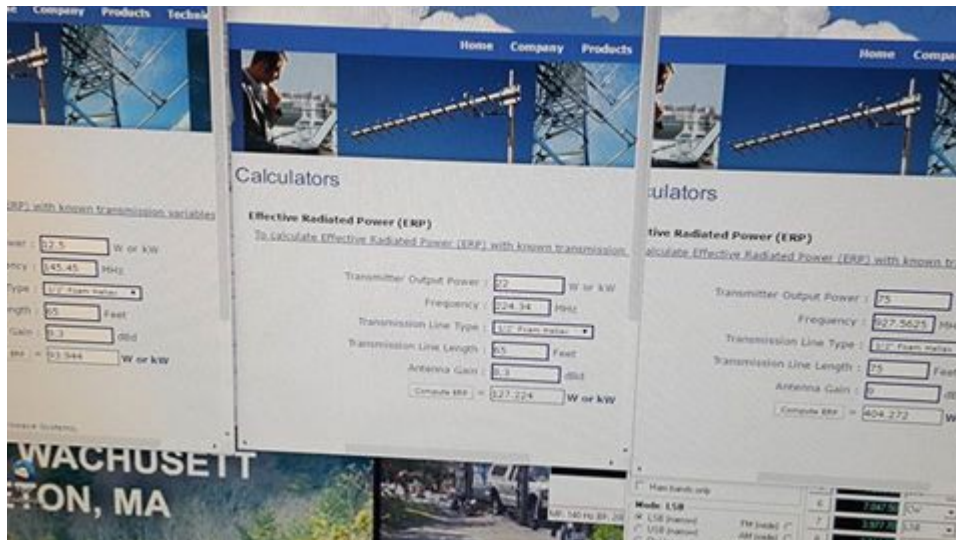
Tom Antil, AB1GF Vice President, thantil@comcast.net

Bruce Wilbur, KB1YRS Secretary, bruce.k.wilbur@verizon.net

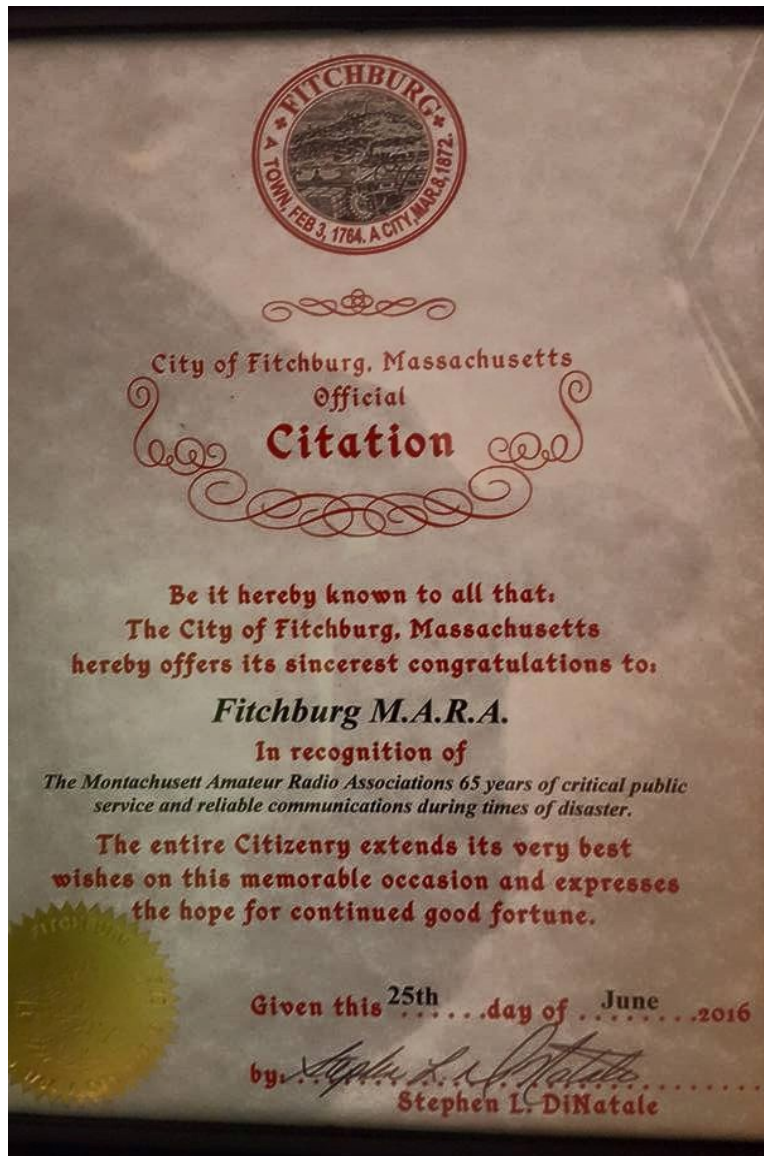
Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer, n1mgo@arrl.net

Charlie Cayen, KT1I Trustee, kt1i@arrl.net

MARA owns and operates the W1GZ repeater on 145.45 (CTCSS 74.4) located in Fitchburg. IRLP node 8433, Echolink node 688832



*The Three Amigos (144, 220, and 900 MHz) repeater ERP calculators. AB1GF photo.*



*Commemorating 65 Years of Public Service. Fitchburg's Mayor Stephen DiNatale presented the above citation of appreciation to MARA recognizing the group's 65 years of public service. ABIGF photo.*

## **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

### **Tuesdays, 1930 local 145.37-** WMEN Templeton Emergency Net

### **Wednesdays, 1900 local 145.37-** Gardner/Templeton Emergency Net

### **Nightly, 2100 local 146.97-** Central Mass Traffic Net

### **First Monday, 1900 local 3943, 7245** RACES Net

### **Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 1800 local 3978** Western Mass/RI Phone Net

### **September 9, 10, 11, Boxboro, MA** New England Division Convention, Holiday Inn Boxboro Woods

### **October 14, 15, Deerfield, NH** NEAR-Fest XX, Deerfield Fairgrounds

## ***Sunday ARES Net Visitor***

Most of us by now know that the Montachusett Emergency Net or MEN serves mostly north central Massachusetts as the local communications focal point for local ARES members and others interested in emergency communications. However, with Echolink and IRLP you never know who will check into the Sunday net or where they may be at that time. We have our RF and VoIP “regulars” of course, but on Sunday, August 28, we had a surprise visitor when Bill, K2GFY checked in the “hard way” – via RF from Waterford, NJ.





*MARA's Tower and Antennas as Installed on the Hospital "Penthouse". ABIGF photo*