



## November Meeting

The November meeting will be “show and tell” night. Bring in your interesting items, handmade or not, old or new, and show them off.

### IN THIS ISSUE...

Next Meeting	1
President’s Corner	1
Jamboree-on-the-Air Recap	2
October Meeting Report	4
State of the Repeaters	5
The Old Timers' Lunch	5
Watt's Happening	6
Breaking News	6
Public Service: Field Day Redux	7
State of the Membership	8
Antenna for Sale	8

Contributors To This Issue:

AB1GF, K1JHC, KB1LRL, KC1CHC, NZ1D

## The President's Corner

*de Ray KB1LRL*

Hi there! I have a secret for you, these holidays are creeping up real quick! We just put away our AC’s and shorts and the thought of Thanksgiving is looming! This month was a busy one as we expected. Now we hunker down to a warm radio and contacts until spring.

The big one naturally was the Boy Scout JOTA event. This was held at the Boy Scout Council office in Lancaster and turned out to be a great success. I want to thank the Mohawk Club for their part in this undertaking in what appears will be an annual event for our club.

Near-Fest XX this October was a nice event although it felt a little strange this time. We just completed 10 years of this event (has it been THAT long?) and the regulars came to me and asked what was different. It turned out that Gary K1YTS and Nancy KB1KEF were not there! I felt the presence of the MARA crickets there. AB1GF showed up late Friday. We had good weather and lots of Apple Crisp was sold from the Polish Kitchen across the way and I kept busy selling wire and coax to the masses.

I have not found anything for the November meeting program so I think this will be a good opportunity to have a show and tell night. Bring in your interesting items, handmade or not, old or new, and show them off.

**Christmas Party – On Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> we are going to have our Annual Christmas** party at N1MGO's QTH. It will be pretty much the same format, as we have had great fun with this in the past few years. So, set your calendar aside for that day and join us. That's enough for now, stay happy, stay healthy.

See you soon, Ray

## ***Jamboree on the Air (JOTA/JOTI) Recap***

*de Bill NZ1D*

In October a group of MARA and Mohawk members joined together at the Nashua Valley Council Boy Scout office in Lancaster and participated in JOTA (Jamboree-on-the-Air), a joint Scouting and Amateur Radio event where Scouts world-wide can "virtually" get together with young people from another country and talk about Scouting. Pam KC1CHC has posted many photos on MARA's two Facebook pages and Twitter.

The Mohawk club provided their communications van and several demonstrations were set up inside and in the parking lot. Paul KD1YH set up an Echolink node connected to the MARA repeater and I had fun from my end in Florida working 17 Massachusetts Scouts (including two of my grandsons) and several adults at the Lancaster site. The icing on the Echolink contacts was when I arranged to have several Scouts talk at length with Chu 9V1HY a Chinese university student and new ham from Singapore and Johann DB1YB in Germany.



*Paul KD1YH sets up the Echolink "station" or node at the JOTA/JOTI operation at the Nashua Valley Council BSA office. (KC1CHC photo)*



*The Mohawk club set up their communications van in the BSA council's parking lot. (KC1CHC photo)*



*Scouts "supervise" the raising of an HF beam antenna at the JOTA site in Lancaster. (KC1CHC photo)*

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

*de Ray, KB1LRL*

October's meeting program, a tour of Lunenburg's new Middle School on October 12, had to be changed due to an unforeseen circumstance. The alternate meeting program, attended by 12 members, was a presentation and training on the youth protection policies hosted by the Nashua Valley Council Boy Scouts district director Matt Ghirarda. Since the JOTA event was set for the following weekend, the business part of the meeting was waived in favor of the training.



*Matt Ghirarda district director of the Nashua Valley Council BSA presents training on the BSA's youth protection policies to MARA members at the October meeting.*

## **State of the Repeaters**

*de Tom AB1GF*

The 145.45 repeater transmitter exhibited some output problems recently so Tom AB1GF and Paul KD1YH went to the site and found the output power was much lower than expected (less than 4w to the "cans" vice a previous 25w). We replaced the amplifier with a backup but it did not work so we put the



original unit back in until we have more time to troubleshoot it. We also replaced the hardline connector with a better one.

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

*de Tom K1JHC*

The Old Timers' meet at noon on the first Wednesday of each month. Four members of the Old Timers' met for our October monthly lunch at Gene & Steve's new Airport Restaurant on 192 Hamilton St, Leominster. The restaurant is nicely done although it gives a crowded look because of the table arrangement, but they set aside a six- and eight-place table so group seating was good. The menu is expanded, food is as good as ever, and the service is great.

### ***The MARA W1/GaZette***

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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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#### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

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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## Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

MARA owns and operates three FM repeaters co-located on Burbank Hospital in Fitchburg. W1GZ on 145.45 (CTCSS 74.4), AB1GF on 224.34 MHz (CTCSS 103.5) and W1HFN on 927.5625 (-25 MHz) (CTCSS 74.4). The 2m repeater is also reachable via IRLP node 8433 and Echolink node 688832.

### ***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 3944**

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

### ***Breaking News!***

The **October VE** session has been **cancelled**. The next session is scheduled for November 23.

### **November Sweepstakes**

Tom AB1GF will operate the **ARRL Sweepstakes** this month, November 5-7 CW and November 19-21 phone. If anyone is interested, contact Tom ([thantil@comcast.net](mailto:thantil@comcast.net)). Contest period 2100 UTC Saturday thru 0259 UTC Monday.

## Public Service: Field Day Redux

de Bill NZ1D

Seventeen operators and helpers comprised our 2016 Field Day team operating as W1GZ (Class 4A, WMA) for the primary station and W1QED as the GOTA (Get on the Air) station. Final score 6844 after adding bonus points (5534 plus 1310 bonus). The detailed results are shown in the following four tables labeled: Field Day Score Summary, Field Day Score Breakdown by Band/Mode, GOTA Results, and Field Day Bonus Results.

### FIELD DAY SCORE SUMMARY

Mode	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	1060	230	187	1477
Total Points	2120	460	187	2767
Claimed Score =				
5,534				

### FIELD DAY SCORE BREAKDOWN BY BAND/MODE

Mode	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	61	100	30	100	24	100
40m	338	100	70	100	84	100
20m	372	100	122	100	1	100
15m	287	100	8	100	5	100
10m						
6m	2	100			30	100
2m					3	100
1.25cm						
Other						
Satellite						
GOTA					40	100
TOTAL	1060		230		187	

### GOTA RESULTS

GOTA Bonus: GOTA Coach

- Double Bonus Points

Name/Call	QSOs	Bns Pts
Pam Jodrey/KC1CHC	20	40
Janice Tkal/no call	20	40
TOTAL	40	80

## FIELD DAY BONUS POINTS

Item	Pts
100% Emergency power	400
Media Publicity	100
Public Location	100
Public Information Table`	100
Formal message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Youth participation	80
Participants = 10, Operators = 4	
GOTA Bonus	80
Submitted via the Web	50
Social media	100
TOTAL	1310

## State of the Membership

If your name isn't on the following list, it probably means your dues for fiscal 2017 haven't been received yet (MARA's fiscal year ends on June 30).

AB1GF	KC1DAQ	N3BGN
AB2TG	KD1SM/N1QIT	NZ1D (Lifetime Member)
AD1L	KD1YH	W1HFN
K1FTW	KK1X	W1LXE
K1JHC (Lifetime Member)	KT1I	W1QED
KB1LRL	N1GKX	W1SDH
KB1YRS	N1MGO/KB1JXJ	
KC1CHC/KC1GGW	N1QDX	

## For Sale

**The club has a new hex beam antenna for sale**, a 5-band Hex Beam by K4KIO. It is about 10 years old but has never been assembled. It does not have the ice kit but that is just extra support ropes. According to the manufacturer [[www.w4kio.com](http://www.w4kio.com)]: "This broad band beam is the answer to your dream of a directional antenna that can be mounted on an inexpensive push up mast and in a space no larger than a garden home backyard. Mount it on your roof as many do and work DX you never even heard with your vertical or dipole." Interested? Contact AB1GF.