



January Meeting

We will be meeting at the library on January 11th. The line up is Matt from the Boy Scouts who is doing a brief follow-up on the JOTA event. Following Matt, N1MGO will describe his latest venture into remote operating and contesting. Remote operating has been growing rapidly and is taking on different forms. The new club T-shirts will be available for \$12.00 each. Stop by and enjoy the gathering. We could use a volunteer or two for bringing in treats. See you then.

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Contributors To This Issue:

AB1GF, K1JHC, KB1LRL, KD1SM, NZ1D, W1HFN

The President's Corner

de Ray KB1LRL

[Since there was no December newsletter, I have taken the opportunity to merge Ray's December message with his message for this month, Ed]

The holidays have once again descended upon us! Seemed unreal. I do know that some of us wished 2016 would just leave and be done with it, myself included! Although we looked forward to 2017 in hopes of a better year, we still had the uncertainty of what the future would bring. We already are starting the year with the transition to a new administration. So, we can all hope that it is the beginning of a year of positives, personally, politically, professionally.

In December there was no business meeting in favor of our holiday party. Hosted by N1MGO and KB1JXJ at their QTH. This is always a fun time with good food, fun and friendship.

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. We will meet again in January and I have the help wanted sign out. Need a presentation idea or activity. 73 to all and to all a good day!

Hello again and Happy New Year! I think some of us can agree that we are glad to see 2016 go bye-bye. I certainly hope 2017 turns out to be a better in so many ways. I know like all of us we have great plans and the challenge will be how much of it gets accomplished.

On Saturday the 7th I will be meeting with Tom Frenye K1KI for the division cabinet meeting in Springfield where we gather with other club and section leaders in New England and get news from the ARRL. The League also gets feedback from us to present to the Directors meeting the following week in Connecticut. This is a good opportunity to get ideas as to what other clubs are doing in terms of activities to keep this hobby going and growing.

One of the up and coming projects this year is going to be reaching out to the Boy Scouts and providing Merit Badge training and also another JOTA event of bigger proportion. There is also interest for some to get their licenses. A big advantage is that I have obtained a projector and screen so we are not as restricted to where we can present this. One thing we can use is a person or two to help out with this. I will be the first to say I am NOT an expert in it all (as evidenced by the fact I am still a general class operator). So some subject matter experts will be a plus.

So we have some interesting stuff going on and if you have anything to add for club projects, presentations, etc., you know where to find me.

73 all!

Christmas Party – On Sunday December 4th 13 members and guests gathered at Pauline KB1JXJ and N1MGO's QTH for our Christmas celebration of fun and food. Special thanks to Gordon and Pauline for opening up their house and hosting the party. The day had a good amount of treats and there were few leftovers. There was lots of great socializing with Peg providing us with some games to test our brains. We had a Yankee Swap and there were a couple of items that found new owners pretty quickly. Party-goers also had the opportunity to be the first to purchase the club's new T-shirts. More shirts will be at the meetings for purchase.

State of the Treasury (Treasurer's Report)

de Gordon N1MGO

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association Treasurer's report as of October 2016

Starting balance	\$2940.59	
Income	None	
Expenses	\$523.00	Ck# 660 New SCOM controller
	\$85.05	Ck# 661 Tee Shirts
Ending Balance	\$2332.54	
Repeater Fund	\$456.61	(from raffle monies)

Signed: Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO, Treasurer

Field Day Kudos

de Bill NZ1D

The final Field Day results are in: seventeen operators and helpers operating as W1GZ for the primary station and W1QED as the GOTA (Get on the Air) station amassed 6844 total points in Class 4A and finished 15th nationally (out of 132) and best in New England in our class.

The Old Timers' Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

The Old Timers' meet at noon on the first Wednesday of each month at Gene & Steve's new Airport Restaurant on 192 Hamilton St, Leominster. Attendance has been down the last few months, hopefully it's just the busy season, so come in and have some good food and camaraderie. Last month Charlie KT1I, Paul N1QDX, Barry W1HFN and Gary K1YTS joined us. We have missed WA1RHP, Bruce WB1YRS, and others, hope we can have a better turn out in the near future.

The Other Half...(of my classic tube station)

de Barry W1HFN

In a previous issue, I wrote about the classic tube receiver I found at Deerfield (National NC-270). This article is about the equally classic "hollow state" transmitter that I acquired at the Marlboro hamfest, an Allied Radio Knight Kit T-150 AM/CW transmitter. Those of us "of a certain age" will remember with fondness the Allied Radio catalog of the 50s and 60s.

Founded in 1928 by Simon "Sy" Wexler as the radio parts distribution arm of his Columbia Radio Corporation, Allied Radio distributed a wide range of electronic equipment and components including radio sets, tubes, capacitors, amateur radio equipment, communications equipment, electronic kits and consumer audio systems, through both retail and mail order. In 1970, both the consumer division, Allied Radio, and the industrial division Allied Electronics, were purchased by Tandy Corporation, parent company of Radio Shack. Allied Radio was later folded into Radio Shack while Allied Electronics focused on distribution of electronic components to electronics engineers. Allied was eventually purchased by UK-based Electrocomponents PLC and today is their world-wide distributor.

The T-150 is a compact, medium power AM/CW transmitter providing bandswitching coverage of the 80 through 6 meter bands with an input power of 150 watts. It has the added feature of using either the VFO or crystals. AM modulation is provided by a combination of screen modulation and controlled carrier. The RF tube line-up consists of a 12BY7 VFO, 6CL6 Xtal Osc, 6BQ5 Buffer/Multiplier and a pair of 6146s in parallel for the final. The output is a Pi-network allowing for matching antennas of 40 to 600 ohms. The AF section contains the 12AX7 speech amp and 6DR7 modulator.

I have used this Tx on both CW and AM with good reports. Some of the AM guys were impressed with the screen modulated audio, as plate modulation is the norm for "good AM". I found the frequency markings on the VFO dial to be almost dead accurate, verified by a digital frequency counter, not bad for a 50+ year old analog device.

BTW, the key in the photo is my original WW2 surplus J-38 purchased as new in 1959 when I earned my first license. Look for my call in the SKN (Straight Key Night) events.



Barry's Classic Allied Radio Knight Kit T-150 AM/CW transmitter with J-38 key in foreground. (W1HFN photo)

The MARA W1/GaZette

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Annual Dues: Regular \$25

Family \$30

Fixed income \$15

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30pm September to June

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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

Runners Up! It's Time to Register for the Boston Marathon!

de Ralph KDISM

Urgent: It's time to register to volunteer at the Boston Marathon. Sign up to volunteer on the BAA web site: <http://www.baa.org/races/boston-marathon/event-information/volunteer-information/volunteer-registration.aspx>

You don't need to specify any group name or passcode. Just make sure you request at least one ham radio assignment in your preferences. Once you get your application confirmation number, you're all set. If you're a returning volunteer, you'll be asked to provide your BAA Volunteer Loyalty Number. You should've received that in a separate e-mail from the BAA. There's also a tool to look it up on the BAA volunteer site. If you still have trouble finding it, or if you have any other questions about volunteer registration, or the 2017 Marathon generally, please get in touch: <<mailto:contact@hamradioboston.org>> anytime and we can help you out

Volunteering at the Marathon is a big job, and we appreciate the time and effort everyone puts into it. We're happy to do what we can to make your work more comfortable or effective. *Don't delay! Volunteer registration closes in early February.* There are nearly 300 Amateur Radio positions that we fill for the BAA so this is a high visibility event for the Service. If you've participated before, you know the drill. If you haven't or have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask at a Club meeting, ask Ralph in person, or send email to the address above.

Don't delay! Help us get the word out to your club and other hams who might like to volunteer. If you know new amateurs who might like to join us, make sure to let them know about it. Even just a quick mention at a club meeting can be a big help.

The Boston Marathon is the largest Amateur Radio public service event in New England, possibly even in the country. Nearly 300 Amateur Radio operators are needed by the BAA to cover positions from Athlete's Village at the starting point in Hopkinton to the finish line in downtown Boston, the buses to transport runners who cannot finish, and the net control centers.

Due to the security procedures imposed on the BAA in recent years, volunteer registration closes well before Marathon Day. So if you are interested, please ask someone your questions soon so you can still decide to register before February 8. While the BAA Communications Committee has in the past gotten some leeway in "getting people in" after the deadline, that window is decreasing.

Our mailing address is:

BAA Amateur Radio Communications Committee
185 Dartmouth Street
6th Floor
Boston, MA 02116

VE Report

de Ralph, KD1SM

During 2016 the MARA VE Team held seven exam sessions, tested 24 candidates, and signed 22 CSCEs. These sessions saw candidates earning 14 new Technician, five General and three Extra class licenses.

Thanks to the following VEs who participated in one or more of these sessions: Tom AB1GF, Tom K1JHC, Gary K1YTS, Bruce KB1YRS, Stan KD1LE, Paul KD1YH, John KK1X, Don N1HVA, Gordon N1MGO, Roger W1IKE, Jesse W1DEA, and Kayla W2IRY.

The MARA VE Team schedules sessions every month on the 4th Wednesday. Pre-registration is requested as we will cancel the session if no one has registered by the weekend before the scheduled session. However, if the session is not canceled we are happy to take walk-ins, so if you are interested in upgrading or know someone else who is looking for an exam session, you can still contact Paul KD1YH at the last minute to see if the session being held.

"THE WX HR IS..."

Reportedly the first female Amateur licensee in the state of Maine, Mary Sibyl Wallace Cousins, ex W1GSC, recently celebrated her 108th birthday in the coastal fishing village of Deer Isle. Born in Stonington in 1908 the daughter of a quarry engineer, Mary Wallace received her "Amateur First" radio license from the old Federal Radio Commission in 1933 and often used it to relay weather information in Morse code.

Three Dots and a Dash

If you are in Chicago this year, you might want to visit Three Dots and a Dash, a small "sophisticated" bar whose name is taken from a cocktail and the Morse character "V" for victory [threedotschicago.com]

State of the Repeaters

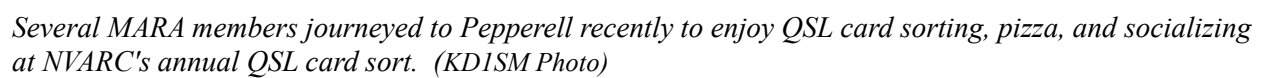
de Tom AB1GF

The W1GZ 145.45 repeater at Burbank Hospital is occasionally making a "howling" noise. DTMF a1* (transmitter PL "off") on your microphone keypad should fix it, but it's temporary. The power is also down so a trip is planned to troubleshoot the noise and swap out the PA. 220 machine exhibits a start-up noise which needs to be looked at. 900 MHz repeater still awaiting installation of the antenna (which we have). KD1YH continues his efforts to set up the new controller.

A New Year and New Opportunities

de Tom AB1GF

Happy New Year all! As we step into a new year there are several new opportunities for us as a club. I would love to see us working with the Boy Scouts again, especially the Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) activity. It would provide a great opportunity to have Amateur Radio on display [*and at the same time exposing the Scouts to the fun of an event where Scouts world-wide can "virtually" get together with young people from another country and talk about Scouting, Ed.*]



The club has a new hex beam antenna for sale, a 5-band Hex Beam by K4KIO. It's 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]: "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." NEW \$400 to club members.

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