



Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 7:30 pm, Lunenburg Library. Field Day recap, Boxboro convention and plans for the club's participation in the BSA's Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) in October.

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Contributors To This Issue:

AB1GF, K1JHC, KB1LRL, KD1YH, W1HFN, W0TJP

Guest Editorial

de Ray, KB1LRL

[Since we didn't have newsletters for May and June, your editor took the liberty to edit and combine our outgoing president's last two "president's corner" messages to the membership as a "guest" editorial, Ed.]

Hello everyone. It seems a little strange that I am writing my last article for this column as your club president. I wish those who are stepping into my shoes will take what I have left them and make it grow big and strong. It will come with its challenges, but working together as a team will overcome those. Challenge yourself to see what you can achieve. You will either savor the victory or step back, lick your wounds and learn from it. I have learned a lot during my tenure and that is one of the reasons for my decision to seek election as Western Mass. Section Manager. This can be a colossal act of insanity or a breath of fresh air, this section has been silent for far too long.

As you know, one of my favorite expressions is "crickets." I like to listen to them on a warm summer night, but not at a club meeting. That is a sign of stagnation, which can cripple any club. My advice: old

timers, teach the young. Inspire. Everyone be involved. Work together as a TEAM. Much can be gained from this. One great example of this is WRTC. Remember what we accomplished by doing that!

I am not going to be bored for sure, there is a lot going on I am working on. At this writing, Paul, KD1YH and myself have been conducting a merit badge presentation for the Boy Scouts in Townsend. This is a first for us and it's in need of some tuning. We have about 6 scouts participating. The challenge is keeping their minds from wandering. This will lead up to the annual JOTA event which is the third weekend in October. (NEAR-Fest is the week before this year.) We will be looking for volunteers to help out as this year as it is likely to be bigger than last year as word will be getting out more about this.

I want to again thank you for supporting me during my time at the helm. It has been an honor and privilege to have been your President during that time.

The public service events have been in full bloom. As always we get great feedback and deep appreciation for our efforts in supporting public safety, as well as demonstrating to others that ham radio is not just a hobby.

The President's Corner

de Tom, AB1GF

Ray KB1LRL, who has served a long tenure as our president, has decided to take a break from this position and seek election as Western Mass Section Manager. This left office of club President open, so I decided to give it a try. Thanks to Erik W1QED for stepping in as Vice President. Our task is to take the good that Ray left us and keep it going. We will have challenges, but if we work together as a team we will succeed.

The fall calendar is filling up fast. First the BAA has several public service events. As always we get great appreciation for our efforts in supporting public safety. Boxboro is in September and NEAR-Fest is coming up in October. This will lead up to the annual JOTA event which is the third weekend in October. Last year we worked with the Boy Scout council in Lancaster and it was a great success. This year we are going to do it again and will be looking for volunteers to help out; this year it is likely to be bigger than last year as word gets around.

It has been a busy summer for me, I disassembled my shack and relocated it, and I am trying to get active again. I plan on working ARRL Sweepstakes, CW: first full weekend in November (November 4-6, 2017). Phone: third full weekend in November (November 18-20, 2017). If anyone wants to stop over and participate or just watch please do.

May/June Meetings Report

de Barry Fox W1HFN, MARA Secretary; with input from Gordon N1MGO treasurer

May 2017 Meeting -- called to order at 1930L by VP Tom, AB1GF (Ray was in AZ). Introductions were made, those in attendance were: KT1I-Charlie, AB1GF-Tom, KK1X-John, KD1YH-Paul, W1QED-Eric, K1YTS-Gary, W0TJP-Tim, N1MGO-Gordon, KA1ZAQ-Bob, KC1EIV-Peg, Ken (no license yet)-and yrftflsrvt W1HFN-Barry.

Treasurers report; \$2893.55 of which \$496.61 is earmarked for the repeater.

Tom asked for nominations for club officers for the coming year. Barry-W1HFN was asked/volunteered to assume/resume duties as club secretary and accepted. Gordon-N1MGO agreed to continue as club treasurer. The offices of president and vice president remained open, although Tom-AB1GF said he might stand for president.

Bob-KA1ZAQ had a large selection of radio components to part with, suggesting a small donation to the club treasury. Several members took advantage of his largess.

Paul, KD1YH reported that the repeater was still having problems, it was basically unusable for recent nets. He has been working on the problem, the solution may be to replace the receiver. The coax also needs to be replaced and will be on order soon. Tom-AB1GF is looking for a rackmount Bird watt/SWR meter for same. The new security firm at the hospital is concerned with the club's frequent visits to the site. We may have to submit a list of approved personnel to ease things a bit.

Field Day discussion: Ray secured permits from the state for the Mountain; Gary arranged for the Porta-Potty; discussions followed re a GOTA station and what to use for antennas. Evidently in the past some hikers have taken offense to our "choking" some trees with rope used to secure the ends of dipoles. Tom-AB1GF asked if anyone could provide a new home for the IRLP setup. No takers at this time. The meeting was adjourned at 1950L.

June 2017 meeting -- called to order at 1932L by the president, Ray, KB1LRL.

Introductions were made, those in attendance were: KT1I-Charlie, AB1GF-Tom, KD1YH-Paul, W1QED-Eric, K1YTS-Gary, W0TJP-Tim, N1MGO-Gordon, K1JHC-Tom, KD1SM-Ralph, KC1HDG-James and "your faithful servant," W1HFN-Barry

No Treasurers report was made, it having been lost in the shuffle.

Ray asked for nominations for club officers for the coming year. Tom-AB1GF, agreed to run for President and Eric-W1QED agreed to run for VP. Charlie-KT1I for Trustee. Barry-W1HFN was volunteered to assume/resume duties as club secretary. Gordon-N1MGO has agreed to continue as club treasurer. A motion was made and carried to elect the stated slate.

Field Day discussion: The state permit has been acquired, we have the "old spot" to the left of the entry road. Beams and dipoles are in hand as are generators, rigs, etc. As usual, overnight ops are needed. The plan is for either 2A or 3A depending on number of ops.

Ray stated that this was his last meeting as Pres, he may run for SM in the Fall. He also mentioned that more net controls for the Sunday MEN are needed.

Paul-KD1YH has acquired a Motorola repeater and is integrating it with the new controller.

The meeting was adjourned at 2050L.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING -- Board of Director's meeting July 26 2017 -- meeting called to order at 1900L by the president, Tom - AB1GF. In attendance were: president, Tom - AB1GF; vice-president, Eric - W1QED; treasurer, Gordon - N1MGO and secretary, Barry - W1HFN.

Pauline - KB1JXJ announced that the Lunenburg Library is a certainty for the 2017-2018 MARA meetings. Also, the annual Christmas party will be held at her/Gordon's QTH on December 3 at 1300, with a Yankee Swap to be held after socializing.

Plans were mentioned for the annual summer picnic, dates proposed were August 13th at 1300L, with a rain date of August 20th. Dates later confirmed by Ray - KB1LRL at his QTH.

Paul-KD1YH has acquired a MOT RX and replaced the faulty one in the 2M repeater. There are also plans to replace the old TX with a MOT as well. The new controller is still in the testing stage and not as yet installed. The 900MHz repeater will be placed on-line when the antenna and feedline are installed. Plans are also in the works to replace all coax with LDF4-50, as the present coax is over 20 years old. Tom-AB1GF already has all the special coax connectors, which saves money. The estimated cost for coax to be \$500.00. There was also discussion about getting Bird SWR/PWR monitoring equipment to let us know the status of the repeater(s). We also discussed the need/possibility of an internet connection at the site, maybe?

The newsletter issue was brought up. Bill-NZ1D to continue as managing editor, with hopefully, on-line contributions by the members. Tom-W0TJP put together a July issue. As usual more content is requested. Eric-W1QED, has volunteered to set up a drop-box for W1GZ info, by-laws, etc. He also mentioned jazzing up the MARA web site.

The BSA JOTA will be held Oct 20-22, the club plans to set up a station at the Council HQ off Rte2. The need for speakers/programs for the monthly meetings was discussed. The card sort will be in April, that leaves most of the year for other events. Some possibilities were; digital-data demo, discuss a section of the license manual, ham-test on line, home-brew night, etc

The meeting was adjourned at 2030L.

Respectfully submitted, Barry W1HFN, MARA secretary

Summer Picnic

de Tom, AB1GF

Another club picnic has come and gone,
The WX was great; the food was plentiful.
Taco salad by Paul and Maryanne,
Deviled Eggs by Erik and Janice.
Pasta Salad.
Atomic Buffalo Turds by Peggy and John,
Peach cobbler, burgers and hot dogs.
Chili by Pauline and Gordon
Pork loins by Ray, most wonderful.

[The response to your editor's appeal for pictures of the club's summer picnic was pleasantly "overwhelming", therefore due to the size of the files and in deference to the readers' e-mail inboxes, I have issued a special edition of the W1/GaZette entitled "The Green Zebra's Summer Gathering 2017", Ed.]

State of the Repeaters

de Tom AB1GF, Paul KD1YH

KD1YH has acquired a Motorola receiver and replaced the faulty receiver in the 2M repeater. This seems to have solved the noise problem. There are also plans to replace the old TX with a Motorola as well.

The new controller is still in the testing stage and not as yet installed. Additional details of the state of the repeaters are presented in W1HFN's **Meeting and BoD minutes**.

W1GZ – 145.45 status = On the Air, 35w into the cans, 18w out
AB1GF – 224.34 status = On the Air, 12w into the cans, 6w out (see below)
W1HFN – 927.5625 status = OFF, needs antenna installed

We are looking at replacing the 25+ Year-old LDF4-50A hard line on W1GZ.

The current 220 MHz amplifier does not work with low drive so it only produces 12w instead of 25w, which ends up as 6w to the antenna. Tom has purchased another amplifier for 220. It works fine and produces 23w RF with 1-5w input. As soon as Tom makes a power cord the new amp will be installed at the repeater site. We hope to have 10w to antenna after it is installed..

The Old Timers' Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

This past month, due to problems with the email reminder, we only had two takers for lunch, K1JHC and W1HFN. Come out and enjoy a good lunch and some friendly chatter. Everyone is welcome, age is not a factor. Remember, we meet at noon on the first Wednesday of each Month at the Airport Diner.

Public Service

de Tim W0TJP [from Brett, AB1RL, Ed.]

With August gone and summer winding down, our attention turns to fall public service events. The BAA has two major events coming up in the fall.

Jimmy Fund Walk: Sunday, September 24. Jimmy Fund's annual fundraising walk along the Boston Marathon route. Positions available to work with a medical team at each rest stop along the route, so there's a variety of locations and volunteer times available. Tell your friends, too—we're really eager to build up the team size for this year, especially along the earlier parts of the route. Contact AB1RL by e-mail to get on the roster.

BAA Half Marathon: Sunday, October 8: As usual for BAA events, you'll work with medical teams at different points along the route to provide them with any necessary communication, including EMS dispatch requests if necessary. Volunteer registration for this event will be through the BAA's web site, it will open up on Tuesday, August 15. You'll get an announcement from them, and AB1RL, when that happens.

Your work at these events really makes a difference. In recent years, ham radio volunteers handled emergency dispatch calls to get participants, and sometimes spectators, prompt treatment. Those calls wouldn't be as quick or as effective without the communications expertise you bring by showing up. Please join us to make a couple more events that much more successful.

If you have questions about either event, please don't hesitate to ask. Brett Smith, AB1RL <ab1rl-pubserv@brettcsmith.org>, Public Service Coordinator, Boston Amateur Radio Club

Also, volunteer registration for Head of the Charles Regatta opens September 1 at the following address: <http://www.hocr.org/volunteering/>

As with the BAA Boston Marathon, all volunteers need to register at the HO CR main site.

Sunday Net Control operators needed

de Ray KB1LRL

We need two (or more) people to serve as Net Control for the Sunday morning ARES net. This is great practice for operating in special events as well as emergency situations. This will be on an as needed basis but you will be guaranteed time in so you can learn about this function. Just need one-half hour on Sunday. There are times when someone cannot do their turn. I will give up my time in favor of giving that person the experience. Give it a try!

Please drop Ray an email if you're interested.

Contesting/Operating

de Paul, KD1YH

JOTA: Plans are in motion for MARA to operate in the BSA Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), which will be held Oct 20-22. The club plans to set up a station at the Nashua Valley Council HQ off Rte2 in Lancaster.

[See the ARRL Contest Calendar for more information. For in-depth reporting on Amateur Radio contesting, you can subscribe to The ARRL Contest Update via your ARRL member profile e-mail preferences, Ed.]

VE Sessions

de Tom AB1GF, Paul, KD1YH

The MARA VE Team schedules license exam sessions monthly on the 4th Wednesday. Pre-registration is requested, contact Paul KD1YH kd1yh@arrl.net. Sessions will be canceled if no one has registered by Sunday before the scheduled session. If the session is not canceled, walk-ins are welcome, so if you are interested in upgrading or know someone who is looking for an exam session, you may contact Paul at the last minute to see if the session is being held.

Last month's session had four candidates. All four passed Element 2; two took Element 3 and one passed.

New FCC 605 Form: By the time you read this, the FCC will be using the revised FCC 605 Form Application for authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services. The basic qualifications section of this form has been revised to include a question regarding whether an applicant has been convicted of a felony in any state or federal court. Applicants' responses and explanations to this question will be used to determine eligibility to be a Commission licensee.

After the application data is submitted to FCC and an FCC file number is created, the applicant is required to provide an explanation directly to the FCC within 14 days. Candidates that do not want to answer the basic qualification question at the test session will be handled the same way the candidate's that are uncomfortable with giving their social security number (SSN) at the session are handled.

The candidate is allowed to take the exam(s) but the FCC will reject their license application form 605 if the question is not answered. As with the candidates that decline to supply their SSN, these candidates should also be referred to the VEC department directly for further instructions and guidance. If the

answer to the felony question is 'YES', the applicant must submit to FCC as an exhibit a statement explaining the circumstances. The application will be held for a basic qualification review. The fact that an applicant answers 'YES' doesn't mean they will be denied a license.

Applicants are required to answer the question only if they are filing NCVET Form 605 or FCC Form 605 for New, Amendment, Modification (Upgrade or call sign change), or Renewal/Modification (changes at renewal time). The question does not have to be answered if the applicant is filing a renewal only or an administrative update to their license (change of address, name, email, etc.).

The FCC WTB Public Notice about the 605 form change was released on 08/07/2017 and is available here: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-17-741A1.pdf

An Alphabetic History of Ham Radios

de Barry W1HFN

Barker & Williamson (B&W)

B&W had a rather short life as a ham radio manufacturer and had only two memorable rigs, the B&W Models 5100 and 6100 transmitters. They are still in business today selling military communications antennas. In addition to the two ham transmitters, B&W manufactured the MiniDuctor line of air-wound inductors.



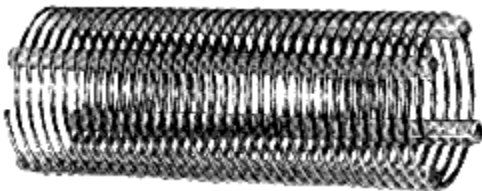
B&W Model 5100 Transmitter

B&W Model 5100 TX - Manufactured from 1955 to 1961, the 5100 was a CW/AM TX capable of 180W input on CW and 140W on AM. The final was a pair of 6146s, modulated by another pair of 6146s. Not a rig for weak folks, this beast weighed 85 pounds!



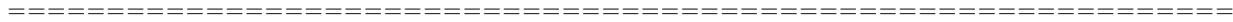
B&W 6100 Transmitter, one of the first ham radio transmitters employing frequency synthesizing

B&W Model 6100 TX - This unit did not have a conventional VFO, instead it was one of the first synthesized rigs on the market. Their first (and only) SSB/CW TX, the 6100 was not too popular as supposedly only 200 were made. Like the 5100, a pair of 6146s in the final provided 200W PEP output.



The B&W ubiquitous Miniductor

B&W sold TONS of their MiniDuctor line of pre-made air-wound coils. They came in all sizes; diameters, turns-per-inch, lengths and wire sizes. Anyone who ever built their own transmitter, antenna tuner or mobile antenna probably had several.



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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Club Secretary: Barry Fox W1HFN

Annual Dues: Regular \$25

Family \$30

Fixed income \$15

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

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Charlie Cayen, KT1I Trustee, kt1i@arrl.net

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

September 8 – 10
New England Division Convention, Boxboro, Massachusetts

Sunday, September 24
Jimmy Fund Walk, Boston

Sunday, October 8
BAA Half Marathon, Boston

October 13, 14, Deerfield, NH
NEAR-Fest XXII, Deerfield Fairgrounds

October 20-22, JOTA/JOTI, Lancaster, MA
JOTA/JOTI demonstration, Nashua Valley Council Boy Scouts office, Lancaster

For Sale/Ads

de Tom AB1GF, Ab1gf@arrl.net, 978 467-6658 .

10 Rohn 25 ft sections	\$50.00 each
EZ Way HD40 40' Crank-up tower	\$200.00
Hygain TH-6 Tribander, complete	\$150.00
Tarheel 100A-HP continuous coverage HF Antenna, with MFJ Memory tuner	\$475.00
Mosley CL 33 WARC, needs insulator kit	\$175.00

Breaking News

Congratulations to Tom, ex-WA1RHP, who is now sporting his new call sign of AB1FF