

# MARA W1⚡GaZette



October 2018

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 60, No 2

## ***Next Meeting***

Our speaker for the October 10th meeting will be Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ). The topic will be the BIX40 and uBITX QRP kit transceivers from India. Andy will compare the features of the two rigs while discussing pros and cons. He will also discuss the Arduino programming aspects. Andy has heavily modified both the hardware and software on his rigs to make them accessible to visually impaired hams. There will be a demonstration.

Next Meeting	1
President's Corner	1
Last Month's Meeting Report	3
State of the Repeaters	3
The Old Timers' Lunch	4
Public Service	4
Operating Events	5
VE Sessions.	5
Feature Article	
Watt's Happening	5
For Sale	
Other	

Contributors To This Issue:

N1MGO,W0TJP,KB1LRL,KD1YH,KD1SM,AB1GF

## ***The President's Corner***

*de Tom, AB1GF*

*As I Try to write this , am also getting ready for Near-fest XXIV. I will be bringing a lot of stuff. I have been working on replacing the shack computer with a new laptop and docking station. I hope to get active again and hopefully participate in November Sweepstakes.*

## **Western Ma. Section Manager**

*de Ray, KB1LRL*

*Hello everyone, I kind of held off with the monthly report until after Boxboro to include the activities, so this is a two-month edition.*

*Boxboro had a number of great things going on. I think there was quite a variety of talks to suit everyone's interest and there was the usual flea market outside which I think was bigger than last year. The weather was cooler and partly cloudy which helped a lot. There has been a downturn of commercial vendors in attendance and I feel there is a bit of concern. Some of the long time "anchors" are not there for one reason or another and the others are feeling the impact. The Nashua club set up a wall in that room which included many educational demonstrations on ham radio which also included kit building. There were a lot of kids there soldering away there. This was a very impressive achievement from them.*

*So, as I expected with the time and the fact a lot of the westerners had left for Saratoga on Saturday, there was a very light showing for my Section Meeting. I truly appreciate those that came to the meeting. Naturally I was a bit disappointed, but on the upside, I have a presentation in my pocket.*

*The big thing amongst the ARRL cathedral is the new ARES connect system now going online. Mike Cory from the league was there and did a presentation on it. Sadly, I had to work and could not attend it. I am now looking at this and getting it going for us. All county EC's should also be looking at this and doing what is necessary to get your county online. This is going to be very important to all as reporting will be taking on a more required role, as will the trainings. Please go to the leagues webpage and view the new changes. This is now open for comments and any comments should come to me as I will send them to the league. The deadline for this is Oct 31.*

*September is the start of the meeting season for many clubs. I will be out and about visiting clubs during the time and I can be available to do a talk if you want. Just send me an email and we can work out a date for it.*

*This year our division director Tom Frenaye K1KI is up for reelection and he has an opponent in Fred Hopengarten, K1VR. Fred has a background in law and both actually agree on many things together. Keep your eyes open for ballots when they come out.*

*Going back to my meeting, the one thing I did stress is to go to this website for news and information, and to make sure in the league's website it to check off to receive section emails. I continue to ask that those that do visit it to tell others in the clubs and elsewhere. I have a feeling a lot of members do not know what's going on in the section.*

*I hope everyone enjoyed Boxboro and good luck in your upcoming seasons.*

73,

*Ray KB1LRL*

## September Meeting

de Barry WIHFN, MARA Secretary

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM Tom-AB1GF.

Attendees: Gordon-N1MGO, Ray-KB1LRL, Paul-KD1YH, Tom-K1JHC, Charlie-KT11, Gary-K1YTS, Tim-W0TJP, Eric-W1QED, Bill-W1F5H, John-KC1JEX, Bill-KC1JDZ and Barry-WIHFN .

### Treasurer's Report

de N1mgo Treasurer

June-July-August 2018

Starting balance	\$1730.82
Income	\$50.00 Dues \$15.00 Donation (KD1JDZ)
Expenses	\$ 24.98 Ch#675 W1QED refreshments for club meeting (May) \$222.78 Ck#682 KD1YH repeater parts
Ending Balance	\$1547.82
Repeater Fund	\$496.61 (from Raffle monies)

#### Current Members:

Paid thru FY 2019 or later (future years)

	NZ1D	William Wornham	Lifetime Member
	K1JHC	Tom Duffy	Lifetime Member
14-Feb-18	W0TJP	Tim Pandiscio	\$25.00 (FY 2019) \$5.00 Donation
14-Mar-18	KD1SM/N1QIT	R. & J. Swick	\$30.00 (FY 2019)
14-Mar-18	N1MGO/KB1JXJ	Gordon LaPoint/Pauline Carulli	\$30.00 (FY 2019)
11-Apr-18	KC1HHG	Todd Whittier	\$25.00 (FY-2019)
09-May-18	W1QED	Erik Tkal	\$25.00 (FY 2019)
09-May-18	KB1LRL	Ray Lajoie	\$25.00 (FY 2019)
09-May-18	W1HFN	Barry Fox	\$15.00 (FY 2019)
09-May-18	K1YTS	Gary Busler	\$30.00 (FY 2019)
09-May-18	KT11	Charles Cayen	\$15.00 (FY 2019)
09-May-18	KK1X	John Griswold	\$50.00(FY 2018-2019)
13-Jun-18	KC1JDZ	William MacFeeley	\$15.00(FY-2019)\$15.00 Donation New member
13-Jun-18	KC1JEX	John Keesee	Free (VE gift) (FY-2019)New member
18-Aug-18	KC1DAQ	Paul Smith	\$25.00 (FY 2019)
12-Sep-18	N1CPT	Bernie Richard	\$25.00 (FY 2019)
12-Sep-18	AB1GF	Tom Antil	\$25.00 (FY 2019)
04-Mar-17	KA1ZAQ	Robert Kwiatkowski	\$25.00 (FY2018)
08-Mar-17	KB1ZKL	Chris Harrington	\$30.00 (FY 2017-2018)
08-Mar-17	KC1HCX	Michael Coulombe	\$15.00 (FY 2018)
13-Sep-17	W1LXE	William Lyons	\$25.00(FY 2018)
11-Oct-17	N1QDX	Paul Doherty	\$30.00 (FY 2018)
08-Nov-17	KD1YH	Paul Upham	\$25.00 (FY 2018)

## **Current Business:**

### **There are some upcoming Events in September : Boxboro 2018**

**Members:** .Gordon-NIMGO, Ray-KBILRL, Paul-KDIYH, Tom-KIJHC, Charlie-KTII, Gary-KIYTS, Tim-W0TJP, Eric-WIQED, Bill-WIFSH, John-KCIJEX, Bill-KCIJDZ and Barry-WIHFN .

### **General Discussion:**

*George Bliss-KB1FCB has recently become an SK. Tom will be circulating a list of the gear from his estate.*

### **Meeting Presentation:**

*Tom-AB1GF showed a YouTube video of the new software version of the Geochron clock.  
Geochron digital 4K*

**Meeting end called:** 8:33PM

## **State of the Repeaters**

*de Tom AB1GF;*

*The 220 machines noise problem has lessened considerably. There is a plan to replace the present 2M repeater with a pair of Motorola GM300 radios and the new yet-to-be-installed controller. A 440 link will also be added. The 900 repeater appears to be silent, repair date TBD. Tom has plans to raise the present 220 ant, add another 220 ant with notch filter and shorten some coax.*

## **Public Service**

*de W0TJP*

*Head of the Charles sent out an email to registered volunteers. They have one opening for Friday and one for Saturday. Info below is still valid.*

*Tim*

*Orchard House 5 & 10K  
Saturday September 8, 2018 (morning)  
Concord, MA*

*Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life  
Saturday October 6, 2018 (morning to early afternoon)  
Holliston, MA*

*Ashland Half Marathon (morning)  
Saturday October 27, 2018  
Ashland, MA*

*For each event, we will need both fixed and mobile units (including bicycle-mobile).*

*A good 2M 70cm analog portable radio will be needed. DMR (UHF/VHF) will be used at the Cycle for Life and Ashland Half. If you don't own a DMR radio, loaners are available.*

*Each event takes great care of the volunteers! That's important to me, and it's why many folks keep coming back.*

*Contact Mark at [kmalittl1@gmail.com](mailto:kmalittl1@gmail.com)*

*Also, the big event of the fall is the Head of the Charles. To work this event everyone needs to register through their website starting September 1 (ends September 30). General volunteer information can be found here: <https://www.hocr.org/volunteers/volunteer-registration/> Amateur Radio information is emailed after you get your acceptance email.*

*Tim - W0TJP*

## **Near-Fest XXIV**

*de AB1GF*

*October 12 & 13, 2018 Deerfield, New Hampshire*

*MARA will be there again this year located across from the Polish Kitchen. Let me know if you plan on joining us so I can plan the setup.*

## **VE Sessions**

*de KDISM, KD1YH*

*September 26, Lunenburg Public Safety Building.*

*We had 7 V.E'S and We Had 6 candidates, 4 passed the Technician and 1 Upgraded to General  
There will not be a V.E Session for October.*

## **The MARA W1/GaZette**

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<p>The deadline for materials to appear in the W1/GaZette is noon on the Sunday before the first Wednesday of the month.</p>
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<p><b>NEWSLETTER/PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF:</b></p>
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Newsletter Editor: Tom Antil AB1GF 978-467-6658 [ab1gf@arrl.net](mailto:ab1gf@arrl.net)

Webmaster: Paul Upham KD1YH

Community Facebook page administrator: Tom Antil AB1GF [ab1gf@arrl.net](mailto:ab1gf@arrl.net)

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

Club Secretary: Barry Fox, W1HFN, [foxbw@comcast.net](mailto:foxbw@comcast.net)

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

VE Team: [KD1YH@arrl.net](mailto:KD1YH@arrl.net)

Web site: <http://www.w1gz.org/>

**OFFICERS:**

Tom Antil, AB1GF Vice President, [thantil@comcast.net](mailto:thantil@comcast.net)

Erik Tkal, Vice President W1QED, [etkal@me.com](mailto:etkal@me.com)

Barry Fox W1HFN, [foxbw@comcast.net](mailto:foxbw@comcast.net)

Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer, [n1mgo@arrl.net](mailto:n1mgo@arrl.net)

Charlie Cayen, KT1I Trustee, [kt1i@arrl.net](mailto: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

***For Sale***

***Other***

“.. . . .”