

# MARA W1⚡GaZette



November 2018

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 60, No 3

## **Next Meeting**

Dennis-K1LGQ, The Art of QRP November 14, 18 @ Lunenburg Public Library 7:30pm

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Contributors To This Issue:

NZ1D, W1HFN, N1MGO, K1JHC, W0TJP, KB1LRL KD1YH, KD1SM, AB1GF

## **Presidents Corner**

*de AB1GF*

*Summer is over and it is getting chilly out, Why not dust off the microphone or key? I am in the process of replacing the shack computer and then hopefully get back to filling the logbook. I figured out why my amplifier failed, as it turned out I had a high SWR issue because of an intermittent connection at my low pass filters. I have removed them and also made new jumpers for radio to amplifier and amplifier to tuner. I do plan on operating SWEEPSTAKES, it is my favorite contest..*

*The object of the contest is to work stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions). You can make contest contacts on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Work as many ARRL and RAC sections as possible – there are 83 sections.*

## **Editorial**

*de Bill NZ1D*

### *The Case of the SWR or "Submerged in Water Radiator"*

*Another installment of the I'M NOT A FLY FISHERMAN: or don't spend your kids' inheritance on antennas. Some of you may remember that I described working Brazil after one leg of my "G5RV, Jr." had been taken down and coiled up to accommodate some power company maintenance in my yard. After I worked PV8ADI on 40 that evening, I realized in horror that my antenna was still partly down. What should have been a 51-ft multi-band antenna cut as three half waves on 10 was a roughly 33-ft 20m dipole off-center-fed through a section of low-loss twin-lead. What I now refer to as my 20m "accidental" OCF dipole.*

*That QSO with basically half an antenna reminded me of the night I worked Hawaii from our Mt Wachusett Field Day site with a "submerged" dipole. It was in the middle of a violent thunderstorm. I don't remember the entire cast of characters huddled in N1DRO's small pop-up camper nestled snugly beneath the trees of the parking lot; Al N1DRO, Barry W1HFN, myself, and perhaps several others. Ear-splitting thunder crashed overhead. Lightning flashed all around and below our little perch on the mountain top. The camper shuddered and rocked as the wind driven rain drummed against the windows. I probably shouldn't have been on the radio but we were in the so-called safety zone under the fire tower and several large radio towers. We figured if lightning were to hit, the towers would divert the bolt, and I really wanted the KH6 for the Field Day log.*

*After yelling "Whisky one golf zulu" into the mike for what seemed like an eternity, a weak "W1GZ KH6..." crackled through the static crashes and I managed to confirm the contact. A few minutes later, during a lull in the wind and heaviest rain, I ventured outside to visit the euphemism. As a flash of lightning lit up the area I noticed the 15-meter dipole lying on the ground like some gigantic prehistoric earthworm, partly submerged in the mud and puddles of the park's picnic area. I said to myself, what just happened?*

*The dipole had been strung across the picnic area, running north-south, the ropes on the far ends tied up into trees. The rope on the southern leg had failed, so similar to my "accidental" OCF dipole QSO with PV8ADI, half of the antenna was down in what World Radio's Kurt N. Sterba often called the "slurp". The 11-ft northern leg along with the center insulator apparently remained above the slurp, now configured as a sloping 15m vertical or Marconi, fed at or near ground. The other 11-ft half lying in the mud puddles apparently provided the counterpoise.*

*As Sterba said, "...if you can get power into metal, it will radiate. It will then spray off into the ionosphere." So much for height above ground! You never know what might work until it does.*



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

*de Barry W1HFN, MARA Secretary*

**Meeting called to order:** 7:28 PM

**Attendees:** Tom-AB1GF, Gordon-N1MGO, Eric-W1QED, Ray-KB1LRL, Paul-KD1YH, Tom-K1JHC, Charlie-KT1I, Gary-K1YTS, John-KK1X, Tim-W0TJP, Howard-KC1JRN, John-KC1JEX, Bob-KB1JZU, Bill-KC1JDZ, Barry-W1HFN and our guest speaker Andy-KB1OIQ.

### **Treasurer Report (Gordon, N1MGO):**

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association Treasurer's report September 2018

Starting balance      \$1547.82

Income                \$75.00 Dues

Expenses            \$187.50 Ck# 679 Field Day Porta Potty

                         \$ 80.00 Ck# 683 Ray Lajoie Summer Cookout expense

Ending Balance      \$1355.32

Repeater Fund        \$496.61 (from Raffle monies)

Signed: Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer

**Current Business:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to give a financial gift of \$300.00 to the Friends of the Lunenburg Library in appreciation for the use of their facilities for our meetings. A raffle was held making \$32.00 for the club. The prize, an ARRL Public Service Handbook was won by Paul-KD1YH.

**Members: .**

## **General Discussion:**

**Meeting Presentation:** Andy-KB1OIQ, gave a presentation of the BitX40 and uBitX40. He went into detail as to the operation and programming of the units, plus how he had adapted one for a sight-impaired ham. His talk ended with a Q&A session.

**Meeting end called: 8:35PM**

## **State of the Repeaters**

*de Tom AB1GF, KDIYH*

*The W1GZ Repeater was unresponsive as of October 12, 2018 (Near-Fest)*

*I (AB1GF) went up to repeater site on Monday to find the incoming signal light continually on. I*

*Disconnected the antenna from the 70cm receiver and the 2m receiver but the light stayed on.*

*I restarted the repeater only for it to time out. Paul KDIYH who had been working feverishly on the new controller the club purchased said that it was ready.*

*October 25, 2018 Paul and I went up to repeater site at 6pm . I brought out the old repeater in a wheelchair to Paul and placed it in his trunk and we brought the new equipment upstairs and had it installed and left at 9pm. Output is about 32 watts with about 17 watts out of the cans.*



*Dead on arrival*

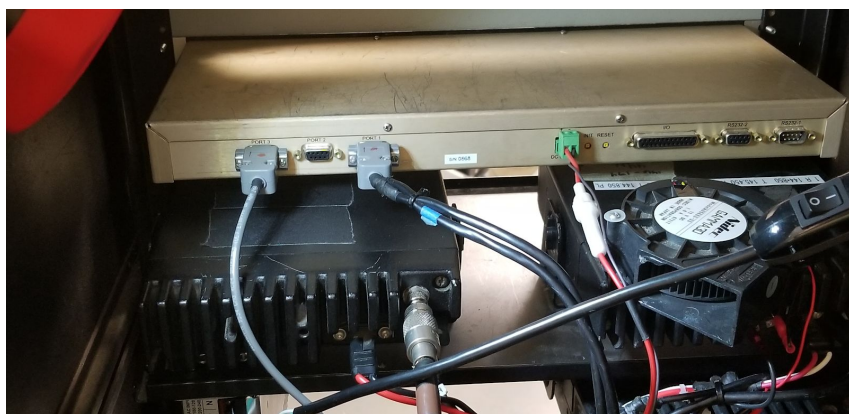


*Blinky LEDs Power supply under shelf and  
Motorola GM300 to the left of it for 70cm control link*





2 Motorola GM300s TX on left Receive on right



Ports 3 =70cm 2 =1.25m and 1 =2m and a honking fan for cooling

## **The Old Timers' Lunch**

*de Tom K1JHC*

The Old Timers meet for lunch the first Wednesday every month ,noon times at the Airport Diner on Hamilton St, Leominster. Good Menu and lively Discussions. Come for a good time.

## **Public Service**

*de W0TJP*

Nothing this month.

Registration for Boston Marathon Will be in December

## **Operating Events**

*de AB1GF*

November Sweepstakes CW 11/03/18 Phone 11/17/18

## VE Sessions

*de KDISM, KDIYH*

*There were no V.E sessions in October*

## Show Your Shack

*de W1HFN*



W1HFN older; left to right

Bottom shelf all 80 thru 10M-Hallicrafters SX-111 RX, Collins KWM 2-A XCVR and Collins 30L-1 Linear, 500W

Above Hallicrafters RX; its speaker, a homebrew 40M QRP TX, a QRP 75M AM XCVR and a Collins 312B-5 SWR Bridge/Wattmeter/Phone Patch/ secondary VFO for KWM 2-A



Above Hallicrafters speaker a GE Orion 900 MHz FM XCVR.

Newer; left to right

Bottom shelf; Kenwood TS-940SAT, KW speaker for TS-940SAT and ICOM IC-746

Above TS-940SAT a KW SWR/Wattmeter for the 940, Heathkit SWR/Wattmeter (not used) and an Alinco 2M FM rig

Above the Alinco 3 SWR/Wattmeters (one for 2M on the IC-746, one for 6M on the 746 and a third for the HF bands on the 746) and a Hy-Gain rotor control box.



Out of the frame to the left my old Dell desktop PC for RTTY

### **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: 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

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

### **OFFICERS:**

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

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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**

contact me [abigf@arrl.net](mailto:abigf@arrl.net)

M2 7-1030LP8 Log Periodic 40 thru 10m Complete \$1000

M2 7-1030LP8 Log Periodic 40 thru 10m needs a little repair \$600

Cushcraft A4S with 40m add on \$300

## **Western Mass, Section Manager**

*Hello to all, by now everyone has put away their shorts, sandals, sunblock and got out their winter woolies. October was certainly a month of quick transition for sure. This is also the time where we start turning our attentions to our hamshacks and getting on the air and exercising your equipment and operating skills. Good opportunity to try something new to!*

*On Nov 2nd I will be at the [Hampden County Radio Association's](#) meeting and will be presenting there. It will be a quick, light presentation and will follow with a discussion amongst the group. Bring your suggestions, ideas, etc. (Keep the rotten tomato's home hi-hi.) This is really the presentation I did at Boxboro to a very small group and a large gathering of crickets. Hope to see you all there.*

*Also, on that day the [Pathfinder's Regional HS](#) will have [their day](#) where they will be set up to contact the [ARISS Space Station](#). Many schools put in for the chance and with the help of the [Mount Tom ARA](#) got approved and now is the show. The Pathfinders are very excited about this and hope to get information as to how it went to post here.*

*One thing I do wish to share with you which kind of bothers me is email. On many occasions I have asked for reports and request for confirmations, information, etc. and have gotten no responses at all. I am not asking for anyone to pounce the moment I send something, and I do realize we are all busy, and I am DEFINITELY not perfect. All I am asking that we all try to do a better job with responses. There are many other reasons for this and not just personal. We may need something for emergency purposes, to get important information across to others. To keep me informed as to what is going on in the section in case I need to act on something, lastly to let me know my communications are being heard. They say it's lonely at the top, silence can demonstrate this well, even though it is not the intention. To those that have been really good about this, thank you.*

*It is with hopes there will be some communication regarding our Tech specialist group and Mentoring our new hams. I am hoping to pull information together and have a program off the ground soon. Anyone with ideas can certainly send me an email. (There's a test for my previous rant!) I would like to know what works and does not. I feel there is a huge loss of opportunity the moment we congratulate them on passing the test. I am even going to approach the league for ideas as well.*

*That's enough mischief for now. I hope to hear from you or see you in the upcoming visits.*

73,

[Ray KB1LRL](#)

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