

MARA W1⚡GaZette



February 2019

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 60, No 6

Next Meeting

Tom AB1GF will be discussing the MFJ-259B Antenna analyzer and it's many functions



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Contributors To This Issue:

AB1GF, W1HFN, N1MGO, W0TJP, K1JHC, KB1LRL, WB1EWS, AB1FF, W1SEX

The President's Corner

de Tom, Antil AB1GF

Well the Patriots won another super bowl ,spring is around the corner and it is time to do some antenna work. Before you realize, it will be Field Day, We should start planning soon. I will be applying for the permit soon also.

We are looking for net Control operators for the Sunday morning net

week 1 Paul N1QDX

week 2 Gordon N1MGO

week 3 Barry W1HFN

week 4 Ray KB1LRL

*week 5 open * if someone wants to give it a try speak to Ray*

Lightning hits the ham radio

de AB1GF

The following is from The Jean Shepard Show WOR

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

I'm going to tell you about the time I was knocked down by a bolt of lightning. On this July day, it was a Saturday, and my old man was working a half a day. The house was quiet. We lived in this five-room house.

The front bedroom, which was on the front of the house, was my bedroom, my own thing. It was right on the corner, so there was a window on my left and on my right. I had put posters all over the walls and I had my amateur radio rig there. In the corner of the room was my desk, which was my great pride and joy. I'd built my amateur radio rig on the top of this desk, on a rack I had built out of angle iron. My whole life revolved around that amateur radio transmitter. Up on the roof of the house I had an antenna, a twenty-meter dipole, just stuck up there.

On this beautiful Saturday morning, it's the beginning of July and our school vacation has just begun. I am sitting at my desk and I'm on twenty-meter CW at the time. The band is very lively with a lot of stations on.

Now, around my house, as in the case of all kids versus their parents, there is a great gap between my mother and me and my old man and me. It is always thus. In the front bedroom I am doing what they call, "Making all those noises." Anybody who's ever played with amateur radio as a kid, always hears, "Would you cut out all that noise up there, we're trying to sleep!" And, "You're making that sound on the radio again! Will you stop it!" It's always called, "Making that noise." Well, of course, what you were doing was involve yourself in worldwide electronic communication. You weren't "Making that noise," which was way above and beyond the ken of anybody else in my family. My old man's technical knowledge stopped short of how to use Simoniz. My mother's technical knowledge consisted of how to get the most mileage out of a Brillo pad.

And so I was sitting in there doing this mysterious thing. And I was always on the defensive about it. They couldn't understand what all those beeps were. My mother would see all this stuff—I had rectifier tubes that would glow blue when I put my key down. They looked spooky to both my father and my mother. It not only looked very spooky but it looked unbelievably dangerous. Which, incidentally, to tell the truth, it was.

Let's face it, I had a power supply that delivered fifteen-hundred volts at two-hundred mil. That's quite enough to knock the front end off of your house any time it wants to do it.

So I'm sitting in there working away with my rig on this day and my mother's out in the kitchen. Every time I got on she would look in my door and say, "Now, be careful. You're going to get a shock. Be careful with that. And stop making those beeps so loud. Can you turn it down?" And she would go back into the kitchen. She always thought I was going to get a shock—playing around with electricity.

Well, I had gotten my share of shocks and, I might add, RF burns —Radio Frequency—which is another story. When you're tuning up a section network and you start getting an arc off of the knob—I got an RF burn one time that caught me in the thumb and burnt me all the way down to my ankle. It bore a hole in me. So I had my share of it, but I never told my parents about it.

(More lightning to come.)

Listen to the whole story below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akyTVNorXQ8&t=32s> Jean Shepard K2OR. SK

January Meeting, Treasurer's Report

de Barry W1HFN, MARA Secretary

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

Attendees: Tom-AB1GF, Gordon-N1MGO, Eric-W1QED, Paul-KD1YH, Tom-K1JHC, Gary-K1YTS, John-KK1X, Howard-KC1JRN, Bob-KB1JZU, Ray-KB1LRL and Barry-W1HFN.

Treasurer Report (Gordon, N1MGO): ending balance of \$1601.32.

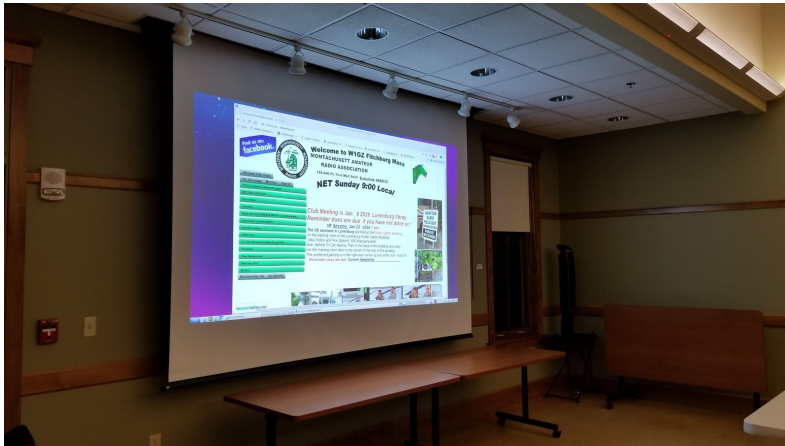
Current Business: There was no new business

Members: Tom-AB1GF, Gordon-N1MGO, Eric-W1QED, Paul-KD1YH, Tom-K1JHC, Gary-K1YTS, John-KK1X, Howard-KC1JRN, Bob-KB1JZU, Ray-KB1LRL and Barry-W1HFN.

General Discussion: Two raffles were held which netted the club \$32.00. The prizes were a W1GZ mug won by Erik-W1QED and a W1GZ mouse pad won by Paul-KD1YH, both prizes donated by Tom-AB1GF.



Meeting Presentation: Our speaker was Gordon-N1MGO who gave an interesting presentation on various digital modes.



Meeting end called: 9:00 PM

State of the Repeaters

de Tom AB1GF

The 220 machine had failed and is currently in KD1YH's QTH being mended. The 900MHz repeater is still down, awaiting assistance from a local MSF5000 expert.

The Old Timers' Lunch

de Tom K1JHC

Five hungry Hams Gary K1YTS, Tom AB1GF, Steve KB1FRN, Paul W1SEX, and Tom K1JHC arrived at the Airport Diner on Wednesday 2 January for the Old Timers Lunch and the talking never stopped for two hours. We meet every "First Wednesday" of the month, 11:45 am, year round. Why not join the group and enjoy good grub and gab.

Tom K1JHC solderironman@aol.com

Public Service

de W0TJP

Sign ups for the Marathon still available

Upcoming Contests

de AB1GF

February 2019

11-15 [School Club Roundup](#)

16-17 **International DX – CW**
March 2019
2-3 [International DX– Phone](#)
April 2019
14 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

Upcoming Events

de AB1GF

Feb

16 [Algonquin Ham Radio Flea Market](#)

April

7 [Framingham Flea Market](#)

May

3-4 [NEAR-Fest XXV](#) That is correct_# 25

VE Sessions

de KDISM, KDIYH

The VE sessions are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the [Lunenburg Public Library](#)
[1023 Massachusetts Ave, Lunenburg, MA 01462](#) in the back of the building at 7pm

Ralph was out of town so there was no Test Sessions last month.

check on the status of your new licence @ [F.C.C ULS](#)

WMA ARRL

de KB1LRL

Hello everyone. So, I hear that our friend [Phil](#) predicted an early spring. We'll see about that. If you recall, last time he did that we got bombed with endless snows. I don't know about you, it's been a relatively decent winter, but I like the warmer temps.

January 12 I was in Springfield where other section managers, club presidents, etc. gathered with [Fred](#), [K1VR](#) for his first cabinet meeting which is held before the board of directors meeting. He was greeted to a packed room and there was some great discussion. The first item was the release of our presentation for reintroducing the tech specialist program which will also involve getting elmering (mentoring) back to help support new hams when they enter the hobby to introduce them to the many avenues that it has to offer. [Paul](#), [W1SEX](#) put together the presentation and showed it at the meeting. Thank you, Paul, for a stellar effort. This will be made available to all on the website as well as we are looking to get this in the ARRL web as well. Along with the presentation we will be also introducing other tools and information that clubs will have access too, including a brochure to give new licensee's when they pass the test. This will be available to customize as they want to their local club. This does not take away from the ones they use now. I have seen some nice ones and stick with it! There was quite an emphasis in getting the league to bring out more and better information and ease of access to it to aid also the new ham. I will admit finding things there is a bit

clunky at times.

It appears Berkshire county will have a full complement of EC's. [Dave W1TTT](#) has been working with me in getting personnel in place and will be gearing it up to get that county off the ground for [ARES](#). This will be finalized very shortly. I will be starting on another county soon. Anyone interested in assisting for their county, [let me know](#).

I paid a visit to the [CMARA](#) club meeting in West Boylston. As usual there was a great turnout there. A nice presentation on 3-D printing and they had their officer elections there. [Brian K1BML](#) has been elected President receiving the gavel from [Bob, W1TAB](#). Thank you Bob for your efforts during your tenure. Of course, it is February and I'm sure thoughts are starting to turn to [Field Day](#). It is my hopes to do the visits like last year. It was enjoyable and impressed to see the setups and activities that goes on there. I have been doing the [MARA](#) event and seeing the others gives me a different perspective of their own logistics there. That's enough chatter for now. Watch out, I may be sneaking in to your meeting soon enough.

Take care and 73,

[Ray KB1LRL](#)

The MARA W1/GaZette

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Club Secretary: Barry Fox, W1HFN, foxbw@comcast.net

Annual Dues: Regular \$25

Family \$30

Fixed income \$15

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 pm 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 10 kHz 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

de AB1GF

Yaesu FT-991 Non A \$850.00

HF/ VHF/UHF all mode very light use



Resources

[AB1FF Inventory](#)

[W1SEX Tech Night](#) in Gardner

[Dan's Tech Night](#) in Shirley

[Heathkit](#) they are back making kits

[AB1GF](#) 600 lbs of Aluminum, antenna parts & tower stuff

[N1MGO](#) assistance with digital

[WB1EWS](#) has 1.000.000 Resistors, check 1/4, 1/2, 1 & 2 watt available check with him before you buy any.

[KB1LRL](#) Wire Man products

[The Successful Ham Radio Operator's Handbook](#) Another operators handbook that might be useful

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