



Next Meeting

**Wednesday, March 10
7:30PM
Webex Virtual
Meeting Link: See email
from W1QED**

W1GZ Field Day Discussion

The March meeting will be on Field day.

President's Corner

As you are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown many, if not most of us, into unknown territory in dealing with and balancing what we can of family, friends and work life. Even as some are able to get vaccinated, others are patiently waiting and it appears it may be a few months still until we can consider safely being together. For Field Day the ARRL has extended the 2020 rule waivers into 2021, allowing Class D stations to score points by contacting other Class D stations as well, though there is now a 150W power limit on Class D and E stations. Also, as we did last year, individuals may note their club name in order to aggregate scores in lieu of participating physically together in a

group, please use "Montachusett ARA" as the club name. Perhaps the Booby Prize will once again change hands in a westerly direction. I am hopeful that in 2022 we will once again be able to return to traditional Field Day and gather atop the mountain. Until then stay well, stay safe, and stay on the air.

73, Erik W1QED

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Contributors To This Issue:
KB1LRL, W1QED, N1MGO, W1SEX

Watt's Happening

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

Mondays, 2000 local 147.525 simplex Worcester Emergency Simplex Net

Wednesdays, 1900 local 145.37- Gardner/Templeton Emergency Net

Wednesdays, 2100 local 28.341 Harvard Repeater Club 10 meter sideband net "Activity Night"

Nightly, 2100 local 146.97- Central Mass Traffic Net

First Monday, 1900 local 3944, 7245 RACES Net

Additional ham fest and flea market information can be found on the W1GSL New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea Market list at
<http://web.mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

Think Spring!

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MARA owns and operates the W1GZ repeater on 145.45 (CTCSS 74.4) in Fitchburg.

February Meeting Report

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

VE Team Report

Ray, KB1LRL, is interested in organizing a VE session later this month or early April in Leominster. You may let him know if you're interested in helping. The location will be at the Fastenal offices, 100 Crawford St. Leominster.

Old Timers Lunch

Meetings have been stopped pending covid 19 changes. Please check with Tom, K1JHC for updates on when they will resume.

Section Managers Report

March 2021

Hello! You know those video clips you see and there is the phrase "wait for it", well that's how I feel when March has arrived. Come on Spring! Not that we had a bad winter, but there is this thing about warm temps that interest me.

Basically, another quiet month. I have been getting to Zoom meetings the best I can with my schedule. One in particular is one set up by Ed Snyder W1YSM in CT. who, with Phil K9HI our vice director has reached out to club coordinators and section managers to get together with the division to look at our clubs and what works, what doesn't and see what can be done with clubs that are struggling. This will be an ongoing group and I will share things as we go along and as usual, if you have any suggestions feel free to email me. (crickets not invited!) I do want to give kudo's to Phil, since he stepped into the role as Vice Director, he has been really opening up communications amongst the division. Well Done Phil!

I got word the League has approved the

Hamexposition in Marlboro to be the New England Division Convention. I really hope this will be a live event. Zoom events are nice, but I miss the face to face that these have to offer. Cross your fingers.

I have over the year purchased a Anytone handheld and a tri-band mobile and have been trying to get it operational. One challenge is there is no repeater nearby. I purchased one of those MMDVM hotspots which I fear I ruined the card in it. I can really use some help in getting things up and running from one of the DMR guru's out there. Give me an email if you are interested in giving me a hand. I also have a rotator that only turns 90 degrees that needs a climber to fix it, but that is after the snow melts.

Paul W1SEX from the Mohawk club is issuing a challenge to the WMA clubs for Field Day. This is to inspire some friendly competition and drive participation. It used to be a challenge with the Montachusett club. The losing club would get the 23 channel CB to display at the meetings for the year. An old Sears mobile I donated to the cause. For this one I will provide a new Handbook and maybe some other goodies to the highest scoring club, and the CB will continue as the booby prize. The Mohawk club in Gardner was one of the clubs that was struggling, but thanks to Bill, N1UZ and W1SEX along with others have been working to get better participation and activity, and their efforts are now paying off. Hats off to those guys! Keep at it!

I hope everyone has a great month. See you next month.

73 Ray, KB1LRL

HF Remote operation with the N1MGO/KT1I remote

All club members are welcome to use the HF remote sponsored by N1MGO, KT1I and WB8PKK.

The remote site is controlled by the "RCForb server" software. This provides the user interface to the radio and other hardware. We also use the "KAT500 Remote" software by Elecraft to provide access and control of the KAT500 auto-tuner. For improved audio for the digital modes, like FT8, PSK31 or RTTY we run RemAud, by DF3CB. There is an openvpn server running so we can safely connect to the remote programs. For contesting we use some of the above, but substitute WriteLog (in remote mode) for the RCForb server software, and add the KPA500 Remote from Elecraft to control the 500W amp, if using High Power for the contest.

All antenna switching is automatic, using an Ameritron RCS-10 antenna switch controlled by an Elecraft KRC2 band decoder. The antennas we use are all in the woods, about 450' from the radio, and consist of a 160Mtr OCF Dipole, used for 160Mtr, 12Mtr, 10Mtr and 6Mtr, 80/75Mtr Fan Dipole, used for 80Mtr and 75Mtr, 40/30Mtr fan dipole, 20/17Mtr fan dipole and a 15Mtr dipole. The dipoles were all made by WB8PKK (thanks!) and hung from trees. All of the equipment is housed at the site of WB8PKK, who provides power, internet and some maintenance of the equipment. The radio is a Kenwood TS-590sg, provided by KT1I, amp and tuner are provided by N1MGO, computer

equipment provided by WB8PKK. To use the site first email n1mgo@n1mgo.org to get added to the access list. Then download the RCForb client software from <http://remotehams.com/> readup on operation at the remotehams.com site Documentation page, then connect to "N1MGO-WMA". For current info on the remote status and more information see: <http://www.n1mgo.org/>. The remote is used for the 4PMer's net each day, except Sunday, and the WMA emergency net Sunday mornings. If you want to use the site for digital modes please ask for assistance in setup, the phone use is fairly easy by comparison. Have fun with the remote, it hears great and can use up to 500 watts on tx!



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