



Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 10

7:00PM

Lunenburg Public Library

NOTE: NEW MEETING

TIME, In Person And

Zoom Masks required for

In Person appearances

Guest speaker AB1OC

**“Mentoring youth and
other subjects”**

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Contributors To This Issue:

KB1LRL, NZ1D, N1MGO, W1HFN

President's Corner

Greetings! Looks like it's time to put away the lawn mowers and bust out the snowblowers. Uuugh! The upside is there are things going on inside that will keep you warm, such as firing up

the radios and warming your hands on that amplifier during a contest. CQWW is in full swing with the CW portion coming up and there is a host of others as well. I have no shortage of projects going on myself.

October 23, we had the Play Radio event at Sholan Farms. For something that was thrown together actually went pretty well. Eleven people turned out including some from the Franklin Club which is over an hour away. The feedback is we should do more. We do have some leads we are looking into that will allow us to go to without cost. Anyone who wants to put something together is welcome to do so. It does not have to go through me except just letting me know in advance so I can help promote it.

I have a few things going on to try to generate interest in the club. I have been working on speakers for meetings and announcements to the area. I am also starting to work on outreach for new hams to introduce them to radio and the club. The League is also putting out a newsletter similar to the ARRL letter, Contest letter, etc. This one is geared towards club activities. It should be out very soon. I also have a groups.io email setup to share ideas and plans to revitalize the club. If you want to join shoot me an email.

November's meeting will be Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC who will talk about mentoring youth and what he has done for the Nashua club. He is also one of the candidates for Division Director. Please join us on Nov 10 either on Zoom or at the library. Please note!!! Meetings are going to start at 7:00 pm! Feel this along with removing the old business routine will allow us for better presentations without as much time crunch.

That's enough hooey for now, hope to see you next Wednesday. If I don't, I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving.

73 Ray, KB1LRL

Update on remote radios, by N1MGO

The K4D is working, but still lacks some of the features needed for full remote workings, looking forward to more software/firmware upgrades from Elecraft.

The remote in Westminster is working fine and is open to club members, however you do need to request permission to use it, then you will be enabled at the remote site to use the remote. For more information on the remote HF setup and some directions on how to use it see: <https://n1mgo.org/>

Hamming in the Air Force, 1965-1969

By W1HFN, Barry Fox

I joined the U S Air Force in January of 1965. Basic training was at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX. During the last weeks of Basic, we were put through a career counseling session. Since I had a ham license and two years of electronics at a local junior college, I was asked if I wanted to take a by-pass specialist test. Since my chosen career field was Ground Radio Repair and Maintenance, I was assured I would get that field, and if I passed the by-pass test, would not have to endure the 48 week electronics course at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS. I passed and skipped the school and went to my first duty assignment, Pease AFB in Portsmouth, NH

Assigned to the 1916th Communications Squadron, Air Force Communication Service, my job was taking care of various VHF and UHF AM ground to air transmitters, receivers and their associated equipments. At that time, the TXs and RXs were in separate buildings, about a mile apart. Our RX site shared the building with the SAC ground-to-ground HF SSB (Collins KWT-6) installation and I tried mightily to get the SAC ops to let me put one of the KWT-6s on 20M, but to no avail. The KWT-6s were fed to a rhombic which was pointed due west, so point-to-point comms with SAC HQ at Offutt AFB, NB was pretty much a 59+ QSO for them.

At some point, I think in 1966, SAC decided to remove the KWT-6s and left the site to the sole use of the 1916th. They also left the rhombic with its associated coax feedline sticking out of the floor. So I said to myself, I wonder how my Swan 240 would like to use that rhombic? Very much, was the reply. It turned out to be a great combination, I worked some great DX and it made trips to work on the VHF/UHF RXs something I did more often than was necessary.

We had a MARS station at Pease but I cannot remember who operated it. I do remember the base communications officer asking our squadron commander if he could spare someone to install some new gear. Myself and another ham eagerly volunteered. There was a brand new Collins 30L-1, still in the box. We took it out of the box and connected it to the KWM-2 and an antenna and hit the AC switch. Shortly thereafter, great clouds of smoke and the smell of charred paper issued forth from the 30L-1 cabinet. As experienced hams we did not feel the necessity to read the installation instructions in the 30L-1 manual. Had we done so, one of the more important instructions was "remove the cardboard wrappings from around the 811s". After vacuuming out the bits of burnt paper, the amp functioned as intended.

After 2 years at Pease, I thought an overseas assignment would be fun, so I filled out a volunteer statement, asking for England, Germany and Italy, in that order. I should have known better, orders soon arrived for Goose Bay, Labrador. I heard it all from the older guys who had been there: "Frostbite Falls; a woman behind every tree and no trees; we had a great summer, last year it was on a Tuesday," etc, etc. So I am now with the 1932nd Comm Sqdn AFCS doing the same job in a much colder climate, BUT Labrador is in Zone 2 and at that time I believe there were only 12 hams in all of Zone 2. The base MARS station (VO2HA) was manned 8 hours a day, primarily so the base troops could make phone patches back to the states as there were no public phone service from Goose to the US. After duty hours, anyone with a valid US ham license could use the station and boy did I have fun. A Collins S-Line with 30S-1 and a choice of 3-element tri-bander or a 2-element quad was mine to play with. DXCC took about a week, WAS about 3 weeks, did I mention Zone 2 was rare? I was in QSO with a ham in Germany who asked if I would standby while he made

a phone call to a friend in Tunisia who needed Zone 2 desperately for WAZ. I worked the 3V8 and later found out he was the only licensed ham in the country at the time. I was having so much fun I decided to enter the 1967 CQ World-Wide Sideband DX Contest. Admittedly with little or no competition, I managed to come in first place in Zone 2.

After 18 months the tour of duty is over, time to fill out another volunteer statement as to where your next assignment will be. Since Goose Bay was considered a less-than-ideal assignment, we were "assured" our choices would be "seriously considered". I wanted to return to New England so I put in for Pease, Westover and Otis AFBs. Of course I was sent to Bergstrom AFB in Austin, TX. Again, should have know better. However, I am no longer in AFCS but TAC (Tactical Air Command). We don't do VHF/UHF ground-to-air comms, we do ground-to-ground via tropo-scatter. Well that cannot be so bad, I thought. My first day on the job I spot a sea of tropo-scatter vans parked at the squadron hanger. After meeting with the OIC, I am introduce to my NCOIC who shows me around the shop. And there against the wall are several shelves full of gray Samsonite suitcases with Collins meatballs on them. "Wow, I said, you have KWM-2As here?" He asked if I was familiar with them and I said yes, so I became the NCOIC of KWM-2A operation and maintenance. I had two younger airmen to assist me, so every day we erected two portable masts, strung up a measuring-tape dipole between them and played ham radio for eight hours. I managed several QSOs with the MARS station at Goose Bay much to my delight.

So now it is time to re-enlist, which I really wanted to do. If I did, I was slated to go to VietNam with the TAC squadron, which I did NOT want to do. I volunteered to go to Nam if I could be assigned to an AFCS squadron and go back to groundair-to-radio, but the request was denied, so I parted ways with the USAF. I really enjoyed my four years in the AF, had lots of fun and worked with some great people. Who knows how life would have turned out had I stayed.

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

George's Old Timers Net 1930 hours 146.970 Paxton RepeaterNear-Fest Oct. 15,16 Deerfield NH

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>

October Treasurer's Report

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

Treasurer's report October 2021

Starting balance	\$1626.66
Income \$200.00	(membership dues and donations)
Expenses	\$
Ending Balance	\$1826.66

**Signed: Gordon LaPoint,
N1MGO Treasurer**

The MARA W1/GaZette

is published by the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association just prior to the monthly meeting. The newsletter is distributed free to members and friends of Amateur Radio.

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Family \$30
Fixed income \$15
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MARA owns and operates the W1GZ repeater on 145.45 (CTCSS 74.4) in Fitchburg.

October Meeting Report

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association (secretary was absent)

Contests coming up for the next month:

Day of the YIs Contest - 0000Z Nov 13 - 2359Z Nov 14
WAE DX RTTY Contest- 0000Z Nov 13 - 2359Z Nov 14
ARRL EME Contest - 000Z Nov 20 - 2359Z Nov 21
ARRL Sweepstakes SSB 2100Z Nov 20 - 0300Z Nov 22

There are many other contests going on it this time frame.

For more info see:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.html>

VE Team Report

None held.

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

November 2021

Hi everyone, yet another busy month here and lot's going on. First thing is to write this email down, clubs@arrl.org. this email will be used for anything club related. Resources, inquiries. The other thing it will be used for is to edit your club information. If you need to change things such, as contact or update your annual filing, give it to them. There has been some hanky-panky going on and the editing has gone inhouse. The other thing is there will be a club newsletter from the league starting around the middle of this month similar to the ARRL letter, Contest Letter, etc. They will be looking for news items about club activities, events, club tips, etc. If you have anything send them to the email above. You can get the club letter by going into your profile on the league's website and check the box. I do want to send my apologies to everyone as one of the things I said I would do is put the new ham list here. I have not done this for a while. This and

other things I may have slipped on please poke me. I am going to make a better effort on the listings.

Another thing I have been working on is taking charge of a club that is on the verge of ending after 70 years. This is proving to be a real challenge as getting the few to put in the effort to revive it and get interest back. I have reached out to some people to assist and consult and hopefully, in time, I can write a success story and not an obituary. October 23rd, I held a "Play Radio" event at Sholan Farms. The event went fairly well with eleven people stopped to visit. I even had four from the Franklin Club visit. This was very much appreciated. People did say it was enjoyable and look to have more like this. Maybe I'm on to something. Thanks to Brad W1BCC! Gil Hayes WK1H reached out and asked for help for Worcester County ARES and also some Club Coordinator things as well. Here is the info:

WMA ARES in Worcester County recently had a number of ECs move out of the area. We're looking for a few more ECs, especially in central and southern Worcester County. The role of the EC is to be the on-the-ground leadership of ARES in their local area, to build up the ARES membership in the area including training and direction, and to establish and maintain relationships with local served agency leadership. If interested, please contact Southern Worcester County District EC Hisham Al-Beik KB1JLW at kb1jlw@gmail.com or Worcester County ASEC Gil Hayes WK1H at wk1h@arrl.net.

Additionally, we're updating the WMA Club Presenters List. The list is for the benefit of club officers, to try to give them some good ideas for presentations at monthly club meetings. If anyone has a presentation you've given at an event and want to be included on the list, please contact WMA Affiliated Club Coordinator Gil Hayes WK1H at wk1h@arrl.net.

With that I can additionally add the request for other section and ARES help. We need a PIC and a Government Liaison among others. Please consider volunteering for any of these. We are going to get very busy soon.

Stay tuned, I feel November will be just as busy with the League ramping up it's emphasis on Clubs and membership, maybe a new director and contests galore. Also, add a little Thanksgiving to the mix. Yep, the silly season is upon us again.

I hope to see you soon somewhere, if not, I do want to wish you a fabulous Tanksgiving!
73, Ray KB1LRL

W1GZ History de NZ1D

IN THE GLOW OF THE FILAMENTS...

de Bill, NZ1D

Part 11: "Voila, le commencement de la fin."

Fitchburg, April 5, 1917. Thursday broke dreary, cold and blustery with a prediction of "rain or snow tonight and Friday, increasing east winds, probably increasing to gale force tonight." Across the country Americans awoke to an ill wind of a different nature: while Congress debated the war resolution, German U-boats claimed another American merchant ship, the steamer *Missourian*.

With the U.S. on the verge of entering the war, it appeared that the permanent end of amateur wireless was imminent. A malignant cloud of mistrust and suspicion had been building over several years leading up to the conflict in Europe. After the Commissioner of Navigation issued a temporary wireless "quiet" order for the U.S. west coast in November 1914, U.S. amateur wireless operators feared that it might signal the end of their favorite hobby. The reason for the order wasn't given, or why it was for the Pacific coast only, but it may have been related to Admiral Spee's fleet roaming virtually unmolested in the southern Pacific until confronted by the British in a major naval battle off Coronel, Chile. Intercepted wireless signals had played a key role in locating the German fleet.

Such singular events often mark important turning points. "*Voila, le commencement de la fin*," French statesman Talleyrand commented after the battle of Borodino set the stage for Napoleon's retreat from Russia in 1812: *It is the beginning of the end.*

The Fitchburg Sentinel reported that the Navy had ordered 200 patrol boats to be used as submarine chasers, the army wanted two million soldiers, "men in their twenties free from home responsibilities in increments of 500,000," and that nearly all men except married, mechanical experts and scientists would be expected "to come under the colors." The conference of the Naval League for Women's Service called on women to enroll in the war service and reported that 500 trained women radio operators could be supplied to the Navy in the "next six months."

The next day's headline proclaimed, "PRESIDENT SIGNS DECLARATION OF WAR". All members of the Sixth regiment including Fitchburg units were to be mustered into the Federal service by nightfall. Within a few days the little armory on Wallace Avenue would be bustling with some 500 troops.

In addition, President Wilson issued the dreaded Executive Order to cease all wireless activity. To amateur radio operators, it was "the day the music died." Newspapers across the country carried the order, which the May issue of *QST* would publish under the headline "WAR!"

The Office of the Radio Inspector, Dept of Commerce, Navigation Service, ordered "to all Radio Experimenters....*I hereby direct the immediate closing of all stations for radio communications, both transmitting and receiving, owned or operated by you....I direct that the antennae and all aerial wires be immediately lowered to the ground, and that all radio apparatus both for transmitting and receiving be disconnected from both the antennae and ground circuits and it otherwise be rendered inoperative both for transmitting and receiving any radio messages or signals....*" The order further stipulated that a form provided to licensees showing compliance had to be returned to the government; failure to do so "will lead to a rigid investigation."

Reaction at the local level was swift. As shown in the enclosed graphic, on Tuesday, April 10, 1917, the Daily Sentinel reported the order under the heading: "RADIO STATIONS TO BE DISMANTLED." H. W. [sic] Cosman named in the article was Howard E. Cosman, 1ENE, the very same amateur operator who fourteen months earlier had been instructor of the Fitchburg YMCA boys' wireless telegraphy class.

The wireless was both a boon and a bane. In *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine had warned, "Suspicion is the companion of mean souls, and the bane of all good society." The wireless facilitated communication and thus it facilitated espionage. Many people were not fully at ease with that new contraption called the telephone, let alone the enigmatic wireless. It was easy to conjure up a sinister image of a spy closeted in a dimly-lit room, crowned with a headset and hunched over a Morse key, gleaning "secrets" out of the mystical screeches, beeps and pops emanating from this strange-looking device.

The easy solution? Nip it in the bud. Author E. B. White would note a generation later, "*We grow tyrannical fighting tyranny.*"

Next time, in Part 12: "Great" Wireless Station Discovered in Townsend.

DAILY SENTINEL, TU

RADIO STATIONS TO BE DISMANTLED

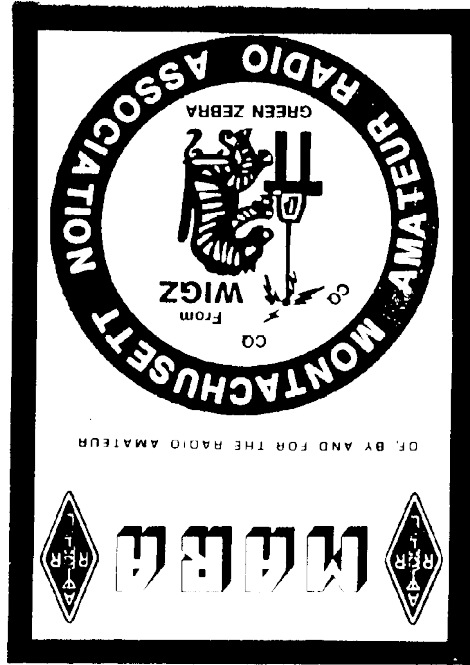
Chief Tinsley Receives Orders To Stop All Means of Private Wireless Communication

All the licensed and unlicensed wireless stations in Fitchburg are to be dismantled at once according to an order received by Chief David W. Tinsley from Lieut. Edward G. Blakelee of the United States navy who is district communication superintendent. The chief turned the orders over to Inspector Thomas J. Godley and the latter is to visit all known radio stations and see that the order is carried out at once.

H W Cosman, 120 Summer street, is the only licensed operator or station in this city but there are several other amateur or unlicensed stations which must also obey the order. The regulation of radio communication requires the immediate closing of all stations for radio communication. The aerial wires must be lowered to ground, the apparatus connected and rendered inoperative for the sending or receiving of messages or signals.

The police of the various cities and towns of the state are being entrusted with the work of seeing that these instructions are carried out. Inspector Godley expects no trouble from the local operators although naturally they would like to remain in touch with the various messages that are flying through the air all the time during the present critical situation.

Fig 1. NZ1D's MacGyver "Zippy" Zepp



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