

MARA W1 GaZette



January 2024

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 64 No. 5

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 10 7:00PM Lunenburg Public Library

**W1QED is presenting on the PiIRLP
node used on W1GZ**

The President's Corner

Gordon – N1MGO Acting president.
I'm doing cleanup of the yard and
getting the snowblower ready for the
storm we are getting, the weekend
before the club meeting. I hope
everyone is ready for about 9" of snow,
or more! This will be the biggest snow
storm we have got in the last 2 years!

Thanks,
Gordon - N1MGO

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 Get-together Net

Nightly, 2100 local 146.97-
Central Mass Traffic Net

Nightly, 2145 local 145.45-
Heavy Hitters Traffic Net

**First Wednesday, 11:30 Old timers
luncheon,** Westminster Cafe

First Monday, 1900 local 3944, 7245
RACES Net

George's Old Timers Net 1930 hours
146.970 Paxton Repeater

No Name Net 3982 07:30 to 8:30 7 days

4PMers net 3922 16:00 Monday-Saturday

Sunrise Bible Study net 3912 06:30 7 days

All day, every day: 144.39 simplex
Digipeater for APRS, AA2T-1 set to Wide 1
By Jerry, AA2T

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 luncheon, Westminster Cafe

First Monday, 1900 local 3944, 7245
RACES Net

George's Old Timers Net 1930 hours
146.970 Paxton Repeater

No Name Net 3982 07:30 to 8:30 7 days

4PMers net 3922 16:00 Monday-Saturday

Sunrise Bible Study net 3912 06:30 7 days

All day, every day: 144.39 simplex
Digipeater for APRS, AA2T-1 set to Wide 1
By Jerry, AA2T

Treasurer's Report

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

Treasurer's report December 2023

Starting balance	\$2127.91
Income	\$45.00 Dues
	\$
Expenses	\$102.60 Ck 701 New PS for repeater
Ending Balance	\$2070.31

Signed: Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer

Worcester Emergency Simplex Net

Wednesdays, 1900 local 145.37-
Gardner/Templeton Get-together Net

Nightly, 2100 local 146.97-
Central Mass Traffic Net

Nightly, 2145 local 145.45-
Heavy Hitters Traffic Net

First Wednesday, 11:30 Old timers

W1GZ 2Mtr Repeater

Repeater is working fine! The IRLP link for the Gardner repeater is up!

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur
Radio Association
11 December 2023

The meeting was started at 1905 and introductions made. Those in attendance were; N1MGO, KC1RVS, KD1YH, W1HFN, AA1SE, W1QED, KC1TVC, KC1OBX and KC1EIJ.

N1MGO showed the second half of a video presentation from last month of classic antennas by AF1T. Very interesting and well done.

KD1YH and W1QED updated the membership on the status of the IRLP system, which now works quite well.

The FTDX560 AA2T donated, was entrusted to KC1RVS. Tyler will work on it and try to get it functional.

KC1EIJ had his first POTA adventure in Keene at Bear Mountain State Forest and

enjoyed 25 QSOs.

AA1SE mentioned the Marlboro hamfest 17Feb2024.

Respectfully submitted, Barry -
W1HFN Secretary

Meeting adjourned at 20:15.

Upcoming Contests

Contests coming up for the next month:

January Worcester County Activity

Contest: All month, for details email W1SEX, for members of MARA, Mohawk and CMARA clubs.

North American QSO Party, CW: 1800Z Jan 13 to 0559Z Jan 15

North American QSO party, SSB: 1800Z Jan 20 to 0559Z Jan 21

BARTG RTTY Sprint: 1200Z Jan 27 to 1200Z Jan 28

Mexico RTTY International Contest: 1200Z Feb 3 to 2359Z Feb 4

CQ WW RTTY WPX contest: 0000Z Feb 10 to 2359Z Feb 11

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

For more info see:

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

To see the scores reported by your local hams visit:

<https://www.3830scores.com/>

Respectfully submitted, Barry - W1HFN
Secretary

VE Team Report

The VE session was held on Dec 2 at the Lunenburg Library and there were 3 candidates for the exam. 1 person earned his Tech and another upgraded to General.

The next VE session will be on Saturday, Feb 3 at the Gardner police station.

If you do a contest please put your results up on the 3830 score board for the rest of us to see.

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.

Contents copyright © 2023, MARA. Permission to use in other Amateur Radio publications with credit to MARA is hereby granted.

W1HFN Annual Dues:

Regular \$25

Family \$30

Fixed income \$15

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7:00pm
September to June

Mailing address: MARA
PO Box 95
Leominster, MA 01453

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

OFFICERS:

President (acting) – Gordon LaPoint - N1MGO

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

Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer
n1mgo@arri.net

Erik Tkal W1QED Trustee
etkal@me.com

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

Editor:Gordon LaPoint N1MGO n1mgo@arrl.net
Webmaster:Paul Upham KD1YH

The deadline for materials to appear in the
W1/GaZette is noon on the Sunday before the
first Wednesday of the month.

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Ham Radio Trivia

1. Many US hams participate in a national program to help provide reports and warnings for storms and tornadoes. Not limited to ham operators, what is the name of this program?

2. This well known country music star changed his amateur radio call-sign to W4CGP, which he said stood for "certified guitar picker".

3. Another famous country star who is also a ham is originally from North Carolina and has hits such as "Smokey Mountain Rain" and "Lost

In The Fifties Tonight". His callsign is WB4KCG. Who is it?

4. Her call-sign is K5PSG, her name is Peggy Sue, and her then boyfriend wrote a song about her. Who was this famous rock and roller?

!!Answers in Next months newsletter!!

Last months answers

1. Senator Barry Goldwater
2. First Amateur Operator to operate from space
3. Dipole
4. Good Morning America

Training and VE session

The Western Ma Train and test group is offering a Technician License course on Zoom. The course starts on Tuesday January 23 and runs to about February 29. The classes are Tues. and Thurs. from 7-9 pm. You will need the ARRL Technician License manual. The classes are free. See the flyer to find the registration link.

Additionally, we will be holding a VE test session at the Gardner Police Station, 200 Main St. Saturday Feb. 3 at 10 am. Candidates should have 15 dollars. And a FCC FRN number along with driver's license.

Pass the word along to those who may be interested in either of these.

Ham Radio License Class!



The Western Mass. Train & Test Group would like to invite you to a
FREE on-line course so you too can get your Technician Class
Ham Radio License.

Free On-Line classes will start Tuesday January 23rd on Zoom
Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday Evenings starting at 7 PM
Register online here: <https://forms.gle/55TYRqkYPNgMVkFe9>

Questions, contact Ray Lajoie via e-mail at
ray.aa1se@gmail.com.

Get Your Ham Radio License and Get On The Air.
Talk With Other Hams without Wires. Ask us how??



Registration Form

Distorted Audio in an Old Receiver by W1HFN

A while back, a friend of mine was cleaning out his shack and offered me an old Collins 51J-3 receiver. As a big fan of any thing with "Collins" on the label, I was happy to accept. Manufactured in the years 1952-1956, it is a true example of the "boat anchor" radio, weighing 43 pounds, having a complement of 18 tubes and an original price of \$1000.00.

After I got it home and started tuning around, I found the audio quite distorted, not only on AM but CW as well. Fortunately, he provided me with the original Army / Air Force tech manual which had the schematic and a voltage / resistance chart for each tube. There being no 60 Hertz hum in the audio, I assumed the filter caps were OK. So I started poking around with my volt meter.

I found all the voltages were exactly half of what the chart stated. Some metering of the power supply rectifier (a 5V4 dual diode) revealed the correct 350 volts on the plates, but only 125V on the cathode. Both filaments were lit, so hard to believe the tube was bad. As a test, I made a quickie full-wave rectifier out of two 1000V, 1A diodes (1N4007s) soldered them to an old octal tube base and replaced the 5V4.

Full correct voltages everywhere and perfect clean audio! I found it hard to believe one-half of a tube could go bad like that, but evidently so.



