

MARA W1 GaZette



March 2024

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 64 No. 7

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 13 7:00PM Lunenburg Public Library

**Show and Tell, bring us your projects
or other stuff**

The President's Corner

Hello everyone,

Thank you for accepting me as your new President. It is a privilege to serve the Montachusett area ham radio operators. Thank you Ray for your many years of service in this position, and Gordon, for taking on the added responsibilities when the need arose. Between these two, there are some big shoes to fill.

As I stated in the last meeting, the average age of a ham radio operator is 75 Years old!! This is great news in that we have a lot of experienced hams with a wealth of knowledge. This makes for a scary and sad horizon for the future of Ham radio. I often hear stories of how "so and so taught me this", and "we you used to do that". There was a culture of engagement, mentorship, knowledge passing, and team work in growing new hams and passing on the skills of the hobby. Maybe this is something we could begin to cultivate in our club? We will consider these things once more at our upcoming meeting.

My email address is Tylercs45@gmail.com. Please, reach out to me. If you have suggestions, guidance, ideas, complaints, or just want someone to talk ham/club with. I want to know what you would like to see happen in your club.

Meeting topics, things that brought you to ham radio and how your interests may have changed. I look forward to getting to know each of you more.

73

Tyler KC1RVS

Watt's Happening

Sundays, 0830 local 3944

Western Mass Emergency Net. Alternate frequency is 3942 in case of QRN, QRM, or frequency in-use.

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

4PMers net 3922 16:00 Monday-Saturday

Treasurer's Report

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

Treasurer's report February 2024

Starting balance	\$2110.31
Income	\$
	\$
Expenses	\$
Ending Balance	\$2110.31

Signed: Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer

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

14 February 2024

The meeting started at 1905 by our new president, Tyler, KC1RVS. Those in attendance were; N1MGO, KD1YH, W1HFN, KC1EIJ, KB1JCE, K1YTS, AA1SE, K1FEE and KC1TUV.

Treasurer reported that a previously agreed amount of \$300.00 was donated to the Lunenburg Library

Ray gave a talk on the necessity of mentoring new hams. Those interested can check out the Western Mass website for more technical help info. There is also more info there on the NTS renewal.

Tyler mentioned the need to get more hams in the club, running some events in the summer to draw interest would be a good idea.

Meeting adjourned at 2018

Respectfully submitted, Barry - W1HFN
Secretary

Upcoming Contests

Contests coming up for the next month:

PODXS 070 Club St Patrick's Day contest, PSK31:
0000Z-2359Z March 16

BARTG HF RTTY Contest: 0200Z Mar 16 to 0159Z
March 18

North American SSB Sprint: 0000Z-0400Z Mar 24

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB: 0000Z Mar to 2359Z
Mar 31

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB: 0000Z Mar 2 to 2400Z
Mar 3

EA RTTY Contest: 1200Z Apr 6 to 1200Z Apr 7

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/>

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

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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 – Tyler Conlin-Stolberg KC1RVS
Tylercs45@gmail.com

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

Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer
n1mgo@arrl.net

Erik Tkal W1QED Trustee
etkal@me.com

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

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

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Editor:Gordon LaPoint N1MGO n1mgo@arrl.net

Webmaster:Paul Upham KD1YH

VE Team Report

The Western Mass Train and Test Team is having a license exam session on Saturday, April 6 10 AM at the St. Francis Episcopal Church, 70

Highland St. Holden. Anyone wishing to take the test is welcome. More info. email AA1SE at ray.aa1se@gmail.com

Ham Radio Trivia

1. This late actor held the call-sign KE6PZH and once used his Oscar as a doorstop. Who is it?
2. This well known politician made a run for the White House, but was defeated. It would have been interesting to see a ham antenna on the roof at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Who is it?
3. In the U.S., in order to become an Amateur Radio Operator (HAM) one must pass a Morse Code test at how many words per minute (WPM)?
4. What is the ARISS program?

!!Answers in Next months newsletter!!

Last months answers

1. A poor operator
2. Joe Walsh
3. Q signals
4. A card confirming a contact

Section and League

Ssstuff By Ray AA1SE, WMA
Section Manager

Greetings, you may not be aware but there is a lot of activity going on. Hopefully you are looking at the wma.arrl.org website and the arrl.org site and also subscribing to the newsletters of interest.

First off, the league has updated and is replacing the ARES emcomm courses. EC-001 and 016 is being replaced with new ones beginning April 1st and the old ones will sunset that day as well. You need to have the old ones completed by that time to get credit. The courses

are available in the ARRL Learning Center.

Mentoring and new ham outreach has been in the front stage lately as this function has been ignored for some time and the League with new management and newer elected directors, are now recognizing that if the league does not support this more, there will be no growth and they will age themselves out of existence.

One thing currently in development in New England is an initiative from Phil K9HI, our Vice Director. He calls it project ASCEND. This program currently has a grant application at the ARDC. This will be a mailing campaign, as well as creating a database of willing volunteers to actively mentor new and returning hams to get on the air, and also will hopefully get the funding to purchase some used radios that will be on a loaner program. Anyone interested on being on the list of mentors, go to this link and register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1F8D9_jcGBWKvvokNDFwVJKXe4dcXay5Rq1ctVprLTro/

This is still in planning and development so stay tuned for updates on this.

I am going to try to do this monthly to keep you informed of the goings on and inspire activity within this club.

73, Ray AA1SE

Wanted – For Sale – Free stuff

I have all issues of QEX magazine from 2002 through 2012, free. I come down to Boston several times a year and could bring them with me and arrange to meet for delivery.

Bill - W1LXE