

MARA W1 GaZette



April 2024

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 64 No. 8

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

Meeting subject:

Getting Started with Parks on the Air

The President's Corner

Hello all,

Finders crossed that this is the turn towards warmer weather. What does the warm weather mean for Hams? Don't we just hide in our basements and play radio? Certainly not!! In fact, there are many outdoor activities that Hams, and even our unlicensed friends can enjoy. We will be considering a few of these activities in up coming meetings. This week, we will learn about Parks On The Air or POTA.

Lots of planning begins for summer activities. Field day, 13 colonies, POTA trips and Fox Hunts to name a few. As we plan these events, let's use these as opportunities to invite a new person bring some family, or even tell someone about ham radio.

As always, feel free to reach out to me. If you have suggestions, guidance, ideas, complaints, or just want someone to talk ham/club with.

Tylercs45@gmail.com

73

Tyler-KC1RVS

Treasurer's Report

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, 0900 Local

Fitchburg & Gardner repeaters with Echolink Node 688832

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

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association
Treasurer's report March 2024

Starting balance	\$2110.31	
Income	\$	
	\$	
Expenses	\$300.00	Ck # 702 Donation to Lunenburg Library
	\$200.00	ACH debit
Risk insurance for the club	\$236.00	Ck # 703 USPS PO box 95 annual fee
Ending Balance	\$1409.31	

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

13 March 2024

The meeting started at 1902 by our president, Tyler, LC1RVS. Those in attendance were; N1MGO, KD1YH, W1HFN, KC1EIJ, KB1JCE, AA1SE, KC1TBP, KC1TUV, W1QED, KC1THE, and KC1TQH, and KC1OLT.

Treasurer reported \$230 was allocated for the PO Box and \$200 for club liability insurance.

Ray mentioned a Boy Scout event to take place in May at the Townsend Rod & Gun Club, maybe we should try to have a presence then. Also the Groton Road Race is looking for ham radio volunteers. Contact Ralph KD1SM for further details.

Tom K1JHC, has been in a rehab facility in Shrewsbury and after release, will be moving to an assisted living facility in Worcester.

Ray has an RF noise problem, the ARRL RF Spectrum crew was notified and will be making an appointment to find the source.

Tyler showed an ARRL video on the importance of STEM and youth education.

Show and tell night; Gordon demonstrated a microphone adapter to operate the remote station from a laptop and Barry demoed an 80M Cricket plus his "fox box" for hidden TX hunting.

Meeting adjourned at 2040

Respectfully submitted, Barry - W1HFN
Secretary

Upcoming Contests

Contests coming up for the next month:

IG-RY World Wide RTTY contest: 1200Z Apr 13 to 1800Z April 14

Holyland DXContest, CW SSB: 2100Z Apr 19 to 2059Z April 20

SP DX RTTY: 1200Z Apr 27 to 1200Z Apr 28

10-10 Int. Sp;ring contest, CW: 0001Z May 4 to 2359Z May 5

New England QSO Party, SSB, CW & digital: May 4 2000Z - 0500Z and May 5 1300Z-2400Z

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/>

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

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

VE Team Report

The Western Ma Train and Test Team had a VE session in Holden On Saturday, Apr 6.

5 candidates took the test and 3 earned their tech license and 1 earned their General

The next session will be at the Lunenburg Library on June 1st at 10 pm

Ray AA1SE

Ham Radio Trivia

1. A shipboard antenna described as having multiple parallel wires and secured to the ship masts with a yoke arrangement was known as?
2. How many grids are there in a Triode vacuum tube ?
3. What does “DSP” stand for?
4. When did Novice Enhancement take effect?

!!Answers in Next months newsletter!!

Last months answers

1. Marlon Brando
2. Barry Goldwater K7UGA
3. 0, code test no longer required
4. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

Section and League

Ssstuff By Ray AA1SE, WMA
Section Manager

My April section report is out on the www.wma.arrl.org website. The one thing I

shared was that the clubs I visited all were showing an increase in attendance and new hams getting some kind of mentoring during the meeting. Read the report so I don't repeat it.

The board in January approved the free membership for hams under the age of 18 (I think) right now the league is doing the legal mumbo-jumbo to make sure it is squeaky clean. Hopefully it will be announced very soon.

There is a renewed interest in the art of traffic handling. The last two years I have been sitting on the steering committee known as NTS 2.0. We have been working on modernizing and revitalizing traffic handling to carry it into the future and introduce it to new hams. The group headed by Fred, AB10C. We have been adding more digital modes and added more promotional and training's as well as producing content clubs can use for presentations. Could this club benefit by adding this activity? Something to think about. Go to www.nts2.arrl.org to see what we're up to.

The upcoming eclipse on April 8 has had some states or towns setting up emergency planning due to the anticipated traffic from visitors hoping to see its totality. Some hams in those areas have been involved as well.

As I mentioned last month of the EC-001 course coming out. It is there, but glitches have delayed this for a day or two. The courses are labeled Basic EmComm, Intermediate, and Advanced. Intermediate will come out mid-April and the Advanced will be middle to late summer.

That pretty much covers it for this month. Hope to see you at the meeting.
73, Ray AA1SE

For sale, Wanted and 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

13 Colonies planning Underway

The planning for the 2024 13 Colonies Special Event stations is in motion. I am looking for more ops for K2H Massachusetts.

The event runs from July 1 to July 7 and is usable on all frequencies and all modes. You just need to keep a log that you can submit to me right after the event ends. To be an op, you just need to volunteer AND be able to get on the air for a few hours most of the 7 days. Also, you need to be able to log on to a computer, no paper logs accepted.

Have you ever wondered or wanted to be that rare DX that everyone is calling? That's what it's like being a K2H op. It's a rush and a ton of fun.

Last year, K2H made 19,209 contacts. With band conditions good, we hope to exceed that and possibly beat our 21,374 from 2022.

Are you interested?

Please contact Larry, W1AST at wb1dby@gmail.com for more info by May 1.

POTA Activations By Glen KC1EIJ

It all began by mentioning to my friend, N1PCZ Paul, that I heard about this ham radio activity where you set up a portable station and communicate with lots of other hams. Activators set up in a park and hunters try to make contact with the activator. It sounded like fun and it fit with my interest in becoming proficient in emergency communication.

It wasn't long before I heard Paul saying that he was torturing his credit card with purchases of a FT-891 and antenna, along with a RigExpert, and... well you all get the idea, there's no such thing as having too much gear. Is there?

He invited me along as a "second operator" in late fall of last year and we "activated" a couple of parks. I think I was along to help carry the gear since we hiked about a half a mile or so into the woods. I was fascinated watching



him set up the antenna while I figured out the lightweight "chairs" and "table" (if you google backpacking gear you'll see what I'm talking about.) After tuning the antenna with the counterpoise we set about calling "CQ POTA!" I was hooked.

That was early December so there were few outdoor activations before it got too cold to be sitting out in the woods. Then we began activating from parks where we could park within the boundaries. The setup was a pretty simple 17' Chameleon whip on a fender mount on Paul's Jeep Rubicon. I learned what a "rove" is: spending a day going from park to park, a minimum of five constitutes a rove. We've done a few over the winter.

Finally, it was time for me to gear up myself. I was not okay with torturing my Visa like Paul had, so I started with a used FT-100D and started gathering. The fender mount for my truck is homemade, holding the same Chameleon 17' whip as Paul, and it has worked out well. My first solo activation was in the parking lot at Mt. Wachusett State Park at the end of

February.

Now I felt that it was time to put together a POTA setup for activations where hiking was necessary. Looking at the amount of gear Paul carried; a Pelican case for the radio and battery, bags for the antenna and another for a tripod as well as bags for chairs and table, I decided my POTA kit would be a backpack that contained everything, except furniture. If you want the details on my backpack you'll have to come to the April meeting to see my kit and how it all fits in a 25lb pack that I can hike with.

How does it work? Pretty good, I've already had a successful picnic table activation at Leominster State Forest with my rig, pulling hunters in from as far away as Sweden, Italy, and Spain.

For information on Parks on the Air go to pota.app