

MARA W1 GaZette



April 2024

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 64 No. 9

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, May 8 7:00PM
Lunenburg Public Library**

Meeting subject:

FOX hunting Tools & Equipmnet

The President's Corner

Hello again from KC1RVS. Fingers crossed the cold weather is truly behind us. Last year we had two below thirty degree nights in mid May! The newly planted vegetables won't like that. With the prospects for warmer weather, we will be considering hidden transmitter or "fox" hunting in our upcoming club meeting. Barry W1HFN and Ray AA1SE will be showing us some tools and equipment they use for finding hidden transmitters. We will also discuss some resources to find where and when these events take place locally.

The warm weather also means the ARRL Field Day is right around the corner. Erik W1QED, Gordon N1MGO, Garry K1YTS, among others have been working to ensure we secure our time, location and services needed for our event. We looking into flyers, and handouts for those who check us us, along with publishing so we can get the word out about this event.

As mentioned in the last meeting, there is some grant funding for clubs to request. I am seeking to get a proposal drafted and submitted before the quick approaching deadline. If anyone is interested in what I've learned through this process, or has skills in this field of writing, please feel free to reach out.

I'm thankful for all the work others have put in to

support the club and its members. I hope to see you at the meeting,

73
Tyler-KC1RVS
President
Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

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

Treasurer's Report

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

Treasurer's report April 2024

Starting balance	\$1409.31
Income	\$45.00 Dues
Expenses	\$
Ending Balance	\$1454.31

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

10 April 2024

The meeting started at 1900 by our president, Tyler, KC1RVS. Those in attendance were; N1MGO, KD1YH, W1HFN, KC1EIJ, AA1SE, KC1TBP, KC1TUV, W1QED, KK1X and Steve, a guest.

W1QED showed a video he made with his telescope of the eclipse. Also explained his preparations in getting Field Day paperwork underway with the Mount.

Kudos to KD1YH for his work on the club web site. KC1RVS explained all the details and links. Paul also reported on efforts by himself and N1ERS to get

the IRLP node moved and operating correctly. In addition, he noted the W1GZ receiver is not as sensitive as it should be and he is looking for a replacement.

Steve, our guest, mentioned his plan to get a ham license; he was made aware of the clubs Technician classes and urged to attend.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$1409.31.

Ray mentioned the Groton Road Race and its need for communicators, contact Ralph, KD1SM for more info. He also noted the revival of the National Traffic System, referred to as "NTS 2.0."

Tyler showed a video on POTA, then KC1EIJ and N1MGO demonstrated their POTA rigs.

Meeting adjourned at 2030
Respectfully submitted, Barry - W1HFN
Secretary

Upcoming Contests

Contests coming up for the next month:

VOLTA WW RTTY: 1200Z May 11 to 1200Z May 12

EU PSK DX contest: 1200Z May 18 to 1200Z May 19

CQ WW WPX CW: 0000Z May 25 to 2359Z May 26

PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest: 0001Z May 31 to 2359Z June 1

ARRL Inter. Digital Contest: 1800Z June 1 to 2400Z June 2

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
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Leominster, MA 01453

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

OFFICERS:

President – Tyler Conlin-Stolberg KC1RVS
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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 next session will be at the Lunenburg Library on June 1st at 10 pm

Ray AA1SE

Ham Radio Trivia

1. Which sequence represents the resistor color code?

- a) OBAFGKM
- b) BBROYGBVGW
- c) EGBDF
- d) PNATTMBTC

2. The frequency at which an inductor’s inductance and parasitic capacitance have equal reactance is the _____ frequency.

- a) self-resonant
- b) self-tuned
- c) self-excited
- d) maximum useable

3. Which temperature coefficient abbreviation indicates that a capacitor value is stable around room temperature?

4. Which type of inductor core is most often used in switching-type power supplies?

!!Answers in Next months newsletter!!

Last months answers

- 1. Marconi
- 2. 1
- 3. Digital Signal Processing
- 4. 1987

Section and League

Ssstuff By Ray AA1SE, WMA
Section Manager

Hello earthlings and members. Locally, the Groton Road Race is scheduled for Sunday May 5th. NVARC and MARA and others have been volunteering this event for many years. I do not know where they stand on volunteers but if interested contact Ralph KD1SM kdism@kd1sm.net.

The Boy Scout Camporee event for May 11 was postponed until 2025 by the Council. I did tell them we will participate then. They are having a smaller event by the club for their troop in its place and I elected not to do anything this year.

A couple of months or so I talked about Project Ascend which Phil K9HI came up with and sent a grant proposal to the ARDC. Unfortunately, the grant was turned down. Phil has elected to put the project aside. This I feel was a good idea. My question is, can this idea be used on a smaller scale? A couple of clubs? A section? I don't think that's an impossible task, especially to reach out to hams and get them mentored and on the air and build up their club(s).

The ARRL Club Grant Program is pretty much in place and it looks like 500,000 dollars will be earmarked for this round. The details will be announced at Dayton's Hamvention in a couple of weeks.

It appears the Big E event in September has quickly become a memory as no one wanted to take on organizing it. The booth displays are being given away to anyone who can use them. It is a shame in two ways, one is I built a lot of it and, two, it was a good place to do ham outreach. I do admit, it was a lot of work and we needed a good number of people, but when it worked, it worked!

That's enough chatter. See you at the meeting
Ray AA1SE

For sale, Wanted and Free stuff

Yeasu FT 991A all band Barely used 1000.00
Yeasu Ft 100 D Used, works but volume knob needs repair. 150.00
Kenwood TS 570 HF Good condition 500.00
Motorola MTX,HT and GTX mobile 900 MHz radios. 50.00 for the lot
Lakeview Hamsticks for 10,17,20,40,75 meters. 40.00 for all
Email Ray AA1SE at ray.aa1se@gmail.com

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.

Ham Bios

Barry Fox W1HFN

Christmas 1958 I was living on Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD where my father was stationed. As a present, I received a crystal radio kit. It went together easily, threw the 20 foot wire out my 2nd floor bedroom window, connected the ground wire to the radiator and fiddled with the tuning slug in the inductor. Amazing! First thing I heard was Radio Moscow!

I mentioned this to a classmate and he asked if I would like to see a real radio receiver. That day he showed me his ham radio station, a Heathkit DX-100 transmitter and Heathkit Mohawk receiver. I was astounded at all the knobs on that receiver and the sounds coming from the speaker. He then fired up the DX-100 and made a QSO, that really got me hooked.

He explained ham radio to me and lent me a copy of the ARRL Novice License Manual. Learning the code was a challenge. I had borrowed an Ameco code course on 78 RPM records and drove my parents crazy listening to them on the family Hi-Fi. The test was given by my new Elmer, W3PRC (SK).

Waiting for the FCC to mail my ticket was maddening, finally in June of 1959 it arrived. I was the proud owner of the call sign KN3IWW. Now I was REALLY interested in electronics and thought it would be a good career.

A lousy student in high school, I did not opt for a 4 year college, but instead took a two year electronics technology course in a newly chartered junior college, finishing in 1964. In the fall of '64 the draft was a real worry, my dad was a "lifer" in the Army and growing up on Army bases I knew that was not for me. So I started visiting the Air Force recruiter. We had some good chats and he assured me with my ham license and two years of ET course, I would get a career field of my choice.

The draft notice arrived the first week of January '65, and terrified, I ran to the AF recruiter. Not to worry he said, "sign here and I'll make a phone call". He did and two weeks later I boarded a plane for Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.

After the fourth week of Basic Training, we had career counseling day. The ham license and ET course came through as advertised and I was offered either ground radio operator or ground radio maintenance. I chose radio maintenance as I wanted to learn more electronics theory. Another benefit of the ham license and two year ET course, if I took and passed the By-Pass Specialist Test, I would not have to attend the 48 week electronics course in Keesler AFB, Biloxi, MS. Took it, passed and received by first assignment, 1916th Communications Squadron, Air Force Communication Service, Pease AFB, Portsmouth, NH.

Upon meeting the other radio guys in the squadron, there was some question as to how I would fit in working on big complicated VHF and UHF high power TXs. My first trip to the TX site put their minds at ease as I had no trouble tuning a AN/GRT-3 TX, just by studying the front panel. "It's no different from a Heathkit DX-100 I said, tune the intermediate stages for maximum then dip the plates". I

was in.

I left the Air Force in 1969 and was recruited by RCA Computer System Division as a field service engineer. That was followed by other extremely interesting jobs, all of which I owe to my interest in electronics and especially ham radio.