

# MARA W1 GaZette



April 2026

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 66 No. 08

## Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 8 at 7:00PM Lunenburg Public Library

### Meeting subject:

**Do you have a problem, question or need help on a ham radio problem or project?  
If so bring it up at the meeting or email to [Mara email group](#).  
We have club members willing to help!!**

### Field Day Planning Discussion

### [Zoom link for meeting](#)

### Presidents Corner

Hello all,

As we move into spring and start to shake off the winter months, it's a good time to look ahead to what's coming up for the club.

Over the past few months, I haven't been as present as I would have liked. I appreciate everyone kept things moving during that time.

Looking ahead, we've got an exciting stretch coming up, with Field Day right around the corner. Our next meeting will be focused on planning and getting organized so we can make the most of it this year. Whether you've participated before or are new to it, Field Day is a great opportunity to get involved, learn, and spend time on the air together.

If you have ideas, want to help with planning, or

are just curious about how to get involved, this upcoming meeting is a great place to start.

Looking forward to seeing everyone

73,  
Tyler - KC1RVS  
MARA, Club President

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## 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 16:00Monday-Saturday

### Granite State Traffic net 9:00 PM PAC

Monadnock repeater 449.375- PK 88.5

## 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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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  
978 635 2290 n1mgo@arrl.net  
Webmaster: Paul Upham KD1YH

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Annual Dues: Regular \$25

Family \$30

Fixed income \$15

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30pm

September to June

Mailing address: MARA

PO Box 175

Leominster, MA 01453

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

### OFFICERS:

President - Tyler Conlin-Stolberg KC1RVS  
[Tylercs45@gmail.com](mailto:Tylercs45@gmail.com)

Vice President - Erik Tkal W1QED

[w1qed@arrl.net](mailto:w1qed@arrl.net)

Secretary - Glenn Capone KC1EIJ

[glenncapone@yahoo.com](mailto:glenncapone@yahoo.com)

Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO

Treasurer [n1mgo@arrl.net](mailto:n1mgo@arrl.net)

Erik Tkal W1QED

Trustee

MARA owns and operates the W1GZ repeater

145.45 (CTCSS 74.4) in Fitchburg.

## Treasurer's Report

**Montachusett Amateur Radio Association**  
Treasurer's report March 2025

Starting balance	\$2253.80
Income	\$80.00 Dues and
Donations	
Expenses	\$
Ending Balance	\$2333.80

Signed: Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO Treasurer

## W1GZ 2Mtr Repeater

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

## Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

11 March 2026

The meeting was called to order at 19:05, motion made by KC1EIJ

Attendance: Glenn KC1EIJ, Gordon N1MGO, Barry W1HFN, Joe KG1TPB, Paul KD1YH, Ray AA1SE, John AC1UG, Mickey KB1WIQ, Louis K1FEE

Gordon N1MGO gave the treasurer's report. AC1UG

Treasurer Report: refer to newsletter

Secretary Report: refer to newsletter

Joe KC1TPB reported that the soldering pointers from last meeting were very helpful. Also asked about planning activities. This started discussion regarding club activities.

Ray AA1SE gave the ARRL WMA Section Manager's report. He shared what's happening around our section, how other clubs nearby are doing.

Ray brought introduced a number of ARRL programs:

- "Marconi" developed to help struggling

clubs to become more active.

- "RATPAC" Radio Amateur Training, website ratpac.us

Barry will contact Eric W1QED regarding field day permits.

Meeting adjourned at 18:03 by Joe KC1TPB

Respectfully submitted by Glenn KC1EIJ

Secretary

## Upcoming Contests

**Contests coming up for the next month:**

**Weekly RTTY test: 0145Z-0215Z** every Friday

**Weekly K1USN SST SLOW CW test: 0000Z-0100Z**  
Mondays and 2000Z-2100Z Fridays

**IG-RY RTTY Contest :** 1200Z Apr 11 -1800Z Apr 12

**ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB:** 1800Z - 2359Z Apr 19

**SP DX RTTY Contest:** 1200Z Apr 25 to 1200Z Apr 26

**New England QSO Party:** 2000Z May 2 to 0500Z May 3 **AND** 1300Z-2400Z May 3

**VOLTA WW RTTY Contest:** 1200Z May 9 to 1200Z May 10

**World Wide Holyland contest CW, SSB:** 2100Z Apr 17 to 2059Z Apr 18

**RSGB FT4 Contest:** 1900Z – 2100Z Apr 27

**World Time Zone Challenge CW&SSB:** 1200Z Apr 18 to 1200Z Apr 19

There are many State QSO parties during this month!

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.

## VE Team Report

No sessions were held in January.

## Section Manager's Report. March 2026

### Section Ssssssstuff!

Hello, welcome to another month. With this one coming around operators' thoughts of Field Day are dancing in their sleep. Some clubs are looking at new sites and others are securing their usual spots for this year. Planning either way should be in earnest now as how and what to set up, site permits (if any), and the all important porta-potti if needed. The important thing to consider is inviting all those new hams you have invited to their club and mentored to get active. Wait, you did not do that? Why??? Field Day is the best place to have a social event, tech education, show off your setup, eat lots of food to fill up the porta-potty! 😊 And above all try to get those younger hams involved so they can carry on the tradition!

In 2025 Western Mass. Got 148 new hams licensed. Overall, for the year we still ran at a 0.2% drop in league membership. No one section or division posted increases. I would love to know how many of the newbies became members, and how many were told of the league and their benefits of membership. VE teams need to look at what interaction they do AFTER they pass the test to at least introduce them to a club, the league, a mentor. I know from experience when I got my license, it was "now what?"

One of the things I have observed is people getting their licenses because they want to be prepared in an emergency. That's great. The problem is that they are not active and after 10 years, they have forgotten about it and let their license drop. In a time when world events get goofy like they are now, people need to know about what they can do with amateur radio and the need to prepare and practice now, and not when the "stuff" hath swatted the fan. Again, the

importance of being proactive and help those to get active and teach them right at the handing of the CSCE! Consider these when you have that VE session, or thinking of a club activity, Field Day, etc.

Mt. Tom Club has gone through a changing of the guard with the election of a new president, vice president, treasurer. They seem to be moving their meetings to Holyoke Hospital where HCRA holds theirs, and their website is getting a revamp. This is the result of a group participation and supporting each other. There are clubs struggling as they seem to think one person will do it all. That only leads to burnout and frustration and give up. I wish Mt. Tom the best of luck and much success.

Think Spring! Remember, Field Day will be here before you know it!  
Take care and 73, Ray AA1SE

## For sale, Wanted and Free stuff

Kenwood TS-940S, with speaker and MC-85 Mic  
\$750 Great Condition!  
Contact Ray, AA1SE.

### Items being sold from collector.

I have taken on the liquidation of a very large collection of radio equipment from a local ham. This includes receivers, transmitters and transceivers as well as accessories including microphones, speakers, morse keys and more. There is too much to list, but I will post items and pricing on the MARA email and on the newsletter in future editions. There are a number of exceptional items and very desired ones. If you have anything you are looking for, please email me directly at [aa1se@arrl.org](mailto:aa1se@arrl.org) to see if it is available. I will be at Near-Fest May 1 and 2.

Thanks, Ray AA1SE

Yaesu FTdx3000 HF transceiver - \$1000  
Matching speaker SP-2000 - \$100

MFJ-993B tuner - \$150  
MFJ-5124Y interface - \$50  
Total - \$1400  
Will take \$1200 for the entire package

Yaesu FTM-200DR Dual-Band Mobile - \$400

Alinco DJ-MD5XLT Dual-Band DMR HT - \$230

Thanks and 73,  
Erik W1QED w1qed@arrl.net

W1HFN - For sale

Doing some shack cleaning, For Sale:  
Hy-Gain VB-64DX 6 Meter 4 element beam with  
instruction manual. Recent MFJ price \$239.95 (sold  
out). \$80.00

Contact Barry - W1HFN at  
w1hfnham@gmail.com happy to demo any of  
the above.

Many smaller items from N1UZ estate  
still available! Contact N1MGO - Gordon

## **\*\* 2026 Groton Road Race Seeks Amateur Radio Support in May \*\***

The Groton Road Race organizers are again requesting the assistance of the Amateur Radio community for the 2026 Race on Sunday May 3. The Groton Road Race is a premier public event engaging over a thousand runners. The ham community have been providing situational awareness, health and safety communication for this event for over three decades.

The course circles Groton Hill, starting and ending at the Groton Hill Music Center. This is the fourth year the Race has followed this course.

The planned event schedule this year is similar to 2025; the two main races start shortly after 10am. The communications support that we provide is expected to start around 9am and we should be done shortly after 1pm.

The Groton Road Race continues to be a major event for Amateur Radio in North Central Massachusetts. Those of you who have joined us in previous years know that the runners sincerely appreciate our presence. Many tell us so as they run past. This event is so large that several Police Departments and other public safety organizations from other communities come to assist the Groton PD. The Groton Police Department specifically looks to Amateur Radio for our added communications support.

Contributing to the public good is one of the reasons Amateur Radio exists. Our public service events are a key opportunity for us to show our colors, volunteer our skills and equipment, and demonstrate why it is in the public's interest to continue to allocate precious RF spectrum to our the Amateur Radio Service. The Groton Road Race is a low-stress event and a great way to gain more experience with the public service aspect of amateur radio. Please consider joining us on May 3rd; let me know by email.

If you are a new Ham or know of another Ham who is interested in helping at these events but unsure of what is expected or what equipment may be needed, please do not hesitate to introduce yourself (or them) to me.

The Groton Road Race Committee and the Groton Police Department repeatedly praise and express their appreciation for our assistance in providing communications for this event for many years. I do hope you will be able to join us this year; please let me know.

Thanks and 73,  
-Ralph KD1SM  
<mailto:ralph@kd1sm.net> or <mailto:kd1sm@arrl.net>

- [1] <http://www.n1nc.org/Events/> [2] <http://grotonroadrace.com/>  
[3] <https://grotonhill.org/>

## Member Highlight KC1TBP

I have had my General for 2 years. I got my Technical then moved on to my General because I knew if there was too much time in between I would have procrastinated for months, maybe longer. Plus my memory is not as good as it used to be and time was not going to be in my favor.

I started going to the MARA club meeting after I got my General and have found it to be a great support group. Through this group I heard about Paul Topolowski's radio sales and ended up buying a Hammarlund 110 receiver and an IC-745. The plan was to work on the Hammarlund first then the IC. Paul has been very helpful through all of this and I am learning a lot.

The Hammarlund needs a lot of work like testing and replacing resistors that aren't functioning well (+10% off of what the Ohm reading should be). This took time because I needed to buy a tester and test all the resistors (about 30). It took longer than needed because I was looking at a schematic diagram that turned out to be the wrong one. I finally decided that I didn't need a schematic and just started testing.

Phase 2 was to actually replace the bad resistors. This was also a learning curve since I had never done this but I managed to buy all the ones I needed. Paul showed me how to solder and what tools I would need to buy. I also got some good advice from the MARA crew and have finished replacing the resistors.

However, I have decided that I need to switch gears and start work on the IC since that radio doesn't need as much and it is a transceiver, not just a receiver like the Hammarlund. It just needs a tune up and antennae and I can be on the air with it which I really need practice on.

Looking forward to getting my IC on the air.

73,

Joe (KC1TBP)

## Various Notes and Happenings

National STEM Week 2026 - June 22-27 (Field Day 28th)

Goals: The National STEM Week Act emphasizes the importance of engaging students from all backgrounds in STEM activities, fostering collaboration between schools, industries, and families, and supporting local efforts to tailor programs to community needs. This week is a significant opportunity for students, educators, and communities to come together to inspire the next generation of innovators and leaders in STEM fields. [TheNationalSTEMweek.com](http://TheNationalSTEMweek.com)

2026 04 18 - 3rd SATURDAY - International Amateur Radio Day 101st Birthday of International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)

"It was on this day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union was formed in Paris. World Amateur Radio Day is the day when the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Member-Societies can show our capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other Amateurs worldwide." NDCalendar

Happy Birthday Guglielmo Marconi - Apr. 25, 1874 - July 20, 1937 - an Italian physicist and inventor of a successful wireless [telegraph](#), or [radio](#) (1896). In 1909 he received the [Nobel Prize](#) for Physics,

which he shared with German physicist [Ferdinand Braun](#). He later worked on the development of shortwave wireless [communication](#), which [constitutes](#) the basis of nearly all modern long-distance [radio](#).

## Old Timer's Luncheon April 1



The April 1 Old Timers' Luncheon included five MARA\* members. In attendance (from back left and clockwise) were Jim KC1NJJ Javorsky (Winchendon); Nashoba Valley ARC Director John KK1X\* Griswold (Ayer); ARRL's Western MA Section Manager Ray AA1SE\* Lajoie (Lunenburg); Mohawk ARC Treasurer Nils KA1IMO Anderson (Gardner); Scott KC1QVO Sargent (Westminster); Jim NS1J\* Barclay (Royalston); Cliff W1CFW Wilder (Winchendon); Doug KA1VV\* Sargent (Westminster); Mohawk ARC President Paul W1SEX Topolski (Gardner); David WB1CEA Craig (Petersham); Ellen KC1ETL Anderson (Petersham). Not shown: Mary W1KKM\* Barclay (Royalston) and Dave KF4GAF Bramhall (Petersham).

Current Members:

Paid thru FY2026 or later

NZ1D	William Wornham	Lifetime Member
K1JHC	Tom Duffy	Lifetime Member
AB1PM	Rick LeClair	
N1NZZ	Ralph Romano III	
N1MGO/KB1JXJ	Gordon LaPoint/Pauline Carulli	
N1GKX	Steve Ruggles	
W1RDC	Ray DiCecca	
KC1EIJ	Glenn Capone	
NS1J/W1KKM	James & Mary Barclay	
AA1SE	Ray Lajoie	
K1FEE	Louis Defelippi	
KC1TBP	Joe Champ	
KD1SM/N1QIT	R. & J. Swick	
KC1OBX	David Bellew	
K1IIK	Kirrja Paananen	
W1QED	Erik Tkal	
W1HFN	Barry Fox	
KD1YH	Paul Upham	
KK1X	John Griswold	
W1LXE	William Lyons	
KC1TUV	Matthew R Fennell	
KB1WIQ	Michael Egan	
AC1UG	John Keesee	
KA1VV/KC1QVO	Doug Sargent/Scott Sargent	