

MARA W1 GaZette



June 2024

MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 64 No. 10

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 12 7:00PM Lunenburg Public Library

Meeting subject:

Field day and Club Officers Election

The President's Corner

Hello all,

Thank you to all who participated in this year's nominations. Thank you Barry-W1HFN, for your dedicated service as the Club Secretary. Thank you to those who have been interested in stepping up to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to one of the club officers, we would be happy to share more of what we do and the needs of the club.

We had a field day planning meeting and will have another one on Thursday June 12th at 7:30 pm. We will also talk more about it at our meeting.

Field Day is a radio communications event that brings together amateur radio operators within your community. It is a time when many aspects of amateur radio come together to highlight its many roles. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate radio communications to the general public and organizations that amateur radio might serve in an emergency.

I hope many come to visit and participate in the 2024 Field day event at the end of the month. Let's get outside by partaking in POTA and local

fox hunts (Dates to come).

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

Granite State Traffic net 9:00 PM PAC

Monadnock repeater 449.375- PK 88.5

Treasurer's Report

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association

Treasurer's report May 2024

Starting balance	\$1454.31
Income	\$200.00 Dues & Donations
Expenses	\$
Ending Balance	\$1654.31

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

8 May 2024

The meeting started at 1900 by our president, Tyler, KC1RVS. Those in attendance were; N1MGO, KD1YH, W1HFN, KC1EIJ, KB1JCE, AA1SE, KC1TBP, KC1TUV, and KK1X.

There was some discussion re monetary grants and what to do with one if we got it.

Field Day: Tyler is going to contact the ARRL re the FD package. Still no definite word on the Porta-Potty. Erik is awaiting the insurance binder. The Waltham club is on board again this year. The query arose as to whether or not we can a POTA activation during FD. Can we send traffic on FD?

Nominations for next years officers: W1HFN is stepping down as secretary and Glen,

KC1EIJ has volunteered to fill that position. N1MGO also mentioned he is retiring and the treasurers position is open. There will be formal elections at the June meeting.

It was suggested to add the by-laws to the club web site.

Ray reported on an ARRL cabinet meeting he attended; there was much discussion re SOTA / POTA and the need to encourage more youth participation in the hobby.

KC1RVS showed some ARDF videos and W1HFN gave a talk on the difference between fox hunting and ARDF. KC1RVS suggested a demo hunt in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 2035
Respectfully submitted, Barry - W1HFN
Secretary

Upcoming Contests

Contests coming up for the next month:

Stew Perry Topband Challenge: 1500Z June 15 to 1500Z June 16

ARRL Field Day: 1800Z June 22 to 2100Z June 23

RAC Canada Day Contest CW & SSB: 0000Z-2359Z July 1

PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint: 2000Z July 6 to 2000Z July 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

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 – 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 VE session on June 1 at the Lunenburg Public

Library resulted in 1 new Extra!

Ray AA1SE

Ham Radio Trivia

No new trivia questions this month!

Last months answers

1. b) BBROYGBVGW
2. a) self-resonant
3. NPO
4. Magnetic core

Section and League

Ssstuff By Ray AA1SE, WMA
Section Manager

Near Fest is moving

Phil Brooks, KA1PXZ, Chief of NEAR-Fest, is pleased to announce that, effective October 4th, 2024, the New England Amateur Radio Festival, known as NEAR-Fest, will be held at the Hillsborough County Agricultural Society Fairgrounds and Youth Center located at New Boston NH, approximately 15 miles west of Manchester.

The reason for the permanent change in venue is due to ongoing scheduling conflicts with other events at the Deerfield (NH) Fairgrounds, NEAR-Fest’s home for the past eighteen years.

The hard decision to move the popular New England hamfest was taken by a unanimous vote of NEAR-Fest’s Board of Directors on May 17th, 2024.

In endorsing the decision NEAR-Fest’s Benevolent Dictator Emeritus, Michael Crestohl, W1RC, aka “Mister Mike” commented: “This was inevitable. The Deerfield Fairgrounds is becoming more and more popular with exhibitors and, as a designated agricultural fairgrounds, they have to give priority to agricultural events. We had a fabulous eighteen-year run. I am confident that Phil and Kelley, along with their team, will take NEAR-Fest forward at our new location for many years to come.”

Other than the location nothing else will change. It is still the same NEAR-Fest we have all known and loved since 2007!

ARRL Systems Service Disruption

This update includes information about the status of several services as we continue to respond to a serious incident involving access to our network and systems.

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) has resumed the processing of Amateur Radio License applications with the FCC. A more comprehensive update on the status of ARRL VEC services is available [here](#).

There has been no interruption to visitor operating at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. The station resumed voice bulletins on Thursday, May 23. All other scheduled transmissions, including Morse code practice, and code and digital bulletins, will resume on Thursday, May 30. Please refer to the regular operating schedule at www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule.

After last week's distribution of the ARRL Letter, our e-newsletter service has resumed. Current editions of ARRL Club News and The ARES® Letter have also been distributed.

ARRL Store orders have resumed shipping. Orders are being fulfilled from earliest order dates to the latest. Please allow additional time for our processing.

There has been no disruption to the @arrl.net email forwarding service, though forwarding email addresses and aliases cannot be modified at this time.

Our telephone system is unavailable at this time.

We appreciate your patience as we continue working on restoring access to affected systems and services.

This story will be updated with new developments.

Ray AA1SE

For sale, Wanted and Free stuff

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

For Sale

Hy-Gain VB-64DX 6 Meter 4 element beam with instruction manual. Recent MFJ price \$239.95 (sold out). \$100.00 cash. Will deliver to buyer.
Contact Barry - W1HFN
w1hfnham@gmail.com

Mini-Contest University

The Northeast HamXposition and New England Division Convention is proud to announce a major addition to its program for 2024.

"Mini-Contest University," or mini-CTU, based on K3LR's popular [Contest University](#), has been featured at the Dayton Hamvention since 2007 and has been presented in 15 countries to over 10,000 participants, is a series of contest-oriented talks and presentations offered at HamXposition on Friday. Interested participants may attend free of charge. Registration information and locations will be announced soon. Watch <https://hamxposition.org> for details.

Door prizes will include gift certificates, courtesy

DX Engineering, and an autographed copy of the ARRL's popular [Amateur Radio Contesting for Beginners](#) book written by Doug Grant, K1DG.

The preliminary mini-CTU agenda for Friday, August 23, 2024, is as follows:

8:30 AM Registration
9:00 AM Introduction – Doug Grant, K1DG, and Tim Duffy, K3LR
9:15 AM Getting started in Contesting – Randy Thompson, K5ZD
10:00 AM coffee break
10:30 AM Station setup for Contesting – Paul Young, K1XM
11:15 PM Antennas for Contesting – Mark Pride, K1RX
12:00 PM lunch break
1:15 PM Eyeball QSO Party – Doug Grant, K1DG
1:30 PM Contest Operating Strategy – John Dorr, K1AR
2:15 PM Choosing the best radio for Contesting – Rob Sherwood, NCØB
3:00 PM Q & A session – all speakers, “Ask me Anything” format
3:30 PM prize drawing

Mini-CTU Outline:

Getting Started in Contesting

Why it is fun
How it helps you become better at ...EmComm, POTA, everything!
How to make a contest QSO

How to submit an entry
Digital contesting
Logging programs

Station setup for contesting

Focus will be on practical issues for small-lot, small station setup
Ergonomic equipment layout
Computer interface and automation

Antennas for contesting

This is the most important equipment in your station!
High band options – beams
Low band options – how to be competitive with simple wires
Feedlines and connectors

Universal Lithium Ion Battery Pack Jerry AA2T

How to Configure a Universal Lithium Ion Battery Pack

It has become popular to only buy one battery pack for laptop, cell phone, general electronic devices like Mobile or HT's for hamradio. Saves money on buying different voltages and form factors for each plus saving resources.

One example is this from Amazon with 17500 maH multiple voltages.



Talentscell Lithium ion Battery Pack NB7102, Rechargeable 17500mAh 64.75Wh Li-ion Power Bank with DC 24/19/5V and USB-C 5/9/12/15/20V Output for Laptop, Notebook, Smartphone, Camera and More

[Visit the Talentscell Store](#)

4.2 ★★★★★ 466 ratings | [Search this page](#)

Amazon's Choice Overall Pick

50+ bought in past month

\$62⁹⁹

USB C can carry up to 5 amps however you need to verify that max current at each voltage you select on the battery. USB A is only good for 1.25 amps. However this batter is almost 10x a standard Baofend battery.

To select voltage, you need a “Decoy” controller that tells usb what voltage to put out. Witrn makes a very small pcb controller with solder jumpers to select the voltage. The + and – tabs are the output. So just jumper it and put in a box with appropriate output connector like Anderson poles for example. Run a USB C to C cable. The actual size of the board is 1 x 1.5 mm. For 12V out the two center tabs on the top side are soldered together. You can also put several in a box with each USB C and different output connectors as a universal power supply. I know ALiexpress has them and you can get them prejumped. Aliexpress on line has jumper info. **Jerry AA2T**



eleshop.jp