

MARA W1 GaZette



October 2024 MONTACHUSETT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Vol 65 No. 2

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 9 at 7:00PM Lunenburg Public Library

Meeting subject:

Dues are due! Reviewing NTS 2.0

The President's Corner

Hello All, Can you believe it's already October?! The fall winds have arrived, and the leaves have begun to change color already! Soon it will be too cold to go outside, which means you must keep warm inside with your radio. Following that will come the snow (Am I allowed to say that yet?) With this in mind, we will be considering how amateur radio can serve the community both before, during, and after emergencies, disasters, and storms. This month we will take a look at the National traffic system (NTS). More specifically, NTS 2.0. There have been many people hard at work to revitalize and strengthen what some call the foundation of amateur radio in community service. Our Section Traffic Manager, Marcia - KW1U has been invited to share her presentation with the club on all things NTS and traffic handling. If you don't know what "Traffic handling" means, this would be a great meeting for you to join. I hope to see many faces at our upcoming meeting. Bring a friend, and Be Radio Active!

73
Tyler - KC1 RVS
MARA Club President

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 September 2024

Starting balance	\$1654.31
Income	\$97.00 (Dues and donations)
Expenses	\$285.00 (Porta Potty for FD)
Ending Balance	\$1466.31

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

11 September 2024

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 by our president Tyler KC1RVS.

Attendance: Gary K1YTS, Barry W1HFN, Joe KC1TBP, Paul KD1YH, Gordon N1MGO, Tyler KC1RVS, Matt KC1TUV, Ray AA1SE, Fred AB1OC, Glenn KC1EIJ

Welcome to the new officers: Tyler as President, Erik as Vice President, Gordon as Treasurer, and Glenn as secretary.

Those in attendance went around the room introducing themselves.

Gordon N1MGO gave the treasurer's report, announced that Dues are due.

Ray AA1SE gave the AARL Section Manager's report. Made recommendations for outreach to invite new members. Reported that there will be a Zoom training for National Traffic System with Marsha, Bob, and Sean of the Heavy Hitters

Traffic Net.

Ray introduced Fred AB1OC, New England Division Director.

Fred gave a presentation on the future of amateur radio.

- Highlighted development steps to encourage new Hams.
- Addressed issues affecting amateur radio such restricted situations such as HOA rules.
- RFI teams, currently 50 RFI team members available to help Hams.
- National Traffic System updates and availability of a newsletter which members can opt in to receive via their AARL profile.
- New England Division communications; town halls, cabinet meetings, club meetings, Hamfests, etc.

Fred then shared training experiences he has participated in, followed by Q&A by the members.

Meeting adjourned at 18:25 by Tyler.

Submitted by Glenn KC1EIJ, Secretary

Upcoming Contests

Contests coming up for the next month:

Makrothen RTTY Contest: 0000Z-0800Z Oct 12, 1600Z-2400Z Oct 12 and 0800Z-1600Z Oct 13

JARTS WW RTTY Contest: 0000Z Oct 19 to 2400Z Oct 20

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, CW: 1500Z Oct 19 to 1500Z Oct 20

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB : 0000Z Oct 26 to 2359Z Oct 27

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW: 2100 Nov 2 to 0300Z Nov 4

WAE DX Contest, RTTY: 0000Z Nov 9 to 2359Z Nov 10

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

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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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

Secretary - Glenn Capone, KC1EIJ
glenncapone@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Gordon LaPoint, N1MGO
n1mgo@arrl.net

Trustee - Erik Tkal W1QED
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

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.

De NZ1D

VE Team Report

No VE session was held in September.

**Section and League
Ssssstuff By Ray AA1SE,
WMA Section Manager**

Section SSSStuff

Hello, say, weren't we just at a meeting? Yikes, time is going too quickly. Last month we had our guest in Fred AB1OC who did a fine job with his presentation.

Our SEC, Chuck WS1L has been working to improve ARES and is getting some traction. He has been getting new standards in training along with a new task book and has done a much better job in communicating to the ARES membership. There is a couple of served agencies getting involved as well. This is great news.

The league has introduced a benefit which qualified people with certain health plans will get a check for being active in our hobby. This is just with seniors with a Medicare Advantage plan and is through Grouper, Inc. The article for this id found on

<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-announces-partnership-with-grouper> this is new and a lot of health plans have not adopted to it yet. Check periodically for plan updates.

The end is getting close with our IT issue. There are some parts of it that are requiring a complete rebuild. (Can you say windows 98 and XP?) This was a painful and expensive lesson learned.

We do have a need to bring ideas and activities

to interest the club at its meetings and elsewhere. As a member, officer, whatever having activities and active participation will keep people coming and bringing new ones in. Be a part of it or make that presentation titled "How to speak cricket."
Cheers, Ray AA1SE

NTS Training on Zoom

Interested in NTS and Traffic Handling? Join us Monday, October 14 at 7PM on Zoom and receive training.

Hosted by Ray, AA1SE the WMA SM and joined by Marcia, KW1U the EMA, WMA and RI STM, Bob, KC1KVY, Shawn N1CVO, we will provide the training on the basics of proper handling of NTS traffic as well as participating on a net. This will be a combination of videos and open discussion to get started in this aspect of the hobby that's been around for over 100 years. All ham operators are invited to join whether you are experienced or not. Below, please find the link for this training. This will be first come-first served and limited to 100 participants. We hope to see you on Zoom. Any questions email Ray AA1SE at aa1se@arrl.net

Topic: NTS Traffic Training

Time: Oct 14, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86391167095?pwd=EE7QXsDKRQPqzlUgZxc4HUfk27Ja9Z.1>

Meeting ID: 863 9116 7095

Passcode: 346199

--One tap mobile

+19292056099,,86391167095#,,, *346199# US (New York)

+13017158592,,86391167095#,,, *346199# US (Washington DC)

For sale, Wanted and Free stuff

For Sale

Hy-Gain VB-64DX 6 Meter 4 element beam with instruction manual. Recent MFJ price \$239.95 (sold out). \$99.99 cash. Will deliver to buyer.

Contact Barry - W1HFN
w1hfnham@gmail.com

Yaesu FT 991 A 160m-70cm transceiver Barely used. \$1000

MFJ 259 Antenna analyzer, never used. \$300

MFJ 1026 noise canceling signal enhancer BNIB \$225

Astron SS18 Power supply New cond. \$140

Samlex SEC1235M Power Sup. New cond. \$150

BTech UV25X2 dual band in ammo can go box. Ex cond. with acc. \$350

Icom ID ID 51A Dual Band HT DStar w/acc. \$350

Contact Ray, AA1SE at ray.aa1se@gmail.com

P.O.T.A (Parks on the Air)

By Gordon - N1MGO



Parks on the Air® is for international **portable** amateur radio operations that promote emergency awareness and communications from national/federal and state/provincial

level parks. For more information, getting started guides, maps and who is currently on the air from POTA sites see: <https://parksontheair.com>

To activate POTA sites, track your activations and contacts to POTA activations you have to sign up (free) then log in.

I have activated many sites in Massachusetts, both State Parks and Massachusetts Wild Life Management areas. There are over 400 sites in MA! More than most states.

To activate a site requires a minimal setup of a portable radio (usually QRP), paper for logs, if doing CW or Phone, and an antenna. I use an endfed wire from SOTA beams that includes a small wire holder, the antenna, a counterpoise and a BNC connector to hook up to the radio.

I recommend a small radio like an Icom 705, Elecraft KX2 or KX3, Xiegu X6100 or other QRP radio. This is so you can run portable for hours on a small battery.

If you want to do digital modes (FT8) you will need a computer to interface to the radio.

I recommend that you load the pota web site on your cell phone web browser if you are not using a computer at the POTA site. This will allow you to activate your site and provide spots for the frequency/mode you are using.

I have 2 different setups, based on where I'm going and which vehicle I'm using (Car or Motorcycle).

For the motorcycle I use my KX3, with internal batteries and a 3200Milliamp Hour 3 cell LiPo battery from my RC planes. I use a small laptop with its internal battery for logging, digital modes, and accessing the internet through my cell phone hot spot and my SOTA beams endfed antenna.

This gives me about 3-4 hours of operations at 5 to 10 watts. The big requirement for the site is it has to have picnic tablets, or some other chair/tablet combination to setup the equipment on. (I'm too old to just sit on the ground with the equipment!!)

For the car, in addition to the above, I can bring a solid state generator, the Jackery 500 Power station (<https://tinyurl.com/4xzebkec>), tables, chairs, OCF antenna for the 10M thru 40M bands, and other radios. I use an Elecraft K3 for 100watt phone operations. This setup gives me 4 to 6 hours of operation at 100 watts, or much longer with QRP.

Contact me if you want more information, or help getting going with POTA!

Here are some pictures of some of the activation's I have done, some with the Motorcycle and some with the automobile.

Pearl Hill State park, using the motorcycle.



Otter river State Forest, using the automobile, with KB1JXJ as co-pilot.



Working to Build a Stronger ARRL By AB10C



Hello. I am Fred Kemmerer, [AB10C](#), and I have been serving as your ARRL New England Division Director for the past 3 years. I have a long history of helping people to become licensed, learn new skills, and become active in the Amateur Radio Service. Like most Hams, I love Ham Radio and all that it enables. As your director, I have worked hard to protect and grow our hobby, and I will continue to work to create and promote activities and programs that maximize our ability to participate in and enjoy Amateur Radio.

Amateur Radio changes people's lives for the better. It certainly has had a huge positive impact on my life, and I want to continue as your director so that I may work with the ARRL, clubs, and individual Hams across New England to help bring positive life experiences through Amateur Radio to more people in our division and across the ARRL.

Action-Oriented Leadership

It is not enough to just listen to members about their concerns. While doing this is an essential part of serving as director, we also need a director who works hard to ensure that effective action is taken to address member concerns. This requires a leader who can collaborate with people to create consensus around solutions to problems and create the will to act.

Through my work as part of numerous work efforts within the ARRL, we have enabled the ARRL board and HQ team to:

- Bring forward multiple new ham development initiatives.
- Provide clubs with resources to do important work to strengthen their future and the future of Amateur Radio and the ARRL.
- Develop publications and programs to encourage increased utilization of our Amateur Radio bands and privileges.
- Revitalize the National Traffic System
- Create an ARRL strategy that includes an expanded focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning in schools.

We've also built teams here in New England to solve RFI problems and encourage the use of our bands above 1 GHz via [Amateur Radio Emergency Data Networks \(AREDN\)](#).

What I Want To Continue To Accomplish as New England Director

Much needs to continue to be done to create a strong future for Amateur Radio and the ARRL. The following are some of the major goals I will continue to focus on as Director:

- Bringing new people into Amateur Radio by working collaboratively with clubs across New England and the ARRL. We have also created multiple new Ham Development initiatives within the ARRL that support bringing new people into Amateur Radio.
- Expanding ARRL's work to support STEM learning in schools through Amateur Radio
- Creating positive public and agency awareness and support for Amateur Radio to protect our spectrum and our rights. The ARRL must also continue to expand member support for initiatives to protect our spectrum.
- Ensuring effective, open, 2-way communications between the ARRL and its members and creating a culture within the ARRL to act on member concerns and feedback.
- Continuing to establish the New England Division as a leader in developing world-class Amateur Radio programs that help our members enjoy Amateur Radio.

I believe that I bring the right Amateur Radio and professional experience, as well as the necessary collaborative leadership skills, to accomplish these goals and more. I hope you will support me as your choice to fulfill this important mission.

Walking Our Talk

As your Director, it is essential that I work to support the initiatives that I advocate for within the ARRL. This enables the creation of and member support for effective policy through credible leadership.

I serve as an [ARRL \(Amateur Radio on the International Space Station\) Mentor and Ground Station](#), helping schools worldwide to participate in STEM learning based on Amateur Radio. I also devote considerable time and energy to licensing hams and helping them get on the air. I've had the pleasure of leading a team of hams who teach classes for Tech, General, and Extra licenses, enabling over 480 people to earn a license or upgrade over the past seven years. We also created a popular program called Ham Bootcamp that helps new and experienced hams get on the air, build stations, and participate in operating activities. Ham Bootcamp has helped over 1,000 people across the United States to begin or expand their participation in Amateur Radio.

As New England Division director, I have continued to work with clubs and individuals in New England to help them expand their role as mentors and create a world-class environment for learning based on Amateur Radio.

Additional Information

I have been widely endorsed by members of the Amateur Radio community for my work. You can see what others are saying about their support for me as ARRL New England Division Director at re-elect.ab1oc.org/endorsements. You can learn more about me and my Amateur Radio activities at re-elect.ab1oc.org/about-ab1oc. I welcome everyone's comments and questions. You can reach me at ab1oc@arrl.net.

I Need Your Support

Voting information will be distributed to ARRL members by October 1st via e-mail and postcards. Ballots are due by November 15th. Your vote means a great deal to the future of Amateur Radio.

I am asking you for your support and your vote to enable me to continue working on your behalf to benefit Amateur Radio folks across New England and the ARRL.