



August 2022

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<http://www.w1mv.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmara/>



<https://twitter.com/search?q=Massasoit%20Amateur%20Radio%20Association&src=typd>

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## **Next meeting is September 20, 2022 at 7:00pm at N1XTB QTH**

The address and more information provided via the email list.

### **Membership**

The website has been updated with our current roster of paid members. If there are corrections, please drop an email to [maranews@w1mv.org](mailto:maranews@w1mv.org)

### **Presidents Notes**

MARA Facebook page: Our Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Facebook page with club events, meetings, photos, etc. are occasionally updated so that it may be another resource for us on which to spark interest in our club, amateur radio and keep members informed of what we are doing outside of our club meetings and in our community. If you go to the “about” tab on our page you can find our <http://www.w1mv.org/> web page for our present and past newsletters and other club information. Please send Phil N1XTB [n1xtb@powersrvcs.com](mailto:n1xtb@powersrvcs.com) any articles or photos you would like to see in our MARA newsletter, W1MV-MARA Website and Facebook page. Jeff - AJ1L has created a link to twitter to help get the word out even more!

### **Secretary's Notes - MARA Meeting 08/16/2022**

#### **Barbecue QSO Meeting was held at Rick Emord's QTH**

A good time was had by all in attendance

**Open:** WA1BEE - Allen Hiltz called the meeting to order at 1930 with 5 members present.

**Attendance:** Allen - WA1BEE, John - N1BSO, Rick KB1TEE, Phil N1XTB, Phil Jr. KC1JDN

**Treasurer Report** – Phil N1XTB - gave the Treasurer report, it was read and accepted.

**Repeater Report** – N1BSO John, said everything working. DC wiring needs to be cleaned up.

**New Members** – no new members this month.

**Current Business** – Embroidery for hats and shirts. N1BSO said the samples will be coming along soon from Jack Foley for our approval. Phil, N1XTB, asked if I would send the digital files I received from Abra Cadabra to him for filing on his server. As of this writing, WA1BEE did send Phil, N1XTB, the files.



**New Business** – Discussion on members not attending the meetings. It is of notice that the EOC is a difficult location and not handicapped accessible. The decision was made to find another location so all could attend and to possibly do hybrid meetings. The internet at the EOC has been disconnected.

Discussion on Ham classes is a necessity to gaining members. All agreed to move forward with classes.

Allen, WA1BEE, mentioned we need a new president and wants to step down as soon as possible. More members need to step up to make this all happen.

Meeting adjourned 8:13 pm

Acting Newsletter Editor notes:

ARES/Skywarn/National Hurricane Center news item for Hurricane Fiona: Amateur Radio Operators in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Kentucky, Oklahoma and South Carolina have been supporting Amateur Radio Operations for the National Hurricane Center and Amateur Operators in Puerto Rico. Updated information is available at <https://voipwx.net>.

Phil N1XTB has updated his web site with some local digital radio information. There is a new blog and a new EMA packet radio topology diagram, along with a map. These items can be checked out at: <http://n1xtb.org>.

Rick KB1TEE keeps Museum ships on the air event information available at <http://ne1pl.org>.

Don't forget that Eastern Massachusetts ARRL section news is available at <https://ema.arrl.org>

### **HAM RADIO LOCAL AREA NETS**

Any additions or corrections contact John – N1UMJ at: [N1UMJ@arrl.net](mailto:N1UMJ@arrl.net).

All Frequencies are in MHz and 6 Meters (50.0 MHz and up.) are FM Mode unless otherwise noted.

#### **Sunday:**

8:30 AM WA1NPO – WARPSN Net, Whitman ARC Rptr, 147.225 +, PL 67.0 8:45

AM New England phone net, 3.945 +/- □ LSB

#### **Daily:**

7:00 PM NE Cracker Barrel Net, Matt – W1AEM, NCO, 3.921.00 MHz LSB Pilgrim Amateur Wireless Assoc. 10 Meter Net

7:00 PM 28.375.0 USB Cape & Island Traffic Net, Mon. Tue. Thur.

7:00 PM Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8

7:30 PM Falmouth N1YHS Rptr, 147.375 + PL 110.9 Genesis ARC CW Training Net

8:00 PM Eastern MA 2 Mtr Traffic Net, Boston W1BOS Rptr, 145.230 – PL 88.5



8:00 PM Norfolk County Radio Association Net, , Walpole Rptr, 146.895 – PL 123.0

**Monday:**

- 6:00 AM Cape and Islands Weather Net, M-S, Dennis K1PBO Rptr, 146.955 – PL 88.5
- 8:00 PM Fairhaven Weather Net, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0
- 8:00 PM Norfolk County Emergency Preparedness Net, Walpole Rptr, 146.895 – PL 123.0
- 8:30 PM New England DMR net, DMR--□MARC repeaters talk group 3181 New England Falmouth ARA Net, Falmouth K1RK Rptr, 146.655 – PL 88.5
- 9:00 PM Boston ARC Rag Chew Net, Boston W1BOS Rptr, 145.230 – PL 88.5

**Tuesday:**

- 7:30 PM Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8
- 8:00 PM Fairhaven Weather Net, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0
- 8:00 PM Massasoit ARA Net, , Bridgewater W1MV Rptr, 147.180 + PL 67.0 (Except 3rd Tue!) Genesis ARC 2 Mtr Rag--□Chew Net,
- 8:00 PM Norwood Amateur Radio Club Net, Norwood Rptr, 147.210 + PL 100.0 220 MHz Day! Try to find a 220 Repeater near you and give a call out!

**Wednesday:**

- 7:00 PM Blackstone Valley ARC, 2 Mtr Simplex Net, 146.565
- 8:00 PM Cape and Islands ARES Net, Dennis K1PBO Rptr, 146.955 – PL 88.5
- 8:00 PM Fairhaven Weather Net, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0
- 8:00 PM Whitman ARC 10 Meter Rag--□Chew Net, 28.333.0 USB - Except 1st Wed!
- 9:00 PM Waltham Wranglers Swap Net., Waltham W1MHL Rptr , 146.64 – PL 136.5

**Thursday:**

- 7:00 PM Genesis ARC CW Training Net, Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8 10 Mtr
- 8:00 PM Fairhaven Weather Net, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0
- 8:00 PM General Class Rag--□Chew Net, 29.470.0 FM
- 8:30 PM Sturdy Mem. Hosp. ARC ARES Prac Net, K1SMH Rptr, 147.195+ PL 127.3 900 MHz

**Friday:**

- 8:00 PM Fairhaven Weather Net, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0
- 8:00 PM Great Hill Swap Net, K1USN, 145.390 and Echolink/Irpl 9127

**Saturday:**

- 8:00 PM South Shore Skywarn Net, Bridgewater W1MV Rptr, 147.180 + PL 67.0

\*VKEMCOMM\* Echolink Conference node: 270177/IRLP 9508 (due to \*WX--□TALK\* Echolink conference node: 7203/IRLP 9219 outage) Refer to: <http://www.voipwx.net/>

**Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board**

- President - Allen Hiltz - WA1BEE
- Vice President John L – N1BSO
- Secretary Wendy White – KC1GTR
- Treasurer: Phil McNamara N1XTB
- Call Sign Trustee: Phil McNamara N1XTB



<b>2M Repeater</b>	147.180+ (Tone 67.0)
<b>440 Repeater</b>	444.550+ (Tone 88.5)
<b>APRS Node</b>	Node 144.39 W1MV-1
<b>Packet BBS</b>	145.09 N1XTB-4
<b>Packet Node Brockton</b>	145.09 W1JOE-7 (BROCK)
<b>MARA Web Page</b>	<a href="http://www.w1mv.org/">http://www.w1mv.org/</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmara/">https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmara/</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<a href="mailto:maranews@w1mv.org">maranews@w1mv.org</a>
<b>WARC Web Page</b>	<a href="http://www.walnpo.org">http://www.walnpo.org</a>
<b>Qsl via</b>	<a href="http://www.eqsl.cc">www.eqsl.cc</a>
<b>Skywarn</b>	<a href="https://wx1box.org">https://wx1box.org</a>
<b>-legacy info:</b>	<a href="http://www.powersrvcs.org/w1gmf/skywarn.htm">www.powersrvcs.org/w1gmf/skywarn.htm</a>
<b>Mailing Address</b>	P.O. Box 428 Bridgewater, MA 02324

**Monthly meetings** are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. If a Zoom component or alternate Zoom meeting is planned, an announcement will be made on the email list.

Our **Meetings-On-The-Air** are held all other Tuesday evenings at 8PM on 147.180+ and includes the Westlink News Report with the latest news about happenings in the world of Amateur Radio.

The **South Shore Skywarn Net** is held every Saturday evening at 8PM local time on 147.180+ and is open to all hams.

**VE Exams** are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month, in Braintree contact Steve Cohen, W1OD via email [w1od@arrl.net](mailto:w1od@arrl.net). Walk-ins are no longer permitted. We will be hosting VE exams at 8:45 at the Watson building. If you know of anyone planning to take an exam, please have them drop a note to Steve to confirm a reservation.

<http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/index.html>

## The K7RA Solar Update

09/16/2022 (Courtesy of ARRL Newsletter)

Solar activity bounced back this reporting week, September 8-14, when average daily sunspot numbers jumped from 68 to 92.7, and average solar flux from 125.8 to 141.3.

Fewer CMEs and flares were evident, with average planetary A index declining from 24.6 to 10.7, and middle latitude numbers from 17.4 to 10.6.

New sunspot groups appeared, one on September 8, three on September 10, and one more on September 13. Total sunspot area (in millionths of a solar disc) on September 12-14 rose from 370 to 870 to 1240, the highest value in over a month.

The sunspot number was highest on September 10 at 122.

During this week two years ago, there were no sunspots at all, and average daily solar flux was only 69.7, over 56 points lower than this week, demonstrating the continued progress of Solar Cycle 25.





# MARANews



The latest (Thursday) forecast from space weather folks at Offut AirForce Base shows predicted solar flux peaking at 150 on October 9, but with flux over the next few days following this bulletin less optimistic than the numbers in the bulletin preview in Thursday's ARRL Letter.

Predicted flux values on September 16-17 are 140 and 135, then 125 on September 18-19, 120 on September 20-29, 125 on September 30 through October 6, 130 on October 7-8, then 150, 148, 143 and 140 on October 9-12, then 136, 130, 125 and 120 on October 13-16, 125 on October 17-18, and 120 on October 19-26.

Predicted planetary A index shows moderate levels of geomagnetic activity until October 1-2. The forecast is 15, 18 and 10 on September 16-18, 5 on September 19-23, then 10 on September 24, 14 on September 25-27, 8 on September 28-29, then 22, 50, 30, 20 and 12 on September 30 through October 4, then 15, 12, 10, 8 and 5 on October 5-9, then 10, 8, 5, 15, 20 and 12 on October 10-15, then 5 on October 16-19, then 12 and 10 on October 20-21, and 14 on October 22-24.

The Autumnal Equinox is only a week away!

Nice solar video from last month:

<https://bit.ly/3BH9ZDm>

Here is NOAA's latest forecast discussion:

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/forecast-discussion>

Comments from F.K. Janda, OK1HH:

"Although the Sun was speckled a week ago, all areas were quiet and overall, the Sun's activity was low. After that, activity began to grow rapidly in the northern hemisphere.

"Sunspot group AR3098 grew larger and on September 11, a C6 class flare was registered. The old area AR3088, which was active during the last rotation of the Sun, returned in the southeast solar limb.

"Two solar wind shock waves hit our planet on September 14 at 0630 UTC and 2313 UTC. The second of them significantly expanded the speed of the solar wind, started a disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field and caused very uneven shortwave propagation conditions, especially on routes leading through higher latitudes. Auroral distortion of signals were observed when passing through inhomogeneities in the auroral belt.

"Further similar disturbances can be expected on September 17th, a calm after September 18th and a decrease in solar activity is expected after September 20th."

The following is edited from an email from David Greer, N4KZ in Frankfort, Kentucky:

"With the Sun perking up from its long sleep, one of my favorite bands, 12 meters, is also coming alive. I've worked FT8 DX on 12 meters from time to time for months, but things really came alive for me from 1236-1356 UTC on September 14 when I worked 22 DX stations back-to-back on SSB.

"I called CQ and was answered by a Dutch station and after that, stations just kept calling and calling. I put 22 DX stations in my log. Most were from Europe, but I also worked the Middle East and Northwest Africa, 18 different DX entities all together.

"Some signals were quite strong, mostly because they ran high power with beam antennas but one station was thrilled to make the trip across the pond from Europe because, he said, 'he was running 100 watts to an indoor dipole in his apartment.'

"Some commented it was their first ever 12-meter QSO. I hear that often from stations everywhere. Some say they didn't think anyone ever used 12 meters. Since 2000, I have 12 meter WAS and confirmed 182 DX entities on 12 alone.

"I often call CQ on SSB when the band seems dead, only to have a rare DX station respond, such as VP8LP in the Falkland Islands.

"I was on 12-meter SSB the first night hams in the USA were authorized to use the band in 1985. That night, the band was wild because of a big sporadic-E opening and strong signals were coming from all directions across North America. It was a blast!

"I am fortunate to have a decent station -- 8-element log periodic antenna up 50 feet from a hilltop QTH with a kilowatt amp. But many signals were so strong on September 14 that I am sure others with modest stations could work many DX stations. I had to QRT at 1356 UTC even though others were still calling. I got back on the band later in the day and worked MW0ZZK in Wales. He was 20 over S9.

"Don't forget about 12 meters. When 10 meters is open, 12 is open too. And don't forget about the phone band allocation, which starts at 24.930 MHz in the USA. I've heard some out of band because they didn't know where the band edge was.

"A great propagation tool is the MUF web page operated by KC2G at <https://prop.kc2g.com/>. I monitor it constantly. It tells me what bands to check out and where I should aim my antenna. Plus, it has other interesting data in the menu."



Thanks to Dave for mentioning that great web site. I notice it has a section labeled eSSN, which is Effective Sunspot Number, derived from 10.7 cm solar flux. More about eSSN from NorthWest Research Associates, based here in the Seattle area:

<https://spawx.nwra.com/spawx/ssne24.html>

Also, I would like to add that often 12 meters is open when 10 meters seems dead.

Here is more crazy solar news:

<https://bit.ly/3QIrXKd>

Here is Newsweek again:

<https://bit.ly/3UhnuAS>

Some solar wind news:

<https://bit.ly/3BLjh1i>

Lucky us! A brand new video, dated today, from Dr. Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW:

<https://youtu.be/OAOml-3YxUA>

Send your tips, reports, observations, questions, and comments to [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

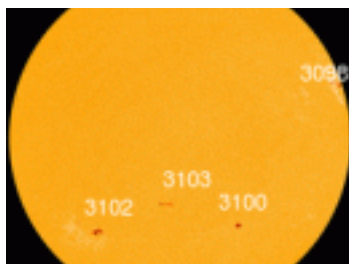
For more information concerning shortwave radio propagation, see <http://www.arrl.org/propagation> and the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>.

An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

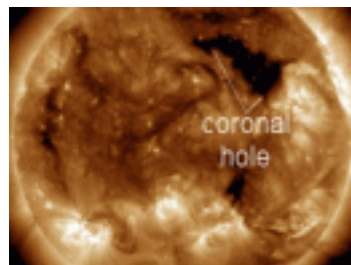
Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for September 8 through 14, 2022 were 75, 72, 122, 113, 117, 93, and 57, with a mean of 92.7. 10.7 cm flux was 126.6, 126.2, 135.9, 151.5, 150.4, 154.1, and 144.3, with a mean of 141.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 19, 13, 12, 9, 9, 4, and 9, with a mean of 10.7. Middle latitude A index was 17, 14, 10, 9, 9, 5, and 10, with a mean of 10.6.

## Photo Gallery



• Departing sunspot...



• Solar wind flowin...



Another item from the ARRL Newsletter

## Amateur Radio Takes Center Stage at The Big E

09/15/2022

by Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R

The Big E, “New England’s Great State Fair,” kicks off on Friday, September 16, 2022, and includes [Project Big E](#), a 17-day amateur radio exhibit that runs through October 2, 2022. The fair, held in West Springfield, Massachusetts, is the largest agricultural event on the eastern seaboard and the sixth-largest fair in the nation.

Planning for Project Big E began in 2021 by Larry Krainson, W1AST, ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Affiliated Club Coordinator and President of the [Hampden County Radio Association](#) (HCRA), as well as its members and other interested individuals. They envisioned an exhibit that would demonstrate the many aspects of modern ham radio and provide an opportunity for future amateur radio operators to sign up for information and courses in their local area.

“If just one-tenth of one percent of attendees sign up for ham classes, that would be 1,600 names to distribute to all New England radio clubs,” said Krainson. “We would all benefit and grow ham radio,” he added.

HCRA will operate special event station N1E during the 17-day event. A donation from [Remote Ham Radio](#) (RHR) will allow N1E access to remote stations throughout the entire event.

Additional highlights at the event will include:

- An Emergency Communications (EmComm) display
- D-STAR and/or other digital mobile mode demo
- Digital HF modes on a big screen
- SSB, CW, and digital modes
- Demonstrations of portable stations for field operation, such as Parks on the Air (POTA) and Summits on the Air (SOTA)
- Youth in ham radio

A related effort includes The BIG E Space Chat involving a scheduled ham radio contact from the fair with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The contact is organized through [Amateur Radio on the International Space Station](#) (ARISS). At press time, the contact is scheduled to take place in The Big E Arena between September 27 - 29. The exact date and time will not be known until a decision is made by NASA approximately a week before the event.

Around a dozen youth associated with [New England Sci-Tech](#) (NEST), a STEM learning and makerspace center in Natick, Massachusetts, have been selected to participate in The BIG E Space Chat. They will each get to ask the astronaut questions that will be relayed via an ARISS telebridge ground station — an amateur radio station that will establish radio contact with the ISS, and then relay the signals to the student group at The Big E.

In addition to making a once-in-a-lifetime contact from The Big E with an astronaut in space, the students are participating in in-person and virtual educational activities over a 12-month period. These experiences include building and launching a beginner-level model rocket, earning an amateur radio license, participating in a basic electronics course, and learning about astronomy, satellite communications, and other space-related science.

ARISS Mentor and ARRL New England Division Director Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, is providing overall coordination between ARISS and the science education program component provided by NEST. Ray Lajoie, AA1SE, is responsible for pre-contact programming as well as the stage audio-video setup at The Big E Arena, a performance venue that can accommodate up to 3,000 people with additional capacity for folks to stand.

A number of other organizations — both local as well as international — will play critical roles in ensuring a successful contact with the ISS from The Big E venue. A 45-minute pre-contact program will feature inspirational videos about the



# MARANews



ISS, space, and previous contacts. Introductory remarks will be made by Kemmerer; Eastern States Exposition President and CEO Gene Cassidy; ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and NEST President Bob Phinney, K5TEC. The Big E Project was awarded a grant by Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), a private foundation that supports amateur radio and digital communication science and technology. In 2021, The Big E had 1.5 million visitors, and over 1.6 million visitors in 2019. Visit The [Big E](#) website for additional information. More information about Project Big E can be found at the [ARRL New England Division](#) website.

-- Thanks to ARRL New England Division Vice Director Phil Temples, K9HI, for some of the information in this article.