



August 2025

Volume 61 Issue 08



<http://www.w1mv>



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



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

We hope to see you on August 19th 2025 Social hour is from 1700 meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting. Our August meeting is the BBQSO at 135 Wareham St Middleborough please see the information below.

ON THE AIR Tuesdays Tom Luckman WA1TOM has been doing a great job and he has had a couple of assistance. We are looking for other net controllers please sign up with John Laiosa N1BSO we have a new format in case you haven't been on please sign in on Tuesdays at 2000 (8pm) and join the new conversation

Presidents Message

The Tuesday night net is going well with new people taking a turn doing it. Remember next month there is no meeting, we will have our annual cookout at Rick's, KB1TEE house. All are welcome, bring something for the grill and side to share. The WARC club is having an open house July 19 from 8 to 12. They have invited surrounding clubs to participate. The MARA club will have a table that I will man and look for others to sit with me. Please bring any equipment you would like to show. The next MARA open house is tentatively scheduled for September 14 from 12 to 2 at the Stanley Ironworks park in Bridgewater.

John Laiosa

Secretary report By Phil McNamara N1XTB

MARA minutes 15 July 2025

Meeting called to order by John N1BSO at 1831 at the Bridgewater Library meeting room.

Attendees

N1BSO John

WA1TOM Tom

N1XTB Phil

KM1TWL Jim

N1UMJ John (via zoom)

AC1SO Phil

KC1VYL Sal (via zoom)

AG1B Richard (via zoom)

Treasurer and Repeater report for presented and accepted. John discussed the work that he and Jeff were doing investigating the repeater controller configuration.

Secretary report - accepted

Repeater OK

Old Business

BBQSO at Ricks 19 August for our next meeting

Whitman Open House next Saturday

New Business

September outdoor park radio event Stanley Iron Works park in Bridgewater by Tom WA1TOM - Date 14 September

Possibly the library could advertise the event?

Mention to Mary McGrath?

Facebook posting for Bridgewater residents?

Pass along to Bob WA1Q for the Whitman newsletter

Preamble for Tuesday net - Tom will forward to Jim KM1TWL to try out as NCS.

Meeting adjourned at 1844

Just a reminder that the next meeting is Rick's annual BBQSO at his place on Wareham street in Middleboro. More details are in the newsletter.

A summer ARES emergency communication drill "Summer Strike" is scheduled for the morning of Saturday August 2. The .18 repeater will be linked in to the 9123 conference. The MMRA system will also be linked for the

drill. If you are interested in participating, please review the posting for the drill :

<https://ema.arrl.org/2025/07/27/eastern-massachusetts-ares-section-exercise-operation-summer-strike-saturday-8-2-25-10-am-1230-pm-edt/>

At the last meeting, we also discussed an outdoor radio event for September. Tom, WA1TOM passed this along:

We got approved by the Bridgewater Recreation Department to use the Stanley Iron Works Park on September 14th from 12-2 for our radio event. No fees, no restrictions.

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73,

Phil McNamara

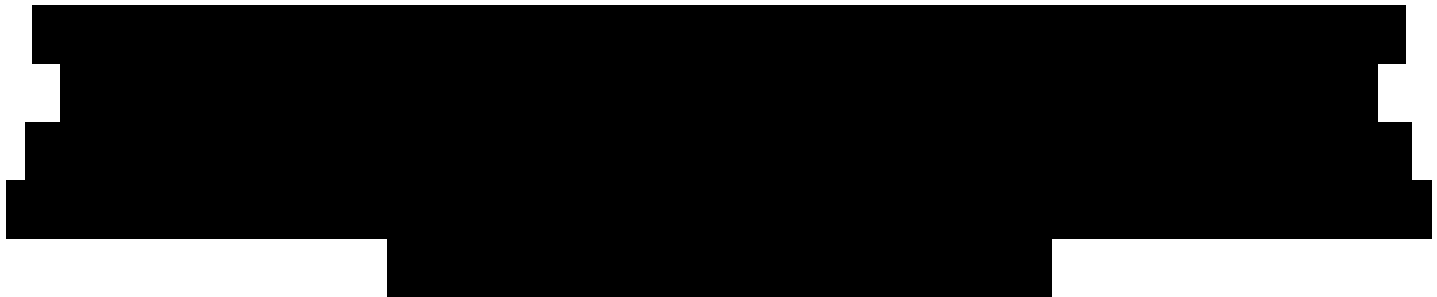
Emergency Operations Center Communications

Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE

Welcome to my home for the annual BBQSO party and meeting come over after 5pm bring a dish to share and bring whatever you wish to cook on the grill. Please let me know if you will be attending kb1tee@gmail.com 135 Wareham St Middleborough, MA. Talk in on 147.180
Bridgewater repeater MARA W1MV



Look for this sign at the end of my driveway



HamX - The Northeast HamXposition August 21-24, 2025

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough, Massachusetts August 21-24 2025 they are looking for assistance

Please forward this ASAP to your club membership. HamXposition needs YOU!

Please follow the link to <https://hamxposition.org/volunteer-with-us/> and see how you can help. Besides enjoying HamXposition, the following “perks” are available:
If you work 2 x 2 hr shifts you get Free admission **(or)** Lunch voucher for Friday or Saturday (no lunch on Thursday or Sunday) **(or)** Another ticket for the Sunday drawings
If you work additional 2 x 2 hr shifts, you can get one additional lunch voucher-if you haven’t taken the admission option

Please Contact Barbara Irby, KC1KGS, at kc1kgs@hamx.org

Bruce, K1BG ARRL ACC / EMA

WARC Open House July 19'th Whitman K of C



W1MV / MARA setup by John N1BSO and Rick KB1TEE

This open house was a public event to promote the Amateur Radio hobby.

MARA will be having our second open house on September 14,
2025 1200 – 1400 at
Stanley Ironworks Bridgewater 93 High St



Hopefully the weather will be better than the spring event

A summer ARES emergency communication drill

Saturday August 2, 2025

A summer ARES emergency communication drill "Summer Strike" is scheduled for the morning of Saturday August 2, 2025.

Note that a local only VHF net will not be conducted on the Bridgewater,18 repeater, however the .18 repeater will be linked in to the 9123 conference. The MMRA system will also be linked for the drill.

Net activities are also planned for the Dartmouth repeater.

147.000-Dartmouth Repeater (PL: 67.0 Hz)

147.180-Bridgewater Repeater (PL: 67.0 Hz)

If you are interested in participating, please review the posting for the drill :

<https://ema.arrl.org/2025/07/27/eastern-massachusetts-ares-section-exercise-operation-summer-strike-saturday-8-2-25-10-am-1230-pm-edt/>

If you have time to participate, please log the activity in your ARES DB profile.
There is a new link at the top of the web page "Participation."

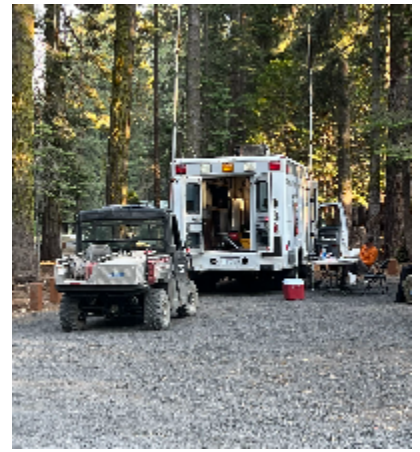
73,
Phil McNamara N1XTB



Amateur radio at its best

Amateur radio had a crucial role in locating a mother and her 9-year son lost in California's Stanislaus National Forest, according to information from a Sheriff's news release. On Friday, July 11, 2025, the pair was reported overdue from a day trip to Camp Wolfeboro, a popular scout camp in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

On Saturday July 12, the Calaveras County Volunteer Search and Rescue Team (SAR) was conducting its monthly training exercise along the Stanislaus River when members received notification that Tami and son Stirling had been reported missing since Friday afternoon and were not answering their cell phones.



The command post for the rescue mission. [Calaveras County Sheriff's Office, photo.]

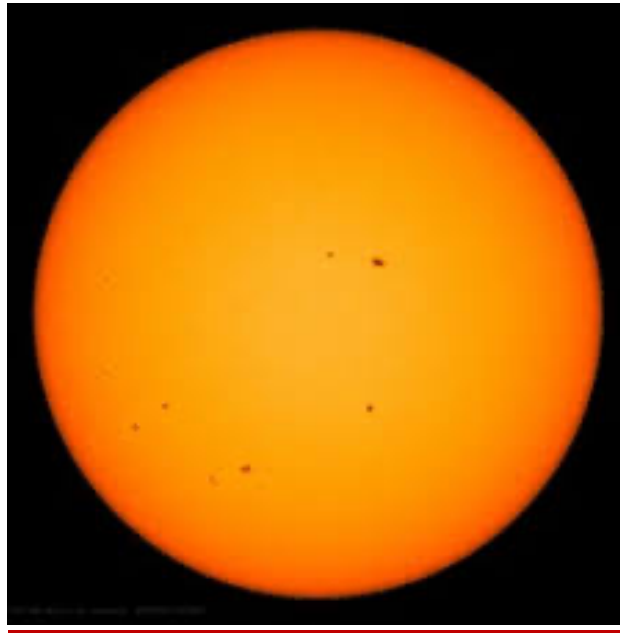
The SAR team set up a command post at Black Springs Off-Highway Vehicle riding (OHV) Recreational Area and quickly began initiating a road-based search using four-wheel-drive vehicles and air support from the California Highway Patrol.

Joining the search was a Deputy and a Forest Service Law Enforcement Ranger who responded to 911 texts from campers in the area that a vehicle possibly matching the description of the pair's missing car had been found. The SAR team began to find handwritten notes posted near a remote Forest Service road and then another about a mile away that included a telephone number and the names of the missing individuals. Just before 6:00 PM, the car and the lost mother and son were found. But the rescue was not over.

SAR team members were unable to communicate with their command post using conventional frequencies and cell phones from their deep woods location. So they used an amateur radio frequency to report their emergency traffic. The call was immediately answered by a retired El Dorado County communications supervisor, who is also an amateur radio operator, monitoring from his home. He contacted the El Dorado 911 center, which provided the information to Calaveras County Dispatch. The SAR command post was notified, and the mother and her son were transported to waiting family members.

Young Stirling also had a hand with the rescue. He used his scout whistle to blow SOS, the internationally recognized Morse code distress signal, to give searchers a better chance of locating their position.

The ARRL Solar Report ARRL prediction



Solar activity was at low levels. The largest flare was a C7.6 from Region 4136. C-class activity was also observed from several other regions during the highlight period. No Earth-directed CME activity was observed.

No proton events were observed at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit was at high levels on 14-20 July in response to persistent positive polarity CH HSS influence.

Geomagnetic field activity reached Minor storm levels on 14, 15, and 17 July due to positive polarity CH HSS influence. Solar wind speeds were elevated to as high as 700 km/s on 15 and 17 July. The remaining days were at quiet to active levels despite enhanced solar wind parameters.

Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity 21 July-16 August 2025

Solar activity is expected to be at mostly low levels with a chance for M-class, Minor to Moderate, flares for the outlook period.

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit.

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels on 21-22 July, 24-30 July, 5-6 August, and 10-16 August all due to recurrent CH HSS influences. Low to moderate levels are expected on the remaining days.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to be at active to Minor storm levels on 23 July, 1-4 August and, 7-14 August due to recurrent CH HSS effects. Quiet to unsettled levels are expected on the remaining days of the outlook period.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere for July 24, 2025 by F. K. Janda, OK1HH:

Less than a year has passed since the probable peak of the 25th eleven-year cycle, which means that we are still in a period of high solar activity. This does not necessarily mean that there must be a high sunspot number, many eruptions, or a high level of solar radio noise power flux (or solar flux for short). Currently, there is mainly the high speed of the solar wind that alternately causes high concentrations of negatively charged free electrons in the ionosphere, which quickly recombine with positively charged protons. The result is irregular changes in shortwave propagation conditions, accentuated in the summer by the activity of the sporadic E layer.

From mid-July, sunspot activity initially increased, then declined significantly in the last third of the month as a result of the setting of larger sunspot groups. No major eruptions were observed in the setting groups. Therefore, the Earth's magnetic field calmed down, especially on July 20-21. The geomagnetic disturbance on July 23 was expected, as the Earth entered the co-rotating interaction region (CIR), where it was hit by solar wind and triggered a G1-class geomagnetic storm (CIRs are transition zones between fast and slow solar wind streams and contain shock waves and amplified magnetic fields similar to those in CMEs).

Forecasts of further developments from various sources now differ considerably. If we look at the part of the far side of the Sun that is currently hidden behind the eastern limb of the solar disk, we can first expect the current level of solar activity and, at the beginning of August, a slight decrease, accompanied by a slight increase in geomagnetic activity.

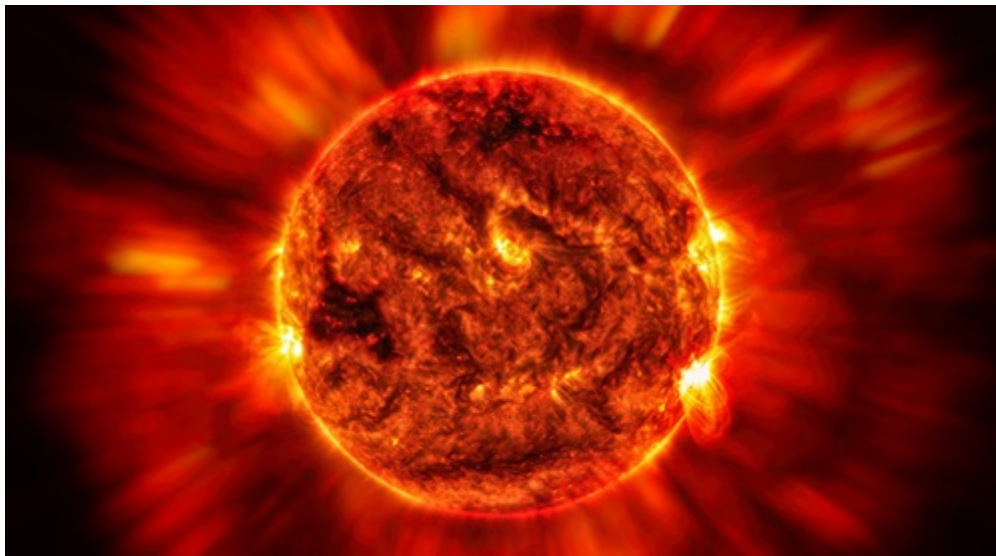
The latest solar report from Dr. Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW, can be found on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1N58cOnedo>

The Predicted Planetary A Index for July 26 to August 1 is 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, and 15, with a mean of 6.4. Predicted Planetary K Index is 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, and 4, with a mean of 2.3. 10.7 centimeter flux is 135, 135, 130, 130, 130, 130, and 130, with a mean of 131.4.

For more information concerning shortwave radio propagation, see <http://www.arrl.org/propagation> and the ARRL Technical Information Service web page 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> . Information and tutorials on propagation can be found at, <http://k9la.us/> .

Also, check "Understanding Solar Indices" from September 2002 QST. <https://bit.ly/3Rc8Njt>



Pushing Through QRM: Low-Profile, Low-Impact POTA

July 25, 2025 Thomas Witherspoon

I've mentioned my good buddy Mike (KE8PTX) in previous posts—he's designed some very cool 3D-printed accessories for portable operators.

Just a day before our family left on [our multi-week trip to Québec](#), Mike sent me two brand-new mounts he designed for the Elecraft AX3 antenna: a strap mount ([which I used in this activation](#)) and a clamp mount, similar to the one he previously created for the AX1 ([used here](#)). While the AX3 has built-in tripod legs that work quite well, having a mount that can handle gusty conditions is a big plus when you're operating outdoors.

On Monday, June 23, 2025, I decided to take Mike's new AX3 clamp mount to the field at my favorite local park. According to historical records, explorer Samuel de Champlain first used the name "Cap Tourmente" in 1608 to describe how the Saint Lawrence River's currents and winds caused the waters to churn or surge at that location—hence, the "Cape of turbulence."

It's rare that I visit Cap Tourmente and *don't* encounter gusty winds, so I figured this would be the perfect spot to test Mike's new clamp mount. I arrived shortly after noon and scoped out the area near the park's interpretive center, searching for a picnic table to set up my station. There were plenty of options, but I was looking for something a little off the beaten path—away from foot traffic and, ideally, not too close to the interpretive center (to avoid QRM).

I found a table that checked most of the boxes: it was off-path, a good distance from the center, and near a utility shed used by park staff.

To be clear: there were no safety concerns—the AX3 is only about four feet tall, and the power lines were well above that. I also wasn't setting up directly underneath them. Still, it's worth stating: power lines are a serious concern in the field, well beyond potential QRM. It's critical to always look up, assess the area, and plan accordingly. Here's [a recent reminder of why that's so important](#).



I powered on the KX2 and scanned the 20-meter band. I didn't hear any strong stations at first—a bad sign, possibly pointing to poor propagation.

I also noticed a noise floor around S4–S5, likely due to QRM from the interpretive center.

When QRM pushes the noise floor up a few S-units, it can mask weaker signals that would otherwise be workable.

Still, the only way to find out was to start calling CQ POTA!



With the exception of W4JM, these were all relatively close-in contacts for 15 meters. Clearly, the higher bands were running short mid-day.

With 17 stations in the log, I decided to call QRT and pack up!

Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board

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Vice President: Tom Luckman WA1TOM

Secretary: Philip McNamara KC1JDN

Treasurer: Phil McNamara N1XTB

Call Sign Trustee: Phil McNamara N1XTB

Newsletter editor : Rick Emord KB1TEE

2M Repeater 147.180+ (Tone 67.0)

440 Repeater 444.550+ (Tone 88.5)

APRS Node Node 144.39 W1MV-1

Packet BBS 145.09 N1XTB-4

Packet Node Brockton 145.09 W1JOE-7 (BROCK)

MARA Web Page <http://www.w1mv.org/>

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

Newsletter Editor maranews@w1mv.org

WARC Web Page <http://www.wa1npo.org>

Qsl via www.eqsl.cc

Skywarn <http://wx1box.org> and

www.powersrvcs.org/w1gmf/skywarn.htm

Mailing Address P.O. Box 428 Bridgewater, MA 02324

Monthly meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month, Zoom session will open at 6:30.

Our Meetings-On-The-Air are held all other Tuesday evenings at 8PM on 147.180+ and has a new format.

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 2nd Saturday of every month, in Braintree contact Steve Cohen, W1OD via email 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