MARANews

November 2026

Volume 63 Issue 1

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Next meeting is November 17, 2026 Social hour is from 1800 meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting will be at the Bridgewater Fire station 1185 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater, MA 02324 (Route 104)

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkh, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Years

LET'S GET ON THE AIR Please check out our Tuesday night nets

We are "ON THE AIR" Tuesdays 1st Dec 1st, 2nd Dec 8th, 3rd Dec 15th, 4th Dec 22nd, and the 5th Dec 29th. Dec 31st Happy Holidays. Tuesdays at 2000 (8pm)

With sad news we lost Loren Pimentel N1IQI



Loren was an active NTS member he was involved with lots of different clubs and organizations. We had the pleasure of his company for the BBQSO in August. He was an active member of MARA always giving a great smile. He was married to his wife Delores for 64 years she passed away in March. His passing will leave a big part of amateur radio in turmoil. The final farewell is not scheduled at this time information is on the SHEPARD Funeral & Cremation Service

Services will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to your local food pantry or to a favorite charity in Loren's memory.

Presidents message Tom Luckman WA1TOM

Hello All, I write this just after hearing about Loren, N1IQI becoming a Silent Key. Loren was a long-time, life-time member of the Massasoit Amateur Radio Association. He was present at our October meeting and as I recall he did not miss many of our in-person meetings. He would sometimes check into the Tuesday Night 2-meter net, and was always heard on the WA1NPO Sunday morning net taking traffic at the end. Loren will be missed by many but never forgotten. Rest easy friend;
73
Tom/WA1TOM

Secretaries report by Phil McNamara N1XTB

Oct 20, 2026 MARA club meeting minutes:
Recorded by Phil N1XTB
Meeting called to order at 1832 by Tom WA1TOM, in the new Bridgewater
Firehouse meeting room.

Attendees: N1XTB Phil,	N1BSO John,	N1IQI Loren,	KM1TWL Jim,
KB1WCK Joe,	WAITOM Tom,	KC1TLT Wendy,	N1LYP Eric
W1PM Larry,	KQ1V Hank,	KC1ZRL Mike,	N1UMJ via zoom

AG1B Richard via zoom
Secretary report published in the newsletter. Accepted.
Treasurer's report. Presented. Accepted.
Repeater report -"Touch Tone Charlie" occurrences noted. Accepted.
Old business.
Discussed small generator options for the repeater site. Predator generator approx $600
Battery types were discussed and temperature limits for Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP)
Tom would like to accompany N1XTB on his next trip to the repeater.
N1XTB has to post the renewed W1MV station license.
Jim KM1TWL is continuing to work on social media presence for the club.
Cross posting is working well.
Open house for next year - September target WA1TOM working through listing of local hams for new members.
New Business Discussion of setting up our own VE group.
From Tom WA1TOM - Good and Welfare items "Tiles on the Air" HF program Tom WA1TOM is hunting.
Discussion of ECT logger for nets Jim KM1TWL mentioned NE Digital voice net - NTS - NEDVTM.net

Meeting Adjourned at 1911.

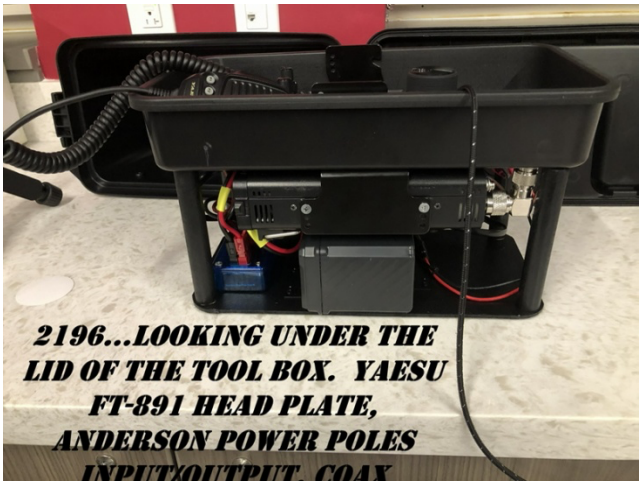
Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE

Not much to say I think we were all touched by Loren N1IQI he will be a silent key but his memory will live on. I became an Amateur radio operator in 2009 and Loren was one of the first people I met. He was very helpful and a good teacher.

Last months Newsletter Items I missed I am sorry

In September Tom Luckman WA1TOM presented his travel kit for our club. I forgot to post this too much vacation time. He has a Portable go kit 2198 left photo shows the kit opened up for service. The right photo shows the kit pulled open so you can see under the kit and how he set it up. Photo three is the tripod for his antenna opened up. Picture four is the kit all closed up and ready for transport. Great job Tom keep us informed about how it works out.









Amateur radio's role in emergencies

The Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club (SVARC) welcomed Cornwall Deputy Fire Chief Leighton Woods, and Chief Designate of Cornwall SDG Paramedic Services, to a presentation on emergency preparedness and communications.

Titled "When Communications Fail," the presentation examined Cornwall's Emergency Management program and five key pillars: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Woods discussed the challenges emergency services face when conventional communications systems fail and how amateur radio operators could provide valuable backup support. Discussions explored integrating amateur radio into Cornwall's Emergency Response Plan, maintaining a roster of trained operators and equipment, and participating in annual emergency exercises.

"One particularly encouraging opportunity discussed was the potential placement of an amateur radio operator and station at a municipal command post during an emergency," said club president Earnest Vinson. The club hopes to strengthen its role in local emergency preparedness and welcomes residents interested in amateur radio and emergency communications.

ARRL Partners in NASA-Funded Space Weather Education Initiative

ARRL and HamSCI are participating with the University of Scranton and four other institutions in a NASA-funded initiative to advance space weather education, scientific discovery, and public engagement through amateur radio. As part of the project, ARRL will receive grant funding to develop and deliver a new Teachers Institute program on space weather, providing high school STEM educators with hands-on professional development in solar activity, Earth's magnetosphere, the ionosphere, and the effects of space weather on radio communications. According to ARRL Director of Education and Learning Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, the four-day program will integrate real-world data from NASA missions and a network of citizen science space weather monitoring stations, allowing educators to bring authentic scientific investigations into their classrooms. Participating teachers will also help expand the network of monitoring stations at schools, enabling students to contribute to ongoing scientific research. Through this initiative, ARRL will demonstrate the important role amateur radio plays in scientific discovery while equipping educators to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and radio amateurs.

The program is part of "Discovering the SPARC: Space Physics Through Amateur Radio Connections," developed by University of Scranton Professor and HamSCI founder Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, and funded by NASA's Science Activation (SciAct) program to the tune of nearly $5.5 million over a 5-year period. An expansion of HamSCI's successful efforts to create a worldwide network of amateur radio operators collecting and providing data to scientists studying the ionosphere and space weather, the centerpiece of SPARC will be the installation of "discovery stations" in public

venues such as schools, libraries, and museums. In addition, the grant will fund the deployment of 85 “Citizen Science Space Weather Monitor” stations around the country. Other collaborating institutions include the Space Science Institute, MIT Haystack Observatory, the University of Alabama, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Venusbounce (With a Message)

You may be familiar with amateur radio moonbounce communication, also known as Earth-Moon-Earth or EME. But what about E**V**E — Earth-Venus-Earth? A series of transmissions from the Netherlands on October 17 and 18 resulted in the third-ever successful amateur radio EVE reception, including the first-ever reception of a message, “VENUS ECHO.”

The first successful amateur radio EVE transmissions were made by Germany’s AMSAT-DL in 2009, a feat not repeated until 2025 by members of the C.A. Muller Radio Astronomy Station (CAMRAS) foundation at the Dwingeloo radio telescope, PI9RD, in the Netherlands. That signal was simply a long tone transmitted on 1299.5 MHz, with the echo received back at Dwingeloo and at the Stockert radio telescope in Germany. The most recent transmissions included messages in several formats and the echoes were received at multiple radio telescopes. However, the signals were so weak that it took 40 minutes of echoes to decode the entire 10-character message.

Michelle Thompson, W5NYV, CEO of Open Research Institute (ORI), which collaborated with the Dutch team on this effort, told ARRL that bouncing a message off Venus “is a big step up from a radar return, which in its own right is a very difficult technical challenge.” She explains that this is “a very challenging radio channel. It has an enormous path loss. Best case, when Venus is close to Earth, is that it's 250 dB or so at the EVE frequencies used, one way. That's roughly equivalent to the round-trip path loss for EME. So, after you deal with 500 dB path loss to Venus round trip, you have Doppler Spread. Your signal is messed up because Venus spins.” (See Thompson’s article, “A Day at Dwingeloo,” in the October 2026 issue of *QST*, the ORI blog post on this EVE experiment, and details on the signal modulation, coding, and theory used for the successful message transmission.)

Further transmissions were planned this past week, as EVE is possible only during Venus’s “inferior conjunction,” when it is closest to Earth. Still, the signals must travel over 26 million miles in each direction, with a round trip at the speed of light taking roughly 5 minutes. Thompson says the next EVE opportunity will be in June 2028, and ORI is looking for interested amateurs to get involved. The eventual goal is to complete a 2-way EVE QSO.

ARRL Foundation Opens Applications for 2027 Scholarship Program

The ARRL Foundation will begin accepting applications for its 2027 Scholarship Program on Friday, October 30, 2026, offering students an opportunity to secure financial support for their educational goals. More than 150 scholarships, ranging from $500 to $25,000, will be available to eligible students pursuing higher education.

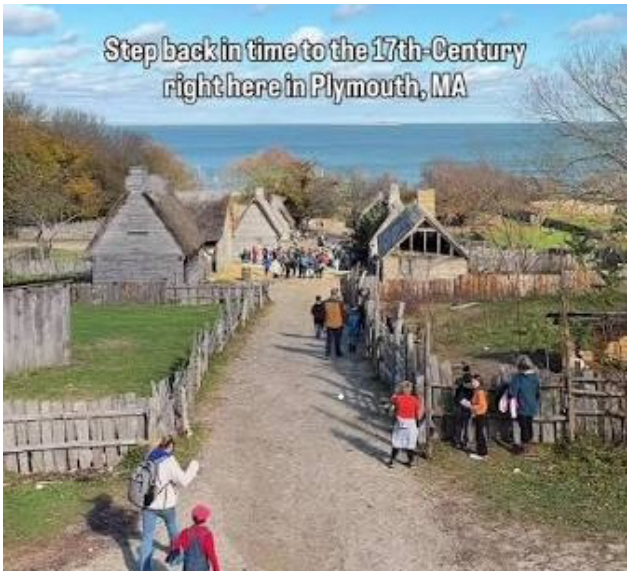
Applications must be submitted online by **12 PM EST on December 21, 2026**. All applicants must be licensed amateur radio operators pursuing higher education.

Made possible through the generosity of donors who believe in the promise of the next generation, the ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program helps students pursue their academic ambitions while encouraging them to explore the opportunities amateur radio offers in science, technology, engineering, wireless communications, and other related fields.

In 2026, the ARRL Foundation awarded 163 scholarships totaling $813,000, helping students take the next step toward their educational and career goals

Students are encouraged to explore the available opportunities and apply. Learn more and access the online application at www.arrl.org/scholarship-program.

Whitman WA1NPO Plimoth Patuxet Museums Using **NI1X special event call “Thanksgiving Weekend Nov 28-29, 2026”**



Ham radio operators broadcast live from/near the museum grounds, typically featuring High Frequency (HF) stations and a 2-Meter station with check-ins via local club repeaters, EchoLink, and IRLP connectivity. **Location Context:** Plimoth Patuxet Museums is located at 137 Warren Ave in Plymouth, Massachusetts, roughly 3 miles south of Plymouth Rock.

The ARRL Solar Report

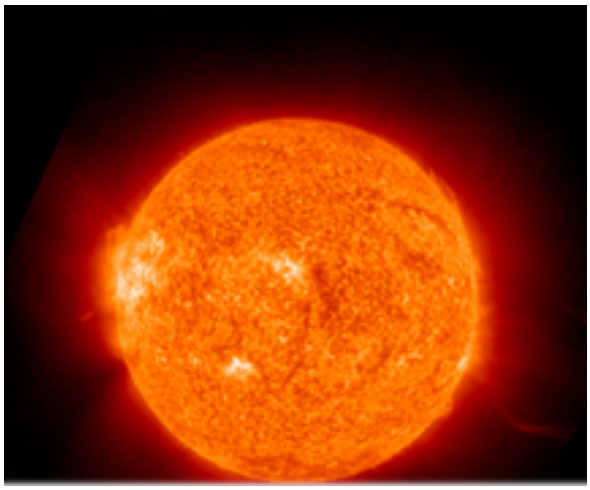
Solar activity is expected to be at very low levels in the coming days, according to NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), as one sunspot region (4561) rotated out of view and a second (4562) was quiet and in decay. No Earth-directed coronal mass ejections (CMEs) were observed. The geomagnetic field has been quiet, although an enhancement is expected late on October 30, with a minor geomagnetic storm possible on the 31st, as a result of a recurrent equatorial positive-polarity coronal hole high speed stream (CH HSS).

The Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre predicts normal to fair HF propagation conditions for the middle latitudes, with generally quiet conditions on the sun. The W3LPL Propagation Forecast from the Daily DX is predicting mostly normal propagation on the 15- through 80-meter bands -- good DX during the day on 15, 17, and 20 meters; and at night on 30, 40, 60, and 80 meters -- with generally poor DX on 12 and 10 meters as the maximum usable frequency (MUF) dips below 24 MHz due to low sunspot activity. Predicted 10.7-centimeter solar flux is much lower than last week: Oct 29-Nov 1, 84; Nov 2-5, 82. (Source: NOAA SWPC)

Share your reports and observations. Send your tips, questions, or comments to w2vu@arrl.org.

For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service, read "What the Numbers Mean...," and check out the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin archive is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the VOACAP Online for Ham Radio website.



WinterFest 2020 flyer

WinterFest 2027

Saturday Jan 16th 9am to 1pm Vendor setup at 7am

The First Best Ham Fest of the Year!

Whitman Amateur Radio Club

K of C Hall Rt. 18 Whitman MA
$5 entry fee with Raffle Prizes (drawn at noon)
VE testing sessions for Tech/General/Extra
Refreshments

Talk-In on the Whitman club repeater: 147.225MHz +pl67

Vendors: All tables have now been sold



WinterField Day

January 23rd & 24th, 2027

HamCation 2027

Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park February 12th - 14th, 2027

Algonquin Amateur Radio Club HAM RADIO

Marlborough, MA FLEA MARKET AMATEUR RADIO

Saturday, February 13, 2027

$200 Cash Door Prize! To be awarded at 11:30 Must be present to win
Marlborough 1Lt Charles W. Whitcomb School (formerly Intermediate/Middle School)
25 Union St. or off Bolton St. (Rt. 85) Marlborough, Massachusetts

6 ft. Tables (round and rectangular) Tables are $25.00 each if purchased by February 6, 2027 ($30.00 each accepted at the door if tables or spaces are available, no guarantees) Tables include vendor admission for one person. SETUP TIME: 6:30 AM
For more information email: fleamarket@n1em.org
Talk In: N1EM/R 446.675 - (pl 88.5) Updates will be on our web at: http://n1em.org
Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board

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Vice President: Jim Ashley KM1TWL
Secretary: Philip McNamara KC1JDN
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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 will be available before the meeting starts at 6:30..
Our Meetings-On-The-Air are held all other Tuesday evenings at 8PM on 147.180+
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