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Next meeting is October 20, 2026 Social hour is from 1800 meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting will be at the Bridgewater public library

ON THE AIR Please check out our Tuesday night nets

Presidents Message Tom Luckman WA1TOM

Hello All, I was hoping that this note would contain info about our successful Open House but Mother Nature had other plans and we got rained out with the Nor'easter. Moving the date to the following weekend was unsuccessful due to the venue having an event that day. Perhaps we can get something together before Winter arrives. We continue to see growth in the club and attendance at the in-person meetings at the Fire Station is increasing. We had to cancel a Tuesday night net due to all of the regular net controllers being unavailable. I encourage all of our members to join in on a Tuesday net, get a feel for how a net operates and maybe one day give being a net controller a try. Hope to see you at our next in person meeting on October 20 th .

73

Tom/WA1TOM

Secretary report By Phillip McNamara KC1JDN Phil McNamara N1XTB

Sept 15, 2026 MARA club meeting minutes:

Meeting called to order at 1829 by Tom WA1TOM, in the new Bridgewater Firehouse meeting room.

Attendees:

N1XTB Phil	N1BSO John	N1IQI Loren	KM1TWL Jim	KB1WCK Joe
WA1TOM Tom	KC1TLT Wendy	N1AS Alan	N1LYP Eric	KA1YL Connie
KQ1V Hank	KC1ZRL Mike	N1UMJ via zoom	N4NMF Barry via zoom	

No Secretary report because August was the BBQSO social meeting at Rick

Emord's QTH.

Treasurer's report. Presented. Accepted.

No recent "Touch Tone Charlie" occurrences. Repeater report Accepted.

Old business.

Fall Open House - Tom WA1TOM arranged Holy Ghost area 352 Broad St. location.

Date selected is Sept 26 from 11am to 1PM. No Building rental.

Eric can provide a 10x20 canopy. Will drop off if needed, Library helping to advertise.

Discussion of town of Bridgewater emergency support and EOC status.

Jim KM1TWL is continuing to work on social media presence for the club.

Plymouth club will be having an open house. Other clubs are invited.

Genesis club is rebranding to South Shore club.

W1MV 70cm repeater is connected to the UFB New England network

Whitman technician class in progress. John N1BSO is assisting.

New Business

Training - EMARG can visit for VE sessions. Discussion of a post tech license Elmer class.

Discussed search of FCC database for local hams with license that might be interested in an Elmer or Get-on-the-air class, Eric N1LYP indicated he could search and make lists.

Dennis Diver KC1DD voted in as new member. Welcome Dennis!

John N1BSO suggested some club members might contribute to a special fund to purchase a small backup generator for the repeater. Tom WA1TOM suggested it should be propane to avoid gas long term storage problems. Possibly a msmall honda propane conversion.

Jim KM1TWL is involved with NTS. Heavy Hitters net has been encountering some interference.

Interference also occurring with existing Waltham backup repeater.

Would like the .18 repeater available as another backup..

From Tom WA1TOM - Good and Welfare items

"Tiles on the Air" HF program discussed by Tom WA1TOM. POTA/SOTA piggyback operation.

Ham 2K POLO software can create ADIF log files.

Meeting Adjourned

Post meeting - Tom showed a portable kit he assembled and antenna.

73,

Phil McNamara

Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE

Good day my friends I just got back from two weeks of vacation my wife and dogs traveled 2,200 miles through the north woods of Vermont, New Hampshire, and western Massachusetts. My wife estimates she took over 3000 photos. I am hoping that everyone will send me information about other clubs and events I have not received any please send me a lot of information.



This is Saturday evening after traveling everywhere my wife and the dogs crashed into slumber

Silent key

My uncle Lee Latham passed away in a fire in North Woodstock in June. He was laid to rest on October 17, 2026 in a simple ceremony at his grave side. The American Legion did a great simple ceremony but due to the wind and cold temperatures made it difficult for them to hold the flags. His call sign was W1ALL. He was a past member of a few radio clubs including MARA. My message is to make sure you check your home for safe living. We believe the fire may have started in his oxygen concentrator area. So please look at what you have plugged in and to where it is connected. Watch out for what are commonly called zip cords. These are two wire extension cords. Please make sure you use approved multi plug boxes these are sold very inexpensively and most don't have a good rating. Before purchasing look up the reviews on them. Check them by touching them from time to time. If they heat up, stop using them and replace them. My uncle's detectors had been replaced a year ago and were sounding.



Below is a picture of my uncles home after the fire, fire safety is everyone's responsibility please be aware of issues and replace your detectors per manufacturers recommendations



Installing [smoke and carbon monoxide detectors](#) is one of the most effective ways to protect your home and family. Yet many homeowners overlook a critical detail: placement. Even the most advanced detector cannot provide reliable protection if it is installed in the wrong location.

Today, safety experts increasingly recommend combination units that monitor both fire and carbon monoxide threats. But knowing where to place smoke and CO detectors is what ultimately determines how quickly you receive a warning during an emergency. This guide explains exactly how to position them throughout your home, helping you build a safer, smarter detection strategy.

eBay Restricts Listings of Radio Equipment, but Exempts Ham-Band-Only Gear

10/16/2026

ImageOnline marketplace eBay has imposed [new restrictions on listings of radio transmitting equipment](#) in response to [new FCC rules](#) that took effect this week, *but responded to ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® that its new policy will not apply to gear that operates exclusively on amateur radio*

frequencies. The FCC's rules are intended to use its equipment authorization program to protect against "national security threats to the communications supply chain" and cover a wide variety of products.

In its Third Report and Order issued on July 23, 2026, the Commission makes clear that online marketplaces share in the legal responsibility to assure that unauthorized RF devices are not offered for sale on their platforms. The rules took effect on October 13. Moving forward, equipment subject to FCC authorization must have its FCC ID number submitted to the marketplace and posted with its listing. There are exemptions for posts already online, "small sellers," and used equipment, but initial messages to sellers from eBay suggested that an FCC ID would be required in order to post a listing for any equipment that transmits RF energy.

In response to a request from ARRL for a clarification relating to amateur radio equipment that does not require FCC authorization, an eBay spokesperson provided the following statement:

eBay allows the sale of devices capable of operating only on frequencies that the FCC has allocated for use by Amateur Radio Service licensees. As these devices do not require FCC equipment authorization, FCC IDs will not be required for these listings as an amateur licensee may use his or her license to operate such radios.

However, two-way VHF/UHF radio equipment capable of operating outside of the amateur frequency bands cannot be imported, advertised, sold, or operated within the United States, including on eBay, without an FCC equipment certification.

If eBay inadvertently takes action against listings for devices that don't require FCC IDs and are otherwise authorized, the affected seller should inform eBay and we will assess whether to remove restrictions from the listing.

It should be emphasized that the FCC did not change its underlying equipment authorization rules. Amateur radio equipment, except for commercial HF amplifiers, continues to not require FCC authorization.

Florida Hams Provide Communications Support during Hurricane Isaias

10/16/2026

Amateur radio operators from Florida's Santa Rosa, Nassau, Lake, Pinellas, and Leon Counties played an important role in supporting emergency communications efforts during and following Hurricane Isaias, helping ensure that critical communication capabilities remained available throughout the storm.

In Santa Rosa County, volunteer amateur radio operators staffed the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the evacuation shelter at the Milton Community Center. These volunteers provided a communications link between the shelter and the EOC, relaying situational updates and maintaining readiness to support emergency communications should traditional systems become unavailable.

Amateur radio operators across the state also supported auxiliary communications efforts, providing additional capabilities to maintain contact with the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee if conventional communication networks experienced disruptions.

"While traditional communications systems have become significantly more reliable over the years, amateur radio continues to serve as a dependable auxiliary communications resource," said Arc Thames, W4CPD, Santa Rosa County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Program Manager. "When disaster strikes, our volunteers are trained, prepared, and ready to step in wherever we're needed. It's another layer of resiliency that helps protect our communities."

Thames also serves as the ARRL Northern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator and the Amateur Radio Liaison to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, supporting the coordination of amateur radio and auxiliary communications resources statewide.

"During tropical weather events impacting Florida, our Auxiliary Communications team provides volunteer operators to monitor amateur radio communications at the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee," Thames explained. "This ensures that if someone is unable to reach emergency officials through traditional means, we have another way to receive and relay critical information. We always hope we're not

needed, but we're glad to be there just in case when all else fails." — *Thanks to ARRL Northern Florida SEC Arc Thames, W4CPD, for the above*

The ARRL Solar Update

10/16/2026

Look for improved propagation on the upper HF bands, as both the sunspot numbers and 10.7-centimeter radio flux remain near or above 100. According to NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), the increase in activity is being fueled primarily by sunspot Region 4551, which is described as the largest and most complex of six sunspot regions currently visible on the surface of the Sun. Mostly quiet geomagnetic conditions are expected as well, with some disturbances possible late next week.

The Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre predicts mostly normal HF propagation conditions worldwide.

The W3LPL Propagation Forecast from the Daily DX is predicting significantly improved DX conditions on 10 and 12 meters for as many as the next 10 days, with excellent conditions on 17, 15, and 20 meters as well. DX openings on 30 meters should begin in late afternoon each day, followed by 40 meters around an hour before sunset, and 80 meters just after sunset.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere, October 15, 2026, by F. K. Janda, OK1HH:

The so-called 27-day recurrence derived from the duration of one rotation of the Sun around its own axis is often a useful tool for forecasting fluctuations in solar activity. Although rare, there are instances when the trend is exactly the opposite, which can be directly misleading for predicting future developments. The most recent peak solar flux of 136 s.f.u. on October 13 was measured exactly 27 days after September 17, when the flux was 97 s.f.u. the first day of a relatively long interval with low values below 100 s.f.u. Consequently, the state of the Earth's ionosphere and thus shortwave propagation conditions was not as favorable as might be expected at this time of year.

Furthermore, solar activity will decline for the remainder of October. Although a disturbance in the Earth's geomagnetic field can be expected after October 20, it should be brief, and the rest of the month is expected to bring relatively calm and favorable conditions.

The Predicted Planetary A Index for October 16 to October 22 is 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 15, and 20 with a mean of 8.6. The Predicted Planetary K Index is 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, and 4 with a mean of 2.4. 10.7 centimeter flux is 100, 95, 95, 100, 100, 105, and 100 with a mean of 99.3.

High Schooler Brings IEEE Mobile Disaster-Relief Tech to Campus

Students learned about the equipment survivors rely on

Unlike most people who encounter the [IEEE-USA MOVE](#) (Mobile Outreach VEHICLE) emergency relief truck, Ananya Yanduru wasn't a survivor of a natural disaster who needed to charge her cellphone or access the Internet. Instead, the 16-year-old got a guided tour of the truck on the grounds of her high school. She had requested MOVE visit [Canyon Crest Academy](#), in San Diego, so she and her classmates could learn about the technology it houses.

The vehicle is equipped with satellite Internet access and IP phone service. MOVE can charge up to 100 cellphones simultaneously. It also has a mobile television for tracking storms, as well as radios for communications. A generator and three solar panels on the roof power the technology.

When it's not deployed to help in disaster recovery, the vehicle stops at venues so its team can provide guided tours, educating people about ways technology helps during disasters.

Yanduru spotted the truck in June 2023 when it was parked at the San Diego Convention Center. She was there to accompany her father, an IEEE senior member, to a conference.

"I saw that the truck had traveled across the United States to help with hurricanes, be there for disaster relief, and work with the American Red Cross," she says. "I thought that was a big deal." MOVE's volunteers often coordinate their disaster-relief efforts with the Red Cross.

Tours were over for the day, but that didn't stop her. She was so determined to explore the vehicle that as soon as she got home she went to the MOVE website and requested a visit to her school. It showed up a few weeks later.



Ananya Yanduru [left] and Canyon Crest Academy teacher Timothy Stiven receive a tour of the emergency relief truck from Bill Torre, an IEEE-USA MOVE volunteer.

The Fence Fan Dipole (FFD) -- A Quick, Easy and Inexpensive Multiband Antenna

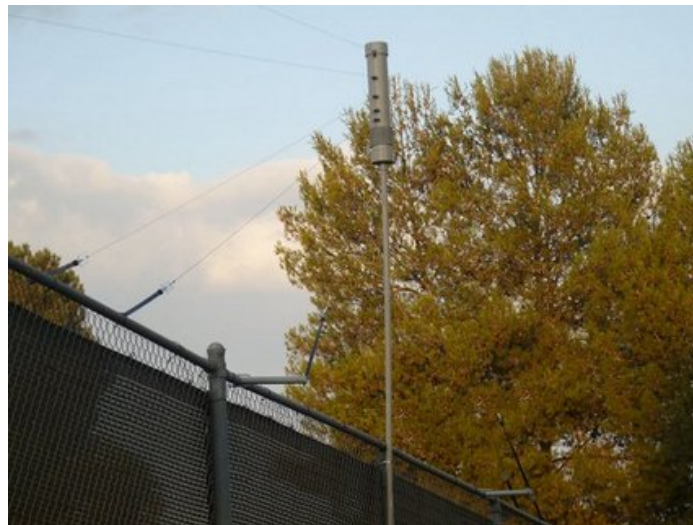
The multiband fan dipole has always been a popular antenna choice for getting on several bands with a single feedline and without the need for an antenna tuner. The height is limited only by the nearest tall tree, and the cost of the antenna is minimal. The antenna is also rather stealthy -- especially if 16-18 gauge wire can be used in sub 200 watt installations. The antenna basically consists of two to five or more distinct half wave dipoles which are mounted to a common parallel feedpoint so that a single feedline can be utilized. Some nice designs are easy to find on the internet or in antenna handbooks. Most designs now suggest (based on Stanford Research Institute data) that the feedpoint be separated by as much as 5.5 inches between dipoles and that the lower frequency (longer) dipoles can be about 4% shorter than the $468/\text{frequency in MHz}$ would dictate whereas the higher frequency (shorter) dipoles need to be about 4% longer. Many designs also recommend the controversial "ugly balun" choke in the design which is nothing more than 18-21 feet of coax close wound on a 4" or greater non-conductive form at the feedpoint.

There are certain downsides of the traditional fan dipole in that the top wire must often support the entire weight of the antenna as well as the balun. The need to ideally spread out the feedpoints by up to 5.5 inches also makes the feedpoint area rather cumbersome. Complicated spreaders must also be used in order to keep each dipole taut and well separated when there are only 2 end attachment points. There also can be some interaction among the dipoles and some detuning may occur if a dipole is included which is a frequency multiple of 3 from a longer dipole in the system (3rd harmonic). For example a 30 meter, 15 meter and 6 meter -- wave dipole may not be possible if an 80 meter, 40 meter and 17 meter dipole exists. A possible match may be obtained on 30 meters, 15 meters and 6 meters using the existing longer dipole but testing is required.

Finally, it is difficult to trim and tune the antenna, since a single rope or rope-pulley system supports the entire array and it must be completely taken down for wire tuning or repair.

I am just getting back on HF after a few year hiatus and have moved to a neighborhood with some antenna restrictions. My rig is a Yaesu FT-857D and Astron 30 amp power supply. I have no tall trees on the property but do have one large feature on the property -- a 45 year old tennis court with 12 foot fencing all around it. Each long side of the fencing is 120 feet total (a nice sounding number to dipole fans).

I decided to try an inexpensive antenna design as a starting point "just to get on the air". I figured that if I lashed a 10 section of schedule 40 PVC pipe to a central fence support with hose clamps, I could get an inverted-V up at around 20 feet at the center (not an ideal height for DX, but certainly usable). I then figured that I could use the dipoles themselves as "guys" for the central support if at least two of the dipoles were attached on a short offset support on both sides of the fence. The other dipoles could be "bungeed" directly to the fence mesh to keep them taut. The advantages of my Fence Fan Dipole (FFD) design is that just about any sturdy fence that spans the linear distance of the lowest band can be used. The center feedpoint and balun can be made from a single two foot section of 4" drainpipe with end caps for weather resistance. This could be attached and supported atop a central PVC support pipe with appropriate threaded plumbing adapter and an electrical metal threaded nut available at most hardware stores. See construction images below. Each dipole is separately lashed to the fence with a bungee-like tarp strap so individual band tuning does not require entire antenna takedown. Dipoles can be easily attached and changed at the retention/ relief posts along the drainpipe for testing, experimenting and possible future repairs. Finally, excellent spreader distances between dipoles at each endpoint can be achieved.



Construction

RG-8X coax and PL-259 connectors with adapters were the only ham radio specific parts. The remaining parts were all obtained during a couple of trips to the nearest Home Depot:

1) 18 gauge bare stranded copper "ground" wire is about \$17 for 250 feet and worked extremely well. The 250 feet was just a few feet short for all dipoles so I made my 17 meter dipole from heavier bare copper stranded antenna wire I had on hand. If any of the copper is tarnished, it can be quickly rejuvenated by soaking in a few ounces of vinegar with a half teaspoon of salt added. This allows the copper to be solder-ready in the necessary spots.

Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board

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www.powersrvcs.org/w1gmf/skywarn.htm

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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@arri.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