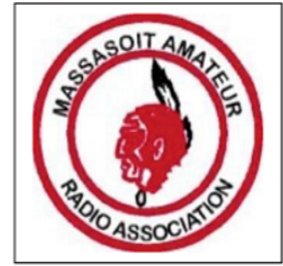




MARANews
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April 2024

Volume 61 Issue 04



<http://www.w1mv>



[https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmara /](https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmara/)



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

We hope to see you on April 16th 2024 Social hour is from 1800. Meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting. Our May meeting is on 21st

ON THE AIR Tuesdays First May 7, Second May 14 and Fourth May 28 Tom Luckman WA1TOM will be the net controller. We are looking for other net controllers please sign up with John Laiosa N1BSO we have a new format please sign in on Tuesdays at 2000 (8pm) and join the new conversation New Format for Tuesday net

Is there any further use of the repeater before we begin this evening's net?

Good evening, and welcome to the weekly Massasoit Amateur Radio Association meeting on the air.

This net meets every Tuesday evening at 8:00 PM with the exception of the 3rd Tuesday of the month which is our regular club meeting night. Our club meetings are held at the Bridgewater Public Library at 6:30 PM.

This is (callsign, name and location of the net operator) and I'll be the Net Control this evening.

The purpose of our net is to relay items of interest to the general Ham Community, such as Health and Welfare information regarding local hams in the area. You don't have to be a member of MARA to join the net, all Hams are welcome. As always Emergency and Priority traffic has precedence and may break in at any time.

We ask that you use the ARRL recommended procedure of saying "This is, drop your carrier to check for doubling and give your name, call sign and location slowly.

Check-ins please come now.

[After check-ins net control goes through a list for general comments and updates from the week's events. Example interesting contacts, new radios, etc]

Any more check-ins

[Net control will bring up a subject for discussion and go through the list, maybe a second round if needed.

Any more check-ins. [Net control can bring up any upcoming events and announcements] [Net control goes through the list closing comments and 73's]

I'd like to thank those who participated this evening, those who stood by during the Net, and the W1MV Repeater Trustees for the use of the repeater. We now return the repeater to its normal operation. After check-ins, net control goes through the list for general comments and updates from the weeks events (interesting contacts, new radios or equipment and the like) Net control looks for check in's

Net control will bring up a subject for discussion and go through the list...maybe do a second round if needed.
Net control looks for check in's Net control can bring up any upcoming events and announcements
Net control goes through the list with closing comments and 73's

Presidents Message

The new Tuesday night has been very well received thanks to Tom WA1TOM. Saturday, April 20th is our club's open house at the Bridgewater Public Library from 12:00PM to 2:00PM. Any request for apparel should be sent to John N1BSO. The apparel items are on the club website.

John Laiosa

Secretary report By Phil McNamara N1XTB

MARA minutes 19 Mar 2024

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

Attendees: N1BSO John, WA1TOM Tom, N1XTB Phil, KC1SMU Scott, N1IQI Loren KB1TEE Rick, N4NMF Barry (via zoom), N4DCK Diane (via Zoom), KA1YL Connie, KC1RAB Ray

Thanks to Tom for the new Net format. Tom ran a very successful net last Tuesday.

Ham Radio Open House presentation at the Bridgewater Library is on for April 20th at noon until 2 PM.

N1XTB to follow up with Library director.

Secretary Report in the newsletter was accepted

Still need to swap DC power supply at the repeater. N1XTB's loaner still in place. Two power supplies donated by Allen WA1BEE still need to be transported to site

Excess Repeater donated by Bridgewater Fire Department is installed on the hill as the new GMRS repeater. Nearfest this spring is scheduled for a Thursday and Friday N1BSO asked N1XTB to coordinate any fill ins for the Tuesday night net since he will be tied up teaching a class the next few Tuesdays. WA1TOM plans to handle the Tuesday nets except possibly while he is on duty April 9 and 23rd. N1XTB will touch base with existing net controls.

Meeting adjourned at 1842

--

73,

Phil McNamara

Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE

Please sign up for the roll of net controller we need your assistance



Dear Friends of NEAR-Fest:

dreamstime.com

ID 125312952 © Grafner

NEAR-Fest XXXV April 25th and 26th 2024

Please note this is an updated announcement. Please disregard any other notices you may have read.

Our Spring 2024 hamfest, NEAR-Fest XXXV, will be held on **Thursday April 25th and Friday April 26th 2024**. There will be no hamfest activity on Saturday due to an unfortunate scheduling conflict with the Deerfield Fairgrounds. We had originally announced that the event would take place only on Friday but due to popular demand and the cooperation of the Deerfield Fair Association we are pleased to announce this new full two-day schedule.

Our 2024 Fall NEAR-Fest XXXVI is scheduled for **October 11th and 12th** and will be the same as always for the past eighteen years, on Friday and Saturday.

The gates will open on Thursday morning at 7:00 AM for PREPAID TICKET HOLDERS ONLY so you might want to buy your tickets online well in advance starting February 1st 2024 on our Web site, www.near-fest.com, or in March at the Ham Radio Outlet store in Salem NH and at Ross Hochstrasser's Clock Shop in Whitman MA and get your favorite spot. NEAR-Fest XXXV will end at 3:00 PM on Friday.

Prepaid ticket holders will line up and enter via Gate C as we did in the Fall. They MUST have ALL of their needed tickets and inside parking passes or they will be sent to Gate F. This includes all Campers, RVs, tents, who MUST also have their overnight camping passes as there will be **NO tickets or passes sold at Gate C**. Anyone needing to buy tickets or parking passes will go to Gate F and will be admitted starting at 8:00AM. Once the line has entered at Gate C it will close and all others entering the grounds will proceed to Gate F.

For this event only admission per person is \$10.00 whether you buy your ticket online or in advance or at the gate. Overnight parking and tent passes are \$15.00 regardless of whether you plug into an electric outlet or not. Campers, RVs and overnight stayers will go directly into the Fairgrounds as we will not be using the campgrounds this time. The cost of the pass for RVs, Campers, Motorhomes, etc, is \$30.00. All vehicles that

remain in the Fairgrounds overnight (after 9:00 PM) will require an overnight parking pass in addition to an inside parking pass for Friday.

Everyone over 21 will need an admission ticket except unlicensed spouses, active duty military, full-time students (with ID) and other valid pass holders.

If you buy something big and heavy in the flea market one of our volunteer staff members will be glad to transport it and you to your vehicle at no charge as we have been doing for many years. As always inside parking for disabled persons is free of charge and they may use a single person "mobility device" as well. NEAR-Fest reserves the right to limit the use of golf carts and "other power driven mobility devices" due to safety concerns and potential liability issues.

Please visit our Web site, www.near-fest.com, or our Facebook page, NearFest NH for any further updates. We apologize for any inconvenience that this modified version of NEAR-Fest may have caused but it is only for this time. We appreciate your indulgence and understanding.

See you at Deerfield!

73,

MisterMike, W1RC

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND

0000Z 01 Jun 2024 - 2359Z 02 Jun 2024

PLEASE NOTE: This is NOT a contest!



Please join us on the USS Massachusetts NE1PL



VHF/UHF Spring Sprints

Of interest to weak-signal VHF/UHF amateur radio operators, the 144 MHz Spring Sprints, sponsored by the Central States VHF Society, begin on Monday, April 1, at 1900 local time, and concluding at 2300 local time. The 144 MHz Spring Sprints are the first of a series of five events, each focusing on specific bands. The remaining dates are as follows:

- 222 MHz - Tuesday April 16, 1900 - 2300 Local
- 432 MHz - Wednesday April 24, 1900 - 2300 Local
- Microwave - Saturday May 4, 0800 - 1400 Local
- 50 MHz - Saturday May 11, 2300z through Sunday May 12 2024 0300z

For rules and more information, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/2024-information>.

Get Ready for the 2024 ARRL National Convention and Youth Rally

A full slate of programming has been committed for the 2024 ARRL National Convention, which will be hosted by Dayton Hamvention®, May 17 - 19, in Xenia, Ohio. Hamvention is the largest annual gathering of radio amateurs in the world.

Coupled with the National Convention, this year promises to be a Hamvention not to miss. Building on a yearlong theme to "Be Radio Active," ARRL has planned exhibits, forums, panels, and activities that promise to engage and inspire attendees in a wide range of amateur radio interests.

Hamvention has committed one of its four forum rooms to a track of ARRL National Convention presentations with topics that span public service, technology, on-air activities, instruction, and youth outreach.



- In the **Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®)** forum, ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, will discuss the role of SAFECOM in supporting the public safety community to improve the emergency communications ecosystem, as well as the importance of building mutually beneficial relationships with local emergency management officials.
- ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, will lead an **Instructor Academy**, showing off many new training tools to help lead lively ham radio license classes.
- ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, will cover **Youth Outreach through Amateur Radio STEM Education**, covering ways to inspire students to pursue higher education and careers in technological fields.
- **Enhancing Transmitter Performance** will examine the ARRL Clean Signal Initiative, and presenters include ARRL Second Vice President Mike Ritz, W7VO; Rob Sherwood, NCOB, of Sherwood Engineering Inc., and ARRL Laboratory Manager George Spatta, W1GKS.
- Kyle Krieg, AA0Z, will present, **How to Control Your Ham Shack with A Node-RED Dashboard**, offering a tutorial for this easy-to-learn flow-based programming language that ham radio operators can use to build simple web-based dashboards that provide command, control, and automation in their ham shack.
- ARRL First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, will examine the theory of ground, discussing dc grounds, RF grounds, and even talking about gravity, in her presentation, **Ground is a Myth!**

- ARRL CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA, will delve into the world of **Gaming the Amateur Radio Modes**, offering tips and tricks covering station design, operating, instruction, and mastering the art of amateur radio modes, including FT8.
- **Five Steps to a Successful POTA (Parks on the Air®) Activation** will be presented by Michael Martens, KB9VBR, of KB9VBR Antennas on YouTube.
- ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, will moderate a panel on **Good Operators and Interference** that includes Lark Hadley, KA4A, Director, Region Three, FCC Enforcement Bureau; ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, and ARRL Laboratory Manager George Spatta, W1GKS.
- ARRL Field Services Manager Mike Walters, W8ZY, will present, **Tips for Successful Radio Clubs**.
- ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, and Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, will provide an **ARRL Contest Program Update**.
- Explore the full scope of operating privileges and ham radio activities that can be done with a Technician - class license, in the forum **Beyond Repeaters: See How Far Your Tech License Will Take You**, presented by ARRL Laboratory Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, KD2ZWN.

Additionally, an ARRL Membership Forum will be held on Saturday, May 18, covering several key areas of membership interest. The forum will be moderated by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY, and panelists include ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR; First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, and CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA.

On Saturday, May 18, a **2024 ARRL Youth Rally** will be a special feature of the National Convention at Hamvention. The Youth Rally is intended for students who are 11 to 21 years of age. While Hamvention offers free tickets for youth aged 12 through 18, advance registration for the Youth Rally is recommended. A preliminary Youth Rally agenda and registration instructions are on the ARRL website, at www.arrl.org/expo. The Youth Rally registration fee is \$20 and includes a tee shirt (to wear on Saturday), badge, lanyard, and reusable tote bag.

Youth Rally participants will enjoy a full day of activities, discovery, sharing, and fun. Rally day begins at 9:15 AM on Saturday with the annual Dayton Youth Forum - open to all Hamvention attendees -- moderated by well-known amateur radio educator Carole Perry, WB2MGP. The forum includes presentations from young hams covering a variety of amateur radio activities, topics, and technology. After lunch (on your own) Youth Rally registrants will gather in Forum Room 3 to get know each other and to explore a variety of amateur radio interests and activities. Learn about satellite communications, participate in a short sprint contest, contact a parachute mobile station, and participate in other fun! Bring a 2-meter handheld radio if you have one.

The Youth Rally will wrap up on Saturday with a presentation from the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program (CARP).

Learn more about the 2024 ARRL National Convention at www.arrl.org/expo, where you can find the full listing of ARRL-sponsored forums, exhibits, and activities.

Hamvention is held in Xenia, Ohio, on the sprawling grounds of the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Visit the event's website at www.hamvention.org, where you can also purchase tickets, find the complete list of Hamvention forums, and learn more about the event.



Amateur Radio Saves Family in Death Valley National Park

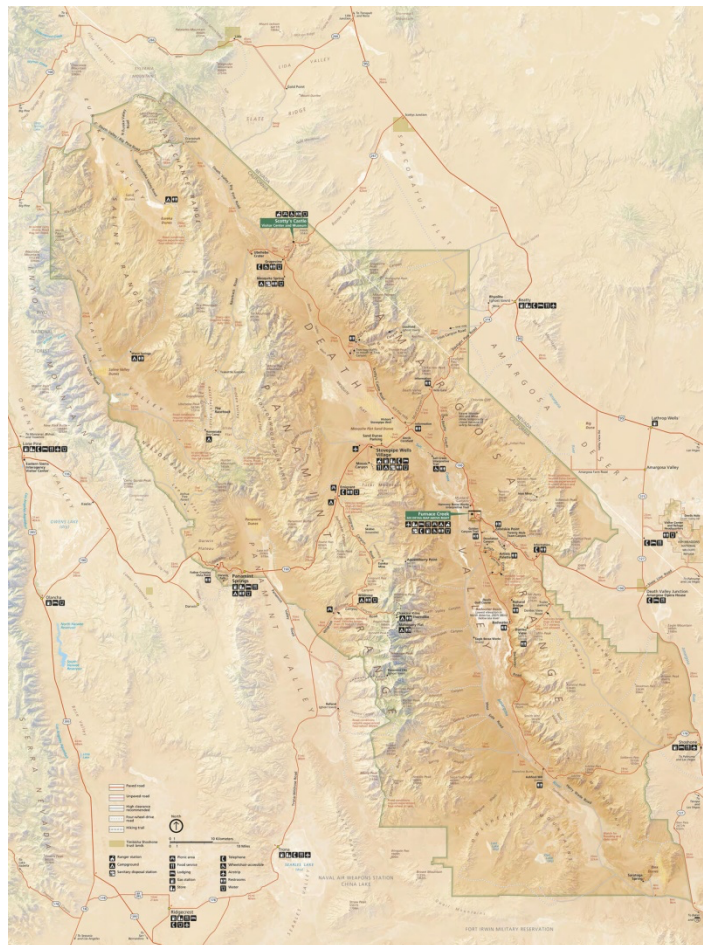
04/12/2024

Death Valley National Park is in a remote desert in southern California, where mobile phone networks are spotty at best. On Saturday, April 6, a radio amateur and his family were enjoying the park when their vehicle became stuck in mud in a dangerous area. Without access to a cell network, the ham called for help on the 10-meter band.

According to a news release from the Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club, Caleb Gustwiller, KD8TGB, jumped into action.

Gustwiller was monitoring from Ohio when he picked up the distress call. He was able to hear the call sign and the general location of the ham in distress. He lost the signal to the noise, so he wrote a post in the Parks on the Air® Facebook group asking for other hams to listen for the calls.

Several hams contacted emergency officials in southern California, which led to the ham and their family being rescued within a few hours by park rangers. The club stated in their Facebook post: "Without Caleb hearing this distress call, it could have quickly become a very deadly situation for the operator and his family."



Death Valley map USGS 3.4 million acres



Aaliyah Rigby and Abbey Anderson react when contact is made with astronaut Matthew Dominick over a radio at Blue Peak High School in Tooele on Monday, April 8, 2024. "This is something I get to brag about to my kids in the future!" said Anderson. "I'm just so excited I got to do something so cool with my life today," said Rigby. | Marielle Scott, Deseret News

By [Ariel Harmer](#)

Ariel is on the Audience team at Deseret News and covers breaking news, crime, food and travel.

The solar eclipse might not have been fully visible from Utah, but that didn't stop a group of Tooele students from having an astronomical experience on Monday, when they interviewed an astronaut aboard the International Space Station as it passed over Utah.

Students in the Tooele County School District were able to communicate with Matthew Dominick, a NASA flight engineer on [Expedition 71](#) on the space station, through the [Amateur Radio on the International Space Station](#) program. The international program coordinates radio contact events for classrooms and communities to learn more about life in space and practice using communication and radio technologies.

Teachers and students gathered in Tooele's Community Learning Center, which houses the district's career and technical education programs. Members of the Logan-based [Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club](#) provided tech support for the event, which included constructing an antenna system on the center's roof in order to connect to the space station.

The call started when the International Space Station was positioned above Utah, around 11:45 a.m. MDT. Clint Thomsen, the teacher who coordinated the event, switched on his radio and called out to the space station, which orbits around 250 miles above sea level. The crowd heard only static at first, but astronaut Dominick's voice finally crackled through the auditorium's sound system.

Students quizzed Dominick on his training to become an astronaut, the physical effects of being in space, how zero gravity would affect the flight of a paper airplane, what movie nights are like on the space station and whether there is a procedure in place for alien contact (Dominick said there isn't).

Dominick also shared some interesting anecdotes from his life in space. One student asked what it was like to cry in zero gravity, and although Dominick reported he hadn't yet had "a really good cry" in space, he said another astronaut had recently experienced something similar.

“The other day a friend of mine had some chili pepper in her eye, so we took a drink bag, squirted water out and filled up her eye socket with water, and it stayed there,” Dominick said. “It doesn’t run down her face, it just stays in her eyeball. It’s kind of fun to see, so I would imagine tears would just well up and create a giant ball of water in your eyeball.”

Dominick encouraged the students to find their niche in space exploration and pursue subjects they love.

“If you find out what you’re passionate about, you’ll do a much better job at it,” he said. “If you go do something you love, at the end, you’ll be so much better at it ... and we need all kinds of people with all kinds of talents up here to (work) from a diversity of backgrounds to make it go farther.”

Chaston Williams, one of the students who spoke with Dominick, said one of the best parts of the experience was connecting with the astronauts over their shared interest in radio technology.

“It’s cool that they also have that hobby to do ham radio,” he said.

Williams explained that everyone in his cybersecurity class at the community learning center studied for a ham radio license exam, which prepared them to develop radio- and STEM-focused questions for Dominick.

Thomsen, who teaches a variety of computer classes at the center, said ham radio is a great way to teach students the principles of basic electronics and communications. He added that using radio for this event also allowed students to have a more unique, direct experience with astronauts.

“It’s personal to them,” he said. “They have a contact not through some sort of satellite network, not through some sort of big, complex broadcast environment, but talking directly to astronauts. I think that tangibility is great on so many levels for students.” Bob Wood, a member of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club who assisted in the event, has enjoyed ham radio as a hobby for years. He said his favorite part of the event wasn’t the technical portion, but seeing students’ reactions to what technology could accomplish.

“It is so amazing to see what these kids now see in our communications,” he said. “They’ll look at a space career, they’ll look at a radio communications career, they’ll look at a computer career, and we have that influence on them.” Wood said the club has set up their equipment for similar events in Utah and even received a request to do so in another state.

“This has been amazing, mainly because with this project, with the International Space Station, we can bring it to schools and watch the faces of the children as they see this communication with a man in space,” he said.

The event was made possible through a grant from the ARISS program, which coordinates similar opportunities across the globe. The program is managed by several international amateur radio organizations and space agencies and encourages students to explore careers in STEM. The program is currently accepting [proposals](#) from both formal and informal educational organizations to host their own amateur radio contact with the International Space Station.

Thomsen said the event was the culmination of nearly three years’ work, but that the effort was worth it because of how much the students enjoyed the event. His own daughter, Tater, was able to ask Dominick a question, and he said it was amazing as both a teacher and parent to see her experience. “I had a hard time not just grabbing her and squeezing her and kissing her right there,” he said. “She has been interested in space for the longest time. She’s been to see launches, she’s been to all the various space centers and she absolutely loves space. So this was really, really, really neat for her, and it was super awesome for me to be here with her.”

Thomsen said one student, nearly in tears, told him she’d remember the day for the rest of her life.

“These kids will take this experience today, and maybe they’ll go into some related field, maybe some STEM field, maybe not,” Thomsen said. “But they’re definitely not going to forget it. It’s that passion for these things that we want to convey along with the knowledge to kids.”



**Pleaseremember our club meeting and BBQSO on Tuesday
August 20 1700 start time meeting at 1830**

Location is at 135 Wareham St Middleborough, MA

Talk in is on the MARA repeater 147-180 pl67



**Bring your own food to cook on the grill beverage of choice
please bring something to share with the group**

Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board

President : John Laiosa acting as president

Vice President: OPEN

Secretary: OPEN

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 kc1gtr.mara@gmail.com

ARC 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, for time being, Tuesday Night Zoom meeting will be at 6:30pm.

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

KAICDD/R.C.C.

Massachusetts

THE BAY STATE



Chickadee - State Bird