

April 2025

Volume 63 Issue 04



<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 April 31st 2026 at the new Bridgewater Fire Station, 1185 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater. Social hour is from 1800. Meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+. May meeting is on the 19th.

ON THE AIR Tuesdays First May 5, Second May 12 and Fourth May 26. Tom Luckman WA1TOM will be the net controller.

Presidents Message

We had our second meeting at the new Bridgewater Fire house. We had a good turnout including the return of Loren, N1IQI. We also had a new member; Larry W1PM, he also made a monetary donation to the club. Thank you Larry! We briefly discussed the open house and a preliminary decision was made to have it at the old foundry in Bridgewater. I have announced that I will not be running for president again. I have been in the position long enough and it is time for someone new to do it. As for now Tom WA1TOM has expressed interest in being president. The position of vice-president is open. Phil has agreed to stay on as treasurer. Phil will ask his son if he still wants to still be secretary. The April meeting will have nominations for offices and elections in May.

On a sad note I was informed the other day that Loren's wife has passed away. Our condolences to him and his family.

John Laiosa

Secretary report By Phil McNamara N1XTB

March 17, 2026 MARA club meeting minutes:

Recorded by Phil N1XTB

Meeting called to order by John N1BSO, in the new Bridgewater Firehouse meeting room.

Attendees:

N1XTB Phil, N1BSO John, N1IQI Loren, KA1YL Connie, N1AS Alan, N1LYP Eric
KM1TWL Jim via zoom, KB1WCK Joe, KC1TLT Wendy, WAITOM Tom
K1UVH Mike, W1PM Larry, N4NMF Barry via zoom, N1UMJ John via zoom

Motion to accept the secretaries report as published in the newsletter,
Accepted.

Treasurer's report. Accepted.

Repeater report. No problems, Yaseu still operating normally. Accepted.

Old business.

Open House in September. Date TBD, Likely at Stanley Iron works park, Bridgewater

Tuesday night nets - Tom will be working up a schedule to rotate net controls. Volunteers please contact him.

Health & Welfare: Tom mentioned that Jim W1GQN has become a silent key. Jim Havens passed away after a long illness on Monday March 9'th. Jim was a former MARA member and was former net control and active on the Saturday night South Shore Skywarn net.

New business:

Nominations for Club officers next month and elections at the May meeting. John N1BSO announced that he is stepping down as president. Tom WA1TOM is willing to move from VP to president. Phil N1XTB is willing to stay on as Treasurer. Philip KC1JDN is willing to stay on as Secretary

New members voted in:

Larry, W1PM.

Larry paid dues and also added a donation to the club.

Meeting adjourned at 18:39

73,

Phil McNamara

Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE

Not much club news is coming in. Thank you to Wendy for giving me information on the POTA events coming up.



AMATEUR RADIO

FD★26

A NATIONAL RESOURCE

Field Day 2026 — Get Ready Now

With the annual ARRL Field day fast approaching, let's talk about some ideas for how your club can peak some interest. As you know, 2026 is ARRL's Year of the Club. The goal of Year of the Club is to promote clubs and give them tools to help them grow. One way to do this is for the club to be active. We've seen a trend with clubs who are hosting events, having on-air activities, and doing more than meeting for coffee once a month, in that they tend to be the ones growing. They see interest from the community, and even see youth get involved in the club. This is good not only for the club but for ham radio.

We want you to think about how ARRL Field Day can be a recruiting tool and a great club activity at the same time. ARRL encourages you to begin your community outreach now, ensuring you get a park location that's visible to the public so they can come and experience ham radio firsthand. Get information out to public officials, media, and community groups now, so they can begin planning. If you have an active chamber of commerce, they may have resources to help spread the word. Begin working with all these outlets now and be in communication with them periodically until the event. If you usually participate in Field Day from your Emergency Operations Center with limited access to the public, consider planning a remote operation at a park location. Think of ways to keep your club and members of the community engaged, and provide opportunities to get on the air. Whatever you plan to do, start planning early, and make 2026 the best Field Day yet.

International Marconi Day is April 25

International Marconi Day is celebrated annually on the Saturday closest to April 25, honoring the birth of Guglielmo Marconi, the inventor of radio. This 24-hour amateur radio event encourages participants to connect with historic Marconi sites using similar communication techniques he developed. This year Marconi Day is April 25th. Barbara N1NP is leading a group operating from the Marconi Site in Wellfleet. She could use some help with setup (~0730) and teardown (~1600). Come on down to the Cape to help us celebrate! All are welcome to observe and to help with meet-n-greets. Full story at

<https://ema.arrl.org/2026/04/10/international-marconi-day-april-25th-2026/>

Ham Radio Open House in April

Clubs are encouraged to showcase the latest digital modes such as FT8 using *WSJT-X*, or others. This could be a great opportunity to explore new areas of amateur radio and demonstrate how the service is at the cutting edge of electrical engineering. Imagine your open-house visitors seeing a software-defined radio (SDR) waterfall display and then hearing what the signal they see on the screen sounds like and seeing the message it contains.

World Amateur Radio Day, held on April 18 each year, is celebrated worldwide by radio amateurs and their national associations, which are organized as member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). It was on this day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president. This year's activity is part of ARRL's "Year of the Club" theme.

Look for resources to help organize and promote the event soon, including an interactive Ham Radio Open House Locator. Find details at www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day.

Open Positions at ARRL

Come join the headquarters staff of ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®! We are currently seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

Operations Administrative Assistant **Membership Manager** **RFI Lab Engineer**
Public Relations and Outreach Manager
IT Support Specialist

Full details may be found on the ARRL HR web page at www.arrl.org/careers.

ARRL is an equal opportunity employer.

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND

(0000Z) 06 Jun 2026 - (2359Z) 07 Jun 2026

PLEASE NOTE: This is NOT a contest! It is a FUN Event!

While operation on any amateur frequency is allowed, most ships will be operating in the General portion of the bands. Main modes being used are SSB and CW

AS OF 4/9/2026 THERE ARE SHIPS PARTICIPATING FOR 2026 - **52 Ships**
USS Massachusetts operating for 2026



Please join us on the USS Massachusetts NE1PL April 19th let's get this great ship on the air
Anyone who can operate CW we are trying to get the ships original equipment on the air
again

April 18th 2026 On the air remembering this ship

June 6-7 Museum ships on the air weekend

September 19th Ships launching day remembered

Contact Rick Emord KB1TEE at kb1tee@gmail.com

In Brief...

The **Wellesley Amateur Radio Society (WARS)** in Wellesley, Massachusetts, is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2026.

Founded in 1951, WARS has provided public service, education and seminars, Field Day and contest coordination, and a genuine sense of community for three quarters of a century.

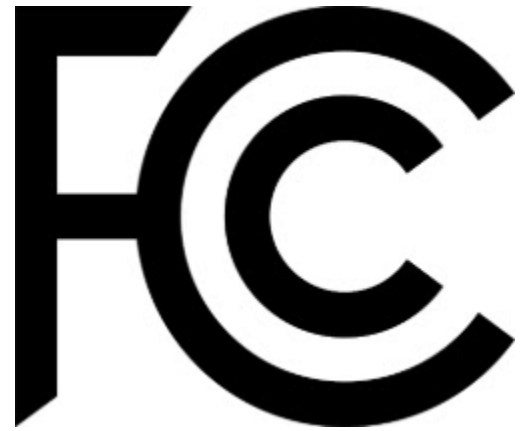
1951 also marked other historic milestones including the first

coast-to-coast television broadcast, the first **UNIVAC I computer**, the ratification of the 22nd amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and the start of Korean War armistice talks. The official date of the celebration is Saturday, May 2, 2026. For more information, visit the WARS website.



FCC Recruiting 7 Field Agents – Electronics Engineers

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is looking for qualified applicants for Field Agents in seven Enforcement Bureau (EB) offices across the United States: Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; New Orleans, LA; New York, NY, and Portland, OR. Incumbents will resolve Radio Frequency (RF) interference, educate users, and enforce regulations. The GS levels for this position have been expanded to GS 7, opening the opportunity for new college graduates. One year of work experience is not required for this position. Closing date is March 13, 2026.



From the FCC posting:

Performs and directs fieldwork in matters of importance to communications involving safety of life and property. Serves as a point of contact for FCC licensees including the US Government in matters of fixed and mobile radio direction-finding and interference resolution. Participates in unique enforcement and engineering projects that have regional or national applications.

Operates and understands all technical equipment typically used in the Field including RF spectrum analyzers, field strength meters, RF Field survey meters, and radio receivers. Maintains contacts with and assists other Federal agencies, foreign counterparts, and local law enforcement organizations concerning interaction and utilization of the radio spectrum for both authorized and unauthorized activities.

Initiates Official Notices of Violation, Warnings, Notices of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture, and other orders to radio operators and licensees, to bring unsatisfactory or violative conditions to their attention as a result of monitoring, investigations and inspections. Independently initiates correspondence or other communications with complainants and radio users concerning the enforcement functions of the office and region.

Participates in regional emergency planning meetings, serves as the local expert in emergency communications restoration, participates in FEMA conducted training exercises and is able to serve on ESF-2 task force and deployments as necessary. Participates and assists in planning of Bureau enforcement and compliance workshops for persons associated with the various industries and radio services the Commission regulates.

The Salary is \$57,736 to \$158,322 per year per year depending on qualifications and experience. See the official, complete announcement for GS-855-7/9/11/12/13 Electronics Engineer (Field Agent) on USAjobs.gov at www.usajobs.gov/job/857694500.

ARISS Outlines Opportunities for Space Station Contacts in 2027

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program is seeking formal and informal educational institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host an amateur radio contact with a crew member on board the ISS.

Crew members will participate in scheduled amateur radio contacts. These radio contacts are approximately 10 minutes in length and allow students to interact with the astronauts through a question-and-answer session.

ARISS anticipates that the contact would be held between January 1 and June 30, 2027. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact contact dates. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan.

The deadline to submit a proposal is May 22, 2026, 11:59 PM Pacific Time. Proposal information and necessary details are at ariss-usa.org/proposal-overview/.

An ARISS Introductory Webinar session will be held April 30 at 8 PM ET. The Zoom link to sign up is: us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/3yid9dxzRkmYfVroIP0nWA.

An ARISS contact is a voice-only communication opportunity via amateur radio between astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the space station and classrooms and communities. ARISS contacts afford education audiences the opportunity to learn firsthand from astronauts what it is like to live and work in space and to learn about space research conducted on the ISS. Students also will have an opportunity to learn about satellite communication, wireless technology, and radio science. Because of the nature of human spaceflight and the complexity of scheduling activities aboard the ISS, organizations must demonstrate flexibility to accommodate changes in dates and times of the radio contact.

Amateur radio organizations around the world, with the support of NASA and space agencies in Russia, Canada, Japan, and Europe present educational organizations with this opportunity. The ham radio organizations' volunteer efforts provide the equipment and operational support to enable communication between crew on the ISS and students around the world using amateur radio. Please direct any questions to education@ariss-usa.org.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the International Space Station (ISS). In the United States, sponsors are ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio, Amateur Radio



Digital Communications (ARDC), Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT), NASA's Space Communications and Navigation program (SCaN) and the ISS National Lab—Space Station Explorers.

ARISS Outlines Opportunities for Space Station Contacts in 2027

Lessons Learned from the Blizzard of '26

Well, now, that was a doozy, wasn't it?! We got 80+ MPH winds here on the Cape, and way too much snow. Downed trees, downed power lines, no commercial power or landline phones or internet for almost five days. From various ARES and other nets I've participated in since the blizzard, I've gleaned the usual reminders about charging HTs, making sure you have sufficient fuel on-hand (gasoline, propane, etc.). But a biggie for me: Entertainment. When the internet goes down, most computer, tablet, or phone games won't work. Don't count on cellular data – carriers prioritize bandwidth for government agencies.



I took this picture out of my front window during the Blizzard



MARA BBQSO 2026

Tuesday August 18th 5pm through to 9pm at 135 Wareham St Middleborough MA
please contact Rick KB1TEE

Eastern Massachusetts ARRL Section

Eastern Massachusetts ARES was placed on stand-by on Sunday February 22 for any partner agencies and to augment and enhance support for the ARES-SKYWARN nets for participation. Eight different amateur service repeaters had rolling nets on an hourly to two-hourly basis reporting the rapidly accumulating snowfall as high as 4-5" per hour resulting in snow accumulations of 1-3 feet with isolated higher amounts, storm damage from the combination of wet snow and strong to damaging wind gusts, including some beyond hurricane force.

Several hundred reports were generated from the nets. ARES coordinators and net controllers staffed the nets for over 18 hours, including Terry Stader, KA8SCP; Stu Solomon, W1SHS; Don Rolph, AB1PH; Tom Ulrich, KC1OCY; Jim Palmer, KB1KQW; Patrick Mannion, W1PAC; Phil McNamara, N1XTB; Jeff Lehmann, AJ1L; Frank O'Laughlin, WQ1O; along with several other net controls. In addition to the ARES-SKYWARN activity, Cape Cod ARES members Chris Ranney, WA1CMR, and Dennis Driscoll, N1DRN, deployed to support operations in the town of Sandwich, Massachusetts, providing auxiliary communications between their EOC and the shelter for the town.

Rhode Island ARRL Section

Through the efforts of Rhode Island SKYWARN Coordinator Wayne Burkett Sr., KA1VRF, and Bill Boyes, KB1G, Rhode Island SKYWARN stood up nets on the NB1RI Rhode Island statewide linked repeater system for over an 18 hour period, including during the overnight period Sunday, February 22, through Monday morning. Reports were of downed trees and power lines, and rapidly accumulating snow 4-5" per hour that had up to 3 feet of snow with isolated higher amounts. Despite Rhode Island being a small state, several hundred reports were generated via their nets.

Connecticut ARRL Section

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Through the efforts of Roger Jeanfaivre, K1PAI, and Mary Duval, K1MTD, the 146.79 MHz Vernon repeater provided ARES-SKYWARN net coverage across Hartford, Tolland, and Windham Counties with over a half dozen nets and more than 100 reports of snowfall received with 1-2 feet of snow and some reports of damage between wet snow and strong to damaging wind gusts in the northeast region of the state.

Western Massachusetts ARRL Section

ARES-SKYWARN Net Coordinators and net control stations Charlie "Smitty" Smith, KC1IKA; Ez Moralez, W1AE; Bob Meneguzzo, K1YO, and Rich Laviolette, KC1AEO, ran nets every two hours Sunday evening and all day Monday. Al Giguere Jr., KB1VNH, also supported efforts with spotter reports during the nets. Over a hundred reports were generated with 6-12" of snow and isolated higher amounts reported along with some pockets of tree and power line damage and power outages.

Amateur radio received media attention on The Weather Channel several times throughout the blizzard. Reporter Jim Cantore stated, "When we get all these observations, it comes from SKYWARN spotters and amateur radio operators because when people can't communicate and the phone lines are down, the amateur radio operators are all we got." The [WX1BOX](#) web site has been updated with a *Post Blizzard Coordination Message*. One more update may be provided by the end of March or early April. —Rob Macedo, KD1CY, ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator and SKYWARN Coordinator



ARRL
EASTERN
MASSACHUSETTS
SECTION



The ARRL Solar Update for 04/10/2026

Solar activity remained at low levels this week. Most of the C-class activity came from either Region 4414 or Region 4409, which has developed a delta spot in its intermediary area. All remaining spots were either stable or in slight decay, with Region 4406 rotating over the west limb by the end of the reporting period.

Coronal activity was observed in CCOR-1, LASCO and STEREO available imagery during the period. Of the four eruptions, one was far-sided, one was too narrow plus too far north of the ecliptic to have any Earth-directed component, and two had the potential for Earth-directed components. The first was associated with a C2.4 flare from Region 4414 while there was no clear source for the second. Modeling indicates these eruptions will pass behind Earth's orbit and no impact is anticipated. Eruptions potentially associated with the C8.9 are currently being analyzed. Radio blackouts reaching the R1 levels were observed over the past 24 hours. The largest was on Apr 9th 2026 at 08:45 UTC.

Solar activity is expected to be at low levels over April 9 to 11, with a chance for M-class (R1-R2/minor-moderate) flares and a slight chance for X-class (R3/strong or greater) flares, driven primarily by the flare potential of Regions 4409 and 4414. The greatest expected 3 hr Kp for Apr 09 through Apr 11 2026 is 5 (.33NOAA scale G1).

A brief description of Sunspots can be found on the Space Weather Prediction Center website at, <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/phenomena/sunspotssolar-cycle> .

Solar wind parameters reflected the transition out of a waning negative polarity coronal hole high speed stream (CH HSS) into nominal conditions. Wind speeds continued to decline from a peak of ~500 km/s to near 400 km/s by the end of the period.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere, April 9, 2026, by F. K. Janda, OK1HH:

Perhaps the biggest surprise in recent days was that, following the geomagnetic disturbance of April 2–3 (which had been expected, albeit a day earlier and with lower intensity), there were no further major surprises. Solar activity declined as predicted, whereas because it declined over a relatively long period, there was a greater-than-expected drop in critical frequencies in the F2 ionospheric region at mid-latitudes.

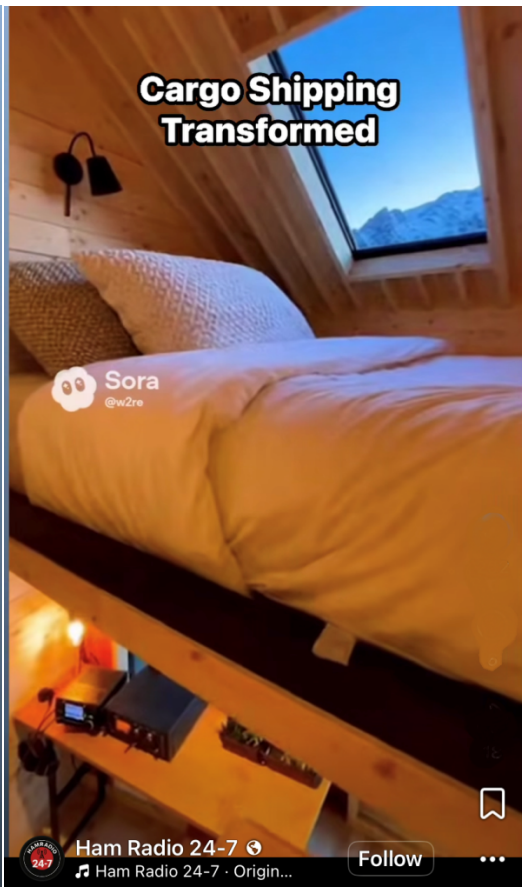
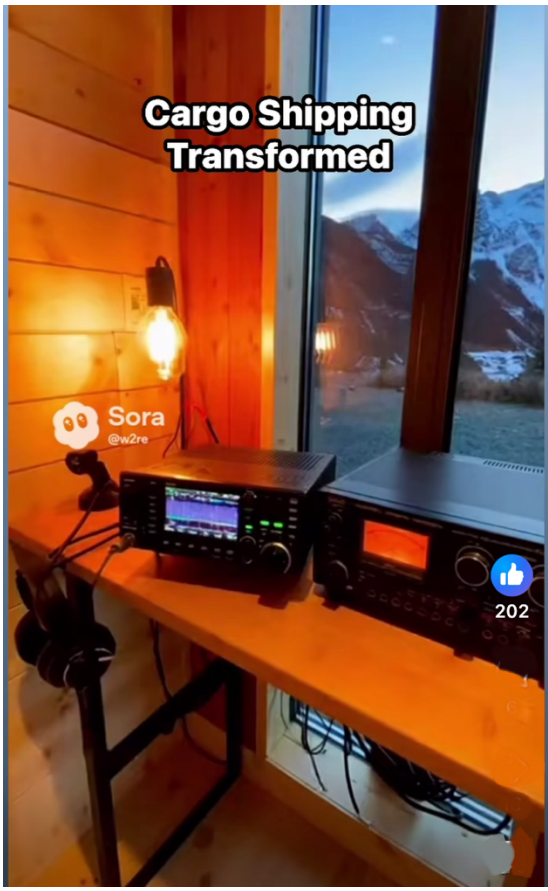
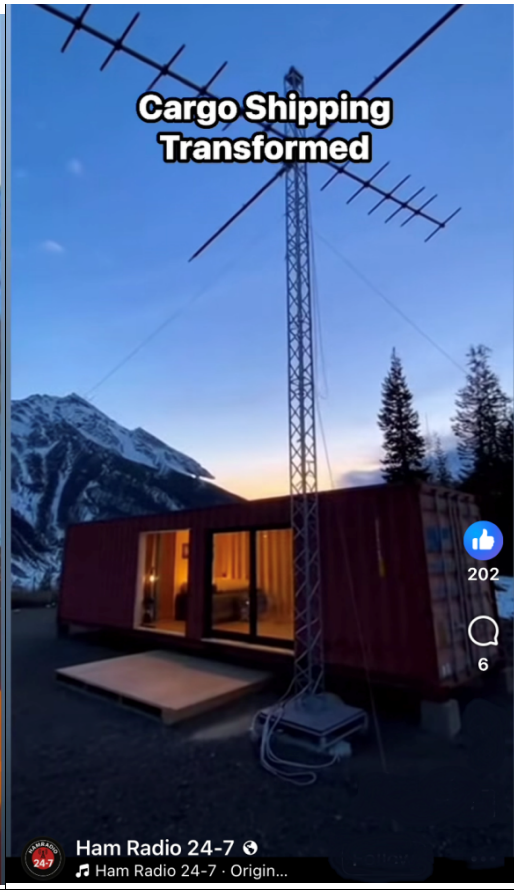
For forecasting developments in the second third of April, the 27-day cycle could serve as a relatively reliable guide this time. First of all, one might expect a one- to two-day increase in geomagnetic activity (which is also indicated by the presence of solar coronal holes near the central meridian), followed by relative calm. This is despite the short time that has elapsed since the eleven-year peak of solar activity.

The Predicted Planetary A Index for April 4 to April 10 is 5, 4, 3, 2, 2, 2, and 2 with a mean of 2.8. The Predicted Planetary K Index is 18, 10, 8, 7, 5, 4, and 7 with a mean of 8.4. 10.7 centimeter flux is 106, 105, 108, 110, 115, 115, and 120 with a mean of 111.2.

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/> .

Some pictures from the internet of different types of stations some are not amateur radio but I felt were different





Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board

President : John Laiosa

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 W1MV-7 (BROCK)

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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, with zoom attendance available.

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