



December 2023

Volume 60 Issue 12



<http://www.w1mv>



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



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

There is no December meeting Happy Holidays see you on January 16th 2024  
Social hour is from 1800 meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting

**ON THE AIR** Tuesdays 1st Jan 2nd, 2nd Dec 9<sup>th</sup> John N1UMJ, and 4th Jan 23<sup>th</sup>  
Denise KC1CFO, 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 30 Welcome to 2024. Tuesdays at 2000 (8pm) news  
line and conversation

We are looking for ideas for the weekly net some people have asked us to change it up. Please email our  
president Jon Laiosa [jlaiosa@gmail.com](mailto:jlaiosa@gmail.com) or me Rick Emord [kb1tee@gmail.com](mailto:kb1tee@gmail.com)

## **Presidents Message**

There will be no December meeting as is the tradition. The keying line for the 440 Fusion  
repeater has been fixed and tested. The power supply for the site needs to have some parts  
ordered to see if that fixes the problem. Jeff, AJ1L has put the amplifier back on the 18  
repeater. Jeff also bought a new APRS unit and I think the club should reimburse him for  
it. The cost was \$169. I am still looking for input for a new format for the Tuesday night  
net. If anyone wants to order club apparel please send me the request. I believe the apparel is  
on the club website.

John Laiosa

# **Secretary report**

## **By Phil MacNamara N1XTB**

Meeting called to order at 1836 by John N1BSO

Attendees

John N1BSO

Phil N1XTB

Loren N1IQI

Allen WA1BEE

Connie KA1YL

Secretary report as published in the newsletter approved

Treasurers report approved

Treasurer N1XTB proposed \$100 donation to Library - Approved

John N1BSO discussed repeater hut vandalism

APRS Raspberry PI at repeater site was placed on the internet this week.

Phil N1XTB and Jeff AJ1L worked on this. Remote access is available.

N1BSO mentioned there is a wire still to fix for the repeater controller

Old Business

Discussion about increasing membership.

Revamp of Tuesday night net. N1BSO is drafting a new syllabus and will circulate for comment.

Club Apparel requests - One in the queue, more orders needed to make a minimum volume for an order.

N1BSO will be mailing KC1GTR Wendy's apparel order

New business

Jed the Library Director stopped by the meeting and was introduced by Connie.

Presented Jed with the \$100 donation from the club.

Discussion followed about contingency plans for loss of AC power at the repeater site.

Access to AT&T generator is indeterminate. N1XTB has a small portable Honda that can be brought up. Batteries on site will last many hours.

John N1BSO asked to be added to the power loss email and text alerting system.

No zoom calls for the meeting.

Meeting closed at 1850

Post meeting comment that per the club's usual practice, there will be no December meeting.

Next meeting January 16, 2024.

73,

Phil McNamara

Emergency Operations Center Communications

508-947-9950 (office)

508-947-9947 (home)

[n1xtb@powersrvcs.com](mailto:n1xtb@powersrvcs.com)

[n1xtb@winlink.org](mailto:n1xtb@winlink.org)

## **Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE**

Everything seems to be going good after my surgery my Doctor told me by 8 weeks it will only be 20% healed. I have set dates for the USTNR group operations on the Battleship Massachusetts I am hoping to add some on board day operations. We are still looking for suggestions for the Tuesday night nets and for meeting ideas. Any ideas or other group news please let us know at my email! [kb1tee@gmail.com](mailto:kb1tee@gmail.com)

## **WA1NPO winter fest**

WinterFest 2024 Saturday-January 20<sup>th</sup> 9am-1pm

Hey Hams, We still have \$15 tables available for The Hamfest on Saturday, January 20th 2024 at Rt. 18 1195 Bedford St. Whitman, Ma 02382

You can send a check to PO Box 48 Whitman, Ma 02382

Or

Visit our website and use the PayPal Link [http://www.wa1npo.org/WF/2024Winterfest\\_hasPayPal.html](http://www.wa1npo.org/WF/2024Winterfest_hasPayPal.html)

Please respond to this email if you're interested.

Thank you

The First Best HamFest 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 call: 781-523-5010

or Visit: [www.WA1NPO.org](http://www.WA1NPO.org) Tables Cost: \$15

## **Rookie Roundup**

Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while "Old Timers" make contact with only Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event!

**All events run for 6 hours (from 1800 to 2359 UTC) on the dates shown below.**

**2023:**

- Sunday, April 16, 2023, using SSB.
- Sunday, August 20, 2023, using RTTY.
- Sunday, December 17, 2023, using CW

**2024**

- Sunday, April 21, 2024, using SSB.
- Sunday, August 18, 2024, using RTTY.
- Sunday, December 22, 2024, using CW

Article at [QRPer](#) By ThomasWitherspoon

## **Field Report with N5FY: Checking out the new N6ARA MiniSWR (and a sweet 9V battery) at Don Carter State Park!**



Part of the fun of the campout was hanging with my good friend Joshua (N5FY) Joshua determined we had *just* enough time to pop by Don Carter State Park (K-2171) for a quick POTA activation and still make it to Clayton in time. As a bonus, Don Carter SP has a number of covered picnic shelters, making set up in the dry quite easy (it was raining at the time). For this activation, I used my Mountain Topper MTR-3B field kit that I had used during my SOTA activation on Rocky Mountain. In fact, it was the only radio kit I brought with me for activations that day.

Joshua lent me his [Tufteln 40/20 meter linked EFHW antenna](#) (we only used the 20 meter portion of it) and I also got to use a few other accessories that were still very new to me: One was my friend Ara's latest creation, the [MiniSWR meter](#). Ara (N6ARA) kindly sent me this production unit to test (at no cost to me) earlier in October.

I was very excited about this particular product because a few of my QRP radios lack a built-in SWR meter (my MTR-3B, MTR-5B, TR-35, and SW-3B to name a few). Ara's MiniSWR meter is so tiny, it's easy to carry even in my MTR-3B SOTA kit that's built into a [Pelican 1060 waterproof case](#). (If you'd like more details, I'll be adding this MTR-3B kit to the [Radio Field Kit Gallery](#) soon). As with all of Ara's products, the MiniSWR works brilliantly, is very affordable, and is available as a kit or pre-assembled. [Check it out at N6ARA.com!](#)

Another new-to-me product was [this USB-C rechargeable 9V battery](#) originally recommended by Adam (K6ARK).

Being honest here: this battery sort of blows my mind!

When paired with super efficient QRP radios like my MTR-3B (which uses something like 18mA in receive), one charge will take me through as many as two or three full SOTA/POTA activations!

See the full article at QRPer November 24, 2023

# WINTER FIELD DAY 2024

Greetings,

At the Winter Field Day Association, our mission is to encourage emergency operating preparedness during the winter months when the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards may present unique operational challenges.

Winter Field Day is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to the ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more.

## **Notable Guidelines for Winter Field Day 2024**

- **All stations are limited to a maximum of 100 Watts PEP.**
- **All logs must be in the Cabrillo format and submitted online at [www.winterfieldday.com](http://www.winterfieldday.com)**
- **Mexico stations should use MX as their location identifier.**
- **Bonuses are now listed as objectives and are recorded separately.**
- **Multiple transmitters are allowed to operate on the same band/mode at the same time.**

January 27-28, 2024

## **Anyone looking for Christmas GIFT IDEAS Wish List**

These suggestions came from [QRPer](https://qrper.com) articles

<https://qrper.com/2023/11/field-radio-kit-gallery-m0kvis-mountain-topper-mtr-3b-sota-kit/> by Thomas Witherpoon  
**Field Radio Kit Gallery: M0KVI's Mountain Topper MTR-3B SOTA Kit**



We all love seeing how others have designed their field radio kits.



The radio is an Elecraft KX1. It's a four band radio with the internal ATU. Powering it are six AA Lithium Ion batteries.



Field Kit Gallery: NL5E's Lightweight KX2 SOTA/POTA Alaska Backpacking Radio Kit



etsy.com \$16.99+ Funny HAM RADIO OPERATOR Gift Mug for Men and Women



[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) \$18.39 Amateur Ham Radio Gifts, 20oz Stainless Steel Insulated Tumbler with Lid & Straw



[zazzle.com](https://www.zazzle.com) \$15.90 Funny Amateur Radio Definition Ham Radio Operator T-Shirt



[zazzle.com](https://www.zazzle.com) \$1.05 Design Your Own QSL HAM Radio Operator Op Santa Holiday Postcard

## Maybe a Portable camp kitchen ideas by: Mini Chef

When you think about cooking outdoors, the first thing that comes to mind is the inconvenience of it all. After using My Camp Kitchen products, you will love the convenience.



The My Camp Kitchen Mini Chef was created to fill the needs of RVers, campers, HAM radio and others on the road who are looking for a quick, easy way to make a scrumptious meal. It is small and lightweight yet still holds all the essentials for making great food. The Mini Chef is designed to sit on a table next to your grill so everything you need is within easy reach.

### Designed to hold:

- Three bottles of wine or other beverages.
- Wine glasses (we use Govina glasses—they don't break).
- Various plastic cups and paper plates.
- Spices such as salt, pepper, herbes de Provence, oregano, and garlic and curry powders.
- Wax paper, aluminum foil, and paper towels.
- Olive oil and vinegar.
- Utensils, including a large spoon, spatula, tongs, meat thermometer, grill brush, 3-piece knife set, and room for more.
- Cutting board, hot pads, quart-sized plastic storage bags, and paper towels.

## From the ARRL

### Upcoming ARRL Division Conventions and other major conventions

January 27 | [Winterfest](#), ARRL Midwest Division Convention, Collinsville, Illinois

February 9 - 11 | [Orlando Hamcation](#), ARRL Florida State Convention, Orlando, Florida

March 1 - 2 | [Greater Houston HamFest](#), ARRL West Gulf Division Convention, Rosenberg, Texas



ARRL Members Only Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>

I hope everyone in the Section has been having a good time with the ARRL Volunteers On The Air (VOTA) program this year, making lots of QSOs and racking up lots of VOTA points!

A reminder about the VOTA competition here in the Eastern MA Section: after the VOTA event concludes, the one Eastern MA ARRL member with the highest VOTA point total (per the VOTA Leaderboard, <https://vota.arrl.org/leaderboard.php?state=MA&submit=Filter+by+State>) will receive a softcover copy of the ARRL-100 Antenna Book, compliments of ARRL.

To enter: make sure to upload all your QSOs to LoTW; on or after Jan 10, 2024, I will award the Antenna Book to the EMA-Section ARRL member who has the highest VOTA point total per the VOTA Leaderboard. There is also an Eastern-MA-Section ARRL-Affiliated club competition. The one EMA ARRL-Affiliated club with the highest combined VOTA point total will receive the 6-volume ARRL-100 Handbook, to do with as they please. A club may raffle the Handbook to a member at a meeting, or donate it to a club or public library, or ... the club calls it.

To enter the club competition: make sure your club members have uploaded all contact to LoTW; on or after Jan 10, 2024, send an email to [n1ilz@arrl.org](mailto:n1ilz@arrl.org) and attach a spreadsheet listing the callsigns of club members and their claimed VOTA scores. I will confirm VOTA scores from the VOTA Leaderboard, and the winning club will receive the Handbook.

Questions? Email me at [n1ilz@arrl.org](mailto:n1ilz@arrl.org).

## Run For The Bacon **\*\*NEW TIMES\*\***

Every Third Sunday Night Of Every Month

(7-9 PM EDT) = (6-8 PM EST) = (2300Z - 0100Z)

Local Times Switch When We Switch Between Daylight & Standard Times

### **RULES:**

Work CW stations only, once per band on 160-80-40-20-15-10 only  
Suggest you work the high freq bands first. Then work your way down to 80 and 160

Exchange: RST, SPC (State/Province/Country), FP# (non-members send power)

QSO Points: Member = 3 points, DX members = 5 points, non member = 1 point

SPC Multipliers: State/Province/Country total for all bands.  
The same SPC may be worked on multiple bands for SPC credit.

Fifty (50) members worked Multiplier: Work 50 or more piggies = X 2 multiplier  
The same piggy may be worked on multiple bands for credit toward this multiplier.

Power: QRP only ( qrp defined as 5 watts or less RF transmitter output)

Final Score: (Total QSO points) \* (total SPC) \* 2 (if 50 or more members worked)

Suggested Frequencies CW: 1810.7-1812, 3560.7-3562  
7030.7-7044, 14060.7-14062, 21060.7-21062, 27185, 28060.7-28062

[Email the Contest Manager: Diz, W8DIZ](mailto:Diz@w8diz.com)

# The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP049:

Six new sunspot groups emerged over this reporting week, November 30 to December 6, 2023.

Using the previous week's bulletin as a template, last week's averages were not updated, although all the correct data was there. This week's bulletin includes the updated averages from last week.

Instead of 83.3 being the average daily sunspot number, it was actually 165.9, which dropped this week to 121.1.

Instead of an average daily solar flux of 146, it was actually 181.5, which declined this week to 146.5.

Instead of the average daily planetary A index of 10.1, it was actually 11.6, which rose this week to 17.1. Instead of the average middle latitude A index of 7.3, it was 9, which rose this week to 11.4.

Predicted solar flux is 130, 135, 135, and 140 on December 7 - 10; 130 on December 11 - 13; 140 on December 14 - 16; 150 on December 17; 160 on December 18 - 26; 155, 150, 145, and 140 on December 27 - 30; 136, 134, and 130 on December 31 through January 2, 2024, and 132 on January 3 - 5.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on December 7; 5 on December 8 - 10; 8 on December 11 - 12; 5 on December 13 - 17; 15, 25, 8, 5, 20, and 10 on December 18 - 23; 5 on December 24 - 30; 25, 10, and 8 on December 31 through January 2, 2024, and 5 on January 3 - 6.

Read about a big hole in the sun at <https://bit.ly/41adYDC> and the sun's new active region at <https://bit.ly/3RxtCWG>.

Don't forget, the ARRL 10-Meter Contest is this weekend. Visit <https://www.arrl.org/10-meter> to learn more.

Sunspot numbers for November 30 through December 6, 2023, were 138, 140, 92, 107, 113, 133, and 125, with a mean of 121.1. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 166.5, 162, 148.2, 139.2, 137.8, 141.6, and 129.9, with a mean of 146.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 56, 14, 11, 9, 15, and 10, with a mean of 17.1. Middle latitude A index was 4, 30, 11, 10, 9, 9, and 7, with a mean of 7.3.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. 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.

I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season hopefully we can get some ideas on things to improve the club so we can include everyone please get involved and help us.

Thank you Rick KB1TEE

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](mailto:kc1gtr.mara@gmail.com)

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

Qsl via [www.eqsl.cc](http://www.eqsl.cc)

Skywarn <http://wx1box.org> and

[www.powersrvcs.org/w1gmf/skywarn.htm](http://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 7:00pm. Allen will advise if we can go to in person for next month's.

Our Meetings-On-The-Air are held all other Tuesday evenings at 8PM on 147.180+ and

includes the Westlink News Report with the latest news about happenings in the world of

Amateur Radio.

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](mailto: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



*I was The Night  
Before Christmas...*

**And Santa Had Nowhere  
To Land on My Roof!**

*Best Wishes For  
Good Holiday Logistics  
and a Happy New Year!*

**KB1TEE**

