



December 2025

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<http://www.w1mv>



<https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmaral/>



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

There is no December meeting Happy Holidays see you on January 20th 2026  
Social hour is from 1800 meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting

**ON THE AIR** remember to check out our Tuesday schedule

### **Presidents Message By John Laiosa N1BSO President of MARA**

President's Message:

We had a reasonable turnout at last month's meeting. We discussed all the POTA activity club members are doing. The Tuesday night net is going well, good participation. I have been seeing a lot of activity on the club Facebook page, I am seeing a lot of POTA posts thanks to Wendy KC1TLT, Joe KB1WCK and Tom WA1TOM. The IRLP link on the 2m repeater was down for a while due to a broken wire. Many thanks to Jeff AJ1L for making a new cable. The repeater was off the air for a time the last couple of weeks due to deliberate interference. There was a discussion by Tom WA1TOM about the moving of the EOC to the new fire headquarters. The WARC will be having Winterfest January 17, 2026, check their website for times.

We have some equipment donated to the club:

Heathkit Manual Antenna Tuner \$10

Antenna \$5

Mobil dual band antenna, NMO mount \$5

House Mount Dual band with a large amount of RG8 cable \$10

SBE 12v Power supply 12V 3A \$5

Random antenna parts, radials, radial mount and a CB 72 inch whip \$5

I will try to get some pictures. All proceeds go to the club.

Remember there is no meeting in **December**, see you in January.

Everybody have a happy and safe holiday. John Laiosa club president

# **Secretary report By Phil McNamara N1XTB**

MARA minutes 18 Nov 2025

Pre-meeting talk about HamAlert software

Meeting called to order by John N1BSO at 1833 at the Bridgewater Library meeting room.

## **Attendees**

**N1BSO John, N1XTB Phil, KA1YL Connie, KC1TLT Wendy, KB1WCK Joe, N1IQI Loren, Larry W1TGM, WA1TOM Tom, N1UMJ John (via zoom)**

Secretary report as published in the newsletter accepted.

Treasurer and Repeater report presented and accepted.

Discussion on gate lock up at the repeater site.

Discussion of Fusion use

No Old Business

New Business

Next meeting in January

New Facebook group page created for POTA use

Need to get Facebook link on web site

\$20 dues received

Meeting adjourned at 1841

Post meeting items

Larry talked about KX3 radio

WARC winterfest Jan 17

K1USN activity

Tom discussed Bridgewater EOC move to new Firehouse

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73,

Phil McNamara

## **Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE**

Nothing new to report still not receiving any items from anyone





## **WA1NPO winter fest 202**

**WinterFest 2026 Saturday-January 17th 9:00am - 1:00am**

**Whitman Amateur Radio Club K of C Hall Rt. 18 Whitman MA**

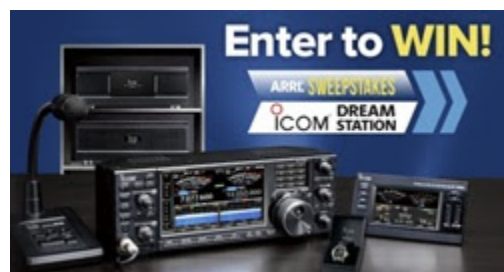
**\$5 entry fee with Raffle Prizes (drawn at 11AM) VE testing sessions for Tech/General/Extra Refreshments will be available**

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



## **Last Chance to Win a Dream Station**

Members who joined, renew, or donated to ARRL Diamond Club this year are automatically entered into the ARRL Sweepstakes and could win a dream station from Icom featuring a limited-edition IC-7760 HF/50 MHz transceiver, IC-PW2 amplifier, desktop microphone, and a special Icom 60th Anniversary Seiko watch! [Submit your entry](#) by December 31, 2025.





**A picture I took last year the sun breaking through from the east set up  
this picture to the west**

## **WINTER FIELD DAY 2026**



Winter Field Day is an exciting annual event for amateur radio enthusiasts, taking place on the last full weekend of January. It offers a unique opportunity for radio operators to set up field operations in remote locations, enabling them to connect with other participants worldwide. You may choose to participate solo or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is organized by the Winter Field Day Association. The association strongly believes that ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments. This is because freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards pose unique operational concerns.

The Winter Field Day event aims to help participants improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operational abilities in adverse conditions. Amateur radio operators have the freedom to use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands while employing voice, CW, and digital transmissions. The event designates specific objectives to encourage a diverse range of activities, including the use of non-commercial power sources, the deployment of multiple antennas, establishing satellite contacts, and more.



## **Space Sailors” Seeking Download Help from Ham Radio Operators**

### **ChipSat Signals Received; Listeners Still Needed**

On December 2, 2025, Cornell University’s “ChipSat”-equipped light sail was successfully deployed on December 3 and several dozen telemetry signals from its ChipSat flight computers have been received and decoded. This is the first time that orbit-to-ground ChipSat data has been fully decoded, which Ph.D. candidate Joshua Umansky-Castro, KD2WTQ, calls “a huge milestone for the technology.”

Student researchers at Cornell still seek help from amateur radio operators equipped with satellite receive stations to continue monitoring for signal from the 100-milliwatt transmitters on 437.400 MHz, using the LoRa® digital protocol. It is estimated that the light sail will deorbit within 48 hours of deployment, due to the drag it creates in low-Earth orbit. Data is being collected on [the TinyGS project webpage](#), which is also posting updates on progress.

A group of students at Cornell University is seeking participation from radio amateurs who are equipped with satellite stations for help in listening for signals from a retroreflective laser sail that is scheduled to be deployed later this week. The sail is currently attached to a 1U CubeSat that was launched early Tuesday, December 2, 2025, from the International Space Station, but will separate and become its own free-flying spacecraft equipped with four tiny “ChipSat” flight computers that will transmit telemetry data back to Earth.

This is the first flight of their ChipSats, and it is this data that the students seek help detecting, according to Ph.D. candidate Joshua Umansky-Castro, who has an amateur radio license; call sign KD2WTQ. The light sail’s ChipSats will be transmitting data using the LoRa® digital protocol on 437.400 MHz. The sail, stowed within the CubeSat, is expected to be released a couple of days after deployment — tentatively this Thursday, December 4 — and will likely function independently for no more than 48 hours due to the drag created by the sail.

Additional information, including LoRa parameters and links to a list of compatible receivers and the decoder file, may be found at [alphacubesat.cornell.edu](http://alphacubesat.cornell.edu) in the [ChipSat Ground Station Guide](#) (docx).

It is hoped that the ChipSat and light sail will become the trailblazer for future missions around the solar system, and one day to our closest stellar neighbor, Alpha Centauri.





# New Antenna, New Key, and New Friend: QRP POTA at William B. Umstead State Park

[December 2, 2025](#) [Thomas Witherspoon](#)

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, we had an afternoon planned with the family in the Raleigh area. But that morning, my wife and daughters had other plans, which meant I could sneak away for a little radio therapy. After dropping my daughter off at a meeting, I realized I was only about 20 minutes from William B. Umstead State Park (US-2755)—so I hit the road!

## Testing New Gear

For this activation, I brought along two new pieces of gear:

### 1 Chameleon CHA LEFS 4010 Prototype

This isn't a production model—the design was revised and upgraded by the time the production version hit the market. Chameleon sent this prototype to me during the summer. I had meant to take it to Canada but forgot it at home. Despite the cosmetic differences, the antenna engineering is essentially the same as the current production CHA LEFS 4010 EFHW.

### 2) CW Morse Single-Lever Paddle

This one looks very much like my beloved CW Morse SP4 paddles designed by Larry (NOSA)—except, of course, it's a *single*-lever design. I'll admit: I was a little nervous about using it. I'd spent the past month operating exclusively with my Vibroplex bug and my bug-emulator keyer. I wasn't sure if my muscle memory would smoothly adapt to a single-lever paddle in the field... but it did!

### Setup

I parked in the main area and found a picnic table beside one of the hiking paths—perfect for deploying the CHA LEFS 4010 in an inverted-V configuration. I found the right branch, tossed my line, and the antenna went up without fuss (though it did take a couple of tries, but that's part of the fun!).

### Radio & Battery

- Elecraft K1
- Bioenno 3 Ah LiFePo Battery (Model BLF-1203AB)
- Morse Code Key
- CW Morse TSL1 Single Lever Paddle

### *Antenna, Feedline, and Throw Line*

- **CHA LEFS 4010 Prototype**
- **ABR Industries 25' RG-316 cable assembly** with three in-line ferrites (*Use Coupon Code **ABR10QRPER** for 10% Discount!*)
- **Weaver arborist throw line/weight** and **storage bag**
- **Packs and Bags**
- **Red Oxx Gator EDC Bag**
- **Tom Bihn Large Travel Tray**
- **Shadow Circuits RMS Utility Pouch 5x8**

## Holiday Gift Guide 2025

ARRL's [2025 Holiday Gift Guide](#) is now available, featuring amateur radio equipment and station accessories from well-known businesses. The guide also includes a special offer from ARRL. 'Tis the Season! Browse and [shop now](#).

## Anyone looking for Christmas GIFT IDEAS Wish List



Retro Ham Shack Wall Clock. Stewart Warner Magic Dial Shortwave Ham Radio gift. 10" diameter



Custom Ham Radio Metal Wall Art Led Light,

## Personalized Amateur Radio Name Sign, Radio Operator Decoration, Amateur Call Metal Sign



[HamCrazy.com](http://HamCrazy.com) offers custom gifts and accessories for Amateur Radio Operators. Whether you are a newly licensed HAM or a seasoned ELMER you'll find something fun for all Amateur Radio Operators.



Gift Set - Hat, Name Badge & 20oz. Tumbler -

White This gift set include a call sign hat name badge and a vacuum insulated 20oz. Tumbler. Please specify name and call sign. At Ham crazy.com



D-104 Microphone Callsign Station Flag - Vintage Look at  
Ham crazy.com



# **The ARRL Solar Update**

12/05/2025

Solar activity was at low levels this past week with only C class flares. Region 4294 remains the largest region on the disk but is appearing to be simplifying magnetically. Region 4296, on the other hand, gained a delta region in its intermediary region, though with no corresponding increase in flare activity as of yet. New flux emerged along the eastern side of Region 4298, resulting in several C flares throughout the reporting period. Region 4299 also developed a delta region in its primary spot but no appreciable shear was observed. Region 4301 developed, was numbered, but was otherwise unremarkable. No Earth directed CMEs were observed in available coronagraph imagery. Isolated to occasional M class flares are expected through December 6, with a chance for X class flares, given past flare history, and the potential of current active regions on the disk.

The environment will likely remain enhanced due to fast solar wind conditions through December 6.

M class flares (R1 to R2/Minor to Moderate) are likely, with slight chance for X flares (R3 Strong or greater), through 12 Dec due primarily to the flare potential of Region 4294.

Geomagnetic activity is likely to reach active levels on December 3 and 6, and G1 (Minor) storm levels on December 4 and 5, driven by influences from a negative polarity CH HSS.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere, December 4, 2025, by F. K. Janda, OK1HH:

The significant increase in solar activity since the beginning of December has finally confirmed the original assumption that the current 25th eleven year solar cycle will have two peaks. The first occurred last October, while we have been eagerly awaiting the second this year (especially in the fall). The increase in activity at the end of this summer started promisingly, but it was only the first of several. It was only after the large solar flare on November 11, 2025, which was the largest since October 3, 2024, that it was possible to estimate that the second maximum was approaching.

High solar activity period can be expected during the first half of December, while it is a bit of a shame that it did not occur a week or two earlier. This would have been particularly appreciated by shortwave radio amateurs, as the telegraph part of the largest competition, the CW WW DX Contest, traditionally takes place during the last weekend of November.

**Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board**

**President : John Laiosa N1BSO**

**Vice President: Tom Luckman W1TOM**

**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)**

**MARA Web Page <http://www.w1mv.org/>**

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

**Newsletter Editor [maranews@w1mv.org](mailto:maranews@w1mv.org)**

**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, with Zoom attendance available.**

**Our Meetings-On-The-Air are held all other Tuesday evenings at 8PM on 147.180+ with 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](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**