



February 2021  
Volume 59 Issue 2

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**Next meeting is February 17th, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom Meeting Talk-in is on 147.180+**

### **Membership**

The website has been updated with our current roster of paid members. If there are corrections, please drop an email to [maranews@w1mv.org](mailto:maranews@w1mv.org)

### **Presidents Notes**

MARA Facebook page: Our Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Facebook page with club events, meetings, photos, etc. are occasionally updated so that it may be another resource for us on which to spark interest in our club, amateur radio and keep members informed of what we are doing outside of our club meetings and in our community. If you go to the “about” tab on our page you can find our <http://www.w1mv.org/> web page for our present and past newsletters and other club information. Please send Phil N1XTB [n1xtb@powersrvcs.com](mailto:n1xtb@powersrvcs.com) or Wendy KC1GTR [kc1gtr.mara.@gmail.com](mailto:kc1gtr.mara.@gmail.com) any articles or photos you would like to see in our MARA newsletter, W1MV-MARA Website and Facebook page. Jeff N1ZZN has created a link to twitter to help get the word out even more!

**Secretary’s Notes – Just Newsletter this issue. Following were in attendance of last months meeting.** Bob Mandeville n1edm, Phil McNamara n1xt, Allen Hiltz wa1bee, Barry Kennedy n4nmf.

### **HAM RADIO LOCAL AREA NETS**

Any additions or corrections contact John – N1UMJ at: [N1UMJ@arrl.net](mailto:N1UMJ@arrl.net).

All Frequencies are in MHz and 6 Meters (50.0 MHz and up.) are FM Mode unless otherwise noted.

#### **Sunday:**

8:30 AM WA1NPO – WARPSN Net, Whitman ARC Rptr, 147.225 +, PL 67.0 8:45 AM New England phone net, 3.945 +/---- LSB

#### **Daily:**

7:00 PM NE Cracker Barrel Net, Matt – W1AEM, NCO, 3.921.00 MHz LSB Pilgrim Amateur Wireless Assoc. 10 Meter Net  
7:00 PM 28.375.0 USB Cape & Island Traffic Net, Mon. Tue. Thur.  
7:00 PM Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8  
7:30 PM Falmouth N1YHS Rptr, 147.375 + PL 110.9 Genesis ARC CW Training Net



8:00 PM Eastern MA 2 Mtr Traffic Net, Boston W1BOS Rptr, 145.230 – PL 88.5  
8:00 PM Norfolk County Radio Association Net, , Walpole Rptr, 146.895 – PL 123.0

**Monday:**

6:00 AM Cape and Islands Weather Net, M-S, Dennis K1PBO Rptr, 146.955 – PL 88.5  
8:00 PM Fairhaven Weather Net, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0  
8:00 PM Norfolk County Emergency Preparedness Net, Walpole Rptr, 146.895 – PL 123.0  
8:30 PM New England DMR net, DMR---MARC repeaters talk group 3181 New England  
Falmouth ARA Net, Falmouth K1RK Rptr, 146.655 – PL 88.5  
9:00 PM Boston ARC Rag Chew Net, Boston W1BOS Rptr, 145.230 – PL 88.5

**Tuesday:**

7:30 PM Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8  
8:00 PM Fairhaven Weather Net, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0  
8:00 PM Massasoit ARA Net, , Bridgewater W1MV Rptr, 147.180 + PL 67.0 (Except 3rd Tue!)  
Genesis ARC 2 Mtr Rag---Chew Net,  
8:00 PM Norwood Amateur Radio Club Net, Norwood Rptr, 147.210 + PL 100.0 220 MHz  
Day! Try to find a 220 Repeater near you and give a call out!

**Wednesday:**

7:00 PM Blackstone Valley ARC, 2 Mtr Simplex Net, 146.565  
8:00 PM Cape and Islands ARES Net, Dennis K1PBO Rptr, 146.955 – PL 88.5  
8:00 PM Fairhaven Weather Net, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0  
8:00 PM Whitman ARC 10 Meter Rag---Chew Net, 28.333.0 USB - Except 1st Wed!  
9:00 PM Waltham Wranglers Swap Net., Waltham W1MHL Rptr , 146.64 – PL 136.5

**Thursday:**

7:00 PM Genesis ARC CW Training Net, Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8 10 Mtr  
8:00 PM Fairhaven Weather Net, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0  
8:00 PM General Class Rag---Chew Net, 29.470.0 FM  
8:30 PM Sturdy Mem. Hosp. ARC ARES Practice Net, K1SMH Rptr, 147.195 + PL 127.3 900  
MHz

**Friday:**

8:00 PM Fairhaven Weather Net, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0

**Saturday:**

8:00 PM South Shore Skywarn Net, Bridgewater W1MV Rptr, 147.180 + PL 67.0

\*VKEMCOMM\* Echolink Conference node: 270177/IRLP 9508 (due to \*WX---TALK\* Echolink  
conference node: 7203/IRLP 9219 outage) Refer to: <http://www.voipwx.net/>



### **Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board**

President - Allen Hiltz - WA1BEE

Vice President Jeff Lehmann - N1ZZN

Secretary Wendy White - KC1GTR

Treasurer: Phil McNamara N1XTB

Call Sign Trustee: Phil McNamara N1XTB

<b>2M Repeater</b>	147.180+ (Tone 67.0)
<b>440 Repeater</b>	444.550+ (Tone 88.5)
<b>APRS Node</b>	Node 144.39 W1MV-1
<b>Packet BBS</b>	145.09 N1XTB-4
<b>Packet Node Brockton</b>	145.09 W1JOE-7 (BROCK)
<b>MARA Web Page</b>	<a href="http://www.w1mv.org/">http://www.w1mv.org/</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmara/">https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmara/</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<a href="mailto:kc1gtr.mara@gmail.com">kc1gtr.mara@gmail.com</a>
<b>ARC Web Page</b>	<a href="http://www.wa1npo.org">http://www.wa1npo.org</a>
<b>Qsl via</b>	<a href="http://www.eqsl.cc">www.eqsl.cc</a>
<b>Skywarn</b>	<a href="http://wx1box.org">http://wx1box.org</a> and <a href="http://www.powersrvcs.org/w1gmf/skywarn.htm">www.powersrvcs.org/w1gmf/skywarn.htm</a>
<b>Mailing Address</b>	P.O. Box 428 Bridgewater, MA 02324

**Monthly meetings** are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, for time being, on the Tuesday Night net at 8:00pm on 147.180+

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

<http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/index.html>



## The K7RA Solar Update

02/12/2021

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Sunspots are gone, with none seen since February 3. [Spaceweather.com](https://www.spaceweather.com) reported on February 10 that a small proto sunspot was struggling to form, but it was gone by the next day.

According to Spaceweather.com, 57% of the days so far in 2021 have been spotless. This is the same as the percentage of spotless days for all of 2020.

Average daily solar flux was 72.8 over the reporting week, with last week's average at 74.2. Average planetary A index increased from 6.7 to 7.7, and average daily middle latitude A index rose from 4.6 to 6. These are still low, quiet numbers, quite favorable for conditions on 80 and 160 meters, especially during winter.

Predicted solar flux for the next 30 days is 75 on February 12 – 19; 78 on February 20 – 22; 76 on February 23 – 25; 74 on February 26; 73 on February 27 – March 1; 72 on March 2 – 7; 74 on March 8 – 10, and 76 on March 11 – 13.

Flux values may rise to 78 again after the middle of March, just before spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere, which occurs on March 20.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on February 12 – 14; 22 and 14 on February 15 – 16; 5 on February 17 – 20; 20, 16, and 12 on February 21 – 23; 5 on February 24 – 28, 18 and 14 on March 1 – 2; 5 on March 3 – 4; 8, 20, and 10 on March 5 – 7, and 5 on March 8 – 13.

Here is the geomagnetic activity forecast for February 12 – March 9 from F.K. Janda, OK1HH.

The geomagnetic field will be:

- quiet on February 12, 18-19, 25-27, March 5, 8-9
- quiet to unsettled on February 13, 17, 24, March 3-4, 7
- quiet to active on February 14-16, 20, 23, 28, March 6
- unsettled to active February 21-22, March 1-2
- active to disturbed (none predicted)

Solar wind will intensify on February (15-17, 21-22,) 23-24, (25-26,) March 2-4

Parentheses mean lower probability of activity enhancement.

Predictability of changes remains low, as indications are ambiguous.

Thank you to Jon Jones, N0JK, for [this info](#) and an [article](#) in *Eos* on personal space weather stations and a network tying them together.

Jon, who is in Eastern Kansas (EM28), also reported a major 6-meter sporadic E opening across North America on February 7 – 8 UTC. First spotted around 1430 UTC, the Es continued until 0440 UTC.





From Kansas, Texas was coming in via Es around 1620 UTC. Later, XE2ML (DL74) and XE2JS (DL78) showed up at 2220 UTC.

“New Zealand was copied by stations in New England, and W5LDA (EM15) in Oklahoma was received by ZL1RS on three FT8 sequences,” Jon said.

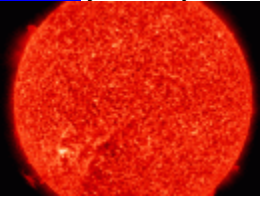
Sunspot numbers for February 4 – 10 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0, with a mean of 0. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 73.9, 72.8, 72.5, 73.2, 73.6, 70, and 73.7, with a mean of 72.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 7, 6, 7, 21, 6, 4, and 3, with a mean of 7.7. Middle latitude A index was 7, 3, 4, 18, 6, 3, and 1, with a mean of 6.

For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) “What the Numbers Mean...,” and [check out](#) K9LA’s Propagation Page.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#) website.

[Instructions](#) for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are on the ARRL website.

[Share](#) your reports and observations.



## What's New? Courtesy of ARRL

### ARRL to FCC: Additional Volunteer Examiner Coordinators Not Needed

02/10/2021

ARRL has told the FCC that no additional Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC) are needed to oversee the administration of amateur radio exams by Volunteer Examiners (VEs). Examination opportunities have continued to be widely available throughout the US — except for a couple of months during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic — and adding VECs to the 14 now in place would “have no effect” on the number of available exams, ARRL said. ARRL’s [comments](#) on February 4 were in response to a January 5 FCC [Public Notice](#) in WT Docket 21-2 seeking input on possible expansion of the VEC pool.

“In response to the Commission’s *Notice*, ARRL reviewed the amateur examination numbers for the past 5 years, including the COVID-19 pandemic period,” ARRL said in its comments. “We found that even though 10 of the 12 months for calendar year 2020 were times of severe disruption throughout the nation, including for FCC and ARRL headquarters staff, amateur examination opportunities and numbers were strong.”

Multiple web-based exam opportunities are available across the US, even on short notice, and in-person examinations are available in many areas where local regulation and special safety requirements allow.

“It has never been easier,” ARRL asserted, noting that exam sessions often are available within 2 days but rarely more than 7, if taking advantage of a remote, web-based exam opportunity.

“Instead of increasing the number of VECs, we would encourage volunteers to become accredited as VEs and to volunteer to help the current VECs wherever possible,” ARRL said. “Many of the VECs would welcome help.” ARRL said VEs, not VECs, are responsible for administering amateur radio exams.

ARRL VEC — the nation’s largest — has 30,000 accredited VEs, with 11,000 of them regularly participating in exam activities on a weekly or monthly basis.



The number of new and upgraded licenses has been in line with earlier years, “with noticeable increases in the 4 months following the lockdown that occurred in many areas in the early spring,” ARRL pointed out. New FCC licenses issued in January 2021 numbered 2,838, compared with 2,058 for a year earlier. Upgrades were also up significantly — 920 in January 2021 to 554 for the same month last year.

“The 14 separate and independent FCC-approved VECs readily accredit additional VEs whenever and wherever needed,” ARRL concluded. “Increasing the number of individual VECs would have no discernible benefit.” Instead, ARRL said, increasing the number of VECs would expand the complexity of VEC coordination and management, increase demand on FCC resources to interface with additional organizations, and raise the potential for abuse and fraud.

## **FCC Invites Comments on Expanding the Number of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators**

01/08/2021

In a January 5 [Public Notice](#), the FCC requested comments on whether the current 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([VECs](#)) are sufficient to facilitate the efforts of their accredited Volunteer Examiners (VEs) in administering amateur radio examinations, or whether up to five additional VECs should be authorized. The ARRL VEC is the largest of the 14 VECs in the US. Comments are due by February 5, and reply comments are due by February 19. After Congress authorized it to do so, the FCC adopted rules in 1983 to allow volunteers to prepare and administer amateur radio examinations, and it established the system of VECs and VEs.

“VECs introduced consistency into the volunteer examiner program by centralizing accreditation of volunteer examiners, coordinating the dates and times for scheduling examinations, and managing the various administrative tasks arising from examinations,” the FCC said. Authorized VECs may operate in any of the 13 VEC regions but must service at least one region. The FCC pointed out that some VECs now offer remote examinations.

“The Commission has long maintained 14 VECs and now seeks to consider whether they continue to serve the evolving needs of the amateur community, or whether there are unmet needs that warrant considering expanding the number of VECs.”

The FCC *Public Notice* provided questions for framing comments:

- Are the existing 14 VECs sufficient to coordinate the efforts of Volunteer Examiners in preparing and administering examinations for amateur radio operator licenses, or are additional VECs needed?
- What needs are currently being met, and which needs, if any, are not?
- If the FCC were to allow additional VECs, how many more would be needed to satisfy existing Amateur Radio Service license examination needs? (The FCC indicated that it will likely cap the number of additional VECs at five.)
- Given that VECs use a collaborative process to create examination question pools and volunteer examination administration protocols, would additional VECs enhance or hinder this process?
- How would increasing the number of VECs address the unmet needs, if any, of the amateur radio community, and what obstacles or complications could result from increasing the number of VECs?

Interested parties may file short comments on WT Docket No. 21-2 via the FCC’s [Electronic Comment Filing Service \(Express\)](#). Visit the FCC’s “[How to Comment on FCC Proceedings](#)” page for information on filing extended comments.

### **Real-time band conditions**

Posted date: January 08, 2015in: [PropagationNo Comments](#)



# MARANews



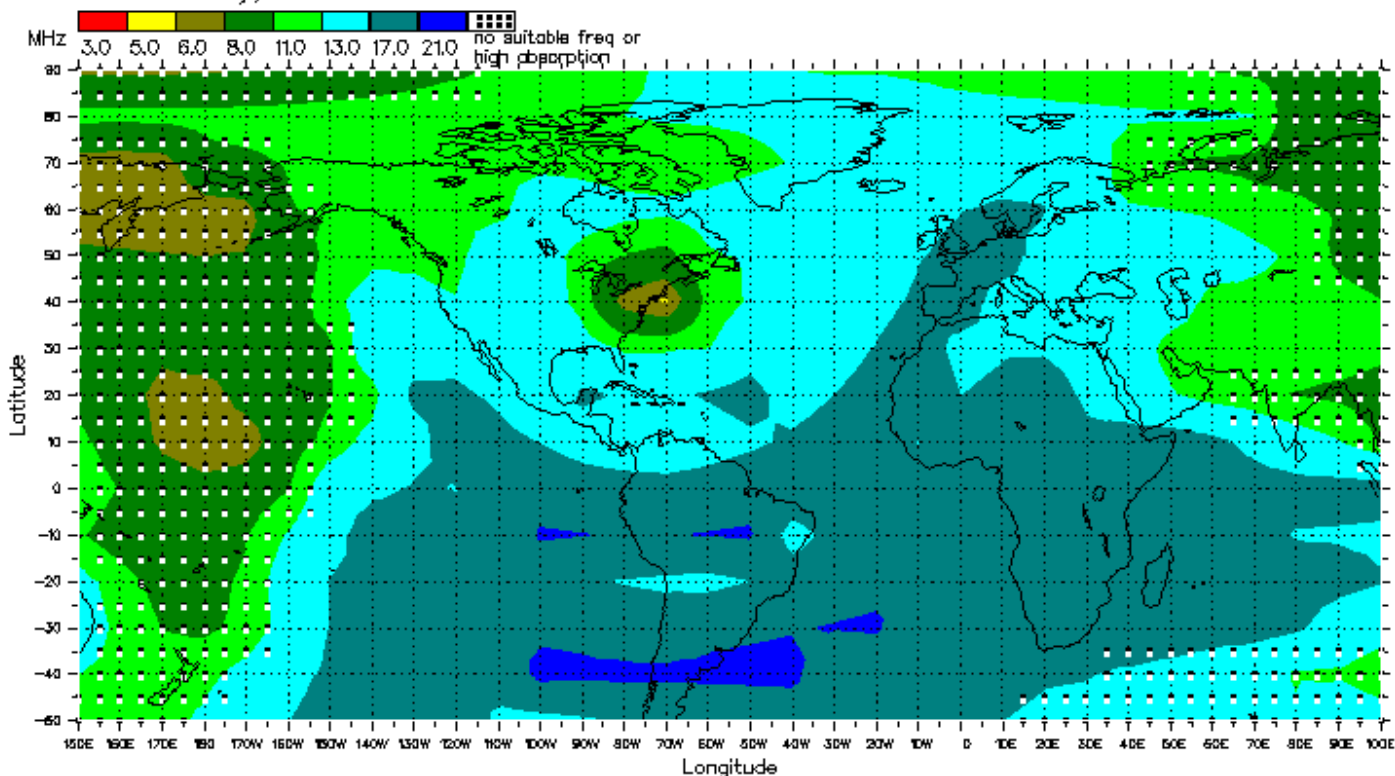
## Real-time band conditions

BASE: New-York-LDOCF  
Space Weather Services  
Hourly Area Prediction (HAP)

Solar Xray Flux A1.5

15 February, 2021

15:32 UT



Created at 15/02/2021 15:39:43 UT (X-ray data at 15/02/2021 15:34 UT)

HF chart provided by IPS.

### Just ahead in Radiosport (More to follow once its been received)

Online - HAM-CON, ARRL Vermont State Convention

HAMFEST/CONVENTION 02/27/2021

**Start Date:** 02/27/2021

**End Date:** 02/27/2021

**Location:** On-Line

[www.ham-con.org](http://www.ham-con.org)

South Burlington, VT 05403

**Website:** <http://www.ham-con.org>

**Sponsor:** Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Talk-In:** 145.15 100.0

**Public Contact:** Mitch Stern, W1SJ

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Phone: 802-879-6589

**Email:** [w1sj@arrl.net](mailto:w1sj@arrl.net)