



February 2024

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<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 February 20th 2024. Social hour is from 1800 meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting. Our March meeting is on 19th

ON THE AIR Tuesdays 1st March 5th no net controller, 2nd March 12th net controller John N1UMJ, and 4th March 26th net controller Denise KC1CFO, 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

Presidents Message

We had a great turnout at last month's meeting, it was great to see a lot of new faces. It is time to start planning our April open house this year, we need to pick a time so that we can ask the Bridgewater Library for the room. I have started to work on the new format for the Tuesday night net, I hope to send it out for review in the next couple of weeks. I have so far two orders for apparel, I need to have at least 6 to 7 more orders before I place orders. There is a link to the apparel items on the website. Please send your apparel request to me. See you at the next meeting.

John Laiosa



Secretary report By Phil McNamara N1XTB

MARA meeting minutes 16 Jan 2024

Meeting called to order by John N1BSO at 1830 at the Bridgewater Library meeting room.

Attendees

N1BSO John, WA1TOM Tom, KC1JDN Philip
N1XTB Phil, N1UMJ John (via zoom), KC1SMU Scott
KC1JDK Jake, N1IQI Loren, WA1BEE Allen
KB1WAM Mike

Secretary and Treasurers report were accepted.

Members approved payment to Jeff AJ1L to reimburse him for APRS digipeater.

Discussion of some upcoming former public safety repeater equipment that is being donated that will be used for GMRS.

N1BSO commented that the access door for the AT&T genset on the hill was repaired.

N1XTB commented that we should verify that the key we have works.

N1BSO discussed that the club should start planning for a Ham Radio open house at the library in April

Discussion about changes to Tuesday night net format. N1NTM net was used as an example.

Rework of Tuesday net schedule - volunteers send availability to Phil

Net schedule may add a slot for alternate net control.

John will send the proposed new net format around for review and comment.

Allen commented that we should establish a net etiquette rule that now "in and out" checkins are not acceptable.

John N1BSO discussed that a minimum amount is needed to place any further club apparel orders. Contact him for any orders. Pricing and description is available on the MARA website.

WARC will be having a hamfest at the Whitman K of C on Saturday Jan 20th.

VE session also available at the Winterfest.

Meeting adjourned at 1854.

Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE

I am still hoping for members to send me information for the newsletter such as meetings, events, and information on any activity

Dear Friends of NEAR-Fest:

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, tenters, 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

Wreaths across America

Several hams who contacted W1A, including Don Kocsis, WA8TWM, in Painesville, Ohio, noted that they were also participating in wreath ceremonies at their local veterans' cemeteries. MHRS President Phil Duggan,

N1EP, said one ham on the HF bands was looking forward to receiving the QSL card so he could give it to a Gold Star mother.

Maurry Mills, W1FWS, operated the event for the second year in a row. "Many of the operators I contacted were already aware of Wreaths Across America, and all were thankful for our special event operation," he said.

Brenda Duggan, N1ZPV, was thrilled to participate. Her late father, Harold West, served under General George S. Patton in WWII and was wounded during combat.

The majority of the contacts were made on 20-, 40-, and 80-meter bands, although club members called CQ on most of the non-WARC bands. The Maine Ham Radio Society plans to continue this annual tribute every December for the near future.



Texas Club Uses ARRL Grant to Work with Scouts

The Top of the Panhandle Amateur Radio Club received grants from the ARRL Foundation Club Grant Program in 2022, and they've caused a lot of excitement in the upper Texas Panhandle and Guymon, Oklahoma. The grants are being used for a program that focuses on partnering with the Boy Scouts of America troops in the area to help them fulfill several merit badge requirements and to help them pass their amateur radio license exams. There are activities planned for hidden transmitter hunts, communicating on the air, and learning skills for emergency management response.

Five Scouts and Scout Leaders have already gotten licensed and received their call signs: Justin Jett, KJ5DFY; Queston Crum, KJ5DWN; Gannon Crum, KJ5DPT; Eli Carthel, KJ5DTD, and Lisa Carthel, KJ5DRR. There are four families in the program.

Six out of 12 candidates passed their amateur radio license exams in Spearman Texas on December 29, 2023. Five are newly licensed Technicians, and one upgraded to their General-class license. The five Technicians are James Shockley, Queston Crum, Joseph Macias, Jaysen Macias, and Audrey House. They've been studying the exam information for months and will receive their call signs soon. The mentors were: Jay Bradley, AG5OG; Bobette Doerrie, N5IS; Jerome Doerrie, K5IS; Brian Holloway, KC5TPU, and Tom House.

By Bobette Doerrie, N5IS

Algonquin radio club HAMFEST



Algonquin Amateur Radio Club
Marlborough, MA



AMATEUR
RADIO

FLEA MARKET

Saturday, February 17, 2024



**Marlborough 1Lt Charles W.
Whitcomb School**
(formerly Intermediate/Middle School)
25 Union St. or
off Bolton St. (Rt. 85)
Marlborough, Massachusetts

New England Vintage Electronics EXPO 2024

Our Next Event:

New England Vintage Electronics Expo 7

Sunday, March 3, 2024

8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Become a seller and rent tables [here](#)

Admission: Before 9:00am: \$20.00, 9:00am and After: \$10

Spouse and Children are Free with One Paid Admission

**Sunday, March 3, 2024 at Castleton Banquet and
Conference Center in Windham, NH!!!**

USS Iowa Battleship

Amateur radio operators will have an opportunity to contact the USS *Iowa* during the ship's 81st anniversary celebration. USS *Iowa* (BB-61) is permanently moored at the [National Museum of the Surface Navy](#) in San Pedro, California, and was first commissioned during World War II on February 22, 1943. The on-air event will be held on February 22, 2024, from 1600 to 2400 UTC. The Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association (BIARA) will activate NI6BB, the ship's original call sign, utilizing BIARA's amateur gear and a circa 1980s legacy station with an AN/URT-23 transmitter and an R-1051G/URR Navy receiver. To help operators looking for NI6BB, the band plan below has been suggested to qualified associate operators. These bands have been screened to minimize conflict with other modes or known nets, but are subject to change due to existing traffic, contests, or band conditions. FT8 or FT4 operations will be on the standard frequencies for those modes.

Band A1A/CW J3E/SSB

40 meters 7.061 MHz 7.261 MHz
30 meters 10.116 MHz -----
20 meters 14.061 MHz 14.261 MHz
17 meters 18.073 MHz 18.161 MHz
15 meters 21.061 MHz 21.361 MHz
12 meters 24.900 MHz 24.943 MHz
10 meters 28.061 MHz 28.361 MHz

For updates and additional information, contact [BIARA](#).

Dayton update

The 30th Annual Dayton Contest Dinner will be hosted by the [North Coast Contesters](#) during the weekend of the 2024 Dayton Hamvention®, which is hosting the 2024 ARRL National Convention. The dinner will be held at the Hope Hotel, located on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, on Saturday, May 18, 2024. Social hour will begin at 5:30 PM and dinner will follow at 6:30 PM. Contest Director John Dorr, K1AR, is the Master of Ceremonies, and Chief Executive Officer of DX Engineering Tim Duffy, K3LR, is this year's speaker. The 2024 CQ Contest Hall of Fame inductees will also be announced at the dinner. [Tickets are on sale now](#). For additional information, visit [Dayton Contest Dinner - Ham Radio Contest Dinner in Dayton Ohio](#).

Volunteer radio operators still needed for Boston Marathon!

The 2024 Boston Marathon is coming up and volunteer registration deadline has been extended until end of day Sunday 2/11/24 as they are still in need of volunteers. This was recently posted to the Eastern Mass ARRL Section web site:

<https://ema.arrl.org/2024/02/08/2024-boston-marathon-still-in-need-of-amateur-radio-volunteers-volunteer-registration-extended-until-end-of-day-sunday-2-11-24/>

Please consider volunteering for the event. It's very well organized event, and lots of fun!

The First Amateur Radio Station on the Moon, JS1YMG, is Now Transmitting

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. Just before touchdown, SLIM released two small lunar surface probes, LEV-1 and LEV-2.

LEV-2 collects data while moving on the lunar surface, and LEV-1 receives the data.

The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, which has been transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz since January 19. The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business."

Radio amateurs have been busy analyzing JS1YMG's signal, with [Daniel Estévez's, EA4GPZ, blog](#) introducing the method and extraction results for demodulating Morse code from the signal, as well as extracting the code string.

It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar night, which lasts about 14 days, and is due to return in a few days.

SLIM was launched on September 6, 2023, and landed on January 19, 2024, with the mission of analyzing the composition of rocks to aid research about the origin of the moon. SLIM's landing made Japan the fifth country to achieve a soft touchdown on the moon. The landing was achieved with exceptional precision -- within 180 feet of its targeted touchdown location.



A rendering of the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on the lunar surface. [Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, image]

This year, George Washington's birthday will be celebrated by three amateur radio clubs.

From 1500Z to 2100Z on February 17, the [Washington Area Amateur Radio Club](#), W0ARC, will be active on 7.071, 7.200, 14.071, 14.275, 21.074, 21.310, 28.071, and 28.350 MHz, as well 10, 15, 20, and 40 MHz phone. A commemorative QSL card will be available for those who send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mark Lukins, AB0DX, at 802 N Second Ave in Washington, Iowa (zip code 52353). On February 18 - 19, from 1500Z to 2000Z, the [Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club](#) (MVARC) will operate from George Washington's Mount Vernon estate on 7.042, 7.242, 14.042, and 14.242 MHz. For more information, email social@mvarc.org. The [Columbia Basin DX Club](#), WS7G, will celebrate Washington's birthday on February 21 - 24 from 0001Z to 2359Z. WS7G will operate on 14.322, 14.255, 7.222, and 7.260 MHz. For a commemorative certificate and a QSL card, contact Brian Nielson, W7BJN, at 11650 Road 1 SE in Monitor, Washington (zip code 98836).

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP005:

Seven new sunspot groups emerged this week, but solar activity was lower. One new spot appeared on January 26, two more on January 28, three more on January 30, and one more on January 31. The average daily sunspot number dropped from 130.6 to 71.6, and the average daily solar flux declined from 173.3 to 145.4. The average planetary A index changed from 7.4 to 6.9, while middle latitude averages increased from 5.1 to 5.6. Next month, it looks like there will be a modest peak in solar flux at 175 on February 20.

Predicted solar flux is 135 on February 1; 140 on February 2 - 3; 145 on February 4 - 7; 165 on February 8 - 11; 170 on February 12; 165 on February 13 - 15; 170 on February 16 - 19; 175 on February 20; 170, 165, 160, 150, 140, 135, and 140 on February 21 - 27; 145 on February 28 - 29, and 150 on March 1 - 2.

The predicted planetary A index is 8 and 5 on February 1 - 2; 8 on February 3 - 5; 5 on February 6 - 16; 8 on February 17 - 18; 5 on February 19 - 24; 10, 12, and 10 on February 25 - 27, and 5 on February 28 through March 2. Read about the sun's poles flipping at <https://bit.ly/4bvvmro> and <https://bit.ly/42kfljC>. Read about a powerful solar flare causing a radio blackout at <https://bit.ly/3HGWFYfn>. FXStreet reports on how you can leverage the solar cycle for investing at <https://bit.ly/3UodRTE>, but I'm skeptical.

Sunspot numbers for January 25 - 31, were 101, 97, 52, 75, 48, 53, and 75, with a mean of 71.8. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 160.5, 156.7, 148.1, 141.1, 140.3, 135, and 136.2, with a mean of 145.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 6, 5, 8, 9, 8, and 6, with a mean of 6.9. The middle latitude A index was 4, 4, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 7, with a mean of 5.6. Send your tips, questions, or comments to 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.

Just Ahead in Radiosport

- February 10 - 11 -- CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest (digital)
- February 10 -- Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint (CW)
- February 10 - 11 -- KCJ Topband Contest (CW)
- February 10 - 11 -- Dutch PACC Contest (CW, phone)
- February 10 - 11 -- SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (CW)
- February 10 - 11 -- OMISS QSO Party (phone)
- February 10 -- RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest (CW)
- February 11 -- Balkan HF Contest CW (phone)
- February 12 -- 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint (CW, phone)
- February 12 - 16 -- [ARRL School Club Roundup](#) (CW, phone)
- February 14 -- PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint (digital)
- February 14 -- NAQCC CW Sprint (CW)
- February 14 -- DARC FT4 Contest (FT4)
- February 14 -- RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data (digital)
- February 15 - 16 -- Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest (CW)
- February 15 -- NTC QSO Party (CW)

Visit the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more events and information.



[NEWS UPDATE] – YJ0VV callsign has been issued for the DXpedition. Dates: October 16-30, 2024. Earlier details below.

[DECEMBER 6, 2023] – Not every DXpedition for ham radio operators has to be a trip into the wilderness or to an island in a rubber raft. Vanuatu is number 74 for single side band (number 105 for all modes) of the top most wanted DX entities, has commercial airlines service, rental homes, and electrical power. In addition, there are lovely beaches from which ham radios and antennas can be set up.

The planning is well underway for a group hams to participate in a DXpedition to Efate Island, Vanuatu for two weeks in October 2024. This will allow them to take advantage of the Southern Hemisphere springtime propagation for radio signals and to take part in several contests including the CQWW DX Phone Contest on October 26-27. We expect to make over 40,000 contacts over the 14 days of operation including two days of contesting.

There are openings in the group for three to four more hams and their spouses. We are expecting excellent spring propagation for making European and North American contacts. Of course, the location will bring an abundance of Asian contacts as well. Antennas we plan on taking and erecting include parasitic phased verticals, BuddiHex Hexbeam, 160 Cable Help long wire, and 40-80 meter G5RV long wires.

We have been able to find luxury housing through Vanuatu Luxury Holiday Homes. They have several 4-5 bedroom houses that are on the beach and have plenty of room for antennas. The total budget per person for eight days is less than \$5,000 and includes round trip flights, housing, insurance, meals, and a car.

The Team Leader, Van Herridge, N4VGE, can be contacted at vanherridge@gmail.com

The Boondock Echo is an internet-connected ham radio powered by the ESP32-A1S devkit (Crowdfunding)

The Boondock Echo is an open-source, internet-backed recording and playback device for two-way devices. It can denoise, transcribe, translate, and send emails on hearing keywords/call signs.

It is a low-cost solution for timeshift radio communication that enables users to monitor frequencies and record audio from a connected radio. Captured messages are uploaded to a server and transcribed using OpenAI. On the cloud server, the audio messages also pass through some DSP (digital speech processing) algorithms for noise reduction and volume normalization to enhance their clarity and usability.



The Boondock Echo is aimed at amateur radio operators and first responders in remote areas and during emergencies, situations where traditional two-way radios tend to be unclear and unreliable. Multiple devices can be linked together to form a 'dockpack' and monitor/record multiple frequencies at once.

Boondock Echo specifications:

- Mainboard – [ESP32-A1S](#) (ESP32 Audio Kit) running at up to 240MHz
- Expansion Board – Boondock Audio Kit Sidekick board (for the K-type cable and 3.5mm audio-out jack)
- Storage – MicroSD card slot
- USB – micro-USB (power-only), micro-USB (power, USB-to-UART)
- I/O – 3.5mm TRRS audio jack, walkie-talkie K-type two-pin cable

- Misc. – Power switch, on-device playback, online playback, transcription, translation, keyword detection, multicolored LEDs (Wi-Fi, audio, and device status)
- Buttons – Push-to-talk (PTT), volume, prev, next, function, reset
- Recording
 - Format – .wav
 - Time – 260 hours
- Supported Protocols – Email, IFTTT
- Battery – optional, built-in battery
- Dimensions – 120 x 90 x 30 mm
- Enclosure- 3D-printed enclosure

The ESP32-A1s at the core of the Boondock Echo is an audio development kit with onboard wireless connectivity aimed at audio and audio IoT applications. The ESP32 module is responsible for recording audio, running the offline interface, and playing back messages locally.

The Boondock Echo web application is hosted on AWS and provides advanced audio transcription and enhancement features supported by the device. To gain access to the Echo's advanced features, you will need to either set up your server or purchase a subscription from the [Boondock website](#) (once manufacturing is complete). All Boondock Echo purchases come with a 1-month Advanced User subscription, and although you can set up your own server, developers say it may end up being much more costly and time-consuming than buying a subscription.

The Boondock Echo is an open-source project. The hardware files, bill of materials (BOM), on-device software code, and 3D files for the enclosure are available on [GitHub](#). It is priced at \$159 (plus a shipping fee of \$8 US and \$18 Worldwide), with orders projected to ship by July 15, 2024.

The project has been successfully crowdfunded and has far surpassed its goal at the time of writing. Still, you can learn more about the Boondock Echo and what it has to offer on [CrowdSupply](#).

Late-Shift 80 Meter Activation

I normally don't announce activations on QRPer, but tonight I plan to activate a two-fer of Pisgah National Forest (K-4510) and Pisgah Game Land (K-6937) starting roughly around the turn of the UTC day (19:00 EST tonight, or 00:00 UTC on February 7, 2024).

I'll be testing an 80 meter coil for the Chelegance MC-750 vertical.

I'm announcing this POTA activation because a number of you who live way too close for a 40 meter and up contact have asked me to post if I plan a late night activation on 80 meters.

I hope to put you in the logs!

Cheers,

Thomas (K4SWL)

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 6:30.

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. 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



Jay Long
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