



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

We hope to see you on February 17th 2026. We will be having our monthly meeting this month 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+ meeting. Our March meeting is on 18th

ON THE AIR Tuesdays 1st March 4th, 2nd March 11th and 4th March 25th
Tuesdays at 2000 (8pm) new procedure and conversation

Presidents Message By John Laiosa N1BSO

Presidents' Message:

I hope everybody is staying warm and playing radio. The important news of the month is that we have a new meeting place thanks to Tom, WA1TOM. We will be having our monthly meeting this month at the new Bridgewater Fire Station, 1185 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater. This meeting place should be improved because we have no time limit. The weekly Tuesday night net is going very well, I have been able to participate a lot this quarter since I am not teaching. I would like to report that Loren, N1IQI is doing better and hopes to be home next week. I still have some donated items for purchase and the profits go to the club. I will try and bring a couple of the items to the meeting this week. If anybody is interested in club apparel, let me know. The items are up on our website.

John Laiosa

Secretary report By Philip McNamara KC1JDN

January 20, 2026 MARA Minutes:

Meeting called to order by John N1BSO at 18:30 in the small conference room at the Bridgewater Library.

Attendees:

N1BSO John, N1XTB Phil, WAITOM Tom, KC1JDN- Phil F., KB1WCK Joe, KC1TLT Wendy
N1IQI Loren, Phil Meuse, N1LYP ERIC, N1AS Alan, KA1YL Connie, KM1TWL Jim
N1UMJ John (via Zoom)

Secretary report as published in the newsletter accepted Treasurer and Repeater report presented and accepted. Discussion of minimizing use of the repeater during power outages (Would be on battery power only).

No Old Business

New Business:

Loren accepted as a lifetime member. His latest dues refunded. New EOC to be set up at the New Fire Station, and next meeting, February, will be there. Future meetings on a provisional basis will be at the new firehouse. Proposed and accepted. Proposed changes in meeting time not accepted. Some equipment has been donated, open to all members and non-members for purchase

Fire Station Open House 11am-1pm January 31st, ribbon cutting 9 am on the 31st. Meeting adjourned at 18:45

Post Meeting items:

- Further possible open houses

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

NEAR-Fest: Spring of 2026

NEAR-Fest XXXVIX May 1 and 2 2026

The new location is, Hillsborough County 4H fairgrounds, 17 Hilldale Lane New Boston. NH gates open at 8am on Friday (7am for advanced ticket holders) On Saturday and Sunday they open at 7am. Closing at 2pm Saturday

New England Vintage Electronics EXPO 2026

The 9th annual New England Vintage Electronics Expo (NEVEE 9) is scheduled for Sunday, March 1, 2026, at the [Castleton Banquet & Conference Center in Windham, New Hampshire](#). This event, featuring up to 90 tables of vintage electronics, operates rain, snow, or shine. It is considered a major East Coast swap meet for antique electronics.

Converting Retired Construction Light Tower Trailers for Radio Use

In Minnesota and elsewhere, used construction light tower trailers have been adapted by hams to support radio antennas. These are often sold with a 12 horsepower three-cylinder diesel engine, a 30-foot steel crank-up tower, and 6 kilowatt AC 120/240V single phase generator. They are around \$12,000 new, but used they can be down in the \$1000 range in running condition, or \$250 and up if not running. They are most commonly found at construction equipment auction sites such as [Iron Planet](#) or [Equipment Facts](#).

These units are not without hazards, as they were not designed or tested for consumer use. Diesel fuel can spill; used diesel oil is hazardous, as an example. The tower cables can snap and you can strike overhead power lines. But, 30 feet is a lot of tower and with the included outriggers and removal of two of the usual four lights, they can accommodate a small antenna or two and can be guyed. They usually have four metal halide lights and can illuminate 3-5 acres. The newest “vertical” units tend to have short vertical masts (24’) and may include LED lights.

We like the fast setup time these towers offer – a few minutes. We have added more batteries and solar panels, mesh radios, and video cameras to ours. They are common in rental fleets and in government/emergency applications.

Repairs are often simple. The tires, wheels and other running gear are usually industry standard. The same is true for axles and wheel bearings. The stabilizer jacks are also standard. The retracting square tubes can be obtained locally (often 2’x2’x1/8”). ([Metal Supermarket](#) is one supplier). Clamp-on jacks can be purchased to replace missing or rusted ones.

Lift cables should be inspected and replaced if frayed. Winches are standard equipment. Some trailers have electric hoists. (I dislike those, however--you need power to operate them, and if you don’t stop them in time you can snap the lift cable and the tower crashes down). Forklift pockets are standard for loading them on flatbed trucks or trailers.

It is common for these trailers to be equipped with 2-inch ball hitches or pintle hitches. Pintle hitch adapters to a standard 2x2 inch receiver are common. We have removed pintle hitches from all of our 16-plus purchased units. Trailer brake lights (usually 4 wire-flat) are not universal, and are often broken. We bring a magnetic light kit to all trailer auction purchases.

Tower trailer licensing varies widely by state. In our state, Minnesota, trailers are defined as “construction support equipment” and do not require titles or license plates. In our experience, insurance is inexpensive, in the \$30/year range.

The generators are usually 6 kW, single phase. They run at 1800 RPM; the engine speed governs the voltage and frequency. Most older gensets have two 120V 60Hz windings and are 5% capacitor regulated – a 20 uF “motor run” electrolytic. We have seen several generator failure modes:

1. *Bad bearings*--the generator attaches on one side to the engine flywheel; the other side has a bearing that should be replaced regularly. If it fails it can spew metal bits into the windings and/or make a horrible noise.
2. *Bad windings*--one or both windings can burn out. This can easily be measured with a common VOM. Low impedance: an ohm or two and you are still good to go. They can be rewound for \$1500 or so. If you have one bad winding--the good one is still 3 kW.
3. *Bad capacitor on regulator board* – these are eBay/Amazon items.
4. *Off voltage*--There is usually a screw adjustment to regulate motor speed. The idea is maybe you are a little high unloaded but you're right on at 1800 RPM, 60 Hz, loaded.
5. *Need to be reflashed*--the coil can lose charge and the windings can be intact but field less. Follow the manual--ours needed a bit of 12V DC applied. Once in a while there are stator diode issues.

The mercury/halide lights need 400V AC +/- to start, draw 1000-plus watts each, are reactive and use large ballast transformers that take 115V input.

Do not overload the generator coils--you can burn out the windings. We use a big transformer to put both 115V windings in parallel for more current and use the circuit breaker to help protect the windings.

Prolonged operation at minimal load will tend to "wet stack" the diesels. This gunks up the valves with carbon. 1500 watt electric "milkhouse" heaters are a good load bank.

The diesels are reliable and consume in the range of .5 gallons/hour. The oil/filter change interval is around 240 hours. Check the air, fuel and oil filters.

240V AC outlets @30 amps are semi-common – on older units (2014) they are three wire 120V/120V/ground which are harder to break out to 120V outlets as there is no neutral. Often, neutral is tied to ground but we use a 6 kW transformer here. *Do not forget to ground the trailer.*

Larger Generators

We have owned 6 kW, 8 kW, 15 kW and two 20 kW diesel gensets. They use an electronic voltage regulator board, which can be simple and generic. The 15KW and 20KW units have four-cylinder engines and use more fuel. Starting at 50A at 240VAC, you can use the "California" plug, which is in common use and has a neutral. This allows easy use of the often-yellow breakout boxes, yielding multiple banks of 115V AC 15/20 amp outlets. --Erik Westgard, NY9D, Assistant EC for Events, ARRL Minnesota Section



Doug Reed, N0NAS, and author Westgard purchased a 20 kW MLT-4200 unit [Photo courtesy of Erik Westgard, NY9D]



KB1TEE retired light tower transformed into an antenna tower

READY · RESPONSIVE · RESILIENT



90TH ANNIVERSARY

1935 · 2025

ARES[®]

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service[®] (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an amateur radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

How to Get Involved in ARES: Fill out the ARES Registration form and submit it to your local Emergency Coordinator.

Congratulations KD5PLB!

Suni Williams now holds the record for most STEM contacts from the ISS at 86 and counting!



LEFT : Suni talks with students at the International School of Brussels in 2007 during Expedition 14.

BELOW: Suni talks with students from Banda Aceh, Indonesia in 2024 during Expedition 72.

NASA Photos



Did you know? The prior record of 85 ARISS contacts was held by ISS crew member Paolo Nespoli, IZØJPA. He made contact #85 in 2017.





NE1PL USTNR Uncommon Service To Nautical Radio

We will be on the USS Massachusetts **April 18th 2026** we will be remembering the armistice and long needed rest from the war. World War 2 was such a long and painful event . Eighty one years have passed and remembering the suffering is a special place to be.

June 5-7 Museum Ships on the Air weekend we will be on the ship from Friday night through Sunday please contact Rick KB1TEE if you wish to join us kb1tee@gmail.com

I found a lot of AI stuff on Facebook lately but some of them are funny

Celebrity supposed to be hams



265

Century Fox

Yuri Gagarin



3



4 F 1 E B D Amateur Ra...

Following



80



265

Tim Allen



3



4 F 1 E B D Amateur Ra...

Following



80



265

Andy Thomas



3

VK5MIR



265

Marlon Brando



3



4 F 1 E B D Amateur Ra...

Following



80

20 Celebrities Ham Radio Enthusiasts... more



But then there are some that are not and someone made it sound like they were hams



Based on the provided search results, there is no direct evidence that President John F. Kennedy was a licensed amateur radio (ham) operator who personally operated a station. [🔗](#)

However, the search results indicate that radio technology was heavily involved in his life and presidency:

- **Air Force One Radio:** Kennedy had a Hallicrafters SX-62 receiver installed next to his chair on his presidential airplane.
- **Hyannis Port Compound:** A radio tower was located at the Kennedy family compound in Hyannis, MA, which was common in the 1950s/60s for television, but also potentially used by the Secret Service.
- **Radio Policy:** Kennedy was interested in and monitored radio broadcasts, specifically discussing in 1963 how the FCC could address certain right-wing radio programs. [🔗](#)

ARRL Live Events and Podcasts

Ever wondered what it's really like to take a low-power radio into the field and make contacts with just a few watts? Did you know you can conduct a POTA operation with a super small QRP transceiver, an ultralight antenna, and a smartphone? Join ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, as he discusses the challenge and fun of QRP field operations. He will cover beginner-friendly basics like small QRP rigs, antenna selections, batteries, and CW versus digital modes. He will discuss his favorite QRP equipment and techniques. If you're curious about portable operation or ready to take your first steps into QRP, then join Wayne on the ARRL's Learning Center, [learn.arrl.org](https://www.arrl.org/learn), on February 24 at 8 PM Eastern. The livestream is free to ARRL members. Preregistration is required and can be accomplished on the Learning

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

(I HOPE YOU HAD A wonderful) HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

I hope everyone had wonderful and peaceful Thanksgiving and Winter Holidays. What a rollercoaster it's been for the past several weeks, with the Patriots in the Big Game (a tremendous effort, it sucks that we lost, but the Pats are back!!) and the crazy storms and cold and snow and icy weather. I'm happy to say my town's snow removal effort was pretty good, and we managed to not get completely snowed in. I hope you're in a similar situation, thawing out and staying warm and safe. I am, for sure, looking forward to Spring, even if Punxsutawney Phil says it's many weeks away. Oh well...

YOU CAN STILL HELP US CHANGE THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF AMERICAN HAMS

Hey! This is important! The ARRL is focused on reducing legal restraints on the ability of American Amateur Radio Operators to engage in the active practice and enjoyment of Amateur Radio. One of the most insidious and increasing threats to the survival of Amateur Radio and our ability to serve our communities and Nation, as we are required to do by Federal regulation, is the proliferation of private land use restrictions that prohibit the installation of outdoor antennas and that sometimes actually deny Federally licensed Amateurs from operating any amateur radios, regardless of where their antennas are located — in their attics, hidden in trees, or mounted on their vehicles.

Please, PLEASE take 30 seconds and arrange for letters to be printed and delivered to your US Representative and Senators. You really can make a difference, and the effort is practically free! See <https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation> for details.

Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board

President : John Laiosa N1BSO

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Secretary: Phillip McNamara KC1JDN

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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/w1mvmaral>

Newsletter Editor maranews@w1mv.org

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, Zoom is generally 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@arri.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