



January 2014  
Volume 53 Issue 01

# MARANews



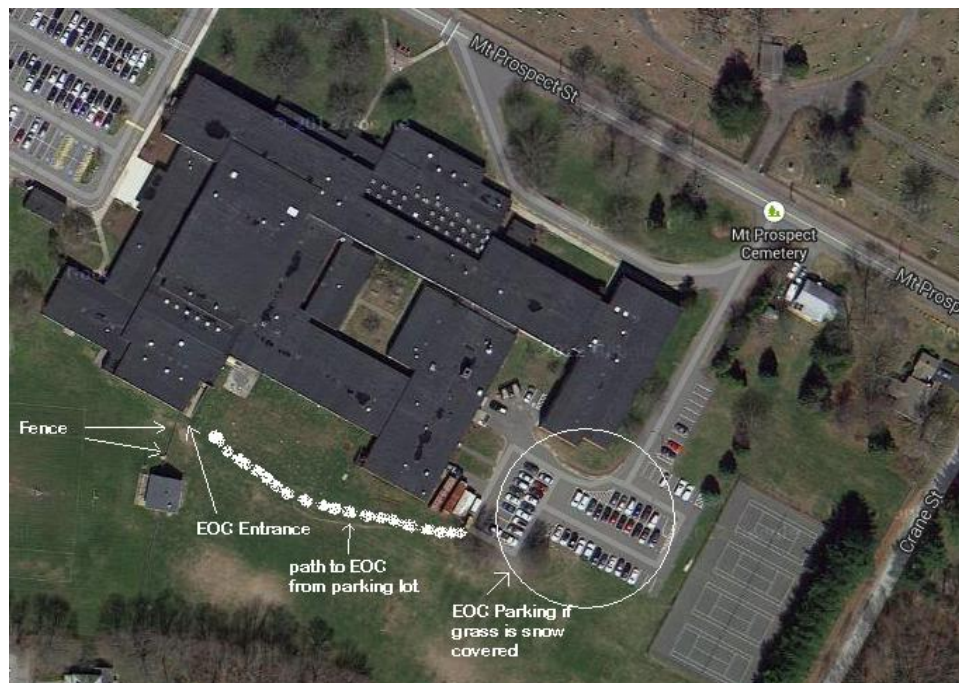
## Secretary's Report

There is no Secretary's report this month since no meeting was held in December 2013

## MARA Holiday Party

The MARA Holiday party is scheduled for January 21 at the new EOC building in Bridgewater. Please see below for directions

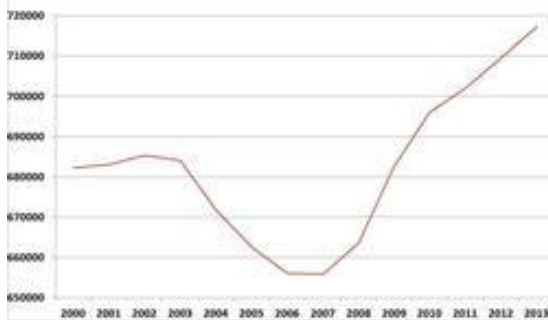
- Rick KB1TEE is organizing the MARA Christmas/Holiday party. This will be our January club meeting. It will be on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1800-2000 hrs (6pm-8pm) at the new Bridgewater EOC. This is a pot luck dinner event so it will be interesting to see what everyone brings. Please contact Barry – [N1EZH@comcast.net](mailto:N1EZH@comcast.net) with your Potluck item (Main Course, Side, Beverage, or Dessert)
- The Bridgewater EOC is located in the Bridgewater-Raynham secondary school at 166 Mt Prospect Street opposite a cemetery. The entrance is behind the school as shown on the map. Walk down the access ramp, into the building then up 2 flights of stairs. The radio room is in and immediately to the left.



## Next Meeting

MARA's next meeting will be held on January 21, 2013  
at the new Bridgewater EOC as part of the MARA Holiday Party

## Amateur Radio Showing Steady Growth in the US



Total US Amateur Radio licenses from 1999 until the end of 2013. [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, graphic, after a [chart](#) by Joe Speroni, AH0A]

[VEC](#) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "FCC-issued club station licenses are also at an all-time high in the FCC database at 11,363. The number of new licensees has increased by 7 percent over last year -- 28,886 in 2013 and 27,082 in 2012."

The breakdown by license class shows Technicians as the largest group, at 349,163, followed by Generals at 167,257, Amateur Extras at 133,391, and Advanced licensees at 54,293. Slightly more than 13,000 Novice licensees remain on record too. The FCC no longer issues the Novice or Advanced class license. Technician numbers have grown by 8.2 percent over the past decade, with an impressive comeback since 2007 after the population had plummeted from a peak of 338,334 in March 2000. The General class population has risen by slightly more than 18 percent over the past 10 years. But the Amateur Extra class has shown the *most* remarkable growth over the past decade, climbing by slightly more than 27 percent. While Amateur Radio application volume slipped somewhat overall, that was not the case at the ARRL VEC. "ARRL VEC served 34,896 exam applicants in 2013, up slightly from 32,866 in 2012," Somma said. "July will mark 30 years that ARRL VEC has been certified by the FCC to administer Amateur Radio exams. We're delighted to celebrate our important milestone in the same year as the ARRL's [Centennial](#) celebration and look forward to the promise of another record year."

The Amateur Radio population in the US continues to show steady growth, according to [statistics](#) compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A. As of the end of 2013, the FCC database showed 717,201 [licenses](#) in its Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)). That's the greatest number of US hams ever, and it's up from 709,575 in December 2012. The [volume](#) of Amateur Radio applications slowed somewhat to 141,943 from its zenith of 176,826 in 2007, the year the FCC dropped the Morse code requirement.

"The three current license classes also peaked at the end of 2013," notes ARRL



**ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM (left), and VEC Service Representative China Chaney. [Amanda Grimaldi, KB1VUV, photo]**

## Ham Radio in Space: Ham Radio CubeSats Launched to ISS

An unmanned Orbital Sciences Corp *Antares* rocket that blasted off from NASA's Wallops Island launch pad on Virginia's Eastern Shore January 10, carried aloft an Orbital Sciences Corp ([OSC](#)) *Cygnus* freighter with a bevy of Amateur Radio CubeSats aboard, bound for the International Space Station (ISS).

"We're in good shape," Orbital Sciences Executive Vice President Frank Culbertson, ex-KD5OPQ, told reporters after launch. The launch had been delayed twice, first by cold weather and then by high radiation levels due to a massive solar flare on January 7. Both events could have affected critical rocket systems.



**An Antares rocket takes off from NASA's Wallops Island launch pad. [NASA TV image]**



**Artist's conception of a Cygnus freighter. [OSC image]**

The *Cygnus* freighter rendezvoused and [docked](#) with the ISS on January 12. The four Amateur Radio CubeSats are [LituaniaSat-1](#), [LitSat-1](#), ArduSat-2 (an improved version of the single unit [ArduSat-1](#)), and [UAPSat-1](#). Other satellites also are onboard. LituaniaSat-1 carries a 145/435 MHz FM transponder, while LitSat-1 is thought to carry a 435/145 MHz linear transponder for SSB/CW. UAPSat-1 will carry an AX.25 145/437 MHz packet digipeater. ArduSat-2 will downlink 9,6 k MSK CCSDS data format on 437 MHz.

The CubeSats are expected to be deployed from the ISS in the coming months. The January 10 launch marks the first of eight OSC cargo resupply missions to the ISS for NASA. -- Thanks to [Southgate ARC](#) and [Orbital Sciences Corp](#)

## Intruder Watch: IARU Region 1 Monitoring System Notes New Russian OTH Radar on 20 Meters



The [December newsletter](#) of the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System ([IARUMS](#)) reports a new intruding Russian over-the-horizon (OTH) radar signal on 20 meters, audible in Europe. IARUMS monitor Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, said the 10 kHz wide OTH radar signal often jumps frequency. He has posted a [sound file](#). Others posted reports of OTH radar signals on 15 and 10 meters. Hadel also reported the occurrence of taxi



dispatch signals from Russia across 10 meters is "worse than before."  
In the past, he has reported hearing numerous taxis, most from Russia, intruding on 10 meters on FM. "You can hear a female voice operating the base station and a male voice in the car," he said in a 2010 account. Other intruder signals spotted included European "fishery traffic" on 80, 40, and 30 meters USB. Individuals may [log](#) reports of Amateur Radio band intruders and [monitor](#) the short-wave bands online with a web-based SDR receiver.

## Alexanderson Alternator Transmission from SAQ in Sweden Heard in US

Nearly 300 listeners -- most in Europe, but some in the US -- [reported](#) hearing the 17.2 kHz CW transmission from the SAQ [Alexanderson alternator](#) transmitter in Grimeton, Sweden, on Christmas Eve 2013. That's 50 more reports than in 2012. The reports included three from the US. Listeners in Germany filed the most reports -- 116.

Dating from the 1920s, the SAQ Alexanderson alternator -- essentially an ac generator run at extremely high speed -- can put out 200 kW but typically is operated at less than one-half that power level for demonstrations. Once providing reliable transatlantic communication, it is now a museum piece and only put on the air for special occasions.



The transmitter was developed by Swedish engineer and radio pioneer Ernst Alexanderson, who was employed at General Electric in Schenectady, New York, and was chief engineer at the Radio Corporation of America.

Six 400+ foot towers with 150 foot crossarms support a multi-wire antenna for SAQ. The actual signal radiates from a vertical wire, one from each tower. Amateur Radio station SK6SAQ operates from the Alexanderson alternator site.

The next SAQ transmission is set for Alexanderson Day, June 29, 2014, 1000 to 1600 CET. Contact [World Heritage Grimeton](#) for more information.

**An Alexanderson alternator.  
[World Heritage Grimeton  
photo]**

## New England Area Flea Schedule- Courtesy of W1GSL

New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea Market \*\*\* DATES \*\*\* 2014  
All events are Ham Radio/ Electronic related except ~\_\_\_\_~

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2014	Contact	Source
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1 Feb Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor	John	860 673 0518
8 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA @77 Main Free@8 \$10/T@7	Steve N1QDT	802 885 8110 W+
15 Feb Marlborough MA AARC @MS \$5@9 \$20/T@6:30	Bef 9 Tim KA1OS	508 919 6136
15 Feb Augusta ME AARA @CibCalumet	Bill K1NIT	207 512 0312 A+
16 Feb Westford MA NEARC RadioXVL 8AM@Regency \$10 antique	Bruce	603 772 7516 F
22 Feb S Burlington VT HAM-CON @HI I89x14 \$8@8 \$15@6	Mitch W1SJ	802 879 6589
1 Mar Chicopee MA MtTomARA @MooseLodge @8:30 S@6:30	Mary KB1ME	413 222 1990 +
2 Mar Hicksville NY LIMARC @Levittown Hall	Richie K2KNB	516 694 4937 A
15 Mar Dayville CT ECARA 8A @StJosephCh	Paul KE1LI	860 928 5147
16 Mar Southington CT SARA \$5@8A @HS \$20/T@6:15	eve Norm W3IZ	860 584 1403 F
28,29 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8	Ivan N1OXA	207 784 0350
6 Apr Framingham MA FARA @Keefe Tech \$5@9 \$25/T@7:30	Bev N1LOO	508 626 2012 +
12,13 Apr Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~	John	781 592 2553 F
12 Apr Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor	John	860 673 0518
18 April S.Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion \$6@8 \$10/T@6:30	John W1JLB	207 776 2288 W

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LAST UPDATE 1-5-14 de W1GSL <http://swapfest.us> P 1

List is normally updated twice a month - look for the latest version

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Additions/ Corrections via e-Mail [w1gsl@mit.edu](mailto:w1gsl@mit.edu) <- SUBSCRIBE

US Mail W1GSL POB 397082 MIT Br Cambridge MA 02139

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New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea Market \*\*\* DATES \*\*\* 2014 P2 of 2

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2014	Contact	Source
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20 Apr Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F  
 Third Sunday April thru October

27 Apr Middletown NY OCARA @CommCtr \$7@9 \$12Sell Neil AC2O 914 490 2001 F

2,3 May Deerfield NH NEARfest XV @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 R

10 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1494 W

18 May Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F

7 June Hermon ME PSARA @8 @HS TG@6:30 Jerry K1GUP 207 848 3400 W

7 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518

15 June Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F

18,19 July Hartford CT ARRL Nat Conv 100th Anv. 860 594 0200 W

20 July Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F

17 August Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F

6 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outdoor John 860 673 0518

20 Sept Forestdale RI RIAFMRS @VFW \$5/Sp@8 Pete AA1PL 401 639 4484 T

21 Sept Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F

10,11 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XVI @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 +

12 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton was Wallingford John N1GNV 203 440 4973

18,19 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553 +

19 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F

25 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799 T

26 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @Levittown Hall Richie K2KNB 516 694 4937 A

8 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422

29 Nov Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518

## Just Ahead in Radiosport

- Jan 17 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- Jan 17 -- NCCC Sprint Ladder
- Jan 18 -- LZ Open Contest
- Jan 18-19 -- Hungarian DX Contest
- Jan 18-19 -- North American QSO Party, SSB
- Jan 18-19 -- Feld Hell Sprint

- Jan 18-20 -- ARRL January VHF Contest
- Jan 19 -- ON 10-Meter Contest
- Jan 20 -- Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
- Jan 22 -- SKCC Sprint
- Jan 22 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- Jan 22-23 -- CWops Mini-CWT Test
- Jan 24 -- NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
- Jan 24 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- Jan 24 -- NCCC Sprint Ladder
- Jan 24-26 -- CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW
- Jan 25 -- WAB 1.8 MHz Phone
- Jan 25-26 -- REF Contest, CW
- Jan 25-26 -- BARTG RTTY Sprint
- Jan 25-26 -- UBA DX Contest, SSB
- Jan 25-26 -- SPAR Winter Field Day
- Jan 26 -- QRP ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint
- Jan 26-27 -- Classic Exchange, CW

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## **DX News**

**KENYA, 5Z.** Scott, WA5A is QRV as 5Z4/WA5A from Ruaka until about January 28. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

**SENEGAL, 6W.** Francis, F6BLP is QRV as 6W7SK from Saly Portudal until January 31. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using mainly CW. QSL to home call.

**BAHAMAS, C6.** John, 9H5G is QRV as 9H5G/C6A from Stocking Island, Great Bahama Bank, IOTA NA-001, until January 31. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using SSB, RTTY, PSK, JT9 and JT65. He plans to travel to other island groups as well. QSL direct via NI5DX.

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA.** Special event call sign DB50FIRAC is QRV until December 21, 2014 to mark the 50 years of the Federation Internationale des Radio Amateurs Cheminots, the International Federation of Railway Radio Amateurs. QSL via bureau.

**PHILIPPINES, DU.** Mike, W6QT is QRV as DU3/W6QT from Luzon Island, IOTA OC-042, until March 2014. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

**MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1.** Take, JG8NQJ/JD1 has been active on 15 meters using CW around 0000z and then using SSB around 0600z. QSL via JA8CJY.

**SEYCHELLES, S7.** Igor, UA3DJY is QRV as S79ACR from Mahe Island. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

CANADA, VE. David, VE3VID is QRV as VY0/VE3VID from Igloolik Island, IOTA NA-174. Activity is on 20 meters. His length of stay is unknown. This includes an entry in the ARRL RTTY Roundup contest. QSL to home call.

## ***Monthly Newsletter***

### Club Officers and Committeemen

President: Barry Kennedy N1EZH  
Vice President: Rick Emord KB1TEE  
Treasurer: Phil McNamara N1XTB  
Secretary: Larry Kenney K1LJK  
Call sign Trustee: Phil McNamara N1XTB

Repeater Trustees: Carl Aveni N1FY., Lou Harris N1UEC, Bob Mandeville N1EDM

**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/>

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

**WARC Web Page** <http://www.wa1npo.org>

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

**Skywarn** [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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM at the Bridgewater Public Library in Bridgewater Center. Talk-in is 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 Bill Needham, K1WN, at 781-843-4400 or via email at [k1wn@aol.com](mailto:k1wn@aol.com) Walk-ins are no longer permitted. We will be hosting VE exams at 8:45 at the Watson building. This is the new exam location for the Braintree Radio Club sponsors. If you know of anyone planning to take an exam, please have them drop a note to Bill - [k1wn@aol.com](mailto:k1wn@aol.com) to confirm a reservation.