



January 2021
Volume 59 Issue 1



Next meeting is January 19th, 2021 at 7:00pm. Informal meet and greet starts at 6:30pm. 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

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 or Wendy KC1GTR 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.

RIP, Don Benecchi, and thanks for your inspiration!



Silent Key, Don Benecchi, passed away September 14, 2020 at his home.

I believe, he was the earliest surviving club member. He continued paying his dues and being a member of the club even after he moved to Alabama. Donald Joseph Benecchi *1936 - 2020* He was a graduate of Brockton Trade High School in 1955 and attended Mass. Radio School in Boston.

He joined the US Navy while still in High School, served in the US Naval Reserve during the cold war era as a Cryptographic Technician and retired from the US Navy with the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He was employed in the electronic field in Massachusetts at Raytheon Co, Foxboro Co and Epsco, Inc. as a technician and Engineering Associate. He ultimately became a salesman promoting electronic components at Hatch Associates, Inc. and became President and owner of the firm for 20 years.



He was the husband of the late Carolyn Dee Benecchi for 39 years and moved from W. Bridgewater, MA to Dothan, Alabama in 2011.

Donald was an active Amateur Radio operator since 1952 with the call sign of *K1DC* enjoying building and repairing vintage radio equipment and operating Morse code making contacts with friends worldwide. He was a member of several radio clubs including the Massasoit Radio Club of Massachusetts and the Wiregrass ARC, Dothan, Alabama.

He was an avid sailing enthusiast and, during the New England summers, enjoyed sailing with his wife and children aboard the family sailboat "Blue Velvet" from Newport, RI to Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Long Island Sound area.

Don was a longtime member and friend of many in the K1USN Radio Club, Massasoit radio Club, Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club, Yankee Clipper Contest Club and more recently with the Wiregrass Amateur Radio Club in Dothan, AL.

In recent years Don made return visits to New England and would often spend a Saturday at K1USN. Don always had an interest in the latest in technology and I recall one Saturday morning operating our 20-meter station at the club and Don was sitting across the room with his laptop. While I was working a small pileup of stations on 20 CW I heard a call from K1DC! It turns out that Don had turned on his home station in Dothan, AL, rotated the beam towards K1USN and then called me at 25 wpm all using his laptop while sitting 15 feet away from me at K1USN! Don was a top CW operator.

Even while Don was living in Dothan, AL he still managed to join many of us at Ham gatherings such as Boxboro, Nearfest (Hosstraders), Hamvention in Dayton, Hamcation in Orlando and had been scheduled to join us for the 2020 Dayton Hamvention before the plug was pulled due to the pandemic.

BTW, Whitey, K1VV, wanted to make sure that you had an opportunity to watch Don's YouTube videos regarding his restoration of a rare 1930's Collins transmitter. I recall seeing this jumble of loose "parts" in the back of his van right after he had gathered them from a Silent Key estate. The videos show how he was able to make this rise like the Phoenix!

An interesting side note was that once Don decided to part with this restored Collins transmitter he entertained several bids due to the rarity of this item. One of his bidders was Joe Walsh from the Eagles!



HAM RADIO LOCAL AREA NETS

Any additions or corrections contact John – N1UMJ at: 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

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 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.walnpo.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, 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 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.

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



What's New?

International Broadcast Station Interference Overwhelms Hurricane Watch Net 11/18/2020

As Category 4 Hurricane Iota neared landfall in Central America on November 16, the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) was forced to suspend operations at 0300 UTC because of what HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, described as “deafening interference from a foreign AM broadcast station that came out of nowhere at 0200 UTC.” At the time, the net had shifted to its 40-meter frequency of 7.268 kHz, collecting real-time weather and damage reports via amateur radio.

“This was heartbreaking for our team, as the eyewall of Iota was just barely offshore,” Graves said. “The storm had weakened slightly to a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 155 MPH.” After activating at 1300 UTC, the net was able to collect and forward reports from various parts of Nicaragua and Honduras via WX4NHC throughout the day for relay to forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Iota was the most powerful storm on record to make landfall this late in the hurricane season.

Graves said the very strong AM signal was on 7.265 MHz. “From my location, it was S-9,” he told ARRL. “You could not hear anything but the BC station.” The source of the signal was not clear, but as he noted, other foreign broadcast stations are to be heard from 7.265 to 7.300 MHz and splattering close by.

Stations handling emergency traffic during the response to Category 5 Hurricane Iota had requested clear frequencies on November 16 to avoid interfering with the HWN and with WX4NHC, as well as with a Honduran emergency net operation on 7.180 MHz and a Nicaraguan emergency net operating on 7.098 MHz. It’s not known if those nets were also affected by interference from the numerous broadcasters on 40 meters. “Thank you to all who allowed us a clear frequency,” Graves said on behalf of the HWN.

Iota made landfall not far from where Hurricane Eta had come ashore in Central America just a week earlier before soaking southern Florida. Central America is still recovering from Eta. Hurricane Iota weakened significantly following landfall, but not before delivering some 30 inches of rain, catastrophic winds, and mudslides to huge swaths of Central America.

Forecasters say storm swells could be felt as far north as the Yucatán Peninsula, as far east as Jamaica, and as far south as Colombia. No deaths were reported in Nicaragua. Authorities were said to be monitoring rivers and sheltering vulnerable populations.

“I dare say, don’t let your guard down,” Graves said. “A new tropical wave has developed behind Iota. Should this become a storm, it will be named Kappa.”



The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Solar activity increased this week. We saw no spotless days, and the average daily sunspot number rose from 14.7 to 28.1. Average daily solar flux was up from 76.1 to 77.2.

Average daily planetary A index rose from 4 to 9.4, due to a minor geomagnetic storm on Monday. On that day, Alaska's High Latitude College A index was 33.



Predicted solar flux for the next 30 days is 76 on January 28 - 29; 74 on January 30 - February 1; 72, 70, and 73 on February 2 - 4; 76 on February 5 - 10; 77 on February 11 - 20; 76 on February 21 - 24, 75 on February 25 - 26.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on January 28 - 31; 18, 12, and 8 on February 1 - 3; 5 on February 4 - 6; 10 on February 7 - 8; 5 on February 9 - 19; 8, 12 and, 12 on February 20 - 22, and 5 on February 23 - 26.

Sunspot numbers for January 21 - 27 were 26, 39, 34, 23, 26, 23, and 26, with a mean of 28.1. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 77.6, 78.2, 77.9, 77.6, 77.1, 75.7, and 76.3, with a mean of 77.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 4, 5, 5, 17, 21, and 11, with a mean of 9.4. Middle latitude A index was 2, 3, 3, 4, 14, 9, and 9, with a mean of 6.3.

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](#) K9LA's Propagation Page.

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

[Share](#) your reports and observations.

January 2021: EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS (EMA) SECTION NEWS

ARRL Sponsored On-line Amateur Radio Exams

If you cannot find an in-person exam session in your area or feel unsafe attending one, do not panic. You can be tested via one of the many remote video-supervised sessions online.

Remote video exam sessions are conducted using an online video conferencing platform, like Zoom, and a web-based examination system with on-screen tests.



Video-supervised online exam sessions are not restricted by location because the exams are administered online. Therefore, there are not any online sessions specific to a state nor would an exam candidate be limited to testing only with a team in their state. An examinee can pick any team offering online exam sessions and examiners can participate from different areas of the country.

The online exam-taking process is more complicated and takes more time than the in-person exams. The examinee must read, agree to, and follow the specific Volunteer Examiner (VE) team's requirements and instructions and have the needed technology in order to take a video-supervised online exam.

For more information, check out this informative YouTube video produced by Dave Casler, KE0OG, at <https://youtu.be/DVDMPLMvAiA>

or visit the ARRL's website at: <http://www.arrl.org/findonlineexam>

HAMXPOSITION IS A "GO" SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2021

While many other large ham conventions have already cancelled their 2021 plans, the HamXposition Committee has announced that it intends to convene an in-person convention at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough on September 10, 11, and 12. "We believe our September date should be sufficiently into 2021 that the COVID vaccine program will have had time to be executed, and things will be back to relative normal," says 2021 HamXposition Chair Bob DeMattia, K1IW. DeMattia adds, "The committee will continue to monitor the situation. To make things a bit easier in case we have to postpone or cancel, online tickets sales will not open until August 1.

To follow developments and news about the convention, visit <https://hamxposition.org>.

WHITMAN ARC AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS UNDERWAY

The Whitman Amateur Radio Club will hold weekly Amateur Extra license class sessions for about ten weeks beginning on January 28, 2021. For more information, visit

<https://ema.arrl.org/2021/01/29/amateur-extra-license-class-offered-by-whitman-arc-beginning-january-28-2021/>.