



January 2024

Volume 61 Issue 01



<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 January 16th 2024 Social hour is from 1800 meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting. Our February meeting is on 20th

ON THE AIR Tuesdays 1st Feb 6th no net controller, 2nd Feb 13th net controller John N1UMJ, and 4th Feb 27th 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 or me Rick Emord kb1tee@gmail.com

Presidents Message

I hope everybody had a nice holiday season. The next meeting at the Bridgewater Library is this coming Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30. Some the topics that will be discussed are the following:

- New format for the Tuesday night net
- Guest speakers for the coming year
- April open house
- Amateur Radio classes

A reminder that dues are due for the coming year.

We need to reimburse AJ1L for the new APRS gateway.

John Laiosa

Secretary report

No secretary report for December please remember to pay your 2024 dues

Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE

For those of you have asked I'm doing well I can type again with two hands. The PT crew is stretching out my arm making it loosen up. I still cannot raise it above my mid-chest line by myself thank you to all who have asked. I've mostly finished changing my ham station. I can't wait to get back on the air being left handed and that is the shoulder I had surgery on is making it tough to get to the microphones. I'm having problems with my computer it used to have two monitors now it is one but the computer won't let me change this I need a five year old to help me make changes!

WA1NPO winter fest

WinterFest 2024 Saturday-January 20th 9am-1pm

Hey Hams, We still have \$15 tables available for The Hamfest on Saturday, January 20th 2024 at Rt. 18 1195 Bedford St. Whitman, Ma 02382

You can send a check to PO Box 48 Whitman, Ma 02382

Or

Visit our website and use the PayPal Link http://www.wa1npo.org/WF/2024Winterfest_hasPayPal.html

Please respond to this email if you're interested.

Thank you

The First Best HamFest of the Year Whitman Amateur Radio Club K of C Hall Rt. 18 Whitman MA

\$5 entry fee with Raffle Prizes (drawn at noon VE testing sessions for Tech/General/Extra

Refreshments Talk-In on the Whitman club repeater: 147.225Mhz +pl67 Vendors call: 781-523-5010

or Visit: www.WA1NPO.org Tables Cost: \$15



Swapfest is back!!!

Posted: December 7, 2023

Thank you to all our vendors and buyers last year for making the second post-pandemic season run smoothly! Event registrations have not been submitted yet, but pending that, Swapfest's 2024 season is expected to run as usual with the dates listed below. Our contact email remains swapfest@mit.edu. The 2024 Swapfest season will run as usual starts April 21

WINTER FIELD DAY JAN 27-28, 2024

At the Winter Field Day Association, our mission is to encourage emergency operating preparedness during the winter months when the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards may present unique operational challenges.

Winter Field Day is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to the ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more.



Notable Guidelines for Winter Field Day 2024 January 27-28, 2024

- All stations are limited to a maximum of 100 Watts PEP.
- All logs must be in the Cabrillo format and submitted online at www.winterfieldday.com
- Mexico stations should use MX as their location identifier.
- Bonuses are now listed as objectives and are recorded separately.
- Multiple transmitters are allowed to operate on the same band/mode at the same time.



NEAR-Fest XXXV April 26 & 27, 2024 Deerfield, NH Gates open on Friday at 0900

USS MASSACHUSETTS OPERATIONS 2024

Hello everyone I have set the dates for our three events from Big Mammie for 2024

April 20th 0800 arrive and set up 1000 on the air cleaned up and on our way home by 1530 80 years ago D Day happened in June 1944. We will be celebrating this great feat with this operation.

May 31st-June 2nd Museum ships on the air. We will board the ship around 1600 set up on the air at 2000 come home on Sunday. I am hoping for three stations operating. The staff allows us to stay on the ship in Jr officers' quarters the racks are quite comfortable.

September 21st celebration of the ships launch event 83 years ago 1941. 0800 arrive and set up 1000 on the air cleaned up and on our way home by 1530

I hope you can make it! I am hoping for a full crew for the April event. I will be limited as to what I can do because of my shoulder surgery.



USS MASSACHUSETTS COMING INTO FALL RIVER 1965

FARA Comm Trailer in 60th Falmouth Christmas Parade

The FARA Community Communications Support Vehicle was one of 77 "floats" or groups participating in the 60th Falmouth Christmas Parade. Great publicity for FARA and amateur radio, while supporting a wonderful Falmouth Christmas tradition.

Thanks to Ralph--N1YHS, Jeremy--WA1JRC, and the other FARA members who assisted.



From the ARRL

Student-Led ARISS Contact a Success

A student-led contact with astronauts through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program was a great success that earned significant media attention.

On Monday, December 11, students at Harbor Creek High School in Harborcreek, Pennsylvania, used amateur radio to talk with Astronaut Andreas Mogensen, KG5GCZ.

The students are part of the Advanced Technologies Group, KC3SGV, an after-school club at Harbor Creek. Fifteen of the students are licensed radio amateurs. As [ARRL News reported last week](#), their faculty advisor, Assistant Principal Drew Mortensen, AC3DS, is a graduate of the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology. He utilized what he learned in the program and brought it back to the school. The ARISS contact is just one of the many successes the program has had.



ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, was on hand for the contact, and he was impressed by the skills demonstrated by the students.

Goodgame recalled, "From antenna assembly and installation to the actual control operator function of the radio during the contact itself, students were at the helm. Every student who asked a question of Commander Mogensen was a licensed amateur radio operator. When I asked what they had planned next, the response was, 'Well, the logical step would be to build and get a CubeSat launched.' This is exactly the type of program we hope to help create as an outcome of the Teachers Institute," said Goodgame.

Local, regional, and national media took note of the students' success. Local television newscasts (see [Amateur Radio in the News](#) below) featured the event, and NBC Journalist Harry Smith and a crew from NBC's TODAY were at the event to tell the story about the young hams.



On Monday, December 11, students at Harbor Creek High School in Harborcreek, Pennsylvania, used amateur radio to talk with Astronaut Andreas Mogensen, KG5GCZ.

The students are part of the Advanced Technologies Group, KC3SGV, an after-school club at Harbor Creek. Fifteen of the students are licensed radio amateurs. As [ARRL News reported last week](#), their faculty advisor, Assistant Principal Drew Mortensen, AC3DS, is a graduate of the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology. He utilized what he learned in the program and brought it back to the school. The ARISS contact is just one of the many successes the program has had.





Student-members of the Advanced Technology Group at Harbor Creek High School handled all aspects of the ARISS contact. ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, was on hand for the contact, and he was impressed by the skills demonstrated by the students.

Goodgame recalled, "From antenna assembly and installation to the actual control operator function of the radio during the contact itself, students were at the helm. Every student who asked a question of Commander Mogensen was a licensed amateur radio operator. When I asked what they had planned next, the response was, 'Well, the logical step would be to build and get a CubeSat launched.' This is exactly the type of program we hope to help create as an outcome of the Teachers Institute," said Goodgame.

Local, regional, and national media took note of the students' success. Local television newscasts (see [Amateur Radio in the News](#) below) featured the event, and NBC Journalist Harry Smith and a crew from NBC's TODAY were at the event to tell the story about the young hams.

Harry Smith and a crew from NBC's TODAY interview a group of student hams.

This type of exposure for amateur radio is key to growing the hobby, according to ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX. "The passion of these teenage operators led to this success story. Who doesn't love the story of young minds doing extraordinary things in STEM through amateur radio?" she exclaimed. ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, mentioned that the media coverage demonstrates the impact that the donors who have funded the Teachers Institute have on the future of amateur radio. Beal said, "The reach goes far beyond the one-week training institute and ripples out farther than we can see."



ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, speaks with a TV reporter at the ARISS contact.

2024 ARRL National Convention to be at Hamvention

ARRL and Hamvention® have announced that Hamvention will host the 2024 ARRL National Convention, May 17, 18, and 19 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. Hamvention is the world's largest annual gathering of radio amateurs and has been sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) since 1952.



"We are pleased to unveil our 2024 logo and theme," announced 2024 Hamvention General Chair Jim Storms, AB8YK, and the Hamvention team. "The theme is 'Expanding our Community'. This is in support of the growth of amateur radio worldwide."

Hamvention Awards Chair Michael Kalter, W8CI, also shared a reminder that the nomination period is open to submit nominations for 2024 Hamvention Awards, including the Amateur of the Year, Technical Achievement, Special Achievement, and Club of the Year awards. More information about the awards can found on the Hamvention website, and nominations will close on February 15, 2024.

ARRL is building a program for its National Convention that will include presentations and forums, more than a dozen exhibits, and activities for young hams. Once finalized, the National Convention program will be published at www.arrl.org/expo.

Hamvention urged "everyone to purchase their tickets and make their room reservations early to avoid the rush." Visit the Hamvention website for more information and to order tickets at www.hamvention.org.

Raspberry Pi Pico-based WSPR beacon by Roman Piksaykin

During the last decade, some HAM radio enthusiasts are gradually shifting their activity towards weak signal digital modes such as PSK31, MFSK, FT8 etc. That happened because of expanding noise on the classical HF bands such as 40 or 80 meters. The weak signal digital modes can mitigate the problem.

The [WSPR](#) digital mode protocol is a powerful way to know how the signal of my HAM radio station propagates globally. Nowadays the common practice of utilizing WSPR is generating the signal using a PC equipped by a sound card and WSJT-X software. Next the audio signal is used as input of SSB transceiver. Often it is too much for people who are keen on HF radio and want to try to step into that hobby. So, I've managed to devise the WSPR beacon, which can boast of quite low entry threshold. Minimally you need only a Raspberry Pi Pico board (a few \$), a wire or a dipole antenna and the software.

The [software](#) of the beacon is available on the GitHub under the MIT licence and consists of the WSPR-related part of software and [HF oscillator](#), which is `the heart` of the transmitter. Despite the fact that the oscillator is completely digital, it possesses a number of decent features: 23 milli-hertz frequency resolution and frequency range of 1.1 to 9.4 MHz which covers three HAM radio bands: 160, 80, and 40 meter. The HF radio-signal are available on the GPIO pin of Pico. The additional hardware such as external VCO with PLL isn't needed. The [PLL](#) implemented in [C](#) and oscillator itself is devised on the basis of hardware PIO — a brilliant Pico's feature.

Unfortunately, I can't boast of a decent antenna. I possess only a peace of copper rope, sticking out my window on the second floor. Adding an amplifier of 80mW output power, based on 2N3904, equipped with LPF filter in order to comply spectral purity requirements, I've got an impressive results: If you are interested in this project, please don't hesitate to ask me about this matter. In addition, consider clicking a star on the GitHub project's page.

Cheers, Roman Piksaykin, amateur radio callsign R2BDY. [QRZ page](#).

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP002:

Eight new sunspot groups emerged over this reporting week, January 4 - 10, 2024.

Four new sunspot groups appeared on January 5, another two on January 7, and two more on January 9.

The average daily sunspot numbers rose from 63.4 to 146.1, and the average daily solar flux increased from 141.9 to 163.3.

Geomagnetic indicators declined, with the planetary A index decreasing from 6.7 to 4.9 and the middle latitude numbers decreasing from 5.1 to 4.3.

The predicted solar flux is 185 on January 11 - 12; 175 on January 13 - 15; 170, 165, and 155 on January 16 - 18; 150 on January 19 - 21; 145 and 140 on January 22 - 23; 135 on January 24 - 26; 130 and 135 on January 27 - 28; 140 on January 29 - 31; 150, 160, 165, and 150 on February 1 - 4; 155 on February 5 - 6; 160 on February 7, and 155 on February 8 - 10.

The predicted planetary A index is 5 on January 11 - 12; 8 on January 13 - 14; 5 on January 15 - 27; 8 on January 28 - 30; 5 on January 31 through February 3; 10, 10, and 8 on February 4 - 6, and 5 on February 7 - 22.

Sunspot numbers for January 4 - 10 were 64, 121, 149, 171, 152, 183, and 183, with a mean of 146.1. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 125.8, 152.7, 159.4, 167.1, 176.2, 175.9, and 186, with a mean of 163.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 5, 3, 3, 4, 6, and 7, with a mean of 4.9. The middle latitude A index was 5, 4, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, with a mean of 4.3.

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 Luetzelshwab, K9LA.

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

[Share](#) your reports and observations.

A weekly, full report is posted on [ARRL News](#).

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

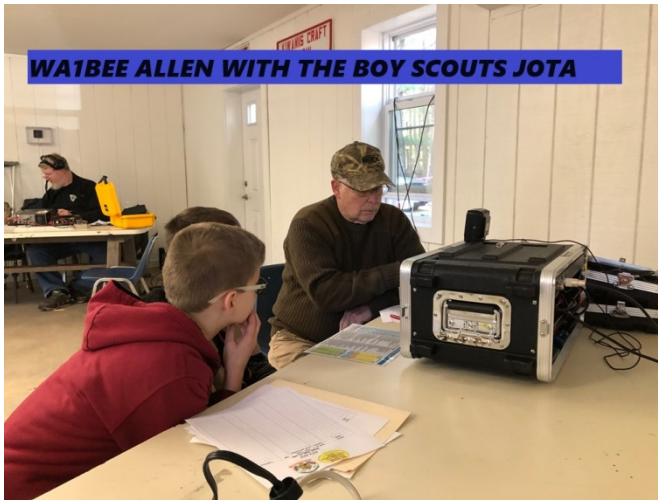
Monthly meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month, for time being, Tuesday Night Zoom meeting will be at 6:30pm.

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

PAST MARA MEMBERS EVENT PICTURES



WA1BEE ALLEN WITH THE BOY SCOUTS JOTA



*MAY 2021 Middleborough
road race crew*



*NR1FD BILL WITH KERMIT
THE NOAA NATIONAL
WEATHER HURRICANE
PLANE*



**BBQSO AUGUST 2021 PHIL N1XTB
PATTY EMORD PHIL KC1JDN'S SHOULDER
AND SPRING**



*KB1TET on the USS
Wisconsin N4WIS 2019*



*N1TKG Ross sharing his
collection of antique radios
MAY at a club meeting*