



July, 2018
Volume 56 Issue 07

MARANews



Next meeting July 17, 2018 at 6:30pm at the Bridgewater Public Library

Our August meeting will be on the 21st 2018 6:30pm at the Bridgewater Public library

Presidents notes from KC1CFO Denise Sisson



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Next meeting July 17, 2018 at the Bridgewater Public Library Bridgewater, MA

Our next meeting will be August 21, 2018.

Presidents Notes from KC1CFO Denise Sisson MARA Facebook page: Our Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Facebook page with club events, meeting, photos, ect. is occasional updated so that it can be another resource for us on which to spark interest of 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 Rick - kb1tee@gmail.com and Denise KC1CFO denigs1@aol.com and 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 work out even more!

WOW, July 4th is past and onward to summer full swing.

We had elections in June,

Denise KC1CFO will continue as president

Jeff N1ZZN is Vic President

Phill N1XTB is treasure

Rob N1RTS is Secretary

July 22, is the Y Tri-Athelon, we will be needing a few more radio operators to help with different safety points. Please contact me at denigs1@aol.com if you would like to help or meet at the Dunkin Donuts at 7AM for your assignment.

Thank you to all that helped for the Woodies walk in June.

We are also looking forward to the future of the antenna in Bridgewater. We have voted on purchasing another one. Donations will be excepted if you would like.

Again we are looking for speakers and ideas for our monthly club meeting. Please contact Rick or Denise if you would like to contribute.

73 all Denise KC1CFO

President-Massasoit Amateur Radio Association

SECRETARY'S NOTES – MARA MEETING 06/19/18 – Larry Kenney, W1VP

OPEN: President **Denise KC1CFO** opened the meeting at 6:32 pm, 06/19/18.

ATTENDANCE: 10 members were present including 3 elected officers

W1VP Larry Kenney (Sec)
KA1YL Connie Frauciosi
AG1B Richard Metcalf
SWL Elizabeth Meekin

KC1CFO Denise Sisson (President)
N1ZZN Jeff Lehmann (Vice-Pres)
KB1YII Michael Whyers

WA1BEE Allen Hiltz
N1RTS Bob Sisson
N1IQI Loren Pimentel

MEETING MINUTES :

Denise KC1CFO informed the club members, last months meeting notes were included in the most recent club newsletter. Motion to accept as published made by **Bob N1RTS** with a second by **Richard AG1B**. Motion passed vote by attending club members.

Club Treasurer **Phil N1XTB** was not present at the meeting but provided the May 2018 treasurers report to **Denise KC1CFO** who presented it to the club members. Motion to accept as read made by **Richard AG1B** with a second by **Allen WA1BEE**. Motion passed vote by attending club members.

Repeater Report:

Jeff N1ZZN confirmed the severe damage to the Tram Rx/APRS .18 repeater antenna based on drone video. Jeff had proposed a quad dipole replacement antenna costing approx \$1300 + shipping/freight charges (total approx \$1500) + the cost of the climber to install it. A general discussion took place on other antenna options – most costing approx. the same amount. **Mike KB1YII** suggested making a replacement antenna and offered to research this further. As **Phil N1XTB** recently noted, the cost of a new antenna will nearly drain the club treasury but money from upcoming Entergy training sessions will help to replenish this. Increased attendance at these drills was discussed as this directly relates to the Entergy club donation funds. Additional fund raising ideas were discussed as well. Motion to allocated funds for the quad-dipole antenna **Jeff N1ZZN** recommended made by **Bob N1RTS** with a second by **Connie KA1YL**. Motion passed vote by attending club members.

New Business

Denise KC1CFO mentioned the June 30th ARRL Cabinet meeting taking place at the Boxboro Regency Hotel in Boxboro MA and read the invitation email sent to affiliated club presidents, section managers, advisory committee members and assistant directors. Denise asked if anyone was interesting in attending the meeting. No one at the meeting indicated they were.

Denise KC1CFO highlighted the need for speakers at future meetings. Any ideas, please let Denise know. Denise also spoke about the effort to have a local weather expert, possibly a tv personality, speak at a future club meeting. **Jeff N1ZZN** asked where we left off w/the Mt. Washington talk (at a cost of \$195). Denise indicated this was tabled for now.

A general discussion took place on the July 22nd Camp Yomechas YMCA Tri-Athelon in Middleboro and the need for communication volunteers, including someone for net control as **John N1UMJ** is not available. **Connie KA1YL** indicated she could volunteer for the event. More volunteers are needed!

Denise KC1CFO reminded everyone of the June officer elections. **Bob N1RTS** accepted nomination as club secretary. **Denise KC1CFO**:President, **Jeff N1ZZN**:Vice-President and **Phil N1XTB**: Treasurer (prior to this meeting) have each accepted re-nomination for their officer positions, all unopposed. The membership unanimously voted to accept these officers. Congratulation to the officers!

Denise KC1CFO reviewed the upcoming events as listed in the latest newsletter. **Larry W1VP** mentioned the upcoming ARRL Field Day event on June 23rd and 24th which the Whitman Amateur Radio Club participates in at the YMCA field in East Bridgewater. The MARA club, as always, is welcome to join in.

The club members welcomed visitor/SWL Liz to the meeting and a general discussion took place as a brief intro to the MARA club and amateur radio in general.

CLOSE: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Allen WA1BEE** with a second by **Richard AG1B**. Motion passed by attending club members. **Denise KC1CFO** closed the meeting at 7:26pm 06/19/18.

World Radiosport Team Championship 2018: The *Other* Ham Radio Event of the Summer

In about 2 weeks, some 60 two-person teams will take on the world and each other in World Radiosport Team Championship 2018 ([WRTC 2018](#)), in the Jessen-Wittenberg area of Germany. Held approximately every 4 years, WRTCs take place in conjunction with the 24-hour-long [IARU HF Championship](#) July 14 - 15, although WRTC teams are subject to additional rules specific to the competition. Several years of preparation and organization begun right after WRTC 2014 in New England have led to WRTC 2018, and a number of skills have been brought into play, including carpentry. A team of about 20 has been building WRTC boxes that will contain all equipment transported to individual sites.

"Everything that is needed on the site, including antenna materials, arrives packed in the box. Only the mast is transported separately," said Andreas "Paul" Paulick, DL5CW. "This ensures that nothing gets lost in transit in the vehicles." Paulick noted that the mast, antenna, tent, and generator accessories are bulky enough not to fall through the cracks, but that small items "tend to disappear."

Final antenna work also has been handled, with 65 rotators bolted to base plates and tested to make sure that they're working correctly. Guy sets for the masts are also complete. Organizers suggest the tension is building as July 12 approaches.

Fourteen North American teams qualified for WRTC 2018, including WRTC 2014 defending champions Daniel Craig, N6MJ, and Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, from the US. WRTC 2014 Chair Doug Grant, K1DG, merited a wild card slot, WRTC 2018 said. His teammate will be WRTC 2014 Competition Director Andy Blank, N2NT. WRTC 2018 also just announced a new team leader to take the place of a competitor who had to drop out of the event. Gilles Renucci, VA2EW, will head the new wild card team #6. He ended qualification for WRTC 2018 in 2nd place in area NA #7, which only had one team available. Arno Polinsky, DL1CW, will be his teammate.



Nearly all WRTC 2018 participants got into Amateur Radio as teenagers; a WRTC 2018 survey showed an average age of just over 13 when first licensed. Team Leaders were chosen from each region, based on 2 years of qualifying contest scores and have chosen a teammate for the event.

Wherever they're from, competitors must muster the stamina to sit at their radios for 24 hours straight if they want to finish on top. In *Contact Sport*, a narrative of WRTC 2014, author Jim George, N3BB, described the role that "extreme fatigue" played. "The final 4 hours were tough at every site," George wrote. Describing the operators at one site, he wrote, "The men couldn't keep their eyes open, were not able to concentrate, and had trouble pushing the right buttons on the radio and pressing the correct keys on the keyboard. Neither could sit any longer -- it was just too uncomfortable."

WRTC 2018 organizers have ensured that all competing teams will operate from as level a playing field as possible. This includes not just topography, but antennas and even freedom from external noise sources. A referee will be at each station site to verify compliance with the rules and make decisions on any rule questions competitors may have.



A WRTC 2018 station test site last summer.

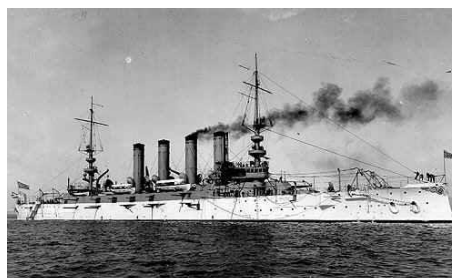
A real-time [online scoreboard](#) will keep "spectators" up to date on how the competing teams are faring. "We want to make sure that from all competition locations, the ongoing results in 1-minute intervals are available on a scoreboard," said Ben Büttner, DL6RAI, who leads the real-time scoreboard team. He said special attention was given to RFI, thermal stability, and redundancy in assembling the computer systems that will collect score data.

[Radio DARC](#) will cover WRTC 2018 with two broadcasts in English, Saturday, July 14, at 1100 UTC and on Sunday, July 15, at 0900 UTC, on 6,070 kHz and on 13,860 kHz. The broadcasts will explain what WRTC 2018 is and how it works, and will include behind-the-scenes reports touching on the qualifying process, the competitors, and the volunteers. The transmitters for the Radio

DARC program are in Vienna, Austria.

Fred Dennin, WW4LL, and other stations in Georgia, will activate ARRL Headquarters station W1AW/4 for the IARU contest. The IARU HQ station will identify as NU1AW/9 with CW operation from the station of Craig Thompson, K9CT, and from the station of Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z, and Val Hotzfeld, NV9L -- both in Illinois. The 2018 [IARU HF World Championship](#) runs from July 14 at 1200 UTC to July 15 at 1200 UTC. These and other HQ stations count as multipliers in calculating IARU contest scores.

Radio Club ([GSBARC](#)) will remember those lost in the sinking of the USS *San Diego*. They will operate as W2NMY from July 14 until July 22 UTC to mark the centennial of the sinking of the armored cruiser on July 18, 1918, 12 miles off Fire Island, New York, and to honor the six sailors who died. NMY is a historical Fire Island call sign used by the US Navy and the US Coast Guard. Because the *San Diego*'s onboard radio was not working, the captain dispatched the gunnery officer to the mainland, but by the time he returned 2 hours later with rescue vessels, it was too late. The *San Diego* became the only major warship lost by the US after its involvement in World War I. A Naval Court of Inquiry subsequently concluded that a mine laid by a German submarine had sunk the *San Diego*. W2NMY operation will be on all bands and modes. A downloadable certificate will be available for confirmed contacts. [Contact](#) GSBARC for more information.



International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend – ILLW

21st ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE / LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

0001 UTC 18th AUGUST 2018 TO 2400 UTC 19th AUGUST 2018 (48 hours or part thereof).

This year's event is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and Publicity Officer of 9 years, Jim Linton VK3PC, who passed away on 22nd February 2018.

Official List of Entrants - 2018 Total= 257



BOXBORO 2018 Amateur radio convention

September 7,8,and 9 in Boxborough, MA at the Regency hotel and conference center. Just off route 495 exit 28 address is 242 Adams place. Flea market is Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 9-1

Local Club Information

MARA Needs your The YMCA Triatholon in Middleborough needs volunteers

July 22, 2018 from 0730 to about 1200, hand held radios are needed frequency 145.770 Simplex, and 147.180 pl67 Bridgewater Repeater as back up. Meet at the Middleborough Dunkin Donuts at routes 105 and 28 for your assignments. Race route goes from Camp Yomechas on Wareham St Middleborough. Runs over the following roads Rocky Gutter St, to Purchase St, to Chestnut St, to Thomas St, to Tispaquin St and back to Wareham St

Please contact Dennis Sisson KC1CFO denigs1@aol.com

W1NAS South Weymouth

Saturday August 18, 2018 is the possible date.

The Former South Weymouth Naval Air Station Radio club will hopefully be operating for this event again the SNOW GOOSE. This is a tribute to the South Weymouth NAS airship that launched to meet the USS Nautilus. The nautilus was under the polar ice cap at Resolute Bay in the Arctic Circle as the Snow goose flew over.



W1NAS is the ARC of the Shea Naval Aviation Museum located in the old gymnasium building of the former NAS. Check us out at www.qrz.com/db/w1nas or at www.anapatriotsquadron.org. For more information contact Steve, W1OD, at w1od@arrrl.net.

WA1NPO Marshfield Fair

August 16–27 2018 from noon to 1630 and 1600-2030 the WA1NPO Whitman radio club will be at the Marshfield fair operating as. If you would like to assist them or want to know who's on the air look at their website www.wa1npo.org



WHITMAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PO BOX 48, Whitman MA 02382

781-523-5010 WWW.WA1NPO.org

Email: WA1NPO@gmail.com

147.225 Mhz +PL67 IRLP node 8691 EchoLink WA1NPO-R



NE1PL on the USS Massachusetts

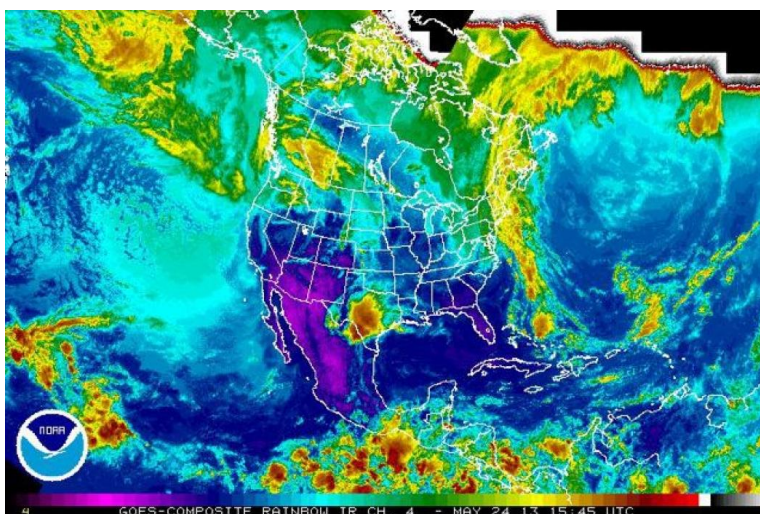
The USTNR radio club will be on the USS Massachusetts September 22, 2018 for operations this is in remembrance of the ships BIRTHDAY September 23, 1941. She will be 77 years young go to the video below if you wish to see her launched

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzxByieHztI>



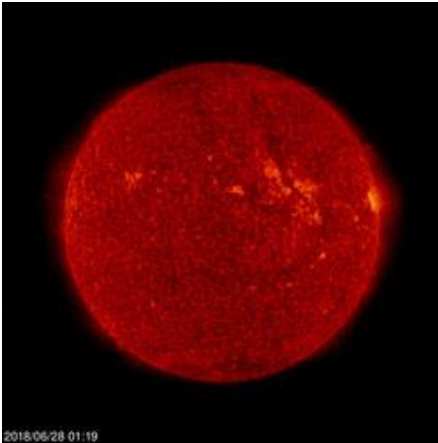
Skywarn net every Saturday night 2000 (8:00) on the 180

Please jump in and give your weather reports on the Skywarn net we meet at 8:00 on 147.180. If you want to be a Net controller contact Denise KC1CFO I am sure he would enjoy the help



The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Conditions were good for Field Day weekend, with no geomagnetic disruptions and solar flux and sunspot numbers relatively high for this part of the solar cycle. The sunspot numbers were 41, 34, and 16 for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, while solar flux was 80.3, 77.1, and 74.5.



By June 27, though, no sunspots were visible. The average daily sunspot number of 22.6 was down slightly from the previous week's 25.7. Average daily solar flux nudged up this week from 74 to 75.3, and the average planetary A index increased from 6.7 to 9.9.

Predicted solar flux is 71 and 69 on June 28-29; 68 on June 30-July 6; 72 on July 7-13; 75 on July 14-15; 77 on July 16; 80 on July 17-19; 77 on July 20-21; 75 on July 22; 72 on July 23-24; 70 on July 25-26; 68 on July 27-August 2; 72 on August 3-9, and 75 on August 10-11.

Predicted planetary A index is 10 and 8 on June 28-29; 5 on June 30 and July 1; 6 and 8 on July 2-3; 5 on July 4-14; 15 on July 15; 5 on July 16-19; 15 on July 20; 8 on July 21-22; 10, 25, 18, 12, and 8 on July 23-27; 5 on July 28-August 10, and 15 on

August 11.

Jon Jones, N0JK, reported a 6 meter opening from the midwest to Asia on June 21. As he described it, "A major sporadic-E opening on 50 MHz between Japan, China, Korea to North America June 21. Hundreds of contacts were made, most via FT8." More details can be found in the Friday Propagation Bulletin.

Sunspot numbers for June 21-27 were 41, 41, 34, 16, 14, 12, and 0, with a mean of 22.6. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 81.5, 80.3, 77.1, 74.5, 72.8, 71.1, and 70, with a mean of 75.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 4, 16, 7, 12, 20, and 7, with a mean of 9.9. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 4, 15, 8, 10, 17, and 7, with a mean of 9.3.

AMSAT

[AMSAT](#) has issued its first call for papers for its 2018 [Annual Meeting and Space Symposium](#). The event is set for November 2 - 4 at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Proposals for papers, symposium presentations, and poster presentations are invited on any topic of interest to the Amateur Satellite community. AMSAT requests a tentative presentation title as soon as possible. Final copy must be submitted by October 15 for inclusion in the printed proceedings. [Send](#) abstracts and papers to Dan Schultz, N8FGV. -- *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

Just Ahead in Radiosport

? July 14 -- FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint (CW)

? **July 14-15 -- [IARU HF World Championship \(CW, phone\)](#)**

? July 15 -- QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint (CW)

? July 16 -- Run for the Bacon QRP Contest (CW)

? July 19 -- NAQCC CW Sprint

New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea Market DATES 2018

15 July Cambridge MA	Flea at MIT	Mitch 617 253 3776 F
4 Aug Milo ME PARC @Kiwanis		George WA1JMM 207 441 6112 A+
11 Aug St Albans VT STARC @Elks		Arn N1ARN 802 309 0666
19 August Cambridge MA	Flea at MIT	Mitch 617 253 3776 F
19 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @FG B\$5@7 S\$10@6:30		Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975 F
Aug 26 Newtown CT CARA @TownHall \$7@8 \$20/T		John W1JGM 203 417 0160 F+
8,10 Sept Boxboro MA FEMARA NE Conv		Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 A
8 Sept Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Outside		John 860 673 0518 +
9 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG \$6@7		Jim KG2H 518 703-9558
15 Sept Alexander ME StCVARC @ElSch		Rodger W1LH 207 454 2174 A+
16 September Cambridge MA	Flea at MIT	Mitch 617 253 3776 F
6 October Brookline NH NEARC antique		603 772 7516 +
7 October Queens NY HOSARC @HOS \$5@9 \$10/sp		Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A+
12-13 Oct Deerfield NH NEARfest XXIV @FG		Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235
21 October Cambridge MA	Flea at MIT	Mitch 617 253 3776 F
27 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC @FireCo auction		Tom WA2RYV 860 464 6555
28 Oct Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall		Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
3 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/S@7		Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422
1 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor		John 860 673 0518

HAM RADIO LOCAL AREA NETS

If you know of a Ham Radio Local Area Net that is not listed here, a typo on the information, or a Net listed which is no longer active, please contact John – N1UMJ at: N1UMJ@arrl.net, so this list can be updated. All Frequencies are in MHz and 6 Meters (50.0 MHz and up.), are FM Mode unless otherwise noted. Thanks!

Sunday: WA1NPO – WARPSN Net, 8:30 AM, Whitman ARC Rptr, 147.225 +, PL 67.0

8:45 AM New England phone net, 3.945 +/- LSB

NE Cracker Barrel Net, 7:00 PM Daily (Matt – W1AEM, NCO on Sun), 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. St. Night at 7:30 PM, Falmouth N1YHS Rptr, 147.375 + PL 110.9

Genesis ARC CW Training Net, 7:00 PM, Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8

Eastern MA 2 Mtr Traffic Net, Every Night at 8:00 PM, Boston W1BOS Rptr, 145.230 – PL 88.5

Norfolk County Radio Association Net, 8:00 PM, Walpole Rptr, 146.895 – PL 123.0

Monday: Cape and Islands Weather Net, 6:00 AM, Mon – Sat, Dennis K1PBO Rptr, 146.955 – PL 88.5

Fairhaven Weather Net, 8:00 PM, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0

Norfolk County Emergency Preparedness Net, 8:00 PM, Walpole Rptr, 146.895 – PL 123.0

New England DMR net, DMR-MARC repeaters talk group 3181 New England

Falmouth ARA Net, 8:30 PM, Falmouth K1RK Rptr, 146.655 – PL 88.5

Boston ARC Rag Chew Net, 9:00 PM, Boston W1BOS Rptr, 145.230 – PL 88.5

Tuesday: Massasoit ARA Net, 8:00 PM, Bridgewater W1MV Rptr, 147.180 + PL 67.0 (Except 3rd Tue!)

Genesis ARC 2 Mtr Rag-Chew Net, 7:30 PM, Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8

Fairhaven Weather Net, 8:00 PM, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0

Norwood Amateur Radio Club Net, 8:00 PM, Norwood Rptr, 147.210 + PL 100.0

220 MHz Day! Try to find a 220 Repeater near you and give a call out!

Wednesday: Whitman ARC 10 Meter Rag-Chew Net, 8:00 PM, 28.333.0 USB (Except 1 st Wed!)

Blackstone Valley ARC , 2 Mtr Simplex Net, 7:00 PM, 146.565

Fairhaven Weather Net, 8:00 PM, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0

Cape and Islands ARES Net, 8:00 PM, Dennis K1PBO Rptr, 146.955 – PL 88.5

Waltham Wranglers Swap Net. 9:00 PM, Waltham W1MHL Rptr , 146.64 – PL 136.5

Thursday: Fairhaven Weather Net, 8:00 PM, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0

Genesis ARC CW Training Net, 7:00 PM, Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8

10 Mtr General Class Rag-Chew Net, 8:00 PM, 29.470.0 FM

Sturdy Mem. Hosp. ARC ARES Practice Net, 8:30 PM, K1SMH Rptr, 147.195 + PL 127.3

900 MHz Day! Try to find a 900 Repeater near you and give a call out!

Friday: Fairhaven Weather Net, 8:00 PM, SEMARA Rptr, 147.000 + PL 67.0

Saturday: South Shore Skywarn Net, 8:00 PM, 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 Denise Sisson KC1CFO
Vice President Jeff Lehmann N1ZZN

Treasurer: Phil McNamara N1XTB

Secretary:

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 kb1tee@gmail.com

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

Qsl via www.eqsl.cc

Skywarn 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 at 6:30PM at the Bridgewater Public Library in Bridgewater Center. Talk-in is on 147.180+

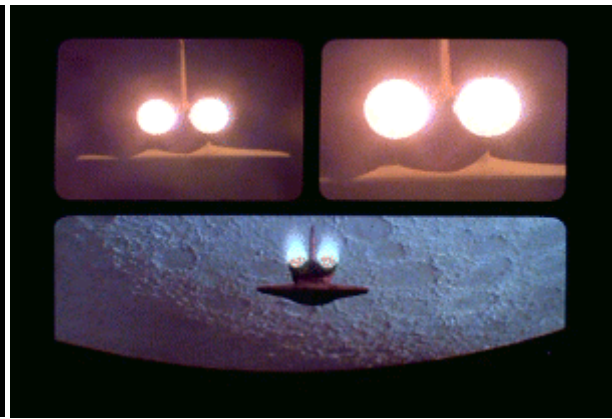
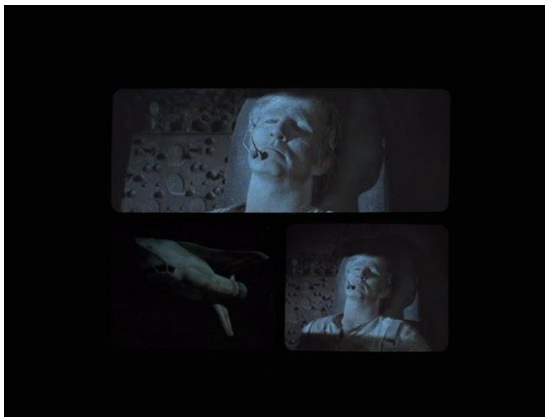
Our **Meetings-On-The-Air** are held all other Tuesday evenings at 8PM on 147.180+ and includes the Westlink News Report with the latest news about happenings in the world of Amateur Radio.

The **South Shore Skywarn Net** is held every Saturday evening at 8PM local time on 147.180+ and is open to all hams.

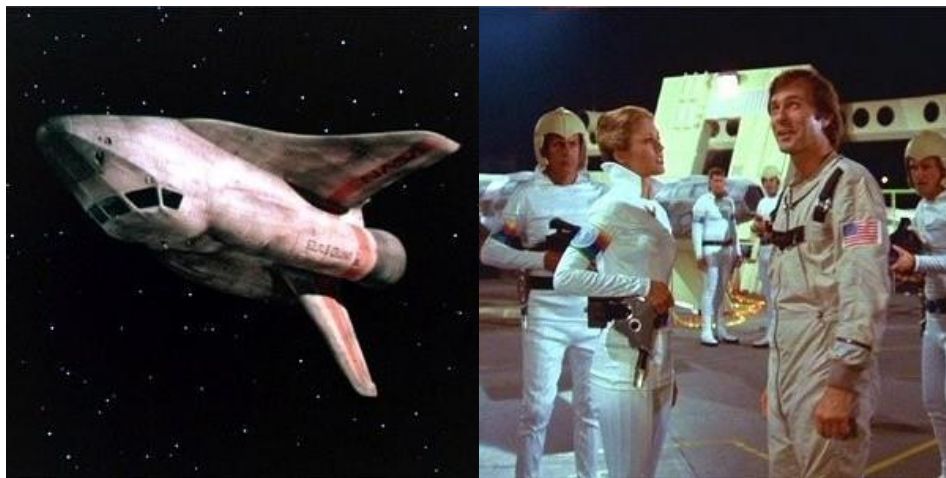
VE Exams are held the 2nd Saturday of every month, in Braintree contact Steve Cohen , W1OD via email w1od@arrrl.net. Walk-ins are no longer permitted. We will be hosting VE exams at 8:45 at the Watson building. If you know of anyone planning to take an exam, please have them drop a note to Steve to confirm a reservation.

Editor Rick Emord KB1TEE

TV and Movies using radio communications



Buck Rogers in the 25th Century is an American science-fiction adventure television series produced by Universal Studios. The series ran for two seasons between 1979 and 1981, and the feature-length pilot episode for the series was released as a theatrical film, before the series aired. The film and series were developed by Glen A. Larson and Leslie Stevens, based on the character Buck Rogers created in 1928 by Philip Francis Nowlan that had previously been featured in comic strips, novellas, a serial film, and on television and radio



Inspired by the success of *Star Wars*, Universal began developing *Buck Rogers* for television, spearheaded by Glen A. Larson, who had a production deal with the studio. Production began in 1978. Initially, Larson and Universal had planned on making a series of *Buck Rogers* TV movies for NBC. Universal then opted to release the first *Buck Rogers* TV movie

theatrically on March 30, 1979. Good box-office returns led NBC to commission a weekly series, which began on September 20, 1979, with a slightly modified version of the theatrical release



The production recycled many of the props, effects shots, and costumes from *Battlestar Galactica*, which was still in production at the time the pilot for *Buck Rogers* was being filmed. For example, the "landram" vehicle was made for the *Galactica* series, and the control sticks used in the Terran starfighters in the pilot movie were the same as those used in *Galactica*'s Viper craft. The Terran starfighters were also concept designer Ralph McQuarrie's original vision of the Colonial Vipers.



The new series centered on Captain William Anthony "Buck" Rogers, played by Gil Gerard, a NASA/USAF pilot who commands *Ranger 3*, a spacecraft that is launched in May 1987. Due to a life-support malfunction, Buck is accidentally frozen for 504 years before his spacecraft is discovered adrift in the year 2491. The combination of gases that froze his body coincidentally comes close to the formula commonly used in the 25th century for cryopreservation, and his rescuers are able to revive him. He learns that civilization on Earth was rebuilt following a devastating nuclear war that occurred on November 22, 1987, and is now under the protection of the Earth Defense Directorate. The pilot film depicted human civilization as fairly insular, with an invisible defense shield that surrounded the entire planet, protecting it from invaders. Civilization was restricted to a few cities; the main city seen in the pilot and weekly series was New Chicago, which was also known as the Inner City. Travel beyond the Inner City was hazardous, as much of the planet was said to be a radioactive wasteland inhabited by violent mutants (as Buck discovered when he visited the derelict remains of old Chicago).