



March 2014  
Volume 53 Issue 03

# MARANews



## Secretary's Report

### SECRETARYS NOTES – MARA MEETING 02/18/14 – Larry, K1LJK

OPEN: President Barry Kennedy opened the meeting at 6:46 pm, 02/18/14.

ATTENDANCE: 5 members were present including 2 elected officers. 2 guests also attended.

N1EZH Barry Kennedy

K1LJK Larry Kenney

N1FY Carl Aveni

N1IQI Loren Pimentel

N1ZZN Jeff Lehmann

Guest/SWL Denise Sisson

Guest/SWL Robert Sisson

#### MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to accept the January 2014 MARA newsletter minutes as printed made by Carl N1FY. Motion seconded by Jeff N1ZZN. Motion passed vote by attending club members.

#### SECRETARYS REPORT:

Barry N1EZH reminded us we did not have a meeting last month due to inclement weather so there is no formal secretary's report to review and approve. This was to be the MARA holiday party/dinner meeting on Jan21st. A future date for this meeting/party needs to be discussed. Most likely this will take place in the spring sometime once the threat of bad weather is over.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Phil, N1XTB was not present at the meeting. The treasurer's report will be read at next months MARA club meeting for this month.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The MARA club welcomed walk in guests Denise and Robert Sisson. They live in Middleborough and are perusing their amateur radio Technician class licenses. Carl N1FY suggests we pass along Denise and Roberts contact info to Phil N1XTB, Rick KB1TEE and Bill NR1FD as they also live in the Middleborough area and could possibly help w/mentoring.
- Barry N1EZH announced that Bill NR1FD had recently been in Spring Hill Florida (temporary snowbird status) and was reachable on HF (20 Meters) and EchoLink

while there. At the time of our club meeting, Bill had already returned to Massachusetts.

- Barry N1EZH reminded us that its time for the MARA 2014 membership renewal. This is a friendly reminder that club dues are now due. Please bring your checks/cash along to our next meeting or send it to the clubs PO box. (P.O. Box 428 Bridgewater, MA 02324). Barry also collected dues at the meeting and will forward to Phil N1XTB.
- Barry N1EZH announced our upcoming MARA Club March meeting speaker will be Mark Vess KC1ACF. Mark will present a program regarding vacuum tubes. Mark has a museum of antiquated technology in Hanson and is also a member of the Whitman amateur radio club. Jeff N1ZZN informed us Mark has acquired a number of antique radios from The Bruce NI1X after his recent passing. It's suggested anyone interested in visiting this museum contact Mark at our next club meeting.
- Barry N1EZH reports taking care of an ARRL club affiliation issue, reported by Carl N1FY. Barry reports some basic details regarding club operations were necessary (our regularly scheduled monthly meeting time for example). This will now be reviewed yearly by Barry to assure all club details are up to date year to year.

#### UPCOMING LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:

Barry N1EZH announced the following public service events are coming up and amateur radio volunteer support is requested. Anyone interested please contact Carl N1FY (email: [caave@peoplepc.com](mailto:caave@peoplepc.com)). Carl will be announcing more details as the event time approaches.

- June 7<sup>th</sup> @9am : Woody's Walk/5K/10K road race at YMCA Camp Yomechas Rt28 in Middleborough
- July 13<sup>th</sup> @8am: Triathlon at YMCA Camp Yomechas Rt 28 in Middleborough
- April 26<sup>th</sup> @8am: Search Dogs Northeast annual all-team training exercises at the Freetown State Forrest. For more info contact Rick KB1TEE (email: [KB1TEE@Verizon.net](mailto:KB1TEE@Verizon.net)).

#### UPCOMING AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS:

- Jeff N1ZZN reminded us that on July 17-19<sup>th</sup>: the ARRL is having its National Centennial Convention in Hartford Connecticut. More details can be found at <http://www.arrl2014.org> or call the ARRL at 860-594-0200. Jeff advises Thursday is expected to be mostly training and the other events including the indoor Flea market is Friday and Saturday.
- The World RadioSport Team Challenge (WRTC) is taking place in Eastern Massachusetts July 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. More details can be found at <http://www.wrtc2014.org/>.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Carl N1FY reports the MARA club repeater antennas and hardline are still not re-installed on the water tower at Bridgewater State College. Carl has been in touch with George Rogers, the Bridgewater Emergency Management Director in regards to this. It's believed the costs involved for hardline replacement and labor to erect the antennas was approved at the Jan 29<sup>th</sup> water commission meeting. Carl reports he and Jeff N1ZZN had reviewed hardline (3 lines @150ft/ea), equipment (cherry picker) rental, replacement antenna and labor costs to assure the estimated costs were correct. Carl continues to pursue this w/town officials. Jeff N1ZZN advises we will need to supply replacement masts/piping for use at the top of the welded pipe. These were also bent during the original water tower maintenance operation.
- Carl N1FY reports he has additional space for more antennas on the EOC roof. Carl would like to get the packet station back on the air and is considering adding an APRS station and a narrow band emergency messaging system (nbem). He's hoping to have more folks tour the facility now that it's in great working order. It's possible our April club meeting could also be the postponed January dinner party and held at the EOC? This would be April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Jeff N1ZZN asked if the EOC will eventually support handicap access. Carl N1FY reports there could be a plan to add a chair lift eventually.
- Jeff N1ZZN recommends the EOC add 220Mhz and 900Mhz radio support as well.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Carl N1FY reminds us the Bridgewater EOC acts runs the Eastern Mass ARES command center as a backup for the Boston Marathon on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Carl is always looking for help at the EOC during the Marathon.
- Carl N1FY reports a technician class run by Merek Kozubal (amateur radio emergency service district coordinator for metro-Boston) for the Emergency Medical Reserve Corp took place in Wareham recently. Initially 18 people attended but a few dropped out. 10 have now passed their tech test and 3 will be taking the test soon. Testing took place on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Wareham.
- Carl N1FY informed us a new Skywarn slideshow is being prepared with help from Rob Macedo and will be reviewed Thursday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at the National Weather Service meeting. The 2014 Skywarn training schedule is now posted btw:  
<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/officePrograms/skywarn/skywarnTraining.shtml#>
- Carl N1FY reports the Bridgewater EOC will be holding a Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plan practice exercise on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> (time: tbd – everyone is welcome). This is a dress rehearsal for the actual all-day FEMA event on Wednesday April

30<sup>th</sup> with federal representatives on site evaluating the EOC's ability to handle issues caused by the power plant.

- Barry N1EZH reports Rick KB1TEE is trying to arrange a field trip to the Cape Cod Canal w/the Army Corp of Engineers at their facility. He's also speaking w/the Coast Guard, trying to arrange someone to come up and give us a presentation on their operations.
- Carl N1FY reports he's been contacted by HAMCRAZY.COM. They make id badges, custom photo ID's etc..and seem reasonably priced. Carl purchased a few badges which looked great. Note: to purchase badges, you may need to use HAMCRAZYSTORE.COM. Barry N1EZH notes many of us purchased club ID badges from <http://www.themainestore.com>. They have several local area club logos on file, including the MARA club.

CLOSE: A motion was made by Jeff N1ZZN to adjourn the meeting. Carl N1FY seconded the motion. Barry N1EZH closed the meeting at 7:40 pm 02/18/14.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of MARA will be held on Tuesday March 18, 2014 at the Bridgewater Public Library at 6:30 pm.

## Membership Renewal

With the beginning of each year comes the time for membership renewal and the payment of dues. We make this reminder because some of us need to be jolted out of the winter doldrums You can bring your check to the next meeting or send it along to our post office box at MARA P.O. Box 428 Bridgewater, MA 02324.

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for later this year. We have three support events where your help will be needed . The first is **Woody's Walk and 5K/10K Road Race on June 7, 2014 at 9:00 am**. The second is **The YMCA Triathlon on July 13, 2014 at 8:00 am**. Both events are to be held at **Camp Yomechas Rte 28 in Middleboro**. If you can help contact Carl N1FY.As we get close to each event Carl will announce details of when and where we will meet.

**Search Dogs Northeast** will hold their annual all team training event at the **Freetown State Forest on April 26, 2014 at 8:00 am** .Commuication assistance will be needed. Details regarding time and place will be announced later.Forfurther information please contact Rick KB1TEE.

## March Meeting Speaker

Mark Vess KC1ACF will present a program at the March meeting on Vacuum Tubes and the Museum of Antiquated Technology.

## Wanted: Newsletter Editor

I am retiring as the MARA Newsletter Editor. My eyesight for close-up work has been deteriorating making it extremely tedious to work with word processing programs. If anyone wishes to take up the the job please notify Barry N1EZH.

## Hams Detect Signal from Retired NASA Deep-Space Probe:

Radio amateurs from [AMSAT-DL](#) (Germany) and [Bochum Observatory](#) detected the beacon signal of the retired NASA International Cometary Explorer ([ICE](#)) deep space probe on March 1 and 2. After some changes to the ground equipment and aligning the receiving antenna to the predicted position in the sky, the beacon signal could positively be identified due to its frequency, the position in the sky, and the frequency shift due to Doppler shift. They used a 20 meter radio telescope. Launched in 1978 as the International Sun-Earth Explorer 3 (ISEE-3), ICE was the first spacecraft to detect the "solar wind" approaching Earth. In 1982, the spacecraft was renamed the International Cometary Explorer and diverted to the Moon, where its gravitational pull placed ICE into a heliocentric orbit. Support for the ICE mission was terminated in 1997, although the spacecraft transmitter was left on. It was last detected by NASA's Deep Space Network in 2008

## Amateur Radio Played Role in Missing Airliner Response

Following the mysterious disappearance on March 8 of the Malaysian Airline Boeing 777-200ER jetliner with 239 passengers aboard, the airline's Emergency Management Centre (EMC) at Kuala Lumpur Airport provided hotel accommodations for passengers' next of kin. Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters' Society ([MARTS](#)) President Mohd Aris Bernawi, 9M2IR, said his organization was asked to provide a link between the airport and the hotel.



MARTS quickly set up a station, led by Zanirul Akhmal Zanirun, 9M2PRO, with Azizi Samsuri, 9W2ZZE, as the airline's team leader. The Negeri Sembilan Amateur Radio Club ([NESRAC](#)) provided volunteers for the station at the EMC. MARTS set up a cross-band VHF/UHF link to avoid any unnecessary interference to and from public service communications, and later added an HF link.

During the callout, 11 Amateur Radio volunteers were at the EMC, and 23 volunteers were at the hotel. 9M2IR, who oversaw the entire process, said MARTS -- an IARU member-society -- was pleased to be able provide the communication link as the search for flight MH370 continues.

## 2014 Preparedness Summit to Highlight Importance of Amateur Radio

The annual [Preparedness Summit](#), the largest public health preparedness conference in the US, will take place April 1-4 in Atlanta, with some 2000 preparedness professionals

expected to attend the multidisciplinary event. This year, the Preparedness Summit is [highlighting](#) the importance of Amateur Radio, and special event station N4P will operate from the Exhibit Hall. N4P will be on the air from 1700 until 2330 UTC on Wednesday, April 2, and from 1500 until 2030 UTC on Thursday, April 3. Stations contacting N4P will receive a special QSL card.

On VHF and UHF, N4P will monitor the 146.88 W4BTI repeater, the 442.875 MHz K4RFL repeater, and the D-STAR 440.6875 B-Node operating as KK4OIO. On HF SSB, look for N4P on 28.365 MHz, 21.365 MHz, 14.265 MHz, and 7.265 MHz. N4P also will be on EchoLink.

The National Association for County & City Health Officials ([NACCHO](#)) offered Amateur Radio licensing webinars in February and March in advance of the gathering. Testing will be administered April 3 at the Preparedness Summit. NACCHO is offering an in-person review session at the Summit on April 2. The webinars have been recorded and are [available](#) via the Summit website.

## Experimental VLF Signals Heard in the UK, Europe

In what's believed to be a "first," a very low frequency (VLF) signal from a ham radio experimenter in New York was heard across the Atlantic. Bob Raide, W2ZM, was transmitting on 29.499 kHz under a Part 5 Experimental license, WH2XBA/1. His very slow-speed (QRSS) CW signal was initially detected in the UK just before 0000 UTC on March 3 by Paul Nicholson, an SWL, and later by Mike Dennison, G3XDV, and Markus Vester, DK6NM, in Germany. Nicholson also copied a 29.501 kHz transmission from Dex McIntyre, W4DEX, in North Carolina, operating as WH2XBA/4.



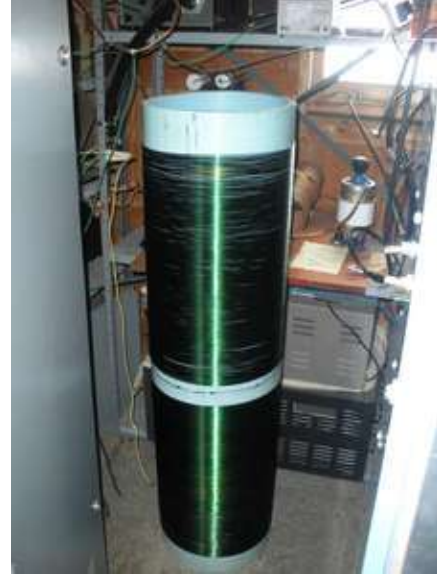
The plate tank circuit in the WH2XBA/1 VLF transmitter. [Bob Raide, W2ZM, photo]

"In recent weeks a number of amateur tests have been running from the USA to Europe around 74 kHz and at 29.499 kHz using several hundred watts to large antennas," [blogged](#) Roger Laphorn, G3XBM. He said that signals on 74 kHz were "well copied," but that "the surprise" was detecting the 29.499 kHz signal. "As far as I know, these 29.499 kHz VLF signals are the first amateur VLF [transmissions] to span the Atlantic -- fantastic results by well-equipped stations using suitable receivers and good software."

Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, who is on the Experimental license as WH2XBA/2, told ARRL that he and several other radio amateurs have

obtained Part 5 licenses to experiment on 500 kHz and on 137 kHz. Ziegler, who has been a participant in the [ARRL-sponsored experimental operations](#) on 500 kHz as WD2XSH/23, said Raide wanted to be the first to span the Atlantic on VLF, which he defined as between 3 kHz and 30 kHz, so Ziegler applied for and received the WH2XBA Experimental grant, and included Raide and four others on the license.

"I was ready," Raide told ARRL. His transmitter has a 3CX3000A7 tube in the final, running grounded grid and generating 800 W. The effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP), however, was estimated to be approximately 1 mW. To operate on 10,000 meters, Raide has a 90 foot vertical antenna using a reconfigured Zepp, fed via a huge loading coil that is 4 feet tall, more than 1 foot across and comprised of some 2000 feet of #14 wire. He employs a few thousand feet of "chicken wire" for his radial system. The transmission consisted of "XBA" sent at a rate of 120 seconds (2 minutes) per dot and 360 seconds (6 minutes) per dash of CW. In the UK Nicholson copied the signal on software using a PC sound card with a preamplifier ahead of it. His antenna is a pair of orthogonal loops, each 20 meters square, at ground level, transformer coupled to the preamplifier



The loading coil for the WH2XBA/1 VLF antenna system. [Bob Raide, W2ZM, photo]

## New England Area Flea Schedule— Courtesy of W1GSL

New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea Market \*\*\* DATES \*\*\* 2014 P 1 of 2  
 All events are Ham Radio/ Electronic related except ~\_\_\_\_~

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2014	Contact	Source
16 Mar Southington CT SARA \$5@8A @HS \$20/T@6:15 eve Norm W3IZ 860 584 1403 F		
23 Mar Henniker NH CVRC @CommSch		Don N1ZIH 603 651 8000 W+
28,29 Mar Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada @8		Ivan N1OXA 207 784 0350
29 Mar Montreal PQ CRALL @GeoVanierHS		Normand VE2NHK 514 708 8033 R+
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
12 Apr Montreal PQ MARC @StIgnatiusCh \$5@9 \$8/T@8:15		James 514 990 1965 W
13 Ap Manchester CT NEWS V/UHFConf @Baymount@8 I84x63		MarkK1MAP 413 566 8118 W+
19 Apr S.Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion \$6@8 \$10/T@6:30		Bryce K1GAX 207 415 0498 W+
20 Apr Cambridge MA	FLEA at MIT	Mitch 617 253 3776 F

Third Sunday April thru October

26 Ap Gales Ferry CT RANSON Auction @FireHs \$2@9 Gary WT1SND 860 884 4218 W+

26 Apr Brookline NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 F+

27 Ap 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  
Third Sunday April thru October

31 May Goshen CT SBARC @FG Rt63 Marc K1CTT 860 672 2659 A+

1 June Bethpage NY LIMARC @Briarcliffe Dave AK1NS 516 312 8745 A+

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

8 June Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 A+

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

21 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch Quentin KB1EWM 860 383 8203 A+

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

9 Aug Milo ME PARC @AmLegion George WA1JMM 207 441 6112 A+

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

24 Aug Adams MA NoBARC @BoweFld \$5@9 \$10S@8 Eric KA1SUN 413 743 9975 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

27 Sept Brookline NH NEARC Antique \$5@8:30 \$10@7:30 Bruce 603 772 7516 F+

5 Oct Queens NY HoSARC Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 W+

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 @AmericaCtr ~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**

- Mar 15 -- Feld-Hell Leprechaun Sprint
- Mar 15-17 -- BARTG HF RTTY Contest
- Mar 15-16 -- Russian DX Contest
- Mar 15 -- Virginia QSO Party
- Mar 16 -- North American Sprint (SSB)
- Mar 17 --Run For the Bacon (CW)
- Mar 18 -- CLARA and Family HF Contest (CW+SSB)
- Mar 20 -- NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint (SSB)
- Mar 22 -- FOC QSO Party (CW)
- Mar 22 -- Oklahoma QSO Party
- Mar 22 -- QCWA Spring QSO Party
- Mar 22-23 -- Louisiana QSO Party
- Mar 29 -- Feld-Hell Worked all Americas Full Day of Hell
- Mar 29-30 -- CQ WPX Contest (SSB)

## ***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.