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<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 March 19th 2024 Social hour is from 1800 meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting.

ON THE AIR Tuesdays 1st April 2nd no net controller, 2nd April 9th net controller John N1UMJ, and 4th April 23rd net controller Denise KC1CFO, 5th April 30th no net controller The net is on Tuesdays at 2000 (8pm). See the notes below for the new format.

Presidents Message

The new format for the Tuesday night MARA Net has been sent out for review. Please read it and send comments to me jlaiosa at gmail.com.

The MARA Openhouse is scheduled for Saturday, April 20 at the Bridgewater Public Library, please save the date.

15 South Street Bridgewater, MA 02324 | Phone: 508-697-3331

The power supply situation at the Bridgewater Repeater site has been resolved thanks to a generous donation from Alan, WA1BEE. He gave the club two power supplies so we can have a back up. Thanks to Phil N1XTB for lending us a power supply for the last 3 months.

As always any apparel request can be sent to me. There is a link on our Web Site with the available items.

John Laiosa

Folks,

Below is the draft format from N1BSO for the Tuesday night being distributed for comment?
This is the proposed format change to the Tuesday night net. Please review it and send comments to John N1BSO at jlaiosa at gmail.com

Special thanks to Tom WA1TOM and Allen WA1BEE for input and suggestions.

Is there any further use of the repeater before we begin this evening's net?

Good evening, and welcome to the weekly Massasoit Amateur Radio Association meeting on the air.

This net meets every Tuesday evening at 8:00 PM with the exception of the 3rd Tuesday of the month which is our regular club meeting night. Our club meetings are held at the Bridgewater Public Library at 6:30 PM.

This is (callsign, name and location of the net operator) and I'll be the Net Control this evening.

The purpose of our net is to relay items of interest to the general Ham Community, such as Health and Welfare information regarding local hams in the area. You don't have to be a member of MARA to join the net, all Hams are welcome. As always Emergency and Priority traffic has precedence and may break in at any time.

We ask that you use the ARRL recommended procedure of saying "This is, drop your carrier to check for doubling and give your name, callsign and location slowly.

Check-ins please come now.

[After check-ins net control goes through a list for general comments and updates from the week's events. Example interesting contacts, new radios, etc]

Any more check-ins

[Net control will bring up a subject for discussion and go through the list, maybe a second round if needed.

Any more check-ins. [Net control can bring up any upcoming events and announcements] [Net control goes through the list closing comments and 73's]

I'd like to thank those who participated this evening, those who stood by during the Net, and the W1MV Repeater Trustees for the use of the repeater. We now return the repeater to its normal operation

John Laiosa

Secretary report By Phil McNamara N1XTB

MARA meeting minutes 20 Feb 2024

Meeting called to order by John N1BSO at 1841 at the Bridgewater Library

meeting room.

Attendees

KA1YL Connie

N1BSO John

N1XTB Phil

N1UMJ John (via zoom)

N1IQI Loren

WA1BEE Allen

Secretary and Treasurers report were accepted. Repeater report OK. WA1BEE brought two DC power supplies. One will be for use at the repeater site to swap out with the loaner from N1XTB. The second power supply will be a spare.

WA1BEE also provided a list of the remaining Joe DeCosta equipment to update the web site listing.

Old business - John N1BSO has developed the first draft of the new Tuesday net format. It will be distributed to club members for comment.

New net control schedule also needs to be put together.

Volunteers send availability to Phil N1XTB. Net schedule may add a slot for alternate net control.

N1BSO has two club apparel orders. More orders will be needed to make the minimum for an order. Contact N1BSO for any apparel orders. Pricing and description is available on the MARA website.

Discussion on offering WA1BEE \$35 for the second power supply he brought.

Discussion to set date for Ham Radio open house at the library April 20th Noon to 2 PM. Connie presented that date to Library Trustee meeting. N1XTB will print the pdf flyers made available by ARRL.

Discussion about MARA conducting a technician class in May. WARC will be starting a tech class 10 March.

N1XTB spoke briefly about the Emergency Communication nets he participates in every month.

RACES Sector 2B at 8PM first Monday of the month then Eastern Mass ARES on the MMRA linked repeater system at 830 PM. ARES winter Exercise "Operation Snow Globe" was conducted Saturday am 3 February. A net in support of the "Operation Snow Globe" exercise was conducted on the Bridgewater .18 repeater.

<https://ema.arrrl.org/2024/01/31/eastern-massachusetts-ares-exercise-operation-snow-globe-final-exercise-document-saturday-2-3-24-1000-am-1200-pm/>

FEMA Region 1 - Response Division - Disaster Emergency Communications Branch conducts a Winlink exercise once a month with a transmission to participants that requests a given response by a certain date and time. The February test had the following participants: SHARES – 5 Amateur - 50

Meeting adjourned at 1859.

Phil McNamara

Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE

I am still hoping for members to send me information for the newsletter such as meetings, events, and information on any activity. Pictures of events with or without members of our club are appreciated. This is our club. Lets help support it please. Email me at kb1tee at verizon.net.



My ham radio tower trailer 35 feet tall when set up KB1TEE

Bob Heil, K9EID, Silent Key



Bob Heil, one of the founding fathers of concert touring, the first audio manufacturer enshrined in Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and a 2007 Parnelli Awards Audio Innovator Lifetime Honoree, passed away February 28, 2024 of cancer. He was 83.

Robert G. Heil was an American sound and radio engineer most well-known for creating the template for modern rock sound systems. He founded the company Heil Sound in 1966, which went on to create unique touring sound systems for bands such as The Grateful Dead and The Who.

Eastern MA Section Update, February 2024



Project ASCEND ARRL Members <memberlist@www.arrl.org>

I can't believe how quickly the weeks have slipped by – it's past mid-February. Without further ado, let's get to it!

* Project ASCEND is "Full-Speed Ahead"

Project ASCEND is a comprehensive program designed to advance the Amateur Radio experience for the Technician class amateur and provide the needed mentoring and connection with the active ham community. More info about the project is at:

<https://ema.arrl.org/2024/02/05/k9hi-project-ascend-at-the-barnstable-arc-meeting-february-5-2024/>

Great Hill Gang / K1USN Swap Net



Great Hill Gang / K1USN Swap Net

Friday Evenings 8:00 pm

Marshfield Repeater 145.39 (67.0 PL)

Echolink 9127 and IRLP New-Eng 2 node 9127

Thank you to the owners/operators of the W1ATD

Repeater, AJ1L & KC1HO, for the use of the repeater for our net.



Dear Friends of NEAR-Fest:

dreamstime.com

ID 125312952 © Grafner

NEAR-Fest XXXV April 25th and 26th 2024

Please note this is an updated announcement. Please disregard any other notices you may have read.

Our Spring 2024 hamfest, NEAR-Fest XXXV, will be held on **Thursday April 25th and Friday April 26th 2024**. There will be no hamfest activity on Saturday due to an unfortunate scheduling conflict with the Deerfield Fairgrounds. We had originally announced that the event would take place only on Friday but due to popular demand and the cooperation of the Deerfield Fair Association we are pleased to announce this new full two-day schedule.

Our 2024 Fall NEAR-Fest XXXVI is scheduled for **October 11th and 12th** and will be the same as always for the past eighteen years, on Friday and Saturday.

The gates will open on Thursday morning at 7:00 AM for PREPAID TICKET HOLDERS ONLY so you might want to buy your tickets online well in advance starting February 1st 2024 on our Web site, www.near-fest.com, or in March at the Ham Radio Outlet store in Salem NH and at Ross Hochstrasser's Clock Shop in Whitman MA and get your favorite spot. NEAR-Fest XXXV will end at 3:00 PM on Friday.

Prepaid ticket holders will line up and enter via Gate C as we did in the Fall. They MUST have ALL of their needed tickets and inside parking passes or they will be sent to Gate F. This includes all Campers, RVs, tents, who MUST also have their overnight camping passes as there will be NO tickets or passes sold at Gate C. Anyone needing to buy tickets or parking passes will go to Gate F and will be admitted starting at 8:00AM. Once the line has entered at Gate C it will close and all others entering the grounds will proceed to Gate F.

For this event only admission per person is \$10.00 whether you buy your ticket online or in advance or at the gate. Overnight parking and tent passes are \$15.00 regardless of whether you plug into an electric outlet or not. Campers, RVs and overnight stayers will go directly into the Fairgrounds as we will not be using the campgrounds this time. The cost of the pass for RVs, Campers, Motorhomes, etc, is \$30.00. All vehicles that remain in the Fairgrounds overnight (after 9:00 PM) will require an overnight parking pass in addition to an inside parking pass for Friday.

Everyone over 21 will need an admission ticket except unlicensed spouses, active duty military, full-time students (with ID) and other valid pass holders.

If you buy something big and heavy in the flea market one of our volunteer staff members will be glad to transport it and you to your vehicle at no charge as we have been doing for many years. As always inside parking for disabled persons is free of charge and they may use a single person "mobility device" as well. NEAR-Fest reserves the right to limit the use of golf carts and "other power driven mobility devices" due to safety concerns and potential liability issues.

Please visit our Web site, www.near-fest.com, or our Facebook page, NearFest NH for any further updates. We apologize for any inconvenience that this modified version of NEAR-Fest may have caused but it is only for this time. We appreciate your indulgence and understanding.

See you at Deerfield!

73,

MisterMike, W1RC

Volunteer radio operators still needed for Boston Marathon!

The 2024 Boston Marathon is coming up and volunteer registration deadline has been extended until end of day Sunday 2/11/24 as they are still in need of volunteers. This was recently posted to the Eastern Mass ARRL Section web site:

<https://ema.arrl.org/2024/02/08/2024-boston-marathon-still-in-need-of-amateur-radio-volunteers-volunteer-registration-extended-until-end-of-day-sunday-2-11-24/>

Please consider volunteering for the event. It's very well organized event, and lots of fun!

73 de

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND

0000Z 01 Jun 2024 - 2359Z 02 Jun 2024

PLEASE NOTE: **This is NOT a contest!**
It is a FUN Event!



Looking forward to next year's big DX-Pedition(s) to Bouvet/Peter I Islands



Scott's Self-Supporting Random Wire Antenna System

January 23, 2024 Thomas Witherspoon

On a recent post on QRPER.com, [Teri KO4WFP was at a park in Florida](#) that did not allow wires (or anything else) in their trees. Many POTA activators use End Fed Half Wave antennas which usually require one end in a tree. While it doesn't happen at all parks, not being able to hoist your antenna could bust an activation.

I realized this may happen to me even though Georgia appears to be pretty lenient when it comes to such matters, I decided to switch to a park friendly antenna. I have been a fan of QRPER.com for quite some time and occasionally Thomas will repost something from my humble blog. That being said, it was K4SWL that got me started using a random wire antenna. My basis for my antenna was his [speaker wire antenna](#) which was a 28.5' vertical antenna with a 17' counterpoise. I used it a few times in that configuration and then started to modify it. I call this antenna my K4SWL+.

Some of the differences are I use a push-up pole to get the antenna in the air and at the base I use a 9:1 UnUn and a 1:1 Choke to keep RF out of the radio. A random wire antenna can feed RF back into the coax.

The wire is 14 ga. coated flex weave from The Wireman. This was left over wire from some other antenna projects. When I started this project I was using 22-24 ga. coated wire from SOTABeams but realizing there was no need to save weight, used the heavier wire. This allows me to dual purpose the antenna both for FunComm and EmComm. The insulator at the top is 3D printed with my call-sign and the base is U-type lugs. I find these are the best as I do not have to take the nut off of the antenna studs and if pulled hard will come loose instead of damaging the UnUn. I connect the antenna to the top of the push-up pole with a small Nite-eze "S-biner" size 1.

The 9:1 UnUn comes from Palomar Engineering. I have already created a blog post about how to build it and it can be found here: <https://kk4z.com/2022/05/28/91-unun-gro/> The 1:1 Choke can be found here: <https://kk4z.com/2022/08/15/lightweight-choke-balun/> I made two different types but I found the second works much better.

The project is pretty easy, the only caveat is to pay attention to what wire goes where. Putting it all together, you need a push-up pole, a Flag holder and maybe a trailer hitch extender. I will provide links below. The Flag Pole holder I used was not available so the link I used is a probable substitute. I have a trailer hitch on both my truck and my camper, When I pull into a campsite I have a choice of which hitch to use to keep my antenna clear from the trees. With the antenna up, I wrap the antenna wire around the push-up pole from tip to base, to prevent the wire from sagging near the tip. I attach the UnUn and choke to the mast with Stretch Velcro Straps. With my antenna up I have park employees drive by me all day long. Most of the time we exchange a friendly wave and occasionally one will stop by for a chat. I have had zero issues with this antenna at any of the parks I have visited.

How does it play? It has pretty much been a main antenna for just about all of my POTA activations. You can go back through my blog post and see what equipment I used with the antenna and the accompanying QSOMap. You do need an antenna tuner with this antenna and I typically use an LDG Z-11 Pro which I've had for 15+ years. The antenna tunes up from 80 to 6 meters and I have run the power as high as 65 watts. I normally run 10-35 watts depending on band conditions. I have tried it on 160 meters and while I can get a match, I don't think much RF is leaving the antenna. I've made a few contact with it on 160. If you like to work 160 meters during a POTA activation, I suggest a Chameleon EmComm II with a 60' antenna and a 50' counterpoise. I run it as an inverted L with the apex about 20' up my push-up pole and the end sloping down to something not a tree. Last time I tied it to the lantern stand at the campsite. It worked pretty well and I was able to make contacts on 160.

If you're looking for an antenna that you can set up almost anywhere, with little or no hassles, take a look at this one. Don't forget to check out the short video above.

Weymouth Food Pantry road race



WEYMOUTH — The Weymouth Food Pantry will host its fourth annual race to raise money needed to stock its shelves with fresh fruits and vegetables. The 5K Hunger Run will take place on Saturday, June 15 at Wompatuck State Park. The event is the pantry's largest fundraiser.

The pantry spends about a third of its annual food budget on fresh food. Staples like rice, peanut butter and canned foods are also important and food drives help keep pantry shelves stocked with stable, nonperishable items that are the cornerstone of any pantry.

The race is professionally timed for runners. There is also a one-mile option for walkers. The tree-lined pathways at Wompatuck State Park are paved, making it easy to bring strollers. Young kids can participate in a scavenger hunt along the way.

Every dollar raised during the race is spent on food, putting money back into the community.

The FreshBite 5K will start at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 15. Registration and check-in will take place from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. The event includes guided yoga stretches to start the day off, a scavenger hunt for the children, raffles and prizes.

The Weymouth Food Pantry serves approximately 1,000 families in Weymouth, averaging between 70 and 115 each service day. Last year they distributed 441,131 pounds of food and spent \$43,000 on fresh fruits and vegetables.

WK1D Jeff Ayres will coordinate radio operations he is looking for volunteers to assist please contact Jeff at Jeffayresgm@gmail.com Jeff will set up radio frequencies and locations for the personnel to watch the runners, walkers, and participants. Please reach out to him as soon as possible

How To Use Chirp To Program The Baofeng

UV-5R Ham Radio YouTube·Ham Radio Tube·Nov 11, 2022 [https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&sca_esv=85af15397c77c0f6&q=HOW+TO+PROGRAM+HT+USING+CHIRP&tbm=vid&source=lnms&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjnnKaR9MuEAXWDEFKfHZ9VCV0Q0pQJegQIDBAB&biw=1908&bih=923&dpr=1#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:e10176ad,vid:7XQNm WS4A9o,st:0)

[d&sca_esv=85af15397c77c0f6&q=HOW+TO+PROGRAM+HT+USING+CHIRP&tbm=vid&source=lnms&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjnnKaR9MuEAXWDEFKfHZ9VCV0Q0pQ](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&sca_esv=85af15397c77c0f6&q=HOW+TO+PROGRAM+HT+USING+CHIRP&tbm=vid&source=lnms&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjnnKaR9MuEAXWDEFKfHZ9VCV0Q0pQJegQIDBAB&biw=1908&bih=923&dpr=1#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:e10176ad,vid:7XQNm WS4A9o,st:0)

[JegQIDBAB&biw=1908&bih=923&dpr=1#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:e10176ad,vid:7XQNm WS4A9o,st:0](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&sca_esv=85af15397c77c0f6&q=HOW+TO+PROGRAM+HT+USING+CHIRP&tbm=vid&source=lnms&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjnnKaR9MuEAXWDEFKfHZ9VCV0Q0pQJegQIDBAB&biw=1908&bih=923&dpr=1#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:e10176ad,vid:7XQNm WS4A9o,st:0)

QMX – From Kit to Field!



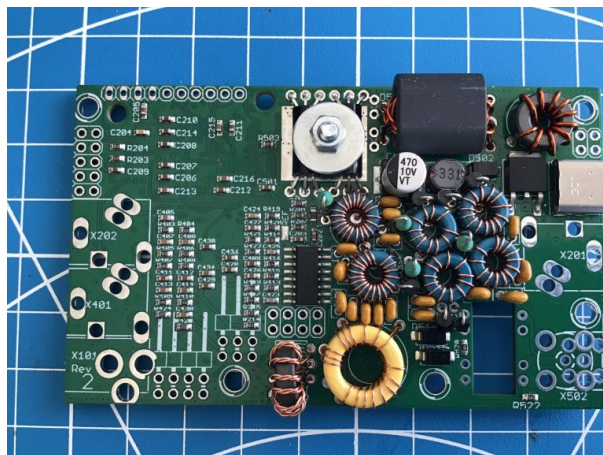
The Radio the [QMX by QRP Labs](#) is a five band, multi-mode radio introduced by Hans Summers GOUPL at FDIM in 2023. The QMX is the next logical step in the radio development journey at QRP Labs, bringing together the innovative approach to FSK modes like FT8 from the QDX and the CW performance of the QCX series. This is all done in same enclosure as the QCX-Mini which is not much larger than a deck of playing cards.

The keen observer will notice that the QMX also sports a built-in microphone which, along with associated circuitry, supports future introduction of voice modes by way of firmware update. Other notable features include SWR metering with protection as well as solid-state “PIN” diode T/R switching, plus the option for “high band” coverage of 20 through 10 meters in addition to the original 80m-20m version.

Most hams have, at one point or other, forgotten to throw the antenna switch, adjust the tuner, or even connect an antenna before transmitting. The SWR meter and protection really sets the QMX apart from earlier QRP Labs radios. There are plenty of sad tales on the QRP-Labs forums from QCX or QDX users that “smoked” the BS170 mosfet finals in a moment of operating into a badly mismatched load. It’s remarkably easy to do, ask me how I know!

The Build

Based on experience with the QCX-Mini and having put together several QDX’s, I admit to being hesitant to starting assembly of this radio. The level of integration in the QMX as a multi-band, multi-mode unit is probably the highest yet to come out of QRP Labs. The components that were merely small in earlier radios are absolutely tiny in the QMX, specifically the LPF toroidal cores. The main board, internal switching power supplies, display, and controls board are all sandwiched together in a tight fit for the custom enclosure.



The build started with a slow and methodical approach of doing a little bit each day and working in the morning when my mind was fresh and there was good light on my workbench, a.k.a. the dining room table.

The first “disaster” happened when performing the factory recommended modification to Revision 2 boards shipped in 2023. The mod calls for a protection diode to be installed across a SMD mosfet. Several leaded 1N4148 diodes were available in my “junk” box so I attempted to carefully fit one of these in the right position on the board. While soldering the diode in place I managed to lift C508, a microscopic .1uF SMD capacitor, clean off the board!

Given the tools at my disposal, there was no way I was going to be able to get that capacitor back into place. Therefore, I grabbed a standard through hole .1uF cap and painstakingly got it connected in the right place, verified by lots of continuity testing.

Once finished with all the electronic components on the main board, I was feeling pretty cocky and also the completion of the project was more clearly in view. The cautious and methodical approach gave way to a faster build pace, which directly led to the second “disaster.” While installing the headers that connect the main board to the display board, I failed to [CAREFULLY READ THE ASSEMBLY MANUAL](#) and soldered the male pin headers where I should have installed the female sockets!

This misstep might have ended the project right then and there if I had not at some point in the last year bought a proper desoldering tool. This is not an expensive automatic vacuum pump powered solder re-work stations, but rather a heating tip and manually actuated solder sucker built into one tool. Twenty-two unsoldered connections later, we were back on track.

The remainder of the assembly was pretty much drama-free. I did manage to break a couple of the leads on the rotary encoders (easily fixed by replacing the lead with a component cutoff) and it is kind of tricky to get the controls board properly through the hole in the display board and get the whole thing buttoned up in the enclosure. I’m still not convinced I got the fit 100% right.

With the build complete, and the radio connected to a dummy load, I applied a reduced voltage DC supply of 9v, and good news! No smoke!

I pressed the power switch and the QMX showed up on my computers as a USB flash drive. The firmware installs easily per the instructions in the manual after which the radio power cycles and the display comes to life.

First off, I performed audio and rf filter sweeps on all bands using the in-built terminal application and recorded screenshots to use as a baseline if I ever decide to try to tweak any of those response curves. In all honesty there is not a lot of physical adjustment to make other than compressing or spreading the turns on the toroids. And given they are pretty hard to reach, I likely will not make adjustments unless field testing proves that something is seriously misaligned.

See the full article at: <https://qrper.com/2024/03/qmx-from-kit-to-field/>

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 KB1TEE at verizon.net

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 7:00pm. John will advise if we can go to in person for next month's.

Our Meetings-On-The-Air are held all other Tuesday evenings at 8PM on 147.180+

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 at arrl.net](mailto: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



Spring QSL card welcome to springtime