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We hope to see you on March 17th 2026. We will be having our monthly meeting this month at the new Bridgewater Fire Station, 1185 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater. Social hour is from 1800 meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting. Our April meeting is on April 21<sup>st</sup> .

ON THE AIR Tuesdays 1st April 7th, 2nd April 14<sup>th</sup> and 4th April 28<sup>th</sup>. Tuesdays at 2000 (8pm) with a new procedure and conversation.

### **Presidents Message** By John Laiosa N1BSO

#### **Presidents' Message:**

We had our first meeting at the new Bridgewater Fire House, it was very nice. At the end of the meeting Tom, WA1TOM gave us a tour of the new facility. I am pleased to announce that Loren is home and plans to attend the meeting this week. Tuesday night net is going well, I was net control this past Tuesday. I have asked for suggestions for a time and place for our annual open house. We unfortunately had to shut the repeater down due to interference. I still have a few items from a donation to the club.

John Laiosa

## **Secretary report** By Philip McNamara KC1JDN

February 17, 2026 MARA club meeting minutes:

Recorded by Philip KC1JDN

Meeting called to order by John N1BSO, at 18:22. In the new Bridgewater Firehouse meeting room.

Attendees:

N1XTB Phil, N1BSO John, KA1YL Connie, N1AS Alan, N1LYP Eric, KC1SJS Allen, W1TGM Larry  
KM1TWL Jim, KC1TNH Adam, KB1WCK Joe, KC1TLT Wendy, WAITOM Tom, KC1JDN Phil

Motion to accept the secretaries report, accepted.

Treasurer's report. Accepted.

Repeater report. No problems, Yeseu still operating normally. Accepted.

No old business.

Health & Welfare:

Loren, N1IQI. Recovering well. Some hams plan to help move his station upstairs, and fix his stairs.

New business:

New meeting location, keeping the same time.

New members voted in:

Alan, N1AS renewing after membership lapse.

New member, N1LYP Eric Canha.

New members, proposed by Tom, Accepted, by the floor.

Discussion of W1TGM Larry's station (K1USN equipment), will be continued post meeting.

Followup for N1XTB - send membership application to Larry

Gear for sale.

Open house plans, and date. Stanley iron works? Late spring, or early fall. Discussed possible field day.

Meeting adjourned at 18:32

Post meeting discussions:

- Larry's new station at Plympton farm. Operational this summer, hopefully. Delayed due to weather.

Possible field day location. Future plan for a mobile trailer for use on field days/ events.

- Apparel

- Tour of the new fire station - guided by Tom WA1TOM

- Tom also showed some of his new POTA equipment

Thank you 73 Philip KC1JDN

## **Newsletter editor** Rick Emord KB1TEE

Nothing new to report; Wendy KC1TLT reported the PAWA amateur club will be at Borderland State park to open up

## **NEAR-Fest: Spring of 2026**

**NEAR-Fest XXXVIX May 1 and 2 2026**

The new location is, Hillsborough County 4H fairgrounds, 17 Hilldale Lane New Boston. NH gates open at 8am on Friday (7am for advanced ticket holders) On Saturday and Sunday they open at 7am. Closing at 2pm Saturday

## **USTNR Group next event**



April 18<sup>th</sup> on the USS Massachusetts we plan to get on the ship around 0800 and we will be celebrating Scouting. We will pack up at 1530. Come on down if you can only spend a few minutes or any times just come to the ships gift shop and sign the page with my name on it Rick Emord KB1TEE

## **Start Planning for ARRL Field Day 2026**

It's not too early to gear up and get ready for ARRL Field Day! Field Day 2026 takes place June 27 – 28 and will bring together more than 30,000 amateur radio operators for one of the most popular on-the-air events in the US and Canada.



# AMATEUR RADIO

# FD★26

## A NATIONAL RESOURCE

This year's Field Day theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Combined with the [ARRL Year of the Club](#), it provides the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

All of the information you need to get started can be found on the [Field Day](#) web page, including how to join the [ARRL Field Day Facebook Group](#), where you can share your plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day.

The overall objective for Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter HF bands, as well as all bands above 50 MHz, and to learn to operate in less than optimal conditions. Many clubs choose to set up in camp-style fashion with portable equipment, temporary antennas, and off-grid power sources.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2 (North and South America). DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries. Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote.

Also check out the [Field Day site locator page](#) to help find participating stations near you.

As an added incentive for anyone participating in ARRL's yearlong America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award, contacts made with ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs all year, including during Field Day, will count toward your America250 WAS Affiliated Club Endorsement. Check out those details at [www.arrl.org/america250-was](http://www.arrl.org/america250-was).

For more information about ARRL Field Day, visit [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day).

## In Branson, Missouri

SKYWARN Youth, a group of young amateur radio operators dedicated to weather spotting, emergency communication, and community education, will operate special event station NØA for the next two weeks to promote severe weather awareness. NØA will operate March 15 – 29, 2026, at various times — day, and night — as time permits, using SSB & FT8/FT4 on 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters, as well as FT8 on 160 and 30 meters. For operators without HF access, SKYWARN Youth invites check-ins to their weekly nets on Sundays — March 15, 22, and 29 — at 7:30 PM Central time, via [multiple repeaters and VoIP networks](#). All check-ins to those nets will be officially added to the NØA special event log. “Being prepared and establishing situational awareness during severe weather events is crucial and will help you and your family to stay safe,” said SKYWARN Youth Net Manager Caleb Sfair, KEØFOE. “Our goal with this special event station is to educate the amateur radio community about the dangers of severe weather and the importance of being prepared.” All amateur radio operators are encouraged to spread the word and participate in this effort to strengthen weather safety networks worldwide. More information is available at [www.skywarnyouth.net](http://www.skywarnyouth.net).

## Pilgrim Amateur Wireless Association



## April 18<sup>th</sup> Borderland Massachusetts State Park Opening day

PAWA tag team POTA club activation cookout and much more. Season opener April 18<sup>th</sup> 2026. Location US2420 Borderland State park in Easton MA. Host By, KC1NDQ, Fran. Gate Opens At 8:00am, Everyone is welcome. To stop by as we all come together and call, CQ, CQ POTA

## **Hams Help Forecasters with Real-Time Data on the Northeast Blizzard “26”**

A historic blizzard paralyzed much of the Northeast in late February, and amateur radio operators were on the air to help forecasters keep track of the storm’s impact. Southeastern New England was one of the hardest-hit areas. ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator and Boston-area SKYWARN Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, reported that ARES®/SKYWARN nets across southern New England were activated to support the National Weather Service (NWS) Boston/Norton office, as well as local and state emergency management and broadcast media, with timely updates on the storm.



### **Outside of my front window KB1TEE on Monday the day of the storm**



“We had ARES/SKYWARN nets activating on an every one-to-two-hour basis providing snowfall, wind gust, wind damage and coastal flood reports,” said Macedo, adding that reports were received from SKYWARN spotters of snowfall as high as 43 inches in Tiverton, Rhode Island, and 41 inches in Fall River, Massachusetts. Providence, Rhode Island, received 37.8 inches, breaking the state’s snowfall record. More details on the amateur radio response in southern New England are on [ARRL News](#).

Combined ARES/SKYWARN nets were also activated in the ARRL Connecticut and Northern New Jersey Sections, with stations asked to report on snow depth and wind speed. These reports were relayed to the National Weather Service forecast offices serving the New York and Boston areas.

In addition, the Department of Homeland Security’s SHARES (SHARed RESources) High Frequency (HF) Radio Program, which includes amateur radio as part of its network, issued a blizzard watch, requesting voluntary activation of all participating stations in New York and New Jersey as a real-time test of its Civil Support Operations (CSO) HF Interoperability Network. Stations were asked to submit a

“County Status Message” for their respective counties using Winlink and VARA HF Chat. Operation coordinator Richard Martino, Jr., KB2SNF/NNA2AO (SHARES call sign) reported that 23 amateurs and 8 SHARES stations in 20 counties submitted reports. In an after-action memo, Martino noted that the Amateur Radio Service is “the backbone of ‘Real Time’ information in the case of a ‘Real World’ CSO event,” adding that amateur radio “is an invaluable CSO resource on a national level and that cannot be understated or overlooked.”

## **The ARRL Solar Report**

03/06/2026

Solar activity continued at low levels with isolated C-class flaring. Regions 4381 and 4384 remained the primary drivers of activity. The largest event of the period was a C2.9 flare from Region 4381 on March 3. Region 4384 continues to rotate further onto the disk, but foreshortening still hinders a definitive characterization of its magnetic complexity. Region 4378 showed some new flux emergence but remained mostly inactive.

Region 4383 simplified into a unipolar group following the loss of its trailing spots, while Region 4380 decayed to plage. No Earth-directed coronal mass ejections (CMEs) were observed in available coronagraph imagery.

Solar activity is expected to be at low levels, with a chance for isolated M-class activity (R1-R2/minor-moderate) through March 6.

A brief description of Sunspots can be found on the Space Weather Prediction Center website at, <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/phenomena/sunspotssolar-cycle> .

Solar wind parameters reflected the onset of a positive polarity coronal hole high-speed stream (+CH HSS). Solar wind speed increased to 450 km/s. Solar wind parameters are expected to remain enhanced due to the ongoing influence of the +CH HSS. Residual enhancements are likely to persist, keeping conditions slightly above background levels before another enhancement is expected with the onset of a negative polarity coronal hole high-speed stream (-CH HSS). Active conditions are expected on March 7 and 8 as high-speed stream influences continue.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere, March 5, 2026, by F. K. Janda, OK1HH:

"Overall solar activity declined, with the number of sunspot groups ranging between three and six over the past week. Their magnetic configuration was simple, so no significant flares on the solar disk was observed.

"However, the solar flux remained at a relatively high level of 130-148 s.f.u., which, together with a decrease in geomagnetic

activity (no major disturbances, just alternating calm and moderately active days), resulted in improved conditions for shortwave propagation.

"The current trend is expected to continue for the time being. A change will be caused by a decline in solar activity in the second decade of March. This will be very noticeable in the decline in solar radio flux."

The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to reach high levels on March 8, 11 and 12, and March 15 to 19 due to anticipated influence from multiple, recurrent, CH HSSs. The remainder of the outlook period is likely to be at normal to moderate levels.

Geomagnetic field activity is expected to range from quiet to G2 (Moderate) geomagnetic storm levels. Active conditions are likely on March 10, 12, March 14 and 15, and March 20. Unsettled conditions are likely on March 8 and 9, March 11, March 13, and March 16 to 19. All elevated levels of geomagnetic activity are associated with the anticipated influence of multiple, recurrent, CH HSSs. The remainder of the outlook period is likely to be at mostly quiet levels.

The current solar report from Dr. Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW, can be found on YouTube at, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SoYfTnruhc> .

### **ARRL Joins America250 as a Supporting Partner for the Nation's 250th Anniversary**

ARRL announced today that it is a Supporting Partner of America250, joining the nationwide celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country in 2026.

America250 is the national, nonpartisan organization charged by Congress to lead the commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a milestone that marks America's Semiquincentennial. Through education, engagement, and service, America250 seeks to bring Americans together to reflect on the nation's history and renew commitment to the ideals that unite us.



**Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board**

**President : John Laiosa N1BSO**

**Vice President: Tom Luckman WA1TOM**

**Secretary: Philip McNamara KC1JDN**

**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 [maranews@w1mv.org](mailto:maranews@w1mv.org)**

**ARC Web Page <http://www.wa1npo.org>**

**Qsl via [www.eqsl.cc](http://www.eqsl.cc)**

**Skywarn <http://wx1box.org> and**

**[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 3rd Tuesday of each month.**

**Zoom is available for meeting at about 6:30pm.**

**Our Meetings-On-The-Air are held all other Tuesday evenings at 8PM on 147.180+ and has a new format.**

**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](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**