



May 2020
Volume 59 Issue 5



**Quarantine continues... Next meeting is June 16, 2020 at 7:00pm at (TBD)
Talk-in is on 147.180+**

Membership

The website has been updated with our current roster of paid members. If there are corrections, please drop an email to maranews@w1mv.org

Presidents Notes

MARA Facebook page: Our Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Facebook page with club events, meetings, photos, etc. are occasionally updated so that it may be another resource for us on which to spark interest in 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 Phil N1XTB n1xtb@powersrvcs.com or Wendy KC1GTR kc1gtr.mara.@gmail.com any 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 word out even more!

Secretary Notes - KC1GTR - Wendy White

Informal meeting was held on the MARA Club repeater on April 21st as last months meeting was canceled due to COVID 19 and the closing of the State.

WA1BEE – Allen, school is still closed, so we cannot use the EOC for our monthly meeting until they are opened. Question was put out to everyone for ideas for a future activity.



WAITOM -Tom suggested teaming up with Whitman to set up a tent and show people what the Radio is all about. Rick's cookout is in August. KC1MLU – suggested combining the cookout with a HAM set up day to show everyone what it is all about.

Stock up on your meats – big meat plant closing that supplies 8 states, due to Covid19, it was said that it was shut down and I think I heard that it was sold.

We will hold the meeting on the net for May and then gear up to try a Zoom meeting in June if we cannot utilize an actual facility.

Allen - WA1BEE asked if anyone had any further to discuss? No response closed the net at 8:29pm.

New England Area Ham - - - Electronic Flea Market DATES 2020 – all up in the air until the states open everything back up.

HAM RADIO LOCAL AREA NETS

Any additions or corrections contact John – N1UMJ at: N1UMJ@arrl.net.

All Frequencies are in MHz and 6 Meters (50.0 MHz and up.) are FM Mode unless otherwise noted.

Sunday:

8:30 AM WA1NPO – WARPSN Net, Whitman ARC Rptr, 147.225 +, PL 67.0 8:45

AM New England phone net, 3.945 +/---- LSB

Daily:

7:00 PM NE Cracker Barrel Net, Matt – W1AEM, NCO, 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.

7:00 PM Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8

7:30 PM Falmouth N1YHS Rptr, 147.375 + PL 110.9 Genesis ARC CW Training Net

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

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

Monday:

6:00 AM Cape and Islands Weather Net, M-S, Dennis K1PBO Rptr, 146.955 – PL 88.5

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

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



8:30 PM New England DMR net, DMR---MARC repeaters talk group 3181 New England
Falmouth ARA Net, Falmouth K1RK Rptr, 146.655 – PL 88.5

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

Tuesday:

7:30 PM Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8

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

8:00 PM Massasoit ARA Net, , Bridgewater W1MV Rptr, 147.180 + PL 67.0 (Except 3rd Tue!)
Genesis ARC 2 Mtr Rag---Chew Net,

8:00 PM Norwood Amateur Radio Club Net, Norwood Rptr, 147.210 + PL 100.0 220 MHz
Day! Try to find a 220 Repeater near you and give a call out!

Wednesday:

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday:

7:00 PM Genesis ARC CW Training Net, Plymouth N1ZIZ Rptr, 146.685 – PL 131.8 10 Mtr

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

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

8:30 PM Sturdy Mem. Hosp. ARC ARES Practice Net, K1SMH Rptr, 147.195 + PL 127.3 900
MHz Day! Try to find a 900 Repeater near you and give a call out!

Friday:

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

8:00 PM South Shore Skywarn Net, 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 - Allen Hiltz - WA1BEE
Vice President Jeff Lehmann - N1ZZN
Secretary Wendy White - KC1GTR
Treasurer: Phil McNamara N1XTB
Call Sign Trustee: Phil McNamara N1XTB

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, on the Tuesday Night net at 8:00pm 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@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.

<http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/index.html>



Courtesy of ARRL

The K7RA Solar Update

05/15/2020

No sunspots appeared last week. The previous seven days had only one big sunspot group on one day, with a sunspot number of 35. Over the seven-day period this averaged out to a sunspot number of 5, so average daily sunspot numbers declined from 5 to 0 this week.

Average daily solar flux also declined, by one point from 69.5 to 68.5.

Geomagnetic indicators were quiet, with average daily planetary A index declining from 5.1 to 4.1, and mid-latitude A index from 5 to 4.7.

Spaceweather.com reports that the percentage of days with no sunspots so far in 2020 (76%) is close to 2019 (77%).

Every day I look at STEREO <https://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/> to see if there are any hints of activity over the horizon. Each 30-degree division on that display represents about 55 hours, and currently on May 14 I see a bright possibly active area about 30 degrees over the solar horizon.

Predicted solar flux is 68 on May 15-21, 69 on May 22, 70 on May 23-31, 68 on June 1-13, 70 on June 14-27 and 68 on June 28.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 on May 15-18, 8 on May 19-20, 5 on May 21 to June 8, 8 on June 9-10, 5 on June 11-13, then 10 and 8 on June 14-15, and 5 on June 16-28.

Geomagnetic activity forecast for the period May 15 until June 9, 2020 from F.K. Janda, OK1HH.

Geomagnetic field will be

quiet on: May 26, June 2-5

quiet to unsettled on: May 16, 25, 27-31

quiet to active on: (May 15, 20-22, 24, June 1, 6-8)

unsettled to active on: (May 17-19, 23)

active to disturbed: no disturbances predicted

Solar wind will intensify on: May (18-21, 23,) 24, June (6-7)

- Parenthesis means lower probability of activity enhancement.



- The predictability of changes remains lower as there are no indicators.

I have recently noticed that even with very little sunspot activity, there is plenty of activity on the air. Checking FT8 communications on <https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html> I can see lots of weak signal communication over marginal paths, even on 12, 10, and 6 meters. I also get reports from readers, and see reports on a local DXer email list, and everyone seems more active of late.

I suspect much of this activity is related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the great number of operators isolating at home.

The May 7 ARRL Eclectic Tech podcast (listen at <https://bit.ly/2zCjRRu>) features a story (starting at minute 10:57) about a medical research project using distributed computing employing idle microprocessor cycles in volunteer's personal computers to aid in medical research. Called Folding at Home (<https://foldingathome.org/start-folding/>) participants can form teams to do the work, and keep score. It has recently been re-positioned to aid research on COVID-19.

Twenty years ago, I started a folding team, dedicated to the memory of the former holder of my call sign, K7RA. You can view the stats on our team at <https://stats.foldingathome.org/team/10566>. If you can join us, download the software from <https://foldingathome.org/> and during installation please dedicate your work to team number 10566.

I was aware of the Carrington Event (see <https://bit.ly/35YRadA>), the huge solar storm of 1859, but there was another big one, 99 years ago this week, that also set fire to telegraph offices and caused general mayhem. See <https://bit.ly/3fVaywK> and <https://bit.ly/2Z5muG3>.

Ken Brown, N4SO, (EM50) in Grand Bay, Alabama reports unusual 15-meter propagation at an odd time, after midnight where he is. On May 11, using FT8 he heard VE7SKY (CN89) at 0602 UTC and then 8C2WFH, (OI53) in Indonesia at 0649 UTC.

Mark Bell, K3MSB, of Airville, Pennsylvania wrote on May 8: "Ten meters has been open the past few days. I've worked stations in Texas and California on Thursday May 7, and stations in Minnesota and Washington on May 8, using CW and 100 watts. It was classic Es propagation. I had no RBN reports for the 7th, but nice ones on the 8th. Several other stations were calling me on the 8th, but I was unable to work them."

On May 11 Mark wrote: "Here's an update to my update. Between May 7-10, I worked 10 states on 10-meter CW. Single hop sporadic-E into Texas, Minnesota, Florida, Tennessee, Missouri, Louisiana, and Wisconsin, and double hop into California, Washington, and Idaho – all on CW. I heard quite a few more stations calling me, but I was unable to work them."

Mark mentioned RBN – the Reverse Beacon Network. To learn more, see <http://www.reversebeacon.net/>.



Jon Jones, N0JK, wrote from Kansas: “Es on May 11. Caught J68HZ (St. Lucia) on 50.313 MHz at 2345z on double-hop Es. My report was -24 dB! So far, no major openings like on April 15, but the Es season is starting to pick up.”

Danny Miller, KB8W, wrote: "There was a nice Es opening on 6 meters during the afternoon and evening of May 8 from my Upper Peninsula home (EN57) to Idaho, western Montana, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Es is common in the central US during the summer months, but it is early to have it happen so far north. The Es cloud appeared to be over North and South Dakota.

“I worked 12 stations over about ten hours, using FT8 on 50.313 MHz. I run only 50 W to a 5 element Yagi on 6 meters, so it is great to have some extended propagation to help me work those western grid squares!”

K0ZN wrote from De Soto, Kansas: "May 7 had some exceptional HF conditions. I have not heard things this good in several years. What got my attention was when I turned the radio on at about 11 PM, WWV was pounding in at 35 dB over S-9 on 10 and 15 MHz and S-9 on 20 and S-7 on 25 MHz here in Kansas City; that is only a 550 mile path, quite short for 20 and 25 MHz at that time. I got on 10 meters and heard strong west coast signals and worked a Hawaiian running 30 W to a vertical with good signals both ways. The impressive thing was hearing a Russian who was S-9 working a Polish station! Thirty meters was clearly wide open to a large part of the world....at midnight CST. One can only hope this is an omen of better things coming on HF."

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at k7ra@arrrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see <http://www.arrrl.org/propagation> and the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>.

An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for May 7 through 13, 2020 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0, with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 68.7, 67.9, 71, 67.9, 66.2, 68.9, and 68.8, with a mean of 68.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 3, 5, 5, 4, and 4, with a mean of 4.1. Middle latitude A index was 5, 4, 3, 5, 7, 5, and 4, with a mean of 4.7.



In The News:

FCC Providing Flexibility to Volunteer Examiners in Developing Remote Testing Methods

05/03/2020

The FCC has clarified that nothing in its rules prohibits remote amateur radio testing, and no prior approval is needed to conduct remote exam sessions.

“The Commission provides flexibility to volunteer examiners and coordinators who wish to develop remote testing methods or to increase remote testing programs already in place,” the FCC said in an April 30 [news release](#). “We recognize that some volunteer examiner coordinators may not have the immediate capacity for widespread remote testing. We expect those volunteer examiner coordinators with limited remote testing capacity to work closely with those requesting such testing to prioritize any available remote testing slots.”

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said she’s gratified to see that the FCC appreciates the need for remote testing. “Many of our VEs and VE Teams have been employing remotely proctored exam sessions with both video and in-person components, and following social-distancing protocols, where necessary” she said. “Some ARRL VE teams have [shown great promise](#) in administering exams remotely.” Somma also said that as states begin to lift restrictions, the possibility exists to restart in-person amateur radio exam opportunities.

“We urge our VE teams to keep up to date so they can make informed decisions based on local community guidelines, as each community is unique,” she said. “Our volunteers should use their best judgement when deciding whether or not to begin conducting in-person exam sessions. It is important to us that you feel confident when choosing your course of action, because the health and safety of our VEs and the examinees is the top priority. VE teams that choose to conduct in-person sessions should re-start consistent with local restrictions and guidelines.”

To find amateur radio license exam sessions in your area, [visit](#) the ARRL website. Candidates should verify with their VE teams that the exam session *is* being held and if any special procedures are required to attend.

[ARRL News: Coronavirus COVID-19](#)

What is Ham Radio?

Amateur Radio (ham radio) is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics, and communication together. People use ham radio to talk across town, around the world, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones. It is fun, social, educational, and can be a lifeline during times of need.

You can set up a ham radio station anywhere! In a field...



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...at a club station....



...or at home.



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Although Amateur Radio operators get involved for many reasons, they all have in common a basic knowledge of radio technology and operating principles and pass an examination for the FCC license to operate on radio frequencies known as the "Amateur Bands." These bands are radio frequencies allocated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for use by ham radio operators.

Amateur Radio in Hollywood

Amateur Radio is part of the storyline in the ABC television series Last Man Standing, starring Tim Allen. [Read More](#)





[Download the video \(mp4\)](#)

[Download the Companion PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Amateur Radio: A Hobby for the 21st Century
Produced by the Radio Society of Great Britain.
See [Conditions of Use](#) before downloading.

[Download the Video](#)



FCC Adopts a New Official Seal in Anticipation of Relocation

05/01/2020

In anticipation of its upcoming move, the FCC has adopted a new FCC seal. The redesigned seal is the product of an agency-wide contest that solicited proposals from employees and contractors. The winning design, submitted by Umasankar Arumugam, was selected by a vote of the agency's employees and contractors.

The revised design incorporates several elements: communications technologies currently transforming our world; four stars on the outer seal border, drawing from the legacy of the predecessor Federal Radio Commission seal; 18 stars on the shield, recognizing the current number of bureaus and offices; and the eagle and shield, identifying the FCC as a federal government agency.



Over the next few months, the FCC will incorporate the new seal on official stationery, business cards, publications, and other materials, including on its website and throughout its new Headquarters. Official use of the new seal will begin following completion of the agency's move from the Portals to its new Headquarters. The date of the move is to be determined and has been delayed due to COVID-19. — *FCC news release*

FCC Seeking World Radiocommunication Conference Advisory Committee Members

04/20/2020

The FCC has [announced](#) that it's looking for individuals or entities to serve on its World Radiocommunication Conference Advisory Committee. The committee will provide advice, technical support, and recommended proposals in the run-up to World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 ([WRC-23](#)). In particular, the committee will focus on international frequency spectrum issues identified on the WRC-23 agenda.

The committee will be charged with gathering data and information necessary to formulate meaningful recommendations for these objectives. The FCC seeks applications from interested individuals, organizations, institutions, or other entities in both the public and private sectors.

Selection will be based on factors such as expertise and diversity of viewpoints necessary to effectively address the questions before the committee. Applicants should describe both their specific interests and their expertise or experience as it relates to the questions before the committee, including such matters as wireless communications infrastructure and equipment, telecommunications, fixed, mobile, broadcasting, satellite, and other radiocommunication services, consumer advocacy, and underserved populations.

It's anticipated that the committee will meet in Washington, DC, up to three times per year in preparation for WRC-23. [Submit](#) nominations, including contact information and the statement of qualifications, by email no later than May 29, 2020.



Courtesy of The New Indian Express

Ham radio stations to be set up at major dam sites

As Kerala prepares for the onslaught of another monsoon, ham radio operators are setting up stations at major dam sites to negate communication breakdowns in an emergency.



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An image of a radio used for representational purposes. (Photo | www.pexels.com)

By [Kiran Narayanan](#)

Express News Service

KOCHI: As Kerala prepares for the onslaught of another monsoon, ham radio operators are setting up stations at major dam sites to negate communication breakdowns in an emergency. Idukki, Mullaperiyar, Edamalayar and Kallarkutty are lined up to get ham radio channels. Idukki Ham Radio Emergency Communication Society secretary Manoj T R, who coordinates operations in the district, told TNIE that ham stations will be set up at major dam sites by next week.



MARANews



“As the meteorological department predicts heavy rains, we are going to set up ham stations at major dams. The communication channels between dams were broken during the 2018 deluge. Considering that, dams like Kallarkutty, Mullaperiyar, Idukki and Edamalayar will have ham stations soon. We are awaiting the nod from the district collector and the KSEB chairman,” he said. Three other stations will be set up at the Karimanal power house, Vallakkadavu and Uppukandam along the path of the Periyar. In emergency situations, ham radio stations play a crucial role.

During the devastating floods in 2018, the lack of such a communication facility had foiled attempts to reinstate the operation of dams which were breached. “We are like police officers,” said Subramanian N Shastry, director, Institute of Amateur Radio in Kerala. “Similar to their march past, we have daily roll drills. As a warming-up process, all our stations go through the drills between 7am and 8am.” Currently, the operators are pushing themselves to the next level to ensure Covid precautions.