







November 2021 Volume 60 Issue 1



http://www.w1mv



https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmara/



https://twitter.com/search?q=Massasoit%20Amateur%20Radio%20Association&src=typd

**Next meeting**: will be November 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm for the social hour. 7:00pm meeting starts at the EOC, 166 Mt Prospect St, Bridgewater, MA 02324. Park on the left side of the building as you're facing it. We are looking into an alternative site for inclement weather. We hope to get the notice out as early as possible or check in on 147.180 + pl 67. No December meeting. See you January 19<sup>th</sup> 2022

#### **Presidents Notes.**

Hope all is well and that everyone made it through the storm safely. I had no power, internet, landline and limited cell service. A tree on the edge of our property took out 2 telephone poles causing all the wires down.

Two Thousand and Twenty One has been a year of challenge for MARA. Our financial situation was almost bankrupt. Due to the influx of new members and the sale of ham equipment donated to MARA, we are now solvent for a while. A note of thanks goes out to those members who were generous enough to make donations that helped us through this difficult time. Our main objective is to build the membership up even more so that we are able to cover the monthly expenses. With the cooperation of membership and their input at meetings, I do believe MARA will become a viable and lasting association.

There will be no meeting in December. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

Looking forward to seeing you at the January meeting.

Allen wa1bee.

## Secretaries notes by: Tom WA1TOM

Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1851 by WA1BEE with nine members present:

WA1BEE Allen President, N1IQI Loren, N1BSO John Vice-President, NA1R Gary N1XTB Phil Treasurer, KC1RAB Ray, N1RTS Rob, WA1TOM Tom KB1TEE Rick

Last months minutes read and accepted.

Treasurer report read and accepted

#### Old Business:

There was more discussion regarding the Club Tee shirts and ball caps. Red was decided as the color and an email blast will be sent out for orders.

#### **New Business:**

KC1GTR Wendy has resigned as Club Secretary due to family obligations. WA1TOM Tom will assume the Secretary's duties for the time being.

KB1TEE Rick will again be doing the Monthly Newsletter for the time being.

There was discussion about the donated radio equipment. The items have been offered to club members through an email. Contact Phil N1XTB or Allen WA1BEE if you wish to purchase any gear. Items not sold will be brought to NEARfest in October then offered to local clubs. The goal is to sell the equipment as soon as possible.

Rick KB1TEE mentioned that The Battleship Massachusetts will again be on the air Saturday December 4th 0830-1530 for the Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

#### Good and Welfare:

Tom WA1TOM mentioned accessibility to the EOC during the winter months and meetings may have to be cancelled due to weather. Discussion continued for a possible contingency site during the winter and to enable our less physically able members to attend monthly meetings as the Bridgewater EOC has a challenging set of stairs to climb.

The meeting was adjourned at 1932 to be followed by a Winlink presentation by Phil N1XTB

Respectfully submitted by WA1TOM

## 98-year-old HAM operator still going strong

URBANA, III. (WCIA) – He may have retired from his job, But one 98-year-old said he will never retire from his favorite hobby. Since 1947 Earl Finder has been a HAM radio operator. Every day he gets on his radio and hosts what they call the Illini Net. Finder is an amateur radio operator, and for 45 years, he's been hosting the Illini Net for other HAM radio operators across the world. "So, it's just kind of routine anymore," he said.

It started when he retired, and a HAM from Urbana moved out to California. Finder said they would talk every "Next thing you knew, we were doing it every day. We got on there and talked a while, and next thing you know, other HAMs heard us and joined us," Finder said. He said he's had people from across the country, and even the world, join in.

For him, the hobby started when he was a teenager messing with one of his dad's radios. He heard a few people talking and realized it was some local amateur radio operators.

But he said he has one inspiration for what he does. "I think the person who inspired me was a baseball announcer by the name of Bob Elson. Who broadcast the Cubs and White Sox's game in the 30's. I admired him and always thought I'd like to be a sports announcer, but I didn't think I would ever be able to do that. So, this is my closest way to get on the radio," he said. Finder said he has made many friends for a lifetime on his radio. Some he's even been able to meet in person, and he said he doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon.

## SK MARA club members

## **Bruce Beaman - K1HTN**

I've been informed of the passing of two MORE of our ham friends; one longtime K1USN member, Bruce Beaman - K1HTN as well as Allan Pratt - WA1NXY.

It is always sad to learn of the passing of one of our friends and it should give us pause to reflect on enjoyable moments spent in their presence.

Bruce was a member of the K1USN Radio Club and participated in several of our initial Museum Ships weekend events onboard the USS Salem and also was a dedicated CW operator.

**RIP 73** 

Jeff AJ1L

### Allan E. Pratt - WA1NXY

Allan used to visit our Capeway Radio Club field day operations at Wompatuck State Park. Through his work at Lincoln Labs he had access to a solar panel which he allowed us to use to obtain our five solar powered bonus point contacts each year. Back in those days solar panels were quite expensive! He would strap the panel to his back and ride his bicycle through the woods to deliver the panel to our site. - Pi

Allan E. Pratt - WA1NXY, of Hingham, formerly of Cohasset, passed away peacefully Monday, October 25, 2021, at the age of 88.

## **Great Hill Gang / K1USN Swap Net**

Fridays at 20:00 hours (8pm)
On the Marshfield repeater, 145.39 MHz with PL 67.0

EchoLink NEW-ENG 2 node on 9127 — IRLP Reflector 9127

Net Controllers: NA1XX -Mike & K1UVH-Mike

Listings as of Oct. 26, 2021

## **Great Hill Gang**

CQ- CQ- CQ, "Great Hill Gang" mark your calendars, the "Day of Radio" on the summit of Great Hill will be on Saturday, November 13th, come play radio, install an antenna, do some local or DX contacts, bring your own chair please, have some coffee and enjoy some conversation with others in our Great Hobby!!

73,

Mike Antoine

K1UVH

## Scientists tracked a mysterious signal in space. Its source was closer to Australia

A mysterious signal that appeared to be emanating from the closest star to our own sun put scientists on a nearly yearlong hunt to track down its origin. The result? The signal was not from an alien world circling Proxima Centauri but instead something much more mundane — possibly a radio, a telephone or even a computer located somewhere in Australia, according to two studies published this week in the journal *Nature Astronomy*.

"It is human-made radio interference from some technology, probably on the surface of the Earth," Sofia Sheikh, an astronomer at the University of California, Berkeley, and a co-author of both papers, told Nature.com. NPR tried to reach Sheikh but was unsuccessful. The signal was first detected by a 210-foot radio telescope at the Parkes Observatory in New South Wales, Australia. "The Dish," as Australians call it, was the subject of a 2000 film of the same name, starring Sam Neill.

The radio telescope is part of Breakthrough Listen, the largest-ever scientific research program to listen for extraterrestrial "technosignatures." The program, launched in 2016, is based at Berkeley SETI Research Center, located at the University of California, Berkeley, but involves radio telescopes around the world.

"This was a really pernicious signal," Jason Wright, a professor of astronomy and astrophysics who is director of the Penn State Extraterrestrial Intelligence Center, tells NPR.

The signal, which lasted about five hours at 982 megahertz, was at a frequency normally reserved for aircraft communications. But the researchers eliminated that possibility — there were no aircraft in the area. Read more at <a href="https://www.npr.org/2021/10/30/1050000708/signal-stars-proxima-centauri-mystery">https://www.npr.org/2021/10/30/1050000708/signal-stars-proxima-centauri-mystery</a>

# FCC Report 10/23: Pair Of Mississippi Licenses Cancelled For Operating Illegally

A pair of Mississippi signals have had their licenses revoked after a competitor claimed that the stations were not operating within legal parameters.

In April 2020, Delta Radio Network owner Larry Fuss submitted informal objections against the license renewals for Donald Pugh's Eternity Media Group's 99.5 WETX Vardaman and 1540 WKXG Greenwood MS. In his objections Fuss noted that WETX was never built, but filed for a license to cover in 2017 and a renewal in 2020, while WKXG was not utilizing the longwire antenna specified in its active STA, but rather by "taking turns" on the tower of Christian Broadcasting of Greenwood's 1240 WGRM Greenwood or not operating at all.

After inquiries to show proof of legal operation at either station went unanswered, the FCC has cancelled both licenses for failing to operate within 365 days at legal parameters without a legal STA.

## **NE1PL Battleship Massachusetts**

## This is the 80<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of the attack that started WW 2

The USTNR group will be on the Battleship Massachusetts we will again be on the air Saturday December 4th 0830-1530 for the Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

# Welcome. The USTNR group is going to operate on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 in remembrance of the devastating attack on the United States territory of PEARL HABOR.

We will be operating from the Battleship USS MASSACHUSETTS BB 59, a World war II South Dakota class battleship. We will be in the wardroom operating as NE1PL. Please join us either on the ship or on the air. Ee will be operating on 2, 20, and 40 meters. We are keeping our fingers crossed for the operation of the ships original equipment. They will be on CW only. Much work has been done by the ships staff on getting the radios up and running.

Please visit our website at ne1pl.org

Operators interested in joining us on the ship contact Rick at kb1tee@gmail.com

## **WA1NPO WinterFest:**

Saturday-January 2022 15th 9am-1pm the First Best HamFest of the Year Whitman Amateur Radio Club K of C Hall Rt. 18 Whitman MA \$5 entry fee with Raffle Prizes (drawn at noon) VE testing sessions for Tech/General/Extra Refreshments Talk-In on the Whitman club repeater: 147.225Mhz +pl67 Vendors call: 781-523-5010 Knights of Columbus Hall Or Visit: www.WA1NPO.org 1195 Bedford St, Rt 18 Table cost: \$15 Whitman, MA 02382

## The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Sun watchers saw no spotless days this week. Average daily sunspot numbers rose from 17.7 last week to 21.7 for the August 19 – 25 reporting week. Average daily solar flux increased from 73.8 to 78.5.

Geomagnetic indicators were quiet, with average daily planetary A index declining from 6.1 to 4.7, and average daily middle latitude A index dropping from 7.6 to 5.7.

We are less than one month away from the autumnal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere on Wednesday, September 22. On that day, both hemispheres will be bathed in equal measures of solar radiation, always a positive for HF propagation.

Predicted solar flux is 90 on August 27 – September 2; 85 on September 3; 73 on September 4 – 11; 74 on September 12 – 15; 76 on September 16 – 18; 77 on September 19 – 20; 76 on September 21; 75 on September 22 – 29, and 73 on September 30 – October 8.

Predicted planetary A index is 16, 12, 10, and 8 on August 27 – 30; 5 on August 31 – September 1; 8 and 12 on September 2 – 3; 5 on September 4 – 10; 10 and 8 on September 11 – 12; 5 on September 13 – 18; 8 on September 19 – 20; 15 and 10 on September 21 – 22; 7 on September 23 – 24; 5 on September 25 – 28; 8 and 12 on September 29 – 30, and 5 through the first week in October.

I find it encouraging that the above solar flux forecast from USAF and NOAA was revised upward over the past few days and that the sunspot number (47) on Thursday, August 26, was much higher than the average daily sunspot number (21.7) over the previous 7 days.

Here's the geomagnetic activity forecast for August 27 – September 21,

from F.K. Janda, OK1HH.

## **Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board**

President - Allen Hiltz - WA1BEE Vice President - John Laiosa - N1BSO Secretary - Tom Luckman Jr. - WA1TOM - acting 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, Tuesday Night Zoom meeting will be at 7:00pm. Allen 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+ 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.

## **NET** operators

First Tuesday Rick KB1TEE

Second Tuesday John N1UMJ

No net Third Tuesday

Fourth Tuesday Denise KC1CFO

If Fifth Tuesday Jeff