The Minuteman

Volume 12 Number 1 | The OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION | September 1983

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

With all of us trying to enjoy our brief New England summer we may well feel that repeaters are least likely to be our foremost thought. After all they go on functioning day after day and year after year and we expect this. I have for over one year confined my column to give you insight into what is happening in the MMRA without much editorializing, but I feel the time has come to express my thoughts or rather my concern.

The technical progress we achieved last year was sufficient to satisfy our technical people and keep them interested in the selfless, time-consuming job of keeping our repeaters running. In fact, at the May Directors meeting, I got the impression that they were inspired and would continue these efforts. With Quincy repeater in place at its new home with a new back up machine (which can float at a back up to any 2 meter repeater) and the 450 MHZ machine singing sweet music, direction for technical progress is underway; it would seem that all is well and will continue that way.

In fact things went so well with all Directors and tech people rowing their oars to an even rhythm, that an insidious beast began to rear its ugly head above the smooth waters. Oh yes, membership was not only retained but had even increased.

What then was the trouble? It seems that in March a great number of stalwart members had not renewed. A pervasive attitude had crept into the MMRA that we were rich and prosperous and that renewal (in most cases just overlooked) was of little importance. Somehow the Club always functioned and we always had the best repeaters – what is my small contribution.

The Board each took a number of cards and made some calls, for the most part. Our Secretary (in my opinion the best we've had in the MMRA) on her own made contacts and better than 95% renewed at once giving us a June paid up membership roll of 517, an all time high. You could say that we are doing something right, but that isn't quite so.

In fact there was some duplication in the calls and perhaps some ruffled feathers; our Directors are great administrators but sometimes not the best diplomats.

When you spend eleven months a year attending both Directors and Membership meeting attacking and solving problem after problem and this happens for no good reason, you can see the concern of the Directors. We run your Club the best we can with a definite stated objective. I will admit that those objectives are my function. They are simply: (a) Make our repeaters the best that we can technically, (b) Get us on all repeater bands, (c) Do this without increasing dues.

That may seem like a big order but we proved it can be done. Our opening of the 450 MHZ machine with a 220 machine to follow shortly was done to fit our schedule or required future expansion, as much as to give us more present services. With all our voluntary help we do this as cheaply as possible.

We can only do this if we retain our dues-paying members. Your dues are our life blood.

In a Club of over 500 members we can only count your vote of confidence by your dues renewal and you have overwhelmingly given us that. So as we feel our way around on this non technical matter we know you bear with us. I convey my personal apology to the few members who may have been offended by more than one dues solicitation and if this was not done tactfully; for you are not our problem but rather our lifeline. Correctly stated its really a communal mutual benefit since without repeaters our FM sets are not much better than C.B. units. Although our repeaters are open, there are still a small handfull of constant users who pay dues to no repeater organization, are gainfully employed and utilize these machines every single day. They have been systematically invited to join or rejoin, as the case may be, but despite written and personal contact, use the machines constantly even at prime time and flatly refuse to pay dues.

We know that some paid members resent this but can say that only your efforts can resolve this. That is to say that club officers can do no more, but your peer pressure may be more effective. They are using your property as much as if they borrowed your automobile, but here we can do no more without violating HAM spirit; your efforts on a voluntary basis with contacts known to you will help us and help you.

We are going to a fiscal year membership, as most of you know, in September. Dues promptly paid of course are important. Of equal importance is the fact that we can keep track of dues paid members without many errors and give you a list in our Newsletter. Another reason is that in the event of computer loss or failure we will still be in good shape.

We value your opinion and all letters addressed to the MMRA are openly read by me at Board meetings. Please feel free to communicate your ideas or constructive criticism. This may be of benefit to all of us in shaping our direction – We are above all not complacent with past success.

Before closing I have a few reports. For the first time in MMRA history a special meeting was held in June for trustees and technical people as a mutual information exchange bank. It is true that the technical people and trustees have frequently appeared at regular Board meeting and this input was extremely beneficial, but we never had a meeting for this exclusive purpose.

It was so rewarding that we plan to do this from time to time. The result will be not only technical progress, but money saved for the organization. I will let you know how this goes in future columns – We have a lot planned to improve our service to you in the near future.

Our recently formed Education Committee has been gathering information and our Chair Person, Frank Comfort, KO1M has attended meeting relating to the role of amateurs and their organizations in the future training and administration of tests. No one knows what will finally happen, but we intend to be ready to implement any game plan.

If you are interested in participating in the educational process, we have openings for teaching the various subjects of HAM radio on a regular or abbreviated basis. Frank can usually be found on 146.715 or drop a line to the MMRA.

At our June meeting we formulated our proposed budget and the final version will be printed in the Newsletter prior to the September membership meeting.

Let's keep our momentum going and also get on and use your repeaters and their services such as phone patch. A priority has been given to extend autopatch on the 07/67 Quincy machine. This is now a wide coverage machine – things have changed there – try it you may like it.

Audio levels at the phone patch interface of 01/61 and 449.50 in Marlboro have curtailed autopatch usage. This will be remedied quickly and my even happen by the time you read this. We hope to have Bay State service soon.

All repeater codes will be changed in September and members will receive the new access codes.

73' KA1AL

SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE	Monday, September 19, 1983
PLACE	Campion Center, Concord Road, Weston
TIME	7:30 PM, Doors open at 7 o'clock for socializing
AGENDA	Presentation of 1983-84 Budget to members
SPEAKER	Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, Editor and Publisher of 73 Magazine, Byte and 80 Micro magazines will be on hand to speak on everything and anything to do with Ham Radio, Computers and the future of these hobbies.
REFRESHMENTS	Coffee and doughnuts will be available,
RAFFLE	A raffle will be drawn and awarded to the lucky winner of the prize.

BUDGET FOR

MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

For period May 25, 1983 thru May 24, 1984

Treasurer's Balance on 5/17/83 (see below) $3,935.88

Operating Expenses

01/61	$700.00	
449.50	800.00	
07/67	724.00	
220 MHZ	558.00	
115/715	600.00	
22/82	950.00	
Secretary	330.00	
Treasurer	45.00	
President	75.00	
Clerk	75.00	
Communications & Newsletter	1900.00	
Insurance	300.00	
Meetings	800.00	
Raffle	700.00	
Tech Projects (Controllers etc.)	600.00	
Total Operating Expenses		$ 9,157.00

Capital and Special Expenses including Improvements:

01/61 Emergency power battery	$100.00	
Remote Receiver Package	350.00	
449.50 - P.L. Contingency	80.00	
GaAs FET Pre-AMP	80.00	
Link to 220	350.00	
07/67 Power Supply	150.00	
Roof Repair	150.00	
Heater	50.00	
Wiring	75.00	
220 MHZ (for supply)	150.00	
Heater	50.00	
Cavities	450.00	
Antenna	50.00	
GaAs FET Pre-AMP	90.00	
22/82 New Transmitter and Receiver 2 remote receiver sites (linked)	1830.00	
Total Capital & Special Expenses		4,055.00
Total Operating and Computed Expenses		$13,212.00

Income	$10,000.00	
Dues	120.00	
Refreshments	350.00	
Raffle	800.00	
Miscellaneous	200.00	
From Surplus	1,742.00	
Total	$13,212.00	

1983-84 MEETING DATES

MONDAY	- SEPT. 19 -	Weston
TUESDAY	- NOV. 15 -	Location to be determined
WEDNESDAY	- JAN. 18 -	Location to be determined
MONDAY	- MAR. 19 -	Location to be determined
TUESDAY	- MAY 15 -	Location to be determined

EDITOR'S CORNER

OK fellos, I give up!! I surrender!! I've been bit, byte and banded into submission. I can't remember the last time I tuned in one of our repeaters and heard "Ham Radio" spoken on it. When was the last time you heard a good QSO on SWR, QRM or SSTV. Instead its ROMS, RAMS and Z-DOS.

Seriously, I think that all of us are going into some sort of technical twilight zone and we are neglecting our families and most important, ham radio with our addiction to the glowing CRT. Don't get me wrong, I own one too! I invested $99 to buy one of those $49 computers just to prove that I don't like computing. I hope that all of you and Wayne Green in particular will forgive me for this outburst but it must be the heat. I, for the life of me, can't figure out why I need the capability to generate a 48-column spreadsheet or keep my brownie recipes on a computer. What's the matter with a file drawer? Now, I realize that many of you are interfacing (there's another computer word) your rigs with computers. This is great for RTTY and contacts. You don't even have to know code or remember your call sign anymore! But let's not forget what got most of us into electronic gadgetry in the first place – our love for radio.

While all of you are huddled around your TRS-80 or VIC 20, the ham gear is growing a good coat of mildew from disuse.

Let's fire up those rigs again. Show those upstart cable companies that they are not the only ones who can create RFI. After all, we invented it!

I have to cut this short now – its time for me to do a refile of my brownie recipes.

Editor

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

K1ABO	Mary	Chelmsford
KA1ACX	Kenneth	Needham
WA9AMZ	John	Lincoln
K1BOG	Blair	Attleboro
N1BYT	Dan	Westford
N1CCR	Barry	Newton
N1CGM	Paul	Winchester
N1CQH	Darnley	Boston
W1CQJ	Andrew	Bolton
N1CPF	John	Needham
N1CQR	Donald	Waltham
N1CRC	Richard	Lexington
W1DOH	Charles	Acton
K1DZS	Bruce	Hudson
WB3ERA	Jon	Harvard
KB1FE	Chan	Wayland
N6FGQ	George	Sudbury
W1FOF	Cookie	Framingham
WB1GMA	Tom	Westwood
K1GNT	David	Sudbury
KB1GP	Joseph	Billerica
KA1GZN	Mimi	Sudbury
W1HIL	Richard	Hudson
WB8JLG	Avery	Allston
KA1HPV	Robert	Sharon
W1JHP	Lawrence	Reading
WA1JNJ	Robert	Framingham
WA1JNT	Rodney	Lowell
K1MBX	Roger	Newton
K1MR	David	Framingham
WB2TZV	Douglas	Newton
W1YPC	Gerald	Hopkinton

The Hoss Traders will hold their first Fall Swapfest on Saturday 8, October 1983 at the Deerfield New Hampshire Fairgrounds. Admission one dollar, tail gating included. Friday night camping for self contained rigs at a nominal fee. Nobody admitted before 4:00 pm Friday. All profits benefit the Boston Burns of the Shriner's Hospital for crippled children. Last year $2622.75 was donated to the hospital. There were 3400 people in attendance. Good food, lots of stuff to buy/trade etc. Talkin on 146.40/147.00 and .52 direct. Questions?? Send S.A.S.E. to Joe Demasco K1RQG Star Rt. Box 56 Bucksport, ME or Norm Blake RFD Box 57, West Baldwin, ME or Bob Tiffany W1GWU 105 Walton Road, Seabrook, NH 03874. ***RAIN OR SHINE***

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The following article was researched and donated by Jack, N1AXJ, a regular on the 07-67 repeater. The article researches the history of the Forbes Hill water tower which became the site of the Quincy repeater last year. I think that it makes interesting reading, particularly the cost for the construction.

Editor

FORBES HILL RESERVOIR AND MASONRY TOWER

A contract for building this reservoir was made with Beckwith & Quackenbush of Mohawk, N.Y., on July 7, 1900; and when work was suspended, at the close of the year 1900, the masonry gate-chamber of the reservoir was finished and the earth embankments were nearly ready for the concrete lining. During the winter the reservoir was kept full of water, in order to protect the embankments from freezing. In April, 1901, the water was drawn off, and the contractors resumed work on May 6. The work of placing the concrete lining was commenced June 10 and completed September 18. Water was pumped to the reservoir on September 23, and on September 27 it was filled to within 2 feet of high-water mark. The laying of the granolithic walks and the surfacing and seeding of the embankments were not finished until early in November.

The reservoir is in the form of a rectangle, 280 feet long by 100 feet wide at the bottom, and 339-1/2 feet long and 159-1/2 feet wide at the high-water line. The embankment is 15 feet wide at the top, with an inner slope of 1.75 horizontal to 1 vertical, and an outer slope of 2 horizontal to 1 vertical. The embankments are composed of clayey hardpan, excavated from the interior of the reservoir. This material was placed in 4-inch layers and thoroughly rolled with grooved rollers. The bottom and sides of the reservoir are covered with concrete to a point 2 feet above high-water mark. This concrete lining was put on in two layers, a lower layer of natural cement concrete and an upper layer of Portland cement concrete, separated by a plastering of Portland cement mortar about half an inch in thickness. The plastering also was placed in two layers, the bottom layer composed of 1 part of cement and 2 parts of sand, the upper layer of neat cement, which was rubbed to a hard, smooth surface, in order to make it as impervious as possible. The lower layer of concrete is 4 inches thick on the bottom of the reservoir and 6 inches thick on the slopes. The upper layer is 4 inches thick on the bottom and 5 inches thick on the slopes up to elevation 185, above which it gradually increases to a thickness of 2 feet at the top, which is at elevation 194. The upper layer of concrete on both bottom and slopes is laid in blocks, about 10 feet square, and given a smooth finish. A granolithic walk 6 feet wide extends around the reservoir on the top of the embankment, access to which is obtained by granite steps on either side of the gate-chamber.

The gate-chamber is constructed entirely below the level of the top of the embankment. It has walls of Portland cement concrete, and contains two chambers. One of these chambers is 11 feet by 3 feet, and contains screens, a 30-inch sluice valve and a 12-inch drain valve. The other chamber, from which water is excluded, is 11 feet by 9 feet 6 inches, and contains valves for controlling the flow of water to and from the reservoir. A wire fence 5 feet high and about 2,035 feet long has been built around the reservoir, on the line dividing the water works property from adjoining estates. When filled to high-water level, the elevation of the reservoir is 192 feet above Boston city base, the depth of water is 17 feet, area of water surface 1.23 acres, and the capacity is 5,120,000 gallons.

The cost of the reservoir, exclusive of engineering, to December 31, 1901, was $36,833.11.

On May 23 a contract was made with James E. McCoy of Boston for the construction of a masonry tower around the steel standpipe which was erected in 1900. The work was commenced on May 27, and it was expected that the tower would be entirely finished before the end of the year; but, on account of delay in receiving cut granite, the masonry is still unfinished, and practically nothing has been done on the iron stairway and roof. The circular wall of granite masonry surrounding the standpipe is now built to a point about 70 feet above the ground and about 7 feet below the top of the finished coping. When completed, the tower will be provided with an observation roof reached by a spiral staircase built between the steel tank and the masonry wall.

The cost of the work to December 31, 1901, exclusive of engineering, was $11,774.05.

At the close of the year 1901, James E. McCoy, the contractor of the construction of this tower, had built the circular masonry wall encircling the standpipe to a height of about 70 feet, or 7 feet below the finished height. The work progressed slowly, and was not completed until July 19. The tower is 77 feet high from the surface of the ground to the tops of the merlons. It is circular in design, having an inside diameter of 36-1/2 feet, leaving a space of 10 feet between the wall and the outside of the standpipe which it encloses. The wall is built of uncoursed masonry, with joints of about 3/4 of an inch, and with cut-stone trimmings; and is 4.75 feet thick at the base and 2 feet thick at the top just below the cornice. The granite used for the masonry was all furnished from the Quincy Quarries, and the cut stone from both Quincy and Rockport. At the top of the tower there is a granolithic roof, which is accessible to the public by means of an iron stairway encircling the standpipe. The roof or floor is 260 feet above Boston City Base, and affords an extended view of the surrounding country.

The total cost of the tower, exclusive of engineering, was $26,120.

WANT TO TEACH ?

If you are interested in teaching amateur radio theory let us know!! The MMRA will be setting up a section next year to comply with the FCC ruling on the no-code exam and also the "in-house" theory and code exams. You needn't be a Ph.D. or such to teach. Let some one know about your teaching desire. Perhaps a whole new career may be around the corner!

Editor

The MMRA Board of Directors needs your answers to some questions to help plan club activities.

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS BY CIRCLING ANSWERS AND FILLING IN WHERE NECESSARY

1. Do you have a desire to upgrade your license? YES NO
2. Would you attend upgrade classes? YES NO
3. Would you prefer classes: ONCE PER WEEK TWICE PER WEEK
4. Does anyone in your family want to attend classes leading to an FCC license? YES NO
5. Does anyone in your circle of friends want to attend classes leading to an FCC license? YES NO
6. Would you like to attend CODE classes? YES NO
7. Would you like to have CODE PRACTICE on MMRA repeaters? YES NO
8. Would you like to help teach classes? YES NO
   If yes at what level? NOVICE GENERAL ADVANCED EXTRA
9. Would you like to help teach CODE THEORY REGULATIONS
10. Would you like to Assist: IN CLASSES IN RECRUITING MEMBERS IN VOLUNTEER EXAMINER PROGRAM

Your Name_____

Your Call_____

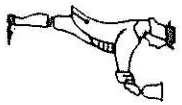
Address_____

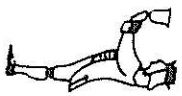
City/State/Zip_____

Telephone_____

Please bring to next MMRA meeting, If you cannot attend, please send to MMRA, Box 2282, Lexington, MA 02173.

FIRST CLASS MAIL





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