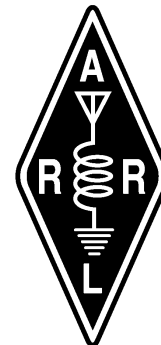




The Minuteman Repeater Association
A Non-Profit Communications Organization Serving the Public in Time of Emergency



The Minuteman

Volume 39, Number 6

August 2010

Special Edition

***ARRL New England Division Convention
Holiday Inn Boxboro Woods ~ 27-29 August 2010***

MMRA Raffle!!! Tickets: \$2 ea / 3 for \$5 / 7 for \$10 ***MMRA Raffle!!!***

Three (3) free raffle tickets to anyone who pays dues for two (2) Years!

Raffle will be called at noon on Sunday at the MMRA booth. You don't have to be present to win.

First Prize:	MFJ-259B HF/VHF SWR Analyzer
Second Prize:	Alinco DJ-V27T 222 MHz HT
Third Prize:	Arrow Antenna Dual Band J-Pole Antenna
Fourth Prize:	ARRL 2010 Handbook

What is the MMRA?

The MMRA or Minuteman Repeater Association is a Ham Radio club dedicated to public service. In the last 30+ years the MMRA has built a large system of over twenty voice and digital repeaters.

Why join the Minuteman Repeater Association?

- Support the largest repeater network in Massachusetts
- Meetings with interesting speakers
- Have linking and autopatch codes for repeaters used by ARES, RACES and Public Service Events
- Enjoy activities that combine fun and technology
- Participate on field trips to interesting sites
- Share ideas on APRS, EchoLink, Satellites, and other new Amateur Radio Technologies
- Enjoy the Tuesday evening TIAOS Net with your Ham friends

Welcome from the MMRA

Welcome to Boxboro. I and all the MMRA members welcome you to this biannual event. For many years now, MMRA has had the honor of providing the voices and repeaters for the convention talk-in.

In addition to the talk-in, the MMRA maintains a hospitality booth off of the hotel's main atrium. We hope you will take a few minutes to stop by and chat with some club members. We will also be holding a raffle with four excellent prizes - see above! You can help support our club by purchasing a few tickets, or perhaps even by joining as a member.

As you will see in the following pages, the MMRA maintains an extensive repeater network whose primary purpose is to provide public service communications. Most of the time, when the network is not needed for this purpose, it is open to members and non-members alike for a friendly chat. I encourage you to learn more about our organization. If you somehow miss our booth, please join us any Tuesday night at 8PM for the on-the-air club net.

73, Bob, K1IW

MMRA President

About the Minuteman Repeater Association

MMRA Leaders

President

Bob DeMattia K1IW

Vice President

Steve Telsey N1BDA

Secretary

John McGovern W1JMC

Treasurer

Kevin Paetzold K1KWP

Clerk

Bob Evans N1BE

Technical Officer

Bryan Cerqua W1BRI

Director 2010-12

Clark Conti N1NVK

Director 2010-12

Mike Neilsen W1MPN

Director 2009-11

Steve Schwarm W3EVE

Director 2009-11

Roger Coulson WA1NVC

Emergency Coordinator

Kevin Paetzold K1KWP

Net Manager

Larry Banks W1DYJ

Newsletter Editor

Larry Banks W1DYJ

Public Service Coordinator

Bruce Pigott KC1US

VEC Liaison

Bill Wade K1IJ

Web Page Editor

Bob DeMattia K1IW

Tuesday's @ 8 PM

Technical, Informational and Other Stuff Net

Most of the MMRA's repeaters are linked every Tuesday night for the MMRA TIAOS Net. Join us! This is a good way to keep up with what is happening with the MMRA as well as ask your ham related questions.

Repeater and Frequency Information

Up-to-date information about both MMRA repeaters and affiliate repeaters can be found at

<http://www.mmra.org/repeaters/index.html>

Band	Location	Freq	PL	Call	Linking	
					To Hub 1	To Hub 2
MMRA Voice Repeaters						
10m	Marlboro	29.680	131.8	W1MRA	PTL	—
6m	Marlboro	53.810	71.9	W1BRI	PTL	—
2m	Boston	145.160	—	W1MRA	D-Star	
	Belmont	145.430	67.0	WA1RTT	—	—
	Mendon	146.610	146.2	AE1C	FTL	PTL
	Quincy	146.670		W1BRI	PTL	PTL
	Burlington	146.715		N1NVL	PTL	PTL
	Weston	146.790		N1BE	PTL	FTL Hub2 10-4
	Brookline	146.820		K5TEC	FTL	PTL
	Marlboro	147.270		W1MRA	PTL	PTL
1¼m	Hopkinton	223.940	103.5	K1KWP	FTL	—
	Quincy	224.400		N1KUG	Off the Air	
	Weston	224.700		N1NOM	FTL	PTL
	Marlboro	224.880		W1MRA	PTL	FTL
	70cm	Weston	442.700	88.5	W1MRA	Network Hub 2 (PTL to Hub 1)
Burlington		446.775	W1DYJ		FTL	PTL
Southboro		449.575	W1BRI		PTL	—
Marlboro *		449.925	W1MRA		Network Hub 1	
33cm	Boston *	927.0625	D244	K1RJZ	PTL	—
	Marlboro *	927.700		W1MRA	PTL	—
MMRA “Other” Systems						
Marlboro		144.390	none	W1MRA	APRS Digipeater	
???		145.630	146.2	W1MRA	Fox Box	
* Internet	449.925: Echolink node 94940; IRLP node 4133					
	927.0625: IRLP node 4977			Normally linked to the NEAR-900 Reflector, 9125. Linked to MMRA via IRLP for the TIOS net. Always linked together.		
	927.700: IRLP node 4978					

Notes: FTL = Full Time Linked (or default state)
PTL = Part Time Linked (on schedule or demand)
Note — a repeater can be linked to only one Hub at a time.

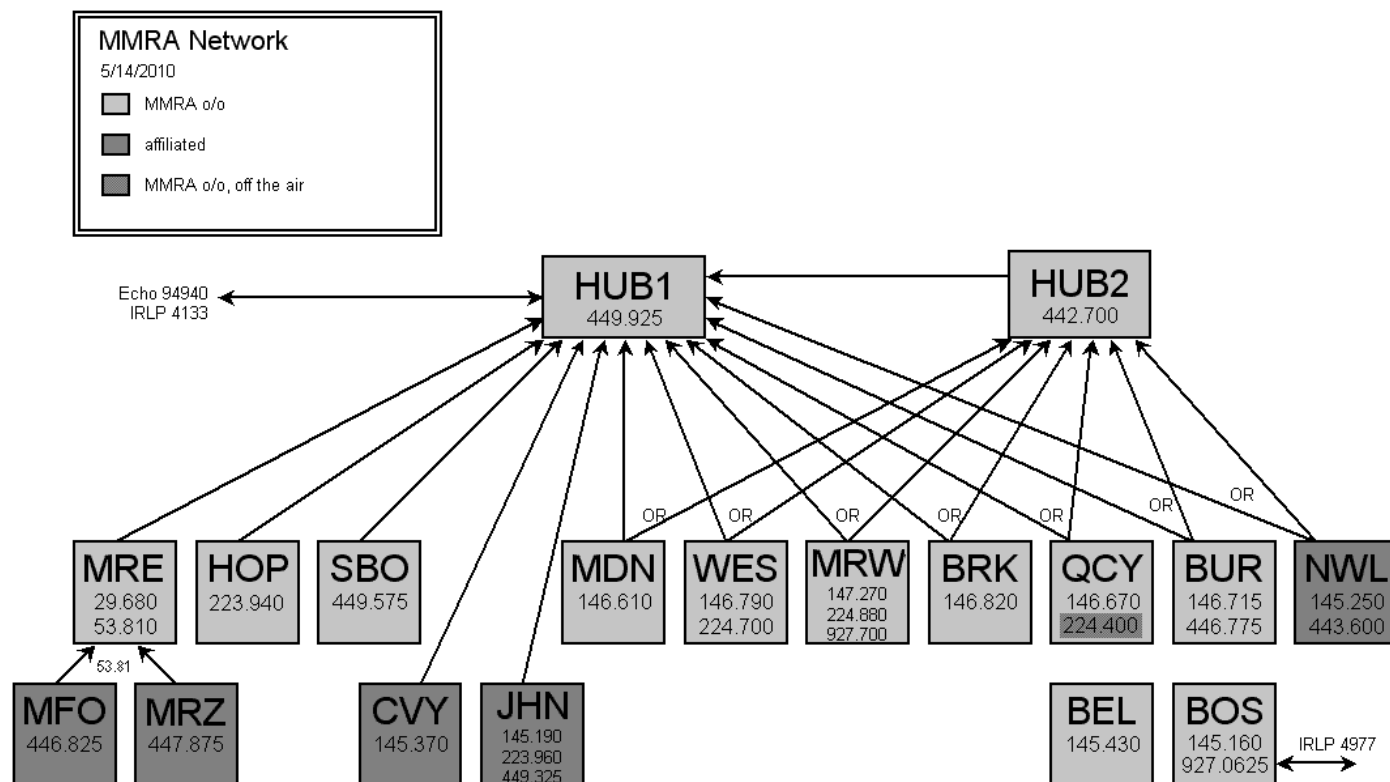
PL: PL is required to prevent interference. The code **750** will temporarily disable the MMRA PL on the 2M repeaters.

Autopatch: Only the Hub 1 has a telephone line. Link to Hub 1 if necessary, then bring up the autopatch using the 449.925 autopatch codes.

The MMRA Repeater Network

The MMRA operates twenty repeaters at ten locations in Eastern and Central Massachusetts. There are also many non-MMRA "affiliated" repeaters capable of linking into the MMRA network.

The MMRA Operating Guide provides information on how to operate on MMRA repeaters. This is available to members along with information about linking the repeaters.



Repeaters for Public Service

The repeaters of the Minuteman Repeater Association are available to support Public Service events. In the past year, different configurations of the MMRA repeaters have been used to help the Red Cross of Mass Bay, Project Bread, ALS Association, Algonquin ARC, Jimmy Fund, Multiple Sclerosis Society and Charles River Watershed Association.

To request time on any repeater, send a message to the Public Service coordinator, kc1us@mmra.org, with details of the event. Repeaters can be set up either as stand alone or linked into special configurations.

These uses are in addition to the usual weekly MMRA net, the monthly ARES net, the nightly Heavy Hitters Traffic Net, and RACES activities.

What is NEW in the MMRA

Since the last Boxboro convention many improvements have been made to the MMRA system:

- We have two 900 MHz machines: Marlboro and Boston which are always linked together. Both have IRLP connections. Both are always linked to either the NE 900 Reflector (9125) or Hub 1.
- We have an improved 6m repeater with new TX antenna and transmitter.
- We have a new 10m repeater.
- We have a D-Star repeater.
- We have replaced the 147.27 antenna and feedline for increased coverage.
- The Stoneham repeaters have been relocated to Burlington
- The Quincy 220 repeater is in the process of being replaced

Join the MMRA — it's a very vibrant and active club!

The MMRA Foxbox is Operating at Boxboro

Can you find it???

The MMRA Foxbox will be hidden on Friday afternoon before 6 PM. The Foxbox periodically transmits on 145.630 PL 146.2. The box will be moved Saturday at around 5PM to a new location. A list of those who found the box on Friday/Saturday will be posted in the MMRA booth by noon on Sunday. All who found the box (including those who find it after being moved on Saturday evening) will be announced in the September MMRA newsletter.

Let us know if you would like to have an experienced Foxhunter give you tips or even potentially lead you on a fox hunt.

MMRA Membership Meetings

The MMRA holds bi-monthly membership meetings on the third Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May. Details are available on the MMRA website: www.mmra.org.

15 September Meeting

Lexington Public Library ~ 7:30 PM

Dave Allred, N1VU

Antenna Myths: Transmission Line Tall Tales

Whatever you choose: open wire, hardline, or wet string, myths can suck up your signal as it travels between rig and antenna. David Allred, N1VU, details where your RF really goes, both useful and useless. We will examine transmission line tricks, traps, and tips that will help you persuade your RF to be obedient and useful. Myths from print, 75 meters, and the Internet will be exposed and expunged.

17 November Meeting

Northborough Public Library ~ 7:00 PM

Barry Baines, President of AMSAT

19 January Meeting

Pizzeria Uno, Newton MA ~ 7:00 PM

MMRA Mid-Winter Pizza Gathering

16 March Meeting

TBD ~ 7:00 PM

MMRA Pre-St. Patty's Day Activities

18 May Meeting

TBD ~ 7:00 PM

MMRA General Elections and ????

Photos from some antenna sites

The view from atop the Marlboro antenna farm.



W1BRI next to the 145.160 D-Star repeater antenna.

The Boston Skyline from the Quincy antennas.

