



The Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman

Volume 38, Number 3

January 2009



Membership Meeting ~ 21 January 2009 @ 7 PM
Note the earlier time! ~ Westborough Public Library
John — N1OTY — Getting on 902
Talk in on 142.27

John, N1OTY, will show you that it's easier than you think to get onto 902MHz FM. This comes at a great time, as there has been a whole bunch of new 902MHz repeaters that have been placed on the air in the past year. Brave the cold weather and learn something new!

Westborough Public Library 55 West Main Street 508-366-3050

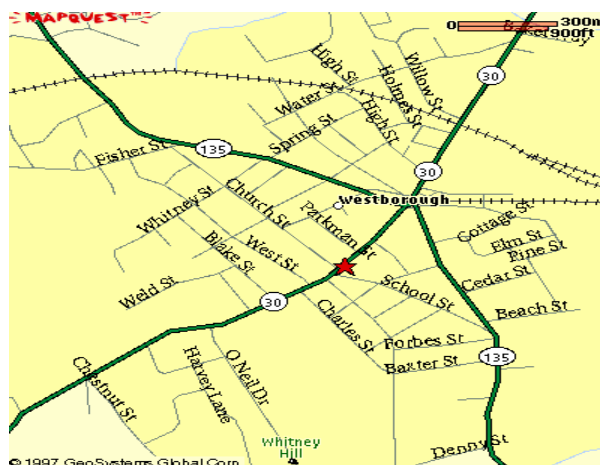
DIRECTIONS: The Westborough Public Library is located two blocks west of the rotary on Route 30 (West Main Street), between Parkman Street and Church Street.

From Route 135 in Westborough:

Follow Route 135 to the rotary in the center of Westborough. At the rotary (the intersection of Routes 135 and 30), take route 30 West (West Main Street.) The library is two blocks ahead on the right, just after the police station, on the corner of West Main and Parkman Streets.

From the Massachusetts Turnpike:

Exit at Route 495 North/Westborough. From Route 495 take Route 9 West. Follow Route 9 approximately 1.5 miles to Route 30 West. Follow Route 30 (about 2 miles) straight through the rotary in the center of Westborough. The library is two blocks ahead on the right, just after the police station, on the corner of West Main and Parkman Streets.



For more information:

<http://www.westboroughlib.org/geninfo.html>

**US Mail Newsletter to cost \$10/year
starting now for all new members, and
for all renewing members in
September 2009**

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About the Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA) is dedicated to Amateur Radio and public service. The MMRA maintains a large system of repeaters in Eastern Massachusetts.

The MMRA meets (usually) on the 3rd Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May. Meeting time, locations and talk-in frequency vary. These are announced in the newsletter and on weekly nets. Meetings are open to all interested parties.

The Minuteman newsletter is mailed one week before each meeting. Members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles may be sent to the editor via email to newsletter@mmra.org. The deadline for articles is the last Friday of the month preceding the meeting.

Each Tuesday evening at 8PM the MMRA links most of the repeaters for an open net. The topic is "Technical Information and Other Stuff". Please join us.

Membership in the MMRA is open to all radio amateurs. Annual dues are \$25 per individual or \$35 per family. See our website for details.

Email to the club leadership should be sent to contact@mmra.org. The MMRA maintains a web site at: <http://www.mmra.org/>

An email distribution list for club members named "MMRA" has been established at: <http://www.yahogroups.com/>

No part of this newsletter can be copied or posted elsewhere without prior approval from the club. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Repeater and Frequency Information

Location	MHz	PL	Call	Linking	
				To Hub 1	To Hub 2
MMRA Voice Repeaters					
Marlborough	53.810	71.9	W1BRI	PTL	—
Marlborough	145.160	—	W1MRA	D-Star	
Belmont	145.430	67.0	WA1RTT	—	—
Mendon	146.610	146.2	N1BHI	FTL	PTL
Quincy	146.670	146.2	W1BRI	PTL	PTL
Burlington	146.715	146.2	N1NVL	PTL	PTL
Weston	146.790	146.2	N1BE	PTL FTL Hub2 10-4	PTL
Brookline	146.820	146.2	K5TEC	FTL	PTL
Marlborough	147.270	146.2	W1MRA	PTL	PTL
Hopkinton	223.940	103.5	N1BHI	FTL	—
Quincy	224.400	103.5	N1KUG	FTL	PTL
Weston	224.700	103.5	N1NOM	FTL	PTL
Marlborough	224.880	103.5	W1MRA	PTL	FTL
Weston	442.700	88.5	W1MRA	Network Hub 2 (PTL to Hub 1)	
Burlington	446.775	88.5	W1DYJ	FTL	PTL
Southborough	449.575	88.5	W1BRI	PTL	—
Marlborough	449.925	88.5	W1MRA	Network Hub 1	
Affiliated Voice Repeaters					
Bolton	29.620	131.8	W1OJ	—	FTL
Norwell	145.250	77.0	AC1M	PTL	PTL
Coventry RI	145.370	67.0	N1JBC	PTL	—
Norwell	443.600	88.5	NS1N	PTL	PTL
Milford	446.825	100.0	WA1QGU	—	—
Marlborough	447.875	136.5	K1IW	Linked to 6M	
Mt. Wachusett	448.625	88.5	W1OJ	—	FTL
Marlborough	927.700	131.8	K1IW	Linked to 6M	
MMRA “Other” Systems					
Marlborough	144.390	none	W1MRA	APRS Digipeater	
???	145.630	146.2	W1MRA	Fox Box	
Internet	Echolink node 94940				
	IRLP node 4133				

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.

Control codes are sent to members upon receipt of dues.

MMRA December Board of Directors Meeting

Bob Evans — N1BE — Clerk

The MMRA Board met at 7 PM on Dec 17 at the office of Stratus Technologies in Maynard. Kevin K1KWP, Mike W1MPN, Bob K1IW, Bob N1BE, Bruce KC1US, Steve N1BDA, Roger WA1NVC and Steve W3EVE were present.

Treasurer Kevin, K1KWP, reported that ~\$1000 in dues has been received since the last board meeting. We are about \$72 short from our position this time last year with respect to dues received. In total, about 40 members from last year have not renewed but there are also new members. As a result, we have 10 fewer members renewed than at this time last year.

We need to approach the two control operator/trustees who have not renewed. Our bylaws require those in these positions have active memberships. They will be ineligible for their positions on Jan 1, 2009. For that reason the board moved that KC1US to become Burlington VHF trustee if N1NVL has not renewed before the beginning of January. KC1US agreed to accept this position. Similarly, two control operators were proposed for positions now held by NG1Z: K1LWI for Quincy & W1DYJ for Burlington UHF. (But we had not contacted the proposed replacement control operators before the meeting ended.)

We received an offer from Keith, KB1OEI of Lands Towing to bring the new MRW shelter from Maine to the Lands lot in Marlboro. The board moved to accept this offer from KB1OEI. We also will volunteer to pay for his fuel and provide other assistance as requested.

There have been some issues with membership/renewal notices and control codes not being sent out. The MMRA board apologizes for this and requests that members email to contact@mmra.org if they need a copy of these materials.

Bob requested MMRA affiliation with his K1IW repeaters on 447.875 & 927.700 MHz. These are both at MRW and both linked to 6M. This was approved.

K1IW suggested replacing the Hamtronics (TTL) controller with a MMRA owned SCOM 7K controller now at his house. This could tie in D-Star and allow 6M to link/unlink on schedule. (The current MRE controller has no clock.) Although this leaves the MMRA without a spare 7K, they are available on eBay and several MMRA members own 7K controllers. This was approved.

K1IW has a 7K that he owns which can be used for development/maintenance of the repeater control code. Bob's controller has the VYEX 7K Digital Audio Board, also on the MMRA controller at HUB1. The MMRA board moved to buy the VYEX from Bob for HUB2. This will allow the same code to be used at both hubs. In return the MMRA will sell a legacy 7K Speech Synthesizer Module (SSM) to Bob. The motion was approved with a maximum expenditure of \$150 to cover the higher value of a VYEX compared to the SSM.

The 449.925 PA is intermittent. Bryan, W1BRI would like to work on this repeater at his house. We discussed several options to keep 449.925 on the air during this repair. We will offer these options to Bryan to see how he wants to pro-

ceed.

The Brookline Receiver is very deaf with interference from VHF TV channel 7. We considered several options that might resolve this problem:

- Analog TV going dark may end the noise from channel 7. (no cost)
- Swap the duplexer (no cost).
- Add a Rejection Cavity (\$600)
- Use a new Duplexer (\$1500)
- Use a Circulator (\$1500)

There was limited support at this board meeting for any expenditure since we do not yet know which, if any, of these options may solve the problem. With the goal in mind to have this repeater healthy in time for the public service events next Spring, we need a diagnosis before the Jan MMRA meeting in case of need to go to members for a purchase approval.

The Quincy PA has low power output for the first 20 minutes after power up. We expect that Bryan will diagnose.

The Weston 222 PA is under driven. This needs to be diagnosed.

The Hub2 receiver (Weston UHF) is somewhat deaf. K1IW has been attempting a diagnosis.

The 10M repeater receiver is up and running at Brookline. Roger suggested we work on getting the 10M transmit site going. K1IW will approach the Weston Campion Center about putting up another antenna for this. Possibly a dipole sloper off the current tower for minimal visual impact would be the most appealing approach.

Roger expressed some concern about the MRW electric bill. There is more than 300 KWH used per month. Roger suggests redesigning the power system for higher efficiency (switching supplies) and more reliable battery backup. It was suggested that we target installation of this new system for the new MRW shelter. Roger will come back to the board with a more specific proposal.

The MMRA will have a table in mid-February at the Marlborough Flea Market. There was a proposal to sell misc coax, hardline, cabinets, junque @ Weston. Additional coax, hardline, junque @ MRE shelter should also be sold. The board approved that Roger, Bob K1IW & Bryan will evaluate these items and decide what to sell.

Steve, W3EVE is working on a proposal so interested hams, from prior CPSG membership or other public service activities, could be on list for selective solicitation for future public service events. The board had no objections to hosting this application on the same web server as the MMRA.

Bruce, KC1US suggested we consider club badges. This would be particularly useful for events like the Boxborough suite and our flea market table at Marlborough. Bruce agreed to check on what other clubs are doing for shirts and badges and explore prices and options.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.



Algonquin Amateur Radio Club

Marlborough, MA



AMATEUR
RADIO

FLEA MARKET

Saturday, February 14, 2009



**Marlborough Intermediate
Elementary School
(Marlborough Middle School)**
Thresher Drive (off Union St.) or
off Bolton St. (Rt. 85)
Marlborough, Massachusetts

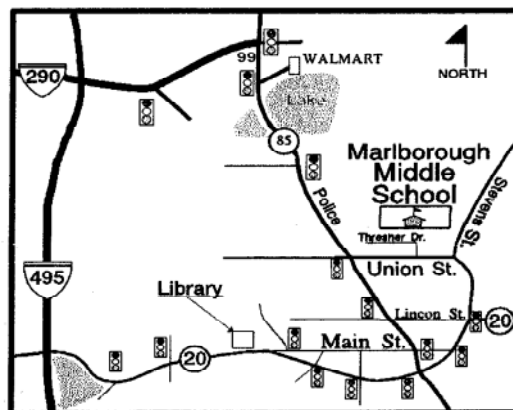
6 ft. Tables (round and rectangular)
Tables are \$15.00 each if purchased by
February 6, 2009 (\$20.00 each accepted at the
door if space is available)
Tables include vendor admission for one
person.

SETUP TIME: 6:30 AM

Information:
David "Shack" Haralambou
1-978-333-1715 before 9:00 PM
email: fleamarket@nlem.org

Talk In: MMRA 147.27+ (pl 146.2)
449.925- (pl 88.5)

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
General Admission: \$5.00
VEC Exams: 9:00 AM



Send This Form For Table Reservations with Check Payable to:

AARC, PO Box 258, Marlborough, MA 01752 (\$15.00 each table due by February 6)

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____ No. Tables: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: ____ (____) _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ .00

Email: _____

Hams Respond to Calls for Assistance as Ice Storms Pummel New England

[©ARRL, 15 Dec 2008]

As a major ice storm -- accompanied by freezing rains, flooding and strong winds -- severely impacted New England on Thursday evening into Friday morning, ARES®, RACES, SKYWARN and MARS operators worked together to respond to calls for assistance from served agencies and to participate in the recovery phase of the storm. As the storm progressed into the weekend, ice accumulations up to 1.5 inches were common throughout a very large area of Western, Central and Northeast Massachusetts, as well as parts of New Hampshire and Maine.

"After this summer's severe weather with its unusually historic number of events, we now face the worst ice storm we've seen in recent memory in portions of Southern New England," said Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY. "It became clear that we were dealing with a rapidly deteriorating situation by early Friday morning. SKYWARN weather spotters relayed data that clearly to the NWS, saying whole towns and cities were losing electricity."



The 15 and 80 meter towers at KC1XX suffered severe damage in the ice storm. [Matt Strelow, KC1XX, Photo]



The 40 meter tower.
[Matt Strelow, KC1XX, Photo]



Many trees were bent or broken due to the large amounts of ice. [Photo courtesy of Rob Macedo, KD1CY]

November Membership Meeting Larry Banks — W1DYJ

A small group gathered at the Burlington Library to look at photos of the repeater move from Stoneham to Burlington's Lahey Clinic and to hear an ARRL update from and ask questions of Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF.



Technical Update Bryan Cerqua — W1BRI

A short summary on what was done in the past few months.

- 1.) Added 7K controller to 53.81. Now 81 has Voice IDs and can automatically link up for TIOS net.
- 2.) 53.81 TX tube amp removed and inspected, all looked OK so I tried another 4CX250 Tube. PA is still having problems with power drifting in and out.
- 3.) Trip to Quincy to fix power problem. Found unsoldered center pin on cable from Polyphaser to antenna, re-soldered and all looked good. The problem must be something else since it still has the slow startup problem, i.e. it needs to come up to temperature.
- 4) Club's Service Monitor is not working, not locking up on frequency any more. I have many hours invested on troubleshooting but no luck yet, I will keep trying to fix.

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, 1928

Treasurer's Report Kevin Paetzold, K1KWP

Income	Dues	\$4770
	Donations	919
	Misc.	113
	Total	\$5802

Number of members renewed to date =	163
Number not yet renewed from last year =	40
Expected renewals =	\$ 75
Expected income	\$5877

Expenses	Spent to date	\$4828
	Expected expenses	503
	Total	\$5331

Discretionary Funds **\$ 545**

Boston Marathon Bob DeMattia, K1IW

Spring is almost here - and that means we are looking for ham radio volunteers for the 2009 Boston Marathon. The marathon will be held on Monday, April 20th. We need over 200 radio operators over the age of 18 to provide communications.

If you'd like to help, you can visit our website at <http://marc.mmra.org> to signup.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me via email, or leave a message on my 24-hour answering service: (508) 393-4148.

Registration will be open until approximately March 31st. However, if we receive enough volunteers, it will close sooner. Don't be left out - volunteer early!

I hope to hear from you soon!

73,

Bob DeMattia

ham recruiting

Marathon Amateur Radio Communications (MARC)

Upcoming MMRA Meetings

All meetings start at 7:30 unless otherwise noted.

Date	Location	Feature
Sep 17 7 PM	Weston Public Library	MMRA Virtual Tour
Oct 15	Kennedy's	Board Meeting
Nov 19 7 PM	Burlington Public Lib.	ARRL Update — Mike, K1TWF
Dec 17	Stratus	Board Meeting
Jan 21 7 PM	Westboro Public Lib	902 MHz — John, N10TY
Feb 11*	Chin's, Marlboro	Board Meeting
Mar 6 * 7 PM	FARA Club Shack	SSTV on ISS, Greg, WF1F
Apr 15	Watham-Weston Corp	Board Meeting
May 20	Clay Center	Ron Dankowitz—Latest in Space Science and General Elections

* Not the 3rd Wednesday

MMRA Leaders

President	Bob DeMattia	K1IW
Vice President	Steve Telsey	N1BDA
Secretary	Dan Rajczyk	N1KJN
Treasurer	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Clerk	Bob Evans	N1BE
Technical Officer	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI
Director 2008-10	Clark Conti	N1NVK
Director 2008-10	Mike Neilsen	W1MPN
Director 2007-09	Steve Schwarm	W3EVE
Director 2007-09	Roger Coulson	WA1NVC
Emergency Coordinator	open	
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

Don't Forget!

Every Tuesday @ 8 PM
Technical, Informational
and Other Stuff Net

The MMRA's repeaters are linked Tuesday nights for the TIAOS Net.. Join us! This is a good way to keep up with what is happening in the MMRA and ask your ham related questions.

We need another net control!

If you would like to try your hand at Net Control contact me at W1DYJ@mmra.org – we have a script you can use to start with. This is good practice for a number of ham related operations, from emergency preparedness to contesting.

Current Net Control Operators:

Week 1	WA1JIM	Jimmy Devaire
Week 2	???	OPEN
Week 3	W1DYJ	Larry Banks
Week 4	K1KWP	Kevin Paetzold
Week 5	W1DYJ	Larry Banks

Newsletter Delivery

If you received this via US Mail, you should think about having it sent by eMail. You will receive it earlier, it will be in color, and it may have MORE great content! Send your request to N1KJN@mmra.org.

Starting next year, US Mail delivery of the newsletter will be an additional \$10/year.

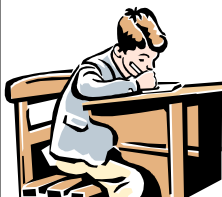
Past Newsletters are available at
<http://www.mmra.org/>

MMRA VE Sessions

3rd Saturday of each Month
 9 AM at the
 Marlboro Public Library
Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJ
 781-891-9079

Evenings 6 to 10 PM,
 Weekends 8 AM to 10 PM.

Accredited by the ARRL VEC



Membership Meeting ~ 21 January 2009 @ 7 PM
Note the earlier time! ~ Westborough Public Library
John — N1OTY — Getting on 902
Talk in on 142.27

Calendar of Ham Radio Events

Public Service Events

See this web site for contact information

<http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>

No future events are listed.

New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea Markets

See this web site for contact information

<http://mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

24 Jan	Worcester MA	ACM @WPI Odeum
31 Jan	Chelsea ME	AARA @Crystal Falls
14 Feb	Marlboro MA	AARC @Interm Sch
15 Feb	Westford MA	Radio 40 Antique @Regency
21 Feb	Chelsea ME	AARA @Crystal Falls Rt17
7 Mar	Feeding Hills MA	MTARA @TurnvereinClb
8 Mar	Hicksville NY	LIMARC @LevitH
21 Mar	Pomfret CT	ECARA @CommSch
22 Mar	Southington CT	SARA @HS
28 Mar	Middletown NY	OCARC @Wallkill ComCtr
28 Mar	Lewiston ME	AARC ME Conv @Ramada
29 Mar	Framingham MA	FARA @KeefeSch
29 Mar	Henniker NH	CVRC @CommSch
18 Apr	Manchester NH	NEAntqRC @BingoCtr
18 Apr	S Portland ME	PAWA @AmLegion
19 Apr	Cambridge MA	FLEA at MIT
26 Apr	Lindenhurst NY	GSBARC
1,2 May	Deerfield NH	NearFest @FG

THE MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

MMRA
P.O. Box 669
Stow, MA. 01775-0669

Email: contact@mmra.org



WE'RE ON THE WEB
[HTTP://WWW.MMRA.ORG/](http://www.mmra.org/)
