



The Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman

Volume 40, Number 2

November 2010



Membership Meeting ~ Wednesday, 17 November 2010 @ 7:30 PM

AMSAT Today

Barry Baines ~ WD4ASW

Northborough Free Library ~ 34 Main Street (Rt. 20), Northborough

Talk in — 147.27

Barry Baines, president of the Amateur Satellite organization will brief us on the current goings-on both here on Earth and in space.

Directions to The Northborough Free Library

Directions from I-495:

- From I-495, take Exit 24B which is Rt. 20 West toward Northborough.
- Follow Rt. 20 West about 3.5 miles, into the center of Northborough..
- Opposite the Gulf Station on the right, turn left into Patty Lane.
- The Northborough Free Library parking lot will be on the left.



MMRA D-Star Repeater Out of Service for a major upgrade

In 2008, MMRA placed its D-Star repeater on-the-air from our Marlborough East location. Last year, we moved it to the top of the Prudential tower in Boston. We had some issues getting the D-Star Gateway working on it, so it was taken down last summer for some work in a more hospitable place. While this work neared completion, we found some things we can do to improve the receiver selectivity. This was sorely need as the RF environment at the Pru was overloading the receiver. We will be replacing the Icom receiver with a GE Mastr II receiver—something that was done with much success by another club in Maine. We are waiting for some parts, then we have to modify the Mastr II. For this reason, the repeater will be off for at least two more months. If you have some Mastr II experience and would like to contribute on this project, contact Bob, K1IW k1iw@mmra.org.

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MMRA VE Sessions

3rd Saturday of each Month

9 AM at the Marlboro Public Library

Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJ 781-891-9079

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

Accredited by the ARRL VEC

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 Emailed 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". 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" is at: www.yahoogroups.com/

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

MMRA QRM Policy

MMRA members and all other operators are strongly encouraged to report repeater activity that does not abide by Part 97 rules or accepted amateur radio practice to the board of directors at contact@mmra.org or via other means.

The most effective way (and probably the only effective way) to deal with an individual causing QRM is to NOT engage that individual on the air. Please include the time and date of any incident. Measures are being taken to make audio recordings of repeater activity.

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	Off the Air	
	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	Off the Air	
	Marlboro *	449.925		W1MRA	Network Hub 1	
33cm	Boston *	927.062	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. Normally 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.

Control codes are sent to members upon receipt of dues.

President's Corner

Bob DeMattia (K1IW)

The weekly "Technical Information and Other Stuff net" is a long standing MMRA tradition. This has been held at 8PM on Tuesday evenings for as long as anyone can remember! Club members meet on the air to discuss a topic of the week. Updates on the club activities and repeater status are often disseminated as well. The TIOS net gives those members who may not be able to attend our in-person meetings a way to participate in club activities. Have you checked into the net lately? All it takes is a working radio. During the net, nearly all of the MMRA repeaters are linked, so all you need to be is near enough to any MMRA repeater to check-in.

Want to do even more? We've been advertising that we need net control operators to run these nets for a long time now. Unfortunately, we've haven't yet found enough people to regularly staff the nets. All it takes in a 1 hour time commitment once a month. If you are interested in being a TIOS net control, contact our net manager, Larry, W1DYJ - his email is w1dyj@mmra.org.

If you can't get that involved, we'd still like to hear from you once in a while on the air. Why not check in next Tuesday night!

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.

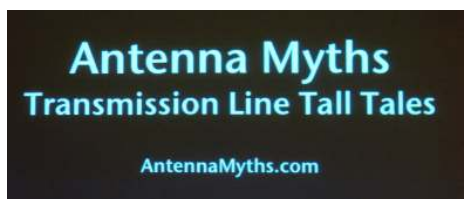
PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, 1928

New Massachusetts Driver Law

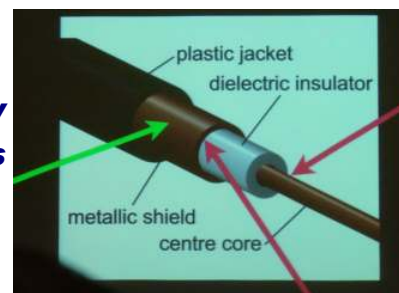
The New Massachusetts anti texting law is now in effect. Thanks to **KB1OQA** the text of the new law is available at < http://www.mmra.org/massachusetts_anti_texting_bill.pdf > with the portion pertaining to the amateur radio exemption highlighted in bold. A suggestion (also from KB1OQA) is that amateur radio operators may want to have a copy of this law with a copy on their FCC license in their glove compartments.

Pictures from the Membership Meeting of 15 September at the Lexington Library

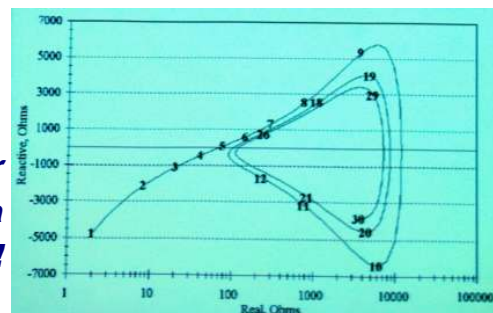


Dave Allred
N1VU

Coax is really three conductors



What your antenna really looks like!



Pictures from our future Sligo shelter

Last fall **Bob, N1KMA**, donated an Army communications shelter to the club. **Keith, KB1OEI**, of **Land's Towing** brought it down from Maine.



This past month a number of work parties continued the project by cleaning it up and started equipment installation.



First — clean up the outside. **Bob, K1IW**, at the business end of a 3500 psi power washer...

...and after one coat of paint...



..and finally, after the final coat of paint.

The MMRA wants to thank the following hams for all of the good work done recently. The editor asks for forgiveness from those hams who participated but are not listed.

K1IW, Bob; N1DDK, James; KB1IUM, Mickey; KB1UKU; Russ; K3FG; Harold; KK1X; John; W1DYJ, Larry; KB1KGZ, Bruce; KB1TTF, Richard; N1NVK, Clark; KB1LKR, Steve

The inside was even more interesting.

Before, to the right

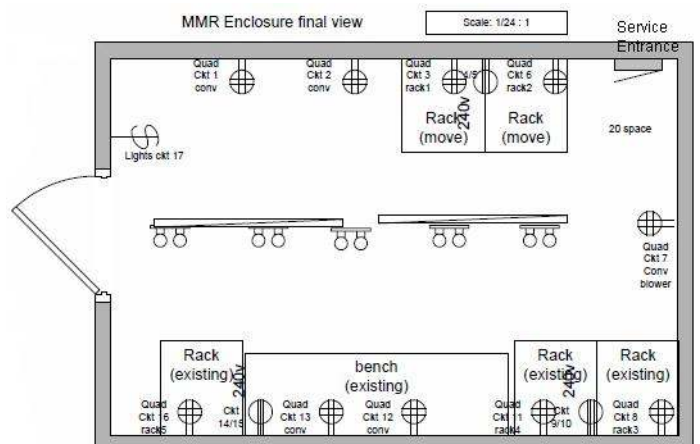
>>



Some of the work party to the left <<

James, N1DDK, inspecting the power panel >>

James, has been the overall project lead, and has planned the layout, below.



Treasurer's Report ~ Kevin Paetzold (K1KWP)

So where does our money come from and where does it go?

The charts included herein show expected club expenses and income for this fiscal year, which is expected to be a normal year.

Bucket Descriptions:

Newsletter expense: Printing and mailing costs for the new

Improvements & Maint: Investment and repairs to the repeater system.

Misc: things that do not fall into other categories. (PO Box, Corporation Fees, non newsletter postage. Raffle prizes, shipping for raffle prizes, etc....)

MRE Rent: "rent" paid for the space that MRE repeater site occupies. This payment is actually supposed to cover our electricity use.

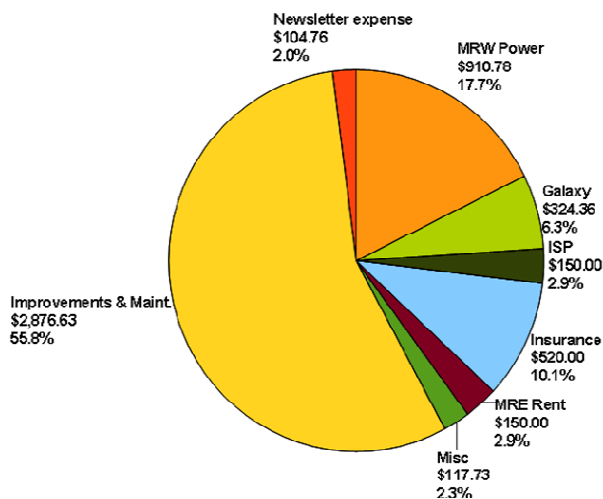
Insurance: The club's insurance policy.

ISP: MMRA website hoster is JEAH.

Galaxy: DSL and phone access at MRW.

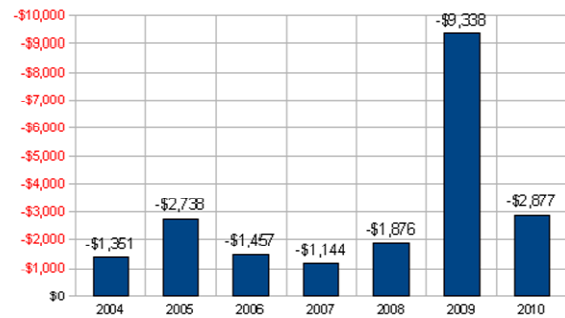
MRW Power: Power for the MRW repeater site.

Spending 2010-2011



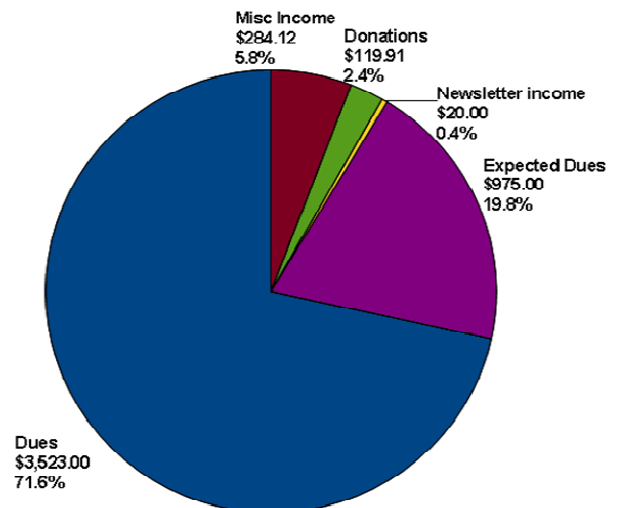
This next chart shows the "Improvements and Maint." spending for the last 6 or 7 years.

Maint and Improvements per membership Year



The next chart shows the actual/projected income for this year. The income distribution for most years is very similar. Note that the "Expected Dues" bucket is money that we have not actually received yet (but which we hope to receive if everyone renews).

Income Sources 2010-2011



The last graph shows the dues that have been collected for the last 7 years including the \$975 in expected remaining dues for this year and the \$1340 of dues that we have already collected

Dues by Membership Year



MMRA October Board of Directors Meeting

Steve Telsey — N1BDA — Acting Clerk

20 October 2010

Attendees: K1IW; N1BDA; N1NVK; W3EVE;
WA1NVC; K1RJZ

Moved and voted without objection or abstention to accept the Treasurer's report. Membership renewals are running about average. Two-year memberships, previously available only at Boxboro, are now on the web. We need to reassess the situation with hard-copy newsletters —continue with a limited number or eliminate them.

Current Projects:

Sligo

Shelter work is scheduled for October 23. Primary projects are mechanical rehabilitation and painting. Moved and voted without objection or abstention to approve \$200 for mechanical work.

Moved and voted without objection or abstention to reaffirm the previous club approval to replace the existing shelter and to approve \$600 for electrical work. There will be additional foundation, fence, and mast work when the new shelter is installed.

D-Star Repeater

Technical decision was made to link the Icom controller with a Mastr II utilizing a conversion/adaptor kit. New crystals and IF filters will also be required. Moved and voted without objection or abstention to approve \$460 for this work.

224.400 Status

Work on the Quincy unit is pending.

449.575 Status

Brian, W1BRI, is currently working on the system. The unit is from Southboro and the old 5K controller is being replaced with a 7K.

442.250 Status

K1ST donated this repeater to the club. Saints Medical Center in Lowell wants to host this machine. The repeater would provide additional coverage along the north end of I-495. The hospital will do the antenna installation work.

Moved and voted without objection or abstention to approve \$400 for coax and lightning protection.

Moved and voted without objection or abstention to approve \$140 for a link radio and antenna.

Moved and voted without objection or abstention to approve \$275 for an SCOM 7K controller to maintain uniformity among MMRA systems.

Newsletter: The Newsletter and possible future articles was discussed. Articles and especially pictures are welcome from any members.

Net Control: Another Net Control is needed for the Tuesday net. Some nets have been cancelled because of the lack of a Net Control. Individual training on being a Net Control operator is available. Regular participants are especially invited to become Net Control operators.

Other Business: The MMRA repeaters use SCOM 7K controllers and coding has been standardized. There are currently no spares available. Moved and voted without objection or abstention to approve \$350 to purchase a spare SCOM 7K controller.

2010—2011 Membership Meetings

15 September Meeting

Lexington Public Library ~ 7:30 PM

Dave Allred, N1VU

Antenna Myths: Transmission Line Tall Tales

17 November Meeting

Northborough Public Library ~ 7:30 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 ????

Board of Directors Meetings

Wed, Oct 20

Southborough House of Pizza

Wed, Dec 15

Stratus, Maynard

Wed, Feb 17

Conexant, Waltham

Wed, Apr 21

No meeting in April

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! Over the past few months there have been some weeks when the Net was not activated as we only have three and need at least four.

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	W1JIM	Jimmy Devaire
Week 2	???	shared
Week 3	W1DYJ	Larry Banks
Week 4	K1KWP	Kevin Paetzold
Week 5	W1DYJ	Larry Banks

MMRA Leaders

Officers

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

Board of Directors

Director »2011	Steve Schwarm	W3EVE
Director »2011	Roger Coulson	WA1NVC
Director »2012	Clark Conti	N1NVK
Director »2012	Mike Neilsen	W1MPN

Repeater Trustees, Appointed

Belmont 145.430	Larry Arone	WA1RTT
Boston 927.0625	Rick Zach	K1RJZ
Brookline 146.820	Bob Phinney	K5TEC
Burlington 146.715	Chris Conti	N1NVL
Burlington 446.775	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Hopkinton 223.940	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Marlboro 53.810, Quincy 146.670, Southboro 449.575	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI
Marlboro 144.390, 145.160, 147.270, 224.880, 449.925, Weston 442.700, 927.700 — all as W1MRA		

	Bill Northup	N1QPR
Mendon 146.610	Jim Podsiadlo	AE1C
Quincy 224.400	Bill Dunn	N1KUG
Weston 146.790	Bob Evans	N1BE
Weston 224.700	Eddie Mulhern	N1NOM

Appointed, non-Voting

Newsletter Editor	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Emergency Coord.	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Public Service Coord.	Bruce Pigott	KC1US
VEC Liaison	Bill Wade	K1IJ
Net Manager	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Web Page Editor	Bob DeMattia	K1IW

To connect using the digital modes during the Net, use the New England Reflector:

For IRLP use node 9127

For Echolink, connect via ***NEW-ENG***. You can find this under "Node Types" >> "Conferences"

NOTE — during the net, the Echolink Conference Connection has recently changed to *NEW-ENG*.

Membership Meeting ~ Wednesday, 17 November 2010 @ 7:30 PM

AMSAT Today

Barry Baines ~ WD4ASW

Northborough Free Library ~ 34 Main Street (Rt. 20), Northborough

Talk in — 147.27

Calendar of Ham Radio Events

Public Service Events

See this web site for contact information
<http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>

**This Web Site is no longer being updated. If anyone knows of a new site, please let the editor know:
W1DYJ @mmra.org**

New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea Markets

See this web site for contact information
<http://mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

20 Nov	Rockport MA CAARA @PigonCove
4 Dec	Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN
19 Feb	Marlborough MA AARC @MS
20 Feb	Westford MA GBARC RadioXLII @Regency Antique
26 Feb	Colchester VT HAM-CON @Hampton
5 Mar	Feeding Hills MA MtTARA @TurnverneinCib
20 Mar	Southington CT SARA @HS
3 Apr	Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTech
16 Apr	Manchester NH NHAntqRC @Bingo
17 Apr	Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT
29,30 Apr	Deerfield NH Nearfest IX @FG
14 May	E Greenbush NY EGARA @FD

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/)**
