



The MINUTEMAN

Official Newsletter of the Minuteman Repeater Association

Volume 16, Number 2

March 1988

220 Mhz... UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

Spectrum is the lifeblood of ham radio. So far we have been fortunate that we have been able to preserve what has been allocated to us. The band that has most recently been threatened by commercial interests is 220 Mhz. The MMRA is trying to do its part in the "Use it or lose it" battle; there are two repeaters on 220 that operate under the aegis of the MMRA.

In Quincy, co-located with 146.67 is a Ham-Tronics based system on 224.440; in Holliston, there is a machine that we "host" at an MMRA leased site. Both sites are excellent, affording good coverage.

Since the expansion of Novice privileges, 220 Mhz has been made available to that license class. Both the MMRA repeaters are usable by novices... so in the interest of getting new members and increasing usage of the 220 Mhz band, we should be inviting novices to join our group and use the repeater systems. If we are successful, the MMRA will be able to enhance those repeaters more easily; as more users come aboard, more of our annual budget can be allocated to the 220 repeaters.

Adding of autopatches and linking are two possibilities, but we need people to work on these systems, and the money to spend on them. Some new, enthusiastic members could serve both needs.

So if you know any novices who are on 220, let them know about our repeaters there. If you are already a 220 user, welcome newcomers and tell them about us, and that we are looking for help to enhance the 220 repeaters and get more people using them. If current users want to help, contact Salty, KIAIO; Al, KAIAL; or Andy, NIBHI.

Nominating Committee

The Executive Board is still urgently seeking a person to fill the position of president for the coming year. Any member who could serve in this position please contact any Board member ASAP.

Raffle Committee Report

The raffle committee reports these prizes were won at the January 20, 1988 meeting held at the Weston Campion Center:

- Metz 2-meter magnetic mount antenna won by Scott, KA1CLX.
- MFJ J-280 mobile compact speaker by Frank, WIJDO.
- Cushcraft ARX-2 base antenna by Bob, K1PBL.
- Overnight sport travel bag by Lefty, KY11.

The much appreciated donations of the half wave magnetic mount antenna and the overnight travel bag were made by Dave, KZ11 (Metz Communications Corporation) and Road-Runner/Active Child respectively.

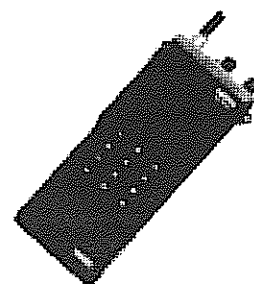
NOTE: Your last opportunity to purchase a ticket for the 220 MHz 3AT handitalkie donated by Dave, K1JHT will be at our March 21, 1988 meeting in Reading, Massachusetts. The lucky winner's ticket will be drawn at this meeting. You do NOT have to be present to win.

Scott, KA1CLX and Frank, WIJDO

Controller Technical Committee

The Club needs technically oriented volunteers to serve on a study committee to advise the Board of Directors on the best course of action to solve our repeater controller problems. These problems have been largely brought about by the upcoming new area code being introduced by the phone company in June 1988. People with a software background would be especially welcome and valuable. Volunteers may contact Andy Morrison, NIBHI, committee chairman or Salty K1IAO.

Handi-Talkie Donated



Dave, K1JHT, has made a generous donation of a mint condition ICOM-3AT, 200 MHz handheld transceiver, which he won at a previous MMRA drawing, for the Club to use as a raffle prize. Special raffle tickets were available at the MMRA meetings in November and will be available at the January and March meetings for \$5.00 each. A free raffle ticket will be given to members who bring in a new member (a person who was not a member from 1 September 1986 to date). The drawing will be held at the Reading meeting on 21 March 1988.

Verification of credit to persons bringing in new members will be allowed if the new member indicates his sponsor. This may be done via the application, or by written affirmation of the new member prior to the drawing.

Meeting Schedules

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, 1988 at the First Congregational Church, 25 Woburn St., Reading, Massachusetts. The program will be presented by D. Roger Perkins, W1OJ. He will speak to us on the Federal Emergency Management Agency communications facility in Maynard, Massachusetts.

The May meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 1988 at the Campion Center in Weston, Massachusetts. This will be the annual election meeting.

Minutes of Board Meeting

January 12, 1988

K1IAO called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM. Those present were K1IAO, WB2DCL, K1PBL, KA1AL, KB1FZ and K3BUZ. KA1CLX, N1BHI, and KA9CRG were absent.

K1IAO reported that the Stoneham repeater has a bad power amplifier tube and is now running on the 10 watt exciter. The Board approved expenditure of \$250.00 which was budgeted this year for a new receiver board for the Stoneham repeater.

K1IAO reported that the Quincy 67 main repeater is malfunctioning and the backup repeater cannot be put on line because it still has Joe Devin's call hard-wired into it.

KA1AL recommended that we standardize MMRA repeaters on one type of receiver and transmitter so we can stock one spare board of each for all of MMRA.

KB1FZ reported that 338 members are now paid up for 1988.

Discussion revealed that the January meeting program had not been confirmed by the proposed speaker. Dave Crocker, W1TMO graciously consented to provide a packet radio talk and demonstration at the January meeting if required.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

B. L. Brozenske, K3BUZ, *Clerk*

Minutes of Board Meeting

February 9, 1988

K1IAO called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM. Present were K1IAO, WB2DCL, K1PBL, KA1AL, KB1FZ, K3BUZ and W1TMO, our newsletter publisher. KA1CLX, N1BHI, and KA9CRG were absent.

KB1FZ distributed membership rosters and announced that we now have 368 paid members. He also presented some January newsletters which were returned by the post office with missing address labels. We have no way of identifying those members which did not get their newsletter.

March 1, 1988 has been established as the publication date for the March newsletter. All inputs must be in to Peter Costa, WA1VVF by February 23, 1988. We need to find a candidate for the office of President and Vice President by then or a special mailing costing about \$90.00 to announce the officer slate will be required.

KB1FZ agreed to contact W1OJ as a potential speaker for the March meeting in Reading. We still need a program for the May meeting. It was suggested that W1ZLG be contacted to see if and when Father Moran might be available to speak at a club meeting.

K3BUZ reported that ARRL offered a club insurance policy through a commercial insurance company that may be suitable for our needs at significantly less cost than our present policy which is up for renewal in May 1988. An application and description of the policy is in the mail to us. The application will have to be returned before the company will give us a formal quote.

Tuesday March 1, 1988 at 7:30 PM in KA1AL's office was established for the next Board meeting.

B. L. Brozenske, K3BUZ, *Clerk*

Minutes of Board Meeting

March 1, 1988

K1IAO called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. Present were K1IAO, KA1AL, K1PBL, K3BUZ, KB1FZ. Absent were KA9CRG, WB2DCL and KA1CLX. Also present was newsletter publisher W1TMO.

N1BHI reported that Roger Perkins, W1OJ, will be the guest speaker at our next meeting, to be held on March 21st in Reading, Massachusetts. Roger will speak on the communications facilities at the Federal Emergency Management Agency site in Maynard, Massachusetts.

K3BUZ presented an information brochure on the ARRL club insurance program and an application to be filled out to get a formal price quote. As preliminary information indicated the possibility of significant savings over our present policy which expires on May 5, 1988, KA1AL agreed to fill out the application and submit it to the insurance company.

KB1FZ reported that we now have 375 paid members. Since the tight 1987-88 budget was prepared with a 400 member forecast this leaves us with a \$500.00 shortfall. It was suggested that dues would have to be increased next year. A \$25.00 annual figure was proposed to be put before the membership at the May meeting. Final action by the Board was deferred pending consideration of the affect the increase might have to further depress membership. Analysis of the turnover rate in the Association revealed that attrition was near normal, but new recruits are not coming in at a normal rate.

KB1FZ agreed to chair a new membership drive committee with N1BHI and K3BUZ. W1TMO suggested that an attractive informative promotional brochure with application form included be prepared for distribution at hamfests, association activities, and ham dealers.

N1BHI reported that the Marlboro 61 repeater site at the Marlboro Country Club will have to pay \$300.00 rent this year since electricity usage included in the rent has increased significantly with the new tube amplifier on line.

Concern was expressed about the future direction the club should take in light of apparent reduced interest in repeaters and our diminishing membership. N1BHI and KA1AL discussed some conceptual ideas of how MMRA might become a more general interest club, perhaps by affiliating with other clubs as a wide area umbrella "federation" organization. Further details were not discussed.

After it was reported that a full slate of officers was not available now to be published in the March newsletter, the Board adjourned and convened a short nominating committee meeting.

B. L. Brozenske, K3BUZ, *Clerk*

HF Operators Note

Contrary to rumors, the 17M amateur band (18.068-18.168 MHz) is not yet open to U.S. amateurs. While the band is available to amateurs in many countries on a not-to-interfere basis, it will not become a worldwide exclusive amateur allocation until July 1989. (ARRL Letter, 01/15/88)

MMRA Officers and Staff

President Hazen J. Saltmarsh, K1IAO
617-326-6179
Vice President ... Matthew J. Valteau, KA9CRG
Secretary Frank P. Morrison, KB1FZ
Treasurer Robert M. Fraser, K1PBL
Clerk Barrie Brozenske, K3BUZ
Directors (1 yr. terms) ... Alan E. Kunian, KA1AL
Scott R. Bullock, KA1CLX
Directors (2 yr. terms) ... Ralph McNall, WB2DCL
Andrew L. Morrison, N1BHI
Minuteman Publisher ... Dave Crocker, W1TMO
617-444-7724
Minuteman Editor Peter Costa, WA1VVF
617-237-4175

Please send editorial contributions to:

MMRA Minuteman
Peter Costa, WA1VVF
95 Overbrook Drive, Wellesley, MA 02181

General Membership Meeting

January 20, 1988

The MMRA membership meeting convened at the Campion Center on January 20, 1988. There were 24 members present.

The President, Salty, K1IAO, called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm.

The Secretary, KB1FZ, reported that there were 328 members paid up through September, 1988, and that there were 115 members paid through September 1987 who have not yet paid up for 1988.

The Treasurer, Bob K1PBL, reported that the MMRA treasury now holds a little over \$4000.

Scott, KA1CLX, reported that the 440 machine in Marlboro has had some cold weather problems which he is working to solve, and that otherwise operation is good. He indicated that there has been an interference problem from a privately owned (KB1RO) 2 meter repeater which lives in the same enclosure as the 440 machine. The interference is from a third harmonic from the 2 meter machine. Scott is working with KB1RO to resolve the problem; he is using a home-brew transmitter with an un-neutralized amplifier which is apparently the problem. Scott also reported that the new amplifier installation in the 61 machine is complete and delivering 375 watts into the cans, which with the new antenna is giving an ERP of about 800 watts. Coverage is great!

Salty reported that the Quincy 67 machine was off the air before the last snow storm, and that the backup machine could not be used because the ex-trustee's call was in the diode matrix. Salty wired in his call to get the backup on the air, with him as temporary trustee. The main unit is being repaired. Salty also reported that the 715 machine in Stoneham needs a new tube; it has been running at about 10 watts. It will also be getting a new receiver board.

At the end of the business meeting, Dave Crocker, W1TMO, gave a very well delivered vugraph presentation on the fundamentals of packet radio. Copies of the slides were handed out to members, as well as copies of the *Packet Ear*, the newsletter of the New England Packet Radio Association, which Dave both edits and publishes. The presentation was well received, and elicited numerous operational type questions and discussions.

The raffle was held while coffee and doughnuts were enjoyed by all.

MMRA Repeater Control Operators

(20 Feb 1988)

146.67 - Quincy

John Morrison WA1UVR
Francis Molloy W1DWI
George Foley W1IC
F. Wendell Boyden Jr. K1LWI
George Manning K1CG
Arthur Toneatti Jr. W1ZOC
Donald Mofford WA1WDQ
Thomas Holmes WA1ZID

224.40 - Quincy

Arthur Toneatti Jr. W1ZOC
Donald Mofford WA1WDQ
Thomas Holmes WA1ZID

146.82 - Weston

Frank Hilbrunner W1JDO
Robert G. Ling W1IBF
Richard C. Mullen N1CRC
Gerald A. Horne K1GOI
Paul J. Planchet WA1DXI
Paul Dosorcy N1CKA
Alan E. Kunian KA1AL

146.715 - Stoneham

Leo Morgan K1LRX
Patricia Tauro N1AOJ
Tony Tauro KA1OP
John Morley KA1JMF
Peter Bongiorno N1CIU

146.61 - Marlboro

Frank Hilbrunner W1JDO
Scott R. Bullock KA1CLX
Gerald J. McGarry KA1OUI
Frank P. Morrison KB1FZ
Barrie Brozenske K3BUZ
Andrew L. Morrison N1BHI

449.925 - Marlboro

Frank Hilbrunner W1JDO
Scott R. Bullock KA1CLX

First Area Callsigns Issued

as of February 1, 1988

Extra, NO1Q Advanced, KCIHU
Tech/Gen, N1FLR Novice, KA1RMW

— FOR SALE —

YAESU FT-726R

w/2M, 430-440 Satellite Modules

Like NEW \$900

Contact Mort, KA1IU 617-359-7979

Events of Interest

Interstate Repeater Society Flea Market, Saturday, March 19, 1988 at the Hudson, NH Lions Club. Dealer setup is 0700 with doors open to the public at 0800. Tables are \$10.00. Contact Bud, W1HMT or write PO Box 693, Derry NH for more information.

Framingham Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Sunday, April 10, 1988 at the Framingham Massachusetts Civic League Center. Dealer setup starts at 0830 with public doors open at 1000. Tables are \$10.00 in advance with admission \$2.00. Talk in on 147.15 repeater. Call Jon, K1VVC at 617-877-7166 for more information.

South Shore Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Sunday, April 10, 1988 at the Viking Club, 410 Quincy Ave, Braintree, MA. Dealer setup starts at 0900 with public admitted at 1100. Tables are \$10.00 in advance, admission is \$1.00. Call Hal at 617-335-5777 evenings for more information.

Montachusett Amateur Radio Association Flea Market, Sunday, April 24, 1988 at the George Wallace Civic Center, Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Dealer setup at 0830 with public admitted at 1000. Tables are \$10.00, admission is \$2.00. Talk in on 145.45 repeater and 146.52 direct. For further information or table reservations contact James Beauregard, KB1AY, 7 Mountain Ave, Fitchburg, MA.

Hoss Traders Spring Flea Market, Saturday, May 7, 1988 at the KINGSTON, NH (NOT DEERFIELD!) Fairground, Rt 111 and Rt 125, Kingston NH. Dealers may setup anytime, with public admission any time Friday night through Saturday. Self contained campers permitted on Fairgrounds. Admission is \$5.00 for buyers and sellers. Talk in on 6.40/147.00 repeater. More information can be had with an SASE to Joe Demaso, Star Route, Box 56, Bucksport, Maine.

ARRL New England Convention, Hamfest, and Flea Market, Saturday and Sunday October 1 and 2, 1988 at the Sheraton Hotel, Boxboro, MA. More information can be had by calling 631-7388.

Above information is among the from John Roberts, 5 Christir Merrimack, NH 03054. John will complete updated list if you send SASE. Many thanks to John for service to the amateur comm

MinuteMan Repeater Association

— March 21, 1988 —

Guest Speaker:

Roger Perkins, W1OJ

of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

**“Communications Facilities at the
FEMA Site in Maynard, Massachusetts”**

First Congregational Church, 25 Woburn Street, Reading, MA

Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. — Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

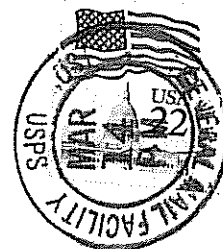
From Route 128, take Exit 38B. Proceed North on Route 28 for a distance of 1.4 miles. Turn left on Woburn Street. Look for a stone church on the right-hand side of Woburn Street in the 2nd block. Talk-in on the 146.715(-) Stoneham repeater.

MMRA

Minuteman Repeater Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 2282

Lexington, Massachusetts 02173



First Class

