



**Minuteman
Repeater
Association**

**The
Minuteman**



Volume 52 Number 4 March 2023

The Minuteman Repeater Association is a non-profit organization providing communications infrastructure and volunteers for community and emergency events.

Membership Meeting: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 ~7:30—9:30 pm

Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN)

Orv Beach, W6BI; Jim Garner, KC1BHD; and Michael Ford, WZOC

This is a Hybrid meeting: New England SciTech + ZOOM

(Directions to New England SciTech on Page 8)

Members: log into your account on MMRA.ORG to obtain the ZOOM info.

Non-members: send an email to contact@mmra to request the ZOOM info.

Learn what AREDN is all about, what it can be used for, and how you can get started with this technology. Orv, W6BI, will discuss how ham radio networking with AREDN software works and what you need to get started. He'll also show some examples of user setups and things an AREDN network can be used for. Jim, KC1BHD, will give a demonstration of his AREDN go-kit prototype to be used in ARES activations, at disaster locations, or public service events. Michael, WZOC, will talk about some of the AREDN efforts in New England along with the propagation testing he and Jim have been doing for this.

Orv, W6BI, was first licensed as WN6WEY in 1967. He's been into digital ham radio all his life, starting with CW. He started messing around with ham radio networking in 2014, and is now an AREDN Ambassador, one who promotes using AREDN software and helps educate folks on its use. He's helped deploy network digital radios in Ventura County and western Los Angeles County. He's also active in coordinating the build-out and maintenance of the wider ham radio network, which now spans from California's central coast south to the Mexican border and east to Las Vegas, comprising over 550 nodes, both on hilltops and at ham QTHs.

Jim, KC1BHD, has always been interested in data transmission in general and for several years, AREDN mesh networking in particular. He lives near Worcester and envisions creating RF access to an AREDN mesh for hams across Massachusetts.

Michael, WZOC, lives in Maynard and enjoys the amateur radio digital modes. Michael became interested in AREDN last year, connecting with Orv and Jim and learning about their efforts. Michael is hoping to use AREDN to increase the digital presence in Massachusetts. Michael will talk about some of the AREDN efforts in New England along with the propagation testing he and Jim have been doing for this.

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About the Minuteman Repeater Association

MMRA Control Operators Responsibilities

<https://www.mmra.org/MMRACOPolicy-March2019.pdf>

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 each month from September to June. Meeting times, locations, and talk-in frequency vary and are announced in this newsletter and on weekly nets. Meetings are open to all interested parties. Guest speakers and programs of general interest occur in September, November, January, March, and May. The intervening meetings are also open to all members and are for general business.

The Minuteman newsletter is emailed one week before each general interest meeting. Members are encouraged to submit articles: send to the editor at 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.

Contact information is listed on the top of the last page of this newsletter.

No part of this newsletter can be copied or posted elsewhere without prior approval from the club.

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 with that individual on the air. Please include the time and date of any incident.

Repeater and Frequency Information

| Band | XMTR Location | Freq | PL | Call | Linking To: | | |
|------------|---|---|--|--------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | Hub 1 Hub 2 | | |
| 10m | Marlboro East | 29.680 | 131.8 | W1MRA | PTL PTL Linked to 146.79: 9am-3pm every day | | |
| 6m | Marlboro East | 53.810 | Remote receive Marlboro West: PL=100 | 71.9 | W1BRI PTL PTL | | |
| 2m | Brookline | 145.160 | na | K1MRA | D-Star (REF050C) | | |
| | Belmont | 145.430 | 146.2 | KC1CLA | PTL FTL: DARI | | |
| | Mendon | 146.610 | | K1KWP | FTL PTL | | |
| | Quincy | 146.670 | | W1BRI | FTL PTL | | |
| | North Reading | 146.715 | | KC1US | FTL PTL | | |
| | Weston | 146.790 | | W1HAI | PTL PTL Linked to 29.68: 9am-3pm every day | | |
| | Boston | 146.820 | | K1BOS | FTL PTL | | |
| | | Remote receive in Brookline Boston: PL = 127.3 | | W1DC | PTL PTL | | |
| | Billerica | 147.120 | | W1MRA | PTL PTL | | |
| | | Output tone = 162.2 | | | | | |
| 1 1/4m | Marlborough | 223.940 | 103.5 | W1MRA | FTL PTL | | |
| | Quincy | 224.400 | | N1KUG | FTL PTL | | |
| | Weston | 224.700 | | N1NOM | PTL PTL | | |
| | Burlington | 224.880 | | KC1US | FTL PTL | | |
| 70cm | Lowell | 442.250 | 88.5 | W1MRA | FTL PTL: 446.775 | | |
| | Weston * | 442.700 | 88.5 | N1DCH | Network Hub 2 (PTL to Hub 1) | | |
| | North Reading System Fusion | 446.775 | 88.5 Linked 71.9 Local | W1DYJ | FTL [88.5] PTL [88.5] | | |
| | Marlborough | 448.225 | na | W1MRA | D-Star (REF050C) | | |
| | Hopkinton System Fusion | 449.575 | 88.5 Linked 71.9 Local | W1BRI | FTL [88.5] PTL [88.5] | | |
| | Marlborough * | 449.925 | 88.5 | W1MRA | Network Hub 1 | | |
| 33cm | Boston * | 927.0625 | D244 | K1RJZ | PTL PTL | | |
| | Marlborough * | 927.700 PL out = 131.8 | | W1MRA | PTL PTL | | |
| | Marlborough | 144.390 | none | W1MRA | APRS Digipeater | | |
| | ??? | 145.630 | 146.2 | W1MRA | Fox Box | | |
| * Internet | HUB1 - 449.925: IRLP node 4133 / Echolink node 4133 Connected to Echolink NEWENG2 conference (9127) for TIAOS net. | | | | | | |
| | HUB2 - 442.700: IRLP node 4136 / Echolink node 4136 Connected to 220 Reflector 9124 on Tuesdays | | | | | | |
| | 927.0625: IRLP 4977 | | Normally linked to the NE900 Reflector, 9125. Linked to MMRA via "NEWENG2" node 9127 for the TIAOS net. Normally linked together. | | | | |
| | 927.700: IRLP 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, however the two hubs can also be linked together. | | | | | | |

President's Corner ~ David Hornbaker, N1DCH

Happy Spring! I hope your antennas survived the winter. Unfortunately, I have a couple of repairs to make once the snow melts.

Congratulations to Kevin Pontius – AD2EX who passed elements 2, 3, 4 and became an Amateur Extra in one setting, at the Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, after driving to Marlborough from Upstate New York.

March Membership Meeting: Guest Speakers Orv Beach – W6BI, Jim Garner – KC1BHD, and Michael Ford – WZOC. The presentation will be **Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN)**.

In person at New England Sci-Tech in Natick, MA [Directions](#) Meetings are a great place to meet and greet your fellow hams and to welcome our new members. Bring a friend, you do not have to be a member to attend.

Via Zoom: All MMRA meetings are also available via Zoom. The Zoom code is available to members on <http://www.mmra.org>. If you need assistance getting connected, contact us at contact@mmra.org. If you are not a member, you can request the meeting code via email at contact@mmra.org.

VE Exams: The March VE Session will be held on Saturday, March 18th at 9:00 AM, at Marlborough Central Fire Station, 215 Maple St (RT 85), Marlborough, MA [https://www.bing.com/maps? q=215+maple+st+marlborough+ma&FORM=HDRSC4&cp=42.340045%7E-71.542833&lvl=16.4](https://www.bing.com/maps?q=215+maple+st+marlborough+ma&FORM=HDRSC4&cp=42.340045%7E-71.542833&lvl=16.4).

Walk-ins are welcome.

Please remember to bring a State ID, your FRN, and if upgrading, a copy of your current license (from FCC website). For more information, contact Ron – WO1E at ve@mmra.org or wo1e@mmra.org.

Net Control Operators wanted: Interested in becoming a control operator for the TlaOS net? Larry is looking for a back-up operator. Contact Larry Banks – W1DYJ w1dyj@mmra.org.

Membership renewal: All MMRA memberships expire on August 31. Please check your profile and if your membership expires in 2023, please renew. Renewals may be done on the website, or you can mail your renewal to Minuteman Repeater Association, PO Box 669, Stow, MA 01775-0669. Please allow 7 days for us to process your renewal. Please allow 14 days for renewals that are mailed. While you're on the website (<https://www.mmra.org>) checking your expiration date, please verify your email address.

Free Membership: Do you know someone that has passed the Technician test (element 2) in the last year? They are eligible for free membership in MMRA. Have them send email to contact@mmra.org requesting membership. The club secretary, Jason – W1HFP, will contact them with details on how to qualify.

Tuesday Net: Join us Tuesday night at 8:00 PM for our weekly Technical Information and Other Stuff (TlaOS) net. There will be a lively discussion on all sorts of ham issues, including equipment, antennas, software, repeaters, and other stuff. The main purpose is to test our ability to link up the repeaters in case of an emergency or to support an event like the Boston Marathon. You can also join via EchoLink if your radio is a little under the weather. See below for more information.

You can find out more information about how and when the repeaters are linked on the website (https://www.mmra.org/repeaters/repeater_linking.html).

Please remember to keep your profile up to date, especially if your email changes. Note that if your callsign changes, send email to contact@mmra.org and we will update your callsign in the database.

73

Dave – N1DCH

18 January 2023 Membership Meeting ~ Minutes

Called to order @ 7:32 PM

Repeater Status Report – from Bob DeMatta – K1IW

- **Prudential Antenna** – The antenna relocation is still pending. Bob made an inquiry last week. They are still waiting on repair parts.
- **10 Meter Weston Receiver** - The intermittent functioning still remains making the 10 meter option inconsistent.
- **6 Meters:** – Output power not stable yet.
- **2 Meter Weston Repeater** – All cables built and the new 2m Kenwood and amplifier were assembled. There was an issue with the amplifier so it was sent back to Henry for repair and should arrive here on Friday. It should be ready to go this weekend. Bob will try to schedule something in the next two weeks.
- **North Reading** – No change. The Kasa Smartswitch is a temporary solution to allow a remote reset. A more permanent solution will be done in the Spring. Also required is a thorough cleanout of cobwebs, dust, mice excrement, etc. at this site.
- **Burlington** – We have reports of 5 second dropouts during the TIOS weekly net. All other MMRA Repeater systems normal – No other malfunctions reported.

Algonquin Amateur Radio Club – Marlborough MA

FLEA MARKET – Saturday, February 18, 2023

Final agreement made on the placement locations for the MMRA Tables and the check from the MMRA has been cashed. There will be a VE session at the Flea Market described below.

VE Exam Session – Saturday, February 18th at 9:00 AM at the Lt Charles W. Whitcomb School (formerly Intermediate/Middle School), 25 Union Street or off Bolton Street (Rt. 85), Marlborough, MA.. Contact Ron (WO1E@mmra.org) for more information.

- Please tell your friends, who are interested in taking tests, that they must have photo IDs and FRNs. SS#s are NOT accepted by the FCC.
- Copy of license required if upgrading (or Proof from the ARRL, or QRZ website)

Other Business - Future monthly “Business” Meetings will only be on Zoom.

MMRA Monthly “Membership” Meetings will continue to be hybrid, - both at a physical location and on Zoom.

Upcoming Meetings

- **February 15**, 7:30 pm – Business Meeting; Zoom Teleconference only
- **March 15**, 7:30 pm – AREDN Michael Ford – WZOC
- **April 19**, 7:30 pm – Business Meeting
- **May 17**, 7:30 pm – Annual election of officers; Speaker TBA
Marlborough Central Fire Station Training Room & Zoom
- **Tuesday night, 8:00 pm** (year long): Technical, Information and Other Stuff Net
MMRA Linked Repeaters

18 January 2023 Membership Meeting ~ Minutes, cont'd

Feature Presentation – Larry Banks – W1DYJ – The New FCC RF Exposure Assessment.

Larry's extensive and impressive background was published in the January MMRA Newsletter. Briefly stated here he was licensed in 1962, holds 3 degrees in EE from MIT, an accomplished DX chaser, editor of the MMRA Newsletter and active Member of the MMRA helping all of us in many more ways than can be expressed here.

The exposure criterion has not changed. Just the rules about assessing your station has. Our station RF assessment is required by May 3, 2023 and whenever you make a significant change or addition to your station. Refer to the January, 1998 QST for background on this subject.

There are two important Definitions: Effective Radiated Power and Near field/far field boundary. The assessment Methodologies are the FCC Formula, Field Strength Measurement, Antenna Modeling & On-Line Calculator. The easiest method for most of us can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator>.

Meeting Attendees

At New England SciTech:

Dave Hornbaker, N1DCH ; Bob Phinney, K5TEC; Stephen Babbitt, KC1LPZ; Ken Horton, KA1GFN; Deb Horton, N1NVJ; Bill McIninch, KA1MOM; Glenn Ghidaleson, WA2KRS; Bob Evans, N1BE

Zoom Meeting Attendees:

Larry Banks, W1DYJ; Kevin W Paetzold, K1KWP; Jason Pardon, W1HFP; John Spencer, WA1MDD; Roger Coulson, WA1NVC; Howard Shpegel, AC1MN; Mike Rioux, W1USN; Peter Bertini, W1BR; Rick Carlson, KC1RTU; Don Melanson, W1DM; Joe Wiesse, W1HAI; Ed Curley, KC1CLA; Doug Gaff, K1DGG; Alan Lewis, K1ALL; Glenn Small, KV1GS; Steve Umans, K8ZBE; Jonathan Traum, K1BTZ; Bob DeMattia, K1IW & Bob Phinney, K5TEC

Meeting Adjourned at 8:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Stephen M Babbitt – KC1LPZ – Clerk

Some of the slides from Larry, W1DYJ's talk:

The "New" FCC RF Exposure Rules:
A Practical Methodology

Larry Banks, W1DYJ
First license: 1962 (ARRL)
W1DYJ since 1966 - Amateur Extra
33 Blueberry Hill Road Woburn MA

Minuteman Repeater Association

W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks

The "New" FCC RF Exposure Rules ~ **Abstract**

The FCC has changed the "rules" about RF Exposure:

- The **exposure criterion** have not changed
- The **rules** about assessing your station have.

There is no longer a simple exemption:

- We are **required** to do this assessment **by 3 May 2023**, and whenever you make a significant change.
- I recently assessed my station here in Woburn MA, and it turned out to be much less an issue than I expected.

This talk describes the process I used. It could be a model for your own evaluation. And as I was doing this, I learned some other interesting stuff!

MMRA January 2023 Page 2 W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks

18 January 2023 Membership Meeting ~ Minutes, cont'd

The Rules

What has Not Changed?

- Ham radio has been **required** to meet RF exposure rules for 25 years.
- An **evaluation** of your station is required.
- You may use **any valid method** you feel appropriate.
- You must **certify** on license application form 605 that you comply.
- Compliance **records** do not need to be kept.
- The FCC can ask for your evidence if they wish, e.g. due to a complaint.**



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W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks



The Rules

What has Changed?

- Ham Radio used to be (for most stations) "exempt" from a complete assessment.
- Now, all radio services **must** use the same "formula-based" criterion to determine whether an **evaluation** is required.
 - Takes into account transmit power, antenna gain, and frequency
- If you were "OK" before under the old rules will still be "OK" under these new criterion.
- If nothing has changed at your station **you have until 3 May 2023** to perform this new assessment.

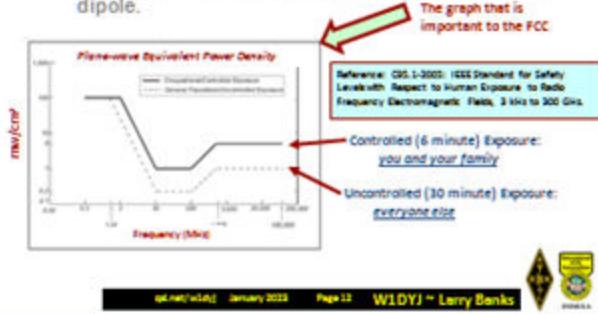


qsl.net/w1dyj January 2023 Page 6 W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks

Definition I - ERP

• Effective Radiated Power [ERP]

The time-averaged power radiated by a transmitter in any direction relative to the power from a half-wave dipole.



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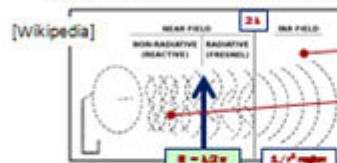
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W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks



Definition III – Near/Far Field

• Near field /far field boundary [$R = \lambda/2\pi$ ← ← FCC's concern].



Power Density = normal inverse-square-law
Reactive Field: calculating power density is problematic

| Band | Near-Field Distance |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 160 | 87.1 ft |
| 80 | 44.8 ft |
| 40 | 22.4 ft |
| 20 | 11.2 ft |
| 10 | 5.6 ft |
| Minimum = 20 cm. | |

qsl.net/w1dyj January 2023 Page 18 W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks



The ARRL Calculator <http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator>

A screenshot of the ARRL RF Exposure Calculator. The form includes fields for 'Power @ Antenna' (Mode Duty Cycle: SSB, no speech processing → 20%; CBR, heavy speech processing → 50%; FM → 100%), 'Transmit/Receive Ratio' (e.g., 10m FM → 1000), 'Ground Effects?' (Y), and 'Mobile Mode' (Y). It also shows 'Controlled' and 'Uncontrolled' exposure limits for various bands and modes, along with a note about mobile operation in parking lots.

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W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks



Assessment @ W1DYJ

Third – Transcribe from web form >> RESULTS

| Band | Mode | Ground Effects? | Antenna Controlled Distance (ft/min) | Antenna Uncontrolled Distance ad (ft/min) |
|------|------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2 | FTB | Y | 5 | 0.35 |
| 10 | FTB | Y | 5 | 0.46 |
| 40 | FTB | Y | 10 | 0.79 |
| 30 | FTB | Y | 15 | 1.09 |
| 20 | FTB | Y | 21 | 2.49 |
| 17 | FTB | Y | 18 | 2.04 |
| 15 | FTB | Y | 18 | 2.34 |
| 12 | FTB | Y | 18 | 2.65 |
| 10 | FTB | Y | 15 | 2.51 |
| 10 | FM | Y | 4 | 5.60 |
| 10 | FM | N | + | 2.26 |
| 6 | FTB | Y | 15 | 11.26 |
| 6 | FTB | N | + | 7.04 |
| 6 | FM | Y | 4 | 8.60 |
| 2 | SSB | Y | 21 | 11.50 |
| 1.25 | FM | Y | 6 | 1.80 |
| 0.70 | SSB | Y | 18 | 8.04 |

Mobile -- Audi

| | | | | | | |
|-----|----|---|---|------|---|------|
| 2 | FM | Y | 5 | 2.16 | 3 | 4.32 |
| 0.7 | FM | Y | 5 | 1.93 | 3 | 3.85 |

RF Exposure — MMRA - 1/2023

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W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks

Mostly OK
Potential issues on 10m FM & 6m FTB
Don't operate mobile in a parking lot or with people in the back seat at high power!
Low power (5w)
1.73
1.82



18 January 2023 Membership Meeting ~ Minutes, cont'd

Other Observations: HTs, Cell Phones, Wi-Fi...

HTs → They were officially exempt... **BUT!**

Old ARRL statement: Hand-held radios and vehicle-mounted mobile radios that operate using a push-to-talk (PTT) button are *categorically exempt* from performing the routine evaluation.

IEEE: An Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers standard for recommended EM exposure limits was published in 1991. The IEEE standard *excludes any transmitter with an output below 7 W* because such low-power transmitters would not be able to produce significant whole-body heating.

FCC: 2021: HTs *may now* potentially require compliance with limits on *specific absorption rate (SAR) "w/kg."* Amateur HTs have not required certification to SAR in the past; *old HTs will probably be grandfathered.* New ones?? Referenced QEX article suggests that Amateur HTs are OK when compared to existing and compliant public service HTs.

RF Exposure -- MMRA -- 1/2023 Page 51 W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks INDXKA

To Reiterate.....

By signing form 605 you are declaring your compliance to, and of reading (and understanding) the subject matter.

Identify Radio:

- ✓ I believe this object to be the use of this particular frequency regardless of prior use by licensee or otherwise.
- ✓ I am not a licensee of this frequency, and I am not the best informed and tested operator and am made in good faith.
- ✓ I am not a representative of a foreign government.
- ✓ I am not subject to a denial of Federal import/export license by the U.S. Government. The Anti-Dumping Measures Act of 1976, 19 U.S.C. § 1337.
- ✓ I am not subject to a denial of Federal import/export license by the U.S. Government. The Anti-Dumping Measures Act of 1976, 19 U.S.C. § 1337.

SECTION 1 - TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STATION OWNER

X _____ Date Signed _____

SECTION 2 - TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ADMINISTERING VERS

You are required to do this by 3 May 2023 and anytime you make a significant change.

Your station is probably OK. So do it!



This talk is available at: <https://www.qsl.net/w1dyj/#OP>

Ham Radio Saves Lives! ~ Joe Weisse, W1HAI

Over the years, we have all heard of ham radio operations where timely communications have saved lives. This ranges from nets active for hurricanes or Skywarn to the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 20 meters on 14.300 daily. Those of us who monitor our own repeater system and others can be pressed into service with one call. Someone stuck on the highway with a dead cell phone, another who falls in their bathroom with only the HT within reach. *Here is another recently in New Hampshire with a station listening and needing to simplify communications to help save lives.* Follow this link for the full story:

Tuesday, January 31st: Rescued by ham radio <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDwKfqExDz4>

Have been involved in any assistance where ham radio was used? Share it with us for future issues. Keep listening!

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.

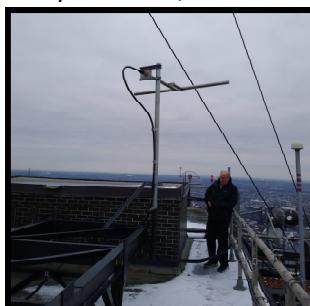
Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, 1928

Repeater Update ~ Bob DeMatta, K1IW

Bob, K1IW, visited the Pru site on 22 January with John, K1BOS.



Our existing location on the NW corner of essentially the 54th floor of the building. It is obstructed to the South and Southeast by the entire penthouse, which sits on the roof of floor 53.



Our new location looking north. Our new location replaces the horizontal folded dipole in the center of the photos.



Looking South and showing proximity to the large antenna mast. The mast is to the WSW of our location. It obstructs roughly a 15 to 20 degree wedge, centered on WSW.

Summary - from West through SW we are basically unobstructed. We will probably lose a little bit of coverage WSW but we will gain the entire South and Southeast.

The new Weston repeater is installed.



Directions to New England Sci-Tech Inc.

16 Tech Circle <https://www.nescitech.org/directions/> **Natick MA 01760**

From the north: take Rt 95 or Rt 27 or Rt 495 south to Route 30 toward Wayland. Once in Wayland, turn South on Oak Street and in 1/2 mile look for Tech Circle on your left. Follow Tech Circle to the end.

From the south: take Rt 95 or Rt 27 or Rt 495 north to Route 9 toward Natick. At the Wellesley-Natick line, turn North on Oak Street and in 1/2 mile look for Tech Circle on your right. Follow Tech Circle to the end.

From the east or west: follow either Rt 30 or Rt 9 toward Natick, turn onto Oak Street at a set of traffic lights, and in 1/2 mile look for Tech Circle. Follow Tech Circle to the end.

VE Session at the Algonquin Flea ~ Dave Hornbaker, N1DCH

The MMRA held a VE session at the Algonquin Flea. Some photos.



Ed (WE1I), Steve (KC1LPZ),
and Alan (K1ALL)
at the sign-in desk.



Ron (W01E) and candidates
taking the test.



Ron (W0IE), Steve KC1LPZ),
Kevin Pontius, now AD2EX, who
tested from **"0" to Extra**, and
Dave (N1DCH).

Why Volunteer ~ Stephen M Babbitt, KC1LPZ

Being retired, I discovered that I am busier now than when I was working full-time. My younger colleagues probably think senility has struck or I am just exaggerating. When you're young or working full time, it is probably difficult to imagine time has a far greater value than everything else, even money.

Setting aside time to volunteer will probably seem like an oxymoron, too valuable to waste when you may have many other unfinished projects needing attention. Why bother to volunteer when a good case has been made not to do so. Right?

Let me start by referencing Ralph Waldo Emerson, who was known for his essay on self-Reliance, 1841, where if you want more, you must give more. As a retired salesperson, I practiced Emerson's Law by taking the risk to give more of myself reaping much more than I expected most of the time. Volunteering my time now has similar payoffs. First there is the satisfaction of accomplishment knowing others have benefited from your hard work. Giving is a good thing, especially when you are working with others to accomplish a specific goal.

Better yet are the social ties received working together with others as a team. This is where Emerson's Law takes place. For example after I earned my Extra Class License – almost a year ago – I became a VE (Volunteer Examiner) working as a team member with a small group of us meeting once a month grading license exam candidates who are either becoming Technician or upgrading their Ham Radio License to a higher class. Initially I did that as a form of payback for those who had volunteered as I was going through the process of taking those tests to earn my Ham Radio license. I figured I will volunteer twice a year or maybe once every 5 years just to keep my VE status active with the AARL. Little did I realize how much paperwork is involved in the Ham Radio exam testing process, particularly for the VEC – Volunteer Examiner Coordinator – let alone just us volunteers grading the applicants' exam. Along the way I made all the typical mistakes – maybe more – that all of us go through in the process of grading others. My fellow colleagues patiently helped me through it and before I knew it, I was hooked as a VE looking forward to next month's exam session as my confidence grew along with the relationships formed with these other VE colleagues. Emerson's Law has taken effect because we enjoy working together knowing we are having an impact growing our Ham Radio population one test taker at a time. All the other hassles of getting up early, taking my morning meds, making a strong cup of (ambition) coffee and driving to whatever test site being used, seems to be a minor barrier on what we get accomplished.

So now it's your turn. Find something you like to do to help the Ham Radio community grow. You will not regret it.

15 February 2023 Business Meeting ~ Minutes

Called to order @ 7:33 PM

Repeater Status Report – from Bob DeMattia – K1IW

- **Prudential Antenna** – The antenna relocation is still pending. No change from last month. They are still waiting on repair parts.
- **10 Meter Weston Receiver**: - The Receiver Antenna is good as far as SWR is concerned. It is reasonably flat across 10M and begins to show non-resonance outside the band. Kevin – K1KWP – asked is the hardware good enough. The intermittent functioning still remains.
- **6 Meters**: Transmit output power issue appears to be due to the transmitter filter. The filter has been removed and will be checked by Bryan- W1BRI. It is still on without the filter.
- **2 Meter Weston Repeater** – The 2M antenna is bad. It has a flat 3:1 SWR across the 2M band. The duplexer / cabling improves the match a little so the TX only sees 2:1. Steve – KC1LPZ – could not be heard on last night's TIOS Net until switching back to .67. Bob – K1IW – had several QSOs on .79 without any issue. Roger – WA1NVC - asked is it the hardline or the coax that may be the problem. Dave – N1DCH – suggests we do an investigation of this repeater because we do not know if it is a bad connector, water damage to the cable or something else. Bob – K1IW – concluded this discussion by not replacing the antenna or any of the other component until we do one more thorough investigation. That means even checking the inside of the building in case some modification damaged even the hardline. There is no urgency to spend any money yet until we can isolate the fault. That applies to both the 2M and 10M in Weston.
- **North Reading**: No change. The Kasa Smartswitch is a temporary solution to allow a remote reset. A more permanent solution will be done in the Spring. Also required is a thorough cleanout of cobwebs, dust, mice excrement, etc. at this site.
- **Burlington**: No change. We have reports of 5 second dropouts during the TIOS weekly net.
- **All other MMRA Repeater systems normal** – No malfunctions reported.

Trustee for 146.79: Bob Evans – N1BE – is moving out of the area and will not be able to be trustee of Weston 2M Repeater. He said he will finish his term as director. Bob – K1IW – suggested Joe Weisse – W1HAI – as the replacement trustee. He was nominated, received a unanimous vote and he accepts being the replacement Trustee.

Repeater Linking during the day: Larry Banks - W1DYJ - presented Joe Weisse's – W1HAI's – suggestion to re-visit how we link some of the repeaters during the daytime. To summarize a motion was made and passed unanimously to add Quincy 2m and North Reading 2m to the list of repeaters that are linked to HUB1 full-time. Everything else is the same.

While on this subject of linking, it was discussed that all the 2M repeaters except the Weston 2M, be linked together as the default setting. No decision was made on that suggestion. Kevin – K1KWP – had suggested an increase in repeater linking at many prior Board Meetings and now the timing seems right to continue in that direction as a potential way to increase activity. This will likely be an ongoing topic to discuss.

The Spam Incident(s): Someone has taken the email address off our website (and the Algonquin Amateur Radio Club website) and is sending an email that appears to come from both Club Presidents to their respective Board Members. At least two bogus email addresses of the sender have been identified and has been reported directly to the originating email host provider for further action.

Algonquin Amateur Radio Club – Marlborough MA

February 18, 2023, 9AM – 1PM

FLEA MARKET – Saturday,

The MMRA has purchased two tables for this event. The MMRA VE Team will be present for testing. Dave will be bringing banners and some signs. Kevin will be bringing other equipment to this flea market.

20 December Business Meeting ~ Minutes—cont'd

VE Exam Session: Saturday, February 18th at 9:00 AM at the Lt Charles W. Whitcomb School (formerly Intermediate/Middle School), 25 Union Street or off Bolton Street (Rt. 85), Marlborough, MA.. Contact Ron (W01E@mmra.org) for more information.

- Please tell your friends, who are interested in taking tests, that they must have photo IDs and FRNs. SS#s are NOT accepted by the FCC.
- Copy of license required if upgrading (or Proof from the ARRL, or QRZ website)
-

Newsletter Information to Larry – W1DYJ: Deadline is Friday, February 24th. Email W1DYJ@mmra.org

MMRA Monthly “Membership” Meetings will continue to be hybrid, - both at a physical location and on Zoom. All Business Monthly Meetings on Zoom only

Upcoming Meetings

March 15, 7:30 pm -AREDN Michael Ford – WZOC

New England SciTech

April 19, 7:30 pm – Business Meeting

May 17, 7:30 pm – Annual election of officers

Speaker is Dave Hornbaker – An Introduction to POTA

Marlborough Central Fire Station Training Room & Zoom

Tuesday nights, 8:00 pm all year long

Technical, Information and Other Stuff Net – MMRA Linked Repeaters

Zoom Meeting Attendees::

Dave Hornbaker, N1DCH; Bob Evans, N1BE; Stephen Babbitt, KC1LPZ; Ken Horton, KA1GFN; Larry Banks, W1DYJ; Kevin W Paetzold, K1KWP; Jason Peardon, W1HFP; John Spencer, WA1MDD; Roger Coulson, WA1NVC; Howard Shpegel, AC1MN; Joe Wiesse, W1HAL; Bob DeMattia, K1IW; Tom Turner, KB1OQA; Bruce Pigott, KC1US

Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Stephen M Babbitt – KC1LPZ – Clerk

Long time member, director, and trustee N1BE moving to NH

As pointed out in the above minutes, Rob Evans – N1BE – is moving out of the area. A luncheon was held in Rob’s honor after the Algonquin Flea.

Seated, from left to right, are Bruce, KC1US; Steve, KC1LPZ; **Rob—N1BE**, Kevin, K1KWP, Scot, N1JSM, Bryan, W1BRI, and Ron, W01E (out of photo frame.)

Dave, N1DCH photo



Phishing Attacks! ~ Jason Peardon, W1HFP

We want to make members aware that a scammer has been sending fake emails impersonating our President, Dave Hornbaker N1DCH. The emails are a "phishing" tactic attempting to convince others that Dave needs their assistance with club financial matters. Seemingly, the scammer would ultimately request you to buy Gift Cards for some club event and you would be reimbursed afterwards. So far we have only seen these mails go to other Board members and not any members. However, we encourage you to report mails like this to your email provider

if/when you receive them. They usually have an email you can forward these to or some other means to report as SPAM. Also, like QRM'ers it is best to not correspond with a scammer. Block/Report/Move-On.

Events/Administrative Expenses
(Networking Activities Website
Hosting) & Program Services

Inbox

David Hornbaker 1:00 PM

to [REDACTED]@mmra.org

Are you available?

I am currently out of the office with limited phone accessibility. Will you be able to handle an Events/Administrative Expenses (Networking Activities Website Hosting) & Program Services which is due, on our behalf?

I need a member to take care of the request. Send me an email back in regard to this.

Best regards
David Hornbaker
n1dch@mmra.org

We urge everyone to be vigilant with respect to all email communications. Always check the "FROM" address on the email (not just the "Name") but also know that even "FROM" can be faked/spoofed. When in doubt check the email headers. The email headers contains meta data about the message from inception to delivery. This includes information such as which servers were involved in sending the mail, if the email passed forgery checks like SPF, if the email was digital signed for authenticity with DKIM, etc. A great free site to check email headers when you need to is <https://mha.azurewebsites.net/>

Scam emails like this can look even more convincing on smart phones and tablets so be extra careful on small screens — see the evidence to the left.

Treasurer's Report ~ Kevin Paetzold, K1KWP

The MMRA receives a significant amount of donations each year. On behalf of the club I would like to acknowledge and thank people below who donated since my list in the November newsletter: **WB1EMS** and **N1CVO**

In other news, the "1200 Radio Club" which previously operated the Billerica 147.12 repeater has dissolved itself. Its remaining funds were split and donated to both the MMRA and FEMARA. This resulted in a donation to the MMRA of about \$800.

The club had various membership spending votes in the last 2 years to authorize spending (anything over \$500 requires membership vote) and as a result there have been a lot of investments into the repeater system in the past 2 years. A total of \$15733.40!!!

Among other reasons this was done:

- to make the system more reliable
- make maintaining the system easier
- updating repeaters with old hardware, much of it > 30 years old just in MMRA service time (not counting when it was manufactured)
- antenna upgrades
- controller upgrades (including some last time buys for the SCOM 7330 controllers the club uses).

In the previous year which started on June 1, 2021 that funds balance was \$32020.53 and ended on May 31, 2022 with funds balance \$27392.63 . The cost of investments/improvements to the system during that year were \$10,919.70. Maintenance (things that had to be fixed) during that year were \$1,878.42.

The funds balance was \$27392.63 on June 1, 2022. At this writing on Feb 24, 2023 the balance is \$25671.49.

Upcoming MMRA Meetings

Note: Meeting locations and times are subject to change.

Consult the MMRA website for the most up-to-date information. ZOOM Teleconference login info is available once you log into your account on MMRA.ORG

Non-members: if you wish to attend, email contact@mmra.org.

Wednesday, 15 March – Membership Meeting ~ 7:30

Location: New England Sci-Tech + Zoom Teleconference

Topic: AREDN: aka. The Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network

Michael Ford, WZOC, and friends

Wednesday, 19 April – Business Meeting ~ 7:30

Location: Zoom Teleconference

Wednesday, 17 May – ANNUAL Membership Meeting ~ 7:30

Location: Marlborough Central Fire Station + Zoom Teleconference

Topic: Elections + TBD

MMRA Leaders

Executive Board — Officers

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| President | Dave Hornbaker | N1DCH |
| Vice President | John Spencer | WA1MDD |
| Secretary | Jason Peardon | W1HFP |
| Treasurer | Kevin Paetzold | K1KWP |
| Clerk | Stephen Babbitt | KC1LPZ |

Executive Board — Directors

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------|
| Director »2023 | Bob DeMattia | K1IW |
| Director »2023 | Roger Coulson | WA1NVC |
| Director »2024 | Rob Evans | N1BE |
| Director »2024 | James Lee | N1DDK |

Technical Officer

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------|
| Technical Officer | Bob DeMattia | K1IW |
|-------------------|--------------|------|

President Emeritus

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Bob DeMattia | K1IW |
|--------------|------|

Technical Officer Emeritus

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Bryan Cerqua | W1BRI |
|--------------|-------|

Repeater Trustees

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Belmont 145.43 | Ed Curley | KC1CLA* |
| Billerica 147.12 | Mike Rioux | W1USN* |
| Boston 146.82 | John Mullaney | K1BOS* |
| Boston 927.0625 | Rick Zach | K1RJZ* |
| Brookline 145.16 | Joyce DeMattia | K1MRA* |
| Brookline Rcv 146.82 | Bob Phinney | K5TEC* |
| Burlington 224.88 | Bruce Pigott | KC1US* |
| Hopkinton 449.575 | Bryan Cerqua | W1BRI* |
| Marlborough 53.81 | Bryan Cerqua | W1BRI* |
| Marlborough: 29.68, 144.39, 147.27, 223.94, 448.225, 449.925, 927.70 | Lowell 442.25 all as W1MRA | KC1CLA*, W1QPR* |
| Mendon 146.61 | Kevin Paetzold | K1KWP* |
| N. Reading 146.715 | Bruce Pigott | KC1US* |
| N. Reading 446.775 | Larry Banks | W1DYJ* |
| Quincy 224.40 | Bill Dunn | N1KUG* |
| Quincy 146.67 | Bryan Cerqua | W1BRI* |
| Weston 146.79 | Joe Weisse | W1HAI* |
| Weston 224.70 | Eddie Mulhern | N1NOM* |
| Weston 442.70 | Dave Hornbaker | N1DCH* |

Additional, non-Voting

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--------|
| Newsletter Editor | Larry Banks | W1DYJ* |
| Emerg. Coord. | Kevin Paetzold | K1KWP* |
| Pub. Serv. Coord. | Bruce Pigott | KC1US* |
| VEC Liaison | Ron Rothman | WO1E* |
| Net Manager | Larry Banks | W1DYJ* |
| Web Page Editor | Bob DeMattia | K1IW* |
| Social Media Coord. | Steve Umans | K8ZBE* |

* Appointed

Don't Forget — Join Us!

Every Tuesday @ 8 PM

Technical, Informational and Other Stuff Net

The MMRA's repeaters are linked Tuesday nights for the TIOS Net. Keep up with what's happening in the MMRA and ask your ham related questions.

Net Control Operators:

| | | |
|--------|--------|----------------|
| Week 1 | W1DYJ | Larry Banks |
| Week 2 | KB1OQA | Tom Turner |
| Week 3 | KC1CLA | Ed Curley |
| Week 4 | K1KWP | Kevin Paetzold |
| Week 5 | K1BTZ | Jonathan Traum |

To connect using Echolink during the Net:

- Echolink Conference *NEW-ENG2*

NOTE: we need another NC to be available as a substitute. If you are interested, email W1DYJ@mmra.org

Contacting the MMRA



Members: mmra@groups.io
*Note: This may take some time.
 You must be approved by the moderator.*
 Officers: contact@mmra.org
 Control Ops: control-ops@mmra.org



<http://www.mmra.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/mmrahama>

MMRA VE SESSIONS

Check out <https://www.mmra.org/exam.html> or email ve@mmra.org

Ask your friends to become a member Just let them know that it is not fully automated. Although they can log into the MMRA website immediately, they need to be manually processed. This could take up to a week.

If you haven't updated your MMRA profile in a while,
 now is the time!
 Go to < MMRA.ORG > and log in to do so.

Previous issues of the MMRA Newsletter are available at: www.mmra.org > [Newsletter Archive](#) (on the left)

Heavy Hitters Traffic Net

This net is active on our repeaters Sunday to Friday evenings from 10—11 PM. Active repeaters are:

2m: Mendon (146.61), Quincy (146.67), North Reading (146.715), Boston (146.82), and Marlborough (147.27)

220: Marlborough (223.94), Quincy (224.40), Weston (224.70), and Burlington (224.88),

440: Lowell (442.25), North Reading (446.775), Hopkinton (449.575), and Marlborough (449.925)



NEW ENGLAND SCI-TECH

New England Sci-Tech Inc is a new 501(c)(3) STEM education center, amateur radio training center, and maker space located at 16 Tech Circle, Natick. It is home to New England Amateur Radio Inc (NE1AR) and the youth radio club Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society (STARS). NE Sci-Tech welcomes memberships and donations via www.NESciTech.org or www.NE1AR.org.

Get connected on the MMRA Repeater System ~ Dave Hornbaker N1DCH

What is the best way to get connected on the MMRA repeater system? Try announcing yourself! Just say your call sign followed by "listening". If you want, you can include the last 3 digits of the repeater frequency. For example, "N1DCH listening" or maybe "N1DCH listening on 925", you may very well get a response. Try to connect by announcing yourself several times.

Most of the time, Marlborough Hub1 (449.495) is linked to the following repeaters, Boston (146.820), North Reading (446.775), Mendon (146.610), Lowell (442.250), and Hopkinton (449.575). Remember that when the repeaters are linked, you need to wait two or three seconds after you key up and before you speak. This is especially important on the T1aOS net on Tuesday when most of the repeaters are linked.

You can also link (and delink) the repeaters yourself. See the information you received when you became a member, or check the [User Control Codes](#) once you log into the MMRA web.

Try one of the non-linked repeaters too. There are Hams monitoring them as well. For more information on the repeater network and how it is linked at various times, check out https://mmra.org/repeaters/repeater_linking.html.