



The Minuteman Repeater Association

# The Minuteman

Volume 33, Number 5

May 2004



## President's Corner by Kevin Paetzold, K1KWP

As I announced in the previous newsletter, a nomination committee was formed in order to find candidates for the elected positions that need to be filled at the annual meeting on May 19. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can see the nomination slate. There is some significant change in this slate compared to the slates of recent years. First off, I think that it is very good news that the slate contains two people who have not served on the board before. John, W1JMC, has accepted nomination as Secretary and Tom, W1CDA, has accepted nomination as a director. I am also very happy that Bob, K1IW, who has been serving as Secretary, has accepted the nomination for President.

I have commented in previous newsletters about my belief that there needs to be turnover in the various elected positions in the MMRA. Besides burnout another reason is that I think it is important that one name, or one face, is not too closely identified with the MMRA and that having the same President for many years in a row carries that risk. I agreed to be nominated for Treasurer because I do plan to remain active in the organization.

From the limited amount of MMRA history that I know of it seems that the organization has gone through several eras where a more or less consistent group of people served on the board. There seem to have been various turning points where one era/group ended and another era/group began. I believe that this is one of those times. Most of the same people have served on the board as officers and directors during my time as President and there is now, because of the nomination slate, the potential for significant turnover on the board.

I believe that many good things happened during this era. Of course most of these good things were not the results of anything that I did but were the results of efforts made either by individual officers/directors or the whole board. I think the most dramatic improvements were in the area of the club's fi-

nances as our fixed operating costs were cut dramatically to the point where we can afford to make incremental, but significant, improvements and additions to the MMRA repeaters and the MMRA linked system. Another major accomplishment, mostly due to the efforts of W1BRI, is that the technical health of the MMRA repeaters and system is in a very good state and with the currently planned updates, primarily by W1BRI and K1IW, will be even better soon.

As I reflect on the time that I was President there are some disappointments. I very much wanted to extend the MMRA's coverage of other parts of the state (SE Mass, Cape Cod, Fall River, etc.) I also tried very hard to increase what I see as the abysmal attendance at both the general membership and the board meetings. I made little or no apparent progress on either of these two goals, but not for lack of trying.

I was going to try to thank all of the various people in the MMRA who volunteered their time to be weekly net controls, give presentations at meetings, offered to teach a course that we were interested in, held elective office, donated expensive services and equipment and/or made other big differences in the MMRA during my tenure. I decided that it was dangerous to list people because I am sure I would forget someone so I am taking the easy way out and not listing individuals. I hope that you all know who you are!

Have a good summer. I hope to hear you on the Tuesday night weekly nets, see you at the May meeting, at the Slygo work party, and at the Boxborough ARRL Convention.

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# About the Minuteman Repeater Association

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

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 [n1be@arri.net](mailto:n1be@arri.net). The deadline for articles is the last Friday of the month preceding the meeting.

The MMRA meets 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.

Each Tuesday evening at 8PM the MMRA links most of the repeaters for an open net. The topic is "Technical Information and Other Stuff". Feel free to 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 [mmra@mmra.org](mailto:mmra@mmra.org). The MMRA web site is: <http://www.mmra.org/>

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

*MMRA requests that no part of this newsletter 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	Note
Marlboro	53.810	71.9	W1BRI	PTL
Marlboro	146.610	146.2	N1BHI	FTL
Quincy	146.670	146.2	W1BRI	PTL
Stoneham	146.715	146.2	N1NVL	PTL
Weston	146.820	146.2	N1BE	PTL
Brookline	146.985	88.5	W1FCC	Affiliated, PTL
Marlboro	147.270	146.2	W1MRA	PTL (to 10 Meters)
Hopkinton	223.940	103.5	N1BHI	FTL
Quincy	224.400	103.5	N1KUG	FTL
Weston	224.700	103.5	N1NOM	FTL
Stoneham	446.725	88.5	N1NVK	NA
Brookline	447.875	88.5	K1IW	Affiliated, PTL
Shrewsbury	449.575	88.5	W1BRI	FTL
Marlboro	449.925	88.5	W1MRA	Network Hub
Marlboro	144.390	none	N1QPR-2	APRS Digipeater
?	145.630	146.2	W1MRA	Fox Box
Internet	Echolink node 94940 connects to the Network Hub			

**Notes:** FTL = Full Time Linked to the Hub.  
PTL = Part Time Linked (on demand).  
NA = linking is Not Available.

**PL:** PL is now required on 2 meters to prevent interference.  
The code **750** will temporarily disable the PL requirement.

**Using the Autopatch:** Only the hub has a telephone line.  
(1) Link to the hub if necessary.  
(2) Then bring up the patch using the 449.925 autopatch codes.

**Control codes are sent to members upon receipt of dues.**

## MMRA Leaders

President	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Vice President	Steve Telsey	N1BDA
Secretary	Bob DeMattia	K1IW
Treasurer	Bill Northup	N1QPR
Clerk	Jon Titus	KZ1G
Technical Officer	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI
Director	Larry Banks	W1DYJ

Director	Shelley Northup	N1VJE
Director	Steve Schwarm	W3EVE
Director	Bill Thorpe	WA1NLR
Emergency Coordinator	Bill Northup	N1QPR
Public Service Coordinator	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Newsletter Editor	Bob Evans	N1BE
VEC Liaison	Bill Wade	K1IJ
Web Page Editor	Bob DeMattia	K1IW

## MMRA Bylaw Revisions

A number of revisions to the MMRA bylaws will be voted upon at the May general meeting. The descriptions and content of these revisions follow. New text is in **bold**, removed text has double underline, commentary is in *italics*.

*Proposed Revision #1: A change to Article V, section 1(a): This change increases the amount required for a vote from three to five hundred dollars, and clarifies the voting requirements to mean present at a meeting. It also adds provisions for electronic balloting (more in #2 below).*

All expenditures in excess of three five hundred dollars must be approved by the majority of the membership **present at a meeting. The subject of the vote must be announced to the members in the meeting announcement. Alternatively,** such a vote may be accomplished by mail **or by electronic means** as provided in Article IV section 8 **and Article IV section 9. If this alternate method is used, a majority of the full membership is required.**

*Proposed Revision #2: A change to Article IV to provide for an electronic method of voting by adding a section 9: Article IV section 9*

A vote by mail may be partially substituted by a vote by e-mail or by web-based balloting. Under this section, at the discretion of the club secretary, all members that have provided an e-mail address to the club may have their ballot instructions and all other material that would be sent by mail, sent to them electronically to their registered e-mail address. When this method is used, the member will have the option to return to the ballot to the club secretary electronically, they may print the ballot and return it by mail. Any member who has not provided an e-mail address, or any recipient whose e-mail is rejected for any reason shall have their ballot sent by mail as described in the previous article. An electronically received response will have the full weight and validity of a mail response.

In the case where the secretary receives more than one response from the same member, the last response received will be considered the member's final vote and all previous responses of that member will be discarded. The e-mail transmission shall take place within twenty-four hours of material sent by non-electronic mail, and the return date for all ballots, electronic and otherwise, shall be the same.

*Proposed Revision #3: A change to Article IV section 3 to provide for a pro-rated dues policy:*

Applications for membership shall be made on an approved form, and forwarded to the Secretary accompanied by full payment of the dues for one year, **or by a pro-rated amount determined and approved by the board of directors. The pro-rated amount may be applied to new membership only, and must be published and available to all persons. For the purposes of this section, a new member applicant is any person who has not held an active membership in the organization at any time in the past five calendar years.**

Upon acceptance of the application, the applicant will be issued a membership card **document** signed by an officer and stating the period for which membership is valid. Issuance of a membership card **document** shall be conclusive evidence of membership.

*Proposed Revision #4: An addition to Article II section 14 to clearly define the membership requirement for board members, trustees, and appointees:*

All officers, directors, trustees, and other official appointees are required to keep their membership in good standing. All members of this group shall be provided a three-month grace period from the dues payment date. At the end of this grace period, the person will be considered to have voluntarily resigned, and the processes defined in the relevant sections of this document will handle the vacant position.

*Proposed Revision #5: A change to Article III section 1 paragraph (e) to remove some unnecessary duties from the clerk description:*

Clerk: To serve on the board of Directors; to keep the official Corporate records and seal of the Corporation; to have custody of the Corporation's charter; to maintain accurate records of all meetings of the Board of Directors; to record and preserve all minutes of the meetings of the membership; to cause to be filed the corporation annual report with the Secretary of State and other proper authorities all documents required thereby and in conformity with the statutes of the Commonwealth.

## Help formulate "Antenna Fest" ideas

ANTENNA EVENT IDEAS: An Antenna Fest "SHOW and TELL" event is in the idea stage of development. All clubs and association members or non-members are welcome.

We want to present ideas from both new and those seasoned at "show & tell".

Precedence? Venue? Format? Attendance? These are

still under consideration. All thoughts, ideas and suggestions are welcome!

Do you have any interest in attending? Any interest in helping? If so, please contact:

Steve Telsey, N1BDA, N1BDA@arri.net

Rich Mullen, N1CRC, MullenR@Computer.org

## MMRA Officer Elections

Board members will be elected at the Annual MMRA Meeting on May 19. A nominating committee led by K1IW has nominated the following candidates. Additional nominations will be accepted until we are about to vote each office.

Office	Nominee		
President	K1IW	Bob DeMattia	
Vice President	N1BDA	Steve Telsey	(Incumbent)
Treasurer	K1KWP	Kevin Paetzold	
Secretary	W1JMC	John McGovern	
Clerk	N1BE	Bob Evans	
Director <sup>1</sup>	WA1NLR	Bill Thorpe	(Incumbent)
Director <sup>1</sup>	W1CDA	Tom Muise	
<sup>1</sup> NOTE: There are two Director positions to be filled			

In addition to the offices to be filled, the following people are voting members of the board:

Office	Board Member		Trustee of
Technical Officer	W1BRI	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI <sup>2</sup>
Director	W1DYJ	Larry Banks	
Director	W3EVE	Steve Schwarm	
Trustee	N1QPR	Bill Northup	W1MRA <sup>2,3</sup>
Trustee	N1NVK	Clark Conti	446.725
Trustee	N1NVL	Chris Conti	146.715
Trustee	N1BHI	Andy Morrison	N1BHI <sup>2</sup>
Trustee	N1KUG	Bill Dunn	224.400
Trustee	N1NOM	Eddie Mulhern	224.700
<sup>2</sup> NOTE: Trustee of more than one repeater. (See page 2.)			
<sup>3</sup> NOTE: Bill is trustee for the W1MRA club call sign.			

## Ham Operators sought to help at the "The Big E"

W1E is a special event call sign to be used at the Eastern States Exposition during Friday September 17 through October 3, 2004 in West Springfield MA. The Ham Radio Booth Committee makes arrangements for the HF and VHF stations, antennas as well as set up and tear down.

The booth must be manned each day from 10 AM until 10 PM. **The committee invites other Hams to join them manning the booth. For those who schedule to work the booth in advance, the fair gives us a free ticket and a parking pass good for the whole day.** Two volunteers are needed for each shift. This allows time during lulls for one person to wander for a bit to exercise and get to see some of the fair.

With Ham Radio now having been placed in support of Homeland Security, the booth is a functioning Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The NTS messages from volunteers and from the public will be relayed to NTS voice Nets and via the W1E packet station.

For more information, please contact:

Art Geary, WA1ART, art81a@hotmail.com

Norm Gregoire, W1BMK, w1bmk@arrl.net

Or surf to our web site for more details:

[http://www.geocities.com/w1e\\_big\\_e/](http://www.geocities.com/w1e_big_e/)

## Towers and Antennas For Sale

ROHN 25 50' tower, with HAZER (new winch and cable), Ham-M Rotor (rebuilt by Rotor Doc), thrust bearings, heavy duty control cables, coax, CUSHCRAFT A4S TRIBAND BEAM with 30/40 meter add-on kit, B&W ALLBAND DE-LUXE KW DIPOLE (great on the Hazer side-arm), all manuals.

List today over \$2000. Will sell for less than 50% that amount. Offers invited.

Beam, etc. is down, in excellent condition. Tower is on hinged base—need a few people and 4-part block and tackle to lower the tower from the ground (no climbing)!

Call Steve, W1WSN, at 781-341-0974 (leave message) or at office 508-427-6911.

TRI-EX 71' TOWER,- complete with extra heavy 4-section motorized- gearbox. Full documentation, blueprints, base, new tripod anchors, stays & turnbuckles, motor, new gearbox, mast, electrical box, hardline connectors. Collapsed length 21.5' !!!

TELREX 4-ELE 20M BEAM.

TELREX 5-ELE 15M BEAM.

Transport from Concord: (Auto ramp truck works great). Price negotiable.

Contact: Rich Mullen, N1CRC, Concord, MA, MullenR@Computer.org



## Last Meeting: AO-40 and the New Ham Satellites



Photos by Bill, N1QPR.



## Public Service Volunteer Opportunities in the New England Division

Listing public events at which Amateur Radio communications is providing a public service and for which additional volunteers from the Amateur Community are needed and welcome. Please contact the person listed to identify how you may serve and what equipment you may need to bring.

The most up-to-date copy of this list is maintained as <http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>

**Every event listed is looking for communications volunteers.**

Date	Location	Event	Contact	Tel/Email
May 15	Portsmouth NH to Ogunquit ME	Lung Association bike trek	David KA1VJU	603-581-2602 ka1vju@dmegin.com
May 16	Ogunquit ME to Portsmouth NH	Lung Association bike trek	David KA1VJU	603-581-2602 ka1vju@dmegin.com
May 16	Devens MA	Parker Classic Road Race	Stan KD1LE	978-433-5090 kd1le@arrl.net
May 23	Boston MA	ALA Asthma walk	Bruce KC1US	781-275-3740 kc1us04@amateur-radio.net
Jun 13	Wayland MA	ALS scenic bicycle tour	Bruce KC1US	781-275-3740 kc1us04@amateur-radio.net
Jun 26	Boston MA to Bourne	MS GMG Bike Tour	John N1PYN	508-588-3250 n1pyn@arrl.net
Jun 27	Bourne MA to Boston	MS GMG Bike Tour	John N1PYN	508-588-3250 n1pyn@arrl.net
Jun 27	Marshfield MA	ADA Tour de Cure	Bruce KC1US	781-275-3740 kc1us04@amateur-radio.net
Jul 4	Westminster MA	Fitchburg Longsjo Classic	Ralph KD1SM	978-582-7351 kd1sm@arrl.net
Jul 5	Fitchburg MA	Fitchburg Longsjo Classic	Ralph KD1SM	978-582-7351 kd1sm@arrl.net
Sep 10	Hyannis MA to Brewster	MS Challenge walk	John N1PYN	508-588-3250 n1pyn@arrl.net
Sep 11	Brewster MA to Eastham	MS Challenge walk	John N1PYN	508-588-3250 n1pyn@arrl.net
Sep 12	Brewster MA to Dennis	MS Challenge walk	John N1PYN	508-588-3250 n1pyn@arrl.net

This list is published periodically as demand warrants by Stan, KD1LE, and Ralph, KD1SM. Our usual distribution is via packet to NEBBS, via Internet mail to the arrl-nediv-list and ema-arrl distribution lists, and on the World Wide Web (see URL above). If other mailing list owners wish us to distribute via their lists we will be happy to oblige. Permission is herewith granted to republish this list in its entirety provided credit is given to the authors and the URL below is included. Send comments, corrections, and updates to:

(via packet) KD1SM@K1UGM.#EMA.MA.USA,  
(via Internet) KD1SM@ARRL.NET.

We make an attempt to confirm entries with the coordinator unless the information is from another published source. We very much appreciate the assistance we have been receiving from our 'scouts'; everyone is welcome to send us postings.

Refer to <http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv> for the most recent version of the PSLIST.

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## ARRL New England Division Convention (Buxboro)

Planning is underway for MMRA participation at the Buxboro convention. ( <http://www.buxboro.org/> ) The MMRA will have a suite and we will provide talk-in on our repeaters. Setup is on Friday August 13th; the convention itself is on the weekend of Saturday August 14th and Sunday the 15th.

K1KWP proposed that we have video projector to show the large collection of MMRA photos and also show a live APRS demo/screen.

K1IW suggests that we consider having a repeater, perhaps the one destined for Brookline, in booth to show people an actual repeater.

**Volunteers are needed** to help with setup, do talk-in and to staff the suite. **We will be using the Tuesday night nets and the MMRA mailing list to recruit your help with event.** Please consider attending the convention and spending a few hours to help the MMRA.

## Upcoming and Summertime MMRA Events

### Wednesday May 19: Annual Meeting of the MMRA

This is a general membership meeting and all members are strongly encouraged to attend as this meeting will also have the elections for officers for the 2004-2005 membership year. There also will be a presentation at this meeting by Steve Rudin, W1WSN, MMRA member number 1.

**Saturday June 12: Work party at Slygo in Marlborough commencing at 10AM.** This is the location of the 449.925, 147.270 repeaters, the 52.81 receivers, and the 144.390/145.030 digipeaters. This is a chance for people to see the Slygo shelter and the equipment it contains as well as a chance to help with the work required to keep this site functional, operating, and environmentally secure.

**Saturday August 14 and Sunday August 15: ARRL New England Division Convention in Boxborough MA.** At the convention the MMRA will once again be running the talk-in station and will be staffing a suite/booth. We are looking for people to help us staff the talk-in station and to help staff the booth. Details elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Wednesday August 18: MMRA board meeting.** The first board meeting of the 2004-2005 membership year. Discussion will include budget/plans for the upcoming year, updates (technical and otherwise) since the "Annual Meeting" and the previous board meeting.

**Wednesday September 15: MMRA general membership meeting.** All members are strongly encouraged to attend, as this will be the first meeting of the new membership year.

## Directions to the MMRA Meeting

The next MMRA meeting will be at the Waltham Weston Corporate Center, 201 Jones Road, Waltham, MA. Jones Road connects to Rte 117 about one eighth mile West of Rte 128. It is an industrial park with a 6-story office building. (The building is located about 1 mile south of the Waltham Uno's.) **Talk-in is on the Weston repeater, 146.82 MHz.**

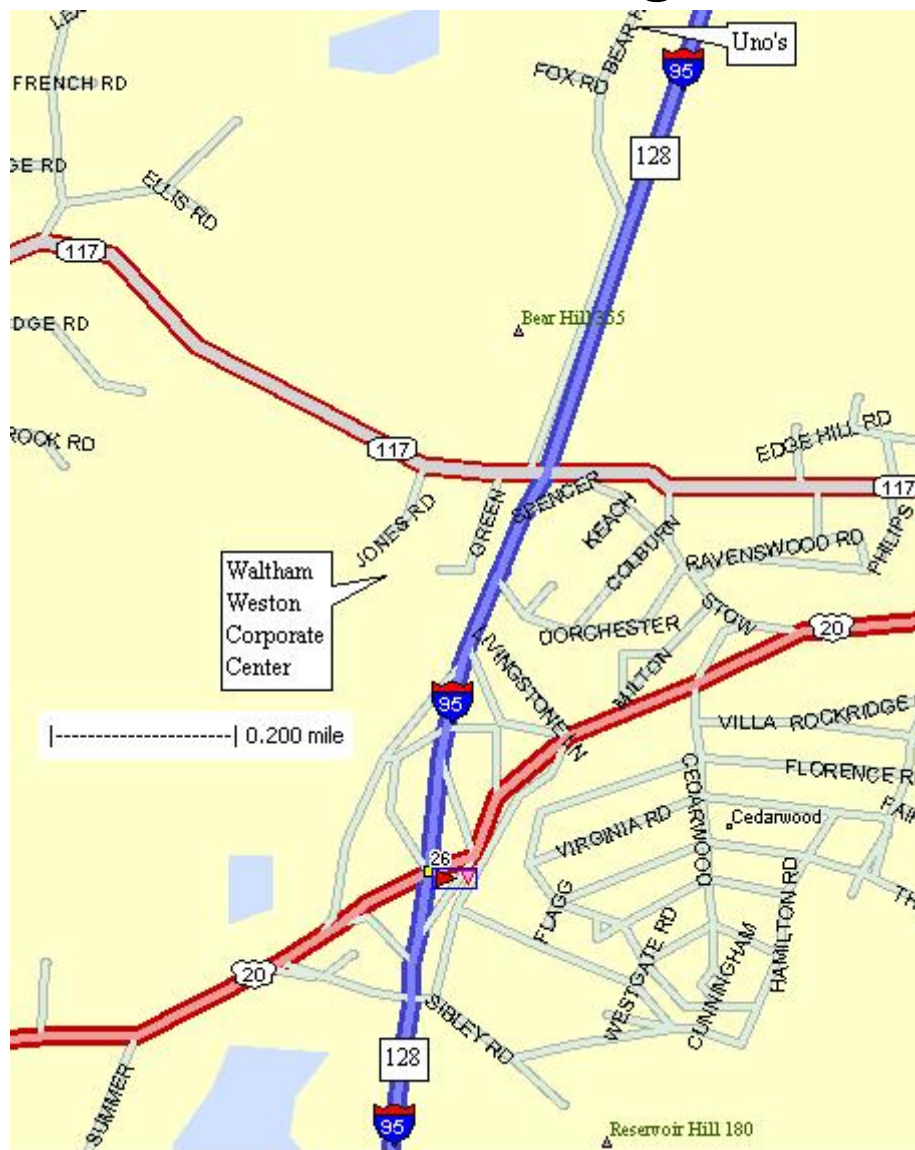
**From Rte 128 (I-95):** Take the Rte 20 exit. Head East on Rte 20 and follow the signs to Rte 117. Turn left onto Rte 117 West at the intersection, then follow the directions "From the East", below.

**From the East:** Take Rte 117 West. Shortly after passing over Rte 128 and just past the Mobil station, turn left into Jones Road at the flashing light. Continue at Step 2 below.

**From the West:** Take Rte 117 East. Shortly after crossing the Weston/Waltham line, turn right into Jones Road at the flashing light. Continue at Step 2 below.

**Step 2:** Follow Jones Road to the bottom of the hill. As you approach, there is a right turn before the building. Take this road and park on the North side of the building. You should enter on the North side of the building.

The exterior entrances are locked at 7PM, but there will be someone at the North entrance to open the door for you.





## Next Meeting — Wednesday May 19, 2004

### W1WSN: The Origins of the MMRA

The MMRA will meet at the Waltham Weston Corporate Center, 201 Jones Road, Waltham, MA 02451. Directions and maps are on the previous page and on [www.mmra.org](http://www.mmra.org).

This is the annual MMRA meeting. There will be votes on proposed bylaw changes and officer elections.

Steve Rudin, W1WSN, with MMRA membership number 1, will give a brief summary of what FM and repeaters were like in the late 1960's, and how the MMRA was born, incorporated, and expanded, until the membership reached a number in excess of 500! We've come a long way since then, and you're invited to

sample a piece of history! Steve's contemplating a move to Florida in the not too distant future, so this may be the last opportunity to hear a fascinating story!

**The meeting will start at 7:30PM.** A ground floor conference room has been reserved for the MMRA. **Talk-in is on the 146.820 Weston repeater.**

## Calendar of Ham Radio Events

**May 16:** Flea at MIT, Cambridge MA  
**May 19:** **MMRA meeting & election**  
**May 29:** NARC Flea. Vernon CT  
**Jun 4:** HCRA Flea. Feeding Hills MA  
**Jun 12:** **MMRA work party at Slygo**  
**Jun 20:** Flea at MIT, Cambridge MA  
**Jul 17:** Antique Radio flea, Nashua NH  
**Jul 18:** Flea at MIT, Cambridge MA  
**Aug 14-15:** Boxboro ARRL Convention  
**Aug 18:** **MMRA board meeting**  
**Aug 27:** **MMRA Newsletter Deadline**  
**Sept 17:** **MMRA meeting**

(Flea market info from W1GSL list. <http://mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>)



### 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**

### THE MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

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

Email: [mmra@mmra.org](mailto:mmra@mmra.org)



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

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