



# The Minuteman



Volume 14 Number 6

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

Sept 1986

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, SEPT 22, 1986  
PLACE: WESTON CAMPION CENTER  
TIME: 7:30 PM. Doors open at  
7:00 for socializing  
ADGENDA: Business meeting  
Bob Salow speaking on  
CEMARC  
REFRESHMENTS: Coffee and Doughnuts  
RAFFLE: Something(s) every  
Ham will want

\*\*\*\*\* Editorial \*\*\*\*\*

The MMRA certainly wasn't inactive over the summer months, mother nature saw to that. At Weston the antenna tower blew over when a guy wire snapped and at Quincy a lightning bolt came in on the power line and blew 07/67 away.

At Weston we were very fortunate that no damage was incurred to the building or roof where the antenna tower stands. The Tech Crew did a first rate job in getting a temporary antenna up to keep 22/82 on the air and subsequently in installing a new tower, guy lines, and antenna. (See Al Kunian's article following) Fortunately a new antenna had just been acquired and was awaiting installation.

At Quincy the lightning bolt on the A C line took out the power supply and in the process a number of I C chips and various other solid state devices, including microprocessors. We purchased a new 12 volt 35 amp Astron Power Supply and Tom Holmes, WA1ZID chief tech of the 07/67 Repeater and Trustee of the 220 MHz Quincy Repeater, has been arduously digging out the blown devices and replacing them. 07/67 in the meantime has been operating with a standby unit.

As a result of the installation of the new Stationmaster antenna at Weston (22/82) the ERP has been raised with a significant increase in fringe area signal strength. The radome covering the old antenna had completely disintegrated allowing moisture to penetrate the fiberglass cover into the antenna elements.

01/61 at Marlboro has also a new Stationmaster antenna installed, thanks to Andy Morrison, N1BHI, and crew. The same results occurred there; i.e. a significant increase in fringe area signal strength. (See following article)

It goes without saying that the receiving capability of both installations have also improved. The budget for 86/87 will include a request for funds for a new antenna for 115/715 at Stoneham and for the 450 MHz Repeater at Marlboro. Many of us should look at our own antenna installations. A little work can make a big improvement in both receiving capability and transmitting ERP.

In the days to come we are going to try various ideas to draw the club together. It seems the more repeaters we have on the air the more fractured the club becomes. We have to institute programs that are common to all that will act as a binder to the membership.

\*\*\*\* DONT FORGET THE CONVENTION AT \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\* BOXBORO--OCT 18 & 19 \*\*\*\*

73 Salty, K1IAO

## ----- WESTON ANTENNA PARTY -----

TWO TWO EIGHT TWO SAT ON A WALL, TWO TWO EIGHT TWO HAD A GREAT FALL (BUT WAS RESCUED BY HAMS AND BUT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN).

Many of you are aware that the antenna and tower on the 146.22/82 repeater at Weston fell a few weeks ago.

In a display of action rather than words members came forward and had the machine temporarily on the air in a matter of hours, and in fact so quickly, that critics on other repeaters were putting out hot air concerning the demise of the repeater even after it had been playing for some time. Thanks to Rich, N1CRC, and his XYL Debs, N1DDW, who installed his own Gam antenna on the roof so that the repeater would go on the air.

We were lucky that the falling tower did no damage to the facility on which it was installed.

The repeater signal is now better than ever, performing well with the new Super Stationmaster antenna. Last Fall a team went to the roof to straighten the old antenna and found that the weatherproof coating on the antenna had been worn away by the weather and that the internal radiating element was probably defective. Sometime thereafter, a new antenna was purchased from a business connection of Andy, N1BHI, and was already at the site awaiting installation.

Tremendous expenditure of time and effort was made by the hams listed below to make this one of the finest and best installations of an antenna system and few of us realize the detail, equipment, and time required for a brand new installation. We now boast a new tower, antenna, and overrated non metallic set of guy wires that can not rust and will not cause interference (a previous problem).

I owe a great deal of thanks to Andy, N1BHI, who acted for me at times when I had to be absent and who contributed technical assistance as well as toil and effort, and to Peter, WB1DQC, who spent many hours of his vacation working at

home and at the site to insure a proper installation. Peter's time and effort and attention to details encompassed days rather than hours and all users have and will continue to benefit from this for years to come.

People such as Charlie, WA1YRQ, who single handedly dismantled the old antenna plus much more; Bob, W1IBF, who fabricated custom parts; Frank, W1JDO, despite being extremely ill put out a call for help, and provided communication between the antenna installation party and those of us who were on call to obtain hardware and installation parts. I do not mean to slight or offend anyone who did not get special mention above, and some of the people on the list deserve special mention, but space will not allow this.

You all have my profound gratitude and have demonstrated that the true Ham spirit of mutual help and eagerness to do so is still alive and well in the MMRA.

THOSE INVOLVED IN THE 22/82 TOWER  
AND ANTENNA INSTALLATION

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| BOB WILMARTH     | W1CMR  |
| BOB WATERS       | W1PRI  |
| FR. DAN LINEHAN  | W1HWK  |
| RICH MULLEN      | N1CRC  |
| DEBS MULLEN      | N1DDW  |
| ANDY MORRISON    | N1BHI  |
| PETER MUNROE     | WB1DQC |
| ALAN KUNIAN      | KA1AL  |
| JERRY HORNE      | K1G0I  |
| RUFF READ        | KB1HO  |
| JOHN SANGSTER    | W3IKG  |
| BOB GETTYS       | N1BRM  |
| FRANK MORRISON   | KB1FZ  |
| BILL OHRENBERGER | W9OFV  |
| AL FAUL          | KA1AKD |
| FRANK HILBRUNNER | W1JDO  |
| BOB LING         | W1IBF  |
| FRED MCDERMOT    | W1IAQ  |
| JOHN ANTES       | KB1EB  |
| JACKIE MUNROE    | WB1DQB |

DE KA1AL, Trustee

FINANCIAL PICTURE

## 86/87 Income/Expense

(estimated)

|                                     | INCOME     | EXPENSE    |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 85/86 BAL (9/1/86)                  | \$ 5020.00 |            |
| 86/87 DUES INCOME (est 550 members) | 11000.00   |            |
| RAFFLE INCOME                       | 1250.00    |            |
| REPEATER COSTS                      |            |            |
| QUINCY 07/67                        |            |            |
| Electricity                         |            | \$ 120.00  |
| Telephone                           |            | 360.00     |
| RF Amplifier (Mirage B3016R)        |            | 431.00     |
| QUINCY 220 mHz                      |            |            |
| Electricity                         |            | 120.00     |
| Power Supply                        |            | 310.00     |
| RF Amplifier (Mirage C1012R)        |            | 430.00     |
| STONEHAM 115/715                    |            |            |
| Antenna (Super Stationmaster)       |            | 364.00     |
| Misc (Tel, Elec, Final Tubes, etc)  |            | 660.00     |
| WESTON 22/82                        |            |            |
| Rent                                |            | 450.00     |
| Telephone                           |            | 720.00     |
| 450 Link Completion                 |            | 300.00     |
| Hamtronics Repeater (Recvr/Trans)   |            | 600.00     |
| Microprocessor Controller           |            | 1000.00    |
| Misc. Repair Parts                  |            | 300.00     |
| MARLBORO 01/61                      |            |            |
| Telephone                           |            | 360.00     |
| Electricity/Rent                    |            | 150.00     |
| Hamtronics Receiver (2)             |            | 550.00     |
| GLB Preselector                     |            | 150.00     |
| MARLBORO 450mHz                     |            |            |
| Antenna (Super Stationmaster)       |            | 400.00     |
| Heliac Transmission Line            |            | 250.00     |
| Electricity                         |            | 300.00     |
| Telephone                           |            | 360.00     |
| ADMINISTRATION                      |            |            |
| Newsletter                          |            | 1000.00    |
| Insurance                           |            | 1000.00    |
| Secretariat Expenses                |            | 500.00     |
| Treasury Expenses                   |            | 250.00     |
| Meeting Hall Rental                 |            | 375.00     |
| Raffle                              |            | 750.00     |
| Computer Software                   |            | 400.00     |
| Meeting Refreshments                |            | 125.00     |
| CEMARC Membership                   |            | 100.00     |
| TOTAL                               | \$17270.00 | \$13185.00 |

\*\*\*\* MARLBORO REPEATER ANTENNA \*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\* INSTALLATION COMPLETE \*\*\*\*

In early August, the installation of a new Super Stationmaster antenna and heliax feedline was completed at the 01/61 Repeater in Marlboro. According to all reports so far, the repeater has regained superior coverage, and usage is increasing every week....we are hearing a lot of new calls, and some we haven't heard on "61" for some time.

The installation work was done by a small crew of diehard hams on a humid, rainy Saturday....on the telephone pole, doing the hard stuff was Scott Bullock, KA1CLX, and a friend of his, Tom Hughson -- who is not a Ham, but a professional tower man. Also present was Charlie McCarthy, W1BK; he lent his years of experience to the solution of several problems that cropped up during the day .... and lent his car to do the hauling

required to resurrect the antenna. Frank Morrison, KB1FZ, also assisted, spending a good part of his Saturday with us.

I want each of the guys who were there to know I deeply appreciate thier help .... they deserve a lot of credit for what turned out to be a professional looking antenna replacement job.

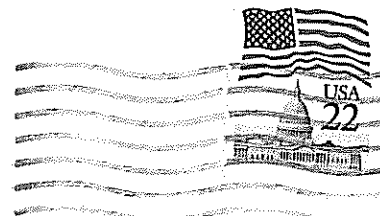
We have more plans for '61 ... new receivers, a better preselector, and a general tuneup of the primary and backup machines will come soon after budget approval by the membership.

73 de N1BHI



**MMRA**

MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.  
 P.O. BOX 2282  
 Lexington, Massachusetts 02173



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**