



The Minuteman



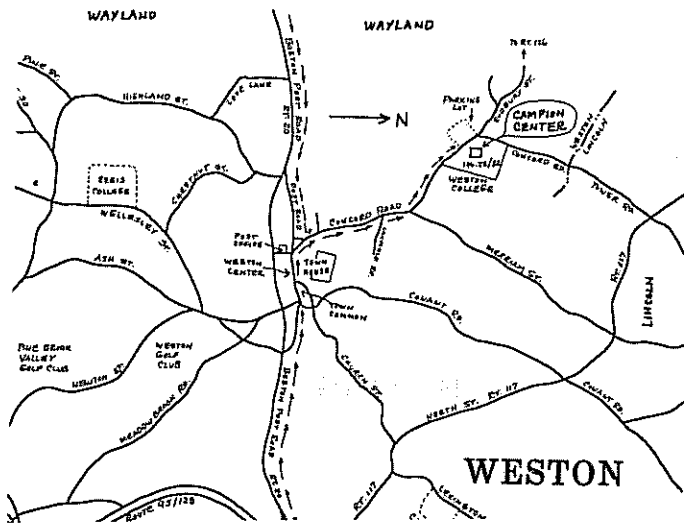
Volume 12 Number 5

The OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the
MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

May 1984

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

<u>DATE</u>	May 21, 1984 - Monday
<u>PLACE</u>	Campion Center, Weston (see map)
<u>TIME</u>	7:30 PM, doors open at 7:00 PM for socializing
<u>SPEAKER</u>	Bob O'Neill, WD4IRD - Heathkit store manager Peabody, subject: "Computers in the Home"
<u>REFRESHMENTS</u>	Wine and cheese party - ladies night
<u>RAFFLE</u>	Bring your money - buy tickets - big prizes!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is hard to believe that another fiscal year has come and gone, but once again the Annual Meeting is coming up. We have had a successful year both technically and in terms of paid membership.

Our goal is to give you the most services we can in the form of number of repeaters and reliability of each machine.

To that end we have put in service our 450 MHz machine with full microprocessor control and autopatch and a barebones but effective 220 MHz repeater, built from a Hamtronics kit by MMRA members to be expanded in amenities as future use dictates.

All 6 repeaters are state of the art solid state machines and the four two meter repeaters have backups. We presently have phone patch on three of the two meter repeaters (and of course one on the 450 MHz machine) with plans to have a phone patch on the fourth two meter machine as the budget shall permit.

Our present plan of attack is to update machines by rotational maintenance and improvements, and enhance coverage by remote receiver sites.

The first machine to benefit will be the Weston repeater, 146-22/82. The present receiver and transmitter are mid 1970's vintage, and will soon be replaced by state of the art Melco units. These are bought and paid for and are ready to be installed and may be by the time you read this or will be installed in the near

future. We also have the extra Melco receiver which will be used in the Arlington remote receiver site. On order are the small ancillary hardware items necessary to complete the linking arrangement and should be received by the time the Arlington site is ready.

This should vastly improve the receive performance of 82 and make 82 virtually a new repeater; the cost was reasonable due both to modern technology, or skilled technicians and the buying power of the MMRA.

The modern theory of repeater operation emphasizes wide access by walkie talkie because so many of us have these little synthesized beauties. This is well accomplished by employing remote receiver sites which are inexpensive to purchase and maintain. We will look to providing more of this service in the future.

This type of service benefits the public as well when we are called on to provide public services.

We as HAMS have more dues to pay than the financial type we pay to our repeater organizations to maintain the continuity of our repeaters. We also owe our communities the right to receive our services in times of community events and emergencies. These are also dues in every manner of speaking both in the legal sense as obligates as in part 97 of the FCC regulations; but more importantly in the moral sense of justifying our exclusive occupation of our many frequencies.

This is a fair trade for use of the airways, and we have seen the power of public image in the aftermath of Grenada which greatly influenced the thinking of the commissioners in eliminating no code.

As personal radios (such as cellular telephones) become more feasible due to commercial companies setting up vast linking networks and the advent of more satellites, the demand for frequency spectrum will increase and, where do you think they will look?

We had better plan to further justify our position and publicly advocate our cause, because unless this prophylaxis is put into play now, by the time the advocates of commercial radio do their insidious political maneuvers, it will be too late. Remember that they have millions to spend on an industry that grosses billions.

We can all begin now by signing up to do various public service projects. These do become known to the public and increases our favorable relationship to the community.

Too few HAMS get on the public service net of the MMRA on Tuesday evenings at about 7:30 PM and the request for our services increase each month.

We, the officers of the MMRA welcome your support if you decide to be one of the mere handful willing to serve on our committees or projects. We love this but do not require it of your membership.

But I personally feel that it is part of your dues to HAM radio in general if not to the MMRA to come forward and participate. Go ahead and say, "Al you are a harbinger of doom, but I'll try a public service project at least once."

Ladies and gentlemen, I would love to have you prove that MMRA members are more interested in HAM radio than merely paying dues to keep the machines humming. I know better because I know so many of you over the six years that I have served as an officer.

Please come forward and help us and HAM radio fill the commitments we will have this summer for public service.

The annual election meeting will feature a fine guest speaker and a free libation of wine and cheese. I promise you that the elections will proceed quickly and we will get to our speaker and cordiality promptly. It would be my profound pleasure to meet each and every member there.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Congratulations to K1QNZ on his election as Potentate of Aleppo Temple. Dick Norris is a member of ATARA (Aleppo Temple Amateur Radio Association) and MMRA member #1539. Dick and all the Aleppo Temple Shriners will be hosting The Shriner's Convention, July 1-6 in Boston. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an excerpt taken from the Shriner's news. It outlines the magnitude of this summer's events.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, the Shriners are looking for hams to provide communications during the weekly activities. Contact:

W. Jack Bennett
49 Gleason Street
Framingham, MA 01701

Editor

SHRINERS CONVENTION

For one magical week Boston will turn into an Arabian Night's theatre; its streets into dozens of small stages, all because of the Shriners Convention, July 1-6. "It will be the largest convention assembled in this city," proclaims Aleppo's Illustrious Potentate Richard F. Norris.

Fifty-thousand (50,000) Shriners and families will be housed in Boston and in facilities ranging from Andover to Braintree to Framingham.

Trailer camps, state parks, boats docked in nearby harbors, and private homes will be accommodating thousands more.

Nobles from all 50 states in the U.S. and from the provinces of Canada will be everywhere. There will be English, French and Spanish-speaking Shriners from distances as far as Hawaii, Alaska, French Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the Panama Canal Zone.

The two Shrine parades (Wed., July 4th daytime, and Thurs., July 5th evening) will be the longest combined parades most of Boston has ever seen. The parades will be on the magnitude of the 1980 Boston 350th Celebration parade, except the Shriners' parade will be day and night. Veteran parade watchers know what it is to see the Shrine funmobiles, drill teams, clowns, bands and horses. The colorful vehicles range from Indianapolis Speedway racing cars to midjet cars and fire engines.

Each night will be a carnival featuring more than one thousand performances by over 5,000 musicians and entertainers. Spectacular street processions from Prudential Center to Park Square and then to Faneuil Hall/Quincy Marketplace will take place.

The astonishing part is that all of this is free. There are no admission charges for the Shrine entertainment. All you need is a smile, comfortable shoes, and reason to celebrate.

TNX Shriners News

As the fiscal year of the MMRA comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the other members of the Board of Directors for their help and cooperation. I think every member can take pride in the fact that our Director, under the leadership of KA1AL, are leading the way in state of the art communications. I hope 1984-85 will show the results of this year's hard work.

From the "how the mighty have fallen" department. This issue of the Minuteman has a brief column on computer news. I have asked some of our resident computer buffs to submit articles of interest about computing. Nothing as of this issue. I managed to drum up a few articles on my own. Very painful - you know! I really shouldn't tell anyone this, but I broke down and bought a C-64. I gave up trying to win the raffle prize. Foxy, N1CTY has it all sewed up! Seriously, I hope to interface (computerize) the C-64 with my low-band rig to receive RTTY and CW. Is this the way it happened to Wayne Green???

P.S. Have a good summer!

Bill, KB1DY

The 223.94 repeater is operational at Marlboro. This is an MMRA host machine owned by Gary, WA1QMI for use by MMRA members at no cost to the MMRA. Try it, you'll like it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Period: April 1, 1984 to April 30, 1984

EXPENSES		INCOME	
01-61	\$ 51.93	Dues	\$267.48
07-67	43.72	Advertising	20.00
115-715	22.28	Total Income	\$287.48
22-82	491.70		
Secretary	75.01		
Meetings	120.70		
Newsletter	10.00		
Education	30.74		
Total Expenses	\$846.08		

Year to Date: 5/18/83 to 4/30/84

EXPENSES		INCOME	
01-61	\$1,354.87	Dues	\$8,144.37
07-067	1,494.64	Advertising	80.00
115-715	409.37	Coffee & D'nuts	64.10
22-82	1,921.48	Raffle	716.00
220-Quincy	501.83	Misc. Income	101.00
440-Marlboro	630.12		
President	67.25		\$9,105.47
Treasurer	47.00	Balance brought forward 5/18/83	\$3,935.88
Secretary	297.57	Total Income	9,105.47
Meetings	1,496.58		13,041.35
Newsletter	1,353.82	Total Expenses	9,925.56
Education	311.23	Balance as of 4/30/84	\$3,115.79
Misc. Expense	39.80		
Total Expenses	\$9,925.56		

KB1DY

"An Apple for the Teachers"

A hearty congratulations for a job well done to Frank, KO1M and his staff of volunteers who just completed the second course in amateur radio theory. This latest course was held at the Minuteman Tech School in Lexington. The classes were well attended and I hope that we will have some of the graduates join the MMRA soon.

Editor

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has recommended to the President, Alan Kunian, KA1AL, the following candidates for officers for 1984-85:

President, Alan Kunian - KA1AL
Vice-President, Gene Piken - WB1HAP
Secretary, Evelyn Benson - KA1BBN
Treasurer, William Shaughnessy - KB1DY
Clerk, Charles Hanson - WA1YRQ
Director, Frank Comfort - KO1M
Director, Thomas Holmes - WA1ZID

Earle Benson, W1HXF, Chairman

Al:

TNX for continuing to send me your interesting newsletter. The 145.500 repeater will be changing frequency soon to 147.390, shift up.

You may also want to inform your readers, who come up this way and use the machine, that the new Patch callup is 501, Hangup is #50. Autodial for NH State Police is 111, hangup is the normal #50.

Do not bother to bring up the patch first for autodial, just 111. I hope you have had a fine winter; I'm looking forward to seeing you when the warm weather arrives.

TNX again 73

WB1GOI Dave Metz

COMPUTER CORNER

Commodore plans to make a \$99 microcomputer (16K RAM) that can be upgraded to their soon to be introduced 64K Commodore 264. The Commodore 16 will undoubtedly replace their best selling (5K) VIC 20. The "264" (which has built in word processing and spread-sheet software) will sell in the \$500 class. The "364" is a "264" with a numeric keypad and speech generation capabilities. As has been previous practice, neither the 16, 264 or 364 will be compatible with previous editions. And Commodore will debut a new \$2,000 IBM compatible system at the Hanover (trade) Fair in West Germany.

Clive Sinclair, British father of the ZX-81 (later marketed by Timex) home computer has a new one! Sinclair Research's 128K RAM (expandable to 640K) "Quantum Leap" or "QL" for short is unbelievable! The computer is under the small (5"x2"x18") full travel keyboard. It weighs just 3 pounds and accepts a miniature data cartridge (called a "microdrive") containing a novel loop tape (cost \$7) that stores 100K of data! All you need is a TV set for a CRT. It uses Motorola 68000 32 bit and Intel 8049 microprocessors. Cost: \$499. Featured are many business programs in ROM (word processing, spread-sheet analysis, data-base management and graphics) with mandatory "windowing" between them. It uses QDOS, a proprietary operating system. Marketing of the "QL" will be by mail order in the U.S. since Timex bowed out of selling Sinclair products here.

W5YI Report

WAYNE GREEN CODE PROPOSAL DENIED!

The Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, petition seeking to have amateurs periodically retested for increased Morse Code proficiency has been refused by Private Radio Bureau Chief, Robert Foosaner, as "being without merit." By letter of March 9th, 1984, the bureau chief dismissed the Green proposal as "not presenting any new or novel issues which warranted consideration by the Commission."

Green had wanted the amateur community retested every two years for increased Morse Code proficiency. Under the Green proposal, an amateur would have to demonstrate an ability to copy 5 WPM faster than the last test until a level of 35 words per minute is reached. Many amateurs felt that the petition was a sarcastic response to the Commission killing the codeless class of amateur radio operator license.

W5YI Report

FCC WORKING ON HF PHONE EXPANSION!

The FCC's action on expanding the amateur phone bands at 10, 15 and 80 meters is planned for the second quarter.

The FCC expanded the 20-meter phone band a year ago and issued a "Further Notice of Inquiry" proposed the following telephony subband expansions:

80-Meters	Proposed	Present
EXTRA	3750-4000	3775-4000 kHz
ADVANCED	3775-4000	3800-4000 kHz
GENERAL	3850-4000	3890-4000 kHz
15-Meters	Proposed	Present
EXTRA	21,200-21,450	21,250-21,450 MHz
ADVANCED	21,225-21,450	21,270-21,450 MHz
GENERAL	21,300-21,450	21,350-21,450 MHz
10-Meters	Proposed	Present
ALL	28,300-29,700	28,500-29,700 MHz

W5YI Report

Bargains would cost a lot more if we had any use for them.

* * *

Problem: The staff is interrupting its coffee break to have lunch.

* * *

The only people who listen to both sides of an argument are the neighbors.

* * *

COMING EVENTS

May 12, Saturday - The 11th annual Spring Hoss Traders (the biggest and best) tailgate swapfest will be held at the Deerfield Fair Grounds, Deerfield, NH. Admission is \$1.00 for buyers and sellers. No commission or percentage. Excess revenues to the Boston Burns Unit of the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children. Food available. Talk-in on .52 direct and 146.40/147.00.

May 19, Saturday - The 76 Flea Market and Auction from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon, the auction from 12:00 noon until 5:00 PM. Steeres Beach Club, Waterman Lake, Greenville, RI. Use I-295 to exit 7B and then take route 44 west 3.4 miles. Talk-in on .16/.76 and .34/.94. Flea Market space \$3.00. Auction 10% comm. on all sales, except 5% should the item sold bring in excess of \$50.00. Bank Americard purchases 2% paid by the buyer.

May 20, Sunday - The Montachusett Amateur Radio Association will hold a Flea Market at the Wallace Civic Center, 1000 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA. Setup at 8:00 AM doors open from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Tables are \$8.00. Plenty of free parking. Food available. All inside. Talk-in on 145.45/.85 and 146.52 direct. For more info contact Jim Beauregard (KB1AY) 7 Mountain Ave., Fitchburg, MA 01420.

May 20, Sunday - The Tenth Annual Flea Market of Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association will be held at the Elks Hall in Putnam, CT. Tables are \$7.00 in advance and \$9.00 at the door. Admission is \$2.00. Free parking, food and drink available. The Flea Market runs from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. For more info contact Dick Spahl, K1SYI, Lake Parkwak, Webster, MA 01570 or phone (617)943-4420 after 7:00 PM. Or Don Amirault K1APE, 66 Labonte Rd. RR #1 Box 310, Thompson, CT 06277 or phone (203)923-2727.

June 10, Sunday - The Newington Amateur Radio League will hold a Flea Market at the Newington High School, Newington, CT. from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Dealers can set up at 8:00 AM. Admission is \$2.00 at the door, Tailgating \$5.00 weather permitting. Tables are \$8.50 in advance or \$10.00 at the door. There will be an ATV demo, a Packet Radio demo, and a TVRO demo, also FREE tours of W1AW and the ARRL Museum. A portion of the proceeds will be used for the NARL scholarship Fund. For reservations send price to Tom Namnoun, KM1O, 55 Spruce Street, Newington, CT 06111. (send SASE for Confirmation). Talk-in on 146.52 or 145.450 (W1AW/R) or 224.84.

July 14, Saturday - Fly into New Hampshire's Third Largest Electronic Flea Market at the Manchester, NH airport at 9:00 AM. Admission is \$1.00 Sellers \$5.00. Bring your umbrella and table, or tailgate. Refreshments available. This year setup under the trees? Bring your mine detector to find last year's junk that melted into the black top. ***NO AUCTION*** talk-in on 146.52 direct. For more info call K1WPM at (603)622-0831 or #1KGZ at (603)668-8880 or send price for tables to N.H.F.M.A. Inc., 30 Meadow Glen Dr., Manchester, NH 03103.

THURSDAY, JULY 13 through SUNDAY, JULY 15 - BAY STATE GAMES

The Bay State Games liked the job we did last year, too. This time, our main mission will be medical emergency communication. The peak day will be Saturday, when there will be outdoor events all over Boston and Cambridge. Thursday and Friday they'd like one ham at a time at the soccer field, to make an autopatch call if there's an emergency. Good assignment for someone retired. Sunday they need a couple of hams, to cover spots on the road race where there won't be police observing. Saturday they need coverage at medical headquarters, cycling, rowing, and track and field. The coordinator is Barry Innerfield, W2FQD. If you tentatively think you might be available, try calling during commuting hours on 146.82, or check into the Public Service Net.

Why must the phrase "It's none of my business" always be followed by the word "but"?

* * *

Many a small boy is the kind of kid his mother wouldn't want him to play with.

* * *

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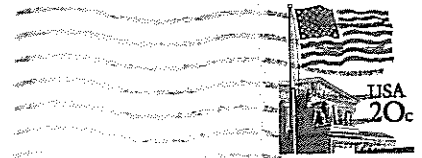
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