



# Prospect Hill Intermod

The News Letter of the Waltham Amateur Radio Association  
and the "Heavy Hitters"

Spring 2002

Check out our web site at [www.wara64.org](http://www.wara64.org) !

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  - Auction 2002 Notice
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## AUCTION 2002

– NEW DATE!

Saturday, November 16, 2001

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Seller Check-In 9:30 AM

Newton Masonic Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
460 Newtonville Avenue  
(at the corner of Walnut Street)  
Newtonville, MA.

Check out the Auction 2002 page on  
the club web site for more information.  
[www.wara64.org](http://www.wara64.org)

## JUNE W.A.R.A. CLUB MEETING TO BE HELD AT PROSPECT HILL!

The June WARA meeting will be held on Prospect Hill, near the site of our 4 repeaters. This has become an annual event featuring a cook out and a visit to the site. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us and meet or re-meet some of the folks you talk to on our repeaters.

More details and updates will be maintained on the club web site.

Directions will be available on the club web site and talk-in is always on the '64 repeater.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY HEAVY HITTERS AMSAT NET!

The "Heavy Hitters AMSAT Net" turned six years old on March 14, 2002. ALSO, March 21<sup>st</sup> marked the 300<sup>th</sup> net on '64.

The Heavy Hitters AMSAT Net on the '64 repeater has been on the air on Thursdays at 8:30 - 9:30 PM since March 14, 1996.

Net control, Ernie MacLauchlan, K1ELA, has sent out certificates to all stations that checked in on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

How about a little AMSAT net trivia?

1996 -- 633 check ins  
1997 -- 860 check ins  
1998 -- 903 check ins  
1999 -- 754 check ins  
2000 -- 842 check ins  
2001 -- 762 check ins  
2002 -- 187 check ins, so far this year

Total check ins -- 4941  
Individual people -- 624

Congratulations to Ernie and to all who have participated over the years!

## SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS FOR CLUB MEETINGS

There are always opportunities for you and others to make a presentation at one of our monthly W.A.R.A. club meetings.

If you have a favorite topic that might be of interest to our group, you can

contact Ann, KA1PON on the air or via email at [ka1pon@amsat.org](mailto:ka1pon@amsat.org)

To see if a particular meeting date is in need of a program check the "Meeting Information" section on our club web site at [www.wara64.org](http://www.wara64.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY SPRING!

There has been a lot of activity, lately, at the repeater site up on Prospect Hill in Waltham. To get all of the updates and information, please join us at our monthly meetings. I know I'd like to see more attendees every month.

Thanks to all of the volunteers for helping to make our 2001 auction a success, once again. Many hands made the day easier for all workers. Please save the date for the 2002 auction in your calendar and volunteer early so our coordinators will know who will be in attendance. This is a very important event for the club. Please contact our chairpersons as soon as possible.

Remember to renew your membership if you're overdue. Dues pay for repair and upgrading of equipment required to keep the repeaters on the air.

Finally, thanks to all who go up the hill to take care of the equipment. It's a lot of work and your work is truly appreciated. Great work!

Club meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month except July and August at 7:00PM at Artisan Industries in Waltham. All are welcome!

73, Ann, KA1PON

## W.A.R.A. OFFICERS

President – Ann Weldon, KA1PON  
V. President – Kip Shustack,  
N1AUP  
Clerk & Treasurer - Andy  
Donovan, WA1GEP  
Asst. Clerk – Jim Finlay, N1HCF  
Asst. Treas. – John Antes, KB1EB

## PHI NEWSLETTER STAFF

Publisher – Eliot Mayer, W1MJ  
Editor – Ron Perry, N1USS  
Production – Steve Gilbert, K1SG  
Circulation – Ann Weldon,  
KA1PON



**The Waltham Amateur Radio  
Association is affiliated with  
the A.R.R.L.**

## **RACES & ARES & SKYWARN?**

Some questions have been asked about emergency preparedness training, local net times & locations and how to join RACES, ARES and/or SKYWARN.

Rather than duplicate that which is already available, from the sources, on our web site I've added links to these sites from our front page.

I hope this helps to get more of you involved in these very important activities.

## **IS IT A BIRD? IS IT A PLANE? NOPE!... IT'S W1FBI!**



From the pages of QST (Feb 2002 issue) to a newsletter or pond near you, it's the mobile (or is that maritime mobile) ham activity of Ed, W1FBI.

This is Ed, W1FBI's 1967 Amphicar that can change its driver's status right in the middle of a QSO! In case you're wondering, W1FBI's vehicle sports a 43-hp engine capable of reaching 75 mph on land and 10 knots on water. It's outfitted with both 2-meter and 40 meter QRP gear with mag mount antennas.

Thanks to the ever vigilant Richard, N1JDU for pointing this article out to us.

## **BALLOONS OVER "HOSS TRADERS"?**

(From WORLD RADIO Feb 2002)  
The Timberlane Regional High School, in Paistow, NH will be taking part in a high altitude experiment this spring. The Coordinated Algebra II and Physics classes taught by Lorainne Mascioli, N1VYQ, and Lou Broad, N1RCA, are planning their third year of Amateur Radio and high altitude balloons in May 2002.

Six student teams will attempt to launch their balloons at the Hosstraders Ham Fest in Hopkinton, NH. Each balloon will carry a GPS receiver, a packet reporting system and several experimental payloads. This could

include cameras, video, amateur television and cross band repeaters. At maximum altitude such systems will have a range of 300 miles and could easily cover all of New England.

The class has grown to 34 students and they are planning to launch six balloons in the two day period! This could make it a record-breaking event in both Amateur Radio and high altitude ballooning. For more information check the CAPSAT web site:

[www.mv.com/ipusers/llb/capsat.html](http://www.mv.com/ipusers/llb/capsat.html)

Thanks, again, N1JDU, for the tip!

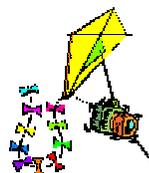
## **"GO FLY A KITE!"**

Speaking of N1JDU, I thought it would be nice for you to get to know him better, since we mention him all the time! I guess there's a reason for that. Richard is a very active person, not only with the Waltham Amateur Radio Association but in many other interesting areas as well.

We surely have heard that Richard is a photographer and most of us have seen some of his work in both issues of PHI as well as on our club web site. Did you know, however, that Richard also sends little cameras aloft on the tethers of kites and has taken some excellent airborne photos around this area?

Yes, Richard is an avid kite flyer, ham radio operator, amateur astronomer, amateur photographer, kite aerial photographer and geocaching enthusiast. One must wonder what Richard does in his spare time! Just kidding! Thanks for everything you do for us, Richard! Now "GO FLY A KITE"! Check out his web site at:

<http://users.erols.com/ramirault/>



## MEMBERSHIP PAYS!

**JOIN W.A.R.A.  
TODAY!**

### **WE NEED YOU –TO PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE!**

Prospect Hill Intermod (PHI) is *YOUR* newsletter. We always get good submissions of articles, information and sometimes even photographs to include in each issue. That's what makes it interesting for the readers. So if you have an idea, some thoughts or perhaps some photos of your shack or some event you participated in, send them on in and share them with everyone!

You can send things in via e-mail to [nluss@arrl.net](mailto:nluss@arrl.net) or snail mail to:  
Ron Perry, N1USS; 34 Summer Street  
Melrose, MA. 02176-4610

Text should be plain text (ascii) like an e-mail message or in Microsoft Word format (preferably) and photos should be in JPEG or GIF format.

### **WHAT'S NEW ON WARA64.ORG?**

There is a brand new MESSAGE BOARD, accessible from the main page of the site. This uses an off site provider and is much more user and administrator friendly. Speaking of administrators, John, KB1FQG is now a co-administrator of the message board so that he can maintain an online listing of postings to the Heavy Hitters Swap Net, which meets every Wednesday at 9:00 PM on the '64 repeater. John is the Net Manager for the swap net.

In response to many requests and one very eloquent email message from Ed,

Waltham Amateur Radio Association, Incorporated P.O. Box 411 Waltham, Massachusetts 02454-0411 <b>2001 Annual Report</b>				
Starting Balance:				\$1279.85
	Income:	Contributions	\$703.00	
		2001 Auction	\$288.40	
		NH. Hamfest	\$31.50	
		TOTAL INCOME:	\$1022.90	\$1022.90
Available:				\$2302.75
	Expenses:	Telephone	-\$409.19	
		Equipment	-\$376.71	
		News Letter	-\$225.36	
		Insurance	-\$255.00	
		Bank Charges	-\$146.25	
		Auction	-\$22.10	
		Corporation Fees	-\$15.00	
		P.O. Box	-\$45.00	
		Miscellaneous	-\$5.00	
		TOTAL EXPENSES:	-\$1499.61	-\$1499.61
Ending Balance:				\$803.14
				Submitted by: Andrew E. Donovan, Treasurer

NITV, we have added a front page link to the ARES regional web site which includes links to RACES and SKYWARN sites.

New photos have been added to the growing gallery section of our site, including some from last years auction, the KA1IYR picnic at Mike and Jeannie's house in Sunny Mendon and some links or photos from some familiar call signs. Be sure to check out the "personal shack" page!

Oh Yeah! Please, if you've asked us to add your email address and/or web site URL to the "Members and Friends" section, make sure you let us know if and when that information changes! Thanks!

Finally, there's the "Upcoming Events" section on the front page of the web site that is always being updated with new and current information.

Of course you can always check out the "PHI" archives or look for the latest issue, on line in your choice of HTML or Adobe PDF formats.

The W.A.R.A. membership form is now available on line in your choice of HTML, Microsoft Word 97 and Adobe PDF formats.

Be sure to let us know if you have any other ideas for information we should add to our ever growing and informative club web site.

## A NEW HOME FOR THE REPEATERS!

Our four repeaters are moving into a new home. After some dedicated, behind the scene work Andy, WA1GEP, has secured us space on the new public service communications site at the top of Prospect Hill. This is what remains of the old Air Force site.



The tower



Hoisting up the antennae

Andy, WA1GEP, Kim, WA1PBU and Steve, WA1HUD along with others have spent a lot of time preparing for and executing the move, which is almost completed. The 220, 440 and 6 meter repeaters are completely moved and the rest of the 2 meter repeater will be moved soon. With high winds (most of the time) and cold March and early April weather, this hard work wasn't made much easier but no one complained. Yet another banner job of

maintenance and re-construction shows the dedication of those few who are able and take care of these things many of us take for granted.

Now for a few more pictures.



Andy and Kim tying one down

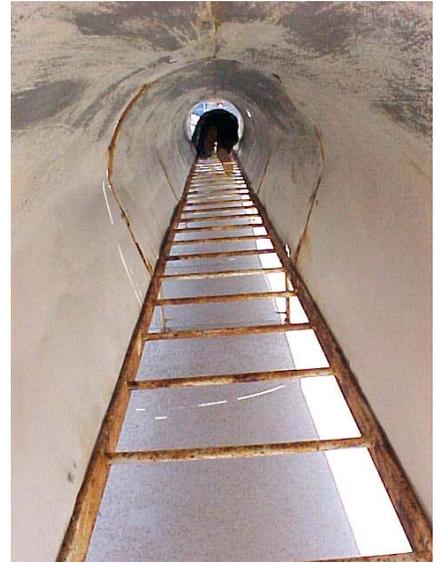


Steve and Andy on top of the world!



The repeaters with their friends, Steve and Kim.

Now, how about this for a "walk to the top of the world"?



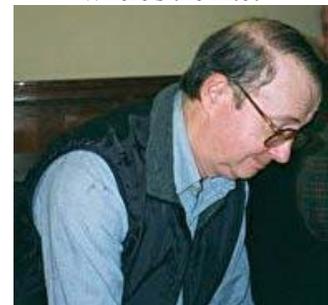
The ladder to the top of the world!



As the work progresses the "boys" see the light.

Well, I hope you've enjoyed this little visit to the scenes behind the WARA repeaters. I also hope it helps you to understand the work a few dedicated individuals do for the many of us who sometimes take for granted that the carrier will always be there when we "push to talk". Don't wait for the beep!

Photos by Richard, N1JDU (below)  
Where's the kite?



## **WHO ARE JIM AND RHODA?**

He talks and talks and talks..... and everyone listens. He wonders if "this old man" can keep track of what's going on and who's who. He reads, he researches, he sails, he travels, he talks and..... once in a while we hear the voice of his "best friend" and wife, Rhoda.

Well, to we who listen, often, to '64 they are Jim and Rhodie. To us, Jim is the altruistic, scientific guru of the techie crowd on '64.

BUT..... who are they really? Well, to many they are family, friends, mentors, helpers, sources of strength and knowledge..... very special people.

To begin with, Jim and Rhoda are two very, very accomplished professionals and extremely enviable family leaders. Both have endured the pinnacle of success as professional folks while maintaining a family life that many could and should envy.

Moreover, in spite of their (some would think) incredible life accomplishments, both Jim and Rhoda are "just plain regular folks" in every aspect of their lives. Both have contributed as senior managers to the success of major, world renowned corporations, yet they come home or get on the air and are just plain good friends.

Work, learning, family, amateur radio, traveling the world, collecting scientific instruments, hosting a major packet site, building and maintaining repeaters when there were none and helping others are just a few of the many things which and who are Jim and Rhoda.

To some, it's a little overbearing when Jim gets on the air and queries the heck out of whomever is talking about whatever on '64..... but... what it always comes down to is the one simple thing which Jim is all about. What is always comes down to is his

personal challenge to ALWAYS test that which you "think" is what you think.

Oh, by the way. This is Jim (K1UGM) and Rhoda (N1CSI). SMILE!



Jim and Rhoda are all about one simple thing. Challenge and learning. Regardless of how many times he or she have done it before.... Regardless of how many times they've embarked on something that is new to both... it's always just one more challenge to experience just one more thing. To learn just one more tidbit of information... whether about the person they're getting to know or that cutting edge technological breakthrough which could make the next big difference in our lives.

Then again, if you knock on their front door... any time or any day... and they're home.... The answer is always the same... regardless of whether or not they know you.... "Come in.... it's open". And,, it always is. Just be careful, because you don't get off easily if you're a friend of Jim and Rhoda. If you can't deal with being challenged, tread carefully!...

From us, to you both. Thanks for being here for we who need that little challenge and more than that... need to know that, in today's world, there are still just plain good folks like you both.

You both are what life and amateur radio has been and should still be.

Thanks, for being just plain K1UGM and N1CSI and for being our friends.

--- Packet Mountain, U.S.A.

## **IT'S ALL ABOUT REAL PEOPLE ON AMATEUR RADIO!**

The INTERNET is something that our young folks relish because it's easy to sit at the computer and "chat" all over the world. It's something that they don't get from sitting in the classroom or walking down the street. It's something that offers the possibility to be someone whom they may wish they can be but are not.

Many, today are asking what amateur radio can offer in a world with every young person already on the internet and in contact with everyone else around the world. What can amateur radio offer to the young folks that the internet cannot?

The answer is REALITY! In amateur radio, you can talk to REAL people all over the world in REAL time about REAL things. The internet offers a mask which makes it possible for those online to be something which they are not. Amateur radio offers REAL TIME contact to REAL TIME people who are REAL. It's pretty hard to hide age and true feelings behind a REAL voice.

For about the same as it costs, or less, to get on the Internet,,,,, you can talk to real people..... ALL OVER THE WORLD.

AMATEUR RADIO CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE,,,,, whether during an emergency situation when all else fails or just because it and we are just plain who we are.

SPREAD THE WORD AND MENTOR THOSE WHO NEED OUR HELP.

## **W.A.R.A.**

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!  
And God Bless you ALL!**



# AMATEUR RADIO & ELECTRONICS AUCTION

Sponsored by the Waltham Amateur Radio Association and the 1200 Radio Club

**Saturday, November 16, 2002** *New Date!*

**11 AM – 4 PM**

**Seller Check-in starts at 9:30 AM**

Newton Masonic Hall (second floor)  
460 Newtonville Avenue  
Newtonville, MA. 02460

**Admission: \$2**

### PARKING & ACCESS

Metered parking on street, *free parking* in municipal lot across Walnut St. Please do not park in the lot next to the Masonic Hall, or in the Star Market parking lot. Unfortunately, this fine old building does not have a “Handicapped Access Ramp” – there is an elevator but the entrance has five steps.

**While you are at the AUCTION; enjoy the “Heavy Hitter’s Snack Bar”  
Coffee – Donuts – Soft Drinks – Lunch – Snacks – AND MORE!**

For auction rules and other information, visit [www.wara64.org/auction](http://www.wara64.org/auction),  
or contact Eliot Mayer, W1MJ, [w1mj@amsat.org](mailto:w1mj@amsat.org), Tel 617-484-1089

**WARA** and **1200 RC** thank the Newton Masonic Associates for the use of their fine facility.

### Directions:

From 128/I95 take the Route 16 East exit (#21A), follow Rt 16 into West Newton square, then bear right leaving Rt 16 and following Washington St. About 8/10 mile further take a right at the light at Lowell Ave., cross the turnpike and take the immediate left onto Austin St. The Masonic Hall is directly ahead of you at the end of the street, and the municipal parking lot is on your right.

From Boston, take the Mass. Pike west to exit 17 at Newton Corner. Go straight ahead on Washington St. about 1.2 miles to Newtonville Square. At the light at Walnut St. go left over the turnpike and take the immediate right onto Austin St. (The Masonic Hall is on your left as you cross the turnpike.) Park in the municipal lot on your left off Austin St.

TALK-IN: 146.64 MHz (-) Waltham Repeater

# WALTHAM AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Waltham Amateur Radio Association operates repeaters on 2 Meters (04/64), 6 Meters, 220 MHz, and 440 MHz. The repeaters are free and open for everyone to use. But repeaters have bills to pay, just as you do. A \$15 annual membership would help support these repeaters, as well as help to keep you informed about club activities and other aspects of ham radio. If you cannot afford \$15, please send what you can. If you are inclined to donate more, we will put it to good use. Please print this form, complete it legibly, and return it to:

**Waltham Amateur Radio Association  
Post Office Box 411  
Waltham, MA 02454**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Are you an ARRL member? \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Web Site Address (URL) \_\_\_\_\_

This year's donation enclosed (\$15 nominal): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you would like to get involved in any of the following Waltham ARA activities:

_____ Repeater Maintenance/ Construction	_____ Speaker for Club Meetings
_____ Public Service Activities	_____ Auctions
_____ Newsletter Writing or Production	_____ Public Relations for W.A.R.A.
_____ Contribute to the W.A.R.A. web site	_____ Photographer for W.A.R.A. events

Comments about the club, its repeaters, our web site or the newsletter?:

**Visit the W.A.R.A. web site at: <http://www.wara64.org/>**

**Waltham Amateur Radio Association**  
**P.O. Box 411**  
**Waltham, MA. 02454**

*Please check expiration date on mailing label.*