



# PROSPECT HILL INTERMOD

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WALTHAM AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
& THE HEAVY HITTERS

[www.wara64.org](http://www.wara64.org)

FALL 2012

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## NEAR-Fest October 2012

*Eliot Mayer, W1MJ*

I decided to put sanity aside for a day and camp out at the October 2012 NEAR-Fest despite the forecast temperatures going down into the high 20s overnight. It turned out that the temperature reached 24 overnight. My so-called winter sleeping bag kept me alive, but not quite comfortable. At least it was dry.

I woke up to bright sunshine, frost all over my tent and car, and some yummy blueberry pancakes at the Deerfield Community Church food concession.



Fans of the old Hosstraders hamfest are grateful to Mike W1RC who kept the tradition going as the New England Amateur Radio Festival ([www.near-fest.com](http://www.near-fest.com)) when the Hosstraders retired. Mike even moved the event back to everybody's favorite location – the Deerfield Fairgrounds in Deerfield, NH.

Carl, WA1ZCQ, still thinks of this event as Hosstraders - not surprising, since he still refers to me as WA1MYK, the call I traded in 35 years ago. At any rate, Carl pointed out that if you combine the two events, this was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Carl set up special event station W1H. The following photos show Carl raising the wire antenna and operating his Icom IC-703 QRP rig with solar power as W1H.





about an interesting new digital voice mode called Digital Mobile Radio.



DMR Forum

But of course the best thing about this event is seeing friends in person that you usually only “see” over the radio. Here are some WARA members and friends that I ran into:



Carl, WA1ZCQ



John, K1BOS

More than a flea market, NEAR-Fest featured some interesting forums. I attended the talk about the World Radiosport Team Championship presented by Dave, KM3T ([www.wrtc2014.org](http://www.wrtc2014.org)), and one







Carl, K1UZK



Glenn, KB1SMN



John, KB1FQG, with son Sean.



Sandy, W1CGS



Steve, W1KV



I missed Debbie, AB1IC, but had a piece of the special cake she had brought to the event.





## ANNUAL PICNIC 2012



*Annual picnic is so good that K1VK signed up with WARA just to attend! – George, W1LSB*

## Field Day 2012

*Eliot Mayer, W1MJ*

This was the 5<sup>th</sup> year that WARA has partnered with the Clay Center Amateur Radio Club for the ARRL Field Day in June. It has been a great opportunity for us old buzzards to mentor young newcomers. Photos and results are available at <http://www.wara64.org/fd/2012/results.htm>.



The CC-ARC folks, both the students and their adult mentors, are a nice group to work with. I have been involved in all 5 of these FDs in various roles, but have always served as the WARA liaison to the joint venture. I'm going to do something low key next FD with an old friend, so I really hope that

someone else from WARA will volunteer for the liaison job and keep this great collaboration going. If you would like to know more about the liaison position, feel free to contact me at [w1mj@arrl.net](mailto:w1mj@arrl.net).

## STORM WATCH

On Monday October 29, 2012 the Boston/Waltham area encountered a very powerful storm where winds came very close to hurricane strength. Thousands of people in Massachusetts lost power and suffered property damage as a result. It was during this storm our repeater site took a hit as well. Fortunately the damage suffered was repaired within a week on the Sunday following the storm.

## HURRICANE SANDY AND 440

*Kim Peck, WA1PBU*

It appears that Hurricane Sandy spared most of the Boston area, unlike the folks in coastal areas of New York and New Jersey. Unfortunately, WARA did not completely escape Sandy's wrath. The UHF repeater (449.075) antenna was "snapped off", just above the mounting section.



These antennas are constructed from low loss coaxial sections (air dielectric) and then inserted in radomes (long tubes) made of fiberglass. They have a typical lifetime of about 10 years. The usual failure modes are caused by wind flexing the internal elements until they break. Sometimes “the game is called” due to a lightning strike. Also, sunlight breaks down the resin in the fiberglass, and the radomes always begin to “shed” after 5 years or so. This failure, and the age of the antenna (12 years +), indicates that the antenna was long overdue for replacement. These are not inexpensive consumer grade antennas (ham), but are the same units favored by police, fire and commercial repeaters.



Antenna photos - Richard Amirault, N1JDU

In the photographs, the internal antenna elements can be seen, still connected, even though the radome has broken and laid over.

Fortunately we had a backup antenna that Roger WA1NVC kindly donated. The following weekend after the storm, the antenna was replaced. It appears to be correctly functioning. Some changes in coverage are unavoidable. Some areas will win and some will lose but the average seems to be as good or better. We have lots of new neighbors up there on the tower, so antenna patterns are an approximate thing.

## 440 REPLACEMENT ANTENNA

Roger Coulson, WA1NVC

The antenna is a Phelps Dodge PD-455 10dB Super Station Master that was originally from my repeater. I had to remove it because PAVE PAWS requested that I reduce my antenna gain due to their restrictions. I have since gone to a lower gain antenna. Before I removed this antenna, my repeater was “hand held” coverage in the PAVE PAWS area. Since I no longer have any use for the PD-455, I informed Will, N1PXA that he and WARA could have it. WARA is lucky to have the Blue Hills blocking them from any PAVE PAWS restrictions. You are probably the only wide area coverage UHF repeater in the Eastern MA area that can use this high gain antenna.

*Note from Editor: Roger was part of the team that installed the first Waltham UHF repeater on 449.05 back in the early 70's. Chuck Martin, WA1KPS now K01I, was the lead person on the UHF repeater Project. The UHF repeater was on the air shortly before Waltham 64 came on the air as the UHF crystals came in first. Most recently Roger also arranged for the WARA to get the Scala/Kathrine 9dBd gain 900 MHz repeater antenna that is currently in use.*

## SPECIAL THANKS

On behalf of The Waltham Amateur Radio Association, we would like to thank all parties involved in the replacement of the WA1PBU repeater antenna over the weekend following the storm. Thank you for your donating your time, labor, materials, support and technical support roles. Roger, WA1NVC, Kim, WA1PBU, Will, N1PXA, John, K1BOS, Mike, N1OMJ, Will, KB1QMY, and Bob, K1REM. Thank you.

## W.A.R.A. REPEATERS

Input	Output	PL in	PL out	Call
6m off	6m off	6m off	6m off	off
**146.04	146.64	none	136.5*	W1MHL
223.34	224.94	none	none	W1MHL
444.075	449.075	88.5	none	WA1PBU
902.1375	927.1375	131.8	100	W1MHL

\*Use PL to mute P25 transmissions.

\*\*2 Meter EchoLink Node 490278,  
2 Meter Apco P25 NAC



## MEMBERSHIP

*Bob Martinson, K1REM*

The Waltham Amateur Radio Association's current membership is 80. Of those, 23 have expired memberships in which the membership committee may drop at its discretion. That total is 23 expired. So far we have had a couple families join through our new family membership program. Each of those two family memberships includes 2 individuals each. In order for the club to maintain its affiliation with the American Radio Relay League, we must have at least 50% as ARRL Members. Our total ARRL membership is 52, or 65% of our total membership. As of this writing, in 2012 we have acquired 8 new members and have had 32 renewals.

## W.A.R.A. OFFICERS WANTED

If you would be interested in taking the position of Clerk, aka Club Secretary, or Vice President, please step forward.

### W.A.R.A. OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** - Richard Amirault **N1JDU**

**VICE PRESIDENT** - **Open**

**TREASURER** - Bob Martinson **K1REM**

**ASSISTANT TREASURER** - Eliot Mayer **W1MJ**

**SECRETARY** - **Open**

## HF YOUTH PROGRAM

*Jeff Demers, N1SNB*

Greetings. I wanted to take a quick moment to tell you about a new program to support youth activity on the HF bands.

Chances are, if you were like me, getting on the air after getting your first license was a little challenging. Parents were bugged. Pennies were saved. Numerous "compromise" measures were taken to get that first station on the air! My company, Amateur Radio Supplies LLC, of Haverhill, Massachusetts seeks to help a few lucky young hams get on the HF bands and make some contacts!

Do you know any deserving young hams? We will be giving away 3 complete HF stations per year in order to support activity on the ham bands. Details at: <http://www.amateurradiosupplies.com/youth-s/222.htm>

## GUESS WHO?

*Answers can be found at the end*



(Photo 1)





(Photo 2)



(Photo 3)

*Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue of PHI. We greatly appreciate the time you took in sharing your knowledge! We are always looking for articles and new material to publish. Please send in your photos, announcements, story or short article (technical or not) at any time, for the next issue of PHI !*

*We would like to see YOUR photo in the next issue of PHI. Do you have a photo of yourself operating your equipment? Someone else's equipment? Even an old school or prison mug shot will do fine! Simply, submit your "Guess Who?" photos to the PHI staff for 15 minutes of fame!*



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

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**Guess Who? Answers**

**Photo 1:** Bill, KA1MOM

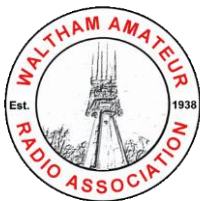
**Photo 2:** Donny, N1YAN

**Photo 3:** George, WX1GRS









# WALTHAM AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

[www.wara64.org](http://www.wara64.org)

## MEMBERSHIP AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

The Waltham Amateur Radio Association operates repeaters on 6 Meters, 2 Meters, 220 MHz, 440 MHz, and 900 MHz. The repeaters are free and open for everyone to use. But repeaters have bills to pay, just as you do. Your membership dues help support these repeater expenses, as well as help to keep you informed about club activities and other aspects of ham radio. Individual membership is \$20 annually. Family membership (members all in same household) is \$30 annually. If you cannot afford the these amounts, please send what you can. If you are inclined to donate more, we will put it to good use. You can join or renew at [www.wara64.org/membership.htm](http://www.wara64.org/membership.htm) or complete this form legibly, and return it to:

**Waltham Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 411, Waltham, MA 02454**

### Member 1:

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

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email (for newsletter)\_\_\_\_\_

### Member 2:

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

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

Relationship to Member 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for newsletter)\_\_\_\_\_

*For additional family members please attach their information to this form*

### Payment Enclosed:

☐ Individual Membership for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) @ \$20/year nominal: \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Family membership for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) @ \$30/year nominal: \$\_\_\_\_\_



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