



PROSPECT HILL INTERMOD

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

www.wara64.org

SPRING 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

- Ted's Shack
- Watch City Festival
- Presidents Corner
- Guess Who?

HELLO RADIO

Ted Robinson, K1QAR

Celebrating the anniversary of the hangar collapse (FEB 2, 2011) that put me on the street last year, here are a few pictures of the new digs.

Attached is a picture of the new shack, in another hangar, which has become an overhaul shop for old spook radios. Mostly black R-390As, with an occasional KWM-1.

The rare KWM-1 was used in the early U2 spy planes because it used roller inductors, not variable caps for tuning. (Variable caps use air for dielectric, and apparently don't work at the U2's 70,000 ft cabin altitude)



The HF antennas have gone stealth. Shown is a simple but effective "rabbit ears", a pair of wires going into the trees. The short coax minimizes loss, and a single pulley-and-weight tensioner minimizes ice and wind induced breakage. Yes, Maude, those are wire nuts, with no stinkin' balun, connectors or other "antenna" accessories to arc over, corrode or otherwise go bad. Plays the AM window on 75 meters daily. A second rabbit ears is a pair of 3/4 wave wires on 15 meters, makes a surprising DX catcher. (The Darth Vader magnetic loops are in storage, since the new hangar landlord has no land.



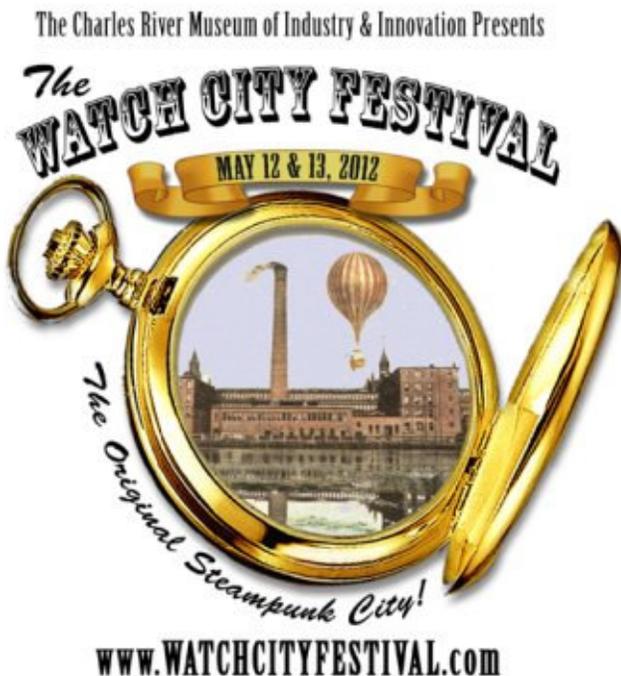
The mobile Bugcatcher can be heard daily on 3815-3820 Kc, and 7020-7040 CW. Buy it Now for \$1500. Comes with free police car.



By the way, those two old 2 meter Stationmasters survived the collapse, if any one wants 'em, come on by Minuteman Field in Stow and stay right till you hit Aesop Engineering in the north hangar. Excellent coffee (and lunch) at Nancy's. 3000 foot runway, published instrument approach (VOR) if its low.

THE WATCH CITY FESTIVAL ANNUAL EVENT, MAY 12th & 13th

Bill Mcininch, KA1MOM



Last May, The city of Waltham, Massachusetts and the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation held Steampunk City. A weekend event celebrating the city's pivotal role in the Industrial Revolution and the wonders of the Steampunk world.

There were just over 10,000 attendees last year and in a few days on May 12th - 13th there will be yet another "Watch City Festival" to be held in beautiful downtown Waltham. The original Steampunk City will be bigger and better with a projected attendance of 15,000 to 20,000. More information on the event and tickets is available at:

www.watchcityfestival.com

Also visit the following link for additional info:

<http://www.crimi.org/events/watchcityfestival/>

Waltham's City wide arts, music and industry festival is featuring: Vendors, live musical performances, theatrical performances, panel discussions, exhibits, demonstrations, films, dirigible races, magicians, side show acts, hot air balloon rides, a Victorian ball on the evening of May 11th and many more family friendly activities!

Where does Amateur Radio fit into all of this?

W1S, sponsored by the Waltham Amateur Radio Association, will be part of the festival, showcasing ham radio to the public and local emergency management. Tentative details of the operation are as follows:

- **STATION CONFIGURATION:** High-backed desk to hide transceiver, with simulated spark gap, caps, power transformer based on the Massie station at the New England Wireless and Steam Museum.
- **EQUIPMENT:** TBD based on availability. Default will be a Yaesu FT-817. CRMII has an old Heathkit transceiver that may need some work to be usable.
- **SCHEDULE** 1300-2300Z (0900-1900 EDT) May 12th and 13th. Operators/loggers in 2 hour or longer shifts.
- **BAND/EMISSIONS:** SSB on 14.280 MHz (locked in due to deadline for listing in CQ)
- **LOGGING:** Manual logging only, logbook will be provided
- **QSL:** Card and/or certificate to all verified contacts supplying SASE
- **ANTENNA:** Double bazooka will be the main antenna for now. Additional designs,

especially magnetic loops are being investigated for 2013.

W1S would greatly appreciate your assistance at this special event station and is seeking operators and loggers for the station as well as volunteers to help with setup. If you hold at least a Technician class license you will be allowed to operate under supervision of higher class license!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Bill Mcininch, KA1MOM@aol.com or 617 254 5963.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

On behalf of W.A.R.A. and all members who attended the last club meeting on Tuesday April, 24th, we would like thank Eric, K1NUN for an informative and most entertaining presentation on Stealth Antennas. Eric's in depth discussion with live, hands on demonstrations and photos of low profile and stealth antenna installations was well received by all in attendance.

We are always looking for speakers to share their knowledge in amateur radio and other closely related topics to present to members immediately following our meetings. If you or anyone you know would like to participate, please contact any club officer for more information.



Eric, K1NUN

FIELD DAY 2012

Eliot Mayer, W1MJ

WARA will once again team up with the Clay Center Amateur Radio Club for the ARRL Field Day on June 23 & 24, 2012. This partnership began in

2008, when WARA was looking for a site to operate FD on the club's 70th birthday. CC-ARC is a school club that was looking for a more experienced club to partner with, and their school grounds in Brookline make a nice FD site. This has been a chance for WARA members to actually mentor young hams and future hams, rather than just thinking about it. Please participate, or at least visit the CC-ARC/WARA FD this year. Details will be posted on www.wara64.org as the event approaches. Results, photos, and other info from our past FD efforts are available at www.wara64.org/fd. For more information, contact Eliot Mayer, W1MJ, 617-484-1089 or w1mj@arrl.net.



The GOTA (Get On The Air) station is dedicated to new and future hams. Here at the 2011 GOTA station, a young lady is making RTTY contacts on 20M using an Elecraft K3 transceiver under W1MJ's guidance as her family looks on.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Richard Amirault, N1JDU

I've been interested in Ham Radio for many years. My father had many old radio and tech magazines that I read while growing up. However the code requirement was always a barrier for me. I actually subscribed to QST for two years before I had a ticket. Then the FCC removed the code requirement for the technician ticket. I made the decision to go for it. Studied for less than two weeks and passed the test.

I've been a "no-code" tech for over twenty years. I never had any desire to upgrade, even after the code was removed from all licenses.

This May 12th – 13th, the city of Waltham is hosting The Watch City Festival where there will be a Steampunk City event. Bill, KA1MOM has decided to run a special event station, W1S, at the festival but was having trouble getting enough general class or higher operators to man it. THAT was the incentive I needed. I bought a manual, studied for a week and a half and passed my general! Now I get to buy an HF radio and antenna. Unfortunately that means more money to spend.

ECHOLINK IS ON THE AIR

Bob Martinson, K1REM

(This article ran in the last newsletter with the wrong phone number so we felt it would be fair Brian to run it one more time.)

A special thank you goes out to Brian, WO1VES, who volunteered to repair our EchoLink PC. He picked up the PC from Jim's house (K1UGM) & took it back to his workshop where he found the hard drive was having excessive read errors, which is a sure sign it dying. He was able to find a used hard drive which was donated to WARA by John, WA1RHN. He transferred the data from the old hard drive to the new one, and all worked fine. The system was reinstalled in Jim's house and tested OK. Brian may be contacted at 781-368-3413 or brian@shamelesswolf.com for assistance with computers, networks and home theater systems. Visit, www.shamelesswolf.com or email geek@shamelesswolf.com

Note: W1MJ has since done a full disk backup in case the next disk problem is not recoverable.

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	103.5	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

NEAR-Fest

Let's not forget about NEAR-Fest this weekend May 4th and 5th. For those who are unfamiliar with this semiannual flea market, get your doctor to scratch out a sick note for your boss if you're attending Friday. Rain or shine, New England's largest Amateur Radio flea market will go on at the Deerfield, NH fair grounds. Plug this into your GPS and you will have no trouble finding it, "34 Stage Road, Deerfield NH". Also you can visit the official NEAR-Fest website for more information, <http://www.near-fest.com> See you there!

W.A.R.A. OFFICER WANTED

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

W.A.R.A. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - Richard Amirault **N1JDU**
VICE PRESIDENT - John Flood **KB1FQG**
TREASURER - Bob Martinson **K1REM**
ASSISTANT TREASURER - Eliot Mayer **W1MJ**
SECRETARY - Open

GUESS WHO?



(Photo 1)





(Photo 2)



(Photo 3)

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!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

PHI NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR - Mark Bolls **K1KGG**
DISTRIBUTION – Eliot Mayer **W1MJ**
Submit all articles to k1kgg@yahoo.com

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 !

ANNUAL PICNIC - JUNE 26

WARA meets monthly on the last Tuesday of the month, September through June. The normal meeting place is the Waltham Public Library, but the June meeting is a picnic on Prospect Hill, at a picnic site in the shadow of our repeaters. This year's picnic is on June 26, 4:00 - 7:00 PM – drop in whenever you can. The club provides hot dogs and burgers. If you'd like to contribute, bring cole slaw, potato salad, chips, soda, desert, or whatever you'd like to bring.



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

Guess Who? Answers

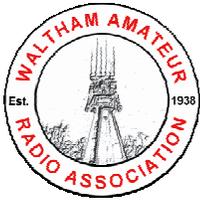
Photo 1: Rick, WU1V (Welcome to the club Rick!)

Photo 2: Bob, K1REM

Photo 3: Tonto, Jim, WA1FTA and Curley







WALTHAM AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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 \$30.00 annually. If you cannot afford the annual dues, 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 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**