



PROSPECT HILL INTERMOD

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

www.wara64.org

SPRING 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

- **WRTC 2014**
- **LOW COST SDR**
- **MILE 19**

WORLD RADIOSPORT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

Doug Grant, K1DG

You can be part of the "Ham Radio Olympics"

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) will be held in Massachusetts July 12-13, 2014. Like the Olympics or the Boston Marathon, this event draws the "best of the best" from around the world. Fifty-nine two-operator teams will be set up with Field-Day-style stations on 16 properties around the Route 495 corridor, from Pepperell in the north to Plymouth and Taunton in the south.

The international teams will compete to see which team can make the most contacts with the most countries and take home the gold medal. This Olympic-style world championship will be widely covered in the local, regional, and national media and provide excellent publicity for amateur radio.

The WRTC2014 organizers need volunteers to help with this once-in-a-lifetime event. The biggest need at the moment is for people to help set up and keep an eye on the stations and provide local transportation for the teams between the headquarters hotel in Westborough and the sites.

Please visit www.wrtc2014.org/volunteer to sign up and tell us how you would like to help make this exciting event a success.

PRESENTATION ON WRTC 2014

Members who attended the February Waltham Amateur Radio Association's meeting were treated to an informative presentation by David Pascoe KM3T on the up and coming World Radiosport Team Championship.

Dave presented an excellent slide show covering all aspects of the WRTC. It takes many hours of work and effort by volunteers to make this incredible competition happen, he explained. W.A.R.A. members were appreciative of Dave taking time to share his experience and knowledge with the WRTC and giving this presentation. Thank you Dave!



Dave, KM3T

If you would like to learn more, please visit www.wrtc2014.org.



*KM3T Presets WRTC 2014 to WARA Members
Photo by Ron, KG1T*

REPEATER WORK

Eliot Mayer, W1MJ

While it was still winter, Will N1PXA got to work refurbishing the WARA 2M repeater antenna to get rid of the intermittent "crunchies" in advance of the Boston Marathon. In the photo Will (left) and Bill KB1QMY are preparing to lower the Super Stationmaster antenna to the ground. Will did the repairs at home, and the antenna was re-installed a few days later. The work parties also included Tom KA1GXR, John K1BOS, Ron KG1T, and Eliot W1MJ. Thanks also go to Jim K1UGM who has passed his knowledge of this antenna model along to the "young whipper snappers" who take care of the WARA repeaters these days.

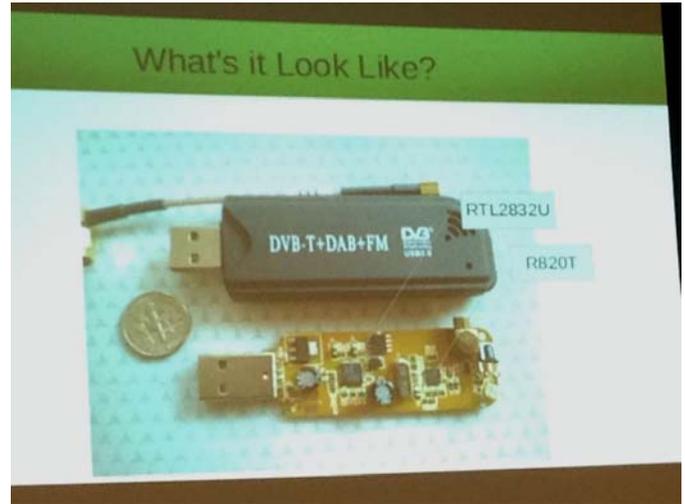
The operation appears to have been a success, as the good old 04/64 machine has been working solidly since the antenna was re-installed. This machine is used by the BAA for the Bus Net of the annual Boston Marathon.



N1PXA and KB1QMY

SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO

Our April meeting was filled with an exciting SDR presentation by Ron, KG1T. Ron demonstrated how inexpensive it is to setup your own Software Defined Radio station using a \$10.00 USB TV stick (readily available on eBay) and your personal computer. Download some free software available online, a few tweaks and you're ready to go.



RTL2832U/R820T based USB dongle



Ron KG1T demonstrates SDR to W.A.R.A.

In addition to presenting the SDR radio at the W.A.R.A. meeting, Ron also gave a talk and demonstration at Near-Fest this Spring to a packed room of attendees. Thank you Ron for sharing your knowledge on this interesting subject!



Ron KG1T demonstrating the SDR at Near-Fest

BOSTON MARATHON, MILE 19

Charles Stratford, KG6EID

I got licensed in 2000 while living in my hometown of Pasadena, California. My activity on the air went dormant until about 5 years ago. While a Master's student in music at Brigham Young University, I became an active member of the BYU Amateur Radio Club. I moved to Boston in August of 2012 with my wife, Becca, who is a speech language pathologist specializing in treating children with autism. I am currently finishing my second year in the PhD program in musicology at Brandeis University, where I am a Presidential Fellow. I have published articles on 20th-century music of the European Avant-garde in peer-reviewed musicology journals. I am excited to be a part of WARA, and look forward to opportunities to help serve the community through amateur radio. I live in Waltham with my wife and 8-month-old son. Attached here is a pic of my station at mile marker 19 at the Boston Marathon, near Newton City Hall.



Charles, KG6EID

READERS SHACKS

Eliot, W1MJ forwarded this over to PHI, from Sal, N1FEV. "Sal used to mount this antenna on his car and run the cable into his ham shack, and reported that it worked well. Then he moved the ham stick to the metal clothesline support in the back yard. His first contact was Dubai on 20M SSB! Since then he has had many DX contacts".



Sal, N1FEV 20M ham stick "clothesline" antenna

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	136.5	136.5	W1MHL
223.34	224.94	none	none	W1MHL
444.075	449.075	88.5	none	W1MHL
902.1375	927.1375	131.8	100	W1MHL

**2 Meter [EchoLink](#) Node 490278
2 Meter [Apco P25](#) NAC is 293



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Flood, KB1FQG

Greetings

At long last the snow is gone and I actually just got to get out the lawn mower and shorten my weeds for the first time this season. I'm writing to you as my first newsletter as President of WARA.

Welcome to the many new members we have as well as those of you that have been with us from back in the dark ages!

I'm happy to report that meeting attendance has increased significantly this year! Some meetings have had well over 20 members in attendance. Perhaps it's our move back to Wednesday nights? Or because I have tried as one of my main efforts to get speakers for some of our meetings. We have already had Dave KM3T speak about the WRTC competition and Ron KG1T(ex.KB1UMH) teach us about inexpensive SRD using USB TV sticks. May will be a business meeting and June will be our cookout on the Prospect Hill so let's hope for good weather! When we start back up in September, we are scheduled for a visit from our ARRL Section manager Phil Temples K3HI. In October, I'm hoping to have Howard Mintz WA1CFX, Police Chief from Newton speak to us on changes he has seen over the years in law enforcement and amateur radios involvement during that time. My goal was to have half of the meetings as a minimum with guest speakers. With that in mind, if you have a topic you are interested in sharing with us, please let me know! (kb1fqg@yahoo.com)

We will have a small field day event on Prospect Hill, Glenn KB1SMN will run it and details will be in this newsletter and our website. Additionally, the warm weather also starts the public service repeater usage season. I will post all requests on our yahoo group message board. Please allow these users to support their events without any interference.

That's about all for now, please feel free to contact be at the email above with any questions!

73 DE KB1FQG RYRYRY

WARA OFFICERS

ELECTIONS FOR ALL OFFICES WILL BE HELD AT THE
JANUARY 29, 2014 MEETING

PRESIDENT – John Flood **KB1FQG**
VICE PRESIDENT – Richard Amirault **N1JDU**
TREASURER - Bob Martinson **K1REM**
ASSISTANT TREASURER - Eliot Mayer **W1MJ**
SECRETARY- Ron Senykoff **KG1T**

NEWS LINK

A great story from Fox News emphasizes the importance of amateur radio during crisis situations and how we can work together with our community service agencies. This article projects a positive image for the hobby. Thank you Mitch, KA1MIT for sending this link to the PHI news desk.

<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2014/05/19/ham-radio-old-technology-gets-new-respect/>

FROM THE EDITOR

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!





SSB/AM/CB/Recording/PA... Improved with Electro-Voice Model 729

Now! A low-cost microphone that offers the enormous advantage of true cardioid directional pickup, plus a virtually indestructible ceramic element! This design, by rejecting surrounding noises from the sides and rear, provides substantially improved voice pickup at greater working distance and with less room-noise pickup. Smooth response assures natural reproduction without boominess or "peaked" sound, for better intelligibility and maximum power output. High output is ample for any inputs, and does not change with high humidity or temperature. The 729 can be comfortably hand-held, and slips easily into the

desk stand or the floor stand adapter provided. You get all this, and more, in the new 729 at a list price of only \$24.50, with normal trade discounts applying. For equipment requiring a relay-control switch on the microphone, select the Model 729SR, (illustrated) for only \$26.50 list. Either way you get traditional E-V quality, plus a money-back guarantee. Write for full information and list of Electro-Voice microphone specialists.

SPECIFICATIONS: • Polar Pattern: Cardioid • Frequency Response: 60-8,000 cps • Output Level: -55 db • Impedance: Hi-Z • Size: 7-3/4 in. long • Weight: 1 lb. • Cable: 8-1/2 ft. shielded.

ELECTRO-VOICE, INC., Dept. 732RA, Buchanan, Michigan



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!



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

GUESS WHO?
 Answer can be found at the end



(Photo 1)



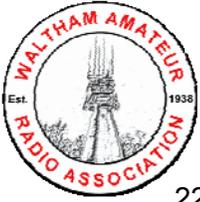
(Photo 2)

Guess Who? Answers
Photo 1: John, K1BOS
Photo 2: Don, N1EDF



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: \$ _____

