



PROSPECT HILL INTERMOD

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

www.wara64.org

FALL 2015

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PRESIDENT'S DESK

John Flood, KB1FQG

Greetings!

The cold air has arrived! In the Spring I said that Kenny KA1OXQ wasn't happy about the warm weather setting in, well now I'd expect he is smiling with a few snowflakes flying around the farm! I hope this newsletter finds you all well and looking forward to a happy holiday season!

Thanks go out to Joe N1RLO, Al, N1TBN, and Ned W1NED for all the time they put into our exhibit at the Boxboro Convention! We had at least 15 new members join us after visiting our booth along with several renewals. KB1ZOA, Michael Bigelow was our prize winner of the Alinco DJ500HT I hope he enjoys it! Oh and thanks to Brandon KB1WAH for dropping off coffee and doughnuts for the booth. I hope I remembered everyone but if I forgot, someone I'm sorry but I'm getting to be an ooooooold buzzard!

We have already had an exciting presentation this fall. In Oct., Brandon, KB1WAH did a presentation on microcontroller applications in amateur radio and reviewed some projects you can build yourself. It was well attended with at least 25 people in attendance. For the Next year, Howard WA1CFX has agreed to speak on his experience and predictions for the future of ham radio and emergency management. He will Retire this month from his Job as the Chief of Police in Newton and let's all wish him well! As well we will have the ARRL section

manager back to see us. I am finalizing a few others so keep a lookout for our emails for updates. As always, if you have something to present or a new toy to show off, please let me know! Speakers get a free dinner at our meeting before the meeting at Uno's in Waltham!

I hope to finalize a date in the next few days for another Party in Mid-December just like we did last year. Keep a lookout for that email we will do this in place of the meeting as that would fall on Christmas. I hope to do this at the same place (Sichuan's Garden, 411 Waverley Oaks Rd, Waltham, MA 02452) and already have a door prize in hand!

As I mentioned above, we have had several new members since our last newsletter! Welcome to all of you and I would suggest that you and for that matter, all members consider becoming more active in the club. "New Blood" is often a good thing for a club and I love seeing the meeting attendance and membership grow! I have agreed to remain as Club President for 2016 but this will have to be my last year. My job is moving from Peabody to Beverly. This will add 30-40 min. to my already long commute and as such I can't commit to making club meetings. In fact the move is planned for 3rd quarter 2016 to early 1st Quarter 2017 so it could be an issue for late next year. In any event, that's a long notice for a replacement to be found! Or find me a job closer to Maynard and I'll stay on!!! :)

EQUIPMENT LOAN TO MEMBERS

WARA owns a couple HF and 2 meter transceivers for field day use and is not for sale, however will make available to loan members if needed on a temporary basis. Please contact John, KB1FQG for details.

TIME WITH FRIENDS

Eliot Mayer, W1MJ

The New England Amateur Radio Festival, NEAR-Fest, is held every May and October at the Deerfield, NH fairgrounds. I don't make it to everyone. For example, I was planning to go to this year's May event, but ended up at a funeral in Falmouth, MA instead. But I made to last month's event, and had a great time.



John, KB1FQG and Charles KG6EID

To me, NEAR-Fest is much more of a social event than a flea market. I did buy a small in-line voltmeter/ammeter for my QRP Go Kit, but my only other purchases were food and drink. The event highlights for me were seeing ham friends that I don't see often – or even less often than that. For example, Phil, once WA1YNO (can't recall his new call), and I did Field Day together on Peddock's Island in Boston Harbor many years ago. He was a teenager then, and I haven't seen him since. I saw him at this "Fester", and he introduced me to his son, who was roughly the same age that Phil was last time I saw him!

Fester founder "Mister Mike" W1RC invited me into his trailer to warm up for a while on Friday evening, before I camped out for the night in my tent. I said to Mike and his friends there that I may be over-doing it for an old grandpa – camping out at the "Fester" then going to a Joe Walsh concert on Saturday night. Two interesting things followed.



Ted, K1QAR

First, famous (or maybe infamous) AM'er Tim, WA1HLR, told me how he met Joe Walsh through mutual ham friends – Joe is WB6ACU. Then Mike's old friend from Montreal, Howard VE2AED, got interested in attending the concert, despite having to be at a funeral in Montreal on Sunday morning. On Saturday morning, I ran into my new friend Howard and we walked around the flea market for a while. He told me that he bought two tickets for the concert, and that his wife was flying from Montreal to Boston to go with him. The concert was awesome – Joe Walsh, AKA "Analog Man", is an awesome guitarist with a great sense of humor. After the show, Phil K9HI and I had a brief eyeball QSO with Howard and his wife, after which – at 10 PM – they drove back to Montreal. I haven't talked to Howard since then, but somehow I trust that he made it to that funeral. High energy guy, eh?



George, W1LSB





Carl, WA1ZCQ

Another cool thing about NEAR-Fest is the New England QRP (NEQP) camp. Carl WA1ZCQ always sets up an awesome wire antenna there, raised up high by the tall pines, and invites QRP'er to plug their rigs into it. I did so with my Elecraft KX3. Running 5 watts, I dropped my call into a pileup on 30 meter CW, and worked the DX station on my first try. I then had a 40 meter CW rag chew with an old timer in New York state. When I said that I was camping at a Hamfest in Deerfield, NH, he replied "You're at NEAR-Fest. I wish I were there". Apparently the event is well known even outside of New England. On Saturday morning, Carl was on a 75 meter SSB net, and one of his friend there gave him a 59 report. QRP is awesome with a good antenna.

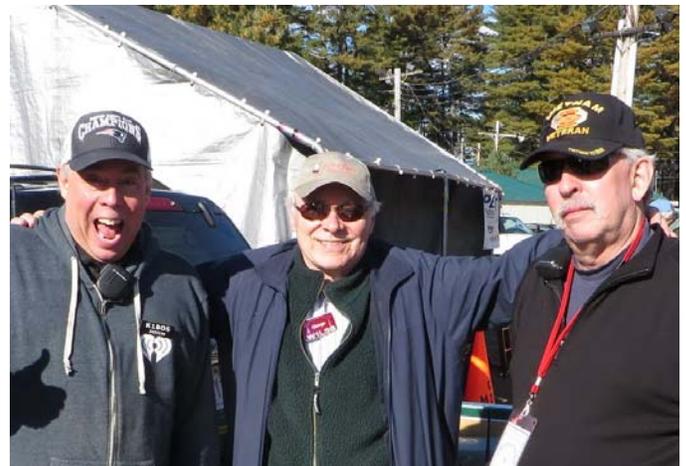


Eliot, W1MJ

My NEAR-Fest experience was topped off with a little surprise. Mindlessly making a last sweep of the flea market, I spotted a homebrew speaker cabinet – and stopped dead in my tracks. I recognized it instantly, even though about 45 years had passed since I built it. I thought maybe I was imagining that it was once mine, but I found my name on the back – a hand-written masking tape label that I probably stuck on when bringing it to Field Day back in Sharon, MA. The table belonged to Steve WA1HUD, so I probably sold or gave him this speaker years ago, and then forgot all about it.



Steve, WA1HUD and XYL Karen N1MSF



John, K1BOS, George, W1LSB & Glenn, KB1SMN



Brandon, KB1WAH, with son Elliot & Eliot W1MJ



Donny, N1YAN

Many Waltham ARA members and friends were there. Here are some more photos I took of them. The complete album is here: <https://picasaweb.google.com/eliotmayer/NEARFest2015Fall>

Hope to see you at a future NEAR-Fest!



Ron, KG1T



Mike, KB1UGS

KB1WAH TALKS ARDUINO

Mark Bolls, K1KGG

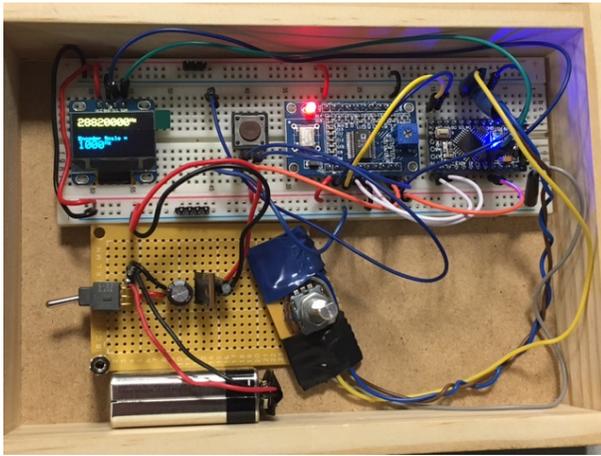
In case you missed the last Waltham Amateur Radio Association meeting, Brandon Hockle, KB1WAH gave a very nice presentation on the Arduino and its many uses with Amateur Radio.



Brandon, KB1WAH

What is Arduino you ask? To learn more and to purchase one for yourself visit www.arduino.cc

The Arduino projects are endless and its many uses with Amateur radio are only limited to one's creative imagination.



Brandon gave several website references during his talk and encourages experimenters to research the web for project ideas and for inexpensive Arduino parts.

You can find Brandon on QRZ as KB1WAH and also read his blog at www.github.com/bhockle and also read his blog at www.github.com/bhockle Email: bhockle@gmail.com

Some of the links Brandon shared are as follows:

- <http://blog.radioartisan.com/>
- <http://kk5jy.net/swr-meter-v1/>
- <http://kitsandparts.com/bridge.php>



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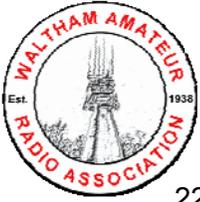
Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue of PHI. We greatly appreciate the time you took in sharing your knowledge! We are always looking for articles and new material to publish. Please send in your photos, announcements, story or short article (technical or not) at any time, for the next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

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



WALTHAM AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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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. If you are over 64 years of age, membership is FREE! However, you must still submit your application.

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

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Street _____

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*Please remember to keep your membership up to date by renewing and don't forget to notify us if you have moved. Thank you for joining WARA