



# **PROSPECT HILL INTERMOD**

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WALTHAM AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

[WWW.WALTHAMARA.ORG](http://WWW.WALTHAMARA.ORG)

Winter 2025

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## **WALTHAM ARA ELECTIONS**

Club elections will be held during the regular February 26 meeting. As this issue of PHI goes to press, there are only three members confirmed as willing to serve an office:

President: Open

Vice President: Christine Shustak, N1AUP, candidate for re-election

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Rich Comer, K1RBC, candidate for re-election

Assistant Treasurer: Eliot Mayer, W1MJ, candidate for re-election

## **WARA 2024 HOLIDAY PARTY**

WARA held its holiday party at The Great Wall Restaurant in Bedford, MA for the second time on December 11, 2024. Good food, good company!



Photo by Ron, KG1T

## ***WINTER FIELD DAY***

Eliot Mayer, W1MJ

Many radio hams are familiar with the annual ARRL Field Day (FD). On the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of every June, clubs and individuals around the country head out into the field and operate completely off the grid (see Note 1). It is a great combination of emergency preparedness, fresh air, and fun. The Waltham ARA used to do a casual FD operation along with a club picnic, where the number of hot dogs eaten sometimes exceeded the number of contacts made.

But doing this in winter? Totally nuts, right? That's what I thought. And then, silly old me, I participated in the 2025 Winter Field Day (WFD). At the WARA holiday dinner in December, Shirley KE1L told me about the Boston ARC (BARC) plan to operate WFD from the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Ponkapoag Camp in the Blue Hills Reservation, south of Boston. I signed up!

Fortunately, the camp has cabins heated by wood stoves. So operating was fairly comfortable, other than a bit of 20-degree breeze sneaking in where the windows couldn't quite close over the antenna feedlines. Unfortunately, the antennas still had to be erected in the cold. I didn't mind this so much, except for the parts where I had to remove my mittens to help assemble N1QD's BuddiHex beam antenna.

The BARC WFD consisted of 3 QRP HF stations, all powered by batteries. For WFD, QRP means 5 watts on CW and 10 watts on SSB. I personally find QRP SSB to be somewhat masochistic, and mostly stuck with CW. Joe N1QD brought along a triplexer and filters that allowed for the BuddiHex to be used on the 20, 15, and 10 meter bands simultaneously by the 3 stations. There were individual wire dipoles for 40 and 80 meters. In total, about 600 contacts were made over the weekend.



*Joe, N1QD, assembling the BuddiHex beam antenna*



*The 3 HF stations sharing a small table in one of the cabins*

To hear and see a bit more about this adventure, attend the 2/26/2025 WARA meeting. For more info on Winter Field Day, see <https://winterfieldday.org/>.

Note 1: For ARRL Field Day, digital mode FT8 has become very popular. Unlike other digital modes like RTTY and PSK31, FT8 requires accurate synchronization with a global time standard. Such synchronization cannot truly be done “off the grid”. It requires Internet access, cellular data, or GPS satellites. I have suggested to the ARRL that, in the spirit of FD, modes requiring such use of non-amateur infrastructure be banned. However, it appears that the ARRL folks are afraid to rule against such a popular mode. By contrast, Winter FD, which is run by a different organization, does not permit FT8.

## ***News From the Eastern Massachusetts ARRL\****

### **Sci-Tech ARS Hosts Millis Boy Scout Troop**

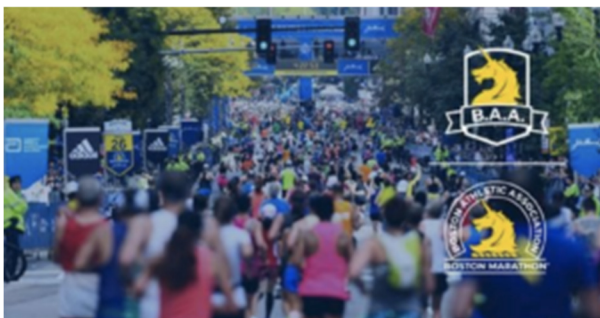
*February 11, 2025 - by k9hi*



*Many thanks to Joe, KM1P, for hosting the Boy Scouts Troop 15 from Millis, MA, this past Saturday. They arrived for a radio room visit, demonstrations, and GOTA activities while studying for the Radio Merit Badge. By the time they left, many had expressed interest in getting their Amateur Technician license.*

### **2025 Boston Marathon Amateur Radio Volunteers Needed**

*January 29, 2025 - by k9hi*



*Rob Macedo, KD1CY, writes:*

*We need Amateur Radio Volunteers for the 2025 Boston Marathon. We still could utilize approximately 80 additional Amateur Radio Operators for race day. In addition, there will be no volunteer deadline extensions unlike past years so if you are even considering to register, please register before the listed deadline below of Friday 2/7/25.*

*In addition, there is a continued need for medical volunteers for the 2025 Boston Marathon and those interested in volunteering as a medical or general volunteer can use the [register.hamradioboston.org](https://register.hamradioboston.org) link and they will be brought to the general volunteer page which can be utilized for those that are not Amateur Radio Operators to volunteer. It is possible if we resolve the email server/SKYWARN list issue that has not allowed our messages to reach all SKYWARN list participants that we will post this message again before the volunteer deadline to insure we reached everyone on the email list. Further details for Amateur Radio volunteers follow below:*

*Volunteer registration for the 2025 Boston Marathon is open and ongoing. If you've already registered to volunteer at the 2025 Boston Marathon, we'd like to thank you for your interest in joining our team!*

*For anyone who hasn't yet, please don't delay! Volunteer registration closes on Friday, February 7.*

*Registration Link (for new and returning volunteers):*

<https://www.baa.org/races/boston-marathon/volunteer/volunteer-registration>

*Step by Step Sign Up Guide:*

<https://hamradioboston.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/44002570599-2025-volunteer-registration-step-by-step-guide>

*A few notes for volunteers:*

*Almost all amateur radio positions are single person assignments. We are not able to group people on a single assignment, but we will try to accommodate which segment you are assigned to in order to allow for similar start/end times.*

*We'd like to extend our sincerest congratulations to the winner of the Boston Marathon ARO bib lottery, Hector Cruz, KB3ZOO. We're looking forward to cheering you on!*

*Final documentation is generally released during the first week of April. Before this can happen, we need the final logistical details from the various area coordinators for Start, Course, Finish, and Transportation. Where possible, we will release documents as they become available. In this case, look out for emails from the committee and your Team Captain.*

*As always, we appreciate your help in getting the word out to prospective volunteers. Please send this to hams or clubs that you think may be interested in joining us on the amateur radio team for the 2025 Boston Marathon!*

*If you have any questions about the content of this message or about volunteering at the marathon in general, please don't hesitate to send them to [contact@HamRadioBoston.org](mailto:contact@HamRadioBoston.org).*

*We're looking forward to seeing you all again soon!*

*Thank you, and 73,*

*Boston Marathon Communications Committee  
contact@HamRadioBoston.org*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Robert Macedo (KD1CY)  
ARES SKYWARN Coordinator  
Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator  
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## ***More on Winter Field Day, January 25-26, 2025***

*January 23, 2025 - by k9hi*



*Ponkapoag AMC cabin*

*From K1USN Happenings, 1/23/25:*

*Winter Field Day is an exciting annual event for amateur radio enthusiasts, taking place on the last full weekend of January. It offers a unique opportunity for radio operators to set up field operations in remote locations, enabling them to connect with other participants worldwide. You may choose to participate solo or get your your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is organized*

by the Winter Field Day Association. The association strongly believes that ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments. This is because freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards pose unique operational concerns.

Several local groups are planning Winter Field Day activation and encourage you to visit, participate and enjoy some brisk Ham Radio fun.

Scott – K1SU has extended an invitation to all K1USN members to join the winter FD crew @ Ponkapoag AMC – <https://ponkapoagcamp.org/>



Boston ARC Winter Field Day Crew

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## ***WALTHAM A.R.A. REPEATERS***

Input	Output	Tone In	Tone Out	Notes
146.040	146.640	136.5	136.5	NAC 293 for P25 use EchoLink W1MHL-R Node: 490278
223.34	224.94	103.5	103.5	
444.075	449.075	88.5	None	
902.1375	927.1375	131.8	100	Linked to NEAR 900 Network via IRLP





### ***Club Officers***

**President** – OPEN

**Vice President** – Christine Shustak (N1AUP)

**Secretary** – OPEN

**Treasurer** – Rich Comer (K1RBC)

**Assistant Treasurer** – Eliot Mayer (W1MJ)