

History Of CMARA

A walk into Amateur Radio's past....

Presented by NIFSK
Sandy Lancraft



Original ARRL Affiliation

- First record of A.R.R.L. affiliation - 3/13/1935
- Carolyn Welch, NISKM, CMARA President, instrumental in Historical research of Club
- Letter from A.R.R.L. N.E. Division Director G.W. Bailey
- 24 members at that time, 21 Licensed Hams
- Harold A. Johnson President, M.C. Nichols Secretary

HIRAM PERCY MAXIM, PRESIDENT
CHAS. H. STEWART, VICE-PRESIDENT

KENNETH B. WARNER, SECRETARY & GENERAL MANAGER

F. E. HANDY, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
A. A. HEBERT, TREASURER



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

INCORPORATED

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO AMATEUR RADIO

March 8, 1935

CABLE ADDRESS
QUIST, HARTFORD
OFFICIAL ORGAN: QST
KENNETH B. WARNER, EDITOR

From: Director New England Division
To: Communications Manager
Subject: Report of investigation covering application for affiliation with the
A.R.R.L. filed by Central Massachusetts Radio Association,
442 Main St.,
Worcester, Mass.
The officers are as follows:

President:	Secretary:
Harold A. Johnson,	M. C. Nichols,
32 Marland Rd.,	36 Hillcrest Ave.,
Worcester, Mass.	Worcester, Mass.

The society named above lodges control of its affairs in the licensed amateur group.
By Article Constitution, By-Laws, or the following amendment
.....

60% or more of the licensed amateurs belonging to the applicant society are also
members of the A.R.R.L.

Club members and associates: 24 Club members who are licensed
amateurs 21 Number of licensed amateur club members who are A.R.R.L.
members 13

Remarks or other information: PSE SEND CHARTER TO G.W. BAILEY
74 WEBSTER RD
WESTON, MASS
I WILL DELIVER TO CLUB IN PERSON.

The application for affiliation with the A.R.R.L. filed by the above
organization is (*) approved

Dated 3-12-35

G.W. Bailey
Director

(*) Approved or
not approved.

(Duplicate forms sent with each application, one form for Hdq., the second form

Archive (surrogate photocopy) sent to
Carolyn Roberts Welch, N1SKM, President of CMARA
upon completion of her efforts to unearth the
early club archives, thus proving through
evidence uncovered at ARRL that the
Central Mass Radio Association was the
original organization, founded in 1935, that
became the Hill-Top ARA after World War II
and finally the Central Massachusetts Amateur
Radio Assoc.

An event celebrating this discovery and
confirming that key leaders and members
belonged to all three phases of this organization
was held in March 2000, with a presentation by
the ARRL Field and Education Service.

From Spark to CW...

- Hilltopping (portable operation) became popular in the late 1930's, advent of VHF
- Relay between hilltops - Ross Hull VK3JU
- Advent of message relaying created NTS
- This concept was basis for what Repeaters do now!

Ross A. Hull VK3JU



Ross A. Hull, VK3JU, ex-editor of Wireless Weekly, emigrated from Australia to the USA where he joined the staff of the ARRL and became QST assistant Editor and VHF Pioneer. Ross died just a few years later due to high voltage accident.

Early VHF Experiments

- VHF Relays between hilltops on 5 Meter Band
- Stages from Hartford, CT -- Port Cherry Tower on Wilbraham Mountain, MA -- Wachusett Mountain Summit House, MA-- ending in Boston, MA.
- Were CMARA Members involved in this??
- (Radio historian and broadcaster Art, W1AWX has excellent website detailing this)

World War I I

No Amateur Operation allowed but “what
Surplus Equipment Afterwards!!”

Hilltop Amateur Radio Club

- Founded in 1948 by Harry Persson, W1EJD. Met at YWCA in Worcester. By 1949, W1SPF, W1SPG, W1SPH, W1SPI, and W1SOZ were licensed!
- Jim Carpenter, W1BIM, Dan Conlin, W1OPU, Tony Kurkierius, W1ONA, and Herman Gruzin, W1AAP were the original founding members. Affiliated with A.R.R.L. in 1952
- Clubhouse located up on Dead Horse Hill, Worcester
- 250 watt TX and Hammarlund RX
- 1949 yearly “Gabfest” gave way to ARRL N.E. Convention in 1960

From Hilltop to CMARA

- In 1953, the Hilltop club changed its name to the Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association (CMARA).
- CMARA adopts Jim Carpenter's call, W1BIM
- Franny Moy, W1SPG, elected CMARA President in 1953, 1954, and 1957. Becomes a driving force shaping the Club over next 20 years.

Franny Moy, W1SPG



Some of The Originals



- WISPG Franny, WICJ Charlie, WIDRD Harry, W1JLA Bob-- 1990 Meeting at The Webster House in Worcester.

More of The Original CMARA Amateurs



- Sketched May 6 ,2006 at KP Restaurant in Holden, MA. “Retired Old Men Eating Out”...

Growing Pains

- The club grew from about 6 to over 120 members from 1953 - 1962.
- Was not incorporated at first, which led to “The Great Insurance Scare Incident of 1962”
- Membership went from 130 - 15 members overnight “like a cattle stampede”. Motion to fold Club and reimburse dues at a fiery 1962 Monthly Meeting.
- Formation of WISPG’s “Key Club” in Worcester. Membership soared again in no time, thanks to Franny, WISPG

Club Incorporation

- Incorporation papers created in 1965
- Signers of the first corporate papers were Walt Giard, WA1CMW, Don Eastwood, K1WNN, Herb Fairbanks, WA1EUV, Izzy Meltzer, W1ACP, Bob Heck, W1JLA, Franny Moy, W1SPG, and John Smith, K1VNT.
- In December, 1972, the Incorporation papers were filed with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Club was re-incorporated in 1990.

Clubhouse Demolished

- In 1966, Urban development for the Worcester Outlet Garage demolished W1SPG's Apartment which housed the Key Club. Club moved to Spencer location of WA1GTM, Bill Breault.
- CMARA affiliates with A.R.R.L. in same year

NASA's Impact

- With the advent of great technological growth in the 1960's stemming from the NASA Space Program, the first of many Amateur Radio satellites and linear transponders were launched into orbit by many different countries.
- 1972, CMARA joined AMSAT
- Development of solid state technology rendered many Boat Anchors on the amateur market "obsolete". 75A4's were obtainable for as low as \$200.00!

Field Day!

- First mentioned in Club records in 1968
- Locations included Leicester Airport, Marshall St. and hopped around from there
- Became an annual Priority for the Club
- VHS Videos in Club Archives - lots of fun & hilarious cameraderie

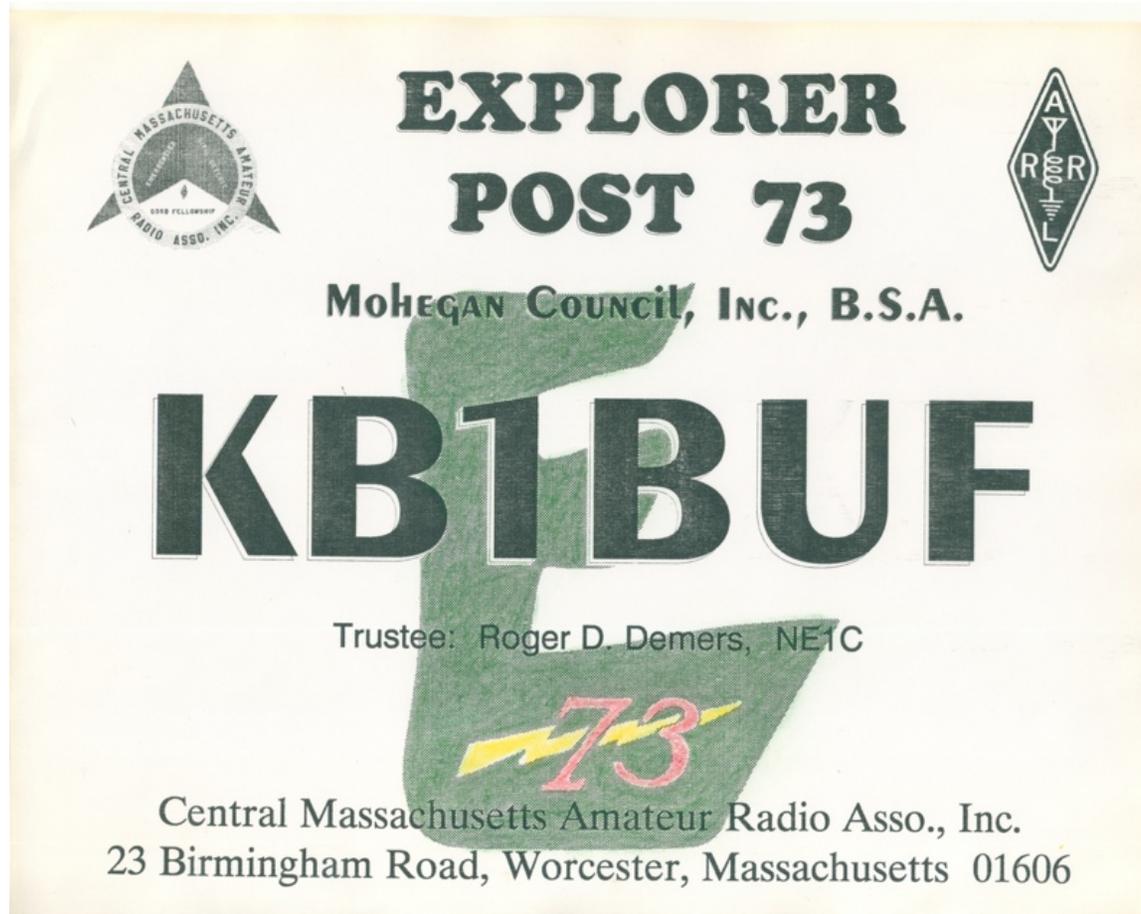
Club Banner

- Club Flag made by Terry Moy, KAIDGU in 1981
- Getting a bit faded, its still in service!

Explorer Post 73



Scouting at CMARA



- Through the efforts of Roger Demers, Franny Moy, Bob Heck, and Gerry Finkle, many new amateurs joined the Amateur Radio ranks as Scouts!

JOTA

- From 1981 to 1998, CMARA members supported Scout Explorer Post 73. W1SPG advisor.
- Gerry Finkle, WB1GSO, Carolyn Welch, N1SKM, & Bob Heck, W1JLA, conducted a Jamboree on the Air at Treasure Valley in Rutland, which led to quite a number of new hams being birthed from the Scouting movement.

Newsletter(s)

- Started out as “The Bulletin”. Ran from 1952 to 1977.
- ReNaming Contest in 1981 to “Ham Chatter”. Francis Kendall, W1UEO won a 5/8 wave magmount for the new name.
- 2 Meter F.M. News Bulletin
- K1WGN, WA1EDS, K1UOT, KS1B, NE1C, W1GGL, AE1DG, WA1FIH, W1DFW, WA1FNN, and NE1O and others involved

"Ham Chatter" Newsletter



Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association,

P.O. Box 681 Worcester, Ma. 01613-0543

W1BIM/R 146.970 MHz. Packet Station W1BIM - Worcester Node WORC 145.03 MHz.

HAM CHATTER

Vol. 17, No. 7

Programme

Sept. 1995

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PACKET RADIO

This month's meeting is a casual get together, to say "hi" after the summer break.

We have an informal program for this month's meeting.

Kurt Jackson, KA1JVC, Senior Field Technician for Mobilecomm Paging will be on hand with his IFR two-way service monitor to check the frequency, deviation and power output of your VHF and UHF mobiles and hand-held radios.

We will also have the WAAF Rock Bus for you to tour. It is a 30 Foot All Stream motor coach that has been outfitted to be a mobile broadcast van, complete with a 42 foot mast, generator, studio and PA system.

Eric, N1NVX, Chief Engineer, WAAF

From the Desk of the President

Summer vacation is over and the CMARA is back in business for the rest of the 1995 season! It's a great time of the year to finish up all those outside radio projects that went on hold the last few months. It's time to install that new antenna, change the coax and make sure the rotator will survive the long winter. If you run into a problem, REMEMBER the Club has a great natural resource to help you.

The TECHNICAL COMMITTEE was formed to help the young and old (and those in between) with the setup and operation of your station. Don't be afraid to ask for help during the meetings or give them a call when you have a tough one.

Speaking of meetings, don't forget the first meeting of the Fall season at the end of this month. Get out and get involved in the meetings, flea markets, dinners and other functions this Fall.

Eyeballs are one of the best ways to stay in touch with your hobby. SEE YOU AT THE MEETING AND LET ME HEAR YOUR IDEAS ON HOW TO MAKE THIS AN EVEN BETTER CLUB!!

Nick, W1BGL

HOSS TRADERS
The 2nd 1995 Hoss Traders will be held the weekend of Oct. 7, 1995 in Rochester, NH

Our next meeting will be held at
THE MERCY CENTER
25 West Chester St.

NE DX CONVENTION
The NE DX Convention sponsored by the Patriot DX & The Southern NE DX Association at

WHAT IS A SENIOR CITIZEN?

A senior citizen is one who was here before the Pill and the Population Explosion.

We were here before television, penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics, and frisbees.

Before frozen food, nylon, dacron, Zerex, Kinsey, radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards, and ball point pens.

For us time sharing meant togetherness, not computers; a chip meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hard wear, and softwear wasn't even a word.

Coeds never wore slacks. We were before pantyhose, and drip dry clothes, before ice makers and dishwashers, clothes dryers, freezers, and electric blankets.

Before Hawaii and Alaska became states. Before men wore long hair and earrings, and women wore Tuxedos.

We were before Leonard Bernstein, yoget, Ann Landers, plastic, the 40 hour week and the minimum wage. We got married first and then lived together.

How quaint can one be?

Closets were for clothes, not for coming out of, bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens.

We were before Grandma Moses and Frank Sinatra and cup sizing for bras.

Girls wore Peter Pan collars and thought cleavage was something butchers did.

We were before Batman, Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer, and Snoopy.

Before DDT vitamin pills, disposable diapers, Q.E. One, Jeeps, The Jefferson Memorial and pizza, Cheerios, instant coffee, decaffeinated anything and McDonald's & Burger Kings were all unheard of.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent. We were before Boy George, J.D. Salinger and Chiquita Banana.

Before FM radios, tape recorders, electric typewriters, word processors, MUZAK, electronic music, disco dancing.....and that's not all bad!

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was for mowing, Coke was a refreshing drink, and pot was something you cooked in.

If we'd been asked to explain CIA, Ms., NATO, UFO, NFL, JFK, ERA or IUD we'd have said alphabet soup.

We are today's SENIOR CITIZENS, a hardy bunch when you think of how OUR world has changed and of the adjustments WE have had to make!

FROM A PAGE IN QST - Sept. 95

Behind the Diamond: Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R

Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, is assistant to the manager of the ARRL Educational Activities Department. He helps maintain the large array of services ARRL offers to Amateur Radio newcomers, instructors, school teachers, and recruiters. Bob also conducts educational workshops and youth forums from time to time. He came to work at Headquarters in May 1991, as assistant to the manager of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

Bob, 25, was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, an Army Brat. He began his ham life as a 6th-grade novice, KA2PZD, in 1981. He attributes his early interest in Amateur Radio to a fascination with electronics and a patent middle school vice-principal, who one year decided to conduct an Amateur Radio class. "I was the only student who enjoyed being sent to the vice principal's office," Bob claims. "That's where the radio was!"

Then it was off to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts. Bob upgraded to Amateur Extra Class and was president of the WPI Wireless Association for three years (1987 to '90), as well as an active operator at the WPI club station, W1YK (founded in 1909, by the way). Bob spent three years at WPI, majoring in management engineering, before

bailing out to go to work full time. While in Worcester, Bob became involved in teaching Amateur Radio and became an ARRL volunteer examiner. As part of his course work at WPI, Bob developed a 5th-grade curriculum on amateur satellite communication. He then used this teaching package at the private Bancroft School in Worcester—and he's since expanded and used many of the lessons in ARRL teacher support materials for the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX).

Bob has represented Amateur Radio education, and SAREX, at the National Science Teachers Association National Conventions the past three years, where exhibits are sponsored in part by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Bob particularly enjoys the partnership he has helped develop between the education divisions of ARRL and NASA.

"Once, we thought science and technology were important only for students who wanted to pursue careers in engineering and the sciences," he says. "But, today, the tools of everyday life are filled with computers and communication devices, and using them is becoming increasingly complicated. Students who are not 'turned on' to technology today may be left out tomorrow. And, if Amateur Radio is the classroom tool we can use to excite students about technology...then ARRL, as the national focal point for Amateur Radio, will lead the way with innovative ham radio educational support and programs for students and teachers."

(If that sounds like so much self-promotional hoopla, go back and read it again. Are you involved in the sciences? And what got you interested as a youngster? —Ed.)

Bob enjoys operating in the November Sweepstakes and the ARRL International DX Contest. He's a member of AMSAT, operates VHF voice and packet from home, as well as HF and the satellites from the ARRL HQ staff station, W1WIF.

Bob has become an Amateur Radio mainstay in the communication work at the Boston Marathon, too. He is actively involved with the Hartford Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Community Center, and performs comedy as part of a theater repertoire he has co-founded, called "Group Therapy." The group has raised money for various support groups and AIDS-relief organizations. He lives in New Britain, Connecticut, with his partner, Michael Bower. —KITN



TRIVIA

By Phil, KA1RPR

In the nineteen thirties there was a movie filmed at a near-by lake.

Legislation

- Tom Carrigan, WAINVS, now NEIR, Tower Rights bill became law, signed by MA Gov. Weld in 1996

From BIM to JXR

Training at CMARA

- Began in 1948 with The Hilltoppers
- Many, Amateurs involved grew the proficiency of the new arrivals to the hobby. “Tireless services” rendered.
- Local High Schools (like Prouty) had programs for Novices, Technician Licensing
- Monthly presentations, demos, Guest Visitors added to the Club’s knowledge base
- New radio concepts introduced, i.e. Packet, Satellites, DX, Nets, Emergency OPS, etc...

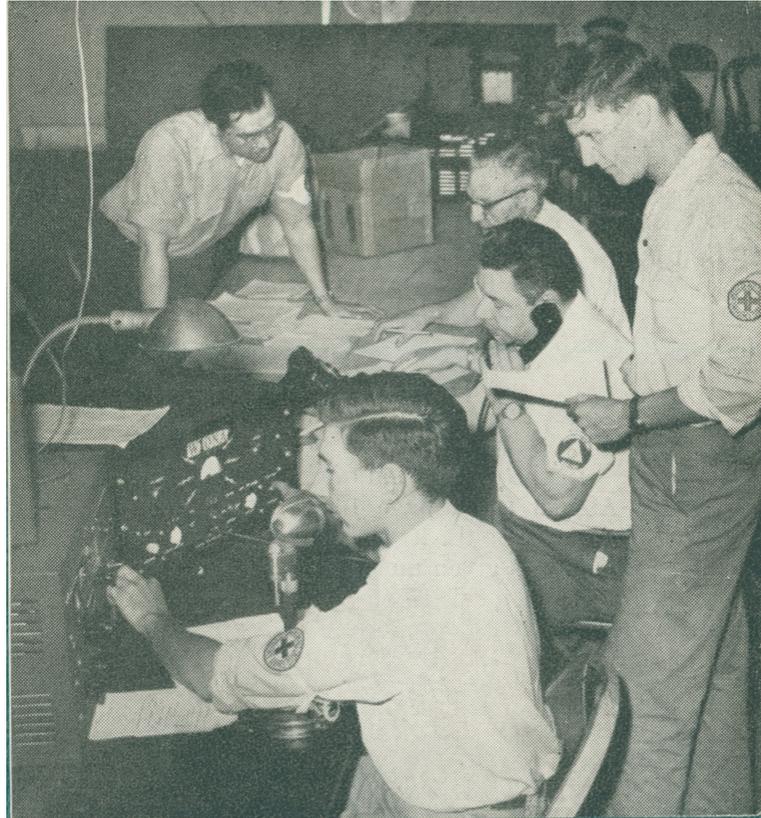
CMARA Instructors

- Paved the way for great growth and promoted Amateur Radio as a hobby and service to Community
- WIBIM, Jim Carpenter, W1SPG Frannie Moy, Harry Sprague, W1CLU, Ed Rice, K1PCV, Ronnie Graveline, K1RNG, Dan Lorusso, W1HER, Bob Heck, W1JLA, Anne Gillette, ex WA1OAS later VE2WH, Franny Moy, W1SPG, Gerry Finkle, WB1GSO in the 1970's, and later, Greg, WA1JXR and many others.

Emergency Operations

- First records show 1953 Worcester Tornado
- The Blizzard of 1978, Hurricane Gloria, 1984, The Blizzard of 1991, Hurricane Bob in 1991, and the Blizzards of 1992 and 1997.
- Gerry Finkle, WB1GSO, and Bob Beausoleil, KA1OTQ prime movers in this area over the years.
- Packet Radio became new tool in the 1980's, node located at Green Hill Park in Worcester
- From CD to ARES to Skywarn

Disaster Strikes!



Worcester Tornado 1953 C.D. Opns.

- 1953 Civil Defense operations by Hilltop Members. Amateur Radio offers public service during emergency .

CMARA Nets

- Since 1974, many Nets sponsored by CMARA have come and gone, starting with a Novice Class CW Net on 21.175 mhz.
- Gerry Finkle, WB1GSO, Bob Heck, W1JLA, and Bob Beausoleil, KA1OTQ, were instrumental members in the early days of net operation.
- In 1984, the "Ol' Joe's Net" was formed by William Margrum, W1AQM. 1995, this net became the "The Ol' Timer's Net", when it was taken over by George Lea, K1WZA.
- Now known as "George's Old Timer's Net", it may now be heard every night on CMARA's repeater W1BIM.

Food at CMARA

- Food and Ham Radio often “strange Bedfellows”...
- “Senior Homesteaders” > “R.O.M.E.O.S.”
- “Nomads” > “Wanderers”
- Lots of food! Much Socializing with XYL’s
- “Nights Out” program- day after monthly CMARA Meetings, Jack, K1NMMK & XYL
- Hot Dog Annie’s and Breakfast meetups continue tasty traditions into future...

Repeaters!!!

- First CMARA repeater built by WISPG, KIQQB with help from WIJLA (6/15/71 on air - .34 -.94 located at WISPG's QTH
- the next day freq changed to .37 - .97
- 8/26/72 Repeater moved to KIHIS QTH
- 5/17/73 moved again to KIWUK QTH
- 1973-1984 Repeater operated by KIWUK and WAIKRJ
- 1997 Repeater moved to present location on Asnebumskit Hill, Paxton- 1395' ASL

73's

- Respectfully presented, Sandy Lancraft
NIFSK, ex. WNIFSK, WAIFSK, KCIAOV