Membership Meeting ~ Wednesday, 23 May 2012 @ 7:00 PM

The 3Y0X DXpedition
Northborough Free Library,
34 Main Street, Northborough, MA

May's meeting will feature a DVD presentation of the DXpedition to St. Peter Island. Frozen wasteland, environmental treasure, or ham radio paradise? You be the judge!

Free pizza will be served.
General elections will also be held at this meeting.

Directions to The Northborough Free Library

Directions from I-495:
- From I-495, take Exit 24B which is Rt. 20 West toward Northborough.
- Follow Rt. 20 West about 3.5 miles, into the center of Northborough.
- Opposite the Gulf Station on the right, turn left into Patty Lane.
- The Northborough Free Library parking lot will be on the left.
The Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA) is dedicated to Amateur Radio and public service. The MMRA maintains a large system of repeaters in Eastern Massachusetts.

The MMRA meets (usually) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to June. Meeting times, locations, and talk-in frequency vary and are announced in this newsletter and on weekly nets. Meetings are open to all interested parties. Guest speakers and programs of general interest occur in September, November, January, March, and May. The intervening meetings are also open to all members and are for general business.

The Minuteman newsletter is Emailed one week before each general interest meeting. Members are encouraged to submit articles which can be sent to the editor at newsletter@mmra.org. The deadline for articles is the last Friday of the month preceding the meeting.

Each Tuesday evening at 8PM the MMRA links most of the repeaters for an open net. The topic is “Technical Information and Other Stuff”. Join us!

Membership in the MMRA is open to all radio amateurs. Annual dues are $25 per individual or $35 per family. See our website for details.

Email to the club leadership should be sent to contact@mmra.org. The MMRA maintains a web site at: http://www.mmra.org/

An email distribution list for club members named “MMRA” is at: www.yahoogroups.com/

No part of this newsletter can be copied or posted elsewhere without prior approval from the club. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

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**MMRA QRM Policy**

MMRA members and all other operators are strongly encouraged to report repeater activity that does not abide by Part 97 rules or accepted amateur radio practice to the board of directors at contact@mmra.org or via other means.

The most effective way (and probably the only effective way) to deal with an individual causing QRM is to NOT engage that individual on the air. Please include the time and date of any incident. Measures are being taken to make audio recordings of repeater activity.

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**About the Minuteman Repeater Association**

**Repeater and Frequency Information**

Up-to-date information about both MMRA repeaters and affiliate repeaters can be found at http://www.mmra.org/repeaters/index.html

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Freq</th>
<th>PL</th>
<th>Call</th>
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**MMRA Other Systems**

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<td>Fox Box</td>
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</table>

| Internet | HUB1— 449.925: IRLP node 4133; Echolink |
|         | HUB2 — 442.700: IRLP node 4136; Connected to 220 Reflector 9124 on Tuesdays |
|         | 927.0625: IRLP node 4977 | Normally linked to the NEAR-900 Reflector, 9125. Linked to MMRA via IRLP for the TIAOS net. Normally linked together. |
|         | 927.700: IRLP node 4978 |

**Notes:**

- FTL = Full Time Linked (or default state)
- PTL = Part Time Linked (on schedule or demand)
- Note — a repeater can be linked to only one Hub at a time.

**PL:**

- PL is required to prevent interference.
President’s Corner — Current Events
Bob DeMattia — K1IW

A number of items are on our current agenda:

Sligo Update

Renovation work by the City of Marlborough at our Sligo Hill repeater site continues. In the next stage, all antennas on the water tank need to be removed. The APRS, 6m receiver, 224.880, 449.925 and 927.7 antennas will be removed first, with 147.27 shortly thereafter. During the time these antennas are down, we will have most systems running on mast-mounted backup antennas. These antennas are about 100 feet lower, so you can expect reduced coverage. The city has not given us a time table for when things will return to normal, so things may stay this way for quite some time.

Boxboro 2012

The Boxboro Convention is on August 24th, 25th, and 26th. MMRA will be providing talk-in from our hospitality suite just off the main courtyard inside the hotel throughout the convention. Be sure to stop by and say hello to the other members of the club.

Even better, we are planning to attend the Saturday evening banquet as a club. The banquet features a guest speaker and other entertainment. If you would like to join us, purchase your banquet ticket through us to receive a $5 discount. Contact K1IW at k1iw@mmra.org for further information.

March Membership Meeting

Ham's in Emergency Communications
Mike Neilsen, W1MPN

Mike discussed how ham radio operators are still considered important players in the overall emergency communication (EMCOMM) response. He outlined how ham radio is used in today’s complex public safety environment in the face of complicated issues of reduced state budgets and agency consolidations. He also briefly described the requirements of NIMS, ICS, and state programs, as they apply to ham operators. W1MPN explained many of the new approaches to the integration of ham EMCOMM volunteers into initiatives such as COML, RADO, ACS, and COOP/COG, and how they relate to RACES, ARES, SKYWARN, MARS, and the CERT programs. He then gave a brief update of the changes being proposed for the existing RACES program by MEMA, as part of the current outreach to hams.
From the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section News

Amateur radio volunteers turned out in droves for the 2012 Boston Marathon on April 16. According to Amateur Radio Communications Coordinator Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, approximately 250 hams provided communications support to the Boston Athletic Association, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, Boston Emergency Medical Services, along with the public safety departments of eight different municipalities.

Forty hams comprised the start team; 110 were situated along the course; 20 were assigned to Net Control in Brookline; 60 amateurs made up the finish team; an additional 22 helped coordinate bus operations.

Amateurs were also stationed at the ARES Regional Command Center in Bridgewater, and at the MA State EOC in Framingham.

The Boston Marathon continues to be one of the largest and most visible Amateur Radio public service operations in the country. The amateur community can be proud of its contributions to this historic race.

Boxboro — Call for Speakers
Ken Caruso, W01N

All speakers wanting to participate in the 2012 ARRL New England Division Convention program, please contact us at your earliest opportunity and include a subject title and a brief abstract.

The dates for the convention are August 24 – 26, 2012.

If you represent a regional club or organization (e.g. NESMC, CEMARC, MARS, NEWS etc.) we can help facilitate open forums or closed meetings. We do ask organizations to please consider Sunday morning time slots for their closed meetings.

Groups looking to set up information booths should get your request in early. While the information booths are offered without charge, we ask for some volunteer time in return to assist us with ticket sales and other logistics during the convention operation.

Ken Caruso, W01N
Boxboro Program Chairman
Wo1n@arrl.net
508-572-3347

Proposed Change to MMRA ByLaws
Bob DeMattia, President — K1IW

The current bylaws require a vote for the general membership for any expenditure over $500. This makes sense most of the time, but there are times when things must be done, such as repairs where there isn't really must choice, and often time is of the essence.

This bylaw will eliminate the general membership requirement under certain conditions.

This is what we have now:

a. All expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars must be approved by the majority of the membership present at a meeting. The subject of the vote must be announced to the members in the meeting announcement. Alternatively, such a vote may be accomplished by mail or by electronic means as provided in Article IV section 8 and Article IV section 9. If this alternate method is used, a majority of the full membership is required.

The proposal is to add the following to this paragraph:

Expenses related to the immediate repair of existing equipment or to prevent damage to existing equipment are exempt from this limit and may be authorized by the board. In this case, the board shall provide notice to the general membership of such expense at the next regularly scheduled general meeting.

This will be voted on at the June membership meeting.
**2011—2012 Meetings**

21 September — Membership Meeting  
Rob Macedo, KC1CY — Tornadoes and Hurricanes  
Westborough Public Library ~ 7:00 PM

19 October — Membership Meeting  
General Business  
Southborough House of Pizza

16 November — Membership Meeting  
Ham Radio at The Boston Marathon  
MEMA Hqtrs, Framingham ~ 7:30 PM

14 December — Membership Meeting  
General Business  
Stratus, Maynard

18 January — Membership Meeting  
All About D-Star — Terry Stader, KA8SCP  
Northborough Free Library ~ 7:00 PM

15 February — Membership Meeting  
General Business  
Conexant, Waltham ~ 7:00 PM

21 March — Membership Meeting  
Ham’s in Emergency Communications — Mike Neilson, W1MPN  
Concord Public Safety Bldg / EOC ~ 7:00 PM

18 April — Membership Meeting  
No meeting in April

23 May — Membership Meeting  
The 3Y0X DXpedition & MMRA General Elections  
Northborough Free Library ~ 7:00 PM

20 June — Membership Meeting  
General Business  
Blue Coyote Grille, Maynard ~ 7:00 PM

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**MMRA Leaders**

**Officers**

President  
Bob DeMattia  
K1IW

Vice President  
Steve Telsey  
N1BDA

Secretary  
John McGovern  
W1JMC

Treasurer  
Kevin Paetzold  
K1KWP

Clerk  
Bob Evans  
N1BE

Technical Officer  
Bryan Cerqua  
W1BRI

**Board of Directors**

Director »2012  
Clark Conti  
N1NVK

Director »2012  
Mike Neilson  
W1MPN

Director »2013  
Steve Schwarm  
W3EVE

Director »2013  
Roger Coulson  
WA1NVC

**Repeater Trustees, Appointed**

Belmont 145.430  
Larry Arone  
WA1RTT

Boston 927.0625  
Rick Zach  
K1RJZ

Brookline 146.820  
Bob Phinney  
K5TEC

Burlington 146.715  
Bruce Pigott  
KC1US

Burlington 446.775  
Larry Banks  
W1DYJ

Hopkinton 223.940  
Kevin Paetzold  
K1KWP

Lowell 442.250  
Vince De La Flor  
K1LVF

Marlboro 53.810, Quincy 146.670, Southboro 449.575  
Bryan Cerqua  
W1BRI

Marlboro 144.390, 147.270, 224.880, 449.925, 927.700  
Weston 442.700 — all as W1MRA  
Bill Northup  
N1QPR

Mendon 146.610  
Jim Podsiadlo  
AE1C

Weston 146.790  
Bob Evans  
N1BE

Weston 224.700  
Eddie Mulhern  
N1NOM

**Appointed, non-Voting**

Newsletter Editor  
Larry Banks  
W1DYJ

Emergency Coord.  
Kevin Paetzold  
K1KWP

Public Service Coord.  
Bruce Pigott  
KC1US

VEC Liaison  
Bill Wade  
K1IJ

Net Manager  
Larry Banks  
W1DYJ

Web Page Editor  
Bob DeMattia  
K1IW

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**Don’t Forget!**

Every Tuesday @ 8 PM  
Technical, Informational and Other Stuff Net

The MMRA’s repeaters are linked Tuesday nights for the TIAOS Net. Join us! This is a good way to keep up with what is happening in the MMRA and ask your ham related questions.

If you would like to try your hand at Net Control contact me at W1DYJ@mmra.org – we have a script you can use.

Current Net Control Operators:

Week 1  
WA1JIM — Jimmy DeVaire

Week 2  
W1DYJ — Larry Banks

Week 3  
KQ1Y — Tim Wortley

Week 4  
K1KWP — Kevin Paetzold

Week 5  
W1DYJ — Larry Banks

**Beginning 1 June:**  
To connect using the digital modes during the Net:  
Use MMRA’s node:  
Connect via *W1MRA-L*, node 9128.

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Previous issues of the MMRA Newsletter are available at:  
www.mmra.org ➔ Newsletter Archive (on the left)

**MMRA VE Sessions**

3rd Saturday of each Month  
9 AM at the Marlboro Public Library

Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJ  
781-891-9079

Evenings 6 - 10 PM  
Weekends 8 AM to 10 PM.  
Accredited by the ARRL VEC
Upcoming Membership Meeting ~ Wednesday, 23 May 2012 @ 7:00 PM

The 3Y0X DXpedition
Northborough Free Library, 34 Main Street, Northborough, MA
Pizza will be served.
General elections will also be held at this meeting.

Next Membership Meeting: 20 June — General Business
Blue Coyote Grille, Maynard ~ 7:00 PM

Calendar of Ham Radio Flea Markets
See this web site for more information: http://mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas

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<td>Windsor CT</td>
<td>VR+C Mus</td>
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<td>Queens NY</td>
<td>HoSARC @HoS</td>
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<td>16 Jun</td>
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<td>15 Jul</td>
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<td>11 Aug</td>
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<td>24-26 Aug</td>
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<td>8 Sep</td>
<td>Ballston Spa NY</td>
<td>SCRACES @FG</td>
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THE MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

MMRA
P.O. Box 669
Stow, MA. 01775-0669

Email: contact@mmra.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB
HTTP://WWW.MMRA.ORG/