



July 2024

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<http://www.w1mv>



<https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmara/>



<https://twitter.com/search?q=Massasoit%20Amateur%20Radio%20Association&src=typd>

We hope to see you on July 16th 2024 Social hour is from 1800 meeting starts at 1830. Talk-in is on 147.180+ meeting. Our August meeting is the BBQSO on 20th at 135 Wareham St Middleborough please see the presentation below.

ON THE AIR Tuesdays First July 2nd, Second July 9th and Fourth July 32rd and Fifth July 30th. First one for August 6th, Second August 13th, August 20th BBQSO come one come all bring a friend or two. August 27th is our fourth on the air meeting. Tom Luckman WA1TOM will be the net controller. We are looking for other net controllers please sign up with John Laiosa N1BSO we have a new format please sign in on Tuesdays at 2000 (8pm) and join the new conversation

Presidents Message

Not much going on for the summer. The new Tuesday night net format is going well thanks to Tom WA1TOM. Remember the August meeting is our annual cookout at Rick KB1TEE's house. The BBQSO is at 135 Wareham St Middleborough see the info below. If you are interested in club apparel check the web site and send any requests to John N1BSO at jlaiosa@gmail.com.

Secretary report By Phil McNamara N1XTB

MARA minutes 18 June 2024

Meeting called to order by John N1BSO at 1834 at the Bridgewater Library meeting room.

Attendees

N1BSO John

WA1TOM Tom
N1XTB Phil
KA1YL Connie
N1IQI Loren
KC1JDN Philip

Secretary report as published in the newsletter accepted

Treasurer and Repeater report accepted.

Spare power supply that was in repeater shack brought to BROCK site by
Jeff AJ1L

Discussion of work on Whitman repeater - problems with Yaesu controller.

No old business

New Business - Reminder about the August BBQSO at Rick's on our usual
Tuesday club meeting night.

Anyone wishing to participate in Field day activities can join WARC at
their usual spot at the YMCA field site.

Discussion about having a speaker for Skywarn/NWS presentation in the fall.

Meeting adjourned at 1849

Newsletter editor Rick Emord KB1TEE

BBQSO 2024 August 20, 2024

**Please remember our club meeting and BBQSO on Tuesday
August 20 1700 start time meeting at 1830**

Location is at 135 Wareham St Middleborough, MA

Talk in is on the MARA repeater 147-180 pl67

**Bring your own food to cook on the grill beverage of choice
please bring something to share with the group**



Adult beverages welcome please drink responsibly come and enjoy a night outside with your friends. We hope to have a good turn out this year thank you please contact Rick
kb1tee@gmail.com

On-Air Events and Conventions

[IARU HF World Championship](#) | July 13 – 14

[222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#) | August 3 – 4

[Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Alabama State Convention](#) | August 17 – 18
Huntsville, Alabama

[Northeast HamXposition, ARRL New England Division Convention](#) | August 22 – 25
Marlborough, Massachusetts



Deep Dive: My Mountain Topper MTR-3B Watertight SOTA Field Kit

[July 5, 2024 Thomas Witherspoon 5 Comments](#)

Last week, in response to a reader's question here on QRPer.com, I was reminded that I hadn't yet made a video specifically about my Mountain Topper MTR-3B SOTA field kit.

Yesterday, I made a short video (see below) where I show what I pack in my MTR-3B field kit and why I choose to house it in a Pelican 1060 case.

First, let's look at a list of the gear, then I'll talk about what went into my choices, and I'll link to the video.

Gear:



Note: All Amazon, CW Morse, ABR, Chelegance, eBay, and Radioddity links are affiliate links that support QRPer.com at no cost to you.

Self-Contained Watertight Field Kit:

- - [Mountain Topper MTR-3B](#)
 - [3D-Printed MTR-3B Cover](#)
 - [Pelican 1060 Micro Waterproof Case](#)
 - [K6ARK No-Counterpoise 40M EFHW](#)
 - [N6ARA MiniSWR 20-80M](#)
 - Bare-Bones Arborist throw line kit: [25 meters of Marlow KF1050 Excel 2mm Throwline](#), and one [Weaver 8 or 10oz weight](#)
 - [N6ARA TinyPaddle Jack](#)
 - [USB-C Rechargeable 9V Li-Ion Batteries](#)
 - [Zebra Mechanical Pencil, Del Guard, 0.7mm](#)
 - [Rite In The Rain Top Spiral Notebook \(small 3x5 size\)](#)
 - Sennheiser earbuds with in-line analog volume control (discontinued 1999 model)

Optional Gear for SOTA/POTA:



- - [Tufteln NORNM Folding Knee Board](#)
 - [Helinox Chair Zero](#)
 - Backpack: Either [GoRuck GR1 USA](#) (for short hikes) or [Mystery Ranch Scree 32 backpack](#) (for long hikes or overnight camping)
 - [Anker Soundcore Mini Speaker](#) (if I want speaker audio from the MTR-3B)

Design Choices I chose to house this field kit in a [Pelican 1060 Micro Case](#) even though, at one pound, it weighs more than the typical pouch I also use for small field radios. The Pelican, however, protects the entire radio kit as it's fully watertight and crush-proof. If I trip while fording a creek or fall and land on my pack, the Mountain Topper will be safe. Yes, there's a mass/weight cost, but I feel it's very minimal for the protection it offers.

Counterpoise-less End-Fed Half-Wave



When I build the [K6ARK EFHW antenna kit](#) for my MTR-3B, I chose to make it without a counterpoise. Even though the antenna would be more efficient with a dedicated counterpoise and less prone to the effects of body capacitance, I feel like the benefits of this design outweigh the compromises. For one thing, leaving off the counterpoise saves space inside the Pelican case. In addition, by designing the antenna to attach directly to the MTR-3B's BNC port, there's no need to include a feedline, thus saving quite a bit of space.

So far, I've been very impressed with how forgiving this antenna has been and, most importantly, with how well it has performed.

N6ARA SWR Meter



I include the [N6ARA MiniSWR](#) in my field kit to give me some peace of mind if my antenna deployment is compromised (for example, if the trees on a summit are too small, etc.). Since my MTR-3B version has no built-in SWR metering, I feel this is a meaningful addition to the kit.

Throw Line and Weight

At least 90% of the summits and parks I activate here in western North Carolina have trees. To me, no field kit is truly sufficient unless I include a throw line and weight. I find that the [Marlow KF1050 Excel 2mm Throwline](#) is small, lightweight, and effective—25 meters is enough to deploy any wire antenna I'd carry on a SOTA activation.

Many SOTA ops use a small sack that they place stones in to act as a throw weight for their line. This is very clever because you don't have to pack in [that extra 8 ounces](#) on the roundtrip hike. Still, I like the convenience of a throw weight that's designed to glide through tree branches with ease—especially if the tree is dense. If I were to do a multi-day SOTA backpacking trip, I'd probably use an empty throw sack instead of a dedicated weight.

Rechargeable 9 Volt Battery Packs

[My Tufteln/NORNM kneeboard](#) is an essential part of my SOTA kit. I never leave without it. The chair and kneeboard combo gives me the flexibility to set up anywhere, anytime. I love it.

New 3D-Printed Paddle Kit from KM4CFT

[July 5, 2024](#) [Thomas Witherspoon](#) [1 Comment](#)

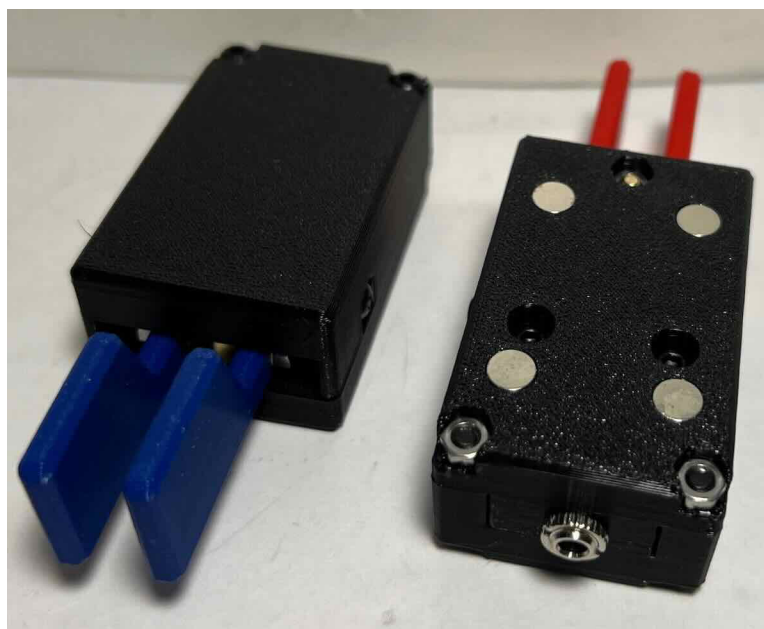
Yesterday, I met up with Jonathan (KM4CFT) who happens to be in town visiting family over the holiday weekend. Before our POTA activation, he mentioned that he is now selling a 3D-printed paddle kit for \$34.95 on eBay:

<https://ebay.us/GhLOYz>

(note: this is an eBay partnership link)



Jonathan told me that he's using the kit as a bit of a fund-raiser for a much more ambitious project he has in the works. Jonathan gave me an early prototype of this key many months ago (see photo above) and I've used it in the shack [and in the field](#). It's a good one.



This kit version has either red or blue finger pieces.

As with all of Jonathan's kits, he's selling this kit via [the eBay shop of Dan \(W7RF\)](#). Go check it out!

NEARFEST 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phil Brooks, KA1PXZ, Chief of NEAR-Fest, is pleased to announce that, effective October 4th, 2024, the New England Amateur Radio Festival, known as NEAR-Fest, will be held at the Hillsborough County Agricultural Society Fairgrounds and Youth Center located at New Boston NH, approximately 15 miles west of Manchester.

The reason for the permanent change in venue is due to ongoing scheduling conflicts with other events at the Deerfield (NH) Fairgrounds, NEAR-Fest's home for the past eighteen years.

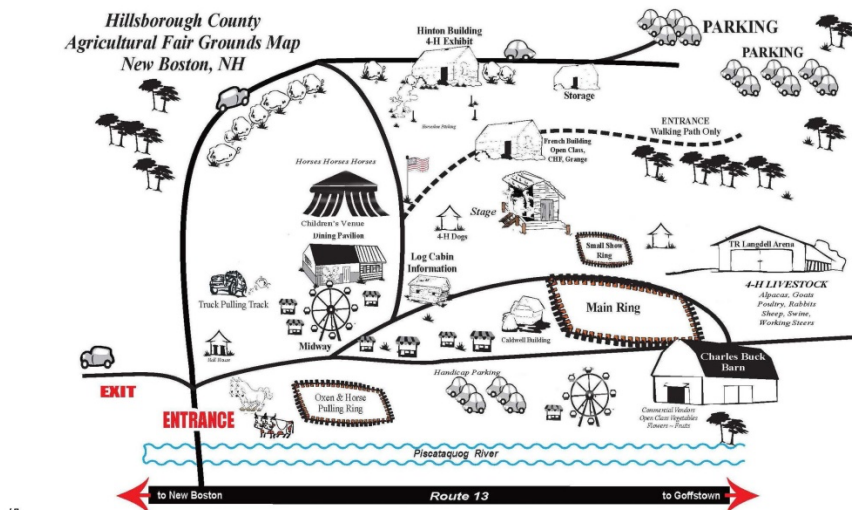
The hard decision to move the popular New England hamfest was taken by a unanimous vote of NEAR-Fest's Board of Directors on May 17th, 2024.

In endorsing the decision NEAR-Fest's Benevolent Dictator Emeritus, Michael Crestohl, W1RC, aka "Mister Mike" commented: "This was inevitable. The Deerfield Fairgrounds is becoming more and more popular with exhibitors and, as a designated agricultural fairgrounds, they have to give priority to agricultural events. We had a fabulous eighteen-year run. I am confident that Phil and Kelley, along with their team, will take NEAR-Fest forward at our new location for many years to come."

Other than the location nothing else will change. It is still the same NEAR-Fest we have all known and loved since 2007!

NEAR-Fest XXXVI will be held Friday October 4th and Saturday October 5th, 2024 at the Hillsborough County Agricultural Society Fairgrounds, located at 17 Hilldale Lane, (Route 13) New Boston NH. GPS Coordinates 42.9842430, -71.6793460.

Please keep checking back. The website will be updated as more information is available



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIRGROUNDS

Massasoit Amateur Radio Association Executive Board

President : John Laiosa acting as president

Vice President: OPEN

Secretary: OPEN

Treasurer: Phil McNamara N1XTB

Call Sign Trustee: Phil McNamara N1XTB

Newsletter editor : Rick Emord KB1TEE

2M Repeater 147.180+ (Tone 67.0)

440 Repeater 444.550+ (Tone 88.5)

APRS Node Node 144.39 W1MV-1

Packet BBS 145.09 N1XTB-4

Packet Node Brockton 145.09 W1JOE-7 (BROCK)

MARA Web Page <http://www.w1mv.org/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/w1mvmaral/>

ARC Web Page <http://www.wa1npo.org>

Qsl via www.eqsl.cc

Skywarn <http://wx1box.org> and

www.powersrvcs.org/w1gmf/skywarn.htm

Mailing Address P.O. Box 428 Bridgewater, MA 02324

Monthly meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Our Meetings-On-The-Air are held all other Tuesday evenings at 8PM on 147.180+

The South Shore Skywarn Net is held every Saturday evening at 8PM local time on 147.180+ and is open to all hams.

VE Exams are held the 2nd Saturday of every month, in Braintree contact Steve Cohen, W1OD via email w1od@arrl.net. Walk-ins are no longer permitted. We will be hosting VE exams at 8:45 at the Watson building. If you know of anyone planning to take an exam, please have them drop a note to Steve to confirm a reservation.

