



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association
for MaY 2024



MARA HAS A FIVE HOUR SPRING FIELD DAY



Sunday April 14th turned out to be a nice sunny spring day after several weeks of very inclement weather. Good news because the MARA decided to have a mini five hour field day in the of the Brunswick American Legion parking lot.



The location was arranged for by Legion member and MARA VP Scott Higgins, W3VNE who would like Legion members get involved with Ham Radio.

At about 8:00AM a dozen plus MARA members arrived and started setting up a make shift mini Field Day operation as a practice run for the upcoming big ARRL June Field Day and a ham related sunny day get together.

Several members brought their radios to set up and make a few QSOs. John Goran, K1JJS was first to setup with his VHF-UHF FM transceiver and antenna. Then Bruce Randall, W1ZE setup his el-cheap-o Chinese Anytone AT-6666 ten meter all-mode transceiver, fed it into a Hamstick mag-mounted to the roof of his pickup truck. His first QSO was Brazil.

Association President. Robert Buckmore, W1TON setup his portable fiberglass gin-pole with attached wire antennas then proceeded to assemble his Icom multi-band HF station and fed the antennas with his Icom auto-tuner. Robert was well supervised by a group of the onlookers.



Donnie Dauphin, WD1F arrived with his fancy camper that is outfitted with his all

band IC-7100 transceiver feeding A Tiny Tarheel II screwdriver vertical antenna mounted to the rear metal ladder.



Donnie setup operating FT8 digital mode with his laptop and impressed everyone by working lots of DX into Europe, South America and across the US. He was assisted by Simon Golob, N1URA



The “sprint” five hour field day event was considered a success and a nice turnout of club members. Spring weather is good for hams in the field.

Thanks go to Cory Golob (KUIU), Shauna Buckmore (K1AZU) and Marjorie Turner (KX11) for taking a bunch of excellent photos of this mini Field Day. Photos also appear on the MARA website WWW.KSIR.ORG.



DL7APV a true EME advocate

By Mark Cristy, WR8Y originally posted on Facebook

The following photo is the array at DL7APV’s QTH. Sadly Bernd Wilde just became a Silent Key and was a well known EME advocate. I post this on Facebook because his antenna is rather unusual.



This is his 432 MHz EME antenna. It is made of 128 11 element yagi beams (all home made, designed by a friend of his). This means its a 1408 element antenna. It offers about 33.7 dB gain over a dipole. THAT MEANS: If you feed it with 1000 watts, you get an ERP of 2,370,000 watts.

Impressive, but what you may find even more interesting, is there is no coax in the array. The entire phasing harness is made of open wire ("ladder") line (which he made himself). This keeps losses very low, as open wire line, properly made, is way less lossy than even the best coax/helias/hardline. Also, all driven elements are folded dipoles, so there is no loss in "gamma match" rods like in the average Yagi. Since the folded dipole is a balanced feed dipole, the open wire line is a good way to feed these Yagis.

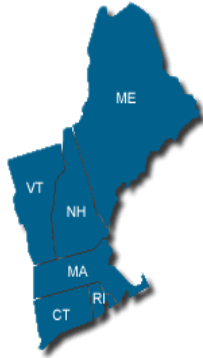
There is a balun at the bottom where the transformation from open wire line to low loss coax takes place, then low loss coax goes to his shack.

73, Mark Cristy, WR8Y



New England QSO Party 2024

The New England QSO Party on May 4th and 5th is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.



Our goal is to get every one of the 68 counties in New England on the air so we hope you will encourage your friends to join in the fun! Even if you can only join us for a couple of hours, we'd appreciate it! Will you be QRV? Let us know with a message to info@neqp.org

The New England QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep on Saturday night. It runs from 4 pm Saturday until 1 am Sunday, then 9 am Sunday until 8 pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and/or digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your state/county. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who sends in a log with at least 25 QSOs will be sent a certificate. The goal is to work stations anywhere in the world - and their goal is to work New England stations, so you'll be very popular!

Last year we received logs from 784 stations from around the country and world. There were 808 stations from New England on the air!

The full rules are here -><http://neqp.org/rules/>

Results from the 2023 NEQP were posted a couple of weeks ago - <https://neqp.org/2023-new-england-qso-party/>

The 2024 NEQP will take place in three weeks. Please get on and make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log!

Thanks!

73 Tom/K1KI



May MARA Event

We are setting up for our May club event. Any and all hams are welcome to help as it is for a good cause. Miles for Mills at the Naval Air Station will be held on May 26th and we would like to help provide monitoring for the event.

Please let us know by May 7th if you would like to participate in the monitoring of the event. If you have any questions, please let us know at:

MARA KS1R <mara.ks1r@gmail.com>

73, Robert/W1TON
Association President

