



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc. for September 1999

FIRST TOUR DE FARMS A SUCCESS

A little over a month ago Dr. Mark Wheeler MD Representing the Morris Farm Trust's 1st annual Tour de Farms bike ride contacted the MARA and asked if we could provide communications for their bike ride event on August 15th. We said we would if we could scare up enough volunteers to provide adequate coverage.

Up until the start we only had three volunteers, Mark Rideout (N1JIM), Robin Walls (N1NFK) and Bruce Randall (W1ZE). The day before, the weatherman said scattered showers were predicted, but Dr. Wheeler said rain or shine. The morning of the event gave us a pleasant surprise. No, not a sunny sky but one more volunteer in the form of Wayne "Woody" Wood (W1WEW). Mark, Bruce and Robin emitted a big sigh of relief.

The course wound it way between the Kennebec and Sheepscot rivers and through the pretty countryside of Lincoln and Kennebec counties. The ride consisted of three phases. Two 50 mile loops and an afternoon 20 mile family tour, with the Morris Farm on Route-27 in Wiscasset as the starting and finish point. Even with the damp weather over 20 people participated in the 50 and 100-mile rides with a few folks taking part in the family ride. Family farms along the routes were used as rest stops where the bikers could take a break and get refreshed, hence the name "Tour De Farms".

At the end of the rides there was a wonderful Bar-B-Que with food provided by the Morris farm and participating farms along the route.

A few days after the event the MARA received a nice card from Dr. Wheeler thanking Mark, Robin, Woody and Bruce for their professional effort in helping make the first annual Tour De Farms a success. If it were to be held again next year, Dr. Wheeler would love to have us back to provide communications.

Treasury in Good Shape

Robin Walls, N1NFK take over the treasurer's duties from Mark, N1JIM at the July meeting. Robin makes the following report: Since last months reporting the MARA sold the 147.27 repeater for \$1100, Added a new member for \$10 and made \$62 at the St. Albins Hamfest selling donated electronics items, bring the treasury total to \$1903.76. No, there will not be a tax rebate, but it is a good feeling to have adequate funds in the bank just in case.

147.27 REPEATER BACK ON THE AIR FROM KNOX

It didn't take long after the Waldo County Amateur Radio Association picked up the 147.27 repeater from the MARA until it was on the air from a hill in the town of Knox in Waldo County. It went on the air Saturday afternoon, August 14th with the WCARA call sign of N1BN/R. Early reports fed back down to Pete and Bruce have the repeater working very well.

For the present the machine is an "open" repeater, but the WCARA plans to put a PL of 100.0 Hz on it in the future

If you head up the coast to the Camden-Belfast area, or Augusta north on I-95 gives it a try.

Dan Michaud, A Success

On the early morning of Saturday, August 28th, five members of the MARA, supported by two folks from the PAWA, gathered at the gazebo on the Brunswick mall to provide radio communications for the Dan Michaud Century and Half Century Bike Ride to Fight cancer. The bike route took our team and the bikers through Cumberland, Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties.

With the experience of our communications team the event went like clockwork. Bruce (W1ZE) was the net control station at the gazebo using our Association's call of KS1R. MARA members Loren (W1LHD), Mark (N1JIM), Woody (W1WEW), and Robin (N1NFK), with support from the PAWA's Dale (W9WBA) and Bob (W1IF), manned the field units at checkpoint stations, and sag wagons. Mark, Loren and Woody swapped off as sag wagon throughout the event. As the ride went on and checkpoints were freed up, Loren and Woody hopscotched checkpoints along the route. In the afternoon as the ride got shorter with more folks finishing the ride, net control relieved Dale, Bob and Robin. Bruce, Loren and Woody mopped up the event.

Officials of the Wheelers were, as in past years; were very pleased to have the MARA and its friends provide communications and other important field assistance. The MARA is pleased to be a part of this very worthwhile event named for one of the MARA's and MWBC founding members, Dan Machaud.

MAINE 2M & 70cm HAM REPEATERS

Some of you that do not have access to the WWW and would like a list to the Maine 2-meter & 70-cm repeaters the following is provided.

FREQ	QTH	AP	PL	CALL
145.110	---ROWNVILLE	-----N	---100.0	-----N1BUG
145.270	---WISCASSET	-----N		-----W1ETT
145.290	---BAR HARBOR	-----N		-----WB1GDZ
145.390	---TOGUS	-----Y		-----W1PIG
145.410	---ALFRED	-----Y	---103.5	-----WJ1L
145.430	---MACHIAS	-----Y		-----N1JZV
145.450	---HERMON	-----Y	---67.0	-----N1KAD
145.470	---ORONO [UMO]	-----N		-----W1YA
145.490	---WASHINGTON	-----N	---91.5	-----KC1CG
146.610	---AUBURN]	-----Y		-----W1NPP
146.640	---ORRINGTON	-----N	---173.8	-----K1CZ
146.640	---ARUNDEL	-----Y	---103.5	-----W6BZ
146.640	---FORT KENT	-----Y	---100.0	-----W1TCF
146.670	---AUGUSTA	-----Y	---100.0	-----KQ1L
146.670	---TOPSFIELD	-----N		-----K1HHC
146.700	---LITCHFIELD	-----N	---100.0	-----N1IFR
146.715	---TRENTON	-----N		-----AA1PI
146.715	---T18 R12	-----N		-----N1CHF
146.730	---MADISON	-----N	---103.5	-----KA1C
146.730	---PRESQUE ISLE	-----Y		-----K1TFX
146.730	---PORTLAND	-----N	---100.0	-----W1KVI
146.760	---WATERVILLE	-----N		-----K1PMR
146.775	---SACO	-----Y		-----N1BBK
146.790	---HOULTON	-----N		-----W1NSN
146.820	---CAMDEN	-----N	---100.0	-----KQ1L
146.850	---DIXMONT	-----N	---100.0	-----KQ1L
146.880	---STREAKED MT.	-----N	---100.0	-----KQ1L
146.880	---PATTEN	-----N		-----WA1UDP
146.910	---MEXICO	-----N		-----N1BBK
146.925	---SCARBOROUGH	-----N		-----W1ME
146.940	---YARMOUTH	-----Y		-----K1JW
146.940	---HOLDEN	-----Y	---100.0	-----N1ME
146.970	---SUGARLOAF	-----N	---100.0	-----W1HTG
146.985	---WISCASSET	-----N		-----K1LX
147.000	---LINCOLN	-----N	---100.0	-----KW1Q
147.000	---KENTS HILL	-----Y	---91.5	-----W1PIG
147.030	---BAR HARBOR	-----N	---100.0	-----W1TU
147.045	---GRAY	-----N	---91.5	-----K1MW
147.060	---LENFEST MT	-----N		-----W1PBR
147.090	---FALMOUTH	-----N	---100.0	-----K1GAX
147.135	---BRUNSWICK	-----Y	---103.5	-----W21J
147.150	---CHARLESTON	-----N	---100.0	-----W1WL
147.165	---CHARLESTON	-----N	---192.8	-----W1WL
147.180	---FARMINGTON	-----N		-----KY1C
147.180	---LYMAN	-----N	---123.0	-----KB1BQV
147.210	---BRUNSWICK	-----Y	---88.5	-----KS1R
147.240	---HOPE	-----N		-----WA1ZDA
147.270	---KNOX	-----N	---100.0	-----N1BN
147.375	---SPRINGFIELD	-----N	---100.0	-----WA1ZJL
147.330	---COOPER	-----N	---118.8	-----W1LH
147.330	---FRENCHVILLE	-----Y		-----N1FCV
147.360	---PORTLAND	-----N		-----K1SA
147.390	---WALDOBORO	-----N		-----K1NYY
70-Centimeters				
441.600	---SANFORD	-----N	---203.5	-----N1WS
442.200	---ARUNDEL	-----Y	---100.0	-----W6BZ
443.200	---KENTS HILL	-----Y	---82.5	-----W1PIG
443.500	---FREEDOM	-----N	---103.5	-----KD1KE
444.250	---WESTBROOK	-----{CLOSED}		-----W1ZOU
444.400	---BRUNSWICK	-----Y	---88.5	-----KS1R
444.400	---HOLDEN	-----N	---103.5	-----KW1Q
444.500	---POLAND	-----N	---82.5	-----W1ZOU
444.550	---FRANKFORT	-----N	---82.5	-----W1ZOU
444.600	---LITCHFIELD	-----N	---82.5	-----W1ZOU
444.850	---YARMOUTH	-----Y		-----K1JW
444.900	---WASHINGTON	-----N	---91.5/103.5+	-----WZ1J
448.225	---MT WASHINGTON	-----N	---88.5	-----WA1PEJ
448.725	---ALFRED	-----Y	---103.5	-----WJ1L
449.025	---WOODSTOCK	-----N	---82.5	-----W1IMD
449.075	---LINCOLN	-----N	---82.5	-----W1IMD
449.275	---LINCOLN	-----N		-----K1AQ
449.275	---BELGRADE	-----N	---88.5	-----W1PIG
449.525	---HOPE	-----N		-----K1EHO

Y2K HOSPITAL EXERCISE MANNED AND READY TO GO

Over the past months the amateur radio community here in Maine has been preparing to support the Maine Hospital Association in developing a Y2K hospital contingency plan. In that effort your MARA has volunteered to assist in the Bath-Brunswick area.

The objective of this effort is to determine the efficiency of communication elements of a statewide Y2K hospital contingency plan. On Saturday, September 11th between the hours of 8 AM and 11 AM a communications test under the direction of the Maine Emergency Management Authority (MEMA) will be accomplished to determine it's ability to maintain good and effective communications between all the hospitals in the state.

The three areas of responsibility for the MARA are Parkview and Midcoast Hospitals in Brunswick plus the Care Center in Bath. Dean Ridenour (N1GLV) will be at Parkview Hospital, Robin and Robin Walls will be at Midcoast Hospital and Mike Dudley will be at the Bath Care Center. The same four dedicated folks will man their radios again New Years Eve 2000.

To assist the amateur radio operators all three health care facilities purchased and installed dual-band vertical antennas, coax and associated connectors.

I am sure the four will have a progress report to pass on at the September meeting.

NEWINGTON NEWS NO WORD YET ON RESTRUCTURING

An FCC staff member says the Commission staff is "diligently working" towards getting a Report and Order on Amateur Radio license restructuring out the door. But beyond that, the FCC staffer --who did not want to be identified by name--said it was impossible to predict when that would happen. He said FCC rules prevent him from revealing any information about "internal thinking or scheduling" regarding the proceeding, known formally as the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97 (WT Docket 98-143). The FCC's move last spring into consolidated offices at The Portals also disrupted routine workflow.

A year ago, the FCC proposed phasing out the Novice and Technician Plus licenses, leaving Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra in place. The FCC also asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no recommendations.

The previous month, the ARRL Board of Directors issued its own plan to re-style Amateur Radio. Among other details, the ARRL plan also called for four license classes and for "re-farming" Novice/Tech Plus sub bands to provide additional phone spectrum for

higher-class operators. Under the League plan, the Technician license would remain unchanged, and the General would become the entry-level Ticket for those interested in HF operation. The ARRL proposed Morse code requirements of 5 WPM for General and 12 WPM for Advanced and Extra class.

"We are simply in that period of time when no information is available," the FCC staff member said. "This is a normal part of the Commission's quasi-judicial decision-making process and a necessary part of being objective and fair to all." Before the long-awaited Report and Order sees the light of day, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff first must digest the 2200 comments, filed mostly by individuals. Then, the staff will circulate its recommendation to the Commissioners. Commissioners and their staff will mull the WTB input and arrive at a plan.

The ultimate FCC decision will come either at the Commission's monthly meeting or it will be handled "on circulation"--outside of an actual meeting. A Public Notice will be issued, and the actual Report and Order will follow.

The bottom line is that Amateur Radio operators will have to wait a few weeks or a few months longer before the restructuring issue is resolved.

E-MAIL ADDRESS TO REPLACE FCC AMATEUR ENFORCEMENT LINE

The FCC announced those Amateur Radio interference complaints to be submitted via e-mail or US (snail) Mail and has disconnected its 202-418-1184 complaint line. Amateur Radio complaints should be e-mailed to: fccham@fcc.gov or via the US Postal Service to Compliance and Information Bureau, ATTN Amateur Radio Compliance, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

14 MHz REGULATORY ACTION BY FCC

The FCC has sent letters to 24 Amateur Radio licensees whose 20-meter SSB signals were detected and determined to be "unusually wide, overpowered, or both." Commission official, Riley Hollingsworth, did not ID the individuals, but he said some of them were believed to be mobile operators.

FCC QUESTIONS W1WRC's LIBERTY NET

FCC's Legal Advisor, Riley Hollingsworth, W4ZDH, has asked the net control station of the Liberty Net on 3.950 MHz to justify the net's use of the Amateur Radio frequencies. The request for justification was sent to Vic Misek, W1WCR of

Belgrade, ME on May 7th by certified mail. The FCC was monitoring the Liberty Net on May 1st, 1999 indicated that when Misek, acting as net control, began transmitting on top of an existing QSO. Hollingsworth said that such operation "is considered deliberate interference and cannot be tolerated on the Amateur frequencies."

It was reported that when the FCC officials appeared at the transmission site during the transmission of the net there was no evidence of anyone being at the site or at the adjacent residential dwellings. The FCC has asked Misek to explain to the Commission how the station was remotely controlled along with supporting circuit diagrams.

MULTIPLE CALL SIGN HOLDERS COULD BE FINED

The FCC says they may have to resort to fines to end the practice of hoarding multiple club station call signs. This practice is considered an abuse of the Amateur Radio licensing process.

BRITS ANNOUNCES LICENSING CHANGE

The Radio Society of Great Britain and the Radio Communications Agency of the United Kingdom have announced expanding privileges for Novices in the UK. A new license class is in the works offering full HF privileges using low power and a 5-WPM Morse code exam. Additional information about this change can be found at <http://www.rsgb.org/news/extra3.htm>. For rules governing Ham Radio in the UK access <http://www.open.gov.uk/radiocom>.

FIND THE NAME PUZZLE

In the matrix below you will find the name of old and new Ham Radio equipment and products. They may be listed up, down, across backward or diagonally. GOOD LUCK!

R	K	E	N	T	R	O	N	I	C	S	M
E	E	E	E	R	E	H	C	N	E	B	I
G	N	T	E	N	T	E	C	R	Y	E	R
E	W	M	F	J	A	A	B	P	A	G	A
N	O	M	Y	A	E	S	U	X	T	O	G
C	O	I	M	A	R	Z	Y	Z	C	N	E
Y	D	K	R	E	C	C	H	N	P	S	X
N	T	E	C	M	O	C	I	A	O	E	Y
B	N	U	N	A	M	L	E	L	O	T	R
O	R	A	H	M	A	T	L	J	L	E	N
B	W	J	O	H	N	S	O	N	G	A	E
S	D	E	F	T	I	K	H	T	A	E	H

AEA	HEATHKIT	MIRAGE
ALINCO	HIEL	REGENCY
BENCHER	ICOM	SWAN
COLLINS	KENTRONICS	SBE
GONSET	KENWOOD	TENTEC
GAP	MFJ	YAESU
HENRY	MIRAGE	HALLICRAFTER



MERRYMEETING AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
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Don't Forger MARA Meeting
Thursday, September 30th, 7 PM
Salvation Army Bldg, Bath