



SQUELCH TALES

Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc. for February 2000

MUSHING IN THE FROZEN NORTH

A Letter from N1ZYB & N1ZYC

Hi Everyone,

We are back from our one week school in Ely, MN, and are providing you with a report on the great time we had. The Vermilion Community College and the Elderhostel program provided this school. The course was held at the YMCA Camp du Nord, which is located at the very top of Minnesota. When we arrived on Sunday afternoon the temperature was about 30 degrees but that only lasted for one day. Then the temperature dropped to minus 22 degrees and it never went above zero for the rest of the week. The next four and one half days were a mix of winter ecology lectures, wolf ecology presentation, snowshoe field trips, cross country skiing and an all day dogsledding field trip.



Our lodge was a new three-story log building with a large fireplace. It overlooked Burntside Lake. The dining hall was only a half-mile through a forest trail. We had three other couples staying with us in the lodge and there were a total of 15 people in the program.

On Monday evening we were given an overview presentation on dogsledding and on Tuesday morning we departed for an all day, 30 mile, dogsledding field trip with a bag lunch. We were all a little

concerned about the minus 22 degree temperature but soon discovered that putting the 30 dogs into their harnesses and hooking up the sleds kept us too busy to get overly cold. This was a real hands-on operation and each of the students got to drive their own sled. Linda mushed the lead sled and the dogs even followed her turning instructions somewhat. Paul drove the last sled in line and was doing great until one particular application of the brakes resulted in a very abrupt stopping of the sled and Paul was somersaulted over the handle bar and onto the young woman guide riding in his sled. No one was hurt and the bruises quickly went away. As the young lady was the girl friend of our ski instructor, there was some concern that Paul might be doing some extra night skiing on the lake.

Paul was a little worried about his lapse in stopping skills until we learned we learned that the second group who went dog sledding the next day managed to tip two sleds over on their sides and actually dumped the same woman guide into the snow three times!

In spite of these extracurricular events, everyone graduated and received a certificate of completion. We had so much fun that we are already talking about heading to the frozen North next winter for some more dog sledding.

Your favorite mushers, Paul and Linda

HAM EXAM ON FEBRUARY 19TH IN BATH

Are you ready to take the five words per minute code test or the General or Extra class written exam? If so a large team of ARRL Volunteer Examiners will be at the Salvation Army Building at 25 Congress Avenue, Bath to administer the tests. The exams will start at 10 AM. If you plan to attend, call Robin Walls, N1NFK at 725-5135 for details.

Where Have All the Members Gone?

By Bruce, W1ZE

I know it is the middle of winter and we all like to stay in where it is warm and cozy, but your MARA is experiencing a disturbing trend. The November and January scheduled meetings experienced a condition called "NO SHOW. At the November meeting only Loren Dudley, W1LHD showed up at the meeting, and at the January meeting only Loren and Mike Dudley and yours truly made it.

We know that some of our members are in southern climates and some have had health problems, but where are the rest of you. I know that members interests change and family commitments take priority. But could just apathy because you just don't care about the MARA anymore, or Ham Radio isn't your bag anymore.

At one point last year we thought that everyone wanted programs, so we invited folks to come to our meetings and do dog and pony shows on radio related subjects. We had video topics and show and tell. With every meeting the attendance got smaller and smaller. It is now so bad that even the elected members of the Board of Directors don't make the meetings. It is difficult to conduct Association business without enough BOD members in attendance to make a decision.

We would like to know what our Association can do to get more of you to participate in club activities and attend the meetings. If you have suggestions on what we can do to peek your interest please let us know? Do we need to change the day or time of the meeting again or what? Send Robin, Loren, or myself a note or e-mail letting us know what turns you off about the MARA, or what would bring you back.

Bruce = brandall@gwi.net

\$ Club Kitty Bottom Line \$

Robin Walls reports that the club accounts under Scott Higgins (W3VNE) name has been moved from St. Johns FCU to the Androscoggin Savings Bank near Cooks Corner under the clubs name. The checking account is an interest baring account so there was no need to have a separate savings account.

Robin, N1NFK, Association Treasurer, reports that on January 27th there was \$1733.21 in the checking account and \$50 in petty cash. We are able to pay the phone bills.

CLUB BALL CAPS AVAILABLE

MS. Robin Walls reports she has MARA ball caps for the following individuals:

Will, N1ZIS

Bob, WA1ZGN

Brian, N1CHN

Please contact Robin to pick up your cap.

If you would like to order a MARA ball cap, they are \$12 and Robin will place the order.

UPCOMING Y2K HAMFESTS

February

Sat. 12th, 8 AM Winterfest, Crystal Falls Hall Chelsea, ME

March

Sat. 25th, 8 AM, Andy Hamfest/State Convention, Lewiston Ramada Inn (exams)

May

Fri-Sat, 12 & 13th, Hosstraders, Rochester, NH (Exams)

June

Sat. 3rd, 8 AM, Bangor Hamfest @ Herman (Exams)

July

Sat. 8th, 8 AM Union Hamfest, Union, ME (Exams)

August

Sat. ?, 8 AM, St. Albans Hamfest, Snow Devil Field (exams at elementary school)

September

Sat. 9th, 8 AM, Windsor Hamfest, Windsor Fairgrounds (Exams)

Sat. 13th, 8AM, Lincoln Hamfest, Ella Burr School (Exams)

October

Fri-Sat. 6-7, Hosstraders, Rochester, NH (Exams)

Frequency Standard and Time Beacon Stations around the world

The following Frequency and time beacons are listed by frequency, Callsign and Location and make a good ham shack reference. Some of these stations may have certain specific times of transmissions. They are, however, a resource for propagation beacons.

<u>Freq.(kHz)</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Location</u>
20	WWVL	Fort Collins, Colorado
50	OMA	Prague, Czechoslovakia
60	MSF	Rugby, England
60	WWVB	Fort Collins, Colorado
75	HBG	Prangins, Switzerland
77.5	DCF77	Mainflingen, Germany
177	DGI	Oranienburg, Germany
418	ZSC	Cape Town, So. Africa
434	VWC	Calcutta, India
482	4PB	Colombo, Sri Lanka
500	VPS	Kowloon, Hong Kong
1510	HD210A	Guayaquil, Ecuador
2500	OMA	Prague, Czech Republic
2500	JJY	Tokyo, Japan
2500	WWV	Fort Collins, Colorado
2500	WWVH	Kekaha, Kauai Hawaii
2500	ZUO	Olifantsfontein, So. Afr.
3170	OLB5	Prague, Czech Republic
3330	CHU	Ottawa, Ontario Canada
3810	HD210A	Guayaquil, Ecuador
4232.5	VPS8	Kowloon, Hong Kong
4286	VWC	Calcutta, India
4291	ZSC	Cape Town, So. Africa
4298	CBV	Valparaiso, Chile
4500	VNG	Australia
4525	Y3S	Nauen, Germany
5000	ATA	New Delhi, India
5000	BSF	Chung Li, Taiwan
5000	HD210A	Guayaquil, Ecuador
5000	HLA	Taejeon, So. Korea
5000	I AM	Rome, Italy
5000	IBF	Turin, Italy
5000	JJY	Tokyo, Japan
5000	LOL	Buenos Aires, Argentina
5000	WWV	Fort Collins, Colorado
5000	WWVH	Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii

<u>Freq. (kHz)</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Location</u>
5000	ZUO	Olifantsfontein, So. Africa
6100	YVTO	Caracas, Venezuela
6840	EBC	San Fernando, Spain
7335	CHU	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
7500	VNG	Australia
7600	HD210A	Guayaquil, Ecuador
8000	JJY	Tokyo, Japan
8461	ZSC	Cape Town, So. Africa
8473	4PB	Colombo, Sri Lanka
8539	VPS35	Kowloon, Hong Kong
8542	PKX	Jakarta, Indonesia
8650	OBC3	Callao, Peru
8677	CBV	Valparaiso, Chile
8721	Unknown	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
10000	ATA	New Delhi, India
10000	JJY	Tokyo, Japan
10000	LOL	Buenos Aires, Argentina
10000	WWV	Fort Collins, Colorado
10000	WWVH	Fort Collins, Colorado
11400	PLC	Jakarta, Indonesia
12000	VNG	Australia
12008	EBC	San Fernando, Spain
12307	OBC3	Callao, Peru
12724	ZSC	Cape Town, So. Africa
12745	VWC	Calcutta, India
13020.4	VPS60	Kowloon, Hong Kong
14670	CHU	Ottawa, Ontario Canada
15000	ATA	New Delhi, India
15000	BSF	Chung Li, Taiwan
15000	JJY	Tokyo, Japan
15000	LOL	Buenos Aires, Argentina
15000	WWV	Fort Collins, Colorado
15000	WWVH	Kekaha, Kauai Hawaii
17018	ZSC	Cape Town, So. Africa
17096	VPS80	Kowloon, Hong Kong
20000	WWV	Fort Collins, Colorado
20000	WWVH	Kekaha, Kauai Hawaii
22455	ZSC	Cape Town, So. Africa
22536	VPS22	Kowloon, Hong Kong
25000	WWV	Fort Collins, Colorado

(Only during High Solar Flux/Sunspot Activity)

Some of the above stations may transmit at different time sequences and not on a continuous basis.

**Merrymeeting Amateur
Radio Association
KS1R**

HC63 Box 81, Bath, ME 04530-9503

**If anyone cares to attend, there
will be a MARA Meeting Thursday
February 24th at 7:00 PM Salvation
Army Building in Bath**