



Squelch Tales

Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc. for April 2000

MARA BOD Members

Participate in Sagadahoc County EMA Meeting

Bath: On March 30th MARA Board members Chris McGraw (KB2SKP), Loren Dudley (W1LHD) and Bruce Randall (W1ZE) attended the Sagadahoc County LEPC meeting at the Sagadahoc County Courthouse. The purpose of their attendance was to involve the MARA in the counties EMA processes. The county EMA director has invited all the amateur radio operators in Sagadahoc County to become involved in the county effort to provide a full range of services to county residence in the case of a civil emergency and-or disaster.

Past MARA President Chris McGraw is a member of the county's LEPC (EMA Planning Committee). Unfortunately for Sagadahoc County and the MARA, Chris and his new bride Rachel will be moving to Everett, Washington this fall, so that Chris can join the crew on the Nuclear Aircraft Carrier Abe Lincoln.

The Sagadahoc EMA Director is considering sponsoring, obtaining and installing a 2-meter repeater at the courthouse or other possible site to provide the hams in Sagadahoc county a repeater that's primary purpose would be County EMA communications, such as communications readiness training and actual emergencies. Bruce, W1ZE and Pete. K1MJP are working with the county in that effort.

MARA members who live in Sagadahoc County are encouraged to assist the EMA and to help in enlisting non-MARA hams to help in the county efforts also.

MARA Communications

Team Help Walk-O-Thon

Brunswick: On the damp windy morning of Sunday April 9th, several dedicated members of the MARA gathered at Brunswick Junior High School to provide communications for the MS walk-O-Thon. Mark (N1JIM), Pam (N1K1E), Bob (N1VVF), Gay (N1XBN), Andy (KB1GCJ) and Bruce (W1ZE) made up the communications team. The event went off without a hitch, no one was lost and a lot of money was raised to help fight MS. Well done MARA Team!

CHILDRENS BAND FREQ's

A friend at work asked me what the CB channel frequencies are so he could tune then in on his Communications Receiver and program some channels into his new 25 to 1200 MHz scanner. I knew that CB ran from the high ends of 26 MHz to the middle of 27 MHz but I wasn't sure the exact channel frequencies. I looked them up for him and thought I would pass them along to any of you that want to (heaven forbid) listen to the heterodyne band on your general coverage radios.

- CH 1 = 26.965 MHz
- CH 2 = 26.975 MHz
- CH 3 = 26.985 MHz
- CH 4 = 27.005 MHz
- CH 5 = 27.015 MHz
- CH 6 = 27.025 MHz
- CH 7 = 27.035 MHz
- CH 8 = 27.055 MHz
- CH 9 = 27.065 MHz
- CH10 = 27.075 MHz
- CH11 = 27.085 MHz
- CH12 = 27.105 MHz
- CH13 = 27.115 MHz
- CH14 = 27.125 MHz
- CH15 = 27.135 MHz
- CH16 = 27.155 MHz
- CH17 = 27.165 MHz
- CH18 = 27.175 MHz
- CH19 = 27.185 MHz
- CH20 = 27.205 MHz
- CH21 = 27.215 MHz
- CH22 = 27.225 MHz
- CH23 = 27.255 MHz
- CH24 = 27.235 MHz
- CH25 = 27.245 MHz
- CH26 = 27.265 MHz
- CH27 = 27.275 MHz
- CH28 = 27.285 MHz
- CH29 = 27.295 MHz
- CH30 = 27.305 MHz
- CH31 = 27.315 MHz
- CH32 = 27.325 MHz
- CH33 = 27.335 MHz
- CH34 = 27.355 MHz
- CH35 = 27.365 MHz
- CH36 = 27.375 MHz
- CH37 = 27.385 MHz
- CH38 = 27.395 MHz
- CH39 = 27.405 MHz
- CH40 = 27.415 MHz

Seven Thirds Good Buddies, KAFP1215

KB1CV RETIRES

BATH: One on the MARA founding members Dana McCerdy, KB1CV and eye doctor in Bath has sold his practice and retired in March. Dana and his lovely XYL (who managed the office for him) have called it quits and has joined the ranks of the like minded MARA folks like Loren, Woody, Paul, Linda, Bruce, Bob and Gay McQueeney and Bob Wartson.

Dana advised that his plan is to spend time beating the little white ball down the fairways and commune with nature at their camp in the Rangely area. As this is being written Dana is in Myrtle Beach with his bag of clubs.

Hopefully we will hear Dana on the airwaves a little more often. Who knows maybe he will become Maine's big gun on 10-meters again.

All of us in the MARA wish Dana and his bride a long and healthy retirement, you earned it!

New location For MAY Ham Exam

Due to the lack of availability of the Salvation Army building for Amateur Radio License testing a new site has been secured. The good folks at Midcoast Hospital will make a conference room available at their Brunswick hospital or at the Bath Care Facility. We will advise MARA members and the Amateur community as soon as we get word which facility will be used. Robin Walls has notified the ARRL and news media of the location change.

MARA PREZ IN FOR SURGERY

BATH: Loren Dudley, W1ZE has advised the MARA Board of Directors that he will require hart surgery this month and as soon as the Doctor at Maine Med. can schedule it. Loren had indicated to several of us that he had not been feeling well for the past several months. The specialist in Portland did a battery of tests and found a defective aortic hart valve. His doctors advised Loren that they have done a lot of this kind of surgery with very

good results. He should only be in hospital for a few days and in a recoup facility for a week or so.

We all hope that our Prez makes a speedy return to the ham bands. We will try and keep all of you informed of Loren's progress.

W1ZE

WHAT IS THE SAGADAHOC COUNTY LEPC ANYWAY?

By Eileen Nutt, Sag. Co. EMA

The Sagadahoc County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is the result of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). EPCRA was passed as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA III) on October 17, 1986. It was adopted in the wake of the Bhopal chemical disaster in India, where thousands of people died and thousands of others were permanently injured, and an incident in Institute, West Virginia, in which many lives could have been lost if a brisk breeze had not been blowing. This incident and others reinforced the concept that chemical disasters could happen in the United States.

This legislation assists communities to better meet their responsibilities in regard to potential chemical emergencies and to increase public awareness about the presence and release of hazardous chemicals into the environment. The law requires each Governor to appoint a State Emergency Response Committee (SERC) which in turn appoints LEPC's for each district.

The LEPC's primary responsibility is to develop an emergency response plan and review and exercise it at least annually. The LEPC evaluates characteristics of chemical hazards, populations and essential services within the vulnerable areas should a release occur. Available resources for preparing for and responding to a potential chemical accident are identified. The LEPC is authorized by law to obtain additional

information from facilities to complete the planning process. (cont.)

The Sagadahoc County LEPC continues to search for potential members in the community from diversified community organizations, communication, transportation, police, fire, civil defense, public health professionals, environmental, hospital, media and representatives of facilities subject to the emergency planning requirements. Two additional groups required by state law include citizens living near local facilities and employees working in the facilities. The LEPC must establish rules, give public notice of its activities and establish procedures for handling public requests for information.

The LEPC, most recently in September 1999, became one of the sponsors to a new initiative of a local pilot program. Twelve high school students from the Bath Regional Vocational Center, Bath, Maine, enrolled in the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) course under the leadership of Dennis Pelletier II, a Business Teacher at BRVC. Uniquely offered for the first time to Bath, Sagadahoc County and the State of Maine, the course is modeled after a similar program in Chelsea, Massachusetts. The program offers training in hazardous material awareness while supporting community education through the Sagadahoc County LEPC requirements. Along with the support of local LEPC members, individuals from their respective specialty areas in local, state and federal departments and agencies provided instruction through lectures, textbook assignments, field trips and tabletop exercises. With this intensity of instruction, hands-on computer data entry and mapping, the students have learned to identify and interpret hazardous materials. The program establishes very tangible win-win results within community development and human awareness.

The Sagadahoc County LEPC meets once a month, Thursday evenings, and welcomes your

Participation as a member, invaluable to the community and a public awareness to your personal interest and commitment. For further information, please "communicate" with the Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency at 443-8210.



DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA

on what your Board Members can do to get all of you to resume participate in our Associations activities? This past winter was very disappointing when it came to meeting attendance.

The best meetings were the December Christmas dinner meeting and the February meeting held at Robin's QTH with 7 members in attendance. Do we need to change the meetings? Should we go back to a dinner meeting or a Saturday breakfast meeting? Do we need to have quarterly meetings vice monthly meetings? Folks, it is your call.

With amateur license restructuring many of you are going from Technician to General and General to Extra class with you interests in the hobby rejuvenated. The MARA would like to help you increase you activity in the hobby and in turn your activity in the MARA. There are modes to try like PSK-31, APRS, SSTV, UHF-TV, QRP, T-hunting, etc.

Let us know what you would like to see your Association do, and what it can do to get you back and involved. Contact a board member and let your ideas be known. If you can not locate a board member contact me, Bruce Randall (MARA trustee) at 442-9630, brandall@gwi.net, or drop me a line at HC63 Box 81, Bath, ME 04530-9503.

The MARA has been around since 1980 and I for one would like it to be around for years to come. ***73, Bruce, W1ZE***

Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association

KS1R

HC63 Box81, Bath, ME 04530-9503

*No Meeting this Month. Hope to see
you at Hosstraders in Rochester, NH
on May 12 & 13*