



# Squelch Tales

Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc. for July 2000

## Field Day, was it a success?

By Bruce Randall



Paul N1ZYB on 40-Meters during Field Day

If you look at our total score, Field Day 2000 was a success for the MARA. The Field Day team running 1A (1 transmitter under 150 watts with generator) made 629 QSOs as follows:

**80 phone = 132 QSOs**  
**80 CW = 55 QSOs**  
**40 phone = 52 QSOs**  
**40 CW = 50 QSOs**  
**20 phone = 12 QSOs**  
**20 CW = 41 QSOs**  
**15 phone = 79 QSOs**  
**15 CW = 30 QSOs**  
**6 phone = 2 QSOs**

You may note that we did not land that many QSOs on 20-meter phone. That is because we did not spend much time on that band due to the heavy QRM. Our strategy was to work as many as possible and not set a DX record and we were successful. You may also note we made 2 QSOs on 6-meters. We got those QSOs on a lark. I wanted to see if he could hear any activity on the band and loaded up the 132-foot doublet on 50.125. As luck would have it we worked W1GR and N1NPP.

The night crew of N1JIM, W1LHD and yours truly did a good job of making QSOs. With Mark

on the microphone and Loren keeping the paperwork straight the two did a 6 and a half hour run on 80-meter phone and snagged most of that bands 132 points. When Mark and Loren crashed I started in on CW and worked my way up the bands for 9 straight hours and logged all the 176 CW QSOs.

Paul, Linda, Andy and Robin did the daylight hours and helped us get the very good QSO total for a 1A station.

During the event we had several visitors stop by to say hello and see what we were doing. Bob Meade, WA1ZGN, who made the site available, stopped by with some liquid refreshment. Maine ARRL Section Manager, Bill Woodhead, N1KAT stopped by to wish us well then later in the afternoon Ed Knapp, KE1LX, a new ham in the mid coast area stopped by to say hello and stuck around to help us disassemble the station Sunday afternoon.

One disappointing note about our Field Day effort was the poor turn out by MARA members. Even with a small station set-up we had so few folks there to help, we were not ready to go until 2 minutes before the 2 PM start. We desperately needed additional operators to help man the microphone, log book and keyer too. In my opinion we will need additional participation next year if we are to participate in Field Day 2001.

*73, Bruce, W1ZE*

## MARA team does Dog & Pony at Andover

On the evening of June 28<sup>th</sup> MARA members Andy Cote, KB1CGJ and Bruce Randall, W1ZE were invited to present a program on Ham Radio to the Telecommunications class at Andover College in Portland. The hour-long program included a brief history of the hobby, the various aspects of the hobby, the costs involved and how one gets a ham license. Bruce brought a briefcase full of visual aids (QSL cards, handbooks, frequency charts, etc.). Andy showed two HTs, one a new cigarette pack size dual-band Yaesu. The class asked some

very good questions and hopefully Bruce and Andy gave adequate answers.

After the presentation and during the class break, Bruce took a group out to the parking lot to demonstrate mobile HF. The 20-meter band was open to Europe and 5 9 + QSOs were made to England, Bulgaria and Russia. That really impressed that group of students. Andy had a small group with him as he demonstrated the finer points of 2-meter FM and repeater service (i.e., phone patches, links, etc.).

The course instructor asked if the MARA could do this presentation again for the next class. With a deep sigh, both said OK.

## MARA to help out with two bike rides

As previously reported in Squelch Tales, the MARA will be helping two groups with communications for their bike rides. The first is the Morris Farm ride that kicks off from the Morris Farm on Rt.27 in Wiscasset at 7:30 AM, Sunday morning August 13<sup>th</sup>.

The second is the Merrymeeting Wheelers Dan Mechoud Memorial Century bike ride that starts at 8 AM from the gazebo on the Brunswick mall, on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mark your calendars and let Bruce, W1ZE know (442-9630 or brandall@zwi.net) if you plan to volunteer. We need your help in these two efforts. Remember that Dan Mechoud was one of us.

## MARA MEETING TO BE A SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

That's right, it will be 9 AM Saturday morning July 29<sup>th</sup> at Denny's restraint at Cook's Corner in Brunswick. The meeting will be very informal with just a minimum of association business. This is in a move to get all of you back involved with the Association and pass along information to all of you. Hope to see you there.

## Maine may divorce NESC for repeater coordination.

Bruce Randall, W1ZE

There is a move a foot by Repeater owners (clubs & individuals) here in Maine to withdraw from the New England Spectrum Council and establish an independent spectrum council or committee for the purpose of coordinating VHF and UHF repeaters in this state.

Over the past several years groups and individuals wishing to get a repeater pair and get it coordinated with the NESC have met with little or no support or help from that group. It has been reported that when some individuals sent correspondence related to repeater coordination to the coordinator, using registered mail, the mail was rejected and returned unopened. Repeater owners in Vermont became so frustrated with the NESC in the bay state and NH that they have already withdrawn and established their own repeater coordination committee.

I have received correspondence from the organizers of this movement and as of this writing have given them my support as trustee of our association's two repeaters. The reason being, that if there is to be a Maine Spectrum Committee and associated coordinator(s) we want the MARA to have a voice in it's efforts and policies. Steve Hanks, WZ1J is supporting this effort and I know of several others. I am sure other repeater owners and trustees will be onboard also.

Additional information about this coordination change will provided to all of you as soon as we receive it.

### Check out the following Ham Radio websites

MARA = [www.gwi.net/mara/](http://www.gwi.net/mara/)  
Maine Section ARRL = [www.dlois.com/maine.arrrl.arrrl/](http://www.dlois.com/maine.arrrl.arrrl/)  
ARRL = [www.arrrl.org](http://www.arrrl.org)  
AMSAT = [www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org)  
W5YI Super Site = [www.w5yi.org](http://www.w5yi.org)  
Ham Radio Online = [www.hamradio-online.com](http://www.hamradio-online.com)  
AC6V Tech. Reference = [www.ac6v.com/pageA.html](http://www.ac6v.com/pageA.html)

# FCC says "no" to SSB, digital modes in VHF CW subbands

ARRL BULLETIN RELEASE FROM JULY 6th

The FCC has turned down a request asking it to permit SSB and digital modes in the 6 and 2-meter CW-only subbands. The petition, filed last August by the California Six Meter Club, was assigned rulemaking number RM-9806 by the FCC.

The CSMC said it requested the additional emission types because its survey of weak-signal operations indicated that the segments were hardly used. The club said most DX and weak signal work took place on frequencies above the CW subbands.

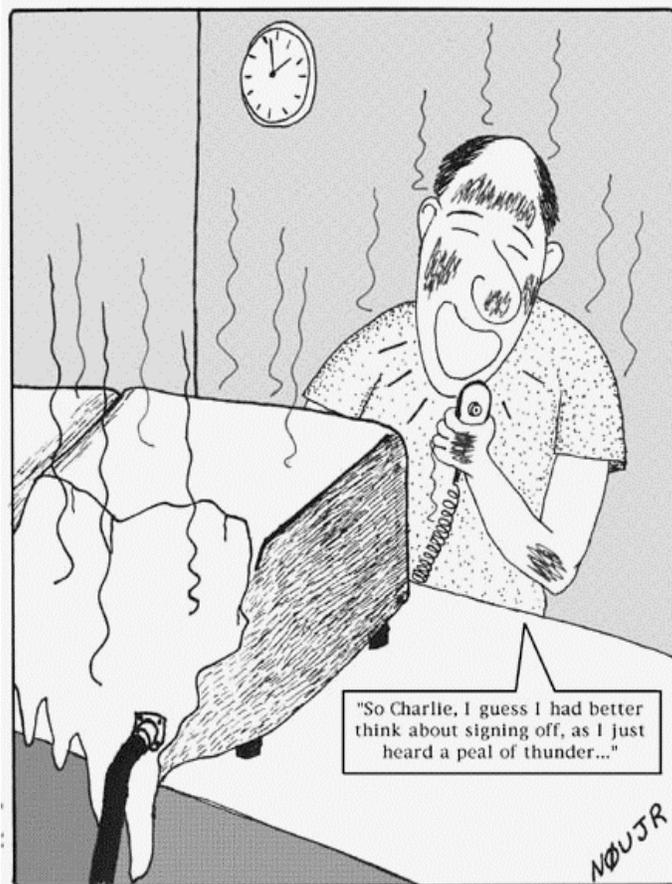
In denying the request, the FCC said it did not believe the requested revisions were necessary or had support of the amateur community. The FCC concluded that authorizing additional emission types in the 6-meter and 2-meter CW subbands "could have an adverse impact on the operating activities of other licensees."

Additionally, the FCC said, CSMC did not show that any improvement in communications capabilities would result if the 100 kHz of spectrum was opened up for other emission types, which the FCC said were "adequately accommodated" under present rules.

The FCC said it was "not persuaded that there is a lack of spectrum in the 6 and 2-meter amateur service bands for transmission of data and phone emission types" and concluded that any changes to the rules were unnecessary.

Editor's Comment: The FCC has made a very good ruling. What the California 6-meter club failed to understand is that the first 100 kHz of the 2 and 6-meter band is full of propagation beacons. During 6-meter DX band openings the 50.07 to 50.1 segment is full of CW QSOs. I guess they don't hear them way out there on the left coast. W1ZE

This fellow must have been on the air July 4<sup>th</sup> about 9:45 in the evening in Bath/Brunswick area!



## 444.4 Progress Report

Progress is being made on the associations 444.4 MHz UHF repeater. The three-cavity duplexer we purchased for the repeater has been horse traded for a shiny 4-cavity rack mounted WACOM duplexer. Pete Russell, K1MJP sent it off to WACOM for retuning to our 444.4/449.8 repeater split. It arrived back at Bowdoin College on July 5. The 4-cavity WACOM has better co-channel isolation than the 3-cavity GE and will give us added insurance in clean repeater performance.

Bruce, W1ZE has been bust making moods to the equipment cabinet so it can house the transmitter, receiver, controller and duplexer. The 30-amp power supply may have to reside outside the cabinet. Mark donated a 20-foot 2-inch OD aluminum mast that will support the diamond antenna. It should be back on the air very soon.

**Merrymeeting Amateur  
Radio Association  
KS1R**

**HC63 Box81, Bath, ME 04530-9503**