



Squelch Tales

Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc. for August 2000



July breakfast meeting was a success

After many months of poor meeting attendance and the cancellation of meetings from May through June the attendance at the breakfast meeting at the Cooks Corner Denny's restraint had a substantial group of folks in attendance.

After everyone got his or her breakfast order into the attentive waitress, Association business was addressed. ARRL Maine Section Manager Bill Woodhead (N1KAT) and his son joined us for breakfast. Bill encouraged the MARA to get involved in Maine's effort to get a copy of the league publication "Now We're Talking," an introduction to Amateur Radio, into local public and school libraries.

Robin Walls (N1NFK) gave us a report on the status of the MARA treasury and the plans to have a VE session at the Family Motor Coach event at BNAS on August 20th. Bruce encouraged attendees to participate in the two area bike ride events in August.

Timing was very good. About the time association business was finished our food arrived and everyone his or her Grand Slams.

We hope that the September Breakfast meeting will have as many folks as the July meeting. There will be no meeting this month because it conflicts with the Michoud Century and Half-Century Bike ride.

Bike Ride Comm in August

We hope that many of you will volunteer to participate in providing communications to the two bike ride events this month.

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 13th.

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 26th.

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

444.4 PROGRESS REPORT

Bruce, W1ZE & Pete K1MJP

A few weeks ago the equipment cabinet modifications were finished with all the equipment mounted into it. Pete sent the Wacom 4-cavity duplexer into the factory to be tuned to out operating frequencies and it has been returned ready to go. Pete has located 50-feet of half-inch hard-line from a communications dealer in Florida and we have purchased it. As soon as we get the hard-line coax we can put the 444.4 repeater back up on Cole's Tower.

Hopefully it will be back on the air before the end of the month.

KB2SKP reported to have a harmonic!

No, MARA member Chris McGraw does have a bad transmitter emitting unwanted signals. The harmonic the title refers to, is what we hams call offspring (children). Chris and his lovely bride are now proud parents of a baby boy named Joseph. Kudos' two you both and welcome aboard Joseph.

NEWINGTON NEWS

ARLB034 NCVEC advances revised Morse testing standards

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has voted to set up revised standards for the administration of Morse code examinations in the US. Under the revised standards, examinees would have to show 25 character-count solid copy on test sheets or successfully answer seven out of ten questions of a fill-in-the-blank quiz on the sent text. The plan would bar multiple choice tests for Morse code testing.

Morse examinations would specify use of a Farnsworth "character speed" in the range of 13 to 15 WPM. Morse code audio pitch would have to be between 700 and 1000 Hz. Standard 5 WPM tests with 5 WPM character speed could be administered only as a special accommodation.

The new Morse testing standards are to be in effect by next July 1, but VECs may implement them sooner.

The NCVEC vote came July 21 during a meeting of VECs in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Upcoming Maine Events

DATE/TIME EVENT/LOCATION

AUGUST (Sat.) 12th, 8 AM: St. Albans Hamfest, Snow Devil Field, St.

Albans (ARRL Exams & St. Albans Elementary School, POC Bill Sullivan, K1AG 947-4051)

AUGUST (Sat.) 12th, 9 AM: W5YI Exam, Auburn Red Cross Building, POC R. V. Damon AD1RV 782-4721

AUGUST (Sun.) 13th, 8 AM Morris Farm Bike Ride, MARA provides comm.

AUGUST (Sat.) 20th, 10 AM VE Exam at BNAS during Motorcoach event

AUGUST (Sat.) 26th Dan Michaud Memorial Century Bike Ride MARA provides communications

SEPTEMBER (Sat.) 9th, 8 AM: Windsor Hamfest, Fairgrounds (ARRL Exam given, POC Bill Crowley, K1NIT 623-9075)

SEPTEMBER (Tue.) 19th, 6:30 PM: ARRL Exam, NMTC Augusta Charity Bldg., Presque Isle, POC Wilburn Scott, WA1YNZ 455-8333

SEPTEMBER (Sat.) 22nd, 8 AM: Lincoln Hamfest: Ella Burr School, Lincoln, ME (Exams given)

SEPTEMBER (Sat.) 23rd, 10 AM: ARRL Exam, Bath Health Care Facility, POC Robin Walls, N1NFK 725-5135

OCTOBER (Thur.) 5th, 6 PM: ARRL Exam, Winslow Elementary School, POC Don Smith, AE1Q 293-2935

OCTOBER (Fri-Sat.) 6-7th: Hosstraders Hamfest, Rochester, NH Fairgrounds

OCTOBER (Sat.) 14th, 9 AM: ARRL Exams, Knox Co. Courthouse, Rockland: POC Dick Baldwin, W1RU, 521-5781

OCTOBER (Sat.) 14th 9 AM: ARRL Exams, Bangor Community Center, POC Bill Sullivan, K1AG 947-4051

NOVEMBER (Wed.) 15th, 6 PM: ARRL Exam, Togus V.A. Center. POC: Don Smith, AE1Q 293-2935

DECEMBER (Sat.) 2nd, 10 AM: ARRL Exam, Bath Health Care Facility. POC: Robin Walls, N1NFK 725-5135

**Merrymeeting Amateur Radio
Association**

KS1R

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