



Squelch Tales

Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc. for November 2000

October Meeting a Bust

By W1ZE

The October breakfast meetings was held at the Cook's Corner Denny's. Turnout was disappointing to say the least. Only Andy, AC1R and Bruce, W1ZE showed up, so no club business was discussed, and withers or not to have a December Christmas dinner is in jeopardy. There will be a November breakfast/meeting on Saturday the 25th, two days after Thanksgiving and hopefully there will be enough of you there to make a decision on wither or not to have a Christmas dinner. We also need a volunteer or two, who live in Sagadahoc County to help represent the MARA at the County EMA meetings.

Upcoming New England Ham Radio Events

DATE/TIME	EVENT
NOVEMBER (Wed.) 15th, 6 PM:	ARRL Exam, Togus V.A. Center. POC: Don Smith, AE1Q 293-2935
NOVEMBER (Sat.) 18 th , 11AM - 4 PM	Auction, Newton Masonic Hall, 460 Newtonville Av. Newtonville, MA. POC w1mj@amsat.org or 617-484-1089
NOVEMBER (Sat.) 25 th 9 AM,	MARA Breakfast/mtg, Cook's Corner Denny's
DECEMBER (Sat.) 2nd, 10 AM:	ARRL Exam, Bath Health Care Facility. POC: Robin Walls, N1NFK 725-5135

NEWS FROM NEWINGTON

Barry Goldwater's K7UGA Call Sign Re-issued

The famous K7UGA call sign formerly held by the late US Sen. Barry Goldwater has been re-issued to the Central Arizona DX Association. The FCC granted CADXA's request for K7UGA on October 24.

The call sign came up for grabs this fall after the mandatory two-year waiting period following the cancellation of Goldwater's license ended. Goldwater died May 29, 1998.

CADXA President Gary Capek, K8BN, says the club, which traded its N7KJ club station call sign for K7UGA, plans to keep the call sign active. Goldwater's family has donated his amateur equipment, memorabilia and furnishings to the Arizona Historical Society's museum in Tempe. Capek says he's met with representatives of the museum--which plans to reconstruct Goldwater's ham shack as an exhibit--and says CADXA will cooperate in making the call sign available for special events at the museum.

The Goldwater ham shack exhibit still is in the planning stages, and the museum has been soliciting donations from the amateur community

to construct the exhibit. "I have agreed to work with them when they begin to install the old Goldwater shack items in the next year," Capek said.

The K7UGA station equipment and console were removed last May from the Goldwater home in Paradise Valley, Arizona, which has been sold. Goldwater's station and massive antenna system were used to complete thousands of phone patch messages for troops during the Vietnam War.

*From: ARRL Members Only Web site
memberlist@plk.arrl.org*

FCC TO MONITOR eBay AUCTION SITE FOR ILLEGAL ITEMS

The FCC says it has reached an agreement with the eBay auction site that's aimed at curtailing the sale of clearly illegal radio equipment.

FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says eBay has agreed to cooperate in removing advertisements in which the item for sale "is clearly non-certified" under FCC rules. Hollingsworth said most of the equipment

involved falls into the CB category, including illegal amplifiers.

Hollingsworth agreed to publicize the initiative at the urging of the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch's John Hennessee, N1KB. "I've got a whole folder of people who have been complaining about this and will be delighted to know that the Commission is taking action," Hennessee said.

Hollingsworth said a review team within the Technical and Public Safety Division of the FCC Enforcement Bureau is screening eBay ads each week. He said the practice could be extended to other auction sites if the FCC learns of similar problems. Hollingsworth credits complaints from the Amateur Radio community with getting the new system in place. "I've been collecting complaints for a year, but the amateur community really generated it," he said. Hollingsworth says he sees about 10 complaints a week about auction site radio gear advertisements--sometimes several about the same ad. He cautions that complaints should be based on clear-cut FCC rules violations, such as attempts to sell illegal linear amplifiers.

Amateurs can send items to fccham@fcc.gov, Hollingsworth said.

BOY SCOUT FOX HUNT

By MARA members N1ZYC & N1ZYB

On October 14, 2000, approximately 6800 cub scouts, boy scouts, explorers and leaders attended a weekend Scout Show and campout at Hammonasset State Park in Madison Connecticut. Many activities were available for the scouts including two complete amateur radio stations with HF, 2 meters, ATV and fox hunting.

Mark, KE1IU; Dave, WA1IKN; Linda, N1ZYC; and Paul, N1ZYB provided the fox hunting demonstrations. Linda took a HT, hid, and provided the fox signals. Mark, Dave and Paul conducted hunting demonstrations using three different Time Difference of Arrival (TDOA) antennas. Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, was our

Scout Show point of contact and he provided us with copies of Hammonasset Park maps for use in plotting bearing lines to the fox.

The first hunt started around 10 AM and the scouts got some "hands-on" experience finding the bearing null, plotting lines on the map and planning on the best next monitoring location. The TDOA's work great for on-foot foxhunts and the second bearing crossed the first bearing line at campsite #18. As the adults didn't know where that was, the scouts lead the way to site #18 and one more transmission from the fox lead us to a tree and the fox who was hiding only 30 feet away from site #18. We found out later that during this hunt the fox had tried to climb the tree but got her foot caught in a vine and then dropped her purse out of the tree. She decided at this point that foxes don't climb trees, so transmissions came from ground level from then on!

A second hunt demonstration was held in the middle of the day with a larger number of scouts. The third and last hunt went well until the fox informed the hunter that fox transmissions would have to be cut short because she was involved in a scout rescue effort. The bearing lines crossed and the hunters found the fox whereupon she explained that there was a rope making demonstration at the fox den and somehow, one of the boy scouts had managed to get his hair caught in the rope and couldn't free himself. It was obvious that the scout's hair had to be cut to get him free. After permission was given by the leader and the trapped boy scout, Linda, assisted by another scout with his trusty "boy scout knife", used the scissors and freed the by then nervous boy scout.

We all had fun and the equipment worked well. Maybe we ignited a spark or two that will result in some new amateurs, - and one scout learned not to sit too close to a rope making machine.

THREE HAMS MEET WITH SUCCESS

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE (VE team member)

The October 21st VE session held at the Bath Health Care Facility had four folks showed up to take exams. One hour later two folks had passed their Technician class exams and one was successful in obtaining General class privileges. One other applicant came to take the extra class written exam to see what it was all about and almost made it without study and most likely he will be successful on his next try.

The VE team wants to encourage all of you that have not reached the Extra Class plateau yet to break out the study guides and the 5-WPM CW tapes and make an effort to upgrade. A little effort on your part reaps big rewards with expanded privileges, new bands, new modes and self-satisfaction. The question pools are on the Internet and so are code practice programs. Checkout the QRZed web site (linked to the MARA web site www.gwi.net/mara/).



CHRISTMAS DINNER?

As discussed in the opening meeting article, a question on whether MARA members and friends want to have a Christmas and end of year dinner. Do we want to go back to the China Rose or do we want to try another location? What Friday or Saturday evening in early/mid December would be best?

If you have any thoughts on this matter please feed them back to Bruce, W1ZE at 442-9630 or brandall@gwi.net or catch him on the 147.21 or 444.4 repeaters.

Tech Talk from Cole's Tower

By K1MJJP & W1ZE

For those of you that operate on the Association's repeaters you will know that they are both up and running. When times permits we will make some modifications to the 444.4 machine. Audio coupling between the receiver and transmitter strip needs modification to allow a wider voice frequency range to pass. The audio at this time is usable but sounds constricted. Also the telephone line needs to be connected to the UHF repeater but we want on that until the audio modifications are made.



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KS1R

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