

# ***SQUELCH TALES***

**Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for January 2001**

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## **YEAREND DINNER ATTENDEES HAD A VERY GOOD TIME**

The yearend dinner at the China Rose in Brunswick had a good group of MARA members and friends in attendance. Lots of oriental cuisine was consumed and everyone made several trips to the buffet tables.



Bob Watson N1GWE, Gay McQueeney N1XBN, Pam McQueeney N1KIE and Bob McQueeney N1VVF

MARA President, Loren Dudley, W1LHD addressed the attendees and thanked everyone for coming to the get-together and wished everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New year filled with health and fun rewarding ham radio activities.

## **BATH RADIO SHACK MANAGER GETS HAM TICKET**

After several years of prodding by Bruce Randall, W1ZE, Steve Hanks, WZ1J and other hams in the area, Jerry Partelow, longtime and successful manager of one of the mid coast Maine's busiest Radio Shack stores, got his ham



ticket in November with call sign KB1FYA. Jerry has a new Radio Shack 2-meter transceiver in his car, so listen for him on the 147.21 and 147.135 repeaters. Welcome aboard Jerry.

## **NEW FCC SYSTEM MEANS QUICK LICENSE GRANTS**

**ARRL, Newington CT**

The FCC's new system to handle batch-filed amateur applications from Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has cut processing time from hours to minutes. The FCC inaugurated the more rapid amateur license application processing system on December 28<sup>th</sup> slightly ahead of its original schedule.

"Way to go, FCC!" said an enthusiastic ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, after his office fed its first batch of license applications into the system. Jahnke says five dozen ARRL-VEC applications resulted in license grants about 52 minutes later. The W4VEC in North Carolina and Central America VEC

also took advantage of the new system for the first time.

Except for a two-hour window right after midnight each day, the speedy new system looks for VEC submissions each hour on the half-hour. With FCC license grant processing now measured in terms of hours instead of days, the major factor now determining the time from exam to license grant is how quickly VE teams get their test results to their VECs.

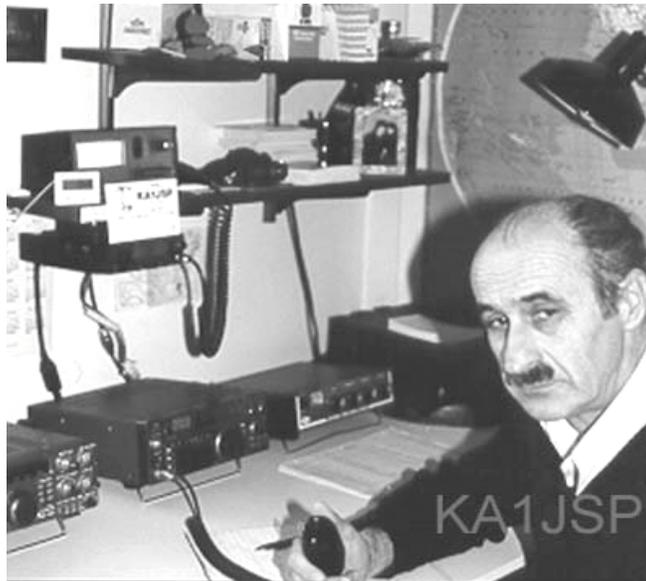
The FCC has been estimating a processing window of up to 90 minutes, depending on volume and arrival time. License grant results should be available immediately on the Universal Licensing System Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>, using the license search option.

Applications processed by the FCC one day will appear in the public update ("zip") files the following morning. Public call sign servers on the Internet should be able to update within 24 hours after FCC action—rather than the 48 hours that's been typical.

On-line filings from individuals, weekend filings and FCC-manually processed applications put into the hopper during weekdays at Gettysburg will continue to be handled as have been. These are batched for midnight processing, and weekend filings will not queue up until Monday midnight.

## KA1JSP Suffers Stroke!

By Mark Rideout, N1JIM



Former MARA member Anton Topole, KA1JSP, who now living in Buckfield, Maine, suffered a massive stroke on December 26. He is currently hospitalized, though finally out of intensive Care. He will be in a rehabilitation unit for a month or more. The entire left side of his body was affected. I am sure that when he is able, he will be eager to resume his Internet and Ham Radio activities.

## MARA Sponsored VE test dates set for 2001

Robin Walls, N1NFK has set the following Saturday dates and times for the MARA's 2001 VE sessions to be held in the Bath Health Care Facility:

May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM

December 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM

If you need more information about these VE sessions, contact Robin at: [robinw@suscom-maine.net](mailto:robinw@suscom-maine.net)

## January Association Breakfast-Meeting date set

We hope to see many of you attend the first informal MARA breakfast meeting for 2001 at 9:00 AM, Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at Denny's Restraint at Cook's Corner.

# News From Newington

From ARRL Letter Vol. 20, No. 01  
January 5, 2001

## "MOTHER OF ALL JAMMING STATIONS" CONTINUES TO PLAGUE 40 METERS

For some months now, regular users of the 40-meter band have been plagued from time to time by strong, very broad, frequency-hopping signals that somewhat resemble a slow-scan TV transmission. The signals, it turns out, originate from jamming stations in the Middle East.

"We know exactly what this is," said ARRL Monitoring System Coordinator Brennan Price, N4QX. "This is a very high-power Iraqi jammer of a very high-power Iranian shortwave broadcast station."

The loud buzzing signals have been heard on the 40-meter CW and phone bands and have even been "spotted" on packet. The jammers occupy about 10 kHz of spectrum.

Price says the shortwave broadcast station involved is The Voice of the People of Kurdistan, transmitted via The Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran facility in Teheran. "The Iranian station has a daily transmission on 7100 kHz from the same facility, and Iraq has jammed that one also," he says.

Price explains that the Iranian station--which broadcasts anti-Saddam Hussein propaganda, hence the jamming--jumps frequencies several times each broadcast in order to avoid the jamming. Unfortunately for 40-meter users, the Iraqi transmissions follow. This results in a situation where it's hard to predict when the jammers might show up on a given frequency block or how long they'll stay.

Price said that neither station is transmitting where it is supposed to be. "The Iranian and Iraqi telecommunications administrations have been advised of this," he said.

Price says that such "politically motivated" intruders typically don't disappear until the political situation changes. "The 'woodpecker' went away when the Cold War did," he said. "This one will probably not go away until Saddam Hussein does."

## RTTY by WF1B now a free program:

Ray Ortgiesen, WF1B, has changed the way his RTTY contest software is distributed. From now on, RTTY by WF1B will be available free via the Internet. Users will pay a fee for support, however. WF1B is making the program's source code available and is soliciting suggested changes from programmers. For details, visit the RTTY by WF1B Web page, <http://www.wf1b.com/>.

## FCC levies fine for illegal amp sales:

The FCC has fined Stephen Fowler, doing business as Exports R US in Pineville, Louisiana, \$7000 for marketing an unauthorized external radio frequency power amplifier. The FCC's New Orleans field office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability last September against Fowler d/b/a/ Exports R Us; the FCC says Fowler has not responded. The forfeiture is due within 30 days of the Forfeiture Order, adopted December 28, 2000.

