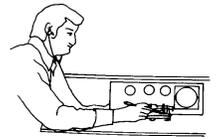




# Squelch Tales



A newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for February, 2001

## News from Gettysburg

Obtained from NewsLine No. 1223, Jan. 2001

**Special FCC Advisory:** The FCC is requesting that any hams who discover illegal radio gear being advertised for sale on the various on-line auction sites such as eBay send this information to them at a nee electronic address. This is [FCCINFO@fcc.gov](mailto:FCCINFO@fcc.gov). Using this e-mail address will help expedite investigation of information provided.

**The search for HF intruders is on and the FCC assigns new channels for inter agency emergency communications.**

Intruder Watch: Of sunspots Ad a CB Invasion? Improved propagation on the spectrum above 20 MHz appears to be bringing a growing number of intruders into the 15 and 10-meter bands. Is it an invasion by unlicensed pirates or just more excursions by those who call themselves Freebanders? Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, says one UK ham is going to find out: We should now be near the peak of sunspot cycle number 23. So far it has been rather disappointing, and certainly has not reached the heights of cycle 19 in 1959 or even the last cycle 22, which peaked around 1990 to 1991. Our sun is, of course, somewhat irregular in its behavior. In spite of this, international broadcast stations have, during each of the past sunspot peaks, employed the 25670 to 26100 kHz 11 meter broadcast band. Strangely, during the present peak only three broadcasting stations have been heard using the band, and they have now given up. At the present moment, the highest short- wave broadcast frequency in regular use appears to be by Deutsche Welle on 21840kHz - way down in the 13 meter band. Furthermore, no Maritime stations are heard using their assignments from 25010 to 25070kHz and 26100 to 26175kHz. The Standard Time and Frequency Service has an allocation at 25MHz, but it is believed that no use has been made of this frequency since the 1950s when WWV operated there with just 100 watts from Beltsville near Washington. The question needs to be asked, "Just who is using the frequencies between

25 and 30MHz?" GB2RS News Manager, Gordon Adams, G3LEQ, has been monitoring this segment recently and regularly finds CB operators spreading from about 25600 to 28340kHz, taking over the 11 meter broadcast band and the lower portion of the 10 metro amateur band. Gordon would like to ask as many of our short wave listeners world-wide as possible whether they be radio amateurs or not, to let him know if they find these observations to be true. He may be contacted by voice mail or fax on 01 565 634 560 or by e-mail to: [gb2rs.news@cwcom.net](mailto:gb2rs.news@cwcom.net) Jeramy Boot, G4NJH

If you plan to take part in this intruder watch and want to Call Gordon Adams, you will have to use the international dialing prefix 04411. Adams says that monitoring lists of stations in the segment from 25 to 30 MHz would be very much appreciated. (G4NJH)

**Spectrum Allocation: New Inter-Service Frequencies Assigned One of the reasons that hams are called out in emergencies could begin to disappear in 2006.** This as the FCC directs that spectrum be made available that will let disaster relief agencies to communications to communicate without the need of third parties. Newsline's Bill Burnett, KT4SB, has the details: With various public service agencies and government branches using different radio systems, those in charge had to share information through a third party before relaying it to onsite personnel. In many cases, the only way to do this was using ham radio operators. This has made hams the universal relay system for many years. But that soon may be a thing of the past as the Federal Communications Commission acts to create thirty-two radio channels that public safety officials from various agencies nationwide could use to communicate directly. The communications headache the system is meant to solve the situation that plays out in the wake of severe weather, at airline crashes, school shootings and other major incidents. Since each participating agency has its own radio system operating on its own assigned frequencies, it is rare that one agency can communicate with another. By making available spectrum for inter-agency linking, third parties are eliminated. (cont.)

For example, federal disaster relief workers could coordinate by radio with local police authorities when on the scene of a major preplanned event or unexpected emergency.

The agency already has designated the frequencies to be used. All are in the 700 MHz band. States or a regional committee would administer the interoperable channels. The final goal is for state, local and federal officials to use radios that can talk with each other on the seamless communications network.

There is one fly in the ointment. The spectrum space set aside for these purposes is currently occupied by broadcasters operating analog TV stations between channels 60 to 69. These broadcasters eventually will move to different parts of the airwaves as they switch to digital transmission. Broadcasters are supposed to return their analog channels by 2006 or when digital television reaches 85 percent of the market -- whichever is later. Until this happens, the new inter agency channels will only be available in parts of the country where broadcasters are not already occupying the frequencies. What does this mean for amateur radio? Nothing immediately but by 2006 hams may need to find a reason other than public service communications - if it wants to exist in 2010.

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## N1JIM on the mend

In the second week of January, Mark Rideout N1JIM experiences a minor stroke that caused some facial paralysis. Mark reports that he is on the mend. The medicos are doing testing to see what was the cause so they can provide him with the right treatment and rehabilitation therapy. All of us in the MARA wish Mark a speedy recovery.

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## WINTERFEST set for February 10<sup>th</sup>

Christmas, New Years and the Super Bowl have come and gone and many of you are starting to think of things to do. Mark Saturday, February the 10<sup>th</sup> on you calendars so you can attend the Augusta Club's Winterfest Hamfest and in-door flea market at the Crystal Falls dance hall on Rt. 17 in Chelsea, 2 miles east of Togas VA. Hope to see you there.

## W1LHD & W1ZE attend Sag. County EMA Dinner

A report By W1ZE

On January 23 Loren Dudley and Bruce Randall, representing the MARA on the Sagadahoc County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), attend the yearly dinner held at Regional Vocational Center at Mores High School. The students at the center prepared and outstanding meal for the attendees. Representatives from the various fire departments, Businesses, law enforcement, BNAS and other EMA personnel were in attendance. They heard what the County's LEPC had accomplished in the past year. The LEPC chairman and the Morse High students showed what they have done is setting a comprehensive document that identifies where hazardous materials have been reported and stored. This document identifies types, quantities and mapping of locations within Sagadahoc County.

The Sagadahoc County EMA director, Ms Ellen Nutt, has requested help of the public in EMA efforts and participation on the LEPC, especially from the amateur radio community.

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## FOX HUNTING WITH 4-WHEEL DRIVE IN CONNECTIUT

By Paul N6ZYB & Linda N6ZYC Towne

The last snow of the Jan 21st storm ended at 11:30 AM and the foxhunt started on time at 12:30 PM. Mark, KE11U, was the fox and he hid at the commuter parking lot on Route 117 that is located just north of the I95/117 Industrial complex.

There were two hunt teams. Randy, N1PTB, Paul, N1ZYB, and Linda, N1ZYC, teamed up in the 4-wheel drive Explorer. They had a TDOA, a ZL Special and a new Digital Doppler direction finder. New toys are always lots of fun so it turned out that only the Doppler was used by that team.

Matt, KB1FKL, teamed up with Chris, KB1FUO, and they also had some new equipment. Matt had just finished building a Time Difference of Arrival (TDOA) kit and was eager to put it to work finding the fox. They also had a Quad which didn't get used.

When the hunt started the fox's signal was very weak at the RT.. 12/2A starting location so both teams headed south looking for higher ground. Matt went directly to the RT.. 184/ RT.. 117 intersection to pick up his partner Chris and at the time (cont.) was not aware that this put them very close to the fox.

When the fox transmitted, the new TDOA gave them a strong bearing that pointed south down RT.. 117. The problem is that the TDOA doesn't provide range data, so they drove right past the fox and went to Bluff Point Park. Determining range while fox hunting is a science in itself. The next bearing they obtained at Bluff Point lead them a little astray and that delay provided time for Team 2 to close in on the fox.

Linda, Randy and Paul went to Overlook Road near RT. 214 and obtained the first Doppler bearing to the fox who was about 3.2 miles away as the crow flies. Randy was favorably impressed with the 4-wheel drive and the Doppler, both of which were used. Next then went to the Stop & Shop parking lot at the intersection of RT. 184 and RT. 12 where they got a solid (one LED) bearing almost due east. They drove east on RT. 184 and then south down RT. 117 to the Industrial Park where I 95 crosses RT. 117. (Another team going right past the fox!) At the park the Doppler pointed north up along RT. 117. Suspecting that this bearing might have been influenced by some signal reflections, a second bearing was obtained near the Pequot Medical Center and it also pointed north along the RT. 117 line.

Linda plotted these last two bearing on the map and the team headed north again on RT. 117. After driving only about 1/2 mile, team 2 heard the fox start a short QSO with a non-hunter. Linda reported from the plotting room (the back seat) that the Doppler now said the fox was directly behind us to the south. (Drove past him again!) One of the advantages of the Doppler is that it works while the hunter is moving. They reversed direction and about 200 feet down the road sharp-eyed Randy spotted the fox in the commuter parking lot.

**73's, Paul and Linda** ([pstowne@unidial.com](mailto:pstowne@unidial.com))

*Paul and Linda are MARA members that winter in Connecticut. We are looking forward to their return to Maine in the spring.*

**Don't forget the MARA  
Breakfast-Meeting,  
Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:00 AM at the Cook's  
Corner Denny's Restraint**

# Upcoming Maine Ham Exams & Hamfests for 2001

## February

- Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> **Winterfest at Crystal Falls**, Rt.17 Chelsea east of Augusta  
 Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM, **W1RU/ARRL Exam**, Rockland, Knox Co.  
 Courthouse. POC Dick Baldwin 207-529-5781  
 Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM, **W1COP/ARRL Exam**, Bangor Community  
 Center, Davis Road Bangor. POC Dave Melocfrick 207-  
 942-4586

## March

- Tue. 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM, **WA1YNZ/ARRL Exam**, Presque Isle, NMTC,  
 Augusta Christy Bldg, Rm.113, POC Wilburn Scott 207-  
 455-8333  
 Fri. 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM, **AA1CZ/ARRL Exam**, Saco Middle School,  
 Rt.112. POC Al Noble 207-643-8830  
 Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM, **WZ1M/ARRL Exam**, Stew. Morrill Am .Leg.  
 Post -35, 417 Broadway, S.Portland, POC John Bergeron  
 207-799-3687  
 Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00PM, **AE1Q/ARRL Exam**, Togus VA, Bldg 210, POC  
 Don Smith 207-293-2935  
 Fri.-Sat. 30-31<sup>st</sup> **Andy Hamfest/State Convention**,  
 Remada Conference Center, Lewiston. N1JTH/W5YI exam  
 12:30PM. Exam POC Doug Rugg 207-784-2374 before  
 8:00PM

## April

- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM **W1JWH/ARRL Exam**, Bangor Community  
 Center, Davis Rd Bangor. POC Jerry Haslett 207-947- 892  
 Sat 7<sup>th</sup> 8:00am **Portland Electronics Fleamarket** American Legion  
 Hall, 417 Broadway, S.Portland  
 Tue. 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM **WA1YNZ/ARRL Exam**, Augusta Christy Bldg.  
 Rm.113 NMTC, Presque Isle. POC Wilburn Scott  
 207-455-8333

## May

- Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM **N1JTH/W5YI Exam**, Auburn Red Cross. POC  
 Doug Rugg 207-784-2374 before 8PM  
 Fri-Sat. 11-12<sup>th</sup> **Hosstraders Hamfest, Rochester, NH**  
 Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM **AE1Q/ARRL Exam**, Togus VA Bldg  
 210. POC Don Smith 207-293-2935  
 Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM **AA!CZ/ARRL Exam**, Saco Middle School, Rt 112.  
 POC Al Noble 207-642-8830  
 Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM **WZ1N/ARRL Exam**, Am. Legion Post 35 S.  
 Portland. POC John Bergeron 207-799-3687  
 Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM **N1NFK/MARA/ARRL Exam**, Bath Healthcare  
 Facility. POC Robin Walls 207-725-5135

## June

- Thu. 7<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM, **AE1Q/ARRL Exam**. Winslow Elementry School.  
 POC Don Smith 207-293-2935  
 Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM **Bangor Hamfest**, Herman HS, RT.2 Herman,  
**AE1Q/ARRL Exam**. POC Don Smith 207-293-2935

## July

- Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> **Union Hamfest**, Union Fairgrounds. **W1RU/ARRL Exam**.  
 POC Dick Baldwin 207-529-5781  
 Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM **AE1Q/ARRL Exam**, Togus VA Bldg 210.  
 POC Don Smith 207-293-2935

**August**

Sat. 11 **St. Albans Hamfest**. Snow Devils Field + K1AG/ARRL Exam, 10:00AM at St. Albans Elem. School. POC Bill Sullivan 207-947-4051  
Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM **NIJTH/ARRL Exam**, Auburn Red Cross. POC Doug Rugg 207-784-2374

**September**

Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> **Windsor Hamfest**, Windsor Fairgrounds, Rt.32, S. Windsor. **K1NIT/ARRL Exam**, 12:30PM POC 207-947-4051  
Fri. 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM **AA1CZ/ARRL Exam Saco** Middle School, RT 112. POC Al Noble 207-642-8830  
Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM **WZ1N/ARRL Exam**. Stew. Morrill A.L. Post-35, 417 Broadway **S. Portland**. POC John Bergeron 207-799-3687  
Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> **K1AG/ARRL Exam**, Bangor Community Ctr. Davis Rd. **Bangor**. POC Bill Sullivan 207-947-4051  
Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00AM **Lincoln Hamfest**, Ella Burr School, Rt.2 **Lincoln** + **N1GOI/ARRL Exam**. POC Dave Baker 207-749-3389  
Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:00AM **N1NFK/MARA/ARRL Exam**. **Bath** Healthcare Facility. POC Robin Walls 207-794-3389

**October**

Thu. 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM **AE1Q/ARRL Exam**, **Winslow** Elem. School. POC Don Smith 207-293-2935  
Tue. 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM **W1IYNZ/ARRL Exam**. NMTC, Augusta Christy Bldg Rm. 113, **Presque Isl.** POC Wilburn Scott 207-455-8333

**November**

Fri. 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM **AA1CZ/ARRL Exam**, Saco Middle School, Rt. 112. POC Al Noble 207-642-8830  
Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> 9AM **WZ1N/ARRL Exam**, Stew. Morrill Am. Legion Post-35, 417 Broadway S. Portland. POC John Bergeon 207-799-3687  
Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> **K1AG/ARRL Exam**, Bangor Community Ctr. Davis Rd. Bangor. POC Bill Sullivan 207-947-4051  
Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00PM **AE1Q/ARRL Exam**. Togus VA Bldg 210. POC Don Smith 207-293-2935

**December**

Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> 10:00AM **N1NFK/MARA/ARRL Exam**. Bath Healthcare Facility. POC Robin Walls 207-725-5135  
Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM **NIJTH/W5YI Exam**. Auburn Red Cross. POC Doug Rugg 207-784-2374

# Time for you to act

Opinion by Bruce Randall, W1ZE

You have heard that communities around the country are attempting to, or have enacted laws that would prohibit individuals from operating their cellular telephone devices while their vehicles are in motion. In some cases this may be a good idea. People do tend to loose attention to their driving when they have a phone pressed to their ear and it would be much safer if they pulled to the side of the road to make a call,

or employ a hands-free microphone/speaker headset.

There is a move afoot to prohibit cell phone usage by drivers of moving motor vehicles here in Maine. The bad part about this move is that they would also include amateur radios, CBs and other hand held radios and microphones. It is this writer's opinion that such a law would be very short sided because it would seriously impact the Maine Amateur Radio community's ability to providing effective emergency communications.

I would hope that you would contact your elected state representatives and urge them to not include Licensed Amateur Radio operators and their communications devices in such a law. Remind them of the last ice storm and how Amateur Radio responded to help the people of the Great State of Maine, most of it from hams in their vehicles.

## KS1R 2-Meter Repeater AUTODIAL Numbers

Since emergency communications was referred to in the previous opinion piece maybe it is a good time to again provide all of you with a list of the emergency and public service autodial numbers on the 147.21 repeater. They are as follows:

<b>KS1R EMERGENCY AUTODIAL #s</b>	
<b>**0 = State Police (Gray)</b>	<b>-----1-800-482-0730</b>
<b>**1 = State Police (Augusta)</b>	<b>-----1-800-452-4664</b>
<b>**2 = Brunswick Emergency</b>	<b>----- 725-5521</b>
<b>**3 = Topsham Emergency</b>	<b>-----729-5588</b>
<b>**4 = Bath Emergency</b>	<b>----- 443-5563</b>
<b>**5 = Freeport Emergency</b>	<b>----- 865-4212</b>
<b>**6 = Lisbon Emergency</b>	<b>-----353-2300</b>
<b>**7 = Sagadahoc Sheriff</b>	<b>-----443-9711</b>
<b>**8 = Cumb. Sheriff</b>	<b>-----1-800-501-1111</b>
<b>**9 = Androscoggin Sheriff</b>	<b>-----882-9711</b>

Cut the list out of this page and place it in your vehicle in the event you need it to report an accident or get help.

## ARRL offering sportswear line

ARRL has teamed with Barker Specialty Company to provide quality ARRL logo merchandise for hams. Show the world you're an Amateur Radio operator and an ARRL member. Identify your involvement in Amateur Radio! Increase your visibility at Public Service Events! Show off your ARRL Membership! Also great for Recruiters, Volunteers, and Examiners!

The attractive embroidered logo carries the ARRL diamond emblem and the words, "Amateur Radio." Here is the selection of apparel that will carry the ARRL logo:

- \* Oxford Sport Shirt
- \* Deluxe Sport Shirt
- \* Pack-Away Jacket
- \* Fleece Pullover
- \* Oxford Dress Shirt
- \* Twill Cap

Each item can be PERSONALIZED with your First Name and Call Sign (optional). And, every item you purchase from ARRL's merchandise collection will help support ARRL and Amateur Radio. Show off your support!

To review the entire collection, or to order, contact Barker Specialty Company:

Order online = <http://www.barkerspecialty.com/arrl>  
Toll-Free 1-800-227-5372 (BARKERB)

# **ANDY HAMFEST & MAINE STATE CONVENTION**

**Remada Inn and Convention  
Center Lewiston, Maine  
March 30 & 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Seminars Friday evening & Saturday  
Flea market Saturday  
N1JTH/W5YI Exam  
Saturday at 12:30 PM**

## ARRL Takes Part in ITU Study of Unwanted Emissions.

The ARRL Technical Relations Office in Washington participated in just-completed International Telecommunication Union (ITU) studies of "unwanted emissions" in the radio spectrum. Unwanted emissions consist of out-of-band and spurious emissions. The ITU-Radio communication Sector has conducted two multi-year studies of out-of-band and spurious emissions during the past decade.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, chaired a second-round task group with an international membership, drafting out-of-band emission specifications. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, and his staff participated in task group meetings and provided technical support to the League's Washington office. Representatives of the International Amateur Radio Union also took part.

"Had we not invested all those hours and travel, the amateur and amateur-satellite services probably would have some unwanted emission limits that would be more difficult to meet and make amateur equipment more costly," Rinaldo said. The panel's recommendations are being circulated to governments for final approval.

Out-of-band emissions are those falling outside the necessary bandwidth of a signal and are the result of modulation. "Amateurs know them as key clicks and splatter," Rinaldo said. The ITU defines spurious emissions as emissions beyond 250% of the necessary bandwidth, but the definition is still under debate. Spurious levels already are spelled out in the international Radio Regulations. ARRL Lab tests have shown that amateur gear could meet a standard of -50 dB relative to main signal for HF and -70 dB for VHF bands and above.

Out-of-band limits for amateur equipment were agreed upon at the final task group meeting last year, and Rinaldo says these are consistent with the idea of establishing a safety net--not stringent levels of emission. A suite of ITU-R recommendations on unwanted emissions is being circulated and should be approved by mid-year.

More work lies ahead for the ARRL Washington staff. Radio astronomers and earth-exploration passive services are not satisfied with present levels of unwanted emissions from satellites and are concerned about interference to their sensitive receivers. A new ITU task group is studying the issue and preparing information for presentation at WRC-03.

**Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc.**

**KS1R**

177 Sabino Rd., West bath, ME 04530