

SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter From The Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for September 2001

Two August bike rides a success



The Morris Tour Des Farm and the Dan Michoud Memorial 100-mile bike rides last month were a success according to their respective organizers.

Your MARA was able to fielded a communications teams for both events thanks to the efforts of Bob N1VVF and Gay McQueeney N1XBN, Brian Dorval AA1WI and Bruce Randall W1ZE for the Morris Ride and the same group plus Mark Rideout N1JIM and Dean Ridenour N1GLV for the Michoud ride.

The MARA communications team did an outstanding job in providing communications and road assistance to the riders in both events. A special KUDO to Bryan Dorval for doing a stellar job as KS1R net control in both events.

Special thanks go to the Lincoln County amateur radio club for letting the MARA comm-team use the Wiscasset 2-meter repeater during the Morris Tour Des Farms ride on the 15th. The use of that repeater filled in the communications holes in the Jefferson and north Whitefield areas where the KS1R repeater offers only spotty coverage.

GREAT JOB IN THE SPIRIT OF HAM RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TEAM.

New Control Operator

As many of you know that several Association members have the responsibility of being control operators. These operators monitor the repeaters and are authorized to make adjustments, turn

functions on and off and shut down the repeater if conditions and events warrant.

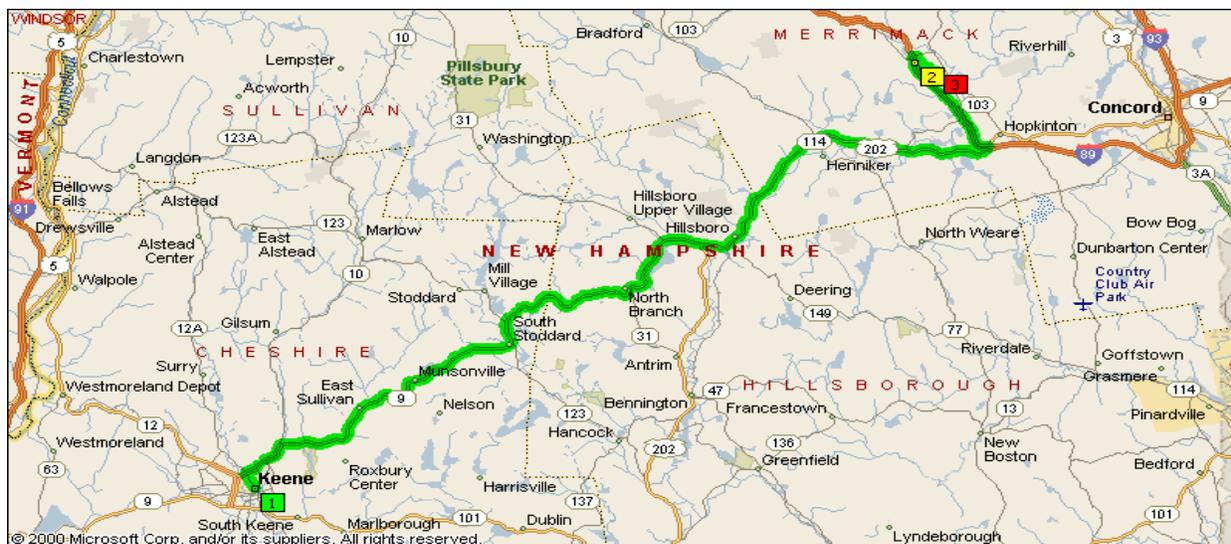
Chris McGraw, KB2SKP was one of our control operator, but he has moved out of the area at the first of the year. We needed a third control operator who is active on the repeater. Brian Dorval, AA1WI of Topsham was asked to be the third control operator and he has agreed to assist Bruce WIZE, Mark N1JIM and Pete K1MJP in that function.

Only two Hamfests left in 2001

That's right, there are only two Hamfest - flea markets left to attend this year to buy or sell that boat anchor or treasure.

The last Maine event is the Windsor Hamfest held Saturday the September 8th at the Windsor Fair grounds. If you haven't been there before, from Augusta take RT.17 east, two + miles past Togus VA facility to Rt.23 (China Road). Turn left on Rt.23 and travel 1/8-mi to fairground on left.

The last big northern New England Hamfest is Hosstraders on October 5th and 6th in Hopkinton, NH just west of Concord.



From Concord travel west on I-89 to Exit-7 in Hopkinton. From Exit-7 travel east following signs to State Fairgrounds.

Hope to see you at the Fleas!



Sign Up for ARRL Level II Emergency Communications On-Line Course

Registration for the ARRL Intermediate (Level II) Emergency communications on-line course (EC-002) opened on August 27. Visit the ARRL Course Registration Page on www.arrl.org to take advantage of this and other continuing education training. EC-002 classes are limited to 50. New classes open every four weeks. Additional information is available at the ARRL web site. Be sure to check out the continuing education links. Course manuals are now available through the ARRL catalog. To learn more, contact Cert. and Continuing Education Coordinator Don Miller, K3UFG, cce@arrl.org.

ITU Adopts Recommendation on Amateur Qualifications

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 24, 2000

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has adopted a recommendation that outlines basic qualifications for Amateur Radio operators worldwide. Recommendation ITU-R M.1544, Minimum qualifications of radio amateurs, states that minimal operational and technical qualifications are necessary for proper operation of an amateur or amateur-satellite station. It recommends that any person seeking an amateur license at least be able to demonstrate specific theoretical knowledge of radio regulations, radiocommunication methods, radio systems, radio emission safety, electromagnetic compatibility, and RF interference avoidance and resolution.

"The international Radio Regulations have long required that administrations take such measures as they judge necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station,"

observed International Amateur Radio Union Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. "In anticipation of changes that are likely to be made in the amateur and amateur-satellite service regulations at the next World Radiocommunication Conference, the new recommendation provides additional definition to these qualifications without reducing the prerogative of an administration to set its own standards." Recommendation M.1544 came about as part of the IARU's multi-year effort to prepare for the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference, where delegates will consider possible revision of Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations. Work began in 1996 with the release for public comment of a discussion paper by the IARU Future of the Amateur Service Committee. The FASC's final report in 1998 recommended that the IARU Administrative Council plan the development of such a recommendation.

The first draft text was submitted by the Radio Society of Great Britain to the 1999 Conference of IARU Region 1 in Lillehammer, Norway. It was subsequently refined by the IARU Administrative Council and the 2000 Conference of IARU Region 3 in Darwin, Australia. IARU representatives guided consideration of the recommendation through ITU-R Working Party 8A, Study Group 8 and consultation with administrations, which resulted in additional refinements. The final version of the Recommendation was approved by the ITU administrations without objection.

IARU President Larry E. Price, W4RA, said that establishing uniform minimum qualifications for Amateur Radio operators should help in the area of mutual recognition of amateur licenses for international roaming "and particularly for cross-border movement of amateur operators for disaster communications." Having the recommendation in place, he explained, makes it possible to maintain an ITU document on Amateur Radio operator qualifications within oversight of the ITU-R Study Group and avoids the cumbersome process of modifying Article S25 of the Radio Regulations.

ITU Recommendations are available from the ITU electronic bookshop. --IARU news release

Looking back half a century

By Phil Young , W1JTH, Sec./Tres. Pine Tree Chapter QCWA

The other day I received an e-mail from Bruce, W1ZE, commenting on a website containing a real fine biography of the original W1ZE. Bruce mentioned Eunice Randall, W1MPP, who was the first lady radio engineer and a pioneer in broadcasting in New England. This started the nostalgia wheels turning. Eunice and her husband Ken Thompson, W1PS were very active in Maine amateur circles after they retired to Lowell, Maine in the late '40s and early '50s

During that period there was a ham picnic and outing at Kazer Lake in Lowell which attracted a large radio amateur attendance from all over the south central part of the state. One year in particular, 1950 I think, stands out in my mind. In conjunction with the event Ken Thompson, along with Win Ramsdell, W1FBJ, the Oxford Radio Club and other area clubs initiated an emergency simulation with headquarters at the Kazer Lake event. One phase of the operation involved relaying messages from the Capitols of the other five New England states to Governor Payne in Augusta. It was assumed that all commercial power was inoperable and that stations using batteries or generators would relay the messages. Several messages were received from other N.E. governors during the exercise. Reception in Augusta was in charge of W1TO, Bob Parker who was Emergency Coordinator at the time, assigned by Clyde Carson. Clyde had organized the local Boy Scout troop to hand deliver the incoming messages. There were eleven mobiles involved in the operation. All were operating on 75 meters. I still remember the old Premax "broomstick" mobile antenna which was mounted on our old Pontiac.

The Civil Air Patrol had started to use VHF for communications and assisted in the project. At the time the CAP had a key station located atop Mt. Washington and with that elevation they were able to cover many areas where 80 meters, the primary frequency in use for ham mobile operation was marginal. As part of the CAP involvement, a castaway equipped with a low powered transmitter was dropped on a "deserted island". The unfortunate person was located eventually and the position was radioed to the project headquarters.

A few years later the Kazer Lake picnic was again held at "The Narrows" a popular picnic place in this summer resort area. Myron Kimball, W1TDK and his wife Martha acted as host and hostess. The picnic became an annual affair and attendance up to 150 hams from all over the state and beyond. Members of the Yankee ARC held their picnic there as part of the festivities.

Myron had a steamboat and operated mobile marine from the wheelhouse. You had to stand in line to get a ride on Myron's vessel.

Leo Dyer, WA1DIN (now N1BBK), used to fly over the area and greet the assembly from the air.

It seems like we had more fun back then.

GOODIES FOR SALE

☞ **Six-foot high electronics equipment cabinet.**

For standard 19-inch rack mount . MARA club property used to house KS1R repeaters on Oak Hill. \$25

Contact: Bruce Randall, W1ZE at 442-9630 or W1ZE@arrl.net.

☞ **Radio Shack HTX-10**



10-Meter, 25-watt, All -mode transceiver with remote speaker and manual for \$65.

Contact: Pete Russell, K1MJP at 725-3066 or prussell@bowdoin.edu .

Association Breakfast-Meeting

9:00 AM Saturday, September 29th

Denny's Cook's Corner Restraint

HAVE YOU UPGRADED YET?

Merrymeeting Amateur radio Association

KS1R

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www.gwi.net/mara