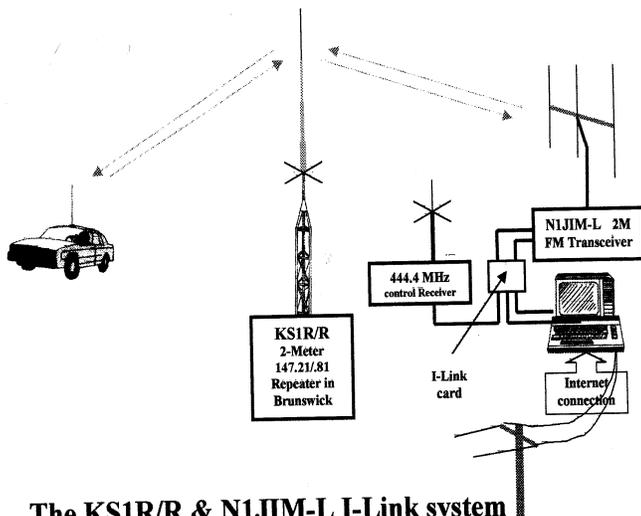


KS1R/R now has I-LINK

The March issue of Squelch Tales announced that several MARA members were experimenting with I-Link. The I-Link yeast started to grow, because a week after Squelch Tales hit the street your MARA had linked the 147.21 KS1R repeater linked to Mark Rideout's I-Link station in Bowdoinham. The link has an I-Link designated call sign of N1JIM-L with an I-Link access code of 9254. Mark's I-Link station is now technically a link-gateway to our 147.21 repeater at Bowdoin College in Brunswick.



The KS1R/R & N1JIM-L I-Link system

How does it work? As an example: A station in Seattle, Washington (or Bangor, ME) wants to connect to our 147.21 repeater on mid coast Maine. He finds the call N1JIM-L on his I-Link active stations list, then highlights it with his mouse cursor, then clicks on the word GO. Within a matter of seconds his PC is now connected to Mark's PC in Bowdoinham. At the same time his computer, via an I-Link interface card connects to a 2-meter transceiver tuned to our KS1R repeater. The I-Link program in Mark's PC sends out a voice announcement. If you are listening to the repeater you hear a door chime and Mark's recorded voice that states, "Incoming I-Link." The Ham in Seattle is now linked to our repeater and can carry on a QSO just like

if he was using a transceiver in the mid coast area.

There are a few things to remember when you QSO with an I-Link station. They are:

- When you hear the incoming connection announced, do not reply for about 10 seconds. This allows the connect message to go back to the I-Link connecting ham at his PC (or ham talking through his I-Link connected repeater).
- If you do not hear anyone announce themselves within 15 to 20 seconds, identify yourself and welcome the I-Link connecting station.
- If you are in a QSO with an I-Link station, and replying to an exchanges (over), do not transmit until you hear the I-link unkey beep and our repeaters courtesy tone sounded (two beeps). This allows the repeater to reset and not time-out.
- It is also a good practice to remember that when you key your microphone to talk to an I-Link station, count in your head 1-2-3 before talking. This allows the packet streaming process to sync up so the first word, or words you speak do not get cut off.

For more information on I-Link and free program download, check out the updated MARA web site at www.gwi.net/mara.

MS Walk Saturday April 7th

Just a reminder to let all of you know that your communications services are needed on the morning of Saturday the 7th for the Brunswick MS Walk. The walk kicks off at 8 AM, so we ask that the MARA ham volunteers arrive at the Brunswick Junior High school at 7:30 AM. The Associations 147.21 repeater will be used for the event and should be all over by noon or before, so you can be home in time to do those honey-do projects the spouse has been asking you to do. If you have not yet signed up to help, contact Bruce WIZE at 442-9630 or at brandall@gwi.net. Come bring your 2-meter rig, have some fun and help in a good cause.

Web Site Updated

Last month when Mark Rideout, N1JIM wasn't making I-Link play better, baby sitting the I-Link and KS1R/R operations, he took on the task of updating and cleaning up our Associations web site. Mark has taken many of the back issues of this newsletter, converted them to PDF format and you can go back and read issues going back to 1999. To read the newsletters you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader, a freeware program available on the ARRL's web site or at:

www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html.

If you have not checked out our web site lately take a peak at: www.gwi.net/mara

KS1R/R Emergency Autodial list

For those of you that have lost your list of emergency autodial numbers for the 147.21 autodial/autopatch, the below list should help.

KS1R/R Emergency Autodial #s

**0 = State Police (Gray).....	1-800-482-0730
**1 = State Police (Augusta).....	1-800-452-4664
**2 = Brunswick Emergency.....	735-5521
**3 = Topsham Emergency	729-5588
**4 = Bath Emergency.....	443-5563
**5 = Freeport Emergency.....	865-4212
**6 = Lisbon Emergency	353-2300
**7 = Sagadahoc Co. Sheriff	443-9711
**8 = Cumberland Co. Sheriff ...	1-800-501-1111
**9 = Androscoggin Co. Sheriff.....	882=9711

Professor Mark

The evening of March 29th at the Andy Hamfest & Maine State Convention had the MARA's own, Mark Rideout, N1JIM provided instruction and information on our hobbies marriage of ham radio and the Internet. The classroom was filled with a large group estimated at over 30 hams seeking information on I-Link.

Mark had good show-n-tell materials with the aid of a laptop PC with overhead projector to show how to access the I-Link system via the Internet and a 2-meter rig to show how to access the I-Link via the KS1R repeater.

Mark should receive his own Cum Laud!

444.4 Repeater back and better than ever

In mid March the MARA's 444.4 KS1R repeater was taken out of service so that upgrades and improvements could be made. Within a week a new low-noise pre-amplifier was added to the GE receiver, the transmitter was replaced with a repeater grade 75-watt transmitter and audio coupling through the repeater controller was improved. On March 15th the repeater was put back up on Cole's Tower feeding a new Diamond F718A 11.5db collinear antenna.

The overall performance has improved and coverage seems to have been increased.

Remember that the 444.4 repeater has autopatch too. There is no autodial, so if you need to call home you will have to enter the complete telephone number.

Many thanks to Pete Russell (K1MJ) for his efforts in making our UHF repeater even better.

New England QSO Party set for May 4th & 5th

After many years of each New England State having their own QSO Party May 4th and 5th will bring all the New England states together for one combined contest event.

This year the MARA, along with other Maine ham clubs are contributing funds so that a winners plaque can be given to the Maine station with the biggest point total.

If you want to fire-up and get your station in the QSO party, check out the New England QSO Party web site at www.neqp.org.

M.A.R.A .

Breakfast-Meeting

To be held as usual at the

Cook's Corner Denny's

Saturday April 27th

9:00 AM

News from Newington

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY TO CELEBRATE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION



World Amateur Radio Day this year will provide an opportunity to reflect on radio amateurs as an important source of innovation in communication technology. Observed each year on April 18, World Amateur Radio Day commemorates the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union in Paris on that date in 1925. The IARU is the worldwide federation of national Amateur Radio organizations representing amateurs in 153 countries.

A century has passed since Marconi spanned the Atlantic and excited the imaginations of the first generation of amateur wireless experimenters. Amateurs were the first to discover and to exploit the remarkable properties of the ionosphere, the IARU noted.

Amateurs also were the first to make widespread use of single-sideband voice communication to conserve power and precious radio spectrum. Amateurs applied microprocessors to data communication, popularizing packet radio and developing protocols that are now in widespread use in public safety and other services.

As we enter radio's second century, amateurs continue to lead the way in numerous areas. Radio amateurs are the leading developers of new digital techniques for high frequency (HF) data and text communication, such as PacTOR. Disaster relief agencies have adopted it for use from remote locations where no telecommunications infrastructure is available.

PSK31, another amateur innovation, is a user-friendly mode that provides live keyboard-to-keyboard communication at low power levels. PSK31 has become the most popular amateur digital mode in less than two years. Other amateur developers, building on the success of PSK31, are using sound cards

to explore a wide range of other digital modes tailored for the challenging HF environment.

Amateurs also are contributing in the arena of software defined radios (SDRs). An outstanding example of a DSP radio designed for experimental use is the DSP-10, a transceiver for the 144-MHz amateur band designed by Bob Larkin, W7PUA, of Corvallis, Oregon. Working with Larkin, a team of amateur software developers is refining a family of programs tailored to explore a wide range of VHF, UHF, and microwave propagation media, including moonbounce and extended-range tropospheric scatter.

The IARU cites these as but a few examples of what is happening in Amateur Service of the 21st century.

The IARU is a sector member of the International Telecommunication Union and is the recognized representative of the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services at the ITU.

ARRL ASKS FCC TO ELIMINATE, "REFARM" NOVICE CW BANDS

The ARRL has asked the FCC to eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand the phone allocations on 80 and 40 meters. In a Petition for Rule Making filed March 22, the League requests that the FCC revise its Amateur Service rules in accordance with the modified Novice band "refarming" scheme the ARRL Board of Directors okayed in January. The Petition has not yet been put on public notice for comment.

"The opportunity to eliminate the Novice and Technician-Plus telegraphy subbands and the reapportionment of those inefficiently deployed segments will allow alleviation of significant, sometimes critical, overcrowding in the popular Amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said in its Petition.

The ARRL also cited "substantial advancements in the use of digital

techniques" in the HF bands--such as PSK31--to bolster its assertion that a refarming plan for the underutilized Novice HF subbands "cannot wait longer and must proceed now." The refarming plan adopted was based on the recommendations of the ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee following a survey of the amateur community last year. Under the proposal, no operator class would lose privileges, and most would gain.

If the FCC approves the plan, current Novice and Technician Plus (i.e., Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees would be permitted to operate on the 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter General-class CW allocations at up to 200-W output. For General and higher class operators, the ARRL wants the FCC to implement changes in the 80, 40 and 15-meter "phone" bands.

On 80 meters (3500-4000 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 3725 kHz for Extra, at 3750 kHz for Advanced and at 3800 kHz for General--another 25 kHz for Extra and Advanced operators and another 50 kHz for Generals. On 40 meters (7000-7300 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 7125 kHz for

Advanced and Extra and at 7175 kHz for General--25 kHz more for Extra and Advanced operators and another 50 kHz for Generals. On 15 meters (21,000-21,450 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 21,200 kHz for Extra, at 21,225 kHz for Advanced and at 21,275 kHz for General--no change for Extra and Advanced but 25 kHz more for General. On 10 meters, the ARRL has recommended no changes other than to accommodate CW, RTTY and data by Novice and Tech Plus licensees at 28.0 to 28.3 MHz.

The ARRL suggested that its proposed configurations strike the right balance between the need for additional phone spectrum and the important goal of encouraging further development of narrowband data modes in the CW segments.

The ARRL's "omnibus" petition also asks the FCC to permit amateurs to use spread spectrum on the 222-225 MHz band; expand the pool of special event call signs beyond the 1x1 format to include identifiers for US territories and possessions that do not provide for mailing addresses; clarify its rules to indicate that modulated CW (MCW) is permitted for repeater station identification; and to incorporate into its rules a 1990 FCC waiver authorizing amateurs in certain areas of Colorado and Wyoming to operate on certain segments of the 33-cm band. The League invited the FCC to consolidate its omnibus petition with other pending Amateur Radio-related petitions now before the FCC.

A copy of the ARRL's complete Petition for Rulemaking is available on the ARRL Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/refarm/>.

FCC CHIPS AWAY AT VANITY BACKLOG, PROPOSES VANITY FEE HIKE

The FCC continues to whittle away the vanity backlog. Another 268 call sign grants were issued this week. The latest run includes applications received by the FCC as of January 25, 2002.

Among the recent happy campers was Randy McAlister, W7CWW (ex-KD6AQB), of Ventura, California, who wrote ARRL to say that he and his family were pleased that he now holds the call sign once held by his grandfather, Eugene Brounty--something he'd wanted since his grandfather died in 1963.

Meanwhile, the FCC is proposing to raise the regulatory fee it charges vanity call sign applicants from \$12 to \$14.50 for the 10-year license term. The FCC included the proposed new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (MD Docket No. 02-64) released March 27 to set Fiscal Year 2002 fees. The effective date will be announced in the Report and Order that terminates the proceeding. If it's approved, the new fee likely will become effective sometime in September. The FCC has

estimated that 8000 applicants would apply for vanity call signs in FY2001.

Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$12 regulatory fee per call sign (per 10-year license term) until the FY2002 fee schedule becomes effective. The vanity fee is paid at the time of application for a new, renewal or reinstated vanity license.

Comments are due April 23; reply comments are due May 3.

AMATEURS SUMMON HELP AFTER SAILBOAT RUNS AGROUND

Vigilant members of the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 20 meters relayed calls for help from a sailing vessel that ran aground March 26 off the northern coast of Cuba. Aboard the sailing vessel Tao were Dave Beane, G0TAG, and his wife, Sara, whose frantic calls on the Net frequency got a quick response. The couple subsequently was rescued by Cuban authorities and their sailboat refloated.

"She was in a big panic, and then they just stopped transmitting," reported Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, in South Florida, who said he happened onto the situation when he turned on his transceiver.

US Virgin Islands ARRL Section Manager John Ellis, NP2B, said that less than an hour earlier, Beane had checked into the MMSN to say the couple had enjoyed a visit to Cuba and was planning to sail around to the south side. "There was no indication of any problem," he added. Since Ellis had the best copy, he managed the incident.

"It turned out that Dave and Sara had run upon a reef, had called for help from the Cuban authorities, but had received no response," he said. "Sara was rather frantic when she came on 14.300. We immediately gave her a clear frequency." Ellis said a net slightly higher in frequency yielded to give the Net a wide berth.

Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, in Texas notified the US Coast Guard. At about the same time, Petzolt contacted the Swiss Embassy--the US has no diplomatic relations with Cuba,

and Switzerland often serves as an intermediary. The Swiss Embassy put him in touch with the Cuban mission in Washington, which, in turn, contacted authorities in Havana by radio. The US Coast Guard was only able to contact the Cuban authorities via telex.

"We tried to determine if they were in danger of sinking, but that is when we lost communication," Ellis said. "We never heard from them for the remainder of the evening."

Ellis said G0TAG checked into the Net later in the week to say that Cuban authorities were able to float the vessel off the reef and get the couple under way again. "Dave, G0TAG, had nothing but good words to say about the Cubans," Ellis said. "The authorities were very nice and helpful, they even sent two divers down to inspect the bottom of the boat--all at no charge!"

The MMSN had "excellent cooperation and assistance" during the incident from net control Frank Kelly, N3FK, Petzolt, Pilgrim and Dave Dalziel, N4ICE, Ellis said. "There were a number of others on frequency available to help, but all maintained top-notch order and control," Ellis added.--thanks to Brandon Horn, KC2HFG, for alerting ARRL to this incident



**ARE YOU PREPARED
TO HELP?**

Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc.

KS1R

177 Sabino Rd. W.Bath, ME 04530-9503