



Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for November 2002

Two KS1R repeaters up and running again

The goal by the technical committee to have the Associations two repeaters up and running by October was reached. Both the two-meter and 444.4 MHz repeaters are up and running with overall performance meeting or in some cases exceeding expectations.

Bill Messier, K1MNW and Bruce Randall, W1ZE made the run to Hosstraders in early October and on the way attempted communications through the 147.21 machine along the route. They reported that they were pleased with coverage. Communications down to Biddeford was almost solid to full quieting most of the way. From Biddeford to Sanford signals were adequate for basic communications. The repeater faded out to just spotty from Sanford to the Maine/NH border, but they were able to access the machine from high ground in Rochester, NH. The signal strength there was not good enough for 2-way communications but good enough for the repeater to hear the PL tone in the signal from Bruce's 50-watt rig and half-wave vertical atop his truck roof.

The following Saturday the 444.4 repeater antenna was mounted atop the tower by

Donnie, WD1F and that afternoon the repeater was up and running. Coverage appears to be quite good with coverage that includes the two Granite Gulches (Bath High Street and I-95 in Falmouth). Good quality UHF coverage reports has been received from Portland, Windom, Wiscasset, Five-Islands and all of Sagadahoc and northern Cumberland Counties.

Future plans for both repeaters are on the drawing board. Bruce picked up a new NHRC-5 controller kit for the 444.4 repeater that will facilitate remote basing or repeater linking and hopes to have it finished in a few weeks. There is a possibility that the 444.4 machine could be used to operate a remote 6-meter or 10-meter FM transceiver in the future.

The tech committee has been exploring the possibility of installing the higher-gain StationMaster on the tower in addition to the existing 2-meter four-pole. They could be made repeater-user switchable, so that outlying fringe areas signals could be enhanced by electronically (touch-tone control) switching between the two antennas as conditions warrant.

On Saturday October 26th Bruce and Bill took the two KS1R repeaters and reinstalled them into a single 6-foot high equipment rack with a single power supply.

The rack still has plenty of room to house ARPS and Packet nodes and other unattended systems.

The marriage of the equipment into one rack freed-up needed floor space.

ARPS Node about ready for Oak Hill

A few months ago Donnie, WD1F got in contact with Scott Higgins, W3VNE to ask about his W3VNE-10 ARPS node located on Cole's Tower at Bowdoin College. The node was not working well and was not digipeating; it was only working as a beacon. Scott told Donnie to take it and see if he and other members of the MARA would like to fix it and reinstall in on Oak Hill at the ARLC facility and tower. Donnie enlisted the help of Eric, KB6YNO/1 who is an area digi-comm and ARPS Guru. Eric took the ARPS package to his QTH in South Portland and has been working to make it play. First reports have the TNC with burned components and it may not be repairable. Eric says he has a spare TNC and may have the node up and running on Oak Hill in early November under the call sign of KS1R-10.

If you have packet or ARPS capabilities, take a listen for the KS1R-10 node on the national ARPS frequency of 144.390 MHz.

Ham Exams left in 2002

NOV.15 Fri 6:30pm - Saco
Middle School, AA1CZ Albert
Noble 642-8830

NOV.16 Sat 9:00am - Bangor
Community Ctr.-Davis Rd.,
K1AG Bill Sullivan 947-4051

**NOV.16 Sat 9:00am - South
Portland, Am.Leg. Post 413**
Broadwar, WZ1N John
Bergeron 799.3687

NOV.20 Wed 6:00pm - Togus
VA Center Bldg. 210, AE1Q
Don Smith 495-3891

DEC.7 Sat 10:30am - Bath
Public Library, Washington
St. N1WC Wes Clement 729-
8563

MARA-Bay is



Online

Last months issue of Squelch Tales advised that the Association treasury was getting low and to keep from dropping autopatch from the repeater system we needed to raise funds.

Several folks started donating equipment for sale and the low offering prices added a quick \$50 to the MARA bank account. Loren Dudley, W1LHD had a 2-meter HT for sale so Mark Rideout, N1JIM said, "lets auction it off and see what we get. A week later another \$45 was added to the club coffers. Mark advised that he had some online auction software and recommended we start up an auction site on the Association's web page. By the end of October it is up and running. Check it out (www.gwi.net/mara) and see if there is anything listed on it that meets your fancy.

NEWS FROM NEWINGTON



ARRL REAFFIRMS CLOSE TIES WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The ARRL and the American Red Cross have renewed and updated the Statement of Understanding (SoU) between the two organizations, last visited in 1994. Formal cooperative arrangements between the ARRL and the American Red Cross date back to before World War II.

"Both ARRL volunteers and American Red Cross workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, within the scope of their respective roles and duties," the agreement provides.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said no significant changes resulted from the consultations leading up to the new SoU, and the updated document reaffirms the spirit of cooperation that has existed all along between the two organizations.

"In the wake of 9/11 and all the wonderful work that was done in New York City and Washington, DC," Haynie said, "this agreement has rekindled our enthusiasm." Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Red Cross volunteers worked side-by-side following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

In the document, the ARRL recognizes the American Red

Cross as "having primary responsibility for responding to domestic disasters" and expresses the League's desire "to maintain a harmonious and cooperative relationship" with the ARC in providing emergency communication services to communities affected by disasters.

Among other things, the SoU calls for "close liaison" between the American Red Cross (ARC) and the ARRL and for each organization to "share current data" regarding disasters and disaster declarations. If amateurs are required to carry ARC identification while supporting the Red Cross during a disaster, the ARC is to provide operators' names if ARRL requests them.

With some exceptions under the SoU, amateurs would at all times be considered ARRL volunteers. In addition, the SoU says, amateur licensees supporting the ARC "shall at all times exercise sole and exclusive control over the operation of their radio stations. Such control cannot be surrendered or delegated, in accordance with federal law."

The new agreement also characterizes the ARRL Amateur Radio emergency communications courses <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/>> as a mutually beneficial training program. "Volunteers holding valid ARRL Emergency Communications Certification credentials will be recognized for this knowledge," the SoU stipulates.

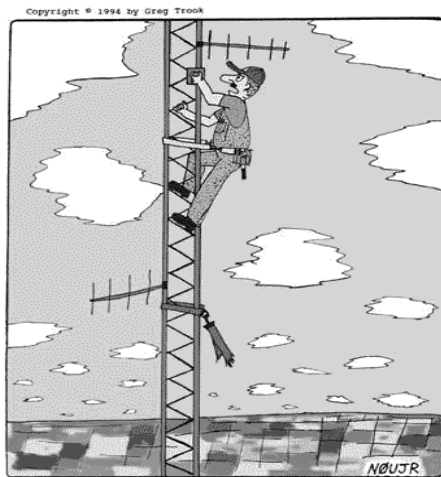
The newest SoU will remain in force for the next five

years, although one provision calls for representatives of American Red Cross Disaster Services and ARRL to "jointly evaluate" progress in implementing the SoU and to "revise and develop new plans or goals as appropriate" annually. It was ratified in September by Haynie and ARC Disaster Services Executive Vice President John McDivitt.

In a letter marking the first anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the ARC's Jay Ferron, N4GAA, wrote Haynie to express appreciation for Amateur Radio's support for Red Cross activities over the years. An ARC disaster telecomm. partner, Ferron helped coordinate ARES and Red Cross activities at the World Trade Center.

According to Ferron, the American Red Cross encourages municipalities and homeowners' associations to employ regulations that will not impinge on the needs of Amateur Radio operators. "In emergencies, the American Red Cross and the people we serve need what radio amateurs provide--effective communications through existing equipment and antenna systems," he concluded.

A copy of the September 2002 Statement of Understanding between the American Red Cross and the ARRL is available on the ARRL Web site
 <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/redcro.html>>.



"So Bob...why did your ex-wife give you a new climbing belt for Christmas?"

Maine Examination Schedule and Maine Event list for 2003

W1JTH ARRL Bulletin Manager, Maine Section

January 2003

18 Sat 9:00a So. Portland, AL
 Post #35,413 Broadway
 WZ1N/ARRL John Bergeron
 207-799-3687

18 Sat 9:00a Bangor, PSARC
 clubhouse 14 Bomarc Road
 K1AG/ARRL Bill Sullivan 207-947-4051

February

1 Sat 10:00a Bath, Maine,
 Patten Free Library N1WC
 /ARRL Wes Clements 207-729-8563

March

15 Sat 9:00a So. Portland, AL
 Post #35,413 Broadway
 WZ1N/ARRL John Bergeron
 207-799-3687

April

5 Sat 9:00a Bangor, PSARC
 clubhouse 14 Bomarc Road
 K1AG/ARRL Bill Sullivan 207-947-4051

19 Sat 10:00a At Greater Portland Electronics Flea mkt.
 WZ1N/ARRL John Bergeron
 207-799-3687

May

17 Sat 9:00a So. Portland, AL
 Post #35,413 Broadway
 WZ1N/ARRL John Bergeron
 207-799-3687

3 Sat 10:00a Bath, Maine,
 Patten Free Library N1WC ARRL
 Wes Clements 207-729-8563

June

7 Sat 9:00 Bangor Hamfest,
 Hermon High School K1AG
 /ARRL Bill Sullivan 207-947-4051

July

None scheduled at this time

August

? Sat 9:00a St Albans ME, St Albans Hamfest, on site K1AG
 /ARRL Bill Sullivan 207-947-4051

September

20 Sat 9:00a So. Portland, AL
 Post #35,413 Broadway
 WZ1N /ARRL John Bergeron
 207-799-3687

20 Sat 9:00a Bangor, PSARC
 clubhouse 14 Bomarc Rd.
 K1AG/ARRL Bill Sullivan 207-947-4051

October

11 Sat 10:00a Bath, Maine,
 Patten Free Library N1WC
 /ARRL Wes Clement 207-729-8563

November

15 Sat 9:00a So. Portland, AL
 Post #35,413 Broadway
 WZ1N/ARRL John Bergeron
 207-799-3687

15 Sat 9:00a Bangor, PSARC
 clubhouse 14 Bomarc Road
 K1AG/ARRL Bill Sullivan 207-947-4051

December

1 Sat 10:00a Bath, Maine,
 Patten Free Library
 N1WC /ARRL Wes Clements
 207-729-8563

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE TENTATIVE DATES ONLY

Contact the listed VE team leader before traveling to verify location, time, current fee and exams. being offered. Send updates and cancellations to: Phil Young, W1JTH, ARRL Bulletin Manager, Maine Section 47 Longwood Ave., August ME 04330-4130 or by phone 207-622-1385, by radio on the Sea Gull Net or by E-Mail to: w1jth@arrl.net

SOME HAM EVENTS FOR 2003

February Winterfest at Crystal Falls, Chelsea (no exams)

March 28-29 Lewiston Maine, Andy Hamfest and State Convention at Ramada Conference Center, (exams)

April 19 Greater Portland Electronics Fleamarket Stewart Morrill American Legion Post #35 413 Broadway, South Portland ME

June 7 Bangor Hamfest at Hermon High School



W1AW

Fall/Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.818 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975
 21.0675 28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.625 7.095 14.095 18.1025
 21.095 28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160
 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
 CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
 CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half-hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the November 2002 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

NOVEMBER MEETING



Since the last Thursday of November is Thanksgiving
 The MARA meeting will be held on
 Thursday, November 21st at the Oak Hill
 ARLC

Have A wonderful
 THANKSGIVING with
 family and Friends!