



Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for May 2003

10 GHz QSOs Made by MARA Members

Sunday April 6th, Oak Hill, Brunswick: At 3:53 PM members of the MARA made their first QSO on 10 GHz. First microwave QSO was between Bill Messier, K1MNW and Bruce Randall, W1ZE. The first QSO was only 200 yards but it was a real full duplex QSO with full quieting (60 dB over S9) reports. At 3:56 a 2nd QSO was made between Bill and Dan, N5AGG who was using Bruce's gunnplexer transceiver.

An attempt to make a QSO between Bill and Bruce via cloud bounce was almost successful. A small white cloud was spotted floating over Freeport and both gunnplexers-dishes were pointed at the cloud. The tracking tone was heard intermittently by both stations, but a voice signal QSO was unsuccessful, but showed that it could be done. More microwave DXing is planned for this spring.



Bill Messier, K1MNW with his 10GHz gunnplexer transceiver

On Sunday April 13th Bill and Bruce again made a QSO on 10 GHz from the porch of Bill QTH with Bruce operating from a high spot on Pleasant Hill Road, just south of the Church Road in Brunswick. As the crow flies, that was a 2-mile QSO. Donnie, WD1F who joined Bruce's rover effort also made a QSO with bill over Bruce's gunnplexer-transceiver. After that successful QSO Bruce and Donnie drove to the top of Fuller Mountain in Phippsburg to attempt a 12-mile QSO. The bumpy ride up to the top of the hill must have knocked Bruce's rig off frequency because a QSO back to Oak Hill could not be made. That site will be used again when a gunnplexer can make a softer ride up the hill.



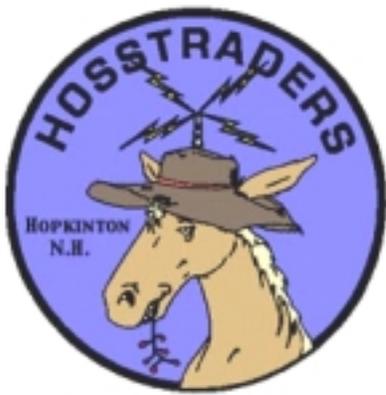
K1MNW & W1ZE's 10GHz Gunnplexer dishes

The two gunnplexers are rated at 25 milliwatts each, but when you calculate the gain provided by the gunnplexer horn and the parabolic dish reflector the Effective Radiated Power (ERP) is about 77 watts in a 2 degree beam width. (cont.)

As of this writing, several other MARA hams are getting the microwave bug. Don, WD1F, Dan, N5AGG and Maine Section Manager Bill Woodhead, N1KAT are starting to collect the parts to build their gunplexer transceivers and join the fun on 10,000 MHz

If you want more information on Amateur Radio microwave (10 GHz), contact Bruce at W1ZE@arrl.net or Bill Messier at bmessier@clinic.net.

MAY 2nd & 3rd



Hosstraders

Hopkinton, NH



Father and son Jerry, K1GUP (right) and Jerry K1GUQ (left) members of the Pine State ARC at the 2002 Hosstraders enjoying the event delicacies.

That is correct, it is that time of year. If you have not attended the New England's premier hamfest and flea market you should try and make an effort to attend and have a good time. Word has it that K1MNV, K1MJP, W1ZE and WD1F will be attending looking for those rare treasures.

If you see Bill Messier, K1MNV, he will be on a quest for UHF and microwave equipment. Last year he trucked home 600 pounds of surplus military microwave cabinets and some nice test equipment.

Hope to see many of you there!

Second annual New England QSO Party set to kick off on May 3rd

The second New England QSO Party will kick off at 2000Z on Saturday May 3rd at 2000Z and run until 2400Z, Sunday. The purpose of this contest is to work as many New England counties as possible. Stations in New England work anyone.



Last years contest had Bruce, W1ZE the sole station operating from Sagadahoc County and one station on the west coast worked all the Maine counties including Bruce.

You will have enough time to get home from Hosstraders and fire up the station for the contest.

For more information on this contest go to <http://www.neqp.org>.

TelPac & KS1R-1 packet node back on the air

Life has been restored to the MARA's KS1R TelPac and KS1R-1 packet node. On Wednesday, April 9th Eric, KB6YNO/1 and MARA President, Don, WD1F got the packet node back on air from Don's QTH in Phippsburg.

It is once again able to link to Mt. Washington, NH, Cape Cod, MA, and it is "hearing" the Canadian Maritimes. You can find both the TelPac station (KS1R) and the packet node (KS1R-1) on 145.010MHz (simplex).

It is time to dust off that old TNC, reinstall the terminal program into your PC and give packet mode another try. Please feel free to log in and see where you can go and what you can do! After connecting to KS1R-1 type a ? to get the command list. Hope to connect with you on packet!

W1AW SPRING & SUMMER OPERATING SCHEDULE

The new spring and summer W1AW operating schedule has been announced and it follows:

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM EDT)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM EDT)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1400 UTC to 1600 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EDT)
1700 UTC to 1945 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EDT)
(Station closed 1600 to 1700 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EDT))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2000 UTC (4 PM EDT)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2000 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2100 " (5 PM EDT)	CWb	Daily
2200 " (6 PM EDT)	RTTY	Daily
2300 " (7 PM EDT)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
2300 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu

0000 " (8 PM EDT)	CWb	Daily
0100 " (9 PM EDT)	RTTY	Daily
0145 " (9:45 PM EDT)	VOICE	Daily
0200 " (10 PM EDT)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0200 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0300 " (11 PM EDT)	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 2230 UTC (6:30 PM EDT), 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 0000 UTC (8 PM EDT) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM EDT) 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 1400 UTC to 1600 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EDT), and then from 1700 UTC to 1945 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EDT) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

The complete W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on page 93 in the April 2003 issue of QST or on the web at,



General Class License

course to be offered in Brunswick

Ray Sirois, N1RY will teach a course on the General Class license preparation (Element 3 theory only) in June. The six evening course will take place June 2nd through June 7th (Mondays except week 5 will be on Tuesday 7/1), from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street in Brunswick. Cost of the course is \$25, which includes a CD-ROM, Book and other includes materials.

Please pre-register by email: N1RY@arrl.net or by telephone KB1HNU 729-5819 (leave message with: Name, callsign, email, telephone number). Course books will be ordered based on registrations received by 5/23.

PAWA Spring Hamfest has good turnout

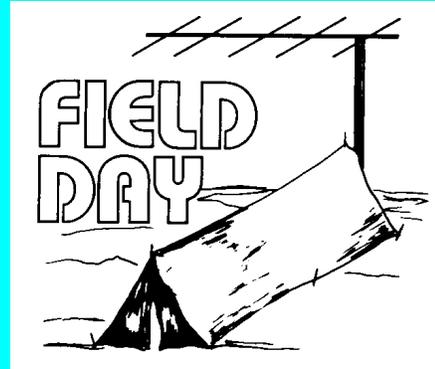
On Saturday April 19th the PAWA held their Electronics Fleamarket at the South Portland American Legion hall. There appeared to be a good turnout for the event.

Bill, K1MNW and Bruce, W1ZE carpooled it and were able to spend a few bucks on a few treasures. Dan, N5AGG made it down and appeared to be enjoying the event too. At the door MARA member Joyce, WA1YZV was happy to take your money and hopefully give you a winning raffle ticket for the various door prizes. Joyce is a member of both the PAWA and the MARA.

Hopefully the Portland club made a few bucks for their club and everyone that

attended had a good time. Kudos to Bryce, K1GAX and his event team for a job well done.

Only two months until



June 28th & 29th

**Roll your own cheap easy and
high performance VHF & UHF**

yagis

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE

While surfing the Internet several months ago looking for information about VHF and UHF yagi design I ran across an article and plans published on the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Clubs web site by Kent Britain, WA5VJB. I remember that Kent had written articles for CQ VHF magazine on how to build cheap and effective 2 meter and 70 centimeter yagis in years past. The CLARC article was about the same designs but included design information for antennas for all the VHF and UHF bands (2M to 1.3GHz).

Kent's designs are made of inexpensive hardware store materials such as 1/2 x 3/4 inch wood strips, aluminum or copper wire, etc.

As of this writing I am building a 432 MHz yagi using his designs and I hope to have it at a meeting in the future.

If you want more info on Kent's yagi antennas go to:

<http://www.clarc.org/Articles/uhf.htm>