



# Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for June 2003

**THIS MONTH**



**Field Day  
2003**

**June 28th & 29th**

That is correct. The last weekend of the month is Field Day and all MARA members and their guests are invited to come out and participate. As in previous years your MARA will set-up behind the Woolwich town Museum and fire station on Route-1 at Naquassit Road (flashing red light) about 2 miles north of the Sagadahoc bridge.

We will have a HF station set up for all to participate. We also hope to have Brian AA1WI will do there to make his 100-point satellite QSO.

The facility is a town park and there are places to swim and picnic if you bring the family. Hope to see you there.

## K1GAX does Dog & Pony Show at April Meeting

Southern Maine Emergency Coordinator (EC) Bryce Rumery, K1GAX was guest speaker at the April meeting at the W. Bath Fire station.

With his expertise in emergency communications Bryce presented a very interesting and informative discussion on what we all should know and how to be prepared to assist ARES and/or RACES with effective communications in the event of a an emergency or disaster. We hope to have Bryce back on a regular basis to keep us up to speed.

If you are not yet a member of Cumberland County or Sagadahoc County ARES contact Allen Kuong, WA1SCS or Bruce Randall, W1ZE for Sagadahoc County and Bryce Rumery K1GAX for Cumberland County ARES and RACES to get signed up.

Everyone with access to the Internet is encouraged to get level-1 emergency communications training from the ARRL at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). The course is free .



## General Class License course to offered in June

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 2<sup>nd</sup> through June 7<sup>th</sup> (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 winning raffle ticket for the various door prizes. Joyce is a member of both the PAWA and the MARA.

## Upcoming Ham Events in Maine

### The following shows Maine Ham Exams list for 2003

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

**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 Road K1AG/ARRL Bill Sullivan 207-947-4051

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

**November** 15 Sat 9:00a So. Portland, AL Post #35,413 Broadway WZ1N/ARRL John Bergeron 207-799-368

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 locatin, 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](mailto:w1jth@arrl.net)

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### SOME HAM EVENTS FOR 2003

**June 7** Bangor Hamfest at Hermon High School (exams)

**June 28-29** ARRL Field Day

**August 2** Union Hamfest, Union

Masonic Hall (exams)

**August 9** St. Albans Hamfest, Snow Devil's Field (exam on site)

**September 6** Windsor Hamfest, Windsor Fairgrounds (exams)

## Tech Committee Talk

As of this writing the tech committee is assembling the equipment necessary to parallel up the Associations 444.4 repeater with a 1280 MHz FM repeater. The 1.2 GHz repeater will consist of two Kenwood TM-751A transceivers. One will be the receiver with PL decoder and the other will be the transmitter. When installed it will be the first 1.2 GHz repeater in the state. The following is a list of New England 1.2 GHz repeaters:

FREQS	ST	CITY	CALL	PL	INFO
1282.50	MA	Feeding Hills	KALKPH		
1282.60	MA	Lynn	W1DVG		
1283.50	MA	Worcester	N1KFL		
1283.90	MA	Adams	K1FFK		
1284.00	ME	Brunswick(Oak Hill)	KS1R	88.5?	444.4
1285.00	CT	Torrington	K1KGO	114.8	
1290.40	MA	Pepperell	W1LVVH	OFF AIR	
1291.19	CT	Naugatuck	W1NQP	88.5?	
1291.20	RI	Woonsocket	K1BRJ	88.5	
1291.30	CT	Avon	K1IIG	110.9	Closed
1291.30	RI	Narragansett	K1BRJ	88.5	
1291.40	RI	Providence	K1BRJ	88.5	Linked
224.920/444.550/447.825/449.225/921.900					
1291.50	RI	Cranston	K1BRJ	88.5	
1291.60	RI	Providence	K1AD		
1292.10	CT	Avon	K1TBA	110.9	Closed
1292.15	CT	Newington	W1UTQ	88.5	

The two repeaters will work from the same controller. The plan is to set it up on the clubhouse tower at first then move it to the 200 foot tower at a later date to improve mid coast coverage.

## Oak Hill to be used in June Contest

Word has it that Maine Section Manager Bill Woodhead N1KAT and a small group of avid VHF-UHF contesters will set up at Oak Hill learning center to participate in this months VHF-UHF contest. If you want to see the group in action, stop by Oak hill during the second weekend in June and check out the fun and activity of weak signal contesting.

# Newington News

## FCC Proposes Additional 5-GHz Spectrum for Unlicensed Use

The FCC has proposed making another 255 MHz of 5-GHz spectrum available for unlicensed use at 5.470 to 5.725 GHz. Amateur Radio has a secondary allocation at 5.650 to 5.925 GHz, which it shares mostly with government and non government radars.

In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in ET Docket 03-122, approved May 15 but not yet released, the FCC suggested that the additional spectrum be made available for use by unlicensed National Information Infrastructure devices, including Radio Local Area Networks, operating under Part 15 of the FCC's rules.

The FCC's action comes in response to a petition for rule making from the Wi-Fi Alliance, formerly known as WECA. If implemented, Amateur Radio will be left with a 25-MHz segment--5.825 to 5.850 GHz--that's not already earmarked for unlicensed services. The FCC's proposal represents an 80% increase in the amount of 5-GHz spectrum that would become available to unlicensed devices.

The ARRL has opposed past WECA efforts to expand the 5 GHz franchise for unlicensed users. In comments to a 2002 petition, the League said WECA failed to establish any current need for additional spectrum and that the FCC may not be able to enforce rules against harmful interference to licensed users. The ARRL plans to comment on the latest NPRM once the full text has been released.

### **60-METER OPERATION TO REQUIRE OPERATOR PRUDENCE, CAUTION**

When the five channels of the new 60-meter amateur allocation become

available later this year, Amateur Radio operators will have to learn some new operating habits and adopt some new on-the-air attitudes. The limited spectrum and stringent bandwidth requirements will mean amateurs will have to demonstrate their best behavior and operating skills if the Amateur Service ever hopes to get an actual band segment at 60 meters.

"In terms of Amateur Radio spectrum, we usually say, 'Use it or lose it,'" said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "The watchword for 60-meter operators should be, 'Misuse it and lose it.'"

The channelized scheme--similar to the 5-MHz experimental operation under way in the United Kingdom<<http://www.rsgb-hfc.org.uk/5mhz.htm>>--puts unfamiliar technical compliance demands on US hams who have, until now, not had to worry much about frequency stability or transmitted audio bandwidth. The FCC has granted amateurs 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz--the last channel common to the UK experimental operation's band plan. These are all "channel center frequencies," the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) said in a March 13 letter to FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Chief Edmond J. Thomas. The NTIA, which administers federal government spectrum, opposed allocation of an actual ham band citing the ongoing spectrum requirements of federal licensees with homeland security responsibilities. The channels will be available to General and higher class licensees.

The NTIA says that hams planning to operate on 60 meters "must assure that their signal is transmitted on the channel center frequency." In general, the NTIA has advised, users should set their carrier

frequency 1.5 kHz lower than the channel center frequency. According to the NTIA:

Channel Center Amateur Tuning Frequency

5332 kHz                    5330.5 kHz

5348 kHz                    5346.5 kHz

5368 kHz                    5366.5 kHz

5373 kHz                    5371.5 kHz

5405 kHz (common US/UK) 5403.5 kHz

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, says the assignment of these channels implies that amateurs now must adhere to certain frequency tolerances for their use. While the international Radio Regulations don't list these for the Amateur Service, he notes, they do stipulate tolerances on the order of 20 to 50 Hz for other services.

"We haven't been told anything specific about frequency tolerances for these channels but would probably annoy federal regulators if we strayed any more than 50 Hz from the assigned carrier frequencies," Rinaldo cautioned.

Keeping one's audio within the 2.8-kHz wide channel to comply with the 2K8J3E emission specification is another important issue. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, believes prudence calls for not having baseband audio below 200 Hz nor greater than 2800 Hz--for a total bandwidth of 2.6kHz. "That will probably keep us out of trouble," he said. Noting that the high-frequency response "can vary a lot from radio to radio," however, Hare recommended that amateurs play it conservatively.

Additionally, the FCC has restricted operation to USB only, with a maximum effective radiated power (ERP) of 50 W. The USB-only requirement stemmed from NTIA interoperability concerns. The NTIA wanted to make sure that federal users could copy and, if necessary, identify any amateur station using one of

the 60-meter channels. As a result, the 60-meter frequencies will become the only ones available to the general amateur community that do not permit CW operation.

For the sake of this particular grant, the FCC said it would consider a half-wave dipole to have a gain of 0 dBd. In its letter to the FCC, the NTIA stipulated that radiated power should not exceed "the equivalent of 50 W PEP transmitter output power into an antenna with a gain of 0 dBd."

"Although this is less spectrum than the American Radio Relay League petition requested, this is the best we can do pending a definition of Homeland Security HF requirements," concluded Fredrick R. Wentland in the NTIA's letter to the FCC's OET.

Sumner has predicted that, over time, amateurs can and will "develop a record of disciplined, responsible use of the five channels in the public interest that will justify another look at these rather severe initial restrictions."

Just when amateurs will get their first crack at 60 meters is not yet clear. The changes to Part 97 go into effect 30 days after publication of the Report and Order (R&O) in The Federal Register, which has not yet happened. Publication could take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. ARRL will announce a specific date as soon as it's known.

The FCC Report and Order in ET Docket 02-98 is available on the FCC's Web site:

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-105A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-105A1.doc).

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Ham!**