



Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc. for February 2004

New MARA Web Site being built

Donnie/WD1F and Mark/N1JIM have been working on the new www.ks1r.net web site, constantly making it a better place to visit. One feature that they activated and is an active membership list. You can check this list to see if your membership is due or not. Donnie and Mark would like each of you access the site, go to the list and see if the data that they have on you is correct. If not, please contact one of the following people to have us make the change to it...

WD1F.Don ddauphin@ddrov.com

N1JIM.Mark rideout@gwi.net

W1ZE.Bruce brandall@gwi.net

EchoLink is alive & well

By Mark Rideout, N1JIM

The new site and tower combination has really brought our local EchoLink node back to life at my QTH on the Ridge Road in Bowdoinham. It is operating on the designated Nationwide EchoLink Simplex Frequency of 147.420 MHz with no PL-tone required for access. Coverage is vastly improving with good contacts being made from such out-of-area locations as Portland, Scarborough, Gardiner, and Boothbay Harbor.

The following commands will work on this link:

***0 (Star, Zero) will connect you to a random USER.**

***1 (Star, One) will connect you to a random LINK.**

***2 (Star, Two) will connect you to a random REPEATER.**

***5 (Star, Five) will re-connect you THE LAST ACTIVE STATION.**

***# (Star, Pound) will give the current link STATUS.**

**** (Star, Star) will play the MENU.**

(Pound, Pound) will HANG UP the link.

Feel free to use the link. Add it to your 2-meter rig's scan feature for added enjoyment. 73, Mark

MARA members attend LEPC meeting in Bath

MARA members and Sagadahoc County AECs Lee Tribou/N1HOC and Bruce/W1ZE attended the first meeting (and dinner) of the Sagadahoc County (+Brunswick & Harpswell) Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The dinner meeting was held at the vocational school at Morse High \in Bath. The culinary students provided a gourmet dinner that was a real plus to the meeting.

The purpose of the LEPC is to provide the communities it serves with a group of volunteers to make sure that that needed training, associated funding and emergency planning. Volunteers come from the various towns police

and Fire departments, public works, local businesses, hospitals, Amateur radio organizations and concerned citizens.

The MARA has been a member of LEPC for the past seven years. For the past several years Loren Allen Kuong/WA1SCS, Dudley/W1LHD and Bruce Randall/W1ZE represented the MARA. Since Loren's retirement from the committee a year ago, Lee Tribou/N1HOC has taken his spot.

The LEPC needs more volunteers. If you have the time, why not join Lee Allen and Bruce on the LEPC. If you are interested, please email Bruce at: **W1ZE@ARRL.NET**

Since there was no December meeting there are no meeting minutes for this issue of the newsletter.
Abe/KC1W

First Fleamarket of 2004 this month

This month has the first fleamarket/hamfest of the new year. The Augusta club will hold their Winterfest on Saturday the 14 at the Crystal Falls Dance Hall on Route 17 in Chelsea. Doors open at 8:00 AM. Hope to see you there.

Hamfest Schedule for 2004

February 14, Winterfest, Crystal Falls, Chelsea Maine (no exams) POC: K1NIT, e-mail: chilebilly@adelphia.net

March 26-27, ARRL Maine State Convention & Andy Hamfest, Ramada Inn, Lewiston (exams). POC: N1WFO@adelphia.net

April 17, Greater Portland Electronics Fleamarket: Stewart Morrill American Legion Post #35 413 Broadway, South Portland ME (exams). POC: Bryce Rumery, K1GAX (k1gax@juno.com 207-799-1116)

June 5, Bangor Hamfest, Hermon High School (exams)

July 10, Union Hamfest, at the Thompson Center corner of routes 131 and 17 in Union. (exams)

Aug 14, St. Albans Hamfest, Snow Devil's Field (exam on site)

Sep 11, Windsor Hamfest, Windsor Fairgrounds (exams)

Pete's Good Deal

For Sale: Alinco DJ-195, 2-meter FM handheld with wall charger, like new.

- *Alphanumeric display*
 - *40 memory channels*
 - *5 watt output with standard battery*
 - *CTCSS encode+decode and DCS*
 - *13.8 VDC direct input with battery charge feature*
 - *Direct frequency input*
 - *S-meter*
 - *Autodialer*
 - *Cable Cloning*
 - *Computer programmable (third party software required)*
 - *MARS/CAP capability (DJ-195T)*
 - *Additional features, including theft alarm!*
- \$60.**



If interested, contact Pete Russell/K1MJP at (207)725-3066 or prussell@bowdoin.edu

News from Newington

Partition for Rule Making filed with FCC

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to complete the Amateur Service restructuring the Commission left unfinished in 1999. The League wants the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>). The ARRL says its petition follows in the footsteps of changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. Among those changes, WRC-03 left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not to mandate Morse testing for HF access. While several countries--including Germany, the UK and Australia--already have dropped their Morse requirements, the ARRL emphasized in its petition that Morse code is not the central issue.

"Changes in Morse telegraphy are one aspect of the proposal, and it would be insufficient for the Commission to address those issues in a vacuum," the League said, calling its licensing proposal "a plan for the next decade." The ARRL said that plan's overall intention is "to encourage newcomers to the Amateur Service and to encourage those who enter its ranks to proceed further on a course of technical

self-training and Radio. It would require passing a 25-question written examination--but no code test--and offer limited HF phone, image, CW and data privileges at modest power output levels.

"This structure provides a true, entry-level license with HF and other operating privileges which will both promote growth in the Amateur Service and integrate newcomers into the mainstream of Amateur Radio," the ARRL told the FCC. "It will better introduce newcomers to more seasoned licensees who will assist them."

The League proposal also would consolidate current Technician and General licensees into General class without further examination. Future General applicants would not have to pass a code test, but the written exam would remain the same. Current Advanced licensees would be merged into Amateur Extra class without further testing, and the Extra exam would remain intact. The ARRL proposal would retain the Element 1 Morse exam for Extra class applicants.

The ARRL said its overall plan dovetails with the FCC philosophy and goals stated in its 1999 Report and Order--to simplify the license structure and streamline the licensing process. The League said its plan would implement licensing requirements and privileges that are in harmony with each other and is designed to attract and retain "technically inclined persons, particularly the youth of our country" and encourage them to advance in areas "where the United States needs expertise."

"Now, the issue is not merely whether there should or should not be

Morse telegraphy as an examination requirement," the ARRL said, "but rather what is the best overall approach for positioning the Amateur Service for future growth and incentive-based self-training."

A copy of the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making is available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/restrux2-petition.pdf>. The FCC has requested that individuals refrain from contacting or attempting to comment to the FCC on the ARRL's restructuring proposal before the FCC issues a Rule Making (RM) number for the ARRL petition and invites public comments on it. Until that happens, it is premature to comment to the FCC.

Midcoast Hospital to get Ham Station

Brunswick: On January 22nd Bruce Randall, W1ZE had a meeting with DR. Allen Kuong, WA1SCS and Glenn Austin Facilities Manager at Midcoast Hospital. The meeting was to discuss what would be needed to set up a ham radio station to provide an emergency communications back-up to the hospitals existing communications systems in the event of emergencies and disasters.

Midcoast wants the station to be able to communicate on HF as well as VHF and UHF. Bruce provided an outline of what would be needed and provided a list of user friendly ham radio equipment so that budgets could be established. I site survey was accomplished by Bruce and Glenn to see where equipment and antennas would go. The station could be set up in the Data distribution center and the

antennas can go on the roof above the Elevator shaft equipment room where the other hospital antennas are located. 146/440 vertical already exists and has RG-213 coax running to the data center. Bruce recommended a G5RV dipole that could work on all the HF bands with the aid of an antenna tuner. This would provide ham radio communications on all the ham bands from 3.5 to 450 MHz.

Glenn advised that there are several folks at the hospital, including himself that would like to get a ham radio license so they could use some or all the equipment and enjoy the hobby too. Bruce advised that the MARA and local ARES would be more than happy to assisting in getting the project underway.

**The total Membership
of the Merrymeeting
Amateur Radio
Association wants to
wish
Robert "BoB"
McQueeney, N1VVF
a speedy recovery
from his surgery at
Maine Med the week
of January 27th.
**GET WELL
SOON BOB!****