



Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc. for May 2004

MINUTES OF MEETING, March 25th, 2004

Call to Order:

The March meeting of the Merry Meeting Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 7:03pm by our President Donnie/WD1F at Mid Coast Hospital.

Attendees:

MARA Members:

Abe/KC1W, Donnie/WD1F,
Louise/KB1IEF, Bob/N1GWE,
Bruce/W1ZE, Bill/K1MNV,
Brian/AA1WI, Lee/N1HOC,
Allan/WA1SCS, Eric/KB1HYV,
Lee/W1LWT, Mark/N1JIM,
Dave/KB1FGF, Gay/N1XBN,
Bob/N1VVN, Steve/KB1JTE,
Pete/W1PWW, Joyce/WA1YZV

Guests:

Eric/KA1CYV, John/WA1YIH, &
Devin.

Treasurer's Report:

Bob/N1GWE reports our current balance is: \$691.51

Technical Committee:

Bruce/W1ZE: A quick update on current projects - the new .21 controller, the 1.2 GHz repeater, and upgrades to the 44 machine are all moving along. The technical committee is waiting for a little better weather to begin doing installs of the new equipment. Apparently there is some IMD between Bill's new garage door opener and the .21 repeater, but this will be taken care of shortly.

Activities:

Lee/N1HOC: The MS Walk for Brunswick is scheduled for April 18th, 2004 and additional volunteers will be needed.

Several of the members present signed up for the activity. Other activities coming up include the Tour de Farms on August 22nd, and a minimum of 5 to 7 operators will be needed for that event. Lee will keep us all posted as more information on these and other activities coming up.

Old Business:

1. Bruce/W1ZE reports that a contribution in the amount of \$190.00 was sent to the ARRL BPL Defense Fund on behalf of MARA. Anyone wishing to contribute can still donate to our Treasurer Bob/N1GWE and another check will be forwarded.

2. Field Day 2004. After additional discussion the membership would like to stay with the same location for field day this year. Members are encouraged to come out for the event, (the last full weekend in June) and man the radio. There was also a brief discussion on the possibility of 2A this year. There will be more discussion on field day as we get closer.

3. Mark/N1JIM brought up the possibility of participating in the International Lighthouse Special Event weekend this year, August 21st - 22nd. The subject generated a lot of interest and will be on the agenda for future meetings to finalize MARA's participation.

New Business:

1. A reminder to all members present about the Androscoggin Hamfest/Maine Ham Convention at the Lewiston

Ramada this weekend, March 26th and 27th.

2. Portland Amateur Wireless Association is also having a Ham Fest on Saturday, April 17th 2004.

Program:

Bruce/W1ZE provided a brief presentation on 6 meters and showed a stack of new QSL cards recently received from Mexico and Europe. Bruce recommended anyone who has not tried the "Magic Band" should venture up to 50.125 MHz and try contacting some of the grid squares.

Bill/K1MNV brought in a variety of pieces of hardware to show the group, including what has been completed on the 1200 MHz repeater, what a duplexer for the 1200 MHz repeated looks like, a couple of pieces hardline and elliptical waveguide, and an old coil winder.

Pete/W1PWW brought in his new HO loop antenna.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the MerryMeeting Amateur Radio Association will be at the Mid Coast Hospital, on April 29th, 2004 at 7:00pm unless notified otherwise by email. We will meet in the conference room next to the cafeteria.

Adjournment:

At 7:55pm Donnie/W1DF made a motion, seconded by Bruce/W1ZE to adjourn the meeting.



ARRL thanks MARA for help

On April 5th the MARA received a thank you letter and a certificate for our financial support of the Leagues fight against Broadband over Power Lines (BPL). The Certificate states:

This is to certify that Merrymeeting ARA

-Special Campaign to Fight BPL- contributed to the 2004 Fund for the Defense of Amateur Radio Frequencies to support the constant vigilance that is essential to the protection of Amateur Radio spectrum. Your contribution will enable ARRL to tell the Amateur Radio story, to represent you in official Washington and around the world and to provide the scientific findings that support ARRL in meetings challenges to Amateur Radio spectrum

Even though the MARA has sent a block of funds to the ARRL to support their BPL fight the MARA hopes that you will consider additional contributions in the future. You can send it direct to the ARRL of you can give it to the MARA and we will add it to a second contribution.

BACK NY POPULAR DEMAND

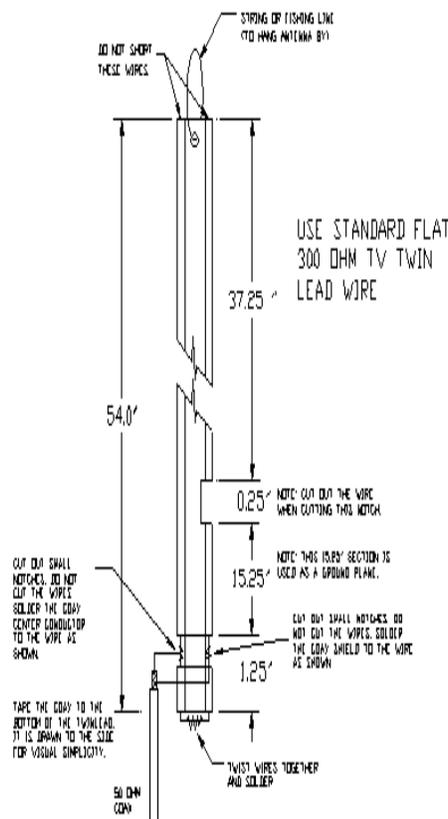
The simple J-Pole

By W1ZE

Several folks have asked about the simple 2-meter J-Pole made from TV twin lead. The antenna works well as a roll-up portable antenna or it can be strung up into a pine tree and provide a very effective omnidirectional antenna.

This antenna can also be used on the 70cm band (440 MHz). But the takeoff angle is a bit high, but it works.

144 - 148 MHZ TWIN-LEAD J-POLE



All the parts are available at Radio shack or where 300-ohm TV twinlead is sold. A razor

knife and a little solder are all you need.

This antenna can be slid up into some 3/4" PVC pipe with end caps at each end for weatherproofing and the antenna makes a very good base station antenna. Do to the Velocity Factor (VF) of the PVC pipe around the antenna element, you may have to shorten the over length and stub length by a 1/4" or so to bring the resonant frequency back up to the 146 MHz portion of the band. Happy building!

73, Bruce W1ZE

WA1SCS

Achieves Level-2

MARA member and ARRL, Sagadahoc County Emergency Coordinator DR. Allen Kuong/WA1SCS has joined Lee Thibou, N1HOC in completing his online Level-2 Disaster & Emergency preparedness training. Kudo to Doctor Al.

Lee Thibou AEC for Sagadahoc County hopes to get Disaster training started up this summer/fall and when it is offered we hope that most of you will take advantage of it.