



# Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for July 2004

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## Bangor Hamfest shows a profit for MARA

By W1ZE

The morning of June 5<sup>th</sup> had Bill/K1MNW, Bruce /W1ZE and Carl/W1NV heading up to Herman for the Bangor Hamfest and flea market. The back of Bill's SUV was full of old electronics stuff collected and donated by member hams. Test Equipment, HTs, coax cable and assorted hardware and antennas were placed on the fold-up table and the selling began.

By 12 noon the three had managed to add \$60 to the Association coffers. All in all not a bad outing for an early summer day. Weather was great and the turnout was about the same as in previous years.

After the flea market, the three headed to Millers' in Bangor for the QCWA lunch, a good way to round off a fun day.

## KS1R 1.284 GHz repeater tests show excellent coverage

Over the past several weeks, since the two 1.2 GHz antennas were installed atop the tower on Oak Hill Donnie, WD1F and Bill, K1MNW have been trying their luck on the repeater while driving around southern Maine. Donnie reported that he had 2-way full quieting reports from Portland and Westbrook with his HT and rubber ducky antenna running just a little over a half watt.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> while driving to Bangor via Wiscasset, Bill periodically would access the repeater to hear it respond and check the signal strength. He experienced almost solid coverage all the way to Augusta on Route 27 and was able to access it from high ground from Augusta to Waterville. On a few occasions Bill was able to kerchunk the

machine between Waterville to just about ten miles south of Newport.

On the return trip from Bangor to Wiscasset via Belfast and Union, Bill was able to access the repeater from Appleton ridge, north of Union and again on high ground in Waldoborough and Newcastle. Your tech committee is very pleased.

*Note: there were places that 1.2 GHz could be accessed and the 147.21 and 444.4 repeaters could not. Go figure.*

## FieldDay 2004, a success



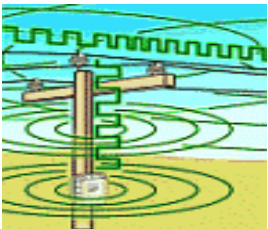
A modest but dedicated group of MARA members showed up at the Woolwich town museum to participate in Field Day 2004. The set-up Saturday went quickly and with MARA Prez, Donnie/WD1F providing a 5<sup>th</sup>-wheel camper and associated 1KW Honda generator. At 1800z Saturday, the 1A station was on the air on 40-meters SSB and within a few seconds the first QSO was in the logbook





Throughout the two-day event, most of the time KS1R was on the 80 to 20 meter bands, with the occasional shift to 15 and 10 meters. The late evening and Sunday morning had Bruce/W1ZE pounding the brass and logging those 2-point QSOs. An attempt to have a 100 point satellite QSO was un successful since Brian/AA1WI was only running a few Watts from his dual-band HT. WD1F provided a 2M and 70cm yagis to help increase the ERP but no luck this year. Come November, check out QST to see how we did.

## Latest BPL Video Available For Download



Without a doubt, roadband over Power Line (BPL) has to be the biggest threat to Amateur Radio ever. It is becoming apparent that many folks don't understand the

seriousness of BPL. Perhaps if more people, hams and non-hams alike, saw the devastating effect that BPL has on the HF communications spectrum then they would support the ARRL in its fight to stop the polluting of the spectrum.

Clubs may be interested in downloading the latest BPL videos and showing them at the next club meeting. These are short 3 to 4 minute videos but they really drive the message home. It's a fairly large MPEG file, but any member with a broadband connection will have no trouble downloading it. See the story here:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/06/18/8/?nc=1>

Here is another video that has the sounds of BPL:

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#Video>

BPL is an issue that all hams should be concerned about. Show these videos to your clubs and educate the membership and support the ARRL in its fight to maintain our radio spectrum. Read more about spectrum defense and BPL: <https://www.arrl.org/forms/defense/>

## Summers BikeRides are fast approaching

By Lee, NIHOC

The Tour de Farm and the DMMR are fast approaching. The Tour is August 22, 2004 and the DMMR is August 28, 2004. Any of you that can help us with these two events,

please email me at [sionaann@gwi.net](mailto:sionaann@gwi.net) or catch me on the KS1R repeaters.

73, Lee, *Special Evens chairperson*

## Seguin Site Survey

by N1ZYB & N1ZYC



Linda and I had a great day Tuesday July 6th. We went out to Seguin Island for the day. It is about a 6-hour round trip from Bath and we were lucky that the weather allowed us to land on the island with no problems. As you probably know, the island is currently owned and operated by a non-profit corporation called the Friends of Seguin Island.

After we toured the lighthouse we had a talk with the couple who are the caretakers for this summer season. Linda and I noted that the island would be a great place to run a special event amateur radio station. The caretakers picked up on this and said they could support this type of event. They could provide 115 VAC and indoor shelter (porch) if needed. We can talk about this at the next MARA meeting if you want. I have phone numbers and information on how to get ashore at Seguin. It can't hurt to dream.

73's, Paul & Linda