



# Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for February 2005

## MARA Members out of Hospital

In the early part of January two members of the MARA were occupying bed space in MMC and CMMC hospitals. Bob McQueeney, N1VVF was undergoing a procedure in Portland with Bruce Randall, W1ZE having abdominal surgery in Lewiston. Both report that their respective stays were met with success and are now both home recuperating and being pampered by their XYLs.

## ARRL announces AO-51 reopens for normal FM repeater and digital use

The Echo (AO-51) command team says that because no tsunami relief-related emergency message traffic has been seen on the AO-51 Packsat Broadcast Protocol BBS (PBBS), it's configured the satellite to permit normal FM repeater and 9k6 digital operation.

"The plan is to run in this mode until the end of January, unless word is received from the disaster area that a different setup would be useful," said the AO-51

command team's Mike Kingery, KE4AZN.

"Anyone who can help contact those in the disaster area and inform them of the satellite resource is encouraged to do so."

Kingery says that if another AO-51 configuration can benefit the disaster relief effort, AMSAT will adjust the satellite's operating mode accordingly.

Because the switch to solely digital store-and-forward operation pre-empted the satellite's use in FM repeater mode for Kid's Day

January 2, AMSAT now plans to reschedule its Kid's Day activity on the satellite for an as-yet-unannounced Saturday in February.

The AO-51 FM voice uplink is 145.920 MHz (with 67 Hz CTCSS tone required); downlink is 435.300 MHz. The 9k6 digital PBBS uplink is 145.860 MHz FM; downlink is 435.150 MHz FM.

*Editors Note: If you have a dual-band HT or FM transceiver you can access this bird. AAIWI and myself have made several FM QSOs all over the country using AO-51. Brian uses his HT and I have accomplished it with my 40-watt dual-bander and a mag-mount on the truck. Give SatCom a try. 73/W1ZE*



## Midcoast A.R.E.S. Update

John Goran, K1JJS of Freeport has volunteered and has been recommended to join Allen Kwong/WA1SCS, Lee/N1OHC, Donnie/WD1F and Bruce/W1ZE on the Sagadahoc County and Midcoast ARES steering committee. John brings a close working relationship with the Brunswick public safety community in his position as the Brunswick A/V and media guru. He is certified at Emergency Communications level-1 and has started Level-2 training.

**MARK YOUR CALANDERS**  
Saturday, February 5 (0900-1200 AM), Midcoast Hospital Boardroom (adjacent to the conference room where we usually meet) for our First annual **EMCOMM Training Seminar**. Bryce/K1GAX Maine State EC and Allen/WA1SCS Sagadahoc County EC will be the speakers. Here is your chance to get your feet wet, gather some needed information on Emergency Communications and spend a cold winter morning with ham friends and a cup of coffee.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you there for the three-hour session.



## Local area Packet BBS up and running

Email from  
Steve Stimpson, N1GAX to W1ZE

Hello de N1OHX. Bob, N1WJO and I have been working on getting a full service BBS up and running on the new BRUNS 145.01 node, and have met with success. Bob has it running 24-hours a day for the past two weeks without any problems.

I am collecting the messages with my HF BBS, and delivering them to him via BRUNS. he is doing about 20 to 30 bulletins a day. it is just like it was back in the Nineties with KA1RTW! now all we need are people.

I was wondering if you would be so kind as to get the word out on the club mailing list? People need to connect to BRUNS and then C N1WJO-2. If they issue a Nodes command they will get details. Also, see on QRZ you are active on HF. digital.

I wanted to pass along that there is an oasis of HF Packeteers on 14.105 MHz lower sideband. it is lovingly called "Network 105" with nodes and mailboxes and three full service BBS's active from Wisconsin, Colorado, Ohio, Nova Scotia, North Carolina, and Illinois. You get the picture. If you want to do some HF packet try a connect to N9RJX-7, N8DA and K9VSO-7, they all boom right into the northeast. Also on 14.119 there is W9BS BBS

on 7.100.5 there is KR4MA BBS in Yorktown Virginia, and VE1JOT in Nova Scotia, who runs an Internet gate.

Hope to see ya on BRUNS or HF. 73, Steven, N1OHX

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## Winterfest at Crystal Falls

Are you starting to suffer from the mid winter blues? The HF bands show little signs of DX and you want to get away from it all, for at least a few hours. Boy, do we have good news for you.

Saturday February 12 is the first flea market of 2005. It is Winterfest, put on by the Augusta amateur radio club. As in past years it will be held in the Crystal Falls dance hall on route-17, just about a mile east of Togas VA hospital.

Come on out and support this event by one of Maine's ham clubs. Hope to see you there.

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## KS1R.net gets HOUSE CLEANING AND UPGRADES

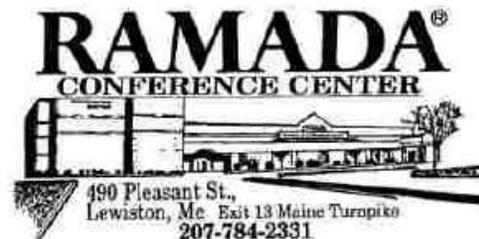
Thanks to the efforts of Mark Rideout, N1JIM the MARA web site has a refreshing new look. Mark has spent hours putting in new graphics, links and upgrades and helpful files like membership application and instructions. Take a few minutes to stop by the site at:

[www.ks1r.net](http://www.ks1r.net)

Well done Mark!



## 27 ANNUAL "Andy" Hamfeet, Computer fair and ARRL state convention at



the  
Lewiston,  
Maine  
March 25- 26  
Friday evening =  
seminars on  
various topics.  
Saturday =  
Flea-market,  
Seminars, ARRL  
Forem, ARRL VE  
license exams,  
10AM sign-up