



Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for March 2005



A.R.E.S.

EMCOMM 2005 Seminar well attended by local hams

Brunswick: On Saturday, February 5th hams from the mid coast area arrived at Midcoast Hospital to attend the first EMMCOMM Emergency Communications training seminar developed and set-up by ARRL ARES Sagadahoc Emergency Coordinator DR Allen Kwong, WA1SCS.

The session started at 9:00 AM with Allen doing the kick-off. He got things rolling with the ARRL Emergency Communications video narrated by Walter Cronkite. Followed by a talk on some basic first aid. After the mid session break the floor was turned over to Maine EC, Bryce, K1GAX who gave an excellent talk on how to set up an effective and very useful emergency communications jump kit. He also provided tips on various aspects on how to respond to an emergency and what communications capabilities

one should have to be effective.

For those of you that missed the training seminar the following is a list of simplex frequencies to support emergency communications here in Maine:

Simples Freqs.

- 146.400 Piscataquis Primary
- 146.415 Cumberland Primary Aroostook Secondary
- 146.430 Waldo primary Sommerset Secondary
- 146.445 Knox Secondary York Secondary
- 146.460 Androscoggin Primary Washington Secondary
- 146.475 Aroostook Primary Kennebec Secondary
- 146.490 Sagadahoc Primary
- 146.505 Lincoln Secondary
- 146.52 Statewide Coordination
- 146.535 Franklin Primary. Cumberland Admin.
- 146.550 Oxford Primary
- 146.565 Hancock Primary
- 146.580 Penobscot Primary
- 147.420 Somerset Primary
- 147.435 Oxford Secondary
- 147.450 Piscataquis Secondary
- 147.465 Waldo Secondary
- 147.480 Kennebec Primary
- 147.495 Hancock Secondary
- 147.510 Lincoln Primary
- 147.525 Washington Primary Cumberland Secondary
- 147.540 Knox Primary
- 147.555 Penobscot Secondary Sagadahoc Secondary

- 147.570 York Primary Franklin Secondary
- 3.940 MHz Statewide (night)
- 7.262 MHz Statewide (day)
- 52.525 MHz Statewide 6M coordination
- 223.500 MHz Statewide 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ meter coordination
- 446.000 MHz 70cm coordination

The Maine Radio Comm. Plan has established the following Ham Radio channels and they are as follows:

- AH01 3940 kHz LSB, Statewide(night)
- AH02 7262 kHz LSB Statewide (day)
- AH03 28450 kHz USB tact. net
- AH04 28650 kHz FM tact. net
- AV01 52.525 MHz FM Inter-county (simplex)
- AV02 52.565 MHz FM Tact. (simplex)
- AV03 53.570 MHz FM Tact (repeater -1 MHz 103.5 pl)
- AV04 146.415 MHz FM (simplex)
- AV05 146.52 MHz FM Inter-county coordination (simplex)
- AV06 146.535 MHz FM Admin. (simplex)
- AV07 146.73 MHz FM tact. (repeater 100.0 pl)
- AV08 147.09 MHz FM Net Repeater (100.0 pl) Cumberland Co.
- AV09 147.36 MHz FM Admin. (Repeater 100.0 pl)
- AV10 147.525 MHz FM (simplex)

CONT.

AV11 147.55 MHz FM

Portable Repeater (-3 MHz split 100.0 pl)

AV12 223.44 MHz FM

(simplex)

AV13 223.50 MHz FM

(simplex)

AV14 224.84 MHz FM

(repeater -1.6 MHz split 105.5 pl)

AU01 444.1 MHz FM

(repeater +5 MHz split 82.5 pl)

AU02 446.0 MHz FM

(simplex)

AU03 446.75 MHz FM

(simplex)

AS01 1294.525 MHz FM

(simplex)

In addition to the above frequencies, Sagadahoc County ARES will use 147.21 KS1R/R as the Primary repeater and 444.4 as the Secondary repeater for coordination and tactical emergency communications.

Minutes from the January 2005 meeting

Call to Order:

The January Meeting of the Merry Meeting Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 7:05pm by our President Donnie/WD1F at the Mid Coast Hospital, Brunswick Maine.

Attendees:

MARA Members:

Abe/KC1W, Donnie/WD1F,
Louise/KB1IEF, Devin,
Mark/N1JIM, Brian/AA1WI,
John/KC6TVF,
Michele/KC7LIF, Lee/N1HOC,
John/K1JJS. Paul/KA5FPT,
Allan/WA1SCS, Steve/AA4AK.

Guests:

Karen Hoffman / MidCoast Chapter of the American Red Cross

Treasurer's Report:

Bob/N1GWE could not attend the meeting, Mark/N1JIM did have the information and reports a current balance of: \$706.01 with 2 checks received at the meeting.

Technical Committee:

Mark/N1JIM reports the MARA Web page has been updated. The member page includes autodial numbers and when membership renewal is due. There are links to other pages related to amateur radio. Mark is also willing to help any member set up a personal web page that can be added as a link from the MARA page. The link to the WebCam is working - the reason it can't be accessed is the WebCam is down.

Donnie/WD1F reports the repeaters are up and operating well. Activity on 1.2GHz is increasing and the 440 machine is back up at full power. Packet is also experiencing an increase in activity. The Brunswick node, 145.01 also has a full service BBS, thanks to N1OHX and N1WJO. For more information on accessing see the article in the February Squelch Tales.

Activities:

Lee/N1HOC1 has been contacted by the MS Society and they would like MARA to help out with the walkathon again this year. The event will be in April, the exact date to be determined. More will follow as we get closer to the event.

Sagadahoc ARES:

1. MidCoast ARES Training Day - Allan/WA1SCS Sag EC reports the MidCoast EmComm/ARES Training Day, is scheduled for Saturday, February 5th, from 9:00AM until Noon in the Executive boardroom at MidCoast Hospital. Subjects on the agenda include: putting together Radio Go Kits, a basic introduction to first aid, and information on ARES. Allan will also be taking input from participants on subjects for future training days and the possibility of making this an annual event. This is open to anyone with an interest in emergency communications. Mark your calendars.
2. Michele/KC7LIF and Karen (ARC) reported on an upcoming emergency preparedness activity scheduled for June 6 & 7, 2005. The scenario will be weapons of mass destruction and involve Cumberland, Sagadahoc and Lincoln Counties and local hospitals, the Red Cross and Salvation Army.
3. John/K1JJS has volunteered and is presenting the ARRL EmComm program to agencies that would be served by ARES/RACES in a disaster or other major event. John has presented the information locally once already and demonstrated how hams, using local repeaters and APRS, can communicate over a wide area without using the public service radio systems that would already be overloaded in an emergency. John hopes to schedule another presentation in spring and have (cont.)

as many of our served agencies attend as possible.

Old Business:

None. Starting off the new year with a clean slate.

New Business:

1. Lee/N1HOC reports the Sagadahoc LEPC will be presenting training on ICS/NIMS on February 26th, from 0800 to 1600. Anyone interested needs to pre-register. Lee or Bruce/W1ZE are both on the LEPC and can be contacted for more information.

2. John/K1JJS reports that a fellow ham Scott Russell (N1GRT) and his family lost their home to a fire on January 5th. To assist the family a new Icom V8000 75watt radio has been donated to the Yankee Club and will be raffled off with proceedings going to the Russell family. Tickets are \$10.00 each and John/K1JJS has some for sale. The drawing will be at the Crystal Falls Hamfest on February 12th, you need not be present to win. There is also a fund set up to help the Russell family and donations can be made to George Drisko /KB1AQE, 5 Pine St, Bridgton, ME 04009.

3. Donnie/WD1F reminded everyone the Crystal Falls Hamfest is coming up. It will be February 12th at Crystal Falls which is on route 17 just east of Togus.

And the Androscoggin Hamfest/convention is also coming up - March 25-26 at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston.

4. Michele, John, Paul and Brian report that the radio shack at the Midcoast Chapter of the ARC is up and running

and would like to invite the MARA members over for a tour. The MidCoast Chapter of the ARC is willing to host a MARA meeting at the facility to demonstrate what is available. Karen will check on availability of the building and information will be passed via the Monday night Midcoast ARES net.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association will be February 24th at 7:00pm. Location may be the MidCoast ARC, listen to the Monday night ARES net at 7:30pm on 147.21 for more information.

Adjournment:

At 7:55pm Abe/KC1W made a motion, seconded by Lee /N1HOC, to adjourn the meeting.



Winterfest well attended

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE
Chelsea, ME. Saturday February 12th was a good day because the roads had been plowed from the Thursday-Friday snowstorm and the sun was out. The drive to the Crystal Falls dance hall on Route 17 was easy. I got there early just after the doors were open and ahead of the first wave of attendees. Within an hour the place started filling up and more folks were setting up their table in hopes of a day full of sales and trades.

I did a couple or tours around the floor and noted

a few good items that caught my eye but since I am living in temporary quarters while the new QTH is being built I managed to get home without having to put something else into storage.

There were several forks from the MARA in attendance. I talked to Lee; W1LWT after the event and he said he found several things he just couldn't live without. He purchased a MFJ Packet TNC and hoping to get it up and running in the near future. I ran into Loren Dudley, W1LHD and we had a nice chat in the refreshment area. He told me he was going to bring his old Lafayette short-wave receiver but forgot to put it in the truck. After a price inquiry I said I'd take it. So I did buy something there but won't take custody until later after the event.

My assessment is the turnout was up from last year and they're appeared to be more folks selling things. Hopefully the Augusta Amateur Radio Association made a few bucks for their club and a good time was had by all.
73, Bruce

**ARE YOU TRAINED
TO HELP IN CASE OF
AN EMERGENCY?
If not, contact WA1SCS,
K1GAX or NIHOC for
more info.**

Results of the February 19th Ham Exams in Bath

By K1GAX

Candidates: 12
Exams Given: 19
Element 1: 5
Passed: 4
Failed: 1
Element 2: 6
Passed: 5
Failed: 1
Element 3: 5
Passed: 5
Failed: 0
Element 4: 3
Passed: 2
Failed: 1

New License Grants: 5
Technician: 3
General: 1
Extra: 1

Upgrades: 4
General: 3
Extra: 1

Comments:

Congratulations to Robert Morse of Franklin for going from no license to Amateur Extra in one sitting, passing Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4. Congratulations to Dianne Osgood of South Portland for going from no license to General in one sitting, passing Elements 1, 2 and 3.

Thanks to the attending VEs: Bryce, K1GAX, Bruce, W1ZE, Ed, W1WY, Mike, N1GRO, Brian, AA1WI, Barnie, NX1A.

Crowded room, lots of candidates, great success rate!

73, Bryce, K1GAX
MARA VE Liaison

One stop at your hardware store and an hour at the work bench will render you a Plumber's Dream copper pipe 2-meter J-Pole

The below drawing is not new and has been around the ham world for some time. I have seen enterprising hams at the fleas' marketing this effective half-wave 2-meter antenna. If you want to roll your own it is a simple antenna to build and you do not have to be skilled a high-tech surface-mount electronics assembly person to build it. If you can solder copper pipe with a torch you are in business. You will need a hacksaw, a pipe cutting tool (optional) and propane torch. The needed materials for the antenna are at your local hardware store or plumbing supply outlet.

Material List:

- 8 to 10-foot length of 1/2-inch copper pipe
- 1 ea. 1/2-inch copper "T"
- 1 ea. 1/2-inch 90-degree elbow
- 2 ea. 1/2-inch end caps
- 2 ea. 1-inch SS hose clamps.
- 2-3 ea. 1 1/2 -inch SS hose clamps (to mount to mast)

When assembling use the below sketch for guidance any you will not go wrong. After assembly connect your 50-ohm coax as shown. You may have to adjust the coax connection points up or down just a little to obtain the lowest SWR on 146 MHz. The antenna will work across the 2-meter band. As a bonus the antenna will also resonate on the 70cm band (440 MHz) making it a dual-bander.

