



# Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc. for October 2005

## FCC sets aside Maine

### Amateur License Renewal

**Gettysburg:** The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has set aside its grant of license renewal to Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine.

According to correspondence the FCC released recently, the WTB took the action soon after it had granted Baxter's renewal application, received on July 22 via the W5YI VEC.

The application had been set aside for enforcement review, "associate Chief of Licensing Operations Tracey Simmons told Baxter in a July 25<sup>th</sup> letter from the FCC's Gettysburg, PA office. Simmons said the WTB took the action in accordance with 47 CFR ss.1.113(a). That section says: "Within 30 days after public notice has been given of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. The person, pane, or board taking the action may modify or set it aside on its own motion. "Baxter's Amateur Radio license is set to expire October 17, 2005.

In early June, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) proposing to fine Baxter \$21,999. In the NAL, the FCC alleges that Baxter has violated several sections of the Part 97 Amateur Radio Rules.

The list includes rules proscribing interference with ongoing communications, transmitting communications in which he has a pecuniary interest, failure to provide information the FCC requested, engaging in broadcasting, and failure to exercise control of the station.

The FCC has not yet affirmed the NAL by issuing a Forfeiture Order. Baxter has

insisted in correspondence with the commission that he has operated his station in full compliance with FCC rules and regulations.

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, Baxter responded to Simmons' set aside notification to assert that the FCC has "intentionally violated my constitutional rights of due process" by not renewing his timely filed renewal application. Baxter said it's his "legal position" that he may continue to operate K1MAN "indefinitely," until a final legal determination in the case.

## MINUTES OF THE August 25<sup>th</sup>. MEETING

### Call to Order:

The August Meeting of the Merry Meeting Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 6:57pm by our vice-president Donnie/WD1F at Mid Coast Hospital, Brunswick, Maine.

### Attendees:

MARA Members:

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Abe/KC1W       | Bruce/W1ZE    |
| Bob/N1GWE      | Brian/AA1WI   |
| Michele/KC7LIF | John/KC6TVF   |
| Paul/KA5FPT    | Lee/W1LWT     |
| Donnie/WD1F    | Louise/KB1IEF |
| Devin          | John/K1JJS    |
| Robert/WA1ZGN  | Steve/AA4AK   |
| Eric/KB1HYV    | Bob/N1VVF     |
| Gay/N1XBN      |               |

### Treasurer's Report:

Bob/N1GWE reports a current balance of: \$467.47. The account balance is down due to required repairs of the 147.21 Repeater controller, costing \$280.95.

### Technical Committee:

Bruce/W1ZE provided an update on the NHRC Controller. As most of the users are aware, the controller was severely damaged a few weeks back by a lightning strike. Bill/K1MNV provided a temporary fix with a very basic controller to allow continued operation of the repeater while the NHRC unit was being fixed (Thank you Bill). The NHRC controller has been shipped out for repairs and required the replacement of all of the primary and secondary circuit board ICs. The unit is currently being checked out and will be shipped back next week. Total cost for the repair was \$280.95. The repairs are guaranteed, and if the controller does not perform to the club's satisfaction, the \$280.95 can be applied to the purchase of an entirely new controller. The technical committee will install, adjust and have the NHRC controller back on the air just as soon as possible.

Mark/N1JIM has been corresponding with Bruce/W1ZE and due to other commitments will not be able to act as a repeater control operator, Thank You Mark for your years of service to the organization. John/K1JJS and John/KC7TVF will be assuming the responsibilities of control operators for MARA.

Donnie/WD1F reports the MARA website is back up on a new server and is looking for an individual who would like to act as the website manager. Any member who would like to do this should contact Donnie. This would also involve managing the incoming mail to the organization received via the mail link on the website. Changes will be made to the current way MARA receives mail generated by visitors to the website due to the large volume of spam currently being received. Also any member who has any type of input or article they would like to have on the website can contact Donnie and access can be arranged

### Activities:

Bruce/W1ZE reports that he has heard from Lee/N1HOC1 and her health is improving. Her physician has indicated she would be able to resume some of her activities in September. We are all glad to hear this and looking forward to Lee's return.

As far as activities, the last bike ride of the season is the Dan Michaud Memorial Ride, this weekend. Members able to assist with the event should meet Saturday morning, August 27<sup>th</sup>, at the gazebo in Brunswick around 7:00 am.

John/K1JJS wanted to remind members that the Yankee Amateur Radio Club will be providing communications support for the Loon Echo Bike Trek at Shawnee Peak on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Any MARA members available to assist should contact John or check out the web site for the event.

### Sagadahoc ARES:

Bruce/W1ZE - nothing to report for this meeting. Michele/KC7LIF reports from the Lincoln county LEPC that the county ARES organization will be getting some help with their program.

Questions came up from the floor regarding this October's SET. Currently no information was available

Old Business: None

### New Business:

Brian/AA1WI recently received a certificate for his participation in the Amateur/MARS Armed Forces Day Cross-band Communications.

Michele/KC7LIF announced the ARC has 2 courses coming up in September. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, Pet First Aid will be presented from 10:00 am to 1:00pm, and on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Introduction to Disaster Services will be from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Steve/AA4AK wanted to encourage all members to provide comments on the FCC Proposed Rule Making change to drop CW from all levels of Amateur Radio licenses. The comment period is still open. As always,

this subject spurred a lively discussion around the table.

John/K1JJS requests the time for the monthly MARA meetings be posted on the website, along with the location. Donnie will make the change.

Lee/W1LWT provided a brief update on the status of the balloon project. The next launch is planned for October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and Lee is hoping to get to 100,000 feet. More info can be found on the EOS-2 website.

#### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association will be Thursday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the MidCoast Hospital in Brunswick, ME.

#### **Adjournment:**

Bruce/W1ZE made a motion, seconded by Bob/N1GWE, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.

## **TECH COMMITTEE TALK**

After several weeks of having the 147.21 repeater running on an old makeshift Hamtronics COR board, the repaired NHRC-10 controller was reinstalled into the repeater system on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> by Donnie/WD1F, /Bruce/W1ZE and Jim/N1IPA. The repeater seems to be doing its thing and in the near future we will reconnect the phone line for autopatching and controller programming.

There has been discussion between members of the technical committee on maybe swapping the 147.21 and 444.4 repeater controllers. The thought is that the NHRC-10 is a more versatile controller that would enhance system expansion on the 444.4 machine. We could turn the 444.4 from a simple repeater to a remote-base repeater that could control a 6-meter transceiver, or when the no-code HF licenses are in place we could attach a HF transceiver (like an IC-706MKIIg) and you could talk to the world from your 440 MHz HT through the KS1R/Remote, just something to think about.



**HOSSTRADERS,  
Be there or be square!**



The last Hamfest and flea-market for 2005 for us folks in northern New England is just a few days away. We know the price of gas is a consideration, so why not carpool it with a ham friend or two, and split the gas cost. There is still room in a car trunk to hall home at least one boat anchor.

[Hosstraders is October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>](#) with the gates opening at noon Friday (7<sup>th</sup>).

[Directions](#) - The Hopkinton State Fair is located west of Concord, New Hampshire in Contoocook. It is about 15-20 minutes drive time from Concord, Take I-93 to I-89. Drive up I-89 and get off at Exit 7. Turn right off Exit 7, then an immediate right down Warner Road to the Fairgrounds. This is the easiest and quickest route to the fairgrounds. **Hope to see you there!**