



Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for December 2012

You are invited To Dinner

Come join your Ham Radio friends at the MARA's 2012 Year End Dinner at the Kennebec Tavern on the waterfront in Bath on December 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the main dining room.



- Order from the menu
- No up-front fee. You order it, you pay for it.
- Have a good time and see who gets the coveted "Ham of the Year" for 2012.

We hope to see you with your spouse, significant other and/or guests. Come join our year end celebration of a good year in Ham Radio on the Maine mid coast.

M.A.R.A. ROCKS IN 2F



As expected, KS1R got New England high score for Class 2F in the 2012 Field Day operation.

Congratulations goes to Don Wakeman, KA1WAL on his excellent event management!

Nationwide, we were 18th out of 65 Class 2F entries. Overall, we were 745 out of 2617 for all Field Day entries.

In Maine we were 8th out of 21 entries for all classes.

All in all, it was an excellent showing considering less than optimum band conditions.

Field Day scores are not broken out by mode, but I suspect that we had one of the highest RTTY/data scores in the whole country.

Maybe in 2013 Steve Kerchel, AA4AK and other CW operators will be able to make more than the just a few CW log sheets that Bruce, W1ZE was able to do this year. Plus, hopefully six meters will open up next year making 2013 even better than 2012.

D-Star progress report

By Donnie Dauphin, WD1S

I am now starting the process of learning how the D-Star gateway actually works, and how to back up the important stuff. I have not had to learn much thanks to Aaron KE5KAF for setting up the repeater and Terry KA8SCP for identifying issues and telling me specifically how to resolve them.

Today I re-started the server and restarted the services a few times. This will cause you that are connected to loose your connection to the repeater. I saw today while working Gene W1GLP and Dave KA1JWM were connected until I restarted the system. I wanted to let you know what happened to your connections in case you were wondering.

I'm learning lots of cool things and enjoying the D-Star adventure. Today I stumbled on a project to combine APRS and DPRS. This may be something we should look into. A way to combine the analog and digital technologies so those without digital equipment can see what is going on.

I would also like to look for a way for analog users to get into the repeater. Perhaps a link between a analog repeater and a digital one could be possible. Or at the least a way for analog users to monitor the activity on the digital system.

This experimenting and research I believe is a part of what Amateur Radio is all about.

The repeater has been working great and I believe to be stable with the exception of the Internet connection. It has been working pretty well but it needs to be cleaned up by more permanently mounting the equipment.

73, Donnie



W1AUX 1.25 Meter

repeater up and running

Damariscotta: In early November Dave Hawke, KQ1L delivered the new W1AUX 224.32 repeater to Mark, W1AUX and Deb's K1AUX hilltop QTH. Shortly after arrival it was up and running with a PL access of 103.5 Hz. This repeater is a stand-alone repeater for the short term but plans are to link it into the KQ1L 222 MHz linked repeater system.

In the future there are plans for a KS1R 222 MHz repeater on Oak Hill and it too may be linked into the KQ1L system as soon as a duplexer becomes available.

The following is a list of 1.25 meter repeaters in Maine:

| Output | PL | Call | QTH | County |
|--------|-------|--------|--------------|-----------|
| 223.78 | 103.5 | W1IMD | Falmouth | Cumber. |
| 223.82 | D023 | K1KMA | Sanford | York |
| 223.94 | 103.5 | W1IMD | Oxford | Oxford |
| 224.00 | - | K1EHO | Hope | Knox |
| 224.10 | - | WA1ZDA | Warren | Knox |
| 224.18 | - | N1CHF | Frenchville | Aroostook |
| 224.24 | 103.5 | AA1PN | Exiter | Penobscot |
| 224.28 | 91.5 | KC1CG | Washington | Knox |
| 224.32 | 103.5 | W1AUX | Damariscotta | Lincoln |
| 224.62 | 103.5 | W1IF | Buckfield | Oxford |
| 224.72 | 103.5 | KQ1L | Augusta | Kennebec |
| 224.78 | 107.2 | N1PS | Waldoboro | Lincoln |

The 222 MHz band, however not heavily populated in Maine is a good band. The characteristics are a nice cross between what you can expect on the 2-M and the 70 cM bands. Many years ago there was a 222 MHz link system in Maine that extended from Mars Hill to the New Hampshire border called the "Potato Link" run and maintained by Paul Albergini, W1IMD. Looks like Dave, KQ1L may get a similar system going again. Stay tuned.



Difference between **http://** and **https://**

Once in a while, there is something that comes down the pike that is of real importance. What is the difference between http and https? Don't know how many of you are aware of this difference, but it is worth giving you a heads-up warning.

The main difference between **http://** and **https://** is it's all about keeping you secure. HTTP stands for Hyper Text Transfer Protocol. The S (big surprise) stands for "Secure." If you visit a website or web page, and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with the following: **http://**. This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular "unsecured" language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website. If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site.

This is why you never ever enter your credit card number in an http website! But if the web address begins with **https://** that basically means your computer is talking to the website **in a secure code** that no one can eavesdrop on. If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically **doesn't** look to see if the web address begins with **https://**. If it, you should **NEVER** enter sensitive

information.....such as a credit card number, SS number, etc.



W1EMA assisted by KS1R Tech Committee member

Back in October when Donnie Dauphin, WD1F and Bill Messier, K1MNW were doing the ground work for the KS1R D-Star repeater project, they were searching across the bands for other D-Star repeaters and activity. Word was that there was a W1EMA D-Star repeater in the Knox-Thorndike area installed by the Knox County ARES/RACES group. But from Donnie and Bill's respective QTHs they could not hear any activity on 145.41 or 444.30 MHz where the repeaters were reported to be.

After Donnie & Bill got the KS1R D-Star repeater up and running and, and activity increased on that repeater Donnie found out who was in charge of the W1EMA D-Star repeater. He found out they were having technical and system difficulties, so he offered to help if there was anything he could do. On November 11th Donnie sent out the following report via email:

Hello all,

Today Brit (AB1KI), Gene (W1GLP), Ron (N1YAG) and I met at Brit's QTH and went to the W1EMA repeater site with the goal of getting the W1EMA D-Star system functional again and finding out the status of the system as a whole. I brought along a desktop PC partially programed to replace the existing gateway computer because the root password is not known. We would

have just reset the password but the existing computer is privately owned and Brit did not want us to make any changes to it but to just replace it.



Ron N1YAG, Middle Gene (W1GLP) & Right: Brit (AB1KI)

What we found upon arrival is all three DV modules were operating but with poor coverage. Scott (AB1MC) happened to hear us on the air. Scott can hear the 2M dv repeater S7 but it can't hear him well. Scott is heard perfectly for the first ~700ms and then he gets garbled. This may be caused by de-sense of the receiver by the transmitter.

After looking over the system we found two Commit GP95 tri band antennas connected to two MX3000N triplexers. So all three digital voice systems share two antennas. If the information I have received so far is true then the tip of the transmit antenna is level with the base of the receive antenna. And I am quite sure that's a bad thing and could explain the poor receiver performance.

I made the suggestion of installing a duplexer on the 2-Meter DV module and Brit made one magically appear. I then suggested a bag of gold.

I delivered their 2m



duplexers to Bill, K1MNW who is a RF genius who has a spectrum analyzer, service monitor, and experience tuning duplexers. I am planning to ask Brit the history of the duplexers but if all goes well Bill can get them tuned and we will get them installed to make the 2m dv module work better. This may require us to temporarily shut down the 70cm and 1.2G dv stuff for testing when the time comes.

Most of our on-site time was trying to get the Netgear RP614v4 reset to factory defaults so we could make changes to it.

Once successful we setup all the required port forwarding for the repeater system. Before we left I e-mailed



Terry (KA8SCP) the IP address of the gateway computer and requested help getting it working. Terry, while watching football, got the gateway computer mostly, or perhaps, fully functional. As I type this, our local KS1R node is connected to the W1EMA system and I had a conversation with Scott (AB1MC) who was using the W1EMA system. Scott was also able to connect via his DVAP.

Terry was able to recover the list of users who registered on the network through W1EMA. I made an effort to look each of them up and add their e-mail addresses to my mailing. If you know of any addresses I have incorrect or others who want to receive D-Star activity updates please forward them to me.

Right now there is very little D-Star activity in the Belfast area because the gateway has been only partially functional and the repeaters are not operating well. Now the gateway is back and running and there are plans in place to get the 2meter DV module working much better. I'll send out more e-mails as we learn more and make changes.

The W1EMA Dashboard is here:
<https://ddrov.dns2go.com/>

The registration link does not yet work but is here if anyone needs it:

<https://ddrov.dns2go.com/Dstar.do>

This is a domain I registered quickly to get things working. I'm not sure if it's permanent but time will tell.

Please feel free to link in or via RF if you're in the area and report your findings. Good and bad reports will help in the future as we make improvements we can contact people to try again to see if things change.

WIEMA repeater Information:

2 Meters ("C" Node): 145.41000MHz 0

70 Centimeters ("B" Node):

444.30000MHz

23 Centimeters Voice (Usually "A" Node):

1270.30000MHz +12.000

23 Centimeters Digital Data

1249.00000MHz (**we did not test this today)

UR: CQCQCQ

RPT1: "WIEMA ?" replace the 8th space with A(1.2G), B(70cm), C(2M)

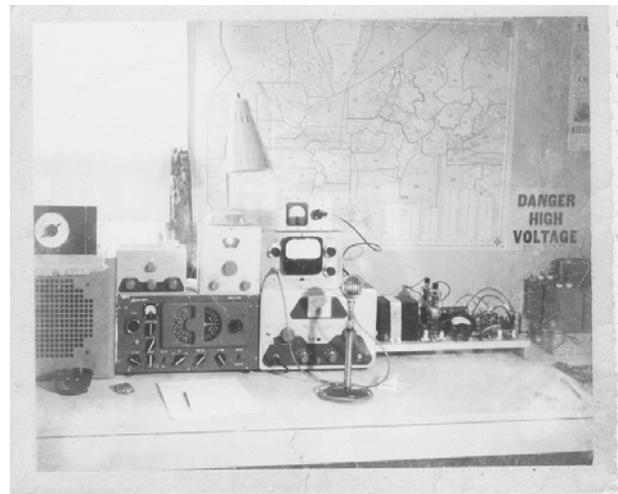
RPT2: "WIEMA G" The 8th place for the last letter. Without Rpt2 and the G you will not go through the gateway if the computer is linked. This can be very annoying for people only hearing 1 side of a conversation etc.

Now the W1EMA group has the passwords and the control of the system. Hopefully someone closer then I to the repeater takes over as the D-Star admin to monitor the health of the system and authorize people who register on the system. I suspect this can be brought up at a W1EMA meeting and discussed between group members. I plan to continue to be involved and help as I can.
Thanks!
Donnie, WD1F



Nostalgia Ham Radio, Circa 1964

Bill Messier, K1MNV wrote:



I found this picture in my old collection.

The snapshot shows my 1964 AM HF station consisting of a Heathkit VFO setting on top of my Lafayette KT200 communications receiver, a kit that I built. Also on top of the receiver is a Heathkit Q-Multiplier, which added additional selectivity, as well as a tunable Notch. To the right is a Heathkit DX-40 transmitter, which I still have. On top of the DX-40 are a homebrew speech amplifier, clipper,

and automatic level control. These then fed the home brew 100-watt Plate modulator which using a pair of WWII vintage 1625 tubes. This is the unit just to the right of the DX40, built on a piece of pine board. The round meter was the plate current meter. Further to the right was the home brew power supply for the modulator. 73, Bill

Editor's note: *Many of you that listen to Bill and Bruce (w1ze) Nostalgia Radio Hour on the early days (50s & 60s) of Ham Radio on the 147.21 or 444.4 MHz repeaters may have heard Bill talk about the above equipment he built and operated.*

Bill and Pete Russell (K1MJJP) grew up in the same Brunswick neighborhood and both were members of the Brunswick High School ham radio club. I (W1ZE) was a member of the Bell Senior High School (Bell, California) ham radio club during the same period and have a lot of the same experiences.



Interesting Ham Radio Related web Sites

The following are some interesting Ham Radio related web sites you may want to connect to in your leisure. Some interesting information.

<http://www.ac6v.com/> (tons of ham info)

<http://www.w0ipl.net/jpole-a.htm>(j-pole)

<http://www.dxzone.com/> (tons of data)

<http://www.nesmc.org/>

<http://www.ac6v.com/beacons.htm>

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/>



**The Merrymeeting
Amateur Radio
Association
Executive Board,
Newsletter Editor
and KS1R Trustee
want to wish all
Squelch Tales
readers a Very
Merry Christmas,
Happy Hanukkah
and a Happy,
Healthy and
Prosperous New
Year Full of
enjoyable Ham
Radio activities**

