

Squelch Tales

Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for December 2008

Season's Greetings

MARA selects new Executive Board members

Topsham: At the October 30th meeting of the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association four new members were elected to the Associations governing Executive Board.

1. *Ed Wynne, NIWY of Damariscotta*
2. *Mark Turner, WIAUX of Damariscotta*
3. *John Munton, NIOIG of Brunswick*
4. *Brad Gebhardt, NIOMS of Bowdoinham*

These new Board Members will join holdover members:

1. *President: Harry McNelley, NITTT*
2. *Secretary: Steve Kercel, AA4AK*
3. *Treasurer: Marjorie Turner, KXII*

Congratulations to all the new members for stepping forward to help the existing Board members keep the MARA ball rolling. A big "Thank You" goes out to Lee Tribou (N1HOC), John Goran (K1JJS), Michele Briggs (KC7LIF) and Jim McIrvin (N1IPA) for serving the past two years and for a job well done.

Annual YEAR-END Holiday dinner set for December 6th

Come; bring your significant other, other family members and/or a ham friend to the MARA's 2008 Year End Holiday Dinner at the China Rose Restaurant on Old Bath Road in Brunswick. The event will take place on Saturday December 6th at 6:00 PM. Enjoy the informal buffet dinner the company of good friends. We hope to see you there.

W1AW 2008/2009 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Days</u>
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)
(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC)

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675
28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095
28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390
28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST), and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the November 2008 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

KS1R 2F Top Gun in New England during Field Day!

Those that participated in the MARA's 2008 Field Day effort should be proud to note that KS1R took the high score in Maine and New England in the 2F category. Not only did KS1R make the top slot in those two areas, but also they scored 8th in the nation according to the results published in the December issue of QST.

This year the KS1R team had some serious competition in Maine but still managed to edge out the K1PO, Piscataquis Amateur Radio Club, by 450 points. K1PO took second place in Maine and New England and ninth place nationally. WN1EOC, Washington County EOC took a respectable third place in Maine and fourth in New England.

Steve Kercel, AA4AK should receive a ham shack full of At-A-Boys for his Field Day event planning and executing skills. **WELL DONE, KS1R Field Day Team!**

Augusta Club needs help for Christmas parade in Winthrop

Bill Crowley, K1NIT has asked the MARA for assistance on December 6th to help provide communications for the annual Christmas parade in the town of Winthrop, just west of Augusta off Route 202.

This is also the same day as the MARA year-end dinner at the China Rose. As in past years the parade will finish up in the early afternoon so there is plenty of time to get home and ready for the dinner.

MARA volunteers are requested to join up with the Augusta folks at the corner of 202 and Main Street by the Cumberland Farms parking lot at or before 11:00 AM. Two meters simplex (146.52 MHz) will be used throughout the event. A two-meter HT is the best radio for this event. Bill informs us that ATV will be attempted during the parade.

To help out, contact Bill, N1KAT at 623-9075 or 512-0312 or k1nit@arrl.net. You can contact Bruce, W1ZE at 442-9630 or w1ze@arrl.net and he will get the word to Bill.

News from Newington



IBM TEAMS UP WITH BPL PROVIDER TO OFFER SERVICE IN SEVEN STATES

On November 12, IBM announced that it has signed a \$9.6 million deal with International Broadband Electric Communications (IBEC) to install equipment and provide BPL service to almost 350,000 homes in Alabama, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and

Wisconsin. According to the Associated Press, IBEC Chief Executive Scott Lee said the network, which will be funded by \$70 million in low-interest federal loans from the Department of Agriculture, should be in place in about two years. IBEC currently provides broadband to only about 1400 customers, most of them beginning to receive service in the past 18 months.

"IBEC's equipment doesn't use the ham bands," said ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, "making it less likely that they will have any interference complaints from amateurs. Their equipment, however, does interfere with shortwave broadcast and other spectrum, but in the US, not many users have complained. IBM has been in the BPL business for a few years now, so this venture is nothing new for them." IBEC staff member Brent Zitting, KB4SL, serves as a member of ARRL's EMC Committee.

IBM is the first major systems integrator to enter the market. According to an IBEC press release announcing the joint venture, IBM will provide overall project management, oversight and training of the line crews who will be installing the BPL equipment. IBEC will provide the BPL technology and equipment and serve as the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to these rural residents.

A 2006 FCC study reported that fewer than 5000 homes receive their Internet connections via power lines. IBM and IBEC's joint plan, Lee said, will serve residents, of whom about 86 percent have no cable or DSL access, in the seven states.

According to reports, IBEC's strategy is to sign up electric cooperatives that provide power to sparsely populated areas across the eastern United States. Rather than compete toe-to-toe with large, entrenched cable or DSL providers, IBEC is looking for customers that have been largely left out of the move to high-speed Internet.

"Although the BPL industry is making progress on the EMC issues," Hare explained, "this process will not be complete until it supports regulations and industry standards that reflect its successful models. At recent meetings of the IEEE P1775 BPL EMC standards committee -- although utility and radiocommunications stakeholders wanted to include an informative annex on the ways to address BPL interference, as well as a procedure to address complaints -- some in the

BPL industry, including the representative from IBEC, blocked moving the EMC standard to IEEE ballot with the annex included."

DAVE SUMNER, K1ZZ SAID THAT AMATEURS WILL SOON HAVE CAUSE TO CELEBRATE:

March 29, 2009 marks the date that high-powered international broadcasting stations will be removed from the heart of the 40 meter band. "We are working with the broadcasters to make sure the change takes place as agreed at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC)," Sumner said. "While it's probably too much to expect 100 percent instant compliance, we know that the responsible broadcasters are preparing to move out of the 7100-7200 kHz segment -- doubling the size of the worldwide 40 meter band and making this popular band more useful than it's been in 70 years."



The Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association Executive Board members, Newsletter Editor and KS1R Trustee wishes all our Squelch Tales readers all the happiness and joy this wonderful season has to offer. Also, we hope that 2009 will bring you good health, Ham Radio enjoyment and good DX