



Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for February 2014



W100AW active for ARRL's Centennial Year

A reminder that the FCC has authorized the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW to also use the call sign W100AW during 2014, the ARRL's centennial year.

Contacts made from the Maxim Memorial Station in Newington, from regional Centennial conventions, and during the IARU HF Championship will use W100AW, with portable designators as appropriate. The "W1AW WAS" operations throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states will use W1AW, not W100AW.

Bulletins and code practice transmissions during 2014 also will still use W1AW. Contacts with W100AW are worth 100 points in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party.

Information on the ARRL Centennial QSO Party may be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>.



W1AW 2014 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
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-(10AM to 12PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC-(1PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

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)	DIGITAL	Daily	
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri	
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu	
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily	
0200 " (9 PM EST)	DIGITAL	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: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975
21.0675 28.0675 147.555
DIGITAL: - 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.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

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 digital 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.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, CW / digital bulletins and phone bulletin is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital 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 42 in the January 2014 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.



Tokyo Hy-Power Files for Bankruptcy

Tokyo Hy-Power, a manufacturer of Amateur Radio amplifiers, antenna tuners, and other equipment, is in bankruptcy, and its plant, in Saitama Prefecture near Tokyo, has been shuttered. Telephones at the company no longer

are being answered, and its Japanese website has been taken down, although the company's US website remains working. Company CEO/President Nobuki Wakabayashi, JA1DJW, founded Tokyo Hy-Power Labs in 1975. He blamed "the recent depression in the industrial RF power products area [which] has led to the very difficult financial position."



The Tokyo Hy-Power factory in Saitama, Japan. [Tokyo Hy-Power photo]

Tokyo Hy-Power's early products were HF antenna couplers, although within a couple of years it began manufacturing amplifiers for the Amateur Radio market, including solid-state mobile amplifiers. Among its early products was the HL-4000 linear amplifier, which the company claimed was "the first real HF band high-power linear of its kind in Japan." It has been manufacturing RF products for the industrial market since 1984.

The company also once marketed the HT-750, a portable, low-power SSB/CW transceiver for 40, 15, and 6 meters in a hand-held transceiver form factor. At Dayton Hamvention® 2013, the company displayed a prototype of the XT-751, an advanced model it hoped to develop, covering 40 through 6 meters and with an internal antenna tuner. Among its latest products were solid-state HF amplifiers, as well as amplifiers for 6 and 2 meters.

In a December 26 news release, Ham Radio Outlet ([HRO](#)) reacted with "disappointment" and said it was "deeply saddened" to learn that Tokyo Hy-Power had gone into bankruptcy.

"This action in Japan appears to be similar to a Chapter 7 action here within the United States, as the process in this case appears to be the liquidation of organizational assets in order to attempt to fund some portion of its debt obligation(s)," the HRO release said. "This appears to indicate that a court has deemed the organization unable to be effectively reorganized under Japan's Civil Reconstruction Code."

HRO said it was working with [AVSL](#), the current US service provider for Tokyo Hy-Power products "to discuss the opportunity of continued maintenance at the component level of the US-sold Tokyo Hy-Power line of amplifiers." Read [more](#).



CQ Magazine to Realign Publications, Launch Digital Supplement

CQ Communications Inc. has announced plans to realign its publications lineup and to launch a new online supplement to its flagship magazine, [CQ Amateur Radio](#).

"The hobby radio market is changing," said CQ Communications President and Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, "and we are changing what we do and how we do it in



order to continue providing leadership to all segments of the radio hobby."

Effective with the February 2014 issue of *CQ*, said Ross, content from the magazine's three sister publications -- [Popular Communications](#), [CQ VHF](#) and [WorldRadio Online](#) -- will be incorporated into *CQ*'s digital edition as a supplement to be called *CQ Plus*. The print editions of *Popular Communications* and *CQ VHF* will be phased out, and *WorldRadio Online* will no longer exist as a separate online publication. Current *Popular Communications*, *CQ VHF* and *WorldRadio Online* subscribers will be converted to *CQ* subscribers and receive *CQ Plus* at no additional charge. Details will be posted on each magazine's website.

CQ Communications says the change will offer hobby radio enthusiasts a single source for articles from shortwave listening and scanner monitoring to personal two-way services and Internet radio, as well as Amateur Radio. Richard Fisher, KI6SN, currently editor of both *Popular Communications* and *WorldRadio Online*, will be editor of *CQ Plus*. Read [more](#).



W1ZE escapes the arctic polar vortex

Report from Bruce Randall, W1ZE

On December 30th at zero-dark-thirty XYL Donna and yours truly boarded a Jet Blue flight at Portland Jetport and started winging our way to San Diego. It was a very cold morning but fortunately we were a few days ahead of the arctic blast and heavy snows that descended on most of the northeast and the wide area of arctic cold east of the Rockies. Fortunately the weather during the flight was good enough so me made

all our connections and touched down on Lindbergh Field in San Diego at Noon. Donna's son and one granddaughter were there to greet us and transport us to the Poway QTH.

We unlocked the house and found everything just as we had left it last April. I first flipped on the whole house circuit breaker and turned on the water. We had to go without heat, hot water, TV and Internet until the following day, but when it is 74 degrees outside we didn't suffer much. At 2:20pm the first day a brown truck pulled up in front and a nice fellow in brown Bermuda shorts and brown shirt handed me a box and inside it was a nice new Yaesu FT-450D transceiver from HRO (Anaheim). Rather than transporting my FT-897D back and forth every year I decided to purchase a mid price transceiver that would stay here in Poway. I selected the 450D because it had pretty good reviews and the rig has IF DSP vs. audio DSP, three roofing filters and a built-in automatic antenna tuner.

At NEAR-fest this past fall I purchased a second Baofeng UV-5R 4-watt HT for under \$50.00 I brought it with me to be my shack & portable VHF-UHF transceiver. I have a dual-band J-Pole on the peak of the roof and the HT allows me to access most of the repeaters on coastal San Diego County and mountaintop repeaters is southern Orange county. There are a dozen repeaters alone on Mount Palomar northeast of San Diego.

I got the new 450D setup in the shack but found out early that my Ameritron screwdriver antenna controller internal

digital turns counter was hung up and I could not reset it. So I was off to Home Depot and Radio shack to get an outlet box and switches to make my own controller. I have two antennas for HF/6M. The Tarheel 400A screwdriver mounted on the edge of the roof and a 70+ foot long end fed wire and like the screwdriver uses the aluminum siding and metal patio and carport covers as an extensive counterpoise (ground). On January 3rd I made my first HF QSO on 15 Meters CW with W1AW/4 a ARRL Centennial Special Event Station in North Carolina. A few days later I managed to have a few DX QSO into Mexico, Columbia and Korea, most on 15 and 17 meters CW. I did work a Georgia station on 10-meters FM through the W4IMD repeater near Atlanta. So W1ZE/6 is on the air.

With any luck I hope to have a QSO with some of you while I winter it out here in southern California. **73, Bruce, W1ZE**



SEAGULL NET TURNS 75

Seagull Net Manager Jerry Burns, K1GUP, advised this newsletter that the Maine Seagull Net that runs nightly at 5:00pm on 3940 kHz LSB has been on the air for 75 years. The net started in 1939 and has been on the air continuously, except during the WWII off-air requirement.

Jerry advised that the net plans to have some special anniversary events throughout 2014, so stay tuned and check into the Seagull Net.



The “Ham Shack

By Dr. Stephen W. Kerchel, AA4AK



Volunteers and Staffers at the Midcoast Chapter of the American Red Cross have undoubtedly noticed that there is a room in the Executive Suite labeled the “Ham Shack.” This is the emergency communications room for the Chapter and it serves several different functions. One is that it has several radios that enable voice communications on Red Cross frequencies. While this is good in concept, it has not worked out very well in practice because the other chapter houses in Maine do not have the right kind of antennas. Another is that it provides a direct voice radio communications link with the Cumberland County EMA Emergency Operations Center in Windham. The third function is the amateur (or more colloquially, “ham”) radio station, N1TRC. N1TRC provides voice, data, and radiotelegraph (believe it or not we still use it) locally, regionally and even internationally.

You might wonder why the Chapter needs radio links. The most common disasters that we’ve dealt with in recent years have all been weather related, and these often take out landline telephone and internet service, often for extended periods of time. Cell phone connections can be unreliable for several reasons. A weather disaster can take out a cell tower. Cell circuits are often overloaded during

emergencies due to increased calling traffic. For sheltering operations and other activities outside the urban areas in Maine, the cell coverage is not that reliable to begin with. Very often for remote sheltering operations in weather disasters, the only communications between the Chapter House and the shelter site is via ham radio.

For many years, the Chapter has maintained a close relationship with the local ham club, The Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association (MARA), and there exists a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Chapter and MARA. The members of MARA are FCC-licensed amateur radio operators. In addition, many are members of the Midcoast CERT Communications team. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are trained and credentialed by FEMA as unpaid emergency responders, and are under the control of the county EMA directors and the local Fire Chief. (See the photo of the CERT team below.)

The MARA and CERT members provide various background services for the Chapter. We maintain the emergency generator, and keep it in running condition. We participate in periodic Cumberland County radio checks to make sure that the radio link with CCEMA in Windham actually works, and we keep the radio room from evolving into a junk room. In addition we keep the Chapter active as an emergency operations center for drills and actual emergency operations organized by Cumberland and Sagadahoc counties as well as Red Cross disaster relief operations. Many of MARA’s members are

trained and credentialed Red Cross volunteers.

There is one other thing that both staff and volunteers should remember. The paid staff members tend to live relatively far away from the Chapter House and at not present full time. You may come to the Chapter House during normal business hours and find the building locked up. Two MARA members live relatively close by, are credentialed Red Cross volunteers, and have keys to the building. If you find the place locked up and need to get in, call Steve Kercel at 729-4504, or Marjorie Turner at 729-9059. We both live in Brunswick, and one of the two of us is usually available to open up the building when necessary.

MARA does a lot of interesting things at the Chapter House, and I'll discuss some of those in future issues of the newsletter.

73, Steve



Report from the hill

Repeater Guru Bill “*on the hill*” Messier K1MNW reported that he received the channel element crystals for the Midland 444.4 repeater that were ordered from International Crystal by Bruce, W1ZE, before he split to W6-land for the winter. Bill can now assemble the channel elements and retune the Midland from the commercial UHF band down into the Ham band. Stay tuned for further updates on this project.



February 'Maine D-Star Update

By Donnie Dauphin, WD1F

- **KS1R D-Star Repeater Status**
- **KS1R D-Star Gateway New Features**
- **KS1R D-Star Linking Schedule**
- **WIEMA Status**
- **Auburn Update**
- **New User Registrations**
- **KS1R Internet Access**
- **KB1TIX (Not In Maine)**
- **D-Star Simplex**

KS1R Repeater Status

The repeater continues to run without issues and performance has been excellent. There are a few things that should be done such as a UPS for the Gateway Computer and perhaps a more complete backup of the hard drive. The Gateway computer has had some new software installed to allow for connections to non US-Trust D-Star equipment. More on this software upgrade in the next section.

KS1R Gateway New Features (By Terry KA8SCP)

Recently we upgraded the KS1R system to facilitate connections to the XRF and DCS reflectors and non-USTRUST systems. The addon software also provides for DTMF control, to be able to link and unlink from the keypad on your mike. An ircDDB client was added to supplement the routing scheme used by the USTRUST network. This will allow callsign routing to get to the end station with more accuracy.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>URCALL</u>	<u>DTMF</u>
Link to XRF005A	XRF005AL	#00501
Link to REF016B	REF016BL	*01602
Link to DCS006B	DCS006BL	D00602
Link to DCS015K	DCS014KL	D01411
Link to WC7SO rptr	WC7SO <space>CL	NA
Query link status	I (in 8 th position)	99
99Disconnect	U (in 8 th position)	73

The last two digits of the DTMF string represent the numerical equivalent of the remote module that you wish to connect to. This was a necessary

change, which accompanied g2_link 3.05 in order to accommodate DCS reflectors, which have 26 modules (five weren't enough!).

To link your repeater module to an ICOM G2 system running dplus, set URCALL = the repeater callsign, followed by the module in the 7th position and the command in the 8th position of URCALL – e.g., to link to WC7SO module C, set URCALL = WC7SO CL. Note that there is a space between the 'O' and 'C' since WC7SO is a five letter call.

Note that once the link has been established, users should set URCALL = CQCQCQ.



The KS1R dashboard (<https://ks1r.dstargateway.org>) has a little different look only showing active modules. This dashboard updates every couple of minutes, not a real time display. Calls with DPRS/GPS enabled will be linked to a positioning map. Usage history will now be displayed at the DstarDB site, <http://www.dstarDB.com/index.php?CALL=KS1R&TYPE=rpt1> . Live activity <http://live.irccdb.net:8080/ircddblive.html>

Smartphone (Android and iOS) users can now view KS1R information by using the ircDDB Viewer app.

KS1R D-Star Linking Schedule

Terry (KA8SCP) has suggested he install a link schedule on our Gateway PC. We would automatically be linked / unlinked to:

Sunday - OZARK Ozark Mtn D-STAR Net Sun 20:00:00 Central Standard Time 02:00:00 REF001C

Also known as the World Wide Net

Tuesday - NEADS New England Amateur D-STAR Net Tue 20:00:00 Eastern Standard Time 01:00:00 REF010C

Friday - CANADA Canadian D-STAR Net Fri 21:00:00 Eastern Standard Time 02:00:00 XRF021B

I think this is a great idea and feedback I hear from other D-Star admins is users like it. I plan to ask terry to go ahead with this. Please let me know what you think of the idea.

W1EMA Status

The W1EMA D-Star 2M (Module C) repeater seems to be working excellent. As I type this I am hearing the repeater S3 signal strength. Not bad for being very far away from it. The last time I was at the repeater site a set of 2M duplexers, tuned by Bill K1MNV, were installed. Its my understanding they now have duplexers for 1.2G and 440MHZ so the Module A and B can be brought back on line. Its just a matter of getting some motivated people to the site for the install. Brit (AB1KI) contacted me a while ago requesting help with this project but I regret to report I was less then helpful.

W1EMA	
Date/Status Tag	Status
Registration Status:	Registered with US Root.
Last Synchronization:	2013-09-12 03:14:04 (127.5 days ago)
Update Reported:	Update #1 Installed. (2011-03-14 17:01:56)

The Gateway Computer has been off line for quite some time. By the status page above I would say 127.5 days. I believe it just needs a reset but the computer can be difficult to access as its in a secured location. Winter does not help. And due to

the low numbers of D-Star users in the repeaters footprint it has not been made a priority. Its my hope to see this gateway computer fixed up to be more reliable and as I type this I feel the motivation and innovation building. Its likely an inexpensive UPS, better BIOS Settings to tell the computer to always try and turn on, and perhaps some simple automation to force a reset if the computer is not responsive for a period of time would help.

If you would like to get involved in helping get this impressive D-Star stack working to its potential please let myself or Brit AB1KI know. At the W1EMA site there is a complete D-Star setup (2M, 440, 1.2G Voice, 1.2G Data), just waiting to get more use.

I did not contact anyone at W1EMA before writing this so there may be plans in the works I am not aware of.

Auburn D-Star Project (By Cory KU1U)

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club has run into some political red tape. The current repeater site is dilapidated and there was interest in moving a repeater building from a Leeds site to Goff Hill in Auburn as a replacement, however, the Goff Hill location is considered a historical site. The W1NPP D-Star repeater seems to be working with connections allowed on D-Plus and D-Extra reflectors. The fans initially placed on the repeater may have been overkill, due to concerns about the GM300 radios overheating, and it sounded like a helicopter taking off. We may test slightly toned down fans to see if there is any difference. Pete Thuotte N1ZRL and I are also considering switching the very old desktop computer on the repeater with a BeagleBoneBlack computer that is very similar to a Raspberry Pi, but has exhibited better results. More updates to follow.

73 DE KU1U
-Cory

KS1R New User Registrations

I just reviewed the registration database on the repeater and found 24 entries for 2013. This is a large increase over our initial registrations. By listening to the repeater from time to time I hear stories about hams getting their new D-Star capable radio's. Pretty exciting stuff.

The script installed to notify Cory KU1U and I about new user registrations has been working well. Cory and I have a little competition to see who can approve the registration first. Since we don't reject any registrations I could probably automate the approval process. I suspect its nice for new user to be greeted by a live person with some instructions and an offer of help if needed.

KS1R Gateway Computer Internet Access

The Gateway computer gets its Internet from a 13 mile wireless link that has had troubles in the past. There was previous talk about getting land based Internet to the site. Well that has happened.

The site now excellent Internet access but.. ..we are not using it yet. There are a few reasons for this but the summary is. Since we are not paying for it we can use it with permission only. We have not acquired this permission yet. This is mostly because the wireless Internet has been working so good for a long time we have not bothered pushing the issue. The good news is if we have trouble in the future we can pursue connecting to this existing link.



More information on the WiFi link here:
<http://www.ddrov.com/wirelesslink/index.html>

KB1TIX - New Hampshire

I was doing some scanning as I was typing this and I could hear the KB1TIX D-Star repeater in NH from my QTH here in Phippsburg. I don't know much about this setup and could not find a dashboard for it. Just a point of interest.



D-Star Simplex

I was listening to a conversation on KS1R recently. Someone was asking about D-Star calling or Simplex Frequencies. What is the D-Star calling frequency? I have looked this up several times and continue to be confused. I just did a google search for D-Star calling frequency and found several different answers. If anyone reads this and has some information please let me know.

From here I read its 145.670
<http://www.narri.org/dstar.html>.

Here says 'recognized simplex calling frequencies' 144.6125 <http://gb7db.onlineham.net/d-star.htm>
 I would love to resolve what is the correct D-Star calling frequency and get the word out so those with D-Star radio's could monitor it. I'll continue to look into it as time allows.

Other:

If your aware of Maine D-Star news please share it with me.

73, Donnie WD1F



**WWW.DXHeat.com,
 a useful tool for the DXer**

By Bruce, W1ZE

A few issues back I described the usefulness of the TelNet DX cluster and how to set up an account using a free online dumb terminal free program called PuTTY and how to connect the the various DX spotting nodes.

W7ER	18 080,2		9X0NH
S59EIJ	3 542,0		S506P
OZ7OX	3 800,0		JA5AQ
KQ8M	18 071,0		3DA0E
WB4HDC	28 470,0		XR0ZR
EA1GSF	3 709,0		EA1GS
WU8R	21 010,0		J88HL

Recently I came across a website called DXHeat that does the same thing and all you have to do is log onto the site and you have very easy access to internet & TelNet DX cluster. Just like the PuTTY/TelNet The DXHot site allows you to set your spotting band and other filters plus some interesting and useful database items, plus area activity map.



Check it out and maybe it will a nice tool in your shack. 73, W1ZE