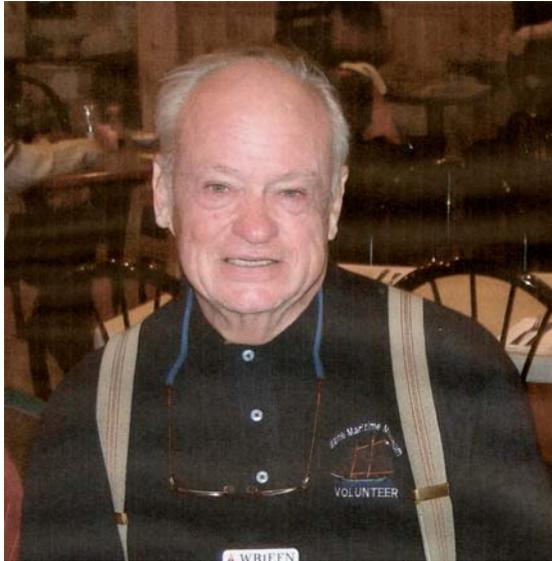




Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for February 2009



WB1EFN now W3ZD

New Orleans, LA: The MARA's own Allan "AL" Corderman, WB1EFN who winters it out in New Orleans is now W3ZD.

Prior to the Christmas holidays Al had been crunching through the Extra Class question pool so he could pass that test and in the process apply for his father's call sign of W3ZD, which was becoming available in early December. First he had success at a VE session in New Orleans then he applied for his fathers call sign with the FCC. Everything fell into place and he got his Christmas wish.

Well done Al. You will like your new (old) call sign in those DX pile-ups. It will add 6-dB to your signal.



W1AW 2009 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 - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM 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)	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.

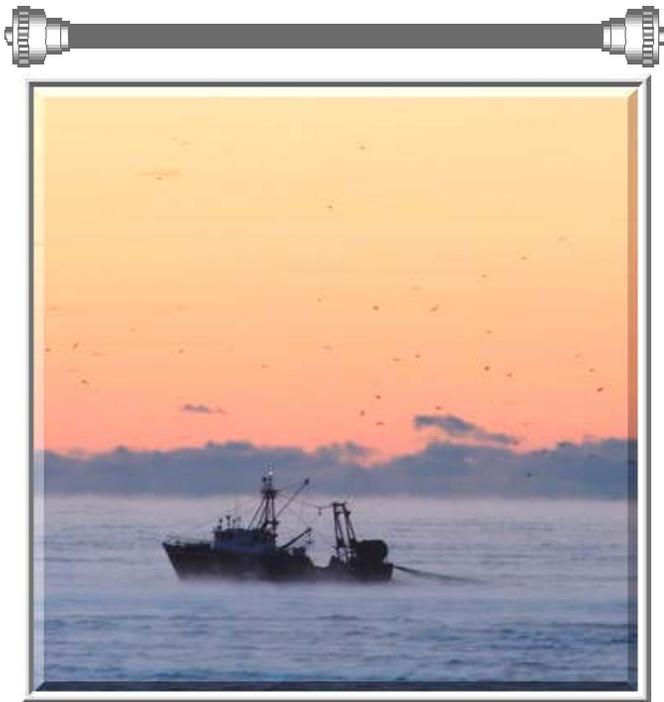
A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

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 January 2009 issue of QST or on the web at:

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.



Fishermen are not Hams

Auburn, ME: In the late afternoon of Friday December 9th the word went out by Bill Woodhead, N1KAT and others that the Auburn W1NPP two meter repeater was being interfered with by non-Amateur

communications. It appeared there were fisherman off the Maine coast using the input of that repeater as a private boat-to-boat chitchat channel. It also appeared that they did not know that it was on the input frequency (146.01 MHz) to that repeater. Since the W1NPP repeater does not use PL, every time the fisherman keyed up their radios that would open up the repeater and anyone listening to that repeater could hear everything the fisherman were saying.

The fishermen's conversations started giving clues of whom and where they were. Cory, N1URA started doing his detective work along with the assistance of John, K1JJS and Bruce, W1ZE and others. Bruce noted that the signals were coming from south of Phippsburg and boat names, people's names and positions were being shared between the boats.

By Monday, with information gathered by Bruce and John, Cory started putting things together and checking phone books and that led him to folks and boats in Cundy's Harbor, Harpswell.

Cory emailed the info to Bruce because his son in-law is a commercial fisherman out of Sebasco Harbor, Phippsburg. Maybe they knew the Cundy's Harbor fisherman. Bruce called his daughter and asked her if she or her husband knew of the names of the people and boats identified by the Hams. She said, "we sure do know them." Bruce explained to his daughter what was going on and she understood the seriousness of the situation and said she would quickly get in touch with them.

Since the fisherman were shrimp fishing, Bruce's daughter knew that they would not be far out. She called one of the boats on her cell phone and advised the boat captain that they were going to be in serious trouble if they did not stop using the

“secret” channel because the Hams had identified them by name and address.

At approximately 11:30AM WIZE overheard one of the boats transmit on the “Secret” channel and state, “*Bryan, quit using this channel and don’t use it again. I’m gonna disconnect it here*”. A few minutes’ later Bruce reports his daughter called him and said that she had contacted one of the boats and gave them the word. She said they did not intend to cause interference but that was the frequency the marine radio guy set-up for them. She said the boat captain said thanks for the heads up and that they would never use that channel or radio again and to thank the Hams for not turning the matter over to the FCC or Coast Guard. Bruce’s daughter went on to say that the fisherman could have used Marine commercial Channel-88 but since they do not want to give away where the good fishing is they like to use “secret Channels” to keep other boats from finding out.

Thanks to good detective work by Cory, with assistance from other hams the problem was corrected at the lowest level and we can expect those Cundy’s Harbor boats will not use frequencies in the VHF ham bands again.



WINTERFEST

A cabin fervor Hamfest

On Saturday, February 21st shovel off the walkway, warm up the buggy and head to the Augusta Amateur Radio Association’s **Winterfest** at the Crystal Falls Hall on the Rockland Rd. (Rte. 17) in Chelsea, ME.

For additional information or reserve a table contact:

Bill Crowley (K1NIT), 150 Maple St., Farmingdale, ME 04344 Phone: 207-623-9075, Email: k1nit@arrl.net or check out the Association’s web site at: <http://www.w1tlc.com>.

Talk-In will be on the 146.67 MHz (PL=100.0Hz) KQ1L Link System.



A Balun Fed Doublet

By WIZE

You may know that a doublet (dipole) fed with tuned feeders (300 or 450-ohm balanced line or twin-lead) makes an effective antenna on all the HF bands, especially if it is about 130 feet long. At this length the doublet exhibits input impedance between 50 and 100 ohm on the 80 and 10-meter bands. If your

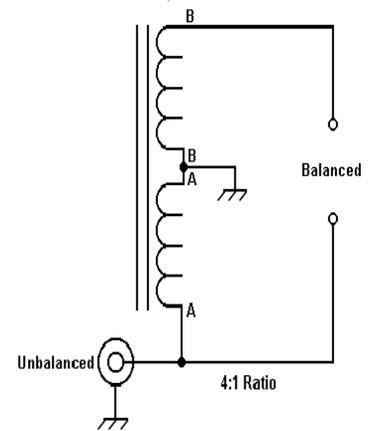
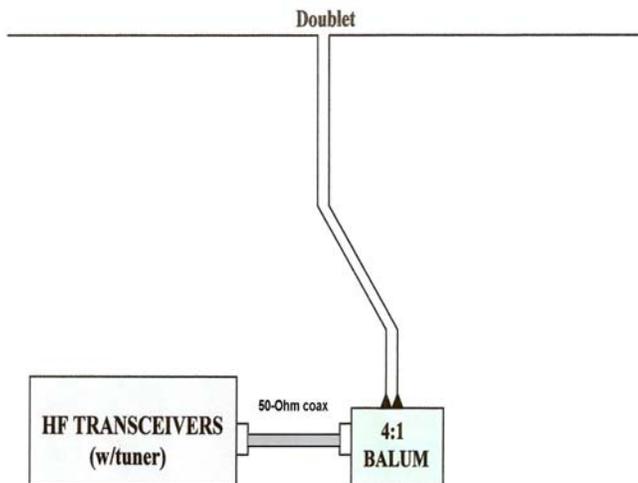


Figure 2

If your HF transceiver has a built-in tuner, 80 and 10 meters will be an easy match. However, if you want to operate on other bands where the antenna impedance is much higher and an SWR higher than 50:1 and the tuner in your rig may not be able to find a good match. There is a device you may want to employ that may help your transceivers tuner match to a wider range of impedance’s. That device is a four to one (4:1) balun transformer. Most external antenna tuners today have a 4:1 balun built in, so balanced transmission line can be connected directly to the tuner



and in turn can match most impedance's, depending on the tuner type.

Say you want to use the 130-foot doublet on 40-meters but the impedance of the antenna on that band would be in the neighborhood of 3000 ohms. The mismatch to 50-ohms would result in a very high SWR, most likely to high for the transceiver internal tuner to match. If you have a 4:1 balun transformer on the output of your transceiver the tuner would see something closer to 700-ohms and "maybe" within it's tuning range, but no guarantee.

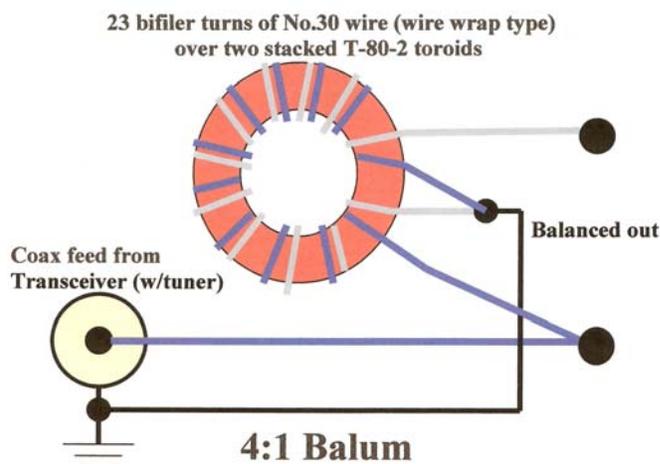
Another advantage is that the balun can be placed several feet away from the tuner making it easier to junction to balanced transmission lines which does not react well if run in close parallel to pipes of electrical wiring. Say your doublet feed is at one end of the house and your shack is in the middle 20 feet away. You could run 20 feet of coax to the balun on the outside of the house where a transition would be easier. In the HF spectrum the coax loss would be minimal.

4:1 baluns can be purchased from MFJ and other ham outlets but you can build your own from a kit or from scratch. Most of these baluns are made using a

powdered-iron toroids, like an F-140-61 or T-200-A. Two T-200-A toroids stacked one on top of the other will handle power outputs in the 1500-watt range, plus it is small enough to place in a Rubbermaid sandwich box or weatherproof electrical enclosure, available at Lowe's or Home Depot.

The following drawing shows the coil winding arrangement and hookup

The number of turns is not critical but ten to twelve bifilar (two in parallel) turns of #14 Teflon insulated wire on two stacked T-200-A toroids should give you good coverage from 160 top 10 meters.



Living here in northern New England does not lend itself to having well stocked electronics parts houses in every shopping mall so maybe making your balun from a kit is a good way to go. 250-watt and 1500-watt 4:1 balun transformer kits are available from Palomar Engineering in California. Their web site is: <http://www.palomar-engineering.com>. The 250-watt kit is the BA-4-250 and clever enough the 1500-watt kit is a BA-4-1500.

73, Bruce Randall, W1ZE





Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Marlborough, MA



AMATEUR
RADIO

FLEA MARKET

Saturday, February 14, 2009



**Marlborough Intermediate
Elementary School
(Marlborough Middle School)**
Thresher Drive (off Union St.) or
off Bolton St. (Rt. 85)
Marlborough, Massachusetts

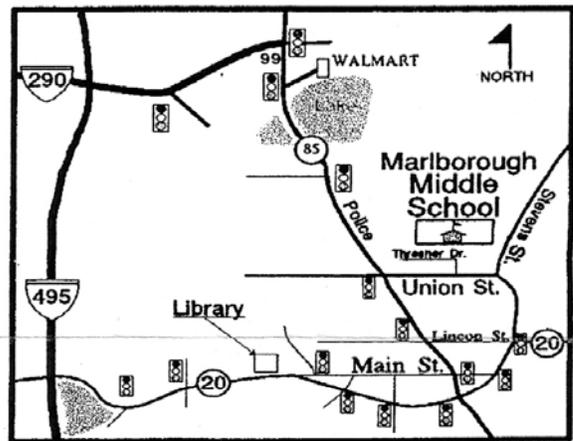
6 ft. Tables (round and rectangular)
Tables are \$15.00 each if purchased by
February 6, 2009 (\$20.00 each accepted at the
door if space is available)
Tables include vendor admission for one
person.

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
General Admission: \$5.00
VEC Exams: 9:00 AM

SETUP TIME: 6:30 AM

Information:
David "Shack" Haralambou
1-978-333-1715 before 9:00 PM
email: fleamarket@nlem.org

Talk In: MMRA 147.27+ (pl 146.2)
449.925- (pl 88.5)



Send This Form For Table Reservations with Check Payable to:
AARC, PO Box 258, Marlborough, MA 01752 (\$15.00 each table due by February 6)

Name: _____ Call: _____
Address: _____ No. Tables: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: (____) _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ .00
Email: _____

MARA exam sessions for 2009.



**From: Bryce Rumery, K1GAX
MARA VE Liaison**

2-Feb-2009 Town: Topsham
Time: 6:00 PM (reservation only)
Contact: BRYCE RUMERY (207)799-1116
Email: K1GAX@JUNO.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: MIDCOAST CHAPTER
AMERICAN RED CROSS,
16 COMMUNITY WAY

4-May-2009 Town: Topsham
Time: 10:00 AM (reservation only)
Contact: BRYCE RUMERY(207)799-1116
Email: K1GAX@JUNO.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: MIDCOAST CHAPTER
AMERICAN RED CROSS,
16 COMMUNITY WAY

3 Aug-2009 Town: Topsham
Time: 6:00 PM (reservation only)
Contact: BRYCE RUMERY(207)799-1116
Email: K1GAX@JUNO.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: MIDCOAST CHAPTER
AMERICAN RED CROSS,
16 COMMUNITY WAY

2 Nov-2009 Town: Topsham
Time: 6:00 PM (By reservation only)
Contact: BRYCE RUMERY (207)799-1116
Email: K1GAX@JUNO.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: MIDCOAST CHAPTER
AMERICAN RED CROSS,
16 COMMUNITY WAY



EDITORS REQUEST

I need help. In the process of trying to get out a monthly newsy and interesting newsletter. I like to have articles that will interest the readers but sometimes that can be a challenge.

If you have built something; took a trip where Ham Radio was a part; participated in a ham radio event; had a humorous ham event; why not jot it down and forward it to WIZE@arrl.net so it could be added to a upcoming newsletter. If you need help with it, NO PROBLEM. We help can assist your with graphics and editing.

While you are awaiting spring weather, give it a thought and send it along.

73,

Bruce, WIZE

Become an Elmer!

Help someone get interested in Ham Radio and maybe assist them in getting a license so they can join the fun and excitement of one of the oldest and most creative technical hobbies. Tell them about communications, building radio projects, community service and all the aspects of the hobby.