



Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for January 2012



Happy New Year

FCC Releases New Rules for 60 Meters

On November 18, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O), defining new rules for the 60-meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). In the R&O, the FCC replaced one of the channels in the band, increased the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorized amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators in the five channels in the 5330.6-5406.4 kHz band (60 meters).

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band.

Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to -- and must accept interference from -- stations authorized by any administration in

the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE CHANGES HAVE NOT YET TAKEN EFFECT.

These new rules will take effect 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register. The ARRL will announce on its website when the rules are published. Additional information can currently be found on the web at,

[http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-releases-new-rules-for-60-meters.](http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-releases-new-rules-for-60-meters)



MORE U.S. HAMS NOW THAN EVER

Here is a link to a news report from Fox News you don't have to fact check after you see it

http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/11/17/radio-days-are-back-ham-radio-licenses-at-all-time-high/?cmtid=cmt_email_Gigya_Radio_Days_Are_Back%3A_Ham_Radio_Licenses_at_an_All-Time_High



Antenna Party at Shiloh



By Don Wakeman, KA1WAL

On a blustery Saturday in late November Steve Kerel (AA4AK), Harry McNelley (N1TTT), Marjorie Turner (KX1I) and Bruce Randall (W1ZE) drove to Shiloh Church in Durham to assist me string up a doublet antenna.



Steve showed off his archery skills by accurately shooting arrows over two tall pine trees. In short order, the antenna was raised into the area about 60 feet, and the 450-ohm tuned feeder transmission line fed through a second story window.



Steve and Bruce then checked the antenna's ability to be tuned by my MFJ KW antenna tuner and everything was a go. All the bands could be tuned to less than 1.5:1 SWR.

I want to thank the good MARA folks who came out to help me get my HF doublet in the air and operational. I am looking forward to finally being on the HF bands. 73, Don



AARAK does Show-n-Tell at November Meeting

At the November meeting the MARA's own Doctor Steve did an excellent show, tell and demo of a dual-channel receiver audio processor he has been working on over the past several months and as usual he met with success.

Steve advised that it was not his engineering skills that came up with



the idea but a design written about in QST over 10 years ago. He said he liked the article so much and saved it for a later date project.



The device, especially useful for CW operation, consists of two filter amplifier-processors that when listened to with a good set of

earphones (cans) it sounds like CW stereo.

Those folks attending the meeting and demo got to hear and see how it sounded with the aid of a dual-channel audio generator and dual-trace oscilloscope, affording another excellent presentation by Steve. If you were not there you missed a good one...



New Rules for 60 Meters Have Yet to Take Effect

Last month, the FCC released a Report & Order (R&O) detailing new rules for the 5 MHz (60 meters) Amateur Radio band. These rules have not been published in the Federal Register. In order to be official, the rules must be published in the Federal Register and will take effect 30 days after the publication date. Any radio amateur who is operating under the new rules before this time is in violation of the current rules. The official date for these new rules will be announced on the ARRL website as soon as the information is available.

