



# Squelch Tales



## Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association Newsletter for January 2008



### Al Corderman, WB1EFN Is the MARA's 2007 HAM OF THE YEAR

**Brunswick:** On December 8<sup>th</sup> during the MARAs 2007 year-end dinner at the China Rose restarunt the Association presented to Allan "AL" Corderman, WB1EFN the organizations highest yearly honor of Ham of the Year.

The award certificate read:

*You have demonstrated your enthusiasm and dedication to the Amateur Radio community here on mid coast Maine. Your sharing of knowledge and experiances with others, your willingness to step in and help the MARA and Mid Coast ARES has not gone unnoticed by your fellow amateur radio operators. We appreciate you going the extra mile. Well done!*



The award was presented to Al by Association President John Goran, K1IJS

### A good time at the 2007 Year-End Dinner



**The group at the China Roise**

As reported in the previous Ham of the Year column, A good group of MARA folks arrived at the China Rose in Brunswick on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> for the Year-End dinner. As usual everyone had their fill at the buffet tables. And a few showed mastery of chop-sticks. Following the meal, awards were passed out to several worthy recipients. As reported earlier, Al Corderman received the Ham of the Year award from President John Goran, K1IJS.



Sagadahoc County EC, Doc. Allan Kuong passed out ARRL Certificates of Merit to WD1F, KB1IEF, AA4AK, KX1I and K1JJS for their contribution to the ARES effort here on mid coast Maine. Lee Trask, W1LWT Presented Balloon Launch Participation certificates to N1IPA and K1JJS.

Maine Section Manager, Bill Woodhead, N1KAT and his family attended the dinner and everyone was pleased to have them join in on the festivities.



There were several comments from those in attendance that they were already looking forward to next years dinner

session, you can contact me; Bryce Rumery, K1GAX at: (207) 799-1116 or e-mail me [k1gax@juno.com](mailto:k1gax@juno.com).

When attending a test session, please have the following items with you:

- Two forms of ID
- Original and a copy of your existing license, including any current CSCE
- Exam Fee (cash, no checks or cards)

**Dates:**

1. **February 9** (Topsham)
2. **April 5** (ME State Convention)  
*Time: 12:00 (Noon) Location: Ramada Inn, 490 Pleasant St. Lewiston, ME 04240*
3. **June 14** (Topsham)
4. **August 9** (Topsham)
5. **October 11** (Topsham)
6. **December 13** (Topsham)

Any changes in this schedule will be published in this monthly newsletter.

**73, Bryce, K1GAX**

## MARA Ham Exam Sessions for 2008

By Bryce Rumery, K1GAX



The MARA has tentitavely scheduled six Amateur Radio examination sessions for 2008. With one exception, all the exams will take place at the MidCoast Chapter of the American Red Cross, located at: 16 Community Way in Topsham. Start time is promptly at 10:00 AM. Walk-ins and license renewal allowed.

To sign up for a session or obtain information about a test

## New Association Officers elected at November Executive Board meeting

At the November 29th meeting of the MARA Executive Board, the following individuals were elected to the following Offices:

- **Harry McNelley, N1TTT = President**
- **Michele Briggs, KC7LIF = V. Pres.**
- **Steve Kercel, AA4AK = Secretary**
- **Marjorie Turner, KX1I = Treasurer**

The following folks round-out the seven members of the Executive Board:

- **Lee Tribou, N1HOC**
- **Jim McIrvin, N1IPA**
- **John Goren, K1JJS**

# TECKI-TALK



A report from the  
Technical Committee

Bill on the hill (K1MNV) took the KS1R 449.4 MHz repeater receiver out of service on December 10<sup>th</sup> to do a little tweek-n-peek and replace the 88.5 Hz PL tone decoder which went into cardiac arrest some time ago.

Bill discussion with Bruce, W1ZE, about replacing the old GE MVP receiver with an Ameritron UHF receiver. Bill indicated that the Ameritron receiver also had a helical RF front-end like the GE but he had several replacement PL decoder boards if another would be needed in the future. Unlike the GE, the Ameritron does not require a channel element module to put the receiver on 449.4 MHz, only a quality crystal is needed. The Digital-transponder/repeater on 447.575 used an Ameritron transmitter and receiver. If switched, that would make all our UHF repeaters Ameritron. The GE would become a back-up receiver, just in case.

dusted them off and reconnected to a 2-meter rig. The word started to get around that Packet was alive again. No, no big network with backbones, KA-nodes and worm-holes but every few days new call sign would start to appear on TNC Heard lists. Bruce, W1ZE talked to K1PIG and Marty got the word out in the Augusta area. As of this writing there are two new packet nodes operating 145.01 in addition to the BRUNS. First was AA1XD with the "FAY" node in Fayette and a few days later N1REX-1, the "AUG" Augusta ARES node. (CONT.)

On the downeast coast The Waldo County ARES/RACES group has the W1EMA-2 digipeater-only running.

One snowy afternoon a week or so ago, Bruce W1ZE looked at his "HEARD" list and noted over a dozen stations were received by his and WD1F's packet stations. Some of the call signs heard are:

<b>W1ZE</b>	<b>N1REX-2</b>	<b>KS1R-1</b>	<b>N1TRC</b>
<b>WD1F</b>	<b>N1IPA</b>	<b>W1EMA-2</b>	<b>AUG</b>
<b>FYA</b>	<b>BRUNS</b>	<b>N1SDR</b>	<b>AA1XD</b>
<b>W3HBM</b>	<b>N1TDO</b>	<b>K1PIG-14</b>	<b>W1ZE-2</b>
<b>N1REX</b>	<b>WD1F-1</b>	<b>N1IPA-1</b>	<b>N1ZRL</b>
<b>N1ZRL-1</b>	<b>W1NPP</b>	<b>N1NYX</b>	<b>N1OXH</b>

One should not expect to see packet activity like we had in the 1980s and early 90s but there seems to be enough activity to provide another mode for hams to try out, plus it will provide a needed communications path to support ARES, RACES and other served agencies.

For more information about the packet system here in Maine, contact Bruce Randall, W1ZE at: **w1ze@arrl.net**.



## 145.01 MHz activity increasing

During the latter part of December those of you that are on packet must have seen increased activity on the 145.01 Packet Frequency.

A few months ago there was just a tiny few doing keyboard packet, but when MARA technical committee got the KS1R-1 (BRUNS) node up and running again from Oak Hill activity started to increase as hams throughout the state got their old TNC out of storage,



# TOYS FOR SALE!

## Radio Shack HTX-245, 700mW Mini Dual- Band HT



In good working condition. With a few dings and scratches comes with upgraded whip antenna. Has box, manual + additional data on CD.

Includes a RS Communications VOX headset (in the box).

**\$40** contact: Bruce Randall, W1ZE at 442-9630 or [w1ze@arrl.net](mailto:w1ze@arrl.net)

## YAESU FT-8500



In good working condition but no manual (can be downloaded from Internet) Asking **\$75.00**. Contact: John Peters ,K2LOT at: [k2lot@gwi.net](mailto:k2lot@gwi.net)



### A simple multi-band wire vertical

A reprint by W1ZE

If you are a back-packer, Field Day operator or just want a simple wire antenna to get on HF and even work some DX the following simple wire vertical may be for you.

I have used the following design several times and the thing works. When I first moved to Maine in 1978 I lived at the in-laws QTH in Winthrop until the family arrived from California. While there I put up a 20-15-10 meter ground mounted vertical made out of hook-up wire purchased at the Radio Shack shop in Augusta and some insulators

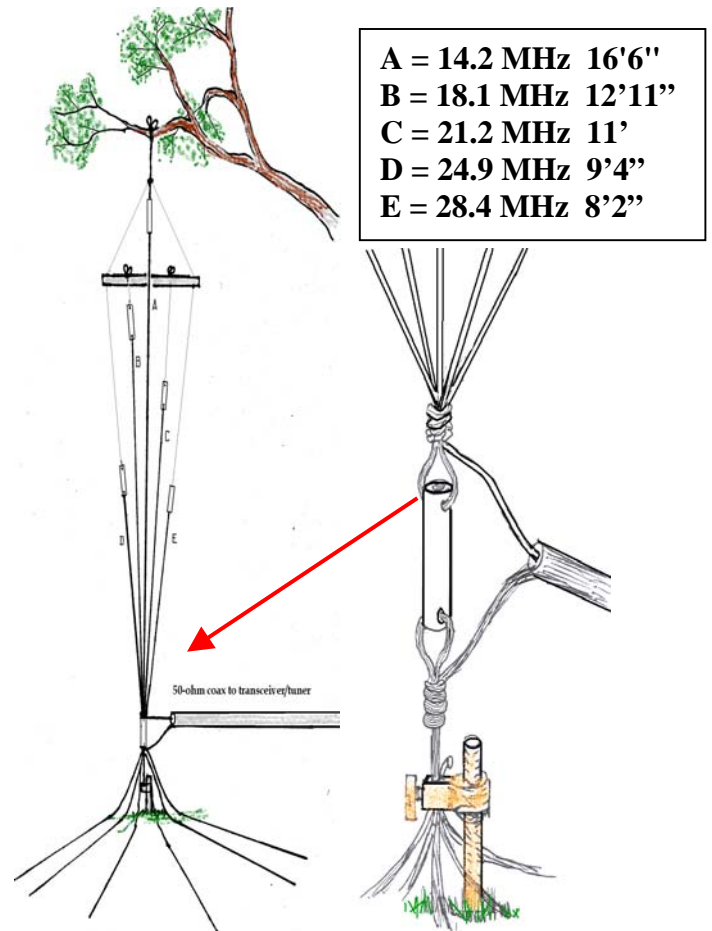
made out of 4-foot length of 3/4 OD PVC pipe from my father in-law's scrap bin. With that antenna I was able to maintain a 20-meter schedule with WB6PQH, WA6YCG and W6JBO in California every Sunday morning and chase DX too.

The following design can be built as a single band or as a multi-band antenna. The following is for a 20-17-15-12-10 meter vertical. Each vertical element is 1/4-wave long and resonant for the desired bands.

At the base of the antenna is a tent stake to tie down the array, but if your application is a little more permanent, sink a four to eight foot ground rod in lieu of the stake.

Since the radial system is on the ground there is no need to cut them to resonance. Just put down as many as you can with lengths from 8 to 17 feet.

In my applications I used nylon string as a halyard line over a tree branch.



# Maine Repeater, Packet Nodes & digital frequencies

FREQ	QTH	PL	CALL
53.050	LITCHFIELD	136.5	K1AAM
53.090	SPRUCE MT. [WOODSTOCK]	71.9	W1IMD
53.550	LENFEST MT. [WASHINGTON]	91.5	KC1CG
53.570	PORTLAND	103.5	N3LYT
145.110	STICKNEY HILL [BROWNVILLE]	103.5	N1BUG
145.170	ISLAND FALLS	123.0	KQ1L
145.210	Mt. Hope (Sanford)-Chester.NH	156.7	N1KMA
145.250	S.TWIN LAKE	100.0	KALEKS
145.270	PARELMO--linked to 145.29	100.0	W1PIG
145.290	WALEs-link to 145.27&449.275	100.0	W1PIG
145.350	YORK HILL [NEW SHARON]	100.0	N1UGR
145.390	LORD HILL [Belgrade Lakes]	100.0	K1PIG
145.410	BRACKETT HILL [ALFRED]	103.5	WJ1L
145.450	HERMON [FULLER ROAD]	67.0	KB1KIR
145.470	ORONO [ UMO ]		W1YA
145.490	LENFEST MT. [WASHINGTON]	91.5	KC1CG
146.610	GOFF HILL [AUBURN]		W1NPP
146.610	COOPER MT. [COOPER]		WB5NKJ
146.640	KINGS MT. [ORRINGTON]	173.8	K1CZ
146.640	FORT KENT	100.0	W1TCF
146.670	SAND HILL [AUGUSTA]	100.0	KQ1L
146.670	MUSQUASH MT. [TOPSFIELD]		K1HHC
146.700	DANFORTH HILL [LITCHFIELD]	100.0	N1TR
146.715	T18 R12		N1CHF
146.730	BLACKWELL HILL [MADISON]	91.5	K1C
146.730	PRESQUE ISLE		K1TFX
146.730	PORTLAND	100.0	W1KVI
146.745	MILLINOCKET	100.0	KALEKS
146.760	WATERVILLE [COOK HILL]		K1DAP
146.790	SUMNER		K1PV
146.790	RESERVOIR HILL [HOULTON]		W1NSN
146.820	RAGGED MT. [CAMDEN]	100.0	KQ1L
146.835	NAPLES	103.5	K1AAM
146.850	MT. HARRIS [DIXMONT]	100.0	KQ1L
146.880	STREAKED MT. [BUCKFIELD]	100.0	KQ1L
146.880	PATTEN		W1UDP
146.910	MEXICO		N1BBK
146.925	ARUNDEL	103.5	W6BZ
146.940	RIDERS BLUFF [HOLDEN]	100.0	N1ME
146.970	SUGARLOAF	100.0	KQ1L
146.985	WISCASSET [HUNTOON HILL]		K1LX
147.000	BAGLEY MT. [LINCOLN]	100.0	KQ1L
147.000	KENTS HILLS---(low power)	100.0	W1PIG
147.015	HIRAM	103.5	K1AAM
147.030	IRESON HILL [BAR HARBOR]	100.0	W1TU
147.045	GRAY	100.0	K1MV
147.060	LENFEST MT. [WASHINGTON]	91.5	W1PBR
147.090	BLACKSTRAP HILL [FALMOUTH]	100.0	W1QUI
147.135	GROWSTOWN HILL BRUNSWICK	103.5	WZ1J
147.180	SANFORD	100.0	KQ1L
147.180	MOSHER HILL [FARMINGTON]		KY1C
147.210	BRUNSWICK [OAK HILL]	100.0	KS1R
147.240	HATCHET MT. [HOPE]		W1ZDA
147.270	ABORN HILL [KNOX/THORNDIKE]	100.0	N1TN
147.300	HAMPDEN	100.0	W1GEE
147.315	SEBAGO LAKE	103.5	K1AAM
147.330	COOPER MT. [COOPER]	118.8	W1LH
147.330	FRENCHVILLE		N1FCV
147.360	PORTLAND	100.0	K1SA
147.375	ALMANAC MT. [SPRINGFIELD]	100.0	W1ZJL
147.390	WALDOBORO		K1NYY
223.940	SPRUCE MT [WOODSTOCK]	103.5	W1IMD
224.000	HATCHET MT. [HOPE]		K1EHO
224.100	WARREN	CLOSED)	W1ZDA
224.180	FRENCHVILLE		N1CHF
224.240	EXETER	103.5	AA1PN
224.280	LENFEST MT. [WASHINGTON]	91.5	KC1CG
224.620	STREAKED MT. [BUCKFIELD]	103.5	W1IF
224.780	WALDOBORO	107.2	N1PS

FREQ	QTH	PL	CALL
441.600	MT. HOPE [SANFORD]	203.5	W1LO
443.200	KENTS HILL	88.5	W1PIG
443.500	FREEDOM	103.5	KD1KE
444.100	CAPE ELIZABETH	82.5	K1DRL
444.250	ROCKY HILL [WESTBROOK]CLOSED}	82.5	W1ZOU
444.400	BRUNSWICK [OAK HILL]	88.5	KS1R
444.400	RIDERS BLUFF [HOLDEN]	103.5	KW1Q
444.600	PORTLAND		W1CKD
444.900	LENFEST MT.ALT PL 103.5}	91.5	WZ1J
448.725	BRACKETT HILL [ALFRED]	103.5	WJ1L
447.575	OAK HILL (Brunswick)	[digital]	KS1R
449.025	SPRUCE MT. [WOODSTOCK]	82.5	W1IMD
449.075	FARMINGTON	114.8	W1IMD
449.275	BAGLEY MT. [LINCOLN]		K1AQ
449.275	LORD HILL [BELGRADE LAKES]	88.5	W1PIG
449.525	HATCHET MT. [HOPE]		K1EHO
1284.000	BRUNSWICK [OAK HILL]	88.5	KS1R

ECHO-LINK 145.390---REPEATER-----W1PIG  
443.200---Repeater-----W1PIG

## MOUNT WASHINGTON, NH Repeaters

146.665		100.0	W1NH
448.975		141.3	W1NH

The following are the packet frequencies in Maine, but at this writing it appears that only one frequency with nodes & digipeaters that are active:

Freq	Node(s)
145.01	BRUNS (KS1R-1), FAY(AA1XD), AUG(N1REX-2) W1EMA-2(digi)

145.03  
145.05  
145.07  
145.09

The following frequencies are sometimes used for digital modes:

50.680	USB = SSTV
50.295	USB = BPSK
51.120	FM = FPSK
144.144	USB = BPSK
145.500	FM = SSTV
145.550	FM = FPSK

**KQ1L 2-meter Link System listed in blue**

**KS1R repeaters are listed in red**

**W1IMD repeaters are listed in green**

**W1PIG repeaters listed in brown**

**N1KMA repeater system listed in lavender**

If you know of additions, corrections or deletions, please notify W1ZE at [w1ze@arrl.net](mailto:w1ze@arrl.net) so this list can remain updated

Note: Some repeaters list their PL-tone but do not have their decoders turned on.

