



# Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for June 2010



Just a few more weeks and the MARA will be stringing up antennas, hooking up radios with microphones, telegraph keys and computers and limbering up vocal cords and fingers for the Association's big communications event of the year, **FIELD DAY 2010**.

Mark the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> on your calendars and prepare to have fun at the American Red Cross building at the corner of route 196 and Community Way in Topsham. If you need more information on this event contact MARA President and Field Day Guru, John Munton, N1OIG at [jtunto@hotmail.com](mailto:jtunto@hotmail.com) or catch him on the KS1R 147.21 repeater.

We hope to see you there during the event.



## Good News from Radio Kuwait: 7150 and 7190 kHz Both Free

The IARU Region 1 Monitoring System is ever vigilant in monitoring the amateur bands for intruders. It is ably led by Coordinators Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, and Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR. To aid in their work they initiated an online reporting system via

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On April 12, Bihlmayer first observed a shortwave station on 7150 and 7190 and alerted the monitoring group to listen and send reports to their appropriate authorities. Through combined efforts, he identified the station as Radio Kuwait. Once the station was identified, Bihlmayer immediately informed the German Federal Net Agency (Bundesnetzagentur) to monitor the QRGs and to send an official complaint to KWT. Also he sent a fax and an e-mail to the Embassy of KWT in Berlin and e-mails to Radio Kuwait and to the Ministry of Telecoms in Kuwait.

Bihlmayer invited all participating IARU Intruder Watches to inform their telecom authorities and ask them to send observations to KWT. One very important asset is that the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System has a coordinator in the State of Kuwait, Faisal Al-Ajmi, 9K2RR. He contacted Radio Kuwait and informed them of the many amateurs asking them to cease transmissions inside our bands.

On April 19, Al-Ajmi sent word that he was very pleased to inform everyone that the General Manager of Engineering for Kuwait Radio had informed him that transmissions on both 7150 and 7190 had been suspended. Al-Ajmi went on to say that this is another battle won against intruders to the 40 meter amateur band. As usual, the Region 1 Monitoring System will keep monitoring the band for any other complaints.

Amateurs in all three IARU regions expressed their thanks and congratulations to the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System for their prompt and excellent work in helping to maintain the integrity of our bands worldwide. Bihlmayer credited the online reporting capabilities as a tremendous aid in their efforts. -- *Chuck Skolaut, KOBOG, ARRL Monitoring System/Intruder Watch Coordinator*

## FCC Proposes Additions, Changes to Amateur 5 MHz Allocation

Acting on a 2006 Petition for Rulemaking filed by the ARRL, the FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket No 10-98 to modify the rules that govern amateurs' secondary use of five channels in the 5 MHz frequency range known as 60 meters. The proposed changes would substitute a new channel for one that is seldom available because of occupancy by the fixed service, which is primary in this range. Also proposed is an increase in power from 50 to 100 Watts effective radiated power (ERP) and the addition of CW, PSK31 and PACTOR-III modes with provisions to ensure that such operations would be compatible with the primary service. The proposed changes can be found beginning on page 8 of the NPRM.

"The ARRL is pleased that the Commission has opened this proceeding to increase the usefulness of the limited 5 MHz Amateur Service allocation," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We are gratified that the Commission and the NTIA agree that the responsible manner in which amateurs have been using the five USB channels warrants some expansion of privileges so that the Amateur Service can be even better prepared for service to the public."

## 23rd Bangor Hamfest

Saturday, June

5th, 2010

Hermon High School, Hermon, Maine

Tailgaters at 6:30am

Gates swing open for all from 8am to 1pm

\$5 per person - Kids under 12 free

### Featuring:

- Ham Band - The FCC won't let these guys play on the air!
  - VE Exams - all classes - 9am
  - Exhibits & Demonstrations
  - Dealers, Food & Prizes
  - Talk-in on 146.94
  - Map & more info at [www.N1ME.org](http://www.N1ME.org)
- POC = Roger Dole, KA1TKS 207 848-3846 or [rdole@lhermin.net](mailto:rdole@lhermin.net) and of course, **STUFF FOR SALE- guaranteed surprises, hoarded treasures, lots-of-mileage-left equipment, some even new.**



## N1KAT continues as Maine SM

The following incumbent ARRL Section Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for their next terms of office beginning July 1: John Poindexter, W3ML, Indiana; **Bill Woodhead, N1KAT, Maine**; Paul Eakin, KJ4G, Northern Florida; Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, Oregon; Paul Gayet, AA1SU, Vermont, and Don Michalski, W9IXG, Wisconsin. There were no nominations received for the next term of office of Section Manager in the Santa Clara Valley Section.



# Many Thanks to my Ham Radio Friends

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE

I want to take this opportunity to thank all my many Ham Radio friends who have offered prayers, support and condolences during the past several weeks for my wife Jean and our family. It has been a difficult and very sad time in our lives but with all your support it has really helped us get through.



Jean was a kind and gentile person who was a wonderful mother and grandmother. She put up with me for close to fifty years. She tolerated my sometimes bad behavior and overlooked the mess in my ham shack for long periods of time before issuing her "get this place cleaned up" order.

On behalf of our family and especially from me, thank you 73s & 88s,

*Bruce*



## June VHF Contest

The weekend of June 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> is the annual ARRL VHF Contest. The contest is on the bands from 50 MHz and up. If you're new HF transceiver includes six-meters, why not give it a try. This contest may put you well on your way to achieving your VUCC award.

Although most of the contest QSOs is done in the SSB and CW modes, you may land a few QSOs in the FM mode too. The contest exchange is signal report and your four-digit grid square (i.e., FN44 etc.)

For the contest rules go to [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and search for June VHF contest rules.



## New 222 MHz repeater in Augusta

Dave Hawke, KQ1L has his first 1.25 Meter repeater on the air in the Augusta area. It is on 224.72 MHz with a PL of 103.5. Dave has it linked to the AA4PN 224.24 repeater in Exeter, Maine.

Dave and the MARA tech committee are in the planning stages of Dave installing another 222 MHz repeater on Oak Hill in Brunswick if we can find enough radio equipment to assemble it. Bruce, W1ZE and Bill, K1MNW have some vintage mid-1970s Midland 13-509 transceivers that could be donated to the project. Stay tuned.



**Were you licensed  
prior to 1985?**

**If you were, you are eligible to  
be a member of the  
Quarter Century  
Wireless Association.**



**If you would like more information  
about QCWA, go to:  
[www.qcwa.org](http://www.qcwa.org)  
or contact Maine Chapter President  
**Jerry Burns, K1GUP at:  
[k1gup@roadrunner.co](mailto:k1gup@roadrunner.co)****