



Squelch Tales



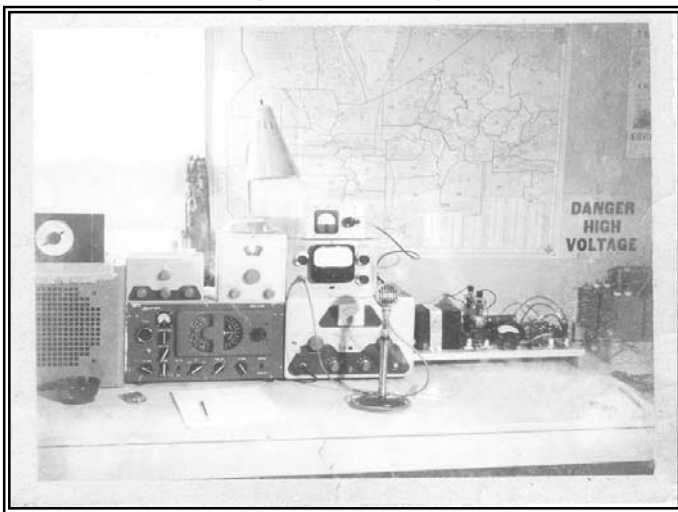
Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for March 2009



Nostalgia Ham Radio, Circa 1964

Bill Messier, K1MNW wrote:

I found this picture in my old collection.



The snapshot shows my 1964 AM HF station consisting of a Heathkit VFO setting on top of my Lafayette KT200 communications receiver, a kit that I built. Also on top of the receiver is a Heathkit Q-Multiplier, which added additional selectivity, as well as a tunable Notch. To the right is a Heathkit DX-40 transmitter, which I still have. On top of the DX-40 is a homebrew speech amplifier, clipper, and automatic level control. These then fed the home brew 100-watt Plate modulator which using a pair of WWII vintage 1625 tubes. This is the unit just to the right of the DX40, built on a piece of pine board. The round meter was the plate current meter. Further to the right was the home brew power supply for the modulator.

73, Bill "on the hill"

Editors note: Many of you that listen to Bill and Bruce on the 147.21 or 444.4 MHz repeaters doing the Nostalgia Radio Hour on their early days (50s & 60s) of Ham Radio, many have heard Bill talk about the equipment in the photo he built and operated.

Bill and Pete Russell (K1MJP) grew up in the same Brunswick neighborhood and both were members of the Brunswick High School ham radio club in the early 60s. Bruce, W1ZE was a member of the Bell Senior High School (Bell, California) Ham Radio Club during the same period and had a lot of the same experiences.

MARA VE Exam Correction

By Bryce Rumery, K1GAX

I made an error in the listing of the MARA sponsored Topsham Maine exams. The error is in the May 4, 2009 exam session. The error is in the time for the exam session. It should be 6:00 PM rather than 10:00 AM as originally listed. Sorry for the error. The listing should read:

4-May-2009

Town: Topsham

Sponsor: MARA

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

73, Bryce, K1GAX
MARA VE Liaison



Two-Meter Simplex Frequencies

The League's Repeater Directory includes a two-meter band plan and a list of standardized simplex frequencies on 15 kHz splinter channels. Section 97.101(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules refers to "good engineering and good amateur practice" referring to maintaining a high standards of engineering and on-air conduct.

FCC Special Counsel, Riley Hollingsworth, stated that good amateur practice means, among other things, we should respect established band plans. Therefore the following standardized 15-Khz splinter channels have been established to minimize interference to other two-meter band users.

In the interest of promoting good Amateur Practice, here are the frequencies:

146.400***

146.415

146.43

146.445

146.46

146.475

146.49

146.505

146.52 National Simplex Calling Frequency

146.535

146.55

146.565

146.58

147.42

147.435

147.45

147.465

147.48

147.495

147.51

147.525

147.54

147.555

147.57

*** The frequency 146.400 MHz is used in some areas as a repeater input.



News from Newington

W1AW to QSY on 160 Meters

Starting Monday, March 9, Maxam Memorial Station W1AW will be using a new 160-meter frequency for its CW transmissions. To accommodate increasing activity near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz, W1AW will move to 1802.5 kHz to reduce the possibility of interference.



WZ1J/R is back on the air

Growstown, Brunswick: During the late evening of February 18th the WZ1J two-meter (147.135 MHz) repeater went back on the air from it's home on the Woodside Road.

Steve Hanks, WZ1J advised that after a very long time of being off the air for extensive repairs as a result of a devastating lightning strike, *it is back on the air*. The transmitter repair parts arrived from Vertex-Standard in California just after Valentines Day. With the technical assistance from Bill Messier, K1MNW on Oak Hill, the repeater received a new switching power supply and a new modified power amplifier assembly. After tune-up, deviation and frequency adjustments the box was able to kick-out a healthy and clean 50-watts.

The following morning Bill, K1MNW, Donnie, WD1F and Bruce, W1ZE got on during the morning commute hour and found that it was performing as before. **Welcome back WZ1J/R**



Winterfest another success!

Chelsea, ME: By 8:30 Saturday morning on February 21st had the parking lot of the Crystal Falls Dance Hall filling quickly with cars and trucks covered with Ham antennas all over them. When entering the hall the place was filled with lots of folks milling around looking at the equipment and parts up for sale or trade with other folks just visiting

There was a lot of familiar MARA faces there, so many in fact that John (K1JJS); Jim (N1IPA); Harry (N1TTT) and Bruce (W1ZE) had an impromptu Tech Committee Meeting. Jim showed everyone a set of memory chips delivered to the event by Dave, KQ1L to soup-up the KS1R-2 packet node and Bruce provided an update on the repeater site tower extension with a recommendation of improving the reliability of the 444.4 repeater antenna if moved higher.

At 9:30 AM Bill, K1NIT advised Bruce, W1ZE and Phil Young, W1JTH that the turnout was good so far and the gate receipts at that time had made expenses.

Later that morning Rusty, KA1FKC of New Sharon, a KS1R repeater supporter and past member of the MARA was the recipient of the Grand Door Prize.

A big Kudo go to the Augusta club for another ham event well done.



A complete HF & Satellite DX Ham station up for sale

Norm Chase, K1YCS of Bristol, Maine is offering up his complete ham station for sale due to his inability to spend much airtime due to health issues. The following is a list of equipment. He would like to sell it as a package or multiple packages.

- 70-foot crank-up HyGain tower
- HyGain Tail-Twister Rotor
- HyGain 7-element tri-band beam
- 2 ea. 144 MHz Yagis
- 440 MHz Yagi beams
- Heathkit SB-200 Linear Amplifier

- FT-736R All-Mode Satellite Transceiver
- FT-990 HF Transceiver
- MFJ 989C Versa Tuner
- MFJ 941E Tuner
- Astron RS-50M (50 amp supply)
- Hallicrafters S-76 HF SW Receiver
- Heathkit Apache Transmitter
- All Manuals

For more information on this offering, contact Norm in Bristol at 207-563-5606



Andy Hamfest & Maine State ARRL

Convention

Mark you calendars for

March 27 & 28

As in years past it will be
held at the Ramada Inn in
Lewiston.

Friday evening (27th) will have seminars and talks on various subjects including an ARRL forum by League Officials, Free to all

Saturday morning (28th) the doors will open at 8:00 AM for the indoor fleamarket in the conference center.

Talks and seminars will continue in the 2nd floor conference rooms.

****VE exam session will be held with morning sign-up prior to the exam.**

Special Event room rates at the Ramada Inn for the two-day event with no maximum room occupancy

