



Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc. for May 2007



THE FOX WAS FOUND

Submitted by W1LWT

On March 24th two hams from the middle of Maine decided to go on a foxhunt (transmitter hunt). Yes they have done this type of activity several times over the past year, but their best record to date was 2nd place last October. This time Lee, W1LWT and Bob, KB5SUD were well prepared to find the FOX, a little quarter-watt transmitter housed in an ammo box.

Past fox hunts events took an hour or two to find the beacon, but this time the two were going to be the first to find it. With a late start, beams were stuck out the car window and rubber ducky waving in the air the decision of which way to go from the starting point in downtown Winslow was agreed upon. Moving at a rapid pace down the streets and roads chasing the beacon signal for about thirty minutes the signal strength led them to a parking lot behind a doctor's office building where the fox was located sitting in his truck laughing. For an hour after Lee and Bob's discovery, other foxhunters started arriving.

The first place duo will take the place of the fox at the next foxhunt event.

Fox hunting, also called T-Hunting, is a popular radio sport around the globe. This activity helps to develop very useful skills for hams. It can be used to find stations with open microphones or interfering signal sources (jammers) on amateur radio and public service repeater and net. To find out more about hidden transmitter hunting, check out the ARRL's Amateur Radio Handbook or Transmitter Hunting, Radio Direction Finding Simplified by Joseph Moell, K0OV and, Thomas Curlee, WB6UZZ from your Ham Radio publication supplier.



Maine 2007 ARRL State Convention & Andy Hamfest a success according to promoters

Ramada Inn, Lewiston: The convention got started Friday evening, March 30 with several seminars and talks. MARA's DR Steve Kerchel, AA4AK gave a very informative talk with supporting Power-Point Presentation on how the

MARA was successful in the 2-F classification. Other seminars on station grounding and the ARRL Forum were also available to attendees.

The following Saturday morning by 8 AM had the parking lot at the Inn full of cars, vans and trucks with a forest of whip antennas. There was a line through the lobby for people waiting to get their admission ticket to the flea-market going on inside the convention hall. Throughout them morning there were additional talks and seminars going on in the second floor conference rooms. Many MARA members were spotted looking at all the goodies that were being offered up for sale. Several were noted going out to their cars with treasures under their arms. MARA Trustee and President of the Maine Chapter QCWA Bruce Randall, W1ZE held that organizations quarterly meeting with several other MARA members in attendance. Starting at 10 AM the MARA sponsored ARRL VE team got started doing paperwork only license upgrades followed at noon with a full blown VE session with the following results, reported by VE Liaison, Bryce Rumery K1GAX:

Exam Session Report

Location: Lewiston, Maine

Date: 03-13-07

Time: 10:00 AM & Noon

VE Team: MARA

Candidates served: 36

Exams given: 39

Element 2 (Tech.): 16

Element 3 (Gen.): 20

Element 4 (Extra): 3

Passed

Element 2: 11

Element 3: 15

Element 4: 2

Total: 28

Failed

Element 2: 5

Element 3: 5

Element 4: 1

Total: 11

Percentage passed

Element 2: 69%

Element 3: 75%

Element 4: 67%

Total: 72%

Percentage failed

Element 2: 31%

Element 3: 25%

Element 4: 33%

Total: 28%

Licenses earned

Technician: 11

General: 15

Extra: 2

Total: 28

Attending VEs:

K1GAX (Liaison)

N1GRO

WA1RB

KB1MRZ

WIZE

NX1A

W1JLB

KC1W

Several of the successful folks taking tests were MARA members. Congratulations go out to John (KC6TVF), Steve

(KB1JTE) and Harry (KB1KJY) for passing their General class exam. John (K1JJS) passed his general license exam the previous week in Augusta. Enjoy your new HF privileges.

After the event was all done and wrapped-up, Bill Woodhead, N1KAT advised that it was a very successful event with in excess of 400 folks attending. Our hats go off to the ANDY club for another successful Maine State Convention.



SKYWARN TRAINING

**Monday, April 09,
2007 9:01 AM**

SKYWARN training will be held at the Augusta City Hall on Tuesday May 9 at 6:30 pm
Info at:

<http://www.weather.gov/gray>

73, Rod KA1RFD



New England QSO Party

Hope you've seen some new hams and a lot of upgrades to General and Extra in the last two months.

Please pass the word along to your club members about the New England QSO Party on May 5th and 6th. This is a great operating event with good activity where everyone wants to work New England stations.

The full rules (and a lot more) can be found on the New England QSO Party web site at <http://www.neqp.org/> and are included below.

Hope you'll pass the word and join us in the fun!

73,

Tom/K1KI for the NEQP team

New England QSO Party Rules

Object: *To contact as many New England stations in as many New England counties as possible on 80-40-20-15-10m. (New England stations work anyone)*

Date: *First full weekend of May (May 5-6, 2007 and May 3-4, 2008).*

Contest Period: *2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday (4pm EDT Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday) and 1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday (9am EDT Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday).*

Categories: *Single operator high power, low power and QRP categories, plus multi operator, single transmitter. Use the same four categories for mobiles. Single operator stations using assistance during the contest (packet or Internet spotting nets, etc.) will compete in the multi single category.*

Contest Exchange: *Send signal report and state/province (DX stations send signal report and "DX"). New England stations send signal report, county and state.*

Valid Contact: *Work New England stations once per band/mode. New England stations work anyone (and must copy the county for New England stations worked). CW contacts must not be made in the phone band segments. Mobiles can be worked again in new counties. County line QSOs should be logged as two separate QSOs. Crossmode,*

crossband and repeater QSOs are not permitted.

QSO Points: Count one point per phone QSO, two points per CW (includes digital modes)QSO.

Multiplier: Stations outside of New England use counties as multipliers for a total of 67 CT/8 MA/14 ME/16 NH/10 RI/5 VT/14). New England stations use states(50), Canadian provinces(14) and DXCC countries as multipliers.

Scoring: Total score is QSO points times the multiplier. Mobiles count QSO points per county and multipliers from all counties (counted once).

Suggested frequencies: CW - 3540 7035 14040 21040 28040, SSB - 3850 7280 14280 21380 28380

Reporting: Logs should indicate times in UTC, bands, modes, calls and complete exchange. Multipliers should be clearly marked in the log. New England stations put your club's name on the summary sheet. Entries must be submitted within 30 days and sent to NEQP, P O Box 3005, Framingham MA 01705-3005 or via e-mail to <mailto:logs@neqp.org>logs@neqp.org (Cabrillo format preferred). Send a large SASE for a printed copy of the results.

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to the top scorers (25 QSO minimum) in each New England county, U S state, Canadian province and DXCC country. There are thirty twenty plaques available to be awarded to top scorers, and some special awards are available to non-New England stations (check the web site for the current list).

More information: The New England QSO Party web site is at:

<http://www.neqp.org>.

Check there for information on planned fixed station and mobile activity from New England counties, contest software information, county abbreviations, plaques to be awarded, and information on New England state county awards. NEQP results will be posted on the web site when they are complete. Questions can be addressed to <mailto:info@neqp.org>info@neqp.org.

New England stations: We hope you will be able to get on for at least a short period of time to make some QSOs! Join in the fun!

**New England QSO Party
May 5-6, 2007**

<http://www.neqp.org>

Editors Notes

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE

First I would like to apologize for the for the short and late newsletter this month. As many of you know, on April 6th my mother in California passed away suddenly and I had to quickly fly out to Huntington Beach to take care of her affairs and make funeral arrangements.

My dear mother was a wonderful person but a product of the 1930s great depression. That in turn caused her to never discarded anything because you never know when you may need it again. In that process she had tons of stuff and collected more. Cleaning out her condo was a very big job and I had to higher labor to help me get it done. Three weeks later we had it all

cleaned out and a lot of estate stuff started. One of our old friends from High school wants to buy her condo as an investment so that has taken a big load off my mind. I did not know what to do with a property 3600 miles away.

I made it back home on May first for some well needed down time.

I do want to thank all of you that expressed you sympathy to me and my family during this sad time. **73, Bruce**

**DEERFIELD
FLEAMARKET
THIS
WEEKEND.
MAY 4th & 5th.
Hope to see
you there!**



**Encourage
someone to
become a
Ham and
invite
them to an
MARA event
or meeting**