



# Squelch Tales



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for October 2012

## ***D-Star coming to KS1R***

### ***KS1R D-Star repeater coming to mid-coast Maine***

On September 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:46 a.m. Donnie Dauphin, WD1F emailed the following:

*Hello,*

*We have been approved for the new D-Star repeater. At this time no arrangements have been made to have it shipped here. It's currently in Alaska. So It looks very promising but I will tone down my excitement a bit until I know it has shipped.*

*Just wanted to keep all in the loop.  
Donnie WD1F*

On September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:49 a.m. Donnie sent out the follow on email message:

*Hello all,*

*Its looking more and more certain Brunswick's Oak Hill will have a D-Star repeater soon. This repeater should have excellent coverage, as it will be on the hill, 150' up, fed with 1 5/8 hard line. It will be an ICOM system and on 447.575. I suspect it will be another 30 days or so before we receive the equipment and get it working. I'm trying to build some excitement, as those of us who have D-Star equipment in Maine know, there is not much activity in Maine yet on D-Star. Stay tuned for more.. Donnie WD1F*

Over the past several issues of this newsletter Donnie Dauphin, WD1F has been reporting on the small but enthusiastic interest in the digital system called D-Star on mid coast and southern Maine. Donnie with the collaboration and assistance of Bill Messier, K1MNW they started in on digital communications

a few years ago with the experimental digital/analog KS1R repeater on 447.575. Over the past few years the thought of a full functioning "D-Star" type repeater with Internet access seemed technically doable but a real D-Star repeater with all it's capabilities and features is where Donnie, Bill and a few others really wanted to go.

Several weeks ago Donnie contacted HRO in New Hampshire to see what they could do and maybe supply a repeater at a better than list price. After several weeks of sitting by the phone awaiting a callback, nothing was heard. Donnie took it upon himself to call the D-Star manager at ICOM to see what he could do there. At first ICOM said, "Can't help you." But Donnie explained to him what we here on the Maine coast were trying to do was increase enthusiasm for D-Star and it would enhance our Associations ability to support our AREC, CERT and community activities. In addition, Donnie advised ICOM that we have a technical committee that has considerable technical experiences with amateur radio and commercial repeater systems (K1MNW) and described where the site was, how high the antenna would be and the anticipated coverage.

This additional information must have peaked ICOM's interest, because they quickly changed their tune. They said,

“Well, maybe we can do something for you. We sent a 440 MHz D-Star repeater package to a group in Alaska but they never got it unpacked up and running. **We will have that repeater system shipped to you** if you are sure you can get it up and running quickly.” Donnie advised ICOM, “we can do!”

Donnie provided the following information, “*I will be paying \$3,000 for the ICOM repeater system but refundable after the following is true:*”

- *Install in permanent location identified at the time of purchase.*
- *Fully operational on the US ROOT trust server with Icom G2 Gateway Software and within the requirements outlined by the US ROOT Administration team.*
- *Minimum of 10 users registered on the "Gateway"*
- *Guarantee system on air for minimum of 1 year from date of installation keeping ICOM apprised of the progress.”*

Donnie will provide a progress report at the next MARA meeting.

**At-a-boy Donnie!**



## PSK Contesters!

The European PSK Club has the honor to invite the radio amateurs all over the world to participate in the **CIS DX QPSK63 Contest 2012**. The contest starts at **12:00 UTC October 15th** and ends at **12:00 UTC October 16th**.

The objective of the contest is to establish as many contacts as possible between radio amateurs around the world and radio amateurs in Europe by using the

**QPSK63** mode. Everybody can work everybody for QSO and multiplier credit.

We recommend the following frequencies - 160 meters (1.838 - 1.840 MHz), 80 meters (3.580 - 3.590 MHz), 40 meters (7.040 - 7.050 MHz), 20 meters (14.070 - 14.080 MHz), 15 meters (21.070 - 21.080 MHz), and 10 meters (28.070 - 28.080 MHz). All entrants must clearly indicate the output power (watts) in the Cabrillo log. If no power is mentioned in the log the participant's score will be moved to High Power category automatically.

**All stations** should send **signal report plus and his/her four-digit DXDA number**. An example of an exchange for W6EPC from the State of California is 599 2053. Maritime and aircraft mobile stations should send an RSQ report and four zeros, such as 599 0000. You can find your correct DXDA number at the corresponding list:

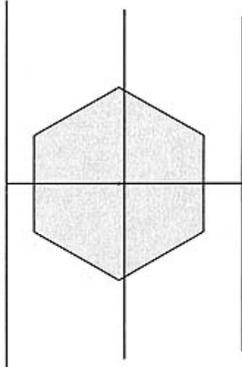
<http://www.eupsk.com/documents/dxda-list.xls>  
Read full contest rules by (ENG & RUS)  
[http://www.epc-ru.ru/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1371&Itemid=282](http://www.epc-ru.ru/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1371&Itemid=282)  
and <http://ut7fp.kiev.ua/cis-dx-qpsk63-contest.htm>

Please send your Cabrillo log **upload via the Web interface:** <http://ua9qcq.com> within 15 days after the contest. Mode **QPSK63** should be designated in the report as **QM** and in any way differently! DLL for MixW: <http://www.digitalrus.ru>  
Good luck to all the participants. 73!  
CIS DX QPSK63 Contest Committee  
Contest Log Checker Software  
[www.contestlogchecker.com](http://www.contestlogchecker.com)  
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# Hex Beams survive Hurricane Isaac

Reported by W3ZD & W1ZE



3L 20M Yagi-Uda / 20M Hex-Beam (HXL-20)

On September 17<sup>th</sup> Al Corderman, W3ZD with XYL Pat and Bruce Randall, W1ZE YL Donna met for dinner at the Pilot House Restaurant at the Sebasco Resort before Al's wife Pat headed back to New Orleans for the winter. Over dinner conversation Bruce asked Al how their condo on Napoleon Avenue made out during hurricane Isaac a few weeks earlier. Al and Pat said there was a little water (rain) intrusion but for the most part no real damage. Bruce then asked Al how his roof mounted HF dipole and 2-meter vertical made out, Al said no noted damage.

Al added that he checked with several hams in the local New Orleans DX club to see how their stations and antenna systems made out. He said the hams with conventional Yagis like the SteppIR, Force-12, Cushcraft, Mosley and others along with some towers received extensive damage with the 120-MPH wind gusts but he added, "all the folks running Hex Beams made it through the hurricane without damage."

As the lead-in graphic shows the Hex Beam is physically smaller and its hexagon shape greatly reduces wind loading. Plus the fiberglass spokes are held together with the interlaced antenna wire elements.

Those of us who live here on or near the Maine coast know about high winds and heavy weather. For that reason the Hex Beam may deserve a second look when planning a beam antenna for your QTH.



# K1MNW soon to be Aeronautical Mobile

As all of you may know, Bill "on the hill" Messier, K1MNW is a pilot, has an airplane and spends his free time at the airport or up in his Piper Arrow III enjoying the experience.



He has been planning to go aeronautical-mobile ever since he got back in the area last year. What was keeping it from happening was a way to connect his ham transceiver(s) to the on-board audio/key-line distribution system. A few months ago Bill did a swap-n-trade with another area pilot and got an aircraft audio mixing panel that would facilitate additional radio inputs.



Stay tuned to the 2-meter 146.52 & 70cM 446.0 FM bands and take a listen for K1MNW/Aeronautical-Mobile

