



SQUELCH TALES



**NEWSLETTER FROM THE MERRYMEETING AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION FOR JANUARY 2019**

**Happy
New Year!**



**KQ1L is now Maine
Director**

Kudos to Dave Hawke, KQ1L of Augusta for being elected to the New England Spectrum Management Council's (NESMC) as Maine Director. The Council is responsible for coordinating repeaters and nodes in most of the New England States.

Dave will be assisted by new assistant Director Randy Lewis, K1XI of Windsor.

If you have repeater questions and possibly issues Dave is now your go-to guy.

**KC1HOH is the MARA's
2018 HAM OF THE YEAR**

At the MARA's Year End dinner held at the Bath Brewing Company it was announced that one of the Associations newest members, Robert Buckmore, KC1HOH received the 2018 Ham of the Year award.

Since joining the MARA a year ago Robert has been an energetic member who participates in almost all the club functions; willing to do whatever is asked and a frequent volunteer. His efforts in assisting the Technical Committee is getting the "Wires-X" function running on the

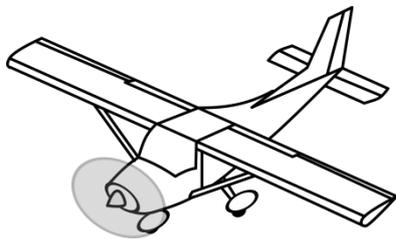


Associations KS1R/R UHF Fusion repeater was a big effort on his part and was met with success. AT-A-BOY Robert.



What Will Hams Think of Next?

Maybe an Aeronautical 160 Meter Yagi?



By Bill Frantz, Los Gatos, CA

TRAILING YAGI: Perhaps the most outrageous mobile antenna to date was a full-size 2-element Yagi, temporarily installed on this same [single engine] airplane for a 160-meter contest after the Atlantic trip.

It consisted of wooden dowel wingtip extensions to get 40+ feet, tip to tip. From the left tip, an end-fed, full-size 160M wire element was flown; from the right tip, a parasitic director of 5% smaller length was flown, centered on the driven element. End feed coupler was 12T. on an FT-240-61 core, resonated with a 6KV vacuum capacitor, plus antenna, on the HV end. Drags were upper third of 2-liter plastic beverage containers, 3 per element. Break-cords were run from element ends to the hard points where struts attached to the wings.

Of course, 160 is a night time band, so had to take off and land this 190-foot long contraption well after dark. This was

done using the then unlighted secondary runway at Hollister, CA so not to disrupt other possible operations. Had to land "hot" and well down the runway, so elements would not droop before they were over the runway. Was able to run only 50 watts due to wind-driven alternator limitations, but results were amazing. Worked east coast stations, all calling CQ, unaware of each other. The band sounded like 40M! A full-size 160M Yagi 6,500 feet up didn't hurt a thing. Turns were made slowly and very carefully! A recording was made.

This was all CW, flying with stick in left hand, and J-45 leg clip key on right leg.



73, Bill AE6JV

Note: Thanks Larry, W1DYJ for passing this story along.



WSJT-X 2.0.0 NOW AVAILABLE

The WSJT Development Group is pleased to announce the general availability (GA) release

If you have been using version 1.9.1 or earlier, or one of the candidate releases v2.0.0-rc#, it's important to upgrade now. The original protocols for FT8 and MSK144 are no longer supported. With v1.9.1 and earlier you cannot communicate with WSJT-X 2.0 using these modes.

We now recommend using WSJT-X 2.0 anywhere in the conventional FT8 and MSK144 sub-bands. Everyone should upgrade to v2.0 by no later than January 1, 2019.

NEW FEATURES IN WSJT-X 2.0-----

1. Compound and nonstandard callsigns are Automatically recognized and handled using new FT8 and MSK144 message formats.
2. The new FT8 protocol provides optimized message formats for North American VHF contests, European VHF contests, ARRL Field Day, and ARRL RTTY Roundup. Similarly, the new MSK144 protocol provides optimized message formats for North American VHF and European VHF contests. Full support is provided for "/R" and "/P" calls in the relevant contests.
3. The new protocols provide nearly equal (or better) sensitivity compared to the old ones, and lower false decode rates.
4. New logging features are provided for contesting and for "Fox"(DXpedition) mode. Logging is optionally integrated with N1MM Logger+ and WriteLog.
5. Color highlighting of decoded messages provides worked-before status for callsigns, grid locators, DXCC entities, continents, CQ Zones, and ITU zones on a "by band" and "by mode" basis, and for stations that have uploaded their logs to Logbook of the World (LoTW) within a specified time interval.
6. The WSPR decoder now achieves decodes down to S/N = -31 dB. For the particular benefit of LF/MF users, an option "No own call decodes" has been added.
7. The UDP messages sent to companion programs have been expanded and improved.

A more detailed list of program changes can be found in the cumulative Release Notes:

http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Release_Notes.txt

Upgrading from earlier versions of WSJT-X should be seamless. There is no need to uninstall a previous version or move any files.

Please do not continue to use any release candidate -- that is, any beta release with "-rc#" in the version name.

Links to installation packages for Windows, Linux, and Macintosh are available here:

<http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html>

You can also download the packages from our SourceForge site:

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt/files/>

It may take a short time for the SourceForge site to be updated.

We hope you will enjoy using WSJT-X Version 2.0.0.

-- 73, Joe, K1JT, for the WSJT Development Group



Mid Coast Ham has eyeball with downeast hams

By Marjory Turner, KX1I



On November 30, I enjoyed morning coffee with new HAM radio friend's at MacD's in Calais, Maine.

Pat/VE9PHB is from St. Stephen, NB. Her husband is not a HAM, so he took the photo.

Pat and her husband have sailed out of Florida for many winters. One year he suggested that they get their HAM radio license, and then said "you do it". So she did. In the past she has checked into the Mississauga Maritime Net regularly. Pat claims that her Canadian HF license has wider band privileges than the USA.

WA1GEO is presently the president of the St Croix Valley Amateur Radio Club (W1SCV) which welcomes members from both sides of the border.

Ken/WA1DXO is active with the Charlotte Fire Company and Emergency Response. He is a retired engineer and keeps the radios operating. I knew his wife Ann/KB1RQH when she used to live in Brunswick.

73, Marjorie/KX1I



Jordan's First CubeSat, JY1Sat, is Designated as JO-97



JY1Sat, launched on December 3 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California as part of the SpaceX SSO-A: SmallSat Express launch, has been designated as Jordan OSCAR 97 (JO-97). The 1U CubeSat is a project of the Crown Prince Foundation of Jordan. Telemetry has been received and decoded around the world since the launch.



The spacecraft's name recalls the Amateur Radio call sign of Jordan's late King Hussein, JY1. JO-97 carries a 435/145 MHz SSB/CW inverting Amateur Radio transponder and a Slow-Scan Digital Video (SSDV) system to transmit stored images.

The telemetry downlink is on 145.840 MHz, the transponder downlink passband is 145.855-145.875 MHz, with an inverting uplink on 435.100-435.120 MHz.



New Amateur Radio Packet Gear Awaits Unpacking, Installation on Space Station



New Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) packet equipment awaits unpacking and installation on board the station after arriving in November as part of the cargo transported via a Russian 71P *Progress* resupply vehicle. The new packet module for NA1SS will replace the current packet gear, which has been intermittent over the past year.

"With the arrival of *Progress* complete, the crew has to find free time to unpack *Progress*, uninstall the intermittent module, and then set up and test the replacement packet module," explained Dan Barstow, KA1ARD, senior education manager of the ISS National Laboratory ([CASIS](#)), an ARISS sponsor.



The ISS packet system was reported to have gone down in July 2017, although it unexpectedly came back to life the following summer. At the time of the failure, NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said the revived system would fill the gap

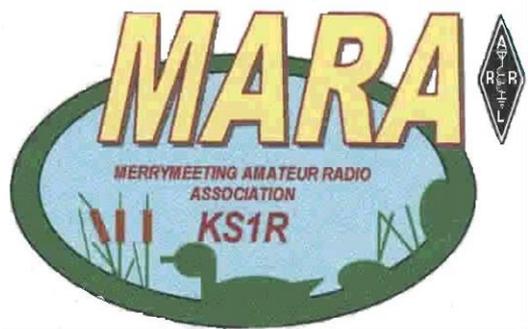
until the replacement packet module arrived. The packet system operates on 145.825 MHz. ARISS hardware team members on the ground were able to locate a functional duplicate of the ISS packet module that has been in use on the ISS for 17 years. ARISS said the subsequent installation will depend on the crew's busy schedule.

In an email to ARISS and other groups CASIS supports, Barstow pointed out that ARISS is an official backup system for astronauts to talk with Mission Control in the unlikely failure of the station's primary communication systems.

Bartow said that in 2017, hams relayed nearly 89,000 packet messages via the ISS -- an average of 243 every day. The statistic so intrigued and amazed Barstow that he decided to get his Amateur Radio license and gear to join in the activity.

Satellite stalwart and ARISS supporter Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, won the December 2018 QST Cover Plaque Award for his article, "Making Digital Contacts through the ISS."

Current International Space Station (ISS) crew members Serena Auñón-Chancellor, KG5TMT, Alexander Gerst, KF5ONO, and cosmonaut Sergey Prokopyev were scheduled to return to Earth on December 20.



**We hope all of you have
a very Happy and
Healthy New Year full of
enjoyable Ham Radio
activities and Great DX**

