



# SQUELCH TALES



Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association Newsletter for February 2019



## **Amateur Radio Applications Piling Up as Partial Government Shutdown Continues**

Volunteer Examiner Coordinators across the US are continuing to receive paperwork from Amateur Radio exam sessions held during the partial government shutdown. While it's still possible to access the Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) and file applications, the FCC is not processing individual, club, and exam session -- new and upgrade -- Amateur Radio applications. The FCC closed most operations on January 3, when available funding ran out. According to the FCC public notice, aside from a few emergency and auction-filing systems, all other Commission electronic filing systems will be unavailable to the public until normal agency operations resume.



ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

"Nothing's moving until the FCC reopens," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "ARRL VEC continues to enter exam session, individual, and club license data into the system while we wait for the FCC to reopen and normal agency operations to resume. We have approximately 1,600 applications and 125 exam sessions waiting in the queue to be processed. Everything's in there, ready to go."

Somma stressed that, although license upgrade applications are still on hold, current FCC Amateur Radio licensees who have successfully upgraded and hold a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) may operate

temporarily using the privileges of their new license class, until their new licenses are granted.

Even though it's not possible for the FCC to grant a new license, a license upgrade, a change of address or other modification, or a vanity call sign application, the Commission Registration System ([CORES](#)) remains functional to allow critical radio services to obtain FCC Registration Numbers (FRNs) and file applications during the shutdown. Registering a user

name and logging into CORES is required to apply for and receive an FRN, which is a unique 10-digit identifier



necessary to conduct business with the FCC and to manage existing FRNs. The FCC said that starting in March, users who already have an FRN from the legacy Commission Registration System will need to create a user name to continue managing their FRNs.

If an Amateur Radio license recently has expired or is about to expire, the licensee can apply for license renewal via the ULS and continue to operate while the FCC is closed. The filed application will remain in limbo until the FCC is back to work. Licensees who wait until the FCC reopens to apply then will have 2 days to submit a renewal application before the license is considered to have expired in the FCC database.

The FCC has said it would not automatically extend deadlines in cases where the license has expired and the 2-year grace period has expired, but said it would "consider whether it is appropriate to do so once normal operations resume."



## Editors Report

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE

Welcome to mid winter in the Great State of Maine. I hope you are all staying warm. I want to start this issue of the newsletter by letting you know that this will be a two month, February/March issue due to the fact that the XYL and yours truly will be out of the state most of the month of February on a cruise through the Caribbean to the Panama Canal and back, island hopping along the way. There is a small chance that I may be operating W1ZE/MM/qrp along the way but as of this writing not firmed up yet with the ships captain.

As you may note the newsletter has a different look because I am writing it in Open Office in lieu of MS Office Word. My trusty old computer had a major FUBAR a few weeks ago and I had to restore it. In that process the original factory installed MS Office-7 program went the way of the Dodo bird and I have not got around to plunking down big US dollars for a one year subscription of MS Office 365. Maybe later. So I'm sure you will all understand.

73, Bruce, W1ZE



### Maine's Shortwave Broadcast Station

Info provided by Steve Hanks WZ1J

WBCQ is an international shortwave broadcast station located in Monticello, Maine, USA. We broadcast on 7.490 MHz, 9.330 MHz, 5.130 MHz, and 3.265 MHz. We've been bringing access to the airwaves for people like you since 1998.

The station manager says, "we have time available on all of our broadcast services open

for your programming at the best rates in the industry. [Contact us](#) for more information.



Angela Weiner at wbcq 2018



WBCQ superstation antenna



Owner and main DJ Allan and Angela Weiner

# BREAKING NEWS

## AUGUSTA WINTERFEST

**February 16<sup>th</sup> ,  
8am until noon**

**At the Calumet Club,  
334 West River Road, Augusta.**

From I-95 Take Hospital exit (Belfast, Route 3). Then a right turn on to W. River Rd.

Talk in on the 146.88 KQ1L repeater

Door fee only \$2 (Unbelievable!)

- Free seller table.
- Food vendor.
- Prizes.
- VE exams 11 am. (Bring your ID, License proof for upgrade and \$15).
- K1GDI Auction of ham related items to benefit Good Shepherd Food Bank. Good PR for ham radio.
- Left Foot CW qualification test

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

