



# SQUELCH TALES



**Newsletter from the Merry Meeting Amateur Radio Association  
for January 2023**

## **N1TTT receives MARA's Ham of the Year Honors**

At the MARA's Year End luncheon held at the Sea Dog restaurant in Topsham, Outgoing Association President Harry McNelley, N1TTT received the 2022 MARA's Ham of the Year honors. Harry has been going the extra mile for our association and Mid Coast ARES for more than just 2022 but for the past half dozen years. The KS1R Trustee was happy to recommend Harry for the award and the Exec. Board was in total agreement. Well done Mr. President.

Turnout for the lunch was light due to many regular folks having the cold and flu virus so they did not want to spread it to their fellow hams.



**Marjorie, KX1I presents HOA award to Harry, N1TTT**



However, those that attended said they had a good time, good food and pleasant conversation with their fellow hams.



## **New General Class Question Pool Released for Ham Radio Licensing Effective July 1, 2023**

*SB QST ARL ARLB023*

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2023 - 2027 General Class FCC Element 3 Syllabus and

Question Pool to the public. The new General Question Pool is effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2019 - 2023 version. Its 432 questions were modified slightly to improve wording and to replace distractors; 51 new questions were generated, and 73 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 22 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool down from 454. The level of difficulty of questions is more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF online at, <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=369>. The single graphic required for the new General Question Pool is available within the documents, or separately as PDF and JPG file formats.

"The newly revised pool must be used for General-class license exams starting July 1, 2023," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who is a member of the NCVEC Question Pool Committee. "New test designs will be available to ARRL Volunteer Examiners on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new General exam booklet designs around mid-June."

General class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 9th edition of The General Class License Manual, and/or the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of ARRL's General Q & A are encouraged to test by, or before, June 30, 2023. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May, for exams taken on, or after, July 1, 2023.



## Hamfests just around the corner!

It is official, the Boat Anchor Hamfest will be held at the Calumet Club in Augusta on Saturday, Feb 11.

Another date to put on your calendar is March 24-25. That is when the Androscoggin ARC runs its Hamfest and ARRL Maine State Convention at the Remada Inn in Lewiston.



One of the MARA's founding member, George Szadis, K1GDI always had a fascination for electricity. Ham radio was an obvious progression.



This is George at age six doing his original experiment on the theory of current flow.



## Rep. Bill Johnson Introduces Bill to Eliminate Private Land Use Restrictions on Amateur Radio

Congressman Bill Johnson (OH-6) introduced a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R.9670) on Thursday, December 22, 2022, to eliminate private land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator from operating and installing amateur station antennas on property subject to the control of the Amateur Radio Operator.

The exponential growth of communities subject to private land use restrictions that prohibit both the operation of amateur radio and the installation of amateur station antennas has significantly restricted the growth of the Amateur Radio Service. These restrictions are pervasive in private common interest residential communities such as single-family subdivisions, condominiums, cooperatives, gated communities, master-planned communities, planned unit developments, and communities governed by community associations. The restrictions have particularly impacted the ability of Amateur Radio to fulfill its statutory

mandated duty of serving as a voluntary noncommercial emergency communications service.

Congress in 1996 directed the FCC to promulgate regulations (Public Law 104-104, title II, section 207, 110 Stat. 114; 47 U.S.C. 303 note) that have preempted all private land use restrictions applicable to exterior communications facilities that impair the ability of citizens to receive television broadcast signals, direct broadcast satellite services, or multichannel multipoint distribution services, or to transmit and receive wireless internet services. ARRL attempts to obtain similar relief for Amateur Radio were rejected by the FCC with a statement such relief would have to come from Congress.

ARRL Legislative Advocacy Committee Chairman John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, noted that Congress, in 1994 by Joint Resolution, S.J.Res.90/H.J.Res.199, declared that regulations at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage the effective operation of Amateur Radio from residences as a public benefit. He continued by stating that "H.R.9670, the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act, is intended to fulfill that mandate and preserve the ability of Amateur Radio Operators to continue to serve as a key component of American critical communications infrastructure."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Mr. Stratton both extended on behalf of the ARRL, its Members, and the Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Rep. Johnson in his tireless efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

The full text of the bill in PDF format is available online at, <https://www.arri.org/files/file/HR9670/HR9670-Amateur-Radio-Emergency-Preparedness-Act.pdf>



## W1AW 2023 Winter Operating Schedule

### Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

### Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 2045 UTC - (10 AM to 3:45 PM EST)

### Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

### Frequencies (MHz)

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CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975  
21.0675 28.0675 50.350 147.555  
DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025  
21.095 28.095 50.350 147.555  
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160  
21.390 28.590 50.350 147.555

### Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM  
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM  
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is



given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices, CW/digital bulletins and phone bulletin is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to [w1aw@arrl.org](mailto:w1aw@arrl.org) .

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1500 UTC to 2045 UTC (10 AM to 3:45 PM EST). Be sure to bring a reference copy of your current FCC amateur radio license.

The weekly W1AW and monthly West Coast Qualifying Runs are sent on the normal CW frequencies used for both code practice and bulletin transmissions. West Coast Qualifying Run stations may also use 3590 kHz.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 96 in the January 2023 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule> .

**The MARA Executive Board, its officers & KS1R Trustee want to wish all Squelch Tales readers a very**





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