



SQUELCH TALES



**Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association
for February 2023**



BOAT ANCHOR WINTER FEST



Are you suffering from cabin fever and want to get out away from the wood stove? Then mark Saturday February 11th in your daily planner then head to the Capitol City of Augusta and the Boat Anchor Hamfest at the Calumet Club located at 334 W River Road Augusta. Doors open at 8:00AM.

For more information about this event contact George Szadis, K1GDI at: grszadis@aol.com



The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement, and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which amateur radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kind assistance, cooperation, and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Radio Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

This was written over 90 years ago and should be applicable to every operator today. If we're operating on the air or working to mentor a new operator, are we living up to this ideal and passing it along to others?



Dick Knight, N1NYW is now a Silent Key

Reported by Lee Trask, W1LWT

January 16th was a sad day for the ANDY CLUB. I received an Email that N1NYW- Dick Knight, Secretary and Web page Manager for our Club has passed on Jan. 12, 2023. He will be greatly missed.

I've known Dick for over 22 years. While working for a communication company that was expanding and building out in Maine, Dick was working for a firm in Casco, Me. The firm was involved with doing a project with Closed Camera monitoring along our southern Borders. We had to sky lift a unit from their warehouse to downtown Portland at One City Center. Since I was the engineer of my company's project, we needed a central sub location point of equipment drop off. Also, we needed an air lift by helicopter of the equipment. I spent a week in his shop area and we got to know each other at first there. We became friends and when he found out I was a Ham he told me about the ANDY CLUB and I joined a year later, after my move of my family to Maine do to job requirements. He was the best out spoken friend you can have and he was very knowledgeable on many projects as we talked for hours. It seems for we got lost in times. I'm sad to hear of his passing as just 2 weeks ago he was at our club meeting in Jan 4, 2023. He was excited to be a part of the potential new aspects of a new web page design. He was a dedicated club member with attending club meetings,

breakfasts and events. May we pay respects to the family and others who knew him and keep his memory alive. I feel we should dedicate this years HAM CONVENTION in Maine in remembrance of him.

LeeTrask,W1LWT, w1lwt@yahoo.com

*I'm good on QRZ.com .Check it out. :)



Marks Good Deals



I have some items for **free** and or reasonable pricing .

<cont.>

Hallicrafters HT37 SSB/AM Transmitter, SX111 Rcvr take it its yours **FREE**



Johnson Thunderbolt AMP 220 Newly Rebuilt
\$1000 or best offer



Hallicrafters SX24 Rcvr
FREE



Hallicrafters S20R Receiver

FREE



Plus assorted Ham stuff Take it it's yours

FREE

All these items are at my QTH in Sebasco Estates, Phippsburg, ME. Just past the Sebasco Harbor Resort & Post Office .

If you are interested in any of these items they must be seen and picked up at my QTH. All the items to big to ship.

If interested I can be contacted via email at :

k1sre@earthlink.net

MARK REINE, K1SRE
17 Ridge Rd
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On another sad note

Long time ham and a fixture in Brunswick, William "Bill" Messier, K1MNW became a Silent Key on January 3rd at his Oak Hill Brunswick home.

Bill got the radio and electronics fever at a very young age and in 1959 he got his first ham ticket with the call of KN1MNW and a year later K1MNW.

Bill's love of all things electrical and electronic landed him at the BIW shipyard as an electrical apprentice. Bill was a fast learner and in no time at all became one of the shipyards top electronic technicians and skilled on radar systems. His talent with

complicated radars systems did not go unnoticed and ITT Gillfillen in Van Nyes, California offered him a position with their company. Bill being a true home grown Mainer did not want to uproot from the community he grew up in and turned down the generous offer.

Shortly there after, Bill had his eye set on a big mound of dirt in the south end of Brunswick called Oak Hill. Bill thought that it would be a great radio location but the hillside was very steep and hiking to the top took some effort. Bill purchased it on the cheap. Shortly thereafter AT&T asked Bill if they could put a telephone microwave tower on his property and offered to build a paved road up to the top for him. Bill then decided to put up his own tower and start a 2-way radio business and bid a BIW fond farewell.



For many years Bill provided the MARA a spot to put up their repeaters. He was also a good Elmer passing along radio knowledge and advice to fellow hams.

Yes, Bill was a colorful fellow and marched to the beat of his own drum but his radio talent will be missed on mid coast Maine.

Rest in peace Bill & 73



Amateur Satellite **FalconSAT-3 Nears Reentry**

Reported in ARRL Letter for January 19,

Many amateur radio operators and satellite watchers have been predicting the date and time of reentry for [FalconSAT-3 \(FS-3\)](#). While all reentry predictions are something of a guessing game due to the large number of variables affecting the upper atmosphere, it is certain that the end for FS-3 will be

coming very soon, possibly the week of January 16 - 21, 2023.

Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation ([AMSAT](#)) Board Member and FS-3 control operator, Mark Hammond, N8MH, said he will try to have the satellite operational for its final hours. The satellite has only been available for approximately 24 hours each weekend due to weak batteries.

alconSAT-3 was built in 2005 and 2006 by cadets and faculty in the Space Systems Research Center at the US Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is the fourth in a series of small satellites designed, built, and operated there as part of a capstone course, which brings together about 30 cadets each year from several different academic departments.

Nearly 700 cadets at the USAFA obtained their amateur radio licenses as part of training to operate FalconSAT-3 and other USAFA satellites. They have taken that knowledge, understanding, and value of amateur radio into their Air Force service and industry. Since FalconSAT-3, the USAFA Astronautics Department has built and operated one additional satellite and has two more queued for launch. The space operations curriculum and the ground station are being rebuilt and configured for these new space assets.

Since its launch on an Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral in March 2007, the satellite has been through three mission phases. The first phase was operation of the science payloads. The second phase was used as a tool for training cadets in the space operations squadron, students in undergraduate space training in California, and graduate students at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

The satellite's third phase was an on-orbit resource for amateur radio and amateur-satellite services operation managed by AMSAT.

For amateur radio service the downlink is at 435.103 MHz transmitting 1 W into a quarter-wave whip antenna. The uplink is at 145.840 MHz and the receiving antenna is a quarter-wave whip antenna on the opposite side of the satellite. All UHF and S-band

equipment on National Telecommunications and Information Administration licensed frequencies has been disabled. The VHF receiver is very sensitive. Modulation is 9600 bps GMSK for the uplink and downlink. The broadcast call sign is PFS3-11, and the BBS callsign is PFS3-12, Unproto APRS via PFS3-1.

The core avionics were designed and built by Mark Kanawati, N4TPY, and Dino Lorenzini, KC4YMG at [SpaceQuest](#), and have performed remarkably well for nearly 16 years in orbit. Jim White, WD0E, was the lead engineer for FalconSAT-3 at the USAFA and managed the design, construction, testing, and early operations of the satellite.

The success of FalconSAT-3 is an excellent example of how amateur radio can be integrated into the curriculum of an education institution for the benefit of the students and the amateur radio service.

-- Thanks to Sasha Timokhov, VE3SVF; Jean Marc Momphe, 3B8DU; Mark Hammond, N8MH; AMSAT Operations, and AMSAT News for the information contained in this story.





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