



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for March 2023



Boat Anchor-Winterfest

a success

A Report by W1ZE



The morning Saturday February 11th at 8:00 the parking lot at the Calumet Club in Augusta was almost full of cars with antennas sticking out of them. It appears that there were a lot of hams that were there to cure their cabin fever.



George Szadis, K1GDI & Bill Crawley, K1NIT the movers and shakers of the hamfest.

Upon entering the hall the room was already full of friendly smiling faces with the majority of display tables were full of ham radio related treasures.

It was good to see so many of our Ham friends there. The MARA was well represented with attendees.



MARA members Joyce WA1YZV & Dick W1RKK looking like they are having fun.

Event coordinator George Szadis, K1GED stated later that day that attendance was up with in excess of 180 folks in attending.

We should all give a big THANK YOU to the Augusta club for making this fun mid winter event happen. **Well done friends!**



WD1F & XYL HAD SEVER CABIN FEVER.

Reported by W1ZE

In early February Donnie Dauphin, WD1F advised me in an early morning QSO on the KS1R/R repeater that winter was starting to be a drag for he and his XYL Louise, KB1IEF and were thinking of taking a mid winter camper run south to warm up a bit and just get out and have some fun.

On Friday February 17th they did just that. They loaded up their van-camper and headed south on I-95. In the direction of W4 land. Before heading out Donnie said he would like to see if he could contact me on HF during their travels. I said I would love to give it a try.

On Sunday morning, February 19th while sitting in the shack surfing the internet a got a telephone call and it was Donny somewhere in a camping location south of the Mason-Dixon line, I think northern Georgia somewhere. He said do you want to try an HF QSO and see how it goes? I replied, "you bet." We first tried 15 meters SSB and the band was very crowded with folks working lots of DX. Donnie said I hear you OK but He was not strong enough to overcome the QRM. So over the phone we agreed to try 12 meters and we met with success. Donny had a good copy on me and without the QRM I could copy him Q5. I think that was maybe his first HF QSO back to his hometown. He said that was a blast and would see what else he could work from that camping area.



Later that afternoon I received an email from Donnie with the above photo Louise had just taken of him doing digital communications from

inside the camper. The caption said, "On 15M FT8. Just worked Ecuador!"



I think Donnie, WD1F/M has found out how much fun can be had doing HF mobile and camper DX-ing.



QCWA MAINE PINE TREE CHAPTER INFORMATION



QCWA members, mark March 25th on your calendar because the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Maine Pine Tree Chapter 134 will have the first Chapter meeting of 2023 during the ARRL Maine State Convention & Andy Hamfest at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston. The meeting will start at 10:00AM in the second floor meeting room. You do not need to be a QCWA member to attend the meeting. All are invited, especially if you are interested in the Association and nearing or already been a ham for twenty five or more years. If you were a licensed Amateur on or before 1997 you are eligible to become a member.

The Maine Chapter runs the Sunday afternoon "Pine Cone Net" (PCN) at 2:00PM (1900z) on 3942 KHz. QCWA members and friends are invited to participate.

If you want more information about the Quarter Century Wireless Association you can contact Chapter President Jerry Burnes, K1GUP at K1GUP@ROADRUNNER.COM, Chapter Sec/Tres Bruce Randall, W1ZE at w1ze@arrl.net or go to the QCWA website at <http://www.qcwa.org>.



ARRL Maine State Convention and Andy Hamfest

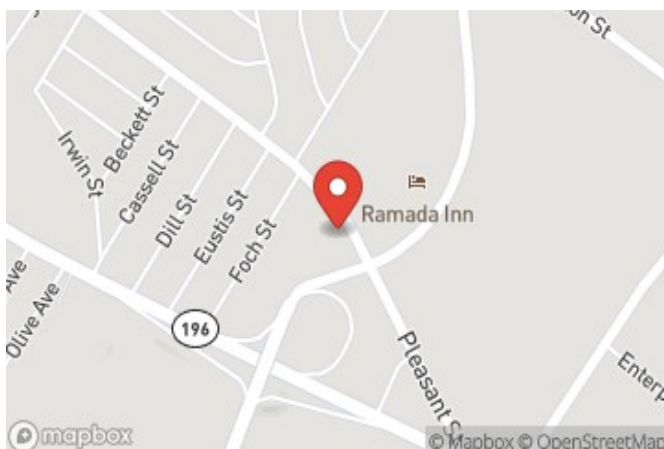


It is almost here, the Andy Hamfest so mark you calander for March 24th.

Start Date: 03/24/2023 End Date: 03/25/2023

At the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center

490 Pleasant St. Lewiston, ME 04240



Website: <http://w1npp.org>

Sponsor: Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: 146.61, MHz PL 88.5 Hz

Public Contact: Ivan Lazure , N1OXA

Phone: 207-577-5152

Email: n1oxa@yahoo.com

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.





**Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Assoc.
1 Smithfield Crossing
Phippsburg, ME 04562-4047**