



SQUELCH TALES



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



ARRL Advocates for Radio Amateurs as FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band

From ARRL April 27th newsletter

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is seeking comments about changing the secondary allocation available to radio amateurs on 60 meters. The FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on April 21, 2023, that deals with the band. In a prior petition, [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) urged protecting the existing use of the band by amateurs when adding a new allocation adopted internationally.



Currently, radio amateurs in the US have access to five discrete channels on a secondary basis: 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz. Users of these channels are limited to an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 W PEP.

The FCC proposes to allocate 15 kHz of contiguous bandwidth between 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz on a secondary basis with a maximum power of 15 W EIRP (equivalent to 9.15 W ERP). This allocation was adopted at the 2015

World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The government's manager of spectrum use, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), has expressed support for implementing the allocation as adopted at WRC-15. Doing so would result in amateurs losing access to four of the five discrete channels, and power limits would be reduced from 100 W ERP to 9.15 W ERP. However, it would provide access to a new contiguous 15 kHz band that includes one of the current five channels.

In 2017, [ARRL petitioned the FCC](#) to keep the four 60-meter channels that fall outside the new band, as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP ERP limit.

The ARRL petition stated, "Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly, and more capably conduct those communications."

ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete channels have shown that amateurs can coexist with primary users at 5 MHz while complying with the regulations established for their use. The petition also stated, "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA, is aware of a single

reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date."

In [the NPRM](#), the FCC recognizes that Canada has already adopted 60-meter allocations and related rules that align with those proposed by ARRL. The Commission wrote, "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested."



The FCC proposed to allocate the 15 kHz bandwidth, but stopped short of making a proposal on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio and what the power limitations should be. They requested comments on their proposal and the related channel and power issues.

Comments will be due 60 days after the NPRM is published in the Federal Register, which is expected within the next two weeks.



***KQ1L Celebration of
Life,
June 17 & Oct 13th at
NearFest***

Info from Michael Crestohl, W1RC &
Phil Duggan N1EP

Dave Hawke, KQ1L, became a Silent Key on Wednesday May 10th 2023. He was 82. A remarkable individual, Dave was from Boothbay Harbor Maine. He spoke with that delightful "Down East" brogue. A humble, unassuming man, Dave told everyone he always lived in Maine except for the years he "went to engineering school in Massachusetts".

It was only later we found out that "engineering school" was MIT. From what I gather he was involved in several high level projects while he was there but, of course, he never spoke of this.



Dave was a repeater guy. He built an analog repeater network that covered most of the state of Maine which is no small task when you understand how big Maine is. With the advent of digital radios Dave did it again, so now there are both FM and DMR networks covering the state. Dave paid for this equipment out of pocket and refused to accept donations.

During his long career Dave worked for the Maine State Police and Central Maine Power building their repeater networks. Later he was the Kennebeck County computer guy and ran a server farm from his cellar on Cony Street in Augusta. Any amateur radio club or organization could have space on his server at no cost. That included NEAR-FEST. I offered him the same amount that any other company would charge but Dave wouldn't hear of it. I finally was able to get him to accept hotel rooms so he and his XYL Brenda, K1YFY, could stay in comfort at Deerfield and Boxborough MA ARRL conventions every year. It made me happy to see them attending these events and having a good time,

Dave worked into his eighties and even continued to ride his beloved motorcycle taking trips all over the Northeast with Brenda. He only stopped when his illness became debilitating. He beat it the first round but it reappeared last fall and claimed him yesterday. It is a great loss for the many who knew and loved him. I miss him already.

May he rest in peace.

Dave's Hawke, KQ1L's Celebration of Life is scheduled for 1:00pm, June 17th at the North Monmouth Community Church, 151 N. Main St, North Monmouth. Food ts & drinks to follow at the church. Zoom is available for those who request link.

Also scheduled Celebration of Life at NEAR-FEST for Friday, October 13th, 5:00 pm



Brunswick Bicycle Event, May 20, 2023 - N1TTT, K1JJS, AB1YX - KX1I photo

By Marji/KX1I

Four MARA club members assembled for the 27th Annual Brunswick Bike Rodeo and Family Safety Day, held at the Brunswick Recreation Department on May 20.

John/K1JJS, Harry/N1TTT, Richard/AB1YX and Marjorie/KX1I set up the CERT team's canopy, antenna and VHF radio, with MARA's new banner suspended on their table. After firing up the generator, the team contacted Mel/KC1MPV and Donnie/WD1F via the KS1R repeater as part of their communications demonstration.

Fog began to appear on the runway but the three-hour event ended at noon, prior to any rain.



ARRL & FEMA Sign Agreement: Ham Radio is as Relevant as Ever

Reported in May 5th ARRL Newsletter

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) has entered into an updated [Memorandum of Agreement](#) (MOA) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency



FEMA

The agreement will enhance cooperation between ARRL's emergency communications program, the [Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#), and FEMA in providing disaster communications. The agreement emphasizes the importance of skilled Amateur Radio Operators in times of crisis and the role of ARES leadership within the emergency communications space. ARES (see the ARES fact sheet at www.arrrl.org/ares) is a network of trained Amateur Radio Service licensees organized across the country to provide communications and other support to [served agencies](#), such as local governments, hospitals, and disaster response charities. More than 20,000 ARES volunteers actively participate in the ARRL program. In 2022, they provided more than 420,000 labor hours of service saving local officials \$13.4 million in personnel costs.



Each member of ARES has specialized training in emergency communications. Many have also completed training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in order to integrate with local officials during an emergency response.

In March 2023, FEMA released the final version of the NIMS Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Functional Guidance, which [includes radio amateurs in the response ecosystem](#) and national emergency preparedness.

"The agreement is representative of the continued commitment and cooperation between FEMA and ARRL," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV.



"Serving our country during emergencies is an important service provided by ARES volunteers and a principal purpose of our Amateur Radio Service. Our well-equipped volunteers bring their training, use of innovative technologies, and community partnerships together to serve before and during disasters."

FEMA announced the new agreement on [Twitter](#) stating, "We recently signed a new MOA with @arrrl -- establishing our partnership with licensed, voluntary amateur radio operators to support response [and] recovery efforts. We're honored to work side-by-side to meet the needs of millions in the wake of disasters."

Read the full story on the ARRL [website](#).



The QCWA's Maine Pine Tree Chapter 134 will hold their next meeting and lunch on June 3rd at the Anglers Restaurant, 91 Coldbrook Road In Hampden immediately following the Herman Hamfest.

We hope you can attend.



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