



SQUELCH TALES



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



MARA Provide communications support for July 4th L. L. Bean 10K Run.

Early in the morning of July 4th MARA members and friends gathered in Freeport Shaw's parking lot to assist in the annual July 4th L. L. Bean 10K run by providing radio communications throughout the event.



Hams were stationed at various strategic locations along the route to provide needed info back to "Net Control" consisting of John Goran/K1JJA and Jim McIrvin/N1MPA who established a high ground location near the center of the 10K loop. Don Wakeman/KA1WAL was assigned the start/finish location so he could provide information to the L.L.Bean even coordinator sent in by Net Control and the MARA communication team consisting of, Marjory Turner/KX1I, Bruce Randall/ W1ZE, Chris Tupper/ KC1CIG, John Bogner/W1JLB and Chris Tupper/ KC1CIG who were placed along the loop at water stops and intersections to keep track of the lead runners and to provide quick urgent communications if help was needed.



The event went well with no urgent help needed and all the hundreds of folks that started the run finished it.

A successful event.



Commercial Interests Petition FCC for High Power Allocation on Shortwave Spectrum

From ARRL July 19th Newsletter

The ad hoc group Shortwave Modernization Coalition petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 - 25 MHz range with up to 20 kW, including on bands immediately adjacent to spectrums allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. This group appears to represent high-speed stock trading interests. The FCC has assigned the public notice as docket number RM-11953. Comments are due by July 31, 2023, and comment replies are due by August 15, 2023. While the petitioners exclude the amateur bands, high-power operations on immediately adjacent bands are proposed. ARRL is reviewing the petition.

A PDF of the petition is available at:
<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1042840187330/1>.



HAM BAND PROTECTION

By ARRL Maine Section Manager
Phil Duggan, N1EP

There are three things that Maine's affiliated clubs should know about:

1. The ARRL needs your help in gaining congressional support for H.R.4006 - Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. This act's purpose is to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit the application of certain private land use restrictions to amateur station antennas, and for other purposes. This also has a provision to require HOA's to accommodate amateur radio operators. Now is the time to write your representative asking them to support H.R. 4006. Depending on your district in Maine, your representative will either be US Representative Chellie Pingree or Rep. Jared Golden. Write them a letter, email, or phone their office.
2. On the Radar: A proposal to the FCC is seeking to transmit stock reports digitally on HF bands, some reportedly close to amateur radio bands, but with 25,000 watts of power. This has the potential to interfere with the ham bands. The ARRL is looking into this matter and more information will be available, hopefully soon.
3. Maine LD-697 Update. The legislative bill that sought to investigate pretty much all sources of radio frequency emissions and the impact on birds, bees, other wildlife and children is "dead" for now, with your help. Please thank your members for me. Through the past few months many Maine hams contacted their state representatives and senators as well as submitted written testimony. These efforts turned out in amateur radio's favor. However; there was a

provision that this issue could be re-introduced in a future state legislative session, so we need to continue to monitor this closely. The next scheduled session is January, however, it is my understanding they could be called into session at other times as well. BTW, it was the Maine Senate that killed the bill. Thanks also to Maine State Government Liaison Peter Hatem KC1HBM for all his assistance.

Oh, BTW, 20% of ARRL members took the May survey regarding ARRL dues, etc. The Board will be using that survey and making a decision on how to best get the League back into financial stability. Rampart inflation is affecting many organizations and companies across the nation, not just the League.

I had a great time visiting 6 field day sites. Everyone seemed to be having a great time. Next year my plan is to head north to Piscataquis and Aroostook counties.

73, Phil Duggan, N1EP
n1ep@arrl.org



N1TRC Antenna Conditions Assessed at the Topsham Red Cross

In early July it was noted by Association members that there maybe problems with the various antennas that support the the N1TRC Topsham Red Cross communications facility.

A week or so later Steve Kerchel, AA4AK came over to the Red Cross facility and did an antenna survey to see if there was anything broken and what repairs may be needed.



Steve reported at the July 18th MARA meeting that all in all the antennas appear to be in pretty good condition. Some halyard lines and radial wires need to be re-secured and re-fastened to their supports and a few support fasteners should be renewed with stainless or galvanized hardware. Steve and Bruce, W1ZE said they could supply the hardware from their antenna hardware supply boxes.

Some time in the following weeks the renewal project should take place.



A Message from ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR



Dear ARRL members,

On July 22nd, the ARRL Board of Directors completed their second annual meeting. I'm writing to let you know that they made the tough, but necessary, decision to increase the regular membership dues rate to \$59 a year starting January 1, 2024 (see [2024 Dues Rates](#)). Additionally, we have chosen to separate the printed, mailed magazine from regular membership. Members will be able to choose whether they want to add-on a print subscription to any of our magazines including *QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCJ*. All members will continue to have online, digital access to each of these four magazines and the digital archive as part of their regular membership benefits.

This is only the second time in 22 years that ARRL has raised our dues. It is a necessary part of ensuring ARRL is supported so we can continue to promote and fight hard for our Amateur Radio Service, while providing benefits and services for our members that increase your knowledge and enjoyment of ham radio.

To help us make this decision, we invited every ARRL member to participate in a survey in May. Over 20,000 members responded (you can view the survey results [here](#)). We know from the survey results that most of you will find the new rate reasonable, or even ask why we didn't set it higher. We also know that some may find the rate is too high. As I've shared with many of you during my visits at hamfests and conventions, each of us has a responsibility to be active participants, and to support ARRL if we want to increase our ranks and ensure a lasting legacy for amateur radio's future.

You told us that you value ARRL's advocacy efforts, including spectrum defense, standing up to regulators and policymakers, and our work in other areas that defend, promote, and grow amateur radio - including STEM outreach to schools, teachers, and youth. There is no other organization that is working harder to advance a vision that allows any citizen to explore, develop, and practice radio communications and radio technology.

Your feedback showed us the many benefits, services, and programs you use - from Logbook of The World, to the work done by the ARRL Lab to test equipment for product reviews. While our magazines topped the list of benefits, many of you also shared that your reading preferences have changed. Some of you prefer print, and increasingly members prefer digital. As a result, for those who prefer print, you will be able to subscribe to *QST* and/or *On the Air* magazine. Again, all members will continue to have access to the digital editions of all four ARRL magazines.

Have you ever heard a Life Member say, "I got a good deal when I signed up for Life Membership 25 (or 30, or 40...) years ago." They're right! They got a good deal, but continuing to serve Life members is not sustainable without making some changes. So, we're going to freeze new applications for the program, not adding any new Life

Memberships until we can price the offering to be revenue neutral over its term. And, again, as more members prefer digital, we'll be asking current Life Members to opt-in if they want to continue to receive *QST* by mail.

The cost of doing business goes up every year. During the last couple of years, the costs associated with printing and postage have increased significantly. We've cut and delayed hiring for some positions on our professional staff - one of the smallest teams we've had staffing our headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, in years. We are also continuing to examine other cost-saving measures, but we cannot go further without reducing or eliminating benefits and programs which our members have told us are important to them.

I can assure you that the ARRL Board exercises due diligence and oversight in making sure your association is a good steward of your membership dollars. The reality is that ARRL does a lot - in fact much more than dues cover.

ARRL shares your passion for amateur radio. We are committed to strengthening and growing our community, and protecting our rights to use and experiment on our amateur radio spectrum. We have a 109-year track record that includes YOU as part of that ongoing legacy of support for amateur radio and ARRL.

73, Rick Roderick, K5UR



COLLINS R-390A FOR SALE



The Collins R-390A is a general coverage mil-spec MF & HF communications receiver capable of receiving AM, CW, FSK, SSB(with BFO) signals. Its tuning range is

500 kHz to 32 MHz, in thirty-two 1 MHz bands. It is a superhetrodyne, double conversion above 8 MHz, below triple conversion is used. It employs 23 tubes.

Mark Reinen , K1SRE is offering this Collins R-390A receiver, with case for sale. The receiver was upgraded and aligned in 2000 and in very good operating condition. He is asking \$500 (going for much more on Ebay)

Mark can be reached in Phippsburg at: k1sre@earthlink.net or (908) 578-6786



MAINE QCWA NEWS



At the last Maine chapter meeting in Bangor it was recommended that we have a September Chapter 134 meeting & lunch immediately following the Windsor Hamfest. It was also recommended that we find a place to meet in the Augusta area close to the Windsor fairgrounds.

George Szadis, K1GDI is making arrangements with the Great Wall Chinese buffet restaurant in Augusta for out gathering for 1:00pm. (<http://www.greatwallbuffetaugusta.com/>).

The restaurant is located at 1 Anthony Ave. just off Civic Center Drive, just north of the I-95 interchange next to Windy's.

Hope to see Chapter members and friends there.





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