



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association
for September 2023



WINDSOR HAMFEST

Come join the fun at the first fall Hamfest in Maine on **September 9th** at the Augusta Amateur Radio Association's Windsor Hamfest & Flea Market

- Located at the Windsor Fairgrounds
82 Ridge Rd. Windsor, ME 04363
- Gate opens at 8:00AM
- Talk-In: 146.67 (100.0 pl)
- VE Test session
- POC: Bill Crowley, K1NIT
Phone: 207-512-0312
Email: k1nit@arrrl.org

Hope to see you there.



ARRL Files Comments Against "Seriously Flawed" Shortwave Rules Petition

From August 3rd ARRL Letter

ARRL, as part of its mission to protect Amateur Radio, has filed [comments against a proposal](#) that would introduce high-power digital communications to the shortwave spectrum that in

many instances is immediately adjacent to the Amateur HF bands.

The "Shortwave Modernization Coalition" (SMC), which represents certain high-frequency stock trading interests, filed [the petition](#) with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). (Previous coverage can be found on [ARRL News](#).) ARRL responded on behalf of its members and the 760,000 licensees of the Amateur Radio Service in the US.



The ARRL Laboratory performed a detailed technical analysis over several months to determine if the proposed rules would affect operations on the bands allocated to Radio Amateurs that are inter-mixed with the Part 90 bands in the spectrum in question.

ARRL's analysis determined that, if the proposed rules are adopted, the new operations inevitably will cause significant harmful interference to many users of adjacent and nearby spectrum, including Amateur Radio licensees. Ed Hare, W1RFI, a 37-year veteran of the ARRL Lab and internationally recognized expert on radio frequency interference, was the principal investigator on the study. Hare concluded the petition should not be granted. "This petition seeks to put 50 kHz wide, 20,000-watt signals immediately next to seven different amateur bands with weaker protections against interference than required in other services," said Hare.

In its formal opposition, ARRL stated, "That destructive interference would result if operations commenced using anything close to the proposed maximum levels."

ARRL's filed comments highlight flawed analysis and incomplete data submitted by the petitioners. It noted the petitioners "...significantly understate the harmful interference that is not just likely, but certain, if the rules proposed by SMC are adopted as proposed. It is noteworthy that SMC's proposed rules would provide less protection than the much-lower power amateur radio transmitters are required to provide Part 90 receivers." ARRL's opposition also noted that there was no reported tests conducted with Amateur or other affected stations, but referenced a spectrum capture in the Comments filed with the Dayton Group that showed actual interference into the Amateur 20-meter band from one of the High Frequency Trading experimental stations.

Part 90 HF rules currently authorize a maximum signal bandwidth equal to a voice communications channel, at up to 1000 W peak envelope power (PEP). The petition seeks multiplication of signal width, greater transmitted power, and weaker rules that protect users of adjacent spectrum. ARRL's comments expose the likely fallout:

"Incredibly, notwithstanding the significant increase in potential interference that would result from using digital schemes with 50 kHz bandwidths and 20,000 watts of power, SMC also proposes to substantially lessen the protections required to protect adjacent and neighboring licensees. SMC proposes [out-of-band emissions] limits that offer less protection than the existing Part 90 limits and would actually permit no attenuation (0 dB) at the edge of adjacent allocations, many of which are bands allocated to and heavily used in the Amateur Radio Service. Consistent with lessening protections while increasing the potential for harmful interference, SMC also proposes a lower limit for spurious emissions. SMC would reduce the existing protection of -73 dB for the applicable 1000-watt power limit to just -50 dB protection for their proposed 20,000-watt limit. Due to the much wider 50 kHz proposed bandwidth, the resulting interference would penetrate deep into the adjacent Amateur bands."

The proposal has been assigned FCC Docket No. RM-11953. While the period for commenting on the petition has now closed, replies to comments in the record may now be submitted.

Hundreds of licensed Radio Amateurs filed comments in the Docket, expressing overwhelming opposition to the proposal. Those interested may read ARRL's full comments and the results of the technical analysis, which are included in the filing. "If granted as written, this would be devastating to Amateur operation for many tens of kHz into our bands," said Hare.

ARRL will continue to advocate for its members and the Amateur Radio Service in this proceeding.

Read ARRL's Opposition and the ARRL Lab's technical analysis [here](#).



MAINE QCWA NEWS



George Szadis, K1GDI has made reservations at the Great Wall Chinese buffet restaurant in Augusta - <https://www.greatwallbuffetaugusta.com/> for the QCWA's Maine Pine Tree Chapter lunch and meeting on September 9th at 1:00pm, following the Windsor Hamfest.

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.



2 Meter SSB Weekly Net!

Do you have any gear capable of 2 meter SSB? Well, dust it off and plug it in on any Tuesday night at 7:30 PM on 144.225 MHz and join the Pine Cone Weak Signal Net! Net control is Jerry, K1GUP, and he always has a good signal into the midcoast area. There are check-ins ranging from CT and MA as well as some Canadian hams. There are sometimes rovers who check in from various high spots throughout the area with portable or mobile stations. There is always some

good discussion of various aspects of ham radio, so consider joining in on any Tuesday night!

If anyone has any additional questions, I would be glad to answer them! I check in from Harpswell anytime I am here on a Tuesday night.

73, Dick, K1HC



Ohio Surplus Store to Close

From Aug. 17th ARRL newsletter

An iconic electronics surplus store will soon be closing its doors.

Phil Sellati, owner of [Fair Radio Sales](#) in Lima, Ohio, says it's time to close the business.

"I took over the business that my dad started in 1947, and after 50 years, it's time to close the doors," he said. Sellati has had an offer on the building and feels that it's time to move on.

There are 30,000 square feet of equipment and parts that all need to go. Sellati wants to be done with the business by October 2023, but he thinks it might take a little longer. He has even received suggestions to stay open for next year's Hamvention® in Xenia, Ohio.



Thousands of amateur radio operators, collectors, experimenters, and shortwave listeners have visited the store over the years. The shelves and aisles are full of old military radios and receivers. [The store's fall-winter 1967 catalog](#) lists a BC-499 FM 20 - 28 megacycle five-channel, crystal-controlled receiver with a dynamotor for \$18.95; a GO-9 Navy 100 W CW transmitter for \$69.95; along

with pages of meters, cords, headphones, and microphones circa 1942.

Many Fair Radio Sales visitors started visiting when they were young, and they continue to shop there now. For one radio amateur, it was a must-stop location every year on their way to Dayton Hamvention. Another amateur radio operator said he stopped there in 1980 to pick up a Teletype Model 19 that still works today!

Sellati said he likes what he does and has enjoyed coming to work, but he wonders what comes next. He said he's thinking about looking for another building and starting over.

Editors Note: For those of us that got into this hobby in the late 50s and early 60s, store like J.J.Glass in Los Angeles and Ohio Surplus is where we young poor hams went to find surplus WWII military radio and electronic equipment. I Purchased my ARC-5 receivers and Transmitters to get me running on HF and an SRC-522 VHF transceiver to get on two meters with a quality rig. Oh, what fond memories. DE W1ZE



MARA is Looking for a repeater site

We are running out of room on Donnie Dauphin's (WD1F) tower to house all our repeaters. At this juncture we have the 147.21, 444.4 Fusion repeaters, D-Star UHF repeater and the BURG packet stations three antennas (2M, 1.15M & 70cM).

It was discussed at the last MARA meeting that at a minimum we would like to relocate the KS1R/R 444.4 repeater to a different location to free up tower and antenna space. We would even consider taking it off 444.4 and putting that FM/C4FM repeater on two meters and link it to the Phippsburg repeater to increase coverage because of the very low usage of that UHF repeater..

If you know of a site or wish to make a home for this repeater we would be very interested.

73, MARA Technical Committee.





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