



SQUELCH TALES



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



Commentary for FCC Proposed 60 Meter Band Changes

By ARRL Maine SM Phil Duggen, N1EP

The ARRL is asking that all radio amateurs urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to continue the existing use of the 60-meter band. A public comment period is open until October 30, 2023. ARRL encourages expressions of support to the FCC for the current 100 W ERP power limit (instead of reducing the power limit to 15 W EIRP) and continuing secondary access to the current channels.

To submit a filing of your comments for the FCC's consideration in the rulemaking process, go to the FCC web page for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking's (NPRM) Docket Number 23-120 at:

<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/docket-detail/23-120>.



HF Noise issue complexity

By Donnie Dauphin, WD1F

It was a Sunday afternoon fast approaching 14:00 EST. Time for the Quarter Century Wireless Association's Pine Cone net on 3942. I try to make this net as often as possible. I seem to have a really good setup on 80M. At times I can hear things net control can't. I try to be helpful by relaying. I turn on the HF rig, tune to 3942. Nothing but strong electrical noise. WTH?



Display of IC-9100 tuned to 3.943. S meter showing S9+10.

I'm well aware my home solar electric system causes problems on HF. As do the cellar LED lights. But as usual I already made sure to disconnect the solar panels and turned off the lights. In a panic I run around the house trying to figure out what is on that usually isn't. I can't find anything.

Then I remember the USB power supply for my RPI (Raspberry PI) died recently. This RPI runs KODI which turns a RPI into a pretty awesome media center for your TV. I replaced it with a cheap one I found in my stash. I was in a rush so I didn't bother to shut down the RPI correctly. I just pulled the plug.



Display of IC-9100 tuned to 3.943. S meter showing S3 ish.

Now that is some improvement. But what is up with that?

When the net ended I took a different USB power supply and powered up the RPI. No issues at all. Just to be sure I reconnect the original USB power supply. The band is once again, wiped out by electrical noise. It is very repeatable. I guess this specific converter is just junk.



Black USB power supply. Text on the side AC ADAPTOR Model: JC-0060. Output 5V, 2000mA.

Today while thinking about typing this article I plug the adapter in question in to the outlet strip attached to the side of my desk. No effect on 80M. Well I guess it must have to be under load. I find another RPI and plug it in. Still no effect. Did something change? I then put this cheap adapter back in the living room and power the media center RPI. Noise is back, band is wiped out. I get the pictures for this article.

Why does it not effect 80M when right on the desk in the ham shack? It seems in order to repeat this problem it has to be in a specific location and running a specific RPI. It doesn't seem to be the RPI itself though because that is still running but just using a different supply. The problem must be complex. I think about trying to understand why but better judgment prevails and I decide its time for an adult beverage.

Donnie WD1F



Long time MARA member, supporter and past Association President now a Silent Key

On a very sad note, in mid October John Munton, N1OIG's XYL contacted Harry McNelley, N1TTT to advise him and our Association that her husband passed away after battling a long illness.

John was a very active Ham and he maintained two repeaters in Brunswick that also served the mid coast area.

He will be missed by his family, friends and the mid coast amateur radio community.



SQUELCH TALES NOW ON DLARC WEBSITE

The **Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications (DLARC)** is a library of materials and collections related to amateur radio and early communications. The DLARC is funded by a significant grant from [Amateur Radio Digital Communications](#), a private foundation, to create a digital library that documents, preserves, and provides open access to the history of this community.

DLARC discovered our Associations website and liked our newsletters, so they asked the MARA's newsletter editor WIZE if they could post our Squelch Tales newsletter on their site along with hundreds of other publications.

You can access the DLARC website at:

<https://archive.org/details/merrymeeting-amateur-radio>

You can use the search "text contents" field to do a full-text search on all issues, or click "Date Published" to see them sorted by publication date.

As new issues of Squelch Tales comes out it will be uploaded on to the DLARC website



ARRL New England Division Town Hall Meeting Wednesday, November 8th, 7 pm

BY Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC

Phil Temples K9HI, our Assistant Directors, and I will hold our next New England Division Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, November 8th at 7 pm ET.

The purpose of the meeting will be to provide you with an ARRL update, get your thoughts on what we should be focusing on, and answer any questions that you might have about the ARRL and what we are doing on behalf of ARRL members here in New England.

We plan to spend a good deal of our time together answering your questions. If you'd like to send us a question in advance, you can do so via an email to ab1oc@arrl.org, or you can just plan to ask your questions during the Town Hall Meeting.

We will hold our Town Hall Meeting via a Zoom Webinar. You can get a personal link to join the Town Hall Meeting via the following link (paste the link in your browser to register) -

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8kLEzMthRxmXlljwEQsaqQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

We hope to see you on November 8th!

ARRL New England Division
Director: Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC
ab1oc@arrl.org



HEATHKIT SB-220 KW+ AMPLIFIER LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

JACK J GELFAND, K2BMI has a clean SB-220 amplifier that needs minor repair and willing to give it to someone that will give it a good home. If interested you can contact Jack at: gelfand@oswego.edu. New owner will need to pick it up at his QTH location at :
13 Harris Avenue
Portland, ME 04103





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