



SQUELCH TALES



**Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association
for February 2025**



**Do you have Cabin Feavor?
Then here is the cure.
It's the Boat Anchor Hamfest**
Sponsor: Augusta Amateur Radio Association



That's right fellow Ham Radio aficionados It is the mid winter Boat Anchor Hamfest at the Calumet Club located at 334 West River Road in Augusta on Saturday, February 15th.



Doors open at 8:00am and will run until noon. In the Augusta area talk-in In is on 146.52 simplex. For additional info go to: <http://W1TLC.ORG> . Admission fee is \$5.00

There will be a VE exam at 9:30am no pre registration required but ID and copy of license. Exam fee is \$15

Do you have goodies to sell and need a table? If so contact George Szadis, K1GDI at 207-530-6357 or email at GRSZADIS@AOL.COM.

**FCC assessed a record \$34,000
forfeiture against an amateur
radio licensee**

From January 9th ARRL Newsletter

FCC The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) assessed a record [\\$34,000 forfeiture](#) against an amateur radio licensee for “willfully and repeatedly operating a radio station without authorization and interfering with the radio communications of the United States Forest Service ... while the U.S. Forest Service and the Idaho Department of Lands were attempting to direct the operations of fire suppression aircraft working a 1,000-acre wildfire on national forest land outside of Elk River, Idaho.”

As ARRL News first reported in 2022, the FCC proposed the fine against Jason Frawley of Lewiston, Idaho, for allegedly interfering with radio operations of the U.S. Forest Service during firefighting activities for the Johnson Creek Fire near Elk River in July 2021. The FCC stated in the Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) that Frawley holds an Extra-class Amateur Radio Service license, WA7CQ, and is the owner/operator of Leader Communications LLC, licensee of eight microwave licenses and one business license.

In response, Frawley acknowledged that he operated on a frequency reserved for government use and for which he lacked authorization but argues that he did not cause interference to the government’s fire suppression activities that were



being coordinated on the channel and acted with “good faith and non-malicious intent to help.” Frawley requested a reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture based on the number and

duration of the unauthorized transmissions, his history of compliance and corrective measures, and his inability to pay the proposed forfeiture.

In the Forfeiture Order released on January 3, 2025, the FCC rejected Frawley’s request and assessed the full proposed forfeiture of \$34,000. Read more about the story [in previous coverage from ARRL News.](#)

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QCWA Pinetree Chapter Bulliten Board

QCWA Chapter 134 members and friends. There will be a chapter meeting during the Boat Anchor Hamfest in Augusta on Saturday, February 15. We have length of service certificates to present at the meeting. If you think you are due a certificate and have not received one yet, please let Bruce Randall, W1ZE, Chapter Sec/Tres know at w1ze@arrl.net or jbrandall43@comcast.net so we can make arrangements to present you with a certificate.

We have not had a Chapter meeting since the Maine State Convention in Augusta so we hope you can attend this meeting. A good chance to see and visit with one another.

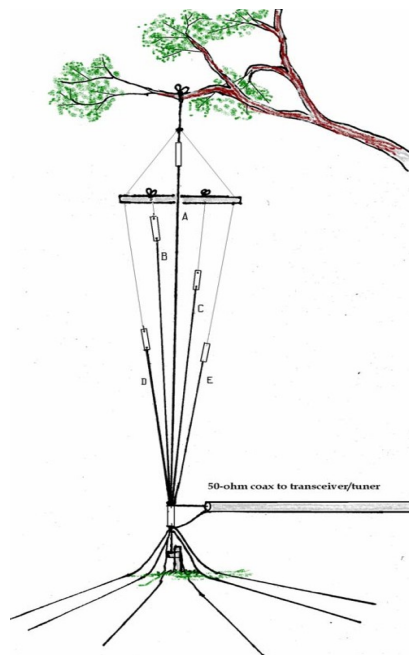
Participation in the Chapter Pine Cone Net has been well attended, especially since band condition on 75 meters have improved during these winter months. The PCN still meets Sunday afternoon at 2:00 EST on 3.942 Mhz. Come join in. The net is open to everyone members and guests.



A simple multi-band wire vertical

BY W1ZE

A simple multi-band wire vertical By W1ZE If you are a back-packer, Field Day operator or just want a simple wire antenna to get on HF and even work some DX the following simple wire vertical may be for you. I have used the following design several times and the thing works. When I first moved to Maine in 1978 I lived at the inlaws QTH in Winthrop until the family arrived from California. While there I put up a 20-15-10 meter ground mounted vertical made out of hook-up wire purchased at the Radio Shack shop in Augusta and some insulators made out of 4-foot length of 3/4 OD PVC pipe from my father in-law’s scrap bin. With that antenna I was able to maintain a 20 meter schedule with WB6PQH, WA6YCG and W6JBO in California every Sunday morning and chase DX too. The following design can be built as a single band or as a multi-band antenna. The following is for a 20-17-15-12-10 meter vertical. Each vertical element is 1/4-wave long and resonant for the desired bands. At the base of the antenna is a tent stake to tie down the array, but if your application is a little more periminate, sink a four to eight foot ground rod in lieu of the stake. Since the radial system is on the ground there is no need to cut them to resonance. Just put down as many as you can with lengths from 8 to 17 feet. In my applications I used nylon string as a halyard line over a tree branch



Vertical wire element lengths:

A - (14.2 Mhz) = 16'6"

B - (18.1 Mhz) = 12'

C - (21.2 Mhz) = 11'

D - (24.9 Mhz) = 9'4"

E - (28.4 Mhz) = 8'2"

Depending on your installation you may have to adjust the wire element lengths a few inches to obtain your best SWR.

It's Ham Radio so build something.

73 Bruce Randall, W1ZE



Get Ready for "Ham Radio Open House" on World Amateur Radio Day 2025

From ARRL January 23 newsletter

To help promote amateur radio science and technology, and to honor the 100th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), ARRL is inviting radio clubs and schools to organize a Ham Radio Open House in April, built around World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) on April 18.

The event is intended to highlight the Amateur Radio Service for its development and practice of the latest radio communications and technology, and as a hands-on pathway into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields for the next generation.

In April, amateur radio clubs, school stations, and other groups will have the opportunity to advance public knowledge about ham radio by welcoming their communities into their stations for the Ham Radio Open House, as part of World Amateur Radio Day. The focus will be on scientific advancement and demonstrating cutting-edge technology. This is a chance to not only shape the conversation about modern ham radio but also to show how it serves as a steppingstone and testbed for many young people pursuing STEM education and future high-tech careers.

ARRL has teamed up with [HamSCI -- Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation](#) -- and the science

community organization SciStarter to invite the public to participate in [One Million Acts of Science](#) during April, which is Citizen Science Month. By hosting a Ham Radio Open House at your group's station on April 18, you'll introduce individuals who might never otherwise find out about today's amateur radio, where science and technology intersect with fun and learning.

ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, said ARRL is excited to work with HamSCI and SciStarter on this project. "This is an exciting opportunity to really reclaim the public's image of ham radio and show them the modern, cutting-edge technology that's in use by many amateurs," she said.

Clubs are encouraged to showcase the latest weak-signal modes, such as FT8 using WSJT-X, or other digital modes. This could be a great opportunity to explore new areas of amateur radio and demonstrate how the service is at the cutting edge of electrical engineering.

Look for resources to help organize and promote the event soon. Find details at www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day.

