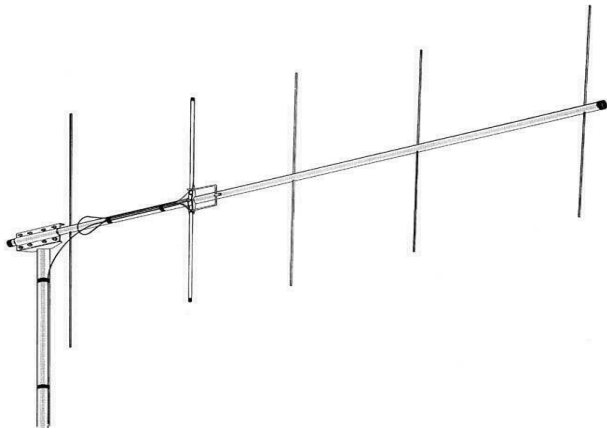




# SQUELCH TALES



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



## **Maine 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge March 15, 2025**

By Dick Bean, K1HC

Spring is right around the corner, so what better time to have some fun on the air and test out your simplex range on 2 meter FM?

On Saturday, March 15 from Noon to 4 PM local time, there will be a number of fellow hams on the air participating in the annual Maine 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge from their home stations, from their vehicle, or even portable on their favorite high spot for the greatest "DX" chances on 2 meters.

The available simplex frequencies for the Challenge exclude 146.52 MHZ, the national calling frequency, but here is a list of frequencies to try:

146.475, 146.490, 146.505, 146.550, 146.565,  
146.580, 147.420, 147.435, 147.450, 147.465,  
147.480, 147.495, 147.510, 147.525, 147.540,  
147.555, 147.570.

The Challenge includes a club competition. MARA has had members submit logs in past events, with one year (2021) with MARA being the highest scoring club in the state! Maybe we can repeat accomplishment that in 2025!

The exchange for contacts would be your town and your transmitter power category:

- QRP (5 watts or less)
- Medium Power (5 to 100 watts)
- High Power (100 watts or more)

If you are mobile in motion, you would report your then-current town at the time of the contact.

The full set of rules as well as the entry forms and log sheets are on the website for the event, the Wireless Society of Southern Maine (WSSM):

<http://www.ws1sm.com/2-Meter-Challenge.html>

You can submit your log in Cabrillo format if you prefer at the address listed on the WSSM site.

So, get ready to try out some contacts on 2 meter FM simplex. I hope to catch you on the air!

73,

Dick, K1HC



# [VU4AX DXpedition to South Andaman Island Coming Soon](#)

Info from DX-Engineering newsletter



Anticipation is building for the VU4AX DXpedition to South Andaman Island scheduled for March 10-20, 2025. This 12-operator HF (160-10M, including WARC bands and some CW/FT4-FT8 on 60M) activation presents an opportunity for DXers who are hoping to elbow their way through the pileups so they can add VU4 to their DXCC tally.



The DX team plans to run six Elecraft K3 stations 24/7 on SSB, CW, and FT4-FT8—an arduous task considering the tropical weather the team will experience. Read the [VU4AX band plan from its website](#), plus find many more details on the team's strategy for helping

hams worldwide record ATNOs and fill bands for this [58<sup>th</sup> Most Wanted DXCC Entity per Clublog](#).

The highly accomplished and well-traveled VU4AX team consists of Marc, ON4AMX; Patrick, ON4HIL; Max, ON5UR; Pascal, ON5RA; Karel, ON5TN; Marc, ON6CC; Jonas, ON7FT; Geert, ON7USB; Franky, ON7RU; Francis, ON8AZ; Ronald, PA3EWP; and Marcel, PA9M.

Give it a try!



## Boat Anchor Hamfest a mid winter success

Doors opened a bit before 8:00am and run until noon at the Calumet Club House in Augusta on Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup>



George Szadis, K1GDI, the event ramrod, said the turnout was good. With the entry fee of only \$5.00 and no table fee for sellers the event broke even and they could pay the building rent. Next year that may change, It's called Inflation these days.

TNX to K1GDI and The Augusta club for a mid winter fun event.

