



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association
for April 2025



MARA March meeting program was a big hit

Turnout for last months MARA meeting had numerous folks in attending at the Red Cross facility and via a



ZOOM connection for folks at home or far away. As the above photo would indicate the program was about Amateur Radio Communications via Satellite. The excellent presentation was provided by Clint Bradford, K6LCS AMSAT Ambassador and ARRL instructor live from his QTH in Jurupa Valley in southern California. Clint passed on a bucket full of good practical information on how to get into satellite communications cheap and easy and how much fun a ham can have doing it. His emphasis was mostly on LEO FM satellites where just an dual-band HT feeding a handheld dual-band Yagi. This was session No.1 and hopefully in the future Clint will expand Sat-Comm through satellite transponders where SSB is used. For those of you with packet capabilities, Clint also mentioned how one could do 1200 baud packet communications via the International Space Station (ISS) NA1SS packet node on 146.825.

The days following the presentation, Clint sent the following email to the MARA: It was almost a year in the making, but it all came together last Tuesday as I presented my “Work the Easy FM Satellites” show to a marvelous club in Maine: The Merrymeeting ARA has been serving well their region since the early 1980s.

A personal highlight for this AMSAT Ambassador: an email received from a NON-ham who attended our Zoom session -

"Hi Clint,

*"Thank you so much for sharing a bit of the vast knowledge that you have on using satellites in the amateur radio hobby, and also thanks for some good jokes! I have no call sign - yet - but I am taking the test on 4/2/25, and my buddy Bruce Randall/W1ZE, invited me to the MARA presentation. I will be giving it a listen tonight to see if I can receive the ISS on my Baofeng BF-F8HP. Kevin K****".*

And THAT’S why AMSAT Ambassadors do what they do: Grab the minds of those who just don't realize what can be accomplished with the satellites with a “mere” handheld radio! I illustrated an 89-degree pass of the ISS Thursday ight for the club - to, at minimum, monitor with their HTs!

Think a 75-minute fund and informative presentation on “working the birds” with minimal equipment would be appropriate for your club or ham fest? CONTACT US!

Clint Bradford, K6LCS

909-999-SATS - answering machine





Brian Bubar, N1CHN a Silent Key

Brian Bubar, N1CHN 80, died on Jan. 25, 2025, at the Lamp in Lisbon. He was born in Bath on April 27, 1944. He grew up in Phippsburg, where he attended the Phippsburg One Room School. He graduated from Morse High School in 1962 and then he served in the Army National Guard.

Brian worked at BIW until 1968 when he went to work at Central Maine Power as a meter reader and then a linesman. He took early retirement from CMP and worked for Favreau Electric until his final retirement. While at CMP he received a Presidents Citation Award for responding and saving the life of an elderly man by performing CPR while he was transported to the hospital.

Brian was a proud member of Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for many years and one of the association's original founders. Brian will be missed by members of the Ham Radio community in the Bath-Brunswick area.

Rest in peace old friend.



Maine Section News

By Phil, Duggan, N1EP

Happy Springtime Maine hams! It is nice to finally have the section email list restored after last year's cyber attack. Do not worry. I'll try not to send out these emails more than once a month unless something urgent comes up. Here is the latest section news:

Ellsworth Ham Radio Symposium Did you know that the first non-military and non-commercial satellite put into orbit was built by Amateur Radio operators? Did you know that this was accomplished in 1961?! Amateur Radio operators have been involved with satellites from that moment on. Today there are 15 active amateur radio satellites in orbit and more on the way. Even the International Space Station is equipped with two amateur radio stations onboard. Follow Jeff Hanscom, KA1DBE, through his keynote presentation as we learn about the history, the achievements, and how to actually track and talk to someone through an Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio (OSCAR). Also featured at the symposium are Raspberry Pi 5 For Radio Amateurs by Phil Duggan, N1EP, Create a digital voice hotspot (Fusion, DMR, DSTAR) using a Raspberry Pi Zero 2 and WPSD, by Guy Mason, KN0O, and Emergency Preparations for the Ham Shack, by N1EP. The symposium is Saturday, April 5 from noon until 4PM. Admission is by donation (any amount) and will benefit the host facility. Location Meadow View Apartments Phase IV Dining Hall, 25 Tweedie Lane, Ellsworth. Talk-in is on the 146.910- (pl-151.4) repeater. Door prizes and refreshments.

MECN :

The Maine Emergency Communications Net now meets twice a month. The second Sunday is the training net which will focus on radiograms and the National Traffic System initially, and eventually branch into ICS-213 message form procedures and Amateur Radio Emergency Service training. Maine NTS and ARES are teaming up to provide this training. All are welcome. The first MECN training net will be Sunday, April 13 at 5PM on or near 3.940 MHz. Maine Section Traffic Manager Jim Kutsch, KY2D, will conduct the radiogram training. Much appreciation to Jim and Maine ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Derrick Ouellette, KW1A, for their teamwork and other efforts for the Maine ARRL section. The 4th Sunday is the regular MECN for Emergency Coordinators and other leadership and ARES/NTS members to discuss and plan emergency preparations and related topics. Same frequency, same time.

Seagull Net Hours:

The Maine Seagull Net has reverted to the spring/summer start hour of 5PM on 3.940MHz Monday through

Saturday. Also on that frequency Sunday mornings is the Maine Public Service Net at 9am.

Maine Hamfests:

The Hermon Hamfest is Saturday May 31 at the Hermon High School, kicking in the summer/fall hamfest season. The Maine ARRL Convention and Hamfest is Saturday, August 2 at the Civic Center in Augusta. The Alexander Hamfest is Saturday, September 20 at the Alexander Elementary School. The Windsor Hamfest has not yet been confirmed.

NEQP:

Let's get Maine on the air for the New England QSO Party May 3 – 4, 2025! Check out neqp.org for rules and details.

Maine-Wide POTA!

Clubs and individual Maine hams are requested to put a qualified park on the air Saturday, May 17. This is the second year in a row that Jeff Hanscom, KA1DBE, Assistant Section Manager, has organized this fun event.

Let Jeff know what park you will be operating from and send him some feedback after the event. Email ka1dbe@arrl.net. POTA rules are available at parksontheair.com

ARRL Dream System:

Join or renew and donate for a chance to win an amazing Dream Station for your shack, which includes a brand new Icom IC-7760 Transceiver, IC-PW2 HF/50 MHz Linear Amplifier, and more! Details are available at <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-sweepstakes#enter>

HamX '25:

Ticketing is now available for HamX '25, to be held August 21 through 25 at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Marlborough, Mass. We have special news concerning our Friday DXCC dinner:

DX Engineering (“DXE”) has graciously agreed to be the official sponsor for the Northeast HamXposition Friday evening DX/Contest Banquet. According to DX Engineering CEO Tim Duffy, K3LR, the company will donate six \$100 gift certificates toward purchase of products from the company, along with a major prize of an Icom IC-7610 with a retail value of \$3,250.00. The HamXposition Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Tim Duffy and the DX Engineering team for their generosity!

The IC-7610 will be the major door prize for the Friday DXCC Dinner, which is featuring well-known international DXer/Contester Ned Stearns, AA7A. Ned will talk about Remote DXpeditioning and the Radio-In-a-Box (RIB) technology. Learn more about the entire convention at hamx.org.

ARRL to Gather Comments from Members on FCC’s Public Notice:

Dear ARRL Member, On March 12, 2025, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a Public Notice titled “In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete,” seeking input from the public on FCC rules that may be outdated, unnecessary, or in need of modification. This inquiry is part of the FCC's ongoing effort to alleviate regulatory burdens across various services, including the Amateur Radio Service.

As part of this review, ARRL is conducting a thorough examination of the provisions in Part 97 and related rules that affect amateur radio operators. ARRL’s written comments, which will be prepared by our FCC Counsel and the ARRL Executive Committee, will include consideration of feedback we received from members.

Members who want to share comments and concerns about this matter are urged to share your feedback directly with ARRL. Please submit your comments by March 31, 2025 and use the following feedback form:

www.arrl.org/fcc-public-notice-march-2025

ARRL will submit our official filing to the FCC by the April 11 deadline. After that, there will be an opportunity for reply comments at the FCC until April 28, and then later, opportunities for public comment on any rules the FCC proposes to delete or modify.

While the FCC Public Notice is a broad inquiry that does not single out any specific radio service, ARRL is nonetheless committed to protecting the Amateur Radio Service, promoting its public interest goals, and ensuring your right to access radio spectrum.

ARRL will continue to work on this matter, and we will inform members as more news develops.

Thank you, 73
ARRL Executive Committee

Get On The Air!!!

On HF, if you hear strong FT8/FT4 signals on the digital part of the band, and it is all quiet on CW or Phone, start calling CQ! It is quiet because no one is on the air in those modes, but hams might be listening. Call CQ and maybe post yourself on a DX spotting web site.

ARRL Maine Section
Section Manager: Philip W Duggan, N1EP
n1ep@arrl.org





QCWA Maine Pine Tree Chapter 134, Note to Members & Friends

At the Chapter meeting held during the Boat Anchor Hamfest in Augusta attendance was minimal at best. President Jerry Burns, K1GUP and Sec./Tres. Bruce Randall, W1ZE made a business decision to cut the meeting short and forgo and business decisions and award presentations until the meeting following the Herman Hamfest on Saturday May 31st at the Happy China in Bangor.

The Sunday Pine Cone Net (PCN) has been pretty well attended until the time change when 75 meter band conditions have made easy communications difficult. It was suggested by Charles, WA1ZDA in Rockport that maybe moving the net time from 2:00 in the afternoon to +/-8:30-9:00 in the morning when band noise is lower and receiving conditions better. If you think you would consider changing net time during early spring time, send your pro or con opinion to Net Manager Bill Woodhead, N1KAT at n1kat.arrrl@gmail.com; Bruce Randall, W1ZE at w1ze@arrrl.net, or Jerry Burns, K1GUP at k1gup@roadrunner.com.

Hope to see you in Herman & Bangor.

Looking for a new Squelch Tales editor

A request by Bruce, W1ZE

Back in 1997 then MARA President, Scott Higgins, W3VNE asked me if I could do a newsletter to keep members up to date on what was going on in the Association and maybe some technical and League info. Silly me said I would give it a try and see how it would go. That was 28 years ago. For the past dozen + years the newsletter has turned into a mostly monthly issue with increasing readers.

Now that I'm in my 80s I am getting burned out. Finding meaningful ham radio content for the newsletter is becoming more difficult for me. On occasion MARA members and friends have provided interesting content but a good newsletter needs more.

I am in hopes that someone a bit younger than me with an interest in providing meaningful information to the Squelch Tales readers would consider taking over publishing the Squelch Tales newsletter. I would be more than happy to help a new editor get started and on occasion provide content I think folks would be interested in.

Think it over and let me know.

73, *Bruce Randall*, W1ZE
w1ze@arrrl.net

