



SQUELCH TALES



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



ARRL Files Recommendations with the FCC



from ARRL Member Bulletin for April 14, 2025

In response to the FCC's request for public input on alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens by deleting or modifying rules, In the Matter of Delete, Delete, Delete. Implementing ARRL's suggestions would promote and protect the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio, and enhance the development of the next generation of radio amateurs.

In response to ARRL's request, over 200 members submitted suggestions that were reviewed when considering what rules should be deleted or modified. ARRL will continue to engage with members and advocate for the Amateur Radio Service.

In its filing, ARRL asked the FCC to delete or amend the following rules:

Delete the LF and VHF/UHF Symbol (Baud) Rate and Bandwidth Limitations

ARRL supports the deletion of these restrictions as proposed by the Commission in late 2023. Doing so would enhance Amateur experimentation with digital technologies.

Update and Modernize Entry Level Technician Class License Privileges

ARRL reiterated its earlier proposal for extending additional limited privileges for Technician class operators. Adopting its proposal would provide new licensees an introductory window to HF data and phone communications that are at the core of the

Amateur Radio experience and serve to incentivize the next generation of technical leaders just as Novice CW HF privileges did for earlier generations of operators.

Modernize 80/75 Meter Subband Divisions

ARRL requested action on an earlier proposal that would make more efficient and intense use of the 80/75 meter band. Changes in technology and modes since band usage was last addressed have resulted in overcrowding in one band segment that would be alleviated by adoption of ARRL's proposal.

Delete and Replace Obsolete Digital Code Limitations

ARRL also asked the FCC remove provisions that refer to digital codes that today are obsolete and permit Radio Amateurs to experiment freely with new digital codes, so long as such codes are publicly documented and decodable over the air.

Implement Changes to Third Party Rules Adopted Internationally at WRC-03

Although the United States fully supported changes to the ITU Radio Regulations in 2003 that removed a treaty requirement for third-party messages, there is no record of this change having been considered and the FCC's rules were never conformed to the new provision. Being the only nation known to continue to require a formal treaty for such purposes has resulted in no new such treaties for since the treaty changed more than two decades ago. Thus ARRL asked the FCC to Implement rules that are consistent with those internationally agreed to align with the rest of the world.

Delete Amplifier Drive Limitation

ARRL requested that the Commission act favorably on a pending proposal to remove limits HF amplifier gain that add to Amateur equipment cost and impede use of new efficient amplifier technology.

Remove Non-current Personal Information in Amateur ULS records

ARRL requested that the FCC complete a rule making in which it proposed that only current licensee information to be visible in the public (ULS) database. Right now, if an amateur changes their address to a Post Office Box to shield their home address, the previous address remains visible. ARRL advocates for protecting the privacy of radio amateurs.

Delete Obsolete Identification Requirement for Special Call Signs

Users of special event call signs are required to identify with the FCC-issued responsible call sign at least once each hour. This can be confusing, especially on data and CW modes. ARRL proposed reliance on the web-based database that clearly identifies each special event call sign and authorized period of use.

Delete Obsolete Paper License Replacement Provision

The FCC no longer mails physical copies of amateur radio licenses, so ARRL suggested deleting the rule that provides for sending paper replacements as obsolete.

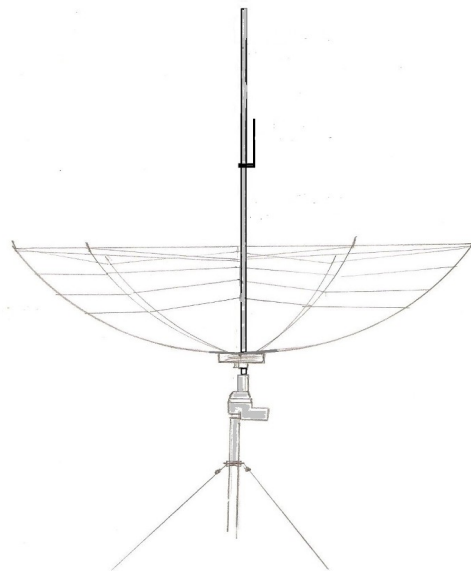
The FCC notice generated a lot of interest among radio amateurs, with hundreds of Amateurs submitting comments directly to the FCC as well as responding to ARRL's request for suggestions.

The FCC deadline for filing reply comments is April 28.

It is hoped that the Commission will incorporate worthy suggestions in a future Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) later this year. At that time there will be a new opportunity for public comment on the specific rules that the Commission proposes to delete or modify.

Two Meter mast J-Pole that works nicely

By W1ZE



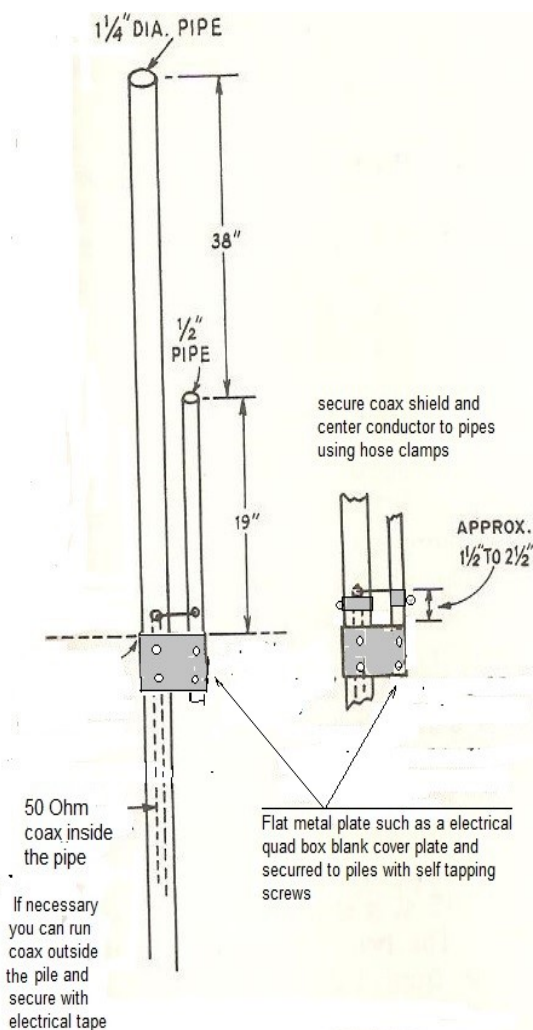
Back in the Disco Era, mid 70s, I was active in a large group of interconnected 440MHz remote base geeks that used 147.525 simplex as an inter tie between a half dozen remotes scattered on hill and mountain top around southern California. My 2-meter antenna was just a simple homemade ground plane atop a 10-foot EMT mast that also housed a TA-33jr tri-band Yagi just above the rotor. I wanted to improve my 2 meter coverage and thought a J-pole made out of the top portion of the EMT mast would work.

I detached the TA-33jr from the mast and moved the mast from the rotor to the ground to make the mod. I removed the 1/4-wave ground plane then attached a 23-inch length of 1/2-inch leftover scrap aluminum pipe to one side of a galvanized electrical quad box blank cover plate using self tapping screws leaving 19-inches of pipe extending from the plate. I then attached



the plate and stub pipe 57-inches from the top of the EMT using two more self tapping screws.

The coax that fed the ground plane was reused to connect to the J-Pole at the feed point in the following drawing using two hose clamps.



ground using my old Swan SWR meter I tuned the J-Pole on the ground. I found the lowest SWR (about 1.12:1) with the coax feeding the two elements about two inches above the shorting support plate. With the EMT J-Pole in the vertical position the SWR did not change.

I then covered the hose clamp connections with electrical tape then covered the junctions with a coating of RTV to weather proof the feed point.

After the mast and J-Pole went back up on the roof with the rotor and TA-33jr I retested the SWR and it went down to 1.1:1.

Did the antenna improve coverage? You bet, and I got good signal reports too.

That J-Pole lasted until I moved from California to Maine in 1997.

73, *Bruce*, W1ZE



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

The Sunday Pine Cone Net (PCN) has been pretty well attended until the time change when 75 meter band conditions have made easy communications non-existent. 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. We have tried morning conditions a few times but propagation even then was disappointing.

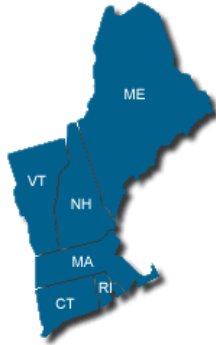
We will continue to find a better time for the spring time net in hopes of improved conditions. If you think you would consider changing net time during early spring time, send your pro or con opinion to PCN Manager Bill Woodhead, N1KAT at n1kat.arrl@gmail.com; Bruce Randall, W1ZE at w1ze@arrrl.net, or Jerry Burns, K1GUP at k1gup@roadrunner.com.

Hope to see you in Herman & Bangor.



May is the NEQP Month

The New England QSO Party on May 3rd and 4th is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.



Our goal is to get every one of the counties in New England on the air so we hope you will encourage your members to join in the fun! Even if you can only join the fun for a couple of hours, we'd appreciate it! Will you be QRV? Let us know with a message to info@neqp.org

The New England QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep on Saturday night. It runs from 4 pm Saturday until 1 am Sunday, then 9 am Sunday until 8 pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and/or digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who sends in a log with 25 QSOs or more will get a certificate. The goal is to work stations anywhere in the world - and their goal is to work New England stations, so you'll be very popular!

Last year we had logs from 212 New England stations and 516 more logs from around the country and world.

The full rules are here - www.neqp.org/rules
The 2024 results were posted last weekend <https://neqp.org/2024-new-england-qso-party/>
It's just under three weeks until the 2025 NEQP. Please make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log!

Thanks!
73 Tom/K1KI



Looking for a new Squelch Tales Editor. Part-2

By Bruce, W1ZE

At the April MARA meeting I brought up my request to the folks in attendance that I was getting burned out after doing the Squelch Tales newsletter since 1979 and it has becoming more difficult for me. At a minimum I would like assistance in continuing the newsletter.

At the meeting VP Scott Higgins, W3VNE polled the attendees to see if anyone would take over as editor. The silence was -40db. Then looking at our newest just licensed member, Kevin Kuzo, KC1WOZ he asked him if he would back up as assistant editor and Kevin said, "OK."

I'm looking forward to the help from Kevin and still in hopes that members and friends of the MARA will contribute content to our newsletter.

Still the editor. 73,

Bruce, W1ZE

