



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association
for August 2025



2025 ARRL Maine State Convention & Andy Hamfest

The 2025 ARRL Maine State Convention and Hamfest is just a few days away in the Augusta Maine Civic Center on Saturday, August 2nd from 8AM until Noon.

Consider signing up for a table. Clubs are encouraged to get a table as well. Great opportunity to hand out membership applications and showcase what your club is all about.

Attendance and table purchases help support the Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club's programs which includes a scholarship fund. Grand Door prize will be a Yaesu FT-991A HF/VHF/UHF radio. Please consider supporting this event. There will also be talks and on demand VE testing, walkins welcome. w1npp.org/convention

73 DE KU1U

Cory



2025 Northeast HamXposition:

Call to Clubs



Dear ARRL Affiliated Clubs,

We are working hard to improve HamX by bringing in more vendors, more sponsors, better forums, a better flea market, and great prizes. We also need help from clubs to promote HamX within the local clubs. We need more participation that gets more vendors excited to attend.

For example, the Friday night DX themed banquet is sponsored by DX Engineering this year. DXE has donated a \$3300 Icom IC-7610 HF transceiver.

HamX - The Northeast HamXposition

August 21 - 24, 2025
ARRL New England Division Convention

The Northeast's largest gathering of radio amateurs, featuring in-person experts presenting on timely topics, trends and technologies

Thursday Night Comedy Kick-Off Featuring Canadian Justin McKinney Thursday, August 21, 2025	Friday Night DX/Contest Banquet Featuring Med Stearns, AA7A Friday, August 22, 2025	Convention Keynote Address Featuring Thomas Witherspoon, K4SHL Saturday Morning, August 23, 2025	Saturday Grand Banquet Presentation Featuring Nathaniel A. Fissell, W2NAF Saturday Evening, August 23, 2025
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Over \$14,000 in prizes • Large Outdoor Flea Market • W1XPO GOTA Station

ARRL • ACOM • FlexRadio • Elecraft • Quicksilver Radio • Reliance Antennas • VE2DX Electronics
Lido Radio • Gold Medal Ideas • Scanner Master • plus many more!

Talks and Presentations: 2.4 GHz xcvr Build • Kit Building Workshops • MARS • YL Meet & Greet • 3-D Printing • Youth Forum • FEMA Talk • SWR and S-Parameters • Remote Radio
Transmitter HMD • Demystifying Quantum Computing • ARRL Section Meetings • Operating all Bands • Club Forum • Andy's Linux • MESH Update • and more!

August 21 - 24, 2025 • Boston-Marlborough MA • hamx.org

As of now, there is \$8000 of door prizes to be awarded, and we expect more. If you attend Saturday night's banquet, you could win a Yaesu FT-710 Field. There are some great prizes that will be awarded at Sunday afternoon's door prize drawings, too.

We need your help publicizing HamX and urging your members to attend.

Thank you for your help promoting your New England Convention!

Larry, W1AST



QCWA Maine Pine Tree Chapter 134 Information column



The next Chapter meeting will take place during the ARRL Maine State Convention on August 2nd. Cory, KU1U has reserved us a place to hold the meeting. We hope you can attend the Convention and our Chapter meeting as we have length of service awards to present along with PCN frequent flyer certificates.

Non members are invited to attend the Chapter meeting as guests to see what we are all about in the hopes that if you have been a ham for 25 years or will be soon, you may want to consider becoming a member of the National QCWA and also the local Maine Pine Tree Chapter 134.

See you there and 73,

Bruce Randall, W1ZE (Chapter Sec./Tres.)



BECOME AN ELMER

Why not help someone become a licensed Amateur Radio Operator and join us all in this great hobby.



K1HC's Antenna Farm in Harpwell



www.qrz.com/db/K1HC

Dick Bean, K1HC is on a quest to make the first trans Atlantic two meter QSO from his antenna farm in

Harpwell . Dick is a friend to many of us in the MARA and keeps us informed of his VHF DX activities. He lives in Westwood, MA but comes up to his Maine QTH to operate contests and have ham radio fun. Fortunately Dick can also operate his Harpswell station remotely from his QTH in Weastwood.

If you are heading out to Orr's and Bailey Islands on Route 24 look on your right just before the Mountain Road and you can view his big towers supporting his massive two meter stacked array and other antennas. We do hope that Dick is successful in his quest.



DR. ED FONG, WB6IQN GIVES J-POLE TUTORIAL

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE



WB6IQN Roll up portable J-Pole antenna

At the July MARA meeting Dr. Edison Fong, WB6IQN of Sunnyville, California did a live Zoom presentation on the always popular J-Pole antenna. He did an excellent basic theory on how a J-Pole works and how it can be an effective VHF and VHF-UHF antenna for home or in the field.



Dr. Ed runs a side hustle business making and selling J-Pole antennas made from 300-ohm window (TV antenna) twin lead that can be configured as a roll-up for portable use or incased in PVC pipe for a fixed installation.

Ed's J-Pole intrigued several folks in attendance and considered purchasing one, especially for field portable usage.

In addition Dr. Ed said he is now offering the Chinese made uSDX QRP transceiver for sale. The little transceiver covers 80 to 10 meters, all modes. He indicated he bulk purchases them from China then installs a Li-Ion battery pack (they are shipped to the US without the battery).

He sells them for a very reasonable price.

W1ZE Note: I already own a uSDX QRP transceiver and the tiny transceiver is well made and IT WORKS. I purchased one from ALIexpress and then found a supply of 11.1 V Li-Ion batteries on Ebay. Is it a IC-7300? No but it put out a good 3 to 5 watts with an external 13.6V power source and I can make QSOs, even DX on occasion.

You can view Dr. Ed's website at:

<https://edsantennas.weebly.com/>

