



SQUELCH TALES



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



For those of you studying for your Extra Class Exam and VE examiners take note

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) Question Pool Committee ([QPC](#)) has announced the immediate **removal of Extra-Class question E6D07 from the Element 4 Extra-Class question pool and from use on examinations.** The decision was made after it was determined that the question contained more than one correct answer.

The current Element 4 Extra-Class pool, effective July 1, 2024, remains valid through June 30, 2028. All Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) and examiners are instructed to remove E6D07 from examinations as soon as possible.

Updated files reflecting this change are now available for download at the NCVEC website: <https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release>.

The [ARRL VEC](#) advises the community to regularly check the [NCVEC website](#) for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn question

QCWA Maine Pine Tree Chapter Info column



Now that the fall season is upon us the Chapter's Pine Cone Net has started up again and as in the past it takes place Sunday afternoons at 2:00 on 3942 Khz.

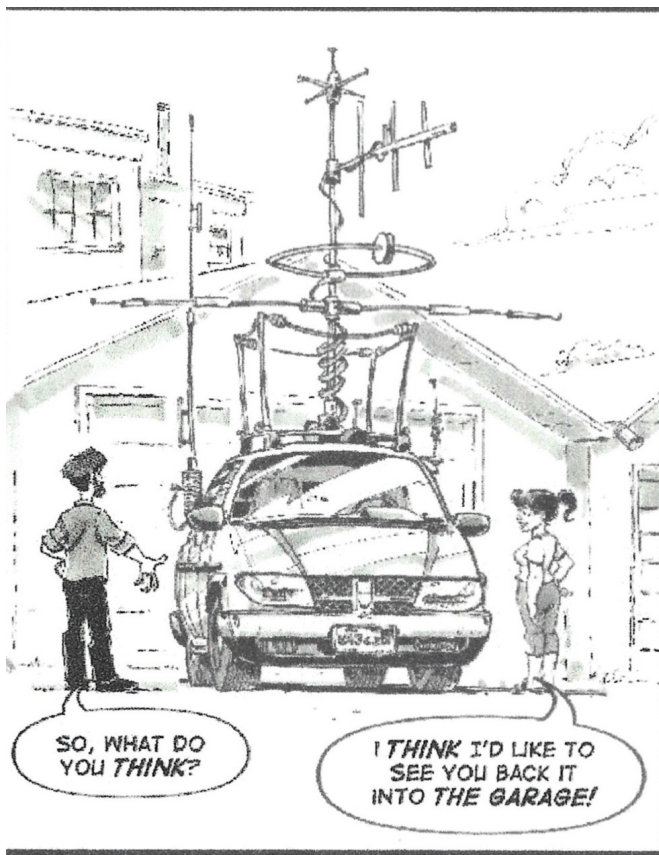
The past three net sessions have met with moderate success with a half dozen chapter members and friends participating. During the September 28th session has a true dozen participants.

The Pine Cone Net is open to all Hams, not just QCWA members. However, if you have been a ham for 25 years, or getting close we encourage you to think about becoming a member of the QCWA and in turn the Pine Tree Chapter.

For more info On the QCWA go to:

<https://www.qcwa.org/qcwa.php>





uSDX QRP Transceiver Followup Review

By W1ZE



I got around to playing with the tiny SDR uSDX HF QRP (5w) transceiver I purchased for about \$60 from ALIexpress (China) a few months ago. It is the same transceiver the fellow that did the Zoom J-Pole talk several club meetings ago sells.

The little radio is about the size of two packs of cigarettes and covers all the HF bands in all modes. Yes it does deliver 5-watts and the receiver performs nicely.

Everything is menu driven It has an internal rechargeable 11.1v battery (ordered separately). To get the full output (5w) you need an external 12.5+ VDC supply.

The evening of September 24th I figured out control functions then hooked it up to my ground mounted 6BTV vertical and tuned around on 40M. I heard a station about S-6 in southwest Connecticut calling CQ, so I gave him a call and damn if he didn't respond with, "The QRP station, I missed your call and location, try again." He gave a 55-56 report. So the little box works.

If you want to play with a relative inexpensive QRP radio (+/- \$90 from China and +/- \$130 stateside) that really works, this tiny rig may be a fun investment.

This is my product review and I'm sticking to it. 😊

Bruce, W1ZE



If you are in the process of studying for your Extra Class ticket, or you are a VE, here is something you should know

NCVEC Question Pool Committee Removes Extra-Class Question E6D07 From Use

[<https://www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners>]

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[<https://www.rooftowers.com/price-list/?ARRL-supply>]

- Operating range 25.6 to 30.1 MHz
- Power out =15W, 45W, 60W(PEP)
- Will work split for FM repeaters
- Original box plus programming cable and factory manual and mounting hardware.

Sells on Ebay for +/- \$280 but I'm asking only \$150 (if pick up in Phippsburg) or add shipping fee.

Contact Bruce Randall, W1ZE at jbrandall43@comcast.net



HAM STUFF FOR SALE



10- Meter AT-6666PRO
FM/AM/USB/LSB
 Only a year old with low activity

