



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association
for April 2026



For W1AEK One Job Was Never Enough

By J. Bruce Randall, W1ZE

Back 1979 when I moved from southern California to mid coast Maine I started making friends with the local hams in the Bath and Brunswick area. I quickly made friends with Peter Russell, K1MJP (now K4POR). In early 1980 Pete and I thought a two meter repeater in the area would be nice to have so we started building one. Pete had a young friend he had as a student at Brunswick High School and involved in the schools LPFM radio station by the name of Chuck Bullett, WB1AEK. Chuck along with a handfull of local hams were enthusiastic supporters of our repeater project and one of the founding members of MARA that supported the new 147.21 N1MA/R repeater.



Circa 1980s, Chuck Bullett, WB1AEK 2nd on the left front row

Chuck was into all things “RADIO” not only amateur radio but would do almost anything to be involved in broadcasting from being behind the mic as a disk jockey, being a junior broadcast engineer to even being a station maskot at

station promotional events. This led Chuck to work his way up in the broadcast radio business starting in Maine and ending up in the big station market in San Francisco, California.

Near the end of Chucks long career in radio Broadcasting, a friend of his, Nick Langen published an on-line column titled, “For Chuck Bullett, One Job Was Never Enough.” The following address will link you to the column:

<https://www.radioworld.com/news-and-business/news-makers/for-chuck-bullett-one-job-was-never-enough>

I think you will enjoy reading it.

Over the years Chuck and yours truly have remained friends and I for one am glad he has retired and returned to Maine as W1AEK and has rejoined the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association.

Welcome home old friend. 73, W1ZE



Gray Repeater Back Up & Running

Report from Cory Golob, KU1U



The Gray 147.045 repeater was down, Michael Bagley (NU1H), Simon (N1URA) and I went to investigate. It looked like the power supply was not working. Swapped the power supply out with an Astron RM-35A and the repeater came back to life. It is now back on the air.



Local mid coast ham radio operator gives up on Maine weather, takes iceberg to Florida



Would he be maritime mobil & Will he ever return?



Portable in Savannah

By W1ZE

In the last issue of this newsletter I had a column on the Chinese Xiegu G90 20-watt all mode transceiver that I purchased used on Ebay and that I planned to take it with me on our February get warm trip to Savannah, GA.

In advance of the trip the XYL made reservations for a two week stay in a condo next to the big city park on Park Avenue. The condo was a old late 1800s remodeled brick apartment building and was very cozy. The apartment flat was on the third floor (walk-up) with a nice 8' by 16' patio deck right off the big master bedroom. In the bedroom was a small table big enough to sit the little G90 on and my mini keyer paddle. I ran the coax out onto the patio an connected it to my portable roll-up 29-foot 9:1 unun fed end fed wire antenna strung across the third story patio wooden railing.



Then came the first try. I turned on the G90 and tuned to 20M CW portion of the band then hit the auto-tune button. I heard the tiny relays inside the rig chatter for about one second and the SWR meter showed 1.12:1. Well, at least the

antenna tuned up OK. I tuned across the CW portion of the band but there wasn't a lot of activity in the early afternoon, but did find a W9 station calling CQ. He was only about 559 but I gave him a call and he came back with "QRZ W1? " I IDed again and he came back with, "W1ZE/4 549 BK". The exchange was short but it was my first QSO from Savannah. For the next two weeks we had lots of fun touring the city, attending museums and art galleries and some damn good southern style cooking. I didn't do a lot of hamming but did manage to make about a dozen QSOs, mostly CW and a couple SSB contacts. The bands were not all that active due to a reported solar flair but all in all, I was glad to have taken the G90 with me.



ARRL just announced its Spring W1AW operating Schedule

TIME (Central)	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8:00 - 9:00 A	---	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
9:00 A - 2:45 P	Visiting Operator Time				
3:00 - 4:00 P	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
4:00 - 5:00 P	Code Bulletin				
5:00 - 6:00 P	Digital Bulletin				
6:00 - 7:00 P	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
7:00 - 8:00 P	Code Bulletin				
8:00 - 8:45 P	Digital Bulletin				
8:45 - 9:00 P	Voice Bulletin				
8:00 - 9:00 P	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
10:00 - 11:00 P	Code Bulletin				
All times are Central Time, whether Standard or Daylight.					

Daily Morse Code Practice QST Source

Code practice text is from the pages of QST magazine, the League's membership journal. The source is given at the beginning of each practice session and alternate speeds within each session. For example, "Text is from December 2025 QST, pages 46" indicates that the practice session's plain text is from the article on page 46.

Morse Code Transmissions

Frequencies are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0775, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, and 147.555 MHz.

