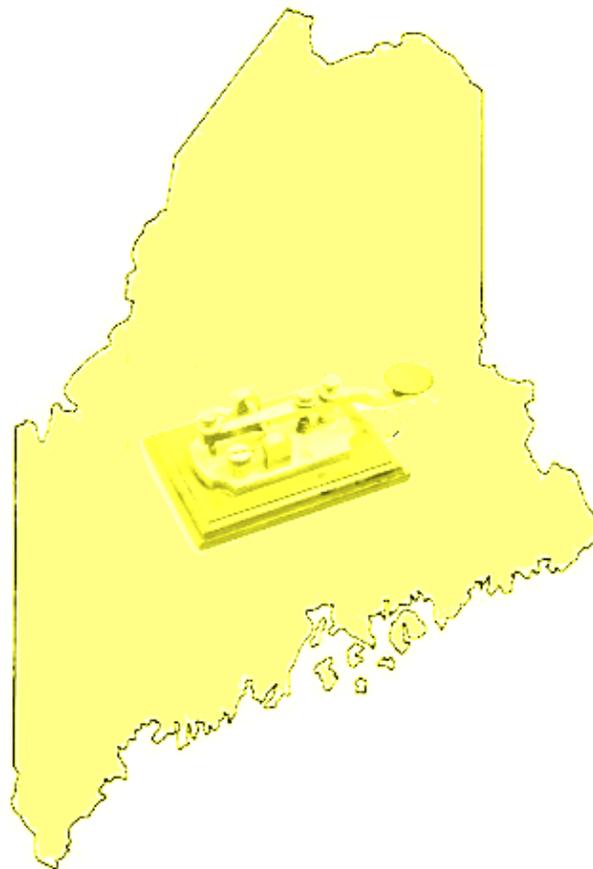


The Maine Telegraph
NEWSLETTER

April 2021

Statewide Newsletter for Maine Amateur Radio Operators



Submit Articles to: Cory Golob - KU1U by emailing ku1u@arrl.net

Announcing The **Maine Dirigo Net!** Contribution By: Peter Hatem (KC1HBM)

We are proud to announce a new weekly net on the NEDECN System, Maine Statewide Talk Group, 3123, on Sunday mornings at 10:00a, starting on April 11, 2021.

We have several goals for net:

First, our usual Sunday morning net in Maine, the “12-county” net on the KQ1L system, is temporarily down, and has been for some months, due to several technical and repeater issues. In part, this net is intended as a temporary replacement for that net until it is up and running again, and we will disseminate similar news, announcements and information to that net.

Second, this net is to exchange information about DMR radio products, Maine DMR repeater site additions or changes and other amateur topics of interest to DMR users in Maine.

Third, this net is to discuss other timely and general topics of interest specifically of interest to Maine amateur radio operators. As we get rolling, we intend to have a topic to discuss, perhaps a question of the week, or some other similar way to initiate a discussion. While we want to disseminate information, we also want to encourage an informal discussion, generally (but not slavishly) focused every week.

Fourth, we intend this net to be a traffic handling net for the ARRL NTS.

The net will use Netlogger (<https://www.netlogger.org/>), which is a logging program that can use the internet to transmit check-in information to other users of NetLogger.

For those without DMR capability, please reach out to Peter Hatem KC1HBM kc1hbm@arrl.net for assistance. There may be radios for loan for this net.

MAINE VIRTUAL HAMFEST A SUCCESS!



The results are in, the Maine Virtual Hamfest was a success and people want more! The talks were a huge hit and were well received. Even when we return back to some “normalcy” people still want to be a part of a virtual hamfest when the in-person season has closed. Joe and I have decided to try this again on December 4th. It will give us more time to prepare and plan. The alternative rooms (eyeball QSO, swap/sell/trade) did not go all that well so maybe we can improve that portion of the Virtual Hamfest. We certainly need to promote it more, but we did ok considering this was only planned start to finish in about 30 days!

For those who were not able to attend the Maine Virtual Hamfest, fear not! A Maine ARRL Youtube channel has been created and all talks from MVH have been posted there for your viewing pleasure. [PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE MAINE ARRL YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#) and be sure to subscribe for future videos.

Master Maine Net List

A Big thank you to all of those who exchanged feedback on compiling a Master Net List for Maine Informal, EMCOMM and Traffic related Radio Nets on HF, VHF and UHF. This will be a helpful resource to both new and veteran hams. The list is available on the mainearrl.org website in two formats: Open Office (ODF) and Adobe Acrobat Reader (PDF). You can see the release date in the bottom right corner of the documents with Version number (in this case it is Revised: 3/27/2021 Version 1). Update 2 will be released at a future date as information changes (frequency, time, etc.) and will include a description of EMCOMM/Traffic Nets that take place on VHF/UHF.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS MASTER NET LISTS](#)

You can click on the “pop-out” icon in the upper right hand corner to expand the document or save to your personal computer for future reference



Saint Croix Valley Amateur Radio Club:

An International Mix!

Contribution by Phil Duggan N1EP (District 3 ASM)

International goodwill starts at home. The Saint Croix Valley Amateur Radio Club is based out of the Calais, Maine area, and being a border region, its members are comprised of American and Canadian amateur radio operators.

Formed in 1957, the club initially met regularly across the border in Saint Stephen, New Brunswick. For the past few decades they have met in Calais, until the Covid-19 pandemic forced them to meet on the air and on Zoom video conferencing.

Many of its members have dual callsigns. Some of the American hams also have Canadian call signs, and some Canadians have American calls.

“We are an international club, so we kind of intertwine everything as best as we can.”

Mike Sanford, KB1GEO/VE9USA is the current club president. He noted in a recent Zoom conference, that the terrorist attacks of 9-11 had a big impact on club membership. Prior to 9-11 you did not need a passport to cross the border and getting back and forth from New Brunswick to Washington County, Maine was a breeze. The stricter border rules made it so that many Canadian hams did not want to deal with the hassle, said Mike.

“We had a stronger Canadian member base before 9-11,” he said. The post 9-11 border restrictions had a major impact upon the club.

The pandemic impacted border crossings even more. Very few people are allowed to drive between the borders now. Mike relayed the story of a girl from Saint Stephen who travelled to Montreal and then flew to Boston and then travelled all the way north to Calais Maine just to visit her boyfriend!

The club is still trying to remain active and to meet its members' needs. In spite of the pandemic, the club did hold a smaller scale version of their Alexander hamfest last September, and plan to do so again this year. They also hope to do a less public version of Field Day this year. Mike said they were actively looking for a location, as the Alexander school is still, at this point, off limits because of the virus. With more people being vaccinated, perhaps restrictions will ease this summer.

The pandemic has not put a stopper to the club, though, and new members are joining recently.

Members conduct a weekly ten meter FM net on 29.100 Mhz at 8pm on Wednesdays. A half hour earlier they often meet on DMR Region North. Many club members also join in on the Monday evening Washington County ARES net on the W1LH Cooper Mountain Repeater.

The club sponsors ham radio exams, usually one scheduled during their annual hamfest, and a couple others as needed.

Mike said the club would like to do some outdoors portable operations this year. He also likes to setup his ham radio in his sailboat and operate from off the Maine or Canadian coastlines in summertime.

The Saint Croix Valley ARC has a history of supporting public service events, such as the Downeast Adventure Race, and the Bold Coast Bash Trail Race. Of course, the pandemic caused these events to be canceled last year.

Maine Seagull Net and Maine Public Service Net regulars are familiar with Rick MacMillan, VE9MTB, from New Brunswick, Canada. He is the club treasurer and a vice president. Rick is very active on the air and can often be heard checking into the Maine nets from his remote campsites on an island or elsewhere. Rick also holds an American call sign, W1MTB.

The Saint Croix Valley Amateur Radio Club is set to move forward this year in spite of the pandemic. Club members will adapt and still find ways to enjoy their hobby and international friendships.

HERMON HAMFEST JUNE 5!



The Hermon Hamfest is scheduled for Saturday June 5th from 8 AM to 1 PM at Hermon Mountain, 441 Newburgh Rd, Hermon.

[Click Here for Directions](#)

Exams are at 9 AM - NO WALK-INS. Contact Peter Bither (AI1O) to register for the exam. His email is redbeard104@aol.com

There will be prizes, 50/50 raffle, food and tailgating. There is a very large parking lot for easy distancing. Talk-In will be on the 146.94 MHz Repeater (136.5 Hz Tone).

For more information about the Hermon Hamfest please check the Pine State ARC website for updates at <http://n1me.com> Hamfest Contact Person is Jerry Burns (K1GUP) email k1gup@roadrunner.com

ARRL NEW ENGLAND DIVISION WEBSITE

Communication seems to be flowing well in Maine, but there is more going on beyond our state line! Please be sure to visit the ARRL New England Division Website to see what other ham radio operators and clubs are doing. It is nice to take a bird's eye view and see what is going on around the region. The website is located at <http://nediv.arrl.org> and features news articles from around New England (with our own Phil Duggan N1EP being mentioned for his wonderful and informative Youtube videos), leadership contact info, listings of Affiliated Clubs, convention information and more. Please take a look if you have not yet visited the site, it is a great resource to monitor.

A Simple 6M FM Ground Plane

Larry Banks / W1DYJ

Background

The Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA) < <https://www.mmra.org/> > is an Eastern Massachusetts non-profit organization providing communications infrastructure and volunteers for community and emergency events. It owns a linked system of over 20 repeaters from 10m to 33cm in the Boston area and is a source of both repeater hardware and personnel for emergency and public service events.

In my role as MMRA net manager for the Tuesday evening *Technical Informational and Other Stuff* net I should have the ability to monitor all of the MMRA repeaters. With my now 20-year-old TS-2000 and the 2M/70cm FM stick on my roof I can monitor those repeaters. At the 2019 New England HamXposition I purchased an Alinco DR-235 MkIII to cover the 220 repeaters, using a simple ground-plane in my attic: < <https://www.qsl.net/w1dyj/220%20Antenna%20Results.pdf> >. But I needed an antenna for 6M to feed my TS590SG.

Design

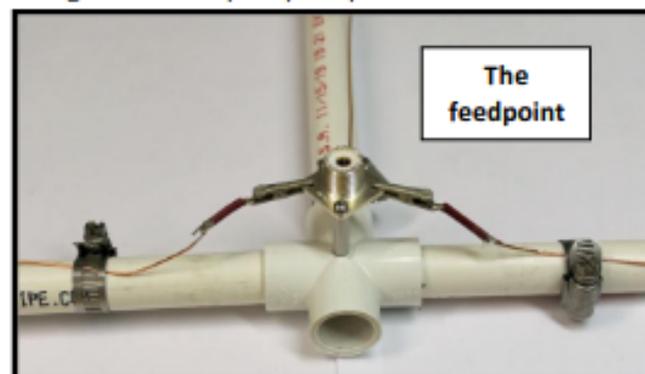
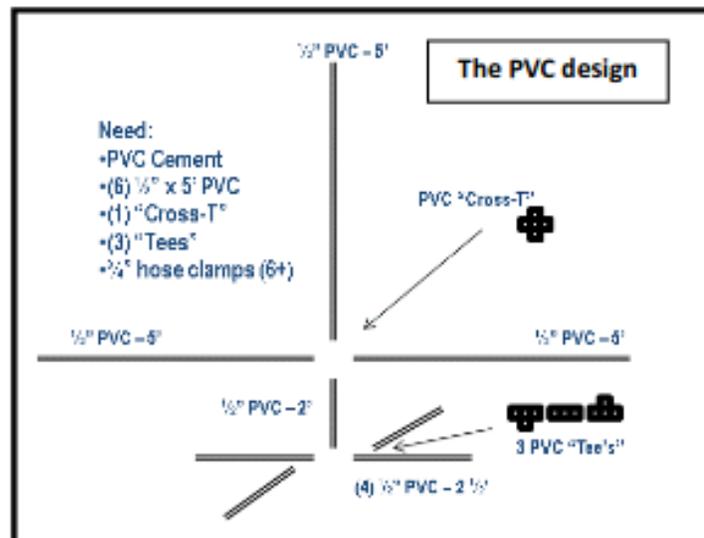
I modeled and built a simple vertical dipole made from #22 hard-drawn copper wire. Unfortunately this 6M dipole would be too tall to hang from my attic rafters. After trying to bend it in some way to make it fit, I realized that a simple ground-plane would work and be short enough to fit my attic.

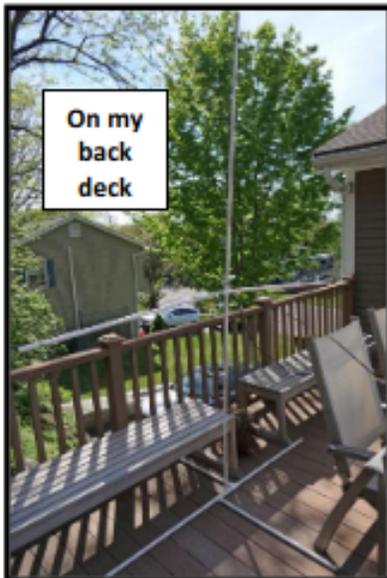
One of my favorite building materials is 1/2" schedule 40 PVC. It's easy to machine, glues together quickly, and there exist a lot of joints, elbows, etc. that you can use to fashion whatever shape you can design. As I wanted to test this on my back deck, I drew up a quick prototype of a self-standing ground-plane – see the basic design of the PVC tubing in the figure to the right.

This might also work well for portable operation if designed to be a quick put-up and take-down structure.

Implementation

A quick trip to the local big-box store acquired the PVC to build this. Don't forget to purchase the PVC cement. (And use gloves with that stuff!) A hacksaw and some sandpaper was all I needed to build the structure. I did not





cement all the parts together as I wanted to be able to break it down for storage as I was testing it, and later to be able to carry it up to my attic. I used alligator clips to connect the two ground wires to the active wire after fitting the two ground PVC tubes into the "Tee" connector cemented to the vertical tube. (Don't forget the story of the guy who built a boat in his basement...)

My modeling showed that 55" of the #22 wire was about the right length to use for the three legs of the ground-plane. I cut this and ran it along the PVC, clamping it at the ends of the three legs with standard stainless-steel hose camps. Setting it up on my deck showed that it was worth the effort.



Results

I hung this at the western end of the attic which faces the target repeater in Marlboro MA, about 24 miles away from my QTH in Woburn. It seems to work quite well.



CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT
2021 Maine 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge



SATURDAY, APRIL 3rd

The *Maine 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge* is a ham radio sprint-style contest designed to give 2 meter operators a chance to compete on an even basis, and have fun doing it.

Contest Period: Saturday April 3rd, 2021 from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Contacts are limited to **FM Simplex on the 2 meter band**.

Participants may be entered as either fixed or mobile, (but not as both).

Exchange – Exchange items include your call sign, the name of the city, village, town, or township you are operating from, and your power level. Rovers and mobiles must be within the city limits of whatever city they claim to be operating from.

City or Town – This is simply the name of the city or town you are operating from. If you do not live within the city limits, use the name of the town or municipality to which mail or a package would be addressed.

For mobile entries, use the name of the city or town you are in, or the closest city or town.

Power levels are defined as follows:

- QRP – 5 watts or less
- Medium Power – greater than 5 watts, but less than 100
- High Power – 100 watts or more

Entry Categories – There are two entry categories: Fixed and Mobile. You may enter only one category for the contest. If a station gives out more than one multiplier during the contest, that station will automatically be entered into the mobile category.

[Click here](#) for complete rules – and don't forget there's a club competition as well!

Catch you on the air! 73! Tim KB1HNZ

New England QSO Party

Let's try to make sure that every county in Maine is represented! [APRIL POLL](#) is about NEQP.

Object: To contact as many New England stations (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) in as many New England counties as possible on 80-40-20-15-10m. (New England stations work anyone)

Date: First full weekend of May (May 1-2, 2021)

Contest Period: 2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday (4pm EDT Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday) and 1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday (9am EDT Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday).

Categories: Single-operator high power, low power(150w or less) and QRP(5w or less) categories, plus multi-operator, single transmitter. Same four categories for mobiles.

Contest Exchange: Send signal report and state/province (DX stations send signal report and "DX"). New England stations send signal report, county and state.

Valid Contact: Work New England stations once per band/mode. New England stations work anyone (and must copy the county for New England stations worked. CW contacts must not be made in the phone band segments. Mobiles that change counties are considered to be new stations, and can be worked for both multiplier and QSO Point credit. County line QSOs should be logged as two separate QSOs. Crossmode, crossband and repeater QSOs are not permitted.

QSO Points: Count one point per phone QSO, two points per CW (includes digital modes)QSO.

Multiplier: Stations outside of New England use [counties](#) as multipliers for a total of 67 (CT/8 MA/14 ME/16 NH/10 RI/5 VT/14). New England stations use states(50)(Count DC as MD), Canadian provinces(14) and DXCC countries as multipliers.

Scoring: Total score is QSO points times the multiplier. Mobiles count QSO points per county and multipliers from all counties (counted once).

Suggested frequencies: CW - 3540 7035 14040 21040 28040, SSB - 3850 7180 7280 14280 21380 28380.

Reporting: Logs should indicate times in UTC, bands, modes, calls and required contest exchange. All stations include your club's name in the log header or summary. Entries must be submitted within 30 days and sent to NEQP, P.O.Box J, West Suffield CT 06093 or via e-mail to logs@neqp.org (Cabrillo format preferred).

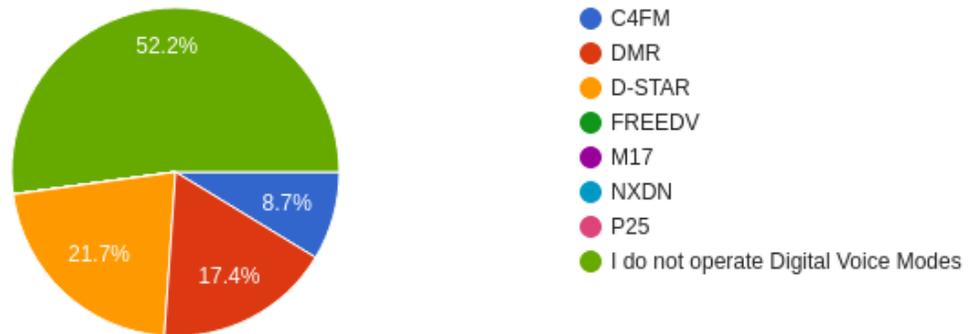
Awards: Certificates will be awarded to the top scorers (25 QSO minimum) in each New England county, U.S. state, Canadian province and DXCC country. A number of special plaques will also be awarded to top scorers (check the Web site for a current list).

More information: The New England QSO Party Web site is at <http://www.neqp.org>. Plaques to be awarded and information on New England state county awards. NEQP results will be posted on the web site when they are complete. Questions can be addressed to info@neqp.org.

MARCH POLL QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE DIGITAL VOICE MODE IN THE FORMAT WARS?

NONE	12 (52.2%)
D-STAR	5 (21.7%)
DMR	4 (17.4%)
C4FM	2 (8.7%)
FREEDV	0 (0%)
M17	0 (0%)
NXDN	0 (0%)
P25	0 (0%)

23 responses



[**CLICK TO PARTICIPATE IN APRIL POLL**](#)

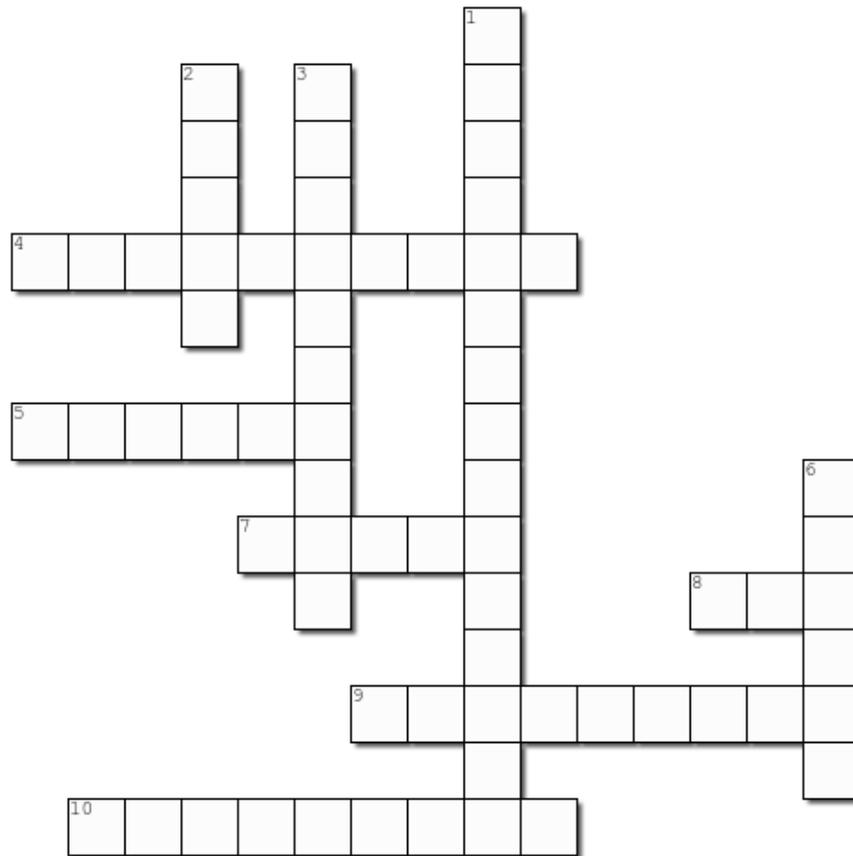
April Poll is for those planning to participate in the New England QSO Party:

- 1) From which County will you be operating?**
- 2) What category do you plan on operating?**

Name: _____

APRIL TELEGRAPH CROSSWORD

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

4. ARRL MAGAZINE FEATURING INTRODUCTORY TECHNIQUES OR STORIES TO HELP HAMS WITH BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE EXPERIENCE (3 WORDS)
5. HAMFEST TAKING PLACE ON JUNE 5TH
7. 123.0 HZ WOULD BE AN EXAMPLE OF THIS (ABBREVIATION)
8. NEW ENGLAND ____ PARTY, MAY 1-2
9. G5A03: CAUSES OPPOSITION TO THE FLOW OF ALTERNATING CURRENT IN AN INDUCTOR
10. AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE USED TO ADJUST RESPONSE TO DIFFERENT AUDIO FREQUENCIES, BOB HEIL DEVELOPED THE FIRST ONE FOR HAM RADIO

Down

1. OFFICIAL TERM FOR MORSE CODE (2 WORDS)
2. AMATEUR METER BAND THAT IS CHANNELIZED
3. T3B01: NAME FOR THE DISTANCE OF A RADIO WAVE TRAVELS DURING ONE COMPLETE CYCLE
6. MOUNTAIN DOWNEAST THAT HOSTS THE 147.33 REPEATER, LIKE THE CHEESE

March Crossword Answers

1. HONOR, 2. SMITH CHART, 3. RHOMBIC, 4. DISCRIMINATOR, 5. HALO, 6. MILLI, 7. MODULATION,
8. LOWER, 9. IDENTIFY, 10. BATTERY

April Wordsearch

G	O	A	E	T	O	M	F	O	O	L	E	R	Y
L	E	P	N	Y	L	E	X	I	N	G	T	O	N
S	T	R	R	M	A	A	Y	S	E	S	G	G	E
C	A	I	P	I	F	R	S	R	L	D	I	R	O
T	O	L	G	A	I	E	C	C	G	T	O	B	E
S	O	F	E	E	T	P	G	O	S	E	O	U	T
E	F	O	G	A	O	R	O	N	G	L	C	N	A
O	R	O	R	O	S	U	I	C	O	O	R	N	L
C	O	L	T	T	C	M	E	O	E	D	O	Y	O
A	A	S	R	L	O	N	S	R	T	T	R	B	C
H	E	A	S	T	E	R	R	D	D	S	I	G	O
Y	E	T	Y	E	Y	A	N	T	N	C	D	O	H
R	U	A	O	L	I	F	B	T	O	Y	E	A	C
O	B	R	E	N	N	L	R	E	O	Y	L	E	Y

BUNNY
CONCORD
EASTER
RAIN
LEXINGTON
PATRIOTS DAY
TOMFOOLERY
CHOCOLATE
EGGS
APRIL FOOLS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2202603/>

<https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2202603/>



\$wap \$hop
***Amateur Radio Equipment
For Sale or Trade***

MFJ 993 Automatic Antenna Tuner 1.8-30MHz

\$145

Contact: Chip 207-370-2437 lightdazzled@gmail.com

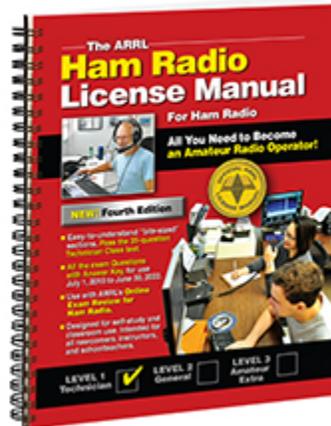
FA-VA4 100 kHz to 100 MHz Vector Antenna Analyzer (assembled)

\$90

Contact: Chip 207-370-2437 lightdazzled@gmail.com

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT SWAP SHOP ITEM](#)

Remote (Zoom) Technician Study Session
Sponsored by the Maine Ham Radio Society



Interested in becoming a ham radio operator or know somebody who is!? MHRS is hosting a FREE ham radio study session starting Wednesday April 14th at 7:00 PM

While tuition is free, it is *recommended* that students purchase the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 4th Edition as material in the study session will come from this manual.

[Click Here to Purchase the Study Manual](#)

This study session will consist of 4-6 sessions every Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM with each session will last an hour to an hour and a half using the Zoom platform.

To Register: Please email Phil Duggan (N1EP) at n1ep@yahoo.com