

The Maine Telegraph
NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Statewide Newsletter for Maine Amateur Radio Operators



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

Hip Hip Hooray for QCWA!

Cory Golob, KU1U

Do you want to know the thing about 25-years ago today? Sergeant Pepper taught the band how to play. Well, that would only be true if today was May 26, 1967, which is when The Beatles released their amazing album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. I will say, if it has been 25-years since you first earned your amateur radio license, you have an opportunity to join an organization known as the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). I got my Technician license when I was 13 years old which meant I was eligible to become a QCWA member at 38 years old. After talking about it, I finally decided to officially join last month. I have checked in to the region chapter net for the past few years off and on, but finally decided it was time to support Chapter 134 (Pine Tree Chapter). I am super impressed with the response time from the organization. Within an hour, I had an email from Roberta Cohen, WA2FRW, saying that my credentials would be available the next morning to log in to the members-only site. The next day I had a *personalized* email from the QCWA President Ken Oelke – VE6AFO. This was no copy-and-paste template email either. Ken actually wrote a personal note saying how he read my QRZ.COM biography and how we shared a common interest in emergency communications. Wow! Talk about excellent customer service! Where else can you get that nowadays? I was truly impressed by the quality of attention from this organization.

You do not need to be a member of the QCWA to check in to the nets. The Pine Cone Net meets every Sunday (except during the Summer) on 3942 kHz at 2:00 PM Eastern. They also have other nets on various modes (D-Star, DMR, Fusion, etc.). If you have never checked in before, why not give it a try!? The net is always fun with a little help from my friends. So after you get up, get out of bed and drag a comb across your head, there is plenty of time to get ready for the Pine Cone Net on Sundays. I hope to hear you checking in real soon.

73 DE KU1U

-Cory

QCWA History

Ken Oelke, VE6AFO (President)



QCWA member and Editor of the Maine Telegraph, Cory KU1U asked if I would write an article about QCWA. I know that readers of the QCWA Maine 'Pine Tree' Chapter 134 will be familiar with QCWA and its beginnings, but some readers may not have heard of QCWA.

QCWA is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Private Foundation. The purpose of the Association is to promote friendship and cooperation among Amateur Radio (Wireless) operators who were licensed 25 years or more, and to operate exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Our members consist of like minded Amateurs who have an enormous wealth of experience in the art of radio communications. In addition, QCWA sponsors a large scholarship program that has provided \$765,000 for 596 scholarships since 1978.

History

It was 7 PM on the evening of Friday, December 5, 1947 in an upstairs room of Pappas Restaurant on 14th St. in New York City. Gathered were 34 young men who, unknowingly, were making amateur wireless history. The 34 were Amateur Radio Operators, who had been licensed at least 25 years before, and were assembled because of an idea, originated by a 10 meter round table the month before, by John DiBlasi, W2FX; Uda Ross, W2UD/OA4J; Ed Crane W2FF; John Gioe, W2FD; Dr. Ernest Cyriax, W2DI; Irving Groves, W2DX/K4HT. By December 31,

1947, twenty more names had been added. This made for 54 who became charter members.

There were several factors of common bondage that made for a very nostalgic evening. Licensed 25 years or more (1922 or before), which in turn, meant all had operated during the days of spark. Many started out using a Ford spark coil and working up to a KW with a rotary gap, and all operating on or above 200 meters.

World War II had ended two years before, which also resulted in new equipment and stories of war experiences. Discussion took place about the name for the new group. The final result, as presented by

Frank Lester W2AMJ (W4AMJ), proposed the name "Quarter Century" for 25 years licensed and "Wireless Association" to recognize an organization of members who pioneered amateur radio from the early days of wireless spark. The logo was developed from a cartoon in a 1923 QST accompanying an article "ROTTEN QRM," written by "The Old Man" himself, Hiram Percy Maxim. Otto Eppers, W2EA, a commercial artist, made some minor modifications to the drawing. He added some sparks and the letters "QCWA," and the QCWA logo was thus born.

Officers elected were: President John DiBlasi, W2FX; Vice President George Droste, W2IN; Secretary Leon Hanson, W2FIT and Treasurer Dave Talley, W2PF. Meetings were held twice a year with over 100 attending. Speakers of pioneer fame included Paul Godley, Hugo Gernsback, Arthur Batcheller, Alfred N. Goldsmith, J.O. Smith and many others famous in the early days of wireless communications. All meetings between 1947 and 1971 were held in New York City. The first meetings outside of New York were held in Washington, DC (1972); Scottsdale, Arizona (1973); Orlando, Florida (1974) and Reston, Virginia (1975).

As the years rolled by and more and more Amateurs became eligible, the membership increased and spread out over the United States. By 1951 there were well over 300 members. Because it was impossible for many members to travel the distance to New York for meetings, it was decided to allow chapters to

be chartered geographically so meetings could take place locally. The first chartered chapter was Cleveland, OH, Chapter 1, on January 6, 1951. This followed with others that now total 230 chapters today.

The development of the pioneer days of amateur wireless brought romance. QCWA's great beginning will always live on as a monument to the history of amateur radio communications.

If you wish to learn more about QCWA you can visit <https://www.qcwa.org/qcwa>. If you have any questions that you are not able to find answers for on our website, please reach out to me at president@qcwa.org

47 & 73,

Ken Oelke, VE6AFO

President, QCWA, Inc.

THE QCWA MAINE PINE TREE CHAPTER WANTS YOU

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

Were you a licensed ham in or before 1996? If so, did you also know that you are eligible and encouraged to become a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association, QCWA, an organization for seasoned Amateur Radio operators. The National QCWA has been a long time promoter of our great hobby and all its various aspects.

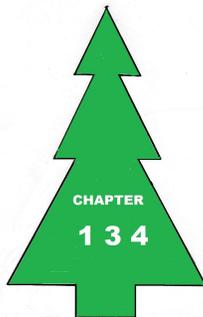
The QCWA also includes various Chapter organizations all across the US, Canada and other foreign countries. The Great State of Maine has the “Pine Tree Chapter No. 134”. This Chapter meets several times a year to have lunch and conduct Chapter business and other ham related activities. In addition to a few meetings the Chapter holds the 75-meter Pine Cone Net (PCN) every Sunday afternoon at 2:00PM on 3942 KHz from September through June. The net is open to all hams, member or non-member alike. The format of the net is very friendly round table casual.

If you want to know more about the QCWA and the Pine Tree Chapter, check into the PCN on Sunday or contact any Chapter member including:

Jerry Burnes, K1GUP Chapter President
K1GUP@roadrunner.com

Bruce Randall, W1ZE Chapter Secretary-Tres.
W1ZE@arrl.net

For more info on the QCWA go to: <https://www.qcwa.org>



SAFE AMP AND PTT CONTROL

Leo Langelier, KH6JKQ

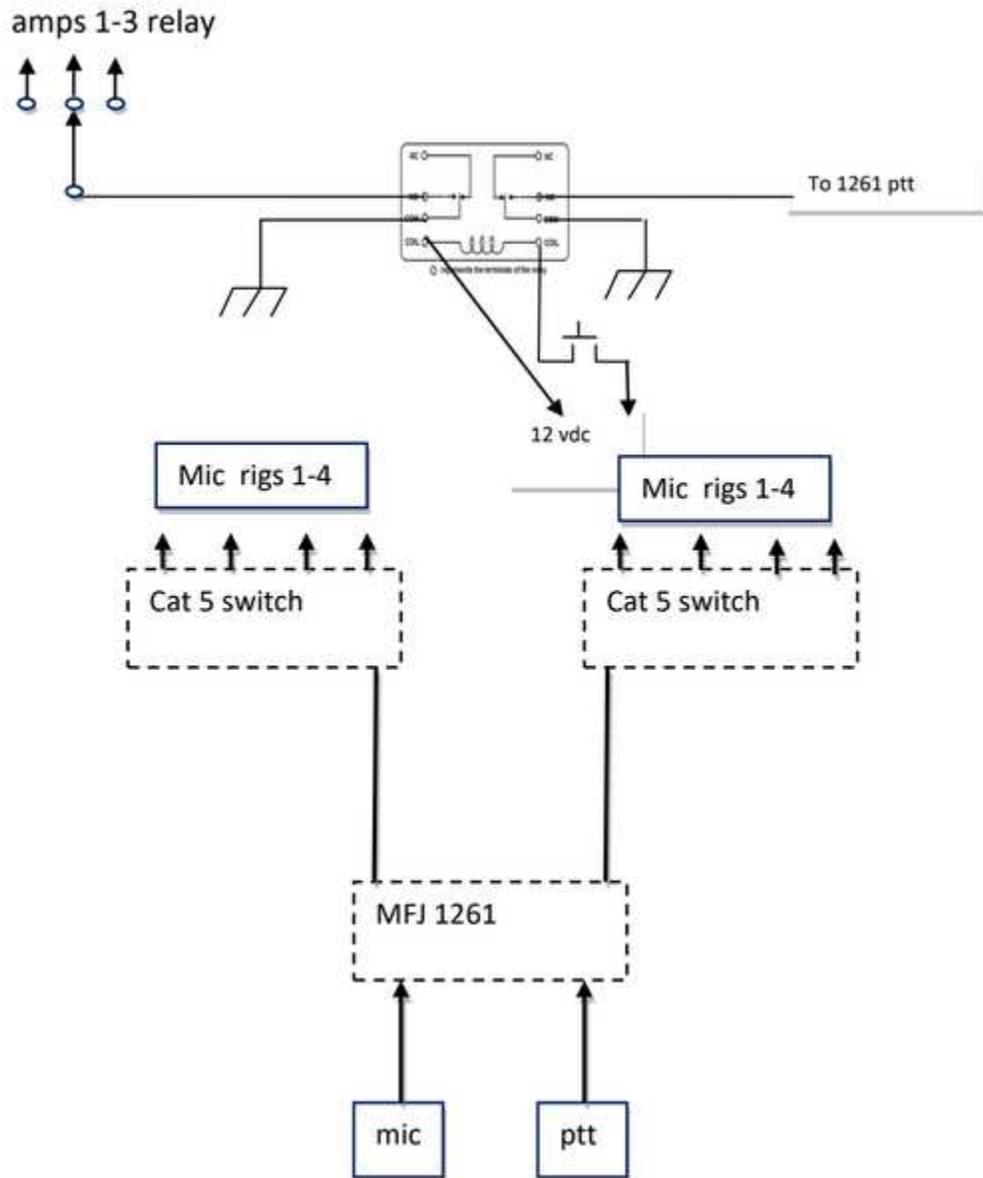
This circuit will allow the use of a linear amp without the cost of propriety cables. And will remove any danger of the amp PTT circuit damaging the rig relay control circuit. In my shack I have 13 HF rigs and 3 amps, switching cables would be impractical as well as impossible without removing equipment from the operating position to access cabling.

The solution is as follows.

An outboard relay is used to switch the linear amp to transmit and to activate ptt on the transceiver as follows.

1. The relay has a 12 volt coil and is DPDT .
2. One set of normally open relay contacts controls the amp that applies a ground to the relay circuit. If more than one amp is to be controlled, install a selector switch to select the amplifier from the output of the relay contacts. The amplifier relay power source is supplied by the selected amplifier; this requires they remain separate.
3. The second set of normally open contacts controls the rig ptt. This is connected to the MFJ Phone jack PTT.
4. The Microphone you select is up to you to plug in to the 8 pin jack on the MFJ 1261 and wire jumpers for that mic. The output of the MFJ 1261 is cat 5 jacks and will allow you to control two different manufacture rigs directly. Installation of Cat 5 manual switches will allow more rigs to be controlled by the cat 5 switches,
5. A MFJ 1261 is used for rig mic interface as only one boom mic is required to control and operate all the transceivers and selection is made by 4 position manual cat 5 switches. This allows you to use standard cat 5 jumper cables and modifying the rig end to use a 8 min connector. The MFJ 1261 allows two outputs and has a 8 pin input allowing common mics to be used and changed at will. Also it is programmable for two different makes of transceivers by internal jumpers. And the microphone input is also programmable.
6. The MFJ 1261 has an input for ptt separate from the mic jack and is fed from the relay, this applies a ground to the ptt circuit.
7. Ptt is controlled by use of a pendant switch similar to a hospital call switch to control the relay power for this circuit which is supplied by a wall wart.
8. Operation is simple, select the rig via the cat 5 switch and amplifier via the amplifier switch.
9. Connection to the rigs can be made using premade cables from MFJ. I built my own using 8 pin mic connectors, cat 5 cable and 8 pin rj45 connectors.

10. In my station I have a second relay that opens up the PC speakers on PTT activation this allows the use of websdr without feedback.



THE BULL NET
Mick Burrill, N1RPH



The Bull Net is a group of amateur radio operators from around New England, New York, and Eastern Canada, who get together during the afternoons on 3928 KHz LSB. It's a break-in net with no real structure. The goal is to have fun with the hobby of radio. Topics are varied, however there is generally some discussion of radio, a certain amount of bull, and of course the food segment. Everyone with a valid license is welcome. So, please stop by and say hello.

The Bull Net has a presence on Groups IO if you have an interest.

<https://groups.io/g/bull-net>

TEN TEC DIGITAL NET

Tom Musolf, N8NJY



Now that my summer time away events have been completed, I plan to restart the digital net on **November 6th 2021 at 8:00 PM 3.581 Mhz USB**. We will use the same MODE MFSK32 as that seems to work out well for Speed and Accuracy. If you have interest and digital HF capability, please join us each Saturday Night. Hopefully many will check in weekly to make your and my time a positive and fun success. Prior to the start of the net around 7:30 PM, I will have brief transmissions to “Warm up the band” at or very near 1000 on the waterfall. This will give you the opportunity to “tune in” before the start of the net.

I will run the net until all checkins are heard and logged,. then close the net with the Net Close message as usual. Looking for your checkin and hope that band conditions are favorable....

Remember, for those in time adjustable time zones, the following week on November 7th were forced to move our clock’s backward one hour !

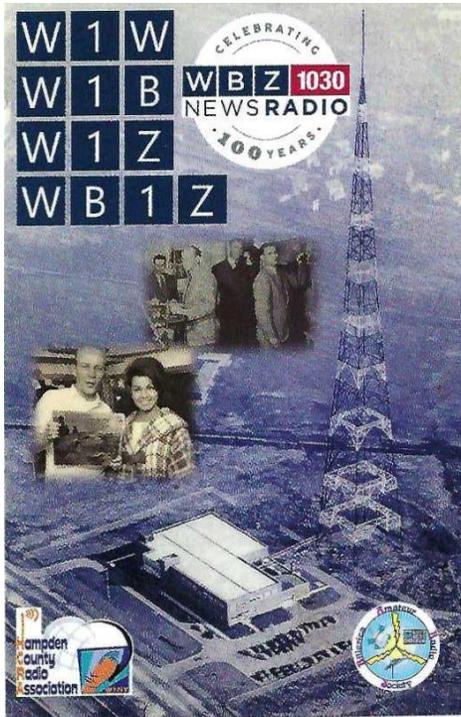
73

Thomas Musolf N8NJY

statipro1@gmail.com

WBZ 100th Anniversary Commemorative Event – Update

Tony Baker, AA3HD



Last month, Susan, WB2UQP, told us all about the Special Event that took place from September 17th through September 19th to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WBZ radio; the oldest broadcast station in New England. Susan ended her article by telling all those who made contact with one of the four commemorative callsigns – W1W, W1B, W1Z, and WB1Z – to follow the instructions on QRZ.com to receive a special QSL card commemorating both WBZ and the special event.

WBZ Special Event Station Contact List

QSO with	DD/MM/YY	UTC	Band	Mode	RST
W1W					
W1B					
W1Z					
WB1Z					

- ✦ September 15, 1921 – WBZ was the first station licensed as a “commercial” radio station; The original station was located in East Springfield, Massachusetts
- ✦ September 19, 1921 – WBZA airs its first broadcast from the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts
- ✦ February 24, 1924 – WBZ’s broadcast from its new Boston studio
- ✦ April 28, 1932 – A visiting circus lion got loose, wrecked the radio studio, and injured seven employees
- ✦ Late 1933 – WBZ raises transmitting power to its current 50,000W
- ✦ July 1962 – Westinghouse, owner of WBZ, announces it is ending transmissions from Springfield’s WBZA
- ✦ September 19, 2021 – WBZ celebrates 100 years of broadcasting!

Thank you for your donation of \$___ which helps offset QSL costs.

<http://www.wbztvradio.com/> <http://www.hampdenradioandradio.org/wbztv/> <http://www.rrl.org/wbztv/>

QSL card designed by WCA-NEC1BY (see provided by EC1FH)



WBZA Transmitter Building
East Springfield, MA

Front and Back of the WBZ 100th Anniversary Commemorative QSL Card

On November 1st these commemorative QSL cards will be going out to all of you who made contact with one or more of the special event callsigns and followed the instructions in QRZ.com. These instructions basically tell you to mail to Larry Krainson one of your QSL cards filled out with the special event callsign contact information you made, along with a self-sealing SASE. You might remember that Susan told us that 4,629 QSO's were made during the special event.

On October 30th, five of us got together at Larry's house and took on the chore of opening all the QSL card request envelopes, filling out the WBZ 100th Anniversary QSL cards with the appropriate contact information, and putting the completed QSL cards in the self-sealing SASEs everyone sent in. This QSL card-stuffing 'party' took us about three hours to complete. Larry's wife Faye got back from work just as we were finishing up, but in time to help us clean up and count the donation monies that were sent in with many of the QSL card requests...very much appreciated by Larry and the other special event organizers.



Larry Krainson holds up one of the WBZ Commemorative QSL Cards at the QSL card-stuffing party

The vast majority of QSL cards received came from US stations. However, there were some DX contacts, including Japan, Austria, and Germany.



QSL cards from operators in Japan, Germany, and Austria...all making contact with one or more of the WBZ 100th anniversary commemorative callsigns.

Many operators made contact with more than one of the commemorative callsigns, and many also recalled fond memories of listening to WBZ radio. Some operators passed on their best to the special event operators and/or the special event organizers as well as a donation.

Working a special event like this was a first for me, as was this QSL card-stuffing party!!!

73,
 Tony Baker, AA3HD
 Wells

QRP At The Waterfront

By Phil Duggan, N1EP

A cool Union River breeze and autumn colors highlighted the latest QRP At The Waterfront event in Ellsworth on the day before Halloween. There didn't appear to be any mischievous or spooky trickery going on, but there were some yummy treats, thanks to Marion Mason, N3OA!

Conducting frequent, fun operating activities for its members is the mark of an effective amateur radio club. Such is the case with the Ellsworth Amateur Wireless Association, which holds these QRP outings at the Ellsworth Harbor Park spring through late fall.

Band conditions were decent and the morning was nearly perfect as several hams took to the airwaves or stood around rag chewing in person. Two operating stations were set up by Jeff Hanscom, KA1DBE (EAWA President) and Dick Small W1KRP and they made several CW and SSB contacts, including with stations in Texas, Indiana, Michigan, and France.

Whether the club will squeeze one more outside operating activity before Winter arrives is not clear, yet, but in any case, EAWA members are looking forward to springtime at the waterfront next year.



Dick Small W1KRP calls CQ using his FT-818. His antenna was a Buddistick erected along the bank of the Union River.



The Buddistick antenna mounted on a tripod at the river's edge.



Jeff Hanscom, KA1DBE, tunes in a CW signal on his Yaesu FT-817 QRP rig.



KA1DBE's antenna, a QRPguys 3 band vertical with tape-measure radials tried to make duck confit, but the 5 watts just didn't do the trick and the ducks moved on!



Chuck Liebow, AC1BS, takes a turn with the CW station.

NEAR-Fest Photos Courtesy of Joe Grace, W1SK



Deerfield Fairgrounds, New Hampshire



MAINE ARRL UPDATES

There is now an EVENT CALENDAR on the mainearrl.org website as seen in the screenshot below.



Clicking on this button will take you to a calendar which lists various amateur radio related events taking place (VE sessions, trainings, hamfests, etc.).

MAINEARRL WEBSITE CALENDAR

Today ◀ ▶ October 2021 ▼

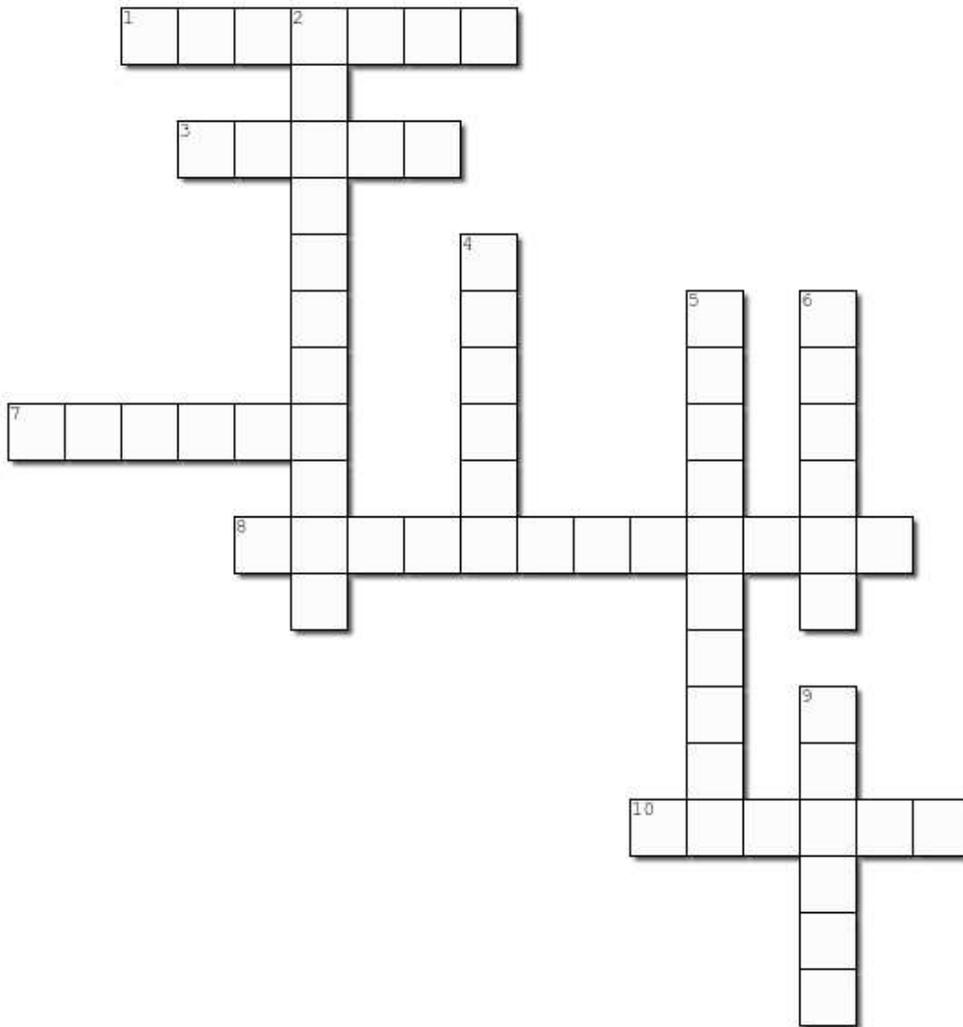
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Oct 1
26	27	28	29	30		
3	4	5	6	7		8
10	11	12	13	14	9am NEAR-FEST XXX	15
17	18	19	20	21		22
24	25	26	27	28	6pm Virtual SKYWARN Spotter Training	29
31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5	
6pm VE TEST SESSION		6pm Virtual SKYWARN Spotter Training				

Clicking on the event will expand a dialog box with more details. If there is an event that you would like listed on this calendar, please send an email to ku1u@arrl.net with the Subject: Calendar Event.

Name: _____

November Telegraph Crossword

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. Cycle that lasts 11 years, we are in the 25th cycle right now
3. This brand offers radio models such as the FT-818, FT-DX101D or even the classic FT-767
7. A digital mode using multiple FSK carriers; If you change the last letter it becomes a buttery-like spread
8. _____ Amateur Radio Association, A Midcoast radio club served by the club call KS1R
10. A station that transmits signals either continuously or on a timed basis, for location and propagation purposes

Down

2. Two contests in November that share the same name, CW is 6-8, Phone is 20-22
4. Day of the week Chapter 134 runs their Pine Cone Net on 3942 kHz
5. Number of years that you must be licensed to join the Quarter Century Wireless Association (2 Words)
6. The 'K' in MFSK (a digital mode)
9. _____ tube, another term for a thermionic valve

October Crossword Answers

1. MARS, 2. TRAP, 3. EME, 4. SCHOOL, 5. BACKSCATTER, 6. REALISTIC, 7. DRAKE, 8. HYDRIDE, 9. BNC, 10. ANDERSON

November Word Search

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

VETERANS DAY
CRANBERRIES
THANKSGIVING
TURKEY
GOBBLE
FAMILY
PIE
FEAST
MAIZE
STUFFING

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2934151/>

<https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2934151/>



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Contact: Al Sirois/N1MHC 207-633-5363, East Boothbay, ME 04544-0002

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

THE MAINE TELEGRAPH IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ARTICLES TO SHARE STATEWIDE. SHARE WHAT YOU ARE DOING WITH THE HOBBY, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS TO GO WITH IT!

SUBMIT ARTICLES AND PHOTOS TO KU1U@ARRL.NET

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Consider joining a local club and/or the American Radio Relay League

Visit <http://arrl.org> for more information