

# THE MAINE TELEGRAPH

NEWSLETTER FOR MAINE  
AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS



## Young Ham Upgrades to General

WRITTEN BY ROGER PIENCE, N1XP

Asa White, 12, upgraded to general class with a 100% passing grade! A sixth-grader, he received his Technician license in May 2021. Ham radio runs in the family as Asa now holds his grandfather's previous call – W5TCF.

Interested in many technical aspects of ham radio, Asa also programs Arduino micro processors and built his own desktop computer at a USM computer camp. Continuing to build in the true ham tradition, he built and launched an HF dipole, with ladder line unassisted, using a bow and arrow to reach through trees according to proud Dad & Mom. Also skilled in soldering, he built a "Pixie", a 40 meter QRP transceiver, from scratch!

Say hello to this amazing young man when you hear him on the air.



# Amateur Radio Week Proclamation

INFO FROM DERRICK OUELLETTE, KW1A



## CARIBOU CITY COUNCIL 2022 AMATEUR RADIO WEEK PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the City of Caribou, Maine is home to over 50 licensed Amateur Radio Operators who repeatedly demonstrate their immense value to the citizens of this town by providing emergency communications during disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, these Amateur Radio Operators generously operate privately owned communications resources for the welfare and common good of Caribou's citizenry; and

**WHEREAS**, these Amateur Radio Operators diligently maintain communications on a state, city and world-wide basis in preparation for emergencies anywhere on earth; and

**WHEREAS**, these Amateur Radio Operators always practice and refine their communication skills especially during the Annual Field Day exercises; and

**WHEREAS**, the unique technical nature of Amateur Radio and the equipment used allows Amateur Radio to be operated virtually anywhere; and

**WHEREAS**, Caribou Amateur Radio Operators continue to stand by, ready to serve and answer any and all Emergency Communications requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Annual Amateur Radio Field Day event is June 25-26, 2022; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Caribou City Council, fully support and do hereby proclaim the week of June 19-25, 2022, as Amateur Radio Week in the City of Caribou.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have here unto set our hands and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Caribou on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022.

Courtesy of Bonnie

Joan L. Threlkett

[Signature]

[Signature]

R. Wade Taylor

[Signature]

Jody R. Smith  
Mayor Jody Smith

Danielle Brissette  
Attest: Danielle Brissette, City Clerk  
[City Seal]

# Field Day Fun!

WRITTEN BY PHIL DUGGAN, N1EP, ME SECTION MANAGER

Clubs and individual hams around the state enthusiastically embraced ARRL Field Day last weekend from camps, beaches, lighthouses, parks, homes, and vehicles. After the earlier phase of Covid-19 era, many seemed to be quite happy about getting together outside and in the field again.

Although I had to miss out on most of field day due to a family function in Massachusetts, I did get to visit two club sites on the way. My first stop was Scarborough where the Wireless Society of Southern Maine gathered at the Wassamki Springs Campground. There I met Tim Watson KB1HNZ, Rick Fickett K1OT, Brad Brown KC1JMH, and others as they erected an end-fed 160M antenna and prepared radios and logging programs from inside the communication trailers. The CW setup included an Elecraft K3 and the phone trailed had a Yaesu FT-950 and Icom 7300.



John Nowacki, W3NA, operates the K3 at the NERDS field day site in Kennebunk.

The New England Radio Discussion Society (NERDS) called CQ Field Day from the yard of The New School in Kennebunk. They had plenty of radio gear both for field day operations and display for the public. They also sported a K3 in addition to other transceivers. The trees and pavilion provided nice shade from the sun.



NERDS pictured L-R George Whitehead W1BOF, John Nowacki W3NA, Susan Bloomfield WB2UQP, Joe Bouchard K1VW, Richard Dufosse AA1EF, Paul Klebaur W1BIU

Thank you to both clubs for welcoming me to their sites. I received feedback from a query I posed after learning that the ARRL made permanent the rule that allowed an aggregate score for clubs who members participated from their home stations. Some felt the rule allowed elderly hams or those not wanting to be at the actual field day site to participate and help their club. Others felt it might make it harder to get people to help setup and take down at Field Day. The ARRL sent out surveys months ago regarding the rule changes, but I never received an email and neither did my club. Did you get the survey? Let me know if you did [nlep@arrl.org](mailto:nlep@arrl.org).

Other feedback regarding field day that I heard on 3940KHz was that it was one of the best ever. John Huffman K1ESE remarked during a recent Maine Seagull Net that the Bass Hill Repeater Group outperformed past field day efforts from Bill W1KX and Michelle W1MC camp in Livermore. The Pine State ARC also had a successful field day in Hermon, as did the Ellsworth Amateur Wireless Association at the Trenton Elementary School, where they tutored some children in CW using Code Practice Oscillators. The recurring theme I heard from clubs was FUN. And that is one of the primary goals of field day and most amateur radio operations, after all!



Wireless Society of Southern Maine Field Day at Scarborough:

Pictured L-R

Tim Watson KB1HNZ, and Phil Duggan N1EP

Thank you and congrats to all who participated in the field day exercise! de N1EP

# Windsor Hamfest August 20



**Augusta Amateur Radio Association**

**W1TLC**

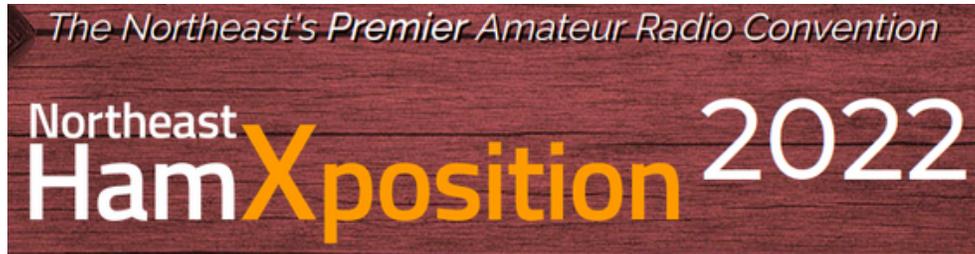
***Augusta, Maine***

The Windsor Hamfest will be August 20 at the Windsor Fairgrounds on Route 32. It will take place from 8:00 AM to Noon. Admission is \$10.00. Digital Talk-In is on the Maine Statewide DMR Talkgroup (3123) and Analog Talk-In is on 146.52 MHz FM.

For more information about the hamfest you can contact Bill Crowley, K1NIT by calling 207-512-0312.

# HamXposition August 26,27,28 - Marlborough MA

INFO FROM [HAMXPOSITION.ORG](http://HAMXPOSITION.ORG) WEBSITE



## ARRL New England & Hudson Divisions convention

The convention committee is excited to announce that HamXposition 2022 will be at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center in Marlborough, MA. This venue is conveniently located off of I-495 on Route 20 west. It offers many amenities and lots of nearby family-friendly attractions and dining options. View the hotel information or the convention layout and maps.

Special HamXposition convention room rate \$109 per night, includes breakfast! You must call the hotel direct at (508) 460-0700 to book your room.

Tell the reservation agent you are staying for the ham convention and would like the ham convention rate.

Reservations must be made prior to July 25th to receive the special rate.

Ham-packed with events for everyone!

- Forums
- Flea Market
- DXCC/Contest Dinner
- Grand Banquet
- Keynote Address
- ARES Academy
- NEQRP Symposium
- Amateur Radio Expo
- 1-Day Tech Class
- License Exams
- Special Event Station
- Open Mic Story Hour
- DXCC Card Checking
- Find the Fox

Over \$3,000 in Door Prizes!

# St. Croix Valley Amateur Radio Club Hamfest September 17



The St. Croix Amateur Radio Club Hamfest will be September 17 at the Alexander Elementary School located at 1430 Airline Rd, Alexander. Talk-In is on the 147.330 Repeater, CTCSS 118.8 Hz.

For more information about the hamfest you can contact Roger Holst, W1LH by calling 207-214-9260 or emailing [holst@midmaine.com](mailto:holst@midmaine.com)

# Lighthouse Memories

WRITTEN BY PHIL DUGGAN, N1EP



Pictured are Marion (Mike) NC4Y, Phil N1EP, Brenda N1ZPV, Tom N1ZY, Ross WIDEM, and a young boy. Mike and Tom are now silent keys.

Prospect Harbor Lighthouse and Gull Cottage in background.

Some of my favorite amateur radio memories are when our club activated the Prospect Harbor Lighthouse several years ago. It is located on a Navy base where I was stationed in the early 80s when I was still on active duty. The light keeper's house adjacent to the light tower is called Gull Cottage. My wife, Brenda N1ZPV, and I were married inside that gorgeous home. Both when active duty and after we retired, we stayed in Gull Cottage many times through the years, as the military rents out the facility to active duty members and retirees. The last time we stayed there was Thanksgiving 2020.

Sadly, on June 27, 2022 as a military family was vacationing at Gull Cottage, a faulty bathroom fan caused a devastating fire, which basically destroyed the cottage. Luckily, no one was harmed, and the light tower was also untouched.

In happier times there, the Maine Ham Radio Society (back then known as the Narraguagus Bay ARC) conducted ham radio events there during the National Lighthouse Weekend. I still knew some people who worked at the Navy base and was granted permission to conduct the event on the base. We strung up multi band dipoles between the Admin building and the ladder up on the satellite dome antenna. It worked fantastic and we made many contacts.

The location was picture-perfect with a beautiful lighthouse and Prospect Harbor and the sea as our backdrop. Like many others, we will miss Gull Cottage, but at least we have many fond memories of that amazing place.

## BE A PART OF IT!

Amateur Radio Exhibit @ The Big E – N1E  
West Springfield, Massachusetts  
September 16 – October 2 2022

“Project Big E” is looking for radio club members and individuals throughout New England to staff a large amateur radio display. You’ll help explain amateur radio to thousands of people during the 16-day event.

In the past, 1.5 million people have attended The Big E—billed as the fifth largest fair in the nation! The interested public from across New England will be directed to clubs in their respective hometowns for classes, mentoring, etc.

Planning is underway for this exciting ham radio project. Please promote Project Big E to your radio clubs and club members.



Go to <https://groups.io/g/ProjectBigE> or scan the QR code for more information and to get involved.



*Conn. Building at the BIG E*

- Live ARISS space station contact
- Emergency communications display
- SSB, CW, DMR, other digital mobile modes
- Highlight youth involvement
- Showcase today’s modern amateur radio activities: Parks/Summits On The Air, QRP, kit building and more!



**<https://groups.io/g/ProjectBigE>**

**[Big E Volunteer Sign Up Form](#)**

# Tuning Duplexers? Yes you CAN!

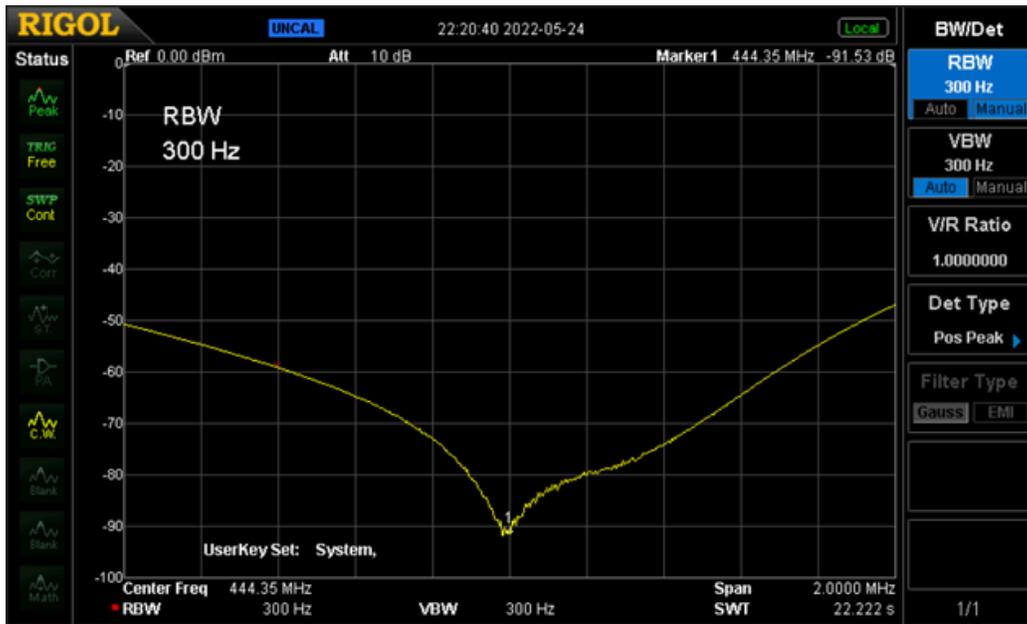
WRITTEN BY CORY GOLOB, KU1U

I had wonderful learning opportunity thanks to Donnie Dauphin, WD1F, when it came to tuning duplexers. A little history... I have always been a fan of D-Star, Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio, which is a digital voice format, just like DMR and Fusion are digital formats. D-Star can be found in several Icom radios, such as the 705, 7100, 5100, 4100, etc. Kenwood's D74A also has a D-Star mode as well as Flex Radio with the use of Digital Voice Dongle (such as NWDR ThumbDV). Some radios can operate D-Star on HF, but most activity is done on VHF/UHF repeaters.

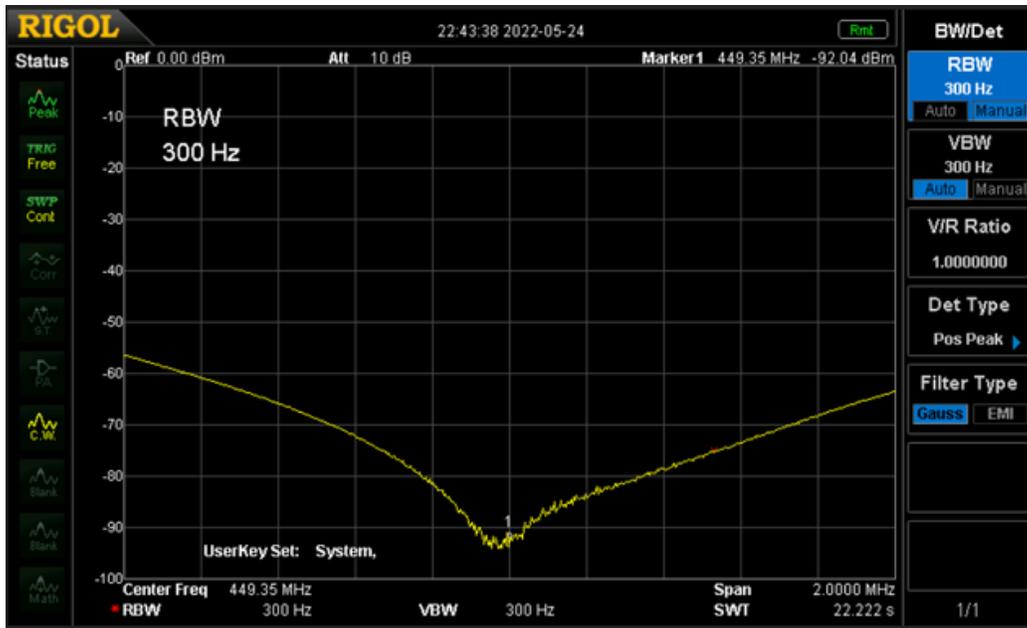
Maine has very few D-Star repeaters. Biddeford, Phippsburg, Cooper and I think there is a new one being put up in the Caribou area, Joe Grace, WISK, purchased a brand new G3 Icom D-Star Repeater which is planned to go up on Streaked Mountain in Buckfield. This is a very exciting project that has been a while in the making. We are waiting for approval to go on the site, but due diligence must be exercised and radio technicians are running tests to ensure no transmitters will interfere with us and that we will not interfere with others.

The frequency granted is 444.350 MHz with a +5 MHz offset. Part of the process is making sure the duplexers are tuned properly to the desired frequencies. Donnie WD1F has a spectrum analyzer with tracking generator that makes the process much easier to perform.





Low Reject, 444.35 MHz, -91.53 dB



High Reject, 449.35 MHz, -92.04 dB



Low Pass, 444.35 MHz, -1.06 dB



High Pass, 449.35 MHz, -0.48 dB

# L.L. Bean July 4th Race

WRITTEN BY JOHN GORAN, K1JJS



Hi folks,

I know this is last minute (caused by the inevitable disappearing email messages), however, I finally received a response from the LL Bean Race Director apologizing for the delayed response to my queries.

Long story short, our presence is always desired. At this short notice, they understand if we cannot muster enough of a team to assist in this year's race. It does require a minimum number of operators to work this event. If I don't get enough participants, I will not commit.

This is a short event, usually just a few hours, and the race starts around 7:30.

Please do not change any of your plans to work this event. This is last-minute, and it's no one's fault. There's always next year.

If you know anyone else, please pass along the info.

As always, Thanks. I will let you know the outcome of my query.

73

John K1JJS

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ARS K1JJS

## BUY - SWAP - SELL

Yaesu FTDX-1200 with the desk mic and FFT chip, manual tuner and an Astron power supply, \$1600 OBO. Contact Derrick Ouellette by emailing - kb1wka@me.com or calling 207-231-2556.

If you have an item to list to buy, swap or sell, please email  
ku1u@proton.me