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THE MAINE TELEGRAPH

NEWSLETTER FOR MAINE
AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS



Keynote Speaker Rick Roderick, K5UR, ARRL President, speaking
at the New England ARRL Convention - HamXposition
Saturday August 26, 2023 in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Photo courtesy of Phil Duggan, N1EP

Helping the Young and the Old

WRITTEN BY PHIL DUGGAN, N1EP, MAINE SECTION MANAGER

If you have been a ham for more than just a few years, then odds are you benefited from an Elmer (mentor) who pointed you in the right direction or assisted you in a number of ways. In recent years, from what I have heard, many new amateur radio operators have no mentors. That could be why so many hams do not get on the air, and do not renew their ham radio licenses.

I recently attended a talk with ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, at HamXposition in Marlborough, MA. Rick said that it is our duty, our responsibility, to help out the newest and youngest hams, as well as the elderly in our community that may have difficulty putting up antennas or are in need of some other assistance. If we want our hobby to grow, and to continue, then we need to extend that helping hand that we certainly appreciated all those years ago. I agree with Rick's sentiments 100%.

Our club recently became aware of a ham aged 89 who recently moved to Maine but has no gear but would like to get back on the air. Our group is going to make that happen. Imagine that you found yourself in a situation where you were displaced and basically shut off from your favorite pastime and there was nothing you could do about it. I love this hobby and would be devastated if I could not partake in amateur radio activities. This ham has fewer years left on Earth than many of us. We want to put a smile back on his face as he dives into the HF world again, for as long as he can.

Newer hams, especially the youngest among them, also need mentoring. Just passing the exam does not mean you know everything to put up a properly operating station. These hams need YOUR experience. Whether your mentoring includes advice, physical assistance, or help in obtaining equipment, it is vital to these hams, and to the future of amateur radio. The hobby and service not only retains a valuable member of our community, but then they will become experienced, and will eventually become Elmers themselves. For hams under the age of 18, contact their parents and see if they need help getting on the air.

If you would like to join our official Maine list of Elmers posted on www.mainearrl.org then send me an email (n1ep@arrl.org) and I will add you to the list. Either way, reach out to those having trouble getting on the air and be a problem solver. VE teams should be vigilant in providing successful applicants with club contacts, or other means of them to get assistance. All ham radio clubs should have a mentoring program what actively seeks out hams who might need assistance. Haven't heard these new and elderly hams on the air in a long time? Find out why!

Lincoln County Amateur Radio Club – K1LX – Activated Pemaquid Lighthouse for International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend

WRITTEN BY JOSE DOUGLAS, KBITCD

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend, which started in Scotland in 1998 is an annual event that occurs on the third weekend of August every year. With over 300 lighthouses/lightships in over 40 countries participating. illw.net for more info. This year's event took place on 19 th and 20 th August with Lincoln County Amateur Radio Club – K1LX activating Pemaquid Lighthouse in New Harbor, Lincoln County Maine, Lighthouse # US00124 for the 7th consecutive year.

We started setting up at 8:30am on Saturday 19 th August setting up 17 meter horizontal hamsticks using a military style mast system and where on the air and making phone contacts by 14:30 UTC (10:30am local). Later during the day we put up a 20m as well as a 75m dipole courtesy of Alan – N1IEJ.

We were joined by Larry Choate, K1NOX and his lovely YL Susan, K1SSC for Saturday, they brought with them an impressive home made mag loop antenna which they used to make contacts on FT-8 digital mode. Their impressive antenna was a “mag” in more ways than one as it attracted a lot of people visiting the lighthouse to come by and talk to us.



The Bristol Parks and Recreation Department were kind enough to let us stay at the lighthouse park overnight. There were three club operators that stayed the night; Pete - KJ1A, Jose - KB1TCD and Adam - KC1KTJ who set up a 75m End Fed antenna when he turned up Saturday evening.

The club had a total of 6 members operating during the weekend in addition to the Choate's; Adam - KC1KTJ, Alan - N1IEJ, Chris - W1ETI, John - WJ3P, Pete - KJ1A and Jose - KB1TCD. We made the last contact at 20:35 UTC (4:35pm local) so that Jose - KB1TCD could serve as NCS for the Maine Emergency Communication Net at 5pm local on 3.940 Khz. By 6:45pm local time we had equipment and antennas packed.

The club made a total of 199 phone contacts including a few lighthouse to lighthouse contacts, including one to the Baltic Sea in Germany. Most of all we had a lot of interest in the hobby by people visiting the lighthouse.

We look forward to doing it again next year and as always, everyone is welcome to join us.

73 de Jose Douglas - KB1TCD - President, Lincoln County Amateur Radio Club - K1LX



Operators Wanted for WIAW!!

WRITTEN BY JOHN HUFFMAN, K1ESE

As part of the year-long Volunteers on the Air (VOTA) project, each state gets to use the WIAW callsign normally reserved for the Hiram Memorial Station at ARRL headquarters. Every state gets two 1-week activations.

For Maine, we will be WIAW portable 1 (WIAW/1) during the weeks of *September 6 through September 12 and December 13 through December 19.* Our first week is coming up in about a month. We need operators.

Operators use their own home station and call CQ VOTA as WIAW/1. The first few days of our activation should be busy, but after that it will be a very relaxed operation.

We will need operators for SSB, CW, and Digital.

Operators need to be reliable and willing to follow the rules. They need to be able to generate an ADIF file from their log. A 100 watt station will do fine. I believe most Maine hams would do a great job. How about you?

If you are interested, send an email to me, John K1ESE, at this address – hjohnc@gmail.com – and I will contact you with details. As state coordinator I am hoping to cover some of each day with a CW operator, a SSB operator, and a digital operator. We can accommodate more if there is the interest.



W1W Special Event Station

WRITTEN BY JOE DEVONSHIRE, AB1YO

The Lincoln Co. Amateur Radio Club with the approval and cooperation of the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway Museum operated a Special Event Station (SES) W1W on August 12 & 13, 2023 at the Alna Center Station. Three amateur radio stations were placed into service for this event, 1) HF, 2) Morse Code, and 3) a VHF station capable of sending digital messages by Radiogram and one-way Text Messaging to a Cell phone. The HF station was able to make 89 contacts and the Morse Code station made 64 contacts over the two days of the event. The operation was in service from 09:00 AM - 16:00 Saturday and on Sunday 9:00 AM until 13:30 PM due to an approaching thunderstorm.

The aim of this SES was to bring Amateur Radio to the community and expose some of the capabilities of Amateur Radio. Along with the operators, we had LCARC members, and other hams meet the Museum visitors at the Alna Center Station operation site and answer questions along with sending messages as requested. With the arrival of each train, we met people from all across the US, and a few from outside the US. We found out that a few of the Museum volunteers were also hams and included them in a tour of our station. The total operation was powered completely by Solar / Battery. For any equipment needing 120v power, we used an inverter.

Keeping with the spirit of the Museum, Joe AB1YO brought some of his vintage broadcast band equipment for an operational display. It included an Atwater Kent Model 42 (1928), a matching AK speaker, and a diamond shaped loop antenna. A low power transmitter was used to broadcast vintage recordings from 1924. We also had a vintage railroad sounder and key for the visitors to see and try as a demonstration and to compare that to the sound of the tones of Morse Code (CW).

All of the hams operated at some point during the weekend. They were: Joe AB1YO, Jose KBITCD, Chris W1ETI, Giff K1GAH, Patty K1PCH, Ernie K1NI, Bob KB1BXC, Pete KJ1A, Cory KU1U, and our surprise guest Simon N1URA. We also had a GOTA (Get On The Air) station for anyone interested in giving talking on the radio a try. We look forward to doing this again.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph G. Devonshire AB1YO





Maine Hamfests

Windsor Hamfest

Saturday, September 9th
Windsor Fairgrounds
82 Ridge Rd, Windsor

St. Croix Valley Hamfest

Saturday, September 16th
Alexander Elementary School
1430 Airline Rd, Alexander (Google Maps lists it as Baileyville)

2024 Maine State Convention

Saturday, June 15th
Augusta Civic Center
76 Community Dr, Augusta
Visit <http://w1npp.org/convention> for updates

Androscoggin ARC President's Message

WRITTEN BY KEITH ANOE, KE4UCW

While reflecting on the month of August in my last (Androscoggin ACORN) letter, I was amazed to see that it pointed out that summer was finally here. August was extremely busy, for the club was something going on every weekend in the ham community. Activities have picked up, and hopefully, you've been able to take advantage of one or two of them as well as your radio.

With all the events going on, we are excited to announce we have started the planning for the 2024 Maine ARRL State Convention. With some forced changes with the closure of our old site and a desire to change the venue, we have elected to hold the 2024 convention at the Augusta Maine Civic Center. Our hope is to develop and expand the convention that genuinely represents the Maine state ham community. The date will be Saturday, June 15, 2024. Unfortunately, there will be some conflicts with the date, but the availability of venues as well as the time of year was taken into consideration. Larger venues have more cost, and the concern for weather cancellation greatly affected availability dates.

Our goal is to maximize the space for vendors as well as Maine ham clubs and emergency communications groups. Schedules are still being developed with the intent to have a club officers meeting for all Maine amateur radio clubs to discuss issues and concerns for clubs and the state ham community. ARES/RACES and other EComm groups will also be invited to have a meeting addressing ham emergency communications concerns in Maine.

We will also hold other scheduled talks as well as a VE session during the convention. The current goal is to publish our event fees and start advertising the event with prospective corporate support to offset the cost of the venue. This year, we will have a door prize as well as a separate raffle that will also be published with our event fee schedule soon.

Coordination is ongoing with area hotels as well. The selection of the Augusta site also gives options for accommodations and dining for the event. Our goal is to continue to have monthly events as we work to plan, publish, and finalize the 2024 state convention. Again, we are excited and appreciative to be able to provide this opportunity for the Maine ham community.

Respectfully

Keith Anoe, KE4UCW

Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club Club President

HamXposition 2024

WRITTEN BY CORY GOLOB, KU1U

My family, all five of us, went down to HamXposition in Marlborough Massachusetts over the weekend. While the drive down was unsettling based on traffic and weather, it quickly improved once we made it to the hotel. As we relaxed for the evening, other Mainers enjoyed the Friday Night DX Dinner. Such attendees included Phil N1EP, Keith KE4UCW, Tim WT1A, Joe W1SK and Steve KD1O. The guest speaker was Don Greenbaum, N1DG, who gave a presentation on the Rig-in-a-Box (RIB) used during C6AGU, FO/N1DG and VP6A DXpeditions. While that was happening the family enjoyed some swimming then Stanley and I continued to the NEQRP club room as we listened to folks share stories.

Saturday was the big day of HamXposition with many talks taking place, too many good ones to choose from! My youngest son Simon, N1URA, and I started with the Keynote speaker, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR who addressed a full room about the future of ARRL and our responsibility and duty to get involved. I seemed to have kept running into various Mainers throughout the day, such as Tony AA3HD, Brian W1BKW and John K1ESE.

The next talk we attended was, in my opinion, the best one of the entire convention: Radiocraft: Reaching the Next Generation Through Minecraft presented by Lucas Elliot, W1BTR and George Allison, K1IG. This talk was phenomenal. This project received a \$22,000 ARRL Grant and involves the development of a modification, or mod, that incorporates radio elements into the game of Minecraft. Minecraft is a sandbox game where players explore a world and build, or craft, things. Minecraft has over 140 million monthly active players so to capture the smallest portion of those players and introduce them to amateur radio would be an amazing game changer for the hobby.

In Minecraft, with the installation of this mod, please note it is for computers only at this time - not consoles (no Playstation, Xbox, Nintendo), a player can build a monoband radio (20m, 40m, 80m). It goes beyond this. You must then connect said radio with wire to a battery, a solar charge controller and a solar panel. You can then watch the battery slowly charge up. More is needed. What about an antenna? Build some antenna supports, oh if it were only that easy in real life, then attach insulators, select a 1:1 or 4:1 balun, connect antenna wire then add coax to the radio. Now we are getting somewhere. Did I forget to mention that the antenna had to be a certain length? A halfwave dipole for 20m would be 5 blocks on each side (10 blocks is half of 20, so it is kept somewhat simplistic).

Now the player can turn on the radio and tune the VFO up and down hearing white noise. If another player in the world has built a radio for that band, then can work each other within the game. Modes available are Voice and CW. How cool would this be to attract younger folks to your next club meeting after they learned about it playing Minecraft?

To follow the Radiocraft project please visit <http://www.wb1gof.org/RadioCraft/>

Simon and I decided to walk around the flea market grounds which had plenty of vendors outside as well as an several Emergency Communication trailers set up, a nice addition to HamX. After picking up some goodies, we walked around inside to visit more vendor tables.

Simon has been anxious to get a callsign name badge so he picked out the design all by himself. He was ready to go with his Callsign hat that he had previously and his name badge. There was one thing missing though. A means of showing his support for the hobby that has taken him in and shown him all sorts of fun activities in the past 2 months. So we ventured over to the ARRL table to add Simon (and Beckie) on the the ARRL rosters as family members. He then had a photo op with both the ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR and ARRL New England Director Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC. He is now part of the club and an active part of the future that is amateur radio.

We also attended the NTS meet and greet with Marcia Forde, KW1U, and other esteemed traffic handling colleagues throughout New England. Phil N1EP and John K1ESE were also in attendance. Following that meeting was the first ever Rhode Island Section Meeting. Nancy Austin, KC1NEK, brought wealth of passion to the room and had her fellow team introduce themselves and their vision. Simon was getting tired by the time of that last talk so we rested a bit before supper.

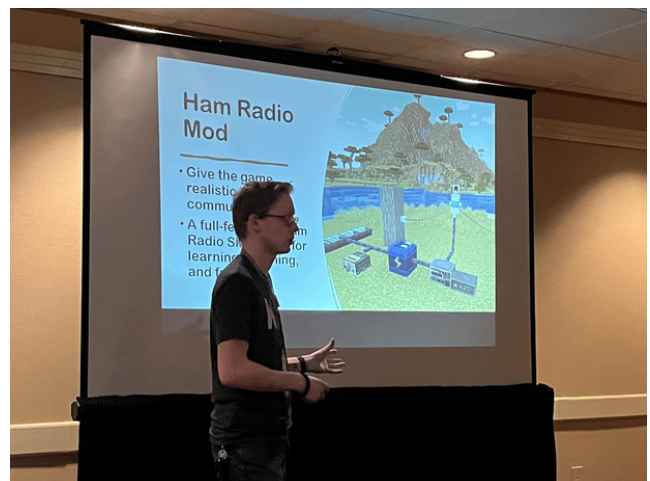
Some of us Mainers, well 11 actually of us, met up at Longhorns at 6:00 for supper which we had been planning for a while. Our family ended the evening with some more swimming.

There were several more talks that we attended on Sunday morning. Simon was excited to hear Bruce Blain, K1BG, Affiliated Club Coordinator for Eastern Massachusetts, speak about the CW Ops Academy. By the end of the presentation, Simon was ready to be signed up! He will be busy this fall so I will actually sign him up for the January/February session.

I caught some of the Hamshack Hotline talk as the CW Ops Academy was going on. It was great to see how the system has evolved since inception and really great to see a friend I have not chatted with in probably 15 years - Ken KA1EZH. HamXposition actually allowed me to see several people who I have not conversed with in many years. Most notably, John KB1KW and Wayne N1GUS, who I had not seen in probably 25 years. The amazing thing is that when they first met me, I was N1URA and now decades later I get to introduce them to the Next Generation N1URA, Simon. Pretty cool if you ask me.

The last talk attended was on D-Star. Terry Stader, who is the guru of all things D-Star is extremely knowledgeable in this mode. He gave a whirlwind of information in a short period of time. Terry helps us in Maine immensely with administrative items some of the D-Star machines in Maine (Phippsburg, Caribou and Buckfield). Sharing the spotlight was Art, AA1HO, who I was able to have an eyeball conversation with for the first time. Art and I have chatted multiple times on Reflector 50 Charlie.

This was the longest we had ever stayed at HamXposition and the entire family had a wonderful time. If you have never been, you should really put it on your calendar as there are many opportunities to learn and interact.



HAMCALL PLATE INITIATIVE



Please register your support at www.K1LX.org/hamplates

<http://www.K1LX.org/hamplates>

Hiram Percy Maxim Special Event Station

WRITTEN BY JOE DEVONSHIRE, AB1YO

Saturday, September 2, marks the 85th anniversary of the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, WIAW. It also marks the 154th anniversary of Maxim's birth. The station is located on the ARRL Headquarters campus in Newington, Connecticut. It transmits bulletins and code practice sessions and is usually the highlight of a member's visit to ARRL. There are guest operating hours each business day, and ARRL welcomes members to come operate under the historic call sign. Look for the 2024 ARRL wall calendar, featuring images from this iconic station, available soon.

What are *you* or *your* club doing with amateur radio??

Consider sending an article our way to highlight all the good work that is being done in amateur radio.

Have a VE test coming up? Let us know the details so it can be published here and on the Maine ARRL Section Website

To submit articles for the Newsletter please use the following links:

[LINK TO TYPE OUT AN ARTICLE THAT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSLETTER \(WITH ABILITY TO UPLOAD IMAGES\)](#)

[Link to be added or removed from the email distribution list](#)