

# THE MAINE TELEGRAPH

NEWSLETTER FOR MAINE  
AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS



## 2024 ARRL Maine State Convention & Hamfest

The Maine State Convention & Hamfest had to find a new home after discovering there was a pending sale, at the time, for Lewiston Housing Authority to purchase the venue for \$8 million dollars. The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club was already seeking a new venue based on feedback from the last convention.

With this being said, other places were in the same boat to find a new venue to host their events. In 2024, only 3 Saturdays were available for the entire year, those Saturdays being in June and December. Knowing how New England Winters can be, we chose the June date. Unfortunately it happens to fall on the same weekend as Trek Across Maine. We will be attempting to secure a better date for 2025 that does not fall on the same weekend, but believe it is in the best interest to have it June 15, 2024 to ensure a successful conference.

The new venue will be at the Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Dr, Augusta, Maine - which is very close to I-95 (Exit 112 or 112A depending on if you are traveling North or South). General Admission will be \$10 per person, ages 18 and younger are free. We will have a tremendous vendor space to fill... 32,000 square feet of space! There will also be a conference room for talks, meetings and VE testing.

The Door Prize will be an Icom 7300! Additional tickets will be available for purchase during the hamfest. The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club will be selling raffle tickets starting now, until the day of the hamfest for various prizes, which will be for a Honda 2200 Watt Generator and other prizes. Raffle tickets will be \$10 each or 3 for \$20. This raffle will help offset the increased cost of hosting this event and go towards club scholarships and events.

Vendors are encouraged to purchase tables in advance. Advanced vendor rates will be as follows:

\$20 per table, \$5 admission fee (50% discount, maximum two per vendor application) and an optional \$10 food voucher for \$8 (\$2 off, maximum two per vendor application). This deal ends 5/23/2024.

After May 23, the rates for vendors will be increased to:  
\$30 per table, \$10 admission.

Accommodation specials have been secured: \$149 per night, which is available both Friday and Saturday night. Blocks of rooms are for a Single King or Double Beds.

Hotel 1 is the Best Western Plus Augusta, 110 Community Dr, Augusta, Maine, located 3/10th of a mile from the Venue. 207-622-4751.

Hotel 2 is the Comfort Inn Civic Center, 281 Civic Center Dr, Augusta, Maine, located 1.0 miles from the Venue. 207-623-1000.

To get the \$149 per night deal at either hotel, call and use the promo code: "Maine State Hamfest".

Food will be available on premise through the Augusta Civic Center concession stand. Offerings will include pretzels, nachos, sandwiches, hot dogs, pizza slices, french fries, salads, chicken tenders and more.

If you are interested in being a presenter for a talk or have general questions about the convention please email [convention@wlnpp.org](mailto:convention@wlnpp.org)

**General Admission, Vendor and Raffle tickets can be purchased online by going to <http://wlnpp.org/convention>**

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club looks forward to seeing YOU at the 2024 ARRL Maine State Convention & Hamfest June 15. Doors open to the public at 8 AM. Vendor access is 6-8 AM. The hamfest will have extended hours compared to previous years: 8 AM to 5 PM.

Due to the venue requiring table layouts ahead of time, there will be a limited number of vendor tables for walk-ins. **Vendors are encouraged to get their tables before 5/23/2024.**

# Ham Radio Day at the Seashore Trolley Museum

WRITTEN BY TONY BAKER/AA3HD AND PHOTOS BY RICK ALDERETTE/KB1ASM



It was Ham Radio Day at the Seashore Trolley Museum on 27 August 2023. As you might imagine, this was a day the landmark Kennebunk location secondarily featured Ham radio in addition to its largest in the world collection of electric railcars. The York County Amateur Radio Club (YCARC) worked with Bill Catansye, KB1CAT, to arrange for the memorable occasion. Besides being a Ham radio operator and a member of the YCARC, Bill also is one of the restoration technicians at the Trolley Museum. Without his initiative and the cooperation of the Trolley Museum management team, this event would not have been possible. The YCARC is indebted to them for allowing us to participate for a day on their grounds of historic electric railcars.

For those of you unfamiliar with the New England Electric Railway Historical Society, which operates as the Seashore Trolley Museum, its mission is to "...preserve knowledge, context, and resources for future generations by collecting, restoring, operating, and exhibiting significant public transit vehicles and artifacts..." and was established in 1939 in Kennebunkport, ME. It is the world's first and largest electric railway museum. More information regarding this fascinating place - and where you can ride an actual vintage electric trolley - can be found on their website at: <https://trolleymuseum.org>



VISITORS TAKING A RIDE ON AN ANTIQUE TROLLEY

Planning for Ham Radio Day at the Trolley Museum started last year when the YCARC was determining what events it could carry out to bring Ham radio awareness to the public. Four events were decided upon: 1) Field Day; 2) Wells Harborfest; 3) The Seashore Trolley Museum, and; 4) The Alfred Shaker Museum Apple Festival. Our plan for the Trolley Museum was to have at least one HF station and one VHF/UHF station to demonstrate Ham radio operations, along with a Get On The Air opportunity for those who so desired. What we ended up with was two HF stations, a VHF/UHF station and DMR operations.



Bruce, KC1RUJ helps get a couple of youngsters on the air.

With two of our events accomplished prior to getting on the air at the Trolley Museum, some of our club members felt pretty comfortable setting up portable operations. All participating club members pitched in. Jack Brennan, K1NKS brought a multi-band portable vertical antenna and HF rig, while Rob Sylvester, AA1BS brought another HF rig and a portable 17 meter dipole antenna. Rob's XYL Laura provided moral support throughout the operations. Rick Alderette, KB1ASM (YCARC President) provided our pop-up canopy and a portable VHF/UHF antenna and VHF/UHF rig. Rick's XYL Linda provided a big batch of macaroni salad that served as lunch for the whole gang. Bruce Washburn, KC1RUJ and Tony Baker, AA3HD (YCARC Secretary) provided DMR portables that operated through Dan Merrifield's, K1DQ (YCARC Vice-President) repeater. Tony also provided patch cords, a power strip, and an extension cord. Ernie Record, KB4EFX, and Sue and Paul Cormier, KC1NQT and KC1NQU joined the rest of the gang in taking turns at operating the radios. We made DX contacts – primarily in Europe – as well as all over the US. Many people stopped by our operations to learn about Ham radios and what we were doing, and a few – including some youngsters – got on the air. We even recruited a new member into our club.



Our operations centered around Bill's, KB1CAT converted Dade County Florida ambulance which was set up in the parking lot in front of the main building at the Trolley Museum. Bill has converted the ambulance into a camper that is fully equipped with HF/VHF/UHF and DMR capabilities. It is a stand-alone unit that can operate on its own if necessary, having extra batteries and solar panels on the roof, seating (and sleeping) accommodations, and bath and kitchen facilities. Bill has done a tremendous job in transforming the vehicle, and gave tours of the 'ambulance' during our radio operations. And last but not least, Bill also provided the cold drinks during our operations.



The YCARC looks forward to its last major operating event of 2023 at the Alfred Shaker Museum on 23 & 24 September 2023. For more information about the YCARC please go to: [www.WIYCA.org](http://www.WIYCA.org)

# York County Amateur Radio Club Special Event: Shaker Hill Apple Festival

WRITTEN BY SUSAN A. BLOOMFIELD, WB2UQP.

The York County Amateur Radio Club celebrated the first days of autumn in fine style by operating a Special Event at the Shaker Hill Apple Festival on September 23-24. The annual festival took place at the 1875 Shaker Carriage House Museum in Alfred, which is supported by the Friends of the Alfred Shaker Museum. The carriage house, located in a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places, offers educational programming, and exhibits and conserves fascinating Shaker items.



On Friday, Rick, KB1ASM and Ernie, KB4EFX set up an HF rig on a multi-band wire antenna and another HF/VHF/UHF rig operating on VHF through a home-brew antenna. Band conditions for our club call sign, W1YCA, were challenging all weekend but operators were able to reach Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, the Carolinas, and Canada, about 30 stations in total.

Club participants were: Susan, KC1NQT; Paul, KC1NQU; Ernie, KB4EFX; Tony, AA3HD; Roger, N1XP; Brad, KC1JMH; Dave, KB1FGF; Rick, KB1ASM; and myself, Susan, WB2UQP. Our member check-ins were Tim, KB1PRG; Rob, AA1BS; and Dave, AA1LO. Festival attendee Monique, KC1RGX came by and ably called her first CQ's!

Despite cool temperatures and overcast skies, the company was warm and the conversations lively. We shared laughs, encouragement, and shared operating pointers and tech knowledge. The group agreed that the best food at the festival was the homemade apple crisp with whipped cream topping.



The opportunity to operate a Special Event in ham radio is incomparable. Special Events provide priceless outreach for organizers of festivals, parades, commemorations, and historical occasions. By helping to inform in this way, we also promote our hobby to onlookers. Importantly for me, Special Events enable operators to come together in friendship to share tips and bond, as this is often a solitary hobby.

The York County Amateur Radio Club's Shaker Hill Apple Festival Special Event was a great success. For more information about the club's activities, go to <https://wlyca.org>.

# Windsor Hamfest

PICTURES COURTESY OF JOE GRACE, WISK, MAINE AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR/ASM





# Maine License Plate

PICTURES COURTESY OF JOE GRACE, W1SK



**Effort to reinstate Ham Plates**

Maine is the only state without legislation for a motor vehicle ham radio callsign plate. It used to, and now efforts are afoot to reintroduce the measure in 2024.

This effort is to create legislation to treat the ham radio service similarly to other volunteer services whereas the plate fee is minimal. Currently a callsign plate as standard vanity plate is possible, but the vanity fee is \$25+ per year on top of regular fees. This initiative proposes a one-time fee of \$5.00 when initially obtaining the plates in addition to standard annual registration fees.

Considering the Maine House and Senate has repeatedly issued joint resolutions "on behalf of the people [they] represent, [for the] opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the accomplishments and public service provided by amateur radio operators," it seems a reasonable time to join every other state with this recognition.

**Proposal Details:**



- One time fee on top of regular DMV Fees
- Must Provide Valid FCC Amateur Radio License
- Uses Existing License Plate Template

**How Can You Help?**

- Please sign the form so we may contact you when legislation is introduced. We will need your support, namely in reaching out to your representatives for their support.
- If you have something to contribute, particularly data to support the creation of the proposal, or otherwise relevant information for this page, please contact us using the form below.

**More information, history and updates:**

[www.K1LX.org/hamplates](http://www.K1LX.org/hamplates)





# Simon NIURA

WRITTEN BY CORY GOLOB, KU1U

For those who may not know, my youngest son Simon earned his Technician license June 4, 2023. Since then he has been burning up the ionosphere trying many modes and bands. In the short amount of time he has racked up voice contacts at Field Day, made contacts on the local repeaters, checked into several nets, acted as NCS on a traffic net, sent a radiogram, received a radiogram, did FT8, Single Sideband, AM, FM, DMR, C4FM and D-Star. He had a chance to experience HF foxhunting at Lobstercon over the Summer. Simon also went to some hamfests and talk sessions, namely HamXposition in August. While there, he joined up with the ARRL and had a chance to chat with the President and New England Director.

Last month, Paul Kalstein, N1PL, of Arrowsic, and I conversed by email. He was looking at passing on his station to a newer ham. After telling him that my 9-year old had recently earned his license and was eager to study for his General soon, Paul was happy to pass on his station to him. Simon is now the proud owner of a Ten Tec Omni D, which happens to be set up in his room. We put up a 80-10m dipole and had him on the air within a day. Since then, Simon has excitedly been working stations on 10-meters using his Technician privileges.



On 10-meters, Simon has worked Argentina, Puerto Rico, Ecuador and Germany for DX stations. He has also worked several States: WA, NM, MT, FL and VA. He also likes to get on the local 10m net Friday nights in the Androscoggin area. I have a feeling we will be hearing NIURA temporary AG in no time!

## Tropical Storm Lee

The Maine Emergency Communications Net held 11 nets on Saturday, September 16th for the Activation of Tropical Storm Lee. Several EOCs checked in to the net in addition to EOC and Section representation from the Maine Emergency Management Agency, Section Manager, Section Emergency Coordinator and Section Traffic Manager. Independent Support Stations (ISS) assisted as NCS throughout the day.

If you have an interest in ARES and want to become an ISS station, please email Keith Anoe, KE4UCW at [keith@anoe.us](mailto:keith@anoe.us)



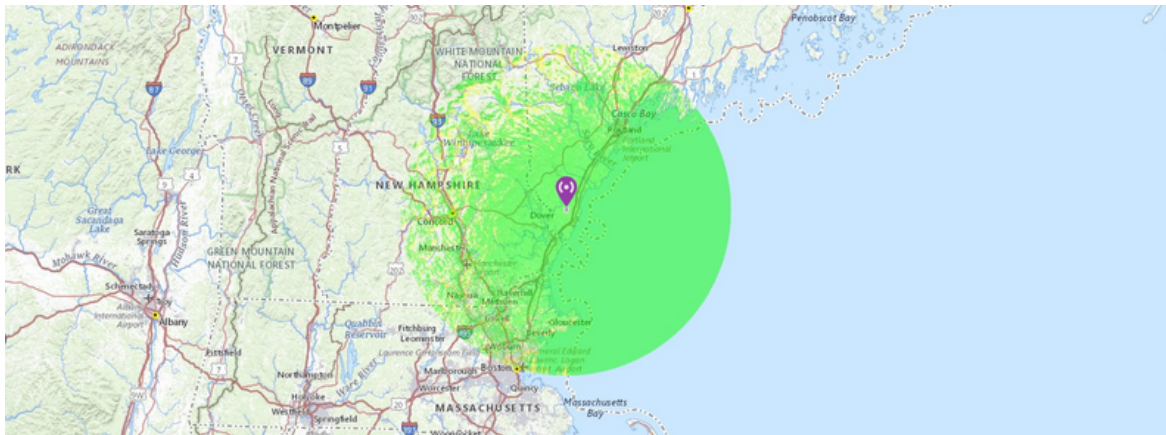
*Set-Up at Washington County EOC (Photo Courtesy of Phil Duggan, N1EP)*

# Mt. Agamenticus 147.18 joins UFB New England

INFO COURTESY OF UFB NEW ENGLAND FACEBOOK PAGE



L to R - NIUB, WIBKW, KAIGJU, NIEDU



# VE Test Sessions

INFO COURTESY OF MAINE ARRL SECTION PAGE

10/07/2023

Sponsor: PBARC

Date: Oct 07 2023

Time: 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Joseph G. Devonshire

(207) 549-0061

Email: [trainbee@aol.com](mailto:trainbee@aol.com)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Warren Sanitary District - pre-registration is required

442 Cushing Rd (Rt 97)

Look for sign at entrance

Warren ME 04864-9999

Website: <https://penbayarc.org/>

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](#)**