



THE MAINE TELEGRAPH

NEWSLETTER FOR MAINE
AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

#LewistonStrong

If nobody knew where Lewiston, Maine was before, unfortunately they do now. Our community was struck by a heinous, unimaginable act which took the lives of 18 individuals, individuals who were having a wonderful evening with friends and family at Just-In-Time bowling alley and Schemengee's Bar & Grille Restaurant.

Writing this article is not so much for those to read as it is more therapeutic for me to write. It strikes too close to home for me personally and for the Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club. As some clubs may have monthly breakfasts or suppers, the Androscoggin club rotates going to dinner every month. Three months ago, our club had supper at Schemengee's. This incident could have been us.

On a personal note, if this senseless act took place a year ago, my family would have been present. A year ago, I was taking my kids to Just-in-Time for Bowling with Bob. Bob was the bowling coach who showed up every Wednesday night from 6 to 8 pm to teach people, especially younger kids, how to bowl. I would mostly take Stanley, but there were times when I would rotate who else went, even having all three kids with me sometimes.

Bob Violette was a kind and funny man who had a passion for bowling and loved to teach others. He was very patient and an incredible instructor. He had a soft voice that really helped get his students to listen and improve their skill. Bob and I hit it right off and we had a mutual friend in common, his neighbor David Gilchrist, N1OXE (SK).

We appreciate the kind words that have been extended to our community that has been put on the map for a terrible reason. Hold those we have in our lives closer and let them know how much you really care about them. Lewiston is strong and will persevere, we are #LewistonStrong.

SWL Antenna

WRITTEN BY JERRY HUME, K1WTX

Recently, I was given a fairly new but non-functional MFJ 259c antenna analyzer. Without going into the details, I now have it working. One feature of this version is that it covers way down to .53mhz. I have always been curious as to how well our ham wire antennas perform at the AM broadcast band frequencies. They certainly pull in the stations, especially at night when the 50kw "clear channel stations" rule the airwaves, but how much of that is brute power from the station and how much is due to the antenna? Most "swl listener" antennas marketed are simple 60 foot or so long wires with a length of insulated wire as a feedline, essentially an inverted L. Even those work well on all bands because the stations swamp us with brute power, whether they are local AM news and talk stations or international sw broadcasters. Being much longer, even though they are still way too short for the AM broadcast band, it seems that our ham wires would be better than the basic 60' long wire.

My main wire antenna is a 268' OCF with a 4:1 balun at about 35'. I never made any attempts to play with the lengths and find it it generally favors the cw portions of the bands but works well with a tuner. As a receiving antenna on the broadcast bands, I typically see +10 to +20 over s9 signals on local and nighttime stations. Great signals but again, how much of it relates to the powerful stations and how much is due to the antenna itself?

Within the "SWL" bands, most of which are close to our own ham bands, I typically saw VSWR values which varied from 3:1 to as high as 8:1. A ham antenna tuner could easily be "tweaked" while listening, to improve the reception on the SWL bands. Moving down to the standard 530khz to 1650khz AM broadcast band, I was dissapointed but not surprised at the VSWR values. Ham radio antennas are way too short at those frequencies. I saw VSWR values which varied from 9.3:1 at 900khz to >25:1 at 1200khz. The huge surprise though was a strange dip to 1.8:1 at around 800khz. Maybe some magic sub-multiple of an 1/8th wave, who knows?

Deadline Extended to November 28, 2023 for 60-Meter Comments

REPOSTED FROM [HTTPS://WWW.ARRL.ORG/NEWS/DEADLINE-EXTENDED-TO-NOVEMBER-28-2023-FOR-60-METER-COMMENTS](https://www.arrl.org/news/deadline-extended-to-november-28-2023-for-60-meter-comments)

The deadline to file comments on the 60-meter band proposal has been extended by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to November 28, 2023. Replies to comments will be due December 28, 2023. The public comment period was originally to close October 30, 2023.

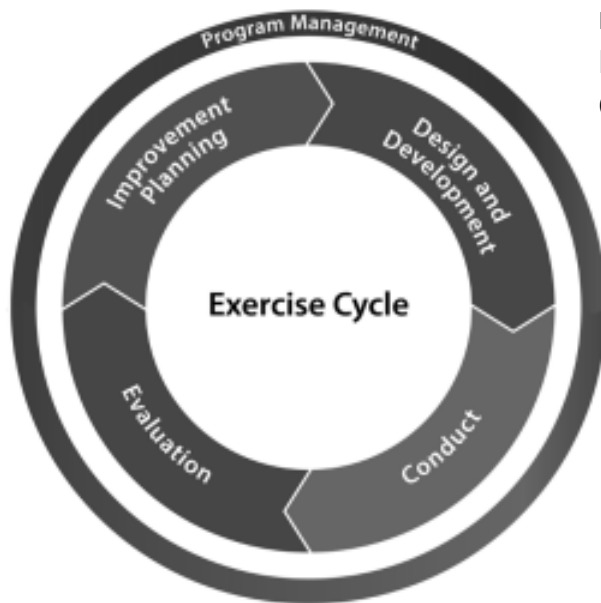
ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® strongly encourages all amateurs to submit comments expressing support to the FCC for the current 100 W ERP power limit (instead of reducing the power limit to 15 W EIRP) and continuing secondary access to the current channels. ARRL has assembled a web page with instructions on how to submit your comments, as well as background information on the issue: www.arrl.org/60-meter-band.

2023 Maine Section Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

WRITTEN BY KEITH ANOE, KE4UCW

I like to take this opportunity to thank all the operators, agencies, and teams that participated in the 2023 SET. This year, the set was on Friday, October 27th, from 12:00 to 18:00, and Saturday, October 28, from 0600 to 1200. The intent of the two 12-hour operational periods format was to give supported agencies as well as volunteers the opportunity to participate on one or both days.

A total of 14 Main Emergency Communications Nets (MECN) were held over the two days, with 40 stations checking in for a total of 156 times. Stations



representing County Emergency Management Organizations, as well as County Emergency Manager Directors and Deputy Directors, checked in to the net, with a total of ten out of sixteen counties represented in the exercise.

But as always, the majority of the check-ins are volunteers who volunteer their time, equipment, and technical ability. Volunteering is the key to the success of the exercise. The volunteers were not only on the MECN. They were local, supporting their local agencies with

communications on local nets on HF, 2M repeaters, and line of sight. Each agency works toward augmenting its communications capability during an emergency.

But is a SET the beginning or the end? The exercise cycle has four phases: Conduct, Evaluate Improvement Planning, and Design and Development. It's a never-ending process that requires continuous attention, with the SET only part of it. To most the fun part. The volunteers continue to contribute to the program throughout the year. Our next step is the After-Action Reviews (AAR), which will point out what worked and what did not. Remember that the point of an exercise is to test procedures and plans. This can be done at all levels, from the individual operator, the station, up to the served agency team. It's time to evaluate, develop training plans, and implement those training plans in preparation for the next exercise.

For 2024 we hope to develop some exercises that will build on the SET. If you are a volunteer at the local level or support the Main Emergency Communications Net (NET) as an Independent Support Station (ISS) please contact me.

73
de
Keith

Keith E. ANOE - KE4UCW
Maine Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC)
<https://groups.io/g/MaineSection-ARES-RACES/messages>
Androscoggin County Emergency Coordinator (EC)
keith@anoe.us
(207)629-7197



VE Test Session

COURTESY OF MAINE ARRL SECTION PAGE

11/04/2023

Sponsor: Waterville Area Wireless Association

Date: Nov 04 2023

Time: 10:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Weldon R. Black

(207) 873-3869

Email: weldon.black00@yahoo.com

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: Somerset EOC, 8 Country Dr, Skowhegan ME 04976

11/06/2023

Sponsor: Merrymeeting ARA

Date: Nov 06 2023

Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Donald S. Wakeman

(207) 751-1166

Email: ka1wal.dsw@gmail.com

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: Shiloh Chapel, 38 Beulah Lane, Durham, Maine

Website: <http://ks1r.org/>

11/06/2023

NOV 6, 2023 (Monday) at 5pm VE session

Location: Henry D. Moore Library, 22 Village RD, Steuben, ME.

Sponsor is the Poverty Hill Amateur Radio Group.

POC is Phil Duggan N1EP, contact n1ep@yahoo.com or call 207-598-5397



Looking for Help

I am looking for people who are interested in helping this newsletter continue. It takes time to put it together every month and I would enjoy having others to pass the torch on to to, maybe allowing me some respite to focus on other things.

Even having several people who can collaborate together would make quite the difference. The newsletter is assembled online using Canva so access can be given to work on it as time allows.

If you are interested, please send an email to ku1u@proton.me

After cleaning up the email distribution list, removing silent keys who we have lost over the years, the list stands at 412 subscribers.

Thank you for keeping this project going for over three years.



Jamboree-on-the-Air Operation

INFO COURTESY OF WALDO ARC FACEBOOK PAGE

Working with the Boy Scouts to finish their radio merit badge. Thank you to all who help with JOTA today at the Waldo County EOC.



Maine State Convention & Hamfest

Plans continue for the Maine State Convention & Hamfest set for June 15, 2024. Be sure to get your room at one of two locations which are conveniently close to the Augusta Civic Center.

We are looking for vendors to get their tables EARLY! Take advantage of the savings reduction by getting your table before the deadline to reduce costs.

People have already expressed interest in giving talks. People who have already committed to giving talks:

- Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, ARRL New England Director: ARRL Forum Update
- Bruce Blain, K1BG, CW Academy
- Bill Richardson, NG1P, Maine Mesh Network Status

Our Door Prize will be an Icom 7300 HF Radio.

We are currently selling raffle tickets in person & **online**. You do not have to be present to win the raffles. These tickets help support the convention and activities of the Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club.

The Augusta Civic Center will be selling concessions on premise.

Everyone is looking forward to this new venue and the Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club is excited to host it.

Please visit the **2024 ARRL Maine State Convention & Hamfest webpage** to stay updated on the progress.

Maine SET Support

INFO COURTESY OF WIRELESS SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN MAINE FACEBOOK PAGE

Thanks Todd KC1SQ for supporting us this weekend during the Maine Simulated Emergency Test (SET)! Todd was setup with portable HF and V/U capabilities at the Gorham Middle School shelter site.



Halloween Spirit

PICTURES COURTESY OF PINE STATE ARC FACEBOOK PAGE



BUY - SWAP - SELL

For Sale: Icom 718 HF Radio (160m-10m) 100 Watts. \$450



For Sale: Icom V8000 VHF Radio (2m), 75 Watts. \$100



(Stock photos from rigpix.com)

If interested, Contact Martin Fournier, KB1LAM, by email mvfournier@gmail.com

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