

WAWA News Letter

Waterville Area Wireless Association
Home Page: <http://www.qsl.net/wa1wa>
November 1998

Box 1646
Waterville Me, 04903

Tune in to WAWA Wednesday Night Net at 7:30 on 146.76.

The next meeting of the Waterville Area Wireless Association is scheduled for Saturday December 5, 1998 at 9:00 am at the Winslow Elementary School which is located across the highway from the Winslow paper mil.

November 1998 Club Meeting Notes

The November meeting of the Waterville Area Wireless Association was called to Order on November 7, 1998 at 9:08 am, at the Winslow Elementary School. Ron N1NPJ presided with seven members present.

Nominations for Next Years Officers

The fact that elections for club officers were coming up in December was discussed. The positions that were up for re-elections were discussed: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Net Director. Nominations were opened and the following nominations were proposed and seconded: Vice-President William N1RCV, Secretary Mike N1NAF, Treasurer Mike N1NAF. The positions will be re-opened for nominations at the December meeting prior to elections. Anyone who was nominated that wishes to decline may do so at the December meeting. William N1RCV volunteered to do the news letter another year. .

Miscellaneous Business

Ron mentioned that it is acceptable to bring non-members to meetings to introduce them to the group. It was decided that the next club meeting would be on December 5. A motion to adjourn was offered and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50AM..

Written by: William N1RCV

Club Officers Are To Be Elected At The December Meeting.

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1998 Maine Ham Test/Events

The following shows ham exams, hamfests (LOCATIONS IN CAPS) and other events of interest to the amateur community for 1998.

NOTE: Times are for exams; No Time - No Known Exam. Most hamfests open at 8:00 a.m. Most, but not all hamfests offer exams.

Date	Time	Place
Saturday Dec 5 1998	10:00a	Bath, Salvation Army Bldg. N1NKF/ARRL Robin Walls
Saturday Dec 12, 1998	9:00a	Auburn, Red Cross Bldg. N1GZB/W5YI Brad Saunders

Please note that these are tentative dates only

Contact the listed VE team leader before traveling to verify location, time, current fee and exams being offered. Listen to Amateur Radio nest for bulletins and updates. Walk-Ins are usually welcome. Examinees must have 2 forms of positive identification. Licensed amateurs trying to upgrade must have in their possession the original license and any original certificates of completion and a clear photo copy of each. Contact the VE team leader in advance if special exam. facilities are required or proposed.

Selected ARRL Maine Section Bulletins

Maine Bulletin #59

November 18, 1998

W1JTH ARRL Bulletin Manager, Maine Section

From: Phil Duggan, N1XVE

To: All Maine Amateurs

Subject: Congressman Baldacci to Address Hams

Congressman John E. Baldacci will be the guest speaker at the Christmas Supper Meeting of the Narraguagus Bay Area Amateur Radio Club on Saturday, December 5th from 5:00-7:00pm. The event will be held at the Milbridge Veterans Hall. Club members will give a presentation of

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the amateur radio service, including the public service and emergency communications aspect of our hobby, and highlight legislative actions and commercial ventures that may affect our amateur bands. The congressman will comment on his role in amateur radio legislation, including HR 3572, of which he is a cosponsor. There will be a question and answer session.

Other highlights of the evening include a scheduled QSO with the congressman on a local 2-meter repeater. Door prizes include Christmas Wreaths and a Hallicrafters S-38 Receiver!

Tickets cost \$3.00 each and can be purchased at the door or obtained in advance by sending a check, made out to Narraguagus Bay Area Amateur Radio Club, to 278 Kansas Road, Milbridge, ME 04658. The buffet-style meal will include various meat dishes, kielbasa, meatballs, chili, various salads and casseroles, desserts, and beverages. If you just want to purchase your tickets at the door, please contact me anyway, so I know how many hams plan on attending. My phone number is 207-546-7028 or email duggan@nemaine.com. Press coverage is anticipated at the event, so let's give them a great showing. You do not have to be a club member to attend this special event.

A great opportunity to spotlight the virtues of ham radio, you won't want to miss it! Additional information will be included in a future bulletin, including detailed instructions on how to get to the Milbridge Veterans Hall.

73

Phil Duggan, N1XVE
NBAARC Vice President

Maine Bulletin #62

November 27, 1998

W1JTH ARRL Bulletin Manager, Maine Section

From: Max Soucia, N1KGS, SEC

To: All Maine Amateurs

Subject: Passing of Harvey Byther, KA1BWH

I am saddened to have to tell you that Harvey passed away this morning. Harvey was a friend, longtime ham and Emergency Coordinator for Penobscot County. In spite of his worsening health over the past year, Harvey worked hard to promote amateur radio. He maintained the Maine HAM Email Directory, and the Pinestate club's webpage and coordinated the CMIRT exercise in September. He also developed and maintained a webpage for the disabled and worked to reduce the barriers in web

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browsing for persons with handicaps. His death will leave a big silence in amateur radio in northern Maine.

Max Soucia, N1KGS, SEC

Selected ARRL Bulletins

ARLB095: ARRL Petitions FCC for LF Allocations

From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT November 3, 1998
To all radio amateurs

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to create two low-frequency Amateur Radio allocations at 136 kHz and at 160 kHz. "These allocations will permit experimentation with equipment, antennas, and propagation phenomena in a small segment of the radio spectrum that has not been available to the Amateur Service for many years," the League's petition declared. The petition was filed with the FCC October 22. Specifically, the League has proposed permitting CW, SSB, RTTY/data, and image emissions for amateurs in a 2.1-kHz "sliver band" from 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and in a 30-kHz segment from 160 to 190 kHz. The 135.7 to 137.8 kHz band adheres to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) band plan.

The ARRL has proposed allowing a transmitter output in both LF segments of 200 W PEP, but in no case greater than 2W EIRP (effective isotropic radiated power). The League's petition points out that poor antenna efficiencies and ground-loss characteristics likely would keep EIRPs at less than 1 W. The two bands would be available to General and higher licensees.

Unlicensed experimenters--some of them hams--currently operate on LF in the US under the FCC's Part 15 rules. These limit transmitter input power to 1 W and impose substantial restrictions on the size of the antenna. The proposed allocations "will provide the only low-frequency allocation for amateur use and will accommodate more flexible experimentation than is permitted under current Part 15 regulations," the League's filing said.

Hams would be secondary to the Fixed and Maritime Mobile services in the 136-kHz allocation, and secondary to the Fixed Service in the 160-190 kHz band. The League said its engineering surveys suggest that hams could operate in the two segments without causing problems to power line carrier (PLC) systems already active in that vicinity or to

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government assignments. Unallocated, Part 15 PLC systems are used by electric utilities to send control signals, data and voice.

Calculations included with the League's filing demonstrate how inefficient even relatively large radiators can be on LF. For example, at 200 W TPO (transmitter power output) and a 200 foot vertical radiator, efficiency is only in the range of 1%, yielding up to 2 W EIRP. A more practical setup--200 W TPO into a 100-foot vertical radiator (efficiency of 0.2%) would yield an EIRP of between 10 and 40 mW.

Several countries throughout the world already enjoy LF allocations. These include New Zealand, Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland, and several European nations.

A copy of the petition is available on ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org>.

ARLB090: ARRL Board reaffirms, modifies its restructuring proposal

From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT October 26, 1998
To all radio amateurs

In a special meeting October 24, the ARRL Board of Directors unanimously reaffirmed the bulk of its July 1998 Amateur Radio License Restructuring plan with some modifications. Among other things, the Board's July plan would eliminate the Novice and Tech Plus license classes. To provide a logical entry path to HF for Technicians, the Board now has suggested offering CW privileges to Technicians in the current General CW allocations on 80 through 10 meters. Technicians would be permitted up to 200 W PEP.

The Board also agreed to replace the A, B, C, and D license class designations proposed in its July restructuring plan with the names Extra, Advanced, General, and Technician. "The July plan eliminated the HF door by eliminating the Novice license," observed ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "This is, in effect, a replacement for the Novice, but without an additional license class."

Under the July plan--and under the FCC's proposed streamlining--the entry-level HF license would be the General, which under the ARRL plan would require passing two written examinations plus a 5 WPM code test. Board members at the October 24 meeting near St Louis expressed concern that the leap to HF privileges under the July plan could prove too daunting, especially for younger newcomers. Some also were troubled about the growing gulf between the "traditional" HF operator and the newer VHF-only amateurs.

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Addressing the Morse code requirement in the International Radio Regulations, Sumner summed up the Board's position by saying that the new privileges would amount to self-testing. "By their very nature, you can't use the privileges until you know the code," he said. "We're not expecting the CW bands to be overrun with people taking advantage of this, but as any CW operator knows, the best way to become proficient in the code is to use it on the air."

The special ARRL Board meeting was called to consider the League's comments on the FCC's amateur licensing "streamlining" proposals in WT Docket 98-143, released in August. Comments are due on the FCC's rulemaking proposal on December 1. During the daylong session, the Board also proposed that the FCC rules ban multiple-choice Morse code tests and establish that a passing grade for a code test be either 70 per cent correct answers to 10 fill-in-the-blank questions or one minute out of five of solid copy.

The Board affirmed its proposals in RM-9196 to improve the procedures for granting Morse code exam credit on the basis of a physician's certification of a disability. It also affirmed "its strong desire" that written exams be modified as necessary "to demonstrate better the depth of the applicant's current radio technical knowledge and operating skill."

The Board also supported retention of the topic definitions to be included in written exams, as contained in Section 97.503 of the rules, with some modification to accommodate the new four-class structure. Under the proposed testing regime, the Technician exam would include 35 questions. Technician applicants must now pass both the 35-question Novice examination plus the current 30-question Technician test. Applicants for General would have to pass a 35-question test--up from the current 30 questions to include additional questions on operating practices. The Advanced exam would go from 50 questions to 40 under the proposal, while the Extra exam would go from 40 to 50 questions, including more highly technical subject matter.

The Board also reaffirmed its desire that Advanced class volunteer examiners be permitted to administer General class exams, and it renewed its request in RM-9115 for several rules changes involving RACES stations.

The Board noted that it had "heard and considered the views of thousands of ARRL members" on the amateur licensing issues raised in both the ARRL and FCC proposals.

Waterville Area Wireless Association
P.O. Box 1646, Waterville ME 04903
E-mail: WA1WA@QSL.NET

Application for Membership

1. Call Sign: _____
Class: _____
2. Name: _____
3. Address: _____

4. Please Circle Bands and Modes Which You Operate

1.2G	440	220	144	50	28	24
21	18	14	10	7	3.5	1.8
SSB	CW	AM	FM	RTTY	PACKET	TV

5. Mail this application and annual dues of \$10 per individual or \$15 per family to:

Waterville Area Wireless Association
P.O. Box 1646, Waterville, ME 04903

If you have any questions please call Ron on the 146.76 MHz Waterville Repeater or by phone at 873-2071. Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month at the Winslow Recreation Hall behind the Fire Station on Benton Ave. in Winslow. If the first Saturday is a holiday weekend, the meeting may be postponed a week. Check before traveling in poor weather.

WAWA also holds an on-the-air meeting at 7:30 every Wednesday night on the 146.76 MHz repeater. Hope to hear you in there.

73s WAWA

WAWA Newsletter
PO Box 1646
Waterville ME 04936

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