



# PAWA Lines

## Portland Amateur Wireless Association Newsletter

### Portland Amateur Wireless Association Repeaters

**Falmouth: 146.730MHz (-600KHz) (T 100.0Hz)**

**Scarborough: 444.100MHz (+5MHz) (T 82.5Hz)**

### Portland Amateur Wireless Association Board of Directors

President	Bryce Rumery	K1GAX	<a href="mailto:K1GAX@juno.com">K1GAX@juno.com</a>
Vice President	John Bogner	W1JLB	<a href="mailto:JBogner1@maine.rr.com">JBogner1@maine.rr.com</a>
Secretary	Tim Mitchell	KB1YBS	<a href="mailto:mitchell@smoms.com">mitchell@smoms.com</a>
Treasurer	Jack Ney	KC1UX	<a href="mailto:KC1UX@maine.rr.com">KC1UX@maine.rr.com</a>
Chief Operator	Ross Drivas	KB1OND	<a href="mailto:rmdkb1ond@yahoo.com">rmdkb1ond@yahoo.com</a>
Member at Large	Steve Mitchell	KB1YBT	<a href="mailto:SJMitchell@maine.rr.com">SJMitchell@maine.rr.com</a>
Member at Large	Jason Cote	W1WDW	<a href="mailto:W1WDW@jcwebdesign.com">W1WDW@jcwebdesign.com</a>

## Club Birthdays

**KB1LBN, Dan Silliman - 28th**

**KB1IAX, Rose Coffin - 28th**

## On The Web

Please visit us on the web! We have pages on Twitter, Facebook and the world wide web. Check out our addresses at the top of the newsletter's first page, follow us on Twitter, and like our page on Facebook to stay up to date on club activities



### Field Day 2017

Planning for this year's ARRL Field Day



### Upcoming Events

Take a look at some upcoming events.



### Public Service Events

Sign up for our upcoming public service events.

## President's Message

We are now done with the public service events for a while. Coming up on July 4th is the L. L. Bean 10K run in Freeport. This is a fast event. It starts at 7:30 AM and usually ends by 9 AM. It gives the communicators a chance to get in a public service event and have enough time to enjoy the other events on July 4th. The meeting time for the event is 6:00 AM in the Shaws parking lot just off 295 in Freeport. I will have sign up sheets at the PAWA June meeting. After that we have the Beach to Beacon 10K run in Cape Elizabeth on Saturday, August 5th. Again, I will have sign up sheets at the June PAWA meeting.



## Treasurer's Report

May 2017	
Beginning Balance	\$2019.71
Income	\$375.00
Expenses	\$300.00
Ending Balance	\$2094.71

Thanks,

73, Jack KC1UX

## May Meeting

The May meeting of the PAWA will be on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at the Stewart Morrill American Post #35, 413 Broadway in South Portland.

The Board of Directors meeting begins at 6:00 PM.

The General Membership meeting begins at 7:00 PM. The program for the evening is "Weather 101" presented by Meteorologist Adam Epstein from WGME.

Hope to see you there!

73, Bryce, K1GAX

President

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### ✱ Next meeting:

Wednesday, May 3rd 2017 - 7pm

Stuart Morrill American Legion Post #35

Program: Weather 101 by Adam Epstein from WGME

### ✱ May ARRL Contests:

6th-7th - New England QSO Party



## Exam Session Report

The exam session on April 15th was a great success. All the candidates came away with either a new license or an upgrade! There were 6 new Technicians and 3 new Generals.

Kenneth Breman came away with a Technician and a General. Robb Couture came away with a Technician. William Gardner came away with a General. John White came away with a Technician. Mary Ann Seidler came away with a Technician. Stephen Nash came away with a General. Gregory Roehr and Ara Kemezys came away with a Technician.

Thanks to all the attending VEs; John, W1JLB (VE Liaison), Bryce, K1GAX, Jason, W1WDW, Mike, N1GRO and Jack, KC1UX.

## Secretary's Report

April 5th, 2017

### Board Meeting

The Board meeting convened at 6:05PM.

It was noted that the antenna for the club radio room was down. A work party will be convened as warmer weather approaches.

The Hamfest is Saturday, April 15. Kits and Pieces has yet to confirm their attendance. Two Baofeng radios (UV5R V2+) are available to cover the raffle and door prize.

Service opportunities are upcoming. MS Walk is Saturday, April 22, and March of Dimes Walk is Sunday, April 30th. The Beach to Beacon will be coming later in the season, and we will be combining with the Amateur Radio Club of Southern Maine to cover.

It was noted that the repeater is getting low usage, but we still have a good crowd for the Sunday night Cumberland County Emergency Net.

Jack Ney, Treasurer, noted that our annual filing for incorporation had been submitted. The Board meeting ended at 6:50.

### General Meeting

The General meeting convened at 7:05.

The Secretary's Report, Treasurer's Report, Chief Operator's Report were accepted as published in the newsletter.

Information as noted above regarding the Hamfest and service opportunities was covered, and members were given the ability to sign up to participate.

The antenna down was noted as well as the upcoming opportunity for a work party. Jack Ney, Treasurer, noted that the fund for maintenance of the trailer had \$315.

Jason Cote, W1WDW, informed the group he would be putting together training on how to code a code plug for a DMR unit. He will let folks know when, and invites all to participate. You will need your own windows laptop.

The General Membership Meeting ended at 7:40.

Jason, W1WDW, kindly shared his updated and upgraded code plug with all who wanted it during both meetings. Thanks Jason!

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve, KB1YBT, Acting Secretary

## Chief Operator's Report

As you probably know the club's 40 meter dipole has come down. In the few years it has been up it has done a yeoman's job, especially considering the "minimal" amount of attention given it. Constructed from an aluminum extension pole mounted on top of a section of steel electrical conduit, it is/was capped by a small section of PVC pipe to raise the balun and wires away from the

metal. The PVC was the weak link, ultra violet rays (should have painted it) and the wind caused it to fail.

The resultant weight hung off the coax causing it to fail the just below the connector. Resurrecting the dipole with a bit of coax and PVC shouldn't prove to be too difficult.

While it worked great on 40 meters, and we usually could get a match on 15, 40 meters may not be the best band for club work. Most use of the room has been in the late morning to early afternoon, just when 40 really starts to get noisy. 20 meters would be a good addition to 40 meters giving us better daytime utility.

There are many ways to accomplish this, two that come to mind are a fan dipole and, alternately, an off center fed (OCF) dipole. A fan dipole would just involve hanging a 20 meter dipole below the existing 40 meter dipole, separated by a few PVC spreaders. It would tie into the existing balun being used for the 40 meter dipole. One problem with our setup now, is our dipole is pretty much an inverted V setup. The ends as they are need to be raised a bit, and hanging another dipole a foot or two below it makes that even more of an issue.

An OCF dipole is just as it says, a dipole fed off from the center at a location where hopefully it will resonate at some frequencies useful to the amateur. (It's also known as the Windom antenna, although some purist are quick to point out the Windom in its original incarnation was fed by a single feedline - back in the 20's.) Most OCF dipoles have one leg  $1/3$  of the resonant wavelength and the other leg  $2/3$ . In our case we have plenty of space on the leg that goes toward the tree in the parking lot, adding the additional length will be easy. With that design we would be looking at a 22' foot and a 44 foot leg.

At our height most sources recommend a 4:1 balun, which is what we currently use. Ours is a voltage balun, and most references recommend a

current balun, but I have read of amateurs getting great results with a voltage balun.

The feed point becomes more important on the higher bands, if the correct location is selected many other bands become available, including 10 meters. To start with, 40, 20 along with 15 would be a great improvement. If any of the club members has a frequency analyzer, it might make tuning the antenna that much easier for the bands other than 40 meters.

That is one antenna project, -- we also have the club antenna trailer this summer to keep us busy.

Hopefully we can find time to do another fox hunt, and perhaps even some time at the fort, trying out our QRP skills..

73

Ross KB1OND

## We Need Your Support!

### Jason Cote - W1WDW

Back in May and June a small group of PAWA members including George NX1C, Ross KB1OND, Jack KC1UX, Mike N1GRO, Steve KB1YBT, Ariel KC1CCB and myself went out to the farm and got the trailer ready for field day. We noted some problems with the trailer that should really be corrected, including the condition on the hoist cables, trailer lights, wiring, tires and some other things. I compiled a list of needed items and the approximate costs associated with the work. We have not yet identified the costs specific to the tires and suspension as they are very old parts and replacements are not readily available. I would like to ask members of the club to see what they can contribute to offset the costs of supplies in a "trailer maintenance fund". The PAWA antenna trailer is a valuable club asset and we as a group are lucky to have it. It is in the club's best interest

to continue to maintain the trailer especially as it is stored outdoor in the elements. Can you help us? Do you have ideas to contribute? Let us know! Thank you very much for your support.

**As of our most recent club meeting, Club Treasurer Jack Ney, KC1UX reports that the trailer maintenance fund has grown to \$315.00. Thank you all for your contributions, we expect work to begin on the trailer very soon!**

## Do I Need A Roger Beep?

**Bryce Rumery - K1GAX**

First off just what is a Roger Beep anyway?

Very simply it's a tone or series of tones that indicate you have let up on your PTT and the party you are talking to knows he or she can transmit.

The Roger Beep is most commonly used by commercial stations when they are operating simplex. Hams usually run into the Roger Beep with radios coming in from China. It is usually enabled. It can be disabled from the internal or through programming software.

There is really no need for a Roger when operating through a ham repeater. Most repeaters have a courtesy tone to indicate one station has stopped transmitting. Some repeaters without a courtesy tone will indicate a transmitting station has stopped transmitting when the repeater carrier drops. There is really no reason to have a Roger Beep when operating on a repeater.

One of the first thing I do when I get a new radio is to disable the Roger Beep. It serves no real purpose. It's just another annoying beep coming out of your radio. At least go to the menu of your radio and disable the annoying beep!!

Ah, Lesson # 31 "Blessed Silence"

73, Bryce, K1GAX

The Old RF Doctor