



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	K1GAX@juno.com
Vice President	John Bogner	W1JLB	JBogner1@maine.rr.com
Secretary	Tim Mitchell	KB1YBS	mitchell@smoms.com
Treasurer	Jack Ney	KC1UX	KC1UX@maine.rr.com
Chief Operator	Ross Drivas	KB1OND	rmdkb1ond@yahoo.com
Member at Large	Steve Mitchell	KB1YBT	SJMitchell@maine.rr.com
Member at Large	Jason Cote	W1WDW	W1WDW@jcwebdesign.com

Club Birthdays

KB1SDK, Jim Fraser - 24th

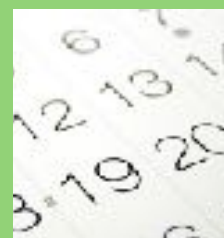
On The Web

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. If you have something to add, please let us know!



Field Day 2017

Overview of this year's ARRL Field Day



Upcoming Events

Take a look at some upcoming events.



Welcome Back BBQ

Hope to see you all 9/6 @ 6pm for the annual BBQ!

President's Message

The summer season is quickly coming to a close. The PAWA summer break is over.

I'd like to thank all the PAWA members that participated in the many public service events during the spring and summer!

We do have some events coming up in the fall and early winter. There is the Welcome Back BBQ on Wednesday, September 6th beginning at 6:00 PM at Turkey Hill Farm in Cape Elizabeth. The main course is hot dogs (if you want something other than hot dogs bring along what you want and we will grill it for you. Please bring along a side dish to share with fellow members.

There are some other things for the membership to consider at the November and December meetings. At the November meeting we will be nominating a member or members for the 2017 PAWA Ham Of The Year. Please start thinking about it now for the November meeting. The 2017 Ham Of The Year will be awarded at the December meeting.

Speaking of the December meeting, we will be electing PAWA officers for 2018 and 2019. All offices in the club are open. If you would like to serve let me know and we will get you on the ballot.

73, Bryce, K1GAX

President

Treasurer's Report

May 2017	
Beginning Balance	\$2144.71
Income	\$50.00
Expenses	\$670.32
Ending Balance	\$1524.39

Thanks,

73, Jack

Secretary's Report

Meeting Minutes of May 3rd 2017

There was no Board of Directors meeting June 2017 due to a lack of a quorum (only three board members (4 necessary)).

There was no official general membership meeting due to the lack of a quorum (less than 10 members and only three board members) (10 members of which 4 must be board members.

Submitted by Bryce Rumery, K1GAX

UPCOMING EVENTS:

✱ Next meeting:

Wednesday, September 6th 2017 - 6pm
Turkey Hill Farm - Welcome Back BBQ

✱ September Contests:

9-10 ARRL EME Contest
9-11 ARRL September VHF Contest
23-24 Maine QSO Party



July Exam Session

Exam Session Report

Date of exam session: 07/27/20017

Location: Stewart Morrill American Legion Post #35, 413 Broadway, South Portland

Number of candidates: 11

Number of successful candidates: 5 (3 Technician, 2 General).

Congratulations to Andrew Boyd, Roy Cogswell and Maurice Brewer on passing their Technician exam. Congratulations to John White, KC1HMN and Charles Wilson, KC1HUU on passing their General exam. For the remainder of the candidates that did not pass there are other exam sessions coming up.

Thanks to the attending volunteer examiners: W1JLB (liaison), N1GRO, WA1RB, KC1UX and K1GAX.

Chief Operator's Report

Antenna Trailer Status

Sorry to say I dropped the ball on this a couple of weeks ago, summer being pretty busy.

We are really fortunate in having a unique trailer configuration. The trailer is not a standard manufactured trailer, probably from what I understand a custom made unit that the club bought years ago.

As we are all well aware, the tires are in need of replacing. The tires are older tube type tires. The rims are also antiques, using lug bolts (not studs and nuts as is now the case). If this was a standard rim or hub we could just buy newer rims and tires. Unfortunately they are not.

Looking at it there is some corrosion on the rims, especially near the hole for the tire stem, so in addition to the tires the rims need our attention.

Things are complicated by the fact that we hoped we could replace out the existing axle set up with a newer one and use the hubs off of, say a late model small truck, to enable use to use new rims and tires. The complication is that this trailer does not have a separate axle, or any suspension. The base of the trailer is composed of square steel tubing and the rear one has the axle mounted directly in it. Any changes to that would involve cutting it out and welding and fabricating an axle set up. Any sort of new axle would be lower than what we currently have because it would need to include some sort of suspension (a couple of leaf springs probably). Our current rims are 16" rims, which would probably be reduced to a smaller size to keep things proportional.

So one option would be to fabricate a new lower axle and suspension.

The next consideration would be to swap out just the rims. As far as what I was able to measure, we have;

4.5 " bolt circle. 2.75" hub

Bolts versus studs and nuts

There are 10 holes in the existing rim due centering pin/ lag bolt configuration. Even though we have 10 holes in the rim we only use 5 of them. The other 5 are to accommodate the centering pin. The reason for the pin is unlike a modern car with studs that automatically line up the rim as you are putting it on, this rim uses bolts. Nothing sticks out to center the rim on the hub. So it uses a pin that acts similar to the studs used nowadays to center the rim and line up the holes on the hub with the holes on the rim. There are 10 hole rims out there, but unlike ours they are not 10 in a circle, rather they are 5 holes at one diameter and another 5 slightly offset at another diameter, which is not what we need.

Hub centric rims versus lug centric rims

As you can see from the accompanying picture, the center hub that the rim sits on sticks out quite a bit compared to a modern car. Because this older type setup uses bolts instead of studs and nuts, most of the weight is carried on this center hub. The older rims are designed for this. New rims carry most of the weight on the studs themselves. So even if we got a newer type rim with the 2.75" hub, it really wasn't designed for it. Of course the trailer is pretty light but..

Swapping out the rims for more modern ones may not work

Considering that the larger older tires act as springs/suspension in our setup unless we rebuild part of the trailer we may want to stick with what we have. My mechanic looked for replacement rims and talked to a friend who restores older military type trailers and vehicles. They didn't find anything.

I looked and contacted a supplier and hadn't found anything. There are places that build custom rims, most of the ones I looked at were set up for a standard car model (i.e. Dodge Dart 14 " rim, etc.)

We could get our rims repaired. I haven't found anyone local yet who sandblasts AND welds to take care of any pitting corrosion issues. There are many places that will sandblast and paint, but we would want to ensure they were restored back to a new type condition...

- a) So just simply sliding a new axle in is out.
- b) Fabricating a lower axle and suspension is a possibility, but costly.
- c) Swapping the rims, may not work long term due to lug centric/ hub centric issues.
- d) Custom rims or the repair of the existing ones may be the best solution

I am open to other ideas and suggestions.

Meanwhile, we need to install the new LED light set up, one turn signal light on the existing lights is out (again).

Replace the wire cabling on the winch.

New hose clamps are needed for the antenna itself and larger clamps needed for the storage tubes that hold the antenna components.

Some paint and TLC are also needed.

73

Ross



ARRL Field Day 2017

Jason Cote - W1WDW

Another Field Day is in the books, and this year's was a huge success! Our venue was graciously donated by Peter Eastman - N1AKP and provided for a quiet and scenic location that still provided for public access. Because of the ongoing work on the PAWA antenna trailer, it was unavailable this year. As a result, I donated my ARES communications vehicle to the club for the event and provided emergency power for the equipment as well as a mounting point for the tri-band antenna. We kicked off the operating on-time and worked around the clock with very little down time this year. Bryce - K1GAX was our grillmaster this year as in years past and cooked up a fantastic array of food. Lots of people came out for set up and assisted in the deployment of the dipole masting kit, as well as attaching the tai-bander to the top of the truck mast. All equipment worked as expected and we were able to even make several PSK contacts including Walt Disney World - WD4WDW in Florida. (My personal favorite) One of the highlights of the event was a PSK31 contact made by 4 year old William Cote (with some coaching by dad), who managed to pull in some extra bonus points for the club. The weather turned out to be amazing, and some even walked away with a sunburn. The ARES truck ran well and was a great test of it's capabilities for an actual deployment, we even realized a much better than expected fuel economy for the 4.5kW generator. I have included a statistics summary for this year's event and we will also include some photos at the end of this newsletter. A huge thank you to everybody who attended, picked up a mic, or a wrench or just came out to experience the event.

2017 Field Day Statistics

Station Callsign: W1KVI

Class: 2A

Section: ME

Total Contacts: 224 (217 Allowed)

Contacts Breakdown:

- **Phone** - 186 (179 Allowed)
- **CW** - 2
- **Digital** - 36

Entries Disqualified: 7 Duplicates

+/- From 2016: +74

Sections Worked: 48/84

Most Worked Section: OH - 27 Contacts

Most Worked Band: 40M - 128 Contacts

Most Distant Section Worked: LAX - District 6 California

DX Stations Worked: 0

Number of Stations Worked On Multiple Modes/Bands: 16 (9 Allowed)

Most Active Operator: Jim Fraser - KB1SDK

Operators:

- Ariel Cote - KC1CCB - 31 (27 Allowed)
- Jason Cote - W1WDW - 59
- Jim Fraser - KB1SDK - 89 (88 Allowed)
- Ross Drivas - KB1OND - 42 (40 Allowed)
- William Cote - No Call - 1
- Unknown - 2

Districts Completed: 4 (One, Three, Eight, and Nine)

Points:

Total Base Points: 255

- Phone: 179 Points
- CW: 4 Points
- Digital: 72 Points

Power Multiplier: x2

Base Points With Multiplier: 510 Points

Bonus Points: 1070

Bonus Breakdown:

- Media Publicity - 100 pts.
- 100% Emergency Power - 100 pts. (x2 transmitters)
- Set-Up In Public Place - 100 pts.
- Information Booth - 100 pts.
- Formal Message To Section Manager - 100 pts.
- Educational Activity - 100 pts.
- Site Visit By Served Agency Official - 100 pts.
- Submitted Using B4H.net Applet - 50
- Youth Participation- 20 pts.
- Safety Officer Bonus - 100 pts.
- Social Media Bonus - 100 pts.

Points Grand Total: 1580 Points (+867 from 2016)

Respectfully Submitted

Jason S. Cote - W1WDW

We Need Your Support!

Jason Cote - W1WDW

Back in May and June of 2016 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.

ARRL finally realizes status quo isn't going to cut it

Dan Romanchik - KB6NU

An item in the July 2017 ARRL board meeting caught my attention. It notes that a committee of staff members was tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The August 3, 2017 issue of the ARRL Letter ran the following report:

"ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

"The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice."

The board meeting minutes were a little more detailed:

"Mr. Roderick yielded the floor to CEO Gallagher who presented the report of a committee of staff members tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The members of the committee - Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF; Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY; Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ; Steve Ford, WB8IMY; and Sean

Kutzko, KX9X, joined the meeting at 9:20 AM, to present this report. Their findings show the importance to ARRL of getting newly licensed hams actively on the air and how that relates to continued growth of the organization. In order to achieve that goal, the committee proposed developing a lifelong learning department, which would address the needs of all amateurs with the focus being on developing a clear knowledge path for all amateurs. They proposed creating straightforward programs and services to enhance the knowledge base of new amateurs as well as to enhance their sense of community within the hobby.

"Another recommendation involved refocusing the priorities of the emergency preparedness department to address the current trends in public service.

"A third recommendation was to improve the value proposition of membership. The committee proposed doing a survey, which would include test material that is targeted to the interests of newer hams. The content would include a strong emphasis on serving communities, agencies, and partners; digital communications, and human interest. Projects would be simple. The survey would obtain information on new ham's interests and needs in the hobby. The survey would also try to determine the delivery system that might best meet the newcomer's desire for receiving this type information (print, digital, messaging, etc). The test material is proposed to be delivered to recipients in fall 2017.

"From the committee's vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership [*emphasis is mine...Dan*]. If we do not convey the need to change the paradigm, the ARRL's relevancy will not move forward."

The good thing here is that the ARRL finally realizes that there are some serious problems. I've written about these in the past. I've challenged the

ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of the licensed amateurs in the U.S (<http://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-membership-is-25-asking-too-much/>). I've also encouraged the ARRL to play a bigger part in emergency communications research (<http://www.kb6nu.com/go-big-go-early-go-fast-smart/>).

Unfortunately, it appears that the ARRL is approaching this issue in typical ARRL fashion. That is, working on these issues in their little cocoon in Newington and then issuing these statements as if they expect everyone to just fall in line. I quote, "From the committee's vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership." That approach is doomed to failure. Any "visioning" or strategic planning that doesn't get the membership involved right from the start just isn't going to work.

The ARRL HQ staff just doesn't have the horsepower to pull this off properly. The staff is already pretty bare bones, and they still have to publish QST every month, keep Logbook of the World running, process thousands of license applications, etc., etc. The only way this is going to be a fruitful effort is if they get members—and lots of them—involved in this process.

If you agree with me, please let your director know. Contact your director and tell him that you want to be involved. The status quo of having the HQ staff not working with the membership "is no longer adequate." That's how we got here in the first place.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

2017 PAWA Field Day Photos

