

PAWA Lines

Portland Amateur Wireless Association Newsletter

Portland Amateur Wireless Association Repeaters

W1KVI Falmouth: 146.730MHz (-600KHz) (T 100.0Hz)

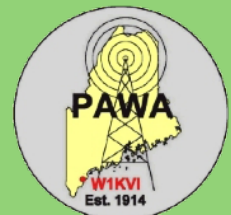
Portland Amateur Wireless Association Board of Directors

President	Jason Cote	W1WDW	W1WDW@jcwebdesign.com
Vice President	Bryce Rumery	K1GAX	K1GAX@juno.com
Secretary	Ariel Cote	KC1CCB	KC1CCB@jcwebdesign.com
Treasurer	Jack Ney	KC1UX	kc1ux@maine.rr.com
Chief Operator	Ross Drivas	KB1OND	rmdkb1ond@yahoo.com
Member at Large	John Bogner	W1JLB	JBogner1@maine.rr.com
Member at Large	Joseph Shortill	W1XXV	shortill5@yahoo.com



Growing wiser?

Send us your birthday to include in the newsletter!



Next Meeting:

Club Potluck & DMR Seminar



New Website!

We have launched a new website!

Club Birthdays

11th - Tom Berman, N1KTA

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!

President's Message

Jason Cote - W1WDW

Hello and Happy April,

April is here and will repeat my call from last month's newsletter: I would ask the membership to start thinking about the array of public service events coming up this year that we have the opportunity to take part in. The MS Walk, Freeport 4th of July 10K, Beach to Beacon 10K, Boston Marathon and others. If you have ideas for other public service events that we have not previously been involved with, please bring them up at a meeting. These events are obviously a public service, it helps get the club's name out there and it's a great training opportunity.

As the weather starts to improve we will also be doing some work on the Red Cross radio room. I am anxious to get that project completed.

Thank you very much and I hope to see you at the meetings!

Jason, W1WDW - President

PLEASE NOTE: ALL PAWA MEETINGS NOW BEING HELD AT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, 2401 CONGRESS STREET IN PORTLAND.

Treasurer's Report

March 2019	
Beginning Balance	\$338.95
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	\$93.00
Ending Balance	\$245.95

Now Recruiting!

Jason Cote - W1WDW

Our current treasurer Jack Ney, KC1UX has served our club faithfully for many years in multiple roles, but is looking to retire the office of treasurer to someone else. If you are interested in holding office and being responsible for paying the bills, please contact any one of our board of directors. All we ask is that you be a regular at our meetings and participate in club activities and business. We very much need a club treasurer, so please consider volunteering your time, thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019 - 7pm
2401 Congress Street, Portland
American Red Cross - Southern Maine Chapter

Contests:

14 Rookie Roundup - SSB
18 World Amateur Radio Day



Secretary's Report

Ariel Cote - KC1CCB

Wednesday, March 6th, 2019

Board of Members Meeting

The requirements for a quorum were met.

We need to resume quarterly Thursday test sessions. It was decided to hold a test session 5/1 at 6pm at the Red Cross. This session will be by registration only.

Pot luck to be held at the next (April) Meeting! Email KC1CCB@jcwebdesign.com with what you'd like to bring so we can avoid duplicates or too many of one type of dish!

Coax still needs to be terminated at the Red Cross and HF antenna needed. Jack Ney, KC1UX has an unused G5RV if it is ok to put up.

General Membership Meeting

The requirements for a quorum were not met.

Upcoming Public Service Events:

March of Dimes - have not heard from the organization. If anyone has contact information, please send it along so we can try to organize.

MS Walk - Jason Cote, W1WDW has emailed the director but has yet to hear back. He will reach out again.

Who is running Beach 2 Beacon? With Bryce and John stepping down, Jason and I will be stepping in to organize the volunteer amateur radio communications this year. Volunteer registration opens 4/1. Please consider joining us for this great event!

Field Day possible locations - Turkey Hill Farm, Red Cross, Fort Williams. The farm would likely be best choice to have antenna available.

Need to take down the old website if possible.

Possible package deal with radio and antenna to entice potential buyers. Jason will be cataloging the remaining items from radio room to post in classifieds.

Need programs for meetings. Possible MD380 CodePlug class? June? 7:30 following general membership meeting? Maybe asking George Harris, W1QUL to come talk? Please reach out with any other ideas.

Chief Operator's Report

No report was available.

Got Storage? (Urgent)

Jason Cote - W1WDW

Our move from the legion hall left us with a truck load of club property that is now just sitting at our very small apartment. In addition to that, there are also a few containers of equipment in a temporary storage unit. We are hoping that somebody has space to store all of this equipment for the club. Maybe you have some extra room in your basement, or a spare room? With the help of Jack, Mike, and Ross, Ariel and I cleaned out what was left of the radio room and I would like to find a safe home for it until we have a use for it, or sell it off. If you have space to donate, please let me know! **Unless a home can be found for this gear, I will look for authorization to sell or dispose of the property as I cannot store it any longer.**

Club Website

Jason Cote - W1WDW

It has been brought to my attention that several members are still going to the club's old website. I want to remind everybody that the club's **ONLY** official website is located at www.pawa-maine.org. Please update your address books and bookmarks as the club's old site has not been updated and is defunct. Again, the club's official webpage is located at: www.pawa-maine.org. We also have a presence on social media using the information at the top of the newsletter's front page.

April Meeting

Jason Cote - W1WDW

At our April meeting, we will be holding a small potluck for the membership, please bring a dish to share with your fellow members and RSVP to Ariel at kc1ccb@jcwebdesign.com to let her know what you plan to bring. It would be awkward to have only one person bringing a dish, or 5 people all bringing fruit salad!

During the meeting I will also talk about DMR in amateur radio, how to program a codeplug, as well as a new kind of DMR hardware called a hotspot. I will have several types of DMR radios on display for you to take a look at. Please consider coming out to see the talk and if you are a DMR user, bring along your radio to show off to the group. I'll see you all there!

Classifieds

A note from Jack:

I received a call from NX1I Bill Armstrong who lives I believe on Chebague Island. He said he is getting out of amateur radio and he has a TS-140 and I believe a TS-80. He wants to give them away to a ham. You would have to go down on the boat to the island and he would meet you at the boat. Tel Bill @ 846-4737 if interested or for more info.

If any club members are interested in purchasing any club equipment, please let Jason know. We are selling off select items to reduce clutter and boost the treasury. I will be cataloging and posting a detailed list soon. We have a couple radios, a repeater and various other items up for sale.

Can Indoor Antennas Work? Yes!

Dan Romanchik - KB6NU

Recently, a reader asked:

"I am studying your No Nonsense book as I prep for the Technician test. I am also learning CW. I am going to buy a Yaesu FT 450D as my first radio, and I want to use an indoor antenna as my first antenna. What do you recommend for CW?"

I replied:

"To be honest, I've never had a lot of luck with indoor antennas. Don't let that dissuade you, though. I have worked many hams with indoor antennas. Just recently, for example, I worked a guy who was using a Buddipole (<http://www.buddipole.com>) inside his apartment.

"If you have an attic, you could easily install a dipole up there. The ARRL web page on indoor antennas (<http://arrl.org/indoor-antennas>) notes, 'Attics are great locations for indoor antennas. For example, you can install a wire dipole in almost any attic space. Don't worry if you lack the room to

run the dipole in a straight line. Bend the wires as much as necessary to make the dipole fit into the available space....Ladder-line fed dipoles are ideal for attic use—assuming that you can route the ladder line to your radio without too much metal contact. In the case of the ladder-line dipole, just make it as long as possible and stuff it into your attic any way you can. Let your antenna tuner worry about getting the best SWR out of this system.'

"There are plenty of remote tuners now, too. You could install a doublet with elements as long as you can make them, connect them directly to the remote tuner, and then run coax to your shack.

"I have also worked guys who have used Slinky antennas inside a house. The advantage of using a Slinky is that it is electrically longer than a wire of the same length.

"An attached garage might also make a good location for an indoor antenna. VE3SO, who I've worked several times, uses a magnetic loop antenna installed in his garage (<https://www.kb6nu.com/magnetic-loop-antenna-at-ve3so/>).

If you do a web search for "indoor amateur radio antennas," you'll get many more ideas. Here are a few that looked promising to me:

* Indoor antenna for 7 Mhz (<http://www.iw5edi.com/ham-radio/37/indoor-antenna-for-7-mhz>)

* An Indoor Reduced Size Rectangular Loop (<http://hamuniverse.com/kl7jrindoorloop4010.html>)

"Another option might be to load up your gutters! I've worked a couple of guy who use gutter antennas, including WA8KOQ (<https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-gutter-antenna-rac-contest-161-countries-worked/>) and K3DY (<https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-computer-virus-club-net-gutter-antenna/>)."

This blog post garnered a couple of interesting comments. K2MUN wrote, "For many years I've used an attic mounted off-center fed 40 meter dipole. With an automatic antenna tuner and a 4:1 balun I've worked lots of dx with both qrp and, more easily, 100 watts! Certainly, outdoors is much superior but an attic is a nice location in bad weather making playing with your antenna a pleasure :-).

John, KD0JPE, said, 'If you have an attic available, check out the following 6-band coax trap-based antenna: <http://degood.org/coaxtrap/>. I constructed one of these 9 years ago and have had great results with it.

The bottom line is that indoor antennas can definitely work. They may take more work to put up than outside antennas, but as the saying goes, "Any antenna is better than no antenna."