



PAWA Lines

Portland Amateur Wireless Association Newsletter

Portland Amateur Wireless Association Repeaters

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

W1KVI Scarborough: 444.100MHz (+5MHz) (T 82.5Hz)

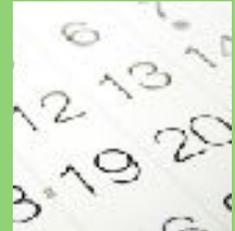
Portland Amateur Wireless Association Board of Directors

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!



Meeting Agenda

No agenda available.



Club Officers

We have a full roster of officers! Thank you all who have taken on the necessary roles!



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

Good June Everybody,

Summer is right around the corner, and that brings with it perfect opportunities for outdoor amateur radio activities. Make it a point to practice with your equipment to ensure that you are familiar with the operation and programming of your radios and accessories in the event you should need them.

I am still waiting to hear back on a venue for Field Day 2018, however we have been offered Turkey Hill Farm in the event that Cape Elizabeth does not get back to us.

I hope to see you all at Wednesday's meeting!

- Jason, W1WDW - President

Treasurer's Report

May 2018	
Beginning Balance	\$869.76
Income	\$55.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$924.76

Secretary's Report

Ariel Cote - KC1CCB

Wednesday, May 2nd

Board of Directors Meeting - No Quorum

Joseph Shortill, W1XXV, looked into the field behind his house in the event that we may need to use it for Field Day and gained permission.

Ariel Cote, KC1CCB, will attempt to contact Cape Elizabeth to see if the field at Fort Williams is available.

If we need to use Turkey Hill Farm, the antenna is already there, which may be nice so we won't have to move it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next meeting:

Wednesday, June 6th, 2018 - 7pm (Board of Directors - 6pm)
Stuart Morrill American Legion Post #35 - 413 Broadway, So Portland

Contests:

9th-11th June VHF, 16th Kids Day

Events:

ARRL Field Day 2018
23rd-24th

Location : TBD at the next meeting



Jason Cote, W1WDW, let us know that his communications truck will likely not be available for Field Day.

General Membership Meeting - No Quorum

We had a new operator join us! Jack, K2BMI recently moved to Maine from Syracuse, NY.

It was unknown at the time of the meeting if we were still needed for the MS Walk on 5/5. It is to be held at SMCC with a 9:00 showtime.

If there is interest, Jason Cote, W1WDW is up for holding a DMR code plug class this month.

Chief Operator's Report

Ross Drivas - KB1OND

Possible upcoming changes to the Technician band are an item of interest to all hams. The Technician class license may be due for some expanded privileges if the FCC acts upon a petition that the ARRL has filed with them.

In 2016 the ARRL formed an ad-hoc committee to look at the exam requirements for the Technician class. An outgrowth of that was a look at the privileges for the Technician class, not just the exam requirements. What resulted from that review was the idea of a basic license to give Technicians some Voice and Digital privileges in the HF bands. These would be limited, but they would serve to expose the Technician license holder to the world of HF, possibly whetting their appetite which would encourage them to upgrade to General status.

A couple of thoughts on this. Yes, it IS a change from the status quo. Will it make acquiring (limited) HF privileges easier? I think so but only to the extent there is a difference in the tests for General vs Technician. If it encourages hams to upgrade to a General license holder, that's a good thing.

While the numbers of people in the hobby are at an all-time high, the baby boom generation is "graying out". A casual look at any ham magazine or site and it's obvious the older participants outnumber the young. Also for some technicians, their only exposure to HF may be at Field Day, using a club license. While this may help with field day attendance it may not be good for the hobby as a whole.

The other thought is other countries have a similar basic entry level license that offers voice/digital HF privileges. While we needn't mindlessly emulate other countries, there is probably a good reason for their offering the entry level licensees those permissions.

Currently the Technician holders have some great opportunities with 2 meter repeaters and now DMR and Digital modes such as Yeasu's Fusion and Icom's Dstar. These can allow you some real world-wide communication. And while the digital repeaters are growing in numbers, their presence is by no means universal. I think there may be a fair number of Technicians who get licensed, try 2 meters and then not finding it interesting enough, drop the hobby to pursue other interests. It would be a shame to lose this portion membership, especially when the Tech license holder has taken the trouble to acquire a license in the first place.

For more information on the proposal check it out at <http://www.arrl.org/Technicianenhancement>

73

Ross KB1OND

Public Service Event Season Is Almost Upon Us

Bryce Rumery - K1GAX

It's starting to get warmer and with it comes the PAWA's public service event season.

There are three major events that we do. First is the MS walk on Saturday, May 5th starting and ending at the Portland Expo building. Next is the L.L. Bean 10k run on Wednesday, July 4th beginning and ending in downtown Freeport. The final event is the biggest. It's the Beach to Beacon 10k in Cape Elizabeth on Saturday, August 4th.

I will be putting out reminders to all PAWA members about a month in advance and gathering volunteers.

Please help to make this another smashing year for our public service event season!

73, Bryce, K1GAX, PAWA Public Service Event Coordinator

DMR Programming 101

Jason Cote - W1WDW

Soon, I am planning to conduct a detailed DMR codeplug programming and familiarization course for any member interested in learning how DMR works and how to plan, outline and program your own custom codeplug or "radio program" for your DMR radio. I will cover what you need to know when it comes to getting your radio to communicate with your computer, how to plan your codeplug, how to create zones, talk groups, contacts, and channels. We will cover several different types of DMR radios including portable and mobile rigs. Requirements for the class are your own DMR radio, can be portable or mobile with appropriate power supply and an antenna or

dummy load, a windows computer running windows 7 or later with proper programming software for your radio, and the appropriate programming cable for your radio. If you're interested in attending the class, please email me at W1WDW@yorkcountyares.com. Date and venue will be announced soon. If you own a DMR radio, you'll want to attend this course!

Status of ARRL EC-001 Online Course

ARRL Headquarters

(Editor's Note: This message pertains to any ARES member who is planning to take the ARRL EC-001 Course)

ARRL has been informed that the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC), the provider of the online platform through which ARRL offers its EC-001 course, is being dissolved, effective July 1, 2018. That decision was announced today by Charter Oak State College, the parent organization of CTDLC. CTDLC officials cited the fiscal challenges faced by the Connecticut State College and University System and the State of Connecticut as a whole for the decision to close the CTDLC platform.

ARRL is working on steps to address the dislocation that this decision will cause our members and others who planned to take this course. While we look at moving our course content to a new delivery mechanism, new registrations for EC-001 will be suspended effective immediately. Those who signed up for the EC-001 session starting on May 30 will receive a refund.

ARRL had already been in the process of developing new content for the EC-001 course, and now we will intensify the process of selecting a new platform on which to post this material.

More information on the new course content and new host site for the EC-001 course will be

available in the near future as soon as a decision is made on an alternative delivery mechanism.

Is the internet, millennials or FT-8 killing ham radio?

Dan Romanchik - KB6NU

Amateur radio bloggers love to write about the demise of amateur radio. To wit, we have:

- K0NR's Is the Internet destroying amateur radio? (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2017/11/internet-destroying-amateur-radio/>)
- NOSSC's Millennials are killing ham radio (<http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio>)
- PE4BAS' Is FT-8 damaging amateur radio? (<https://pe4bas.blogspot.com/2018/04/is-ft8-damaging-hamradio.html>)
- NZ0T's Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio? (<http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>)

Of course, none of these posts are really saying that the internet, millennials, or FT-8 has killed amateur radio. What they are saying is that all of these are changing amateur radio as we know it. Well, duh, the way we live our lives changes every day. Why should amateur radio be any different?

For example, Bob, K0NR, discusses how the operation of remote stations is changing the game of DX. Can you really claim that you worked a DX station if you rented time on a super station? I've written about that topic, too (<https://www.kb6nu.com/dx-advisory-committee-wants-to-put-the-screws-to-remote-operation/>).

There has also been much written about how FT8 is changing the amateur radio game. One blog post (<https://ve7sl.blogspot.com/2017/10/160m-ft8-end-of-era.html>), talking about the effect of FT8 on 160m operation, even goes so far to say

that this is the "end of an era." On DX World, the results of the poll, "FT8 - Damaging to Amateur Radio?" (<https://dx-world.net/yes-or-no-a-poll-on-ft8/>) show more than half of the respondents think that FT8 is damaging amateur radio.

I specifically used the word "game" in the previous two paragraphs because that's exactly what's changing. The physics of amateur radio certainly isn't changing. Our transmitters are still generating electromagnetic waves like they have been for decades, and on the HF bands, anyway, those radio waves are bouncing off the ionosphere just as they have been for more than the past 100 years.

What's changing is the human component. By that I mean what's changing is how we think people should participate in the hobby. The hams that are complaining that the internet or millennials or FT8 is killing amateur radio are really just complaining that people aren't participating in amateur radio the way they want them to participate.

Here's where we talk about millennials. In his blog post, Sterling, NOSSC, suggests that setting up remote stations is one way to engage young people. He writes, "I believe that remote operating, and other internet-assisted means of ham radio operation, are critical to youth engagement."

He's also big on an idea he calls "ham radio hackathons." He writes,

"A hackathon isn't a coding competition. It's explained well in this Medium article (<https://medium.com/hackathons-anonymous/wtf-is-a-hackathon-92668579601>). It goes even further than that, not limited to coders and engineers, but open to thinkers, doers, philosophers, system engineers, math people, teachers, students, artists, stakeholders...anyone with an interest in solving a problem with technology."

I support both of these ideas, but I think that millennials (and, to be fair, it isn't just millennials

we're talking about here, but any newcomers to the hobby) need to step up and get these things going. I don't think it's my job to try to get kids interested in amateur radio. I don't even know if that's really possible. What I can do, however, is be there to encourage and support kids (and anyone else that expresses a sincere interest in amateur radio).

For example, I'm not sure how fruitful it would be to set up my station to be remotely operable and then saying to some kids, "Hey, come and operate my station." What I think would be more fruitful is to say to a kid, "Hey, come help me set up my remote control station, so that we both can use it." Then, it turns into a learning situation, and we both gain from the exercise.

The same kind of thing has to happen with ham radio hackathons. The motivation has to come from the ground up, not the top down. I do hope that this idea gets off the ground, though, and I'm standing by, ready to support this effort however I can.

I think that millennials (I'm really getting tired of that term, by the way) need to grab the bull by the horns and take amateur radio in the direction they want it to go. Feel free to kill amateur radio as we know it. Make it better!

When he's not trying to figure out how to save amateur radio, Dan builds stuff, blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about what you think is killing amateur radio at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.