



The Repeater

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

Dues are due!

You can pay your dues at any club meeting (See Jack, KC1UX)

You may mail your dues to the PAWA P.O. Box

Portland Amateur Wireless Association

P.O. Box 1605

Portland, ME 04104

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



Dues Are Due!

Get your \$\$ to
KC1UX!



Ham of the Year

Congratulations to
W1WDW!



Upcoming Events

Check out our
upcoming events
calendar!

President's Message

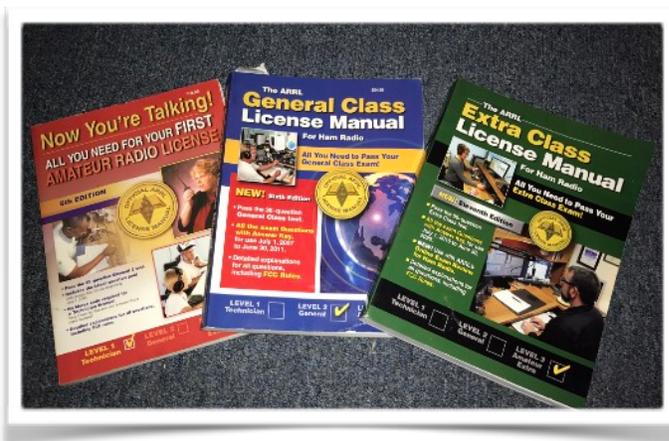
Winter has begun (if you haven't noticed already)! For those of you that aren't into outdoor winter activities, it's a time to "play indoors". After doing the shoveling, there's a lot you can do in amateur radio. First off, there's upgrading your license. In your nice warm house you can sit down, get out the study guide and go from Technician to General or from General to Extra. During those cold winter days is a great time to upgrade!!

Not interested in upgrading your license? How about trying new modes of operation. Those long winter days are a great time get into those new modes you've wanted to try. Maybe it's on HF or perhaps VHF or UHF. I'll bet that you can find a myriad of new modes to try! Don't be afraid. If things don't seem to work, there are other club members that I'm sure would be more than happy to lend a hand.

No need to sit around and watch reruns on TV. There's a lot of things in amateur radio to pursue!

73, Bryce, K1GAX

President



Treasurer's Report

December 2016	
Beginning Balance	\$1903.63
Income	\$50.00
Expenses	\$160.67
Ending Balance	\$1792.96

Thanks,

73, Jack KC1UX

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ✱ **Next meeting:**
 Wednesday, January 4th 2017 - 7pm
Stuart Morrill American Legion Post #35
- ✱ **Exam Session**
 Thursday, January 19th 2017 - 6pm
Stuart Morrill American Legion Post #35
- ✱ **January ARRL Contests:**
 1st - Straight Key Night
 7th - Kids Day
 7th-8th - RTTY Roundup
 21st-23rd - VHF



Secretary's Report

PAWA Meeting

Wednesday December 7th, 2016

A very brief General Meeting due to the Pot Luck Dinner

Call to Order

Acceptance of the Secretary's Report from November

Acceptance of the Chief Operator's Report from November

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report

Dues are due!!!

Upcoming winter weather spotter training at the January meeting—hopefully!! Bryce is going to arrange this.

The meeting was adjourned and all enjoyed a nice meal.

At the conclusion of the evening, the club was pleased to announce that this year's Ham of the year award was presented to Jason Cote W1WDW. Congratulations to Jason and thank you for your many contributions to PAWA!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Mitchell KB1YBS, PAWA Secretary

Chief Operator's Report

One of the great things about Ham radio is the ability to build, convert, or "re-purpose" things for Amateur use. Using the European Digital TV USB based receivers as a general purpose SDR is one such application.

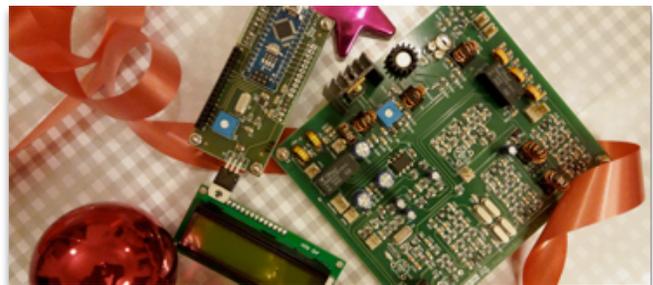
When it comes to building, there are kit based products that can be built. Some are quite simple like the Pixie transceiver a crystal controlled two transistor CW "rig" that puts out 300-500

milliwatts. "Rig" because it's a single board, no enclosures, or peripherals and you are anchored to whatever frequency your crystal is ground to. A minimalist design but simple and probably very fun to build. Some are available for around \$10.00 assembled on Ebay and other places on the internet.



If soldering isn't on your short list of things to do, there are kits that come with assembled boards. Some actual come with cases and your build technique just involves screwing everything together. Others require a bit more work - the user just has to come up with an enclosure, power supply or battery and some knobs, or not depending on how minimalist you want to be..

One such kit is the Bitx40 7 MHz SSB transceiver.



<http://www.hfsigs.com> Developed by Ashhar Farhan in India in 2004, his goal was to create a rig that Indian hams could afford to build. Commercial ham rigs available to users in the west, were hard to obtain in India because of their relatively high price and scarcity. The Bitx40 and Bitx20 were designed with the thought that much of their parts list could be scavenged from old TV's. The rig grew to be popular worldwide, even though was just a parts list and a printed circuit board. He was actually giving away the boards to facilitate interest in ham radio.

Ashhar revisited his original design this year and came out with a preassembled board, no soldering of components on the motherboard necessary. Now "preassembled" and available for \$59.00 interest in it has grown even greater.

The story of the radio in its present form can be found here. <http://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/2016/12/a-nice-history-of-bitx-40-module.html> (BTW the Soldersmoke site is an interesting ham site, It's a companion to the Soldersmoke ham radio podcast)

Some soldering has to be done to wire up peripherals like a mike, on off switch and power. See http://www.hfsigs.com/bitx40v3_wireup.html for details. It is worth noting that by raising the voltage to 24 volts from 12 the radio will put out approximately 20 watts. A great upgrade by just adding another 12V battery in series. If you plan on doing this mod, a heat sink is needed in order to dissipate the additional heat. Mods such as this can be found here; <http://bitxhacks.blogspot.com/>

There is also a Yahoo group dedicated to the Bitx20 which has a wealth information on both it and the Bitx40. <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/BITX20/info>

73,

Ross KB1OND

2017 Dues Are Due

Perhaps with the holidays you may have forgotten that 2017 PAWA dues are due to the club on or before January 1, 2017.

Full members dues are \$ 25.00

Associate members dues are \$ 12.50

Family membership is \$ 37.50 (includes all hams in the household)

Student members (under 18) are \$ 12.50

You can pay your dues at any club meeting (See Jack, KC1UX)

You may mail your dues to the PAWA P.O. Box

Portland Amateur Wireless Association

P.O. Box 1605

Portland, ME 04104

January Exam Session

The first PAWA exam session of 2017 will be on Thursday. January 19, 2017.

The location is the Stewart Morrill American Legion Post #35 413 Broadway in South Portland.

Exams for all classes will be given.

The fee for the exam session is \$ 15.00 cash (sorry, no checks are accepted).

All candidates for testing should bring the exam fee plus one piece of photo ID (Drivers License, State ID card, school ID card, work ID card or passport) or two pieces of non picture ID (Social Security card, school report card or canceled envelope with the name and address on it.

Doors open for testing at 5:30 PM. Exams begin promptly at 6:00 PM and doors close for testing at 6:15 PM.

73, Bryce, K1GAX

Assistant VE Liaison

A Heartfelt Thanks

I don't want to make it a habit of taking up valuable newsletter space for mushy stuff but I wanted to thank the members of the PAWA for choosing me for Ham of the Year. It means a lot to me to be a member of such a fantastic club and know that my efforts have been recognized. Thank you all and happy new year! Jason - W1WDW

We Need Your Support!

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.

Jason Cote - W1WDW

Celebrating your club's Elmers might encourage others

Sam, W5KF, recently sent me a link to the Elmers' page on the Norman, OK South Canadian Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) website. Not only is it a listing of the club members who have stepped forward to Elmer new members, but also provides ways to honor current and past Elmers. This is from the SCARS newsletter:

"Elmer List on the W5NOR.org website

"This week we talk about a brand new feature on the W5NOR web site. In the amateur radio community, an experienced amateur radio

operator who mentors a new or prospective ham is commonly called an "Elmer". In our hobby, that seems to be a great way for knowledge to be transferred.

"Yes, we all have taken an FCC test to receive our license, however that's only the starting point. Remember that person that helped you set up your first radio, or gave you the courage to press the PTT button, or answered endless questions about a radio, or an antenna? That's the kind of thing we're talking about.

"Thanks to a great suggestion from Gary Skaggs WB5ULK [not sure it was my idea. - Editor], we've created the SCARS Elmer Page, located at <http://w5nor.org/elmers>, for us to celebrate Elmers; past, present, and future. We provide a place for Elmers to list their specialty, and contact information, which allows new hams to find someone they can ask questions of.

"Since this is a new section of the web site, this list is rather short. If you're willing to help others on a given topic, send a message to n5hnr@arrl.net and you will be added to the list. Right now we need lots of different categories, like antennas, radio setup, HT programming, contesting, satellite operation, high power operation, test gear, building your own gear, repairing radios, APRS, D-Star, DMR, CW, logging, etc. oh well, you get the idea.

"You don't need a PhD to be listed here. You just need a willingness to help others in a given area. It's OK to be a new ham, and be listed here. You may have just struggled through your first space contact, but you'll have infinitely more knowledge than the person who's been a ham for 40 years, and has never tried that portion of the hobby.

"Also, there is a link to the "ARRL Elmer Award" page of the American Radio Relay League's web site. Here, you can enter your favorite Elmer's name and callsign. The ARRL will print a nice certificate, and mail it to the address you enter. Yes, for FREE! This certificate can either be mailed

to your favorite Elmer, or you can mail it to yourself so you can present it to them personally. Feel free to order an Elmer certificate, and present it to your Elmer at an upcoming SCARS meeting. Talk with one of the officers before the meeting to get your place on the agenda. What a great way to recognize these people for their extra efforts.

"Finally, we've got a place to list YOUR favorite Elmer in our SCARS Elmer Hall-of-Fame. This is the place to memorialize your Elmer, whether they are SCARS members, Silent Keys, or not. I've already listed a few Elmers on the list from my own travels through the hobby. We'd love to list the people that help us all succeed.

"So, please help make this page useful, visit the SCARS Elmer page at: <http://w5nor.org/elmers> and be listed as an Elmer, and list your favorite Elmers."

I think this is a wonderful idea, and I hope that you will consider doing something similar in your club. A little recognition could go a long way, and we need all the Elmers we can muster. And, if you're already doing this, please send me a link. I'll add that link to my website, KB6NU.Com.

When he's not Elmering new hams, you'll find Dan building kits and working CW on the HF bands. He is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.