



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

Club Birthdays

No November Birthdays



Growing wiser?

Send us your birthday to include in the newsletter!



PAWA Needs Your Help

Can you lend a hand?



New Website!

We have launched a new website!

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

Welcome to November!

We are approaching the end of another calendar year, and I am approaching the end of my first year as your club president. Our club has seen many years at home at the American Legion hall in South Portland, but our time there is likely coming to an end. We are currently in talks with the administration at the Southern Maine Chapter of the American Red Cross in Portland to relocate our club to their facility on outer Congress Street in Portland. Our club has unfortunately experienced a loss of membership, and in turn, a loss of income. As you can see from our Treasurer's report, we have depleted our treasury. Currently we cannot afford to continue to pay rent at the Legion past December, and as such are in dire need of a new home. We are also in need of help moving the club's property out of the legion hall into temporary storage.

At the last meeting, we did not have a quorum for a general membership meeting, however during the board of director's meeting, we discussed the current state of our club. We have decided to initiate the sale of select club property including a radio and a spare VHF repeater. We will be listing this equipment for sale soon.

This is your club, and the club relies on you to remain existent. We need your help with work parties, planning club events, recruiting members and various other things. Become involved in how the club runs, run for office, bring us your ideas. Your board of directors has worked very hard to keep this club afloat in 2018, but we cant do it alone.

I do not want to be the PAWA President that has to close the doors.

Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

- Jason, W1WDW - President

Treasurer's Report

October 2018	
Beginning Balance	\$279.45
Income	\$90.00
Expenses	\$100.00
Ending Balance	\$269.45

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 6th, 2018 - 7pm
413 Broadway, South Portland
Stewart Morrill American Legion Post #35

Contests:

3-5 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)
17-19 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)
24-25 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)



Secretary's Report

Ariel Cote - KC1CCB

Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018

Bryce Rumery, K1GYX, reported that Red Allie at the Red Cross is "checking with CEO" to see if we are able to use the space at the outer Congress Street chapter for PAWA meetings beginning next year.

The board answered questions from the membership about location, facilities, radios, and antennas at the Red Cross.

It was suggested again that we sell or donate the repeaters and Kenwood radio from the radio room.

We will need work parties to remove equipment from the Legion. A work party was set for 10/27 at 10am. Unfortunately, when it came down to the day before, we only had one member available to help and the work party was forced to be cancelled.

Following the anticipated move, we hope to maintain dues for next year then possibly reduce the annual dues since we will have eliminated the recurrent expense from monthly rent. Just a quick reminder, 2019 dues are due!

Chief Operator's Report

Ross Drivas - KB1OND

The possible Rebirth of Radio Australia is in the news. Radio Australia was shut down earlier this year due to funding. It had been a staple of the short wave spectrum for many many years. A few years back the programming was changed from a separate National radio station to a station that just rebroadcast ABC the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Even as a rebroadcasting company it still garnered large audience, especially in the

Pacific. With growing competition with China amongst some of the smaller island nations, Australia is now looking at the possibility of bringing Radio Australia back on the shortwave bands. There's a nice article on this in the Sidney Herald - hat tip to the SWLing website. <https://www.smh.com.au/national/an-idea-is-a-powerful-weapon-why-radio-is-the-answer-20181023-p50bf9.html>

Amateurs don't just exist in the ham radio world. There are a lot of amateur astronomers - some of them amateur radio astronomers and one of them was in the news earlier in the year when he found a missing NASA satellite. It's an interesting story and here are a couple of links from the Smithsonian Magazine and one from YouTube.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/long-lost-nasa-satellite-found-amateur-astronomer-180967974/>

<https://youtu.be/hMsE1rxOw4>

The Swling Blog it's a great website and I highly recommended for radio information. Thomas Witherspoon the website creator wrote a great article on SDR software-defined Radio. As you might recall Tim Mitchell and I did a demonstration of some SDR dongle a few years ago that allowed you to receive from 150 megahertz on up. The SDR dongle are cheap about 20 \$25. The one problem with them is they didn't work well at lower frequencies which include the shortwave and AM bands. That appears to have changed. Tom Witherspoon, creator of the SWLing Blog, has written a great primer on the subject and it mentions some that can be bought for \$25 and will function as a shortwave receiver.

<https://swling.com/blog/2018/10/sdr-primer-part-2-exploring-the-world-of-sdrs-for-200-or-less/>

Another great website is one tube radio.com. as you might guess many of the articles concerning themselves with tube radios and the site lends

itself 2 historical items with a radio flavor. The Cypress Raleigh has articles from Popular Electronics /Popular Mechanics and some older electrical and radio magazines from an earlier time. One interesting article that was featured a few months ago was on radio direction-finding. In an era of GPS appliances this seems rather quaint but it's also reminder that even a relatively low tech form of navigation using domestic AM radio stations can be done with a surprising degree of accuracy to this very day. (It was actually very common for sailors and pleasure boat owners to have radio direction finder on boats that used to go offshore just a few decades ago.)

<http://onetuberadio.com/2018/06/11/am-radio-direction-finding/>

73

Ross KB1OND

Celebrating your club's Elmers might encourage others

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

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 n5hzz@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.