PAWA LINES @PAWA_W1KVI @PAWAME WWW.PAWA-MAINE.ORG MAY 1, 2019

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

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!

Growing wiser?
Send us your birthday to include in the newsletter!

Next Meeting:
VE Test Session **(No business meeting)**

New Website!
We have launched a new website!

President's Message

Jason Cote - W1WDW

Happy May everybody!

April's meeting and potluck was a great success, there was a load of food for sampling and as it turns out, I was so busy with my DMR presentation that I forgot to try any of it!! Oops! **May's business meeting will be canceled** and instead we will be holding an VE Test Session at 6:00pm on Wednesday the 1st. Any VE is welcome to attend to assist and anybody who wishes to try for their license or upgrade can come out to give it a shot. Please keep in mind that this session is pre-registration only! Walk-ins are not permitted due to space restrictions. Please contact John Bogner W1JLB for more information and to RSVP.

Now on a more personal note, Recently my company notified me that they are moving out of state in June. This will leave me without employment and so for the past couple of months I have been searching for work. Unfortunately due to a lack of marketable skills (broadcast television engineering is a pretty slim market) I am branching out and taking a job as an over the road truck driver. This means I will be away from home for a couple weeks at a time, and only home for very brief periods. I do not anticipate being able to participate in club business and activities going forward. As such, I will be stepping down as PAWA President effective June 1, 2019. I had hoped that I would be able to find local work that wouldn't take me away from home, but unfortunately this is the best opportunity at the present time.

If anybody is interested in running for office to replace me, please make it known to the board and an election can be arranged. Please keep in mind that we are also in need of a club treasurer. Let's keep this good energy going forward, now's the time for people to step up and keep the club alive.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your support over my term and appreciate all the positivity you have shown as our club progressed through its recent transformation. While I do not intend to disappear, I want to wish you all the very best going forward and I hope to be able to make club meetings and events in the future.

Jason, W1WDW - President

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

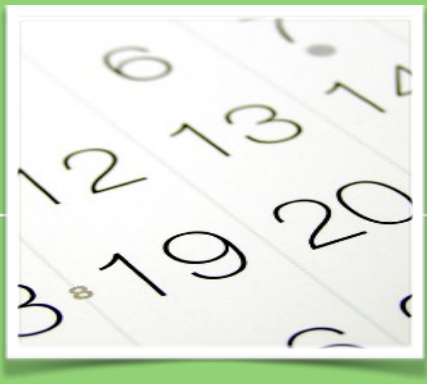
PLEASE ENTER THROUGH THE BACK DOOR.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, May 1st, 2019 - 6pm **(VE Test Session Only)**
2401 Congress Street, Portland
American Red Cross - Southern Maine Chapter

Contests/Events:

1st	PAWA Test Session
17-19th	Dayton Hamvention
25-26th	CQWW WPX CW Contest



Treasurer's Report

April 2019	
Beginning Balance	$245.95
Income	$100.00
Expenses	$0.00
Ending Balance	$345.95

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.

Secretary's Report

Ariel Cote - KC1CCB

Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019

No Formal Board of Members Meeting

General Membership Meeting

The requirements for a quorum were met. Jason Cote, W1WDW, put on a DMR presentation while the attendees ate some dinner. Thank you all for participating in the potluck. We hope it was enjoyed by all (except Jay who forgot to eat)! The treasurers report as published in the April Newsletter. No contact from MS Walk and March of Dimes after many attempts. It was decided to hold Field Day at Turkey Hill Farm for The third year in a row! We thank Peter Eastman, N1AKP, and Meghan Wakefield for their generosity and hospitality. Meghan also suggested having a yard sale during field day and possibly putting a small article in the Cape Currier to help promote the event.

We still need to finish radio space at the Red Cross. Unfortunately, the spare repeater we have is likely not worth much. We will be able to store it at Blackstrap for the time being. Though we did discover the duplexer may be worth few hundred dollars. This could be a great influx for the club's coffers.

Chief Operator's Report

No report was available.

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.

Getting loaded (antenna-wise, anyway)

Dan Romanchik - KB6NU

A couple of years ago, I homebrewed a "Cobra" antenna (https://www.kb6nu.com/yet-another-new-antenna-the-cobra/). It's a doublet antenna, meaning that it consists of two elements connected to a center insulator, where it connects to a feedline. The unique thing about the Cobra antenna is that each element consists of three parallel conductors connected in series.

My antenna uses a lightweight, three-conductor rotor cable that used to be available from Radio Shack. The feedline is 450 Ω ladder line that connects to an antenna tuner to give me multi-band operation.

Connecting the conductors in this way is is supposed to provide "linear loading." Somehow, running the conductors in parallel is supposed to increase the antenna's effective length. My antenna is only 73-ft. long, but it easily tunes up on 80m.

The ARRL Antenna Book has a short section on linear loading. It says that linear loading is a "little understood" alternative to inductive loading that can be applied to almost any type of antenna. Furthermore, "...it introduces very little loos, does not degrade directivity patterns, and has low enough Q to allow reasonably good bandwidths."

As I mentioned, I've been using this antenna with good results for a little more than two years now. When I first put it up, someone mentioned the concept of linear loading to me, but not being an antenna guru, I didn't 'give it much thought. About a week ago, though, I ran across a link to the page Short Ham Antennas for HF (https://www.hamradiosecrets.com/short-ham-antennas.html). That got me thinking about the topic again.

This page describes a way to build a linearly-loaded dipole antenna with a feedpoint impedance of approximately 35 Ω. This allows you to feed it with coax instead of the ladder line that I use. The author uses 390 Ω ladder line for the elements. He says it's commonly available, but I don't think I've ever seen 390 Ω ladder line. You could probably use 450 Ω ladder line by adjusting the element lengths a little.

At that point, I started Googling. The next linear-loaded antenna design that I ran across is a design from M0PZT (http://www.m0pzt.com/40m-linear-loaded-dipole/). He built his elements from some sturdy wire and homebrewed spacers made from PVC pipe. He's used this design for the 40m elements of a fan dipole covering the 40m, 20m, 15m, and 12m bands. Only the 40m elements are linear-loaded.

I also found a design for a linear loaded vertical antenna for 40m and 80m (https://www.qsl.net/pa3hbb/ll.htm). This antenna is only 7.736m, or 25.4 ft. tall. Of course, it requires a good radial system to work well, but it will work a lot better for DX than a low doublet or dipole.

Finally, there's an eHam discussion on linear loading (https://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic=84418.0). Unlike a lot of eHam discussions, this one is quite civil. It's worth reading if you're interested in the topic.

So, if you're thinking of getting loaded, errrrr, I mean loading your antennas, here's a method for you to consider. It works!