

## Long Path

A DOWNEAST MAINE  
AMATEUR RADIO  
NEWSLETTER



EAWA  
ARRL AWARD



5 STEPS  
TO INTEREST YOUTH  
IN HAM RADIO



RFI TEAM  
WASHINGTON  
HANCOCK COUNTIES

# SIGNALS DOWNEAST

*“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder!”*



## Amateur Radio Ordinance

The antenna farm pictured here is right adjacent to RT-1 in Jonesboro. This upset many locals who wanted to ban or severely restrict amateur radio antennas and support structures via a proposed ordinance. A public hearing was held on March 24 and Phil Duggan N1EP and Peter Stackpole N1MLE informed town officials and residents at the hearing

[Amateur Radio Contest Station in Jonesboro.](#)

of the value of ham radio as a public service and emergency communications asset for the community and regions.

The selectmen, town clerk, and most of the residents seemed amenable to meet with members of the amateur radio community and emergency services to discuss drafting a more reasonable ordinance that comply with federal and state laws, but would still prevent any further large installations as pictured above.

Other towns will probably be watching what Jonesboro does in regard to amateur radio restrictions, as similar stations have been erected in other parts of the county. The Maine Ham Radio Society will continue to monitor the situation, and will be following up with Jonesboro officials to make sure we do get input in any new proposed ordinance.

## ARRL AWARDS EAWA

The ARRL—the national association for amateur radio—Board of Directors recognized the Ellsworth Amateur Wireless Association for 60 years as an affiliated club, and for decades of service to Maine amateur radio and public service to the Downeast region. Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, presented the award during the April 2 Androscoggin ARC



Hamfest & Convention. Fred (pictured far right) is the ARRL New England Division Director.

## *5-Steps To Peak Youth Interest In Ham Radio*



- Space Comms — satellites, ISS, moon bounce, etc.
- Soldering & kit-building
- Digital (data), Digital Voice, Image mode demos. NOT FT-8 or similar, they get bored. Keyboard to keyboard like PSK-31 may entice the “mic-shy” kids. CW & SWL demos still interest many kids.
- Fox hunts. Make them Zombie hunts and let them find the hidden transmitter.
- DX and local FM repeaters. Make sure they work and have backup plans.

**Schools, 4H, Scouts.  
Let's do this!**

Accepting the award was EAWA Vice President Chuck Liebow, AC1BS (far left). Also pictured are Phil Temples, K9HI, NE Div. Vice Director, and Phil Duggan, N1EP, ME Section Manager.

## RFI Teams Being Formed Throughout New England

The New England Division of the ARRL is spearheading an effort to combat an ever-increasing problem affecting amateur radio operators. RFI — radio frequency interference— can be caused by multiple sources, including power companies, other amateur radio operators, grow lights, solar panels, and many modern devices within homes.

The RFI Teams will consist of hams with technical know-how, who will also receive more training from the League. They will also eventually be equipped with the proper equipment to sniff out RFI.

Team members also need to be “people” people, tactful and respectful, as they may interact with hams, non-hams, businesses or utility companies, and must be able to positively influence these possible sources of RFI.

Most RFI problems will probably be solved via telephone conversations, or quick investigations at the home shack. Some, though, may be more complicated.

If you feel you are qualified to serve on a team, contact Phil Duggan, N1EP, Maine ARRL Section Manager. [n1ep@arrl.org](mailto:n1ep@arrl.org)

## HERMON HAMFEST

**The Hermon Hamfest is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2022 and it will be back at the Hermon High School this year. Mark your calendar now. Don't miss it!**

## The 146.520 MHz Controversy

Most of you are aware that the 2-meter simplex frequency 146.52 MHz is the national calling frequency, according to the band plan. That frequency is often used by travelers or by people meeting up on a common frequency. The standard practice is then to agree on an alternate simplex or repeater frequency to move to for longer conversations.

Is this a hardcore FCC rule? Probably not, although the FCC does mention something about following good operating practices. The band plan is intended to help ensure all amateur radio operators can enjoy the hobby.

In the case of 146.520 many hams like to keep that frequency in their scanning memory banks so that they can reply to or assist traveling motorists, or as an easy initial meeting place, where they will then “QSY to a different frequency. It makes sense.

There are some operators who like to meet on the national simplex frequency daily and engage in long conversations. This is causing some operators to delete the frequency from their scanning scheme. That is too bad. There are many other rarely used 2-meter simplex frequencies that can be used for lengthy QSO's. It would be a nice gesture if these groups would pick one of these as their hangout instead of on 52.

## Meetings

The **Maine Ham Radio Society** will meet at the home of Phil (N1EP) and Brenda (N1ZPV) Duggan on Apr 21 at 6:00pm at 195 Kansas RD, Milbridge. Topics will include Field Day, USS Squalus Special Event (W1S), and ARRL Membership.

The **Ellsworth Amateur Wireless Association** will meet both via Zoom and in person at the Assembly of God Church, Beechland RD, Ellsworth, Thursday, April 14 at 7PM.

**ST Croix Valley ARC** will meet Pembroke American Legion Hall on Sunday, Apr 24 at 5:30pm.

## N1ARO Repeater Linked to Dixmont

George Richards, N1ARO, has been a busy beaver. His new repeater is now linked to the KQ1L Dixmont 146.850 repeater, and he has also arranged for Echolink to be interfaced with his 146.835- (pl 110.9) repeater, which is located in Hancock.

He no longer has the C4FM Fusion digital voice running. George would like the repeater to be a common hangout for 2m analog lovers!

## New FCC Fee Begins APR 19

The new FCC \$35 administrative fee goes into effect on April 19, 2022. The fee will apply to:

- New amateur radio License applications.
- License renewals.
- Applications for vanity calls. And if your requested call sign is not available, you will not get a refund. So do your research!

The fee does not apply to:

- Contact info updates such as address, phone number email. AND, make sure you give the FCC a valid email address. If they attempt to contact you and are not successful, they may suspend or revoke your license.
- License upgrades. (That's good news!)

Don't forget, you need to obtain an FRN — FCC Registration Number, which is available at no charge at [fcc.gov](http://fcc.gov).

**NOTE** — The ARRL will soon be dropping the VEC fee for those under age 18 to \$5 and will reimburse kids the \$35 FCC fee. Details coming soon.

Kidz RadioActive will also reimburse Maine kids the fee if the ARRL does not enact their policy in time.