

October 2020

# Statewide Newsletter for Maine Amateur Radio Operators



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**Submit Articles to: Cory Golob - KU1U by emailing [ku1u@arrl.net](mailto:ku1u@arrl.net)**

### **Message from the Section Manager - Bob Gould (N1WJO)**

Summer is gone and fall is now upon us. We all have things to do to get our homes ready for the coming cold weather. As HAMs we always talk all summer about putting up more antennas or a tower or just repairing what we have. We all must keep in mind the dangers associated with these tasks. Maine had a seasoned climber that had climbed many times have a fatal fall. Whether you are climbing a step stool, step ladder, extension ladder or a tower, always keep safety in mind. Review what you are going to do and take time to think the procedure through. Always allow yourself plenty of time to complete the task as this will keep you from hurrying. When you climb a tower, you need to be tied off 100 percent of the time. This means having at least 2 lanyards. Once your feet leave the ground you clip one lanyard onto the tower until you are at a point where you need to think about unclipping. At this point you clip your second lanyard to the tower and unclip your first. You keep doing this until you reach the height where you will be working. This process always keeps one lanyard attached to the tower. Do not forget to wear shoes with good solid soles to protect your feet from the tiny rungs, wear gloves to protect your hands, wear safety glasses and also a hard hat. If you have help on the ground, be sure that they also are wearing the same gear. This may sound silly and some may laugh at the thought or claim that it is not required, but even a small item falling from above can cause major injury.

As a closing thought just be safe and if you see someone not being safe, please remind them that someone will miss them if something happens.

Bob Gould – N1WJO

ARRL Maine Section Manager

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## Interview with Newly Appointed ARRL New England Vice Director

The Maine Telegraph spoke recently with the newly appointed New England Division Vice Director Phil Temples, K9HI, of Watertown, Massachusetts. Phil has been licensed for fifty years. He's been actively involved in ARRL field organization roles for awhile, serving as the Eastern MA Section Manager for three terms. He's currently one of the Assistant Section Managers.

- *MT: How do you see your new role as the Vice Director?*

K9HI: That's a good question, Cory. As the newest addition to the ARRL Board of Directors with just one week under my belt, I still have my "training wheels" on and coming up to speed with the various committees and individuals who comprise them. I'll attend my first board meeting on January 15-17, 2021 (hopefully, in-person, depending on COVID restrictions).

My current duties, as described in Articles 5 and 7 of the Articles of Association require me to assume the duties of the Directorship at any time. So that means I receive all pertinent information that Director Hopengarten (K1VR) receives. Of course, I'm a non-voting member of the Board.

Going forward, I hope to make the rounds of the various radio club meetings (especially the "virtual" ones) and introduce myself and even make presentations.

At the outset, I set a goal for myself to construct a New England Division website. None has existed—at least, no "dedicated" site. One of the Boston area clubs used to maintain a page devoted to the New England Division under the previous director, Tom Frenaye. I'm pleased to announce the website is now up and running, at <https://nediv.arrl.org>.

- *MT: What is your background, both professionally and in Amateur Radio?*

K9HI: I have a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University. However, I've spent most of my professional career involved with software engineering and computer system administration. As such, I hope that I'll be able to bring some of my skills and expertise to bear on committees that are dealing with improving the League's I.T. infrastructure. Having said that, I know there are already some very skilled I.T. and computer people involved with the Board's committees. As you may have heard, the Board has several projects underway to modernize the ARRL website, as well as its in-house computer infrastructure.

Amateur radio-wise, I've always been a "dabbler" in the hobby. I've tried my hand at many different facets of the hobby—especially operating. I've been involved with contesting, DXing, county-hunting, the National Traffic System, MARS, and even operating exclusively HF mobile on CW only. I hold WAS, WAC, and DXCC. Living in a high-rise condo for the past 25 years has precluded me from having a real station, but I still love to operate from a club or friend's station and have the occasional high-speed CW QSO.

At the moment, I'm very involved in maintaining the Eastern MA ARRL website, <https://ema.arrl.org>, along with the new division website. I also serve as the Program Chair for the New England Division ARRL Convention, also known as the Northeast HamXposition.

- *MT: What do you consider one of the highlights of your ham radio career?*

K9HI: That's a toughie! Two things come to mind. First, as a 14-year-old youngster and newly-minted Novice, I recall getting up at 4:30 AM one fall morning to make contacts on 40 CW with my humble station that consisted of a crystal-controlled Heathkit DX-40 transmitter,

Hammarlund HQ-160 receiver, and a random piece of wire strung out the bedroom window. From my southern Indiana QTH, DX for me was W1, W4, and the occasional W0 station. Suddenly, my CQ was answered by a faint W6 station! To be more precise, the prefix was KW6. The station was signing “/6” so I immediately assumed it was a Pacific station operating portable in California. After a rough exchange of signal reports, I received the shock of my life--the KW6 confirmed that he was, indeed, operating from Wake Island!

Years later as an adult, I had the immense privilege of serving as a volunteer instructor in the Courage Center Handiham Program based out of Golden Valley, Minnesota. Handiham held two Radio Camps annually—one in Malibu, California; the other in beautiful, rustic northern Minnesota. I was involved in the program for almost 15 years. One year, I was helping tutor an elderly gentleman who was attempting 13 WPM. This was back in the days when Morse code was still a requirement for General, Advanced and Amateur Extra. The man had suffered from a brain injury that affected his memory and cognitive learning. It was difficult and frustrating—both for him and for me. As soon as he had mastered a group of letters and numbers, he would forget it the next day. I have to admire his stick-to-itiveness! We worked together on his Morse proficiency for the better part of a week. At the end of Radio Camp, he took his exam and flunked the code portion badly. I figured that he would be devastated. But an amazing thing happened! The man came up to me, hugged and thanked me, and said to me, “God bless you.” It was a very emotional moment for me. It brought tears to my eyes.

- *MT: Thank you, Phil, for sharing that story. And best of luck in your new role as Vice Director.*

## **Don't Be A Curmudgeon - Cory Golob (KU1U) ASM**

Let me take you back to 1995 when I first earned my amateur radio license. My callsign was N1URA then. I was a young kid in eighth grade, brand new to the hobby and a somewhat shy person at the time. I was excited to have my ticket and eager to get on the local 2-meter repeater. My first on-air experience was met by the likes of a club president who was, well, a curmudgeon. He boldly announced that he did not want kids on “his” repeater. I may have been a juvenile, but I was certainly not “juvenile”. My attitude was not pessimistic, I never uttered any inappropriate comments, so why this hatred and animosity?? I was being profiled! And since when did a club repeater become a person’s personal frequency?? Back then, the ARRL had issued repeater books which listed repeaters with essential information, such as frequency, offset, CTCSS, sponsor, whether or not it had an Autopatch, if it ran on emergency power and if the repeater was Open or Closed. This repeater was Open, meaning you did not have to be a member of a club to operate on the repeater. When a repeater was listed as closed, which is a rare thing nowadays, you needed to request permission to operate there.

Being brand new to the hobby and having been accosted on the radio waves, I went dormant for a while. Karma crept in as the club members did not appreciate somebody treating another ham this way and it did not reflect how this particular club operated. Over time, the then club president was ousted from his post. I eventually returned to the airwaves and started to explore other repeaters and clubs.

I tell this story 25 years later because curmudgeons still exist. They might be on 75-meter phone, a digital talkgroup, in person, on an online ham radio forum or other countless places. How can we grow this hobby if we let our ego get in the way? As courteous hams, we must be inviting, accepting and tolerant while showing patience, offering guidance when needed. Perhaps we can become an Elmer and take a new ham under our wing. Knowledge is still knowledge even if we do not follow it. Why must we tear others down just because we do not like a particular mode, band or activity? If somebody possesses interest in a particular facet of the hobby, we must foster that passion before it fades! Point that ham in the right direction. Feed them with ideas that can enhance their understanding or at least put them in touch with somebody who can. This is the ham radio that I have come to know and love.

I invite each and every one of you to embrace the spirit of amateur radio and become ambassadors of the airwaves. Treat others with kindness and welcome them into the hobby. If somebody stumbles on the path of learning the ropes, help them. We were all new to the hobby once.

## Club Profile: New England Radio Discussion Society

Maine Amateur Radio operators are proud of their clubs. Some are general-interest gatherings and others focus on specific aspects of the hobby, such as contesting, DX, emergency service, QRP, etc.

The New England Radio Discussion Society, which meets in Kennebunk, was organized in 2010. Its founders, Dave Sawyer, W1PIE (SK), Igor Kosvin, N1YX, and Alex Mendelsohn, AI2Q, wanted an Amateur Radio club dedicated to the *technical aspects* of ham radio. Alex suggested the name, N.E.R.D.S.

NERDS celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. Alex recently shared what he thinks makes NERDS special: “We meet twice a month and every other meeting, we have a technical discussion.” In fact, members' “tech talk” offerings have included: the Smith chart, grounding and bonding, managing RFI, antenna basics, using oscilloscopes, VHF contesting, and the technical challenges of QRP operating.

Several years ago, over the course of many NERDS meetings, Alex and John Nowacki, W3NA taught an extensive “Electronics for Amateur Radio” class. It covered DC and AC electricity, vacuum tube and solid-state devices, basic practical applications, and elementary digital electronics. A year earlier, they offered a full Morse Code course designed for both novices and hams needing a refresher.

In short, members freely share their prodigious knowledge through these “tech talks” and everyone takes pride in the club's advantages: no constitution, no formal business meetings, no dues. NERDS actively participate in Field Day events, the technical and social event of the season.

With its credo of “Friendship Through Amateur Radio,” NERDS is pushing through this year of Covid restrictions and remains as strong as ever with outdoor meet-ups, on-air rag chews, and Zoom meetings. Membership is open to all - licensed hams or not. For more information on the club, visit: <http://nerds73.org> .

Susan A. Bloomfield, WB2UQP

West Kennebunk, Maine



## Maine Simulated Emergency Test (SET) - Saturday October 24th 0800-1300



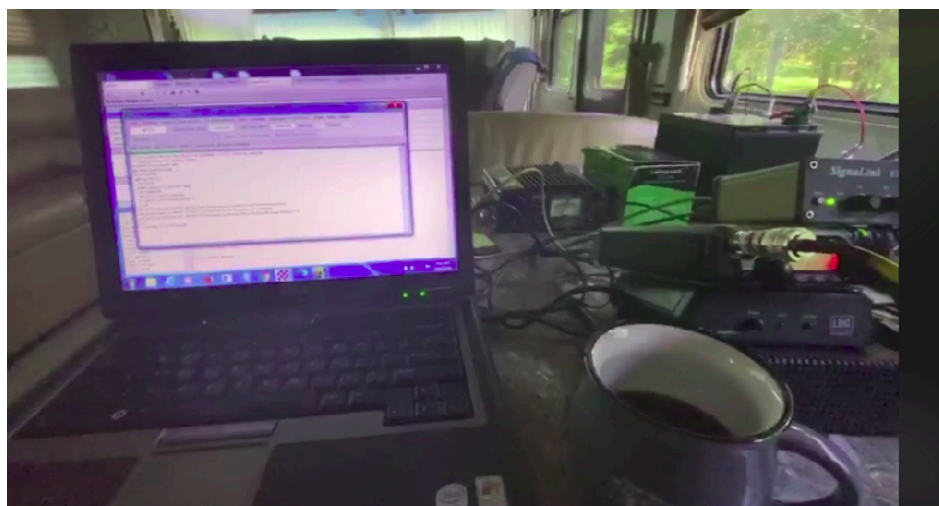
A simulated emergency test will be conducted in Maine on Saturday October 24th from 8 AM until 1 PM. The goal of this exercise will be to relay, send and receive messages over voice and/ or digital means from and to various county Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) and Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). It will be a simulated weather emergency whereby the internet has gone down and repeaters have failed, therefore more focus will be placed on Simplex communication (VHF/HF).

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to your local ARES/RACES team for more information.





Phil Duggan (N1EP), ASM for District 3, writes: Been having fun camping at Cobscook Bay State Park combining camping with my other favorite hobby: ham radio. I have been using very low transmitter power — less than 5 watts, called QRP. So far the farthest contact has been Bulgaria at about 4400 miles from Maine.



Phil was able to operate Winlink to check and send messages using WD1O's RMS Gateway on 3588 kHz

## Winlink for Camping & Emergency - Phil (N1EP)

I love to camp.

Oftentimes my campsites are in locations with no or limited cell phone and wifi coverage. Yes, it is certainly nice to unwind and disconnect from modern society. But I am a long-time nerd with unbreakable habits, it seems, and having my toys and email or communications abilities just makes my camping experience so much more fun! There is nothing like sending and receiving email with my laptop while sitting by the campfire. (I feel the same for sending and receiving Morse code that way!) Ham Radio and Winlink allows me to do just that, and with a very modest amount of power expended to boot!

Using my Yaesu FT-817, a USB Signalink, and a laptop, and a very simple dipole up only a few feet off the ground between trees, I can usually connect to one of dozens of Winlink nodes on the 80 and 40 meter bands using the ARDOP protocol. The old Winmor protocol has been deprecated. During a recent trip to Cobscook Bay State Park I sent and received email using only 2 watts of power. Now, that obviously depends upon band conditions, time of day or night, but I can usually find a usable node in no time. In the past, I have even connected to nodes in Europe on 20 meters to retrieve my email.

The public service and emergency aspects of Winlink/Ardop is powerful. For instance, if there is a widespread, prolonged power outage from a hurricane, being able to send and receive messages using minimal power to conserve batteries, is an outstanding capability. Using the Windows version of Winlink, you can also send multiple form messages, including radiograms, with the built-in form support.

Winlink/ARDOP is now available for various Linux operating systems and pre-Catalina Mac OS. At home, I use my miniature Raspberry Pi (Raspbian linux) computer with PAT to use Winlink. There are awesome YouTube videos taking you step by step through installation.

One thing to remember when using Winlink. All emails, incoming and outgoing, must conform to FCC regulations. We cannot have encrypted messages, or business emails or other forbidden information dashing over the amateur radio airwaves.

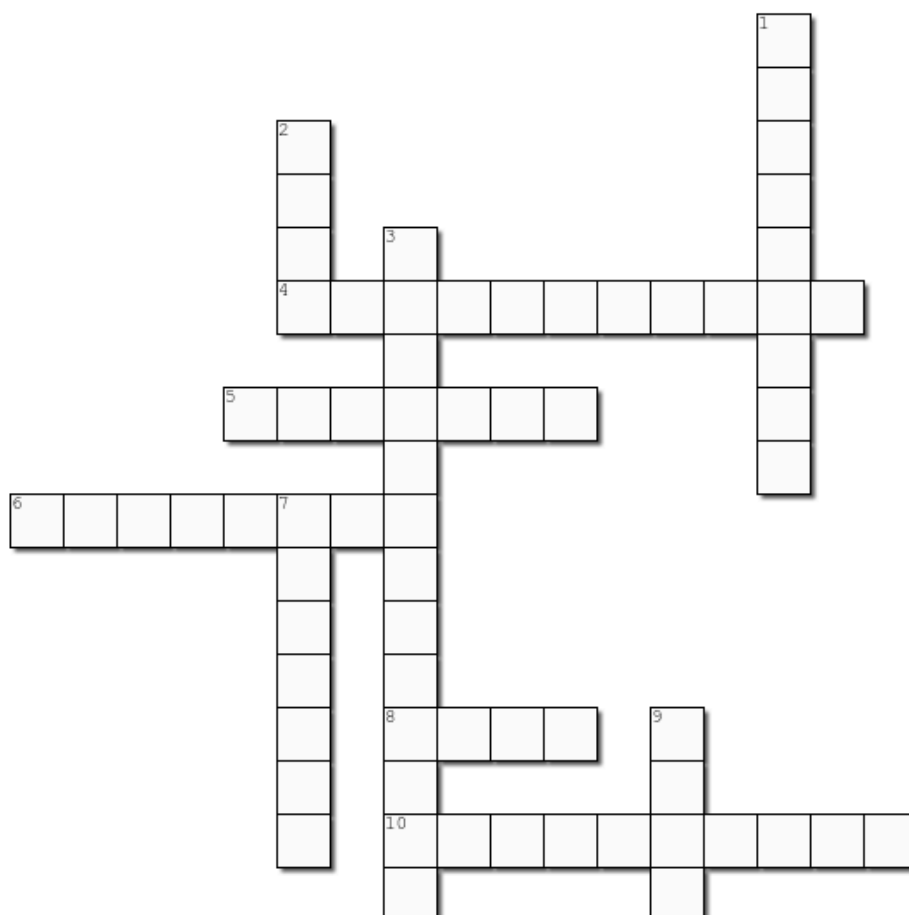
Also, make sure you check to see if the frequency is in use before you attempt to connect to a node. Listen for a spell, so you don't cover up an existing ongoing CW QSO or a digital contact.

For more information on how to register for a Winlink account and setup, visit [www.winlink.org](http://www.winlink.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## October 2020

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

### Across

4. The first beavior in the Radio Amateur's Code
5. Spectrum \_\_\_\_\_ Fund, Fund that helps protect frequencies
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Television, mode that sends pictures over the air (2 words)
8. Unit of impedance
10. Source of a high pitched whine that varies with engine speed in a mobile transceiver's receive audio

### Down

1. Type of modulation used with a Class E radio.
2. Bands that comprise 30, 17 and 12 meters
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Space Station
7. Name for the flow of electrons in an electrical circuit
9. \_\_\_\_\_ directional antenna or a radio model from Ten-Tec

## September Crossword Answers

1. LADDERLINE, 2. TECHNICIAN, 3. JAMBOREE, 4. COLORCODE, 5. PENOBSCOT, 6. TRANSCEIVER, 7. TEN, 8. SIMPLEX, 9. YAGI, 10. RADIOGRAM

# October Word Search

R	L	I	A	P	U	C	O	R	N	M	A	Z	E
O	A	H	E	N	R	D	S	W	S	I	S	S	P
O	N	C	C	A	R	K	N	C	Z	L	C	C	U
H	N	Y	R	I	P	E	A	Y	I	C	A	C	M
M	T	E	U	E	E	R	R	S	E	E	R	R	P
P	M	O	M	T	Y	D	A	A	M	O	E	L	K
N	O	E	E	Z	U	A	H	L	C	N	C	H	I
H	A	E	D	R	A	Z	I	W	P	A	R	R	N
P	D	O	H	A	U	N	T	E	D	C	O	Y	S
C	C	N	H	A	Y	R	I	D	E	I	W	O	D
C	S	C	O	D	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N
R	I	W	R	R	E	M	U	T	S	O	C	E	R
U	A	O	R	C	O	R	N	U	C	O	P	I	A
I	A	Z	A	A	H	C	N	L	N	E	C	A	C

SCARY  
SCARECROW  
HAUNTED  
WIZARD  
HAYRIDE  
CORNUCOPIA  
COSTUME  
HALLOWEEN  
CORN MAZE  
PUMPKINS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1494292/>

<https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1494292/>



## **\$wap \$hop**

### ***Amateur Radio Equipment For Sale or Trade***

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Hy-gain TH6-DXX 10, 15 & 20 meter beam. Has new traps and is in very good condition. This is ready to be picked up. \$300.00 takes all. This is a very good performing beam.

Please Contact Rick Smith (N1SGL) by emailing [rksmith88@gmail.com](mailto:rksmith88@gmail.com)

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Icom 746 Pro with 2 hand mics and 1 desk mic and Icom headphones \$500 OBO

Yaesu FT-897D with LG Antenna Tuner , AUX S-meter and mobile mount bracket \$500 OBO

Collins R390 \$500 OBO

Please Contact Jeremy (KC1DNU) at 207-931-7863

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