

The Pen Bay Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated
Lenfest Mountain Radio Group
Post Office Box 255
Washington, ME 04574-0255
“Serving mid-coast Maine since 1986”

May 2014 MAILING

The next meeting will be on Saturday, May 10, 2014 in the EMA Office, 301 Park Street, Rockland. The Knox RACES/CERT meeting will be held at 10AM with the Pen Bay ARC meeting at 11AM.
Coffee, etc. will be available at the meeting(s).

The following tentative agenda is listed as a guide for the orderly discussion of Club business that needs attention at this meeting.

Pen Bay ARC
Tentative Meeting Agenda
May 10, 2014

1. Call to order
 - a. Introductions as needed
 - b. Refreshments
2. Reading of last meeting's minutes (pres)
 - a. Corrections as necessary
 - b. Approval
3. Reading of club correspondence (sec'y)
4. Treasurer's report (treas)
5. Old business
 - a. UMO Balloon Launch(es), 4/27/14. www.umhab.org
 - b. NEAR-Fest, Deerfield, NH, 5/4/14. Next one 10/10/14. www.near-fest.com:8084/
 - c. Maine Islands Coalition Meeting, 5/9/14 – Steve Hansen/Eva Murray
6. Committee reports (vp lead)
 - a. Repeater – KC1CG
 - b. Exam – NY1B
 - i. ARRL National Exam day Weekend - 4/26/14.
 - ii. Tech Question Pool rollover – June 30, 2014.
 - c. Field Day – KB1TCD
 - i. Thomaston Green (former Prison site)
 - ii. Only one meetings and 49 days away! (6/27/14)
 - iii. N1MM/Squirrel/WRTC: Logging software? (W1QS)
 - d. Website – KC1ACT
 - e. History – KB1DBL (interim)
 - f. Events, Education, Outreach – KB1TCE
 - i. Balloon launch: next steps?
 - ii. Update on Part 18 RF emissions from indoor grow lamp ballasts – W1QS
 - iii. Int'l Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (www.illw.net) 8/16/14 at Pemaquid.
7. Misc brief reports:
 - a. Voice
 - i. Chimes (W1PBR repeater, NY1B, Nightly, 8 PM)
 - ii. RACES (W1PBR repeater, KB1DBL, Tuesday, 7 PM)
 - b. Digital Nets (KB1TCE)
 - i. 2M (W1EMA repeater, KB1TCE, Sundays, 7 PM)
 - ii. HF (3.590 USB, KB1UTD/KB1TCE, Wednesdays, 7:30 PM)
8. New business (pres lead)
 - a. Emergency Service Challenge Run For Your Life, Camden Snow Bowl, 5/25/14.
 - b. Pine State ARC Hamfest – Hermon High School, Hermon, 6/7/14. www.n1me.org/
 - c. ARRL June VHF Contest, 6/14-15/14. www.arrl.org/june-vhf
 - d. American Lung Association Trek Across Maine, 6/13-15/14.
 - e. ARRL Kids Day, 6/21/14. www.arrl.org/kids-day
 - f. Bicycle Coalition of Maine Lobster Ride, 7/20/14.
9. Closing business
 - a. Next meeting date/location: June 14, 2014, Knox EMA Office
 - b. 50/50 Raffle
10. Adjourn
 - a. Show & Tell or other presentation
 - b. Social time/technical assistance with radios, etc.

Respectfully Yours, Mike (KB1DBL), PBARC President



Knox RACES/CERT Meeting Minutes
Saturday, April 12, 2014
Knox County EMA, 301 Park St., Rockland, Maine

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM by Mike (KB1DBL).

Members in attendance were: James P. Blier (KC1AKT), Jacob A. King (KC1BFN), Ray O. Sisk II (WA4GSB), Nathan D. Marvin (WA1SAZ), Daniel P. Remian (W1CDE), Norman R. Smith Sr. (NY1B), John S. Lawrence (W1QS), Steve P. Hansen (KB1TCE), Michael L. Courtenay (KB1DBL), Ed C. Rotch (KC1CG), Elizabeth M. Hansen (KK4VNO), Thomas S. Ames (KB1URB), Eric R. Greiner (KB1ZUN)

March's Meeting Minutes were approved after a motion to approve them, as written, was moved, seconded, and passed.

Ray (WA4GSB) handed out copies of the FEMA Communications Interoperability Guide (which includes New England specific information) to the membership.

Ray (WA4GSB) reported that a Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference will be taking place on April 22nd & 23rd in Augusta. Attendee pre-registration at <http://maine.gov/mema/> is requested.

Ray (WA4GSB) led discussion on the progress of the "Town Ham Project" and covered topic areas including radios, antennas, cable, arrestors, mounts, connectors, grounds, etc. that would all be purchased within budget for the towns of Cushing, Friendship, St. George, Warren, Washington and Union.

Ray (WA4GSB) reported that Mike (KB1DBL) and Norm (NY1B) will be involved in the Lobster ride on July 20th. Members that would like to participate in this event should contact Norm (NY1B) to volunteer (Your Jersey size will be required info.).

Steve (KB1TCE) reported on the Trek Across Maine and that it would NOT be going through Knox County this year. Event planners usually have asked in the past for help from participating counties.

Ray (WA4GSB) reported on an Adventure Race that will take place on Saturday, May 24, 2014. The trailer will be used for this event and RACES/ EMA Communications volunteer speakers are wanted.

Ray (WA4GSB) reported that Elizabeth Hansen (KK4VNO) is a new member. At this time all members introduced themselves to each other.

Ray (WA4GSB) reported that Jon Grout (KB1KSM) has volunteered to redo the installation of power systems in the EMA trailer. Past generator problems were also discussed along with generator servicing by Union Farm. There is a parallel kit stored in the tool bag that should be used when running heaters in the EMA trailer to avoid overloads. A Post-09/11 flexibility device ACU unit was also discussed.

Steve (KB1TCE) reported on the end of Microsoft's support of their Windows XP operating system and discussion on this topic was had by the membership. Linux and Wine were also discussed and the fact that RMS Express will not run under Wine.

Ray (WA4GSB) reported an incident with a State of Maine employee who opened an Adobe PDF file document that was actually a self-extracting executable file which infected his PC with the CyberLocker Virus – a virus that locks up your network involving a ransom scheme to restore access to affected systems and data. Fortunately, they had a backup of the affected system(s) that saved them.

John (W1QS) reported that using a more obscure virus protection program like that sold by the Geek Squad has its benefits because it is less likely to be attacked. Also cloning using an open-source product like Clonezilla is also a good practice.

Ray (WA4GSB) and Eric (KB1ZUN) discussed funding questions regarding the Town Radio Project. It will take a few weeks to get equipment once it is ordered. Estimates are for us to be in Install Mode by mid-June. All radios will be similarly programmed. Each town will have a Go-To person. Voice, digital, and APRS equipment will be utilized (the radio already does packet – but we will not be using packet because of its limited use in Maine due to lack of infrastructure).

Ray (WA4GSB) reported that a new link for Fldigi would be added to the RACES/CERT webpage.

Ray (WA4GSB) reported that the next meeting will be held on the **second Saturday of May which will be May 10, 2014**.

Scott (KB1DSW) moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim (KC1AKT) and passed. The meeting was adjourned by Mike (KB1DBL) at 10:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
James P. Blier (KC1AKT) – For Edward C. Rotch (KC1CG) (Secretary, Knox RACES/CERT)

Pen Bay ARC Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, April 12, 2014
Knox County EMA, 301 Park St., Rockland, Maine

The Meeting was called to order at 11:12 AM by Mike (KB1DBL).

Members in attendance were: James P. Blier (KC1AKT), Jacob A. King (KC1BFN), Ray O. Sisk II (WA4GSB), Daniel P. Remian (W1CDE), Norman R. Smith Sr. (NY1B), Norman E. Meyer (KB1LCG), Kenneth L. Orne (K1BEA), Mildred H Grindle-Orne (KB1LIB), Nathan D. Marvin (WA1SAZ), David E. Hungerford II (N1OLX), Thomas S. Ames (KB1URB), Eric R. Greiner (KB1ZUN), Elizabeth M. Hansen (KK4VNO), Ed C. Rotch (KC1CG), Michael L. Courtenay (KB1DBL), Steve P. Hansen (KB1TCE), Scott J. Ewen (KB1DSW)

All members introduced themselves.

Steve (KB1TCE) made a motion to approve the March Minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Norm (NY1B) and the Minutes were approved.

Jim (KC1AKT) has not received any club correspondence via the club email address since the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Ed (KC1CG) read the Treasurer's Report, which was also included in the monthly club mailing.

Norm (NY1B) made a motion to reimburse Jim (KC1AKT) for his March PenBayARC Newsletter related expenses. The motion was seconded by Dave (N1OLX) and the motion was passed.

Norm (NY1B) made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Nate (WA1SAZ) and the motion was passed.

OLD BUSINESS

The Poverty Hill Amateur Radio Group, the Lewiston Hamfest, and notes on the agenda were discussed.

John (W1QS) stated that the ARRL Council will be filing a formal complaint with the FCC in regards to Part 18 violations involving grow lights. There needs to be pressure on the FCC to stop these Part 18 violating grow light importers (many located on the West Coast). Possible alternative grow lights including LEDs that could be used by growers were discussed. However, there is currently disagreement among authorities in the field of Marijuana farming as to what the best LED grow light color is in order to yield the best and most productive results. Other common sources of HF noise up to 10-14 MHz can result from the use of some flat-panel televisions, which have a different noise signature than the offending grow lights.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tech / Repeater Committee (Ed, KC1CG):

Ed (KC1CG) read his report, which will also be included in the next monthly club mailing. Ed reported he was working on a coverage mapping device that would require 3 second transmissions and 4 trips and will be using a program called Terrain Navigator Pro. Ed also reported that the antenna guy's visit to our repeater tower was on hold until after Mud Season. Ed also reported that making the '49's tail shorter would be a good thing and that the Chimes Net preamble needs updating, as it is no longer totally accurate.

Exam Committee (Norm, NY1B):

Norm (NY1B) reminded all members that Pen Bay ARC's scheduled Ham Radio Exams were scheduled for April 26th. Norm also reported that the volume of new Amateur licenses being issued by the FCC increased in the first quarter of 2014. Also, new Technician level exam books should be available on May 1st.

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

Field Day Committee (Steve, KB1TCE):

Steve reported that the next Field Day was only 77 days away! Field Day is to take place on the Thomaston, ME green, having been approved by Thomaston's Board of Selectmen. Solar and toilets are okay and parking is tentative. John (W1QS) reported that doing logging with N1MM is difficult and discussed using WRCC as an option, Squirrel, and paper logging. Northern Lights' solar system named "Tump" was discussed. Antenna layout issues were discussed and overcoming problems and challenges (such as voice/CW conflicts) faced in previous similar events. The good news is that this year we have 1000 feet to spread out our antennas in a W/SW orientation. We will also be using the trailer at Field Day.

Mike (KB1DBL) had to leave the meeting early at 11:55 AM at which time, the club's Vice President, Steve (KB1TCE) took the Chair presiding for the remainder of the meeting.

Website Committee (Jim, KC1AKT):

Jim (KC1AKT) reported that he has recently updated the website with the latest Hamfest, Exam, and Net information from ARRL and that club meeting agendas and newsletters are now available on the club website at <http://www.penbayarc.org/>. The password for all password protected Membership-Eyes-Only files on the website and in the monthly mailing continues to be "Chimes8PM" capitalized and spaced exactly as typed here but without the quotes.

History Committee (Mike, KB1DBL):

There was nothing new to be reported this month by the History Committee.

Events, Education, Outreach Committee (Steve, KB1TCE):

The Maine Islands Coalition is comprised of one representative from each of 14 different local Maine islands.

There will be classes for high school students in Amateur Radio targeted at 7-8 public school students and 1-2 home schooled students by Lego Robotics teacher Janet Corcoran. The classes will begin the Friday before Memorial Day weekend and go on 1 class per week, concluding by Sept 27/28, 2014.

The recent balloon launch in Penn earlier in the month was discussed. They used a cross-band repeater during their flight. We discussed doing a future balloon launch by the club of a beacon, camera, or radiation monitor possibly using Arduino.

Lighthouse Weekend at Pemaquid will be on August 16th, 2014.

MISC BRIEF REPORTS

Voice Nets:

Chimes (Norm, NY1B)

W1PBR repeater, nightly, 8 PM usually 30-40 minutes long: Had 16 participants recently, 11-12 usually. Chimes is picking up.

RACES (Mike, KB1DBL)

W1PBR repeater, Tuesday, 7 PM: Has 4-6 usual participants with a recent 10 count.

Digital Nets:

2M (Steve, KB1TCE)

W1EMA repeater, Sundays, 7 PM: The net usually has about 8 check-ins.

Mention was made of alternation or linking WMEA.

Modes practiced included FL-Message, FL-AMP, fast modes with good results. Notch issues and the Benner Hill and Lenfest Mountain repeaters were also discussed.

HF (Mike, KB1UTD)

3.590 USB, Wednesdays, 7:30 PM: The net has approximately 4-5 check-ins.

This Net is tailing off with about 4 or so check-ins per session, having started with about 10. It is now turning into an Ad-hoc Net.

NEW BUSINESS

Demonstrations to be presented after the meeting (4/12/14) would be on the topics of "Radiograms" and "Winlink".

Jim (KC1AKT) made a motion that Ed (KC1CG) file the required yearly reporting one last time with the State of Maine and get reimbursed for costs related to the filing. Steve (KB1TCE) seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

CLOSING BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held on the **second Saturday of May which will be May 10, 2014.**

The 50/50 raffle was drawn.

It was reported that members were finding that Ebay has very good deals on refurbished Dell Latitude E6410 Notebook PCs that can be used for digital communications at a price of around \$220 - \$250.

ADJOURN

Jim (KC1AKT) moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Eric (KB1ZUN) and was passed. The meeting was adjourned by Steve (KB1DSW) at 12:17 PM.

Post-Meeting presentations were then given on the topics of "Radiograms" and "Winlink".

Respectfully submitted,
James P. Blier (KC1AKT) - Secretary, Pen Bay ARC

SAVINGS :

+ 230.69 s 11/26/12 BALF Bal. fwd- SVGS
 + 374.00 s 04/22/14 ESOLD Via KB1ZUN
 **** SAVINGS ACCOUNT BAL. A/O 04/30/14 -----\$ 604.69

CHECKING:

+ 387.38 c 03/31/14 BALF Bal. fwd- CHKG
 - 9.74 c 04/10/14 NLETT 1043* James Blier, PBARC Sec.: Inv #105 Apr
 + 40.00 c 04/22/14 DUES W 1CDE Full 03/16 (2 Yrs)
 + 20.00 c 04/22/14 PATCH W 1CDE Patch (2 Yrs)
 + 20.00 c 04/22/14 DUES W 1MAE Full 04/15
 + 20.00 c 04/22/14 DUES W 1OWL Full 04/15
 + 9.00 c 04/22/14 RAFL Raffle @ April Meeting
 - 50.00 c 03/31/14 PSHAR 1044* LMRG Share Thru 04/30/14
 **** CHECKING ACCOUNT BAL. A/O 04/30/14 -----\$ 436.64
 **** SAVINGS ACCOUNT BAL. A/O 04/30/14 -----\$ 604.69

TOTAL \$ 1041.33

. Upcoming Expenses

Annual MNPCA-13 Corporate Report Fee \$ 35.00

Available Funds \$ 1006.33

April 2014 Tech Committee Report

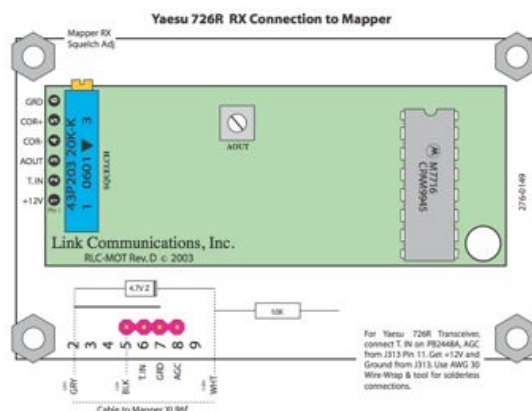
Strange Repeater Activity Department (Coverage Mapper at Work)

The RF Coverage Mapper uses 3-second Test Transmissions (once a minute) to read repeater signal strength "on the fly" while touring our coverage area. We expect an initial series of four mapping runs: One for each of the three repeaters operating alone (Lenfest's 549, 706, and Benner's 706). A fourth run will show 706's total coverage while Simulcasting from both Lenfest and Benner. These four maps can be combined to show our total coverage.

Please feel free to use the repeaters while Mapping is underway: The more active the transmitters are, the better the results will be! (I can't respond while mapping since transmitting from the mapping vehicle causes errors. The transmissions are automatically controlled at the repeater site).

Mapping Receivers

Connecting a receiver to the Mapper has its own set of problems. Modern radios have no space for additional circuitry or connectors. Yaesu's "Computer Aided Transceiver" (CAT) system seems promising as it allows remote signal strength reading in many models. Icom's CI-V system also allows such readings but only on their "high-end" (\$\$\$) scanners.



Will this fit in there?

My plan to use an Icom R-1500 seems more complex now than at first. (If anyone has ideas on using an R-1500 for this application, I'd like to hear from them). My alternate plan uses an old Yaesu FT-726R. Originally made for Amateur Satellite work, it has unused band unit space where the Mapper's receiver interface will fit.

"Deaf" 549 Receiver

On April 21, 549's "new" receiver again lost its hearing. (I can't bring up 549 with a 0.04 Watt handheld radio held horizontally while crouching on the kitchen floor beside the refrigerator). The "old" 549 receiver has been running well next door for several months now since its last re-work. It went back in service April 25. (So far, it passes my "hide behind the refrigerator" test!).

KC1CG