

FeedPoint

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ST JOHN VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION

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Watch for
the Tesla coil
to see where
you can contribute to
the newsletter!

Mailing Address

SJVARA

Attn: Travis Devoe
3191 Aroostook Rd
Eagle Lake, ME 04739

SJVARA Monthly Newsletter

The purpose of this publication is to keep you updated on club events and news as well as everything new in ham radio. It includes thoughts and ideas from our club meetings and events as well as new tech and news in the amateur radio community.

If your not already subscribed,

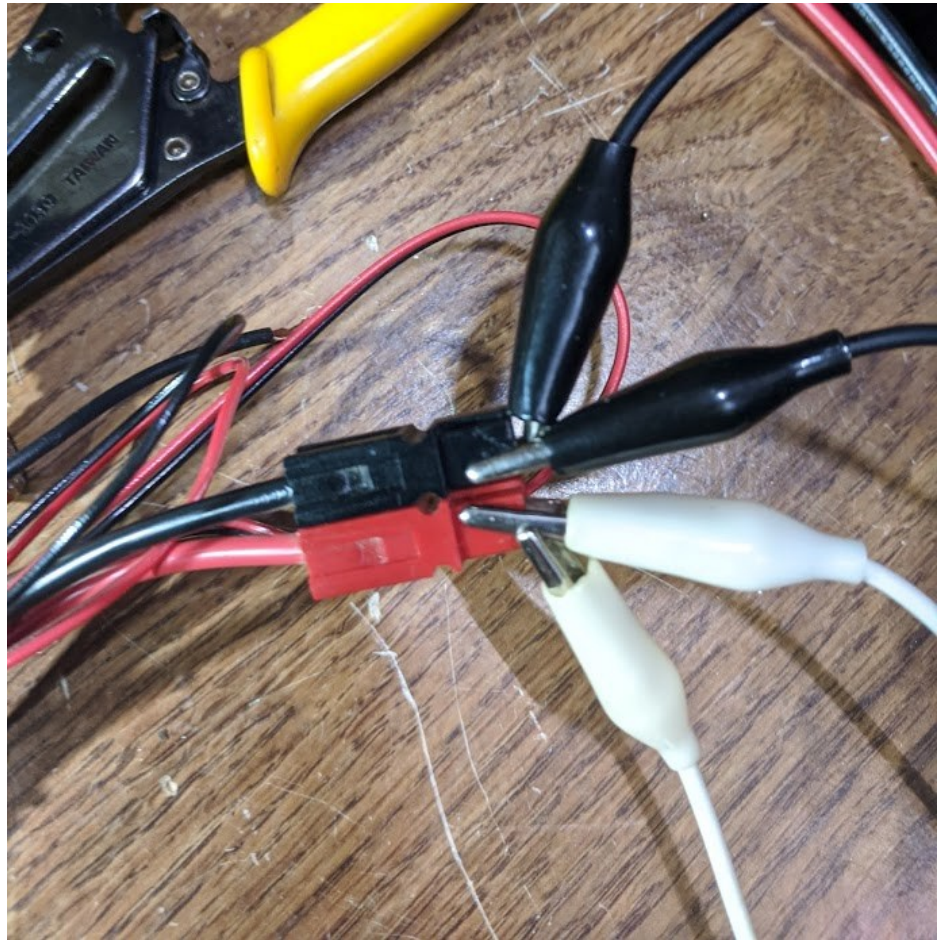


Photo of the Month

Proper way to feed a Power Pole connector... Need more current!

To submit a photo, email it to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: photo of the month



Monthly Meeting Review

We finally had a meeting, although not in person, and had a total of nine people plus myself join in. Thank you all for coming. We will be doing another online meeting in January some time, watch out in the December edition of Feedpoint for an exact date and time. This next time around, and moving forward until I find a better alternative, we will be switching from Zoom back to [FreeConferenceCall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com). We used it in the beginning of the CoVid crisis and although it was a little slow and clunky, they have streamlined their app since then.

I'm sorry for all the flip-flopping and any inconvenience this is causing but because Zoom reinstated the 40 minute time limit, I felt rushed during the meeting and I feel like I wasn't clear enough on some of the topics because I was racing the clock.

With the FCC app there is no time limits and a limit on participants of 1000 (I think that should be enough) and, it has all the same features of Zoom and some extras the free version of Zoom doesn't.

If you haven't heard yet Derrick, KWIA has been selected as one of Maine's assistant section managers for the ARRL. Cory, KUIU also an ARRL assistant section manager, joined us for the meeting as well.

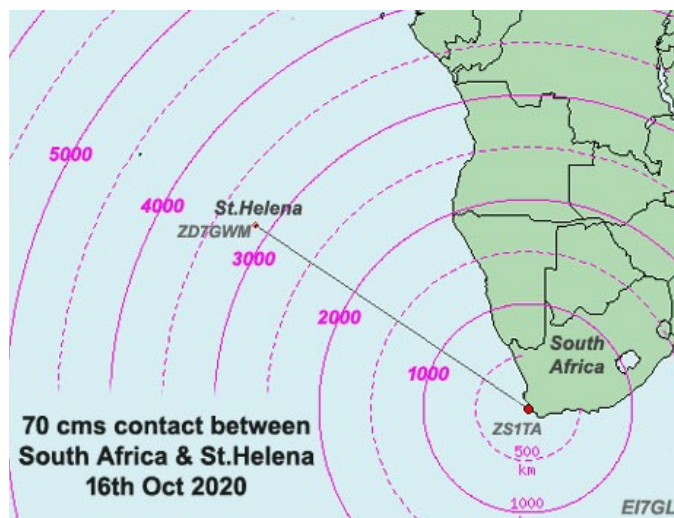
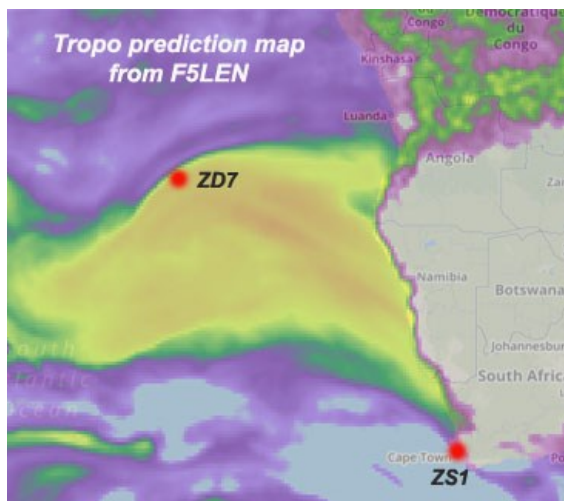
If you have any questions or comments for either, or the ARRL, you can get ahold of them via email. Check their respective QRZ pages or ARRL for contact info.

What's New With Amateur Radio

How do you make a 3000 plus kilometer contact on 443 Mhz? In the case of Garry, ZD7GWM, 35 watts and a vertical. A new record was set by a pair of hams on October 16th when they successfully made contact between Plumstead South Africa and St. Helena Island. Now admittedly Tom, ZS1TA, has an eight element BiQuad Yagi on an Az/El Rotor, but even then - a few miles short of a 2000 mile contact (3136km) is still a major achievement. What makes this contact interesting is Garry was using a Diamond Vertical at only 20 feet!

Its thought that a marine duct was the major factor in the possibility of this contact as the image to the right shows. This duct opens regularly and although this is the longest by far, 2500 km contacts are not uncommon between South Africa and the island. In November of 2018 contact was made between Garry and Kobus, ZS3JPY, on 145.500 Mhz, both on verticals with 50 watts of power. You can check out a recording of that contact [here on E17GL's blog](#). You ready for the kicker? All of these contacts were done via **FM simplex** not SSB!

Check out [E17GL's blog here](#) for more info on this and other long distance FM contacts.



Images from ei7gl.blogspot.com



Club / Member Projects

Check out our new merch store!

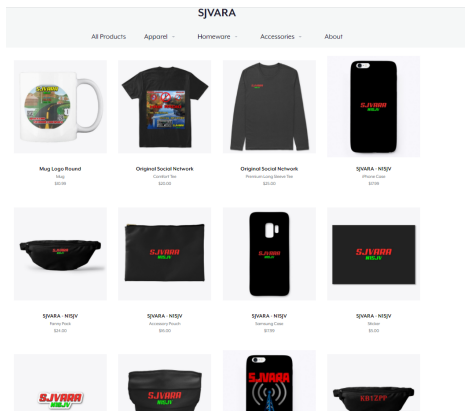
We have shirts, hoodies, coffee mugs, stickers and more!

www.teespring.com/stores/sjvara

Or get there through the merch page on the club website

www.sjvara.com/merch

Any items with my call sign, kb1zpp, will come with my call sign not yours! Email me if you want your custom call sign on an item!



To submit your project send an email to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: projects

The SJVARA is looking for volunteers! We need a new shack to house the equipment for the 715 Eagle Lake machine. The refrigerator that it used to call home is no longer any good and we need to get a small shack built to keep the weather off our repeater. We have most of the stuff here all we need is some screws, and some muscle. December 12th is our planned date for this 'barn raising' and we're going to build it in my backyard here in Eagle Lake. Once the building is finished we will bring it up to the site on a trailer at a later date. This will make it much more accessible for anyone who wants to join in the fun. Please use your own discretion for social distancing.



'SJVARA 715 Barn Raising'

Dec. 12, 2020

3181 Aroostook Rd, Eagle Lake
Across from the Eagle Lake rest area, look for the TV antenna with a two meter whip above it on the roof of the front porch. I'll send out an email prior to the 21st.

Reader Submission

A month ago I (kw1a) sent an email in regards to the \$50 fee for an amateur radio license application. If the new FCC proposed rules are adopted, applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests will now all have a fee associated. Excluded from this fee are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees. The deadline was November 16 to comment and November 30 to post reply to comments. The ARRL had even prepared a Guide for those who wished to do so. Unfortunately not many comments were submitted, even though the league and other amateurs pushed hard to get every licensed amateur to voice their opinion.

The FCC proposal is contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "Ray Baum's Act." The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC proposed instating application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's ULS including the Amateur Radio Service. The current 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

"Applications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review," the FCC said in its NPRM. "For these automated processes — new/major modifications, renewal, and minor modifications — we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required."

The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for vanity call signs. "Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee," the FCC said. The Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes for amateur applications, and amateur radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. "For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge," the FCC said.

The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. "The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services," the FCC said.

Visit www.arrl.org/fcc-fees-proposal. For updated ARRL news on the subject, which where most of this info was found.

Derrick Ouellette, KW1A
ARRL Assistant Section Manager (Maine)
207-231-2556

-VP & PIO @ SJVARA - N1SJV

-Radio Communications "Chief" @ Can-Am Crown Dog Sled Race

-Firefighter/EMT



If you would like to submit something, email it to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: reader submission



Upcoming Events

The next online meeting will be in January sometime, check the December edition for a date and time.

Nets in Maine

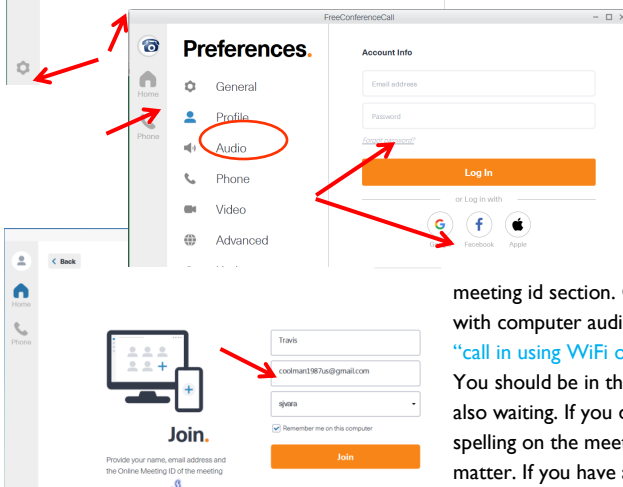
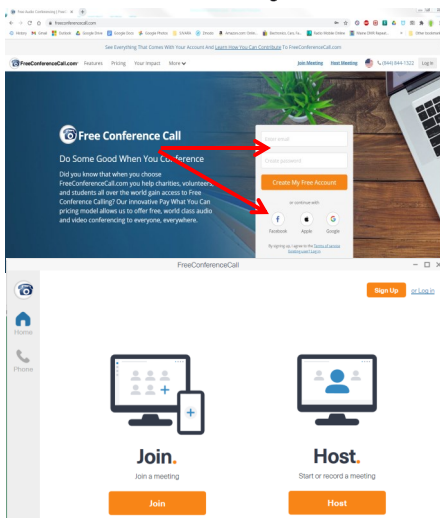
Sunday morning at 9:00 AM EST
3.940 Mhz Maine Public Service Net

Sunday afternoon at 4:30 PM EST
3.940 Mhz Maine Emergency Communications Net

If you know of any other nets in Maine, whether HF, VHF, UHF, digital or analog, let us know and well list it here!



To submit an event, email the description, date, and other pertinent info to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: events



If you would like to submit your tips or tricks, email them to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: just the tip

Since gatherings are still discouraged, I'm thinking of doing some classes online.

If your interested in any of these topics fill out the [form here](#).
If I get enough interest I will hold one or more of the classes. -kb lzpp

- Intro to Ham Radio
 - Just got my license, now what?
 - What gear should I buy, or make?
 - Home vs Mobile set up
- DMR
 - Intro to the Maine DMR system
 - Advanced DMR and Programming
- RSS/CPS
 - Programming analog radios via PC
- PC software
 - Ham related free software
- Batteries
 - Intro to Batteries. How they work, how they're charged, and why you should care
- Power Distribution
 - Best Practices
 - How to get power to *everything*
 - Proper Grounding and Bonding
- Solar
 - Intro to Solar Power and Charging
- Antenna Design and Construction
 - Intro to Antennas
 - Advanced Antennas
 - Satellite Antennas
- Raspberry Pi / Arduino
 - Intro to Raspberry Pi
 - Intro to Arduino
 - Projects to get these micro-controllers to work for you

Quick Tips

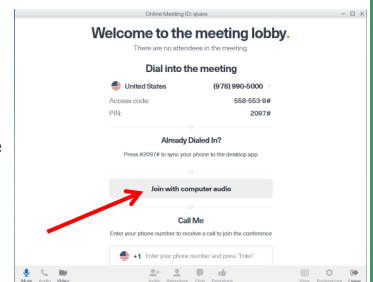
Since were switching back from Zoom to FreeConferenceCall.com I thought a walkthrough on how to set up an account and install the program would be a good tip. Sorry for the inconvenience but the meetings should go a lot smoother if I'm not racing the clock.

Frist things first you need to make an account if you haven't already. Navigate to www.freeconferencecall.com, enter an email and password and click create my account. There is also an option to sign in with your facebook or google account, just click the button. Once your logged in on the dashboard you should see a 'download app' button. You can also find the app in the IOS and Android app stores. Just search for 'freeconferencecall' one word. If you can't download the app you can use the browser version but features are limited and I suggest you download the app instead.

Now that you have the app installed and running, click the gear icon on the bottom left and then click profile. Fill in your email and password or log in via google, facebook, etc. Once it says your logged in, click on the home button on the top left and click join.

Once you click join put in the name you would like displayed during the meeting. This can be your name, call sign or both. Fill in your email if its not already filled in and put "sjvara" in the

meeting id section. Click join and then click "join with computer audio" (if on the mobile app tap "call in using WiFi or data"). That's it! You should be in the room and see others that are also waiting. If you don't see anyone check the spelling on the meeting id, capitalization does matter. If you have any questions let me know and ill do my best to help. -kb lzpp



Quick Actions

- Host Meeting
- Join Meeting
- Invite
- **Download App**
- Settings

Learn More About Our Most Popular

Send Us Your
Tips & Tricks
Hacks & Mods



Swap / Buy / Sell

The SJVARA is looking for donations for their club event trailer and "go box"

Any gear you would like to donate or let us borrow would be greatly appreciated.



150
Free
Trade



To get your gear listed or to list what your in search of email sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: swap buy sell

Swap

Buy
Sell

We need gear to fill this section! If you have anything to sell or give away, are looking for something to buy, or just looking to see what's out there let us know!

Random Stuff

You'll find anything unrelated or off topic here.



While I was scouring the net to find something to put here I stumbled across Off Grid Tools. I have never tried any of their products but they have a few different items and all are reasonably priced. Anything from a tactical knife or survival axe to fire starter or shelter building kits. I looked around on a few different sites and the reviews are positive. They have worked with a few owners of the first survival axe and revamped it to address some issues from the original design. Check out their full range of products on their website www.offgridtools.com



If you would like to submit your random stuff, email it to sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: uh, that's random



Info / Links

Fort Kent Repeater - 146.640- 100hz
 Eagle Lake Repeater - 146.715- 100hz ([temporarily offline](#))
 Echolink Node - 733919 (or search [n1sjv](#))
 Facebook - www.facebook.com/sjvara
 Website - www.sjvara.com
 Merch Store - www.teespring.com/stores/sjvara
[Google Drive](#)
 Exam Study Guides - www.kb6nu.com/study-guides
 Flash Cards and Practice Exams - www.hamstudy.org
 Online Meeting App - FreeConferenceCall.com

Affiliates

Aroostook Amateur Radio Association
www.kifs.org
 Maine Amateur Radio Foundation
www.mar.foundation
 Amateur Radio Relay League
www.arrl.org
 Can Am Crown
www.can-am-crown.net

The **SJVARA** is a membership of hams with the similar interest of promoting radio knowledge as well as advancing the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the community. Monthly meetings are held in Fort Kent but membership spans the entire valley and more.

Check out the club [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for other info or events.

Mailing Address

SJVARA
 Attn: Travis Devoe
 3191 Aroostook Rd
 Eagle Lake. ME 04739



Why Become An Amateur Radio Operator?

“Ham” radio is a fun, exciting hobby that allows you to talk to the world using different technologies and modes of transmission. It’s also a great way to meet people in your area with the same hobbies or interests, and exchange information and experiences.

Officer Contact List

Officer Contact List			
Club Email		sjvarafk@gmail.com	N1SJV
President	Travis Devoe	coolman1987us@gmail.com	KB1ZPP
Vice President	Derrick Ouellette	kw1a@arrl.net	KW1A
Treasurer	Carl Pelletier	cjpmail211@gmail.com	N1EVO

Membership
 Payment Links



Payment Via
 Snail Mail

SJVARA
 Attn: Carl Pelletier
 22 Municipal Drive
 Fort Kent, ME 04743

