

FeedPoint

ST JOHN VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION

WHAT'S IN THIS
ARTICLE:

- ◆ Monthly Meeting Review
- ◆ What's New in Amateur Radio
- ◆ Club or Member Projects
- ◆ Reader Submission
- ◆ Upcoming Events
- ◆ Quick Tips
- ◆ Swap - Buy - Sell
- ◆ Random Stuff
- ◆ Info / Links



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,
email sjvarafk@gmail.com Attn: newsletter

Travis Devoe
POBox 363
Eagle Lake, ME
04739 USA

ITU REGION 8 CQ ZONE 5

GRID SQUARE FN57QB

KB1ZPP

Aroostook County

| DATE | TIME | FREQUENCY | MODE |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| MONTH DAY YEAR | UTC LOCAL | | POWER |
| / / | : : | . | |

EMAIL

NOTES

RST

000

MOBILE STATION

V/U ANALOG - TYT TH8500
UHF ANALOG - YAESU FT2800
UHF DMR - MOTOROLA XPR 4550
PUBLIC SAFETY - MOTOROLA CM300

ALL ANTENNAS
TRANSFORMING 5/8 WAVE
MAGNETIC MOUNT/MOUNT

HOME STATION

HF - ICOM IC-735 - 20 METER DIPOLE RG78
UHF ANALOG - MOTOROLA MAXTRAC 300 - 13 ELEMENT YAGI RG758
UHF DMR - MOTOROLA XPR 4550 - RINGO RANGER RG758U

Photo of the Month

QSL card design

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



Monthly Meeting Review

With the Intro to DMR class and some other projects I have going on this month I didn't have time to organize a meeting. I will try to post the next meeting two or three weeks ahead of time. It will be online via freeconferencecall.com

Check the club website for meeting updates.

www.sjvara.com

If you missed the online class you can watch the recording any time! Click the link below to start the video.

*Intro to the
Maine DMR
System*

-KB1ZPP

What's New With Amateur Radio

The FCC has proposed a \$35 fee for new licenses, upgrades, renewals, or vanity call signs. After originally proposing a \$50 fee and getting a lot of backlash from the amateur community, they did us a favor and took \$15 off of \$50 and reduced it to \$35, gee thanks.

They also took the time to address some comments that were left when they originally purposed the \$50 fee, some that stuck out to me are below. (Pulled from [FCC-20-184A1](https://www.fcc.gov/record/2018-01-18))

- 1) *The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption "where none presently exists."*
- 2) *The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.*

"[W]e are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public," the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called "Ray Baum's Act" requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. "Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules," the FCC noted. "As we have noted previously, [w]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service."

- 3) *Other commenters argue that it is unreasonable for the Commission to impose fees on Amateur Radio Service licensees given that the Commission has outsourced many of the administrative functions for the service. Individual operators and their organizations perform not only the training and examination functions we have discussed, but also assist the Enforcement Bureau in policing the service for unlicensed operations and other interference issues. These commenters argue that **if the Commission adopts application fees for the service, it should use the fees for the benefit of licensees, for example, by taking more robust enforcement actions against unlawful operators.***

"While we appreciate the commenters' diligent advocacy for their service, we remind them that the Commission does not have discretion on how to use application fees, which must be deposited in the U.S. Treasury".

Now its no secret that I'm not a big fan of the FCC, especially under the previous administration. The new president has appointed an acting chair until a new chairperson has been selected, and hopefully she (and/or whomever ultimately fills the position) has more common sense upstairs and less telecom bribe money in her pockets. The responses to these comments only further my dislike for and frustration with the FCC.

First and foremost the comment that they have no authority to create an exemption where none exists tells me that they are not at all interested in wasting any time catering to amateurs. If they cared at all they would at least attempt to follow up on it, they basically said "we don't really care enough".

The next one is really where my ears start steaming. For as long as I remember and if you ask most hams today they will tell you the two main purposes of amateur radio are to advance the hobby and assist in emergency communications. Whether or not it was ever "officially" part of the amateur radio hobby, this comment that "the amateur service is not an emergency radio service" is like getting kicked in the chest. If that's the case, what is the point of ARES or RACES? Weren't those created specifically for emergency communication assistance? The more they open their mouths the more its apparent to me that they really could care less.

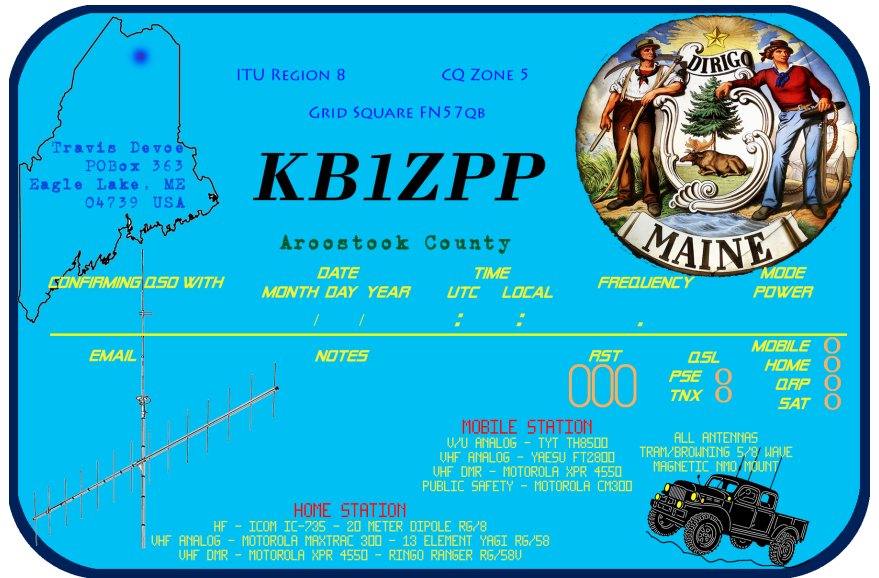
The answer to the last comment made me laugh which is probably a good thing as I was about to start plotting against the FCC. He makes a good point and the fact that the VEC's do all the work and the FCC has little to no involvement, other than issuing an FRN, the least they could do is put a couple black vans back on the road like they had in the 70's and early 80's. Once again the FCC couldn't be bothered and basically said 'oh we don't get to say what we do with the money we collect'. Again the point was to get you, the FCC, to get up off your asses and do us this one little favor since you keep selling off our spectrum to the almost invincible telecom companies.

Just so everyone's on the same page, the FCC recently sold a section of the 3.5 Ghz band and it just so happens that amateurs had some band space there... had. They haven't given us a time yet but they have said that we will have to cease operations. This band is most heavily used for broadband HAMMNET or AREDN, which are amateur IP networks independent of "the internet". The FCC made almost 4.6 billion, yes I said billion, on that sale of only 100 Mhz. As far as I'm concerned that should cover the next couple million new license applications. -kb1zpp



Club / Member Projects

I was bored and decided to throw together a QSL card design for myself. If anyone else wants a customized QSL card design made let me know. These will be formatted in a postcard size and ready to send to your favorite print service. Prices will be reasonable.



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

Reader Submission

ARES



"Amateur Radio Emergency Services". We are always looking for volunteers to help during a major emergency event in Aroostook County.

We have a very active team in Aroostook County and we need your help!

We hope this team is never needed but should a major problem happen anywhere in Aroostook County, Ham Radio Operators will more than likely be needed. Things like major storms Winter or Summer are crippling, especially for the Elderly. Those on oxygen or electric vents in there homes are examples. We have great ambulance services but they would not be able to get the needs covered.

Things like major flooding, which happened many times, plane crashes in a community, major fires, accidents when Police, Fire and EMS radios are completely tied up, communities will need Ham Radio Operators.

Please reach out to lend a hand. Call Roy Woods at 492-7532 for more information.



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

This section relies on you! Do you have a new invention or idea you want to share? Did you buy a new piece of gear you want to review, or just brag about? Have a funny story or personal experience? If you would like to put together a short write up about it, send it in!



Upcoming Events

I am working on a follow up to the DMR Intro class, "Advanced DMR Programming". This class will cover building a codeplug from start to finish, although it will not cover installation of the CPS software or connection to your radio. You must already know how to download/upload a codeplug to your specific radio.

If you have any questions or comments about the content or format of the class let me know. The date for this class is February 20, 2021. Click on the picture to the right to sign up. -kblzpp



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 we'll list it here!



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

Quick Tips

Coming highly recommended from many hams in the amateur radio community, check out DX Commander for your HF antenna needs! You can also see Callum on [YouTube at DX Commander](#) or find him on 160 or 80 as M0MCX.

If you need a vertical from single band to multi band, 160 to 6, DX Commander has something for you. Most antennas can be used without a tuner within the bands they cover.

<https://www.m0mcx.co.uk/>



10m Multi-band
15m-6m



Nebula xTreme
80m-6m

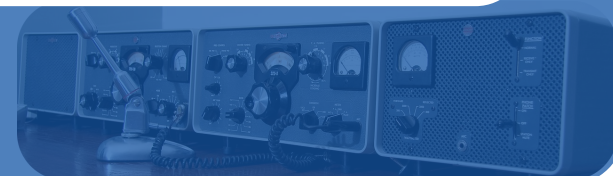
DX COMMANDER



Send Us Your
Tips & Tricks
Hacks & Mods



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



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



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!



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

Random Stuff

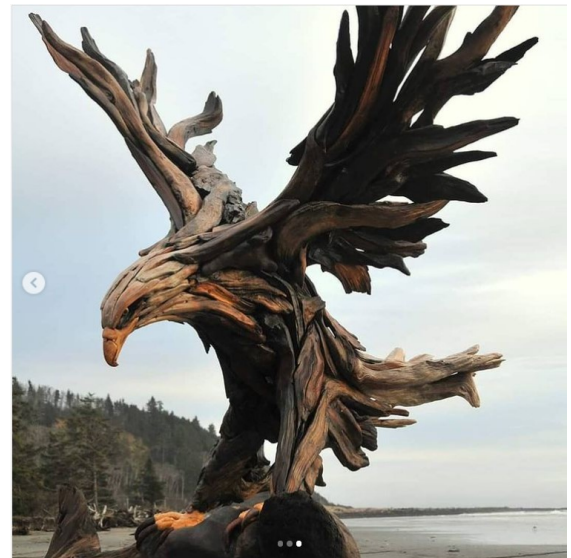
You'll find anything unrelated or off topic here.

Someone's got some serious free time. Artist Jeffro Utto collects driftwood along the beach near his home in Washington and creates these one of a kind sculptures.

<https://www.awesomeinventions.com/driftwood-animal-sculptures/>



"Hunting and finding wood is half the fun and a ton of work," Utto shares, "mostly in the winter when lots of rain and storms are pushing goodies out of the rivers. I love it more and more all the time. I grew up next to the ocean with the mountains nearby and never a shortage of inspiration and materials."



If you would like to submit your random



FeedPoint



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.k1fs.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

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------|
| 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



FeedPoint

January 2021 pg-6

